

Russian Foreign Policy: Chronology

July-September 2001

July

1 July 2001 President Vladimir Putin and French President Jacques Chirac meet in St Petersburg. Putin calls for a Europe from Atlantic to the Urals. He confirms the readiness of Russia to work in cooperation with the EU on the common economic space in Europe.

1 July 2001 A delegation of Duma deputies visits Iraq.

1 July 2001 Russia's deputy finance minister Aleksey Ulyukayev says that Russia could make payments on its foreign debts in full. He says taking into consideration the current oil prices and economic growth, Russia was in a position to pay off its debts, including in the most difficult year for the country - 2003 - on which the peak of payments falls. Russia should pay off a total of 19.5bn dollars in 2003 against 14.5bn dollars in 2001 and some 15bn dollars in 2002. The Finance Ministry assumes that oil prices should be no lower than 17-18.5 dollars per barrel. The years 2005 and 2008 will also be difficult for Russia, which will have to pay its creditors some 16bn-17bn dollars.

1 July 2001 Russia's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Iraq, Aleksandr Shein says Russia, as a member of the UN Security Council with a right of veto, will not allow the approval of the smart sanctions regime against Iraq.

2 July 2001 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov in Salzburg says he does not rule out that Russia may one day join the EU.

2 July 2001 Russia and Iran sign an agreement on cooperation in the retooling of the Iranian oil and gas complex.

2 July 2001 *Kommersant* reports that Russia and Armenia have reached a deal on gas debts and the Iran pipeline following talks between Armenian Energy Minister Karen Galustyan, representatives of Gazprom and the Itera company.

3 July 2001 The newspaper *Versiya* carries a report on a statement given by Chief of the General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin on 22 June reviewing Russia's security threats.

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3 July 2001 Mikhail Kasyanov says Russia intends to step up its relations with EU member nations in every field. He says Russia would like to join the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as soon as possible.

3 July 2001 Vladimir Rushaylo, secretary of the Security Council, and his Kyrgyz counterpart Kemelbank Nanayev meet in Moscow.

3 July 2001 The MOD says the chief of the Ministry's main international military cooperation department Col-Gen Leonid Ivashov will leave his office in the near future.

3 July 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ordzhonikidze says that Moscow calls for settling not only the Iraqi problem but also the overall situation in the region.

3 July 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov talks with PLO leader Yasir Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and US Secretary of State Colin Powell.

3 July 2001 The Foreign Ministry (MFA) ambassador at large, Andrey Vdovin, on a special mission in the Middle East, meets in Amman Jordanian Foreign Minister Abdel Ilah al-Khatib and conveys to him a message from Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov.

3 July 2001 Mikhail Kasyanov says Russia is striving for togetherness with the EU.

3 July 2001 Deputy foreign minister Aleksandr Losyukov says it is incorrect to explain the rapprochement of Russia and China with anti-American feelings or the striving for "a military-political union".

4 July 2001 The Duma passes a decision "On the need to lift the economic sanctions against the Republic of Iraq".

Secretary of the Security Council Vladimir Rushaylo says the Iraqi issue can be resolved only by political means through strict compliance with all UN Security Council resolutions.

MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says Russia regards as a sensible compromise the unanimous approval by the United Nations Security Council of Resolution 1360 extending the UN oil-for-food programme for Iraq till 30 November.

4 July 2001 In Moscow First Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov and the US ambassador to Russia, James Collins, discuss regulation of the Karabakh problem.

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4 July 2001 Igor Ivanov says Russia comes out for the preservation of the independence, unity and sovereignty of a friendly Afghanistan. He holds talks with the foreign minister in the internationally recognized Afghan government, Dr Abdollah.

4 July 2001 Georgian Ambassador to Russia Zurab Abashidze says Georgia will demand that Russia unconditionally implement the agreement on the withdrawal of the military base from Gudauta (Abkhazia). He says, "We are not satisfied with the explanations why this has not been done by July 1".

4 July 2001 The Sakhalin Region дума has asked Vladimir Putin to look into statements about an alleged understanding with Japan concerning that country taking over the Southern Kurile islands of Shikotan and Habomai from Russia. The legislature wants to know whether Russian ambassador to Japan Aleksandr Panov told the *Yomiuri* newspaper about these territorial concessions.

4 July 2001 The Duma calls on OSCE MPs to restore the rights of the Belarus parliament in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

4 July 2001 Vladimir Putin sends a message to Croatian President Stipe Mesic praising Croatia's role in the Balkans settlement process.

4 July 2001 Macedonian ambassador Dimitar Dimitrov says Macedonia welcomes Russia's involvement in the Balkan settlement.

4 July 2001 Chiefs of border agencies of countries of the north-west Pacific hold their second meeting in St Petersburg. Taking part in the meeting are representatives of Russia, the United States, Canada, Japan, and Korea. China's Social Security Ministry has been invited as an observer.

4 July 2001 The MOD says the opening of the Russian-American centre for exchanging information received from early-warning systems is being delayed through Washington's fault.

4 July 2001 Yury Baluyevskiy, first deputy head of the General Staff, addresses the Duma on the status of the formation of forces for the CIS collective security system.

5 July 2001 Russian border guards seized 1,373.8 kg of drugs including over 990 kg of heroin on the Afghanistan-Tajikistan frontier from January to June 2001, which makes over 95% of the total amount of seized drugs.

5 July 2001 Goskomstat states that Russia's January-May trade turnover totals 57.4bn dollars up 9.2% year on year. Russia's trade with the CIS countries in the

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the period came to 10.8bn dollars, (up 7.6% year on year) and trade with the rest of the world 46.6bn dollars (up 9.6%).

The favourable trade balance figured 26bn versus 26.9bn dollars for the comparable period in 2000, including trade with the CIS - 1bn dollars versus 1.4bn, and with the rest of the world - 25bn versus 25.5bn dollars.

Russia's main trade partners in the period stayed Germany - 10.2% (9.5% in 2000), Italy - 6.7% (6%), Ukraine - 6.7% (7%), Belarus - 6.6% (6.8%), the USA - 5% (5.6%), China - 4% (3.9%), Poland - 3.9% (3.7%), the Netherlands - 3.7% (3.8%), Kazakhstan - 3.6% (3.1%), and the UK - 3.6% (4.3%).

5 July 2001 Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov says Russia is prepared to purchase 60bn cubic metres of Turkmen gas annually over the next 10 years.

6 July 2001 A delegation of US Democratic minority congressmen visit Russia.

6 July 2001 Russian and Slovenian Foreign Ministers Igor Ivanov and Dimitrij Rupel meet in Moscow.

6 July 2001 MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says Russia has suggested that the aggregate number of nuclear warheads currently possessed by the five nuclear powers (Russia, the USA, Britain, China, and France) be reduced from the present 14,000 to 4,000 by 2009.

6 July 2001 President Vladimir Putin and US President George W Bush speak by telephone.

6 July 2001 Russian ambassador at large Andrey Vdovin meets Lebanese President Emile Lahhud and Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in Beirut to discuss problems in the Israel-Syria-Lebanon triangle.

7 July 2001 Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin, on a visit to Italy, meets Italian Deputy Prime Minister Gianfranco Fini, Minister of Economy and Finance Giulio Tremonti and Minister of Industry and Trade Antonio Marzano.

7 July 2001 *Kavkaz Tsent* website reports Aslan Maskhadov condemning the neutrality of European states over Chechnya.

7 July 2001 Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin and US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill meet for talks on Russia's accession to the WTO. Kudrin is attending a meeting of G8 finance ministers.

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8 July 2001 Russian ambassador-at-large Andrey Vdovin has talks in Syria with the Syrian foreign minister Faruq al-Shar'a.

8 July 2001 Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia Aleksey II says the visit by Pope John Paul II to Ukraine did not help to improve relations between people of different religions.

8 July 2001 World Bank President James Wolfensohn says the World Bank fully backs Vladimir Putin's initiatives to turn Russia "into a very serious competitive state".

9 July 2001 Vladimir Putin says at a meeting with Wolfensohn that "it is necessary to move on a wide front" in carrying out reforms in Russia. He mentions judicial reform and military reform, land and customs reforms, a new Labour Code, structural changes in major monopolies - United Energy Systems, Gazprom and the Ministry of Railways - as well as banking reform.

9 July 2001 Interpol says it refuses to put Vladimir Gusinskiy, head of Russia's Media-MOST company, on its wanted list.

9 July 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov has talks with his Malaysian counterpart Syed Hamid Jafar Albar.

9 July 2001 Chairman of the Duma's Defence Committee Andrey Nikolayev describes the withdrawal of Russian military bases from Georgia as "a serious problem".

9 July 2001 Duma speaker Gennady Seleznev attends the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. He criticises NATO and says the OSCE should be the main European security organisation.

9 July 2001 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov signs a resolution to allow the Council of Europe to set up information offices in Russia.

9 July 2001 Vladimir Putin has a telephone conversation with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

9 July 2001 Sergey Shoygu, Russian minister of civil defence, emergencies and natural disasters, meets Iraqi Oil Minister Amir Muhammad Rashid in Moscow.

10 July 2001 The Russian government approves the draft protocol to the US-Russian treaty on safe and reliable transport, storage and destruction of arms and arms non-proliferation.

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10 July 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Russia will react in the most positive manner to a Mongolian request to join the Shanghai organization for cooperation. He is finishing his three-day visit to China.

10 July 2001 Deputy prime minister Ilya Klebanov says Russia will remove its military bases from Georgia and thereby comply with the Istanbul agreements.

10 July 2001 A Council of Europe report on Chechnya criticises Russian actions in Chechnya.

10 July 2001 Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko and World Bank President James Wolfensohn present a pilot project of the resettlement of people from the North in Norilsk.

11 July 2001 Vladimir Putin is interviewed on Italian TV. He welcomes EU eastward widening.

11 July 2001 Vladimir Putin and Moldovan President Vladimir Voronin hold talks in Moscow.

11 July 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov has talks with his Kyrgyz counterpart Muratbek Imanaliyev in Moscow.

11 July 2001 The MFA calls on Israel and Palestine to show restraint.

11 July 2001 The MFA discusses cooperation with foreign countries in processing scrapped weapons and military hardware.

11 July 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Yevgeny Gusev says if NATO expands eastwards, Russia "will not be neutral ground or a buffer zone". He is speaking at a conference on European and global security in Greece. He says Moscow believes that Russia should follow "a European way" and views as the most appropriate "a model of Russia integrated in a community of democratic partner states".

12 July 2001 *Kavkaz Tsent* website reports that former Chechen president Zelimkhan Yandarbiev has criticised the Arab world for not supporting Chechnya.

