

Major International Events

Major International Events

January 1, 2003–December 31, 2003

Domestic		International	
January			
5	China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs protests the lease of private land in Senkaku Islands by the Japanese Government.	5	Suicide bombings in the Old City of Tel Aviv occur, killing 22 and injuring some 100.
6	Prime Minister Koizumi affirms that 15 victims of abduction by North Korean authorities are protected under Law Concerning Support for Victims of Abduction.	6	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors Meeting in Vienna adopts by consensus a resolution that requests North Korea to abolish promptly its nuclear development program.
6	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi visits Sri Lanka and holds talks with Foreign Minister Fernando in Colombo.		
7-8	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi visits India and holds talks with Prime Minister Vajpayee and External Affairs Minister Sinha in New Delhi.	7	Japan-US-ROK Trilateral Coordination and Oversight Group (TCOG) issues joint statement expressing serious concern over North Korea's lifting of its nuclear freeze.
9-12	Prime Minister Koizumi visits Russia and holds talks with President Putin and signs the Japan-Russia Action Plan in Moscow which is to serve as a guideline for cooperation between two countries. Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of the Russian Federation to the Far Eastern Federal District Pulikovskiy in Khabarovsk and requests Russia to call on North Korea.	9	United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) Executive Chairman Blix makes interim report at UN Security Council on Iraq's declaration concerning its weapons of mass destruction (WMD) development program and on the progress of inspections. Executive Chairman Blix reports that the declaration fails to clarify unresolved issues from the past.
		10	North Korean government declares its withdrawal from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and renunciation of the safeguards agreement with the IAEA.
		12	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agrees to increase production by 1.5 million barrels a day in Vienna.
13	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi, who is on a visit to France, holds talks with President Chirac and Foreign Minister de Villepin in Paris.	12	President-elect Roh Moo Hyun holds talks with US Assistant Secretary of State Kelly and confirms Japan-US-ROK trilateral coordination regarding North Korea's nuclear issue in Seoul.
13-15	In order to conclude a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Japan and Mexico, the two governments carry out a second round of inter-governmental negotiations in Mexico City.		
14	Prime Minister Koizumi visits Yasukuni Shrine.		
15-16	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi, who is on a visit to the ROK, holds talks with President-elect Roh Moo Hyun and Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Choi Sung Hong in Seoul.	15	US asks the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) for logistic support during military operation against Iraq.
16	His Majesty The Emperor is hospitalized for surgery due to prostate cancer.	16	UNMOVIC discovers 11 warheads in weapons storage depot in southeastern Baghdad capable of carrying chemical weapons. Documents on uranium laser enrichment are found at the home of an Iraqi scientist.
17	Chinese armed police detain Japanese wife who escaped from North Korea to China.	17	10,000 people from US Marine Corps leave for the Persian Gulf in preparation for a military operation against Iraq.

Domestic		International	
19	Chief Cabinet Secretary Fukuda and Foreign Minister Kawaguchi hold talks with visiting US Assistant Secretary of State Kelly in Tokyo.	20	UNMOVIC Executive Chairman Blix and IAEA Director General ElBaradei visit Iraq and agree on ten items to strengthen inspection procedures in Baghdad.
20	The 156th Ordinary Session of the Diet is convened.	20	General Secretary Kim Jong-Il of North Korea holds talks with Deputy Foreign Minister Losyukov, who is a special envoy of the Russian president, on the nuclear issue in Pyongyang. Both agree to continue consultations that include the US.
		21–24	9th inter-Korean ministerial talks (Seoul)
		22	French President Chirac holds talks with German Chancellor Schroeder in Paris and both agree to work toward a peaceful resolution of the Iraq issue.
		23	Foreign ministers' meeting in Istanbul of six neighboring countries to Iraq announces declaration opposing a military operation in Iraq.
24	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi holds talks with visiting US Undersecretary of State Bolton in Tokyo.	24	US forces bomb Iraqi air defense facilities in southern Iraq as well as communications facilities on the 26th.
		27	UNMOVIC Executive Chairman Blix and IAEA Director General ElBaradei officially report on inspections of Iraq's WMD to UN Security Council and criticize Iraq for its non-cooperative stance.
		27–29	Special Envoy of the ROK President Lim Dong Won visits Pyongyang, North Korea.
		28	Prime Minister Sharon's right-wing party wins overwhelmingly at Israel's general elections.
		28	US President Bush, in his State of the Union address, emphasizes the decision to disarm Iraq and expresses his intention to work toward a peaceful resolution of the North Korean issue in Washington, DC.
29	Custody of Japanese wife who escaped from North Korea is handed over to Japanese side by Chinese armed police after negotiations between the two governments.	29	Security Council confirms decision to continue with inspections in Iraq.

February			
1–9	Fifth Winter Asian Games is held in Aomori. The ROK and North Korea make joint entrance for the first time.	1	Treaty of Nice, the new treaty on the European Union (EU), enters into force.
		2	Czech President Havel steps down with the end of his term in office.
		4	New state union of Serbia and Montenegro is formed in place of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.
		5	US Secretary of State Powell presents intelligence concerning Iraq's development of WMD at a foreign ministers' meeting at the Security Council.
7	Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with visiting National Assembly member Chyung Dai Chul, the special envoy of the ROK president-elect Roh Moo Hyun, in Tokyo.	6	Ten Middle East and European countries express support to the US concerning a military operation against Iraq.

