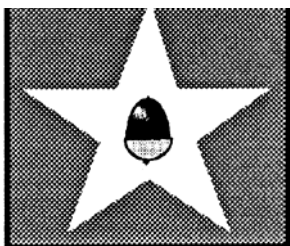


Conflict Studies Research Centre

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**A Russian Chronology
January-March 1999**

April 1999



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Russian Foreign Policy: Chronology

January-March 1999

January

1 January 1999 Vasily Likachev, Russian permanent representative to the EU, calls for strategic cooperation between the EU and Russia.

1 January 1999 An Aeroflot official says that regular flights to Baghdad are to be resumed.

2 January 1999 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) calls for an updated CFE treaty.

3 January 1999 Vladimir Zhirinovskiy visits Libya.

5 January 1999 Yegor Stroyev says that Kazakhstan will join the Russo-Belarusian union.

6 January 1999 Yel'tsin appoints Yevgenny Gusarov deputy foreign minister, replacing Nikolay Afanasevskiy, who becomes ambassador to France.

6 January 1999 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov tells Belgrade to negotiate with Kosovo Albanians.

7 January 1999 The chairman of the Russian Constitutional Court, Marat Baglay, says that Russo-Belarusian unification poses serious constitutional problems.

7 January 1999 The chairman of the Duma international affairs committee, Vladimir Lukin, says that Russia should revise its attitude toward the USA. It was unwise to criticise the USA heavily and then expect Washington to give money to Russia.

7 January 1999 Russian representative at the UN, Sergey Lavrov, says that UNSCOM should be reformed.

11 January 1999 The MFA demands a UN probe of UNSCOM intelligence links.

11 January 1999 The MFA says it hopes that the Iraqi leadership will ignore the urgings of the Iraqi parliament to ignore UN resolutions.

11 January 1999 An Iraqi delegation visits Nizhny Novgorod to discuss economic ties.

11 January 1999 The MFA says that Russia and China seek a strategic partnership in the field of arms control.

11 January 1999 The MFA welcomes the re-election of President Nazarbayev in Kazakhstan.

11 January 1999 The Foreign Intelligence Service SVR says that UNSCOM is teeming with US agents.

11 January 1999 French foreign minister begins an official visit to Moscow.

12 January 1999 Kyrgyz prime minister Dzhumabek Ibraimov visits Moscow.

12 January 1999 Belarusian prime minister Sergey Linh visits Moscow.

13 January 1999 The MFA responds angrily to the US decision to impose sanctions on three Russian academic institutions for allegedly helping Iran's missile programme.

13 January 1999 Foreign minister Ivanov has telephone conversation with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. They discuss Kosovo and Iraq and arms control, including CFE.

14 January 1999 First deputy prime minister Yury Maslyukov visits the USA for financial talks.

14 January 1999 Sergey Baburin says that the Federation Council must not ratify the Russo-Ukrainian friendship treaty. It was ratified by the Duma in December.

14 January 1999 The MFA says that Iraqi recognition of Kuwait's borders is crucial to Gulf peace.

14 January 1999 The MFA welcomes the release of Yugoslav soldiers held by Kosovan Albanian separatists. It calls for a tougher UN line against the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).

14 January 1999 The Otechestvo movement urges the Federation Council not to ratify the Russo-Ukrainian treaty. It says that Sevastopol is a Russian city.

15 January 1999 The Duma passes a statement criticising the USA for imposing sanctions against three institutes for allegedly aiding Iran's missile programme.

15 January 1999 Federation Council chairman Yegor Stroyev says that US policy towards Iraq and Iran is aimed at isolating Russia from the entire world.

16 January 1999 First deputy prime minister Yury Maslyukov expresses pleasure at the outcome of talks with the IMF in Washington.

18 January 1999 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov expresses alarm at the events in Kosovo that resulted in 40 Albanian bodies being discovered in Kosovo last week. The MFA calls for an investigation into the killings. Ivanov says Russia condemns terrorism and extremism no matter where they originate. He calls for direct talks between Belgrade and the Kosovo Albanian leadership.

18 January 1999 Cuban foreign minister Roberto Robaina visits Moscow.

18 January 1999 In an article in *Segodnya*, Federal Security Service spokesman Aleksandr Zdanovich accuses the West of double standards over the supply of dual-use technology to Iran.

18 January 1999 The head of the MOD department for international cooperation, Leonid Ivashov, says that any attempts by the USA to circumvent the ABM treaty of 1972 will upset strategic stability.

18 January 1999 The Russo-Chinese commission for nuclear issues meets in Moscow.

19 January 1999 Israeli foreign minister Ariel Sharon arrives in Moscow.

19 January 1999 Swedish foreign minister Anna Lindh arrives in Moscow.

19 January 1999 The secretaries of CIS security councils meet and discuss the merits of extending the CIS collective security treaty.

19 January 1999 Yel'tsin's planned trip to France is postponed to March.

19 January 1999 Deputy foreign minister Aleksandr Avdeyev flies to Belgrade.

20 January 1999 First deputy prime minister Yury Maslyukov welcomes US extra aid for scrapping nuclear warheads.

20 January 1999 Russia and the EU sign a memorandum on food aid.

20 January 1999 The Duma votes to condemn US sanctions against three Russian scientific research centres for ties to Iran.

20 January 1999 Russian deputy atomic energy minister Bulat Nigmatulin says that Iran will not be able to use the nuclear fuel supplied to the Bushehr reactor for military purposes. He says that Russia may build two more reactors in Iran.

20 January 1999 Igor Ivanov meets Japanese deputy foreign minister Minoru Tamba in Moscow.

21 January 1999 *Izvestiya* discusses the territorial dispute between Russia and the USA in an area of the Bering straits.

21 January 1999 US President Bill Clinton sends a message to Yel'tsin on the ABM treaty.

21 January 1999 Defence minister Igor Sergeyev calls for START-2 ratification.

21 January 1999 The MFA warns NATO not to launch airstrikes against Serbia.

21 January 1999 The MFA says that the UN Special Commission on Iraq is obsolete. It advocates a new body to monitor banned Iraqi military programmes.

22 January 1999 Igor Ivanov criticises NATO's new strategic concept which is presently being drawn up.

22 January 1999 A MFA official rejects Azeri claims that Russia is playing a destabilising role in the Caucasus. He also expresses concern about statements by some circles in Azerbaijan (which he admits are not official) about siting US military bases in Apsheron peninsula.

22 January 1999 The Duma calls for a shift in UN policy towards Iraq.

23 January 1999 Yury Maslyukov expresses opposition to US plans to amend the 1972 ABM treaty.

24 January 1999 US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright arrives in Moscow. US Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman also arrives in Moscow for talks on US food aid.

