

Russian Domestic Policy: A chronology

April – June 2006

1 April 2006 Protest demonstrations take place in more than 30 Russian regions, demanding a switch to a professional army and the resignation of defence minister Sergey Ivanov.

1 April 2006 Deputy Defence Minister General Nikolay Pankov says that the task of switching in 2008 to a 12-month period of compulsory military service in the Russian armed forces will be fulfilled unconditionally. He discusses deferrals from military service. The legislation in effect in 1967-1992 stipulated nine grounds for deferrals and exemption from active service. In 1993 there were 18 and in 1998 there were 25. The "25 grounds will continue to apply until 2008 and after this the new system which has just been adopted will apply, in line with which nine grounds are envisaged for exemption and 10 (in place of 16) grounds for deferral of service in the army and fleet". Thus "up to 2008 there will be 25 grounds applicable, and after 2008 there will be 19. As you can see, this is more than there were in the Soviet Union and in Russia before 1997."

2 April 2006 Deputy Defence Minister Nikolay Pankov is interviewed on *Russia TV*. He says that conscripts will not be sent to Chechnya. He also says that as of 1 January 2007, the term of conscription will be cut to 18 months and as of 1 January 2008 to one year. The number of military departments in universities number 229. As of 1 January 2008 they will be reduced to 35.

3 April 2006 The leader of the Rodina faction in the Duma, Dmitriy Rogozin, says he has decided to step down early as faction leader. He will retain the post of co-chairman of the faction. The Rodina faction has four co-chairmen: Dmitriy Rogozin, Aleksandr Babakov, Sergey Glaz'yev and Valentin Varennikov.

3 April 2006 Chechen separatist leader Abdul-Khalim Saydulayev has an address published on the Daymohk website. He says that the Russians have lost control in Chechnya, making contradictory statements that the war is over and then setting up a National Antiterrorist Committee.

3 April 2006 Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov states that a total of 124,550 men will be called up in the army during the spring conscription campaign which will last from 1 April until 30 June. This is 30,000 fewer than in 2005.

4 April 2006 Former Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says that democratic forces must unite within six months. He is setting up a movement called the People's Democratic Union.

4 April 2006 Yuriy Shmidt, the lawyer for the former head of the Yukos oil company, Mikhail Khodorkovskiy, says the Russian authorities' goal is to have Khodorkovskiy eliminated physically.

4 April 2006 Aleksandr Babakov takes the place of Dmitriy Rogozin in the post of chairman of the Rodina faction for the period of the spring session of the Duma.

4 April 2006 Aleksandr Medvedev, a deputy director of Gazprom, says Gazprom's export profits in 2006 will amount to 33 billion dollars. Gazprom earned 26.1 billion dollars from exports in 2005, nearly 42 per cent more than in 2004.

4 April 2006 The Justice Ministry's directorate for the Southern Federal District states that the constitutions of Chechnya, Kalmykia, North Ossetia, Kabarda-Balkaria and the charter of Stavropol Territory do not accord with federal legislation. Also, regulatory enactments have not been brought into line with federal law in Astrakhan Region (11 laws), Republic of Adygeya (11 laws), Krasnodar Territory (nine laws), Dagestan (eight laws), Ingushetia (25 laws), Volgograd Region (20 laws) and Karachay-Cherkessia (17 laws).

4 April 2006 It is reported that President Khazret Sovmen of Adygeya has resigned. This is later denied.

5 April 2006 Police in Moscow detain 35 National Bolshevik Party activists who attempted to carry out two unauthorized pickets near the Duma.

5 April 2006 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov gives a speech at the All-Army Conference of Military Officers in Moscow on his plans for improving discipline in the armed forces.

5 April 2006 The leaderships of Chita Region and Aga Buryat Autonomous Area decide to merge.

6 April 2006 The Prosecutor-General's Office charges Vasiliy Aleksanyan, executive vice-president of Yukos, under Article 160 of the Russian Federation Criminal Code - 'appropriation or embezzlement' - and Article 174.1 - 'legalization (laundering) of money'.

6 April 2006 Deputy Prime Minister Dmitriy Medvedev says the government is developing a programme for the telecommunications infrastructure up to 2012.

6 April 2006 Deputy director-general of Tekhsnabeksport Vladimir Servetnik says the explored reserves of uranium in Russia amount to 615,000 tonnes. He announces this at a "round table" at the 4th energy forum "Fuel and Energy Complex of Russia in 21st century".

6 April 2006 *The Caucasus Times* reports that the European Union has allocated 22m euros for the victims of conflicts in the North Caucasus and Chechen refugees. The money will be spent on humanitarian projects of organizations that directly work with Chechen refugees in Azerbaijan, Ingushetia, Dagestan and Chechnya itself. According to EU data, of the 800,000 of Chechnya's population, 200,000 are internally displaced persons. About 25,000 Chechen refugees are living in Ingushetia, 9,000 in Dagestan and 5,000 in Azerbaijan. The EU has provided 196m euros in humanitarian aid since the start of the Chechnya war in autumn 1999.

6 April 2006 An official commentary on the MOD website says that the armed forces will have a shortfall of about 12 per cent from the spring 2008 and subsequent call-ups unless a number of current deferments are abolished.

7 April 2006 The All-Russian Centre for the Study of Public Opinion, states that

Vladimir Putin is trusted by 47 per cent of the country's citizens.

Emergencies Minister Sergey Shoygu - 15 per cent

Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov, Moscow Major Yuriy Luzhkov and leader of the Liberal Democratic Party Vladimir Zhirinovskiy each enjoy the trust of 8 per cent of those polled.

7 April 2006 Vladimir Putin meets the head of Transneft, Semen Vaynshtok, who briefs Putin on the completion of work to build the Baltic pipeline network. The construction of the Baltic pipeline system has been completed and will start operating at full capacity. Russian oil extracted at deposits in the north, the Urals and Siberia will now be pumped to the port of Primorsk, from where tankers will take the fuel to Europe and the USA. Up to now the crude has been exported to Western markets via ports in the Baltic countries. The Baltic pipeline system is capable of pumping up to 65m tonnes of oil yearly.

7 April 2006 *Kavkazskiy Uzel* reports that the Ingush independent non-commercial organization Mashr commences its first human rights project in Karabulak, Ingushetia. The project's goal is to provide legal and information assistance to relatives of people kidnapped in Ingushetia.

7 April 2006 Air Force commander-in-chief Vladimir Mikhaylov says the personnel and resources of the Ground Troops Air Defence should be transferred to the air force.

Lt-General Aytech Bizhev, the air force's deputy commander-in-chief for combined CIS air defence says that an "an active process" of creating regional air defence systems is already underway on the East European, Caucasus and Central Asian fronts. An agreement between Russia and Belarus for a single air defence zone and joint guarding of airspace borders is being drafted.

8 April 2006 Former Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov is elected the leader of the People's Democratic Union. The founding conference of this new public movement takes place in Moscow. The conference also forms the movement's presidium which consists of seven people, including Irina Khakamada, Nikolay Travkin, Ivan Starikov and Konstantin Merzlikin.

10 April 2006 Chechen President Alu Alkhanov says a total of 14 people have been abducted in the Chechen Republic since the beginning of 2006. He meets a delegation headed by UNHCR Antonio Guterres. 70 abductions took place in the corresponding period in 2005.

10 April 2006 Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia issued 1,153 licences to sell dual-purpose goods in 2005. Russia exported 3.8 billion dollars' worth of controlled products. The major share of dual-purpose products was exported by Rosatom and includes fissile materials, dual-purpose engineering equipment and other products.

