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Vienna, 17 April - 14 May 1968

STATEMENT BY I.R. MORAIWED TELL (JORDAN)

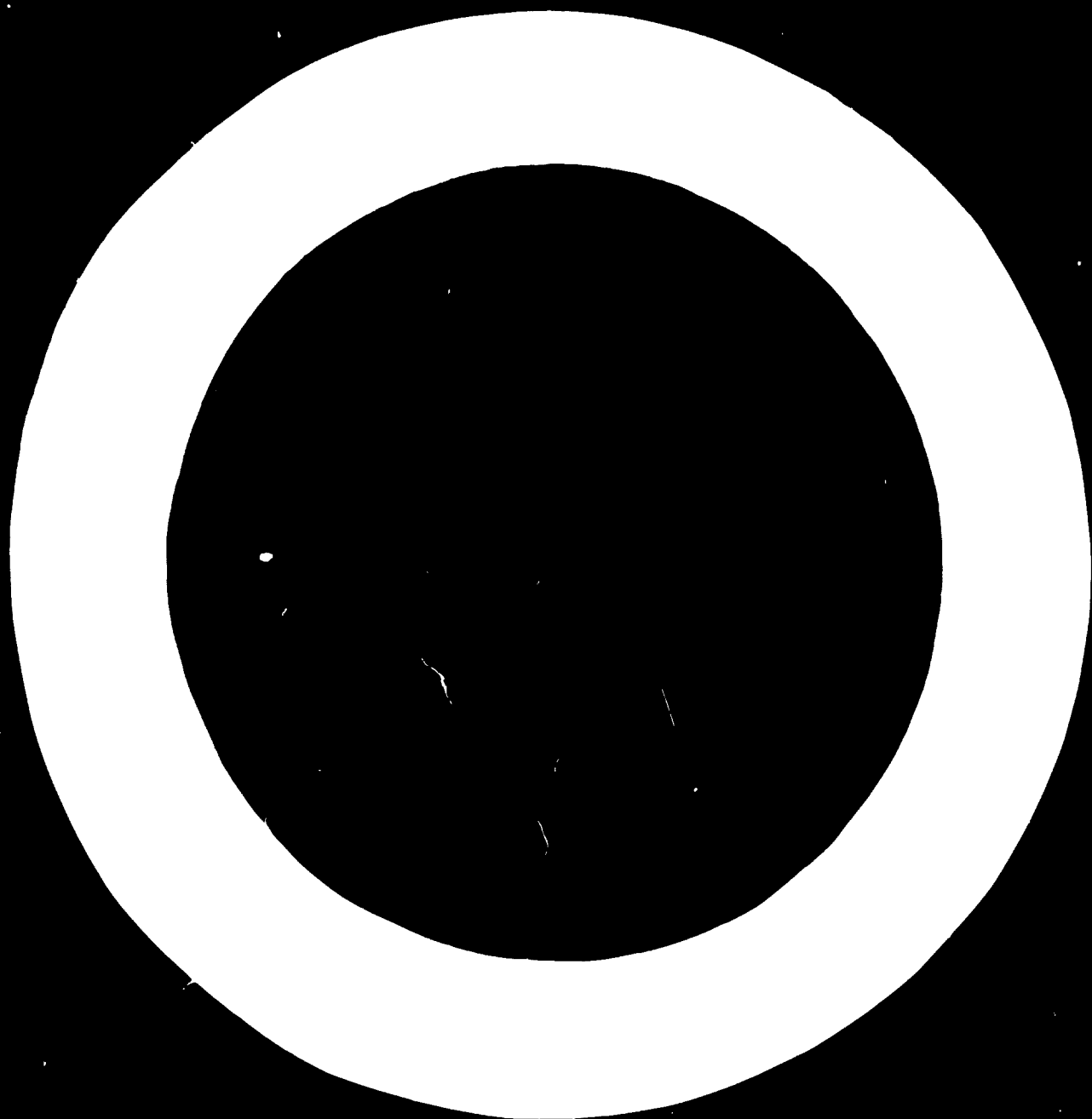
PRESIDENT OF THE FIRST SESSION

OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

BOARD

17 April 1968

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Before proceeding to our business, I want to seize this opportunity, as the outgoing President, to welcome you. May I also say how pleased I am to see my esteemed colleague, Ambassador Arkadiev of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, who was one of the main architects of UNIDO, and with whom I have had the pleasure of close co-operation during the entire process of the establishment of UNIDO. I would also like to express my happiness that we are back together again at this Second Board Session, in the beautiful city of Vienna, thanks to the hospitality of the Austrian Government.

