

Russian Foreign Policy: Chronology

July-September 2002

July

1 July 2002 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says Russia will maintain contacts with Palestinian leader Yassir Arafat.

1 July 2002 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov criticises the US veto in the UN Security Council on the extension on the mandate for international forces in Bosnia.

1 July 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says "there are currently no plans to further reduce our contingent in Bosnia and Kosovo, but this doesn't mean that we will not have such plans in the future". 300 Russian peace-keeping forces currently serve in Bosnia. He says Russia opposes CFE revision.

1 July 2002 Maj-Gen Sergey Dement'yev says assets and personnel of the 27th Aviation Group of the Russian military contingent within KFOR have been relocated from Kosovo to Tver.

1 July 2002 The Defence Ministers of Russia and Lithuania, Sergey Ivanov and Linas Linkevicius, hold talks in Moscow to discuss issues of bilateral cooperation between the two countries' defence ministries and the problem of Kaliningrad Region.

1 July 2002 Danish Ambassador to Moscow Lars Vissing says the EU may make certain concessions in introducing a visa transit regime between Kaliningrad Region and mainland Russia.

1 July 2002 The Russian government issues a resolution approving volumes and conditions for the transit of Russian gas through Ukraine under an intergovernmental accord on additional measures to guarantee its transit.

2 July 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov and Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov meet a US Senate delegation visiting Moscow.

2 July 2002 US Secretary of State Colin Powell and Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov have a telephone conversation.

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2 July 2002 Dr Abbas Khalaf commences work as Iraq's new ambassador to Russia.

2 July 2002 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov visits France.

3 July 2002 Yukos makes its first shipment of Russian crude oil to the USA.

3 July 2002 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says Russia plans eventually to join the OECD.

3 July 2002 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov wants France to further partnership in the gas sector because 20% of gas it consumes is supplied by Russia. In addition, France may join the Russian-Ukrainian gas consortium. Germany is also considering joining it.

3 July 2002 MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says Russia and China have suggested imposing a ban on weapons in space. A joint Russo-Chinese document on this topic has been presented at the disarmament conference which is currently taking place in Geneva.

3 July 2002 In *Gazeta* Anatoly Kvashnin, Russian Chief of the General Staff (CGS) accuses Georgia of violating the peace accords in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone.

4 July 2002 Gazprom, Shell and ExxonMobil sign an agreement with the PetroChina company on the establishment of a joint venture to build the West-East gas trunkline project.

4 July 2002 Kaliningrad region governor Vladimir Yegorov says that proposals put forward by the EU regarding the future status of the Russian enclave are aimed at isolating the region from the rest of Russia.

5 July 2002 The Russian Orthodox Church announces that it has begun an investigation into activities by Roman Catholic missionaries on Russian territory. The clergy have already made up a document with a list of complaints which they are planning to send to the Vatican.

5 July 2002 The Central Bank states as of 1 April, Russia's foreign debt totalled 149.9bn dollars, which is 1.1bn dollars less than at the beginning of 2002.

5 July 2002 The Russian Foreign Ministry (MFA) calls on Iraq not to delay its dialogue with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the revival of contracts in the disarmament sphere.

6 July 2002 The Kazakh, Russian, Uzbek, Kyrgyz and Tajik presidents hold an informal summit in Aktau, Kazakhstan. They discuss the antiterrorist operation in Afghanistan, and cooperation in the fuel and energy sphere. The leaders will discuss problems of transporting coal, using pipelines and expanding their network.

7 July 2002 Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev speaks out against the situation in Abkhazia and South Osetia being discussed at a standing committee of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The Georgian delegation has accused Russia of introducing a fast-track procedure whereby people in South Osetia and Abkhazia can obtain Russian citizenship. Seleznev criticises the OSCE's concern with human rights in the CIS.

7 July 2002 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov gives a lengthy interview on ORT's *Vremena* programme.

8 July 2002 The CGS of the Russian armed forces, Army Gen Anatoly Kvashnin, and his Ethiopian counterpart, Lt-Gen Samora Yenus, sign documents on the development of military and technical cooperation between Russia and Ethiopia.

8 July 2002 Igor Ivanov has talks with his French counterpart Dominique Galouzeau de Villepin. He says Russia has no information about Washington's secret plans with regard to Iraq; the Iraqi issues must be resolved politically. Ivanov says Russia and France will set up a council on security cooperation. They call for an international conference on the Middle East.

The MFA says that "the Iraqi problem may be resolved only through a political and diplomat process in compliance with resolutions of the UN Security Council".

8 July 2002 King Abdullah II of Jordan arrives in Moscow.

8 July 2002 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev visits China.

8 July 2002 The chairman of the Duma Committee on International Affairs, Dmitry Rogozin, says he opposes the visit of European Parliament officials to Chechnya.

9 July 2002 The MFA says Russia has no contacts with the Iraqi opposition.

9 July 2002 The Russo-Vietnamese intergovernmental commission meets. Deputy prime minister Viktor Khristenko represents the Russian side.

9 July 2002 The Ministry for Economic Development and Trade and the European Coal and Steel Association signed a steel trade agreement in Brussels.

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9 July 2002 The MFA expresses concern about the decision taken by the Ukrainian National Council for TV and Radio Broadcasting which obliges the country's television and radio companies in the course of a year to move to broadcasting Ukrainian-produced programmes only in the Ukrainian language.

9 July 2002 Minatom head Aleksandr Rumyantsev holds talks with Chinese Minister in charge of the Commission of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence Liu Jibin and General Manager of the China National Nuclear Corporation Li Dingfan to discuss civilian nuclear cooperation.

10 July 2002 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov gives an interview on Russian foreign policy in *Izvestiya*. He says Russia has become more accepted and respectable in the eyes of the West.

10 July 2002 Georgian officials deny reports that Russian and Georgian law-enforcement agencies are prepared to conduct a joint raid against international terrorists and Chechen militants in the Pankisi Gorge.

10 July 2002 A special envoy and head of the Russian part of the joint control commission for settling the Georgian-Osetian conflict, Mikhail Mayorov, says Moscow and Tbilisi have agreed to continue to cooperate in carrying out economic restoration work in the zone of the Georgian-Osetian conflict and facilitating the return of refugees.

10 July 2002 The Federation Council ratifies a governmental accord with Kyrgyzstan on settlement of the Central Asian republic's debt. The accord, signed in July 2001 reschedules Kyrgyzstan's debt on state loans issued to it by Russia in 1996-97. Kyrgyzstan will repay the 59.3m dollar debt in portions over the period 2003-2015.

10 July 2002 Xiang Huaicheng, Chinese finance minister, visits Moscows for talks with his Russian counterpart Aleksey Kudrin.

11 July 2002 First deputy minister for economic development and trade Maksim Medvedkov says Russia's approach to negotiations on its membership in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) might possibly change, but will not affect the basic principles of the Russian position.

Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov confirms the government's commitment to WTO accession at a cabinet session. He specifies that Russia is expected to provide its final decision on WTO accession in late July.

11 July 2002 Lord Judd, co-chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)-Duma joint working group travels to Chechnya together with Prosecutor-General Vladimir Ustinov.

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11 July 2002 The Chinese MFA says Russia and China are conducting negotiations on joint exercises of their signals troops in the Chinese autonomous region of Inner Mongolia.

11 July 2002 The Russian CGS Anatoly Kvashnin has talks with his French counterpart General Jean-Pierre Kelche on European security in Paris. They also discuss Franco-Russian military-technical cooperation.

11 July 2002 Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo ends his visit to Georgia.

12 July 2002 Vladimir Putin admits the possibility of compromise solutions for the problem of Kaliningrad Region.

12 July 2002 Vladimir Putin addresses a meeting of Russian Ambassadors in Moscow. He says Russian-US relations are now guided by a new understanding of their national interests and global stability is the special responsibility of Russia and the USA.

12 July 2002 Deputy Chairman of the Duma defence committee Nikolay Bezborodov says the Duma is apprehensive that Russia could find it impossible to honour its commitments under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction. He is concerned about the US cutback in funding for Russian chemical disarmament.

12 July 2002 The MFA accuses Latvia of violating international legal standards and sentencing innocent people for political reasons. The MFA refers to the case of Nikolay Tess and other veterans of law-enforcement agencies of the former Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic.

13 July 2002 The MFA welcomes the UN Security Council resolution on the statute of the international criminal court.

13 July 2002 The governor of Kaliningrad Vladimir Yegorov rejects a proposal to return to Kaliningrad city the former name Koenigsberg.

The head of the Duma international affairs committee, Dmitry Rogozin, is appointed special representative for the problems of Kaliningrad Region connected with the expansion of the EU.

14 July 2002 The MFA condemns the recent terrorist act in Kashmir.

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14 July 2002 Aleksey Yablokov, the president of the Russian Centre for Environmental Policy, says the Bushehr deal with Iran has a military component, as it includes a uranium enrichment plant.

15 July 2002 Igor Ivanov says Russia will continue to talk with Yassir Arafat as he is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

15 July 2002 The Russian and Azerbaijani presidents Vladimir Putin and Geydar Aliev have a telephone conversation.

15 July 2002 Igor Ivanov is interviewed in the Chinese Communist Party newspaper *Renmin Ribao* on Russo-Chinese relations.

16 July 2002 Vladimir Putin meets the head of the Presidential Administrative Department, Vladimir Kozhin. They discuss the implementation of a presidential decree on the upkeep and management of Russian property abroad. Russian property abroad subordinated to the Administrative Department has been valued at 1.5bn dollars by independent international assessors. The Department runs about 1,000 assets in 70 countries, of which 800 have already been transferred to its balance sheet.

16 July 2002 The Russian and British Defence Ministers, Sergey Ivanov and Geoffrey Hoon meet in St Petersburg.

16 July 2002 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says Moscow does not support the possible use of force by the US and its allies against Baghdad without UN authorisation.

16 July 2002 The Quartet (USA, Russia, EU and UN) meets in New York to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

16 July 2002 Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo visits China.

16 July 2002 Duma International Affairs Committee chairman Dmitry Rogozin is interviewed in *Izvestiya*. He advocates a visa-free Europe.

16 July 2002 Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko arrives in Azerbaijan. He intends to complete "technical procedures of the forthcoming agreement on the demarcation of the Caspian seabed".

16 July 2002 The chairman of the Russian-Armenian intergovernmental commission and Russian minister of science, industry and technology, Ilya Klebanov, visits Armenia to sign an agreement on Armenia's debts to the Russian

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Federation. An electric power plant and some electronics enterprises will be handed over to Russian control to pay off the debt.

16 July 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov visits Norway.

17 July 2002 The Ministry of Economic Trade and Development says the stock of foreign investment in the Russian economy is 34.4bn dollars as of the end of March 2002, up 8% year-on-year. Foreign investment inflows were up 39.4% year-on-year to 3.8bn dollars in the first quarter of 2002. Direct investment made up 50% of the stock of foreign investment, while portfolio investment accounted for 4%. The biggest investors in Russia were Germany, Cyprus, the United States, Britain, France and Italy. These countries accounted for 78% of all foreign investment in Russia.

17 July 2002 Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo visits China. He says Russia and China intend to step up cooperation in the struggle against international terrorism.

17 July 2002 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says he wants Russia's border treaty with Lithuania to be ratified and sees no reason why the treaty should be recalled from the Duma.

17 July 2002 The Quartet (USA, Russia, EU and UN) meets in New York. It expresses support for the creation of a Palestinian state. Igor Ivanov says "Only the Palestinian people have the right to elect their leaders. It is their sovereign right. As for President Arafat, he is the Palestinian people's legitimately elected leader, and for as long as he remains such we shall maintain relations with him." He calls for a comprehensive settlement.

The MFA condemns the gun attack on a bus near an Israeli settlement on the West Bank.

17 July 2002 First Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov visits India. He has talks with India's Deputy Prime Minister L K Advani, External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha and National Security Adviser Brajesh Mishra on Afghanistan.

17 July 2002 Igor Ivanov says Russia "does not share the US position on the need to remove Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein from power."

17 July 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says regarding the achievements of the USA and its allies in the antiterrorist operations in Afghanistan: "The longer they are there, the more they understand what they have got themselves into". He says that "international forces are nominally controlling the situation only in Kabul". Ivanov says Russia will continue helping Afghanistan through the Defence Ministry and the Emergencies Ministry.

17 July 2002 Gazprom reduces the gas price for Belarus to the level of Russia's domestic prices.

18 July 2002 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Saltanov expresses concern about a possible attack on Iraq. Saltanov believes that "it is possible to have a political-diplomatic solution of the problem". This applies "both to inspectors resuming work in Iraq that is to do with the problem of weapons of mass destruction and to working out models for taking this country out of the sanctions regime".

18 July 2002 Vladimir Putin has a telephone conversation with his Armenian counterpart Robert Kocharyan. They discuss trade and economic cooperation.

18 July 2002 In an interview in *Sovetskaya Rossiya*, CPRF leader Gennady Zyuganov attacks US foreign policy.

18 July 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov visits Finland. He says Russia may redeploy troops in western Russia if the Baltic states join NATO. Sergey Ivanov says that "Russia is set to cooperate with NATO in the sphere of security rather than defence". He says Russia has a real opportunity to influence NATO decisions in the NATO-Russia Council.

18 July 2002 The MFA says Israel must withdraw from the occupied territories to the positions that existed before 28 September 2000 to facilitate holding elections in Palestinian territory in 2003.

18 July 2002 The MFA welcomes the meeting between the leaders of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), Croatia and Bosnia in Sarajevo on 15 July.

