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1982

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Cuban sugar industry predicts most efficient campaign

by Lionel Martin

havana, dec 7, reuter -- the cuban sugar industry, which initiated the 1982/83 harvest last month, is predicting that the current campaign will be the most efficient in the long history of sugar production on the island, according to official sources here.

the sources said less than 100 000 machete-wielding sugar cane cutters will be needed in the harvest as compared to 110 000 last year and 350 000 twelve years ago.

during the present campaign it is expected that the number of mechanical cane cutting combines will surpass the 3 000 used in the 1981/82 harvest and will cut over 50 per cent of the cane.

crude sugar production during the past harvest reached 8 207 178 tonnes in seven months, the second largest output in cuban history.

the 1970 harvest produced a record crop of 8.6 million tonnes but in an extended period of 18 months.

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the growing efficiency of the Cuban sugar industry was taken place despite prolonged dry spells in the eastern provinces and torrential rains in the rest of the country.

sugar exports provide 80 per cent of the hard currency income of Cuba. despite the fact that Cuba must sell sugar on the world hard currency market at well below cost, it has announced that it will continue to seek a yearly increase in sugar production.

Cuban president Fidel Castro said last July that the Soviet Union, which does not pay in hard currency, now buys more than a third of Cuba's annual crude production for a preferential price which is currently equivalent to approximately 36 cents a pound.
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correction

in sugar 2 havana, second para, first line, pls read 80 rpt 80
per cent to correct misspunch.

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