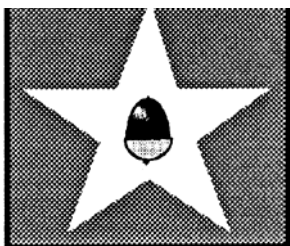


**Conflict Studies Research Centre**

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**A Russian Chronology  
October-December 1998**

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# Russian Foreign Policy: Chronology

## October-December 1998

### *October*

**1 October 1998** Viktor Rakhmanin, Foreign Minister (MFA) spokesman, says that the Kosovo problem cannot be resolved by force.

**2 October 1998** Finance minister Mikhail Zadornov and Central Bank chairman leave for Washington for IMF talks.

**2 October 1998** The Duma ratifies a military cooperation agreement with Belarus.

**4 October 1998** The Russian government issues a statement on Kosovo. It says that any NATO bombing would be a gross violation of the UN Charter. Foreign minister Igor Ivanov arrives in Belgrade.

**5 October 1998** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov, defence minister Igor Sergeyev and Aleksey Shcherbakov, deputy director of the Foreign Intelligence Service SVR, visit Belgrade and warn Milosevic that NATO could use force unless he takes urgent steps over Kosovo.

**5 October 1998** Yel'tsin discusses Kosovo over the telephone with Bill Clinton. He also discusses Kosovo with the new German Chancellor, Gerhard Schroder, by telephone and the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

**6 October 1998** Igor Ivanov says that Russia will veto any use of force in the UN Security Council against FRY over Kosovo.

**6 October 1998** Yel'tsin discusses Kosovo over the telephone with Jacques Chirac.

**6 October 1998** The MFA condemns Turkish attacks on Kurd bases in Iraq.

**7 October 1998** Yel'tsin discusses Kosovo over the telephone with Tony Blair.

**8 October 1998** Palestinian leader Yassir Arafat arrives in Moscow on an official visit.

**8 October 1998** Presidential aide Sergey Prikhodko says that Yel'tsin will appoint a permanent personal representative on Middle East issues.

**8 October 1998** Defence minister, Igor Sergeyev, on a visit to Greece says that Russia could join NATO if it merged with OSCE.

**8 October 1998** Igor Ivanov, Russian foreign minister, arrives in London for a meeting of the Contact Group. He says that Milosevic is ready to accept an OSCE mission to Kosovo. He says that if the UN Security Council decides on a peacekeeping mission in Kosovo, then Russia would take part, provided the Federation Council agrees.

**8 October 1998** EU commission president Jacques Santer visits Moscow.

**9 October 1998** The foreign ministers of the Contact Group hold a meeting in London on Kosovo.

**9 October 1998** Igor Ivanov expresses support for the notion of an independent Palestinian state. He says it is a strategic goal of Russian foreign policy.

**10 October 1998** Col-Gen Leonid Ivashov, the head of the MOD main directorate for international military cooperation, says that if NATO launches air strikes against Serb positions in Kosovo, then Russia would regard the March 1998 arms embargo against Yugoslavia as non-existent.

**11 October 1998** Yel'tsin begins his visit to Uzbekistan.

**12 October 1998** Russia, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan sign a military assistance pact.

**12 October 1998** Yel'tsin arrives in Kazakhstan, but has to cut short his visit due to a cold.

**13 October 1998** The MFA welcomes the Holbrooke-Milosevic accord. The MOD states that it is prepared to send 200-250 observers to Kosovo.

**13 October 1998** Russian minister for emergencies, Sergey Shoygu, visits Libya. Several economic and technical cooperation agreements are signed.

**14 October 1998** Ivanov flies to Paris for a meeting of the Contact Group. The Duma and Federation Council issue separate statements on Kosovo.

**15 October 1998** The special adviser to the US Secretary of State for newly Independent States Stephen Sestanovich has talks in Moscow with a Russian government delegation.

**15 October 1998** Aleksandr Avdeyev is appointed first deputy foreign minister.

**16 October 1998** The MFA supports the Holbrooke-Milosevic agreement on Kosovo, and recommends Yugoslavia's return to the OSCE. Russia wishes to participate in any monitoring operation in Kosovo.

**16 October 1998** The Russian and Belarusian defence ministers sign several military cooperation agreements.

**16 October 1998** The Duma approves in principle a statement of cooperation with Iran.

**16 October 1998** The Duma issues a statement criticising the Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus.

**18 October 1998** Japanese foreign minister Komura visits Moscow to prepare for the Russo-Japanese summit in November.

**19 October 1998** Defence minister Igor Sergeev begins a tour of Asia. He will visit China, India and Vietnam.

**21 October 1998** Belarusian leader Aleksandr Lukashenko visits Omsk region.

**22 October 1998** The MFA denies that a Russian company has supplied Iraq with missile homing systems.

**22 October 1998** Igor Ivanov has talks with his Greek counterpart in Moscow. He warns the Kosovo Albanians not to wreck peace moves.

**23 October 1998** Yevgenny Primakov orders a search for the leader of the Workers' Party of Kurdistan, Abdullah Ocalan, who is said to be in Russia.