18 July 2002 President of Kyrgyzstan Askar Akayev visits Khakassia.

18 July 2002 Vladimir Putin's personal envoy for Abkhaz issues, Vladimir Loshchinin, visits Georgia for a meeting with Eduard Shevardnadze and then goes to Ajaria where he holds a working meeting with Shevardnadze's personal representative for the settlement of the Abkhaz conflict, Ajarian leader Aslan Abashidze.

19 July 2002 French President Jacques Chirac visits Russia. He and Vladimir Putin discuss economic and security cooperation.

19 July 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says that the EU demand that Russian citizens should obtain Schengen visas for travelling to and from Kaliningrad Region is unacceptable for Moscow.

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19 July 2002 The Iraqi ambassador to Russia Abbas Khalaf says Iraq is ready to pay off its debt to Russia if the economic sanctions against Iraq are lifted. He says "all our economic infrastructure, energy industry, defence industry, agriculture and 98% of our military equipment are of Russian origin. If the sanctions are lifted, Iraq would have no choice except close cooperation with Russia."

19 July 2002 Vladimir Putin and Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon have a telephone conversation.

19 July 2002 Russian and US experts on strategic armaments are holding consultations at the Russian MOD. The Russian side is led by chief of the main operational department of the Russian General Staff, Col-Gen Aleksandr Rukshin.

19 July 2002 South African Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma visits Russia.

19 July 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov and Finnish Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja have talks in Finland.

19 July 2002 A State Customs Committee source informs Interfax that in January-May 2002, exports of Russian oil totalled 74.96 million tonnes, a 15% increase (10 million tonnes) from the same period in 2001. Russia's largest oil markets are Germany (8.58 million tonnes), the Netherlands (7.39 million tonnes), Italy (7.17 million tonnes) and Poland (6.2 million tonnes).

In January-May, oil exports to CIS countries totalled 14.14 million tonnes worth 1.11bn dollars. Oil exports to Ukraine and Belarus amounted to 7.09 million tonnes and 6.1 million tonnes, worth 587.59m dollars and 461.33m dollars respectively.

In May 2002, Russian oil exports totalled 15.6 million tonnes, worth 2.31bn dollars. Of this figure, exports to non-CIS and Baltic countries stood at 12.6 million tonnes, worth 2.04m dollars, with supplies to the CIS amounting to 2.995 million tonnes (264.88m dollars).

Russia exported 82.17bn cu.m. of natural gas in the first five months of 2002, up 3%, or by 2.37 bn cu.m. year-on-year. Exports to non-CIS countries and the Baltic states totalled 58.48bn cu.m. and 5.67bn dollars, while exports to the CIS totalled 23.69bn cu.m. and 1.02bn dollars. The biggest exports went to Germany (14bn cu.m.), Italy (9.2bn cu.m.) and Ukraine (12.82bn cu.m.).

Exports in May 2002 totalled 14.14bn cu.m. and 1.13bn dollars, including 10.31bn cu.m. for 0.97bn dollars to non-CIS countries and the Baltic states and 3.83bn cu.m. for 0.16bn dollars to the CIS.

Russia exported 166.493bn cu.m. of natural gas for 17.287bn dollars in 2001.

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19 July 2002 The NATO-Russia Council meets in Brussels. A joint NATO-Russia exercise will be held from 24-27 September on neutralizing the consequences of a "terrorist attack" on a chemical plant. Cooperation in other fields such as the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, conventional arms control in Europe and the creation of a theatre ABM system are outlined. There is discussion of a new basic blueprint for joint operations in the Balkans envisaging an enhancement of Russia's role in their planning and implementation, as well as the involvement of international contingents in the maintenance of border security for the countries of the region.

20 July 2002 Andrey Vdovin, Russian envoy for the Middle East peace process, visits Yassir Arafat in Ramallah.

21 July 2002 First Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov visits Iran. They discuss Afghanistan, Iraq, Indo-Pakistan tensions and Caspian Sea status.

22 July 2002 Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Alvaro Gil-Robles expresses concern over the increasing number of anti-Semitic demonstrations in Russia.

22 July 2002 US ambassador to Russia Aleksandr Vershbow criticizes the mopping-up operations carried out by Russian servicemen in Chechnya and admits that Al Qaidah aids terrorism in Chechnya. He also says it is necessary to put pressure on neighbouring countries such as Georgia to better control their borders with Chechnya and that it is necessary to remove rebels from the Pankisi Gorge. He says a political process should be started in Chechnya, which will bring the separatists from their hiding places to the negotiation table.

22 July 2002 Vladimir Putin discusses the current state of Palestinian-Israeli relations with head of the Palestinian National Authority Yasir Arafat as part of his ongoing exchange of views with the parties to the Middle East settlement.

22 July 2002 The MFA expresses concern over the decision taken by the Belarusian supreme economic court on 17 July to grant the petition of the Belarusian Economic Ministry to annul the founding documents for the registration in Belarus of the private Russian unitary enterprise Zapad-Transnefteprodukt.

23 July 2002 The MFA expresses concern about Israel's air strike on apartment buildings in Gaza, which is controlled by the Palestinian National Authority.

23 July 2002 Duma Speaker Gennady Seleznev say he expects a solution of the problem of Russia's exclave Kaliningrad Region at the next Russia-EU summit.

23 July 2002 CGS Anatoly Kvashnin holds talks in Moscow with his Italian counterpart Gen Rolando Mosca Moschini.

23 July 2002 *Izvestiya* reports that a special department for work with compatriots abroad has been created in the presidential administration. A similar department has been created recently at the Foreign Ministry.

24 July 2002 Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Razov is having talks with the EU in Brussels over Kaliningrad.

24 July 2002 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Russia and Japan have agreed to form a bilateral intergovernment working group for the struggle against terrorism. Losyukov is visiting Japan. He says Russia and Japan are going to pursue talks on a peace treaty. The talks on this and the territorial issue of the South Kuril Islands "will continue on the basis of all earlier achieved Russian-Japanese accords, including the declaration of 1956".

24 July 2002 Russian Chief Rabbi Adolf Shayevich criticizes the world community's stance on the fight against terrorism in the Middle East and calls on Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to take resolute actions.

24 July 2002 Russia and Gabon sign an agreement on technical military ties in Moscow.

25 July 2002 The Economic Development and Trade Ministry estimates that the Russian trade surplus in the first half of 2002 amounted to 21.1bn dollars. This figure is contained in a report on socioeconomic development in Russia in January-June 2002, prepared by the ministry. According to the report, Russian foreign trade in the first half year amounted to 74.6bn dollars, down 2.2% year-on-year. Exports in the period amounted to 47.9bn dollars, down 6.8% year-on-year, including exports to outside the CIS of 40.7bn dollars (down 7.3%) and exports to the CIS of 7.2bn dollars (down 4%). Imports into Russia in the first half of 2002 amounted to 26.7bn dollars, up 7.2% year-on-year, including 21.2bn dollars in imports from outside the CIS (up 18.4%) and 5.5bn dollars in imports from the CIS (down 21.4%).

25 July 2002 Igor Ivanov is interviewed in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*. He discusses the Russo-Japanese peace treaty negotiations, relations with the two Koreas, the Middle East and Iraq.

25 July 2002 Mikhail Dmitriyev, the deputy Defence Minister and chairman of the Russian Commission on Military and Technical Cooperation with Foreign Countries, says Russia is ready to supply conventional weapons, primarily defence systems, to Iran and modernize military hardware in the Iranian army's inventory. "Speaking about military-technical cooperation with Iran there is gradual and quite quiet advancement. Large amounts of supplies are out of the question, but there are some prospects for us."

25 July 2002 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Saltanov visits Iraq.

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25 July 2002 The MFA says the Russian-Chinese working group on the struggle against international terrorism held its second meeting in Moscow earlier this week. It says Russia and China have pointed to "the UN's central role, above all that of its SC, in international efforts to fight terrorism". The Russian delegation was headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Safonov and the Chinese by First Deputy Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing.

26 July 2002 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov visits South Korea.

26 July 2002 Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo has a telephone conversation with US National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice.

26 July 2002 Russia and the USA hold consultations on Cyprus in Moscow. The Russian side at the consultations is represented by special representative of the Russian Foreign Minister for Cyprus Vladimir Prygin and the American by special coordinator of the US State Department Thomas Weston.

26 July 2002 Iraqi Ambassador to Moscow Abbas Khalaf denies Western media reports claiming that Russia supplied arms to Baghdad in breach of UN sanctions.

26 July 2002 Mikhail Kasyanov signs a resolution approving a draft programme for long-term economic cooperation with Iran for the period up to 2012.

26 July 2002 the Russian president's deputy chief of staff Viktor Ivanov says Russia has no intention of leaving the Baykonur cosmodrome. Russian Aerospace Agency Director-General Yury Koptev says that Russia and Kazakhstan are abiding by a 20-year Baykonur lease contract that can be extended. The presidents of the two countries have signed a memorandum telling their cabinets to initiate talks on extending the lease term to 50 years. Russia has been leasing Baykonur since 1994, paying 115m dollars a year in rent since 1999.

26 July 2002 The integration committee of the Eurasian Economic Community meets at deputy prime minister level in the Kyrgyz town of Cholpon-Ata.

27 July 2002 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Saltanov visits Kuwait. On Iraq he says:

"Our aim is to prevent a worst-case scenario. We are against a military solution of the crisis, first of all, because we have serious economic interests in Iraq. Russian business has been given the opportunity to pursue this serious opening and one of the Russian government's main tasks is to safeguard these interests. And secondly, and extremely important to us from the point of view of principle, so that such an approach should not be used in world politics, so that the practice should not take root whereby one or another country could change leaders and the existing order from without ... if we let this happen in one country,

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then no country or government in the world will be insured against a repeat of this scenario."

27 July 2002 First deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov and US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage co-chair a meeting of the Russian-US working group for fighting terrorism in Washington. He says Al Qaidah poses a direct threat to Russia. He denies there is any split between Russia and the USA over support for the Afghan government.

27 July 2002 Energy Minister Igor Yusufov attends a meeting of the bilateral commission for Russian-Chinese energy cooperation in Beijing. He says the Russian government will support Gazprom's participation in building a nearly 4,000-kilometre East-West gas pipeline in China. A 45-year-long contract for setting up the biggest joint venture in China's history was signed in Beijing on 4 July.

27 July 2002 The Federal Border Service says an armed group of several dozen guerrillas has crossed into Russia, apparently from Georgia's Pankisi Gorge.

28 July 2002 Sergey Ivanchenko, Federal Border Guard Service press secretary, says Georgia must have known about the crossing of Chechen fighters into Russia from Georgia.

28 July 2002 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov visits North Korea.

28 July 2002 Saudi Crown Prince Abdallah Bin-Abd-al-Aziz meets Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Saltanov in Saudi Arabia.

29 July 2002 The deputy Foreign Ministers of Kazakhstan, Russia, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Iran start a scheduled session of the working group for defining the legal status of the Caspian Sea in Tehran.

29 July 2002 Federation Council Chairman Sergey Mironov visits Mongolia.

29 July 2002 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Saltanov visits Turkey.

29 July 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says that the problem of Georgia's Pankisi Gorge, where there are groups of Chechen fighters and mercenaries, can only be solved by force and with the participation of Russian subunits.

Presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says Moscow is "indignant and upset about the inconsistent and insincere position" taken by the Georgian leadership regarding the events in the Pankisi Gorge. He says: "One day they say there are no Chechen rebels in Pankisi, next day they say there are; now there are no Arab

mercenaries, next, they appear all of a sudden; today they claim that the Russian-Georgian border is well protected, and tomorrow it turns into a public footpath, and so on ... in such conditions, one cannot really expect any stable, constructive and friendly relations between Russia and Georgia, which the peoples of the two countries would undoubtedly like to develop."

29 July 2002 Igor Ivanov visits Hong Kong.

30 July 2002 Vladimir Putin meets Dmitry Rogozin, special representative of the president for Kaliningrad, who headed the commission at talks with the European Union. Rogozin says Russia plans to submit its proposals for resolving the problem of Kaliningrad Region much earlier than the European Commission.

30 July 2002 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov visits Lithuania. He says Russia wants the rules of travel for its citizens to and from Kaliningrad Region to remain as they are.

30 July 2002 Russian planes attack Chechen rebels near the border with Chechnya. Chechen forces deny that they have entered Chechnya from Georgia.

The main staff of the Russian air force denies that Russian aircraft invaded Georgia's airspace in the early hours 30 July. An official from Georgia's Akhmeta District administration claims that the Nakirala plateau, an uninhabited area near the Pankisi Gorge, was bombed by Russian aircraft.

Russian presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says that Georgian security forces were aware of the fact that Chechen fighters were intending to cross the Russian-Georgian border. He says the Georgian security forces have responded inadequately to this situation.

Dmitry Rogozin, chairman of the Duma International Affairs Committee, says he shares the stance of Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov, that without Russia, Tbilisi will not be able to resolve the problem of rebels in Pankisi Gorge. He says: "Russia has all the rights to conduct targeted retaliatory actions against rebel bases outside its borders. This is provided by international norms and the Russian constitution."

30 July 2002 The MFA welcomes the UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution on Abkhazia, stating that Georgia must fulfil its obligations to end the activities of illegal armed groups.

30 July 2002 First Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov says terrorism can be opposed only by a united front of the world community. He says that the presence of US forces in Central Asia is temporary and that double standards must be avoided in the fight against terrorism. He is commenting on results of a meeting in the US of a Russian-American working group on the fight against terrorism.

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30 July 2002 Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov and US Undersecretary of State in charge of arms control and international security John Bolton discuss specific issues involved in the implementation of the military-political accords reached at the Moscow Putin-Bush summit and the G8 summit in Kananaskis.

