

Russian Foreign Policy: A Chronology

April – June 2007

1 April 2007 The sixth activation of the Black Sea naval rapid reaction force (BLACKSEAFOR) of Bulgaria, Georgia, Russia, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine begins.

2 April 2007 An Iranian Interior Ministry delegation visits Dagestan to study state-of-the-art technology in ensuring the security of state borders.

2 April 2007 The MOD rejects media claims that Russian intelligence is claiming that the USA will soon attack Iran.

2 April 2007 Vladimir Putin has a telephone conversation with Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko at the request of the Ukrainian side. Yushchenko cancels his visit to Russia scheduled for 3 April because of the political crisis in Ukraine.

2 April 2007 The Foreign Ministry (MFA) urges all leading Iraqi political forces to engage in dialogue to achieve national reconciliation and accord.

3 April 2007 First Deputy Prime Minister Russian Sergey Ivanov meets US Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez. They discuss bilateral Russian-US trade, protection of intellectual property rights and Russia's forthcoming accession to the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

3 April 2007 Valeriy Yazev, president of Russian Gas Society and chairman of Russian State Duma Committee on Energy Issues says the absence of an international gas cartel similar to OPEC may lead to conflicts caused by energy resources issues in the future.

3 April 2007 First Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Denisov says Russia is carefully following developments in Ukraine. He says Russia views with particular interest Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's statement about readiness to compromise.

Foreign minister Sergey Lavrov says that Russia is ready to help Ukraine overcome its political crisis if Kiev makes such a request.

Denisov says Ukraine's entry into NATO will have an effect on relations between Moscow and Kiev. The US Senate passed the NATO Freedom Consolidation Act of 2007 on 15 March, inviting Ukraine and Georgia to join NATO.

3 April 2007 Andrey Denisov says the timeline of nuclear fuel supplies to Bushehr nuclear power plant in Iran will be specified after the day of the plant's launch is agreed.

Rosatom head Sergey Kiriyenko says that Iranian payments for the construction of the Bushehr nuclear power plant will be paid according to schedule in the near future.

Irina Yesipova, press secretary of Atomstroyeksport, says that the Russian delegation is to return to Iran is to resume talks on issues related to completing the construction of the Bushehr nuclear power plant, most probably next week.

Sergey Lavrov says that Russia is categorically opposed to solving the situation surrounding the Iranian nuclear programme by force. He says the international legal framework for dealing with the Iranian nuclear issue is determined by UN Security Council decisions and "completely excludes a solution by force".

3 April 2007 Sergey Lavrov visits Armenia for talks with Armenian Foreign Minister Vardan Oskanyan. Lavrov says US, EU and Russian interests coincide on Nagorny-Karabakh.

Lavrov says that Russia rejects the Ahtisaari report on Kosovo, as it takes the necessity of Kosovo independence as its starting point.

3 April 2007 The second stage of the command-staff exercise of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) Rubezh (Frontier) 2007 begins in Tajikistan. The third stage will be on 6 April. Taking part in the exercise are Collective Rapid Deployment Force units from Russia, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, and operations groups of the Armenian, Kyrgyz and Uzbekistani Defence Ministries.

4 April 2007 Head of the Duma International Affairs Committee Konstantin Kosachev says direct Russian interference in the Ukrainian crisis is inadmissible.

4 April 2007 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Russia welcomes the release of 15 British sailors by Iran.

4 April 2007 Konstantin Kosachev says one of the best ways to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue is to enrich fuel for Iranian nuclear power stations at international centres in Russia.

4 April 2007 Sergey Lavrov says the Iran problem cannot be solved by force. "The most energetic efforts must be made to resume negotiations on Iran's nuclear programme...In the latest UN Security Council resolution of the six countries - the five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany - they made a very strong statement at the level of foreign ministers that once again confirmed their interest in immediately beginning negotiations with the Iranian side". These talks should "be based on a respect for Iran's right to have peaceful nuclear energy in complete compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" and should "allow a definition of, among other things, the parameters and time frame for the specific realization of that right of Iran."

4 April 2007 Sergey Lavrov says US plans to deploy parts of a missile defence system in the Czech Republic and Poland create risks for Russia and could split Europe.

Any unilateral steps, especially hasty ones, are difficult to assess as anything but the creation of conditions to split Europe. So we consider unilateral decisions to deploy parts of the USA's ABM system in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe as creating risks for Russia and the whole of Europe...We hope that the understanding reached between presidents Vladimir Putin and George Bush in this regard will allow the process of collective discussions and cooperation between Russia and NATO countries in the field of missile defence to be renewed.

4 April 2007 Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Titov says Moscow is "certain that the desire to quickly 'close' the Kosovo issue with a unilateral decision will only create new, serious problems". He says negotiations should continue.

Vitaliy Churkin, Russian permanent UN representative states:

There is absolutely no reason to raise the issue of granting independence to Kosovo. And there is absolutely no reason to raise the issue of violating Serbia's territorial integrity. We hope that our speech will be studied carefully by all members of the Security Council and that it will be a worthy contribution to the discussion which will undoubtedly continue in the Security Council.

4 April 2007 The MFA says Moscow welcomes Warsaw's decision to look into the issue of unblocking the talks between Russia and the EU on the new partnership and cooperation agreement. European Commission spokesman Johannes Laitenberger confirms that Poland was ready to lift its veto on talks between the EU and Russia on the new partnership and cooperation agreement. These talks had earlier been blocked by the Polish side because of a conflict with Moscow over Polish meat exports to Russia.

4 April 2007 The Republican Party of Russia files a suit at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg against the ruling of the Russian Supreme Court that liquidated the party in March.

4 April 2007 Gazprom deputy chairman Aleksandr Medvedev, who is also director-general of Gazpromexport, and Valeriy Boyko, a representative of Conef Energy, sign a contract on supplying natural gas to Romania between 2010 and 2030.

5 April 2007 Aleksandr Maryasov, director of the second Asian department at the MFA in charge of relations with Iran, says the USA should treat Iran with respect and avoid sabre rattling in the Persian Gulf.

Federation Council Speaker Sergey Mironov expresses concern about the possible use of force by the USA against Iran.

5 April 2007 Presidential aide and special envoy for relations with the EU Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says Poland's veto on talks between Russia and the EU about a new strategic agreement is counterproductive. Poland is blocking the start of Russia-EU negotiations by demanding that Russia lifts its embargo on meat imports from Poland.

5 April 2007 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says he does not yet see any reason to resume the six-party talks on regulating the nuclear problem on the Korean Peninsula. He says that the issue of North Korean money needs to be solved and then the countdown for a new 30-day period should be started.

6 April 2007 Vladimir Putin and Viktor Yushchenko discuss the crisis in Ukraine in a telephone conversation.

The Duma adopts a statement on Ukraine in which it expresses its serious concern about attempts to resolve the political crisis in the country with the help of the "dissolution of a legally elected Ukrainian Supreme Council".

6 April 2007 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Saltanov says all political forces in Iraq must be involved in a settlement.

In our view, the problem of Iraq cannot be resolved without turning this into a much broader and more inclusive political process, a process which would lead to a true national accord. For this, a dialogue with a wider participation of representatives of different current political forces in Iraq is required. It would be difficult to achieve stabilization in any other way, because otherwise, some quite influential political forces would always be left outside this process. This would make them unhappy and they would naturally be expressing their dissatisfaction in various ways. So we are saying that all those patriotically inclined and intent on striving for preservation of Iraq as a unified and integral state must be involved in this process.

Saltanov says that the MFA is ready to help Lukoil rebuild its business interests in Iraq.

Saltanov says that the economic blockade of Palestine must be lifted.

Saltanov says he opposes new sanctions against Iran. Saltanov says Russia welcomes the recent visit by US House speaker Nancy Pelosi to Syria.

6 April 2007 Industry and Energy Minister Viktor Khristenko says that no cartel agreement on price policy on the gas market will be signed at the 9 April session of the Gas Exporting Countries' Forum (GECF) in Doha.

6 April 2007 The head of the MFA's Department for Pan-European Cooperation, Sergey Ryabkov, says NATO's expansion has nothing to do with real threats to security. He says NATO expansion leads to destabilization.

The Duma adopts a statement "On dangerous tendencies in the foreign policy of a number of North Atlantic Treaty Organization members".

6 April 2007 Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov states that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) should start a new phase of its activities and begin implementing real projects. Lavrov meets Bolat Nurgaliyev, secretary-general of the SCO.

6 April 2007 Sergey Lavrov has talks with the Moldovan foreign minister Andrey Stratan.

7 April 2007 CSTO counter-terrorist exercises take place in Tajikistan.

7 April 2007 The head of Rosatom, Sergey Kiriyenko, says Russia aims at taking up 20 per cent of world's nuclear energy market. He states Russia has two projects in China, two in India, one in Iran and in 2006 won a tender for building a nuclear power plant in Belene (Bulgaria).

9 April 2007 Industry and Energy Minister Viktor Khristenko says that during the gas exporting countries' forum in Doha a decision was taken to set up a high-level group in charge of gas pricing. Russia will be the group's coordinator.

9 April 2007 Economic Development and Trade Minister German Gref says Russia will be a member of the WTO by the end of 2007.

9 April 2007 Chairman of the Duma international affairs committee Konstantin Kosachev warns against use of force to resolve the Iranian nuclear problem. He calls for continued dialogue with Iran.

The chairman of the Federation Council international affairs committee, Mikhail Margelov, says Iran has refused the world's carrot over its nuclear issue but the world has no stick.

9 April 2007 The inter-parliamentary assembly of member states of the Community for Democracy and the Rights of Peoples (i.e. Abkhazia, Transdnestr and South Ossetia) meets in Moscow.

9 April 2007 Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov reports on the outcomes of his recent visits to Armenia and Turkmenistan to Vladimir Putin.

9 April 2007 Konstantin Kosachev, chairman of the Duma international affairs committee and deputy chairman of the presidium of the general council of Yedinaya Rossiya, says the US Department of State report on the electoral process in Russia published on 5 April constitutes a gross interference in Russia's domestic affairs.

9 April 2007 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Yakovenko says the United Nations Charter remains topical and continues to be a solid basis for modern international relations.

The world has not become less dangerous over the 60 years following World War II. The development of peace is being threatened by the abominable phenomenon of terrorism; the problem of economic backwardness is becoming more severe, the geography of hotbeds of conflict is expanding. The new threats and challenges include the policy of unilateral steps, attempts to resolve problems by bypassing international law and excessively relying on the factor of force. Life itself indicates the inefficiency of unilateral policy, which leads only to the deepening of existing problems.

10 April 2007 Industry and Energy Minister Viktor Khristenko visits Egypt, He signs an agreement on the formation of a Russian industrial zone in Egypt.

10 April 2007 Presidential aide Sergey Prikhodko outlines the major principles of Russian foreign policy at a news conference.

Prikhodko says the EU is fully responsible for settling its agreement with Russia on a new strategic partnership.

10 April 2007 Sergey Lavrov says Russia does not have data on the start of uranium enrichment on an industrial scale in Iran. "So far we don't have confirmation of the fact that practical enrichment on the new cascades [of centrifuges] has begun. We have heard from the IAEA that recently a procedure for spontaneous inspections of the Natanz facility has been agreed with the Iranian side...We consider it a step in the right direction and will continue to monitor the situation very closely, based on specific facts rather than statements that often only hype the situation up."

10 April 2007 Chairman of the Duma Boris Gрызлов refers to Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko's decree to dissolve the parliament as unconstitutional.

10 April 2007 Sergey Lavrov says that former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's recently discussed plan for a Cyprus settlement is not supported by one of the conflicting sides and cannot be used as a basis for settling this conflict. Lavrov has talks with Cypriot foreign minister Yeoryios Lillikas.

11 April 2007 The MFA criticises the US State Department's report "Supporting Human Rights and Democracy". It talks of the USA supporting democratic forces in Russia.

