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Trump calls the shots



Emmanuel Macron told [Fareed Zakaria of CNN on Nov. 11](#) that it would be a big mistake for European countries to increase their defense budgets just to buy American arms. Andrej Babiš had said something similar two months earlier: [Trump's indirect call for Europe to buy American weapons as a way to reduce his trade deficit brings nothing to the CR.](#)

The transatlantic pressure in this direction increased this week when one of Babiš's own subordinates, Dušan Navrátil of the NÚKIB cybersecurity office, [issued a warning](#) about the use of Huawei and ZTE information and communications equipment. If this is just the first step toward a ban similar to the one signed on Aug. 13 by Trump as part of the [Defense Authorization Act](#), it could disrupt the ability of the Czech government to do business ... until the equipment was replaced by U.S.-approved technology. Trump is playing a high-stakes game, and Navrátil might not even realize how willing a pawn he has become.

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