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*for a sustainable future*

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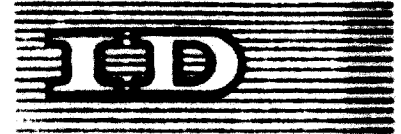
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STATEMENT  
ON THE SITUATION OF THE LEATHER INDUSTRY IN  
ICELAND <sup>1/</sup>

presented by

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Current Situation

Current annual production figures in Iceland for sheepskins, bovine and horse hides are listed below.

TABLE I

<u>Hides and Skins</u>	<u>Total Production per annum (1,000 pieces)</u>
Sheepskins	750 - 800
Cattle ) hides	50
Horse )	

The majority of sheepskins are tanned or pretanned domestically and are exported in wooled form as decorative articles. The skins or double-face skins are exported for further processing into garments. It should be pointed out that only a very minor proportion of the sheepskins are exported raw or pickled for further processing by the leather industry elsewhere.

The tanning of horse hides is carried out almost exclusively in Iceland, the tanned hides being used for interior decoration purposes. However, very low-quality horse hides are exported as raw material for leather processors abroad.

Future Prospects

Leather has not been produced in Iceland for some period of time, though in previous years there was some degree of leather processing activity to meet the requirements of the local shoe-making and clothing industries. Plans, however, have been made for the revitalization of this sector and steps are being taken, albeit on a small scale, to supply leather to local shoe production units and garment manufacturers in Iceland.





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