

Conflict Studies Research Centre

A RUSSIA CHRONOLOGY

Author: dr Mark Smith

No: J17

Disclaimer: The views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the UK Ministry of Defence.

Russian Domestic Policy: Chronology July-September 1998

July

1 July 1998 Sergey Kiriyenko presents the anti-crisis package to the Duma.

1 July 1998 Gennady Zyuganov says that Russia needs a government of popular trust.

2 July 1998 Gazprom agrees to pay its tax debts.

3 July 1998 The Security Council meets to discuss Russian nuclear policy.

3 July 1998 Sergey Yastrzhembsky says that Yel'tsin has no plans to dissolve the Duma.

3 July 1998 Sergey Kiriyenko says that he is pleased with the work of the Duma on the anti-crisis package. The Duma has passed some of the laws in the package.

3 July 1998 Miners begin blockade of the Trans-Siberian Railway in Kemerovo.

6 July 1998 Defence sector workers hold a march in Moscow, demanding Yel'tsin's resignation.

3/4 July 1998 Lev Rokhlin is murdered at home. His wife confesses to the murder.

8 July 1998 Chairman of the Duma Security Committee is elected head of the Movement in Support of the Army.

8 July 1998 Maritime Defence workers protest over wage arrears, and call for Yel'tsin's resignation.

8 July 1998 The Union of Peoples' Power and Labour headed by Andrey Nikolayev holds its first congress.

9 July 1998 The deputy head of the presidential administration, Igor Shabdurasulov, says that there is as yet no firmly established decision over whether Yel'tsin will run in the next presidential election. He says in his personal opinion Yel'tsin should not run again because of his health problems. The presidential administration distances itself from Shabdurasulov's remarks.

10 July 1998 Yel'tsin holds a meeting with newly appointed top commanders of the defence and interior ministries, and tells them that Russia is strong enough to prevent any extremist plans to seize power.

10 July 1998 Yel'tsin postpones his holiday plans because of the economic crisis.

12 July 1998 Duma speaker Gennady Seleznev says that he may run for president in 2000.

14 July 1998 Yel'tsin tells Duma leaders that he will not stand for re-election in 2000. The leader of the Russia's Regions group, Oleg Morozov, says that Yel'tsin stated this.

14 July 1998 Yel'tsin tells Duma leaders that he has no plans to dissolve the Duma, but he says it would also be inadmissible to impeach him.

15 July 1998 The Duma approves of part of the government's stabilisation package.

15 July 1998 The CPRF says that it will not participate in further roundtable discussions with the Russian leadership. It will also not drop the campaign for Yel'tsin's impeachment.

15 July 1998 Prime minister Sergey Kiriyenko arrives in Dagestan for the inauguration of the State Council chairman.

15 July 1998 Yel'tsin orders the government to draft and submit to the Duma a federal bill on export control. He is concerned about illegal exports of missile technology.

17 July 1998 Yel'tsin attends the funeral of Tsar Nicholas II in St. Petersburg.

17 July 1998 The Duma ends its spring session.

17 July 1998 Sergey Kiriyenko warns the Duma that anti-crisis measures may have to be adopted by decree.

18 July 1998 Yel'tsin arrives in Karelia for a vacation.

19 July 1998 Deputy prime minister Oleg Sysuyev meets miners' leaders in Kemerovo.

19 July 1998 President Aslan Maskhadov announces a general mobilisation in Chechnya in connection with the fight against crime.

19 July 1998 Viktor Chernomyrdin says he will be the next president of Russia.

21 July 1998 Sergey Kiriyenko says that the Russian government has approved the full set of measures in the anti-crisis programme.

22 July 1998 Yury Maslyukov is appointed minister of industry and trade. He is a CPRF Duma deputy, is head of the Duma Committee on Economic Policy and was formerly head of Gosplan. The CPRF vetoes the appointment. However Maslyukov takes up the post.

22 July 1998 Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) armoured vehicles are deployed in Makhachkala, the capital of Dagestan, following the killing of a Dagestani parliamentary deputy.

23 July 1998 As assassination attempt is made on Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov in Grozny. He survives the attack. He blames the attack on foreign enemies. Russian interior minister Anatoly Kulikov denies Russian involvement. Yel'tsin expresses his concern over the situation.

24 July 1998 Krasnoyarsk governor Aleksandr Lebed sends an open letter to prime minister Sergey Kiriyenko. He states that he is thinking of taking control of Russian strategic forces stationed in Krasnoyarsk.

25 July 1998 Yel'tsin says that a decision has been made to reshuffle the cabinet of ministers. Two deputy prime ministers are likely to be replaced. Yevgenny Nazdratenko may be appointed as a deputy prime minister.

