

Part Two

This is the second of a two-part series, zeroing in on events that led up to the attempted assassinations of Mr Sergei Viktorovich Skripal and his daughter, Yulia.

TARGET () has noted that there are striking similarities in the modi operandi that had been adopted in respect of the successful assassinations of former, very prominent Russian citizens, all of whom were known to have held high positions at Governmental agencies of The Russian Federation, all of these agencies, engaged in security matters.

All of the successful assassinations took place in Great Britain.

Scotland Yard still seeks to extradite the alleged Russian murderer of at least one of the former Russian citizens, who was a British citizen at the time of his assassination, but to no avail because The Russian Federation has denied the British Government's request.

**TENSIONS, CONDEMNATIONS, AND
WORSENING POLITICAL RELATIONS
FAN THE FLAMES OF POTENTIAL CONFRONTATIONS**

The Murder Of Alexander Valterovich Litvinenko

Mr Alexander Valterovich Litvinenko had been a Lieutenant Colonel of the FSB (The **F**ederal **S**ecurity Service of The Russian Federation).

He and several other FSB officers had accused their superiors of ordering the assassination of Mr Boris Abramovich Berezovsky.

In March of 1999, Lt Colonel Alexander Valterovich Litvinenko was arrested on the charge of exceeding the authority of his position.

He was acquitted in November of 1999, but was, then, re-arrested.

He flew to the United Kingdom with his family and, there, he was granted asylum.

He, then, worked for the British Government in the capacity of a '*Consultant*'.

Mr Alexander Valterovich Litvinenko had been recruited by MI6 and MI5, it has been confirmed, in order to help in combatting Russia-based, organised crime in Europe.

While in the pay of MI6, he had provided '*useful information*' about senior Kremlin parties and their links with Russia-organised, gang-crime links.

Working as a journalist in London, he accused President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, outright, of ordering the murder, in October 2006, of Ms Anna Politkovskaya, then, a Russian journalist.

In his spare time, while in self-imposed exile in the United Kingdom, Mr Alexander Valterovich Litvinenko wrote two books: '*Blowing up Russia; Terror from Within*' and '*Lubyanka Criminal Group*'.

On November 1, 2006, he was hospitalised for an unexplained sickness, initially at Barnet General Hospital, but he was, then, moved to University College Hospital for intensive care.

On forensic investigation into his health problem, it was discovered that he was suffering from having been exposed to the poison: Radioactive polonium-210.

He died 23 days after being admitted to Barnet General Hospital.

He was 43 years old.

It was described, by many of those who visited him, lying on his hospital deathbed, as the gruesome victim of being exposed to the highly toxic polonium-210.

Reports of his death described the picture of a man, suffering a horrible and horrendous end to his life; and, that this death would not have been wished upon the worst enemies of the witnesses.

The hospital, trying in vain to treat Mr Alexander Valterovich Litvinenko, reported his death was the first-known victim of lethal polonium 210-induced acute radiation syndrome – for which there was no known antidote.

An investigation, conducted by Scotland Yard, into the murder of Mr Alexander Valterovich Litvinenko, pointed the finger of suspicion at Mr Andrey Konstantinovich Lugovoy, a Russian politician and businessman and a Deputy of the State Duma, the lower house of the Russian Parliament.

Mr Andrey Konstantinovich Lugovoy had worked as a KGB bodyguard and as head of '*Ninth Wave*', a security firm.

That which the British police had confirmed was that Mr Andrey Konstantinovich Lugovoy, on November 1, 2006, met Mr Alexander Valterovich Litvinenko.

That was the day that Mr Alexander Valterovich Litvinenko fell ill.

On May 22, 2007, in London, Mr Andrey Konstantinovich Lugovoy was officially charged, in absentia, with the murder of Mr Alexander Valterovich Litvinenko.

By that time, Mr Andrey Konstantinovich Lugovoy had returned to Moscow.

A request for his extradition to the United Kingdom was denied by the Russian Government.

Before the death of Mr Alexander Valterovich Litvinenko, Mr Andrey Konstantinovich Lugovoy met him in London at least on four separate occasions.

In the three hotels, in which Mr Andrey Konstantinovich Lugovoy was confirmed to have stayed in London, the British investigators discovered traces of polonium-210.

These discoveries were made after Mr Andrey Konstantinovich Lugovoy had flown from Moscow to London on October 16, 2006.

In addition, traces of polonium-210 were, also, discovered in the Pescatori Restaurant, Dover Street, Mayfair, an eatery where Mr Andrey Konstantinovich Lugovoy was known to have dined before November 1.

