

Russian Domestic Policy: A Chronology

April – June 2007

1 April 2007 Boris Nemtsov says the URF and Yabloko will not unite to contest the Duma elections in December 2007.

1 April 2007 The spring military draft begins. A total of 133,500 Russian citizens aged between 18 and 27 years will be drafted from 1 April till 30 June. Drafting commissions will start working all over Russia on 2 April.

1 April 2007 The law banning foreign market traders in Russia comes into force.

2 April 2007 Former prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov says the probability of a third term for Vladimir Putin is increasing.

2 April 2007 The Moscow authorities refuse to grant permission for the Dissenters' March scheduled for 14 April.

2 April 2007 Vladimir Putin discusses the demographic situation with the government. First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitriy Medvedev informs Vladimir Putin that the birth rate has increased by 8.5 per cent and that the death rate has decreased by 9.5 per cent.

2 April 2007 Vladimir Putin says the forthcoming signing of an Act on Canonical Communications between the Russian Orthodox Church reporting to Moscow Patriarchate and the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia is a landmark event.

3 April 2007 Human rights ombudsman Vladimir Lukin presents Vladimir Putin with an annual report on Russia's human rights situation.

3 April 2007 An article in *Izvestiya* speculates on the possibility of major personnel changes in the MOD.

3 April 2007 Moscow mayor Yury Luzhkov calls for extending the presidential term for Vladimir Putin.

4 April 2007 Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov visits Kamchatka.

4 April 2007 First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia will remove troops from Russkiy Island in the Far East. Russkiy Island will host the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in 2012.

4 April 2007 Aleksandr Golts, deputy editor-in-chief of the *Yezhednevnyy Zhurnal* says that in the very near future the demographic crisis in Russia will negatively affect the army conscription. "The year of 2011 will be a failure in terms of conscription because, while we will have 712,000 young men of 18 years of age, the new call-up plans will dictate calling up 400,000 conscripts."

4 April 2007 The Republican Party of Russia files a suit at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg against the ruling of the Russian Supreme Court that liquidated the party in March.

5 April 2007 Duma speaker, leader of Yedinaya Rossiya Boris Gryzlov accuses the speaker of the Federation Council and leader of Spravedlivaya Rossiya, Sergey Mironov, of taking a dangerous course, which will lead to political destabilization in the country.

Mironov states that his proposal about changing the length of presidential terms in Russia had been put forward "to discuss the issue broadly and in public, rather than change the constitution immediately".

5 April 2007 Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov visits Magadan Region to discuss increasing gold production.

5 April 2007 Ramzan Kadyrov is inaugurated as President of the Chechen Republic.

6 April 2007 First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia's main naval force in the 21st century will be its Pacific Fleet.

7 April 2007 The head of Rosatom, Sergey Kiriyenko, says Russia aims at taking up 20 per cent of world's nuclear energy market. He states Russia has two projects in China, two in India, one in Iran and in 2006 won a tender for building a nuclear power plant in Belene (Bulgaria).

7 April 2007 The Federal Service for Control over the Trafficking of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (FSKN) has seized more than 4 tonnes of narcotics in Russia in 2007. The FSKN seized over 92 tonnes of narcotics from illegal trafficking in 2006.

9 April 2007 Deputy Prime minister Aleksandr Zhukov says that there has been an increase in inflows of foreign capital to Russian economy. It reached a record figure of 41 billion dollars in 2006.

The Economic Development and Trade Ministry upgrades its forecast for Russian GDP growth in 2008-2010 by 0.1-0.2 per cent a year.

9 April 2007 The National Antiterrorist Committee states that some 5,000 websites are linked to terrorists.

9 April 2007 Strategic Missile Troops Commander Col-Gen Nikolay Solovtsov says it is planned to carry out 12 combat-training missile launches in 2007.

9 April 2007 The interagency working group for the development of the aviation industry approves a plan for the development of civilian aircraft for 2008-2012. The plan calls for the construction of a total of 431 aircraft, 15 Il-96, 84 Tu-204/214, 236 SSJ 100 or Tu-334 and 96 An-148.

10 April 2007 Opposition coalition Drugaya Rossiya appeals to the Russian leadership and to the heads of the executives of Moscow, St Petersburg and Nizhny Novgorod, to allow demonstrations and rallies in those cities.

10 April 2007 The Moscow prosecutor's office launches a probe in connection with the publication of the *Obyedinennyi Grazhdanskiy Front* newspaper published by Drugaya Rossiya.

10 April 2007 A report from the Prosecutor-General's Office to the Federation Council on the state of law and order in Russia says the Prosecutor-General's Office is planning to take a number of steps in 2007 to reveal organizations which while acting as NGOs, are attracting new activists to the global terrorist network and financing acts of terror on Russian territory. In 2006, 112 acts of terror were registered in Russia, which is 45 per cent less than in 2005 when 203 such crimes were registered.

10 April 2007 The People's Assembly of the Chechen Republic approves the appointment of Odes Baysultanov as Chechnya's prime minister.

11 April 2007 The head of the directorate for underground gas storage at Gazprom, Sergey Khan, says Gazprom will invest R217 billion in developing underground gas storage by 2030. By 2010 the daily productivity of underground gas storage facilities, which at present is 600 million cubic metres, will increase to 700 million cubic metres.

11 April 2007 Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov signs a decree establishing the concept of a state national policy.

12 April 2007 Spravedlivaya Rossiya signs an agreement on political cooperation with the Socialist Unity Party of Russia.

Federation Council speaker and Spravedlivaya Rossiya leader Sergey Mironov proposes forming a union of socialist and social-democratic parties of the CIS countries.

12 April 2007 Duma deputy Dmitriy Rogozin says he intends to set up a new political party in May to contest parliamentary and presidential elections. It will be called Great Russia. Its founding congress will be on 5 May.

12 April 2007 Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Yakovenko says Russia desires a comprehensive agreement which would prohibit deploying weapons in space.

Roskosmos chief Anatoliy Perminov says in the near future a space programme for the period to 2040 will be submitted for Vladimir Putin's approval.

Duma chairman Boris Gryzlov says the eight year space programme until 2015 foresees a volume of R468.8 billion, that is, on average around R50 billion per year.

13 April 2007 The Supreme Court bans the Social Democratic Party of Russia (SDPR).

13 April 2007 *Gazeta* reports that pro-Kremlin Abros investment company has taken over REN TV.

13 April 2007 Konstantin Kosachev, chairman of the Duma committee for international affairs, says he is categorically against Russian political parties being financed from abroad.

