

Russian Foreign Policy: Chronology

October-December 2001

October

1 October 2001 Vladimir Putin instructs the government to look into the issue of rendering humanitarian assistance to the Afghan population.

1 October 2001 Greek foreign minister Yeoryios Papandreou visits Russia.

1 October 2001 President Vladimir Putin arrives in Belgium for the Russia-EU summit. He also has talks with the Belgian leadership.

1 October 2001 The head of Russia's Duma Commission for the Defence Affairs Andrey Nikolayev visits Iran.

2 October 2001 President Vladimir Putin accuses the West of setting unreasonable criteria for Russia's joining the World Trade Organization (WTO).

2 October 2001 Iranian Defence Minister Ali Shamkhani visits Moscow. He signs a military technical cooperation agreement. He says a definition of terrorism is needed.

2 October 2001 Presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy denies reports that Moscow is planning special operations against Chechen rebels based in Georgia's Pankisi gorge.

2 October 2001 Deputy foreign minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov expresses concern over the suspension of Moldovan-Transdnestr talks. Trubnikov heads a Russian Foreign Ministry delegation currently in Chisinau.

2 October 2001 MinAtom says Russia is proceeding with the construction of a nuclear power station in Iran according to a clearly defined timetable. The delivery of the reactor for the first block will take place in November 2001.

2 October 2001 Vladimir Putin calls for closer cooperation between Russian and US special services.

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2 October 2001 Vladimir Putin says Russia is prepared to make profound changes in its relations with NATO and the European security structures that are now taking shape, so as to set up a European sphere of security.

Putin advocates greater commercial use of the euro in trading between Russian enterprises and European countries.

3 October 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says he believes that the exchange of information affecting security between the USA and other countries should be like "two-way traffic".

3 October 2001 The Russian-European Union summit decides to hold monthly consultations on security matters. They issue a statement on terrorism.

3 October 2001 Russia and the European Union create a joint group to work out concepts on the formation of a single European economic space. The major goal of the group is to work out guidelines on closer economic relations between Russia and the European Union. The group will also analyse prospects for economic integration and bringing closer economic legislation. The group will gather for sessions twice a year. The group will be led by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko and member of the European Commission Christopher Patten.

3 October 2001 Vladimir Putin calls for greater cooperation with NATO.

3 October 2001 The Foreign Ministry (MFA) expresses concern over the violation of the Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire.

3 October 2001 The Russian MOD denies reports that a group of Russian special-purpose troops has been moved from Tajikistan onto the territory of Afghanistan.

3 October 2001 US Ambassador to Russia Alexander Vershbow says in an interview with the newspaper *Argumenty i Fakty* that Moscow and Washington may once again become allies.

EU Security chief Javier Solana is interviewed on Russian TV. He says the events of 11 September have opened new opportunities for Russia's cooperation with EU and NATO, especially in the field of fighting terrorism, and at EU future expansion will benefit not only Europe but Russia as well.

4 October 2001 British Prime Minister Tony Blair visits Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

4 October 2001 US Secretary of State Colin Powell says there are no problems in Russia's relations with NATO and the West in general that could not be discussed. He says tectonic shifts of history-making scope took place in the international security system after the recent acts of terrorism in New York and Washington.

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4 October 2001 Vladimir Putin and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi have a phone conversation.

4 October 2001 A Russian Tu-154 aircraft of Sibir airlines flying from Tel Aviv to Novosibirsk explodes in the air over the Black Sea near the Ukrainian border.

4 October 2001 President Vladimir Putin has a telephone conversation with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

4 October 2001 Chairman of the Duma Gennady Seleznev visits Kyrgyzstan to discuss bilateral political and economic cooperation.

4 October 2001 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov arrives in Ukraine. He describes Ukraine's position on certain issues as "inappropriate" and inconsistent with the relationship between the two countries.

4 October 2001 Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov has a telephone conversation with FBI director Robert Mueller. He says information gleaned by the Russian law-enforcement agencies on the activities of so-called emissaries of Usamah bin Laden based in Russia will be made available to the FBI's representative in Moscow, Harry Dixon.

5 October 2001 European justice ministers hold their 24th forum in Moscow. They pass a resolution to fight terrorism.

5 October 2001 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov meets Iranian Defence Minister Ali Shamkhani in Moscow.

Igor Ivanov says that the latest events in the USA are making many reconsider foreign policy approaches and stereotypes. He says this at a joint meeting of the Foreign Ministry and the Duma international affairs committee.

5 October 2001 Vladimir Putin has a telephone conversation with his Tajik counterpart Emomali Rakhmonov.

5 October 2001 The interparliamentary commission of the Russian and Kyrgyz parliaments calls for the setting up of a Russian military base in southern Kyrgyzstan in line with the CIS Collective Security Treaty.

5 October 2001 The *Vechernyy Bishkek* web site reports that the armed forces of the signatories to the Collective Security Treaty will stage command-and-staff exercises from 8 to 13 October. The subject is "Preparing proposals and conducting joint actions against international gang formations".

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5 October 2001 Russian diplomatic sources say Russia and the European Union have agreed to set up an "urgent interaction channel" to handle crises.

6 October 2001 Russian and Ukrainian presidents Vladimir Putin and Leonid Kuchma exchange information by telephone about the progress of an investigation into the loss of the Sibir airliner over the Black Sea.

6 October 2001 The MFA says Russia supports the efforts of the UN General Assembly and Security Council to create an international anti-terrorist system.

6 October 2001 Russian Deputy Economic Development and Trade Minister Maksim Medvedkov says Russia will attend the WTO ministerial conference in Doha, Qatar, as an observer from 9 to 13 November.

7 October 2001 Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says Russia is ready to participate actively in cutting off the financial flows feeding international terrorism. He is at a meeting of G8 finance ministers in Washington.

7 October 2001 Sergey Prikhodko, deputy head of the Russian presidential administration, says US President George Bush telephoned Vladimir Putin at about 1620 gmt to inform him of the US military operation against terrorist bases in Afghanistan.

The MFA issues a statement supporting US and British strikes against Afghanistan.

Sergey Prikhodko says Russia will not participate in the US military operation against Afghanistan.

7 October 2001 British Prime Minister Tony Blair has a telephone conversation with Vladimir Putin, in which he briefed him on the course of the antiterrorist operation in Afghanistan.

8 October 2001 Vladimir Putin makes a TV broadcast giving his support for the US airstrikes against the Taleban regime in Afghanistan.

Shaykh Nafigulla Ashirov, co-chairman of the Council of Muftis of Russia and supreme mufti of the spiritual directorate of the Muslims of the Asian part of Russia, condemns the US strikes against Afghanistan.

The presidents of Russia and France talk by telephone and express support for the counterterrorist operation in Afghanistan.

Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee discuss on the telephone the situation in and around Afghanistan.

Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma talk by telephone.

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A Duma delegation leaves Moscow to visit the Afghan border.

The MFA says it welcomes the US administration's position on Russo-US relations articulated by Presidential National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice at the annual meeting of the US-Russian Business Council.

8 October 2001 Russian Security Council secretary Vladimir Rushaylo flies to Tajikistan.

The head of the Russian Emergencies Ministry group in Tajikistan, Vladimir Fedin, says the humanitarian aid that Russia is going to provide for Afghanistan is intended for 150,000 people. He says the Russian government has decided to allocate 100m roubles and 400,000 dollars worth of aid urgently.

9 October 2001 CIS Security Council secretaries meet in Tajikistan. Vladimir Rushaylo says Russian cooperation with NATO might be more than just humanitarian. The CIS Security Council secretaries sign a joint anti-terror accord.

9 October 2001 British defence secretary Geoff Hoon visits Moscow for talks with his counterpart Sergey Ivanov, who says Russian forces will not participate in the military operation against Afghanistan.

9 October 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says he opposes the possibility of the Northern Alliance coming to power in Afghanistan.

9 October 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov says Russia is prepared for a stage-by-stage development of a new framework of strategic partnership with the USA. He says strategic partnership between the two countries "must be based on maintaining, consolidating and expanding the structure of treaties and agreements on arms cuts, limitation and nonproliferation of nuclear weapons which has taken shape over the past decades". He says that Russia will submit to the 56th session of the UN General Assembly a draft resolution calling for preservation and implementation of the ABM treaty which remains "the pillar of the international legal system in nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation".

9 October 2001 Prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov visits the Czech republic.

9 October 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov sends a message to his Lithuanian counterpart.

10 October 2001 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov briefs the Federation Council on the counterterrorist operation in Afghanistan.

The Federation Council approves a statement stating that the US antiterorist operation in Afghanistan will be in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.

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10 October 2001 The Federation Council prolongs the mandate of the Russian military contingent in Bosnia and Hercegovina until 31 July 2002. The size of the contingent will be halved from 1,200 to 600 soldiers.

10 October 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov visits Japan and expresses cautious optimism about prospects of Russian-Japanese dialogue on a peace treaty.

10 October 2001 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov criticises Georgia for double standards in fighting terrorism.

10 October 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says at the Federation Council that he supports a proposal put forward by senators to create a single air defence system for all the CIS states.

10 October 2001 Vladimir Putin and his Uzbek counterpart Islam Karimov have a 30-minute telephone talk.

10 October 2001 The Azerbaijani and Russian Justice Ministries sign a cooperation agreement.

10 October 2001 Pakistani ambassador to Russia Iftikhar Murshed says Islamabad disapproves of Russia's military-technical assistance to the Northern Alliance.

10 October 2001 The Russian-Japanese commission on scientific and technical cooperation reaches agreement on more than 90 projects.

11 October 2001 The Duma votes in favour of Vladimir Putin's position on the fight against international terrorism and Russia's involvement in this problem.

Russia's Supreme Mufti and Head of the CIS and European Muslim Board Talgat Tadzhuddin speaks against Russia's involvement in the anti-terrorism campaign led by the United States and its allies.

11 October 2001 Vladimir Putin addresses a congress of the Russian diaspora in Moscow. He says all Russians belong together.

11 October 2001 Vladimir Putin and Tajik President Emomali Rahmonov discuss by phone a number of topical issues in connection with the antiterrorist operation in Afghanistan.

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11 October 2001 Deputy foreign minister Valery Loshchinin blames the deterioration of the situation in Abkhazia on Georgia.

11 October 2001 The Russian MOD denies that there is a Russian military presence in Afghanistan.

11 October 2001 Vladimir Putin and meets IMF Managing Director Horst Koehler in Moscow and they discuss banking reform.

12 October 2001 Prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov expresses concern over the Georgian parliament's decision to have Russian peacekeepers withdrawn from Abkhazia.

