

1. Conflict Studies Research Centre

Russian Foreign Policy: Chronology

April - June 1998

April

1 April 1998 G8 energy ministers hold a summit meeting.

1 April 1998 Boris Yel'tsin writes to Eduard Shevardnadze to confirm Russia's strategic partnership with Georgia.

1 April 1998 A Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) spokesman says that Moscow wishes to continue her cooperation with Armenia as a strategic partner.

1 April 1998 Boris Nemtsov says that Russia and the USA have acknowledged that there may be different routes for the transportation of Caspian oil.

1 April 1998 The Duma condemns the US Congress motion against Belarus.

1 April 1998 The Russo-German council for bilateral cooperation meets in Moscow. The two chairmen are Yakov Urinson, acting deputy prime minister and German economics minister Guenter Rexrodt.

2 April 1998 Russia complains to the UN Human Rights Commission about Latvia.

3 April 1998 The Russian envoy to Cyprus, Vladimir Chizhov, calls for a resumption of talks on the Cyprus problem.

3 April 1998 Yel'tsin and Japanese prime minister Ryutaro Hashimoto agree by telephone to hold a summit in Kawana, Japan on 18-19 April.

3 April 1998 Defence minister Igor' Sergeyev urges the Duma to ratify START-2.

4 April 1998 Boris Nemtsov holds talks with visiting Iranian oil minister Bizhan Namdar-Zangeneh.

6 April 1998 The MFA expresses concern about an explosion which occurred on 5 April outside the Russian Embassy in Latvia.

6 April 1998 Presidential spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says that Moscow will go ahead with economic countermeasures against Latvia in view of Latvia's policy towards Russian-speaking residents of Latvia.

6 April 1998 Yevgeny Adamov, Russia's acting atomic energy minister, says that Russia will fulfil her commitment to build the Bushehr nuclear power station in Iran. He wishes to build an additional reactor at the Bushehr complex.

6 April 1998 Yel'tsin holds a telephone conversation with Clinton.

7 April 1998 Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev addresses a plenary meeting of the conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Windhoek. He criticises human rights violations in Estonia and Latvia and accuses the West of double standards, ignoring these violations, whilst criticising Belarus.

7 April 1998 The Italian foreign minister Lamberto Dini visits Moscow for talks with Yevgeny Primakov.

8 April 1998 Yel'tsin urges the Russian government to consider economic pressure on Latvia. He has instructed the government to take organisational and financial measures to develop new ports and oil terminals in the Gulf of Finland.

8 April 1998 The Duma condemns the US Congress for trying to pressurise Belarus over her human rights record.

8 April 1998 Sergey Kiriyenko says that the government has worked out a number of economic measures against Latvia. They include restrictions on the purchase of goods from Latvia and provision of services by Latvia to Russian enterprises, including energy transit services.

8 April 1998 Presidential spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says that the Russian leadership backs the idea of adopting a document on the settlement on the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict which would reflect the viewpoints of all CIS leaders.

9 April 1998 Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says that sanctions or a complete embargo against Latvia are out of the question.

9 April 1998 Yel'tsin meets Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev in Moscow. They discuss the Caspian Sea and Baykonur cosmodrome. Nazarbayev says that Yel'tsin will visit Kazakhstan in July and a new treaty would be signed then.

9 April 1998 The MFA expresses regret over the testing of a ballistic missile by Pakistan.

10 April 1998 The Russian and British foreign ministers discuss by telephone the questions connected with the 54th session of the UN Human Rights Commission (UNHCR) in Geneva. They discuss human rights in Latvia.

10 April 1998 Yel'tsin puts Sergey Kiriyenko in charge of implementing accords reached at the March Russo-German-Franco summit. Trilateral work groups must be set up.

10 April 1998 The new Russian presidential representative to the talks on a Transdnestr settlement, Igor Morozov, meets Moldovan leaders.

10 April 1998 The director of the Russian centre for political studies, Vladimir Orlov, says that there have been at least three attempts by Iran to obtain weapons technology from Russia. He says that there are no confirmed cases of the transfer of technologies to Iran.

11 April 1998 INTERFAX reports that Russia is to export 610,000 tonnes less of oil to the West via Latvia in the second quarter of this year than in the first because of Latvia's attitude to Russian residents in Latvia.

13 April 1998 Boris Pastukhov, acting first deputy foreign minister, says that Russia opposes a plan to lay a trans-Caspian oil pipeline across the Caspian Sea. This would help connect Baku to Ceyhan. Pastukhov says that pipelines running across Russia are the most economical.

13 April 1998 The press secretary of the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry says that Russia has not sold or transferred any former Soviet nuclear weapon to any other country.

13 April 1998 Russian deputy foreign minister Georgy Mamedov discusses Russo-Iranian relations with the Iranian Ambassador, Mehdi Safari.

13 April 1998 The MFA expresses concern over Indo-Pakistan tension over nuclear weapons.

13 April 1998 Yel'tsin has a telephone conversation with Indian prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee. Yel'tsin will visit India in December 1998.

13 April 1998 Yel'tsin submits to the Duma for ratification a protocol on the START-2 treaty, signed in New York on 26 September 1997. This protocol prolongs the term for the limitation of strategic offensive weapons until 31 December 2007. The START-2 treaty itself was submitted to the Duma for ratification on 20 June 1995.

13 April 1998 Military Intelligence (GRU) director Col-Gen Valentin Korabelnikov visits the USA at the invitation of Lt-Gen Patrick Hughes, chief of the Defence Intelligence Agency.

13 April 1998 The Baltic News Service reports that Russia has halted diesel supplies to Latvia via Lithuania's Birzai pipeline, and has cut crude oil supplies by about 20%. Crude oil is still being pumped to Ventspils but at a lower capacity.