Domestic		International	
9–10	Prime Minister Koizumi and Foreign Minister Kawaguchi hold talks with visiting High Representative for the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy Solana in Tokyo.	8–9	UNMOVIC Executive Chairman Blix and IAEA Director General ElBaradei visit Iraq and express concern regarding Iraq's lack of information disclosure.
		9	Iranian President Khatami announces Iran has its own program to produce uranium fuel.
		10	France, Germany and Belgium reject US request for NATO's assistance to Turkey in preparation for a military operation against Iraq.
		10	Russian President Putin, who is on a visit to France, holds talks with President Chirac in Paris. Along with Germany, the three countries issue a declaration opposing a military operation against Iraq.
		11	Chinese President Jiang Zemin expresses support for France-Germany-Russia declaration opposing a military operation against Iraq.
		12	IAEA Board of Governors Meeting in Vienna decides to refer North Korea's nuclear issue to the Security Council.
		14	UNMOVIC Executive Chairman Blix praises progress of inspections in Iraq at a foreign ministerial-level meeting at the Security Council. The Security Council is divided between US, UK and Spain, which request a military operation, and those who support the continuance of inspections.
		14	US President Bush releases National Strategy for Combating Terrorism, which states that the US will not hesitate to act preemptively against terrorists.
		14	Iraqi President Hussein issues a presidential decree banning the production and import of WMD.
		14–16	World Trade Organization (WTO) Tokyo Informal Ministerial Meeting concludes without an agreement, especially on agricultural negotiations of the New Round.
		16	Emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers is held in Cairo.
		17	EU Summit Meeting issues a joint statement in Brussels on support for continuous inspections by UN in Iraq.
18	Four defectors from North Korea seek asylum at Japanese school in Beijing, China.	18–19	In the open debate of the Security Council, the IAEA reports the nuclear issue of North Korea.
18	Japanese Permanent Representative to the UN Koichi Haraguchi expresses support to the US and UK concerning a military operation against Iraq at the official meeting of the Security Council.		
21	Prime Minister Koizumi and Foreign Minister Kawaguchi hold talks with visiting Afghan President Karzai in Tokyo.	19	Mounir el Motassadeq, who is responsible for 2001 terrorist attacks in the US, gets 15-year prison sentence in Hamburg.
21	Japanese Consulate General in Shenyang takes custody of Japanese wife and daughter who escaped from North Korea.		
22	Tokyo Conference on "Consolidation of Peace" (DDR) in Afghanistan - Change of Order "from Guns to Plows" is held in Tokyo.	22	IAEA Director General ElBaradei visits Iran and inspects nuclear-related facilities.

Domestic		International	
22	Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with visiting US Secretary of State Powell in Tokyo.	24	North Korea launches land-to-ship missiles from its eastern seaboard to the Sea of Japan.
		24	US, UK and Spain submit draft resolution authorizing a military operation against Iraq to the Security Council. France, Russia and Germany submit a memorandum seeking the continuance and intensification of inspections. On the same day, Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan, who held talks with US Secretary of State Powell, expresses objection to the submission of the draft resolution.
		24-25	Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement is held, and Final Document supporting the continuance of inspections is released in Kuala Lumpur.
25	Prime Minister Koizumi, who is on a visit to the ROK, holds talks with ROK President Roh Moo Hyun in Seoul.	25	Inauguration of 16th President of the ROK Roh Moo Hyun
		25-26	North Korea resumes graphite-moderated nuclear reactor in Yongbyon.
		26	Informal meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) is held in Kuala Lumpur.
		27	Iraq Reports to UNMOVIC that it agrees to destroy its Al Samoud 2 ballistic missiles.
		28	Sharon's second-term cabinet is inaugurated in Israel.

March

		1	Arab League Summit issues final resolution in Sharm el-Sheikh demonstrating support for continued inspections and nonparticipation in the war against Iraq.
		1	Turkish Grand National Assembly rejects government bill that requests the stationing of US military in Turkey.
		3	North Korean MiG fighters fly abnormally close to US reconnaissance plane, following it for approximately 20 minutes.
		4	Terrorist bombing in passenger terminal of Davao International Airport suspected to be by anti-governmental force, Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), occurs in Mindanao, the Philippines, killing 21 and injuring some 150.
		5	Joint Statement is released following France-Germany-Russia Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Paris, pressing to continue with inspections and to block the passage of Security Council resolution supporting a military operation against Iraq.
		5	Emergency Summit Meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Qatar and Doha expresses opposition to attacking Iraq.
		6	At a press conference, US President Bush emphasizes his plans to go to war even if a Security Council resolution approving a military operation against Iraq is not adopted.

Domestic		International	
8	International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO) issues international arrest warrant for former Peruvian President Fujimori, who is a resident of Japan.	7	UNMOVIC Executive Chairman Blix reports to Security Council on inspections in Iraq. US, UK and Spain submit draft resolution seeking complete disarmament by the 17th to Security Council.
14	Japanese Government decides to review Official Development Assistance (ODA) Charter at the Council of Overseas Economic Cooperation-Related Ministers.	10	North Korea launches land-to-ship missiles in the direction of the Sea of Japan.
16–23	3rd World Water Forum is held in Kyoto, Shiga and Osaka.	11	Six nonpermanent members of the Security Council propose a 45-day extension of the revised draft resolution by the US, UK and Spain.
18–21	Peace talks between the Sri Lankan government and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a militant group of minority Tamils, are held in Hakone, Kanagawa.	12	Serbian Prime Minister Djindjic is assassinated and a nationwide state of emergency is declared.
19	US Secretary of State Powell names 30 of the 45 countries including Japan that support a military operation against Iraq.	14	US President Bush lifts sanctions imposed on Pakistan since 1999.
20	Prime Minister Koizumi announces that he “understands and supports” the US decision on a military operation against Iraq and the government decides on five Action Guidelines for Responding to the Issue of Iraq.	15	Chinese National People’s Congress (NPC) elects General Secretary Hu Jintao as president.
		15	World Health Organization (WHO) issues emergency travel advisory concerning Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).
		15	France, Germany and Russia deny justification for a military operation against Iraq, decide on disarmament to be the priority issue and propose to hold a ministerial-level Security Council meeting to draft a schedule for disarmament.
		16	Chinese NPC elects Wen Jiabao as State Council premier.
		16	US President Bush, UK Prime Minister Blair, Spanish Prime Minister Aznar and Portuguese Prime Minister Barroso hold talks in Azores Islands, Portugal. As a result, on the 17th, the US, UK and Spanish ambassadors to the UN announce the withdrawal of the draft resolution submitted to the UN.
		17	In a televised address, US President Bush demands Iraqi President Hussein leave the country within 48 hours.
		18	Iraqi President Hussein rejects US warning and declares adamant resistance.
		19	President of the Palestinian Authority Arafat appoints Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Secretary General Abu Mazen as prime minister of Palestinian Authority.
		19	US President Bush declares the start of military operation against Iraq. US and UK forces commence air strikes on Iraq including Baghdad via cruise missiles, etc., on the 20th.
		20–21	European Council is held in Brussels, and Statement calling for UN-centered post-war reconstruction efforts in Iraq is adopted. In addition, with regard to the nuclear issue, North Korea is requested to abstain.