25 January 1999 Head of the MOD department for international cooperation, Leonid Ivashov, denies reports that Russia is helping Syria develop chemical weapons.

25 January 1999 Russian defence minister Igor Sergeev has talks in Moscow with an Estonian military delegation led by the commander of Estonian defence forces, Johannes Kert.

25 January 1999 Kurdish liberation movement spokesman says its leader, Abdullah Ocalan, was in Russia earlier in January.

26 January 1999 The MFA condemns yesterday's US airstrike on Iraq.

26 January 1999 Russian and Turkish officials hold talks on CFE in Ankara. The Russian side is led by head of the MFA department for security and disarmament Grigory Berdennikov.

27 January 1999 Polish foreign minister Bronisław Geremek visits Moscow.

27 January 1999 The Federation Council defers the ratification debate on the Russo-Ukrainian treaty.

29 January 1999 The MFA criticises NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana's threat to use force over Kosovo.

28 January 1999 The MFA demands the dismissal of UNSCOM head Richard Butler.

28 January 1999 Yury Maslyukov begins talks with the IMF mission in Moscow.

28 January 1999 Yury Luzhkov repeats his opposition to then Russo-Ukrainian treaty.

29 January 1999 The Contact Group on Yugoslavia meets in London. Igor Ivanov attends.

30 January 1999 Primakov attends the World Economic Forum in Davos.

30 January 1999 In *Krasnaya Zvezda*, defence minister Igor Sergeyev expresses concern over the increase of military activity in northern Europe.

February

1 February 1999 Russian specialists arrive in Iraq to repair a power plant damaged by US and British airstrikes.

1 February 1999 Russian diplomatic sources tell INTERFAX that Russia sees no sense in discussing a Bosnia style peacekeeping (PK) force for Kosovo.

1 February 1999 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov visits Germany.

2 February 1999 Igor Ivanov visits Bulgaria.

3 February 1999 Ivanov expresses opposition to US plans to overthrow Saddam Hussein.

3 February 1999 The Duma issues an appeal to Yel'tsin, calling on him to lift sanctions against Yugoslavia.

3 February 1999 The Russian MOD expresses regret at the decision of Uzbekistan to withdraw from the CIS Security Treaty.

3 February 1999 The MFA rejects accusations by Azerbaijan about Russo-Armenian military cooperation.

3 February 1999 First deputy prime minister has been appointed head of a government commission to handle CIS affairs.

4 February 1999 Yevgenny Primakov says that Russia cannot endlessly supply fuel to CIS states that do not pay for it. CIS debts for Russian fuel total \$600 million.

4 February 1999 CIS foreign ministers of Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan discuss the Collective Security Treaty.

5 February 1999 *Ekho Moskvy* reports that the IMF director Michael Camdessus has written to Yevgenny Primakov stating that the IMF sees no point in continuing the work of the IMF mission in Moscow. Camdessus says that the government should present a more realistic economic programme.

5 February 1999 The MFA opposes lifting sanctions against Yugoslavia unilaterally.

5 February 1999 Gazprom accuses Ukraine of misappropriating Russian gas travelling through transit pipelines.

6 February 1999 The MFA welcomes the start of the Kosovo talks in France.

8 February 1999 Yel'tsin attends the funeral of King Hussein in Jordan, against the advice of his doctors.

8 February 1999 Kuwaiti foreign minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir visits Moscow. Various cooperation documents are signed.

9 February 1999 Russian deputy foreign minister Georgy Mamedov in Tehran says Russia favours a normalisation of US-Iranian relations.

9 February 1999 Hungarian foreign minister State Secretary Januáryos Herman visits Moscow. Deputy foreign minister Aleksandr Avdeyev warns him that NATO novices must observe the restrictions following the Russia-NATO Founding Act on the non-deployment of significant armed forces on their territory.

9 February 1999 Italian foreign minister Massimo D'Alema visits Moscow.

9 February 1999 First deputy prime minister Yury Maslyukov suggests that some of the USSR's debts be written off.

9 February 1999 Atomic energy minister Yevgenny Adamov affirms Russia's right to cooperation with Iran in the peaceful use of atomic energy.

10 February 1999 Finnish foreign minister Tarja Halonen visits Moscow.

10 February 1999 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov repeats his opposition to the Baltic states joining NATO. He says the ethnic factor is complicating Russia's relations with the Baltic states.

11 February 1999 The MFA rejects the idea of NATO airstrikes on Yugoslavia as unacceptable. It attacks attempts to diminish the role of the UN.

11 February 1999 The MFA expresses its opposition to possible amendments to the US-Japanese security treaty, under which Japan would provide logistic support

to US military operations not only in the case of aggression against Japan, but also in the event of emergency situations arising in unspecified areas adjacent to Japan.

11 February 1999 The MFA states that Russia has reached an understanding with Turkey on settling flank problems in connection with adapting the CFE treaty.

12 February 1999 Yel'tsin meets foreign minister Igor Ivanov. He says that CIS structures must be reformed as soon as possible.

12 February 1999 The Russo-Belarusian Executive Committee meets in Moscow. Primakov supports the idea of a single Russo-Belarusian currency some time in the future.

12 February 1999 The MFA calls for the halting of Iraqi no fly zones.

12 February 1999 The Russian government approves a programme for cooperation with the World Bank in 1999.

14 February 1999 Igor Ivanov rejects claims that Russia has supplied Iraq with air defence missiles.

14 February 1999 Ivanov says that peacekeepers should only be deployed in Kosovo with Belgrade's consent.

14 February 1999 Igor Ivanov opposes the idea of setting a firm deadline for the Kosovo talks.

16 February 1999 The Cypriot defence minister arrives in Moscow to discuss the S-300 missile contract. They discuss modifying the contract to provide for deployment in Crete.

16 February 1999 The Russian Ambassador to India says that Russia and India are ready to sign a declaration on strategic partnership.

16 February 1999 Bulgarian president Stoyanov visits Moscow.

16 February 1999 Primakov has talks with visiting Syrian foreign minister Faruq al-Shar'a.

17 February 1999 The Federation Council ratifies the Russo-Ukrainian treaty by 106 to 25, with 17 abstentions.

17 February 1999 Col-Gen Leonid Ivashov of the MOD criticises NATO plans for deploying PK forces in Kosovo. He says NATO is trying to become the main security organisation in Europe, when it has only military force, not any diplomatic, political or economic levers.

17 February 1999 Deputy prime minister Vladimir Bulgak gives a radio interview on Russo-EU relations. He supports direct contact between the EU and the regions.

17 February 1999 Igor Ivanov says that Russia does not rule out sending PK forces to Kosovo if Belgrade makes such a request.

