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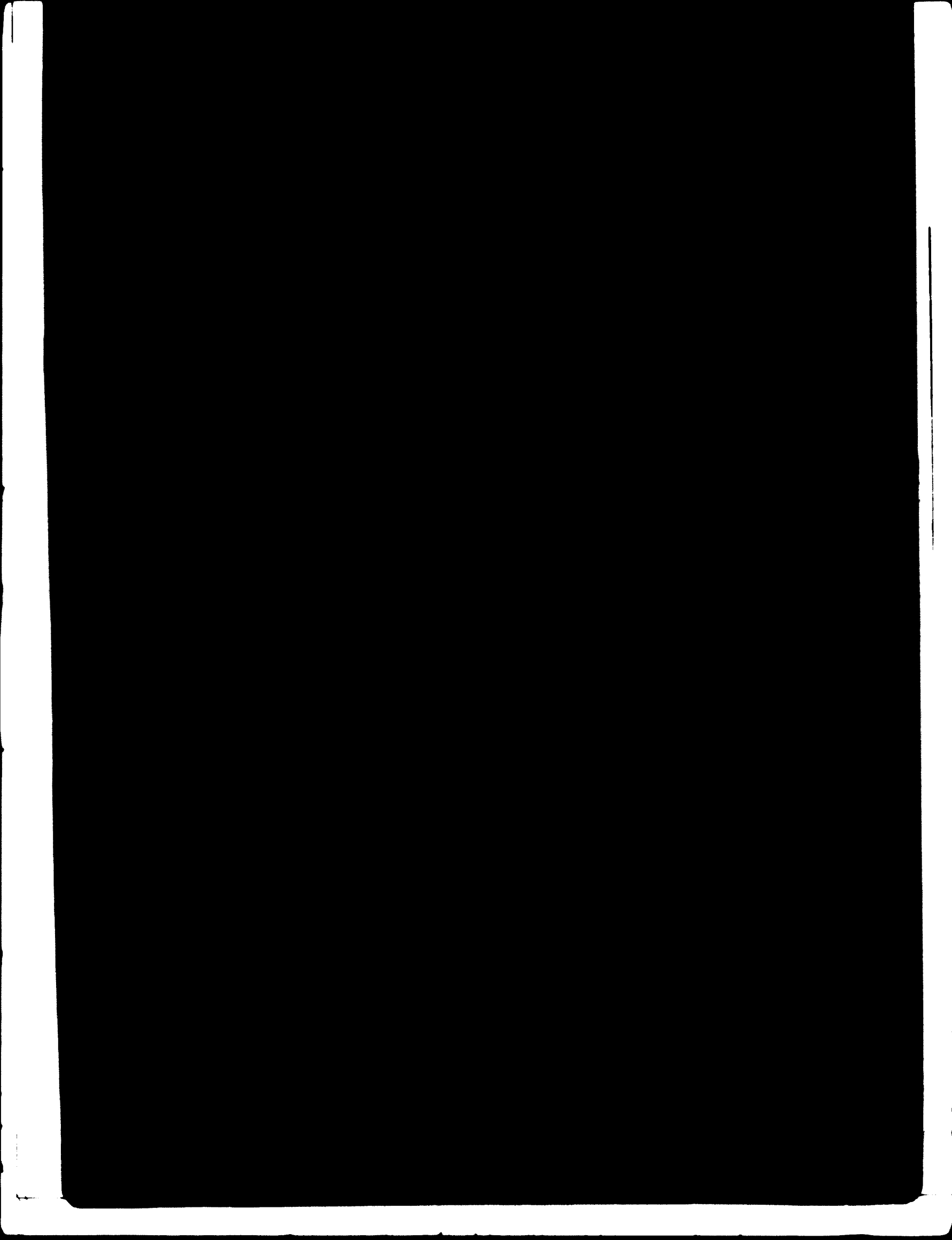
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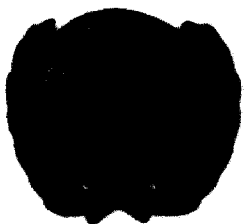
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United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Meeting of Elected National
Committees for UNIDO
Lima, Peru, 17-19 May 1971

SECRET

Prepared by the UNIDO secretariat

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INTRODUCTION

At the International Symposium on Industrial Development, held at Athens in 1967, participants recognized the desirability of setting up machinery at the national level through which public and private bodies concerned with industrial development and wishing to co-operate with the United Nations Industrial Organization (UNIDO) could co-ordinate their activities and give their views to Governments on UNIDO matters. Consequently, the Symposium adopted a recommendation that