12 July 2001 Presidential aide on strategic stability Igor Sergeev says "under the smokescreen" of consultations with Russia and its NATO allies, the USA "has obviously made the decision to leave the 1972 ABM Treaty and is actively preparing the international public for that move".

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12 July 2001 Dmitry Rogozin, chairman of the Duma international affairs committee, says the strength of the army group deployed on the territory of the Kaliningrad Region depends a great deal on the development of the situation in Europe, particularly NATO.

12 July 2001 The Duma issues a statement on the need to step up efforts towards admitting the union of Moldova and the Dnestr region to the Russian-Belarusian union.

The foreign minister of Ukraine, Russia and Moldova meet in Kiev and sign a communique on Dnestr.

12 July 2001 Russia's envoy to the European Court of Human Rights Pavel Laptev condemns the death penalty in the USA and says it may hinder US-Russian cooperation in fighting terrorism.

12 July 2001 Russia and Germany hold consultations focused on strategic stability and Russia's initiatives on ABM and START. The Russian delegation was led by Deputy Foreign Minister and political director dealing with relations with the G8 Georgy Mamedov and Germany was represented by Foreign Ministry political director Klaus Scharioth.

12 July 2001 Pavel Laptev, Russia's plenipotentiary representative at the European Court of Human Rights, says Russia's representatives at the court have suggested that the judges adopt Russia's proposals to depoliticize the court.

13 July 2001 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov has talks with Kuwaiti Information Minister Ahmad Fahd al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

13 July 2001 President Vladimir Putin and French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin talk by telephone.

13 July 2001 The MFA expresses concern over US plans to test ABM systems.

13 July 2001 Gazprom official Yury Komarov says a statement by Ukraine that Ukraine intends to take Russian gas from export pipelines that lie across its territory is an absurdity.

Gazprom and China welcome the company having been selected as foreign partner in a project to lay a 4,000-kilometre gas pipeline in China.

13 July 2001 Prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov has talks with World Bank President James Wolfensohn on a World Bank strategy for Russia that will be built around the Russian cabinet's medium-term economic programme.

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13 July 2001 Lt-Gen Anatoly Mazurkevich is appointed head of the MOD department for international military cooperation, replacing Leonid Ivashov.

14 July 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Vdovin visits Egypt.

14 July 2001 Macedonian Ambassador to Russia Dimitar Dimitrov is interviewed on Russian TV. He calls for Russian peace-keeping forces in Macedonia.

14 July 2001 Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says that Russia is not going to revise the time of its admission to the WTO for the time being.

14 July 2001 Minister of economic development and trade German Gref says that according to a forecast made by the Ministry, towards the end of 2001 GDP growth will be higher than estimated and reach 4-5%.

15 July 2001 The MFA condemns the USA national missile defence (NMD) test.

15 July 2001 Chinese President Jiang Zemin arrives in Moscow. He and Putin will sign a peace, friendship and cooperation treaty.

15 July 2001 Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Russian special envoy Andrey Vdovin meet in Egypt.

Vdovin holds talks in Cairo with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat.

16 July 2001 Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz receives Nikolay Kortozov, the Russian special missions envoy. Kortozov conveyed to Aziz a letter from Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov dealing with the Iraqi issue at the UN Security Council and Russia's clear position in aborting the attempts by the USA and its allies to adopt a new resolution within the framework of the unjust resolutions against Iraq.

16 July 2001 The MFA calls for "taking into account Russia's specific interests" in working out international documents concerning the regulation of emissions.

17 July 2001 Vladimir Putin meets Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Simitis in Moscow.

17 July 2001 The MFA welcomes the Indo-Pakistani summit.

17 July 2001 It is reported that precommissioning work is being completed at the Baranavichi radar station in Belarus. The station will allow Russian Military Space Forces to establish more reliable and efficient monitoring of the western and northwestern directions.

17 July 2001 Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov and Chinese Chairman Jiang Zemin sign agreement on technical and economic aspects of an oil pipeline connecting the two countries.

17 July 2001 Russian and Georgian experts in Moscow discuss the military base in Gudauta. The Russian side rejects a proposal by the Georgian delegation that the Bombora airfield in Gudauta should be dismantled.

17 July 2001 Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Manh Cam visits Russia.

18 July 2001 Igor Ivanov holds talks with US Secretary of State Colin Powell in Rome. They discuss strategic stability, the Balkans, Iraq and the Middle East. Igor Ivanov says Russia believes that an international presence in the Middle East "in a form acceptable to both Palestine and Israel would help to check the dangerous tendencies in that region".

18 July 2001 Vladimir Putin meets the secretary of the Ukrainian Security Council, Yevhen Marchuk.

18 July 2001 The MFA expresses concern about the activity of subversive and terrorist groups in Abkhazia.

18 July 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov expresses regret that the G7 countries have turned their backs on a promise made at the Cologne summit to restructure Russian debts.

18 July 2001 Japanese Foreign Minister Makiko Tanaka and Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov agree to continue negotiations aimed at resolving a long-standing territorial dispute and concluding a bilateral peace treaty.

19 July 2001 G8 foreign ministers meet in Rome. Igor Ivanov says Russia and the US have no disagreements over the Middle East.

19 July 2001 The presidential information department says the capital drain from Russia was over 11bn dollars in 2000. About 80% of capital went to the USA. The volume of foreign investment in the Russian economy in 2000 was 7,888m dollars.

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19 July 2001 Russian presidential aide on strategic stability Marshal Igor Sergeyev says it is necessary to preserve the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in order to maintain strategic stability. He expresses optimism over the prospects for a compromise over ABM treaty. He says Moscow will interpret as a hostile act a possible deployment of so-called "antimissiles" in outer space, which could be done within the framework of the US national missile defence. Sergeyev says "the USA is planning to complete a strategic review in October or maybe later". He says "then, concrete discussions can be started in two directions - the fate of the national missile defence system and the ABM Treaty, if the treaty remains unchanged or talks will continue to withdraw from or modify it." Sergeyev says the architecture of a new strategic security system should envisage reducing nuclear arsenals. He also says that the future of global security lies in setting up a collective security system in Europe as an alternative to NATO. "The setting up of a collective security system in Europe would enable the voice of every party to be heard ... "the NATO defence alliance" may be transformed into such a system." He also says that Russia is ready for the creation of a European missile defence system on the basis of proposals obtained from the European NATO countries.

Sergeyev says that Moscow will view the digging of silos for anti-missile missiles and the installation of radars in Alaska as the first signs of a US withdrawal from the ABM Treaty. He calls for maintaining the basic elements of START-1.

19 July 2001 A group of diplomats from Sweden, Belgium, the USA and Russian officials overlooking population, refugee and the migration issue arrive in Ingushetia.

19 July 2001 The MFA denies allegations made by a spokesman of the Afghan Taliban concerning a secret military base created by Russia in the Afghan province of Badakhshan.

20 July 2001 Goskomstat says Russia ended the first five months of 2001 with a foreign trade surplus of 23bn dollars compared with a surplus of 24bn dollars for the same period in 2000. Russia's foreign trade turnover grew by 8.8% in January-May 2001, with exports growing by 4.9% and imports by 18.2%.

Russia increased its food imports in the period between January and May. In the first five months of 2001, Russian imported 462,200 tonnes of meat, which is 3.5 times more than for the corresponding period of 2000 (133,300 tonnes).

20 July 2001 The Federation Council votes to allow Russian units to serve in the international peacekeeping force in Kosovo until 10 June 2002. It reduced the number of servicemen there by 216 to 3,400. The council also agreed to let up to 3,000 men serve in the collective peacekeeping force in the area of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict until 31 December 2001.

20 July 2001 Secretary of the Russian Security Council Vladimir Rushaylo meets with Condoleezza Rice, national security adviser to the US president, in Genoa at the G8 summit.

20 July 2001 The Russian foreign minister's envoy, Andrey Vdovin, arrives in Israel for talks. The G8 foreign ministers who met in Rome earlier this week suggested establishing a new mechanism to monitor the cease-fire. A new formula, suiting the two conflicting parties, should be worked out to make this mechanism work. Vdovin says if launched, the "external monitoring" mechanism may offer concrete ways to overcome the Middle East crisis.

20 July 2001 Vladimir Putin attends G8 Genoa summit.

21 July 2001 A Yugoslav parliamentary delegation ends its visit to Russia.

21 July 2001 The president of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria, Aslan Maskhadov, sends an appeal to US President George Bush over the beginning of the G7 summit in Genoa.

21 July 2001 President Vladimir Putin invites Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to visit Russia. Koizumi repeats Tokyo's position that Russia must return its four South Kurile islands to Japan. "The Russian position on this remains unchanged: Moscow is ready to continue work on a peace treaty and in the course of this take into account the Moscow Declaration of 1956."

21 July 2001 President Putin invites Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi to visit Russia.

21 July 2001 Russian ambassador-at-large Andrey Vdovin meets PLO leader Yasir Arafat in the Gaza Strip.

22 July 2001 Presidents Vladimir Putin and George Bush agree at the G8 summit in Genoa that offensive and defensive missile systems will henceforth be considered in tandem. The two sides agreed to aim for significant cutbacks in offensive weapons. Vladimir Putin stressed that a combined approach to both offensive and defensive weapons systems could create a situation in which Russia would not need to respond to US withdrawal from the ABM treaty.

22 July 2001 Putin praises the G8's common stand on Macedonia. He expresses support for the Kyoto protocol.

23 July 2001 The MFA's ambassador-at-large Andrey Vdovin says the Mitchell plan should make a basis for settlement of the standoff between Israelis and Palestinians. He says:

"We coordinated acts with other intermediaries from the USA, the UN, Europe, and this cooperation has played a key role. Now the collective efforts of the international community have found an expression in the statement on the Middle East by the participants of the G8 summit -

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about the need for an immediate transition to implementation of the Mitchell commission's recommendations and the creation for this purpose of monitoring by a third party ... this monitoring is necessary, as, regrettably, the parties in the conflict still absolutely do not trust each other, and an escalation of the standoff is noticeable."

23 July 2001 A delegation of the Far Eastern directorate of the Russian Federal Border Guard Service, headed by the directorate's chief, Col-Gen Aleksandr Golbakh, visits China.

23 July 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov denies that Russia has changed its attitude on the ABM treaty following the G8 Genoa summit.

24 July 2001 Sergey Ivanov says that only after an expert analysis would it be possible to talk about the possibility of changing some of the provisions of the ABM treaty. He says:

"If experts come to the conclusion that certain changes in the ABM treaty do not undermine Russia's national security, then I will report this to the president. If not, the ABM treaty will remain unchanged."

