

Russian Foreign Policy: Chronology

April-June 2001

April

1 April 2001 Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka arrives in Moscow.

1 April 2001 Dmitry Rogozin, chairman of the Duma international affairs committee, says if the Yugoslav leadership surrenders former President Slobodan Milosevic to the Hague tribunal it will make a serious political mistake. "Milosevic's surrender will play into the hands of the USA which would like to see him in The Hague and thus legalize the spring of 1999 and justify NATO's aggression against Yugoslavia."

2 April 2001 Russia-Belarus Union State Secretary Pavel Borodin has expressed his consent to be extradited to Switzerland, voluntarily rejecting judicial hearings on this issue.

2 April 2001 IAEA spokesman William Mikhan tells a conference of the Baltic and CIS states in St Petersburg that IAEA is concerned over illegal transportation of nuclear and other radioactive materials across Russia.

2 April 2001 Sources inform RIA that Russia will pay some 370m US dollars on its foreign debt in April 2001.

2 April 2001 Vladimir Putin signs a decree on Russia's joining an agreement on a Black Sea operational naval force of the littoral states.

3 April 2001 A Russian military delegation led by Col-Gen Yury Baluyevskiy, first deputy chief of staff and head of the General Staff main operations department, returns from a visit to Armenia. Russia and Armenia agree to set up a joint Russian-Armenian force in the territory of Armenia and to set up a joint operations staff to manage the force under the auspices of the Collective Security Treaty.

3 April 2001 The Russian Foreign Ministry (MFA) issues a statement on Iraq.

3 April 2001 Russian Economic Development and Trade Minister German Gref arrives in Washington on a working visit.

3 April 2001 Col-Gen Yury Bukreyev, chief of the Russian Federation Ground Forces' main directorate visits Japan.

3 April 2001 Kremlin human rights commissioner Vladimir Kalamanov criticises the UN high commissioner for human rights, Mary Robinson, for her stance on Chechnya and threatens that Russia will sever its contacts with her.

3 April 2001 Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika arrives in Moscow for talks with Putin. They sign a declaration of strategic partnership.

3 April 2001 Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov meets special representative of the UN secretary-general and coordinator in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Jacques Klein in Moscow.

4 April 2001 Special presidential human rights commissioner for Chechnya Vladimir Kalamanov flies to Geneva to attend the 57th annual session of the UN Human Rights Commission.

4 April 2001 Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says Russia plans to get by without loans from international financial organizations in 2002.

4 April 2001 Vladimir Putin calls for an intensification of Middle East peace efforts.

The MFA issues a statement calling for Israel and Palestinian forces to renounce violence.

4 April 2001 Deputy Atomic Energy Minister and state secretary Bulat Nigmatullin says MinAtom will continue cooperation with Iran and rejects US criticisms of MinAtom's involvement in Iran.

4 April 2001 Commander-In-Chief of the Russian navy Vladimir Kuroyedov says the Russian navy should have 12-15 strategic and around 50 all-purpose nuclear submarines.

4 April 2001 An Air Defence Forces source states that US aerial reconnaissance activity in the Far East and Pacific Ocean caused the recent US-Chinese incident and creates tensions on the Russian border.

4 April 2001 EU Secretary-General Javier Solana arrives in Moscow. The aim is to prepare for the EU-Russia summit in Moscow on 7 May. Solana has talks with Igor Ivanov and Sergey Ivanov. He discusses the development of Russia-EU defence cooperation with Sergey Ivanov.

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5 April 2001 Russia and the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS) sign a 10-year cooperation agreement.

5 April 2001 Russian and Chinese foreign ministries confer on the situation concerning Iraq, the Middle East peace process, the Afghan problem and other regional crises and conflicts. Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ordzhonikidze heads the Russian delegation.

5 April 2001 The Minister of Economic Development and Trade German Gref addresses an annual meeting of the US Export-Import Bank in Washington. He says the Russian government forecasts an average 5% economic growth during the period ending in 2010.

5 April 2001 The joint air defence system of CIS countries undergoes command-post training. This involves the manpower and material resources of the air defence and air forces of eight CIS countries

6 April 2001 Leonid Ivashov, head of the Russian Defence Ministry's main department for international military cooperation, says the West has expressed an interest in Russia's proposals on the creation of a European ballistic missile defence system.

Ivashov says that the concept of Iran as a country that supports international terrorism is nothing more than "a 20-year-old stereotype".

6 April 2001 The Russian State Customs Committee says the foreign trade turnover of Russia was 8.7% up in January-February 2001 to 21bn dollars. Russian trade with the CIS made 3.8bn dollars (a 3% year-on-year rise), while trade with other states was 17.2bn dollars 10% rise).

7 April 2001 Pavel Borodin is extradited to Switzerland from the USA and charged.

7 April 2001 The MFA calls on Israel to give up its plans of building new and expanding existing Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

7 April 2001 Viktor Kalyuzhnyy, the Kremlin's special envoy on Caspian problems and deputy foreign minister, visits Iran. He will discuss plans for a future summit of Caspian countries.

Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov and Vladimir Putin decide to postpone the Caspian summit till autumn. It was to have been held on 14-15 April.

Andrey Urnov, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's group for the Caspian Sea issues, visits Baku. He says Russia and Azerbaijan have no serious disagreements over cooperation in the Caspian Sea. He leaves for Iran.

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9 April 2001 German Federal Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder arrives in St Petersburg to take part in a Russo-German forum.

9 April 2001 Iraqi deputy oil minister Fayiz Shahin visits Moscow. He says Baghdad is in favour of Russian oil companies increasing their activities in Iraq. He is attending a conference - Ten years of sanctions: a road to nowhere. Deputy foreign minister Vasily Sredin attends the conference.

9 April 2001 Kuwait's emir envoy Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah visits Moscow.

11 April 2001 Igor Ivanov attends a Contact Group on Yugoslavia meeting in Paris.

12 April 2001 Igor Ivanov is interviewed in *Le Figaro*. He warns that the Balkans could become a breeding ground for Islamic terrorism.

13 April 2001 Igor Ivanov speaks on foreign policy to the Duma International Affairs Committee.

Vladimir Putin meets the MFA leadership to discuss foreign policy. Putin says ties with the USA are a priority.

13 April 2001 Pavel Borodin returns to Russia on bail.

13 April 2001 Diplomatic sources condemn the EU-drafted resolution on Chechnya, submitted on 12 April 2001 to the session of the UN human rights commission in Geneva.

13 April 2001 Igor Ivanov says Moscow may ask the United Nations for compensation for damages which international sanctions against Iraq have inflicted on Russia. He says Russia has lost about \$30bn.

13 April 2001 Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov says Russia has an answer to the possible deployment by the USA of NMD. He attends a conference on "space without weapons as the arena of peaceful cooperation in the 21st century".

13 April 2001 The military-technical committee attached to the Council of Ministers of Defence of the CIS Countries discusses raising of the level of life support for ground forces in combat conditions.

13 April 2001 First deputy prime minister Viktor Khristenko says the founding documents of the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC) will be ratified by all its signatories (Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan) before the first session of its supreme body - the Interstate Council - which is expected in May.

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13 April 2001 Aslan Maskhadov asks the Saudi king not to extradite the Chechen hijackers to Russia.

14 April 2001 Dr Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi, chairman of the Iraqi Friendship, Peace and Solidarity Organization, visits Moscow. He meets the deputy minister of emergencies, Sergey Shoygu.

14 April 2001 The MFA says ties with the USA are a priority.

16 April 2001 Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'a visits Moscow. He describes the Israeli air force's conduct over Lebanon as "direct aggression". Vladimir Putin accepts a proposal to visit Syria made by Syrian President Bashar al-Asad and in turn invited his counterpart to visit Russia.

16 April 2001 Russian presidential envoy to the Middle East and Deputy Foreign Minister Vasily Sredin denies charges that Russia holds a pro-Arab stance. He says: "By maintaining equally friendly relations with the Arabs and Israelis, Moscow is actively using its possibilities to stop the crisis in the Mideast, primarily given the task of normalizing the situation in the Palestinian territories." He discusses Russia's support for the idea of deploying international observers in the Palestinian territories.

16 April 2001 Russian Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev says Russian and Iranian specialists are discussing the possibility of adding more reactors to the nuclear atomic station under construction in Bushehr. Russia will also build more atomic power stations in India.

16 April 2001 First Deputy Minister of Atomic Energy Valentin Ivanov calls for more Western funding to process weapons grade plutonium.

16 April 2001 At Duma hearings on Russian-EU relations Duma International Relations Committee Chairman Dmitry Rogozin criticises EU attitudes towards Russia.

16 April 2001 Moldovan President Vladimir Voronin visits Moscow for talks with Putin.

17 April 2001 *Krasnaya Zvezda* criticises KFOR policy in Kosovo.

17 April 2001 Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yasin Ramadan visits Russia.

17 April 2001 Vasily Sredin, the Russian president's Middle East envoy, meets the chairman of the National Assembly of Kuwait, Jasim al-Khurafi, in Moscow.

17 April 2001 Antimonopoly minister Ilya Yuzhanov says Russia hopes to speed up the process of joining the World Trade Organization and become a member in 2002.

17 April 2001 President of Moldova Vladimir Voronin says Moldova is interested in Moldova joining the Russia-Belarus Union.

17 April 2001 Sergey Ivanov says the military doctrine of the Union of Russia and Belarus will be published as soon as it is discussed and approved by the Supreme State Council.

17 April 2001 Yugoslav Prime Minister Zoran Zizic arrives in Moscow.

17 April 2001 Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov meets Speaker of Azerbaijan's parliament Murtuz Aleskerov to discuss ways to reinforce strategic partnership.

18 April 2001 Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says Russia calls for the creation of a system of measures of stability in the Persian Gulf.

