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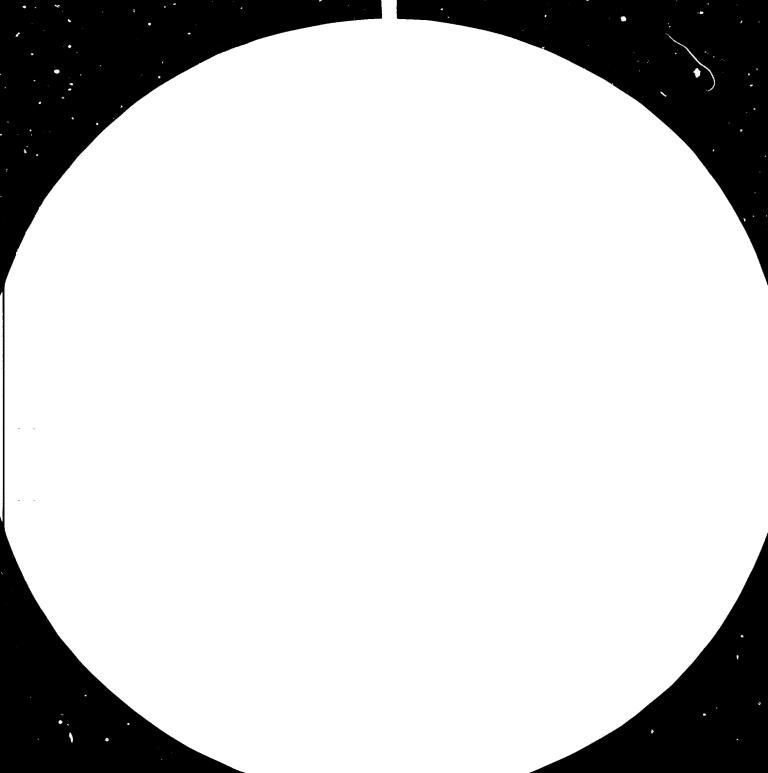
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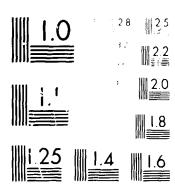
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UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

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REPORT OF THE FOURTH SESSION

OF THE LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS INDUSTRY PANEL

Beijing, 11-15 March 1980

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INTRODUCTION

- 1. The Leather and Leather Products Industry Panel was established by the industrial Development Board to oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the First Consultation on the Leather and Leather Products Industry, which was held in Innsbruck, Austria, from 7 to 11 November 1977.
- 2. The third session of the Panel was held in Vienna from 19 to 21 November 1979. The Panel decided to review the World-Wide Study on Leather and Leather Products Industry (second draft) at its fourth session to be held 11 to 15 March 1980 in Beijing, People's Republic of China.
- 3. The corclusions and recommendations of the World-Wide Study will be submitted by the UNIDO Secretariat to the Second Consultation on Leather and Leather Products Industry, Cologne, Federal Republic of Germany, 23 to 27 June 1980.

CHAPTER I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

Opening of the Meeting

- 4. The fourth session of the Leather and Leather Products Industry Panel was held in Beijing, People's Republic of China, from 11 to 15 March 1980. The session was attended by 21 participants from 13 countries and 4 international organizations (Annex 1).
- 5. The session was opened by the Chairman, who introduced four new members to the Panel: Mr. Getinot W. Giorgis, General Manager, National Leather and Shoe Corporation (Ethiopia); Mr. Ali Abdel Hamid Ali, Managing Director, Sudan Leather Industries Corporation (Democratic Republic of Sudan); Mr. Irving Kent, Chilewich Corporation (United States of America); and Mr. Mujibur Rahman, Managing Director, Taj Tannery (Bangladesh).

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

6. The Panel elected the following:

Chairman: Mr. Kilin Zhang, Chief Engineer, Vice-Manager Shanghai Leather Corporation, Shanghai

<u>Vice-Chairman:</u> Mr. Rajendra K. Anand, Director, Ministry of Endustry Department of Endustrial Development, New Delhi.

Adoption of the Agenda

.... 7. The provisional agenda (Annex II) was adopted.

