



### Freezing out Russia

by Simon Belt

Subsequent to the poisoning of Russian ex-double agent Sergei Skirpal and his daughter in Salisbury earlier this month, the British government blamed the Russian state as the most likely body responsible. Things have escalated with widespread tit-for-tat expulsions of diplomats, that include those of America, many European countries, the EU and further afield. With such seeming coherence of western powers in targetting Russia as responsible, it's worth asking if this course of action is wise, proportionate and likely to result in a good outcome.

The otherwise quiet town of Salisbury was shocked by the alarming use of a fast acting and

deadly nerve agent, thought to be Novichok.