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Profile of the Jamaica Industrial Development Corporation

By R. A. Carey, Secretary

Jamaica since 1950: Progress

Jamaica has made significant progress in its industrial development programme. Traditionally it has been an agricultural country dependent on the output of bananas, sugar and citrus, and to a lesser extent coffee, cocoa and pimento, but a great change has occurred in its economy over the past two decades.

In 1950 the manufacturing sector contributed only £7.9 million¹ to the gross domestic product, but by 1956 this contribution had increased to £20.7 million. By 1960 the manufacturing output surpassed that of agriculture, having contributed £30.8 million to the gross domestic product; and since 1963 it has become the largest contributor to the gross domestic product, exceeding that of agriculture, mining, construction and distribution.

Expansion has also occurred in the mining industry, and today Jamaica leads the world in the production of bauxite and alumina. The tourist trade has also been of great importance to the economy. Over all, the economy has been expanding at a relatively rapid rate; gross domestic product, which amounted to £272.1 million in 1964 increased to £292.4 million in 1965, representing an increase of approximately 7.5 per cent.

The Impetus to Industrialize

The growth achieved in the manufacturing sector is related to the efforts of the Jamaica Industrial Development Corporation (JIDC), a statutory body which was established in 1952 to stimulate, facilitate and undertake the establishment of industry within the island. To encourage investment, the Corporation launched and now administers certain incentive laws, namely, the Pioneer Industry Encouragement Law, the Industrial Incentives Law (which now supersedes the Pioneer Industry Encouragement Law), the Export Industry Encouragement Law, the Hotels Aid Law and the Industrial Incentives (Factory Construction) Law.

From 1950 to September 1966, 147 factories have gone into operation under these incentive laws. Of this number, 27 commenced production during 1965. The rate of factory establishment has been gratifying; up to the end of September, 23 new factories had commenced production during 1966. The comparable figure for the previous year was 19.

JIDC provides industrial services

As a result of rapid expansion of the industrial complex, and in order to assist prospective investors, both local and overseas, JIDC found it necessary to provide certain services to enable industry to operate more efficiently and

effectively. The services provided are industrial engineering, cost accounting, trade promotion and management training. Feasibility studies and market surveys are also undertaken.

Services covered in industrial engineering include assistance in plant layouts, production control, material utilization, training of operatives, redesigning, time study, special industry investigations, quality control and safety.

Cost accounting services include assistance in the establishment of cost systems, cost surveys, inventory control, accounting systems, financial analysis and incentive schemes.

Trade promotion services include assistance to exporters in finding overseas markets for their manufactured products; the organization and promotion of trade missions and trade fairs with the object of selling Jamaica as a supplier of manufactured goods; and processed and semi-processed raw materials.

With respect to assistance in the field of training, "training within industry" courses are conducted for supervisors and foremen at the supervisory level. Management training at a higher level is also given through seminars and study groups.

The drive to secure new industries for Jamaica is spearheaded by the Promotions Department of JIDC, whose main task is to assist the investor to bring his project to fruition.

Plans are being formulated for the establishment of a Productivity Centre under the auspices of the United Nations.

The JIDC also administers an industrial estate consisting of 310 acres of land, in the western section of Jamaica's capital, Kingston. On this site 49 enterprises are at present situated.

However, considerable emphasis is being placed on the geographic decentralization of factories, with additional incentives being contemplated for enterprises located in rural areas. There are now twenty-two of these in operation, with a further eight envisaged in the near future. Ten are in the parish of St. Catherine, with another four, including a steel mill and a polish factory, scheduled to begin production later this year; a telephone equipment assembly plant, a hosiery factory and a coir pad factory are already in operation in St. Thomas, with a tyre and tube factory scheduled to go into production soon. A drug factory is now under construction in Montego Bay, and a confectionery and packaged food plant in St. Mary.

The Corporation's sources of revenue include government grants; allocations from loan funds; loan repayments and interest on loans previously made by the Corporation; income from the lease of factory buildings; and borrowing.

JIDC, however, does not directly finance industry. This function is now undertaken by the Development Finance

¹ £1 is equivalent to \$US 2.80.

