RR-88-47

1988

J ISA LEN BAS LCT FBA
RAINS IN CUBA EXPECTED TO HELP NEXT SUGAR HARVEST:
HAVANA, AUG 30, REUTER - A CUBAN SUGAR INDUSTRY OFFICIAL TOLD
EUTER THAT THE ABOVE AVERAGE RAINFUL OVER PAST MONTHS WILL
ENEFIT THE UPCOMING 1988-89 SUGAR CROP.
+WATER IS GOOD FOR THE NEWLY PLANTED AND RETURNING CANE,+ HE
AID, ADDING, +IT BRINGS MORE WEEDS WHICH ARE HARMFUL BUT WE CAN
ANDLE THEM BETTER THAN WE CAN A DROUGHT.+
HE RECALLED THAT THE 1987-88 HARVEST DURING WHICH
N ESTIMATED 7.3 MILLION TONNES OF CRUDE SUGAR WAS PRODUCE WAS
IMITED BECAUSE OF A FOUR YEAR PERIOD OF BELOW AVERAGE RAINFUL.
IN JULY, CUBA PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO SAID THAT CUBA'S
RITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION MAKES IT IMPERITIVE THAT 8 MILLION
ONNES OF CRUDE BE PRODUCED DURING THE COMING HARVEST.
THE OFFICIAL PREDICTED THAT THIS YEAR'S RAINS WILL ALSO
ONTRIBUTE TO A BIGGER 1989-90 HARVEST BY MAKING AVAILABLE MORE
ATER FOR IRRIGATING THE PLANTATIONS.
AN ARTICLE IN TODAY'S OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER, GRANMA, REPORTED THAT
HE NATION'S 130 RESERVOIRS ARE NOW FILLED ON THE AVERAGE TO
WO-THIRDS OF THEIR CAPACITY COMPARED WITH 25 PERCENT A YEAR
GO.
=REUTER/LEM
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