**23 October 1998** Central Bank chief Viktor Gerashchenko visits London for talks with the EBRD, Bank of England, and to attend the Moscow Invest-98 conference.

**23 October 1998** The MFA welcomes the Israeli-Palestinian peace accord signed in Washington.

**23 October 1998** The MFA criticises the Moldovan MFA's stand on Russian troop withdrawal.

**23 October 1998** The Duma votes to invite the Yugoslav parliament to take part in the parliamentary assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia as an observer.

**24 October 1998** Sakhalin and Hokkaido island sign a peace and cooperation treaty.

**26 October 1998** A Duma delegation headed by Gennady Seleznev visits China.

**26 October 1998** Vladimir Zhirinovskiy visits Turkey.

**27 October 1998** Yevgenny Primakov visits Austria in place of Yel'tsin.

**27 October 1998** The MFA demands that NATO drop its decision to use force against FRY over Kosovo.

**27 October 1998** Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev visits China.

**27 October 1998** The US Agriculture Secretary says that Russia has officially asked the US for food aid.

**27 October 1998** Canadian prime minister Jean Chretien says he will postpone his January 1999 visit to Moscow because of the global economic situation.

**27 October 1998** Russian energy minister Sergey Generalov says he is ready to build a pipeline bypassing Chechnya if Azerbaijan endorses the Russian route for the export of Caspian oil.

**28 October 1998** A source in the Croat Embassy in Moscow says that Russia has asked the Croat president to postpone his visit to Moscow because of Yel'tsin's health.

**28 October 1998** Belarusian President Lukashenko visits Omsk and Kemerovo regions.

**28 October 1998** The MFA welcomes NATO's decision to shelve military plans against FRY.

**28 October 1998** The chairman of the Movement in Support of the Army, Viktor Ilyukhin, says that the Movement has 10,000 volunteers to help FRY.

**29 October 1998** Primakov has a meeting with his Moldovan counterpart in Moscow. They discuss Moldova's debts and the withdrawal of Russian forces from Moldova.

**29 October 1998** The Russian government accepts a Belarusian offer of food for gas.

**29 October 1998** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov has talks in Turkey.

**29 October 1998** Russian Agriculture minister Viktor Semenov says that Russia has not asked the US for food aid. The US Embassy in Moscow says that talks between the Russian government and the US Department of Agriculture are under way in Moscow.

**30 October 1998** Russian-Romanian consultations on a draft political treaty are reported to be at deadlock.

**30 October 1998** Vladimir Chizhov, head of the MFA's third European department, says that Moscow has no contacts with the KLA, but he says that Russia has contacts with Kosovo Albanian leaders other than Rugova.

**30 October 1998** The IMF criticises the Russian government's stabilisation programme.

**31 October 1998** Interfax reports that the US plans to give Russia food aid, and an agreement will be signed next week.

## ***November***

**1 November 1998** The MFA calls on Iraq to restore cooperation with the UN.

**2 November 1998** Vojislav Seselj, leader of the Serb Radical Party, says that Russia, Belarus and Serbia should set up a union.

**2 November 1998** Chairman of the Central Bank, Viktor Gerashchenko says that the 90 day moratorium on foreign loan payments will not be extended. It expires on 14 November.

**3 November 1998** The MFA expresses concern over Iraq's decision to stop the activity of UN weapons inspectors in Iraq.

**3 November 1998** Deputy foreign minister Grigory Karasin holds talks in India.

**3 November 1998** Russia and Georgia sign border cooperation accords.

**3 November 1998** The MFA says that it does not question the status of Sevastopol.

**4 November 1998** Russian UN Ambassador, Sergey Lavrov, says Russia opposes the use of force against Iraq.

**5 November 1998** Russo-US talks on food supplies end without result.

**5 November 1998** The MFA says that Russia is prepared to help the Tajik government put down an uprising in the north.

**5 November 1998** The MFA calls for increased international pressure on the Afghan Taleban.

**6 November 1998** Russia and the USA sign three protocols on shipment of US food and humanitarian aid to Russia. Shipments will begin in December.

**6 November 1998** Russian talks with Western investors over payment of internal debts have finished successfully.

**6 November 1998** Japan grants an \$800 million credit to Russia, provided Russia meets IMF requirements

**6 November 1998** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov meets PLO secretary-general Mahmud Abbas in Moscow.

**7 November 1998** Russia and the EU reach agreement on revising the TACIS programme.

**7 November 1998** Deputy foreign minister Aleksandr Avdeyev visits Turkey. He discusses Cyprus.

**10 November 1998** The MFA says that the bill adopted by the US Congress on the liberation of Iraq amounts to interference in Iraqi internal affairs.

**10 November 1998** Deputy prime minister Gennady Kulik states that the EU and Russia have reached preliminary agreement on food aid to Russia. ECU400mn of foodstuffs will be given to Russia.

**10 November 1998** Finnish prime minister Paavo Lipponen visits Russia.

**10 November 1998** Indian defence minister Ajit Kumar visits Russia.

**11 November 1998** Japanese prime minister Keizo Obuchi arrives in Moscow. The Kurile Islands are discussed. A declaration on constructive partnership is signed.

