

Russian Domestic Policy: A Chronology

July – September 2006

1 July 2006 Vladimir Putin attends a Yedinaya Rossiya conference in Moscow.

1 July 2006 A congress of the People's Democratic Union led by former Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov takes place in the Moscow Region. He says Russia needs an efficient coalition government.

1 July 2006 The rouble becomes fully convertible.

3 July 2006 The presidential representative in the Far Eastern Federal District, Kamil Iskhakov, says Maritime Territory, Khabarovsk Territory and Amur Region will be able to accommodate approximately 40,000 more migrants from the CIS countries. Iskhakov is at a meeting with the governors of the territories and regions of Russia's east. The meeting also discussed implementing the presidential decree "On measures to facilitate voluntary settlement in the Russian Federation of compatriots living abroad".

3 July 2006 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says a single federal agency for placing orders for armaments and military equipment will be created in Russia.

4 July 2006 Vladimir Putin submits to the Federation Council a draft resolution to grant the Russian president the right to use armed forces units and special-purpose units outside Russia to prevent international terrorist activity. The relevant document states:

"On the basis of Clause D of Part One of Article 102 of the constitution of the Russian Federation and in accordance with the federal law 'On countering terrorism', I am submitting to the Federation Council a proposal to grant the president of the Russian Federation the right to use armed forces formations and special-purpose units as stipulated by Russian law to prevent international terrorist activity for the purpose of protecting human rights and freedoms and safeguarding Russia's sovereignty, independence and state integrity, outside the territory of Russia."

Chairman of the Duma defence committee Vladimir Vasilyev says the draft law prepared by the Duma introducing changes to the federal law "On countering terrorism" will allow the Russian special services to carry out anti-terrorist missions outside Russia.

4 July 2006 Vladimir Putin relieves six out of seven heads of Interior Ministry's investigation directorates in federal districts of their duties by decree. Those who lost their jobs are major-general of justice Nikolay Golubev of the Northwestern Federal District, colonel of justice Vyacheslav Starkov of the Volga Federal District, colonel of justice Yevgeniy Tuchkov of the Far Eastern Federal District, major-

general of justice Aleksandr Shashin of the Southern Federal District, major-general of justice Sergey Shchelkunov of the Siberian Federal District and colonel of justice Yuriy Yastrebtsev of the Urals Federal District.

By another decree, Putin dismisses from their posts Police Maj-Gen Valeriy Bystrov, a deputy director of the Federal Migration Service, and Maj-Gen Aleksandr Grigoryev, the head of the state unitary enterprise "Special Communication Equipment" under the Russian Interior Ministry.

Putin also makes several appointments in the Interior Ministry's regional divisions. Police Col Ravil Absolyamov has been appointed deputy head of the Sverdlovsk Region main interior directorate for combating economic crime, Justice Col Tamara Belkina - deputy head of the Krasnoyarsk Territory main interior directorate and head of its investigation department, Justice Col Andrey Ignatenko - deputy head of the Irkutsk Region main interior directorate and head of its investigation department, Police Col Vyacheslav Tsys - deputy interior minister of the Republic of Bashkortostan and head of its investigation department.

5 July 2006 The Duma debates the bill on a database of citizens.

5 July 2006 The Duma approves Gazprom's total monopoly on export sales of natural gas.

6 July 2006 The Baykal 2006 command post exercise ends in the Siberian Military District.

7 July 2006 The Federation Council passes a law that abolishes the "against all" box on ballot papers in elections at all levels.

7 July 2006 The Duma passes in a second reading amendments to the law "On countering extremist activity", aimed at improving a whole series of legal standards.

7 July 2006 Chechen Prime Minister Ramzan Kadyrov says the absence of funds from the federal authorities is affecting the pace of restoration work in Chechnya.

7 July 2006 The president of the separatist Chechen Republic of Ichkeria, Dokka Umarov, appoints Umar Dakayev head of his presidential administration.

7 July 2006 The Federation Council approves the federal constitutional law on the merger of Kamchatka Region and the Koryak Autonomous Area at a plenary sitting.

7 July 2006 Head of the Federal Service for Supervision of Compliance with the Law in the sphere of Mass Communications and Preservation of Cultural Heritage Boris Boyarskov says reductions in the broadcasting of Western radio stations in Russia are not politically motivated. He says the move had been prompted by measures to establish order, since radio relay stations often breach the broadcasting rules and licensing agreements. The Washington Post has recently published an article on the restriction of relay broadcasts of VOA and Radio Liberty.

7 July 2006 The Federation Council endows the Russian president with special powers to use Russian special services and military groups abroad for the purposes of fighting terrorism. It adopts a resolution permitting the head of state "in accordance with Russian Federation legislation to use formations of the Russian Federation armed forces and special-purpose subunits outside the territory of the Russian Federation in order to suppress international terrorist activity against the Russian Federation, or against citizens of the Russian Federation or persons

without citizenship permanently resident on the territory of the Russian Federation".

Duma opposition factions tell Chief of General Staff Yuriy Baluyevskiy about their concerns about the state of the army and the country's defence capabilities. Baluyevskiy is present at a Duma session, which discussed the ratification of the protocol on the formation of the armed forces of the member states of the Collective Security Treaty.

8 July 2006 The Duma gives a third and final reading to amendments to a law defining extremist activity.

10 July 2006 Sergey Ivanov, the deputy prime minister and defence minister, discusses the aviation industry with Vladimir Putin.

10 July 2006 Shamil Basaev is reported to have been killed.

Chechen Interior Minister Ruslan Alkhanov gives all remaining members of illegal armed formations three days to lay down arms.

A representative of the Military Committee of the State Defence Committee - Majlis ul-Shura of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria, Abu Umar, says that the death of Shamil Basaev was an accident.

