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## Katrina Exposes a Need for Global Energy Security

### OPINION

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To Dan Yergin's editorial-page essay "The Katrina Crisis" (Sept. 2), which raises a clarion call for a new approach to "energy security," I would add that with the rising importance of China and India in global energy markets we can no longer act to protect our energy security in isolation from the rest of the world. Consumers in the U.S. will be shaken by the prices they pay for gasoline, home heating fuel and natural gas. But in the underdeveloped world, the rise in the price of oil is staggering economies as the price of foodstuffs, petrochemicals and imported fertilizers and petroleum products soar.

I would suggest that we have two opportunities. First, we must reverse 30 years of public policy that has kept us from relying on our vast reserves of domestic coal for liquid and gaseous fuels and the promise of next-generation nuclear technology. That policy and practice also locked our new electric generation capacity onto the promise of cheap natural gas when many analysts warned about the price gouging that would be posed to consumers when natural gas was no longer available or inexpensive.

Second, what is needed is not a new approach to U.S. energy security but a focus on global energy security. As a first step, the administration, should, acting through the International Energy Agency convene a new Breton Woods Summit and revive the Producer Consumer Energy Dialogue with OPEC and the Third World such as we had in the 1970s.

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