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Expert Group Meeting on the Production and  
Distribution of Contraceptives in the  
Developing Countries (Sponsored by UNIDO  
in conjunction with UNFPA)

New York, 22 - 24 November 1971

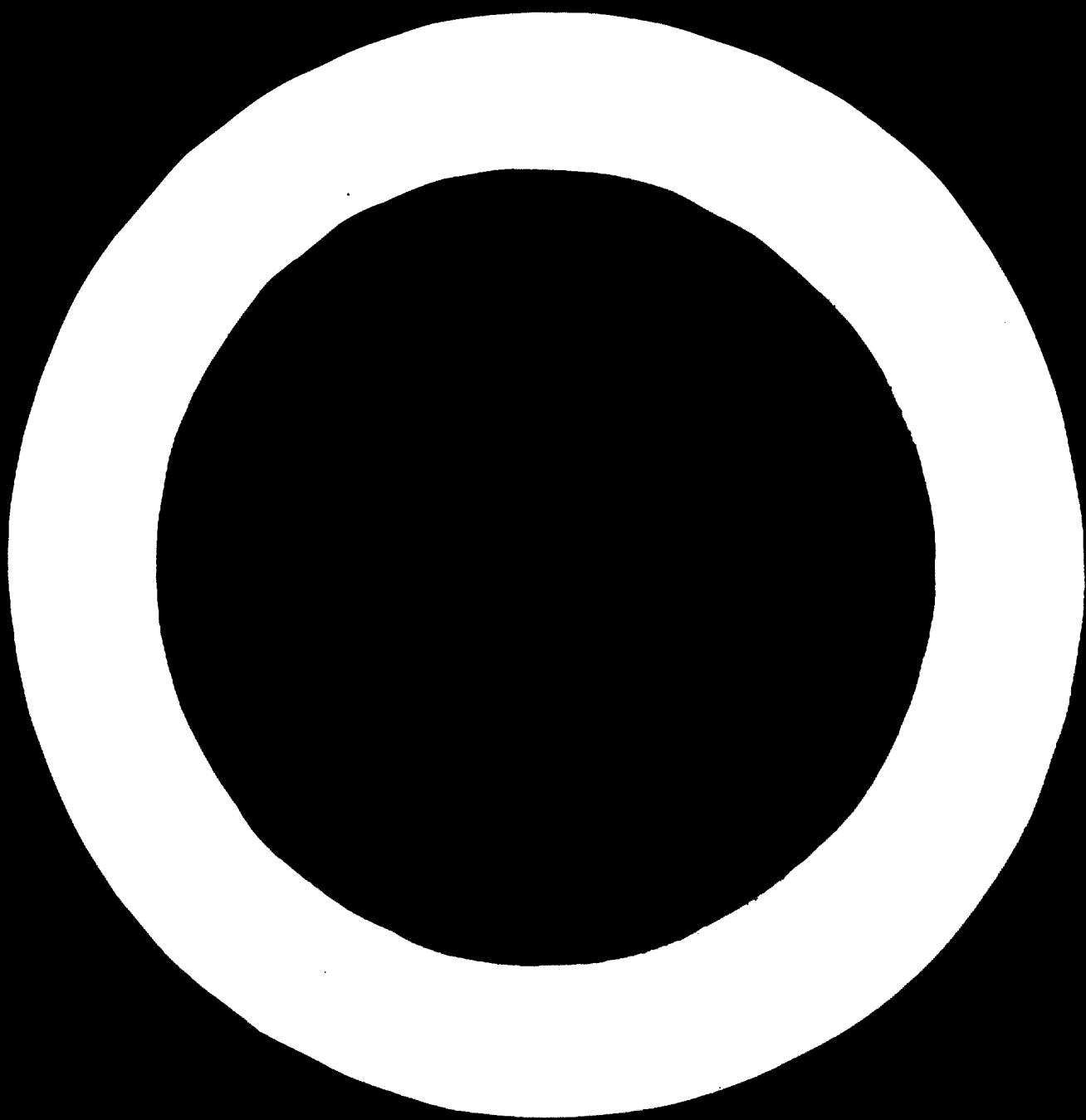
FAMILY PLANNING IN THAILAND <sup>1/</sup>

