

Russian Domestic Policy: A Chronology

October – December 2006

1 October 2006 It is reported that a total of 225 rebels have voluntarily laid down their arms and surrendered to the Chechen law-enforcement agencies since the 17 July appeal to the rebels to surrender was issued by the chairman of the Antiterrorist Committee and FSB Director Nikolay Patrushev.

1 October 2006 The autumn call-up starts. The main characteristic of this call-up is that conscripts leaving for the army will be the last ones to serve for two years. From 2007 the length of service will be reduced to one-and-a-half years, and from 2008 to 12 months. About 125,000 eligible servicemen aged between 18 and 27 are to be sent to the armed forces before the New Year.

2 October 2006 Deputy Chief of General Staff Col-Gen Vasiliy Smirnov says the pool of Russian men eligible to be drafted into the army is decreasing by over 100,000 annually. "Because of the demographic situation, the draft will be more restricted in the future than at present. In 2005, we registered 1,200,000 men, and this year 1,100,000 men, and forecasts for next year are even lower." He says as many as 81 armed forces formations and units, numbering 125,000 men, will be transferred to manning by contract by 1 January 2008. The overall number of fully professional units, including those belonging to various power-wielding agencies, would therefore reach 88 and their total numerical strength would be 138,000 people by 2008. The plan for building fully professional armed forces is 74 per cent complete. The general said 121 foreign servicemen, including volunteers from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine, served in the Russian armed forces under contracts. A total of 809 men are doing alternative civilian service, but their number is decreasing year after year. Smirnov adds that 52 conscripts had managed to evade military service during last spring's conscription campaign.

3 October 2006 The leaders of a number of opposition parties and organizations sign an agreement on joint efforts in the struggle against corruption. The initiative was put forward by the CPRF and seconded by the URF and the Moscow Yabloko Party branch.

3 October 2006 Mikhail Sukhodolskiy, deputy interior minister, says that the Interior Ministry (MVD) plans in 2007 to double the funding and obtain specific types of special combat equipment, special weaponry.

4 October 2006 Vladimir Putin meets the heads of Duma factions.

4 October 2006 The government approves the federal targeted-development programme called "The development of Russia's nuclear power industry complex for 2007-2010 and for up to 2015."

Rosatom head Sergey Kiriyyenko says Rosatom will submit a draft federal target programme to ensure nuclear and radiation security. He says that at present 16,147 tonnes of spent nuclear fuel from nuclear power stations are in storage in Russia.

4 October 2006 Russian aircraft producers send an open letter to the Vladimir Putin on the state of the Russian aircraft manufacturing industry.

4 October 2006 It is reported that Russian law-enforcement agencies are compiling lists of organizations owned by representatives of the Georgian community in Moscow.

5 October 2006 Vladimir Putin issues an instruction to introduce quotas for foreign workforce in Russia by 15 November.

5 October 2006 The deputy head of Rosprirodnadzor, Oleg Mitvol, passes documents with regard to illegal felling of trees within the framework of the Sakhalin-2 project to prosecutors.

5 October 2006 Chechen prime minister Ramzan Kadyrov says he is not ready to run for the Chechen presidency.

5 October 2006 Vladimir Putin submits the nomination of Murtaza Rakhimov as president of Bashkortostan for approval by the republic's State Assembly (El Kurultay).

5 October 2006 Vladimir Putin appoints commander-in-Chief of Ground Troops Aleksey Maslov and Deputy Chief of General Staff Aleksandr Skvortsov official representatives of the president of the Russian Federation for the hearings by the chambers of the Federal Assembly of the issue of ratification of agreements between Russia and Georgia on the organization of transit of military cargoes and personnel through the territory of Georgia.

Former Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov describes the Russian leadership's behaviour towards Georgia as "unseemly and incompatible with the status as a great power".

5 October 2006 Vladimir Putin attends a meeting of the council on the national projects. R250 billion is to be allocated next year (2007) to fund the national projects. The discussion concerned the demographic situation, the building of affordable housing, the development of agriculture and health care.

5 October 2006 A poll in Kommersant shows that Dmitry Medvedev is the favourite choice as Vladimir Putin's successor.

30 per cent would vote for Dmitry Medvedev.

19 per cent would vote for Gennady Zyuganov

17 per cent would vote for Vladimir Zhirinovskiy

13 per cent would vote for Sergey Ivanov.

51 per cent would like to see Vladimir Putin staying for a third term.

5 October 2006 Grozny airport is opened.

6 October 2006 United Energy Systems (UES) head Anatoly Chubais says that there may be some restrictions in electricity supplies this winter.

6 October 2006 The parliaments of Chita Region and the Agin Buryat Autonomous Area submit to Vladimir Putin an application to merge and to form a new constituent part of Russia. The regional parliaments have suggested that the new constituent entity should be called Transbaykal Territory (Zabaykalskiy Kray). There are plans to conduct referendums on the merger in March 2007, establish 1 March 2008 as the date of formation of the new constituent entity and complete the transitional period of formation by 1 January 2010.

6 October 2006 The Audit Chamber says the terms of the Sakhalin-2 project are not beneficial for Russia.

6 October 2006 The Duma committee on budget and taxes approves an amendment, which was submitted for a second reading of the 2007 draft federal budget, which envisages an increase in the financing of national defence by R308.75m. The overall spending on this sector will be R821.48 billion.

7 October 2006 Anna Politkovskaya is killed in central Moscow in a contract killing.

9 October 2006 In regional parliamentary elections, Yedinaya Rossiya and the new Party of Life/Rodina/Pensioners does well. The CPRF and Yabloko do badly.

9 October 2006 Gazprom head Aleksey Miller says Gazprom will develop the Shtokman deposit on its own. The Shtokman field located in the central part of the Barents Sea holds 3,700 billion cu.m. of gas and over 30m tonnes of gas condensate.

Economic Development Minister German Gref says that a petroleum stock exchange will be set up by the end of 2007 in Russia.

9 October 2006 The Bashkortostan State Assembly confirms Murtaza Rakhimov as president of the Republic of Bashkortostan.

10 October 2006 Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov gives a long news conference at the RIA-Novosti news agency.

10 October 2006 Vladimir Putin, in Germany, makes the following comment about the murder of Anna Politkovskaya:

I would like to say a couple of words about this. First of all, I would like to say that whoever has committed this crime and whatever their guiding motives, we should state that this is a horribly cruel crime. It must not remain unpunished, of course.

The motives may be the most different ones. Yes, indeed, this journalist was a severe critic of the incumbent authorities in Russia. But I think that journalists know this and experts, for instance, understand this very well anyway that the degree of her influence on Russia's political life was negligible. She was well known among journalists and human rights campaigners and in the West. However, her influence on the country's political life, I reiterate, was minimal. And the murder of such a person, the cruel murder of a woman and a mother is in itself directed against our country, against Russia, against the incumbent authorities in Russia. This murder has caused Russia and the incumbent authorities in both Russia and the Chechen Republic, with which she had been linked professionally

in the last few years, has caused the incumbent authorities much greater damage than her publications. This fact is absolutely obvious for everyone in Russia.

But I repeat that whoever was behind this and whatever their motives, they are criminals, they must be found, exposed and punished. We will do everything we can to achieve this.

