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NATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA FOR UNIDO
FUNCTIONS, RESULTS AND FORTHCOMING TASKS^{1/}

by

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1. I N T R O D U C T I O N

The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria attributes tremendous significance to industrialization as the most dynamic factor for the constant development and transformation of the national economy.

The experience accumulated by Bulgaria in the process of its socio-economic development and in building a socialist society proves unambiguously the need for the rapid and efficient development of the country's industrial branches. It was exactly this rational development of industry that created conditions for continuous and progressive structural changes in the economy as a whole.

The development of the national industry is a difficult, complex and time-consuming process. It provides the key to the solution of the problems of economic backwardness. It is the material and technical base for the development of the other branches and for the achievement of economic independence.

The creation of the public sector exercises a decisive effect on industrial development through the concentration of the necessary means and factors for the creation and modernization of the key, priority branches on a planned and long-term basis.

The creation and development of a diversified industry is impossible under present day conditions without external financial, technical or material aid and without the broad application of the methods of the international division of labour for the specialization and cooperation in industrial production.

What is more, the ensuring of trained local personnel - engineers, technicians and qualified workers is of first-rate significance for the normal exploitation of the newly built industrial enterprises.

In the People's Republic of Bulgaria the process of industrial development was carried out exactly on the basis of the above-mentioned principal factors.

The results from the correct policy of industrialization are now at hand.

While in the pre-war year of 1939 industry accounted for no more than 15 per cent of the national income, by 1976 its share had grown to more than 54 per cent. The branches of energy production, metallurgy, the chemical industry and machinebuilding which some thirty years ago were still in an embryonic state of development today provide about half of the total volume of industrial production. Overall industrial production in 1974 was 55 times greater than that of 1939.

Industrial development and growing productivity were not a goal *per se*, but a means for achieving an overall rise in the living standards of the Bulgarian nation, with a view to meeting its growing needs.

These achievements allowed the People's Republic

of Bulgaria to emerge from the level of an agricultural appendix to the developed West European states to the level of an equal partner in international economic cooperation with the socialist states and in the international division of labour.

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Proceeding from the significant role that industry can play in the economic progress of the developing countries, the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria supported warmly the setting up of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, UNIDO, and took a most active part in the formulation of the goals, organizational structure and criteria for UNIDO's sphere of activities and the tasks concerning technical assistance for the developing countries. This was reflected in UN Resolution 2152 (XXI) of 1966.

Bulgaria's delegations to UNIDO's Industrial Development Board and to its Permanent Committee contribute actively, along with the delegations of the other socialist countries, to the correct orientation of the Organization's activities with a view to achieving the best possible practical results in the development of the industrial branches of the developing countries and the most rational utilization of the limited financial means in the priority branches of industry with the biggest multiplier effect for those countries.

By virtue of the international character of socialism and its nature, the People's Republic of Bulgaria has supported at all international forums, including

the Second UNIDO General Conference, the just demands of the developing countries, which guarantee each country's right to freely choose its socio-economic system, to exercise national sovereignty over its natural resources, including their nationalization, to structure its economic relations on the basis of equality and recognition of mutual interests in the conditions of peace and understanding between the peoples regardless of their socio-economic systems.

2. NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE PEOPLE'S

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA FOR U N I D O

The need and the conditions for the setting up of a body at a government-level to coordinate the work with UNIDO emerged parallel with the deepening and expansion of Bulgaria's cooperation with the Organization. UNIDO's decision and initiative to set up national committees of the member-countries for work with the Organization was a timely and useful measure.

