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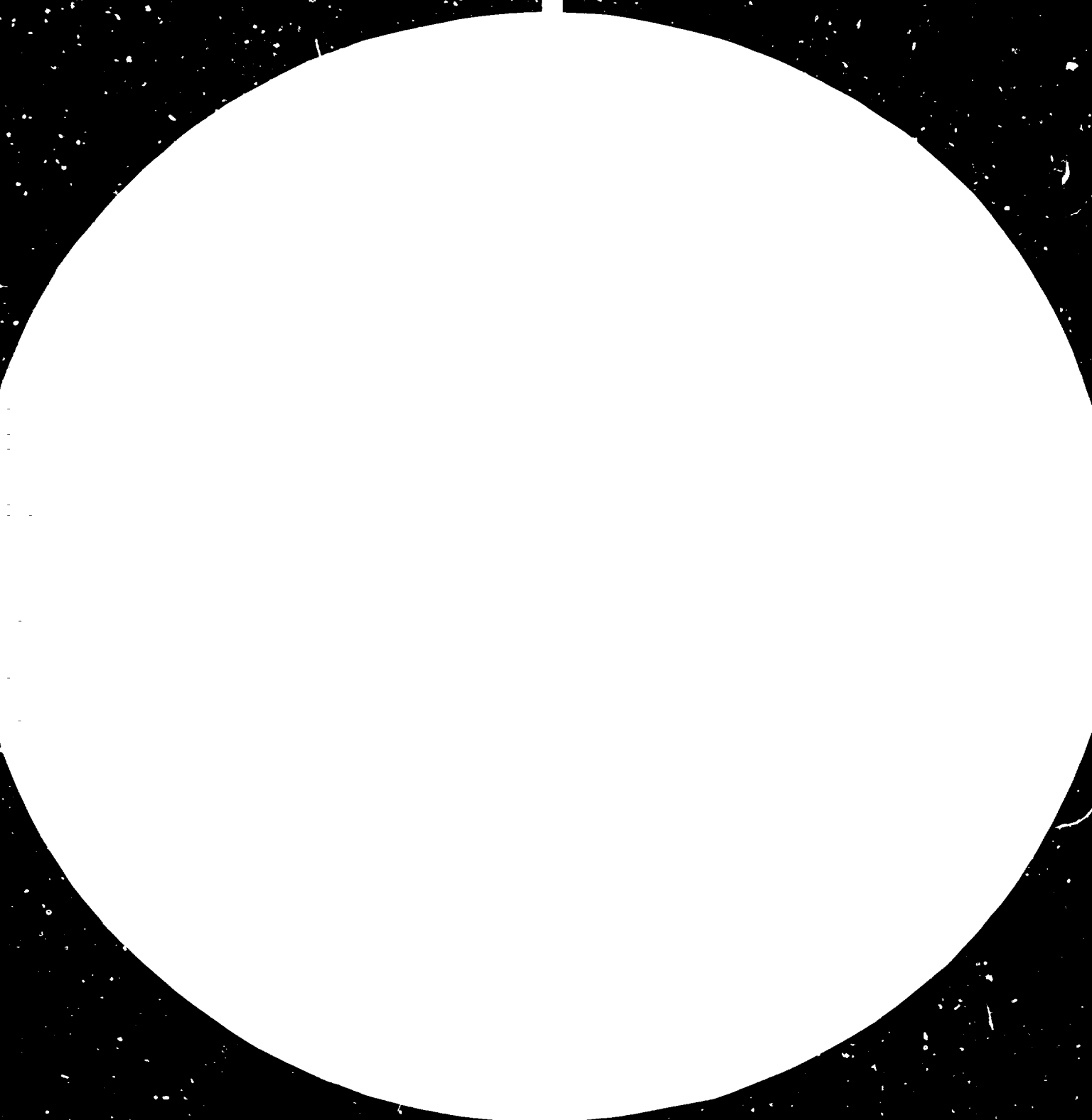
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Resolution Test Chart  
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Technical Course on Criteria for the  
Selection of Woodworking Machines

Milan, Italy, 5 - 21 May 1980

THE WOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF EGYPT\*

by

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13-3

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### Importance of Sector

The adaption of the economic open-door policy and the major investment projects being implemented by the state within the drive of building and reconstruction in the country has effectively promoted the woodworking industries. This could be attributed to the government's encouragement of the private sector to go along with the public sector and this policy yielded its fruits with output this year reaching its target figures.