11 April 2006 Around 10 Russian long-range bombers take part in a command and staff exercise in the Russian Far East. The exercises run until 14 April. Two Tu-95MS strategic bombers will take off from Ukrainka airbase and will fly along a route that will round Japan, while four more Tu-95MSs, after they take off from the airbase, will fly along Alaska and will land at Anadyr. During the flights, there will be in-flight refuelling and practice launches of cruise missiles.

10 April 2006 Ex-Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov outlines his election strategy for 2007-08. He says the People's Democratic Union will not be transformed from a public movement into a political party until June 2006. He states:

As long as the main democratic parties are continuing consultations aimed at their unification, we are not going to hurry them up. If their leaders agree about the parties' merger, our role will be to assist the new united party in its electoral campaign. If the merger does not materialize by the end of June 2006, we shall create a new democratic force from scratch.

Kasyanov confirms he will run for president in 2008.

11 April 2006 Vladimir Putin and Natural Resources Minister Yuriy Trutnev discuss the prospects for exploiting Russia's hydrocarbon and mineral resources. Trutnev states:

Two years ago the government adopted the programme on maintaining the mineral and natural resource base. Accordingly, over these two years, state investment in geological exploration has trebled. Of course, the effect won't be felt immediately, we still have to work to do. Nevertheless, for a number of minerals we have already reached the stage where we are discovering more than we are extracting. This is primarily the case for gas, copper, gold and diamonds. As for oil, we discovered 65 million tonnes more in 2005 than in 2004 and, in addition, a reassessment of oil reserves means these have increased by 300 million tonnes thanks to increased efficiency in extraction and the use of new technology. In this way, taking into account the reassessment of oil reserves and improved extraction, this year for the first time in recent years we have also achieved an equal balance between the amounts produced and the amounts found.

11 April 2006 African students hold an antifascist march in St.Petersburg. This follows several racist attacks in the city.

12 April 2006 First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitriy Medvedev is appointed chairman of the government religious affairs commission.

12 April 2006 The Federal Service of State Statistics reports that over 2005 alone, the legion of bureaucrats grew by nearly 150,000, that is by over 10 per cent. Almost 1.5m people work in the federal bodies of the executive branch of power. This means there is one official per 100 Russians.

12 April 2006 The reconnaissance detachment of the Airborne Troops, which was performing combat tasks within the federal combined task force in the North Caucasus from 12 September 1999 until April 2006, withdraws from Chechnya.

12 April 2006 The Russian government adopts a decision on the reorganization of a number of higher military education establishments. It has been decided to amalgamate the Military Engineering Academy (Moscow) with the General Military Academy of the Russian Federation Armed Forces (Moscow). The Kostroma higher military command-engineering college of radiation, chemical and biological protection is being amalgamated as a structural sub-unit with the Timoshenko Military Academy of Radiation, Chemical and Biological Protection. The military financial-economic university and the Moscow military academy are being joined as structural sub-units to the Military University (Moscow). A decision has also been

taken to amalgamate the Pushkin radioelectronics military institute of the space troops and the Mozhayskiy St Petersburg military topographic institute, as structural sub-units, with the Military Space Academy.

13 April 2006 Colonel-General Yevgeniy Maslin, former head of the Defence Ministry's 12th department in charge of nuclear security, says Moscow has fulfilled its commitment to reduce its number of tactical nuclear weapons.

13 April 2006 The First Deputy Director of the Federal Security Service (FSB) and head of the Border Service, Vladimir Pronichev says the restoration of the Northern Sea Route will be based on a modern security system.

Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov says a single organization responsible for the running of border checkpoints will be set up in Russia. At the moment about 10 different authorities control checkpoints.

13 April 2006 The government discusses the problem of extremism. It wants to introduce changes to the criminal and administrative codes, and in particular, it is proposed that punishments should be introduced for spreading Nazi attributes.

Moscow's Taganskiy Court declares the refusal of registration to the National Bolshevik Party to be lawful. National Bolsheviks clash with members of the pro-Kremlin Rossiya Molodaya movement in front of the Taganskiy court.

13 April 2006 Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says he will rotate the staff of military registration and enlistment offices to prevent corruption and bribe-taking.

13 April 2006 Yuriy Solomonov, the director and general designer of the Moscow Thermal Technology Institute says that:

Given the number of warheads Russia is allowed to have in accordance with the Strategic Arms Reductions Treaty, by 2015, to say nothing of 2020, the missile grouping of the Russian Strategic Nuclear Forces will have no less than 2,000 warheads.

14 April 2006 Dmitriy Kozak, the presidential envoy to the Southern Federal District, says no plans are being considered for mergers between areas in the North Caucasus.

14 April 2006 The head of Rosatom, Sergey Kiriyenko, says Rosatom is developing a long-term blueprint for increasing electricity production at nuclear power plants. "At present we account for 16 per cent of electricity produced in the country. In 2030 this should be 23 per cent." Rosatom will draft by December 2006 a plan for allocating generating capacity in the regions of the country.

14 April 2006 The commander of the Interior Ministry (MVD) Internal Troops Colonel-General Nikolay Rogozhkin says by 1 January 2007 there will be only contract soldiers serving in Chechnya.

15 April 2006 Yedinaya Rossiya's general council says it has started work on a programme which will take it to the 2007 election. The party has "social conservatism" as its ideology.

- 15 April 2006** The pro-Kremlin Nashi movement hold its first all-Russia congress in Moscow.
- 15 April 2006** The Public Chamber submits its view of military reform to the government.
- 16 April 2006** The Green Party decides to merge with Yabloko.
- 16 April 2006** Irkutsk Region and the Ust-Orda Buryat Autonomous Area have voted for merger in a referendum. The new region will appear in January 2008.
- 17 April 2006** An article in *Argumenty i Fakty* discusses the possible reform of the system of presidential plenipotentiary representatives to the federal districts.
- 17 April 2006** Vladimir Putin signs a law depriving the FSB of all its pre-trial remand centres. They will be under the control of the Justice Ministry.
- 17 April 2006** Yabloko leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy says that his party is holding talks with practically all democratic organizations with the purpose of creating a united party. Yabloko and the Green party sign a declaration on improving the ecological and demographic situation in the country.
- 17 April 2006** It is stated that Krasnoyarsk Territory, Taymyr (Autonomous Area) and Evenkia (Evenki Autonomous Area) will merge in May 2007.
- 17 April 2006** Chechen Prime Minister Ramzan Kadyrov gives details of the North and South battalions of the Interior Ministry forces in Chechnya currently being set up. The commanders are Muslim Ilyasov, who led the counterterrorist centre, and Alimbek Delimkhanov, who was head of a division of the centre.
- The rebel Chechen deputy president Aslan Ayubov is interviewed on Radio Liberty's Chechen service. He says that 2007 will see the end of the incumbent pro-Moscow Chechen leadership. He says that mujahedin in the Russian republics of Kabardino-Balkaria, Ingushetia and Dagestan coordinate all their actions with the Chechen rebel leadership.
- 18 April 2006** Vladimir Putin rejects the resignation of president of Adygeya, Khazret Sovmen.
- 18 April 2006** Duma speaker Boris Gryzlov says that the Duma and its parliamentary majority represented by Yedinaya Rossiya will not agree to change the constitution. He is talking in regard to the initiative of a North Ossetian public organization to hold a referendum on changing the Basic Law to allow the same person to hold the post of Russian president for more than two terms in a row.
- 18 April 2006** Boris Kovalchuk has been appointed head of the department of the government staff for the implementation of priority national projects.
- 18 April 2006** Deputy Prosecutor General Vladimir Kolesnikov speaks on corruption and economic crime at the congress of Russian Industrialists and Entrepreneurs in Moscow. The incumbent chairman of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, Aleksandr Shokhin, is re-elected head of the union at its congress. Shokhin warns that Russia faces the threat of deindustrialization.