**11 November 1998** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov says that Russia is using its opportunities with Iraq to influence it to cooperate with the UN Special Commission. He says they should form a consensus in the UN Security Council on Iraq.

**11 November 1998** German foreign minister Joschka Fischer visits Moscow.

**11 November 1998** Primakov states that the Russo-Estonian border treaty is virtually ready.

**11 November 1998** The MFA censures the Russian commander of peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan, General Nikolay Pugachev, for stating that the recent insurgency in northern Tajikistan had come from Uzbekistan.

**12 November 1998** Deputy prime minister Gennady Kulik says he will sign a letter to the EU saying Russia is ready to accept food aid.

**13 November 1998** Yel'tsin tells Saddam Hussein that a political solution to the Iraq-UN conflict must be found quickly. Deputy foreign minister Viktor Posuvalyuk blames Iraq for the latest Gulf crisis.

**13 November 1998** Vladimir Lukin says that the Duma is now more likely to ratify START-2.

**14 November 1998** Yel'tsin states that he opposes force being used against Iraq. Saddam Hussein appeals to Russia to mediate in the Iraq-UN crisis.

**14 November 1998** Russia becomes a full member of APEC at the 10th meeting of APEC foreign and trade ministers in Kuala Lumpur.

**15 November 1998** Defence minister Igor Sergeev visits Syria and Egypt.

**16 November 1998** German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder arrives in Moscow for a Russo-German summit.

**17 November 1998** The MFA condemns US calls to change the Iraqi regime. It also condemns Israeli settlement building.

**17 November 1998** A Russian delegation arrives in London for debt talks.

**18 November 1998** Security and foreign affairs bodies agree to improve cooperation at a meeting of the interdepartmental commission of the Security Council under foreign minister Igor Ivanov.

**18 November 1998** Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev says that a new draft law on START-2 ratification contains conditions that will ensure security for Russia. Chairman of the Duma defence committee Roman Popkovich calls for START-2 ratification.

**18 November 1998** Ukrainian foreign minister Boris Tarasyuk visits Moscow. He favours ratification of the Russo-Ukrainian treaty.

**21 November 1998** Atomic energy minister Yevgenny Adamov calls for an expansion of ties with Iran, beyond the construction of the Bushehr nuclear plant.

**22 November 1998** Chinese President Jiang Zemin visits Moscow. A Russo-Chinese statement is issued.

**23 November 1998** Deputy prime minister Vladimir Bulgak visits the EU. He discusses the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement and TACIS.

**24 November 1998** The prime ministers of the quadripartite union meet in Moscow. Tajikistan formally joins the union.

**24 November 1998** Talks between the IMF and Russian government end today.

**24 November 1998** The MFA calls on Iraq to let UNSCOM do its job.

**25 November 1998** Defence minister Igor Sergeyev meets Georgian state minister Vazha Lordkipanidze. They agree on the need for a continued military presence in Georgia.

**25 November 1998** The CIS Council of Heads of Government meets in Moscow. CIS Executive Secretary Boris Berezovskiy proposes a new CIS structure.

**26 November 1998** Yevgenny Primakov meets his Armenian counterpart Armen Darbinyan in Moscow. They discuss economic relations.

**26 November 1998** Chief of the Russian General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin visits NATO and takes part in a session of the Russia-NATO Military Committee.

**26 November 1998** The head of the centre for nuclear risk reduction, Lt-Gen Vyacheslav Romanov says that Russia is ready to take part in surveillance flights over Kosovo.

**26 November 1998** CPRF leader Gennady Zyuganov visits Germany.

**26 November 1998** MFA states that it opposes attempts to increase the number of permanent members of the UN Security Council.

**27 November 1998** Yevgenny Primakov issues a resolution which endorses a draft agreement with Iran on cooperation in the oil and gas industry.

**27 November 1998** The fourth sitting of the Russo-Ukrainian commission on cooperation opens. Primakov attends. Ukraine will pay part of its gas debt by food supplies.

**29 November 1998** The Italian foreign minister Lamberto Dini arrives in Moscow.

**30 November 1998** Primakov signs a resolution increasing the Russian Federation's quota at the IMF.

**30 November 1998** Diplomatic sources state that Russia and North Korea will hold consultations on a new cooperation treaty.

## ***December***

**1 December 1998** IMF director Michael Camdessus arrives in Moscow for talks with Primakov.

**1 December 1998** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov visits Sweden. He proposes five+three+one talks in Moscow in 1999 on Baltic stability.

**2 December 1998** At a meeting of OSCE foreign minister in Oslo Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov demands full Yugoslav involvement in OSCE activities on Kosovo. He

warns against the unauthorised use of force in conflicts. He also expresses concern over the future of the CFE agreement.

**3 December 1998** The Council of CIS Border Troops Commanders meet in Tbilisi and sign over 20 agreements.

**3 December 1998** Defence minister Igor Sergeyev meets visiting US congressmen and discusses cuts of nuclear stockpiles.

