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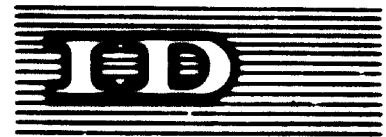
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ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY
ORGANIZATIONS (AAITO).

REPORT OF THE
INAUGURAL MEETING

(1978)

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Preface

One of the resolutions adopted at the Joint Consultation on the Promotion of Industrial Research and Services in Africa,^{1/} held at Lagos, Nigeria, in September 1975, contained a recommendation that an African association of organizations involved with industrial and technological research should be established. The Nigerian Federal Institute of Industrial Research (FIIR) was given a mandate to undertake the follow-up action, with the assistance of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), required to establish the association for the purposes of:

"Promoting contact and exchange of experience, capabilities, and facilities among African Organizations;

Meeting annually on a regional or subregional level on general and selected technical aspects of industrial research;

Establishing links and collaboration between Universities and the organized industrial sector; and

The representation of Africa's point of view where a joint action is required on industrial and technological matters."

In accordance with the mandate conferred on it, FIIR served as the coordinating centre for the compilation of views and ideas from the various African countries on the aims, objectives and organization of the proposed association. FIIR prepared and circulated to all organizations represented at the 1975 Joint Consultation recommendations on the terms of reference of the proposed association. The final draft proposal compiled with the responses and suggestions received was also circulated to those organizations.

To ensure recognition for and support of the proposed association on a continental basis, UNIDO, on behalf of FIIR, informed the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the Secretariat of the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission of OAU (OAU/STRC) about the efforts to establish the association. UNIDO subsequently agreed to provide about \$90,000 for the preparatory and inaugural meetings for the establishment of the association.

A working group reviewed draft statutes for the proposed association prepared by a UNIDO-recruited consultant and made suggestions regarding the work programme of the association. It later modified the draft statutes and work programme in the light of comments received from African institutions and international organizations. The working group also reviewed the draft rules of procedure of the association, prepared a draft budget for 1978 and finalized arrangements for the inaugural meeting.

^{1/} Sponsored by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in co-operation with the Government of Nigeria, through the Federal Institute of Industrial Research (FIIR) Oshodi, and the World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organizations (WAITRO).

Part one. Report of the Meeting

INTRODUCTION

1. The Inaugural Meeting for the establishment of the Association of African Industrial Technology Organizations (AAITO) was held at Lagos, Nigeria, from 12 to 16 December 1977. The participants were mainly senior officials from industrial research institutes and universities and high government officials involved in planning and implementing industrial research policies and programmes. A number of international organizations also sent representatives.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

2. The Meeting was opened by Mr. A. Williams, Assistant Chief Scientific Officer, National Science and Technology Agency of Nigeria, on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Agency.

Election of officers

3. Mr. O. A. Koleoso, head of the Nigerian delegation, was elected Chairman of the Meeting. Mr. Dem Malanda (Zaire) was elected Vice-Chairman and Mr. I. H. Mohammed (Sudan) was elected Rapporteur.

Adoption of the agenda

4. The participants adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Review and adoption of the statutes and rules of procedure of the Association
4. Presentation of progress reports by FIIR and UNIDO
5. Presentation and discussion of the report of the working group meeting on the establishment of the Association
6. Review and adoption of the work programme of the Association
7. Review and adoption of the 1978 draft budget of the Association
8. Election of officers of the Association
9. Appointment of the Secretary-General of the Association
10. Inauguration of the Association
11. Adoption of the report of the Meeting

5. The following documents were used as a basis for the discussions:

(a) Report of the Working Group Meeting for the establishment of an association of African industrial technology organizations (ID/WG.253/1, Rev.1);

- (b) Draft statutes of the proposed association of African industrial technology organizations (ID/WG.253/3);
- (c) Draft rules of procedure of the proposed association of African industrial technology organizations (ID/WG.253/4);
- (d) Draft work programme of the proposed association of African industrial technology organizations (ID/WG.253/5);
- (e) Draft budget of the proposed association of African industrial technology organizations (ID/WG.253/6).

