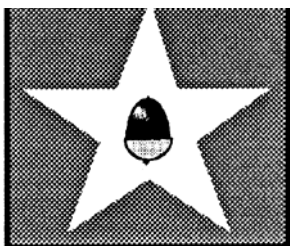


# **Conflict Studies Research Centre**

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## **A Russian Chronology July-September 1999**

**October 1999**



**J21**

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**Published By:**

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## Russian Foreign Policy: Chronology

### July-September 1999

#### *July*

**1 July 1999** The Russian air force press service denies allegations that Russian airplanes violated US, Norwegian and Icelandic airspace during Zapad-99 exercises.

**1 July 1999** The Foreign Ministry (MFA) says it expects the new Israeli government to resume peace talks in the Middle East.

**1 July 1999** Prime minister Sergey Stepashin says the economic summit of Central and East European states in Salzburg that Russia will fulfil all of its obligations on foreign debts.

**2 July 1999** French prime minister Lionel Jospin visits Moscow. Economic agreements are signed.

**2 July 1999** Sergey Stepashin opposes aid to Yugoslavia being linked to the departure of Milosevic.

**4 July 1999** A NATO delegation arrives in Moscow for talks on KFOR. On 5 July 1999 it was reported that talks have ended successfully.

**4 July 1999** Russian president Boris Yel'tsin and Ukrainian president Leonid Kuchma have an informal meeting in Moscow.

**5 July 1999** The Tatarstan parliament opposes the dispatch of Russian troops to Kosovo.

**5 July 1999** Iraqi deputy prime minister Tariq Aziz visits Moscow. The MFA calls for a new control mechanism for Iraq.

**6 July 1999** Russian paratroopers begin to fly out to Kosovo from Pskov. The Russian KFOR commander is Maj-Gen Valery Yevtukhovich.

**6 July 1999** Yel'tsin tells foreign minister Igor Ivanov to be ready for a new situation in the Balkans.

**6 July 1999** Syrian president Assad visits Moscow.

**6 July 1999** Tatarstan President Mintimier Shaymiyev criticises Russia's role in Kosovo peacekeeping.

**7 July 1999** Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko arrives in Orenburg.

**7 July 1999** Sergey Stepashin says he backs unification with Belarus. He says the treaty on creating a Russo-Belarusian union may be signed this autumn.

**7 July 1999** President Boris Yel'tsin appoints Ivan Ivanov to the post of deputy foreign minister in charge of economic problems and Russia's external economic relations.

**8 July 1999** The MFA says the language law adopted by the Latvian parliament is "blatantly discriminatory".

**8 July 1999** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov describes the NATO military campaign in Yugoslavia as "a major conceptual challenge which modern Europe is now facing." "A question needs to be answered today, whether the continent will remain unified or the logic of division and confrontation will prevail again." He speaks at a conference of the International Council of Former Foreign Ministers in Moscow. He says "a durable European architecture can be built on common European beginnings." "The current objective is to restore the UN's leading role in resolving conflicts and in peacekeeping."

**8 July 1999** MFA sources reject as "untenable and illegitimate" a US threat to stop providing assistance to Russia if Moscow sells weapons to Syria.

**8 July 1999** The MFA welcomes the statements made by Israel's new Prime Minister Ehud Barak on the Middle East peace process.

**8 July 1999** The MFA calls for cooperation between Yugoslavia and the OSCE.

**8 July 1999** Sergey Stepashin says that Russia has resolved all its issues with the IMF. He says President Boris Yel'tsin has signed the draft laws agreed with the IMF. A date has been set in July for a meeting of the IMF board of directors.

**9 July 1999** The commander of the Russian peacekeeping contingent in Kosovo says the bulk of the Russian peacekeeping contingent will travel to Yugoslavia by train between 21 July and 8 August.

**9 July 1999** Defence Minister Igor Sergeyev says that a moratorium on Russian-NATO military relations remains in force and contingent upon political decisions.

**9 July 1999** Sergey Stepashin says that Yel'tsin has approved the draft of the Russo-Belarusian union treaty. He says the mutual commitments of the two countries will in all probability be confirmed de jure and de facto at a meeting of the Supreme Council of the Union of Belarus and Russia next autumn.

**10 July 1999** An advance party of the Russian peacekeeping battalion leaves Pristina and heads for the US peacekeepers' sector in Kosovo. The Russian paratroopers' permanent deployment area will be at Kosovska Kamenica. Other Russian peacekeepers will begin to deploy to the German South sector near Malisheve (Malisevo). Another group will have moved to the French North sector by 15 July. Advance units of Russian troops are involved in these transfers.

**12 July 1999** Gen Georgy Shpak, commander of the Russian Airborne Troops, says that more than 2,000 Russian paratroopers will be transported from Russia to Kosovo between 19 and 30 July.

**12 July 1999** The head of the Russian Aerospace Agency, Yury Koptev, states that virtually all the issues concerning the lifting of the ban on the launches of Russian rockets from the Baykonur launch site in Kazakhstan have already been resolved. Russia now simply has to pay last year's arrears for the lease of Baykonur.

**12 July 1999** The commander of the Russian special military contingent in Kosovo, Lt-Gen Valery Yevtukhovich, and the KFOR commander, Lt-Gen Jackson meet and discuss the situation in Kosovo and also issues concerning the deployment of units of the Russian peacekeeping contingent.

**12 July 1999** The MFA welcomes the reports of an agreement on measures to ease tensions along the Line of Control in Kashmir between India and Pakistan.

**13 July 1999** The MFA says it regrets the slow pace of KLA demilitarisation.

**13 July 1999** Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko says that Russia is conducting consultations to hold another round of WTO admission talks in December.

**13 July 1999** Russian First Deputy Finance Minister Oleg Vyugin says the IMF plans to grant Russia three tranches before the end of 1999 and four tranches in 2000, all of 630m dollars each and totalling 4.5bn dollars over 18 months.

**14 July 1999** Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Pavlov has talks in Astana with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov on the subject of the

resumption of Russian space mission launches from the Baykonur cosmodrome.

**14 July 1999** The first detachment of five large landing craft of Russian peacekeeping troops and the Black Sea Fleet tug Shakhter arrives in Thessaloniki.

**15 July 1999** Stepashin says all problems over Baykonur have been resolved.

**15 July 1999** Stepashin says Russia must avoid "deceit" and "games" in relations with CIS members.

**15 July 1999** The MFA welcomes the decision by the Latvian president not to sign the Law on language passed by the Latvian Saeima on 8 July 1999.

**15 July 1999** Vladimir Averchev, a member of the State Duma's Committee on International Affairs, says Russia will not be worried if Milosevic goes.

**15 July 1999** A MOD source says that the Russian Defence Ministry is not planning a "thaw" in its relations with NATO.

**15 July 1999** The MFA says that Russia is working for the prohibition of laser weapons.

**15 July 1999** Igor Ivanov visits Uzbekistan.

**16 July 1999** Sergey Stepashin visits Ukraine and holds energy debt talks.

**16 July 1999** The Russian-Ukrainian cooperation commission signs a package of documents on economic ties and the Black Sea Fleet. The session is chaired by the two prime ministers, Sergey Stepashin and Valery Pustovoytenko.

**16 July 1999** A mutual declaration on improving relations between Moldova and the Dnestr region is approved in Kiev at a meeting of Sergey Stepashin, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, Moldovan President Petru Lucinschi, and the leader of the Dnestr region, Igor Smirnov, with the participation of the representative of the OSCE.

**16 July 1999** Deputy prime minister Viktor Khristenko says that the introduction of a single currency in the framework of a Russian-Belarusian union state "can only mean Belarus joining the Russian Federation".

**16 July 1999** The Russian, Uzbek, and Tajik foreign ministers (Igor Ivanov,

Abdulaziz Komilov and Talbak Nazarov) discuss cooperation in the Uzbek capital, Tashkent. They discuss the implementation of a cooperation declaration which was signed by the presidents of the three countries on 12 October 1998 in Tashkent.

**16 July 1999** Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov visits Turkmenistan. He says the current state of relations between Russia and Turkmenistan "can hardly satisfy both sides".

**17 July 1999** Prime Minister Sergey Stepashin says "a new boost must be given to talks with Ukraine about provision" for the Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol.

**17 July 1999** Russian Prime Minister Sergey Stepashin signs a government decision on setting up a commission on rebuilding Yugoslavia after the Kosovo conflict.

**17 July 1999** Russian Prime Minister Sergey Stepashin instructs the Black Sea Fleet command to prepare exercises that would imitate hostilities around Yugoslavia to check resistance systems.

**19 July 1999** A meeting of the 6+2 group on Afghanistan takes place in Tashkent. The group comprises the six countries bordering on Afghanistan - Iran, China, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan - and also Russia and the United States.

**19 July 1999** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov says that "contacts are being prepared so that the Russia-NATO standing council can resume its work." These contact mainly relate to KFOR, but he also says that "we're not ruling out some preliminary contacts with NATO in a broader sense, so that we can decide along what lines we can develop Russia's relationship with the alliance".

**19 July 1999** In an interview with *Newsweek*, Ivanov says the war in Kosovo inflicted serious damage on Russian-American relations, but they so strengthened over the past few years that one can hope that this tense stage will be overcome.

**20 July 1999** The first meeting of the Russian-NATO Permanent Joint Council to be held since the bombardment of Yugoslavia is postponed indefinitely. The official reason for the postponement was said to be the need for additional work on issues on the agenda.

**20 July 1999** In an interview in *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, Igor Ivanov says the reason for the whipping up of tension around Yugoslavia was "to put to trial the resolutions, drawn up by NATO during the past several months", including the use of force without a resolution of the UN Security Council and outside the NATO sphere of responsibility. "This goes beyond the sphere of the Balkan problems. In fact, this means the struggle for the future world setup."



**20 July 1999** Igor Ivanov has a telephone conversation with Chinese foreign minister Tang Jiaxuan. He says "Russia recognizes only one China as represented by the People's Republic of China, whereas Taiwan is an inalienable part of China".

**20 July 1999** Armenian Prime Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan visits Moscow.

**21 July 1999** MOD experts say they doubt that Russia's military relations with NATO will be fully restored by the end of 1999. They say that military relations will remain "frozen" not only with the alliance itself but also with its member states that directly participated in the aggression against Yugoslavia. Cooperation ties are being maintained only in one area reflected in the Russia-NATO Founding Act - joint peacekeeping operations. "This has to do with the multinational force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and in Kosovo."

**21 July 1999** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov visits Britain.

**21 July 1999** A Russian government resolution on rebuilding Yugoslavia's postwar economy is signed today. Russia will allocate 150m dollars from this year's budget for reconstruction.

**22 July 1999** Igor Ivanov in London says "We have never stopped or suspended and will not stop relations with NATO. On the contrary, during the conflict we had a very intensive dialogue with all leading NATO states, and due to the fact that we have not cut a single channel of interaction and contacts I think that it promoted the fact that we have come to reaching a political settlement".

**23 July 1999** A session of the Russia-NATO Permanent Joint Council was held in Brussels for the first time since March, discussing Kosovo peacekeeping.

**23 July 1999** Sergey Baburin, deputy chairman of the Duma, says Russia must not allow the Baltic countries to join NATO. He also states his opposition to the ratification of the Russian-Lithuanian border agreement.

**24 July 1999** Moscow mayor Yury Luzhkov arrives in Crimea to take part in the Navy Day celebrations to begin on 25 July.

**24 July 1999** Sergey Stepashin denies media reports alleging that Russia will soon hand over four disputed Kuril islands to Japan.

**25 July 1999** Igor Ivanov arrives in Singapore to take part in the ASEAN forum on security and the ASEAN conference with Russia as a partner in the dialogue.

**25 July 1999** Sergey Stepashin commences his visit to the USA. He arrives in

Seattle. He says Russia has fulfilled almost all of its commitments to the IMF and the World Bank.

**25 July 1999** Igor Ivanov meets his South Korean counterpart Hong Sun-Yong at the ASEAN summit in Singapore. He says South Korea is worried about a possible launch of a North Korean rocket.

**26 July 1999** The Chinese newspaper *Guangming Ribao* interviews Igor Ivanov. He disusses the Sino-Russian relationship.

**26 July 1999** Russian KFOR troops at Slatina airport in Pristina have had to fire warning shots. The Russian MOD stated that three people had been noticed near a post guarding a water collection unit. They fled after the paratroopers tried to detain them. A guard had to fire three warning shots.

**26 July 1999** Igor Ivanov meets US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright at the ASEAN forum in Singapore. They discuss START-2 and the ABM treaty.

**26 July 1999** The MFA condemns the US president's signing of a bill on the creation of a nationwide antimissile defence system.

**26 July 1999** Russian Deputy Prime Minister Valentina Matviyenko visits Greece. She discusses the Trans-Balkan Burgas-Alexandroupolis oil pipeline project, Kosovo, and Russo-Greek economic relations.

**26 July 1999** The MFA condemns the recent killing of 14 Serb civilians in Kosovo and calls it "an outrageous crime committed with a passive attitude on the part of the leadership of KFOR".

**27 July 1999** The MOD says Russia will upgrade its nuclear forces if the USA develops an anti-missile system.

**27 July 1999** Sergey Stepashin, visiting the USA, says Russian-US relations will not return to the "cold war." He says his visit is a new chapter in Russia-US relations.

