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Settling old scores



Investigative journalism in the CR, and esp. at MF Dnes, often consists of taking a rather flimsy file served up by someone on a platter and splashing it on Page 1. Sometimes someone is dismissed, such as in the recent case of Dep. Defense Minister Jaroslav Kopřiva, but usually nothing more comes of it. A score is settled without disturbing the general system of institutional corruption. It's disappointing that the Americans are playing a similar game. Two years after the fact, Tatra's American representatives, including ex-Amb. William Cabaniss, accused Martin Barták in [MFD](#) of asking for a bribe as dep. defense minister. They can't explain very well why they waited two years, and they're unable to recall a key detail - how big the bribe was supposed to be. Barták might be forced out, but bilateral relations will be spared the embarrassment of any serious investigation into state-sponsored corruption.



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