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## Industrial Development Board

Second Session

Vienna, 17 April-14 May 1968

### STATEMENT BY KURT WALDHEIM

#### FEDERAL MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRIA AT THE OPENING OF SECOND SESSION OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

It is my privilege to convey to you the greetings of the Austrian Government and to welcome in Austria the Industrial Development Board to its second session. For several reasons this day is a very meaningful one. First and foremost because it is for the first time that the Governing Council of UNIDO takes up its functions at the headquarters of UNIDO in Vienna. It is clearly demonstrated that the administration of UNIDO - after its transfer from New York to Vienna which took place only last autumn - has established itself so firmly and efficiently that it is now able to fulfil its functions entrusted to it by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Among others this includes the preparation and the carrying through of the meeting of the Council.

For Austria this meeting is the proof that the Council is able to devote itself at its headquarters to its essential tasks, namely to the planning and programming of an accelerated industrialization throughout the world and to the co-ordination of this programme with related United Nations activities in the economic and social field.

The first Council meeting - which took place in New York last year - was faced with the setting up of UNIDO in a more general sense and to plan for its transfer to its headquarters in Vienna.

These questions had, of course, to receive top priority and had to be solved before the organization could devote itself to dealing with its substantive functions. For the fact that UNIDO was able to organize and carry through the move to Vienna in so quick and efficient a manner, thanks are due to the distinguished Executive Director,

Dr. Abdel-Rahman, and to his staff of whom I would like particularly to mention Mr. John Birkhead. All this was done at the time when the newly established organization had to cope with the additional task of planning and arranging for the International Symposium for Industrial Development in Athens.

Distinguished delegates, I sincerely hope that you will have the opportunity to see for yourselves the kind of arrangements that have been made by the Federal Government of Austria, in full co-operation with the city administration of Vienna, to set UNIDO up at its provisional headquarters. For this purpose we have made available one of our most up-to-date office buildings in the centre of the city - put at the disposal of UNIDO by the city Government. In addition, two prefab buildings have been erected in accordance with the requirements of UNIDO, in close neighbourhood to the above-mentioned office building. For the Information Centre, which is being financed out of an Austrian contribution to UNIDO, additional space has been rented for this very purpose.

I am happy also to be able to inform the Board that preparatory work for the construction of the permanent headquarters of UNIDO is progressing well and according to schedule.

A tentative plan concerning the future space and functional requirements has been provided by UNIDO. At present, Austrian architects are co-operating with the United Nations experts provided by United Nations headquarters for this purpose, to draw up a definite plan to serve as a basis for an international architectural competition. This seems to us to be in full line with the concept of international co-operation underlying the programme of UNIDO.

The organizational and administrative structure of UNIDO thus having been established, it will be the responsibility of the Board to turn its attention to the basic task entrusted by the General Assembly of the United Nations to UNIDO, to develop principles, to establish priorities and to decide and select appropriate working methods to meet in a most efficient way its targets.

The decision of the General Assembly of December 1966 to create a special organization of the United Nations to further the cause of industrialization - thus responding to a long-existing wish of the developing countries - was made in recognition of the fact that industrialization represents a most effective means to lessen the gap existing between the technologically and industrially advanced countries and those less developed in these regards.

Industrialization, however, is a most complex process for which the industrially advanced countries had centuries of time to cope with.

It will be one of the main tasks of the Board to select the appropriate ways and means best qualified to enhance the process of industrialization as a balanced growth process, taking into account the interdependence of the industrial field and the related agricultural field.

If Austria seems to be particularly sensitive to the needs and requirements of the developing countries in the field of industrialization, this may be well due to the fact that Austria herself has experienced a period of intensified industrialization over the past twenty years following immediately after a time when due to the war and its aftermath the Austrian economy has nearly been wrecked. Because of our rather successful experience in this regard - sometimes even referred to as the "Austrian Economic Miracle" - we like to think that Austria indeed provides a suitable ground for housing an international organization committed to industrial development.

The means that UNIDO has at its disposal to reach its targets are limited. In addition they emanate from different types of United Nations development programmes, subject to different financial and administrative regulations. To mould these different components into an efficient and co-ordinated effort to promote industrialization in an optimal way will be one of the main problems the UNIDO Board will have to deal with at this session.

Struggling with these complicated and difficult tasks set before it, the Board will, however, be able to experience the great satisfaction that its work will contribute in a meaningful way to lessen the international tensions in this world.

It is in this perspective that I would like to express my deep feeling of satisfaction that Austria has been chosen to provide the ground and the services for actions directed towards solving one of the most burning problems of our time.