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY ORGANIZATIONS (AAITO)

Review and adoption of the statutes and rules of procedure of the Association

6. The draft statutes and rules of procedure of the Association, which had been reviewed by the working group, were reviewed, amended and adopted. The adoption of the statutes on Tuesday, 13 December 1977, at 10:35 established the Association as of that date and hour. (The final texts of the statutes and rules of procedure adopted by the Meeting were issued as ID/WG.253/3/Rev.1 and ID/WG.253/4/Rev.1 respectively.)

Progress reports by FIIR and UNIDO

7. The Meeting adopted a motion thanking FIIR for co-ordinating the preparatory work leading to the establishment of the Association, and thanking UNIDO for providing financial assistance and services.

Report of the working group meeting on the establishment of the Association (ID/WG.253/1/Rev.1)

8. The Meeting unanimously adopted a motion thanking the members of the working group for their work in scrutinizing the details of the establishment of the Association.

Review and adoption of the work programme and 1978 budget of the Association

9. The Meeting adopted the draft work programme and 1978 budget prepared by the working group with minor modifications. (The final texts of the work programme and 1978 budget were issued as documents ID/WG.250/5/Rev.1 and ID/WG.253/6/Rev.1.)

10. A motion was also adopted requesting the Executive Committee to undertake the detailed elaboration of the work programme, and follow-up action, especially with relevant international organizations so as to ensure agreement on the details and plan of implementation of the seven projects listed for implementation starting in 1978.

11. A motion was adopted to instruct the Executive Committee to request OAU/STRC to forward the administrative part of the budget to OAU with a request that OAU should assist the Association by making annual allocations in the OAU budget, through STRC, to permit the financing of the Secretary-General of the Association, other secretariat staff, facilities and services, and the meetings of the Executive Committee.

Election of officers of the Association

12. The following were elected, by secret ballot, as officers of the Association:

- | | |
|--|---|
| President: | O. A. Koleoso, Acting Director of Research, Federal Institute of Industrial Research, Nigeria |
| First Vice-President: | M. A. H. Saleh, Head of Electrical and Electronics Engineering Department, National Research Centre, Egypt |
| Second-Vice-President: | Dem Malanda, Directeur Co-ordinateur des Activités Scientifiques, Institut de la Recherche Scientifique, Zaire |
| Zonal representatives: | |
| North African zone: | I. H. Mohammed, Assistant Director, Council for Scientific and Technological Research, Sudan |
| East African zone: | O. Arunga, Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute, Kenya |
| Central African zone: | To Uzabakiliho, Chef de Service Information et Documentation Industrielle, Rwanda |
| South African zone: | Mr. Moussa, Chargé d'Etudes et de Planification Industrielle et Technologique, Congo |
| West African zone: | P. A. Thiam, Chef, Division de la Valorisation de la Recherche et Transfert des Techniques, Senegal |
| Ex-officio members of the Executive Committee: | M. D. Gidigas, Principal Research Officer, Building and Road Research Institute, Ghana |
| | J. M. Mwale, Food Technologist, National Council for Scientific Research, Zambia |
| | S. Nelle, Directeur-General Adjoint, Office National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique (ONAREST), United Republic of Cameroon |

Appointment of the Secretary-General of the Association

13. As a result of an offer by OAU/STRC, the Meeting unanimously adopted a motion mandating OAU/STRC to undertake the functions of the Secretary-General of the Association and to host the Secretariat of the Association temporarily during its formative stages. The OAU/STRC offer included the services of a professional and other staff, accommodation, other services and facilities, and financing of the meeting of the Executive Committee to enable the Association to carry out its work smoothly.