10 July 2006 Lt-Gen Andrey Shvaychenko is appointed chief of staff and first deputy commander of the Strategic Missile Troops. He was previously commander of the Omsk missile army of the Strategic Missile Troops. Andrey Shvaychenko replaces Sergey Khutortsev, who has been appointed to head the economic department for defence and security programmes at the economic development ministry in place of Vladislav Putilin.

11 July 2006 The Drugaya Rossiya anti-summit of various opposition movements opens in Moscow.

11 July 2006 The Prosecutor-General's office sets up a special anti-corruption unit.

11 July 2006 Defence Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov calls off a trip to the Urals and instead goes to the North Caucasus following reports of Shamil Basaev's death.

Ivanov says two MOD mountain brigades and one Internal Troops brigade, whose task will be to seal the southern borders of Russia, are to be set up in 2007.

"A decision was taken at the end of 2004 to set up two formations that would be completely new to the Russian army, two mountain brigades. One is to be based in Karachay-Cherkessia and the other in Botlikh (Dagestan), where very heavy fighting took place in 1999. In addition to that, another Internal Troops brigade is to be set up...The task for these brigades will be to provide, in parallel with the completion of the state border programme in the south, state-of-the-art and effective protection from the Caspian to the Black Sea, closing and sealing it, so that terrorists, smugglers and drug dealers can no longer get in."

11 July 2006 The head of the rebel-backed Chechen National Information Service, Movladi Udugov, says that the death of Shamil Basayev will not change anything and the jihad against Russia will continue.

11 July 2006 The head of the Federal Defence Order Service, Sergey Mayev says state defence procurement is set to grow by 20-25 per cent every year.

12 July 2006 Vladimir Putin invites the heads of Russia's major oil and gas companies and ministers in charge of the fuel and energy sector to discuss international energy security on the eve of the G8 summit.

12 July 2006 Rodina Duma deputy Sergey Glazyev is attacked on his way to the Drugaya Rossiya conference in Moscow.

12 July 2006 Deputy head of the Russian Atomic Energy Agency Andrey Malyshev says a total of 137 nuclear-powered submarines had been scrapped in Russia by the end of the second quarter of 2006.

13 July 2006 A large-scale antiterrorist exercise, Kavkazskiy Rubezh, starts across the entire North Caucasus Military District. It involves about 6,000 servicemen. This means units of the 58th army, the 4th army of the Air Defence Troops and spetsnaz units.

13 July 2006 Vladimir Putin signs the federal law "On the creation within the Russian Federation of a new constituent part of the Russian Federation as a result of merging Kamchatka Region and the Koryak Autonomous Area". The law was passed by the State Duma on 30 June 2006 and approved by the Federation Council on 7 July.

Putin signs the federal law "On amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation regarding putting candidates forward for elective posts in the bodies of state authority". This means that Duma deputies cannot transfer from one faction to another.

13 July 2006 Chechen Prime Minister Ramzan Kadyrov demands that officials create the conditions for the return and accommodation of forced migrants who are located in neighbouring regions. At present more than 26,000 forced migrants are registered in Ingushetia.

13 July 2006 The president of North Ossetia, Taymuraz Mamsurov, says North Ossetia will provide every support to the fraternal people of South Ossetia if Georgia unleashes aggression against it.

14 July 2006 Industry and Energy Minister Viktor Khristenko believes that atomic energy is essential.

14 July 2006 The first deputy chairman of the Military-Industrial Commission under the government, Minister Vladislav Putilin, says with regard to the military-industrial complex, "the stage of merely surviving has come to an end and the period of development has begun".

15 July 2006 Federal Security Service (FSB) director and chairman of the National Antiterrorist Committee, Nikolay Patrushev, urges rebels in the North Caucasus to start talks with the federal authorities and lay down arms.

16 July 2006 Chechen separatist envoy and foreign minister Akhmed Zakayev calls for talks without preconditions with Moscow.

17 July 2006 Ramzan Kadyrov says that he is confident that "the Chechen Republic is no longer a problem region or a zone of counterterrorist operations".

Shamil Basayev's brother-in-law is detained in a special operation in Dagestan.

18 July 2006 Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov signs an instruction to publish a combined federal list of the organizations that the Russian courts have ruled to be terrorist ones. There are 17 such organisations.

18 July 2006 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says facilities for the deployment of a mountain brigade in the Botlikh district of Dagestan will be ready by mid-2007. The Defence Ministry has plans to deploy two mountain brigades in the North Caucasus - one in Botlikh (Dagestan) and the other in Zelenchukskaya, in Karachay-Cherkessia.

18 July 2006 The National Anti-terrorist Committee declares an amnesty for members of illegal armed formations. Ramzan Kadyrov says about 50 people remain active participants in Chechen bandit groups.

19 July 2006 President of the Chechen Republic Alu Alkhanov proposes that the Russian president should be allowed to run for a third term.

Alkhanov asks the Russian leadership to extend until 1 January 2007 the deadline for members of illegal armed formations to voluntarily surrender their arms and return to a peaceful life.

The Chechen separatist government rejects the federal government's amnesty offer.

20 July 2006 The head of the Federation Council committee on constitutional legislation, Yuriy Sharandin, says it is basically impossible to hold a referendum on changing the constitution to permit the president to run for a third term as there is insufficient time.

21 July 2006 President of Ingushetia Murat Zyazikov calls for Vladimir Putin's right to run for presidency for the third term successively to be secured.

21 July 2006 Vladimir Putin issues a decree removing the head of the Nenets Autonomous Area administration, Aleksey Barinov, from his post. Barinov was arrested on charges of large scale fraud in May 2006.

22 July 2006 Separatist Chechen "foreign minister" Akhmed Zakayev says that the Chechen side is prepared to discuss any compromise to end the war with Russia so long as it does not run counter to the constitution and religious beliefs of the Chechen people.