18 April 2001 The highest court of the national judicial board of Spain declines the request of the Office of the Russian Prosecutor General to hand businessman Vladimir Gusinskiy over to Russia.

18 April 2001 The Duma ratifies by 281 votes the international Open Skies Treaty signed in Helsinki on 24 March 1992.

18 April 2001 Gen Aleksandr Zdanovich, Federal Security Service spokesman, expresses concern over the intensification of the propaganda war against Russia.

18 April 2001 MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko calls on Palestinians and Israelis to resume political dialogue.

19 April 2001 The MFA rejects claims by the US State Department that Russia is allegedly using political pressure and bully tactics against the independent media.

19 April 2001 Vasily Sredin says Russia yet again calls on all sides involved in the conflict in the Middle East to display maximum restraint and wisdom. He meets Israeli ambassador to Russia Natan Meron in Moscow.

The MFA says Russia will act to promote a settlement in southern Lebanon.

20 April 2001 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov says Russia is prepared to give heed to legitimate US concerns in the field of missile defence.

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20 April 2001 The MFA backs Yugoslavia's call to urgently convene the UN Security Council over the situation in Kosovo and condemns Albanian extremism there.

Igor Ivanov calls for a comprehensive approach towards the Balkans.

20 April 2001 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov is holding a session in Astrakhan with the region's heads. He discusses the status of the Caspian Sea.

20 April 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov visits Pakistan. Gazprom desires to join the project to build a gas pipeline from Iran to India via Pakistan.

21 April 2001 The MFA condemns the USA for wrecking a text agreed with the UNHCR on Chechnya and instead adopting one condemning Russia.

21 April 2001 Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yasin Ramadan visits Moscow and Tatarstan.

21 April 2001 Igor Ivanov says it is necessary for the USA and European powers and Russia to coordinate efforts in the Middle East.

21 April 2001 Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo visits Tbilisi.

22 April 2001 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov flies to Germany.

22 April 2001 Tajik President Emomali Rahmonov arrives in Moscow.

23 April 2001 Chechens take hostages in a hotel in Istanbul.

Representatives of Russian law-enforcement departments believe that the Turkish authorities make insufficient efforts to counteract organizations and individuals who support Chechen separatism and terrorism.

23 April 2001 Russian and NATO experts hold a mutual consultation on the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and means of their delivery in Moscow.

Andrey Nikolayev, Duma Defence Committee Chairman holds talks in the Duma with British envoy to NATO David Manning. He says the entry of at least one Baltic state to NATO is likely to stimulate a further worsening of NATO-Russian relations and even questions the necessity of such relations.

23 April 2001 Mikhail Kasyanov visits Sweden from Germany.

24 April 2001 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says in Sweden that the Russian government and business circles are concerned at the discriminatory measures being applied by the EU to Russian exports. This is evident with regard to steel, metallurgy products, furs.

24 April 2001 Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says Montenegro should remain part of democratic Yugoslavia.

24 April 2001 The MFA says terrorism has no borders and may affect citizens of any country. The MFA says this in connection with the debates on terrorism at the Geneva session of the UN Human Rights Commission.

24 April 2001 Moscow sources are reported as saying that any contacts between Russia and the Taliban are out of the question until the Taliban officially denies the recognition of the Aslan Maskhadov government and the Free Republic of Ichkeria. However unofficial contacts with the Taliban have taken place in the past. Most of the contacts took place within the framework of the 6+2 group and by instruction of the UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan and the UN Security Council.

25 April 2001 Lt-Gen Aleksandr Manilov, head of the international department of the Federal Border Guard Service, says more than 13,000 km of Russia's border are still not regulated by agreements or other legal documents. The total length of the Russian border is 61,000 km. Questionable stretches exist mainly on the border with Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

25 April 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov calls for the cessation of violence in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and for the resumption of peace talks. He has talks with the visiting Yemeni foreign minister.

25 April 2001 Security Council secretary Vladimir Rushaylo visits Yerevan. He will take part in a session of the Committee of Security Council Secretaries from the member states of the CIS Collective Security Treaty on 26-27 April.

25 April 2001 Vladimir Putin signs a decree on preparation of a treaty between Russia and Georgia

25 April 2001 The MFA welcomes the UNSC statement on a Georgian-Abkhazian settlement.

25 April 2001 *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* publishes an article on Turkish intelligence activity in the Kuban.

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26 April 2001 The second meeting of the Committee of Secretaries of the Security Councils of signatories to the CIS Collective Security Treaty opens in Yerevan. Taking part in it are representatives from Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, as well as an observer from Georgia.

26 April 2001 The MFA says Russia hopes for constructive relations with a new Japanese cabinet headed by Junichiro Koizumi.

26 April 2001 Russian presidential aide Igor Sergeyev attends a session of the Russia-NATO standing council in Brussels devoted to Russia's proposals to create a European non-strategic system of missile defence.

27 April 2001 Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak visits Russia.

27 April 2001 Russia calls on the Saudi authorities for a quicker consideration of the request for the extradition of the Tu-154 hijackers. The airplane was hijacked in Turkey in March.

27 April 2001 Igor Ivanov attends a ministerial conference of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization. He says the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank is bound to play an important role in regional projects.

27 April 2001 The companies Gazprom, Ruhrgas, Vinterskhall AG and Fortum decide to work together in planning the construction of a major gas pipeline from Russia to Germany via the Baltic Sea (the North European Gas Pipeline project).

28 April 2001 Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov meets Egypt's President Muhammad Hosni Mubarak. Ivanov says Russia supported the initiative launched by Egypt and Jordan to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

28 April 2001 The meeting of the foreign ministers of Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in the framework of the Shanghai Group of Five starts in Moscow.

28 April 2001 Russian Deputy Prime Minister, Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin visits Washington to attend the spring conference of the IMF and the World Bank.

28 April 2001 Russian MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says a document on the delimitation of constitutional powers between Tbilisi and Sukhumi should be a starting point in the Georgian-Abkhazian talks.

28 April 2001 Yevgeniy Primakov visits Iran. He says that normalization of Moscow-Washington ties would not cause the Russian Federation to back down on

the accords it has signed with Iran.

29 April 2001 Vladimir Putin meets Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan in the Kremlin.

29 April 2001 Head of the information and press department of the Russian Foreign Ministry Aleksandr Yakovenko is interviewed in *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* on Russo-Indian ties.

29 April 2001 A Duma delegation ends its visits to the Gulf.

30 April 2001 President Vladimir Putin sends a message to Kuwaiti Emir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah.

May

1 May 2001 Vladimir Putin and US President George Bush talk on the telephone. They discuss arms control.

1 May 2001 A Russian business delegation visits Iraq.

1 May 2001 The MFA says Russia fully supports the firm reaction of the UN Security Council to the ongoing terrorist activity of Albanian extremists and separatists in Macedonia.

2 May 2001 Igor Ivanov says Russia is ready to hold negotiations on strategic stability issues with the USA. He says the 1972 treaty must be adhered to.

2 May 2001 The chairman of the Committee on International Affairs in the Duma, Dmitry Rogozin, says the Russian parliament may table a motion to denounce the START-2 Treaty.

2 May 2001 The Yabloko faction in the Duma reviews the statement by US President George W Bush on ballistic missile defence issues. It also favours "the creation of a European ballistic missile defence system in which the military-industrial complex of our country will participate".

3 May 2001 Uzbek President Islam Karimov arrives in Moscow for a state visit.

4 May 2001 Vladimir Putin says he welcomes the opportunity for dialogue with the USA on missiles.

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4 May 2001 Igor Ivanov visits India. He says the USA so far has not made unilateral decisions on the 1972 anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty, but showed willingness for consultations.

4 May 2001 Valery Loshchinin, Russia's ambassador to international organizations in Vienna, has been appointed deputy foreign minister by presidential decree. He replaces Grigoriy Berdennikov who was responsible for relations with the CIS countries. Berdennikov gets the post vacated by Loshchinin in Vienna.

4 May 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov and Chinese ambassador to Russia Wu Tao meet. Moscow and Beijing have confirmed that their fundamental approaches to pressing international security problems are close or the same.

4 May 2001 The MFA says that the jail terms passed in Latvia on three Russian extremists from the National Bolshevik Party, who were convicted on terrorism charges, amounted to demonstrative cruelty.

4 May 2001 Yugoslav parliament speaker Dragoljub Micunovic visits Moscow.

6 May 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov leaves for Libya on a two-day visit.

7 May 2001 The Russian Foreign Ministry welcomes the development of contacts between Macedonia and Yugoslavia in fighting Albanian extremists.

7 May 2001 Patriarch Aleksey II of Moscow and All Russia says Pope John Paul II cannot count on an invitation from the Russian Orthodox Church to visit Russia.

7 May 2001 Vladimir Putin sends a message to Libyan leader, Mu'ammarr Al-Qadhafi, saying Russia wants mutually beneficial cooperation with Libya to be brought to a new level.

8 May 2001 President Vladimir Putin says to the Archbishop of Athens and Primate of All Greece Christodoulos that he believes that ties between the Russian and Greek Orthodox Churches promote cooperation between the two countries.

8 May 2001 Vladimir Putin says the Russian leadership will do everything to meet its commitments to the Russian-speaking population in the countries of the Baltic region.

8 May 2001 Igor Ivanov says the 40-year-old US blockade and trade embargo against Cuba are unacceptable.

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8 May 2001 The MFA strongly denounces any moves that escalate the tension in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone.

8 May 2001 An EU delegation returns from Chechnya and describes the conditions in the republic as extremely serious.

10 May 2001 Igor Ivanov visits Finland.

10 May 2001 Igor Ivanov sends a letter to the Duma. It says a notification has been forwarded to all Russian representatives abroad reiterating that the position voiced by Russian President Vladimir Putin in his statement on ABM and START issues on 13 November 2000 remains unchanged.