14. In accepting the OAU/STRC offer, the Meeting assumed that the Executive Secretary of OAU/STRC would receive the approval of the OAU Scientific Council of Africa. The Executive Secretary of OAU/STRC also assured the Meeting that the professional autonomy of the Association would be maintained and the activities of the Association carried out in accordance with the directives of the Executive Committee of the Association.

15. The Meeting requested the Executive Committee to negotiate with OAU/STRC an agreement on working arrangements for carrying out the work of the Association and to follow up the Association's request to OAU for annual allocations in the OAU/STRC budget provisions for the financing of the Secretariat of the Association.

16. In order to maintain the momentum of the Association, the Meeting adopted a resolution accepting the offer of the Egyptian Government to host the next meeting of the General Assembly of the Association in early 1979. The Executive Committee was requested to solicit members' suggestions and agree on a topic for this meeting and to agree with the Egyptian authorities on such details as the date and programme of the meeting.

Inauguration of the Association

17. The inaugural ceremony of the Association of the African Industrial Technology Organizations was performed by the Honorable Alhaji Mutallabs, Federal Commissioner for Co-operatives and Supply, on behalf of the Federal Commissioner for Industries. Brief addresses were also made by Mr. O.A. Odelola, the Executive Secretary of OAU/STRC, Mr. S.N. Ndam, a representative of UNIDO (who also read a statement prepared by Dr. I.A. Akinrele, the Deputy Director, EEC-ACP/CID Convention of Lomé) and Dr. O.A. Koleoso and Mr. Dem Malanda, the President and Second Vice-President of the Association.

18. In his inaugural address the Commissioner said that the inauguration of AAITO was a milestone in the history of Africa. Events had shown that technology was economic strength that guaranteed survival. There was an urgent need to develop

indigenous African technologies in order to overcome Africa's colonial heritage and reduce its dependence on foreign technologies, the acquisition of which might provide the suppliers with yet another means of exploiting Africa. Africa must seek technological development through increased attention at the national and continental levels. It was to be hoped that the Association would concentrate its efforts on technological developments that would significantly improve the quality of life of the African peoples. The endorsement by the Council of Ministers of OAU of the establishment of the Association placed tremendous responsibilities on the Association. OAU and the individual member countries would be looking forward to concrete achievements from the Association: the total economic liberation of Africa could depend to a large extent on the contribution of the Association. The Commissioner concluded his address by declaring the Association inaugurated.

19. In his statement, Mr. Odelola recounted the inadequacies of technological development in Africa and indicated that a rapid improvement was now taking place. Fifteen years ago only three countries - Egypt, Ghana and Zaire - had national organizations concerned with co-ordination of research activities. Today such organizations existed in several African countries, and technological institutes had been established in most. In spite of these promising trends, however, greater support was still needed from African countries, particularly in ameliorating the status of scientific personnel. Mr. Odelola emphasized the need to exercise great discretion in the importation of foreign technologies and to develop indigenous ones that would lead to the fuller use of abundant local resources. In conclusion, he reassured the Association of the full support of the OAU.

20. Speaking on behalf of UNIDO, Mr. Ndam stated that the Association, whose establishment was long overdue, was being inaugurated at a time of great turbulence in the field of technology transfer. It followed on and was in conformance with the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action which called for an increase in the share of developing countries in world industrial production to at least 25 per cent by the year 2000. The present contribution of Africa was the lowest among the regions of the third world, reflecting the low level of technological capacity and capabilities in Africa. However, along with the greater attention now being paid to this problem in Africa, the establishment of the Association and its endorsement by the OAU should give confidence to African countries. The work programme of the Association was also cause for optimism. It was concise and well

conceived. The philosophy of co-operation with national institutions and international organizations in its implementation was wise since industrial and technological activities should cut across national boundaries. In response to United Nations General Assembly resolutions and in consultation with other United Nations agencies, UNIDO had prepared a Co-operative Plan of Action on Appropriate Industrial Technology and had established an Industrial and Technological Information Bank. Elements of the work programme of the Association largely corresponded to the UNIDO plan. UNIDO therefore accorded great importance to the creation of the Association and was ready to collaborate and co-operate with it in areas of mutual interest. While UNIDO could not make a direct contribution to financing the administrative and normal work of the Secretariat of the Association, it would seriously consider collaboration in implementing a number of project ideas included in the work programme. Mr. Ndam said that the success and respect achieved by the Association would depend, not on its statutes and rules of procedure, but on the work programme and the active participation of its members. If the programme were converted into well-defined projects, financial support could be easily obtained from international organizations and other funding agencies.

