

WORLD AGENDA

OCTOBER 2008

1 Oct 2, United States: The fevered Presidential election campaign hits a new high when the Republicans' surprise choice of running mate, **Sarah Palin**, faces Democrat **Joe Biden** in the Vice Presidential candidates' debate in St Louis

2 Oct 2, Global: Gloomy news from the *International Monetary Fund's* twice-yearly forecast which is set to predict further slowing of the global economy. The sharp decrease in growth as high commodity prices put pressure on inflation is set to intensify, according to the report

3 Oct 10, Tbilisi: Deadline for Russia to withdraw its troops from Georgia's heartland following its invasion of the ex-Soviet country in August. The pullout is designed to follow the October 1 arrival of at least 200 European Union ceasefire monitors

4 Oct 1, Baghdad: The U.S. begins to transfer control of the **Awakening**

Councils, made up of Sunni former insurgents who turned against al-Qaeda, to Iraq. The 100,000 "Sons of Iraq" are credited with playing a key role in a nationwide drop in violence

5 Oct 10, Cape Canaveral: NASA's fifth and final power servicing mission to the **Hubble Space Telescope** is due to take place, leaving the orbital observatory with a full suite of instruments for the first time since 1993

6 Oct 4, Maldives: The 1,200-island cluster, best known as a luxury holiday destination, holds its first ever multi-party presidential elections. President **Maumoon Gayoom** (above), Asia's longest serving leader after 30 years in power, is accused of crushing dissent

7 Oct, Delhi: The Indian parliament debates tougher measures to deal with acid attacks. The victims, usually women who have rejected lovers or husbands, are often disfigured for life while perpetrators can get away with minor punishments

8 Oct 7, London: A rock crystal ewer made for the court of the **Fatimid** rulers of Cairo in the late 10th century, and embellished with gold in 1854, is expected to fetch over £3m at Christie's. It is one of only seven fully-carved examples known to survive

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