

Russian Foreign Policy: A Chronology

July-September 2003

July

1 July 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov visits Slovakia.

Igor Ivanov says the world community has to provide help to Iraq in creating a legitimate Iraqi administration as soon as possible.

1 July 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia is not planning to send its peacekeepers to Iraq. He also says Russia has no plans to join NATO.

1 July 2003 Mongolian Prime Minister Nambaryn Enhbayar visits Russia for talks with Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov.

1 July 2003 The Foreign Ministry (MFA) says that a protocol will be signed soon on Iran's returning spent nuclear fuel to Russia.

Iranian Vice-President and head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization Gholam Reza Aqazadeh proposes that Russia should take part in constructing several more nuclear power plants in Iran. Aqazadeh says that soon Moscow and Tehran will announce the date for signing the additional protocol on return of spent nuclear fuel to the intergovernmental cooperation agreement, and a schedule of the first shipment of fuel assemblies for the Bushehr nuclear power plant.

1 July 2003 The Central Bank states that Russia's foreign debt reached 153.5bn dollars as of 1 April.

1 July 2003 Viktor Khristenko, a Russian deputy prime minister, says the implementation of the North European gas pipeline project will take at least 7-8 years.

2 July 2003 The Minister of Atomic Energy Aleksandr Rumyantsev says he views as groundless the West's criticism of Russian-Iranian nuclear cooperation. He says Russia is not supplying nuclear military know-how to Iran, and criticises those who "demand on these grounds that the construction of the Bushehr nuclear power plant be stopped ... I would like to say officially that there is no cooperation between Russia and Iran other than that on the peaceful utilization of nuclear technology."

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Iranian Vice-President Gholamreza Aqazadeh says he is hopeful that Russia will begin supplying nuclear fuel to the atomic power plant in Bushehr shortly.

2 July 2003 Vladimir Putin and US President Bush talk by telephone.

2 July 2003 Igor Ivanov arrives in Hungary. He says Russia must avoid a 'legal vacuum' in Russia's relations with the countries that are going to join the EU.

2 July 2003 The MFA welcomes the recent meeting between Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmud Abbas and his Israeli counterpart Ariel Sharon.

2 July 2003 Russian human rights commissioner Oleg Mironov meets representatives from the Russian diaspora in Turkmenistan to discuss the situation there after the abrogation of dual citizenship in the country.

3 July 2003 Deputy Finance Minister Sergey Kolotukhin says Russia's principal foreign debt is expected to be reduced to 118bn dollars by the end of 2003. The principal debt amounted to 122.1bn dollars as of 1 January 2003.

3 July 2003 Minister of Economic Development and Trade German Gref and European Union Commissioner on Trade Pascal Lamy discuss in Strasbourg conditions of Russia's entry into the World Trade Organization.

3 July 2003 Vladimir Putin signs a federal law on the ratification of the agreement between Russia and Azerbaijan on the delimitation of the Caspian Sea bottom. The Russian parliament's lower house passed the law on 18 June and the Federation Council, the upper house, approved it on 25 June. The agreement was signed in Moscow in September 2002.

3 July 2003 The chief of the CIS antiterrorist centre, Col-Gen Boris Mylnikov, says Islamic radical and extremist organizations which strive for setting up a united Islamic state in the Central Asian region have stepped up their activities in the CIS countries of late. Mylnikov says that the main external threat for CIS countries "comes from the south and mainly from Afghanistan".

3 July 2003 The MFA says that after Russian peacekeepers are withdrawn from Kosovo, over 100 officers of the MVD will remain in that region.

3 July 2003 The Russian Orthodox Church expresses gratitude to Vladimir Putin for understanding its position in the dialogue with the Vatican.

3 July 2003 Romanian President Ion Iliescu visits Russia.

Gazprom chief Aleksey Miller discusses future cooperation in the gas sphere with Iliescu. They discuss the possibility of implementing joint projects for the transport and storage of gas on Romanian territory, and also the possibility of privatizing the gas transport system there.

Gazprom supplied Romania with 3.5bn cubic metres of gas in 2002 compared with 2.9bn cubic metres in 2001. It is expected that supplies in 2003 may increase almost 80%. Russia began supplying natural gas to Romania in 1979 and had supplied about 94.6bn cubic metres by 1 July 2003.

4 July 2003 Vladimir Putin says trade between the EU and Russia will grow by more than 50% after the EU enlargement.

4 July 2003 Vladimir Putin and his Romanian counterpart Ion Iliescu sign a treaty on friendship and cooperation.

4 July 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Saltanov, who is in charge of Russia's relations with Middle East and African countries says Russia's contacts with the Iraqi national forces "will be continued". He says: "Russia has never turned its back on Iraq. Our relations are of long standing and have been developing for decades. Now it is important not to break off our economic relations, which are important for the restoration of normal life in Iraq."

Saltanov says "it is beyond all doubt that the Iraqi developments continue to affect the situation in the region. This requires strenuous international efforts to bring about post-war reconstruction in Iraq on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 1483. At this moment the Iraqis must be given a chance to create transitional and eventually full-fledged bodies of state power. This will bring about early political stabilization in Iraq and greater security there, and also make it possible to take steps to repair the Iraqi economy and address acute social issues. One cannot but take into account the sentiment in Arab society the war in Iraq has fermented. This sentiment is far from optimistic. One of the greatest risks is that such an atmosphere may be used by extremists, whose tactics have never promoted stabilization in the region. This is the reason why it is important for the international community to pay special attention to the solution of Middle East problems. Active assistance is required to the international quartet of mediators (Russia, the United States, the European Union and the United Nations) in the interests of resuming efforts aimed at a political settlement of the Palestinian issue. Systematic, practical implementation of steps under the "road map" plan by the Palestinians and the Israelis is of paramount importance."

4 July 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Saltanov urges well-considered steps for the resumption of the negotiating process between Israel and Syria and Israel and Lebanon.

4 July 2003 Omani deputy foreign minister Badr Bin-Hamad Al Bu-Sa'id has talks in Moscow with Deputy foreign minister Aleksandr Saltanov.

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4 July 2003 The commander-in-chief of the Russian Ground Troops, Deputy Defence Minister Nikolay Kormiltsev, gives information on the Russian peace-keeping contingent in Kosovo. Since the Russian military contingent was deployed in Kosovo in 1999, 14 of its members have been killed and 17 others injured. Russia's military presence in the Balkans is ending this month. As of 4 July the Russian contingent of 320 men has been withdrawn from Bosnia and half of the contingent - 270 men - has left Kosovo. The last train carrying Russian troops is scheduled to leave Kosovo for Russia on 30 July. It will take 50 peacekeepers to the Moscow Military District. This will be the end of Russia's military presence in the Balkans.

4 July 2003 Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo and Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov have talks in Moscow. They confirm their readiness to coordinate actions "for maintaining peace and stability in Korea and in Northeast Asia in general". They advocate using exclusively peaceful means to ensure the Korean peninsula's nuclear-free status and to settle the crisis around North Korea's nuclear programme, with proper consideration of the security concerns of North Korea and of other countries of the region.

4 July 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says "It is necessary urgently to form a legitimate government for Iraq ... Russia, together with the other countries, will be ready to help the legitimate government."

5 July 2003 Vladimir Putin appoints Sergey Kislyak to the post of deputy foreign minister. He will be in charge of disarmament issues. Kislyak has been Russia's ambassador to Belgium since February 1998. Over the same period he also served as the country's permanent representative to NATO, until replaced by Gen Konstantin Totskiy in March 2003.

5 July 2003 Vladimir Putin signs a resolution to send officials from the Interior Ministry to Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of the EU police mission. The resolution was signed after a request from the EU to involve Russian policemen in its mission there.

6 July 2003 Vladimir Putin cancels his visits to Uzbekistan and Malaysia following the Tushino suicide bombing.

US President George Bush telephones Vladimir Putin to express condolences following the bombing.

6 July 2003 Russian Ambassador to Iran Aleksandr Maryasov meets Esfahan Province Governor-General Seyyed Mahmud Hoseyni. Maryasov says Russia will continue its nuclear relationship with Iran.

7 July 2003 A Russian-French joint naval exercise starts in the Norwegian Sea.

7 July 2003 Goskomstat reports that Russia's foreign trade surplus increased to 29.9bn dollars in the first five months of 2003, from 22.1bn dollars in the same period of 2002.

Foreign trade in January-May 2003 totalled 70.5bn dollars, up 25.6% year-on-year. Exports increased 28.3% to 50.2bn dollars and imports rose 19.5% to 20.3bn dollars.

Foreign trade with countries outside the former Soviet Union reached 58.5bn dollars (25.2% up), while foreign trade with CIS countries reached 12bn dollars (28% up) in January-May.

Russia's exports outside the former Soviet Union were up 27.5% to 42.7bn dollars in January-May, while exports to CIS countries were up 33.2% to 7.5bn dollars. Russian imports from outside the former Soviet Union amounted to 15.8bn dollars (19.2% growth), while imports from CIS countries made 4.5bn dollars (20.3% growth).

The foreign trade surplus with countries outside the former Soviet Union was 26.9bn dollars (as against 20.3bn dollars in January-May 2002), while the index for CIS countries was 2.9bn dollars (1.8bn dollars).

Fuel and energy made 61.2% of the total exports outside the former Soviet Union in January-May 2003 (56.5% in January-May 2002). The share of metal and metal products was 14.4% (16.3%); the share of machine-building products was 5.7% (7.4%); chemical products, 6.7% (6.5%); timber and paper and pulp products, 4.6% (5.4%).

Russia's leading trade partners in January-May 2003 were Germany (10% of Russian total trade, 9.9% in the same period in 2002), Belarus (6.5% to 6.3%), Italy (6.1% to 6.7%), Ukraine (6% to 5.8%), China (6% to 5.6%), the Netherlands (5.2% to 6%), the United States (3.7% to 4.8%), and Finland (3.6% to 3%).

7 July 2003 Igor Ivanov has talks with Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

7 July 2003 A Russo-Saudi economic forum takes place in Moscow.

7 July 2003 Deputy Atomic Energy Minister Sergey Antipov says Russia and the United Kingdom plan to sign contracts worth 56m dollars in autumn 2003 for the disposal of nuclear-powered submarines and the implementation of other nuclear environmental projects in Russia.

7 July 2003 First Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Russian armed forces Col-Gen Yuriy Baluyevskiy says Russia is waiting for response from European Union countries to specific proposals on military cooperation. He is attending the conference "EU-Russia: common European policy and the challenges of the new world", which opens in Rome on 8 July. Baluyevskiy notes that "most EU countries are NATO members ... However, a defence component is being set up in the framework of the European Union, which will be less susceptible to US influence."

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8 July 2003 Exports of Russian gas in January-May 2003 amounted to 81.78bn cu.m. - up 2% year-on-year. Exports of natural gas to outside the CIS in January-May amounted to 62.5bn cu.m. for 7.69bn dollars, with exports to the CIS of 19.27bn cu.m. for 853.9m dollars. Most natural gas exports went to Germany (14.89bn cu.m.), Italy (8.84bn cu.m.), Ukraine (9.7bn cu.m.) and Belarus (8.2bn cu.m.). Natural gas exports in 2002 amounted to 181.7bn cu.m. for 15.5bn dollars.

Russian oil exports in January-May 2003 amounted to 86.14m tonnes, up 15% year-on-year. Russian oil exports to outside the CIS in January-May 2003 amounted to over 70.6m tonnes for 12.64bn dollars. Most oil exports went to Germany (10.14m tonnes), Italy (7.86m tonnes), Holland (6.78m tonnes) and Poland (6.67m tonnes). Exports to the CIS in the first five months of the year amounted to over 15.53m tonnes of oil for 1.9bn dollars, including exports to Ukraine and Belarus of 6.49m tonnes and 7.8m tonnes respectively (817.4m and 966.5m dollars).

8 July 2003 Vladimir Putin receives members of the Russia-France security cooperation council, Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov and Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, and their French opposite numbers, Michele Alliot-Marie and Dominique de Villepin. Putin says that Russia and France share common approaches to building security in the world, and commitment to norms of international law and the UN's key role.

8 July 2003 The MFA expresses regret at the Belarusian government's decision to close the Russian NTV correspondent's office in Minsk.

8 July 2003 Igor Ivanov says Russia thinks it important to start drafting road maps for the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese settlement processes. He says: "A possible international conference aimed at the comprehensive solution of Mideast problems is under consideration."

Igor Ivanov and Colin Powell speak by telephone. They discuss the Middle East peace process. On 9 July, Ivanov is going to Belgium and Italy and then to the Middle East, where he is planning to visit Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and the territories of the Palestinian National Administration.

8 July 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says Moscow is ready to help NATO to carry out the antiterrorist operation in Afghanistan by providing military and transport aviation and transit through Russia.

8 July 2003 The head of the Kremlin administration, Aleksandr Voloshin, visits Moldova. He has talks with Moldovan President Vladimir Voronin on Transdnestr. He also meets with Transdnestrian president Igor Smirnov in Tiraspol.

8 July 2003 Duma Chairman Gennadiy Seleznev attends the 12th session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Rotterdam. He says he believes that the national parliaments of Europe should compel Latvian and Estonian authorities to protect the rights of the Russian-speaking population in the republics.

