

Advanced Research and Assessment Group

Chronology Series

08/25



A Russian Chronology:

April - June 2008

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Defence Academy of the United Kingdom

Russian Domestic Policy: A Chronology

April – June 2008

1 April 2008 The Supreme Court confirms the legality of the 11 February Moscow City Court ruling declaring the National Bolshevik Party an extremist organization and banning its activities.

1 April 2008 Former aide to late Duma deputy Galina Starovoytova, Ruslan Linkov, says that the investigation into Starovoytova's murder has been closed.

1 April 2008 An article appears in *Kommersant* by Natalya Gorodetskaya on centre-regional relations. It reports that Vladimir Putin signed a law on 29 March which permits the governors to exercise the powers of federal officials.

2 April 2008 Presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembsky says that Vladimir Putin has assured foreign businessmen that there will be "no restrictions for foreign capital in Russia". Putin has stated that in 2007 foreign investment in the Russian economy exceeded \$120 billion.

2 April 2008 The Duma passes in its final reading the law on access of foreign investors to strategic sectors of the Russian economy. These include natural monopolies, exploration of resources, the military-industrial complex, aircraft building, television and radio broadcasting and publishing business.

2 April 2008 The head of the Moscow Helsinki Group Lyudmila Alekseeva says if the amendments to the law on referendums limiting the range of subjects for referendums are adopted, this will be an unconstitutional and undemocratic move.

2 April 2008 Dmitry Medvedev has talks in Moscow with President Ramzan Kadyrov of the Chechen Republic.

3 April 2008 Dmitry Medvedev gives an address to the 12th Russian Internet Forum on internet usage in Russia.

3 April 2008 The Investigations Committee of the Prosecutor-General's Office states that it believes that Boris Berezovsky ordered the killing of Anna Politkovskaya.

3 April 2008 Defence Minister Anatoly Serdyukov is interviewed in *Komsomolskaya Pravda*. He says there will be no spontaneous personnel revolutions in the MOD. He says he will try to reduce the number of posts occupied by officers, and the Armed Forces will have a total of one million servicemen by 2016. He also discusses housing problems for servicemen.

4 April 2008 The Duma passes amendments to the law on referenda in its third reading.

4 April 2008 The Investigations Committee under the Prosecutor's Office institutes criminal proceedings over the death of Yury Shchekochikhin. The journalist died in 2003 but until now investigation bodies have refused to launch proceedings.

An editorial in *Vedomosti* claims there are major rifts between the Procuracy Investigations Committee (SKP), and the Procuracy General.

4 April 2008 The commanders of the navy (Admiral Vladimir Vysotsky) and air force (Colonel-General Aleksandr Zelin) outline their plans for the future development of the navy and air force on *Zvezda TV*.

A new book entitled "Toward a new edition of the military doctrine of the Russian Federation" is released. The collection has been put together by the Institute of the Problems of International Security of the Academy of Sciences and the Lomonosov Moscow State University's Faculty of Global Politics under the editorship of Andrey Kokoshin and a group of civilian and military specialists.

5 April 2008 A conference of democratic forces takes place in St Petersburg. The conference is entitled "A New agenda for the democratic movement". It is attended by co-leaders of the Union of Rightist Forces (URF) Boris Nemtsov and Nikita Belykh; human rights activists Lev Ponomarev and Sergey Kovalev; leader of United Civil Front Garri Kasparov, and Vladimir Bukovsky as well as leaders of the St Petersburg Yabloko branch Maksim Reznik and Mikhail Amosov. The Yabloko leadership boycotted the conference. A coordination council is set up. Twelve people have become members of the coordination council. They include Nikita Belykh, the former Soviet dissident Vladimir Bukovsky, Garri Kasparov, the politician Boris Nemtsov, and the leader of the St Petersburg branch of Yabloko, Maksim Reznik.

6 April 2008 Left wing opposition groups hold a conference in Moscow. The conference is entitled "Political situation in Russia: path of left opposition".

7 April 2008 Yedinaya Rossiya leader Boris Gryzlov says that Dmitry Medvedev will not be able to be a member of the party on his inauguration as president on 7 May.

7 April 2008 The general designer of the Russian Research Institute of Space Instrument Engineering (FGUP RNII KP) Yury Urlichich says the GLONASS satellite system will eventually have 30 satellites. It is intended to be compatible with the GALILEO system.

8 April 2008 Dmitry Medvedev meets representatives of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs. The main theme of the discussion is working out the strategy to 2020. It must lay the basis for the country's development over the next 12 years.

8 April 2008 Yedinaya Rossiya leader Boris Gryzlov says that the party will not be divided into several organizations on the basis of ideology.

8 April 2008 Federal Security Service (FSB) Director Nikolay Patrushev says that certain foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are helping international terrorists to carry out recruitment in Russia.

8 April 2008 Aleksandr Torshin, deputy chairman of the Federation Council and a member of the National Antiterrorist Committee, says 59 NGOs supporting Chechen separatists and terrorists operate outside Russia. He says: "In 1998, terrorist organizations had only 12 websites on the Internet. By some estimates, now they

number between 5,000 and 6,000; approximately 150 of them are in Russian."

Human Rights Watch researcher Tatyana Lokshina says the accusations by Nikolay Patrushev of foreign NGOs helping international terrorists to recruit supporters in Russia, are "totally unacceptable".

9 April 2008 Bashkortostan President Murtaza Rakhimov issues a decree dismissing Rafael Baydavletov from the post of the republic's prime minister. He is made a member of the Federation Council.

9 April 2008 The Russian People's Democratic Union, headed by former prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov, expresses scepticism about the results of opposition conferences held in Moscow and St Petersburg on 5 and 6 April.

9 April 2008 Presidential envoy to the Southern Federal District Grigory Rapota says he believes that the conflict in Chechnya was caused not only by the Wahhabis but also by the inefficiency of the then Russian government.

9 April 2008 The Commander of the Combined Group of Troops in the North Caucasus Major-General Nikolay Sivak says that law enforcement agencies and the authorities control the current situation in Chechnya.

10 April 2008 Regional Development Minister Dmitry Kozak says he knows nothing about the possibility that plenipotentiary representatives are to be made answerable to the prime minister rather than the president.

10 April 2008 Drugaya Rossiya sets up a Coordination Council of Left-Wing Forces.

10 April 2008 The deputy head of the Interior Ministry (MVD), Lt-General Arkady Yedelev says that Al Qaeda is trying to destabilise the situation in the North Caucasus.

Interior Minister Rashid Nurgaliev attends a meeting of the Chechen anti-terrorist commission. He is informed that three militant gangs have been eliminated in Chechnya since the beginning of this year.

10 April 2008 Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, Army General Yuri Baluyevsky, denies media reports about submitting a letter of resignation.

Colonel-General Anatoly Nogovitsyn, deputy commander of the Air Force is interviewed in *Krasnaya Zvezda*.

11 April 2008 Another arrest is reported in the case involving the head of the operations support department of the Federal Drug Control Service, Aleksandr Bulbov. The Investigations Committee under the Prosecutor-General's Office has arrested Yelena Mardashova, an accountant at the private security firm Nemesida, which is owned by Bulbov's wife. She is accused of bribing Bulbov.

11 April 2008 Secretary General of the Russian Union of Journalists Igor Yakovenko expresses opposition to the introduction of legislative amendments which would oblige the mass media to publish a retraction of their reports, if asked to do so by federal or regional state bodies.

11 April 2008 Vladimir Putin sets out priorities for the space sector at a meeting of the Security Council. The meeting approves a concept for Russian space policy up to 2020 and beyond.

12 April 2008 Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says a fall in the oil price could inflict a serious blow on the Russian economy. He says that at the moment the country's economy is seriously dependent on the oil price.

13 April 2008 Khasan Yandiev, deputy chairman of the republican Supreme Court, has been murdered in Ingushetia.

14 April 2008 Yedinaya Rossiya holds its 9th congress in Moscow. The General Council of the party will propose the party congress to make amendments and additions to the party's charter, which will introduce the post of chairman of the party. Vladimir Putin will be invited to become chairman.

14 April 2008 Vladimir Putin receives Russian Patriarch Aleksey II in the Kremlin. They discuss the celebration of the 1020th anniversary of the introduction of Christianity in Russia to be marked later in 2008. The main part of the celebration will take place in Ukraine.

15 April 2008 Vladimir Putin accepts the invitation to become chairman of Yedinaya Rossiya. He gives a speech at its congress. Dmitry Medvedev declines a Yedinaya Rossiya offer of party membership. He also addresses the congress.

15 April 2008 Aleksandr Babakov, State Duma deputy chairman and one of the Spravedlivaya Rossiya leaders, says Spravedlivaya Rossiya members intend to offer Yedinaya Rossiya a coalition agreement in support of Vladimir Putin's future government at the party congress on 25 April.

The chairman of the Federation Council and Spravedlivaya Rossiya party leader, Sergey Mironov, says that his party will remain an opponent of Yedinaya Rossiya despite Vladimir Putin's agreement to lead it.

15 April 2008 Emergencies Minister Sergey Shoygu says a system of public emergency early warning will be created in Russia by 2010. It will be set up in three phases. The first phase has been created.

15 April 2008 Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeev rejects the possibility of Russia introducing rationing for food, specifically bread.

15 April 2008 Vladimir Putin accepts the resignation of Irkutsk Region governor Aleksandr Tishanin and appoints Igor Yesipovsky (Duma member) as acting governor. Tishanin applied for the early termination of his powers because of the establishment of a new constituent part of the Russian Federation as a result of the merger of Irkutsk Region and Ust-Orda Buryat Autonomous Area.

16 April 2008 The chair of the Duma health committee, Olga Borzova, says that life expectancy in Russia has increased by 2.4 years over the course of the implementation of priority national projects. Life expectancy rose from 65.3 years in 2005 to 67.7 years in 2007. In 2005 life expectancy for men was 58.9 years; in 2007 it was 61.5 years, up by 2.6 years.

16 April 2008 Defence Minister Anatoly Serdyukov says that the leadership of the Russian Defence Ministry is doing is not a reform of the Armed Forces but restoring elementary order in them. He states:

There is no reform at all going on. We are quite simply trying to bring some normal logical order into it all. There is no reform, and no need to use this word...We are not going to break anything up and rebuild it. We are simply restoring order in everything...Years and decades passed during which nothing was done...These issues were simply left in the background. There were organizational, financial and other difficulties. Now is the time when one can deal with it. So let's deal with it.

17 April 2008 The Moscow City Court releases from custody former Atomic Energy Minister Yevgeny Adamov, who was earlier sentenced to five-and-a-half half years in prison for fraud.

17 April 2008 Chechen Republic President Ramzan Kadyrov says that he has no intention of leaving his post and moving to another job in Moscow.

17 April 2008 The Chechen parliament and Chechen MPs in the Duma ask the defence minister Anatoly Serdyukov to take measures against the Defence Ministry's Vostok battalion. A stand off took place in Gudermes on 14 April between President Ramzan Kadyrov's security officers and members of the Vostok battalion.