17 February 1999 Yel'tsin sends a message to Clinton expressing opposition to the use of force in Kosovo.

17 February 1999 It is reported that amendments have been made to the contract to supply Russian air defence missiles to Cyprus. A document is signed envisaging the stationing of a S-300 missile complex in Crete.

18 February 1999 The Russia-EU summit begins in Moscow. A joint statement on security and trade is issued. An agreement on food aid is reached.

18 February 1999 A Duma delegation, headed by Sergey Baburin visits Yugoslavia.

18 February 1999 Leonid Ivashov, chief of the Russian MOD's main directorate for international military cooperation, says that Russia sees no need to alter the ABM treaty of 1972. He says the US is trying to draw Russia into talks on reviewing the treaty.

19 February 1999 German Chancellor Gerhard Schroder visits Moscow for a summit with Yel'tsin. The Russian and German foreign and defence ministers also attend.

19 February 1999 Russian and American experts, meeting in Moscow, agree that that Russia and the USA will try to sign a memorandum of understanding, defining the procedures for cooperation in counteracting terrorists attacks.

19 February 1999 Duma speaker Gennady Seleznev warns that Russia may withdraw from the Russia-NATO Act if NATO undertakes military action against Yugoslavia. He warns also that Russia may withdraw from the international sanctions regime against Yugoslavia if NATO uses force.

19 February 1999 Russia warns Turkey over reports that Turkish forces have entered the Kurdish autonomous district in Iraq.

19 February 1999 *Segodnya* reports that Russia will renew the economic and technical cooperation agreement it signed with Cuba in 1993.

20 February 1999 Clinton responds to Yel'tsin's letter on Kosovo. He says NATO reserves the right to make appropriate moves.

20 February 1999 Tony Blair has a telephone conversation with Yevgenny Primakov, and urges him to use Russia's influence with Yugoslavia to persuade Milosevic to accept a deal over Kosovo.

21 February 1999 Russian foreign minister Igor Ivanov visits Japan.

21 February 1999 Primakov has talks with Finnish prime minister Paavo Lipponen in St. Petersburg.

21 February 1999 Ivanov says that Belgrade should decide the international force level for any PK mission in Kosovo. He says once Belgrade decides its position, Russia will act accordingly.

21 February 1999 First deputy prime minister Yury Maslyukov says the IMF wants changes to the Russian budget.

22 February 1999 Col-Gen Leonid Ivashov, head of the international military cooperation department of the MOD, blames NATO for the crisis in Kosovo.

22 February 1999 Ivanov expresses concern for US-Japanese plans for a regional anti-missile system.

22 February 1999 Yury Maslyukov says that Russia will begin bilateral talks with western countries to restructure its debt as soon as an IMF agreement is reached.

22 February 1999 Israeli trade minister Natan Sharansky visits Russia for trade talks. He discusses technology transfer to Iran.

22 February 1999 Ivanov blames the Kosovo Albanians for obstructing the Paris peace talks on Kosovo.

23 February 1999 The head of the MOD directorate of international military cooperation Col-Gen Leonid Ivanov says Russia will send forces to Kosovo if the president issues such orders.

23 February 1999 Primakov has talks with US deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott in Moscow. They discuss ABM, Iraq and Kosovo.

23 February 1999 *Krasnaya Zvezda* reports that a routine meeting of the Russo-American consultative group on defence issues met in Moscow on 18-19 February. They discussed START-1 implementation, and the Y2K computer problem.

23 February 1999 Deputy prime minister Gennady Kulik signs an operating memorandum between the EU and Russia on the mechanisms of providing food aid to Russia. \$470 mn of aid will be supplied.

23 February 1999 The Russo-Chinese governmental commission meets in Moscow to discuss joint projects. 11 agreements are signed.

24 February 1999 Presidential press secretary Dmitry Yakushin says Yel'tsin sees "significant progress" at the Paris talks on Kosovo. Igor Ivanov describes the provisional results of the talks as positive.

24 February 1999 Yury Maslyukov denies reports that Russia is supplying weapons to Iraq.

24 February 1999 It is announced that Yel'tsin will respond to an invitation made by Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat to attend celebrations to mark the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Christ.

24 February 1999 Chinese prime minister Zhu Rongji visits Moscow on an official visit.

24 February 1999 Yel'tsin informs President Kuchma of Ukraine that the Russo-Ukrainian treaty's implementation depends on Ukraine ratifying agreements on the Black Sea Fleet.

25 February 1999 The USA imposes sanctions on Russian institutes suspected of engaging in missile and nuclear cooperation with Iran. The MFA rejects US charges against these institutes.

25 February 1999 The MFA issues a statement on the visit by US deputy secretary of state Strobe Talbott.

25 February 1999 The military attache of the Russian Embassy in Lebanon denies claims that Russia plans to supply Syria with MiG-29SMT aircraft.

25 February 1999 Primakov and Belarusian president Aleksandr Lukashenko discuss trade and debt in Moscow.

25 February 1999 Russian Atomic Energy Minister Yevgenny Adamov and US Under Secretary of State John Holum meet in Moscow to discuss utilisation of arms plutonium and Russia's alleged cooperation with Iran.

26 February 1999 Tajikistan joins the CIS Customs Union. She is the fifth member. The four other members are: Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan.

26 February 1999 Yury Maslyukov praises the outcome of the Russia-World Bank talks. The World Bank offered loans for restructuring Russia's social security system and coal industry.

26 February 1999 Yel'tsin advocates expansion of the CIS Customs Union, following Tajikistan's accession.

26 February 1999 Aleksandr Perelygin, an adviser to Yury Luzhkov and a Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) general is refused a visa to Estonia.

March

2 March 1999 Swedish commander in chief of the armed forces Owe Wiktorin visits Russia. Defence minister Igor Sergeyeve sees bilateral military cooperation, such as that between Russia and Sweden as an alternative to NATO.

2 March 1999 The director of the MOD's Central Scientific Research Institute Maj-Gen Vladimir Dvorkin discusses the Y2K problem in relation to Russian nuclear forces. 30 working groups have been set up to deal with the Y2K problem in Russian strategic forces.

2 March 1999 Chief of the General Staff (CGS) Anatoly Kvashnin says that Russia has cut its troops in the northwest by 40%.

3 March 1999 British foreign secretary Robin Cook arrives in Murmansk. Britain will give Russia £3 million to help her deal with nuclear waste. He travels to Moscow for talks with Igor Ivanov. They discuss Kosovo, Iraq and the Russian economy.

3 March 1999 Finance minister Mikhail Zadornov rejects IMF director Michael Camdessus' criticism of the Russian budget. Yury Maslyukov says that the IMF is trying to pressurise Russia.