13 April 2007 Procurator-general Yuriy Chayka presents a report to the Federation Council on the crime situation in Russia. Chayka also outlines plans for fighting corruption and extremism.

14 April 2007 Moscow police break up an unauthorised march by Drugaya Rossiya. About 170 persons are arrested including Garry Kasparov. Former presidential aide Andrey Illarionov says the police and OMON have acted in violation of the Russian constitution, Article 31.

Garri Kasparov says the Russian authorities are using laws against terrorism and extremism to suppress political opposition.

Supporters of the Movement Against Illegal Immigration (DPNI) hold a meeting on Bolotnaya Ploshchad in Moscow.

14 April 2007 The MOD states 11 servicemen have been killed in Chechnya since the beginning of 2007. "In January-March 110 Russian military servicemen died as a result of crime or accident with 38 of them dying in March and 37 - in February. The suicide rate in the Russian armed forces in March stood at 22, in February there were 17 suicides with the overall rate for January-March standing at 65."

15 April 2007 A Dissenters' March takes place in St. Petersburg. About 100 are arrested. National Bolshevik leader Eduard Limonov is detained.

15 April 2007 Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov addresses a conference of the heads of Chechen law-enforcement bodies. He says the struggle against corruption must be stepped up.

15 April 2007 The new nuclear-powered strategic missile submarine of the fourth generation, Yury Dolgoruky, is launched in Severodvinsk.

16 April 2007 Human rights ombudsman Vladimir Lukin condemns the actions of the law enforcement authorities in suppressing opposition marches in Moscow and St.Petersburg on 14-15 April.

The Nizhniy Novgorod administration refuses permission for a Dissenters' March scheduled for 28 April.

16 April 2007 The Supreme Court rules to liquidate the People's Patriotic Party of Russia led by former Defence Minister Igor Rodionov.

16 April 2007 The leader of the Russian opposition Union of Right Forces, Nikita Belykh, renews calls for "democrats" to form a united front ahead of the Duma election in December.

16 April 2007 The head of armaments and deputy defence minister of the Russian Federation, Army Gen Aleksey Moskovskiy, says that eight project 955 Borey strategic nuclear submarines will be commissioned into the Russian navy by 2017.

17 April 2007 The leader of the National Bolshevik Party, Eduard Limonov, is questioned at Federal Security Service (FSB) HQ.

The leader of the United Civil Front, Garri Kasparov, is summoned to the FSB directorate for Moscow and Moscow Region.

Presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says an internal investigation should be carried out into incidents when the police exceeded their authority during the Dissenters' March held in Moscow and St Petersburg over the weekend of 14-15 April.

The president's first deputy press secretary Dmitriy Peskov says the Kremlin promises to learn from the experience of the Dissenters' March held in Moscow and St Petersburg what measures should be taken against ultra-radicals, whom he accuses of being provocative. He says citizens have a right to express their views, but states: "As regards opposition, we have been a bit unlucky. For unfathomable reasons, our opposition has partly merged with radicals and ultra-radicals."

Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Mikhail Sukhodolskiy says that OMON units were acting professionally and in compliance with the law when maintaining order during opposition demonstrations on 14-15 April.

Leonid Parfenov, editor-in-chief of the Russian *Newsweek* magazine, expresses concern over of the magazine's correspondent Aydar Buribayev during the Dissenters' March on in Moscow.

The praesidium of the Federal Political Council of the URF criticises the police response to the Dissenters' Marches.

17 April 2007 A VTsIOM poll says 65 per cent of Russians positively regard Federation Council Chairman Sergey Mironov's proposal to extend the Russian president's term in office. 24 per cent of those polled were against these proposals. 69 per cent of Russians approved of introducing amendments to the constitution allowing the incumbent president to run for a third consecutive term in office. The all-Russia poll was conducted on 7-8 April and was ordered by the St Petersburg Politics foundation. A total of 1,600 people from 153 cities and villages in 46 Russian regions and republics have been polled.

17 April 2007 The Spravedlivaya Rossiya-Rodina faction becomes the third largest faction in the Duma. Duma deputies Gennadiy Gudkov and Anatoliy Aksakov have just joined them. The first deputy chairman of the faction, Ivan Kharchenko, says that at the moment the faction includes 32 members.

17 April 2007 German Gref says the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade will create criteria for evaluating the efficiency of regional authorities before the end of 2007.

17 April 2007 the deputy commander of the Strategic Missile Troops for armaments, Lt-Gen Vitaliy Linnik, says RS-20B ballistic missiles will remain on combat duty. RS-20B Voyevoda missiles are expected to remain in the Strategic Missile Troops' service until 2016-2018.

18 April 2007 Vladimir Vasilyev, chairman of the Duma security committee proposes that the Duma set up a working group to investigate all the incidents that occurred during the oppositional Dissenters' Marches in Moscow and St Petersburg on 14-15 April.

Chairman of the Federation Council Sergey Mironov says that the authorities took excessive measures to suppress the Dissenters' March in Moscow.

18 April 2007 Gazprom signs documents on the purchase of a controlling stake of 50 per cent plus one share in the Sakhalin-2 project from the Sakhalin Energy company for 7.45 billion dollars. The other shares in the project will remain with Royal Dutch Shell (27.5 per cent), Mitsui (12.5 per cent) and Mitsubishi (10 per cent).

18 April 2007 Vladimir Putin says that the government will allocate significant resources to the development of nanotechnology.

18 April 2007 Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov says that Chechen separatists are no longer a threat. He says they have been reduced to three small groups.

19 April 2007 Vladislav Putilin, the first deputy chairman of Russia's Military-Industrial Commission, says Russia's defence spending in 2007 will top R822 billion (32 billion dollars). He says that the state defence order has been rising at around 30 per cent a year.

First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov chairs a visiting session of the government's military-industrial commission in Yekaterinburg. Russian defence companies produce 70 per cent of all research-intensive products in the country. The majority of these enterprises will be merged into large holdings in the near future to improve management and boost production. It is planned to increase the total number of large integrated structures in the defence-industrial complex to 40 by 2015.

He says nanotechnology will transform modern warfare.

Ivanov says that 18 GLONASS satellites would be in orbit by 2008, while by 2010 their number would grow to 24.

19 April 2007 Duma deputy Vladimir Ryzhkov says that a working group being set up in the Duma should investigate the crimes committed by policemen who beat people up in the course of duty during the Dissenters' March in Moscow and St Petersburg.