The foundation of a National Committee of the People's Republic of Bulgaria for UNIDO was necessitated primarily by the Organization's diversified and multi-branch nature. Bulgaria's cooperation with other international organizations within the UN system, such as ILO, WHO, IMCO, ITU, ICAO and others is carried out by individual centralized departments which, by nature and purpose, serve as coordinators for the respective branches; UNIDO's multi-branch nature, however, necessitated the formation of a unit with multi-departmental representation,

which would be able to cover all aspects of Bulgaria's cooperation with UNIDO. This was the main reason for the setting up of a permanent collective body with a consultative status at the government. Thus in February 1971 the Council of Ministers issued its Decision No 19 on the setting up of the National Committee of the People's Republic of Bulgaria for UNIDO. Its composition is as follows:

Chairman - the Permanent Secretary of the Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation at the Council of Ministers;

Deputy Chairman - the Head of the Economic Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

Secretary - a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

Members - representatives of
the Committee of Science, Technical Progress and Higher Education;

the State Planning Committee;

the Ministry of Machinebuilding and Metallurgy;

the Ministry of the Chemical Industry;

the Ministry of the Light Industry;

the Ministry of Agriculture and the Food Industry;

the Ministry of Building and Architecture;

the Ministry of Forestry;

the Ministry of Commerce;

the Ministry of Home Trade and Services.

The representatives of the above ministries are at the level of deputy-ministers or directors of one of their respective subdivisions.

This shows that the National Committee comprises representatives from all centralized departments involved in the various industrial branches, science, technology and cadre training, i.e., spheres in which UNIDO works, and in which Bulgaria is highly interested in providing active cooperation.

During the six years since its foundation, the National Committee has developed into an active, operative body with the following functions:

a) elaborating the general strategy of Bulgaria's cooperation with UNIDO and, consequently, Bulgaria's contribution to the Organization's activities in promoting the industrial development of the developing countries;

b) working out long-term and annual programmes for cooperation with UNIDO and control over their implementation;

c) coordinating the activities of the various branch ministries, departments, enterprises and institutes concerning the fulfilment of their tasks stemming from Bulgaria's cooperation with UNIDO;

d) drafting proposals and consulting the government on matters of industrial development in the developing countries and of the country's participation in UNIDO projects;

e) drafting proposals on providing Bulgaria with technical assistance through UNIDO;

f) coordinating and organizing projects along the line of UNIDO, which are being carried out in Bulgaria;

g) discussing Bulgaria's stand point to such UNIDO forums as its general conferences, the regular sessions of the Industrial Development Board or of its Permanent Committee, etc.

h) participating in the organization and holding of international UNIDO events in Bulgaria, such as conferences, consultative meetings, courses, seminars, etc.

The Bulgarian National Committee for UNIDO coordinates its activities with the Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation at the Council of Ministers and with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which are governmental coordinating bodies in the sphere of foreign economic cooperation, including cooperation with international organizations within the UN system.

On the basis of the long-term programmes for cooperation between Bulgaria and UNIDO, at the beginning of each year the National Committee reviews its activities during the preceeding year and updates its programme for the current year. Whenever necessary, the National Committee holds extraordinary sessions with full or limited representation for finding operative solutions to specific problems .

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Guided by its desire to stimulate industrial development in the developing countries, in the decade since the setting up of UNIDO, the National Committee has hosted the

following major international events in cooperation with the Organization:

- a) a seminar on machine tools - 1971;
- b) a seminar on planning techniques in industrial development - 1973;
- c) a seminar on the efficiency of capital investments - 1975.

The above-mentioned seminars were attended by representatives of a considerable number of developing countries, who exchanged experience on matters of mutual concern in the respective spheres.

During the past few years the National Committee has performed significant work in filing in Bulgarian experts who are to take part in UNIDO projects in the developing countries. Unfortunately, however, the results of the National Committee's efforts have so far been unsatisfactory, since only a moderate portion of the Bulgarian experts offered to UNIDO have been employed in the developing countries, despite their high qualification. The National Committee of the People's Republic of Bulgaria believes that the UNIDO Secretariat will in the future display greater realism in evaluating the experts of this country who have already proved their varied experience and abilities in the countries where they have worked on the basis of bilateral agreements with a number of developing countries.

