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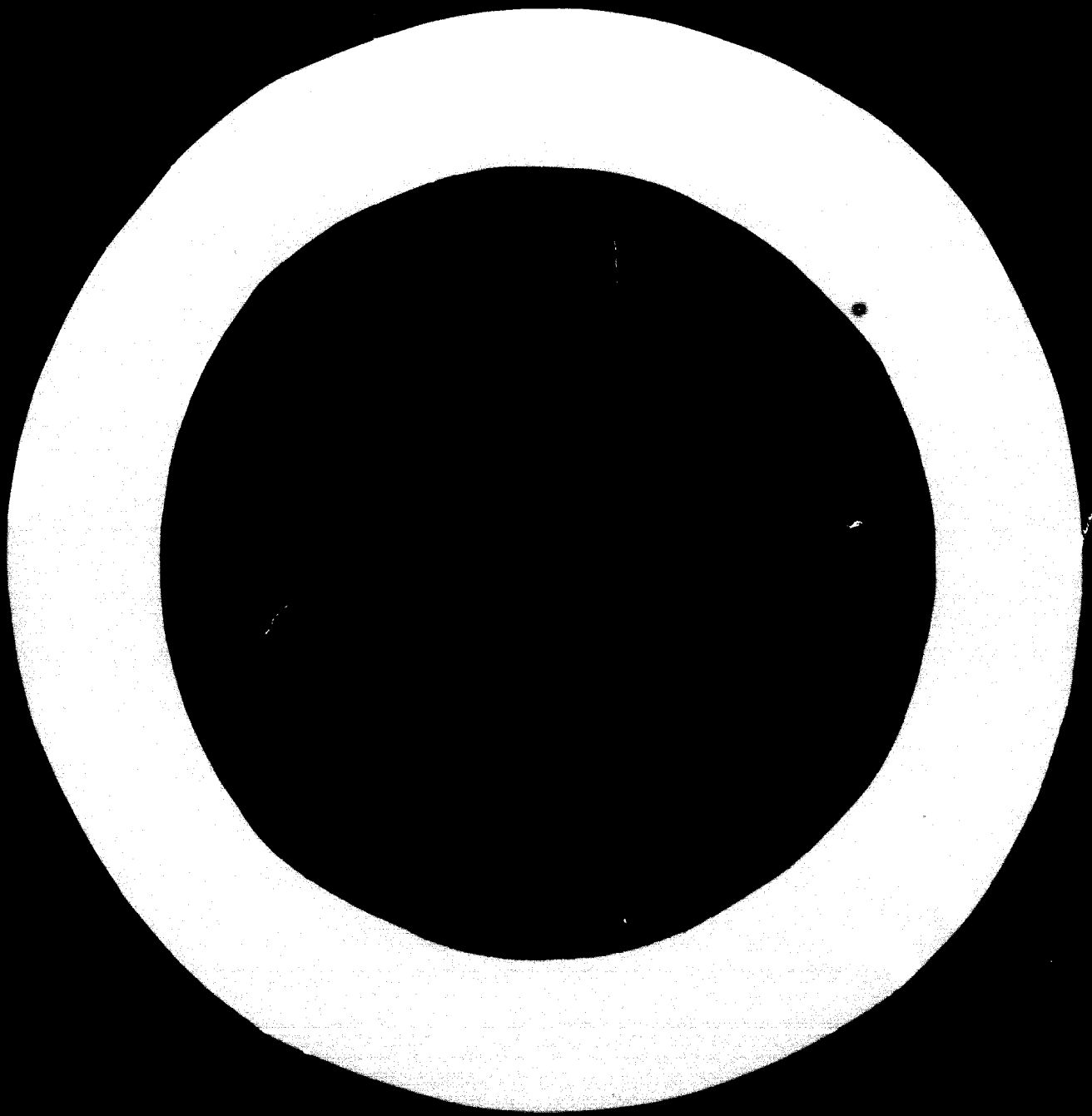
STATEMENT
ON THE SITUATION OF THE LEATHER INDUSTRY IN
CYPRUS^{1/}

presented by

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1. General.

The Cyprus leather processing industry engages in primary processing, drying and salting of hides and skins and in actual tanning of leather for uppers and linings which are then supplied to the local shoe industry and other industries making fancy goods and leather garments.

There are two upper leather tanneries and four sheep and goat skins tanneries.

Leather production of all types amounted in 1972 to 822,722 sq.ft. (43,722 bovine dressing, 104,000 sheepskin lining, 255,000 sheep dressing and 450,000 goat and sheep dressing leather). In addition 63,900 bovine sheep and goat skins were tanned in the hair and wool state by the lutan F and aluminium sulphate processes.

2. Development Conditions

The Cyprus leather industry relies mainly on imports including stock lots. In 1971 imports of leather were in the region of £730,000, i.e. 78.7 per cent of the Island's total consumption. Leather articles produced during the same year amounted to £ 4.5 million. It can be seen from the above figures that the leather industry is dependent on a tanning industry which only provides 21.3 per cent of the Island's leather requirements.