23 July 2006 Chechen MP Magomed Khambiyev (former defence minister in the rebel government now a deputy in the Chechen parliament) goes abroad for talks with representatives of the Chechen republic of Ichkeria. Ichkeria's first deputy foreign minister Usman Ferzauli, who now lives in Denmark, rejects this move and describes Khambiyev as a traitor.

25 July 2006 Rodina decides to merge with the Party of Life. The merged party hopes to replace the CPRF as the main leftwing party.

25 July 2006 Federation Council Speaker Sergey Mironov says he will support any candidate for the post of president in 2008, irrespective of party allegiances, "if he will continue the course set by the current head of state". "I will support any candidate, first and foremost the candidate put forward by the president."

26 July 2006 Vladimir Putin signs the federal law "On the ratification of the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption" passed by the State Duma on 8 July and approved by the Federation Council on 14 July. Russia signed the convention in Strasbourg on 27 January 1999.

27 July 2006 The head of the FSB Nikolay Patrushev says there will be a new deadline for the amnesty for members of illegal armed groups. It may now be extended to after 1 August.

A major anti-terrorist operation is underway in Kabarda-Balkaria.

28 July 2006 Vladimir Putin signs the law on combating extremism.

28 July 2006 *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* publishes a list of organizations which the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation has ruled are terrorist and which are banned in Russia. The list is:

1. Supreme Military Majlisul Shura of the Joint Forces of Mujaheddin in the Caucasus
2. Congress of the People of Ichkeria and Dagestan
3. The Base (Al-Qa'idah)
4. Asbat al-Ansar [also Isbat al-Ansar]
5. Holy War (Al-Jihad or Egyptian Islamic Jihad)
6. Islamic Group (Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyyah [also Gama'a al-Islamiyyah])
7. Muslim Brotherhood (Al-Ikhwan al-Muslimun)
8. Islamic Liberation Party (Hizb ut-Tahrir al-Islami [also Hezb e-Tahrir al-Islami])
9. Lashkar-e-Taiba
10. Islamic Assembly (Jamaat-e-Islami)
11. Taleban
12. Islamic Party of Turkestan (former Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan)
13. Social Reform Society (Jama'ah al-Islah al-Ijtima'i [also Jamiat al-Islah al-Ijtima'i])

14. Islamic Heritage Revival Society (Jama'ah Ihya ul-Turath al-Islamia [also Jamiat Ihya at-Turaz al-Islami])
15. House of The Two Sacred Mosques (Al-Haramayn)
16. Islamic Jihad - Jamaat Mujaheddin
17. Jund ash-Sham

New laws on countering terrorism are also published in *Rossiskaya Gazeta*.

Deputy Interior Minister Andrey Novikov says there has been a fall in the number of terrorist acts in Russia. He says 68 terrorist acts had been reported in Russia in 2006. This is nearly a 21-per-cent fall compared with the same period in 2005.

The National Antiterrorism Committee states that 33 members of illegal armed formations have surrendered to the authorities since the amnesty appeal of 15 July.

28 July 2006 Dagestani human rights advocate Osman Baliyev leaves Russia and asks the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Kiev for asylum.

28 July 2006 Nikolay Spasskiy is appointed state secretary and deputy head of Rosatom.

29 July 2006 Navy Commander-in-Chief Admiral Vladimir Masorin is interviewed in *Krasnaya Zvezda*.

30 July 2006 *Ekho Moskvy* speculates that FSB director Nikolay Patrushev could be among candidates to succeed Vladimir Putin as president in 2008.

31 July 2006 Chechen Prime Minister Ramzan Kadyrov says since the beginning of July about 70 former participants of illegal armed formations and people assisting them turned up at law enforcement bodies of the Republic of Chechnya in response to the amnesty declaration by FSB Director Nikolay Patrushev.

Nikolay Patrushev extends the period during which militants can voluntarily surrender until 30 September 2006.

31 July 2006 The Bashkir opposition Civil Forum asks Vladimir Putin to change the republic's status to that of a region.

August

1 August 2006 The Yukos oil company is officially declared bankrupt.

1 August 2006 Rosatom states that it plans to earmark R18 billion in 2007 to complete the construction of three power units and to fund the construction of two new ones at five Russian nuclear power stations.

1 August 2006 A regional initiative group has been established in North Ossetia to prepare for a referendum on Vladimir Putin's third term. The group is called the Harmony and Stability social movement.

2 August 2006 The secretary of the presidium of Yedinaya Rossiya's General Council, Vyacheslav Volodin, says Yedinaya Rossiya does not support the idea of amending the constitution to allow Vladimir Putin to stand for president in 2008.

2 August 2006 The justice minister, Vladimir Ustinov, discusses reforming the ministry's structure with Vladimir Putin.

2 August 2006 The Fuel and Energy Central Dispatch Department says Russia's oil and gas condensate output in January-July 2006 was 276.867m tonnes, up 2.4 per cent on the same period in 2005. In July Russia produced 40.9m tonnes of crude. Russia extracted 383.013bn cubic metres of gas in January-July, 2.7 per cent up year-on-year, and produced 50.178bn cubic metres of gas in July. Russia's crude oil exports to non-CIS countries rose 5 per cent year-on-year to 122.25m tonnes in January-July, and the country exported 17.84m tonnes of crude to these countries in July. Since the beginning of 2006 Russian oil companies have boosted crude exports to Belarus by 17 per cent year-on-year to 12.425m tonnes, while oil exports to Ukraine have been cut 30 per cent to 6.59m tonnes.

3 August 2006 RIA Novosti reports that the Russian government will earmark R54.1 billion for the development of the atomic energy sector by 2007.

3 August 2006 *The Caucasus Times* website reports that the president of the Republic of Kabarda-Balkaria, Arsen Kanokov, signed several decrees on 1 August related to government reshuffles in the Republic of Kabarda-Balkaria.