25 July 1998 Yel'tsin signs a decree releasing the director of the Federal Security Service (FSB) Nikolay Kovalev from his post. He will be replaced by Vladimir Putin, who was first deputy head of the presidential administration and head of the presidential main monitoring directorate.

27 July 1998 Sergey Kiriyenko says that there is no impending cabinet reshuffle.

27 July 1998 Sergey Kiriyenko says that economic security is now a central task of the FSB.

27 July 1998 The State Duma commission on impeaching Yel'tsin begins proceedings. Chairman of the Duma Security Committee Viktor Ilyukhin outlines the case against Yel'tsin. The commission will meet again on 17 August.

27 July 1998 Large scale Russian military exercises are held in the Northern Caucasus.

29 July 1998 Yel'tsin cuts short his holiday in Karelia to return to Moscow.

29 July 1998 Yel'tsin signs a decree transferring the criminal justice system from the MIA to the Ministry of Justice. The decree will come into effect on 1 September.

30 July 1998 New FSB head Vladimir Putin is to submit to Yel'tsin a programme for restructuring the FSB.

30 July 1998 The MIA denies rumours that it will merge with the FSB.

August

1 August 1998 Yel'tsin and Kiriyenko meet to discuss Chechnya. Kiriyenko had earlier met Aslan Maskhadov.

3 August 1998 Yel'tsin signs a document called "Fundamentals (concepts) of the Russian Federation state policy for military development up to 2005". The military district system will be changed, and the MIA troops and border forces will be reorganised.

3 August 1998 Rallies are held in Vladivostok protesting against US-Russian naval exercises due to be held on 6-7 August.

8 August 1998 Yel'tsin rejects constitutional amendments proposed by the Duma.

10 August 1998 The CPRF meets to discuss its plans for a general strike.

10 August 1998 Sergey Kiriyenko submits a package of draft stabilisation laws to the Duma. He threatens possible spending cuts and calls for increased tax collection.

10 August 1998 Deputy prime minister Boris Nemtsov tells Chelyabinsk miners to unblock the railway.

11 August 1998 Yel'tsin tells Kiriyenko to ensure that financing to key ministries and the security services remains unaffected.

11 August 1998 Sergey Kiriyenko gives details of the draft budget for 1999. Revenue is to be R376bn and expenditure R456bn. Deficit will be no more than 2.8% of GDP and surplus will be 2.9% of GDP.

11 August 1998 The Movement in Support of the Army, the Defence Industry and Military Science holds a rally in Moscow. It numbers 300, according to Moscow police.

12 August 1998 Mikhail Yur'yev, deputy chairman of the Duma, says that an emergency session of the Duma planned for 19-20 August will not be held.

13 August 1998 Prime minister Sergey Kiriyenko says that an emergency session of the Duma should be held in August.

13 August 1998 Sergey Kiriyenko opens a cabinet meeting.

14 August 1998 Yel'tsin visits Novgorod. He rules out rouble devaluation. He signs an appeal to the Duma to examine draft anticrisis laws.

15 August 1998 The Duma receives the last three anticrisis bills.

15 August 1998 Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov affirms his call for a single defence and economic space with Russia.

15 August 1998 North Caucasian leaders reject the Russian leadership's regional development programme.

16 August 1998 Dagestan's Wahabbis announce that they are creating a separate Islamic territory not answerable to the Dagestani authorities in parts of Buynakskly district.

17 August 1998 The rouble is devalued, although the government states it is revising the rouble rate band. FSB chairman Vladimir Putin attacks foreign speculators.

17 August 1998 Gennady Zuganov calls for a joint session of parliament to discuss the financial and economic situation in Russia. He sharply criticises Yel'tsin for the crisis.

17 August 1998 An IMF emergency mission arrives in Moscow.

17 August 1998 CIS Executive Secretary Boris Berezovskiy calls for a government reshuffle.

17 August 1998 Boris Fedorov, the head of the State Tax Service, is appointed a deputy prime minister.

18 August 1998 A source in the presidential administration claims that Yel'tsin refused to let Kiriyenko and the Central Bank chairman Sergey Dubinin resign. Yel'tsin accepts the resignation of Aleksandr Livshits as deputy head of the Russian presidential administration.

18 August 1998 Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, presidential press spokesman, says that a cabinet reshuffle is not impossible, although not urgent.

21 August 1998 The mufti of Dagestan is assassinated in a car bomb explosion in Makhachkala.

21 August 1998 Sergey Yastrzhembskiy states that Yel'tsin is to supervise military policy personally.

21 August 1998 The Duma votes 245 to 32 for Yel'tsin to resign. It also passes a resolution stating that the government and Central Bank's performance is unsatisfactory. 246 deputies voted for this resolution.