12 October 2001 Deputy foreign minister Aleksandr Losyukov visits China. He says Moscow and Beijing have "a full coincidence of views" on an Afghan settlement.

12 October 2001 A VTsIOM poll says 56% of Muscovites disapprove of the antiterrorist operation of the USA and Britain in Afghanistan, while 41% support it and 3% remain undecided.

12 October 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ordzhonikidze addresses the First Committee of the UN General Assembly. He says the ABM Treaty "has always been and still is a system-forming pivot of strategic stability".

12 October 2001 Vladimir Rushaylo says the crash of the Sibir airliner flying from Tel Aviv to Novosibirsk resulted from it being struck by an anti-aircraft missile.

12 October 2001 The MFA praises the meeting of the OIC states in Qatar and says Russia is ready to establish effective cooperation with Muslim nations in the struggle against terrorism.

12 October 2001 The Russian Federal Border service tightens up controls on the Russo-Georgian border.

Russian peacekeepers block the Georgian MOD column heading for the Kodori gorge near the Jvari mountain village, Mestia District in Georgia.

12 October 2001 The MFA issues a statement on the plenary meeting of the countries of the Missile Technology Control Regime in Ottawa. They conclude their work on the draft international code of actions that would prevent the proliferation of ballistic missiles.

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13 October 2001 The joint quick-reaction forces of CIS Collective Security Treaty member countries are concluding their military exercises in Kyrgyzstan. The first two stages were held in Moscow from 8 to 11 October. The final, third, stage will be held in Kyrgyzstan with the participation of the collective forces' personnel and command.

12 October 2001 Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan decide to set up an anti-terrorist centre under the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

12 October 2001 Anatoly Safonov is appointed a Russian deputy foreign minister. Safonov, who has become the 13th deputy foreign minister, will be in charge of terrorism-related issues.

12 October 2001 Vladimir Putin says he totally agrees with Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze on the need to prepare a treaty on the fundamentals of bilateral relations as soon as possible.

14 October 2001 Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski arrives in Moscow.

15 October 2001 The Caspian Pipeline Consortium director Sergey Gnatchenko says the pipeline will be fully operational at the end of the year.

15 October 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says Russia will not take part in the military operation against Afghanistan.

15 October 2001 Deputy prime minister Ilya Klebanov says Russia and India maintain close contacts in watching the development of the situation in Afghanistan. Klebanov holds talks with the Indian prime minister's adviser for national security, Brajesh Mishra, in New Delhi.

15 October 2001 Igor Ivanov has talks in Moscow with US Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs William Burn. They discuss terrorism and the Middle East peace process. Burns also has talks with Aleksandr Saltanov, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Middle East and North Africa Directorate.

15 October 2001 Economic Development and Trade Minister German Gref has talks with US Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans. They discuss the WTO. The USA has begun to consider the possibility of giving Russia the status of a country with a market economy two months ahead of time.

15 October 2001 British Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott visits Moscow. They discuss trade ties. The trade turnover between the two countries totalled 5.4bn dollars in 2000, a 40% increase over 1999. The trade balance is in Russia's favour, with the country's exports to Britain totalling 4.9bn dollars in 2000.

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15 October 2001 Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev says he opposes the withdrawal of Russian peacekeepers from Abkhazia.

16 October 2001 The MFA says the military operations by the USA and its allies in Afghanistan must be aimed exclusively at terrorist centres and the forces which support them. The MFA opposes any broadening of the current operation beyond Afghanistan.

16 October 2001 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov meets a group of US business figures led by Secretary of Commerce Don Evans. The group is the biggest US business delegation to have ever visited Russia. The USA is the fourth biggest investor in Russia after Germany, Cyprus and the Netherlands. US investment in Russia totals 8.5bn dollars.

16 October 2001 Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze sends a letter to Russian President Vladimir Putin thanking him for the work of the Russian peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia.

16 October 2001 Russian border guards in Tajikistan are fired upon from Afghanistan.

17 October 2001 Vladimir Putin issues the following decrees for the MFA. He appoints Aleksandr Saltanov as deputy foreign minister. Saltanov will supervise Russia's relations with the Middle East countries and Africa. Valery Loschinin has been appointed to the post of state-secretary of the Russian Foreign Ministry. At present, he supervises relations with the CIS in the rank of a deputy foreign minister. Vasily Sredin has been relieved of the duties as state-secretary and deputy foreign minister.

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov will have 15 deputies. Aleksandr Avdeyev and Vyacheslav Trubnikov remain in the posts of first deputy foreign ministers. Anatoly Safonov supervises issues of international cooperation in the struggle against terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crime. Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksey Fedotov is in charge of cadres of the Russian diplomatic service. Viktor Kalyuzhnyy attends to problems of the status of the Caspian Sea. Georgy Mamedov supervises the American direction. Yevgenny Gusarov is in charge of European problems. Contacts with Asian countries have been entrusted to Aleksandr Losyukov. Ivan Sergeyev attends to consular issues. Sergey Ordzhonikidze supervises contacts with international organizations. Ivan Ivanov deals with economic cooperation. Aleksey Meshkov supervises analytical work of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

17 October 2001 Vladimir Putin calls on the world community to unite in the fight against international terrorism, at a ceremony where foreign ambassadors present their credentials.

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17 October 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Russia is against the participation of the Taliban movement's representatives in any future administration of Afghanistan.

17 October 2001 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov says military operations in Afghanistan are unable to produce a lasting settlement, although he says terrorism must be rebuffed. He meets his Chinese counterpart Tang Jiaxuan in Shanghai just prior to the APEC summit. He says "Russia and China have a common attitude to the settlement of the conflict in Afghanistan". He sees a future Afghan government as an internationally-backed democratic coalition of all ethnic groups. "This understanding will be central to our work under the aegis of the United Nations for a post-conflict settlement in Afghanistan."

17 October 2001 It is reported that Russia has started supplying arms and military equipment to Afghanistan's Northern Alliance. It will receive forty T-55 tanks, eighty BMP-1 and BMP-2 combat vehicles, and several dozen armoured vehicles (BTR-60) before the end of October. The total value of the military assistance provided by Russia to the Northern Alliance before the end of 2001 will reach 45m dollars.

The Russian Emergencies Ministry says it has completed the first phase of its humanitarian mission to Afghanistan. The second phase will now begin. Russia is to provide Afghanistan with almost 4m dollars' worth of aid supplies free of charge.

17 October 2001 MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko expresses "deep outrage" at the assassination of Israeli Minister of Tourism Rehavam Ze'evi.

17 October 2001 Director of the consular service department of the MFA Vladimir Kotenev says the consular sections of Russian embassies in the Middle East have been instructed to be particularly vigilant when granting applicants leave to enter Russia.

17 October 2001 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov meets his Malaysian counterpart Syed Hamid Albar in Shanghai ahead of the APEC summit, scheduled for 20-21 October.

17 October 2001 Vladimir Putin chairs a conference at the MOD. Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov, Deputy Prime Ministers Ilya Klebanov and Aleksey Kudrin, and the commanders-in-chief of all arms of service are in attendance. They discuss current issues and Russian military security.

Putin instructs the MOD to start withdrawing Russian forces from the Cam Ranh base in Vietnam from 1 January 2002 onwards, and to close the Russian radioelectronic tracking station at Lourdes in Cuba.

17 October 2001 The MFA says the Russian leadership attaches great importance to the continued intensive work of the UN Security Council as regards the present

situation in Afghanistan. It says the UN must play a central role in the political settlement of the conflict in Afghanistan.

17 October 2001 Russian Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo and US National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice have a telephone conversation in the run-up to the APEC Shanghai summit to discuss international cooperation in the wake of the antiterrorist operation.

17 October 2001 The Duma approves a draft statement on Afghanistan.

17 October 2001 US Commerce Secretary Donald Evans says Russia could be given the status of a country with a market economy within one year. Evans reaffirms that the USA would help and supports Russia's bid to join the WTO.

17 October 2001 Deputy Minister Yevgenny Reshetnikov says MinAtom has provided Iran with a feasibility study for the construction of a new VVAR-1000 type nuclear power-producing unit.

18 October 2001 Igor Ivanov and US Secretary of State Colin Powell meet in Shanghai, and decide that a Russian-US group on Afghanistan led by First Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov and US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage will hold its next meeting in Moscow early in November.

18 October 2001 The Public Opinion Fund conducts a poll on the conflict in Afghanistan. 40% of Russian citizens support the USA's military strikes against Afghanistan, and 42% disapprove of them. 64% of those polled said that the military operation launched by the USA is a threat to Russia. Most of those who share this opinion have a higher education (71%). 23% of the respondents have no such fears.

18 October 2001 ITAR-TASS reports that Chief of the General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin who had been to Dushanbe on a brief visit had a confidential meeting with top officials of the Northern Alliance - Foreign Minister Dr Abdullah and Commander-in-Chief Gen Mohammad Qasim Fahim.

Kvashnin meets Tajik President Emomali Rakhmonov in Dushanbe to discuss issues of Russian-Afghan cooperation in combating international terrorism.

18 October 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and US Secretary of State Colin Powell have a bilateral meeting in Shanghai on the eve of the APEC summit.

Igor Ivanov says that the international community should reply to the terrorist acts in the United States by forming a global anti-terrorist system. He has talks with his Australian counterpart Alexander Downer.

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18 October 2001 MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko welcomes the statement of US President George W Bush, who described Moscow's intention to close the radar centre in Lourdes, Cuba, as a sign of the end of the Cold War. He says Russia expects reciprocal moves from the United States "who maintains several such centres on Russia's borders".

18 October 2001 The joint Russian-Indian working group on Afghanistan meets in India and says it opposes the participation of the Afghan ruling Taleban movement in a post-conflict settlement in the country. Vyacheslav Trubnikov represents the Russian side.

19 October 2001 MFA Middle East envoy Andrey Vdovin leaves for the Middle East on another mission. He says Russia still regards the Mitchell Commission's plan as the only way to bring the positions of the conflicting parties together.

19 October 2001 Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko arrives in Spain to discuss trade and economic cooperation.

19 October 2001 A spokesman (Col Nikolay Bragin) for the Russian airborne forces denies Georgian claims that Russian paratroopers have been transferred from Novorossiysk to Abkhazia.

Radio Russia reports that security has been tightened on the Russo-Abkhaz border.

