


Salisbury Incident Report: Hard Evidence For Soft Minds

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By ORIENTAL REVIEW

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The UK government's presentation on the Salisbury incident, which was repeatedly cited in recent days as an "ultimate proof" of Russia's involvement into Skripal's assassination attempt, was made public earlier today.

This 6-paged PDF is a powerful evidence of another intellectual low of British propaganda machine. Open it and you can tell that substantially it makes only two assertions on the Skripal case, and both are false:



HM Government [A New Phase of Russia Aggression](#)

Slide 2

- Military-grade Novichok nerve agent positively identified by experts at the UK's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory at Porton Down, an OPCW-accredited and designated laboratory
- Novichok is a group of agents developed only by Russia and not declared under the CWC
- A violation of the fundamental prohibition on the use of chemical weapons (Art. 1 CWC)
- First offensive use of a nerve agent in Europe since the Second World War
- We are without doubt that Russia is responsible. No country bar Russia has combined capability, intent and motive. There is no plausible alternative explanation
- As of Sunday 18 March, we count over thirty parallel lines of Russian disinformation



"Based on this capability, combined with their record of conducting state sponsored assassinations – including against former intelligence officers whom they regard as legitimate targets - the UK Government concluded it was highly likely that Russia was responsible for this reckless and despicable act."

Prime Minister Theresa May, 14 March

First. *Novichok is a group of agents developed only by Russia and not declared under the CWC" – a false statement.* Novichok was **originally** developed in the USSR (Nukus Lab, today in Uzbekistan, site completely decommissioned according to the US-Uzbekistan agreement by 2002). One of its key developers, Vil Mirzayanov, defected to the United States in 1990s, its chemical formula and technology were openly published in a number of chemical journals outside Russia. Former top-ranking British foreign service officer Craig Murray specifically noted this point on March 17:

I have now been sent the vital information that in late 2016, Iranian scientists set out to study whether novichoks really could be produced from commercially available ingredients. Iran succeeded in synthesising a number of novichoks. Iran did this in full cooperation with the

OPCW and immediately reported the results to the OPCW so they could be added to the chemical weapons database.

*This makes complete nonsense of the Theresa May's "of a type developed by Russia" line, used to parliament and the UN Security Council. This explains why Porton Down has refused to cave in to governmental pressure to say the nerve agent was Russian. **If Iran can make a novichok, so can a significant number of states.***

Second. *"We are without doubt that Russia is responsible. No country bar Russia has combined capability, intent and motive. There is no plausible alternative explanation" – an outstanding example of self-hypnosis.* None of the previous items could even remotely lead to this conclusion. The prominent British academician from the University of Kent Prof. Richard Sakwa has elaborated on this on March 23 the following way:

Rather than just the two possibilities outlined by Theresa May, in fact there are at least six, possibly seven. The first is that this was a state-sponsored, and possibly Putin-ordered, killing... This version simply does not make sense, and until concrete evidence emerges, it should be discounted...

The second version is rather more plausible, that the authorities had lost control of its stocks of chemical weapons. In the early 1990s Russian facilities were notoriously lax, but since the 2000s strict control over stocks were re-imposed, until their final destruction in 2017. It is quite possible that some person or persons unknown secreted material, and then conducted some sort of vigilante operation...

The third version is the exact opposite: some sort of anti-Putin action by those trying to force his policy choices...

The fourth version is similar, but this time the anti-Putinists are not home-grown but outsiders. Here the list of people who would allegedly benefit by discrediting Russia is a long one. If Novichok or its formula has proliferated, then it would not be that hard to organise some sort of false flag operation. The list of countries mentioned in social media in this respect is a long one. Obviously, Ukraine comes top of the list, not only because of motivation, but also because of possible access to the material, as a post-Soviet state with historical links to the Russian chemical weapons programme. Israel has a large chemical weapon inventory and is



Craig Murray

not a party to the OPCW; but it has no motivation for such an attack (unless some inadvertent leak occurred here). Another version is that the UK itself provoked the incident, as a way of elevating its status as a country ‘punching above its weight’. The British chemical weapons establishment, Porton Down, is only 12 kilometres from Salisbury. While superficially plausible, there is absolutely no evidence that this is a credible version, and should be discounted.

