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PRESENT STATUS AND FUTURE PLANS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY IN HUNGARY[1/]

by

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The first steps in plastic application were made in the early twenties, actually in 1922, when the first electric insulators were produced.1923 was the year when paperboard production has begun.

Production of phenolic resins and moulding powders started in 1931. Little amounts of urea-type moulding materials were also produced before the second world war, but the production of thermoplastics was not yet initiated at that time. Official statistical data of this period are at our disposal concerning to the total production of moulding powders, but its amount can be estimated to 400 tons in the year 1942.

Application of PVC and polystyrene was mainly constricted to the field of electric and cable industry.

After the second world war the growth of consumption and of production became faster. This increase is illustrated in Table I.

Table I.

Year	Production of plastics		Consumption of plastics	
	tons	kg/head	tons	kg/head
1950	1.400	0,15	2.000	0,21
1955	4.200	0,42	8.000	0,79
1960	9.900	0,99	22.000	2,2
1965	30.000	3,03	46.000	4,50
1970	58.700	5,85	137.000	12,6
1974	110.000	11,2	204.000	19,5

Hungarian processing have mostly been based on domestic derive partly from home production, partly from importation. The following data are characteristic of their proportion.

Table II.

1 000 tons

	1973	1974
plastic production	113,1	118
importation /for national purposes/	83,5	100,7
exportation /from national production/	19,6	15,1
national use	178,7	203,6

The most important plastics variation made in Hungary in 1973- 1974.

Table III.

1 000 tons

	1973.	1974.
Pe /LD/	26,3	23,3
PVC	36,5	40,5
PS	-	-
Phenolics	4,4	5,0
Aminoplasts	16,5	16,4
Polyurethane	5,6	6,8
Polyester	0,4	0,5
Other plastics	21,3	20,9
	111,3	119,5

The Hungarian plastics [illegible] industry is going to develop quickly between 1975- 1980: a new PVC factory of [illegible] capacity is under construction /[illegible] tons/year. A PP factory / 40.000 tons/year/ will also be put into service. The capacity of the Pe- HD factory will also increase - to. [illegible],000 tons/year. All this is made [illegible] already put into service at the end of [illegible], created within the scope of the petroleum chemistry. PS and Pe- HD production is not planned in Hungary until [illegible]. In the field of the production of other plastics no considerable change is to be expected.

So, according to the above, while we shall have a surplus from PVC and PP till 1980, we shall continue to need importation from PS, Pe- HD, and the special plastics variation of small volume.

The following table shows the quantity of consumption of the present and as planned by 1980.

Table IV.

1.000 tons

Type of plastics	1974.	1980
Vinyl resins	50	110
Polyolefines	64	150
Polystyrene	20	40
Phenolics	7	15
Aminoplasts	20	30
Polyester	4	10
Others	35	50
Total amount	200	400

Table V. Illustration the development of various conversion process:

Table V.

Type of conversion process

	1965	1970	1975
Moulding	3,4	6	40-50
Injection- moulding	1	4	
Blow -moulding	0	4	10
Films and sheets	4	20	45- 50
Flooring	2	10	15- 20
Foamed plastics /except polyurethanes/	0	3	15
Pipes, rods and profiles	2	8	20
Leathercloth	3	11	15
Cable-insulation	7	15	15
Chip- board	6	17	20
Reinforced plastics	1	4	8

The greatest problems of the development of the Hungarian plastics industry derive from the fact that in certain fields of both the basic material production and of the processing the present saving capacities are beyond the critical mass./ I mean, the population of Hungary is some 10 million./

The surplus capacities at the basic material production have already been mentioned.

In certain fields of the processing industry the extension can only be realized in case of foreign cooperations e.g. the production of PP film, PVC hoses, fittings or products large bodies made by injection moulding; of hard PVC film and of plates.

Our second great problem is that we have no considerable national processing machine production, so the planned extension in processing demands a large-scale machine importation, which means a demand for enormous sums of foreign currencies.
Cooperations would be useful for us in the cases of which we should exchange plastics made material or plastics finished products for processing machines, besides, we should welcome cooperations in processing machine production, too.
The lack of national processing machine production has a bearing upon the fact that even our own technologies are not guaranteed; in the years to come we shall be obliged to buy a considerable number of licences.