Also, traces of polonium-210 were discovered on the two aeroplanes in which Mr Andrey Konstantinovich Lugovoy had travelled.

It was, in addition, confirmed that he had been treated at a Moscow hospital for suspected radiation poisoning.

The circumstantial evidence that was obtained was strongly suggestive that Mr Andrey Konstantinovich Lugovoy was involved in the murder of Mr Alexander Valterovich Litvinenko: It appeared overwhelming to Scotland Yard.

On January 27, 2015, a public enquiry was instigated and, at the conclusion of this enquiry, about one year later, it was determined that the death of Mr Alexander Valterovich Litvinenko had been an FSB operation, probably having been approved by President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, himself.

You Are To Blame, President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin !

Prime Minister Theresa May, on March 4, 2018, announced the expulsion of 23 Russian diplomats, stationed in Great Britain, in retaliation for the attempted assassinations of Mr Sergei Skripal, a British citizen, and his daughter, Yulia, a Russian citizen.

She labelled the 23 Russian diplomats to be banished from the British Isles as ‘*undeclared intelligence officers*’.

They were given one week to pack their bags and leave.

It was the largest mass expulsion of such personages in more than three decades.

The Prime Minister told the British Parliament, inter alia:

‘There is no alternative conclusion other than that the Russia State was culpable.’

Other measures to be implemented, the Prime Minister told Parliament, included:

- Increased checks on private flights, customs and freight;
- The freezing of Russian State assets where there was evidence that they might be used to threaten the life or property of nationals of the United Kingdom or residents;
- Ministers and members of the British royal family shall not be attending the World Cup in Russia, scheduled for later this year; and,
- A suspension of all planned high-level, bilateral contacts between the United Kingdom and The Russian Federation.

Great Britain supported other sanctions, already having been imposed on The Russian Federation, those sanctions, imposed at the behest of the **European Union (EU)** after The Russian Federation annexed Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula in 2014 as well as backing rebels, fighting in Eastern Ukraine.

Those sanctions included:

- The exclusion of (Russian) State banks from raising long-term loans in the EU;
- A ban on exports of dual-use equipment that could be put into military use and a ban on

commercial dealings in respect of EU-Russia arms;

- A ban on exports of a wide range of oil-industry technology; and,
- Asset freezes and travel bans on 150 people and 38 companies.

The Prime Minister framed some of her statements to the members of Parliament with suggestive double meanings.

The use of the weapons-grade, nerve agent A-234 on Mr Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, she said, was an '*unlawful use of force*' by The Russian Federation.

The Prime Minister, then, questioned whether or not this was a matter that should be brought up for the consideration of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the military alliance of 29 countries.

The policy of NATO with regard to Collective Defence, under Article Five, states that an attack on any one ally would be seen as an attack on all.

In Australia, the Prime Minister, Mr Malcolm Turnbull, went on record, stating:

'The brazen attack in Salisbury was an attack on all of us.'

Australia took a leaf out of the Prime Minister of Great Britain's book of actions to be taken over the incident of the attempted assassinations of Mr Sergei Skripal and his daughter, with the expulsion of two Russian diplomats from Australian soil.

By Tuesday, March 27, 2018, a total of 139 Russian diplomats had been expelled from 23 countries as the leaders of more than 22 countries had concurred with the determination of the British Government.

The tally of number of Russian diplomats that had been told to pack their bags and leave for Moscow was, as at Tuesday, March 27, 2018:

1.	The United States of America	60 Russian diplomats
2.	France	4 Russian diplomats
3.	Germany	4 Russian diplomats
4.	Poland	4 Russian diplomats
5.	The Czech Republic	3 Russian diplomats
6.	Lithuania	3 Russian diplomats
7.	Denmark	2 Russian diplomats
8.	The Netherlands	2 Russian diplomats
9.	Italy	2 Russian diplomats
10.	Spain	2 Russian diplomats
11.	Estonia	1 Russian diplomat
12.	Croatia	1 Russian diplomat
13.	Finland	1 Russian diplomat
14.	Hungary	1 Russian diplomat
15.	Latvia	1 Russian diplomat
16.	Romania	1 Russian diplomat
17.	Sweden	1 Russian diplomat
18.	Ukraine	13 Russian diplomats
19.	Canada	4 Russian diplomats
20.	Albania	2 Russian diplomats

21.	Australia	2 Russian diplomats
22.	Norway	1 Russian diplomat
23.	Macedonia	<u>1 Russian diplomat</u>

TOTAL: **139 Russian diplomats***

* Includes 23 Russian diplomats from Great Britain

The Russian Federation continues to deny any and all involvement in the attempted assassinations of Salisbury, however.