One of the basic weaknesses of the local tanning industry is the availability of raw material. There are on the one hand strict regulations by the Veterinary Services as regards imports of hides and/or skins in the country, in order to prevent the foot and mouth disease from which the country is free, on the other hand, the present slaughtering practices in the abattoirs and the employment system are largely responsible for the poor flaying of the local hides.

3. Development Prospects

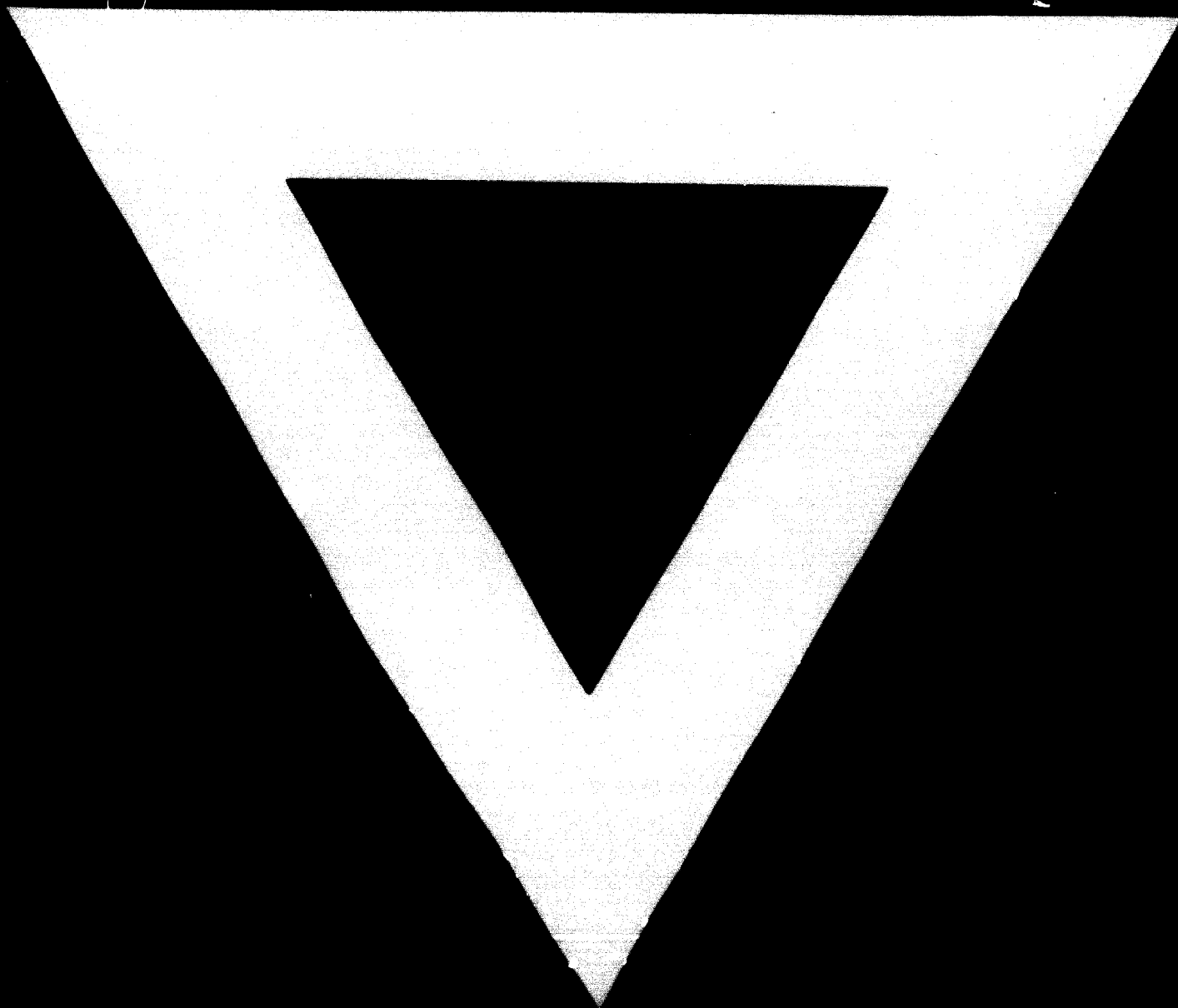
The starting point for the development and improvement of leather production is the abattoir. Already plans for the erection of modern slaughterhouses in the three main towns, Nicosia, the Capital, Famagusta and Limassol, are under way. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is

considering to introduce the necessary legislation so that flaying of the local hides and skins could be carried out properly and be suitable for further processing, thus eliminating waste.

In the new abattoirs provisions have been made for the utilization of pigskins which are not at present utilised. These measures would help the tanning industry to process every available hide and skin on the Island.

The Ministry is also considering the idea of processing and utilizing animal by-products in the near future.





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