

9-17-2015

## RG 11.2 Social Action Center, Jamaica

New England Jesuit Province Archives

New England Province of the Society of Jesus

Social Action Center, Jamaica

Follow this and additional works at: [http://crossworks.holycross.edu/findaid\\_nen\\_rg](http://crossworks.holycross.edu/findaid_nen_rg)

---

### Recommended Citation

New England Jesuit Province Archives; New England Province of the Society of Jesus; and Social Action Center, Jamaica, "RG 11.2 Social Action Center, Jamaica" (2015). *Finding Aids, Record Groups*. Paper 20.  
[http://crossworks.holycross.edu/findaid\\_nen\\_rg/20](http://crossworks.holycross.edu/findaid_nen_rg/20)

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by the New England Jesuit Province Archives at CrossWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Finding Aids, Record Groups by an authorized administrator of CrossWorks.

## New England Jesuit Archives Series Description



**Record Group:** 11.2, Records of Jamaica Mission / Region, Special Collections

**Series Name:** Social Action Center (SAC), 1959-1998

**Dates of Collection:** Inclusive: 1959-1998, Bulk: 1970s

**Size of Collection:** 7.75 linear feet, 15-5" boxes + 1-2.5" box = 16 boxes

### Historical Background:

The following historical sketch was based on a 1970s Social Action Center brochure and a first draft of "The Social Action Centre Story, 1958-1998" by Horace Levy.

The Social Action Centre was established in 1958 as the St. George's College Extension School Cooperative Department in a large old residence at 2 Olivier Road, in a suburban area of Kingston, Jamaica. The Social Action Center was a work of the Jesuit Mission in Jamaica. In 1965 two new buildings were added to provide additional facilities for training. In 1975, SAC was separately incorporated as SAC Limited, although the Jesuits continued on the staff and leased the facility to SAC Limited for a short time. At the end of 1976, SAC Ltd. offices relocated to rented quarters on Central Avenue in Kingston. The Olivier Road facility, also known as Manresa House, was sold by the Jesuits in 1988. SAC Ltd. closed the Kingston office in 1998 and moved the central office to Sav-la-mar.

The fundamental aim of the Social Action Center (SAC) was to promote community development in Jamaica through self-help programs. SAC grew out of the cooperative credit union work of Rev. John P. Sullivan, S.J., who was the founding director of SAC. The history of the Social Action Center falls into three periods that overlap somewhat:

1. 1958-1975: the Jesuit years – credit unions, housing cooperatives and social consciousness-raising;
2. 1973-1983: sugar worker cooperatives and media thrust; and
3. 1982-1998: trade union struggle, management training, community associations and public policy initiatives.

Initially, SAC's principal concentration was the promotion of credit unions and other cooperatives. The work involved conducting courses at St. George's Extension School, compiling training material and holding training days, monitoring registered credit unions, keeping in contact with international bodies and frequent field visits. SAC's founder and first director, Rev. John P. Sullivan, S.J., was well recognized for his pioneering work in cooperative credit unions in Jamaica and other parts of the English-speaking Caribbean. In 1961, Rev. Gerard Leo McLaughlin, S.J. joined the SAC staff. In addition to his work promoting credit unions, Fr. McLaughlin turned his attention to a new field in Jamaica: cooperative housing. In 1966, Fr. McLaughlin joined the board of the Mutual Housing Services, a part of the Jamaican government's Ministry of Housing. In 1966, Rev. Arthur W. Kane, S.J., an economist with interests in industrial and familial societies, also joined the staff. In 1967, Fr. Kane established a social leadership course and a family counseling centre. He also introduced the Cursillo program, an intensive three-day course employing group dynamics and focusing on the development of Christian social conscience, in Jamaica, and a similar program, called Search, for teenagers.

Many of the participants in these programs went on to work on community development throughout Jamaica. In 1969, Fr. Kane was appointed the Director of the Social Action Center. From 1971 until 1975, the Social Action Centre published *Justice* magazine. The staff of SAC were the main contributors. Besides Kane, McLaughlin and Sullivan, Jesuits Joseph Owens, James Schecher, Robert Stewart, Dan Mulvey and James Phillips contributed, as well as lay colleagues, Ronald Thwaites and Horace Levy (formerly a member of the New England Province, 1946-69), and others. The articles were serious theological pieces on a range of issues of national as well as religious interest at the time: socialism, politics, land reform and rural development, dangerous drugs, education, religious consciousness, family and population, illegitimacy and the church, cooperatives, and the legal system in Jamaica.

In 1973 SAC became involved with the Jamaican sugar workers. SAC assisted in forming housing cooperatives on the sugar cane estates and organizing the Sugar Workers Cooperative Council. Then, SAC became instrumental in education programs and media vehicles: press releases, radio broadcasts and various publications, for the sugar workers. Horace Levy, a SAC staff member at the time, describes the endeavor in the first draft of “The Social Action Center Story, 1958-1998” as follows:

“Work on the sugar worker cooperative began in 1973 while the Social Action Centre was still a Jesuit institution. The initiation of these cooperatives owes a great deal to the Jesuits, especially Joseph Owens. However, with this large and complex undertaking, absorbing for several years virtually all SAC energies, a new phase in its life rapidly took shape. Formalized in 1975, this was the secular phase of the organization, “secular” in the sense of a separation, not from Christian motives and ideals, but from oversight by clergy or the hierarchical church.

