

Russian Foreign Policy: Chronology

April-June 2003

April

1 April 2003 Vladimir Putin meets foreign ministers of the Rio Group (Peru, Brazil and Costa Rica) in Moscow.

1 April 2003 Deputy foreign minister Aleksandr Losyukov warns that the war in Iraq may significantly increase the chances that North Korea will succeed in developing nuclear weapons. He calls for a direct dialogue between the USA and North Korea.

Defence minister Sergey Ivanov is interviewed in *Komsomolskaya Pravda* on the Iraq war. He discusses the role of the UN and of US policy.

Federation Council chairman Sergey Mironov visits Kazakhstan. He says the war in Iraq may affect stability in Central Asia.

Emergencies Minister Sergey Shoygu is interviewed in *Itogi*. He says Russia is willing to expand a humanitarian operation for Iraq in response to a UN call.

An article in *Gazeta* discusses Russian economic interests in Iraq. It says Russian firms may lose some 50bn dollars due to the war.

1 April 2003 Col-Gen Yuriy Baluyevskiy, first deputy chief of the General Staff is interviewed in *Yadernyy Kontrol*. He says the Treaty on the Reduction of Strategic Offensive Potentials (SORT) meets Russia's interests.

1 April 2003 The Press Ministry expresses dismay with the report on human rights the US State Department has submitted to the Congress, which criticizes the situation in Russia. The US State Department says Russia does not have a free press.

1 April 2003 Zinoviy Pak, director-general of the of the Russian Munitions Agency, says the agreement reached with the USA in March on a new Russia-proposed procedure for destroying chemical weapons will make it possible to reduce the timetable for destroying the stockpiles of these weapons in Russia at least by three years.

1 April 2003 Gazprom Chief Aleksey Miller and Turkmen President Saparmurat Nyyazow meet in Turkmenistan and sign a long-term contract on the purchase of

Turkmen gas by Gazprom. It is planned that Russia will import 10bn cubic metres of gas from Turkmenistan beginning in 2005. The contract for the supply of Turkmen gas to Russia is expected to cover a period of 25 years.

2 April 2003 The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) passes a resolution to set up an international tribunal on crimes in Chechnya. The Russian delegation head condemns the decision.

2 April 2003 President Vladimir Putin says: "On political and economic considerations Russia is not interested in the defeat of the USA in Iraq. We are interested in taking the settlement of the Iraqi issue to the UN platform."

The Foreign Ministry (MFA) summons the US Ambassador to Russia Alexander Vershbow, due to the fact that the residential quarter of Baghdad, where the Russian Embassy is located, was bombed several times on 2 April.

The MFA says that Moscow intends to seek to have the UN Oil-for-Food humanitarian programme fully resumed, with the interests of Russian exporters met as far as possible.

Vremya Novostey interviews Mikhail Moiseyev, leading inspector of the General Staff, former Chief of General Staff, Army General and Ivan Safranchuk, head of the Russian government Defence Information Centre, on the likely impact of guerrilla warfare on US and British forces in Iraq.

2 April 2003 Belarusian foreign minister Syarhey Martynaw visits Moscow for talks with Russian counterpart Igor Ivanov.

The Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov and Belarusian Prime Minister Henadz Navitski meet in Minsk to discuss the prepared project of a single constitutional act.

Deputy chief of the Russian air force Yuriy Bondarev says Russia and Belarus are creating a unified regional air defence system.

2 April 2003 Petr Popov, chairman of Russia's delegation to the 59th session of the UN Commission for Human Rights, applauds the progress of reforms in the Palestinian National Authority: "We think that these practical steps (on the part of Palestine) are in compliance with the spirit of suggestions outlined in the "road map" drafted by the Quartet of international mediators, namely Russia, the United States, the UN and the EU, and show that the Palestinian administration is ready to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict through political means ... we expect Israel to give an adequate assessment of the Palestinian authorities' moves and to take steps to accommodate the other party."

3 April 2003 The MFA expresses surprise over a resolution on Chechnya adopted by PACE, which calls to consider the possibility of setting up a special tribunal in Chechnya modelled on the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

Dr Mark A Smith

3 April 2003 Igor Ivanov has talks with British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw in Brussels on Iraq.

Chairman of the Russian Federation Council international affairs committee Mikhail Margelov says the UN that must handle humanitarian issues in post-war Iraq.

US Ambassador to Russia Alexander Vershbow says that Russian companies should take part in the post-war arrangements in Iraq.

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and US Secretary of State Colin Powell hold talks in Brussels.

4 April 2003 Igor Ivanov meets the foreign ministers of France and Germany in Paris. They discuss Iraq.

Defence minister Sergey Ivanov denies that Russia has supplied arms to Iraq.

Dmitriy Rogozin, head of the Duma international affairs committee, criticises the draft decision taken by the US House of Representatives to ban giving funding for post-war reconstruction in Iraq to companies from the Russian Federation, Germany, France and Syria.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov visits China. He says Moscow and Beijing will join efforts to protect their economic interests in Iraq. "All parameters and forms of Iraq's post-war rebuilding will be set by UN decisions, not by resolutions of the US Congress."

Nezavisimoye Voyennoye Obozreniye discusses the work of the Russian special services in relation to the Iraq conflict.

4 April 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov has said that a group of naval ships is not going to visit the Persian Gulf in the framework of a cruise to the Indian Ocean, which is scheduled for April.

4 April 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says the MOD will ask the Duma to pass a law permitting citizens from other CIS countries to serve in the Russian army.

5 April 2003 Vladimir Putin and US President George W Bush hold a telephone conversation on the initiative of the American side.

President Putin has said that Russia is interested in the ratification of the Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT).

Vladimir Putin and French President Jacques Chirac hold a telephone conversation at the initiative of the French side. They discuss Iraq.

A Russian Chronology: April-June 2003

Press minister Mikhail Lesin is interviewed in *Izvestiya*. He accuses the allied forces of "neglecting elementary moral norms" in their coverage of the war in Iraq and of Russia's role in it.

5 April 2003 The MFA criticises the annual report of the US State Department on the human rights situation in the Russian Federation in 2002.

5 April 2003 Dmitriy Rogozin, chairman of the Duma Committee on International Affairs says Russian parliamentarians "intend to reduce Russia's contribution to the Council of Europe budget by more than a half".

6 April 2003 A motorcade carrying the staff of the Russian embassy in Iraq, including the ambassador, has been attacked while leaving Baghdad and heading towards the Iraqi-Syrian border. Several people have been wounded. The MFA summons the ambassadors of the USA and Iraq and demands that all necessary measures be taken to ensure the safety of the Russian citizens.

6 April 2003 US National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice arrives in Moscow for talks with Igor Ivanov, Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov and the secretary of the Russian Security Council, Vladimir Rushaylo.

6 April 2003 Pacific Fleet ships set sail for exercises in the Indian Ocean.

7 April 2003 Dmitriy Rogozin, chief of the Duma international affairs committee, says that the Russian-US Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT) is unlikely to be submitted for ratification in the near future.

Rogozin says Russia considers it to be inexpedient to further cooperate on the Chechen problem with parliamentarians of the Council of Europe.

7 April 2003 *Dagestanskaya Pravda* reports that the Dagestani parliament has condemned the attack on Iraq.

7 April 2003 A squadron of warships of the Russian Black Sea Fleet departs from Sevastopol harbour to the Indian Ocean for exercises with the Indian Navy.

8 April 2003 A group of European Commission diplomats visit Chechnya. The visiting delegation includes Greek and Italian ambassadors to Russia Dhimitrios Paraskevopoulos and Gianfranco Bonetti, as well as Vincent Piket from the Commission. Paraskevopoulos says that the EU is convinced that the 23 March constitutional referendum in Chechnya will be the first substantial step towards restoring the republic's economy and social sphere and advancing a political settlement.

8 April 2003 Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko says the creation of a common economic space of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine will not be in conflict with the integration structures that already exist in the CIS. He says that Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine accounted for 24% of the gross domestic product and 88% of the CIS trade turnover. He says Russia is committed to creating a single currency union with Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

8 April 2003 The Minister of Science, Industry and Technology Ilya Klebanov says the strengthening of US positions in the Persian Gulf is causing concern among Russian business circles. Klebanov is taking part in an exhibition called "Russia - Germany: Trade and Economic Cooperation" that is being held in Berlin.

8 April 2003 US Ambassador to Russia Alexander Vershbow is interviewed on *Ekho Moskv* radio. He says the USA and Russia can cooperate in rebuilding post-war Iraq.

Dmitriy Rogozin, chairman of the Duma Committee on International Affairs, says issues related to setting up the administration and restoration of the political structure of power in Iraq are within the competence of the United Nations Organization. "We shall insist on it and I am sure this is the position not only of Russia, France and Germany."

Muwaffaq Fattuhi, one of the leaders of the Iraqi National Congress, is interviewed in *Izvestiya*. He says that Baghdad will not pay its 8-billion-dollar debt to Russia after a change of regime. He says countries like Russia, Ukraine and Belarus were Saddam's friends, they supported him, so nobody is going to pay debts to them.

Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeyev says Russia will to supply a total of 500,000 tonnes of grain to Iraq over the next six months. A vessel carrying about 30,000 tonnes of wheat is already in an Iraqi port.

Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev criticises US policy in Iraq in *Respublika Tatarstan*.

8 April 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Russia "is against the appearance of nuclear weapons in the Korean Peninsula". He says "Russia has a package of proposals on how to stabilize the situation and commence the negotiating process". He opposes any sanctions against North Korea.

8 April 2003 Federation Council speaker Sergey Mironov says that the Russian parliament should accelerate the ratification of the SORT Treaty. Deputy Duma Speaker Vladimir Lukin says SORT ratification should not be put off for a long time. He is confident that the treaty will be ratified before the end of the current spring session. Duma defence committee chairman Andrey Nikolaev and deputy chairman of the Duma committee for international affairs Konstantin Kosachev also favour speedy ratification.

8 April 2003 Vladimir Putin meets Slovak Prime Minister Mikulas Dzurinda in Moscow.

8 April 2003 First Deputy Foreign Minister Valeriy Loshchilin and deputy head of the Georgian Foreign Ministry Merab Antadze discuss problems of Georgian-Abkhaz settlement at a meeting in Moscow. They discuss the formation of joint working groups as stipulated by the final statement passed at the Sochi meeting between the presidents of Russia and Georgia.

8 April 2003 Maj-Gen Sergey Chernomordin, the commander of the CIS rapid-deployment collective forces in Central Asia, says the forces will be built up and their combat preparedness will be perfected. Chernomordin also notes that special attention is to be given to equipping the collective forces with armaments for fighting in highlands. At the same time he notes that taking into account the experience of warfare in Afghanistan and Chechnya, there may be changes in the structure of units to be included in the composition of the rapid-deployment collective forces.

9 April 2003 In the region of 100,000 people protest against the Iraq war outside the US embassy in Moscow.

Vladimir Putin and British Prime Minister Tony Blair exchange opinions on the war in Iraq in a telephone conversation.

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov urges that the Iraq conflict be brought back into diplomatic channels in compliance with UN Security Council resolutions. He meets Kuwaiti First Deputy Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah in Moscow.

Igor Ivanov and his French counterpart Dominique de Villepin have a telephone conversation. They discuss Iraq.

Igor Ivanov and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan discuss Iraq by telephone.

The Russian and Chinese foreign ministers, Igor Ivanov and Li Zhaoxing, discuss Iraq by telephone. They stress the importance of ensuring the United Nations has a central role in a post-war settlement of the Iraq problem.

Aleksey Gordeyev, the Russian deputy prime minister and agriculture minister, expresses concern that Russia may lose grain contracts in Iraq.

The head of the environmental pollution directorate of the Russian hydrometeorological research centre, Valeriy Chelyukanov, says Russia is ready to dispatch specialists to assess the ecological situation in Iraq.

The Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) denies the allegations by some Russian media that Russian representatives have taken Saddam Hussein's secret archives out of Iraq.

The MFA denies that Saddam Hussein has taken refuge at the Russian Embassy in Iraq.

9 April 2003 The MFA condemns Israel's anti-terrorist action in Gaza on 8 April.

9 April 2003 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev is in the USA. He discusses with his US counterpart Spenser Abraham the creation by Iran of a fuel and energy complex based on its own uranium. He says Iran is beginning preparations for the production of its own fuel for reactors. "It casts doubt on the success of our strategic partnership." He has talks on nuclear security and energy cooperation with Abraham.

Energy Minister Igor Yusufov has talks with Mostazafan Iran Foundation chairman Mohammad Foruzandeh. He says Mostazafan Iran is ready to actively cooperate with Russian companies in the fuel and energy complex. The Iranian side put forward concrete proposals for participation by Russian companies in large projects being implemented by the foundation to build and modernize regular-cycle thermal power plants, to build combined-cycle plants operating on gas, to drill at oil and gas fields (including the large South Pars field) and also to supply Russian oil and oil products to Northern Iran.

Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister Kamal Kharrazi discusses the Iraq crisis with Igor Ivanov by telephone.

9 April 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says acute energy problems that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) encounters now "must be solved in a staggered manner". Losyukov says "it is essential to envisage a reconstruction of North Korea's thermal power stations and guarantee Pyongyang's receiving fuel".

9 April 2003 Slovak Prime Minister Mikulas Dzurinda has talks in Moscow with Russian prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov. He expresses interest in the participation of Russian companies in upgrading the armed forces' equipment.

9 April 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia has invited South Korea and Japan to join large-scale exercises in the Far East in August and September. He is visiting South Korea.

10 April 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and European Union Commissioner for External Relations Chris Patten speak by telephone on Iraq. They favour a central role for the UN in the post-war reconstruction of Iraq.

10 April 2003 Valeriy Uskov, a representative of the main international military cooperation agency of the Russian MOD, favours the creation of a full-scale collective security system with NATO. He speaks at a joint meeting of the committees of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and of a delegation of the Duma.

