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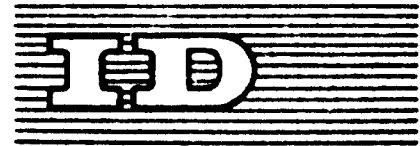
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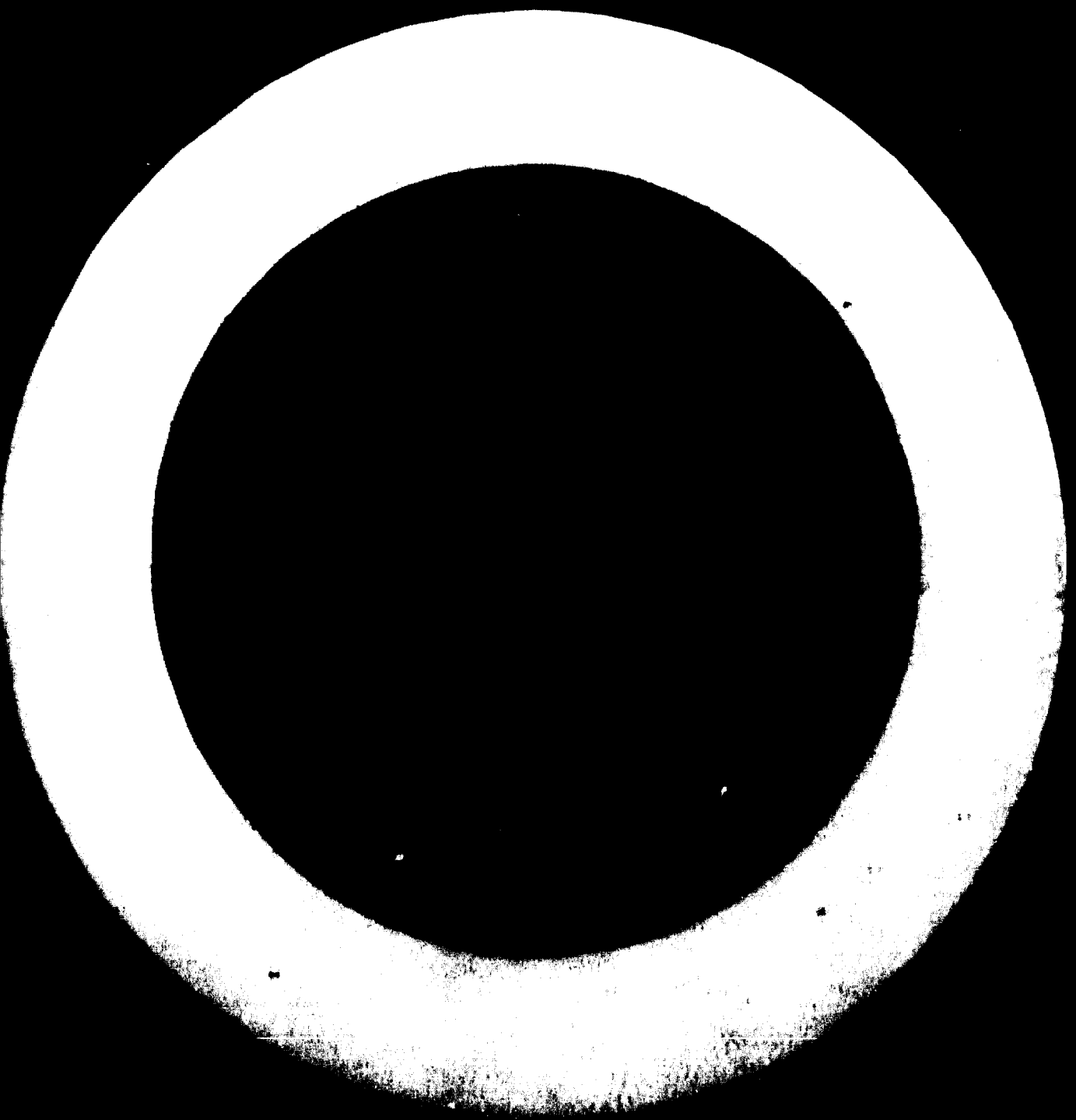
Seminar on the Development of the
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in Developing Countries
Regional Project for Africa