10 May 2001 Vladimir Putin appoints Viktor Chernomyrdin Russia's ambassador to Ukraine.

10 May 2001 The Ministry of Economic Development says Russia's volume of trade with countries of the European Union (EU) grew by 42.5% in 2000 amounting to 58bn euros, with Russia's favourable balance making up 24bn euros. Russia's export to EU countries in 2000 made up 41bn euros, against 25.9bn euros in 1999, while imports amounted to 17bn euros, against 14.8bn euros in 1999.

10 May 2001 Russia ratifies the 1997 International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings. Russia's permanent representative at the UN Sergey Lavrov hands over the instruments of ratification to the UN Secretary-General in New York.

10 May 2001 Russia's acting energy minister Ivan Matlashov and a European Commission delegation discuss prospects of interaction between Russian and European structures in implementation of the Kyoto protocol.

11 May 2001 US First Deputy Secretary of Defence Paul Wolfowitz arrives in Moscow for consultations on NMD. The Russian interdepartmental delegation is led by Yury Kapralov, director of the department for security and disarmament of the MFA.

11 May 2001 Vladimir Putin meets OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Chairman Adrian Severin.

11 May 2001 The MFA says it "is watching the continuing exacerbation of the situation surrounding the Palestinian territories with growing anxiety."

11 May 2001 Aleksandr Avdeyev, first deputy foreign minister and Russian

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representative to the Council of Europe, says that the time is not ripe for regional elections in Kosovo.

11 May 2001 The Labour Ministry says that more than 455,000 tonnes of humanitarian supplies to the value of over 160m euros were sent from 40 donor countries to 88 regions of Russia in 2000.

11 May 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov and Chief of Staff Anatoly Kvashnin order the transformation of the 1st separate airborne brigade within SFOR into the 22nd separate regiment of the airborne peacekeeping troops by 1 July. The regiment will comprise 900 officers and enlisted men.

11 May 2001 Deputy Minister of Atomic Energy Yevgeny Reshetnikov says Russia is holding negotiations with Iran to build at least five more nuclear power plant units in addition to the one under construction in Bushehr which is currently behind schedule.

12 May 2001 The main department for international military cooperation of the MOD together with the department for arms of the Russian Armed Forces prepare a draft agreement on restoring military and technical cooperation with Libya.

12 May 2001 The Russian president's envoy to the Far Eastern Federal District Konstantin Pulikovskiy says the idea of turning four South Kurile islands over to Japan is unacceptable.

12 May 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov holds talks in France on strategic stability. Russia and France hold similar views on this.

14 May 2001 Japan's new Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi writes to Vladimir Putin of his desire that the two countries further develop relations and sign a peace treaty soon.

14 May 2001 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov confirms reports that a proposal for Russia to return some of the disputed South Kurile islands to Japan was discussed during top-level Russian-Japanese talks. He says in relation to an alleged deal to return the Shikotan and Habomai islands: "This issue is one of the most sensitive in our negotiations with Japan. There have been negotiations between the leaders of the two countries and the subject is being discussed."

Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says no new negotiation schemes on the Kuriles were worked out in Irkutsk between Russia and Japan. He says Russia is ready to continue peace treaty talks with Japan.

The MFA says that "no agreements were concluded to hold consultations on the terms of transfer of the Shikotan and Habomai islands included in the Minor Kurile ridge to Japan separately from talks on the fate of the Kunashir and Iturup

islands."

14 May 2001 Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez visits Russia. He discusses oil production with Putin.

14 May 2001 Russian Emergencies Minister Sergey Shoygu invites Mongolia to set up a joint Russian-Chinese-Mongolian commission to deal with disasters. The minister proposed the idea when meeting Mongolian President Natsagiyn Bagabandi and Prime Minister Nambaryn Enkhbayar in Mongolia.

14 May 2001 Deputy prime minister Ilya Klebanov says work to raise the sunken nuclear-powered submarine Kursk will begin in July and end in late September.

14 May 2001 The MFA says Russia says the Israeli use of force against Palestinians is "unacceptable."

14 May 2001 The MFA says it welcomes the creation of a broad-based government coalition in Macedonia as an "important step in the right direction."

14 May 2001 Russian Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo arrives in Baku to discuss the development of bilateral relations and the preparation of a summit of the Caucasus Four.

15 May 2001 UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan visits Russia for talks with Putin.

15 May 2001 Igor Ivanov says the UN remains for Russia a central and universal organization that will remain the mainstay of peace and stability in the world. He meets UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in Moscow.

15 May 2001 Russian Food and Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeyev says he expects Russia to harvest 65-68m tonnes of grain in 2001 compared to 65.4m in 2000.

15 May 2001 Russian Deputy Foreign Minister and special presidential envoy for the Middle East peace process Vasily Sredin says Russia is "very satisfied with the state and dynamics of multilateral ties with Israel... The Russian-speaking community is influential in all spheres of Israeli society. Its members hold ministerial posts, become Knesset deputies, and find their niche in Israel's economic, cultural, scientific, and educational spheres ... several hundreds of thousands people have emigrated to Israel from Russia and former Soviet republics in the past years, and the number of so-called Russian Israelis now stands at a million ... many of them retain Russian citizenship: about 60,000 people are registered with our consulate in Israel, and this is far from being a complete figure."

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15 May 2001 The State Customs Committee states Russia has increased its oil export to foreign countries (except CIS) by 5%, having shipped 32,392,000 tonnes of oil at a total cost of 5,262,000,000 dollars. Within this period, export of crude oil to the CIS countries has increased by 2.4 times and reached 1,767,500 tonnes, which was worth 259.6m dollars. During the same period, Russia has imported 1,689,600 tonnes of oil at a cost of 167.3m dollars, all of it from the CIS countries.

The State Customs Committee reports that Russia had a visible foreign trade surplus of 16.3bn dollars in the first quarter of this year, the same as in the corresponding period of 2000. The trade surplus with fellow CIS members narrowed to 0.6bn dollars from 1.2bn dollars in the first quarter of 2000, while that with the rest of the world widened by 0.6bn dollars to 15.7bn dollars. The country's visible foreign trade turnover grew 6.3% year-on-year in the quarter as exports rose 4% to 24.8bn dollars and imports increased by 13.6% to 8.5bn dollars. Trade with the CIS edged up 1% to 6.2bn dollars as exports dropped 6.9% to 3.4bn dollars while imports rose 12.7% to 2.8bn dollars. Trade with countries outside the CIS grew 7.6% to 27.1bn dollars, as exports and imports rose by respectively 6% and 14.1% to 21.4bn dollars and 5.7bn dollars. Trade with the European Union, Russia's biggest trade partner with 37.3% of turnover (34.9% in the first quarter of 2000), increased by 14% to 12.4bn dollars in the quarter, including 15% to 3.5bn dollars with Germany, 33% to 2.4bn dollars with Italy, 7% to 1.3bn dollars with the Netherlands and 17% to 1.1bn dollars with Finland; trade with Britain was down 4% to 1.3bn dollars.

16 May 2001 In a 355-1 vote, the State Duma ratifies the treaty on the establishment of a Eurasian Economic Community.

16 May 2001 Pavel Borodin leaves for Geneva to face legal investigation for money laundering charges.

16 May 2001 Col-Gen Georgy Shpak, commander of the Russian airborne units, says he believes that the Macedonian situation warrants interference by the world community. He says if the Russian president so decides, the Russian peacekeepers in Kosovo could take over the corridor through which ethnic Albanian fighters enter Macedonia.

16 May 2001 The MFA criticizes the document on the constitutional framework of Kosovo interim self-government, introduced by head of the United Nations mission to Kosovo Hans Haekkerup on 15 May.

16 May 2001 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov confirms Moscow's intention to contribute to the strengthening of the role of the UN in the solution of global problems. He meets UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in Moscow.

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov states after his talks with Kofi Annan that Russia, the USA, the European Union countries and Arab leaders must jointly to urge the sides involved in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict to achieve peace in the Middle East.

16 May 2001 Sakhalin Region governor Igor Farkhutdinov accuses Japan of disseminating provocative rumours concerning the problem of the South Kurile Islands.

The Governor of Khabarovsk Territory Viktor Ishayev, who chairs the inter-regional economic association of the Far East and the Trans-Baykal region, says he believes that Russia should hand the islands of Shikotan, Habomai, Iturup and Kunashir over to Japan.

16 May 2001 The Russian president's representative in the Siberian Federal District, Leonid Drachevskiy, visits Mongolia.

16 May 2001 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov says the Russian and American presidents have reached "agreement in principle to meet in Genoa and, if possible, even before the G8 summit."

16 May 2001 Tatyana Paramonova, a first deputy chairman at the Central Bank, says net capital outflows from Russia totalled 24bn dollars in 2000.

16 May 2001 The Federation Council ratifies the Open Skies Treaty.

16 May 2001 Russian Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov meets his Belgian counterpart Andre Flahaut to discuss Russia's relations with NATO and the European Union.

16 May 2001 Experts of the Russian and Ukrainian Defence Ministries hold a working meeting devoted to military and technical cooperation. The Russian experts were led by Black Sea Fleet Commander Adm Vladimir Komoyedov, while the Ukrainians were headed by navy Commander Mykhaylo Yezhel.

17 May 2001 Industry, Science and Technologies Minister Aleksandr Dondukov and Syrian Economics and Foreign Trade Minister Dr Muhammad al-Imadi sign the final document of the second meeting of the bilateral intergovernmental commission on cooperation in industry, economy, science and technology.