Defence minister Sergey Ivanov states:

As regards the murder of Anna Politkovskaya, any murder is a disgusting thing, especially the murder of a woman who is a mother of two. As far as I know, Anna Politkovskaya was criticizing, persistently, purposefully and ardently, what could probably be described in a generalized way as the authorities. Well, we understand what we are talking about. That is, she was criticizing the authorities. In this sense, personally I believe that the murder of Anna Politkovskaya is a blow on the authorities. This is the second thing. And, third, I know that both the Interior Ministry and the Prosecutor-General's Office have already said they have established personal control over the case, and I am sure that everything will be done to solve the crime. And in order to solve the crime, absolutely all theories should be considered and worked on, no matter how fantastic they might seem to be at first glance. That's it.

10 October 2006 Health and Social Development Minister Mikhail Zurabov says that in the near future the government will develop a procedure for sensibly allocating migrant flows to regions and directing the workforce to those regions that actually need it. These quotas will apply to arrivals from all CIS countries without exception.

11 October 2006 The chairman of the Chechen National Salvation Committee, Ruslan Badalov, appeals to Russian and international human rights organisations to intervene to prevent the Russian-Chechen Friendship Society from being shut down. A law case against the head of the society may cause it to be shut down.

11 October 2006 It is reported that three persons have been arrested in connection with the killing of the first deputy chairman of Russia's Central Bank, Andrey Kozlov.

11 October 2006 Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov offers to give the development of the civil aviation the status of another priority national project.

11 October 2006 Vladimir Putin is interviewed in *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*.

11 October 2006 The Russian government issues a resolution that the re-export of products of military purposes or their transfer to third countries should not be allowed without permission from the Russian Federation.

12 October 2006 The government endorses a draft law which states that Russian mothers who give birth to a second child are to get a tax-free, index-linked R250,000 (10,000 dollars) maternity grant payable from 1 January 2007.

12 October 2006 The European Court of Human Rights rules that the moral damage used by the Russian authorities to the Chechen Estamirov family is worth 220,000 euros. In February 2000, five civilians were shot dead. Their relatives

found the dead bodies in the back yard of the house near Groznyy. The court ruled that the Russian authorities had not fulfilled their obligation to investigate the peoples' deaths.

12 October 2006 The commission set up to organize the construction of a marine oil complex at Kozmino Bay, the final point on the East Siberia - Pacific Ocean oil pipeline (ESPO), says that every year up to 30m tonnes of oil will leave Kozmino for world markets.

13 October 2006 Dagestani President Mukhu Aliyev is interviewed in *Dagestanskaya Pravda*.

13 October 2006 The Nizhniy Novgorod court shuts down the Russian-Chechen Friendship Society.

12 October 2006 Vladimir Putin meets Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev. They discuss the aviation industry in Tatarstan.

13 October 2006 Deputy Defence Minister Nikolay Pankov says the development of Russia's "nuclear triad", which includes the strategic nuclear submarine fleet, long-range aviation and the Strategic Missile Troops, will remain a priority direction for the Defence Ministry. "Our efforts will focus on the development of the 'nuclear triad', because as long as our country's nuclear potential is sufficiently strong, no-one will attack us, no-one in the world is that suicidal."

Pankov says that in 2007, 44.2 per cent of the money allocated to Russia's defence will be spent on buying new military hardware and developing the Russian army's material and technical basis. In 2007 only 55.8 per cent of all the funds earmarked for the defence complex will be spent on the upkeep of the Russian army, and 44.2 per cent will be spent on upgrading and developing its equipment. In 2005 up to 70 per cent of all the money allocated for defence were spent on the upkeep of the army, and up to 60 per cent in 2006. In line with the programme of reforming the Russian armed forces, the numerical strength of the army will be gradually decreased to one million people within three years. At present the number of servicemen in Russia stands at 1,134,000.

16 October 2006 Moscow's Basmannyy court has issued arrest warrants on three suspects in the case of the murder of First Deputy Chairman of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation Andrey Kozlov.

16 October 2006 Health and Social Development Minister Mikhail Zurabov says there are between 8m and 12m labour migrants in Russia.

16 October 2006 Deputy head of Rosprirodnadzor Oleg Mitvol says the cost of making good the environmental damage caused by the operator of the Sakhalin-2 project will be astronomical, between 10 billion and 50 billion dollars.

16 October 2006 The MOD states that that 432 servicemen have been killed as a result of crimes and incidents since the beginning of the year. A total of 54 servicemen have been killed in the line of duty in Chechnya between 1 January and 1 October 2006, and one has been reported missing.

17 October 2006 Vladimir Putin attends a meeting of the Council for science, technologies and education in Zelenograd to discuss the future of Russian science.

17 October 2006 Moscow's Presnenskiy Court declines to hear a legal action brought by Rosprirodnadzor seeking to annul an ecological expert analysis into the Sakhalin-2 project. Shell, Sakhalin-2's main shareholder and operator, says that it had removed 90 per cent of the ecological violations even before the Rosprirodnadzor inspection.

Industry and Energy Minister Viktor Khristenko says the increase in the cost of the Sakhalin-2 project must not result in a fall in Russia's profits from the project.

The presidential envoy in the Far Eastern Federal District, Kamil Iskhakov, upholds the tough stance of Rosprirodnadzor on the Sakhalin-2 project.

17 October 2006 Maj-Gen Vladimir Shvetsov is appointed new head of the Federal Security Service (FSB) Directorate for North Ossetia.

18 October 2006 Aleksandr Burutin, a presidential adviser on military, technical and defence-industry policy says a state programme to boost funding for Russia's outdated defence sector will result in the armed forces being significantly better equipped if it goes to plan. "If the programme is carried out, the Russian army will take delivery of about 3,000 new items of weaponry and over 5,000 upgraded items by the year 2015."

19 October 2006 A Levada opinion poll gives Vladimir Putin an approval rating of 77 per cent. Second is Emergencies Minister Sergey Shoygu with 17 per cent. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy is third with 12 per cent.

19 October 2006 Konstantin Machabeli, first deputy head of the Interior Ministry's directorate for combating hi-tech crime, calls for new legislation to combat cyber-terrorism.

19 October 2006 Vladimir Putin criticises the government for its lack of an energy plan.

I am afraid that to this day we have no precise and clear understanding of what the optimum balance of energy resources should be. There is still no clear and intelligible programme to develop the electricity sector. Nor is there, as I understand, a blueprint of the general plan of where electricity-sector facilities should be sited.

I proceed on the basis that companies have their own development plans, in Gazprom, United Energy Systems and the nuclear energy sector. Unfortunately, however, there is still no clear idea in the form of a government plan that would be binding for all the country to implement.

We cannot, as everyone present here understands, make the country's entire economy dependent on a single source of energy in the form of natural gas. It is impermissible even from the point of view of national security. Equally, we should ensure that all participants in economic activity have equal access to the energy sector, and what is more across the whole country, so as to ensure that factors of production develop across the whole of the country in equal measure. Moreover, in some regions, perhaps we should even think about a range of concessions if we want to develop them and maintain Russia's presence there in the long term, historically.

We know that depopulation continues in many of the regions, also perhaps primarily because of energy, transport and other tariffs that are higher than need be, which in the end also has to do with the energy sector.

19 October 2006 Rosprirodnadzor sends Rosnedra information on revoking the licences for the use of natural resources issued to the Rosneft-Sakhalinmorneftegaz company.

19 October 2006 Pro-Moscow Chechen President Alu Alkhanov gives a news conference in Moscow. He calls for investment in Chechnya and says that 85-90 per cent of Grozny could be restored in the next two to three years so that it would look as it did in 1995, 1996 and up to 2000.