The chairman of the Federation Council committee on constitutional legislation, Yuriy Sharandin, says in reference to the US State Department's report:

There are instances of direct financial support for those forces that operate against the interest of Russia. This is quite clear. There is evidence that testifies to there being activity by similar forces in other states. If the Russian Federation starts to expose the means and methods by which, in this case, our American partners are promoting their standards of democracy, which are correct from their point of view, this could certainly be the subject of deliberations at the level of the UN.

11 April 2007 The first deputy chairman of the Duma committee on international affairs, Leonid Slutskiy, says the USA has once again demonstrated to the international community that it is striving to establish a unipolar world. He is commenting on US President George Bush signing on 10 April a law approved by Congress to support Georgia and Ukraine joining NATO.

11 April 2007 Russia's permanent representative at the UN, Vitaliy Churkin, says the deployment of a US missile defence system may result in Russia building up its strategic offensive arms.

11 April 2007 Sergey Ivanov visits Armenia.

Sergey Ivanov calls for IAEA control over enriching uranium in Iran.

Rosatom head Sergey Kiriyenko visits Japan. He says Russia and Kazakhstan do not see the need to set up uranium OPECs, i.e. alliances of uranium producing and exporting states.

11 April 2007 The MFA expresses concern over Iran holding an air defence firing exercise on 6 April next to the Bushehr nuclear power plant, currently under construction.

11 April 2007 Deputy chairman of the commission for international cooperation and people's diplomacy of the Public Chamber, Sergey Markov, visits Ukraine. He says Russia is interested in helping Ukraine find a compromise in resolving its internal political crisis.

11 April 2007 Vyacheslav Kovalenko, Russian ambassador to Georgia, says the creation of a temporary territorial administrative unit by the Georgian authorities to administer South Ossetia may provoke a new round of confrontation in the conflict zone.

11 April 2007 Gazprom head Aleksey Miller reports to Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Karamanlis on the agreements reached during talks between the Russian and Greek delegations. The main issue is the prolongation of the interstate

agreement on natural gas supplies to Greece and on the implementation of the agreement to build the Burgas-Alexandroupolis oil pipeline.

12 April 2007 Federation Council speaker and Spravedlivaya Rossiya leader Sergey Mironov proposes forming a union of socialist and social-democratic parties of the CIS countries.

12 April 2007 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Yakovenko says human rights should be depoliticised. He criticises human rights violations in the Baltic states and defends the Russian NGO law.

12 April 2007 The Inter-party Conference on Foreign Policy criticises the report of the US State Department "Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The US Record – 2006".

Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Yakovenko criticises the same US State Department report:

First, the report is of an openly politicized nature and little reflects the real state of affairs. Unfortunately, in those countries which follow in the wake of US foreign policy, the human rights situation is described in very positive terms, whereas those countries which fall out of step, as it were, are subject to criticism. As regards Russia, the report uses a whole arsenal of tricks like exaggeration; collection of facts to support specific, earlier formulated, conclusions; arbitrary interpretation of facts and several other tricks. In fact this report repeats what the State Department published back in March 2006.

12 April 2007 Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov says Russia is ready to continue talks with Iran on its peaceful nuclear programme. He is visiting Pakistan.

12 April 2007 The Secretary of the Security Council, Igor Ivanov, visits Israel.

12 April 2007 Russia resumes the withdrawal of hardware and equipment from its military base in Akhalkalaki (southern Georgia).

12 April 2007 The government forms a commission to ensure the Russian presence on the Spitsbergen archipelago. The commission will be led by Deputy Prime Minister and Head of the Government Administration, Sergey Naryshkin.

12 April 2007 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Yakovenko says Russia desires a comprehensive agreement which would prohibit deploying weapons in space.

13 April 2007 Sergey Lavrov denies that Russia is discussing setting up a gas cartel. He is having talks with Algerian foreign minister Mohamed Bedjaoui.

13 April 2007 Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and MP Konstantin Kosachev state that London should extradite multimillionaire businessman Boris Berezovskiy. This is following Berezovskiy's interview with *The Guardian* in which he said that he was plotting a revolution in Russia.

Sergey Lavrov says the British authorities should end Boris Berezovskiy's political asylum in the UK.

The General Procuracy states that it intends to send an inquiry to the United Kingdom to assess Boris Berezovskiy's recent comments and examine the issue of removing his refugee status.

13 April 2007 Both the Federation Council and Duma discuss the US State Department report 'Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The US Record – 2006' which says the US should support democratic forces in Russia.

Konstantin Kosachev, chairman of the Duma international affairs committee, says he is categorically against Russian parties being financed from abroad.

13 April 2007 Permanent Representative to the United Nations Vitaliy Churkin says Russia is satisfied with the UN Security Council resolution extending the mandate of the UN Mission in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone.

13 April 2007 Rosatom head Sergey Kiriyenko and Mongolian acting trade and industry minister Nadmidyn Bayartsayhan sign a protocol on cooperation in geological survey, mining and processing of uranium ore.

13 April 2007 Security Council Secretary Igor Ivanov has talks with Palestine National Authority leader Mahmud Abbas, Foreign Minister Ziyad Abu-Amr and National Security Council Executive Secretary Muhammad Dahlan.

13 April 2007 An Atomstroyeksport delegation returns to Moscow after another phase of negotiations on the construction of the Bushehr nuclear power plant in Iran.

14 April 2007 A delegation of Russian MPs arrive in North Korea.

Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Moscow welcomes the fact that North Korea is sticking to its commitment to shut down the nuclear reactor in Yongbyon.

16 April 2007 The Prosecutor-General's Office sends to London a request to extradite Boris Berezovskiy and deprive him of his status as a political refugee.

16 April 2007 Sergey Lavrov has talks with Ukrainian counterpart Arseniy Yatsenyuk in Moscow.

16 April 2007 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov say America's inability to fulfil its financial obligations to North Korea is one of the main obstacles to resuming six-party talks on Pyongyang's nuclear programme.

16 April 2007 The MFA says Russia intends to contribute actively to the preparation and holding of an international ministerial meeting on Iraq at Sharm al-Shaykh, Egypt, at the beginning of May.

17 April 2007 Deputy Industry and Energy Minister Andrey Dementyev says the Ministry of Industry and Energy considers the plan to build a oil pipeline to bypass Belarus (the second stage of the BTS-2 Baltic pipeline system) a priority.

17 April 2007 Member of the board of directors of the Burgas-Alexandroupolis pipeline company and director of Gazprom Neft's department for strategy and overseas projects Nikolay Seregin says oil companies will have equal access to the oil pipeline.

17 April 2007 An international conference on the Iraq refugee problem opens in Geneva. It is initiated by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. A Russian delegation will take part.

17 April 2007 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Grushko says Moscow believes that the adapted Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) is losing touch with reality, and is calling on the states that are parties to the agreement to make clear their fundamental positions. "The adapted CFE, which was signed in 1999, is not being implemented because of the position of NATO countries, and because of this is not being developed, is losing touch with reality." He says it is vital "to bring the CFE into accordance with the real situation".

17 April 2007 Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Grushko says collaboration between Russia and NATO on a theatre missile defence project will become more than problematic if Russia's concerns in this area are not taken on board. He states that further cooperation between NATO and Russia on theatre missile defence:

...will directly depend on the choice of the final configuration of the echeloned missile defence system, which is being developed directly within NATO, and on the influence on it of the US missile defence system...If our concerns are not taken on board and there remains a danger of the collapse or deformation of the military-strategic balance, the prospect of new forms of collaboration with NATO on missile defence will become more than problematic...Attempts to build a US defence front line in Europe are fraught with consequences that run counter to those declared. Their implementation could lead to a new twist in the arms race, exacerbate regional and global instability, and generally increase the temptation to rely on military efforts in issues of security, rather than on international means of arms control.

17 April 2007 Security Council Secretary Igor Ivanov says Russia objects to the formation of an independent Kurdish state in Northern Iraq.

18 April 2007 Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov meets the council of the Eurasian Economic Community in Astana. He says growth in the Russian economy will continue in 2007. He says that in the future, the country's economy will be based on investments and innovations. In January and February 2007, GDP grew at a significantly higher pace: 8.4 per cent against 5.1 per cent in the same period in 2006.

18 April 2007 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Grushko rejects claims that Vladimir Putin's speech at the security conference in Munich in February has led to the deterioration of Russia's relations with NATO.

18 April 2007 The permanent representative of the Russian Federation to the UN, Vitaliy Churkin, says he has so far not received an instruction to use the right of veto during the vote on the Kosovo resolution.

18 April 2007 The co-chairman of the Russian-North Korean economic cooperation commission and head of Rostekhnadzor, Konstantin Pulikovskiy, says North Korea has no alternatives for ensuring energy supply for the country other than peaceful use of nuclear energy.

18 April 2007 Sergey Lavrov has talks in Madrid with his Spanish counterpart Miguel Angel Moratinos. He says the OSCE must be reformed.

18 April 2007 Sergey Lavrov says the consequences could be very serious if Estonia decides to dismantle the Soviet WW2 monument in the centre of Tallinn.

19 April 2007 Sergey Lavrov visits Serbia. He says that a solution of the Kosovo problems cannot be imposed. He says that Russia is not yet prepared to say whether it would use its veto at the UN on Kosovo.

19 April 2007 The chairman of the Duma International Affairs Committee, Konstantin Kosachev, speaks at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). He says that President Yushchenko's decree on the dissolution of parliament runs counter to the Ukrainian constitution.

19 April 2007 First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov says he believes that there is no reason to discuss possible cooperation between Russia and the USA in the area of strategic missile defence.

Air force chief Vladimir Mikhaylov says US missile defence facilities in Europe pose no particular danger to Russia.

A NATO-Russia meeting in Brussels discusses US plans to deploy a missile defence system in Eastern Europe.

19 April 2007 Security Council Secretary Igor Ivanov is interviewed in Israeli newspaper *Novosti Nedeli*.

20 April 2007 The Commander-in-Chief of the navy, Admiral Vladimir Masorin, says the deployment of US missile defence components in Poland and the Czech Republic does not threaten the security at Russia's western borders.

20 April 2007 Sergey Lavrov visits Montenegro. He says the issue of Kosovo's status can only be decided on the basis of direct talks between Belgrade and Pristina.

20 April 2007 Defence Minister Anatoliy Serdyukov visits Belarus.

20 April 2007 First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia has been complying with international legislation and "will never pass its nuclear technologies to anyone".

22 April 2007 Atomstroyeksport says the Russian-Iranian talks in Moscow have been completed, and a protocol setting out a plan of measures for the near future to ensure stable funding for the concluding stage of the construction of the Bushehr nuclear power plant has been signed.

22 April 2007 The European commissioner on public health, Markos Kyprianou, and Russian Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeyev do not reach agreement on ditching the Russian embargo on import of Polish meat at their meeting in Limassol, Cyprus.

23 April 2007 Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhammedow visits Moscow for talks with Vladimir Putin.

23 April 2007 Deputy Foreign Minister and State Secretary Grigoriy Karasin warns that Georgia's accession to NATO will seriously worsen relations between Moscow and Tbilisi.

23 April 2007 Director of Rosatom Sergey Kiriyyenko and Armenian Minister of Environmental Protection Vardan Ayvazyan sign a "Protocol of intent between Rosatom and the Armenian Ministry of Environmental Protection for the exploration and processing of uranium ore" and an action plan for 2007.

23 April 2007 The MFA hands a note to the Estonian ambassador in Moscow, Marina Kaljurand, expressing disagreement with the Estonian government's plans to exhume the remains of Soviet servicemen in Tallinn.

23 April 2007 US Defence Secretary Robert Gates visits Moscow for talks with Vladimir Putin and defence minister Anatoliy Serdyukov.

Anatoliy Serdyukov says US plans to deploy elements of its antiballistic missile system in Europe would be a destabilizing factor in regional and global security.

