

[CaribPlanet.com Community](#) > [CP All Access & Posting Forums](#) > [Jus Ole Talk! - Everyday Gossip!](#) > Straight Twilightzone

[PDA](#)

View Full Version : [Straight Twilightzone](#)

Lion3s

November 25th, 2006, 05:52 AM

Source: A victim of state terror. (<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2-2470850,00.html>)

Poisoned spy was the victim of state terror
Michael Evans, David Charter and Daniel McGrory

Intelligence services blame foreign agents
Dissident died from radioactive polonium

Britain's intelligence agencies last night claimed that the poisoning of the Russian dissident Alexander Litvinenko bore the hallmarks of a "state-sponsored" assassination.

A senior Whitehall official told The Times that confirmation that the former Russian spy, who had become a British citizen, had been poisoned with radioactive polonium-210 and other evidence so far not released pointed to the murder being carried out by foreign agents.

Last night the Foreign Office said that officials had met with the Russian ambassador in London and had asked the Kremlin to hand over any information that it had which could help the Scotland Yard investigation.

Cobra, the Cabinet's emergency security committee, met yesterday after toxicologists confirmed that the 43-year-old former KGB colonel had a large dose of alpha radiation in his body. The committee chaired by John Reid, the Home Secretary, considered the risk to the public after the discovery of radioactive material in a Central London sushi bar and at the Millennium Hotel, near the US embassy in Grosvenor Square, where Mr Litvinenko held meetings on November 1. Radioactive traces were also found at his family home in Muswell Hill, North London.

The quantity of polonium-210 used could only have been obtained from a nuclear instillation, scientific experts said.

A senior Whitehall official said: "Cobra met because thousands of people have passed through the sushi bar in the past three weeks and there is a potential risk for the public and we have to examine all the implications."

Experts from the Government's Health Protection Agency tried to allay public fears by stressing that it was unlikely that friends, family and medics who were with Mr Litvinenko at University College Hospital had been contaminated.

Security sources said that MI5 and MI6 were engaged in a "joint enterprise" with Scotland Yard in what was "an unprecedented death" in Britain. Anti-terror squad Continuedetectives refused to say where the deadly element was placed, or in what quantities they found it at the Itsu sushi bar in Piccadilly or the Pine Bar of the Millennium Hotel, where the dissident met two Russians on November 1.

Mr Litvinenko's father, Walter, openly accused the Kremlin of murdering his son. They also released a statement that Mr Litvinenko dictated 48 hours before he died, blaming President Putin for his death.

Mr Litvinenko told the Russian President: "You may succeed in silencing one man, but the howl of protest from around the world will reverberate, Mr Putin, in your ears for the rest of your life.

"May God forgive you for what you have done, not only to me, but to beloved Russia and its people."

Mr Putin interrupted preparations for an EU/Russia summit in Helsinki to deny involvement. He criticised Mr Litvinenko's entourage, the media, the British secret service and even the Italian Mafia. He claimed that the letter accusing him of being "barbaric and ruthless" was a forgery concocted by Mr Litvinenko's wife and father: "If this note was produced before the death of Mr Litvinenko, I wonder why it was not published when he was alive?"

Mr Litvinenko's funeral will be held in London.

Source: Radioactive killer discovered too late. (<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2-2470759,00.html>)

Radioactive poison was discovered by doctors only hours before death

Polonium-210 left victim no chance

Father rages at President Putin

Poisoned spy was the victim of state terror

Radioactive poison was discovered by doctors only hours before death

'This wasn't cooked up by amateurs in a bathtub'

Third man at meeting rebuts blame

'You are as barbaric as all of your critics say, Mr Putin'

By the time doctors finally discovered what had poisoned Alexander Litvinenko, he had only three hours to live.

As he lay unconscious, his wife Marina holding his hand and his ten-year-old son, Anatoli, stroking his forehead, a laboratory test on a urine sample identified the lethal element polonium-210 as the silent killer ravaging his body.

Doctors decided not to tell his family for fear of alarming them that they too might be at risk. Experts knew that although their seven-day search was over, there was no cure for the former KGB colonel. One source told The Times last night: "Once the polonium-210 was inside him, he had no chance of survival." His life was nearing its end, but the concern now was for how many others might suffer.

A telephone call was made to the Government's Health Protection Agency just after 6pm on Thursday, asking it to send its experts to the hospital immediately.

