

## Russian Foreign Policy: Chronology

### April-June 2002

#### *April*

**1 April 2002** Defence minister Sergey Ivanov confirms that there are three Russian citizens at the prison camp at the Guantanamo base in Cuba.

**1 April 2002** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov discusses the situation in the Middle East during telephone conversations with his Egyptian counterpart Ahmad Mahir al-Sayyid, German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer and Spain's Foreign Minister Josep Pique, whose country currently holds the presidency of the EU. A MFA (Foreign Ministry) statement says that the sides urged "the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1402 of 30 March as promptly as possible". The statement says that this resolution calls for "an immediate ceasefire, the withdrawal of Israeli forces, and the further cooperation of Israel and Palestine with international mediators in a bid to begin implementing the Tenet plan and Mitchell recommendations". The Russian foreign minister says that in order to achieve this goal, Russia is planning to maintain intensive contacts with the Israeli government, Palestinian administration, as well as with the USA, EU, UN and other parties concerned.

**1 April 2002** The Russian foreign minister's representative for a Middle East settlement, Andrey Vdovin, meets Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. Middle East intermediaries from EU countries and the UN attend the meeting.

**1 April 2002** Deputy minister of atomic energy, Yevgenny Reshetnikov, visits India. He says Russia is keen on setting up at least four more advanced light-water nuclear reactors in India to further strengthen the techno-commercial ties between the two countries.

**1 April 2002** Deputy foreign ministers Aleksandr Losyukov and South Korean envoy Kim Hang-kyung have talks in Moscow.

**1 April 2002** The MFA says it welcomes the outcome of the Ukrainian parliamentary elections.

**1 April 2002** President Vladimir Putin appoints State Secretary and First Deputy Foreign Minister Valery Loshchinin as his personal representative for the Georgian-Abkhaz settlement.

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**1 April 2002** Patriarch Aleksey II of Moscow and All Russia urges the clergy around the world to take an active part in the peacemaking process in the Middle East and to help stop the escalation of tension in the region. Aleksey II says that "Israelis and Palestinians must resolve the questions of their life only by peaceful means". He says that the growing confrontation in the Holy Land, "which is sacred to all Christians around the world", causes him "deep sadness and makes his soul ache".

**2 April 2002** Vladimir Nikitin, Duma member and chairman of the budget and finance commission of the Russia-Belarus Union's Parliamentary Assembly, says the Russia-Belarus union budget for 2002 will provide for maintenance of the Russian-Lithuanian border.

**2 April 2002** Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi visits Russia. He meets Vladimir Putin in Sochi.

**2 April 2002** Igor Ivanov has talks with an EU delegation in Madrid on Russia-EU security cooperation. Ivanov says talks between Russia and the EU and NATO "are aimed at creating a security mechanism in Europe." He says: "Russia and the European Union have mutual interest in the search for shared answers to new global threats and challenges, in the settlement of crises in the Middle East, in Afghanistan and in the Balkans."

Igor Ivanov says after the meeting in Madrid that the international community, including Russia, agrees that international terrorism must be fought and is prepared to help Israel with this. However, "this must not lead to the destruction of the political structures of the Palestine National Authority". Igor Ivanov reckons that a new form of cooperation on the Middle East has developed among the "Quartet" (ie Russia, EU, USA and the UN). This, Ivanov believes, is related to the unique situation in the region, "where we all speak from the same positions".

**2 April 2002** Russian and US Presidents Vladimir Putin and George Bush have a telephone conversation and express their concern over the escalation of the Palestinian-Israeli confrontation.

Igor Ivanov says that in the current situation in the Middle East "it is necessary to use all resources to stop the escalation of violence that threatens the entire region". He says that there has yet been no easing of tension despite the efforts of the four parties - Russia, the EU, the USA and the United Nations.

The Russian foreign minister's special Middle East envoy, Andrey Vdovin, and international mediators from the USA, the EU and the UN hold a joint meeting in Jerusalem to discuss ways of implementing UN Security Council Resolution No 1402.

The MFA says it regards as unacceptable the seizure by the Israeli army of a building and land belonging to the Russian Orthodox Church during an operation in the Palestinian town of Bethlehem. Deputy foreign minister Aleksandr Saltanov meets the Israeli ambassador in Moscow, Natan Meron. Saltanov states that "harming the activities and property of the Russian Orthodox Church in the Holy Land is unacceptable". The Russian embassy in Israel has got in touch with the

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Israeli side in order to seek an immediate end to the military presence on Russian Orthodox Church property.

**2 April 2002** The president of the Committee on International Cultural, Scientific and Business Cooperation with Iraq, Yury Shafranik, visits Iraq for a round table devoted to the 30th anniversary of the signing of a treaty on friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Iraq. He says most of the functions of the economic embargo against Iraq "are either not working or are ineffective". He discusses the development of Russo-Iraqi economic relations.

Ivan Matlashov, the Russian Federation's first deputy energy minister, says that currently the Russian companies' share in the overall export of Iraqi oil stands at 40%. Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih says that a long-term programme of economic cooperation between Russia and Iraq envisions contracts worth about 40bn dollars. The programme contains over 60 different projects in different spheres, 17 of them in the oil and gas sector.

**2 April 2002** The command of the Russian Ground Troops denies that it had relocated or was planning to relocate any armoured equipment or personnel to Georgia's breakaway region of Abkhazia.

**2 April 2002** Vladimir Nikitin, Duma member and chairman of the budget and finance commission of the Russia-Belarus Union's Parliamentary Assembly, says the Russia-Belarus union budget for 2002 will provide for maintenance of the Russian-Lithuanian border.

**2 April 2002** Igor Ivanov and the US secretary of state, Colin Powell, have a telephone conversation at the initiative of the American side, expressing serious concern over the escalation of Israeli-Palestinian confrontation.

**3 April 2002** The CIS Military Cooperation HQ says the establishment of a regional command post of the CIS unified air defence system in Kazakhstan has been postponed for an unspecified period. The reason for the delay is the lack of money. Establishment of the post was expected to cost some R250m (8.01m dollars) and the funds were to be provided by all nations that are signatories to the treaty, but most of them refused to do it.

**3 April 2002** Vladimir Putin says Russia is ready, together with the UN, the USA and Europe, to make a contribution to the peaceful resolution of the Middle East conflict. He calls on both sides to stop bloodshed. He says that the Middle East is the land of holy sites, spiritual and cultural monuments which belong to the whole of mankind. "Both sides should display a sense of responsibility and constraint and prevent damage to these panhuman monuments."

Israeli ambassador to Moscow Natan Meron is invited to the MFA where he is told that Russia is "seriously concerned" about the continuing presence of Israeli troops on the territory of the Russian Orthodox Church in Bethlehem. The Israeli troops have been controlling the territory and building in Bethlehem that belong to the

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Russian Orthodox Church since 1 April. The MFA tells the Israeli ambassador that it is concerned "about the general alarming atmosphere surrounding religious holy places in Palestine as a result of the continuing Palestinian-Israeli confrontation".

The MFA expresses concern about the growth in tension on the Lebanese-Israeli border.

The special representative of the head of the MFA, Andrey Vdovin, speaks by phone with the Palestinian leader, Yasir Arafat. Vdovin says he "had held a whole series of consultations with his counterparts, representing the USA, EU and UN". He says: "our joint efforts are aimed at overcoming the current crisis and implementing UN Security Council Resolution No 1402".

Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Saltanov says at a meeting with US Ambassador to Moscow Alexander Vershbow that the situation in the Middle East "requires coordinated efforts by Russia and the USA as co-sponsors of the Madrid process and by such influential intermediaries as the European Union and the United Nations". Saltanov says: "If the Palestinian-Israeli confrontation is to be stopped, the Israelis and the Palestinians must first be inclined immediately to fulfil UN Security Council Resolution 1402 ... the fight against terror should not lead to the destruction of the Palestinian National Authority or undermine the capability of its leaders to fulfil their obligations to rein back extremists."

Saltanov has meetings in Moscow with the Israeli and Palestinian ambassadors, Natan Meron and Khairi al-Oridi. He says the process of the Arab-Israeli settlement should be restored "on the basis of the Madrid principles, taking into account the Saudi Arabian peace initiative." He says Russia "will continue to actively seek to achieve these goals, in coordination with the US cosponsor, the EU and the UN".

**3 April 2002** Father Feofan, a representative of the Russian Orthodox Mission in Jerusalem, says Israeli soldiers in Bethlehem are shooting from a hotel belonging to the Russian Orthodox Church in Bethlehem. On 2 April Patriarch Aleksey II warned of the danger of the pilgrim's house on the territory of the Russian Orthodox Mission being used for armed operations. According to him, if shooting begins from the building, "the Russian Orthodox Church will be indirectly involved in the conflict".

President of the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Yevgenny Primakov, visiting China, says the situation in the area of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is at the boiling point. He says: "The conflicting parties are unlikely to come to terms on their own, without outside intervention, as both terrorist attacks and the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories continue ... the current crisis, seemingly insoluble, can be resolved, if the international group consisting of Russia, Europe, the USA, Egypt and the UN formulates compromise settlement terms and imposes them on both parties ... probably, we should impose on the conflicting parties the problem of the creation of a Palestinian state - not at the expense of the Israeli state, of course. This is the sole way of resolving the problem of Israel's security, which must be one of the mandatory clauses of a future compromise agreement."

**3 April 2002** Igor Ivanov arrives in Morocco.

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Ivanov gives Moroccan King Mohammed VI a personal message from President Vladimir Putin. Ivanov says Russia and Morocco aim at long-term cooperation.

Ivanov condemns any attempts to isolate Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat.

**3 April 2002** Russian Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo visits India. He says Russia believes the expansion of the framework of the international antiterrorist operation without the UN's sanction is unacceptable.

**3 April 2002** Vladimir Putin and Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi have talks in Moscow. Putin says Russia and NATO have common tasks in many areas. Putin and Berlusconi issue a joint statement following their Moscow talks.

Russia and Italy confirm their intention to help create a new mechanism of interaction between Russia and NATO in the format of twenty for "consultations, cooperation, joint decisions and joint actions on a wide range of security issues in the Euro-Atlantic region". They also call for the strengthening of the G8 as a forum for discussing major strategic issues, and promise to pay priority attention to the fight against terrorism.

**3 April 2002** The Duma calls for a halt to the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), which is aimed at prosecuting people allegedly responsible for war crimes committed on the territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991.

**3 April 2002** Deputy head of Kaliningrad Region's police directorate's passport and visa service, Lyudmila Yanchevskaya, says only 222,000 residents of Kaliningrad Region have passports for foreign travel. She says some 740,000 people will need passports if Lithuania introduces the visa regime. At present, Kaliningrad Region residents do not need passports for visiting Lithuania. They can cross the border having a special supplement to the Russian internal ID. Lithuania intends to cancel this rule in 2003.

**4 April 2002** Kaliningrad Region governor Vladimir Yegorov says that the region is not yet prepared for life within the boundaries of the EU. He believes that a Russian-EU working group on Kaliningrad should be formed as soon as possible, as agreed at the EU summit in Brussels in October 2001.

**4 April 2002** Sergey Ivanov visits Greece. He condemns Israel's military action near the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. "Russia definitely condemns these actions ... a dirty war is going on in the holy land of Bethlehem, and Christians are enraged by this war."

MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says Russia insists that Israelis and Palestinians immediately comply with UN Security Council Resolution No 1402.

While Israel must withdraw its troops and above all lift the blockade of Yasir Arafat's residence and other Palestinian National Authority offices and holy places,

the Palestinian leadership must issue a clear-cut order that all kinds of violence must cease and use its power to ensure that the order is carried out.

The Russian Foreign Ministry's special envoy Andrey Vdovin is called back to Moscow for urgent consultations in connection with a sharp aggravation of the situation in the Middle East.

**4 April 2002** Iranian foreign minister Kamal Kharrazi visits Russia, including the Moscow State International Relations Institute MGIMO. He expresses concern at the presence of US troops in Central Asia.

Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov denies reports about Moscow's supply of nuclear missile technology to Iran.

Atomstroyeksport says it is holding talks with Iran on construction of the second unit at the Bushehr nuclear power plant. Around 3,900 Russian and Iranian specialists now work at the construction site of the first unit of the Bushehr nuclear power plant. Last year, Russia partially shipped the main equipment, including the reactor. In all, 5,000 tonnes of equipment were shipped. The reactor of the first power unit is planned to be put into operation in December 2003.

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi says Russia and Iran can and should play a positive role in resolving regional and a number of important international issues.

Talks will focus on the implementation of Russian-Iranian accords reached in Moscow in March 2001. Kharrazi and Igor Ivanov will exchange ratification letters on the treaty on principles of relations and cooperation between Russia and Iran that was signed in March 2001.

Kharrazi will discuss with Russia's leaders the issue of the Caspian Sea's status and preparation of a summit of Caspian littoral states, address fighting against international terrorism, drug trafficking, as well as issues of international security, disarmament, non-proliferation and export control, and continue exchange of opinion about the situation in Afghanistan, Central Asia, Transcaucasus republics and the Middle East.

Kharrazi criticises US and Israeli policy in the Middle East. He says a decision to suspend oil supplies to the USA would be effective only if many states agreed to such a step.

**4 April 2002** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says there are quite a few citizens from Russia and Central Asian countries are fighting in the ranks of the Taleban movement and the Al-Qa'idah terrorist organization in Afghanistan.

**4 April 2002** Security Council secretary Vladimir Rushaylo says the situation in Central Asia is stable and all threats to its security have been warded off.

**4 April 2002** The Chechenpress website criticises the Organization of the Islamic Conference for failing to support the Chechen people.

**4 April 2002** The North Korean vice-premier Jo Chang Dok visits Vladivostok.

**4 April 2002** Vladimir Putin meets head of the World Bank James Wolfensohn in Moscow. Putin says Russia "was very satisfied" with its collaboration with the World Bank, and had attracted some 10bn dollars in investment in the course of 10 years of joint work.

**4 April 2002** Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says in Athens that Moscow is assessing critically the process of settlement of the situation in Kosovo. He says the Russian contingent to KFOR will be cut, but not withdrawn.

Sergey Ivanov says cooperation with NATO in the group of 20 format will make it possible to reach decisions jointly on security.

The Russian and Greek defence ministries sign a cooperation plan for 2002. Sergey Ivanov says it was "quite possible" that a missile defence system would be set up for Europe, and that Russia would take part in building it. This would be "a tactical missile defence, which would be able to fight those threats that are situated not far from Europe, including Russia".

**4 April 2002** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov ends a visit to Tunisia.

**5 April 2002** The MFA welcomes the passing of UNSC Resolution No 1403 on 4 April.

**5 April 2002** The Iraqi Oil Ministry invites Zarubezhneft to take part in developing one of the largest oilfields in the country's south with reserves forecast at about 450m tonnes.

**5 April 2002** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov calls on Israel and Palestine to "immediately start implementing" the last two resolutions of the UN Security Council - 1402 and 1403.

**5 April 2002** Vladimir Putin has a telephone conversation with British Prime Minister Tony Blair. They discuss the Middle East, and Russia-NATO cooperation.