3 March 1999 MFA spokesman Vladimir Rakhmanin says that Russia has no plans for a trilateral alliance with China and India.

3 March 1999 Yel'tsin sets up an interdepartmental commission dealing with Russia's participation with the G8. It is headed by economics minister Andrey Shapovalyants.

3 March 1999 Deputy secretary of the Russian Security Council Vladimir Potapov praises Sweden's independence of NATO on the occasion of the visit of the Commander in Chief of the Swedish armed forces Owe Wiktorin.

4 March 1999 Yel'tsin sacks CIS Executive Secretary Boris Berezovskiy. He is replaced as acting executive secretary by Ivan Korotchenya.

6 March 1999 The MFA protests against the dismissal of Bosnian Serb President Nikola Poplasen by international peace coordinator Carlos Westendorp.

9 March 1999 CGS Anatoly Kvashnin visits NATO HQ to discuss Russia-NATO military cooperation, conventional arms control and the new NATO strategic concept. He will attend on 10 March a session of the Euro-Atlantic partnership council and the PJC at the chief of staff level.

10 March 1999 Russian Atomic Energy minister Yevgenny Adamov complains that goods supplied from Ukraine in return for fresh nuclear fuel from Russia are being priced above world prices.

10 March 1999 MFA spokesman Vladimir Rakhmanin says that Moscow remains opposed to NATO expansion. He says that Russia will use the 1997 Russia-NATO treaty to work against the negative consequences of NATO expansion. Rakhmanin welcomes the shift by NATO on CFE.

11 March 1999 Igor Ivanov calls the accession of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic into NATO a sad event.

11 March 1999 Igor Ivanov departs for Albania and Yugoslavia. Ivanov says that Russia would participate in a Kosovo force only with Belgrade's consent. He urges the signing of the political document in Paris.

11 March 1999 MOD spokesman Leonid Ivashov says that Moscow plans no military measures in response to Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic joining NATO.

12 March 1999 The head of the MOD department for international cooperation, Leonid Ivashov, says that Russia will not join NATO now or in the future. He says that the admission of former Soviet states would be categorically unacceptable for Russia. He says the entry of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic is an error which may have dire consequences. He warns when the balance of power is disturbed in Europe conflicts and wars erupt. He says that Russia will continue to cooperate with NATO.

12 March 1999 First deputy prime minister Yury Maslyukov visits Indonesia and signs various economic agreements. Maslyukov says Russia is ready to assist Indonesia develop gas deposits.

12 March 1999 MOD spokesman Leonid Ivashov criticises US plans to develop an anti-missile system in Asia. He says Russia and China are holding consultations on this problem. He says the US is building similar facilities in northern Norway.

12 March 1999 Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic become members of NATO.

12 March 1999 The MFA criticises NATO expansion and instead advocates using the OSCE as the main security organisation in Europe. It calls on interested states to prove at the OSCE summit in Istanbul this year a European security charter, that would contain practical agreements on the principles of a European architecture and on relations and collaboration between European and Euro-Atlantic structures. The MFA says that the CFE treaty becomes all the more important. Russia expects work on adapting the CFE treaty to be finished by the end of March.

12 March 1999 Deputy finance minister Oleg Vyugin begins talks with the IMF mission in Moscow.

12 March 1999 Russian deputy foreign minister Grigory Karasin and US Assistant Secretary of State Karl Inderfurth hold talks on the Afghan conflict. They have a high degree of mutual understanding on it. A joint statement on Afghanistan is issued.

15 March 1999 MOD spokesman Leonid Ivashov says that the final version of the Russian military doctrine will be approved after NATO adopts its own new strategic concept in April.

15 March 1999 Deputy foreign minister Grigory Karasin visits North Korea. He (17 March) initials a new interstate treaty with his North Korean colleague Yi In-Kyu.

15 March 1999 UN Special envoy on Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi, holds talks with Igor Ivanov in Moscow.

16 March 1999 Igor Ivanov holds talks with PLO official Mahmud Abbas, secretary general of the executive committee of the PLO. Abbas is in Moscow to attend a regular meeting of the Russian-Palestinian working committee on the Middle East.

16 March 1999 The Russian mediator at the Paris Conference on Kosovo, MFA Ambassador at large, Boris Mayorskiy, rejects the military implementation section of the Paris agreement on Kosovo.

16 March 1999 Deputy CGS Col-Gen Valery Manilov says that NATO widening is disrupting the existing system of disarmament and arms-reduction treaties.

16 March 1999 Italian foreign minister Lamberto Dini visits Moscow.

16 March 1999 The MFA condemns Latvian SS legion anniversary celebrations.

17 March 1999 Atomic energy minister Yevgenny Adamov says Russia will honour its commitments to Iran over aiding Iran's civil nuclear programme.

17 March 1999 Yel'tsin agrees to holding a summit on reform of the CIS. The summit was proposed by Primakov, who advocated a CIS summit to discuss the results of a special forum on the reform of the CIS. 2 April is the likely date of such a meeting. The Russian government confirms a draft CIS anti-terrorist treaty.

18 March 1999 Igor Ivanov and US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright discuss Kosovo over the telephone.

18 March 1999 Russian Space Agency director-general Yury Koptev meets Robert Galluci, the USA's representative to talks with Russia on the nonproliferation of missile and nuclear technologies in Washington.

19 March 1999 Primakov condemns the decision of the US Congress to approve the bill on fielding a national ballistic missile defence system. He says this threatens a violation of the 1972 ABM treaty.

19 March 1999 Primakov says he supports the idea of Russia and USA exchanging delegations of military specialists to staff command posts of the two states' strategic nuclear forces to prevent any misunderstandings that might arise as a result of the Y2K problem.

19 March 1999 Boris Mayorskiy, the Russian envoy at the Paris talks on Kosovo, says that Yugoslavia's attitude is unconstructive, but says this does not justify any use of force against the country.

19 March 1999 A senior MFA official warns NATO not to use force against Yugoslavia. He says this will result in Russia freezing its relations with NATO. He also says that if Belgrade agrees to an international military operation in Kosovo to implement the peace agreement, then Russia will be involved in this operation.

19 March 1999 Yury Maslyukov begins talks in Moscow with the head of the IMF mission visiting Moscow, Gerard Belanger. Finance minister Mikhail Zadornov says that Russia and the IMF are coming closer to an agreement.

19 March 1999 It is announced that the Duma will begin debating START-2 ratification on 2 April.

19 March 1999 Deputy foreign minister Grigory Karasin visits China. He urges a revival of military ties with North Korea.

19 March 1999 The MFA says it would be premature to implement the Askhabad agreement on supplies of gas to Turkey and construction of a gas pipeline on the Caspian.