"...Member States consider the establishment of National Committees for UNIDO, composed of representatives of government departments and agencies as well as representatives of academic and research institutions and public and private industrial and business establishments concerned with industrialization. The National Committees would serve in an advisory capacity to the Governments and to the member institutions in regard to all questions related to the activities of UNIDO. Member States might assign the functions of National Committees to already existing organizations in their countries with any additional mandate as may be appropriate to enable them to perform their functions in an adequate manner".^{1/}

Since the recommendation was adopted 45 countries have formed National Committees for UNIDO. Recently, it was felt that, as an experiment, a meeting between representatives of National Committees and senior officials of UNIDO should be held as a means of strengthening collaboration between the two sides and of increasing the effectiveness of the Committees.

The Meeting of Selected National Committees for UNIDO, organized jointly by UNIDO and the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, was held at Sofia from 17 to 19 May 1977. The main objective of the Meeting was to exchange experience among National Committees for UNIDO on their activities and their work to implement the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation.

The Meeting was attended by chairmen of National Committees or their representatives or senior officials of government bodies entrusted with the functions of a National Committee from nine countries in four regions: Ghana, Ivory Coast (Africa); Malaysia, Pakistan (Asia); Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Finland (Europe); and Cuba (Latin America). UNIDO was represented by five staff members. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) sent one delegate.

^{1/} Report of the International Symposium on Industrial Development, Athens 1967 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 69.II.B.7), para. 73.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. National Committees for UNIDO should be in a position to provide their Governments with authoritative advice on industrial policies, enlisting the participation of all sectors and levels of industry, economic and financial institutions.
2. UNIDO should, after examining the results of the current Meeting, consider ways and means of extending its dialogue with National Committees in view of the urgency of building up momentum to achieve the targets of the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action.
3. National Committees should assist in mobilizing all government bodies, public and private institutions, business organisations and labour, (and trade unions in particular) to increase understanding of the principles of redeployment of industry and support for the creation of new industrial capacities in developing countries.
4. Governments should, as far as possible, try to stimulate National Committees to participate in sessions of the Industrial Development Board and UNIDO General Conferences. National Committees should also take appropriate action in this connection.
5. National Committees should endeavour to stimulate government interest at the highest appropriate level in all UNIDO meetings and encourage participation in such activities as the system of consultations, efforts to meet the needs of the least developed countries and transfer of technology.
6. UNIDO, in consultation with National Committees, should define areas in which direct contacts and co-operation among National Committees might be helpful, as, for example, stimulating closer co-operation among developing countries.
7. UNIDO should consider methods of providing National Committees with fuller information, including copies of communications on which action is needed, particularly in respect of projects in which National Committees could stimulate Governments to participate.
8. UNIDO should ensure that documentation for important meetings is prepared in time to permit National Committees to consider their attitudes, advise Government delegations and to co-ordinate action.

9. Both UNIDO and National Committees should consider whether terms of reference for National Committees established at the International Symposium on Industrialization of 1967 should be reviewed in the light of changed conditions in the world or in individual countries.
10. UNIDO should organize periodic consultations between UNIDO and National Committees, following the example of UNESCO. Governments of countries without National Committees should be invited to send observers to these consultations. UNIDO should advise on ways and means to secure finances to ensure the desired enlargement of the role of National Committees.
11. National Committees should examine their structure and financing in the light of UNESCO experience.
12. UNIDO should organize training programmes on UNIDO operations regionally.
13. National Committees should consider elaborating annual or biennial programmes of action.
14. National Committees should devote special attention to increasing public awareness of industrialization as a means to progress and of UNIDO activities, perhaps by appointing an officer responsible for liaison both with the news media and with the UNIDO public information service.
15. Governments should be asked to envisage the possibility of enlisting the co-operation of National Committees in selected programmes or even of asking them to carry out programmes.
16. UNIDO should, inter alia, enlist the assistance of National Committees, especially in developing countries, in identifying technically qualified experts and consultants for UNIDO technical assistance projects and in serving as a focal point for receiving and circulating information on recruitment matters, as they deem appropriate, to potential sources of expertise (i.e. government departments, universities, public and private firms and industrial organs).
17. Efforts should be made to promote co-operation between the National Committees of UNESCO and UNIDO, bearing in mind the recommendation of the Athens Symposium that the academic and research institutes be associated with the work of National Committees.

