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**PRESENT STATUS AND FUTURE PLANS OF THE
PLASTICS INDUSTRY IN GUYANA**

by

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We regret that some of the pages in the microfiche copy of this report may not be up to the proper legibility standards, even though the best possible copy was used for preparing the master fiche.

Today, speaking in the terms of magnitude of the industry in its current state, in terms of plastic, one must think of three major and two minor industries. The major plastic factories in the current state of manufacturing, specialise in injection moulding, blow compression and extrusion, thermoforming film sheet which is mainly used for the making of plastic bags for the display of local produce and reinforced plastics, G.R.P. which is very light, durable and astonishingly tough constructional material that can be fabricated into all manner of products.

In dealing with the whole family of plastics, I am prepared to examine in subsequent relation, the investment and production in Guyana. First of all, our population is just over 800,000 and with five plastic factories operating, there is very keen competition. Not only in Guyana but also in the entire Caribbean and other foreign markets where trade can be captured.

As regards to production and the type of materials used, it is very difficult to secure correct information from these firms. However, through investigation I have been able to determine and accumulate the following information that is very close and factual to what I am prepared to present. This picture is as close to reality as possible.

First of all, a paper has already been submitted by Guyana Plastic and Marine Works. Added to that I would like to mention that 15 years of service has already been given to this country by Guyana Plastic and Marine Works which is the oldest existing firm in plastics in Guyana. Today, with

an investment of over \$150,000.00 there is still need for added capital.

At present, Government is desperately in need of fishing and shrimping trawlers. They, having reviewed their economic condition in this field of fishing and shrimping, has decided to invest on their own. Today Government is purchasing trawlers from other countries. These trawlers can be made locally by our Firm but the conditions under which they are purchased makes it very difficult for us to compete with. They have secured trawlers under conditions that they pay as they earn and we, as a small Company, or even the combined Plastic Industry in Guyana, cannot offer such fantastic conditions.

The next plastic factory which is the Swan Thermo-Plastic Limited commenced operations in 1966. This Company with its background in the manufacturing of consumers soap, as well as liquid detergent, had found it necessary to bring a Blow Moulding Machine for the purpose of manufacturing their own plastic bottles to market their products. But having used those machines for only a short period of time, realises that it would have had to be shelved until their stocks were exhausted. Subsequently, they have secured the duties of a chemical technologist from England and with his help, they have grown into quite a progressive industry.

Utilizing those same machines they are at present manufacturing tea-cups and saucers, plastic cups, buckets, bowls, jars, jerry-cans, etc. Today, they are using compression injection and blow moulding.

Their source of materials are at present the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Japan, Germany and Mexico. Their annual importation of raw materials is in the vicinity of 80 tons. Their export trade they claim, have exceeded \$80,000.00 and they are hoping to capture a foreseeable market of \$150,000.00. The money invested by this Firm is in the vicinity of

\$200,000.00. That is mainly due to the type of machines used for production.

Another investment in plastic is by the National Plastic Company Limited. They are concerned strictly in extrusion moulding and are confined to the manufacture of polyethylene bags for the purpose of food displays. They have been in existence for approximately four years. Of late, due to certain pressure exerted on them they were inclined to shift their manufacturing to neighbouring Surinam. However, they are still producing in Guyana. Their export trade should be in the vicinity of \$30,000.00 per annum and their investment \$80,000.00.

Next lies the Guyana Plastic and Processing Company. This factory consists of workers and investors from England. They have been encouraged by the present Government to invest in Guyana. Since their commencement, Government has banned the importation of plastic flowers with the hope that this firm would be able to produce them, but up to the present time no substantial progress has been made. Their investment in capital should be in the vicinity of \$30,000.00. This investment is made up of re-conditioned machines, but due to the lack of proper technologists, they have been unable to make much headway in Guyana. Their main product is polyethylene bags for the display of local foodstuffs. Today, efforts are being made by them to improve their range of production. However, this is left to be seen.