Never in the history of the world had there been such a show of solidarity from the leaders of so many countries against that which had been perceived as their common enemy, made only too obvious, round the world, following the attempted assassinations of Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, on British soil.

That Which One May Expect ... Tomorrow

The assassination of Franz Ferdinand Carl Ludwig Joseph Maria, an Archduke of Austria-Erste, Austro-Hungarian and Royal Prince of Hungary and of Bohemiaand, heir presumptive to the Austro-Hungarian throne, was the one single incident that led to Austria-Hungary's declaration of war against Serbia.

World War I followed shortly thereafter.

In the wake of that which came to be known as The Great War (1914-1918), the lush, pristine fields of Europe as well as the historic cities of that which had been labelled the civilised, Western world were inundated with the bodies of the 20 million dead and 21 million wounded.

Of the dead, about 9.70 million had been military personnel and about 10 million had been innocent civilians, caught up in the madness of those four years.

It was on Sunday, June 28, 1914, at about 10:45 in the morning, that Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife became the targets of a single assassin's bullets at Sarajevo, the Capital City of the Austro-Hungarian Province of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The assassin was a 19 year-old Bosnian, named Gavrilo Princip.

It was by mere happenchance that this young man, sitting in a café, noting that the motor car in which the two royals were seated in a cavalcade that had stalled, seized the opportunity to walk across the street and to open fire with his pistol.

His first shot hit [Sophie](#) Chotek, Duchess of Hohenberg, the wife of Archduke Franz Joseph, in the abdomen. The second shot hit the Archduke in the neck.

The Archduke, fast losing consciousness, repeated six times to his aide:

‘Es ist nichts – It is nothing.’

But the Archduke was wrong, as history has recorded.

The weapon that was used by [Gavrilo Princip](#) had been given to him by a Serbian Army Colonel, named Dragutin Dimitrijević, a member of The Black Hand – a secret military society, formed on May 9, 1911, by officers in the Army of the Kingdom of Serbia.

Gavrilo Princip was given a sentence of 20 years in prison for his crime.

He died of medical complications after contracting tuberculosis while in prison.

It was on April 28, 1918, three years and 10 months after the assassinations of Archduke Franz Joseph and his wife, Duchess Sophie Chotek, that the world tended to try to forget this deluded individual who, unilaterally, had been a key player in an assassination plot that touched off the First World War.

If Jupiter, the chief deity of the Roman State religion throughout the Republican and Imperial eras, is to be considered the brain of the world, then the man who organises and presides over human affairs can logically consider himself as a part of that all-governing mind.

Humanity, rightly or wrongly, has almost always conceived of its gods in terms of Providence: Providence

or nature as providing protective care.

As one has come to the realisation, over the past century or so, the fruits of war are the food for new wars.

Man loves to kill: It is, sadly, his nature; he is the only bipedal animal on earth that kills for the sheer joy of killing.

From that single stone, thrown at a perceived enemy with a view to kill or maim him, today, man has become such an ingenious animal, the most ingenious of all times, in fact, that, with a flick of a switch, he has the ability to obliterate an entire city along with many hundreds of the thousands of his fellows.

From the geniuses, born in The Russian Federation, the world, today, has come learn of the weapons-grade, nerve agent A-234 and of radioactive polonium-210.

These weapons of war are undetectable to the naked eye, but they are quite capable of mass destruction of the ignorant and the innocent.

For the sake of political power, some people, surreptitiously, make use of modern weaponry in order to obtain even more power over people.

The more power that one obtains, by hook or by crook, the more corrupt he tends to become.

Each century has its own, particular daring: The boldest, weary of philosophy and failing to understand the beauty of virtue, that seems more and more to delve into the realm of the academic, venture, casting caution to the wind in order to explore those frontiers that, in days gone by, were considered forbidden.

It is possible for one to see through the thin veil that surrounds a man of evil intent: There one may discover the canker on the heart of he who would do harm to his fellows, without a second thought.

Like the fungal disease of an apple, that canker shall grow in proportion to such a person's infamous successes.

This despite the trappings of greatness and the dazzling splendours of fortune.

Such a man is vicious for profit from villainy. At the same time, however, he commits such acts and, then, condemns them, openly, and stentoriously. He condemns the acts to others – while he commits them, himself.

In youth, there is but passion; in one's saeculum aureum, there are wings that no longer support one's weight: One cannot fly.

That seems to be that which could well be labelled, in due course, '*Tomorrow's future*'.

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