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THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY IN ISRAEL 1/

by

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1. Description of the Plastics Industry

Raw Materials

Israel's production of plastic raw materials started only in 1964. Until that time Israel's miniature plastics industry depended completely on imported raw materials. In 1971, Israel produced some 35,000 tons of plastics and imported over 28,000 tons. Consumption of plastics reached almost 57,000 tons after exports of some 6,000 tons. Israel produces four major categories of plastic materials:

Low density polyethylene
PVC
Polystyrene
Thermosets

It has become apparent that the plastic industry is of increasing significance to the economic future of Israel, one of the main reasons being that the plastic materials can substitute for metals and wood, which require a high percentage of foreign exchange.

Plastics Production and Exports

The plastic products industry is composed of a few hundred selectively small firms. In 1976 the plastics production will reach IL730 million, and in 1981 the value of output will be of IL1.1 billion.

Exports, which were little under $5 million in 1971, are expected to increase to $25 million in 1976 and to $35 million in 1981. Due to the dynamic industrialization of Israel, it may be anticipated that Israel's plastic industry will continue growing at least at its present rate of growth.

2. Production and Import of Plastic Raw Materials

Total production and imports of plastic raw materials for the period 1968 - 1976 are present in Table I.

3. Consumption and Export of Plastic Raw Materials

Consumption and export of plastic raw materials for the period 1968 - 1976 are summarized in Table II.

4. Trends and Forecast

Industrial output in Israel has been planned to triple during the period 1965 - 1976, with emphasis on increased exports and decreased imports.

Plastics Exports

(million $US from Israel)

	1965	1971	1976 (Est.)
Raw materials	1.1	3.4	16.0
Processed goods	1.8	4.9	16.0
TOTAL	2.9	8.3	32.0

The goals of Israel's plastics industry include increased production of better designed and higher quality consumer goods and engineering products, introduce newer technologies, develop the production of disposable medical items, improve and increase food packaging applications, increase and improve applications in building and agriculture.

Table 1

Production and Import (1000 tons) of Plastic Raw Materials in Israel

	PRODUCTION							IMPORT						
	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	EST. 1976[1]	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	EST. 1976
P.V.C.	7.9	8.6	9.6	10.5	13.5	24.4	50.0	1.8	4.4	6.8	7.2	10.0	12.0	5.0
LDPE	18.6	16.0	17.8	18.0	19.0	34	53.0	2.1	3.5	0.8	1.8	4.0		2.0
HDPE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.4	4.7	5.0	7.5	8.0
Polystyrene	-	-	-	-	-	0.8	16.0	6.1	6.7	7.0	8.0	7.5	5.4	2.0
Polypropylene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.8	2.4	2.7	4.0	5.5	3.0	10.0
Thermosets[2]	3.4	4.0	4.4	6.0	7.0	8.1	18.0	0.5	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.6	0.1	1.0
Polyurethanes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.2	1.7	2.3	2.8	3.0	2.5	5.0
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	12.0[3]	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.2	1.7	1.6	3.0
TOTAL	29.9	28.6	31.8	34.5	39.5	67.3	149.0	14.0	20.3	25.8	31.2	38.3	21.1	36.0