The fifth version is a rather more elaborate development of the previous point. There is circumstantial evidence, a version outlined by the Daily Telegraph, that Skripal may have had a hand in devising Christopher Steele’s ‘Trump Dossier’. The British agent who originally recruited Skripal, Pablo Miller, lives in Salisbury, and also has connections with Orbis International, Steele’s agency in London. In this version, Skripal is still working in one way or another with MI6, and fed stories to Steele, who then intervenes massively in US politics, effectively preventing the much-desired rapprochement between Trump and Putin. Deep anger at the malevolent results of the Steele and British intervention in international politics and US domestic affairs prompts a revenge killing, with the demonstration effect achieved by using such a bizarre assassination weapon.



Prof. Richard Sakwa

The sixth version is the involvement of certain criminal elements, who for reasons best known to themselves were smuggling the material, and released it by accident. In this version, the Skripals are the accidental and not intended victims. There are various elaborations of this version, including the activities of anti-Putin mobsters. One may add a seventh version here, in which Islamic State or some other Islamist group seeks to provoke turmoil in Europe.

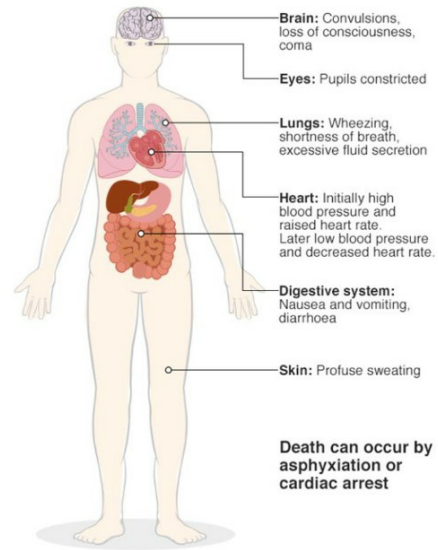
Do you wish to know our refutations of any other substantial “hard evidence” against Russia in the UK paper? Sorry, but that is all. The primitive information warriors in what used to be the heart of a brilliant empire, today are incapable of designing an even slightly plausible (they love this word, right?) document on a super-politicized case.

What follows is even more depressing. **Slide 3** is dedicated to some sort of anatomy lesson:



- Novichok interferes with the normal functioning of the nervous system. If untreated, it will cause death by asphyxiation or cardiac arrest
- Sergei Skripal, his daughter Yulia Skripal, and UK policeman Detective Sergeant Nick Bailey remain in hospital
- 51 people have been assessed in hospital
- 131 civilians have potentially been in contact with the nerve agent
- 250 specialist counter-terrorism officers involved in the investigation
- 180 military personnel were deployed

What nerve agents do to the body



Slide 4 seemingly represents a real “honey trap”. Just look at it:



The authors of this “report” mixed up a very strange cocktail of multitype allegations, none of which have ever been proven or recognized by any responsible entity (like legal court or dedicated official international organization). Of course we are not committed to argue on every cell, but taking e.g. “August 2008 Invasion of Georgia” we actually can’t understand why the EU-acknowledged Saakashvili’s aggression against South Ossetia is exposed here as an example of “Russian malign activity”...

Have you totally lost your minds, ladies & gentlemen from the Downing Street?

Russia puts 14 simple questions to the United Kingdom regarding the Skripal case, fabricated against Russia

No answers received... yet

1. Why has Russia been denied consular access to two Russian citizens who were injured in the UK?
2. Which specific antidotes and in what form were the victims administered? How did the British doctors at the scene of the incident happen to have such antidotes in their possession?
3. On what grounds did France become involved in the technical side of investigating an incident in which Russian citizens were injured?
4. Has the United Kingdom notified the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) of France's involvement in the investigation of the incident in Salisbury?
5. What does the incident involving two Russian citizens in the United Kingdom have to do with France?
6. Which norms of British procedural legislation allow for the involvement of a foreign state in a domestic investigation?
7. What evidence was handed over to France for testing and to conduct its own investigation?
8. Were French specialists present when biological samples were collected from Sergey and Yulia Skripal?
9. Did French specialists conduct their own tests of the biological samples collected from Sergey and Yulia Skripal and, if so, at which specific laboratories were the tests conducted?
10. Does the United Kingdom possess the results of the investigation carried out by France?
11. Have the results of the French investigation been submitted to the OPCW Technical Secretariat?
12. Based on which attributes (markers) was the alleged "Russian origin" of the substance used in Salisbury established?
13. Does the United Kingdom have control samples of the chemical warfare agent which British representatives refer to as Novichok?
14. Have samples of the chemical warfare agent of the Novichok type (in accordance to British terminology) or its analogues been developed in the United Kingdom?