21. In his statement, Dr. I.A. Akinrele indicated the willingness of the APC-EEC Centre for Industrial Development (CID) to collaborate with the Association in areas of mutual interest, particularly in the 42 African countries that were Participants in the Lomé Convention. The objectives of the Association were complementary to the purpose of the EEC in accomplishing technology transfer to member countries of the Lomé Convention. Especially relevant to the activities of the Association was the EEC willingness to facilitate the choice and transfer of technologies available in EEC countries that were most appropriate for the needs of African States; to facilitate contacts between African member States with those in possession of technological know-how; to help with obtaining favourable conditions in the acquisition of patents; to contribute to the development of industrial research in the African member States; to finance firms of small and medium-scale manufacturing; and to sponsor vocational and advanced training. Of particular interest to the Association would be the work of CID in preparing and publishing modular profiles of projects ranging from business ventures that would exploit local raw materials for added value to industrial development and training centres that would transfer as well as provide technical capabilities in engineering design, fabrication and repair services. Another activity of interest to the Association would be the provision of a terminal link to the Euronet data bank of scientific, technical and industrial information

through which it would be possible for CID clients to obtain access to the various data bases established in the European Community at minimal cost. Under the Lomé Convention there was a financial provision for promoting regional projects among ACP States. AAITO could benefit from this facility in the form of technical assistance. The CID would gladly collaborate with the Association in some of its specific activities, such as:

- (a) Organization of training workshops, group in-plant training programmes and study tours on general or selected aspects of industrial research and development at the international, subregional or regional levels;
- (b) Identification of training opportunities in Europe for personnel engaged in industrial research and development;
- (c) Design and establishment of industrial training centres at the national, subregional or regional level;
- (d) Identification and definition of joint projects dealing with the commercialization, in two or more countries, of industrial research and development results, and assistance in locating financing;
- (e) Collection of information on a world-wide basis of successfully commercialized research work for dissemination among members of the Association.

Adoption of the report of the Meeting

22. At its closing session on 16 December 1977, the Meeting adopted the draft report and authorized the UNIDO secretariat to finalize, edit and distribute it.