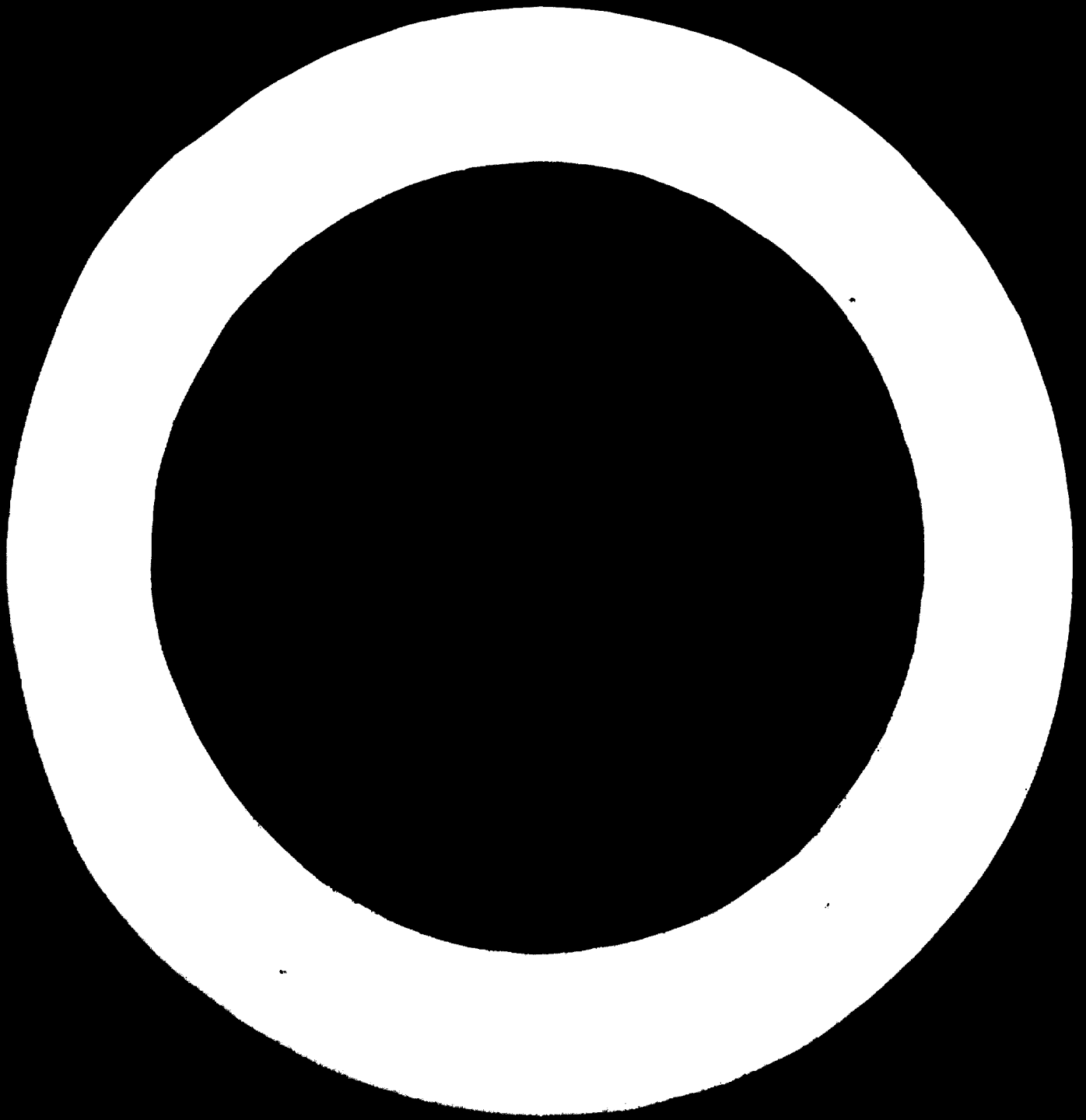
Vienna, Austria, 22 February - 5 March 1971

STATEMENT
ON THE SITUATION OF THE HIDES AND SKINS,
LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES IN
S U D A N ^{1/}
presented by
A.R.A.H.A. OBEID

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The Sudan is a vast country of a million square miles ranging from latitude 5-22.5 and so is subjected to different types of climate and vegetation. The Sudan is mainly a pastoral country with a very large animal population: 12 million cattle, 8 million sheep, 6 million goats, 3 million camels and herds of game animals. Ninety per cent of this animal population is in the nomadic state. The hides and skins obtained from these animals show clearly their nomadic nature by the thorn scratches, horn brakes and the notorious branding indicating ownership or ritual purposes. Other defects used to be due to mange, ticks, and other tropical diseases. The Hides Improvement Section established as early as the thirties was fighting these defects by proper training of staff, building and starting modern slaughterhouses in the towns and rural areas, to overcome flaying defects and faults of preservation. Equally efficient are the animal health people making an effort to eradicate diseases.

In 1961 a Government tannery was built in a modern mechanized style in an endeavour to satisfy the increasing demand for high quality hides and skins. So far this is the main supplier of the shoe and other industries in the Sudan, with a present output of 1400 square metres, that is 15,000 square feet, per day of upper and insole chrome, semi-chrome and vegetable, and also an output of 2,000 pieces a day of sheep skins in the pickled state for export, with a few tanned as crust for the local shoe industry as lining.