17 May 2001 The Russian-EU summit takes place in Moscow. Putin says:

Our meeting with the EU troika was very constructive, meaningful and, in our view, exceptionally useful. In essence, we discussed all aspects of our cooperation. And I think it can be said that it was a question of strengthening long-term strategic partnership. So far as we are concerned, the European Union is a key partner. I would note that the Russian Federation's foreign policy blueprint regards ties with the EU as one of the most important priorities. During the meeting we considered the prospects for political dialogue, including security problems. We reaffirmed our mutual interest in developing relations in spheres such as the power

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industry, science, high technology and space. We intend to step up our joint work in the spheres of justice, internal affairs, environmental protection and nuclear safety. We are also prepared to work on creating a single socio-economic space in Europe.

European Commission Chairman Romano Prodi puts forward the initiative of creating a high-level commission to develop through the joint efforts of the EU and Russian Federation the principles of a single economic space in Europe, including Russia.

18 May 2001 The Council of CIS Defence Ministers meets in Baku.

18 May 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov arrives in Washington for talks with the US president and the secretary of state.

19 May 2001 US Secretary of State Colin Powell says Vladimir Putin and George W Bush will meet in Ljubljana (Slovenia) on 16 June. Ivanov says Russia attributes "primary importance to constructive and pragmatic relations with the United States... Quite a lot of unclear points remain as regards a 'new architecture' of strategic stability, part of which is a so-called 'global antimissile defence system' spoken of by the USA...I shall be honest - the arguments we have heard have failed to convince either us or most countries in the world that, because of potential threats, it is necessary to break up the entire structure of disarmament accords and jeopardize the nonproliferation regime."

19 May 2001 Igor Ivanov is interviewed on *Vremya* on his visit to the USA. He says Russo-US relations are improving.

Ivanov says Russia takes the ongoing consultations with the USA on missile defence very seriously and hopes that they will yield "mutually acceptable results."

Ivanov urges the international community to take joint action in order to stop violence in the Middle East.

19 May 2001 The MFA criticises Israel for air strikes against Palestinian positions.

20 May 2001 Igor Ivanov says international terrorism is one of the challenges that poses a real threat to stability in the world, and the fight against this evil will require broader international efforts and cooperation. Ivanov says Russia does not use the term "Islamic terrorism" but speaks instead of international terrorism which "is not based on religious or ethnic motives". He notes that "one of the regions where the danger of provocations by international terrorism exists is Central Asia". He says this is why the Shanghai Five - which involves Russia, China and Central Asian countries - has created an anti-terrorist centre. He stresses that the threat to Central Asia comes first of all from Afghanistan and in the Balkans from Kosovo.

20 May 2001 Israeli foreign minister Shimon Peres visits Moscow. He meets Igor

Ivanov, Putin and Aleksey II.

21 May 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov hosts a meeting of the deputy foreign ministers of the member states of the Caucasian Four (Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia).

21 May 2001 Vladimir Putin signs a decree on the appointment of Viktor Chernomyrdin to the post of Russia's ambassador to Ukraine. Putin says that he has signed a document giving Chernomyrdin the status of a special representative of the Russian president for the development of trade and economic relations between Russia and Ukraine.

21 May 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov speaks by telephone "with his counterparts from five Arab countries." Russia also holds consultations with colleagues from the European Union.

21 May 2001 Vladimir Putin and Israeli foreign minister Shimon Peres discuss ways to prevent the escalation of tension on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. The two leaders noted a new level of relations between Moscow and Tel Aviv not only in the trade and economic field but also in terms of growing trust in Russia's policy. "This allows us to play the role of co-sponsor which Russia will continue to play in the Middle East."

21 May 2001 The heads of the disarmament departments of the Russian and Chinese MFAs hold consultations in Moscow. They confirm their opposition to US plans for developing "a global missile defence system" banned by the 1972 ABM Treaty.

21 May 2001 The first deputy chief of the Russian armed forces General Staff, Col-Gen Valery Manilov, has said Russia and the US have a number of "fundamental non-coinciding positions" in the military field. NMD is the main one.

Krasnyya Zvezda warns that US NMD plans threaten NATO-Russian relations.

22 May 2001 Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar visits Moscow.

22 May 2001 *Kommersant* interviews Shimon Peres. He says Russo-Israeli relations are in good shape.

22 May 2001 Duma speaker Gennadiy Seleznev and State Secretary of the union state of Russia and Belarus Pavel Borodin arrive in Minsk to meet Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka.

22 May 2001 Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says

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foreign debt repayment will be kept to schedule. He says the government would resort to debt restructuring "only in an extreme case, in a dramatic deterioration of the economic situation". Russia had already repaid 11.5bn dollars in debt servicing and repayment in 2000. Another 14-14.5bn dollars would be repaid in 2001 and a similar amount in 2002. About 20bn dollars were due to be repaid in 2003.

22 May 2001 The director-general of the Russian Munitions Agency, Zinovy Pak, says Russia will not manage to destroy its chemical weapons stocks by 2007 as was planned in 1997 after the State Duma ratified the relevant UN convention.

22 May 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Vasily Sredin and Egyptian Ambassador Rida Shihatah hold talks.

22 May 2001 Minister of Atomic Energy Aleksandr Rumyantsev says Presidents Vladimir Putin and George W Bush may discuss US financial support for the dismantling of Russian nuclear armaments at their summit in Ljubljana.

22 May 2001 Georgian Interior Minister Kakha Targamadze visits Moscow. Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo says Moscow hopes that Georgia will cooperate more closely with Russia in the fight against terrorism. Targamadze says Georgian law-enforcement agencies will "take measures in order to arrest" Chechen field commander Ruslan Gelayev and possibly to extradite him to Russia, if reports regarding his presence in Georgia are confirmed.

22 May 2001 Russia's ambassador to the UN, Sergey Lavrov, criticises the British proposal to end sanctions against Iraq.

23 May 2001 The Orthodox Church body in Estonia subordinated to the Moscow Patriarchate says it is not going to change its name or statutes for official registration and is planning to seek help from international organizations to win formal status.

23 May 2001 Council of Europe Secretary-General Walter Schwimmer visits Moscow. He discusses Chechnya.

23 May 2001 EBRD President Jean Lemierre visits Moscow and has talks with Vladimir Putin.

23 May 2001 Russia puts forth an initiative at the UN Security Council to prolong for another six months the action of the UN humanitarian aid to Iraq "Oil for food".

23 May 2001 Secretary-General of Oman's Foreign Ministry Haytham Bin-Tariq al-Sa'id says Russia is in favour of strengthening confidence-building measures and stability in the Persian Gulf area.

23 May 2001 The MFA condemn the Taliban's decision to make it obligatory for representatives of non-Islamic religions to wear distinctive bands in Afghanistan.

23 May 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Talas hold talks in Moscow.

23 May 2001 The Russian Navy will participate in a NATO PFP exercise in the Baltic in June.

23 May 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says it is necessary that Israelis and Palestinians take urgent steps towards each other to stop confrontation and normalize the situation around the Palestinian territories. He expresses Moscow's attitude at a meeting with Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Mustafa Talas.

23 May 2001 Igor Ivanov says at MGIMO that "energy diplomacy" is becoming a new and fairly promising direction of Russia's international cooperation. He says that the Russian leadership pays exceptional attention to the advancement of the energy sector and, in a broader sense, to the strengthening of Russia's energy security and its role as a great energy power. An Institute for the fuel and energy complex is set up within MGIMO.

24 May 2001 Goskomstat says there were 777,000 displaced persons and refugees in Russia on 1 April 2001. Over one-third (287,300) come from Kazakhstan, 12.7% from Uzbekistan (98,500), and 10.2% from Tajikistan (78,900). In addition, 134,000 (17.3%) have fled from areas in Russia with an unstable political and social situation to more peaceful places.

24 May 2001 First Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov arrives in Washington to take part in the work of the third meeting of the Russo-American working group on Afghanistan.

24 May 2001 The MFA says the report of the commission of George Mitchell on the Palestinian-Israeli confrontation is a good basis for Middle East settlement.

24 May 2001 The Russian cabinet approves and sends to the Duma an agreement with the United States on processing plutonium no longer needed for defence and on cooperation in this field. The document was signed on 29 August 2000 in Moscow and on 1 September 2000 in Washington.

24 May 2001 Deputy foreign minister Vasily Sredin says Russia maintains active contacts with the United States, the European Union, Egypt and Jordan to settle the situation in the Middle East.

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24 May 2001 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov visits Poland. He discusses trade and the construction of a gas pipeline on Polish territory from Belarus to Slovakia, bypassing Ukraine.

25 May 2001 Russian Chief of General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin says the US deployment of a national missile defence system will inevitably lead to a new arms race and destroy the strategic stability currently existing in the world.

25 May 2001 Vladimir Putin addresses a greetings message to the leaders of African countries on the occasion of Africa Day.

25 May 2001 Secretary General of the Council of Europe Walter Schwimmer says during a meeting with Russian Justice Minister Yury Chayka that it is necessary to make a juridical examination of the Russian anti-terrorism law to see if it conforms to the International Human Rights Convention.

25 May 2001 The MFA condemns the terrorist act in the Israeli city of Hadera.

25 May 2001 A protocol has been signed in Yerevan on the creation of rapid reaction forces in Central Asia. The military subunits of four of the member-states of the treaty on collective security - Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan - will take part in it.

25 May 2001 Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko says there will be an understanding on constant consultations between Russia and OPEC leadership following talks between representatives of the Russian government and the Secretary-General of OPEC Ali Rodriguez Araque.

26 May 2001 Yevgenny Primakov starts a two week trip to the Middle East. He will visit Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Libya and Tunisia. He will convey a message from Putin to the leaders of these states.

26 May 2001 The Russian ambassador to Lebanon, Boris Bolotin, passes a message from Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov on to the Lebanese foreign minister, Mahmud Hammud. The message calls for restraint and calmness in the region and on the Lebanese-Israeli border.