19 October 2001 Duma Defence Committee chairman Andrey Nikolayev says equipping Russia's southern borders with the former USSR republics will require R22bn to R25bn and ten years of consistent work. He says: "equipping one kilometre of border costs from three to five million roubles".

19 October 2001 Vladimir Putin makes a speech at the APEC summit. He repeats his support for the US operation in Afghanistan:

Regarding our direct support for the USA, I think there is no need for me to repeat it here again. We have already declared our direct support for the United States. If you want to know whether we are changing our position, the answer is no, we are not changing our position. We have set up the framework of our cooperation and we intend to continue our cooperation within this framework.

19 October 2001 Sergey Shoygu, Minister of Emergencies, has a meeting in Tajikistan with his counterparts from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

19 October 2001 Igor Ivanov says a post-Taleban government in Afghanistan must represent all ethnic groups.

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20 October 2001 Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Russian President Vladimir Putin meet in at the APEC summit in Shanghai. They call for a political settlement in Afghanistan with a government representing all ethnic groups in the country.

20 October 2001 Lt-Gen Vladimir Popov, the head of the Russian Defence Ministry's operational group in Tajikistan, says the Northern Alliance has enough forces and resources now to restore the lawful government led by Borhanoddin Rabbani in Afghanistan. Popov says that Russia is ready to provide military-technical assistance to Afghanistan.

Popov says Russia has no intention of getting involved in combat operations in Afghanistan.

20 October 2001 The MOD says units of the 58th Russian Army have been moved to the republics of Kabarda-Balkaria and Karachay-Cherkessia, to the Abkhaaz and Georgian sections of the Russian-Georgian border. The forces will block mountain gorges and passes in the region.

20 October 2001 Russian Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo meet US Presidential National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice in Shanghai to discuss the fight against terrorism.

20 October 2001 Deputy foreign minister Yevgenny Gusev attends an EU conference in Ghent. He says as one of the first states to combat foreign-sponsored terrorism, the Russian Federation considers itself justified in regarding the military operations in Afghanistan as "a continuation of the antiterrorist operation in Chechnya". The Ghent conference is a follow up to the EU summit. Gusev says Russia does not oppose EU eastward widening.

20 October 2001 MFA special envoy Andrey Vdovin warns of the serious dangers threatening the peace process as a result of the escalation in the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. He speaks in Gaza at a joint news conference with the head of the Palestinian National Authority, Yasir Arafat. Vdovin indicated that Russia would be pressing for the parties to make a rapid return to the negotiating table in order to implement the recommendations of the Mitchell Commission.

20 October 2001 *Kommersant* reports that Vasily Sredin has been relieved of his post as state secretary and deputy foreign minister. He was in charge of the Middle East and Africa, but was unable to cope with this position.

21 October 2001 Vladimir Putin and George Bush issue a joint statement at the APEC summit on fighting terrorism. Putin says cooperation with the USA is on an upward trend.

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21 October 2001 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov visits Tajikistan for talks with the Tajik leadership and Northern Alliance. Federal Security Service director Nikolay Patrushev also visits Tajikistan.

21 October 2001 Chief of the Russian armed forces General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin visits his Chinese counterpart Fu Quanyou.

21 October 2001 King Abdullah II of Jordan and Deputy Defence Minister Mikhail Dmitriyev discuss the development of bilateral military cooperation in Amman.

22 October 2001 President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela visits Moscow. He discusses oil prices with Putin.

22 October 2001 Igor Ivanov says OPEC has not asked Russia so far to reduce its oil production and sale on the world market. Ivanov believes it is quite probable that Russia will reduce its oil production after an extraordinary OPEC session, which is scheduled for November.

23 October 2001 French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin and foreign minister Hubert Vedrine visit Russia.

23 October 2001 Igor Ivanov says Russia wants all ethnic groups to be represented in Afghanistan's new leadership.

23 October 2001 The Russian Emergencies Ministry begins to implement a new, third phase of humanitarian relief supplies to Afghanistan.

23 October 2001 OSCE chairman and Romanian foreign minister Mircea Dan Geoana visits Moscow. Igor Ivanov says that Russia and Romania will complete work on a bilateral treaty and hold a bilateral summit soon.

23 October 2001 Boris Gрызlov, Russian interior minister, visits Azerbaijan.

23 October 2001 The Russian military tightens control of the Russian-Georgian border in Kabardino-Balkaria.

23 October 2001 Aleksandr Rukshin, chief of the Russian General Staff's operations department, says the MOD has no plans for building new military bases overseas like the tracking centre at Lourdes, Cuba, or the naval depot Cam Ranh, Vietnam, after these facilities are closed down.

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23 October 2001 Duma Speaker Gennady Seleznev says Russia does not intend to broaden its participation in the antiterrorist campaign in Afghanistan.

23 October 2001 Secretary of the Russian Security Council Vladimir Rushaylo says that Europe must develop an anti-terrorist strategy.

24 October 2001 Israeli Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Housing and Construction, Natan Sharansky, visits Moscow.

24 October 2001 The Russian and Kazakh border services sign a cooperation protocol.

24 October 2001 President Vladimir Putin says he thinks that Russia's military and technical cooperation with foreign states is acquiring a "special nature" in connection with the acts of terrorism in the USA.

24 October 2001 The MFA says it will continue to take part in the international efforts to facilitate an Afghan settlement and to render considerable humanitarian aid to the population of Afghanistan in coordination with the United Nations and other international organizations.

24 October 2001 Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and his Iranian counterpart Kamal Kharrazi discuss the Afghan situation by telephone.

24 October 2001 Vladimir Putin telephones British Prime Minister Tony Blair as part of his regular consultations with world leaders to coordinate efforts in the fight against terrorism.

25 October 2001 The leader of the CPRF Gennady Zyuganov describes the USA's counterterrorist operation in Afghanistan as "military aggression".

25 October 2001 An envelope containing a suspicious white powder is sent to the US embassy in Moscow.

25 October 2001 The MFA says it welcomes the initiative of several American lawmakers, who have submitted a bill to the Senate on US adherence to the ABM Treaty.

25 October 2001 Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi leaves Moscow after a 24 hour visit.

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26 October 2001 Vladimir Putin calls for enhancing the role of the OSCE in European security affairs. He meets Portuguese president Jorge Sampaio in Moscow.

Vladimir Putin says that all the Afghan ethnic groups must be represented in the country's future leadership, including the Pushtun.

26 October 2001 Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov and US ambassador to Russia Alexander Vershbow discuss issues relating to the struggle against terrorism.

Vershbow says the USA and Russia have been forming in the wake of the 11 September tragedy an alliance unprecedented since WW2.

26 October 2001 German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder calls Vladimir Putin to discuss plans for a settlement after the Afghan conflict.

26 October 2001 The MFA calls for a resumption of the Middle East peace process.

26 October 2001 The deputy defence minister of Abkhazia, Lt-Gen Givi Agrba, says Russia has finished removing its military base from Gudauta in Abkhazia.

26 October 2001 MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says Russia shares ideas of the United States, Great Britain and other European nations about the Palestinian state.

27 October 2001 Chinese Vice-President Hu Jintao visits Moscow.

27 October 2001 Igor Ivanov gives an interview on *Zerkalo* discussing the conflict in Afghanistan and relations with the USA.

27 October 2001 Georgian parliament speaker Zurab Zhvania visits Moscow at the invitation of Duma speaker Gennady Seleznev.

28 October 2001 The MFA says it welcomes the start of consultations between the US administration and congressmen on the "full and complete withdrawal of Russia from the action of the Jackson-Vanik amendment to the 1974 trade law."

28 October 2001 The Russian ambassador-at-large and envoy for Middle East settlement, Andrey Vdovin, visits Egypt.

29 October 2001 Gennady Zyuganov, head of the Duma Commission for Assistance to Yugoslavia in Repairing the Damage Done by NATO Aggression, Nikolay Ryzhkov and about 15 other deputies send a letter to Dutch Prime Minister

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Wim Kok to demand the immediate release of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

29 October 2001 The World Economic Forum takes place in Moscow. Mikhail Kasyanov attends.

29 October 2001 The Russian Emergencies Ministry and the UN World Food Programme sign a contract to deliver humanitarian aid to the population of Afghanistan's northern provinces.

29 October 2001 The Russian MOD denies the claim of Tbilisi that Russian aircraft bombed Georgian territory.

29 October 2001 Igor Ivanov says Russia is ready to discuss a new framework for strategic cooperation with the USA. He says this is called for given changes in the international situation and in bilateral relations. "While discussion on a new framework for strategic cooperation is under way, however, the ABM Treaty of 1972 must be adhered to."

29 October 2001 Spanish foreign minister Josep Pique i Camps visits Moscow.

29 October 2001 Igor Ivanov rejects any involvement by "moderate" Taleban elements in a new Afghan government. He says:

"It goes without saying that the Taleban should not be equated with the Pashto, who must take part in that country's government. Afghanistan's future government should be formed on the basis of international consensus and must include all prominent ethnic groups, be broad-based, resolutely fight the hot spots of terrorism on Afghan soil, and dedicate efforts to the rebuilding of peaceful life and the economy."

29 October 2001 Vladimir Putin meets Macedonian President Trajkovski in Moscow. A cooperation protocol is signed between the Russian and Macedonia MODs.

30 October 2001 Libyan foreign minister Abd al-Rahman Muhammad Shalqam visits Moscow.

30 October 2001 Vladimir Putin addresses the World Economic Forum.

30 October 2001 The leader of the Russian delegation to a UN conference on climate change in Marrakech, Morocco says Russia will ratify the Kyoto protocols on global warming if mechanisms for their implementation meet national interests.

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30 October 2001 The final withdrawal of Russian peacekeeping forces from Bosnia takes place.

31 October 2001 Sergey Prikhodko, deputy chief of the Russian president's staff, and Janis Jurkans, a Latvian MP, meet in Moscow.

31 October 2001 British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw visits Moscow.

31 October 2001 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia is not considering the expansion of its involvement in the anti-terrorist operation in Afghanistan.

31 October 2001 Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri visits Moscow. He meets the head of the Muslim Board of Russia Raviil Gaynutdin.

31 October 2001 First Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Avdeyev has a meeting with Christian Diaconescu, a state secretary of the Romanian Foreign Ministry.

November

1 November 2001 Chairman of the Duma international affairs committee Dmitry Rogozin says that only Russia can guarantee Georgia's security.

1 November 2001 The Russian-US working group on Afghanistan says that Russia and the USA share the view that the Taleban must not share in Afghanistan's future government.

2 November 2001 Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Al-Hariri visits Moscow. He quotes Vladimir Putin as saying that Russia would oppose an extension of the US antiterrorist operation in Afghanistan to beyond that country.