3 August 2006 Chechen Prime Minister Ramzan Kadyrov says the Chechen authorities are holding talks "with practically all rebels, or people who have been part of illegal armed detachments in various periods. We are not holding talks and do not intend to hold talks with Doku Umarov and Abu-Khavs."

Chechen President Alu Alkhanov reckons that the number of guerrillas active in the North Caucasus is around 500.

Col-Gen Arkadiy Yedelev, deputy head of the MVD who heads the regional headquarters of the counterterrorist operation in the North Caucasus, is interviewed in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*.

The Kavkaz-Tsentr website publishes a report calling for support for Muslims in Lebanon fighting Jewish aggressors.

North Ossetia FSB directorate denies reports on the existence of "the Ossetian Jamaat" which regularly appear on the Chechen separatists' Kavkaz-Tsentr website.

4 August 2006 First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitriy Medvedev is well ahead of Defence Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov in the rating of potential candidates for president of the Russian Federation. This is the result of a public opinion poll conducted by the Levada-Centre:

Dmitry Medvedev	25% will vote for him.
Vladimir Zhirinovskiy,	18%
Sergey Ivanov	16%.
Gennadiy Zyuganov	4 per cent
Sergey Glazyev	8 per cent
Dmitriy Rogozin	6 per cent
Mikhail Kasyanov	4 per cent
Vladimir Ryzhkov	3 per cent

Grigoriy Yavlinskiy 3 per cent

Vladimir Putin was not listed.

8 August 2006 The Supreme Court of Bashkortostan delivered a guilty verdict against the physicist Oskar Kaybyshev, the former director of the Ufa Institute of Problems of Superplasticity of Metals. He is accused of supplying information to a South Korean firm.

8 August 2006 Vladimir Putin signs a decree in which he instructs the MOD and MVD "by 15 December 2006 to submit, in line with the established order, proposals to reorganize the Joint Group of Forces by envisaging the stage-by-stage withdrawal in 2007-2008 of units of the Interior Ministry's Internal Troops and units of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation that are deployed in Chechnya on a temporary basis."

Chechen President Alu Alkhanov says that more than 80 people have voluntarily laid down arms in Chechnya since the appeal by Nikolay Patrushev.

9 August 2006 Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says the military expenditure of the Russian Federation in 2007 will increase by R70 billion.

10 August 2006 Vladimir Putin appoints Vladimir Nazarov as deputy secretary of the Security Council.

10 August 2006 The president of the self-proclaimed republic of Abkhazia, Sergey Bagapsh, and deputy chairman of the parliament of the republic of North Ossetia - Alania Azamat Khadikov discuss interparliamentary and humanitarian cooperation in Sukhumi.

11 August 2006 A report by the Economic Development and Trade Ministry says that Russia could be producing 80-90m tonnes of grain a year by 2009, which would enable the country to fully meet its food and fodder requirements. Such a level of production would also generate sufficient reserves for the export of 11-13m tonnes of grain. Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeyev says the 2006 harvest would be in the region of 70-73m tonnes.

11 August 2006 The secretary of the Public and Economic Security Council has been appointed in Chechnya. This post has been assumed by the Chechen president's senior aide German Vog, whose appointment was signed by President Alu Alkhanov.

11 August 2006 FSB Director Nikolay Patrushev is interviewed in *Izvestiya*. He discusses the work of the National Antiterrorism Committee.

14 August 2006 Vladimir Putin discusses the development of Siberia and the Far East with the plenipotentiary representatives for these federal districts, Anatoliy Kvashnin and Kamil Iskhakov.

16 August 2006 Deputy head of the presidential administration Vladislav Surkov says the current Russian political system is not stable enough because it is based on a single party.

"In my view, the biggest vice of the present political system is that it is based on the resource of one person [President Vladimir Putin] and,

consequently, on one party. The problem is that there is no alternative major party. Society does not have a second leg to lean on if the first one goes numb. This makes the system unstable...The task for the upcoming period is to cultivate a political force that is able to replace the current dominating party [One Russia] over a certain time...We are searching, I think Russia needs a second major political party, but this is a matter of time. We are used to thinking that everything should be done very quickly, but this is wrong."

Nikolay Levichev, deputy chairman of the Party of Life, says the consolidation of Russian left-leaning forces around the Party of Life should not be regarded as a Kremlin project.

16 August 2006 It is planned to increase by R 286.5 billion, or by 22.7 per cent, the budget spending on national defence, law-enforcement bodies' work and state security. In 2007 it is envisaged to increase the spending from the federal budget on national defence, law-enforcement work and state security by R286.5bn. Spending on national defence will increase to R821.2 billion in 2007 from R659.3 billion in 2006 (by 24.6 per cent) and expenditure on national security and law-enforcement work will be increased to R664.1 billion next year from R539.5 billion in 2006 (by 23.1 per cent).

16 August 2006 The BlackSeaFor Naval Group launches an exercise under Russian command.

17 August 2006 Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin speaks at a Russian government meeting. He says the Russian budget is now more dependent than ever on oil and gas. He was presenting the draft budget for 2007. Kudrin says that 52.2 per cent of revenue would come from oil and gas; it was essential to do everything possible to reduce the budget's dependence on oil and gas company revenue and on the short-term situation on the oil and gas markets.

Economic Development and Trade Minister German Gref warns of a possible shortage of gas on the domestic market in 2007-2009 when there is expected to be an imbalance between extraction and consumption. He says the domestic market will need an additional 26bn-27bn cubic metres of gas whereas extraction is forecast to grow by 21bn cubic metres.

18 August 2006 Chechen separatist forces deny Russian media reports that Chechen separatist president Dokka Umarov has surrendered. It is later reported that Umarov's older brother Akhmad has surrendered.

