

Skripal: Russia or not Russia?

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With the recent scandal concerning the ex-KGB/MI6/Spanish spy and his daughter, tensions are high both in the UK and Russia. The poisoning seems almost blown out of proportion as the whole of the UN council is being drawn in to resolve the matter. Parliament has cracked down on Moscow with accusations, and has even expelled 23 Russian diplomats. Meanwhile, Moscow is adamantly refusing to back down and claims to have absolutely nothing to do with the attempted murder.

PM Theresa May has stated that Russia is almost certainly behind the “horrific attempted murder”. She also says that “the use of a nerve agent on British soil” is a blatant violation of Britain’s safety, as well as trying to put through article 5, which states that certain measures can be taken against an offender in the case of a chemical attack, which is the equivalent of stating that this was not simply a nerve agent that was deployed, but a discrete chemical attack against the people of Salisbury.

Across the pond, the White House, despite previous public claims that Trump was a Kremlin agent, has backed up the UK in imposing sanctions on Moscow. The UN is already considering exiling Russia from their Security meetings.

However, there are other players to the game – France has accused May of “prematurely” punishing Russia when there was still no sufficient evidence – apart from the ‘Novichok’ nerve agent, which has, in reality, been circulating around the world since the collapse of the Soviet Union, and has even been used by the Mafia.



The Kremlin and its president have reacted in a similar fashion – when questioned by a BBC reporter at the Agriculture meeting in Krasnodar, Putin replied simply and with a frosty smile – “Sort it out yourselves, and then ask me.” Lavrov, the Foreign Minister, has

reacted with the same hidden iciness but much less elusively after the Parliament meetings – “Moscow has nothing to do with this”. Channels such as Rossiya 1 and TV/radio journalist Vladimir Solovyov have expressed their outrage at what they call a “setup to demonise Russia”. Back at home, ex-London Mayor Ken Livingstone has already claimed that ‘May’s crackdown on Russia aimed at boosting poor ratings at home’ to the English-speaking Russian government funded news channel RT (which, surprisingly, has made no obvious comments).

As for the general public – all we can do is sit nervously and watch the real-life drama film play out.