18. National Committees should endeavour to assist in monitoring the implementation of the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action, taking note of guidance sent to all countries by UNIDO.
19. National Committees should endeavour to involve in UNIDO activities to the fullest extent possible their members engaged in industry.
20. UNIDO should consider making short summaries of its important technical publications to elicit more interest from professionals.
21. National Committees should be associated with the activities of National Commissions of UNESCO that deal directly or indirectly with industrial development.
22. UNIDO should actively pursue its role of increasing co-operation between the holders of technology and the developing countries.
23. National Committees and UNIDO should intensify efforts to comply with United Nations and Industrial Development Board resolutions on the involvement of women in development.
24. Offers of, and requests for, co-operation should be recorded by UNIDO and disseminated via National Committees to provide the possibility of initiating negotiations for the purpose of partnerships in industrial projects.
25. UNIDO should consider preparing guidelines to help National Committees to make their activities more effective.
26. UNIDO should compile a directory of National Committees and issue periodically a bulletin concerning their activities.
27. National Committees should provide UNIDO with copies of their annual reports, details of their programmes and information showing focal points for contacts on specific issues.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

The Meeting was opened by H. Petkov, Secretary of the Council of Ministers and Chairman of the Bulgarian National Committee for UNIDO. A. Sylla, Director of the Division of Conference Services, Public Information and External Relations of UNIDO, was elected Chairman. S. White of the Public Information Section of UNIDO, assisted by V. Politykin of the External Relations Section of UNIDO, was asked to serve as Rapporteur.

In his opening statement, Mr. Petkov stressed the importance his Government attached to co-operation among National Committees. Such co-operation enabled them to contribute to the work of UNIDO to promote the industrialization of developing countries.

Mr. Sylla, speaking on behalf of the Executive Director of UNIDO, Mr. Abd-El Rahman Khane, called on National Committees to make greater efforts than they had in the past to win support for industrialization of the developing countries. He observed that the National Committees provided a unique link between the individual and the Government. He appealed to National Committees to try to convince Governments that they should maintain and strengthen their commitment to development.

II. DISCUSSION

The discussion revolved around the following subjects:

Exchange of experience among National Committees
Measures to strengthen National Committees
Co-operation between National Committees and UNCTAD

Exchange of experience among National Committees

It was felt that an exchange of experience, made possible by meetings such as the present one, should increase the effectiveness of the National Committees, and that in the future UNCTAD could count on them for greater assistance. Such meetings could also define areas in which co-operation among National Committees would be helpful. It was pointed out that new forms of industrial co-operation were arising. Organizations in developing countries, in countries with centrally planned economies and market-economy countries were working together (tripartite co-operation). National Committees could promote contact between these organizations and UNCTAD. National Committees could also co-operate to locate additional sources of technology, especially sources outside the big transnationals. The Committees might also co-operate in making arrangements to receive fellowship holders, since it was becoming more difficult to place them in certain industries.

Participants presented reports, summarized below, on the work of National Committees in their countries.

Bulgaria

The Bulgarian National Committee for UNCTAD was established in 1971 on the basis of a decision of the Council of Ministers. It is composed of high-ranking officials of government ministries concerned with industry and agriculture; the State Planning Committee; and the Committee of Science, Technical Progress and Higher Education. Its chairman is the Permanent Secretary of the Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Co-operation of the Council of Ministers; its deputy chairman is the Head of the Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Committee thus represents all economic, social, scientific and technological organizations in the country. Additionally, it is not unusual to bring in for discussions representatives of other organizations, depending on the subject.

Among its functions are:

- (a) To formulate the general strategy of and annual and long-term programmes for Bulgarian co-operation with UNIDO;
- (b) To draft proposals on industrial development in the developing countries;
- (c) To co-ordinate and organize projects being carried out in Bulgaria;
- (d) To discuss the position Bulgaria will take at UNIDO conferences and sessions of the Industrial Development Board;
- (e) To participate in organizing UNIDO-sponsored conferences, courses and seminars in Bulgaria.

At the beginning of each year, the National Committee reviews its activities for the preceding year and updates its programme for the current year.

Very close consultations take place between the National Committee and the appropriate ministries on all aspects of UNIDO activities. Before the National Committee was formed, the Bulgarian delegations to the Industrial Development Board were less active on technical matters. Now the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is able to distribute information as it is received from UNIDO, a procedure also followed in preparing for important meetings such as the Second General Conference of UNIDO. The National Committee can play an active part in deciding strategy.