**3 December 1998** The MFA urges Israel and Palestine against jeopardising the Wye Plantation agreements.

**3 December 1998** Igor Ivanov says at the meeting of OSCE foreign ministers in Oslo, that the Charter of European Security should be ready for signing at the next OSCE summit in November 1999 in Istanbul.

**4 December 1998** Ivanov says that Russia is "certain that the OSCE should become the centre of gravity of the new system of relations between the states and organisations of the Euro-Atlantic space".

**4 December 1998** Iraqi deputy prime minister Tariq Aziz arrives in Moscow.

**4 December 1998** Igor Ivanov meets UNSCOM chief Richard Butler. Ivanov says that the UN work in Iraq is largely complete.

**4 December 1998** Chief of the General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin visits Japan.

**4 December 1998** The upper house of the Yugoslav parliament votes to join the Union of Belarus and Russia as a permanent observer. Gennady Seleznev says on 6 December that FRY could get observer status in the Russia-Belarus parliament in 1999.

**6 December 1998** A Duma delegation headed by Sergey Glotov backs the settlement plan for Kosovo proposed by Serbia.

**7 December 1998** Igor Ivanov calls for UN Security Council Resolution 687 to be met in full, which should end the oil embargo against Iraq.

**7 December 1998** World Bank experts arrive in Moscow to discuss loan terms.

**7 December 1998** Moscow mayor Yury Luzhkov visits Germany. Luzhkov blames US economic advisers for Russia's economic problems.

**7 December 1998** Boris Berezovskiy expresses satisfaction with CIS reform. He says the Council of CIS Heads of State will meet in February 1999 to adopt critical decisions concerning the CIS.

**8 December 1998** Chief of the General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin visits the USA.

**8 December 1998** Iraqi foreign minister Tariq Aziz visits Moscow.

**9 December 1998** The Russia-NATO Permanent Joint Council session opens in Brussels.

**9 December 1998** Deputy foreign minister Grigory Karasin visits Tokyo before the meeting of the joint commission on drawing up a bilateral peace treaty.

**9 December 1998** US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright says that US could suspend scientific cooperation with Moscow if Russia does not stop the transfer of nuclear technology to Iran.

**9 December 1998** Igor Ivanov states that Russia received an official invitation to attend the NATO summit in Washington in April 1999.

**10 December 1998** The head of the MFA's working group on the Caspian, Yury Merzlyakov, says that Russia hopes Turkey will not undertake any unilateral moves to alter shipping in the Black Sea straits. Turkey has threatened to tighten the rules for passage of oil tankers through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles.

**10 December 1998** Igor Ivanov warns against NATO's global power domination. He says it is counterproductive to put NATO at the centre of a European security system.

**10 December 1998** Deputy prime minister Yury Maslyukov calls for greater control over the export of missile technology to Iran following talks with US deputy secretary of state, Strobe Talbott.

**11 December 1998** The MFA expresses satisfaction with amendments to the Estonian law on citizenship. The MFA also notes positive changes in relations with Latvia following changes in the Latvian citizenship law.

**10 December 1998** *Izvestiya* states that the CIS customs union is failing to harmonise customs tariffs between Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

**11 December 1998** Primakov has talks with US deputy secretary of state, Strobe Talbott.

**11 December 1998** Chief of the General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin discusses US-Russian military cooperation with the Pentagon.

**13 December 1998** Anatoly Kvashnin flies on to Cuba.

**13 December 1998** Igor Ivanov expresses concern at NATO using force without a UN sanction.

**16 December 1998** Russia calls for the UN Security Council to meet and discuss Iraq.

**16 December 1998** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov has an article published in *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* on Russian-US relations.

**16 December 1998** Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko visits Moscow. He discusses with the Russian leadership the possibility of adopting a single Russian-Belarusian rouble.

**17 December 1998** Yel'tsin and Primakov condemn US and British airstrikes against Iraq. The Duma also passes a resolution condemning the airstrikes.

**17 December 1998** Yel'tsin calls the US and British airstrikes on Iraq outrageous and says they must stop.

**17 December 1998** Deputy prime minister Yury Maslyukov says that airstrikes against Iraq will delay START-2 ratification.

**17 December 1998** A Ukrainian parliamentary delegation visits Moscow.

**18 December 1998** Russia recalls her ambassadors from the USA and Britain over the Iraqi airstrikes.

**18 December 1998** Col-Gen Leonid Ivashov, head of the MOD's main directorate for international military cooperation, says that the MOD will reconsider its plans

for military cooperation with the USA following the US-British airstrikes against Iraq.

**18 December 1998** The Duma appeals to Yel'tsin to lift sanctions against Iraq unilaterally.

**18 December 1998** Iranian foreign minister Kamal Kharrrazi visits Moscow.

**18 December 1998** Croat president Franjo Tudjman visits Moscow and signs a friendship declaration with Yel'tsin. Several cooperation agreements are signed.

**19 December 1998** Sergey Prikhodko, special representative of the Russian president and deputy head of the presidential administration, visits Iran.