18 April 2006 Rosprirodnadzor approves the project for the construction of an East Siberia - Pacific oil pipeline close to Lake Baykal.

18 April 2006 The Maritime formation of the Pacific Fleet all-arms forces begins a regular exercise.

18 April 2006 Deputy Defence Minister Army General Aleksey Moskovskiy says he believes that current state support to defence industry enterprises is insufficient. He is addressing an extramural meeting of the Federation Council defence and security committee, devoted to improving legal support to defence enterprises. He states:

The issue of state support to defence enterprises is raised on a regular basis, but the support itself is not regular. We are constantly told that defence enterprises are independent entities just like other companies and that they should operate under common rules. On the one hand, it is correct, but on the other hand, civil and military industries differ considerably.

Federation Council Chairman Sergey Mironov says that the defence industry should have a special legal status. "The essence of defence industry enterprises provides for granting them a different status than those that enterprises of other industries enjoy. The state cannot just let them sail the waves of the market economy on their own under the flag of enrichment."

18 April 2006 Deputy Chief of General Staff Colonel-General Vasilij Smirnov says the MOD proposes cancelling six draft deferments and amending another three. There are a total of 25 draft deferments in Russia at the present time which result in conscripting less than 10 per cent of draftees. If numbers of deferments are cut back to 16 from the current 25 about 90,000 additional people will be able to be called up for service in the armed forces per annum.

19 April 2006 The MVD holds a conference on cybercrime.

19 April 2006 The executive secretary of the Russian Union of Committees of Soldiers' Mothers, Valentina Melnikova, says that the authorities are planning to legally ban the public organization Soldiers' Mothers of Russia.

19 April 2006 Head of the Duma health protection committee Tatyana Yakovleva and head of the Moscow AIDS prevention centre Aleksey Mazus call for an end to foreign NGO activities in HIV prevention in Russia.

19 April 2006 The head of Rosatom's atomic power directorate, Valeriy Rachkov says the role of atomic energy in the provision of stable electricity supplies in Russia will steadily increase. He says by 2025 Russia's nuclear power stations should be producing 23 per cent of all electricity. To this end, between two and four gigawatts of nuclear capacity needs to be commissioned annually. "Without an increase in nuclear power's contribution to the national energy balance, we are unlikely to be able to meet our export commitments for the supply of gas and oil in full."

The head of Gazprom, Aleksey Miller, says Gazprom May 2006 develop an interest in nuclear power.

19 April 2006 Army General Aleksey Moskovskiy, Russian armed forces chief of armament and deputy defence minister, say the main priority of the new State Armaments Programme from 2007 until 2015 is to provide 80 per cent of all allocations for massive supplies of up-to-date weapons and materiel to the armed forces.

While the programme now in effect lays the focus on funding retrofits and tests of new equipment, which account for up to 40 per cent of all assets allocated, the new programme to be in effect till 2015 envisages that 80 per cent of all funds will be spent on mass production and delivery of state-of-the-art equipment and materiel and their modernization in the interests of the armed forces.

The new State Armaments Programme will be adopted in mid-2006. He says that "there are also plans to renew the Nuclear Deterrence Force, which is now made up of silo-based and mobile Topol-M and sea-based Bulava missile systems."

20 April 2006 The ex-Yukos chief's lawyer, Yuriy Shmidt, says the attack on Mikhail Khodorkovskiy in prison was planned and engineered in order to get him moved to a solitary cell.

The Open Russia foundation established by Mikhail Khodorkovskiy decides to wind up its activities.

20 April 2006 Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Aleksiy II says he believes that the dialogue between Orthodox Christians and Muslims in Russia is successful.

20 April 2006 The Mothers of Beslan send a message to Vladimir Putin calling on him to fulfil his promise to carry out an objective investigation of the terrorist act of September 2004.

20 April 2006 Yekaterina Lakhova, the chairman of the Duma committee for women's affairs, says that almost half of Russian families are childless. The coefficient of the Russian birth rate is 1.34, while in order to ensure a simple reproduction of the population it should be 2.14.

20 April 2006 The head of the Federal Science and Methodology Centre for the Prevention and Treatment of AIDS, Vadim Pokrovskiy, says that there were 355,360 people with HIV in Russia as of 20 April (349,000 were registered HIV-positive at the end of 2005.)

21 April 2006 The Moscow city дума appeals to Vladimir Putin to urgently approve the Russian programme on preventing HIV-infection and close down in Russia all foreign NGOs which deal with this problem.

21 April 2006 The Court of Arbitration and Appeal No 9 confirms the illegitimacy of the auction where the Sosnovka-1 land plot currently belonging to former Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov was sold. The Moscow Court of Arbitration ruled the auction illegitimate on 2 February 2006. Kasyanov appeals this ruling.

21 April 2006 TNK-BP press service reports that another oilfield has been discovered in the south of Tyumen Region. A commercial inflow of crude has been registered at a well at the Yuzhno-Pikhtovoye licence site.

21 April 2006 A series of earthquakes hits Koryakia.

21 April 2006 Vladimir Putin signs the federal law "On the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism". The law was adopted by the Duma on 24 March and approved by the Federation Council on 7 April.

21 April 2006 The Duma passes in the first reading a bill cancelling several draft deferments as of 1 January 2008. Nine out of the 25 existing deferments have been abolished or altered.

21 April 2006 The head of the rebel-backed Chechen National Information Service, Movladi Udugov, is interviewed on *The Caucasus Times* website. He says that "total war" is coming, with strikes "throughout Russia". He also calls for the re-establishment of real Shari'ah law throughout the North Caucasus.

22 April 2006 Vladimir Putin attends the Orthodox Easter Service in Moscow.

22 April 2006 The Strategic Missile Troops carry out the successful launch of a K65M-R delivery rocket, in the course of which a standardized ground- and sea-based ballistic missile warhead was tested. The aim was to test for means to overcome anti-missile defences.

24 April 2006 The speaker of the Chechen parliament, Dukvakha Abdurakhmanov, advocates the reunification of Chechnya and Ingushetia. He also says that in the future it would be sensible to raise the issue of creating in southern Russia a new region, which would comprise not only Chechnya and Ingushetia but also Dagestan.

24 April 2006 Sergey Lavrov says the consequences of using modern information technology to interfere in the internal affairs of other states could be no less destructive than traditional armed conflict. He is speaking at a conference in Moscow entitled "science, technology and international relations in the era of globalization".

25 April 2006 The Liberal Democratic Party of Russia holds a congress. Its leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy offers an alliance with Yedinaya Rossiya.

25 April 2006 A cooperation agreement between the audit chambers of the Russian Federation and of the Chechen Republic is signed in Groznyy.

25 April 2006 Vladimir Putin condemns the terrorist bombings in Egypt. Sergey Lavrov offers Egypt assistance following the bombing.

25 April 2006 Army General Aleksey Moskovskiy, deputy defence minister and chief of the armed forces armaments directorate, says that the in-service date of the S-400 air defence system is being moved to 2007. In an interview with the *Krasnaya Zvezda* newspaper on 7 April, the commander-in-chief of the air force Vladimir Mikhaylov said that the S-400 would be in service as early as 2006.

25 April 2006 A new stage of an interdepartmental antiterrorist exercise in the Southern Federal District begins in Karachay-Cherkessia's Ust-Dzhegutinskiy District. Collaboration between units of Internal Troops, the police, the FSB, the Defence Ministry and the Emergencies Ministry in counteracting terrorism is being practised.

25 April 2006 Head of the Audit Chamber Sergey Stepashin says inappropriate spending of budget money in Chechnya has fallen over the last two years to R4.1m, 250 times less than previously.

25 April 2006 Mikhail Dmitriyev, director of the Federal Service on military and technical cooperation with foreign countries, says Russia will fulfil the 5.7 billion dollars' plan on exports of arms and military hardware in 2006. He says that Russia cooperates with 82 countries in the military technical sector.