21 August 2006 Interior Minister Rashid Nurgaliyev issues instructions to devise a plan for the stage-by-stage withdrawal of troops deployed in Chechnya on a temporary basis. The drafting of the plan is due to be completed by December 2006.

24 August 2006 Aslambek Aslakhonov, an adviser to the president of the Russian Federation, says the leader of the Chechen rebels, Dokka Umarov, cannot expect to be amnestied.

The deputy mufti of Chechnya, Magomed-Sharip Dadayev says eighteen Islamic schools are currently operating in Chechnya.

25 August 2006 *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* reports that the MOD is drafting a new military doctrine for 2007.

25 August 2006 The plenipotentiary representative of the president in the Southern Federal District, Dmitriy Kozak, says in the last two years the number of terrorist acts in southern Russia fell by over three times. Kozak is at a meeting of the chairman of the National Antiterrorist Committee, Nikolay Patrushev, with heads of antiterrorist commissions in the constituent parts of the Southern Federal District in Rostov-na-Donu.

25 August 2006 Russia's Defence Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov says there are less than 20,000 MOD troops in Chechnya.

26 August 2006 Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov signs the 2007 draft budget.

26 August 2006 Defence minister and deputy prime minister Sergey Ivanov says that from 2009, "we can expect the Russian navy to take delivery of new-generation warships, which will be frigates and corvettes as well as nuclear-powered submarines, including missile and multipurpose ones".

28 August 2006 Yabloko first deputy chairman Sergey Ivanenko says that Yabloko party can unite with the Union of Right Forces only on the basis of Yabloko.

28 August 2006 Yuzhnyy Shchit-2006 exercises commence in the Volga-Urals Military District.

29 August 2006 The Party of Life, Rodina and the Party of Pensioners announce a merger.

29 August 2006 A commission to set up an international uranium enrichment centre in Angarsk starts working in Rosatom.

30 August 2006 Chechen Prime Minister Ramzan Kadyrov rules out the unification of Chechnya and Ingushetia and says Chechnya has no territorial claims on Dagestan.

30 August 2006 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov warns generals against underestimating the issue of information back-up for the activities of the armed forces in the media.

A group of warships of the Baltic Fleet is heading for the venue of the international naval exercise Open Spirit 2006.

Sergey Ivanov says Russia will roll out its Glonass global navigation satellite system in full (24 satellites) by 2010.

30 August 2006 It is reported that the Kommersant publishing house has been sold to the head of the Metalloinvest holding company, Alisher Usmanov.

30 August 2006 Dagestan President Mukhu Aliyev orders the tightening of security at important facilities in Dagestan.

30 August 2006 Education Minister Andrey Fursenko expresses his support for teaching the basics of Orthodox Christian culture in schools.

As you know, we cannot officially interfere with the regions' decisions. My opinion is that schoolchildren must know the history of religion and

religious culture. They should, however, study it as a secular subject. This year, a textbook on the history of world religions is available for the first time. It pays a lot of attention to Russian Orthodox Christianity.

31 August 2006 The deputy chairman of the council, Damir Gizatullin, of the Russian Council of Muftis states: "The position of the Council of Muftis on this issue remains unchanged. We believe that that all religions should be taught and they should be taught as an elective subject, there shouldn't be a separate subject Foundations of Orthodox Culture or Foundations of Islamic Culture. They should be in one book."

31 August 2006 The presidential plenipotentiary envoy in the Southern Federal District, Dmitriy Kozak, reports to the president on the state of affairs in the Southern Federal District.

The opposition Ingushetiya.ru website states that Russia has decided to move its antiterror operation from Chechnya to its neighbours, Ingushetia and North Ossetia.

A former influential member of the illegal armed formations, Abdul-Khamid Shamilyev, surrenders to the authorities in Chechnya.

31 August 2006 Sergey Ivanov, deputy prime minister and defence minister says that over R300 billion will be allocated next year for the state defence order by the MOD alone, which is almost 30 per cent more than in 2005. Ivanov says that Russia has actually got down to implementing a new state armament programme for the period to 2015.

31 August 2006 The first deputy chairman of the government military-industrial commission (MIC), Vladislav Putilin, announces that the Strategic Nuclear Forces, permanent-readiness units and antiterror subunits are to be financed without deficit in 2007: "The requirements for the development of the Strategic Nuclear Forces and for the purchase of the necessary amount of weaponry for all three components of the nuclear triad will effectively be financed without deficit. Permanent-readiness units and forces carrying out antiterrorist activity will be financed almost without deficit." Putilin says that spending connected with the development of the military infrastructure will increase in 2007 by 47 per cent. The volume of funding for housing construction will go up significantly from R12 billion to R20 billion.

September

1 September 2006 *Novyye Izvestiya* reports that there is a plan to present St Petersburg Governor Valentina Matviyenko as a potential president.

1 September 2006 Vladimir Masorin, commander-in-chief of the Russian navy, says the Russian navy requires funding to the tune of R3,700 billion over the next 10 years to build and modernize the fleet. He says that the navy needs eight to nine new missile submarines to be built. On the surface fleet, the commander-in-chief could not say exactly how many ships would be needed.

1 September 2006 A new special-purpose detachment of the Interior Ministry troops begins operating in Moscow. It is named Peresvet after Aleksandr Peresvet, the hero of the Battle of Kulikovo. The main tasks for the force include counterterrorism, policing of public order and provision of security in Moscow.

1 September 2006 Col-Gen Nikolay Rogozhkin, commander-in-chief of the Interior Ministry's Internal Troops, says the MVD has approved a plan to withdraw in 2007-2008 surplus internal troops temporarily deployed in Chechnya.