19 October 2006 A bar belonging to migrants from the North Caucasus is set ablaze in the town of Olonets (Karelia).

20 October 2006 A report from Rosstat says Russia's fixed population fell by 408,200 (0.29 per cent) in the period January-August 2006 to stand at 142.3m at 1 September 2006. There were 981,600 births and 1,475,000 deaths during the same period, up 1,400 and down 76,700 respectively on the figure for the same period in 2005.

20 October 2006 Industry and Energy Minister Viktor Khristenko says that the formation of an amalgamated aircraft manufacturing corporation will be completed by April 2007.

20 October 2006 The sixth congress of the Russian United Industrial Party decides to merge with Yedinaya Rossiya.

20 October 2006 The Strategic Missile Forces hold a four day command post exercise in Omsk.

Navy C-in-C Adm Vladimir Masorin says that over the next few years the number of Russian naval warships will decrease, but their combat potential will increase at the same time. He says that "in Soviet times they planned to have 1,400 ships in the navy, and they managed to build over 1,000. I think we will not need this kind of number in the future, it will be one-third as many."

21 October 2006 It is reported that large-scale ethnic conflicts have take place in Tyumen.

22 October 2006 First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitriy Medvedev is interviewed on TV on the national projects.

23 October 2006 The Federal Registration Service refuses to register the Russian People's Democratic Union which is led by former Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov.

23 October 2006 A sermon conducted by Mufti Sheikh Ravil Gaynutdin, chairman of the Council of the Muftis of Russia, at the Moscow central mosque at the Id al-Fitr is broadcast on TV.

23 October 2006 A commentary by Kirill Rogov, assistant chief editor of *Kommersant*, assesses Vladimir Putin's second term.

23 October 2006 The Industry and Energy Ministry press service says in January-September 2006 the industrial output of enterprises of the military-industrial complex was up 4.5 per cent compared with the same period in 2005.

Vladimir Putin addresses the Second International Congress of Compatriots in St Petersburg.

24 October 2006 Vladimir Putin says the volume of foreign investment in Russia may grow faster than the country's GDP. "In Russia in general, we are witnessing an ongoing increase in foreign investments. They grew by 41.9 per cent in the first half of the year...Experts believe that in the future their pace of growth will be several times that of the growth in GDP."

Federal Migration Service head Konstantin Romodanovskiy says at a meeting at the *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* newspaper that Russia is ready to accept some 300,000 compatriots from abroad who are willing to return to their motherland within the next three years. As part of the state programme aimed at facilitating voluntary repatriation of compatriots, 50,000, 100,000 and 150,000 people are to arrive in Russia in 2007, 2008 and 2009 respectively.

25 October 2006 Vladimir Putin is asked by NTV commentator, Vladimir Kondratyev, concerning his possible successor. He states:

It is up to the people of the Russian Federation to choose the strongest, up to the citizens of Russia in the broadest sense of the word, during the elections which according to the law and to the constitution should be held in 2008. I did not say that I would name [my successor]; in any case I am not ready to do so at the moment.

But I said that I knew what kind of a person he should be: a Russian citizen, 35 years old or more, having lived a certain number of years in Russia. But, without a doubt, I reserve the right to vote in elections just like any Russian citizen, and do not consider that I should limit my right to express my view in the media. When the time comes I will give my opinion.

I cannot permit - and I think this will be understandable to everyone - the fate of Russia to be dependent on the fate of a single person, even if that person is me.

25 October 2006 First deputy interior minister Aleksandr Chekalin says about 80 international extremist groups promoting radical Islam operate in Russia. He says that the Interior Ministry has set up a database of extremist groups and their members.

25 October 2006 The State Council in the Republic of Adygeya vote to appoint Aslan Tkhakushinov leader of the republic. This post was previously held by Khazret Sovmen.

26 October 2006 The Federal Registration Service says 19 only of the 35 political parties have won the right to contest the 2007 parliamentary election. This number may yet be reduced to 17 with the forthcoming merger of the Russian Party of Life, Motherland and the Party of Pensioners. 16 political parties did not meet the requirements of the law in terms of membership numbers or the number of regional branches.

26 October 2006 Roskosmos head Anatoliy Perminov on Russian Vesti TV outlines the Russian national space programme.

26 October 2006 Vladimir Putin signs amendments to the law "On state regulation of the development of aviation", to ease foreign investment in aircraft production.

26 October 2006 The deputy head of the department to combat organized crime of the Kabarda-Balkar Interior Ministry, Anatoliy Dzagoyev, says militants used weapons imported from Georgia during their attack on Nalchik in October 2005.

27 October 2006 Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says: "We have to diversify our economy, we have to get ourselves off the oil needle, and this can only be done by stepping up our investment in human resources and at the same time developing the hi-tech sectors of industry, innovative technology."

26 October 2006 An attempt is made to assassinate Ingush Prime Minister Ibragim Malsagov.

26 October 2006 Deputy Chief of the Russian Federation Presidential Administration Vladislav Surkov welcomes the role played by political parties in the nominations of candidates for the post of heads of constituent parts of the Russian Federation.

27 October 2006 Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says he is not worried that Iran can produce "weapons-grade" uranium.

27 October 2006 Minister of Natural Resources Yuriy Trutnev says the Prosecutor-General's Office is to consider a criminal case against Sakhalin Energy.

28 October 2006 Sergey Mironov, the leader of the new unified party, A Just Russia, says the party supports Vladimir Putin. He says A Just Russia will compete against Yedinaya Rossiya. A Just Russia was formed as a result of the unification of Rodina, the Russian Party of Pensioners, and the Party of Life.

30 October 2006 Valeriy Bessonov has been confirmed as the acting head of Kondopozhskiy District (which includes Kondopoga). This was decided by the local council. The previous district leader, Aleksandr Turkenichev, resigned after mass riots in the town in early September.

31 October 2006 The independent Duma deputy Vladimir Ryzhkov says Russia needs a democratic and reformist party. Nikita Belykh, leader of the URF, says that if the Kremlin set up a party like this, it would do so in order "to control parliament and have the number of votes necessary to pass any bill in the State Duma". Also, Belykh rejected the idea of the SPS joining this party for the sake of preserving its electorate.

31 October 2006 Yedinaya Rossiya leader Boris Gryzlov says mayors of Russian cities should be elected, not appointed.

31 October 2006 The Congress of the Peoples of Chechnya meet in Grozny.

Chechen Prime Minister Ramzan Kadyrov aims to have all Chechen refugees to their native land by the end of 2006. 7,400 internally displaced persons from Chechnya are currently living in Ingushetia; 3,200 of them want to stay there permanently. About 600 Chechen refugees live in Georgia.

Chechen President Alu Alkhanov has said the republic will face "serious difficulties" when the federal centre starts treating it on a par with other entities of the Russian Federation. Chechnya will not be able to restore its industry on its own and so has to do this before Moscow cuts its assistance in 2009 as planned.

31 October 2006 Aleksandr Denisov, first deputy director of the Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation, says the plan for the export of Russian arms and military hardware abroad will be fulfilled or even overfulfilled.

November

1 November 2006 Vladimir Putin urges greater support for the ship building industry. The total tonnage of civilian vessels built in the past 10 years at the request of Russian ship owners at foreign shipyards is 94.4 per cent, whereas 5.6 per cent were built at Russia's own shipyards.

1 November 2006 The deputy prime minister and defence minister, Sergey Ivanov, says he is not planning to take part in the 2008 Russian presidential election.