Domestic		International	
20	WTO Panel issues its interim report, concluding that the phytosanitary measure by Japan on apples is inconsistent with WTO rules.		
23	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi announces grant aid of US\$100 million to Jordan in preparation for the military operation against Iraq.	25–28	Special Session of the Committee on Agriculture in Geneva, part of the WTO new multilateral trade negotiations (New Round), abandons attempt to set modalities for open markets.
26	UN Permanent Representative Haraguchi expresses support for actions taken by various countries, including the US, in relation to the military operation against Iraq, at the open meeting of the Security Council.	26	Slovakia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are authorized to newly accede to NATO from 2004, and sign Protocols of Accession in Brussels.
28	The FY2003 budget is passed.		
28	Japan successfully launches Information Gathering Satellites (IGS) for the first time.		
30	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi holds talks with visiting Korean Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Yoon Young Kwan in Tokyo.		
31	Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with visiting Korean Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Yoon Young Kwan in Tokyo.	31	EU takes over NATO-led Peacekeeping Operations in Macedonia.
31	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi holds talks with Commander, US Pacific Command, Admiral Thomas Boulton Fargo in Tokyo.	31	World Food Programme (WFP) supplies goods to Iraq for the first time as a UN organization.

April			
		1	North Korea launches land-to-ship missiles in the direction of the Yellow Sea.
		2	WHO recommends people traveling to Hong Kong and Guangdong Province, China to consider postponing all but essential travel to prevent the spread of SARS.
3	Japanese Government treats SARS as a “new infectious disease” under the Infectious Disease Law.	3	NATO-EU Joint Foreign Ministers’ Meeting consults on the Iraq issue in Brussels.
		3	Russian Foreign Minister Ivanov and US Secretary of State Powell hold talks for the first time in Brussels since the start of the war in Iraq.
		4	UN Secretary-General Annan emphasizes that the UN is prepared to actively engage itself in the post-war reconstruction of Iraq.
6–7	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi, who is on a visit to China, holds talks with Premier Wen Jiabao and Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing in Beijing.	7–8	US President Bush and UK Prime Minister Blair hold talks in Northern Ireland on the issue of post-war Iraq.
10	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi visits Germany and holds talks with Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister Fischer in Berlin.	9	US forces take control of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, leading to the collapse of the Hussein regime.
10	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi visits France and holds talks with Foreign Minister de Villepin in Paris.		

Domestic		International	
10	Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with visiting Russian Defense Minister Ivanov in Tokyo.	11	US President Bush officially affirms the collapse of the Hussein regime for the first time and declares victory.
11	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi visits the UK and holds talks with Foreign Secretary Straw in London.	11	Russian President Putin, French President Chirac and German Chancellor Schroeder hold talks in St. Petersburg and agree that UN should play the leading role in handling the post-war Iraq situation.
		11	US Secretary of State Powell rejects the French-German-Russian demand for the UN to take the leading role in handling the post-war Iraq situation.
		15	First preparatory meeting for consultations on Iraq's future is held in Nasiriyah, and representatives of each ethnic and religious group participate.
		16	UN Commission on Human Rights adopts, for the first time, a resolution condemning human rights abuses committed by North Korea including abduction of Japanese.
		16	WHO identifies the cause of SARS to a new pathogen of the coronavirus, and names it the "SARS virus."
18	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi announces dispatch of civilians for Iraq's post-war governance.	23–25	US-China-North Korea Trilateral Meeting regarding the North Korean nuclear issue is held in Beijing.
		23	WHO extends travel advisory to Beijing and Shanxi Province, China and Toronto, Canada.
		24	Security Council in New York adopts Resolution 1476, extending until June 3 the Oil for Food Program for the exchange of oil for food based on Resolution 1472.
26–5/5	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi visits Jordan, Israel, Palestinian territories and Syria.	27–29	10th inter-Korean ministerial talks are held in Pyongyang.
26	ASEAN+3 (Japan, China, ROK) holds Health Ministers Meeting in Kuala Lumpur and adopts a joint statement regarding the prevention of the spread of SARS.		
27	Prime Minister Koizumi visits the UK and holds talks with Prime Minister Blair in London.		
28	Prime Minister Koizumi visits Spain and holds talks with HM King Juan Carlos I and Prime Minister Aznar.		
28	Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Minister Toyama holds talks with IAEA Director General ElBaradei in Vienna.		
29	Prime Minister Koizumi visits France and holds talks with President Chirac in Paris.	29	Palestinian Legislative Council approves new Abu Mazen cabinet in Ramallah in the West Bank.
		29	US, Russia, EU and the UN present new Palestinian peace plan (Roadmap).
30	Prime Minister Koizumi visits Germany and holds talks with Chancellor Schroeder in Berlin.	30	North Korea's foreign ministry strongly suggests that it possesses nuclear weapons.