14 April 1998 Nikolay Kovalev, Federal Security Service (FSB) director, reported to Yel'tsin that the FSB has foiled an illegal attempt to smuggle alloyed steel to Iran via Azerbaijan.

14 April 1998 In an interview with *Izvestiya*, Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu says that the leakage of Russian missile technology to Iran is damaging Israeli-Russian relations.

14 April 1998 The presidential press service welcomes the recent statement by Lithuanian leader Valdas Adamkus on Lithuania's readiness to continue an active dialogue with Russia.

17 April 1998 The MFA says that it is bewildered by repeated US concerns over Moscow's alleged involvement in Iran's missile programme.

18 April 1998 Yel'tsin visits Japan. He and Japanese prime minister Ryutaro Hashimoto agree that a future peace treaty will contain a settlement of the sovereignty issue.

19 April 1998 The Qatari foreign minister visits Moscow.

20 April 1998 Sergey Kiriyenko meets US deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott in Moscow.

20 April 1998 Defence minister Igor Sergeyev sends a message to his Indian counterpart affirming the value of Russo-Indian military cooperation. In 1997 a military-technical cooperation programme was extended to 2010.

20 April 1998 The MFA denies press claims that Russia is involved in any plan to topple the Latvian government.

20 April 1998 Foreign minister Yevgeny Primakov holds talks with US deputy secretary of state Strobe Talbott on the Kosovo crisis.

20 April 1998 The Russo-Iraqi subcommission on oil and power engineering meets. It discusses the participation of Russian companies in the UN oil for food programme and the restoration of Iraqi pipelines.

21 April 1998 Security Council secretary Andrey Kokoshin holds talks with US secretary of state Strobe Talbott on Russo-US cooperation in strengthening international security.

21 April 1998 Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, deputy head of the presidential administration visits the Kurile Islands. He says that the observation of Russia's territorial integrity is a fundamental principle of the constitution and no one is going to deviate from this.

21 April 1998 Iranian government special envoy Ala'eddin Borujerdi holds talks in Moscow on Afghanistan.

22 April 1998 Russian Chief of the General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin meets NATO Joint Armed Forces CINC Wesley Clark.

22 April 1998 The MFA says that the Russo-Japanese treaty will contain a decision on the south Kurile problem in some form.

23 April 1998 Yel'tsin's spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy criticises Chechen plans to appoint ambassadors.

23 April 1998 The MFA expresses concern about Albanian terrorism in Kosovo.

24 April 1998 The Italian defence minister Beniamino Andreatta visits Moscow for talks with Yevgeny Primakov.

24 April 1998 Deputy foreign minister Grigory Karasin and Chinese vice foreign minister Zhang Deguang hold talks in Moscow.

27 April 1998 The MFA says that there are no plans to change the Cyprus S-300 missile deal.

28 April 1998 The Quadripartite Council meets in Moscow. The presidents of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan attend, while the Kyrgyz prime minister attends. They accept Tajikistan's application to join.

28 April 1998 Defence minister Igor Sergeyev meets his Finnish counterpart Anneli Taina in Moscow.

28 April 1998 The MFA denies reports that Russia has been helping India develop missile systems.

28 April 1998 Yevgeny Primakov says that terrorists are being trained in Albania to operate in Kosovo. MFA spokesman Vladimir Rakhmanin says that Moscow opposes sanctions against Serbia because of Kosovo.

28 April 1998 Foreign minister Yevgeny Primakov discusses Iraq and Kosovo with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright by telephone.

28 April 1998 State Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev calls for sanctions against Iraq to be lifted.

29 April 1998 CIS Heads of State summit take place in Moscow. Boris Berezovskiy is appointed CIS executive secretary.

29 April 1998 Gazprom head Rem Vyakhirev meets Armenian president Robert Kocharyan to discuss gas supplies to Armenia and gas transit through Armenia.

30 April 1998 Yel'tsin orders defence minister Igor Sergeyev and peacekeeping force commander Sergey Korobko to visit Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze.

30 April 1998 Yel'tsin discusses bilateral ties with Italian prime minister over the telephone.

May

4 May 1998 Yevgeny Primakov meets with the Romanian foreign minister Andrei Plesu in Strasbourg. He says that they discussed drafting a bilateral treaty.

5 May 1998 Yevgeny Primakov at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg says that Russia opposes independence for Kosovo even within the Yugoslav federation. Kosovo must have autonomy, but within Serbia. He opposes sanctions, or sending foreign troops to Kosovo.

5 May 1998 Primakov says he expects help from the Council of Europe in protecting rights in Russia.

5 May 1998 A telephone hot line is established between the Russian and Chinese heads of state.

5 May 1998 MFA spokesman Valery Nesterushkin says that the Middle East process is going nowhere.

5 May 1998 Russian Chief of the General Staff General Anatoly Kvashnin arrives in Brussels for a meeting of the Joint Russia-NATO Military Committee.

6 May 1998 Uzbek President Islam Karimov visits Russia. A cooperation treaty is signed. A joint statement is issued on the Afghan crisis.

6 May 1998 Russian deputy foreign minister Grigory Karasin meets his Japanese counterpart Minoru Tanba to begin the third round of talks on issues related to the drafting of a peace treaty. They end without result.

7 May 1998 Deputy foreign minister Viktor Posuvalyuk meets his Kuwaiti counterpart Sulayman al-Shahin in Moscow.

7 May 1998 CIS Executive Secretary Boris Berezovski visits Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus.

7 May 1998 Defence minister Igor Sergeyev says that Moscow is abiding by its commitments on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and delivery systems.