23 August 1998 Yel'tsin dismisses the entire Russian government, including prime minister Sergey Kiriyenko. Viktor Chernomyrdin is appointed as interim prime minister. Yel'tsin tips him as his presidential successor.

24 August 1998 Yel'tsin asks the Duma to confirm Viktor Chernomyrdin as prime minister.

25 August 1998 Viktor Chernomyrdin says he favours a government of accord.

25 August 1998 Yel'tsin accepts the resignation of deputy prime minister Boris Nemtsov.

25 August 1998 The Russian MIA and Chechen Security Ministry sign a cooperation agreement.

25 August 1998 Duma deputy Oleg Mironov states that a political agreement between the executive and legislative branches of power is being drafted. Mironov is in charge of a commission for drafting the document. This is a trilateral commission consisting of the government, Duma and Federation Council.

26 August 1998 Viktor Chernomyrdin flies to Crimea for talks with IMF director Michael Camdessus.

26 August 1998 Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev says Yel'tsin must step down. He says that the Duma will be ready to vote on the appointment of Chernomyrdin on 31 August.

26 August 1998 Yel'tsin appoints two first deputy directors of the FSB, Valentin Sobolev and Viktor Cherkesov. The FSB director Vladimir Putin will have seven other directors.

27 August 1998 Presidential spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy meets Gennady Zyuganov.

27 August 1998 Viktor Chernomyrdin meets Aleksandr Lebed.

27 August 1998 Presidential spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy rejects rumours of Yel'tsin's resignation.

27 August 1998 The trilateral commission issues draft guidelines for the economy.

28 August 1998 Yel'tsin returns to Moscow. He dismisses Anatoly Chubays as IMF negotiator. He says he will remain in office until 2000 and will not run again. He says he will not dissolve the Duma.

30 August 1998 The CPRF reject the power sharing deal being worked out with the government and Yel'tsin. They desire Yel'tsin's resignation and say they will not vote to confirm Viktor Chernomyrdin's appointment as prime minister in the Duma. CPRF deputy Viktor Ilyukhin calls for 10 ministerial posts for the CPRF.

30 August 1998 Grigory Yavlinskiy says he is ready to head an all-party government.

31 August 1998 The Duma votes (251 to 94) against the appointment of Viktor Chernomyrdin as prime minister. Yel'tsin says he will submit his nomination again.

31 August 1998 Boris Berezovskiy says that the Duma may be dissolved.

31 August 1998 CPRF deputy Viktor Ilyukhin says that the opposition should have 10 posts in the government, including the post of interior minister.

31 August 1998 The CPRF leadership says that it will back Yegor Stroyev for the prime ministership. The Left also states that it would support Yury Luzhkov or Yury Maslyukov for this position.

September

1 September 1998 Yel'tsin nominates Viktor Chernomyrdin as prime minister for a second time.

1 September 1998 Duma deputy chairman Vladimir Ryzhkov is quoted as saying that the Duma could be dissolved on 14 September.

1 September 1998 Yel'tsin says he will not dissolve the Duma provided "they behave themselves".

1 September 1998 Viktor Chernomyrdin sends Yel'tsin a draft cabinet list.

1 September 1998 CPRF leader Gennady Zyuganov says that the People's Patriotic Union of Russia (PPUR) will meet and discuss an alliance with the Union of People's Power and Labour led by Andrey Nikolayev and other left wing groups.

2 September 1998 Yel'tsin approves candidates for ministerial posts with Viktor Chernomyrdin. So far, they have agreed on: Pavel Krashennikov (justice minister); Igor Sergeyev (defence); Sergey Stepashin (interior); Yevgenny Primakov (foreign); Sergey Shoygu (emergencies).

2 September 1998 Yel'tsin signs a decree on measures to form a new government.

3 September 1998 Acting trade and industry minister Yury Maslyukov resigns. He was formerly part of the CPRF Duma faction.

4 September 1998 Viktor Chernomyrdin addresses the Federation Council. He calls for the establishment of an economic dictatorship in Russia from 1 January 1999. He says money will be printed to pay off wages arrears. Tax debts will be forgiven, provided future taxes will be paid. Companies that fail to do so will be bankrupted or nationalised. After wage arrears have been paid off, the rouble will be linked to a currency board.

4 September 1998 Yel'tsin introduces a bill giving the Duma the right to reject ministerial nominations.

5 September 1998 *Kommersant Daily* reports panic buying of food.

6 September 1998 *Itogi* broadcasts the result of an opinion poll on support for parties if Duma elections were held now:

CPRF 26%

Yabloko 11%

PRP 10%

NDR 8%

LDP 5%

PRP = People's Republican Party, led by Aleksandr Lebed.

