

WORLD AGENDA 2005

JANUARY

Elections are due to take place in post-war Iraq providing violence does not derail the process. A 275-seat assembly will be voted in

New PLO head **Mahmoud Abbas** is favourite to become president of the **Palestinian Authority**, replacing the late **Yasser Arafat**, when Palestinians go to the polls



JUNE

Women will be barred from standing in **Iran's** presidential poll after the **Council of Guardians** ruled that their participation would be unconstitutional

George Lucas, creator of **Star Wars** and **Indiana Jones**, is to be awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the **American Film Institute**

JULY

Paris, New York, Moscow, London or Madrid will be chosen

to host the **2012 Olympic Games** when the **International Olympic Committee** meets in Singapore



FEBRUARY

The **Kyoto Protocol**, which aims to stem global warming by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, comes into force. The 55 industrialised nations that ratified the pact have until 2012 to cut six key emissions to 5.2% below the 1990 level

MARCH

Zimbabwe's opposition leader **Morgan Tsvangirai** has said his party will take part in parliamentary elections only if electoral reforms are implemented. Elections in 2000 and 2002 are believed to have been rigged by President **Robert Mugabe**

APRIL

The 200th anniversary of the birth of **Hans Christian Andersen**, Danish author of **The Emperor's New Clothes**, is celebrated around the world



SEPTEMBER

All 8,000 settlers will have left the **Gaza Strip** in return for thousands of dollars in state compensation if Israeli Prime Minister **Ariel Sharon's** hotly contested disengagement plan goes ahead



OCTOBER

A verdict in the trial of former Yugoslav President **Slobodan Milosevic**, charged with committing war crimes in the 1990s, is expected. Milosevic, 63, has dismissed the tribunal as illegal

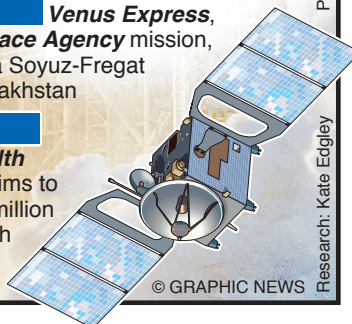


NOVEMBER

Venus Express, a **European Space Agency** mission, is launched by a Soyuz-Fregat rocket from Kazakhstan

DECEMBER

The **World Health Organisation** aims to have treated 3 million people living with **Aids** in poor countries



MAY

Nasa is due to launch **Discovery**, the first space shuttle flight since **Columbia** crashed in 2003 killing all seven astronauts on board. The launch, from Florida's **Kennedy Space Centre**, was put back from March after two hurricanes hit the complex last summer

Britain is expected to go to the polls with Prime Minister **Tony Blair** seeking a third term in office

