

# Russian Foreign Policy: Chronology

## July-September 2000

### *July*

**1 July 2000** The Russian Foreign Ministry welcomes the call for a political settlement in Chechnya issued by the foreign ministers of the organization of Islamic Conference at their 27th session in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

**1 July 2000** A delegation of the State Duma visits China and asks China to consider "creating a parliamentary dimension of the Shanghai Five".

**1 July 2000** A protocol on the Russian-Cuban cooperation in telecom technologies, transport, construction and medicine is signed at a sitting of the intergovernmental commission for trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation. Emergencies Minister Sergey Shoygu heads the Russian delegation.

**2 July 2000** A Duma delegation headed by Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev visits Britain.

**3 July 2000** Vladimir Putin appoints economic development minister German Gref as Russian director at the EBRD.

**4 July 2000** Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks by telephone with Moldovan president Petru Lucinschi. They discuss a settlement of the Dnestr problem and also about the creation of a Russian state commission to find a political resolution to the Dnestr conflict. Former Russian foreign minister Yevgenny Primakov is appointed as chairman of the commission.

**4 July 2000** Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov attends a meeting of foreign ministers of the Shanghai Five (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Russia and Tajikistan) in Dushanbe. He says Russian and Chinese views on strategic stability concur.

**5 July 2000** At a meeting of the Shanghai Five Putin says both Tajikistan and Russia favour a Russian military presence in Tajikistan.

**5 July 2000** Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says that Russia has asked for a writing off of some of the Soviet debt at negotiations with the Paris Club.

**5-6 July 2000** Russia and Germany hold consultations on strategic stability in Moscow. The consultations involve Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Mamedov, director of the German Foreign Ministry's political department Klaus Erich-Scharioth and representatives of the defence ministries and other Agencies.

**6 July 2000** Putin says in *Paris Match* that reconciliation between the Vatican and the Russian Orthodox Church is "an urgent issue".

**6 July 2000** Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright discuss by telephone the Middle East peace process and the G8 summit in Okinawa.

**6 July 2000** Russian deputy foreign minister and president's Middle East envoy Vasiliy Sredin finishes his visit to Libya. Putin invites Mu'ammar Qadhafi to visit Moscow.

**7 July 2000** Vladimir Putin meets Greek Defence Minister Apostolos-Athanasios Tsokhatzopoulos in Moscow. He says "the Greek channel is especially important for us" in the development of Russia-NATO relations.

**8 July 2000** Russia's Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says the Russian government and presidential administration are working on the finalizing of a new draft law on action to combat money laundering. He says that the G7 finance ministers demonstrated a great and genuine interest in the Russian government's economic programme. Aleksey Kudrin believes the conditions may be agreed for Russia's entry to the World Trade Organisation over a period of one-and-a-half to two years.

**10 July 2000** Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski visits Moscow.

**10 July 2000** Putin and Clinton have a 15 minute telephone conversation. They discuss the Okinawa summit.

**10 July 2000** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov holds a press conference on the new Russian foreign policy concept, which is published today.

**11 July 2000** Aleksandr Lebedev, Russian ambassador to Turkey, criticises the decision of the Turkish authorities to release Magomed Tagayev, leader of Dagestan Wahhabis.

**11 July 2000** Vladimir Putin says that he believes that a peace treaty can be concluded with Japan if "the problems that are in the basis of the peace treaty lose their priority and stop irritating our relations".

**11 July 2000** Russian Security Council Secretary Sergey Ivanov receives John Sawers, the British prime minister's foreign affairs adviser.

**12 July 2000** Vladimir Putin says Russia intends to continue to work with the USA on localizing possible threats to international security. Putin says he is prepared "to begin negotiations on further mutual arms reduction to 1,500 warheads even today".

**12 July 2000** G8 foreign ministers meet in Japan. Russia and the others disagree over condemning Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic's amendment to the constitution to enable him to remain in power longer.

**13 July 2000** Deputy Russian Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov and Georgian Foreign Minister Irakli Menagharishvili discuss the reduction of Russian defence hardware now on Georgian soil.

**13 July 2000** The MFA suggests that a framework agreement between Russian and the European Union be worked out to determine the procedure for mutual trips of citizens. Director of the Consular Service Department with the Russian Foreign Ministry Nikolay Sadchikov suggests this in an interview within *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*.

**13 July 2000** State Duma Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Dmitriy Rogozin says Russian and Yugoslav officials have agreed to create a multilateral parliamentary commission which will visit Kosovo, Belgrade and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The commission will involve parliamentarians from Russia, Germany, France and Italy.

**13 July 2000** Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov rejects western media reports alleging that Moscow is assisting Pyongyang in the realization of its missile programme.

**14 July 2000** The French authorities impound the Russian sailing ship Sedov, which has arrived in Brest. It was detained after an injunction was obtained by the Swiss firm Noga, which is demanding that Russia repay a debt of several tens of millions of dollars.

**14 July 2000** Sergey Prikhodko, deputy head of the presidential administration says Russia will place emphasis at the G8 Okinawa summit on strategic stability in the world, the fight against terrorism, information security and Russia's integration in the world economy. He says Russia does not desire specific discussion of Chechnya when discussing terrorism.

**15 July 2000** Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and his Chinese counterpart, Tang Jiaxuan, meet in Beijing ahead of Putin's visit. They mainly discuss the issue

of the US antiballistic missile system. They also discuss a range of foreign political issues, including cooperation in combating international terrorism, a Korean settlement, strategic stability in the world and regional security. Ivanov says six or seven "major documents" are expected to be signed during Putin's visit to China. He says the sides are expected to sign a Russian-Chinese declaration, a joint document on anti-missile defence, an agreement on boosting cooperation in the energy sector, an inter-bank agreement.

**16 July 2000** Russian Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko visits Vietnam.

**16 July 2000** Vladimir Putin is interviewed by the Kyodo news agency, on the eve of his visit to Japan. He says Japan is an important strategic partner for Russia.

**17 July 2000** President Vladimir Putin leaves for a working visit to China.

**17 July 2000** Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko, visiting Vietnam, says Moscow expects to sign an agreement this autumn on the settlement of Vietnam's debt to Russia, which exceeds 11bn dollars.

**17 July 2000** The MFA says the French authorities are holding the Sedov tall ship due to take part in the Brest-2000 regatta illegally.

**17 July 2000** Deputy prime minister Aleksey Kudrin says that substantial progress has been made in the Moscow talks with an IMF team.