1 November 2006 Lyudmila Alekseyeva, head of Moscow Helsinki Group, says the fact that the operation of a number of foreign NGOs in Russia has been suspended due to problems with re-registration has led to many human rights and humanitarian projects being frozen. About 100 out of 500 organizations have re-registered.

1 November 2006 Magomed Mamakayev, the head of a department at the Chechen Security Council, says the total number of militants who have turned themselves in to the Chechen authorities since the head of the National Anti-Terrorist Committee and FSB director Nikolay Patrushev called on them to lay down their arms, has risen to 260.

1 November 2006 The Ministry for Emergency Situations states it is setting up a national crisis management centre. The centre will be created by 1 January 2007, on the basis of the existing 328th reserve command and control post, the 149th telecommunication centre of the Russian Emergencies Ministry and the information centre of the all-Russia complex system for alerting and informing the population in the places of mass gathering of people.

2 November 2006 The government reaches a decision to merge major aircraft manufacturing companies. It is decided to set up a unified aircraft manufacturing corporation, news agencies reported. It will comprise MiG, Sukhoi, Ilyushin, Tupolev, Irkut and other aircraft manufacturing companies. The state will own no less than 75 per cent of shares in the corporation's capital stock. Vladimir Putin signed a decree on setting up the corporation in February 2006.

2 November 2006 It is reported that the Ingush parliament has recently asked Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov to help with fixing the administrative borders of the republic and set up a state commission on this occasion. The head of the Ingush Interior Ministry press service, Nazir Yevloyev, said that the point is about the return of Prigorodnyy District, part of Ingushetia's Malgobekskiy District and Pravoberezhnyy District of Vladikavkaz, borders of which were changed in 1944 without the consent of the then leadership of the Chechen-Ingush autonomous republic. That is to say, the Prigorodnyy District is de facto under the jurisdiction of

North Ossetia - Alania, whereas, it should be under jurisdiction of the Republic of Ingushetia.

3 November 2006 The commander of the joint group of troops in North Caucasus, Col-Gen Yevgeniy Baryayev, says there are up to 700 guerrillas in the mountains of southern Chechnya at present.

3 November 2006 Army Gen Aleksey Moskovskiy, deputy defence minister, says the purchase of new weaponry for the armed forces is the top priority of the State Armaments Programme for the period 2007-2017. He says a total of 82 per cent of the funds to be allocated within the state programme is to be spent on purchasing new weaponry. In some services and branches of the armed forces the share of new weaponry will reach 50 per cent, while in the units involved in antiterrorism activities it will reach 60-70 per cent.

4 November 2006 Several marches take place in Russian cities to mark unity day.

Vladimir Putin makes the following comment at National Unity day.

National Unity Day is a holiday for the whole of civil society. It is a day when we pay tribute to age-old traditions of patriotism, accord and the cohesion of the people. And wherever the sons and daughters of Russia may live, we are all united by this historical memory. Russia today is open to all who identify themselves with her destiny. Dear friends, we are all children of our country and her history, and this historical, genetic memory of the people calls on us for unity and a common responsibility for the fate of the motherland, it calls for joint creation and the unification of forces in the name of the present and future of Russia.

4 November 2006 Sergey Mironov, speaker of the upper chamber of the Russian parliament, and leader of the new left-of-centre A Just Russia party, says he consulted Vladimir Putin about his plan for a merger of three Russian parties.

4 November 2006 The Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation is forecasting an increase in the volumes of arms export by enterprises that have obtained the right to independent external-economic activity in the areas of export of spares and providing maintenance services for Russian weaponry used by foreign customers.

7 November 2006 Vladimir Putin issues a decree appointing Col (Police) Nikolay Nikolayevich Aulov head of the Main Department for the Central Federal District at the MVD. Aulov recently headed the MVD Counterterrorism Department.

7 November 2006 Defence Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov says in 2007 the MOD plans to establish a civilian procurement agency that will organize tenders for Ministry of Defence requirements, and after that the generals will hold no tenders whatsoever. They will be detached from this, from this function, which is not a core function of the armed forces.

7 November 2006 Rosoboronexport concludes a deal to purchase 66 per cent of shares in VSMPO-Avisma.

Director-general of the Rosoboronexport federal unitary state enterprise Sergey Chemezov says the orders portfolio of Rosoboronexport has reached 21 billion dollars.

7 November 2006 An antiterrorist exercise involving substantial forces and resources begins in southern Russia. The exercise, which begins in North Ossetia and Stavropol Territory, involves more than 5,000 servicemen from units of the North Caucasus Military District, the Air Force, Air Defence, the Airborne Troops, and the North Caucasian border directorate of the FSB.

8 November 2006 Vladimir Putin officially opens the new headquarters of the Main Military Intelligence Directorate (GRU).

8 November 2006 The commander of the Combined Force in the North Caucasus, Col-Gen Yevgeniy Baryayev, says the illegal armed formations have managed to regroup their forces after the serious blows they suffered in spring and summer 2006.

9 November 2006 Vladimir Putin supports the proposal to appoint Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov as head of the board of directors of the Amalgamated Aircraft Manufacturing Corporation.

9 November 2006 Kavkazskiy Uzel website reports that the European Court of Human Rights has ruled in favour of two Chechens in their lawsuits against the Russian Federation. Former Chechen resident Marzet Imakayeva sued Russia over the disappearance of her son and husband after they had been detained in 2000 and 2004 respectively. Gudermes resident Turko Luluyev sued Russia over the disappearance and death of his mother Nura Luluyeva.

The commander of a Chechen special unit, Movladi Baysarov, says that Chechen Prime Minister Ramzan Kadyrov is lying to the federal centre about the real situation in the republic.

10 November 2006 The Duma approves the third reading of the 2007 budget.

10 November 2006 The Ministry of Agriculture states that the 2006 grain harvest total is 83.84m tonnes in bunker weight (prior to cleaning and drying), against the 2005 figure of 83.78m tonnes.

10 November 2006 One of the contractors working on the Sakhalin-2 project, the Starstroy company, pays R8m to the Russian budget as compensation for causing environmental damage.

10 November 2006 Galina Fokina, the acting head of the Federal Registration Service's department for political parties and public, religious and other associations, says 160 foreign not-for-profit organizations and their affiliates have successfully cleared the new registration procedure in the three weeks since it entered force.

13 November 2006 Vladimir Putin discusses pipeline development with Transneft head Semyon Vaynshtok.

13 November 2006 Five Russian left-wing parties plan to merge: the People's Party, the Party of Russia's Revival, the Patriots of Russia, the Party of Social Justice and the Social Democratic Party of Russia.

13 November 2006 The commander of the headquarters of the Russian military force in the Transcaucasus Maj-Gen Andrey Popov says the HQ will be transformed into an operations team.

14 November 2006 Presidential aide Arkadiy Dvorkovich outlines Russian policies towards investment in the energy sector.

15 November 2006 The Duma votes to abolish minimum turnout in elections. Currently there has to be a 20 per cent turnout.

15 November 2006 Interior Minister Rashid Nurgaliyev and Prosecutor-General Yuriy Chayka briefs Duma deputies on the threat of terrorism and extremism.

Yuriy Chayka tells the Duma that investigators are pursuing numerous lines of inquiry to track down those responsible for the killing of journalist Anna Politkovskaya. A team is working in London, and a cooperation agreement is to be signed between the Russian Prosecutor-General's Office and its British counterpart.

Moskovskiy Komsomolets reports that Aleksandr Litvinenko, former employee of the FSB, who is on a wanted list, recently visited Moscow to attend an interrogation in connection with the case of the murder of Anna Politkovskaya.