9 July 2003 Marshal Mohammad Qasem Fahim, the Afghan defence minister, arrives in St Petersburg to discuss regional military cooperation.

9 July 2003 The Russian and Georgian MFAs hold consultations in Moscow on expanding cooperation in the fight with international terrorism including curbing the subversive activity of gunmen on the Georgian-Russian border. First Deputy Foreign Minister Valeriy Loshchinin headed the Russian delegation and Deputy Foreign Minister Merab Antadze the Georgian.

9 July 2003 Energy Minister Igor Yusufov and the director-general of Japan's Agency for Natural Resources and Energy, Iwao Okamoto, hold talks in Moscow on energy cooperation.

9 July 2003 The MFA says Russia regards it as important to bring into force as quickly as possible the protocol supplementing the European convention on stopping terrorism, which was recently approved by the Council of Europe and signed by Russia. MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says that the document "establishes the possibility of creating a special system for monitoring how each country fulfils its obligations to extradite terrorists".

9 July 2003 The head of the Duma Committee on CIS Affairs, Andrey Kokoshin, criticises the appearance in Georgia of a NATO AWACS aircraft. He says: "We are talking of a certain strong-arm pressure being applied to us from the South Caucasus direction, which I believe to be quite unnecessary in the present situation. It neither meets our interests, nor Georgian interests nor American interests."

10 July 2003 Igor Ivanov visits Belgium. He says Russia has the political will to stabilize the situation in Chechnya and rebuild it and it intends to work with international organizations in accordance with international norms. He says that Chechnya will have more autonomy than other Russian regions.

Igor Ivanov in Belgium repeats calls for working out a "road map" on the Israeli-Lebanese and Israeli-Syrian tracks of the Middle East process.

10 July 2003 MinAtom spokesman Nikolay Shingarev says "Russia is in favour of IAEA control over the nuclear programmes of all the Middle East nations". He says Russia is backing the IAEA efforts "to persuade Tehran to sign an additional guarantees protocol to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons". He says Russia backs the IAEA's efforts assume control over Israel's nuclear programme.

The MFA says Moscow and Tehran do not have essential differences about a bilateral agreement on return of nuclear waste from Iran. MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says: "The agreement is under environmental examination. As soon as it is over, the agreement will be signed."

10 July 2003 PUK Secretary-General Jalal Talabani visits Moscow.

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10 July 2003 The MFA expresses concern over Georgia's plans to use NATO's AWACS planes for air surveillance.

10 July 2003 The adviser at the Russian Political Studies Centre, Lt-Gen Vasiliy Lata, says the Russian-American centre for the exchange of data provided by an early warning system and notification of the launching of ballistic missiles will be commissioned in Moscow at the beginning of 2004.

11 July 2003 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev says Russia expects Iran to make its nuclear activities more transparent. He says no war-grade nuclear technologies have been found in Iran. Iran has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and all of its nuclear sites are being put under control. He says that thus, the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry will meet in full its commitments in the construction of the nuclear power plant in Bushehr. He still "calls on Iran to sign the IAEA additional protocol to the Non-Proliferation Treaty".

11 July 2003 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says Moscow will continue to provide military and technical assistance for Afghanistan. Afghan Defence Minister Mohammad Qasem Fahim is visiting Russia.

11 July 2003 The MFA warns Georgia over using NATO AWACS for air reconnaissance.

11 July 2003 Swiss President Pascal Couchepin says Switzerland "is ready for a non-bureaucratic and generous solution to the problem of the Russian Tu-154 crash over Lake Constance" in 2002. The Swiss and German governments will set up a compensation fund for the families of the air crash victims.

11 July 2003 Igor Ivanov visits Italy. He says Russia is not seeking EU membership.

11 July 2003 MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says Moscow is ready to work with the USA on creating a mechanism for monitoring the fulfilment of the so-called road map for the Middle East. Igor Ivanov will visit will visit Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and territories controlled by the Palestinian Authority over the period 13-17 July.

12 July 2003 US ambassador to Russia Alexander Vershbow says the USA does not view the Russian embassy in Iraq as a diplomatic mission at present and does not assume responsibility for its staff's safety. He says: "We are not creating any obstacles for the Russian staff in their work in the building of the former Russian embassy in Baghdad, however, we do not view their presence as a diplomatic mission...we still think that it is unwise for diplomats to go to Iraq and open missions there, because there is no official government there to deal with at the moment ... there is no Iraqi government that could grant diplomatic privileges and immunity for foreign diplomats staying in Iraq."

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The MFA expresses concern over Vershbow's remarks.

12 July 2003 Vladimir Putin meets Afghan First Vice-President and Defence Minister Mohammad Qasem Fahim.

13 July 2003 Igor Ivanov meets Yasser Arafat in Ramallah. He says that Russia thinks that adherence to the settlement "road map" the Palestinian administration has declared is essential. He says he opposes any boycott of Arafat proposed by Israel. He welcomes direct dialogue between Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmud Abbas and his Israeli counterpart Ariel Sharon along with the Palestinian-Israeli agreement to pull out Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip and Bethlehem. He has talks with Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmud Abbas.

13 July 2003 A joint Russian-Moldovan peacekeeping exercise starts in the Moscow Region.

14 July 2003 Igor Ivanov visits Jordan. He expresses support for the newly created transitional Governing Council in Iraq.

The MFA says Russia is ready for contacts with Iraq's Governing Council.

14 July 2003 Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze says the USA did not request Georgia to offer its territory for conducting air reconnaissance of Russian territory. A NATO plane, equipped with the AWACS system, made a demonstration flight above Tbilisi on 9 July. The demonstration flight was observed by Georgian Defence Minister Davit Tevzadze and Maj-Gen Johann Dora, the commander of NATO's AWACS fleet.

The head of the press service of the North Caucasus regional directorate of the Federal Security Service, Lt-Col Sergey Livantsov, says the Russian and Georgian border guards have agreed to exchange information on the situation in the two countries' border Districts. Measures for joint reconnaissance by Russian and Georgian border guard detachments have also been agreed.

14 July 2003 Minister of Atomic Energy Aleksandr Rumyantsev says he is convinced that "there is no objective proof that North Korea has an atom bomb", but "we cannot not but react to Pyongyang's statements on the subject ... steps must in any case be taken ... We may not always believe somebody who is making a bomb threat, for example, but we cannot but take steps if we have safety in mind."

15 July 2003 Igor Ivanov visits Syria. He says Russia is in favour of a UN Security Council session being held to examine the implementation of Resolution 1438 on Iraq.

Igor Ivanov, in Syria, says the Quartet of international mediators (Russia, the USA, the EU and the UN) may be asked to participate in Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese issues relating to the Middle East peace process.

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15 July 2003 The MFA says the talks between Igor Ivanov and the Palestinian National Authority held two days ago helped resolve the differences between Yasir Arafat and Mahmud Abbas.

15 July 2003 Minister of Atomic Energy Aleksandr Rumyantsev says Russia will supply non-weapons-grade plutonium-238 to the USA for its spacecraft under a new contract.

15 July 2003 US ambassador to Russia Alexander Vershbow says he welcomes the activities of Russian oil companies in Iraq.

15 July 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov has talks with his Iranian counterpart Gholamali Khoshru in Moscow. They discuss Iraq, and Russo-Iranian nuclear cooperation.

15 July 2003 A delegation from the Iranian roads and transport ministry is visiting Astrakhan Region for consultations with the regional administration on developing the international North-South transport corridor. The visit ends on 16 July.

15 July 2003 Malaysian Armed Forces Commander Gen Zahidi Zainuddin visits Moscow to discuss military-technical cooperation with Russia.

16 July 2003 The MFA accuses the government of Estonia of connivance at pro-Nazi sentiments.

16 July 2003 Russia's permanent NATO representative Konstantin Totskiy is interviewed in *Izvestiya*. He criticises NATO widening and the failure to ratify the adapted CFE treaty.

16 July 2003 US Ambassador to Russia Alexander Vershbow believes that the USA and Russia could conclude an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the sphere of ABM defence.

16 July 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Kalyuzhnyy says that the USA agrees with Russia's policy in the Caspian region.

16 July 2003 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev says that the first consignment of nuclear fuel for the Bushehr nuclear power plant is ready to be shipped to Iran. "The fuel is at the storage facility of the Novosibirsk chemical concentrates plant, and the first 11 loads of 500 kg each will be delivered to Iran by a cargo aircraft after the Russian-Iranian protocol on the return of spent nuclear fuel to Russia has been signed ... the document could already be signed by the end of July."

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16 July 2003 Igor Ivanov visits Lebanon. He says Iraq's territorial integrity and independence should be preserved.

16 July 2003 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev says the Atomic Energy Ministry has no objective information on whether North Korea has enough plutonium to produce nuclear warheads.

16 July 2003 Economic Development and Trade Minister German Gref says the talks on Russia's accession to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) will end by 2004. He says this does not mean Russia's automatic admission to the WTO because it can take 1.5 years to join the organization.

16 July 2003 Igor Ivanov talks by telephone with Spanish foreign minister Ana Palacio on Iraq.

17 July 2003 Igor Ivanov visits Egypt. He says Vladimir Putin will visit Egypt as soon as he can.

17 July 2003 Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says an agreement on the return of spent Russian nuclear fuel from Iran is to be signed in the near future.

17 July 2003 Igor Ivanov calls for adopting a new UN Security Council resolution on the presence of international forces in Iraq. He says: "An extra resolution will most likely be needed both on a political settlement and the presence of international security forces ... it would expand opportunities for participating in this process for many states".

Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says Russia completely rules out its participation in the present coalition forces in Iraq, but allows for the possibility of considering in the UN Security Council the broadening of the mandate of the UN in Iraq. "The participation of Russia in the coalition of countries occupying Iraq has been ruled out ... with regard to the possibility of creating a new format of international presence in the sphere of security in Iraq under the aegis of the UN and under the mandate of the Security Council, we will decide on our attitude towards our possible participation in such forces on the basis of concrete circumstances and further development of the situation."

17 July 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Russia is taking preventive measures should a conflict develop on the Korean Peninsula. He says he agrees in this context with today's statement of the former US defence secretary William Perry that the situation around North Korea is heading towards an armed conflict.

17 July 2003 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says the Russian-Georgian border "is not calm, there is a threat, a constant threat to our security emanating from there, particularly during summer. It is for this reason that we deployed the

special-purpose brigade here." Ivanov is visiting the 10th Special-Purpose Brigade of the North Caucasus Military District.

17 July 2003 Chief of the Russian General Staff Anatoliy Kvashnin visits Belarus. He praises Russo-Belarusian military integration. Kvashnin is in Belarus to watch the joint Belarusian-Russian specialized tactical exercise, arranged in line with an intergovernmental agreement on rear supplies for the regional group of troops of the two countries.

18 July 2003 MFA spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko says "one should acknowledge that the development of events in Iraq remains to a certain extent uncertain, and because of this it can only evoke our concern. In circumstances of the total collapse of the infrastructure of the former Iraqi regime as a result of the war and the actual absence of new stable institutions of government, the task of establishing reliable stability in Iraq is still awaiting a resolution."

Yakovenko says Russia plans to establish more economic ties with Iraq. "We proceed from the assumption that the Russian companies which used to cooperate with Iraq should continue doing business in that country if that is part of their plans. The Russian Foreign Ministry will help them the best it can." He states that representatives of many Russian companies are visiting Iraq to restore cooperative efforts. The Russian embassy in Baghdad is supporting them in every way by introducing contacts with the new structures in Iraq.

Igor Ivanov says the issue of sending a Russian contingent to participate in the international peacekeeping force in Iraq is not on the agenda yet. "This issue has not been considered yet, as the main thing is absent: a UN Security Council resolution. Many countries will decide on their position after the corresponding legal foundations, first of all a UN Security Council resolution, have been developed."

18 July 2003 Iranian Deputy Oil Minister Mohammad Hadi Nezhad-Hoseyniyan visits Russia. He says Moscow and Tehran have established a working group on cooperation in the oil and gas sector.

18 July 2003 Montenegrin Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic visits Moscow.

18 July 2003 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov opens the ninth meeting of the mixed Russian-Ukrainian cooperation commission in Yalta. He says perceptible headway has been made in the creation of the common economic space of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan. He says Russia will soon resume financing of the An-70 tests. He praises military cooperation with Ukraine. He also says Russia and Ukraine should complete the pre-investment preparatory stage of the establishment of an international gas transport consortium, after which it will be possible to involve third parties in its work.

19 July 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw discuss by telephone aspects of the settlement process in Iraq. Ivanov has a similar telephone conversation with US Secretary of State Colin Powell.

19 July 2003 The Group of Russian Troops in Transcaucasus completes the transfer of its major support materiel from Georgia to Russia's 102nd military base in the Armenian town of Gyumri. As a result, the Russian military base in Armenia has been replenished with a substantial amount of munitions, engineering facilities and some combat materiel.

