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While some consumer groups in the United States are calling for a boycott on sugar, here in Cuba, the worlds biggest producer of cane sugar, there is also a growing call for cutting back on sugar consumption. Just this week, a congress representing two million Cuban women here in Havana unanimously called on Cubans to cut back on their home sugar consumption by one pound per person every month.

The call for a boycott in the United States is due to the super high cost of sugar at the grocery store. The reason for the call to reduce sugar consumption here in Cuba is also due to the high price, not at the spermarket but on the world crude sugar market. Refined sugar costs the Cuban consumer only seven cents a pound at the grocery store, but crude sugar is bringing over 60 cents a pound on the world market. Cubans reason that by cutting back on domenestic sugar consumpiton, the nation will have more to sell on the world market. If every Cuban cut back by one pound a month, it would mean 50 million dollars a year in hard currency for Cuba's very ambitious development plans.

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At the present time, there is rationing of sugar in Cuba: four pounds a month per person. If the call to cut back by one pound is heeded, Cuban families will get three pounds of sugar per person still one of the highest home consumption levels for sugar in the world.

This is Lionel Martin in Havana for CBC Radio News.

Cuban Women Congress Calls on Cuba to Cut Back Home Sugar Consumption

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