Dmitriy Peskov, first deputy press secretary of the president, says that the reaction of law-enforcement agencies to the Dissenters' March on 14 April was "exaggerated."

19 April 2007 Former prime minister and leader of the People's Democratic Union Mikhail Kasyanov believes that the opposition should decide on a single presidential candidate before June.

19 April 2007 The Moscow City Court declares the inter-regional public organization the National Bolshevik Party an extremist organization and bans its activities.

19 April 2007 The government agrees a plan for gas production in 2008-2010 with Gazprom.

19 April 2007 The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade reports on the economic results for the first quarter of 2007. GDP has grown by almost 8 per cent.

The government approves a forecast for the country's social and economic development for 2008-10, which will form the basis of the first three-year federal budget. GDP is to rise 6.1 per cent in 2008, 6.0 per cent in 2009, and 6.2 per cent

in 2010. Inflation will not exceed 6.7 per cent in 2008, 5.5-6.5 per cent in 2009 and 5-6 per cent in 2010.

20 April 2007 United Civil Front leader Garri Kasparov is questioned by the FSB Directorate for Moscow and the Moscow Region.

20 April 2007 First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia has been complying with international legislation and "will never pass its nuclear technologies to anyone".

20 April 2007 Aleksandr Burutin, adviser to the president says that in 2007, Russia expects to be able to export 7.5 billion dollars' worth of military products. Exports totalled 3.7 billion dollars in 2001, and almost doubled in 2006.

20 April 2007 The second stage of the Russian national programme to destroy chemical weapons is completed.

21 April 2007 Valeriy Gribakin, the head of the Interior Ministry's public relations directorate, says foreign instigators deliberately provoked the police and faked injuries by covering their clothes in paint and ketchup during Dissenters' Marches in Moscow, St Petersburg and Nizhniy Novgorod on 14-15 April.

21 April 2007 Federal Migration Service Director Konstantin Romodanovskiy estimates the number of illegal migrants in Russia at approximately 10 million.

22 April 2007 Ella Pamfilova, the head of the Council for Promoting the Development of the Institutions of a Civil Society and Human Rights under the president, states that the Interior Minister Rashid Nurgaliev should resign because of the way the opposition Dissenters' Marches were broken up on 14-15 April.

23 April 2007 The first post-Soviet Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, dies.

23 April 2007 Duma Speaker Boris Gryzlov says that measures taken by the law enforcement bodies towards participants in opposition rallies in Moscow were appropriate.

The St Petersburg authorities permit an opposition procession through the main streets of the city on 1 May.

23 April 2007 The chairman of the Duma legislation committee, Pavel Krashenninnikov, says it is necessary to compile a list of extremist organizations in Russia.

23 April 2007 Deputy commander of the 37th air fleet Maj-Gen Anatoliy Zhikharev says the development of a strategic bomber of a new generation for the air force has begun.

24 April 2007 Col-Gen Arkadiy Yedelev, deputy Interior Minister and head of the Interior Ministry's operations headquarters in Chechnya, says rebel groups operating in the North Caucasus are incapable of staging large-scale terrorist attacks like the Beslan tragedy.

24 April 2007 Army Gen Aleksey Moskovskiy, deputy defence minister and head of armaments, retires at the compulsory age of 60.

25 April 2007 Army Gen Nikolay Makarov is appointed director of armaments and deputy defence minister. Previously, Makarov was commander of the Siberian Military District. Makarov is to replace Army Gen Aleksey Moskovskiy. Aleksandr Postnikov, Makarov's deputy and chief of staff, has been appointed new commander of the Siberian Military District.

26 April 2007 Human rights commissioner Vladimir Lukin says his office will look into complaints about violations of human rights by law enforcement agencies during demonstrations and marches. He is giving a report to the Duma.

26 April 2007 Vladimir Putin gives a state of the nation address to the Federal Assembly. He declares a moratorium on the CFE treaty.

26 April 2007 The government approves a draft federal budget for 2008-2010. In 2008 revenues will reach R6,644 billion, or 19 per cent of GDP, including R2,380 billion in oil and gas revenues, while expenditures will reach R6,570 billion. In 2009 the federal treasury will collect R7,460 billion, while expenditures will reach R7,450 billion. In 2010 both revenues and expenditures are expected to reach R8,089 billion. The draft budget will be submitted to the Duma by 30 April.

27 April 2007 First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov chairs a conference on shipbuilding.

27 April 2007 Vladimir Putin signs a decree to reform the atomic industry by 2008.

27 April 2007 The head of the fourth department of the General Staff's Main Organization and Mobilization Directorate, Lt-Gen Vladimir Konstantinov, says in 2007 another 20 military formations and units of the Armed Forces will switch to contract service.

28 April 2007 A Dissenters' March takes place in Nizhniy Novgorod. Ten persons are detained.

30 April 2007 The three-year (2008-2010) draft federal budget is submitted to the Duma. The first reading of the budget is scheduled for 25 May, the second for 28 June, and the third and final one for 6 July.

30 April 2007 Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeyev says the development of the agricultural sector in Russia and the country's rural areas is being held back by the requirement to comply with several World Trade Organisation conditions.

May

2 May 2007 The Audit Chamber conducts a targeted inspection of the effectiveness of the navy's military-technical cooperation with other countries. Within the next few years the Russian navy will have a very limited ability to export defence equipment taken from active service.

2 May 2007 Rosatom head Sergey Kiriyenko says the programme of scrapping nuclear submarines is proceeding as scheduled. Out of the 198 nuclear submarines that have been taken out of service, 140 have been scrapped.

2 May 2007 The director of the Russian Space Agency, Anatoliy Perminov, says a new generation space platform is going to be deployed in orbit by 2020.

2 May 2007 Two US-based media watchdogs (The US-based Committee to Protect Journalists and Freedom House) say media freedom in Russia is comparable to that in Azerbaijan and the Democratic Republic of Congo and growing worse.

3 May 2007 Prosecutor-General Yuriy Chayka and Human Rights Commissioner Vladimir Lukin sign an agreement on cooperation in the protection of human rights and civil freedoms.

3 May 2007 Head of the Central Electoral Commission Vladimir Churov denies media reports that the commission is working on a document which would limit communication between members of the commission and journalists.

3 May 2007 Neft-Aktiv, bidding on behalf of Rosneft, purchases 100 per cent shares of Tomskneft, 100 per cent of Angarsk Petrochemical Company and 100 per cent of the Achinsk Oil Refinery - the former Yukos companies which are in the process of being auctioned.