Ivanov says that for the first time the Russian and US leaders realized the need to consider the problem of offensive and defensive weapons as a whole. Ivanov says Russia has its own list of so-called rogue countries to the south of Russia. "This is a real threat, but we believe that this threat and 'rogue countries' were just a pretext for withdrawing from the ABM treaty". He says that the most that "rogue countries" can do is to build medium-range missiles, which poses a threat to Russia first of all. "Therefore, we are in favour of strict non-proliferation regulations. We are not suicidal."

24 July 2001 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov visits Finland. He will discuss a project for building a gas pipeline on the bed of the Baltic Sea via Finland to the north of Europe.

24 July 2001 Igor Ivanov visits Vietnam to attend an ASEAN regional forum. He says Russia and the USA may soon start detailed consultations on the interconnected problems of offensive and defensive weapon systems.

24 July 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says it is necessary to close the Russian military base in Cam Ranh in Vietnam.

24 July 2001 The MFA sharply criticizes Albanian militants of the National Liberation Army in Macedonia and has fully backed moves by the Macedonian authorities.

25 July 2001 Secretary of Russia's Security Council, Vladimir Rushaylo, meets US National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice in Moscow. Russia repeats its proposal to reduce offensive nuclear weapons to 1,500 warheads by 2008. Rice says the time has come "to abandon the era of the ABM treaty".

25 July 2001 Trade turnover between Russia and the USA for the first five months of 2001, as compared with the same period of 2000, fell by 3% to 2.87bn dollars. In January-May 2001 the US share accounted for 5% of Russia's total trade turnover. The USA occupies fifth place among Russia's main trade partners (after Germany, Italy, Ukraine and Belarus). In 2000 trade turnover between Russia and the USA came to 7,313m dollars. The basic items of Russia's export to the USA were raw materials and semi-finished products.

25 July 2001 Igor Ivanov attends a session of the ASEAN Regional Forum in Hanoi. He says the implementation of US plans to deploy National Missile Defence and regional Theatre Missile Defence in northeast Asia could seriously destabilize the situation in the Asia-Pacific region. He meets US Secretary of State Colin Powell at the ASEAN forum. Ivanov says that Russian and American experts are expected to begin consultations soon on mutually-linked problems of defensive and offensive weapons.

25 July 2001 Russian diplomatic sources say Moscow and Hanoi have negotiated a plan to pull out Russia's military base from Cam Ranh.

26 July 2001 The Security Council discusses the future of Kaliningrad. Putin says Kaliningrad Region may serve as a testing ground for interaction between Russia and Europe. He says when its neighbours join the European Union, Kaliningrad Region may become an enclave in a united Europe.

26 July 2001 US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill visits Moscow. Putin asks that the US open up its market to Russia.

26 July 2001 NSA Condoleezza Rice has talks with defence minister Sergey Ivanov and says Russia and the USA need to find a new basis for cooperation and go beyond the agreements that were formed during Cold War years. Ivanov says "nobody knows the details of a new security structure today". Rice says Russia and the USA come to agreement on nonproliferation issues and are talking about peaceful settlement in Karabakh, the Middle East and in the Balkans. A new era of cooperation has started and one should go away from the Cold War.

26 July 2001 Chairman of the Duma International Affairs Committee Dmitry Rogozin says that NATO should disarm the Albanian rebels in Macedonia. He says the US is responsible for the situation in Macedonia.

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26 July 2001 A special train of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il crosses the Russian border and arrives at the Russian Khasan railway station. It continues to Moscow.

Igor Ivanov says Russia seeks to keep good-neighbour and partner relations with both North and South Korea. He says the Korean dialogue and North Korea's talks with the USA, Japan, as well as the four-party dialogue of North Korea, South Korea, the USA and China could be extended into a broader format.

26 July 2001 Igor Ivanov says at the ASEAN forum in Hanoi that Russia is working out an idea of a multilateral forum on security and cooperation in Northeast Asia.

26 July 2001 A VTsIOM poll gives the following views on China. 31% of Russians believe that China will be Russia's ally and yet another 15% feel it will be Russia's friend in the 21st century. 21% of respondents hold a neutral view, regarding China neither as an ally nor a foe. 16% look at it as a potentially dangerous neighbour, while 3% are convinced it will become Russia's adversary. 56% think the high profile of Chinese firms and workforce in tapping Siberian and Far Eastern wealth will be dangerous for Russia, and 24% believe it will do Russia good.

26 July 2001 The MFA expresses concern over the US refusal to back the draft of a verification protocol to the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention.

26 July 2001 Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says Russia and the USA will over the week confirm plans for the next six months of negotiations on Russia joining the WTO, following discussions between Kudrin, German Gref and the US secretaries of treasury and commerce, Paul O'Neil and Donald Evans.

27 July 2001 Deputy secretary of the Security Council Oleg Chernov says that countries such as North Korea and Iran could participate in the dialogue over the 1972 ABM treaty.

27 July 2001 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says Russia's joining the WTO will help its integration in the world economy.

27 July 2001 The MFA says it supports a decision by OPEC oil ministers to reduce oil production by 1m barrels per day (to 23.2m barrels per day) from 1 September.

27 July 2001 The MOD says it is reducing the Russian contingent in the peace-keeping forces in Bosnia by 250 men to 900. Trains started withdrawing equipment on 24 July.

27 July 2001 The Russian Federal Border Guard Service says it will strengthen its naval contingent in the Caspian Sea.

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27 July 2001 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov holds final talks with the US government delegation led by Commerce Secretary Donald Evans and Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill.

28 July 2001 Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma meet in Crimea.

30 July 2001 The Russian Federation Ambassador to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin expresses surprise over a statement by the Moscow mayor, Yury Luzhkov. Attending the celebration of the Russian navy day in Sevastopol, Luzhkov reiterated his well-known belief, according to which Crimea and Sevastopol belong to Ukraine illegally.

30 July 2001 The MFA expresses concern over the new wave of confrontation in the Middle East. It said that "the actions of Israeli religious fanatics in the old part of Jerusalem near the Al Aksa compound had provoked fierce clashes in which several dozen Palestinians and Israelis were injured. Moscow is particularly concerned about Jerusalem's sacred places once again becoming an arena of confrontation ... Russia is prepared to facilitate the earliest possible normalization of the situation and the launching of full-scale political talks to open the way to a fair solution of the problem of Jerusalem".

31 July 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov denies that Moscow is prepared to make concessions over the ABM treaty. He says: "These reports have no serious grounds. To say whether or not we are prepared to compromise, we need to know theoretically what exactly this compromise is to be like. At the moment we have no idea of it ... there are no disagreements over the ABM and START problems between Russia and the USA so far, as the actual agenda of the talks has not yet been determined. However, there is the understanding that defensive systems will be linked to offensive systems".

31 July 2001 The MFA says Russia will actively join efforts to launch monitoring of the implementation of UN sanctions against the Taleban.

31 July 2001 Deputy Foreign Ministers Viktor Kalyuzhnyy and Aleksandr Losyukov express their concern over the recent Iranian-Azeri dispute over hydrocarbon deposits on the Caspian Sea bed, during their meeting with the Iranian ambassador at the Russian Foreign Ministry.

August

1 August 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov restates Russian opposition to NATO widening.

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1 August 2001 Lt-Gen Nikolay Staskov, chief of staff of Russia's airborne forces, says Russia will nearly halve its peacekeeping force in Bosnia to 600.

1 August 2001 An unofficial CIS summit takes place in Sochi.

2 August 2001 The Russian foreign minister's special representative for the Middle East peace process, Andrey Vdovin, leaves for the Middle East. The main purpose of his trip is to visit Israel and the Palestinian National Authority.

2 August 2001 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia will not send military contingents on peacekeeping duties to Macedonia. He says Russia will not withdraw peace-keeping forces from Kosovo or Bosnia.

3 August 2001 Diplomatic sources say that Russia is calling for a summit of the Caspian littoral states (Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Iran) to be conducted as early as possible.

3 August 2001 Russia's envoy in the Middle East Andrey Vdovin meets Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat in Gaza.

4 August 2001 Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Il have talks in Moscow.

6 August 2001 The MFA issues a statement on the Middle East calling on Israel and the Palestinian sides to show restraint. It says: "Recipes for resolving the conflict are in the Mitchell Commission's recommendations adopted by the sides and backed by the international community".

6 August 2001 The Izhneftemash oil equipment production company opens a branch in Aleppo, Syria. Meanwhile, the Zarubezhneft foreign trade company has agreed to set up a joint venture with partners in Syria.

6 August 2001 Russian ambassador at large Nikolay Kartuzov meets Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz in Cairo.

6 August 2001 Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov and Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in Moscow Lee Jae-chun discuss the situation on the Korean Peninsula.

7 August 2001 A Russian military delegation, headed by Yury Baluyevskiy, first deputy head of the General Staff, visits the USA for talks on strategic stability and NMD.

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7 August 2001 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov has talks with his German counterpart Rudolf Scharping in St.Petersburg. They discuss NATO widening, NMD.

7 August 2001 Igor Ivanov discusses the status of the Caspian Sea with his Iranian counterpart Kamal Kharrazi by telephone.

7 August 2001 Jordan's Ambassador to Russia, Ahmed Ali Mubaidin says he would like Russia to develop new ideas on a Middle East settlement. He says Jordan would like Russia "to increase its role in this region and put forward ideas aimed at working out reliable mechanisms for strengthening confidence-building measures and security guarantees".

7 August 2001 Vladimir Putin pledges to defend the rights of Russian compatriots abroad, in a letter to Lyudmila Avanesova, a Russian resident in Riga, Latvia, who survived the Leningrad siege during WW2.

8 August 2001 Russian-US consultations on issues of strategic stability take place in Washington. The delegation of Russian Defence Ministry experts was led by Col-Gen Yury Baluyevskiy, the first deputy chief of the General Staff, and the US was represented by a group of experts headed by Douglas Feith, US undersecretary of defence for political affairs.

8 August 2001 Deputy foreign ministers of Russia and Iran Viktor Kalyuzhnyy and Ali Ahani hold talks on Caspian issues in Moscow. The sides stressed the importance of the 12 March 2001 Russian-Iranian statement on the legal status of the Caspian Sea and confirmed that, until a new legal status is approved, they recognize the 26 February 1921 Russian-Persian treaty and the 25 March 1940 Soviet-Iranian treaty on trade and seafaring as the legal foundation for regulating operations in the Caspian.

8 August 2001 Russian TV reports that the heads of antiterrorist agencies of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia and Russia have recently held a secret meeting in Yessentuki (Stavropol Territory). The meeting was chaired by Deputy Interior Minister Maj-Gen Nikolay Bobrovskiy.

