

Russia accuses Britain of spying

by UPI

MOSCOW - The Russian Federal Security Service has begun an investigation into British intelligence activities, officials announced Friday.

The probe follows allegations by businessman Andrei Lugovoi that Alexander Litvinenko, the former KGB agent poisoned with polonium in London, and exiled tycoon Boris Berezovsky had been recruited by MI6, Novosti reported.

Lugovoi, who met Litvinenko in London, has been charged by the British with killing him. Russia has refused an extradition request, telling British authorities that handing over Russian citizens is against the constitution.

"A criminal case on espionage charges has been opened after statements made by Russian businessman Lugovoi, and additional information on the activities of British intelligence in Russia," a spokesman for the FSB said.

Before his death, Litvinenko accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of arranging his poisoning.

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