18 April 2008 Vladimir Putin says that he is maintaining dialogue with President-elect Dmitry Medvedev on the formation of a new government and that they have no particular differences.

18 April 2008 Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov is interviewed in *Komsomolskaya Pravda*. He discusses the Vostok battalion.

The police seize up to 60 units of illegal firearms during an operation in Gudermes to find and arrest Badruddin Yamadayev, the younger brother of the commander of the Vostok special battalion, Sulim Yamadayev.

The head of the Sunzhensky District Interior Department headquarters Ali Gaydamurov is kidnapped and later found dead.

20 April 2008 The Federation Council chairman and Spravedlivaya Rossiya party leader Sergey Mironov says that he opposes the idea of a party based government: "I am against a party-based government in principle. I believe that we have a presidential republic in which all the decisions are made by the president; while the government should consist of professionals." He also rejects the idea of a Spravedlivaya Rossiya-Yedinaya Rossiya coalition.

21 April 2008 Space Troops Commander Colonel-General Vladimir Popovkin says Russia has always stood and will continue to stand for inadmissibility of deploying weapons in space, but if weapons do appear there, it will be forced to react.

21 April 2008 The Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs' energy policy committee chaired by LUKoil head Vagit Alekperov criticizes the concept for Russia's long-term social-economic development until 2020 and its provisions that

relate to the development of Russia's fuel-energy complex.

22 April 2008 The MVD holds a conference on racial extremism in Russia. Gennady Gudkov, deputy chairman of the Duma Security Committee, says the growing number of extremist crimes in Russia "calls for a serious reform of law enforcement agencies".

22 April 2008 The Channel One TV shows a documentary entitled "The Kavkaz Plan" ("The Caucasus Plan") about alleged foreign support for Chechen separatists in the 1990s and foreign intelligence services' alleged plans to destabilize the situation in the North Caucasus "in order to weaken Russia".

23 April 2008 Vladimir Putin signs a decree regarding the further development of the Oboronprom United Industrial Corporation public joint-stock company, under which 10 companies would contribute their federally owned stakes to Oboronprom's charter capital.

23 April 2008 Gazprom states that the licence to develop the Siberian Kovykta gas field may be revoked if TNK-BP does not comply with the terms of the agreement.

24 April 2008 CPRF leader Gennady Zyuganov says he does not see any point in the merger of the CPRF with Spravedlivaya Rossiya.

24 April 2008 TNK-BP denies reports that it will be sold to Gazprom.

24 April 2008 The Federal Service for Ecological, Technological and Nuclear Monitoring (Rostekhnadzor) puts into effect the general requirements for ensuring antiterrorist protection of dangerous production facilities.

Vladimir Putin submits a proposal to the Duma to ratify an amendment to Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material which considerably tightens the nuclear security mode and strengthens counteracting the threat of nuclear terrorism.

24 April 2008 An Obshchestvennoye Mnenie poll shows that 59 per cent of Russians approve of Vladimir Putin's decision to lead Yedinaya Rossiya.

24 April 2008 The Prosecutor-General's Office launches an inquiry in connection with the fact that a list of "enemies of the Russian people" was posted on the Internet (the vdesyatku.net website).

24 April 2008 An article in *Novyye Izvestiya* by Yana Portnova claims that internet censorship is increasing in Russia.

25 April 2008 The Duma passes a bill in the first reading, allowing for mass media that repeatedly publish libellous materials to be closed down.

25 April 2008 Minister of Health and Social Reform Tatyana Golikova says a demographic explosion is occurring in Russia. She says between 1 January 2007 and 1 April 2008 more than 2 million children were born in Russia.

25 April 2008 Vladimir Putin discusses the development of the three year budget with the cabinet.

25 April 2008 Spravedlivaya Rossiya holds its third conference. Sergey Mironov is re-elected leader. Duma deputy speaker Aleksandr Babakov is elected first secretary

of the party's central council. Party membership is 437,000.

26 April 2008 Prime Minister Viktor Zubkov appoints Dmitry Baksheyev deputy minister of regional development.

27 April 2008 Vladimir Putin and Dmitry Medvedev attend the Easter Service in the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour in Moscow.

27 April 2008 Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Kudrin has predicted that inflation will be at around 10 per cent in 2008 and that the dollar will not fall below the 23 rouble mark.

27 April 2008 Ramzan Kadyrov says he will dismiss officials who do not pay due attention to human rights in Chechnya.

28 April 2008 Aleksey Kudrin makes a statement that the inflow of capital in Russia in April reached \$10 billion. In the first quarter of 2008 there was an outflow of \$22 billion.

28 April 2008 The head of the Investigations Committee, Aleksandr Bastrykin, signs a decree dismissing three employees of the Investigations Committee under the Prosecutor-General's Office. They are involved in a "corruption scandal". This is in addition to the director of the Main Investigative Directorate of the Investigations Committee, Dmitry Dvoryanov. The three are: First deputy Aleksey Novikov; the head of a department in the Main Investigative Directorate, Sergey Glukhikh; and Yuri Yermakov, an investigator for high-profile cases.

29 April 2008 Dmitry Medvedev makes the following comment about Yedinaya Rossiya:

Yedinaya Rossiya is the largest party, a strong party. I have an affinity with the majority of its ideological tenets. I believe that if Yedinaya Rossiya is able to formulate competitive proposals accepted by people and these proposals are well implemented by the executive authorities, it has a good future. Can one think that the party has thus guaranteed itself a future for decades ahead? Of course not.

29 April 2008 The URF says it will continue its cooperation with the participants in the liberal opposition conference held in St Petersburg in early April. The conference, New Agenda for Russia's Democratic Movement, was attended by members of URF, the St Petersburg branch of Yabloko, the United Civil Front and human rights organizations, including United Civil Front leader Garri Kasparov, Vladimir Bukovsky and Boris Nemtsov.

29 April 2008 Prime Minister Viktor Zubkov says he does not rule out that he may be appointed to chair the board of directors of Gazprom.

29 April 2008 The head of the department of convention problems of chemical and biological weapons of the Russian Federal Industry Agency, Yelena Ratushkina, says that Russia has destroyed 27 per cent of its Category I chemical weapons.

29 April 2008 A commentary by Aleksandr Golts on the website *Yezhednevnyy Zhurnal* accuses the state media of attacking the Russian intelligentsia for supporting Russia's enemies.

29 April 2008 The Russian People's Democratic Union led by former Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov will hold a congress in the first half of July. Kasyanov says he

expects no changes after Dmitry Medvedev becomes president. He says he favours constitutional changes.

29 April 2008 First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov addresses a meeting of the military-industrial commission. The commission discussed the implementation of the state defence order in 2007 and the progress of placing orders under the state defence order for 2008-2010. He states: "More than R700 billion was allocated from the budget in 2007. Moreover, in addition to the key indicators of the state defence order, an extra R7 billion was allocated to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Federal Security Service and Rosatom."

He says companies must take some urgent steps to develop short-range air defence systems. He says the armed forces operate systems developed in the 1960s and 70s. A comprehensive air defence missile system programme was launched in February 2007.

Grigory Dubrov, former head of Russian radio engineering troops, criticises the state of the Russia's air defences. He says that "even at high and medium altitudes, just around 40 per cent of Russia's airspace is covered".

29 April 2008 The Moscow authorities have suggested that the Other Russia opposition coalition hold a Dissenters' March at a different venue on 6 May. The latest Dissenters' March held in Moscow on 3 March was "banned" and violently dispersed by the riot police.

30 April 2008 Chief public health officer Gennady Onishchenko says the number of HIV-positive people in Russia has reached 417,000.

30 April 2008 Sociological service Bashkirova i Partnery opinion polls give Vladimir Putin an 84.7 per cent confidence rating. Dmitry Medvedev has a 71 per cent rating.

30 April 2008 The jury at the Moscow City Court has returned a guilty verdict in the trial relating to the bombing of Moscow's Cherkizovsky market on 21 August 2006. There are eight defendants in the dock. The ringleader is Nikolay Korolev. Most of the defendants are students of Moscow universities. They were all members of the Spas organization, which had no official registration. The bombing at the market killed 14 people including two children, injuring 47.

30 April 2008 The former deputy head of the Department for International Financial Relations, State Debt and State Financial Assets of the Finance Ministry, Denis Mikhaylov, convicted of receiving a bribe and revealing state secrets, is released on parole. Mikhaylov was arrested in December 2004; he then held the position of deputy head of the Department for International Financial Relations, State Debt and State Financial Assets of the Finance Ministry. The head of the department was Sergey Storchak, who is now deputy finance minister and was arrested on 15 November 2007 on suspicion of attempting to embezzle budget funds.

30 April 2008 Vladimir Putin signs a decree "On the pilot project for the creation of the national research centre Kurchatov Institute". The decree is made "with a view to forming the technological base of innovation economy, ensuring a scientific-technological breakthrough in the sphere of priority tasks to develop science,

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technology and equipment in the Russian Federation and create legal and organizational foundations of the activity of new research innovation structures". The pilot project will create the Kurchatov Institute national research centre based on the Russian Scientific Centre Kurchatov Institute federal state enterprise.

30 April 2008 Vladimir Putin addresses a government meeting. He calls on the government to improve transport infrastructure.

30 April 2008 Yevgenny Yasin, scientific director of the Higher School of Economics, says that after the agreement to freeze food prices expires, "they will grow by 5 to 10 per cent, then the growth rate will drop and they will calm down". The agreement of the Russian Agricultural Ministry with manufactures and retailers to freeze prices for socially important foods expires on 30 April.

May 2008

1 May 2008 Yabloko party members hold a May Day protest in Moscow against a police state in Russia.

2 May 2008 The MVD reports that May Day marches and rallies were held without serious incidents in Russia. It states that "mass events were held in 1,075 cities and towns of the country, and some 2,010,000 people attended them."

5 May 2008 Vladimir Putin signs a federal law "On the procedure for foreign investment in economic facilities of strategic importance for the country's defence and state security". The law was passed by the Duma on 2 April and confirmed by the Federation Council on 16 April.

5 May 2008 The designer-general of the Glonass system, Yury Urilich, says over the past year Russian specialists have doubled its accuracy.

5 May 2008 Viktor Aleksandrov, deputy head of the Federal Agency for Geodesy and Cartography of the Transport Ministry, says the entire territory of the Russian Federation will be mapped before the end of this year, and by 2011, detailed address maps and plans of 350 Russian cities and towns with a population of more than 50,000 people will be created.

5 May 2008 The head of the main combat training and service department of Russian troops, Lt-General Vladimir Shamanov, says Russia's military leadership will react to the US large-scale exercise in the northern latitudes (Northern Edge 2008 in Alaska) by adjusting the army's plans of combat training for the reliable protection of the country's national interests in the Arctic.

5 May 2008 The government approves the allocation of the counterterrorist responsibilities of the federal executive bodies subordinate to it.

6 May 2008 The organizers of a Dissenters' March decide against holding the event in Moscow's Chistyye Prudy area for safety reasons. The directorate for information and public relations of the Moscow police states that a total of 30 people were detained in Moscow for attempting to hold unsanctioned processions and rallies.