**27 July 1999** Russian and Iranian foreign ministry officials hold talks in Moscow on the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missile delivery systems.

**27 July 1999** The commander of the Russian Airborne Troops, Georgy Shpak, says that so far 2,016 Russian paratroopers have been transferred to Kosovo. He says that 2,999 Russian servicemen are being sent to the region to take part in the

peacekeeping operation. The total number of Russian personnel in Kosovo will be brought to 3,616.

**27 July 1999** Russian Prime Minister Sergey Stepashin discusses a wide range of issues with US President Bill Clinton, covering both bilateral relations and international matters, including Iran and Yugoslavia and strategic arms control.

**28 July 1999** In an interview in *Stern* magazine, Igor Ivanov says "We regard NATO expansion as a mistake as it can only complicate the state of affairs in Europe...if a real threat arises to Russia's interests, we shall take all the necessary measures, including military, to ensure national security".

**28 July 1999** First Deputy Prime Minister Nikolay Aksenenko meets Iranian Minister of Mines and Metals Eshaq Jahangiri. Aksenenko says Russia and Iran are working out several agreements and contracts in the economic sphere to a total value of up to 8bn US dollars. Aksenenko calls for an increase in trade as the existing volume of trade between the two countries is only 546m dollars in 1998. They also discuss the Caspian and Tajikistan.

**28 July 1999** The IMF approves Russia's economic programme, and agrees to give 4.5bn dollars in credits over the next 1.5 years.

**29 July 1999** Sergey Stepashin says Russia should take active part in restoration of Yugoslavia. Stepashin says Russia will give Yugoslavia credits against goods such as foodstuffs, medicines and vital consumer goods. Aid will not include petrol.

**29 July 1999** The World Bank approves a third loan of 1.2bn dollars to Russia for structural reform of the economy. Moscow will receive the money in four unequal tranches of 100m, 100m, 400m and 600m dollars. The whole amount under the SAL-3 project will go to the federal budget to support the economic and financial reforms of the Russian government.

**29 July 1999** Sergey Stepashin says that "Russia must become an equal member of the European Union", adding that "restrictions existing in the trade and economic spheres must be lifted and left behind in the near future". Stepashin was speaking at a news conference following a meeting with his Finnish counterpart Paavo Lipponen and EU foreign affairs commissioner Hans van den Broek. Stepashin also says WTO membership is a priority for Russia.

**29 July 1999** First deputy prime minister Viktor Khristenko visits India.

**29 July 1999** An opinion poll taken by the Public Opinion Foundation reveals that 66% of Russians believe that NATO expansion eastward poses a threat to Russia, while 14% do not regard the process as threatening. 1,500 were interviewed. 25% of the respondents believe that "NATO expansion to the east should be prevented

with every possible political and diplomatic means", while 22% insist that "Russia must increase its military potential so as to be able to fight back". 16% say that Russia should form a defence union together with other countries that are not NATO members. 5% say Russia should join NATO.

**30 July 1999** Yel'tsin says it is necessary to iron out the consequences of the Yugoslav crisis and "establish friendly relations with the USA, Germany, France and other countries, just the way these relations were before". Yel'tsin also stresses that Russia stands for a multi-polar world.

**30 July 1999** Sergey Stepashin attends the Sarajevo summit on the stability pact for South-Eastern Europe.

**30 July 1999** The MFA says that Belgrade must be brought into the Stability Pact.

**31 July 1999** Russian KFOR detain KLA chief of staff Agim Ceku in Kijevo. They then release him.

**31 July 1999** Parliamentarians from Russia, Belarus and Yugoslavia agree to form a joint commission for elaborating on the question of a union of the three states. Such a decision is adopted in the wake of three-day negotiations between the delegations of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia and the parliament of Yugoslavia, which ended in Belgrade.

**31 July 1999** Armenian Foreign Minister Vardan Oskanyan and Defence Minister Vagarshak Arutyunyan visit Moscow.

## ***August***

**1 August 1999** President of Montenegro Milo Djukanovic visits Moscow.

**1 August 1999** The MFA defends detaining KLA personnel in Kijevo including KLA chief of staff Agim Ceku. "On 31st July, Russian peacekeepers in Kosovo detained for inspection of documents near the town of Kijevo a group of individuals in KLA uniform, with KLA Chief of Staff Agim Ceku among them."

**1 August 1999** Igor Ivanov has telephone talks with Egyptian foreign minister Amr Musa and the president of the Palestinian National Authority, Yasir Arafat.

**1 August 1999** Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk dies.

**1 August 1999** Russia reaches agreement with the Paris Club on the restructuring of payments on the former Soviet debt planned for 1999-2000.

**2 August 1999** Israeli prime minister Ehud Baraq visits Moscow. He discusses three issues: bilateral relations, the Middle East peace process and the Iran-Iraq problem.

**3 August 1999** Viktor Chernomyrdin quits as Russian presidential envoy for Yugoslavia.

**3 August 1999** The MFA states that Yel'tsin will make an official visit to Japan "later this year".

**3 August 1999** Sergey Stepashin receives Georgian State Minister Vazha Lortkipanidze. Lortkipanidze arrives in Moscow to take part in the work of the Russian-Georgian commission on economic cooperation. They also discuss Abkhazia.

**4 August 1999** Abkhaz leader Vladislav Ardzinba visits Moscow.

**4 August 1999** The assistant commander of the Russian military contingent in Kosovo for legal work Lt-Col of Justice Aleksandr Krasov, says a number of rules established by NATO for using force in carrying out the peacekeeping operation in Kosovo are unacceptable to Russia and cannot be used by Russian servicemen.

**4 August 1999** Finance Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says the London Club debt talks remove the threat of default, and the government can now work steadily on domestic issues.

**4 August 1999** Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin says a tentative Russian-Japanese peace treaty must not violate Russia's territorial integrity.

**5 August 1999** Igor Ivanov and US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright discuss by telephone ABM, Kosovo, the Middle East and the European Security Charter to be signed at the OSCE summit in Istanbul.

**5 August 1999** Russia refuses to take part in the Peace Shield-99 exercise in Ukraine because it is being run under the NATO PFP.

**6 August 1999** Russian KFOR servicemen who control the Kosovska Kamenica zone of responsibility in the US sector come under fire. They fire back.

**6 August 1999** The MFA says Yel'tsin is expected to sign "a weighty package" during his official visit to Japan this year following talks in Moscow between Russian and Japanese deputy foreign ministers Grigory Karasin and Minoru Tamba. Karasin and Tamba also co-chaired subcommissions concerned with border demarcation and joint economic activity in the southern Kuril Islands within the framework of the bilateral commission for concluding a peace treaty.

**7 August 1999** Russia's chief negotiator with international financial organizations, Mikhail Zadornov, says Russia will not have to borrow in the next 18 months. In an interview with *Kommersant*, Zadornov says that "there is a possibility to borrow abroad pending completion of the 18-month programme approved by the IMF, but there is no objective reason to do so". He says Russia plans to borrow over 3.5bn US dollars from the IMF, the Japanese government and the World Bank in 2000.

**9 August 1999** The MFA says that Stepashin's dismissal will not affect foreign policy.

**9 August 1999** Yel'tsin's envoy to the industrialized nations, Aleksandr Livshits, says the change of government "will not have a negative impact on Moscow's relations with the IMF, the World Bank or other key international financial institutions".

**11 August 1999** The deployment of Russian forces in KFOR is completed. Forces consist of peacekeepers numbering 3,600 together with 1,000 pieces of military equipment.

**11 August 1999** Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev expresses doubts that the Duma will soon ratify START-2.

**14 August 1999** Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov sends a special message to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the G8 foreign ministers and the EU nations, several Muslim countries and the chairman of the Organization of Islamic Conference on Dagestan. He warns against interference in Russian internal affairs.

**16 August 1999** Vladimir Putin blames foreign interference for Caucasus problems. He says "some states are declaring the North Caucasus as a zone of their vital interests, even though it is Russian territory, some are helping separatists with weapons and ammunition."

**16 August 1999** Hosei Norota, chief of Japan's Defence Agency, has talks in Moscow with defence minister Igor Sergeyev.

**17-19 August 1999** Russo-US consultations on START-3 take place in Moscow. Russia proposes cutting the number of warheads from 2,000-2,500 on each side to 1,500 or less.

**19 August 1999** Grigory Berdennikov, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's security and disarmament department, says that any violation of the Russian-US ABM treaty will have a "serious impact on the strategic stability system established in the postwar period." He says "we see no variants which would allow the United States to set up a national ABM system and still preserve the ABM treaty and strategic stability in the world. If it happens, not only the talks on the START-3 treaty, but also on the existing START-1 and START-2 treaties will be undermined." He opposes Taiwan's initiative to set up a regional ABM system.

**19 August 1999** IMF technical experts arrive in Moscow to examine the draft 2000 budget and progress under the economic programme in July and August.

**20 August 1999** Boris Mayorskiy, ambassador-at-large, accuses the West of double standards over aid to Yugoslavia by refusing to grant EU Stability Pact aid to Yugoslavia. Mayorskiy also expresses unhappiness over the slow pace of KLA disarmament. He says Russia may pull out of KFOR if its activity changes.

**20 August 1999** Leonid Ivashov Chief of the Russian MOD Main Directorate for International Military Cooperation says the MOD has not yet received any funding from the budget for the upkeep of the military in Kosovo. "So far the Defence Ministry has financed the transfer and deployment of our contingent using its own, nonbudgetary, funds."

**20 August 1999** Leonid Ivashov says the Russian-American consultations on the START-3 treaty and also the ABM treaty, held in Moscow on 17-19 August 1999, have produced no results. He says that the USA is violating the 1972 ABM treaty.

**20 August 1999** Vladimir Lukin, Chairman of the Duma International Affairs Committee, says he does not rule out amendments to the ABM Treaty provided they do not alter its backbone.

**20 August 1999** The presidents of Ukraine and Russia have a phone conversation. They exchange ideas on implementing their orders on developing Ukrainian-Russian relations, and agreed to instruct their governments to speed up the solution of problems, one of which is doing more on the transfer of Ukrainian strategic bombers to Russia in partial repayment of gas debts. They also discuss the CIS summit planned for the beginning of October.

**23 August 1999** Kosovo Albanians blocked the main road into Orahovac to prevent Russian peacekeepers from entering the town. The Russian peacekeeping contingent in Kosovo has started talks with Kosovo Albanians living in the Orahovac area with the aim of getting them to abide by the international agreement on Kosovo.

**23 August 1999** Russian Defence Minister Igor Sergeyev and Georgian Defence Minister Davit Tevzadze meet in Moscow. They discuss Russian bases in Georgia.

**23 August 1999** The advance unit of Russian peacekeepers in Kosovo that was to be deployed in Orahovac gives up its attempt to enter the town and returns to its base in Malisevo. Albanians have blocked the road and refuse to negotiate.

**23 August 1999** Belarusian Prime Minister Syarhey Linh visits Moscow. He has talks with Vladimir Putin to discuss trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. He also has talks with Gazprom head Rem Vyakhirev.

**23 August 1999** Yel'tsin's envoy for G8 affairs Aleksandr Livshits has talks in Paris on economic reconstruction of the Balkans. He says Yugoslavia should receive humanitarian aid.

**23 August 1999** Aleksandr Livshits says that EU expansion should not be against Russia's interests.

**24 August 1999** The MFA says that international nuclear nonproliferation regimes must be strengthened.

**24 August 1999** Deputy Premier Ilya Klebanov visits China. He holds talks within the framework of a regular session of the bilateral commission on economic cooperation. Klebanov is accompanied by Rosvooruzheniye Director-General Aleksey Ogarev and Director-General of the Russian Aerospace Agency Yury Koptev. Grigory Berdennikov, director of the Russian MFA department on security and disarmament, heads the Russian delegation at the just-concluded regular bilateral Foreign Ministry consultations in China. He says China "is highly concerned" at the United States' and Japan's plans to develop a theatre antimissile defence system (THAAD) and comes out against Washington's intentions to deploy a national ABM system. Berdennikov emphasizes that Russia and China "have practically a unity of views" on disarmament and security matters.

**24 August 1999** Grigory Berdennikov says Russia opposes North Korea's efforts to develop a missile programme.

**25 August 1999** The heads of state of Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (the Shanghai Five) meet for a summit in Bishkek.

**25 August 1999** Yel'tsin's envoy to the G8, Aleksandr Livshits, and European Commission President Romano Prodi discuss Russia's role in the reconstruction of the Balkans, its trade ties with the EU and problems related to EU enlargement.

**25 August 1999** *Beta* reports that Russian forces in Kosovo are fired on in Gnjilane.

**27 August 1999** Minister without portfolio Aleksandr Livshits, the president's



representative for relations with the G8, has talks with EBRD officials in Frankfurt am Main.

**27 August 1999** Governor of Sakhalin Region Igor Farkhutdinov and Japanese Minister of State Seiichi Ota discuss the territorial problem and youth exchanges during a 90-minute closed meeting in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk.

**28 August 1999** Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has talks with his Ukrainian counterpart Valery Pustovoytenko in Moscow.

**28 August 1999** Deputy prime minister Ilya Klebanov meets the Chinese president in Beijing at the seventh session of the Russo-Chinese commission on economic cooperation.