23 April 2007 Sergey Lavrov has talks with the EU troika in the permanent council on Russia-EU relations. He says efforts by Russia and the European Union to establish new means for transporting energy resources from Russia to Europe "will strengthen energy security across the continent".

24 April 2007 Konstantin Kosachev, chairman of the Duma international affairs committee, says that Western mass media is covering the situation connected with holding so-called Dissenters' Marches in Moscow and St Petersburg on 14 and 15 April in a biased way.

24 April 2007 Sergey Lavrov says Russia is seriously concerned by the deployment of the US missile defence system in Eastern Europe. He says the missile defence system is absolutely useless as protection against the Iranian threat and therefore is intended for other purposes.

We are categorically against Europe becoming a field for anybody's game and we are not going to take part in games like these. I also wouldn't want for an impression to be created that continued discussions between Moscow and Washington at a high and the highest levels are enough in themselves to resolve this problem.

If in the course of these discussions we are still unable to get an answer to the question of why - for the purpose of protection against a hypothetical threat from Iran - it is necessary to create a system that does not solve this problem but which creates real and current, not hypothetical, problems for Russia's security, no matter how many discussions are held, for as long as no answer to this question is received, there will be no end to these games into which Europe is being dragged.

CGS Yuriy Baluyevskiy says US ABM sites in Europe could be targeted by Russian missiles. He states that the US missile defence systems intended for deployment in Eastern Europe are aimed at Russia and China. "To put it mildly, here is the concrete true aim - and these aims have remained today - the creation of defence from the nuclear missile potential of Russia and China and the provision for the United States of exclusive conditions of invincibility. Let anyone tell me the opposite, I - as a military man, as a chief of the General Staff - will see this first true aim."

Federation Council Defence and Security Committee Chairman Viktor Ozerov says the idea about cooperation in the ABM sphere proposed by US Defence Secretary Robert Gates should be accepted as an idea. "It is important to understand against whom this system will be directed, what its radius of operation will be and which US technologies we will be given access to, as well as which Russian technologies they hope to gain access to."

The deputy chairman of the Committee on International Affairs, Vasiliy Likhachev, says that Russian-US cooperation on international security issues "needs to be reviewed and the legal base needs to be updated".

24 April 2007 Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Kislyak says if Iran meets the requirements set by the UN Security Council, all UN Security Council activity with respect to Iran will be immediately suspended. He says Iran should start working with the IAEA.

24 April 2007 The MFA makes the following statement about the settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz and Georgian-South Ossetian conflicts: "If prospects for achieving an agreement are completely lost, it will be the fault of both the current Georgian leadership and strategists from Washington and Brussels, who are pursuing their own ends and encouraging Tbilisi's short-sighted policy."

Deputy Foreign Minister Grigoriy Karasin discusses the Georgian-Abkhaz and Georgian-Ossetian conflicts with a "troika" of ambassadors from the European Union - Deputy Head of the European Commission delegation to Russia Paul Vandoren, Germany's ambassador to Russia Walter Jurgen Schmidt and Portuguese ambassador to Russia Marcelo Curto.

24 April 2007 Sergey Lavrov invites Poland to resume the export of meat to Russia.

24 April 2007 The Interior Ministry and the European Union reach an agreement on joint training of police and antiterror personnel at a meeting in Moscow of the permanent council of the Russian-European Union partnership for common space in freedom, security and justice.

24 April 2007 A Russian-Indian anti-terrorist naval exercise begins in Peter the Great Bay, opening onto the Sea of Japan.

25 April 2007 Gazeta.ru reports that Lukoil is resuming the work in Iraq that was broken off in 2003 after the US invasion.

25 April 2007 Gazprom authorizes the acquisition of 50 per cent of Beltransgaz, owned by the Belarusian government, for 2.5 billion dollars. The company will pay for the shares in four instalments in 2007-2010. On 31 December 2006, Gazprom and the Belarusian government signed a protocol on the creation of a joint gas transportation company as well as on supply and transit of natural gas through Belarus.

26 April 2007 Vladimir Putin gives a state of the nation address to the Federal Assembly. He declares a moratorium on the CFE treaty.

The chairman of the Duma, Boris Gрызlov condemns US plans to deploy an anti-missile system in Poland and the Czech Republic.

26 April 2007 The MFA says the USA cannot tell other states not to form cartels.

26 April 2007 Czech President Vaclav Klaus visits Russia.

26 April 2007 First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov describes as blasphemy and sacrilege the Estonian authorities' decision to relocate the war memorial and remains of Soviet soldiers who fought against fascism. He says appropriate measures could be taken against Estonia, primarily in the economic sphere. "In particular, Russia should speed up the construction of modern ports on Russian territory in the Baltics, such as Ust-Luga, Primorsk and Vysotsk, and thereby take over the transportation of our own shipments, thus not letting other states, in particular Estonia, enrich themselves from it."

26 April 2007 Japan and Russia begin negotiations for a nuclear cooperation agreement in a move to pave the way for Tokyo to outsource uranium enrichment to Moscow to recycle nuclear fuel.

26 April 2007 The head of Rosatom Sergey Kiriyenko says that it is too early to talk about a timetable for the construction of the Bushehr nuclear power plant in Iran.

26 April 2007 Sergey Lavrov attends a meeting of the Russia-NATO Council in Oslo. He confirms Moscow's intention to suspend participation in the CFE Treaty.

27 April 2007 First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov chairs a conference on shipbuilding.

27 April 2007 Vladimir Putin meets his Czech counterpart Vaclav Klaus. He makes the following comment on US plans to deploy a missile defence system in the Czech Republic:

We cannot see any reasons at all for the deployment of missile defence systems in Europe. There are no such grounds at all. In order for missiles to reach Europe a range of 5,000-8,000 km is needed. Iran, against which allegedly - from which allegedly they are planning to defend themselves using this system, does not have such missile systems and is not even planning or expecting them.

And it is simply laughable to talk about protection from terrorists. What terrorists? They use other methods. And threats from terrorism should be prevented not by way of confrontation, but by way of cooperation between civilized states. We simply cannot see any basis for this. But these systems will control Russian territory up to the Urals, our nuclear missile potential, if we do not undertake appropriate response actions. Of course, we will do this to ensure our security. And you would do the same and any country would act in the same way.

We do not understand at all why this is needed. And if you want to protect yourselves from there, then put them in Turkey or somewhere else. Military specialists will understand this very well. We are inviting Czech military specialists for a discussion at our General Staff and the Defence Ministry. Please. It will be the most open and most transparent and honest.

However, I repeat once again we are not going to interfere with internal political debates, either in Poland or the Czech Republic or in all other countries. But we want information to be objective and the people of the Czech Republic to know what is happening in reality and take decisions on the basis of objective information. But I'm stressing we will not be hysterical because of this. We will simply take appropriate measures, that is all.

27 April 2007 The Federation Council vote in favour of a resolution proposing severing relations with Estonia.

The MFA says Russia is working on its reaction to the dismantling of the WW2 monument in Tallinn.

27 April 2007 Emergency Situations Minister Sergey Shoygu meets Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica. He says Russia and Serbia have common positions on the Kosovo issue.

27 April 2007 The CIS Executive Committee states that the CIS antiterrorist centre's special database contains information about 3,206 individuals and 823 organizations involved in terrorist activity.

28 April 2007 Vladimir Putin has a telephone conversation with German chancellor Angela Merkel.

28 April 2007 The MFA says the Estonian authorities used excessive force against demonstrators in Tallinn. It also calls for an investigation into the death of a Russian citizen in these demonstrations.

28 April 2007 The MFA says Russia has completed the second stage of the destruction of chemical weapons.

30 April 2007 A Duma delegation visits Estonia. The delegation will seek to clarify the situation surrounding the Liberator Soldier monument.

Protests take place outside the Estonian embassy in Moscow against the dismantling of the WW2 monument in Tallinn. About 150 activists from the Mestnyye, Young Guard, Young Russia and Nashi youth movements are outside the embassy.

30 April 2007 Grigoriy Karasin, deputy foreign minister and state secretary, meets Abkhaz president Sergey Bagapsh.

May

1 May 2007 Russian Railways introduces a timetable of repair work on the Oktyabrskaya railway. This will affect oil shipments to Estonia.

The Estonian ambassador to Russia Marina Kaljurand says that protests outside the Estonian Embassy in Moscow can only be possible with the consent of the Russian authorities.

2 May 2007 Estonia evacuates the families of Estonian diplomats from Moscow to Tallinn.

Protests continue outside the Estonian embassy in Moscow. Around 100 activists from the Nashi movement try to enter the editorial office of the *Argumenty i Fakty* weekly, where the Estonian ambassador to Moscow Marina Kaljurand planned to hold a news conference.

The MFA says it will fulfil its obligations to ensure the functioning of the Estonian embassy in Russia.

Head of the Duma International Affairs Committee Konstantin Kosachev says the Estonian authorities should bear responsibility for their decision to relocate the Bronze Soldier and should not try to get the EU involved in the situation.

Sergey Lavrov says Russia "is perplexed by the absence of an adequate reaction to Tallinn's actions, which contradicts European values and culture." Lavrov has a telephone conversation with his German counterpart Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

Lavrov calls on Estonia to abstain from taking provocative steps and to provide access to Russian citizens detained in Tallinn. Lavrov says this in a telephone conversation with Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Paet.

2 May 2007 The Duma Committee on CIS Affairs and Relations with Compatriots holds an extraordinary meeting to prepare a statement on the situation in Ukraine.

2 May 2007 The Federal Space Agency of Russia and the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration enter a 1 billion-dollar agreement envisioning that Russia will provide the USA with space transport services through to 2011.

2 May 2007 Two US-based media watchdogs (The US-based Committee to Protect Journalists and Freedom House) say media freedom in Russia is comparable to that in Azerbaijan and the Democratic Republic of Congo and growing worse.

3 May 2007 The chairman of the Duma committee for CIS affairs and relations with compatriots, Andrey Kokoshin, criticises support by NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer for Estonia over the relocation of the monument to the Soviet soldier – liberator.

Russia's permanent representative at the OSCE Aleksey Borodavkin says that the dismantling and the relocation of the Bronze Soldier monument in Tallinn will affect Russia's relations with the EU and NATO.

The MFA says it hopes that the Swedish authorities will take necessary measures to provide security for the Russian embassy. The Russian embassy to Sweden was attacked by hooligans on 2 May.

Activists of the Nashi movement lift the blockade of the Estonian embassy in Moscow.

Former Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov criticises the Estonian authorities for dismantling the WW2 monument in Tallinn.

3 May 2007 Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso visits Moscow for talks with Sergey Lavrov.

3 May 2007 Sergey Lavrov departs for Egypt to take part in an international conference on the restoration of Iraq. The high-level forum, which includes foreign ministers of UN Security Council and G8 member states, as well as representatives of the Organization of Islamic Conference and the Arab League, will be held in Sharm el-Sheikh on 4 May.

3 May 2007 London-based businessman Boris Berezovskiy files a lawsuit against the Russian TV company VGTRK with a London court.

3 May 2007 The MFA says it considers it expedient to continue work to settle the nuclear problem of the Korean Peninsula in the six-party format.

3 May 2007 Secretary General of the Council of Europe Terry Davis calls on the Russian authorities to speed up the investigation into the murder of journalist Anna Politkovskaya.

3 May 2007 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Russia will settle the problem of Afghanistan's debts very soon. Russia will write off Afghanistan's debt of 11 billion dollars.

3 May 2007 CGS Army General Yuriy Baluyevskiy is interviewed in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*. He says the US antimissile defence system on Russia's doorstep is a threat to European security.

Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia will strictly adhere to its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention. He says the moratorium on the CFE Treaty is a different matter. Ivanov recalled that in 2005 R11 billion was allocated to the elimination of chemical weapons, in 2006 R20 billion and in 2007 R28 billion. Chemical weapons are expected to be fully eliminated by 2012.

