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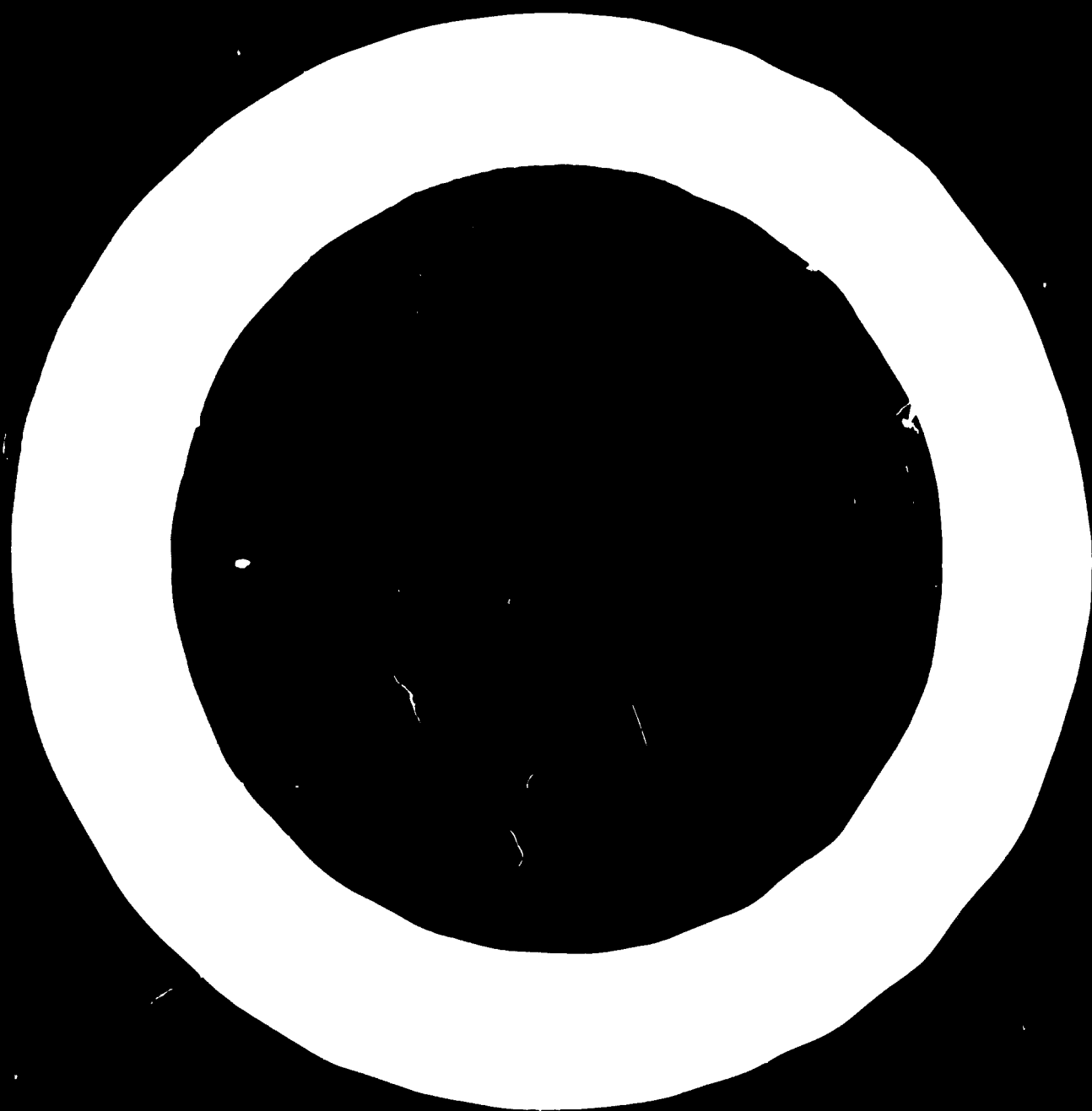
Industrial Development Board

Second Session

Vienna, 17 April - 14 May 1968

STATEMENT OF MR. K. JURICH STAMBERG (AUSTRIA)
PRESIDENT OF THE SECOND SESSION OF
THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

17 April 1968



The decision of the Board in electing me President for the present Session is a great honour for me.

I want to express my thanks to all the distinguished Representatives for their vote.

The Board has heard today two very important statements on the tasks and aims of our Organization, one by the Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs of Austria and the other by the outgoing President. I want to take this opportunity to thank him for the most efficient conduct of affairs during the first session of the Board. As I am newly elected, it does not seem fit for me to elaborate on these two statements, or to make a statement from the Chair myself, at least for the moment.

Nevertheless, allow me to advance a few personal remarks before we proceed with our deliberations.

I am a newcomer to a new Organization, on which the hopes for an accelerated industrialization are focused; but I am an old-timer in different international bodies, where other, or similar problems of vital interest to our friends in Africa, Asia and Latin-America were discussed. This applies, inter alia, to OECD, to the GATT, to the UNCTAD and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, where I served as an Observer for my country. Furthermore, during my diplomatic assignments in Africa and Asia, I had the opportunity to experience the crisis of industrialization on the spot.

If I mention all this, it is not to boast of any superior knowledge which I may have, but to humbly recognize that - at least according to my own experience - the road towards industrialization has often been paved with mistakes and errors of judgement by all concerned, and that precious time and capital have been lost which could have been better employed. I do not want to misjudge or to underrate the valuable efforts which have already been made, but I feel obliged to appeal to you right from the start of this Session to have the experience of the past - positive as well as negative - in mind, while trying to put this Organization on a sounder and firmer basis.

