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Extract from Minutes of BATCo Management Board
meeting held on 29th September and 2nd October, 1980.

H.53 R&D PROGRESS AND POLICY

A conference of CAC companies showed a high level of commitment to the GR&DC programme. The conference agreed that GR&DC should concentrate on innovative research which companies might be able to develop commercially in the 1980s and 1990s.

Dr. Blackman reviewed current progress and policy and the following are some of the points that arose:-

- Despite recent references to toxicity of nicotine, the concept of high nicotine/low tar was not seen to be prejudiced.
- The importance of maintaining biological research was agreed.
- Filter work will concentrate on innovation. Polypropylene filters are looking increasingly promising.
- Nitrosamines are not yet a serious problem but trouble is being anticipated in the areas of sidestream and passive smoking.

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- Reduction of sidestream is being studied.
- Smoke retention is concentrating on a reduction in tar retained in the body.
- Smoking compensation, and why people smoke at all, is under study.
- Flavour research is more important as deliveries reduce.
- The leaf and primary research programmes have started in Brazil.
- The Southampton Diet plant is successful but urgent consideration will be given to more economical operation and the design of different size plants with lower unit capital costs. An external consultant may be helpful.
- Secondary automation, to raise product quality and machinery utilisation, is progressing and is well supported by CAC companies.
- Interbat, GR&DC computerised information handling, is now available to operating companies. Extension to S&H data, patents and progress reports is planned.
- Action is being taken to widen the career paths of management in GR&DC.
- Of the budgeted net expenditure of £6.3 million in 1980, the levy allocation is £4.7 million or 75%. Millbank's contribution is forecast to increase unless the levy at least matches UK inflation. An increase in the levy will be considered at the next TCAC. Countries unable to contribute should be charged as much as the market can bear for specific developments e.g. Delta.
- A three year budget will be prepared for presentation to EMB in November.

It is intended in future to make periodic presentations of recent R&D developments. A team from GR&DC made presentations of two developments involving the use of a cheap computerised system for (a) the Delta method for the subjective assessment of low delivery products, and (b) cigarette design.

(Mr. R. J. Pritchard)

(Dr. L. C. F. Blackman)

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