8 May 1998 G8 foreign ministers meet in London. They discuss the Middle East, Yugoslavia.

8 May 1998 Sergey Kiriyenko calls for closer cooperation with the EU.

9 May 1998 Deputy foreign minister Igor Ivanov fears a Balkan war could erupt over Kosovo.

9 May 1998 Russian Atomic Energy Minister Yevgeny Adamov denies a report in the *Washington Post* claiming that Russia is to sell uranium-enriching equipment to Iran.

11 May 1998 Atomic Energy minister Yevgeny Adamov calls for tougher controls over nuclear materials to prevent nuclear proliferation.

12 May 1998 Yel'tsin makes a speech at the MFA outlining Russian foreign policy priorities. He says it has four main objectives:

- a. Maintaining territorial integrity.
- b. Democratising society.
- c. Providing national security.
- d. Reforming the economy and integrating into the global market economy.

Russia should not prostrate itself before the USA. The formation of the G8 is complete. Regions must not go their own way in foreign policy. He wants to see greater initiative in the work of the consultative council of constituent parts of the RF for international and foreign relations under the MFA. Yel'tsin expresses disapproval of India's nuclear test.

12 May 1998 Commander of Russian Strategic Missile Forces, Col-Gen Vladimir Yakovlev, calls for START-2 ratification He proposes a strategic stability treaty.

12 May 1998 Yel'tsin and Clinton discuss foreign policy issues by telephone before the G8 summit.

13 May 1998 Yevgeny Primakov opposes sanctions against India, although the MFA condemns the Indian nuclear test.

13 May 1998 Atomic Energy Minister Yevgeny Adamov and Iranian vice-president for Atomic Energy Reza Aqazadeh-Khoi discuss the implementation of the bilateral contract for constructing the plant at Bushehr.

13 May 1998 Yevgeny Primakov welcomes the decision of the Kosovan Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova to visit Belgrade for talks with Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic.

14 May 1998 Presidential spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says that export controls on missile and nuclear technologies will be tightened.

14 May 1998 Ivan Rybkin is appointed official representative of the Russian president in the CIS.

14 May 1998 The Duma votes against setting up a commission to consider START-2 and to prepare for ratification documents relating to the treaty on limiting ABM systems.

14 May 1998 Presidential envoy to the Middle East, Viktor Posuvalyuk, calls for the implementation of UN Resolution 425, providing for the unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon.

14 May 1998 Viktor Posuvalyuk discusses the Middle East peace process in Lebanon; on 15 May in Syria, and on 17 May in Egypt and Palestine.

15 May 1998 Yel'tsin arrives for the G8 summit in Birmingham.

15 May 1998 The MFA expresses serious concern over Palestinian-Israeli clashes.

15 May 1998 Deputy foreign minister Igor Ivanov visits Prague. He discusses European security issues.

15 May 1998 Yel'tsin meets the EU leadership at the G8 summit.

17 May 1998 Yel'tsin invites G8 leaders to Moscow in 1999 to discuss international crime.

17 May 1998 Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says that Russia backs the US military presence in Macedonia.

18 May 1998 Russia warns Pakistan not to carry out nuclear tests.

18 May 1998 The Iranian vice-president and chairman of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organisation Gholamreza Aqazadeh says that Iran is interested in further help from Russia in building new nuclear power stations.

18 May 1998 The Russian-Georgian inter-parliamentary commission meets in Sochi to discuss ways of settling the Abkhaz conflict.

19 May 1998 The Duma decides to delay the closed hearings on START-2 ratification until September. US President Bill Clinton therefore postpones his trip to Russia.

20 May 1998 Yel'tsin signs a decree on the implementation of Russian policy in respect of the CIS and its member states. The first deputy foreign minister in charge of cooperation with the CIS will be granted ministerial powers in implementing measures to coordinate the executive's actions in respect of Russia's coordination with CIS states.

20 May 1998 The FSB compiles lists of foreign companies believed to be implicated in the development of weapons of mass destruction and delivery systems.

20 May 1998 The Chechen MFA sends notes to Yevgeny Primakov calling for diplomatic relations between Moscow and Grozny. The Chechen MFA says it will apply for UN membership and calls for diplomatic relations with Germany and Turkey.

21 May 1998 Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says that Russia will not be pressurised over Iran.

21 May 1998 Minister of Economy Yakov Urinson has talks in Brussels with EU leadership on EU expansion and the Euro.

21 May 1998 Yel'tsin talks by telephone with Indian prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee.

21 May 1998 Prime minister Sergey Kiriyenko meets World Bank president James Wolfensohn.

21 May 1998 Israeli trade minister Nathan Sharansky visits Moscow.

22 May 1998 Clinton rings Yel'tsin to discuss the situation in India and Pakistan.

22 May 1998 A Duma delegation headed by Yury Utkin visits Cyprus.

22 May 1998 Belarus president visits Yaroslavl Region of Russia.

23 May 1998 Russia and Vietnam sign an agreement to build Vietnam's first oil refinery.

23 May 1998 Deputy foreign minister Georgy Mamedov speaks to the Duma on Russia's policy toward the Transcaucasus and Central Asia. He is critical of US policy towards the region.

24 May 1998 Yel'tsin's representative in CIS, Ivan Rybkin, calls for a meeting between Eduard Shevardnadze and Vladislav Ardzinba.

24 May 1998 The MFA calls for an immediate ceasefire in Abkhazia.

24 May 1998 The Russian High Command simulates a war in the Caucasus in a computer training session.

25 May 1998 The MFA criticises the US Senate's passing of a law which imposes sanctions on companies which provide support for the Iranian missile programme.