Part two. Other activities

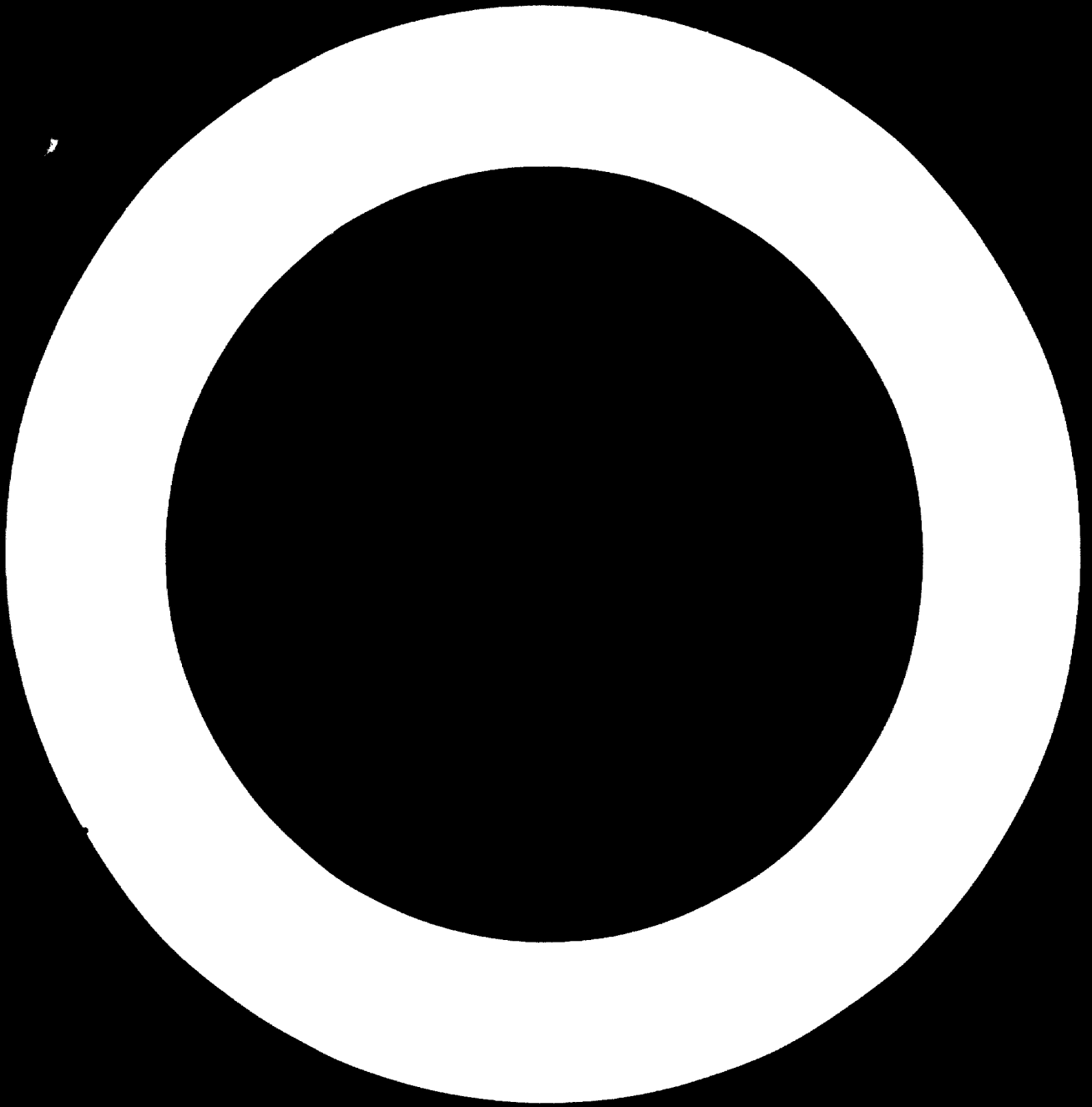
I. VISITS TO SELECTED MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS

23. Tours were organized to selected manufacturing establishments in two areas of Lagos. One group of participants visited Lisabi Mills and Guinness Nigeria Limited while a second group visited Addis Engineering Limited, Metal Box Nigeria Limited and Nigerian Breweries Limited.

II. VISIT TO THE NIGERIAN FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

24. A tour was organized for participants to visit the Nigerian Federal Institute of Industrial Research. The Institute is administratively divided into seven technical divisions, one administrative and one accounts division. Its projects, which vary from research and development in the fields of food science and technology, ceramics, textile, fats and oils, to engineering design and fabrication, and applied biology, are carried out in task forces. The Institute also gives technical assistance to government agencies, public and private firms, and individuals. The Institute's achievements include the development of a process for the commercial manufacture of gari, soy-ogi, bottled palm wine and nico cream.

25. The Institute, which is on a twenty-five acre land site, has a laboratory building, an administrative block, pilot-plant buildings, and a temporary building housing the engineering division. It has a staff of about 300 of which about 150 are professionals. Its annual operational budget amounts to about \$US 2.5 million, and income from projects carried out for clients amounted to about \$US 40,000 in 1976.