8 August 2001 First Deputy Prosecutor-General Yury Yakovlev states that a criminal case has been opened against former Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Yuliya Tymoshenko. The Russian Prosecutor-General's Office has sent the criminal case against Tymoshenko and her husband, which deals with violations of customs legislation, to the Ukrainian Prosecutor-General's Office requesting that they be prosecuted.

9 August 2001 The MFA expresses regret over the Jerusalem suicide bomb and appeals for restraint by Israelis and Palestinians.

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Russian special envoy Andrey Vdovin says the international community should make an effort to prevent the Middle East crisis from getting out of control. He arrives in Egypt.

The Russian Jewish Congress condemns suicide bombings in Jerusalem.

Igor Ivanov has telephone talks with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, US Secretary of State Colin Powell, Palestinian National Authority leader Yasir Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on the Middle East.

9 August 2001 Russia's new ambassador to Iran Aleksandr Maryasov is interviewed in *Vremya Novosti*. He says the arms trade between Moscow and Tehran "fully meets the corresponding international norms and commitments of Russia", which the Russian side does not intend to break.

9 August 2001 Russian General Staff deputy chief Yury Baluyevskiy says he believes that US plans to start experimenting with a NMD system in Alaska may be within the framework of the ABM Treaty.

9 August 2001 The Russian government approves a draft law on the ratification of the agreement on free trade between Russia and Yugoslavia and will submit it to the Duma.

10 August 2001 Igor Ivanov says coordinated international efforts based on the Mitchell plan and the resolutions of the "Big Eight" in Genoa are necessary to sort out the situation in the Middle East.

Russian special envoy Nikolay Kartuzov has met Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'a to discuss threatening developments in the Middle East.

Vladimir Putin extends his condolences to the Israeli leadership over the victims of the bombing in Jerusalem, during a telephone conversation between Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and his Israeli counterpart Shimon Peres.

Israeli Ambassador to Moscow Nathan Meron says Israel expects Moscow "to put pressure on Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat to make the Palestinian administration take real steps to end the violence".

Deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's information department, Boris Malakhov, calls on Israel and the PNA to resume dialogue. The MFA says Russia is extremely concerned about the dangerous aggravation of the Israeli-Palestinian confrontation.

10 August 2001 Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov gives an interview in *Sovershnenna Sekretno*. He says there is a need to work out new rules of the game for international relations in the post-Cold War era.

Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov is interviewed in *Krasnaya Zvezda*. He says US plans to create a NMD system will make major nuclear disarmament prospects impossible.

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10 August 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says that Russia's entry into NATO in the near future is "unrealistic or highly improbable".

10 August 2001 Anton Siluanov, director of the macroeconomic policy department at the Finance Ministry, says Russia will make foreign debt payments of \$14 billion in 2002.

10 August 2001 The State Customs Committee gives details of Russia's trade turnover with the CIS in the first half of 2001.

10 August 2001 Russian special envoy Nikolay Kartuzov visits Kuwait.

11 August 2001 Head of the presidential administration Aleksandr Voloshin visits Cuba.

12 August 2001 US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld arrives in Moscow for talks on a new round of Russian-American consultations over strategic stability and NMD.

13 August 2001 Vladimir Putin receives Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov and US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in the Kremlin.

The chief of the Defence Ministry's main directorate for international military cooperation, Lt-Gen Anatoly Mazurkevich, says that "in the course of today's meeting between Russian Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov and US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Russia expressed its firm and clear position: we want the ABM treaty to be preserved ... we understand, of course, that we live in an era after the Cold War and are ready to agree with our American colleagues that the existing system of agreements on strategic stability will have to be amended. We are willing to do this but only on one condition - the ABM treaty must not be touched".

Mazurkevich also says: "We proposed that the Americans should examine the issue of jointly creating a system of global monitoring to prevent proliferation of missiles and missile technology. We are proposing that they should take part in the joint development of a nonstrategic, regional, first and foremost, a European antimissile defence system, including a mobile variant of it. We are proposing setting up a reliable system of preventing the militarization of space."

13 August 2001 Vladimir Putin and Turkmen President Saparmyrat Niyazov have a phone conversation. They discuss the status of the Caspian Sea.

13 August 2001 *Krasnaya Zvezda* publishes an article criticising NATO peace-keeping in Macedonia.

14 August 2001 The MFA issues a communiqué on the Macedonian crisis.

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14 August 2001 The MFA condemns recent actions by the Israeli army, which attacked the city of Jenin on the western bank of the Jordan river.

The Palestinian ambassador to Russia, Khayri al-Uraydi, says Russia and the EU should make Israel to abide by its commitments.

15 August 2001 Igor Ivanov and US Secretary of State Colin Powell speak on the telephone about the Middle East. They advocate the Mitchell Plan as a basis for a Middle East settlement. They agree to further coordinate the diplomatic efforts of Moscow and Washington in order "to stop the violence and create conditions for the resumption of an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue".

Deputy Foreign Minister Vasily Sredin says the Mitchell plan for the Middle East contains all components for resolving the crisis in the region. Sredin also calls for the speedy implementation of existing agreements. He says, "As a co-sponsor, Russia is and will be actively working in this direction." He says the peace process should proceed on the basis of the Madrid Conference principles and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

15 August 2001 The MOD says Russia has no plans to send peacekeepers to Macedonia.

15 August 2001 US Ambassador Alexander Vershbow calls for a political solution to the Chechen conflict.

Chechens the world over have collect signatures for an appeal to the Council of Europe and the European Commission for an end to Russian colonialism in Chechnya.

16 August 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan have a phone conversation. They discuss the Middle East and advocate the Mitchell Plan.

16 August 2001 Nikolay Kartuzov, Russia's ambassador at large, outlines the importance for Russia of relations with member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

17 August 2001 Vladimir Putin and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon discuss the Middle East situation by telephone.

17 August 2001 Igor Sergeyev, President Vladimir Putin's aide on strategic stability and former defence minister, gives an interview on US and Russian approaches to strategic stability.

17 August 2001 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov and NATO Secretary-General George Robertson discuss by phone the situation in Macedonia.

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17 August 2001 The collective rapid deployment forces in Central Asia completes the first stage of command post training in the CIS military cooperation coordination headquarters. The second stage will take place in Bishkek, where the forces' control bodies are located, on 22 to 24 August.

20 August 2001 A training centre for Russian servicemen going to Kosovo as peacekeepers has opened in Tver.

20 August 2001 Oleg Chernov, deputy secretary of the Russian Security Council, meets US Undersecretary of State John Bolton to discuss strategic stability.

State Duma Defence Committee Chairman Andrey Nikolayev of the People's Deputy group meets John Bolton.

20 August 2001 Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov discusses energy relations with his Ukrainian counterpart Anatoly Kinakh.

Vladimir Putin sends greetings to the power industries of Russia and Ukraine after the reconnecting of the two states' power grids.

21 August 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Vasily Sredin says Moscow is opposed to changes in the system of co-sponsoring a peace settlement in the Middle East. Vasily Sredin notes that Moscow regards the standard of cooperation between Russia and the United States, the current co-sponsors, as normal and benefiting the cause of a peace settlement. He says that regular contacts have been established at all levels with the Bush administration, primarily between the presidents and foreign ministers, and information exchanges have been organized between experts.

Sredin says the attitudes of Russia and the United States towards essential aspects of the Middle Eastern situation and ways to stop the Palestinian-Israeli confrontation are close.

Interfax reports that diplomatic sources have said that Russia supports the idea of an international presence in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict zone on the condition that it is acceptable to all the sides.

21 August 2001 Russian Ambassador to the United Nations Sergey Lavrov attends Russo-Cuban consultations in Havana.

21 August 2001 Russian Communications and Information Technology Minister Leonid Reyman visits China.

21 August 2001 Chairman of the Sakhalin Regional legislature's Commission for Legislation, Law and Foreign Affairs Sergey Ponomarev says that nearly all of the federal agencies have disregarded the Sakhalin deputies' proposal on holding local

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debates on the 1956 Soviet-Japanese Declaration and on Russia's national security problem.

22 August 2001 Russian Deputy Prime Minister Valentina Matviyenko visits China to discuss cooperation in the humanitarian sphere.

22 August 2001 The Combat Commonwealth 2001 exercise of the air defence forces of the CIS begins in Kaliningrad Region. Russian and Belarusian air defence units will hold manoeuvres during which they will practise repelling cruise missile attacks from a hypothetical enemy. The combat assignment of two Belarusian and two Russian S-300PS missile battalions is to destroy missiles launched from Baltic Fleet ships.

22 August 2001 Secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defence Council Yevhen Marchuk meets Russian Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo in Kiev for talks on a wide range of issues.

23 August 2001 Vladimir Putin visits Ukraine.

A Public Opinion Foundation poll reveals that 56% of Russians want Russia and Ukraine to form a united state again.

23 August 2001 The chairman of the Russian State Duma Committee on International Affairs, Dmitry Rogozin, says that Russian involvement in the Essential Harvest operation in Macedonia would be senseless and "extremely inexpedient".

23 August 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Vasily Sredin says Israel and the Palestinians should demonstrate maximum restraint. He says: "Israel must commit itself not to use force. It must lift the siege of the territories and withdraw the troops, while Palestine must give up all acts of violence and cut terrorism short". He says Israeli actions cannot be compared to Russian actions in Chechnya.

23 August 2001 Vasily Sredin says Russia is making efforts to get sanctions on Iraq lifted. "Sanctions against Iraq might be lifted if Iraq complies with the resolutions of the UN Security Council, particularly those concerning weapons of mass destruction ... Russia maintains permanent dialogue with Iraq on this issue and believes that Iraq will take the Russian position into account".

23 August 2001 Vladimir Putin meets Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski for talks in Kiev. They discuss Kaliningrad, gas supplies to the EU.

23 August 2001 The MFA says it shares the critical assessment of the Taleban actions expressed in a report on Afghanistan by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

24 August 2001 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov says he "notes with satisfaction that there is an activation of constructive dialogue aimed at the broadening of Russian-American cooperation and interaction along the whole gamut of our relations ... Russia proceeds from the assumption that this policy meets the interests of our two states and of international stability, and intends firmly to pursue it". He has just had talks with US Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs.

24 August 2001 President Vladimir Putin has talks with Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski in Kiev. He says terrorism must be met by force. He also says Macedonian problems cannot be resolved unless legitimate grievances of nations, in particular Albanians, are resolved.

24 August 2001 The MFA calls on Israel and Palestine to refrain from the use of force. The MFA says such actions as the deployment of Israeli troops in zone A, which is under full control of the Palestine National Administration, "further complicate the situation, and weaken security instead of strengthening it". Moscow supports the idea of talks between Yasir Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

24 August 2001 The Russian Ministry of Economic Development and Trade says the volume of foreign investments in Russia's economy in the first half of 2001 amounted to 6.68bn dollars, thus increasing by almost 40% on the first half of 2000.

