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## **Colombia: Pumping At Main Oil Pipeline Suspended**

*by Barbara Khol*

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On Nov. 20, National Liberation Army (ELN) rebels bombed the Cano Limon oil pipeline in two places. The state-run oil company ECOPETROL reported that employees were forced to suspend pumping of 230,000 barrels of crude per day. One of the explosions in northern Colombia caused a 6,000 barrel spill. The ELN has bombed the pipeline on a nearly weekly basis since 1986 in an attempt to force the government to completely nationalize the petroleum industry and expel foreign oil companies. Rebel sabotage has spilled nearly 132 million liters of crude into rivers and jungle forests. Colombian oil production averages 450,000 barrels per day, of which about 190,000 are exported. ECOPETROL reported that inventories along the northern Caribbean coast were sufficient to maintain exports during the 48 hours required to repair the pipeline. (Basic data from Associated Press, 11/20/91)

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