10 April 2003 Sergey Ivanov says in South Korea that the Iraq war will whip up the arms race not only in North Korea, but all over the world. He says other countries will seek WMD. He says the administrative power in post-conflict Iraq would inevitably be transferred from the occupation forces to international bodies, including UN institutions.

Sergey Ivanov says Pyongyang could ignore a UN Security Council resolution on North Korea's nuclear programme. "I do not rule out the possibility that should the UN Security Council adopt any decisions on this issue, Pyongyang could ignore them, adducing other precedents ... I believe that only through political diplomatic means with the involvement of all the parties concerned should the situation be restored to a status quo and the return of International Atomic Energy Agency staff to North Korea be ensured ... it goes without saying that this can only be achieved if Pyongyang received full and absolute guarantees of its security ... should the question arise whether Russia is willing to provide such security guarantees, Russia will be willing."

10 April 2003 Vladimir Putin has a summit in Moscow with Turkmen President Saparmyrat Nyyazow. A gas agreement is signed. Over the next 25 years Turkmenia will supply Russia with 2,000bn cu.m. of gas. Russia will earn 300bn dollars from the deal, and Turkmenia something in the order of 200bn dollars. A security cooperation agreement is signed.

10 April 2003 The chairman of the Duma international affairs committee, Dmitriy Rogozin, criticises the US-Georgian defence agreement.

10 April 2003 A large-scale exercise of anti-aircraft defence means and forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is held.

11 April 2003 Vladimir Putin has a summit with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and French President Jacques Chirac in St Petersburg on Iraq.

Vladimir Putin says weapons inspectors should return to Iraq sooner or later.

Putin says that Russia is not opposed to writing off Iraq's debts, stressing that this process should happen within the framework of the Paris Club.

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and US Secretary of State Colin Powell discuss prospects for a settlement in Iraq by telephone.

Yevgeniy Primakov, head of the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, says that before war in Iraq began, Russia suggested that President Saddam Hussein leave Iraq.

The MFA says the issue of Iraq's debt should be discussed with "the country's legitimate government in compliance with the UN Security Council's resolutions".

11 April 2003 An article in *Gazeta* cites Chief of the General Staff Anatoliy Kvashnin as saying that Russia will remain a world power along with the USA and will continue to have partnership relations with America.

11 April 2003 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev in the USA tells US Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security John Bolton, that Russia will continue nuclear cooperation with Iran.

11 April 2003 Russian Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov visits Japan.

Sergey Ivanov says the so-called North Korean nuclear issue should be solved politically and diplomatically only, "provided that independence, territorial integrity and security are guaranteed to North Korea".

Deputy foreign minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Russia does not see any need to provide North Korea with separate security guarantees. He says this would put Russia in a conflict with a third party. He says Russia "would be ready to guarantee North Korea's security together with other countries on the condition that similar US guarantees are provided". Losyukov says Moscow says it may reconsider its negative attitude towards international sanctions against North Korea if Pyongyang starts talking about developing nuclear weapons.

11 April 2003 The MFA expresses concern about the sudden agreement on defence cooperation between Georgia and the USA.

11 April 2003 The Russian government approves an agreement on the legal status of the CIS Collective Security Treaty Organization, signed in Chisinau on 7 October 2002, and submits the document to the president.

11 April 2003 Air force commander-in-chief Col-Gen Vladimir Mikhaylov says eight violations of Russian airspace have been recorded since the beginning of 2003. He praises the results of the command post exercise (CPX) by elements of the CIS Unified Air Defence System in several member-nations of the commonwealth on 9-10 April.

Army Gen Makhmut Gareyev, president of the Military Sciences Academy, says the Iraq war will press the Russian leadership into more intensive allied cooperation with states willing to do so.

11 April 2003 The Russian and Italian MODs and MFAs discuss military organizational development and the creation of a common European antiballistic-missile defence. The consultations were held within the framework of a special working group for ABM defence in the theatre of operations, established under the aegis of the Russia-NATO Council.

12 April 2003 Vladimir Putin speaks out against the idea of regime change in Syria.

President Putin states that the UN should be restructured to possess more efficient tools to resolve global issues.

12 April 2003 Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says Russia is prepared to take part in post-war restoration in Iraq. He is attending a meeting of G8 finance ministers in Washington, plus a session of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

A Russian Chronology: April-June 2003

12 April 2003 The Economic Development and Trade Ministry warns that the new EU members' transfer to a unified customs tariff rate after the European Union expands may hurt the export of several Russian goods to Europe.

13 April 2003 The SVR declines to comment on claims in Western media sources that Russia's intelligence services allegedly handed over secret information to Saddam Hussein's regime, including information on foreign countries.

13 April 2003 Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Kudrin says Iraq's debts must be restructured. Kudrin said he does not "see any direct link" between Russia's future participation in the easing of the Iraqi debt burden and softer conditions for its own debt payment. He says Russia's foreign debt currently amounts to 40% of GDP.

14 April 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov the USA's harsh statements addressed to Syria may complicate a post-conflict settlement in Iraq.

14 April 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Moscow takes a positive view of the USA's latest statements on North Korea. Losyukov says that Russia "is ready to take part in multilateral discussions with both the North Korean and American sides on the basis of the existing experience and groundwork".

14 April 2003 The Russian Financial Monitoring Committee implements a 2.5-million-euro TACIS project against money laundering.

14 April 2003 The president of Japan's National Oil Corporation, Yoshiro Kamata, says Japan is prepared to consider granting major long-term, low interest credits for the construction of the Angarsk-Nakhodka oil pipeline.

14 April 2003 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Sudan Dr Ibrahim Al-Bashir Osman Al-Kabashi visits Tatarstan for talks with the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Tatarstan.

15 April 2003 Experts from the Ministry of Antimonopoly Policy say no less than half of Russia's foreign trade turnover will be with EU countries two years from now. Integration processes will enlarge the share of EU, a key trade partner of Russia, from 37% in 2002 to 50-55% in 2004-2005. Each year the Russia-EU trade turnover grows by nearly 10bn euros. It was 65bn euros in 2000, 75bn in 2001, and 85bn in 2002.

15 April 2003 The MFA condemns a resolution on human rights in Chechnya drafted by the EU last week for the Office of the UN Commissioner for Human Rights, and warns it will ignore the document if the commission approves it.

15 April 2003 Heads of the border regions of Russia and Kazakhstan meet in Omsk. Deputy prime ministers of Russia and Kazakhstan Viktor Khristenko and Aleksandr Pavlov open the meeting. The main subject on the agenda is economic cooperation. Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Vladimir Putin also attend the forum. Russia is Kazakhstan's main trading partner, sharing one third of Kazakhstan's foreign trade turnover, 5bn dollars.

15 April 2003 Deputy Defence Minister Vladimir Isakov arrives in Moldova's separatist Dniester region to inspect arrangements for the withdrawal of Russian arms and ammunition.

15 April 2003 Igor Ivanov attends the Luxembourg session of the Russia-EU Cooperation Council. They discuss the postwar reconstruction of Iraq. Ivanov says: "The main thing now is not the split of the international community, but its unification ... topical problems in the reconstruction of Iraq can be solved only through common efforts of all countries, both the opponents of the war and those who waged it ... the United Nations must play the central role in the postwar reconstruction of Iraq in order to make the process quicker and more efficient."

Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeyev says Russia will supply 500,000 tonnes of grain to Iraq as humanitarian aid.

Dmitriy Rogozin, chairman of the Duma International Affairs Committee, says all of Iraq's debt to Russia must be repaid. He says the debt issue can be considered within the framework of the Paris Club. "We can forget about this money if a similar position is taken in relation to some of Russia's debts."

15 April 2003 Igor Ivanov visits Greece. He says Russia and the EU have agreed to set up a working group for a stage-by-stage move to visa-free travel.

15 April 2003 ITAR-TASS reports that Russia plans to begin the withdrawal of its peacekeepers from the Balkans in late April or early May, and expects to complete it within two months.

15 April 2003 The papal ambassador to Russia, Archbishop Antonio Mannini, visits Irkutsk in Siberia.

15 April 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Russia is ready to take part in multilateral consultations on North Korea's nuclear programme.

16 April 2003 Leonid Skotnikov, a member of the Russian delegation and permanent representative of the Russian Federation at the UN mission in Geneva, says Russia regards the rejection by the UN Human Rights Commission of a draft resolution on Chechnya as a natural outcome and a sign of the international community's support for the Russian Federation authorities and the people of Chechnya.

The Prosecutor-General's Office sends a repeat request to Turkey's Ministry of Justice for the arrest and extradition of Movladi Udugov, a Chechen rebel leader. The first request was sent in summer 2002, but the Turkish authorities never responded.

16 April 2003 Igor Ivanov says that "aggravating the situation regarding Syria is currently extremely dangerous". Ivanov made this statement after meeting UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in Athens. He says the UN should play the main role in the post-war reconstruction process in Iraq. He also calls for a speedy implementation of the Middle East road map.

16 April 2003 US Ambassador to Russia Aleksandr Vershbow is interviewed in *Argumenty i Fakty*. He says Washington wishes to maintain its partnership with Moscow despite the difficulties that have arisen between them during the war in Iraq. He believes that Russian companies will have a lot of opportunities to take part in the restoration of the Iraqi oil sector and in its future development. He says the US intended to invite Iraq's creditors to a conference, where they would discuss the problem with representatives from the new Iraqi government and work out a reasonable approach to the problem of Iraq's debts.

16 April 2003 Deputy prime minister Viktor Khristenko says the high-level group for the creation of a common economic space of four of the largest member states of the CIS, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan, have failed to eliminate the existing differences so far. The group meets in Moscow.

16 April 2003 The Duma issues a statement on the signing of the defence agreement between Georgia and the USA.

17 April 2003 The Turkish Embassy in Moscow says Turkey has barred Movladi Udugov, a Chechen separatist leader, from entering its territory. The Embassy says it does not know about a request from the Russian Prosecutor-General's Office seeking Udugov's detention and extradition from Turkey. It says it does not know if Udugov is in Turkey or not.

17 April 2003 Igor Ivanov says Russia regards the expansion of the EU as an embodiment of a natural integration process. "The enlargement of the European Union should not cause any complications in our long-standing ties with old and new EU members. In that connection we are hoping for a specific discussion of all arising problems ... strategic partnership between Russia and the European Union remains a basic element of European and international stability ... Russia is an integral part of a civilized European space. It regards relations with the European Union as its foreign policy priority."

17 April 2003 Igor Ivanov says the UN-imposed sanctions on Iraq cannot be lifted automatically. He says Russia insists that the international community should first check whether there are any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Sanctions can only be lifted in compliance with UN Security Council resolutions.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says Moscow hopes that any new Iraqi government will assume its predecessor's international obligations. He says: "Russia has a long record of cooperation with Iraq in a wide variety of areas and we hope that any new Iraqi administration will meet these international commitments".

17 April 2003 The Russian delegation at a session of the UN Commission on Human Rights describes a US draft resolution on human rights and freedoms in Belarus as "politically motivated".

18 April 2003 Russian and Japanese foreign ministers, Igor Ivanov and Yoriko Kawaguchi, speak by telephone. They say Moscow and Tokyo welcome the possibility of holding a trilateral North Korean-US-Chinese meeting in Beijing and express their willingness to provide support for such contacts.

18 April 2003 The head of the SVR press bureau, Boris Labusov, denies the admission attributed to him by the *San Francisco Chronicle* that Iraqi intelligence officers had been trained in Russia.

18 April 2003 The Duma issues a statement on Iraq. It says the United Nations must play the central role in the postwar settlement in Iraq, and that the principal burden of financial costs for economic reconstruction should be shouldered by the active members of the anti-Iraq coalition.

18 April 2003 The Russian delegation at the ongoing annual session of the UN Human Rights Commission expresses alarm over discrimination against the Russian-speaking minorities in Latvia and Estonia.

18 April 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Razov says Russia, Lithuania and the EU have reached a mutually acceptable solution to the problem of Kaliningrad transit.

18 April 2003 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov meets his Italian counterpart Silvio Berlusconi in Rome. He says the concept for the single European economic space should be completed by early November 2003, when the next Russia-EU summit is scheduled to take place.

18 April 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Russia has rejected a Japanese proposal to lay a trans-Siberian pipeline to supply oil to Japan and will instead build a shorter pipeline to ship oil from western Siberia to China.

Japan and China, both major oil importing countries, have been fiercely lobbying for the oil pipeline to tap the oil reserves found in the Angarsk area west of Lake Baykal. Japan, which has offered to finance the entire pipeline project, wants Russia to build a 3,700-km pipeline from the Siberian city of Angarsk through the northern coast of Lake Baykal to the Russian far eastern port city Nakhodka.

China wants Russia to build a pipeline between Angarsk and Daqing, an inland city in Heilongjiang Province located halfway between Angarsk and Nakhodka.

19 April 2003 Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says Iraq has enough oil reserves and sufficient infrastructure to be "quite solvent" and pay debts to Russia.

19 April 2003 Vladimir Putin signs a decree appointing Aleksandr Burutin to the post of adviser to the Russian president. Burutin will be in charge of the issues of the military-industrial complex and state defence orders.

20 April 2003 Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri arrives in Moscow on an official visit.

21 April 2003 The MFA says UNMOVIC inspectors must return to Iraq. The MFA says once UNMOVIC has verified that Iraq is free of WMD, then sanctions can be lifted.

21 April 2003 The MFA criticises the Israeli military operation in the Gaza strip.

21 April 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Chizhov speaks at the Federation Council on Russia's national interests and experience of international cooperation in North Europe. He expresses concern about the possibility of Finland and Sweden abandoning neutrality. He also expresses concern about the Globe-2 radar station in Norway.

The Federation Council chairman Sergey Mironov says Russia is worried about Norway's attempts to question the demilitarized status of the archipelago of Spitsbergen.

