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The Venezuelan swap



William Newman, a former reporter for the New York Times, wrote in the newspaper on Oct. 8 that the U.S. needs a [policy toward Venezuela](#) that is based on fact, not fiction, and that the fact is that Nicolás Maduro is the president of Venezuela, not Juan Guaidó. The [Financial Times](#) wrote late last week that the Venezuelan opposition is discussing a plan to wind up its interim government and to abandon Guaidó's claim to the presidency. "The political maneuvering among the opposition coincides with a desire by the U.S. and Europe, Guaidó's main backers, to explore new sources of oil to replace Russian crude," the FT reported. The Czech government still [recognizes Guaidó as the president](#), and Foreign Min. Jan Lipavský spoke at the [U.N. in Sept.](#) about Venezuela's human-rights abuses. If the U.S. and Europe decide to close their eyes to these abuses in the interest of securing non-Russian oil, the ideological Lipavský will be forced to choose between his principles and his allies.

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