Czechoslovakia

Activities of the National Committee are very similar to those of Bulgaria and Hungary. It has a large membership, and meetings take place three or four times a year to approve guidelines for delegates to important UNIDO meetings.

Finland

The National Committee of Finland consists of eight members representing technology and education, industry, engineering consultancy, finance, development co-operation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It works at a practical level in an advisory capacity.

The Committee has set out to make UNIDO and its aims known and to offer assistance to UNIDO. It has attempted to stimulate recruitment of experts.

Unfortunately, some experts returning from the field have found that while away they had lost their jobs and had no right of redress, a situation the Committee is endeavouring to remedy.

The Committee has met participants in UNIDO consultations on fertilisers and iron and steel. The participants reported that these meetings had been of great interest to them.

Ghana

A National Committee for UNIDO already exists in Ghana. It is endeavouring to assist in the work of development and to make UNIDO better known.

Hungary

In 1968, the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic decided to set up a National Committee to co-ordinate Hungarian activities connected with UNIDO. Its organisation has remained basically the same although the number of institutions and specialists involved in its work has increased.

The Committee is composed of high-level officials from several ministries, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the ministries concerned with specific industrial sectors, and other organisations such as the Central Statistical Office, the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce, the Research Institute for Industrial Economy and UNESCO (Organisation for International Technical and Scientific Co-operation). The National Committee is presided over by the Head of the Secretariat for International Economic Relations attached to the Council of Ministers.

Thus, the National Committee has no independent machinery. All its members hold other positions, which has the advantage that activities connected with UNIDO become an integral part of work performed in other areas.

The National Committee meets two or three times a year, though it can be convened on special occasions, such as the visit to Hungary of the Executive Director of UNIDO. The National Committee expresses opinions regarding the position of the Government on issues concerned with UNIDO. An important task has been implementing co-operation agreements with UNIDO in the fields of telecommunications, electronics and aluminium.

At the request of the Secretary of the Committee, members may give advice on matters within their fields of competence. They may propose participation in projects, indicate where Hungary possesses specialised knowledge and advise whether certain events should be organised in Hungary.

The duties of UNIDO as a participant in the National Committee are to recruit experts for field missions, to receive United Nations fellows coming to Hungary and to organise courses. In carrying out its tasks it relies on the help of the professional bodies represented in the National Committee.

Another important task of the National Committee is to disseminate information on the work of UNIDO.

Malaysia

Besides its National Committee, Malaysia has set up a Consultative Committee on Trade and Industry in which important ministries and the private sector are represented. The Minister of Trade and Industry serves as Chairman. One of its objectives is to discuss the industrial problems of the private sector. Another body, consisting of the heads of all ministries, deals with overall development. Reports go to a higher National Economic Committee presided over by the Prime Minister. Members of the National Committee participate in all these committees, which helps to ensure co-ordination in development.

Pakistan

The National Committee of Pakistan is in the process of being reconstituted. The proposed terms of reference for the National Committee are:

- (a) To serve as a forum for discussing measures to promote industrial development;
- (b) To assist the Government in long- and short-term planning for development of industry and in evaluating policies;
- (c) To discuss problems of establishing new industries and operating existing industries most efficiently;
- (d) To advise the Government and UNIDO on industrialisation, planning and programming in the light of the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action;
- (e) To assist the Government in reviewing industrial performance and price trends of products and in identifying problems requiring assistance;

- (f) To advise on industrial legislation policy, training, research and other areas where co-operation with other countries may be necessary;
- (g) To advise on which sectors of industry require UNIDO assistance;
- (h) To advise on industrial co-operation among developing countries and with developed countries; and to
- (i) To formulate programmes in co-operation with international agencies including UNIDO.

The Pakistan National Committee has three constituent parts. The first consists of representatives of Ministries and Departments, including Secretaries of the Ministries of Industry, Agriculture, Commerce, Finance and Production; Director General of Investment, Promotion and Supplies, Secretaries of the Departments of Industry, Labour and Mineral Development in all four provinces. The second part consists of representatives of non-governmental organisations, such as presidents and senior representatives of the Pakistan Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the four provinces and the Overseas Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The third part consists of representatives of semi-official agencies and economists, including the State Bank, the Pakistan Industrial Credit and Development Corporation, the Pakistan Industrial Development Bank and the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics. The Government also nominates eminent economists to serve on the Committee.