In the field of the application of the plastics the most difficult situation is in the sphere of the increase of the building trade applications. Here the problems are technology of application, the tests about the durability of plastics, and the economic questions, as appears in the [illegible] building [illegible].
In connection with all these questions information and advice obtained by UNIDO could be useful for us.
Hungarian processing industry is directed in the trade by the Hungarian Ministry of Heavy Industries, which coordinates the development of a great number of firms, to help work my office, the Union of the Hungarian Chemical Industry, which co-ordinates the greatest national enterprises of chemical and plastics industry also taken part.

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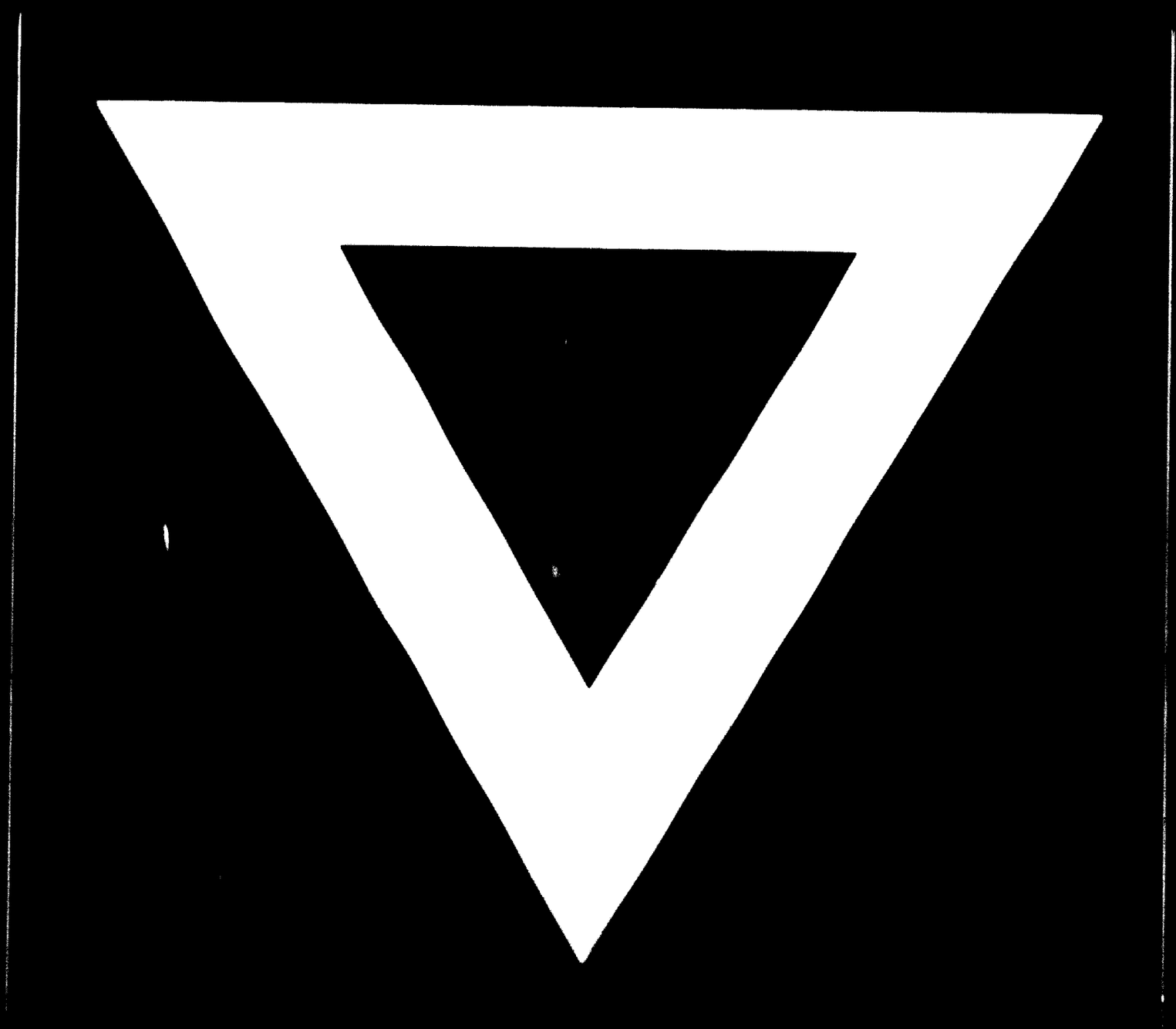

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