2 November 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov returns to Moscow after a working visit to the USA. He held another round of consultations with Colin Powell in Washington within the framework of preparing the first official visit by Vladimir Putin to the USA. They discuss Russia-NATO relations. He says there is no agreement yet on NMD.

2 November 2001 German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder visits Moscow.

2 November 2001 The UN General Assembly votes in favour of the ABM treaty.

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2 November 2001 Belgian Foreign Minister Louis Michel visits Moscow. He is chairman of the EU troika.

3 November 2001 US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld visits Moscow.

3 November 2001 Russian Economic Development and Trade Minister German Gref meets US Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans in Boston.

3 November 2001 Icelandic Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Halldor Asgrimsson visits Moscow.

3 November 2001 Sergey Ivanov repeats that Russian troops will not be sent to Afghanistan.

3 November 2001 The withdrawal of Russian forces from Gudauta in Abkhazia is completed.

4 November 2001 Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee arrives in St Petersburg.

5 November 2001 Igor Ivanov visits Moldova. He says Moscow hopes the world community will reach agreement on the post-Taliban settlement in Afghanistan.

5 November 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov and US Under Secretary of State John Bolton meet in Moscow to prepare for the disarmament issues at the forthcoming Russian-American summit in the USA.

5 November 2001 Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma discuss the current state of bilateral political and economic cooperation by telephone.

5 November 2001 Moldovan Foreign Minister Nicolae Dudau and his Russian counterpart Igor Ivanov initial the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation between the two countries.

5 November 2001 Sergey Ivanov says there has been certain progress in the rapprochement of the Russian and American positions on the ABM Treaty.

5 November 2001 A government source informs Interfax that by the end of November 2001, Russia will have reimbursed around 1.54bn dollars of its foreign debt. As of 1 January 2001, Russia's sovereign foreign debt totalled 143.3bn dollars. Of this, around 6.2bn dollars was paid back between January and June 2001. On 1 July, Russia reduced its foreign debt burden to 136.8bn dollars.

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6 November 2001 Security Council secretary Vladimir Rushaylo attends the Warsaw conference on safeguarding security and combating global terrorism.

6 November 2001 Vladimir Putin has a conversation on the phone with British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

6 November 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and US Under Secretary of State John Bolton meet in Moscow and discuss strategic arms control.

6 November 2001 The new head of the Defence Ministry's foreign relations department, Maj-Gen Vladimir Fedorov, takes office. He replaces Lt-Gen Anatoly Mazurkevich, who had been appointed head of the ministry's main international military cooperation department. Fedorov was born in the town of Shchelkovo, Moscow Region, in 1949. He graduated from the western languages department in the Military Institute of Foreign Languages in 1975 and the Military Diplomatic Academy in 1983. He held various posts in the General Staff's main intelligence department. Prior to his current appointment he was Russia's military attaché in Syria.

6 November 2001 MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko gives an interview in *Krasnaya Zvezda*. He discusses US-Russian relations.

6 November 2001 Security Council secretary Vladimir Rushaylo says at the Warsaw international terrorism conference that, "In the context of the attempts to draw up a universal convention for the war on international terrorism, Russia proposes the setting-up of a UN-backed, broad-based international fund to finance specific counterterrorism measures".

6 November 2001 A VTsIOM poll says that 57% hope the US enjoys success in its military operation in Afghanistan, while 26% of Russians would not. 34% of the respondents believe that America will succeed and 46% do not. 46% do not consider Usamah bin Laden's involvement in the 11 September terrorist attacks on the US to be a proven fact; 30% do. 47% of Russians support the US military operation and 41% do not support it. 45% of those polled believe that the operation will result in the overthrow of Taleban rule, while 36% do not. 58% of the respondents favour the presence of Russian troops in Tajikistan and 25% want their withdrawal. 55% of Russians believe that if the Taleban try to invade Uzbekistan, the Russian army should get involved in repulsing the attack, while 29% disagree.

VTsIOM conducted a representative poll of 1,600 Russians on 30 October.

7 November 2001 Gennady Zyuganov attacks the US military operation in Afghanistan.

7 November 2001 Vladimir Putin says a compromise on NMD is possible.

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7 November 2001 The chairman of the Duma Committee for Ecology, Vladimir Grachev, says Russia does not intend to ratify the Kyoto protocol.

7-8 November 2001 First Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Avdeyev attends the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe which discusses prevention of terrorism, at its 109th session in Strasbourg, France.

8 November 2001 Vladimir Putin is interviewed on ABC television on his trip to the USA. He thinks a compromise on NMD is possible. He says rapprochement is in the interests of both the USA and Russia.

Putin and US President George Bush discuss by telephone their forthcoming summit.

8 November 2001 The press centre of the Russian Federal Border Service denies foreign press reports claiming that Russian border guards in Tajikistan are fighting Taliban units.

8 November 2001 Viktor Kozlov, the general director of Atomstroyeksport, says Russia will start supplying equipment for India's Kudankulam nuclear power station at the beginning of 2002.

8 November 2001 Vladimir Putin talks to his French counterpart Jacques Chirac by telephone.

9 November 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov leaves for New York to complete preparations for the first official visit by Vladimir Putin to the USA and to participate in the general political discussion at the 56th UN General Assembly.

9 November 2001 Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov sends a letter to President Vladimir Putin outlining his views on Russian-US relations and the country's foreign policy. He warns that the Putin-Bush summit may betray Russian national interests.

9 November 2001 A Public Opinion Foundation Poll finds that 61% believe that external enemies may unleash a war against Russia, down from 73% in 1999. In 1997, 44% of Russians feared that foreign enemies would start a war. In 2001 13% of the respondents named the USA as the potential enemy, down from 48% who said so in 1999. Just 2% currently perceive China as a threat compared to 3% in 1999.

In 2001, Chechnya was named as a possible attacker by 6% of the respondents, up from 2% in 1999, and Afghanistan was singled out by 19%, up from 1%. Russians do not perceive Japan, Germany or NATO as military enemies, compared to 3%, 5% and 16% respectively in 1999. Britain is feared by 1% of Russians, down from 6%. Two years ago, Russians did not perceive Muslim countries, Georgia or Pakistan as

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enemies, while apprehension was expressed by 8%, 3% and 2% of Russians respectively this year. Although the United States tops Russians' list of potential enemies, the number of those fearing it dropped almost fourfold.

These figures were obtained in polls conducted by the Public Opinion Foundation in 1997, 1999 and 2001, involving 1,500 residents.

9 November 2001 The MFA confirms that the Russian military has pulled out from the base in Gudauta.

9 November 2001 First Deputy Minister of Justice Yury Demin attends the first round of Russian-Indian consultations on cooperation in the sphere of justice and exchange of experience in antiterrorist legislation in New Delhi.

9 November 2001 The MFA officially denies reports by various foreign media alleging that Vladimir Putin plans to visit the Middle East, in particular Iraq, shortly.

9 November 2001 The MOD denies Taleban assertions that Russian officers are serving in the Northern Alliance.

9 November 2001 The Russian Prosecutor General asks Georgia to hand over Chechen commander Ruslan Gelayev.

10 November 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and US Secretary of State Colin Powell meet and prepare documents for the Russian-US summit to be held in the United States on 13-15 November.

10 November 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksander Losyukov and Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran Gholamreza Shafe'i meet in Moscow. They state that Russia and Iran intend to interact actively at the 56th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. This interaction will mainly focus on Afghan problems.

10 November 2001 Russia's permanent representative at the United Nations, Sergey Lavrov, says the UN role should be increased in the face of new world challenges and threats.

10 November 2001 The head of a joint delegation of four former Soviet republics bordering China, Vitaly Vorobyev, says Russia has reduced troops and military equipment on the Chinese border in the Far East that exceeded the limits established under the 1996-1997 agreements on confidence-building measures and arms reductions on the former Soviet-Chinese border.

10 November 2001 Vladimir Putin meets US journalists in the Kremlin on the eve of his visit to the USA. He says there is evidence of a link between international terrorists in Chechnya and Usamah bin Laden. He says a compromise with the USA on NMD may be possible. He says that improvement in Russia-NATO relations is possible. He says Russia is ready to take part in the rescue of American crews and pilots during the antiterrorist operation in Afghanistan. "In these terms we are ready to use our resources on Afghan territory."

10 November 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, his counterparts from 15 EU member countries, European Commission member Chris Patten and Secretary General of the EU Council Javier Solana hold a meeting in New York City on the struggle against terrorism.

11 November 2001 Vladimir Putin says that to attempt to exclude North Korea, Iraq or Belarus from the international community is a mistake.

Putin sends a message to the conference on the CTBT treaty. He expresses concern over the slow pace of implementation of the treaty.

11 November 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov meets British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw to discuss international issues, at the 56th session of the UN General Assembly.

11 November 2001 Russian Chief of the General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin describes the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty as the nucleus of the world's strategic stability system.

11 November 2001 Slovak President Rudolf Schuster visits Moscow.

11 November 2001 Vladimir Putin says that the redeployment of militants from Chechnya to Afghanistan is proceeding "with the connivance of the authorities" of Georgia.

11 November 2001 The Russian and Chinese foreign ministers, Igor Ivanov and Tang Jiaxuan, meet within the framework of the 56th session of the UN General Assembly to discuss bilateral ties and international issues, focusing on the fight against terrorism.

12 November 2001 The foreign ministers of the Six-Plus-Two group (Russia, USA and the countries bordering Afghanistan) meet at the UN. They say they believe that the Taleban, which supports international terrorism, cannot be involved in future government structures in Afghanistan.

12 November 2001 MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says the views of Russia and Pakistan on Afghanistan's political future "practically coincide or are

very similar". This follows bilateral talks between Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and his Pakistani counterpart Abdul Sattar as part of the 56th session of the UN General Assembly. The parties agree on the four main principles for the post-conflict settlement in Afghanistan. First, the coalition government should be set up on a broad political and ethnic basis. Second, the future government should have the support of the international community. Third, Afghanistan and its coalition government should be friendly towards its neighbours, that is, "it should present no threat for the other countries in the region or international security on the whole". The fourth principle demands the future government "to devote itself to the restoration of peaceful life in Afghanistan".

12 November 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and his Jordanian counterpart Abd al-Ilah al-Khatib meet at the UN. They say that the strengthening of direct contacts between the leadership of Israel and the Palestinian National Authority and the development of continued Palestinian-Israeli interaction in the field of security could help settle the conflict in the Middle East.