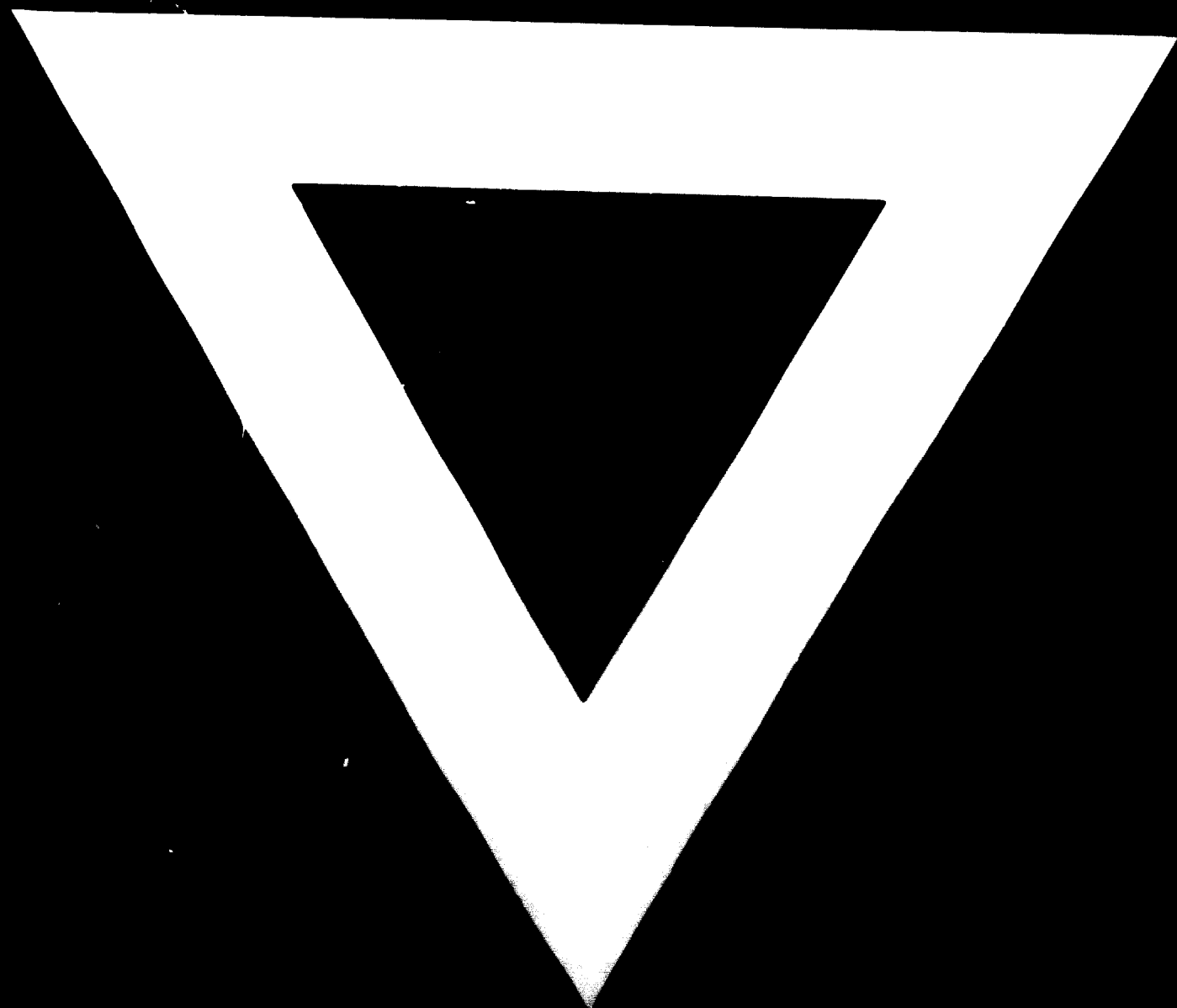
It does not only correspond to a long tradition of Austrian history, and especially of Vienna, to serve as a meeting place for the north and south, the east and west, but also corresponds most of all to the basic policy of the Austrian Federal Government and to a genuine desire of the Austrian people - in full tune with our basic policy of permanent neutrality - to co-operate for the benefit of the developing countries, thus contributing to the concept of international co-operation and the promotion of peace.

In this sense, ladies and gentlemen, I may assure you of the full and active support of the Austrian Government.

I should like to extend to you my sincere wishes for full success of this Board meeting, and I may add my hope that your busy schedule will still permit you to enjoy your stay in our capital.

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