**5 April 2002** Patriarch Aleksey II of Moscow and All Russia and the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church issue a statement calling for "an end to all military action in the area surrounding the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and the withdrawal of armed men from there". The Holy Synod expresses alarm at "the violent weakening of the structures of civil self-organization of the Arab people and attempts actually to de-legitimize the Palestinian National Authority ... these actions can completely destroy the negotiating process and deprive the Palestinian people of any real chance of exercising their internationally recognized right to set up their own State." The Holy Synod says it believes that the Holy Land "is the heritage of all humankind", and calls on the Palestinians to unconditionally stop

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terrorist attacks against civilians and on Israel to withdraw troops from Arab communities and let the Palestinian leader freely communicate with the outside world and his compatriots.

The Duma decides not to include on the agenda of the plenary sitting today a draft resolution "On measures for an urgent end to violence in the Middle East".

The MFA expresses concern at the attack on UN peacekeepers in southern Lebanon and "demands an end to similar actions."

**5 April 2002** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov meets Iranian foreign minister Kamal Kharrazi in Moscow. He calls the term "axis of evil" used by the USA about some countries "a remnant of the Cold War".

Igor Ivanov confirms Russia's position that "the use of force is possible only with sanction from the UN Security Council. No country has the right to resort to such measures without the UN Security Council's sanctions."

Kharrazi calls on Islamic countries to impose "an oil embargo" on the USA and Israel due to the situation in the Middle East. He attacks US foreign policy for its unipolarity.

The Russian-Iranian agreement on basic relations and principles of cooperation comes into force after Russian and Iranian foreign ministers exchange documents on the ratification of the agreement. The agreement was signed on 12 March 2001 during the visit to Moscow by Iranian President Mohammad Khatami.

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov dismisses US allegations that Russia supplied dual-use products to Iran.

**5 April 2002** Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says there are no differences between Russia and the United States over the essence of the legally binding agreement on reducing strategic offensive weapons. He says "There are certain differences over the mechanism for verifying the reduction and approaches to the reduction itself." Moscow wants the weapons earmarked for reduction to be destroyed, whereas the USA wants to store them.

**5 April 2002** Russian and US lawmakers hold a meeting in the Federation Council to discuss developing framework legislation on export control.

**5 April 2002** Igor Ivanov says as yet there have been no positive changes in finding a solution to the issue of cooperation between Russia and Georgia in the fight against terrorism. He says the main problem in bilateral relations is "the unwillingness of the Georgian side to take part in the joint fight against terrorists and their camps, located on Georgian territory in the Pankisi Gorge".

**5 April 2002** The Duma ratifies a treaty on friendship and cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Moldova.

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**5 April 2002** Yabloko party leader Grigory Yavlinskiy expresses support for President Vladimir Putin's course for expanding ties with the USA.

**5 April 2002** Kaliningrad Region governor Vladimir Yegorov says the Russian General Staff plans to cut the number of the Baltic Fleet's military grouping to 8,603 servicemen. Yegorov says that the grouping is currently 25,000 strong.

**6 April 2002** The deputy head of the Russian presidential administration, Sergey Prikhodko, says Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov is in constant contact with US Secretary of State Colin Powell regarding the situation in the Middle East. He says that the Russian and US presidents have an agreement that they will work out steps to break the impasse in the Middle East region.

The MFA information department says Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and US Secretary of State Colin Powell discussed the situation in the Middle East in a telephone conversation on 5 April. The diplomats emphasized the need to compel Israel and Palestine to strictly observe UN Security Council Resolutions 1402 and 1403 to quickly overcome the current grave crisis in the region.

Ivanov and Powell believe it is possible for joint or parallel steps to be taken by Russia, the USA and other countries and international institutions, which could stop the Israeli-Palestinian armed confrontation and return the situation to the path of negotiation.

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov speaks by telephone with Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat.

Ivanov confirmed Russia's determination to work jointly with the USA, the EU and the UN to achieve an early cease-fire and launch a political settlement process on the basis of the available proposals.

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov tells Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon that the escalating crisis in the Middle East takes many lives daily and poses an increasingly serious threat to regional stability.

The MFA says: "Russia has officially joined the system of UN reserve agreements, designed to raise efficiency in the launching of UN operations to maintain peace."

**6 April 2002** The MFA says Russia has joined the group of countries which have assumed commitments to provide military personnel and property at the request of the UN for peacekeeping operations in which they are taking part.

**7 April 2002** Vladimir Putin says Russia has no "objective confirmation or proof that Iraq has supported Al-Qa'idah" or has developed or possesses weapons of mass destruction.

"The problem with Iraq is how to get that country's leaders to allow international observers into sites that some people think are being used to make weapons of mass destruction ... we have no information to the effect that Iraq possesses such weapons or is developing them ... if the

international community has concerns (in this regard), then of course it is entitled to raise the issue of inspections."

Putin says Russia's job is to persuade Iraq to allow the international observers back in. He says there are many ways of doing that, so "it's politically wrong to talk now about applying force before other resources have been exhausted".

**7 April 2002** Vladimir Putin says he is against "the removal from the political scene" of Yasir Arafat.

**7 April 2002** Vladimir Putin says Russia and the United States may sign a new document on strategic stability in May.

He says Moscow "highly appreciates the readiness of the United States to link questions of offensive and defence weapons ... we welcome the readiness of the United States to reduce strategic offensive armaments to 1,700-2,200 warheads."

Putin says he cooperates with the West "not because he wants to be liked or get something in exchange" but because these relations "fully comply with the national interests of Russia". He says his main tasks are economic growth and better living standards. "That cannot be done without creating a favourable foreign political atmosphere around Russia."

**7 April 2002** Vladimir Putin says Russian servicemen in Chechnya will destroy "the armed bandits who do not wish to surrender" because "the bandit, terrorist International still exists and operates there". He says: "The problems of separatism and terrorism have intertwined" in Chechnya ... people get money from the same financial centres as Al-Qa'idah, and rebels are trained in one and the same centres and brought to our territory in the Caucasus ... we hope for the same attitude by the international community to our fight against terrorism as we display in our assistance to the international coalition in its fight against terrorism encountered by other states."

**7 April 2002** Vladimir Putin says he recognizes that Russia will have to deal with a "certain issue" regarding the payment of debts to the IMF in 2003, when the payment commitments will reach their peak. He says Russia will cope with this problem. Russia is due to pay some 16bn dollars to the IMF in 2003.

**7 April 2002** Igor Ivanov is interviewed on ORT on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He says:

You know, I believe that the uniqueness of the current situation, unlike previous conflicts in the Middle East, is in the fact that the world community abides by a common stand. It is not by chance that the so-called Quartet was formed of representatives of the United Nations, the USA, Russia and the European Union. We abide by the same stand. And I believe that we can achieve perceptible results only if we abide by a common stand ...

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I think that Russia does have levers of influence but I can also say that Russia does not have levers of influence which could change the situation radically. I believe that only through a concerted effort including all levers - US, European, Russian, Arab and UN - will we be able to achieve results ...

[Interviewer - Vladimir Pozner] Someone put forward the following idea: the USA, Russia and the European Union should get together and tell both sides: Well, you sit at the negotiating table, and you withdraw your troops immediately under the threat of sanctions on the part of the world community, including the use of force. Is this scenario possible?

[Ivanov] Of course, this is an extreme and painful measure. It would be better to do without it. But this measure cannot be ruled out ...

If these resolutions [ie UNSC Resolutions 1402 and 1403] are not observed, we will start thinking about more harsh measures at the UN Security Council, including the measures which you have mentioned ...

**7 April 2002** A group of gunmen attack and fire on three observation posts and three reserve groups of the collective peacekeeping force in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict on the night of 7 April. There are no casualties.

**8 April 2002** The MFA says use of force against holy places, historical and cultural monuments in the zone of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is "unacceptable". Russia "is alarmed that religious shrines on Palestinian territory have found themselves under serious threat as a result of the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli conflict ... the only realistic exit from the bloodshed is to immediately carry out the requirements established by Resolutions 1402 and 1403 of the UN Security Council."

**8 April 2002** Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev says Russia plans to begin supplying low-enriched nuclear fuel made from war-grade uranium to the United States in April.

**8 April 2002** A MFA statement says that Moscow considers it necessary to ensure that the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty comes into force as soon as possible and that it is universal in nature.

**8 April 2002** The MFA criticises Georgia for shooting incidents on CIS peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia.

**8 April 2002** Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says there has been "some decline" in relations between Russia and Japan. He says Tokyo "more and more often calls for a tight policy with regard to Moscow, with politicians advocating negativist approaches coming to the fore".

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**8 April 2002** Igor Ivanov discusses the Middle East situation with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan by telephone.

**9 April 2002** Vladimir Putin visits Germany. He says: "Russian-German relations play a special role in the building of a new Europe. I would say it's a fundamental role, a supporting role, because those relations were always built within the context of common European priorities."

**9 April 2002** The MFA says as that as co-sponsor of a Middle East settlement, Russia insists "on the immediate withdrawal of troops from Palestinian territories, including Ramallah".

**9 April 2002** Deputy foreign ministers of Russia and China, Georgy Mamedov and Wang Guangya, meet in Moscow. They discuss strategic arms control.

**9 April 2002** The Russian-Chinese subcommission for telecommunications and information technology meets in Hangzhou. The Russian delegation is led by Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technology Leonid Reyman and the Chinese delegation by Minister of Information Industry Ou Xinqian.

**9 April 2002** The Russian-Slovak intergovernmental commission meets in Moscow.

**9 April 2002** Deputy prime minister Viktor Khristenko says Russia will not reduce its oil exports after Iraq decided to halt its oil exports for a while.

**9 April 2002** LUKoil signs an accord on prospecting oilfields in Colombia.

**9 April 2002** The MFA expresses displeasure at the US administration's decision to "freeze" its appeal to Congress to allocate funds for the Nunn-Lugar programme.

**10 April 2002** Vladimir Putin in Germany says: "It is impossible to view the relations between Russia and Germany now beyond the context of Moscow's relations with the European Union. Germany is one of the centres of European integration. Development of cooperation between the European Union and Russia, undoubtedly, opens new possibilities for bilateral contacts. Today, practical interaction between Russia and the European Union helps erase many of the former dividing lines on the continent. This meets our mutual interests and directly affects the development of regions. In Russia's case, this applies, above all, to Kaliningrad Region. Trade turnover between Germany and Russia topped 24bn euros."

Regarding the new aspects of the latest consultations, Putin says that in Weimar "a new status has been granted to the working group on strategic affairs". It will now be working on a permanent basis; it is important that this structure should not degenerate into "a formal bureaucratic body". It should become an effective

instrument of bilateral cooperation, it should generate ideas and be receptive to public and business initiatives of citizens Russia and Germany.

Putin says it was the first time that the ministers of science, culture, chiefs of secret services and power-wielding agencies had been drawn to the participation in the summit.

Putin and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroder discuss Russia-NATO and Russia-EU relations. Putin also discusses Russian integration into the European energy market. He says he is concerned about the rules in effect in the EU, in particular that a EU member country cannot get more than 30% of power supply from a country which is not a member of the EU.

**10 April 2002** The Quartet (Russia, EU, USA, UN) meet in Madrid to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Russia, Spain, the EU and the United States call on Israel to immediately withdraw its troops from the Palestinian territories. Igor Ivanov says, "If those resolutions (UNSC Resolutions 1402 and 1403) are not fulfilled, we shall think about tougher measures".

The MFA says Russia is taking active efforts "to prevent another armed confrontation front line opening in the Middle East". This follows the deterioration of the situation in the region of the UN "blue line" between Lebanon and Israel.

The deputy director of the MFA's information and press department, Yevgenny Voronin, condemns the the terrorist attack in Haifa where, preliminary reports say, eight people were killed and calls on Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories.

**10 April 2002** The Federal Security Service (FSB) claims it has foiled an attempt by CIA spies to obtain secret information about the latest Russian developments in the field of armaments as well as about Russia's military and technological cooperation with CIS countries.

**10 April 2002** Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Saltanov meets the ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Dr Reda Ahmed Shehata, and the ambassador of Jordan, Ahmad Ali Mubaydeen.

**10 April 2002** Russian and Chinese deputy foreign ministers Anatoly Safonov and Wang Guangya discuss cooperation in fighting terrorism and cooperation at regional level under the auspices of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

**10 April 2002** The MFA says it hopes that Latvia will revise laws discriminating against the Russian-speaking population.

**10 April 2002** Russian and Ukrainian prime ministers Mikhail Kasyanov and Anatoly Kinakh hold talks in Moscow on economic cooperation.

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Ukrainian Prime Minister Anatoly Kinakh says "in the near future Russia and Ukraine will sign a long-term agreement on Russian gas transit to Europe". He says this agreement "will become a serious step towards strengthening energy security on the European continent". "Europe and the entire world begin understanding Russia and Ukraine are an inalienable part of European energy security."

**10 April 2002** The Duma issues an appeal to Mikhail Kasyanov, demanding that giving economic assistance to Georgia should be "directly dependent" on that country's policy towards Russia.

**11 April 2002** Prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov says Russia must ratify the Kyoto Protocol on global warming.

**11 April 2002** Defence minister Sergey Ivanov has talks with Indian Defence Minister George Fernandes in Moscow.

**11 April 2002** Igor Ivanov and US Secretary of State Colin Powell hold talks in Madrid. They discuss George Bush's forthcoming trip to Moscow and arms control.

**11 April 2002** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov calls for signing "the document on a new mechanism of Russia-NATO relations, at the top level". He says: "There has been considerable progress in the work of NATO at 20".

**12 April 2002** The security council secretaries of the Collective Security Council Treaty members (Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan) meet in Alma Ata. Collective Security Treaty members intend to launch a struggle against drugs and illegal migration.

**12 April 2002** The MFA denies Georgian claims that a Russian assault force had landed in Kodori gorge. Aleksandr Yakovenko of the MFA states:

According to the Russian Defence Ministry information, in the context of the implementation of the Georgian-Abkhaz protocol on the Kodori gorge - it was signed on 2 April this year - and in line with a decision by the commander of the CIS collective peacekeeping forces - and this decision was agreed with the UN mission - this morning a new checkpoint numbering 78 people was deployed in the Kodori gorge, 1 km west of the populated area of Kvemo Azhara, at the confluence of the rivers of Chkhalta and Kodori.

Security Council secretary Vladimir Rushaylo says Georgia will not hold and is not planning to hold operations with the involvement of the US military contingent in the Pankisi gorge.

**12 April 2002** A regular meeting of the High State Council of the Union State of Russia and Belarus takes place in Moscow. Vladimir Putin and Aleksandr Lukashenko meet. They examine a blueprint for the constitutional act of the Union State and its budget for this year.

**12 April 2002** Security Council secretary Vladimir Rushaylo says Russia sees the presence of the American military in Central Asia only in the context of the antiterrorist operation in Afghanistan. He says the "goals, tasks and time boundaries of the American presence in Central Asia should be clearly defined".

**12 April 2002** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov has talks with his Swedish counterpart Bjoern von Sydow in Moscow. He says the Russian MOD is ready to develop cooperation with Sweden's Defence Ministry "in the military, military-political and military-technical spheres, as well as in peacekeeping operations". They agree to have joint naval exercises in the Baltic Sea later this year.

**12 April 2002** Sergey Ivanov warns that international terrorist organizations are trying to get hold of weapons of mass destruction.

**12 April 2002** Vladimir Putin and US President George W Bush have a phone conversation during which they discuss issues relating to Russia-NATO cooperation, disarmament, economic cooperation and cooperation in the resolution of regional crises.