Police Colonel-General Vladimir Pronin, head of the Moscow Main Interior Directorate, calls on Muscovites not to take part in the Dissenters' March.

6 May 2008 Director of the Andrey Sakharov Museum and Centre Yury Samodurov is called in for questioning by the Investigations Committee. They intend to make criminal charges against him for organizing the "Forbidden Art" exhibition.

6 May 2008 The government approves a rise in charges for the services of the natural monopolies in 2009-11. The Economic Development and Trade Ministry says the price of electricity for households is expected to rise by 14 per cent this year, and by a further 25 per cent a year for the next two years. Household gas will be rising by 25 per cent a year for the next two years, and by 30 per cent in 2010. Telephone charges will rise by 7.5 per cent, while the Russian Railways' cargo transportation charges will this year rise by 16 per cent.

6 May 2008 Lt-General Vladimir Shamanov says the Russian military will not allow Georgian military aircraft to perform flights over the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone.

6 May 2008 Vladimir Putin signs an order to publish a fundamental work called the Great Patriotic War. The MOD is entrusted with overseeing work on the multi-volume publication.

7 May 2008 The inauguration of Dmitry Medvedev as president takes place.

Medvedev nominates Vladimir Putin as prime minister.

Gazprom chief executive Aleksey Miller will become the acting chairman of the board of directors, replacing Dmitry Medvedev following his inauguration as president.

7 May 2008 A law on access of foreign investors to strategic branches of the Russian economy comes into force. Forty-two types of activities are recognized as strategic. They include nuclear, space and aviation sectors, spheres of production, arms trade, TV and radio broadcasting.

8 May 2008 The Duma approves Vladimir Putin's nomination as prime minister. At a special session of the lower chamber, 392 deputies voted for his candidacy, 56 voted against, and none abstained. Dmitry Medvedev signs a decree appointing Vladimir Putin as prime minister.

8 May 2008 The commander-in-chief of the Internal Troops, Army General Nikolay Rogozhkin, says that the MVD will not allow a new war in the North Caucasus: "Only the obnoxious ringleaders are still operating in that region. Unfortunately, they enjoy the financial support of the West. We think there are no more than 400-600 militants left and they keep migrating from one republic to another."

9 May 2008 An article in *Rossiskaya Gazeta* by Yury Gavrilov analyses the decision of Defence Minister Anatoly Serdyukov to recreate the General Inspector Service in the MOD.

12 May 2008 Prime Minister Vladimir Putin announces the new government. There have been some changes in the governmental structure. The prime minister will now have seven deputy ministers instead of five; some ministries have been split into two, while some federal agencies have been done away with.

A new ministry on Sports, Tourism and Youth Policy has been set up. The Industry and Energy Ministry has been split in two: the Industry Ministry, which was assigned trade regulation from the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade,

and the Energy Ministry.

The Information Technologies and Communications Ministry has been turned into the Ministry of Mass Communications and Telecommunications. It was given all

services supervising and controlling the media including the electronic media.

The deputy prime ministers and their responsibilities are:

Viktor Alekseyevich Zubkov, first deputy prime minister, will be responsible for implementing national projects on agriculture, drawing up and implementing the state fisheries policy, developing timber and agriculture industries.

Igor Ivanovich Shuvalov, first deputy prime minister: drawing up the state policy in foreign economy and foreign trade, state policy on technical regulation, holding talks on Russia's accession to the World Trade Organization, securing state support for small business development, administering state property, state policy on common economic space and freedom of economic activity, anti-monopoly policy, developing competition and national tariff policy, as well as drawing up state policy on the social and economic development of the Russian Federation's constituent parts.

Aleksandr Dmitryevich Zhukov, deputy prime minister will be in charge of implementing national priority projects except the national agriculture project, as well as the state policy on education, health care, social security, affordable and comfortable housing, culture and the arts; developing physical culture and sports including preparations for the 2014 Olympics in Sochi, as well as developing tourism and cooperation with religious associations, etc.

Igor Ivanovich Sechin, deputy prime minister, will be responsible for drawing up and implementing state policy on industrial development, except for the defence industry, and energy, state policy on the use of natural resources and environmental protection, as well as implementing environmental, technological and nuclear supervision.

Sergey Semenovich Sobyenin, Russian deputy prime minister and chief of the Russian government staff, will be in charge of implementing a relevant policy on purposes, tasks, activities and assessment of the effectiveness of the executive agencies in the Russian Federation's constituent parts in accordance with the state priority social and economic tasks, as well as dividing powers between federal state authorities, state authorities in the constituents part of the Russian Federation, local government agencies and securing their coordination, implementing the law making and a number of other functions.

Aleksey Leonidovich Kudrin deputy prime minister and finance minister, will be responsible for drawing up the main areas of Russia's socio-economic development, conducting a single finance, credit and monetary policy of managing Russia's state debt and finance assets, as well as state financial planning, drawing up and implementing the state budget, developing the state investment policy and regulating state financial markets.

The full list of ministers is:

Viktor Alekseyevich Zubkov - First Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation;

Igor Ivanovich Shuvalov - First Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation;

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Aleksey Leonidovich Kudrin - Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance;
Aleksandr Dmitryevich Zhukov - Deputy Prime Minister;
Sergey Borisovich Ivanov - Deputy Prime Minister;
Igor Ivanovich Sechin - Deputy Prime Minister;
Sergey Semyonovich Sobyenin - Deputy Prime Minister;

Sergey Viktorovich Lavrov - Minister of Foreign Affairs;
Anatoly Eduardovich Serdyukov - Minister of Defence;
Rashid Gumarovich Nurgaliev - Minister of the Interior;
Tatyana Alekseyevna Golikova - Minister of Public Health and Social Development;
Aleksey Vassilyevich Gordeev - Minister of Agriculture;
Dmitry Nikolayevich Kozak - Minister of Regional Development;
Igor Yevgenyevich Levitin - Minister of Transport;
Elvira Sakhipzadovna Nabiullina - Minister of Economic Development;
Igor Olegovich Shchegolev - Minister of Telecommunications and Mass Communications;
Aleksandr Alekseyevich Avdeyev - Minister of Culture;
Andrey Aleksandrovich Fursenko - Minister of Education and Science;
Yury Petrovich Trutnev - Minister of Natural Resources and Ecology;
Viktor Borisovich Khristenko - Minister of Industry and Trade;
Sergey Ivanovich Shmatko - Minister of Energy;
Aleksandr Vladimirovich Konovalov - Minister of Justice;
Sergey Kuzhugetovich Shoygu - Minister of Civil Defence, Emergency Situations and Disaster Relief
Vitaly Leontyevich Mutko - Minister of Sports, Tourism and Youth Policy.

12 May 2008 Dmitry Medvedev makes the following appointments:

Head of the presidential administration: Sergey Yevgenyevich Naryshkin;
Secretary of the Security Council: Nikolay Platonovich Patrushev;
New director of the FSB: Aleksandr Vasilevich Bortnikov.

Vladislav Surkov is appointed first deputy head of the presidential administration. Surkov will oversee domestic policy issues and act in the absence of the head of the administration. Aleksey Gromov and Aleksandr Beglov are appointed deputy heads of the presidential administration. Gromov, who was former President Putin's press secretary, will oversee the work of the presidential press service and information directorate, and the president's protocol and organizational work directorate. Beglov, until recently Putin's presidential aide and head of the president's control directorate, will oversee the work of the president's chancellery and be in charge of the paperwork.

12 May 2008 The head of the Investigations Committee under the Prosecutor's Office, Aleksandr Bastrykin, signs an order appointing Anatoly Bagmet to head the investigations directorate for Moscow at the Investigations Committee under the Prosecutor's Office, according to a statement by the Investigations Committee press service.

Dmitry Medvedev relieves Viktor Cherkesov of the post of the head of the Federal Service for Control over the Trafficking of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances. He will replace Aleksandr Denisov as head of the Federal Agency for the Supply of Armaments, Military and Special Equipment and Material Resources (Rosoboronpostavka).

Medvedev abolishes the post of minister - first deputy chairman of the military-industrial commission under the government. The post had been occupied by Vladimir Putilin since it was first introduced.

The two state committees created in September 2007, the State Committee for Fisheries and the State Committee for Youth Affairs, are disbanded.

Six federal agencies have been abolished as part of the federal executive system reform and by presidential decree. They are:

Federal Agency for High Technology Medical Care
 Federal Agency for Health Care and Social Development
 Federal Agency for Culture and Cinematography
 Federal Industry Agency
 Federal Agency for Construction, Housing and Utilities
 Federal Energy Agency.

Medvedev abolishes the Russian Federal Property Fund (RFFI).

12 May 2008 The Justice Ministry takes over the functions of registering non-commercial organizations, including branches of international NCOs, which have until now been performed by Rosregistratsiya.

12 May 2008 The suspect killer of journalist Anna Politkovskaya, Rustam Makhmudov, is put on the international wanted list. Two suspects (Dmitry Grachev and Magomed Demelkhanov) for the murder have been released.

12 May 2008 Various opposition figures set up a website calling for an alternative parliament www.nationalassembly.ru.

12 May 2008 Sulim Yamadayev is removed from the post of commander of the Vostok battalion of the 42nd motor-rifle division of the MOD.

13 May 2008 Dmitry Medvedev appoints six aides and five advisers to the president, as well as press secretary and head of protocol of the head of state.

Natalya Timakova is appointed press secretary to the president. She served earlier as head of the press service and information directorate of the president of the Russian Federation.

Marina Yentaltseva will be head of the president's protocol. In Putin's administration, she was head of the Kremlin Protocol Directorate.

Medvedev appoints six presidential aides. Of these, Aleksandr Abramov, who was in charge of relations with constituent parts of the Russian Federation in Putin's administration; Sergey Prikhodko, who was in charge of international policy; and Dzhakhan Pollyyeva, who was in charge of administrative assistants, have all kept their posts. Larisa Brycheva keeps her post as aide to the president - head of the State Law Directorate of the president of the Russian Federation.

Arkady Dvorkovich, who used to be head of the Expert Directorate of the president of the Russian Federation, becomes aide to the head of state. Konstantin Chuychenko has been appointed aide to the president - head of the Control Directorate of the president.

The president now has five advisers: Mikhail Trinoga, Mikhail Zurabov, Yury Laptev, Veniamin Yakovlev and Leonid Reyman.

13 May 2008 Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov says that his official duties in

the new cabinet of ministers have not changed.

Ivanov says that Deputy Prime Minister Igor Sechin will be appointed new chairman of the board of directors of the United Shipbuilding Corporation. Ivanov says that Russia is to spend \$5.7 billion on civilian shipbuilding by 2016.

13 May 2008 Nikolay Levichev, leader of the Spravedlivaya Rossiya Duma faction says the faction is inclined to actively cooperate with the new government.

13 May 2008 A member of the National Antiterrorist Committee's staff Major-General Viktor Orlov says that over 50 NGOs abroad support Chechen militants. He is addressing an international parliamentary conference on the fight against international terrorism in St Petersburg.