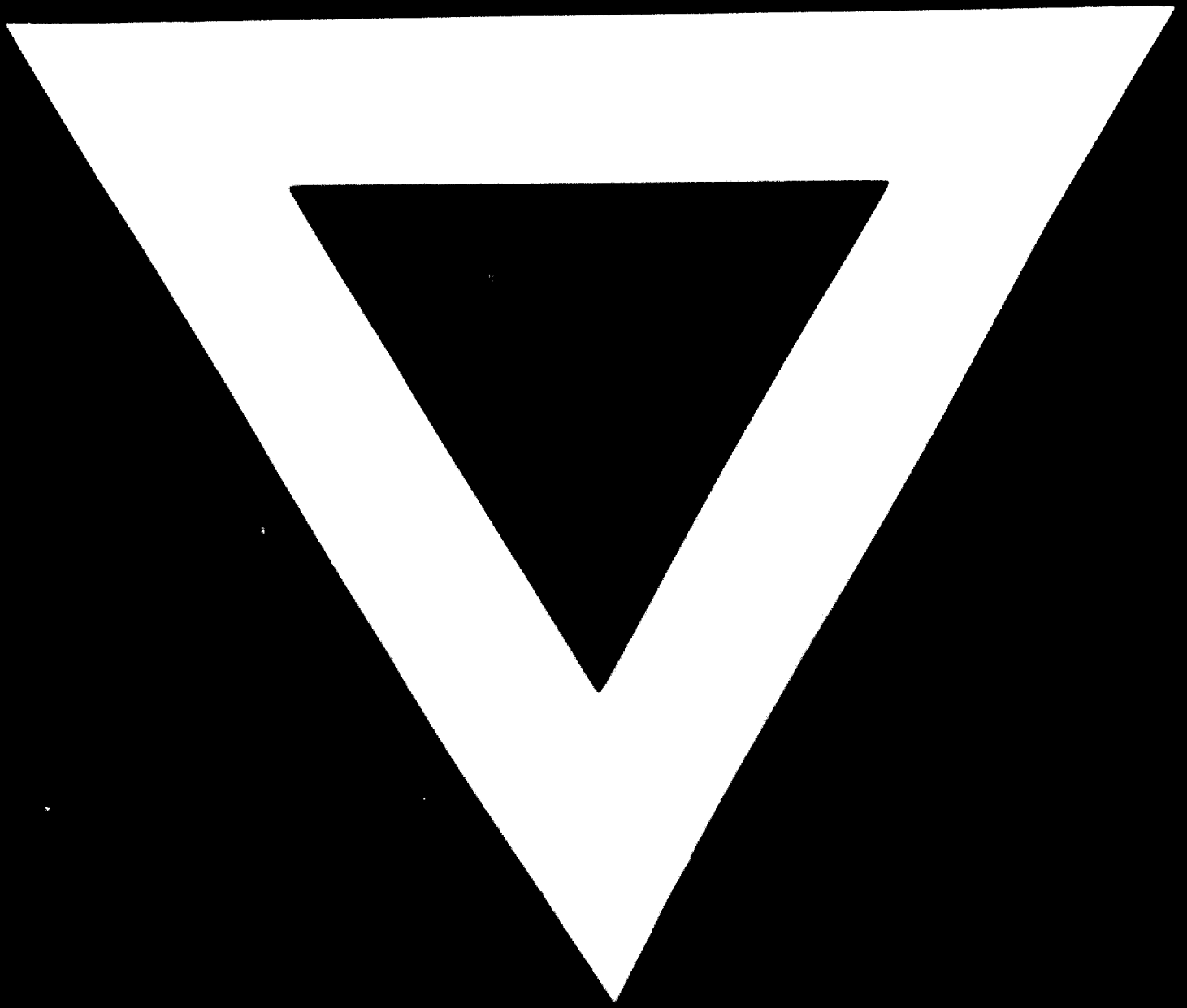
Next lies the United Plastic Works. This Company was formed when the former Production Manager from Guyana Plastic and Marine Works was encouraged by local investors to start a new factory. They have followed the exact routine and principle carried on at Guyana Plastic and Marine Works. They have started and have been producing for a matter of 18 months. Their investment is in the vicinity of \$10,000.00 and their sales are approximately \$15,000.00 per annum.

Their main product is plastic chairs. This being, that the investors which have teamed up with this worker, have been producing metal chairs for the last eight years. But today, with the heavy influx of Carifta furnitures in the country and the cost of which they are imported for, it may be difficult for them to continue along these lines.

In the entire Plastic Industry in Guyana and even the Caribbean, the centre of existence lies with the co-operation of the respective Governments. Up to the present, although plastics are manufactured throughout the Caribbean and likely with the incitement of closer relations with Cuba it means that for the Plastic Industry to survive, Government must ban the importation from countries like Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, and Japan. Closer co-operation and co-ordination with neighbouring countries, even America, would greatly help to improve future prospects in this industry.

Today, with our Government demanding 51% of all Foreign Investment, acts as a wet blanket to the future of all industries in Guyana. Still, if countries, capitalists or individuals are prepared to invest in Guyana, the field is wide open and the prospects are still good.





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