26 April 2006 A new group named Internatsional, comprising deputies representing various factions, is set up in the Duma. Its leader is Oleg Shein of the Rodina faction. He says that the group will be engaged in developing draft laws aimed at combating nationalism, chauvinism and xenophobia. It will also seek to develop a competent migration policy.

26 April 2006 A rally staged by Russian Greenpeace is dispersed in Moscow on the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

26 April 2006 Vladimir Putin visits Tomsk. He discusses Siberian economic development. He addresses regional governors and states:

You know, as early as 2002 a strategy for economic development of Siberia was adopted. Nevertheless, we have to admit that it did not cause a serious [economic] rise in the region, as we had actually expected. For example, regardless of its natural competitive advantages, the Siberian [Federal] District is still dependent on federal assistance. Its share of the total expenditure on regional budgets amounts to 19 per cent on average as far as the whole [Siberian] district is concerned, and exceeds even 50 per cent in some constituent parts of the Federation. Also, regardless of the increase in Russia's average rates of gross regional product per capita, in the Siberian District they continue to decrease for the second year.

...The demographic problems are still very acute. This is a general, global problem for our country, but for Siberia it is extremely sharp. The reasons for continued migration of population are clear: they also lie within the social and economic sphere. The income of the population in real terms is 85 per cent of the average level in Russia, and the cost of living in the District is higher than the average in Russia.

... further reduction in the population in Siberia and the Far East May 2006 lead initially to narrowing of national economic space, secondly - to intensification of creeping ethnic expansion, and in a third phase to a serious potential peril to the integrity of the state.

Putin orders that that the planned East Siberia-Pacific oil pipeline no longer be constructed near Lake Baykal. The project envisaged the pipeline passing only 800 metres from the water edge. Vladimir Putin orders to move it outside the water intake zone, over 40 km to the north.

26 April 2006 *Kavkazskiy Uzel* reports a shoot-out in Grozny on 25 April between bodyguards of the President of Chechnya, Alu Alkhanov, and the chairman of the Chechen government, Ramzan Kadyrov.

26 April 2006 The Deputy Head of the Main Directorate for Morale and Welfare of the armed forces of the Russian Federation Rear Admiral Yuriy Nuzhdin says the institution of the human rights ombudsman is currently growing stronger in the Russian army and navy following the signing in June 2005 of the memorandum on cooperation between the Russian Ministry of Defence and the Russian Federation human rights ombudsman.

26 April 2006 Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says an agency dealing with supplies of equipment for the armed forces is to be set up in Russia in 2007.

27 April 2006 The human rights ombudsman in Chechnya, Nurgi Nukhadzhiyev, meets the Prime Minister of Chechnya Ramzan Kadyrov and discusses the issue of missing people in Chechnya.

27 April 2006 The C-in-C of the Internal Troops Colonel-General Nikolay Rogozhkin says that the Internal Troops will not give up the heavy equipment they have in service any time in the near future.

Rogozhkin describes the situation in the North Caucasus as consistently complicated. He says that bandit formations are not stepping up their activities but there is a concern about territories adjacent to Chechnya: problems on Stavropol Territory, continuous problems in Dagestan and Ingushetia.

27 April 2006 The Agriculture Ministry bans poultry imports.

27 April 2006 Industry and Energy Minister Viktor Khristenko says that the Eastern Siberian-Pacific Ocean pipeline project would be completed on time, by the end of 2008.

28 April 2006 It is reported that the security forces have managed to prevent an act of terrorism in Karachay-Cherkessia that was financed from abroad. New details emerged today of the operation that wrecked the terrorists' plans to cause a series of explosions on 9 May, Victory Day.

28 April 2006 *Kommersant* newspaper reports that the URF and Yabloko have postponed their merger until at least 2007.

28 April 2006 Former atomic energy minister Yevgeniy Adamov is charged with embezzlement and abusing and exceeding his powers.

28 April 2006 The government decides to offer tax breaks for mineral extraction at depleted deposits.

28 April 2006 Construction of the Eastern Siberia-Pacific Ocean pipeline begins at Tayshet in Irkutsk Region.

28 April 2006 The Ingush minister for ethnic issues, Magomed Markhiyev, says in *The Caucasus Times* that it would be desirable to unite all the North Caucasus republics into one region. It would include Stavropol, Kabarda-Balkaria, North Ossetia, Ingushetia, Chechnya and Dagestan, and also other border regions of the Russian Federation.

28 April 2006 The first deputy head of the MVD department for the fight against organized crime, Yuriy Kokov, says that the level of terrorist threats in southern

Russia remains extremely high. He is speaking in Nalchik at an all-Russian scientific and practical conference of the Interior Ministry on the problems of terrorism.

28 April 2006 The airborne forces commander, Colonel-General Aleksandr Kolmakov, says the Russian airborne forces lost 731 servicemen during the antiterrorist operation in Chechnya and Dagestan from December 1999 to April 2006. The airborne forces have lost a total of 2,114 servicemen killed in various conflicts, including the one in Afghanistan, since December 1979. He says airborne forces are capable of performing missions to neutralize terrorists beyond Russia's borders. He says nearly 13,000 sergeants and soldiers are currently serving on contract in units and combined units of the airborne forces.

28 April 2006 The head of the Federal Border Guard Service and Federal Security Service Deputy Director Vladimir Pronichev is interviewed in *Argumenty i Fakty*.

29 April 2006 Chechen Prime Minister Ramzan Kadyrov officially announces that the antiterrorist centre and the "Kadyrov security service" have been fully disbanded.

May

1 May 2006 Chechen Prime Minister Ramzan Kadyrov says that Gudermes has been completely restored from war damage.

2 May 2006 Vladimir Putin takes nine enterprises from the list of strategic ones. The following enterprises have been taken off the strategic list: the Moscow precision instruments plant; the Moscow research institute of space instrument-building; the Moscow research institute of precision instruments; the Russian research institute of space instrument-building; the research centre for space information systems and technologies, the special design bureau of the Moscow energy institute as well as the Penza research institute of physical measurements, the research and production organization Orion in Krasnoznamensk, near Moscow, and the research and production association of measurement technology in Korolev.

2 May 2006 Economic Development and Trade Minister German Gref says the financing of all federal targeted development programmes will be increased by almost R100 billion in 2007 compared with 2006. Gref says that all in all R472 billion are expected to be spent on the federal targeted development programmes.

2 May 2006 Vladimir Putin orders the economic development ministry to urgently allocate money for the reconstruction of Groznyy.

2 May 2006 Commander-in-Chief of the Russian navy Admiral Vladimir Masorin says in ten years' time Russia will have a completely new navy. He says the five years. "will be very difficult for the navy, but in the next five years after that it will start to develop, and Russia will get a navy capable of tackling tasks put to it".

2 May 2006 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov reports to Vladimir Putin that the space global positioning system (GLONASS) will be available for civilian use in Russia in 2007 and worldwide by the end of 2009.

3 May 2006 *Izvestiya* reports that a city interdepartmental antiterrorist commission has been set up in Moscow.

3 May 2006 The Moscow City Court rules that the verdict passed against former Yukos oil company head Mikhail Khodorkovskiy in May 2005 is lawful and justified. Khodorkovskiy was sentenced to eight years in prison. Khodorkovskiy is taken to prison hospital. The prison service claims he has food poisoning. This is denied by his lawyer.

3 May 2006 The Finance Ministry says that the Stabilization Fund on 1 May 2006 amounted to R1,800.032 billion (66.22 billion dollars).

