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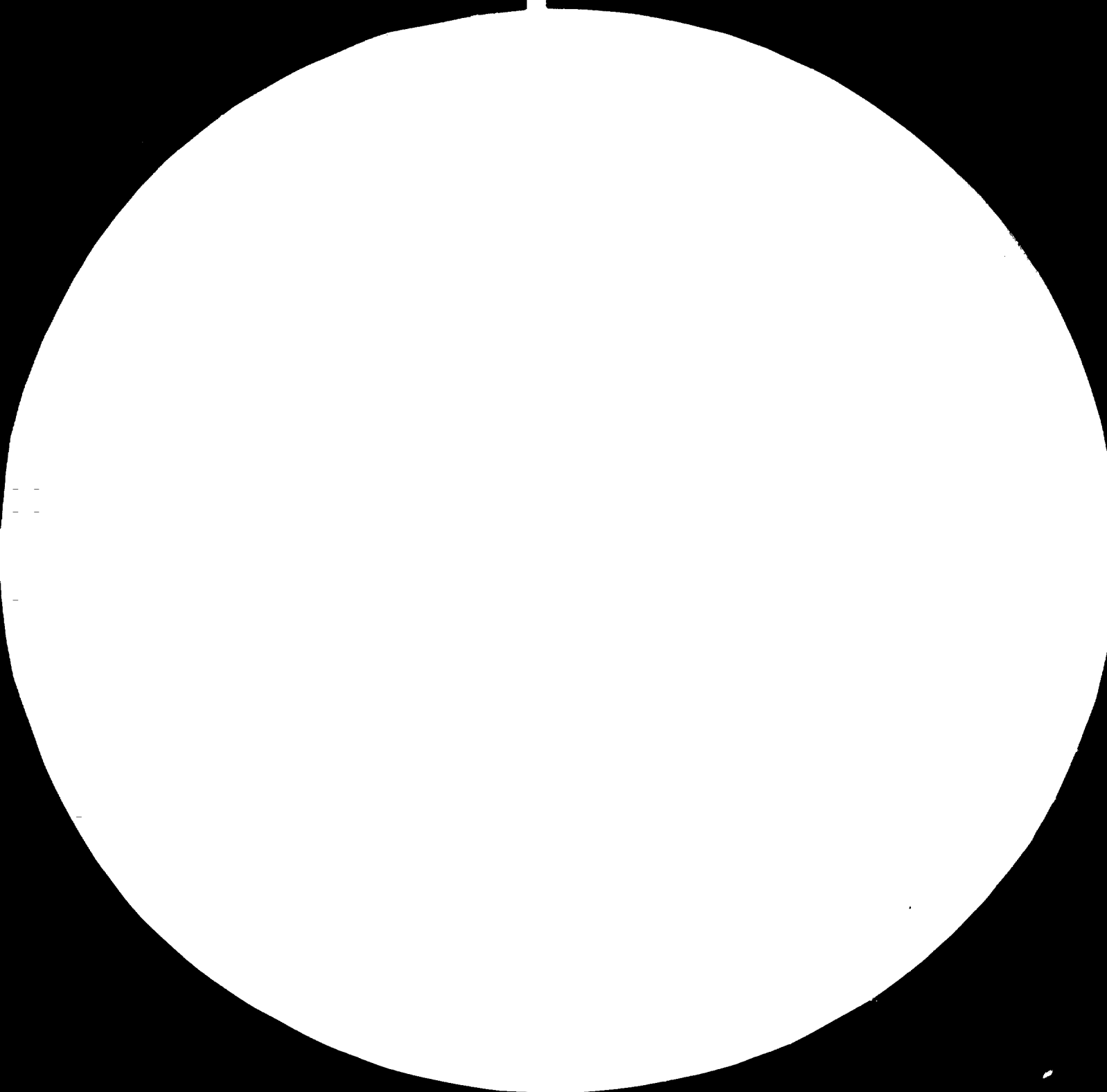
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11 November 1980

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Mission to Zaire

of

Frans J. Soede
Officer-in-Charge
Institutional Infrastructure Branch
Division of Industrial Operations

6 - 10 October 1980

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This report has not been cleared with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) which does not therefore necessarily share the views presented.

Mission to Zaire

6 - 10 October 1980

This mission took place within the framework of project DP/ZAI/80/006: Evaluation and Programming mission, and was planned in such a way that the two Headquarter staff members (Mr Acogny and myself) and two consultants, Mr Fournot (Appropriate Technology) and Mr Murat (Management), were simultaneously in Kinshasa for a one-week dialogue, both with the UNDP office and the Government, about the performance of the four major projects (Portefeuille, CPCZ, IRS and OPEZ) in the past and their continuation in the future. It appeared that Mr Murat, apart from acting as a consultant for management, also has long experience in small-scale industry development and the related institutional infrastructure which contributed considerably to the exchange of views.