The volume of direct foreign investments in January-June amounted to 2,509m dollars, or 40.5% higher than the level of the corresponding period in 2000. The volume of portfolio investments amounted to 238m dollars (4.7 times increase). Other investments amounted to 3.94bn dollars, or 33.8% higher than the corresponding period in 2000. The total accumulated volume of foreign investments in Russia is 33.84bn dollars, out of which direct investments amounted to 17.57bn, portfolio investments about 1bn and other investments 15.27bn dollars.

The Ministry says Russia's GDP went up 5.5% year-on-year in the first seven months of 2001. Russia posted a balance of trade surplus of 32.4bn dollars in the first seven months of 2001. Foreign trade turnover totalled 90.6bn dollars, up 10.5% year-on-year. Exports were up 6% to 61.5bn dollars, including a 4.6% increase in exports to non-CIS countries and a 14.8% increase to CIS countries. Imports were up 21.2% to 29.1bn dollars, including a 21.8% increase in imports from countries outside the CIS and a 16.9% increase from CIS countries.

26 August 2001 King Abdallah of Jordan arrives in Moscow.

27 August 2001 Vladimir Belous of the Russian Academy of Military Sciences says the US concept of NMD will lead to the militarisation of space.

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27 August 2001 Grigory Berdennikov is appointed head of the Russian delegation on the preparatory commission for the comprehensive test ban treaty organization.

27 August 2001 Russian Energy Minister Igor Yusufov is appointed chairman of the Russian parts of the intergovernmental commissions on trade-economic and scientific-technical cooperation between the Russian Federation and Iraq, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

28 August 2001 The MFA says it welcomes the intention of Georgia to settle differences with Abkhazia through a dialogue and exclusively by political methods. "Russia was satisfied by the words of the chief of the Georgian state that joint efforts of Tbilisi and Sukhumi had prevented a raid of armed units into Abkhazia that might have triggered the resumption of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict with extremely negative consequences for the whole Caucasian region."

28 August 2001 LUKoil and the international company Latsis Group sign a protocol of intent to acquire 30% of shares in Greece's Hellenic Petroleum.

28 August 2001 The Russian president's special representative to the Caspian Region, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Kalyuzhnyy, arrives in Tehran for a working visit during which bilateral consultations will be held with the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Caspian problems. Kalyuzhnyy will also discuss preparations for the forthcoming summit of Caspian heads of state.

28 August 2001 US Senator for Indiana Richard Lugar visits the Russian base for disposal of liquid-fuel strategic missiles in Surovatikha, Arzamassky District, Nizhniy Novgorod Region. Lugar is visiting Russia in the framework of the START-2 agreement.

28 August 2001 Vladimir Putin has signed a decree "On measures in line with UN Security Council resolution 1343 of 7 March 2001", envisaging the introduction of sanctions against Liberia.

28 August 2001 Laotian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Somsavat Lengsavat visits Russia.

28 August 2001 Israeli foreign minister Shimon Peres visits Russia.

29 August 2001 Russia's UN representative Sergey Lavrov says the world community should lift the military embargo against Yugoslavia and take "resolute measures for blocking possible routes of supply of arms to terrorist groups".

29 August 2001 Combat Commonwealth 2001 joint tactical exercises of CIS states' air forces begin in the Astrakhan Region. Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov attends

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the exercises. The air force and anti-aircraft units of four CIS member states, including Russia, Armenia, Belarus and Tajikistan, will take part in the third stage of the Combat Commonwealth-2001 training at the Ashuluk test field.

29 August 2001 Igor Ivanov has talks with his Cypriot counterpart Ioannis Kasoulidhis in Russia. He says the international community should join efforts to have the parties to the Mideast conflict sit at the negotiation table and resume dialogue based on the Mitchell commission's report.

Patriarch Aleksey II of Moscow and All Russia says he is worried that the explosive situation in Palestine could lead to a war in the Middle East.

The Russian and Jordanian foreign ministers, Igor Ivanov and Abd-al-Ilah al-Khatib, express support for the Mitchell Plan.

30 August 2001 The Palestinian ambassador to Russia, Khayri al-Uraydi, denies Israeli claims that Chechen rebels are forming units to send to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict zone.

30 August 2001 The MFA criticises US and UK bombing of Iraq.

30 August 2001 Sergey Ivanov says Moscow and Washington should continue consultations about missile defence and strategic armaments regardless of the statements made by President George W Bush and representatives of his administration about quitting the ABM Treaty of 1972. He says Moscow is not alarmed by the US intention to quit the Treaty. "We take that calmly. It is a sovereign right of the American side."

30 August 2001 The MFA sharply criticizes operations by Afghanistan's Taleban movement.

30 August 2001 The Northern Fleet accuses NATO of increasing its air presence in the vicinity of the area in the Barents Sea where an operation to salvage the sunken submarine Kursk continues.

31 August 2001 Vladimir Putin has a telephone conversation with Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar.

September

1 September 2001 Igor Ivanov reaffirms Russian adherence to the 1972 ABM Treaty.

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1 September 2001 Vladimir Putin is interviewed on Finnish TV on NATO widening. He says Russia does not consider NATO a hostile organization, but it does not see any sense in expanding it. He says a single security system should be created in Europe. He favours EU widening as part of strengthening a united Europe.

2 September 2001 Vladimir Putin visits Finland.

2 September 2001 Israeli Minister of National Infrastructure Avigdor Liberman says Israel expects Russia to assume a "more constructive position" on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He says, "The Russian Foreign Ministry has assumed a traditionally Soviet position". He compares Israel's conflict with the Palestinians to the Russian conflict with Chechnya.

3 September 2001 Central Bank head Viktor Gerashchenko says he opposes increasing the proportion of Russia's foreign currency reserves held in euros.

3 September 2001 Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon visits Russia.

Vasily Sredin, special representative of President Putin for the Middle East settlement, State Secretary and Deputy Foreign Minister, receives the Palestinian ambassador Khayri al-Uraydi.

3 September 2001 Sergey Kiriyyenko, presidential representative in the Volga Federal District and head of the state commission on chemical disarmament, visits Japan.

3 September 2001 The MFA expresses concern over "the increasing activity of US and British air forces in 'no-fly' zones over the southern and northern regions of Iraq".

4 September 2001 Vladimir Putin has a meeting with Moldovan President Vladimir Voronin in Moscow.

4 September 2001 Deputy Atomic Energy Minister Yevgenny Reshetnikov says MinAtom will send a delegation to Iran to hand over to Iranian specialists a feasibility study for the construction of new reactors at the Bushehr nuclear power station.

4 September 2001 The State Customs Committee says Russia had a foreign trade surplus of 36.1bn dollars in the first seven months of 2001. The trade turnover grew 9% year-on-year to 81.7bn dollars in the seven months, including 8.9% to 66.3bn dollars with countries outside the CIS and 9.6% to 15.4bn dollars with fellow CIS members. Exports were up 4.1% to 58.9bn dollars, including 6.9% to 8.4bn dollars to the CIS and 3.6% to 50.5bn dollars to the rest of the world.

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Imports rose 24.2% to 22.8bn dollars, including 13% to 7bn dollars from the CIS and 29.9% to 15.8bn dollars from the rest of the world.

5 September 2001 Igor Ivanov says Vladimir Putin is sending his special envoy Andrey Vdovin on an urgent mission to the Middle East. The head of the Russian Foreign Ministry said that this decision had been taken following a request from the Israeli and Palestinian sides.

5 September 2001 Deputy Premier Ilya Klebanov and member of China's State Council Wu Yi have a working meeting in Moscow.

5 September 2001 Igor Ivanov says Moscow hopes that the upcoming 56th session of the UN Security Council will pass a resolution supporting the 1972 ABM Treaty.

5 September 2001 The Barents Euro-Arctic Council meets in Petrozavodsk.

5 September 2001 CIS foreign ministers meet in Moscow.

5 September 2001 Vladimir Putin speaks with Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat by telephone.

5 September 2001 Italian foreign minister Renato Ruggiero visits Moscow.

6 September 2001 Igor Ivanov expresses support for the Macedonian government. Ivanov has talks with US, EU and OSCE envoys on Macedonia.

6 September 2001 The MFA denies claims by Washington that it is providing Iran with technologies for making weapons of mass destruction.

6 September 2001 Deputy Secretary of the Security Council Oleg Chernov is interviewed in the Washington Post. He says Russia does not believe that it will be possible to reach an agreement on the ABM treaty with the USA in November, when the presidents of the two countries, Vladimir Putin and George Bush, will meet.

6 September 2001 Aleksey Meshkov, who used to head the foreign policy planning department at the MFA is appointed to a new post, that of deputy minister for strategic planning.

7 September 2001 PLO general secretary Abu Mazin visits Moscow for talks. Igor Ivanov says that the Arab-Israeli conflict should be settled with the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people materialized, in particular the right to self-determination and statehood and return of occupied Arab lands. He says

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settlement should be based on the Madrid principles, UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and subsequent understandings, in particular those reached in Oslo and the Mitchell Plan.

Igor Ivanov has a telephone conversation with US Secretary of State Colin Powell. They call for direct talks between the Palestine National Authority and Israel.

7 September 2001 Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji arrives in St Petersburg.

7 September 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov calls for political means of solving the status of the Caspian Sea which is an issue between Russia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Iran.

7 September 2001 The MFA welcomes the agreement between North and South Korea to hold a fifth meeting at the level of ministers in Seoul on 15-18 September.

7 September 2001 Macedonian undersecretary for foreign affairs Viktor Gaber visits Moscow. He has talks with Igor Ivanov.

8 September 2001 Yury Luzhkov visits Uzbekistan.

8 September 2001 In an interview with the Latvian Russian-language newspaper *Vesti Segodnya*, the head of the Duma's Committee on International Affairs, Dmitry Rogozin, criticises Latvia's treatment of its Russian minority.

9 September 2001 MFA special envoy for the Middle East, Andrey Vdovin, leaves for the Middle East. He will visit Israel, Palestinian territories, Jordan and Egypt.

Vdovin meets Yasir Arafat, head of the Palestinian National Administration.

10 September 2001 The MFA "emphatically denounces the attacks by terrorists" in the northern and central parts of Israel and on the West Bank of the Jordan.

10 September 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says when Iranian Defence Minister Ali Shamkhani visits Russia in October, a framework agreement on military-technical cooperation will be signed.

Ivanov says changes which do not weaken the main part of the 1972 ABM treaty may be introduced into the 1972 ABM Treaty.