Police, wearing all-in-one suits — the CBRN equipment to guard against chemical, biological and radioactive contaminants — were also summoned to the intensive care ward.

The immediate task was to ensure that the nurses and doctors who treated the 43-year-old dissident were free from any radioactive contamination.

Forensic science teams sealed off the Litvinenko home in Muswell Hill, North London.

His family were not aware of the scale of the operation as, understandably, they were consumed by grief. Alex Goldfarb, an old friend who had kept a vigil at the hospital, said: "Marina [his wife] had tried to remain so brave and so positive, but now she sat staring into space. His son was in shock."

Mr Goldfarb put a comforting arm around the shoulder of Walter Litvinenko, who had watched his son's life ebb painfully away. Outside the hospital Walter Litvinenko described how a "tiny nuclear bomb" had killed his son. His rage was barely concealed as he described President Putin's Government as "a murderous danger to the world".

Mr Litvinenko helped to distribute a powerful statement that his son had dictated from his death bed on Tuesday. His son's friends, neighbours and political allies also lined up to condemn the Kremlin and its acolytes.

Scotland Yard's counter-terrorist force were being more cautious. Officially, this was still no murder inquiry. It was an "unexplained death". No mention was made that the intelligence services were now involved in this investigation. A post-mortem examination had to be postponed while health experts assessed the risks for the pathologist and his staff.

Hospital staff removed Mr Litvinenko's body to a secure area while experts met to decide how, when and where the post-mortem could take place.

John Reid, the Home Secretary, asked experts from the Health Protection Agency to organise a swift, televised

press conference to reassure the public. Professor Pat Troop, chief executive, said that the only ways the polonium-210 could have got into Mr Litvinenko's system was through ingesting it, inhaling or taking it through a wound.

She insisted that no traces of the poison left through his sweat or urine could contaminate others. Barely an hour later came word that police had found polonium-210 at the Itsu sushi bar in Piccadilly, where he had dined with a friend on November 1, and the Millennium Hotel where he later met two Russians. It was also reportedly discovered at his home.

The revelations about polonium-210 provoked a new rush of conspiracy theories. Security experts said this was no crude grudge killing but was the work of assassins with likely access to a nuclear installation, not just to a radioactive isotope that could be acquired from medical waste.

On the day he was poisoned, Mr Litvinenko was reportedly handed a dossier bearing the name of the man who wanted him dead. He was a former comrade from KGB days, now working for "Dignity and Honour", allegedly freelance hitmen who work for Russia's secret services. President Putin broke his silence yesterday to deny that the Kremlin had played any part in the death.

The Times November 25, 2006

'This wasn't cooked up by amateurs in a bathtub'
Mark Henderson and Lewis Smith

In Edwin Herbert Lewis's novel *White Lightning*, Marie Curie described the new element that she had discovered thus: "It slowly and steadily explodes from within while seeming peaceful without."
The element was polonium, named after the double Nobel prizewinner's native Poland. It is a bizarre choice of weapon for a poisoner — its use in a murder is thought to be unprecedented — but one that has proved brutally effective, both at causing death and at escaping detection by toxicologists.

Now that the source of the radiation that killed Alexander Litvinenko has been identified, however, the metal's rarity could help to lead police to his killers.

Polonium-210, the isotope identified in Mr Litvinenko's body, is known to be highly toxic and radioactive, and it is not easy to come by. It occurs naturally only at trace levels, and larger amounts that would be needed to kill are manufactured in nuclear reactors or particle accelerators by bombarding bismuth-209, a similar but inert metal, with neutrons.

Unlike certain other radioactive isotopes, such as caesium-137 and cobalt-60, it is not used in medical radiology, and therefore cannot be stolen from hospital waste. Its main use is in anti-static devices in industry, though in a form that could not be easily adapted for use as a poison. It is also sometimes used as a power source for satellites.

The difficulty of getting hold of polonium suggests that the killer was well resourced and possibly state-sponsored, scientists said.

Andrea Sella, lecturer in chemistry at University College London, said: "This is not the sort of thing that amateurs could have cooked up in a bathtub. You would have to go to a nuclear lab such as Oak Ridge, Los Alamos or Harwell — or to one of the Russian ones."

Polonium-210 has a half life of 138 days, and emits alpha particles — helium atoms that are produced by radioactive decay. While these are easily stopped by the skin they become hugely damaging if they get inside the human body by swallowing, inhalation or through a wound. They cause extensive damage to tissues and to DNA, and could explain Mr Litvinenko's symptoms.

