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## NEWS

# Russian spies pictured at secret Moscow dinner where plot to install Vladimir Putin first emerged

It was an odd collection of spooks who gathered round a candlelit table of Moscow's Fairy Tale restaurant - which had been emptied of other diners just for them

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COMMENTSBy **[Nigel Nelson](#)** Political Editor

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**L to R: CIA defector Edward Lee Howard had fled US in 1985; FBI agent Robert Eringer was sent to Moscow on secret mission; KGB Colonel Igor Prelin boasted of new Soviet era; and KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov was honoured by leader Putin** (Image: Robert Eringer/Mirrorpix.com)



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This is the spy summit where details of the plot which would lead to the attempted murders of Sergei and Yulia Skripal were first revealed.

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It was an odd collection of spooks who gathered round a candlelit table of Moscow's Fairy Tale restaurant, which had been emptied of other diners just for them.

And what FBI counter-intelligence agent Robert Eringer heard that night in June

1997 sounded like a fairy tale.

His cover was as a publisher interested in commissioning a spy book from the CIA defector Edward Lee Howard.

But Eringer's real aim was to lure Howard away from Russia to Warsaw, have him snatched by agents and returned to the US.



**Sergei Skripal was poisoned in Salisbury** (Image: AFP)

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## Yulia Skripal is fighting for her life after being poisoned with a mystery nerve agent

(Image: AFP)



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Also at the banqueting table that night were former KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov and his sidekick Colonel Igor Prelin.

But over smoked Baltic fish and Kindzmarauli, a red wine favoured by Stalin, the conversation turned to an unknown KGB officer. His name... **Vladimir Putin** .

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What Eringer was told might have made his hair stand on end had spy training not taught him to avoid giveaways.

The KGB old guard planned to install Putin as president to replace Boris Yeltsin.

Putin would then recreate the Soviet Union dismantled under Mikhail Gorbachev and the KGB would control the Kremlin once more.

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**Eringer claims Vladimir Putin sanctioned the killing of Alexander Litvinenko** (Image:

Getty Images Europe)

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Prelin mused: "What will Washington think when the Soviet Union re-emerges?"

What has happened since was everything Eringer feared – the invasion of Ukraine, the annexation of Crimea and the assassination of traitors.

Eringer said: "Even worse, Putin was intent on causing the US to disintegrate, in much the same way the Soviet Union had fallen apart.

"Putin helped Donald Trump get elected president, not because he wanted him in the White House as a friend, but because he expected it would cause turmoil. He has not been disappointed."

Three years after the dinner, Putin became Russian leader, and one of his first acts was to honour Kryuchkov by attending his birthday party. But it was at another dinner in 2000, at a Chinese restaurant on London's Bayswater Road, that Putin's plan to execute traitors materialised.

Eringer recalled Prelin outlining the new extermination policy for those who betrayed the Motherland.

The target he named that evening was the KGB bigwig Oleg Kalugin, now 83, who had defected to America.

Eringer was incredulous. "You'd like to kill Kalugin?" "Of course," said Prelin. The FBI man said: "Do you know where he is?" Prelin replied: "Washington. I have his address. He lives with his two daughters."

Kalugin was not assassinated but, six years later in London, Alexander Litvinenko died after drinking tea laced with radioactive **Polonium 210** .

Said Eringer, now 63: "**Vladimir Putin** sanctioned the killing. I knew that from both sides of the fence."



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**Natalia Glushkova is "traumatised and terrified" that she will be targeted next** (Image:

Natalia Glushkova/east2west news)

Now **Sergei Skripal**, 66, and daughter Yulia, 33, are critically ill after being found slumped on a bench in Salisbury.

And a murder hunt has been launched to trace the killers of Russian businessman Nikolai Glushkov, 68, who was found strangled by his daughter Natalia in New Malden, south-west London.

Natalia is said to be "traumatised and terrified" that she will be targeted next.

Eringer added: "Putin is more emboldened than ever to kill defectors and re-establish a Russian empire while trying hard to weaken the Atlantic Alliance and the European Union."



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## Traitor escaped with a clever dummy run

Eringer never did get the CIA double agent he was sent to Moscow to bring back to America.

Suspected traitor Edward Lee Howard had fled the US in 1985 after eluding watching FBI men.

He hid a dummy in his car as he took wife Mary out to dinner in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Mary drove home with the dummy in the front and Howard quietly rolled out the back as she turned a corner.

In the house, a tape of his voice made it sound like he was still there. But he had fled abroad and turned up at the Soviet embassy in Helsinki.

In 2002 he was found dead of a broken neck, officially after falling down basement stairs drunk at his country home. But it had no basement.

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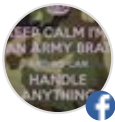
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Haaaaahahahaha. So, someone knew that the father and his daughter were to be killed 20 years ago, but said nothing until just now? Does the government think that we are \*that\* stupid?

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**Thomasina**

12 DAYS AGO

Sadly fenny the answer to your question is yes.

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**Thomasina**

12 DAYS AGO

Ha ha ha ha they cleared all diners out but they left this western intelligence guy listen. Ha ha ha ha ha ha.

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13 DAYS AGO

What a bunch of Putin apologists He is an uncommitted murderer.

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bunch of commies

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