**18 July 2000** Vladimir Putin begins his summit with Chinese leader Jiang Zemin in Beijing.

**18 July 2000** Putin says Russia will respond if the USA violates the ABM treaty

**18 July 2000** Russian Interior Minister Vladimir Rushaylo holds talks in Ukraine with his Ukrainian counterpart. They discuss Ukrainian mercenaries in Chechnya.

**19 July 2000** Vladimir Putin visits North Korea.

**19 July 2000** The Duma ratifies the friendship treaty with North Korea.

**19 July 2000** Vladimir Putin cancels a bilateral meeting at the G8 summit in Okinawa with French president Jacques Chirac due to the seizure of the Sedov in France.

**19 July 2000** Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko arrives in Moscow to meet his Russian counterpart, Mikhail Kasyanov, over Ukraine's gas debt restructuring.

**19 July 2000** The MFA says draft charts fixing the line of the Russian-Kazakh state border on the sections between Astrakhan and Atyrau Regions and between Volgograd and West Kazakhstan Regions "have been more or less agreed."

**19 July 2000** The government of the Russian Federation approves a draft agreement on government-level scientific and technological cooperation between Russia and Japan.

**19 July 2000** The Russian government approves a draft agreement with the USA on the disposal of plutonium.

**19 July 2000** The US House of Representatives passes a bill linking the restructuring of Russia's debt to the Paris Club with the dismantling of Russian radar in Cuba.

**19 July 2000** ITAR-TASS reports that Great Britain will allocate £80m for improvement of nuclear security in Russia and other CIS member states in the next three years.

**20 July 2000** Dmitry Rogozin, chairman of the Duma international affairs committee, suggests cancelling the French airbus order in retaliation for the French seizure of the Sedov sailing ship.

**20 July 2000** Deputy Director-General of Rosvooruzheniye Sergey Babich visits Kuwait.

**21 July 2000** President Vladimir Putin attends the G8 summit in Okinawa.

**21 July 2000** The Russian MFA expresses concern over Norwegian army commander Sigurd Frisvold's proposal to ponder over the country's participation in the US National Missile Defence (NMD) system.

**21 July 2000** A Russian Navy source says Russia will continue to use the radar station at Lourdes in Cuba.

**21 July 2000** First Deputy Chief of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff Gen Valeriy Manilov visits Kuwait. He says there is no unofficial military cooperation between Russia and Iraq and that Russia does not plan to deploy its navy in the Gulf.

**21 July 2000** Russian presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says that he believes that the intensification of terrorist actions by Chechen rebels may be due to the G8 summit.

**21 July 2000** It is reported that the Russian government has approved a draft protocol between the Russian and Armenian governments on changes and additions to the 27 September 2000 1996 agreement between the governments of the two countries on the points of deployment of the Russian military base on the territory of Armenia and the procedure for the transfer and use of plots of land for the deployment and functioning of the Russian military base. Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov signed a decision on this on 11 July.

**22 July 2000** The presidential representative in the Far Eastern Federal District Konstantin Pulikovskiy says Bolshoy Ussuriyskiy and Tarabarov islands which were left out of the recently set Russian-Chinese demarcation limits "definitely" belong to Russia.

**22 July 2000** German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder talks to Vladimir Putin at the G8 summit. It is agreed to reschedule part of the Soviet debt to Germany.

**24 July 2000** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov calls in Shanghai for expanding Russia's trade and economic ties with China, especially in the field of high technologies. He says a Russian-Chinese treaty on friendship, cooperation and partnership is currently in the preparatory stage.

**24 July 2000** Governor Viktor Ishayev says Khabarovsk Territory intends to step up economic activities on Bolshoy Ussuriyskiy island in the Ussuri River off Khabarovsk despite objections raised by China.

**24 July 2000** Russian Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko says Poland's intention to prohibit the building of a gas pipeline on its territory that will make it possible to transport Russian gas bypassing Ukraine "will not upset Russia's plans to create a risk-free systems of supplying gas to Europe."

**24 July 2000** An advance group of the Russian military contingent of UN peacekeepers takes off for Sierra Leone from Moscow. The group of 10 people is headed by army aviation deputy commander Maj-Gen Anatoliy Surtsukov.

**24 July 2000** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says Russia is ready to support an expansion of the UN Security Council "to a certain limit and if there is a broad consensus on this issue in the organization".

**24 July 2000** The Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner, Alvaro Gil-Robles says he would like the Russian parliamentary delegation to return to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

**24 July 2000** Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov signs a resolution ordering the creation of a Russian-American Business Cooperation Council. This is a non-profit organization which is seeking to promote and protect the interests of Russian business circles on the US market. The council will have the status of a consultative body.

**24 July 2000** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov condemns in Shanghai the US air strike against Iraq during the G8 summit in Okinawa.

**25 July 2000** President Vladimir Putin meets senior military officers in Moscow. He warns against humanitarian intervention. He also stresses the importance of the preservation of the ABM Treaty.

**25 July 2000** The Russia-NATO Permanent Joint Council meets at ambassadorial level. An exchange of information about defence concepts was the main subject of the meeting. Russian First Deputy Chief of Staff Col-Gen Valeriy Manilov attended and expounded on Russian military doctrine and Russia's assessment of NATO's strategic concept.

**25 July 2000** Iraqi Prime Minister Tariq Aziz arrives in Moscow on a four-day working visit.

**25 July 2000** Russian chief rabbi Berl Lazar visits the USA. He says the American Jewish community is sure of Russia's stability "and is striving for cooperation with us."

**25 July 2000** Putin has a telephone conversation with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

**26 July 2000** Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says in Bangkok at an ASEAN meeting that "Russia is interested in seeing that the Camp David talks on an Israeli-Palestinian settlement would have been crowned with success."

**24 July 2000** The Federation Council ratifies the treaty of friendship and cooperation between Russia and North Korea.

**26 July 2000** Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz passes on to Vladimir Putin a personal message from Saddam Hussein. Putin calls on Iraq to resume cooperation with UN.

**26 July 2000** Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov meets participants in the round table of the World Russian Press Association. He stresses the importance of protecting Russian compatriots abroad.

**27 July 2000** Ambassadors from Zambia, Panama, France, Equatorial Guinea and the head of the mission of the European Commission present their credentials to Vladimir Putin. Putin outlines some of the main features of Russian foreign policy.

**27 July 2000** The Moscow City Court sentences former Russian diplomat Platon Obukhov to 11 years in jail. Obukhov is charged with spying for British intelligence service from July 1995 to April 1996.

