

Russia Agrees to Adjust Cost Of Goods Cuba Gets for Sugar

HAVANA, Dec. 9 (AP) — Cuba has complained that the Soviet Union overcharges for manufactured goods and the Russians have promised not to do it any more.

That is the net of a little-publicized agreement reached between the two countries. The Russians are to cut their price on any item if the Cubans can show that it is available elsewhere for less.

This is designed to put an end to Cubans' claims that the Russians charge them two or three times the normal price for Russian goods to offset

the high price the Soviets pay for Cuban sugar.

Russia has been paying Cuba 6 cents a pound at a time when the world market price was 2 cents.

The high Soviet price is designed to serve as a prop for the Island's economy. Cuba is understood to get little, if any, hard currency out of sugar sales, taking payment in Russian goods instead.

Prime Minister Castro's regime never made its complaint publicly, but it was discussed in diplomatic and trade circles.

The agreement was signed in Moscow early this year and made legal here by publication in the official gazette. Details were kept out of the controlled Cuban press. The Russians likewise kept tight-lipped about it.

The agreement provides for a joint Cuban-Soviet group to work out sales prices in the light of costs for similar goods in other countries. It applies to goods sold by both countries. Cuba sells little but sugar to the Russians. The sugar price is established in a separate agreement.