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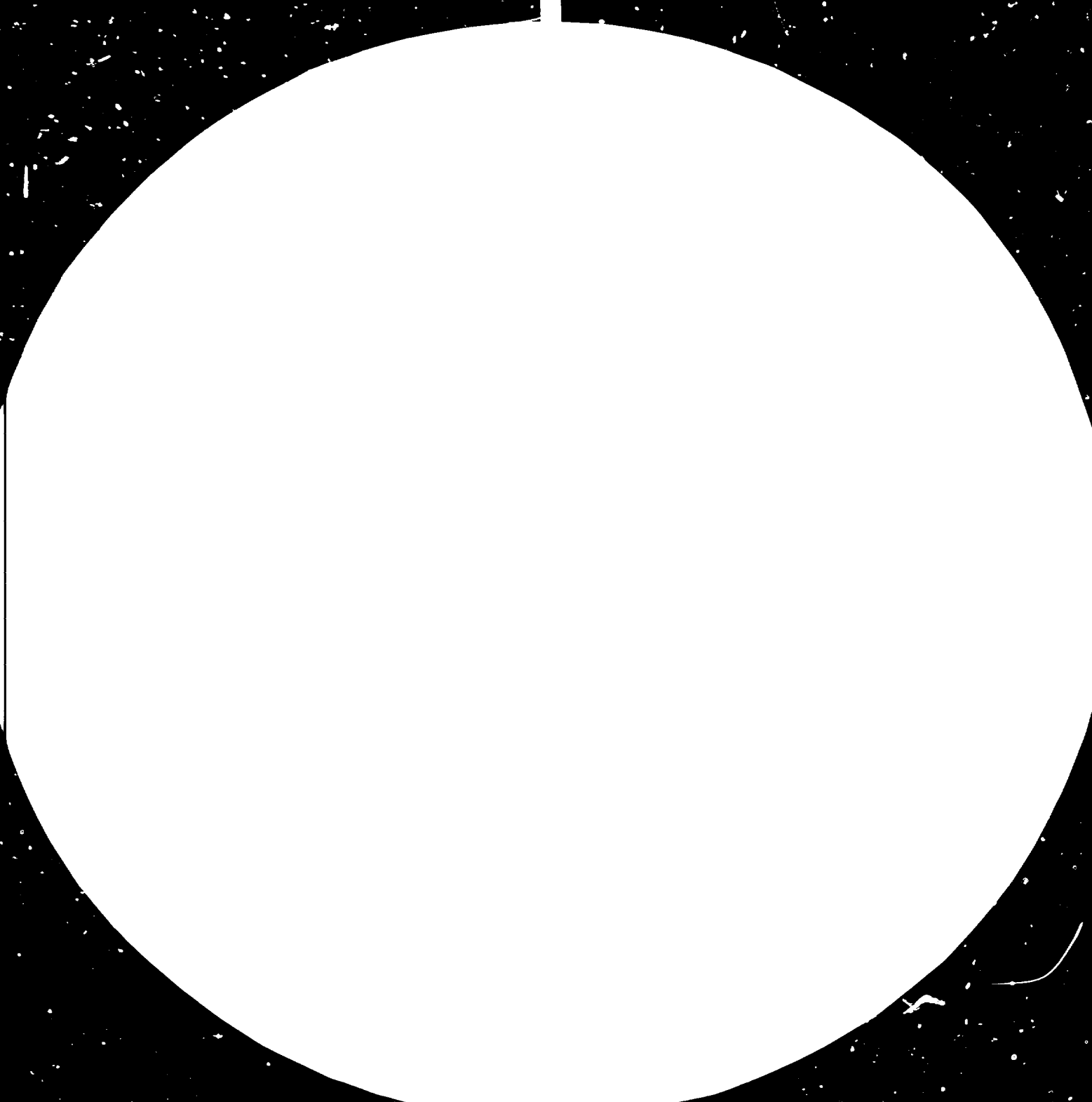
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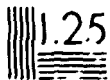
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Meeting on Co-operation among
Developing Countries, organized
by the National Council of Pharmacists
Morocco, 4-5 December 1981

REPORT *

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REPORT OF THE MEETING ON CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

