

WEBVTT

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<v SPEAKER_2>Hello, everyone, and welcome to Energy Security Cubed, one of the world's foremost energy security podcasts presented by the CGAI, or Canadian Global Affairs Institute.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I'm Kelly Ogle, Managing Director here at CGAI.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And I'm Joe Calnan, Vice President of Energy and Calgary Operations at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute.

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<v SPEAKER_2>For today's podcast, we're featuring a discussion with Kasha Piquette, where we had a great conversation about energy policy in Eastern Europe in the context of the inauguration of the new Polish president and Russian threats in the region and what Canada may do to assist.

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<v SPEAKER_2>But before we dive into any of that, let's quickly talk with Joe about some of the news stories affecting global and local energy security this week.

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<v SPEAKER_2>How are things with you, Joe?

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<v SPEAKER_3>I'm doing fine, Kelly.

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<v SPEAKER_3>It's kind of the dog days of summer at this point.

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<v SPEAKER_3>It feels like summer is slipping away a little bit.

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<v SPEAKER_3>I was actually talking with my brother earlier about how much more pleasant it is to live here in Calgary during the summer than during the winter.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And joking about how nobody ever wants to do anything in the middle of winter for good reason, because it's extremely unpleasant to be outside.

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<v SPEAKER_3>But right now, it's so nice out that I'm just itching to

get out and about.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Well, as you know, I've been putting a lot of time in on the golf course.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And you're right, because 60 days from now, we'll probably have a foot of snow, or we'll have had some snow.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So, yeah, let's get it in while we can.

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<v SPEAKER_2>You get out there hiking and whatever you're doing, drinking beer on patios is probably what you'd want.

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<v SPEAKER_3>No, no, no, no.

00:01:46.096 --> 00:01:48.516

<v SPEAKER_3>I think I'm going to play badminton with my girlfriend, actually.

00:01:49.396 --> 00:01:51.416

<v SPEAKER_2>Okay, I'll allow that.

00:01:51.416 --> 00:01:52.736

<v SPEAKER_2>What's going on?

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<v SPEAKER_3>Well, let's start with an interesting piece of news from the Canadian oil patch.

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<v SPEAKER_3>On Tuesday, Bloomberg reported that Cenovus Energy is looking to make a joint offer with Indigenous groups to buy MEG Energy.

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<v SPEAKER_3>The rumored joint bid would be following up on an earlier unsolicited bid from Strathcona Resources to buy MEG at an estimated 6 billion Canadian valuation.

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<v SPEAKER_3>If Cenovus is successful in acquiring MEG Energy, kind of pulling it out from Strathcona, it could solidify the company as the largest oil producer in Canada with more than a million barrels per day of production.

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<v SPEAKER_3>However, the deal may hinge on the ability of partner First Nations to pull together financing for a rumored \$2 billion stake, which is not an easy task.

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<v SPEAKER_3>For transparency's sake though, we should note here that Cenovus is a long-standing partner of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, but Kelly, you have far more experience with these sorts of things than I do.

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<v SPEAKER_3>What's your take on this?

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<v SPEAKER_2>Well, Joe, a couple of things.

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<v SPEAKER_2>You know, first I'll speak to the point you make about the Indigenous, the First Nations' ability to put together financing.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I think this would be an interesting point of entry for the federal government to help push along First Nations in these, not only this potential transaction, but in the potential of building out these large infrastructure properties, projects that everybody's talking about and are going to happen hopefully in the next several years.

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<v SPEAKER_2>But yeah, the two billion is a lot of money.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Like, it's going to have, it would, I think, pretty sure that it would have to be some, there's some sort of, have to be some sort of government participation, participation in that, in that part, that kind of, that size of a, of a stake.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Second to that, you know, there's always money around, but at what price and, and First Nations ability to raise equity and or debt are going to be, I'm going to say, difficult in this market without a track record.

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<v SPEAKER_2>That's, it's, it's hard, I think.

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<v SPEAKER_2>But second, the most important, one of the important point I'd like to make, Joe, is that, you know, this is a, would be an

interesting transaction for Cenovus.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And I think when you look at a company like MEG, which is fairly big, like as far as mid-sized oil and gas companies go, they're still not big enough.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And, you know, Cenovus being fully integrated and vertically integrated from the wellhead to selling oil globally through their, or in their own refineries, the big whiting refinery in Ohio, I believe.

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<v SPEAKER_2>You know, this, I think these consolidations are inevitable.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I think in the next decade of the industry, you're only going to have the four or five big players in the oil sands.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And I think that, given that MEG has been pretty much vertical, or sorry, horizontal in its value for several years, that this is probably something that's going to happen.

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<v SPEAKER_2>It's interesting that if, you know, Adam Watrous at Strathcona Resources is a shrewd operator, and they'll play the game until it's not worth their while anymore to make, to continue a fight for a company like this.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So, something's going to happen to MEG, whether it be Strathcona or Cenovus or another party, although I think it's moving away from the valuations that would entice someone like Canadian Natural to do this.

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<v SPEAKER_2>But who knows?

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<v SPEAKER_3>Well, it's certainly good for MEG's investors, the people who currently own MEG, if there's a bidding war.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah, but I think a lot of those folks have been around for a long time and I haven't seen much growth in their valuation.

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<v SPEAKER_2>In fact, depreciation probably over the last several years because there's just been anathema of investors in the market.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So yeah, it's an interest.

00:05:52.976 --> 00:05:54.096

<v SPEAKER_2>Something's going to happen.

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<v SPEAKER_3>It's also very notable how close together that MEG's Christina Lake operations are with Cenovus' Christina Lake operations.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So yeah, there's definitely considerations for consolidation.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Yeah, yeah, for sure.

00:06:08.016 --> 00:06:11.376

<v SPEAKER_3>So I actually have a few friends who work for MEG out in the field.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So we'll see how it happens on that side.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Well, just the hydraulics and mechanics of those operations, you wouldn't see a lot of consolidation at the field level.

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<v SPEAKER_2>You know, I don't see that, but from the administrative perspective, Cenovus could consume MEG and pay out all the Calgary staff.

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<v SPEAKER_2>That would be the end of it, really.

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<v SPEAKER_2>They're big enough that they could do that.

00:06:46.176 --> 00:06:48.596

<v SPEAKER_3>So it's be more of an employment hit in Calgary.

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<v SPEAKER_3>I mean, it's interesting to walk through some of this, because this would be one of the larger consolidations of the past 10 years.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Yes, it will.

00:06:56.456 --> 00:06:57.296
<v SPEAKER_3>Yeah.

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<v SPEAKER_3>That would probably round the, maybe a little bit smaller than the Husky acquisition, but still important thing to mark on.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Well, quite a bit smarter than Husky, but it's still a pretty, you know, a \$6 billion deal is a big deal, right?

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<v SPEAKER_2>So it's interesting.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Well, another important story we should cover is the merger of two Chinese state-controlled shipbuilders, just to stick with the merger perspective.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Although this one is quite a bit more geopolitical than the Cenovus-MEG story.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So this week, the Wall Street Journal reported that China state shipbuilding is set to absorb a smaller rival that's also a state-owned company though, and this other company is called China Shipbuilding Industry.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So the resulting company will be by far the largest shipbuilding company in the world, with more than 530 vessels on its order book and around 17% of global market share.

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<v SPEAKER_3>The stated reason why the companies are moving ahead with consolidating is apparently the need to share technology and this is because both shipbuilders are major contractors for the People's Liberation Army Navy.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So the Chinese Navy is plotting out a rapid expansion in the coming years with dozens of modern ships on order with both of these companies and now it will be entirely consolidated within this one company.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Another possible reason for this consolidation is the threat posed by American policies designed to discriminate against Chinese-built ships in American ports.

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<v SPEAKER_3>We've talked about this before on the podcast.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Yes, we have.

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<v SPEAKER_3>While it's in early days, there's some indications that Chinese private shipbuilders are feeling the pain in their order books and this could be a way to try to solidify the finances of these state-owned companies.

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<v SPEAKER_2>What's remarkable, however, is how despite being so crucial for global security and trade, shipbuilding is a relatively small industry.

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<v SPEAKER_2>This company is expected to have an annual revenue of 18 billion per year.

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<v SPEAKER_2>For comparison, Apple, the largest consumer electronic company in the world, with a similar market share for smartphones, receives about 400 billion in revenue last year.

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<v SPEAKER_2>This makes the industry difficult to re-enter with cost-effective Chinese, Korean and Japanese competition.

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<v SPEAKER_2>It is difficult to set up a shipbuilding industry in a high-cost jurisdiction, like the US or Canada.

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<v SPEAKER_2>This raises the often-repeated question, why are we a high-cost jurisdiction?

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<v SPEAKER_2>We think North American policymakers should take this question very seriously, because even though shipbuilding isn't profitable, it sure is strategic for a country like Canada with three oceans.

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<v SPEAKER_2>It brings to mind this bun fight going on between all the governments about the ferries being built in BCA by a Chinese shipping company.

