

## ROUNDUP 21.3.18

- Russians continue to throw out various, contradictory theories
- Feeling that the West's response has been weak, which will encourage Putin to push on
- Lot of comment about how the West needs to kick out dirty Russian money
- Some momentum for World Cup boycott

The "Let them talk" (Пусть говорят) programme on Russian Pervy Kanal is normally devoted to scandals and sob stories. Last night it featured various experts discussing Skripal. Of course they blamed everybody else and contradicted themselves ('Novichok never existed' 'Novichok definitely existed but...'). Something which was new to me though was an attempt to link Skripal's, Yushchenko's and Litvinenko's poisonings to Porton Down.

<https://www.1tv.ru/shows/pust-govoryat/vypuski-i-dramatichnye-momenty/po-sledam-skripalya-cto-to-nechisto-v-solsberi-pust-govoryat-vypusk-ot-20-03-2018>

[Glasnost Gone](#) @GlasnostGone

Re [#MH17](#) & now [#Skripal](#) attack. Welcome to Russia's distraction propaganda. Moscow suggested Sweden, Slovakia, Czech Republic & Britain were most likely source of 'Novichok' nerve agent. Now Russia's ambassador to Sweden said it was "just a guess." Via

[\\_thelocal.se/20180320/spy-p\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_...](http://thelocal.se/20180320/spy-p_____...)  
<https://twitter.com/GlasnostGone/status/976365025630867456>

[Tom Parfitt](#) @parfitt\_tom

RIA Novosti has now changed the text of the article to say the "toxic system" Rink helped develop was not actually called novichok, but received that name in the West. Some silly sleight of hand with terminology going on here, it seems...

[https://twitter.com/parfitt\\_tom/status/976143379401773057](https://twitter.com/parfitt_tom/status/976143379401773057)

[Dmitry Zaks](#) @dmitryzaksAFP

Ria Novosti 'corrects' its interview with the Soviet-era chemist who helped develop Novichok. He now says that the nerve agent he himself was creating was not called Novichok but something else. But otherwise, the interview was about Novichok...

<https://twitter.com/dmitryzaksAFP/status/976115825747914752>

[C. Stelzenmüller](#) @ConStelz

Interesting you should say that, RT

RT@RT\_com

Toxic nothingburger: Cambridge Analytica exposé is dangerous political attack posing as journalism [\\_on.rt.com/91i8](https://on.rt.com/91i8)

<https://twitter.com/ConStelz/status/976188975818924033>

Jeremy Corbyn is cynically cherry-picking information in the Sergei Skripal case to further his own beliefs

<https://ind.pn/2FZOP4f>

**Jakub Janda** @\_JakubJanda

The Next Russian Attack Will Be Far Worse than Bots and Trolls

<https://lawfareblog.com/next-russian-attack-will-be-far-worse-bots-and-trolls>

**Dan Kaszeta** @DanKaszeta

The "Skripal would have been dead instantly" idea is bunk. Am reading accounts of guys literally drenched in Sarin from Tokyo. Took them a while to die, and that'd be a much higher dose.

<https://twitter.com/DanKaszeta/status/976181797359947776>

**Paul Goble** @PaulGoble1

Moscow has 'Long' Tradition of Killing Traitors Abroad, Russian Military Information Agency Says Stop the War hypocrisy! It rightly protests [#SaudiArabia](#) slaughtering civilians in [#Yemen](#) but refuses to protest against [#Assad](#) slaughtering Syrians. Condemns UK & US backing for Saudi but not [#Russia](#) & [#Iran](#) aid to Assad [@J Bloodworth](#) [@sunny\\_hundal](#) [@bobfrombrockley](#) [@JeremyJHardy](#)

**Dmitry Zaks** @dmitryzaksAFP

The diplomatic snub of Russia's World Cup gathers steam as four countries say they are either not sending officials in support of Britain's partial boycott or considering the move: [@AFP](#) [.goo.gl/ag3yGk](https://goo.gl/ag3yGk)

<https://twitter.com/dmitryzaksAFP/status/976099412412981248>

**X Soviet** @XSovietNews

Iceland's foreign minister says the country is considering a World Cup boycott in connection with the Skripal case, which is impressive, because Iceland's World Cup qualification is huge for the country.

**Новая Газета** @novaya\_gazeta

Ранее частично бойкотировать чемпионат предложил министр иностранных дел Великобритании [\\_novayagazeta.ru/news/2018/03/2](https://novayagazeta.ru/news/2018/03/2).....

[Nicholas Burns](#) @RNicholasBurns

Indeed. In the wake of Putin's theft of Crimea and interference in western elections and the nerve agent attack, this is no time for the [#EU](#) to play to normalize ties with Russia. Quite the contrary. Nicholas Burns added,

**Tom Wright** @thomaswright08

Truly outrageous. On so many levels. [twitter.com/JunckerEU/stat.....](#)

<https://twitter.com/RNicholasBurns/status/976084084085743616>

**Tom Wright** @thomaswright08

Truly outrageous. On so many levels.

**Jean-Claude Juncker** @JunckerEU

Congratulations on your re-election, President #Putin. I have always argued that positive relations between the #EU and #Russia are crucial to the #security of our continent. Our objective should be to re-establish a...

<https://twitter.com/thomaswright08/status/976075516460589056>

**J.J. Patrick** @J\_amesp

According to reports of Sberbank investments, Rees-Mogg may require the hat and Kremlin tint treatment. You're welcome.



[https://twitter.com/J\\_amesp/status/976071494546620419](https://twitter.com/J_amesp/status/976071494546620419)

[David Leask](#)@LeaskyHT

Specifically we today are reporting that the coal exports fuelling the economies of the Putin satellite republics on eastern Ukraine are being carried out through UK and Scottish shell firms.

<http://bit.ly/2pyO0cD>

<https://twitter.com/LeaskyHT/status/976413450279768064>