**28 August 1999** First Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko is interviewed in *Yomiuri Shimbun*. He will visit Japan on 1 September 1999 as the Russian side's chairman of the Japan-Russia intergovernmental trade economic committee. He says it is possible to conclude a peace treaty by the year 2000 deadline if Japan-Russia relations remain on good terms. He also stated that President Boris Yel'tsin will pay a visit to Japan "by the end of this year".

**30 August 1999** Lt-Gen Nikolay Staskov, chief of staff of the Russian Airborne Troops, says that Russian forces in Kosovo will use their weapons in self-defence.

**30 August 1999** Russian Defence Minister Igor Sergeyev meets a Kyrgyz government delegation composed of First Deputy Prime Minister Boris Silayev, Defence Minister Esen Topoyev, and the Kyrgyz ambassador in the Russian Federation, Akmatbek Nanayev. They discuss Russian assistance to Kyrgyzstan in countering the bandit gangs in southern Kyrgyzstan.

**31 August 1999** Russian and Uzbek presidents, Boris Yel'tsin and Islam Karimov, hold telephone talks.

**31 August 1999** First Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko says Japan has unfrozen a 1.5bn-dollar untargeted credit promised by its government to Moscow.

**31 August 1999** The MFA says that Russia continues to support a political settlement in Afghanistan.

**31 August 1999** Russia's military envoy to NATO, Col-Gen Viktor Zavarzin, returns to NATO. Zavarzin is holding consultations with NATO exclusively on their interaction in the peacekeeping operation in Kosovo. All other aspects of the Russian Defence Ministry's cooperation with NATO's military command structure remain frozen.

**31 August 1999** The MIA says Russia will send 210 police to Kosovo.

## ***September***

**1 September 1999** Moldovan President Petru Lucinschi arrives in Moscow on an official two-day visit. He says a basic treaty between Moldova and Russia will be signed not earlier than the year 2000.

**1 September 1999** First Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko and Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura sign a memorandum on economic cooperation at a meeting of the Russian-Japanese intergovernmental commission on economic cooperation.

**1 September 1999** The MFA accuses the US military contingent in Kosovo of a month-long cover-up of the murder of 15 Kosovo resident Serbs in the village of Ugljare in the US zone of responsibility.

**2 September 1999** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says some Western press reports in which it was claimed that part of the IMF loans was illegally transferred to the Russian mafia's foreign bank accounts are an attempt to discredit Russia's business community. Vladimir Minayev, the head of the Main Investigation Department of the Prosecutor-General's Office, says the office is considering the possibility of sending Russian law-enforcement representatives to the USA to look into the scandal involving the Bank of New York.

**2 September 1999** Russian Defence Minister Igor Sergeyev visits South Korea.

**2 September 1999** Igor Ivanov visits Azerbaijan.

**3 September 1999** Mikhail Zadornov says the IMF mission is satisfied with the report on the state of the Russian economy.

**3 September 1999** Igor Ivanov travels to Yerevan, where he advocates talks on START-3. He also discusses Nagornyy Karabakh and the Dagestan crisis.

**3 September 1999** Igor Ivanov visits Tbilisi. He says he opposes a "a transfer of the Kosovo experiment" to any other conflicts, including the one between Georgia and Abkhazia.

**4 September 1999** Ivanov meets Shevardnadze.

**5 September 1999** Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Avdeyev visits Yugoslavia.

**6 September 1999** Deputy foreign minister Aleksandr Avdeyev visits Yugoslavia. He calls for the disbandment of the KLA.

**6 September 1999** Three Serbs are killed by Russian KFOR troops in an exchange of fire in the southeastern part of the Yugoslav province of Kosovo.

**6 September 1999** Deputy foreign minister Aleksandr Avdeyev says in Yugoslavia that the MFA intends to "use effectively the upcoming session of the UN General Assembly and strengthen diplomatic contacts with KFOR member countries."

**8 September 1999** Yel'tsin and Clinton hold telephone conversation on arms control and terrorism. They discuss the forthcoming Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum in New Zealand.

**8 September 1999** US deputy secretary of state Strobe Talbott visits Moscow for informal arms control talks on the ABM treaty and START-3. He also talks about the money-laundering scandal.

**8 September 1999** Chairman of the defence committee at the State Duma, Roman Popkovich, says that the USA has virtually abandoned the 1972 ABM treaty, and Russia should develop ICBMs more powerful than the Topol-M.

**8 September 1999** A MOD source says that it is prepared to begin discussion of the START-3 arms-limitation treaty at any time.

**8 September 1999** The MFA says Russia is considering sending its own troops if the UN approves of a proposed peacekeeping operation in East Timor.

**9 September 1999** The director of the MFA's security and disarmament department Georgy Berdennikov says the USA's plans to deploy the first stage of its national anti-ballistic missile defence system next year will threaten strategic stability in the world.

**9 September 1999** The MFA says it opposes plans by the head of the UN civilian mission in Kosovo Bernard Kouchner, to transform the KLA into some sort of "national guard."

**10 September 1999** Igor Ivanov and US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright meet at the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum in Auckland New Zealand. Ivanov says Russia wants START-2 ratified and START-3. He says the ABM treaty

is the core of strategic stability and should not be disturbed. They also discuss the recent allegations of money-laundering. Ivanov stresses that Moscow adheres firmly to the line of developing a constructive partnership with the USA.

**10 September 1999** Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says that restoring full-scale relations between Russia and NATO is "not on the agenda today".

**12 September 1999** Vladimir Putin says that following his meeting with US President Clinton in New Zealand IMF money was not channelled through the Bank of New York.

**13 September 1999** ITAR-TASS reports that the administration of the Russian president has warned a number of US media outlets that it is ready to "use the entire force of international law" to put an end to the anti-Russian campaign of slander in connection with "a certain invented financial scandal". Sources in the embassy of the Russian Federation in Washington say that the presidential chief of staff Aleksandr Voloshin had sent an open letter to that effect to the editorial offices of the newspapers the *'New York Times'*, the *'Wall Street Journal'* and *'USA Today'* as well *'Newsweek'* magazine.

**13 September 1999** US Defence Secretary William Cohen visits Russia. The Russian and US defence ministries agree millennium bug cooperation. Igor Sergeyev and William Cohen sign a joint statement on establishing a Strategic Stability Centre to tackle the issue. The centre will be in Colorado Springs. Its purpose will be to prevent computers in both countries' missile early-warning systems from crashing. Ten Russian military specialists will work there and will fly out to the USA in late December. The centre is expected to function until late January next year. Its specialists will exchange information on ballistic missile launches not only by Russia and the USA but other countries as well.

**14 September 1999** The MFA says Russia is not planning to send peacekeepers to East Timor.

**14 September 1999** The head of the Russian Defence Ministry's Department for International Military Cooperation, Col-Gen Leonid Ivashov, says that Russia's peacekeeping contingent may be withdrawn from the international stabilization force in Kosovo if the tendency for Kosovo's secession from Yugoslavia becomes irreversible.

**15 September 1999** Vladimir Putin opens the extraordinary session of the CIS Council of Defence Ministers. He says that in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Russia "we are dealing with well-trained international criminals who, under cover of the religious slogans of Islam, are seeking to establish their own so-called "world order".

**15 September 1999** The MFA says it is unlikely that Islamic countries are backing

the secessionist forces in Dagestan.

**15 September 1999** The commander of Russian ground forces says that Russian peacekeeping forces in Bosnia will be reduced in proportion to the reduction of US forces there following the stabilization and the normalization of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

**15 September 1999** Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and head of the UN mission in Kosovo Bernard Kouchner meet in Moscow. They call for strict compliance with the provisions of the UN Security Council resolution No 1244, in particular as concerns the disarmament and demilitarization of the KLA.

**16 September 1999** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says that he intends to promote cooperation with foreign nations in the effort to combat terrorism.

**16 September 1999** Yel'tsin issues an instruction to Igor Ivanov, telling him to try and prevent published articles in the Western press from casting aspersions on Russia.

**16 September 1999** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov briefs the Duma parliament on Russian-Chinese relations.

**17 September 1999** Igor Ivanov in Iceland says that the rebels who are operating on the territory of Dagestan and who have committed terrorist acts in Moscow and other towns of Russia are backed by forces which are acting from abroad.

**17 September 1999** Presidential press secretary Dmitry Yakushin says leaders of several countries have offered Russia "practical help" to combat terrorism. Viktor Ivanov, deputy director of the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB), says on 16 September that the USA and Russia agreed to hold investigations into the acts of terrorism committed in Russia.

**17 September 1999** Igor Ivanov, in Iceland, says that numerous foreign and Russian press reports on corruption and criminality in Russia have undermined confidence in Russian businessmen. Ivanov says "our goal is to restore the good name of Russia...It is necessary to take measures immediately. On one hand, that will give a clear answer to the question whether the reports are fabrication or not. On the other hand, it is necessary to do permanent thorough work to upgrade Russian legislation in order to stop embezzlement of the country. This is our common task and it is necessary to permanently work in that sphere."

**17 September 1999** Indian Foreign Secretary Krishnan Raghunath has talks in Moscow with deputy foreign minister Aleksandr Avdeyev.

**17 September 1999** The MFA says the reopening of the NATO office in Moscow is not on the agenda at the moment despite the visit to Moscow (8-15 September) of German Col Manfred Diehl, who is in charge of cooperation with Russia at the NATO secretary general's headquarters.

**17 September 1999** Aleksandr Tolkach, director of the 3rd European department of the Russian Foreign Ministry says that his talks in Bucharest show Romania is unwilling to sign a bilateral political treaty and tried to include unacceptable provisions into it.

**18 September 1999** The Russian-US group on strategic stability meets in Washington. Russia is represented by Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov. The meeting discusses issues concerning the ABM treaty, START and CFE. A Russian diplomat says that no progress has been achieved with regard to the ABM treaty.

**18 September 1999** Yel'tsin sends messages to the leaders of a number of Middle East countries, in which he confirms Russia's determination to "energetically facilitate" a comprehensive Arab-Israeli settlement. Yel'tsin sent messages to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, King Abdallah II Bin Husayn of Jordan, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Lebanese President Emile Lahhud, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Baraq and PLO leader Yasir Arafat.

**19 September 1999** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov arrives in New York to attend the 54th session of the UN General Assembly.

**20 September 1999** ITAR-TASS reports that Kyrgyz official sources state that Russia will send arms to Kyrgyzstan to help crush terrorist forces operating in southern Kyrgyzstan.

**20 September 1999** Finance Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says Russia and the Paris Club have concluded their talks on the restructuring of debts by the end of 2000. Russia agrees to pay 620m dollars to Paris Club in the next two years.

**20 September 1999** Yel'tsin and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder speak on the telephone.

**20 September 1999** The commander of the Russian peacekeeping contingent in Kosovo, Gen Valery Yevtukhovich, states that the KLA has not been disarmed completely.

**20 September 1999** The MFA says it will take adequate measures to ensure compliance with the principles of the freedom of navigation and fishing in the Caspian Sea. The announcement followed the publication of a presidential decree ordering the creation of a national service for the development of the Turkmen

sector of the Caspian Sea. The decree declared this sector of the sea an inalienable part of Turkmenistan.

**22 September 1999** The Russian MFA warns Georgia and Azerbaijan against the transfer of weapons, money or mercenaries to bandit formations on Chechen territory. *Kavkasia-Press* is told this by an informed source at the Georgian Foreign Ministry.

**22 September 1999** Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov meets Clinton in the White House. They discuss strategic stability. Ivanov says the "bedrock" of strategic stability is the Russian-American anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty of 1972.

**23 September 1999** *Russia TV* reports that restrictions are lifted on Abkhaz section of the Russo-Georgian border. Citizens of Russia and Abkhazia can now cross the border freely in both directions. Georgia is unhappy about this development.

**23 September 1999** Finance Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says in Frankfurt that the London Club has agreed to consider writing off part of the Soviet debt.

**24 September 1999** Presidential aide Sergey Prikhodko repeats Russian opposition to the Baltic states joining NATO. He says this is a direct threat to Russia's national security.

**24 September 1999** Vladimir Putin visits Kazakhstan. He has talks with Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev. They discuss problems connected with bilateral relations, trade and economic cooperation, political contacts, cooperation in the humanitarian and cultural spheres, as well as border and military-technical cooperation.

**24 September 1999** Putin meets Kyrgyz Prime Minister Amangeldi Muraliyev. The meeting was held in the course of the conference of the council of the heads of government under the interstate council of the heads of states of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan, which is currently under way at Astana. He vows to help Kyrgyzstan fight terrorism.

**25 September 1999** Russian Finance Minister Mikhail Kasyanov arrives in the USA to make sure that the IMF grants Russia the next tranche in October.

**27 September 1999** Yel'tsin considers the draft treaty creating a single union state of Russia and Belarus and approves the document in principle. Yel'tsin instructs Putin, his head of administration Aleksandr Voloshin and CIS Affairs Minister Leonid Drachevskiy "to coordinate with the Belarusian side on producing a draft

treaty for nationwide debate”.

**27 September 1999** A senior figure in the Russian military-industrial complex informs ITAR-TASS that the passage in the United States of the bill on sanctions for cooperation with Iran in rocketry technologies will lead virtually to complete curtailment of Russo-US military and technical cooperation.