21 April 2003 The director of the press and information department at the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Kong Quan, visits Moscow. He says China and Russia have similar positions on a settlement on the Korean peninsula.

22 April 2003 Russia and the United States have signed a new commercial version of the HEU-LEU contract, which involves diluting Russian high-enriched or weapons-grade uranium into a low-enriched state (LEU) suitable for use as nuclear power plant fuel.

22 April 2003 The MFA says Russia believes that "the sanctions against Iraq can be lifted once it becomes clear whether this country does or does not have weapons of mass destruction ... only inspectors from UNMOVIC and IAEA, who have a mandate of the UN Security Council, can clarify this issue".

Aleksey Gordeyev, the deputy prime minister and agriculture minister, says Russia is ready to resume the supply of grain to Iraq in the framework of Oil-for-Food programme. He says Russia had been a major supplier of grain to Iraq. In accordance with the 12th stage of the programme with each of the stage lasting for six months, Russia pledged itself to have delivered 500,000 tonnes of wheat to Iraq.

22 April 2003 Ambassador Andrey Vdovin, special representative of the Russian foreign minister on the Middle East settlement, leaves for the Middle East. He says: "The putting into effect of the 'road map' of stage-by-stage Middle East settlement should be started as soon as possible".

22 April 2003 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev says the situation in Iran requires close analysis on the basis of objective information about the nuclear fuel cycle. He says: "The precise situation is not known but, according to *Time* magazine, Iran has created a pilot cascade of 150 to 200 centrifuges and has the space for several thousand such machines ... the centrifuges make it possible to enrich uranium to war grade. If the press report is true, the situation is worrisome. There must be IAEA guarantees. Iran must declare such activities and provide for the possibility of monitoring."

Rumyantsev says that the USSR used to assist the construction of a reactor in North Korea. The reactor was then stopped. "The Atomic Energy Ministry has had no scientific-technical contacts with North Korea for 10 years."

22 April 2003 Polish Defence Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski visits Russia. He and Russian defence minister Sergey Ivanov sign an intergovernmental agreement on defence in Moscow.

22 April 2003 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov says a visiting session of the Russia-NATO Council will be held in Moscow soon. He says Russia is interested in military and security cooperation with the EU.

22 April 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and US Secretary of State Colin Powell have a telephone conversation. They discuss the Middle East and preparations for the Russia-USA summit in St Petersburg and the G8 summit conference in Evian. They also discuss the mutual intention of Moscow and Washington to solve problems related to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of prohibited weapons.

22 April 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov urges members of the antiterrorist coalition to avoid unilateral actions capable of leading to its disintegration. He says the UN should be at the centre of an international security system.

22 April 2003 Vsevolod Chaplin, a spokesman for the Russian Orthodox Church, says the church hopes that the Vatican will not plan the Pope's possible visit to Russia without the consent of the Moscow Patriarchate. Chaplin's comments are a

response to Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov's announcement of the general possibility of the Pope visiting Russia.

22 April 2003 A joint exercise between the Ukrainian navy and Russian Black Sea fleet called Peace Fairway-2003 begins in the Black Sea. Ukrainian and Russian troops will practise conducting a joint peacekeeping operation which involves amphibious landing.

23 April 2003 Vladimir Putin urges the special services in the world to coordinate their efforts in the fight against terrorism. Putin's address was read by the deputy head of the presidential administration, Viktor Ivanov, at a meeting of the heads of the world's special services in Moscow. The address says the UN should play the key role in combating international terrorism and providing international security.

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov states that Moscow is working strenuously to ensure that disagreements over the Iraq crisis do not affect the activity of the international antiterrorist coalition.

23 April 2003 Russian permanent delegate to the UN Sergey Lavrov says Russia has no objections at all to the lifting of the sanctions on Iraq and is only insisting on the implementation of the resolutions of the UN Security Council.

23 April 2003 The Duma refuses to include on the agenda of today's plenary session a draft resolution offering political asylum to Iraqi leaders. One of the leaders of the LDPR faction, Aleksey Mitrofanov, came up with this initiative.

23 April 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Russia "certainly does not feel left out or hurt" because its representatives are not taking part in a meeting in Beijing between North Korea, the USA and China on Pyongyang's nuclear programme. Losyukov is in Japan after his consultations with his Japanese colleague, Hitoshi Tanaka.

Aleksandr Losyukov, deputy foreign minister says differences persist in stances of Moscow and Tokyo on the ownership of South Kuril islands and the conclusion of a peace treaty.

Losyukov urges the USA to give official assurances to Pyongyang that USA does not have plans to attack North Korea. Losyukov says that when he was in North Korea in January, North Korean representatives announced that they did not have a nuclear weapons programme and that they did not want to have one. He continued that Moscow does not have confirmed information that North Korea is reprocessing spent nuclear rods from which it is possible to get weapons-grade plutonium.

23 April 2003 Vladimir Putin meets his envoy in charge of Kaliningrad Region, the chairman of the Duma's International Affairs Committee, Dmitriy Rogozin to discuss travel arrangements for Russian citizens to Kaliningrad Region and from there to Russia proper.

Dr Mark A Smith

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov describes the agreements on Kaliningrad transit as mutually acceptable. He has had talks with Lithuanian foreign minister Antanas Valionis.

23 April 2003 Algerian foreign minister Abdelaziz Belkhadem visits Moscow. It is intended that the Russo-Algerian intergovernmental commission will meet in mid-2003 to give impetus to the development of business ties between Russia and Algeria.

23 April 2003 MFA official Aleksandr Ivanov says Moscow hopes that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) will have resolved all of its organizational problems by early 2004 and will start functioning as a fully-fledged international organization.

23 April 2003 Presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says that a system for foreign-policy propaganda should be set up in Russia.

23 April 2003 Russia's ambassador at large Andrey Vdovin calls for the soonest formation of the Palestinian government, saying the process is still experiencing serious difficulties. In the course of his trip, Vdovin meets the leader of the Palestinian National Administration, Yasir Arafat, Prime Minister Mahmud Abbas (Abu Mazen), former head of the preventive security service in Gaza Strip and Abu Mazen's candidate for the post of interior minister Mohammed Dahlan and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Nabil Shaat.

23 April 2003 Deputy Chairman of the Russian Committee for Military-Technological Cooperation with Foreign States Vladimir Paleshchuk says a memorandum on issues of cooperation in the military technologies sphere has been signed between Russia and Brazil.

24 April 2003 Igor Ivanov says the UN Security Council is currently considering the possibility of partially suspending the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

The Russian and French foreign ministers, Igor Ivanov and Dominique de Villepin, discuss by telephone the post-war settlement in Iraq.

24 April 2003 Igor Ivanov has talks with the foreign minister of Serbia and Montenegro, Goran Svilanovic.

24 April 2003 The MFA welcomes the accords of the Palestinian National Authority on the formation of a new government under Prime Minister Mahmud Abbas.

24 April 2003 Interfax reports that air force sources are concerned about the construction of the AN/FPS-117 radar station in Latvia, which will be completed in late 2003 or early 2004.

A Russian Chronology: April-June 2003

24 April 2003 Vladimir Putin says in 2002 the combined volume of arms exports was 4.82bn dollars. This is 500m dollars more that was planned.

24 April 2003 French Minister of Defence Michele Alliot-Marie visits Russia.

24 April 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says the establishment of a joint army of the Union of Belarus and Russia could happen in the future.

24 April 2003 Duma Speaker Gennadiy Seleznev arrives for a brief working visit to Copenhagen to attend an enlarged meeting of the OSCE bureau.

25 April 2003 Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko welcomes the decision by OPEC to cut oil production by 2m barrels a day to 25.4m barrels as "balanced, timely and normal".

25 April 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov denounces North Korea for withdrawing from the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

25 April 2003 Secretary of the Security Council Vladimir Rushaylo and French Defence Minister Michele Alliot-Marie say Russia and France insist on the UN Security Council's exclusive prerogative in the solution of the Iraqi problem.

Aleksey Meshkov, the Russian deputy foreign minister, and Simon Fraser, director of strategy and innovation at the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, have bilateral consultations in Moscow on overcoming the negative effects of the Iraq crisis on international relations.

25 April 2003 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov is in favour of deeper integration among the countries of the CIS. A meeting of the council of the CIS heads of government takes place in Moscow.

25 April 2003 The Duma ratifies the Charter of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, which was signed by Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan in Chisinau on 7 October 2002.

25 April 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov has talks with his Czech counterpart Cyril Svoboda in Moscow.

25 April 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov praises cooperation in the European-Russian system of antimissile defence. He says: "Working groups meet regularly on this issue sometimes in Brussels and sometimes in Moscow ... we have noticed significant progress in the implementation of the project which is expected to take many years."

25 April 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov has telephone conversations with Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat and the newly-appointed prime minister, Makhmud Abbas.

25 April 2003 Security Council Deputy Secretary Oleg Chernov is interviewed in *Vremya MN* on Russian interests in Iraq. He says Russia is sustaining significant losses, around 12bn dollars. First of all, Baghdad still owes Moscow 8.5bn dollars. Secondly, the export of Russian goods under the oil-for-food programme came to 180-250m dollars in recent years but deliveries ceased altogether when the war started. The total sum of Russian-Iraqi contracts exceeds 1.2bn dollars.

25 April 2003 The coordinator of the Dutch OSCE mission, ambassador Daan Everts, has talks with the MFA "on the parameters for further constructive cooperation in various spheres in the Chechen Republic".

26 April 2003 Vladimir Putin arrives in Tajikistan on an official visit. He says the Russian military presence in Tajikistan is "an important factor of security on the southern boundary" of the CIS.

26 April 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and US Secretary of State Colin Powell discuss by telephone the situation in Iraq, the Middle East, and the Korean peninsula.

26 April 2003 The member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) call for the peaceful resolution of international conflicts caused by interethnic, inter-confessional, territorial, political or other disagreements, in strict compliance with the UN Charter and international law.

26 April 2003 The MFA expresses "serious concern" to Turkmen Foreign Minister Rasit Meredow regarding Turkmenistan's "unilateral and hasty actions in connection with the Russian-Turkmen agreements on dual citizenship". On 10 April, the Russian and Turkmen presidents, Vladimir Putin and Saparmyrat Nyyazow, signed a protocol cancelling the 1993 agreement on dual citizenship.

26 April 2003 The chairman of the Russian-Arab trade and industry house, Aram Shegunts, says a decision has been adopted to open an air service from Moscow to Sana'a via Baghdad. Shegunts, who chairs the centre for cooperation with Iraq, says "the flights will be carried out by the Aviaenergo airline".

27 April 2003 The presidents of Russia and Tajikistan, Vladimir Putin and Emomali Rahmonov, agree to sign a document regulating the status of the Russian military base in Tajikistan before the end of May.

A Russian Chronology: April-June 2003

27 April 2003 Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov says Moscow is worried by Pakistan's attempts to take advantage of the situation in Afghanistan in pursuit of its own geopolitical goals regarding India.

28 April 2003 The Ministry of Finance says federal budget spending on its foreign debt will be 14.9bn US dollars in 2004 and 17.4bn dollars in 2005.

28 April 2003 Deputy foreign minister Aleksandr Saltanov visits Syria.

28 April 2003 TV political observer Leonid Mlechin says on Russian Centre TV that Vladimir Putin lacks reliable advisors to help him form his foreign policy strategy.

28 April 2003 Sergey Kiriyenko, the chairman of the state commission on chemical disarmament, gives an account of its fulfilment of the first stage of chemical disarmament at a conference of the organization for the banning of chemical weapons in the Hague.

29 April 2003 The MFA says it expects the Estonian authorities to take the necessary measures to stop the operation of the Chechen separatist site Kavkaz-Tsentr in their territory.

29 April 2003 The Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC) has gone into commercial operation. The Russian and Kazakh government commissions signed the last acceptance acts on 28 April.

29 April 2003 UK prime minister Tony Blair visits Moscow for talks with Vladimir Putin on Iraq. Putin says Iraq's debts should be discussed in the framework of the Paris Club. Putin says that the central role of the United Nations should be strengthened in post-war Iraq.

Prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov says that Iraq's debts to and contracts with Russia should be respected and acknowledged.

Deputy finance minister Aleksey Kudrin says Russia may agree to a restructuring of Iraq's debt. He speculates that part of the debt might be written off.

Russian and French foreign ministers Igor Ivanov and Dominique de Villepin have discuss the Iraq problem and Middle East settlement by telephone.

29 April 2003 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev calls for regarding North Korea's statements that it has nuclear arms capability in full seriousness. Vladimir Putin says that Russia is in favour of nuclear-free status for the Korean Peninsula, but this issue needs to be resolved with the participation of all interested sides.

29 April 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing discuss in Almaty preparations for the first visit of President of People's Republic of China Hu Jintao to Russia due in May. Ivanov is attending a meeting of foreign ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

29 April 2003 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says Russia has decided that the Angarsk-Nakhodka oil pipeline will branch off to the Chinese city of Daqing. He says "the decision on building a pipeline to Nakhodka will be made when it is determined what amount of oil is needed to fill this pipeline".

29 April 2003 Russian foreign minister's special envoy, Ambassador-at-large Andrey Vdovin, welcomes the speech delivered by Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmud Abbas to the Palestine legislative council (parliament) as "a symbol showing the readiness to close the page on armed resistance and to resume a peace process with Israel".

29 April 2003 The MFA says Russia is committed to preserving and strengthening the international nonproliferation regimes aimed at ensuring stability and security around the world. The MFA has issued a report dedicated to a session of the committee for preparations for the 2005 conference on the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in Geneva.

29 April 2003 The URF condemns the 10 April 2003 Russian-Turkmen protocol to annul the Russian-Turkmen agreement on dual citizenship, claiming that the new document leads to "the violation of the rights of Russian citizens in Turkmenistan".

29 April 2003 An intergovernmental agreement on mutual protection of confidential information has been signed by the director of the Moldovan Information and Security Service, Ion Ursu, and the director of the Russian FSB, Nikolay Patrushev.