3 May 2006 Navy Commander-in-Chief Admiral Vladimir Masorin says the Russian navy will invest most of its five-year budget into nuclear submarines. "The main strategy of the navy over the next five years is the creation of a more powerful and swift submarine fleet which can use the latest Russian weapon, Bulava missiles, to defend the state. The second main priority is the strengthening of the surface fleet, which is being provided with the most advanced technology from guard ships to frigates."

4 May 2006 The deputy head of the presidential administration Vladislav Surkov condemns racial and ethnic intolerance in Russian society.

5 May 2006 A Tajik national of Uzbek ethnic background is killed in St Petersburg.

5 May 2006 Vladimir Putin meets Chechen leaders President Alu Alkhanov and Prime Minister Ramzan Kadyrov. They discuss the development of the republic and the reconstruction of Groznyy.

5 May 2006 A jury at the Moscow City Court acquits the men (Kazbek Dukuzov, Musa Vakhayev from Chechnya, and Moscow notary Fail Sadretdinov) accused of killing Paul Klebnikov, the editor-in-chief of the Russian edition of Forbes Magazine. Klebnikov was killed on 9 July 2004.

6 May 2006 Chechen President Alu Alkhanov denies that there is a conflict between him and Chechen Prime Minister Ramzan Kadyrov. Alkhanov says that an agreement on division of powers between the federal centre and Groznyy may be signed "as early as the first half of 2006".

7 May 2006 The chairman of Chechnya's People's Assembly, Dukuvakha Abdurakhmanov, criticizes the work of the federal treasury department tasked with Chechnya's rehabilitation. He also says that the emergence of a North Caucasus Territory (Kray) in southern Russia in the future will make it possible to ensure peace and stability in the region.

6 May 2006 The first deputy chairman of the government's Military-Industrial Commission Vladislav Putilin says that the state defence order in Russia is expected to be worth R302.7 billion (11.17 billion dollars) in 2007. Almost all the parameters of state defence procurements "will increase by over 20 per cent in comparable prices" against 2006.

According to him, the Interior Ministry's defence procurements will grow from R13.7 billion (505.74 million dollars) to R14.6 billion (538.97 million dollars) in 2007. This growth will allow the Interior Ministry Troops and police to accomplish all assigned missions. Funding of defence procurements for security forces will grow by R5 billion (184.58 million dollars) in 2007.

The MOD's spending on research, development and test projects will grow by 20 per cent, on arms and military hardware procurement by 22 per cent, and on arms and military hardware repairs by 15.7 per cent, Putin went on. R145 billion (5.35 billion dollars) will be assigned for new armaments procurement, and the funding is set at such level because the armed forces are starting to get new arms and military hardware. R165 billion will be assigned for arms and military hardware repairs, and this is explained by the current state of the armed forces and the need to maintain the armaments that are at their disposal for the next few years.

The state defence order for 2005 was financed by 99.98 per cent and implemented by 97.3 per cent.

6 May 2006 It is reported that the server of the rebel-backed Chechen agency Kavkaz-Tsentr in Stockholm has been confiscated.

9 May 2006 The head of the executive committee of the Accord and Stability movement in North Ossetia, Valeriy Gizoyev, says that support is increasing for the idea of amending the constitution so that Vladimir Putin can run for a third term.

10 May 2006 Chechen Prime Minister Ramzan Kadyrov denies that he has a rift with Chechen President Alu Alkhanov.

10 May 2006 A major exercise of the Pacific Fleet ends in the Russian Far East.

10 May 2006 Vice-Admiral Konstantin Sidenko is appointed commander of the Baltic Fleet. The former commander of the Baltic Fleet, Admiral Vladimir Valuyev, retired after reaching the upper service age limit.

10 May 2006 Vladimir Putin delivers his state of the nation address to the Federal Assembly.

Former presidential aide Andrey Illarionov says that Vladimir Putin's state of the nation address reflects a turn to Soviet era values. "This address is not for the world outside Russia, this address is for ourselves, for our own country. The address makes the militarization of life inside the country possible, necessary, substantiated and justified. And this is probably the main goal for the sake of which the statement was made."

11 May 2006 Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov says that tough measures must be taken against corruption.

11 May 2006 Duma speaker Boris Gрызлов says that financial bonuses for having a second child will be introduced after 2010.

11 May 2006 The Duma administration says the Russian Audit Chamber has uncovered financial irregularities to the tune of R2 billion (74 million dollars) in the national defence sector in 2005

The Defence Industry Commission approves the indices of the state defence order for 2007. The state defence order for the development, procurement and repair of arms and military hardware in 2007 will be 27 per cent higher than 2006.

12 May 2006 Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov makes several dismissals and appointments in the Customs Service. Major personnel changes also take place in the FSB, MVD, the Prosecutor General's Office. This is seen as part of an anti-corruption drive.

12 May 2006 Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says that all restrictions on the flow of capital will be lifted in Russia on 1 July. He says this decision will make it possible for Russian businessmen freely to locate resources abroad and, in turn, their foreign colleagues will receive a fully fledged access to invest capital in the Russian economy.

12 May 2006 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says that Vladimir Putin's state of the nation address outlines three sets of military problems: The first one deals with the re-armament and re-equipment of the armed forces; the second one concerns the system of recruiting; the third set of problems deals with social questions. Ivanov says that Russia will modernize its nuclear forces.

Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov has confirmed the composition of the new Defence Industry Commission. Members are:

Trade and Economic Development Minister German Gref
 Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin
 Industry and Energy Minister Viktor Khristenko
 Director of the Russian government's administration department
 Mikhail Lychagin
 First Deputy Defence Minister Yuriy Baluyevskiy
 Federal Industry Agency head Boris Aleshin
 Atomic Energy Agency chief Sergey Kiriyyenko
 Space Agency Head, Anatoliy Perminov
 Director of Rosoboroneksport Sergey Chemezov
 Deputy Interior Minister Mikhail Sukhodolskiy
 Deputy Defence Minister, armed forces chief of armaments, Aleksey Moskovskiy
 Head of the research and technology service of the Federal Security Service Nikolay Klimashin
 Presidential aide on technological policy in the military Aleksandr Baturin.

The Defence Industry Commission is a permanent body organizing and coordinating the work of the federal bodies of executive power in implementing state policy on military-industrial issues, questions relating to technological provision for the country's defence system, law and order and state security questions, and also issues relating to the development, production and scrapping of arms and military and special hardware.

13 May 2006 Vladimir Putin promises that in 2008 he will offer his support for one of the candidates for the post of Russian president, but does not intend to enforce his choice of successor.

Putin says that the anti-corruption drive will continue.

13 May 2006 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov visits the Baltic Fleet base in Kaliningrad Region and presents the new commander, Rear Admiral Konstantin Sedenko, to the personnel.

15 May 2006 Strategic Missile Troops Commander Colonel-General Nikolay Solovtsov is interviewed in *Argumenty i Fakty*.

15 May 2006 Prosecutor-General Vladimir Ustinov says that the fight against organized crime is happening so far only on paper, and that many of the figures for the clear-up rate are simply false.

15 May 2006 A Duma defence committee member and representative of the Duma commission on examining budget spending on defence and security, Major-General Nikolay Bezborodov, says that Duma MPs intend to work constructively with the Russian government while forming military spending in 2007 budget, but believe that it is necessary to increase its percentage with regard to GDP. Bezborodov says that in line with the law, the country's defence spending this year stands at 2.74 per cent of GDP. He says that next year Russia must increase its military budget up to 3.5 per cent. At present 60 per cent of all the money spent on defence is allocated for the upkeep of the troops and only 40 per cent goes on technical equipment and arms for the army and navy. He says that this ratio should be at least equal, fifty-fifty which would require a significant increase of the defence budget.

16 May 2006 Vladimir Putin requests that the government and the Duma elaborate the details for funding the programme aimed at taking Russia out of its demographic crisis.