14 May 2008 Dmitry Medvedev signs a decree envisaging the removal of excessive administrative barriers for small business. Medvedev says that it is intended that 70 per cent of Russians will be working in small businesses by 2020.

Medvedev makes the following appointments:

Mikhail Lesin and Vladimir Shevchenko - presidential advisers;

Aleksandr Kosopkin - presidential plenipotentiary representative in the State Duma;

Aleksandr Kotenkov - presidential envoy in the Federation Council;

Mikhail Krotov - presidential plenipotentiary representative in the Constitutional Court;

Former Justice Ministry Vladimir Ustinov is appointed plenipotentiary presidential envoy to the Southern Federal District.

Grigory Rapota, who was replaced by Ustinov, has become the president's envoy to the Volga Federal District. Rapota is replacing Aleksandr Konovalov, who has been appointed justice minister.

The other envoys remain in their posts. Ilya Klebanov remains the president's envoy in the Northwestern District, Georgy Poltavchenko in the Central District, Petr Latyshev in the Urals, Anatoly Kvashnin in the Siberian District, and Oleg Safonov in the Far Eastern District.

14 May 2008 Human rights ombudsman Vladimir Lukin says that the Moscow authorities violated the law when they rejected an application to hold a Dissenters' March on 6 May and that the matter should be heard in court.

14 May 2008 Gazprom is awarded the rights to develop nine gas fields in the Yamal Nenets Autonomous Area and on the shelf of both the Okhotsk and Kara Sea without a tender. The list of gas fields includes Semakovskoye, Tota-Yakhinskoye, Antipayutinskoye, Kruzenshternskoye, Severo-Tambeyskoye, Zapadno-Tambeyskoye, Tasiyskoye and Malyginskoye gas fields with total gas reserves estimated at over 2.700 billion cu metres. The document also said that Gazprom would be given the rights to develop the Kirinskoye gas field which is part of the Sakhalin-3 oil and gas project and has estimated gas reserves of about 100 billion cubic metres.

14 May 2008 The first secretary of the central council of the Spravedlivaya Rossiya party and Duma deputy speaker, Aleksandr Babakov, says that statements by Moscow Mayor Yury Luzhkov about the status of Sevastopol do not reflect the official position of the Russian state.

14 May 2008 The MOD Directorate for Applications from the Public in Moscow opens an office to receive citizens that have questions on the call-up for military service.

14 May 2008 The Economic Development Ministry raises the inflation forecast for this year to 9-10.5 per cent from the previous 9-10 per cent.

15 May 2008 Prime Minister Vladimir Putin chairs the first session of the new government, which considers the strategy for the country's socioeconomic

development to 2011. Putin says that a presidium of the government is to be set up which will meet once a week to deal with current issues. It will comprise: Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, First Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Zubkov and First Deputy Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov; deputy prime ministers Aleksandr Zhukov, Sergey Ivanov, Igor Sechin, Aleksey Kudrin, Sergey Sobyenin; Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Regional Development Minister Dmitry Kozak, Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeev, Health and Social Development Minister Tatyana Golikova, Economic Development Minister Elvira Nabiullina, Interior Minister Rashid Nurgaliev, Defence Minister Anatoly Serdyukov.

15 May 2008 Dmitry Medvedev appoints Viktor Ivanov to the post of director of the Federal Service of the Russian Federation for Control over the Trafficking of Narcotics.

15 May 2008 Former Deputy Minister of Economic Development Kirill Androsov is to be appointed government deputy chief of staff.

15 May 2008 Russian People's Democratic Union leader and former Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov states that there has been no change in political power in Russia.

15 May 2008 Minority shareholder Tetlis brings a claim against TNK-BP.

15 May 2008 Economic Development Minister Elvira Nabiullina says that the Russian government expects world oil prices to fall to around \$72 per barrel by the end of 2011:

The first challenge we discussed was the pace of the world economic development, which affects the development of the Russian economy. We discussed forecasts of oil prices. As the basic scenario, we think that oil prices will remain sufficiently high, but there will be some decline. Obviously, in the first quarter of this year, there was a record increase in oil prices. In the future, oil prices will fall. We forecast that by the end of 2011 the oil price will be about \$72 per barrel. Our calculations and forecasts are based on that.

16 May 2008 Dmitry Medvedev appoints Oleg Markov as presidential aide. He was head of the Federal Service for Financial Monitoring (Rosfinmonitoring).

16 May 2008 Prime Minister Vladimir Putin appoints Kirill Androsov deputy chief of the government staff. Prior to this posting, Androsov was deputy minister of economic development and trade.

16 May 2008 Vladimir Putin and Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeev discuss food security. The Agriculture Ministry is predicting a grain harvest of 85 million tonnes this year.

17 May 2008 The National Assembly, an alternative parliament of the Russian opposition, holds its first meeting in Moscow.

17 May 2008 Deputy Interior Minister Lt-General Arkady Yedelev says that armed groups in the North Caucasus have received more financial support for terrorist activity from abroad.

18 May 2008 The Andrey Sakharov museum and public centre is holding a festival of freedom pegged to the academician's birthday anniversary.

18 May 2008 The LDPR, at its 21st party congress, calls for the establishment of a parliamentary system in Russia.

18 May 2008 Co-chairman of the Council of Muftis of Russia Nafigulla Ashirov appeals to Muslims and members of other ethnic groups exposed to attacks by extremists to set up compact residential areas in cities and towns.

19 May 2008 Sergey Naryshkin, head of the presidential administration, says a council for fighting corruption that will be headed by Dmitry Medvedev has been set up. An interdepartmental group has also been set up. It will develop a plan of fighting corruption in Russia within a month. Naryshkin will head it.

19 May 2008 Dmitry Medvedev makes the following appointments:

Sergey Ushakov advisor to the President

Oleg Govorun head of the President's Directorate for Domestic Policy

Dmitry Zhuykov head of the President's Directorate for Ensuring Citizens' Constitutional Rights

Vladimir Osipov head of the President's Directorate for Personnel and State Awards

Sergey Dubik head of the President's Directorate for State Service.

Medvedev also appoints his aide Arkady Dvorkovich representative of the president for the affairs of the G8 and for connections with representatives of the leaders of the G8, a Russian sherpa.

19 May 2008 Vladimir Putin calls for reform of agriculture:

Russia has a unique agrarian potential which allows us not only to cater for our own needs but also to establish ourselves as a major player in the world food market. We have already laid down serious foundations for this... Serious funding is being allocated for the national agrarian policy on the federal as well as regional levels. Our key tasks are to ensure a stable development of rural areas, to improve the living conditions in villages and substantially increase the efficiency of the agricultural sector, as well as competitiveness of domestic agricultural produce.

Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeev says Russia still wishes to join the WTO despite Russia's intention to review international agreements in the agriculture sector, which was announced by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

19 May 2008 Representatives of various Russian Muslim centres speak out against the proposal by Nafigulla Ashirov on establishing residential areas populated mainly by Muslims. Those who criticise Ashirov are: the chairman of the Coordinating Centre of Muslims of the North Caucasus, Ismail Berdiev; First deputy head of the Central Spiritual Department of Muslims Albir Krganov.

Annual career development training for Muslim religious figures opens at the Academy of Civil Service under the President. The training has been organized by the Council of Muftis of Russia and the Civil Service Academy.

19 May 2008 An article by Irina Kuksenkova in *Moskovsky Komsomolets* says the

Russian MOD has no intention of permitting Sulim Yamadayev to be removed from command of the Vostok battalion in Chechnya. Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov declared that Yamadayev been relieved of his command.

19 May 2008 A bomb explosion takes place in Nalchik in Kabarda-Balkaria.

19 May 2008 Chechen rebel website Chechenpress reports that a working conference of members of the Chechen republic of Ichkeria cabinet of ministers took place in London on 14 May. The meeting was chaired by head of the CRI government, Akhmed Zakayev.

19 May 2008 Space Troops Commander Colonel-General Vladimir Popovkin says the Armavir-based (Voronezh-DM) radar will go on combat duty in February 2009.

The head of the Pilyugin Research and Production Centre for Automaton and Instrument-Building, Yefim Mezheritsky, says the Russian Space Troops have the capability to destroy foreign military satellites.

20 May 2008 Dmitry Medvedev says that courts must become become independent and move away from red tape and unlawful rulings:

The main aim is to achieve independence of courts in practice. There is a well-known principle that judges obey only the law and in substance this is the basis of the respect for courts, the belief in just justice. This is a big fundamental task. In order to move in this direction, it is necessary for us to consider a whole raft of issues, including issues connected with the preparation of a string of measures aimed at the eradication of unlawful rulings - rulings, which we know, do exist and which often arise also as a result of various kinds of pressure, phone calls and, let's not beat about the bush, for cash.

20 May 2008 Prime Minister Vladimir Putin addresses a meeting of the International Transport Forum in Sochi. He calls for the development of the Russian transport system. He says:

If we had roads, highways and railways, we would have already developed large mineral resource fields. No roads - no development.

Great difficulties are experienced by people who sometimes have to travel via Moscow to get to a neighbouring region. Our transport system has not yet really become a single whole. Various types of transport are not yet fully integrated. Freight train jams near seaports have become a byword.

It is obvious that effective logistic arrangements cannot be built on such basis. As a result, the transit potential of Russia is in little demand. Every year we lose direct profit, and very significant profit. Now only one per cent of the trade turnover between Europe and Asia goes through our territory. According to experts' estimations, it could be 5 and even 10 times higher.

Putin later states:

Over 17,000 kilometres of federal, regional and local roads, and over 100 runways are to be built or reconstructed. The total capacity of seaports is to increase by over 400 million tonnes of freight a year.

Over 3,000 kilometres of new railways are to be put into service. Stations with a limited capacity are to be almost completely eliminated. The implementation of rapid passenger transport programmes is to start.

A later report by *Zvezda TV* channel states that R13,000 billion (around \$547 billion) is to be invested in developing Russia's transport system in the near future.

Putin appoints Denis Manturov and Andrey Dementyev as deputy ministers at the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

20 May 2008 It is stated that the duties of the prime minister in the event of his temporary absence are to be performed by First Deputy Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov. This is envisaged by a document on the distribution of powers between the deputy prime ministers that has been posted on the government website.

20 May 2008 Dmitry Medvedev appoints Aleksandr Manzhosin as head of the president's foreign policy directorate. Manzhosin has held this position previously.

20 May 2008 Dzhumberi Tkebuchava, director of Atomenergoprom's administration support department, has been promoted to deputy director of the company.

20 May 2008 Major-General Nikolay Sivak commander of the Combined Force in the North Caucasus, is interviewed in *Krasnaya Zvezda*. He says losses in the North Caucasus up to 27 April 2008 amount to 17 servicemen. This compares to 15 for the same period in 2007.

The head of the MOD's medical commission, Major-General Valery Kulikov, is interviewed in *Komsomolskaya Pravda*. He says the MOD spends R70 million (about \$2.95 million) a year to bring malnourished recruits back to health. He says every year about 80,000 17-year olds receive deferment from military service due to nutrition problems and that statistically, 300 out of 1,000 young men are not fit for the army service altogether.