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<v SPEAKER_2>We've got some pretty crude and big shipbuilding companies, not in the scale of American or Chinese, in Canada, with Davy and C-SPAN, and what's the other, the third one, Irving.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Do Irving build ships at, Joe?

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<v SPEAKER_3>Irving, yeah, Irving shipbuilding.

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<v SPEAKER_3>That's on the West Coast, East Coast, sorry.

00:10:08.536 --> 00:10:11.656

<v SPEAKER_2>So, you know, we should be in the game.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Canadian steel.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I'm not going to share what the project is or who the parties are, but I talked to, I played golf with a guy yesterday who's got a giant project going on in Western Canada, and all the steel is coming from Europe.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Like, you know, it's about procurement and ability to deliver the product.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Like, you know, it's sad that, you know, this is a way to beat off some of that or to beat back some of that, the tariff problems with the United States by employing the iron ore of Canada into Canadian shipbuilding.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Well, we need to become a lower cost jurisdiction.

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<v SPEAKER_3>That's a long and short of it, I think.

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<v SPEAKER_3>You're right.

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<v SPEAKER_3>As long as we're a high cost jurisdiction, doesn't matter how much government support we try to pour on things, you know, our government is going to run out of money before we can set up proper shipbuilding industry.

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<v SPEAKER_3>If that's the route we decide to go down.

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<v SPEAKER_3>It's much, much cheaper to become a lower cost jurisdiction for all sorts of things.

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<v SPEAKER_3>But I think there's quite a few sacred cows that need to be sacrificed to get there.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And I'm all leave it at that.

00:11:16.756 --> 00:11:23.396

<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah, we could go deep into that, like labor and supply chains and access to other raw products.

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<v SPEAKER_2>But energy as a function of shipbuilding, of steelmaking.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And you're right.

00:11:31.096 --> 00:11:32.056

<v SPEAKER_2>It's a rabbit hole.

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<v SPEAKER_2>We should probably just leave it alone for now.

00:11:33.956 --> 00:11:35.476

<v SPEAKER_3>Yeah, we got ourselves in trouble.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Joe, before we leave this, though, remind the listeners of how big the Chinese shipbuilding industry is.

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<v SPEAKER_2>It dwarfs even the American market.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Yeah, I think it's well over a thousand ships a year.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And, well, of course, it dwarfs the American shipbuilding

industry.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And what about Korea and Japan?

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<v SPEAKER_3>Korea and Japan would be...

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<v SPEAKER_3>So I think that China is around 51% of the global shipbuilding industry.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Korea is, I want to say, 25%.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Korea has really done well with their own industrial policy around shipbuilding.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Japan is smaller than Korea, maybe around half the size of Korea, so like 12 or 13.

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<v SPEAKER_3>The United States is 0.5% global shipbuilding.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Canada is even less than that.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So, you know, it's not an ideal situation.

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<v SPEAKER_2>No, but it's an opportunity if we got out of our own way.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Well, you know, it's hard to compete with China.

00:12:32.156 --> 00:12:32.676

<v SPEAKER_3>It really is.

00:12:33.796 --> 00:12:35.156

<v SPEAKER_3>It's really hard.

00:12:36.776 --> 00:12:37.876

<v SPEAKER_2>You got anything else?

00:12:37.876 --> 00:12:47.016

<v SPEAKER_3>Well, last up, we should talk a little bit about where LNG Canada's shipments are going and what it could mean for Canada's

energy ties in the Indo-Pacific.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So as of this recording, the LNG tanker Puteri Muyang is underway carrying a load of LNG from Kitimat to Nagata in Japan.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So this most recent tanker follows on a series of tankers which are shipping Canadian LNG at scale for the first time in Canadian history.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So big win on that front.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So Petronas, which is one of the project partners for LNG Canada, has provided some additional clarity on plans for its share of the LNG from the project.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So of course, all these project partners get a certain share of the total LNG produced with Shell getting the largest share.

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<v SPEAKER_3>But specifically, the CEO of Petronas' Gas and Maritime Business plans to expand into Southeast Asia, including Vietnam and the Philippines.

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<v SPEAKER_2>This comes as some of the LNG Canada project proponents have started feeling out the possibility of sanctioning phase two of the project to help meet demand for natural gas in the Indo-Pacific.

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<v SPEAKER_2>This could be aligned with the federal government's plans.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Yesterday, Canadian Natural Resources Minister Tim Hodgson reaffirmed his support for growing Canadian energy export into the Pacific, telling Vashie Kapelos, I know there are buyers.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So, you know, I think we're, you know, I think around the LNG story, Joe, that Canadian governments and the proponents are finally getting out of each other's way.

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<v SPEAKER_2>It's interesting times.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Be great to see a tanker every other day coming in and out of that port.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Well, I think we're going to be going to be getting pretty close to that pretty quick here.

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<v SPEAKER_3>It's really been just like the Trans Mountain Pipeline opening this LNG Canada story.

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<v SPEAKER_3>It's something that I feel like should be front page news every other day here in Canada.

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<v SPEAKER_3>You know, it feels as though it's just so muted.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And I just want to really want to like put this right up in front of everybody and say, hey, we did this.

00:14:42.676 --> 00:14:43.236

<v SPEAKER_3>We can do more.

00:14:43.636 --> 00:14:48.696

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, and we've got those other projects coming on the offshore LNG projects.

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<v SPEAKER_2>We got lots of gas, you know, I'll just reiterate, the Montney is the largest gas resourced in North America by a factor of 10.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Let's get that gas sold to people that need it in other parts of the world.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Absolutely.

00:15:07.016 --> 00:15:08.556

<v SPEAKER_2>Okay, Joe, great.

00:15:08.556 --> 00:15:10.476

<v SPEAKER_2>Thanks for bringing these stories forward.

00:15:10.476 --> 00:15:11.676

<v SPEAKER_3>Yeah, for sure, Kelly.

00:15:11.676 --> 00:15:22.916

<v SPEAKER_3>And I'd just like to note to our listeners that, you know, I know that I've been a little bit sponny with the newsletter, but I'm going to be looking to get back into that at a more regular pace.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So please do subscribe to our newsletter and keep up with Energy Security Forum activities through that.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Keep your power to drive for the rest of August, Joe.

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<v SPEAKER_2>We'll get after it here after the summer is over.

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<v SPEAKER_2>It's going to be, I think, we're looking to fall and winter of lots of chaos, but great stories to bring forward to our listeners about energy security.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Now let's talk, let's move over and talk to Kasha Piquette.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Hi, I'm Dave Perry, the President and CEO of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute.

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<v SPEAKER_1>I hope you're enjoying Energy Security Cubed, Canada's leading podcast on energy issues.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Reach out to us at contact at cgai.ca for options and pricing.

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<v SPEAKER_1>That's contact at cgai.ca.

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<v SPEAKER_2>For today's interview, which Joe and I recorded August 12, 2025, we discussed recent shifts in Eastern and Central Europe,

what it means for the energy security of Poland in particular, and the broader European project, and how Canada could possibly assist in this crucial arena.

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<v SPEAKER_3>With us to discuss this is Kasha Piquette.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Kasha is a former Deputy Minister of Environment and Protected Areas for the Government of Alberta, and the CEO of Canadian Energy Ventures.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Full disclosure, Kasha is a friend of mine, and I'm really delighted, Joe and I are really delighted to have her on the podcast.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Welcome, Kasha.

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<v SPEAKER_4>Thank you, Kelly.

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<v SPEAKER_4>I'm very pleased to be here.

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<v SPEAKER_4>Just came back from Europe, getting over the jet lag, and very happy to share some of the things that I can share with your audience and yourself.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Looking forward to it.

00:17:13.056 --> 00:17:23.156

<v SPEAKER_2>But before we get into the discussion of Europe, Poland, etc., we should give our audience a bit of an understanding of your firm, Kasha.

00:17:24.756 --> 00:17:29.456

<v SPEAKER_2>What is and why did you start Canadian Energy Ventures?

00:17:29.456 --> 00:17:31.536

<v SPEAKER_4>Very good question, Kelly.

00:17:31.536 --> 00:17:41.296

<v SPEAKER_4>As Joe mentioned, a year ago, to be exact, I stepped away from being Deputy Minister in Alberta government.

00:17:41.296 --> 00:17:49.456

<v SPEAKER_4>During my tenure in the government, I really got closer to geopolitics and international relation.

00:17:49.576 --> 00:17:54.376

<v SPEAKER_4>Actually, my last position was in intergovernmental.

00:17:54.376 --> 00:17:57.116

<v SPEAKER_4>And also Polish-Canadian, proudly so.

00:17:57.116 --> 00:18:08.276

<v SPEAKER_4>So I was born in Warsaw, Poland, went to our School of Economics, grew up during the Cold War, and then for the last 27 years, I live in Canada.

00:18:08.276 --> 00:18:15.116

<v SPEAKER_4>On and off, I'm truly Polish-Canadian, and those two countries, they are my home countries.