3 September 2006 Race riots take place in the Karelian town of Kondopoga between Russians and persons from the Caucasus.

4 September 2006 President Alu Alkhanov says that the name of the Chechen Republic could be changed.

Alkhanov addresses the sixth meeting of the Russian-Arab business council in St Petersburg. He says he hopes the right conditions can be created to enable an office of the Islamic Development Bank to open in Chechnya. He calls for investment from Arab countries.

4 September 2006 Leader of the Party of Life Sergey Mironov is interviewed in *Argumenty i Fakty*.

5 September 2006 Vladimir Putin makes personnel appointments in the system of the Interior Ministry. Police colonel Alik Khabibullin has been appointed head of the Economic Security Academy of the Interior Ministry. Vladimir Yarygin has been appointed deputy head of the main directorate of the Interior Ministry for the Volga Federal District economic security and head of the operative search bureau.

5 September 2006 chairman of the Council for Islamic Education and rector of the Moscow Islamic University Marat Murtazin says a textbook for secondary schools on the foundations of Muslim culture will be published in Russia by 2007 despite the fact that Russia's Council of Muftis is against obligatory teaching of the fundamentals of any religious cultures at school.

5 September 2006 Russian presidential aide Igor Shuvalov says various forces may use the environmental agenda to further their political ends. He is commenting on attempts by Rosprirodnadzor in relation to the Sakhalin-2 energy project.

5 September 2006 The President of Chechnya Alu Alkhanov signs a decree on setting up an antiterrorist commission in the republic.

6 September 2006 Nikolay Khlyntsov is appointed chairman of the government of North Ossetia-Alania at an extraordinary session of the republic's parliament.

6 September 2006 *The Caucasus Times* cites the deputy prosecutor of the Chechen Republic, Nikolay Kalugin, as saying that a total of 173 people have surrendered to the Chechen law-enforcement agencies since an appeal by FSB Director Nikolay Patrushev.

Ingush President Murat Zyazikov meets Chechen Prime Minister Ramzan Kadyrov in Magas.

7 September 2006 Militants from Jamaat Kataib al-Khawl claim responsibility for the bomb attack against a Russian armoured personnel carrier in North Ossetia on 6 September.

8 September 2006 The head of the Central Electoral Commission Aleksandr Veshnyakov says that it is impossible to hold a referendum in Russia on allowing a third consecutive presidential term in the time remaining before the elections.

8 September 2006 Sergey Ivanov emphasises the importance of Russia's sea-based nuclear deterrent. "In the nuclear triad, the sea component plays an important role and its nuclear warheads are deployed on strategic missile-firing submarines. And it is these that must become the operational core of Russia's strategic sea forces after 2018." The recent test launch of the Bulava missile was unsuccessful.

8 September 2006 Deputy head of the Federal Industry Agency Viktor Kholstov says Russia is planning to increase its share of funding a programme for the destruction of weapons of mass destruction on the territory of the former USSR. The G8 countries agreed at a summit meeting in Kananaskis (Canada) in 2002 to allocate 20 billion dollars for the implementation of the programme. Russia currently spends 2 billion dollars on this programme.

10 September 2006 The head of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, Mauro Palma, meets Chechen President Alu Alkhanov. He criticizes the conditions in which those detained are kept in a subunit of the Russian Interior Ministry's Main Directorate for the Southern Federal District.

10 September 2006 Defence minister and deputy prime minister Sergey Ivanov says Russian strategic nuclear submarines have successfully launched intercontinental ballistic missiles in exercises just completed.

10 September 2006 Vladimir Putin visits Kaliningrad oblast. He visit the Baltic Fleet's naval base at Baltiysk. Putin mentions the importance of transport links with Lithuania.

11 September 2006 Vladimir Putin authorizes the use of his image by Sergey Mironov, the Federation Council speaker and leader of the Russian Party of Life. Mironov is standing in parliamentary elections in Lipetsk Region on 8 October.

11 September 2006 Minister of Economic Development and Trade German Gref says that the government will continue to liberalise the economy. Deputy Economic Development and Trade Minister Andrey Belousov says that Russia's GDP will grow by 6.5 per cent in 2006. Over the last 8 months GDP grew at the rate of 6.7 per cent and the economy grew by over 7 per cent compared with the same period in 2005.

11 September 2006 Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeyev says in 2006 Russia will harvest 73-74 million tonnes of cereals.

11 September 2006 A military helicopter containing several senior officers crashes in North Ossetia.

11 September 2006 *The Caucasus Times* website reports that Dagestani President Mukhu Aliyev is in favour of constitutionally banning Wahhabism throughout the entire territory of the Russian Federation.

11 September 2006 Lt-Gen Valeriy Yevnevich, who previously served as deputy commander-in-chief of the Russian Ground Troops in charge of peacekeeping forces, is appointed deputy commander of the Ground Troops. Yevnevich succeeds Col-Gen Vladimir Bulgakov, who has been appointed commander of troops of the Far East Military District.

11 September 2006 President Mintimer Shaymiyev of Tatarstan is interviewed in *Argumenty i Fakty*.

11 September 2006 Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says that the Russian electronics industry lags behind world levels. He is speaking at a meeting with members of the government commission on military-industrial issues. The meeting discusses the problems of developing and producing Russian-made software for military systems and installations. Ivanov says the government has developed a draft subsidiary programme "Developing an electronics components base" for 2007-2011 as part of the National Technology Base federal programme. Ivanov calls the programme "the nucleus of the electronics industry development strategy". He believes "implementing the strategy will enable a reduction by as much of 50 per cent in the use of imported components for military and special-purpose technology".

12 September 2006 Vladislav Surkov, deputy head of the presidential administration speaks at a second Russian media forum organized by Yedinaya Rossiya on sovereign democracy.

12 September 2006 The rebel-backed Chechen President Dokka Umarov says that his government is no longer prepared to offer peace measures to Moscow to end the conflict as previous appeals by his predecessors had been viewed by the Kremlin as a sign of weakness on the part of the rebels.