**12 April 2002** President Vladimir Putin and British Prime Minister Tony Blair speak on the telephone. They discuss the Middle East and Russia-NATO cooperation.

**12 April 2002** The MFA makes a further complaint after an Israeli army unit again occupied a building belonging to the Russian Orthodox Church in Bethlehem on 11 April 2002. The MFA says that the Israeli side was told that "it is difficult to perceive what occurred as anything other than disregard for the concerns and interests of the Russian side".

**12 April 2002** Igor Ivanov meets Arab Ambassadors in Moscow. Ivanov says that the international mediators - Russia, the USA, the UN and the EU - "intend to closely coordinate their actions with both Israeli and Palestinian representatives, and with other Arab partners".

**12 April 2002** The MFA says it regards the resolution adopted by the European parliament relating to the situation in Chechnya as a display of "double standards" and as "encouraging terrorism".

**12 April 2002** Gazprom signs an agreement on completion of the construction of the first string of the Polish section of Yamal-Europe gas pipeline in Warsaw.

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**12 April 2002** Prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov says Russia should build up its presence at external markets. He says Russia must join the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and calls for deeper CIS economic integration.

**12 April 2002** The fourth meeting of the security council secretaries of the CIS Collective Security Treaty (CST) member countries (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan) ends in Almaty. They agree to coordinate action to tackle terrorism, drug trafficking and illegal migration.

**12 April 2002** The MFA says a decision to deny entry into Russia to the Roman Catholic priest Stefano Caprio was taken in compliance with Russian law. Caprio is the father superior of St Rosary's Catholic Cathedral in the town of Vladimir.

**13 April 2002** Industry, Science and Technology Minister Ilya Klebanov and Indian Defence Minister George Fernandes discuss Russian-Indian weapons trade and military cooperation in Moscow.

**13 April 2002** Dmitry Rogozin, chairman of the Duma international affairs committee, says that the international community should try "to force peace" on Israel and the Palestinians. He says there should be "joint action by the co-sponsors of the Middle East settlement process, the European countries and the UN Security Council to arrest and wipe out all extremist groups that are active in the Palestinian self-rule region". Rogozin says if Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat "is unable to do this, it must be done by someone else, a third party, possibly international peacekeepers. But not the Americans." He says "non-traditional peacekeeping" is the only solution.

**13 April 2002** The presidents of Russia and Georgia, Vladimir Putin and Eduard Shevardnadze, discuss by telephone the incident in which a Russian peacekeeping unit was airlifted to Georgia's Kodori gorge without Georgian consent. The forces withdraw.

**13 April 2002** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and US Secretary of State Colin Powell talk on the telephone on Powell's talks in the Middle East. Ivanov also discusses the Israel-Palestine confrontation with the French and German foreign ministers, Hubert Vedrine and Joschka Fischer.

**14 April 2002** Russian special envoy to the Middle East, Andrey Vdovin, has talks in Jordan.

**14 April 2002** The Czech Republic's prime minister, Milos Zeman, arrives in Moscow for a three-day official visit.

**14 April 2002** Chairman of the Duma's International Affairs Committee Dmitry Rogozin says Radio Liberty's licence must be reviewed.

**14 April 2002** The Russian and Iranian foreign ministers, Igor Ivanov and Kamal Kharrazi, discuss in a telephone conversation the situation in the region and the issue of Palestine.

**15 April 2002** Leader of the Russian Catholic Church Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz complains about persecution of the Catholic Church in Russia.

**15 April 2002** Russia's special envoy to the Middle East, Andrey Vdovin, holds talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

**15 April 2002** Igor Ivanov meets NATO Secretary-General George Robertson in Brussels. He says the Russian position on NATO expansion remains as before. "We propose an alternative solution to security issues taking into account modern realities." "The work on documents allows us to say they will be ready for a ministerial meeting to be held in Reykjavik on 14 May 2002. Under a new mechanism, Russia will participate in working out, adopting and implementing decisions," Ivanov said. He stressed "this will be not only a consultative council, but also a body which adopts and implements decisions". He says the new "20" format which should be set up in place of the current cooperation mechanism will ensure "more effective cooperation between the sides in that sphere". "So far a number of problems which will be jointly worked through by Russia and NATO have not yet been detailed". "But the fight against terrorism and the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons are of prime importance."

**15 April 2002** The Agriculture Ministry lifts a ban imposed on 10 March 2002 on all US poultry imports.

**15 April 2002** President Vladimir Putin says talks on Russo-Belarusian integration are not going smoothly on key issues.

**15 April 2002** Deputy prime minister and finance minister Aleksey Kudrin says the Russian government is hoping that the USA will take a decision to grant Russia the status of a country with a market economy in one or two months.

**15 April 2002** Minister of Economic Development and Trade German Gref has meetings in Washington to discuss the economic agenda for the Bush-Putin summit in Moscow and St Petersburg in May 2002. Gref has talks with US Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans and US Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham.

**15 April 2002** The first deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation, Vyacheslav Trubnikov, meets Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoly Zlenko in Kiev to discuss the Dniester region settlement.

**15 April 2002** Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Razov has criticized the resolution "On the situation in Chechnya", which the European parliament adopted recently.

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He announces his position at a meeting with a working group of the European parliament - members of the committee for Russia-EU parliamentary cooperation.

**16 April 2002** Vladimir Kalamanov, the Russian Federation president's special representative for ensuring human and civil rights in the Chechen Republic says the question of extending the stay of Council of Europe experts in Chechnya for another three months has been resolved in principle.

**16 April 2002** South Antiterror exercise 2002 ends in Kyrgyzstan. The second phase begins in Tajikistan.

**16 April 2002** The foreign ministers of Russia and Egypt, Igor Ivanov and Ahmad Mahir, discuss the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by telephone.

**16 April 2002** Igor Ivanov attends a meeting of the Russia-EU cooperation council in Luxembourg. He praises the Powell mission to the Middle East.

**16 April 2002** The Russian Jewish Congress says it has decided to set up a Russian committee for solidarity with the people of Israel. The organization is to be headed by President of the Moscow Jewish Community Gennady Khazanov.

**16 April 2002** Igor Ivanov has talks in Luxembourg with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. Ivanov says: "The aim of Russia-NATO dialogue is to come up with a new quality of cooperation in which the prevailing principle will be common responsibility for jointly reaching and implementing decisions". He says work done in the 20 format "will be the true embodiment of our common resolve jointly to counter the new shared challenges to security in the Euro-Atlantic region".

Igor Ivanov states that the Russia-EU summit which is planned for the end of May 2002 in Italy and at which a document on a new quality of Russian-NATO cooperation is to be adopted "will undoubtedly signify a new phase in relations between Russia and NATO and make a significant contribution to the building of a new security system".

**16 April 2002** Croatian President Stipe Mesic visits Moscow. Putin says Russia is ready to act as a Balkans mediator.

**16 April 2002** A Duma delegation led by Dmitry Rogozin visits Pakistan.

**16 April 2002** A delegation from the Leningrad Military District led by Col-Gen Pavel Labutin, Chief of Staff and first deputy commander of the district, visits Sweden.

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**16 April 2002** Royal Dutch/Shell chairman Phillip Watts is in Moscow for meetings with top government and hydrocarbons industry officials. He meets Gazprom head Aleksey Miller and prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov.

**16 April 2002** President Vladimir Putin speaks by telephone with Armenian President Robert Kocharyan.

**17 April 2002** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov declares that units of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone are expected to carry out a check on the Kodori Gorge in the near future.

**17 April 2002** Transport Minister Sergey Frank and Kazakhstan's Karim Masimov sign a protocol on cooperation in maritime transportation. Russia and Kazakhstan agree to consider the creation of a maritime exchange to put in order transactions in the foreign market and for the timely presentation of impartial information about the condition of the market of transport services in the area of the Caspian and the priority development of those transport routes, in which Russia and Kazakhstan can participate.

**17 April 2002** A senior official of the Russian Centre for Political Studies, Lt-Gen Vasily Lata, says the work on setting up a Russian-American centre of early warning about ballistic missile launches is nearing completion.

**17 April 2002** FSB head Nikolay Patrushev completes his visit to Kyrgyzstan. Patrushev says: "Some time ago, the Americans said that they were coming here for a limited period of time. It is connected with the operation they launched in Afghanistan. I think that our attitude should be that they are here for a limited period of time."

**17 April 2002** President Vladimir Putin notifies all state organizations, enterprises, companies and banks that all funds, other financial assets and economic resources of Usamah Bin-Ladin, Al-Qa'idah and Taleban members as well as organizations linked to them must be frozen.

**17 April 2002** Vladimir Putin has a telephone conversation with French President Jacques Chirac. They discuss plans for holding a Russia-NATO summit in Rome on 28 May. They discuss the creation of a "20" mechanism in NATO.

**17 April 2002** President Vladimir Putin has a telephone conversation with Chinese President Jiang Zemin. Putin discusses the development of the Russia-NATO relationship.

**17 April 2002** Transport minister Sergey Frank visits Iran. He discusses the creation of the North-South transport corridor. Frank says: "The Iranian transport minister and I agreed to meet on 21 May in St Petersburg. Our Indian colleague

will join us there. At this trilateral meeting, Russia is planning to announce that the agreement on the North-South transport corridor has come into effect." Belarus, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Bulgaria will join the project.

**17 April 2002** The Moscow Patriarchate says conditions are still not right for a meeting between the heads of the Russian Orthodox and Catholic Churches.

**17 April 2002** Goskomstat says production of oil with gas condensate in Russia in January-March increased 8.7% year-on-year to amount to 89.5m tonnes. Oil production in March was up 8.8% year-on-year and up 11.3% from February 2002. Production of natural gas in the first three months of the year amounted to 160bn cubic metres, up 1.8% year-on-year.

**18 April 2002** Finance minister Aleksey Kudrin says Russia will repay a total of 16.2bn dollars of its foreign debt and interests in 2003.

The Russian foreign trade turnover in January-February 2002 was 21,245m dollars, 2,303m dollars down from the same period last year. A total volume of Russian exports in January-February 2002 went down nearly 3bn dollars year-on-year to 13,619m dollars, with exports to countries outside CIS being 11,525m dollars (2,765m down against last year). Russian imports went up nearly 1bn dollars for the same period to reach 7,626m dollars. Imports from outside CIS went up 1,013m dollars to 5,876m dollars.

**18 April 2002** Energy minister Igor Yusufov says "Russia is getting ready to step up its natural gas supplies to Croatia and take part in the privatization of utilities there".

**18 April 2002** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and his Saudi counterpart Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Al Sa'ud call for the immediate withdrawal of Israeli servicemen from Palestinian lands.

**18 April 2002** Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says the accords on the Iraq settlement reached at the all-Arab summit in Beirut have crucial significance, and that all of them must be implemented.

**18 April 2002** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says "it is far from always that US foreign policy fully meets international community interests".

**18 April 2002** The collegium of the Emergencies Ministry outlines the main directions of the ministry's international activity up to the year 2006. The Ministry calls for closer ties with NATO.

**18 April 2002** The head of the Russian Orthodox church, Patriarch Aleksey II, welcomes the decision of the Estonian authorities to register the Russian church the first step on the path of solving the problems of the church in Estonia.

**18 April 2002** Deputy Defence Minister Aleksandr Kovan expresses concern over the presence of US servicemen in Georgia.

**18 April 2002** The chief of the international cooperation department of the Russian Interior Ministry, Boris Shtokolov, says Russia is participating in 11 out of 15 peacekeeping missions of the United Nations around the world.

**18 April 2002** Vladimir Kartashkin, head of the presidential human rights commission, says some countries, including members of the EU often use double standards in their approach to human rights. He refers to the Russian operation in Chechnya.

**19 April 2002** Secretary-General of the Council of Europe Walter Schwimmer says Russia could be excluded from the Council of Europe if it does not shortly ratify the sixth protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights on the abolition of the death penalty.

**19 April 2002** President Vladimir Putin reaffirms the importance of establishing a Russia-NATO cooperation mechanism in the "20" format in talks with Icelandic president Olafur Ragnar in Moscow.

**19 April 2002** Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal meets with Vladimir Putin in Moscow. Sa'ud al-Faysal says Russia and Saudi Arabia will step up effort to convene the first session of the intergovernmental cooperation council. Bilateral trade totals around 120m dollars. Saudi imports to Russia are zero. The two countries will intensify efforts towards finalizing a bilateral agreement on mutual protection of investments that "will certainly boost economic ties".

**19 April 2002** Duma Chairman Gennady Seleznev says he would "appreciate it if the Council of Europe lifts all obstacles to Belarus' participation in all European structures" following a meeting with Council of Europe Secretary-General Walter Schwimmer.

**19 April 2002** Deputy foreign minister Aleksandr Saltanov says any military solution of the Iraq problem "May 2002 have serious consequences not only for the Persian Gulf region, but also for international stability in general". He meets the delegation of the Kuwaiti National Assembly in Moscow.

**19 April 2002** The headquarters of the collective peacekeeping forces in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone refute Georgia's statements that the peacekeepers

were increasing the manpower and armament stocks in the Kodori Gorge under the pretext of rotation.

**19 April 2002** Chairman of the Duma Foreign Affairs Committee Dmitry Rogozin says that US Secretary of State Colin Powell's mission to the Middle East has failed because he represented the United States, which is only one co-sponsor of the peace process. He says: "All sides - Russia, the United States, the European Union, the UN Security Council and Arab countries - should unite in the current situation and together force the conflicting sides to make peace."

**19 April 2002** Col Vladimir Goryainov, chief of the peacekeeping department in the ground forces command, says Russia will withdraw several peacekeeping units from Kosovo and Bosnia in the near future in the framework of the reduction of Russian military contingents within KFOR and SFOR.

**19 April 2002** The final stage of the South-Antiterror tactical exercise takes place at the Mumirak testing ground in Tajikistan. Russia's 201st Motor Rifle Division and Tajik Defence Ministry, Security Ministry and Interior Ministry units practised destroying a 600-man gang that had supposedly invaded Tajikistan from Afghanistan. The exercise involved about 200 servicemen, artillery, surface-to-air missile systems and attack aircraft. Military attachés of China, India and France in Tajikistan attended the exercise.

**19 April 2002** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and US Secretary of State Colin Powell speak over the phone about preparations for the upcoming visit of US President George W Bush to Russia, scheduled for the end of May. They discuss strategic arms control and the Middle East.

**20 April 2002** Council of Europe Secretary-General Walter Swimmer and Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov agree on the prolongation and enlargement of the mandate of Council of Europe experts in Chechnya.

**20 April 2002** The MFA's special envoy to the Middle East, Andrey Vdovin, says the refugee camp in Jenin needs urgent humanitarian aid.

**20 April 2002** The Conference of Catholic Bishops of Russia expresses "a strong protest" against "an organized campaign launched against the Catholic Church in Russia".

**20 April 2002** The Russian foreign minister's special Middle East envoy Andrey Vdovin has a telephone conversation with the head of the Palestinian National Authority, Yasir Arafat, to discuss the Arab-Israeli confrontation and settlement efforts.

**20 April 2002** Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin arrives in Washington to attend a meeting of the finance ministers of the G8 countries and a spring session of the governing bodies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. He meets his American counterpart Paul O'Neill shortly after his arrival. Kudrin tells O'Neill that the Russian security services, the foreign and finance ministries had recently disclosed some definite signs of suspicious financial flows, which could be used by terrorists. They also spoke about the recent trip to Moscow of a delegation of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF). Kudrin says "we will seek that Russia is excluded from the organization's black list at the FATF summer session".

