



37 Days: Countdown to World War One

21 July: Russia begins to stir

Margaret Macmillan:

In between the formalities of the state visit, the Russian foreign minister Sergei Sazonov finds time to meet the ambassadors of Austria-Hungary and Germany. It is now four weeks since the assassination of Franz Ferdinand and Vienna has still not given a response. But all know that something is coming soon.

Russian public opinion is strongly in favour of protecting its fellow Slav nation of Serbia should Austria-Hungary choose to punish it. Sazonov warns the ambassador that an entire nation cannot be punished for the death of the Archduke.

Sergei Sazonov:

“A whole country can not be held responsible for the acts of individuals.”