12 November 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and Arab League Secretary-General Amr Musa meet at the UN.

12 November 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says "the antiterrorist operation in Afghanistan is developing in a predictable way, and it is successful from the military point of view". He denies "an off-the-record agreement between Russia and the USA on the involvement of Russian troops in the antiterrorist operation in Afghanistan".

12 November 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov denies allegations that Al-Qa'idah has Russian-made nuclear devices.

12 November 2001 Vladimir Putin and Uzbek President Islam Karimov have a telephone conversation. They discuss Afghanistan.

13 November 2001 A customs source tells Interfax that Russia exported 127.966bn cubic metres of natural gas in January-September - down 2% (by 2.46bn cubic metres) from the same period in 2000. In cost terms natural gas exports were up 21% (by 2.4bn dollars) year-on-year to amount to 13.779bn dollars in the first nine months of 2001.

According to the source, exports of natural gas from Russia to outside the CIS in January-September 2001 amounted to 101.657bn cubic metres for 12.449bn dollars, with exports to the CIS of 26.308bn cubic metres for 1.329bn dollars. Most natural gas exports went to Germany (24.27bn cubic metres), Ukraine (23.83bn cubic metres) and Italy (16.13bn cubic metres).

Russian natural gas exports in September 2001 amounted to 12.887bn cubic metres for 1.31bn dollars, including 11.014bn cubic metres (1.22bn dollars) to outside the CIS and 1.863bn cubic metres (95.4m dollars) to the CIS. Russia exported 176.747bn cubic metres of natural gas for 16.117bn dollars in 2000.

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13 November 2001 A member of the Federation Council representing the administration of Pskov Region, Mikhail Margelov, one of the leaders of the Federatsiya parliamentary group, is elected the chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the Federation Council.

13 November 2001 The MFA welcomes the pro-Rabbani United Front's entry into Kabul.

13 November 2001 Emergency Situations Minister Sergey Shoygu says Russia's expenditure on humanitarian aid to Afghanistan will total 12m dollars.

13 November 2001 Vladimir Putin announces that the last nuclear missile withdrawn from Ukraine has been scrapped.

13 November 2001 The MFA says the Georgian army should be withdrawn "from the entire Kodori gorge".

13 November 2001 Vladimir Putin visits the USA. Bush and Putin discuss arms control, NMD, US-Russian trade, the US presence in Central Asia, the anti-terrorist struggle. Bush proposes lowering warheads to 2,000. Russia and the USA agree to exclude the Taleban from a future Afghan government. The USA will remove the Jackson-Vanik amendment to the US-Russian trade bill.

14 November 2001 The Russian Communist Party and People's Patriotic Union issue a statement denouncing US actions in Afghanistan.

14 November 2001 The first deputy atomic energy minister, Lev Ryabev, tells the Duma Russia over the next 10 years will commission a total of 10 nuclear power reactors, one every year. In other countries - Iran, India and China - Russia in the same period will put into operation six reactors.

14 November 2001 Russian forces complete their withdrawal from Moldova.

14 November 2001 Rear-Adm Valentin Kuznetsov, head of the international treaty directorate of the Defence Ministry's Main Directorate for International Military Cooperation, says NATO's eastward enlargement is creating problems for Russian national security.

14 November 2001 Chief of the Yugoslav General Staff Nebojsa Pavkovic meets the Russian military leadership in Moscow to discuss military cooperation. Pavkovic holds talks with Russian Chief of Staff Anatoly Kvashnin and meets Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov.

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14 November 2001 Vladimir Putin states in Houston that the Taleban must not be represented in the future Afghan leadership. He wishes to expand Russian cooperation with NATO.

14 November 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Saltanov says the Mitchell Plan is a key to the normalization of the situation in the Middle East. He meets the Palestinian ambassador in Moscow, Khairi al-Oridi.

15 November 2001 The Russian and US presidents, Vladimir Putin and George Bush, adopt a "Plan of Joint Action" in addition to six statements signed previously. The document encompasses the battle against global threats to security; issues of political, military-political and economic cooperation; and specific spheres in bilateral relations.

15 November 2001 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov visits Spain.

15 November 2001 The MFA says the United Nations should play the cardinal role in restoring peace in Afghanistan.

15 November 2001 Prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov says Russia will not agree to a large cut in oil exports. He says the price corridor should be 20-25 dollars a barrel.

15 November 2001 Geydar Dzhemal, the head of Russia's Islamic Committee, criticises Russia's following US strategy in anti-terrorism.

15 November 2001 Vladimir Putin and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan meet at the UN to discuss the fight against international terrorism and Afghanistan.

16 November 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says representatives of Russian ministries and agencies are departing for Afghanistan, to forge contacts with the legitimate Afghan government. Ivanov heads the coordination group for Afghanistan.

16 November 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov calls for setting up a centre for aiding countries which are suffering from crises caused by terrorist acts.

16 November 2001 The MFA welcomes the amendments to the constitution of Macedonia envisioned by a framework agreement as a step towards the restoration of peace and ethnic accord in Macedonia.

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16 November 2001 Lt-Gen Oleg Smirnov, chief of the CIS military cooperation headquarters says the Collective Security Treaty member states will receive Russian military equipment at preferential prices.

17 November 2001 Vladimir Putin and British Prime Minister Tony Blair have a telephone conversation.

17 November 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov urges caution over peacekeeping forces in Afghanistan.

17 November 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says he believes that Russia should establish new, closer forms of relations with NATO. "The current format of Russia-NATO relations at the level of a joint permanent council is just talking, it does not give anything ... in the meantime, one is not talking about Russia's entering NATO."

17 November 2001 Deputy prime minister Ilya Klebanov says the antiterrorist operation conducted by the international antiterrorist coalition will not affect the concept of Russia's military-technical cooperation.

17 November 2001 Turkish foreign minister Ismail Cem visits Moscow. He and Igor Ivanov sign an agreement on the development of cooperation between Russia and Turkey.

17 November 2001 The Russian and Tajikistan presidents, Vladimir Putin and Emomali Rakhmonov, have a telephone conversation. They discuss Afghanistan.

17 November 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and his Iranian counterpart, Kamal Kharrazi, hold talks in New York on Afghanistan.

18 November 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov is interviewed on Russian TV. He warns against euphoria over Afghanistan. He says Russia had been informed about the Northern Alliance plans in advance, at a recent meeting between Putin and President Rabbani of Afghanistan in Dushanbe.

19 November 2001 The Russian MOD denies reports that a special police unit and a unit of the 201st Motor Rifle Division stationed in Tajikistan have been moved to Afghanistan to protect an advance party of senior Russian officials in that country.

19 November 2001 US Ambassador Alexander Vershbow says the USA does not seek to stay long in Afghanistan, or Central Asia. He says the USA wants new concrete mechanisms developed aimed at a closer integration of Russia into NATO.

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19 November 2001 Vladimir Putin has a telephone talk with Chinese Chairman Jiang Zemin. They discuss the US-Russian summit.

19 November 2001 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov addresses a round table of the Russian business community.

19 November 2001 Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin attends a meeting of the Group 20 finance ministers in Ottawa to discuss measures to surmount negative tendencies in the world economy after the 11 September terrorist attacks and to prevent the financing of terrorism. Kudrin hopes for a new level of relations with the IMF. He discusses Russian debt payments to the IMF.

19 November 2001 Vladimir Rushaylo, secretary of the Security Council, visits France.

19 November 2001 CIS Collective Security Treaty deputy foreign and defence ministers meet in Moscow.

19 November 2001 Moldovan President Vladimir Voronin visits Moscow. He and Putin discuss the planned bilateral treaty.

19 November 2001 Vladimir Putin states large work carried out by Russia and Ukraine over the past 18 months in the gas sphere has been completed.

19 November 2001 Ivan Sergeyev retires as deputy foreign minister.

19 November 2001 The head of the Russian delegation of talks on the implementation of the 1972 Biological Weapons convention, Leonid Skotnikov, attends the fifth conference on the implementation of the convention. He confirms Russia's commitment to the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention, and expresses its support for the ratification of a protocol to the convention outlining effective methods of control.

19 November 2001 An international conference of nuclear power engineers opens in Moscow Region.

19 November 2001 Security Council secretary Vladimir Rushaylo says Russia has obtained intelligence about Chechen rebels' plans to go to Afghanistan to fight against US troops.

20 November 2001 Vladimir Putin signs a decree "On extending the presence of the Russian armed forces contingent in the peacekeeping and stabilization

operation to implement the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Hercegovina".

20 November 2001 CPRF leader Gennady Zyuganov says he believes that President Vladimir Putin's foreign policy "is destroying the country's national security". He says, "For four hours I tried to persuade Putin and for two hours Kasyanov that we have no right to get involved. Americans are dragging us into a war with the enormous Muslim world in which 1.4bn people live, into a war with the Arab world."

20 November 2001 Vladimir Putin says Russia is prepared to take part, if needed, in the rescue of US aircrews in Tajikistan and Afghanistan using its "special relations" with the Northern Alliance. Russia's 12,500 infantrymen of the 201st Division and 10,000 border guards stationed in Tajikistan contribute to stability in the region.

20 November 2001 The Federation of Russia's Jewish Communities at its second convention supports the appeal of the country's Chief Rabbi Berl Lazar to the US president and Congress to repeal the Jackson-Vanik amendment.

20 November 2001 Chief of the General Staff General Anatoly Kvashnin visits NATO HQ.

20 November 2001 Igor Ivanov says a formula for settling the Israeli-Palestinian crisis put forward by US Secretary of State Colin Powell on 19 November "is on the whole in tune with the position of Russia". He says:

"Russia, as the USA, adheres to the principle that implementation of the recommendations of John Mitchell's commission would make it possible to put an end to the military confrontation between the Israelis and Palestinians, stop violence, take confidence-building measures and resume the negotiation process."

20 November 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov visits Cuba.

20 November 2001 Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko says additional decisions will be made shortly in the framework of Russia's consultations on the situation on the world oil market with OPEC nations and non-members.

20 November 2001 Security Council secretary Vladimir Rushaylo says the format of Russia-NATO interaction must be revised.

21 November 2001 The council of defence ministers of CIS member states opens in Moscow. The defence ministers are discussing the issue of coordinating efforts to

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combat international terrorism, as well as the prospects for expanding military and technical cooperation.

21 November 2001 The CIS Defence Ministers Council nominates Col-Gen Viktor Zavarzin, Russia's chief military envoy to NATO, to the post of first deputy chief of the CIS military cooperation headquarters.

