

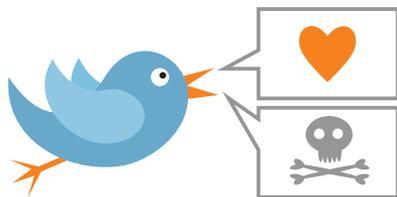
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## Chovanec's number is nearly up



Yesterday's meeting at the Castle between Interior Min. Milan Chovanec and Pres. Miloš Zeman increases the likelihood that Foreign Min. Lubomír Zaorálek will replace Chovanec in March as first deputy vice chair of ČSSD. Chovanec, with his [CTHH anti-disinformation unit](#) and his sharp criticism of the rapprochement between Zeman and Andrej Babiš, is moving away from Zeman, and Zeman is making this clear. Zaorálek, with his staunch defense of the [one-China policy](#) and his apparent [rethink about Donald Trump](#) and possibly Russia, is moving in the opposite direction and is becoming a reliable bridge between ČSSD and the Castle. ČSSD Chair Bohuslav Sobotka would also secretly welcome a jettison of the growing Chovanec ballast, or at least that is what Petr Kolář of Týden indicated in early Dec. Chovanec has been looking out for No. 1 by playing all sides, but he stepped on too many toes in the process, and his game is nearly up.

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