26 May 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov calls for implementing the Egyptian-Jordanian initiative and the Mitchell plan to settle the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

26 May 2001 Deputy prime minister Ilya Klebanov visits Algeria.

26 May 2001 Justice Minister Yury Chayka says he favours working out a less

complex mechanism for extraditing criminals and suspects.

27 May 2001 The MFA condemns terrorist bombings in Israel.

27 May 2001 Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia visits Moscow.

27 May 2001 Yevgeniy Primakov is interviewed in the Jordanian *Al-Dustur* newspaper. He blames Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for the current round of violence in the Middle East. Primakov advocates an immediate resumption of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, based on recommendations of the Mitchell commission and the Jordanian-Egyptian initiative on a peace settlement.

27 May 2001 Yukos says that an agreement on the development of a feasibility study for the construction of an oil pipeline from Russia to China can be signed this year.

28 May 2001 The MFA says its regrets the failure of the recent diplomatic attempt that the USA made in the Middle East peace process. Igor Ivanov says that Russia calls for an international conference on a Middle East settlement as "the next phase in regional settlement efforts."

Vasily Sredin, the Russian president's Middle East envoy, says Israel should withdraw its troops, stop the military and economic blockade of Palestine and freeze the settlement activity. He also says the Palestinians "should do everything that can be done to prevent terrorist acts from occurring and to stop other types of violence".

28 May 2001 Saudi Deputy Interior Minister Prince Ahmed Bin Abd-al-Aziz says the two Chechen terrorists who hijacked Russian Tu-154 plane on 15 March 2001 will most likely be tried in Saudi Arabia.

28 May 2001 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says that Russia is intent on constructive cooperation with NATO. He says that the 1972 ABM treaty must remain, and that as 32 other arms control agreements are connected with it, it cannot be removed. He also says Kosovo must remain within Yugoslavia. He says parallels with Chechnya are becoming increasingly obvious. He says extremists "will not stop within the Kosovo borders. They will go farther ... fortunately, KFOR has become more energetic instead of watching gangs passing by at a distance of several dozens of metres to commit terrorist acts in Serbia and Macedonia ... without relevant measures, the terrorist acts of Albanian extremists could spread into the territory of Montenegro, especially if the people of that republic decide to secede from Yugoslavia, as well as the territories of Bulgaria and North Greece."

28 May 2001 Prosecutor-General Vladimir Ustinov attends at The Hague a global forum for combating corruption. He also discusses extradition procedures.

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28 May 2001 Igor Ivanov attends a conference in Moscow on "Peace and development in the Caucasus." It is being held on the initiative of the presidents of the Caucasus Four. Ivanov says that Russia favours "mutually acceptable solutions to the crises existing in the region" on the basis of international law. He says that the responsibility for settling the conflicts in Nagorny Karabakh, Abkhazia and South Osetia belongs to the sides in the conflicts and that Russia is determined to promote settlements "through active mediating and peacekeeping efforts".

28 May 2001 Igor Ivanov says Russia will fully withdraw its military base from Vaziani, Georgia by 1 July. He says Russia is also ready to finalize the withdrawal from Gudauta, Georgia, by 1 July in compliance with its commitments.

28 May 2001 Igor Ivanov says if Georgia cooperates with Russia over terrorism, then Russia may review the visa regime with Georgia.

28 May 2001 Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo says that the international community must press Pakistan to stop supporting the Taleban and interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

28 May 2001 Palestinian Yasir Arafat arrives in Moscow. Arafat will meet President Vladimir Putin, Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and Russian Orthodox Church Patriarch Aleksey II.

28 May 2001 Russia's new ambassador to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin denies he will interfere in Ukrainian politics.

Igor Ivanov and Viktor Chernomyrdin call for an end to the government crisis in Ukraine.

29 May 2001 Vladimir Putin and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon talk by telephone.

29 May 2001 The Russian first deputy ambassador to the UN, Gennadiy Gatilov, calls for a six-month extension of the UN's oil-for-food programme for Iraq.

29 May 2001 Yevgenny Primakov visits Syria.

29 May 2001 A conference is held in Moscow on Russo-Japanese relations. First Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov attends.

29 May 2001 Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov visits Budapest on a two-day visit to participate in a meeting of the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council at ministerial level. Ivanov will also hold a new round of talks with US Secretary of State Colin Powell. The sides will centre on the development of bilateral cooperation

and the situation in the Balkans, including Macedonia and southern Serbia.

29 May 2001 Duma speaker Gennady Seleznev heads a Duma delegation to Canada. He says Russian MPs are puzzled by the fact that "the parliamentary assembly of the North Atlantic alliance will be held in the non-NATO state of Lithuania."

29 May 2001 Russian Deputy Defence Minister and Chairman of the Russian Committee on Military and Technical Cooperation with Foreign States Mikhail Dmitriyev says Russia does not have any prospects for cooperation with the USA in the military technology sphere.

29 May 2001 Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Ivanov rules out the possibility of Moscow reconsidering its negative stance on Washington's plans to build a global air defence system in exchange for the US purchasing Russian weapons, including S-300 air defence systems. He says Russia will not change its attitude over the 1972 ABM treaty. He says "in the interests of reinforcing strategic stability we are prepared to cooperate with the USA and other states in the field of missile defence within the framework of the ABM Treaty and the 1997 New York agreements on the limitation of strategic and non-strategic missile defence". One example could be the Russian proposal for a European missile defence system, where the S-300 missile could be used.

29 May 2001 First Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Avdeyev meets Yugoslavia's new ambassador to Russia, Danilo Vuksanovic, who has taken the post over from Borislav Milosevic.

29 May 2001 Russian Orthodox Patriarch Aleksey II says he does not rule out the possibility of a meeting with Pope John Paul II.

30 May 2001 Igor Ivanov and US Secretary of State Colin Powell meet in Budapest.

30 May 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says that in principle Russia and Japan may sign a peace treaty.

30 May 2001 The International Committee of the Red Cross suspends its activities in Chechnya until more precise information is available on security conditions.

31 May 2001 A delegation of the Japanese Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), visits Russia.

31 May 2001 Duma deputy Dmitry Rogozin says the plan for settlement in Chechnya worked out by Russian MPs is to be reported to the Russian president. The plan worked out by the MPs was submitted to the meeting of the joint working

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group Duma-PACE last week in Prague.

31 May 2001 A US House of Representatives delegation visits the Duma.

31 May 2001 The MFA and the Duma Analysis Administration publish a document outlining steps which Russia may initiate to oppose US NMD plans.

31 May 2001 Pakistan's Chief Executive Gen Pervez Musharraf is interviewed in *Izvestiya*. He calls for the recognition of the Taleban regime in Afghanistan by Russia and for Russian mediation in organizing talks between India and Pakistan on Kashmir.

31 May 2001 Igor Ivanov says an anti-terrorism centre will be set up within the framework of the Shanghai forum. He says Uzbekistan will join the work of the centre.

31 May 2001 CIS foreign ministers meet in Minsk. Igor Ivanov says the mandate of the collective peacekeeping force in Abkhazia will be extended for six months.

Igor Ivanov and his Belarusian counterpart Mikhail Kvastow state that the OSCE mission in Belarus should operate within the framework of its mandate.

Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov in Minsk announces the existence of a Euro-Asian Economic Community. He says the new group comprises Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The EEC Inter-State Council holds its first meeting.

Moldovan President Vladimir Voronon says the new Moldovan leadership attaches great hopes to the prospects of its admission into the Union of Russia and Belarus.

The heads of the state of the "Caucasus Four" - Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia - meet in Minsk. Presidential deputy chief of staff Sergey Prikhodko says in future the Caucasus Four will be transformed into "a centre of strengthening regional cooperation".

31 May 2001 The commander of the Russian peacekeeping contingent deployed in Kosovo, Vladimir Kazantsev, has met the commander of the Kosovo defence corps, Agim Ceku, at Slatina airport in Pristina.

31 May 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says Russia and the US are cooperating in the Middle East.

The MFA says it favours the extension of the mandate for UN forces on the Golan Heights.

Yevgenny Primakov visits Egypt.

June

1 June 2001 A meeting of the CIS Heads of State Council opens in Minsk. Putin says the CIS is indispensable, and the appearance of such organizations as the Eurasian Economic Community and GUUAM does not erode the CIS.

Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov discusses gas pipelines with Ukrainian counterpart Anatoly Kinakh in Minsk.

In Minisk a trilateral meeting to discuss a settlement of the Dnestr problem is held among the Ukrainian, Russian and Moldovan foreign ministers, Anatoly Zlenko, Igor Ivanov and Nicolae Cernomaz.

1 June 2001 President Vladimir Putin sends a message of greetings to the participants and guests of the Congress of the Slav Peoples of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine in Moscow. Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev is head of the congress organising committee.

1 June 2001 The C-in-C of the Russian air force Gen Anatoliy Kornukov says the US proposal to purchase Russian S-300 missiles is "not serious".

1 June 2001 The inspections that have been carried out in the course of implementing the 1987 Soviet-US treaty on elimination of medium and shorter-range missiles have been brought to completion. The Soviet Union destroyed 1,846 missiles, 825 launching installations, 1,761 units of auxiliary equipment and 408 stationary installations for launchers. Seventy-four bases and 31 auxiliary buildings ended their activities related to medium and shorter-range missiles. The United States destroyed 846 missiles, 289 launchers, 251 stages of training missiles, three Cruise missiles used for training and 29 launchers used for training and closed down nine missile bases and 14 auxiliary buildings. The USSR and the United States eliminated two kinds of missiles with ranges of 1,000 to 5,500 kilometres and 500 to 1,000 kilometres.

