


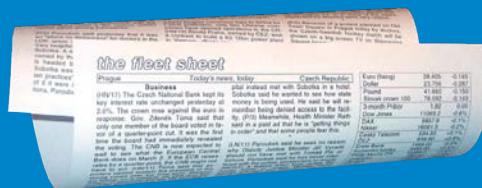
A daily e-mail bulletin of Czech wit & wisdom. For your free subscription, write to subscribe@fsfinalword.com

Our corrupt SOB's



In a [leaked cable](#) to the Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, Defense Intelligence Agency, CIA and other agencies in March 2009, Chief of Mission [Mary Thompson-Jones](#) of the U.S. embassy in Prague wrote that the Czech defense ministry has a long history of shady deals and that successive governments seem to have viewed defense contracts as a way to reward themselves and their political supporters with lucrative business deals, cheap asset sales and kickbacks. The most notorious case was the decision to lease Gripen fighters, she said. In a private note she might have told a colleague, "They're all a bunch of corrupt SOB's." Now that the tables are turned and political commentators like Lukáš Jelínek are questioning the expensive purchase of F-35 fighters from Lockheed Martin, at a time when schools have trouble finding two pennies to rub together and teachers are going on strike, a U.S. diplomat in Prague might send a similar cable with the postscript, "But now they're our corrupt SOB's."

Read this later today in [Czech](#)  Find us on Facebook



Your world is changing rapidly.

We help your thinking change with it.

info@fleet.cz

Daily news and weekly analysis from the Fleet Sheet and Friday Edition.