**27 July 2000** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov holds talks with his North Korean counterpart Paek Nam Sun at the ASEAN forum in Bangkok.

**27 July 2000** Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev visits Moscow. He and Putin sign a Declaration on Eternal Friendship, Allied Relations and Partnership between Russia and Kyrgyzstan. They also sign a long-term economic cooperation programme for 2000-2009.

**27 July 2000** A spokesman for the government information department says Russia will meet all its commitments in destroying chemical weapons. The Russian government decided to transfer control over chemical disarmament and destruction of chemical ammunition from the Defence Ministry to the Federal Munitions Agency.

**27 July 2000** Igor Ivanov attends the seventh session of the ASEAN regional forum in Bangkok. He says Russia favours good relations with both Koreas.

**28 July 2000** US Republican congressmen and members of the Russian State Duma's Unity faction have agreed to establish a permanent direct dialogue.

**28 July 2000** Deputy Chief of the General Staff Col-Gen. Valeriy Manilov criticises certain aspects of the 1999 NATO strategic concept. He mentions the possible use of NATO united armed forces outside the zone of the alliance's responsibility and without the sanction of the UN Security Council.

**28 July 2000** The MFA expresses concern about the possible deployment of US Stealth bombers in Britain.

**28 July 2000** Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Victor Khristenko and Poland's Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek have unveiled a memorial in Katyn (Smolensk Region) dedicated to the Polish officers gunned down by NKVD in the spring of 1940 and to the Soviet citizens who were victims of Stalin.

**28 July 2000** Russian Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov says Russia is prepared to share in modernizing the Libyan army once arms sanctions are lifted.

Klebanov also says Russia will not sell weapons to Iraq and does not maintain any contacts in the sphere of military-technical cooperation with Baghdad.

**28 July 2000** Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov calls "abnormal" the situation in which the UN Sanctions Committee regularly blocks contracts Russian oil companies have signed with Iraq.

**28 July 2000** Vladimir Putin meets his Moldovan counterpart, Petru Lucinschi, in the Kremlin. The two presidents discuss the situation in Dnestr. Lucinschi recently proposed drafting a joint plan concerning the settlement in the region and withdrawal of Russian troops and armaments.

**29 July 2000** The third round of Russian-Georgian talks on military issues begins at the President Hotel in Moscow. The Russian delegation is led by Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov, and the Georgian delegation by Foreign Minister Irakli Menagarishvili. Klebanov says Russia is fully ready to implement the Istanbul agreements on Russian military bases in Georgia and to begin withdrawing its military hardware from the Vaziani base as from 1 August.

**29 July 2000** The MFA accuses Latvia and Estonia of preparing to impose more restrictions on the rights of ethnic minorities.

**30 July 2000** The MFA criticises the recent reports of OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Max van der Stoep on human rights in Estonia and Latvia.

**29 July 2000** A planned rotation of the Russian peacekeeping contingent in Bosnia is completed. Its size is reduced.

**31 July 2000** Vladimir Putin tells Baltic Sea naval representatives who had gathered in Kaliningrad for Russia's Navy Day festivities that Russia wished to maintain stability in the Baltic Sea region.

**31 July 2000** Russian Navy Commander-in-Chief Vladimir Kuroyedov says Russia is ready to offer help to the Baltic states in clearing their waters of naval mines and other explosives left there during World War II and later.

**31 July 2000** Libyan Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Minister Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad Shalqam has talks in Moscow. He passes on an invitation to Vladimir Putin from Libyan leader Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi to visit Tripoli. Putin has accepted.

**31 July 2000** The Russian special presidential envoy in charge of the Caspian talks, Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Kalyuzhnyy, arrives in Iran. His delegation hands Iran's leaders draft accord on use of Caspian resources.

**31 July 2000** The MFA issues a statement on Iraq. The MFA thinks the new monitoring body for Iraq should be strictly accountable to the UN Security Council and must not be used for dragging out sanctions against Baghdad.

**31 July 2000** A second batch of Russian peacekeepers lands in Sierra Leone.

**31 July 2000** TV6 reports that the destruction of Russian military hardware has started at Tbilisi's armoured vehicle repair plant.

## ***August***

**1 August 2000** Putin speaks on the telephone with his South Korean counterpart Kim Dae-jung. He says the Korean nation must do most of the job in working out a settlement in Korea.

**2 August 2000** Sakhalin Region governor Igor Farkhutdinov says that a peace treaty between Russia and Japan should be signed.

**2 August 2000** Sources in the Palestinian Embassy in Moscow say that the head of the Palestinian National Authority, Yasir Arafat, is to seek Russia's support for the proclamation of a Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem on 13 September.

**3 August 2000** A Russian-US working group for neutralizing challenges of international terrorism, which focuses on Afghanistan, holds consultations in Washington.

**3 August 2000** Vladimir Putin reiterates Russia's intention to put the START-2 Treaty in force and to seek an earliest conclusion of START-3. He sends a message of greetings to the 50th international conference of the Pugwash movement.

**3 August 2000** Russian Minister of Science, Industry and Technology Aleksandr Dondukov and Iranian Energy Minister Habibollah Bitaraf have talks in Moscow. They discuss prospects for cooperation in power engineering.

**3 August 2000** Hidenao Nakagawa, chief secretary of the Japanese Cabinet of Ministers, denies Japanese mass media saying that Vladimir Putin had allegedly suggested to Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori at the Okinawa summit on 23 July 2000 the signing of an interim document on peace and friendship.

**5 August 2000** Vladimir Putin signs into law the federal bill "On the ratification of the Treaty on Friendship, Good Neighbourliness and Cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea".

**5 August 2000** Abkhaz President Vladislav Ardzinba and representatives of the Russian MFA have discussed issues of cooperation between the Abkhaz and Russian sides in the implementation by Russia of the CFE Treaty, as signed at the OSCE Istanbul summit on 17 November 1999. Under the treaty, the Russian military base at Gudauta in Abkhazia is to be wound down by 1 July 2001.

**6 August 2000** Bulat Nigmatulin, Russian vice-minister for atomic energy, says Russia-North Korea cooperation in the field of nuclear power is "possible" with Russia's participation in the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO), based in New York. Nigmatulin says "as an alternate plan, we are proposing that two, less expensive, Russian nuclear reactors be built."