“SAC’s engagement with the sugar worker cooperatives, or rather the national and political implications of this engagement, spanned the moment of separation. They were indeed the main reason for the withdrawal of the Society of Jesus as an organization from the Centre, though Jesuits Owens and Schecher remained as individuals and continued as before to make significant contributions. This was a vital step, not appreciated at the time, in the development of civil society in Jamaica, with SAC for the moment as one of its leading representatives.”

Political, business and agricultural conditions adversely affected the sugar co-operatives which ultimately failed.

SAC was separately incorporated as SAC, Limited in 1975. Two of the factors behind the separate incorporation were 1) the desire of the Jesuits and the Roman Catholic Church to have their organizations become indigenous, “Jamaicanised”, rather than staffed and led by foreign priests, sisters, and brothers, and 2) the political involvement which SAC had taken on with the organizing of the sugar worker cooperatives. At the time of separate incorporation, Ronald Thwaites became the director. To quote Levy again:

“In both a real and symbolic way ... [a] transformation had occurred. From social arm of the Roman Catholic Church staffed by 3 or 4 Jesuit clergymen from the United States, SAC had become an independent NGO comprising 10 to 12 mostly lay activists, nearly all of Jamaican citizenship. Commitment to social justice through structural change remained, however.”

During the 1980s, SAC Ltd. was involved with trade unions and training programs focused on business management, financial accounting, and organizational development. In 1984, Horace Levy became the Director serving until 1994. For a short time in the late 1980s, SAC Ltd. provided a revolving loan fund for micro-size enterprises. Following that, SAC became involved with community development organizations. Between 1994 and 1998, SAC went through five short-term directors. In 1998, Matthias Brown became the Director as the Kingston office closed and Sav-la-mar became the central office. As of 2011, SAC continues to work with community associations.

## Scope and Content:

The collection consists of correspondence, training materials, financial information, sugar workers leases, media material (press releases, texts of radio broadcasts and speeches, publications), meeting minutes, reports, and subject files. Please note that reports may also be included with meeting minutes and subject files. A first draft of a history of SAC, *The Social Action Center Story*, 1959-1998, by a former director, Horace Levy, is also included. The records span 1959 to the early 1980s, and the overwhelming bulk are from the 1970s and related to the sugar workers cooperatives. The records are divided between historical material, records related to the sugar workers and records of other projects, such as, housing, legal aid, a multi-service center and vocational training centers. There are also a few files about the property at 2 Olivier Road.

## Collection Overview:

Series / Sub-series	Page in Box-Folder Listing
SAC History	page 1
SAC, Other than Sugar Workers	page 1
• Projects	
• Property	
• Publications	
• Reports	
SAC, Sugar Workers Cooperatives	pages 2-9
• Correspondence	• p. 1
• Education and Training	• p. 2
• Financial	• p. 3
• Leases	• p. 3
• Media: Press, Publications, Speeches	• p. 4
• Meetings	• p. 5
• Reports	• p. 5-7
• Subject Files	• p. 8-9

## Reference Documents Included in this finding aid:

Following the box-folder listing are:

1. A chronology of the Social Action Center, 1958-1980
2. A list of publications of the Social Action Center, 1970s
3. A list of abbreviations for organizations used in these records

**Processing Notes:**

These files were transferred from Jamaica to the New England Jesuit Archives in Worcester in 2003. Any established order to the files had been lost. The files have been arranged by document type. Within series, the files are arranged alphabetically or chronologically. **At this time, processing is incomplete because basic preservation work, such as housing in acid-free folders and removing metal fasteners has not been completed. The collection is well enough organized to be made available to researchers.** Most of the folders were in fairly good order, therefore, the contents have not been calendared. The order of documents in folders with an index card listing of contents was maintained. Any supplied folder titles or clarifying information in the box-folder listing are surrounded by square brackets, [ ] or parenthesis, ( ). Much of the spelling follows British usage, for example: organisation with a “s” and programme spelled with the “me” ending. Cooperative is spelled both with and without a hyphen. Many of the documents are undated, approximate dates, qualified by “circa”, were assigned based on information within the document. **Newspaper clippings have not been photocopied for preservation.**

**See also:**

RG 1 Records of the Provincial, Series 9, Missions and International Apostolates.

RG 11.1 Records of the Missions Offices, New England Jesuit Foreign Missions, Jamaica Mission, Works / Places Series, SAC.

RG 11.2 Jamaica Mission / Records, Superior’s Correspondence.

RG 11.2 Jamaica Mission / Records, Special Collections: John P. Sullivan and the Cooperative Credit Unions.

Province Authors Collection.

“The Jesuit Social Action Centre, Kingston, Jamaica 1958-1978”, Chapter 4, pages 18-26, in *Jesuitana Jamaica: Historical Profiles, 1937-1996* by Gerard L. McLaughlin, S.J.