25 May 1998 Yel'tsin appoints Yury Proshin deputy foreign minister. He will deal with economic matters.

26 May 1998 The MFA supports the suggestion by the French and Egyptian presidents that an international conference be held to rescue the Middle East peace process. MFA spokesman Vladimir Rakhmanin said that Russia supported concerted efforts by Russia, the EU and other countries to revive the Arab-Israeli talks. The MFA says that any conference should not substitute the activity of the cosponsors of the Middle East peace process, Russia and the USA.

25 May 1998 Harald V, King of Norway, visits Russia.

26 May 1998 Col-Gen Valery Manilov, the first deputy chief of the General Staff, says that Russia will not curtail its military presence in areas of traditional national interests or abstain from peacemaking operation.

26 May 1998 Yevgeny Primakov travels to Kiev for talks.

27 May 1998 In *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, Col-Gen Leonid Ivashov, the head of the MOD's main directorate of military cooperation, warns that Russia will have to increase its strategic forces in north-west Russia if former Soviet states become candidates for NATO membership. He expresses concern over NATO widening.

27 May 1998 Slovak premier Vladimir Meciar visits Moscow.

27 May 1998 The MFA condemns Turkey for launching cross-border attacks on Kurdish fighters in Iraq.

27 May 1998 Russian foreign minister Grigory Karasin discusses North Korea's nuclear programme with the South Korean leadership in Seoul.

28 May 1998 The MFA expresses regret and concern over Pakistani nuclear tests.

28 May 1998 The MFA demands that Abkhazia abide by the 25 May protocol on a ceasefire.

28 May 1998 Yel'tsin and Clinton discuss Pakistani tests over the telephone.

28 May 1998 Yevgeny Primakov has talks with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in Luxembourg.

29 May 1998 Sergey Kiriyenko discusses fiscal policy with US vice-president Al Gore.

29 May 1998 The Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy says that it will continue to aid India in the peaceful use of nuclear power.

30 May 1998 Yevgeny Primakov visits Finland.

June

1 June 1998 Primakov visits Switzerland.

2 June 1998 Russia calls on India and Pakistan to revise their nuclear policies and join the Non-Proliferation and Comprehensive Test Ban Treaties.

2 June 1998 Russia, Germany, France sign an agreement on reprocessing military plutonium.

2 June 1998 Defence minister Igor Sergeyev holds talks with the visiting head of the Japanese Joint Staff Council, Admiral Kazuya Natsukawa.

2 June 1998 Deputy defence minister Nikolay Mikhaylov visits South Korea.

2 June 1998 The CIS Council of Interior Ministers meets in Tashkent.

3 June 1998 Russia and ASEAN deputy foreign ministers hold a conference in Moscow.

3 June 1998 Deputy foreign minister Boris Pastukhov threatens the withdrawal of Russian peacekeeping forces from Georgia and Abkhazia.

3 June 1998 Prime minister Sergey Kiriyenko leaves for France.

3 June 1998 Gazprom decides not to make long-term cuts to Yugoslavia's gas supply.

5 June 1998 Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says that NATO forces cannot be sent to Kosovo without the sanction of the UN Security Council or without taking Yugoslavia's position into account.

5 June 1998 The fourth session of the heads of state and heads of government of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Council meets in Yalta. Prime minister Sergey Kiriyenko attends. A Black Sea Economic Cooperation Charter is signed.

5 June 1998 Yel'tsin instructs Yevgeny Primakov to prepare a meeting of the Security Council on military reform. They also discuss START-2 and Russia-NATO relations.

5 June 1998 Duma speaker Gennady Seleznev expects the START-2 ratification debate to begin in the autumn.

5 June 1998 Yel'tsin spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy states that Russia's position is that Kosovo is part of Serbia. He calls for Kosovo to have the status of an autonomous entity with meaningful rights within Serbia. He says that it is necessary for Kosovo's borders with Albania to be closed to prevent the supply of arms and incursion of militants. He calls for pressure to be put on the conflicting sides to have a dialogue..

5 June 1998 The Duma ratifies the framework convention on the protection of national minorities drafted by the Council of Europe.

6 June 1998 Yel'tsin talks with the Indian prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and expresses his concern over the nuclear tests.

7 June 1998 In an interview on NTV, CIS Executive Secretary Boris Berezovskiy discusses his visits to Georgia and Abkhazia. He is critical of some of the positions of the MFA over this problem.

7 June 1998 Georgian foreign minister Irakli Menagharishvili visits Moscow. He discusses Abkhazia with Yevgeny Primakov on 10 June.

8 June 1998 The Russo-Japanese commission on economic cooperation discusses various projects in the Far East.

8-9 June 1998 Yel'tsin and key ministers visit Germany for consultations. Yel'tsin says a greater Europe must involve Russia. Kohl and Yel'tsin issue statement on the Kosovo crisis urging dialogue.

9 June 1998 Russian UN representative Sergey Lavrov opposes sanctions against India or Pakistan.

9 June 1998 Russian and Azeri border troops agree on cooperation to prevent the smuggling of weapons and narcotics.

9 June 1998 Boris Agapov is appointed CIS deputy executive secretary.

9 June 1998 The Ministry of Regional and Nationalities Policy signs an agreement with Omsk region to give assistance to Russians living in Kazakhstan.

9 June 1998 Deputy foreign minister Viktor Posuvalyuk holds talks on the Middle East settlement with the director-general of the Israeli MFA, Eytan Ben-Tzur, in Moscow.

9 June 1998 The Duma holds closed hearings on START-2 presented by the Russian General Staff.

9 June 1998 Defence minister Igor Sergeyev arrives in Brussels to attend a session of the Russia-NATO Permanent Joint Council and a ministerial session of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council. He urges a political solution to Kosovo.

