Sugar-Export Nations
In Latin America Form
Union to Protect Prices

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Twenty Latin American and Caribbean sugar-exporting nations have created a union to protect world sugar prices which have skyrocketed recently, Mexico announced.

The ultimate goal will be to coordinate sugar production in the region and allow each producer to set its own price instead of letting buying countries set the price, a Mexican official said.

"Another objective of the organization is to handle the sugar through a common front," said Francisco Cano Escalante, president of the Mexican National Sugar Commission.

The union, to be called the Group of Sugar Exporting Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, was formed during a closed-door meeting in Cozumel, Mexico.

The union is comprised of Mexico, Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.

Mr. Cano Escalante said the union's first formal meeting to set policy will be held in April in the Dominican Republic.

He said sugar production of these nations makes up 60%, or 12 million tons, of world sugar production.