16 May 2006 The North Ossetia Supreme Court finds Nurpasha Kulayev guilty on all charges. He is the last surviving terrorist from the Beslan school seizure.

16 May 2006 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov visits the Northern Fleet command in Severomorsk.

16 May 2006 Deputy chairman of the Duma security committee Viktor Ilyukhin says that the situation in Russia's North Caucasus and Dagestan in particular is volatile. He says that the security services have failed to get their act together in Chechnya and across the Caucasus. Ilyukhin also calls for the heads of law-enforcement agencies to resign over their failure to curb organized crime.

17 May 2006 Ingush rebel commander Amir Magas says that the jihad in the Russian North Caucasus can no longer be stopped by anybody because more and more people support the mojahedin.

Deputy Interior Minister of Ingushetia Dzhabrail Kostoyev is killed by terrorists in Nazran.

The Stavropol Territory court sentences two of those involved in the 1995 raid on the town of Budennovsk. The court found Magomed Taymaskhanov and Rizvan Minkaylov guilty on all counts. They got 12 and 11 years' imprisonment in a standard-security penal colony.

17 May 2006 Rosatom head Sergey Kiriyyenko says that from 2012 Russia will be commissioning and putting into operation at least two nuclear power-generating units a year.

17 May 2006 Lt-General Sergey Khutortsev is appointed the new director of the department of defence and security programme economics at the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade. Up to now Khutortsev has been chief of staff of the Strategic Missile Troops. In March the former director of the department of defence and security programme economics, Vladislav Putilin, was appointed first deputy chairman of the government's Military-Industrial Commission with the rank of minister of the Russian Federation.

Yuriy Solomonov, designer general of the cutting-edge Topol and Bulava ICBMs, says he believes it is expedient to develop non-nuclear ballistic missiles in Russia.

18 May 2006 Vladimir Putin meets leaders of the youth movement Nashi in Sochi.

18 May 2006 A commission on the development of TV and radio broadcasting is set up, to be headed by First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitriy Medvedev.

18 May 2006 Chief of the General Staff of the Russian armed forces Yuriy Baluyevskiy criticises possible US plans to use ICBMs with non-nuclear warheads.

19 May 2006 Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov attends a meeting of the interstate council of the Eurasian Economic Community in Minsk. He says that: "According to certain international forecasts, by 2050 Russia will hold a firm place among the 10 most powerful countries in the world in terms of volume of GDP."

19 May 2006 Federation Council speaker Sergey Mironov recommends that the Legislative Assembly of the Nenets Autonomous Area recall Aleksandr Sabadash as its senator from Moscow. The Legislative Assembly refuses to do so. The Supreme Council of Khakassia also refuses a similar request by Mironov to remove its senator, Arkadiy Sarkisyan.

The Office of the Prosecutor-General says that criminal proceedings have been started against Aleksey Barinov, the governor of the Nenets Autonomous Area, on two counts of fraud and theft.

20 May 2006 Vladimir Putin chairs a regular meeting with the permanent members of the Security Council. He tasks First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitriy Medvedev to implement all the provisions of his annual message which are linked with the demographic programme.

21 May 2006 Ingush speaker Makhmud Sakalov says there are no territorial disputes between Ingushetia and Chechnya and all "matters arising" will be resolved by public diplomacy. He is commenting on recent statements by his Chechen counterpart, Dukuvakha Abdurakhmanov.

22 May 2006 *Yuzhnyy Reporter* cites Sergey Kovalev as saying that human rights ombudsmen cannot be independent as long as they and their staff are paid from the federal or regional budgets.

22 May 2006 A government export control commission chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov discusses some issues of the Russian Federation policy in the sphere of nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and calls for tightening up controls on proliferation.

First Deputy Director of the Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation Aleksandr Denisov says the planned objective for exports of Russian weapons and military hardware this year will be fulfilled and overfulfilled.

23 May 2006 Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov states:

The country's economic development in the foreseeable future will largely depend on the stable functioning and development of the energy sector and its raw material base. Moreover, Russia's role as a supplier of energy

resources is growing. There are known obligations before our foreign partners as regards this issue, and certain intentions were declared, the fulfilment of which will determine the international image of our country.

23 May 2006 Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin is interviewed in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*. He discusses the demographic programme.

23 May 2006 The governor of the Nenets Autonomous Region, Aleksey Barinov, is arrested as part of an ongoing criminal investigation.

Member of the Federation Council from the Nenets Autonomous Area Aleksandr Sabadash voluntarily relinquishes his post as senator.

23 May 2006 Deputy Premier and Minister of Defence Sergey Ivanov meets Liang Guanglie, member of the Central Military Commission and chief of general staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, who is visiting Russia.

23 May 2006 The MVD internal troops chief of staff, Lt-General Sergey Bunin, says that before the end of 2006 the MVD plans to turn all the Internal Troops (VV) districts into regional commands or directorates in accordance with a decision taken by the Security Council. The VV now number 199,800 men. The MVD currently has seven VV districts, which are the troops' principal unit of military administration. These are the Moscow, North Caucasus, Volga, Northwestern, Urals, Siberian and Eastern districts.

24 May 2006 Rosatom head Sergey Kirienko says Russia needs to build about 40 new nuclear reactor blocks by 2030 in order to retain the current share of energy.

24 May 2006 An Arkhangelsk court issues an arrest warrant for Nenets Autonomous Area governor Aleksey Barinov, who has been detained on suspicion of fraud and embezzlement.

24 May 2006 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov addresses the Duma. He says next year Russia will spend R800 billion on national defence. In three years, the funds allocated to national defence will be equally distributed between the maintenance of troops and their development. This ratio is currently 60 per cent to 40 per cent. 70 per cent of the whole of the armed forces will be moved over to contract service during 2007.

Ivanov states that the numerical strength of the armed forces is 1,134,000 servicemen and about 800,000 civilian personnel, of whom 10,500 are in the central establishment of the Defence Ministry.

The head of the General Staff of the Armed Forces General Yuriy Baluyevskiy says Russia's intercontinental ballistic missiles are capable of overcoming any existing and potential missile defence systems, including the planned US missile defence system in Eastern Europe.

25 May 2006 Chechen separatist president Abdul-Khalim Sadulayev issues a decree appointing Culture Minister Akhmed Zakayev foreign minister of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria.

26 May 2006 The North Ossetian Supreme Court finds Nurpashi Kulayev, the sole survivor of the raid on the Beslan school, guilty on all charges against him. He is sentenced to life imprisonment.

26 May 2006 The head of Russia's anti-narcotics agency, Viktor Cherkesov, confirms reports that five members of his department have been placed under arrest on suspicion of corruption.

26 May 2006 The Federation Council revokes the powers of three senators: the representative of the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Area in the duma, Boris Gutin; the representative of the Maritime Territory administration, Igor Ivanov; and the representative of the Nenets Autonomous Area administration, Aleksandr Sabadash. All three had handed in their resignations. There are also allegations against Sabadash regarding commercial activity incompatible with the status of a member of the Federation Council. Upper house speaker Sergey Mironov had appealed to the regions to revoke their powers in line with the law on the status of members of the Federation Council.

26 May 2006 An aide to the commander-in-chief of the Russian air force, Colonel Aleksandr Drobyshevskiy, says "since 2002 foreign aircraft have violated Russia's air border 41 times, and each year up to 700 flights are made near our borders by reconnaissance aircraft from the air forces and navies of the USA, Britain, Norway, Sweden, the FRG, China and Japan."

27 May 2006 The steel majors Severstal and Arcelor announce that they will merge.

29 May 2006 Vladimir Putin says he wants the Security Council to specify key provisions related to threats against Russia.