19 March 1999 The Kremlin press service says that the CIS summit planned for 26 February will now be on 2 April.

20 March 1999 Defence minister Igor Sergeyev expresses concern over possible US exit from the 1972 ABM treaty. He also says a NATO attack on Yugoslavia will harm Russia-NATO ties.

21 March 1999 Defence minister Igor Sergeyev visits India. He condemns US plans for a tactical anti-missile system in Asia.

21 March 1999 Atomic energy minister Yevgenny Adamov holds talks with US energy secretary Bill Richardson in Washington.

22 March 1999 First deputy prime minister Yury Maslyukov says that Russia will not change its attitude over the ABM treaty.

22 March 1999 Yevgenny Primakov and Igor Ivanov urge a peaceful resolution of the Kosovo issue, and oppose any use of force by NATO. Primakov warns that bombing could have a destabilising effect on the situation in Yugoslavia, Kosovo, Europe and in the world as a whole.

22 March 1999 Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu visits Moscow.

22 March 1999 The Duma receives Yel'tsin's draft law on ratifying START-2.

22 March 1999 Russia and Israel draw up a joint programme for pilgrimage to the Holy Land for 2000.

23 March 1999 Primakov cancels his trip to Washington because of the impending NATO threat to Yugoslavia. He was to attend a session of the Russo-US commission on economic and technological cooperation meets in Washington.

23 March 1999 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov warns in a TV interview that Russia may reconsider the arms embargo against Yugoslavia.

23 March 1999 Primakov says Russia opposes NATO airstrikes against Yugoslavia without UN clearance. Defence minister Igor Sergeyev warns of appropriate action if force is used in Kosovo, without specifying what these measures.

24 March 1999 Yel'tsin complains to President Chirac about the NATO decision to attack Yugoslavia.

24 March 1999 The Duma International Affairs Committee denounces the NATO action against Yugoslavia.

24 March 1999 CPRF leader Gennady Zyuganov calls for volunteers to go to and fight in Yugoslavia.

24 March 1999 Yel'tsin issues a statement on TV condemning the NATO air strikes.

24 March 1999 Yel'tsin recalls the Russian military representative to NATO, Lt Gen Viktor Zavarzin. Col-Gen Leonid Ivashov, head of the MOD main directorate for international military cooperation states that at least 20 meetings with defence ministers of NATO countries scheduled for the end of March and beginning of April have been cancelled. The Russian body at NATO HQ within the PFP programme has been disbanded.

24 March 1999 Russia recalls its OSCE mission observers from Kosovo.

25 March 1999 Primakov states at a cabinet meeting that NATO action is a threat to world order. He says that Russia will not use force and will avoid isolationism in its foreign policy.

25 March 1999 Yel'tsin instructs Igor Ivanov to arrange a meeting of the Contact Group on the Kosovo crisis. Ivanov says that NATO is moving away from the principles of the security system which was constructed after WW2.

25 March 1999 Protestors mob the US Embassy in Moscow.

25 March 1999 The Council of CIS defence ministers meets in Moscow. It rules out military intervention over Yugoslavia.

25 March 1999 A statement is signed on production sharing agreements by the Minister of Fuel of Russia Sergey Generalov and US Energy Secretary Bill Richardson.

25 March 1999 Yel'tsin sends a message to Azeri President Geydar Aliev stating that Russia is ready to cooperate in settling the Armenia-Azeri conflict. He says that Russia is ready to create all the conditions for a meeting in Moscow between the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia

25 March 1999 Atomic energy minister Yevgenny Adamov and US Energy secretary Bill Richardson sign nuclear energy agreements in Washington, which will make it possible to go ahead with the Russo-US highly enriched uranium - low enriched uranium contract.

25 March 1999 First deputy prime minister Yury Maslyukov says that talks with the IMF are going well, and predicts that the IMF will extend loans to Russia and in late April or early May.

25 March 1999 Russia and Israel sign a cultural cooperation agreement.

25 March 1999 Igor Ivanov accuses the USA of promoting Kosovo separatism. He says that the Russia-NATO relations depends on future developments.

25 March 1999 On TV Primakov insists on an immediate end to NATO strikes on Yugoslavia.

25 March 1999 Primakov says that the NATO action against Yugoslavia will not affect Russian ties with the IMF.

25 March 1999 CGS General Anatoly Kvashnin accuses the KLA of being a channel for the supply of drugs into Europe. He sends a letter to the chairman of the NATO Military Committee.

25 March 1999 Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev calls for military aid for Yugoslavia.

25 March 1999 Yury Luzhkov proposes sending arms to Yugoslavia.

26 March 1999 It is reported that Zhirinovskiy supporters are signing up to go and fight in Yugoslavia.

26 March 1999 Igor Ivanov says that the Yugoslav leadership is ready for talks.

26 March 1999 Ivanov says he opposes volunteers going to fight in Yugoslavia.

26 March 1999 Yel'tsin meets the prime minister, foreign and defence ministers and SVR and GRU (military intelligence) chiefs, and presidential administration head Sergey Prikhodko on Kosovo.

26 March 1999 Chairman of the JCS of US armed forces General Henry Shelton requests a telephone conversation with Russian CGS General Anatoly Kvashnin, but Kvashnin considers it inexpedient.

26 March 1999 Primakov has a meeting with the ministers from the various power ministries on Kosovo.

26 March 1999 A large demonstration takes place outside the US and British Embassies in Moscow.

26 March 1999 Russia introduces a resolution in the UN Security Council calling on NATO to cease military action against Yugoslavia. It is defeated by 12 votes to 3.

26 March 1999 A source in the General Staff says that Russia is ready to share intelligence with Yugoslavia.

26 March 1999 In an TV interview, Igor Ivanov accuses NATO of committing genocide in Yugoslavia. He says that the Rambouillet accord is now finished.

26 March 1999 The Duma postpones ratification of the START-2 treaty.

27 March 1999 The Russian MOD cancels talks with a delegation from the Pentagon.

27 March 1999 Yel'tsin sends a message of support to Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

27 March 1999 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov addresses the Duma debate on Kosovo. Ivanov says that NATO's actions threaten the postwar world order. He says Russia will not become involved militarily.

27 March 1999 IMF head Michael Camdessus arrives in Moscow for talks on allocating additional funds.

28 March 1999 A shooting incident takes place outside the US Embassy. Gunmen fired shots at the embassy.

29 March 1999 The Russian MOD announces that all relations between the MOD and NATO within the framework of the Russia-NATO Founding Act are suspended.

29 March 1999 The Russian General Staff recalls the group of forces under Deputy NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe responsible for the Russian contingent in the PK force in Bosnia.

29 March 1999 The NATO documentation centre in Moscow is closed down.

29 March 1999 Agreement is reached between IMF head Michael Camdessus and the Russian government on another loan. An IMF mission is to visit Moscow next week to determine the size of the loan.