**7 August 2000** The MFA condemns the Bulgarian foreign minister Ivan Kostov for his statements in the Bulgarian parliament that in 1999 "by banning the transit of the Russian military force to Kosovo via Bulgarian airspace, Bulgaria played an important role in preventing disruption of the peace process".

**7 August 2000** Russian Public TV reports the military intelligence service of the Russian federal troops claims that Chechen rebels are receiving aid from Georgian territory.

**7 August 2000** The chief of staff of the Russian Federal Border Service frontier group, Maj-Gen Sergey Zhilkin, says Russian border guards are taking additional measures to strengthen the Tajik-Afghan section of the CIS' southern frontiers owing to the escalation in military operations on the territory of the adjacent state.

**8 August 2000** Russian presidential envoy in the Middle East and Deputy Foreign Minister Vasiliy Sredin and chief legal adviser to the Israeli cabinet and the Israeli prime minister's emissary Elyaqim Rubinstein meet and discuss the Middle East peace process in Moscow.

**8 August 2000** Russia completes the transfer of its peacekeepers to Sierra-Leone.

**9 August 2000** Vladimir Putin signs the law "On the ratification of the European convention for the prevention of terrorism."

**9 August 2000** According to the head of the press service of the Russian Army Group in the Caucasus, Col Aleksandr Lutskevich, Russia will withdraw significantly more weapon systems from Georgia than agreed upon at the OSCE Istanbul summit in November 1999.

**9 August 2000** Vladimir Putin signs a decree "On the organization of the activity of the State Commission for Assisting a Political Settlement of the Dnestr Problem". The commission, which is headed by Yevgeniy Primakov, includes Boris Pastukhov, the chairman of the State Duma Committee on the CIS and Relations with

Compatriots; Mikhail Vanin, chairman of the Russian Federation State Customs Committee; Arkadiy Volskiy, president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs; and Aleksandr Novozhilov, special envoy of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**10 August 2000** The FSS says a group of associates of the international organization HALO Trust are engaged in collection and description of Russian arms in Chechnya's Territory.

**11 August 2000** Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov sends a message to Yugoslav leaders asking them to verify the circumstances of the arrest of four foreigners in Montenegro and the conditions in which they are kept. Moscow has informed British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook and his Canadian counterpart, Lloyd Axworthy, about Ivanov's message. The message refers to the recent arrest of two Canadians and two British policemen serving in the OSCE Kosovo mission.

**11 August 2000** Yasir Arafat visits Moscow and meets Putin. Putin expresses support for a Palestinian state.

**10 August 2000** President Vladimir Putin has a telephone conversation with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak on the Middle East peace process.

**10 August 2000** First Deputy Chief of the Russian General Staff Col-Gen Valeriy Manilov says Russia is prepared to consider the possibility of giving military assistance to Uzbekistan, which has been invaded by Muslim extremists, if asked by the Uzbek leadership. Manilov says he believes that the exacerbation of situations in various regions and "hot spots" is directly interconnected. "Uzbekistan, Chechnya, the Balkans, the terrorist act in Moscow - all these things are links of the same chain."

**10 August 2000** The first joint Russian-Belarusian air defence training is completed in Kaliningrad Region.

**10 August 2000** The first joint Russo-Moldovan peacekeeping forces exercise, codenamed Blue Shield 2000, takes place in Moldova. The Transdnestr region boycotts it.

**11 August 2000** Sources from the press service of Russian troops in the North Caucasus say that seven Chechen rebels have been taken to Azerbaijan to receive medical treatment and have artificial limbs made.

**11 August 2000** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov says Russia has no problem with recognizing a Palestinian state, following talks with Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat.

**11 August 2000** The MFA says Kosovo is not ready for municipal elections.

**11 August 2000** Russian Foreign Ministry official representative Aleksandr Yakovenko denies media reports that Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov had sent the Yugoslav authorities a letter over the detention in Montenegro of two British policemen and two Canadian citizens.

**14 August 2000** The MFA condemns US and UK bombing in southern Iraq.

**14 August 2000** Russian and Egyptian Presidents Vladimir Putin and Hosni Mubarak have a telephone conversation.

**14 August 2000** The MFA denies a report in *The Times* that Russian companies are supposedly conducting secret talks with Iraq on the construction of an enterprise for manufacturing gyroscopes for long-range missiles.

**15 August 2000** Vladimir Putin calls for the development of cooperation with India in a message to President of the Republic of the India K. R. Narayanan and Indian Prime Minister Atal Behary Vajpayee on the occasion of India's National Day.

**15 August 2000** Vladimir Putin and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak exchange opinions about the prospects of the Middle East peace process by telephone.

**15 August 2000** Russian Deputy Ambassador at the United Nations Andrey Granovskiy says Russia is seriously concerned over the consequences of the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea which resulted in large masses of the population being displaced from their homes. He calls for an early deployment of the United Nations mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea, which will help settle Ethiopian-Eritrean territorial disputes.

**15 August 2000** The MFA repeats its opposition to local elections in Kosovo.

**15 August 2000** A group of admirals from the Russian Navy General Staff flies to NATO HQ in Brussels for consultations and to examine proposals by foreign states regarding the rescue of the crew of the Kursk nuclear submarine.

**15 August 2000** Expert groups from Ukraine and Russia discussed implementation of the basic Ukrainian-Russian cooperation and friendship treaty and nine other bilateral agreements on Russian Black Sea Fleet deployment conditions on Ukrainian territory.

**16 August 2000** Vladimir Putin and Tajik President Emomali Rahmonov agree in Sochi that Russia and Tajikistan will coordinate actions with the Central Asian states and take measures to thwart the plans of religious extremists.

**16 August 2000** Vladimir Putin and Uzbek President Islam Karimov talk by telephone. Putin expresses Russia's full support of the steps taken by the Uzbek authorities to destroy terrorist groups.

**16 August 2000** Putin and Clinton discuss Middle East peace, Kursk submarine accident by telephone.

**16 August 2000** Igor Ivanov says Russia, as a co-sponsor of the Middle East peace process, intends to accelerate its efforts towards bringing the positions of the sides closer.

**16 August 2000** Transdnestrian foreign minister Valeriy Litskay welcomes new Russian proposals concerning the Transdnestrian conflict settlement. Together with Victor Sinev, the Transdnestrian president's official representative, Litskay took part in the 12th August tripartite working meeting in Moscow with the heads of the Russian and Ukrainian state commissions for conflict settlement.

**16 August 2000** The chief of staff of the Russian navy, Adm Viktor Kravchenko, says that it is advisable to set up a joint Ukrainian-Russian strategic naval force.

