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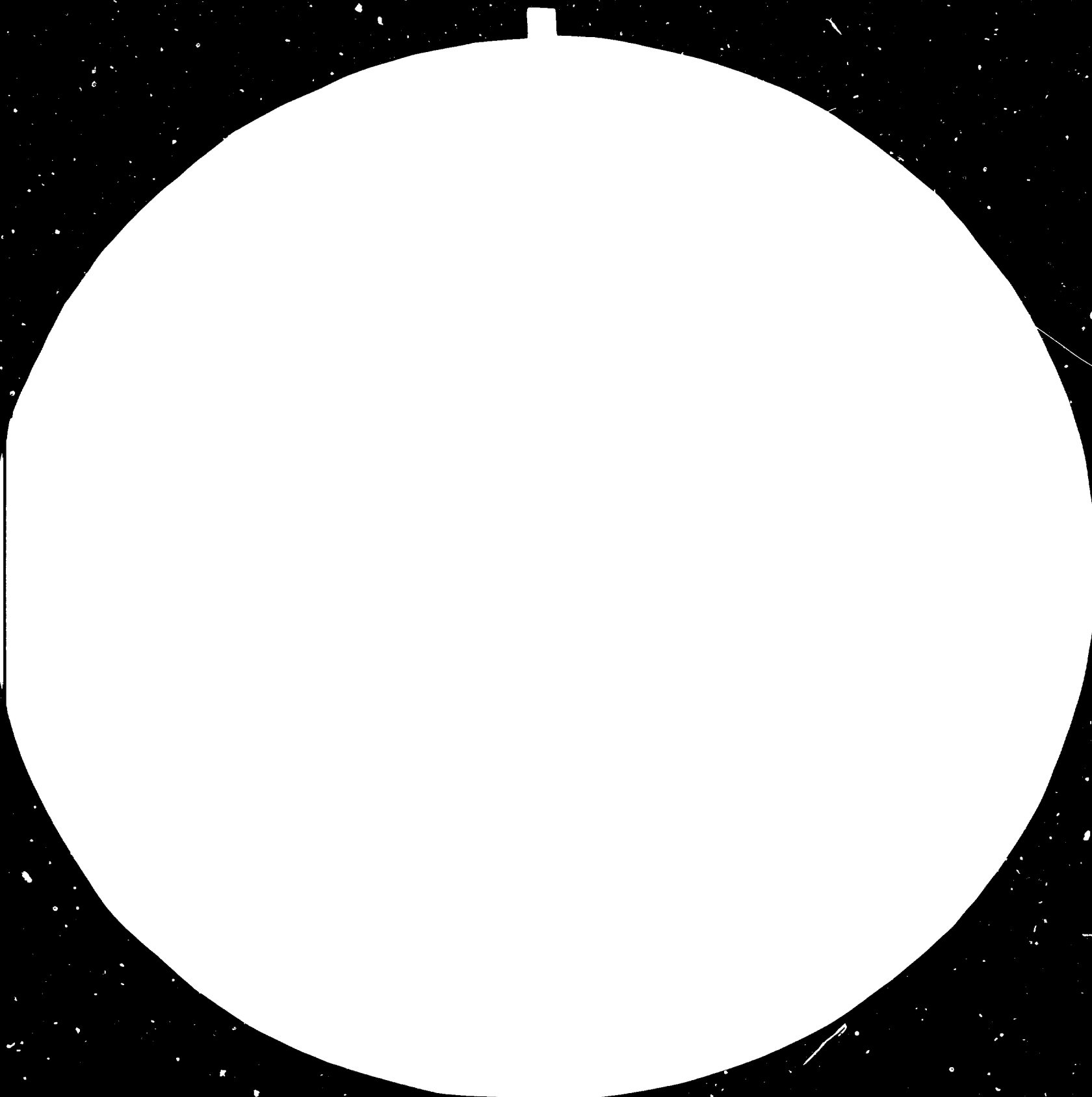
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"The Tenth Round Table of Developing Countries
Industrial Development and Co-operation among
Developing Countries from Small-Scale Industry
to the Transnational Corporations"

Zagreb, Yugoslavia, 15-17 September 1982

Some Considerations and Suggestions about the Measures that could be *
Proposed as a Support and Way of Implementation of the Caracas Programme
of Action .

By

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** IDC: Institute for Developing Countries.

One of the most important aspects considered at the High Level Caracas Conference that concerns technology and the possibilities to establish an effective co-operation among developing countries (DCs) in this field, is the setting up of an up-to-date inventory of the technological and engineering capacities existing in DCs at national, sub-regional or regional level. This inventory would have to be organized scientifically in order to provide real information.

Listings of technological needs that suit the plans of national development will facilitate the linkage of the offer of technology or technical assistance to countries' demands in some sectors and according to the level of sophistication that the situation will require. This double input of data that on the one hand enables knowledge of the engineering capacities of DCs, and on the other hand enables awareness of technological demands, would have to be centralized in a specialised organization like UNIDO, that allows at the same time to give support and technical assistance. Or perhaps it could be possible to manage this double input of information through the creation of simple

and pragmatic information networks, that stimulate the communication among different countries. These countries can then nourish themselves with the information the network will provide.

When a general basis for co-operation among a certain number of countries has already been settled, expert meetings, through exchange of information will allow without doubt the determination of the framework for the problems to be considered and will lead to close co-operation in many cases at a bilateral level.

A useful suggestion could be also to establish inventories of research and development projects to which private or public efforts of different DCs have been directed. These information could also be exchanged which would provide a basis for contracts among the countries that want joint efforts for certain projects. In this case, the practical suggestion could be that the projects should not be simply enumerated but would have to be expressed in terms that can be stored in an information centre. The assistance of specialized organizations like UNCTAD or UNIDO would be necessary to systemise the information and make it available.

As to the financing of infrastructure works or industrial projects in DCs that have to be submitted to international tenders and financed by their funds, they should be presented in the form of information packages. In this particular case, the circulation of the specifications concerning these projects, with their centralization to make this tender available to a big number of DCs would allow a

better selection of the different alternatives concerning the capacity and costs and the creation of mechanisms that decidedly give priority in the realization of such projects to enterprises from DCs.

A last consideration on a very important aspect of the Caracas Programme of Action concerns the negotiating capacity of DCs. The efforts should be aimed at the exchange of information in matters of negotiation of technology and when possible at the joint negotiation by sectors by a certain number of interested countries.

Efforts would be needed to obtain accurately the conditions of the negotiations and to centralise this information in an appropriate manner.

The creation of firms specialized in the negotiation of the required technologies by sectors, according to the interest of some countries with the same sort of needs and problems, could be an interesting test and also a subject for discussions and exchanges of ideas.

The frame of the Caracas Programme of Action is rich and ambitious and it is necessary to bear in mind the concept of an operative tool to put the Programme into force.