Ivanov says Russia will never inform anyone where it has troops or how many, commenting on the president's decision to introduce a moratorium on the CFE Treaty.

3 May 2007 Colonel Igor Konashenkov, aide to the commander-in-chief of the Ground Troops, says Russia continues the withdrawal of military equipment from the Russian military bases in Georgia. The Russian-Georgian agreement on the timetable and procedures for the withdrawal of the Russian military bases from Georgia is being observed and, by the end of 2007, the 62nd military base should be closed, while the 12th military base in Batumi should be closed in 2008.

3 May 2007 The Federal Service for Environmental, Technological, and Nuclear Oversight (Rostekhnadzor) starts to implement three new TACIS projects in the sphere of nuclear safety within the framework of cooperation with the European Commission.

4 May 2007 Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico says Russia is ready to take part in modernizing nuclear power engineering facilities on Slovak territory.

4 May 2007 The MFA states that the EU remains indifferent to the policy of glorifying Nazism and re-evaluating the results of World War II, conducted by Estonia and Latvia.

4 May 2007 The press service of the mayor and the government of Moscow says that Anatoliy Sorokin, deputy head of the department for international relations of the city of Moscow, was attacked in Tallinn on 3 May. He was in Estonia on business. He was attacked by employees of the Estonian police.

Fresh protests take place outside the Estonian Embassy in Moscow.

4 May 2007 Federation Council Speaker Sergey Mironov says Russia is in no hurry to join the WTO.

4 May 2007 Sergey Lavrov attends the international conference on Iraq in Sharm al-Shaykh. Lavrov says Russia will write off more Iraqi debt than other members of the Paris Club.

Lavrov says the fact that agreement was reached to set up a mechanism for outside efforts to stabilize the situation in Iraq to be followed up is one important result from the Iraq conference. He says that the foreign military presence in Iraq "must not be extended indefinitely...Russia favours a well-considered timetable for the multinational coalition to be pulled out of Iraq". He says foreign forces cannot be pulled out hastily.

4 May 2007 *Kommersant* reports that Rosoboronexport is working on a contract to sell weapons to Libya for more than 2.2 billion dollars.

5 May 2007 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Yakovenko and US Ambassador in Moscow William Burns discuss problems relating to the report on support for human rights and democracy in the world that was published by the US Department of State.

7 May 2007 Strategic Missile Troops commander Col-Gen Nikolay Solovtsov says that should an American ABM system be deployed in Europe, the Russian Strategic Missile Troops will take adequate measures.

7 May 2007 Sergey Lavrov condemns measures by Poland to allow the demolition of Soviet WW2 monuments in Poland.

The memory of the victors does not fade. This memory is sacred to us. And of course we cannot but feel indignant at attempts to treat this memory in a blasphemous way, to abuse it, to rewrite history. I would like to stress the special responsibility of all the staff of the Foreign Affairs Ministry at this stage, because these attempts, attempts to sneer at history are, unfortunately, becoming an element and an instrument of the foreign policy of certain states.

7 May 2007 Bulgarian Prime Minister Sergey Stanishev visits Moscow.

8 May 2007 Activists of the Young Guard movement, a branch of the One Russia party, stage a commemorative event at the Estonian General Consulate in St Petersburg.

8 May 2007 Sergey Lavrov has a telephone conversation with Iraqi foreign minister Hoshyar Zebari.

8 May 2007 Four agreements are signed at negotiations between Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov and his Bulgarian counterpart Sergey Stanishev in Moscow.

10 May 2007 The government approves the draft law "On the ratification of agreements between the Russian, Greek and Bulgarian governments on cooperation in the construction and exploitation of the Burgas-Alexandroupolis oil pipeline".

10 May 2007 Vladimir Putin visits Kazakhstan.

10 May 2007 Russia and NATO CGS meet in Brussels. Russian CGS Yuriy Baluyevskiy criticises NATO stance over the CFE Treaty. He says the USA overestimates the Iranian missile threat.

10 May 2007 The MFA expresses its surprise over attempts by the United States and Japan to link the issue of Russia's membership of the Asian Development Bank with writing off Iraq's and Afghanistan's debts to Russia.

10 May 2007 Duma Chairman Boris Gryzlov says PACE should discuss Estonian police actions during recent demonstrations over the Soviet War Memorial in Tallinn.

10 May 2007 Russia's UN Ambassador Vitaliy Churkin says that UN envoy Martti Ahtisaari's plan could not serve as a platform for a final decision of the UN Security Council on Kosovo.

10 May 2007 CGS Yuriy Baluyevskiy says Russia is ready to interact with NATO and the United States on theatre of operations anti-ballistic missile systems.

10 May 2007 A Russo-Kazakhstan agreement on the creation of an international uranium-enrichment centre is signed in Astana.

11 May 2007 Vladimir Putin visits Turkmenistan.

11 May 2007 The first deputy chairman of the Duma Committee on International Affairs, Leonid Slutskiy, criticises the European Parliament's resolution on the picketing of the Estonian Embassy in Moscow.

11 May 2007 The MFA complains about the presence of Georgian anti-aircraft systems in South Ossetia.

12 May 2007 The presidents of Russia, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, Vladimir Putin, Nursultan Nazarbayev and Gurbanguly Berdimuhammedov, reach agreement on the construction of a Caspian gas pipeline. An agreement to this effect will be signed by 1 September 2007. The new gas pipeline will be built in parallel to the existing Caspian pipeline.

A second four-way declaration on developing the gas transport capacity in Central Asia has been signed by Russia, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Uzbek President Islam Karimov signed the document earlier in Tashkent, on 9 May.

12 May 2007 Russia's permanent envoy to the UN, Vitaliy Churkin, warns the western powers against setting "strict timetables" for the resolution of the Kosovo problem. He says it is "becoming increasingly likely" that Russia would have to resort to its right of veto to block a "unilateral decision" on Kosovo at the UN Security Council.

12 May 2007 The MFA says that Moscow sees certain provisions of the draft of a new UN Security Council resolution on Kosovo as unacceptable.

12 May 2007 The special representative of the Russian president for the development of relations with the European Union, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, accuses the EU of being hypocritical in its attitude to Russia's row with Estonia over the relocation of the war memorial in Tallinn.

The head of Russian Railways, Vladimir Yakunin, says that the rail link between Russia and Estonia will be fully restored.

The MFA criticises the decision of Lviv city council (in Ukraine) deputies to dismantle monuments and symbols of the Soviet past.

12 May 2007 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Yakovenko says Russia expects "Iraq to sign up very rapidly to the convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons and other international instruments in the sphere of the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and means for their delivery".

14 May 2007 US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice visits Moscow. Rice has come for two days to discuss Iran, the Middle East, Kosovo, and Washington's plans for deploying elements of missile defence in Eastern Europe.

Igor Neverov, the director of the MFA department of North American countries, says unilateral steps, the use of force and interference in the affairs of other countries by the USA are a dead-end course. He also says that signing a new treaty with the USA to replace the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START-1) "is one of the strategic priorities". START-1 expires in 2009.

Neverov says ABM cooperation "should be equitable and should enable the reinforcement of European security whilst maintaining stability and a power balance between Russia and the USA". Neverov expresses concern that US ABM systems deployed in Europe could be directed against Russia. Neverov says that Moscow is not against USA's ties with NGOs if such cooperation does not mean interference in Russia's internal affairs.

14 May 2007 The second session of the Russian-Chinese parliamentary commission meets in Beijing. Duma speaker Boris Gryzlov says that Russia is not satisfied with the structure of trade with China.

14 May 2007 A delegation from the Russian company Atomstroyeksport arrives in Iran for talks on completing the plant's construction.

14 May 2007 Nikolay Bordyuzha, head of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CTSO) is interviewed on Vesti TV on the CSTO's development.

14 May 2007 The chairman of Gazprom, Aleksey Miller, and Kyrgyzstan's minister of industry, energy and fuel resources Igor Chudinov sign an agreement on conducting a geological survey of promising areas in Kyrgyzstan for the presence of gas and oil. In 2003, Gazprom and the government of Kyrgyzstan signed a 25-year agreement on cooperation in the gas industry.

14 May 2007 The co-chairman of the Russian - North Korean intergovernmental commission for trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation and head of Rostekhnadzor Konstantin Pulikovskiy says North Korea's 8.8 billion-dollar debt to Russia will be written off only if Pyongyang observes all the agreements reached during the six-party talks.

14 May 2007 A ferry plying the route between Poti in Georgia and Port Kavkaz in Krasnodar Territory in Russia makes its first cargo trip.

15 May 2007 The Samara authorities ban a march by the Democratic Party of Russia which the party intended to stage during the Russia-EU summit on 18 May.

15 May 2007 Vladimir Putin holds a meeting with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who is visiting Moscow. Sergey Lavrov agrees that both sides should cut harsh rhetoric. They discuss Kosovo, missile defence and non-proliferation.

Lavrov confirms that Russia and the USA do not see eye to eye on Kosovo.

Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Titov says Russia is for a negotiated solution of the Kosovo problem and against thrusting humiliating versions by force, leading to dismemberment of the country despite norms of international law.

Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Grushko says that Moscow is ready to discuss with the European Union the USA plans to deploy anti-missile defence facilities in Europe.

Condoleezza Rice meets journalist and former head of Open Russia NGO linked to Mikhail Khodorkovskiy Irina Yasina and editor-in-chief and owner of *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* newspaper Konstantin Remchukov.

15 May 2007 German Foreign Minister Frank Walter Steinmeier visits Russia for the Russia-EU summit. He has talks with Vladimir Putin.

15 May 2007 German Gref, the Russian minister for economic development, says Russia and the EU are equally interested in concluding a new comprehensive agreement on partnership and cooperation.

The head of Russia's permanent mission at the EU Vladimir Chizhov says there are "phantoms of the past" besetting new member states of the European Union, which hinder the development of normal relations with Russia. Chizhov says Russia will not pull out of the Russia-EU Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) when it expires in November 2007. The talks on the new framework agreement are expected to start at the Russia-EU summit in Samara on 18 May.

Chizhov says the EU has become hostage to one country, Poland, in the situation regarding the start of talks with Russia on a new PCA.

Chizhov says Estonia violated the Vienna convention on consular relations when it barred the Russian consul in Tallinn from meeting the Russian citizens arrested during the mass disturbances in Tallinn.

Presidential aide and special representative of the Russian president for the development of relations with the European Union Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says Russia does not see any point in discussing a new fundamental agreement at the approaching Russia-EU summit as negotiations cannot start due to the veto imposed by Poland which is unhappy about Russia's ban on Polish meat imports.

15 May 2007 Duma Chairman Boris Gryzlov visits China. He has talks with Chinese President Hu Jintao and the Chinese parliamentary leadership.

15 May 2007 The governments of Russia and Burma sign an agreement to cooperate in designing and building a nuclear research centre in Burma.

15 May 2007 The chairman of the Duma committee on energy, transport and communications, Valeriy Yazev, says that in order to stand up to "cartels of consumers" of energy resources, Russia and other energy producers should form a "gas UN".

16 May 2007 Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says that Russia-EU relations are not in a state of crisis. Russia-EU trade exceeded 230 billion dollars in 2006. EU countries are the largest investors in the Russian economy. He says a new basic agreement

on partnership and cooperation between Russia and the EU will not be signed by the end of 2007. Talks on the text of the new agreement had not yet begun. "We see absolutely no tragedy in this and are not dramatizing the situation."

Yastrzhembskiy says Russia is not yet ready to fully lift the embargo on the import of Polish meat. He says Russia would like the EU to show a better understanding from the EU of the reasons behind Moscow's concern over the situation in Estonia.

Yastrzhembskiy also says that the Ahtisaari plan for solving the Kosovo problem, which envisages giving Kosovo the status of an independent state, is a dangerous experiment.

