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Seminar on Industrial Information
(for English Speaking African Countries)

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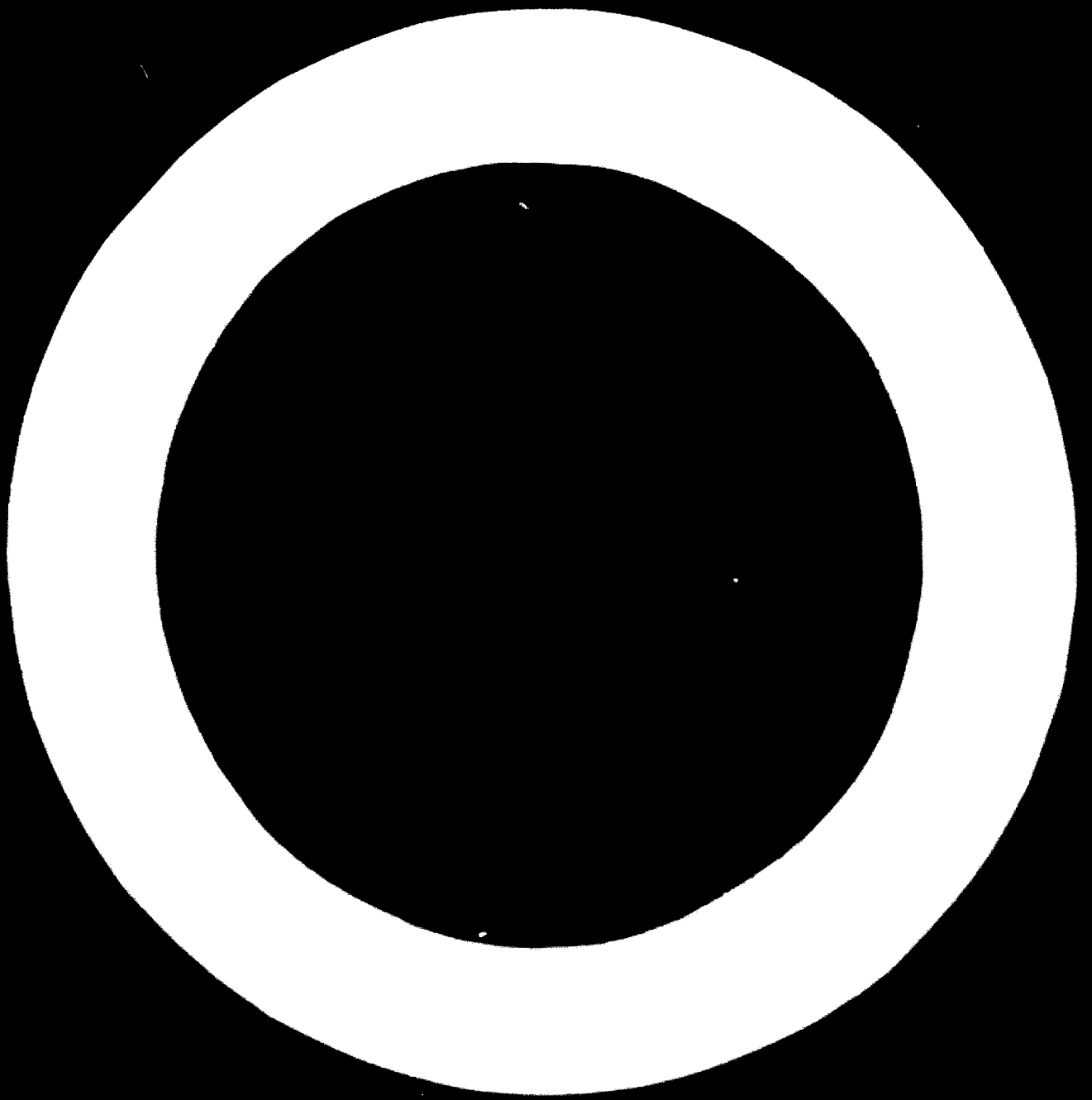
INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION SERVICES IN
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN

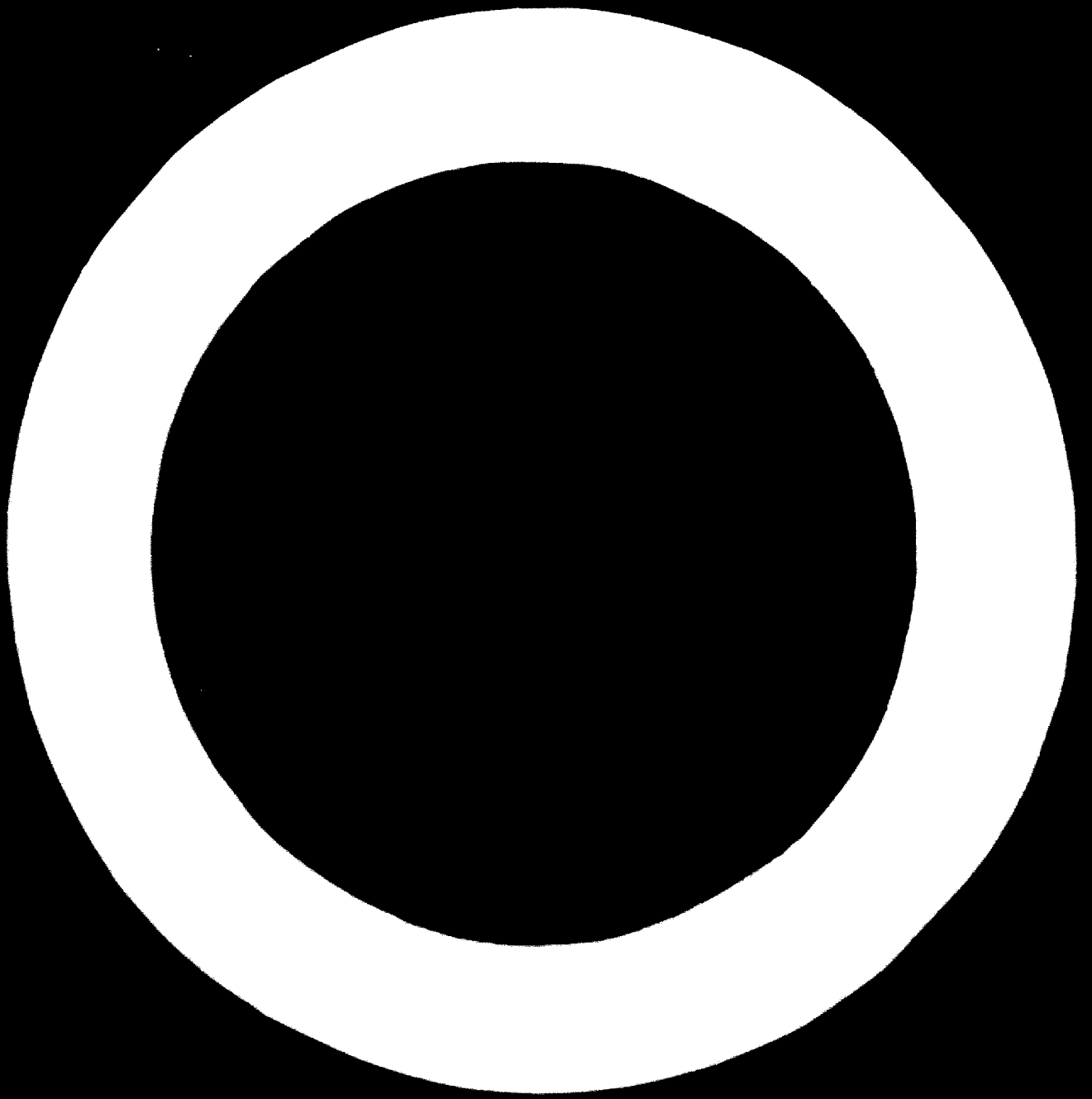
by

Hassan Osman Ahmed
Ministry of Industry

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Id. 73-641





The first trials of manufacturing industry in Sudan dates back to the second world war. Where a few number of small factories were established for the manufacturing of consumer goods i.e Soap, Vegetable, oil mills, primitive tanning, and traditional textiles etc.

When Sudan obtain independence in 1956, the government recognized that in order to achieve a higher national income and on the promotion of industry, parallel with expansion of agriculture and within a framework of a balanced and integrated economic and social development plan .. to achieve these aims, the government introduced the approved enterprises' "concessions" act, 1956. The main object of the act was to encourage and assist industrial enterprises by means of reliefs and concessions and particularly to reassure foreign investors that their interest will be safeguarded.

Due to the growing activities of the private Industrial Sector and the problems and impediments that faced the manufacturing Industries, a Ministry of Industry and Mining was entrusted with the planning and implementation of a national industrial policy. A new legislation was introduced, namely, the Organization and promotion of Industrial Investment Act, 1967. This act which is still in force aims at augmenting the concessions and assistance granted to industrial enterprises and to remove the barriers, obstacles and fears that have previously retarded the designed rate of Industrial Investment.

The increase in the local productions of food products and industrial products such as wheat, flour, milk and milk products, cotton textiles, footwear, will give the opportunity to use part of the foreign currency for importing machineries, oil products, chemicals and other products needed for the regions' economy.