**20 December 1998** Foreign minister Yevgenny Primakov visits India. He says he favours the formation of a Russo-Indian-Chinese strategic triangle.

**20 December 1998** Yel'tsin issues a statement welcoming the end of the US-British airstrikes against Iraq.

**21 December 1998** The MFA calls for a meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss Iraq.

**21 December 1998** A regular meeting of the Council of CIS defence ministers is held in Moscow.

**22 December 1998** A MFA official says that a new concept is needed for Russo-Japanese relations if the Kurile Island issue is to be solved.

**22 December 1998** Yevgenny Primakov visits Kazakhstan. He warns former Soviet states against joining NATO. He also says that the USA and Britain must change their approaches towards world affairs. He says their intention to reserve the right to deliver more airstrikes against Iraq could upset the post-1945 world order.

**22 December 1998** Clinton sends Yel'tsin a message on Iraq.

**23 December 1998** Azeri foreign minister Tofiq Zulfugarov visits Moscow.

**23 December 1998** Several Russo-US food agreements are signed in Moscow.

**25 December 1998** The Duma ratifies the Russo-Ukrainian friendship treaty.

**25 December 1998** Yel'tsin and Lukashenko sign a statement on Russo-Belarusian unification. It is intended to create in 1999 a Russo-Belarusian union state.

**28 December 1998** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov calls on the UN to look at lifting sanctions against Iraq.

**28 December 1998** Igor Ivanov blames Kosovo Albanians for renewed tension in Kosovo.

**28 December 1998** Armenian foreign minister Vardan Oskanyan visits Moscow.

**29 December 1998** Yel'tsin instructs the MFA to sign the international convention on radioactive waste.

**30 December 1998** The MFA calls for restraint over the Iraqi air exclusion zone.

**30 December 1998** Yel'tsin and Clinton speak over the telephone.

**31 December 1998** First deputy prime minister Yury Maslyukov says he will actively try to persuade the Duma to ratify START-2 and begin work on START-3 in late January or February.

**31 December 1998** Yevgenny Primakov approves money to finance the Russian peacekeeping contingent in Bosnia.

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# Russian Domestic Policy: Chronology

## October-December 1998

### *October*

**1 October 1998** The government meets to discuss its anticrisis plan. Deputy prime minister Gennady Kulik says that the anticrisis plan will be finalised after talks with the IMF.

**2 October 1998** Primakov meets leaders of local governments in Moscow. He calls for a clear cut division of powers among the different levels of government, federal, regional and local.

**2 October 1998** Gennady Zyuganov says there is as yet no formal alliance between the CPRF and Yury Luzhkov.

**2 October 1998** Yel'tsin appoints Vladimir Putin and Igor Ivanov to the Security Council.

**3 October 1998** Yury Luzhkov calls for a new party to be formed to end the crisis.

**4 October 1998** Gennady Zyuganov says he is ready for a serious dialogue with Yury Luzhkov.

**4 October 1998** An NTV poll gives the following ratings to the question who would you vote for if a presidential election were to be held this week?

Zyuganov	18%
Lebed'	13%
Luzhkov	12%
Yavlinskiy	11%

1,500 people in 29 regions were polled on 26-27 September.

**5 October 1998** Yury Maslyukov says that the government is still working on an economic programme.

**5 October 1998** Gennady Zyuganov calls for talks on a centre-left coalition. He says that its leader should be elected at a congress of centre-left forces. The leader of the Union of People's Power and Labour, Andrey Nikolayev, also praises Luzhkov as a presidential candidate.

**6 October 1998** Yel'tsin issues a decree streamlining the Federal Security Service.

**6 October 1998** Prime minister Yevgenny Primakov addresses the nation on TV.

**7 October 1998** A nationwide day of action is held in Russia. The number of those protesting is much less than expected. Lebed calls on Yel'tsin to resign.

**8 October 1998** Gennady Seleznev says he is prepared to stand for president and head a centre-left bloc.

**9 October 1998** Defence minister Igor Sergeyev denies reports of his resignation.

**9 October 1998** Deputy Agriculture minister Vyacheslav Chernoiyanov says that Russia will not need to make centralised grain purchases from abroad because it can draw on grain stocks left over from 1997. He says that the 1998 grain harvest is likely to be about 50 million tonnes.

**10 October 1998** Viktor Chernomyrdin calls for the creation of a broad centre-right coalition.

**11 October 1998** A NTV poll gives the following assessment of voters' preferences in a presidential election.

Zyuganov	21%
Luzhkov	17%
Lebed'	12%
Yavlinskiy	11%

**12 October 1998** Yel'tsin cuts short his visit to Kazakhstan due to a cold.

**13 October 1998** Presidential spokesman Dmitry Yakushin says that Yel'tsin will stay in bed this week due to his cold. Yakushin dismisses talk of Yel'tsin resigning.

**13 October 1998** Yury Maslyukov says the government may allow limited inflation.

**13 October 1998** First deputy head of the presidential administration, Oleg Sysuyev, says that economic policy is now solely the concern of the government. The administration's role is to ensure that the rights and freedoms of citizens under the constitution are being observed.