30 April 2003 The Kavkaz-Tsentr Internet site in Estonia is closed down by the Estonian authorities.

30 April 2003 The MFA issues a statement on the road map for an Israeli-Palestinian peace.

Foreign Minister Ivanov welcomes the formation of Palestinian government.

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says Russia and the European Union welcome the formation of the Palestinian government.

The MFA condemns the suicide attack in Tel Aviv. It calls on Israel not to retaliate.

30 April 2003 Igor Ivanov says relations with the EU are one of Russia's key foreign policy priorities. He meets Javier Solana, EU high representative for common

foreign and security policy in Moscow. He says: "The EU is our strategic partner, with whom we are going to build a long-term dialogue, including on defence and security matters." He also says Moscow will closely watch the creation of a collective structure within the EU for planning and conducting military operations. "Yesterday's decision of the leaders of four EU countries to adopt a programme of the accelerated creation of their own defence potential is the beginning of a process which we intend to watch very closely...Russia is interested in developing fully-fledged cooperation with the EU in all fields, including in the field of defence, and will build its relations with the EU depending on the development of this structure".

Ivanov calls for joint steps to fight terrorism and drug trafficking. He says that Russia and the EU should "jointly combat drug trafficking and form a common law enforcement zone in Europe. We support the idea of setting up a Russia-EU internal security council." He calls for continued talks on the use of Russian cargo aircraft in the European rapid deployment force. Cooperation in dealing with emergencies and terrorist attacks should expand. "The efficiency of Russia-EU cooperation structures must be increased. Russia and all EU member countries and its agencies should cooperate in specific areas." Solana also has talks with Emergencies Minister Sergey Shoygu. They talk on the establishment of a European centre for dealing with catastrophes within the framework of a European security and defence policy.

30 April 2003 The MFA expresses concern over clashes in Iraq between local residents and servicemen of the coalition forces.

30 April 2003 The CIS Council of Interior Ministers meets in Tbilisi. Russian interior minister Boris Grzylov says that the interior ministries of Russia and Georgia "are working in conjunction to detect and detain criminals hiding in the Pankisi Gorge".

30 April 2003 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says that Russia will more actively protect its rights to passage via the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles straits. He says Turkey's tightening of the rules for the passage of tankers via the Bosphorus without prior talks in December was unacceptable.

30 April 2003 The leadership of the Transneft company says it will resume oil supplies to Ventspils oil terminal in Latvia in exchange for part of the shares of the Latvian oil terminal. Sergey Grigoryev, the vice-president of Transneft says Latvia has one year to consider and resolve this problem. After the Baltic pipeline system is commissioned in 2004, Russian oil will be supplied to the Primorsk terminal in Leningrad Region.

30 April 2003 Articles in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* and *Vedomosti* discuss Iraq's debts to Russia.

May

1 May 2003 Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeyev visits the USA. He criticises the fact that the Jackson-Vanick amendment is still in force.

1 May 2003 UN Ambassador Sergey Lavrov says international sanctions can be lifted from Iraq only after it becomes clear whether the country has weapons of mass destruction or not and after a legitimate government is put in place. He says that Russia is also ready to discuss ways to put other components of the oil-for-food programme, including assistance in rebuilding Iraq's infrastructure, into practice.

Aleksey Gordeyev, Russian deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture, says the unloading of Russian grain has been started from a ship that has been near the Iraqi shores for a long time. Within six months Russia plans to deliver about 500,000 tonnes of grain to Iraq.

1 May 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Saltanov visits Egypt and discusses the Middle Eastern Road Map and the situation in Iraq. Saltanov meets Arab League Secretary-General Amr Musa and Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Mahir.

1 May 2003 Federation Council speaker Sergey Mironov describes the US-Georgian agreement on military cooperation as unprecedented. "It directly concerns the interests of Russia and all the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States of which Georgia is, incidentally, a member."

1 May 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov has telephone conversations with the foreign ministers of Germany, Joschka Fischer, Great Britain, Jack Straw, and the USA, Colin Powell. They mainly discuss Iraq and the Middle East peace process.

2 May 2003 Vladimir Putin visits Ukraine.

2 May 2003 Vladimir Putin says the international community must coordinate its positions on Iraq.

4 May 2003 Vladimir Putin visits Yalta for talks with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. He calls for close cooperation between the Russian and Ukrainian military industries.

4 May 2003 Vladimir Putin calls on CIS nations to create a single economic area with the European Union. "We intend to work towards creating a single economic area together with Greater Europe."

A Russian Chronology: April-June 2003

4 May 2003 US Undersecretary of State John Bolton arrives in Moscow. He will meet Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Georgiy Mamedov and Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev on 5 May to discuss the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction. They discuss Iraq, North Korea, Iran, and the forthcoming Bush-Putin summit in St Petersburg.

4 May 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Safonov praises US-Russian cooperation in fighting terrorism.

4 May 2003 Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov arrives in Paris for a conference of G8 interior and justice ministers. The agenda, which includes several issues, will focus on the fight against terrorism.

5 May 2003 Duma International Affairs Committee chairman Dmitriy Rogozin says the legal department of the State Duma has approved a ratification bill for the Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty.

5 May 2003 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov visits Romania. He says the Russian and Romanian presidents will sign an interstate treaty. Ivanov and his Romanian counterpart Mircea Geoana initial the treaty.

5 May 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov visits Sweden. He insists that the Baltic States and Slovakia should be obliged to sign up to the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe. Russia and Sweden will hold naval exercises in 2004. He says Russia expects that negotiations will ensure a nuclear-free status for the Korean Peninsula. He also says the Iraq war must not remove the struggle against terrorism in Afghanistan from the field of the global community's vision. He notes that the Taleban are still active in Afghanistan.

6 May 2003 Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeyev visits Canada after visiting the USA. He says the World Trade Organisation (WTO) should have common criteria for all countries.

6 May 2003 Romanian Prime Minister Adrian Nastase says that Bucharest hopes to set up a joint venture with Russia's Gazprom by the end of 2003 to supply gas directly from Russia to Romania. Nastase says he is confident that Gazprom will participate in the privatization of the Romanian gas distribution network and also of gas-selling companies.

6 May 2003 Russia is introducing restrictions on the entry of citizens of China and Mongolia and the exit of Russian citizens to those countries because of the SARS epidemic. Chief Public Health Officer Gennadiy Onishchenko says the Russian-Chinese border may be completely closed in the near future due to the SARS threat.

Dr Mark A Smith

6 May 2003 The MOD denies a report that four of its servicemen attached to the peacekeeping forces in South Osetia have been killed.

6 May 2003 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says the decision to lift sanctions against Iraq can be made only after independent experts draw a conclusion on whether it has weapons of mass destruction or not. He says: "Russia is not against lifting sanctions against Iraq. We have called for lifting the sanctions for 10 years and we perfectly understand that this can be done only if it is 100% clear whether Iraq has weapons of mass destruction."

Konstantin Kosachev, chairman of the Yedinaya Rossiya party international commission and deputy chairman of the Duma international affairs committee, says the decision of the USA to split Iraq into three or four occupation zones is illegitimate and it runs counter to fundamental norms of international law.

Iyad Allawi, leader of the Iraqi National Accord movement, is interviewed in *Vremya Novostey*. He says he believes the contracts signed between Russian companies and Saddam Hussein's government are invalid.

6 May 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov and Indian Foreign Minister Yashwant Sinha meet in New Delhi.

6 May 2003 The working visit of Israeli Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom to Russia is being put back till a later date. It was to be on 11-13 May but is being postponed because US Secretary of State Colin Powell is visiting Israel at that time.

6 May 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Russia sees no reason to accuse Iran of breaching the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons or its guarantees to the IAEA.

Aleksandr Losyukov says Russia and the United States have a foundation for continuing interaction on the North Korean problem despite existing differences.

Aleksandr Losyukov has meetings with the ambassadors of North Korea and South Korea to Russia, Pak Ui-chun and Chung Tae-ik.

6 May 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says that Russian tactical nuclear weapons present no threat to North European states. He meets North European defence ministers in Visby, Sweden.

6 May 2003 Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Aleksiy II says he expects the Pope to take practical steps to resolve the problems between the Church and the Vatican.

7 May 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov speaks out in favour of strengthening the UN at talks with Italian foreign minister Franco Frattini in Rome. He says "it is

necessary now to work hard on the formation of an international system under UN auspices, based on the observation of international law".

Russia's UN ambassador Sergey Lavrov expresses concern about slow progress on the UN drafts of comprehensive and nuclear antiterrorism conventions.

7 May 2003 Igor Ivanov says Russia "comes out for strengthening partnership relations with the European Union ... we are confident that expanding cooperation in politics, economy and security meets the interests of Russia and Europe and stability in the world."

7 May 2003 Abbas al-Fassi, a state minister and special envoy of King Mohammed VI of Morocco arrives in Moscow on a private visit. The heads of the two states signed a Russian-Moroccan declaration on strategic partnership during the official visit by the Moroccan king to Moscow in October 2002. Morocco is now Russia's second largest trading partner in Africa, after Egypt.

7 May 2003 Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal Bin-Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud visits Moscow. He is making preparations for the visit of Crown Prince Abdallah Bin-Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud (First Deputy Prime Minister, Crown Prince and Commander of the National Guard).

7 May 2003 Vladimir Putin sends messages of congratulation to President Moshe Qatzav and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on the 55th anniversary of the proclamation of Israel as an independent state.

7 May 2003 A Federation Council delegation led by speaker Sergey Mironov visits Ukraine. The heads of the Russian and Ukrainian parliaments support a synchronized ratification of the border treaty between the two countries.

7 May 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov discusses the UN Security Council's efforts to settle the Iraq issue with his French and German counterparts, Dominique de Villepin and Joschka Fischer.

8 May 2003 The visa-free entry of Chinese citizens into Russia and Russian citizens' trips to China is suspended in Maritime Territory to prevent the spread of SARS from China to Russia.

The Russian civil aviation authorities have suspended regular passenger, cargo and postal flights to and from China, including Hong Kong and Taiwan.

8 May 2003 Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal Al Sa'ud and Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov open talks in Moscow. They will discuss a forthcoming visit of Saudi Prince Abdallah. MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says Russia's initiative of setting up a security area in the Persian Gulf region is of mutual interest. They also discuss the Israel-Palestine peace process. Ivanov says it is impossible to combine

the road map suggested by the international quartet of the UN, the USA, Russia and the EU and the initiatives of Saudi First Deputy Prime Minister, Crown Prince and Commander of the National Guard Abdallah Bin-Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud but the proposals may be implemented in parallel. They say they have common positions on Iraq.

8 May 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says US presidential envoy and Assistant Secretary of State Kim Holmes has presented to Russia a draft resolution on Iraq that the USA is planning to submit to the UN Security Council. He says: "The abolition of sanctions and curtailment of the Oil-for-Food programme are components of the draft resolution. These questions require close study and thorough consideration."

Aleksandr Yakovenko, the MFA's official spokesman, says Moscow thinks that only the international inspectors can arrive at a final conclusion whether the mobile laboratory found in Iraq had anything to do with the production of WMD.

Igor Ivanov says Moscow presumes that when the USA announced the lifting of sanctions against Iraq, it meant unilateral sanctions that were introduced by Washington against Baghdad.

8 May 2003 The UN registers the Eurasian Economic Community (Eurasec) as an international organization.

8 May 2003 The MFA welcomes Canada's decision to postpone its participation in the US Global Missile Defence programme (GMD).

8 May 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov and Secretary-General of the French Foreign Ministry Hubert Colin de Verdiere discuss anti-terrorist cooperation in Paris. The two diplomats had met within the framework of the consultations they hold on a regular basis as the co-chairmen of the OSCE Minsk group on Nagornyy Karabakh. They also discuss the South Caucasus region.

8 May 2003 Chairman of the Duma's Defence Committee Andrey Nikolayev says Russian peacekeepers are expected to leave the Balkans by 1 August 2003. A total of 970 Russian peacekeepers are currently based in the Balkans, including 650 in Kosovo and 320 in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Russia annually spends over 26m dollars to maintain them.

9 May 2003 CPRF leader Gennadiy Zyuganov urges all patriotic forces to unite against the Duma ratifying the Russian-American SORT Treaty.

10 May 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says UN Security Council experts will start discussing a US-sponsored draft resolution on Iraq on 12 May 2003. Fedotov says: "It (the draft resolution) is quite viable, but it has a lot of uncertainties that need to be dealt with...in particular, the document fails to

provide a clear picture of the transition from the UN's Oil-for-Food programme to the lifting of international sanctions against Iraq".

12 May 2003 The State Customs Committee says that Russia's oil exports to non-CIS countries rose 10% on the year in the first quarter to 39.1m tonnes. Oil exports were worth 7,672m dollars. No comparative figures were provided. Russia's total oil exports were 44m tonnes in January-March, which in monetary terms amounted to 8,286m dollars.

The State Customs Committee says Russia saw foreign trade turnover of 41.2bn dollars in the first quarter of 2003, up 32.8% year-on-year. Exports totalled 29.9bn dollars, up 38.3%, and imports came to 11.3bn dollars, up 20.1%. This gave Russia a foreign trade surplus of 18.6bn dollars, up 6.4bn dollars on January-March 2002.

Russia's volume of trade with countries outside the CIS increased by 33.8% to 34.4bn dollars. Exports totalled 25.7bn dollars, a 39.3% increase, and imports reached 8.7bn dollars, an increase of 20.1%. The balance of trade surplus rose by 5.8bn dollars to 16.9bn dollars.

Trade with fellow CIS countries totalled 6.9bn dollars, up 27.5%. Exports were up 32.5% to 4.3bn dollars, and imports rose 20.1% to 2.6bn dollars. The balance of trade surplus was 1.7bn dollars, against 1.1bn dollars in the first quarter of 2002.