4-5 DECEMBER, ORGANIZED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PHARMACISTS IN MOROCCO

Mrs. Tcheknavorian opened the meeting by thanking Mr. Bennaoua, the Director of the "Institut Marocain de l'Emballage et du Conditionnement" (IMEC) for the visit and for making available his conference room. She stressed the importance of packaging for goods to resist transport and in this connection emphasized the contribution of the IMEC towards export and improvement of the national market. The task of IMEC is, among others, to make utmost use of existing facilities and thus help industry to expand, also the pharmaceutical industry, as being the subject of the meeting. She felt proud to see that a U.N. project worked so successfully and was glad to prove that the U.N. is not only a paper producer. She recommended to the participants to go and see U.N. projects in the various countries to learn from the experience gained. UNIDO would send out information on its projects, e.g. a project on pharmaceutical industry in Hungary. As, however, UNIDO's funds are limited, participants would have to finance their travels to see such projects themselves. Mrs. Tcheknavorian mentioned a meeting which was going to be held in China in October 1982 on the promotion of medical plants in the pharmaceutical industry, where information will be obtained on the traditional medical treatment in China, i.e. not using chemical medicines. This meeting should, in particular, promote the pharmaceutical industry in very poor countries in Africa and Asia.

Mrs. Tcheknavorian also pointed out that the Pharmaceuticals Unit will always be available to give information on biomedical equipment.

Then Mrs. Tcheknavorian proposed to get out of general discussions and asked the participants two specific questions:

(1) What type of activity within the pharmaceutical industry do they wish to emphasize? In connection with basic manufacturing, what kind of drugs, on what they would like to concentrate in antibiotics and synthetics. According to their wishes UNIDO would prepare technical papers, distribute them, and then could call a meeting where experience could be exchanged and a better understanding of each other achieved.

(2) What was the participants' timeschedule so that a next meeting could be called.

Mrs. Tcheknavorian proposed to keep this group as it is to avoid repetitions, when always new representatives come together, and to call it the "PHARMACEUTICAL GROUP OF MOHAMMEDIA".

Mr. Fazi, Director of the "Conseil National de l'Ordre des Pharmaciens" (CNOP), expressed his thanks to UNDP for making available the IMEC and hoped that the work of the Institute would go beyond the Moroccan borders. He also thanked Mr. Bennouna for the invitation and then emphasized his and his staff's willingness to make the GROUP OF MOHAMMEDIA a success.

Mr. Sallam wanted to know how other countries could benefit from IMEC and how much it would cost.

Mr. Bennouna explained that the industry has since the beginning been very receptive of IMEC. They have worked out pricelists for raw materials for packaging (e.g. PVC films). The Institute works at reasonable costs. They are working towards the standardization of packaging materials. As far as the pharmaceutical industry is concerned, work is being undertaken by technicians and pharmacists.

Since 1973 two meetings have been held in Egypt and one on Mohammedia of Arabic countries to create a "Regional Centre for Packaging". In 1980 another meeting was held in the Lebanon to define the activities of such a Centre. Its creation has been approved by the Arab Ministers of Industry and it is hoped that the U.N. will support this Centre. In November 1981 the Centre has started to find out about specific needs of its member countries to orientate its activities accordingly.

Mr. Bennouna emphasized that his Institute is always willing to answer specific questions and always welcomes trainees from other developing countries.

Mrs. Tcheknavorian proposed to make a study on the assistance Morocco could provide to other developing countries in the pharmaceutical industry.

Mr. Bennouna stressed the importance of defining specific needs to see whether supplementary equipment is necessary.

Mr. Sallam spoke about ways and means to make use of developing countries' possibilities by other developing countries. He stressed the importance of the Meeting in Morocco as first step of developing countries towards getting to know each other. He expressed his willingness to finance future meetings, to invite UNIDO and share these expenses with other developing countries who, he was sure, felt the same way. He underlined that it was important that everybody felt convinced that such meetings were needed to share information, to explain specific needs and to get to know what is available in other developing countries. There certainly are many needs in the pharmaceutical industry of developing countries that could be covered by other developing countries.

He emphasized that as developing countries they should be aware of the need of sharing their experiences, even in formulation, and that there is a lot they can learn from each other. However, they must not forget their fellow developing countries not participating in this Meeting. They also need to develop their formulation industries. By helping each other, they could save a lot of foreign currency. It is known, e.g. that India has much experience in the production of synthetics. They should make good use of such possibilities. This means, of course, that they should travel and see the standards of technology in other developing countries. In Egypt, e.g. they started out with backward technology and had to slowly improve it. Their experience could spare other developing countries the trouble of going through the same stages and thus save much time.