**27 September 1999** Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Boris Yel'tsin speak over the phone.

**27 September 1999** The Russian and Georgian interior ministers, Vladimir Rushaylo and Kakha Targamadze, meet in Moscow and discuss cooperation between the two countries' law-enforcement agencies at the second session of the joint collegium of the Russian and Georgian interior ministries.

**27 September 1999** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov discusses terrorism with Jordanian foreign minister Abd al-Ilah al-Khatib in New York.

**28 September 1999** The MFA criticises statements by KLA leader Hashim Thaci that the KLA will in future become an army.

**28 September 1999** Foreign minister Igor Ivanov visits Cuba. He says "certain states" are wrong to cold-shoulder Cuba.

**28 September 1999** The interior ministers of Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia - the Borjomi Four - sign a joint statement and an appeal to the council of CIS interior ministers in connection with the situation in the North Caucasus. In the near future the law-enforcement bodies of the four states will take coordinated measures to fight crime and terrorism in the North Caucasus.

**28 September 1999** Deputy director of the Federal Border Guard Service Nikolay Reznichenko says that Russian border guards have assumed duties along the Georgian-Chechen border together with police, interior troops and the army. Reznichenko says it would be a positive development if Georgia were to allow Russia to assume control over the border with Chechnya from the Georgian side.

**28 September 1999** The MFA summons Azerbaijani Ambassador Ramiz Rizayev. He is presented with information "concerning the actions of organizations and funds in Azerbaijan which, under the guise of humanitarian aid for Muslims, are providing financial and other assistance for Chechen and Dagestani extremists and terrorists". A report from the MFA's department for information and the press says that "the readiness of competent Russian bodies to immediately step up contacts and exchange information with their Azerbaijani colleagues with the aim of preventing and curbing the spread of terrorism and extremism in the Caucasus was confirmed".



**29 September 1999** Yel'tsin sends a message of greetings to the sixth session of the council of the leaders of the security and special services of the CIS member-states. He calls for increased coordination of counterterrorist measures.

**29 September 1999** Russian Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shcherbak, who is in charge of agriculture and related industries, states that a new US food aid package to Russia is being discussed unofficially.

**29 September 1999** Russian Fuel and Energy minister Viktor Kalyuzhnyy and Iraqi oil Minister Amir Muhammad Rashid al-Ubaydi talk in Iraq on prospects for Russian investment in Iraq's oil sector.

**29 September 1999** Saudi ambassador to Russia Ali Ja'far has discusses at the Russian MFA ways of forging "interaction in fighting terrorism."

**30 September 1999** Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov visits Brussels.

**30 September 1999** US Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson visits a state scientific and research centre of atomic reactors in Dimitrovgrad and ends his visit to Ulyanovsk Region. He familiarized himself with various stages of reprocessing of weapons-grade plutonium and acknowledged that Russian technology excluded any future use of such plutonium for military purposes.

**30 September 1999** Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin receives in Moscow Pakistani ambassador Mansoor Alam to discuss international terrorism and the Chechen situation.

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## Russian Domestic Policy: Chronology

### July-September 1999

#### *July*

**2 July 1999** Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) Aleksandr Veshnyakov says that Duma elections are likely to take place on 19 December. He says that Yel'tsin is likely to sign a decree to that effect before 20 August.

**2 July 1999** The government approves guidelines for state policy towards the North Caucasus worked out by the Ethnic Policy Ministry. Stepashin calls for a long-term strategy for the North Caucasus.

**4 July 1999** An opinion poll shows voters' preferences for the presidential elections:

Gennady Zyuganov	18%
Yevgenny Primakov	16%
Yury Luzhkov	14%
Grigory Yavlinskiy	9%
Sergey Stepashin	7%

**5 July 1999** Yel'tsin meets interior minister Vladimir Rushaylo and discusses possible measures to ensure honest elections.

**5 July 1999** Duma speaker Gennady Seleznev denies there are serious differences between Communist Party (CPRF) leaders over the party's election strategy.

**5 July 1999** *Novaya Gazeta* publishes the draft of a presidential decree introducing a state of emergency. Presidential spokesman Dmitry Yakushin denies that such a decree exists.

**5 July 1999** Sergey Stepashin promises more money for the army.

**6 July 1999** In an interview in *Izvestiya*, Yel'tsin says he wants a youthful and vigorous successor with new ideas.

**7 July 1999** President Boris Yel'tsin appoints Ivan Ivanov to the post of deputy foreign minister in charge of economic problems and Russia's external economic relations.

**8 July 1999** Yel'tsin tells law enforcement officers to defend the constitution and prevent any encroachment on the civil liberties of citizens.

**8 July 1999** Yel'tsin challenges claims that the Russian army is collapsing. "The equipping of the army and the strengthening of its combat might will always be a matter of special concern to us. In spite of the difficulties the armed forces are capable of guaranteeing Russia's security. Let the entire world know this." Yel'tsin says this addressing a ceremony in the St Catherine's Hall of the Kremlin at which top officers of the armed forces and other military formations were presented to the Russian president.

**8 July 1999** Yel'tsin says the Justice Ministry is weak in countering threats to national security.

**8 July 1999** Yel'tsin meets regional leaders to discuss election preparations with them.

**8 July 1999** Boris Yel'tsin, Prime Minister Sergey Stepashin, head of the presidential administration Aleksandr Voloshin and the heads of constituent parts of the Russian Federation discuss the possibility of uniting reformist political movements to fight the elections.

**9 July 1999** Yel'tsin and Stepashin discuss the harvest, defence industrial complex, and Stepashin's visit to Kiev.

**10 July 1999** Prime Minister Sergey Stepashin conducts a Security Council session on a wide range of internal and foreign issues. Under review among other things was political and religious extremism. The Security Council also discusses the situation in the North Caucasus and aspects of Russia's involvement in the peacekeeping mission in the Balkans.

**10 July 1999** The leader of the political movement Otechestvo (Fatherland), Yury Luzhkov, says he would be happy to ally with Yevgenny Primakov.

**10 July 1999** A government resolution states that special structures are to be set up for dealing with civil defence issues in Russian organizations.

**11 July 1999** Russia's Otechestvo party headed by Moscow mayor Yury Luzhkov invites former Prime Minister Yevgenny Primakov to top its parliamentary election ticket.

**11 July 1999** Sergey Baburin plans to stand for president.

**12 July 1999** President Boris Yel'tsin starts his vacation. He is staying at his countryside residence Rus in Zavidovo around 100 km from Moscow. Sources in the president's administration stated that "when choosing the place for the president's vacation it was weather conditions only which were taken into consideration, but this has nothing to do with the political situation in the country."

**12 July 1999** The Russian Finance Minister Mikhail Kasyanov tells the inner Cabinet that the costs of tackling the Y2K problem in Russia are estimated at 187m dollars. Initially, ministries and other agencies applied for a total of 370m dollars. However, since this activity had not been included in the 1999 budget, the finance ministry and other agencies agreed on priority efforts in dealing with this issue and the total costs were reduced. Priority funding will be given to defence and security agencies. In particular, the Defence Ministry will receive 13m dollars and will have to find 10.7m dollars from its own resources to tackle the problem. The Finance Ministry will receive 6m dollars, while the State Customs Committee and the Taxes and Levies Ministry will finance the Y2K problem on their own.

**12 July 1999** Chairman of the State Telecommunications Committee Aleksandr Ivanov, speaking at the Russian government presidium says that "the resolution of the Y2K problem in Russia provokes concern". He attributes this to "inadequate resources to carry out work in this field", noting that 2bn roubles had already been spent on updating computer systems. However, according to data on 30 June, the total volume of expenses to settle this problem should amount to 13bn roubles. Ivanov also reported that rates of updating computer systems are very low now. He says that only 30% of the work has been done. He warns that "Western secret services will try to worm their way into computer systems of government bodies or computer systems of Russian power-wielding structures".

**12 July 1999** Premier Stepashin asks Ilya Klebanov for weekly reports on work to solve Y2K problems.

**12 July 1999** Stepashin says that the new Ministry for the Press, Television and Radio Broadcasting and Mass Communications will not be a propaganda committee.

**12 July 1999** Interior Minister Vladimir Rushaylo visits the Caucasus. He outlines a plan to arm Cossacks.

**12 July 1999** Leaders of the Pravoye Delo, Novaya Sila and Golos Rossii movements - Anatoly Chubays, Sergey Kiriienko and Konstantin Titov - meet to discuss the formation of a right-of-centre coalition for the Duma elections.

**13 July 1999** Boris Berezovskiy says he will stand in the Duma elections.

**13 July 1999** Minister of Federation Affairs and Nationalities Vyacheslav Mikhaylov says that a meeting between Yel'tsin and Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov will

take place, but "it must be well prepared".

**13 July 1999** Russian Prime Minister Sergey Stepashin and the chairman of the Central Bank Viktor Gerashchenko sign a joint statement by the government and the Russian Central Bank on 1999 economic policy.

**13 July 1999** The director of the Jewish cultural centre in Moscow, Leopold Kaymovskiy, is stabbed and injured.

**14 July 1999** In an interview in *Argumenty i Fakty*, Russian Prime Minister Sergey Stepashin says he believes that his political future will largely be decided by the results of the Duma elections in December 1999. He also discusses his relations with the power ministers.

**14 July 1999** Stepashin chairs a government meeting on the census. It deals with the creation of an automated system for the registration of population in Russia. In accordance with this system every Russian will have his own number.

**14 July 1999** A spokesman from the Justice Ministry says there are grounds for banning the CPRF.

**14 July 1999** *Segodnya* reports that the the Kremlin is devising plans to amalgamate Russia's existing arms exporters into a single company under the official pretext of tightening up state regulation of military-technical cooperation. However, critics maintain that the idea behind the move is to use the revenue of the highly lucrative arms trading sector for the presidential campaign.

**14 July 1999** Moscow mayor Yury Luzhkov attacks the government for creating poverty.

**15 July 1999** Russian Prime Minister Sergey Stepashin meets Yury Luzhkov. They discuss the consolidation of forces that would guarantee a creative majority in the future Duma.

**15 July 1999** Luzhkov denies offering ex-PM Primakov top place on the Otechestvo electoral list.

**16 July 1999** Moscow mayor Yury Luzhkov accuses the Kremlin of dirty tricks against his wife. He refers to a criminal case which concerns his wife's company Inteko.

**16 July 1999** *Moskovskiy Komsomolets* claims that Yel'tsin's "family" seeks control of Gazprom to ensure their postpresidential future.

**18 July 1999** In an interview on NTV's *"Itogi"* Yury Luzhkov says that the FSB (*Federativnaya Sluzhba Bezopastnosti*) is being used to dig for dirt on his wife's business activities as part of a campaign against him. He says Boris Berezovskiy is involved. Luzhkov also says if Yevgenny Primakov decides to run for the presidency he may stay out of the race.

**19 July 1999** Yevgenny Primakov says he is in constant contact with Moscow mayor Yury Luzhkov, but refuses to disclose whether he is planning to join Luzhkov's Otechestvo movement.

**19 July 1999** The Russian president's special representative for ties with international financial institutions, Mikhail Zadornov, says that Russia's debts are shrinking - the internal debt is shrinking and the "foreign debt is not growing, and will not grow, and it may even shrink."

**19 July 1999** Russian Prime Minister Sergey Stepashin and Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko sign a joint letter on development policy for the purposes of the World Bank economic restructuring loan. Mikhail Zadornov says that Russia will get from the World Bank 1.2bn US dollars until the end of 2000. Zadornov also says Sergey Stepashin has signed the plan of action on the package of measures and a joint statement with the IMF. By the end of 1999 the government will get 1.9bn US dollars from the IMF and 1.75bn US dollars from the World Bank and the government of Japan.

**19 July 1999** Aleksandr Lebed denies he will run for the presidency next year.

**20 July 1999** Yel'tsin has a routine medical check up.

**21 July 1999** The Movement in Support of the Army, Defence Industry and Military Science agrees with the PPUR that they will support each other at the forthcoming Duma elections.

**21 July 1999** *Segodnya* reports that Yel'tsin vetoes an "unconstitutional" law on Y2K problems.

**23 July 1999** Sergey Stepashin says there will be no new war in Chechnya, stressing that everything possible must be done to stop hostage-taking operations in Chechnya, Stavropol Territory and Dagestan. He says he continues paving the way for a meeting between Yel'tsin and Chechen leader Aslan Maskhadov.

**23 July 1999** Mairbek Vachagayev, Chechnya's envoy to Russia, says in *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* that Chechnya is willing to form part of a confederation with Russia as an interim solution, but "there can be no compromises as regards independence".

**23 July 1999** Presidential press secretary Dmitry Yakushin says that Yel'tsin has repeatedly said that Russia will have a new head of state in 2000. He firmly intends to quit politics following his second term in office. Yakushin says this in response to rumours, widely discussed in the media, that Yel'tsin may become head of a new state which will emerge when Russia and Belarus unite.

**23 July 1999** Anatoly Chubays (Pravoye Delo), Sergey Kiriyenko (Novaya Sila) and Konstantin Titov (Golos Rossii) agree to form a coalition to contest the forthcoming Duma election with a single list.

**23 July 1999** The Russian Supreme Court rescinds the decision of the Supreme Court of Karachay-Cherkessia, which recognized the results of the elections for the head of the republic in May this year as valid and confirmed Gen Vladimir Semenov as the winner.