Since I did not make either an opening or a closing statement on the occasion of my Presidency of the First Board Session, I trust you will allow me to offer a few brief farewell remarks now, which is not only in keeping with United Nations tradition, but which I hope will be helpful in the work of this Second Session.

Though UNIDO is a new organization, its precursor, the Centre for Industrial Development, had been in existence since 1962, having been established as a result of the insistence of all the developing countries, who felt that international machinery should be created to help their industrialization efforts. It is gratifying to see that, in addition to this continuity of machinery, we have been fortunate enough to have as our distinguished Executive Director, Dr. Abdel-Rahman, who has headed this international machinery since the summer of 1963. With this continuity of administration, and with the accompanying experience acquired, there now exists a basis on which this Board can build the optimum structure which will enable the effective functioning of this Organization.

As the outgoing President, I feel it is my duty to bring to the attention of my colleagues five important issues which were initiated at the First Board Session, and which you may feel it important to consider further, so as to ensure the continuity of action with which the Board is charged. The points I am especially highlighting in this statement were raised by a number of delegations, and if I only refer to some by name, I crave the indulgence of those who may not be mentioned.

1. Programme budgeting

The issue of programme budgeting was raised particularly by the distinguished delegate from the Netherlands, Dr. Jan Lubbers, who stated that he wished that the programme of work of UNIDO would indicate priorities and follow the system of programme budgeting. Also the distinguished representative of the United States, Mr. Walter Kotschnig, stated that the Board might review the report on the programme of work of UNIDO and draw up an order of priorities. This subject may be of such importance that the distinguished delegates will wish to pursue it further.

2. Operational activities

The principal theme of the first Board was the field operational activities of UNIDO. Many delegates stressed the priority that should be given to these activities. For instance, the distinguished delegate from Sudan, Mr. Ali Sahloul, stated that UNIDO should increasingly undertake more operational activities, giving them preponderance over research activities. Also the distinguished representative from Nigeria said that some of the so-called operational activities listed in the work programme last year, such as the assignment of experts to produce reports or update earlier ones, did not fit in with the kind of action envisaged by the developing countries. Moreover, the delegate from Thailand pointed out that UNIDO should be primarily concerned with operational activities, leaving general studies to other international bodies. Therefore, the resolution adopted by the first Board on guidelines for the future work programme is significant.

3. Standing Programme Committee

The question of a Standing Programme Committee was raised by a number of delegates at the first session. The distinguished representative of Trinidad and Tobago stated that UNIDO must be driven by a sense of urgency, and that the first duty of the Board was to establish administrative machinery which would be capable of a swift, flexible and many-sided response to requests for assistance. He believed that the Board could not perform that task at an annual session, and therefore proposed the establishment of a Standing Programme Committee for this purpose.