Fuel and energy products accounted for 64.1% of exports to countries outside the CIS, compared with 58.7% in January-March 2002, and their cost volume increased 52%. Actual export volumes increased 10% for oil, 48% for gasoline, 15% for jet engine fuel, 4% for diesel fuel, 33% for coal, 10% for natural gas and 33% for electricity. Fuel oil exports dropped 2%.

The State Customs Committee notes that the "second biggest export group (for non-CIS countries) remains metals and metal goods, despite the drop from a 16.7% share to 13.8%".

Actual export volumes to non-CIS countries increased 46% for ferro-alloys, 28% for pig iron, and 4% for iron roll and unalloyed steel. Exports dropped 21% for semi-finished iron and unalloyed steel products, 15% for copper, 16% for nickel and 3% for aluminium.

Machinery and equipment was at the top of Russia's list of imports from non-CIS countries, rising 22% and accounting for 37.8% of imports, compared with 37.4% the previous year.

Fuel and energy products accounted for 49.6% of exports to CIS countries (not counting trade with Belarus), compared with 52.4% in the first quarter of 2002. In value terms, fuel and energy exports increased 18%. Exports to the CIS went up 38% for machine-building products, 24% for metals and metal goods, 32% for chemicals, 24% for textiles and 32% for food.

Fuel and energy products accounted for 24.6% of imports to the CIS (not counting Belarus), compared with 20.7%. Food goods and inputs accounted for 19.6% (19.5%), machinery and equipment for 16.6% (18.7%), metals for 14.3% (12.1%), chemicals for 14.2% (16.5%), and textiles for 5.2% (6.8%).

Russia's main trade partners were EU countries, which accounted for 37.4% of trade turnover, against 39% in January-March 2002.

12 May 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov speaks at a conference called "Russia and New World Order" in Moscow. He says new international threats are capable of bringing Russia and the USA closer together. He calls for a multi-polar international system, but emphasises the need for a close US-Russian dialogue.

12 May 2003 US Ambassador to Russia Alexander Vershbow says the USA is hoping that Russia will take on a larger role in the settlement of the Middle East conflict. Vershbow says that Russia is capable of persuading the leaderships of Palestine and Syria to put an end to support for terrorist organizations active in these countries. He expresses concern over Russo-Iranian nuclear cooperation.

12 May 2003 Gazprom signs an agreement with South Korea on the export of gas to South Korea. As of 2008, the company will be able to sell to South Korea about 6bn cubic metres of gas annually.

12 May 2003 Deputy foreign minister and the Russian president's special envoy on Caspian issues Viktor Kalyuzhnyy says Russia is still opposed to creating further military formations in the Caspian Sea.

12 May 2003 The MOD states that a Russian air group will be deployed in Kyrgyzstan in July.

13 May 2003 NATO Secretary-General George Robertson attends the ambassador-level meeting of the NATO-Russia Council in Moscow. Robertson says the Russia-NATO Council has reached agreement on the first phase of the cooperation programme to establish a non-strategic missile defence system.

Igor Ivanov says Russia is interested in the Russia-NATO Council at 20 becoming one of the basic elements of a new European security system.

13 May 2003 Vladimir Putin urges the Duma to ratify the Russian-US SORT Treaty.

13 May 2003 MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says Russia condemns the terrorist act in Saudi Arabia. He says the events in Riyadh and Chechnya are interconnected; this criminal act is a manifestation of international terrorism.

13 May 2003 Delegates from the Russo-Arab Inter-Parliamentary Association meet the heads of Arab diplomatic missions in Moscow. They discuss the development of Russo-Arab cooperation in different areas.

A Russian Chronology: April-June 2003

13 May 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov deplores North Korea's decision to pull out of a 1992 agreement with South Korea to keep the Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons.

The MFA says the Russian side is convinced that stopping the appearance of nuclear weapons in the Korean Peninsula is a goal that is "entirely achievable by political and diplomatic means, and this would guarantee security, independence and the development of the states located there".

13 May 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia welcomes the decision by NATO's future Baltic members to join the adjusted CFE Treaty.

13 May 2003 Aleksandr Rumyantsev, the minister of atomic energy, says Russia will not halt nuclear power plant construction in Iran.

13 May 2003 Ankara mayor Melih Gokcek arrives in Russia to take part in Days of Ankara in Moscow. Foreign minister Igor Ivanov says Russia is interested in developing comprehensive relations with Turkey.

14 May 2003 Igor Ivanov says that Vladimir Putin has expressed his gratitude to the US Department of State for a clear and firm statement condemning the latest terrorist attack in Chechnya.

Stanislav Ilyasov, the Russian Federation's minister for Chechen affairs, visits Paris for a conference entitled "Chechnya: International Terrorism, Difficult Road to Peace".

14 May 2003 The Duma ratifies the SORT treaty subject to conditions, 294 MPs voting in favour of ratification and 134 MPs opposing it.

14 May 2003 Vladimir Putin meets US Secretary of State Colin Powell in Moscow. He says Russia and the United States have preserved "the fundamental basis of relations" despite disagreements over Iraq. They agree to cooperate on forging a new UNSC draft on Iraq.

14 May 2003 The Federation Council ratifies the CIS Collective Security Treaty Organization's charter. The charter transforms the treaty into a regional collective security organization. The Collective Security Treaty Organization comprises Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan.

14 May 2003 The Duma ratifies the Russian-Armenian intergovernmental agreements on the transfer of Armenia's state property to Russia in repayment of Armenia's state debts to Russia. Russia will thereby obtain the Razdan thermal power plant, stakes in the Mars electronics company, in the Yerevan Research Institute of Automated Control Systems, in the Yerevan Research Institute of Mathematical Machines and in the Materials Science Research and Production

Corporation. The agreed value of the property to be transferred to Russia is 93.76m dollars, which is commensurable with Armenia's state debt to Russia. Interest on the unpaid debt will be calculated under the terms of the earlier-extended state credits.

14 May 2003 Kazakhstan, Russia and Azerbaijan sign an agreement on the meeting point of demarcation lines between the contiguous sections of the Caspian sea bottom in Almaty. The agreement is signed by the deputy foreign ministers of the three states (Kayrat Abuseitov, Viktor Kalyuzhnyy and Khalaf Kalafov, respectively), following the ninth session of the special working group of the Caspian-littoral states for drafting a convention on the legal status of the Caspian Sea.

14 May 2003 OSCE High Commissioner for Minorities Rolf Ekkeus begins a three-day visit to Moscow. The MFA says it intends to discuss with him the rights of minorities in the Baltic republics.

14 May 2003 The Duma adopts a resolution urging all countries that possess nuclear weapons and those that keep nuclear weapons belonging to other states to join the process of nonproliferation and reduction of such weapons.

14 May 2003 Energy Minister Igor Yusufov says Russia and Qatar are discussing the possibility of Gazprom participating in the 10bn-dollar Dolphin project in Qatar. This project involves the construction of a gas pipeline from Qatar offshore fields to Oman and also the construction of a gas processing plant. Qatar Energy Minister Abdallah Bin-Hamad al-Atiyah, who is also OPEC president, is in Moscow.

Abdallah Bin-Hamad al-Atiyah says Russia's entering OPEC would be of advantage to the world community. Igor Yusufov says: "Russia's accession to the OPEC is a matter for negotiations. We have our own interests and the oil cartel has its own interests, and they should be observed".

14 May 2003 Energy Minister Igor Yusufov says Russia will fight for strengthening its role in the Iraqi economy. He says that "as soon as the Iraqi official government is formed we will enter into talks with it ... Russia will exert all necessary efforts to completely restore its contacts in this country ... we will hold several rounds of negotiations that will touch upon the restructuring of the Iraqi debt in particular."

14 May 2003 Indian Foreign Minister Yashwant Sinha and US Secretary of State Colin Powell hold discussions in Moscow on India's new peace initiatives for resolving the situation with Pakistan.

14 May 2003 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev says Russia has no information that North Korea possesses nuclear weapons.

14 May 2003 Army Gen Anatoliy Kvashnin, the chief of General Staff, visits NATO HQ, where he takes part in a meeting of the Russia-NATO Council at the level of chiefs of general and main staffs. He is interviewed in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*.

15 May 2003 The Russian government decides to close temporarily 31 crossing points of the current 52 on Russia's borders with China and Mongolia because of the SARS virus.

15 May 2003 Head of the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Damir Aitkulov says 47 major Russian enterprises have had to suspend their trade contracts with Iraq as a result of the war.

Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Mamedov says one should not count on an automatic adoption of a resolution on Iraq at the UN Security Council. He says the draft resolution of the United States, Great Britain and Spain is under consideration. Mamedov says the USA should not trample on international law.

Georgiy Mamedov says a Russian-American working group is close to agreement on a document on missile defence.

Mamedov says Russia has urged Iran to sign a protocol placing all nuclear facilities under IAEA control.

Mamedov says Russia and the USA are not considering the SORT Treaty as the final treaty in this sphere: Russia will be prepared in the future to conclude another agreement. He says that now Russia and the USA should concentrate on defining the procedure for implementing SORT.

15 May 2003 Vladimir Chizhov, deputy foreign minister, attends a session of the Ministerial Committee of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. He says Russia is interested in the strengthening of the Council of Europe.

16 May 2003 The deputy head of the Russian Agency for Control Systems (RACS) Sergey Murav'yev says the war in Iraq has helped to attract greater interest in Russian anti-aircraft and anti-tank systems.

16 May 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov meets visiting Chinese deputy foreign minister Yang Wenchang in Moscow. They discuss Iraq and the need for the UN to play a central role there. Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says Russia and China believe that "serious adjustments need to be made" to the American-British-Spanish draft UN Security resolution on Iraq.

Igor Ivanov has telephone talks with his French, German and Italian counterparts over Iraq and its postwar restoration.

Igor Ivanov meets Bundestag Deputy Rudolf Scharping, deputy chairman of the German Social Democratic Party. They talk on prospects for relations between Russia and the EU.

Dr Mark A Smith

Igor Ivanov meets in Moscow Rolf Ekkeus, OSCE high commissioner for minorities. He says Russia is going to actively assist the OSCE in the "prevention of conflicts and settlement of regional disputes".

16 May 2003 Venezuelan foreign minister Roy Chaderton visits Moscow.

16 May 2003 Vladimir Putin and US President George Bush have a telephone conversation.

16 May 2003 Deputy Prime Minister Boris Aleshin says the statements by US officials worried over possible leaks of nuclear technology to Iran or the appearance of nuclear weapons in the country "should be analysed".

16 May 2003 CPRF leader Gennadiy Zyuganov makes public a letter to Vladimir Putin in which he protests against the possible ratification of the state border treaty with Lithuania. He says ratification must be postponed until the government "coordinates the package of agreements with the Lithuanian side and resolves lingering problems. First of all, a comprehensive and legally binding treaty on the freedom of transit of Russian passengers and cargo including military supplies to Kaliningrad Region must be signed."

16 May 2003 The MFA demands that Georgia extradite three Chechen rebels.

16 May 2003 First Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov and Indian Foreign Secretary Kanwal Sibal have discussions in Moscow on "the prospects for relations between the two countries in the context of implementing the accords on further strengthening strategic partnership which were reached in Delhi at the December summit". Sibal is in Moscow to take part in a meeting of the intergovernmental commission on trade and economic, scientific and technical cooperation. The delegation is headed by Minister of External Affairs Yashwant Sinha, who is co-chairman of the Indian part of the commission.

16 May 2003 Federation Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says Russia's full entry into the G8 pool will be completed in 2006 when Russia becomes chairman of the club. Before then, Russia will have joined the WTO and OECD. He is attending a session of G8 finance ministers in Deauville. Kudrin says Russia will solve the problem of Iraq's debts within the Paris Club.

16 May 2003 A Russian court orders the arrest of former Turkmen official Hudayberdi Orazow. Orazow, a former chairman of the Central Bank, is wanted by the Turkmen authorities in connection with an assassination attempt against the president, Saparmyrat Nyязow, in November 2002.

17 May 2003 The MFA condemns suicide bombings in Morocco.

A Russian Chronology: April-June 2003

17 May 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says "it is important to secure a phased transition from the humanitarian programme, under which Iraq receives virtually all goods of this type, to the lifting of sanctions". He is commenting on consultations regarding the UN resolution on Iraq put forward by Britain, the USA and Spain.

18 May 2003 US Secretary of State Colin Powell is interviewed on NTV external service.

18 May 2003 The MFA condemns suicide bombings in Hebron and Jerusalem. MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says: "It is becoming increasingly evident that the latest terrorist acts are links in the chain of crimes by international terrorists, and Palestinian extremists belong to that group."

18 May 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov visits Malaysia.

19 May 2003 The Federal Border Service says it plans to tighten control over foreigners entering the country but not close the Russian-Chinese border over the spread of SARS.

19 May 2003 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev says no terrorist organization, not even Al-Qa'idah, can develop an atomic bomb, "because they do not have the potential required for this". He says Russian nuclear facilities have adequate protection systems against any possible threats, including terrorist.

Rumyantsev says Russia has no plans to freeze its nuclear energy cooperation with Iran. He says that Iran has not violated any international agreements in this sphere.

19 May 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov condemns Georgia for its refusal to extradite to Moscow the three Chechens who were detained with weapons in their hands near the Pankisi Gorge.

19 May 2003 The Moscow Patriarchate criticizes the Vatican's decision to open Catholic dioceses in Kazakhstan.

19 May 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov visits Malaysia. He discusses anti-terrorist cooperation.

19 May 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov visits Ukraine. He signs agreements on technical additions to the Russo-Ukrainian border agreement. He also discusses Iraq and the division of the USSR's debt.

19 May 2003 The MFA states Israel and Palestine must meet each other halfway and put an end to violence in the Middle East.