“The Sugar Workers’ Cooperatives: An Experiment in Social Change 1974-1981”, Chapter 5, pages 27-32, in *Jesuitana Jamaica: Historical Profiles, 1937-1996* by Gerard L. McLaughlin, S.J.

**Access / Restrictions:** This collection is open to researchers.

**Cite As:** Social Action Center (SAC)

Record Group 11.2, Special Collections of the Jamaica Mission / Region  
Archives of the New England Province of the Society of Jesus  
College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

# Archives of the New England Province of the Society of Jesus

## Record Group 11.2, Jamaica Mission/Region Records and Special Collections

### Special Collection: Social Action Center (SAC)

1959-1998

7.75 linear feet, 15 – 5” boxes + 1 – 2.5” box

Folder Title	Dates	Box	Folder
--------------	-------	-----	--------

## HISTORY

The Social Action Center Story, 1959-1998, First Draft by Horace Levy. Later published as part of <i>Spitting in the Wind: Lessons in Empowerment from the Caribbean</i> , 2000	1998	1 – 5”	1
[Chronology, 1958-1980, and Publications List]	1980, circa	1	2

## SAC, OTHER THAN SUGAR WORKERS

### Projects:

[Course Descriptions]	1960s	1	3
Educational Activities of SAC and Prospectus for Course in Social Leadership, 1965-1966	1965	1	4
SAC Organization of Cooperative Housing Association	1964	1	5
Mutual Housing Services Limited	1968-1972	1	6
Forklift Operators Cooperative	1970	1	7
Central Village	1970-1976	1	8
Central Village, Citizen’s College	1980-1982	1	9
Legal Aid Clinic	1972, circa	1	10
Multi-Service Center	1975, circa	1	11
Trench Town Trade Training Center	1968-1972	1	12
[Seminar for Milk Producers and Processors Limited (Cheese Making)]	1982, July	1	13
[Survey of PFP (People for People) Project Members]	n.d.	1	14

### Property, 2 Olivier Road, Kingston:

[Renovations]	1964-1965	1	15
Property Tax, Ministry of Finance	1970-1974	1	16
Sale of Land	1988	1	17

### Publications:

Brochure	1970s	2 – 5”	1
Newsletters [issued irregularly]	1966-73	2	2
<i>Justice</i> Magazine, No. 1—15-16	1971-1975	2	3
<i>Poor People’s Law Journal</i> , Nos. 1-3. [Note in back of No. 1 that this is unrelated to the SAC publication <i>Justice</i> . There were only 3 issues, see Levy First Draft, SAC Story]	1975	2	4

### Reports:

Financial Reports	1959-1961	2	5
Activities, July 1 to December 31, 1966	1967, Jan. 15	2	6

# Archives of the New England Province of the Society of Jesus

## Record Group 11.2, Jamaica Mission/Region Records and Special Collections

### Special Collection: Social Action Center (SAC)

1959-1998

7.75 linear feet, 15 – 5” boxes + 1 – 2.5” box

Folder Title	Dates	Box	Folder
--------------	-------	-----	--------

## SAC, SUGAR WORKERS COOPERATIVES

### Correspondence, Sugar Workers:

Correspondence	1973-1975	2	7
Correspondence	1973-1976	2	8
Correspondence	1974-1976	2	9
Correspondence	1975-1980	2	10
Correspondence, Atherton Martin	1976	2	11
Correspondence, Fr. Daniel Mulvey, S.J.	1974	2	12
Correspondence, Tony Byrne, Misereor	1973-1975	2	13
Correspondence, Frome Monymusk Land Co. (FMLCo.)	1974-1975	2	14
Correspondence, Negotiations with ALCOA	1974-1975	2	15
Correspondence, Cooperative Department and Registrar of Cooperatives	1975	2	16
Correspondence, CEBEMO [Central Agency for Joint Financing Development Programmes, Holland]	1976	2	17

### Education and Training, Sugar Workers:

Accounting for Small Production Projects, Vol. 1-4, by James Schecher and Satish Sachdeva	1980, circa	3 – 5”	1
Basis, Purpose and Job Descriptions for Education Committees	1977, circa	3	2
Business Education	1980, circa	3	3
General Guidelines and Recommendations	1976, circa	3	4
[A Guide to Workers Education Programmes: Frome, Bernard Lodge, Gray’s Inn, Monymusk, National Sugar Company, Ltd.]	1977	3	5
Financial Education	1975-1980	3	6
Jamaican Slave History	1978, circa	3	7
Lesson Plans 1-17 and Readers, Books 1-4	1975, circa	3	8
Lesson Plans 17-23 and Readers, Books 5, and Rules	1975, circa	4 – 5”	1
[Ownership Game – Investment Deposit, USWCC]	1980, Dec.	4	2
Residential Committee Training Courses 1975 and USWCC Committee Training Course, 1976	1975-1976	4	3
Rules for a Co-op and Many Aspects of It (Committee’s Management Staff), Training Material	1975, circa	4	4