29 March 1999 Foreign minister Igor Ivanov signs a cooperation protocol with Saudi Arabian foreign minister Sa'ud al-Faysal Al-Sa'ud who is visiting Moscow.

29 March 1999 Gazprom head Rem Vyakhirev says that Gazprom is considering reducing its supply of gas through Ukraine.

30 March 1999 Yevgenny Primakov, foreign minister Igor Ivanov, defence minister Igor Sergeyev visit Belgrade.

30 March 1999 Deputy prime minister Gennady Kulik states that US food supplies to Russia are arriving on schedule.

30 March 1999 Prime minister Yevgenny Primakov visits President Milosevic in Belgrade. He is accompanied by foreign minister Igor Ivanov and defence minister Igor Sergeyev. Milosevic makes an offer to negotiate, but it is not accepted by NATO. Primakov then flies on to Germany.

31 March 1999 Russia sends a reconnaissance ship to monitor NATO activity off Yugoslavia. The US criticises this decision. Defence minister Igor Sergeyev says Russia may take other military measures. Six other ships may also be sent from the Black Sea Fleet.

31 March 1999 Several senators in the Federation Council call for Russian military equipment to be sent to Yugoslavia.

31 March 1999 Foreign minister Ivanov accuses the USA of planning to introduce ground forces for either an independent Kosovo or to partition it. This is denied by the USA.

31 March 1999 Igor Ivanov says that Russia will provide humanitarian aid to Yugoslavia.

31 March 1999 Primakov says NATO has created the refugee crisis in Kosovo.

31 March 1999 Igor Sergeyev says that OSCE monitors are still in Kosovo and guiding NATO bombs.

31 March 1999 Russian-US PK exercises scheduled for spring in Totskoye are cancelled.

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Russian Domestic Policy: Chronology

January-March 1999

January

5 January 1999 Vladimir Ryzhkov, one of the deputy speakers of the Duma says that the draft 1999 budget could be adopted in its fourth reading by early February.

5 January 1999 Yel'tsin makes changes to his decree on control over the export of missiles and as dual purpose goods.

5 January 1999 Justice minister Pavel Krashennikov approves the draft federal programme for countering political and religious extremism.

6 January 1999 In a poll assessing the popularity of possible presidential candidates, the results were:

Yury Luzhkov	37% support
Yevgenny Primakov	36%
Gennady Zyuganov	30%
Aleksandr Lebed'	23%
Boris Nemtsov	13%
Gennady Seleznev	12%
Viktor Chernomyrdin	6%

Asked who would become Russian president in 2000, the following responses were given:

Yury Luzhkov	14% think he will become president
Yevgenny Primakov	7% "
Grigory Yavlinskiy	4% "
Gennady Seleznev, Viktor Chernomyrdin, Aleksandr Lukashenko, Boris Nemtsov, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy all got 1%.	

10 January 1999 Roman Popkovich, head of the Duma defence committee, says that R140bn is required for national defence in 1999.

12 January 1999 The deputy chairman of the State Communications and Information Committee, Boris Ponomarenko, says that Y2000 problem with computers is a national security issue.

12 January 1999 The CPRF says it is likely to ally with Yury Luzhkov's movement Otechestvo. Luzhkov says he favours the restoration of the vice-presidency.

12 January 1999 First deputy prime minister Viktor Khristenko says that the regions will receive an extra R3.5bn this year in funding.

13 January 1999 Sources inform Interfax that the presidential administration may be cut by 20-25%.

14 January 1999 In a TV interview, Yel'tsin's press secretary Dmitry Yakushin says that Yel'tsin's health is normal.

15 January 1999 Security Council secretary Nikolay Bordyuzha says that Yel'tsin has no intention of amending the constitution.

15 January 1999 Prime minister Yevgenny Primakov attends a meeting of the Siberian Accord Association. He calls for the restoration of the subordination of the regions to the centre.

15 January 1999 Yury Luzhkov rules out an alliance with the CPRF.

15 January 1999 Aleksandr Lebed' says that the draft federal budget is too hard on the regions, and he wants greater regional rights over federal property.

17 January 1999 Yel'tsin is taken to hospital with a bleeding stomach ulcer and may require an operation. It is reported that he is to stay in hospital for three weeks. Primakov says that no emergency situation has developed because of Yel'tsin's illness. Duma speaker Gennady Seleznev calls on Yel'tsin to cede powers to Primakov during his illness.

17 January 1999 A poll puts Yevgenny Primakov as favourite in the presidential race. In a first round, Primakov would get 15%, Zyuganov 20%, Luzhkov 15%, Yavlinskiy 15%, Lebed' 8%. In a second round the results would be

Primakov versus Zyuganov	43:26
Primakov versus Luzhkov	43:26
Luzhkov versus Zyuganov	37:28

17 January 1999 Head of the State Committee for Communications and Information, Aleksandr Krupnov says that Russia will need R1.5bn to R3bn to resolve the millennium bug.

19 January 1999 Finance minister Mikhail Zadornov says that there will be no debt default.

19 January 1999 Duma adopts the budget in its second reading.

19 January 1999 Yury Maslyukov says that Russia will meet its debt obligations for 1999, which are \$17.5bn, if no agreement is reached on restructuring it.

19 January 1999 *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* reports that Yury Kobladze is appointed head of the all-Russia State TV and Radio Broadcasting Company.

19 January 1999 The right-wing movement led by Boris Nemtsov, Sergey Kiriyenko et al names itself Right Cause.

19 January 1999 Former interior minister Anatoly Kulikov allies his Warriors of the Fatherland movement to Yury Luzhkov's movement.

21 January 1999 The Russian government approves a crime-fighting and anti-corruption programme until 2001.

21 January 1999 Agriculture minister Viktor Semenov warns that strategic grain reserves are dwindling fast. Russia may have no reserves left in 1999. Reserves totalled 2-25 million tonnes at the beginning of 1998, but they have all been consumed.

22 January 1999 Yevgenny Primakov sets up a government commission to tackle the millennium bug problem. It will be headed by deputy prime minister Vladimir Bulgak.

23 January 1999 Moscow city government and Altay sign cooperation agreements.

24 January 1999 NTV reports an opinion poll on the presidential race:

Gennady Zyuganov	18%
Yury Luzhkov	16%
Yevgenny Primakov	13%
Aleksandr Lebed'	10%

1,500 polled on 16-17 January in 29 regions.

25 January 1999 Yevgenny Primakov sends a letter to the Duma outlining ground rules for Duma election year (ie 1999). He suggests: the president agrees not to dissolve the Duma; the Duma agree not to hold any vote of confidence in the government or undertake any initiatives which would result in it being dissolved; the Duma agrees to avoid making any accusations against the president with a view to removing him.