**17 August 2000** Vladimir Putin speaks by telephone to Prime Minister Tony Blair.

**18 August 2000** CIA Director George Tenet visits Moscow.

**18 August 2000** An informal CIS summit takes place in Yalta.

**20 August 2000** Deputy Minister for Emergency Situations Ruslan Tsalikov visits Iraq.

**20 August 2000** The Russian president's special representative for a Middle East settlement and Russian deputy foreign minister Vasiliy Sredin meets with Yasir Arafat in Ramallah. He says Russia will recognize the independence of the Palestinian state if it is declared on 13th September.

**21 August 2000** Russia will set up a specialized humanitarian mine-clearing centre in Iraq.

**22 August 2000** The MFA describes as a "crude violation" of UN Security Council Resolution 1244 a joint declaration on the status of the UN mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), KFOR and their personnel in Kosovo. UNMIK chief Bernard Kouchner and Kfor commander Gen Juan Ortuno approved the declaration on 17 August.

**22 August 2000** A Russian patrol ship detains an Iranian vessel on the Caspian.

**23 August 2000** The Russian president's envoy for the Middle East settlement, Deputy Foreign Minister Vasiliy Sredin, visits Egypt.

**23 August 2000** Military-diplomatic sources say Russia intends to step up efforts aimed at expanding the scope of agreements with Western countries on preventing accidents in the high seas and the airspace above them. They say that British and US submarines frequently enter Russian waters and collisions take place.

**23 August 2000** *Krasnaya Zvezda* criticises western navies from sailing submarines near the Russian coastline. It argues that had three foreign submarines stayed away from the Barents Sea on 12 August, there would be no pretext to suspect them of complicity to the Kursk submarine accident.

**24 August 2000** Vladimir Putin appoints Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin as governor for Russia at the International Monetary Fund. Tatyana Paramonova was appointed deputy IMF governor for Russia.

**24 August 2000** New CIS air defence exercises are in progress at the Ashuluk training ground in Astrakhan Region. In addition to the regular participants, Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, air defence units have been sent here from Armenia, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. The Uzbek military were also expected to attend but their visit had to be cancelled because of the continued fighting against Islamic fighters in that republic. Ukraine sends two Su-27 fighters to mark its attendance for the first time.

**24 August 2000** The MFA rejects scrapping the present simplified border-crossing procedure and suggests to Estonia a so-called soft transition to a full visa regime for residents of the border areas. The MFA says that Estonia's decision to establish a visa regime for the people of the two countries' border areas from 11th September 2000 had been made unilaterally.

**25 August 2000** A meeting takes place in Dushanbe of the joint board of the Russian and Tajik Interior Ministries. The main issues discussed were the fight against terrorism and drugs trafficking.

**25 August 2000** The MFA describes as discriminatory a law on the state language which is to come into force in Latvia on 1 September.

**25 August 2000** Vasily Sredin says Russia will support the creation of a Palestinian state if the Palestinian leadership decides to declare independence on 13 September.

**25 August 2000** The MFA welcomes documents of the 52nd session of the UN human rights sub-commission in Geneva, which voiced concern about the humanitarian situation in countries subject to sanctions. The sub-commission experts passed a special resolution about the humanitarian situation in Iraq and asked the UN Security Council to cancel elements of the sanctions that have a negative effect on the humanitarian position of the Iraqi people.

**26 August 2000** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov receives his Yugoslav counterpart Zivadin Jovanovic, who was heading through Moscow for Cuba to pay an official visit there.

**26 August 2000** Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini has a telephone conversation with his Russian counterpart, Igor Ivanov, on the Middle East.

**26 August 2000** It is reported that two Russian border guards, an officer and a soldier, have been killed and another three wounded over the past week in battles with armed groups trying to illegally cross the Tajik-Afghan border within the area the Moscow border guard unit is responsible for.

**26 August 2000** Azerbaijani Defence Minister Safar Abiyev has said his country will join the air defence system created by seven CIS countries. The minister made the announcement after the conclusion of the Combat Commonwealth 2000 manoeuvres at the Ashuluk training range in Astrakhan Region.

**27 August 2000** Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh visits Russia.

**28 August 2000** Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ordzhonikidze calls for UN reform. He says the UN Security Council should be expanded and that the scale of fees to the UN should also be changed to make it reflect a country's economic status.

**28 August 2000** Aleksandr Losyukov, the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister in charge of Asia-Pacific affairs, and a counsellor of the Department of State in the rank of ambassador, Wendy Sherman, hold consultations on the situation on the Korean peninsula and the whole of Northeast Asia in Moscow.

**29 August 2000** Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov has talks with visiting Kuwaiti Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sulayman Majid al-Shahin.

**29 August 2000** Wendy Sherman meets Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Mamedov to discuss the situation on the Korean peninsula in the light of disarmament and non-proliferation.

**29 August 2000** Russian Minister of Industry, Science and Technology Aleksandr Dondukov and Yugoslav Minister of Foreign Trade Borislav Vukovic sign an agreement on free trade between Russia and Yugoslavia.

**28 August 2000** Putin has a telephone conversation with Turkmen President Niyazov. They discuss Caspian Sea status and the prospects for Turkmen-Russian economic and political cooperation.

**28 August 2000** It is reported that Russia has supplied 9K331 Tor-M1 (SA-15 Gauntlet) air defence systems to Greece.

**29 August 2000** Putin talks by telephone with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak. Putin reiterates Russia's firm intention to go on rendering maximum assistance in the search for mutually acceptable solutions aimed at achieving peace in the Middle East.

**29 August 2000** Vladimir Putin bans sales and delivery of military equipment, civilian and service weapons as well as all types of materials related to them, including arms, ammunition and military vehicles to Eritrea and Ethiopia.

**29 August 2000** Vladimir Putin sends a message to the ninth meeting of representatives of the Russian Far East, Siberia and Hokkaido. He says that the sides "are united by the common understanding of the strategic importance of active development of long-term mutually-beneficial partnership for Russia and Japan".

**29 August 2000** The Federal Security Services makes public more facts in connection with the arrest in Moscow in April of the US citizen Edmond Pope on charges of spying.

**29 August 2000** Igor Ivanov says Russia is prepared to help try to improve relations between Iraq and Kuwait, following his meeting with Kuwaiti Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sulayman Majid al-Shahin.