12 September 2006 Rosoboronexport purchases a 41-per-cent stake in titanium producer VSMPO-Avisma.

12 September 2006 A joint command-post exercise involving military commissariats and military units stationed in Krasnoyarsk Territory and Kemerovo Region takes place in these two regions of Siberia.

12 September 2006 Rosatom head Sergey Kiriyenko says every year Russia plans to put into operation from two to four high-power nuclear power units starting with 2010.

12 September 2006 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says the government is completing work on a national strategy for shipbuilding development. Once this document is approved, a relevant special federal programme will be adopted as early as in 2007.

12 September 2006 The deputy chairman of the Duma committee on security, Viktor Voytenko, says sections of the state border which lie between border posts are not properly protected.

13 September 2006 The first deputy chairman of the board of the Russian Federation Central Bank Andrey Kozlov is assassinated in Moscow.

13 September 2006 A department has been set up within the system of the Prosecutor-General's Office to prevent the appearance of and expose networks of corrupt officials.

13 September 2006 *Ekho Moskvu* radio reports that the son of FSB Director Nikolay Patrushev has become an employee of Rosneft. The 25-year-old Andrey Patrushev has been appointed adviser to Rosneft chairman Igor Sechin.

13 September 2006 Chechen police are fired on by the Ingush police as a result of an incident that occurred at a checkpoint on the administrative border between Ingushetia and Chechnya near the village of Sleptsovskaya. Five Chechen police

officers and two Ingush police officers were killed. Chechen prime minister Ramzan Kadyrov describes the incident as "a misunderstanding and a shortcoming in the work of the law enforcement bodies of the two republics".

Rodina Duma faction calls for the dismissal of Ramzan Kadyrov. Rodina deputy Andrey Savelyev says Kadyrov's statements about unrest in the Karelian town of Kondopoga clearly contained calls for interethnic strife.

A member of the Federation Council from Ingushetia, Issa Kostoyev, calls for Ingush resistance to Chechen police raids.

German Vog, the secretary of the Chechen Economy and Public Security Council, says about 200 rebels have turned themselves in to the law-enforcement bodies in Chechnya since 15 June.

13 September 2006 North Ossetian rebels from the jamaat of Ossetian mojahedin Kataib al-Khoul claim that on 11 September they shot down a helicopter carrying high-ranking Russian military officers using a mobile anti-aircraft missile system. This claim is dismissed by the North Ossetian authorities.

13 September 2006 Command and staff exercises of units and subunits of military transport aviation commence. Crews are practising skills of coordinated work at airborne landing and cooperation with subunits of the Airborne Troops.

14 September 2006 The Kavkazskiy Uzel website reports that the North Ossetia parliament has denied media reports about the existence of a radical Ossetian Islamic jamaat group, which claimed responsibility for the recent helicopter crash near Vladikavkaz, as "mythical" and "misinformation".

14 September 2006 The head of Federal Migration Service Konstantin Romodanovskiy says Russia loses more than 8 billion dollars a year because of "grey (illegal) immigration". He is speaking at a high-level gathering on migration and development at the United Nations. He says that this year Chinese citizens have beaten Ukrainians into first place in the rankings of legal immigrants. "By the end of the year, legal immigrants will total around one million; last year there were 702,000 and the year before that, 300,000."

14 September 2006 Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov addresses his government on the need to alter the structure of the Russian economy. He says that funds should be transferred from raw-material to processing industries, that foreign capital is essential and that the country's brain drain has to be stopped.

15 September 2006 Talgat Tadzhuiddin, supreme mufti of the Central Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Russia, condemns Pope Benedict XVI's remarks on Islam.

18 September 2006 Vladimir Putin forwards to the Duma a draft bill offering amnesty to individuals who committed offences during counterterrorist operations in the Southern Federal District. This extends not only to rebels, but also to service personnel and will apply for six months from publication of the document as passed by the Duma.

18 September 2006 The Ministry of Natural Resources rescinds its order of 15 July 2003 "Granting state expert commission approval for the feasibility study for the comprehensive development of the Piltun-Astokhskoye and Lunskoye licence sectors (phase two of the Sakhalin-2 project)".

18 September 2006 Unidentified people fire small arms on the house of the chairman of the Republican Council of the Chechen parliament, Vakhid Mantsayev, in the Shelkovskiy District.

19 September 2006 The URF holds a congress and releases its programme for the next 10 years. Leader Nikita Belykh says that the URF is prepared to begin talks about consolidating with other democratic parties as early as November.

19 September 2006 *Gazeta* newspaper reports that the MOD has prepared a draft military doctrine.

The MOD denies media reports claiming that the ministry is drafting a new state military doctrine.

20 September 2006 First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitriy Medvedev says that he opposes changing the constitution.

20 September 2006 Sergey Ivanov attends the the Yuzhnyy Shchit-2006 [Southern Shield-2006] command-post exercise in the 2nd Army of the Volga-Urals Military District. Ivanov says that "the Defence Ministry is increasing funding for the operational, combat and mobilization training of troops year after year. In 2007 the plan is to allocate for these purposes R22.3 billion, which is R4.2 billion more than in 2006. As a result, spending will rise by 23 per cent."

20 September 2006 Chechen Prime Minister Ramzan Kadyrov signs a decree "On endorsing the plan of developing and placing production forces in the Chechen Republic for the period until 2010".

20 September 2006 Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says the budget for combat training programmes in the Russian armed forces will total R24 billion in 2007. He says combat training expenditure will be increased by 23 per cent in the 2007 budget, reaching nearly R24 billion.

21 September 2006 Beslan Commission chairman Aleksandr Torshin announces that the publication of the report on the Beslan terrorist outrage has been postponed.