3 May 2007 A source in the republic's military commissariat says it has been decided that Chechen conscripts will not do military service in the Russian armed forces.

3 May 2007 The Federal Service for Environmental, Technological, and Nuclear Oversight (Rostekhnadzor) starts to implement three new TACIS projects in the sphere of nuclear safety within the framework of cooperation with the European Commission.

3 May 2007 Central Bank chief Sergey Ignatyev says the flow of foreign capital into Russia is increasing. In the first quarter of 2007, the net inflow of capital stood at 13 billion dollars. The net outflow of capital was 6 billion dollars.

4 May 2007 The speaker of the Federation Council and leader of Spravedlivaya Rossiya Sergey Mironov, does not rule out that Vladimir Putin could stay on as president of the country after his current term ends in 2008.

4 May 2007 The federal ombudsman for human rights, Vladimir Lukin, delivers a report to the Federation Council on human rights in the Russian Federation in 2006.

5 May 2007 The Great Russia party holds its founding congress. Chairman of the party's organizational committee MP Andrey Savelyev, leader of the Congress of Russian Communities MP Dmitriy Rogozin and leader of the Movement Against Illegal Migration Aleksandr Potkin delivered reports at the congress.

7 May 2007 Strategic Missile Troops Commander Colonel-General Nikolay Solovtsov says missile troops plan "about 12" test launches in 2007.

7 May 2007 The office of the Duma states that federal budget expenditures on national defence in 2008-10 are projected at R3,194.3 billion. National defence expenditures are projected as follows: 2008 - R956 billion, up by 16.3 per cent (R133.9 billion) compared to 2007; 2009 - R1,053.9 billion, up by 10.2 per cent (R97.9 billion) compared to 2008; 2010 - R1,184.4 billion, up by 12.4 per cent (R130 billion) compared to 2009.

8 May 2007 The president of the Chechen Republic, Ramzan Kadyrov, rejects claims by British politicians and public figures about mass violations of human rights in Chechnya.

10 May 2007 Ramzan Kadyrov issues a decree on measures to counter terrorism in the Chechen Republic. He sets up an anti-terrorist commission.

10 May 2007 Col-Gen Aleksandr Zelin, until now air force aviation chief and deputy commander-in-chief, has been appointed commander-in-chief of the air force. Lt-Gen Igor Khvorov, until now commander of the long-range aviation, has been appointed chief of the main staff.

11 May 2007 Strategic Missile Troops Commander Col-Gen Nikolay Solovtsov is interviewed in *Krasnaya Zvezda*.

11 May 2007 Chechen Interior Minister Ruslan Alkhanov says a total of 140 militants have been seized and another 100 have voluntarily surrendered in Chechnya this year. Chechnya's military commandant Maj-Gen Leonid Krivonos says there may be up to 300 militants on the territory of the Chechen Republic.

11 May 2007 The head of the Russian Armed Forces Armament Directorate and Deputy Defence Minister General Nikolay Makarov says that establishing regional commands does not mean scrapping military districts.

12 May 2007 A conference on labour migration is held in Moscow. Its participants discuss the most urgent problems in attracting foreign labour and cooperation between Russia and CIS countries in this area. Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Yakovenko delivers a report. He says Russia needs more migrants.

14 May 2007 Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin officially presents to the Federation Council the draft of Russia's first ever three-year federal budget at the parliamentary hearings. Kudrin says:

Economic growth rates, which will remain rather high in the next three years, some 6 per cent, will now mainly be achieved not through the oil and gas sector but through other sectors. This is not wishful thinking but a good trend. This change began in 2005 and 2006. The transition to the main sources of growth being sectors other than oil and gas has already begun. These sectors are the processing industries, the services sector, construction, transport, communications.

14 May 2007 A spokesman for the regional branch of the Federal Security Service's Border Guard Directorate in the Southern Federal District, Sergey Livantsov, says Russia is building nine outposts on the 81.5km Chechen section of the border with Georgia. The outposts will be commissioned by 2008.

14 May 2007 The Interior Ministry investigations committee brings charges of illegal business activities against the head of the Russneft company, Mikhail Gutseriyev.

15 May 2007 Former Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko says he will be a contender for the post of president of Russia.

15 May 2007 The Samara authorities ban a march by the Democratic Party of Russia which the party intended to stage during the Russia-EU summit on 18 May.

15 May 2007 The organizer of the Dissenters' March in Samara, Mikhail Merkushev, is detained outside the Sovetskaya metro station.

15 May 2007 The government adds the Rosneft oil company to its list of strategic enterprises and organizations

The Prime TASS economic news agency states that Gazprom plans to increase gas production to at least 550-560 billion cubic metres by 2010, to 580-590 billion cubic metres by 2020, and to 610-630 billion cubic metres by 2030 in order to meet the demand of the domestic market and to comply with exports commitments.

In order to reach the necessary amount of gas production until 2010, the company will use the existing deposits and put into operation new ones. After 2010, deposits located in the Yamal Peninsula and on the Arctic continental shelf will be brought into development. Prime TASS is quoting from a Gazprom report.

Gazprom plans to increase annual oil production to 80 million tonnes by 2020

15 May 2007 First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov urges safeguarding Russia's interests in space exploration and development, including the competitiveness of the GLONASS satellite navigation system.

15 May 2007 The Military Medicine Service is released from the control of the Logistics Service of the Armed Forces and re-subordinated directly to the defence minister.

16 May 2007 Vladimir Putin addresses the Public Chamber Council. He discusses the demarcation of powers between federal, regional and municipal authorities. He says he opposes constant reshuffling of ministers.

16 May 2007 The organizers of the Dissenters' March say that arrests, detentions and pressure on the march's participants continue in Samara.

16 May 2007 A Levada Centre poll says a total of 80 per cent of Russians approve of Vladimir Putin's work as president, while 44 per cent are happy with Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov.

52 per cent of respondents state that they trust Putin. Next on the list are Emergencies Minister Sergey Shoygu (trusted by 23 per cent of the respondents), First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov (22 per cent), First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitriy Medvedev (21 per cent), Liberal Democratic Party of Russia leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy (12 per cent), Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov (9 per cent) and Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov (7 per cent). 13 per cent said they did not trust any Russian politicians.

16 May 2007 The Chita Region court cancels the hearing of an appeal made by Mikhail Khodorkovskiy's lawyers about the extension of his imprisonment in the Chita detention centre. The court hearing scheduled for 17 May has been postponed indefinitely. The prison term for former Yukos head Khodorkovskiy and former Menatep head Platon Lebedev was extended until 2 July 2007.

