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Russia Knows Real Identity of Men Accused by U.K. of Skripal Attack, Putin Says

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Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov **Reuters / Metropolitan Police**

President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday that Russia knew the real identity of two men accused by British prosecutors of trying to murder former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia in Britain.

"Of course, we've looked into who these people are. We know who they are already, we've found them," Putin said.

British prosecutors last week identified two Russians who they said were operating under aliases — Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov — who they said had tried to murder the Skripals with a military-grade nerve agent in England.

Related article: Two Russians Charged in Attempted Murder of Skripals

Putin, speaking at an economic forum in the Russian port city of Vladivostok, said Russia had found the two men, that they were civilians, and there was nothing special or criminal about them and that he hoped they would come forward and tell the world their own story.

"It will be better for everyone. There is nothing special or criminal there... They're civilians, of course," Putin added.

Reuters contributed reporting

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