00:18:15.116 --> 00:18:20.016

<v SPEAKER_4>What couldn't be more perfect as creating this alliance between Canada and Poland.

00:18:20.016 --> 00:18:34.636

<v SPEAKER_4>Obviously also, the timing was right, with everything was happening as out of the border from Canada, and Canada needing to diversify the trading partners, I just thought this is a natural, and it is.

00:18:34.636 --> 00:18:36.636

<v SPEAKER_2>Certainly.

00:18:36.876 --> 00:18:41.036

<v SPEAKER_3>No, it's great to hear that you've kept up these ties between Canada and Poland.

00:18:41.036 --> 00:18:46.256

<v SPEAKER_3>I think that it's an important relationship for Canada to keep on the front burner here.

00:18:47.376 --> 00:18:56.076

<v SPEAKER_3>Just on that note, last week Poland's new president, and you can correct me if I'm butchering his last name here, Karel Nowrocki.

00:18:56.436 --> 00:18:57.216

<v SPEAKER_3>Is that right, Kasia?

00:18:57.216 --> 00:18:58.976

<v SPEAKER_4>Miro Nowrocki.

00:18:59.096 --> 00:19:00.376

<v SPEAKER_3>Nowrocki.

00:19:00.376 --> 00:19:01.616

<v SPEAKER_4>You did pretty well.

00:19:01.616 --> 00:19:05.216

<v SPEAKER_4>Polish names are very difficult to pronounce.

00:19:05.216 --> 00:19:13.056

<v SPEAKER_3>Well, anyhow, and last week he was inaugurated, and you were invited to his inauguration, so very interested to hear about that.

00:19:13.676 --> 00:19:22.936

<v SPEAKER_3>Nowrocki succeeds former president Andrzej Duda, both being affiliated with the Law and Justice Party.

00:19:22.936 --> 00:19:26.916

<v SPEAKER_3>The legislature, meanwhile, is controlled by the Civic Coalition.

00:19:26.916 --> 00:19:38.096

<v SPEAKER_3>So there's a few moving pieces here where it comes to Polish politics and what it could mean for Polish policy down the line, especially where it comes to defence and energy policy.

00:19:38.096 --> 00:19:49.916

<v SPEAKER_3>But Kasia, how do observers expect this division of powers between these two parties to impact government decision-making leading up to the legislative elections in 2027?

00:19:50.976 --> 00:19:59.256

<v SPEAKER_4>So third answer, expect gridlock on domestic reforms and selective cooperation.

00:19:59.256 --> 00:20:00.856

<v SPEAKER_4>That's to be expected.

00:20:00.916 --> 00:20:08.356

<v SPEAKER_4>So as you rightly so and for the audience listening to us, those parties are from opposite sides.

00:20:08.376 --> 00:20:13.316

<v SPEAKER_4>One, and Navrotsky, I have to straighten one thing.

00:20:13.316 --> 00:20:18.276

<v SPEAKER_4>Navrotsky is not associated with neither.

00:20:18.276 --> 00:20:28.176

<v SPEAKER_4>It's only that piece, I will say it in Polish, Krawo i Sprawiedliwości, PIS.

00:20:28.176 --> 00:20:32.796

<v SPEAKER_4>It's the right-wing who supported Navrotsky.

00:20:32.796 --> 00:20:36.236

<v SPEAKER_4>And they are pro-United States, pro-Donald Trump.

00:20:36.236 --> 00:20:42.896

<v SPEAKER_4>There's another kicker to this because President Navrotsky has been invited by Donald Trump.

00:20:42.896 --> 00:20:45.856

<v SPEAKER_4>So you can imagine that dynamic.

00:20:45.936 --> 00:20:51.016

<v SPEAKER_4>And the party in power in the Parliament, by not...

00:20:51.216 --> 00:20:53.256

<v SPEAKER_4>And this is a true coalition.

00:20:53.256 --> 00:20:56.516

<v SPEAKER_4>So there is a lot of smaller, smaller parties.

00:20:56.516 --> 00:21:03.356

<v SPEAKER_4>It's pro-European Union and it's let, but former European Union leader Donald Tusk.

00:21:03.356 --> 00:21:06.116

<v SPEAKER_4>So as I said, it's a gridlock.

00:21:06.116 --> 00:21:21.836

<v SPEAKER_4>I'm going to speak a little bit about Constitution, because this morning actually I had a very interesting conversation with a colleague of mine who was saying that president of Poland doesn't have power, but just a representative power.

00:21:23.416 --> 00:21:25.496

<v SPEAKER_4>And this is more of a figure.

00:21:25.496 --> 00:21:28.316

<v SPEAKER_4>Not quite right.

00:21:28.316 --> 00:21:45.176

<v SPEAKER_4>So because the president has got a veto power, and in order to use the veto power, he needs to have a support of, I believe it's two-thirds, but a certain percentage of the parliament.

00:21:45.176 --> 00:21:55.136

<v SPEAKER_4>He has that right now because PIS, the party who was previously in power, she has got, is the largest party still in the parliament.

00:21:55.136 --> 00:22:04.036

<v SPEAKER_4>So just like Andrzej Duda, the previous president, he will never risk he can veto most of the new regulations.

00:22:04.036 --> 00:22:11.876

<v SPEAKER_4>So we will see this as quite powerful and unfortunately, gridlocking and the reforms.

00:22:11.876 --> 00:22:13.636

<v SPEAKER_4>Does it answer your question?

00:22:15.396 --> 00:22:22.836

<v SPEAKER_3>Yeah, I think that it poses some challenges, I suppose, for Eastern European policy making there.

00:22:22.836 --> 00:22:25.056

<v SPEAKER_4>I'm going to challenge something very quickly, Joe.

00:22:25.056 --> 00:22:27.076

<v SPEAKER_4>I just thought about this.

00:22:27.076 --> 00:22:28.316

<v SPEAKER_4>Think about this for a moment.

00:22:28.476 --> 00:22:29.416

<v SPEAKER_4>Is it?

00:22:29.416 --> 00:22:31.756

<v SPEAKER_4>Is it really that bad?

00:22:31.756 --> 00:22:48.616

<v SPEAKER_4>Looking at the situation with Donald Trump and European Union, we have president of Poland who is supported by Donald Trump openly, and we have Donald Tusk being supported by European Union.

00:22:48.616 --> 00:22:51.276

<v SPEAKER_4>Is it that bad for Poland right now?

00:22:51.276 --> 00:22:57.016

<v SPEAKER_4>I almost see it as a sort of political genius, probably unintended.

00:22:57.016 --> 00:23:06.936

<v SPEAKER_4>But if I think in the longer term, that the consequences and really what's going to happen in the future, neither of us has got a crystal ball.

00:23:06.936 --> 00:23:10.056

<v SPEAKER_4>It's a complex situation, complicated.

00:23:10.056 --> 00:23:13.616

<v SPEAKER_4>But let's see what's going to happen in the long run.

00:23:14.876 --> 00:23:17.116

<v SPEAKER_2>That leads really into the next.

00:23:17.376 --> 00:23:24.576

<v SPEAKER_2>I think that from an international geopolitical perspective, I consider Noworowski sort of the same as Duda.

00:23:25.516 --> 00:23:28.736

<v SPEAKER_2>That's where I want to center our conversation.

00:23:28.736 --> 00:23:34.356

<v SPEAKER_2>Earlier this week, you published an article with Energy Now, which we will post in the show notes.

00:23:34.356 --> 00:23:42.956

<v SPEAKER_2>In this article, you highlighted the views in Poland toward national sovereignty, including energy sovereignty.

00:23:42.956 --> 00:23:49.856

<v SPEAKER_2>Could you give us a quick overview of policies being pursued in Poland to safeguard energy security and energy sovereignty?

00:23:49.976 --> 00:23:52.256

<v SPEAKER_2>I think that's the crux of what we want to talk about.

00:23:52.256 --> 00:23:59.116

<v SPEAKER_4>With the greatest pressure, yes, absolutely, yes, because energy links to everything, to higher prices, to defence.

00:23:59.116 --> 00:24:03.316

<v SPEAKER_4>We all know what's happening on the border, on the Polish border at the moment.

00:24:03.316 --> 00:24:08.736

<v SPEAKER_4>So I would say the three pillars stand out for me around this.

00:24:08.736 --> 00:24:11.276

<v SPEAKER_4>Number one, gas infrastructure.

00:24:12.356 --> 00:24:18.456

<v SPEAKER_4>Poland has been blessed with the large and long coastline around the Baltic Sea.

00:24:19.076 --> 00:24:26.836

<v SPEAKER_4>And what the Poles were doing lately, it's really expanding their existing LNG terminal.

00:24:26.836 --> 00:24:34.856

<v SPEAKER_4>And Joe, this one is good for you to pronounce, at Świnoujście, that's in Gdynia, are way easier to pronounce.

00:24:34.856 --> 00:24:45.376

<v SPEAKER_4>They bought new faster use, so really the regasification and the tankers, number of them.