**14 October 1998** The Federation Council fails to endorse a demand for Yel'tsin's resignation.

**14 October 1998** *Izvestiya* reports that miners will resume a picket in Moscow calling for Yel'tsin's resignation.

**15 October 1998** Viktor Chernomyrdin says he will run in the next presidential election.

**15 October 1998** The Russian Constitutional Court opens hearings on Yel'tsin's eligibility to run for office in 2000.

**17 October 1998** *Sovetskaya Rossiya* issues an appeal from the Federation Council calling on Yel'tsin to resign.

**18 October 1998** An opinion poll taken 10-11 October shows support in a presidential election as follows:

Luzhkov	19%
Zyuganov	19%
Lebed'	14%
Yavlinskiy	13%

In a second round:

Luzhkov vs Lebed'	37% : 29%
Luzhkov vs Zyuganov	38% : 29%
Lebed' vs Zyuganov	32% : 30%

**20 October 1998** Yel'tsin and Primakov affirm they will not run for president in 2000.

**20 October 1998** Yevgenny Primakov says that a small emission of money is possible to meet wage arrears.

**20 October 1998** Yel'tsin appoints Nikolay Kulikov as deputy interior minister and head of the Main Directorate of Internal Affairs in Moscow.

**20 October 1998** Sergey Shakhray is appointed adviser to Primakov on legal matters.

**21 October 1998** Yel'tsin fails to turn up in the Kremlin and has a 'routine medical check up'.

**21 October 1998** Deputy prime minister Vadim Gustov calls for amending the constitution to give the cabinet more power and for introducing a vice-presidency.

**22 October 1998** The government approves a set of measures in the sphere of budget and taxation policy.

**22 October 1998** A presidential poll gives the following results of voters' preferences in a second round of a presidential election:

Luzhkov	23%
Zyuganov	21%
Lebed'	15%
Yavlinskiy	11%

**23 October 1998** The Duma will consider on 6th November the draft law on a medical assessment of the state of health of Yel'tsin.

**24 October 1998** Primakov says that the government's anticrisis programme is almost ready. He says that no new money has been printed.

**25 October 1998** The chairman of the Duma Security Committee, Viktor Ilyukhin, is interviewed on Russia TV's Parliamentary Hour. He says that privatisation was a western plot to break up the USSR.

**26 October 1998** It is announced that Yevgenny Primakov will visit Austria instead of Yel'tsin. The presidential press secretary Dmitry Yakushin says that doctors report that Yel'tsin is suffering from asthenia.

**26 October 1998** Yury Luzhkov says that Russia should choose a third way from total socialism and vulgar liberalism and complains that the West is treating Russia as a third world country.

**26 October 1998** Yel'tsin's doctors advise him to take a two-week holiday. Deputy head of the presidential administration Oleg Sysuyev says that Yel'tsin may take a less active part in governance.

**27 October 1998** Aleksandr Lebed' says that he favours the reintroduction of the vice-presidency.

**27 October 1998** Gennady Zyuganov mildly rebukes CPRF Duma deputy Albert Makashov for his anti-Semitic statements.

**28 October 1998** Grigory Yavlinskiy gives an interview to the *Daily Telegraph*. He alleges corruption in the Russian government.

**29 October 1998** Primakov and Chechen president Aslan Maskhadov sign a joint statement in Vladikavkaz.

**30 October 1998** Yel'tsin meets Primakov before he departs for Sochi on holiday.

**31 October 1998** The cabinet approves the document on government and Central Bank measures to stabilise the economy in Russia

**31 October 1998** Yury Luzhkov is interviewed on Russian Public TV. He says that Crimea is part of Russia and not Ukraine. He says he is having consultations with the CPRF, but denies talks on a centre-left bloc.

**31 October 1998** *Segodnya* reports that the CPRF will contest the 1999 parliamentary elections without a coalition with other parties and movements.

## **November**

**1 November 1998** NTV reports on a presidential opinion poll.

Zyuganov	18%
Primakov	13%
Luzhkov	11%
Lebed'	9%
Yavlinskiy	9%

The poll was conducted in 29 regions and 1,500 were asked.

**2 November 1998** Zyuganov calls for a medical for Yel'tsin.

**3 November 1998** Deputy prime minister Gennady Kulik says that the government will stick to its anti-crisis plan, despite IMF criticism.

**4 November 1998** First deputy prime minister Yury Maslyukov says that the government will try to hold the budget deficit to 3%. He says that monetary emission will not top R15bn in 1998 and R30-35bn in 1999. He says food reserves are enough for 2-3 weeks, and talks with foreign partners will eliminate food shortages.

**4 November 1998** The Duma refuses to denounce anti-Semitic remarks made by Albert Makashov in October.

**4 November 1998** Ivan Orlov, journalist with *Russkaya Pravda*, explodes a carbomb in Red Square.

**5 November 1998** The Duma votes against demanding a report on Yel'tsin's health.

**5 November 1998** The Constitutional Court says that Yel'tsin cannot run again for president. Presidential press secretary Dmitry Yakushin says that Yel'tsin is satisfied with this ruling.