**21 April 2002** US Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs John Bolton arrives in Moscow to prepare documents on strategic issues for the US-Russian summit set for May. He will hold talks on 23 and 24 April attended by Russian and US experts.

**21 April 2002** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov says an agreement between Russia and NATO on the establishment of the Twenty will be signed on 28 May at an Italian air base near Rome. Foreign ministers of Russia and NATO member states are expected to introduce all amendments into the draft documents at a meeting in Reykjavik on 14 May.

**22 April 2002** Deputy prime minister and finance minister Aleksey Kudrin says Russia does not intend to maintain the restrictions on oil exports after the end of the second quarter of this year.

**22 April 2002** Sudanese Defence Minister Staff Maj-Gen Bakri Hasan Salih visits Moscow.

**22 April 2002** Igor Ivanov has talks with Serb Deputy Prime Minister Nebojsa Covic. They reject any idea of a new status for Kosovo.

**22 April 2002** Deputy prime minister Viktor Khristenko visits China. He discusses the "Russia-China" oil project, for a pipeline 2,400 km long. The project has a 25-year lifespan, during which China should receive 700m tonnes of Russian oil. The plan is to pump 20m tonnes in 2005, rising to 30m by 2010. The anticipated cost of laying the pipeline from Angarsk to Daqing is 2bn dollars. Yukos currently delivers 1.4m tonnes of oil to China every year by rail.

**22 April 2002** Ravdangiyn Bold, the secretary of the Mongolian National Security Council, meets Russian Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo.

**22 April 2002** MFA Middle East envoy Andrey Vdovin says the situation around the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and the blockade of Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat remain at the centre of attention of the four international intermediaries of the Middle East peace process, Russia, the USA, the EU and the UN. Vdovin says

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he held talks with the US Assistant Secretary of State William Burns. Vdovin meets leaders of Palestinian power structures in Gaza.

**22 April 2002** US Under Secretary for Energy Robert Card leads a delegation to MinAtom.

**22 April 2002** The MFA stresses the importance of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

**23 April 2002** The deputy director of the FSB, Col-Gen Viktor Komogorov, says the FSB is not satisfied with the information it is receiving from the CIA relating to resisting international terrorism.

**23 April 2002** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov stresses in a statement the need to "complete as soon as possible the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from the region of the Palestinian National Administration and first of all to lift the blockade of Yasir Arafat's residence in Ramallah and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem." Ivanov says that it is important "to render urgent and massive humanitarian aid to the Palestinian population through joint efforts from international organizations and individual countries. Russia is ready to take an active part in providing support to the Palestinians."

Igor Ivanov says Russia supports the UN Security Council decision to send a fact-finding mission to Jenin.

MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says the humanitarian situation on Palestinian lands requires urgent and efficient measures of the international community.

**23 April 2002** The Iraqi ambassador to Moscow, Muzhir al-Duri, says Baghdad will turn down changes in the humanitarian programme that are currently being discussed by the UN Security Council.

**23 April 2002** Head of the Russian delegation at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and chairman of the Duma committee for foreign affairs Dmitry Rogozin says he believes that Russia made a mistake when it joined the Council of Europe. Rogozin says that Russians "have always sacrificed millions of their people to protect freedom and independence, and simultaneously protected the Jews from their own diseases and problems, including the Nazis." He criticises PACE's monitoring of human rights. Federation Council chairman Sergey Mironov rejects these views.

PACE expresses concern that the Russian Orthodox Church is curbing the rights of other religious organizations in Russia.

**23 April 2002** Mikhail Kasyanov has talks with Danish prime minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen in Copenhagen on the EU.

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**23 April 2002** FSB deputy director Col-Gen Viktor Komogorov says the leadership of the FSB is convinced that an effective antiterrorist coalition will be set up within the framework of the CIS.

**23 April 2002** The five Caspian Sea states hold a conference in Ashgabat.

**24 April 2002** CIS Executive Secretary Yury Yarov visits Moldova.

**24 April 2002** Mikhail Kasyanov says in Brussels that Russia will agree to join the WTO only on standard terms.

**24 April 2002** Yabloko leader Grigory Yavlinskiy says he is concerned over the fact that the foreign policy pursued by Vladimir Putin is coming under pressure from certain circles in the political and bureaucratic establishment, targeted at revising this policy.

**24 April 2002** Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov says it is still too soon to talk about whether Russia and the USA will be able to conclude a treaty on cuts in strategic offensive weapons.

**24 April 2002** The Duma adopts a statement, aimed at stopping the violence in Palestine, that condemns the actions of Israeli troops, whose actions, the statement reads, are leading to deaths of Palestinian civilians. A total of 227 parliamentarians voted for the statement, the required minimum being 226.

Vladimir Putin says Russian rescue experts from the Emergencies Ministry are flying out to the zone of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict to help those hurt in the hostilities. Putin said he had agreed the move with the Israeli and Palestinian sides.

**24 April 2002** Mikhail Kasyanov says Russia does not have the goal of joining either NATO or the EU. He meets European Commission President Romano Prodi and commission members. He also discusses Kaliningrad.

**24 April 2002** Konstantin Pulikovskiy, plenipotentiary representative to the Far East Federal District, visits North Korea.

**24 April 2002** The Emergencies Ministry sends aid to Afghanistan via Uzbekistan.

**24 April 2002** First Deputy Foreign Minister Valery Loshchinin denies Georgia's assertions that military hardware is being supplied to Abkhazia by Russia.

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**24 April 2002** The Duma unanimously support by 326 votes an initiative by the international affairs committee in response to the European Parliament's resolution on the situation in Chechnya. It criticises the European Parliament's resolution.

**24 April 2002** Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov is interviewed on TV on US-Russian arms control following his talks with US Undersecretary of State John Bolton.

**25 April 2002** Deputy Defence Minister Gen Aleksandr Kosovan is interviewed in *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*. He says Russia is in no hurry to withdraw from Georgia as the issues of the Kodori and Pankisi Gorges and Georgian reliance on US aid to combat the terrorist threat continue to act as irritants for Moscow.

**25 April 2002** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov says the Russia-US working group on Afghanistan will draft a report on the antiterrorist fight in time for the May Putin-Bush summit.

**25 April 2002** Igor Ivanov outlines his views on Russian foreign policy at MGIMO on the occasion of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MFA.

**25 April 2002** Mikhail Kasyanov says the problem of the freedom of travel for the Kaliningrad Region population after the EU eastward expansion may be resolved by the end of this year. He said that he had presented Russian proposals on the Kaliningrad problem to the European Commission during the current talks in Brussels.

**25 April 2002** Mikhail Kasyanov says the EU will not introduce limits on the import of Russian energy. Kasyanov has had talks with his Belgian counterpart Guy Verhofstadt in Brussels. Kasyanov says "there are no limits on the consumption of Russian gas". He says "a decision on attracting investment" to the energy industry was needed.

**25 April 2002** Russia's foreign trade in January-March 2002 totalled 33.9bn dollars, 7.9% down on the same period of 2001. The trade balance surplus was at 9.5bn dollars against 14.2bn dollars in January-March 2001. Export from Russia in January-March was down by 14.9% on the year to 21.7bn dollars, including that to non-CIS countries by 15.9% to 18.4bn dollars, and to CIS countries by 8.8% to 3.3bn dollars.

**25 April 2002** Vladimir Putin says Russia may seek bilateral agreements on the Caspian Sea if a deal involving all five Caspian nations is impossible.

**26 April 2002** The Russian and Chinese foreign ministers, Igor Ivanov and Tang Jiaxuan, meet for talks in Moscow. They discuss terrorism.

**26 April 2002** The foreign ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) meet in Moscow.

**26 April 2002** The MFA supports the appeal of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to Tbilisi. Annan asked Tbilisi for an independent verification of the withdrawal of Georgian servicemen from the northern part of the Kodori Gorge.

**26 April 2002** Mikhail Kasyanov has talks in Moscow with Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan.

**26 April 2002** The MFA welcomes the adoption of a document on naval confidence-building measures and security in the Black Sea. Foreign ministers of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization approved the document in Kiev. Foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Greece, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine attended the sixth session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization. Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Denisov led the Russian delegation to the session. The document will enter into force on 1 January 2003.

**26 April 2002** Russia and Kazakhstan agree terms for developing three Caspian oil deposits - the Kurmangazy, Khvalynskoye and Tsentralnoye.

**26 April 2002** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov speaks by telephone to US Secretary of State Colin Powell. They discuss the forthcoming Putin-Bush summit.

**26 April 2002** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov praises the activities of the Russian-American working group on Afghanistan. US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage has been discussing Afghanistan with the MFA in Moscow. The Russian group on Afghanistan is headed by Vyacheslav Trubnikov. They also discuss the Georgian-Osetian and Georgian-Abkhaz conflicts. The Russian and American sides note the need for further assistance to the Georgian government in the development of its capacity for fighting terrorism within the framework of the anti-terrorist coalition. The session considered a future anti-terrorist conference of Central Asia and the Transcaucasus, which had been scheduled for June.

**27 April 2002** MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says Russia sees no reason to expect that the US military presence in Central Asia will destabilize the region. Yakovenko says the involvement of "forces from outside the region in the region's affairs should not cause any local or interstate friction that would threaten to destabilize the situation".

**27 April 2002** The MFA condemns a recent attack on Jewish settlers near the West Bank city of Hebron in which five people were killed and at least 11 were injured.

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The MFA says it hopes that the world community's donor aid to the Palestinians will help break the deadlock of the Palestinian-Israeli crisis and lead to a resumption of the negotiating process. This follows a meeting of the coordination committee for donor aid to the Palestinians in Oslo. Russia, alongside other countries, will participate in assistance to the Palestinians by sending a major relief supply of essentials through the Emergencies Ministry channels.

The MFA expresses concern over the escalation of tension along "the blue line" between Israel and Lebanon.

**27 April 2002** Mongolian Prime Minister Nambaryn Enhbayar visits Moscow.

**27 April 2002** The IAEA praises Russia's report at the Convention on Nuclear Safety National Reports meeting for its quality and completeness. The MFA says "Russia fully meets its obligations under the convention and gives absolute priority to the safe operation of nuclear energy in accordance with the 1996 declaration on nuclear safety adopted at the G8 Moscow summit."

**28 April 2002** US Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security John Bolton arrives in Moscow to accompany US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld who will visit Moscow on 29 April en route from Central Asia.

**28 April 2002** Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri al-Hadithi arrives in Moscow for talks with the Russian leadership. Deputy foreign minister Aleksandr Saltanov says Russia proceeds from the premise that the Iraqi question should be resolved on the basis of the appropriate resolutions of the UN Security Council.

**29 April 2002** Russian ambassador to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin says Moscow is against the demarcation of the border with Ukraine because it is not ready for this. This viewpoint is criticised by the Ukrainian MFA.

**29 April 2002** Chief of the General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin says in the next 10-15 years, the Russian military must prepare to repel threats to national security other than that of large-scale aggression. He says, "the danger that current or new regional and local armed conflicts, in particular internal, could escalate or arise increases exponentially". The emergence of these threats to Russia's national security in the medium term are "primarily in the southwestern and Central Asian sectors".

**29 April 2002** Anatoly Kvashnin visits Chechnya. He claims that Shamil Basayev may have been killed.

**29 April 2002** Igor Ivanov meets US Undersecretary of State John Bolton in Moscow to discuss strategic arms control.

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Russian Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov and US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld hold talks in Moscow on strategic arms control. They declare some progress in the drafting of a bilateral agreement on the reduction of strategic offensive armaments. Rumsfeld says that George W Bush had said that whether the agreement would be signed or no, "the USA will cut their MIRV warheads to 1,700-2,200".

**29 April 2002** Nabil Sha'th, the minister for planning and international cooperation of the Palestinian National Authority, arrives in Moscow.

The MFA expresses concern over the delayed implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1405 on sending a fact-finding team to the Palestinian refugee camp in Jenin. The MFA also calls for full freedom of movement for Arafat.

Andrey Vdovin, the Russian foreign minister's special Middle East settlement representative, welcomes the readiness of the government of Israel and the Palestinian National Authority to take steps to end the crisis in the region. He welcomes their agreement to a US plan envisaging the lifting of the blockade on the residence of Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat. Vdovin says the situation at the Church of the Nativity should be resolved.

**29 April 2002** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov meets Hans Blix, the chairman of the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission for Iraq.

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says that the options for a political settlement of the Iraqi problem have not been exhausted and that this is the only way to achieve stability in the Persian Gulf region. He has been meeting Iraqi foreign minister Naji Sabri Ahmad al-Hadithi.

**29 April 2002** Deputy Security Council secretary Oleg Chernov says the antiterrorist campaign in Afghanistan has so far brought about only a military victory, but a peaceful settlement in that country is proceeding with great difficulties.

**29 April 2002** Transneft and Croatian pipeline company JANAF sign a framework agreement for the Druzhba-Adria oil pipeline project.

**30 April 2002** Vladimir Putin says at a meeting of the Russian Security Council that he believes that the situation in Afghanistan is now "developing in a positive way".

Vladimir Putin says he believes that the struggle against terrorism is still a pressing issue for Russia. He says the struggle against terrorism "has not lost its meaning and has two aspects for Russia - internal and external". He says the internal factor implies "the current developments in the North Caucasus, primarily in Chechnya". "And the international aspect vividly implies the situation in Afghanistan and in the Central Asian countries bordering on that country, which is important for us, given the current priorities in Russia's foreign policy."

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**30 April 2002** MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko is interviewed in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* on US-Russian ties.

**30 April 2002** An anonymous Russian source says Iraq is ready to discuss resumption of international monitoring of its military facilities.

**30 April 2002** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov holds talks with Palestinian Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Dr Nabil Ali Sha'th in Moscow.

**30 April 2002** The Japanese embassy in Russia refutes Russian media reports on Tokyo changing its Russian policy. The general line of Japan's policy towards Russia remains unchanged.

**30 April 2002** Justice Minister Yury Chayka says Russia and EU members have agreed to step up their joint efforts in the fight against international terrorism. He says this following a meeting of justice and interior ministers of Russia and EU members at their recent session in Luxembourg agreed that the EU will provide additional financing for work in this sphere.

Foreign minister Igor Ivanov says a structure to fight international terrorism will be set up within the framework of the Shanghai Conference. This body will be based in Bishkek. He is speaking at the Security Council which discussed Russia's role in the anti-terrorist campaign.

## ***May***

**1 May 2002** Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev visits the USA. He calls for a moderate approach towards Iraq.

Seleznev and the Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Dennis Hastert, signed a memorandum on interparliamentary cooperation in Washington.

**1 May 2002** Energy Minister Igor Yusufov meets US Vice-President Richard Cheney in the USA.

**2 May 2002** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov visits the USA to discuss the Bush-Putin summit, strategic arms control and the Middle East, US-Russian economic relations.

**3 May 2002** The Chief Military Prosecutor's Office is investigating 19 criminal cases against senior officers. The criminal cases were instituted against generals and admirals for the abuse of power and misappropriation and embezzlement of state property. According to the Prosecutor-General's Office, 513 criminal cases have been instituted into malfeasance in the country's armed forces.

