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## Making it Work : a Framework For Industrial Development Summary of Main Points, Press Release

The Workers Party

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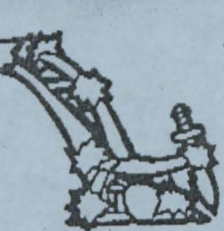
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# THE WORKERS' PARTY

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PRESS RELEASE

### MAKING IT WORK: A FRAMEWORK FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

#### SUMMARY OF MAIN POINTS

(1) An industrial policy capable of realising full employment in Ireland must be based on a core of exporting industries whose revenues are spent within the Irish economy, thereby supporting a comprehensive range of sub-supply industries and support services, in addition to general consumer-oriented industries and services.

(2) Foreign firms have very limited material or service linkages with the Irish economy, locate very few high-level technological or management functions here, and export most of their profits from Ireland. The potential for improving this situation is very limited.

(3) Native firms, for the most part, lack the organisational scale and technological base to successfully penetrate export markets on a sustained basis. Government policies which emphasise cost reductions fail to address these fundamental deficiencies.

(4) A much more interventionist policy is required which would focus on industrial sectors with export growth potential, and concentrate on developing strong Irish-based firms in these sectors, along with essential support firms producing material and service inputs.

(5) A concentrated and co-ordinated national effort is required in order to create the necessary industrial structures. Accordingly, the Workers' Party proposes the establishment of a NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (NIDC), comprising representatives of the Oireachtas and the social partners, in order to identify key sectoral objectives and obtain cross-community support for the achievement of these objectives. These objectives would constitute a NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, a rolling plan incorporating both long- and medium-term objectives, updated on a continuing basis.

(6) A NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD (NIDB) would also be established to bring together the wide range of existing state-run industrial promotion agencies into a single rationalised structure, pursuing common goals as identified by the NIDC.

(7) A set of EXECUTIVE TASK FORCES (ETFs) would be formed from personnel from the different divisions of the NIDB. Each task force would have responsibility for a particular high-priority sector identified in the National Plan, and would have a high level of executive independence in pursuing the sectoral targets laid down in the Plan.



(8) State support for individual firms would take the form of loans, shareholdings, and charges for services, in place of the free handouts which are emphasised in current government policies. In addition, the state would seek to acquire strategic shareholdings in key firms, in order to secure a strong influence in the investment decisions of these firms.

(9) Both state-owned and private sectors would have major roles to play in achieving the targets of the National Plan. However, because of the superior financial, technological and organisational resources of the more successful state enterprises, these would be expected to play a particularly central role in this respect. Flexible structures to facilitate joint ventures and other links both within the state-owned sector and between state and private firms are also necessary.

(10) In order to improve the efficiency of the state commercial sector, bureaucratic and political interference would be minimised. An independent commission would make appointments to the boards of state enterprises. Hidden subsidies within the state sector would be brought into the open and paid for by exchequer grant. Management structures would be professionalised, open promotion on merit would be universalised, and worker participation would be strengthened.

(11) The cost effectiveness of industrial policy measures and procedures would be monitored on an ongoing basis. Civil service procedures would be streamlined in order to improve operational efficiency.

(12) The attention of the Oireachtas would be more strongly directed towards national policy issues through an extensive programme of decentralisation of functions and powers to local and regional authorities. A regional input into national policy formulation would be facilitated through a NATIONAL COUNCIL OF REGIONAL AUTHORITIES which would liaise with the National Industrial Development Council.

(13) The commitment of workers to the aims of national industrial development would be promoted through a programme to extend worker ownership and participation throughout the private sector.

(14) An EC COMMON INDUSTRIAL POLICY would be sought to co-ordinate EC policies for industrial development, to place greater emphasis on strengthening the industrial structures of the EC's peripheral regions, and to secure greater funding for industrial promotion within the Community.