9 June 1998 Deputy foreign minister Nikolay Afanasevskiy urges a dialogue on Kosovo.

10 June 1998 MFA spokesman Vladimir Rakhmanin says that only the UN can authorise the use of force by NATO in Kosovo.

10 June 1998 A Russian defence industry official says that Russia will be ready to ship S-300 PMU-1 air defence missiles to Cyprus at the end of July-beginning of August.

10 June 1998 The Duma votes to cancel parliamentary hearings on START-2 scheduled to begin on 16 June.

10 June 1998 The MFA says it is prepared to mediate between India and Pakistan.

10 June 1998 Sergey Yastrzhembskiy heads a delegation to Namibia and South Africa.

10 June 1998 Sergey Kiriyyenko visits Belarus.

11 June 1998 The MFA says it is opposed to the use of force in Yugoslavia.

12 June 1998 Defence minister Igor Sergeyev meets US Defence Secretary William Cohen in Brussels to discuss Kosovo.

12 June 1998 Sergey Yastrzhembskiy arrives in Namibia to discuss diamond mining. Key agreements are signed. Yastrzhembskiy says that Russia is regaining her interests in Africa.

12 June 1998 Yevgeny Primakov, at a meeting of G8 foreign ministers in London, rules out joining any NATO military operation against Yugoslavia. He opposes the NATO manoeuvres in Albania and Macedonia due to start on 15 June. Primakov has separate talks with Japanese foreign minister Keizo Obuchi.

15 June 1998 The CIS Interparliamentary Assembly meets in St. Petersburg.

15 June 1998 MFA spokesman Vladimir Rakhmanin says that the Kosovo problem must be resolved politically. Any use of force must be authorised by the UN Security Council.

15 June 1998 Deputy foreign minister Viktor Posuvalyuk visits Iraq to discuss the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions.

16 June 1998 Yel'tsin holds a summit with Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic in Moscow. They discuss Kosovo.

16 June 1998 Security Council secretary Andrey Kokoshin visits the USA. He discusses Kosovo.

16 June 1998 Duma first deputy speaker Vladimir Ryzhkov says that the Duma intends to adopt a resolution opposing NATO use of force against Kosovo. It is passed on 17 June.

16 June 1998 Russian atomic energy minister Yevgeny Adamov visits Beijing. He says that Russia will continue its nuclear relationship with Iran. He proposes closer civil atomic cooperation with China. Adamov says that Russia will not build enrichment plants in India if the proliferation treaty is not signed by New Dehli.

17 June 1998 Yel'tsin calls for international pressure on the Kosovo Albanians to halt terror. Primakov discusses the Kosovo crisis with German foreign minister Klaus Kinkel, OSCE Chairman in office Bronislaw Geremek and US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright by telephone.

18 June 1998 Gazprom threatens cut gas exports to Belarus.

18 June 1998 CIS Executive Secretary Boris Berezovskiy meets Boris Yel'tsin. He says that CIS heads of state are no longer euphoric about their independence.

19 June 1998 Col-Gen Leonid Ivashov, head of the MOD's international cooperation department, says that if NATO uses force over Kosovo, this could lead to a new cold war.

19 June 1998 Interior minister Sergey Stepashin visits London to discuss crime fighting.

19 June 1998 The MFA says it welcomes US moves to improve relations with Iran.

19 June 1998 The MOD criticises NATO arrangements for exercises in Albania and Macedonia.

19 June 1998 Duma defence committee chairman Roman Popkovich says that will be difficult to ratify START-2 in its current form.

20 June 1998 Georgian and Abkhaz officials hold talks in Sukhumi with the participation of Boris Berezovskiy.

21 June 1998 CIS Executive Secretary Boris Berezovskiy says that CIS leaders should say no to separatism.

21 June 1998 On the *Zerkalo* TV programme, Yevgeny Primakov calls for greater pressure to be exerted on the Kosovo Albanians.

21 June 1998 Deputy foreign minister Nikolay Afanasevskiy arrives in Belgrade en route to Kosovo. He meets Ibrahim Rugova on 23 June

21 June 1998 Angolan President Jose dos Santos visits Moscow.

21 June 1998 Russia and India sign a protocol on nuclear energy cooperation on the occasion of the visit of Atomic Energy Minister Yevgeny Adamov to India.

22 June 1998 Russian and Japanese deputy foreign ministers Grigory Karasin and Minoru Tamba discuss in Tokyo a future treaty between Russia and Japan.

22 June 1998 Yevgeny Primakov arrives in Denmark for a meeting of the Council of Baltic Sea States.

22 June 1998 The head of the MOD international cooperation department Col-Gen Leonid Ivashov says that NATO widening is a threat to Russia which has become worse after recent NATO exercises in Albania and Macedonia.

22 June 1998 The MFA calls for the demilitarisation of Cyprus. Valery Nesterushkin of the MFA says that Greek and Turkish military activity around the islands does not help normalisation.

22 June 1998 Yevgeny Primakov says that changes in Latvian citizenship laws are cosmetic.

22 June 1998 Russian energy minister Sergey Generalov says that Russia is not yet seeking to join OPEC.

23 June 1998 The MFA asks Israel to think again on the expansion of Jerusalem.

23 June 1998 The German and Russian foreign ministers discuss the Kosovo situation at the meeting of the Council of Baltic Sea States in Denmark.

23 June 1998 The head of the MOD's Radiation, Chemical and Biological Protection Troops Col-Gen Stanislav Petrov says that Russia will not be able to meet its commitments in destroying chemical weapons in the next 10 years.

23 June 1998 Russian deputy atomic minister Viktor Mikhaylov says that Russia will sign a general contract to build a nuclear power plant with India in 3-4 months.

24 June 1998 Atomic Energy minister Yevgeny Adamov says that the progress of the Bushehr nuclear power plant project is ahead of schedule. He says that the chances of further nuclear contracts with China are high.

