

Oleoducto will serve to carry petroleum to Asian market

A new one megaproyecto to be built in the Country is in study and preparation. Is a matter of an oleoducto that it would cross the country since the point caribeño of Monkey Point to the Port of Maroon, in the Peaceful ocean. Its execution is being it promoted by a consorcio called Oleoducto Premier of Nicaragua INC., it integrated by inversionistas Canadian, American and Nicaraguan.

By Isidro López



This work pursues the objective to facilitate the transportation of the petroleum and its derived --originating in Venezuela -- toward Asian markets, fundamentally, according to nearby fountains to the Group empresarial that intends to install the oleoducto in Nicaragua.

The first steps already were dice, upon presenting the idea and some references of the project to officials of the Government of the **President Enrique Bolaños Geyer**.

The government seems interested in which be done Reality the construction of a megaobra in this country.

The execution of the project will depend a great deal of the environmental study of impact that, obligatorily, should carry out the consorcio as a requirement that establish the Nicaraguan laws for That type of works.

The work would consist of the installation of a tubing, whose diameter has not been needed, in a distance of almost 400 kilometers that there is among Maroon and Monkey Point, points that are They predicted like center to discharge and storage of the raw one. Besides, itself they would install the tanks to store the petroleum that proceed of Venezuela for their I transfer end to the Asian markets.

"The idea is to mobilize with more rapidity and in smaller cost the petroleum from Venezuela to Asia ," affirmed a fountain Of the consorcio interested in building the oleoducto in Nicaragua.

The predicted investment is of some four hundred millions of dollars, according to the same fountain that announced in the next days the firm of an agreement of cooperation among Oleoducto Premier and the consorcio Sit/Global that seeks to build a canal interoceánico that a The Pacific with the sea Caribe.

In February passed, a delegation of inversionistas Canadian was in Nicaragua for contactarse with the Authorities of the government.

The financing to build the work already is it assured they affirmed directive of the consorcio, whose president is the **Nicaraguan businessman Gilberto Block**.

That oleoducto, according to the proposal of design, itself it will install in the same route that would have the canal interoceánico that Sit/global it intends to build in Nicaragua, if the government offers it the License that is disputed with other two consorcios.

Government interested

In Nicaragua exists an oleoducto that initiates in Port Sandino, in the Peaceful ocean, and finishes in the plants of Refinería in Managua.

The representatives of the business Oleoducto Premier of Nicaragua INC., already they sent to the government of **the president Bolaños** a Letter in which express their interest to carry out that work in Nicaragua.

The government, according to nearby fountains to **the president Bolaños**, is willing to support that type of works that they would signify the opening of thousands of positions of job in the Municipalities by where would cross the oleoducto.

The advisor presidencial in matters of Infrastructure **and investments Luis H. Debayle**, confirmed in **interview with Times of the World** that already received the visit of a group of inversionistas Canadian that project the construction of a Oleoducto in Nicaragua.

"They are found in the phase of concretizar the financing and to comply with all the requirements of law ," **indicated Debayle**, after indicating that, when himself it presents an investment of almost five hundred million dollars, himself it notifies that it will contribute to the generation again fountains of job and To develop the national economy.

Debayle sent a letter to the main stock holders of the consorcio, **Richard Wocjick and Gerald Leroux** , in which express that the government is working for To facilitate the investment in this country.

"We have knowledge that resources originating from Canada are aligned for the development of this work Of great importance ," added the advisor presidencial.

Debayle said that the government is working so that transparent and clear rules be established in order to that a favorable environment to the arrival of the investment be produced Foreign.

The advisor presidencial informed also that are analyzing other projects of great importance that inversionistas Foreign and national they are interested in developing in this country. Among them it mentioned the project of the new, dry canal businesses Bonded assembly plants, as well as investment in the sector turístico.

Concession in a year

In turn, the director of Hydrocarbons of the Nicaraguan institute of Energy (INE), **Fernando Ocampo**, declared that the inversionistas have requested information upon the requirements That they are established for the execution of that type of work in this country.

Ocampo said that the law of supplies of hydrocarbons defines the requirements, norms and procedures that will owe To adopt them interested in building the ducto.

"They have expressed interest in being able to build a ducto to transfer petroleum by Nicaragua," it expressed the official of INE, after informing that the representatives of the Consorcio already they requested the documentation to record the project.

To **criticism of Ocampo**, the process for To approve the concession can last more than one year. It added that only the environmental study of impact "is *carried at least* " some Six months.

"They are seeking the aval of the government To prompt the project. We said it that we are in the best Disposition. We do not have objection in which be built the oleoducto whenever be complied with the law ," underlined the official Of INE.

To preserve the medium environment

According to Ocampo, the most difficult obstacle To defeat for the inversionistas is the preservation of the medium environment.



The ecólogo Camilo Lara, notified that the environmental management should be a condition *sine qua non* in the approval of the other terms in the execution of a work of that Nature.

"Should be himself clear that, before any negotiation, have, as priority, the studies of impact environmental, because this type of project conlleva a series of risks that they have to see with the half marine ," expressed the ambientalista Nicaraguan.

Lara remembered the accidents that have himself it produced with the oleoductos and the ships that enter and discharge Petroleum, the ones that have derived in damages to the flora and aquatic fauna.

For the expert in environmental matters, it important it is to require the most maximum fulfillment to the norms of security to That type of

projects.

"I think that not to can stop being Happy before a reality of development. What we have to require is that them they be complied with measured just as occur in countries of the first one World ," aimed **Lara**.