# Archives of the New England Province of the Society of Jesus

## Record Group 11.2, Jamaica Mission/Region Records and Special Collections

### Special Collection: Social Action Center (SAC)

1959-1998

7.75 linear feet, 15 – 5” boxes + 1 – 2.5” box

Folder Title	Dates	Box	Folder
<b>Education and Training, Sugar Workers:</b>			
Seminar on “Worker Participation”	1976	4	5
[Seminar on “Management and Development of Sugar Workers’ Co-operatives”]	1976	4	6
Seminars, Joint Co-operator / Staff, August 1980	1980, Aug.	4	7
Supplement II, Volume III, Revised Phase II	1975, circa	4	8
[Supplement III: Syllabus for Workers Education]	1975, circa	4	9
Surveys of Education Program	n.d.	4	10
Training Programs, Education Committee	1975	5 – 5”	1
What is a Cooperative? Definition in Pictures [Cartoons]	1975, circa	5	2
<b>Financial Files, Sugar Workers:</b>			
Viability	1974-1975	5	3
[Various Financial Reports]	1974-1976	5	4
SWCC Accounting Progress Report 1975-76 [Various Auditors Reports]	1975-1977	5	5
Moreland Sugar Workers Cooperative [Various Reports]	1975-1980	5	6
Budgets and Funding for Education Program	1975-1980	5	7
Frome 1977 Actual	1977	5	8
Sugar Finances	1977-1980	5	9
Bernard Lodge Financial Documents	1977-1981	5	10
[Various Auditors Reports]	1978	5	11
[USWCC Inter American Foundation Education Programme, Auditors Report]	1980	5	12
<b>Leases, Sugar Workers:</b>			
Estate Leases	1973-1975	6 – 5”	1
Lease Documents, Bernard Lodge	1975-1976	6	2
Lease Documents, Monymusk	1975-1976	6	3



# Archives of the New England Province of the Society of Jesus

## Record Group 11.2, Jamaica Mission/Region Records and Special Collections

### Special Collection: Social Action Center (SAC)

1959-1998

7.75 linear feet, 15 – 5” boxes + 1 – 2.5” box

Folder Title	Dates	Box	Folder
<b>Media, Sugar Workers:</b>			
<b>Press:</b>			
Press Releases	1974-1971	6	4
Radio Broadcasts	1976, circa	6	5
Radio Media Evaluation	1976	6	6
USWCC Press Statements and Broadcasts	1974-1979	6	7
News Releases and Varia	1981	6	8
Newspaper clippings	1972-1973	6	9
Newspaper clippings	1974	6	10
Newspaper clippings	1975	6	11
Newspaper clippings	1975-1977	7 – 5”	1
Newspaper clippings	1976	7	2
Newspaper clippings	1977	7	3
Newspaper clippings	1978	7	4
Newspaper clippings	1979	7	5
Newspaper clippings	1980-1981	7	6
Newspaper clippings	1981	7	7
Newspaper clippings	1981-1982	7	8
<b>Publications:</b>			
<i>Land for the People</i> , No. 1-7, Monymusk Workers Cooperative Cane Farming Association [MWCCFA]	1973	8 – 5”	1
<i>Landroom</i> , No. 1-21	1973-1975	8	2
<i>Landroom and Workers Time</i> [Note <i>Landroom</i> is followed by <i>Workers Time</i> , which begins with No. 22, August 20, 1975]	1973-1975	8	3
<i>SWCC News</i> [Sugar Workers Co-operative Council]	1974	8	4
<i>SWCC News</i>	1975	8	5
<i>SWCC Miscellaneous Bulletins</i>	1975, circa	8	6
<i>USWCC News Bulletin</i> , No. 1-21, [United Sugar Workers Co-operative Council]	1976-1978?	8	7
<i>The Vere Worker</i> [local newspaper]	1973	8	8
<i>Workers Time</i> : 1975, No. 3, 4, 7 and <i>Worker's Struggle</i> : Aug. 1975-Aug. 1976, No. 22-41, lacking 23,32,39 [Bulletins]	1975-1976	8	9
<i>Workers Time</i> : 1976, Vol. 1, No. 1 and 4	1976	8	10
Jamaican Sugar [Various publications]	1967-1976	8	11
<i>See: Education and Training Series for “textbook type” publications.</i>			
<b>Speeches and Addresses:</b>			
Speeches and Addresses	1975-1980	8	12

**Archives of the New England Province of the Society of Jesus**

**Record Group 11.2, Jamaica Mission/Region Records and Special Collections**

**Special Collection: Social Action Center (SAC)**

**1959-1998**

**7.75 linear feet, 15 – 5” boxes + 1 – 2.5” box**

Folder Title	Dates	Box	Folder
<b>Meetings, Minutes, Agendas, etc., Sugar Workers:</b>			
Bernard Lodge, Minutes of Meetings	1974-1980	9 – 5”	1
Frome/Monymusk – MWCCFA [Monymusk Workers Cooperative Cane Farming Association], Meetings and Minutes	1973	9	2
Frome Sugar Workers Co-operative Council and USWCC [United Sugar Workers Co-operative Council] , Minutes from Meetings	1975-1976	9	3
Monymusk, Minutes from Meetings	1976	9	4
USWCC, Meetings	1975-1976	9	5
USWCC, Board Minutes and Papers	1976	9	6
USWCC, Second Annual General Meeting	1978	9	7
USWCC, Agendas and Minutes of Education Committee Meetings	1976-1980	9	8
USWCC, Agendas and Minutes of Education Committee Meetings	1980-1981	10 – 5”	1
Minutes of Various Sugar Workers Co-operatives	1973-1974	10	2
Minutes of Various Sugar Workers Co-operatives	1978-1979	10	3
Minutes of Various Sugar Workers Co-operatives	1978-1981	10	4