**24 July 1999** Boris Yel'tsin signs a decree appointing Valentin Vlasov acting head of the Karachay-Cherkess Republic, releasing Igor Ivanov from his duties of head of the republic at his request.

**24 July 1999** Yevgenny Primakov states that he is considering running for the Duma in December 1999. He says he respects Yury Luzhkov and states that he stands for the unification of sensible centrist forces.

**24 July 1999** Sergey Stepashin says he will not run for the presidency in 2000.

**24 July 1999** The government instructs the heads of federal executive bodies to complete within one month the analysis of the state of computer systems, the establishment of centres, and the drafting of plans and programmes of actions necessary to tackle the Y2K problem.

**25 July 1999** Sergey Stepashin says that measures will be stepped up to prevent the illegal flow of capital abroad.

**26 July 1999** Yel'tsin cuts his holiday short by two weeks.

**26 July 1999** The Security Council meets to discuss border security.

**26 July 1999** CPRF and PPUR leader Gennady Zyuganov says he favours forming a single electoral bloc called Pobeda (Victory). This idea was proposed by the chairman of the Duma Committee for War Veterans, Valentin Varennikov.

**27 July 1999** The Justice Ministry states that it is drafting an anti-extremism accord for the December Duma elections.

**27 July 1999** The leadership of the Communist Party gives its official support to the formation of the Pobeda electoral bloc.

**27 July 1999** Presidential aide Aleksandr Voloshin states that Yel'tsin is concerned by the attempts of the Media-Most holding to pressure the government.

**28 July 1999** Supporters of Army General Vladimir Semenov, who won the election for head of Karachay-Cherkessia are still being held in the Karachay-Cherkess Republic. The participants demand the Supreme Court to speed up reconsidering the case of the legitimacy of the last presidential elections in the Karachay-Cherkess Republic, held on 16 May 1999.

**28 July 1999** Krasnoyarsk Territory governor Aleksandr Lebed says he will call for a revision of relations between the Russian federal centre and its regions. He will do so at the forthcoming meeting of the Siberian Accord interregional association and in the Federation Council. Lebed claims 84% of Russia's financial resources are concentrated in Moscow.

**29 July 1999** Yel'tsin meets Sergey Stepashin after the latter's return from the USA. They discuss his trip to the USA, and the fuel situation in Russia.

**29 July 1999** Acting Russian prosecutor-general, Yury Chayka, is appointed first deputy secretary of the Russian Security Council.

**29 July 1999** Yury Arkhipov, chief of the department for the organization of migration control and the affairs of refugees, states there are 1 million refugees in Russia.

**29 July 1999** Yel'tsin dismisses Sergey Zverev from the post of deputy head of the Kremlin administration.

**29 July 1999** About 800 supporters of Vladimir Semenov continue picketing the building of the Interior Ministry of the Karachay-Cherkess Republic and the town's (Cherkessk) directorate of Internal Affairs. They are demanding that Semenov should be allowed to start implementing his duties and protesting against the appointment of Aleksandr Volkodav as the republic's interior minister.

**30 July 1999** The Chechen foreign ministry says that Chechnya may take preventive strikes against Russia following recent exchanges of fire on the Chechen-Dagestan border.

**30 July 1999** Gennady Zyuganov states that more than 20 representatives of public organizations and governors have signed a document pledging support for the foundation of a new bloc, Pobeda. Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev welcomes



the formation of Pobeda.

**30 July 1999** A source in Otechestvo says that Otechestvo and the Vsya Rossiya bloc have reached a fundamental agreement to set up an election coalition.

**30 July 1999** Regional mass media chiefs express concern over Kremlin pressure on the media in the run up to the elections.

**30 July 1999** The commander-in-chief of the Interior Ministry (MIA) troops, Col-Gen Vyacheslav Ovchinnikov, expresses bewilderment over Chechen threats to Moscow. He states: "Of late, we have been constantly forced to react to instances of shelling, attacks and other acts of provocation on the administrative border. And all these acts of provocation are launched from Chechen territory."

**31 July 1999** Sergey Stepashin chairs a session of the Security Council to discuss new approaches to organizing civil defence. The Security Council finalizes a civil defence policy document.

**31 July 1999** An opinion poll shows that if the presidential election in Russia were held this weekend, the first round results would be:

Yevgenny Primakov	21%
Gennady Zyuganov	15%
Yury Luzhkov	11%
Sergey Stepashin	9%
Grigory Yavlinskiy	8%

## ***August***

**2 August 1999** Radio Russia reports that the Otechestvo movement and the Vsya Rossiya bloc will merge soon. It may be led by either Yevgenny Primakov or Sergey Stepashin.

**2 August 1999** The editors-in-chief of a number of leading Russian newspapers and magazines appeal to Yel'tsin asking him "to find a possibility to meet them in the near future ...because of the worrying situation that has taken shape with respect to the domestic media in the last few weeks".

**2 August 1999** Russian Nationalities Minister Vyacheslav Mikhaylov blames the sharp deterioration of the situation in the North Caucasus on the growing fight among many countries for influence in the region. He says "there is a tremendous interest in the Caucasus which is a sphere of geopolitical and geostrategic interests of the whole world, the US of course, West European countries and some others".

**3 August 1999** Aleksandr Voloshin states that the Kremlin would like Vsya Rossiya, a party grouping of regional governors, to do well in the Duma elections.

**3 August 1999** Former deputy head of Yel'tsin's administration Sergey Zverev says that the Kremlin does pressurise the media.

**3 August 1999** Russian Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov says a rigorous management hierarchy in arms exports is to be set up under the new presidential decree "On improving military technical cooperation".

**3 August 1999** Yel'tsin approves a new Security Council statute.

**3 August 1999** Yel'tsin appoint Vladislav Surkov deputy head of the president's administration in place of Sergey Zverev.

**3 August 1999** Russian Interior Minister Vladimir Rushaylo rules out the possibility of a war breaking out in Chechnya.

**4 August 1999** The presidium of Vsya Rossiya's political council and Otechestvo's political council sign a joint decision on the formation of an election bloc.

**4 August 1999** Radical communists agree to join their forces in the forthcoming parliamentary elections. The first secretary of the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Workers' Party, Viktor Tyulkin, says the talks on the creation of a new bloc have been held at the party's headquarters in St Petersburg; the bloc called Communists-Working Russia-For the Soviet Union will involve the Russian Communist Workers' Party, the Russian Party of Communists, the Union of Communist Parties SKP-CPSU, and the For the Soviet Motherland movement.

**4 August 1999** In an interview in *Komsomolskaya Pravda* Yel'tsin chief of staff Voloshin names Yabloko leader Grigory Yavlinskiy and Prime Minister Sergey Stepashin as the Kremlin's preferred choice of Russia's next president. Voloshin opposes the election of either Moscow mayor Yury Luzhkov or former Prime Minister Yevgenny Primakov as the country's new head of state.

**4 August 1999** North Osetian President Aleksandr Dzasokhov says Sergey Stepashin is to head a special commission for the North Caucasus. Boris Yel'tsin is to sign a decree on setting up this commission soon.

**4 August 1999** The MIA states that Internal Troops in Dagestan are to be redeployed to improve efficiency.

**4 August 1999** Yel'tsin and Tatar president Mintimier Shaymiyev discuss the

formation of a joint Vsya Rossiya-Otechestvo bloc.

**4 August 1999** Russia sends more troops to Dagestan to protect the border with Chechnya.

**5 August 1999** A high-ranking official of the Security Council, Col-Gen Viktor Yesin, says in an interview with *Krasnaya Zvezda* that the Russian Defence Ministry will receive R10bn additionally to the approved budget this year.

**5 August 1999** The Interior Minister of Dagestan Adilgirey Magomedtagirov denies reports that an armed uprising is being prepared in the republic by extremist groups trained on Chechen territory.

**6 August 1999** Yel'tsin says he is following the merging of various political movements into election blocs and is planning to influence the process in order to ensure a pro-reform composition of a new State Duma.

**6 August 1999** Sergey Stepashin says in an interview in *Izvestiya* that the Russian Cabinet might support "certain components" of the new Otechestvo-Vsya Rossiya (OVR) electoral bloc. He says he will not allow dirty elections.

**6 August 1999** Sergey Stepashin says it is essential for the authorities "to work with governors more actively", for "our regions are the mainstay now".

**6 August 1999** Anatoly Chubays, leader of Pravoye Delo proposes to NDR led by former Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin that it join the right-wing bloc.

**7 August 1999** Sergey Stepashin dismisses rumours about his impending resignation as routine speculation.

**7 August 1999** Otechestvo leader Yury Luzhkov says "sees no prospect of an alliance with Our Home is Russia" (NDR).

**7 August 1999** A large armed group seizes two villages in Dagestan. Their positions are attacked by helicopter gunships. The Dagestan MIA says a large-scale operation is planned against the gunmen.

**7 August 1999** The commander-in-chief of the Russian Interior Troops, Col-Gen Vyacheslav Ovchinnikov, arrives in Dagestan.

**7 August 1999** The Chechen government denies its involvement in the conflict in Dagestan.

**9 August 1999** The North Caucasus regional administration of the Russian Federal Border Service announces that additional measures have been taken to reinforce the Russian state border running along the Caspian and the Caucasian ridge as a result of the conflict in Dagestan.

**9 August 1999** Sergey Stepashin warns that Russia could lose Dagestan.

**9 August 1999** Yel'tsin dismisses Sergey Stepashin as prime minister. He appoints FSB chief Vladimir Putin as acting prime minister. Yel'tsin says he sees Putin as his successor as president.

**9 August 1999** Putin says he will run for president next year.

**9 August 1999** Yel'tsin signs a decree setting the date for the Duma elections as 19 December.

**9 August 1999** Nikolay Patrushev is appointed acting head of the FSB.

**10 August 1999** The Shura (Council of Islamic leaders) declares Dagestan has been proclaimed an Islamic republic.

**11 August 1999** Yel'tsin undergoes a planned medical examination on his spine in Moscow.

**11 August 1999** Acting prime minister Vladimir Putin says that the declaration of a state of emergency in Dagestan is not on the agenda.

**12 August 1999** Ex-prime minister Yevgenny Primakov agrees to head the OVR election bloc.

**13 August 1999** Deputy Interior Minister Igor Zubov says in an interview in *Kommersant* that he expects the terrorist operation in Dagestan to be completed within two weeks.

**14 August 1999** The MIA states that Federal forces and Dagestan's police have started a large-scale operation to drive out Islamic militant groups from Dagestan.

**14 August 1999** The speaker of the Federation Council Yegor Stroyev says an amendment to the constitution is needed to limit the Russian president's power to reshuffle the government.

**14 August 1999** Yury Luzhkov condemns the dismissal of Sergey Stepashin as prime minister and describes the appointment of Vladimir Putin as prime minister as alarming.

**14 August 1999** Yury Luzhkov says Otechestvo could form an alliance with the Agrarian Party.

**15 August 1999** Federation Council Chairman Yegor Stroyev opposes the idea of setting up a council or a union of governors.

**15 August 1999** CPRF says that Yevgenny Primakov should not join any electoral bloc.

**16 August 1999** Yel'tsin rules out declaring a state of emergency. He says "order" will be restored in the Caucasus.

**16 August 1999** Sources in the federal armed forces said that the decisive stage of the operation to destroy the rebel formations began in Botlikhskiy District of Dagestan began at about 0600 Moscow time.

**16 August 1999** The Russian State Duma confirms the nomination of Vladimir Putin for prime minister. A total of 232 deputies vote in favour of Putin's nomination in electronic balloting, with one deputy expressing his support verbally. 84 vote against the presidential nominee and 17 abstain.

**16 August 1999** The CPRF expels the leader of the Spiritual Heritage movement, Aleksey Podberezkin.

**17 August 1999** Yel'tsin signs a decree "On the structure of the federal bodies of executive power." The decree confirms the structure of the federal bodies of executive power as follows: 25 federal ministries, 10 state committees of the Russian Federation, three Russian federal commissions, 14 Russian federal services, nine Russian agencies, two Russian federal inspectorates and three other federal bodies of executive power.

**19 August 1999** The new Russian cabinet is announced:

Prime minister - Vladimir Putin

First deputy prime ministers - Nikolay Aksenenko, Viktor Khristenko

Deputy prime ministers - Ilya Klebanov, Valentina Matviyenko,  
Vladimir Shcherbak

Federal ministers: Yevgeniy Adamov - atomic energy

Farit Gazizullin - state property

Ilya Yuzhanov - anti-monopoly policy and enterprise

support

# Leonid Drachevskiy - CIS affairs

Mikhail Lesin - minister for the press, TV and radio

broadcasting and mass communications

## Aleksandr Pochinok - taxes and levies

Yury Shevchenko - health

Vladimir Yegorov - culture

Mikhail Kasyanov - finance

Igor Ivanov - foreign affairs

Andrey Shapovalyants - economics

Viktor Kalyuzhnyy - fuel and energy

Mikhail Fradkov - trade

Boris Yatskevich - natural resources

Vladimir Rushaylo - internal affairs

Sergey Shoygu - civil defence, emergencies and dealing

with consequences of natural disasters

Mikhail Kirpichnikov - science and technology

Vyacheslav Mikhaylov - federation affairs and

nationalities

Igor Sergeyev - defence

## Vladimir Filippov - education

Vladimir Starostenko - railways

Aleksey Gordeyev - agriculture and food

Sergey Frank - transport

Sergey Kalashnikov - labour and social development

Boris Ivanyuzhenkov - physical culture, sport and tourism

Yury Chayka - justice

Aleksandr Livshits - minister of the Russian Federation

Dmitriy Kozak - head of the government administration,  
minister of the Russian Federation

**16 August 1999** Vladimir Putin blames foreign interference for Caucasus problems. He says "some states are declaring the North Caucasus as a zone of their vital interests, even though it is Russian territory, some are helping separatists with weapons and ammunition."