Domestic		International	
May			
1–2	Prime Minister Koizumi, who is on a visit to Greece, attends the Japan-EU Summit Meeting and holds summit talks with Greek Prime Minister Simitis in Athens.	1	US President Bush declares an end of combat in the military operation against Iraq.
		1	US Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld and Afghan President Karzai hold talks in Kabul and declare an end of the operation against terrorism in Afghanistan.
		2	India and Pakistan agree to normalize diplomatic relations.
4	Minister of State for Defense Ishiba holds talks with Indian Minister of Defence Fernandes in New Delhi.	4	US Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld announces consideration by the Department of Defense to take military action against North Korea.
		6	Interim administration of Iraq starts under US, UK and other forces.
		10	EU accession is approved by a national referendum in Lithuania.
		12	Terrorist bombing in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, killing 34 and injuring some 200.
14	Prime Minister Koizumi meets with ambassadors to Japan from 32 African countries and announces the Initiative for Cooperation for Africa.	14	ROK President Roh Moo Hyun holds talks with US President Bush for the first time in Washington.
16–17	Japan-Pacific Islands Forum Summit Meeting (PALM 2003) is held in Okinawa.	16	A series of terrorist bombings occur in Casablanca, Morocco, killing 44 and injuring over 100.
		17	Israeli Prime Minister Sharon and Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority Abu Mazen hold talks for the first time in Jerusalem. Consultation ends without conclusion.
		21	Earthquake of magnitude 6.7 hits Algeria.
		22–23	G8 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting is held in Paris.
		22	The UN Security Council adopts Resolution 1483 proposed by the US, UK and Spain on the issue of Iraq’s reconstruction, etc.
23	Prime Minister Koizumi, who is on a visit to the US, holds talks with President Bush in Crawford, Texas.		
24	Prime Minister Koizumi, who is on a visit to Egypt, holds talks with President Mubarak in Cairo.		
25	Prime Minister Koizumi, who is on a visit to Saudi Arabia, holds talks with Crown Prince Abdullah in Riyadh.		
		27	Israel serves as chairman for the first time at the Geneva Conference. Arab countries are absent.
30	Cabinet meeting decides to lift economic sanctions on Iraq.	30–31	A ceremony commemorating the 300th anniversary of the foundation of St. Petersburg is held with leaders from over 40 countries.
30	Prime Minister Koizumi, who is on a visit to Russia, holds talks with President Putin in St. Petersburg.	30	Myanmar’s military regime takes custody of National League for Democracy (NLD) leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
		31	US-Russia Summit Meeting is held in St. Petersburg.
31	Prime Minister Koizumi, who is on a visit to Russia, holds talks with Chinese President Hu Jintao for the first time in St. Petersburg.	31	US President Bush announces the Proliferation Security Initiative in Krakow.

Domestic		International	
June			
		1–3	G8 Evian Summit is held.
		1	US-China Summit Meeting is held in Evian.
		4	US President Bush, Israeli Prime Minister Sharon and Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority Abu Mazen hold talks on the “Roadmap” to peace in the Middle East in Aqaba, Jordan and agree to begin its implementation immediately.
6	Three Laws regarding Response to Armed Attacks is enacted and enforced from the 13th.		
7	Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with visiting ROK President Roh Moo Hyun and adopts the Japan-ROK Summit Joint Statement in Tokyo.	7–8	Polish national referendum approves EU accession.
9	North Korea cancels departure of cargo-passenger ship <i>Mangyongbon-92</i> scheduled to enter Niigata Port.		
9–10	Tokyo Conference on Reconstruction and Development of Sri Lanka is held.		
		11	Suicide bombing in central Jerusalem initiated by Hamas, killing 16 and injuring over 80. Israeli security authorities decide on a large-scale military campaign against Hamas.
		12	1st Meeting of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), participated in by 11 countries including Japan and the US, is held in Madrid.
		12–13	Japan-US-ROK Trilateral Coordination and Oversight Group (TCOG) meeting is held in Honolulu.
13	Japanese Government submits to the Diet the Law Concerning Special Measures on Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq, which would enable the dispatch of the SDF to Iraq.	13–14	Czech national referendum approves EU accession.
17	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi attends the Japan-China-ROK Foreign Ministers’ Meeting with ROK Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Yoon Young Kwan and Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing in Phnom Penh and also holds talks separately with Foreign Minister Li.	17–19	ASEAN+3 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, 10th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Ministerial Meeting, and ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference (PMC) are held in Phnom Penh. At the ARF Ministerial Meeting, a joint statement urging Myanmar for early release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is adopted.
17	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi has contact with North Korean Ambassador Ho Jong at the ARF Ministerial Meeting in Phnom Penh.		
18	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi holds talks with US Secretary of State Powell in Phnom Penh.	18	WHO declares SARS to be under control.
		19	Japan-ASEAN Foreign Ministerial Meeting is held in Phnom Penh.
		19	IAEA urges Iran to allow inspections of its nuclear facilities promptly and unconditionally.
		21–22	2nd Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) is held in Chiang Mai.
23	13 people from China and Hong Kong, who claim sovereignty over the Senkaku Islands, trespass into Japanese waters.		
24	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi holds talks with visiting Canadian Foreign Minister Graham.		

Domestic		International	
25	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi holds talks with visiting Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General Razali.	25	Peruvian President Toledo, with the exception of some regions, lifts the declaration of a state of emergency.
25	WTO Panel circulates its final report concluding that the phytosanitary measure imposed by Japan on apples is inconsistent with the WTO Agreement.	26–6/1	WTO New Round negotiations on trade liberalization of agriculture ends without agreement in Geneva.
27	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi holds talks with Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) Executive Director Kartman.	28	North Korean Foreign Minister Paek Nam Sun warns Russian Ambassador to the UN Lavrov (then Security Council Chairman) by a letter, stating that taking up the issue of nuclear development by the Security Council will only benefit the US.
28–29	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi, who is on a visit to Russia, attends Cochair persons' meeting of the Japan-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade and Economic Issues with Deputy Prime Minister Khristenko. Foreign Minister Kawaguchi also holds talks with Presidential Plenipotentiary Representative to the Far Eastern Federal District Pulikovskii, etc.	29	Palestinian extremist Islamic groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad as well as the PLO declare a suspension of attacks against Israel for three months and six months, respectively.

July			
		1–2	Israeli Prime Minister Sharon and Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority Abu Mazen hold talks in Jerusalem.
		2	Israeli forces withdraw from Bethlehem of the Palestinian territories.
		2–3	Japan-US-ROK trilateral consultations regarding the North Korean nuclear issue are held in Washington.
		4	A Shiite Muslim mosque is attacked by an armed group in Quetta, Pakistan, killing over 30 and injuring over 50.
		5	Suicide bombing occurs at outdoor concert hall in Moscow, killing 14 and injuring over 60.
7–11	UN First Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All its Aspects, of which Japan is the chair, is held in New York.	6	Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Finance Ministers' Meeting is held in Bali.
		7	ROK President Roh Moo Hyun visits China for the first time and holds talks with Chinese President Hu Jintao in Beijing.
		9–10	2nd Meeting of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) is held in Brisbane.
10	Two transport aircrafts of the Air Self-Defense Force are dispatched for reconstruction assistance in post-war Iraq for the first time in accordance with the International Peace Cooperation Law (PKO Law). They arrive in Amman, Jordan on the 14th, and goods are airlifted from Italy for the first time on the 17th.	9–12	11th inter-Korean ministerial talks are held in Seoul.
		10	Iraq's seven major political groups and Ambassador Bremer agree in Baghdad to establish an Iraqi Governing Council.
11	WTO circulates to the parties to the dispute a panel report concluding that the safeguard measures imposed by the US on certain steel products are inconsistent with the WTO Agreements.		