Corporation, a statutory corporation set up by the Government. Investment by JIDC is now limited to the erection of factory buildings for lease or sale to investors.

Staffing and offices

The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Corporation are appointed by the Minister of Trade and Industry, under whose portfolio the subject of industrial development falls.

The listing of principal officers, includes:

- (a) Director of Development, who is the Chief Executive;
- (b) Secretary;
- (c) Legal Adviser;
- (d) Director of Economic Research—Economics Department;
- (e) Chief Promotions Officer — Promotions Department;

- (f) Director of Industrial Services—Industrial Services Department;
- (g) Director of Training—Management Training Department;
- (h) Manager of Lands and Buildings—Industrial Lands and Buildings Department;
- (i) Chief Accountant—Finance Department.

In addition, besides its supporting staff, JIDC has more than twenty-eight officers in the fields of engineering, economics, trade, research and training.

The Corporation maintains branch offices in London (6-10 Bruton Street); in New York City (Pan American Building, 200 Park Avenue); and in Canada (Board of Trade Building, 11 Adelaide Street, West, Toronto 1, Ontario).

During 1965, the facilities in New York were further augmented by the establishment of a Permanent Trade Centre in which Jamaican-made goods are on display and through which Jamaica's export drive is stimulated.



Figure I. Sugar-mill rollers being exported to South America.



Figure II. Work in a garment manufacturing factory.

Men in Research

Sir William Rushton Black

**Chairman
National Research
Development Corporation
London, England**



William Rushton Black is a notable example of the British-trained man who has moved from engineering into the top rank of industrial management. He was born at Barrow-in-Furness and educated at Barrow Secondary School.

In 1908 Sir William began what was to be a life-long connexion with the automotive industry. After serving as an engineering apprentice at the Barrow Works of Vickers Limited, he was transferred in 1920 to the Head Office as a technical officer. Four years later he was appointed works manager of the Vickers factory at Crayford.

Appointment to executive positions in various automotive companies followed in regular succession. Sir William became Director of Leyland Motors Limited in 1962 after the merger of that company with Associated Commercial Vehicles Limited, and was subsequently elected Deputy Chairman of Leyland Motor Corporation Ltd. in 1963. Later that year, he assumed the chairmanship of that Corporation, a position he holds today.

Throughout his business career Sir William has devoted time to various industrial and trade groups, such as the National Advisory Council for the Motor Industry, and the Motor Industry Research Association.

He was appointed Chairman of the National Research Development Corporation in 1957 and has played a guiding role in its expanding activities. Sir William was knighted in 1958.

Josef Dittert

**General Manager
Mechanical Engineering
Technology and
Economic Research Institute
Prague, Czechoslovakia**



Josef Dittert entered the Mechanical Engineering Faculty of the Czech Technical College in Prague as a student in

1939. He was able to complete his studies following the end of World War II: he obtained a diploma in engineering after undertaking specialized training in the field of economics and industrial management. After his university training, he was associated with the electrical engineering industry, both in investment and management.

Mr. Dittert's study in 1952 of conditions in plants in the Soviet Union brought about his re-orientation from the sphere of industrial production to economic research, organization and management of the mechanical engineering industry. He took an active role in organizing conferences in this area, lectured at the Engineering and Economic Faculty of the Czech Technical College in Prague, and was appointed to several Government commissions concerned with economics and industrial management.

In 1958, Mr. Dittert became Deputy Manager of a machine tool enterprise and five years later represented the Czechoslovak industry at the XIIIth Congress of the International Committee on Scientific Management (CIOS) in New York.

In 1964, Josef Dittert was appointed General Manager of the Mechanical Engineering Technology and Economic Research Institute in Prague, a position he holds today. He participated in the United Nations Interregional Seminar on Industrial Research and Development Institutes in Developing Countries, and in 1965 was elected to the Praesidium of the Czechoslovak Committee for Scientific Management.

His writings include a report on industrial research in Czechoslovakia, published in summary form by the United Nations, and a textbook on the organization and management of the engineering industry, to be published shortly.

