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industries producing the above items are flourishing and developing fast because of the demands created by these new consumers. While the activities in many other industries in the country have been sluggish, the continuing expansion of the garment sector indicates immense potential of the sector for income generation and job creation. Now time has come for sustaining and consolidating the present growth of our garment

GARMENTS INDUSTRY OF BANGLADESH

sector for which establishment of backward linkage has become very important. With the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Negotiations the MFA is going to be phased out within a decade and the same integrated into the free trade regime of the GATT. In that situation, without Bangladesh's own fabrics, it would be very difficult for Bangladesh to even retain its present position in the quota free developed countries, not to speak of any further growth. It is

heartening to note that the Hon'ble Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has already declared textiles as a "Thrust Sector" Top most priority, therefore, needs be given to implement the decisions without any delay. Situation as it stands now, Bangladesh can immediately start the process by allowing the importation of quality grey fabrics without any conditionality under bonded warehouse and back-to-back LC facility for finishing in the local

dyeing and finishing mills. This will not only enhance value addition substantially and create sizable new jobs, it will also pave the way for establishing more dyeing and finishing and quality weaving factories within a short time. Foreign investment will also be forthcoming in such a situation for development spinning and weaving facilities. In the country's short history, never has there been such a congenial atmosphere as it exists now under the present democratic system and we should

seize upon the opportunity without any delay. If we can make it as we in the garment sector have made in the past the industrial revolution in the country will start from here leading the country to the path of export led growth and the real of prosperity.

