

RB-382
The is lionel martin in havana for thrursday use, the service
message: Continuous rains and heavy winds have done ~~more than~~ ^{serious}
60 ~~million dollars worth of~~ damage to Cuban agriculture. here is
the story.

The rains came ~~anbthbxbnbnbn~~ in mid january and there has
hardly been a day since in western cuba with^{out} rain. The tropical
storms made rivers and streams overflow, flooded fields and the
winds damaged crops and fruit trees.

A preliminary estimate is that at least 60 millions dollars
worth of damage has been done to the economy. It comes at a time
when the Cuban economy is in the doldrums because of the rock
bottom price of its main export item: crude sugar.

The rains have ~~bnbnbn~~ meant a setback for ~~thbxbnbn~~ sugar
harvest now in progress and it means that there will be a shortage
of tobacco leaf for cuba's famous export cigars.

For the consumer here it will definitely means shortages of
both fresh and canned vegetables during a good part of this year.
The winds hit mango trees and coffee bushes at a time when they were
flowering ~~and~~ which means few mangos and less coffee in a country
where the coffee ~~xvixvixvix~~ is already strictly rationed.

For the Canadian tourists who came down during these past weeks
its just been bad luck although most of them ~~were~~ able to catch a
bit of sun and swimming.

The ~~xbnbnbnbnbnbnbn~~

For cbc ~~xvixvix~~ news this is lionel martin in havana

march 2/83

Bunny

\$4.18