**29 August 2000** Vladimir Putin and Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev hold telephone talks.

**29 August 2000** The head of the International Military Cooperation Division in the Defence Ministry, Col-Gen Leonid Ivashov, says Russia is prepared to provide arms to Uzbekistan in the framework of "bilateral relations and understandings".

**30 August 2000** Prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov says Russia and Belarus will introduce a common currency of their union state in 2008. The prime ministers of Russia and Belarus sign an intergovernmental agreement on unified tax legislation and tax policy in the Union State. The Russian rouble will be used as a single currency in the Union from 1 January 2005 and a single currency of the Union will be introduced on 1 January 2008.

**30 August 2000** Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says that in deciding to withdraw from the agreement on visa-free travel of citizens in the territory of the CIS, Russia is not going to place artificial barriers and shut itself off from its CIS partners.

**30 August 2000** In *525 gazet* Azeri defence minister Safar Abiyev denies that Azerbaijan has joined the CIS air defence system.

**31 August 2000** US Energy Secretary Bill Richardson visits the Maritime Territory. A Russian-US agreement on keeping count of and monitoring nuclear materials will be signed in Vladivostok.

**31 August 2000** A senior Russian diplomat informs ITAR-TASS that Russia confirms that a peace treaty with Japan in 2000 is no longer on the agenda.

**31 August 2000** Russia expels two Estonian diplomats in response to a similar Estonian move.

**31 August 2000** A delegation from the Tszilin province military district visits Vladivostok. They sign a protocol on developing cooperation between Russian and Chinese border guards.

**31 August 2000** The deputy chief of the General Staff, Col-Gen Valery Manilov, says Russia is ready to offer military aid to Uzbekistan and other Central Asian countries in combating terrorism but says so far has not received any requests to this end.

**31 August 2000** *Kommersant* reports foreign minister Igor Ivanov as saying that there is "no question" of sending Russian troops to Uzbekistan, only hardware.

**31 August 2000** The Contact Group on former Yugoslavia meets in Berlin to discuss Kosovo.

## ***September***

**1 September 2000** Vladimir Putin believes "it is quite realistic" for Russia to attract at least 150bn-200bn dollars-worth of investments by 2010. He says this in an interview published in *Nihon Keizai*.

**1 September 2000** Putin welcomes the decision of US President Bill Clinton not to undertake to deploy the national antimissile defence system. The MOD also sees this decision as constructive.

**1 September 2000** Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono meets Russian Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko in Tokyo.

**1 September 2000** Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says he hopes that Belgrade "will take care" of the fates of the two Canadians and two Britons who were detained in early August on Yugoslav territory.

**1 September 2000** Defence Minister Igor Sergeyev urges Vladimir Putin to beef up Russia's activities in Central Asia and provide more help to the region's nations combating Islamic guerrillas.

**2 September 2000** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov says the MFA together with other agencies "is making active preparations for official negotiations on START-3 with the USA."

**3 September 2000** Vladimir Putin visits Japan.

**4 September 2000** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov says US President Bill Clinton's refusal to decide on America's development of a national antiballistic missile system will be discussed by the secretary of Russia's Security Council, Sergey Ivanov, and the US president's national security adviser, Samuel Berger, over the next two days.

**4 September 2000** The MFA notifies the CIS Executive Committee of Russia's decision to withdraw from the 1992 Bishkek agreement on visa-free movement of CIS citizens. The agreement "loses force for Russia 90 days following the CIS Executive Committee's receipt of this note."

**4 September 2000** Deputy Chief of the General Staff Col-Gen Valeriy Manilov says he perceives double standards in US President Bill Clinton's announced postponement of a decision on the deployment of a national missile defence system.

**4 September 2000** Abdorrashid Dostum an anti-Taleban Afghan leader ends his visit to Moscow.

**4 September 2000** Col-Gen Valeriy Manilov, deputy chief of the General Staff, says Russia will supply military-technical assistance to Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, which are resisting Islamic fighters who have infiltrated those countries. He confirms that "a request for Russia to provide such help has arrived via political channels". He rules out the possibility of sending a Russian military contingent to the Central Asian region.

Manilov says the Russian military leadership still believes collision with a large underwater object, comparable to the Russian submarine to be the most likely theory for the sinking of the Kursk nuclear submarine.

**5 September 2000** Vladimir Putin flies to the UN in New York from Tokyo.

**5 September 2000** Chief of the Russian Defence Ministry's international cooperation department Col-Gen Leonid Ivashov arrives in Finland.

**6 September 2000** Vladimir Putin arrives in New York to attend the UN Millennium Summit.

**6 September 2000** Russian Security Council Secretary Sergey Ivanov says at Russia's request, the United States has passed to Russia its own data on the accident involving the Kursk nuclear submarine.

**6 September 2000** A Moscow Patriarchate official criticizes the latest statement of the US State Department alleging that there is no true freedom of conscience in Russia.

**7 September 2000** Igor Ivanov calls for pooling international actions over Afghanistan and says that he and US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright have agreed to coordinate efforts in the search for a political solution.

**8 September 2000** Vladimir Putin meets Cuban leader Fidel Castro at the Russian mission at the United Nations.

**8 September 2000** Vladimir Putin meets President of South Korea Kim Dae-jung at the UN. He says Russia may participate in the Korean settlement process.

**8 September 2000** Vladimir Putin thanks Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg for the "quick and kind response to the events connected with the Kursk (nuclear submarine) tragedy".

**8 September 2000** Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says in Tokyo that the US plans to set up an antimissile defence system of the theatre of military actions in Northeast Asia and attempts to include Japan in it may lead to dangerous consequences

**8 September 2000** The official Afghan government thanks Russia for its support.

**9 September 2000** The Russian military attache in Japan, Viktor Bogatenkov, whose activities in Japan are linked to yesterday's arrest of a Japanese navy officer, leaves Tokyo for Moscow.

**10 September 2000** Yevgeniy Primakov, chairman of the Russian state commission for a political settlement in Dnestr region, may visit Moldova. Primakov disagrees that the Dnestr peace settlement process had slowed down.

**10 September 2000** Russian Deputy Fuel and Energy Minister Petr Nidzelskiy holds talks on the transport of Russian oil to the Balkans. He discusses the construction of the Burgas-Alexandroupolis oil pipeline. Negotiators have agreed a protocol for setting up a tripartite working committee to prepare a joint Russian-Greek-Bulgarian company, the Trans-Balkan Oil Pipeline.

**11 September 2000** Russian Deputy Foreign Minister and presidential envoy to the Middle East Vasily Sredin welcomes the decision taken by the Central Council of the Palestinian Liberation Organization to put off the declaration of an independent Palestinian state.