20 May 2008 The President of North Ossetia Taymuraz Mamsurov speaks out in favour of the unification of North Ossetia and South Ossetia. He is speaking at a presentation, organized to celebrate the 225th anniversary of North Ossetia joining the Russian state. Mamsurov's stance is supported by South Ossetian president Eduard Kokoyty.

20 May 2008 Investigative agencies carry out searches in the office of the BP oil company in Moscow.

21 May 2008 The Duma passes a resolution establishing a commission on legislative support for resistance to corruption.

Boris Nemtsov says that a Latin-American style state capitalism has been built in Russia, which is characterized by corruption and inflation. He says there has been a massive expansion of state bureaucracy and theft of state property.

21 May 2008 Chief Military Prosecutor Sergey Fridinsky says there has been no significant decline of crime rate in the Armed Forces. He says the number of criminal cases instigated increased five-fold: from 146 in the first quarter of 2007 to 752 in the first quarter of 2008. He also says that earlier this year a special anticorruption department was set up in the Chief Military Prosecutor's Office.

Fridinsky calls for better social protection of the military. He also says that in the first quarter of 2008, 91 non-combat deaths have been registered in the Armed Forces. Half of these were suicides.

21 May 2008 Economic Development Minister Elvira Nabiullina says that Russia is not facing an economic crisis.

21 May 2008 Prime Minister Vladimir Putin appoints Nelli Naygovzina director of the government's department for social development and protection of the environment.

Putin appoints heads of the secretariats of five of the seven deputy prime ministers. The secretariat of First Deputy Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov will be headed by Naderya Mukhomedzhan; Deputy Prime Minister and government chief of staff Sergey Sobyenin's secretariat by Andrey Krotov; Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Zhukov's by Aleksey Golovkov; Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov's by Vladimir Chernov; and Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin's by Aleksey Glagolev.

21 May 2008 The Coordination Centre of the Muslims of the North Caucasus recognizes Marat Tavkazakhov as the mufti for North Ossetia. He was elected by the republic's Muslims four years ago. Earlier, the local authorities declared Ali Yevteyev as North Ossetia's mufti.

22 May 2008 A Levada opinion poll reports that 76 per cent think that Dmitry Medvedev is coping with his presidential duties. 38 per cent think that real power should belong to Dmitry Medvedev. In April this was 47 per cent. 19 per cent think that real power should remain in the hands of Vladimir Putin.

22 May 2008 Lev Ponomarev, the executive director of the For Human Rights movement, says a letter has been sent to the Kremlin requesting that 15 people be pardoned, including Mikhail Khodorkovsky. Ponomarev says there are about 100 political prisoners in Russia. The letter was signed by members of the Moscow Helsinki Group, the Civil Assistance committee, the Andrey Sakharov foundation, the For Human Rights movement, the foundation for protection of openness, the public committee on protection of scientists and the public committee on protection of freedom of conscience.

22 May 2008 At a preliminary hearing at the Irkutsk Region arbitration tribunal Rosprirodnadzor demands that the Baykal Pulp and Paper Mill stop dumping waste in Lake Baikal.

22 May 2008 The head of battlefield air defence of the Armed Forces, Colonel-General Nikolay Frolov, says battlefield air defence will be transferred from the Ground Troops to the Air Force by the end of 2008.

23 May 2008 Dmitry Medvedev congratulates representatives of the office of the Russian human rights ombudsman on its 10th anniversary.

23 May 2008 People accompanying former Prime Minister and leader of the Russian People's Democratic Union Mikhail Kasyanov on his trip to Chelyabinsk say that representatives of Molodaya Gvardia are trying to disrupt the visit.

23 May 2008 Regional Development Minister Dmitry Kozak says that as part of a

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federal programme for the social and economic development of Chechnya, Russia will allocate R110 billion by 2012.

24 May 2008 Commander of the Space Troops Colonel-General Vladimir Popovkin says the deployment of strike weapons in space must not be allowed.

25 May 2008 Dmitry Medvedev signs a decree appointing a new Security Council. It meets for the first time. The following permanent members of the Security Council were appointed: Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, FSB Director Aleksandr

Bortnikov, State Duma Speaker Boris Gryzlov, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Speaker of the Federation Council Sergey Mironov, head of the presidential administration Sergey Naryshkin, Interior Minister Rashid Nurgaliev, Security Council secretary Nikolay Patrushev, Defence Minister Anatoly Serdyukov and Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) Director Mikhail Fradkov.

Other members of the Security Council are: chief of the General Staff and First Deputy Defence Minister General Yury Baluyevsky, Federal Drug Control Service Director Viktor Ivanov, presidential envoy to the Siberian Federal District Anatoly Kvashnin, presidential envoy to the Northwestern Federal District Ilya Klebanov, Justice Minister Aleksandr Kononov, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin, presidential envoy to the Urals Federal District Petr Latyshev, president of the Russian Academy of Sciences Yury Osipov, presidential envoy to the Central Federal District Georgy Poltavchenko, First Deputy Director of the FSB and head of the Border Guards Service Vladimir Pronichev, presidential envoy to the Volga Federal District Grigory Rapota, presidential envoy to the Far East Federal District Oleg Safonov, presidential envoy to the Southern Federal District Vladimir Ustinov, Prosecutor-General Yury Chayka and Emergencies Minister Sergey Shoygu.

26 May 2008 The head of the interregional association of human rights organizations AGORA, Pavel Chikov, accuses Rosregistratsiya of exceeding its powers and asks Prosecutor-General Yury Chayka to deal with the situation. Chikov claims that Rosregistratsiya is not complying with the president's decree, according to which the department has been deprived of control over NGOs. According to the decree, since 13 May the Ministry of Justice is the body authorized by the state to have the right to take decisions regarding NGOs and not Rosregistratsiya.

26 May 2008 The Moscow Kuntsevsky court suspends the activity of the ingushetiya.ru opposition website.

26 May 2008 Colonel Aleksandr Drobyshevsky is appointed head of the press service of the MOD directorate of press service and information.

26 May 2008 It is claimed that servicemen from a federal forces unit, possibly the Vostok battalion, fired at a mobile police post at the Gudermes-Shuani crossroads in Chechnya.

27 May 2008 Prime Minister Vladimir Putin signs an order appointing Aleksandr Smirnov head of the press service and information department of the government. Putin also appoints Yury Petrov as head of the Russian Federal Property Fund.

27 May 2008 The CPRF files a suit in the Supreme Court to declare void the results of the 2 December 2007 Duma election.

Sergey Mironov, the speaker of the Federation Council and leader of the

Spravedlivaya Rossiya party, says he sees no chance at present for his party's unification with the CPRF.

27 May 2008 A deputy head of the Border Guards Service, Lt-General Nikolay Rybalkin says border guard special-purpose units will be defending the most dangerous sections of the Russian state border as of 2010. A special-purpose unit of border guards is already operating in the North Caucasus. First Deputy Director of the FSB and head of the Border Guards Service Vladimir Pronichev says that the Russian Border Guards Service is completing its transition to the contractual

manning system and will no longer be drafting conscripts.

27 May 2008 Lt-General Yevgenny Buzhinsky, deputy head of the MOD's main directorate for international cooperation, says the Russian Armed Forces will not give up cluster bombs and landmines despite the appeals being made by a number of countries.

Colonel Sergey Marakhov, a representative of the department for troop service of the main directorate for military training and troop service of the armed forces, says that the reorganization of army and navy garrisons will begin on 1 July 2008 in accordance with the new general statute of troops of the armed forces which took effect on 1 January 2008. "Within the scope of the territorial reorganization of garrisons, it is planned that 70 territorial garrisons will be established and will, as a rule, be the same as garrisons of constituent parts of the Russian Federation. There will also be 109 local garrisons." There are about 500 military garrisons in the armed forces at present.

28 May 2008 Prime Minister Vladimir Putin signs a resolution about the appointment of Vladimir Ostrovenko to the post of director of the protocol department of the government.

28 May 2008 Justice Minister Aleksandr Kononov has said the state must create comfortable conditions for public organizations to register and operate, but also an efficient and justified monitoring system. 228,179 NGOs are registered in Russia, 128,000 of them are public associations. Last year, 13,482 inspections, mainly financial, were carried out. In 2007, over 46,000 written official warnings were issued, which is three times more than in 2006. 8,351 requests to close down NGOs were sent to court.

28 May 2008 Moscow's Basmannyy court issues a warrant to arrest a former employee of the Federal Drug Control Service who is another person involved in the case of Lt-General Aleksandr Bulbov. A warrant to arrest Aleksandr Kochuk was issued on 20 May.

28 May 2008 The URF states it will ask the Supreme Court to declare the results of the Duma election in December 2007 invalid.

28 May 2008 A deputy of the People's Assembly of the Chechen Republic, Magomed Khanbiyev, urges leaders of illegal armed groups who are outside the Russian Federation to come back to Russia, the Chechen Republic, and help bring back to peaceful life young people who are still members of illegal armed formations.

29 May 2008 *Izvestiya* newspaper is sold by Gazprom-media to SOGAZ.

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29 May 2008 Yedinaya Rossiya leader Boris Gryzlov outlines plans for its development at its party conference. He talks about developing a cadre reserve.

29 May 2008 TNK-BP Russian shareholders demand the resignation of the company's chief executive officer, Robert Dudley. The MVD says a case has been instigated against the former head of the Tyumen Oil Company (TNK) Semen Kukes for tax evasion.

29 May 2008 The head of the Russian Central Bank, Sergey Ignatyev says that the net outflow of private capital from Russia in the first four months of 2008 amounted to \$5 billion.

29 May 2008 Presidential envoy to the Southern Federal District Vladimir Ustinov visits Chechnya. He promises to help the residents of Chechnya clear mines, search for missing people and resolve problems with federal forces' deployment.

29 May 2008 Sergey Fridinsky, chief military prosecutor of the Russian Federation, says the Russian army lost a whole battalion in the past year in so-called non-combat losses. He says 341 servicemen committed suicide last year, 14 per cent down on 2006; this still constituted "more than half of all non-combat losses". 367 servicemen were killed in traffic accidents in 2007, and another 96 in the first four months of 2008. There were 9 per cent fewer non-combat losses in 2007 than in 2006.

30 May 2008 Dmitry Medvedev signs the ordinance "On the Federal Fisheries Agency".

Medvedev signs a decree appointing Andrey Tsybulin head of the Kremlin press service and information directorate.

It is stated that Vladimir Kozhin will continue in his post as chief of the president's Administrative Office.

30 May 2008 The head of the Presidential Administration, Sergey Naryshkin, states that the role of the government as the higher executive body of the state power is increasing:

Today the role of the executive power in the state mechanism is growing and the status of the government as the highest executive body of state power is increasing...It is the effective work of the government that is capable of ensuring to a large extent the stability of the system of executive power on the basis of constitutional principles.