Adoption of the Report

3. The draft report was unanimously adopted by the fourth session at its meeting on 14 March 1980.

CHAPTER II. REVIEW OF THE SECOND DRAFT OF THE WORLD-WIDE STUDY ON THE LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

- 9. Several members of the Panel noted that some issues not prescribed in the terms of reference of the Study were important and should be dealt with in additional studies.
- 10. The Panel examined in considerable detail the structure and content of the Study. In general, there was a consensus among the Panel members that the Study was a comprehensive exposition within the terms of reference of the world hide and skin, lather and derived products economy. However, it was also agreed that some important issues had not been fully covered by the present study.
- 11. In discussion of the Study, five main categories of questions arose and were examined at considerable length. These were:
 - (a) Several members of the Panel disagreed with certain statements in the Study: for example, there was a disagreement about transfer of technology being an obstacle to development:
 - (b) Statements in the Study which appeared to be judgement or opinion or implied opinion by the author. An example of this was the distinction made in the Study between the developing countries with or without indigenous raw material. The underlying point is whether a viable leather and leather products industry could be established on a basis totally devoid of indigenous raw material. Similarly, a discussion on capital requirements for a production unit involves appraisal of cost benefit ratios: is a proposed investment capable of yielding a return, financially and socially large enough to sustain and justify itself?
 - (c) Technical questions and problems continually surfaced in the Panel discussion. These included curing and preservation methods, ways and means of improving livestock and the availability and quality of raw material supply;

- (d) While globally developing countries had become net importers of raw hides and developed countries net exporters, the contrary was true of individual countries. There was a consensus that more consideration should be given to the problems of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade including protectionism as practised by developed and developing countries:
- (e) Finally, a number of questions were raised concerning terminology in the analysis and description of various factors in production, development and trade at the several layers of the sector.

CHAPTER III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12. The Panel unanimously approved the Study's outline of un action programme to improve the raw material base and noted the gr th potential in certain developing countries (e.g. Africa).
- 13. The Panel strongly urged that such broad proposals should be implemented in the shortest time possible. The Panel entrusted the UNIDO Secretariat to request the developing countries to submit as concretely as possible their needs, suggestions for remedial action on hides and skins development including their estimated financial requirements. These country action programmes should be submitted by the countries concerned to the Second Consultation. At the same time, some developing countries did not agree that the liberalization of raw material trade would necessarily result in the improvement of raw material quality.
- 14. The Panel proposed that the comments on the Study as expressed by the members of the Panel be incorporated in the Study. However, in view of the lack of time prior to the Second Consultation, it was agreed that the Secretariat would prepare an analytical summary which would include all pertinent comments and conclusions by the Panel members in it. The analytical summary and conclusions would be presented as a supporting background document to the issue papers submitted at the Second Consultation.

Follow-up on the progress made on the campaign for the improvement of raw material availability and quality

15. The Panel considered and agreed with the statement made by the FAO Secretariat and recommended that the whole question of the campaign on raw material availability and quality be submitted by the UNIDO Secretariat to the Second Consultation.

Other Business

16. ILO Tripartite Report: The Panel thanked the ILO representative for the informal report on the Second Tripartite Meeting held in Geneva (December 1979).

^{1/} FAO proposal on "Campaign for increased recovery and improvement in quality of hides and skins" will be submitted as a separate document to the Second Consultation on Leather and Leather Products Industry, Cologne, Federal Republic of Germany, 23-27 June 1980.

- 17. Second Consultation: The UNIDO Secretariat reported that the Second Consultation will be held in Cologne, Federal Republic of Germany, 23 to 27 June 1980. The Second Consultation will not include a specific agenda item on the work of the Leather Fanel; this will, however, be covered under an agenda item entitled "progress achieved in implementing the recommendations of the First Consultation". Members of the Panel were informed that official invitation to Governments for the Second Consultation were sent out by the UNIDO Secretariat on 31 January 1980, and that members of the Panel should see to it that their country delegations to the Second Consultation were selected with a view to ensure that participants would be able to address the issues identified by the Panel for the Second Consultation. The UNIDO Secretariat assured the Panel that it would attempt to ensure that Governments send their best qualified delegations to the Second Consultation.
- 18. It was agreed that the Panel would meet informally in Cologne on the morning of 23 June 1980 to prepare for the Second Consultation.

Fourth Session of Leather and Leather Products Industry Panel

Beijing, China, 11-15 March 1980

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Beijing, China, 11-15 March 1980

ACENDA

- 1. Opening of the session by outgoing Chairman, Mr. F.A. Mencik
- 2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
- 3. Adoption of the Report of the Third Session
- 4. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda
- 5. (a) Review of the Second Draft of the World-Wide Study on the Leather and Leather Products Industry;
 - (b) Follow-up on the progress made on the campaign for the improvement of raw material availability and quality.
- 6. Other business
- 7. Date, place and provisional agenda for the Fifth Session
- 8. Adoption of draft Report of Fourth Session.