15 November 2006 The first batch of oil extracted from the Sakhalin shelf is dispatched to India, a participant in the Sakhalin-1 project.

15 November 2006 Vladimir Putin appoints Oleg Safonov deputy minister of internal affairs of the Russian Federation, having removed Andrey Novikov from that post. Police Lt-Gen Sergey Meshcheryakov is appointed head of the Main Directorate for Combating Organized Crime and Terrorism of the MVD. Yevgeniy Shkolov is appointed head of the Economic Security Directorate of the MVD. Police Lt-Gen Mikhail Vanichkin is appointed aide to the minister of internal affairs of the Russian Federation. Police Maj-Gen Vladislav Piotrovskiy is appointed head of the Main Directorate of Internal Affairs of St Petersburg and Leningrad Region.

Lt-Gen of Internal Service Aleksandr Chupriyan is appointed deputy minister of civil defence, emergencies and disaster relief.

16 November 2006 Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Zhukov outlines new proposals for migrant labour. In 2007 Russia will be bringing in a quota of 6,000,000 foreign workers, who may come from the CIS countries without a visa.

16 November 2006 Law-enforcement agencies of Tyumen Region arrest members of Hezb-e Tahrir.

16 November 2006 Vladimir Putin says Russia will continue to support its strategic deterrence forces. He is meeting with commanders of the armed forces. Sergey Ivanov also attends this meeting.

16 November 2006 Director of the Federal Migration Service Konstantin Romodanovskiy has spoken out against concentrated settlements of foreigners in Russia. The service said that if foreigners were more than 20 per cent of the inhabitants in an area, this created discomfort for the indigenous population. Romodanovskiy states: "I believe that settlements of the Chinatown type are unacceptable for Russia and I can reassure you that there will be none of these in Russia. As for the figure of 20 per cent for residents who are not of the indigenous population, this comes from scientific research carried out in the field. Migration is a very complex matter. Migration problems are very sensitive and one has to be very careful in what one says."

17 November 2006 Vladimir Putin says that there may be up to 15 million illegal immigrants in Russia. He is meeting the leaders of Yedinaya Rossiya (One Russia). He meets Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration Vladislav Surkov, head of One Russia's central executive committee Andrey Vorobyev, Emergencies Minister Sergey Shoygu, Moscow mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, One Russia leader and Duma Speaker Boris Gрызлов, Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev and secretary of the One Russia party presidium and general council Vyacheslav Volodin.

17 November 2006 The Duma approves in the third, final reading the legal amendments abolishing the minimum turnout threshold at elections of all levels.

17 November 2006 The president of the LUKoil company, Vagit Alekperov, confirms that Gazprom Neft and LUKoil are to set up a joint venture to explore and develop new fields.

17 November 2006 Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Zhukov says that Russia will be acceding to the World Trade Organisation on terms that benefit all sectors of its economy.

17 November 2006 Sergey Smirnov, deputy director of the FSB, calls for the creation of a single antiterrorist organization within the framework of the CIS.

17 November 2006 The commander of the missile forces and artillery, Col-Gen Vladimir Zaritskiy, says almost two-thirds of the weaponry of Russia's missile forces and artillery is out of date. "Today more than 60 per cent of the missile and artillery armaments have been in service more than 10 years, while some have been in service for 30 years or more." Zaritskiy says that modern weaponry will account for at least 20 per cent of Russia's artillery armaments by 2015.

18 November 2006 CPRF leader Gennady Zyuganov criticises amendments to the election law.

18 November 2006 Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says the Defence Ministry is planning to conduct an experiment on increasing the term of contracts for rear supplies to the armed forces.

18 November 2006 The former commander of the disbanded Chechen Goretz special detachment, Movladi Baysarov, is killed in an operation to detain him in Moscow.

19 November 2006 Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov speaks about plans to supply new armaments to the Russian armed forces in 2007. He is interviewed on Channel One's "Sunday Vremya" programme.

20 November 2006 The Federal Migration Service says from January 2007 the total number of employed foreigners will not exceed 40 per cent of the total number of staff at a company. There are currently about 10-12 million migrants on Russian territory employed for various jobs and only one in 10 has a work permit. There are currently between 1m and 3m migrants in Russia.

20 November 2006 Public organizations in Adygea, Karachay-Cherkessia and Kabarda-Balkaria appeal to Vladimir Putin to recognize the genocide of the Cherkess people by Tsarist Russia in the 18th-20th centuries.

20 November 2006 Sergey Ivanov says spending on the Russian state defence order is to reach more than R300 billion in 2007.

20 November 2006 Vladislav Surkov outlines the concept of sovereign democracy in *Ekspert* magazine.

20 November 2006 Vladislav Putilin, first deputy head of the State Military Commission says for the first time in Russian history, the bulk of the state defence order [SDO] in 2007 will go towards the development of the state's military organization. "In 2007, the state defence order will increase by 30 per cent compared with 2006. A total of R734.6 billion is being allocated. For the first time the bulk of the SDO - over R400 billion - will go towards the development, purchase and repair of armaments and military hardware, i.e. towards the development and equipment of the military organization."

21 November 2006 Vladimir Putin meets the heads of law-enforcement agencies. He says that the time has come to clamp down on economic crimes and corruption; money and power should be separated.

21 November 2006 The head of the Central Electoral Commission, Aleksandr Veshnyakov, says that the decision to scrap the voter turnout threshold is premature.

21 November 2006 Konstantin Meshcheryakov, co-owner of the Spetssetstroybank, is shot in the centre of Moscow.

21 November 2006 Rosstat says Russia's population declined in January-September 2006 by 438,900 people - down to 142.3m people. A total of 1,105,500 were born during this period and 1,639,500 people died.

21 November 2006 Prosecutor-General Yuriy Chayka notes that the law-enforcement agencies are not opposing corruption well enough and urges better coordination in the fight against crime. He is speaking at a nationwide conference of the heads of the law-enforcement agencies. Chayka cites statistics which show that "in 2005, over 9,000 incidents of bribe taking and bribe giving were registered in the country, whereas in the first nine months of this year over 9,500 such crimes have been registered". 1,300 officials have abused their powers, and 1,850 officials have exceeded their authority.

22 November 2006 It is reported that the group of the so-called president of Ichkeria (Chechnya), Dokka Umarov, has been cornered in a forest in the mountains near the village of Yandi-Kotar 30 km from Achkhoy-Martan.

23 November 2006 The heads of the FSB and the Interior Ministry, Nikolay Patrushev and Rashid Nurgaliyev, meet in Belgorod. Patrushev says: "We realize that in the Central Federal District, where the most powerful nuclear potential is concentrated, where facilities of the military-industrial complex and important federal-level communication systems are located, we should pay more attention to improving the system of measures to ensure antiterrorist protection of critical infrastructure facilities, the country's most important transport routes and venues of mass public events."

23 November 2006 The prosecutor's office of Tatarstan sends to the Tatarstan Supreme Court a large criminal case against 17 members of a clandestine extremist group, the Islamic Jamaat, accusing them of various crimes, including preparations

for a series of terrorist attacks during the celebrations of the 1,000th anniversary of Kazan.

24 November 2006 Former FSB officer Aleksandr Litvinenko dies in London after being poisoned with polonium.

Vladimir Putin dismisses Aleksandr Litvinenko's accusations that Russian special services were behind the attack on him.

Russian presidential adviser Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says that the peculiar coincidence in time of the death of well-known people and significant events involving Vladimir Putin is a result of a well-rehearsed plan to discredit Russia.

