

WORLD AGENDA

SEPTEMBER 2008



1 Sep 1-4, United States: Up to 60,000 anti-war marchers converge on St Paul, Minnesota, when Senator **John McCain** accepts his nomination as Republican candidate for the presidential election. McCain and Democrat nominee **Barack Obama**'s first presidential debate takes place in Mississippi on September 26

2 Sep 17, Jerusalem: Israeli Foreign Minister **Tzipi Livni** is frontrunner to replace the corruption-dogged **Ehud Olmert** as Prime Minister in the ruling Kadima party's leadership election. A popular politician, viewed as non-corrupt, Livni is nevertheless criticised for her lack of military experience



3 Sep 6-7, Brussels / Washington: The European Union's relationship with Russia following its invasion of Georgia is questioned when EU foreign ministers meet. Meanwhile, U.S. Congress debates asking Olympic organisers to strip Russia of its host status for the 2014 Winter Games



4 Sep 3, Nicosia: Cypriot President **Dimitris Christofias** (near right), and Turkish Cypriot leader **Mehmet Ali Talat** are to launch reunification talks, raising hopes for a deal that has eluded the ethnically-divided island for decades



6 Sep, Lourdes: **Pope Benedict** visits the famous shrine in southwest France, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of what the Roman Catholic church believes to have been the apparition of the Virgin Mary to 14-year-old peasant girl **Bernadette Soubirous**



5 Sep 6-17, Beijing: South African swimmer **Natalie du Toit**, who made history in August as the first amputee to compete in the Olympic Games, races in the Paralympics. The world's top disabled athletes compete in 20 sports, including wheelchair basketball, fencing, rugby and tennis



7 Sep 12, South Africa: A court decides on ruling party leader **Jacob Zuma**'s attempt to have a graft case against him dismissed. The case is the biggest obstacle to Zuma succeeding President **Thabo Mbeki** in polls next year



8 Sep 5, Luanda: Angola holds its first parliamentary elections in 16 years. The country rivals Nigeria as Africa's biggest oil producer but 65% of the population lives on less than \$2 a day