Mr Acogny has already submitted his report (IOM to Mr Biritz dated 21 October 1980). The report of Mr Fournot is attached. Mr Murat's report will follow later. This mission report will be limited to OPEZ and IRS as the two other institutions are amply covered by the reports of Messrs Acogny and Murat.

DP/ZAI/71/008 Assistance to OPEZ

The performance of OPEZ and its role in developing small-scale industry has already been the subject of two evaluations: the first carried out from 11 September - 9 October 1978 by Messrs Bizalion, Hervouët and myself, and the second, by Mr Defontaines, from 26 May - 13 June 1980.

As basically nothing has changed in the mean time, the decision of the former UNDP Resident Representative, Mr Teunissen, to defer assistance to this institute for the time being, will be implemented. In a meeting with the Commissaire d'Etat in the presence of the Secrétaire d'Etat and the Délégué Général of OFEZ, it became clear that the Government has also accepted this decision. This project will thus phase out after the departure of the last UNIDO expert, Mr Friedmann, on 5 December 1980. Fortunately both UNDP and the Government have agreed that a working group will be formed (see below) which will make a "grand assize" of the situation of the small-scale industry in Zaire and recommend ways and means for its development in the future.

DP/ZAI/80/005 Working Group Small-Scale Industry Development

The signature of the project document by the Government is imminent. Mr Friedmann has been formally evaluated for the resident expert post. He does not have long experience in general small-scale industry development and the associated institution building. He has, however, been recommended on the condition that he is closely supervised by Mr Lenoble (who is himself an SSI expert), and assisted by high-level experts.

The project was reviewed with Messrs Lenoble and Murat and it was decided that consideration would be given to replacing the outside consultant component by subcontracting in view of the fact that it will be very difficult to find individual experts, and secondly, because they might not be interested in the relatively low remuneration which can be offered by UNIDO.

The terms of reference will be provided by the SIDFA.

DP/ZAI/71/539 Assistance to IRS Lubumbashi

A TRM was held on 10 October 1980 with the Délégué Général of IRS Presiding and in the presence of the UNDP Resident Representative.

The most urgent problem is at present to recruit the mechanical engineer as soon as possible as the equipment has already left Antwerp and will arrive in Lubumbashi in 2 - 3 months. It was decided that perfect knowledge of French is not required for this post.

It was also announced that our STA will definitely leave the project by the end of 1981 and should be replaced by another STA, preferably one or two months before the departure of Mr Svabensky in order to provide some overlapping. I also learned, informally, that Mr Cobanov would like to leave the project at the same time as the STA. Therefore, his replacement should also be given active attention. Three alternative project proposals covering UNIDO assistance to IRS during the third UNDP IPF Cycle 1982/1986 were presented by the STA. The Délégué Général intends to submit alternative one to the responsible Ministry.

DP/ZAI/77/004 Metrology and Standardization

We were informed that OZAC has been transferred from the Ministry of National Economy to the Ministry of External Trade. This implies that our project also has to move which is disliked by the former ministry. Discussions were held with the Secrétaire d'Etat of the Ministry of National Economy and the Délégué Général of OZAC in order that there would be no delay by the Government in accepting the new expert.

A meeting was also held with the new chief of the legal metrology service and the possibility of organizing his training in Czechoslovakia instead of Italy was mentioned.

The Metrology offices and workshops were visited. It seems that serious progress has now been made and it is hoped that OZAC's transfer to the Ministry of External Trade will not cause too many complications.

Assistance to IRS Kinshasa in Appropriate Technology

The Science and Technology Department of IRS Kinshasa is interested in receiving assistance from UNIDO in the field of Appropriate Technology. During his mission, Mr Fournot looked into the matter and it was also on the agenda of the TRM mentioned earlier. A description of STEC's

..... activities is attached.

It may be concluded that there is still a lot of confusion on what appropriate technology actually is and how STEC, the future SSI organization and other institutions will work together. This will appear, in any case, on the agenda of the SSI Working Group.

Secondly, it is thought that it would be a good learning exercise if a multi-disciplinary team of the STEC could be sent on a study tour to see "appropriate technology at work" in a number of countries such as China, India, Kenya, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Tanzania, and also to look into the activities of a number of organizations such as ITDG, VITA, etc.

ILO's Activities in SSI Development

The ILO Regional SSI Adviser, Mr de Pierpont (UNIDO staff member seconded to ILO), visited Kinshasa and had meetings with the Government

..... authorities (see attached press clipping).

The question which arises is whether it is wise that after one agency (UNIDO), after thorough evaluation of the situation, is pulling out in giving assistance to OPEZ, another agency (ILO) is offering its assistance without any consultations with us.

Mr Rezek is asked to look into this matter and to decide whether we should take action immediately or put it on the agenda of the UNIDO/ILO Working Group.

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