21 July 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov calls for urgent talks on the issue of North Korea's nuclear weapons programme "in order to prevent a conflict". Losyukov is in South Korea as a member of a delegation which has arrived to attend the meeting of the Korea-Russia Joint Committee on Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

21 July 2003 An MOD delegation visits Tajikistan for talks on the creation of a Russian military base in Tajikistan. The delegation is led by the chief of staff of the Ground Forces' high command, Col-Gen Aleksandr Morozov.

21 July 2003 Vladimir Putin and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon have a telephone conversation at the initiative of the Israeli side.

22 July 2003 Prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov says Russia is entering the final stage of the negotiating process with the WTO.

22 July 2003 Viktor Romanovskiy, head of the Kaliningrad regional administration's international relations department, says residents of Kaliningrad Region will travel to Poland on free visas after a visa regime is introduced for Russian citizens on 1 October.

22 July 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says Russia is in favour of "the continuation of efforts being taken to resume negotiations for a political solution to the situation around North Korea". He states: "The negotiations can proceed within various formats. We welcomed the trilateral format and believe that the talks can continue within this format. At the same time, Moscow is open to discussions on any other format for negotiations over a North Korean settlement."

22 July 2003 The MFA condemns terrorism in Kashmir and says Russia supports India's efforts in the fight against extremism.

22 July 2003 The Director-General of Atomstroyexport company Viktor Kozlov says Russia will finish construction of the first power generating unit of the Tainwan (Jiangsu) nuclear power plant in China in December 2004.

22 July 2003 Igor Ivanov calls for a dialogue between the USA and Syria. He says he believes that Syria is ready to resume talks with Israel for an overall Middle East settlement.

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22 July 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says regarding the UNSC discussion of Iraq on 22 July, that "if proposals concerning military or security aspects are raised, Russia will be prepared to study them and hold consultations within the UN Security Council".

22 July 2003 Deputy foreign minister Aleksandr Losyukov is interviewed in *Vremya Novostey*. He thinks that the USA may take military action against Iran. He rejects claims that Iran sponsors terrorism.

22 July 2003 The 10th session of a special working group on the Caspian at the level of special presidential envoys meets in Moscow. Igor Ivanov addresses the session. He calls for a meeting of the foreign ministers of Russia, Iran, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan to iron out differences concerning the division of the Caspian Sea.

23 July 2003 Russia's trade representative in China, Sergey Tsyplakov, says Russo-Chinese trade turnover in the first six months of 2003 reached 6.8bn dollars, a 24.8% increase from the same period the year before. Russia's exports to China went up by 13.4% to 4.7bn dollars and Chinese imports jumped 60.9% to 2.1bn dollars. Russia's trade surplus stood at 2.6bn dollars.

23 July 2003 Igor Ivanov has telephone conversations with his French and British counterparts. They discuss Iraq.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says Russia supports UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's suggestion that a specific framework should be determined for the restoration of Iraq's sovereignty and the establishment of an Iraqi government in keeping with democratic procedures. Fedotov says the UN role in Iraq should be enhanced.

23 July 2003 Iranian envoy for the Caspian Sea and director of the Foreign Ministry department for CIS affairs Mehdi Safari says Iran would want to speed up the construction of the nuclear power station in Bushehr.

23 July 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksey Meshkov and the head of the department for analysis, planning and information at the Foreign Ministry of Serbia and Montenegro, Vladimir Veres, have talks in Moscow.

24 July 2003 Deputy chairman of the Kazakh Aerospace Agency, Meirbek Moldabekov says Kazakhstan and Russia are holding talks on extending the term of lease of the Baykonur space launching site for another 50 years.

24 July 2003 The CIS Collective Security Council secretary-general, Nikolay Bordyuzha, says Russia will open its air base at Kyrgyzstan's Kant airport in October.

24 July 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and US Secretary of State Colin Powell hold a telephone conversation. They discuss the settlement in Iraq and the situation on the Korean peninsula.

Leonid Slutskiy, deputy chief of the Duma's international relations committee, says North Korea's move to declare itself a nuclear power may spark a conflict in the immediate vicinity of Russia's borders. Slutskiy calls for multilateral talks on North Korea's nuclear programme in late August or early September.

24 July 2003 The US government announces a decision to provide guarantees for a long-term \$130m lending programme for a project to build an oil product terminal for Russian oil giant LUKoil. US Under Secretary of State Alan Larson makes the announcement at a meeting in Moscow with Russia's First Deputy Energy Minister Leonid Tropko and Deputy Energy Minister Oleg Gordeyev.

24 July 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov is interviewed in *Vremya Novostey*. He says neither Russia nor China are happy about US military presence in Central Asia, but Russia thinks it is justified. "We do not view the USA as an opponent. It is our partner in this struggle, and our interests are the same in many ways. China understands this, as well."

24 July 2003 Mehdi Safari, the Iranian president's special envoy, says that Tehran advocates "early talks with Moscow on reducing the foreign military presence in Central Asia". Safari is in Moscow for the meeting of the working group of representatives of the five Caspian Sea littoral states (Russia, Iran, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan). The states discuss the legal status of the Caspian Sea. The Caspian group will meet again in Ashgabat on 8-9 September.

24 July 2003 The withdrawal of Russian peacekeepers from the Balkans is completed with the arrival of the last flight from Kosovo at the Chkalovskiy military airfield in Moscow Region.

24 July 2003 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev has talks with chief of China's committee for the affairs of defence science, technology and industry Zhang Yunchuan in China.

25 July 2003 Senior government officials from Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Ukraine meet Vladimir Putin to discuss the prospects for closer economic integration. Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko says that experts are expected to finish drafting all documents on the establishment of a common economic space in Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine by the CIS summit in September.

25 July 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Losyukov says multilateral talks aimed at resolving the tension over North Korea's nuclear weapons programme are likely to be held in Beijing before 15 September. The multilateral talks would involve six parties, including Russia, the United States, China, Japan and South

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and North Korea. A three-party meeting involving the United States, North Korea and China would precede the envisaged multilateral dialogue.

26 July 2003 First Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov meets US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage. They attend the 10th meeting of the Russian-US working group for the struggle against terrorism in Virginia. The United States and Russia are establishing cooperation in order to plug the loopholes being used to finance terrorists in Chechnya.

Trubnikov also says that Moscow is holding negotiations with Washington on the extradition of Russian citizens seized by US troops in Afghanistan and kept at the US naval base at Guantanamo, Cuba.

28 July 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov calls for a UN mission to Iraq to help Iraq form its own government.

28 July 2003 The MFA calls for the immediate release of a Russian helicopter crew in Sudan. It was detained on 24 July while en route to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

28 July 2003 Border controls have been introduced in 13 regions and towns of Khabarovsk Territory on the state border with China. They were lifted in the early 1990s.

28 July 2003 Deputy Minister Yuriy Fedotov says Russia favours a package approach to the settlement of the situation around the North Korean nuclear issue. He says these proposals "provide for granting non-nuclear status to the Korean Peninsula, strict compliance with the international agreements in the nonproliferation field, first of all the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, cooperation with international organizations, in particular with the IAEA, as regards questions related to control".

28 July 2003 Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma have a telephone conversation. Putin tells Kuchma that, because of the food crisis in Ukraine, a decision has been made to send there at least 200,000 tonnes of Russian grain. Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich will fly to Moscow in the near future to discuss the practical aspects of this issue.

28 July 2003 Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov holds a meeting with Belarusian Interior Minister Uladzimir Navumaw in Minsk. They discuss issues concerning the implementation of the single migration policy and a draft intergovernmental agreement on the use of single migration cards.

28 July 2003 The military attaché at the Russian embassy in Moldova, Maj-Gen Nikolay Bushuyev, says changing the quadripartite format of the Joint Peacekeeping Forces in Moldova's eastern region could lead to tension in relations between Chisinau and Tiraspol and complicate the negotiating process. He is

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commenting on reports that an EU peacekeeping contingent could get involved in the Dniester region settlement.

28 July 2003 Rosenergoatom says it will help China operate the Tianwan nuclear power plant, which is currently under construction, at the initial stage. Russia is building the Tianwan plant under a contract valued at over 3bn dollars. The plant will have two VVER-1000 reactors. The first power generating unit is expected to be put into operation in 2004.

29 July 2003 Chinese ambassador to Russia Zhang Deguang says China is ready to finance the laying of the Russian part of the Angarsk-Daqing pipeline.

29 July 2003 Vladimir Putin signs a decree appointing Yevgeniy Belov the Russian Federation's permanent representative to CIS HQ in Minsk.

29 July 2003 Nikolay Bordyuzha, the secretary-general of the CIS Collective Security Council, meets Innocencio Arias, the chairman of the UN Security Council Counterterrorism Committee in New York.

29 July 2003 Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi arrives in Moscow on a working visit. He and Vladimir Putin will discuss preparations for the Russia-EU summit in November. They discuss EU visa rules for Russians.

29 July 2003 The MFA says Russia continues to maintain diplomatic relations with Iraq.

29 July 2003 The Russian helicopter pilots arrested in Sudan are released.

29 July 2003 Russian first deputy permanent representative at the United Nations, Gennadiy Gatilov, addresses the UN Security Council. He says Russia advocates forming a truly universal antiterrorist front with the UN playing the coordinating role.

29 July 2003 Atomic Energy Ministry spokesman Nikolay Shingarev says two important treaties between Russia and the USA in the field of nuclear security will most probably be extended until the end of the year. He says "differences between the two sides on an agreement on recycling surplus weapons-grade plutonium and on the 'Nuclear towns' initiative are not fundamental in nature and may be eliminated very soon".

30 July 2003 Igor Ivanov calls for a settlement of the problems of the Korean Peninsula using "peaceful political and diplomatic methods". He is speaking at a meeting with ambassadors of the Asia-Pacific Region countries in Moscow. Russia is in favour of a settlement of the situation surrounding North Korea's nuclear programme on the basis of a package of proposals. They envisage "giving the

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peninsula non-nuclear status, strict observance of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Authority on monitoring issues". He says he believes "one should show understanding and render assistance in tackling the difficult humanitarian and economic problems that the DPRK is coming up against at the moment".

30 July 2003 Yuriy Baluyevskiy, the first deputy chief of the General Staff, is interviewed in *Izvestiya* on missile defence cooperation with the USA.

31 July 2003 The MFA welcomes UNSC Resolution 1494 to extend the mandate of the UN Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) to 31 January 2004.

31 July 2003 North Korean ambassador to Moscow Pak Ui-chun says at a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov that North Korea is calling for a six-sided format of Korean settlement talks. This would include Russia.

August

1 August 2003 Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych arrives in Moscow to discuss grain imports from Russia.

1 August 2003 Gazprom says it is resuming gas supplies to Turkey via the Blue Stream pipeline. Russia will supply 4bn cu.m. of gas to Turkey in 2004 and the volume will increase to 16bn cu.m. by 2010.

4 August 2003 Vladimir Putin arrives on an official visit to Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia.

4 August 2003 The MFA expresses concern about the large number of ethnic Russians without citizenship and the slow pace of naturalization in Latvia.

4 August 2003 Federation Council speaker Sergey Mironov visits China.

4 August 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Kalyuzhnyy says Russia is proposing that a 15-mile coastal zone be created in the Caspian Sea in order to broaden the jurisdiction of the Caspian states. He says Russia opposes the division of the Caspian Sea into national sectors, noting that Russia wants the sea bed to be divided for extracting mineral resources and the water left for common use.

5 August 2003 Vladimir Putin says in Malaysia that Russia would like to join the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

6 August 2003 Russian oil exports in January-June 2003 amounted to 106.019m tonnes, up 16% year-on-year. Russian oil exports to outside the CIS in January-June 2003 amounted to over 87.2m tonnes for 15.4bn dollars. Most oil exports went to Germany (12.21m tonnes), Italy (9.37m tonnes), Holland (8.87m tonnes) and Poland (7.45m tonnes). Exports to the CIS in the first six months of the year amounted to over 18.8m tonnes of oil for 2.27bn dollars, including exports to Ukraine and Belarus of 7.77m tonnes and 9.658m tonnes respectively (953.27m and 1.182bn dollars).

Exports of Russian gas in January-June 2003 amounted to 95.24bn cubic metres - up 1.5% year-on-year. In cost terms, exports of natural gas in the reporting period were up 30% to 10.02bn dollars. Exports of natural gas to outside the CIS in January-June amounted to 72.477bn cubic metres for over 9bn dollars, with exports to the CIS of 22.76bn cubic metres for 1.014bn dollars. Most natural gas exports went to Germany (16.87bn cubic metres), Italy (10.19bn cubic metres), Ukraine (11.88bn cubic metres) and Belarus (9.37bn cubic metres). Natural gas exports in June 2003 amounted to 13.859bn cubic metres for 1.54bn dollars, of which 10.38bn cubic metres went outside the CIS (1.38bn dollars), with exports to the CIS of 3.477bn cubic metres (159m dollars). Natural gas exports in 2002 amounted to 181.7bn cubic metres for 15.5bn dollars.

6 August 2003 Vladimir Putin visits Uzbekistan for talks with Uzbek president, Islam Karimov. Putin supports the creation of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) anti-terror centre in Tashkent. They also discuss gas relations.

6 August 2003 The Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) condemns the US decision to grant citizenship to former KGB General Oleg Kalugin.

