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09399



Distr.
LIMITED
ID/WG.302/7
2 January 1980.
Original: ENGLISH

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Seminar on Furniture and Joinery Industries
Lahti, Finland, 6 - 25 August 1979

Furniture Production Factory^{1/}

by

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The history of Iraq is well known with its old civilization and culture which had a great influence on the whole world in the past and its contribution in many fields to the civilization of today. But now Iraq does not have any mass production factories to produce standard furniture according to social needs, although good standards of home, public and school furniture and joineries were produced by small factories and individual cabinet makers.

In 1950 - 1960 some small factories were established by the State of Iraq to produce and supply some of the school and office furniture needed.

The great revolution on 17 July 1968 in Iraq made great changes and brought about plans on a large scale and in all directions for large and heavy industries, housing schemes, school buildings - reform everywhere! Laws were passed and put into effect especially compulsory education and compulsory literary. With the great development in Iraq, the need for all kinds of furniture and joinery became greater and made the Government of Iraq plan for larger furniture and joinery industries. Some of the small factories that were built in nearly every big city started to produce furniture of all kinds.

It is quite obvious that the great movement to develop the country, including the large housing schemes, made the State import all kinds of furniture and joinery for schools, houses and hotels, but Iraq hopes to be self-sufficient in the near future when our new furniture industry will be in production.

Problems facing the country :

1. Iraq does not have large forests to supply the timber needed for the production of furniture and joinery except some walnut trees grown in the north of Iraq and some local pine (with small girths) which are used mainly for light bridges and huts. Iraq realized that a big furniture industry cannot be successful unless there is a large industry to produce all the material needed. Then the Government started the plantation of huge forests in the north where the land is suitable and the petrochemical industry to produce materials suitable for the furniture and joinery industry such as polyurethane and other plastic materials. Some experiments were made to produce fibreboards from the palm trees which are grown in very large quantities in Iraq and in vast areas in the midland and southern part of Iraq.

These schemes should help the country to start producing some of the panel boards needed to suit the new and more economical way of production and saves money that the Government spends on the importation of great quantities of various kinds of timber such as teak, walnut, mahogany, pine and the panel boards needed.

2. Technicians and skilled labour - owing to the great industrial movement and reforms in Iraq, it has been a great problem to get technicians and skilled workers to meet the needs of the great number of factories under construction. This made the Iraqi Government import from other countries to help us in our industrial revolution and then put the following plans into action to get the skilled labour and technicians.

a) Through the vocational education, as a number of technical schools were established in every part of Iraq and in various subjects, especially in woodwork, production of furniture and joinery.

b) A training school in every newly built factory to train their own skilled workers and technicians to suit their production.

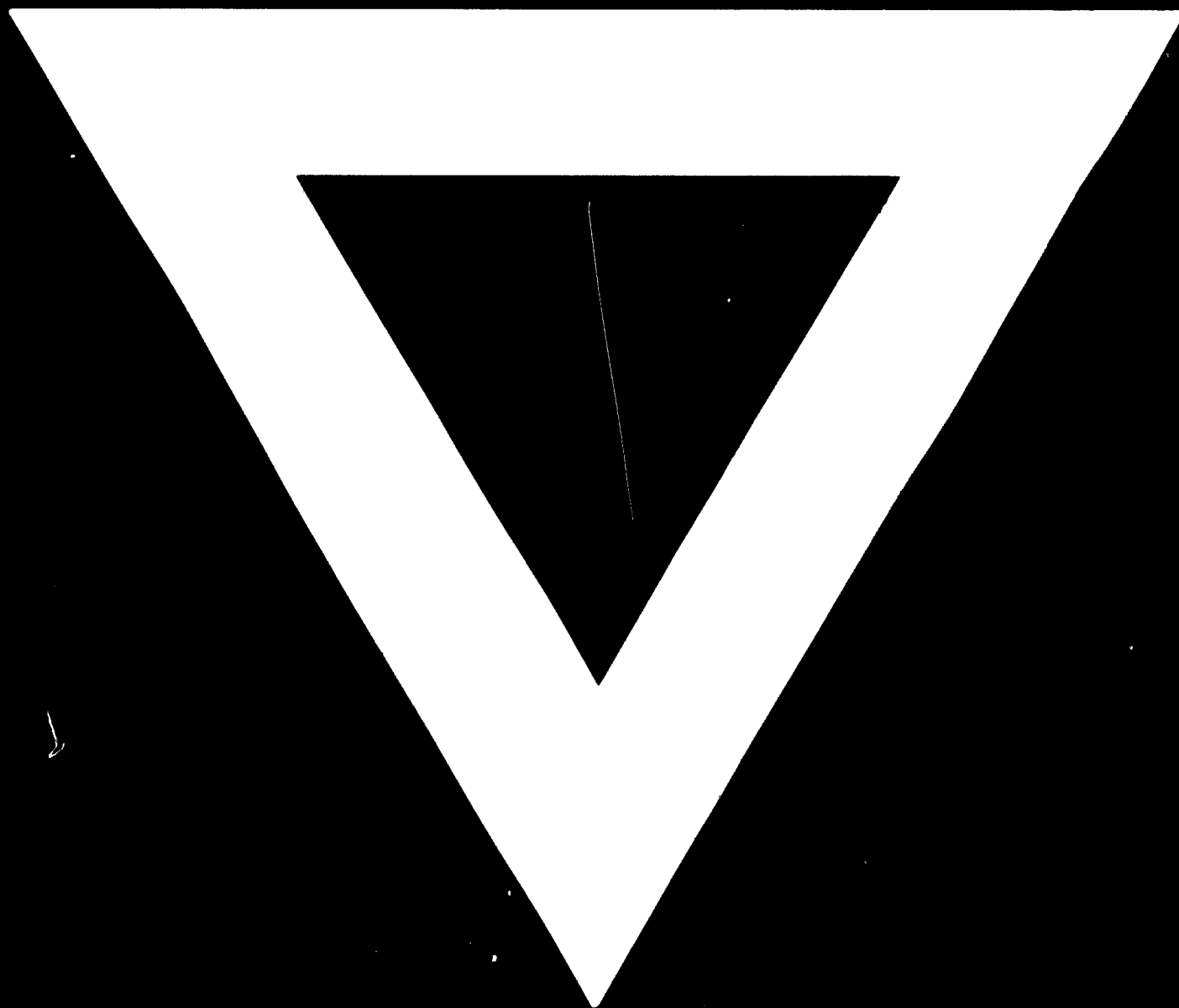
c) A great number of technical school graduates are sent to some advanced countries to be trained.

d) There has been great encouragement by the Government to bring skilled workers from individual shops to join the new establishments of the Government.

Finally, I do hope that my participation at the UNIDO Seminar in Finland will help me and my country to have a better scope and understanding to solve some of the problems facing the country and to learn better methods of production in the furniture and joinery industry and in wood technology.



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