16 May 2007 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov visits Iran. He says Moscow "has the political determination and resolve to carry out the project for constructing the first Iranian nuclear power station in Bushehr".

16 May 2007 The Economic Development and Trade Ministry says Russia is hoping to conclude bilateral WTO talks within three weeks, and multilateral ones by the end of July.

16 May 2007 Transneft denies accusations made by the Lithuanian government that the flow of oil through the Druzhba pipeline to Lithuania has been halted due to hidden political motives.

16 May 2007 The MFA calls on Palestinian leaders and Israel to prevent an escalation of the conflict.

16 May 2007 The MFA says Russia's full-scale membership of the OECD "will become a major step towards Russia's deeper integration into the world economy". The OECD has decided to invite Russia for official talks on joining the organization.

16 May 2007 It is announced that an antiterrorist Command Post Exercise of SCO countries will be staged on 9-17 August 2007 in China and Russia (two days in China and a week at the military training ground near Chebarkul in Chelyabinsk Region of the Russian Federation).

17-18 May 2007 The Russia-EU summit takes place in Samara.

18 May 2007 Belarus and Gazprom sign an agreement in Minsk setting up a joint gas transportation company.

Gazprom and the Belarus State Property Committee sign an agreement on the transfer of shares in Beltransgaz. Under the agreement Gazprom will purchase 50 per cent of shares in Beltransgaz for a total of 2.5 billion dollars. The shares will be purchased in four stages between 2007 and 2010. At each stage Gazprom will acquire 12.5 per cent of Beltransgaz.

18 May 2007 The MFA says Moscow is concerned about unfavourable developments in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone. Talks take place between Deputy Foreign Minister Grigoriy Karasin and the UN Secretary-General's Representative in Georgia Jean Arnault.

18 May 2007 Lt-Gen Vladimir Fedorov is appointed head of the MOD's Main Directorate for International Military Cooperation.

18 May 2007 The Duma ratifies four Russian-Kazakh agreements that allow the Russian Armed Forces to use military testing grounds in Kazakhstan.

20 May 2007 Economic Development and Trade Minister German Gref says that Russia will start talks on concluding a new partnership and cooperation agreement with the EU only after it joins the WTO.

20 May 2007 The Joint Peacekeeping Force command in the Georgian-Ossetian conflict zone requests the Georgian side not to hamper the rotation of the Russian peacekeeping contingent scheduled for 21-25 May.

21 May 2007 The MFA condemns Israeli missile strikes into Gaza.

21 May 2007 French President Nicolas Sarkozy has a telephone conversation with Vladimir Putin.

21 May 2007 First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia will complete the construction of two power units at the Tianwan nuclear power plant in China in 2007.

22 May 2007 The British Crown Prosecution Service accuses Russian businessman Andrey Lugovoy of killing Aleksandr Litvinenko by poisoning.

The MFA says it will cooperate with the British authorities in the investigation into the circumstances of former intelligence services employee Aleksandr Litvinenko's death in London but states that handing over a Russian citizen to a foreign state would contravene the Constitution of the Russian Federation.

22 May 2007 Sergey Lavrov says that Russia may withdraw from the CFE Treaty if partners fail to ratify it. He visits Baku State University.

22 May 2007 The MFA expresses concern over the situation in Lebanon.

22 May 2007 Rosselkhoznadzor imposes temporary restrictions on meat deliveries from some enterprises in Brazil, Finland, Germany and Argentina.

23 May 2007 Vladimir Putin visits Austria.

23 May 2007 Sergey Lavrov says in Vienna that Russia in the near future will come up with the initiative to convene an extraordinary conference by the signatories to the CFE. He is speaking at the just-ended joint session of the OSCE Permanent Council and the OSCE Forum for Cooperation in Security. He criticises US plans to deploy a missile defence system in Europe.

23 May 2007 Sergey Ivanov says there can be no talk about returning to the cold war in relations with the USA. "Russia is no Soviet Union. I believe that our cooperation with the USA in recent years in the field of security, on such issues as nonproliferation, combating terrorism is better than it was in the past." On the EU he states:

As for the European Union: we are the third partner of the European Union in terms of trade turnover, after the United States of America and China. More than 50 per cent of our foreign trade already goes to the Eurozone. So, whether you want it or not, whether you like it or not, de facto Russia is already integrated to a significant extent with the European Union.

As for separate problems between Russia and individual members of the European Union... these problems exist. We don't completely understand the policies of the young European states, if only because, I think they thereby inflict damage first and foremost on their own interests: their own societies are being split; problems are being created that will lead to a dead end.

In general, I would say, I love history. And I remember textbooks that described the situation in the 1920s of the last century. Do you remember the term cordon sanitaire? I think that individual - not all, of course - certain young members of the European Union, young Europe, behave in a way that in some respects reminds me of the cordon sanitaire. I am convinced that it is not in their interests.

23 May 2007 First Deputy Chief of the Federal Security Service Border Patrol Nikolay Rybalkin says the threat of militants infiltrating Russian territory from the Pankisi Gorge in Georgia still exists.

23 May 2007 Sergey Ivanov says Moscow is unaware of any plans to re-export the Russian-made air defence missile system Pantsir-S1 to Iran from Syria.

23 May 2007 Sergey Chulpanov, deputy head of Gazpromexport, says that Gazprom is not planning to reduce its market share of gas supplies to EU countries. He is speaking at the Energy Dialogue Russia - the European Union: Gas Aspects international conference in Berlin.

Valeriy Yazev, chairman of the Duma Committee on Power Engineering, Transport and Communications, says that the guarantees of secure gas supplies are now becoming the main issue of providing energy security for the EU and that only long-term agreements and mutual commitments of suppliers and their clients can become a real basis of security.

23 May 2007 Deputy Foreign Minister Grigoriy Karasin says Moscow is interested in extending the presence of the Black Sea Fleet base in Sevastopol after 2017. He is interviewed in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*.

23 May 2007 The Duma ratifies a treaty on joint military exercises with NATO.

23 May 2007 The Federal Service for Military Technical Cooperation denies reports in some mass media outlets alleging that Russia is supplying arms to third countries through Belarus.

24 May 2007 Vladimir Putin visits Luxembourg. He states:

Russia is strictly adhering to all the undertakings in the area of arms control. Russia is unilaterally adhering to the undertakings under the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty, having essentially withdrawn all heavy armaments from its European territory to beyond the Urals. I would like to stress this. I want the European public to know this. We have moved all our heavy armaments to beyond the Urals. Given these circumstances, we can't understand why new bases are being set up in Eastern Europe, why new weapons systems are being created.

When asked about western support for democracy in Russia, he states: "One of the motives is to support those forces in Russia which some Western politicians consider to be pro-Western. This, I think, is one of the aims. The second aim is to make Russia more compliant on issues which are not linked in any way to democracy or human rights."

24 May 2007 The MFA calls on Iran to comply with international obligations relating to its nuclear programme. The IAEA issues a report on Iran's compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions on Iran's nuclear programme.

24 May 2007 Justice Minister Vladimir Ustinov says Andrey Lugovoy will not be handed over to Britain for the trial over the murder of Aleksandr Litvinenko, since that would contradict the Russian constitution. Ustinov is taking part in a meeting of G8 justice and interior ministers in Germany.

24 May 2007 The last echelon loaded with Russian military hardware leaves the Akhaltsikhe (Georgia) cargo station. According to the schedule, the Akhalkalaki military base will be closed by autumn 2007. Hardware from the Russian military base located in Batumi will be withdrawn during the current year.

25 May 2007 Prosecutor-General Yuriy Chayka says Andrey Lugovoy will be tried in Russia over the murder of Aleksandr Litvinenko if there is enough evidence.

25 May 2007 Presidential aide Aslambek Aslakhonov calls for the extradition of Chechen rebel emissary Akhmed Zakayev to Russia from the UK.

25 May 2007 Konstantin Kosachev, chairman of the Duma Committee on International Affairs, says sanctions against Iran would be justified only if there is direct evidence in the IAEA report of the military nature of Iran's nuclear programme.

Atomstroyeksport says the visit of its head, Sergey Shmatko, to Iran to discuss Bushehr has been postponed.

The head of Rosatom Sergey Kiriyenko says construction of the Bushehr nuclear power station is an ordinary commercial project for Russia, which does not represent any threat to the nonproliferation regime. It is also not linked to the UN Security Council talks on Iran.

Atomstroyexport representative Irina Yesipova says that it seems that the Russian-Iranian consultations on completing the construction of a nuclear power station in Bushehr will be postponed.

The head of the Duma subcommittee for energy, transport and communications, Viktor Opekunov, says that the construction of the Bushehr nuclear power station could be mothballed this summer.

Payment arrears in this project have indeed reached breaking point. It cannot go on like this without serious consequences, I mean consequences for the construction of the project. So the situation is very difficult. The Iranian side is not explaining well the payment arrears and, moreover, is not giving us guarantees that payments will resume and the debt will be settled. They continue to play a complicated game. The situation is such that if in the next month or two the normal financing of the project is not restored, we have nothing else to do but to mothball the construction. Quite simply, the people will leave because they are not being paid. Some workers have not received wages for six months.

Sergey Ivanov calls for more to be done for Russia to fulfil the requirements of the regime for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). He says this at the meeting of the commission for export control in Moscow. The commission is considering measures taken to ensure the implementation of UN

Security Council resolution 1540, which obliges all states to undertake actions not to allow the proliferation of WMD, means of delivery, as well as related materials and technologies "into the hands of non-state structures, first of all terrorists".

25 May 2007 The director of the common European cooperation department of the MFA, Sergey Ryabkov, says linking the ratification of the adapted CFE Treaty by NATO countries and the implementation by Russia of the Istanbul obligations is "absolutely unacceptable". Ryabkov says that relations between Russia and NATO have been on the rise over the past 10 years, but there are many problems in them.

Whole spheres of interaction have appeared that had not existed before - fighting new risks and challenges, counter-terrorism, liquidation of the emergencies aftermath...cooperation between the military has also received a major impetus. We are working on initiatives in the sphere of the creation of the ballistic missile defence of the theatre of operations, control over airspace and many other things.

25 May 2007 The MFA calls for removing the slant towards human rights issues from the OSCE's work.

27 May 2007 The MFA welcomes the recent agreement in Ukraine between the President and prime minister.

28 May 2007 TNK-BP, the main shareholder in Russia Petroleum, says it intends to lodge an appeal against the decision by an arbitration court on a lawsuit linked to the Kovykta gas condensate deposit. Irkutsk Region's arbitration court rejects Russia Petroleum's lawsuit against Rosprirodnadzor's regional directorate and Rosnedra. The company was asking the court to declare invalid Rosprirodnadzor's inspection report and Rosnedra's notification to the effect that the Kovykta deposit licence will be revoked unless Russia Petroleum complies with the terms of the licence agreement.

28 May 2007 British ambassador in Russia Anthony Brenton hands the paperwork on the extradition of Andrey Lugovoy to the MFA.

28 May 2007 The MFA issues a statement proposing an emergency conference of countries participating in the CFE Treaty on 12-15 June in Vienna.

28 May 2007 Vladimir Putin and US President George Bush discuss the forthcoming G8 summit in Germany by telephone.

28 May 2007 Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Kislyak says Iran's failure to fulfil IAEA and UNSC resolutions on the nuclear issue is disappointing.

28 May 2007 Interior Minister Rashid Nurgaliyev signs a protocol on the results of the Russian-Kazakh conference on border cooperation held in Omsk. He says the law-enforcement agencies of Russia and Kazakhstan intend to increase the level of cooperation in fighting extremism and terrorism.

29 May 2007 Sergey Lavrov speaks at a conference dedicated to the problems and status of the Russian language. First Deputy Prime Minister and chairman of the organizing committee of the Year of the Russian Language. Dmitriy Medvedev also addresses the conference.

