

Russia's chemical weapon stockpile



Moscow, GOSNIIOKhT: Soviet-era State Scientific Institute of Organic Chemistry and Technology develops **Novichok** family of nerve agents

1986-1991: Dr. Vil Mirzayanov (above) works on Soviet military project **Foliant** at GOSNIIOKhT

1990: Presidents **George H.W. Bush** and **Mikhail Gorbachev** sign U.S.–Soviet **Chemical Weapons Accord** to halt CW production

1991: Mirzayanov reveals that Russia is secretly producing new generation of binary nerve agents known as **Novichok**. These use commercially available organophosphate fertilisers and insecticides

Jan 1993: Russia and U.S. sign **Chemical Weapons Convention**

1 Aug 2002, Gorny: Chemical weapons destruction facility (CWDF) begins destruction of **1,160 tonnes** of lewisite blistering agent and mustard gas

2 Feb 2006, Shchuch'ye: CWDF opens to destroy **5,460 tonnes** of nerve agent, including two million VX- and phosgene-filled artillery shells

3 Mar, Kambarka: Russia commences destruction of **6,360 tonnes** of lewisite

4 Sep, Maradykovsky: CWDF starts operations to destroy **6,900 tonnes** of nerve agents



Shikhany: Production and testing ground for Novichok

5 Jun 2008, Leonidovka: Facility starts destruction of **6,885 tonnes** of sarin, soman and VX nerve agents

6 Sep 2010, Pochev: CWDF begins destruction of **7,498 tonnes** of nerve agents in air-delivered munitions

7 Dec 2013, Kizner: Operation begins to destroy more than **5,730 tonnes** of nerve agent

Sep 2017, Kizner: President **Vladimir Putin** announces destruction of last batch of its **40,000-tonne** chemical weapons stockpile