Domestic		International	
12	Consultation on Disarmament and Non-proliferation to discuss the issue of nuclear non-proliferation between Japan and Iran is held in Tehran.	13	Iraqi Governing Council is established.
16	Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with visiting Australian Prime Minister Howard in Tokyo.	14	Cyprus House of Representatives ratifies the EU Treaty of Accession.
16	Peruvian Supreme Court approves document requesting the extradition of former Peruvian President Fujimori, who is a resident of Japan.	14	Executive Vice Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo visits North Korea and holds talks with General Secretary Kim Jong-Il in Pyongyang.
16	International meeting to support the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in Paris requests that Japan increases its contributions.	17	US-UK Summit Meeting is held in Washington. Both emphasize that there was evidence demonstrating the existence of WMD in Iraq.
19	Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with visiting UK Prime Minister Blair in Hakone, Kanagawa.	17	A transitional government which includes anti-governmental forces is officially established in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
26	The Law Concerning the Special Measures on Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq is passed and enacted by the House of Councillors.	18	Filipino President Arroyo announces ceasefire agreement with MILF.
28	The 156th Ordinary Session of the Diet is closed.	20	ROK President Roh Moo Hyun holds talks with UK Prime Minister Blair for the first time in Seoul.
31	Ten people believed to have escaped from North Korea run to the Embassy of Japan in Thailand.	20	Vehicle of International Organization for Migration (IOM) is shot at near Baghdad, killing the Iraqi driver. He is the first personnel related to international organizations to become a victim since the collapse of the Hussein regime.
		22	First and second sons of former Iraqi President Hussein, Uday and Qusai, are killed by US forces.
		23–24	ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting is held in Bali.
		27	Officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines seek the resignation of President Arroyo, resulting in a coup d'état. President Arroyo declares a nationwide state of rebellion. The situation is resolved that night.
		28–31	WTO Informal Ministerial Meeting is held in Montreal.
		30	The Iraqi Governing Council elects Shiite Muslim Ibrahim al-Jaafari as its first president.
		31	North Korea announces via China that it will participate in the Six-Party Talks regarding the nuclear issue.

Domestic		International	
August			
5	Both Japan and the US sign the Treaty between Japan and the US on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters in Washington.	1	UN Security Council adopts a resolution for the dispatch of a multinational force to Liberia.
		1	Truck carrying bomb enters the premises of the Russian military hospital in Mozdok, Republic of North Ossetia in southern Russia and explodes, killing 50 and injuring over 150.
		5	Car explodes in front of a US chain hotel in central Jakarta, killing 12 and injuring 150.
		6	Shanghai Cooperation Organization conducts a joint counter-terrorism military exercise.
		6–7	ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers’ Meeting in Manila.
		7	Car stopped in front of Embassy of Jordan in Baghdad explodes, killing 17.
		8	It becomes evident that North Korea rebuilt its facility for test firing the longer-range Taepo Dong 2 missile.
9	Japan, China, ROK and ASEAN adopt the Beijing Declaration on measures for revitalizing the tourism industry, which was affected by SARS.		
10	Chief Cabinet Secretary Fukuda visits China, the first time in eight years for a chief cabinet secretary to do so, and holds talks with Premier Wen Jiabao in Beijing.		
11	Visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing holds talks with Prime Minister Koizumi and Foreign Minister Kawaguchi in Tokyo.	11	NATO takes over commanding rights of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan.
		11	Liberian President Taylor resigns in accordance with the ceasefire agreement in Monrovia, Liberia.
		12	A series of suicide bombings occur in Rosh Ha’ayin and Jewish settlement Ariel in the West Bank, killing four Israelis.
		13	Japan-US-ROK trilateral consultations regarding North Korea are held in Washington.
14	The Japanese Government submits to the Conference on Disarmament a working paper promoting negotiations on the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty.	14	UN Security Council adopts resolution regarding the establishment of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) which aims to assist in the reconstruction of Iraq.
		14	Two hundred US Marines are deployed to Monrovia, Liberia.
		14	Japan-US-ROK director-general-level consultations regarding North Korea’s nuclear issue are held in Washington.
		15	The Libyan government submits to the UN Security Council a letter admitting responsibility for Pan Am bombing incident, which occurred in 1988.
		15	Riduan Isamuddin, the central figure of the terrorist bombing in Bali and leader of the terrorist group Jemaah Islamiya (JI), is arrested in Ayutthaya.
18	Prime Minister Koizumi, who is on a visit to Germany, holds talks with Chancellor Schroeder in Berlin.	18	The Liberian government and two anti-governmental forces sign a peace agreement in Accra.

