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PRESENT STATUS AND FUTURE PLANS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SYNTHETIC FIBRE INDUSTRY IN EGYPT 1/

by

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I Historical Background

Two types of man-made fibres are produced, namely viscose rayon and polyamide. In Egypt there are two viscose rayon plants, the first in Behteem near Cairo and the second in Kafr El Dawwar .

The Polyamide plant is located in Kafr El Dawwar.

Currently, it is planned to implement a unit of 25,000MT/Y of Polyester fibres in Kafr El Dawwar in order to start production as early as 1980.

II Present Status and Future Prospects

a) Manufacturing Facilities

(1) Rayon Fibres:

Two units are located in Kafr El Dawwar and Behteem having the total capacities as indicated below:

- Staple fibre of 5,000 MT/Y .
- Filament yarn 7,900 MT/Y .

(2) Polyamide Fibres:

The only unit is located in Kafr El Dawwar. It is based on the melting of chips under nitrogen followed by polycondensation.

(3) Polyester Fibres:

In addition to the above mentioned facilities, it is planned to implement a unit for polyester production in Kafr El Dawwar having a capacity of 25,000 MT/Y and based on the polycondensation of DMT (Di Methyl Terephthalate) and ethylene glycol.

It is proposed that this project will be a joint venture project. The textile people are currently studying and analyzing different proposals from different firms in order to decide and start the production as early as 1980.

b) Raw materials Supply

(1) Rayon Fibres:

Pulp is imported in the form of bleached rectangular sheets.

(2) Polyamide Fibres

Chips of hexamethylene diamine and adipic acid are imported.

(3) Polyester Fibres

DMT and ethylene glycol will be supplied by the Petrochemicals Complex.

Generally speaking, due to the restrictions on imports, the present consumption of synthetic fibres in Egypt does not represent the actual requirements of the market. For instance polyester fibres are imported at the rate of about 3,000 MT/Y and polyacrylic fibres are imported at the rate of about 1,000 MT/Y. The actual demand is definitely more than that and will be much more as soon as the product is locally available and import restrictions due to the lack of foreign currency are lifted.

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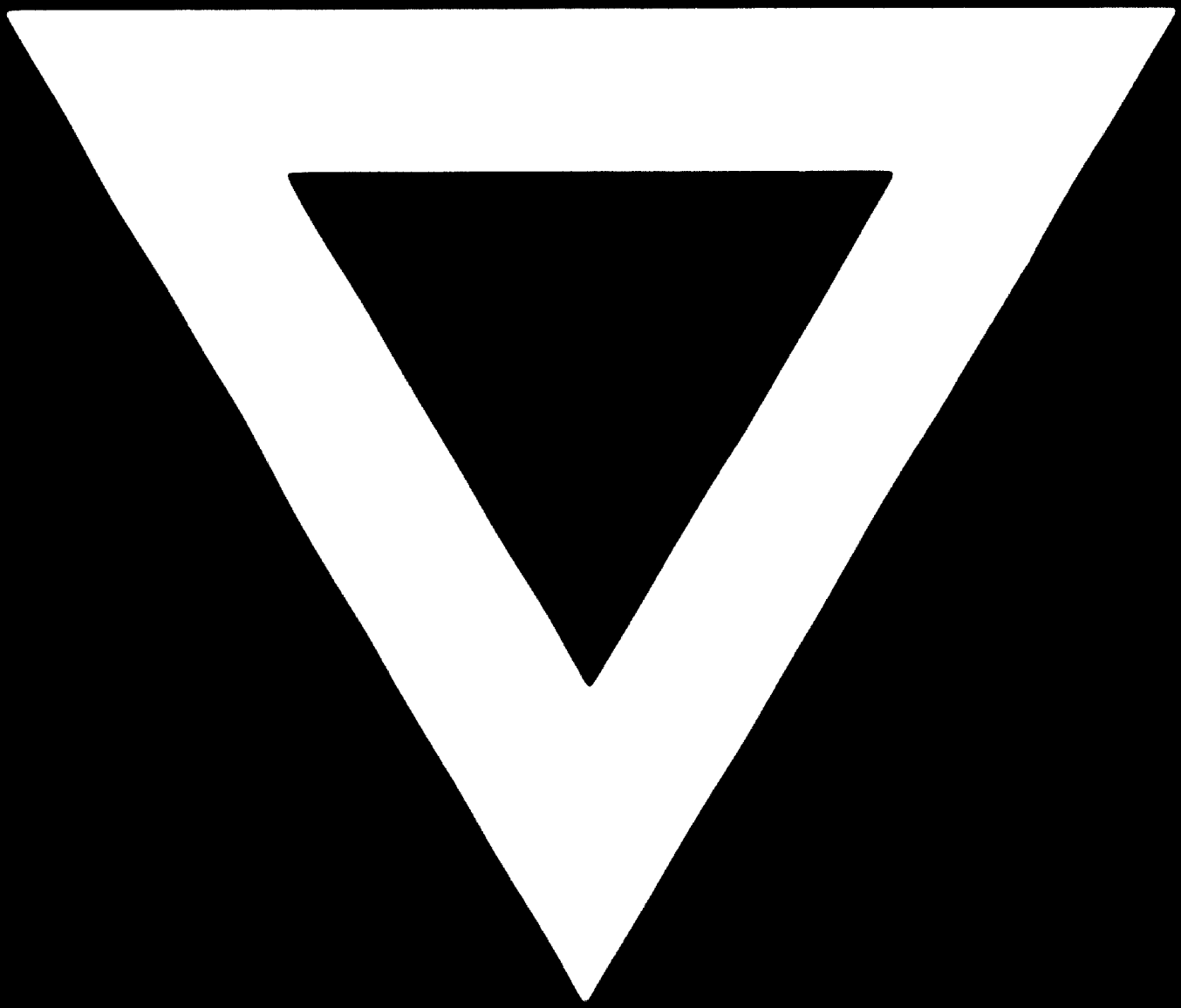

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