24 June 1998 The MFA condemns the Latvian parliament's decision to commemorate 16 March as a Day of Memory for Latvian fighters.

24 June 1998 Deputy foreign minister Aleksandr Avdeyev holds talks in Tirana on Kosovo. He then moves on to Macedonia.

24 June 1998 The Russia-NATO Permanent Joint Council meets to discuss Kosovo and Bosnian peacekeeping.

24 June 1998 Argentine President Carlos Menem arrives in Moscow on a state visit.

24 June 1998 A Japanese government delegation visits the South Kuriles.

25 June 1998 Foreign minister Yevgeny Primakov says that the attitude of Kosovo Albanians is very worrying, as they are not willing to negotiate. He says peaceful settlement in Kosovo is feasible.

25 June 1998 Yel'tsin postpones his trip to Kazakhstan because of the need to implement the government's anti-crisis programme. He will visit Kazakhstan in September.

26 June 1998 An informal meeting with President Kuchma of Ukraine which was planned for July in Crimea will not take place.

26 June 1998 The MFA thinks that the Belarusian actions towards foreign ambassadors in Minsk is undiplomatic.

26 June 1998 The MFA says that Russia may drop most favoured nation status for Latvia.

26 June 1998 MFA says that Russia and Japan are making good progress on a peace treaty. Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev says that Russia will never transfer the Kuriles to

Japan. He also says that the islands in the Amur river will not be handed over to China.

27 June 1998 The ministries of transport of Russia and Iran agree to create a north-south transport corridor through the Caspian Sea.

27 June 1998 The FSB denies that dual purpose steel has been exported to Iran.

29 June 1998 The Russian ambassador in Minsk moves out of his residence in the Drazdy complex.

29 June 1998 Yel'tsin meets Polish President Alexandr Kwasniewski in Moscow.

29 June 1998 The MFA reaffirms its position that there must be a negotiated settlement in Kosovo. Any NATO activities beyond its scope must have a go-ahead from the UN Security Council.

29 June 1998 Atomic energy minister Yevgeny Adamov favours a Russian-EU non-proliferation monitoring body.

29 June 1998 Chechen foreign minister Movladi Udugov says that Chechnya will apply for UN membership.

Russian Domestic Politics: Chronology

April - June 1998

April

2 April 1998 Acting prime minister Sergey Kiriyenko says that the Duma vote on his nomination will be on 8 April.

3 April 1998 Presidential spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says that Yel'tsin rejects the idea of a coalition government or a government of popular trust.

4 April 1998 An informal meeting of the leaders of the North Caucasian republics and regions is held in Grozny.

5 April 1998 Aslan Maskhadov says that Russia has left Chechnya for good. Ivan Rybkin says that this is wishful thinking.

6 April 1998 Aslan Maskhadov says that talks with Russia have virtually run into a blind alley.

7 April 1998 Yel'tsin holds round table consultations with the leaders of Duma factions, the chairman of the Federation Council and trade union leaders.

7 April 1998 Yel'tsin says on TV that he also considered Yegor Stroyev, Vladimir Bulgak, Dmitry Ayatskov and Yury Luzhkov as candidates for the premiership.

7 April 1998 Lev Rokhlin and Viktor Ilyukhin begin collecting deputies' signatures for impeaching Yel'tsin.

7 April 1998 Boris Berezovskiy says that Russian business should back Viktor Chernomyrdin for president in 2000.

8 April 1998 Acting prime minister Sergey Kiriyenko says that he wishes to keep at least half of the current heads of ministers and departments in the cabinet..

8 April 1998 Gennady Zyuganov says that there is a Kremlin plot to dissolve the Duma, postpone the scheduled Duma elections for 1999 and instead combine them with presidential elections.

9 April 1998 A day of protest organised by trade unions takes place in Russia. The Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia claims that 14 million took part throughout Russia. The Interior Ministry claims that less than 1 million took part.

10 April 1998 The Duma rejects Sergey Kiriyenko as prime minister. He receives 143 votes instead of the needed 226 votes.

14 April 1998 Duma speaker Gennady Seleznev says that Yel'tsin has told him that he will not seek a third presidential term.

15 April 1998 Centre TV reports that Yel'tsin criticises Boris Berezovskiy's role in politics, and has threatened to exile him abroad.

16 April 1998 A general and two colonels of the General Staff are killed in an ambush in Ingushetia. Acting interior minister Sergey Stepashin blames Chechens for the ambush.

17 April 1998 The Duma rejects the candidature of Sergey Kiriyenko for prime minister a second time. He receives 115 votes.

18 April 1998 Acting deputy prime minister Ivan Rybkin meets North Caucasian leaders in Mineralnyye Vody. They discuss security in the North Caucasus region.

19 April 1998 Acting Interior minister Sergey Stepashin says that the Interior Ministry will not lose its troops in any ministerial re-organisation.

20 April 1998 The Interior Ministry states that about \$9 million are smuggled out of Russia annually. In 1997 \$12 million failed to return to Russia under deals between Russian governmental bodies and foreign companies. 6,000 were arrested on bribery charges in 1997.

21 April 1998 Deputy head of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF) Valery Kuptsov says there is a split in the CPRF over voting for Sergey Kiriyenko as prime minister.

21 April 1998 Yel'tsin appoints Vladimir Potapov and Grigory Rapota as deputy secretaries of the Security Council.

23 April 1998 Acting interior minister Sergey Stepashin outlines plans for reform of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) at a seminar of the MIA.

24 April 1998 Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov visits Dagestan.

24 April 1998 The Duma votes to approve Yel'tsin's nomination of Sergey Kiriyenko as prime minister. 251 deputies voted for him. The voting was secret. Yel'tsin signs a decree appointing him as prime minister.

