

WR 344

economy

hav910 yy ylp nor lcp
1145:sugar:

1982

by lionel martin

havana, nov 25, reuter -- the 1982-83 sugar harvest has gotten under way here as the cuban government announced that all of this year's export commitments have been fulfilled, according to granma.

over 20 of cuba's 152 sugar mills have begun grinding for the harvest that is scheduled to end april 30, 1983. by january, it is expected that all the mills but one will be in operation.

during the 'past campaign cuba produced 8.2 million tonnes of crude sugar, the second largest harvest in history.

granma reported that cuba had successfully fulfilled its sugar export commitments to its overseas buyers.

cuban president fidel castro said last july that despite the low price of sugar, cuba will continue to increase its sugar production. he said that the socialist camp and especially the soviet union, which buys the lion's share of cuban crude, have guaranteed high prices for cuban sugar.

--more lmx/syl

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according to a cuban official: the soviet union is now paying the equivalent of 36 cents a pound for cuban crude. the world market price during most of this year has fluctuated between six and seven cents a pound.

the official said that cuba had succeeded in making its sugar industry more efficient and of fulfilling its slogan of +produce more with less.+ he pointed out that 250 000 fewer cane cutters were needed in the 1982 harvest than in the 1970 harvest, in large part because 50 percent of the cane is now cut by mechanical harvesters.

this year, according to miguel cano, head of the communist party in the important sugar-producing province of holguin, a record 74 per cent of the sugar cane is scheduled to be cut mechanically in that province.

guaranteed high prices for cuban sugar.
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in a move toward more efficient management of the sugar industry, the cuban government has decreed the establishment of 75 new agro-industrial complexes during the present harvest. Last year, only 17 agro-industrial complexes were in operation.

the complexes centralise management within each sugar mill for all agricultural transport and industrial processes related to the mill's operation. previously, each sphere was managed independently.

cuban officials are also pointing to the dramatic savings in petroleum used by the sugar mills. during the 1978-79 harvest, 139.5 million gallons of petroleum were needed. during the 1981-82 harvest, only 20.8 million gallons were used by the sugar mills.

==reuter lem/syl