Nerve gas in Skripal case 'could have easily been cooked by Brits' - chemical weapon developer

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The forensic tent, covering the bench where Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia were found, is repositioned by officials in protective suits in the center of Salisbury, Britain, March 8, 2018.

London is not providing Moscow with a sample of the substance that poisoned former GRU Colonel Sergei Skripal, because the Russian experts are able to quickly determine that it was not manufactured in Russia, Leonid Rink, one of the developers of the A-234, also known as the Novichok chemical weapons system, told Sputnik.

"Why do you think the British refuse to give a [nerve agent] sample to Moscow? Because no matter how hard the specialists try, the manufacturing technology always differs a little. It's a kind of a 'handwriting sample.' It will immediately become clear that this is not a Russian technology," Rink said.

Rink added that the sample from Salisbury is like a "fingerprint" for a forensic expert.

"It could be easily determined that it [the poison] was not 'cooked' in Russia," he stressed.

According to the scientist, British <u>chemical weapons</u> experts had access to Novichok technology and could have used it to poison Skripal and his daughter.

"It [the Novichok-type technology] is commonly available for professionals...Any

pharmaceutical corporation, any chemical corporation is capable of manufacturing it in their laboratories," Rink said.

"It is absolutely certain that there are such specialists in the UK. I believe they could have applied the substance on <u>Skripal</u> or his daughter's belongings. Or on some objects in the cemetery. Naturally, there should have known that Skripal would visit the cemetery. **It could have easily been done by the British themselves**," he concluded.

The poisoning of former Russian spy Sergei Skripal was too unprofessional to have been carried out by alleged Russian agents, Leonid Rink said.

"Since all participants of this incident are alive, it is hard to imagine that the Russians are involved in this: such a blatant ignorance of alleged agents is just ridiculous and unacceptable. Even an unprofessional Russian agent would not use the one substance of Russian origin and with a Russian name. There are plenty of more appropriate substances. Firing at an unimportant target with a rocket and missing is the utmost stupidity," Rink said.

The developer of the chemical weapons added that Russia had no motive, since Skripal, who was part of a US-Russian spy swap in 2010, had no more important information to give to ether Russia or the United Kingdom.

"He was of no interest to Moscow. Secondly, the timing is extremely bad for Russia. A few days before the [presidential] election [held Sunday] and shortly before the FIFA World Cup," Rink concluded.

Former Russian <u>intelligence</u> officer Skripal and his daughter were found unconscious on a bench near a shopping center in the UK city of Salisbury on March 4. Subsequent investigation of the case revealed that the two were poisoned with a military-grade nerve agent believed to be developed in secrecy by the former Soviet Union.

As the victims remain at the hospital in critical conditions, the highly publicized poisoning incident has triggered a massive diplomatic fallout between London and Moscow; UK authorities have accused Russia of being behind the attack and expelled 23 Russian diplomats, vowing additional punitive measures. Russian officials called such allegations groundless and responded by declaring 23 employees of the UK Embassy in Moscow personae non gratae.

Russia has demanded access to the case'a materials, including the nerve gas, allegedly used to poison Skripal, however, London has refused to do so according to Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

UK Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson has claimed that there is evidence that Russia has been stockpiling the nerve gas, while Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova has said that the deadly substance may have originated from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Sweden, the United Kingdom, or the United States.

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Rowan Cocoan - about 16 hours ago

Anyone remember the 'military grade' anthrax, post 9/11/2001, which helped ensure the Passage of the huge and long-pending "PatrioSHIT Act" (POS Act)?

I'd not then heard of 'nano grade' weapons nor explosives, nor even the term 'weaponized.'
You?

The Military Grade Anthrax, that was sent out went almost exclusively to those legislators who questioned any part of the POS Act.

It turned out to have been proven as made at an illegal (under US Treaties) biological Army Post

in Maryland, as proven by DNA analysis; thus, if Russia were give a sample, I dare say it would be, at least, 'inconvenient' to the MIC in the UK when such showed/shows that it was created but a few miles/klicks away at Porton Down, 'Eh what?"

Likewise, that anthrax had been weaponized on a nano-lever scale, in that each infinitesimal molecule of anthrax had each and all identical electronic polarities. Thus each was opposed by electromagnetic repulsion from its neighbor, ensuring, in the words of such murderers, 'maximum dispersal.' (The odds of such occurring 'naturally' would amount to astronomical to the astronomicalest degree... you couldn't fit the odds at 1 over that particular 'x' had you taken up all particular keystrokes or text ever typed or reviewed on the internet, ever!) Kind of like randomly winning the lottery every day for a million years. Comprende? (If not, seek help.)

Of course we all learned of another secret 'nano' grade / military grade type of weaponized critter as a result of that day, didn't we? Nanothermite, which you can go on vacation to NYC and prove to your heart's delight.

But of course, the UK is above such malevolence? MY ASS! They invented it!

R.C.