


Big-mouth deterrence



Czech, French, German and other Nato foreign ministers will make big proclamations in Prague today about the need to let Ukraine use Western weapons to strike military targets in Russia. However, the [Financial Times](#) threw a wet blanket over their party by reporting that Nato has only 5% of the air defense needed to protect its eastern flank against a full-scale Russian attack. One of the eastern-flank countries without much air defense is the CR, but Foreign Min. [Jan Lipavský](#) told Czech TV yesterday that he's in favor of letting Ukraine strike Russia. After [Jens Stoltenberg](#) got the ball rolling about changing the policy, [Vladimir Putin](#) warned small European countries to be fully aware of what is at stake, because "theirs are small and densely populated countries." France can afford to be bold in its proclamations, because it has nuclear deterrence. What does the CR have, other than a few F-35s on order? It has big-mouth deterrence, aimed perversely at its own population, not at the adversary.

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