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A GUIDE TO THE ALBERT VITON PAPERS

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Last Revised: June 22, 2006
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Albert Viton Papers

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Viton, Albert (1913-)
Title:	Albert Viton Papers
Dates:	1940-1995
Abstract:	Business papers documenting the career of Albert Viton as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization representative on numerous commodity committees (sugar, cocoa, citrus fruit) and on numerous World War II international rationing boards, namely the Combined Food Board and the International Emergency Food Council.
Quantity:	24 cubic ft.
Repository:	Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
Provenance:	Donated by Albert Viton, 2005
Location:	HKRP
Preferred Citation:	Albert Viton Papers, Purdue University Libraries, Archives and Special Collections
Processed by:	Alexis E. Ramsey, June 2006

Restrictions

Access:	Collection is open for research. The collection is stored offsite; 24 hours notice is required to access the collection.
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Biographical Sketch

Albert Viton was born in Lithuania on May 28, 1913. He holds B.S. and Ph.D. (1941) degrees from Northwestern University. Following receipt of his doctorate, Dr. Viton worked on national and international food distribution planning and control in the Office of Price Administration and subsequently in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), including on the U.S. team of the US/UK/Canada Combined Food Board. It was in these government departments that his close association with sugar began.

Prior to World War II, Dr. Viton spent three years in the Near East and authored many journal articles on the politics and economics of the area. In 1941, the John Day Company published his book, *Great Britain: An Empire in Transition*. In the following year they published his second book, *An American Empire in Asia?* In 1944, Dr. Viton was at the U.S. Economic Mission in London to work with the Ministry of Food on Europe's post-liberation supplies. When the International Emergency Food Council was formed in 1946 to include allied and liberated countries in the planning of world food production and distribution, Dr. Viton was invited to become the Assistant Secretary General, in which capacity he supervised the operation of several intergovernmental commodity committees. The work of the Sugar Committee brought him in contact with the pre-war International Sugar Organisation (ISO) in London, a relationship that continued after the termination of the Emergency Food Council when Dr. Viton became head of FAO economic work on sugar and tropical crops. When the first post-war preparatory committee on negotiation of a new International Sugar Agreement was formed in 1947, the Chairman, Baron Kronacker of Belgium, requested Dr. Viton's expert cooperation, and Dr. Viton subsequently participated in all the preparatory work from 1947 to 1953.

From 1946 to 1976, Dr. Viton worked with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. As an economist with the FAO, Dr. Viton spent much of his career focused on sugar pricing. Before retiring as a Senior Director of the Commodities Division of the FAO in 1976, he represented the FAO in all international sugar negotiations, conferences, and meetings.

Dr. Viton was a member of the Preparatory Committee for the first international sugar agreement (1947-1952) chaired by Baron Kronacker of Belgium and a member of the "Troika" chaired by Dr. Raul Prebisch, Director General of UNCTAD, that was in charge of the price and quota negotiations of the 1968 International Sugar Agreement. Dr. Viton was also one of the two Expert Advisors appointed by the Chairman of the 1977 UN Negotiating Conference to resolve quota issues.

Viton was secretary of the Cocoa Study Group in 1956, 1964, and 1972. Following his retirement from the FAO in 1976, Dr. Viton continued to participate in international sugar affairs and to attend all meetings and conferences of the International Sugar Organization as economic consultant of the sugar delegation of El Salvador, and subsequently the Philippines. He has been a consultant on sugar and cocoa to many other governments, and to various beet and cane sugar producing organizations. He has authored two volumes on sugar (published jointly by FAO and the International Sugar Organization), as well as numerous articles, reports, and published speeches on agricultural commodities. His studies on the world sugar economy have appeared in F.O. Licht's International Sugar Report, the F.O. Licht Sugar Yearbook, "Sugar Y Azucar," and

other journals. In 2004, Purdue University Press published Dr. Viton's latest book, *The International Sugar Agreements: Promise and Reality*. This book represents the only comprehensive study of the negotiation and administration of a major international commodity market regulation agreement.

In 2005 Dr. Viton established the Albert Viton Scholarship at Purdue University, which recognizes top undergraduate students who work in the Purdue Libraries or at the University Press. The first award was given in spring 2006.

Scope and Content Note

The Albert Viton papers document the career of Viton, first as a member of the World War II Combined Food Board and then as an observer to both the International Sugar Council and United Nations Sugar Council debates concerning the ratification of an International Sugar Agreement. He also was a participant at other commodity meetings of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (namely cocoa, citrus fruit, tea, and bananas) in his role as the Chief of Sugar, Beverages, and Horticulture Crops of the Commodities and Trade Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization. The papers were received by the Purdue University archives without any perceivable order, thus the papers have been divided into five series: I. Sugar-Related Documents, (including chapter drafts for his book, *The International Sugar Agreements*); II. Cocoa-Related Documents; III. Non-Sugar, Non-Cocoa Related Documents; IV. War-Time Documents; V. Viton's Speeches and Articles.