**3 May 2002** Russia officially returns the Cam Ranh naval base to Vietnam.

**3 May 2002** Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev says the Duma will ratify the agreement on the further reduction of strategic offensive weapons only after this is done by the US Congress. Seleznev speaks at the Carnegie Foundation on the war on terrorism.

**3 May 2002** The Quartet meets in Washington to discuss the Middle East. Igor Ivanov, Colin Powell, Josep Pique and Kofi Annan represented Russia, the USA, the EU and the United Nations respectively. It is intended to hold a Middle East peace conference in the summer.

**3 May 2002** Deputy foreign minister Yevgenny Gusev says Russia objects to the idea of introducing visas for residents of Kaliningrad Region in the event of Lithuania joining the EU and the Schengen accords. Gusev is taking part in the 110th session of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers in Vilnius.

**3 May 2002** Energy Minister Igor Yusufov attends a meeting of the G8 energy ministers in Detroit. He says cooperation in the energy sphere with the United States is of great importance for Russia and it is prepared to boost hydrocarbon exports to North America. He says the USA could become "a partner allocating considerable financing to the energy sector of the Russian economy". He says Europe remained the key market for Russian energy sources, and Russian supplies are important for Europe's stable development. "If hydrocarbon supplies from Russia grow, the European Union is to ensure a proper flow of investment, technologies and management skills to Russia as well as a smooth transit of the raw materials via European territory." He says in light of the ongoing liberalization of the energy markets in the EU countries, they should refrain from revising long-term contracts on hydrocarbon supplies but consider prolonging them.

**4 May 2002** Igor Ivanov says in Washington that Moscow and Washington are facing a new stage in the development of their relations. "Our priority is to ensure favourable external conditions for the development of the country." He says Russian-US relations have changed radically over the past years, ceasing to follow the logic of military and political confrontation. He says one should now aim for achieving strategic interaction. The anti-terrorist coalition succeeded in delivering a powerful blow to terrorists' bases, but the very nature of modern problems requires a collective approach to their solution; and Russia and the United States have to play a special role in these processes.

**4 May 2002** Russian peacekeeping forces complete their withdrawal from Bosnia as part of the reduction of SFOR.

**5 May 2002** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov criticizes the inactivity of the Turkish authorities in relation to Chechen terrorists hiding in Turkey. He is speaking of the possibility that Movladi Udugov may be allowed to enter Turkey.

**5 May 2002** Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Aleksey II in his Easter address calls for an end to the conflict around the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

**6 May 2002** A Russian delegation visits Iraq. The delegation includes heads of the committee for international, cultural, scientific and business cooperation with Iraq, members of both houses of Russian parliament and representatives of a number of Russian regions, to attend a conference on Iraqi sanctions.

**6 May 2002** A round of expert consultations begins in Moscow on the new Russia-NATO cooperation mechanism of the "20" format. The consultations are attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Yevgenny Gusev and NATO Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Guenther Altenburg.

**6 May 2002** Vladimir Putin issues instructions to the cabinet of ministers to launch preparations for an international conference on the protection of the environment planned for 2003. He says the pros and cons of Kyoto protocol should be examined.

**6 May 2002** Igor Ivanov gives a speech at Stanford University on Russo-US relations.

**6 May 2002** The MFA says Moscow welcomes the talks between the UN and Iraq. Consultations between UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri al-Hadithi took place in New York. The talks involved executive chairman of the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (Unmovic) Hans Blix and the International Atomic Energy Agency Director-General Mohammed El Baradei.

**6 May 2002** The MFA warns Latvia that the unfavourable situation with the treatment of ethnic Russians in Latvia "remains a serious obstacle for better Russian-Latvian relations and their transfer to real friendship".

**6 May 2002** The CIS Statistics Committee says the average GDP of the CIS countries grew by 3.8% in the first quarter of 2002. The GDP increment in the first quarter of last year equalled 5.3%. The biggest GDP increment was recorded in Kazakhstan - 10.7% - and in Tajikistan - 9.3%. They are followed by Armenia - 7.4%, Azerbaijan - 4.7%, Ukraine - 3.8%, Georgia - 3.7%, and Belarus - 3.2%. GDP dropped by 2.8% in Kyrgyzstan.

**7 May 2002** Vladimir Putin and George Bush discuss in a telephone conversation the preparations for the forthcoming Russian-US summit in Moscow.

**7 May 2002** Deputy secretary of the Security Council Oleg Chernov is interviewed in *Izvestiya*. He discusses the anti-terrorism struggle.

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**7 May 2002** Chief of the General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin visits NATO HQ by attending a meeting of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership military committee uniting the chiefs of staff of NATO countries and countries participating in the Partnership for Peace programme.

**7 May 2002** Secretary-General of the Collective Security Council Valery Nikolayenko says CIS Collective Security Treaty members do not have concrete plans to enlarge the rapid reaction force. He says the treaty's chiefs of staff committee have decided to draft a five-year force development plan.

**8 May 2002** MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko condemns the suicide bombing in Rishon Lezion in Israel.

**9 May 2002** The Russian and US governments decide to set up a joint working group to prevent terrorists from obtaining nuclear substances and thus prevent them from creating a so-called "dirty bomb" using radiation as the casualty-producing element.

**10 May 2002** Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev and the US energy secretary, Spencer Abraham, hold talks on nuclear safety. They disagree over Iran.

**10 May 2002** The General Staff says the number of Russian troops carrying out peacekeeping duties in Kosovo will be cut in the period May-June 2002. Maj-Gen Nikolay Kriventsov says that about 1,200 troops and 300 pieces of military hardware will be withdrawn from the region from 13 May to 23 June 2002. More than 600 Russians will remain as part of the international forces and will continue to carry out peacekeeping duties in the eastern sector, and also at Slatina airport.

**12 May 2002** US Under Secretary of State John Bolton arrives for further talks on cuts in strategic offensive weapons with deputy foreign minister Georgy Mamedov.

**13 May 2002** The Bolton-Mamedov talks in Moscow result in agreement on the text of a major treaty between the two countries, on reductions in strategic and offensive weapons to be signed when George Bush visits Russia later in May.

Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says the agreement on the text of a document on the reduction of strategic offensive arms "does not mean that Russia has lifted objections to US plans to store rather than dispose of a part of the warheads being taken off combat duty".

**13 May 2002** The first session of the Russian-US working group on cooperation in the fight against transnational crime takes place in Moscow. The working group was set up in line with an agreement reached between the head of the Russian Interior Ministry, Boris Gryzlov, and FBI Director Robert Mueller.

**13 May 2002** Patriarch of Moscow and All-Russia Aleksey II is interviewed in *Izvestiya*. He says he believes that a meeting with Pope John Paul II is possible only after conflicts between the churches are resolved.

**13 May 2002** The Duma speaker, Gennady Seleznev, and the chairman of Duma's Foreign Affairs Committee, Dmitry Rogozin, say they support the ratification of the Lithuania-Russia border treaty at the Duma but think it is a bad time to do this.

**13 May 2002** The foreign and defence ministers of the Collective Security Treaty member countries meet in Moscow and pass a motion to create an intergovernmental body that will direct the collective rapid deployment force. Valery Nikolayenko, secretary-general of the Collective Security Treaty outlines the work in creating the rapid deployment force.

Col Sergey Chuvakin, official of the CIS military cooperation coordination headquarters, says participants in a three-day joint military exercise of the Collective Security Treaty member states will practise preparations for and the conduct of a simulative combat operation aimed at rebuffing possible aggression by international terrorists against an independent state. The exercise started at the Gorokhovets proving range in Nizhny Novgorod Region and will finish on 15 May.

**13 May 2002** Igor Ivanov says Russian "gratis humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan has amounted to nearly 12m dollars since December 2001, and it will soon increase by an additional 15m dollars".

**13 May 2002** MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says Russia "definitively considers NATO expansion as a mistake". He says 11 September 2001 has led to "the priority task of firming up this new quality in relations between Russia and NATO, raising them to the joint strategic level of ensuring security in the undivided Euro-Atlantic space ... we understand that in the field of defence Russia and NATO have evolved mechanisms and structures that cannot be brought to a common denominator fully or at once. This is why we do not raise, and are not going to raise it in the foreseeable future, the question of Russia's membership in NATO."

**13 May 2002** Minatom minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev says by the end of this year, Russia will begin supplying plutonium-238 isotopes to the US.

**14 May 2002** Vladimir Putin opens a meeting of the heads of state of the participants in the CIS Collective Security Treaty (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan) in Moscow. It is decided to turn the mechanisms and structures that exist for cooperation between the Collective Security Treaty member states into an international regional organization to be called the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). Putin says it is ready to be a partner with NATO and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

**14 May 2002** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov attends the sitting of the Russia-NATO Permanent Joint Council (PJC) in Reykjavik to discuss the formation of the 20 in

Russia-NATO relations. Ivanov says "the new mechanism will not be consultative in nature, it will be geared towards adopting and carrying out decisions on an equal basis. That is why the states which are members of the NATO-Russia council will act as national entities on an equal basis." He says this is a new step in NATO-Russia relations.

**14 May 2002** Deputy secretary of the security council Oleg Chernov is interviewed in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*. He discusses NATO-Russia relations, and says that NATO needs Russia, and that Russia does not seek to become a member of NATO but to work with it and create an effective security system.

**14 May 2002** Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Saltanov meets Israeli Culture, Science and Sports Minister Matan Vilnai in Moscow, during which he calls for an end to all forms of violence in the Middle East.

MFA envoy to the Middle East, Andrey Vdovin says the Quartet - Russia, the USA, the EU and the UN - can offer options that could become the core of a future compromise in the Middle East.

MFA envoy Andrey Vdovin meets Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Israel, to discuss prospects for transfer from confrontation in the zone of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict to negotiations. Vdovin says "an international conference on the Middle East would be a step in that direction". He meets Palestinian Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Nabil Shaath and former Israeli Justice Minister Yossi Beilin, who co-chairs the Palestinian-Israeli coalition for the Struggle for Peace.

**14 May 2002** A regular meeting of the CIS Interstate Coordinating Council on Scientific and Technological Information takes place in Dushanbe.

**15 May 2002** The 12th session of the Council of the heads of CIS security agencies opens in Borjomi in Georgia. The Russian delegation is headed by the FSB director, Nikolay Patrushev.

**15 May 2002** The defence ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization meet in Moscow. They agree to create a standing mechanism and working bodies to run joint activities in the field of regional security and defence. The Uzbek defence minister does not attend.

**15 May 2002** The Russia-NATO Council foreign ministers seal an agreement to establish a new political council of 20 states in Reykjavik. Igor Ivanov says the PJC was a consultative agency, and the new council "will be an instrument of equitable cooperation between the 20 states".

A Public Opinion Fund poll asks Russians what they think of NATO.

54% associate NATO with aggressive objectives  
24% view it as a defence alliance

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22% are unsure

(In February 1997, 38% believed that NATO was aggressive. 24% saw it as a defensive alliance.)

52% believe that NATO poses a threat to Russia

31% feel it poses no threat to Russia

17% are undecided

62% of Russians want ties with NATO to expand

20% oppose broader Russia-NATO ties

17% are unsure

48% of respondents say that Russia and the alliance have different interests and 25% think the opposite.

**15 May 2002** Both Moscow and Washington hail the adoption by the UN Security Council of a resolution overhauling Iraqi sanctions.

MFA sources say that the Russian side regards the new UN Security Council resolution on Iraq as a "compromise document which suits everyone". "It does not change the scope of the sanctions, only the procedure of their implementation."

At the end of 2001 the UN committee on sanctions blocked Russian contracts worth about 1bn dollars. This year, it has proved possible to unblock major Russian companies' contracts for the supply of machine-building and other equipment worth 773m dollars. Nonetheless, taking into account new contracts, the total value of Russian contracts whose future is still undecided could amount to 500m dollars.

**15 May 2002** The MFA calls for lifting the US economic embargo against Cuba and for the normalization of US-Cuba relations.

**15 May 2002** A meeting of emergencies ministers from countries in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation organization takes place in Sochi.

**15 May 2002** A special session of the Russia-EU cooperation committee is being held in Svetlogorsk, Kaliningrad Region. The session is discussing the problems of Kaliningrad Region related to the expansion of the EU and issues connected with residents travelling through the territories of foreign countries, customs and trans-border cooperation.

MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko warns that the expansion of the EU must not lead to "the appearance of new dividing lines in Europe, and benefit some countries while creating problems for others". On Kaliningrad, Yakovenko says that the upcoming admission of Lithuania and Poland to the EU will "raise a whole set of questions (for Russia) connected with transit, visas, transport, energy supplies and fishing".

**16 May 2002** Deputy Economic Development and Trade Minister Maksim Medvedkov attends the sixth special session of the committee for Russian-EU cooperation which discusses Kaliningrad region. Medvedkov says "the largest difficulties emerged on issues related to the transit of people and cargo ... We have taken a strong position that after Lithuania and Poland join the Schengen agreements, Russian citizens who travel from Kaliningrad Region to the rest of Russia and back should not need any visas." Medvedkov says Russia proposed to open special road and railway corridors that would enable a train to transit Lithuania without any stopovers. "We have put forth the same proposals for vehicles ... we have proposed that rail deliveries that transit Lithuania should be transported in carriages bearing a customs seal and without any customs registration."

**16 May 2002** Foreign Ministry spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says regarding the possibility of convening an international conference in the Middle East, that he hoped it would be held within the next few months. "We in Moscow realize very well that the Palestinians and Israelis are doomed to live together, and we are eager to do everything possible to turn this region into a region of peace and good-neighbourliness."

**16 May 2002** Monitoring.ru polling organisation reports that a total of 72% of Russians are ready to support the United States in the fight against terrorism, while 21% think differently and 7% find it difficult to answer the question. The Monitoring.ru group of companies polled 1,540 town residents.

**16 May 2002** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov meets his Chinese counterpart, Chi Haotian, in Moscow. Ivanov proposes "a more detailed" discussion of bilateral military cooperation with his Chinese colleague. He also suggests considering strategic stability and plans for a new format of Russia-NATO relations.

**17 May 2002** Mikhail Kasyanov says Russia will in the next two months steadily lift its restrictions on oil exports, introduced on 1 January 2002 at the request of OPEC. The decision was taken at a meeting between Kasyanov and the leaders of the country's major oil companies. The restrictions specified 150,000 barrels of oil a day.

**17 May 2002** Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Mahir visits Moscow.

**17 May 2002** The MFA expresses regret that the EU has not taken steps to ensure normal living conditions in the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad after the EU's enlargement.

Kaliningrad Region governor Vladimir Yegorov expresses dissatisfaction with the results of a special session of the committee for cooperation between Russia and the EU in Svetlogorsk on 15 May and issues regarding Kaliningrad Region in the light of the upcoming EU enlargement. Yegorov says that Russia had proposed viable procedures for the movement of people and cargo through Lithuania "in a closed-door regime", which might become effective after Lithuania joins the EU. "But EU

representatives did not accept this proposal. They are saying that our people will jump out of the windows while travelling through Lithuania."

**17 May 2002** The MFA denies claims that Moscow is planning to resume nuclear tests on the Novaya Zemlya archipelago.

**17 May 2002** Sergey Ivanov says the Russian military leadership does not intend to take measures in retaliation for the US' beginning to set up its national missile defence system.