00:24:47.016 --> 00:24:52.196

<v SPEAKER_4>They also have cooperated with Norwegian on Baltic Pipe.

00:24:52.196 --> 00:25:00.416

<v SPEAKER_4>And the Baltic Pipe, it's functional as of late, as of now, I think for quite a while right now.

00:25:00.416 --> 00:25:06.296

<v SPEAKER_4>So they are really building infrastructure, Kelly, to answer your question directly.

00:25:06.296 --> 00:25:11.996

<v SPEAKER_4>They want to, and they also are thinking about diversification of suppliers.

00:25:11.996 --> 00:25:14.416

<v SPEAKER_4>That's where Canadian part comes into play.

00:25:15.296 --> 00:25:24.236

<v SPEAKER_4>I think everyone nowadays understands that having diversified suppliers, it's a key no matter who those suppliers are.

00:25:24.236 --> 00:25:26.256

<v SPEAKER_4>Well, it's not just who those suppliers are.

00:25:26.256 --> 00:25:27.796

<v SPEAKER_4>We're going to take this back.

00:25:27.796 --> 00:25:31.316

<v SPEAKER_4>However, diversification is very important.

00:25:31.316 --> 00:25:34.956

<v SPEAKER_4>Number two, Kelly, nuclear.

00:25:34.956 --> 00:25:43.236

<v SPEAKER_4>We all know, and both of you travel to Europe, we have most of European cities run on central heating.

00:25:45.196 --> 00:25:53.116

<v SPEAKER_4>So they are not LNG single dwellings like we have in Canada, which is plug and play.

00:25:53.116 --> 00:25:55.476

<v SPEAKER_4>It's probably a little bit easier to transition.

00:25:55.476 --> 00:26:05.856

<v SPEAKER_4>You have a huge cities who are built, some of them in the middle centuries almost, so very, very old infrastructure.

00:26:05.856 --> 00:26:08.516

<v SPEAKER_4>In the Polish situation, they are run on coal.

00:26:09.996 --> 00:26:25.296

<v SPEAKER_4>So nuclear might, and again, if you ever seen the Central Heating System, it's a big base really old and the water, it's being raised to the certain temperature.

00:26:25.296 --> 00:26:37.376

<v SPEAKER_4>So the natural substitution would be SMR, Small Nuclear Reactor, and they actually signed the agreement with Canada, with Westinghouse and others.

00:26:37.956 --> 00:26:46.176

<v SPEAKER_4>So I see quite a bit of cooperation around nuclear energy, and that's a strategic goal of this government as well.

00:26:46.176 --> 00:26:52.196

<v SPEAKER_4>The other part I want to remember, it's renewables.

00:26:52.196 --> 00:26:56.256

<v SPEAKER_4>Just similar to Alberta, that's why I drew this analogy.

00:26:56.256 --> 00:27:03.856

<v SPEAKER_4>Poland renewables electricity generation surpassed the coal ones for the first one.

00:27:03.916 --> 00:27:06.396

<v SPEAKER_4>Also, I believe June 2025.

00:27:07.816 --> 00:27:23.696

<v SPEAKER_4>So, and there is one thing, and I cannot resist to talk about this, because I speak to a lot of people in Canada, in Poland and internationally.

00:27:23.696 --> 00:27:28.596

<v SPEAKER_4>Here's one thing I think most foreigners and observers miss.

00:27:28.596 --> 00:27:37.196

<v SPEAKER_4>Poland doesn't love coal, but we are using it as a control bridge and control the transition.

00:27:37.196 --> 00:27:50.916

<v SPEAKER_4>Because if Poland would give up coal altogether overnight, we would get dependent in the past, for sure, on the Russian imported natural gas.

00:27:50.916 --> 00:27:55.796

<v SPEAKER_4>We were the first to cut out just because Poland was actively helping Ukrainians.

00:27:56.476 --> 00:28:01.776

<v SPEAKER_4>But Poland is smart in regards to doing the gradual transition.

00:28:02.496 --> 00:28:10.636

<v SPEAKER_4>There are cities in Poland who are really built on production of coal, on energy.

00:28:10.636 --> 00:28:17.016

<v SPEAKER_4>So that's why in Alberta we don't have that coal as of now.

00:28:17.016 --> 00:28:22.376

<v SPEAKER_4>But the entire transition story resembles for me.

00:28:22.376 --> 00:28:23.416

<v SPEAKER_2>Let's go back to nuclear.

00:28:23.656 --> 00:28:29.496

<v SPEAKER_2>Joe, is there not an agreement between Canada and Poland to put a Kandu?

00:28:29.496 --> 00:28:31.216

<v SPEAKER_2>Aren't they putting a new Kandu in Poland?

00:28:31.216 --> 00:28:32.036

<v SPEAKER_3>I don't think it's Kandu.

00:28:32.036 --> 00:28:34.416

<v SPEAKER_3>I think it's an AP1000 from Westinghouse.

00:28:35.436 --> 00:28:36.256

<v SPEAKER_3>Yeah, that's the plan.

00:28:36.256 --> 00:28:42.456

<v SPEAKER_3>But of course, Brookfield and Kamiko jointly own

Westinghouse.

00:28:42.456 --> 00:28:49.256

<v SPEAKER_3>So Westinghouse is still, of course, the American nuclear champion and you still have it being pushed by the US government.

00:28:49.256 --> 00:28:51.876

<v SPEAKER_3>But there is a Canadian interest in that as well.

00:28:53.176 --> 00:28:55.316

<v SPEAKER_2>Okay.

00:28:55.436 --> 00:29:07.536

<v SPEAKER_2>You mentioned earlier the juxtaposition of Trump and Novrowski, also Tusk.

00:29:09.216 --> 00:29:20.576

<v SPEAKER_2>Later this week, Trump is planning on meeting with Putin to talk about Ukraine and the outcome of these discussions could have huge impacts on Poland.

00:29:21.616 --> 00:29:32.156

<v SPEAKER_2>What's your sense of the ground in Poland around how the war is proceeding and further implications for energy security in the region due to the conflict?

00:29:34.196 --> 00:29:44.196

<v SPEAKER_4>It's a very complex question, but let me try to chunk it out a little bit as I just returned from Poland.

00:29:44.196 --> 00:29:46.376

<v SPEAKER_4>My friends are still there, my family is there.

00:29:46.536 --> 00:29:58.436

<v SPEAKER_4>So, a long-term sense of Ukrainians in Poland, obviously, we were the one providing the help, and we are bordering Ukraine, of course.

00:29:59.576 --> 00:30:08.856

<v SPEAKER_4>Who else, like us, we have a very complex history as well, with the same actors, meaning Russia, Germany.

00:30:08.856 --> 00:30:17.256

<v SPEAKER_4>Well, Germany in this situation, it's an ally, but I'm talking about Russia.

00:30:17.256 --> 00:30:18.516

<v SPEAKER_4>Here's what I heard.

00:30:18.516 --> 00:30:23.256

<v SPEAKER_4>This is exactly what one of my colleagues told me.

00:30:24.456 --> 00:30:31.216

<v SPEAKER_4>He told me, just remember this, I'm not fall back, but stay ready.

00:30:31.216 --> 00:30:42.716

<v SPEAKER_4>So, what they are doing, and I think that that face I just said, I'm not fall back, but stay ready, has been quoted a number of times in the media now.

00:30:43.516 --> 00:30:51.176

<v SPEAKER_4>Because it's bracing for a messy and potentially long frozen conflict.

00:30:51.176 --> 00:30:57.036

<v SPEAKER_4>Here's the thing, Kelly, let's say perfect case scenario, Mr.

00:30:57.036 --> 00:31:03.236

<v SPEAKER_4>Putin agree on something to finish the war with Mr.

00:31:03.336 --> 00:31:04.236

<v SPEAKER_4>Putin.

00:31:04.236 --> 00:31:09.916

<v SPEAKER_4>So great, I think everyone needs the end of the war.

00:31:09.916 --> 00:31:15.576

<v SPEAKER_4>The borders everyone knows won't be the same, but there will be peace, but will it be?

00:31:15.576 --> 00:31:20.616

<v SPEAKER_4>So I will tell you something from a personal side and it comes from the history.

00:31:20.616 --> 00:31:27.816

<v SPEAKER_4>So now you have Ukrainian people living now in Russian territory, controlled territory.

00:31:27.816 --> 00:31:30.936

<v SPEAKER_4>Do you think they will give up?

00:31:30.936 --> 00:31:32.156

<v SPEAKER_4>This is just a question to you.

00:31:32.376 --> 00:31:34.976

<v SPEAKER_4>What would you do if you would be done?

00:31:34.976 --> 00:31:37.116

<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah, it's a hard question.

00:31:37.116 --> 00:31:39.776

<v SPEAKER_2>We in the West have no idea.

00:31:39.776 --> 00:31:44.736

<v SPEAKER_2>I'll listen to your opinion to Kasha because you've lived this.

