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Pop president wins either way



Legal commentator Josef Koukal of Právo said he's willing to bet a horse to a hen's egg that the incident in Chile last week that allowed Pres. Petr Pavel to [leave behind a pen](#) at an official signing to replace the one pocketed by Václav Klaus 15 years ago was arranged in advance. The Castle [insists that it wasn't](#), but what if it was? Instead of a nice gesture that just happened to have an extra meaning for Czechs, it would be a stunt not becoming a real statesman. But Pavel has evidently decided to be a [pop president](#) instead, and from this standpoint it would be pretty cool if the collective Castle were exposed as scheming pranksters. It's similar with the Nato summit. Pavel would of course like to hobnob in Ankara with the Nato elite, and he will certainly come out the winner if PM Andrej Babiš caves and lets him attend the opening dinner. But Pavel will get an even greater show of support from his fans if he's left at home. The old rules of diplomacy don't apply to Pavel, because a pop president wins either way.

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