**8 November 1998** CIS Executive Secretary Boris Berezovskiy calls for the CPRF to be banned, in view of its failure to criticise Albert Makashov.

**10 November 1998** Russian TV reports that the Russian North faces a fuel crisis.

**11 November 1998** In an interview in *La Stampa*, Albert Makashov says that limits should be placed on the number of Jews allowed to serve in government.

**11 November 1998** Defence minister Igor Sergeyev meets the Russian military command to brief them on reform.

**12 November 1998** The head of the Agrarian Duma faction, Nikolay Kharitonov, says that 30 million Russians are starving.

**13 November 1998** Yel'tsin's envoy to Chechnya, Valentin Vlasov, is freed.

**14 November 1998** The 90 day debt moratorium expires.

**15 November 1998** The official government plan on economic stabilisation has been published.

**15 November 1998** Over 30 regional leaders hold a meeting in the Far East.

**16 November 1998** Interior minister Sergey Stepashin appoints Aleksandr Gurov head of the institute for fighting organised crime.

**17 November 1998** FSB Vladimir Putin rejects Boris Berezovskiy's allegations that elements in the Federal Security Service (FSB) were planning to kill him. Some FSB officers insist they received such orders.

**17 November 1998** Kalmyk President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov says that Kalmykia is considering withdrawing from the Russian Federation. Yel'tsin calls for a Security Council session in response.

**18 November 1998** Presidential press spokesman Dmitry Yakushin says Yel'tsin remains the guarantor of the constitution.

**18 November 1998** Finance minister Mikhail Zadornov notes that Russia's money supply expanded by R8bn in October-November.

**18 November 1998** Yury Maslyukov says the government is not planning any major renationalisations.

**19 November 1998** Yury Luzhkov founds a new movement Fatherland (*Otechestvo*). He speaks of the possibility of an alliance with Andrey Nikolayev, the former border guard commander.

**20 November 1998** Primakov gives an interview to *Izvestiya*. He blames reformists for the state of the economy.

**20 November 1998** Yury Maslyukov says that Russia may become an oil importer if the past 10 years of declining production continues. 30 mn tonnes would have to be imported to meet demand.

**20 November 1998** Russian TV confirms that Galina Starovoytova has been murdered.

**20 November 1998** Yel'tsin orders the secretary of the Security Council to investigate FSB activities.

**20 November 1998** Yel'tsin issues a decree on the work and composition of the Security Council.

**21 November 1998** Saratov governor Dmitry Ayatskov sets up a movement called My Fatherland

**23 November 1998** Yel'tsin is taken to hospital suffering from pneumonia.

**23 November 1998** Primakov meets law enforcement chiefs to discuss the crime situation.

**24 November 1998** The Russian agriculture minister Viktor Semenov says that there is no threat of hunger this winter. He says the government is creating a food reserve.

**24 November 1998** Saratov governor Dmitry Ayatskov calls for constitutional reform.

**24 November 1998** An article in *Argumenty i Fakty* claims that Kremlin officials believe that Yel'tsin should surrender some of his powers.

**25 November 1998** Yevgenny Primakov rules himself out of the presidential race.

**25 November 1998** Primakov calls for an increase in state control of the economy.

**25 November 1998** CIS Executive Secretary Boris Berezovskiy says that ethnic problems could break up Russia.

**25 November 1998** Yevgenny Primakov speaks at a conference of heads of the unified system of preventing and coping with emergencies. He calls for emergency measures in the economy.

**26 November 1998** Opinion polls make Primakov the Russian population's preferred choice as president.

**27 November 1998** Dmitry Yakushin states that Yel'tsin had several coronaries in 1996.

**27 November 1998** Yel'tsin orders the establishment of an expert council to discuss constitutional reform.

**27 November 1998** The deputy head of the presidential administration, Oleg Sysuyev, says that the administration will promote the formation of a democratic alliance.

**27 November 1998** Several politicians issue a statement saying that they are setting up a new centre-right movement. They include Yegor Gaydar, Boris Nemtsov, Sergey Kiriyyenko, Anatoly Chubays and Oleg Sysuyev.

**27 November 1998** Yel'tsin dismisses Yevgenny Anan'yev as head of Rosvooruzheniye and replaces him with Grigory Rapota.

**27 November 1998** The government approves measures to toughen the fight against organised crime.

**27 November 1998** Yel'tsin signs a decree setting up a state commission for the socio-economic development of the North Caucasus.

**28 November 1998** Primakov criticises inexperienced IMF advisers.

**30 November 1998** The Duma impeachment commission rules that Yel'tsin is not guilty of treason regarding the break up of the armed forces and weakening of Russia's defence capability.

## ***December***

**1 December 1998** Omsk region restricts the export of food from the region.

**2 December 1998** The Duma votes 247 for versus 33 against to ask for a certificate on Yel'tsin's health.

**2 December 1998** Deputy interior minister Vladimir Kolesnikov reports on the crime situation. 221 contract killings have take place in 1998.