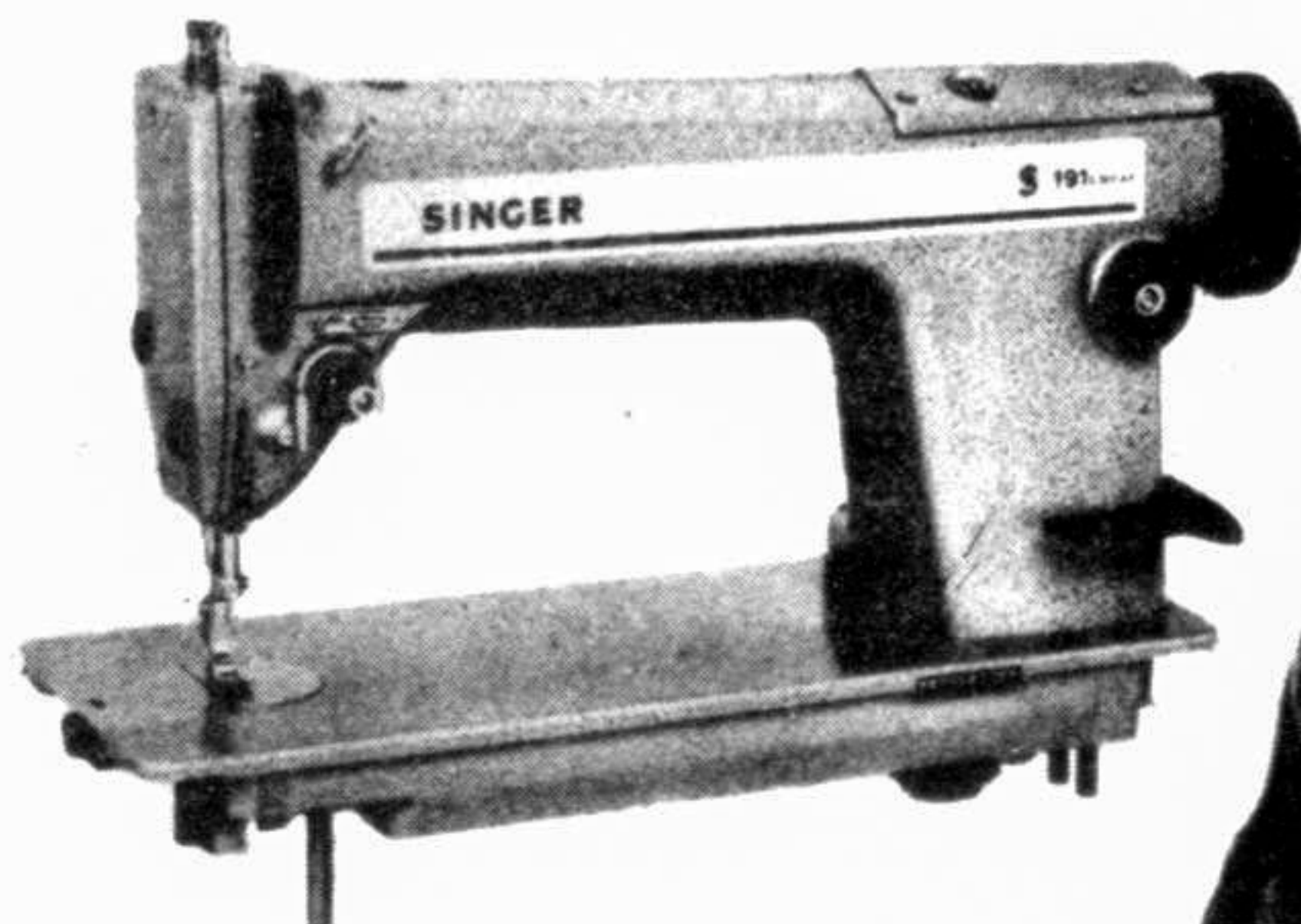
EXPORT TRADE OF BANGLADESH

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industries. Business like banking, insurance, freight, transport, hotels, shipping

etc. are growing at a fast rate due to the growth of garment industries. Above all the industry has opened up a vast market of approximately 650 million square meter of textile fabrics valued at about US\$ 600.00 million for our Textile Industry. It will not be out of place here to mention that our garment manufacturers have attained such expertise even now to help set up joint ventures garment manufacturing