30 May 2008 *Ekho Moskvy* reports that the Nashi youth group will teach Orthodox culture at schools in the autumn.

30 May 2008 The owner and editor in chief of the *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* newspaper, Konstantin Remchukov, says he is now quite sure that the notice from the government of Moscow demanding that the editorial office vacate the premises it occupies because the building is unsafe is groundless.

30 May 2008 Aeroflot general director Valery Okulov says he does not consider it

sensible to buy the Italian airline Alitalia.

30 May 2008 Colonel-General Sergey Makarov is appointed the commander of the North Caucasus Military District.

30 May 2008 Sergey Viktorovich Chemezov, general director of Rostekhnologii State Corporation and chairman of "Union of Russian Machine Builders" is interviewed in *Nezavisimoye Voyennoye Obozreniye*.

31 May 2008 Robert Dudley, the chief executive of Russian-British joint venture TNK-BP, says that he is not planning to leave his post of his own accord.

31 May 2008 Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov says that police suspect former commander of the Vostok battalion Sulim Yamadayev and his brother Badrudi of involvement in kidnappings and murders.

June 2008

1 June 2008 The head of the Federal Migration Service, Konstantin Romodanovsky, says the number of foreign citizens registered with the FMS reached eight million in 2007.

2 June 2008 Dmitry Medvedev appoints Vladimir Bulavin First Deputy Security Council Chief. Bulavin had been FSB Deputy director and Head of the apparatus of the National Anti-terrorist Committee.

2 June 2008 Yury Ushakov is appointed deputy head of the government staff by the order of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

2 June 2008 Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says that the list of strategic sectors in which foreign investment is restricted under a new federal law might be made shorter.

2 June 2008 Dmitry Medvedev has a working meeting with Prosecutor-General Yury Chayka. He orders the latter to tighten control over implementation of a decree that would crucially decrease the number of inspections of small and medium businesses. The document was signed on 14 May. All inspections carried out by officials are to be held only with the corresponding sanctions.

2 June 2008 Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov demands that the members of the Chechen government intensify work on the spiritual and moral education of young people.

3 June 2008 Dmitry Medvedev appoints Sergey Sobolev head of the President's Protocol Directorate. Igor Smirnov is appointed its deputy head.

3 June 2008 Prime Minister Vladimir Putin appoints Boris Boyarskov head of the Federal Service for Supervision in Communications and Mass Communications.

3 June 2008 Dmitry Medvedev says Russia should use non-traditional, renewable energy sources more actively. He says that 40 million Russians today are living in unfavourable environmental conditions, and that the state intends to change that situation:

Our country loses more energy from heating networks than any other country in the world. That's a bad record. As far as the level of energy efficiency is concerned, it is lagging 10 or 20 times behind a modern level in most industries. Therefore, the aim has been set to reduce the economy's energy to output ratio by almost half by 2020.

3 June 2008 President of the Russian Academy of Sciences Yury Osipov says he has noted a decrease in the rate of academics leaving Russia to go abroad.

3 June 2008 Dmitry Medvedev appoints Nikolay Makarov chief of the General Staff. He occupied the post of deputy defence minister and head of armament of the Armed Forces. Former chief of the General Staff Yury Baluyevsky is appointed deputy secretary of the Security Council.

3 June 2008 The press service of the separatist government of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria is authorized to declare that reports by some anti-Chechen websites about contacts between the chairman of the cabinet of minister of the CRI, Akhmed Zakayev and the pro-Moscow government are false.

3 June 2008 the head of the federal directorate for safe storage and destruction of chemical weapons, Valery Kapashin says that during the third stage of the chemical weapons destruction programme, Russia has destroyed 10,500 tonnes of toxic substances. By the end of 2009 Russia should recycle and destroy 18,000 tonnes of toxic substances, or more than 40 per cent of its stock of chemical weapons.

4 June 2008 Dmitry Medvedev and the Federation Council chairman Sergey Mironov discuss measures for fighting corruption. Mironov presented a report on the state of the Russian legislation, based on concrete examples from court practice. Mironov said that a number of regions had already accumulated their own experience of fighting bribery and their ideas might be useful in drawing up federal laws.

4 June 2008 Prime Minister Vladimir Putin states that Yedinaya Rossiya should become a link between Russia's citizens and power structures. He meets the Yedinaya Rossiya Higher Council.

4 June 2008 Dmitry Muratov, *Novaya Gazeta* editor, states that the case of the October 2006 murder of *Novaya Gazeta* correspondent Anna Politkovskaya cannot be considered solved.

4 June 2008 The former president of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, proposes the establishment of a memorial complex commemorating the victims of Josef Stalin's repression in Moscow.

4 June 2008 Dmitry Medvedev signs a decree "One certain measures to increase energy and environmental efficiency of the Russian economy". The aim is to reduce by 2020 the energy intensiveness of GDP of the Russian Federation by at least 40 per cent compared with 2007 and to ensure rational and environmentally responsible use of energy and energy resources.

4 June 2008 President of TNK-BP Robert Dudley is summoned to the investigations department of the Central Federal District's Main Interior Directorate.

5 June 2008 Dmitry Medvedev issues decrees appointing Valentin Sobolev,

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Vladimir Nazarov and Yury Zubakov deputy secretaries of the Security Council. Medvedev also appoints Yury Averyanov, Anatoly Krivolapov and Vladislav Sherstyuk aides to the secretary of the Security Council.

5 June 2008 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Yakovenko says that Russia will not suffer from world food shortages, as it is self-sufficient in terms of food production.

Rosstat says that the price of the monthly food basket in Russia has risen an average 19.6 per cent since the beginning of the year and totalled R2,155 (around \$90 at the current exchange rate) at the end of May.

5 June 2008 Chechen human rights activists denounce the Grozny city administration's decision to relocate a memorial to the victims of the 1944 deportation of the Chechens.

7 June 2008 Commander Sergey Karakayev says that before the end of 2008, 11 launchers of the Topol-M missile system will be put on combat alert duty by the 27th Missile Army of the Strategic Missile Troops.

7 June 2008 The head of the Presidential Administration Sergey Naryshkin rules out reforming the Security Council.

7 June 2008 Dmitry Medvedev opens the St Petersburg Economic Forum. He says Russia is a global player and is qualified to take part in setting new rules of the game on the world market and to become a recognized international financial centre. He blames "economic egoism" and flawed US policy in particular for the 2007 global financial crisis.

7 June 2008 Chechen singer Timur Mutsurayev says that Akhmed Zakaev supports his dialogue with Ramzan Kadyrov. Mutsurayev recently defected to the Kadyrov government.

8 June 2008 Trade and Economic Development Minister Elvira Nabiullina says that Russia has become a world economic leader. She is speaking at the St Petersburg International Economic Forum. She says that the country "has developed a long-term perspective of the economic development and long-term tasks are set not only by the state, these tasks are set by business itself".

First Deputy Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov says at a plenary session:

Russia has been developing for eight years. We will become the world's sixth largest economy by the end of the year. Basic economic institutions have been shaped in Russia. They set up a basis for the stable operation of the world economy. Development of these institutions and the growth of their effectiveness are becoming topical now. Russia has become a full-fledged member of the club of the world's largest economies.

He says Russia should stop trying to catch up with the West and work out its own model of modernization. He warns that excessive state interference in the economy is just as dangerous for society as a lack of it. He says the share of the state sector in the Russian economy is much less than 40 per cent. He also says that the government will be significantly reducing the number of strategic enterprises.

Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov states at the Forum that there is no need to

have a large number of state corporations. "Many of the state corporations are not necessary and those state corporations that exist have been created for a particular purpose and for a particular period."

8 June 2008 A conference of nationalist organisations takes place at the Kosmos hotel in Moscow. They decide to merge. Aleksandr Belov, the leader of the Movement Against Illegal Immigration and Co-chairman of the Narod movement Aleksey Navalnyy attend.

8 June 2008 Aleksey Aleshin, deputy head of the Rostekhnologii state corporation that controls Rosoboronexport says that in 2008, the Rosoboronexport state unitary enterprise will export no less than \$6 billion worth of armaments in total.

9 June 2008 It is reported that Strategic Missile Troops have dismantled and sent for scrapping about 20 intercontinental missiles since 1 January 2008.

9 June 2008 Sergey Kirienko, head of the Rosatom state corporation, says the first nuclear-powered icebreaker of the new generation will be built in Russia by 2015. The Russian atomic icebreaker fleet currently consists of nine ships, but only seven are being used. Kirienko says that in 2014-6 the operating icebreakers will go out of service.

10 June 2008 Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, says there should be long-term contracts for arms and hardware supplies to the Russian army and navy.

Shamanov says there are no plans to disband the Vostok and Zapad battalions deployed in Chechnya.

10 June 2008 Lt-General Vladimir Shamanov, head of the Main Directorate for Combat Training and Service of the Armed Forces says that the Russian Navy will increase its presence in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and in the northern latitudes.

11 June 2008 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Yakovenko says that the world's interest in the Russian-language media has to do with the Russian economy's growth.

The information space is strengthening in Russia. The number of Russian-language outlets is growing, including those abroad. As you know, new television channels have been launched, which can also be watched abroad. In a word, the Russian information space, the Russian-language information space, is growing. I think this is a stable trend and as we will be witnessing the growth and diversification of the information space in the world, so of course the role of the Russian-language press will be growing.

11 June 2008 The chairman of Yedinaya Rossiya's Supreme Council and Duma speaker Boris Gryzlov says he believes that the purchase of super-computers abroad poses a threat to Russia's national security. Gryzlov says that he is planning to personally introduce an amendment to the three-year budget to allocate R2 billion to produce super-computers in Russia.

Gryzlov calls for the creation of a middle class. He says by 2020 the middle class should account for about 60 per cent of the working population. He is speaking at a Yedinaya Rossiya seminar on Russia's development strategy until 2012. He says Yedinaya Rossiya is in a position to take key decisions:

We truly are the ruling party, we do have big support from the electorate, and

we understand that we are responsible for what happens today and for what happens tomorrow.

We, in the One Russia party, really can draw up very serious decisions. We have people with left-wing, right-wing and centrist views. Therefore, we have a set of views for taking real decisions. The most important thing is that when One Russia takes a decision it will be implemented.

11 June 2008 URF leader Nikita Belykh says the URF needs to needs to be reorganized to be able to struggle for power.

11 June 2008 The acting head of the Northwest Customs Directorate, Aleksandr Getman, says that in 2007 customs officials in Russia's northwest thwarted 70 illegal attempts to move radioactive materials across the Russian border. The deputy head of the main directorate for information technologies at the Federal Customs Service, Nikolay Kravchenko, says that "not a single transfer of nuclear material across the Russian border has been recorded".

11 June 2008 Dmitry Medvedev appoints Colonel of Justice Yury Alekseev deputy chief of the Investigations Committee under the Interior Ministry, and confers on him the special rank of Major-General of Justice. He also appoints Colonel of Justice Oleg Logunov deputy chief of the Investigations Committee under the Interior Ministry, also conferring on him the rank of Major-General of Justice.