**17 May 2002** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says Russia welcomes the statement of Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat about the intention to make serious transformations in the Palestinian political system. He says the main effort in the stabilization in the Middle East should concentrate on the resumption of security negotiations between Palestine and Israel and the improvement of the humanitarian situation on Palestinian lands. Resolution 1397 of the UN Security Council, which stipulates the existence of two independent nations - Palestine and Israel - within safe and recognized borders, and the initiative of Saudi Arabia are important elements of the settlement.

**18 May 2002** The MFA says it "shares the concern of the foreign diplomatic corps over the rise in the number of attacks by groups of teenage hooligans on foreign citizens, and the rise in the number of threats aimed at diplomatic personnel". The MFA says it has "appealed to the competent Russian authorities to take additional measures to guarantee the personal safety of all foreign nationals in the Russian Federation". This follows a meeting between the MFA and several foreign embassies.

**18 May 2002** Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov meets the speaker of the Italian Senate Marcello Pera. They discuss Russo-Italian relations and Russia's relations with NATO and EU.

**18 May 2002** Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Moscow believes that the USA's tough approach to North Korea "does not promote improvement of the situation on the Korean peninsula".

**18 May 2002** MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says Russia calls for stepping up talks on the Cyprus problem and reaching mutually acceptable agreements. "Russia intends to continue close cooperation with the Greek and Turkish sides, Athens and Ankara, and its partners in the UN Security Council and G8 countries in order to settle the crisis on the island in compliance with UN Security Council resolutions."

**18 May 2002** The All-Russia Public Opinion Research Foundation conducts a poll on Russian attitudes towards the USA.

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37% say that current relations between Moscow and Washington can be considered "normal" and "calm", while in March only 29% said so.

28% consider Russian-US relations "lukewarm" (against 30% in March),  
 12% characterize the relations as "good" and "good neighbourly" (10% in March),  
 5% as "friendly" (3% in March),  
 2% as hostile (4% in March),  
 3% were undecided (6% in March).

In response to the question, "How do you generally feel about the US?",

59% said they felt "very good and basically good", while in March only 48% said so.

34% said they felt "mainly bad" and very bad" about the US (41% in March),  
 7% said they were undecided (11% in March).

When asked how they think relations between Russia and the West will develop in the future,

39% say they "can be really good", 51% said these relations "will always be based on mistrust", and 10% were undecided.

1,600 people were polled in late April 2002.

**18 May 2002** First Deputy Chief of Russian General Staff General Yury Baluyevskiy says Russia finds the US concept of storing warheads unacceptable.

**19 May 2002** Finnish President Tarja Halonen arrives in St Petersburg on a private visit.

**19 May 2002** Public Opinion Foundation holds a poll on Russia and the EU. 52% of Russians believe that Russia must actively seek admission to the EU. 18% oppose such an idea. The Public Opinion Foundation conducted a poll among 1,500 urban and rural residents on 11 May.

**19 May 2002** The commander of the Russian border force in Tajikistan, Lt-Gen Aleksandr Markin, says the Federal Border Guard Service will soon have "several representatives at the Russian embassy in Kabul".

**20 May 2002** North Korean Foreign Minister Paek Nam-sun arrives in Russia on a four-day official visit. Russia and North Korea agree to resume military cooperation.

Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Russia is prepared to contribute to the development of dialogue between the USA and North Korea.

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**20 May 2002** Director of the Foreign Ministry's Department of the Middle East and North Africa Mikhail Bogdanov says at a Russian-Iraqi forum in Moscow that Russia thinks that the updated sanctions against Iraq, approved by the UN Security Council several days ago, create a more convenient environment for Russian companies' cooperation with Baghdad. The new sanctions are outlined in UNSC Resolution 1409.

**20 May 2002** Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov attends a Russian-Japanese forum devoted to the prospects of Russian-Japanese cooperation in Asia and the Pacific under conditions of globalization in St Petersburg.

**20 May 2002** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov and the chief-of-staff of the Algerian People's National Army, Mohamed Lamari, begin talks in Moscow to discuss military-technical cooperation.

**20 May 2002** Prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov signs the decision on Russia joining the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The Russian permanent representative to the UN has been entitled to sign the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants on behalf of Russia.

**20 May 2002** The Greek cabinet has made the consortium between Russia's LUKoil and Greece's Latsis Group the sole unit with which to negotiate the sale of 23.17% of Hellenic Petroleum's shares.

**21 May 2002** Igor Ivanov attends a joint sitting of the Duma and Federation Council international affairs committees to discuss the new US-Russian treaty on strategic weapons.

Igor Ivanov says Russia "will strive for transparency on the part of the USA regarding the issue of the deployment and presence of the foreign military contingent in the Central Asian region ... this issue cannot but concern us." He also praised Russo-US cooperation in the campaign against international terrorism.

Deputy chairman of the Duma defence committee Aleksey Arbatov says the new treaty on strategic offensive weapons, unlike any other documents in this field, has no influence on Russia's strategic potential "in terms of quantity, quality or structure".

**21 May 2002** Aleksandr Oslon, head of the Public Opinion Foundation, says at a round-table conference in Moscow that 58% of Russians think the USA "is not a friendly state", 25% of those polled says the USA "is a friendly state".

**21 May 2002** Igor Ivanov says Russia is not going to join NATO, and sees the creation of the 20 format as an alternative to NATO widening. He says that Russia still opposes NATO widening.

**21 May 2002** Russian Transport Ministry spokesman Aleksandr Filimonov says the transport ministers of Russia, Iran and India have signed a protocol to open the North-South international transport corridor. Transport ministry officials from Belarus, Kazakhstan, Bahrain, the Baltic states and Finland attended the ceremony.

In 2001, about 5m tonnes of cargo were shipped via the North-South international transport corridor. Of this, 2.5m tonnes of non-liquid cargo passed through Astrakhan Region's ports and about 2.5m tonnes of oil was pumped via the Makhachkala terminal. Over 1bn dollars of cargo was shipped via the Trans-Caspian route last year. An estimated 12-15m tonnes of cargo per year will be shipped via the North-South international transport corridor within the next five years, according to Russian, Indian and Iranian transport ministry estimates.

**21 May 2002** The MFA criticises Israeli intentions to introduce new administrative regulations in the West Bank and the Gaza strip.

**21 May 2002** The MFA says Russia and other countries of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) intend to start a dialogue with Israel to strengthen the international nonproliferation regime.

**21 May 2002** US Secretary of Commerce David Evans meets Economic Development and Trade Minister German Gref in St Petersburg. He says US direct investment in Russia totals 5bn dollars.

**21 May 2002** LUKoil vice-president Leonid Fedun says LUKoil plans to export oil products to the USA and that for this the company plans to build an oil product terminal with a capacity of 10m tonnes per annum in Vysotsk on the Gulf of Finland. The terminal will be able to receive tankers with a freight capacity of 70,000 tonnes, Fedun noted, stressing that this volume "is effective for supplies to the USA".

**21 May 2002** Gazprom deputy chairman Vitaly Savelyev says the company's proved gas reserves amount to 18,900bn cubic metres of gas with an estimated value of 40bn dollars. Gazprom owns about 60% of the world's proved gas reserves. According to Savelyev, Gazprom's total estimated reserves stand at 28,000bn cubic metres of gas.

The Gazprom board of directors has endorsed the creation of a joint Russian-Kazakh venture, KazRosGaz, which will sell Kazakh gas to Europe.

Gazprom CEO Aleksey Miller and Romanian ambassador to Russia Aurel Constantin Ilie discuss supplies of Russian natural gas to the Romanian market.

**21 May 2002** The Ministry of Economic Trade and Development says the volume of trade between Russia and China increased in January-April 2002 by 11.2% on the same period last year, and totalled 3.46bn dollars. In 2001, trade turnover between the two countries increased by 33.3% to 10.67bn dollars. The export of Russian

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goods and services to China increased by 37.9% to 7.96bn dollars, while imports from China increased by 21.4% to 2.71bn.

**22 May 2002** Vladimir Putin gives a speech on Russia's foreign policy at the State Council presidium.

**22 May 2002** Russia and the USA agree to set up a joint consultative group to coordinate the implementation of a political declaration on a new strategic relationship between the two countries. The group's co-chairmen will be the two countries' foreign and defence ministers.

**22 May 2002** A plenary session of the Duma ratifies the convention on privileges and immunities of the Eurasian Economic Community, which was signed by the presidents of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on 31 May 2001 in Minsk.

**22 May 2002** The Russian foreign minister's representative for Cyprus settlement, Vladimir Prygin, has talks with Cypriot President Glavcos Clerides, who leads the island's Greek Cypriot community, and with the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, Rauf Denktash in Cyprus. He also meets Foreign Minister Ioannis Cassoulides and the UN secretary-general's special envoy Alvaro de Soto.

**22 May 2002** Shi Guangsheng, Chinese minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation, and German Gref, Russian minister of economic development and trade, sign a "Memorandum on Developing Cooperation" and an "Agreement on the Establishment of a Website for Trade and Economic Cooperation between Russia and China" in Moscow.

A Chinese government delegation headed by Shi Guangsheng attend the fifth meeting of the Trade and Economic Subcommission under the Joint Commission for the Regular Meetings of Heads of Government of China and Russia from 21 to 23 May.

**23 May 2002** A Gallup International poll asked Russians for their views on the USA.

32% of Russians have a positive attitude towards the USA  
 19% have a negative view  
 46% say they are neutral towards the USA  
 3% do not know

What is the most urgent issue in US-Russian relations?:

46% regard the struggle against international terrorism  
 11% the Middle East  
 10% NATO's eastward expansion

1,000 Russians were polled in Russia's 10 main cities.

**23 May 2002** The MFA condemns the terrorist attack in the Israeli community of Rishon Leziyyon on 22 May.

**23 May 2002** Valery Loshchinin, deputy foreign minister and special representative of the Russian President on problems of the Georgian-Abkhazian settlement, arrives in Tbilisi for talks. He discusses the Abkhaz peacekeeping mission.

**23 May 2002** Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov writes a letter to US President George Bush expressing his support for the anti-terrorist coalition.

**23 May 2002** Goskomstat reports that the stock of American investment in Russia amounted to 5,306m dollars at the beginning of April 2002. This included 3,991m dollars in direct investment, 89m dollars in portfolio investment and 1,226m dollars in so-called other investment. The USA accounted for 15.4% of the overall stock of foreign investment in Russia, including 23.2% of direct, 6.6% of portfolio and 7.7% of other investment.

US investment in Russia came to 330m dollars in the first quarter of 2002, or 8.7% of all foreign investment in the country. US investors put 133m dollars into industry (including 84m dollars in engineering and metalwork), 24m dollars into transport, and 149m dollars into trade and catering (including 83m dollars into foreign trade).

Gazprom chairman Aleksey Miller meets US Secretary of Commerce Don Evans in Moscow. They discuss the situation on the world energy markets, Gazprom development strategy, potential for Russian-US cooperation in the gas field and the need for broader dialogue between fuel producing and consuming countries.

Russian Energy Minister Igor Yusufov has talks in Moscow with US Secretary of Commerce Don Evans to promote US-Russian energy cooperation. Yusufov invites US Department of Commerce experts to take part in the operation of an investments subgroup of a working group under the Russian Energy Ministry and the US Department of Energy. He calls on the United States to do more to enable Russian companies to enter US financial and energy markets.

Minister of Economic Development and Trade German Gref says Vladimir Putin and George Bush will discuss a possible increase in Russian oil and oil-product supplies to the US market. Gref says despite the fact that Russian oil companies started exporting oil to the USA only this year, the dynamics of growth in Russian oil production make it possible for Moscow to become a strategic US partner ensuring steady energy supplies.

**24 May 2002** US President George Bush visits Russia. Five documents are expected to be adopted during his visit, including the treaty on strategic offensive arms reduction and the declaration on new strategic relations between Russia and the USA. In addition, three joint statements will be adopted.

1. Russian-US cooperation in the fight against international terrorism. This statement envisions the transformation of the US-Russian working group on Afghanistan into a working group on the fight against terrorism. It will deal

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with issues relating to the prevention of use of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists.

2. Energy dialogue
3. A statement on cooperation between people, which will address issues related to the development of bilateral relations in culture and education as well as the expansion of contacts between the two countries' public and parliamentary organizations.

**24 May 2002** Goskomstat says the trade surplus in Russia in the first quarter of 2002 amounted to 9.827bn dollars, down from 14.231bn dollars in the same period of 2001. Russian foreign trade in the first quarter amounted to 34.575bn dollars, down 6.1% from 36.813bn dollars in the same period of 2001. Exports amounted to 22.201bn dollars, down 13.0% (from 25.522bn dollars). Imports increased 9.6% from 11.291bn dollars in the first quarter of 2001 to 12.374bn dollars in the same period of this year.

Russian exports to the CIS in the first quarter of 2002 amounted to 3.452bn dollars, down 4.5% from the same period in 2001, with exports outside the CIS of 18.749bn dollars, down 14.4%. Russian imports from the CIS were down 15.0% from January-March 2001, with imports from outside the CIS up 19.3% to 9.656bn dollars.

**25 May 2002** Russian Minister of Atomic Energy Aleksandr Rumyantsev says that Russia and the USA still disagree over Russian nuclear cooperation with Iran.

**25 May 2002** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says Russia and the USA take the same stand on the conflict between Pakistan and India.

The MFA says it believes the main cause of the tension between Delhi and Islamabad lies in the ceaseless anti-Indian activity of extremist groups based in territory under the control of Pakistan.

A Gazprom delegation visits Pakistan to discuss cooperation prospects in the development of gas and oil fields and oil and gas transportation.

**26 May 2002** The Presidents of Russia and Finland Vladimir Putin and Tarja Halonen meet in St Petersburg to discuss economic relations.

**26 May 2002** The MFA criticises Pakistani missile tests.

**26 May 2002** MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko criticizes the EU for doing nothing to solve problems of Kaliningrad Region.

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**27 May 2002** Chief of the General Staff Army Gen Anatoly Kvashnin, and Chairman of NATO's Military Committee Adm Guido Venturoni open a NATO liaison mission in Moscow.

**27 May 2002** Special envoy of the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Vdovin heads for the Middle East. It will be his 12th mission in the region by the instruction of Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov.

President Vladimir Putin writes to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. He says Moscow is ready to work together with Saudi Arabia on issues relating to the normalization of the situation in the Middle East. Putin confirms his invitation to the Saudi king to visit Russia.

**27 May 2002** The Federal Border Guard Service steps up its protection of the border with Georgia, above all on its Chechen stretch.

**27 May 2002** A meeting takes place between the commander of the Border Group of the Russian Federal Border Service in Tajikistan, Lt-Gen Aleksandr Markin, and an Afghan delegation to discuss strengthening collaboration between the border departments of Russia and Afghanistan.

**28 May 2002** Exports of natural gas from Russia to outside the CIS in January-April 2002 increased 4.1% year-on-year (by 1.8bn cubic metres) to amount to 45.9bn cubic metres. Supplies to Western Europe in this period increased 5% to 31.3bn cubic metres, up from 29.8bn cubic metres in the same period last year. Exports to Eastern Europe in January-April increased 2.1% to 14.6bn cubic metres, up from 14.3bn cubic metres in the same period last year.

**28 May 2002** Vladimir Putin attends the Russia-NATO summit in Rome to sign the agreement on the creation of a Russia-NATO Council. He says confrontation between Russia and the West is a thing of the past. "Russia is returning to the family of civilized nations and only wants its interests recognized and its voice heard." He says Russian-US ties are no cause for European jealousy, and that Ukraine may join the new NATO-Russia Council.