Annex

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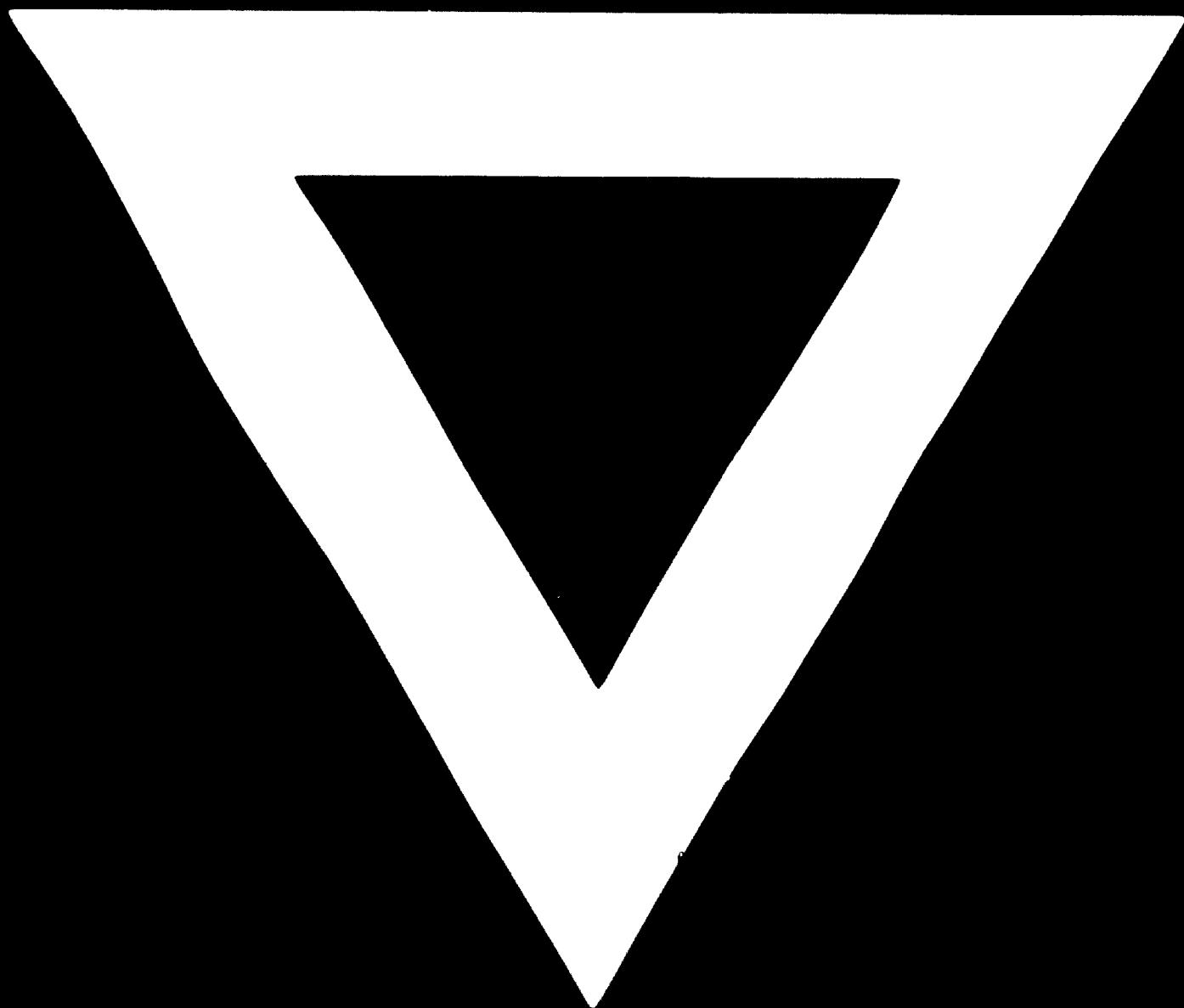
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