Domestic		International	
18–27	With the participation of Japan, China, the ROK and Canada, Russian forces conduct a large-scale naval exercise in the waters off the Russian Far East.	19	Terrorist bombing occurs on UN headquarters in Baghdad. Twenty-four people including Special Representative of the Secretary-General de Mello are killed.
19	Prime Minister Koizumi, who is on a visit to Poland, holds talks with Prime Minister Miller in Warsaw.	19	Suicide bombings by Islamic militant groups Islamic Jihad and Hamas occur. At least 21 people are killed and over 130 are injured.
21	Prime Minister Koizumi, who is on a visit to the Czech Republic, holds talks with Prime Minister Spidla in Prague.	21	Israeli forces make an incursion into Jenin, killing a Hamas leader, etc. The suspension of attacks against Israel declared by leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad at the end of June is breached and the ceasefire framework collapses.
22	A poison gas bomb of the former Japanese Army is found in Qiqihar City, Heilongjiang Province, China, and the Chinese government demands compensation to the Japanese Government.	21	The Liberian government and two anti-government groups elect Mr. Bryant as the chairman of the National Transitional Government in Accra.
22	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi, who is on a visit to the ROK, holds talks with Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Yoon Young Kwan in Seoul.		
23	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi, who is on a visit to the ROK, holds talks with President Roh Moo Hyun in Seoul.		
23	The ten residents of North Korea, who ran to the Embassy of Japan in Bangkok to seek asylum, arrive in the ROK.		
25	North Korean cargo-passenger ship <i>Mangyongbon-92</i> enters Niigata Port for the first time in approximately seven months.	25	Bomb carried by car in Mumbai, western India explodes, killing 52 and injuring over 180.
26	Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with visiting Israeli Foreign Minister Shalom in Tokyo and urges the realization of the Roadmap to peace in the Middle East.	26	Attack against US forces by way of explosives in Hamariyah, Iraq. Number of US soldiers killed exceeds that during major combat.
		27	Nepalese anti-governmental armed force unilaterally terminates ceasefire agreement with the government.
28	Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Kharrazi in Tokyo and urges Iran to accept the IAEA Additional Protocol, which would enable the IAEA to conduct inspections.	27–29	Six-Party Talks regarding the North Korean nuclear issue are held in Beijing.
29	ODA Charter is revised for the first time in 11 years.	29	Terrorist bombing occurs in Najaf, Iraq, President Muhammad Baqir Al Hakim of the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), an influential Shiite organization, is killed.
		31	Libyan leader Colonel Al Gadhafi announces settlement of compensation negotiations for the bombing of a French passenger plane (UTA) in 1989.

Domestic		International	
September			
1	Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with visiting US Secretary of the Treasury Snow.		
1	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi visits Ukraine and holds talks with Foreign Minister Zlenko in Kyiv.	2	ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting is held in Phnom Penh.
3	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi visits Austria and holds talks with IAEA Director General ElBaradei in Vienna.	3	Iraq's interim Cabinet is established.
3	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi delivers an address at the 3rd Conference on Facilitating the Early Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) in Vienna.	3-4	3rd Meeting of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) is held in Paris.
3	Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Hiranuma meets with ASEAN economic ministers in Phnom Penh.		
3	Minister of State for Defense Ishiba holds talks with Chinese National Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan in Beijing.		
4	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi delivers an address at the Conference on Disarmament and expresses concern over North Korea's withdrawal from the NPT.	4	German Chancellor Schroeder and French President Chirac hold talks in Dresden and reject new US resolution regarding multinational force in Iraq.
4	North Korea's cargo-passenger ship <i>Mangyongbon-92</i> enters Niigata Port. It enters successively on the 16th and 30th.		
4-5	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi visits Belgium and holds talks with EU Commissioners Lamy, Fischler and Patten in Brussels.	5	APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting is held in Phuket, Thailand.
5	Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with visiting Chinese Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Wu Bangguo.	7	Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority Abbas resigns. Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Ahmed Qurie accepts the prime minister post on the 10th.
		9	Meeting of the Arab League Foreign Ministers in Cairo recognizes the Iraqi Governing Council as the interim administration and authorizes its right as a representative.
		9	Series of terrorist suicide bombings occur near Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Eight Israeli soldiers and seven civilians are killed and some 50 are injured.
		10	Al-Jazeera satellite TV station airs footages of people believed to be Usama bin Laden, leader of international terrorist group Al-Qaeda, and deputy al-Zawahri.
		10-14	5th World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference in Cancun, Mexico concludes without being able to adopt a ministerial declaration.
		11	Israeli security cabinet decides on policy of expelling Chairman of the PLO Arafat.
		12	IAEA Board of Governors Meeting in Vienna adopts resolution seeking Iran's cooperation in inspection and verification activities.
		12	UN Security Council adopts resolution lifting sanctions imposed on Libya.
13-14	Eleven countries including Japan and the US participate in an international joint interdiction training exercise, Pacific Protector, which aims to prevent the proliferation of WMD.	14	US Secretary of State Powell visits Iraq for the first time since the end of war in Iraq.

Domestic		International	
15	Science and Technology Policy State Minister Hosoda holds talks with IAEA Director General ElBaradei in Vienna.	14	Due to a coup d'état, the military seizes all powers in Guinea-Bissau.
		14	National referendum in Sweden rejects adoption of the euro.
		15–19	Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention) is held in Bangkok.
		15–19	Annual IAEA General Conference is held in Vienna.
		15	Arab League adopts a resolution in Cairo condemning Israel for deciding to expel Chairman Arafat.
		16	US exercises its right to veto the UN Security Council resolution condemning Israel's efforts to expel Chairman Arafat and the resolution is voted down in New York.
		16	58th UN General Assembly is held in New York.
		19	UN Security Council official meeting authorizes a Peacekeeping Operation (PKO) in Liberia.
		19	UN General Assembly adopts resolution condemning Israel for its efforts to expel Chairman Arafat.
		19	Leaders of four countries, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan, agree in Yalta to establish a "Single Economic Space."
20	Prime Minister Koizumi is reelected in the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) presidential election.	20	G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governor's Meeting is held in Dubai.
22	Prime Minister Koizumi inaugurates his reshuffled cabinet. Foreign Minister Kawaguchi retains her post.	21	NATO elects Dutch Foreign Minister Scheffer as the new secretary general.
23	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi, who is on a visit to the US, delivers an address at the general debate of the 58th UN General Assembly in New York. In addition, Foreign Minister Kawaguchi holds talks with UN Secretary-General Annan, ROK Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Yoon Young Kwan and Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing.	23	General debate of the 58th UN General Assembly is convened in New York.
		24	G8 Foreign Ministers' Meeting is held in New York.
		24	OPEC decides to cut back production by 900,000 barrels per day. In addition, Indonesian Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Purnomo is elected as the next secretary general in Vienna.
26	157th Extraordinary Session of the Diet is convened.	26	EU foreign ministers' meeting in Brussels releases a statement emphasizing the importance of transferring sovereignty to Iraq.
		27	US-Russia Summit Meeting is held at Camp David.
		27	Hotel in central Baghdad serving as part of the headquarters for US forces stationed in Iraq comes under rocket fire.
29–10/1	Third Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD III) is held in Tokyo. Prime Minister Koizumi announces that grant aid of US\$1 billion will be provided over five years. In addition, Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks individually with leaders of the 23 participating countries.	29–30	Japan-US-ROK trilateral consultations regarding North Korea are held in Tokyo.
		29–10/17	UNESCO General Conference starts in Paris. The US returns to UNESCO.

