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Venezuela: Orimulsion Exports Projected At 41 Million Metric Tons By 1996

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Category/Department: General
Published: Thursday, August 8, 1991

On Aug. 5 in Caracas, at the 5th conference on heavy crude and bituminous shale, Venezuelan state-run oil company (PDVSA) vice president Pablo Reimpell told participants that by 1996, sales of Orimulsion will increase from the current 1.74 million metric tons to 41 million MT per year. Orimulsion is a stable, combustible, viscous mixture, comprised of 70% extra heavy crude, and 30% water. The product is an alternative to coal as fuel for electricity generation plants. Future exports are destined for Canada, Japan, the US, and Britain. Conference participants numbered 600 from 40 nations, including Canada, US, Brazil, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, Germany, France, Britain, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Rumania, USSR, Turkey, People's Republic of China, India, Japan, Taiwan, Iran, Madagascar and Nigeria. Soviet representatives said that by 2010, the USSR will be producing between 400,000 and 800,000 barrels of heavy crude per day. The conference was sponsored by the UN Research and Training Institute with collaboration from the Bituminous Shale Technological Research Unit of Alberta (Canada), Petro-Canada, and the US Department of Energy. (Basic data from EFE, 08/05/91)

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