**Reports, Sugar Workers:**

*Also see: Subject files for additional reports and supporting material*

Paper on Agriculture Development Strategy: Themes –Create Employment, –Improve Technology	1973	10	5
SAC [Community] Development Programme, Report on Feasibility Survey on Project No: 221-0/2 Z 1941, Fr. Tony Byrne, July-August, 1973	1973	10	6
Proposals and Reports on Co-op Development	1974-1975	10	7
Report on the Social Action Centre Project Among Sugar Workers in Westmoreland, Clarendon and St. Catherine, 1974, June 12	1974, June	10	8
Sugar Workers’ Council, Planning Team Report, 1974, June 21	1974, June	10	9
Report: Prime Minister’s Committee on Co-operative Development on the Frome, Monymusk and Bernard Lodge Estates	1975, circa	10	10
[Sugar Workers Co-op Reports]	1975-1976	10	11

# Archives of the New England Province of the Society of Jesus

## Record Group 11.2, Jamaica Mission/Region Records and Special Collections

### Special Collection: Social Action Center (SAC)

1959-1998

7.75 linear feet, 15 – 5” boxes + 1 – 2.5” box

Folder Title	Dates	Box	Folder
<b>Reports, Sugar Workers:</b>			
<i>Also see: Subject files for additional reports and supporting material</i>			
Progress Reports / Evaluations of Education Program	1975-1981	11 –5”	1
Phase II, Supplement I, Proposal to Misereor and I.A.F.	1975, circa	11	2
Some Issues Influencing the Manner in which Co-operative Education Officers Will Function on the Estates	1975, April	11	3
Co-operative Department: Proposals for the “Pre-Co-operative” Stage in the Development of Sugar Cane Co-operatives	1975, June	11	4
SAC [Community] Development Programme, Progress Report on Project No: 221-0/2 Z 1941, Fr. Tony Byrne, Fr. Jim Schecher, S.J., June 1975	1975, June	11	5
Areas for Collaboration Between SAC and the Sugar Workers Cooperatives	1976	11	6
Proposals for Education Program	1976, circa	11	7
Social Action Center [Progress Report after 5 months of separate incorporation]	1976, Jan.	11	8
Information for CEBEMO [Central Agency for Joint Financing Development Programmes, Holland]on Buff Bay Valley Community Development Project No.: Lx-2/229-01	1976, Jan.	11	9
Proposal to CEBEMO, Social Action Centre Public Interest & Research Centre	1976, March	11	10
USWCC: A Background & Proposal for Crop Lien Financing	1976, July	11	11
USWC Ltd.: Action Required to Implement the Resolutions of the Board Made 10 <sup>th</sup> August, 1976	1976. Aug.	11	12
Report on Coop Member Education Programme Carried Out by Social Action Centre in Conjunction with USWCC Member Services Department	1976, Nov.	11	13
The Development of the Sugar Co-operatives by E.B. Thompson, USWCC	1977, circa	11	14
Progress Report Social Action Center Community Development Programme	1977, April	11	15
Report on Member Service Operations ...by Central Education Committee	1977, June	11	16
Misereor’s Contribution to Jamaica Over the Years	1978, circa	11	17
Project Proposal: Audio-Visual Education Programme for Sugar Workers and Youth	1978, circa	11	18
Agricultural Reports for Bernard Lodge	1978-1981	11	19
Progress Report on Social Action Centre Grant No. 520-05-33 [CUSO: Canadian University Services Overseas] by Jim Schecher, April 1978	1978, April	11	20