16 May 2007 Health and Social Development Minister Mikhail Zurabov reports on migrant labour to the Duma.

16 May 2007 The MOD states that a total of 139 servicemen have died in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation since the beginning of 2007. This includes 86 suicides.

17 May 2007 Sergey Udaltsov, the leader of the Red Youth Vanguard movement, is detained at the Kazanskiy railway station when he was buying tickets for a train to Samara. Samara transport police detain an aide (Denis Belunov) to United Civil Front leader Garri Kasparov who was carrying a large sum of supposedly forged money.

17 May 2007 The Act of Canonical Communion between the Russian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate and the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad is signed, marking unification of the two branches of the church. The church leaders Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia Aleksiy II and Metropolitan Laurus, and Russian President Vladimir Putin address the gathering at Moscow's Christ the Saviour Cathedral.

17 May 2007 FSB Director Nikolay Patrushev addresses a meeting of the FSB Public Council (which was created on 12 May 2007). He says dialogue with the public is important for the development of democratic public institutions and to ensure national security.

17 May 2007 The chairman of the People's Assembly of the parliament of the Chechen Republic, Dukuvakha Abdurakhmanov, supports a proposal for the terms of office of the republic's president and parliament to be extended from four to seven or eight years. Earlier, a similar proposal was made by the ombudsman of the Chechen Republic, Nurdi Nukhazhiyev. A referendum may be held on this issue.

18 May 2007 Opposition leaders, Lev Ponomarev, leader of the movement For Human Rights, Garry Kasparov, United Civil Front leader, and Eduard Limonov, National Bolshevik Party leader, who were to fly to Samara to take part in the Dissenters' March on 18 May, are at Sheremetyevo-1 airport.

The Chelyabinsk authorities ban a Dissenters' March planned for 19 May.

18 May 2007 Lt-Gen Vladimir Fedorov is appointed head of the MOD's Main Directorate for International Military Cooperation.

18 May 2007 The Public Chamber discusses the strategy of the country's innovation and industrial policy. First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov addresses the session. He says the state will finance enterprises introducing the most modern technologies.

We are stimulating the arrival of foreign investors in Russia and are jointly implementing large-scale projects. We are doing this in such a way and on such terms that will not lead to the stagnation of the domestic industry, will not turn Russia into a territory of sheer semi-knock down assembly and will not thrust us in a situation when dependency on raw materials is replaced by complete technological dependency. We cannot let this happen.

Ivanov says Russia is going to establish large integrated companies in the radio electronic and space missile industries. "The president recently signed a decree to establish the Atomenergoprom company on the basis of Russian nuclear energy enterprises. The radio electronic and space missile industries are the next in line."

He says large integrated companies are being created in the main sectors of the Russian military-industrial complex: “Such companies, if they have a high scientific, production and staff potential and stable financing within the framework of state defence orders, should become leading actors in international military and civilian markets in a few years.”

19 May 2007 Vladimir Putin hosts a reception to celebrate the restoration of the Russian church's unity. Patriarch Aleksiy II and Metropolitan Lavry attend. Putin says: “The restoration of church unity, which is now under way in front of our very eyes, is important not only for the church itself. It is a key spiritual stimulus for the consolidation of all the Orthodox world, of all the Russian world.”

19 May 2007 A Dissenters' March takes place in Chelyabinsk despite a ban.

20 May 2007 A Yabloko march in protection of the freedom of speech is taking place near the Ostankino television centre in Moscow.

21 May 2007 Rostekhnadzor, Rosatom and the Emergencies Ministry deny rumours of an emergency at the Volgodonsk nuclear power plant.

21 May 2007 A joint session of the Council of Lawmakers and the commission on national policy and relations between the state and religious associations takes place at the Federation Council. It is being chaired by Federation Council speaker Sergey Mironov. Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Naryshkin states that:

This year it is necessary to continue work on completing the delineation of powers on issues that lie within the joint competence of the Russian Federation and constituent parts of the Russian Federation, envisaging a transfer of additional powers to constituent parts of the Russian Federation, including - possibly - in matters of social welfare, management of state property, regulation of certain tariffs. If until recently focus was made on transferring powers from the federal centre to the regions, the nearest plans include the task of speeding up the transfer of powers from constituent parts of the Russian Federation to the municipal level.

21 May 2007 Alikhan Tsakayev is appointed acting commander of OMON specialist forces under the Chechen Interior Ministry.

22 May 2007 The Yedinaya Rossiya leadership discusses what is termed Putin's plan for the development of Russia. Chairman Boris Gryzlov says Putin's plan is a long-term strategy for the development of the country, which Yedinaya Rossiya intends to implement.

Five more regional leaders join Yedinaya Rossiya. Republic of Altay head Aleksandr Berdnikov, Tula Region governor Vyacheslav Dudka, Altay Territory administration head Aleksandr Karlin, Republic of Mari El President Leonid Markelov and Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) President Vyacheslav Shtyrov. Yedinaya Rossiya high council co-chairman Sergey Shoygu reported at the party's seventh congress in December 2006 that 69 governors were members of Yedinaya Rossiya.

22 May 2007 Vsevolod Bogdanov, president of the Russian Union of Journalists, says more than 200 journalists have been killed in Russia since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

22 May 2007 Vladimir Putin signs a federal law on setting up the Development Bank with authorized capital of at least R70 billion.

22 May 2007 Gazprom states that according to the estimates of the international consulting company DeGolyer and McNaughton, Gazprom's proven and probable reserves (excluding that of Gazprom Neft) by the end of 2006 amounted to 20.73 trillion cu m of gas, 658.99m cu m of condensate and 290.88m cu m of oil. Their current netback value is estimated at 182.5 billion dollars. In 2006, organizations of the Gazprom company extracted 556 billion cu m of gas, 1 billion cu m more than in 2005.

22 May 2007 Defence Minister Anatoliy Serdyukov arrives in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy to inspect a number of units of the Joint Forces Command in the Northeast of Russia.

The commander-in-chief of the Ground Troops, Army Gen Aleksey Maslov says increased funding allows the army to intensify combat and operational training by nearly 25 per cent.

22 May 2007 FSB Director Nikolay Patrushev is interviewed in *Izvestiya*. He says the terrorist threat in Russia has declined. In 2006 112 acts of terrorism were committed in Russia, compared to 257 in 2005.

23 May 2007 Sergey Ivanov holds a news conference outlining key principles of industrial policy.

23 May 2007 The Bashkirovo polling organisation holds a poll asking respondents who they would like to see as next president of Russia.

