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Leader of the eastern flank



Jan Pokorný of [Czech Radio](#) asked Pres. Petr Pavel yesterday what it would mean if Robert Fico's vow of not sending a single bullet to Ukraine truly applied, and Pavel responded: "It would mean that sooner or later Ukraine will lose this fight, and Russia will win." Pavel added a few moments later that Slovakia's contribution of course can't save or sink Ukraine but is very important in terms of maintaining unity. The next question should have been, but wasn't, about the decision of the U.S. Congress to leave aid for Ukraine out of a key spending bill for avoiding a government shutdown. Isn't that more important in terms of Ukraine than who the next PM of Slovakia is? With Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and the U.S. all now backing away from military aid for Kyiv, perhaps the most important question for Pavel is whether the CR is supposed to become the [eastern flank/Bucharest Nine](#) leader of the war effort. Suddenly a White House visit for Pres. Gen. Petr Pavel makes geopolitical sense.

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