**11 September 2000** The Chairman of the Chinese National People's Congress Li Peng visits Russia.

**11 September 2000** Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai visits Moscow.

**11 September 2000** Ilya Klebanov, Russian deputy prime minister, has talks in Moscow with representatives of the Confederation of Indian Industrialists. He says Russia and India are interested in developing cooperation in the area of software.

**11 September 2000** Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Russian and Japanese experts should discuss the question of "interpreting", under the present conditions, the 1956 Soviet-Japanese joint declaration, where the Soviet Union expressed readiness to hand over the Shikotan and Habomai islands to Tokyo after signing a peace treaty.

**11 September 2000** Russian energy minister Aleksandr Gavrin says Russia has received an official invitation to join OPEC at the OPEC conference in Vienna.

**11 September 2000** A MFA source says Russia is ready to sign a bilateral agreement on a visa-free regime with Moldova. On 2 September, the MFA notified the CIS executive of the government's decision on Russia's withdrawal from the agreement on citizens visa-free travel over the territory of the CIS, signed in 1992 in Bishkek. Russia intends to sign bilateral agreements on citizens' visa-free travel with Uzbekistan, Armenia and Moldova.

**11 September 2000** Russian Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov officially denies assumptions that the Russian nuclear submarine Kursk was sunk by a torpedo launched from the Russian cruiser Petr Velikiy.

**11 September 2000** Tsentrazbat-2000 exercises have begun 50 km from Alma-Ata with the landing of an international landing force. More than 2,000 servicemen from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Uzbekistan, Great Britain, the USA and Turkey, and also Mongolia, are involved in them. The USA finances these exercises.

**12 September 2000** Igor Ivanov and US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright issue a joint statement in New York which says Russia and the United States "will cooperate in searching for ways to improve the ability of the UN Security Council to prevent international crises and settle them when they arise."

**12 September 2000** A Russo-Indian-Iranian agreement to create a North-South transport corridor involving Russia, India, Iran and Oman will reduce the time needed for the transport of goods from India to Moscow or Helsinki to 21-23 days. It is expected that the corridor will link the littoral countries of the Indian Ocean with northwestern Europe via Iran, the Caspian region and Russia. The term of the agreement is 10 years, and it can be extended. The agreement was signed by Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov, Indian Surface Transport Minister Rajnath Singh and Iranian Roads and Transport Minister Mahmud Hojjati.

**13 September 2000** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov visits Canada. He criticises US plans to build an antimissile shield, calling it "a dangerous mistake, fraught with an irreversible destructive aftermath for international security".

**13 September 2000** The MFA issues a statement saying that Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz have said they consider it necessary to halt the illegal bombardment of Iraqi territory and interference in its internal affairs. They stated this during their meeting at the millennium summit in New York within the framework of the 55th session of the UN General Assembly.

**13 September 2000** Prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov visits Finland. He states that the issue of Russia joining OPEC is not topical or being considered currently. He says "We are currently only studying all the aspects of Russia joining OPEC."

**14 September 2000** Aeroflot states it will resume flights to Iraq.

**14 September 2000** The Minister of Federation Affairs, Ethnic and Migration Policy of the Russian Federation Aleksandr Blokhin expresses concern over the status of the Russian-speaking population in western Ukraine following a meeting with the High Commissioner of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on National Minorities Max van der Stoel.

**14 September 2000** The Defence Agency of Japan cancels the visit by a Russian military delegation, led by the head of the main directorate of the Russian Ground Troops, Col-Gen Yuriy Bukreyev, which was scheduled for 19th-22nd September.

**14 September 2000** Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov and the chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress, Li Peng, meet in Moscow to discuss Russian-Chinese trade and economic ties.

**14 September 2000** Col-Gen Konstantin Totskiy, director of the Federal Border Guards Service, returns from China.

**14 September 2000** FBI chief Louis Freeh visits Moscow. The Interior Ministry and FBI set up a joint working group for cooperation in priority areas.

**14 September 2000** Russian Minister for Emergency Situations and Civil Defence Sergey Shoygu and NATO Secretary-General George Robertson hold a working meeting in Munich.

**14 September 2000** Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov signs the International Criminal Court statute at the instruction of President Vladimir Putin.

**15 September 2000** It is reported that a Mi-8 helicopter with Georgian identification marks violated the Russian air state border.

**15 September 2000** At the UN Igor Ivanov criticises Taleban rule in Afghanistan.

**15 September 2000** At the UN the Russian and Jordanian foreign ministers discuss the Middle East peace process.

**15 September 2000** UN High Commissioner for Refugees Erika Feller says the UNO will give financial assistance to the Russian government for preparing refugee camps in Ingushetia for winter.

**15 September 2000** The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs voices outrage at the law "legalizing" the profascist "Lithuanian government" of 1941 that was adopted by Lithuania's Seimas 12 September.

**16 September 2000** The foreign ministers of Russia and Greece [Igor Ivanov and George Papandreou] discuss Russo-Greek relations, at their meeting at the UN in New York.

**16 September 2000** The Pentagon says it refuses to allow Russia to inspect the two submarines that were in the Barents Sea during the Kursk disaster.

**16 September 2000** The head of the Japanese Maritime Safety Agency Shogo Arai visits Moscow for talks with the Director of the Russian Federal Border Guard Service Konstantin Totskiy.

**16 September 2000** Syrian President Bashar Asad receives in Damascus Aleksandr Dondukov, Russian minister for industry, science and technology, who conveys a personal message from Russian President Vladimir Putin.

**16 September 2000** The Russian Foreign Ministry accuses Estonian Foreign Minister Toomas Hendrik Ilves of being responsible for the negative development of relations between the two countries.

**17 September 2000** A delegation from Russia's Emergencies Ministry arrives in Iraq along with a business delegation.

**17 September 2000** Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and Libyan Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad Shalqam meet at the UN.

**17 September 2000** Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says at the UN that Russia is determined to work actively for promoting the peace talks between Israel and Palestine.

**18 September 2000** Russian Federation Council Chairman Yegor Stroyev and German Bundesrat President Kurt Biedenkopf sign an agreement on cooperation between the two chambers.

**18 September 2000** The Kazakh Majlis and the State Duma have signed an agreement on cooperation. The document was signed at the State Duma by Gennadiy Seleznev, speaker of the State Duma, and Zharmakhan Tyakbay, chairman of the Kazakh Majlis, during a visit by Kazakh parliamentarians to Russia.

