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Industrial Executive Conference:
Computer Applications for Policy and Decision Making^{1/}

La Hulpe (Belgium) and Ivrea (Italy), 15-17 June 1977
(VC/INT/76/006)

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INTRODUCTION

The Conference was initiated and organized by two Sections of UNIDO: the Factory Establishment and Management Section and the Non-Governmental Organizations and Business and Industrial Institutions Co-operation Section. Its purpose was to brief top government executives who deal with industrial development on the state-of-the art in the applications of computers for business policy and decision making and thus, show the UNIDO capability to bring the worldwide relevant expertise to the developing countries and render technical assistance in the areas concerned. An introduction to the conference was given in the Aide-Memoire issued by UNIDO (see attached).

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAMME

The Conference was organized by UNIDO in co-operation with two computer manufacturing companies: IBM (through IBM Europe S.A., Brussels) and OLIVETTI Co., Ivrea, Italy. The companies provided leading computer experts for the conference as well as conference and lodging facilities at the IBM Education Center at La Hulpe (near Brussels, Belgium) and the Olivetti headquarters at Ivrea (near Turin, Italy).

The Conference programme covered a broad range of subjects from computer structure and programming fundamentals through computer introduction organization to specific examples of business computer applications in industry, including the subject of minicomputers and their relevance to the developing countries' environment (ref. conference programmes at IBM and Olivetti attached).

The Conference was opened by Mr. A. Svlla, UNIDO, Division Director, on behalf of the Executive Director of UNIDO, and Mr. D. Hauser, Director, IBM European Office. In the closing session, the meeting was also addressed

by Mr. M.H.A. Handy, Chief of UNIDO Non-Governmental Organizations, Business and Industrial Institutions, Co-operation Section and Mr. R. Peralet, Industrial Development Officer, Factory Establishment and Management Section. The closing statements emphasized the importance of co-operation between UNIDO and other organizations for the rapid development of the developing countries and outlined possible areas of further cooperation. The Olivetti part of the Conference included a short address of Eng. O. Beltrami, Olivetti Director General.

The participants of the Conference were top government and industry executives who actively participated in discussions of the subjects presented.

CONCLUSIONS

The Conference has shown that computer applications in business policy and decision making in industrialization of the developing countries are important and their significance rises both with the level of industrial development and user-oriented progress of computers. The availability of various computer systems has given the developing countries the opportunity of selecting the systems which are appropriate to their level of development. In this regard, the application of the mini-computer systems has proved to be feasible and economical.

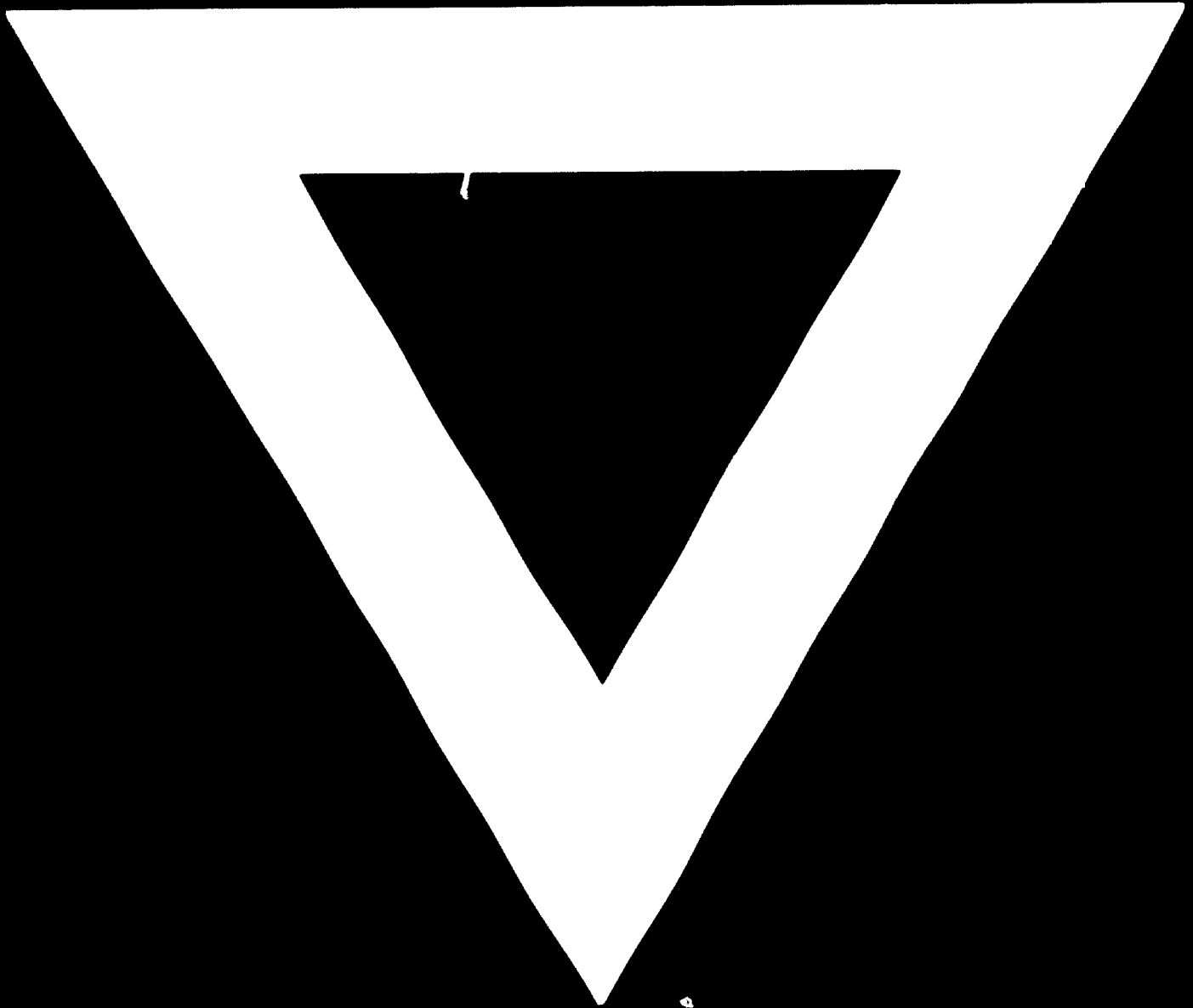
Participants of the Conference in their concluding remarks expressed deep satisfaction with the programme as it was arranged by UNIDO and with the way it was very ably presented by IBM and OLIVETTI experts.

On the other hand, IBM and OLIVETTI management expressed a willingness to further co-operate with UNIDO in the areas of their activities.

There was a general opinion of the participants that UNIDO should continue and expand its activities in the subject areas of the conference.



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