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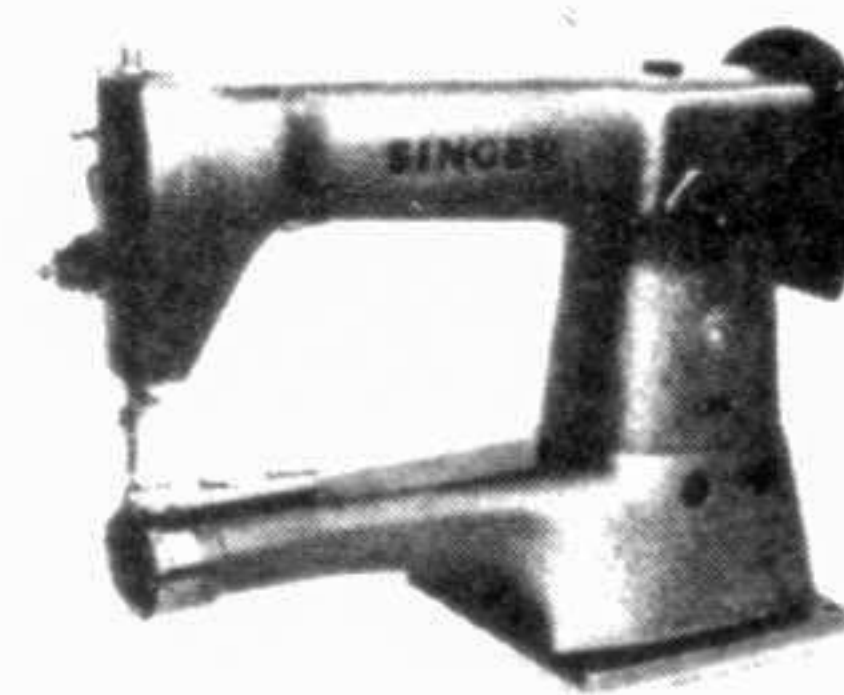
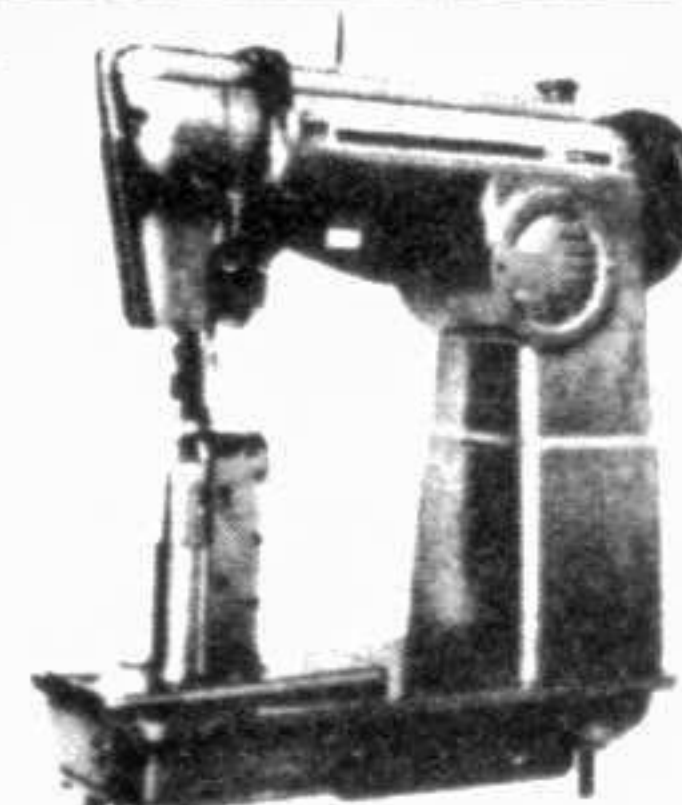
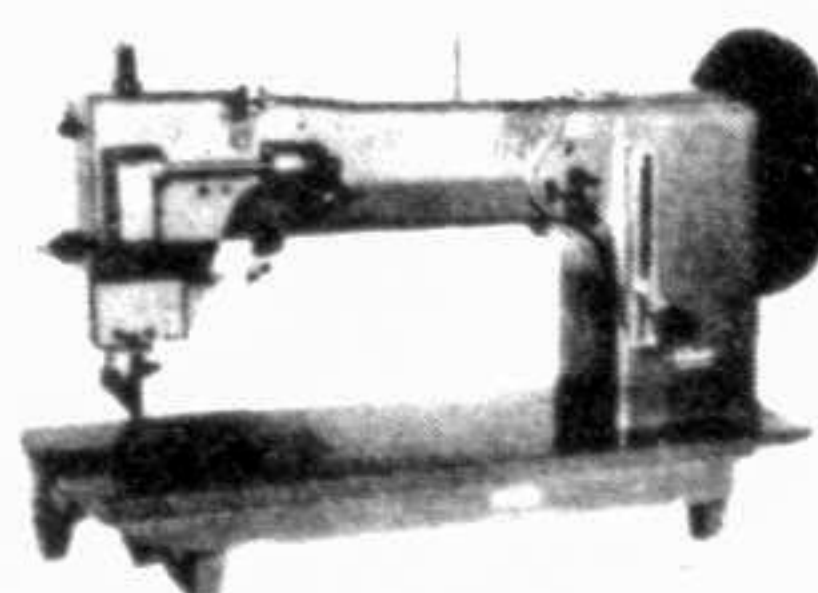