00:31:44.736 --> 00:31:46.176

<v SPEAKER_4>I will tell you what would happen.

00:31:46.176 --> 00:31:52.216

<v SPEAKER_4>A portion of them will still continue fighting or sabotaging.

00:31:52.216 --> 00:31:55.196

<v SPEAKER_4>And now the Western world will call them terrorists.

00:31:58.316 --> 00:32:00.636

<v SPEAKER_4>So I don't want to speculate.

00:32:00.836 --> 00:32:02.396

<v SPEAKER_4>I don't know what's going to happen.

00:32:02.396 --> 00:32:11.536

<v SPEAKER_4>I know that it's morning conversations preparing for this podcast with some of the people on the ground.

00:32:11.536 --> 00:32:19.196

<v SPEAKER_4>And as of late, and I'm sure you know this by now, the Russia is expecting and demanding more territory.

00:32:19.196 --> 00:32:22.456

<v SPEAKER_4>It's actually occupied by them right now.

00:32:22.456 --> 00:32:25.536

<v SPEAKER_4>Truthfully, I don't know if anything is going to happen.

00:32:25.536 --> 00:32:28.236

<v SPEAKER_4>I sincerely hope so because here's also the truth.

00:32:29.576 --> 00:32:32.116

<v SPEAKER_4>Every day, people are being killed.

00:32:33.396 --> 00:32:44.556

<v SPEAKER_4>Every day, people are, so because we have a lot of Ukrainians in Warsaw, in Poland, specifically mothers and children, I can tell you those kids are traumatized.

00:32:44.616 --> 00:32:50.276

<v SPEAKER_4>Like, there is gonna be a generation who will need a lot of emotional support.

00:32:50.276 --> 00:33:04.096

<v SPEAKER_4>Like, I was speaking to the friends and his three and a half year old daughter, the mother decided to go for the school year to Poland because the little girl doesn't know any better.

00:33:04.096 --> 00:33:05.976

<v SPEAKER_4>She wakes up at 4 a.m.

00:33:05.976 --> 00:33:08.136

<v SPEAKER_4>ready to go to shelter.

00:33:08.216 --> 00:33:09.676

<v SPEAKER_2>Right.

00:33:09.676 --> 00:33:14.096

<v SPEAKER_4>Like, those are gonna be long term consequences.

00:33:14.096 --> 00:33:15.376

<v SPEAKER_4>But I've sidetracked.

00:33:15.376 --> 00:33:19.096

<v SPEAKER_4>As for Poland, I think Polish people are very practical.

00:33:20.216 --> 00:33:30.816

<v SPEAKER_4>One more thing with that President Navrowski said in his inaugural speech, which is extremely well done.

00:33:30.816 --> 00:33:32.856

<v SPEAKER_4>I would say he's historian.

00:33:32.856 --> 00:33:38.476

<v SPEAKER_4>And he said that he wants to build biggest NATO army in the EU.

00:33:38.476 --> 00:33:44.196

<v SPEAKER_4>They already have the biggest by numbers, if you Google that, not even by population, by numbers.

00:33:44.196 --> 00:33:46.476

<v SPEAKER_4>But you should see the focus on defence.

00:33:46.476 --> 00:33:48.616

<v SPEAKER_4>We've been through this before.

00:33:50.096 --> 00:33:51.956

<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah, like for several hundred years.

00:33:51.956 --> 00:33:57.416

<v SPEAKER_2>You know, this is always the \$1,000 or \$1,000.

00:33:57.416 --> 00:34:07.436

<v SPEAKER_2>Yes, the big question is, you know, I don't care what Putin says, he has larger aspirations about Western Eastern Europe.

00:34:12.236 --> 00:34:14.236

<v SPEAKER_2>It's complicated.

00:34:15.376 --> 00:34:20.776

<v SPEAKER_4>The European history, to say the best, I like this word, it's complicated.

00:34:22.936 --> 00:34:23.656

<v SPEAKER_3>Yeah, there's a larger context.

00:34:23.656 --> 00:34:26.916

<v SPEAKER_4>That's really a very, very good conversation.

00:34:26.916 --> 00:34:31.176

<v SPEAKER_4>However, let's talk about something a little bit more.

00:34:34.216 --> 00:34:37.936

<v SPEAKER_4>Oh, well, I wouldn't say optimistic, but positive for everyone else.

00:34:37.936 --> 00:34:49.276

<v SPEAKER_4>I do think that we spoke about nuclear cooperation, but the same thing, there's a lot of Canadian companies who are reaching out around defence or engineering.

00:34:49.276 --> 00:34:57.656

<v SPEAKER_4>You know, the sad part, and they have a new regulations in Poland, and that really brings home how Polish people think.

00:34:57.656 --> 00:34:59.136

<v SPEAKER_4>They will be building shelters.

00:34:59.776 --> 00:35:07.056

<v SPEAKER_4>They are going to dedicate a sizable portion of GDP to build shelters for populations.

00:35:07.056 --> 00:35:09.656

<v SPEAKER_4>So to your answer, yeah, they are not messing up.

00:35:09.656 --> 00:35:12.076

<v SPEAKER_4>They are getting ready.

00:35:12.076 --> 00:35:22.736

<v SPEAKER_3>So just to get back into the energy side of things in the context of Eastern Europe, because I think that we've delved into the political, geopolitical context here a little bit.

00:35:22.736 --> 00:35:35.996

<v SPEAKER_3>But on the energy file, some countries in Eastern Europe, and I'm thinking about, you know, Hungary, Slovakia, I believe that also, I believe it's Serbia, but anyhow, like a few of those countries have-

00:35:35.996 --> 00:35:40.596

<v SPEAKER_4>The England countries, if you look at the map, it's going to be very easy to say.

00:35:40.596 --> 00:35:47.216

<v SPEAKER_3>Yeah, these countries, they have difficulty building the infrastructure through the coastal countries.

00:35:47.216 --> 00:35:48.656

<v SPEAKER_3>These countries are energy poor.

00:35:48.656 --> 00:35:53.776

<v SPEAKER_3>They don't have much of their own, of course, oil and gas fields and other forms of energy.

00:35:53.776 --> 00:36:00.236

<v SPEAKER_3>And these countries have, well, they've maintained this connection to Russia on energy.

00:36:00.236 --> 00:36:06.756

<v SPEAKER_3>Russia is still a major, major provider of energy to Eastern Europe, regardless of what's going on in Ukraine.

00:36:06.756 --> 00:36:10.776

<v SPEAKER_3>And there's a question about how much of a choice these countries really have.

00:36:11.876 --> 00:36:15.276

<v SPEAKER_3>Meanwhile, much of Europe, and this, of course, includes Poland.

00:36:15.276 --> 00:36:17.036

<v SPEAKER_3>Much of Europe, of course, has coastlines.

00:36:17.236 --> 00:36:22.756

<v SPEAKER_3>The countries in Western Europe, I don't think there's a single country that is landlocked, really.

00:36:23.776 --> 00:36:25.956

<v SPEAKER_3>But they are still in a bind with high energy costs.

00:36:25.996 --> 00:36:31.996

<v SPEAKER_3>They've been signing agreements and the like with other countries to try to improve their own energy security.

00:36:31.996 --> 00:36:41.316

<v SPEAKER_3>But Kasha, have you gotten any sense from your conversations, what role Canada could play in improving European energy security?

00:36:41.316 --> 00:36:44.696

<v SPEAKER_3>I think that we know where this conversation is going to be going.

00:36:44.696 --> 00:36:45.756

<v SPEAKER_3>I think it's going to be a yes.

00:36:45.756 --> 00:36:48.276

<v SPEAKER_3>But the question is, I guess, how?

00:36:49.476 --> 00:37:03.736

<v SPEAKER_4>So maybe let's start from the beginning, because you start with the very powerful statement, some countries are very dependent on the Russian energy.

00:37:03.736 --> 00:37:04.436

<v SPEAKER_4>How much?

00:37:04.436 --> 00:37:05.436

<v SPEAKER_4>Take a guess.

00:37:05.436 --> 00:37:13.716

<v SPEAKER_4>But maybe you know how much in 2024, Russia supplied percentage-wise.

00:37:15.296 --> 00:37:23.736

<v SPEAKER_4>So imagine that's mixture to European Union in regards to natural gas use and import was still coming from Russia.

00:37:23.736 --> 00:37:24.556

<v SPEAKER_4>Take a guess.

00:37:24.556 --> 00:37:27.836

<v SPEAKER_3>And there's a combination of piped gas and LNG?

00:37:27.836 --> 00:37:29.616

<v SPEAKER_4>Sure.

00:37:29.616 --> 00:37:33.656

<v SPEAKER_3>I'd guess that it would be combined 10 percent?

00:37:33.656 --> 00:37:34.856

<v SPEAKER_4>19.

00:37:34.856 --> 00:37:35.776

<v SPEAKER_3>19 percent.

00:37:35.776 --> 00:37:36.536

<v SPEAKER_3>Okay.