29 May 2007 Portuguese Prime Minister Jose Socrates visits Moscow for talks with Vladimir Putin. Portugal will chair the EU in the second half of the year.

29 May 2007 The MFA urges NATO to look for mutually acceptable solutions to the problem of the CFE Treaty. Anatoliy Antonov, director of the department for security and disarmament issues of the MFA says: "We hope that NATO countries will show political will to look for mutually acceptable solution, making it possible to eliminate the crisis in the Treaty..."

First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov warns that the inefficiency of the CFE Treaty and of the 1987 Soviet-US INF treaty presents a real danger for Russia. He says the INF Treaty is not efficient because since it was signed dozens of new states have appeared which have these missiles, while the Russian Federation and the USA don't have the right to possess them.

29 May 2007 The chairman of the Duma's foreign affairs committee Konstantin Kosachev says that when Poland vetoed a new basic agreement between Russia and the EU it misused its EU membership for its own interests' sake. "This is a new phenomenon in EU practice, when one state abuses its membership to solve its own problems. If one is to follow this approach, we will violate our partnerships."

29 May 2007 The MFA issues a statement calling for talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

29 May 2007 The Russian permanent representative at the UN Vitaliy Churkin says Russia's position on the issue of the status of Kosovo has not undergone any changes.

29 May 2007 Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov visits Finland.

29 May 2007 Sergey Lavrov says that Russia intends to write off an additional 500 million dollars of debts from the poorest African countries. Russia has already written off 11.3 billion dollars of African debt.

Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says that over the next few years Russia will increase aid to poor countries to 500 million dollars.

29 May 2007 Representatives of the Russian and Cuban business communities meet in Moscow to sign a package of contracts worth 70 million dollars. The Russo-Cuban intergovernmental commission on trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation meets in Moscow.

30 May 2007 Sergey Lavrov attends a conference of G8 foreign ministers in Potsdam. He says US assurances about its missile defence are "laughable". He warns that the positions of Russia and the West on Kosovo remain "diametrically opposite" and that granting Kosovo independence despite Serbia's opposition would cause the issue to escalate into being "first among the problems in both Europe and other parts of the world".

30 May 2007 The director of the MFA's pan-European cooperation directorate, Sergey Ryabkov, says Russia cannot accept the fact that NATO countries rely on the old version of the CFE Treaty and are effectively ignoring the new version, which Russia finds more acceptable.

30 May 2007 The Prosecutor-General's Office states it is not considering exchanging Aleksandr Litvinenko murder suspect Andrey Lugovoy for Boris Berezovskiy.

30 May 2007 Vladimir Putin issues a decree on a number of measures to be undertaken in line with the UN Security Council resolution on restrictions with respect to the DPRK. The decree bans the supply of military equipment to North Korea.

31 May 2007 Andrey Lugovoy blames the British secret services for the death of Aleksandr Litvinenko.

31 May 2007 BP chief executive Tony Hayward meets chairman of the executive board of Gazprom Aleksey Miller. TNK-BP could lose its licence for the Kovykta gas field.

31 May 2007 Industry and Energy Minister Viktor Khristenko says that the resumption of oil shipments to Lithuania via the Druzhba pipeline, a Russian section of which was damaged in an accident in July 2006, would be inexpedient, but Lithuanian oil refineries can certainly continue receiving oil by sea.

31 May 2007 Greek President Karolos Papoulias visits Moscow for talks with Vladimir Putin.

Putin criticises some states for a policy of diktat and imperialism. “The world has changed and an attempt has been made to make it unipolar. Some international players have had a desire to dictate their will to each and everyone, without making their actions conform to standards of international communication and law...In our view, this is pure diktat and imperialism.”

He criticises the USA for leaving the ABM treaty. He states that Russia will develop an asymmetric response to this.

Yesterday we held another test of a new ballistic strategic missile with a large number of multiple warheads. We also conducted a new cruise missile test. And we will continue to develop our resources.

However, I am drawing your attention to the fact that it was not us who initiated the new spiral in the arms race. We signed and ratified the treaty limiting conventional weapons in Europe [i.e the CFE Treaty]. We are implementing it in full. We have moved all our heavy weapons from the European part of Russia to beyond the Ural mountains. In the recent years we have reduced our armed force numbers by almost 300,000, not almost but precisely by more than 300,000. What about our partners? What are they doing? They are stuffing Eastern Europe with new weapons.

Putin says the Burgas-Alexandroupolis oil pipeline will be built as soon as possible.

31 May 2007 Maksim Medvedkov, director of the trade negotiations directorate at the Trade and Economic Development Ministry, says WTO talks with Georgia have not been successful.

31 May 2007 Russian G8 sherpa Igor Shuvalov says all the G8 countries should work to resolve the problem of global climate change using joint efforts, irrespective of the mechanisms which this or that country uses. He also says Russia opposes G8 enlargement.

Shuvalov says that Russia has enough energy resources to meet its obligations under international contracts.

Shuvalov says that Russia will never support the idea of creating an equivalent of OPEC in the gas industry as an organization that sets gas prices: "Russia is not contemplating the creation of an organization of gas exporting countries. What we have in mind is a mechanism of coordination of actions in the gas market...We would never support an initiative for creating an organization that would be setting prices. We are for the predictability of all supplies, without fluctuations."

31 May 2007 The MFA says that Russia's position on the tribunal for the killers of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri is unchanged. The UN Security Council passed a resolution on 30 May to set up a tribunal to try the killers of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. Ten delegations voted in favour of the document; five delegations, including Russia's, abstained in the voting.

June

1 June 2007 Russia, Kazakhstan agree a gas joint venture at the Orenburg gas-processing plant. Kazakh Prime Minister Karim Masimov meets his Russian counterpart Mikhail Fradkov and Vladimir Putin.

1 June 2007 The MFA rejects the new version of the UN Security Council draft resolution on Kosovo.

1 June 2007 Sergey Lavrov meets leaders of Russia's Muslim communities. He says relations with the Islamic world "are among Russia's foreign policy priorities."

3 June 2007 Sergey Lavrov is interviewed on Vesti TV on Russian foreign policy. He discusses missile defence and Korean issues.

We are proposing joint work, joint work that would allow us to develop a real understanding of why - if our American partners see threats from Iran and North Korea - they are doing what they are doing. Because what they are doing in Europe and what they are going to do fits very well in the general global picture, the picture of the US global missile defence system, which - as our analysis shows, and a single glance at the map can easily prove this - is situated along the borders of Russia and China too, by the way.

That is why what we propose is to analyse whether it is so necessary to protect oneself against threats that are named as causes for setting up this missile defence system, all the more so since we do not see any such threats. Missiles that Iran may develop in the foreseeable future will not have the range that this missile defence is intended against.

3 June 2007 Sergey Lavrov says that Russia and Japan have still found no solution to their territorial dispute.

4 June 2007 Vladimir Putin is interviewed on Vesti TV. He says the deployment of a US missile defence system in Europe will lead to a new arms race and Russia is relieving itself of any responsibility for retaliatory steps it may take. He says Russia will have to set new targets in Europe if the USA deploys elements of its missile defence in Poland and the Czech Republic.

Putin says that the request from the British authorities to extradite Andrey Lugovoy (charged in Britain with the murder of Aleksandr Litvinenko) is either evidence of their incompetence or a political publicity stunt.

Putin says Russia is striving to solve the territorial dispute with Japan. On Russia's Asian policy, he states:

As you know, a significant part of Russian territory is located in Asia. The Asian continent is developing very rapidly and is of huge interest to us, primarily from the economic point of view. It is of interest to us not only because we have a considerable amount of energy resources and the potential opportunity to cooperate in the sphere of energy while Asian countries are obviously suffering from an energy deficit, but also in a broader context.

We believe that in the domain of high technology there are things to discuss and cooperate in. We hope very much that this cooperation will help us develop the Asian part of Russia. Over the last 15 years, difficult processes have been taking place there, including the depopulation of these territories. We are adopting development programmes for these Russian regions and intend to pay the most serious attention to them. This explains our interest in our Asian partners.

4 June 2007 The chairman of the Duma international affairs committee, Konstantin Kosachev, says the Russia-EU talks on a new comprehensive agreement have been blocked due to the EU inability to carry out a single foreign policy.

4 June 2007 The head of the Duma Committee for CIS Affairs, Andrey Kokoshin, says that "even attempts" to broaden NATO at the expense of CIS countries "will already lead to the destabilization of political relations in Europe". He says the "overwhelming" majority of Duma deputies "share a negative view of Ukraine being drawn into NATO".

4 June 2007 Head of Russian Federal Atomic Agency Sergey Kiriyenko and Andriy Derkach, the head of Ukratomprom - Ukrainian atomic industry corporation sign a memorandum on cooperation in the nuclear sector in Kiev.

5 June 2007 Sergey Lavrov visits South Korea. Lavrov calls on the USA to take steps to solve the problem of the return of funds frozen in the bank Banco Delta Asia in Macau to Pyongyang, contrary to the sanctions against North Korea.

Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Russia is ready to contribute to settling the problem of transferring North Korea's funds from Macau if the American side provides guarantees to Russian financial institutions.

5 June 2007 Sergey Lavrov says the Russian military will take necessary measures to ensure the defence of Russia in connection with the US plans to deploy ABM components in Europe.

General Vladimir Shamanov, an adviser to the Russian defence minister says Russia will not take part in any joint military exercises in Romania and Bulgaria with the participation of the USA, as offered to Russia by the Romanian defence minister in compensation for the establishment of US military bases in these countries. Shamanov says that "the bases and other military facilities which the USA plans to deploy in the countries of Eastern Europe automatically become targets for the weapons of our armed forces".

5 June 2007 Estonian border guards remove from a train three activists of the Russian youth movement Nashi who were planning to stand up on Tonismagi hill

wearing Soviet military uniforms to protest against the removal of the WW2 monument from the centre of Tallinn.

6 June 2007 FSB Deputy Director Yuriy Gorbunov calls on the security services of other countries to jointly work out a mechanism to fight against information terrorism.

6 June 2007 Vladimir Putin attends the G8 summit in Heiligendamm in Germany.

6 June 2007 Konstantin Kosachev, chairman of the Duma committee on international relations, says Russia would, if need be, aim its missiles at specific US ABM installations in Europe rather than at Europe itself.

The president's first deputy press secretary, Dmitry Peskov, says Vladimir Putin's remarks in an interview with journalists from G8 countries that Russian missiles May 2007 be targeted on Europe should part of the US strategic potential be deployed there should be viewed not as an initiative but as a response to a hypothetical question.

The chairman of the external ecclesiastical relations department of the Moscow Patriarchate, Metropolitan of Smolensk and Kaliningrad Kirill, calls on religious leaders to express their discontent with the US planned deployment of missile defence system components in the Czech Republic and Poland.

Sergey Lavrov says Russia will not raise the issue of withdrawing from the Adapted CFE Treaty at the conference in Vienna scheduled for 12-15 June.

6 June 2007 The foreign ministers of the Russian Federation and Serbia, Sergey Lavrov and Vuk Jeremic, have talks in Moscow. Lavrov says Russia opposes granting "controlled" independence to Kosovo.

The deputy chairman of the Russian State Duma, Sergey Baburin, says that Russia should establish diplomatic relations with Abkhazia, Dniester region and South Ossetia irrespective of whether Kosovo is recognized as an independent state or not.

6 June 2007 Head of the Polish National Security Office Wladyslaw Stasiak meets in Moscow the Secretary of the Russian Security Council Igor Ivanov.

6 June 2007 First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov says there are attempts to build a new "fence" between Russia and the West, with some East European countries acting as a "cordon sanitaire".

6 June 2007 Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykola Zhulynskyy is barred from entering the Russian Federation because he is subject to restrictive measures envisaged in Russian law.

Russian State Secretary and Deputy Foreign Minister Grigoriy Karasin has talks in Kiev with Ukrainian First Deputy Foreign Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko. He says Russia will not recognize Ukrainian court rulings ordering it to transfer hydrographic facilities on the Black Sea coast to Ukraine.