7 September 1998 The Duma rejects Viktor Chernomyrdin a second time by 273 votes to 138. Gennady Zyuganov is reported to have suggested the following as prime ministerial candidates: Yegor Stroyev; Yury Luzhkov; Yury Maslyukov; Viktor Geraschenko; Yevgenny Primakov. Yabloko leader Grigory Yavlinskiy also nominates Yevgenny Primakov.

7 September 1998 The Duma impeachment commission adopts as basis for discussion a draft conclusion on the first point of the accusation against Yel'tsin - the signing of the CIS agreement in December 1991.

8 September 1998 Kaliningrad declares a state of emergency. This is later denied. Aleksandr Lebed introduces emergency economic measures in Krasnoyarsk kray. Yevgenny Primakov is reported as saying that he does not wish to be prime minister. Komi limits all money operations.

9 September 1998 Aleksandr Lebed' arrives in Moscow. Yel'tsin is due to present the Duma with a letter today regarding the prime ministerial nomination.

9 September 1998 It is reported on Russian Public TV that Moscow police have been put on alert in case of food riots. This is later denied.

9 September 1998 *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* issues an appeal by local government heads to the president and parliament to save Russia.

9 September 1998 Kemerovo governor Aman Tuleyev calls on local executives to ignore Moscow.

9 September 1998 Tatarstan announces emergency measures to protect the local market. Some federal taxes will be withheld.

9 September 1998 An explosion takes place in Makhachkala.

9 September 1998 Consumer prices increased by 35.7% in the first week in September. The increase from 1 January to 31 August was 20%. Since 1 September, prices have increased at a daily rate of 4.462% compared to a daily rate of 0.438% in August.

9 September 1998 Viktor Kress, governor of Tomsk region, says that Tomsk has stopped paying federal taxes.

10 September 1998 The municipal government of Ust-Kamchatskiy district declares a state of emergency.

10 September 1998 Yevgenny Primakov agrees to be put forward as prime ministerial candidate.

10 September 1998 The Security Council outlines measures for stabilising the economy.

10 September 1998 Security Council secretary Andrey Kokoshin is transferred to another post.

10 September 1998 *Kommersant Daily* reports that supplies of medicines have run out in Altay.

11 September 1998 The Duma votes to accept Yevgenny Primakov as prime minister. 315 votes in favour, 63 against, 15 abstentions. Viktor Gerashchenko is appointed chairman of the Central Bank. Yury Maslyukov is appointed first deputy prime minister.

11 September 1998 Gennady Zyuganov says that the impeachment procedure against Yel'tsin will go ahead.

11 September 1998 Bread shortages are reported in Kaluga.

12 September 1998 Yel'tsin dismisses Sergey Yastrzhembskiy as deputy head of the presidential administration and presidential press secretary in connection with his transfer to another job.

13 September 1998 Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev says that he wants the power sharing deal between the president, government and Federal Assembly to go ahead.

14 September 1998 Governor of Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area Aleksandr Filipenko introduces the rationing of basic necessities.

14 September 1998 Yel'tsin appoints General Nikolay Bordyuzha as secretary of the Security Council. He was head of the Federal Border Guard Service.

15 September 1998 Aleksandr Shokhin is appointed deputy prime minister in charge of financial matters.

15 September 1998 Yel'tsin appoints Dmitry Yakushin as presidential press spokesman.

16 September 1998 Yel'tsin appoints Col-Gen Konstantin Totskiy as head of the Federal Border Guard Service.

17 September 1998 Yevgenny Primakov denies that censorship is being imposed as a result of his instruction to ministers not to talk to the press.

17 September 1998 Yel'tsin issues a decree to cut MIA troops by 54,000 this year. Interior minister Sergey Stepashin says that MIA troops will be cut to 120,000 by 2001.

18 September 1998 Leningrad region governor Vadim Gustov is appointed first deputy prime minister. He will deal with regional policy. Duma first deputy chairman Vladimir Ryzhkov refuses the post of first deputy prime minister.

18 September 1998 FSB chief Vladimir Putin denies plans to disband the Alpha brigade.

18 September 1998 Grigory Yavlinskiy is taken to hospital with a heart attack.

19 September 1998 The CPRF faction is to seek changes to the constitution. Gennady Zyuganov says that the CPRF is also seeking the resignation of Yel'tsin. He says that the CPRF approves of Yury Luzhkov.

19 September 1998 Former Central Bank chairman Sergey Dubinin denies claims made by the Procurator General Yury Skuratov that IMF funds to Russia had been pilfered.