11 June 2008 Dmitry Medvedev signs a decree approving the composition of the commission for military-technical cooperation with foreign states. Medvedev becomes the chairman of the commission, while Prime Minister Vladimir Putin will be deputy chairman.

11 June 2008 Major rifts are reported within Yabloko. The leader of Yabloko's St Petersburg's branch Maksim Reznik and Yabloko's youth wing leader Ilya Yashin may be expelled.

11 June 2008 The Moscow State Labour Inspectorate institutes administrative proceedings against the company TNK-BP Management.

12 June 2008 The chairman of the parliament of Chechnya, Dukvakha Abdurakhmanov, says that the leadership of the Chechen Republic has never raised and is not going to raise the issue of disbanding the Vostok and Zapad battalions of the Russian 42nd Motor Rifle Division.

12 June 2008 The LDPR in North Ossetia propose holding a referendum on South Ossetia's joining Russia. The proposal is being considered by the central electoral commission of North Ossetia.

13 June 2008 The World Russian Press Congress emphasises the importance of Russian language media. Sergey Naryshkin, head of the presidential administration states:

The development of humanitarian ties is impossible without operative, objective and independent information. Russian-language media play an important role here. It is they that expand the opportunities for our citizens to navigate the media environment of Russia and the CIS, receive a decent

14 June 2008 Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says that a fall in oil prices will have no major effect on the Russian budget:

Russia is not afraid of prices going down. Our budget can operate deficit-free at the level of \$55 a barrel. The tax system for our oil companies is calculated in such a way that when oil prices go down, taxes go down too. So, there will be no significant change. To a small extent and insignificantly, compared with the previous period, this will affect the growth of our GDP. But, I repeat, this will be insignificant.

15 June 2008 The MOD rejects Georgian claims that Russian troops are allegedly setting up a military base with heavy combat weaponry and air defence systems near the village of Agubediya in Ochamchirsky District of Abkhazia.

16 June 2008 The Moscow Region Court acquits the defendants in the case of attempted murder of head of the Unified Energy System of Russia joint-stock company Anatoly Chubays. The sentence was based on the majority verdict of the jury (announced on 5 June), which found the three defendants, retired military intelligence officer Colonel Vladimir Kvachkov and former paratroopers Aleksandr Naydenov and Robert Yashin, not guilty.

16 June 2008 Dmitry Medvedev meets the the head of the Transneft company, Nikolay Tokarev, to discuss the construction of the East Siberia - Pacific Ocean oil pipeline. He calls for it to be completed without delays.

16 June 2008 Chechen airline Groznyy Avia introduces a regular service between Groznyy and Moscow.

17 June 2008 Dmitry Medvedev meets CPRF leader Gennady Zyuganov. He invites the CPRF to participate in the drafting of normative acts for fighting corruption.

17 June 2008 Prime Minister Vladimir Putin discusses the development of railway strategy until 2030.

17 June 2008 The Moscow City Court confirms the decision not to register Russian People's Democratic Union led by Mikhail Kasyanov.

17 June 2008 Regional Development Minister Dmitry Kozak says there will be no quick return to having elected regional governors. Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev spoke out in favour of elected governors on 14 June.

17 June 2008 The Tverskoy Court refuses to sustain the claim against the Prosecutor-General's Office of the Russian Federation in defence of the honour, dignity and business reputation of Menatep head and former co-owner of the Yukos oil company Platon Lebedev.

17 June 2008 Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says budget spending in 2009-2011 will not exceed 18 per cent of GDP. Kudrin admits it is difficult to meet the inflation target of 10.5 per cent.

17 June 2008 First Deputy Head of the Central Bank Gennady Melikyan warns that inflation may reach 12 per cent this year, which means it will be the same as last year.

17 June 2008 Major-General Yevgenny Burdinsky, chief of the conscription department of the Main Organizational-Mobilization Directorate of the General Staff, says this autumn the number of conscripts to be called up for military service in the Armed Forces may be increased to 200,000-220,000. In this spring it is planned to call up 133,200 people for service in the armed forces.

The chief of the Armed Forces General Staff, Nikolay Makarov, says the MOD will transfer the functions of the ordering customer for defence industry products for the needs of the army from the armed forces to Rosoboronpostavka (the Federal Agency for the Supply of Armaments, Military and Special Equipment and Materiel). He says: "We will form orders, we will tell them what we need - what types, categories and models - while they will handle money matters." Rosoboronpostavka

was created by presidential decree in February 2007.

17 June 2008 Major-General Sergey Popov is appointed head of the air force's Air Defence Missile Troops.

18 June 2008 Official representative of the Investigations Committee under the Prosecutor-General's Office Vladimir Markin says the investigation into the murder of *Novaya Gazeta* journalist Anna Politkovskaya has been completed. Charges of murder have been brought against three people: Sergey Khadzhiburbanov, and Dzhabrail and Ibragim Makhmudov. One other person involved in the case, Pavel Ryaguzov, has been charged with abuse of office and extortion. The case against another suspect in the case, the former head of the Achkhoy-Martanovsky District of Chechnya Shamil Burayev, has been dropped.

Editor in chief of *Novaya Gazeta* Dmitry Muratov says that it is too soon to say that the murder of *Novaya Gazeta* journalist Anna Politkovskaya has been solved.

18 June 2008 Prime Minister Vladimir Putin says that:

It is necessary to seriously increase the energy efficiency of the national economy - by at least 40 per cent by 2020. You know that the energy intensity of the Russian economy is by 130 per cent higher than the average in the world and about 40-45 per cent of the current volume of energy consumption is a potential for energy saving in our country.

18 June 2008 Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov says sub-units of power-wielding structures stationed in Chechnya are not sufficiently effectively fighting the members of the illegal armed formations remaining in Chechnya. He says it is necessary to carry out joint armed operations against the gunmen in the republic.

18 June 2008 The Investigations Committee under the Prosecution Service of the Russian Federation officially charges two Interior Ministry employees (Police Lt-Col Dmitry Tselyakov and Police Capt Aleksandr Nosenko) with an attempt to receive a 1.5m-euro bribe by an organised criminal group.

18 June 2008 The head of Rosoboronexport's department for analysis and planning, Sergey Svechnikov, says that over the past two years or so Rosoboronexport has signed contracts worth more than \$60 million for the supply to foreign customers of technical training means in the ground troops hardware category.

08/25

Dr Mark A Smith

18 June 2008 Civil Force party leader Mikhail Barshchevsky says he supports recent statements on the need to return to direct election of governors. Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiev was quoted in *Kommersant* on 16 June, calling on the Kremlin to replace appointments of the governors introduced in 2004 by their direct election. On 17 June the *Vedomosti* newspaper quoted Vladimir Pligin, head of the Duma Committee on Constitutional Legislation, as saying that the Duma and the Russian government did not rule out the return to the governors' direct election by 2012.

18 June 2008 Aleksandr Gorshkov, a member of the board of directors of TNK-BP Holding, files a suit in the Tyumen Region Arbitration Court to appeal against the list of candidates for the new board.

19 June 2008 Rosstat says that in May 2008 food prices in Russia rose faster than in the European Union. Food prices increased by 2.3 per cent last month (in April and May the price rise was also higher than similar figures in the EU, 2.5 and 2.2 per cent respectively). Since the beginning of the year food prices in Russia have risen 11.6 per cent, whereas the average rate in European countries is 3.1 per cent.

19 June 2008 The leader of the Yabloko youth wing, Ilya Yashin, says that there should be an alternative to Grigory Yavlinsky as Yabloko leader. He advocates Maksim Reznik as leader. Reznik is St Petersburg Yabloko branch leader.

19 June 2008 Deputy Interior Minister Nikolay Ovchinnikov is interviewed in *Gazeta*. He says that the distribution of information in the Russian segment of the Internet should be regulated by law.

19 June 2008 A number of human rights activists and politicians write an open letter to Dmitry Medvedev. They oppose Igor Tsokolov's appointment as presidential advisor.

19 June 2008 Chechen ombudsman Nurdi Nukhazhiev says human rights activists have discovered a mass grave dating back to the 1995 hostilities.

19 June 2008 Major-General Viktor Bondarev is appointed new commander of Siberian Large Strategic Formation of Air and Air Defence Forces.

20 June 2008 The chief of the General Staff, Army General Nikolay Makarov says that by 2020 Russia will create an "innovation-based army".

Within the framework of the strategy for the development of Russia until the year 2020, one of the priority directions is the strengthening of national security through creating a new strategy for the development of the Armed Forces while taking into account the new challenges and threats to our country. Here we are talking about creating an innovation-based army at the most modern level, at which fundamentally different demands are made on the professionalism, broad technical education and competencies of servicemen.

He is speaking at a graduation ceremony of students of the Military Academy of the General Staff in Moscow.

20 June 2008 Prime Minister Vladimir Putin signs a decree today making Rosoboronexport a joint-stock company. All 100 per cent of its shares will remain federal property. They will be transferred to the state corporation Rostekhnologii as

a property contribution by the state. The company currently controls 90 per cent of all sales of military hardware abroad. It has representative offices in 44 countries, and in 26 regions of Russia.

21 June 2008 Grigory Yavlinsky steps down as leader of Yabloko at its congress. The new leader is Sergey Mitrokhin.

21 June 2008 Commander Colonel-General Nikolay Solovtsov says that the share of the Russian Strategic Missile Troops in the country's overall spending on defence does not exceed 4 per cent. Solovtsov says that in 2006, 60 per cent of the military budget was spent on the maintenance of the armed forces and 40 per cent on their ammunition. In 2007, the ratio was 56 and 44 per cent, and in 2008 it approaches 53 and 47 per cent. There is now a challenge to reach the 50-50 ratio.

A statement on the MOD website says that over 100 servicemen have committed suicide in the armed forces since the beginning of 2008.

23 June 2008 Dmitry Medvedev appoints Sergey Konstantinovich Osipov the head of the President's Directorate for Information and Documentation.

23 June 2008 Vladimir Putin outlines the programme of economic development of and support for Chechnya until the year 2011 at a meeting of the government presidium. He also discusses plans for the development of education in the Russian Federation.

23 June 2008 Sergey Mitrokhin the new leader of Yabloko, says he is ready for a critical dialogue with the authorities.

23 June 2008 The chairman of Yedinaya Rossiya's supreme council and Duma speaker Boris Gрызлов says that Yedinaya Rossiya intends to carry out a check of its members before September 2008 in order to get rid of people who have stopped genuinely working.

23 June 2008 Security Council secretary Nikolay Patrushev is appointed head of Security Council's interagency commission for issues of strategic planning.

23 June 2008 The Moscow State Labour Inspectorate imposes fines on TNK-BP Management of R40,000 as a legal person, and of R3,000 on the chairman of the company's board Robert Dudley as the holder of an office.

23 June 2008 Dmitry Medvedev signs his first budget message for 2009-2011. At a meeting with the cabinet members he outlined the priorities of the country's budget policy for the next three years. They are health care, education, science, transport, pensions and increased compensations for certain groups of servicemen.