30 July 2002 The MFA joins PACE in its call on Latvia to urgently ratify the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and to bring the Latvian legislation in line with it.

30 July 2002 President of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaymiyev meets Iraqi ambassador to Russia Abbas Khalaf to discuss cooperation.

31 July 2002 Vladimir Putin meets the head of the Federal Border Guard Service, Konstantin Totskiy. They discuss the alleged incursion of Chechen fighters into Russia from Georgia. Totskiy states to Putin that Georgian security forces were aware of this incursion.

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov describes the situation on the Russian-Georgian border as aggression by international terrorists. He says: "if the Georgian side is incapable of resolving the problem, then action is necessary by the international community". Ivanov is meeting US Secretary of State Colin Powell in Brunei.

The Georgian MOD claims that Russian paratroopers have illegally entered the Kodori Gorge in Georgia.

The MFA issues a statement about the situation in the Pankisi Gorge. It says: "To all appearances, they are unable and, in fact, unwilling of doing so. What's more, Tbilisi is avoiding practical collaboration with Russia in carrying out an anti-terrorist operation, while the Georgian Foreign Ministry is making clumsy attempts to create a smoke-screen round the events on the border and accuse Russia of aggressive actions against Georgia."

Federation Council Chairman Sergey Mironov says he does not believe that Georgia can resolve the issue of fighters in the Pankisi Gorge on its own.

31 July 2002 Energy Minister Igor Yusufov has talks with US Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham in Moscow. He says direct supplies of Russian oil to the USA must increase. Yusufov also says that the ministry is still working on the draft of a Russian energy strategy for the period up to 2010, which calls for vigorous development of mineral resources in Eastern Siberia and the Far East.

August

1 August 2002 The chairman of the Federation Council's International Affairs Committee, Mikhail Margelov, believes the Federation Council would approve a Russian special operation in Georgia's Pankisi Gorge if the president asked for its approval.

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Russian Airborne Troops Gen Georgy Shpak says paratroopers are ready to neutralize Chechen rebel units in the Pankisi Gorge if they are given the assignment.

The MFA criticises Georgia for having a tolerant policy toward terrorism.

1 August 2002 Commander of the CIS collective peacekeeping force Maj-Gen Aleksandr Yevteyev says the Russian military command will cut the strength of the peacekeeping force in the region of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict.

1 August 2002 The ASEAN forum takes place in Brunei. Igor Ivanov attends. He says ASEAN states had shown interest in establishing a direct dialogue with respective CIS structures and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

1 August 2002 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Russia and China will join efforts to contribute to an inter-Korean dialogue.

1 August 2002 US Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham and Aleksandr Ananenkov, the acting chairman of gas giant Gazprom's executive board, discuss the development of cooperation in the energy and gas industries between corresponding Russian and US companies.

1 August 2002 Igor Ivanov is interviewed in Spanish newspaper *Epoca*.

1 August 2002 The MFA calls for giving a new impetus to a comprehensive settlement in Kosovo in compliance with UNSC resolutions.

2 August 2002 Chechen leader Akhmad Kadyrov says he wants an anti-terrorist operation in Georgia's Pankisi gorge to be carried out with active assistance from Russia. "This is bound to happen sooner or later. The Georgian leadership is unable to do away with terrorists in its own territory. Shevardnadze will feel sorry some day for sheltering terrorists."

Georgian border guard officials say that a Russian helicopter has violated the country's airspace in the Girevi area.

The command of the Russian joint army group in the North Caucasus, which has completed an operation to eliminate a group of militants trying to penetrate into Chechnya from the Pankisi Gorge, says it expects Georgia to issue early warnings of such attacks against Russian territory in the future.

The chief of the Russian Federal Border Service Konstantin Totskiy says the Federal Border Guard Service has information about a group of nearly 160 rebels in Georgia's territory which is preparing to cross into Chechnya.

The chairman of the Federation Council's international affairs committee, Mikhail Margelov, says he "doesn't believe for a moment that it would be possible" for

Russian servicemen to take part in any sort of antiterrorist operation on Georgian territory "without an international consensus and without the participation of the Georgian side in this operation as a Russian partner and ally".

2 August 2002 The MFA says Moscow regards Iraq's proposal that the head of the UN's disarmament commission visit Baghdad as "an important step in resolving the Iraqi problem by political and diplomatic methods in a manner which meets the relevant UNSC resolutions."

2 August 2002 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev and US Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham meet in Moscow and discuss Russia's intentions regarding the possible expansion of its cooperation with Iran.

2 August 2002 Stroytransgaz (STG) Vice-President Aleksandr Vorob'yev says STG plans to complete construction of the Russian section of the Blue Stream pipeline from Russia to Turkey in September. This means the completion of construction of the Blue Stream pipeline in full, as the Turkish section and the underwater sections have already been completed. Annual gas supplies through the Blue Stream pipeline will amount to 16bn cubic metres.

2 August 2002 The Energy Ministry states that Russian oil exports to outside the CIS in January-July 2002 amounted to 79.06m tonnes, up 2% (by 1.565m tonnes) from the same period in 2001. A total of 76.73m tonnes of oil was exported through the Transneft system in the first seven months of the year, with 2.33m tonnes being exported outside the Transneft system. Transneft transported 11.84m tonnes of Russian oil outside the CIS in July, with 676,700 tonnes being exported outside the Transneft system.

Gas production in Russia in January-July 2002 amounted to 347.132bn cubic metres, up 3.5% (by 11.7bn cu.m.) from the same period last year. Oil production in January-July 2002 increased by 8.5% (by 16.9m tonnes) year-on-year to amount to 214.61m tonnes.

2 August 2002 The chief of the Presidential Administration Aleksandr Voloshin calls for greater efforts to establish a zone of free trade between Ukraine and Russia.

3 August 2002 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Saltanov issues a statement on Iraq.

3 August 2002 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov expresses his regret over the lack of practical steps taken by the Georgian authorities in the fight against terrorism.

The Russian General Staff claims that large units of Chechen militants and foreign mercenaries remain in Georgia's Pankisi Gorge but the General Staff plans no operation there.

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4 August 2002 Federation Council chairman Sergey Mironov says Russia may need a UN mandate to carry out an antiterrorist operation in Georgia's Pankisi Gorge.

5 August 2002 The MFA hails Israel's pledge to refrain from strikes in retaliation to possible terrorist attacks from Palestinian extremists. It calls on Israel and the Palestinians to resume talks.

5 August 2002 Deputy Foreign Minister Yury Fedotov urges UN-Iraqi talks on inspections.

5 August 2002 Deputy Atomic Energy Minister Andrey Malyshev says Russian specialists are planning to load fuel in the first unit of the Bushehr nuclear power plant, which is under construction in Iran, in December 2003. The power plant is due to start working in June 2004.

5 August 2002 Vladimir Putin says that he counts on the soonest possible handover by Georgia of the seven Chechen terrorists that that country detained on the border.

Federation Council Senator Mikhail Margelov says the UNSC should discuss the situation in the Pankisi Gorge and on the Russo-Georgian border.

The MFA sends to Georgia a note with a proposal "to conduct a joint investigation regarding the illegal crossing of the Russian-Georgian border on 3 August 2002 by a group of armed fighters from Chechnya". Moscow "also insists that the necessary measures for speedy extradition of the detained citizens of the Russian Federation be carried out".

5 August 2002 The MFA welcomes the plan of the mediators-guarantors for Moldova (Russia, Ukraine, OSCE) to federalise Moldova.

5 August 2002 OPEC Secretary-General Alvaro Silva Calderon visits Moscow.

6 August 2002 Prosecutor-General Vladimir Ustinov announces following talks with his Georgian counterpart Nugzar Gabrichidze in Tbilisi that Georgia refuses to extradite Chechen rebels detained by its border guards to Russia.

6 August 2002 Deputy Foreign Minister Yury Fedotov says if weapons inspections are resumed in Iraq, then Russian experts should be included in the inspection team.

6 August 2002 Vasile Iovv, Moldova's first deputy prime minister, says Russia and Moldova are preparing an agreement on free trade between the two countries. The intergovernmental Russian-Moldovan commission on trade and economic cooperation has met. Commission participants decided to set up an expert group

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which, by 1 October, will work out measures to increase trade turnover between the two countries.

7 August 2002 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov says: "Russia is firmly and consistently working towards a political solution of the Iraqi issue" on the basis of UN resolutions. "Other options, especially the use of force, are inadmissible from the viewpoint of international law and may result in further aggravation of the situation in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East, which is already tense."

7 August 2002 Minister of Economic Development and Trade German Gref and his Ukrainian counterpart, Oleksandr Shlapak have talks on Russo-Ukrainian trade differences.

Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and his Ukrainian counterpart Anatoliy Zlenko meet in Crimea.

7 August 2002 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov criticises Georgia for its tolerance of terrorism. Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov criticises Georgia for refusing to extradite suspected Chechen terrorists. Mikhail Margelov, the head of the Federation Council foreign affairs committee, makes similar criticisms.

The MOD denies a statement from Georgia on alleged bombing of the Pankisi Gorge on 6/7 August.

A Federal Security Service (FSB) delegation headed by Deputy Director Aleksandr Zhdanov arrives in Tbilisi for talks.

8 August 2002 Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma arrives in Moscow on on a two-day working visit.

8 August 2002 The Duma expresses concern over the USA's programme to develop new integral geophysical weapons. This is the HAARP project.

8 August 2002 Taymuraz Mamsurov, speaker of the North Osetian parliament, says that Georgia is incapable of destroying terrorists in the Pankisi Gorge without Russia's help.

The Russian presidential representative for the Georgian-Abkhaz settlement, First Deputy Foreign Minister Valeriy Loshchinin, expresses concern over the situation in the Kodori and Pankisi Gorges of Georgia.

"Militant calls in the Georgian capital Tbilisi for dealing with the Abkhaz problem from the position of strength may disrupt Russia's efforts to promote a dialogue between the conflicting parties", says the Russian MFA.

8 August 2002 A Russian government delegation visits Abkhazia.

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8 August 2002 Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma says he and Vladimir Putin are expected to sign a document in Chisinau on 7 October to set up a Russian-Ukrainian-German gas transport consortium.

8 August 2002 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksey Meshkov outlines Russian security policy since 11 September 2001.

9 August 2002 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Pakistan "should do more in the fight against terrorism". Moscow and Islamabad agree to set up a joint antiterrorist group.

9 August 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says that a nest of international terrorism, similar to the one there was in Afghanistan, is being established in Georgia.

A team of investigators from the Russian Prosecutor-General's Office arrive in Tbilisi to press for the extradition of 13 Chechen rebels detained by Georgian border guards on the Chechen stretch of the Russian-Georgian border on 3 and 4 August.

The MOD denies Georgian media reports that the Russian military is present in the Pankisi Gorge.

9 August 2002 Gazeksport states that exports of Russian gas to Europe in the first half of 2002 increased 3.7% year-on-year (by 2.35bn cubic metres) to 65.96bn cubic metres. Supplies to Western Europe increased 2.7% to 44.77bn cubic metres from 43.6bn cubic metres in the first half of 2001. Gas exports to Eastern Europe in January-June 2002 increased 5.2% to 21.04bn cubic metres from 20bn cubic metres last year.

9 August 2002 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov has a telephone conversation with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. They discuss the Middle East.

10 August 2002 Vladimir Putin and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi speak by telephone. They favour a political settlement of the Iraq problem.

10 August 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says the problem of Georgia's Pankisi Gorge can only be resolved by using force. He says: "Terrorist bases in Afghanistan have been devastated, although not destroyed. The same will have to be done in Georgia."

10 August 2002 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov floats the idea of a pan-Caspian military group, following Russian military exercises on the Caspian. The exercises are aimed at defending against a terrorist attack.

10 August 2002 Russian military inspectors complete their Open Skies inspection in the UK.

11 August 2002 The Institute of Agrarian Market Research (IAMR) says Russia exported a record-high 6.6m tonnes of grain last agricultural year (from 1 July 2001 to 1 July 2002) against 1.2m tonnes a year earlier. IAMR General-Director Dmitriy Rylko says that: "Russia currently ranks among the world's eight leading grain exporters (the European Union is regarded as a single exporter) and among the world's four leading barley exporters. Russia's share on the world grain market currently stands at 4% and on the barley market at about 15%." Russia's main importers are Middle Eastern, North African and South European countries.

11 August 2002 Special presidential representative for the problems of Kaliningrad Region and Chairman of the Duma International Affairs Committee Dmitry Rogozin is opposed to electronic cards being issued to all residents of Kaliningrad Region to enable them to travel to the rest of Russian territory via Poland or Lithuania.

11 August 2002 Servicemen of the Russian armed forces and of the German Bundeswehr begin joint exercises by paratroop platoons. Their main aim is to study the experience of peacekeeping activities in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo, and practise joint actions during missions to resolve local conflicts and carry out peacekeeping duties in various parts of the world, including operations to fight international terrorism. The first stage takes place in Russia 11-12 August, and the second stage in Germany 21-31 August.

11 August 2002 Its Commander-in-Chief Col-Gen Vladimir Mikhaylov says the present programme for upgrading the Russian air force will be carried out in "two, no more than three years".

12 August 2002 Goskomstat says foreign investments in Russia grew 25.2% year on year in the first half of 2002 to 8,368m dollars. Foreign direct investments decreased by 25.4% to 1,872m dollars.