"Theoretically, I do not exclude such a possibility. But theoretically means that we must clearly understand what kind of missile defence the United States is planning, what technical capacities and in what environment (air, sea, ground or space) are being planned...we have

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failed to get an American answer to these very questions and the question about limits in the reduction of strategic offensive armaments."

10 September 2001 US President George Bush and Vladimir Putin speak on the telephone.

10 September 2001 Vladimir Putin and French President Jacques Chirac discuss the developments in Macedonia over the telephone.

10 September 2001 Vladimir Putin has congratulates Alyaksandr Lukashenka in a telephone conversation on his victory in the Belarusian presidential elections.

10 September 2001 MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says the Nagornyy Karabakh conflict should be resolved by political means on the basis of the principle of territorial integrity. He says Russia does not recognise the municipal election that took place in Nagornyy Karabakh last week.

10 September 2001 Georgian Ambassador to Russia Zurab Abashidze says Russia and Georgia are rapidly moving towards resolving the problem of withdrawing the Russian military base in Gudauta, in Abkhazia.

10 September 2001 Vladimir Putin and Tajik President Emomali Rahmonov discuss the Afghan situation on the telephone.

10 September 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says Moscow does not plan to send its military contingent to Macedonia to participate in the disarmament of the Albanian rebels jointly with NATO.

10 September 2001 The Railways Ministry says the Trans-Siberian Railway will be extended to North Korea.

11 September 2001 Vladimir Putin expresses his sympathy following the terrorist incident in the USA.

"What happened today again underlines the topicality of Russia's proposals on uniting the international community's efforts in the struggle against terrorism, this plague of the 21st century.

Russia knows first-hand what terrorism is like. Therefore, we really do understand the feelings of the US people. Addressing the people of the United States on behalf of Russia, I would like to say that we are with you. We share and feel your anguish totally and completely. We support you."

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Putin aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy calls for a joint fight against "international terrorism".

Putin meets the heads of the security ministries following the terrorist incident in the USA. The Security Council also meets.

11 September 2001 Vladimir Putin and Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji meet in Moscow.

Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan has talks with Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov. Seven documents are signed. They discuss the ABM treaty.

11 September 2001 The MFA states that Russia thinks it necessary to enhance the role which the United Nations has to play in the disarmament process. Igor Ivanov attends the opening of the 56th General Assembly session in New York.

11 September 2001 Vladimir Putin and German Federal Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder discuss Macedonia by telephone.

11 September 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ordzhonikidze welcomes UN Security Council Resolution No 1367 lifting the arms embargo against Yugoslavia.

11 September 2001 Iranian Ambassador to Russia Mehdi Safari says Iran hopes that Vladimir Putin will visit Tehran in May 2002. He says a friendship and good-neighbourly relations treaty should be signed then.

11 September 2001 Representative of the Russian General Staff Yury Baluyevskiy says following his talks with US Undersecretary of State Douglas Feith, that the number of warheads on strategic carriers must be drastically reduced, with strict control over this process.

12 September 2001 Vladimir Putin signs a decree under which Russia will observe a minute of silence at midday on Thursday 13 September in memory of the victims of the terrorist attack perpetrated in the United States on 11 September. Putin tells the government to maintain ongoing direct contacts with US officials in connection with the readiness of the Russian rescue services to fly to the disaster sites at any time to take part in the operation to rescue people.

The Duma expresses readiness to cooperate with US Congress and with parliaments of other countries in the struggle against international terrorism.

ITAR-TASS reports that Federal Security Service (FSB) sources have said it has stepped up work to investigate the New York and Washington bombings and will pass on information to the USA.

Sergey Lebedev, Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) head, says the events in New York and Washington "have confirmed the global nature of the threat of

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international terrorism and the need for joint actions to prevent it". He says the SVR is in close contact with its counterparts in the USA, Western Europe and the Middle East.

Vladimir Putin calls for tighter security in Russia's civil aviation. He orders Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov "to make an analysis of regulations and instructions that are in force in this sphere".

Deputy prime minister Ilya Klebanov says the tragedy in the USA shows that the plan for creating a national missile defence system is "absolutely ineffective" as a way to combat terrorism.

Chief Mufti Talgat Tadzhuddin says the Muslims of Russia condemn the terrorist acts in the USA.

Vladimir Putin speaks by telephone to US president George W Bush. The Russian and US leaders stressed the need to strengthen cooperation amongst the world community in the struggle against a common threat - international terrorism.

US Ambassador to Russia Alexander Vershbow says Washington will study Moscow's proposal that an emergency G8 meeting be called.

Igor Ivanov says Moscow and Washington "should continue working together to find answers to the challenges and threats they are faced with".

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov expresses condolences to the United States on behalf of the Russian leadership over the loss of life caused by terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. Ivanov says Russia was ready for close interaction with the United States "on a bilateral basis and within the limits of multilateral institutions in the creation of a global system of action against new threats and challenges".

12 September 2001 MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says Russia may under certain conditions consider taking part in the international peacekeeping operation with a UN Security Council mandate in Macedonia after the NATO operation for collecting arms from Albanian rebels is completed.

12 September 2001 Interfax says military-diplomatic sources have said Russian, Iranian, Indian, Uzbek and Tajik officials will hold an emergency meeting in Dushanbe shortly to discuss the situation in Afghanistan, in particular the aftermath of the terrorist attack on the Northern Alliance's military leader Ahmad Shah Masud.

13 September 2001 Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo puts forward an initiative to set up a committee of CIS Security Council secretaries to consolidate efforts against terrorism.

"The tragic events in the USA are seriously alarming and call for urgent collective efficient measures. There are no doubts that this monstrous terrorist attack, as well as the assassination attempt on Ahmad Shah Masud in Afghanistan, are the start of a global aggressive war of

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international terrorism against all of civilized humankind. Such inhuman actions must not go unpunished."

The Russia-NATO Council meets in Brussels. Both sides agree to intensify cooperation in countering terrorism. Russian participation in military operations with NATO against terrorism is not discussed.

Vladimir Putin talks over the telephone with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine visits Russia. Igor Ivanov calls for a global system against terrorism.

Interfax reports that a diplomatic source says that Russia would not support a large-scale retaliation against the terrorist attacks in the United States.

Former head of the FSB Nikolay Kovalev warns that US military action against Afghanistan may lead to serious consequences for Russia.

Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia and Envoy for the Middle East Vasily Sredin says the events in America "will not affect Russia's stand on the Middle East settlement". Russia, he notes, deems it necessary to help the Israelis and Palestinians sit down at a conference table. He says Russia is cooperating with the USA, the EU, Egypt and Jordan and affirms Moscow's adherence to the Mitchell Plan.

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov receives the Council of Europe commissioner for human rights, Alvaro Gil-Robles, in Moscow. They discuss Chechnya.

Prosecutor-General Vladimir Ustinov says his office will offer material on criminal cases showing links between bandit groups in Chechnya with the international terrorist Usamah bin Laden to the delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). He says some information has been given to Lord Judd of the Council of Europe.

Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia is not planning military action in places where terrorists are believed to be located.

"We are trying to explain that we are not fighting the Chechen people but international terrorism, including those people who came to Chechnya from outside and who are financing the rebel groups and supplying arms ... everyone, even common people, already understand that Chechnya, the Balkans and other countries are interconnected."

Igor Ivanov says Moscow considers it useful to hold a G8 meeting at the top level to consider the whole range of issues related to fighting international terrorism.

14 September 2001 Igor Ivanov says a US retaliatory blow in response to the recent terrorist attacks will not eradicate terrorism in the long term. He says this problem cannot be solved in one fell swoop. "What is needed is long-term cooperation and steps aimed at preventing such tragedies. This time it happened in the United States, but who can guarantee that this will not happen elsewhere tomorrow." He says Russia will cooperate with the USA over terrorism. He says talks are continuing with the USA on NMD.

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Russian border guards hold talks with their Afghan counterparts about the impermissibility of shooting at border patrols from Afghan territory.

Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says that the territory of the countries of Central Asia should not be used for possible operations of the USA and other NATO countries against the Taleban.

The chief of General Staff of the Russian armed forces, Army General Anatoly Kvashnin, thinks that it is unlikely that the Russian army will participate "in the acts of retaliation", which the USA intends to carry out against those who organized the acts of terrorism in New York and Washington. Kvashnin says that Washington "will re-assess the probable threats and danger, and international terrorism will become threat No 1".

14 September 2001 PACE representative Lord Judd says the Russian administration is increasingly coming to realize the necessity of a political, non-military solution to the Chechen problem.

Novgorod Region governor Mikhail Prusak, who is chairman of the Federation Council's international committee, warns that if the USA takes military action against the Islamic world, and if Russia participates, this could lead to more Islamic radicalism within Russia.

Presidential representative in the Volga Federal District Sergey Kirienko says the secret services of Russia and NATO are exchanging information in the struggle against terrorism. Kirienko has visited London as chairman of the Russian State Commission for chemical disarmament.

14 September 2001 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says Russia's foreign trade increased by 8.3% to 89bn dollars for the first seven months of 2001. Russia's total exports grew by 3.8% during the first seven months of 2001, while its exports to members of the CIS swelled 11%. Russian imports from CIS countries went up 13%.

15 September 2001 FSB director Nikolay Patrushev says there are direct links between the terrorists inside Chechnya and the Afghan Taleban or directly with bin Laden. He says the FSB will attempt to track down bin Laden.

"We provided general warnings. But it seems that individual special services did not pay proper attention to our views or else they assumed that they would not be affected. Back in 1996 one of the ideologists of Wahhabism, Movladi Udugov, said that an air attack on the Kremlin was possible. At that time we took his statement seriously. We do not rule out the possibility that terrorists could engage in such preparations for carrying out terrorist acts on the territory of Russia and on the territory of European states.

We have operational information, which we are processing, about possible terrorist acts on the territory of Russia. As yet it is only a question of preparations for these terrorist acts. We have information precisely about preparations. We are carefully analysing our incoming

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information and in line with the materials which we possess, we shall prevent the terrorist acts."

Vladimir Putin, in Armenia, compares the terrorist attacks on the USA with the Nazis. He says:

"All of us currently live under the impression of the tragic events in the USA and I feel guilty because of what happened. We have been saying a lot about this threat, but apparently this was not enough. We failed to find a defence method."

Whilst in Armenia he signs several agreements.

Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says he doubts the use of force on a broad scale to punish the perpetrators of the terrorist incident in the USA.

Igor Ivanov says that "one cannot rule out any measures, including force, when fighting terrorism". He says when fighting terrorism, Russia and the US should not only exchange information, but also "act concretely and effectively". He says this requires a legal basis.