24 April 1998 The Duma closes. It will be closed until 13 May.

25 April 1998 *Nash Dom Rossiya* (NDR) holds its fifth congress. It will back Viktor Chernomyrdin's presidential bid.

25 April 1998 The Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) holds its eighth congress. It re-elects Vladimir Zhirinovskiy as leader.

27 April 1998 The presidential representative to the Duma, Aleksandr Kotenkov, says that there will be a considerable cut in government staff. He says that 300 will be slashed from the presidential staff in 1998.

28 April 1998 Russia and Chechnya agree new terms for the transit of Caspian oil.

28 April 1998 The first appointments to the new government are made. The post of first deputy prime minister is abolished.

30 April 1998 Yel'tsin issues a decree reorganising the structure of the government. Several ministries are abolished.

May

1 May 1998 Yel'tsin dismisses Col-Gen Leonty Shevtsov as commander in chief of the MIA troops.

1 May 1998 Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev predicts a Chile scenario for Russia if Lebed wins the next presidential election.

1 May 1998 General Lev Rokhlin calls on all anti-Yel'tsin forces to unite.

1 May 1998 Yel'tsin's envoy to Chechnya, Valentin Vlasov, is abducted on the border between Chechnya and Ingushetia.

3 May 1998 A Public Opinion Foundation poll taken on 25-26 April shows that Gennady Zyuganov would win the first round of a presidential election. However Yury Luzhkov would beat off any contender in a second round.

First round

Zyuganov 12%

Luzhkov 11%

Yavlinskiy 11%

Lebed' 10%

Nemtsov 6%

Zhirinovskiy 5%

Chernomyrdin 5%

Second round

Zyuganov would beat all others except Luzhkov.

Luzhkov-Zyuganov 36%-32%

3 May 1998 Krasnoyarsk governor Valery Zubov threatens to withhold taxes from Moscow if various budget funds are not transferred to Krasnoyarsk.

5 May 1998 Yel'tsin meets Sergey Kiriyenko and says that the government structure will be simplified.

7 May 1998 Yel'tsin says that there is a hole in the national budget.

8 May 1998 Sergey Kiriyenko says that Russia faces spending cuts. Public spending this year will be 26% less than planned.

8 May 1998 NDR says it is no longer linked to the government.

9 May 1998 Pavel Maslov is appointed commander in chief of MIA troops. Maslov and Vladimir Vasilev, Igor Kozhevnikov, Vladimir Rushaylo, Vladimir Strashko, Valery Fedorov are appointed deputy interior ministers. Strashko is a first deputy interior minister.

13 May 1998 A bomb goes off at a synagogue in Moscow.

15 May 1998 Boris Nemtsov is to act as prime minister in Sergey Kiriyenko's absence.

17 May 1998 An opinion poll by the Public Opinion Fund broadcast on NTV gives the following preferences for the presidency:

Zyuganov 20%

Luzhkov 12%

Lebed' 11%

Yavlinskiy 11%

18 May 1998 Preliminary results indicate that Aleksandr Lebed' has won the election for the governorship of Krasnoyarsk oblast. Lebed' says on TV that he may run for the presidency.

18 May 1998 Presidential spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy hints that Yel'tsin might run for president in 2000.

19 May 1998 The CPRF, Vlast Narodu! and the Agrarian Party start a signature-raising campaign to support the impeachment of Boris Yel'tsin.

20 May 1998 Gennady Zyuganov says that enough signatures have been collected to begin Yel'tsin's impeachment. The chairman of the Federation Council (FC) says that the FC will not back Yel'tsin's impeachment.

20 May 1998 Yel'tsin calls for calm over the miners' strike. Miners are blocking the railways.

20 May 1998 Treaties are signed between the federal centre and Kostroma, Voronezh, Amur and Ivanovo oblasts.

21 May 1998 Sergey Kiriyenko outlines an anti-crisis plan to the cabinet.

21 May 1998 NTV reports that around 2,000 people have seized the main government building in Makhachkala, Dagestan. The main square in Makhachkala is controlled by supporters of the leader of the Russian Union of Muslims, Nadir Khachilayev. They demand the resignation of the Dagestan government. Yel'tsin sets up a team headed by interior minister Sergey Stepashin to deal with the Dagestan crisis.

21 May 1998 The Alfa anti-terrorist unit is moved into Dagestan.

22 May 1998 Yel'tsin gives a radio address on the miners' strike.

22 May 1998 The Dagestani interior minister resigns. The rebels agree to leave the State Council building.

22 May 1998 The Duma elects Oleg Mironov, a CPRF deputy, as Human Rights Commissioner.

23 May 1998 The CPRF holds an extraordinary congress, and rejects a move to form a Leninist-Stalinist platform.

23 May 1998 Sergey Kiriyenko says that the government will approve a programme for the strategic nuclear deterrent in June.

24 May 1998 US heart surgeon Michael DeBakey says that Yel'tsin is in good health.

24 May 1998 Fighting takes place in Karamakhi in Dagestan between the police and Islamic extremists.

24 May 1998 The Interior Ministry discusses the situation in Dagestan.

25 May 1998 The Security Council sets up a special government body to normalise the situation in the Northern Caucasus. It will be headed by deputy prime minister Viktor Khristenko.

25 May 1998 Yel'tsin signs a decree on a regional board of federal executive authorities. They will be attached to the presidential representative in each region and help coordinate work with regional authorities.

25 May 1998 Boris Berezovskiy says that Aleksandr Lebed' would be dangerous as the president of Russia. He says that there are four realistic contenders for the presidency at the moment: Yel'tsin, Lebed', Luzhkov, Zyuganov.