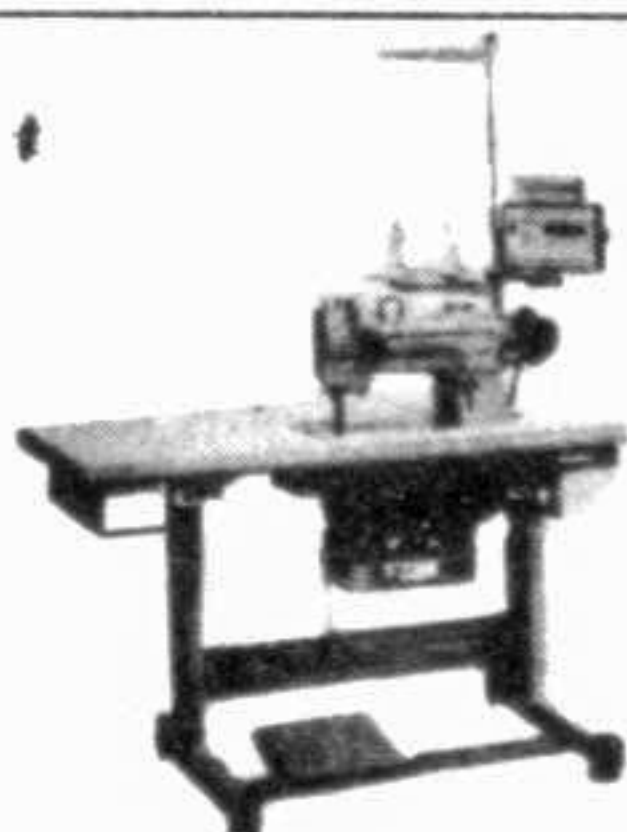
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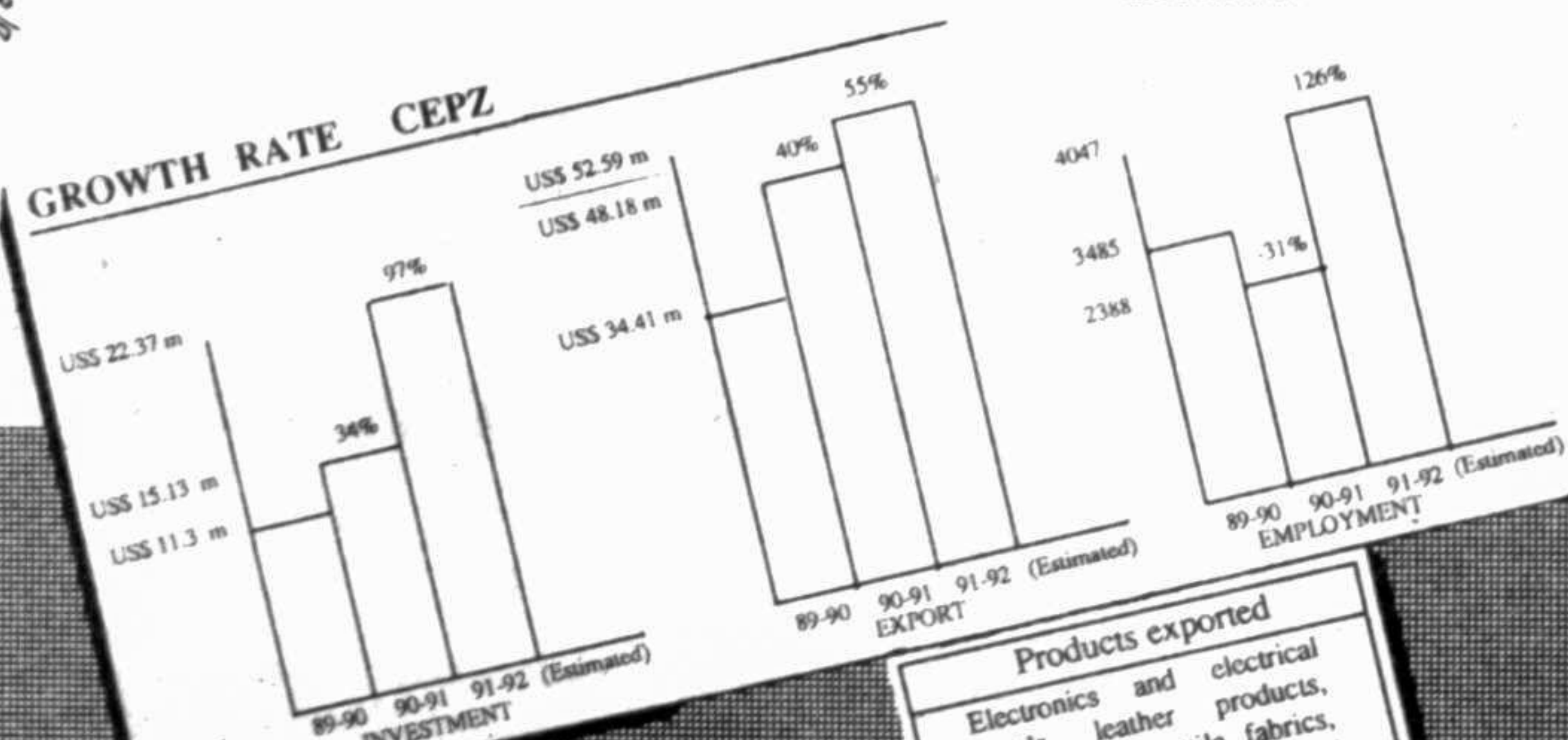
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