00:37:36.616 --> 00:37:38.296

<v SPEAKER_3>Substantial.

00:37:38.296 --> 00:37:41.136

<v SPEAKER_4>And that's just natural gas.

00:37:41.776 --> 00:37:43.036

<v SPEAKER_4>We didn't speak.

00:37:43.036 --> 00:37:48.876

<v SPEAKER_4>The same goes with crude and crude products with exactly Hungary and Slovakia.

00:37:48.876 --> 00:37:51.176

<v SPEAKER_4>Now, to be honest, it's decreasing.

00:37:51.176 --> 00:37:55.056

<v SPEAKER_4>It's not zero, but it's decreasing and substantially decreasing.

00:37:55.056 --> 00:37:59.036

<v SPEAKER_4>And hopefully, the sanctions will help, but it's still happening.

00:37:59.036 --> 00:38:01.636

<v SPEAKER_4>But let's get back to your real question.

00:38:04.996 --> 00:38:07.596

<v SPEAKER_4>Where Canada fits in the scenario?

00:38:07.596 --> 00:38:08.996

<v SPEAKER_4>We know we are far.

00:38:08.996 --> 00:38:12.716

<v SPEAKER_4>We know we don't have infrastructure going in that direction.

00:38:12.716 --> 00:38:16.636

<v SPEAKER_4>Hopefully, we will eventually build it, but it will take

a long time.

00:38:16.636 --> 00:38:18.416
<v SPEAKER_4>We all know that.

00:38:18.416 --> 00:38:21.076
<v SPEAKER_4>Those are long, long projects.

00:38:21.076 --> 00:38:24.596
<v SPEAKER_4>But there are ways.

00:38:24.656 --> 00:38:25.756
<v SPEAKER_4>Think about it for a moment.

00:38:25.876 --> 00:38:31.636
<v SPEAKER_4>I spoke on a very similar Polish podcast about that.

00:38:31.636 --> 00:38:55.076
<v SPEAKER_4>Because some of the interviewers asked me, very well aware of International Energy Dynamics, he told me, I have a data seeing that we are actually getting the Alberta Canadian molecules of natural gas in our mixtures from the Gulf of America.

00:38:55.076 --> 00:39:00.076
<v SPEAKER_4>Yeah, I was thinking how to say this, Kelly, because there are two options.

00:39:00.076 --> 00:39:06.396
<v SPEAKER_4>And I was a way in which option should I say it, but we know what I'm talking about.

00:39:08.816 --> 00:39:15.456
<v SPEAKER_3>I think most people who listen to this podcast would generally still call it Gulf of Mexico, but there would also be people who call it Gulf of America.

00:39:15.456 --> 00:39:16.256
<v SPEAKER_3>Yeah.

00:39:16.616 --> 00:39:19.656
<v SPEAKER_2>I've called it the Texas Gulf for a long time.

00:39:19.656 --> 00:39:21.556
<v SPEAKER_4>I like that, being Switzerland.

00:39:21.556 --> 00:39:22.176
<v SPEAKER_3>I like that, Kelly.

00:39:22.176 --> 00:39:23.136
<v SPEAKER_3>US Gulf Coast.

00:39:23.136 --> 00:39:24.696
<v SPEAKER_3>Yeah.

00:39:24.776 --> 00:39:33.116
<v SPEAKER_4>So, nevertheless, so obviously, we know that the Canadian LNG goes through that way.

00:39:33.116 --> 00:39:36.136
<v SPEAKER_4>So could we potentially increase those routes?

00:39:36.136 --> 00:39:37.356
<v SPEAKER_4>Could we?

00:39:37.596 --> 00:39:39.636
<v SPEAKER_4>And that needs to be checked by engineers.

00:39:39.636 --> 00:39:41.156
<v SPEAKER_4>And I challenge people on that.

00:39:41.156 --> 00:39:46.376
<v SPEAKER_4>Could we send more of our natural gas that way?

00:39:46.376 --> 00:39:59.656
<v SPEAKER_4>And also, it was explained that natural gas is voted a little bit differently than crude, for example, that you really pay on the receiving end.

00:39:59.656 --> 00:40:01.076
<v SPEAKER_4>So by the end of that pipe.

00:40:01.076 --> 00:40:16.416
<v SPEAKER_4>So could, in this scenario, Polish tankers not go and use, obviously, LNG facilities, which are in Texas, but really bring their own tankers, maybe potentially increase every little bit of counts.

00:40:16.416 --> 00:40:19.796
<v SPEAKER_4>And I think diversification is very important.

00:40:19.856 --> 00:40:21.616
<v SPEAKER_4>So they are the ways.

00:40:21.616 --> 00:40:25.236
<v SPEAKER_4>Poland is obviously a gateway.

00:40:25.236 --> 00:40:32.816
<v SPEAKER_4>And we are going to talk a little bit, because I know you're going to ask me about my favorite book, and I can't wait for that.

00:40:32.816 --> 00:40:42.136

<v SPEAKER_4>Because Poland is becoming very powerful gateway in regards to energy, and they are building, obviously, the infrastructure.

00:40:42.136 --> 00:40:50.676

<v SPEAKER_4>And if you look at the map again, on the Baltic Coast, and what they are doing, and what they are building.

00:40:52.136 --> 00:41:01.656

<v SPEAKER_4>So they want to be an energy hub for the rest of Europe, for those inland countries, so they don't have to buy from Russia.

00:41:04.196 --> 00:41:22.616

<v SPEAKER_3>Now, what do you think would be necessary to make countries like Slovakia, Hungary, those sort of landlocked Eastern European countries, to make them comfortable enough with infrastructure going through another country to supply them with, let's say, a Canadian or North American LNG?

00:41:23.896 --> 00:41:30.236

<v SPEAKER_3>Because I feel as though there's challenges there, because some of these countries have tough relations with each other.

00:41:30.236 --> 00:41:38.056

<v SPEAKER_3>But I feel as though Poland could play this role as being an originator of these natural gas pipelines to bring them out.

00:41:38.056 --> 00:41:40.296

<v SPEAKER_2>And be the middleman, right?

00:41:40.336 --> 00:41:49.876

<v SPEAKER_2>Then there's big for that, you know, there's opportunity for Poland and Poland entities to build that infrastructure.

00:41:49.876 --> 00:41:51.176

<v SPEAKER_2>Is that not the plan?

00:41:51.176 --> 00:41:51.716

<v SPEAKER_2>Would that not be?

00:41:51.716 --> 00:41:54.196

<v SPEAKER_4>Yes, it is the plan.

00:41:54.196 --> 00:41:55.216

<v SPEAKER_4>You said it right.

00:41:55.216 --> 00:41:59.016

<v SPEAKER_4>It just based on what I mentioned, the projects.

00:41:59.076 --> 00:42:06.816

<v SPEAKER_4>So just look at the Baltic Coast, on positioning itself to be that supplier.

00:42:06.816 --> 00:42:20.556

<v SPEAKER_4>Now, Joe, I need to address your first question or statement that whether the Hungary and Slovakia would worry about the ponds going through, it's already happening.

00:42:20.556 --> 00:42:22.076

<v SPEAKER_4>Like they don't have a choice.

00:42:22.736 --> 00:42:27.156

<v SPEAKER_4>They are like Alberta, they don't have tight water, it's going to go one way or the other.

00:42:27.856 --> 00:42:32.576

<v SPEAKER_4>But I think what everyone learned, the diversification is the key.

00:42:34.756 --> 00:42:57.776

<v SPEAKER_2>What about, again, complicated is the theme of this conversation, but what about Canadian companies doing deals directly with Eastern European countries for the sale of LNG and paying the price to go through the Texas Gulf?

00:42:57.776 --> 00:43:06.816

<v SPEAKER_2>Like, you know, Tourmaline exports gas to Eastern or to Southeast Asia directly to the consumption, to the consumers.

00:43:06.816 --> 00:43:07.236

<v SPEAKER_2>I don't...

00:43:07.376 --> 00:43:15.156

<v SPEAKER_2>They've figured out a way to use the infrastructure that gets the gas to the depots in South Texas.

00:43:15.156 --> 00:43:17.196

<v SPEAKER_2>Isn't that an opportunity too?

00:43:17.196 --> 00:43:18.136

<v SPEAKER_4>Why not?

00:43:18.136 --> 00:43:23.076

<v SPEAKER_4>I'm asking this question to everyone I speak to, but why not?

00:43:24.316 --> 00:43:27.276

<v SPEAKER_2>We should talk to some of these companies, Joe, and see

what...

00:43:27.276 --> 00:43:35.256

<v SPEAKER_2>There's got to be opportunity here to diversify the sale of gas to not just, you know, to make train too at LNG Canada.

00:43:35.256 --> 00:43:40.636

<v SPEAKER_2>Like, there's other ways to get access gas into the market.

00:43:42.076 --> 00:43:48.316

<v SPEAKER_4>Yeah, the distance is a problem, but the opportunity is real, and it's a perfect opportunity to talk about this.