6 August 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Russia will shortly hold a series of bilateral consultations with participants in the six-party talks on the situation over North Korea.

6 August 2003 United Energy Systems (YeES) chairman Anatoliy Chubays visits Georgia to discuss YeES' acquisition of major energy facilities in the country.

7 August 2003 The nationalities policies minister, Vladimir Zorin, says Russia ranks third in the world in the inflow of migrants after the USA and Germany. He says since the 1989 census, about six million migrants have come to Russia. According to the 2002 census, Russia's population is currently 145.2m.

7 August 2003 The US radio station RS-[1] has made public the names of eight Russians detained in Afghanistan and kept at the US military base in Guantanamo at present. They are:

Shamil Khadziyev (Bashkortostan)
Ravil Mingazov (Tatarstan)
Ravil Gumarov (Bashkortostan)
Ayrat Vakhitov (Tatarstan)
Rasul Kudayev (Kabarda-Balkaria)

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Rustam Akmerov (Chelyabinsk)
Ruslan Odigov (Kabarda-Balkaria)
Timur Ishmuradov (Tyumen Region).

Russia and the USA are discussing the possible extradition of these men.

7 August 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says Russia is interested in the soonest beginning of six-party talks on a Korean settlement. He says: "We should link North Korea's steps to security guarantees, and economic and humanitarian aid to it ... we will have a new agreement, but we should take into account the 1994 North Korean-US agreement ... From the strategic point of view, there is no difference in positions by Russia, the USA, Japan and South Korea. Even North Korea agreed with the package approach proposed by Moscow."

7 August 2003 US Assistant Secretary of State William Burns has consultations with the MFA in Moscow. They discuss terrorism, the Middle East peace process and Iraq. Russia and the USA agree on the need for a new UNSC Resolution on Iraq.

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov calls for the adoption of a new UN Security Council resolution on Iraq, "which would open up clear prospects for reaching a political settlement in the country and, above all, the formation of a lawful Iraqi leadership...in the framework of such a process it would also become possible to recognize the provisional Governing Council of Iraq as the provisional body of power which, in cooperation with the UN, should ensure the adoption by an agreed deadline of a new Iraqi constitution and the holding of democratic elections...the sooner this UN Security Council resolution is adopted, the more chances the international community will have of helping the Iraqi people surmount the present grave crisis which Iraq is experiencing."

A high-ranking delegation from the Iraqi Foreign Ministry arrives in Russia to investigate the recent theft of 3m dollars from the Iraqi embassy in Moscow.

7 August 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov expresses concern about the construction of a security wall separating Israel from Palestine. He thinks it could complicate the situation in the region and says construction should be halted.

7 August 2003 Moldovan Deputy Energy Minister Felix Varlan visits Moscow. He says the debt of the national gas supplier Moldovagas to Gazprom amounts to 112m dollars, excluding penalties worth about 170m dollars for missed payments. Earlier, Gazprom's official representatives said they could accept stakes in such Moldovan energy companies as the Cuciurgan power plant and the CET-1 and CET-2 (Chisinau) thermal power plants in payment of the debt.

8 August 2003 *Vremya Novostey* reports that the headquarters of the Group of Russian Troops in the Transcaucasus is supposed to be downsized to one third by December 2003. There are about 120 Russian officers and about the same number of enlisted men in the headquarters in Tbilisi.

9 August 2003 The deputy foreign minister of Russia and special envoy of Vladimir Putin for Abkhaz issues, Valeriy Loshchinin, will take part in the settlement of the Georgian-Osetian conflict as the special envoy of the Russian president. At a meeting in Moscow, Loshchinin and Chairman of the Georgian Socialist Party Vakhtang Rcheulishvili discussed the whole range of issues related to the problems of Russian-Georgian relations and the Georgian-Osetian conflict. Rcheulishvili is the special envoy of the Georgian president for Georgian-Osetian conflict settlement issues.

11 August 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov visits China. He says six-way talks on North Korea's nuclear programme will take place in Beijing in late August. Deputy foreign ministers of the two Koreas, the United States, China, Russia and Japan will attend the event.

11 August 2003 The head of the working group set up at the Russian Foreign Ministry to deal with the Caspian issue, ambassador Andrey Urnov, says he is surprised at the statements made by a representative of the Iranian government to the effect that the Caspian Sea problem can probably be solved only through the International Court of Justice.

12 August 2003 Tatar Prime Minister Rustam Minnikhanov visits Uzbekistan to discuss economic relations.

12 August 2003 The MFA calls on the leadership of the Palestinian National Authority to take effective measures to halt terror, and calls on Israel to exercise restraint. This follows terrorist acts carried out by Palestinian suicide bombers in the Israeli town of Rosh Haayin and the settlement of Ariel on the West Bank.

12 August 2003 Lithuanian Foreign Minister Antanas Valionis and Russian ambassador in Vilnius Yuriy Zubanov exchange instruments of ratification of bilateral treaties on the delimitation of the state border and the economic zones and continental shelf in the Baltic Sea. Russia and Lithuania signed the land and sea border treaties in Moscow on 24 October 1997. The Lithuanian parliament ratified them in October 1999, and Russia's Federal Assembly in May.

13 August 2003 It is reported that the FSB and US and British security services have cooperated to prevent an attempt to smuggle Igla anti-aircraft missiles to the USA to be used by Islamic extremist groups.

14 August 2003 Vladimir Zhirinovskiy is interviewed in the Kazakh newspaper *Vremya*. He says Kazakhstan should stick with Russia to make sure that it is not "swallowed up" by China.

14 August 2003 Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Kung Sok-ung visits Russia for talks. He meets First Deputy Foreign Minister Valeriy Loshchinin and also deputy foreign ministers Aleksandr

Losyukov and Yuriy Fedotov. He discusses the forthcoming six-sided talks in Beijing.

14 August 2003 Head of the FSB Public Relations Centre Sergey Ignatchenko is in Washington. He says the Russian and US special services are to expand their cooperation.

14 August 2003 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov and his Kazakh opposite number, Daniyal Akhmetov, discuss cooperation in settling the ecological problems of the Caspian Sea and joint efforts against drug trafficking at a bilateral meeting in Moscow. The Kazakh prime minister has arrived in Russia for a working visit to take part in the work of a Kazakh national exhibition held as part of the celebrations of the Year of Kazakhstan in Russia. The Russian-Kazakh talks dwelt on key issues of Russian-Kazakh cooperation covering trade, economic, military-technological and humanitarian ties. Bilateral cooperation in the Caspian Sea, ways of raising the efficiency of exploitation of the Baykonur space launch site and questions of cross-border cooperation are discussed.

15 August 2003 Igor Ivanov welcomes the agreement to hold multilateral talks on the situation on the Korean peninsula in Beijing in late August. The six parties involved are Russia, China, North Korea, the United States, South Korea and Japan. Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says that the Beijing talks would also consider the possible content of a potential joint Russian-Chinese document offering security guarantees to North Korea.

15 August 2003 The MFA welcomes the passing of UN Security Council Resolution 1500 on Iraq. The resolution implies the formation of a full-scale UN mission that will help the Iraqi people restore normal life. The statement says: "Moscow is satisfied that the Security Council is becoming increasingly active on matters concerning the settlement in Iraq. This confirms the important role of the Security Council and the United Nations as a whole in international affairs in even the most critical situations. For its part, Russia is determined to continue making efforts to strengthen the organization's central role."

Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says that Russia is ready to assign specialists to work for the UN mission in Iraq, since it would be made up of representatives from various countries.

15 August 2003 Director-General of the Russian Agency for Munitions Viktor Kholstov and Chairman of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee Richard Lugar meet in Moscow to discuss Russian-US cooperation in chemical disarmament. They discuss US funding of the construction of the chemical weapons destruction facility in Shchuchye in Kurgan Region.

15 August 2003 The US Defence Department refuses to take part in Russian Pacific Fleet exercises on 18-27 August. This will, at Russia's invitation, feature ships and aircraft from a number of countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The US Defence Department says that information on the exercises had come too late for it to take part. Ships and helicopters from South Korea and Japan will take part.

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16 August 2003 Russian and US presidents Vladimir Putin and George Bush talk by telephone. They discuss the recent sting operation to prevent the sale of an Igla anti-aircraft missile system to terrorists and preparations for the Russian-US summit scheduled for late September.

17 August 2003 The Amur Region and China reach agreement on visa-free tourism.

18 August 2003 The Russian and Iranian foreign ministers, Igor Ivanov and Kamal Kharrazi, discuss the Iranian nuclear programme by telephone.

18 August 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Kislyak leaves for Washington to attend bilateral consultations on North Korea's nuclear programme and Vladimir Putin's forthcoming visit to the USA. Kislyak has recently been appointed deputy foreign minister for relations with the United States.

18 August 2003 Gazeksport company and Turkmenistan's Turkmenneftegaz sign a contract on the supply of technological equipment and services as Russian payment for Turkmen natural gas in 2004-2006. Gazprom, Turkmenneftegaz and the Turkmengaz company signed an agreement on scientific and technological cooperation for building up the Central Asia - Centre gas transport system.

19 August 2003 Justice Minister Yuriy Chayka sends a letter to the British secretary of state for the Home Office, pledging humane treatment for Chechen separatist emissary Akhmed Zakayev in the event of his extradition to Russia.

19 August 2003 Shafagat Takhautdinov, Tatneft's director-general, says Tatneft is planning to restart operations in Iraq, once the situation there "calms down and people are not at risk".

The MFA condemns the bombing of UN HQ in Baghdad.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says Russia's decision to lift the sanctions against Iraq opens additional possibilities for Russian companies. Vladimir Putin's decree published on 18 August lifting sanctions "has been passed in furtherance of Resolution 1483 of the UN Security Council".

19 August 2003 The MFA says it supports lifting sanctions against Libya.

20 August 2003 Vladimir Putin sends his condolences to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan over the terrorist attack on the UN office in Baghdad.

Vladimir Putin extends his condolences to Israeli President Moshe Qatzav and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon over the act of terrorism in Jerusalem on 19 August.

Igor Ivanov says it is necessary to continue the dialogue between Israel and Palestine despite the act of terrorism committed in Jerusalem 19 August.

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20 August 2003 The Russian government approves a draft version of an agreement with the Indonesian government on cooperation in the peaceful usage of nuclear energy. A corresponding decree has been signed by Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov.

20 August 2003 The presidents of Russia and Pakistan, Vladimir Putin and Pervez Musharraf, speak by telephone.

20 August 2003 The MFA welcomes the Liberian peace deal.

21 August 2003 President of Iceland Olafur Ragnar Grimsson and his wife arrive in Chukhotka at the invitation of governor Roman Abramovich.

21 August 2003 Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says Russia supports the British-proposed draft UN Security Council resolution lifting the sanctions imposed on Libya.

21 August 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov talks by telephone with his Chinese counterpart Li Zhaoxing to discuss a settlement of the Korean problem.

21 August 2003 Russia's Aerospace Agency announces a plan to discuss with Iran the chances for the resumption of a project to develop a communications satellite for Iran.

22 August 2003 NTV external service reports that Primorskiy kray is holding exercises preparing to receive refugees from North Korea in the event of a US-North Korean war.

22 August 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov has a telephone conversation with US Secretary of State Colin Powell. They discuss Iraq, Middle East peace process, North Korea and Vladimir Putin's forthcoming visit to the USA.

Igor Ivanov has a telephone conversation with his German counterpart Joschka Fischer. They discuss Iraq and the Middle East.

Russian and French Foreign Ministers Igor Ivanov and Dominique de Villepin talk over the phone to discuss the situation in Iraq and the Palestinian-Israeli peace process.

22 August 2003 The Russian government approves a protocol on a change to its agreement with Iran on construction of Bushehr nuclear power station. The change envisages the return of spent nuclear fuel from Iran to Russia, the government information department says. The government has instructed the Atomic Energy Ministry to hold talks with the Iranian side and sign the protocol on behalf of the Russian government.

22 August 2003 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov has said he does not take seriously the idea proposed by Ukrainian Fuel and Energy Minister Serhiy Yermilov to have Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan join the Russian-Ukrainian gas transport consortium.

22 August 2003 Mikhail Kasyanov meets Ukrainian prime minister Viktor Yanukovych during a reception to mark Independence Day in Ukraine at the Ukrainian Embassy in Moscow. They discuss grain supplies to Ukraine.

22 August 2003 Turkmenistan.RU reports that the governing board of Gazprom joint-stock company decided recently to open the company's representative office in Asgabat.

23 August 2003 Deputy foreign minister Yury Fedotov says that Moscow "is ready to consider different options in changing the parameters and status of the international military presence in Iraq". He says this "must imply a further substantial increase of the UN's role in the Iraqi settlement, in particular in the political sphere".

23 August 2003 Vladimir Gusinskiy is arrested at Athens international airport, at the request of the Russian branch of Interpol. The Russian law-enforcement bodies have accused Gusinskiy of taking 250m dollars out of the country illegally.

23 August 2003 The South Korean destroyer Ilchi Mundok has arrived at the main naval base of the Russian Pacific Fleet in Vladivostok. The destroyer's crew is to participate in the combined exercises of the Pacific Fleet and particularly in a rescue operation for a vessel in distress at sea.