**18 September 2000** Mikhail Kasyanov visits Britain.

**18 September 2000** The MFA denies reports in a number of foreign media alleging that on 17th September a Russian aircraft made a direct flight to Baghdad in violation of the international sanctions in force against Iraq.

**18 September 2000** Li Peng, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, visits the Maritime Territory leadership.

**19 September 2000** The MFA expresses its indignation over actions taken by representatives of the British contingent of the KFOR against the Russian ambassador in Belgrade. British forces attempted to search the car of the ambassador.

**19 September 2000** President Vladimir Putin receives Israeli politician Natan Sharansky.

**19 September 2000** Russian Natural Resources Minister Boris Yatskevich signs an environmental cooperation agreement with his Norwegian counterpart in Oslo.

**20 September 2000** Aram Shegunts, general director of the Committee for International Cultural, Scientific and Business Cooperation with Iraq says weekly humanitarian flights on the route Moscow-Baghdad-Moscow are to take place with effect late October 2000.

**20 September 2000** Russian Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov has talks with Indian government officials in New Delhi to discuss various aspects of President Vladimir Putin's upcoming visit to New Delhi on 2-5 October.

**21 September 2000** Yuriy Bespalko, head of the press service of the Russian ministry of atomic energy, says Russia has agreed to freeze a contract with Iran for the supply of laser equipment for medical and scientific purposes.

**22 September 2000** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov criticises the USA and Britain for air strikes against Iraq. He says they are "unlawful" and are ruinous to all efforts to re-establish cooperation between the United Nations and that country.

**22 September 2000** Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says Russia supports any contacts directed at a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan. He welcomes a dialogue with the Taleban.

**23 September 2000** A Russian aircraft delivers five tonnes of medicines and medical supplies such as disposable syringes and blood transfusion kits to Baghdad.

**26 September 2000** Armenian President Robert Kocharyan and Vladimir Putin meet in Moscow. They agree on the restructuring of Armenia's debt to Russia (\$113million). The debt will be restructured by transferring Armenian energy facilities to Russian ownership. The construction of the Black Sea port of Kavkaz, intended to maintain optimum transport communications between Armenia and Russia, will take place.

**27 September 2000** Moldovan Prime Minister Dumitru Braghis visits Russia.

**27 September 2000** Sergey Ivanov, Security Council secretary, says Russia is "gravely concerned" over the Afghanistan situation.

**27 September 2000** Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, presidential envoy claims that terrorist training camps are being run in Taleban-controlled areas of Afghanistan and says all information about the camps has been provided to Pakistan. He states that five camps have been identified as imparting training to Chechens, Uzbeks, Tajiks and Uighur Muslims of China.

**27 September 2000** Duma deputy speaker and leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia Vladimir Zhirinovskiy has said he favours recognition of the Taleban movement as the lawful government of Afghanistan.

**27 September 2000** French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine arrives in Moscow to prepare for the Russia-EU summit in Paris in late October.

**27 September 2000** Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson arrives in St.Petersburg to meet high-ranking officials of the Russian northwest over bilateral economic cooperation.

**27 September 2000** Yegor Stroyev says a second round of voting in the Yugoslav presidential election is "the best solution".

**28 September 2000** Vladimir Lukin, deputy speaker of the State Duma and a leader of the Yabloko party, says he believes that Moscow will have to start negotiations with the Taleban if the latter gains control over "all or nearly all" of Afghanistan.

**28 September 2000** Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov calls for preventing destabilization of the situation in Yugoslavia. He says Russia will not exert influence on anyone in Yugoslavia.

**28 September 2000** Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says Russia is ready for cooperation with EU on security and defence, after the meeting between Vladimir Putin and French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine.

**28 September 2000** Russian Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko and Javier Solana, general secretary of the EU Council and EU high representative for foreign policy and security, meet. They say that Russia and the European Union intend to consult regularly during the formation of Europe's defence capacity.

**28 September 2000** French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine says Russia and France share common views on the ABM treaty.

**28 September 2000** Russian presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy in Pakistan says that Russia and Pakistan had reached understanding on Chechnya and their positions had come closer.

**28 September 2000** Viktor Kalyuzhnyy, the Russian president's envoy for a settlement on the Caspian status and deputy foreign minister, says Russia adheres to the modified median line on the problem of the Caspian status.

**28 September 2000** Russian President Vladimir Putin sends a message of greetings to participants in the first meeting of the committee of secretaries of the security councils of the countries participating in the Collective Security Treaty.

**28 September 2000** Tajik and Russian armed forces hold joint exercises in Tajikistan.

**28 September 2000** Russian Security Council Secretary Sergey Ivanov calls on the security council heads of the signatories to the CIS Collective Security treaty to stand together in opposing international terrorism.

**29 September 2000** Vladimir Putin discusses bilateral relations by telephone with Tony Blair.

**29 September 2000** Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov visits Norway. Russia and Norway will expand cooperation in the nuclear sphere.

**29 September 2000** INTERFAX reports Russian military diplomatic sources as stating that Russia does not have official contacts with the Taliban movement in Afghanistan.

**29 September 2000** Abdul Rahim, special representative of the Afghan president Borhanoddin Rabbani, visits Moscow to ask Russia to expand its political and humanitarian assistance to his country.

**29 September 2000** Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says in Seoul that the development of Russian-Pakistani relations is hindered mainly by the fact that Islamabad plays a specific role in Afghanistan and maintains contacts with the Taleban.

**29 September 2000** The chairman of the committee of secretaries of CIS Security Councils and Russian Security Council Secretary, Sergey Ivanov, says the creation of a collective security force is planned in the framework of the Treaty on Collective Security.

Ivanov says there is no direct threat of the Taleban invading the territory of Tajikistan. He believes that "there is no urgent need to enhance the Russian military presence in Tajikistan".

**29 September 2000** The Russian government says it will fund the activities of Russian and Norwegian teams regarding the sunken nuclear submarine Kursk.

**29 September 2000** Anatoliy Kvashnin, head of the General Staff, says that the military units of the Russian armed forces will not be sharply downsized. He says the Airborne Troops are to play "the most important role in carrying out peacekeeping tasks and eliminating local armed conflicts".

**29 September 2000** Russian sources state that they have no information that Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic is seeking asylum in Russia.

**30 September 2000** Vladimir Putin says he is prepared to send Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov to Belgrade for consultations with all participants in Yugoslavia's political process.

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