Dmitry Rogozin, chairman of the Duma international affairs committee, welcomes the creation of the Russia-NATO council. He says "the main thing in what has just happened is that a new security architecture is being formed". "Russia is communicating, renewing its contacts not with NATO as a military and political organization, but with NATO members, and this is a serious political thing."

MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says Russia intends to develop cooperation with the EU in the fields of foreign policy, security and defence.

**28 May 2002** Deputy foreign minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf confirm that they have accepted an invitation to meet Vladimir Putin in Kazakhstan early in

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June 2002 at the summit of the Conference on Cooperation and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia in Almaty.

Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov meets the ambassadors of India and Pakistan.

**28 May 2002** The MFA calls on the Palestinian National Authority leaders to do their best to stop terrorist attacks committed by Palestinian extremists in Israel.

The Russian foreign minister's special envoy Andrey Vdovin meets Yasir Arafat in Ramallah.

**28 May 2002** Atomic Energy minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev says Russia in the next several years will train up to 100 engineers from Iran to operate the Bushehr-1 nuclear power plant. The Bushehr nuclear plant will be put into operation in 2004 or 2005. The following six years will be a transitional period, during which Russian and Iranian specialists will jointly service the plant.

**28 May 2002** The chairman of Russian oil company Yukos, Mikhail Khodorkovskiy, says the oil deficit in Europe could reach 2m barrels a day by 2010. He says Russia could fill the deficit: Russia's energy strategy envisages an increase in production from 7m to 9m barrels a day by 2005, and adds another 2m barrels by 2010. He says Yukos is considering the possibility of exporting oil to the USA.

**28 May 2002** ANS TV says LUKoil company has promised diplomatic support to Azerbaijan. Moscow will provide this assistance in return for a share in Araz-Alov-Sarq fields which are disputed between Iran and Azerbaijan.

**29 May 2002** Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Safonov is currently visiting Pakistan.

**29 May 2002** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia is willing to cooperate with the EU not only in trade or politics but also in the security sphere. He has talks with Chairman of the EU Military Committee Gustav Hagglund and says: "Russia and the EU are seeking to strengthen cooperation and partnership not only in such classical spheres as trade and politics, but also in working out unified approaches in the defence and security spheres." "Russia is closely and with positive interest watching the creation of a European security system and EU prompt response forces. We are prepared for cooperation in the security and peacekeeping spheres, not only with NATO, but also with the EU."

Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko says the problem Kaliningrad Region is facing in light of the EU's upcoming expansion cannot be resolved by issuing long-term Schengen visas to its residents.

Vladimir Putin says cooperation between Russia and NATO is developing more actively than that between Russia and the EU. He says that Russia is ready to take part in the resolution of security problems together with the EU but makes it clear

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that it is harder for his country to join this policy for the time being. The Russian MOD has formulated its proposals for the expansion of security cooperation with the EU and is now waiting for a reply.

**29 May 2002** Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo visits Armenia.

**29 May 2002** Russian Internal Affairs Minister Boris Gryzlov and Chinese Minister of Public Security Jia Chunwang meet in Moscow and discuss ways to strengthen cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

**30 May 2002** Deputy foreign minister Aleksandr Losyukov says "Pakistan should make the first step in the settlement of relations with India ... Russia supports India, which insists that terrorist groups from Pakistan must stop crossing the line of control ... we regard this demand as just and think that the position of India, which does not wish to tolerate terrorism on its territory, is justified."

Losyukov says Russia "is not taking any action to cut back military and technological cooperation with India and is not planning any such measures" in connection with the exacerbation of the India-Pakistan conflict.

**30 May 2002** The Council of CIS foreign ministers meets in Moscow. They examine and approve a number of documents and draft documents which are to "materially increase the antiterrorist potential of the CIS".

**30 May 2002** The council of the heads of government of the CIS meets in Moscow.

**30 May 2002** The EU and Russia sign a new agreement to support Russian reforms worth 184m euro.

**30 May 2002** Iranian deputy foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif visits Moscow. He discusses nuclear cooperation with Russia.

**30 May 2002** LUKoil chief Vagit Alekperov and Bulgarian President Georgi Purvanov meet to discuss LUKoil's investment projects in the Balkans.

**30 May 2002** The Chechen MFA protests about the statement made by US Secretary of State Colin Powell at the meeting between the NATO council and Russia in Rome, Italy that "Russia is fighting terrorists in Chechnya."

**31 May 2002** A US State Department official says representatives of the US administration "have not met and are not planning to meet" the Chechen foreign minister, Ilyas Akhmadov, who is in Washington.

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**31 May 2002** NTV Mir reports that the federal centre will intensify its control over mayors. The Kremlin is preparing a new reform for local government.

**31 May 2002** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov visits China.

**31 May 2002** Vladimir Putin sends a message to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. He says: "The tragic developments taking place in the West Bank and Gaza Strip demand the active involvement of the international community in order to put an end to confrontation between Israel and Palestine, to stabilize the situation and to return the development of the situation to the political sphere."

**31 May 2002** MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says the intensification of the US and British air force activity in the no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq does not help to improve the situation surrounding Iraq. Yakovenko welcomes the Iraqi leadership's agreement with the clauses of UN Security Council Resolution 1409, which stipulate extending the international humanitarian programme for Iraq for another six months.

**31 May 2002** The reduction of Russian peacekeeping forces in Kosovo begins.

**31 May 2002** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and US Secretary of State Colin Powell have a phone conversation. They discuss the recent Bush-Putin summit and the India-Pakistan confrontation.

**31 May 2002** Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev and Bulgarian Energy Minister Milko Kovachev discuss Russian participation in civil nuclear projects in Bulgaria.

## *June*

**1 June 2002** NTV Mir reports that non-essential diplomatic personnel are to leave the Russian Embassy in India.

MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says that at the moment there is no need to evacuate Russian citizens from India and Pakistan.

**1 June 2002** Russian foreign minister's special envoy Andrey Vdovin and US Undersecretary of State William Burns discuss the prospects for a Middle East peace conference.

**1 June 2002** An opinion poll taken by the All-Russian Public Opinion Research Centre reports that 64% of Russians believe that the recent decision to create the NATO-Russia Council, which gives Russia more of a voice in NATO's affairs, is "an important event". 20% of hold the opposite view and 16% are undecided. 47%

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believe that Russia should not join NATO. 35% disagree with this and 18% are undecided.

**2 June 2002** Secretary of the Security Council Vladimir Rushaylo underlines the need for close Russia-NATO cooperation. He says Russia "is not seeking full membership of NATO, but will try together with its members to create an efficient system of security by cooperating in areas beneficial to both us and the North Atlantic alliance". He says Russia's admission to the WTO is strategically justified and does not create insoluble problems for the country's national security.

**2 June 2002** MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says the UN Security Council should be enlarged "without artificial haste and the process should be accompanied with increasing the Security Council efficiency and authority".

**2 June 2002** The MFA expresses concern over statements by Japanese politicians that Tokyo may revise its attitude to nuclear armaments. He refers to the pronouncements of Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda that Tokyo is ready to revise the three fundamental non-nuclear principles in future.

**3 June 2002** Arkhangelsk regional governor Anatoly Yefremov says the MFA and the governments of Norway, Finland and Sweden have agreed on the construction of a terminal storage facility for radioactive waste on the island of Novaya Zemlya.

**3 June 2002** Defence minister Sergey Ivanov criticizes the missile tests carried out in Pakistan in recent days. He says Moscow and Beijing will do all they can at the Asian confidence-building meeting in Kazakhstan to defuse the stand-off between India and Pakistan.

**3 June 2002** Sergey Ivanov says Russia is not planning to cooperate with NATO on military issues in the framework of the new cooperation format of 20. "Russia is not going to cooperate with NATO on military issues. We intend to work together with the alliance on the most urgent problems that are threatening both Russia and NATO members."

**3 June 2002** Security Committee chairman Aleksandr Gurov and other members of the Duma Security Committee submit a draft resolution stating that the June 1990 Soviet-US agreement on delimitation at sea runs counter to Russian national interests.

**3 June 2002** Bulgarian Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coburg visits Moscow.

**3 June 2002** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov sends a message to the OAS General Assembly, meeting in Barbados.

## A Russian Chronology: April-June 2002

**3 June 2002** The Russian Energy Ministry is to coordinate work to unify the electricity systems of Russia and Europe, taking over from the Russian company UES.

**4 June 2002** Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says a plan for joint actions to be taken by Russia and Belarus to create conditions for the introduction of a common currency is practically ready.

Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov and his Belarus counterpart Henadz Navitski, and head of the Central Bank of Russia Sergey Ignatyev and First Deputy Chairman of Belarus' National Bank Pavel Kalaur say that Russian and Belarusian officials have signed a plan for joint actions to be taken by both countries for the introduction of a common currency in 2005.

**4 June 2002** UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan visits Moscow.

**4 June 2002** Russian Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev says MinAtom and the US Energy Department will undertake joint research on the use of weapons-grade plutonium in nuclear power plant reactors.

**4 June 2002** MFA spokesman says Moscow welcomes the intention of the Palestinian National Authority to reform its institutions.

**4 June 2002** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov and Turkey's Chief of General Staff Gen Huseyin Kivrikoglu meet in Moscow to discuss the state of, and prospects for, military and technical cooperation between Russia and Turkey.

**4 June 2002** Chief of the CIS Headquarters for coordinating military cooperation Army Gen Vladimir Yakovlev says that military units from the Central Asian countries may join the antiterrorist operation in Afghanistan.

**4 June 2002** Testing ends of a missile attack warning radar at the Russian Space Troops' strategic installation in Baranavichy, Belarus.

**4 June 2002** Vladimir Putin attends the Conference for Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia in Almaty. He appeals to India and Pakistan.

Vladimir Putin meets Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Putin has talks with the head of the Afghan Interim Administration Hamed Karzai.

**4 June 2002** Pakistani President Gen Pervez Musharraf praises Vladimir Putin's efforts to resolve the India-Pakistan conflict.

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**4 June 2002** Director-General of the Israeli Foreign Ministry Avi Gil has talks in Moscow with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov to discuss nonproliferation of nuclear armaments in the Middle and Near East. Gil discusses the supply of Russian nuclear technology to Iran.

**5 June 2002** The Egmont Group of financial intelligence units from 58 countries which coordinate efforts in fighting money laundering vote to admit Russia.

**5 June 2002** The Indian prime minister's national security adviser, Brajesh Mishra, arrives following an invitation from Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo.

**5 June 2002** Israeli Foreign Ministry Director-General Avi Gil visits Moscow. He praises Russia's actions as a co-sponsor of the Middle East peace process. Gil says, "Israel is satisfied with Russia's role in the Middle East and hails its solid position against terrorism in our country." Gil and Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Saltanov convene a meeting of the Russian-Israel working group on the Middle East.

The MFA denounces the latest terrorist attack in northern Israel.

**5 June 2002** Chinese President Jiang Zemin arrives in St Petersburg for a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to be held on 6-9 June.

**5 June 2002** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan discuss UN activities and the situation in the world's conflict zones.

President Vladimir Putin meets Kofi Annan and describes the UN as "a key organization in maintaining international peace and security".

**5 June 2002** Vladimir Putin believes there is no competition between Russia and the USA for influence on CIS countries. He is interviewed in Chinese newspaper Renmin Ribao.

**5 June 2002** Defence minister Sergey Ivanov is interviewed in *Komsomolskaya Pravda*. He says that Russia will not take part in the NATO summit in Prague in November.

**5 June 2002** An international world security forum opens in Moscow. Taking part in the conference are CIS security secretaries, as well as representatives of India, Poland and Lithuania. The forum is to mark the tenth anniversary of the Security Council. The participants intend to work out joint measures to combat terrorism.

**5 June 2002** King Abdullah of Jordan receives Russia's special envoy to the Middle East, Andrey Vdovin.

Igor Ivanov condemns the recent terrorist act in Israel.

**5 June 2002** Deputy foreign minister Aleksandr Losyukov speaks at a Russian-Chinese economic and political conference in Moscow. He says there are no contradictions in Russia's relations with the United States and China. He says relations with China "supplement our work in the Western direction".

Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov has talks with the director of the Chinese Foreign Ministry's department of arms control, Liu Jie.

**6 June 2002** Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia, the United States and China fully agree on the need to coordinate efforts towards settling the conflict between India and Pakistan.

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov discusses the present state of Indian-Pakistani relations in a telephone conversation with US Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Deputy Foreign Minister and G8 Political Director Georgy Mamedov agrees with Pakistani ambassador to Russia Iftikhar Murshed that Russia and Pakistan will have the first working consultations on security and disarmament in September.

**6 June 2002** Defence minister Sergey Ivanov visits NATO HQ. He says that "to ensure Russia and NATO work together effectively in the new format of relations, a group of professionally trained Russian experts should be set up in Brussels". He says, "to be in line with the areas of cooperation, this group should include specialists from the Defence Ministry, the Emergencies Ministry, the FSB and the Foreign Intelligence Service ... the Foreign Ministry has taken the coordinating role in this cooperation and will continue to do so." He says "out of the 28 committees working within NATO, Russia is ready to work with about half of them, and the Defence Ministry with about four or five."

Sergey Ivanov says NATO enlargement remains a point of "dispute" in NATO-Russia relations. Ivanov says he believes the key area of Russia-NATO cooperation is the struggle against international terrorism. He says Russia and NATO might work out proposals for a joint concept for a nonstrategic missile defence system in Europe by the end of 2003.

**6 June 2002** Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski visits Russia.

**6 June 2002** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov and US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld meet in Brussels and discuss the enforcement of Russian-American agreements on strategic stability.

**6 June 2002** The USA officially recognizes Russia as a country with a market economy.

Julian Schweitzer, the World Bank's director for Russia, says the World Bank has approved a strategy to provide Russia with loans of up to 600m dollars a year.

**7 June 2002** The Shanghai Cooperation Organization meets in St Petersburg. Its charter is signed. An agreement on setting up the regional antiterrorist agency is also signed. The leaders of Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan attend. A Russo-Kazakh agreement on oil transit is signed. Vladimir Putin has talks with Chinese president Jiang Zemin. The trade turnover between the two countries reached 11bn dollars in 2001 and the contacts must expand in future.

**7 June 2002** The Duma adopts a resolution entitled "On the discriminatory policy of the Latvian authorities with regard to the Russian population of the Republic of Latvia".

**7 June 2002** Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko and Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister Karim Masimov sign an agreement on oil transit in St Petersburg.

**8 June 2002** Chinese President Jiang Zemin arrives in Sochi.

**8 June 2002** Russian Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov visits Germany.

**8 June 2002** Vladimir Putin and British Prime Minister Tony Blair discuss by telephone the prospects for a settlement of the conflict between India and Pakistan.

**8 June 2002** Governors from the Northwestern Federal District voice concern about Russia's plans to join the WTO.

**9 June 2002** Azeri President Heydar Aliev visits Russia.

**9 June 2002** Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko says an agreement with Azerbaijan on the division of the Caspian Sea is not far off.

**9 June 2002** Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia does not intend to join NATO as a military organization and negatively regards the advance of its military structures to its borders. Ivanov says, "we are planning to use Il-78 military transport aircraft and flying tankers both within the framework of bilateral Russian-German and Russia-NATO relations, which, all the sides believe, can boost the infrastructure and mobility of the forces which we might need to deploy in a certain part of the world."