6 June 2007 Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Yakovenko has consultations with the Qatari assistant foreign minister for follow-up affairs, Muhammad Abdallah Mut'ib al-Rumayhi in Moscow.

6 June 2007 The Air Force says it plans to increase the number of its servicemen and aircraft at the Kant (Kyrgyzstan) air base over the next two years.

6 June 2007 An international conference called "Youth dialogue: Organization of Islamic Conference - Russia" opens in Kazan.

7 June 2007 Vladimir Putin signs a decree appointing Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Naryshkin special envoy of the Russian president for the development of integration cooperation with CIS countries.

7 June 2007 Vladimir Putin has a bilateral meeting with US President George W Bush at the G8 summit in Germany. Russia and the USA agree to hold strategic dialogue on the issue of missile defence with the participation of military specialists and diplomats. Putin offers the USA to use the Gabala radar station that Russia leases from Azerbaijan jointly for missile defence.

7 June 2007 The Russia-Ukraine Interstate Commission's subcommittee for international cooperation meets in Moscow.

7 June 2007 Sergey Lavrov says he believes there will be no changes in Russian foreign policy when Putin's term of office ends.

8 June 2007 First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov believes that the idea to use the Gabala radar station jointly by the USA and Russia is a good basis for joint fight against modern threats.

Konstantin Kosachev, chairman of the Duma international affairs committee, says that the USA's reaction to the Russian president's suggested solution to the missile defence issue will reveal Washington's true intentions in locating missile defences in Eastern Europe.

First Deputy Defence Minister Aleksandr Belousov says the joint use of the Gabala radar station in Azerbaijan by Russia and the USA will make it possible to ensure security in the Caucasus and Europe, and protect them from missile strikes from the so-called rogue states. He says it makes a missile defence system in Europe unnecessary.

Head of the MFA department for security and disarmament Anatoly Antonov says the MFA is planning to draw up concrete proposals on missile defence by the Russian-US summit set for July.

8 June 2007 Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov has talks in Moscow with Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg. They discuss energy cooperation.

9 June 2007 Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov calls on the USA to freeze all work on its missile defences in Europe until talks on the Russian proposal to use the Gabala radar station in Azerbaijan are held.

First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov says that "the Russian proposal to use the radar in Gabala together with the USA is still valid after the US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice's statement that there will be missile defence components in the Czech Republic and Poland despite the Russian initiative".

The head of the Duma international affairs committee, Konstantin Kosachev, says if the USA deploys its missile defence system in Europe despite the Russian proposal

to use a radar in Azerbaijan, this will mean that this system is directed against Russia.

Anatoly Antonov, director of the MFA's security and disarmament department, is interviewed on missile defence. The interview appears on the MFA website.

Antonov says Russia does not intend to walk out of the CFE Treaty.

9 June 2007 Vladimir Putin meets Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica in Moscow.

9 June 2007 Secretary of Security Council Igor Ivanov says the IAEA still has questions for Tehran regarding the Iranian nuclear issue.

10 June 2007 The MFA says Russia is for a broad format of talks on security issues. Iran has said it is ready to discuss Moscow's initiative on joint Russian-US use of the Gabala radar station in Azerbaijan.

10 June 2007 Vladimir Putin attends the St Petersburg Economic Forum. He states that Russia is open to foreign investment and that it would continue to be a guarantor of energy security.

An informal CIS summit takes place in St Petersburg.

12 June 2007 CFE talks take place in Vienna. The head of the Russian delegation is Anatoliy Antonov, the director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's security and disarmament department.

12 June 2007 Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Zhukov says the volume of trade between Russia and China will in the near future reach 60 billion dollars a year.

12 June 2007 The commander-in-chief of Ground Troops, Army General Aleksey Maslov, denies Georgian reports that Russia is planning to build a new military base in Abkhazia to replace other Russian bases in Akhalkalaki and Batumi that are being withdrawn.

13 June 2007 Sergey Lavrov visits Sweden. He says that at the forthcoming meeting of the international mediators' "quartet", Russia will advocate the creation of a long-term framework for the settlement of the Middle East conflict. Lavrov says that Russia proposes to start a process called "the conference for the Middle East settlement", within which a framework for the comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict would be agreed upon. The "quartet" meeting is scheduled for 26-27 June. The quartet includes Russia, USA, EU and UN.

The MFA calls for a Palestinian ceasefire.

13 June 2007 Sergey Lavrov attends a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Council of Baltic Sea States. He says he hopes that Russia will soon complete the ratification of the border agreement with Latvia. He calls on Estonia to respect minority rights.

13 June 2007 The MFA expresses its "indignation" about the latest Kosovo Contact Group meeting in Paris, to which Russia was not invited. MFA spokesman Mikhail Kamynin says discussions on the status of Kosovo without Russia's participation suggest that the West intends to recognize the region's independence unilaterally.

13 June 2007 Vladimir Putin and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan have a telephone discussion. They discuss issues relating to preparations for the summit of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization which is due to be held in Istanbul in the last 10 days of June.

13 June 2007 The regional directorate of the Security Service of Ukraine in Luhansk Region and the regional directorate of the Russian FSB in Voronezh Region have agreed a range of measures seeking to combat international terrorism, illegal migration, human and drug trafficking, illegal arms trade, smuggling of goods and other border-related economic crimes.

13 June 2007 Russian IAEA representative Grigoriy Berdennikov says Iran's failure to meet the demands of the IAEA and the UN Security Council is "regrettable".

13 June 2007 Russia's representative to the United Nations' Human Rights Council, Oleg Malginov, accuses UN special rapporteur on Belarus Adrian Severin of prejudice against Belarus.

14 June 2007 Vladimir Putin says Russia ought to seek compromise solutions with countries involved in the transit of its energy resources. He has talks with the head of Transneft Semen Vaynshtok.

14 June 2007 The King of Sweden, Carl XVI Gustaf visits Moscow and has talks with Vladimir Putin.

14 June 2007 The head of the Audit Chamber, Sergey Stepashin, has been elected chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society.

14 June 2007 Defence Minister Anatoliy Serdyukov attends a meeting of Russia-NATO Council at the level of defence ministers. He says that the implementation of the US plan for the deployment of substantial forces with heavy weaponry and hardware in Bulgaria and Romania "could only complicate the already difficult situation regarding the [CFE] Treaty".

He says Russia is prepared to discuss the transit of military cargo to Afghanistan in a CSTO-NATO format.

Serdyukov says a complex Russian-NATO drill to practise operations to react in a crisis involving a NATO member state will be held in 2010.

14 June 2007 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Moscow considers positive the statement from the Macau Finance Ministry that 25m dollars has been transferred to a North Korean account in a Russian bank in the Russian Far East. It considers that the money should promote the resumption of the six-party talks.

14 June 2007 The MFA says Iran's ambassador in Russia Gholamreza Ansari has received explanations about Russia's offer to share use of the Gabala radar station with the USA.

14 June 2007 Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov says he is worried that information and communications technology could be used to gain global military and political supremacy. He is speaking at the third Eurasian forum "International aspects of information security", which is taking place in Moscow.

14 June 2007 Ivan Makushok, spokesman for the state secretary of the Russia-Belarus Union State, says Kyrgyzstan can join the Russia-Belarus Union State.

14 June 2007 The head of Gazpromsport Aleksandr Medvedev says that by 2010-2015, Gazprom could occupy one third of the European gas market.

15 June 2007 First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov says the Georgian-Abkhaz and Georgian-Ossetian conflicts should be resolved within the framework of the existing mechanisms.

15 June 2007 Sergey Ivanov says Russia can and should enter the WTO on standard terms.

15 June 2007 The MFA appeals to Palestinian political forces to resolve the internal political crisis in the Palestinian Territories within the framework of the law.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Israeli president, Shimon Peres, discuss the situation in the Palestinian territories during a telephone conversation.

Mikhail Margelov, chairman of the Federation Council International Affairs Committee, says that urgent action on the part of the world community is needed to prevent chaos engulfing the whole of the Middle East region. "One has to be reminded again of the Russian proposal to hold a wide-ranging conference on the Middle East."

Sergey Lavrov says that international peacekeepers cannot be deployed in the Palestinian territories without the agreement of all political parties and forces in Palestine.

The visit to Moscow of the head of the Palestinian National Authority, Mahmud Abbas, is postponed due to increased tension in the Authority. The visit was planned for 19-21 June.

15 June 2007 The FSB announces that it is opening a criminal case relating to espionage as a result of an inquiry into the statements by Russian businessman Andrey Lugovoy on 31 May and 14 June.

15 June 2007 The Duma ratifies a protocol that defines the legal status and powers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's secretariat.

15 June 2007 Anatoliy Antonov, the director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's department for security and disarmament issues and head of the Russian delegation, says Russia is not satisfied with the results of the emergency conference of the countries participating in the CFE Treaty held in Vienna on 12-15 June.

15 June 2007 Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Naryshkin says supporting and defending the rights of Russians living outside Russia is a priority in state policy.

15 June 2007 CIS Interior Ministers meet in St.Petersburg. They discuss illegal migration.

15 June 2007 The head of the Duma committee for international affairs, Konstantin Kosachev, is interviewed on Vesti TV. He discusses US missile defence plans in Eastern Europe, Kosovo and the Hamas-Fatah conflict.

16 June 2007 Russian Railways company president Vladimir Yakunin says Russia will start modernizing a section of the railway between the North Korean port of Najin and the Russian station of Khasan in 2007.

17 June 2007 Sergey Lavrov and his Egypt opposite number Ahmad Ali Abu-al-Ghayt discuss the results of the Arab League meeting and the situation in the Palestinian Territories by telephone.

18 June 2007 The MFA says it supports Mahmud Abbas's decision to form a new government in Palestine.

Sergey Lavrov discusses the Palestinian crisis with his Israeli counterpart, Tzipi Livni, by telephone.

18 June 2007 The North Korean ambassador in Moscow, Kim Yong-jae, says North Korean funds from Macau have been transferred to the Russian Central Bank. The assets will be transferred from the Russian Central Bank to a Russian bank in Khabarovsk, and from there to Vneshtorgbank in North Korea.

18 June 2007 Vladimir Putin says that the Russian-Turkmen intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation, which has resumed its work in 2007, should ensure permanent progress in bilateral relations.

18 June 2007 Russia and Tajikistan agree on cooperation in combating the smuggling of drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, the Federal Drug Control Service.

19 June 2007 The deputy head of Rosatom Ivan Kamenskikh says Russia and China are discussing potential joint projects to construct fast neutron reactors, a uranium enrichment plant, and projects to introduce new technologies for treating irradiated nuclear fuel.

19 June 2007 It is reported that Rosoboronexport has signed a contract on the supply of five MiG-31 fighter-interceptors to Syria. This is later denied by Rosoboroneksport head Sergey Chemezov.

19 June 2007 The MFA says it is planning to organize the evacuation of Russian citizens currently in the Gaza Strip via Jordan.

19 June 2007 Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi visits Moscow for talks with Vladimir Putin.

19 June 2007 The Russian permanent representative to the Russia-NATO council, Konstantin Totskiy, says that a number of NATO countries could make a decision to buy missile defence systems in Russia. He says Russia and NATO might cooperate in missile defence. Totskiy says that Russia does not intend to change its position on the CFE. He says NATO has not rejected the Russian proposal to use the Azerbaijani radar for missile defence.

19 June 2007 Federation Council Chairman Sergey Mironov says GUAM should take into account the experience of other organizations recognized by the international community such as the CIS.

20 June 2007 Sergey Lavrov visits Iran. He says the UN Security Council could pass a new resolution on Iran only when the IAEA exhausts all its possibilities to clarify its concerns over Iran's nuclear programme. He also says that Russia could see no threats from Iran and did not regard any such threats as justification for deploying US missile defence in Europe.