**2 December 1998** Chairman of the Central Bank Viktor Gerashchenko says that Russia's GDP has shrunk 5-6% compared with this time last year. Investments have declined 8-10% compared with December 1997.

**2 December 1998** Primakov addresses the Federation Council.

**2 December 1998** Primakov and IMF director Michael Camdessus hold a news conference.

**3 December 1998** Yevgenny Primakov calls for a programme of immediate anti-crisis measures.

**3 December 1998** The government approves the socio-economic stabilisation plan.

**3 December 1998** *Kommersant* reports that an alliance is forming between Yury Luzhkov and *Nash Dom Rossiya*.

**4 December 1998** The Duma votes in favour (255 versus 102, plus 1 abstention) of a resolution restoring the statue of Feliks Dzherzinskiy in front of the Lubyanka.

**5 December 1998** UES head Anatoly Chubays warns of major fuel crisis.

**5 December 1998** Baskortostan bans food exports.

**7 December 1998** Yel'tsin dismisses Valentin Yumashev as head of the presidential administration. He is replaced by Nikolay Bordyuzha, who remains secretary of the Security Council. He also dismisses Yury Yarov as first deputy head, and Mikhail Komissar and Yevgenny Savostyanov as deputy heads. The Justice Ministry and Tax Service will now report to him rather than the prime minister.

**7 December 1998** Yel'tsin dismisses Aleksandr Starovoytov as head of the government communications service FAPSI. He is replaced by Vladislav Sherstyuk.

**7 December 1998** The Duma commission for impeaching Yel'tsin drops charges accusing Yel'tsin of high treason for permitting the collapse of the armed forces and defence capability

**7 December 1998** The Central Bank states that monetary emission in October and November was R13.5bn.

**8 December 1998** Four hostages (3 British, 1 New Zealand) are killed in Chechnya.

**8 December 1998** Yel'tsin rules out any changes to the constitution before 2000.

**9 December 1998** *Radio Russia* reports that Russia has sealed its border with Chechnya.

**9 December 1998** Yel'tsin starts a period of convalescence.

**9 December 1998** Primakov denies any presidential ambitions.

**9 December 1998** *Komsomolskaya Pravda* reports that a man in Saratov has been detained for planning to assassinate Yel'tsin and the Saratov governor.

**10 December 1998** The Russian Duma adopts the 1999 draft budget in its first reading.

**10 December 1998** Centre-right politicians gather in Moscow to found a coalition. Those attending include: Oleg Sysuyev, Anatoly Chubays, Boris Nemtsov, Sergey Kiriyenko.

**10 December 1998** Secretary of the Security Council, Nikolay Bordyuzha, meets regional leaders to coordinate efforts to strengthen vertical power in the Russian Federation.

**10 December 1998** Finance minister Mikhail Zadornov states that the government plans to collect 80% of taxes in 1999.

**10 December 1998** Yury Luzhkov advocates that the power of the presidency be limited.

**11 December 1998** Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev calls for the constitution to be overhauled.

**12 December 1998** KRO leader Dmitry Rogozin backs Yury Luzhkov for the presidency.

**14 December 1998** The founding congress of the Siberian Union in the Name of the Future takes place in Tomsk. Delegates from six Siberian regions attend. They are: Krasnoyarsk, Altay, Novosibirsk, Tomsk, Evenki and Khakassia.

**15 December 1998** The Duma impeachment commission meets to discuss the charge of genocide against Yel'tsin.

**15 December 1998** The chairman of the Duma security committee, Viktor Ilyukhin, makes remarks alleged to be anti-Semitic.

**16 December 1998** The Duma passes the government's emergency fiscal package.

**19 December 1998** Yury Luzhkov's Fatherland Movement holds its opening congress in Moscow.

**19 December 1998** The Duma Budget Committee recommends the adoption of the 1999 draft budget.

**21 December 1998** The Duma resumes impeachment hearings against Yel'tsin.

**22 December 1998** The World Bank issues its report on Russia. It predicts a deep depression for the economy in 1999.

**24 December 1998** The Duma votes to pass the 1999 budget. 303 votes to 65, with 9 abstentions. Expenditure is set at R575bn and revenue at R473.6bn. GDP

is forecast at R4000bn and annual inflation 30%. The maximum size of the deficit is set at R101.3bn, or 2.54% of GDP.

**28 December 1998** Prosecutor-General Yury Skuratov says that the damage caused by economic crimes amounts to R18bn in 1998. Deputy prosecutor Mikhail Katyshev says that the shadow economy comprises 40-50% of GDP. Criminal elements from Russia and the CIS keep over 5bn Swiss francs in Swiss banks alone. Russia has 78 large organised criminal communities, which fall into almost 1,500 smaller gangs numbering over 10,000 people.

**28 December 1998** Yevgenny Primakov informs Yel'tsin that the Russian government will try to keep defence spending at 3.58% of GDP.

**30 December 1998** Yel'tsin orders Primakov and the power ministries to draw up a programme to combat political and religious extremism. It will be implemented on 1 March.

**30 December 1998** The Finance Ministry says that the central government has met its pledges to pay wages and social allowances.

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