12 August 2002 ITAR-TASS reports that the State Customs Committee has said that Russia stepped up its oil exports in physical terms by 24.5% to 88.8m tonnes from January to June 2002. The value of the exported oil reached 12.05bn dollars as against 11.8bn dollars a year earlier. Russia sold 72.1m tonnes of oil worth 10.66bn dollars to far abroad countries as compared to 67m tonnes worth 11.2bn dollars in January-June 2001. During the same period of 2002, Russia imported 3.13m tonnes of oil worth 176.8m dollars, all coming from the CIS member states.

12 August 2002 The governor of the Japanese prefecture Aomori, Kimuro Morio, speaks out in favour of the idea of constructing an oil or gas pipeline from Russia to the Aomori prefecture as it will boost the regional economy. Morio has been having talks with Khabarovsk Territory governor Viktor Ishayev and senior members of the Territory administration.

12 August 2002 First deputy Atomic Energy Minister Lev Ryabev says the Atomic Energy Ministry is drawing up documents on the return of spent Russian nuclear fuel from the Bushehr nuclear power plant to Russia, which will be signed with Iran. He said Russia attaches importance to the issue and intends to control the materials to be returned by Iran. Ryabev says that at a meeting with US Energy Department officials in April, he proposed setting up a joint Russia-US expert group that would look into issues of Russia-Iran cooperation which the US views as a matter of concern.

12 August 2002 Saudi newspaper Arab News web site says Saudi Arabia and Russia are holding talks with a view to stabilizing the world oil market.

12 August 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov meets the servicemen of the 7th Airborne Division and border guards in Karachay-Cherkessia.

Sergey Ivanov says only an armed operation can resolve the problem of the fighters entrenched in the Pankisi Gorge. "We can't allow that bandits and terrorists - by the way, not all of them are ethnic Chechens - came from Pankisi to kill our citizens, stage bomb attacks and sow blood and destruction. Enough, I say. We must put an end to this." "Georgia will never resolve this problem without Russia's participation, without Russian armed forces and special-purpose troops." He says the exacerbated tensions on the Chechen sector of the Russia-Georgia border and in Georgia's Pankisi Gorge are a result of the inconsistent policy of Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, and that Chechen rebels are training in Georgia.

12 August 2002 The commander of the CIS collective peacekeeping forces in the Georgia-Abkhazia conflict zone, Gen Aleksandr Yevteyev, describes as "yet another stupid nonsense" Georgian media reports alleging that the CIS peacekeepers had been sent into the upper part of the Kodori Gorge.

12 August 2002 Dmitry Rogozin, presidential special representative for Kaliningrad Region, meets the Lithuanian prime minister and Foreign Minister in Vilnius.

13 August 2002 Russian presidential envoy for the affairs of Kaliningrad Region Dmitry Rogozin expresses concern over the military balance in the Kaliningrad Region. He says Baltic states if they join NATO should sign the CFE Treaty. He also says discussions on the possibility of introducing magnetic cards for Kaliningrad Region residents may take place.

13 August 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says he does not rule out that the fighters will make another attempt to break in to Chechnya through the territory of Georgia.

13 August 2002 Russian president's special representative to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Vitaly Vorob'yev says SCO member countries believe that "any questions arising in relation to Iraq should be solved by political

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and peaceful means". He is visiting Bishkek. Vorob'yev says Pakistan, India, Iran and Mongolia have shown a wish to join the SCO.

13 August 2002 Aircraft plants of Russia and Ukraine launch production of the first batch of An-70 military transport planes.

14 August 2002 Chechen prosecutors have drawn up all documents required for the extradition of 13 Chechen rebels who were detained in Georgia and suspected of involvement in a terrorist sortie in Chechnya's Itum-Kalinskiy District in late July-early August. These documents will soon be passed to the Georgian authorities.

The Russian air force denies a report from the Georgian Border Guard Service claiming that a Russian plane violated Georgia's airspace.

14 August 2002 Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka arrives in Moscow to discuss Russo-Belarusian integration. Vladimir Putin proposes that the Russian rouble should be introduced as a single legal tender of the Russian-Belarusian union state from 1 January 2004 rather than from the year 2005 as was proposed earlier. Putin says: "The first option, the most direct and clear-cut one, will be to set up a unified state in its true sense. I can imagine it taking shape within a set time frame. Say, in May next year we can hold a general referendum on our eventual unification, then hold an election to the joint parliament in December 2003, and election of head of the union state in March 2004. This would be a realistic way to progress towards a unified country in a true sense of the word."

14 August 2002 The Russian Press Ministry criticises the decision of Turkmenistan's government to stop circulation of Russian periodicals in the country.

15 August 2002 Deputy prime minister and finance minister Aleksey Kudrin says Russia will give a 40m-dollar loan to Belarus to support its balance of payments this year.

15 August 2002 The MFA asks Tbilisi for an explanation of reports about ongoing contacts between the Georgian administration and Chechen separatist leader Aslan Maskhadov.

The MFA expresses surprise with Denmark's statement addressing the increase of tensions on the Russia-Georgia border. Denmark currently holds the EU presidency.

Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov informs Vladimir Putin of measures to reinforce the Russo-Georgian border. Ivanov tells Putin that Chechen rebels are using Georgian documents.

15 August 2002 The Georgian government approves the buyout by the Russian company Itera of the Tbilisi gas distribution company Tbilgazi and Rustavi Azot.

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15 August 2002 Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Losyukov gives an interview on changes in North Korean foreign policy. He says Pyongyang is ready for dialogue with the US as an equal partner - something commonly accepted in international relations. He says Russia has no plans to build nuclear reactors in North Korea.

15 August 2002 The MFA welcomes direct talks between the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia, Heydar Aliiev and Robert Kocharyan.

15 August 2002 Deputy Foreign Minister Yury Fedotov says Russia is worried over the pricing of Iraqi oil at the UN Sanctions Committee on Iraq. He says the price is fixed retrospectively and makes operations with Iraqi oil unprofitable.

15 August 2002 The 201st Motor Rifle Division stationed in Tajikistan begins command and staff exercises of its 191st Regiment in Qurghonteppa (southern Tajikistan).

15 August 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov has a telephone conversation with US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

15 August 2002 Russian Central Election Commission Chairman Aleksandr Veshnyakov says he regrets that Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka did not support the proposals on the creation of a unified state made by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

16 August 2002 Russian and Ukrainian prime ministers Mikhail Kasyanov and Anatoly Kinakh meet in Moscow. Kasyanov says Russia and Ukraine will start talks on creating a gas transport consortium, which will make it possible to ensure uninterrupted supply of Russian gas to Europe. They agree to finalize the plan by the CIS summit on 7 October. They also discuss lifting import duties on various goods. This will be done in September. They also agree to sign a treaty on the delimitation of the land border by December. Russia would also like Ukraine to ratify the previous agreement on former USSR property. Kasyanov and Kinakh agree that in the near future Ukraine will send Russia its proposals in light of its possible joining the Eurasian Economic Community (EAEC).

16 August 2002 The MFA refuses a visa to the Dalai Lama.

16 August 2002 *Vedomosti* publishes an article on strains in the Russo-Belarusian relationship.

17 August 2002 Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri al-Hadithi says a programme for long-term economic cooperation between Russia and Iraq will be signed in the near future. It is designed for the next 10 years and includes 67 contracts in the field of oil and gas extraction, transport and communications, with a total value of about 60bn dollars.

17 August 2002 Spanish King Juan Carlos I arrives in Moscow on a private two-day visit at the invitation of Vladimir Putin.

17 August 2002 State Secretary and First Deputy Foreign Minister Valery Loshchinin is interviewed on TV on Russian policy toward the CIS. He discusses Ukraine, Belarus and Georgia.

18 August 2002 The Russian president's representative in the Far Eastern Federal District Konstantin Pulikovskiy claims that there are now good prerequisites for closer relations between the Russian Far East and North Korea.

18 August 2002 Chairman of the Council for Foreign and Defence Policy and political analyst Sergey Karaganov says the recent Russo-Iraqi economic agreement is unrealistic.

18 August 2002 The Saudi Ministry of Pilgrimage Affairs and a delegation of the Russian hajj mission led by State Duma deputy Akhmed Bilalov sign a protocol on the admission of Russian pilgrims to the Moslem Holy Places in Saudi Arabia. Seven thousand Moslems from Russia may visit sacred places of Islam in Mecca and Medina in 2003.

19 August 2002 The Russian-Kuwaiti intergovernmental commission on trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation meets in Moscow. Russian firms will develop four oil deposits in Kuwait's north.

19 August 2002 The MFA confirms that Russia and Iraq are finishing the drafting of a 10-year economic deal.

19 August 2002 Russia's trade representative in China, Sergey Tsyplakov, says Russian-Chinese bilateral trade totalled 6.2bn dollars from January to July 2002. Trade turnover in 2001 was 10.67bn dollars.

19 August 2002 Russian navy commander Adm Vladimir Kuroyedov meets India's Navy chief of staff Adm Madhvendra Singh for talks on military-technical cooperation between the two fleets.

19 August 2002 Ten new Su-30 MKK fighters are delivered to China.

19 August 2002 Magadan regional дума proposes extending the presidential term to seven years.

19 August 2002 A Mi-26 military transport helicopter is shot down in Chechnya.

20 August 2002 Goskomstat states that the Russian foreign trade surplus in the first half of 2002 amounted to 21,057m dollars, compared with 26,492m in the first half of 2001. Russian foreign trade in the first half of 2002 amounted to 74,513m dollars, down 2.3% from 76,304m dollars a year earlier. Exports in the reporting period amounted to 47,785m dollars, down 7% from 51,398m dollars a year earlier. Imports increased 7.3% from 24,906m dollars to 26,728m dollars. Russian exports to the CIS in the first half of 2002 amounted to 7,204m dollars, down 3.7% year-on-year, with exports outside the CIS down 7.6% to 40,581m dollars. Imports from the CIS fell 21.9% year-on-year to 5,469m dollars, with imports from outside the CIS up 18.7% to 21,259m dollars.

20 August 2002 Russia and Turkey resume talks on a possible sale of Ka-50-2 helicopters.

20 August 2002 The North Korean leader Kim Jong Il visits Russia by train.

20 August 2002 Zamani-Nia, the Iranian Foreign Ministry's director-general for international policy issues arrives in Moscow for consultations. He will discuss issues related to the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, Russian-Iranian cooperation in international affairs and tackling regional problems.

20 August 2002 The MFA states the operation in the Pankisi Gorge announced by Georgian leaders is not very likely to be aimed at eliminating the den of terrorism there.

20 August 2002 The MFA welcomes the commencement of the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Bethlehem.

20 August 2002 The Russian Aerospace Agency states that the Baykonur cosmodrome will become a civil space centre, but the military will not leave it yet. Military satellite launches will continue.

20 August 2002 The MFA says it considers the trials of law-enforcement veterans in Estonia from the Soviet period as politically motivated.

20 August 2002 The Ministry of Emergencies provides flood assistance to Germany.

20 August 2002 In an interview in *Zvyazda*, Belarusian Foreign Minister Mikhail Khvastow rules out any chance of Belarus joining Russia.

21 August 2002 Igor Ivanov expresses concern over the decline of the Russian language in former Soviet states in a survey entitled "The Russian Language and the World".

21 August 2002 The public relations officer of United Energy Systems (UES) Vladimir Melnikov says Armenia is the only country of the former Soviet Union that is not involved in parallel work with the energy system of Russia, but it will join the system in the near future.

21 August 2002 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov arrives in Shanghai for talks with Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji about trade and economic cooperation.

21 August 2002 Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka says proposals on the future of the Union of Russia and Belarus made by Vladimir Putin on 14 August are unacceptable. He says: "The Russian leadership is now deliberately making a proposal that is unacceptable to us. It is putting forward a deliberately unacceptable proposal and an insulting one. Even Lenin and Stalin did not think of dividing up Belarus and incorporating it in Russia or even the USSR."

Dmitry Rogozin, head of the Duma's International Affairs Committee, criticizes Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's refusal to discuss Vladimir Putin's proposal on the future of the Russia-Belarus Union.

First Deputy Foreign Minister Valery Loshchinin and Belarusian Foreign Minister Mikhail Khvastow hold talks in Moscow. Belarus is Russia's third largest trade partner after Germany and Italy. Trade turnover between Russia and Belarus reached 9.2bn dollars in 2001. Russian exports totalled 5.3bn and imports 3.9bn dollars.

21 August 2002 Russian Border guards arrest a group of 17 intruders who intended illegally to cross the Georgian-Russian border from Georgia into Russia. The press service of the North Caucasus branch of the Federal Border Guard Service says a total of 200 border violators have been arrested on the Russian-Georgian border in 2002.

21 August 2002 A US Congressional delegation visits Moscow. It is led by Henry Hyde, head of the House Committee for International Relations.

22 August 2002 Tekhnopromenergoeksport signs an agreement to build a power station in Libya.

22 August 2002 First Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov says the USA's possible military action against Iraq "will be opposed by Arab and European countries including Russia and may threaten the unity of the antiterrorism coalition."

23 August 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says possible US military operation against Iraq will be discussed in Washington in September during a ministerial session of the Russian-American consultative group. Ivanov supports the idea of sending international inspectors to Iraq to find out whether the country has weapons of mass destruction.

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23 August 2002 MFA spokesman Boris Malakhov says Russia is ready for further talks with Japan on a peace treaty and the Kurile Islands.

23 August 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov denies Georgian allegations of Russian aviation bombing the areas around Pankisi Gorge. He says there are hundreds of Chechen militants in the Pankisi Gorge. He criticises OSCE observers on the Russo-Georgian border for their failure to take effective measures to stop the penetration of terrorists from Georgian territory into Russia.