At the recommendation of the National Committee, the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria has regist-

ered its own consultant agencies, firms, organizations and institutes for participation in UNIDO industrial projects in the developing countries; they are engaged in the following subcontracting activities in industry:

a) feasibility studies, techno-economic reports, designing and building of enterprises for the food, canning, starch and glucose, meat, dairy, refrigerating and tobacco industries;

b) feasibility studies, techno-economic reports, designing and building of plants for the chemical, micro-biological, silicate, construction, leather and fur industries;

c) feasibility studies, techno-economic reports, designing and building of complete plants for initial oil processing, bitumen production, production of phenol and acetone, hydro-purification of diesel fractions, etc.

Supplier-firms of machines and equipment have also been registered or are pending registration. At the recommendation of the National Committee, the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria decided that these deliveries can be paid in national currency from the voluntary contributions of Bulgaria to UNIDO.

The National Committee will continue to exert particular efforts for stepping up this country's activities in the process of rendering assistance to the developing countries through wider participation in UNIDO projects.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria does not only

offer technical assistance through participation in UNIDO projects in the developing countries, but also makes annual contributions to the UNIDO voluntary fund. This fund was successfully used by the Organization for the purposes of development. for the holding of seminars, courses and meeting at various levels on problems of concern to the developing countries.

It should also be noted that in certain spheres of industrial development Bulgaria is making use of the possibilities provided by the UN Development Programme, by implementing industrial projects through UNIDO. An Institute for Instruments Design and an Institute for Packaging were set up in this cooperation with the UNDP and UNIDO. These institutes offer possibilities for the holding of courses and seminars, as well as individual training of nationals from the developing countries. Their highly-qualified experts are made available to UNIDO for carrying out similar projects in the developing countries.

At the recommendation of the National Committee, direct cooperation is being established between the UNIDO Information Centre and the Bulgarian Central Institute of Scientific and Technical Information. This will allow the developing countries to make use, through UNIDO, of this country's achievements in industrial technology and production. On the other hand, Bulgaria can also make use of the experience of other UNIDO member-countries.

The third phase of the project for the Institute for Instruments Design and a Training Centre for Numerically Controlled Machine Tools are to be carried out during the 1977-1981 period, with the participation of the UNDP and UNIDO. In these projects the National Committee envisages that possibilities for the training of personnel from the developing countries will accrue.

3. JOINT STEPS BY BULGARIA AND U N I D O

AIMED AT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOME OF

THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND GENERAL

CONFERENCE OF U N I D O

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization is entrusted with the important and responsible role of assisting the materialization of progressive decisions adopted by the international forums within the UN system, aimed at accelerating industrial development in the developing countries. In this respect, the National Committee and the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria will continue to provide active support to UNIDO in the carrying out of its functions stemming from the decisions of the UN-sponsored international forums on industrial development.

The Second General Conference of UNIDO in Lima, Peru, set forth the global task of raising the developing countries' share in the world output from 7 per cent in 1974 to 25 per cent by 2000. The Conference recommended the holding of negotiations between the developing and developed countries on the aegis of UNIDO on priority matters

of industrial development in the developing countries with a view to making best use of their domestic resources. The Conference also recommended the use of the experience of countries with different socio-economic systems in this process.

It is on the basis of the recommendations of the Second General Conference on Industrial Development and Cooperation and at the initiative of the National Committee that Bulgaria and UNIDO have organized in 1975 and 1976 two important round-table meetings at ministerial level.

The first one was held only six months after the Second General Conference and was devoted to the exchange of experience and information on the methods and ways for creating and developing various industrial branches. The meeting allowed Bulgarian ministers and their counterparts from the developing countries to conduct a frank dialogue on the possibilities, methods and the need for developing industries in their countries. The majority of the participants realized that many aspects of Bulgaria's experience and the Bulgarian model of industrialization can be applied directly in the developing countries. A considerable number of delegates from the developing countries noted that Bulgaria's achievements in industrialization are largely due to the creative economic, scientific and technical cooperation established within the framework of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, and that the setting up of regional economic communities of a similar type would

speed up their countries' industrial development.

