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**PRESENT STATUS AND FUTURE PLANS FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY
IN CYPRUS
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE MOLDING MAKING INDUSTRY**

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Twelve factories are now working with plants estimated to the value of one million Cyprus Pounds. Their production is estimated to about four million Cyprus Pounds yearly. About a quarter of this production is exported every year, either as ready plastic goods or as packing material for goods to be exported, such as plastic shoes, bottles for mineral water, baskets and crates for fruits, hair cream containers, plastic shoe-heels and bottles for several cosmetics.

Plastics industry in Cyprus can be categorized in 7 sections according to the manufactured articles and the way of manufacturing:-

1. Section. Blow moulding articles:- Three factories are working with 12 blowmoulding machines manufacturing bottles and liquid tanks of content 1/4 litre up to 20 litres for packing cosmetics, shoe polishes milk, squashes, mineral water oils, liquid soap and many others.

2 section:- Ejection moulding articles:- Another 3 industries are working with 12 ejection moulding machines making articles weighing from 30 to 800 grams. I append herbelow a list of these articles produced by these machines:-

-All household articles, bottle cups, plastic shoe-heels, electric parts, hand-bag handles, machinery plastic parts, toys, baskets, shavel handles, power pistons for cartridges, shoe horns and many other containers for export of fruits and haircream.

3 Section:- Film and Polyethelene bags:- 5 factories are working in this line. The local demand is fully covered and some of these industries have already started exporting their products. Thirteen extrusion machines are working in three reliefs continuously, together with 6 printing machines and 9 cutting machines.

The biggest part of the film production is used locally for agricultural purposes, covering the thermogardens for vegetables. The other part of film products is for making polyethelene bags that are used in the market as shopping bags and packing material.

4 Section. Extrusion products of pipes profiles rubber hose and plastic drinking straws:- There is only one industry in Cyprus manufacturing P.V.C. pipes with 5 extrusion machines from 1" to 8" dia. these pipes are used for electric installations and water works in agriculture purpose. Another industry is the producing of P.V.C. profiles for doors, windows, furniture and water hose with two extrusion machines. There is also a small production of plastic drinking straws by one small extrusion machine that covers all the local demands on this line.

5 Section:- Thermoforming system:- By this system of production many articles are manufactured with very low cost and in large quantities in very short time. One industry in Cyprus using this system succeeded to export services in the local market, giving products such as plates and cups for the country plus-nik, discs for sweets and other things for packing ice-cream and milk containers.

6 Section:- rotary direct injection soling system:- The factories are manufacturing several types of plastic shoes, tennis shoes, plastic sandals, basket-ball shoes, rubber boots and slippers with 4 rotary direct soling machines. The material being used is always P.V.C. in several colours. They do successful business with the local market and 75% of their production is exported every year to U.S. and Arabic countries.

7 Section:- Rotary shoe System:- One industry is fully biased 24 hours per day with two Rotary 6 and 12 station machines producing about 2500 pairs of unit shoes every day. 75% of this production is used locally and 25% is exported every year to several Arabic countries.

These are the main lines of the present plastic industries in Cyprus. Some of them are having a programme to

develop their industries as follows:- Two new Rotary direct soling machines with double extrusion heads for two colour-soles production are intended to be imported during the next year 1970. One blow moulding machine for 30 litres containers is to be imported next year, and one Ejection moulding machine for manufacturing 4 kilos heavy articles such as crates for fruits, crates for bottles, chairs etc. Two blow-moulding machines for 2 litres bottles to export mineral water are about to be imported and installed this year.

Discussing with the main representative of plastic industries in my country, we have concluded that the following problems are to be appeared very soon in Cyprus and we must be prepared to face them properly.

The first and most important problem for which the technical assistance of UNIDO is requested is the mould making plant. Many factories import their moulds from European countries with the result that their cost is very high. The delivery of moulds from Europe takes a long time and does not meet the special requirements of industries. Due to this fact, factories are about to import new machinery the problem of proper moulds calls for its solution urgently.

There is one factory making its own moulds and covers the requirements of about 50% of the small moulds for blow moulding containers up to 2 litres and moulds for ejection machine up to 500 grams of several articles.