Lavrov attends a conference of the foreign ministers of the Caspian Sea States in Tehran. Lavrov says Russia has proposed to adopt an interim document defining the legal status of the Caspian Sea. He stresses that it is unlikely that the draft convention on the new legal status of the Caspian Sea will be agreed upon before the summit of the region's five states.

20 June 2007 The first group of Russians is evacuated from Gaza.

20 June 2007 First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitriy Medvedev visits Italy. He says Russia will not accept a decision on the status of Kosovo that does not take into account the interests of both sides.

20 June 2007 The MFA demands the immediate release of a Russian citizen arrested in Austria. A Roskosmos official was arrested in Salzburg last week on suspicion of espionage.

20 June 2007 The Russian and Azeri MODs signed a major protocol on the status of authorised representatives on implementing the intergovernmental agreement on the Gabala radar station.

20 June 2007 The head of the presidential administration, Sergey Sobyenin, signs an agreement in Mongolia on the construction of a nuclear power station.

20 June 2007 The Ukrainian and Russian defence ministers (Anatoliy Hrytsenko and Anatoliy Serdyukov) meet in Moscow.

20 June 2007 The Council of CIS defence ministers meets in Moscow. They approve a plan of holding a joint exercise codenamed "Combat Commonwealth-2007". It is planned to hold it from the end of June until September in four stages in the Eastern European and Central Asian regions.

20 June 2007 Sergey Lavrov says in Iran that the recent proposal of the IAEA chief Mohammad Al-Baradi'i, as an independent expert in talks with Iran, should be taken into consideration. He rejects the US claims on the Iran threat as cause to put up a missile defence shield in Czech and Poland republics, saying "It is a threat against Russia and China".

20 June 2007 Sergey Lavrov says that Russia "is not satisfied with an automatically delayed independence of Kosovo."

Russia's permanent representative at the UN Vitaliy Churkin says that Russia will not take part in the UN Security Council's work on the new Kosovo resolution. Russia believes that negotiations should continue until a mutually acceptable agreement is reached. He rejects the idea that the Ahtisaari plan that has been rejected by the parties would come into force automatically after a certain deadline.

20 June 2007 Presidential aide and special envoy for EU relations Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says there are no political obstacles in Russia for the ratification of the border treaty with Latvia. He thinks it will be ratified in the near future.

21 June 2007 Chief of General Staff Yuriy Baluyevskiy and First Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Kislyak hold a news conference to outline Russia's position on the USA's plans to deploy missile defence capabilities in Europe.

21 June 2007 Sergey Lavrov says the way is open for a new round of six-party talks on the nuclear problem of the Korean peninsula.

21 June 2007 Sergey Lavrov says the state of relations between Russia and the USA is "alarming." He says there is "a gap between the foreign policy aspirations of Moscow and Washington". He goes on to say "The problems of the EU and Europe in general "cannot be solved without considering the USA's interests, and also not without constructive and future-oriented relations with Russia based on mutual trust".

Lavrov says a discussion around the CFE Treaty should be held in a format wider than a mere exchange of arguments. "We don't want to bury the CFE Treaty. As soon as it is ratified (by partners), we shall fulfil all the obligations...The situation around the CFE Treaty should not be viewed as Russia's withdrawal from a discussion of the arms control issue."

First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitriy Medvedev says Russia's proposals to share with the USA use of the Gabala radar station in Azerbaijan still stand. He says any other decision will result in a return to the Cold War.

21 June 2007 Roskosmos official Vladimir Vozzhov, arrested in Austria, is released.

21 June 2007 Vladimir Putin meets Prime Minister of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovych who is in Moscow for a sitting of the economic cooperation committee of the Ukrainian-Russian interstate commission. The sitting is scheduled to take place on 22 June.

21 June 2007 Duma deputy speaker Artur Chilingarov says Russia intends to stand up for its lawful rights to the Arctic Ocean shelf. Chilingarov is the Russian president's special representative on matters relating to the International Polar Year.

21 June 2007 Armenian Defence Minister Mikayel Harutyunyan meets CGS Yuriy Baluyevskiy. The meeting is held in Moscow within the framework of the 52nd meeting of the CIS Council of Defence Ministers.

21 June 2007 The president's special representative on developing relations with the EU Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says Russia regularly raises the issue of the so-called "non-citizens" in Latvia and Estonia in its negotiations with the European Union, as it believes this problem concerns the whole EU. He says "if the EU takes in 'raw' democracies, by European standards, then the EU should work to make sure those states come up to the EU level."

22 June 2007 Moldovan President Vladimir Voronin has talks with Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

22 June 2007 Sergey Lavrov is interviewed on Vesti TV on Russo-US relations.

22 June 2007 Sergey Lavrov calls for a continued dialogue with Hamas.

22 June 2007 Commissions from the Duma and the US House of Representatives meet. They discuss Kosovo, missile defence, WTO.

22 June 2007 Sergey Lavrov says Russia will not accept the idea that the Ahtisaari plan for Kosovo will be automatically implemented if no agreement is reached.

What we cannot and will not agree with is the proposal that after a set period of time, if no mutually acceptable result is achieved at the talks, the Ahtisaari plan comes into force, i.e. Kosovo would become independent de jure - automatically, without new resolution by the UN Security Council. This plan has been called delayed automatic independence. We cannot accept it. Although, I repeat, I don't want to look like somebody who does not notice positive moves by our partners - the fact that the need to continue the talks is accepted, this fact is welcomed.

Arguments that Kosovo's independence is unavoidable don't convince us. One of the arguments is that Kosovo's Albanians cannot live with Serbia - but I will name you many regions in which absolutely the same principle can be applied.

22 June 2007 The Russian-Ukrainian committee for economic cooperation meets in Kiev. The Russian and Ukrainian prime ministers, Mikhail Fradkov and Viktor Yanukovych agree on economic cooperation between the two countries for the next three years. This concerns energy cooperation, including nuclear energy, cooperation in aviation, space and agriculture.

22 June 2007 Gazprom and TNK-BP conclude an agreement concerning the Kovytka gas deposit, the largest deposit in eastern Siberia.

23 June 2007 Gazprom and Eni (Italy) sign an agreement on the South Stream gas pipeline.

23 June 2007 The MFA says the transfer of the North Korean funds unblocked by the USA via a Russian bank can open the way towards solving the North Korea nuclear issue. "The transfer of the North Korean funds from Macau to a Russian commercial bank has been completed. We hope that now participants in the six-party talks will be able to move to practical actions aimed at implementing the Beijing agreements of 13 February 2007."

23 June 2007 The Russian Navy takes part in exercises with the US, French and British Navies off Virginia.

24 June 2007 Vladimir Putin attends the Balkans Energy Forum in Croatia.

Putin meets Serbian President Boris Tadic in Zagreb. They discuss the Kosovo problem.

24 June 2007 Industry and Energy Minister Viktor Khristenko that it was too early to speak of the cost or the route of the South Stream pipeline. "So far, only the starting and finishing points have been agreed, which are Russia and Italy, plus Austria as an option."

25 June 2007 Vladimir Putin attends the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization summit in Istanbul. The BSEC foreign ministers also meet.

25 June 2007 Vladimir Putin has talks with Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Karamanlis. He welcomes Greek involvement in South Stream gas pipeline project.

25 June 2007 NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and Russian Federation Council speaker Sergey Mironov discuss Russia-NATO relations in St.Petersburg.

25 June 2007 Dalkombank (Khabarovsk) transfers to the Foreign Trade Bank of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea funds that were earlier unblocked from accounts in Banco Delta Asia in Macau (China).

25 June 2007 The MFA condemns the attack on UN peacekeepers in Lebanon on 24 June.

25 June 2007 The commander of Russia's Northern Fleet, Adm Vladimir Vysotskiy, says the Russian navy will hold a major exercise in the mid-Atlantic in autumn 2007.

26 June 2007 Sergey Lavrov says Moscow welcomes the Iranian leadership's readiness for closer cooperation with the IAEA.

26 June 2007 Vladimir Putin meets NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer.

The Russia-NATO Council meets in Moscow.

27 June 2007 LUKoil's vice-president Andrey Kuzyayev says LUKoil Overseas (the operator of LUKoil's international extraction projects) and the Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA (Petroleos de Venezuela) are to set up a joint venture in 2008.

27 June 2007 RAO YeES chairman Anatoliy Chubays says YeES is working on a project of building a power transmission line from Siberia to Europe.

27 June 2007 Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov meets ambassadors of Muslim states accredited to Russia in Grozny. He calls for investment by Muslim states in Chechnya.

27 June 2007 Sergey Lavrov visits Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Lavrov says he welcomes Tony Blair's appointment as special envoy of the Middle East Quartet.

27 June 2007 Konstantin Kosachev, head of the Duma committee on international affairs says the Moscow session of the Russia-NATO Council failed to break the deadlock over the deployment of US ABM components in Europe. He also expresses concern over the appointment of Tony Blair as Quartet envoy.

27 June 2007 Vladimir Putin has a telephone conversation with Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi. They discuss the South Stream gas project.

27 June 2007 The MFA says it is not possible to conduct a dialogue with the pro-Georgian government of South Ossetia led by Dmitriy Sanakoyev.

27 June 2007 Defence Minister Anatoliy Serdyukov attends the SCO defence ministers meeting in Bishkek.

28 June 2007 The chairman of the Duma's committee on CIS affairs and former Security Council secretary of Andrey Kokoshin says the bill passed by the US

Congress "against cartels in the production and export of oil" runs counter to the policy of international energy security. "Russia and other countries that are net hydrocarbon exporters are going to increase their coordination and cooperation to achieve fair energy prices, establish advantageous transit routes for natural gas and oil, and achieve participation in the energy business of countries that are net hydrocarbon importers, whether people in the USA and other Western countries like it or not."

28 June 2007 Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez visits Moscow for talks with Vladimir Putin.

28 June 2007 Sergey Lavrov says "it would be wrong to attempt to lock Hamas in Gaza, and start talking about two Palestines".

28 June 2007 Sergey Lavrov says that in the next 15 years Iran is not going to create missiles "which could threaten Europe, or against which it is necessary to establish missile defence components in Poland and the Czech Republic for protection".

28 June 2007 Sergey Lavrov visits Belarus for talks with Belarusian Foreign Minister Syarhey Martynaw.

28 June 2007 The MFA issues a protest to the ambassador of the Czech Republic in the Russian Federation over the removal in the Czech city of Brno of Soviet symbols from a monument to the 326 Soviet soldiers who died there in the final phases of World War 2.

29 June 2007 First deputy prime minister and chairman of Gazprom's board, Dmitriy Medvedev has talks with Qatar's minister of energy and industry Abdallah Bin-Hamad al-Atiyah. He says Russia and Qatar do not yet have any concrete projects to create a gas OPEC.

29 June 2007 The Council of Ministers of the Russian-Belarusian union state meets in Moscow.

29 June 2007 The head of the Federation Council's international affairs committee, Mikhail Margelov, says that Iran's continued work on its nuclear programme may allow it to create nuclear weapons in the near future. He says Iran could be just five years away from testing a nuclear bomb.

29 June 2007 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov expresses concern over US-Japanese cooperation in missile defence.

29 June 2007 Sergey Lavrov has talks with Dutch counterpart Maxime Verhagen in Moscow.

29 June 2007 The MOD issues a statement criticising Georgia for its conduct in South Ossetia.

29 June 2007 Sergey Lavrov says Russia is concerned by the visit of Chechen separatist envoy Akhmed Zakayev to Strasbourg and has asked France to provide an explanation.

30 June 2007 Vladimir Putin has talks with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev in Rostov-na-Donu.

30 June 2007 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov warns Japan over its proposal to create a so-called "Arc of freedom and prosperity" with the involvement of former Soviet republics and countries from the former "Soviet camp" that sometimes take anti-Russian positions.