If this Session is to be a success, we should avoid - in a true spirit of co-operation and compromise - any unnecessary loss of time and concentrate on the real substantive issues we are faced with. While recognizing that a proper organization of work is important, my twenty years' experience with other conferences of this size is that often too much time was taken up by discussions on points of procedure, the creation and membership of subsidiary bodies and related matters, while, through lack of time, vital problems of substance did not receive the necessary attention and therefore did not find a proper solution.

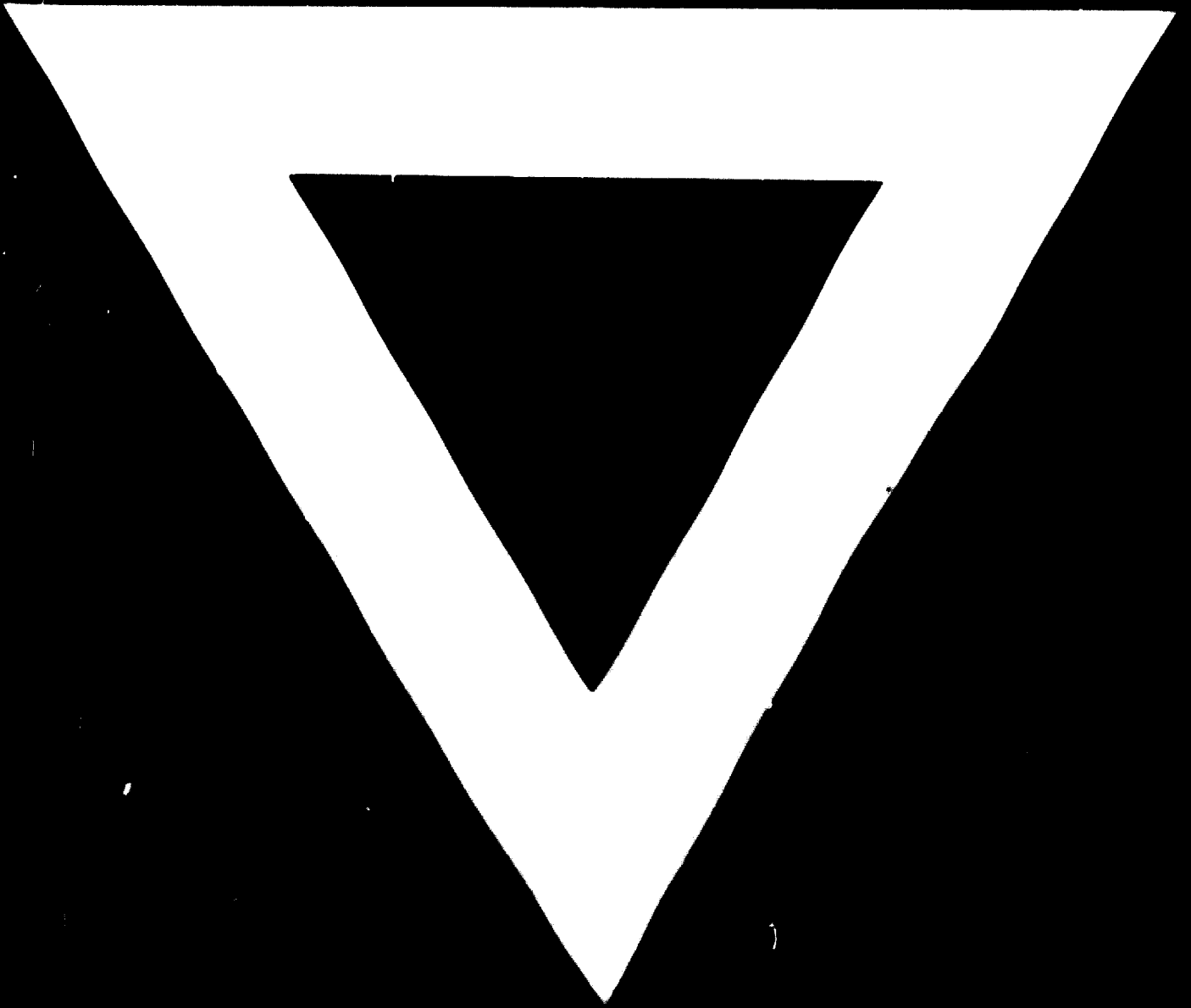
I do hope very strongly that we will not fall into the same error and that we shall be able to settle procedural issues as quickly as possible. I hope, furthermore, that the points of substance will be discussed in a concrete, businesslike and realistic way, avoiding the ever-existing dangers and pitfalls of the ivory tower, mutual recriminations, and issues which are outside the scope of this Organization. If one side is not asking for too much and the other side is giving what it can, there is always a way out and a solution of compromise, which, while perhaps not giving entire satisfaction, is nevertheless a step forward, and this is, in my eyes, the only thing that counts.

I hope that you will excuse these personal remarks, which have degenerated into a sermon, which it was not meant to be. However, I can plead attenuating circumstances, which will be understood by the Members of the Board who share with me an accumulated feeling of frustration in multilateral international affairs. This applies especially to the challenge of our century, namely the finding of an acceptable modus vivendi between the developing and the developed world.

I do hope that this second Session of the Board in Vienna will start and end in a true spirit of mutual comprehension and compromise, and that it will bring us a step further in the most important and vital task that is set before us.



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