The Industry has thus grown to LS. 51 million a F at the end of the period within the total national product with 1967/68 prices ~~xxxxxxx~~ an annual rate of growth of 9.4%. Still the share of the industry in the total national product at the end of the period is 9% despite the investment of LS. 8.8 M r P in the public sector to enlarge its base. It is worth-while to point out that the industry has been basically working in the primary Agricultural products and imported products for light industries so as to decrease imports.

Industrial Production in the Sudan

Type of Industry	No. of Enterprises	No. of Workers	Value of Production LS.000.	Value Added LS.000.
1) Food Industries (including Alcoholic and Tobacco)	117	13639	34172.0	5317.9
2) Textile Industries (including tanning, footwear and leather products)	44	8962	12758.0	4917.6
3) Wood and Wood Products (including furniture)	159	1900	1386.9	688.4
4) Paper and Paper Products (including printing and publishing)	20	2306	2266.3	1095.2
5) Chemical Industries (including Petroleum refining)	36	2615	6492.7	1920.8
6) Non-metallic mineral products (including glass and glass products)	24	1034	1703.4	755.4
7) Metallic Products industries (including machines and equipment)	155	3591	3878.3	1430.3
Total of the Sector:	555	34042	63657.2	16125.6

The importance of industrial information in the industrial Sector

It is now accepted that technical information is of vital importance for scientific research and industrial development.

Technical information could be looked upon as scientific wealth enlarged and enhanced by the constant efforts of scientific research from all over the World.

The technical information is now regarded as a common property to all human beings and not limited to a particular Country or an individual sector. The ability to benefit from this information depends on its originality.

Collection and analysis of information and the system of arranging and storing them in such a way as to facilitate easy reference is very important.

There is an increase in the number of research establishments and industrial development organizations with corresponding increase in the number of workers in these fields. There is also a great need for the information in connection with the variety of specialisations.

For all these reasons the Ministry of Industry & Mining established a department for Statistics and Industrial Information, to carry on the following responsibilities :-

- 1) Collecting, analysing and tabulating the industrial information.
- 2) Furnish local and foreign enterprises with the required information.
- 3) Conduction of industrial services.
- 4) Publishing of industrial bulletins.
- 5) Strengthening the link between both the private and public sectors and Ministry of Industry & Mining.

The new department achieved a comprehensive industrial survey, beside other enquiry services.

Industrial Survey 1968/69 :

In the second half of 1969 an agreement was concluded with IDCSA "The Industrial Development Centre for Arab States" to carry a comprehensive Industrial Survey. The Survey was carried to satisfy the following objectives :

- To explore the current situation of the industrial sector and the private one.
- To lay down the basis of a general frame work for industrial policy.
- To draw up indicators and guidance for industrial development planning.

On the basis of the industrial survey result and some specialized studies in some of the main branches of industry, the following indicators were drawn up as guidance for the formulation of an industrial development plan:-

1. Utilization of idle capacities in the existing production units.
2. Vertical expansion in the existing industries.
3. Expansion in the existing branches of industry wherever it is possible and economically feasible.
4. co-ordination of development plans for both industrial and agricultural sectors i.e. To establish fertilizer, insecticide and agricultural equipment industries.
5. Development of import-substitution industries to attain a high level of self sufficiency.
6. Expansion of construction and building materials industry to meet the requirements of other sectors of the economy.
7. Development of engineering industries whose final product is an intermediate product for other branches of industry.
8. Expansion in industries that create possibilities of export i.e. Leather Textiles, Sugar, etc..
9. Development of extractive industries to utilize the available mineral resources for purposes of local consumption and export.
10. Establishment of training centres for the different branches of industry. Training programmes should be formed to satisfy the requirements of the industrial development plan.

PROBLEMS OF DATA COLLECTING IN THE SUDAN.

- 1- Unavailability of proper records which leads to delay of informations.
- 2- Reluctance of some factories to present correct information, with the precaution that it may be used for taxation purposes.
- 3- Reluctance of some factories to give any information, to insure that competitors could not have access it.

The Ministry of Industry, on its side, to overcome these problems, give a writing guarantee that the information and data supplied by the factories will be treated with utmost secrecy.

Moreover the Ministry renders its officials services to help in collecting information and data required.

Yet, in spite of all these efforts, we still face these difficulties, and more efforts are being exerted to ensure the smooth and prompt supply of data and information needed for Economic and Social Development.