Domestic		International	
October			
		1	European Commission decides to contribute 200 million euros (approximately 26 billion yen) for reconstruction assistance to Iraq.
		2	US submits to UN Security Council in New York a draft resolution for dispatching a multinational force and providing reconstruction assistance to Iraq.
		4	Suicide bombing occurs in Haifa, northern Israel, killing 19 and injuring over 50.
		5	Israeli forces attack camp of Islamic Jihad, a Palestinian extremist group, within Syrian territory.
		5	President of the Palestinian Authority Arafat declares a state of emergency. Emergency cabinet led by Qurie is established.
7	Prime Minister Koizumi holds Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and ROK President Roh Moo Hyun and releases the first trilateral joint declaration, the Joint Declaration on the Promotion of Tripartite Cooperation among Japan, the People’s Republic of China and the Republic of Korea, in Bali.	7–8	ASEAN+3 Summit Meeting is held in Bali.
8	Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in Bali.		
8	At the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting, Prime Minister Koizumi agrees on the Framework for Comprehensive Economic Partnership between Japan and ASEAN.	9–10	4th Meeting of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) is held in London.
		9	Prime Minister Qurie of the Palestinian Authority announces his resignation.
		9	Suicide bombing occurs in front of a police station in Sadr City, northeast of Baghdad. At least 12 people including Iraqi police officers are killed. In western Baghdad, a Spanish diplomat is shot and killed.
10	House of Councillors approves the amendment to the Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law that extends the SDF dispatch to the Indian Ocean by two years and it is enacted into law.		
10	House of Representatives is dissolved.	11	Security forces and demonstrators seeking the resignation of President Sanchez clash in Bolivia. The president resigns on the 17th, and a new administration is established on the 19th.
		13	Saudi Arabian cabinet decides to hold elections for the first time since its founding.
		14	US submits to UN Security Council a revised draft resolution regarding the dispatch of a multinational force to Iraq. It is resubmitted after receiving requests for revisions from France, Germany and Russia and adopted on the 16th (Resolution 1511, New York).
		14	Car trying to crash into the Embassy of Turkey in Baghdad explodes, injuring 11 embassy staff.
15	Japanese Government decides to provide US\$1.5 billion (approximately 165.0 billion yen) in grant aid as financial assistance for the reconstruction of Iraq.	14–17	12th inter-Korean ministerial talks (Pyongyang).

Domestic		International	
16	Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with visiting Mexican President Fox in Tokyo but is unable to agree on the principles for an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and Free Trade Agreement (FTA).	16	IAEA Director General ElBaradei holds talks with Iran's Supreme National Security Council Secretary Rouhani in Tehran, and the Iranian side promises to provide all nuclear-related information.
17	Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with US President Bush in Tokyo, who stopped by Japan on his way to attend the APEC meetings.	16–17	Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit is held in Putrajaya, Malaysia.
18	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi holds talks with ROK Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Yoon Young Kwan and US Secretary of State Powell in Bangkok.	17	Ministerial-level talks are held between the ROK and North Korea in Seoul.
19	Concerning the accident involving the poison gas of the former Japanese Army in Qiqihar City, Heilongjiang Province, an agreement is reached with China on the payment of 300 million yen by Japan.	17–18	APEC Ministerial Meeting is held in Bangkok.
20	Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks in succession with Russian President Putin, Chinese President Hu Jintao and ROK President Roh Moo Hyun in Bangkok.	19	US President Bush announces after the US-China Summit Meeting that he is prepared to provide "security assurances" on paper to North Korea in the context of the Six-Party Talks and on the premise of a verifiable dismantling of North Korea's nuclear program.
		19	Joint Chiefs of Staff of the ROK confirms that North Korea had launched land-to-ship missiles from the eastern coast.
		20–21	15th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting is held in Bangkok.
		21	World Bank decides to loan a maximum of US\$5 billion (approximately 550 billion yen) in reconstruction assistance for post-war Iraq.
		21	Irish Republican Army (IRA) announces it will disarm once again.
		21	Foreign ministers of the UK, France and Germany visit Tehran, Iran and release a joint statement with the Iranian government, in which both sides agree that Iran will cooperate fully with the IAEA, sign the IAEA Additional Protocol and start procedures for its ratification.
		23–24	International Conference on Reconstruction in Iraq is held in Madrid, with the participation of 73 countries and 20 international organizations. Japan announces a contribution of up to US\$5 billion by end of 2007.
		23	UN General Assembly elects Algeria, Benin, the Philippines, Romania and Brazil to replace the five nonpermanent members of the Security Council, whose terms expire at the end of 2003.
		23	Iranian government submits to the IAEA a report on the suspicion over its nuclear development.
24	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi, who is on a visit to Spain, holds talks with Ambassador Bremer of Iraq's Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) in Madrid.	26	A large rocket strikes a Baghdad hotel where US Deputy Secretary of Defense Wolfowitz is staying.
24	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi, who is on a visit to Spain, holds talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Kharrazi in Madrid.		
26–27	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi visits Egypt and holds talks with President Mubarak and Foreign Minister Maher in Cairo.		

Domestic		International	
28	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi visits Tunisia and holds talks with President Ben Ali and Foreign Minister Ben Yahia in Tunis.	27	A series of terrorist bombings target the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and four police stations in Baghdad, killing 34 and injuring 224.
		30	UN Secretary-General Annan decides to temporarily withdraw foreign UN staff from Baghdad.
		30	First Committee of the UN General Assembly adopts draft resolution on nuclear disarmament.
		30	Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Wu Bangguo visits North Korea and holds talks with General Secretary Kim Jong-Il in Pyongyang. Both sides agree on the principle of continuing the Six-Party Talks.
		31	Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir resigns and Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah is promoted to prime minister.