1 June 2001 Deputy Foreign minister Aleksandr Losyukov says it is not ruled out that the Russian side may decline further use of the naval base in Cam Ranh (Vietnam) when the lease runs out in 2004.

1 June 2001 Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov confirms Russia's commitment to stop the functioning of two Russian military bases in Vaziani and Gudauta in Georgia by 1 July. He says talks concerning another two Russian bases in Batumi and Akhalkalaki are continuing. Klebanov says that Russia insists that these bases be removed from Georgia in 14 years, while Georgia demands that this be done in three years.

2 June 2001 Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov writes to Human Rights Watch

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Executive Director Holly Cartner denying claims that Chechen forces have been violating human rights.

2 June 2001 Igor Ivanov is interviewed on Russia TV's International Panorama. He says Russia remains committed to the ABM treaty and holds a dialogue with NATO, China and India on strategic stability. He also discusses the CIS and the Eurasian Economic Community.

2 June 2001 Igor Ivanov denounces the Tel Aviv suicide bombing.

The MFA condemns the bombing.

2 June 2001 Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov meets UN Undersecretary-General Pino Arlacchi, who is the head of the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention meet. The Ministry and the United Nations announce their intention to join their forces in the fight against the shadow economy and money laundering.

3 June 2001 MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says following the Tel Aviv bombing, Igor Ivanov has had telephone talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir Arafat and US Secretary of State Colin Powell.

4 June 2001 Ambassador-at-large Andrey Vdovin starts his Middle East tour to hold consultations with countries in the region. He is the special representative of Igor Ivanov.

4 June 2001 The first meeting of the Russian-Indian commission for military-technical cooperation takes place in Moscow. Igor Ivanov has talks with Indian foreign minister Jaswant Singh.

4 June 2001 Khabarovsk Territory governor Viktor Ishayev meets a mission from the Japanese Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren). He also meets a delegation of South Korean politicians and businessmen.

4 June 2001 The Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Aleksey II says that meeting Pope John Paul of Rome is impossible while "the Greek-Catholic war continues against Orthodox believers in Ukraine and until the Vatican stops its expansion into Russia, Belarus and Ukraine".

4 June 2001 Director of the Russian Federal Border Guard Service Gen Konstantin Totskiy departs for South Korea.

4 June 2001 A group of 200 professional servicemen arrives in Tajikistan from the Siberian and Far Eastern military districts to reinforce the 201st Motor-Rifle

Division.

4 June 2001 The press service chief of the group of Russian forces in Transcaucasia, Col Aleksandr Lutskevich, says the transfer of Russia's 137th military base at Vaziani to the Georgian MOD will start on 15 June.

4 June 2001 The military exercises Baltops 2001 begins in the Baltic. The Russian Navy participates.

4 June 2001 Russia produced 139.15m tonnes of oil and gas condensate in the first five months of 2001, up 6.6% or 8.61m tonnes year-on-year. Exports to countries outside the CIS grew 12% to 60,577,000 tonnes, of which transit via Russia was 6,499,000 tonnes.

5 June 2001 Russian special envoy Andrey Vdovin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres hold talks in Tel Aviv. He also has talks with Mahmud Abbas, secretary-general of the PLO Executive Committee. Vdovin meets Head of the Palestinian National Authority Yasir Arafat in Ramallah.

5 June 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov reaffirms Moscow's position that the US withdrawal from the ABM Treaty may lead to complete unpredictability in the sphere of global security. He holds talks with his Canadian opposite number Arthur Eggleton in Moscow.

5 June 2001 Security Council secretary Vladimir Rushaylo has talks in Moscow with Indian foreign minister Jaswant Singh. He expresses concern over the further exacerbation of the conflict in Afghanistan and over threats coming from the Taleban and drug dealers. He says that the trans-border network of terror and drug-smuggling established on the Taleban-controlled territory of Afghanistan poses a direct threat to the security of Central Asia, India, Russia and other states and to global stability as a whole. This common danger should be countered by firm collective efforts on the part of the international community to effectively neutralize the seat of instability in Afghanistan. He says: "Serious concern also stems from enhanced threats to security and stability in the region of Russia's traditional and strategically important interests - Central Asia, from international terrorism and Islamic extremism, above all Afghanistan's Taleban."

5 June 2001 The Russian emergencies minister Sergey Shoygu visits Iraq. He calls for sanctions to be lifted.

5 June 2001 Vietnamese Foreign Affairs Minister Nguyen Dy Nien visits Moscow. He has talks with Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko.

6 June 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov and the director-general of the Iranian Foreign Ministry for the Commonwealth of Independent States and

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Caucasia Firuz Dowlatabadi meet in Moscow the situation in and around Afghanistan.

6 June 2001 Russia and India sign a military cooperation protocol to 2010 at the end of a session of the bilateral intergovernmental commission on military cooperation.

6 June 2001 The Federation Council passes a resolution expressing support for the idea of creating an Association of American and Russian Governors to promote direct trade and economic partnership between constituent parts of the Russian Federation and American states.

6 June 2001 Head of the Russian Emergencies Ministry Sergey Shoygu and Iraqi Interior Minister Mahmud al-Ahmad initial a bilateral intergovernmental agreement on preventing and dealing with emergencies. A programme of cooperation on developing this agreement on emergencies and civil defence is agreed between the Russian Emergencies Ministry and the Iraqi Interior Ministry. Shoygu says his ministry will open an office in Iraq in July.

6 June 2001 Secretary of Security Council Vladimir Rushaylo meets Deputy Undersecretary of the British Foreign Office Stephen Wright. He says the UK experience in Ulster is useful for Russia in Chechnya.

6 June 2001 Security Council secretary Vladimir Rushaylo meets NATO Parliamentary Assembly chairman Rafael Estrella in Moscow, to discuss international security and the participation of international organizations, including the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, in the strengthening of global security. Rushaylo says that Europe is a priority in the Russian foreign policy. "Of all external factors, developments in Europe have the most important impact on Russia."

6 June 2001 Igor Ivanov has talks with the new Japanese foreign minister Makiko Tanaka by telephone.

6 June 2001 Igor Ivanov says Russia is interested in enhancing cooperation with the Organization of American States on concrete projects. Ivanov sends a message to OAS Secretary-General Cesar Gaviria at the 31st session of the OAS General Assembly in Costa Rica.

6 June 2001 Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov says Russia's efforts to fight money laundering provide enough grounds for removing it from the Financial Action Task Force "blacklist." He says Russia is drafting a law on money laundering and has already ratified the European convention on money laundering.

7 June 2001 Vladimir Putin meets the head of the committee for international

affairs of the Duma, Dmitry Rogozin.

7 June 2001 Igor Ivanov says Russia is seriously concerned about the situation in the Middle East. Ivanov meets his German counterpart Joschka Fischer. Ivanov says that the USA, Russia and the European Union are closely coordinating actions to "consolidate a shaky situation which has developed in the region with regard for a cease-fire announced by both sides". He says it is necessary to develop security measures between the sides, and only then speak about a possible resumption of a political dialogue.

7 June 2001 Igor Ivanov attends a meeting of the Council of the Baltic Sea States in Hamburg. Ivanov says Russia hopes to "reach concrete, mutually-acceptable, legally binding understandings" with the EU on Kaliningrad Region.

Russian experts criticise the recent Norwegian law on environmental protection on Spitsbergen. They say it infringes on Russia's rights and interests in the area.

Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov criticises the Baltic states for lack of human rights. He says Estonia has violated the religious rights of Russian-speaking Orthodox believers by refusing to register the Estonian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchy.

7 June 2001 Goskomstat says Russian foreign trade turnover in January-April 2001 increased by 8.5% against the same period in 2000 and amounted to 45.4bn American dollars. Russian foreign trade turnover with non-CIS states amounted to 36.9bn dollars (9.1% up against the same period in 2000). Russian foreign trade turnover with CIS states amounted to 8.5bn dollars (6.2% up against January-April 2000). Russian export in January-April 2001 amounted to 33.4bn dollars (5.4% up against the same period in 2000). Russian export to non-CIS states amounted to 28.7bn dollars and Russian export to CIS states amounted to 4.7bn dollars. Russian imports in January-April 2001 amounted to 12bn dollars (18.4% up against the same period in 2000). Russia imported goods worth 8.2bn dollars from non-CIS states and 3.8bn dollars from CIS states. Russia's top ten trade partners were Germany, Italy, Ukraine, Belarus, the USA, China, Poland, the Netherlands, Great Britain and Kazakhstan.

7 June 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says the international community should develop new approaches towards the settlement of the conflict in Kosovo.

8 June 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov attends a meeting of the Russia-NATO Permanent Joint Council in Brussels. He agrees to the opening of a NATO liaison office in Moscow later this year. He warns that the Macedonia situation is getting out of hand. He criticises KFOR for not demilitarising Kosovo. He meets US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

8 June 2001 Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi writes to Vladimir Putin. Koizumi's message is handed to Putin in Moscow by the head of a Japanese business delegation, Takashi Imai.

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The MFA says Moscow and Tokyo have not recorded "any consent to conduct any separate consultations on the terms of the transfer of the Lesser Kurile Range (Shikotan and Habomai islands) or the future of the islands of Kunashir and Iturup."

8 June 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov visits Turkey.

8 June 2001 The Council of Ministers of the Union of Russia and Belarus meet in Moscow.

8 June 2001 Sergey Shoygu, minister for emergencies, visits Azerbaijan.

8 June 2001 Russian ambassador at large Andrey Vdovin has talks with President of the Palestinian National Authority Yasir Arafat in Ramallah. Vdovin says there have been shifts in Israeli and Palestinian positions.

8 June 2001 A MFA report says some actions of the chiefs of the UN mission in Kosovo and KFOR run counter to Resolution 1244 of the UN Security Council.