20 September 1998 An opinion poll reported on NTV gives the following results to the question who would you vote for in a presidential election:

Zyuganov 17%

Lebed' 17%

Luzhkov 13%

Yavlinskiy 12%

Second round

Zyuganov - Luzhkov 20%-38%

Zyuganov - Lebed 29%-34%

Luzhkov - Lebed 32%-34%

21 September 1998 Yury Maslyukov outlines a three-stage economic programme.

21 September 1998 First deputy premier Vadim Gustov says he favours a reduction in the number of regions in Russia.

22 September 1998 Yel'tsin issues a decree reorganising the federal government.

22 September 1998 Yury Maslyukov says that some limited nationalisation may take place.

23 September 1998 It is reported that Khabarovsk territory is refusing to pay taxes to the federal budget.

23 September 1998 The Leader of the Union of Peoples' Power and Labour, Andrey Nikolayev, and the leader of the KRO, Dmitry Rogozin, sign an electoral pact.

23 September 1998 TV6 reports that the number of FSB staff in Moscow will be cut by 20% to 4,000. This is based on a presidential decree of 4 July.

23 September 1998 Sakhalin region governor Igor Farkhutdinov says that smaller regions should merge.

24 September 1998 *Kommersant Daily* reports that the governors of St.Petersburg, Nizhny Novgorod and Samara regions meet in Samara, and warn the federal government that it must listen to the views of donor regions. They state that the number of subsidized regions must be reduced, and that the right to coordinate the activities of the federal bodies of power in the regions must be transferred to the regions.

24 September 1998 Deputy prime minister Vadim Gustov says that Yel'tsin has approved the proposed merger of St. Petersburg and Leningrad Region.

24 September 1998 The first cabinet meeting since Primakov's appointment as prime minister takes place. It is stated that Mikhail Zadornov will remain as finance minister for 2-3 more months. Primakov attacks the rouble rescue package of August. Central Bank chairman Viktor Gerashchenko denies ordering a new issue of money.

24 September 1998 Aleksandr Lebed says that Russia must have a new president and government. He calls for wider rights for the regions, saying that the federal government should be left with about 15 functions. He praises Yury Luzhkov, the mayor of Moscow.

25 September 1998 Primakov addresses the collegium of the Interior Ministry. He calls for expanding its role in the fight against economic crime.

25 September 1998 Yel'tsin makes several more ministerial appointments, including Ramazan Abdulatipov (Ethnic Policy); Boris Pastukhov (CIS affairs).

25 September 1998 The Security Council states that the Russian armed forces will be reduced to 1.5 million by 2005 from the current 2.3 million. By 2000, Russian forces should stand at 1.8 million.

25 September 1998 Deputy prime minister Vadim Gustov asks the Prosecutor-General's Office to investigate the lawfulness of decisions taken by regional authorities to ban the export of food and other commodities from their territories.

26 September 1998 Yel'tsin agrees to the proposal of Saratov governor Dmitry Ayatskov to set up an association of Russian grain exporting areas if the initiative is backed by other governors.

28 September 1998 Yevgenny Primakov informs Yel'tsin that the two month military allowance debt is settled. Primakov says that he expects student grant arrears to be paid shortly.

28 September 1998 The Duma impeachment commission starts hearings on Chechnya.

28 September 1998 Yel'tsin dismisses deputy prime ministers Boris Fedorov and Viktor Khristenko. Fedorov is also dismissed as head of the Federal Tax Service.

29 September 1998 Yevgenny Primakov meets the Federation Council. He discusses the 50% fall in tax collection in September and the sixfold drop in imports due to the crisis. He calls for an end to separatism. He says that a law should be introduced allowing for elected governors to be dismissed if they disobey the centre.

29 September 1998 Sverdlovsk governor Eduard Rossel calls for a greater voice for the regions.

29 September 1998 Georgy Boos is appointed head of the State Tax Service.

30 September 1998 The Duma approves amendments to the law on presidential elections. The amendments state that the same person cannot be elected president for more than two consecutive terms.

30 September 1998 Pickets block several highways leading into Moscow. The Moscow oblast governor Anatoly Tyazholov says that force will be used if necessary to unblock the highways.

30 September 1998 The MIA puts the Russian police and interior troops on special alert from today until 8th October. This is in connection with the day of protest planned for October 7th. The MIA has set up an operational HQ to liaise with protest organisers. 11,000 police officers and 6,000 MIA troops will maintain public order in Moscow.

30 September 1998 The Central Bank of Russia reports that Russia's gold and currency reserves fell from \$17.8bn to \$12.5 bn between January and September.

30 September 1998 Yury Luzhkov says he will run for the presidency in 2000 if conditions are right.

30 September 1998 Some details are released of the draft economic plan of Yury Maslyukov.

30 September 1998 Yury Luzhkov says that a centre-left political system will emerge in Russia soon, based on social democratic values.

30 September 1998 Regional policy minister Valery Kirpichnikov is interviewed in *Kommersant Daily* and says that the regions will merge.