**9 June 2002** Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Vladimir Putin sign a statement on strategic cooperation in the gas sphere in St Petersburg. Ukrainian first deputy prime minister Oleg Dubyna says the issue of a gas pipeline bypassing Ukraine has been taken off the agenda.

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**10 June 2002** The prime ministers of the Council of Baltic Sea States meet in St Petersburg. The presidents of Russia, Ukraine and the German chancellor also attend.

**10 June 2002** US Attorney General John Ashcroft visits Russia for talks with Procurator-General Vladimir Ustinov. Ustinov says Russia and the United States need to develop the bilateral legal basis in order to be able to cooperate in the effort to combat terrorism and other kinds of international crime. Ashcroft also meets Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov to discuss the containment of drug trafficking from Afghanistan.

**10 June 2002** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov visits Denmark.

**10 June 2002** Yury Fedotov is appointed deputy foreign minister. Fedotov will be responsible for issues of Russia's participation in the work of international organizations, first of all the UN. Fedotov replaces Sergey Ordzhonikidze, who is now UN deputy secretary-general and director-general of the UN office in Geneva.

**10 June 2002** Tatarstan Prime Minister Rustam Minnikhanov meets a delegation from Iran's Eastern Azerbaijan province to discuss the development of economic ties.

**10 June 2002** Vladimir Putin, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroder sign a Russian-Ukrainian-German statement on cooperation in the use of the trunk gas pipeline to ensure continual gas transit to Europe.

**10 June 2002** Prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov says Russia does not intend dramatically to increase its export of oil.

**11 June 2002** The MFA says it is surprised by the statement of US Undersecretary of State John Bolton on the Russian policy in the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missile technologies. The press has cited Bolton as saying that the policy of Russia keeps leading to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missile technologies.

**11 June 2002** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov completes his visit to Denmark.

**11 June 2002** Special representative of the Russian foreign minister Andrey Vdovin meets Lebanese President Emile Lahhud in Beirut. Vdovin says: "A thoroughly-prepared international conference could play an important role in the peace process ... the settlement must be comprehensive, and encompass the Palestinian and Syrian-Lebanese tracks."

**11 June 2002** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov says in *Kommersant Vlast* that Russia is striving to prevent the use of a scenario of settling the Iraq problem by force. He says: "We are doing everything so that the events develop in the framework of a political settlement."

**11 June 2002** Russian Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo visits Kyrgyzstan. He says: "It is necessary to create in Bishkek a working group to coordinate actions of the CIS antiterrorist centre and collective rapid deployment forces of the member countries of the Collective Security Treaty."

**11 June 2002** Georgia and Russia resume talks on the new framework treaty between the two countries in Tbilisi. The chairman of the Duma Committee on CIS affairs and Relations with Compatriots, Boris Pastukhov, leads the Russian delegation. The Georgian delegation is led by Foreign Minister Irakli Menagharishvili.

**11 June 2002** Lithuanian Prime Minister Algirdas Brazauskas visits St Petersburg for talks with presidential envoy to the Northwest Federal District, Viktor Cherkesov. They discuss Kaliningrad Oblast in the context of EU expansion.

**11 June 2002** The customs service estimates Russia's trade turnover at 43.45bn dollars in January-April 2002, a 3.6% decline compared to the same period in 2001. The Main Customs Committee reported that Russia's foreign trade turnover with non-CIS countries fell by 1.7% to 36.05bn dollars and slid by 11.8% to 7.4bn dollars with CIS countries in January-April 2002. The foreign-trade surplus stood at 16.91bn dollars in January-April 2002, compared to 20.8bn over the same period in 2001.

Russian exports amounted to 30.18bn dollars in January-April 2002, or 8.3% lower than during the same period in 2001. Exports to non-CIS countries totalled 25.79bn (a 9% decline), and exports to the CIS came to 4.39bn (4.1% lower). Imports stood at 13.17bn dollars in January-April 2002, or 9.3% more than during the same period in 2001. Imports from non-CIS countries amounted to 10.26bn dollars, a 23.2% increase, and imports from the CIS totalled 3.01bn dollars, which is 21.1% lower.

Russia's ten key trading partners in January-April 2002 are Germany with 10% of Russia's total trade turnover (10.3% in the same period in 2001), Italy 6.9% (7%), Belarus 6.4% (6.4%), Ukraine 5.8% (6.8%), China 5.8% (4.1%), the Netherlands 5.5% (3.4%), the United States 4.7% (4.9%), Britain 3.6% (3.8%), Poland 3.3% (4%) and Kazakhstan 3% (3.6%).

**11 June 2002** Duma Chairman Gennady Seleznev says the Duma will not ratify the treaty on the border with Lithuania until a decision on the status of the Kaliningrad Region is taken. The Duma speaker believes that a decision on visa-free travel for Russian citizens to Kaliningrad should be made by 1 July 2003, when Poland is expected to join the Schengen treaty.

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**11 June 2002** Vladimir Putin congratulates participants of Afghanistan's Loya Jerga on the start of its session.

**12 June 2002** The MFA says it appreciates initiatives put forward by the Indian leadership to relieve tensions in relations with Pakistan.

**12 June 2002** Igor Ivanov visits Canada for a meeting of G8 foreign ministers.

**12 June 2002** US Federal Emergency Management Agency Deputy Director Mike Brown and First Deputy Emergencies Minister Yury Vorobyev sign a protocol on cooperation in 2002 and 2003 in Suzdal. The joint Russian-US committee on cooperation in preventing and dealing with emergencies has had its sixth meeting in Russia and will meet again in the USA next summer.

**12 June 2002** Sergey Kiriyyenko, the chairman of the State Commission for Chemical Disarmament, says the elimination of chemical weapons and facilities for their production in Russia is fully on schedule. The federal programme for the elimination of chemical arsenals and production facilities covers the period until 2007, although, Kirienko said, it would be more realistic for it to be extended to 2012. A total of 2bn dollars has been allocated from the Russian federal budget to implement the programme. The rest of the money, 1bn dollars, will come from successive allocations by 17 foreign states which co-sponsor the programme.

**12 June 2002** First Deputy Foreign Minister Valery Loshchinin, the Russian president's special representative for Georgian-Abkhaz settlement issues, arrives in Abkhazia.

**13 June 2002** Vladimir Putin says the development of Russia can be "a powerful magnet for integration" among former Soviet republics. He says there are two philosophies of integration processes: one is to restore the Soviet Union at any cost, in particular, at the expense of Russia's economic interests, and the other is "Russia's development into a powerful magnet for integration". Russia offers cooperation in the Eurasian Economic Community to those who wish to have more economic integration. He says the Eurasian Economic Community is a free trade zone.

**13 June 2002** Duma international affairs committee chairman Dmitry Rogozin says Russian parliamentarians should declare that Russia is free from its commitments under START-2 following the withdrawal of the US from the 1972 ABM Treaty and its failure to ratify START-2. The USA formally withdrew on 13 June.

**13 June 2002** Former Israeli prime minister and Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu visits Moscow. Netanyahu says Russia's policy on the Middle East has improved in recent years. He criticises Russian supply of nuclear technology to Iran.

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**13 June 2002** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov meets other G8 foreign ministers in Whistler, Canada. The G8 summit is to be held in Kananaskis, Canada, on 26-27 June.

**13 June 2002** Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says Russia may issue 1bn US dollars worth of Eurobonds in 2003.

**13 June 2002** Acting chief of the search-and-rescue department of the Russian navy Col Nikolay Makarchuk says Russia intends to join the international submarine rescue system.

**14 June 2002** Russian Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says the Russian 201st Motor Rifle Division stationed in Tajikistan is expected to acquire the status of a Russian military base.

**14 June 2002** The Duma issues a statement saying that it considers Russia free from any obligations outlined in the START-2 treaty. The Duma issues a statement saying the US decision of 13 December 2001 to withdraw unilaterally from the ABM Treaty remains a major political mistake capable of inflicting serious damage on international security.

Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says the USA's withdrawal from the ABM Treaty is an error.

The MFA issues a statement saying that Russia has announced that there are now no conditions for START-2 to take effect and that it does not feel bound by the commitment under international law to desist from activities that could deprive the treaty of its objective and goals in view of the US refusal to ratify START-2 and withdrawal from the ABM Treaty.

**14 June 2002** A message from Palestinian leader Yassir Arafat to the Russian leadership is handed by Palestinian ambassador Khayri al-Uraydi in Moscow, calling on Russia to "urgently intervene in the situation in the Middle East so as to overcome the disastrous development of events in the region".

Foreign minister Igor Ivanov says Russia supports the idea of convening an international conference on the Middle East but believes that this conference must be thoroughly prepared.

**14 June 2002** The MFA says it regards calmly Uzbekistan's withdrawal from GUUAM, the organization uniting Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Moldova.

**14 June 2002** The Federation Council extends the mandate of Russian peacekeepers in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone till 30 June 2002, by the proposal of the president and with due consideration of Russia's role and interest in a settlement.

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**14 June 2002** The Ministry for Emergency Situations is to take part in a mine clearing operation on the territory of Croatia.

**14 June 2002** Federation Council decides to cut the personnel of the Russian peacekeeping contingent in Kosovo to 650 by 1 July and extended its mandate until 31 July 2003.

**15 June 2002** Russian Middle East envoy Andrey Vdovin arrives in Moscow after attending a meeting of the Quartet in Washington.

**15 June 2002** Vladimir Lukin, deputy chairman of Yabloko, says: "We back orientation towards inclusion into the coalition of developed democratic countries. However, we should not melt into this coalition and fulfil somebody's orders."

**15 June 2002** First Deputy Foreign Minister Valery Loshchinin meets the British, German, US, and French ambassadors in Moscow to discuss a Georgian-Abkhazian settlement.

The MFA says Russia has fulfilled all of its obligations regarding the withdrawal of its military base in Gudauta, Abkhazia.

**15 June 2002** Russia and China begin negotiations on the terms of Russia's accession to the WTO.

**16 June 2002** The command and staff exercise "Southern Shield of the Commonwealth", in which the defence ministers of Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Moldova and Ukraine participated, ends today 50 km from Almaty.

**16 June 2002** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says the Collective Security Treaty - Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan - intends to expand cooperation in the military field.

**18 June 2002** Slovak foreign minister Eduard Kukan visits Russia.

**18 June 2002** German Gref, the Russian minister for economic development and trade, completes his working visit to Yugoslavia.

**20 June 2002** The MFA welcomes the election of Hamed Karzai as head of Afghanistan's transitional administration.

**20 June 2002** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov visits Poland.

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Igor Ivanov says Russia insists on visa-free travel to and from Kaliningrad Region after Poland and Lithuania join the EU in 2004.

**20 June 2002** The Russian deputy foreign minister, Aleksandr Saltanov, and the director of the department for Western Asia and Northern Africa of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Wu Chunhua, meet in Moscow and discuss the Middle East situation.

**20 June 2002** Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov and US Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security John Bolton hold talks on arms control in Moscow.

**21 June 2002** The Duma issues a statement on Kaliningrad Region. It says that all residents of Kaliningrad Region should have multiple-entry Schengen visas.

**21 June 2002** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and US Secretary of State Colin Powell speak by the phone and share their concern over the "unprecedented exacerbation" of the situation in the Middle East.

**21 June 2002** Deputy Minister of Atomic Energy Valery Lebedev says Russia will complete the power unit at the nuclear power station in Bushehr.

**23 June 2002** The Irkutsk Aircraft Production Association (IAPO) commences deliveries of Su-30MKI multifunctional jet fighters to India.

**24 June 2002** Internal Affairs Minister Boris Gryzlov visits China.

**25 June 2002** MFA envoy Andrey Vdovin leaves for the Middle East. Vdovin's trip is expected to coincide with visits to the region by envoys of the other three mediators, the USA, the EU and the UN.

**25 June 2002** Russian MPs attend the summer session of PACE. They discuss Kaliningrad's future visa regime.

**25 June 2002** The MFA says that George Bush's plan for a Palestinian state needs analysis.

**25 June 2002** Deputy Defence Minister Mikhail Dmitryev leads the Russian delegation to the second session of the Russian-Iranian commission on defence cooperation in Iran.

## A Russian Chronology: April-June 2002

**26 June 2002** US Ambassador to Russia Alexander Vershbow meets Russian Minister for Chechnya Vladimir Yelagin. He says the Chechen conflict is Russia's internal affair, and the country itself should decide on ways to settle it.

**26 June 2002** Vladimir Putin arrives in Canada on for a G8 summit to be held in Kananaskis.

**26 June 2002** MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says Russia wants "international antiterrorist cooperation, including within the G8 framework, to be firmly based on international law with the United Nations and their Security Council playing the central coordinating role".

**26 June 2002** The Federation Council ratifies the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.

**26 June 2002** FSB chief Nikolay Patrushev says instability in Afghanistan continues to pose a threat to security in the CIS, including Russia and Central Asia. Patrushev is visiting Kazakhstan.

**26 June 2002** The Duma instructs its Committee on International Affairs to consult the MFA on the possibility of a withdrawal from the lower chamber of the Russian parliament of the Russian-Lithuanian treaty on the state border. The treaty was signed on 24 October 1997 and was submitted to the Duma by the Russian president for ratification. Deputies hostile to the treaty say the treaty does not guarantee the observance of human rights and freedoms to residents of Kaliningrad Region.

**27 June 2002** Vladimir Putin says the Russian-US Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions has been submitted to the Duma for ratification.

**27 June 2002** MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko welcomes a statement by Lithuanian Prime Minister Algirdas Brazauskas on readiness to provide visa-free transit for Russian citizens travelling to and from Kaliningrad.

**27 June 2002** The Duma ratifies the agreement signed by the governments of Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation on settling Kyrgyzstan's debts to Russia.

**27 June 2002** Pro-Moscow Chechen leader Akhmad Kadyrov visits Germany.

**27 June 2002** Vladimir Putin says he is confused to learn that the Financial Action Task Force on money laundering (FATF) has not excluded Russia from its "blacklist".

Dr Mark A Smith

**28 June 2002** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov says the extension of the mandate of the OSCE mission in Chechnya, which expires in December, "will be decided with taking into account the overall situation in the republic". Ivanov has talks with the acting chairman of the OSCE, Portuguese Foreign Minister Antonio Manuel de Mendonca Martins da Cruz.

**28 June 2002** US ambassador to Russia Alexander Vershbow says the USA does not intend to resume nuclear tests and welcomes Russia's decision not to do so.

**28 June 2002** The Russian foreign minister's special representative, Andrey Vdovin, has talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Israel.

**28 June 2002** The MFA opposes the withdrawal of its peacekeepers from the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, as that would destabilize the situation in the region.

**28 June 2002** The Russian government approves a Russian-Azerbaijani agreement on the status, principles and terms of operation for the Qabala radar station in Azerbaijan. The government decided to submit the agreement to the president, who will in turn present it to the State Duma for ratification.

**28 June 2002** Speaker of the Austrian parliament, Heinz Fischer visits Moscow.

**28 June 2002** Russia's permanent representative at the Disarmament Conference in Geneva, Leonid Skotnikov says Russia and China are for the urgent adoption of all possible measures to prevent the deployment of weapons in space.

**29 June 2002** The MFA expresses concern over the clash between between patrol ships of North and South Korea.

**29 June 2002** Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Saltanov meets Israeli deputy minister for immigration, Yuly Edelstein.

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