

Pompeo called the suggestion that political considerations had shaped the administration's response "patently false" in a press conference Wednesday.

It's not just China. Marc Polymeropoulos, the CIA's former deputy chief of operations for Europe and Eurasia, who suffered all the same symptoms after a stay in Moscow in 2017, told *GQ* about his experience after the agency refused to transfer him for treatment to the Walter Reed military hospital.

"The U.S. government handled this very poorly," he told *Foreign Policy*. "This is like the [National Football League] 15 years ago with [traumatic brain injury], putting their heads in the sand."

Who is behind this?

Suspicion has fallen on the Kremlin, given Russia's history of using microwave weapons against U.S. officials and its interest in keeping U.S. relations with China and Cuba on ice. Moscow has proved willing to pursue its enemies in the West and is reported to have offered Taliban militants bounties to kill U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan. Russia's foreign ministry denies any connection to the incident in Cuba.

Yet there are indications. According to *GQ*, a CIA investigation using cellphone location data found that individuals believed to work for the Russian security services were in the area at the time that U.S. officials in these countries first began experiencing symptoms. But according to the *New York Times*, senior U.S. officials want to see more evidence before pointing a finger at Moscow.

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