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Comment:	Many Nations would like to add more natural gas into their electricity mix given its affordability and low emissions, and Hydraulic fracturing with U.S. LNG exporting Is widely seen as an excellent source of new supply. In A geopolitical context, the benefits of diversity apply to suppliers as well as Gas supplies, and the added option of New US drilling Technology enhances both kinds of diversity. This Is especially important to Central And Eastern European Nations heavily reliant on Russia For natural gas. This Dependence has not only led to higher prices, but also to the ability of Russia to exert political pressure on these nations. October 10, 2013, The
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Subcommittee On Energy And Power Hosted a forum: Rene Jean-Jumeau, Haiti's Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister, sees U.S. LNG exports as a means for his country to transition "from an aid based relationship to a trade based relationship." He said, "The question of energy is central to every type of issue of development that we can consider." Jean-Jumeau added that replacing the oil Haiti currently uses to generate electricity with natural gas would lead to "a reduction in the cost of electricity by at least 30 percent." This would have the double benefit of making electricity more accessible to the citizens of Haiti (a majority of Haitians do not yet have access to it), while also ensuring the low energy prices necessary to attract investment in manufacturing. U.S. LNG Exports would serve to strengthen This kind of cooperation. Ashok Kumar Mirpuri Singapore's Ambassador To the United States, said, "Increased LNG Exports to Asia Would further anchor the U.S. Economic presence and Further contribute to enhancing the region's energy security. In Doing so, the U.S. Would strengthen Its partnerships in the region, serving regional stability and Its global interests." Similarly, Anita Orban, Hungary's Ambassador-at-Large for Energy Security Of the Ministry Of Foreign Affairs, said That "the United States Can advance its own foreign policy Objectives with a new tool which is called energy diplomacy." In effect, rising American Natural gas exports would lead to rising American Global influence, a development that these nations welcome. many Asian Nations are highly dependent on imports for their energy needs, much Of which comes from the unstable Middle East. For This reason, the Prospect of U.S. LNG Is Especially valued for its stability. For example, Yasushi Akahoshi, Japan's Minister Of Economy, Trade, Industry And Energy, Said that "half Of the expanded demand for natural gas is coming from the Middle East, And our dependence on that region is rising." He concluded that "the Import from the U.S. Would be the most reliable supply, which could bring about less dependency on the Middle East." Taranjit Singh Sandhu, India's Deputy Chief Of Mission, Stated that U.S. LNG Exports "would Provide a steady, reliable supply Of clean energy and help diversify our imports from Our traditional suppliers." It Should also be noted that many of the Nations participating in the forum have cooperated with the U.S. to impose Economic sanctions on Iran. Quite arguably, American self-sufficiency in Natural gas has made it easier for these nations to Do so since they now are less dependent on Iranian natural gas. Jaroslav Zajicek, Deputy Chief Of Mission For the Czech Republic, Relayed similar experiences. He Explained that the sharp drop in U.S. Imports of natural gas Is already helping by freeing up additional supplies from the Caribbean And other sources that were once destined for The U.S. But now serve the Western European market. "We Have already seen examples where the Russian negotiating position during contract-renewal talks was weakened thanks to decreasing prices on the markets in Western Europe," He said. With regard To the threat of Russian Supply disruptions to the Czech Republic, Zajicek Urged that "if Supplies get cut, if our security is in threat, we have to stand for each other. U.S. LNG and US Hydraulic fracturing Would benefit the common security of the whole transatlantic family." Russia Has a history of threatening to cut off Supply to Lithuania And other nations and has occasionally followed through on those threats. "An Ability to obtain natural gas

from the U.S., even if very small amounts by U.S. standards, would make a huge impact on the Lithuanian Gas market and allow the nation to develop a reliable alternative to Russian gas. *🌐

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