Manuel Noriega Morales

**Director
Instituto Centroamericano
de Investigacion y Tecnologia
Industrial (ICAITI)
Guatemala City, Guatemala**



Manuel Noriega Morales is a graduate of the Universidad San Carlos de Guatemala in Guatemala City, where he earned the degrees of Public Accountant and Auditor and a Ph.D. in economics. Later, he travelled to the United States to study at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he received a master's degree in public administration.

Dr. Morales has taken an active part in the public life of his country and was appointed Minister of Economy and Labour in 1945-1946 and again in 1949-1950. One of the founders of the Bank of Guatemala, he served as its President for eight years. In addition to his other responsibilities, he frequently lectures in economics and finance at the Universidad San Carlos de Guatemala.

On the international scene, Dr. Morales has represented Guatemala on the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund and the Inter-American Development Bank, and was a member of the "Committee of Nine" in Washington, D.C. He has attended numerous international conferences, among them the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire in 1944; the 1945 United Nations Conference on International Organization, San Francisco, California; and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment held in Havana, Cuba, in 1947-1948.

Dr. Morales has served since 1964 as Director of ICAITI. This Institute is assisted substantively by the United Nations Centre for Industrial Development, and financed by the countries of Central America which the Institute serves and the United Nations Development Programme.

B. C. Sekhar

**Director
Rubber Research Institute
of Malaya
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**



B. C. Sekhar, the first Malaysian to hold the post of Director of the Rubber Research Institute of Malaya, earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of New Delhi, India, in 1949 and joined the Institute in the same year as an assistant chemist.

In 1953 he was awarded a United States Information Service grant for post-graduate study at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where he obtained a master's degree in polymer chemistry in 1954. After graduation, he worked for a five-month period at the Natural Rubber Producers' Association Laboratories, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, England, under Dr. L. Bateman, who was then Director.

Upon his return to Malaysia, he was appointed a Research Officer in the Rubber Research Institute, and in January 1956 received a promotion to Senior Research Officer. In this capacity he formed and directed a group within the Chemical Division in polymer research related to rubber, including physico-chemical changes, oxidation, oil extension and modified rubbers.

¹ Composed of representatives from the United States and Latin American countries. The purpose of the Committee was to evaluate the economic and social development plans of the countries concerned.

When Mr. Sekhar was appointed Head of the Institute's Chemical Division in 1964, he became the first Malaysian to hold this position. Under his leadership, the Division developed to a commercial stage the Heveacrum process for the production of rapidly drying rubber.

In addition to representing both the Institute and the industry at numerous national and international conferences, Mr. Sekhar is a fellow of the Royal Institute, fellow of the Institute of the Rubber Industry, and author or co-author of a number of patented applications, among them the Heveacrum process and the Styrene-Acrylonitrile Rubber scheme.

