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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

**DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE**

21 July 1986

**China: Sugar Trade with Cuba** [redacted]

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**Summary**

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China obtains as much as 850,000 tons of sugar from Cuba annual-  
ly. [redacted]

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[redacted] Almost all of the Sino-Cuban sugar trade is conducted  
through barter. [redacted]

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Through 1984, China maintained long term trade agreements with Cuba under which Cuba supplied sugar in exchange for Chinese commodities and, occasionally, cash--apparently US dollars. In 1984, sugar was priced at 15 cents per pound under the agreement[1], with a minimum level of trade of 550,000 metric tons, of which as much as 220,000 tons could be the product of a third country[2]. In spite of the agreement, the minimum purchase is not always made--for example, a full complement was not purchased in 1984 because of increases in China's own sugar production. [redacted]

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This memorandum was prepared by [redacted] Office of East Asian Analysis. Information available as of 21 July 1986 was used in its preparation. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to the Chief, Development Issues Branch, China Division, OEA, [redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted] China and Cuba failed to reach agreement on a new long-term sugar trade accord to begin in 1985. Although negotiations were to continue into 1985, we have found no indication that a formal agreement was reached. Nonetheless, press [Redacted] sources indicate that Chinese acquisitions of sugar from Cuba have increased to 800,000 or more tons per year. The Chinese press in mid-1985 reported that Cuba's sole export to China is sugar, of which the Chinese were to buy 850,000 tons in 1985. [Redacted]

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China pays for Cuban sugar with a variety of commodities. Rice, cotton products, and consumer goods are the most frequently mentioned [Redacted] However, an April 1986 press item indicates that China will build three 10,000-ton multi-use container ships for Cuba in exchange for sugar, with the first ship to be delivered by 1988. We have no further details of this exchange. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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