November			
7	Both the Japanese and US governments sign the first New Japan-US Income Tax Convention in approximately 30 years.	4	In Sri Lanka, President Kumaratunga and Prime Minister Wickramasinghe disagree over peace negotiations with the LTTE, a minority group of Tamils; the president replaces key cabinet ministers, suspends Parliament and declares a nationwide state of emergency on the 5th.
		5	European Commission officially approves the accession of ten Central and South Eastern European countries to the EU in May 2004.
		8	ICRC decides to shut temporarily its offices in Baghdad and Basra in southern Iraq.
		8	Large explosion in Riyadh, an upscale residential area; 18 people are killed and some 120 are injured.
11	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi visits Malaysia and holds talks with Foreign Minister Hamid in Kuala Lumpur.	10	Iran's Representative to Permanent Mission to the UN and Other International Organizations in Vienna Salehi delivers a letter to IAEA Director General ElBaradei, stating Iran's acceptance of the Additional Protocol.
12	Foreign Minister Kawaguchi visits Laos and holds talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Somsavat in Vientiane.	12	Suicide bombing occurs at Italian police headquarters in Nasiriyah, southern Iraq; 27 people are killed including 19 Italian soldiers.
14	Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with visiting US Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld in Tokyo.	13	With IAEA Director General ElBaradei's report, it becomes evident that Iran has been conducting uranium enrichment tests without notification since 1999.
18	Incident in which shots are fired toward the Embassy of Japan in Baghdad occurs, leading to gunfight with guards.	15	A series of terrorist bombings using car bombs occur at synagogues in Istanbul, killing 32 and injuring some 300.
19	158th Special Session of the Diet is convened. Second Koizumi cabinet is established. All ministers including Foreign Minister Kawaguchi retain their posts.	20	Suicide bombings targeting the UK Consulate General, etc. occur in Istanbul, killing 28 including 14 Consulate General personnel and injuring some 450. A terrorist group aligned to the international terrorist group Al-Qaeda claims responsibility.
20–21	10th Consultative Group Meeting for Mongolia is held in Tokyo.		

Domestic		International	
24	The body of a Japanese abducted by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia in Bogotá, Colombia in 2001 is found.	22	Opposition party demonstrators demanding the resignation of Georgian President Shevardnadze seize Parliament, and the president declares a state of emergency. The president resigns on the 23rd. The administration of interim President Burjanadze is inaugurated on the 24th.
29	Then-Counselor of the Embassy of Japan in the UK Oku, then-Third Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in Iraq Inoue and staff member of the Embassy of Japan in Iraq Jerjees are attacked and killed near Tikrit, Iraq.	25	India and Pakistan agree on observing a ceasefire along the Line of Control in Kashmir.
		26	Draft resolution criticizing Iran is adopted by consensus at the IAEA Board of Governors Meeting.
		28	US President Bush makes secret visit to Baghdad.
		28	Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which May Be Deemed To Be Excessively Injurious or To Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) is held in Geneva.
		29	Attack on personnel of Spain's National Intelligence Center in southern Baghdad, killing seven.

December			
9	The Basic Plan for the dispatch of SDF based on the Law Concerning the Special Measures on Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq is decided at extraordinary Cabinet meeting.	1	KEDO suspends light-water reactor project.
		4	Japan-US-ROK trilateral consultations regarding the North Korean nuclear issue are held in Washington.
		5	Moving train explodes in the Stavropol region of southern Russia, killing some 40 and injuring over 200.
		9	North Korea makes "proposal" through a Foreign Ministry spokesperson's statement that in exchange for freezing North Korea's nuclear program, it demands: 1) removal from the US list of State Sponsors of Terrorism; 2) lifting of sanctions and blockade; and 3) energy assistance from the US and neighboring countries.
		9	US President Bush, after holding talks with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in Washington who is on a visit to the US, expresses opposition to Taiwanese President Chen Shui Bian's intention to hold a referendum.
		10	Ninth session of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP9) is held in Milan.
11–12	Japan-ASEAN Commemorative Summit is held in Tokyo. Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks individually with leaders of every participating country.	10	Egyptian President Mubarak and Iranian President Khatami hold their countries' first meeting in Geneva since the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran.
16	Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with visiting Russian Prime Minister Kasyanov in Tokyo.	13	US forces take custody of former President Hussein near Tikrit, Iraq.
		16	MERCOSUR (Southern Common Market) and the Andean Community agree to establish a free trade area made up of major South American countries in Uruguay.

Domestic		International	
19	Minister of State for Defense Ishiba orders dispatch of advance team of the Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF) based on the Law Concerning the Special Measures on Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq.	16	At the PSI Operational Experts meeting, held in Washington, experts from 16 countries including Japan and the US agree to hold joint ground, maritime and air exercises to prevent WMD proliferation.
19	Japanese Government decides to introduce a missile defense system from 2004.	18	Iranian government signs the IAEA Additional Protocol in Vienna.
22	Governments of Japan and the ROK begin inter-governmental negotiations with each other in Seoul, aiming to conclude an FTA.	18	Israeli Prime Minister Sharon announces that Israel will take unilateral action such as constructing a new barrier between Israel and the West Bank unless the Palestinian Authority fulfills its duties stipulated in the Roadmap within months.
26	Advance team of the ASDF departs for Iraq.	19	Libyan leader Colonel Al Gadhafi decides to abandon Libya's WMD development program.
27	The Japanese Government decides to dispatch an emergency relief medical team and extend emergency assistance in kind as well as emergency grant aid of US\$770,000 for the earthquake disaster in Iran.	23	A Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) infected cow is discovered in the US.
29	Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with former US Secretary of State Baker, who is visiting as a special presidential envoy.	23	Mexican government, as a principle, decides to impose 50% tariffs on imported cars from Japan.
		24	US announces plan to extend food aid (60,000 tons) to North Korea.
		25	Assassination attempt is made on President Musharraf in Islamabad, Pakistan.
		26	Strong earthquake of magnitude 6.3 hits Bam in south-eastern Iran.
		27	IAEA team of experts starts conducting nuclear inspections in Libya.