00:43:48.316 --> 00:43:48.796

<v SPEAKER_4>Wonderful.

00:43:48.796 --> 00:43:56.596

<v SPEAKER_4>And please, Joe, if you're willing to have a conversation, Canadian Energy Ventures will be very happy to have that conversation.

00:43:56.596 --> 00:44:01.796

<v SPEAKER_4>Because, as I said, this is this moment in the history where it really, truly matters.

00:44:01.876 --> 00:44:05.216

<v SPEAKER_4>And I can tell you one more thing, why it matters so much.

00:44:05.216 --> 00:44:15.156

<v SPEAKER_4>To me, you have no idea, or maybe you do, how much projects, LNG projects are coming online, specifically in Qatar.

00:44:15.156 --> 00:44:26.096

<v SPEAKER_4>What Qataris are doing, and again, my Polish colleagues told me they are going around trying to buy deeper natural gas and selling it back to Europe.

00:44:26.096 --> 00:44:30.996

<v SPEAKER_4>So there is a lot of opportunity seeking by other countries.

00:44:30.996 --> 00:44:34.716

<v SPEAKER_4>We ought to take positions somewhat.

00:44:34.716 --> 00:44:49.096

<v SPEAKER_2>I'm going off script here a bit, but how does Poland get around the carbon bordered adjustment mechanism and these silly rules that the European Union has about the type of gas?

00:44:49.096 --> 00:45:03.376

<v SPEAKER_2>Qatar has thrown the gauntlet down to Europe about, yeah, you can think about all those tariffs, et cetera, duties on gas coming in because of a carbon adjustment, but at the end of the day, those countries want the gas.

00:45:03.376 --> 00:45:10.116

<v SPEAKER_2>And it looks to me like a big conflict within the Union itself.

00:45:11.496 --> 00:45:18.496

<v SPEAKER_4>There is a very good, if you ever watch European Parliament, they are very good debates about that.

00:45:18.496 --> 00:45:28.496

<v SPEAKER_4>And there is one very vocal Polish MP who I had a pleasure to sit down when I was in Poland, Dominik Tarczyński, who is very straightforward about this.

00:45:28.496 --> 00:45:32.296

<v SPEAKER_4>But right now, Kelly, they pay for the energy.

00:45:32.356 --> 00:45:42.176

<v SPEAKER_4>So really, what it does, like with an attacks like that, because it is a tax, it's increase energy costs for the end consumers.

00:45:42.176 --> 00:45:43.756

<v SPEAKER_4>But they pay it.

00:45:44.956 --> 00:45:46.836

<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah, it's really counterintuitive.

00:45:46.836 --> 00:46:07.996

<v SPEAKER_2>I don't understand the crises we're in globally, existentially across the whole spectrum of defence, security, energy security, conflict, that I would commend your friend, the MP to push back on this.

00:46:08.696 --> 00:46:13.496

<v SPEAKER_2>I just don't see the, well, I could diatribe about this for a week.

00:46:14.616 --> 00:46:26.196

<v SPEAKER_2>There's got to be a middle way to make it more accessible for the, at the end of the day, that Polish family trying to heat their home when it gets to 30 below, here in about 90 days.

00:46:27.196 --> 00:46:28.956

<v SPEAKER_4>But it doesn't get to minus 30.

00:46:28.956 --> 00:46:38.256

<v SPEAKER_4>So one thing to tell you, and we're friends, so I can tell you, living in both countries, Poland, it's not as cold as Canada, but still pretty cold.

00:46:38.256 --> 00:46:40.416

<v SPEAKER_4>Still gets to minus 10.

00:46:42.036 --> 00:46:44.816

<v SPEAKER_4>But the needs are the same.

00:46:44.816 --> 00:46:48.876

<v SPEAKER_4>So same in the summertime, it's extremely hot.

00:46:48.916 --> 00:46:51.096

<v SPEAKER_4>I have 81-year-old mother there.

00:46:51.096 --> 00:46:52.776

<v SPEAKER_4>We never needed air conditioning.

00:46:52.776 --> 00:46:53.876

<v SPEAKER_4>We do now.

00:46:53.876 --> 00:46:59.056

<v SPEAKER_4>Those are all really large costs specifically for the senior citizens.

00:46:59.056 --> 00:47:03.616

<v SPEAKER_4>Now, I have to say, Polish governments subsidized that.

00:47:03.616 --> 00:47:14.356

<v SPEAKER_4>Poland is in a very comfortable situation right now, and I'm proud to say, I don't know if you remember, but there was the economist, was the Poland on the French front page.

00:47:14.356 --> 00:47:20.556

<v SPEAKER_4>I think it was maybe in May or June, talking about Poland growth and trajectory.

00:47:20.556 --> 00:47:30.456

<v SPEAKER_4>So Poland, according to their statistics from the economist, Polish economy supposed to surpass UK in 2030.

00:47:30.456 --> 00:47:39.676

<v SPEAKER_4>So they are growing quite a bit, but they are also supporting the energy needs, but they cannot do this forever.

00:47:39.676 --> 00:47:50.536

<v SPEAKER_4>That's why one of the primary promises from the Polish

new elected president is to seek cheaper energy sources.

00:47:50.776 --> 00:47:59.776

<v SPEAKER_4>So the mix is diversified, suppliers are diversified, and citizens have a comfort that they can hit their houses.

00:48:02.036 --> 00:48:04.236

<v SPEAKER_3>That all sounds great.

00:48:05.856 --> 00:48:30.016

<v SPEAKER_3>This is a great conversation, Kasha, and I think that this insight into what's happening on the ground in Poland will be very, very useful to our listeners and especially the ideas around what sort of energy needs exist out there to help them with resisting Russian aggression and Russian subversion of politics in Eastern Europe.

00:48:30.016 --> 00:48:32.736

<v SPEAKER_3>I think that's absolutely crucial.

00:48:33.276 --> 00:48:37.376

<v SPEAKER_3>So we should be really thinking about how to help out on that.

00:48:37.436 --> 00:48:39.316

<v SPEAKER_3>But just to finish things off, and...

00:48:39.316 --> 00:48:40.196

<v SPEAKER_2>Before we go...

00:48:40.196 --> 00:48:54.456

<v SPEAKER_2>Before we do that, Joe, and I apologize for my memory has gotten awful, but Kasha, fill us in on the embassy situation in Ottawa.

00:48:55.216 --> 00:49:03.116

<v SPEAKER_2>You were very helpful in us bringing President Duda to Canada last...

00:49:03.116 --> 00:49:06.576

<v SPEAKER_2>We had an event in Vancouver, if you recall, a year and a half ago.

00:49:07.056 --> 00:49:07.416

<v SPEAKER_4>Yes.

00:49:07.796 --> 00:49:11.256

<v SPEAKER_2>And along with Ambassador...

00:49:11.256 --> 00:49:13.236

<v SPEAKER_2>I'm just forgetting his name now.

00:49:13.236 --> 00:49:14.196

<v SPEAKER_4>Vito Degerski.

00:49:14.196 --> 00:49:18.076

<v SPEAKER_4>He's still our ambassador, one of the best ambassadors out there.

00:49:18.076 --> 00:49:20.716

<v SPEAKER_4>I'm just going to give him a shout out.

00:49:20.716 --> 00:49:23.116

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, that's what I wanted to...

00:49:23.116 --> 00:49:30.616

<v SPEAKER_2>When I met with him, with Vito, last winter in Ottawa, he thought he might be moving on, but they've...

00:49:30.836 --> 00:49:33.436

<v SPEAKER_4>They've kept him for a little bit extra.

00:49:33.436 --> 00:49:41.196

<v SPEAKER_4>I don't know for how long we have him, because as you know, the diplomatic posts, just the government posts, they rotate them.

00:49:41.196 --> 00:49:47.116

<v SPEAKER_4>I know he's supposed to be coming back to Ottawa in the summer, but he's staying for a little bit longer.

00:49:47.116 --> 00:49:49.776

<v SPEAKER_2>He's a wonderful guy and a great asset to Canada.

00:49:50.236 --> 00:49:55.636

<v SPEAKER_2>I just want to put a shout out to him and to that position, and I hope that we can...

00:49:55.636 --> 00:50:05.636

<v SPEAKER_2>Whatever happens, we have that same kind of cooperation going forward with whoever is in Ottawa, because he's a first-rate person.

00:50:05.636 --> 00:50:07.876

<v SPEAKER_4>I agree, and that will be a very...

00:50:08.216 --> 00:50:10.036

<v SPEAKER_4>Just to feel, so to speak.

00:50:10.036 --> 00:50:13.196

<v SPEAKER_4>So, I agree completely with everything you said.

00:50:14.296 --> 00:50:17.016

<v SPEAKER_2>Sorry, Joe, for interrupting there.

00:50:17.076 --> 00:50:18.716

<v SPEAKER_3>Yeah, no, absolutely, absolutely.

