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U.K. Seeks Transfer of Ex-KGB Agent

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A former KGB officer said British prosecutors are seeking his extradition and arrest in the 2006 murder of Alexander Litvinenko, the Financial Times reported Tuesday.

Dmitry Kovtun accompanied fellow suspect and current State Duma Deputy Andrei Lugovoi to a meeting with Litvinenko in London shortly before Litvinenko's death of polonium poisoning.

Both Kovtun and Lugovoi, who are former business partners, have denied involvement in Litvinenko's killing.

Kovtun said Russian investigators told him that they had received a letter from British prosecutors earlier this month demanding his extradition. He questioned the timing of the request, noting that five years had passed since the murder.

"What new evidence can there be?" he said, the Financial Times reported.

Russia has refused Britain's request to extradite Lugovoi, causing diplomatic tension between the countries.

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