Measures to strengthen National Committees

The view was expressed that the scope and functions of National Committees as originally foreseen in 1967 by the Athens Symposium might need readjustment so that they would reflect current international requirements. In planning their activities, Committees should now take cognisance of the Lima Declaration and other developments in the international sphere. It was pointed out that the National Committees of Bulgaria and Pakistan had made the required readjustment.

Co-operation between National Committees and UNIDO

Meetings such as the present one, it was felt, could promote contacts between National Committees and the secretariat of UNIDO. Staff members should be informed regularly of the activities of National Committees and make use of their assistance. Correspondence systems might be improved so that letters to organizations and other institutions would also reach National Committees, which was important for co-ordinating work within a country.

National Committees, it was felt, should draw attention to facilities for co-operative arrangements with UNIDO nationally and regionally. It was hoped that an agreement for co-operation would be discussed with the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA); through this type of arrangement National Committees could make valuable contributions to UNIDO and arrange for the attendance at UNIDO meetings of representatives aware of industrial situations.

The effort of UNIDO to increase the use of experts from developing countries was explained. The extensive system of recruitment in developed countries was worked out in the early years of the United Nations when the developing countries were emerging from dependency. In 1975, a General Assembly resolution 3461(XXX) called for increased use of experts from developing countries.

The view was expressed that developing countries did not need special treatment but should rather have the same opportunity as developed countries to provide experts. Improved institutional arrangements would help dispel the idea that experts from developed countries were necessarily better than those from developing countries. National Committees could also distribute information on requirements. It was also pointed out that UNIDO had a great interest in involving the Committees in recruitment. Unfortunately, financial constraints experienced in 1976, continuing in 1977, had reduced recruitment of experts by 30 per cent from the 1975 figures.

It was reported that all countries represented at the Meeting also had National Committees for UNESCO. Out of 143 countries associated with UNESCO, 129 had Committees who made every effort to involve appropriate national bodies with their work. The efficiency of a Committee depended largely on its Secretary-General and the finance at its disposal.

In some countries recruitment for UNESCO was handled by National Committees. Guidelines for model National Committees were to be drafted. A budget of \$1.4 million a year was available for liaison work, including an annual meeting attended by one fourth of the Secretary Generals of National Committees, and regional meetings every five years.

It was noted that the efficiency of National Committees depended on members able to activate them, and that, unlike UNIDO, UNESCO had at its disposal the required financial resources.

Questions were raised in discussion of the extent to which UNIDO, as compared with other agencies, was involved in the transfer of appropriate technology, a subject of deep interest to a number of delegates. The Chairman described this as a broad subject in which all United Nations organizations were involved, and in connection with which UNIDO was preparing to set up an industrial and technological information bank; he looked to co-operation between the National Committees of interested countries, perhaps with UNIDO as an intermediary.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

COUNTRY PARTICIPANTS

BULGARIA

Avtanov, L. Alternate to the representative of Bulgaria to UNIDO
Bosov, H. Secretary of the National Committee for UNIDO
Burenkov, H. Deputy Chairman of the National Committee for UNIDO
Ivanov, M. Member of the National Committee for UNIDO
Ivanova, I. Member of the National Committee for UNIDO
Kanev, N. Member of the National Committee for UNIDO
Kolev, I. Member of the National Committee for UNIDO
Kovatchev, B. Member of the National Committee for UNIDO
Mladenov, B. Member of the National Committee for UNIDO
Mladenov, E. Member of the National Committee for UNIDO
Petrov, H. Chairman of the National Committee for UNIDO
Petrov, D. Member of the National Committee for UNIDO
Petrov, K. Member of the National Committee for UNIDO
Petrov, K. Member of the National Committee for UNIDO
Tsvetkov, B. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
Zahariev, H. Member of the National Committee for UNIDO

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Krupka, J. Member of the National Committee for UNIDO

CUBA

Rivera, H.T. First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

FINLAND

Ruusio, H. Chairman of the National Committee for UNIDO

FRANCE

Au-Basse, B.O. Principal Industrial Promotion Officer, Ministry of Industries
Williams, H.K. Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Industries

HUNGARY

Stajon, T. General Secretary of the National Committee for UNIDO

UNIT CHIEF

BROOKMAN, A. Chairman of Agency for Industrial Development Research
F'Cha, A. Secretary General, Agency for Industrial Development Research