9 June 2001 Vladimir Putin presides over a conference on military and technical cooperation between Russia and foreign countries. He stresses the importance of the CIS Collective Security Treaty. He also discusses the concept of state policy in the sphere of military-technical cooperation with foreign countries for the period up to 2010.

9 June 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov presents Gen Vladimir Nikolayevich Yakovlev as chief of headquarters for coordination of the CIS military partnership. This is a decision of the council of CIS state leaders dated 1 June 2001. He was commander of the Strategic Missile Forces. Ivanov says terrorism and extremism are the main threats to CIS members.

9 June 2001 Russia's ambassador to the UN, Sergey Lavrov, says Russia will challenge the concept of smart sanctions in relation to Iraq.

9 June 2001 Yevgenny Primakov visits Tunisia.

10 June 2001 Russian ambassador at large Andrey Vdovin visits Jordan.

11 June 2001 Andrey Vdovin arrives in Egypt.

12 June 2001 deputy Russian Atomic Minister Bulat Nigmatulin says MinAtom has no intention of halting civil nuclear cooperation with Iran and India. He is

commenting on US demands that Russia put a stop to such cooperation in return for large deliveries of spent nuclear fuel.

13 June 2001 Vladimir Putin and Mikhail Kasyanov attend the St.Petersburg Economic Forum. Kasyanov calls for close cooperation with the EU. "Russia will only stand to gain from closer relations with the European Union, from the adoption of EU standards." He urges close cooperation in the energy sector.

14 June 2001 The heads of state of the Shanghai Five meet in Shanghai. Uzbekistan joins, and the group of states now becomes the Shanghai Forum.

Deputy chairman of the Federation Council committee on international affairs Mikhail Margelov speaks in favour of India, Pakistan and Iran eventually becoming members of the Shanghai Forum.

14 June 2001 RIA claims that Taleban leader Mohammad Omar Mojahed met recently in Afghanistan with one of the leaders of the Chechen separatists, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev.

14 June 2001 Andrey Vdovin meets Israeli President Moshe Qatzav and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

14 June 2001 Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko says Russia and Kazakhstan plan to draft in the third quarter of the year an agreement on the transit of Kazakh oil across Russia.

14 June 2001 A MFA report says that Moscow hopes that the adoption of an amended programme of scrapping war chemicals by the Russian government will become an additional incentive for foreign partners in implementing joint projects on technical assistance to Russia in eliminating its chemical weapons arsenal.

15 June 2001 An opinion poll names the USA as the country posing the greatest threat to Russia. 34% felt this. Next is China (5%), Japan (3%). Other states were named by 9% of Russians. 15% of respondents believe there are no such threats. The other 34% of questionnaire participants could not say.

15 June 2001 Russia's UN ambassador Sergey Lavrov says Russia opposes elections in the Serb province of Kosovo as there are no conditions for safe and truly democratic polls.

15 June 2001 Igor Ivanov publishes a major article on foreign policy in *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*.

16 June 2001 Vladimir Putin and US President George Bush meet in Slovenia.

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Putin also meets Slovene leaders in Slovenia. A Kremlin aide says plans are being discussed for Putin to visit Yugoslavia.

16 June 2001 The MFA welcomes the Latvian government's recent decisions making the process of naturalization easier for non-citizens.

17 June 2001 Putin visits Belgrade and Kosovo. Putin repeats Russian opposition to Kosovo elections and independence. He calls for an agreement with the Balkan countries on mutual recognition of sovereignty and territorial integrity. This is the essence of a Russian initiative aimed at furthering a new comprehensive approach to a Balkans settlement. He expresses support for Yugoslav President Vojislav Kostunica's idea on holding a conference on the Balkans.

17 June 2001 Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg visits St Petersburg.

18 June 2001 Chairman of the Duma Defence Committee Gen Andrey Nikolayev calls for the supply of Russian armaments and materiel to Yugoslavia on preferential terms, the modernization of Yugoslavia's weapons and the training of specialists for the Yugoslav army.

18 June 2001 President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leader Jiang Zemin talk by telephone. They discuss the Russian-US summit.

18 June 2001 Vladimir Putin meets outgoing IMF First Deputy Managing Director Stanley Fischer. They discuss the Russian economy.

18 June 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov conducts consultations on strategic stability issues in London with the British Foreign Ministry and Defence Ministry.

18 June 2001 Director of the OSCE Bureau for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Gerard Stoudmann meets Russian human rights commissioner Oleg Mironov and discusses Chechnya.

Russian presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says Russia is interested in the presence of the OSCE mission in Chechnya.

18 June 2001 Russian presidential aide Igor Sergeyev says Russia's position on strategic stability and nuclear security is unchanged.

18 June 2001 Russia's new ambassador to Iran, Aleksandr Maryasov, calls for an expansion of Russo-Iranian economic relations.

Dr M A Smith

18 June 2001 Vladimir Putin appoints Lt-Gen Aleksandr Morozov as Ground Forces chief of staff and first deputy commander.

18 June 2001 Igor Ivanov meets Crown Prince Philippe of Belgium.

19 June 2001 Vladimir Rushaylo, secretary of the Russian Security Council, says there is no threat in Europe whose neutralization would call for the expansion of military blocs, during his meeting with Norwegian Defence Minister Bjoern Tore Godal. He criticises NATO expansion plans.

19 June 2001 President Vladimir Putin and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder talk by phone.

19 June 2001 Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says Russia is unlikely to seek IMF loans even in 2003, a peak year for repayment of its foreign debt.

19 June 2001 CGS Anatoly Kvashnin says the conflict in Kosovo cannot be settled without Yugoslav participation.

19 June 2001 Yevgenny Primamov says the expansion of mediator efforts may promote success in settling the situation in the Middle East. "The expansion of the mediator efforts should involve the countries of Europe, the United States, Russia, Egypt and Jordan." He says attempts to have "one mediator only are not an indication of great experience or wisdom."

19 June 2001 Aleksandr Maryasov, the new Russian ambassador to Iran, says Moscow and Tehran are cooperating closely in promoting the settlement of the situation in Afghanistan, both within the framework of the United Nations and on a bilateral basis. Both Russia and Iran are working to help the Afghans themselves find a political solution to the problem by means of a direct dialogue. He says "Moscow and Tehran believe that Afghanistan should be preserved as an independent, integrated and peaceful country. Both Russia and Iran oppose the turning of the territory, controlled by the Taleban movement, into a base of international terrorism, extremism and drug trafficking." Deputy Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says he "on the whole supports" an initiative by the ex-king for an inter-Afghan meeting to seek a solution to the Afghan conflict.

19 June 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov arrives in Sevastopol to discuss the Black Sea Fleet.

20 June 2001 Igor Ivanov meets US Ambassador to Russia James Collins just before Collins leaves this post. Ivanov says Russia and the United States must resolve joint problems together. He says there are differences between the two countries but they should not be dramatised. He says Moscow and Washington see each other as partners rather than adversaries.

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20 June 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov and Indian deputy foreign minister TCA Rangachari hold consultations in Moscow on strategic stability.

20 June 2001 Russia and Mongolia conclude the process of border demarcation.

20 June 2001 Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka visits Moscow.

20 June 2001 Russia begins pulling out of the military base in Vaziani in Georgia.

20 June 2001 A US military delegation visits the Far Eastern Military District.

20 June 2001 The MFA welcomes the UN Security Council's mission to Kosovo on 15-18 June, organized on Russia's initiative.

20 June 2001 Deputies of the Duma committee on international affairs prepare a draft of a lower house statement "On the persecution of the Orthodox church in Estonia".

20 June 2001 The Moscow Patriarchy condemns Pope John Paul II's planned visit to Ukraine.

21 June 2001 The Moscow patriarchate condemns the invitation to the Pope to visit Russia extended by local Roman Catholic communities without the consent of the Russian Orthodox Church. Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz, head of the Russian Roman Catholics, says that such an invitation has been sent.

21 June 2001 Igor Ivanov says Macedonia should be given all possible help in the struggle against Albanian terrorists. He says "But I would not say in advance that NATO forces should be used." Russian sources say if NATO requests Russian help in any operation to disarm rebels, Russia would consider it.

21 June 2001 The MFA welcomes the EU declaration on the non-proliferation of ballistic missiles, which was adopted at the EU summit in Gothenburg.

21 June 2001 Igor Sergeyev, aide to Vladimir Putin on strategic stability issues, is interviewed in *Izvestiya*.

21 June 2001 The CIS Interior Ministers Council meets in Yerevan.

22 June 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says that at the upcoming UN Security

Council debate on sanctions against Iraq, Russia may come out with its own proposals.

22 June 2001 Igor Ivanov has talks with Polish foreign minister Wladyslaw Bartoszewski. He calls on Poland to oppose NATO widening, and talks on trade and Kaliningrad.

22 June 2001 Col-Gen Gennady Shpak, commander of the Russian airborne forces, says the Russian peacekeeping unit in Bosnia and Hercegovina will be reduced within 10 days from 1,150 to 900 men.

22 June 2001 Austrian President Thomas Klestil and his wife arrive in Russia for a three-day visit.

22 June 2001 The Russian-Georgian talks on the withdrawal of Russian military bases from Georgia have their seventh round in Moscow. The sides have not yet arrived at a consensus on the withdrawal of the Russian bases from Akhalkalaki and Batumi. Russia asks for guarantees that third countries will not use the facilities of these bases.

The MFA reaffirms Russia's commitment to turn over the property of its military base in Vaziani and Gudauta, Georgia, to the Georgian government by July 1.

22 June 2001 The CIS Economic Council meets in Minsk.

23 June 2001 Vladimir Putin says if the ABM Treaty ceases to exist, START-1 and START-2 will cease to exist as well. This means that "all countries, including Russia, will have the right to install multiple nuclear projectiles on their missiles."