24 August 2003 A Russian delegation leave for China to participate in the six-way talks on the North Korean nuclear programme slated for 27-29 August. Russia will be represented by Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov.

25 August 2003 US Under Secretary of State John Bolton and Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Kislyak have talks on WMD non-proliferation.

25 August 2003 State secretary of the Ministry of Atomic Energy Valeriy Govorukhin says the additional protocol on the return of spent nuclear fuel from the Iranian nuclear power plant (Bushehr) to Russia will be signed by late September. The deliveries of nuclear fuel assemblies for the experimental launching of the first power-generating set of the Bushehr nuclear power plant will be started immediately upon the protocol's signing. The reactor's launch is scheduled for mid-2004.

25 August 2003 Minister of Communications and Information Technology Leonid Reyman visits Hungary to take part in a session of the intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation. Hungarian Prime Minister Peter

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Medgyessy said he is interested in developing and strengthening trade and economic contacts with Russia.

25 August 2003 Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin and the head of the National Bank of Belarus, Pyotr Prakapovich initial an agreement on the use of the Russian rouble as the only legal tender in Belarus'.

One of the leaders of the URF, Boris Nemtsov, criticizes Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka for playing "a double game" in the process of creation of the Union State of Russia and Belarus.

25 August 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says the Asia-Pacific region is generally very unstable and susceptible to terrorist attacks. He is currently observing a large-scale army and navy exercise in the Russian Far East.

Russo-Japanese naval exercises take place in the Sea of Okhotsk. The expansion of contacts in the defence sector is going on in the context of a Russian-Japanese plan of action. The plan, which is a comprehensive document on strengthening bilateral ties in all areas, was passed following Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's visit to Moscow in January.

25 August 2003 The Russian Railways Ministry says an estimated 641m dollars is to be put into the development of railway crossing points on the Russian-Chinese border. There are three crossing points today and that freight traffic through Naushki station is increasing at a rapid pace. The transport of crude oil via Naushki and Zabaykalsk began in 2000. Three million tonnes of oil will be carried across in 2003.

26 August 2003 Minister of Atomic Energy Aleksandr Rumyantsev and US Under Secretary of State for arms control and international security John Bolton discuss nonproliferation problems regarding North Korea and Iran in Moscow. Rumyantsev and Bolton also discuss bilateral nuclear cooperation and nonproliferation efforts.

26 August 2003 A World Food Programme (WFP) official in Pyongyang says Russia this year is providing 10m dollars' worth of food aid to North Korea under the United Nations WFP. Russia this year joined the list of WFP donor-countries to provide a total of 11m dollars' worth of aid - 10m dollars addressed to North Korea and 1m dollars to Angola.

26 August 2003 Sources at MinAtom state that Russia has handed over to Iran feasibility studies on a second reactor that may be built at the Bushehr nuclear power plant.

26 August 2003 Turkish state-run oil company Botas and Russian Gazeksport company resume talks on Russian gas supplies.

27 August 2003 The Russian-Chinese subcommission on trade and economic cooperation meets in Beijing. Russian-Chinese trade amounted to 8.12bn dollars in the first seven months of 2003, which is 22.7% more than for the same period of 2002. By the end of 2003, bilateral trade may exceed 13bn dollars.

27 August 2003 The six party talks on North Korea begin in Beijing. Deputy foreign minister Aleksandr Losyukov heads the Russian delegation.

27 August 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Saltanov is interviewed by a Saudi Arabian newspaper.

27 August 2003 The MFA approves of the conclusions of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which has criticized Latvia for its policy towards the rights of language minorities in Latvia.

27 August 2003 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov appoints Andrey Sharonov, the first deputy minister for economic development and trade, as deputy national coordinator for relations with the European Commission. He will be in charge of consultative and technical cooperation.

27 August 2003 Federation Council International Affairs Committee Chairman Mikhail Margelov is interviewed on *Ekho Moskvyy* radio on Russian foreign policy. He says business factors are an important element in foreign policy.

27 August 2003 A Russian MOD official says that Russia has dispatched its strategic bombers to the area of the US-South Korean exercise in the Sea of Japan in response to reconnaissance US submarines carried out recently in the area of the Russian naval exercise in the Far East.

27 August 2003 Col-Gen Vladimir Kulakov, member of the Federation Council, doctor of military sciences and member of the Russian Academy of Military Sciences, writes in *Trud*. He says that Russia should deploy peacekeeping forces in Iraq. He says it is not in Russia's interests for the USA to become "bogged down" in a large-scale guerrilla war in Iraq.

27 August 2003 Dmitriy Rogozin, head of the Duma international affairs committee, is interviewed in *Argumenty i Fakty*. He says Russian foreign policy should focus more on Europe than the USA.

28 August 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says it is unlikely that North Korea has nuclear weapons. He is leading a Russian delegation at the six-nation talks in Beijing on North Korea's nuclear programme. Losyukov says North Korea has turned down supplementary guarantees on the nuclear issue offered by Russia and China as they say their relations with these two countries are fairly good without any guarantees.

28 August 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov meets Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmud Abbas (Abu Mazen) in Gaza. Fedotov also meets Palestinian Foreign Minister Nabil Sha'th.

28 August 2003 Andrey Kuzyayev, the president of LUKoil Overseas Ltd, says LUKoil's chances of restoring control over Iraq's West Qurna oil project are over 50%. LUKoil expects its output at the field to reach 10m barrels annually five years after the development begins. In December 2002 the former Iraqi government terminated its contract on the development of the West Qurna oilfield with LUKoil, accusing LUKoil of not meeting the contract commitments. Since then LUKoil officials have repeatedly said that they believe the contract to be valid. In 1997, Baghdad awarded LUKoil a contract to develop the West Qurna field, which contains in excess of 1bn tonnes of crude. Prior to the termination of the contract LUKoil's stake in the project was 68.5%, while Iraq held 25%. Two other Russian companies, state-owned Zarubezhneft and Mashinimport, owned 3.25% each.

28 August 2003 MinAtom says it does not believe that there are any good reasons to end its cooperation with Iran. These remarks follow a statement made by Philip Ricker, a spokesman for the US State Department, that there is lingering concern in the United States about Iran's nuclear programme and the upcoming signing of a Russian-Iranian agreement under which spent nuclear fuel from the Bushehr station will be shipped to Russia.

28 August 2003 Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade Dmitriy Sukhoparov says that the Russian government has approved a draft agreement on a common economic space formed by Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. It will be considered by the presidents of the four countries at a CIS summit in Crimea in September.

28 August 2003 Georgian Minister of State Security Valeri Khaburdzania visits Moscow.

28 August 2003 Turkish Finance Minister Kemal Unakitan visits Tatarstan.

29 August 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and US Secretary of State Colin Powell talk by telephone to discuss the Beijing talks on North Korea and Putin's forthcoming trip to the USA.

29 August 2003 The MFA condemns the Najaf bombing in Iraq. It says the UN role in Iraq must be enhanced.

29 August 2003 MinAtom official Aleksandr Agapov says the signing of an agreement on the return of spent nuclear fuel from Iran to Russia has been delayed because of the lack of detailed documents on how possible emergencies would be handled during its transport.

29 August 2003 Vladimir Putin arrives in Italy.

29 August 2003 The MFA welcomes the fact that the European Union has included Chechen rebel leaders Shamil Basayev and Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev in a list of persons and organizations linked to terrorism.

29 August 2003 The Russian air force command denies a report of the Georgian State Border Guard Department that a Russian Su-25 jet trespassed into Georgian skies on 28 August.

29 August 2003 Exiled Russian media tycoon Vladimir Gusinskiy has been released from a Greek prison on a bail worth 100,000 euros.

29 August 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and Palestinian National Authority head Yasir Arafat discuss Palestinian-Israeli relations by telephone.

30 August 2003 Vladimir Putin welcomes the process of developing a common European security and defence policy.

30 August 2003 Deputy foreign minister Yury Fedotov says Russia is willing to discuss a UN Security Council resolution about an international military presence in Iraq. He says that it is still too early to speak of a Russian involvement in a possible military presence in Iraq under the aegis of the UN.

Russian and French foreign ministers, Igor Ivanov and Dominique de Villepin, discuss Iraq by telephone. They call for the UN to play a lead role in Iraq.

31 August 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says the six way talks in Beijing on North Korea's nuclear weapons were useful, although "doubts remain" as to Pyongyang's readiness to continue talks on the nuclear programme. He says there is no need for a heads of state summit on the problem or to bring the issue to the UNSC.

31 August 2003 Vladimir Putin and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi have a telephone conversation with US President George Bush from the Italian prime minister's residence in Sardinia.

31 August 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Russia cannot obstruct the discussion of the Iranian nuclear programme by the UN Security Council, but does not think there are any reasons for tough decisions to be made.

31 August 2003 A Russian delegation led by Federal Minister for Chechnya Stanislav Ilyasov arrives in Tbilisi to discuss Chechen refugees' return from the Pankisi Gorge. There are about 3,800 refugees from Chechnya in the Gorge at

present. This is the third visit of a Russian interdepartmental delegation to Georgia. The previous two were in February 2002 and June 2003.

September

1 September 2003 Vladimir Putin states that direct foreign investment in Russia totalled 12.7bn dollars in the first half of this year. This is "one and a half times as much as in the same period last year".

1 September 2003 Igor Ivanov says the UN Security Council should discuss security in Iraq in coordination with a wide political settlement in that country. He praises the recent six party talks in Beijing on North Korea. He says: "We did not expect any breakthrough. It was just the first round but the dialogue goes on."

1 September 2003 Igor Ivanov says the appearance of a "visa curtain" between Russia and the European Union must be prevented.

1 September 2003 Vladimir Putin proposes to Royal Dutch/Shell to discuss a project to build a northern gas pipeline to Europe. He meets the CEOs. The North European pipeline should run on the bottom of the Baltic Sea to Western Europe via Vyborg, Russia. This project has been supported by the European Union. Brussels is seeking to increase the share of natural gas in its energy balance. At present, the European Union imports approximately 130bn cubic metres of Russian gas and hopes to import 180bn cubic metres in 2010.

1 September 2003 Russia has guaranteed Ukraine that Gazprom will transit 127.8bn cubic metres of gas through Ukrainian territory in 2004. This is covered in a Russian-Ukrainian intergovernmental protocol for 2004 signed on 29 August, in addition to an agreement between the Russian and Ukrainian governments on additional measures to ensure transit of Russian gas through Ukraine of 4 October 2001.

1 September 2003 Vladimir Putin and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi discuss the North Korean issue by telephone. They also discuss Russo-Japanese energy relations.

1 September 2003 Belarusian president Aleksandr Lukashenko says Belarus cannot accept the Russian rouble as its currency unless all the other provisions of its union treaty with Russia are implemented.

1 September 2003 Russian Minister for Chechen Affairs Stanislav Ilyasov has talks in Georgia with Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze. He says Georgia and Russia are prepared to begin the return of Chechen refugees from the Pankisi Gorge to Chechnya.

1 September 2003 Valeriy Loshchinin, Russian first deputy foreign minister and presidential envoy for a Georgian-Abkhaz settlement, has talks in Sukhumi with the Abkhaz leadership. They discuss implementing the understandings reached by the presidents of Russia and Georgia and the prime minister of the self-proclaimed Republic of Abkhazia at their meeting in Sochi in March 2003.

1 September 2003 The 201st Russian Motor-Rifle Division stationed in Tajikistan starts a command post exercise.

The Military Commonwealth 2003 joint air defence exercises begin on the Ashuluk range in Astrakhan Region. Armenian, Belarusian, Russian and Tajik air defence units will have firing practice at the concluding stage of the manoeuvres that will last until 4 September.

2 September 2003 Andrey Granovskiy, director of the MFA's international organizations department, says international sanctions imposed on Libya could be lifted by the end of this week, and Russia will support a relevant draft resolution at the UN Security Council.

2 September 2003 Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma visits Moscow for talks with Vladimir Putin. They discuss economic relations and the draft agreement to create a single economic space involving Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

2 September 2003 Federal Minister for Chechen Affairs Stanislav Ilyasov says Russia and Georgia will set up a joint commission in the near future to work with Chechen refugees in the Pankisi Gorge.

2 September 2003 First Deputy Railways Minister Khasyan Zyabirov says Russia plans to considerably increase oil exports to China by railway in 2004. A total of 2m tonnes of oil will be exported to China annually via the Zabaykalsk-Manchuria border checkpoint. Three million tonnes of oil will be exported thorough Mongolia in 2004, and 3.5m tonnes in 2005-06.

2 September 2003 Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Abdallah Bin-Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud arrives in Moscow on an official visit. This is the first visit at this level since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1926. He has talks with Vladimir Putin. The Russian government approve the draft of a five-year agreement with Saudi Arabia on cooperation in the oil and gas sector. In 2002 Russo-Saudi trade turnover was 66.7m dollars.

2 September 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov warns of the danger of instability in Iraq threatening the entire Middle East. He discusses the possible creation of a UN force for Iraq. He says: "No proposals have been made either about our participation, or even about a possible new configuration of international military presence. As soon as we receive such proposals, we are going to consider them."