# Archives of the New England Province of the Society of Jesus

## Record Group 11.2, Jamaica Mission/Region Records and Special Collections

### Special Collection: Social Action Center (SAC)

1959-1998

7.75 linear feet, 15 – 5” boxes + 1 – 2.5” box

Folder Title	Dates	Box	Folder
<b>Reports, Sugar Workers:</b>			
<i>Also see: Subject files for additional reports and supporting material</i>			
Sugar Co-operatives in Jamaica: Analysis and Recommendations	1979, circa	11	21
Preliminary Project for Research and Development on Participatory Forms of Production in Latin America and the Caribbean (A Project Presented to the Inter-American Foundation [IAF] ) by Juan Guillermo Espinosa, April 1979	1979, April	11	22
Progress Report on the Three Year Aid to a Cooperative Project of the Social Action Center in Jamaica, Project No. 221-0/2 C Z 2488, Misereor, Prepared by Jim Schecher, Dec. 24, 1979	1979, Dec.	11	23
The Role of O.D. [Organisational Development] in the Sugar Cooperatives Story: Birth, Life, Death, Resurrection	1980, circa	11	24
A Second Progress Report on the Organisational Development Programme for the Sugar Workers Cooperatives	1980, June	11	25
Proposal for Continuation of Project for Social Action Centre in Jamaica, Project No. 221-0/2 C Z 2488: Three Year Aid to a Cooperative Project of the Social Action Center in Jamaica	1980, June	11	26
Evaluation of the Three Year Aid to a Co-operative Project of the Social Action Center in Jamaica, September 1977 – September 1980, Project No. 221-0/2 C Z 2488, Funded by Miseror, Prepared by Carl Feuer, July 31, 1980	1980, July	12 – 5”	1
Booklet on Sugar Workers Cooperatives in Jamaica [Proposal]	1980, after	12	2
Final Report on Organisation Development Project	1980, after	12	3
An Assessment of the Factors Responsible for the Failure of the Producer Cooperatives in the Jamaica Sugar Industry, 1975-1981 by M.H. Hudson	1986, after	12	4

**Archives of the New England Province of the Society of Jesus**

**Record Group 11.2, Jamaica Mission/Region Records and Special Collections**

**Special Collection: Social Action Center (SAC)**

**1959-1998**

**7.75 linear feet, 15 – 5” boxes + 1 – 2.5” box**

Folder Title	Dates	Box	Folder
<b>Subject Files, Sugar Workers:</b>			
<i>Note: Many of these files contain reports and newspaper clippings.</i>			
Attendance Sheets – Monymusk	1975, circa	12	5
Barham	1975, circa	12	6
Cooperative Department	1975-1976	12	7
Cooperative Rules	1974-1975	12	8
Cooperative Rules, as of 12/75	1975, Dec.	12	9
Early Land Purchasing	1973	12	10
Early Proposals for Coop Development	1973	12	11
Early SAC	1973-1975	12	12
Early Worker Control	1975, circa	12	13
Employment Practices & Rules	1977, circa	12	14
Employment Practices & Rules, Varia	1977, circa	12	15
Factory	1975-76	12	16
Factory	1976-1977	13 – 5”	1
Factory	1977	13	2
Factory: Development Agenda, Education, Monymusk, Frome	1976-1977	13	3
Factory: Organizing	1974-1975	13	4
Farm: Alternatives	1974-1976	13	5
Farm: Bog Diversification	1979-1980	13	6
Farm: Diversification, Data for Crop Diversification	1978-1979	13	7
Farm: Diversification, Monymusk	1980	13	8
Farm: Irrigation	1976, circa	13	9
Frome-Monymusk Land Company, Ltd. (FMLCo.)	1974-1975	13	10
Frome-Monymusk Land Company, Ltd. (FMLCo.), Discussions / Background	1975-1978	13	11
Implementation Committee	1975	13	12
Maps	1970, circa	14 – 5”	1
Memoranda: Doen Lewis, Organizer, Social Action Centre	1975	14	2
Memoranda: Joseph Owens, S.J.	1974-1976	14	3
Organizational Development	1979-1981	14	4
Payroll Documents [Blank Forms]	1970s	14	5
Petitions: Prime Minister / SWCC Support	1976, circa	14	6
Pilot Evaluation	1974-1975	14	7
SAC—SWCC Collaboration	1973-1980	14	8
SAC [Varia]	1973-1981	14	9
Salt Pond	1974-1981	14	10
Sugar Workers Cooperative Council (RGT's [Ronald Thwaite, Director] Personal File)	1975	14	11

Archives of the New England Province of the Society of Jesus

Record Group 11.2, Jamaica Mission/Region Records and Special Collections

Special Collection: Social Action Center (SAC)

1959-1998

7.75 linear feet, 15 – 5” boxes + 1 – 2.5” box

Folder Title	Dates	Box	Folder
<b>Subject Files, Sugar Workers:</b>			
<i>Note: Many of these files contain reports and newspaper clippings.</i>			
Sugar Workers Cooperatives	1975-1990	15 – 5”	1
Sugar Workers Co-ops [Varia]	1975	15	2
SWCC Aims and Resolutions	1973-1975	15	3
SWCC Pros and Cons	1974-1977	15	4
SWCC—SAC [Varia]	1975-1978	16 – 2.5”	1
SWCC Sugar Refineries, Atlantic, Redpath, St. Lawrence Judgment (RGT’s [Ronald Thwaite, Director] Personal SWCC File)	1976	16	2
Tractor and Transport	1977-1980	16	3