21 November 2001 Vladimir Putin meets King Abdullah II of Jordan in the Kremlin.

Putin conveys his greetings to the Islamic world at the beginning of Ramadan.

21 November 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says he welcomes proposals by British Prime Minister Tony Blair on cooperation in a NATO-Russia Council format.

Sergey Ivanov calls for the establishment of a new type of relationship between Russia and NATO.

21 November 2001 Deputy Prime Minister Valentina Matviyenko visits Greece.

21 November 2001 Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko says he does not rule out the possibility of Russia making further cuts in its oil exports after consultations with OPEC countries and states outside this organization.

21 November 2001 Chief of Russia's General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin calls for preserving the leading role of the anti-Taliban United Front in the political life of Afghanistan.

21 November 2001 President Vladimir Putin's aide Andrey Illarionov says Russia's admission to OPEC would badly damage the Russian economy.

21 November 2001 Vladimir Putin makes a speech to CIS defence ministers in Moscow.

21 November 2001 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov is interviewed in *Trud*. He rules out Russian involvement in the war against Afghanistan and deployment of international peacekeepers.

22 November 2001 Vladimir Putin says "Russia does not intend to line up to be accepted into NATO". He speaks with members of the Federal Assembly's international affairs committees.

Putin tells members of the international affairs committees of the Duma and the Federation Council that Russia now has a long-term partnership with the USA.

NATO Secretary-General George Robertson visits Volgograd. He says NATO would continue its eastward extension. He says it is necessary to raise Russia-NATO relations to a higher level. Robertson says that NATO is coming to realize the relationship between Chechen extremists and terrorism, and that NATO calls on the Chechen side to break off its connections with terrorism.

Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia and NATO should fight together against contemporary challenges to security. Sergey Ivanov gives a cautious welcome to closer cooperation with NATO, and says that a defeat of Taleban formations in Afghanistan will not result in the destruction of international terrorism.

Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev says Russia should not enter into NATO. He calls for setting up "a new international structure" of Russia, China, India, the USA and European nations for building a new system of international security.

First Deputy Chairman of the State Duma Lyubov Sliska offers prospects for new mechanisms in NATO-Russia cooperation to NATO parliamentarians. Sliska makes the proposals to a delegation of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly led by Rafael Estrella. Sliska suggests holding a joint session of committees of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the Russian parliament "for a more detailed discussion of concrete aspects of interaction".

22 November 2001 Vladimir Putin says terrorism must be fought until it is completely eliminated. He says the fight "should be conducted until terrorists are completely eliminated, no matter where they are". Putin believes that "all political and ethnic groups" of Afghanistan should be represented in the future administrative bodies of this country. Putin believes that "representatives of the Northern Alliance should play a key role in the negotiation process for creating a new administration of Afghanistan".

22 November 2001 Vladimir Putin and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev talk over the phone about preparations for a planned anniversary summit of the CIS on 30 November.

23 November 2001 NATO Secretary-General Robertson says NATO has started to gain a better understanding of the problems facing Russia in Chechnya.

23 November 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says he believes that conditions have appeared for a qualitatively new relationship between Russia and NATO.

24 November 2001 The CIS Interparliamentary Assembly meets in St.Petersburg. It calls for the coordination of parliament activities in fighting against international terrorism and formally establishes the Eurasian Economic Community.

24 November 2001 Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov and his Iranian counterpart Mohsen Aminzadeh meet in Afghanistan to discuss the Afghan conflict.

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24 November 2001 First Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Avdeyev states that Russia and Greece have "in fact been forming an integral energy complex in the Balkans, which meets the interests of lasting security, stability and cooperation in the region".

24 November 2001 The first meeting of the parliament speakers from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia and Georgia is held in St Petersburg.

25 November 2001 A Chinese military delegation visits Russia. It is headed by Deputy Chief of the Chinese General Staff Xiong Guangkai. Chinese generals participate in the fifth round of Russian-Chinese staff talks.

25 November 2001 Former President of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev replaces Boris Gryzlov in the post of co-chairman of the Petersburg Dialogue, a Russia-Germany forum.

25 November 2001 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov is interviewed on TV on Russian relations with NATO and the future of Afghanistan.

26 November 2001 Russian military aircraft land in Kabul as part of the Russian aid operation to Afghanistan.

26 November 2001 Igor Ivanov says a special group has gone to Kabul to prepare for the opening of a Russian embassy.

26 November 2001 Russia's ambassador at large Nikolay Kartuzov flies to Baghdad for consultations with the Iraqi leadership. He will discuss economic relations.

26 November 2001 The Russian-Iraqi economic forum ends in Moscow. It calls on Vladimir Putin to take every possible measure to block the draft of the Anglo-American resolution on Iraq in the UN Security Council and to use the right of veto.

26 November 2001 US Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham arrives in Russia on a four-day visit. He will discuss the situation on world oil markets, cooperation in the oil and gas industry and atomic energy and non-proliferation issues. He will go to Anapa in Krasnodar Territory to attend the official launch of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium project near Novorossiysk.

26 November 2001 Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa Uthman Isma'il visits Moscow.

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26 November 2001 The chief of Poland's National Security Bureau, Marek Siwiec, visits Moscow. He has talks with Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo.

26 November 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says the embassy in Afghanistan will be able to operate fully "in about two months".

26 November 2001 The MFA calls on the Israeli government not to resort to the use of force against Palestinians, to withdraw troops from the areas of the Palestinian National Authority and to renounce the practice of extra-judicial reprisals, which only exacerbate the situation.

26 November 2001 A Russian delegation, led by Minister of Property Relations Farit Gazizullin, arrives in Iran. The minister and a group of Russian businessmen arrived in Iran to hold a working meeting at the level of co-chairmen of the standing Russian-Iranian commission for trade and economic cooperation.

27 November 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says the war against terrorism is not over yet. He denies claims that Russia has a 100 strong military force in Kabul. He says: "This number is exaggerated. There is a group of representatives of Russian agencies in Kabul, in which there are several employees of the defence Ministry." He says they are working as military attachés, maintaining the necessary contacts with the US command and with Afghan troops.

27 November 2001 MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says Moscow views the inter-Afghan meeting in Bonn as an extremely important step towards a comprehensive Afghan settlement.

27 November 2001 Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ordzhonikidze says Russia and the US have agreed to negotiate this week the draft of yet another UN Security Council resolution to extend the "oil for food" humanitarian programme for Iraq.

Deputy foreign minister Aleksandr Saltanov expresses opposition to Iraq becoming a target of the anti-terrorist operation.

27 November 2001 Russian and Yugoslav Defence Ministers Sergey Ivanov and Slobodan Krapovic meet in Moscow.

27 November 2001 Vladimir Putin and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder speak by telephone.

28 November 2001 A decision to set up a joint working group for bilateral cooperation is taken in Moscow at a meeting between Russian Energy Minister Igor Yusufov and his American counterpart Spencer Abraham.

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28 November 2001 State Statistics Committee Chairman Vladimir Sokolin says almost 10 million people have emigrated to Russia from other CIS countries and the Baltic states since the beginning of the 1990s.

28 November 2001 Cypriot Defence Minister Socratis Khasikos visits Russia.

29 November 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov denies claims by the Georgian authorities that Russian combat helicopters delivered night-time strikes on Georgia's Pankisi gorge.

The Russian MOD denies claims in some media that two airborne regiments have been sent to Afghanistan.

29 November 2001 A poll from the Public Opinion Fund asks citizens for their views on US President George W Bush. In September 22% sympathised with Bush. In November 32% do so.

29 November 2001 President Vladimir Putin sends his congratulations to Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the People of Palestine.

30 November 2001 CIS heads of state summit begins in Moscow.

30 November 2001 The Committee for Russian-EU Cooperation meets in Brussels. It discusses Kaliningrad.

December

1 December 2001 The 5th meeting of the Russian-Japanese intergovernmental commission on trade and economic issues takes place in Tokyo.

The governor of Khabarovsk Territory, Viktor Ishayev, says there is no reason for Russia to transfer the disputed South Kuril islands to Japan now, because Tokyo is reluctant to take reciprocal steps.

1 December 2001 First Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov receives Director of Policy Planning for the US Department of State ambassador Richard N Haass. They discuss cooperation in countering terrorism.

1 December 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov issues an appeal to the OSCE member states concerning the activity of OSCE missions in Estonia and Latvia with regard to issues of citizenship, language rights of ethnic minorities and migration.

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1 December 2001 Russia begins the withdrawal of ammunition from Moldova under the agreements achieved at the OSCE summit in Istanbul.

2 December 2001 The head of the Palestinian National Authority, Yasir Arafat, meets Foreign Ministry special envoy Andrey Vdovin in Ramallah. The MFA urges Arafat to curb extremists.

2 December 2001 MFA envoy Nikolay Kartuzov says Russia is trying to dissuade the USA from attacking Iraq.

3 December 2001 Ethiopian Prime Minister Zenawi Meles visits Russia. A declaration on partnership is signed.

3 December 2001 The OSCE foreign ministers meet in Bucharest. Igor Ivanov says Russia calls for a deep and comprehensive renewal of the OSCE in Europe which would give it a proper place in the international architecture of cooperation and security. The MFA wants the OSCE forum to adopt a document on terrorism.

3 December 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says it is too early to say that the Taliban have been fully defeated in Afghanistan.

3 December 2001 Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says Russia's debt to the IMF will drop to 7.69 bn dollars by the end of the year.

3 December 2001 US ambassador to Russia Alexander Vershbow says the US State Department is worried over the TV6 television station independence.

3 December 2001 A PACE delegation visits Chechnya.

3 December 2001 Sergey Ivanov says Russian officers will visit the Coordination Group of the US Central Command in Tampa, Florida. This group is in charge of the military operation in Afghanistan.

3 December 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov calls on the Palestinian authorities to curb terrorists.

3 December 2001 Vladimir Putin has a telephone conversation with Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt to discuss the Middle East settlement. They also discuss Russia-EU relations.

4 December 2001 Igor Ivanov and US secretary of State Colin Powell discuss the Middle East and Afghanistan at the OSCE meeting in Bucharest.

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Igor Ivanov has talks with Israeli foreign minister Shimon Peres in Romania.

4 December 2001 The Russian-Ukrainian intergovernmental commission meets. Mikhail Kasyanov attends. They discuss Russian gas supplies to Ukraine and a free trade regime.

