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## OCCASION

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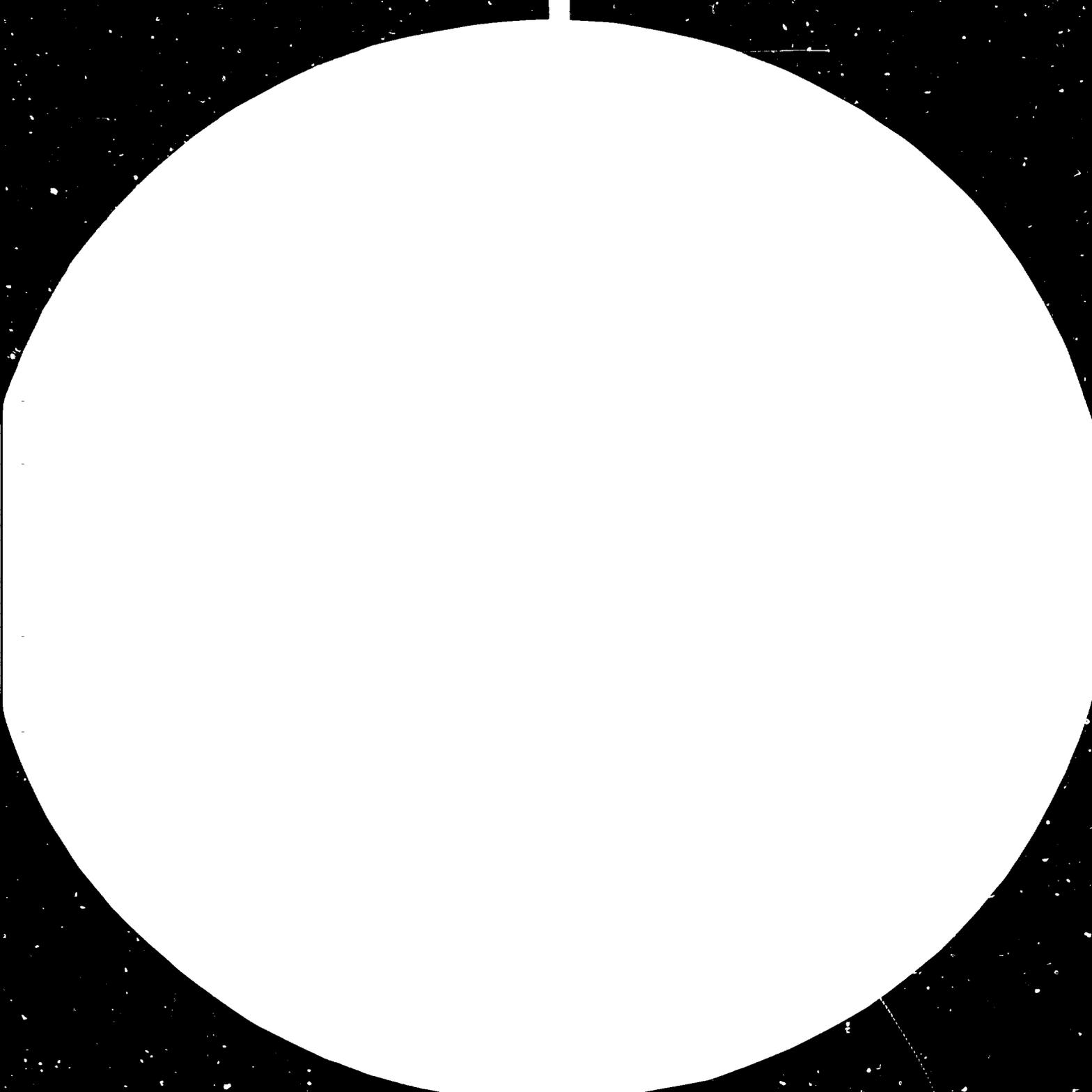
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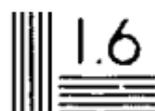
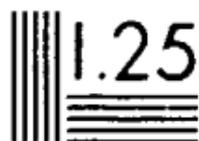
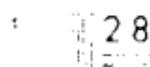
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W. B. BOYD, JR., DIRECTOR, NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

RESOLUTION TEST TARGETS



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ENGLISH

Workshop on Cement and Concrete Products  
Brisbane, Australia, 18 - 29 May 1981

PRECAST CONCRETE PRODUCTS IN PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA\*

by

H. Rumints\*\*

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## PROFILE

Papua New Guinea, together with its neighbour Irian Jaya, is the second biggest island in the world. (The first being Greenland). It has a population of close to three million and over seven hundred different languages are spoken. English is used as the National language, together with two others; Pidgin English and Hiri Motu.

The country is mountainous and rugged and this makes it very difficult for roads to be built, and therefore air and sea are the main means of transport. PNG is now in its sixth year of independence, since 1975 when it got its independence.

## GROWTH OF INDUSTRY LATE 1950's

In 1958 the first concrete pipe factory was built in Port Moresby, the capital of PNG. Two years later, masonry blocks were being produced. At this time, cement stabilised bricks were also being made at corrective institutions. There was also another factory set up in Rabaul where pipes and masonry blocks were produced.

Precast components like U beams, grandstand units and other precast products such as slabs, step threads and survey markers were also being produced.

In 1964 another concrete pipe factory was built in Lae to cater for the Highlands Highway development which started in Lae at the coast and had to link all the five Highland provinces. Lae was also supplying the other coastal ports by sea freight.

In Port Moresby in the mid 1960's precast housing components were being cast by a company called Production Development Corporation for the construction of houses for the PNG Defence Force. The University of Papua New Guinea was also being built, and Hornibrooks, a construction company, used prestressed concrete, which they made themselves.

Another masonry block factory was set up in Lae in 1968 and around this time too a company called Madang Contractors was set up in the town of Madang to produce concrete products. Also in the late 1960's a factory was built in Mt. Hagen to produce both concrete pipes and masonry blocks.

In 1974, concrete pipes, masonry blocks and other precast concrete products were being produced in Kieta. Between the late 1960's and early 1970's, there were precast wharf developments in Port Moresby and Samarai. These jobs are generally done on-site by contractors.

#### CURRENT SITUATION

Materials like sand and aggregate are generally available in most centres of PNG. Cement was traditionally imported from Japan, but more recently now from Australia and New Zealand.

Ready mix - Established in Port Moresby in 1960 and are now available in Kieta, Lae and Mt. Hagen and also on major projects.

GL - Reinforced Cement - This is a new product in PNG. It only started this year (1981). Products such as cable joint pits, cone markers, wet floors and flower pots are being made.

Masonry Paving - Paving only started in 1979 but has now become well accepted, despite its recent introduction.

Local Investment - This began around 1969/70 and further in 1976.

Cement Lining - This was introduced more recently with jobs on oil and submarine lines.

Market Location - There is difficulties in transport. We have minimum establishment and our equipment is not fully utilised.

Advantages - Basically the local materials are more permanent and since we are more labour intensive, our people are provided with employment.

Level of skills - operators - ok available  
mid management - new (only starting)  
marketing - nil (virtually none)

Quality Control - Most of the control is done through Government agencies such as the Department of Works and Supply or at universities. Where there is no standards in PNG, we comply with Australian standards.