Mohamed Shafqat Husain Siddiqi



**Chairman
Pakistan Council of Scientific
and Industrial Research
Karachi, Pakistan**

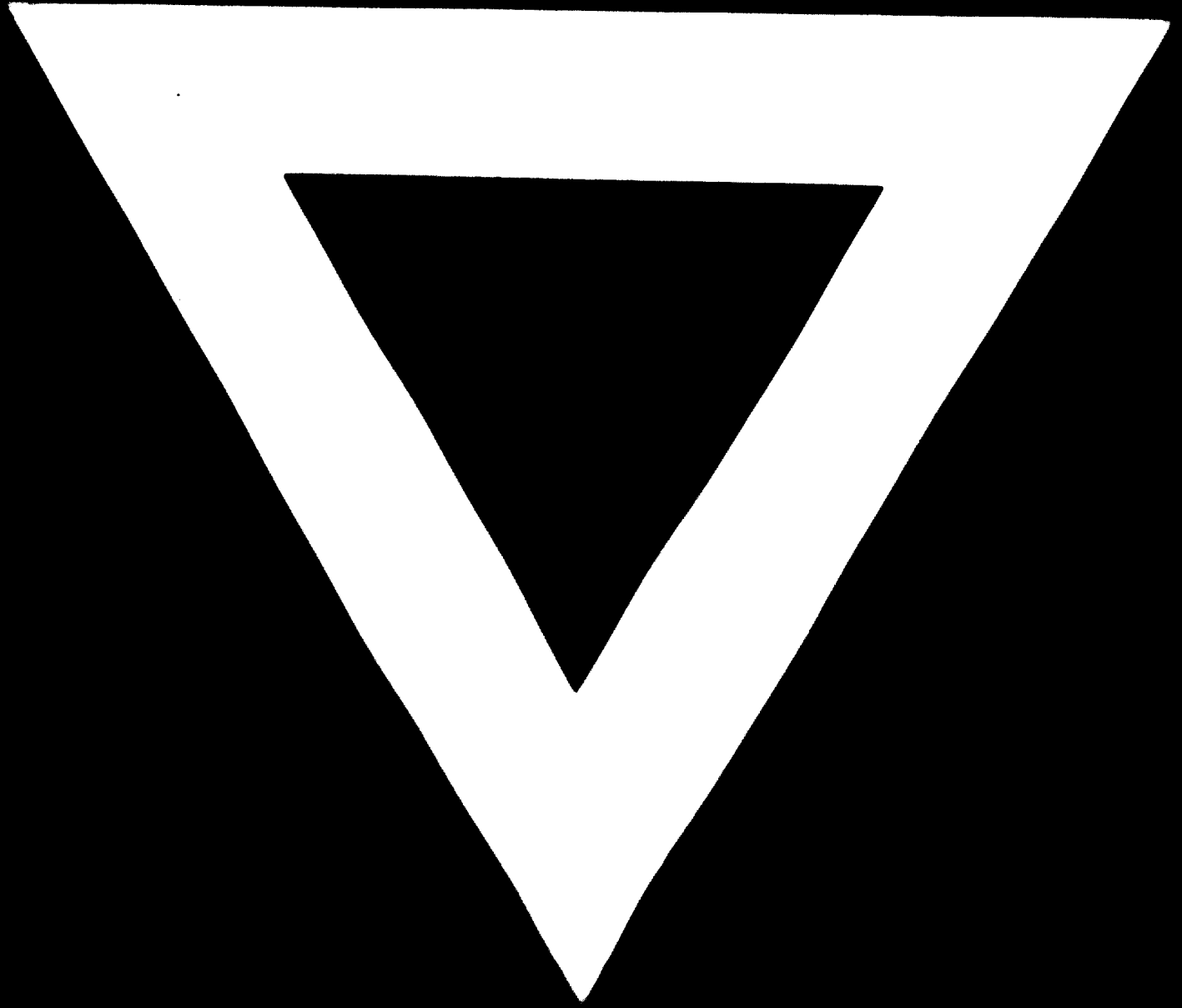
M. S. H. Siddiqi received his early education at Hyderabad Deccan and obtained both his bachelor and master of science degrees in chemistry at Osmania University, where he was awarded the Sir Akbar Hydari Gold Medal for outstanding scholarship. After serving as a lecturer in chemistry at Osmania, he went to the United States as a Central Government Scholar to pursue advanced studies at the University of Chicago, in Chicago, Illinois. He earned a doctorate in chemistry in 1951.

In 1953, Dr. Siddiqi returned to Pakistan to join the University of Peshawar as Head of the Department of Chemistry, where he remained until August 1965. During this period, from 1960 to 1961, he also served as Deputy Chief of Higher Education in the Education Commission's Reforms Implementation Unit of the Ministry of Education, Pakistan.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) borrowed Dr. Siddiqi's services from September 1965 as Director of their project for developing a unique method of teaching chemistry in Asia.

Dr. Siddiqi has substantially contributed to the field of scientific research and science education in Pakistan. He has frequently represented Pakistan at international scientific and technical conferences in Moscow, New York, Buenos Aires and Tehran. In recognition of his meritorious service in the field of chemistry, he has been honoured by scientific institutions in a number of countries. These include the Theodore Heuss Medal of the Federal Republic of Germany; the election as a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chemistry, London; and a membership in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Chemical Society and the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission.

Early in 1966, Dr. Siddiqi was appointed Chairman of the Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in Karachi.



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