Mr. Tazi suggested to establish a sort of inventory containing information on the history of the pharmaceutical industry in developing countries, the constraints and difficulties encountered by these countries, and a list of products produced in these countries. Such an inventory would considerably improve co-operation among developing countries.

He proposed that the GROUP OF MOHAMMEDIA have its seat in Morocco and underlined the necessity to define a strategy of co-operation and to create a centre of information.

Mr. Cheikh Lahlou suggested that a questionnaire be distributed by UNIDO and that co-operation could start with little things. Morocco, e.g. has experience with certain plants, like eucalyptus and chinine.

Mr. Fazli stressed that a definite plan of action is required, where clear objectives are laid down and priority areas defined that have to be considered. He proposed three objectives:

- (1) To help to bring about co-operation and co-ordination among developing countries of this group in the sector of pharmaceuticals, manufacturing and trade for the mutual benefit;
- (2) To act as a Centre of information regarding the availability of technology and materials for the pharmaceutical industry in developing countries;
- (3) To help exchange visits of technical experts in the pharmaceutical field for the mutual benefit.

Specific areas to be considered are e.g. fermentation and formulation. He proposed to hold a meeting in March 1983 and would try to discuss with his government the possibility of Pakistan hosting this meeting.

Mr. Bennis explained that he considers an Training Centre necessary (Centre de Formation), as superior specialists can be exchanged, but it is the basis which is important. The less specialized personnel also has to be well-trained.

Mr. Tazi mentioned the "Ecole Nationale de la Formation des Cadres" where an attempt towards reaching this objective is made.

Mrs. Tcheknavorian summarized that common problems and common objectives have become evident. The GROUP OF MOHAMMEDIA has expressed its wish to closely co-operate among each other in the pharmaceutical industry for the mutual benefit. In order to become more efficient, the GROUP OF MOHAMMEDIA has identified the following as first step to be taken:

- (1) The harmonization of the legislative, the registration of pharmaceuticals.
- (2) To make a list of representatives of this Group concerning the technology available within the countries in formulation and packaging, in basic manufacturing (fermentation and synthetics), and in the existence of medicinal plants for the production of pharmaceuticals.

The Group has agreed, after receiving information, to organize a meeting and to discuss on the basis of this detailed information. This meeting will decide on an effective programme to be implemented by this Group. For the time being it is required that information is conveyed quickly. In four months UNIDO should be able to provide information, i.e. April 1982.

CNOP should act as the secretariat of the GROUP OF MOHAMMEDIA. As such they should request UNIDO to hold a meeting in Vienna. 1983 would be too late. The meetings of the GROUP OF MOHAMMEDIA should be intensified. The next meeting was proposed to be held not later than June/July 1982 to decide on the concrete programme. It is essential that developing countries show their interest also by contributing financially; this would be an encouragement for UNIDO's work.

The countries present at this Meeting should not forget all the others needing help in formulation packaging. These countries should be identified, so that projects in these countries could be set up. Ways have to be found how they can be helped and how their personnel can be trained.

Mrs. Tcheknavorian then mentioned that the establishment of a Research and Development Centre was not approved at the First Consultation on the Pharmaceutical Industry, held in Lisbon, in December 1980. The Portuguese Government is still interested in establishing such a Centre. On 12-13 January 1982 UNIDO will go to Portugal to discuss this subject. Also the World Bank is in favour of this project and will advance a loan for the establishment of such a Centre. Mrs. Tcheknavorian wanted to know from the participants how they could contribute to such a Centre and on what UNIDO should concentrate in its discussions in Portugal.

Mr. Aboulenein considered process development most important for the Centre in Portugal and synthesis as second topic. However, he wanted to know whether they are also good for fermentation.

Mrs. Tcheknavorian explained that everything cannot be done in one place anyhow. Fermentation could be done in another place. She would emphasize process development in Portugal and inform the participants of the outcome of her meeting there. She asked the participants to support this project as it will be financed by World Bank and as such needs developing countries' support.

Mr. Tazi closed the meeting, emphasizing how proud he felt as Director of CNOP to be at the basis of the GROUP OF MOHAMMEDIA.