I have instructed the secretary of the Security Council (Igor Ivanov) to prepare for the Security Council's hearing the three key issues from the [president's] address [to parliament] on the main threats to our country. First, technological breakdown problems, the threat of a possible technological breakdown. Second, the threat related to unfavourable demographic developments, and third, the threat in the sphere of national security, defence issues primarily. Colleagues have done a lot already, much has been set out in the government's own plans. I would like the key issues to be laid down in a resolution of the Security Council.

29 May 2006 Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov speaks at a session of the government's budget commission. He says GDP for the first quarter was up 4.6 per cent year-on-year. Industrial output was up 3 per cent and investment in fixed assets up 5.1 per cent. Disposable incomes were up 8.3 per cent. GDP is set to grow by about 5.7 per cent per year in 2007-2009 according to a draft forecast, which the commission approved today, for the main indicators in socioeconomic development for 2007 and for the period up to 2009.

29 May 2006 Chechen President Alu Alkhanov addresses the Chechen parliament on the republic's development.

29 May 2006 Governor of the Nenets Autonomous Area Aleksey Barinov has been charged with large-scale fraud.

29 May 2006 New foreign travel passports with biometric data have been issued in Kaliningrad.

29 May 2006 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov tells Vladimir Putin that Russia is to spend around R5,000 billion on arms between 2007 and 2015. In keeping with the

state armaments programme, R4,939 billion is to be spent on arms between 2007 and 2015. The old programme was mainly focused on scientific and experimental research and development; the new draft programme is more geared towards purchases of serially-produced weaponry. More than 63 per cent of the entire amount is to be spent on serially-produced arms.

Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Air Force Vladimir Mikhaylov says that there will be no reductions in the Air Force and air defence establishment until 2016.

30 May 2006 Vladimir Putin addresses the prime minister and parliament on the 2007 budget.

31 May 2006 Human rights activist and lawyer Ivan Pavlov, the director of the Institute for Information Freedom Development, is beaten up in St.Petersburg.

31 May 2006 *Gazeta* states that a plan to reorganize the Russian army's command structure and do away with the existing system of military districts has run into opposition.

31 May 2006 The head of the Federal Drug Control Service, Viktor Cherkesov, says that over a period of ten years, Russia has switched from being a territory used for the illegal transit of drugs into a major drugs market.

31 May 2006 Dukvakha Abdurakhmanov, chairman of the People's Assembly of Chechnya, says that the problems of the Chechen Republic must be discussed in Grozny and not in Paris. The president of the Chechen Republic, Alu Alkhanov, and the chairman of the upper house of the Chechen parliament, Akhmarkhadzhi Gazikhanov, have also been invited to Paris to take part in a meeting of a special subcommission of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to discuss prospects for the holding of the second round-table discussion of the situation in Chechnya. The meeting will take place on 1 June.

31 May 2006 A deputy head of the armed forces' General Staff, Colonel-General Vasiliy Smirnov, says that conscripts recruited in the Chechen Republic during the spring call-up are being sent to units stationed on Chechen territory as reinforcement. Smirnov also says that at present there are 178,000 contract servicemen in the army and navy. Of them 67,000 became professionals in accordance with the federal targeted programme for the transfer of servicemen to contract staffing.

31 May 2006 Anatoliy Tsyganok, head of the Centre for Military Forecasts, says that "it will be quite a problem for Russia to plan an increase in its military exports in the next five, seven, eight or ten years. Why? According to some experts, the existing armaments will be replaced by new ones. Unfortunately, Russia is selling weapons that were designed back in Soviet times."

Tsyganok says that most Russian weapons are currently obsolete. "Here are some figures provided by the Defence Ministry's armaments directorate: 75 per cent of the armaments and hardware on the inventory of the Russian army are more than 15 years old. About 20 per cent are between 10 and 15 years old. And just 5 per cent could be referred to as modern, most of them being nearly 10 years old."

June

1 June 2006 The president of Chechnya, Alu Alkhanov, says that the Chechen conflict is over.

Alkhanov says Akhmed Zakayev has no moral right to represent the Chechen people or any segment of Chechen society. Alkhanov is attending a regular meeting of a sub-commission of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe dealing with preparations for the second "round table" on the political situation in Chechnya.

At a ceremony the military flag of the now-disbanded Chechen antiterrorist centre is handed over to the Sever (North) and Yug (South) battalions of the Russian Interior Ministry's Internal Troops.

2 June 2006 Vladimir Putin requests the Federation Council to dismiss Prosecutor-General Vladimir Ustinov from his post. This is at Ustinov's request.

2 June 2006 The Supreme Court recognizes as terrorist two international organizations and bans their work in Russia. These are Jund al-Sham and Islamic Jihad, Jamaat of Mojahedin.

2 June 2006 Vladimir Putin expresses concern that Russia's underdeveloped energy sector is beginning to hamper economic growth.

2 June 2006 Chechen Prime Minister Ramzan Kadyrov calls on religious leaders of the North Caucasus to launch an ideological campaign against Wahhabis and terrorists in the Southern Federal District.

2 June 2006 Vladimir Putin signs a decree "On the leadership of the executive authorities of the Nenets Autonomous Area". This decree suspends Aleksey Viktorovich Barinov as head of the administration of the Nenets Autonomous Area and appoints Valeriy Nikolayevich Potapenko temporary acting head of the Nenets Autonomous Area.

The Federation Council revokes the powers of Arkadiy Sarkisyan, the representative of the Supreme Council of Khakassia, on the basis of his personal letter of resignation. The powers of three senators - the representative of the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Area duma, Boris Gutin; the representative of the Maritime Territory administration, Igor Ivanov; and the representative of the Nenets Autonomous Area administration, Aleksandr Sabadash - have been revoked at the previous session of the Federation Council.

2 June 2006 Military Industrial Commission identifies three priority strands in implementing the federal defence sector investment programme: restructuring, development of fundamental and critical technologies, and retooling. The commission approves a draft State Armaments Programme for 2007-2015. A month has been set aside for fine-tuning and then "in the very near future the document will be submitted to the president of the Russian Federation for his approval".

The 2015 armaments programme includes a 63 per cent increase in spending on weapons and equipment procurement. In 2006 prices, the total planned expenditure is R4,939,400 million, of which R4,508,800 million will be spent on parts of the programme concerning the Defence Ministry.

Commission chairman Vyacheslav Putilin says:

We will endeavour to build a balanced system of armaments that makes allowance for the state's economic capacity to ensure security and defence. And we have developed rational ways and proportions for supporting the required level of equipment in both the strategic deterrent forces and the general purpose forces. We have reduced the variety of armaments and equipment and identified priorities in developing the most promising weapons systems, especially in air defence and aviation.

Putilin says that the programme's drafting had been "drawn out".

The defence sector development programme is intended to implement the State Armaments Programme to 2015 and the predicted plan for Russian military-technical cooperation with foreign states. The primary goal is to ensure that we can create and produce in the necessary quantities promising weapons and special military equipment and also ensure that our defence products remain competitive. An initial priority will be the creation of production capacity, taking into account a root and branch replacement of obsolete and worn-out facilities."

More than 200 tactical formations and units of the Russian Federation armed forces are to receive modern armaments and hardware. The armed forces will receive 3,000 pieces of new hardware and armaments and around 5,000 modernized ones. More than 300 battalions and several missile brigades are to be rearmed in the Ground Troops and also in the Airborne Troops. The air force will receive more than 1,000 frontline and army aviation combat systems and the navy several dozen submarines and surface ships, including five strategic missile-carrying ones.

5 June 2006 Anti-Putin protests take place at the World Newspaper Congress in Moscow.

5 June 2006 RIA Novosti reports that Russia's harvest yield will be between 70,000,000 and 73,000,000 tonnes of grain, some five to six million tonnes less than 2005.

