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Cuba: Cigarettes Return To Government Store Shelves

by Barbara Khol

Category/Department: General

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According to the March 19 issue of the Communist Party's official newspaper, Granma, cigarettes are back on the shelves at five times the last official price. The government, said Granma, had no intention of "making an unhealthy vice cheaper." When cigarettes were removed from the official marketplace last year, the best-selling brand, "Populares," cost 1.6 pesos. The same pack now costs eight pesos. Granma said the higher price will permit the government to remove from circulation hundreds of millions of pesos at a time when "extraordinarily high levels of currency" are circulating.

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