Dmitriy Medvedev 17 per cent
Sergey Ivanov 15 per cent
Boris Gryzlov 4 per cent
Vladimir Zhirinovskiy 3 per cent

The poll was carried out among approximately 2,000 people throughout Russia.

23 May 2007 Vladimir Putin issues a decree accepting the resignation of Kamchatka Region governor Mikhail Mashkovtsev and appointing Aleksey Kuzmitskiy acting governor until a new governor has taken office.

23 May 2007 The deputy head of the Border Guard Service of the FSB, Lt-Gen Nikolay Rybalkin, says that from 1 January 2009 there will be no conscripts in the Border Guard Service. It will switch to contract service.

23 May 2007 Sergey Ivanov outlines basic features of government economic policy at a news conference. He states:

One of the main principles - at least that is my profound conviction - is that the state should not be involved in rigid administration of individual sectors of the economy, of industry, but should create clear and transparent rules of the game that are conducive to attracting business irrespective of its origin, Russian or foreign, to various sectors of the economy, above all those where Russia has a number of advantages or strong points. That will enable us to diversify our economy, make it increasingly knowledge-based, rather than raw material-based, and focus on intellect, a high degree of processing of goods, adding value to them and so on.

24 May 2007 Former Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko confirms that he will run for president in the 2008 election.

24 May 2007 Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov says Russia's GDP grew by 7.7 per cent in the first quarter of 2007.

25 May 2007 The Federation Council backs the idea of the establishment of the Investigation Committee under Prosecutor's Office.

25 May 2007 Gazprom Neft and LUKoil create a strategic alliance. A memorandum was signed that envisages the creation of a joint venture. LUKoil will own 49 per cent of the joint enterprise, and Gazprom will have 51 per cent.

25 May 2007 First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov calls for conducting the policy of "reasonable state protectionism" when creating conditions for the access of Russian high-technology products to the world markets.

25 May 2007 The deputy director of the Federal Migration Service, Vyacheslav Postavnin, says about 56,000 foreign citizens have been deported from the territory of Russia in 2007. Since the middle of January, when the new migration rules came into force, about 2.5 million foreign citizens have been registered with the migration registry in Russia and over 950,000 foreign citizens have received a work permit.

26 May 2007 The United Socialist Party of Russia holds a congress. It will dissolve itself, and its members will join Spravedlivaya Rossiya.

27 May 2007 Andrey Lugovoy is interviewed on TV on the Aleksandr Litvinenko case.

28 May 2007 Yedinaya Rossiya leader and Duma speaker Boris Gryzlov says Yedinaya Rossiya expects to have most of the ministerial posts in the government to be formed following the next presidential election in 2008. Currently only three ministers are Yedinaya Rossiya members.

28 May 2007 Sergey Mironov, leader of Spravedlivaya Rossiya and speaker of the Federation Council, calls on all left-wing forces in the country to unite for the next Duma election.

28 May 2007 Former Soviet dissident Vladimir Bukovskiy is nominated to run in the Russian presidential election in 2008 by a group of Russian liberals.

28 May 2007 TNK-BP, the main shareholder in Russia Petroleum, says it intends to lodge an appeal against the decision by an arbitration court on a lawsuit linked to the Kovykta gas condensate deposit. Irkutsk Region's arbitration court rejects Russia Petroleum's lawsuit against Rosprirodnadzor's regional directorate and Rosnedra. The company was asking the court to declare invalid Rosprirodnadzor's inspection report and Rosnedra's notification to the effect that the Kovykta deposit licence will be revoked unless Russia Petroleum complies with the terms of the licence agreement.

Minister of Natural Resources Yury Trutnev briefs Vladimir Putin on the stocktaking of all the oil wells of the country. There are 248,000 that are being exploited and 64,000 prospected.

28 May 2007 First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia is planning to test missiles of the Iskander tactical missile systems.

28 May 2007 The commander-in-chief of the navy, Fleet Admiral Vladimir Masorin, says that by the end of 2007 all personnel in service afloat in the Russian navy will be switched to serving under contract.

28 May 2007 FSB head Nikolay Patrushev is interviewed in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* on border security.

29 May 2007 A Dissenters' march takes place in Voronezh.

29 May 2007 The deputy speaker of the Duma, LDPR leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, says he intends to stand for president of Russia in the next election in 2008.

29 May 2007 An RS-24 ICBM is test launched from Plesetsk. The Strategic Missile Troops state that the test was successful. The test warheads hit the target area at the Kura test range in Kamchatka. The new missile will replace the obsolete RS-18 Stiletto and RS-20 Satan capable of carrying six and 10 warheads. It will provide security for Russia until 2050.

A new cruise missile for the mobile Iskander-M tactical missile system is also successfully tested at the Kapustin Yar range in Astrakhan Region.

29 May 2007 The chairman of the Duma Defence Committee, Col-Gen Viktor Zavarzin, says the stock of service housing for military servicemen will be fully formed by 2012 while all the servicemen in need of permanent housing on waiting lists will receive flats even before then.

30 May 2007 Federation Council speaker and Spravedlivaya Rossiya leader Sergey Mironov says that his party will not unite with the CPRF before the December 2007 Duma election. He says after then Spravedlivaya Rossiya will participate in elections with the Communists. Mironov says Spravedlivaya Rossiya wants to set up a powerful socialist party that will include all leftwing forces, including the CPRF.

30 May 2007 Defence Minister Anatoliy Serdyukov is interviewed in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*.

31 May 2007 Boris Berezovskiy is interviewed in the *Financial Times*. In this interview he claims that he finances Drugaya Rossiya. He later denies this, although he says he finances other opposition groups.

31 May 2007 Nikita Belykh, leader of the URF accuses the Yabloko leader, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, of unilaterally ruling out unification with URF and ignoring the view of many rank-and-file members of the party who do not share Yavlinskiy's position.

June

1 June 2007 Vladimir Putin says that the presidential term should be longer than four years.

1 June 2007 Deputy head of the directorate of the National Antiterrorism Committee Sergey Bezmin says the number of terrorist attacks in Russia almost halved in 2006, with 152 attacks committed compared to 257 in 2005.

1 June 2007 Minister of Industry and Energy Viktor Khristenko says Russia's Arctic and Far Eastern offshore oil and gas fields will be developed by Gazprom and Rosneft, with the companies choosing their foreign partners themselves.

1 June 2007 Sergey Lavrov meets leaders of Russia's Muslim communities. He says relations with the Islamic world "are among Russia's foreign policy priorities."