**19 August 1999** NDR rejects proposals for forming a rightist election coalition with Pravoye Delo led by Boris Nemtsov and Anatoly Chubays, and Sergey Kiriyenko's Novaya Sila.

**19 August 1999** Yabloko leader Grigory Yavlinskiy says his party would back Sergey Stepashin in his desire to run for the Duma.

**20 August 1999** Member of NDR political council Vladimir Zorin says that most NDR political council members are positive about possible cooperation with the former prime minister, Sergey Stepashin, but oppose a pre-election bloc with Pravoye Delo.

**20 August 1999** Vladimir Putin warns government members they must remain neutral in elections and avoid supporting any bloc.

**20 August 1999** An opinion poll organised by the Russian Public Opinion Centre reveals that 43% of Russian citizens do not believe that Yel'tsin and his close circle really want to see Vladimir Putin as the next president. Only 12% of those polled believe that the Kremlin is earnest about Putin's presidential prospects.

**21 August 1999** The Otechestvo and Vsya Rossiya movements hold congresses in Moscow and Ufa respectively. Vladimir Yakovlev, St Petersburg's mayor, is elected the leader of the Vsya Rossiya bloc. The bloc will be formally formed on 28 August 1999.

**21 August 1999** Pravoye Delo and Novaya Sila form a single bloc. However Sergey Stepashin refuses to join it. It will be formally formed on 29 August 1999.

**21 August 1999** *Segodnya* reports that Aleksandr Lebed and Boris Berezovskiy met to form an electoral alliance.

**22 August 1999** Yury Luzhkov says Otechestvo may cooperate with the Communists.

**22 August 1999** Representatives of Viktor Anpilov's "Working Russia", Stanislav Terekhov's "Officers' Union", Igor Malyarov's "People's Patriotic Youth Union", and Georgy Tikhonov's "Union" movement form a new electoral bloc, the "Stalinist bloc - Working Russia - Officers - For the USSR".

**23 August 1999** Yury Luzhkov says he will not run for the presidency next year if former Russian prime minister Yevgenny Primakov decides to run.

**24 August 1999** A new electoral bloc is formed, headed by Sergey Kiriyenko, Boris Nemtsov and Irina Khakamada. It is called the Union of Rightist Forces.

**24 August 1999** Sergey Stepashin will run as a Yabloko candidate in St Petersburg in the Duma elections.

**24 August 1999** The Movement in Support of the Army, the Defence Industry and Military Science, headed by member of the Central Committee of CPRF Viktor Ilyukhin, will form a bloc with various other organizations. It will include the Russian All-People's Movement of Aleksandr Bazhenov and Aleksandr Korzhakov, Boris Tarasov's Homeland Union of Compatriots and Vladimir Osipov's Christian Revival Union.

**24 August 1999** CEC chairman Aleksandr Veshnyakov says the CEC will make a decision on Otechestvo's participation in the parliamentary election after all necessary documents are submitted.

**24 August 1999** Vladimir Putin meets Yury Luzhkov. They discuss how the Russian cabinet and the Moscow municipal government would interact.

**25 August 1999** The Chairman of the State Council of Dagestan Magomedali Magomedov says the territory of the republic has been entirely cleared of insurgents.

**25 August 1999** Defence Minister Igor Sergeyev says the operation against terrorists in Dagestan "is in the final stage". He says subunits of the Russian armed forces had "occupied the main key areas, and mopping-up operations are now under way".

**25 August 1999** Interior Minister Vladimir Rushaylo says Russian internal security forces have concluded their antiterrorist operation in Dagestan.

**25 August 1999** The FSB says 60 federal troops were killed, 217 wounded and six went missing in the operation in Dagestan.

**25 August 1999** The Agrarian Party board decides to join the OVR election alliance. This is supported by 63 of the party's 79 regional organization conferences. The remaining 16 regional conferences voted for joining the For Victory national patriotic bloc which is being formed by the CPRF leader, Gennady Zyuganov.

**25 August 1999** Vladimir Putin signs the draft budget for 2000. It is sent to the State Duma for approval.

**26 August 1999** Vladimir Putin says the first stage of the military operation in Dagestan has been completed.

**26 August 1999** The government approves the new composition of the cabinet's presidium.

**26 August 1999** The Movement in Support of the Army, the Defence Industry and Military Science, headed by Viktor Ilyukhin, will run in the Duma election independent of the CPRF.

**27 August 1999** Yel'tsin instructs the government to pay the wage arrears owing to teachers, doctors and other public-sector workers before the end of the year, and pension arrears before 15th October.



**27 August 1999** Vladimir Putin visits Dagestan.

**27 August 1999** Sergey Stepashin is second on the Yabloko party list for the Duma elections.

**27 August 1999** NDR forms an alliance with the Forward, Russia! movement.

**27 August 1999** The Agrarian Party splits after a vote to break with the CPRF.

**27 August 1999** An opinion poll conducted by VTSIOM asked who would you vote for if the presidential election was to take place on 29th August 1999

Gennady Zyuganov	26%
Yevgenny Primakov	19%
Yury Luzhkov	9%
Grigory Yavlinskiy	9%
Sergey Stepashin	7%
Vladimir Zhirinovskiy	6%
Aleksandr Lebed	5%
Sergey Kiriyenko	3%
Viktor Chernomyrdin	3%
Boris Nemtsov	2%
Vladimir Putin	2%
Ella Pamfilova	1%

Against all 1%

No answer 7%

A total of 954 people out of the 1,600 asked to take part in the poll agreed to answer the questions.

**27 August 1999** The Supreme Court of Karachay-Cherkessia declares the results of the elections of the head of the republic on 16 May of this year to be valid and applicable. This means that Vladimir Semenov, the former commander-in-chief of ground troops, was elected the head of the republic.

**28 August 1999** The OVR bloc finalises its merger, and approves its election manifesto.

**28 August 1999** The head of the OVR bloc HQ Georgy Boos says that the bloc is prepared to guarantee security to Yel'tsin after the 2000 polls.

**28 August 1999** The Voice of Russia bloc votes to join Union of Right Forces coalition.

**28 August 1999** An extraordinary congress of Russia's Democratic Choice approves joining the Union of Right Forces election bloc.

**28 August 1999** Yel'tsin signs a decree changing the structure of the FSB. The FSB public relations centre says in accordance with the state conception of state military construction policy to the year 2005, a department for protecting the constitutional structure and combating terrorism has been formed from the department for combating terrorism and the department of constitutional security. The department will consist of three directorates.

**29 August 1999** DVR leader Yegor Gaydar urges an investigation into money laundering.

**31 August 1999** Federal aircraft bomb rebel positions in Dagestan.

**31 August 1999** Dagestan's State Council says 8 federal servicemen in the Internal Troops have been killed and about 50 wounded in fighting in Dagestan's Buynakskiy District.

**31 August 1999** Supporters of Stanislav Derev declare Cherkessia as an autonomous entity.

**31 August 1999** Vladimir Semenov says Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has "decided to take time out to conduct serious consultations" with the supporters of Stanislav Derev.

**31 August 1999** Four radical Russian left-wing political organizations form a new election bloc called Russian Home. The new bloc embraces the Russian All-People's Movement, the Compatriots Union-Native Land, the Christian Revival Union and the Movement in Support of the Army.

**31 August 1999** Aleksandr Korzhakov says he will unite with Viktor Ilyukhin, the leader of the Movement in Support of the Army, the Defence Industry and Military Science.

**31 August 1999** An explosion in Moscow at Manezh Square shopping centre injures 41. A note left by a group calling itself "the revolutionary writers" has been found at the site of the explosion.

**31 August 1999** Vladimir Putin orders the Finance Ministry to obtain the necessary sums before 15 September to pay overdue wages in government-financed companies and offices before 31 December. Total back wages amounted to R17bn at the year's start. Since then, the arrears have shrunk to R8.3bn.

**31 August 1999** Yury Luzhkov says in Kazan that the OVR bloc has decided to ask Yel'tsin to meet them and hear OVR's opinion on Russia's most important state problems. Luzhkov said his recent statements about certain "demonic forces in the Kremlin" were not directed against Yel'tsin himself and his administration, but against a single figure in Yel'tsin's entourage. Luzhkov did not name the person.

## ***September***

**1 September 1999** Justice minister Yury Chayka tells subordinates "to permanently monitor the activities of political and public organizations participating in elections, paying particular attention to the way events staged by them coincide with the aims set forth in their charters". The Justice Ministry is instructed to "target efforts at thwarting attempts to import elements of political extremism into the electoral process".

**1 September 1999** Justice Minister Yury Chayka says he considers attempts by certain forces in Karachay-Cherkessia to declare a "Cherkess autonomous area" illegal.

**2 September 1999** Sergey Stepashin says he will not run for president in 2000.

**2 September 1999** The Russian president's special representative for relations with international financial organizations, Mikhail Zadornov, says he will resign from the post following the completion of the work of an IMF mission in Moscow. He says he will run for parliament on the Yabloko ticket.

**2 September 1999** Suspended Russian Prosecutor-General Yury Skuratov says he will make the currently classified materials public if he notices "that the widely publicized corruption cases, notably Mabetex and Aeroflot, are falling apart".

**3 September 1999** Russian Interior Minister Vladimir Rushaylo arrives in Makhachkala in Dagestan. He will supervise antiterrorist operations currently under way.

**3 September 1999** Mikhail Zadornov says the IMF mission is satisfied with the report on the state of the Russian economy.

**3 September 1999** Yel'tsin appoints Igor Shabdurasulov (general director of the Russian Public TV company) first deputy head of the presidential administration.

**4 September 1999** Presidential press secretary Dmitry Yakushkin denies the money laundering allegations levelled at Yel'tsin's family.

**4 September 1999** Pavel Borodin, manager of the administrative office of the Russian president, denies that the president and his family may have benefited from favours offered by a Swiss company.

**4 September 1999** A five-storey block of flats for families of officers of the 136th Brigade of the Ministry of Defence is blown up in Buynaksk in Dagestan.

**4 September 1999** Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov addresses an appeal to international organizations and leaders of the world's major states "to take a resolute step in support of the Chechen people and recognize the Chechen Republic".

**4 September 1999** The 4<sup>th</sup> extraordinary CPRF Congress takes place in Moscow. Its second session will be held on 20 September 1999.

**4 September 1999** Aleksandr Veshnyakov, the chairman of the CEC, says that Governors, ministers and other top officials can feature in the lists of candidates of electoral associations and blocs. In line with the constitution, they have the right to be elected as deputies to the State Duma.

**5 September 1999** Yevgenny Primakov says he has not decided whether or not to run for president.

**5 September 1999** Vladimir Putin says the Russian government is receiving information from Karachay-Cherkessia that the situation there is getting worse and is becoming criminalized.

**6 September 1999** Duma Chairman Gennady Seleznev believes that in connection with the events in Dagestan, there is a danger that there might be an attempt to introduce a state of emergency all over Russian territory.

**7 September 1999** Yel'tsin criticises the military for its performance in Dagestan.

**7 September 1999** Suspended Russian Prosecutor-General Yury Skuratov denies telling journalists that Yel'tsin's daughter Tatyana Dyachenko might be involved in the alleged theft of IMF loans.

**7 September 1999** The Security Council discusses Dagestan and rules against introducing martial law there.

**8 September 1999** Vladimir Putin denies rumours stating Yel'tsin might resign as president.

**9 September 1999** Interfax reports that an unidentified person who spoke with a Caucasian accent telephoned their office and said, "What happened in Moscow and Buynaksk is our response to the bombing of civilians in villages in Chechnya and Dagestan".

**9 September 1999** Yel'tsin takes personal control of the Moscow blast investigation.

**9 September 1999** Interior minister Vladimir Rushaylo says there is no firm evidence yet that a bomb caused the explosion at the apartment block.

**8 September 1999** The Derzhava movement reverses its decision to leave the OVR bloc.

**8 September 1999** Yury Luzhkov says he will stand for re-election as Moscow's mayor but not for the Russian presidency.

**9 September 1999** Vladimir Putin appoints Andrey Vinogradov first deputy head of government staff.

**8 September 1999** Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Nikolay Aksenenko admits serious blunders including military ones in handling the Dagestan crisis.

**8 September 1999** Vladimir Lysenko, chairman of the Duma Committee on Federation Affairs and Regional Policies and the head of the Republican Party sends a letter to Yel'tsin with the request to take prompt measures to preserve the integrity of the Republic of Dagestan and the Russian Federation. He suggests imposing a state of emergency in Buynakskiy and Novolakskiy Districts.

**8 September 1999** Federal commander in Dagestan Gennady Troshev says that the Russian military operation to destroy Islamic guerrillas in the southern region of Dagestan is going ahead of plan.