(1) Accompanied by added capacities of ethylene, benzene, styrene and methanol

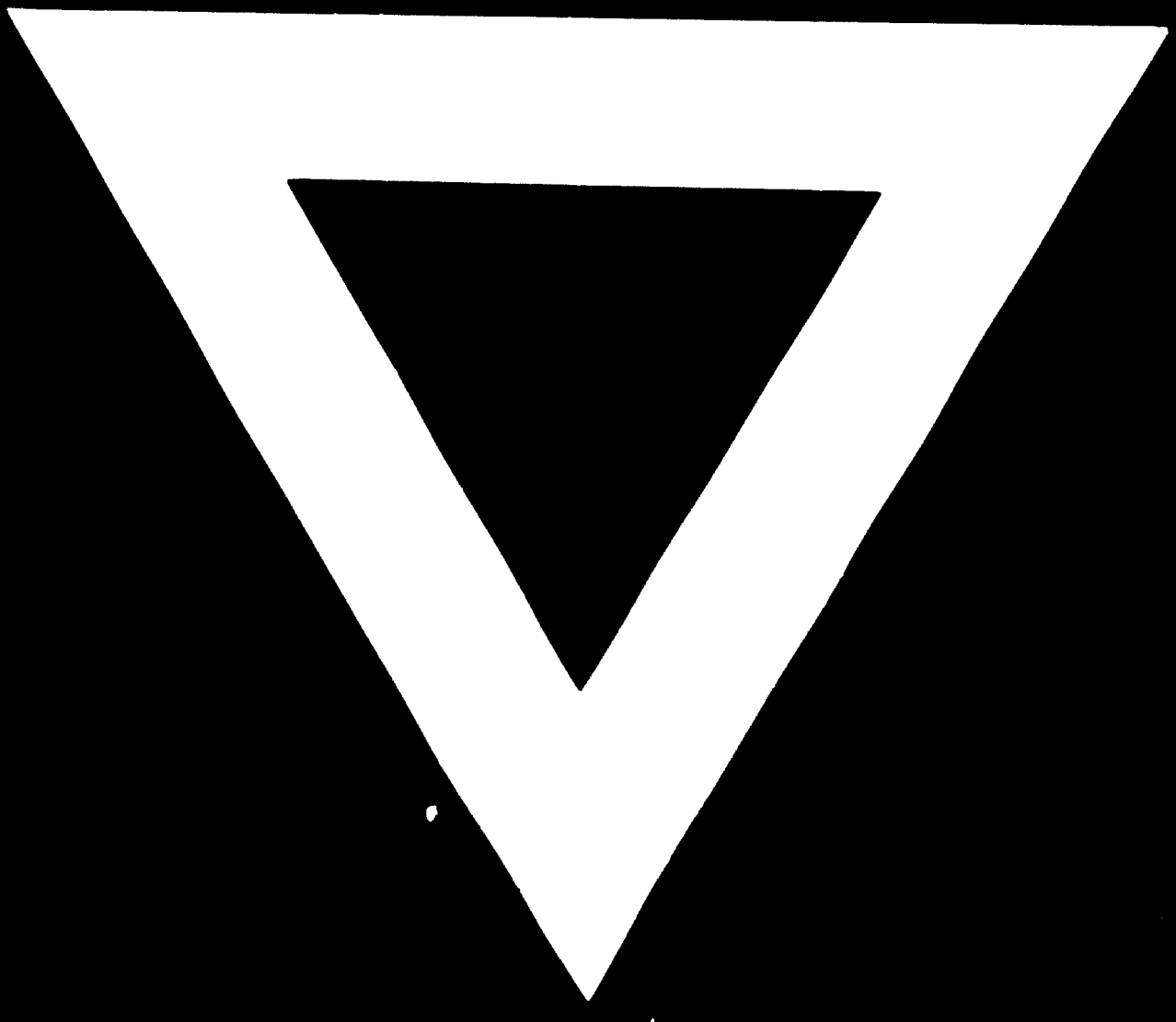
(2) Urea formaldehyde, Melamine formaldehyde, Phenol formaldehyde and Polyesters

(3) Includes Nylon 6/6 - and polyester - fibers

Table II

Consumption and Export (1000 tons) of plastic Raw Materials, Israel

	CONSUMPTION							EXPORT						
	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	EST. 1976	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	EST. 1976
P.V.C.	8.5	11.4	13.9	16.6	21.0	33.6	40.0	1.2	1.6	2.5	1.1	2.5	3.0	15.0
LDPE	10.4	14.2	13.6	17.6	21.0	28.0	42.0	10.3	5.3	2.5	2.2	2.0	5.0	13.0
HDPE	-	-	4.4	4.7	5.0	7.5	8.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polystyrene	6.1	6.7	7.0	8.0	7.5	8.5	18.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polypropylene	1.8	2.4	2.7	4.0	5.5	5.0	10.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thermosets	2.5	3.1	3.0	3.3	3.5	4.5	6.0	1.0	1.0	1.6	2.9	5.1	3.7	13.0
Polyurethanes	1.1	1.7	2.3	2.8	3.0	2.5	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.2	1.7	1.6	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	30.9	40.1	47.7	58.2	68.2	91.2	132.0	12.5	7.9	9.1	6.2	9.6	11.7	41.0



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