2 June 2007 Former prime minister and leader of the Russian People's Democratic Union Mikhail Kasyanov outlines policy measures if he is elected president.

2 June 2007 Boris Nemtsov, member of the political council of the Union of Right Forces, says the opposition should have a single candidate for the forthcoming 2008 presidential election.

4 June 2007 The leader of the Just Russia - Motherland faction in the Duma, Aleksandr Babakov, says Sergey Mironov is not going to run for president of Russia in 2008.

4 June 2007 Vladimir Putin formally approves the merger of Irkutsk Region and the Ust-Orda Buryat Autonomous Area.

4 June 2007 The head of the Armed Forces' main directorate for combat training and service, Lt-Gen Aleksandr Lukin, says that from 1 December combined units and units that have switched to contract-service manning will be trained according to the new combat training programme.

5 June 2007 An authorized protest by the Dissenters March takes place in Moscow.

5 June 2007 FSB Director Nikolay Patrushev says that the danger of extremism in Russia is increasing. He discusses increasing attempts by international terrorists to lay their hands on weapons of mass destruction and the know-how to produce them.

6 June 2007 Vladimir Putin signs a federal law "On amending the Russian Criminal Procedure Code" and a law "On the Russian prosecutor's office". The federal law envisages setting up an Investigative Committee system within the Russian prosecutor's office.

6 June 2007 The Duma refuses to allow independent observers to the forthcoming parliamentary and presidential elections.

6 June 2007 First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov says that he likes the term "sovereign democracy".

6 June 2007 Duma speaker and Yedinaya Rossiya party leader Boris Gryzlov states that his party does not support the idea of changing the constitution to allow President Vladimir Putin to stay on for a third term. Federation Council speaker and Spravedlivaya Rossiya leader Sergey Mironov suggests that the constitution might only be changed after the next presidential election in 2008.

6 June 2007 The deputy head of the Presidential Administration, Vladislav Surkov, says Russia needs a radical change in its economic development policy, a shift towards innovative technologies.

7 June 2007 The CPRF says it is against extending the term in office for the Russian president.

8 June 2007 Arkadiy Dvorkovich, head of the Russian president's experts directorate, says that the Russian economy is now independent and has no reason to fear negative tendencies on world markets.

9 June 2007 First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov says that he cannot talk about being ready for the president's position, having taken office in his current capacity just three months ago.

Sergey Ivanov addresses a session of the St Petersburg Economic Forum. He outlines scenarios for Russia's development up to 2020.

9 June 2007 Igor Ivanov, secretary of the Security Council, says Russia will increase its number of military units of permanent combat readiness. "The armed forces will develop in accordance with the 2006-2010 construction plan, approved by the Russian president. The ideology of further development of the armed forces was specified by the 28 June 2005 decision of the Security Council on the prospects for the development of the Russian Federation's military organization up to 2015."

11 June 2007 A "dissenters" rally in central Moscow takes place.

13 June 2007 First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia needs to develop its merchant fleet.

13 June 2007 Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeyev says the government will adopt a five-year agriculture development programme by 15 July. The Agriculture Ministry expects 2007's grain harvest to reach 76m tonnes, less than in 2006.

14 June 2007 The government sets up a council for nanotechnology.

14 June 2007 Gazprom increases its maximum gas production forecast for 2020 by 14 per cent, up to 670 billion cubic metres from 580-90 billion cubic metres envisioned by Russia's energy strategy.

15 June 2007 Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov says that the practice of amnestying members of illegal armed formation must be stopped.

15 June 2007 Vyacheslav Nagovitsyn is to be the new president of Buryatia.

15 June 2007 The FSB announces that it is opening a criminal case relating to espionage as a result of an inquiry into the statements by Russian businessman Andrey Lugovoy on 31 May and 14 June 2007.

15 June 2007 Sergey Ivanov, the first deputy prime minister, says that he has no plans to stand for president.

17 June 2007 Mikhail Fradkov signs a decree founding the Amalgamated Shipbuilding Corporation (St Petersburg). The company will be 100-per-cent state-owned.

17 June 2007 Chechen president Ramzan Kadyrov says he will strengthen measures aimed at fighting corruption in the republic.

18 June 2007 The leader of the URF, Nikita Belykh, says that the URF is ready to support a single democratic opposition candidate in the 2008 presidential election.

18 June 2007 Rosatom and Interros conclude a cooperation agreement, which will include the production of uranium in Russia and abroad.

19 June 2007 The Tuymazinskiy district court in Bashkortostan sentences members of a cell of the extremist party Hezb-e Tahrir to conditional prison terms. The men are Ildar Akhmetyanov, born in 1984, Rasul Mullagaleyeva, born in 1981 and Rustam Nafikov, born in 1984. The cell members called for a total Islamification of the population and also for changing Russia's political system and state order.

19 June 2007 Vladimir Putin signs a federal law enabling regional heads to dissolve legally incapable local parliaments. The document is called "On introducing amendments to individual legislative acts of the Russian Federation on the activities of legislative (representative) bodies of the state authority of Russia's constituent parts and the representative bodies of municipalities". It was passed by the State Duma on 25 May and approved by the Federation Council on 6 June 2007.

19 June 2007 Sergey Ivanov addresses the military-industrial commission. He says that Russia must coordinate an aerospace defence plan in order to be ready for any eventuality. On 6 April 2007 Vladimir Putin approved the principles of the aerospace defence of the Russian Federation for the period until 2016 and beyond.

19 June 2007 The president of the Academy of Military Science, Army General Makhmud Gareyev, believes that the foundations of Russia's new military doctrine will most likely be finally drawn up in 2008.

20 June 2007 CPRF leader Gennadiy Zyuganov says he is ready to run for president in 2008.

20 June 2007 Sergey Ivanov says the strategic objective of the Russian aircraft industry is to become the world's third largest manufacturer of civil and cargo aircraft by 2025.

20 June 2007 Vladimir Putin signs a decree on creating a new shipping company on the basis of Sovkomflot and Novoship.

20 June 2007 Rosoboronexport Director-General Sergey Chemezov says a new state-owned corporation, Russian Technologies, is to be set up before the end of 2007 on the basis of Rosoboronexport. Rosoboronexport will be incorporated and become a division of Russian Technologies, together with all of its affiliated companies and subsidiaries, including JSC Oboronprom, Russpetsstal, AvtoVAZ and VSMPO-Avisma. Chemezov is to be appointed the chief executive officer of the new company.