19 May 2003 Russian presidential envoy for Caspian issues Viktor Kalyuzhnyy say that Russia believes that the idea of dividing the Caspian Sea into equal parts among the five bordering countries (Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Iran) is unrealistic. *Interfax* noted that the division of the Caspian Sea into equal parts is not possible as an agreement to divide the seabed of the northern Caspian along the median line was signed by Russia and Kazakhstan in 1998. Iran, which currently has 14% of the floor of the Caspian Sea, is seeking a division of the sea into five equal parts. The ninth session of the working group in charge of developing a convention on the legal status of the Caspian Sea was held in Kazakhstan on 12-14 May.

19 May 2003 Federation Council chairman Sergey Mironov visits France. He discusses EU widening with French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin.

19 May 2003 Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov visits Armenia.

20 May 2003 The acting president of Yukos, Mikhail Brudno, says Yukos is negotiating long-term oil supplies with Chinese companies. The Russian government determined the route of the export pipeline in April 2003 and adopted a decision to construct the Angarsk-Daqing oil pipeline. It is expected to supply annually 20m tonnes of oil to China in the first stage of the pipeline's work in 2005-2010 and 30m tonnes per year in the second stage in 2010-2030.

20 May 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says the USA will not be able to solve the whole range of Iraqi problems without the global community's support. He calls for "strengthening the global community's unity in fighting terrorism", and for a multipolar international system with the UN at the top of this system.

20 May 2003 Vladimir Putin and British Prime Minister Tony Blair speak over the phone and discuss aspects of Russian-British relations, focusing on the energy sector.

20 May 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Saltanov says that the international quartet of mediators in the Middle East settlement (Russia, the USA, the European Union and the UN) is lagging behind in the implementation of the road map.

20 May 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Razov and Serbia-Montenegro's ambassador to Russia Danilo Vuksanovic meet and discuss Kosovo.

20 May 2003 Deputy Minister for Economic Development and Trade Maksim Medvedkov says Russia will not join the WTO in 2003. He says talks are going well.

A Russian Chronology: April-June 2003

Agreements have been achieved on about 75-80% of the obligations regarding the access of goods to the Russian market. However, the most serious demand, "the balance of tariff policy in agriculture", remains unresolved.

20 May 2003 Russian-Indian naval exercises begin in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

21 May 2003 The Duma ratifies the state border treaty with the Republic of Lithuania. The decision was carried by a 268-majority vote, with 138 nays and one abstention. The state border treaty was signed by the Russian and Lithuanian presidents on 24 October 1997. It legalizes the previous administrative border that existed within the bounds of the former USSR as drawn on the 1963 edition maps.

21 May 2003 First Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov gives an interview on the CIS Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

21 May 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov visits the USA to discuss Iraq, North Korea, Afghanistan, fight against terrorism, and SORT implementation.

21 May 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says the USA and North Korea must continue their dialogue.

21 May 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov visits Sweden. He and the foreign ministers of Sweden and France, Anna Lindh and Dominique de Villepin, sign an accord on a multilateral programme of nuclear-environmental safety in Russia.

21 May 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov and American Ambassador to Russia Alexander Vershbow meet. They stress the need for the UN Security Council's unity on Iraq with consideration for reciprocal interests.

21 May 2003 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says in *Kommersant* that Russia will maintain a permanent naval presence in the Indian Ocean from 2006.

21 May 2003 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says Russian-US cooperation in missile defence can only be implemented on a long-term basis and under certain terms. He says the two sides' actions "must not be aimed against one another. The intellectual property of each of the sides must be preserved." He says that Russia advocates the full demilitarization of outer space and "complete transparency in the missile defence sphere between the two countries ... neither the USA, nor the Russian side have made considerable progress in cooperation in the missile defence sphere. Tangible results cannot be expected within a year or two in such issues. This process will take at least decades." He says "the countries are of no concern to us in this sphere". Russia is prepared to cooperate with NATO only on non-strategic or regional missile defence. "Our bilateral ties with the United States in

missile defence and cooperation with NATO in the sphere of regional missile defence are different things."

22 May 2003 Chinese President Hu Jintao is interviewed on Russian TV on Russo-Chinese economic relations.

22 May 2003 Federation Council chairman Sergey Mironov meets the secretary-general of the Council of Europe, Walter Schwimmer, in Strasbourg. He says there is no need for an international tribunal for Chechnya.

22 May 2003 The deputy head of the presidential administration, Sergey Prikhodko, says the UN resolution on Iraq takes adequate and maximum account of Russian interests. He says Russia will vote in favour of it.

Foreign minister Igor Ivanov says in Paris that Russia will vote for the new UNSC resolution on Iraq. He has had talks with the French and German foreign ministers.

22 May 2003 Vladimir Putin sends a message to US President George Bush. It says Russia is ready to expand cooperation with the USA in all areas.

22 May 2003 Dmitriy Rogozin, chief of the Duma's international affairs committee, criticises the possibility of the United States launching tests of low-capacity nuclear warheads.

Col-Gen Yuriy Baluyevskiy, first deputy chief of the Russian General Staff, is interviewed in *Vozdushno-Kosmicheskaya Oborona*. He says a large-scale US or any other national missile defence system will not provide a reliable shield against weapons of mass destruction.

22 May 2003 Governor of Kaliningrad Region Vladimir Yegorov welcomes the ratification of the agreement on the Russian-Lithuanian state border by the Duma on 21 May.

22 May 2003 A South Korean air force delegation visits Russia to discuss military-technical cooperation.

22 May 2003 The first stage of the Russian-Indian naval exercise begins in the Arabian Sea. The Russian and Indian ships will practise for two days joint manoeuvring, artillery fire on sea and air targets, anti-submarine warfare and rescue of ships in distress using ship-borne helicopters. The second stage of the exercises will be held jointly with ships of India's Eastern Fleet in the Bay of Bengal on 1-2 June.

A Russian Chronology: April-June 2003

22 May 2003 Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko and the president of the European Commission, Romano Prodi, meet in Belgium. They discuss the creation of a common European economic space.

22 May 2003 Igor Ivanov says there is no alternative to the "road map" of Middle East peace settlement.

23 May 2003 Goskomstat reports that Russia's foreign trade surplus stood at 15.18bn dollars in the first quarter of 2003. In the first three months of 2002, it was 9.24bn dollars. Foreign trade turnover in January-March amounted to 45.69bn dollars, jumping 34.6% year on year, with exports at 30.44bn dollars (up 41.0%) and imports at 15.26bn dollars (up 23.6%).

Exports to CIS countries in the first quarter stood at 4.45bn dollars, going up 32.8% year on year, and to other countries 25.99bn dollars, up 42.5%. Imports from CIS countries grew 21.4% year on year to 3.08bn dollars and from other countries 24.1% to 12.17bn dollars.

23 May 2003 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov visits NATO HQ in Belgium. He meets NATO Secretary-General George Robertson. Ivanov says Russia is planning to open a military liaison mission at NATO headquarters and is willing to cooperate with the alliance in the peacekeeping operation in Afghanistan.

23 May 2003 The MFA says it opposes any use of force to settle the dispute over North Korea's nuclear programme.

23 May 2003 Nikolay Bordyuzha, secretary-general of the Collective Security Council, says the formation of the Collective Security Treaty Organization may be regarded as the first serious step towards a full-fledged military and political bloc in the former Soviet Union. "The decisions that were made by the presidents of the member states allow us to speak of the formation of a military political alliance of several CIS countries." He says there are prospects for other CIS countries to join the organization. "The organization is open to new members and many countries of the former Soviet Union have a practical interest in such membership."

He says the Collective Security Treaty Organization is an international organization and will be registered with the United Nations. He says rapid-deployment units will soon be created in the Caucasian and East European sectors.

He hopes US troops will be active in Central Asia only for the duration of the antiterrorist operation in Afghanistan.

24 May 2003 The MFA welcomes Israel's intention to take steps in line with the road map to a peace settlement. MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko states: "Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has declared his readiness to take the steps stipulated in the road map plan for a Middle East settlement. The document, which was drafted by the four international mediators, namely Russia, the USA, the EU and the UN, will be submitted for confirmation to the Israeli government. Moscow

Dr Mark A Smith

welcomes the emerging progress, and hopes the Israeli cabinet approves the road map. In this context, we appreciate the US administration's efforts."

24 May 2003 Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeyev visits Mongolia to co-chair the tenth bilateral intergovernmental commission for trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation.

25 May 2003 A delegation from the Commission of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture visits Chechnya on a two-day inspection tour.

25 May 2003 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov welcomes the new UNSC resolution on Iraq.

26 May 2003 Lukoil say that the decision by Iraq's interim administration to unilaterally break off an agreement with them on developing the huge West Qurna oilfields is unlawful.

26 May 2003 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev meets an Iranian nuclear delegation. He says US-Iranian relations will not affect Russia's cooperation with Iran in building the nuclear power plant in Bushehr.

27 May 2003 Chinese President Hu Jintao visits Russia. He signs a declaration with Vladimir Putin. Moscow and Beijing believe that the post-war settlement in Iraq must take into consideration the legal rights and interests of neighbouring countries and other interested parties. They oppose the use of force to resolve the North Korean nuclear crisis.

27 May 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Mamedov meets Iranian ambassador to Moscow Gholamreza Shafe'i in Moscow. He expresses concern over unclarified issues related to nuclear research in Iran.

27 May 2003 A unit of naval ships of Russia's Black Sea Fleet visits the Yemeni port of Aden.

28 May 2003 The Federation Council ratifies the SORT treaty.

28 May 2003 Chinese leader Hu Jintao speaks at the Moscow Foreign Relations Institute on Russo-Chinese relations. He says Russia and China are waging "a joint struggle against three world threats: terrorism, extremism and separatism".

28 May 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says he believes that "no one will benefit from" tension over Iran. He says Iran should have a dialogue with IAEA. He dismisses US concerns over Russian cooperation with Iran over nuclear energy.

A Russian Chronology: April-June 2003

An Energy Ministry official tells ITAR-TASS that Iran should sign a protocol with IAEA allowing it to carry out snap inspections.

28 May 2003 The presidents of Russia, China, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, all member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), meet for an informal summit in Moscow.

28 May 2003 The Federation Council ratifies the treaty on the state border between Russia and Lithuania.

28 May 2003 The MFA says the situation in the Korean peninsula has become complicated, and more vigorous actions should now be taken to overcome the crisis. The MFA says it "had worked out the basic elements of a package settlement of the DPRK nuclear problem whose essence was the consistency of synchronized interconnected steps of the sides concerned that would result in Pyongyang's abandoning its nuclear programme in return for international guarantees of its security and development". The MFA says it is ready to act as a mediator between North Korea and the USA over the nuclear issue.

29 May 2003 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev is interviewed on *Ekho Moskvu* on Russia's cooperation with Iran in building a nuclear power station.

29 May 2003 Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi says that the dispute around the South Kuril islands should not hinder comprehensive cooperation with Russia.

29 May 2003 Vladimir Putin meets his Kazakh counterpart Nursultan Nazarbayev in Moscow.

30 May 2003 Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Vladimir Putin hold a summit in St Petersburg. They agree to boost joint work on energy projects and reaffirm the need to move on for the signing of a post-World War II peace treaty, although no specific plans were made on these issues.

30 May 2003 A CIS heads of state summit is held in St Petersburg.

30 May 2003 The MFA says that Moscow "continues to be seriously concerned about the consequences of EU expansion for Russia's traditional ties with new EU members and the European Union as a whole". Foreign Ministry official spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says that prior to the EU's expansion "it is necessary to hold talks between Russia and the new EU entrants and the European Commission".

Dr Mark A Smith

30 May 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov has talks with Chinese counterpart Cao Gangchuan in Moscow. He says Russian-Chinese defence cooperation is developing positively.

30 May 2003 The MFA expresses concern over a US refusal to recognize the diplomatic status and hence immunity of Russian and other diplomats in Iraq as accredited by a government that no longer exists.

30 May 2003 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev says Russia is proposing to the United States that it take part in construction of the Iranian nuclear power plant in Bushehr.

31 May 2003 A Russia-European Union summit takes place in St Petersburg. It is largely to determine how relations of Moscow and 10 countries bound for EU will work out. A permanent council of partnership between Russia and the European Union is formed. Russia and the European Union agree to examine terms for the introduction of visa-free travel as a long-term prospect.

31 May 2003 The MFA says Moscow wants clear guarantees from NATO that weapons or forces from other countries will not be deployed on the territory of the Baltic states.

June

1 June 2003 US President George Bush visits St Petersburg for talks with Vladimir Putin. He and Vladimir Putin hold a press conference. They exchange SORT ratification documents.

1 June 2003 Igor Ivanov says Russia has no agreement with Iran to tie the completion of the Bushehr nuclear power station to Tehran's signing an additional protocol with the IAEA.

Igor Ivanov says Russia is ready to play a more active part in seeking a settlement between the two Koreas. He says "both Russia and the USA are in favour of a nuclear-free Korean peninsula ... we welcome the beginning of dialogue (between the USA and North Korea), which took place in Beijing with the participation of China".

1 June 2003 The G8 summit takes place in Evian in France.

1 June 2003 The second phase of the Russian-Indian naval exercise begins in the Bay of Bengal.

A Russian Chronology: April-June 2003

2 June 2003 The Energy Ministry states Russian oil exports to outside the CIS in January-May 2003 amounted to 59.62m tonnes (2.87m barrels per day), up 6.4% (by 3.6m tonnes) from the same period in 2002.

2 June 2003 The LUKoil company opens an office in Iraq and is holding talks with the Iraqi occupation authorities.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says Russia is drafting bills to confirm the lifting of the trade and economic embargo against Iraq. Resolution 1483 of the UN Security Council cancels all international sanctions against Iraq except the military embargo.

Deputy foreign minister Yury Fedotov says "Russia believes that the Iraq disarmament file remains open and we need to agree on how to close it". He says it would be good if the USA briefed the UN Security Council on the results of their WMD search in Iraq by 5 June, when the Security Council is due to hear UNMOVIC's latest quarterly report.