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2 September 2003 Deputy foreign minister Yury Fedotov says the Palestinians and Israelis "are not able to overcome by themselves the spiral of tension and, as a result, a vicious circle of violence is unfolding which is difficult to stop". Fedotov says: "Russia's idea to create 'road maps' in the Syrian and Lebanese areas of the Middle East settlement remains in force. It is impossible to move forward without it."

MFA Middle East envoy, Andrey Vdovin, has talks in Ramallah with Palestinian National Authority leader Yasir Arafat and Prime Minister Mahmud Abbas.

2 September 2003 Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has telephone talks with Vladimir Putin on North Korea, the recent naval exercises in the Pacific in which Japan took part and the Sakhalin-2 oil project.

2 September 2003 First Deputy Foreign Minister Eleonora Mitrofanova says the Turkmen government has acted illegally in ending the Russo-Turkmen dual citizenship agreement.

3 September 2003 Sergey Kolotukhin, deputy finance minister says recent understandings with countries from outside the Paris Club of creditors to reschedule Soviet-era debt will reduce Russia's overall foreign debt, which was 122.1bn dollars on 1 January, by 1.2bn-1.3bn dollars in 2003.

3 September 2003 The MFA says it is satisfied with the implementation of the agreement on Russian citizens' transit to and from Kaliningrad Region through Lithuania.

3 September 2003 Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma visits Russia.

3 September 2003 Igor Ivanov says Russia and Saudi Arabia have agreed to coordinate their efforts in eradicating international terrorism and intend to set up a bilateral working group. He has had talks in Moscow with his Saudi Arabian counterpart, Sa'ud al-Faysal Bin-Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud. They sign an agreement on energy cooperation and diamond sales.

3 September 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov reaffirms the need to develop a plan for restoring Iraq's sovereignty and transferring power to a legally elected government with the help of the international community.

The Russian and French foreign ministers, Igor Ivanov and Dominique de Villepin, discuss in a telephone call ways of stabilizing the situation Iraq.

3 September 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov visits Egypt.

3 September 2003 Igor Ivanov says the possibility of sending an international disengagement force to the zone of the Palestine-Israel conflict deserves attention

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and Moscow is prepared to discuss it. He declines to comment on the statement by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat that the road map plan is dead as a result of Israel's aggressive conduct.

3 September 2003 Georgian Foreign Minister Irakli Menagharishvili says Russian and Georgian experts have been unable to reach agreement on dates for the withdrawal of Russian military bases from Georgia.

3 September 2003 Russian pilots participate in NATO exercise Cooperative Key 2003 in Bulgaria.

3 September 2003 *Izvestiya* reports that the Russian government has come to an agreement with Ukraine on the terms for delivery of Russian gas and its transit to Western Europe in 2004. During 2004, 127.8bn cubic metres would go to the gas pipeline system of Ukraine from Russia. Of that, 110bn cubic metres would be pumped to the gas market of the countries of Western Europe.

4 September 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says that he does not rule out a Russian peacekeeping contingent being sent to Iraq under the auspices of the UN.

Igor Ivanov and US Secretary of State Colin Powell discuss by telephone the postwar settlement in Iraq.

Chairman of the Russian Union of Oil and Gas Producers Yuriy Shafranik says Russian companies should intensify their presence in Iraq by establishing consortiums. Shafranik is chairman of the board of Soyuzneftegaz. He says Soyuzneftegaz has drawn up a feasibility study of the development of the Rafidayn oil field in Iraq.

4 September 2003 The new Russian cochairman of the OSCE Minsk Group Yuriy Merzlyakov has talks in Baku with Azerbaijani Prime Minister Ilham Aliyev.

4 September 2003 Saudi Crown Prince Abdallah calls on Russia to do everything possible for the implementation of the road map plan and for the fulfilment by the parties of their commitments in all phases of the plan. He is interviewed in *Izvestiya* on 5 September.

4 September 2003 The programme coordinator of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) regional office for Central Asia, Roberto Arbitrio, and the head of the FSB's border department in Tajikistan, Lt-Gen Aleksandr Markin, discuss strengthening cooperation between Russian border guards and Tajik power wielding structures in combating drug trafficking.

4 September 2003 Vladimir Putin says the Sea of Azov has to be an internal sea of Russia and Ukraine.

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4 September 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia is planning to supply modern S-300 SAM systems to Belarus

4 September 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov has talks with the head of the UN Mission in Kosovo Harri Holkeri.

4 September 2003 A delegation of the People's Armed Police of China ends a visit to Russia. Lt-Gen Chen Chuankuo, chief of the general staff was in Moscow to discuss fighting terrorism with the MVD.

5 September 2003 The Russian and French presidents, Vladimir Putin and Jacques Chirac, discuss Iraq by telephone. They discuss giving the United Nations a more extensive role in stabilization efforts in Iraq.

Igor Ivanov says Moscow has not yet considered the practical issues of sending servicemen to participate in peacekeeping operations in Iraq if multinational security forces are set up under the UN's auspices. He says Moscow is not against UN forces being under US command. Ivanov is attending a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the SCO in Tashkent.

Igor Ivanov criticises a recent remark by US Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security John Bolton, who said the alleged presence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq was not the prime reason for launching the US military operation there.

5 September 2003 A MinAtom spokesman says the cost of building Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant has increased. It will cost 1.2bn-1.3bn dollars to complete the construction of the Bushehr nuclear power plant's first power-generating unit with a capacity of 1,000 MW. The power-generating unit will start operations in spring 2005. Nuclear fuel supplies to the Bushehr plant will bring Russia about 20m-30m dollars annually over 40-50 years of the facility's operations. The Atomic Energy Ministry previously estimated the Bushehr project at over 800m dollars. The administration of Atomstroyeksport, the company in charge of the construction, put the figure at 1bn dollars.

5 September 2003 Senior officials of the Prosecutor-General's Office meet US officials to discuss extradition of Russian citizens detained in the US military operation in Afghanistan in 2001-02.

5 September 2003 Bulgarian President Georgi Purvanov visits Sochi for talks with Vladimir Putin.

6 September 2003 The MFA says an international conference needs to be held to draw up measures for guaranteeing security in the Balkans.

6 September 2003 Gazprom decides against buying shares in the Belarusian state-owned company Beltransgaz.

Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says that the agreement on introducing the rouble as the only legal tender for Russia and Belarus is ready, but will not be signed in the near future.

6 September 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says the USA's ideas on the UN Security Council's new draft resolution on Iraq require a rather significant amount of extra work.

6 September 2003 The MFA expresses concern over the resignation of Mahmud Abbas from the post of the head of the Palestinian government. It says it will complicate efforts aimed at overcoming the crisis in the Palestinian-Israeli settlement.

7 September 2003 Igor Ivanov has telephone conversations with the German and French foreign ministers. They discuss Iraq and the Middle East.

7 September 2003 Itera suspends gas supplies to Tbilisi because of a 300,000-dollar debt. Tbilisi appeals to Gazprom for help.

8 September 2003 The State Customs Committee says Russia increased oil exports to foreign countries in the first seven months of 2003 by 14.4% from the same period of 2002 to 100.3m tonnes. The total value of exported oil reached 17.8bn dollars. Russian oil export to CIS states increased by 19.1% to 12.7m tonnes and reached 1.55bn dollars.

Russia increased natural gas export to foreign countries in the first seven months of 2003 by 6.3% from the same period of 2002 to 83.3bn cubic metres. Gas exports to CIS states over the same period amounted to 17.4bn cubic metres. The combined value of gas exports in the first seven months of 2003 was 11.248bn US dollars.

8 September 2003 The Russian government endorses the draft agreement on making the territories of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine into a single economic space. A decree to this effect is signed by Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov.

8 September 2003 The MFA says it hopes that the future Palestinian government will pursue a responsible course and stick to the road map plan.

The Duma International Affairs Committee head Dmitriy Rogozin believes that Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmud Abbas's resignation has strengthened the position for Yasser Arafat's party in the talks on the Middle East settlement.

Special envoy of the Russian foreign minister and ambassador at large Andrey Vdovin has talks with the Palestinian leadership in Ramallah. Vdovin also holds meetings with US Assistant Secretary of State and special envoy for Road Map implementation John Wolf and EU special representative for the Middle East peace

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process Marc Otte. Vdovin says he oppose any Israeli attempt to deport Yasser Arafat.

8 September 2003 Deputy foreign minister and special presidential envoy for Caspian status issues, Viktor Kalyuzhnyy, attends the opening of the 11th session of the special expert group on developing a convention on the legal status of the Caspian Sea in Ashgabat. He says Russia is against the demilitarization of the Caspian Sea and opposes any foreign military presence in the area.

8 September 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Russia is seeking to guarantee the nuclear-free status of the Korean Peninsula, ensure security in North Korea and other states. He says Russia "supports a dialogue between the North and the South and their drive for unification by peaceful means".

Konstantin Pulikovskiy, the presidential representative to the Russian Far East, visits North Korea.

8 September 2003 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov visits Hungary. He says relationships between Russia and NATO within the current "20 format" may become a "NATO-plus-Russia" formula. He says: "We have already achieved mutual understanding in the political sphere. The time has come to cooperate in the military field." He says Russia and NATO have already dovetailed standards for making weapons. He also says: "We have no military-political enemies. Our common enemy is international terrorism, and we are building ties in line with the Rome agreement." He signs several cooperation agreements with the Hungarian government.

9 September 2003 The MFA condemns a Palestinian terrorist attack outside Tel Aviv.

9 September 2003 Deputy foreign minister Yury Fedotov has talks in Jordan. They support the road map.

Yury Fedotov says Russia believes "the multinational peacekeeping forces in Iraq under UN auspices must be under a single command and be accountable to the Security Council. He says Russia has "a whole series of questions about the US draft resolution on Iraq".

The country's permanent representative to the UN, Sergey Lavrov, is interviewed in *Izvestiya*. He says Russia is not planning to send a troop contingent into Iraq. "We are taking part in humanitarian deliveries to Iraq and our companies have resumed work at a number of sites."

9 September 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Saltanov and Pakistani ambassador to Moscow, Iftikhar Murshed discuss ways of implementing the initiative of Russian President Vladimir Putin to broaden Russia's interaction with the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

9 September 2003 MinAtom rejects claims by Greenpeace that it has not made sufficient efforts to finance Russia's radiation safety programmes.

9 September 2003 First Deputy Economic Development and Trade Minister Mikhail Dmitriyev discusses Russia's medium-term (2003-05) development programme at the "Russia and the CIS in 2003: Economic Targets in the 21st Century" conference. He says Russia's integration into the world economy will be a major objective in 2003-05. Joining the WTO and the OECD will top the list of priorities in the next three years, and Russia must also make a decision on integration with the EU.

10 September 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov has talks with the foreign minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mladen Ivanic, in Bosnia. He says Russia "does not intend to quit the Balkans ... we will be expanding our presence to a new level through political, economic and other cooperation with countries in the region."

10 September 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Russia and China will hold the next round of talks on amendments to their border agreement of 24 May 1994 in Moscow in September 2003. He says: "I would like to make it clear at once that we and China have no disputes over our border. The Russian-Chinese treaty on neighbourliness, friendship and cooperation signed on 16 July 2001, points to the absence of any reciprocal territorial claims for the first time in the history of bilateral relations." The countries are committed to finding a mutually-acceptable solution on two border sectors, on which an agreement has yet to be reached. The sectors, which account for less than 2% of the entire length of the border, are located near the Bolshoy Ussuriyskiy and Tarabarov Islands of the Amur river near Khabarovsk, and Bolshoy Island in the Argun river.

10 September 2003 The MFA says Russia is certain that all questions over Iran's nuclear programme can and must be dealt with through that country's cooperation with the IAEA.

10 September 2003 Igor Ivanov makes the following comment in Sarajevo on the Middle East. "Clearly, the moment is coming when, in order to avoid the worst possible scenario, the international community, acting through the quartet (the USA, UN, the EU, Russia) or the UN Security Council, must present the parties to the conflict with tough conditions for the implementation of all aspects of the road map. The fulfilment of these terms may also require an international presence in the conflict zone."

Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov visits Syria.

Andrey Vdovin, MFA special envoy to the Middle East, has talks with new Palestinian Prime Minister-Designate Ahmad Quray in Abu-Dis, Jerusalem suburbs.

10 September 2003 Minister of industry, science and technology Ilya Klebanov visits Egypt to discuss cooperation in industrial and high-tech sectors, including military-industrial cooperation.

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10 September 2003 Vladimir Putin holds a working meeting with Russia's permanent representative to NATO, Konstantin Totskiy, to discuss the development of Russia-NATO cooperation. Totskiy says he believes NATO's cooperation with Russia has even surpassed the framework of the Rome Declaration, especially on a number of military issues, including joint anti-aircraft systems.

11 September 2003 The Finance Ministry estimates Russia's total foreign debt payments in 2004 at 16.1bn dollars, with 9bn dollars of that amount in principal debt and 7.1bn dollars in interest payments.

