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**Venezuelan crude oil shipment nears port** [ Post [293898663](#) ]

**Category:** News & Opinion (General) **Topic:** International Affairs

**Synopsis:** Chavez's "solidarity" shipments come to Uruguay

**Source:** [Miami Herald](#)

**Published:** August 19, 2005 **Author:** Herald News Service

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MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay - (AP) -- A ship carrying 930,000 barrels of Venezuelan crude oil reached Uruguayan waters Thursday, part of a series of planned "solidarity" shipments sent by Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez.

The tanker ship Genmar Spyridon sailed from Venezuela Aug. 5, with the crude shipment arranged by Chávez's government to cement growing ties with Uruguay's new leftist president, Tabaré Vázquez.

A Venezuelan embassy official in Montevideo, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the tanker ship would anchor at the San Ignacio complex off Uruguay's South Atlantic coast today after waiting out bad weather.

Uruguayan officials had no immediate comment.

The shipment arrives about a week after Chávez's Aug. 10 visit to Montevideo where he heartily embraced Vázquez, the first elected leftist in Uruguay, and the two talked of fostering greater regional unity.

The leaders discussed deals last week to send 5 million barrels of fuel oil to Uruguay to help meet its energy needs and ambitious plans for joint exploration projects in Venezuela's Orinoco basin.

The Venezuelan statement called the shipment a show of "solidarity" with Uruguay that underscored the political will of their governments to jointly improve living conditions in both countries.

The shipments are among sweetheart energy deals that Chávez has struck with several allies.

Critics charge Chávez is using Venezuela's oil wealth to further his leftist political agenda.

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**Hugo Chavez**

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