20 June 2007 Vyacheslav Postavnin, deputy director of the Federal Migration Service, says there are there are 10-15 million migrants in total in Russia.

21 June 2007 Vladimir Putin signs a decree setting up a Russian language foundation called Russkiy Mir. The aim of it is the study and promotion of the Russian language “both in our country and in the world”.

21 June 2007 Vladimir Putin says he believes that no-one from outside has a right to judge Russia.

There are many of those who can learn something from us, because Russia is a country in which principles of interaction between various denominations and religions have been developing for centuries, for more than a millennium, virtually at the genetic level...

As far as some of the problematic pages in our history are concerned, yes, we have had some, just like every other country. We have had fewer than some countries. Ours weren't as terrible as those of some other countries. Yes, we had terrible pages in our history. Let's start by remembering events starting from 1937.

Incidentally, it's now 2007, that's exactly 50 years ago. Let's not forget about that. But it was just as bad in other countries, and even more terrifying.

At least we didn't use nuclear weapons against a civilian population. We didn't pour chemicals over thousands of kilometres, didn't drop seven times more bombs on a little country than were dropped in the course of the whole Great Patriotic War [World War II], as happened in Vietnam, for example. We didn't have other black pages, like Nazism, for example. What of it, the things that have happened in the history of every country, every people.

We can't allow people to force a sense of guilt on us. Let them think about themselves. But we mustn't forget about it for ourselves. And we won't forget about it.

Putin is addressing a conference of social science and history teachers.

21 June 2007 The deputy presidential envoy to the district, Nikolay Fedoryak, says the activities of law-enforcement agencies in the Southern Federal District against extremism and terrorism need to be increased.

21 June 2007 Vladimir Putin signs a law permitting human rights ombudsmen to freely visit prisons for monitoring the observance of convicts' rights.

21 June 2007 Rostekhnadzor tightens controls on the use of radioactive substances and radioactive waste.

21 June 2007 The Chechen parliament unanimously approves amendments to the republic's constitution proposed by President Ramzan Kadyrov. The term of office of the president and the Legislative Assembly should be increased from four to five years. The head of the republic will no longer be elected by the people of Chechnya; instead, he is to be nominated by the president of Russia approved by the local deputies. A referendum will be held on these amendments.

21 June 2007 Audit Chamber Chairman Sergey Stepashin says there is no need to review the Sakhalin-1 and the Kharyaginskoye production-sharing agreements that were signed in the mid-1990s.

21 June 2007 First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov says the state will invest nearly R200 billion into development of nanotechnologies by 2015. He attends the first sitting of the government council on nanotechnology.

21 June 2007 Director-General of Rosoboronexport Sergey Chemezov says Rosoboronexport is willing to continue increasing the portfolio of export orders for Russian arms and new military hardware but the existing capacity of the defence industry is insufficient to satisfy the demand. Rosoboronexport's orders book is worth approximately 23 billion dollars.

22 June 2007 FSB Head Nikolay Patrushev addresses the Federation Council on anti-terrorism policy.

22 June 2007 Vladimir Putin appoints Aleksandr Bastrykin to the post of first deputy prosecutor-general and chairman of the Investigative Committee under the Prosecutor-General's Office.

The Prosecutor-General's Office creates a new unit to counter money laundering.

22 June 2007 A large clash takes place in Moscow between nationalists and Caucasus immigrants.

23 June 2007 Navy Commander Admiral Vladimir Masorin says the navy should have aircraft carriers, especially nuclear-powered ones.

24 June 2007 A national democratic organisation, Narod, holds its founding conference in Moscow.

25 June 2007 Narod nominates its leader, Sergey Gulyayev, as presidential candidate.

25 June 2007 The leadership of the Great Russia party presents documents for registration to the Federal Registration Service. It is led by Andrey Savelyev.

25 June 2007 Valeriy Kaminskiy, director of the Oceanology Research Institute, says that Russia may lay claim to new areas of the Arctic. "Russia can lay claim to a territory with an area of about 1.2m sq.km., which is equal to two-thirds of Europe. According to our estimates, it has hydrocarbon reserves equivalent to up to 10 billion tonnes of liquid hydrocarbons."

25 June 2007 Rosneft head Sergey Bogdanchiko says that Rosneft is completing talks regarding the purchase of Unitex, the company that won the auction for the sale of the retail assets of Yukos, and is planning to purchase a segment of the assets of Yukos from Prana.

25 June 2007 Commander-in-chief of the Navy, Admiral Vladimir Masorin, says all Navy personnel in service afloat will be switched to serving under contract from 2009.

The commander of Russia's Northern Fleet, Adm Vladimir Vysotskiy says the Russian navy will hold a major exercise in the mid-Atlantic in autumn 2007.

26 June 2007 First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia has moved to a new stage of rearmament of its strategic nuclear forces. He is speaking at session of the Military Industrial Commission that was devoted to the issue of building

missiles for strategic missile systems Topol-M and Bulava. Ivanov explains that what he meant was supplying new strategic systems Topol-M, and Iskander-M theatre missile systems to the armed forces.

26 June 2007 The press aide of the commander-in-chief of the air force, Aleksandr Drobyshevskiy, says Il-76 military transport planes have begun flying troops to the North Caucasus to man the two mountain brigades that are being formed in the region. It is planned to transport over 2,000 troops, as well as weapons and special equipment.

27 June 2007 Moscow mayor Yuriy Luzhkov is re-elected for a fifth term by the city assembly. Members voted 32 to three in favour of his reappointment. Luzhkov was nominated for reappointment by President Vladimir Putin on 22 June.

27 June 2007 Former Prime Minister leader of the Russian People's Democratic Union Mikhail Kasyanov says that chances to consolidate the opposition's efforts remain minimal but his organization will do everything possible to use them.

27 June 2007 The Sakhalin Region prosecutor's office has opened a criminal case into violations of the rules at Lunskiy Zaliv which is a site of special state protection and a nature reserve of regional importance. The violations were committed during work on the Sakhalin-2 project.

28 June 2007 The Supreme Court upholds the ruling to liquidate People's Patriotic Party headed by former Defence Minister Igor Rodionov.

28 June 2007 The Navy successfully tests a Bulava ballistic missile from the White Sea.

29 June 2007 Gazprom shareholders re-elect the company's Board of Directors without making any changes. First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitriy Medvedev, Chairman of Gazprom's Management Board Aleksey Miller, Economic Development and Trade Minister German Gref, Industry and Energy Minister Viktor Khristenko and the special presidential envoy for international energy cooperation, Igor Yusufov, were re-elected to the Board.