4. Structure of the UNIDO secretariat

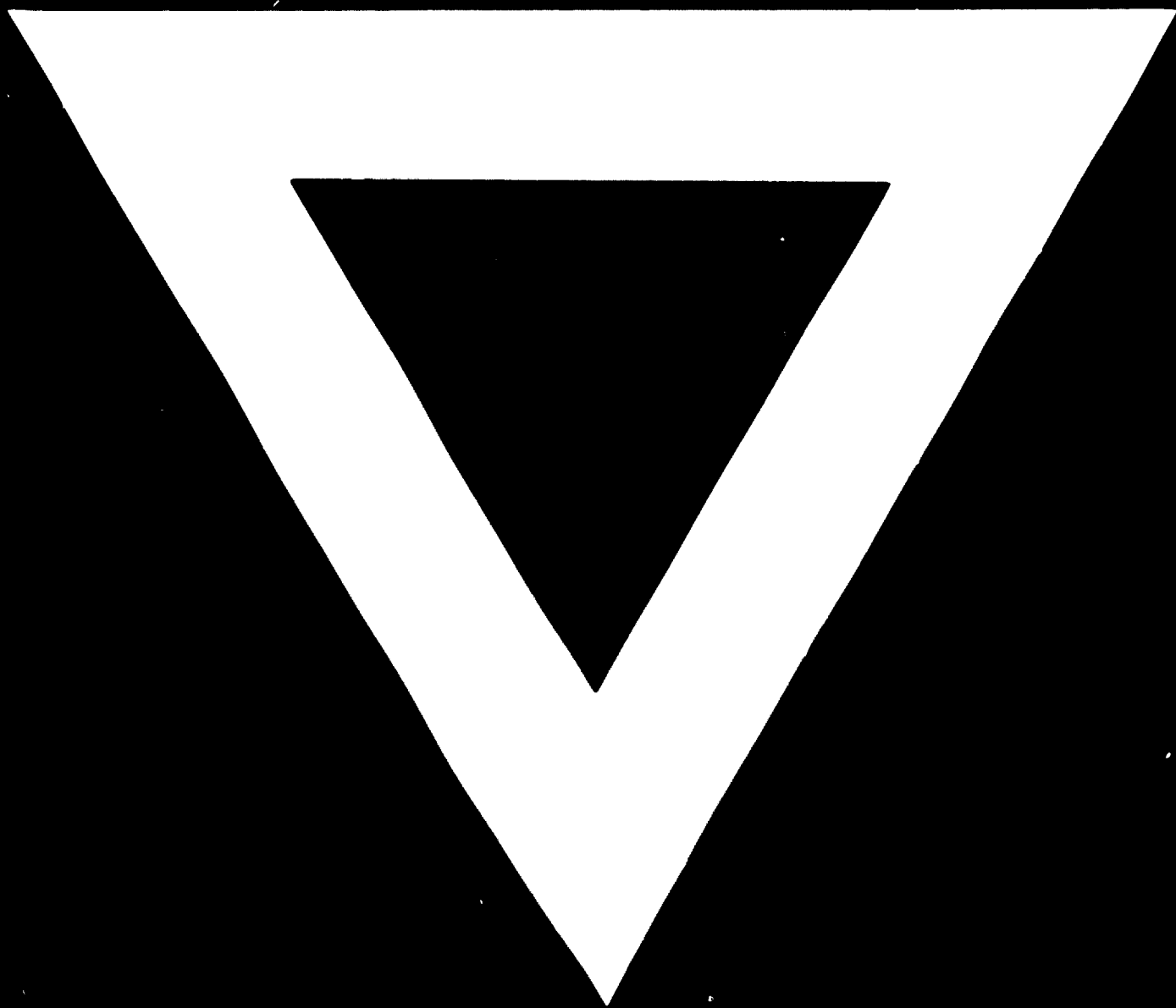
The structure and functions of the UNIDO secretariat was the subject of lengthy debate at the First Board Session, reflecting the concern of many delegates. For example, the representative of Iran was of the opinion that UNIDO's success would depend to a large extent on the efficiency of its staff, a matter on which the Board must give directives. Moreover, the representative of the Ivory Coast elaborated on this point in great detail. The delegate from Turkey requested that detailed documentation on the size, make-up and distribution of UNIDO's personnel be made available to the Board.

5. Financing

As you are all aware, the question of financing the activities of UNIDO was and will continue to be a major issue with which this Board Session, and all following ones will be seized. At this Second Session, distinguished delegates may wish to

explore further the ways and means of financing UNIDO's field operational activities, and I may here recall the decision of the Board regarding the holding of a pledging conference. The matter of the contributions to the Special Industrial Services naturally arises together with the modus vivendi of its administration.

Ladies and Gentlemen, with this brief survey of some of the more salient and pending problems facing this Board, I now call for nominations from the floor for the President of the Second Session, who is going to take on the responsibilities of leadership, and I am thankful to him for releasing me from this Chair, and wish him all success in his office.



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