WELCOME SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED AT THE BANQUET IN HONOUR OF THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE LEATHER PANEL BY MR. LIANG LING GUANG, MINISTER OF LIGHT INDUSTRY, P.R.C. (6.30 PM - 11 MARCH 1980)

Respected Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Fourth Session of the Leather and Leather Products Industry
Panel is opened today in Beijing. First of all, I, on behalf of the
Ministry of Light Industry, the People's Republic of China, extend
my warm welcome to the participants of the Fourth Leather Panel Meeting
and their wives and friends.

The Leather and Leather Products Industry Panel has made its positive contribution ever since its establishment. We are very much delighted that all the participants at the Third Session in Vienna last November approved unanimously the proposal of holding the Fourth Session of the Leather and Leather Products Industry Panel in Beijing. And we have earnestly conducted all the preparations which we should make. In this respect, United Nations Development Programme in China and organizations concerned of the United Nations offered us warm support and assistance, I hereby express my heartfelt thanks.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As everyone knows, leather industry is a kind of processing industry based on animal husbandry. All walk of life today shows very much concern about leather industry due to its great varieties of products, the popularization of applications and the extremely close relations with industry, agriculture and people's daily life. It is completely correct for UNIDO to take leather industry as one of the most important industries for development and to establish the Leather Panel for promoting the development. Leather industry in China today is one of the light industries which possesses great potentialities and needs development on a large scale. Under the leadership of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, we Chinese people are doing our endeavour for the realization of the socialist modernization of our country. In this connexion, we would like to coordinate with the organizations concerned of the United Nations, and with friends all over the world. Moreover, we will make our efforts for the development of the leather industry at home and abroad.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this session of the Panel, the experts will discuss the issues of raw materials, prospects of development and international trade of the leather industry and get prepared for the Second Consultation on the Leather and Leather Products Industry which is to be held in June in Cologne, Federal Republic of Germany. I am fully convinced that through the concerted efforts of the participants, this meeting will obtain a fruitful result as expected and make positive contribution for strengthening the friendship, unity and co-operation of the people all over the world.

Now may I propose a toast
to the success of the Fourth Leather Panel Meeting,
to the further consolidation of the solidarity and friendship of
the international leather industry,
and to the good health of the ladies and gentlemen present this
evening,
Bottoms up.

DRAFT SPEECH BY H.K. RAHIM IN REPLY TO WELCOME ADDRESS OF H.E. MR. LIANG LING GUANG, MINISTER OF LIGHT INDUSTRY, DELIVERED AT THE BANQUET IN HONOUR OF THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS INDUSTRY PANEL

(6.30 PM - 11 MARCH 1980)

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the Leather Panel,

It is indeed an honour for me to express on behalf of the Executive Director of UNIDO and on behalf of all the members of the UNIDO Leather and Leather Products Industry Panel our appreciation for the generous invitation of the Government of the Chinese People's Republic to convene the Fourth Session of the Leather Panel here in Beijing. The members of the Panel have not only been impressed by the hospitality extended to them during visits to the Dong Fen Tannery, and the Beijing Leather Products Factory, but have been struck by the interdependence and self-reliant skills developed by Chinese engineers and workers. In fact, observation of such a feat encourages UNIDO to apply greater efforts in stimulating industrialization through self-reliance.

As your Excellency is aware, the UNIDO Leather Panel has been established to focus on the major problems and constraints facing both the developing and developed countries in the leather sector. It has before it the major task of attempting to harmonize differences and provide answers to problems which have evaded solutions in order to achieve a more equitable and balanced distribution of leather products development in the world. It is through such co-operation measures that international understanding can be reached and conflicts avoided.

It is significant that as the first official function of UNIDO to be held in this ancient and beautiful capital is the Meeting of the Leather Panel: China is the largest producer of pigskin in the world and developing and developed countries may have a lot to learn from China on pigskin utilization. However as the per capita consumption of footwear rises, there will be increasing demand for raw hides for domestic production of footwear. Because of the real implication to the world market in terms of prices and supply of scarce raw material, it is hoped that the entry of China into the world market will be planned in an appropriate manner.

Your Excellency,

To take what is best from the West and the East, while maintaining roots that go back continuously for at least four thousand years - in language, ethical values, social and political institutions - is a feat almost without parallel in the history of mankind. We who came to China for the first time, would like to pay tribute to this spiritual and cultural achievement.