24 November 2006 The Duma adopts the budget-2007 in the fourth and final reading. It is expected that the budget revenue will total about R7,000 billion and will exceed expenditure by some R1,500 billion. The inflation rate envisaged in the budget is about 8 per cent.

Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says the unpredictability of oil prices could have an unfavourable effect on the 2007 federal budget. He announces that the three-year draft of the federal budget for 2008-2010 will be submitted to the Duma at the end of April 2007.

24 November 2006 The Federation Council almost unanimously passes the amendments to the laws "On military duty and military service", "On status of servicemen", "On financial responsibility of servicemen" and "On military courts" reinstating detention quarters in the armed forces.

25 November 2006 An explosion takes place at Moscow University.

27 November 2006 Two *Novaya Gazeta* journalists receive death threats.

27 November 2006 First Deputy Interior Minister Aleksandr Chekalin denies recent reports about his resignation.

27 November 2006 The head of the press service of the Russian Federal Migration Service, Konstantin Poltoranin, says the number of migrants working in the Russian Federation legally has reached 1,015,000 people. A year ago, the number stood at 700,000.

28 November 2006 Vladimir Putin nominates Vyacheslav Shtyrov to remain the president of Yakutia for another term.

29 November 2006 Former Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says opposition organizations should not unite into one party.

29 November 2006 Vladimir Putin says that pricing disparities on the domestic electricity market must be removed. He calls for the the construction of electricity power lines from Siberia to European Russia.

As I've already said, the Russian economy needs a major breakthrough in increasing the use of nuclear energy, hydro resources and coal to generate electricity. In this regard, the Siberian region offers extensive opportunities, but the inadequately developed inter-sector power transmission lines and their low capacity are an obstacle to the transmission of electricity from the rich resources of Siberia to regions where there is an energy deficit. Isolated

electrical systems must be united. To this end, one should seriously consider the possibility of building direct current lines to transfer peak power from Siberia to the Urals and beyond to the European part of the country.

He says Russia must increase its generating capacity by 150 per cent over ten years.

Industry and Energy Minister Viktor Khristenko says the full liberalization of the domestic electricity market and gas prices in the Russian Federation is set to be completed by 2011.

29 November 2006 Head of UES Anatoliy Chubais links the mysterious illness of former Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar to the deaths of journalist Anna Politkovskaya and former FSB officer Aleksandr Litvinenko. He states:

Undoubtedly, this makes one seriously consider the theory of attempted poisoning, attempted murder. For the people who are saying openly that the use of force is an acceptable option for a change of power in Russia, unconstitutional change of power in Russia, for them this deadly chain - Politkovskaya, Litvinenko, Gaydar - which by miracle has not reached its end, perfectly matches their interests and their vision.

Duma deputy Aleksandr Khinshteyn believes that the incident involving Gaydar, who was taken to hospital in Dublin with signs of acute illness, could have been organized to broadly discredit the Russian leadership and special services. "I do not rule out the existence of some kind of systemic plan developed in the West that is aimed at broadly discrediting the Russian leadership and special services by demonstrative attempts to eliminate leading representatives of the liberal wing of the Russian politics."

Member of the Duma security committee Gennadiy Gudkov says some forces are using the illness of Yegor Gaydar to discredit Russian leadership.

29 November 2006 A Just Russia - the union of three political parties, Motherland, the Russian Party of Life, the Party of Pensioners - is officially registered at the Justice Ministry.

30 November 2006 Interior Minister Rashid Nurgaliyev says the scale of corruption in Russia has become a threat to the country's national security.

December

1 December 2006 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says that all the discussion about the theft of radioactive material from Russian nuclear centres is speculation.

1 December 2006 Former Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar remains in a Moscow hospital, now under guard following his illness in Dublin.

1 December 2006 A VTsIOM poll shows that First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitriy Medvedev is the second most popular politician in Russia. He has support of 17 per cent. Sergey Shoygu is in third place, and Sergev Ivanov in fourth.

1 December 2006 The commander-in-chief of the MVD Troops Col-Gen Nikolay Rogozhkin says that there are 800-1,000 separatist fighters in Chechnya.

Interior Minister Rashid Nurgaliyev calls for tighter security at state facilities, and for reforms in the interior troops to improve discipline and accountability.

Nikolay Rogozhkin says heavy armaments and military and special equipment will be taken out of service with the Internal Troops before 1 January 2007. He says this will enhance the law-enforcement orientation of the Internal Troops.

1 December 2006 Former Deputy Interior Minister Andrey Novikov is appointed head of the Antiterrorist Centre of the CIS.

2 December 2006 Valter Litvinenko, the father of Aleksandr Litvinenko, accuses the Kremlin of killing his son.

Sergey Ivanov says that there are no signs whatsoever the Russian services are involved in the death of former FSB officer Alexander Litvinenko.

2 December 2006 Yedinaya Rossiya holds its 7th congress in Yekaterinburg. Leader Boris Gryzlov outlines the basic manifesto of the party for the next ten years. It contains a detailed description of the strategy for the country's development to 2017 and explanation of the term "sovereign democracy". Boris Gryzlov criticises opponents of his party.

Vladimir Putin sends greetings to the congress.

4 December 2006 Vladimir Putin appoints Vladimir Kolesnikov to the post of deputy justice minister. Kolesnikov held the post of Russian deputy prosecutor-general until July 2006.

4 December 2006 The foundation of veterans of intelligence and the diplomatic service, Honour and Dignity, describes as nonsense "attempts to accuse it of involvement in the death of former FSB member Aleksandr Litvinenko".

4 December 2006 Rosatom head Sergey Kirienko says the existing deposits of natural uranium in Russia are "enough for a guaranteed supply of nuclear fuel for the next 60 years for all Russian nuclear power stations as well as nuclear power stations being built by Russian specialists abroad".

5 December 2006 Prosecutor-General Yuriy Chayka says fresh charges may be brought against ex-Yukos head Mikhail Khodorkovskiy.

5 December 2006 Former acting prime minister Yegor Gaydar is discharged from hospital.

6 December 2006 Vladimir Putin chairs a meeting with the leaders of political parties on fighting extremism in Russia.

6 December 2006 Sergey Kiriyenko says if Russia keeps the current pace of putting nuclear power plants into operation, the nuclear energy sector in Russia may disappear by 2025. He says even by the most modest estimates, by 2025 the share of the nuclear energy sector in the country's total energy balance would be 1.5 per cent. He says that all the nuclear power plants operating now were built in the 1960s and 70s and only three power generating units were built after 1986.

Generation capacity of old nuclear power stations is starting to diminish now, while programmes of extending their service life can only last for 10-15 years.

Kiriyenko says Russia controls 40 per cent of the world's energy market; in order to maintain this position, Russia's nuclear sector should ensure the creation of at least two generating units a year.

Kiriyenko says Russia should not accept and process spent nuclear fuel from other countries.

6 December 2006 Vladimir Putin signs a federal law "On amendments to the federal law "On basic guarantees of electoral rights and the right of Russian Federation citizens" to take part in referendums". The law envisages removing the minimum threshold for turnout in elections at all levels.

6 December 2006 Vladimir Putin sends the chairman of the State Council - Khase of the Republic of Adygeya, Ruslan Khadzhibiyekov, a letter asking the State Council to consider the candidacy of Aslancheriy Tkhakushinov for conferring upon him the powers of the president of the Republic of Adygeya.

