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To: Members of the Cocoa Research
Sub-Committee

From: E.T. Beauchamp

9th May 1996

Cocoa Prospecting in Guyana

We have already agreed to contribute £5,000 to the team at the University of the West of England, led by Dr. Mark Johnston, who will be exploring for cocoa in Guyana later this year.

I have now received from Dr. Johnston the enclosed outline of their intended activities in Guyana this summer.

There will of course be an opportunity to discuss this at the next meeting of the Cocoa Research Sub-Committee on 30th May.

Biscuit, Cake, Chocolate & Confectionery Alliance

and

University of the West of England

Guyana Cocoa 1996

During July to September 1996 investigations will continue for the development of cocoa research in Guyana. Activities will be undertaken by Dr Mark Johnston in Georgetown, and students visiting localities in the interior; activities which support and build upon the findings of Watkins *et al.* 1996.

The objectives of these activities being:

- to continue the strengthening of institutional links between the UK and Guyanese authorities for cocoa research in Guyana;
- to discuss with the Ministry of Agriculture specifics concerning the exportation of cocoa material for genetic research at the University of Reading;
- to facilitate the training of Guyanese personnel in the curation of cocoa at the IICA Cocoa Germplasm Bank at Timehri;
- to document in further detail the cocoa collections at Timehri, including the permanent tagging of trees, production of a photographic library and the collection of leaf material for genetic finger printing analysis.
- to, where possible, collect leaf material from localities surrounding Georgetown including Kurupukari and Canal no.1.

Time will also be spent in Trinidad at the Cocoa Research Unit. The visit objective being to discuss the development of the long -term research proposal for comparative studies, and the transfer of skills in germplasm technique, for the documentation and conservation of Guyanese cocoa. A long-term proposal currently being submitted to the EU RTD workprogramme for Cooperation with Third Countries and International Organizations. The objectives of this proposal being:

1. to facilitate transferable skills and technology to Guyanese and Trinidadian institutions for;
 - i. the collection of germplasm material in the conservation of native crop species;
 - ii. the curation and maintenance of germplasm material;