00:50:18.716 --> 00:50:29.596

<v SPEAKER_3>And maybe we can consider if this is of interest, exploring a similar event to the one we had not that long ago with Poland.

00:50:29.596 --> 00:50:33.016

<v SPEAKER_3>And maybe we can talk a little bit about that off the record here.

00:50:33.016 --> 00:50:41.996

<v SPEAKER_3>But Kasha, just to wrap things up, and you've already alluded to this a few times here, and it does sound like you're reading some very interesting stuff.

00:50:41.996 --> 00:50:44.736

<v SPEAKER_3>So, I'd like to ask, what are you reading these days?

00:50:47.336 --> 00:50:56.276

<v SPEAKER_4>I finished one book, which I already mentioned a little bit, and I am reading another one, and I would like to speak about two of them.

00:50:56.276 --> 00:51:08.336

<v SPEAKER_4>When I arrived to Poland, and obviously started meeting with my university colleagues, I just mentioned I went to Warsaw School of Economics, so they are either in the government or running larger corporations.

00:51:08.336 --> 00:51:20.656

<v SPEAKER_4>They told me, you need to pick up the book Kaput, The End of the German Miracle, by Wolfgang Mann Gau.

00:51:20.656 --> 00:51:22.036

<v SPEAKER_4>And I made it.

00:51:22.036 --> 00:51:23.796

<v SPEAKER_4>It's not a long book.

00:51:23.796 --> 00:51:29.616

<v SPEAKER_4>It's not a big book, but it's very factual, and I'm so glad I did.

00:51:30.616 --> 00:51:38.756

<v SPEAKER_4>So it's talks about the Germany evolution, and how do they get to the point that they are in right now?

00:51:38.756 --> 00:51:43.476

<v SPEAKER_4>We all remember about big economic success of Germany.

00:51:43.476 --> 00:51:48.436

<v SPEAKER_4>I do because I grew up there, and obviously I were other borders with Germany.

00:51:48.496 --> 00:51:59.576

<v SPEAKER_4>So growing up, we were looking to the Western world with Germany, and how powerful and the reach of a country that was.

00:51:59.576 --> 00:52:05.676

<v SPEAKER_4>When I go now through Frankfurt to Warsaw, when I fly there, the coin flipped.

00:52:05.676 --> 00:52:09.096

<v SPEAKER_4>So that book really addresses that systematically.

00:52:09.096 --> 00:52:11.016

<v SPEAKER_4>It's very, very interesting.

00:52:11.016 --> 00:52:15.556

<v SPEAKER_4>It talks about things like other reliance on Russian and natural resources.

00:52:16.276 --> 00:52:25.236

<v SPEAKER_4>Then China also speaks about technology, called stagnation, which I really didn't think about, but then it makes sense.

00:52:25.236 --> 00:52:34.236

<v SPEAKER_4>I remember growing up thinking about the German precision and technology, but they really didn't invest in that enough.

00:52:34.236 --> 00:52:39.516

<v SPEAKER_4>And also the policy issues, they are very transparent all over European Union.

00:52:39.516 --> 00:52:42.396

<v SPEAKER_4>So the book is absolutely brilliant.

00:52:42.896 --> 00:52:45.916

<v SPEAKER_4>It's very well positioned in geopolitics.

00:52:45.916 --> 00:52:49.176

<v SPEAKER_4>And it helps me understand more what's actually happened.

00:52:49.176 --> 00:52:51.056

<v SPEAKER_4>It's very fluctuate too.

00:52:51.056 --> 00:52:54.776

<v SPEAKER_4>That's what I like because I could recall some of the things.

00:52:54.776 --> 00:52:55.476

<v SPEAKER_4>Yeah.

00:52:55.476 --> 00:52:58.496

<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah, I'm going to get that book.

00:52:58.496 --> 00:53:14.576

<v SPEAKER_2>Interesting, because the German experiment certainly is peaks and valleys of, you know, from where the, you know, the powerful, giant, powerful economic machine that it was, is not.

00:53:14.576 --> 00:53:17.516

<v SPEAKER_2>And it's unfortunate.

00:53:17.516 --> 00:53:19.776

<v SPEAKER_4>But I'm going to say something on this.

00:53:20.936 --> 00:53:26.916

<v SPEAKER_4>Because we talk about what is common opportunity in all this.

00:53:26.956 --> 00:53:33.696

<v SPEAKER_4>We really think that Europe's energy in industrial center of gravity, it's shifting from Germany to Poland.

00:53:33.696 --> 00:53:38.016

<v SPEAKER_4>Now, obviously, I'm Polish, so I'm happy to say this.

00:53:38.016 --> 00:53:45.236

<v SPEAKER_4>But that was really not directly, but pinpointed me in that direction as I was reading that.

00:53:45.236 --> 00:53:45.716

<v SPEAKER_4>Okay.

00:53:45.716 --> 00:53:47.496

<v SPEAKER_4>So please read it and let's have a coffee.

00:53:48.576 --> 00:53:50.396

<v SPEAKER_4>I will launch your perspective.

00:53:51.956 --> 00:53:52.976

<v SPEAKER_2>I will.

00:53:54.116 --> 00:53:55.216

<v SPEAKER_4>The other book.

00:53:55.216 --> 00:53:57.216

<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah, you mentioned another book.

00:53:57.216 --> 00:54:07.816

<v SPEAKER_4>That one, I'm still finishing, but it's very interesting for all us Canadians and as a matter of fact, for people around the world.

00:54:07.816 --> 00:54:16.796

<v SPEAKER_4>Even as an economist, I always think, okay, so how those tariffs will really impact the international relationship over the long term.

00:54:16.796 --> 00:54:24.076

<v SPEAKER_4>So I pick up that book and it's called No Trade, It's Free by Robert Lighthouser.

00:54:26.736 --> 00:54:30.316

<v SPEAKER_4>That book was published originally in 2023.

00:54:30.316 --> 00:54:38.696

<v SPEAKER_4>As we remember, Robert was advising Donald Trump in a previous administration precisely on tariffs.

00:54:39.156 --> 00:54:40.476

<v SPEAKER_4>He hated all of it.

00:54:41.056 --> 00:54:48.376

<v SPEAKER_4>He has got good economic arguments for strategic interest-based trade policies.

00:54:48.376 --> 00:54:51.136

<v SPEAKER_4>Now it's a fascinating book.

00:54:51.136 --> 00:54:58.776

<v SPEAKER_4>It explains a lot of intention behind those tariffs and what they are doing.

00:54:58.776 --> 00:55:07.836

<v SPEAKER_4>Again, we can agree to disagree, but again, facts are facts and they are very interesting analysis from different perspectives.

00:55:09.976 --> 00:55:26.176

<v SPEAKER_4>He talks about what he calls hyper-globalization, and I

agree with that one, where they shipped all the jobs to China and things like that, and trade balances, it's must to read, I would say.

00:55:26.216 --> 00:55:29.896

<v SPEAKER_4>So, No Trade, It's Free by Robert Lighthouser.

00:55:30.856 --> 00:55:45.096

<v SPEAKER_3>Yeah, I know, I've heard that's a fantastic book, and really prescient for how people within the Trump administration, although maybe not Trump himself, but quite a few people within the Trump administration would be thinking about things this way, especially that Jameson Greer.

00:55:45.096 --> 00:55:49.996

<v SPEAKER_3>So, yeah, thank you so much, Kasha, and thanks for coming on the podcast, really appreciate it.

00:55:49.996 --> 00:55:55.816

<v SPEAKER_3>I know there was short notice here for you coming on, but I think this will be incredibly useful for our listeners.

00:55:56.256 --> 00:56:09.256

<v SPEAKER_3>And, you know, a topic that isn't covered very much is, you know, specific countries and their energy needs and their geopolitical context, like that, that is something that can be really helpful for, for people to understand the world we live in.

00:56:09.256 --> 00:56:09.756

<v SPEAKER_4>A pleasure.

00:56:09.756 --> 00:56:10.476

<v SPEAKER_4>It's all mine.

00:56:10.476 --> 00:56:12.316

<v SPEAKER_4>Thank you for having me.

00:56:12.316 --> 00:56:13.376

<v SPEAKER_3>Of course, Kasha.

00:56:13.376 --> 00:56:13.876

<v SPEAKER_3>All right.

00:56:13.876 --> 00:56:15.236

<v SPEAKER_3>Take care now.

00:56:15.236 --> 00:56:17.316

<v SPEAKER_4>Thank you.

00:56:17.316 --> 00:56:22.616

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00:56:23.516 --> 00:56:27.976

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00:56:27.976 --> 00:56:30.156

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00:56:30.156 --> 00:56:35.416

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00:56:35.416 --> 00:56:43.056

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00:56:43.056 --> 00:56:46.676

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00:56:46.676 --> 00:56:51.076

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00:56:51.796 --> 00:56:52.656

<v SPEAKER_2>I'm Kelly Ogle.

00:56:52.656 --> 00:56:54.656

<v SPEAKER_2>Thanks for joining us on Energy Security Cubed.