21 September 2006 Head of the National Anti-terrorist Committee and FSB director Nikolay Patrushev says that Russia's terrorism prevention precautions are unsatisfactory. He says that greater attention should be focused on improving security systems, maintaining anti-terrorist security and protecting sites in the crucial infrastructure and the most important transport highways, as well as essential services and venues for large public gatherings.

21 September 2006 Sakhalin Region governor Ivan Malakhov says that critical remarks with regard to Sakhalin Energy, the operator of the Sakhalin-2 project, cannot be grounds for suspending implementation of the project.

21 September 2006 Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Aleksiy II meets the head of Russia's Council of Muftis, Ravil Gaynutdin.

The deputy chairman of the Spiritual Board of Muslims of Kabarda-Balkaria, Khazretali Dkhasezhev denies claims in a US Congress report that money is being collected for Al Qaeda in mosques in Russia.

21 September 2006 Deputy chairman of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation and the head of the main inspectorate of credit organizations of the Central Bank, Gennadiy Melikyan, is confirmed in the post of the chairman of the banking supervisory committee of the Bank of Russia. He replaces Andrey Kozlov, who was killed in Moscow on 13 September 2006.

21 September 2006 Industry and Energy Minister Viktor Khristenko says a federal programme to develop the electronic components sector will be approved by the end of next January.

22 September 2006 Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says that by redeeming its foreign debt ahead of schedule, Russia has totally eliminated the possibility of the kind of default that happened to the country in 1998. He is addressing the Duma on the draft budget for 2007. He says Russia's gold and hard currency reserves have increased. By the end of 2006 they will amount to 369.6 billion dollars. He says that by the end of 2007 Russia will have recovered all the GDP and industrial potential lost since 1990.

Former Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mikhail Kasyanov criticises the draft 2007 budget.

The Duma passes the federal budget for 2007 in the first reading. 343 voted for and 94 against. There were no abstentions.

22 September 2006 The Duma declares an amnesty for guerrillas and federal servicemen who did not commit serious crimes during antiterrorist operations.

22 September 2006 Military exercises are held in the Maritime Territory near the Chinese border. The enemy invaded Russian territory from the Chinese border. Overwhelming enemy forces were routed.

24 September 2006 Director of the Centre for the Analysis of Strategies and Technologies Ruslan Pukhov discusses naval reform on "I Serve the Fatherland" programme on Russian Channel One TV.

24 September 2006 A mosque is attacked in Yaroslavl.

25 September 2006 Rosenergoatom's deputy director-general in charge of innovation projects, Oleg Sarayev, says that Rosenergoatom, which operates all 10 Russian nuclear power plants, "will be turned into a joint-stock company in the middle of 2007". Sarayev announces that on the balance sheet of the Rosenergoatom there are 10 nuclear power plants with 31 nuclear power generating units that have a total rated capacity of 23,242MW. The share of the nuclear power plants in the energy balance at present accounts for 15.8 per cent. In 2005 Russian nuclear power plants produced 147.5bn kWh of electricity, which is 3 per cent more than in 2004. The coefficient of utilization of rated capacity on Russian nuclear power plants amounts to 73.4 per cent.

25 September 2006 The Federation Council ratifies the international convention on fighting acts of international terrorism.

25 September 2006 The presidential plenipotentiary representative to the Southern Federal District, Dmitriy Kozak, meets the leaders of the Chechen and Ingush republics (Alu Alkhanov and Murat Zyazikov) in Mozdok. They discuss

issues of cooperation between the law-enforcement agencies of the neighbouring regions and the latest incident on their border.

26 September 2006 Natural Resources Minister Yuriy Trutnev threatens to halt the Sakhalin-2 project altogether if the participants do not ensure that the pipeline is environmentally sound.

26 September 2006 The National Audit Chamber finds irregularities in the implementation of the programme for the restoration of Chechnya. Over the last four years, the Ministry of Regional Development and other government agencies have been failing to meet the targets set in the federal programme.

26 September 2006 Sgt Aleksandr Sivyakov is given a four year prison sentence for abuse of office that resulted in the maiming of one of his subordinates, Private Andrey Sychev.

27 September 2006 The Central Electoral Commission rules that the wording of the question "Do you agree that no individual should be able to hold the office of president of the Russian Federation for more than two consecutive terms?" is unconstitutional.

27 September 2006 Sergey Lavrov denies that foreign investors are being ousted from Russia and states that foreign investments in the Russian energy sector contributes to the stability of the global energy market.

27 September 2006 Chechen prime minister Ramzan Kadyrov says that he does not have any intention to become president of Chechnya.

Anatoliy Kulikov, deputy chairman of the Duma committee on security, says that "in the 12 years of our Russian antiterrorist war in the Chechen Republic, aggregate losses among the federal forces, illegal armed groups and civilians are estimated at about 45,000 people. More than half a million residents of Chechnya and adjacent territories have been forced to abandon their homes".

28 September 2006 Amnesty International recognizes the arrested rights campaigner Lev Ponomarev as a prisoner of conscience.

28 September 2006 The deputy head of Rosprirodnadzor Oleg Mitvol says the Sakhalin-2 pipeline must be stopped.

28 September 2006 The head of Rosatom Sergey Kiriienko says the estimated reserves of uranium in Russia amount to 615,000 tonnes at present.

28 September 2006 Ramzan Kadyrov criticizes the federal centre for underfunding the programme of economic and social recovery in Chechnya.

28 September 2006 The collegium of the Federal Migration Service meets to discuss progress in implementing the state programme for assisting fellow countrymen living abroad to resettle in Russia.

29 September 2006 The deputy head of Rosprirodnadzor, Oleg Mitvol, says part of the pipeline built as part of the Sakhalin-2 project goes through a nature reserve. He says this is illegal.

29 September 2006 Vladimir Putin says he believes that there has been a reduction in terrorist activity in the south of Russia.

30 September 2006 Long range aviation hold a Command Post Exercise.

