

WORLD AGENDA

2001



January 20, Washington D.C.: *George W. Bush* will be inaugurated as 43rd president of the United States, following the most protracted and bitterly contested White House ballot in the country's history. The 54-year-old assumes the office that his father, **George Bush** senior, lost in 1992 – becoming only the second father and son to serve as U.S. president

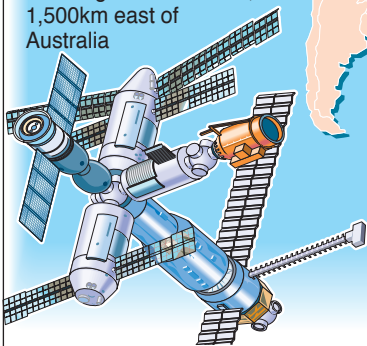


June, Northern Ireland: Deadline for full implementation of the so-called Good Friday Agreement on devolving power to the province. But the thorny issues of IRA disarmament, reforms to the police service and the new power-sharing assembly's links with the Irish Republic have yet to be resolved



February, China: Results of the world's biggest census will reveal just how many of us are Chinese. Independent studies suggest the figure could be as high as 1.5 billion – around a quarter of the world's population

February, Pacific Ocean: Russia's *Mir* space station is to be ditched after 15 years of service and 85,000 trips around the earth. The station, which is slowly losing altitude, will make a controlled descent before crashing into the ocean, 1,500km east of Australia



Spring, UK: The world's largest greenhouse, the *Eden Project*, containing 12,000 plants and trees from across the globe, opens in Cornwall



June, Italy: The *Leaning Tower of Pisa*, closed for 10 years, is due to re-open after delicate engineering work to prevent it toppling over

June 21, Africa: The first total **solar eclipse** of the new millennium makes its way across southern Africa before ending at sunset in the Indian Ocean

September, Korea: A railway linking North and South Korea is to be re-opened in a major sign of reconciliation between neighbours technically still at war

May, Germany: World leaders reconvene in Bonn for a last-ditch effort to save the *Kyoto Protocol*, following the failed *International Conference on Climate Change* in The Hague last November. Europe and the U.S. are at loggerheads over ways to reduce global warming

July, Olympic city: One from Beijing, Istanbul, Paris, Osaka or Toronto will be revealed as the successful candidate to host the **29th Olympic Games** in 2008. The IOC makes its announcement as **Juan Antonio Samaranch**, 81, retires as president after 21 often controversial years



Election watch:

Israel
February



Britain
May (likely)



Japan
July



France
September



Australia
October



Eritrea
December