MEMBERS

Chh, H.S. Chief, Research Section, Agency for Industrial Development
Kardin, E. Director, Agency for Industrial Development

MEMBER

Ashraf, S.H.A. Deputy Minister of Industry

MEMBER

Khayr, B. Programs Specialist, National Comptrollers Division

MEMBER

Lawrence, I. Chief, Government and Intergovernmental Organizations
Relations Section

Shimmy, A.A. Chief, Project Personnel Recruitment Section

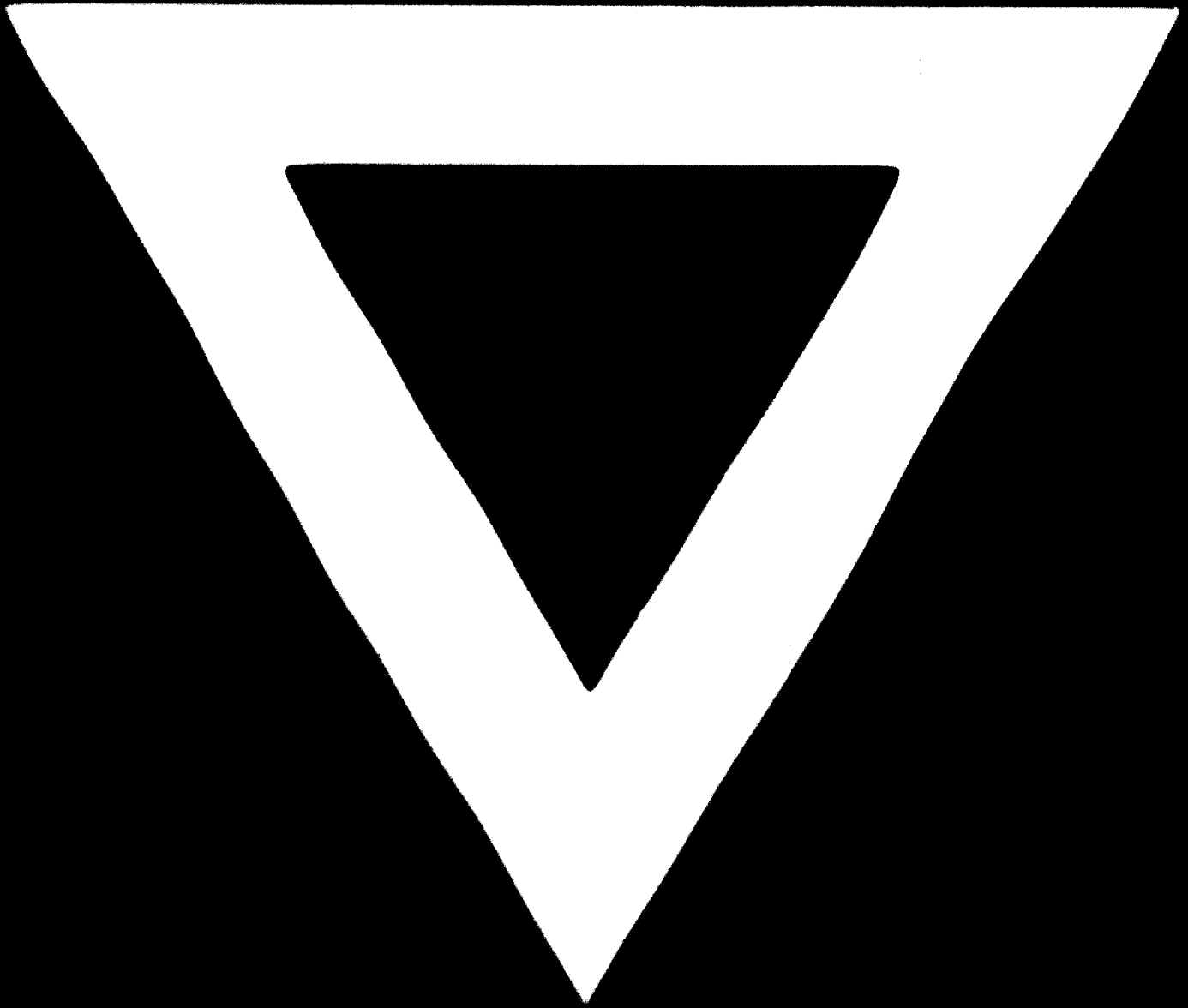
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