**8 September 1999** Karachay-Cherkess president-elect Vladimir Semenov rejects Moscow's proposals for a compromise. The Kremlin proposes appointing a neutral person to the post of head of Karachay-Cherkessia.

**9 September 1999** Russian Vladimir Putin signs a resolution "On the Composition of the Presidium of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Russian Federation".

The cabinet presidium includes:

- Vladimir Putin
- Two of his deputies, Nikolay Aksenenko and Viktor Khristenko

- Deputy Prime Ministers Ilya Klebanov and Vladimir Shcherbak
- Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov
- Finance Minister Mikhail Kasyanov
- Minister of Internal Affairs Vladimir Rushaylo
- Defence Minister Igor Sergeyev
- Minister of Justice Yuri Chayka
- Economics Minister Andrey Shapovalyants
- Dmitry Kozak, chief of the government staff and the Russian Federation minister

**9 September 1999** A military spokesman says that federal troop losses since the start of hostilities in Dagestan (2 August 1999) stand at 149 servicemen killed and 522 injured; 20 are missing. These figures do not include those killed and injured from the Dagestani Interior Ministry troops or the self-defence forces. According to official information from the Russian Interior Ministry, losses among servicemen of the Internal Troops and special-purpose militia forces stand at 66 dead and 249 injured. In addition, 17 members of the law-enforcement bodies are listed as missing. The Russian Defence Ministry is releasing no official figures about losses among armed forces servicemen in Dagestan.

**10 September 1999** Deputy minister of Atomic Energy Yevgenny Fedorov says that MinAtom is stepping up security at its nuclear installations in light of the growing threat from terrorism.

**10 September 1999** Yel'tsin tells Vladimir Putin, foreign minister Igor Ivanov, Interior Minister Vladimir Rushaylo, Justice Minister Yuri Chayka and acting Prosecutor General Vladimir Ustinov to do more to have Russia join the European anticrime conventions and the international Financial Action Task Force on money-laundering.

**10 September 1999** Vladimir Putin approves a set of antiterrorist measures for Moscow proposed by the leadership of the FSB and MIA.

**10 September 1999** Russian Interior Minister Vladimir Rushaylo and the chief of the General Staff of the Russian Defence Ministry, Anatoly Kvashnin, arrive in Makhachkala.

**11 September 1999** Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov declares a general call-up, and extends the state of emergency.

**11 September 1999** Former prime minister Yevgenny Primakov says the OVR bloc aims to become "party of power"

**11 September 1999** Vladimir Putin says he sees no grounds for imposing a state of emergency in individual regions of Russia.

**12 September 1999** Shamil Basayev says Aslan Maskhadov "should declare war on Russia."

**12 September 1999** NTV reports an opinion poll taken on 6 September 1999 on voters' preferences in the Duma elections.

OVR	23%
CPRF	20%
Yabloko	12%
LDPR	5%

The rest, including the People's Republican Party of Krasnoyarsk governor Aleksandr Lebed, the Union of Right Forces of former Prime Minister Sergey Kiriyenko and Our Home is Russia of ex-Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, were below the 5% barrier.

**13 September 1999** A bomb destroys a block of flats on Kashirskoye Highway in Moscow.

**13 September 1999** Yel'tsin addresses the nation following the latest bombing. He says special security must be introduced in the capital.

**13 September 1999** Interior minister Vladimir Rushaylo says that the power structures are looking for a person using the papers of Mukhit Laypanov, who died in a car accident in February 1999.

**13 September 1999** Moscow mayor Yury Luzhkov says special rule will be enforced in Moscow. He blames Chechen gangsters for the bombings.

**13 September 1999** St Petersburg governor and Vsyá Rossiya leader Vladimir Yakovlev announces measures to tighten up security in St Petersburg following the Moscow bombings.

**13 September 1999** The Chechen government denies any involvement of its government or people in the explosions in Moscow and Buynaksk.

**13 September 1999** Russian defence minister Igor Sergeyev calls for worldwide cooperation to combat terrorism. Following a meeting with US Defence Secretary William Cohen, Sergeyev calls for "massive antiterrorist actions and antiterrorist operations".

**13 September 1999** A team of Russian investigators arrives in Washington to look at findings of the US inquiry into the Bank of New York.

**13 September 1999** Moscow mayor Yury Luzhkov says that in the wake of the recent terrorist acts in Moscow's Pechatniki district and on Kashirskoye Highway, all visitors to the city will have to re-register within three days. He says "the main threat comes from Chechnya," and that "special attention will be paid to visitors from that republic and to cargo arriving from Chechnya".

**13 September 1999** Interior Minister Vladimir Rushaylo says there is no need for a state of emergency. He says that on instructions from President Yel'tsin a special headquarters had been set up to supervise the implementation of security measures. The HQ comprises the FSB, the Ministry of Defence, the Federal Tax Police, the Federal Border Guard Service, the State Customs Committee, the Foreign Intelligence Service.

**13 September 1999** The Russian government has confirmed the regulations governing the Russian Federation Ministry of the Press, Television and Radio Broadcasting and Mass Communications.

**14 September 1999** Three people have been arrested in Moscow suspected of being involved in the apartment block blast on 13 September 1999.

**14 September 1999** Defence minister Igor Sergeyev says that MOD subunits, along with Interior Ministry forces, will play an active role in ensuring security and law and order in Moscow.

**14 September 1999** The first deputy head of the presidential administration, Igor Shabdurasulov, describes remarks by Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov that the Kremlin intends to introduce a state of emergency in the country as "nonsense".

**14 September 1999** Yel'tsin approves a plan of specific measures on the situation in Dagestan which had been worked out by the Defence Ministry on the basis of instructions from Yel'tsin.

**14 September 1999** Putin attends a meeting of heads of power ministries and representatives of the capital's power departments.

**14 September 1999** Vladimir Putin speaks in the State Duma about the situation in the North Caucasus and measures to ensure security within the country. He calls for a "strict quarantine" on the Chechen border. He discusses a range of antiterrorist measures. He says there is no need to introduce a state of emergency. He calls on deputies to "formulate a state of emergency bill, ensure it makes sense and adopt it in a workmanlike way".

**14 September 1999** Putin states "What is now urgently required is that the unconditional direct subordination of the regional units of the power-wielding



departments to their federal centre should be restored."

**14 September 1999** Federal forces take the Novolakskiy District centre in Dagestan.

**15 September 1999** An unidentified man speaking with a Caucasus accent and claiming to represent the "Dagestan Liberation Army" tells ITAR-TASS by telephone that the explosions in Buynaksk and Moscow were carried out by this organization.

**15 September 1999** The Russian president's press secretary, Dmitriy Yakushkin, denies rumours, which have appeared in the media, about the imminent resignation of Vladimir Putin and his replacement by Aleksandr Lebed.

**15 September 1999** Vladimir Putin states that the people who blew up the apartment blocks in the Russian capital are now hiding on Chechen territory. Putin says that Russia intends to demand that the terrorists be handed over.

**15 September 1999** FSB spokesman Aleksandr Zdanovich says the FSB has established the real names of those who organised the Moscow bombings.

**15 September 1999** The State Duma passes a resolution "On the situation in the Republic of Dagestan and urgent measures to ensure the Russian Federation's national security and the fight against terrorism".

**15 September 1999** Twenty-seven terrorist suspects have been arrested in Moscow over the period 9-14 September as part of Operation Whirlwind (Vikhr).

**15 September 1999** TV reports that the government information directorate has just reported that Defence Minister Igor Sergeyev has told Vladimir Putin that Dagestan has been completely liberated from terrorists. However he does not rule out new guerrilla attacks in Dagestan.

**15 September 1999** The FSB states that it has arrested Abdulla Omarov, "suspected on good grounds" to be involved in the explosion in the block of flats in Buynaksk.

**15 September 1999** *Moskovskiy Komsomolets* says that rumours about Yel'tsin resigning rumours "have a serious basis."

**15 September 1999** Krasnoyarsk governor Aleksandr Lebed says that the Russian People's Republican Party and the Honour and Motherland movement will not participate in the parliamentary elections to the State Duma in December.

**15 September 1999** General Vladimir Semenov, the head of Karachay-Cherkessia, tells Vladimir Putin and the head of the presidential administration, Aleksandr Voloshin, that he will form all bodies of power in Karachay-Cherkessia over the next month and a half and take into account the interests of all ethnic groups who are residing in the republic. The supporters of Stanislav Derev who lost the election call for Cherkessian secession.

**15 September 1999** The parliament of Tatarstan votes to halt conscription to the Russian armed forces until the draftees of 1999 are sent back. It passes a resolution to this effect following a report that six conscripts drafted in Tatarstan had been killed in Dagestan, and in particular, two of them who had served just over 40 days.

**16 September 1999** Yel'tsin says that the administrative border with Chechnya must be strengthened "to exclude the movement of transport from that direction".

**16 September 1999** Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says that he intends to promote cooperation with foreign nations in the effort to combat terrorism.

**16 September 1999** FSB spokesman Aleksandr Zdanovich says that the FSB and police officers found bomb timers set for specific dates up to 21 September.

**16 September 1999** A congress of two Caucasian peoples adopt a resolution to secede from the republic they share with a third ethnic group and form an autonomy. Some 900 delegates of the Cherkess and Abaza ethnic groups decide to secede from the Republic of Karachay-Cherkessia and restore the Cherkess Autonomous Region within the Stavropol Territory.

**16 September 1999** The presidential envoy in Russia's State Duma, the lower house of parliament, Aleksandr Kotenkov, says, "I don't see any real possibility for the president's early resignation".

**16 September 1999** Yel'tsin's press secretary, Dmitry Yakushin, expresses shock at suggestions made in *Moskovskiy Komsomolets* that the Kremlin may be connected with the recent wave of terrorism.

**16 September 1999** A bomb goes off in a truck in front of an apartment building in Volgograd in southern Russia. Several people are killed. TV reports that the owner of the Volgograd bomb lorry has been detained.

**16 September 1999** Vladimir Putin says that the decision of the Tatarstan authorities to suspend the military call-up in Tatarstan was destroying the Russian armed forces.

**17 September 1999** RIA-Novosti reports that the Russian MOD is drawing up a plan for the eventuality of carrying out a large-scale operation to destroy armed formations and their bases on Chechen territory.

**17 September 1999** Moscow mayor Yury Luzhkov officially announces his intention to run for mayor during the December Duma elections.

**17 September 1999** The Federation Council adopts a resolution on the situation in the North Caucasus and measures to safeguard security in Russia.

**17 September 1999** Igor Ivanov in Iceland says that the rebels who are operating on the territory of Dagestan and who have committed terrorist acts in Moscow and other towns of Russia are backed by forces which are acting from abroad.

**17 September 1999** The MIA names Achemez Shagabanovich Gochiyayev as the man wanted by the police investigating recent bombings in Moscow.

**17 September 1999** Interfax reports that two men suspected of carrying out terrorist explosions on the Kashirskoye Highway and Guryanova Street have been detained by the operatives of the Russian Interior Ministry's main directorate for fighting organized crime and the FSB.

**18 September 1999** Yury Luzhkov says Yel'tsin should step down.

**18 September 1999** Russian TV reports that asked what politician people would like to nominate for the post of president, the following results were given:

Yevgenny Primakov	29%
Gennady Zyuganov	15%
Yury Luzhkov	9%
Grigory Yavlinskiy	9%
Sergey Stepashin	6%
Vladimir Zhirinovskiy	5%

42% could not choose.

**18 September 1999** *Segodnya* reports that Yel'tsin might step down because of health problems and the Kremlin is preparing Aleksandr Lebed as Yel'tsin's successor. Boris Berezovskiy might also take up a senior post. He is expected to be in charge of problems in the Caucasus. The newspaper [www.gazeta.ru](http://www.gazeta.ru) writes about this as well. It claims that Yel'tsin will have to be taken to hospital over the next 10-15 days, either officially or under the pretext of another holiday.

**18 September 1999** Yel'tsin aide Igor Shabdurasulov says that the early resignation of the president is not under consideration.

**18 September 1999** Russian planes continue air raids against militants' bases in Chechnya. Officer on duty at the provisional press centre of the Russian Defence Ministry in Dagestan, Lt-Col Viktor Gubriy, says "troops are being re-grouped at present, and this will continue until sufficient forces are created along the entire administrative border with the Chechen republic".

**18 September 1999** Interfax reports from Grozny that motorised units of the Russian armed forces cross into Chechnya from Ingushetia up to 1.5 km deep.

**18 September 1999** Russian minister for Nationalities, Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, says at a press conference that hotbeds of banditry in Chechnya must be wiped out. He says there is the need for a "serious talk" with Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov. Mikhaylov says talks are under way on a meeting of delegates of the Russian leadership with Maskhadov for generating antiterrorism measures. Mikhaylov also said it would soon become known if Vladimir Putin and Maskhadov would meet.

**18 September 1999** Russian Public TV reports that Tatarstan Muslims are being recruited by Chechen rebels.

**19 September 1999** Vladimir Putin defends the recent military action of federal forces in Dagestan, saying that the operations had been completely successful and were carried out according to a scenario thought out in advance. He criticised the Khasavyurt agreements to end the war in Chechnya, as these had made Russia seem a soft target for "international terrorists".

**19 September 1999** Boris Berezovskiy is interviewed on TV. He says he opposes leadership changes in Russia and says that Yel'tsin's resignation would be a "tragic mistake" for Russia. He also praises Vladimir Putin as the right man for the job.

