

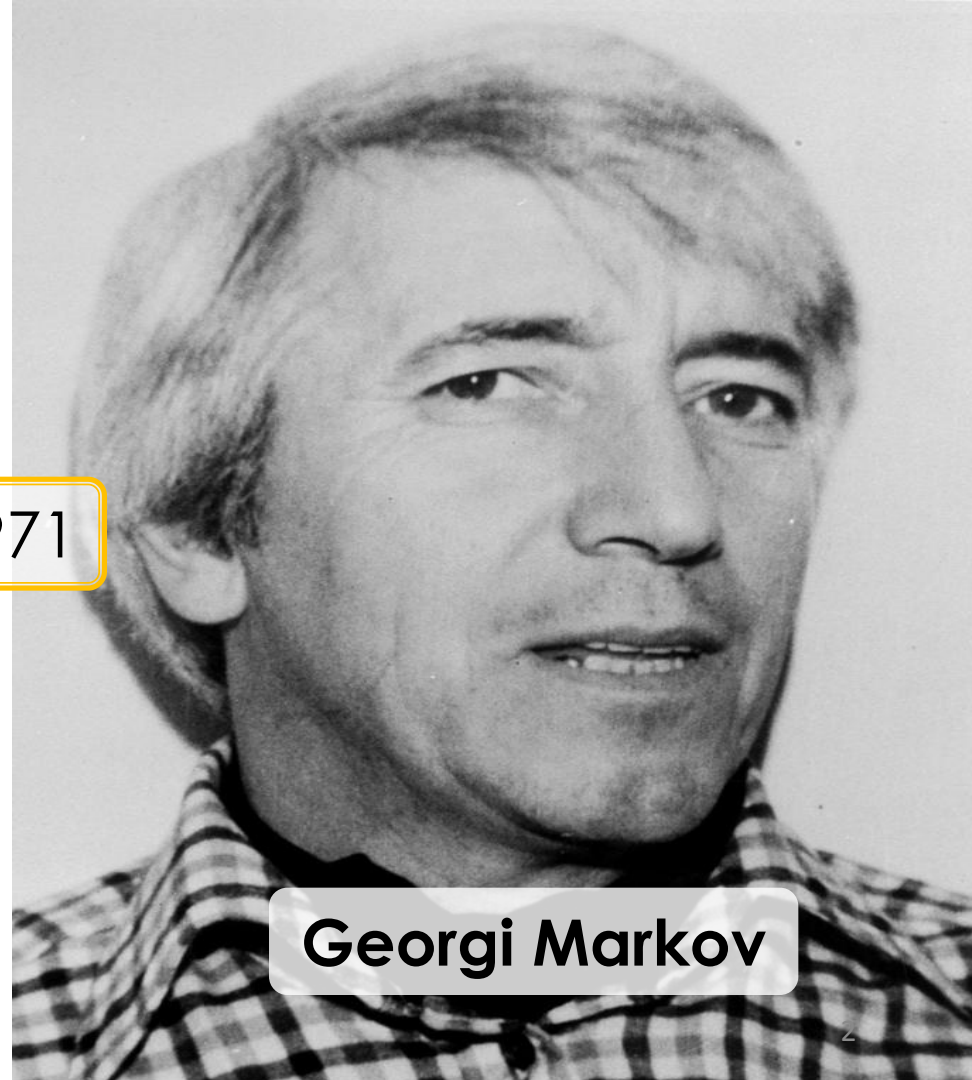
Georgi Markov

Georgi Markov

Bulgarian Dissident

Defected to Britain in 1971

Worked for BBC
World Service



Georgi Markov

Thursday, 7 Sept 1979

Jabbed in the leg by an umbrella on Waterloo Bridge

Admitted to hospital the next day

Died on Monday

Autopsy results

Puncture wound



Tissue sent to Porton Down

Found a tiny metallic sphere

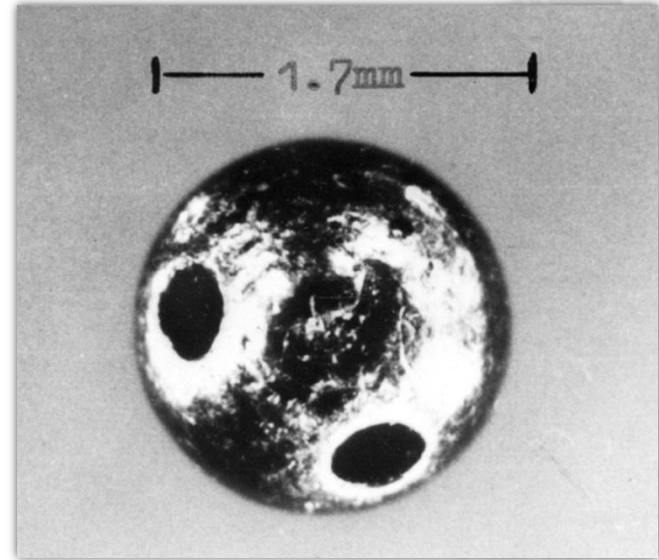
SEM-EDX results

90% platinum, 10% iridium

Sphere was hollow



Enough space for
2 mg of poison



SEM-EDX of sphere

Poison used

Complex polypeptide



Ricin

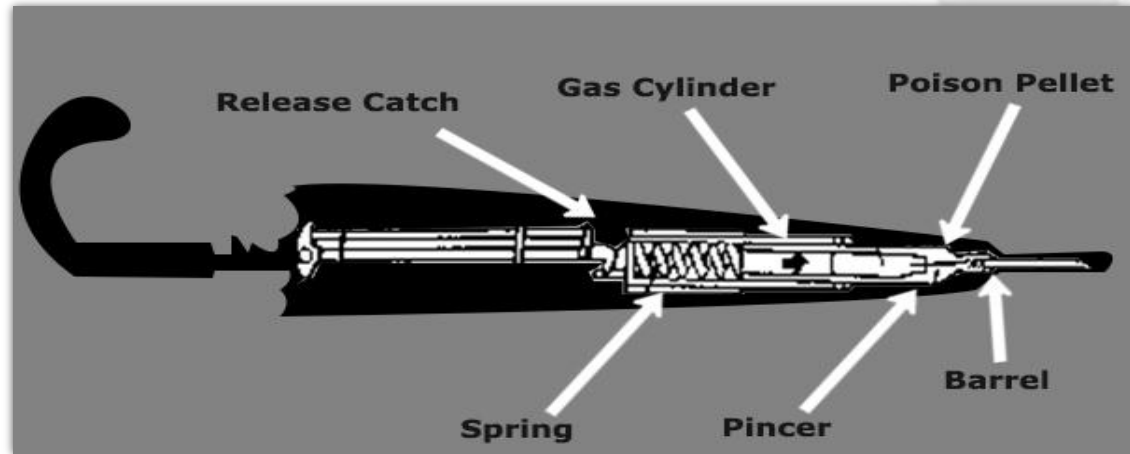
Isolated from castor oil plant



Castor oil plant

Umbrella

Pellet gun



Also used on Vladimir Kostov (Paris, 1978)

Umbrella

Markov: injected pellet close to blood vessel



Ricin absorbed rapidly

Kostov: injected pellet close to muscle tissue



Slow absorbance of ricin

Question

Was Georgi Markov murdered by the Bulgarian Secret Service?



Likely