23 August 2002 The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade states that Russia's GDP growth was an estimated 4% in the first seven months of 2002 in relation to the same period of 2001. Russia's foreign trade surplus amounted to 24.6bn dollars in January-July. Exports declined 5.6% on the year during the period, to 56.2bn dollars. Exports to non-CIS countries were 47.7bn dollars (a decrease of 6.3% on the year), while exports to the CIS amounted to 8.5bn dollars (down 1.2% on the year). Imports rose 7.8% on the year in January-July, to 31.6bn dollars. Imports from non-CIS countries amounted to 25.2bn dollars (an increase of 17.8% on the year), while imports from the CIS were 6.4bn dollars (down 20% on the year). Russia's total foreign trade turnover was 87.8bn dollars in January-July, a decrease of 1.2% on the year.

24 August 2002 The Federal Border Guard service says eight Russian border guards have been found dead on the border with Georgia.

24 August 2002 Russian border guards engage in fire with a group of armed Afghans trying to cross into Tajikistan. One border guard is wounded.

24 August 2002 The MFA criticises US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's statement rebuking Russia for its cooperation with Libya, Syria, Iraq, Iran and North Korea.

25 August 2002 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia will help Afghanistan to train and equip its armed forces.

25 August 2002 Russian MOD spokesman Col Nikolay Deryabin denies Georgian claims that Russian warplanes bombed Georgia's Pankisi Gorge.

26 August 2002 The ambassador at large and head of the MFA's working group for the Caspian Sea, Andrey Urnov, says Russia has proposed enlarging national coastal zones for the Caspian nations (Russia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan).

26 August 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov denies claims that Russian warplanes bombed the Pankisi Gorge and has announced Moscow's readiness to investigate the incident in cooperation with Georgia. The US State Department also

condemns the alleged Russian bombings. Deputy Duma chairman Vladimir Lukin comments: "The statement by the USA that they support Georgian sovereignty is a proper statement. We are also in support of Georgian sovereignty. However, if a terrorist threat exists on the border, you have to fight against it. You have to fight together. And if the other side refuses to fight, then, just as the USA and a number of countries have done on more than one occasion, you have to fight alone."

26 August 2002 The trade representative of Iran in Russia, Amir Shalbaf, visits Tatarstan.

27 August 2002 Vladimir Putin sends EU leaders a message on the Kaliningrad Region. Presidential envoy on Kaliningrad Dmitry Rogozin visits Germany.

27 August 2002 The Federal Border Service says shots have been fired at its soldiers from Georgian territory in the region of the Kerigo Pass.

28 August 2002 An appendix of to the 2003 draft federal budget submitted to the Duma states that as of 1 January 2003, Russia's foreign state debt is expected to amount to 124.5bn dollars. The document states that Russia's debt to foreign governments will total 52.7bn dollars as of 1 January 2003, and 43.6bn dollars to the Paris Club of creditor nations.

PARIS CLUB NATIONS: Russia owes Germany 18.6bn dollars. As of 1 January 2003, Russia owes 5.5bn dollars to Italy, 3.8bn dollars to the United States, 3.7bn dollars to Japan, 3bn dollars to France, 1.7bn dollars to Canada, 2.6bn dollars to Austria, and 1.4bn dollars to Britain. Russia's other creditors are Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Finland, Switzerland and Sweden.

NON PARIS CLUB NATIONS: As of 1 January 2003, Russia's debt to non-Paris Club nations is expected to stand at 4.9bn dollars. Of these countries, the largest creditors are South Korea (2bn dollars) and Kuwait (1.7bn dollars). Other creditors are Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Egypt.

FORMER CMEA NATIONS: As of 1 January 2003, Russia's debt to former CMEA nations amount to 4.2bn dollars. Of these countries, Russia's largest creditor is Yugoslavia (1.6bn dollars). Other creditors are Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and China.

Russia's debt to foreign commercial banks and companies will stand at 3bn dollars, and its debt to international financial organizations will amount to 13.4bn dollars.

28 August 2002 Vladimir Putin says Georgia cannot cope with the terrorist problem in Pankisi Gorge on its own. He says Georgia needs Russian help in tackling this problem.

28 August 2002 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Russia's relations with Iran threaten no third side.

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28 August 2002 Sergey Mironov, the speaker of the Federation Council, meets the speaker of the Polish Sejm Marek Borowski. They discuss Kaliningrad.

28 August 2002 RIA reports that experts from the Economic Development and Trade Ministry of the Russian Federation state trade turnover between Russia and Iraq in the first quarter of this year was 61.7m dollars, compared with 186.9m dollars for the whole of 2001.

29 August 2002 Vladimir Putin rejects a demand, addressed by several European countries to Russia, to raise prices for energy carriers as a condition of Russia's admission to the WTO.

29 August 2002 Vladimir Putin says that Russia and Kazakhstan will continue consultations on how to develop their common border. Putin says it is unclear what kind of border - the one between Russia and Kazakhstan or the common external frontier - the two countries should develop. "We will start developing it as soon as it (the border) is marked. The same is true of other CIS countries."

29 August 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov has talks in Moscow with US Senator Richard Lugar.

Security Council secretary Vladimir Rushaylo and NSA Condoleezza Rice talk by telephone.

30 August 2002 Interfax reports that a second-rank secretary from the Russian embassy in the USA recently met a member of the opposition Iraqi National Congress. Russian diplomatic sources claim that such contacts are routine.

30 August 2002 The Ministry of Trade and Economic Development states that in the first six months of 2002, trade turnover between Russia and Germany increased by approximately 3.4% to 12.2bn euros. In the first six months, Russia's exports fell 9.3% to 6.8bn euros, while imports shot up 25.6% to 5.4bn euros. The decrease in Russian exports is attributed to lower prices for fuel in 2002. In 2001, trade turnover with Germany reached a ten-year high at 24.8bn euros, nearly a 16% increase on 2000. Germany is one of the main investors in the Russian economy. In late June 2002, Germany's total investment stood at 7.1bn dollars, which accounted for 18.8% of all foreign investments in Russia. Germany's total direct investment exceeds 1.5bn dollars, putting Germany in fifth place after the USA, Cyprus, the Netherlands and Britain. This figure accounts for 8.2% of total foreign direct investment in Russia.

31 August 2002 Russia's special envoy to the Middle East, Andrey Vdovin, has talks in Israel with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. Vdovin also has talks in Ramallah with Yasir Arafat.

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31 August 2002 The MFA says Russia attaches great significance to the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol and the UN framework convention on climate change.

September

1 September 2002 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov visits Ethiopia.

1 September 2002 The director-general of Atomstroyeksport, Viktor Kozlov, says Russian experts have begun the installation of heavy equipment at the first atomic unit of the Bushehr nuclear power plant.

1 September 2002 The Russian Prosecutor-General's Office has expressed dissatisfaction with Georgia's position concerning the extradition of 13 suspected Chechen guerrillas who were detained at the Russian-Georgian border over a month ago.

2 September 2002 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri Ahmad al-Hadithi meet in Moscow. Igor Ivanov says that Moscow supports a political solution to the Iraq problem on the basis of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. "We hope that the issue of a possible armed action will not be raised in the UNSC, and that we will not have to apply our veto right".

Naji Sabri also meets Energy Minister Igor Yusufov.

Igor Ivanov says that recent unofficial contacts between a representative of the Russian embassy in the USA with representatives of the Iraqi opposition do not signify any change in Russia's position towards Iraq.

2 September 2002 The Ministry of Atomic Energy forwards to the government a draft appendix to the intergovernmental agreement with Iran on building a nuclear power plant in that country which stipulates the procedure for returning irradiated nuclear fuel from the Bushehr plant back to Russia.

2 September 2002 The MFA urges all sides involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict to exercise "maximum restraint and prevent deaths among the civilian population", following recent actions by the Israeli security forces.

2 September 2002 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov, attending the world summit on sustainable development in Johannesburg, has talks with his Italian counterpart, Silvio Berlusconi.

2 September 2002 Igor Ivanov gives a major speech on Russian foreign policy at MGIMO.

2 September 2002 The Russian Federation president's special envoy for Kaliningrad Region and chairman of the State Duma's Committee for International Affairs, Dmitry Rogozin, meets EU commissioners Christopher Patten (in charge of foreign policy) and Guenther Verheugen (responsible for EU enlargement) in Brussels and discusses Kaliningrad. Rogozin proposes no-visa travel between Russia and Kaliningrad through Lithuania and Poland.

3 September 2002 German President Johannes Rau has talks with Vladimir Putin in Moscow. Putin says German investments into the Russian economy top 6bn euros, but Germany was placed only fifth in the number of direct investments. Putin also discusses the training of Russian managers in Germany, and Kaliningrad. Putin calls for visa free travel throughout Europe.

Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov and his German counterpart Otto Schily have talks in Berlin. They discuss cooperation in the fight against international terrorism and transnational crime. The ministers agree to set up two working groups.

3 September 2002 Vladimir Putin sends a message to South African leader Thabo Mbeki. Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov, who leads the Russian delegation to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, hands over the message.

3 September 2002 The Georgian border guards department proposes a joint investigation with Russian colleagues into the border crossing by three Georgian servicemen and their detention by Russian border guards.

The North Caucasian Regional Border Guard department states that up to 500 guerrillas including 270 from a group led by warlord Ruslan Gelayev are located in Georgian areas close to the border with Russia.

3 September 2002 Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksey Fedotov and Iranian Ambassador to Russia Gholamreza Shafe'i discuss economic relations. Russian-Iranian trade is expected to reach 1bn dollars a year.

3 September 2002 The MOD expresses concern about the deployment of a NATO mobile radar system in the east of Latvia.

4 September 2002 Lord Judd of PACE arrives in Chechnya to prepare a report for the Council of Europe.

4 September 2002 The first deputy CGS, Col-Gen Yury Baluyevskiy, states that Russia's military leadership has doubts over the effectiveness of the military operation which Georgia is currently carrying out in the Pankisi Gorge.

The MFA states it is bewildered by the statement made by Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze that Tbilisi allegedly lacks proof of terrorist activity of Chechen warlord Ruslan Gelayev who has been hiding in Georgia for years. In

November 2001 the Russian Prosecutor-General asked Georgia to extradite Gelayev according to the Minsk Convention on legal assistance and legal relations in civil, family and criminal cases of 22 January 1993. On 22 March 2002 the Russian Foreign Ministry sent a diplomatic note to Georgia's embassy in Moscow demanding again the extradition of Gelayev who was wanted federally by that time. The Georgian Prosecutor-General's office states that it will consider Ruslan Gelayev's extradition to Russia if he is arrested.

Vladimir Putin sends a letter to Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze outlining issues in Russian-Georgian relations. Putin calls on Georgia to take military action against Chechen rebels and international terrorists.

4 September 2002 Vladimir Putin sends Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka a message on matters of further Russo-Belarusian integration. The message confirms that Putin's plans contain the following options for further development of Russian-Belarusian integration: full integration into a single state, a supra-state formation similar to the European Union and work on unification on the basis of the existing treaty on a union state. In order to study each of these models of integration carefully and comprehensively so as to identify the most expedient one, Putin proposes that a joint group be set up.

4 September 2002 Chairman of the Duma Committee on International Affairs Dmitry Rogozin states the agreement between the USSR and the USA signed in 1980 on the delimitation of sea space in the Bering and Chukotka Seas must be reconsidered.

4 September 2002 Director of the International Relations Department of the Moscow City Government, Georgy Muradov, who served as Russian ambassador to Cyprus, says Cyprus's accession to the EU will have repercussions on Russian offshore companies registered in the island. Muradov says that the number of offshore companies will decrease with accession because of the possible change of status for offshore companies.

5 September 2002 Russian experts arrive in Georgia to carry out an investigation with Georgian military experts into the 23 August bombing of the Pankisi Gorge. Georgia claims that Russian warplanes had bombed Georgian territory. At least four Russian Su-25 fighter jets delivered the air strike, Tbilisi said. One civilian was killed and three were injured in the bombing.

5 September 2002 Vladimir Putin sends Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski and Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus messages setting out Russia's proposals on life in Kaliningrad Region in the light of the EU's forthcoming expansion.

5 September 2002 Gazprom Chief Aleksey Miller and LUKoil President Vagit Alekperov sign an agreement of intent according to which the companies will participate in a project to develop the northern part of the Caspian Sea on a partnership basis.

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5 September 2002 Igor Ivanov advocates the creation of a global and comprehensive system of countering international terrorism, which could become a model for collective administration of international relations in the epoch of globalization.

5 September 2002 Russia completes the withdrawal of personnel and equipment from the Lourdes radar station in Cuba.

5 September 2002 The Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Aleksey II declares the Russian Orthodox Church's readiness "to start a constructive and mutually respectful dialogue with the Vatican for the sake of Christian unity".

6 September 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov visits Afghanistan to discuss Russian assistance in developing the Afghan army.

6 September 2002 Vladimir Putin has a telephone conversation with his US counterpart, George W Bush. Putin casts doubts over the justification for the possible use of force against Iraq. The telephone conversation takes place at the initiative of the American side.

Putin and British Prime Minister Tony Blair have a telephone conversation, discussing Iraq. Putin argues that there are adequate resources for a political solution to the Iraqi problem.

The MFA expresses concern over the US and British air strikes on Iraq on 5 September.

6 September 2002 Igor Ivanov meets Hungarian Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs in Moscow.

6 September 2002 The MFA asks the Georgian authorities for additional information about their efforts to fight terrorists in the Pankisi Gorge. The MFA says that Georgia is not doing enough.

6 September 2002 The Russian president's special envoy to Kaliningrad Region, Dmitry Rogozin, who is also head of the Duma's International Affairs Committee, says the West could really contribute to the struggle against international terrorism by writing off 8bn dollars of Russia's foreign debt.