11 September 2003 Igor Ivanov visits Serbia.

11 September 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov visits Syria.

11 September 2003 The Russian Orthodox Church welcomes Russia's possible accession to the OIC. It says membership will enable it to defend Christian minorities in Muslim countries. The director of the Russian Academy of Sciences' institute of African and Arab studies, Aleksey Vasilyev, said Russia's membership in the OIC could prompt it to assume a pro-Palestinian position in the Middle East conflict. "The charter of this organization reads that Jedda is a provisional place for housing its governing bodies, while in future, they should be relocated to Jerusalem, which the OIC considers to be the capital of the Palestinian state."

11 September 2003 Presidential representative to the Siberian Federal District Leonid Drachevskiy visits the North Eastern Chinese Heilongjiang province to discuss economic cooperation.

11 September 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov says Russia would like to make its trade and economic relations with China more balanced and diversified. He says "in the first seven months of this year, bilateral trade increased by 22.7% reaching 8.12bn dollars and is expected to exceed 13bn dollars in 2003". He also says Russia and China will adjust their visa and migration policies.

11 September 2003 Russian president's plenipotentiary envoy to the Far Eastern Federal District Konstantin Pulikovskiy returns from his visit to North Korea. He says North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il expressed dissatisfaction with the results of the first six-sided multilateral talks on the Korean nuclear issue, held in Beijing.

11 September 2003 Masahiro Kuroda, adviser of the Japan Corporation for Oil Resources Development, visits Moscow. He says that Japan's government and private business will be financing the laying out of the Angarsk-Nakhodka oil pipeline.

12 September 2003 Lukoil President Vagit Alekperov says Lukoil is interested in increasing its presence in Northern Europe. He is referring to rumours about

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LUKoil's possible acquisition of a stake in Finland's state-controlled Fortum energy group.

12 September 2003 Vladimir Putin and French President Jacques Chirac have a telephone conversation. They discuss the Middle East.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov visits Lebanon. He discusses Israel's plans to deport Yasser Arafat.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says Russia stands for an emergency ministerial conference of the international mediating quartet. He says the international community must put greater pressure on Israel and the Palestinians to prevent a collapse of the peace process.

Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Saltanov says Russia is not against the deployment of an international force in the zone of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in principle. "Representatives of a number of countries believe that the possibility of providing assistance to both parties must be considered on site to prevent a rising tide of violence, extremism and terrorism. However, we have always maintained that introducing an international force to the region will be possible on the condition of consent from both conflicting parties ... Just like all other participants in the group we are seriously worried by the current march of events in the region and are determined to cooperate in considering concerted measures. The international community must step up efforts in the current critical situation and put greater pressure on the Palestinians and Israelis to end the conflict and resume the negotiating process on the basis of the Road Map plan."

The MFA says any Israeli decision to deport Yasser Arafat would be a serious mistake.

Igor Ivanov says he hopes that the decision by the Israeli government to expel Arafat will not be implemented.

12 September 2003 Japan's Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi visits Irkutsk. She says that cooperation between Japan and the eastern regions of Russia has a huge potential. She addresses the third Russo-Japanese forum on the prospects of bilateral cooperation in Asia and the Pacific in the context of globalization. Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Losyukov also attends the forum.

12 September 2003 Aleksandr Losyukov says Russia proceeds from the standpoint that North Korea's nuclear problem can only be resolved through negotiations. "In the course of the on-going contacts, we are trying to convince all the sides, including Pyongyang, that security guarantees in exchange for dropping the nuclear programme is the only way to resolve the problem."

12 September 2003 Deputy foreign minister Yuriy Fedotov is in Lebanon. He says any UN force in Iraq will not include Russian troops.

12 September 2003 Lt-Gen Aleksandr Manilov, deputy head of the Russian Federal Security Service's border guard service says Russia intends to step up

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cooperation with northern Pacific countries in fighting maritime poaching. He says "the Russian, US, Canadian, Korean, Japanese and Chinese border guard services will soon have a management information system monitoring the situation at sea".

12 September 2003 Igor Ivanov arrives in Montenegro.

12 September 2003 Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo meets Secretary of the National Security Council of Afghanistan Zalmay Rasul in Moscow.

12 September 2003 Chairman of the State Commission for Chemical Disarmament of the Russian Federation Sergey Kiriyenko says Russia is ready to receive American specialists and familiarize them with the domestic technology for environmentally friendly elimination of chemical weapons.

12 September 2003 A Taiwanese trade mission visits Russia and concludes four major trade agreements.

12 September 2003 The MFA support UN Security Council Resolution 1506, lifting international sanctions on Libya in force since March 1992.

12 September 2003 The Russian government decides to end gas supplies to Belarus at preferential tariffs. Gazprom suggests that Belarus should be made to pay European prices for gas rather than Russian domestic ones.

13 September 2003 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says that Moscow insists that a joint gas transport company should be set up with Belarus. Kasyanov expresses concern at news of the seizure of some of the property of Russian companies in Belarus.

Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin criticises Belarus for delaying currency union with Russia.

13 September 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Kislyak calls on Iran to cooperate with the IAEA and remove all remaining issues relating to Iran's peaceful nuclear programmes. This is in response to the resolution on Iran adopted yesterday by the Board of Governors of the IAEA as a call to Tehran to expand cooperation with the IAEA on issues of its nuclear programme without delay.

Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev says cooperation between Russia and Iran in the nuclear industry is fully in line with the IAEA's charter and with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which have both been signed by Moscow and Tehran. Rumyantsev is attending the 47th IAEA general conference in Vienna. Rumyantsev also said that fresh fuel for the nuclear power station in Bushehr was ready but would not be delivered until the agreement on retuning spent nuclear fuel to Russia had been signed.

13 September 2003 First Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov says the threat of Pakistani nuclear weapons falling into the hands of terrorists is "no more purely theoretical" and this issue had been repeatedly discussed by the Russian-American sub-group dealing with WMD proliferation.

13 September 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Kislyak and US Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control Stephen Rademaker meet and discuss topical issues of disarmament in the context of preparations for the upcoming Russian-US summit.

14 September 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says that Russia will not send troops to take part in a UN peace keeping operation in Iraq.

15 September 2003 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev rejects charges at the IAEA conference in Vienna that Iran is not abiding by the Non-Proliferation Treaty. He says Russia will continue civilian nuclear cooperation with Iran. Rumyantsev urges cooperation with other states to prevent WMD terrorism.

15 September 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says the Middle East road map must be binding on all parties. Fedotov says that the deportation or liquidation of Palestinian National Authority leader Yasser Arafat would be counterproductive.

15 September 2003 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says the talks process relating to Russia joining the WTO "has reached the stage where the final decisions are being adopted".

15 September 2003 Russian Deputy Prime Minister Galina Karelova visits China for trade talks. Trade turnover in 2003 is likely to be 13bn dollars.

16 September 2003 Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov visits Estonia.

Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Chizhov says the problems faced by the Russian-speaking populations of Latvia and Estonia "must be removed from the agenda before these Baltic countries join the EU and NATO".

16 September 2003 Vladimir Putin approves the government's proposal on concluding an agreement with Kyrgyzstan on the status of a Russian air base in that country and the conditions of its functioning. Putin's ordinance instructs the MOD to sign the agreement on behalf of the Russian Federation.

16 September 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says Russia is advocating a concrete discussion of the US draft resolution on Iraq and of the amendments put forward by Moscow, Paris and Berlin. He says that "the resolution should be a new stage in settling the situation in Iraq, envisaging an active and influential role for the UN. We are waiting for a concrete discussion of

both the US draft and the French, German and Russian amendments to begin ... this process has not yet started in New York." Russian amendments to the US draft will enhance the UN role in restoring Iraq's sovereignty. Russia proposes that multinational forces be set up, initially for a year. Their mandate will be tied to the political process and should expire on the day when an internationally-recognized government, elected by the Iraqis themselves, is sworn in in Iraq. If after a year the political process is not completed, the mandate may be extended by the UN Security Council, which will monitor this operation.

16 September 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says it is necessary to take "urgent measures to improve the situation in the Middle East".

16 September 2003 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev says Russian equipment and nuclear fuel for the Iranian nuclear power plant in Bushehr cannot be used to create nuclear weapons.

The US State Department has imposed economic sanctions on the Tula instrument-making design bureau, suspecting it has sold arms to Iran.

16 September 2003 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev says he doubts that North Korea possesses nuclear weapons. "It is rather difficult to get a clear idea of Pyongyang's nuclear programme due to the lack of complete and reliable information. However, on the strength of the existing fragmentary data, one can conclude that North Korea has not made any considerable progress in large-scale nuclear power engineering in the past decade."

16 September 2003 Deputy Defence Minister and head of the Russian Federation Committee for Military and Technical Cooperation with Foreign States Mikhail Dmitriyev says Russian military and technical exports to Greece in 2002-05 will be worth more than 1bn dollars. From 1998-2001 Russia supplied Greece with military hardware and weapons worth 1.1bn dollars. Greece is the only NATO member country with which Russia is engaged in consistent and dynamic cooperation in the military and technical sphere.

17 September 2003 Vladimir Putin meets Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma to discuss the Sea of Azov. Putin signs a plan of collaboration between ministries and government departments to resolve the problems of Russia's military and diplomatic presence in the Black Sea and Sea of Azov region. He also signs a document setting up a basing point for the Black Sea Fleet in Novorossiysk.

17 September 2003 Gazprom says it "will find a compromise" with Belarus officials on gas sector issues "in the nearest future". Gazprom recently announced that it had abandoned the idea of creating a joint venture with Belarus joint venture Beltransgaz.

17 September 2003 US Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security John Bolton arrives in Moscow to discuss proposals to step up controls over all types of international transport to tighten the nonproliferation regime.

17 September 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says Russia is prepared to send troops or observers into the Israeli-Palestinian conflict zone if a decision is made to send international forces. He also says: "If a decision is made on the involvement of the four international mediator countries (the UN, the EU, Russia and the USA) the question arises of Russia's contribution in some form to this group of international observers."

17 September 2003 The Russian-Turkish high-level joint working group meets in Moscow. The working group was set up on 16 November 2001 under the plan of action for developing cooperation between Russia and Turkey in Eurasia. Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Razov and his Turkish counterpart Ali Tuigan co-chair the working group.

17 September 2003 The Russian president's representative in the Far Eastern Federal District Konstantin Pulikovskiy and Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Tetsuro Yano discuss in Khabarovsk the prospects for Russian-Japanese trade and economic cooperation.

17 September 2003 The governments of Russia and the successor states to former Yugoslavia adopt a memorandum on the settlement of mutual financial claims, on accounts linked to the trade turnover between the USSR and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

17 September 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says Russia could send troops to a peacekeeping force to keep the peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

17 September 2003 Manohar Joshi, Speaker of Lok Sabha (Indian Parliament's lower house), visits Russia and addresses the Duma.

18 September 2003 US ambassador to Moscow Alexander Vershbow is interviewed by Russian radio station *Ekho Moskvu*.

18 September 2003 South Korea agrees to write off 600m dollars of debt owed by Russia. An agreement confirming the arrangement is signed in Moscow by the two countries' finance ministers, Aleksey Kudrin and Kim Jin-pyo.

18 September 2003 Vladimir Putin meets the president of Moldova Vladimir Voronin.

18 September 2003 A meeting of the committee of chiefs of general staff from CIS countries takes place in Moscow, and discusses the prospects for military cooperation within the format of the CIS and the Collective Security Treaty Organization [CSTO].

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The chiefs of general staff discussed the formation of a combined unified headquarters for the CSTO, which will start operating on 1 January 2004 in Moscow.

19 September 2003 The 2nd International Conference on Nonproliferation takes place in Moscow.

19 September 2003 Deputy Defence Minister and Chairman of the Russian Federation Committee on Military and Technical Cooperation with Foreign States Mikhail Dmitriyev says cooperation with Iran will continue.

19 September 2003 US Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham visits Russia to discuss energy cooperation.

20 September 2003 Vladimir Putin gives an interview to US reporters on US-Russian relations. He says: "In some areas, we are partners, while in others - such as the war on terror, nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and on the issue of how to strengthen strategic stability - we are allies." He says the war against Iraq was a mistake. He says the UN should have a real role in Iraq. He also discusses Iran, terrorism and human rights. He says that "Arafat has missed an historic opportunity to stabilize the situation in the Middle East and in relations with Israel". He is referring to the offer made by former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak in 2000.

Putin says there should be no delay in adopting a new UN Security Council resolution on Iraq.

20 September 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says work to build a new base for the Black Sea Fleet at Novorossiysk will start in 2005. He says Sevastopol would remain as the Fleet's main base.

20 September 2003 An article in *Izvestiya* discusses Russo-Iranian nuclear cooperation.

21 September 2003 The Ministry of Natural Resources is to offer 44 sections of the continental shelf in northern and Far Eastern waters for oil and gas exploration and extraction. The sections have a total area of 315,000 sq.km. (about 5% of the total area of the shelf).

21 September 2003 A US-Russia Energy forum takes place in St Petersburg. Fuel Minister Igor Yusufov, US Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham, Minister of Trade and Economic Development German Gref and US Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans attend.

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21 September 2003 Deputy Minister for Economic Development and Trade Maksim Medvedkov says Moscow is ready to provide China with preferential conditions for supplying goods and services to Russian markets.

22 September 2003 The head of the Council of Muftis of Russia, Ravil Gaynutdin, supports Vladimir Putin's initiative on joining the OIC.