26 May 1998 Yel'tsin appoints Sergey Kiriyenko a permanent member of the Security Council. Viktor Chernomyrdin, Anatoly Chubays, Anatoly Kulikov are all dismissed from it.

27 May 1998 Central Bank triples interest rates to 150%. Sergey Kiriyenko says that the government will not devalue the rouble.

28 May 1998 Yel'tsin meets Kiriyenko, head of the presidential administration Valentin Yumashev, finance minister Mikhail Zadornov, and Chairman of the Central Bank Sergey Dubinin to discuss Russia's financial crisis.

29 May 1998 Yel'tsin dismisses the head of the State tax Service, Aleksandr Pochinok, and replaces him with Boris Fedorov.

29 May 1998 Yel'tsin appoints members of the Local Self-Government Council.

June

1 June 1998 Sergey Kiriyenko says that the worst of the financial crisis is over.

1 June 1998 Yel'tsin appoints Lt-Gen Nikolay Patrushev as head of the presidential Main Monitoring Directorate.

1 June 1998 The Russian government cuts 400 administrative jobs.

1 June 1998 Gennady Zyuganov says that the CPRF faction in the Duma plans to proceed with the attempt to impeach Yel'tsin.

1 June 1998 Yel'tsin appoints Aleksey Molyakov as deputy secretary of the Security Council.

5 June 1998 Yel'tsin meets the heads of republics within the Russian Federation. He calls for more power for the regions, although he criticises interference in the prerogatives of federal authorities in some republics. He expresses concern over the exodus of Russians from North Caucasus. He is optimistic about peace in Dagestan.

8 June 1998 The Russian government presents to the Duma its draft programme on cutting federal expenditure for 1998-99.

8 June 1998 Yel'tsin relieves Boris Agapov from his duties as deputy secretary of the Security Council. Vyacheslav Mikhaylov is appointed first deputy secretary and Aleksey Moskovskiy deputy secretary.

9 June 1998 The CPRF faction in the Duma formally presents its request for impeachment against Yel'tsin.

10 June 1998 Aleksandr Lebed' says he is unlikely to run for president in 2000.

10 June 1998 The Duma passes the second reading of a bill on the early removal of a president. The bill lists the president's resignation, permanent inability to exercise his powers for health reasons, removal from office or death as legal reasons for ending his powers before his term is finished.

11 June 1998 The Duma passes the first reading of a bill limiting the presidency to two terms.

12 June 1998 10 Russian military personnel are kidnapped in Dagestan.

15 June 1998 Boris Nemtsov and Yel'tsin discuss the mining industry and military housing. Nemtsov says that Russia will face a hot autumn if the financial crisis is not resolved.

15 June 1998 Yel'tsin discusses police reform with Sergey Stepashin. A two year reform programme envisages reducing police districts and troops from 250,000 to 120-140,000.

15 June 1998 Vorkuta miners, picketing government buildings in Moscow, call for Yel'tsin's resignation.

16 June 1998 Yel'tsin says his relations with Moscow mayor Yury Luzhkov are excellent. The federal government signs a treaty on the delimitation of powers with the Moscow city government.

17 June 1998 Prime minister Sergey Kiriyenko outlines his anti-crisis programme at the CIS Economic Forum.

17 June 1998 Yel'tsin appoints Anatoly Chubays as his special envoy to world financial bodies with the power of deputy prime minister.

17 June 1998 Yury Luzhkov says he will not run for president in 2000.

17 June 1998 Yel'tsin says he will not run for the presidency in 2000 as it is not allowed by the constitution.

19 June 1998 The Duma votes to set up a commission to handle the impeachment of Yel'tsin.

19 June 1998 The Yabloko faction issues a statement calling for Yel'tsin to step down as president.

19 June 1998 The government approves spending cuts of about \$6.7 billion.

20 June 1998 Sergey Kiriyenko discusses the government anti-crisis programme with regional leaders.

20 June 1998 Boris Berezovskiy denies that he has any presidential ambitions.

20 June 1998 A plenum of the CPRF take place. Zyuganov complains about the lack of party discipline.

21 June 1998 NTV poll shows the following preferences for the presidency:

Zyuganov 20%

Lebed' 13%

Luzhkov 10%

Yavlinskiy 10%

1,500 people were polled in 56 towns in 29 regions.

23 June 1998 The government's anti-crisis programme is revealed at a cabinet meeting. Yel'tsin urges the Duma to adopt the programme. The Duma will discuss it on 1 July.

24 June 1998 Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov declares a state of emergency because of the crime situation.

25 June 1998 The MIA troops commander says that the situation in North Caucasus is under control.

25 June 1998 The IMF board of directors approves the release of a \$670 million tranche to Russia. The IMF has so far disbursed to Russia \$5.8 billion. The IMF demands progress in reforms.

25 June 1998 The Russian government approves six draft anti-crisis laws.

26 June 1998 Sergey Kiriyenko is interviewed on *Vremya*. He urges the Duma to back the anti-crisis programme.

26 June 1998 Sergey Kiriyenko signs a decree creating a permanent working conference of the Russian government. It aims to improve cooperation between the government and executive bodies in the regions.

27 June 1998 Krasnoyarsk governor Aleksandr Lebed' is to head a North Caucasus peace mission.

27 June 1998 Sergey Kiriyenko discusses the anti-crisis programme with Gennady Zyuganov.

28 June 1998 Grigory Yavlinskiy gives support for the anticrisis programme.

28 June 1998 An opinion poll on NTV on presidential candidates shows:

Zyuganov 20%

Lebed' 13%

Luzhkov 10%

Yavlinsk'y 9%

In a second round, Luzhkov would beat anyone. Zyuganov would beat Lebed', and Lebed' would beat Yavlinskiy.

