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Trump wins over Pavel for his 'shakedown'



Defense [lobbyist](#) Petr Kolář, an adviser to Pres. Petr Pavel, said at the Václav Havel Library two weeks ago that the administration of Donald Trump is an "[idiocracy](#)" and that this is only possible because Trump is an idiot. Pavel has used [similarly harsh language](#) in the past to describe Trump but said at the Munich Security Conference in Feb. that he prefers to see the glass as being [half-full](#). The approach Trump is taking, whether it's a cold shower or a shakedown, is a positive development for Europe, Pavel said. And then yesterday, after having had a [nice dinner at the head table](#) with the king of the Netherlands, Trump and others, Pavel said that Trump might have [shocked Nato members](#) with his demand of 5% defense spending but that the pressure, given the current situation, was absolutely appropriate. Pavel, it seems, has gradually evolved from being a disciple of Petr Kolář who despises everything about Trump to being someone who gets shaken down by him and then thanks him for it.

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