25 January 1999 ITAR-TASS reports that the Kremlin favours establishing a party of regional leaders led by Primakov.

26 January 1999 Primakov says that his letter to the Duma was drafted on Yel'tsin's orders.

26 January 1999 Primakov speaks at a conference on federal relations on regional policy.

26 January 1999 First deputy head of the presidential administration Oleg Sysuyev welcomes Primakov's proposals for a political accord.

26 January 1999 Chairman of the Federation Council Yegor Stroyev says that centre-regional relations are primitive.

27 January 1999 Yel'tsin has a lengthy meeting with Primakov at the Central Clinical Hospital. Presidential press spokesman says Yel'tsin will not give up any of his constitutional powers and there is no friction between Yel'tsin and Primakov.

28 January 1999 Teachers begin nationwide protest over wage arrears.

28 January 1999 Primakov calls for wage arrears to be paid off. He says that 33 out of 89 regions have problems clearing backpay.

28 January 1999 Jan Samara governor Konstantin Titov announces the creation of an election bloc of regional leaders. About 20 governors have signed a statement on the creation of this bloc.

29 January 1999 The Duma adopts the 1999 budget in its third reading.

30 January 1999 Yel'tsin moves from the Central Clinical Hospital to Barvikha sanatorium.

30 January 1999 Several posts in the presidential administration are abolished by presidential decree.

31 January 1999 The Russian National Unity movement holds a march in Moscow.

February

1 February 1999 The Duma impeachment commission opens hearings against Yel'tsin on the charge of genocide.

1 February 1999 First deputy prime minister Vadim Gustov arrives in Dagestan at the beginning of a tour of the Caucasus.

2 February 1999 Prosecutor-General Yury Skuratov resigns. Yury Chayka becomes acting prosecutor-general.

2 February 1999 The CPRF rejects Primakov's political reconciliation proposals.

2 February 1999 First deputy chief of the presidential administration Oleg Sysuyev says that the Duma must urgently discuss bills dealing with political and religious extremism.

4 February 1999 The Prosecutor-General's office holds a closed meeting on fighting political extremism.

5 February 1999 Security Council endorses a joint statement by president, parliament and cabinet. It aims at reaching political accord between the main branches of power. It is published on 8 February.

5 February 1999 Primakov denies any plans to reshuffle the cabinet. Gennady Seleznev says that Yel'tsin has reassured him that there will be no reshuffle.

5 February 1999 The Duma passes the budget in its fourth reading by 305-58 votes.

5 February 1999 Primakov and Nikolay Bordyuzha talk about the need to clamp down on extremism.

8 February 1999 *Ekho Moskvy* Radio reports that Moscow police have arrested 19 people for distributing Russian National Unity newspapers.

8 February 1999 Zyuganov calls for a dialogue with Yury Luzhkov's Otechestvo movement.

8 February 1999 Zyuganov says that Boris Berezovskiy and Tat'yana Dyachenko are behind the sacking of Prosecutor-General Yury Skuratov.

9 February 1999 Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev reaffirms the need for constitutional amendments with a reduction in the power of the presidency.

10 February 1999 Gennady Zyuganov says that the CPRF will not accept the Security Council's proposals for political reconciliation published on 5th February.

10 February 1999 Interior minister Sergey Stepashin says that 18,000 officials were arrested for corruption in 1998.

14 February 1999 An opinion poll on NTV gives the following ratings for would-be presidential contenders.

Primakov	19%
Zyuganov	18%
Luzhkov	15%
Yavlinskiy	10%
Lebed'	8%

In a second round:

Primakov vs. Zyuganov	50:20
Primakov vs. Luzhkov	46:25
Primakov vs. Yavlinskiy	50:19
Primakov vs. Lebed'	54:18
Luzhkov vs. Zyuganov	41:25
Luzhkov vs. Yavlinskiy	37:22
Luzhkov vs. Lebed'	40:22
Zyuganov vs. Yavlinskiy	30:30
Zyuganov vs. Lebed'	30:27
Yavlinskiy vs. Lebed'	30:23

16 February 1999 Yel'tsin dismisses head of the Federal Migration Service Tat'yana Regent.

16 February 1999 Primakov calls for the creation of a national body to combat terrorism, at the first meeting of the Federal Antiterrorist Commission. Vadim Gustov heads this body. He says that 1996-98, 2,029 criminal bomb explosions were carried out in Russia, killing 365 and injuring 1,139.

17 February 1999 The Federation Council adopts the 1999 budget.

17 February 1999 Boris Kuznetsov is voted new first deputy speaker of the Duma.

18 February 1999 The governor of the Samara Region, Konstantin Titov, says that he is setting up a new regional party, Golos Rossii.

19 February 1999 Primakov criticises the restrictions on the movement of food from one region to another.

19 February 1999 The federal government signs a power sharing agreement with Ingushetia on law enforcement.

20 February 1999 *Kommersant* reports that Yury Luzhkov is seeking to gain support of city mayors throughout Russia as Primakov seems to be gaining the support of regional governors.

21 February 1999 Primakov calls for a vertical system of authority. He advocates that regional governors be elected by local bodies from among candidates selected by the president.

21 February 1999 Gennady Zyuganov intends to urge the Duma at its next session to adopt an act concerning the impeachment of Yel'tsin.

22 February 1999 Yel'tsin signs the law on the federal budget.

24 February 1999 First deputy prime minister Yury Maslyukov says that inflation will remain under 3.8% in February 1999ruary, but could reach 4.5%. He says that the rate of inflationary growth has slowed down. He says he expects Russian industrial output to grow 1% this year.

25 February 1999 Yel'tsin says he will remain as president until the 2000 elections and that Primakov will remain as prime minister until then.

26 February 1999 *Ekho Moskvuy* reports an opinion poll held by the All-Russia Centre for the study of public opinion. 78% think that fascist organisations should be banned. 12% oppose such a ban.

27 February 1999 Yel'tsin goes back to hospital because of his ulcer problem.

March

1 March 1999 It is reported that Yel'tsin is expected to present his state of the nation address at the end of March.

2 March 1999 Doctors state that Yel'tsin's health is normal.

2 March 1999 The Duma drafts a statement on constitutional change and civil accord. It is rejected by Gennady Zyuganov. The Kremlin also rejects the Duma draft, which calls for a government to be formed on the basis of a parliamentary majority.

2 March 1999 First deputy prime minister Vadim Gustov calls for the restoration of the vice-presidency.

2 March 1999 Boris Nemtsov says he will not run for the presidency.

2 March 1999 First deputy prime minister Yury Maslyukov accuses the IMF of trying to pressurise Russia.

2 March 1999 An article in *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* predicts the downfall of first deputy prime minister Yury Maslyukov over corruption charges.