In one of his statements, the UNIDO representative noted that the meeting was one of the major events ever held by the Organization. Many of the delegates of the participating countries noted that the round-table meeting in Sofia had demonstrated a new style of work which should find further application.

Taking into consideration the recommendations of the Second General Conference regarding the assistance to the less developed developing countries, during the meeting in Sofia discussions between UNIDO representative and representatives of the Bulgarian Government took place. Based on these discussions it was decided that Bulgaria will establish jointly with UNIDO a small industrial enterprise in one of the least developed countries participating in the meeting.

Preparations for the implementation of this project in the DR Somalia are under way.

The Second International Round-Table Meeting was hosted by Bulgaria on May 20 - 24, 1976. The National Committee took active part in its preparation and proceedings. This time, the topic of consultations and exchange of experience was the industrialization of agriculture.

The meeting was attended by delegations from 25 countries and from three international organizations within the UN system - UNIDO, UNDP and FAO.

Much interest was shown towards this meeting, the reason being the importance which the subject matter plays in the development strategies of the developing countries, the wide popularity of Bulgaria's achievements in agriculture, and the successful holding of the first ministerial meeting on industrialization.

According to all participants, the results from the discussions and the exchange of experience, data and information surpassed all expectations.

The delegates from the developing countries demonstrated great interest in Bulgaria's experience in the building of socialist agriculture and the introduction of industrial methods in it. They also discussed the achievements, ways and means of developing and modernizing the agriculture in their countries.

The representatives of the international organizations also commended Bulgaria's achievements in developing the agriculture.

At the closing session the participants adopted a recommendation for the preparation by UNIDO of a report analyzing the experience of Bulgaria and the other countries in the industrialization of their agriculture, with a view to assisting the developing countries in the process of preparation of their plans and programmes in this sphere.

**4. JOINT CENTRE FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN
BULGARIA AND U N I D O**

During the round-table meeting on the industrializ-

ation of agriculture, representatives of UNIDO and Bulgaria discussed the setting up of a joint centre of cooperation between Bulgaria and the Organization.

A Memorandum of Understanding on the setting up of a joint Centre for Cooperation was signed in September 1976, with the aim of deepening the cooperation between Bulgaria and UNIDO in favour of the developing countries. The Bulgarian side of the Centre is headed personally by the Chairman of the National Committee for UNIDO. The Organization and the Bulgarian Government set up the Centre in pursuit of the following goals:

a) to review and analyse annually the results of the cooperation between Bulgaria and UNIDO over the preceeding year;

b) to draft and submit for approval by UNIDO and the Bulgarian Government proposals and new initiatives aimed at deepening the cooperation in favour of the developing countries;

The first session of the joint Centre for Cooperation was held in Vienna in October 1976; it discussed and unanimously approved a plan for its work during 1977. The plan envisages the fulfilment of the following tasks:

a) the holding of the present meeting of National Committees for UNIDO;

b) the holding in Bulgaria of a round-table ministerial meeting on industrial cooperation between the developing and socialist countries;

c) the adoption of a programme for commissioning the building of a small industrial enterprise in Somalia;

d) the adoption of a working programme on international cooperation in machine-tool production in favour of the developing countries;

e) the holding of consultations in Sofia between representatives of UNIDO and Bulgarian consulting firms and equipment suppliers;