6 December 2006 The head of the Avangard plant in Sarov, which is part of the Russian Federal Nuclear Centre - All-Russian Scientific Research Institute of Experimental Physics (RFNC-VNIIEF, Nizhniy Novgorod Region) Radiy Ilkayev says the centre is the only producer of polonium-210 in the Russian Federation. He says it is impossible for any polonium to be smuggled out of the centre.

7 December 2006 Yegor Gaydar says that there had been an attempt to poison him. He is convinced that those who did this wanted to damage Russia's image in the West. "Of course, I can't prove anything or put forward any hypotheses, but an analysis of the situation makes me think that those behind this are the Russian authorities' undisguised or disguised opponents, including those who are interested in a dramatic worsening of relations between Russia and the West."

7 December 2006 Prime minister Mikhail Fradkov tells the cabinet that Russia is staking on high technology production in order to reduce dependence on oil.

Vadim Rybin, the head of the oil industry department of Rosenergo, says Russian oil companies will get equal access to all export routes.

7 December 2006 Il Tumen, the parliament of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), extends the term in office of the republic's president Vyacheslav Shtyrov for another five years.

7 December 2006 The Prosecutor-General's Office begins its own investigation into the murder of Aleksandr Litvinenko and the attempted murder of businessman Dmitriy Kovtun.

7 December 2006 Vladimir Putin chairs a meeting of the commission for the military-industrial complex. It discusses arms sales.

7 December 2006 Over 10 members of the banned international terrorist organization Hezb-e Tahrir are arrested in Kazan.

8 December 2006 The National Antiterrorist Committee announces that it will reorganize the combined group of forces conducting antiterrorist operations in the North Caucasus.

8 December 2006 The Moscow city government bans a protest march by Drugaya Rossiya.

8 December 2006 The Duma introduces amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code in its third and final reading, which postpone the introduction of jury trials in the Chechen Republic until 2010. The death penalty moratorium is extended for another three years.

8 December 2006 The chairman of the Federation Council, Sergey Mironov, says ending the USSR was a mistake. He says the CIS will continue to live.

8 December 2006 First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitriy Medvedev says that as a strategic asset, Gazprom must remain in state hands and in order to compete in world markets should not be split up into smaller units. He says CIS countries would have to pay market prices for gas by 2008.

8 December 2006 The Prosecutor-General's Office says there have been mass violations of the law on the part of oil and gas companies. Natural Resources Minister Yuriy Trutnev also says that companies have violated environmental legislation. 10 per cent of the oil produced in Russia exceeds the set quotas.

9 December 2006 KRO holds a congress. Dmitry Rogozin addresses the congress. He is elected chairman of KRO.

9 December 2006 The People's Party of the Russian Federation (PPRF) holds a congress. Party leader Gennadiy Gudkov says he is ready to form a united social democratic bloc.

10 December 2006 The 2nd Human Rights Congress takes place in Moscow.

10 December 2006 A missile regiment equipped with Topol-M mobile ground-based missile systems has been put on combat duty in the Teykovo formation. This formation is the first unit to operate the Topol-M system.

11 December 2006 The director of the FSB, Army General Nikolay Patrushev, says the fight against terrorism will be the priority in the work of the FSB in 2007.

11 December 2006 The military-industrial commission under the government approves the main principles of the strategy for the development of the rocket and space industry until 2015.

11 December 2006 The commander-in-chief of the navy, Admiral Vladimir Masorin, says strategic missile-carrying submarines will continue to be the mainstay of Russia's ocean fleets. "The functions of deterrent against global military threat remain with the strategic nuclear forces and, in particular, their naval components - strategic missile-carrying submarines, which are capable of countering carriers of conventional missile and aviation weapons...our aim is not to achieve supremacy at sea and even less to create a threat to any state but to execute, first of all, the deterrent function in the interest of the security of the Russian Federation, to maintain military political stability and to deflect possible threats from the direction of seas and oceans."

12 December 2006 Police search the headquarters of the United Civil Front [UCF] in Moscow.

12 December 2006 Dmitriy Medvedev, first deputy prime minister and chairman of the board of Gazprom, believes that Gazprom is interested in joining the Sakhalin-2 project. Gazprom has been having talks with Shell.

12 December 2006 The leader of the Russian North Caucasus republic of Karachay-Cherkessia signs a decree setting up Nogayskiy District.

12 December 2006 Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov is elected chairman of the board of directors of the Amalgamated Aircraft Manufacturing Corporation. It will focus mainly on developing civil aviation. The corporation combines all domestic aircraft-manufacturing assets. It owns the Irkut, MiG, Sukhoi, Ilyushin and Tupolev companies. The government's share in the holding is to be no less than 75 per cent.

13 December 2006 Rosatom chief Sergey Kiriyenko says if the present state of the atomic energy sector in Russia does not change, atomic energy will cease to exist in Russia by 2025. Kiriyenko describes the current share of atomic energy in energy provision as shameful, since in Russia it is just above 15 per cent, whereas in developed countries it is on average above 32 per cent. He says that at least 42 generating sets had to be built in the country before 2030 because all the old nuclear power stations had to be decommissioned between 2015 and 2025 and replaced with new ones.

13 December 2006 The parliament of the Russian North Caucasus republic of Adygeya approves Aslancheriy Tkhakushinov as the next head of the republic.

13 December 2006 The activities of a cell of the international terrorist organization Hezb-e Tahrir al-Islami have been stopped in Tyumen.

14 December 2006 The chairman of the Central Electoral Commission Aleksandr Veshnyakov says the next Russian presidential election will be held on the second Sunday in March 2008. This would be 9 March 2008. The election to the Duma will take place on the first Sunday of December 2007, that is to say 2 December.

An opinion poll reports that if the presidential election was held next Sunday:

38 per cent of citizens would vote for	Dmitriy Medvedev.
23 per cent	Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov.
12 per cent	Vladimir Zhirinovskiy
10 per cent	Gennadiy Zyuganov.

This was a Levada Centre poll.

14 December 2006 Chechen Prime Minister Ramzan Kadyrov denies presidential ambitions.

15 December 2006 The Duma announces that the parliamentary bloc headed by Sergey Baburin will be expanded and will take the name "People's Will-USPR (Unified Socialist Party of Russia)-Patriots of Russia". Previously the bloc was known as "Motherland (People's Will-USPR)".

15 December 2006 Director-general of the Uranium Mining Company Aleksandr Shkarovskiy says it should produce 28,600 tonnes of uranium a year by 2020. By 2020 demand in Russia should be 36,000 tonnes.

15 December 2006 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov issues an order setting up a Public Council under the Defence Ministry. One of the aims of the council will be to carry out public supervision of the activities of the Defence Ministry.

16 December 2006 An opposition Dissenters' March takes place in Moscow.

The URF holds a congress in Moscow.

17 December 2006 A Nashi rally takes place in Moscow.

17 December 2006 A commission formed by the parliament of Chechnya begins to assess the damage caused to the republic since 1994.

18 December 2006 *Argumenty i Fakty* reports that opinion polls conducted among the military show that the professional army in Russia seems to be in decline. According to the Russian Defence Ministry's sociological centre, only 15-19 per cent of professional soldiers are ready to extend their contracts, 27 per cent intend to quit because of a low monetary remuneration (from R7,000 to 9,000) and 29 per cent don't want to serve because of lack of facilities for rest and recreation.

18 December 2006 The presidential plenipotentiary representative in the Southern Federal District, Dmitriy Kozak, says it is inappropriate to set up a parliamentary commission in Chechnya to assess damage caused during military action.