The low hazards posed by alpha particles in the environment explains why the Health Protection Agency said that those who came into contact with Mr Litvinenko ought not to be at major risk. The poisoner would also have been little affected by the polonium.

Once inside the body the alpha radiation would have been difficult to detect and few toxicologists would have thought to look for polonium.

Samples from Mr Litvinenko's organs will now be analysed to determine the dose of polonium-210 used to poison him. By measuring the extent of damage within his body, the pathology team hope to be able to give police a more precise estimate of the time at which he was poisoned.

Particles of polonium-210 are likely to have concentrated in the organs, particularly the liver but also in the colon,

kidneys and brain. Cuttings taken from Mr Litvinenko's hair and nails will be the focus of much of the laboratory analysis.

The three weeks it took to kill him is fast for a substance with a half-life of 138 days, which makes it likely he took a large dose, either in liquid or solid form.

Animal tests have been carried out using polonium-210 and the substance was shown to cause death quickly because of a rapid breakdown of organ functions.

Alistair Hay, professor of Environmental Toxicology at Leeds University, said: "Polonium-201 is very easy to transport. It could be carried around in a glass bottle and not penetrate through the glass.

"Polonium-201 is an incredibly radioactive substance, and a lot of damage can be done with small quantities."

Alpha particles

The radiation emitted by polonium-210. They travel only a few centimetres and are stopped by a sheet of paper or a person's skin, but cause immense damage inside the body.

Source: Health Protection Agency

The Times November 25, 2006

Third man at meeting rebuts blame
Tony Halpin, Moscow

The third man at the meeting with Alexander Litvinenko in a London hotel came forward yesterday to deny any involvement in his death.

Dmitri Kovtun said that he and his business partner, Andrei Lugovoi, had met the dissident Russian for no more than 25 minutes, during which he had appeared "absolutely normal". He rejected claims that he had repeatedly invited the former FSB agent to drink something amid suggestions that Mr Litvinenko might have been poisoned at the hotel.

"Andrei and I were drinking tea and I had a gin. Of course we invited him to drink something, but he said 'no' and that was that. We did not keep asking him," he said.

He said that the meeting had taken place at Mr Litvinenko's request at 4pm on November 1 at the Millennium Mayfair hotel, where Mr Kovtun and Mr Lugovoi were staying. Mr Litvinenko had wanted to discuss a business meeting they were due to attend with a British company the following day.

"To be honest, we didn't really understand why he wanted to meet because all of the questions could have been settled on the telephone."

Russian television gave prominent coverage to the case for the first time last night. President Putin's denial of any government involvement was the second item on the main evening news of the most popular channel, NTV, which gave a detailed report on Mr Litvinenko's background and death.

The Times November 25, 2006

'You are as barbaric as all of your critics say, Mr Putin'

The statement dictated by Alexander Litvinenko:

I would like to thank many people. My doctors, nurses and hospital staff who are doing all they can for me; the

British police who are pursuing my case with vigour and professionalism and are watching over me and my family. I would like to thank the British Government for taking me under their care. I am honoured to be a British citizen.

I would like to thank the British public for their support. I thank my wife, Marina, who has stood by me. My love for her and our son knows no bounds.

But as I lie here I can distinctly hear the beating of wings of the angel of death. I may be able to give him the slip but I have to say my legs do not run as fast as I would like. I think, therefore, that this may be the time to say one or two things to the person responsible for my present condition.

You may succeed in silencing me, but that silence comes at a price. You have shown yourself to be as barbaric and ruthless as your most hostile critics claimed. You have shown yourself to have no respect for life, liberty or any civilised value. You have shown yourself to be unworthy of your office, of the trust of civilised men and women. You may succeed in silencing one man but the howl of protest from around the world will reverberate, Mr Putin, in your ears for the rest of your life. May God forgive you for what you have done, not only to me but to beloved Russia and its people.

Ladybug

November 25th, 2006, 03:12 PM

The person that poisoned him sure did a number on him.:rip:

haitianprince

November 25th, 2006, 03:56 PM

I heard this story as well. Yesterday morning on good day NY.

Smile

November 29th, 2006, 07:32 AM

this story scared the hell outta me.

Powered by vBulletin™ Version 4.1.3 Copyright © 2011 vBulletin Solutions, Inc. All rights reserved.