Igor Ivanov says it may be necessary to use force against terrorism. He says:

"One should not rule out any measures in the fight against terrorism, including the use of force. When necessary, force must be used. But it is necessary to foresee consequences. If such actions yield results, countries must take these measures, taking into account all legal and all other principles and norms. At the same time, just the use of force cannot resolve the problem. This is also absolutely clear."

Yevgenny Primakov is interviewed in *Moskovskiy Komsomolets*. He urges no crusade against Islam.

15 September 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov has a phone conversation with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat.

15 September 2001 The Russian-South African commission on scientific and technical cooperation signs agreements on cooperation in space technologies in Pretoria.

15 September 2001 Russian air force commander Anatoly Kornukov says Russia plans to modernize 80% of its military aircraft before 2005.

16 September 2001 US Undersecretary of State John Bolton visits Russia to discuss strategic stability.

16 September 2001 Vladimir Putin meets the heads of the power structures to discuss issues of domestic and foreign policy. Those attending are Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov, head the Kremlin administration Aleksandr Voloshin, Security

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Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo, Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov, Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov and head of the Federal Security Service Nikolay Patrushev.

17 September 2001 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov calls for US-Russian solidarity against terrorism.

US Undersecretary of State John Bolton says the USA plans to continue its NMD programme despite terrorist acts in New York and Washington. Bolton says it is too early to talk about the USA using Russian military bases in CIS countries. He says Washington will conduct broad consultations in connection with a possible operation.

Russian Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov says his country is ready to give information on terrorists' bases and concrete criminals.

First Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov receives US ambassador Alexander Vershbow to discuss terrorism.

The MFA condemns the killing of the head of the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan Ahmad Shah Masud.

Security Council secretary Vladimir Rushaylo says the reprisal operation planned by the USA against international terrorists must be "targeted and not entail losses among the civilian population".

Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbaev and Vladimir Putin discuss terrorism by telephone.

Security Council secretary Vladimir Rushaylo travels to Kazakhstan.

President Vladimir Putin has a telephone conversation with Kyrgyz leader Askar Akayev. They discuss terrorism.

Vladimir Putin of Russia and Saparmyrat Niyazov of Turkmenistan discuss the situation in the Central Asian region by telephone.

Vladimir Putin has a telephone conversation with Uzbek President Islam Karimov to discuss the situation in Central Asia and terrorism.

17 September 2001 The Russian and Tajik presidents, Vladimir Putin and Emomali Rahmonov, discuss the situation in Central Asia near the Tajik border in a telephone conversation. Putin and Rahmonov also discussed possible steps to counter international terrorism and ease tension in the region, including the preparation of joint decisions by CIS countries.

Putin speaks to Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma on the phone. They discuss terrorism.

Putin and President of Belarus Alyaksandr Lukashenka have a telephone conversation discussing bilateral relations.

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Putin and Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliev speak by telephone. They discuss terrorism.

The MFA issues a statement saying that Russia confirms its readiness to interact with the USA both on a bilateral basis and within international bodies in order to create a global system that will counter new threats and challenges. This is following the talks on strategic stability between Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov and Undersecretary of State John Bolton.

Duma Foreign Affairs Committee chairman Dmitry Rogozin speaks against Russia's possible involvement in a US retaliatory strike against international terrorism as an ally.

17 September 2001 Armenian President Robert Kocharyan has a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov.

17 September 2001 Secretary of the Russian Security Council Vladimir Rushaylo and his Indian counterpart National Security Adviser Brajesh Mishra start negotiations in Moscow.

17 September 2001 Igor Ivanov has telephone talks with Indian defence minister Jaswant Singh.

17 September 2001 The Russian and Ukrainian Black Sea Fleets hold Peace Waterway-2001 joint exercises.

18 September 2001 Vladimir Putin and French President Jacques Chirac speak by telephone on terrorism. Putin says:

"Given the broad range of options available, it is essential to choose those that are the most effective in terms of the long-term struggle against international terrorism and wiping out the sources of its political and financial backing."

Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov expresses Russia's willingness to offer the American side any kind of vital information that could establish the true identity of those guilty of the terrorist acts in New York and Washington. On 17 September Ivanov had telephone talks with the US president's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, and US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

US ambassador to Russia Alexander Vershbow visits Russian MPs. They speak about how Russia can help the US in its fight against international terrorism.

Deputy foreign minister Vasily Sredin and Palestinian Ambassador Khayri al-Oridi discuss terrorism and the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo has talks with Kazakh Foreign Minister Yerlan Idrisov, Defence Minister Sat Tokpabayev and Chairman of the Republican National Security Council Marat Tazhin. He says Russia and the

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countries of the Central Asian region are moving to the forefront of the war on terrorism.

NATO Secretary General George Robertson in Brussels says Russia and NATO have a common task in fighting terrorism.

The Federation Council condemns the terrorist attack on the USA. The Federation Council committee on security, defence and international issues is ordered to prepare for a meeting on 10 October proposals on strengthening struggle against international terrorism.

Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Jiang Zemin speak by telephone. They discuss terrorism.

18 September 2001 The head of the pro-Moscow Chechnya administration, Akhmad Kadyrov, flies out to the Middle East where he will meet Arab leaders. During an intensive tour he will visit Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq.

18 September 2001 Danish Navy Rear-Adm Kim Sloth Joergensen visits Kaliningrad to discuss Baltic security. He has talks with the governor of Kaliningrad Region Vladimir Yegorov and the commander of the Baltic Fleet Vice-Adm Vladimir Valuyev.

19 September 2001 Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov visits the USA for the 56th UN General Assembly. He will also have talks with George Bush and Colin Powell on the terrorism problem. He says:

"It is necessary to interact more specifically and effectively, make maximum use of bilateral and multilateral channels, and create an international legal framework for the struggle against international terrorism. We have a number of practical proposals to make on this count."

US-Russian talks take place in Moscow on Afghanistan. This is the regular meeting of the Russian-US working group for Afghanistan. The Russian and American delegations are led respectively by Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov and US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage.

Security Council secretary Vladimir Rushaylo visits Tajikistan. He says Vladimir Putin and US President George W Bush are not conducting negotiations on a joint operation in Afghanistan.

Igor Ivanov speaks by telephone with Iranian foreign minister Kamal Kharrazi on terrorism. They say, "Antiterrorist actions must be taken in the framework of recognized international norms with the guiding role of the United Nations".

Defence minister Igor Sergeyev says the "acts of retribution" being planned by the USA must be directed "solely against specific terrorists and terrorist organizations". He calls for the establishment of an international coalition, including Arab states, for the struggle against international terrorism. "In view of its international nature,

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international terrorism can only be tackled by the consolidated forces of the entire international community, including the Arab World."

The Duma begins a debate on international terrorism. US Ambassador Alexander Vershbow attends the debate.

Interfax says sources in the Russian special services say they have circumstantial evidence of international terrorist Usamah bin Laden's complicity in the recent terrorist attacks in the United States.

The Duma passes a resolution supporting the actions of President Vladimir Putin after the terrorist attacks in the United States.

19 September 2001 The MFA welcomes the Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire.

19 September 2001 The Russia-NATO Permanent Joint Council meets to discuss the situation in Macedonia and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

20 September 2001 The Duma approves a resolution "On combating international terrorism" drafted by the lower house committees on international affairs, defence and security.

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov meets US President George Bush and passes him a letter from Russian President Vladimir Putin. The letter "summed up the results of the American-Russian consultations that have been held on the issues of offensive and defensive weapons". He says, "This letter also stated our ideas of how to continue dialogue in that direction. Russia is firmly set to go down the road of forming new strategic frames in the partner relations with the USA".

Igor Ivanov says that there should be no double standards in fighting terrorism. He says that Russia turned into a subject of aggression by international terrorism two years ago. But, regrettably, not all countries fully perceived the real threat to Russia at that time. This time, international terrorism committed such an act of aggression against the United States. "I would not like to draw parallels, but we should understand that terrorists act alike everywhere - in the Caucasus, in the Balkans, in the Middle East and now in the USA." He says the efforts of international community should be directed at creating a global system of countering terrorism. It is not important now who will head this coalition."

The MFA welcomes the move by Pakistan to join the anti-terrorist coalition.

Vladimir Putin sends a letter to his Egyptian counterpart, Hosni Mubarak, calling for a resolute fight against international terrorism. The letter was delivered by Akhmad Kadyrov, the head of Chechnya's pro-federal administration, who is visiting Egypt.

20 September 2001 Akhmad Kadyrov visits Syria and delivers a message to Syrian leader Bashar al-Asad from Vladimir Putin.

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21 September 2001 The Russian president's representative in the Duma Aleksandr Kotenkov rules out the possibility of the participation of Russian troops in the USA's retaliatory action. Moscow's assistance will mainly consist of the exchange of information.

The MFA says that Russia suggests creating a global system of countering international terrorism under a UN aegis.

Russian Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo and Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev agree that the new antiterrorist centre set up in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, will begin to work in a few days. Kyrgyz Security Council Secretary Misir Ashyrkulov says that several Central Asian countries would start a joint operation aimed against international terrorism soon.

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says in an interview with *Vremya* TV programme in a live link-up from New York that Russia had not been asked to take part in any military operation following the 11 September terrorist attacks in America. The issue of allowing the US military to use Central Asian bases was also not discussed. He says:

"The whole of the US president's speech was devoted to combating international terrorism. There is no need to persuade Russia of the need for this. As you know, President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin was the first of the big world leaders to warn of the looming threat posed by international terrorism and to declare the need to unite international efforts in the fight against this evil of the 21st century. And the fact that today the international community shares this approach by Russia is of fundamental importance. This opportunity must not be allowed to pass us by now. The international community should close ranks in the fight against international terrorism. And I mean everywhere. There should be no double standards. Terrorism should be prevented wherever it emerges and wherever it causes suffering for peaceful citizens."

Vladimir Putin is interviewed on German ARD television. He thinks is unlikely that a major war will break out as a result of the terrorist bombings in the USA. He says:

"Terrorism and religious extremism of various denominations today pose the main threat to peace. We are prepared to cooperate with the United States in fighting terrorism in the broadest meaning of this. We have not received yet specific requests to this effect. As for the special services, they have been cooperating for a long time. At issue now is raising this cooperation to a qualitatively new level. We are ready for this. It goes without saying, of course, and I cannot but say that all our actions must and will fully comply with the Russian legislation and Russia's international obligations and international law norms."

22 September 2001 Lt-Gen Boris Melnikov, head of the CIS Antiterrorist Centre, says Russia can provide intelligence information to the USA on terrorism.