22 September 2003 Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev visits Moscow for talks with Vladimir Putin.

22 September 2003 The MFA condemns a terrorist attack outside UN headquarters in Baghdad.

22 September 2003 The Prosecutor-General's Office files an extradition request for former Russian media magnate Vladimir Gusinskiy with the appropriate agencies of Greece.

22 September 2003 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov visits China. He will discuss the Angarsk-Daqing oil pipeline.

22 September 2003 The deputy head of the Russian presidential administration, Dmitriy Kozak, is appointed to deal with problems related to the settlement of the Dniester conflict.

22 September 2003 First Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov says Russia and the USA are entering a new phase of cooperation in the fight against terrorism. "Recently, an important shift has occurred in our cooperation from exchange of opinions to joint actions, including between the special services and the law-enforcement bodies."

23 September 2003 Igor Ivanov addresses the United Nations General Assembly.

The foreign ministers of Russia and Israel, Igor Ivanov and Silvan Shalom, meet during the 58th session of the UN General Assembly and discuss the situation on Palestinian territories.

23 September 2003 LUKoil Vice-President Leonid Fedun says LUKoil will be able to ship the first oil tanker from the Barents Sea port of Murmansk to the US in 2007 after the completion of the proposed Western Siberia-Murmansk pipeline. He is addressing the second US-Russian energy summit.

23 September 2003 The director of the Russian Academy of Sciences' USA and Canada Institute, Sergey Rogov, says Russia should show "much more toughness" in its nuclear-power collaboration with Iran. He criticises Iran for so far not signing a contract with Russia for the return of nuclear fuel. He says: "The damage that

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this collaboration could do to our relations with the USA is incomparably greater than any commercial gain that the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry might enjoy from building the Bushehr nuclear power station."

23 September 2003 Prime ministers from the SCO countries (China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan) meet in Beijing. They endorse a programme of multilateral economic cooperation.

23 September 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says that it may be possible for Russia to provide NATO with information on its national defence expenditure within permissible limits.

The economic committee of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly meets in the Duma.

23 September 2003 An article in *Severnnyy Kavkaz* calls on Arab countries to close Chechen missions in their countries.

23 September 2003 Russian Ambassador to Macedonia Agaron Asatur says the purpose of an international conference on the Balkans, proposed by Russia, is final setting of the already recognized borders in this region. He says: "Our suggestion refers to convening of a large international meeting, in particular of the Balkan governments and representatives of the UN, EU, United States and Russia ... the conference would also address the status of ethnic minorities in the Balkans, a region that now looks like a patchwork cover, considering the fact that there is no ethnically pure state. Regardless where they live, the minorities should be protected and enjoy own rights."

23 September 2003 The Duma committee for international affairs expresses concern about the condition of Russian citizens in Turkmenistan after the Turkmen side withdrew from an agreement on dual citizenship. The committee is now preparing a relevant statement of the parliament chamber. In addition, the State Duma is planning a parliamentary hearing for November on the violation of Russian citizens' rights in Turkmenistan.

24 September 2003 The Russia-US Entrepreneurial Forum opens in Moscow. Talks are held between Science, Industry and Technology Minister Ilya Klebanov and US Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans on broadening trade cooperation.

24 September 2003 Russian and US financial intelligence services agree to exchange information on suspicious transactions, which could be linked to legalization of criminal revenues. An agreement is signed in Moscow between the Russian Federation Financial Monitoring Committee and the US Financial Crimes Enforcement Network.

24 September 2003 Chechen separatist foreign minister Ilyas Akhmadov asks US President George Bush to broker a Chechen settlement.

24 September 2003 The leaders of Russia, France and Germany discuss issues relating to reform of the United Nations, relations between the three countries, the situation around Iran and Iraq, and the problems of the Middle East, at the UN.

24 September 2003 Igor Ivanov says Russia opposes unilateral approaches to the resolution and prevention of conflicts. He is speaking at the session of the UN Security Council dedicated to the issues of justice and supremacy of law in the context of peacekeeping and post-conflict settlement.

24 September 2003 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao sign a joint communiqué on the results of the eighth regular meeting of the two countries' heads of government. The communiqué states that China and Russia view the terrorist forces in Chechnya and "East Turkestan" (Xinjiang) as component parts of international terrorism. Kasyanov says trade turnover between Russia and China this year could reach 14bn dollars. Kasyanov identifies three main areas for trade and economic cooperation between Russia and China. The first is to increase deliveries to China, of machine and technical goods for civilian use. First and foremost equipment for atomic energy and equipment for heat energy installations, and civilian aircraft. The second priority is the establishment in Russian regions bordering China of enterprises for processing primary raw materials. The third priority is the oil and gas sector.

24 September 2003 Igor Ivanov and Arab League Secretary-General Amr Musa meet at the UN 58th session. They urge the sides in the Middle East conflict to scrupulously implement the road map plan.

Igor Ivanov urges that the Quartet of mediators in the Middle East settlement process - Russia, the EU, the UN and the USA - should be engaged in more active work.

24 September 2003 Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov meets Palestinian envoy to Russia Khairi al-Oridi. The envoy gives him a personal message from Yasser Arafat.

24 September 2003 The National Assembly of Armenia ratifies a Russian-Armenian agreement on the joint use of military infrastructure facilities which was signed in Moscow on 1 October 2002.

24 September 2003 Igor Ivanov meets EU foreign ministers at the UN. This is the first time that the meeting of the foreign ministers of Russia and the EU's present and future member states has for the first time been held in the 25+1 format.

25 September 2003 Chechen administration head Akhmad Kadyrov visits the USA.

25 September 2003 Vladimir Putin addresses the 58th UN General Assembly session. Putin meets UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

25 September 2003 Igor Ivanov speaks on a New York-Moscow televised link-up on US-Russian relations.

25 September 2003 Igor Ivanov says disagreements between Russia and the USA over Iraq "are a matter of history", and Russia is open to a very constructive dialogue with the USA in search of political settlement in Iraq. He says international forces in Iraq must have a UN mandate. "The presence of the international forces (in Iraq) is necessary, but this presence must be governed by a specific mandate that should be approved by the UN Security Council. This mandate should set forth the purpose of these international security forces, the tasks they should perform and a temporary timeframe for their stay in Iraq ... both political processes and the issues of security in Iraq should be decided under the aegis of the Organization of the United Nations."

25 September 2003 Igor Ivanov says Russia continues to support talks on the North Korean nuclear programme in the six-party format.

25 September 2003 Prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov says Russia is prepared to grant a loan to China for the construction of the second phase of the Tianwan nuclear power plant. He says Russia and China hope to resolve soon problems with the eastern section of the Sino-Russian border.

Chairman of the committee of the Russian Federation for military and technical cooperation with foreign states and Deputy Defence Minister Mikhail Dmitriyev has talks in Beijing with the Vice-Chairman of the Central Military Commission of the People's Republic of China, member of the State Council and Minister of National Defence Cao Gangchuan.

25 September 2003 The Rosenergoatom consortium's technical director Nikolay Sorokin says it will assign over R2bn for a nuclear power plant safety programme in 2003. Rosenergoatom is operating 30 power units at 10 nuclear plants in Russia.

25 September 2003 The chairman of the Audit Chamber, Sergey Stepashin, says experts estimate that Russia's budget loses up to 60m US dollars to capital flight every five years.

26 September 2003 Vladimir Putin visits Columbia University and the New York Stock Exchange. He criticises the continuing operation of the Jackson-Vanik amendment in the USA in respect of Russia.

26 September 2003 Patriarch Aleksiy II of Moscow and All Russia has called on the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad to unite with the Moscow Patriarchy.

26 September 2003 An agreement on cooperation between Russian and American coast guards on the protection of biological resources of the Bering Sea is signed in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatka by the head of Russian Northeastern border guard

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directorate, Valeriy Putov, and the commander of the 17th Coast Guard District of the United States, James Underwood.

26 September 2003 A Latvian Court sentences a World War II veteran, Nikolay Larionov, aged 82, to five years imprisonment. He is charged with participation in the extradition of people from Latvia in the late 1940s.

26 September 2003 The acting head of the Far Eastern regional directorate of the Border Guard Service of the FSB, Lt-Gen Aleksandr Danilenko, and the commander of the Heilongjiang Military District in Shenyang Military Region, Maj-Gen Li Heng, sign agreements on border cooperation.

26 September 2003 The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) decides not to send observers to the presidential election in Chechnya on 5 October. PACE Chairman Peter Sheder says that the decision had been taken for safety reasons. Sheder says that observers would like to visit Chechnya after the election.

26 September 2003 Igor Ivanov says Russia wants to see a widening of the powers of the "quartet" of international Middle East mediators to implement the "road map". He attends a meeting at the UN of the quartet.

27 September 2003 Vladimir Putin meets US President George Bush at Camp David. They discuss Iraq, the Middle East, Russian-US cooperation in the strategic military domain, including SORT, and international terrorism, Russo-US economic relations and Russia's accession to the WTO.

Vladimir Putin says "Russia has no wish and no plans to facilitate the creation of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear weapons in Iran or in any other region in the world. We strictly adhere to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. That is in our Russian national interests." He says Iran must cooperate more with the IAEA. He says North Korea should have security guarantees. He also says that there is no alternative to the Middle East road map.

27 September 2003 Igor Ivanov appoints Aleksandr Kalugin his special envoy to the Middle East. He replaces Andrey Vdovin.

27 September 2003 Yukos says it opposes postponing the construction of the Angarsk-Daqing oil pipeline.

29 September 2003 Vladimir Putin speaks at a conference in Moscow on climate change. He says Russia will study the Kyoto Protocol carefully before deciding on ratification.

29 September 2003 Head of the Duma international affairs committee Dmitriy Rogozin gives an interview on *Ekho Moskvy* radio. He says: "We should pat the

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Americans on the back but at all times be prepared to check their attempts to get into our underbelly, in the Caucasus or Asia ... the Americans regard themselves as saviours of the world; hence their aggression ... When the Americans solve problems that happen to be key problems for us too, there is probably some justification for encouraging them in that pursuit but when they get into the zone of Russian geopolitical interests, it is essential to have the option, the right and the will to tell them: That's ours, so clear off." He criticises Latvia for its anti-Russian policies.

29 September 2003 Deputy Gazprom chief Aleksandr Ryazanov says Gazprom is ready to consider increasing the capacity of gas pipelines bypassing Belarus if it fails to reach an agreement in six months with the country's officials on a gas pipeline system. Gazprom may increase its throughput through Ukraine and Moldova.

29 September 2003 The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) approves the participation of LUKoil Overseas in a geological exploration project on the Anaran prospective onshore block in Iran.

29 September 2003 Vladimir Putin attends the opening of Bulgarian cultural days ceremony at the Bolshoi Theatre, as does Bulgarian President Georgi Purvanov.

29 September 2003 The commander of the US 7th Fleet, Vice Admiral Robert Willard, visits the Pacific Fleet main base, Vladivostok.

29 September 2003 An article in *Moskovskiy Komsomolets'* "Rumour Mill" discusses Russian policy over Iraq and the draft US mandate to be presented to the UN Security Council. Viktor Kremenyuk, deputy director of ISKAN; Vladimir Kumachev, vice-president of the National Security and Strategic Research Institute; Sergey Kazennov, head of the geopolitics sections of IMEMO all comment.

29 September 2003 An article in *Vremya Novostey* by Radzhab Safarov discusses the Russia-Iran-USA inter-relationship.

30 September 2003 Justice Minister Yuriy Chayka says he regrets the decision of the PACE and OSCE not to send their observers to Chechnya to monitor the presidential elections.

Ambassadors of the EU troika are summoned to the MFA in connection with EU statements expressing concern over preparations for the presidential election in Chechnya.

30 September 2003 Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko visits Moscow for talks with Vladimir Putin.

ITERA and Beltransgaz sign a contract on deliveries of natural gas to Belarus in 2004. The volume of gas deliveries to Belarus in 2004 will come to 7.5bn cubic

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metres. ITERA plans to deliver 6.3bn cubic metres of gas to Belarus' in 2003. ITERA provides for about 40% of Belarus' energy needs.

30 September 2003 Andrey Illarionov, economics adviser to the Russian president, says the current wording of the Kyoto Protocol discriminates against Russia.

30 September 2003 The chairman of the Duma Committee on International Affairs, Dmitriy Rogozin, criticises the continued existence of the Jackson-Vanik amendment to the US-Russian Trade Law. He says it should be repealed.

30 September 2003 The National Bolshevik Party holds a rally outside the Lithuanian consulate-general in St Petersburg.

30 September 2003 The speaker of Georgia's parliament, Nino Burjanadze says the Pankisi Gorge problem is now practically nonexistent. "There were no terrorist bases in the Pankisi Gorge and there are now no international terrorists there." She also says that "Georgia was entitled to expect Russia to recognize that Georgia had solved that problem."

30 September 2003 The parliamentary speakers of the Caucasus Four, Armenia, Russia, Georgia and Azerbaijan, meet in Moscow.

30 September 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov and William Burns, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, discuss the postwar settlement in Iraq and its political, economic and military aspects in Washington.

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