Types of materials in the papers include: meeting minutes, reports, agendas, delegate lists, memoranda, correspondence, articles, speeches, and addresses.

The papers include correspondence between Viton and E. Jones Perry, Paul Prebish, and Baron Kronacker. Also included are various drafts of both the International Sugar Agreement and the International Cocoa Agreement. Documents within the collection are mainly written in English, though documents in French, Spanish, and German are also included.

Series Note: Following the end of World War II, the Combined Food Board was reorganized into the International Emergency Food Council. The International Sugar Council remains active today and seems to be part of the International Sugar Organization. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development meets every four years. And while the International Sugar Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development are autonomous organizations, they are supposed to keep each other abreast of developments. Finally, at one point in the 1970s, both groups were chaired by E. Jones-Perry.

INVENTORY

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Address by the Chief of the Cuban Delegation, 1968

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United Nations Sugar Conference Summary of Proceedings, 1977

International Sugar Agreement, 1984

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Report to the Secretary of State from the United States Delegation to the International Sugar Council, 1950

United States Industry Advisory Group on the International Sugar Agreement, 1950

Simplified Draft of a new International Sugar Agreement, 1951

Reports of the International Sugar Council and Second World Food Survey Bound Report, 1952

International Sugar Council, 1952

Miscellaneous Sugar Documents, 1952-53

Delegate List of the Special Committee of the International Sugar Council, 1952

Meeting of the Special Committee of the International Sugar Council, 1952

Newspaper Clipping: "U.S. Withdraws Food Plan Backing, 1946

"Figures from a Draft of a Study By F.A.O of Relations of Income, Sugar Prices, and Sugar Consumption," 1952

International Sugar Agreement: "Comparison of Simplified Draft Agreement May 16, 1953 with 1937 Sugar Agreement and Other Related Materials" 1953

Report of the Council of Food and Agricultural Organization, 1952

Draft of International Sugar Agreement, 1953

Food and Agriculture Organization: Observations on the Proposed International Sugar Agreement, 1953

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English Translation of the International Sugar Agreement: The Position of the *Comite
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Réactions Biologiques Suite au Traitement avec des Cyclamates
United Nations Sugar Conference and International Sugar Council, 1968

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 - The Rise of Sugar Prices: Its Effects on Consumption
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- Miscellaneous Documents, 1974
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 - “*Données Statistiques Sur L’Industrie Sucrière*”
- Miscellaneous Documents, 1974
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 - “Progress and Stability in World Sugar—The United States’ Role,” Statement by Viton
 - “*La Situations du Secteur Betterave-Sucre en 1975-1976*”

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 - The Sugar Economy and French Beet Growing
 - Rough Translation of an Extract from *Sucriere Francaise*
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 - Commodities Bulletin*: Article on Viton: “Dr. Viton Rules out Major Price Change”
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Translation: “Some Thoughts on the Negotiation of a New International Sugar Agreement”
United States Department of Agriculture, “The Open Sugar Policy: One Year’s Experience”
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 Cocoa Study Group: Second Session Notes, 1957
 Outgoing Memo: Report of Working Party on Stabilization and Other Papers, 1958
 Book Excerpt: Sugar—Supply/Demand Position and Prospects, undated
 Sucriere Francaise, 1956
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 Partial Memo Importing and Exporting Commodities, 1963
 Incoming Memo on Mexico City Conference of the Working Party on Diversification, 1968
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 5th Session: *Gruppa Intergovernativo Agrumi della F.A.O.* Conference Agenda, 1972

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Speech: “The Outlook for Production and Consumption During 1970-1972,” 1966
Speech: “Progress and Problems in the World Sugar Economy,” 1967
Speech: “Statement of the Opening of the Second Session of the Study Group on Bananas,”
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Article: “Sugar Prospects: Opportunities and Problems,” undated
Speech: untitled, International Office of Cocoa and Chocolate, 1971
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Speech: "Opening Statement at the Intergovernmental Group on Citrus Fruit," 1975
Speech: "Opening Statement at the Intergovernmental Group on Tea," 1975
Speech: "Opening Statement at the Intergovernmental Group on Bananas" (2 copies: French and
English), 1975
Speech: "Reflections During a Crisis," 1975
Speech: "Statement Before the United Nations Conference to Renegotiate the International
Cocoa Agreement," 1975
Speech: "Sugar in 1975 and Beyond," 1975
Speech: "A Sugar Policy for the United States—In a Hungry World," 1975
Speech: "Opening Statement at the Intergovernmental Group on Tea," 1976
Speech: "The Prospect and Promise of Cocoa," 1975
Speech: related to tea, untitled, undated