President Vladimir Putin holds a meeting with heads of power structures in his Bocharov Ruchey residence in Sochi to discuss the situation in the world after the

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terrorist attacks in the USA. Those attending the meeting include Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo, Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov, Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov, Emergencies Minister Sergey Shoygu, FSB chief Nikolay Patrushev, Prosecutor-General Vladimir Ustinov, head of the federal government communication and information agency Vladimir Matyukhin, deputy chief of the General Staff Valentin Korabelnikov, Federal Border Guard Service chief Konstantin Totskiy, SVR head Sergey Lebedev, First Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov and first deputy chief of the General Staff Yury Baluyevskiy.

President Putin has a telephone conversation with US President George Bush.

23 September 2001 Russian Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov holds a telephone conversation with US National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice. They discuss "the fight against international terrorism, including from the territories of the Central Asian states, and also joint assistance to the [Afghan] Northern Alliance".

24 September 2001 President Vladimir Putin has had a telephone conversation with Iranian President Mohammad Khatami.

24 September 2001 Igor Ivanov gives a speech at the 56th session of the UN General Assembly. He says a global system to counter terrorism should be made. He also says Russia confirms its proposal to the USA to reduce strategic offensive weapons to 1,500 warheads by the year 2008 if the two countries reach such an agreement.

Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov rules out Russia's participation in a US-led military operation against terrorists in Afghanistan.

Sergey Ivanov says he received a message from the defence minister of Afghanistan's Northern Alliance, Gen Mohammad Fahim, on 23 September, who requested "considerable military-technical and humanitarian aid to the Northern Alliance".

Vladimir Putin speaks on TV on the US antiterrorist operation in Afghanistan. He says Russia is ready to give assistance in humanitarian and rescue missions, as well as offer its airspace for humanitarian overflights to the conflict area. Russia's Central Asian allies are free to decide on the use of their airfields by US aircraft. Russia will also give military assistance and political support to President Borhannodin Rabbani's government. Putin also invited Chechen rebel groups and leaders to lay down their arms and negotiate a peaceful settlement with the federal authorities. Putin says:

"Other, deeper forms of cooperation between Russia and members of the antiterrorist operation might also be possible. The depth and the nature of such cooperation will directly depend on the general level and quality of our relations with these countries, as well as on mutual understanding regarding the fight against international terrorism.

To coordinate the work involving all the above-mentioned issues, a special group has been set up with Russian Defence Minister Sergey Borisovich Ivanov at the head. This group will collate and analyse the

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incoming information and cooperate in practice with the participants in the operation."

24 September 2001 Deputy prime minister Ilya Klebanov says Russia will only be able to make a breakthrough in the modernization of its economy by the year 2015 through cooperating with European countries. Klebanov is attending the third summit of the Baltic Development Forum in St Petersburg.

25 September 2001 Vladimir Putin instructs Igor Ivanov to keep constantly in touch with the USA and other countries in order to boost coordination in the battle with international terrorism.

25 September 2001 US Ambassador Aleksandr Vershbow meets Chairman of the Duma Gennady Seleznev. They discuss terrorism and Belarus.

25 September 2001 Vladimir Putin visits Germany. He addresses the German parliament.

25 September 2001 Akhmad Kadyrov visits Iraq.

25 September 2001 Lt-Gen Nikolay Staskov denies there are plans to send Airborne Troops to Tajikistan.

Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says the air base at Dushanbe in Tajikistan could be made available to the US Air Force for retaliatory action against terrorists "if the need arises".

25 September 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov attends a meeting of the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council in Brussels. He calls for increased cooperation between Russia and NATO to counter terrorism. He says he means "cooperation of the security services, as well as joint measures aimed at stopping financial support and drug trafficking ... I do not rule out a possibility of joint armed actions as the last means to be used in the struggle against this evil."

25 September 2001 First Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov has a meeting at the MFA with the Indian and Chinese ambassadors to Russia. They discuss countering terrorism.

25 September 2001 The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade says Russia's trade surplus totalled 35.9bn dollars in the first eight months of 2001, compared with 39.3bn dollars in the same period of 2000. Foreign trade turnover went up 7.6% year on year in January-August 2001 to 102.1bn dollars. Exports totalled 69bn dollars, up 2.8% year on year, with exports to countries outside the CIS rising 1.6% and exports to the CIS up 10.9%. Imports totalled 33.1bn dollars,

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up 19.1%, including a 23.5% increase in imports to countries outside the CIS and an 8.5% increase in imports to the CIS.

26 September 2001 President Vladimir Putin meets Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi in Berlin. They discuss the possibility of a G8 summit on terrorism.

26 September 2001 The chiefs of the general staff of CIS member states that signed the Collective Security Treaty meet in Moscow. CIS Collective Security Council Secretary-General Valery Nikolayenko, anti-terrorist centre head Boris Mylnikov and collective rapid deployment force commander Sergey Chernomordin also attend the conference. The agenda includes military aspects of antiterrorist activities in the CIS, planning joint command training events of CIS forces in 2002, steps aimed at forming regional collective security systems, and the functioning of the collective rapid deployment force in Central Asia.

26 September 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says that Russia and the Central Asian republics are prepared to grant the USA and its allies "air corridors" and the right to land aircraft at their airfields. He says this only applies to overflights by aircraft carrying humanitarian goods.

26 September 2001 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says at NATO that new security structures are necessary for dealing with new types of threat. He says the mechanism for interaction between NATO and Russia is incomplete and there is no mechanism for interaction in fighting terrorism.

Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says he does not rule out Russia's admission to NATO in the future.

26 September 2001 Russian Energy Minister Igor Yusufov meets Saudi Arabia's Oil and Mineral Resources Minister Ali al-Nu'aymi in Vienna. Yusufov says Ali al Nu'aymi suggests that Russia join OPEC. Yusufov says this is not presently possible.

26 September 2001 Russian Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov is interviewed in *Izvestiya*. He confirms that Iranian Defence Minister Ali Shamkhani's postponed visit to Russia will take place on 1 October. He denies that Russia is selling prohibited know-how to Iran.

26 September 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says that he does not exclude the possibility of cooperation between Moscow and Washington in the fight against international terrorists that are active in Chechnya.

26 September 2001 Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says in the Duma that Russia is paying its debts in full. Kudrin says Russia's foreign debt as of 1 January 2001 was 143.3bn dollars, including 50bn owed by

post-Soviet Russia and 93.3bn-dollar debt of the former Soviet Union. Russia's debt to the Paris Club of creditors stands at 39bn dollars.

26 September 2001 President Vladimir Putin rules out Russia's direct involvement in military actions in Afghanistan. He says the current US role and place in Europe should be preserved and it would be dangerous and hazardous to try to diminish it. He says he does not know yet what a global system for fighting terrorism would be like.

The Duma rejects a draft resolution urging it to declare that retaliatory strikes on Afghanistan are inadmissible.

26 September 2001 Vladimir Putin says in Essen, that faced with the possibility of a war against terrorism, Europe might find itself short of energy carriers. He says that Russia is ready to support them during these times with its energy supplies.

26 September 2001 Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev is on holiday in Turkey. He has a meeting with Turkish President Ahmed Necdet Sezer.

26 September 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says that Russia's main strategic goal in the Middle East is to achieve a comprehensive Arab-Israeli settlement. He says it should be based on the Madrid principles, UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and earlier agreements.

27 September 2001 Moldovan Prime Minister Vasile Tarlev visits Moscow.

27 September 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Vasily Sredin meets Iraqi ambassador to Moscow Muzhir al-Duri to discuss the fight against terrorism.

27 September 2001 Vladimir Putin and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien hold a telephone conversation and discuss the fight against terrorism.

27 September 2001 Former first deputy foreign minister Anatoly Adamishin says that Russia has opted for full integration into western political structures.

27 September 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov announces that Moscow is supplying Afghanistan's Northern Alliance exclusively with Soviet-era weapons and military hardware.

27 September 2001 Russian Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says that on 26 September he met US deputy secretary for defence Paul Wolfowitz at NATO and the American side handed over certain evidence of Usamah bin Laden's involvement in the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

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Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says Russia and the USA have started a series of telephone consultations on joint measures to cut off financial flows to terrorist organizations.

27 September 2001 Igor Ivanov says Russia is ready to help Macedonia.

28 September 2001 CIS heads of government meet in Moscow. Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says Russia will pay half the costs of the CIS anti-terrorist centre.

28 September 2001 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov meets US Trade Representative Robert W Zoellick in Moscow. Zoellick says the USA will speed up its analysis of Russia's appeal to be accorded market economy status. He denies that rules are being eased for Russia's application to join the WTO because of the need for anti-terrorist solidarity with Moscow. Zoellick anticipates rapid progress in WTO talks. He says there is an opportunity to reassess Russian-US relations.

28 September 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov holds telephone conversations with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and leader of the Palestinian National Authority Yasir Arafat.

28 September 2001 US Ambassador Alexander Vershbow is interviewed in *Argumenty i Fakty*. He states that the USA will help Russia to settle the Chechen conflict. He acknowledges that Chechen separatists are receiving a lot of help from abroad and that many commanders are foreigners.

28 September 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov visits Sweden.

28 September 2001 Co-chairman of the Russian-American inter-parliamentary commission US Congressman Curt Weldon advocates that Russia and the USA jointly draft bills on combating international terrorism.

28 September 2001 President Vladimir Putin speaks with his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Sezer.

29 September 2001 Igor Ivanov and British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw discuss terrorism and the Middle East over the telephone.

29 September 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov and US Under-Secretary of State John Bolton holds talks on strategic stability and international terrorism.

29 September 2001 The MFA welcomes the UN Security Council resolution on terrorism.

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29 September 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov holds a working meeting with a delegation of the US armed forces' joint chiefs of staff. The US military delegation was led by the deputy head of the joint chiefs of staff strategic planning and policy directorate, Gen Keith Dayton.

29 September 2001 President Vladimir Putin hosts a session attended by Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov, presidential chief of staff Aleksandr Voloshin, Defence and Interior Ministers Sergey Ivanov and Boris Gryzlov, and Director of the FSB Nikolay Patrushev in the Kremlin.

29 September 2001 It is reported that Russian forces in Tajikistan are being reinforced.

29 September 2001 The MFA welcomes the lifting of UN sanctions on Sudan.

29 September 2001 Andrey Nikolayev, chairman of the Duma Defence Committee, visits Syria.

30 September 2001 Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih says Iraq will purchase arms from Russia once UN sanctions are lifted. He says in January 2001 the total volume of cooperation between Iraq and Russia amounted to 24,403,000 dollars.

30 September 2001 Russian and Uzbek presidents Vladimir Putin and Islam Karimov discuss the situation in and around Afghanistan by telephone.

30 September 2001 Ulyanovsk Region governor Vladimir Shamanov says that the West will back Russia if it bombs Chechen-populated districts of Georgia.

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