In 1961 a Hides, Skins and Leather Institute was built by the FAO of the United Nations together with the Sudan Government. Among the purposes are the improvement of the rural tanning techniques, and improvement in the field of indigenous tanning materials where acacia fruit was worked upon. Now a powder of the fruit and a powdered extract are available for the tanning industry at home and the powder is also available for export. The sole leather and the crust production have good products. A further study is needed to prove the powder.

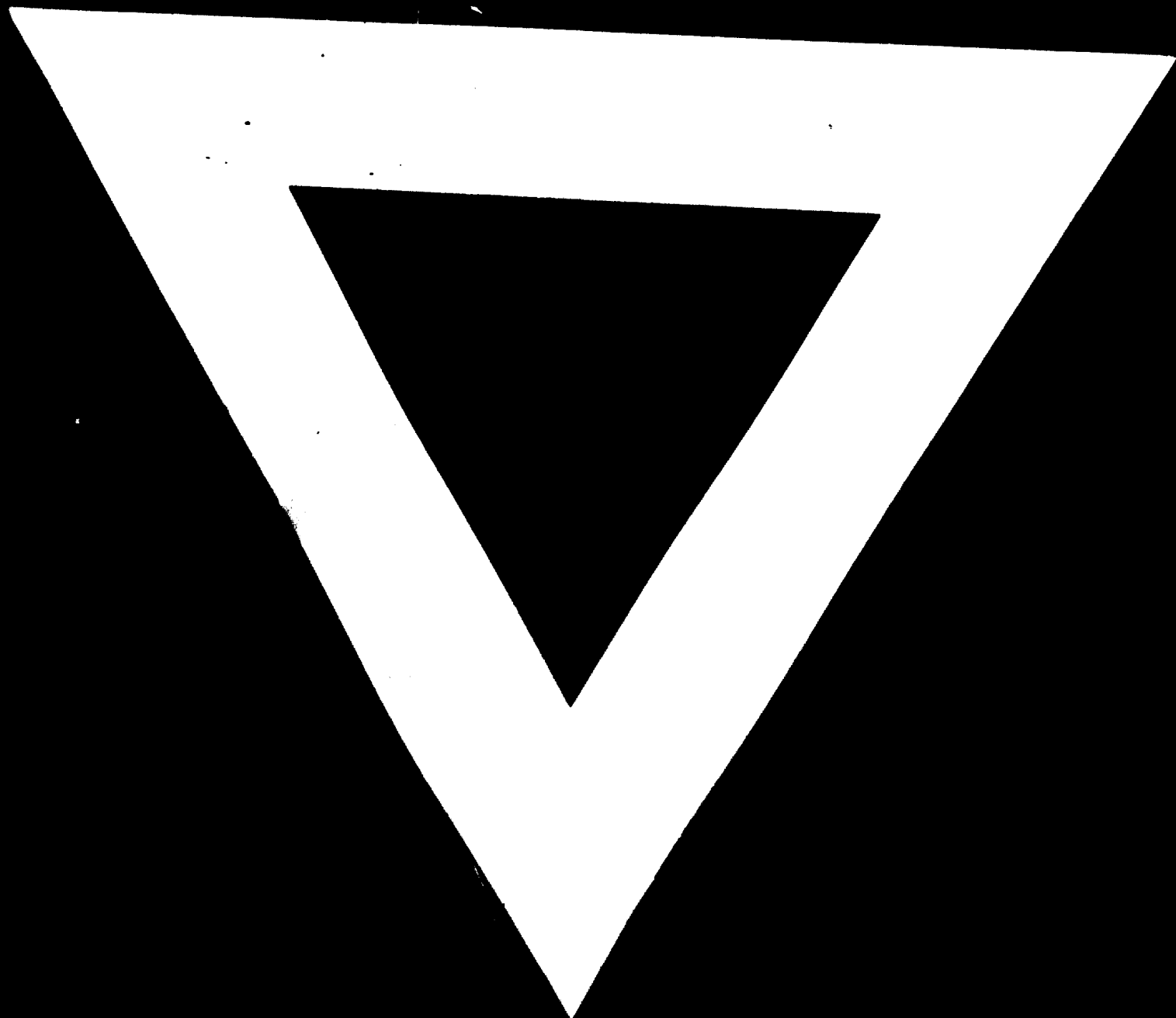
The Institute also worked on the other indigenous materials, sulphation of the cotton-seed and sesame oils, to utilize them as fat liquors for the industry, for example. The Institute has a Department for Leather Utilization which is undergoing training and research in design of suitable lines for home use, evolving the old useful designs

Legislation, together with good extension services, is going ahead to secure the quality of raw material. Specialized tanneries are in the five-year plan to cover the wide range of raw material. There are four big modern shoe factories which consume the output of leather from the Khartoum tannery and Omdurman tannery

which specialize mainly in the military shoe line. There is a large number of small workshops in the towns and in the rural areas.

There is one modern factory for leather goods products, mainly ladies handbags, waist belts and other fancy leather goods, satisfying the small demand in the large towns.





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