24 June 2008 Dmitry Medvedev sends his budget address to the head of the government and the chairmen of both houses of parliament. The document outlines approaches to the adoption of the federal budget for 2009-2011. It speaks of a transition to a 15-year cycle of financial forecasting in the formation of the budget.

24 June 2008 A directorate of the President for supporting the activities of the State Council is set up as part of the presidential administration. Petr Skorospelov is appointed head of the directorate.

08/25

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Dmitry Medvedev appoints Igor Yaremenko deputy head of the administrative department of the president.

24 June 2008 Prime Minister Vladimir Putin appoints Vladimir Blank Deputy Minister of Regional Development.

24 June 2008 Garri Kasparov, leader of the United Civil Front, expresses concern that Yabloko may become a puppet of the Kremlin.

24 June 2008 The head of the department of customs revenues of the Finance Ministry, Aleksandr Sakovich, says the export duty for crude oil will be \$490-495 per tonne from 1 August. At present the customs duty is \$398.1 per tonne.

24 June 2008 Chief of the department for troops drill and military service in the Armed Forces Lieutenant - General Vladimir Shamanov is interviewed in *Krasnaya*

Zvezda. He says the East and West battalions stationed in Chechnya will be subjected to qualification tests and then cut by 30 per cent.

Shamanov says that the MOD has decided to elaborate plans of its troops' combat training in the Arctic. Changes will be made to the plans of combat training in Leningrad, Siberian and Far East Military Districts.

25 June 2008 First deputy head of the presidential administration Vladislav Surkov warns there are "destructive forces attempting to drive a wedge" between Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

25 June 2008 The head of the presidential administration Sergey Naryshkin says the presidium of the anti-corruption council under the President has developed a draft national plan for fighting corruption in line with the president's instructions.

25 June 2008 *Ekho Moskvy* reports that Russian Muslims have prepared political demands for the president. The appeal was initiated by Geydar Dzhemal, chairman of the Islamic Committee of Russia. He believes that the Kremlin administration is now implementing a policy of double standards with regard to Muslims. They demand greater participation in political life, greater access to the media, and free elections in the republics where many Muslims live.

A cooperation programme between the Fund for Support of Islamic Culture, Science and Education and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is signed in Moscow. The programme has been calculated for the years 2008-2009 and its budget is about \$0.5 million.

25 June 2008 Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says that reducing inflation to six per cent by 2011 is feasible.

25 June 2008 Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov says the nuclear sector of Russia is open for cooperation with Russian and foreign private investors. He is speaking at the opening of the 1st International Exhibition and Congress on Nuclear Technologies, Atomcon 2008. Ivanov also says that Russia is planning to build 26 new nuclear power plant units by 2020.

25 June 2008 Colonel-General Gennady Troshev, adviser to the President, says a wave of terrorism which was sweeping across Chechnya has now spilt beyond it to the territory of Ingushetia and Dagestan and partly Kabarda-Balkaria and Karachay-Cherkessia. He says all major armed groups in Chechnya have been eliminated. Troshev was the commander of the Combined Force in the North

Caucasus during the second Chechen campaign.

25 June 2008 Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov has said that the Vostok and Zapad battalions of the Russian MOD should be turned into elite units capable of coping with any difficult task.

25 June 2008 Deputy chief of the General Staff Colonel-General Vasily Smirnov says that in the coming few years the number of officers in the Russian Army will be substantially reduced to 1 million men. On 1 January 2008 there were 1,134,000 servicemen serving in the Russian Army. Smirnov says that due to the transition to the one-year term of military service, the Defence Ministry will train about 120,000 military specialists in over 40 military professions annually. Smirnov says: "We are planning to call up 133,200 people and starting from 1 April, we have already called up 98 per cent of that number, while 78,000 conscripts have been sent to places where they will serve."

Aleksandr Kanshin, chairman of the Public Chamber committee for the issues of veterans, servicemen and their families says it is planned to set up an expert council for military issues composed of representatives from the Defence Ministry, Interior Ministry, Federal Security Service and other security bodies. This would be a military council under the Supreme Commander which would look at topical problems related to military construction at the current stage of country's development.

26 June 2008 New Yabloko leader Sergey Mitrokhin says Yabloko promotes a European path of development and rejects alliances with movements that advocate following the example of the Ukrainian Orange Revolution. He says Yabloko has a platform of social liberalism.

26 June 2008 A Levada Centre poll states that 73 per cent are on the whole happy with Dmitry Medvedev's work as president. The poll shows that the approval and trust ratings of the president have grown 3 and 4 per cent respectively, compared with the poll conducted in May. Vladimir Putin remains the most influential Russian politician: 55 per cent of Russians said in June that they trust him, and 83 per cent of those polled said they are satisfied with his work as prime minister (in May the figures were 54 and 80 per cent respectively).

26 June 2008 TNK-BP shareholders elect the board of directors at their annual general meeting. It will comprise nine people: five of them represent the interests of the British company BP, and the rest are Russian shareholders who do not agree with this kind of power sharing. The Russian directors say the election of new board is "unlawful."

26 June 2008 The head of the presidential administration, Sergey Naryshkin, and his first deputy Vladislav Surkov visit Chechnya. They discuss problems of local governance.

26 June 2008 Vladimir Putin addresses a session of the State Border Guard Commission. He says that all border guards will become contract ones as early as this year.

26 June 2008 Dmitry Medvedev appoints the chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, Nikolay Makarov, to the Security Council.

26 June 2008 Former Yabloko leader Grigory Yavlinsky criticizes Vladimir Putin's

foreign and economic policy.

27 June 2008 Molodaya Gvardia holds its third congress.

27 June 2008 The Duma rejects the bill of the Yedinaya Rossiya deputy Robert Shlegel which would introduce amendments to the law "On the media" according to which it would have been possible to close media outlets for defamation.

27 June 2008 Gazprom appoints former Prime Minister Viktor Zubkov as chairman of the Gazprom board, replacing previous incumbent and current President Dmitry Medvedev. Gazprom's chief executive, Alexey Miller, is elected deputy chairman. Minister of Economic Development Elvira Nabiullina is also elected to the board.

Aleksey Miller says Russia should fundamentally revise its long-term energy strategy. He also outlines the company's priority projects for pipeline construction, naming pipelines from the Yamal and Shtokman fields as the most significant.

27 June 2008 The speaker of the lower house of the Chechen parliament, Dukuvakha Abdurakhmanov, says that a new parliament of the Chechen Republic will be elected in October 2008.

27 June 2008 First Deputy Defence Minister Colonel-General Aleksandr Kolmakov says that until recently the same methods had been used for the training of the country's armed forces as in the 1960-70s:

Having studied the experience of two antiterrorist campaigns in the North Caucasus and the operation of coalition forces in Afghanistan it has become clear that the forms of armed struggle and the possibilities of combat technology have changed in the past 20 years whereas the training of our troops remained the same as it was in the 60s and 70s. Some changes were introduced after the Afghan war.

28 June 2008 Dmitry Medvedev addresses the 5th World Congress of Finno-Ugric Peoples held in the town of Khanty-Mansiysk. He says that promoting an ethnocultural and multifaith environment is the key to overcoming extremism, ethnic and religious intolerance.

28 June 2008 Prime Minister Vladimir Putin thanks the Russian Orthodox Church for its great contribution to the unification of "Russian World" and has promised state support for it. He addresses a meeting held in the Kremlin to mark the 1020th anniversary of the baptism of Russia. He says:

The state is going to continue to support the church's initiatives aimed at strengthening civil and interfaith accord as well as the church's social, cultural, educational and charitable mission...the adoption of Orthodox faith was a most important and defining milestone in Russia's history. This choice became the origin of our statehood, great culture, our people's national character and traditions...Orthodox faith has linked inseparably the destinies of the peoples of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and of other countries...We share common values and a single spiritual path which started at the Dnipro font.

29 June 2008 Vladimir Putin meets Yedinaya Rossiya deputies. He says that there will be pay rises in the public sector.

29 June 2008 The opposition All-Russia Civil Congress at its fifth congress elects its co-chairmen. They are United Civil Front leader Garri Kasparov, Co-Chairperson of the Voice of Beslan organization Ella Kesayeva, Senior Secretary of the St

Petersburg Human Rights Council Natalya Yevdokimova and Director of the Sakharov Museum Yuri Samodurov. They were elected by secret ballot.

29 June 2008 Prime Minister Vladimir Putin calls for demonopolizing weapons production but says prices on weapons should still be regulated.

30 June 2008 Mikhail Khodorkovsky's lawyers state that a new charge has been brought against him.

30 June 2008 Spravedlivaya Rossiya is granted observer status at the Socialist International.

30 June 2008 First deputy director of the FSB and head of the Border Guards Service General Vladimir Pronichev says certain forces are trying to destabilize the situation in Chechnya, Ingushetia and Dagestan: "Everything that is happening in these republics now is a result of actions of certain forces, which intend to ruin our state through destabilizing the social and political situation in the region." He is speaking before the start of a drill which is taking place between 30 June and 5 July, and in which border guards, servicemen of the North Caucasus Military District, the North Caucasus command of MVD forces and other federal units are taking part.

30 June 2008 Rosneft President Sergey Bogdanchikov says that foreign investors' involvement in oil extraction alone does not correspond to Russia's interests:

We are convinced that further partnership between Russian and foreign companies should develop on the basis of mutually beneficial cooperation, including mutual participation in share capital, exchange of Russian as well as foreign assets and implementation of joint projects to create effective extraction-transport-processing-distribution chains.

He is speaking at the 19th World Petroleum Congress in Madrid.

Bogdanchikov says that according to the Russian Energy Ministry's forecast, Russia is to retain positive dynamics in oil and gas extraction for the next two decades. Thus, oil extraction is to reach 4 billion barrels by 2015 and 4.4 billion barrels by 2030; gas extraction is to reach 750 billion cubic metres by 2015 and 880 billion cubic metres by 2030; the export of oil and gas will also continue to grow. Russia is developing its transport facilities for oil and gas exports. Implementation of all the planned projects will lead to an increase of Russia's export pipeline capacity: from the current 1.6 billion barrels of oil to 2.2 billion barrels, and from 200 billion cubic metres of gas in 2006 to 300 billion cubic metres in 2017. Bogdanchikov proposes a joint project in Europe to extract and refine oil with European partners. This is being discussed with EU representatives.

30 June 2008 Prime Minister Vladimir Putin discusses the budget up to 2011 at a cabinet meeting. He says the most important task is curbing inflation. He also says:

Starting from 2009, the structure of expenditure on the defence sector is to change significantly. Previously, additional allocations were mainly used for current maintenance and indexation of expenditure connected with current maintenance - to put it plainly, for maintenance and inefficiency. Now a larger share, more and more funds, are allocated for the development of the Armed Forces.

He says that by 2015 expenditure on the upkeep and development of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation are to be 30 and 70 per cent respectively. In 2006 the ratio had been 30 per cent on development and 70 per cent on upkeep.

Disclaimer

The views expressed in this paper are entirely and solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect official thinking and policy either of Her Majesty's Government or of the Ministry of Defence.

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