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THE POLICY OF THE HUNGARIAN GAS SUPPLY

SUMMARY

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The views expressed in this paper do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations.

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Hungary is in central Europe with 10 million inhabitants. The total gas consumption is 11 billion m³/year, that is about 1,100 m³ per capita. Half of the domestic demand is covered by domestic production, but because of the limited reserves and increasing demand we will need about 8-10 billion m³ of imported natural gas annually in the year 2000.

Regarding our valid contracts, we have only 2 billion m³/year fixed contracted quantity from the former Soviet Union in the year 2000. In the frame of our energy policy, Hungary will diversify its energy sources. According to this we intend to import our gas needs from many directions.

In order to promote the above-mentioned intention we plan to privatize our 5 local gas distributing companies in such a way that those partners will have good position in evaluation who can assure a long-term gas supply.

The presentation of tenders has been completed. There were many companies who were interested in, and bought the tenders. Evaluation of tenders will be started in this autumn.

Not depending on the privatization of gas distributors, the Hungarian Oil and Gas Corporation (MOL PLC) will construct our first gas connection to the West European Gas System. On this new pipeline, Hungary can receive maximum 4 billion m³ gas in a year. It is obvious that we are looking for other connecting points to the realistic sources.

Besides the previous Soviet supply we should mention the Mediterranean area, the North Sea territory and the Middle East - ESCWA countries.

Because of the geographical position of Hungary the country can help the trading activity in the directions of north-south and east-west. We would like to use and offer our good position in transit capability in order to serve the interest of the seller of the buyer and all our partner countries.

FIG. 2.

GAS FIELDS IN HUNGARY

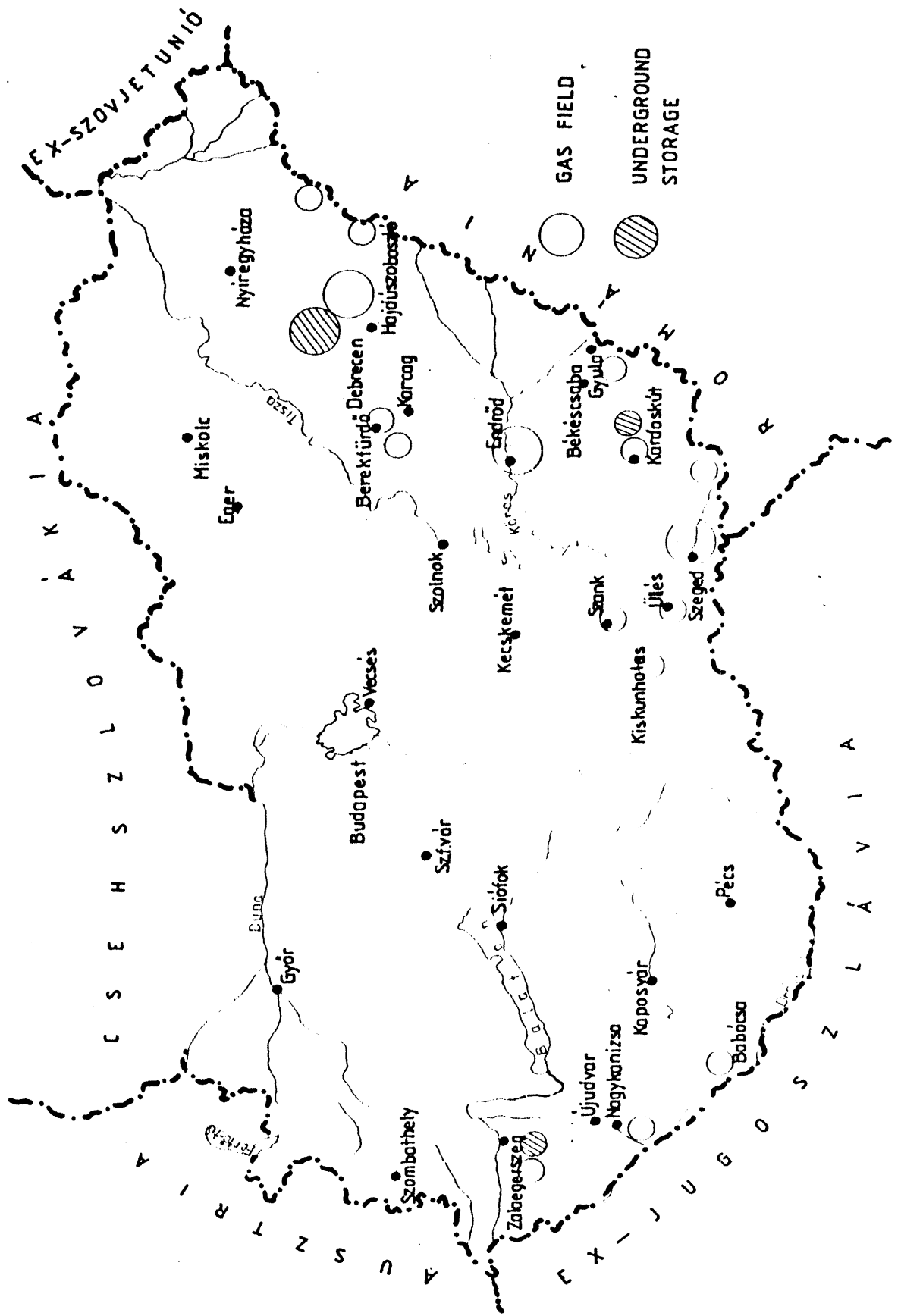


FIG. 11.

HUNGARIAN GAS PIPELINE SYSTEM