Russian Foreign Policy: Chronology

July-September 1998

July

1 July 1998 Russia expresses pleasure at the outcome of the US-Chinese talks held during Clinton's visit to China.

1 July 1998 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) expresses concern over the US attack on Iraqi targets.

1 July 1998 Yel'tsin urges India to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

3 July 1998 The MFA says that the Cyprus missile deal may not go ahead if there is a significant breakthrough in a settlement for the island.

3 July 1998 Yel'tsin talks with Chinese president Jiang Zemin by telephone.

3 July 1998 The MFA says it welcomes the US-Chinese dialogue.

3 July 1998 The five nation summit of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan takes place in Alma Ata. The heads of state all attend, with the exception of Yel'tsin, who is represented by Yevgenny Primakov.

4 July 1998 Deputy foreign minister Nikolay Afanasevskiy flies to Kosovo in a joint mission with US special envoy Richard Holbrooke.

4 July 1998 Sources in Moscow state that Russia will supply Cyprus with S-300 anti-air missiles by 1 January 1999.

4 July 1998 A left-wing conference of peoples' patriotic forces from all over the USSR holds a conference in Moscow, calling for the reunion of the former USSR.

6 July 1998 Kazakh President Nazarbayev visits Moscow, and signs agreements with Yel'tsin, including an agreement on the northern shelf of the Caspian Sea.

6 July 1998 Russia and Syria sign a draft intergovernmental agreement on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

6 July 1998 Deputy foreign minister Nikolay Afanasevskiy says that lack of unity among Kosovo Albanian leaders stands in the way of preventing dialogue with the Serbs.

6 July 1998 It is announced that Clinton will visit Russia in September.

7 July 1998 The MFA says that it is perplexed by Turkey's intention to propose to NATO the creation of so-called special peacekeeping forces for the Caucasus region within PFP.

7 July 1998 The MFA calls for dialogue between the Greek and Turkish communities in Cyprus.

7 July 1998 The MFA denies US claims that it has violated the CFE treaty.

8 July 1998 Deputy foreign minister Boris Nemtsov says that the Kurile Islands will remain with Russia.

8 July 1998 The Russian and Ukrainian Presidents agree by telephone to meet for talks in Kharkov on 18-19 September.

8 July 1998 Deputy foreign minister Nikolay Afanasevskiy blames the Albanians for lack of progress over Kosovo.

10 July 1998 The Cypriot defence minister Ioannis Omirou visits Moscow.

10 July 1998 Col-Gen Leonid Ivashov, the head of the main directorate for international military cooperation, criticises NATO expansion. He says that military exercises in Albania and Macedonia show that NATO is not a dove of peace. He says Russia will not create military bases outside its new territory.

10 July 1998 The Anti-NATO group in the Duma criticises the PFP exercises in Lithuania.

11 July 1998 The Russian and German foreign ministers Yevgenny Primakov and Klaus Kinkel hold talks on Kosovo in Moscow.

13 July 1998 The President of Cyprus Glavkos Klirides visits Moscow. Yel'tsin confirms that the supply of S-300 missiles will go ahead.

13 July 1998 Russian prime minister Sergey Kiriyenko visits Japan.

14 July 1998 The MFA condemns terrorist acts against peacekeepers in Abkhazia.

14 July 1998 Prime minister Sergey Kiriyenko visits China.

15 July 1998 FSB director Nikolay Kovalev visits Israel.

15-16 July 1998 Russo-Iranian consultations take place in Tehran on nuclear proliferation.

17 July 1998 The Federation Council votes to extend until 21 June 1999 the mandate of 1,400 peacekeepers participating in Bosnia.

17 July 1998 The Federation Council votes to extend the mandate of Russian peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia until 31 July 1998.

17 July 1998 The chairman of the Georgian border forces, Valery Chkeidze, denies that Russian border forces will soon begin withdrawing from Georgia.

18 July 1998 Deputy foreign minister Boris Pastukhov says in Tehran that the USSR-Iranian agreements of 1921 and 1940 on the Caspian Sea remain valid despite the recent Russo-Kazakh agreement.

18 July 1998 Israeli minister of trade and industry Nathan Sharansky meets Andrey Kokoshin, secretary of the Security Council, in Israel to discuss Iranian acquisition of Russian weapons.

19 July 1998 Russia and Iran sign joint communiques on the Caspian Sea and Tajikistan.

20 July 1998 Duma speaker Gennady Seleznev visits Turkey.

20 July 1998 Yevgenny Primakov has talks with the Omani foreign minister in Moscow.

20 July 1998 German Defence Minister Volker Ruhe arrives in Sochi for informal talks with Defence Minister Igor Sergeev.

21 July 1998 Russian atomic energy minister Viktor Mikhaylov says that Moscow and New Delhi may sign a general contract for a nuclear power plant in Tamil Nadu within the next 3 to 6 months.