6 September 2002 The CIS Council of Interior Ministers meets in Baku. They discuss organised crime and terrorism. The CIS will set up a drugs trade agency for Central Asia.

7 September 2002 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov says Russia is in favour of international inspectors being able to continue their mission in Iraq: "A decision on

lifting sanctions against Iraq on the basis of relevant resolutions of the UNSC can be taken only after the inspectors draw relevant conclusions on the results of their work."

Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov speaks out in favour of UN inspectors being sent urgently to Iraq without any preliminary conditions. "We believe that it is necessary, first and foremost, to send, without delay or any preliminary conditions, international inspectors to Iraq, who will be able to give a clear answer on the spot to whether there is or there isn't, whether Iraq is engaged in the production of weapons of mass destruction or not."

Duma speaker Gennady Seleznev condemns military action by the USA and Great Britain, the air forces of which carried out an air strike on an air command centre in western Iraq on 6 September. Federation Council Chairman Sergey Mironov says force against Iraq is "inadmissible" and may lead to unpredictable consequences.

Russia and France hold consultations on Iraq. The consultations involve the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Middle East and North Africa department, Mikhail Bogdanov; the head of the department of international organizations, Andrey Granovskiy; and the director of the French Foreign Ministry's department of UN affairs and international organizations, Jean-Felix Paganon. The sides confirmed "the need to continue active efforts in the UN to find a political solution to the Iraqi crisis on the basis of appropriate UNSC resolutions".

7 September 2002 First Deputy Foreign Minister (and presidential envoy on a Georgian-Abkhaz settlement) Valery Loshchinin and Abkhaz Prime Minister Anri Jergenja meet to discuss the situation in the Pankisi Gorge and its possible impact on relations between Tbilisi and Sukhumi.

Ilya Shabalkin, representative of the regional operations HQ for supervising the counterterrorist operation in the North Caucasus, says Arab terrorists are training in Pankisi Gorge.

Interfax states that Russian law enforcement agencies have placed 40 leaders of Chechen illegal armed detachments on the international wanted list this year. In 2002, the Russian and CIS antiterrorist centre received reports on eight extremist organizations, 701 suspected terrorists, 23 members of illegal armed detachments and 16 so-called "field commanders". CIS antiterrorist databases comprise more than 1,700 entries. The Russian law-enforcement agencies identified 16 foreign funds providing financial, organizational and informational support to Chechen separatists. Over 100 militant envoys were spotted in 24 countries.

8 September 2002 Igor Ivanov warns that an attack on Iraq would split the world anti-terror coalition. He says that Russia will seek to ensure that "any action by any state will have a basis in law and that the fight against international terrorism will not be used for purposes unrelated to this important strategic goal".

8 September 2002 Igor Ivanov says Russia and the USA are holding consultations on the Shevardnadze-Baker agreement on the demarcation of the maritime space in the Bering Strait.

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8 September 2002 FSB official Gennady Solovyev says Achimez Gochiyayev, ringleader of terrorists who had perpetrated explosions at blocks of flats in Moscow and Volgodonsk in the autumn of 1999, is hiding in the Pankisi Gorge, Georgia.

9 September 2002 The US ambassador to Russia, Alexander Vershbow, told a round-table conference at the media centre of *Izvestiya* that the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks against New York and Washington have elevated relations between Russia and the USA to a qualitatively new level. He says Russia and the USA could become allies.

9 September 2002 Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Razov says the Russian government insists that its nationals enjoy the right to visa-free travel between Kaliningrad and other parts of Russia. Razov meets Friis Arne Petersen, deputy Foreign Minister of Denmark who now holds the rotating presidency of the EU.

9 September 2002 Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev visits Vladimir Putin in Sochi.

Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Askar Aytmatov calls for enhancing the joint work of Russia and Kyrgyzstan within the framework of the Collective Security Treaty.

9 September 2002 The Russian Prosecutor-General's Office expresses dissatisfaction with Georgia's position on the extradition of the terrorists responsible for the apartment house bombings in Moscow and Volgodonsk.

The chairman of the Federation Council Committee on International Affairs, Mikhail Margelov, of the Russian delegation to PACE expresses disagreement with the text of the assembly's draft resolution on the situation in Georgia.

9 September 2002 The MFA expresses concern about the the rights of ethnic minorities, primarily ethnic Russians, in Estonia.

9 September 2002 The MFA welcomes the speech of the leader of the Palestinian National Authority, Yasir Arafat, at the seventh session of the Palestinian legislative council in Ramallah where he condemns terrorist acts against Israeli civilians.

10 September 2002 The heads of regional administrations of Gilan Province of Iran and Astrakhan Region of Russia sign a memorandum on economic cooperation.

10 September 2002 Russian TV TVS claims that Chechen rebels are infiltrating South Osetia from Pankisi Gorge.

10 September 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov has talks with Georgian presidential envoy in charge of settling the Georgia-Abkhaz conflict, leader of Ajaria Aslan Abashidze. He says Moscow will do everything possible to facilitate a political settlement of the Georgia-Abkhaz conflict.

10 September 2002 Lt-Gen Valery Putov, acting head of the North Caucasus regional directorate of the FSB, plays down the extent of the Georgian anti-terrorist operation in Pankisi Gorge.

Gen Gennady Solov'yev, first deputy head of the department for the protection of the constitutional system and the antiterrorist struggle under the FSB and head of the department for fighting terrorism and political extremism, calls on Georgia to permit the extradition of Achimez Gochiyayev, the head of the group of terrorists who staged explosions of apartment houses in Moscow and Volgodonsk in the autumn of 1999.

The Georgian MFA's special envoy, Mikhail Ukleba, who leads the group of Georgian experts working on the Russo-Georgian framework treaty, sent a note to the Russian MFA inviting the Russian side to Tbilisi to continue talks on preparing the framework treaty between the two countries but so far there has been no reply from Moscow. Talks were suspended in July.

10 September 2002 Igor Ivanov arrives in New York for the 57th UN General Assembly session. He says on arrival: "It is very important that the fight against terrorism and what unites the world community is not used to achieve other ends, above all to interfere in the internal affairs of other sovereign states. Russia is in favour of international observers going back to Iraq. This follows from the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and it is only as a result of work by international observers that conclusions can be reached as to whether or not Iraq has weapons of mass destruction or a programme to manufacture weapons of mass destruction." He speaks against US military action without UN sanction.

10 September 2002 Vladimir Putin telephones US President George Bush on the anniversary of 9-11. He says Russia-US cooperation will develop further.

11 September 2002 Vladimir Putin says that infrastructure of international terrorism in Chechnya has been destroyed. "A powerful material blow has been dealt on bandit detachments and the local structure of international terrorism has been destroyed ... one of the reasons interfering with effective struggle against terrorism is that in certain parts of the world territorial enclaves remain outside the control of the national governments which - for a variety of reasons - cannot or do not want to confront the terrorist threat." Putin says the situation in Pankisi Gorge is "poisoning the interstate relations with Georgia and the Georgian people ... it is also poisoning the feelings of mutual sympathy and respect towards the Georgian people".

11 September 2002 The Duma offers its colleagues in the US Congress to draft a single and unified law on combating terrorism. Member of the Duma Security Committee and former Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov says that such a law should have clear-cut definitions of "terrorism" and say in clear terms which actions should be qualified as manifestations of terror. A draft has been sent to the US Congress. He says that "the idea of drafting a unified law has been supported by parliaments in Germany, France and Israel".

A ROMIR poll shows that a total of 18.5% of respondents have declared full support to joint efforts against terrorism. 27% of respondents said that they rather support than oppose joint efforts, while 17.3% declared that they rather disapproved this trend in the Russian foreign policy, and 11% declared they were categorically against it.

The majority of respondents believe that the acts of terror in the USA were staged by Islamic extremists; 22.3% put the blame on Usamah bin Laden, 7% said religious extremists were behind the death of thousands of people.

62% oppose US military intervention against Iraq. 16.8% said that they would rather not approve it.

11 September 2002 Putin meets in Sochi with Federal Border Guard Service Director Konstantin Totskiy, Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov, deputy head of the Kremlin administration in charge of international affairs Sergey Prikhodko and Federal Security Service Director Nikolay Patrushev. Putin instructs the General Staff to put forward proposals concerning possible strikes at reliably identified terrorist bases in case of repeated attempts to break into Russian territory. "I am requesting the General Staff to submit proposals on the possibility and reasonability of carrying out strikes at reliably identified bases of terrorists during a pursuit operation. No-one can deny today, and we know it with absolute certainty, and foreign sources of information confirm this, that among those who have dug in on Georgian territory are those implicated in the preparation of terrorist acts in the USA a year ago, and the person who actually carried out the explosions of apartment blocks in the Russian Federation." Putin demands their extradition. "If the Georgian leadership proves unable to create a security zone in the area of the Georgian-Russian border, if it goes on ignoring UNSC Resolution 1373 of 28 September 2001, if it does not put an end to bandit raids and attacks on neighbouring regions of Russia, we reserve the right to act in accordance with article 51 of the UN Charter."

The MFA forwards a note to Georgia, urging it to extradite suspected Chechen guerrillas who were detained near the Georgian-Russian border in early August.

The chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the Federation Council, Mikhail Margelov, says that if Vladimir Putin sends a request to the Federation Council it will consent to sending Russian troops to Georgia to help it in its fight against terrorism.

12 September 2002 Vladimir Putin sends messages to the UN Secretary-General, leaders of the permanent member states of the UN Security Council, as well as heads of state and government of the OSCE member countries, in which he has set forth Russia's stand on the situation taking shape in the area of the Russian-Georgian border. The message says that the effective staging of the antiterrorist operation in Chechnya forced the remaining gunmen to take refuge in Georgia, where they feel free and comfortable, and where they continue to receive military, financial and other assistance from abroad. This is taking place despite the fact that Russia has repeatedly suggested to Tbilisi since 1999 that the two countries should organize close cooperation of their security services and the border guards, in order to create an effective barrier for gunmen on the Russian-Georgian border. Aside from it, Russia offered help to Georgia for putting an end to gangster attacks

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of non-Georgian armed groups on the neighbouring Russian regions. No constructive response to those proposals came from Georgia.

Putin says there is every reason to say that Tbilisi is flagrantly ignoring the anti-terrorist Resolution 1373 of the UNSC, which is mandatory for all countries. In this connection Russia may be forced to take advantage of the inalienable right to individual or collective self-defence in accordance with the UN Charter, which was granted by UNSC Resolution 1368, adopted in response to the barbaric acts of terrorism staged in the United States in September 2001.

Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says in the next few days the Russian Ministry of Defence will submit to President Putin its proposals concerning the viability of strikes against terrorist bases in Pankisi Gorge.

12 September 2002 Ground forces chief Col-Gen Nikolay Kormiltsev denies Georgia's statements claiming that Russia sent extra forces to Abkhazia.

12 September 2002 Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov and US Undersecretary of State John Bolton meet in Moscow. They confirm their readiness to start bilateral talks on the implementation of the Global Partnership against the Proliferation of Material and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WOMD) as soon as possible. Mamedov defends Russian ties with Iran.

12 September 2002 The MFA says it is for the Palestinians themselves to decide on the contents, procedure and time frame of the reform of the Palestinian National Authority.

12 September 2002 The MFA says the trial of an 81-year-old former KGB man in Latvia runs counter to internationally recognized legal principles. Nikolay Larionov is being tried in Jelgava. He is accused of organizing the deportation of more than 500 people from Latvia in 1949.

12 September 2002 Vladimir Putin and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar have a telephone conversation.

13 September 2002 Deputy head of the presidential administration Sergey Prihodko outlines Russia's position on the Pankisi Gorge situation: "Russia's demands that rebels be neutralized or, at least, some of the detained ones be handed over to Russia, are being completely ignored. We have fulfilled all the procedures envisaged by our bilateral agreements. The Prosecutor-General's Office has appealed to Georgia asking to extradite the rebels immediately. But the answer is how it is, that is, there is no answer whatsoever. A question arises: why are our Georgian partners constantly making so much noise about this? Perhaps, there is a simple answer to it. This is an attempt to create Russia's image as an external enemy and, because of that, gain some foreign political dividends, and to strengthen the internal regime which is visibly wobbly. We can hardly agree with such an approach. We are expecting not words on the part of our Georgian colleagues, but concrete steps. The central Georgian authorities should prove by

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their actions that they are sincere, effective and capable of tackling real concrete problems."

FSB director Nikolay Patrushev says Russia will use all the provisions of international law to protect itself from terrorists who can infiltrate it from the Pankisi Gorge.

The Duma passes a resolution expressing support for Vladimir Putin's stance on Georgia.

Deputy Prosecutor-General Sergey Fridinskiy accuses the Georgian authorities of connivance with Chechen rebels.

A spokesman for the North Caucasian regional directorate of the Russian Federal Border Guard Service says that additional steps to reinforce the Russian-Georgian border are being drawn up.

13 September 2002 US Undersecretary of State for arms control and international security John Bolton visits Moscow for talks. He discusses Iraq and Georgia.

13 September 2002 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says in New York that if Iraq refuses to cooperate with the UNSC, the Iraqi leadership would bear the responsibility for the possible consequences of its actions. He welcomes US willingness to cooperate with the UN over Iraq.

Sergey Prikhodko, deputy head of the presidential administration, says Russia wants a mechanism that would guarantee the absence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

The Duma rejects a draft resolution "On Actions of the United States of America re Iraq." Only 168 deputies supported the draft. The draft said that the situation in the Middle East is increasingly unsafe because of the intention of the US administration to hold a military operation against Iraq without the mandate of the UN Security Council.