## APPENDIX II

### HISTORY OF SOCIAL ACTION CENTRE

- 1958 Social Action Centre started by Rev. John P. Sullivan as a training centre for Credit Unions and other Co-operatives.
- 1961 SAC began a thrust into promotion of co-operative housing under Rev. Gerald McLaughlin.
- 1965 The present dormitory and conference buildings were erected with assistance from other co-operative movements and Misereor foundation. No longer belong to SAC since 1976.
- 1966 Community development self-help projects started by Rev. Arthur Kane.
- 1967 Cursillo and Search Programmes introduced to involve the laity in the works.
- 1968 Two weeks work camps ran by Ronald Thwaites at Avacot, Mt. Holstein in the Buff Bay River Valley with 52 campers centered around the self-help construction of a new school addition.
- 1968 Family Counselling Centre started by Art Kane.
- 1968 Forklift Operators Cooperative started in Kingston by G. McLaughlin.
- 1969 Work Camp at Central Village centred around self-help construction of Community Centre.
- 1969 Trench Town Trade Training Centre started by James Schecher to give on-the-job training in cabinet making (till 1972).
- 1970 Consciousness Course started by Ronald Thwaites and James Schecher. This course consisted of bi-weekly Saturday meetings of ex-workers, campers, etc. to study the social and economic situation in Jamaica.
- 1970 Citizens College for pre-trade training started at Central Village by Jim Schecher.
- 1970 Mountain Terrace Housing Cooperative opened.
- 1971 Cooperative insurance scheme, called Church Insurance Fund, started by SAC by Art Kane.
- 1971 Kingston Legal Aid Clinic started by Ronald Thwaites.
- 1971 publication of Justice magazine.
- 1972 Organizing of sugar workers started at Monymusk on the basis of previous organising of housing cooperatives. Joe Owens.
- 1972 SAC took leading role in formation of Church and Society Commission of Jamaica Council of Churches.



- 1973 Mutual Housing Services Ltd. started by Ministry of Housing under guidance of Rev. G. McLaughlin.
- 1973 Sugar Workers organizing moves to Frome (H. Levy) and Bernard Lodge (N. Wong).
- 1973 Sugar Workers Cooperative Council (SWCC) formed.
- 1974 Three pilot sugar cooperatives started.
- 1975 Social Action Centre became separately incorporated as SAC Limited, leasing the properties from the Society of Jesuits in Jamaica.
- 1975 Sixteen (16) sugar cooperatives registered. Three second level estate cooperatives registered, and one third level national cooperative registered and called the United Sugar Workers Cooperative Council Limited (USWCC).
- 1975 Publication by Ministry of Education of new Social Studies Curriculum booklets for new government secondary schools. Jim Schecher and Anne Hudson.
- 1975 Publication of Workers Education materials by SAC and SWCC. Jim Schecher and Peter Espeut.
- 1975 Sites and Services Cooperative housing started on three sites
- 1976 Nineteen (19) cooperatives at the three (3) sugar estates take over the land and begin the new crop.
- 1976 Workers Time started as a newspaper for sugar workers and other workers. Patrick Smikle.
- 1976 SAC moved from centre complex at 2 Olivier Road to new office at 9 Central Avenue, Kingston 10. Jesuits were selling the old site to Government because land tax was too high to pay.
- 1976 SAC turned over nine (9) field staff members to form the USWCC Member Services Department for services and training of sugar cooperators.
- 1976 SAC began its media role with Ronnie Thwaites starting the Public Eye phone in programme.
- 1977 SAC staff started work as newspaper columnists.
- 1977 Adelphi Coop started with youth group from Frome. Leslie Chang and Satish Satchdeva.
- 1977 SAC ceases its role in sugar coop education.



- 1978 Public Interest Law work begins .
- 1978 Casa Monte Hotel Workers Cooperative begins.
- 1978 Primary School Canteen Coop.
- 1978 Press Association of Jamaica revitalized. P. Smikle.
- 1979 Sugar Cooperative members request SAC for help in training, diversification, publicity and advice.
- 1979 SAC introduces Organisational Development programme for Sugar Cooperatives with help of University of the West Indies. Dietrich Champagne and Jim Schecher.
- 1979 SAC begins feasibility studies and research for sugar coops and puts forward proposals. H. Levy and S. Satchdeva.
- 1979 Projects for People funding agency registered.
- 1979 Waltham park projects started. Courtney Brown.
- 1979 USWCC Education and Training Department formed and sugar workers education programme begins for rank and file with help of SAC.
- 1980 Consumer Research programme starts. Jennifer Jones.
- 1980 Financial management training begins at the sugar co-operatives.
- 1980 Projects for people becomes a full fledged partner of SAC.

(continued)



From the above-listed activities of the Social Action Centre the following INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND PERMANENT PROGRAMMES have emerged:

1. Credit Unions. The credit unions became self-supporting and self-directing in 1952, except in certain areas where special organizational problems arose. SAC concentrated on the City of Kingston Credit Union which became self-supporting in the early 1970s.
2. Housing Cooperatives. The work in housing cooperatives was eventually integrated into the Ministry of Housing, where Gerard McLaughlin was taken on to head the Cooperative Housing Division, and in the formation of Mutual Housing Services Limited, another statutory body. (Father McLaughlin is no longer in the Ministry.)
3. Kingston Legal Aid Clinic. Stated in 1972, the Clinic became self-supporting in 1975. It has since expanded to Montego Bay and to a Caribbean Legal Aid Centre. It is in part funded by Government and by international funding agencies.
4. Cursillo Movement and Search For Christian Maturity. These were weekend programmes designed through group dynamics to raise the social consciousness of laymen and youth respectively. They were initiated by SAC in 1968 and 1969, but were soon taken over and conducted by some of the earlier participants. They lasted until 1972 and 1974 respectively, the Search dividing into two independent groups -- the Catholic Youth Movement and the Movement for Democratic Change which continued for 3 years.
5. Churches Insurance Fund. Established in 1974 for SAC and Church vehicles, this practical non-profit measure to escape the high premiums of the commercial insurance companies still continues to function -- as an independent entity.
6. Jamaica Council for Human Rights. SAC persons were instrumental in forming and supporting this vital institution which continues to play its important, independent role.
7. Sugar Worker Cooperatives. Between 1973 and 1976 SAC was the main organizer and educator of the 23 primary cooperatives, 3 estate and one third-level, inter-estate co-ops (the United Sugar Worker Cooperative Council). Since 1979 SAC has been involved in managerial and budgetary training for the cooperative members. In 1981 the present government attempted to disband these co-ops and reclaimed the land leased to them. Appeals have however been filed by nine cooperatives and the matter is to go before a special tribunal.
8. Public Interest Law Programme. This was started in 1978 through a grant from OEBEMO to enable lawyers to take up cases of general public importance.
9. Projects for People Ltd. This was started in 1979 as an intermediate funding agency to channel aid to small urban and rural projects.

### APPENDIX III

#### PUBLICATIONS OF SOCIAL ACTION CENTRE

Note, firstly, that this list presents only a sample, a cross-section, but one that is more or less representative of the whole. Secondly, most of SAC publications have been directed at the general public, some at special groups like teachers or sugar workers. In writing for sugar workers and similar groups a conscious effort has been made to present the material as simply as possible, which may obscure the fact that the preparation of the content has often involved considerable research. One example of this is the little booklet "From the Beginning: Africa".

Justice, selections from 1971, 1974, 1975.<sup>1</sup>

Bauxite is Our Business, a publication of the Joint Action Council. (This Council was one of the offshoots of the "Search" programme conducted by SAC. Much of the work of the booklet was done by J.Schecher.)

"Whose History?" Jamaica Daily News and "Whiter West Indian History?", the Sunday Gleaner. These are two of a series by J. Schecher and Ann Hudson, an associate of SAC and then a teacher in a teacher-training college.

Colonialism in the British West Indies, one of a series authored by Schecher and Hudson for the Social Studies Option offered 3 or 4 years ago in Grades 10-11 of the secondary school system.

The Jamaica Worker: From the Beginning - Africa. This was intended for those with low reading ability.<sup>2</sup>

"Betrayal of Sugar Co-ops", The Unmuzzled Ox,<sup>3</sup> and other articles by the Ox and H.Levy published in the Jamaica Daily News. Sugar and the IMF were recurring themes for these and many other columns by the same writers at SAC.<sup>4</sup>

A Final Report on Organisation Development and Budgetary Cost Control in the Sugar Workers Co-operatives in Jamaica, prepared by James M. Schecher. The background to this is a series of work-books for actually teaching the workers' committees the

---

<sup>1</sup> 1 run in SAC Publications Series, B2 F3; 1 bound copy in JP Sullivan and the Cooperative Credit Union Collection.

<sup>2</sup> See the Jamaican Slave History Folder, B3 F7

<sup>3</sup> See SWCC—Aims and Resolutions Folder for one such, B15 F3

<sup>4</sup> See Newsclippings

budgeting procedures, as well as of course the many O.D. [Organisational Development] sessions.

The Jamaican Consumer Rights Struggle, by Jennifer Jones. This paper was prepared with International Women's Day, 1981, in mind. This writer has been a regular contributor also to the fortnightly Consumer Bulletin published by the Committee of Women for Progress.

Committee Training Course, one of the many booklets prepared by Social Action Centre for member-training in the sugar worker cooperatives.<sup>5</sup>

Workers Time, a monthly begun in 1976 and still published. Directed at sugar workers.

---

<sup>5</sup> See Education and Training, Sugar Workers, Series

## Archives of the New England Province of the Society of Jesus

Record Group 11.2, Jamaica Mission/Region Records and Special Collections

### Special Collection: Social Action Center (SAC)

1959-1998

7.5 linear feet, 15 – 5” boxes

#### Abbreviations Used:

There are many abbreviations used in the documents of this collection. Following is a brief list for reference:

CEBEMO	Central Agency for Joint Financing Development Programmes [Holland]
CUNA	Credit Union National Association of North America
CUSO	Canadian University Services Overseas
FMLCo.	Frome Monymusk Land Co.
IAF	Inter-American Foundation
JLP	Jamaican Labor Party
MSO	Member Service Office
MSCCFA	Monymusk Workers Cooperative Cane Farming Association
OD	Organisational Development
PFP	People for People
PNP	People’s National Party
SAC	Social Action Centre
SIA	Sugar Industry Authority
SWCC	Sugar Workers Cooperative Council
USWCC	United Sugar Workers Cooperative Council
WISCo.	West Indies Sugar Co.