18 December 2006 Rosatom head Sergey Kiriyyenko says an international uranium enrichment centre will begin operations within the Angarsk plant in January 2007

18 December 2006 The international extremist organization Hezb-e Tahrir's cell in Magnitogorsk, Chelyabinsk Region, is shut down.

19 December 2006 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says the Naval Collegium is considering the development of Russia's naval doctrine after 2020. "Today we will look at whether it is expedient to develop a strategy of the Russian Federation's naval activities up to and beyond 2020. This is a founding document which will make it possible to coordinate further joint work aimed at implementing the national naval policy. This is why today I suggest that the members of the Naval Collegium start developing this strategy."

19 December 2006 Lt-Gen Yevgeniy Lazebin is appointed as deputy commander-in-chief of the Internal Troops for emergencies.

20 December 2006 Police Col Ravil Akhmetshin is appointed first deputy head of the main information and analysis centre of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Mikhail Mishustin is appointed as head of the Federal Agency for Management of Special Economic Zones.

20 December 2006 Chukotka Autonomous Area governor Roman Abramovich asks Vladimir Putin if he can step down as governor.

20 December 2006 The Supreme Court presidium overturns the ruling passed earlier by the Nazran district court in Ingushetia, which changed the administrative border between Ingushetia and North Ossetia. At issue was the return to the

borders of 1944, when the disputed Prigorodnyy District was part of the Chechen-Ingush ASSR.

20 December 2006 The chairman of the Chechen government, Ramzan Kadyrov, dismisses as unacceptable the Chechen parliament's initiative to set up a commission to assess the damage done to the republic by two military campaigns.

21 December 2006 Vladimir Putin discusses Russia's demographic problems with Senators, Duma deputies and regional parliaments. Putin states:

You know, in the last 13 years the tendency towards a shrinking population has acquired in Russia, unfortunately, a steadfast nature. Over those years the number of people who have passed on has exceeded the number of those who have been born by 11.2m people. And another alarming demographic factor is the swift ageing of the country's population. The portion of people older than 65 currently stands at 13.7 per cent of the population. In this way we have exceeded by almost double the international standard according to which a society is considered to be old.

21 December 2006 Gazprom agrees with Sakhalin Energy on joining the Sakhalin-2 project. The deal is worth 7.45 billion dollars. Gazprom will get 50 per cent plus one share in the project.

21 December 2006 Energy and Industry Minister Viktor Khristenko says that "all gas in the Sakhalin-2 energy project has been contracted till 2035".

21 December 2006 Chechen Interior Ministry spokesman Magomed Deniyev says about 350 former militants have surrendered since Nikolay Patrushev made his appeal for militants to surrender on 1 July 2006.

22 December 2006 The parliamentary commission on Beslan presents its report to the Federation Council.

22 December 2006 Platon Lebedev's lawyer Yevgeniy Baru says he believes former Yukos bosses Mikhail Khodorkovskiy and Platon Lebedev will be facing new charges in Chita.

22 December 2006 The acting head of the Federal Registration Service directorate for political parties, religious, public and other organizations, Galina Fokina, says a total of 189 foreign non-commercial organizations have been registered in Russia.

22 December 2006 The Voronezh new radar station of the ballistic missile early warning system is put on experimental alert duty in Leningrad Region.

22 December 2006 The FSB Directorate for Novosibirsk Region is to send to court a criminal case brought against Oleg Korobeynichev, the head of the laboratory of the Institute of Kinetics and Combustion of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences. He is accused of providing information to the USA.

22 December 2006 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov is interviewed in *Trud*. He discusses the military industrial complex and the equipping of the Russian armed forces.

The duties of deputy prime minister and defence minister are so closely intertwined that, frankly, I do not separate them. The processes which are

occurring in the defence industrial complex and in the armed forces right now are proceeding in parallel. Take at least the re-equipping of the army with state-of-the-art weapons and equipment...The amount of resources which are being allocated to equip the armed forces is increasing from year to year. If financing on these items, say, totalled R80 billion in 2002, then it will already total R300 billion in 2007. New models of weapons and military equipment, which will determine the Russian army's might in the period until 2020, have not only already been developed, but have largely been accepted into the inventory. Beginning this year, we have begun their massive series-produced purchases.

He also discusses military housing problems. He says: "If we manage to maintain the prevailing housing procurement rates, there will be no officers without apartments by 2012."

22 December 2006 Deputy Prosecutor-General Viktor Grin says the number of crimes fuelled by racial hate in Russia almost doubled in 2006.

25 December 2006 Dagestani President Mukhu Aliyev warns about the danger of Dagestan becoming Islamicised.

25 December 2006 The Moscow Court of Arbitration increases the liabilities of the Yukos oil company to the Russian Federal Tax Service by R38 billion to R407.6 billion.

25 December 2006 The director of the Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation, Mikhail Dmitriyev, says that in 2006 Russia will exceed its arms export plan. In 2006 the plan of export of military-purpose products was set at 5.5 billion dollars. Exports will probably reach of 6 billion dollars. Dmitriyev notes that "as of December, the portfolio of orders for supplies of military-purpose products reached in excess of 25 billion dollars - something that makes it possible to look into the future with optimism".

25 December 2006 Sergey Ivanov, deputy prime minister and defence minister, is interviewed in *Izvestiya*.

25 December 2006 An article in *Kommersant* analyses Russian economic strategy in 2006.

26 December 2006 Roskosmos chief Anatoliy Perminov says that the programme to produce the Bulava missile system for nuclear submarines will continue despite the results of the latest test.

26 December 2006 It is announced that the Russian Orthodox Church and the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad will formally unite on 17 May 2007.

26 December 2006 Vladimir Putin addresses the State Council on national culture.

26 December 2006 An article in *Ivestiya* by Igor Bunin says that First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitriy Medvedev is the most likely successor to Vladimir Putin, whereas Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov is simply a "reserve" candidate.

27 December 2006 An article in *Krasnaya Zvezda* outlines the plans for the Russian space programme in 2007.

27 December 2006 The Prosecutor-General's Office of the Russian Federation notifies former Yukos head Mikhail Khodorkovskiy and his lawyers that he is suspected of money-laundering in a new criminal case.

27 December 2006 Vladimir Putin signs a decree "On approving the composition of the Russian president's council for science, technologies and education".

27 December 2006 The head of the Federal Agency for Press and Mass Communications, Mikhail Seslavinskiy, says that the Soviet-era network of radio jamming stations should be preserved and used in case of emergency.

29 December 2006 The chairman of the Federation Council, Sergey Mironov, says that he does not intend to run for the 2008 presidential elections.

29 December 2006 The head of the manning department of the General Staff's Main Organization and Mobilization Directorate, Maj-Gen Vladimir Konstantinov, says the plan of the autumn call-up of citizens to military service has been 100 per cent fulfilled. A total of 123,000 draftees have been sent to units.

29 December 2006 An article by the Russian newspaper *Nezavisimoye Voyennoye Obozreniye* discusses the performance of Russia's defence industry in 2006.

30 December 2006 Fedor Burlatskiy is interviewed in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*. He says that there is no alternative to Vladimir Putin as president in 2008.

31 December 2006 Vladimir Putin signs a decree "On holding the year of the Russian language" in Russia and abroad.

31 December 2006 Vladimir Putin appoints Aleksandr Savenkov first deputy minister of justice. Savenkov was Russia's chief military prosecutor from July 2002 to July 2006.