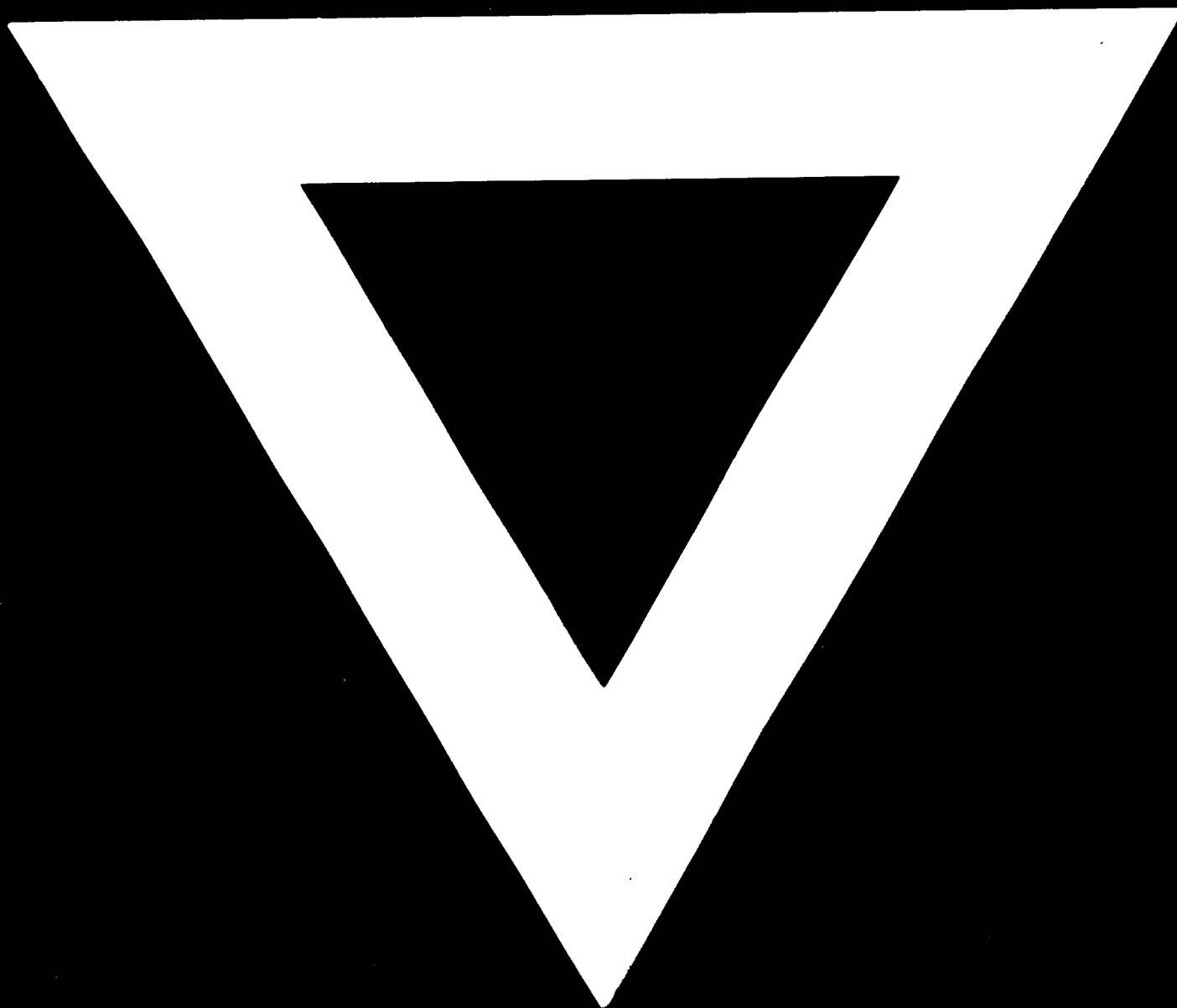
f) the holding of the second session of the joint Centre during the fourth quarter of 1977.

It can be noted that the above programme for cooperation is being implemented, in accordance with the tasks set forth, and it will serve as a good foundation for future joint work.

These are the tasks that the National Committee of the People's Republic of Bulgaria for UNIDO has set before itself for fulfilment in close cooperation with UNIDO, with the profound conviction that their successful materialization will be a modest contribution to the solution of the numerous and complex problems connected with the industrialization of the developing countries,



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