13 September 2002 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov has talks with UN secretary-general's envoy on Afghanistan Lakhdar Brahimi at the UN.

Igor Ivanov addresses the 57th UN Assembly. He upholds the UN as the main guarantor of international security. He says Iraqi recalcitrance is a serious problem.

The Arab League's secretary-general, Amr Musa, and Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov meet at the UN. They say Russia and the Arab League have reaffirmed the need for a political settlement on Iraq via the return of international inspectors to Baghdad.

13 September 2002 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov and Slovene Prime Minister Janez Drnovsek sign a Declaration on Friendly Relations and Cooperation.

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14 September 2002 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov has talks with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. He says at the UN that Georgia is failing to comply with UNSC Resolution 1373.

Federal Border Guard Service Director Col-Gen Konstantin Totskiy says Chechen rebels have abandoned the Pankisi Gorge and moved to the mountainous areas of Georgia near the Russian border.

14 September 2002 Director of the MFA's Asia department Gleb Ivashentsev says during the 57th session of the UN General Assembly, Russia backed Afghan President Hamed Karzai's request to expand the international security force's mandate for Afghanistan to beyond Kabul. Ivashentsev says the force should not be permanent and Russia will not participate in it.

14 September 2002 Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev criticises the US for hypocrisy over its stance on Iraq and Georgia.

14 September 2002 KFOR command post exercises begin in Germany. Deputy Commander-in-chief in charge of peacekeeping operations of the Russian Ground Forces Lt-Gen Valery Yevnevich is leading the Russian group. The KFOR mission in Kosovo began in summer 1999. The Russian contingent initially totalled 3,600 people. It currently includes 650 troops.

14 September 2002 Igor Ivanov says Russia considers that Iraq "must implement all resolutions already approved by the UNSC without any prior conditions whatsoever".

15 September 2002 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov has talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri Ahmad al-Hadithi at the UN.

15 September 2002 Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi invites Igor Ivanov to visit Tehran.

15 September 2002 The chairman of the Federation Council, Sergey Mironov, says "we expect from the Georgian leadership a speedy neutralization and then the elimination of the international terrorists holed up in the Pankisi Gorge".

16 September 2002 Col-Gen Yury Baluyevskiy, first deputy CGS says Russia is open to cooperation on the creation of a European anti-ballistic missile (ABM) system. He advocates ratifying the strategic arms control treaty with the USA. He repeats opposition to NATO widening into the Baltic states. He says Russia and NATO are close to signing an agreement on joint sea rescue operations.

Baluyevskiy says Russia's military leaders have handed to Vladimir Putin a set of proposals to reinforce the country's southern borders and counter possible guerrilla attempts to penetrate into Russian territory from Georgia's Pankisi Gorge. He says

if necessary rebel gangs will be pursued into Georgia. He denies there are plans to invade Georgia. He says Russian forces are not currently taking part in Georgian operations in Pankisi Gorge.

16 September 2002 First Deputy Foreign Minister Valery Loshchinin, who is the Russian president's special representative for Georgian-Abkhaz settlement, and Abkhaz Prime Minister Anri Jergenia meet in Moscow. They state Georgia must completely withdraw its armed formations from the Kodori Gorge and prevent the penetration of bandit groups and terrorists from the Pankisi Gorge into that zone.

16 September 2002 Russian and Israeli Foreign Ministers Igor Ivanov and Shimon Peres meet at the UN.

16 September 2002 The Prosecutor-General's Office begins a preliminary scrutiny of materials related to the 1990 Shevardnadze-Baker agreement on delimitation of the Bering Strait.

16 September 2002 Igor Ivanov says he welcomes Baghdad's decision to allow international observers to return to Iraq. "We welcome this move. Russia has consistently sought to achieve the international inspectors' return to Iraq and now our primary goal is that these international inspectors should depart for Iraq very soon and begin their work. Naturally, much painstaking work lies ahead and we will continue actively to involve ourselves in a solution to the Iraq issue. But it is vitally important that through our combined efforts we have today succeeded in removing the threat of military action against Iraq and bringing the process back onto a political plane ... In the SC we will keep a close eye on this process, to allay any possible concerns about the existence in Iraq of weapons of mass destruction. If the international inspectors report that there are no such weapons in Iraq, then, I repeat, this will be grounds to lift sanctions from Iraq." He says Iraq should let in inspectors without preconditions. He opposes any UN resolution that authorizes the automatic use of force against Iraq.

17 September 2002 The MFA says it welcomes the agreement of the Iraqi leadership to a return of UN inspectors to exercise control over nonresumption of the Iraqi programme for producing mass destruction weapons.

Vladimir Putin gives a news conference in Sochi on Russo-Georgian relations.

17 September 2002 Putin calls "unsatisfactory" a letter of his Georgian counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze received in Moscow on 14 September in response to the statement of the Russian leader.

Igor Ivanov says Georgia must destroy terrorist bases in the Pankisi gorge.

17 September 2002 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says Russia and Belarus should introduce a single currency in 2004.

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Russia and Belarus decide to coordinate talks on their accession to the WTO closely. An agreement to that effect is reached at a session of the Council of Ministers of the Union of Russia and Belarus.

17 September 2002 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says he is against the adoption of a special resolution on Iraq by the UNSC. The USA feels that a special resolution is necessary.

Duma deputy Vladimir Zhirinovskiy visits Iraq.

17 September 2002 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov speaks on the outcome of a meeting of the Quartet (USA, Russia, EU and UN) where a three-stage plan for a comprehensive Arab-Israeli settlement was developed.

17 September 2002 Akmad Kadyrov says Chechen rebels are receiving financial aid from abroad. He says funds have been arriving from Turkey.

17 September 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov is interviewed in Itogi on military reform, Georgia and Iraq.

17 September 2002 Igor Ivanov says NATO happens to be unprepared for new threats and its expansion will "not add security to anyone". He says that Russia and NATO should "jointly build security in the Euro-Atlantic area".

17 September 2002 President of the European Commission Romano Prodi sends a message to the Russian leadership in connection with the need to resolve the problem of Kaliningrad Region.

18 September 2002 European Commission Chairman Romano Prodi sends a letter to Vladimir Putin briefing him on the essence of the steps proposed by the commission to facilitate transit between Kaliningrad and the rest of the Russian Federation. "The commission proposed, in particular, drafting a streamlined transit document for multiple travel between Kaliningrad and the rest of Russia, assessing the potential of a high-speed train for travel without visas, and discussing Putin's proposal that travel without visas should be the ultimate goal. A streamlined transit document will be issued by Lithuanian authorities in line with lists submitted to them by Russian authorities that will enable its bearer to make several trips between Kaliningrad region and the rest of Russia. The Lithuanian authorities will retain sovereign rights of control over the crossing of their borders and will have the right not to issue such a document. The Lithuanian authorities will recognize transit documents submitted with a Russian internal passport. A visa will be needed for one-time travel by Russian citizens to or from Kaliningrad."

18 September 2002 CGS Anatoly Kvashnin and the director of the Federal Border Guard Service, Konstantin Totskiy brief Vladimir Putin on measures to reinforce the Russo-Georgian border. Totskiy says that "the Russian side believes it extremely

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necessary to create security zones to a depth of 20-30-40 km into Georgian territory". On 17 September Kvashnin compared Shevardnadze to Mullah Omar.

Anatoly Kvashnin says Russia and Georgia are jointly working on creating a border security zone on the Russian-Georgian border. Kvashnin says that at a meeting with Vladimir Putin on 17 September, a plan for strengthening the Russian border between the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea, on the section of border with Georgia and Azerbaijan, had been adopted.

Georgian Deputy State Security Minister Lasha Natsvlishvili criticises the statement by Konstantin Totskiy about the necessity of creating a 20-40-km-deep security zone in Georgia's border areas.

18 September 2002 The Russian government approves a draft agreement with Azerbaijan on the division of the neighbouring sections of the Caspian seabed. Putin will visit Azerbaijan to sign the agreement.

18 September 2002 First deputy CGS Col-Gen Yury Baluyevskiy says that Russia is prepared to cooperate with the USA in the creation of a strategic missile defence system.

18 September 2002 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov reaffirms Moscow's negative attitude to NATO's expansion.

19 September 2002 MinAtom says it is waiting for an Iranian reply to a proposal to add a clause on the return of used nuclear fuel to the intergovernmental agreement on the Bushehr nuclear power plant. "The position of the Atomic Energy Ministry has not altered. We will not supply nuclear fuel to the Bushehr nuclear power plant until we sign an agreement on its return to Russia."

19 September 2002 Rosenergoatom states that the European Commission plans to extend Russia 107m euros under the TACIS programme to enhance the safety of nuclear power plants. From 1991 to 2002, the Russian atomic industry has implemented 145 safety-enhancing projects under the TACIS programme worth a total of 124m euros.

19 September 2002 Energy Minister Igor Yusufov meets Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov in Ashgabat. The meeting was held as part of the first session of the Russian-Turkmen intergovernmental commission on economic cooperation. Russia intends to increase purchases of gas from Turkmenistan. In 2005, Russia intends to buy 10bn cubic metres of gas from Turkmenistan, while, by 2008, imports will increase to 20bn cubic metres.

19 September 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov accuses official Tbilisi of abetting Chechen rebels and foreign mercenaries hiding on Georgian territory. "The Georgian leadership not only can't but it does not want to fight against rebels and international terrorists. It is collaborating with them." Ivanov says Russia will pass

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on evidence about the Pankisi terrorists to the USA. He says a security zone should be created on the Russo-Georgian border and that Russia may launch strikes into Georgia. Ivanov is currently in the USA for talks at the Pentagon on strategic stability.

Sergey Ivanov says the possibility of Georgia's accession to NATO does not worry Russia at all. He says what is more important is that Georgia is cooperating with Chechen terrorists.

19 September 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says that "Moscow's position regarding the US military operation against Iraq will depend on information to be provided by the US side showing that Baghdad has weapons of mass destruction".

Chairman of the Duma's International Affairs Committee Dmitry Rogozin says that the presence of international weapons inspectors in Iraq will not do away with the probable use of force against Baghdad, but may deny allies' support to the USA.

19 September 2002 The chairman of the NATO Economic Committee, Patrick Hardouin, says there is a "bright future" for cooperation between Russian and NATO.

19 September 2002 FSB chief Nikolay Patrushev attends a meeting of CIS security and intelligence heads in Chisinau. He confirms Moscow's intention to use force to counter the threat being posed by international terrorists hiding in Georgia. The summit is to review earlier cooperation protocols on combating terrorism and organized crime in the CIS and will "work out new proposals regarding the fight against these phenomena". At the same time, collaboration between intelligence services to detect and combat large-scale smuggling and the activities of international criminal groups which jeopardize economic security in the CIS are to be finalized. New recommendations on the creation of technical research centres for the identification of drugs and psychotropic substances are to be worked out.

19 September 2002 A meeting of the Chiefs of Staff Committee of the CIS Collective Security Treaty member-states takes place at the CIS headquarters for the coordination of military cooperation in Moscow. Those present examined matters aimed at organizing information exchanges between the General (Main) Staffs of the armed forces of CIS countries and at forming a joint communications system of the CIS Defence Ministries. The chiefs of staff also discussed matters aimed at implementing measures to form regional collective security systems and promote the functioning of the CIS Collective Rapid-Deployment Force in Central Asia, and other matters of mutual interest. The meeting was presided over by Russian CGS Gen Anatoly Kvashnin, and was attended by Valery Nikolayenko, Secretary-General of the Collective Security Council.

19 September 2002 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov urges Japan "to stop linking political with economic issues in bilateral relations". Losyukov says "we believe that such a linkage still exists, hindering our progress".

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Aleksandr Losyukov says Moscow welcomes North Korea's decision to prolong the moratorium on missile tests. He says the USA baselessly lists North Korea among the "axis of evil" countries.

19 September 2002 Vladimir Putin has talks in Sochi with Bulgarian President Georgi Purvanov.

19 September 2002 Vladimir Putin and British Prime Minister Tony Blair discuss Iraq during a telephone conversation.

19 September 2002 The MFA condemns the recent terrorist acts in Israel and is urging the conflicting parties to prevent a new round of confrontation.

20 September 2002 US President George Bush is meets Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov and Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov in Washington. Bush and Putin also talk by telephone. Putin says everything had to be done to ensure the soonest possible return to Iraq of UN inspectors, who are to establish whether weapons of mass destruction are being produced in that country. They also discuss the Pankisi Gorge situation in Georgia.

Konstantin Kosachev, deputy chairman of the Duma international affairs committee, says a statement by US Secretary of State Colin Powell in which he virtually turned down the prospects of arms inspections in Iraq uncovers the Americans' genuine agenda for Iraq.

20 September 2002 The MFA expresses its disagreement with Israel's actions after its army confined Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat in his residence in Ramallah following a Palestinian suicide bombing.

20 September 2002 The MFA says it does not advocate exerting pressure on Georgia by suspending the supplies of energy sources in that country. Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov says: "Undoubtedly, political and economic components are closely intertwined in relations between two countries. At the same time, while considering the option to cut off the power supply, we cannot ignore the humanitarian consequences of this move, which would negatively affect a large part of the Georgian population."

First Deputy Director of the Federal Border Guard Service Col-Gen Nikolay Reznichenko says the existence of Chechen militants and foreign mercenaries in the Pankisi Gorge destabilizes the situation on the Russian-Georgian border. He says Russia has deployed 59 new posts on the border over the past two years.

Georgian ambassador to Russia Zurab Abashidze says that no rebel bases or camps were discovered in the Pankisi Gorge during a special operation by Georgian forces.

Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia has presented evidence of connections between Georgian officials and terrorists, during the Washington negotiations.

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20 September 2002 The Russia-NATO Council says a document defining political aspects of the concept of joint peacemaking operations has been adopted.

20 September 2002 An article in *Nezavisimoye Voyennoye Obozreniye* calls for the ratification of the START treaty signed by the USA and Russia in May 2002.

21 September 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says that UN arms inspectors are likely to arrive in Iraq in early October. He says there may be a new Security Council resolution on Iraq which will be tougher than previous ones.

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says he opposes any unilateral actions against Iraq. "If everybody acts as they see fit, no unity will be possible. And besides, we doubt that such measures can be effective. We believe that work on resolving the problem of Iraq should go strictly along the lines of corresponding UN resolutions. This is the only basis on which we can combine our efforts. It is crucial to use all political and diplomatic means to resolve the problem of Iraq ... war is always the extreme measure, which never passes without victims and other grave consequences." He says there are no differences with the USA on Iraq.

Igor Ivanov says the new US strategy doctrine is unilateral in nature. He says Russia "is guided by the UN Charter and the principles of international law". He also says that the next meeting of the consultative Russian-American group on strategic security, comprising the heads of the two countries' defence and foreign policy departments, will be held next year in Moscow. The first meeting of the consultative group was held in Washington on 20 September.

Igor Ivanov says "Russia is firmly in favour of preserving all regimes on nonproliferation" of weapons of mass destruction.

21 September 2002 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov has telephone talks with Palestinian National Authority President Yasir Arafat, Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Arab League Secretary-General Amr Musa, the foreign affairs ministers of Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Denmark (which currently holds the presidency of the EU), and the EU's High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana.

21 September 2002 Vladimir Putin meets Janis Jurkans, the head of the Latvian parliamentary group for cooperation with Russia and leader of the faction For Human Right in a United Latvia. Jurkans has arrived in Russia at the invitation of chairman of the Duma's International Affairs Committee Dmitry Rogozin.

21 September 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov visits Portugal.

21 September 2002 The command of the Russian military contingent in the Transcaucasus has protested against action taken by the Georgian authorities which is threatening the supply of vital necessities to Russian military units deployed in Georgia.

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21 September 2002 Minister of Science, Industry and Technology Ilya Klebanov heads a Russian delegation to Syria.

Sergey Ivanov denies that Russia has supplied Syria with Igla portable ground-to-air missiles.

22 September 2002 A Duma delegation headed by Gennady Seleznev visits Azerbaijan.

22 September 2002 Slovene President Milan Kucan visits Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

22 September 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov confirms that Russia may carry out preventive strikes into Georgia.

22 September 2002 The MOD denies that it and the MFA are divided over Iraq.

23 September 2002 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev says Russia may launch the nuclear power plant in Bushehr, Iran, by the end of 2003.

23 September 2002 Russia and India sign three contracts for the delivery of materials and equipment made in Russia to Indian nuclear power plants. Under the contracts, Russian specialists will be sent to India to assemble and install the equipment.

23 September 2002 Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliiev visits Russia. He and Putin sign a bilateral agreement on the demarcation of adjacent sectors of the Caspian Sea.

23 September 2002 Duma International Affairs Committee Chairman Dmitry Rogozin says international law give Russia every reason to use force against rebels in the Pankisi Gorge. Rogozin says he presented a document defining "the legal grounds for our right to self-defence" to Vladimir Putin on 21 September.

Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says that Chechen fighters and international terrorists have left the Pankisi Gorge with the agreement of the Georgian authorities.

23 September 2002 Sergey Ivanov denies media reports that Moscow is against a UNSC resolution which would give extra powers to international weapons inspectors working in Iraq.

Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov confirms Moscow's opposition to US plans to launch a military operation against Iraq.

23 September 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia will continue sell arms to Iran and North Korea. He says Russia will abide by all non-proliferation agreements when selling arms.

23 September 2002 Vladimir Putin and his Turkmen counterpart Saparmurat Niyazov have a telephone conversation to discuss the results of the meeting on 19 September of the bilateral commission for economic cooperation.

23 September 2002 Deputy commander-in-chief of the Ground Troops Valery Yevnevich says that the Russian military are leaving the Dniester region of Moldova. Moscow intends to withdraw its army by the end of the year, leaving only its peacekeeping contingent on the territory of the unrecognized republic.

23 September 2002 Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Kalyuzhnyy says Russia counts on the termination of the foreign military presence in Central Asia after the completion of the antiterrorist operation in Afghanistan. "As for the terms and conditions of the presence of the military contingents of the United States and some western European countries in Central Asia, we proceed from the statements of American administration representatives that the United States does not intend to set up permanent military bases there and that the military presence is temporary and related to antiterrorist tasks in Afghanistan."

23 September 2002 The Federation Council prolongs the Russian peacekeepers' mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina within the SFOR stabilization force until 30 June 2003.

24 September 2002 Ministry for Economic Development and Trade states that foreign trade turnover grew 1% year on year to 103.4bn dollars in the first eight months of 2002. The trade surplus was 28.8bn dollars in the eight months, with exports exceeding imports by 80%. Exports fell to an estimated 66.1bn dollars, dropping 4.3% to 56.1bn dollars to countries outside the CIS, but rising 1% to 10bn dollars to fellow CIS members. Imports increased 10% to 37.3bn dollars, rising 18% to 29.5bn dollars from outside the CIS, but falling 14.3% to 7.8bn dollars from the CIS.

24 September 2002 UES says it will be ready to synchronize operations with Western power grids by April 2004.

24 September 2002 British Prime Minister Tony Blair sends a personal message to Vladimir Putin about Iraq.

The MFA says Russia and the US insist that Iraq fully implement all UN Security Council resolutions.

24 September 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov visits Poland, where he will take part in an informal meeting of the NATO Defence Ministers.

24 September 2002 The MOD denies Georgian claims that Russian troops wearing the military uniform of Georgia's breakaway Abkhaz region were poised for military action in Abkhazia.

24 September 2002 The Bogorodsk-2002 international exercises of the Russian Ministry for Civil Defence and Emergencies and NATO begin in Noginsk, a suburb of Moscow. During the exercises, they will practise clearing up the aftermath of a terrorist act at a chemical enterprise.

24 September 2002 MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says Russia "is ready for cooperation with the United States in the settlement of topical international problems on the basis of international consensus and universally recognized legal criteria. All of our diplomatic work in the United Nations and at other multilateral forums is the reply to that concept of national and international security at the current complicated phase of international development, threats and challenges to security and stability should be rebuffed through a coordinated stand of the international community, whether it is the matter of the fight against international terrorism, or nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, or a comprehensive settlement of the Iraqi problem. It is most important now to arrive at efficient political solutions on the basis of the UN Charter and the international law with due account of the legitimate interests of all members of the international community." Yakovenko is commenting on the newly published US national security strategy.

24 September 2002 The MFA says Russia is sticking to its 1994 proposal for a comprehensive solution to the problem of the Korean peninsula.

25 September 2002 An agreement on cooperation in law-enforcement work and drugs monitoring is signed by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Safonov and US ambassador to Russia Alexander Vershbow.

25 September 2002 Dmitry Rogozin, the chief Russian delegate to PACE, hails a PACE resolution on the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad.

25 September 2002 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov warns against "a propaganda hullabaloo" over the British government dossier on Iraqi weapons. He says: "This is why we have been pressing so actively, and still are, for international inspectors to return to Iraq immediately."

25 September 2002 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov states that serious differences persist in Russian and Japanese approaches to border delimitation. "Japan is laying claims on the Southern Kuril islands of Iturup, Kunashir and the Smaller Kuril Ridge, saying emphatically that 'four islands' are in question. Russia argues that these islands are part of its territory." He says serious disagreements over border delimitation are one of the main factors hampering the signing of a peace treaty between Moscow and Tokyo. "We are determined to continue the talks and search for a solution, and we are convinced

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that a positive result can be attained only if the two countries make reciprocal moves, broaden contacts and deepen mutual trust."

25 September 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov attends a conference on NATO Defence Ministers in Warsaw. He says his NATO counterparts support his view that the Baltic countries must join the CFE Treaty.

Sergey Ivanov says Russia and Germany have the same line on Iraq. He has had talks with German Defence Minister Peter Struck.

Sergey Ivanov says Russia and NATO are drawing up an agreement to use Russian military transport aircraft in joint operations.

26 September 2002 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov has talks with French Foreign Minister Dominique Galouzeau de Villepin in Moscow. They discuss Iraq.

26 September 2002 The MFA criticises the Lithuanian government's decision to renounce the Russia-Lithuania intergovernmental reciprocal travel agreement from 1 January 2003 as running counter to the task of expanding friendly relations between the two countries.

26 September 2002 Vladimir Putin says Russia favours the earliest possible settlement of the situation around Iraq by political and diplomatic methods on the basis of existing UNSC resolutions and in strict conformity with the principles and standards of international law.

Putin has a telephone call with the president of the European Commission, Romano Prodi. They call for the earliest possible dispatch of UN inspectors to Baghdad as an urgent necessity and believe the inspectors should start their work in Iraq without delay.

26 September 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says that if he receives reliable information that guerrillas and international terrorists are trying to break through from Georgian territory into Russia, if necessary Russia will launch preventive strikes into Georgia. "If we see that the terrorists have crossed the Russian-Georgian border or are preparing to do so, we will not wait for them to commit a crime."

Col-Gen Boris Mynikov, the head of the antiterrorist centre of the CIS member-countries, says Georgia is not doing enough to provide information about the situation in the Pankisi Gorge.

Russian presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says the Georgian security service has admitted that it cannot stop terrorists and gangs inside its country.

26 September 2002 An article in *Izvestiya* suggests that Russia is prepared to go along with a US-UK attack on Iraq provided the USA understands the Russian position over Georgia and ensures that Russian interests in Iraq are upheld.

26 September 2002 The Economic Development and Trade Ministry says Russia's foreign trade surplus amounted to 28.8bn dollars in January-August. Exports declined 3.5% on the year during the period to 66.1bn dollars. Exports to non-CIS countries were 56.1bn dollars, a decrease of 4.3% on the year, while exports to CIS countries amounted to 10bn dollars, up 1% on the year. Imports rose 10% on the year in January-August to 37.3bn dollars. Imports from non-CIS countries amounted to 29.5bn dollars, an 18-per-cent increase on the year, while imports from CIS countries stood at 7.8bn dollars, down 14.3% on the year. Russia's total foreign trade turnover was 103.4bn dollars in January-August, an increase of 1% on the year.

27 September 2002 The MFA summons Georgian ambassador to Russia Zurab Abashidze to present him with a protest in response to statements from Tbilisi officials that Georgia is purposefully eliminating illegal armed formations and not preventing their return to Russia, because fighting against these terrorists is "Russia's internal affair".

27 September 2002 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov states that Moscow has not yet received clear and irrefutable evidence that Iraq possesses weapons of mass destruction.

The Duma holds hearings on the Iraq crisis.

27 September 2002 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov rejects the EU's proposals on the Kaliningrad problem.

27 September 2002 CGS Anatoly Kvashnin says the structure of the Russian armed forces will be adjusted to the current situation in the country and around the world. "The Russian armed forces must correspond to the level of threats and the state's economic capabilities. The structure of the Defence Ministry is being streamlined. All excessive and parallel bodies that are so enduring will be abolished."

28 September 2002 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov visits Finland.

28 September 2002 An article in *Izvestiya* advises Putin to develop a friendly relationship with the USA.

28 September 2002 US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Marc Grossman and British Foreign Office Political Director Peter Ricketts arrive in Moscow from London. They meet Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov. They are expected to hold consultations to try to persuade Russia to give its backing to the US-British-proposed draft of a new UNSC resolution on Iraq.

The MFA says that the British government document on Iraq contains no new information. MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says "only by sending Unmovic

and IAEA inspectors" will one establish whether Iraq has weapons of mass destruction or not.

28 September 2002 The Indian armed forces take delivery of new Russian Sukhoi Su-30MKI aircraft.

28 September 2002 Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says Russia has no need of new loans from the IMF and World Bank in 2003. Kudrin is attending a meeting of G8 finance ministers in Washington.

28 September 2002 Mikhail Khodorkovskiy, chief executive of Yukos, predicts a possible daily quota of 1-2m barrels for Russian oil exports to the USA as a result of a planned oil and gas summit in October.

29 September 2002 Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon arrives in Moscow

29 September 2002 Igor Ivanov has a telephone conversation with Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat.

29 September 2002 Iran asks for a postponement of a meeting of the Russo-Iranian intergovernmental commission for trade and economic cooperation which was set for September. Iran has not yet given its approval to a Russia-proposed long-term programme for economic cooperation until the year 2012.

30 September 2002 A parliamentary conference of the Baltic Sea States meets in St Petersburg and discusses the future of Kaliningrad. Dmitry Rogozin says Russia will insist on visa-free travel between Russia and Kalinigrad.

30 September 2002 The MFA expresses regret over recent bombing of no-fly zones in Iraq by US and UK planes.

30 September 2002 Deputy Foreign Minister Yevgenny Gusev says states seeking NATO membership should sign the CFE treaty. He says Moscow still opposes further NATO widening.

30 September 2002 The command of the Russian armed forces grouping deployed on the territory of Georgia says that the Georgian military have been for almost a month denying permission to transport a unit of 130 young soldiers to the Russian military base at Batumi from the Gumri base in Armenia.

30 September 2002 The Russian and Chinese Foreign Ministers, Igor Ivanov and Tang Jiaxuan, discuss Iraq by telephone.

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