8 June 2006 Duma Chairman Boris Gryzlov says that the constitution must not be changed and that Vladimir Putin cannot stand in 2008.

8 June 2006 The board of directors of Rosneft is elected, and Igor Sechin, deputy head of the Russian president's administration and aide to the president, becomes its chairman.

9 June 2006 Vladimir Putin assigns the task to increase the share of nuclear energy in the country's energy production to 25 per cent. Head of Rosatom Sergey Kiriienko states:

Starting from next year, the construction of two power units a year will begin. At the moment, as you said, we have one power unit in five years, from next year we will begin the construction of two units a year. At the same time we realize this is the minimum level, we will only be able to maintain the nuclear energy industry at the same level of development. To develop it further, from 2009-2010 we must start building three or four power units a year.

9 June 2006 The People's Hural (parliament) of the Republic of Kalmykia recalls its representative in the Federation Council, Levon Chakhmakhchyan.

9 June 2006 Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says utmost attention is given to the protection of the installations of the nuclear weapons complex.

9 June 2006 The Duma votes to abolish the "against all" box on voting slips for all elections without exception.

9 June 2006 A bill on the creation of a new constituent part of the Russian Federation, Kamchatka Territory, is passed at the first reading in the Duma. Under the bill the new region should be created by July 2007, combining Kamchatka Territory and the Koryak Autonomous District. But Kamchatka and Koryak deputies have asked the president to accelerate the process, and declare the unification of the two regions by 1 July 2006.

10 June 2006 Yabloko's 13th Congress takes place. From now on the Green Russia party, the Soldiers' Mothers, Young Democrats and also women's and human rights factions will operate under the Yabloko brand.

10 June 2006 Audit Chamber chief Sergey Stepashin says Vladimir Putin will remain influential in politics after his constitutionally final term ends in 2008. He is interviewed on the "Nedelya" TV programme.

11 June 2006 Boris Berezovskiy says that the political regime that exists in Russia will never hand over power democratically and that a way will be found to keep Putin in power for a third term. Berezovskiy thinks that seizing power by force is the only option Russia has today.

12 June 2006 A civil liberties rally takes place in Moscow.

13 June 2006 Navy Commander in Chief Admiral Vladimir Masorin says approximately 40 billion will be invested in the construction of a base for the Black Sea Fleet in Novorossiysk.

13 June 2006 Chechen Prime Minister Ramzan Kadyrov says that Chechens not Russians should be in charge of the republic.

14 June 2006 The Duma rejects the bill banning civil servants from having foreign bank accounts and property abroad.

14 June 2006 Chechen Republic Prime Minister Ramzan Kadyrov says the counter-terrorist operation in Chechnya will continue until the remaining armed gangs are finally destroyed.

14 June 2006 The Duma adopts in the third reading a package of bills reducing compulsory military service to one year as of 2008 and cancelling a number of conscription deferments. From 1 January 2007, the length of compulsory military service will be reduced to 18 months, from January 2008 - to 12 months.

15 June 2006 The National Bolshevik Party is refused registration by the Moscow City Court.

16 June 2006 Vladimir Putin says he will not run for the third presidential term despite the fact that he is aware of the results of public opinion polls in favour of this decision.

17 June 2006 The separatist president of Ichkeria, Abdul-Khalim Sadulayev, is killed in action in Argun, Chechnya. The deputy president, Dokka Umarov, takes over.

19 June 2006 Vladimir Putin nominates Justice Minister Yuriy Chayka as prosecutor-general. The Federation Council is to confirm the appointment.

19 June 2006 The president of Kabarda-Balkaria, Arsen Kanokov, asks parliament to consider Andrey Yarin for the post of prime minister.

20 June 2006 The Security Council meets and discusses measures to fulfil the tasks set in the state of the nation address to the Federal Assembly and to implement its three main directions: technological modernization of the economy, improving the demographic situation and strengthening Russia's national security. Vladimir Putin states:

The level of military security depends directly on the rates of economic growth and technological development. At the same time the demographic situation develops more favourably in those countries which not only reach high welfare standards but where people feel safe for long periods of time and plan their lives for long periods ahead.

He makes the following comments on Russian demography:

Today we are practically at a crisis point, as over the past 13 years the number of the country's citizens who have died has exceeded the number of those who have been born by 11.2 million people. If nothing is done, then by the end of the 21st century Russia's population will decrease by 50 per cent.

Putin instructs the Security Council to "clearly define Russia's interests in the areas of nuclear, biological and chemical disarmament, and prevention of the arms race in space".

Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov speaks of the need to set up a government commission to coordinate the efforts of the authorities and businesses aimed at bridging the technological gap.

20 June 2006 Former premier Mikhail Kasyanov confirms his intention of standing for president in 2008.

20 June 2006 Deputy chairman of the Gazprom board, Aleksandr Medvedev, says that Gazprom's revenues from the export of Russian natural gas abroad will be over 37 billion US dollars. Revenues from gas exports were 26 billion dollars last year.

20 June 2006 Colonel-General Yevgeniy Baryayev, deputy commander-in-chief of the Interior Ministry, is appointed the new commander of the Federal Combined Force in the North Caucasus.

20 June 2006 Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov announces that Russia is developing "promising high-technology strategic weapons

and manoeuvrable warheads capable of overcoming any anti-missile system thanks to their unpredictable trajectory".

20 June 2006 Russian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia may move from the current system of military districts to a system of regional commands.

22 June 2006 The government approves the main parameters of the 2007 federal budget.

23 June 2006 The Federation Council has appointed Justice Minister Yuriy Chayka as new prosecutor-general of the Russian Federation.

23 June 2006 Sergey Mayev has been appointed director of the Federal Agency for the Defence Order (Rosoboronzakaz).

26 June 2006 Vladimir Putin signs a decree on aid to compatriots who live abroad and who decided to volunteer to resettle in the Russian Federation.

26 June 2006 Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says the government is planning to allocate R300 billion in 2007 to Rosoboronzakaz. In 2006 the MOD alone will allocate R237 billion to Rosoboronzakaz.

27 June 2006 Yuriy Chayka commences work as Prosecutor General.

Vladimir Ustinov commences as work as the new Justice Minister.

27 June 2006 First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitriy Medvedev called for ministers responsible for Russia's four national projects in agriculture, education, housing and health care to produce reports by mid-July stating how much money has already been spent on specific programmes over the past six months. He says a demographic project will be rolled out next year.

27 June 2006 Shamil Basayev is appointed vice-president of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria.

27 June 2006 Interfax-Military News Agency reports that the armed forces plan to streamline over 300 general officer posts by the turn of the year.

28 June 2006 Central Bank chairman Sergey Ignat'yev says the Bank is ready to lift the last restrictions on full convertibility of the rouble as of 1 July.

28 June 2006 Interior Minister Rashid Nurgaliyev says there are more than 140 youth groups of an extremist persuasion totalling more than 6,000 people operating in Russia.

28 June 2006 Rosatom head Sergey Kiriienko briefs the Duma on the Russian nuclear industry.

29 June 2006 Yedinaya Rossiya leader Boris Gryzlov says Yedinaya Rossiya will nominate its own candidate at the 2008 presidential elections.

29 June 2006 Nikita Belykh, the chairman of the federal political council of Union of Right Forces, says the Union of Right Forces, the Republican Party of Russia and

the Party of Support of Entrepreneurship are planning to hold a unification congress in September-October.

29 June 2006 First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev says there are no plans to abolish free medical care in Russia.

30 June 2006 Strategic command-and-staff exercises Baykal-2006 begin in Siberia. They will end on 6 July.

30 June 2006 The Russian government publishes a white paper on WMD.
http://www.government.gov.ru/data/structdoc.html?he_id=1094&do_id=2218