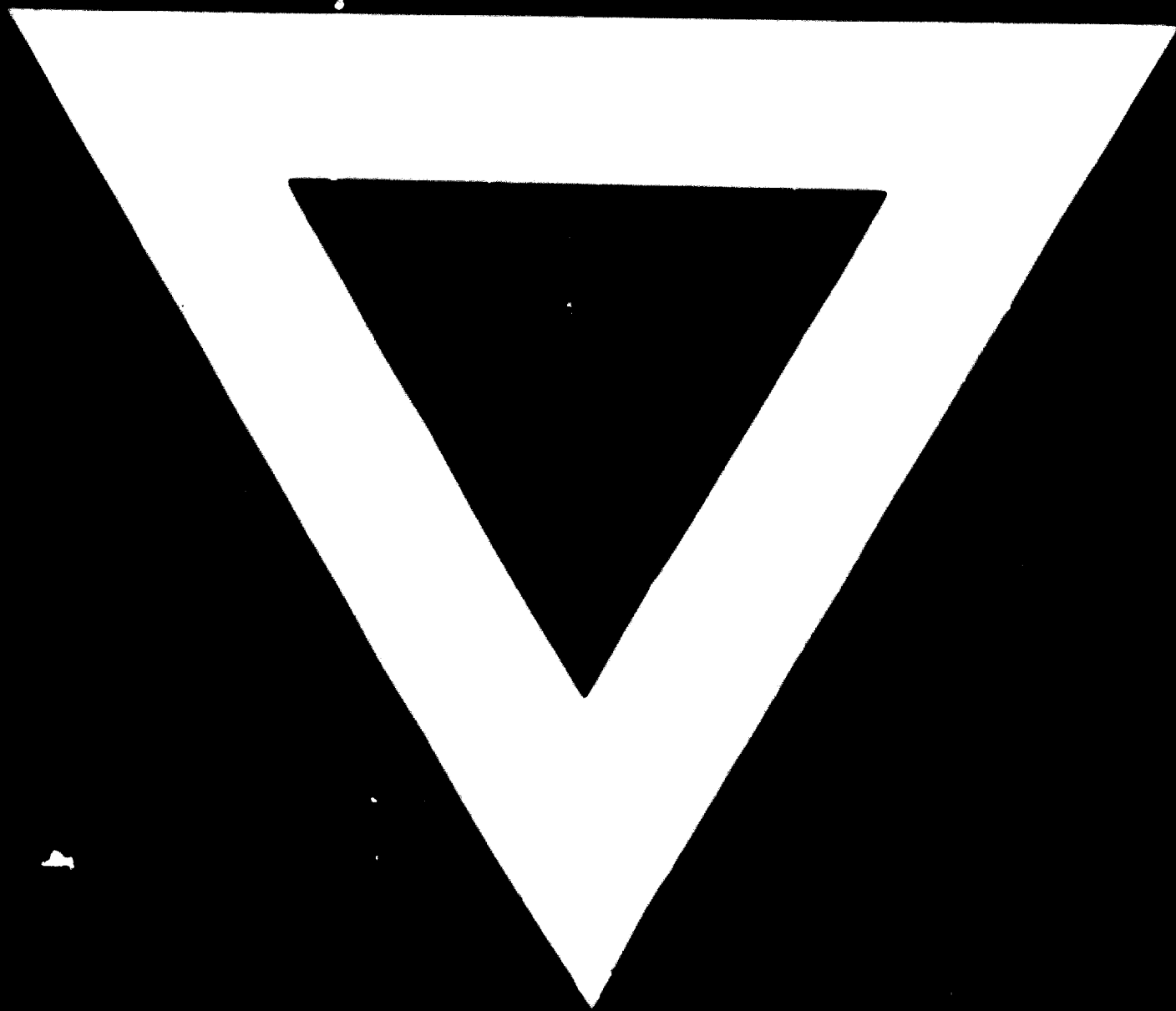
SUDAN

Industrial information activities in the Sudan were reported by Mr. Hassan Osman Ahamed from Sudan's Ministry of Industry. He told the seminar that the Ministry set up a department for industrial information whose duty would be, among others, to collect, collate and disseminate industrial information to foreign as well as local industry.

Problems: In an attempt to handle industrial information so as to process it and pass it on to its would-be users, the department comes against certain problems the most significant of which are:

- (1) Firms are not willing to supply the department with correct data fearing that the data would be used against these firms for tax purposes.
- (2) Established industries don't want to supply information fearing competition from either other established firms or new industries. The department has to promise to keep this information secret.
- (3) There is a big shortage of trained personnel to handle, i.e. collect, analyse and evaluate the information.
- (4) There is no smooth supply of data. Sudan will need the co-operation of international organisations to effect a smooth supply and dissemination of this industrial information.





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