4 December 2001 The Japan Association for Trade with Russia and Eastern Europe gives the following information on foreign investment in Russia. The volume of foreign investment in the Russian economy in 2000 reached 32bn dollars and the USA became the leader among foreign investors. The volume of foreign investment in Russia in 2000 increased by 14.6% as compared with 1999. US companies have invested 7bn dollars or 22% of all foreign investments in Russia in 2000. Germany is second, it has invested 20%, and Cyprus comes the third by investing 13%. The volume of Japan's investment was 372m dollars or 1.1%.

4 December 2001 Exports of oil from Russia in January-October 2001 amounted to 134.9m tonnes. Exports to outside the CIS in the reporting period amounted to over 125.3m tonnes for 20.57bn dollars, with exports to the CIS of 9.577m tonnes for 1.34bn dollars. Most exports went to Germany (18.95m tonnes), Poland (16.67m tonnes) and Italy (17.8m tonnes).

Russian oil exports in October 2001 amounted to 13.94m tonnes for 1.891bn dollars, including 12.57m tonnes for 1.711bn dollars to outside the CIS and 1.366m tonnes for 180.5m dollars to the CIS.

5 December 2001 Deputy foreign minister Aleksandr Losyukov welcomes the Bonn agreements on Afghanistan.

5 December 2001 Vladimir Putin says there is a global terrorist Internationale which stretches from the Balkans to the Philippines. He says any military strikes on other countries supporting terrorism should be discussed in the UN.

5 December 2001 Goskomstat reports that Russian foreign trade in the first ten months of 2001 grew 6.5% year-on-year to 117.4bn dollars. Trade with the CIS grew 4.1% to 21.3bn dollars, while trade with the rest of the world was up 7.1% to 96.1bn dollars.

The trade surplus was 51.2bn dollars, compared with 56.1bn dollars a year ago, of which 2.5bn dollars (1.8bn dollars [in January-October 2000]) with the CIS and 48.7bn dollars (54.3bn dollars [in January-October 2000]) with the rest of the world.

Exports grew 1.4% year-on-year to 84.3bn dollars. Exports to the CIS were increased by 7.2% to 11.9bn dollars, and exports to the rest of the world edged up 0.6% to 72.4bn dollars.

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Imports totalled 33.1bn dollars, up 22.2% from the first ten months of 2000. Imports from the CIS grew 0.4% to 9.4bn dollars, and imports from the rest of the world 33.7% to 23.7bn dollars.

Russia exported 140.011bn cubic metres of natural gas in January-October. Gas exports in cost terms amounted to 15.011bn dollars in the first 10 months.

Exports of natural gas from Russia to outside the CIS in January-October 2001 amounted to 111.88bn cubic metres for 13.587bn dollars, with exports to the CIS of 28.128bn cubic metres for 1.423bn dollars. Natural gas exports went to Germany (27.3bn cubic metres), Ukraine (25.38bn cubic metres) and Italy (17.21bn cubic metres).

Russian natural gas exports in October amounted to 12.044bn cubic metres for 1.23bn dollars, including 10.255bn cubic metres for 1.137bn dollars to outside the CIS and 1.819bn cubic metres for 93.95m dollars to the CIS.

Russia exported 176.747bn cubic metres of natural gas for 16.117bn dollars in 2000.

5 December 2001 The MFA says Russia has completely fulfilled its commitments under START-1.

5 December 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russian forces will not take part in any peacekeeping operation in Afghanistan.

5 December 2001 The MFA warns Israel and the Palestinians to show restraint.

5 December 2001 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov meets European Commissioner for External Relations Chris Patten to discuss various aspects of cooperation between Russia and the European Union. Patten arrives in Russia to take part in the first meeting of the high-level joint group that should work out a common European economic space concept. The group was created in May 2001. Patten also meets Mikhail Kasnyanov.

6 December 2001 National coordinators of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization meet in Moscow to discuss preparation for the opening of the anti-terrorist centre in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

6 December 2001 The MFA warns of negative consequences if the USA withdraws from the 1972 ABM treaty.

Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov and the US undersecretary of state, John Bolton, meet in Moscow to prepare for discussions on strategic offensive armaments and missile defence which will take place during a Moscow visit of US Secretary of State Colin Powell on 9-10 December.

6 December 2001 Vladimir Putin visits Greece. Six agreements are signed, including in the fuel and energy sector.

7 December 2001 Vladimir Rushaylo, the secretary of the Security Council, says he believes a new CIS security organ should be created. Rushaylo says the new structure could be named the Interstate Security Committee. He says it could enhance coordination on many matters ensuring the security of CIS countries, also as regards fighting global terrorism.

7 December 2001 The Russia-NATO Permanent Joint Council meets in Brussels. They issue a joint statement on fighting terrorism. Russia and NATO also express their intention to intensify cooperation "in other spheres, including crisis settlement, nonproliferation, arms control and confidence-building measures, theatre missile defence, search and rescue at sea, and cooperation between military and emergency civil reaction forces."

Igor Ivanov says the Council should transform its interaction formula into a full-fledged "20".

7 December 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov and Afghan Foreign Minister Abdollah discuss the situation in Afghanistan in Dushanbe.

Sergey Ivanov says the situation in the Pankisi gorge of Georgia is "very dangerous for the national security of Russia."

7 December 2001 *Vremya MN* says Iran is likely to become Russia's third most important arms purchaser after China and India.

8 December 2001 Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia Vladimir Zhirinovskiy says his party intends to adjust its foreign politics. "We are abandoning the anti-American and anti-Western sentiments in our foreign ideology." He says Russia and the USA should interact to provide security in the world.

8 December 2001 A ROMIR poll says 72% of Russian citizens deplore the break-up of the USSR. 10.4% approve of the Soviet Union's collapse and 13.4% said they were indifferent.

57.6%, believe that the liquidation of the Soviet Union could have been prevented. 30% said the USSR's collapse was inevitable, 12.4% made no comment.

44% blamed the break-up of the Soviet Union on the human factor, errors by the leadership and personal ambitions of individual political leaders of that day, 17.2% said the drive for independence by the constituent republics was the reason, 12.9% pointed to the social and economic crisis as the chief cause of the disintegration and 11.1% to the crash of Communist ideology.

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The poll was based on a representative sample of 2,000.

8 December 2001 A VTsIOM poll says the attitude of Russians towards NATO has somewhat improved in the past several years, as almost one-third of Russians favour better cooperation with the North Atlantic Alliance at the moment, as compared with 22% in 1996.

The survey also revealed that 34% of Russians believe that the European Union is interested in Russia joining this organization, while 33% take the opposite view. 22% said they believe the EU would not want Russia to be a member because of the economic competition it could offer. Another 21% said the EU would be apprehensive of mass migration of Russians into Europe, 16% believe the EU fears it would be weakened if Russia enters it, and 5% said the reason is nationalistic trends spreading among EU member states.

29% favour WTO membership for Russia, 22% oppose it.

9 December 2001 Vladimir Putin visits Germany.

9 December 2001 US Secretary of State Colin Powell visits Moscow.

10 December 2001 US Secretary of State Colin Powell meets Vladimir Putin and Igor Ivanov. They discuss Afghanistan, NMD and NATO.

10 December 2001 Russian envoy Andrey Vdovin has talks with Yasir Arafat in Ramallah.

10 December 2001 The MFA says Kosovo's problems remain unresolved despite the parliamentary elections.

10 December 2001 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov arrives in Canada.

10 December 2001 Duma deputy Viktor Ilyukhin accuses Ukrainian companies of supplying arms to Chechen rebels and the Taleban.

10 December 2001 First Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov says the presidential election in the self-proclaimed Dnestr republic of Moldova "is illegal from the point of view of international law".

10 December 2001 The MFA says Russia calls for the development of international cooperation in the field of human rights on the basis of generally recognized standards.

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11 December 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says Moscow will not begin to implement the START-2 treaty until the document is ratified by Washington. He repeats his opposition to NATO widening.

11 December 2001 *Kommersant* reports that the General Staff has embarked on the elaboration of a plan for a limited Russian military contingent to take part in the UN peacekeeping force in Afghanistan.

The Russian government says it plans to restart the work of its consulate-general in Mazar-e Sharif in the north of Afghanistan.

11 December 2001 The MFA urges Israel and Palestine "to take immediate reciprocal steps and start implementing the Mitchell-Tenet plan".

11 December 2001 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov says Russia firmly backs the strengthening of Bosnia and Hercegovina as an integral multiethnic state.

11 December 2001 Duma Chairman Gennady Seleznev visits China.

11 December 2001 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says some areas in Georgia are out of control, to all intents and purposes occupied by foreign mercenaries, and "this is the source of all problems and threats to our security which are coming from Georgia".

Sergey Ivanov advocates strengthening the border with Georgia.

11 December 2001 The MFA says it regards the presidential elections in South Osetia as a unilateral action.

11 December 2001 Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin welcomes the introduction of the euro.

11 December 2001 Moscow mayor Yury Luzhkov and chairman of the Crimean Supreme Council Leonid Hrach sign an agreement on a project for the construction of a bridge across the Straits of Kerch.

11 December 2001 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov visits Canada.

11 December 2001 OPEC Deputy Secretary-General Adnan Shihab-Eldin says Russia confirms to OPEC that it plans to reduce oil exports by 150,000 barrels per day in the first quarter of 2002.

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11 December 2001 The deputy head of the Middle Eastern and North African directorate of the Russian Foreign Ministry, Vladimir Titorenko, says Russia will attempt to persuade Iraq to soften its attitude to UN demands that it enforce Security Council resolutions.

12 December 2001 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov visits Brazil.

12 December 2001 Zlatko Lagumdžija, Foreign Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, concludes his visit to Moscow.

13 December 2001 Vladimir Putin expresses regret at the US decision to withdraw from the 1972 ABM treaty in six months.

Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee discussed the USA's decision to withdraw from the 1972 ABM treaty by telephone.

13 December 2001 French Chief of Staff Jean-Pierre Kelche visits Moscow for talks with defence minister Sergey Ivanov.

13 December 2001 First Deputy Chief of the General Staff Col-Gen Yury Baluevskiy is interviewed in *Obshchaya Gazeta* on Russia-NATO cooperation and says Russia does not fear the US presence in Central Asia.

14 December 2001 The chairman of the Federation Council Committee on International Affairs, Mikhail Margelov, says a Russian-US military alliance in Central Asia, has emerged.

14 December 2001 Mikhail Kasyanov visits Venezuela and has talks with President Hugo Chavez, who heads OPEC.

15 December 2001 Vladimir Putin sends PLO leader Yasir Arafat a message in which he expresses hopes that as a result of the consistent build up of efforts by the Palestinian National Authority, "a reliable barrier will be put up to terror".