The following is an outline of the products by the main woodworking industries:

#### (1) The Furniture Industry

The quantity of wooden furniture produced at the last year estimated at 400,000 sets.

#### (2) The Chair Industry

Value of the output of wooden chairs is increasing yearly, in spite of this increase in the value of output, the quantity declined. This is due to increased prices of raw material used in this branch of the woodworking industry, especially beech timber which is always in short supply on the local market and its prices are rising all over the world.

#### (3) Wooden Parquet Flooring

Output of such wooden flooring dropped slightly. This is due to the fact that the local market is being saturated with other synthetic substitutes, and that the prices of wooden material is continually rising together with the increase in labour costs. This has led the consumer to turn his back to this industry.

#### (4) Joinery industry (doors, windows, etc.)

The value of the output of building timber industry rose to £ 1,500,000 <sup>1/</sup>.

<sup>1/</sup> £ 9.70 = US\$ 1 (approximately)

(5) Spinning and weaving reels and spools

Output of this industry is rising continuously.

(6) The cork industry

It is mainly undertaken by the private sector and the value of production is increasing slowly.

(7) Wood Based Panels (Plywood, blockboard, etc.)

Output of these materials reached last year £ 3,787,000.

Output of plywood alone rose by 30 per cent in terms of quantity and by 65-67 per cent in value terms.

Also output of veneer rose by 55 per cent in quantity and by 106.7 per cent in value.

Output of wooden boards and sheets rose by 5 per cent last year, but output of wooden frames declined by 12.2 per cent.

Furniture Industry

Furniture is produced by the public sector, the private sector and the handicraft sector. The production of the private and the handicraft sector represents 70 per cent of total production.

There is some export of furniture to the Eastern European countries. Most of these exports are done by firms in the private sector.

Incentives for Industrialization

There is a growing demand for wood products. Owing to the expansion in construction of new buildings and hotels.

The existing companies are increasing their annual capacity by adding new production lines, in addition we can notice that there are new agreements for new projects which will be implemented in woodworking industries sector.

Now, there are all kinds of woodworking industries in Egypt, such as plywood, blockboard, particle board, chairs, doors and windows, decorative veneer and modular furniture. In spite of the large number of woodworking industries, the supply of their products is still less than the actual demand.

Problems facing the industry:

The major three problems we are facing are:

- Skilled labour
- Raw materials
- Spare parts

(1) Skilled labour

There is a decrease in the number of skilled labourers due to quick expansion of the woodworking industry and shortage of training centers. Also Egypt had exported many of its skilled labourers to another country especially to Arab countries. This shortage is mainly felt in the skilled craftsmen needed to produce reproduction furniture.

Therefore Egypt tried to solve this problem by introducing the standardization of wooden furniture in its production. "WOODCO, Egypt" had introduced this new technology in its plant at Helwan with capacity of 25 rooms per day for the first stage which will be increased to 40 rooms in the next stage.

A new woodworking complex will be created in NEW - Amereyah city, where a training center for training new labourers will be built.

(2) Raw materials

Egypt is not a forested country, it depends for its woodworking industry on the imported timber products.

Now there is a new trend in the exporting countries to manufacture their logs locally before exporting, this decision had affected the woodworking industry in Egypt.

Egypt imports logs from Africa, Asia and Europe. We have few species of logs which are not efficient for producing wood-based panels, also these logs are scattered and not located in natural forests.

(3) Spare parts

As we import all woodworking machines (mainly from Europe) we depend on the spare parts produced by the machinery makers. We are solving this problem by ordering the required spare parts for three years operation with the new machines.