**20 September 1999** Maj-Gen Valeriy Astanin, the deputy head of the Defence Ministry's Main Organization/Mobilization Directorate, says the conflict between Russia and Tatarstan over military service has been resolved. He said the Russian Defence Ministry "gladly satisfied" the request of Tatarstan's parliamentarians not to send Tatarstan's soldiers to fight in armed conflicts if they have been in the army less than six months. The Tatarstan parliament is likely to cancel its decision suspending conscription in the republic at its session on 23rd September 1999.

**20 September 1999** Finance Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says Russia and the Paris Club have concluded their talks on the restructuring of debts by the end of 2000. Russia agrees to pay 620m dollars to Paris Club in the next two years.

**20 September 1999** The Duma budget commission recommends rejection of draft 2000 budget. It provides R119.3bn (2.34% of GDP) to the armed forces and R77.8bn (1.53% of GDP) for law enforcement and national security.

**20 September 1999** Yury Luzhkov says the war on corruption is one of the OVR's main tasks. He says he expects the OVR to be the biggest faction in the next Duma.

**20 September 1999** The Party of Working People's Self-Government and the Union of People's Power and Labour at their congress adopted a decision to "organize a single bloc on the basis of a coalition of the centre-leftist socialist forces."

**20 September 1999** The KRO confirms its split from OVR.

**20 September 1999** The first deputy chief of the General Staff of the Russian armed forces, Col-Gen Valery Manilov, states the operation to eliminate the bandit formations which invaded Dagestan has moved into its second stage. He says "the essence of the second stage lies in creating two or three lines along the administrative border of Chechnya and Dagestan. Subunits of the Internal Troops and militia are deployed on the first line and have total control of everything crossing the border." He also says that Russian forces may have to enter Chechnya.

**21 September 1999** Sources in the Russian military headquarters in the Caucasus tell Interfax that a federal force of almost 13,000 is positioned near Russia's administrative border with Chechnya. Nearly 8,000 Defence Ministry servicemen, including some 3,000 paratroopers, constitute the nucleus of this grouping.

**21 September 1999** Deputy prime minister Ilya Klebanov proposes that defence spending total 3.5% of GDP in the 2000 budget.

**21 September 1999** The second part of the CPRF congress opens in Moscow.

**21 September 1999** RIA reports that a source in the Interior Ministry has said that the "Moscow blasts can unmistakably be traced back to the North Caucasus". He said that energetic and successful work by law-enforcement bodies had "scared off the terrorists". After the discovery of stored explosives in Moscow, "confidence has emerged" that "no more acts of terrorism will happen in Moscow."

**21 September 1999** The Russian government seals the border with Chechnya.

**21 September 1999** Aleksandr Lebed is interviewed in *Le Soir*. He says "not only can Russia be governed by a general, it must be. The people have lost confidence in everything, and that is understandable in a country where there is large-scale thievery and cheating."

**22 September 1999** The Duma fails to pass on first reading a draft law on amendments to the Constitution under which the president would be able to appoint and dismiss the prime minister, his deputies and the heads of seven key

ministries only with the consent of the lower house of the Federal Assembly. The house was short of 79 votes.

**22 September 1999** 1,200 Internal Troops arrive in Dagestan to protect the border with Chechnya.

**22 September 1999** A rally in the capital of Karachay-Cherkessia demands the resignation of Vladimir Semenov.

**22 September 1999** Emergencies Minister Sergey Shoygu confirms that he has been offered to lead an election bloc provisionally named Yedinstvo (Unity). He has not yet decided to take up the post. The idea to set up Yedinstvo was introduced on 20 September 1999, and more than 50 members of the Federation Council, the upper house of parliament, back it.

**23 September 1999** Interfax reports that the Defence Ministry is considering the use of heavy bombers against rebel bases in Chechnya. The headquarters of the group of Federal forces in the Northern Caucasus confirms that frontline aircraft carried out air strikes on targets in the area of Groznyy airport.

**23 September 1999** Vladimir Putin states on Russian TV that Russian special services have reliable intelligence about international terrorist Osama bin Laden visiting Chechnya several times.

**23 September 1999** Conscription is resumed in Tatarstan.

**23 September 1999** *RIA Novosti* reports that head of the presidential administration Aleksandr Voloshin has demanded that Viktor Chernomyrdin give up his leadership of NDR, set up a new bloc and head it together with Emergencies Minister Sergey Shoygu. The new bloc is to be based on the NDR and Transformation of Fatherland (Preobrazheniye Otechestva) headed by Yekaterinburg governor Eduard Rossel.

**23 September 1999** Finance Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says in Frankfurt that the London Club has agreed to consider writing off part of the Soviet debt.

**23 September 1999** The Dukhovnoye Naslediye movement states that it will contest the Duma election on its own.

**24 September 1999** Vladimir Putin says there will be no repeat of the Chechen war despite the stationing of large numbers of Russian troops on the Chechen border.

**24 September 1999** Putin denies rumours that the government will resign

following the recent terrorist bomb explosions. He says elections will take place on time in Russia.

**24 September 1999** Sergey Shoygu accepts an offer to head the federal list of the new electoral bloc Unity.

**24 September 1999** Vladimir Putin says there are no plans for a ground operation in Chechnya.

**24 September 1999** Aleksandr Lebed calls for "emergency rule" in North Caucasus.

**25 September 1999** Suspended Russian Prosecutor-General Yury Skuratov maintains that Yel'tsin has no involvement in the case surrounding the Swiss company Mabetex.

**25 September 1999** The chairman of the Russian CEC, Aleksandr Veshnyakov, says that the presidential elections are likely to be held on 4 June 2000. The date is being set in a new draft law on presidential elections. A newly elected president must take office on the day his predecessor's four-year term expires, ie on 9 August 2000. Under the draft law, the date of the election must be announced between mid-January and 4 February 2000.

**25 September 1999** An opinion poll on Russian Public TV asking people who they would vote for in a Duma election, reports:

OVR	29%
CPRF	21%
Yabloko	10%
People's Patriotic Party of Aleksandr Lebed	4%
LDPR	3%
Women of Russia	3%
NDR	2%
Union of Right Forces	2%

**25 September 1999** Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov suggests that the leaders of Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia should set up a single interstate body to fight organized crime, and above all kidnapping.

**26 September 1999** Defence Minister Igor Sergeyev says he does not rule out a ground operation in rebel Chechnya, saying that it would depend on the situation.

**26 September 1999** Two hundred Russian armoured vehicles, backed by helicopter gunships, advance from Ingushetia to the border with Chechnya.

**26 September 1999** Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov says he is ready for constructive dialogue with Russian leadership.

**26 September 1999** Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, member of Fatherland Central Committee, says the creation of Unity is an attempt by the Kremlin to weaken OVR.

**26 September 1999** Yevgenny Primakov says the Kremlin should not take sides in the current parliamentary election campaign. He says he has not yet decided whether to run for the Russian presidency in mid-2000.

**26 September 1999** Chechen authorities report that Russian aircraft have bombed Groznyy.

**26 September 1999** In an interview in *La Repubblica* Aleksandr Lebed says Yel'tsin should resign.

**27 September 1999** Vladimir Putin says a meeting between Yel'tsin and the leaders of North Caucasus regions with Aslan Maskhadov, scheduled for this week, has been postponed.

**27 September 1999** The Russian air force resumes attacking the positions in Chechnya.

**27 September 1999** Primakov calls for the creation of post of vice-president.

**27 September 1999** It is reported on Russian Public TV that Russian forces in Dagestan are fortifying defensive positions along the administrative border with Chechnya and laying minefields on approaches to these positions.

**27 September 1999** RIA reports that Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov has sent a confidential letter to Dagestani State Council Chairman Magomedali Magomedov, Ingush President Ruslan Aushev and North Osetian President Aleksandr Dzasokhov, appealing to them to unite the North Caucasian republics against the federal centre and squeeze the Russians out of the region.

**27 September 1999** Russia halts pension payments in Chechnya. The head of the Russian Pension Fund, Mikhail Zurabov, says that the fund has suspended its operation in Chechnya because it does not have information that the funds are being used properly.

**27 September 1999** Anatoly Chubays, chairman of the board of United Energy Systems, suggests to the government that the electricity supply to Chechnya should be suspended in view of its failure to pay for energy already supplied.



**27 September 1999** Yel'tsin meets the director of the Federal Border Guard Service, Konstantin Totskiy, and discusses the Northern Caucasus situation.

**27 September 1999** 31 regional heads issue support for the Unity movement. Its leader Sergey Shoygu denies Kremlin pressure, and any involvement with Boris Berezovskiy. Shoygu sees as possible allies NDR, Yabloko, OVR.

**28 September 1999** The Duma begins its first reading of the draft budget for 2000.

**28 September 1999** The head of armaments, Col-Gen Anatoly Sitnov, says that the Russian armed forces "are fully supplied with the resources and have more than enough" to undertake any possible ground operation in Chechnya.

**28 September 1999** Defence Minister Igor Sergeyev meets Yel'tsin in the Kremlin. They discuss the situation in the North Caucasus and the state of the armed forces and the financing of the army. He also meets interior minister Vladimir Rushaylo.

**28 September 1999** The Duma votes to reject the draft 2000 budget in its first reading. The voting figures were 105 in favour of the draft, 212 against and five abstentions. In a further vote, the deputies decided to forward the document to a conciliation commission drawn from the State Duma, the Federation Council and the government.

**28 September 1999** Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev says the Duma will reopen the debate on the 2000 draft federal budget in first reading in mid-October.

**28 September 1999** The government information department says Russia's next census will be taken on 9-16 October 2002.

**28 September 1999** Ingush President Ruslan Aushev appeals for humanitarian aid to cope with the inflow of refugees from Chechnya.

**28 September 1999** The self-proclaimed Cherkess region proclaimed at an emergency congress of deputies and sociopolitical movements of the Abazin and Cherkess peoples, forms its own parliament. Zaudin Khunov is elected as head of the new parliament.

**29 September 1999** Interfax reports that informed sources in the Russian Defence Ministry are stating that preparations for the federal forces' ground operation in Chechnya have entered their final stage. They said that the force which is to operate in Chechnya has "effectively been formed" and that combat-ready airborne and infantry units constitute its nucleus. About 20,000 Defence Ministry and Interior Ministry servicemen have been transferred to Dagestan and North Osetia to

reinforce the grouping of the North Caucasus Military District.

**29 September 1999** The collegium of the Russian MOD decides to bring to completion the drafting of the country's new military doctrine and submit it to the country's Security Council.

**29 September 1999** Interior minister Vladimir Rushaylo reports results of antiterrorist Operation Whirlwind. He says that a total of 95 crimes involving the use of explosives have been solved since 15 September 1999 and 16 potential terrorist acts were prevented. He says that 161,000 units of police and MIA troops had been deployed under the Whirlwind antiterror operation. In the course of the operation 2,700 members of criminal gangs had been detected.

**29 September 1999** Moscow deputy mayor Valery Shantsev says some 10,000 non-Muscovites have been deported from the city and 526 have left it of their free will as a result of a registration campaign. Out of 121,000 non-Muscovites registered earlier, 100,000 have been reregistered.

**29 September 1999** Head of the Central Bank Viktor Gerashchenko states in an interview in *Argumenty i Fakty* that capital flight from Russia is about 1bn dollars per month.

**29 September 1999** Vladimir Putin says the federal authorities "will never allow a repetition of what occurred in Chechnya in 1994." He says, "I have never said that there would not be a ground operation". Putin says that this does not mean "that such an operation is bound to take place". But the task of wiping out the rebel formations "has to be resolved". "Options are possible as to what means will be used to this end."

**29 September 1999** Salman Raduyev says that Russia and Chechnya must immediately sign a treaty. He says under the treaty "Chechnya would undertake not to engage in hostile activities against Russia for 50 years, enter into a union with Russia like that between Russia and Belarus and declare that it would never fight with Russia even in the case of a conflict between Russia and a Muslim country".

**29 September 1999** Shamil Basayev is appointed as commander of the Eastern command of the government defence forces of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria.

**29 September 1999** Chechen president Aslan Maskhadov forbids top officials from leaving Chechnya.

**30 September 1999** The North Caucasus Military District HQ says that the Russian air force has made over 30 air raids over militant positions in Chechnya during the past 24 hours.

**30 September 1999** Chechen Defence Minister Magomed Khambiyev says when federal troops start a land operation in Chechnya, "military actions will start on Russian territory."

**30 September 1999** The Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations states that there are 78,000 Chechen refugees in Ingushetia.

**30 September 1999** Yury Luzhkov says Otechestvo should be transformed into a political party.

**30 September 1999** Vladimir Putin says that the objective of Russian military action against Chechnya is not to destroy militants but to protect Chechen civilians.

**30 September 1999** Ingush President Ruslan Aushev denies reports that the Ingush leaders plan to close the border with Chechnya.

**30 September 1999** Russian Finance Minister Vladimir Kasyanov says the Russian Finance Ministry has remitted R300m to render aid to reconstruct the Republic of Dagestan since military operations were launched there.

**30 September 1999** A survey conducted by the Public Opinion Foundation asked people who they would vote for in a presidential election.

Yevgenny Primakov	19%
Gennady Zyuganov	16%
Vladimir Putin	9%

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