Duma deputy speaker Vladimir Lukin describes as "correct" the UN Security Council draft resolution on a deployment of international observers in the area of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The USA vetoes it.

15 December 2001 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov visits South Africa.

16 December 2001 Igor Sergeyev says a replacement for the ABM treaty must be found.

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17 December 2001 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says "the Russian Defence Ministry will not take any drastic direct or indirect steps" in connection with the US decision to withdraw from the ABM Treaty.

17 December 2001 The MFA welcomes Yasir Arafat's speech calling for an end to terrorist attacks against Israel.

17 December 2001 Sergey Ivanov visits NATO. He calls for a new format of relations between Moscow and NATO. Ivanov rejects any Russian participation in peacekeeping in Afghanistan.

17 December 2001 The Russian and Chinese MFAs hold consultations on strategic stability.

17 December 2001 Russia and Mongolia sign a final protocol on border issues in Ulaanbaatar.

17 December 2001 Armenian President Robert Kocharyan arrives in Moscow.

17 December 2001 The MFA criticises US attitudes towards the Biological Weapons Convention following the 5th convention review conference, held in Geneva.

17 December 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says that the START-2 treaty is not likely to come to force following US plans to withdraw from the ABM Treaty.

18 December 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia and the United States will draft an agreement on radical cuts in strategic offensive weapons in six months. He says:

"Russia and the United States have announced the planned reduction parameters: 1,500 and 1,700-2,000 nuclear warheads respectively. As we see, a certain difference remains, but I think that it will be removed when the stage of signing concrete agreements is reached."

18 December 2001 Italian foreign minister Renato Ruggiero visits Russia. Igor Ivanov has talks with him and confirms Russia's intention to secure rapid development of a new framework for strategic cooperation with the USA, as well as the legal formalization of agreements on the long-term reduction of strategic offensive weapons.

18 December 2001 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia may support operations aimed at eliminating international terrorist structures beyond the borders of Afghanistan provided that it receives corresponding confirmation.

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18 December 2001 Zamir Kabulov, head of the Russian diplomatic mission, arrives in Afghanistan.

18 December 2001 Sergey Ivanov attends a meeting of the Russia-NATO Permanent Joint Council in Brussels. He says Russia expects cooperation from the West over Chechnya.

Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov and NATO Secretary-General George Robertson exchange letters on the opening of a NATO military mission in Moscow. He has talks with US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld at NATO.

18 December 2001 The MFA calls for the lifting of sanctions on Iraq.

19 December 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says Moscow will uphold the interests of its national security as NATO expands eastwards.

19 December 2001 The chairman of the Russian Audit Chamber, Sergey Stepashin, and the US vice-president, Dick Cheney, discuss the restructuring of the former Soviet Union's debt to the United States in Washington.

19 December 2001 The Duma ratifies the Treaty on Principles of Relations and Cooperation between Russia and Iran, signed in Moscow on 12 March.

19 December 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov and the head of the French Foreign Ministry's department of strategic issues and disarmament, Gerard Araud, hold talks in Moscow.

19 December 2001 Russian and Polish Prime Ministers Mikhail Kasyanov and Leszek Miller agree to come to an understanding on all issues in bilateral cooperation in the energy field before 15 January prior to Vladimir Putin's visit to Poland.

19 December 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says the inaction of the Georgian authorities in the face of terrorism in the Caucasus must be viewed as an unfriendly act vis-à-vis Russia. He says in an address at the Belgian Royal Higher Institute for Defence that Russia has for years been engaged in pitched fighting with international terrorism, originating both from Afghanistan and from Russia's areas in the North Caucasus and Russia's appeals to Georgian authorities to join efforts in fighting Chechen terrorists and their accomplices have gone unheeded.

19 December 2001 Chairman of the Duma international affairs committee Dmitry Rogozin visits Israel.

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19 December 2001 The international conference of Jews from the Soviet Union closes in Moscow. It urges international organizations, above all the UN, "to raise their voices in defence of the right of the state of Israel to defend itself".

19 December 2001 The Federal Security Service says the Turkish special services are amongst the most active foreign intelligence services in southern Russia.

20 December 2001 Polish Prime Minister Leszek Miller meets Vladimir Putin in the Kremlin.

20 December 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov meets US Assistant Secretary of State John Wolf in Moscow. They discuss arms control.

20 December 2001 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov visits London.

20 December 2001 Andrey Vdovin, special MFA representative to the Middle East, returns from a trip around the Middle East region. He expresses optimism over the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

20 December 2001 Foreign Intelligence Service head Sergey Lebedev is interviewed in *Trud*.

20 December 2001 The Russian and Japanese MFAs have talks on implementing the Kyoto Agreement on climate change.

21 December 2001 The MFA criticises the US Senate's consideration of a draft law on democracy in Belarus.

21 December 2001 The OSCE assistance group to Chechnya has its mandate limited to 31 December 2002.

21 December 2001 Vladimir Putin visits Britain for talks with Tony Blair.

21 December 2001 The MFA expresses support for the UN Security Council on the creation of an international security force in Afghanistan as an important element for guaranteeing security and stability in that country.

21 December 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ordzhonikidze says Russia advocates "a package approach" to settling the situation around Iraq. This Russian initiative presupposes a suspension and then complete lifting of sanctions, coupled with international monitoring of relevant Iraqi military programmes. He says this following the Russian-American consultations on Iraq, held in Moscow.

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21 December 2001 Deputy Foreign Minister responsible for Caspian region affairs Viktor Kalyuzhnyy arrives in Tehran. He will participate in the 9th international seminar on the problems of the Caspian region 22-23 December.

21 December 2001 The MFA criticises Austria's new military doctrine, as it refuses to rule out the possibility of Austria joining NATO.

22 December 2001 The MFA welcomes the inauguration of the Afghan interim government led by Hamid Karzai.

22 December 2001 Chairman of the Duma Committee on International Affairs, Dmitry Rogozin, and the head of the Palestinian National Authority, Yasir Arafat, meet in Ramallah. Rogozin offers Arafat to hold in Russia in the near future a parliamentary conference on Middle East settlement. The Palestinian leader supports this idea and asks Rogozin to speed up the organization of this conference.

22 December 2001 The MFA criticises the cessation of the OSCE missions in Estonia and Latvia.

22 December 2001 Igor Ivanov says in a TV interview that cooperation with the USA will continue despite the USA's ABM decision.

24 December 2001 US Ambassador Aleksandr Vershbow is interviewed in *Kommersant*. He emphasises the importance of a free media for Russia.

24 December 2001 Vladimir Zhirinovskiy says the Liberal Democratic Party has changed its foreign policy doctrine and cast aside the four "antis" - anti-Americanism, anti-NATO, anti-Communism and anti-Semitism.

24 December 2001 Palestinian Ambassador to Russia Dr Khairi al-Oridi hands over a message from Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat to Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Aleksey II. Al-Oridi says that he told the Patriarch during the meeting that Russia should confirm its position on protecting holy places and providing people with free access to them.

24 December 2001 Vladimir Putin has a telephone conversation with French President Jacques Chirac.

24 December 2001 The Emir of Qatar Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani visits Moscow.

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25 December 2001 Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka arrives in Moscow for a session of the supreme state council of the Union of Russia and Belarus.

25 December 2001 The emir of Qatar, Shaykh Hamad Al Thani has talks with Putin.

25 December 2001 The MFA comments on the UN General Assembly resolution on Afghanistan. It states it believes that the central role in international efforts to promote the settlement of the conflict in Afghanistan must be played by the United Nations.

25 December 2001 Deputy foreign minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Russia is concerned by the Indo-Pakistan tensions.

25 December 2001 The acting director of the Russian Foreign Ministry stability and disarmament department, Mikhail Lysenko, says the USA's unilateral withdrawal from the ABM Treaty constitutes a "threat which could undermine the basis of disarmament". Lysenko was speaking at a meeting of the Federation Council Committee for International Affairs.

26 December 2001 The MFA regrets the fact that Israel did not allow Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat to visit Bethlehem to take part in a Christmas mass.

26 December 2001 The Duma ratifies the Russia-China Friendship and Cooperation Treaty, which was signed in Moscow in July 2001.

The Duma ratifies an agreement between the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan on cooperation in guarding external borders, signed in Moscow on 21 October 1994.

26 December 2001 Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin tells the Federation Council that Russia's foreign debt payments in 2002 will total 14.05bn dollars, including 6.845bn dollars principal and 7.205bn dollars interest. He says Russia can service the state debt.

27 December 2001 President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma have talks on the telephone. They discuss gas transit via Ukraine regarding the protocol of 26 December 2001.

27 December 2001 Commander of Russian Ground Troops and Deputy Defence Minister Nikolay Kormiltsev says Russian soldiers serving in the CIS collective peacekeeping forces will remain in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone after the expiration of their mandate and will continue doing their duties to the full extent.

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27 December 2001 US Secretary of State Colin Powell and Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov discuss by telephone possible ways to remove tension between India and Pakistan.

28 December 2001 Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov arrives in Armenia to finalize decisions on the takeover of some military research institutes and defence plants for debts.

28 December 2001 Government sources inform Interfax that in 2001 Russia paid 17.5bn dollars to foreign creditors. Out of that sum, the Finance Ministry paid 14.3bn dollars on foreign debts, including 1.45bn dollars to the IMF and some 3.5bn dollars on Eurobonds.

28 December 2001 Russia's chargé d'affaires Aleksandr Oblov officially takes up office in Kabul.

28 December 2001 *Izvestia* reports Col-Gen Nikolay Kormiltsev, commander-in-chief of the Ground Troops and Russian deputy defence minister as saying that in 2002, the Russian 201st Motor Rifle Division stationed in Tajikistan will be transformed into a military base.

29 December 2001 President Vladimir Putin and his French counterpart, Jacques Chirac, have a telephone conversation, during which they discuss Indo-Pakistan confrontation.

29 December 2001 The MFA says it welcomes a recent statement from the White House confirming its willingness to develop cooperation with Russia to reduce the threat of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and continue to implement corresponding bilateral programmes.

29 December 2001 Igor Ivanov says 2001 saw "the full return of Russia to the international arena as one of the leading players exerting a direct influence on international developments".

29 December 2001 Vladimir Putin says Russia will only enter the WTO under the right conditions.

30 December 2001 Vladimir Putin appoints Andrey Denisov to the post of a deputy foreign minister of Russia, releasing him from the duties of the Russian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

31 December 2001 The CIS peacekeeping forces' mandate in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone expires.

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