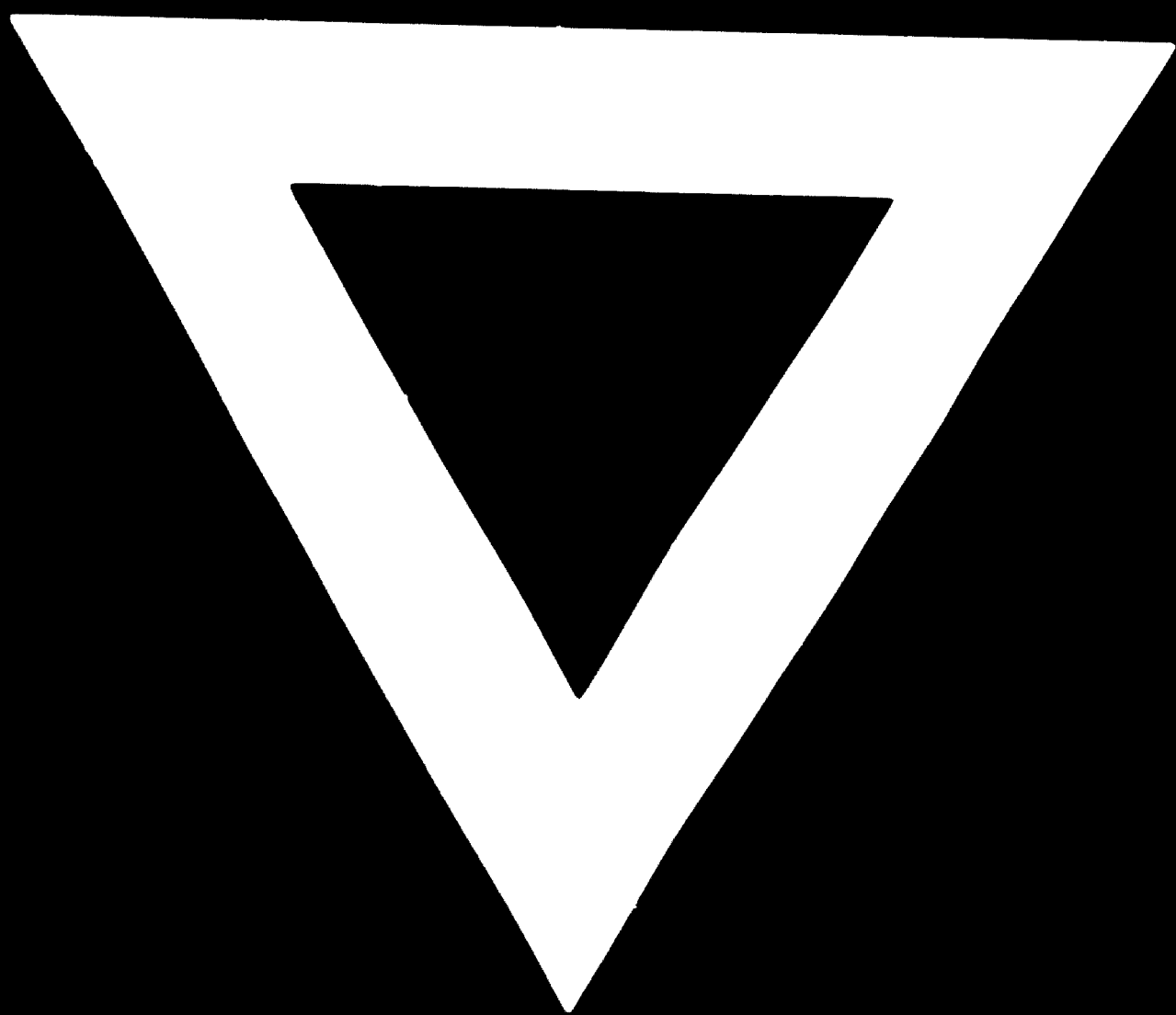
This workshop for mould making needs development and technical advice concerning new machinery equipments, new materials for mould making and design experience to be able to make moulds with steel for long life for large plastic articles and accurate good finished products.

The second problem for our industries is the present method of payment for the plastic raw materials. In the past, the suppliers of raw material were paid in the system of 60, 90 and 120 days drafts. Now they are paid by letter of credit for any amount. This term does not help our industries to increase their production and make exports.

Some plastic manufacturers complain against the suppliers of spare parts because they take a long time in delivering spare parts.

Because of recent events in the country, many plastic manufacturers have lost their manufacturing facilities. They are ready to start from the beginning if they are helped economically. They are the experienced men in this line of factories. They need capital, machinery, raw materials and lands. Can UNIDO help these experienced people to start again?

I would like to thank UNIDO organizers for the help given to us and the Government of Austria for the pleasant hospitality offered to us.



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