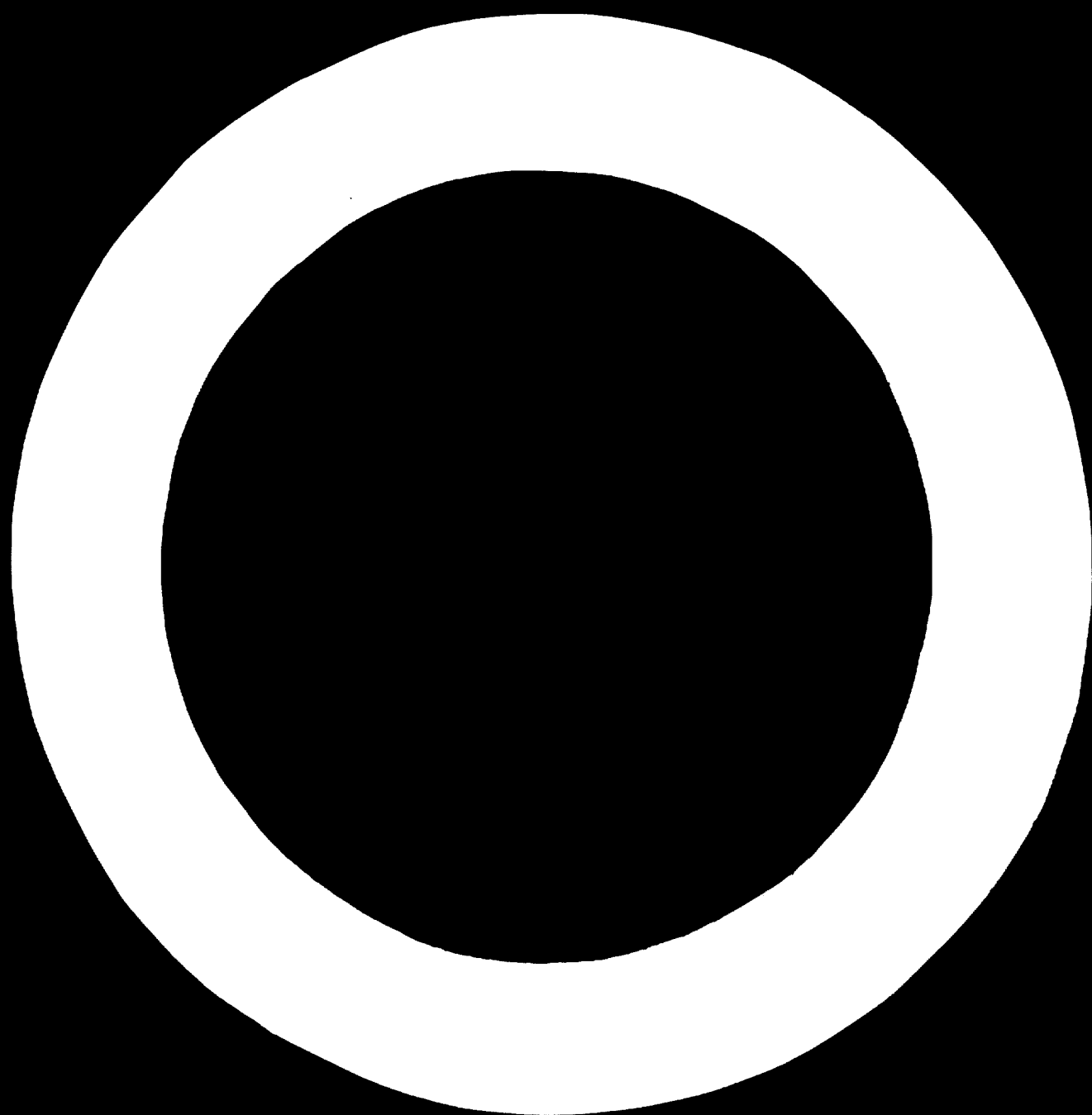
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### Population Growth