2 June 2003 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev says all spent nuclear fuel from the first generating unit at the Bushehr nuclear power station "for the entire duration of its use will be returning to Russia for subsequent storage and recycling ... we have an agreement in principle on this score with the Iranian leadership".

The MFA says Iran should sign an additional protocol to the NPT which allows the IAEA to check facilities at short notice.

2 June 2003 Igor Ivanov says Russia hopes that the summits in Sharm al-Shaykh (Egypt) and Aqaba (Jordan), convened at the initiative of the USA, will contribute to the accomplishment of the aims set out in the "road map".

3 June 2003 The Ministry of Atomic Energy supports a G8 statement urging Iran to sign an additional protocol of the IAEA which would authorize the agency to step up the monitoring of Iran's nuclear programmes, a high-ranking ministry official told the press in commenting on the G8 summit outcomes. The Ministry of Atomic Energy is not tying Iran's joining the protocol to the construction of the Bushehr nuclear power plant in Iran under agreements between Russia and Iran.

3 June 2003 The MFA says the Russian embassy to Iraq will be led by charge d'affaires Aleksandr Kinshchak. A group of Russian diplomats is on its way to Iraq to resume full operation of the embassy.

3 June 2003 The Russian Union of Oil Industrialists says it hopes to restore many Russian oil companies' contracts in Iraq, after a recent meeting between Vladimir Putin and US President George Bush in St Petersburg.

3 June 2003 Igor Ivanov and Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Gul discuss the situation in the world's hotspots and bilateral cooperation, at a meeting in Madrid.

4 June 2003 The NATO-Russia Council meets in Madrid. Igor Ivanov attends. He says Russia will not take part in the NATO peacekeeping force in Afghanistan. The Council discusses Iraq and NATO widening.

4 June 2003 Igor Ivanov says Moscow has received firm assurances from Washington that Russian companies can take part in the post-war rebuilding of Iraq on the same conditions as US and other Western companies.

4 June 2003 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev says Russia will not supply the Bushehr facility with nuclear fuel before Iran pledges to return spent fuel to Russia. "Russia will supply fuel for the future nuclear power plant in Bushehr only after a protocol on additions to the intergovernmental agreement is signed, which makes provision for the return of spent fuel." He says that Moscow and Tehran have essentially reached an agreement to sign such a protocol.

4 June 2003 Russian Ambassador at Large Andrey Vdovin says Russia welcomes the constructive positions of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmud Abbas at the four-party talks in Aqaba, Jordan, with the participation of US President George W Bush and King Abdallah of Jordan. He also welcomes the Sharm al-Shaykh summit.

4 June 2003 US Secretary of State Colin Powell and Igor Ivanov have a telephone conversation.

4 June 2003 Senior Kremlin adviser Andrey Illarionov expresses doubts that Russia would gain anything by ratifying the Kyoto Protocol, which has been signed by more than 180 states.

4 June 2003 Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo meets in Moscow with a delegation from the Indian National Security Council.

4 June 2003 The MFA praises cooperation between Russia and the European Space Agency.

5 June 2003 The MFA says there is no need for the UN Security Council to adopt a special resolution on the issue of settlement in the Middle East.

5 June 2003 The Iranian ambassador in Moscow, Gholamreza Shafe'i, says Iran is ready, right now, to sign a protocol with Russia, additional to the international agreement envisaging the return of spent nuclear fuel to the Russian Federation.

A Russian Chronology: April-June 2003

5 June 2003 The MFA says that representatives of a number of Russian companies which had been working in Iraq have returned to that country.

5 June 2003 Federation Council chairman Sergey Mironov visits Lithuania for talks with the Lithuanian leadership.

5 June 2003 The MFA says Russia favours the preservation of Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integrity and would seek a guaranteed status for the separatist Dniester region. First Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov is on a visit to Moldova to continue a dialogue on further strengthening the Russian-Moldovan cooperation as well as for an item-by-item discussion of the state of the Dniester settlement talks.

6 June 2003 The Chechenpress website publishes a Chechen Foreign Ministry press release condemning the EU for helping Russian policy in Chechnya.

6 June 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says any finds related to WMD in Iraq must be verified by UNMOVIC and the IAEA.

The MFA says it will help Russian companies to establish contacts with the new authorities of Iraq.

The Baghdad office of LUKoil reopens.

6 June 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Mamedov is interviewed in *Vremya Novostey*. He says Russia's cooperation with Iran in the nuclear energy sphere is not stretching beyond the construction of the Bushehr nuclear power plant. He rejects US Under Secretary of State John Bolton's statement, accusing Russia of "conniving with the supply of mass destruction weapon technologies to Iran".

6 June 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov calls on the UN Security Council to back the "road map" plan, to settle the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

6 June 2003 Macedonian Minister of Economy Ilija Filipovski and representative of the Russian government Yuriy Shevchenko sign in Moscow a protocol on economic cooperation.

7 June 2003 Vladimir Putin signs the SORT treaty into law.

7 June 2003 A Duma delegation visits the US House of Representatives. It is led by Duma International Affairs Committee chairman Dmitriy Rogozin.

7 June 2003 Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says the draft of the intergovernmental agreement between Russia and Belarus on the

Dr Mark A Smith

introduction of the Russian rouble as the single currency of the Union State of Russia and Belarus on 1 January 2005 has been finalized.

7 June 2003 Vladimir Putin signs the federal law "On ratifying the Charter of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization".

8 June 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov visits Kazakhstan. He says Kazakhstan and Russia have concluded 53 agreements on military cooperation since the break-up of the USSR. Ivanov says that starting from 2004, Russia will be selling its weapons to the CIS Collective Security Treaty Organization signatories at Russia's domestic prices.

9 June 2003 The FSB states that arms and ammunition have been confiscated from the activists of the Hizb al-Tahrir al-Islami terrorist organization detained in Moscow on 6 June.

9 June 2003 Vladimir Putin issues a decree appointing Georgiy Mamedov Russian ambassador to Canada. Another decree releases Mamedov from his post as deputy minister of foreign affairs.

9 June 2003 Arkadiy Zlochevskiy, president of the Russian Grain Union, says Russia will be able to export no more than 6m tonnes of grain from this year's crops. Zlochevskiy says that Russia managed to export 16m tonnes of grain in 2002 and rose to third position in the world for grain export volumes.

9 June 2003 Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom visits Russia for talks with Igor Ivanov.

9 June 2003 Igor Ivanov says the Russian MFA will be promoting Russian firms in Iraq. He says before voting began on UN Security Council Resolution 1483, Russia received "the firm assurance of the US side that Russian business interests in Iraq would not suffer".

9 June 2003 Vladimir Putin and US President George Bush discuss the Middle East situation in a telephone conversation. They also discuss preparations for the Russian-US summit in America in September.

9 June 2003 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says Afghanistan still remains a source of real threat to the whole world. He is still in Kazakhstan.

9 June 2003 Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo visits Poland for talks with the head of the Polish National Security Bureau Marek Siwiec.

A Russian Chronology: April-June 2003

9 June 2003 Finnish Prime Minister Anneli Jäätteenmäki visits Russia for trade talks. Russian-Finnish trade amounted to 7bn euros in 2002. Following Germany and the Netherlands, Finland was Russia's third biggest foreign trading partner.

9 June 2003 The Baltic Fleet takes part in the Baltops-2003 naval exercise in the Baltic Sea. 38 vessels from 12 countries including US and British ships are taking part.

10 June 2003 Vladimir Putin has telephone conversations with the Israeli and Palestinian prime ministers, Ariel Sharon and Mahmud Abbas.

The MFA's special representative for a Middle East settlement and ambassador-at-large, Andrey Vdovin, leaves for the Middle East.

10 June 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says Moscow is ready to play a more active role in talks to resolve the North Korea nuclear issue.

10 June 2003 Antiterrorist units from Russia and Ukraine complete a special operation to free hostages and neutralize terrorists at the Kerch sea port, part of tactical exercises code-named Azov-Antiterror-2003.

11 June 2003 Vladimir Putin rejects claims that Russia will sell off Kaliningrad in exchange for debts.

11 June 2003 The MFA condemns the bus bombing in Jerusalem. It also criticises the Israeli military action in Gaza.

11 June 2003 Igor Ivanov attends a meeting of the Council of Baltic States at the level of foreign ministers in Finland.

11 June 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says that "without taking Russia's interests into account, it is almost impossible" to solve the problem of North Korean nuclear programme. He says "Russia believes that any format is acceptable to solve this problem". He says North Korea should be given security guarantees.

11 June 2003 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov has talks with his Ukrainian counterpart Viktor Yanukovich. Kasyanov says negative aspects hindering the project of developing the An-70 Russian-Ukrainian aircraft have been removed.

11 June 2003 The MFA expresses concern over disturbing trends in the process of conflict settlement in Kosovo.

Dr Mark A Smith

12 June 2003 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia does not think the presence of its servicemen among peacekeepers in Iraq is possible. He meets US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in Brussels.

12 June 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia will supply nuclear fuel for Iran's nuclear power station only after Tehran signs a memorandum committing itself to shipping spent nuclear fuel back to Russia.

12 June 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says that Russia has suggested the USA take part in Russian military exercises in the Pacific Ocean at the end of August.

13 June 2003 Russia has proposed establishing a military liaison mission at NATO's Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe.

13 June 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says that Russia-NATO are stepping up cooperation in the sphere of nonstrategic air defence and in developing a peacekeeping concept and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, arms control and the disposal of ammunition. He says Russian force will not participate in operations in Afghanistan.

14 June 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says Russia "attaches great importance to the UN factor in the Middle East settlement". Fedotov says "Russia believes that the support for the 'road map' which was expressed by the UN Security Council on behalf of the world community increases the chances of its successful implementation ... it is very important that the [UN Security] Council has focused on the need for a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, including the Syrian and Lebanese tracks".

Russia's special envoy for the region, Andrey Vdovin, and the secretary-general of the Arab League, Amr Mahmud Musa have talks in Cairo. Igor Ivanov also talks with Amr Musa by telephone.

14 June 2003 Nikolay Bordyuzha, secretary-general of the CIS Collective Security Treaty, is interviewed on *Mayak Radio*.

15 June 2003 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov visits Pakistan and then travels to India.

15 June 2003 Special envoy Andrey Vdovin, the special representative of the Russian Federation foreign minister, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Mahir and political adviser to the country's president Usamah al-Baz have talks in Egypt.

15 June 2003 General Kim Jin Ho, the chairman of the Republic of Korea Joint Chiefs of Staff, visits Russia.

A Russian Chronology: April-June 2003

15 June 2003 Deputy Defence Minister and Chairman of the Committee for Military-Technical Cooperation With Foreign Countries Mikhail Dmitriyev visits Uzbekistan and signs a military-technical cooperation agreement.

16 June 2003 Igor Ivanov visits India. He discusses Iraq, Afghanistan, military-technical cooperation and trilateral Russo-Indian-Chinese cooperation.

16 June 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says he hopes that Iran will join the additional protocol of the IAEA, which would give the IAEA greater access to Iranian nuclear facilities.

16 June 2003 The MFA says Russia "hopes that no destabilization of the internal political situation will be allowed in Iran". This follows student demonstrations in Tehran that have called for general democratization.

16 June 2003 The Eurasian Economic Community's Interparliamentary Assembly meets in St Petersburg.

17 June 2003 Vladimir Putin sends a message of greetings to the participants and guests of the parliamentary conference on pan-European cooperation in St Petersburg.

17 June 2003 Russia's special envoy Andrey Vdovin says a cease-fire and the resumption of a political dialogue with the aim of implementing all points of the "road map" plan are priority tasks for Russian peacekeeping efforts and the "quartet". He is having talks in Syria. He says the road map should include Syria and Lebanon.

17 June 2003 A Russian delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Safonov visits Saudi Arabia for talks.

17 June 2003 The Ministry of Atomic Energy says it fully supports the IAEA proposal to all countries which have an advanced nuclear programme, including Iran, to sign and introduce as soon as possible an additional protocol to the agreement on guarantees. MinAtom says "Russia is cooperating with Iran only as far as the construction of the generating set at the Bushehr nuclear power station is concerned and it has not supplied any nuclear materials".

17 June 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says that Russia is ready to assist NATO in its upcoming peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan.

17 June 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov and American Ambassador to Russia Aleksandr Vershbow meet in Moscow. They state that Russia and the United States confirm their intention "to coordinate political and diplomatic efforts

Dr Mark A Smith

in order to strengthen security and stability in the global and regional dimensions". Russia and the US "will interact both on the bilateral basis and within the framework of international mechanisms, including the United Nations".

17 June 2003 C-in-C of Ground Troops and Deputy Defence Minister Gen Nikolay Kormiltsev meets Britain's Chief of General Staff Gen Sir Michael Jackson to discuss UK-Russian military cooperation. They say that Russian and British armed forces will jointly participate in antiterrorist operations.

First deputy chief of the General Staff of the armed forces Col-Gen Yuriy Baluyevskiy says it is planned to conduct a joint Russian-American bilateral antiballistic missile defence exercise in the theatre of military operations in Russia at the beginning of 2004.

18 June 2003 The Duma ratifies in a unanimous vote the Russian-Azerbaijani agreement on the delimitation of the Caspian Sea floor signed in Moscow on 23 September 2002. Russia has not yet reached similar agreements with Turkmenistan or Iran.

18 June 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia does not have any intention of sending her servicemen to fulfil peacekeeping tasks in Iraq. He also says no Russian forces will be sent to Afghanistan.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says that Russia may send peacekeeping forces to the Middle East should the possibility arise.

18 June 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov say Russia is prepared to take an active part in the post-war rebuilding of Iraq. He is attending the ASEAN conference in Phnom Penh.

Igor Ivanov expresses concern over the ongoing efforts by alliances to deploy nonstrategic missile defence systems in the Asia-Pacific region.

