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Ecuador: US\$12 Million Supplemental Loan From France To Complete Railway System Modernization

by Barbara Khol

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On Aug. 4, Eduardo Valencia, manager of the state-run railway company (Empresa Nacional de Ferrocarriles del Estado- ENFE), told reporters that the French government has approved a US\$12 million supplement to a previous US\$34 million loan to complete modernization of the 700-km. railway system. ENFE has also obtained a US\$20 million loan from the Spanish government for the repair and upgrade program. ENFE passenger and cargo services were effectively suspended in 1982 due to flooding. Damage to equipment and infrastructure was exacerbated by the 1987 earthquake. The modernization project included the purchase of nine French-made locomotives, extensive repairs to tracks and other physical plant components, and administrative and technical reorganization. Valencia said the railway would be "fully operational" by year-end. (Source: Agence France-Presse, 08/04/92)

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