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## **Ecuador: Main Oil Refinery Back On Line**

*by Barbara Khol*

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On Dec. 15, spokespersons for state-run oil company Petroecuador told reporters that the Esmeraldas refinery would be functioning at top capacity beginning Dec. 17. As a result of damage to the catalytic cracking unit (craqueo catalitico), the facility was partially shut down for three weeks. Esmeraldas is located near PetroEcuador's port facilities. As a result of the temporary shut-down, PetroEcuador imported 250,000 barrels of gasoline. Esmeraldas refines slightly more than 100,000 barrels of crude per day, or 70% of domestic market requirements. Next, officials announced plans to boost output capacity from 10,000 to 16,000 barrels per day at PetroEcuador's new refinery located in the Amazon region. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 12/15/91)

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