23 June 2001 Col-Gen Georgy Shpak, commander of Russia's Airborne Troops, says Russia would be unable to meet a commitment to remove its military base in Gudauta, Abkhazia by 1 July.

24 June 2001 Canadian Foreign Minister John Manley visits Russia.

25 June 2001 Airborne Commander Georgy Shpak says the Russian peacekeeping contingent in the Balkans is ready to team up with NATO troops to assist Macedonia in disarming Albanian separatists.

25 June 2001 The president of the Committee for International Cultural, Scientific and Business Cooperation with Iraq, Yury Shafranik, issues an appeal to the State Duma and public organizations to take measures that can block the passage in the United Nations of the resolution proposed by Britain, which calls for tighter sanctions against Iraq. The appeal was signed among others by the LUKoil,

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Slavneft, SIBUR and Zarubezhneft oil companies.

25 June 2001 Russian Orthodox Church Patriarch Aleksey II is interviewed on TV. He says he thinks it wrong of Pope John Paul II to go ahead with a visit to Ukraine against the wishes of Orthodox believers. However, he adds that he does not rule out the possibility of a meeting with the Pope if the latter's apology for wrongs done by the Catholic confession is proved by deeds.

25 June 2001 Estonian Defence Minister Juri Luik visits Russia.

25 June 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov thinks there can be talks between Moscow and Washington on the problem of antimissile defence. "I don't think that the US decision to deploy a national system of antimissile defence is already irreversible... Russia will not pursue an arms race."

26 June 2001 Former Russian Defence Minister Marshal Igor Sergeev, now the strategic stability aide to the Russian president, expresses concern over the possibility of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

26 June 2001 The MFA says Moscow believes that the first step towards easing the Macedonian situation should entail disarming and disbanding the terrorist units, while continuing a dialogue with legitimately elected representatives of the Albanian population.

26 June 2001 The Indo-Russian joint working group on Afghanistan meets in Moscow. The Indian delegation is headed by First Deputy Foreign Minister Chokila Iyer, and the Russian by First Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov. Moscow and Delhi call on the Taleban movement to stop supporting international terrorism and drug trafficking.

26 June 2001 The MFA says Russia shares the anxiety of the European parliament in connection with a possible refusal of the USA to observe the protocol to the Convention on the Prohibition of Biological Weapons of 1972.

26 June 2001 North Osetian President Aleksandr Dzasokhov visits Turkey.

27 June 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ordzhonikidze says Russia has submitted to the UN Security Council a draft resolution that sets forth clear-cut criteria for suspending and lifting sanctions against Iraq, on condition that a system for monitoring disarmament, based on Security Council resolutions, is deployed in Iraq.

27 June 2001 Deputy Minister for Atomic Energy Vladimir Vinogradov says Russia is completing the construction of the first power-generating unit at the Bushehr

nuclear power plant in Iran. The unit is over 80% built.

27 June 2001 The head of the Russian MOD's international military cooperation department, Col-Gen Leonid Ivashov, says that Moscow and Washington will continue their dialogue on missile defence issues.

State Duma Defence Committee chairman Andrey Nikolayev says the United States may crudely violate the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty without pulling out of it by testing Minuteman missiles as tools to intercept ballistic missiles, modernizing and building radar stations in Norway and Britain and constructing launching positions for interceptors of ballistic missiles in Alaska. If it does, Russia may be forced to withdraw from the treaty. Nikolayev says Russia may respond by not eliminating its heavy missiles carrying 10-warhead SS-18 and SS-22, increasing the number of warheads delivered by Sineva missiles fired from Project-667 submarines from 6 to 10 and installing 3 warheads on Topol-M missiles.

27 June 2001 The head of the Russian MOD's main international military cooperation department, Col-Gen Leonid Ivashov, believes that the exacerbation of the situation in Macedonia is the result of NATO complicity with the Albanian rebels in Kosovo.

27 June 2001 The MFA's envoy for Cyprus V Prygin has expressed concern about the standstill in the Cypriot settlement. He visited Ankara, Athens and Nicosia on 8-23 June for consultations on the Cypriot issue.

27-28 June 2001 The MFA argues against US-British proposals for smart sanctions against Iraq at an open UN Security Council debate.

28 June 2001 Russian Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says he is pessimistic about prospects for settling the conflict in Macedonia.

Dmitry Rogozin, chief of the Russian delegation to the PACE session and the State Duma international committee, calls on the European parliament members for political, moral, economic and military support for the legitimate administration of Macedonia.

Andrey Nikolayev, chairman of the defence committee of the State Duma says NATO attempts to stabilize the situation in Macedonia will result in nothing.

28 June 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov receives Iranian ambassador to Russia Mehdi Safari.

28 June 2001 The Russian Main Military Prosecutor's Office announces that it regards as non-constructive the criticism of their work in Chechnya levelled by Council of Europe Secretary-General Walter Schwimmer, who has criticized the way investigations are made into crimes perpetrated by servicemen against civilians.

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28 June 2001 MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says Russia praises Kofi Annan's activity in the post of UN secretary-general.

28 June 2001 Russian MFA envoy for the Middle East Andrey Vdovin flies to Israel, which will be the first leg of his tour of the region. He will also visit the Palestinian autonomy, Egypt and Jordan. This is his second tour. He says that the Russian co-sponsor of the Middle East settlement will be acting "as before in close cooperation with the American co-sponsor, representatives of the European Union and the United Nations".

28 June 2001 MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says that Russia will continue its dialogue with the European Union in creating the future architecture of European security and cooperation in settling crisis situations. He says that Russia and the European Union will start working on the concept of new economic space in compliance with agreements reached at the Moscow summit. They will also step up cooperation in the energy sector, science and technology.

28 June 2001 Dmitry Rogozin, the head of the Duma International Affairs Committee, says that Moscow and Vilnius should coordinate and forward to Brussels a joint position on ensuring the vitality of its Kaliningrad Region after the European Union (EU) expands. "I believe there should be special agreements on Kaliningrad Region between the EU from one side and Lithuania and Russia from another."

28 June 2001 Russia forbids flights of Georgian airlines from traversing its airspace. This is Russia's response to the actions of the Georgian aviation authorities, which recently halved the number of flights between Moscow and Tbilisi.

29 June 2001 Igor Ivanov says the extradition of the former FRY president Slobodan Milosevic to the Hague Tribunal "will not bring extra stability to Yugoslavia."

The Federation Council issues a statement criticising the extradition of Slobodan Milosevic.

Ekho Moskvy interviews Deputy Chairman of the Russian Duma's International Affairs Committee Konstantin Kosachev on the extradition of Milosevic.

29 June 2001 The head of the Russian Defence Ministry's main directorate for international military cooperation, Col-Gen Leonid Ivashov, says that "Russia and NATO are not holding consultations at an official level on a joint operation to disarm Albanian fighters in Macedonia". He says NATO supports instability in the Balkans.

The MOD says Russia will not send a military contingent to take part in NATO's operation to disarm Albanian rebels in Macedonia. It says such operations can only be carried out if they are sanctioned by the UN Security Council.

29 June 2001 Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says he welcomes the visit of US Secretary of State Colin Powell to Israel.

Igor Ivanov is interviewed in *Pravda* on the Middle East. He says nobody can unravel alone the knot of problems in the Middle East. "We are working in close coordination with the United Nations, Egypt, Jordan, the United States, the European Union and probably with all the members of the world community interested in the stabilization of the situation in the Middle East."

Yasir Arafat, President of the Palestinian National Authority, meets Andrey Vdovin, the Russian Foreign Minister's special envoy in charge of the Middle East peace process, in Ramallah.

29 June 2001 The MFA criticises US plans to significantly increase the defence budget in 2002.

Nezavisimaya Gazeta publishes a detailed article on changes in US military strategy under the Bush Administration.

The MOD's international cooperation chief, Col-Gen Leonid Ivashov says the MOD sees changes to the Soviet-American Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty as possible but says current US proposals would wreck it.

29 June 2001 Vladimir Putin congratulates Simeon II, former king of Bulgaria and leader of the country's Simeon II National Movement, on the group's victory in recent Bulgarian parliamentary elections.

29 June 2001 The Russian government decides to approve and submit to the Duma for ratification an intergovernmental agreement between Russia, India and Iran on the North-South transport corridor signed on 12 September 2000 in St Petersburg. The Transport Ministry states that freight transport along the international transport corridor may exceed 15m tonnes a year in the next few years. Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Baltic and Persian Gulf states have shown willingness to join.

29 June 2001 Russian MOD spokesman Col Gen Leonid Ivashov says Moscow may withdraw its peacekeeping contingent from KFOR.

29 June 2001 Vladimir Kulakov, an expert from the Ministry for Federation Affairs, Ethnic and Migration Policy says about 800,000 migrants came to Russia in 2000. 20,000 of them are refugees from the former Soviet republics.

30 June 2001 Former Russian defence minister, now presidential adviser for strategic stability, Igor Sergeyev is interviewed on Russia TV (state television) channel's programme *Mezhdunarodnaya Panorama*. He says Moscow will respond if Washington withdraws from the ABM Treaty.

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30 June 2001 AP official Vladimir Kozhin says Russia's property abroad will be managed by the Foreign Ministry and the president's administrative department.

30 June 2001 The Russian MOD signs official documents under which the 50th military base in Gudauta, in Abkhazia, has been handed over to Georgia.

30 June 2001 The website of the Chechen presidency criticises the Council of Europe over Chechnya.

30 June 2001 Nikolay Kartuzov, special envoy of the Russian minister of foreign affairs, says the adoption of a resolution by the UN Security Council based on the idea of so-called "smart sanctions" against Iraq would be counterproductive.

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