MESSAGE OF Dr. Ir. G. J. VAN DER BIE

to the Members of

the Society of Rubber Industry, Japan

It is a great pleasure for me that I have a chance to give a message to the members of the Society of Rubber Industry, Japan, through the Journal of their Society.

It might be useful to give an explanation of the sphere of the activities of INIRO TOKYO OFFICE. INIRO itself means the Indonesian Rubber Research Institute (in the Indonesian language Jajasan Badan Penelitian Karet Indonesia), which Institute is financed by all the producers of natural rubber in Indonesia, both small holders and estate producers. It is a private institute with a board consisting of the representatives of the estates and small holders producers, and the chairman is nominated by the Indonesian Government. The object of the institute is to promote the use of natural rubber in general and especially in Indonesia and Japan.

This object is to be realized in two ways, namely in a so-called offensive way, namely, finding and promoting new uses of rubber as, for instance, use of rubber in asphalt-bitumen roads and the use of rubber as a starting material for plastics and paints, and also in a defensive way against synthetic rubber, namely, by research to improve the performance quality of natural rubber and by introducing more service to the consumers as to uniformity, cleanliness and delivery of natural rubber. As to the relation to synthetic rubber we have the opinion that the synthetic rubber has established its position in the rubber manufacturing industry and that there will be only two factors deciding relative consumption of natural and synthetic rubber, namely, the price level of which we are confident natural rubber will be able to compete with synthetic rubber, and the good service given by the producers to the manufacturers.

We know at this instance there is a large room for improvement by natural rubber producers. INIRO has done much work both in research and actual practice to establish methods for improving uniformity, for reducing dirt content and for improving the ways of delivery of natural rubber. However, ultimately it should be the consumers who have to tell us exactly what they want, meaning what yard sticks should be used in measuring uniformity and dirt content and which type of classes of each property should be introduced. If the consumers
can agree to the introduction of certain technical classification, then it will be only the matter of time for the producers to deliver such technically classified rubber. If the consumers could not agree, then they are leaving the producers in a cloud of uncertainty as to the claims for the uniformity of natural rubber. To put it very shortly, I wish to say that we are ready to produce any uniform and clean rubber as soon as the consumers can specify exactly what they want in technical terms and not going by external appearance.

I think the main task of INIRO TOKYO OFFICE is to serve as an exchange centrum between manufacturing industry in Japan and producers of natural rubber in Indonesia. Besides that I think INIRO TOKYO OFFICE also has the task of looking for ways to increase the consumption of natural rubber in Japan and I expect that there will be a good cooperation in this instance between INIRO TOKYO OFFICE and the industry because this will serve the interest of both.

INIRO is basically a technical and scientific institute and all its publications are based on a fact. I think that the Society of Rubber Industry which does consist of scientists and technologists of the Japanese rubber industry will understand most readily the basic principles which I have mentioned before, because, so to speak, we both are speaking the same language and have the same way of presenting and formulating our problems. Therefore I hope and expect that the Society of Rubber Industry will also be most helpful in the solution of our problem to the benefit of all those concerned with the rubber industry. In ending I feel I have to apologize that my first visit has been a very short one due to other commitments, but I hope to have an opportunity during my next visit to meet many prominent men of the Society of Rubber Industry, Japan.

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Dr. Ir. G. J. van der Bie,
Director of INIRO, Bogor.