4 March 1999 NTV reports that Yel'tsin is apparently demanding the dismissal of first deputy prime minister Yury Maslyukov. The *Argumenty I Fakty* news agency circulates a report which states that Yel'tsin has allegedly demanded that Primakov remove communists from his cabinet or face dismissal himself. Yel'tsin's press secretary, Dmitry Yakushin, denies this.

4 March 1999 Head of the presidential administration and secretary of the Security Council Nikolay Bordyuzha says that the presidential administration is considering various presidential candidates. He says that the 1999 Duma elections and 2000 presidential elections will be held as stipulated by the constitution.

5 March 1999 The head of the State Communications and Information Technology Committee Aleksandr Krupnov says that communication and computer systems are about 20% ready for the millennium. Krupnov says that it will cost up to \$3bn to prepare for 2000.

6 March 1999 First deputy head of the presidential administration, Oleg Sysuyev says that Yel'tsin is not pleased with the work of the government and that Primakov should be more critical of his cabinet.

9 March 1999 Nikolay Bordyuzha, secretary of the Security Council and head of the presidential administration is in hospital with a heart problem. Oleg Sysuyev stands in for him.

9 March 1999 Chechen president Aslan Maskhadov offers a reward for information on the whereabouts of Russian Interior Ministry envoy General Gennady Shpigun, who was kidnapped last week.

9 March 1999 Nikolay Bordyuzha says that one of the presidential administration's main tasks is to consolidate the centre-right.

10 March 1999 Primakov chairs a government meeting on Chechnya.

10 March 1999 ITAR-TASS reports a build up of Russian forces on the border with Chechnya. Primakov denies that there will be any military actions taken in Chechnya.

11 March 1999 Presidential press spokesman Dmitry Yakushin denies reports that there are plans for a leadership reshuffle.

11 March 1999 Primakov says that some progress has been made in the payment of wage arrears.

11 March 1999 Primakov says that tax reform is high on the government agenda.

12 March 1999 Yel'tsin meets Federation Council chairman Yegor Stroyev and discusses the role of the regions and the banking system.

14 March 1999 In an interview in Newsweek, Primakov says his relations with Yel'tsin are good, and rules out any presidential bid himself.

15 March 1999 Yel'tsin meets Primakov and they discuss IMF, wages and pensions. Yel'tsin rules out any split with Primakov.

16 March 1999 A draft political statement of the branches of power "On strengthening civil peace and political stability in the country" is initialled by the deputy head of the presidential administration Oleg Sysuyev, deputy chairman of the Federation Council Oleg Korolev, and head of the Russian Regions group in the Duma, Oleg Morozov.

16 March 1999 Yel'tsin issues a decree ordering cuts in the Security Council. It will have an upper staff limit of 175.

17 March 1999 Yury Skuratov resigns as prosecutor-general. He accuses top officials of corruption. The Federation Council rejects his resignation. He says he will stay if he has Yel'tsin's backing.

18 March 1999 A video clip is shown on TV showing Yury Skuratov (or someone like him) with call girls. Yel'tsin asks the Security Council to check the authenticity of information on actions discrediting Skuratov.

18 March 1999 Primakov reprimands some ministries for not implementing government decisions fully.

18 March 1999 The government approves the federal anti-crime programme for 1999-2000.

18 March 1999 Yel'tsin leaves hospital and moves to his Gorki-9 residence.

18 March 1999 Golos Rossii leader Konstantin Titov demands more power for the regions.

18 March 1999 *Moskovskiy Komsomolets* reports that Boris Berezovskiy's firm Logovaz is being prosecuted for alleged customs irregularities.

18 March 1999 Tatarstan President Mintimier Shaymiyev visits Moscow. 11 Russo-Tatarstan governmental agreements that were signed as part of the 1994 Russo-Tatarstan treaty are extended.

19 March 1999 An explosion has taken place in the central market place of Vladikavkaz, North Osetia. 53 are killed.

19 March 1999 Yel'tsin appoints Aleksandr Voloshin as head of the presidential administration. He replaces Nikolay Bordyuzha.

19 March 1999 CPRF leader Gennady Zyuganov says that the CPRF will not sign any political non-aggression pact.

19 March 1999 The Duma breaks until 31 March 1999ch

19 March 1999 Leader of the Agrarian parliamentary group, Nikolay Kharitonov, says that Primakov has promised to resign if Yury Maslyukov has to step down as first deputy prime minister.

20 March 1999 Nikolay Bordyuzha resigns as secretary of the Security Council.

20 March 1999 Yury Skuratov vows to stay as Prosecutor-General and defends his honour.

23 March 1999 The Prosecutor-General's Office removes documents from the Presidential Administrative Office connected with the Swiss company Mabetex. This company has been involved in renovating state owned buildings in Moscow.

23 March 1999 Interior minister Sergey Stepashin briefs Yel'tsin on the situation in the North Caucasus. Security forces in the North Caucasus have been placed on full alert.

24 March 1999 The head of the Presidential Administrative Office, Pavel Borodin, denies reports that Yel'tsin's daughter has taken bribes.

24 March 1999 Alexander Veshnyakov is elected Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission.

24 March 1999 Yury Luzhkov says that Otechestvo is seeking a stabilisation accord with the CPRF and Yabloko.

24 March 1999 A left-centrist coalition of five parties is set up in Moscow. It includes the Union of Peoples' Power and Labour, led by Andrey Nikolayev, Party of Working Peoples' Self-government, Union of Realists, Socialist Party of Working People and Russian Movement of a New Socialism.

24 March 1999 The head of the Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) Vyacheslav Trubnikov says that provided there is proper funding, the Y2K problem will not affect the SVR.

25 March 1999 Yel'tsin meets Yury Luzhkov and discusses a broad range of political and economic issues, including the forthcoming elections.

25 March 1999 Interior minister Sergey Stepashin says that the ministry will shed 129,000 personnel in 1999. This includes 66,000 policemen and 63,000 troops. In 59 out of 89 regions number of policemen will be cut by an average of 10 per cent. The ministry now totals less than 2 million, including 200,000 troops, 400,000 civilian personnel, and 60,000 students of police schools and colleges.

29 March 1999 Yel'tsin appoints Federal Security Service (FSB) director Vladimir Putin secretary of the Security Council. He will remain as FSB director.

30 March 1999 Yel'tsin delivers his state of the nation address to the Federal Assembly.

30 March 1999 Duma speaker Gennady Seleznev calls for a postponement of the Duma impeachment vote scheduled for 15 April. Zyuganov opposes this (31 Mar).

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