18 June 2003 Andrey Vdovin, special envoy of the Russian foreign minister and ambassador at large, visits Lebanon.

18 June 2003 Russian permanent representative to international organizations in Vienna, Ambassador Grigoriy Berdennikov, says Iran must sign a protocol to the agreement on guarantees with the IAEA.

Valentin Kuznetsov, Tekhnopromeksport chairman, says Russia has started to implement the Tabas thermal power plant project in Iran.

18 June 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says that tension around the North Korean "nuclear issue" should not be allowed to escalate. This problem must be resolved "exclusively by peaceful political and diplomatic means". He says: "By using the potential of its relations with the USA and North Korea, Moscow is

prepared to discuss, and actually take part in negotiations within formats currently proposed by various sides."

Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says Russia doesn't see as advisable the introduction of UN sanctions against North Korea. Fedotov says the issue of sanctions against North Korea, "a country which finds itself in an extremely difficult economic situation, on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe, would be counterproductive". "Russia comes out for a comprehensive settlement with regard to the so-called "DPRK nuclear issue". He says this approach is based on "a package of proposals and includes securing the Korean peninsula's nuclear-free status and complying with international accords and agreements, such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty". Also, "security guarantees should be provided for all the states, including the DPRK, and a solution to the urgent economic and humanitarian problems this country is facing should be found". He welcomes the US-DPRK-China talks that took place in Beijing in April. Fedotov does not rule out that the UN may deal with this issue.

South Korean Trade Minister Hwang Doo-yun visits Russia. He welcomes Russian involvement in settling the North Korea nuclear question. He says: "Both the USA, North Korea, South Korea, Japan, China and also Russia should in future take part in the process of a diplomatic settlement of the DPRK 'nuclear question' ... to achieve a positive result, it is necessary considerably to increase cooperation on the part of all interested states."

Deputy chairman of the Duma International Committee Leonid Slutskiy says that it would be premature to take a tough stance against North Korea on nuclear weapons. "I hope that sober-minded political forces in the world will manage to demonstrate a well-balanced approach and prevent further use of force against countries seen by the United States as parts of an axis of evil. The world community, including Russia, must work with North Korea. If any country admits its possession of nuclear weapons, that should be taken seriously. But it does not imply pressure. A declaration of possession of nuclear weapons doesn't automatically mean that the country has aggressive plans. It shouldn't be regarded as an attempt to bring down the world order and used as a pretext for intervention by international organizations."

18 June 2003 Russian ambassador to Canada Georgiy Mamedov says Russia does not rule out the possibility of tripartite cooperation with the United States and Canada on a non-strategic theatre ABM system.

18 June 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia is planning "to create new military bases abroad, including in Kyrgyzstan". He says Russia has a military presence in practically all the CIS countries.

Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov calls for closer economic integration in the CIS.

19 June 2003 Igor Ivanov calls for direct contacts between the ASEAN antiterrorist centre and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). He hails the Russia-ASEAN joint declaration on partnership in ensuring security, prosperity and development in the Asia-Pacific region.

19 June 2003 The Duma's international affairs committee decides to include Turkmenistan in the list of states to which Russian citizens are advised not to travel.

19 June 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says Russia has welcomed the balanced statement on Iran circulated by the IAEA Board of Governors, without the issuing of tough resolutions.

19 June 2003 US ambassador to Russia Alexander Vershbow is interviewed in *Moskovskiy Komsomolets*.

19 June 2003 The Russian foreign minister's special envoy Andrey Vdovin says a cease-fire agreement is needed as soon as possible in the Palestinian-Israeli confrontation zone.

20 June 2003 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev says Russia will begin supplies of nuclear fuel for Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant only after Iran has put all of its nuclear facilities under the control of the IAEA and provided answers to all questions the IAEA may ask. He says Iran is demonstrating a "high degree of readiness to make its nuclear programme transparent".

20 June 2003 Deputy Finance Minister Sergey Kolotukhin says Russia and South Korea have reached agreement on restructuring Soviet-era debt of 2.2bn dollars.

20 June 2003 Russia and Lithuania sign an agreement on a simplified railway transit to Kaliningrad Region via Lithuania. The agreement is signed in Moscow by Sergey Razov, a deputy Russian foreign minister, from the Russian side, and his Lithuanian counterpart Dainius Jurgelevicius.

20 June 2003 The Duma issues a tough statement on the violation of human rights in Turkmenistan.

21 June 2003 Igor Ivanov says the world's nations should take into account the interests of the world community when protecting their national interests. He says the new world order should be democratic and multipolar and the UN and its Security Council should play "a central coordinating role" in it.

21 June 2003 Valentin Kuznetsov, Tekhnopromeksport chairman, says Russia will take part in a tender for expansion of the Isfahan thermal power plant, one of the largest in Iran.

21 June 2003 Chief of the General Staff Anatoliy Kvashnin warns of the danger of external powers interfering in the country's domestic affairs under the guise of eradicating international terrorism. He says the armed forces should be prepared

A Russian Chronology: April-June 2003

to counter such interference. He is speaking at a graduation ceremony at the General Staff Academy.

22 June 2003 Igor Ivanov attends a meeting of the Quartet in Amman. He says Israel must settle its relations with Syria and Lebanon. Ivanov also discusses the Iraq situation with Jordanian King Abdallah II.

22 June 2003 The chairman of the Federation Council Committee on International Affairs and deputy chairman of PACE, Mikhail Margelov, says peace cannot be brought to relations between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority "without compulsion". "However, this process needs permanent control and intervention from sponsors of the settlement. The four international mediators will sooner or later have to bring themselves to be directly involved in the process of implementation of the road map ... speaking about direct involvement, I am referring to different forms of international presence in disputed territories and monitoring the progress of implementation of the road map." He says an "international presence, especially military presence, must be based on consent from both conflicting parties. It is impossible to achieve this without compulsion. Without it, there will be no peace in the Middle East ... I believe that the sponsors wield enough leverage to convince the sides to accept an international presence in occupied territories."

23 June 2003 First Deputy Foreign Minister Valeriy Loshchinin says Turkmenistan has confirmed that the status of Turkmen citizens who also have Russian citizenship will not change after 22 June.

23 June 2003 Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko has talks with EU officials on a Russia-EU single economic space.

Khristenko says that the European Union is ready to take part in financing a feasibility study on a North European gas pipeline.

24 June 2003 Viktor Khristenko says Russia is so far not ready to sign a gas transit protocol to the Energy Charter calling for liberalization of transit gas deliveries.

24 June 2003 Ambassador Mikhail Mayorov, Russia's co-chairman on the mixed monitoring commission for the Georgian-Osetian settlement, says Russia is dissatisfied with the pace of settling the Georgian-Osetia conflict.

24 June 2003 Vladimir Putin begins a state visit to Britain.

24 June 2003 Two-day Russian-Japanese consultations on antiterrorism end in Moscow. The delegations were headed by Anatoliy Safonov and Takahiko Horimura, the deputy foreign ministers of Russia and Japan.

24 June 2003 Greek defence minister Ioannos Papandoniou visits Russia.

25 June 2003 Presidential economics adviser Andrey Illarionov says Russia may fully repay its foreign debt by 2010, 20 years earlier than originally expected.

25 June 2003 The MFA criticises the Lithuanian Defence Minister Linas Linkevicius' recent statement to the effect that NATO should set up military bases in Lithuania or in the neighbouring Baltic states after their admission to the alliance.

25 June 2003 The Federation Council ratifies the agreement with Azerbaijan on the delimitation of neighbouring sections of the Caspian Sea floor.

25 June 2003 Kyrgyz defence minister Esen Topoyev discusses the establishment of a Russian air base at Kyrgyzstan's Kant airfield during Topoyev's visit to Moscow.

25 June 2003 Vladimir Putin says Russia is not seeking "to join the EU in full format".

25 June 2003 The Iraqi Embassy suspends work in Moscow.

25 June 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov has talks with North Korean Ambassador to Russia Pak Ui Chun. Moscow and Pyongyang confirm their adherence to further development of cooperation on the high level. They discuss the North Korean nuclear programme.

26 June 2003 Vladimir Putin and British Prime Minister Tony Blair sign a bilateral memorandum on the North European gas pipeline. The document establishes the aims and ways of creating a huge gas pipeline that will start from Russia, go across the bottom of the Baltic and North seas, to the countries of western Europe, including the UK.

26 June 2003 The MFA says no-one has given up Russian citizenship in Turkmenistan, following the decision of the Turkmen government to end the dual citizenship agreement.

26 June 2003 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says Russia is going to issue 670m dollars in loans to other states in 2004.

26 June 2003 The MFA says Moscow has "no problems whatsoever in discussing the Iranian issue with the USA".

26 June 2003 A Russian delegation leaves Ankara to after discussing gas relations. Russia and Turkey have failed to settle their differences and reach a compromise regarding the delivery of Russian gas to Turkey along the "Blue Stream" pipeline.

26 June 2003 The MFA says Russia is prepared to share in talks in a broader format on the Korean situation. "Quite a few people now demand that multilateral talks on the North Korean issue should continue. If the format of the talks is expanded, Russia's participation in them would be logical and welcomed by the other parties to the talks ... Russia sees its role in the talks as active, but will decide on its involvement depending on the situation ... Russia has historically been involved in the affairs of the neighbouring Korean Peninsula, and as a depositary of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, has a significant role to play in maintaining the nonproliferation regime."

26 June 2003 The MFA says Russia has not altered its stand on territorial issues with Japan.

27 June 2003 Dmitriy Rogozin, presidential envoy for Kaliningrad Region problems and head of the Duma International Affairs Committee, says the problem of the Russian enclave on the Baltic has been virtually resolved.

27 June 2003 The MFA says it hopes that Ashgabat will abide by the assurances given earlier relating to protection of the rights of Russian citizens in Turkmenistan.

Turkmenistan President Saparmyrat Niyazov invites a Russian delegation to obtain first-hand information about the life of Russian citizens in Turkmenistan. He says the Russian members of the bilateral commission on citizenship issues were expected in Ashgabat soon. Niyazov specifies that he annulled dual citizenship because "some dishonest people bought passports".

27 June 2003 Chairman of the Duma Defence Committee Andrey Nikolayev says even the probability of deployment of foreign military bases, including those of NATO, in Lithuania is unacceptable for Russia. He meets Lithuanian Defence Minister Linas Linkevicius in Moscow.

27 June 2003 Aleksandr Grushko, director of the Foreign Ministry's European department, says Moscow is concerned over delays in implementing the adapted Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty.

27 June 2003 The chief of the navy's staff, Adm Vladimir Kravchenko, says the Russian navy will shift to contract service by 2007.

28 June 2003 The Chechen State Council elects its governing bodies - the presidium and eight standing commissions.

28 June 2003 Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski visits Putin on the Marshal Ustinov cruiser on the Baltic Sea. They discuss the visa regime for Kaliningrad.

28 June 2003 French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin visits Moscow for talks with Mikhail Kasyanov. The main purpose of the talks is to prepare for the next, ninth session of the intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation, scheduled for 6 October. France ranks seventh among Russia's top 10 trade partners. With bilateral trade turnover at 4.5bn dollars in 2002, French investments in the Russian economy stood at 3.4bn dollars, which makes France the fifth largest foreign investor in Russia.

Gazprom and Gaz de France sign a cooperation memorandum.

28 June 2003 Vladimir Putin says Russia can play an important role in supplying energy resources to Northern Europe and Europe as a whole. "Within the next 10 to 15 years Europe will obviously experience a shortage of energy resources...the time when the reserves of Britain and Norway begin to give out is not far off, and the only resources for Northern Europe, the most acceptable economically, will be the resources of the Russian Federation."

28 June 2003 Culture Minister Mikhail Shvydkoy accuses the Turkmen authorities of carrying out genocide of Russian culture.

Sergey Apatenko, deputy head of the Duma Committee for CIS Affairs, and other Duma deputies meet the Turkmen ambassador in Moscow to consider problems of Russian nationals living in Turkmenistan. The reason for the meeting is a Russian-Turkmen agreement to abolish dual Russian-Turkmen citizenship, after which the Turkmen leadership has been trying to pressure dual citizens living in Turkmenistan into renouncing their Russian nationality.

28 June 2003 The MFA expresses regret over reports of a decision by the Belarusian authorities to deport NTV's correspondent in Minsk Pavel Selin.

28 June 2003 Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi visits Russia. She has discussions on economic cooperation, energy ties and North Korea.

28 June 2003 Finnish President Tarja Halonen visits Arkhangelsk. She calls for a gradual abolition of visas between Russia and EU countries.

29 June 2003 Russia and France agree to develop a military aircraft together.

29 June 2003 The Pacific Fleet's naval unit comprising the Admiral Panteleyev and Marshal Shaposhnikov large antisubmarine ships and the Vladimir Kolechitskiy military tanker returned from the Indra-2003 joint exercises with the Indian navy together with a naval unit representing the Black Sea Fleet.

A Russian Chronology: April-June 2003

30 June 2003 Igor Ivanov confirms Russia's commitment to its obligations to construct a nuclear power station at Bushehr in strict compliance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Ivanov meets in Moscow with Iranian Vice-President and chairman of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization Gholam Reza Aqazadeh. The MFA calls for Iran's accession to the additional IAEA protocol, in connection with the NPT. Security Council secretary Vladimir Rushaylo makes the same request.

30 June 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and US Secretary of State Colin Powell talk by telephone. They confirm their intention to continue with the road map for the Middle East. Russia also underscores the importance of the earliest possible formation of legitimate and internationally supported authorities in Iraq.

30 June 2003 Viktor Kalyuzhnyy, the Russian deputy foreign minister and presidential envoy for Caspian issues, says Iran is now more willing to seek a compromise in defining the status of the Caspian Sea.

30 June 2003 Chairman Yuriy Shafranik says Stroyneftegaz has begun intensive talks with the new Iraqi leadership to return to Iraqi oil fields.

30 June 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov visits Ukraine.

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