21 July 1998 The MFA says that it would not object to a political party representing the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) in talks with the Yugoslav government.

22 July 1998 Foreign minister Yevgenny Primakov visits China.

22 July 1998 The commander of the Baltic Fleet criticises NATO exercises with Lithuania.

23 July 1998 US Vice-President Al Gore arrives in Moscow. He will chair with Sergey Kiriyenko the Russian-US Intergovernmental Commission on Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation. An agreement on Russian nuclear centres is expected. The USA asks Russia to limit nuclear cooperation with Iran.

23 July 1998 Yevgenny Primakov rules out any discussion of Kosovo independence.

26 July 1998 Yevgenny Primakov arrives in Manila to attend the ASEAN forum.

28 July 1998 The MOD is to tighten up controls over exports of defence technology.

29 July 1998 A FSB official expresses concern over the activities of Israeli secret services in Russia.

30 July 1998 Russian special envoy Lev Mironov says that Georgia must make its position clear on whether it wants Russian peacekeeping forces to remain in Abkhazia after 31 July.

30 July 1998 Russia holds membership talks with the World Trade Organisation in Geneva. The next meeting is scheduled for December.

31 July 1998 The MFA criticises Latvian plans for unilateral border demarcation.

31 July 1998 Sergey Kiriyenko holds talks with IMF deputy director Stanley Fischer in Moscow.

31 July 1998 The MFA says that Iraq's nuclear file with the UN should be closed.

31 July 1998 Yevgenny Primakov has talks in Moscow with the secretary-general of the PLO executive committee Mahmud Abbas.

August

3 August 1998 The ambassadors of Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan hold consultations at the MFA. The MFA expresses concern at the Taleban advances in Afghanistan.

3 August 1998 Russian envoy to Cyprus, Vladimir Chizhov, holds talks with the Cypriot leadership in Nicosia. He meets the Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash.

4 August 1998 The MFA warns the West against pressurising Iraq.

5 August 1998 Deputy foreign minister Nikolay Afanasevskiy visits Belgrade for talks on Kosovo.

5 August 1998 Col-Gen Leonid Ivashov, the head of the MOD main directorate for international military cooperation, says that Russia will participate in the forthcoming NATO PFP exercises in Albania.

6 August 1998 The MFA states that Iraq must comply with UN Security Council resolutions and continue constructive cooperation with the UN and not make ultimatums.

6 August 1998 FSB chief Vladimir Putin holds talks with his German counterpart, Peter Frisch, in Moscow.

7 August 1998 The World Bank approves a \$1.5 billion loan for Russia.

7 August 1998 Nikolay Afanasevskiy opposes bringing in the Kosovo Liberation Army into talks over Kosovo. He also says that NATO intervention would not resolve the crisis.

7 August 1998 The MFA says that Russia will continue with Latvia's most favoured nation status provided Riga leaves unaltered the working of the Russian radar base at Skrunda.

7 August 1998 Deputy foreign minister Boris Pastukhov warns the Taleban in Afghanistan not to threaten Russian interests in Central Asia.

9 August 1998 Security Council secretary Andrey Kokoshin visits Israel for talks with Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

9 August 1998 Chechen president Aslan Maskhadov holds talks in Washington on restoring the Chechen economy. He is attending the International Islamic Unity conference.

11 August 1998 The MFA criticises the Latvian citizenship law.

11 August 1998 The MFA issues a statement stating that the escalation of combat operations by the Taleban in northern Afghanistan is a real threat to the southern borders of the CIS. Russia will take all necessary measures to ensure reliable protection of its borders.

11 August 1998 Russian border guard director Col-Gen Nikolay Bordyuzha visits China.

11 August 1998 The MFA urges the Georgians and Abkhazis to abide by peace accords.

12 August 1998 Russian defence minister Igor Sergeyev states that defence ministers may meet on 2 September to discuss the situation in Afghanistan. He says that Russia will reinforce its troops in Tajikistan.

12 August 1998 CIS Executive Secretary Boris Berezovskiy warns of the threat to CIS southern borders from Afghanistan.

13 August 1998 Deputy foreign minister Boris Pastukhov states that the Afghani situation is critical. He says that Russia still recognises the Rabbani government in Afghanistan. He accuses Pakistan of helping the Taleban. Pastukhov says that Moscow is consulting with Iran on the Afghan situation.

14 August 1998 Yel'tsin says that Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan must cooperate against the Taleban. He confers with Tajik president Rakhmonov on the Afghan crisis.

14 August 1998 The MFA praises the Kosovo Albanians for appointing a delegation for talks with Belgrade.

17 August 1998 Col-Gen Valery Manilov, first deputy chief of the general staff, warns that Russia must be ready to counter radical developments as a result of the situation in Afghanistan.