The present rate of population growth in Thailand is estimated to be over 3%. If this rate continues Thailand's population will double within the next 22 years and will reach 97,000,000 people by the year 2000. If, instead, there is a gradual reduction of the growth rate over the next several years, it is estimated that the population will reach 70,000,000 in the year 2000. A World Bank Economic Mission even recommended that such a high rate of population growth was adversely affecting Thailand's development effort.

### Family Planning Activities

The history of family planning activities in Thailand starts from the year 1968, when the Ministry of Public Health and other interested governmental and private agencies began to carry out activities. The Ministry of Public Health began by integrating family planning activities into existing health services, e.g. provincial hospitals, provincial health offices and health centres located throughout each province. Training activities began in early 1968, after 1970 the total number of trainees were 330 doctors, 700 nurse midwives and 3,090 auxiliary midwives. The results of three years activities were evaluated as follows:

1. Acceptors by method I.U.D. started from 35,000 in 1968 and in 1970 reached 74,400.
2. Acceptors by oral pills started from 10,000 in 1968 and in 1970 reached 132,300.
3. Acceptors by sterilization started from 12,000 in 1968 and in 1970 reached 18,600.

In total, acceptors which started from 57,000 in 1968 became 226,400 in 1970, i.e. the rate of increasing of acceptors during three years was about 300%.

### National Population Policy

After having considered the population question on multiple occasions, the family planning was declared as a formal National Population Policy by the Thai Government in March 1970. The policy states:

"It is the policy of the Thai Government to support voluntary family planning in order to help to resolve various problems related to the very high rate of population growth, which constitutes an important obstacle to the economic and social development of Thailand.

After the declaration of this policy the National Family Planning Project was created within the Ministry of Public Health, with the following objections:

1. To reduce the population growth rate from over 3 per cent to 2.5 per cent by the end of 1976.
2. To inform and motivate eligible women about family planning concepts, making use for the first time of various methods of mass communication.
3. To make family planning services readily available throughout the country.
4. To integrate family planning activities with overall maternal and child health services and thus to mutually strengthen the activities in these closely related projects.

For planning purposes, new acceptors' targets have been set for each year from 1972 - 1976 as follows:

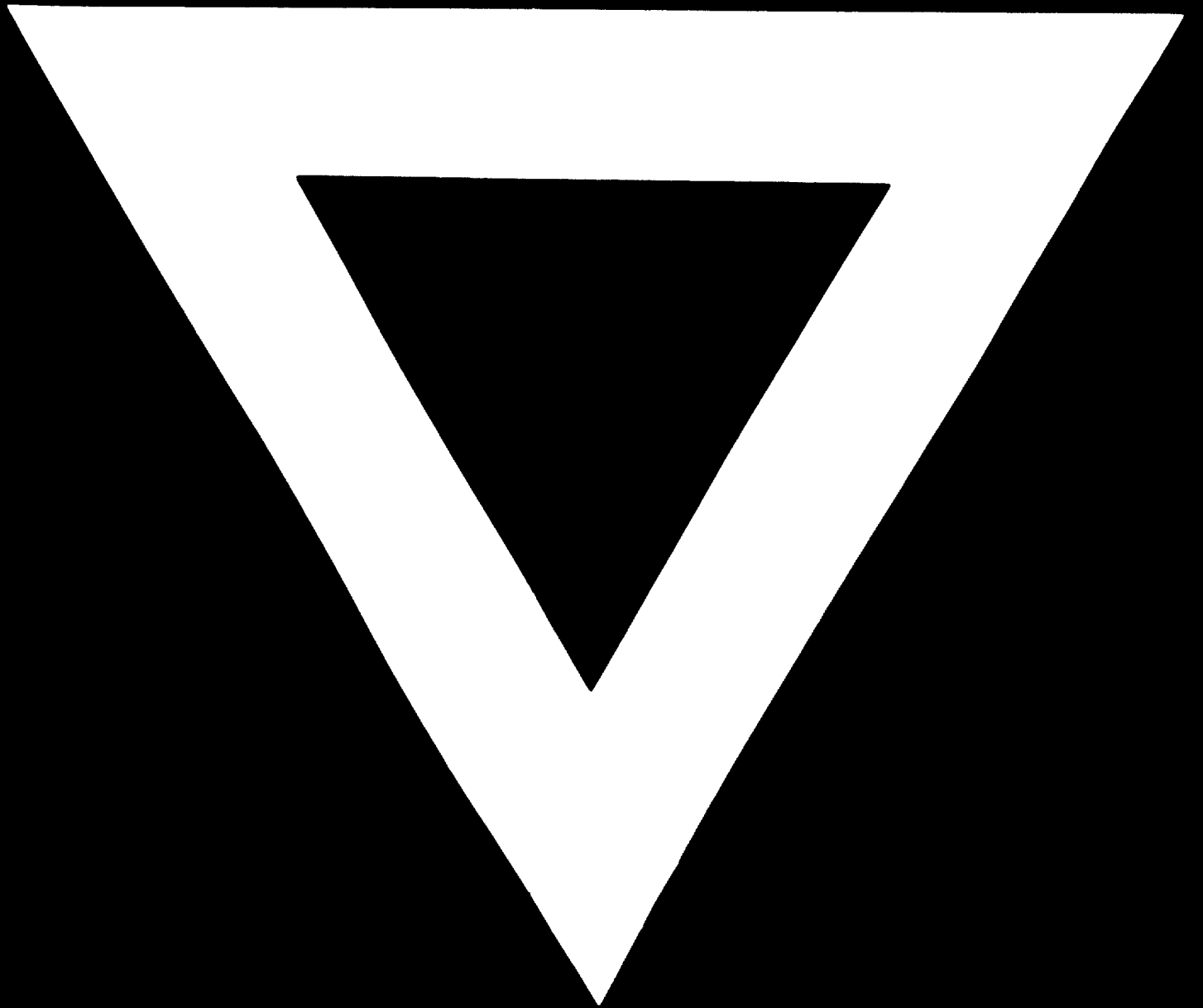
Year	Oral Pills	I.U.D.	Sterilization	All three methods
1972	235,000	90,000	25,000	350,000
1973	280,000	90,000	30,000	400,000
1974	280,000	90,000	35,000	405,000
1975	280,000	90,000	40,000	410,000
1976	280,000	90,000	40,000	410,000
Total	1,355,000	450,000	170,000	1,975,000

### Production and Distribution of Contraceptives

Based on the total estimated expenditure, including the indirect cost, the cost per acceptor in 1970 was US\$10.60, and the cost per capita was US\$0.07. The direct expenditure for family planning in Thailand has risen from approximately US\$180,000 in 1968 to US\$931,000 in 1971. In 1972 there will be funds provided specifically for family planning in the budget of Ministry of Public Health counterpart to other foreign assistances. The total expenditure for the year 1972 (including indirect costs) provided by the Thai Government including other foreign assistance (USAID, UN family of agencies through UNFPA, Population Council, UNICEF, IPPF, Denmark) is estimated to be about US\$8,000,000.

The oral pill is the most popular contraceptive distributed in this country. It was estimated that during the year 1969-1970 an average of 250,000 cycles of pills (mostly imported from at least ten manufacturers in Europe and USA) were sold commercially throughout Thailand every month, primarily in urban areas. For the local production of pills, the Government Pharmaceutical Organization is setting a project to produce pills for distribution to acceptors in the country at non-profit price, in order to support our family planning project in reaching its target.





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