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## **Colombia: Suspected Rebels Bomb Pipeline, Causing Oil Spill**

*by John Neagle*

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On Jan. 25, rebels belonging to the National Liberation Army (ELN) were believed responsible for a dynamite attack on Colombia's main oil pipeline outside Teorama (418 km. north of Bogota) causing an oil spill covering nearly two square miles. According to Ecopetrol sources, thousands of barrels of crude leaked into a mountain stream that feeds the Catatumbo River. The ELN has claimed responsibility for 115 attacks against Colombian petroleum facilities since 1986 in an effort to force the government to nationalize the industry. The group called a halt to the attacks in the second half of 1989 but renewed them this year to protest a hike in domestic gasoline prices. The pipeline runs from the Cano Limon oil field on the border with Venezuela to the Caribbean port of Covenas, near Cartagena. The attack was the third in 1989 against the pipeline. (Basic data from AP, 01/25/90)

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