

Russian says Litvinenko destroyed evidence

by UPI

NALCHICK, Russia - A former KGB agent killed in London last year once traveled to Chechnya to destroy evidence against another former agent, a Russian official charged Friday.

Russian Deputy Interior Minister Arkady Yedelev told reporters that Alexander Litvinenko destroyed evidence linking Boris Berezovsky, a Russian billionaire who is in the United Kingdom claiming political asylum, to illegal arms groups, Interfax reported.

Yedelev also claimed Litvinenko had plans to kill witnesses against Berezovsky but did not carry them out, Kommersant reported.

Litvinenko died in London last November after being poisoned with a radioactive substance. British officials have charged a Moscow businessman, Andrey Lugovoy, with his death and are seeking Lugovoy's extradition.

Moscow prosecutors said they won't extradite Russian citizens but could try Lugovoy, who denies the charges, in Russia.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Friday said the parties concerned shouldn't make a political issue out of Litvinenko's case, Kommersant reported.

Litvinenko and Berezovsky were both KGB agents who sought exile in England.

Copyright © 2007, by United Press International. All Rights Reserved.

Russian says Litvinenko destroyed evidence by UPI