17 August 1998 The Finnish Chief of Staff, Matti Kopra, visits Russia.

18 August 1998 The next round of Russo-Estonian border talks takes place in Moscow. The Russian delegation is headed by Ludvig Chizhov. The Estonian delegation is headed by Raul Malk. An Estonian MFA spokeswoman stated on 17 August that Estonia was ready to sign the border treaty.

19 August 1998 A delegation of legislators from Jilin Province in China arrives in Vladivostok at the invitation of the Maritime Territory Duma.

21 August 1998 Deputy foreign minister Igor Ivanov meets deputy Libyan foreign minister Abd al-Ati al-Ubaydi in Moscow.

22 August 1998 Yel'tsin condemns US cruise missile attacks on terrorist bases in Sudan and Afghanistan.

25 August 1998 Yel'tsin and Clinton discuss the forthcoming US-Russian summit in Moscow.

26 August 1998 Georgian defence minister Davit Tevzadze arrives in Moscow for talks.

26 August 1998 Yury Luzhkov protests against the "Ukrainianisation" of Russians in Crimea.

28 August 1998 Bulgarian President Stoyanov arrives in Moscow.

28 August 1998 MFA spokesman Vladimir Rakhmanin expresses astonishment at the call of OSCE Chairman Bronislaw Geremek for military intervention in Kosovo.

29 August 1998 Yugoslav foreign minister Zivadin Jovanovic visits Moscow and meets with deputy foreign minister Nikolay Afanasevskiy, who calls for a cease-fire in Kosovo.

30 August 1998 Yel'tsin discusses the Russian economic situation with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl by telephone.

September

1-3 September 1998 US President Bill Clinton visits Moscow for talks with Yel'tsin. He also meets Gennady Zyuganov and Aleksandr Lebed. Clinton says that he and Yel'tsin agree on a START-3 framework. The US and Russia will share intelligence information on missile launches by themselves and third parties. They also reach agreement on the disposal of plutonium. On 3 September *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* publishes a joint statement by Yel'tsin and Clinton on common security policy.

2 September 1998 Yevgenny Primakov meets visiting Israeli trade minister Nathan Sharansky and discusses the Middle East peace process.

5 September 1998 Deputy foreign minister Igor Ivanov visits Belgrade and meets President Slobodan Milosevic.

6 September 1998 The foreign ministers of the EU troika (Germany, Austria, Britain) will visit Moscow as soon as a new Russian government is formed.

11 September 1998 Igor Ivanov is appointed new Russian foreign minister, following Yevgenny Primakov's appointment as prime minister.

11 September 1998 At the presidium of the CIS Interstate Economic Committee, several accords on economic integration are signed.

12 September 1998 US President Bill Clinton telephones Yel'tsin to discuss the Russian economic crisis and US-Russian cooperation.

14 September 1998 The G8 meets in London to discuss the Russian economic crisis.

15 September 1998 Prime minister Yevgenny Primakov holds talks with the IMF and World Bank in Moscow.

15 September 1998 CIS Executive Secretary Boris Berezovskiy urges that the CIS heads of government meeting scheduled for 25 September be postponed, as Russia has not yet developed a blueprint for CIS reform. He hints that Iran could join the CIS.

16 September 1998 Igor Ivanov meets Japanese deputy foreign minister Minoru Tamba in Moscow.

16 September 1998 Igor Ivanov holds a telephone conversation with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

17 September 1998 The foreign ministers of the EU troika visit Moscow for talks with Yevgenny Primakov.

17 September 1998 An IMF mission arrives in Moscow to discuss the next instalment of the stabilisation loan.

18 September 1998 Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma arrives in Moscow for informal talks with Yel'tsin.

19 September 1998 Deputy foreign minister Nikolay Afanasevskiy visits the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

20 September 1998 A State Duma delegation, headed by Gennady Seleznev, visits Iran.

22 September 1998 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov speaks at the UN General Assembly. He says that Russian foreign policy will not change.

- 23 September 1998** EBRD President Horst Koehler visits Moscow.
- 24 September 1998** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov warns against the use of force in Kosovo.
- 24 September 1998** The MFA expresses concern over reports that the Taleban are deploying long-range missiles on the border between Afghanistan and Iran.
- 24 September 1998** Russian Public TV reports that the demarcation of the Russo-Chinese border is virtually completed.
- 24 September 1998** The MFA attacks the speech made by the Latvian foreign minister Guntis Ulmanis at the UN.
- 24 September 1998** ITAR-TASS reports that Russia has agreed to help build two nuclear power stations in Ukraine.
- 25 September 1998** The foreign ministers of the USA and Russia issue a joint statement against terrorism at the UN General Assembly.
- 30 September 1998** Russian prime minister Yevgenny Primakov visits Belarus.