

# Russian Domestic Policy: Chronology

## July-September 2000

### *July*

**1 July 2000** Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says the country's privatization programme would not be revised. He says that only where there was suspicion of criminal activity would a sell-off be re-examined.

**1 July 2000** *Ekho Moskvy* reports that an anonymous military source has told Rosbizneskonsalting that 49 servicemen, including 32 from the special purpose detachment of the General Staff's Main Reconnaissance Directorate, were killed near Serzhen-Yurt. This is denied by Russian presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy. He says a total of 13 were killed and 18 wounded in the Serzhen-Yurt battle. The army lost 11 men killed and 11 wounded, and the Interior Ministry troops two killed and seven wounded.

**1 July 2000** The commander of federal troops in Chechnya, Col-Gen Gennadiy Troshev says Russian federal troops destroyed a 50-strong bandit group in Ingushetia about two weeks ago.

**1 July 2000** The Russian military leadership has decided on a different place for stationing one of the regiments of the 42nd Division in Chechnya. Deputy Russian Defence Minister Col-Gen Aleksandr Kosovan says that they have decided on the area of the Borzoy settlement instead of the planned Itum-Kale for its motor rifle regiment. He says that three of the regiments of the 42nd Division were going to be equipped "to the maximum" by the end of the year. The division will be made up of 15,500 men.

**2-3 July 2000** Chechen fighters launch kamikaze raids with lorries with high explosives on Russian forces. 26 Russian servicemen are killed in Argun.

**3 July 2000** Vladimir Putin meets Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov and chiefs of security ministries to discuss the terrorist act in Argun in Chechnya.

**3 July 2000** Vladimir Putin says that inflation is expected to run at 2.5 per cent in June. In the first five months of 2000 it did not rise beyond 1 per cent (a month).

**3 July 2000** The Duma commissions three of its committees to review the Federation Councils' summary on the presidential draft law on Federation Council formation.

**3 July 2000** Chechen leader Akhmed Kadyrov appoints the ex-foreign minister in Dzhokhar Dudayev's government, Shamil Beno, representative of the Chechen interim administration to the Russian president.

**3 July 2000** The press service of the North Caucasian Federal Border Guard Service directorate states that a group of foreign military attaches has visited the Itum-Kale border guard unit, which guards the Chechen section of the border between Russia and Georgia. The delegation included Danish Maj-Gen Karsten Moeller, Italian Brig-Gen Raimondo Kario, Slovak Lt-Col Jan Toth, Finnish Capt Pertti Inkinen and Swedish Col Bjoern Widmark.

**3 July 2000** Vladimir Putin appoints economic development minister German Gref as Russian director at the EBRD.

**4 July 2000** Russian forces introduce a curfew in Chechnya.

**4 July 2000** Presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy gives the final figures on the federal losses as a result of a series of terrorist acts in Chechnya on 2 July 2000. Thirty-three servicemen were killed, 84 were wounded and three are missing. The losses of the Defence Ministry were three killed and eight wounded; of the Interior Ministry 24 killed, 56 wounded and three missing; and of the Internal Troops six killed and 19 wounded.

**4 July 2000** Russian President Vladimir Putin signs an order annulling former President Boris Yeltsin's decree sacking Nikolay Kulikov from his post as Moscow police chief. Moscow mayor Yury Luzhkov supports this move.

**4 July 2000** Vladimir Putin meets the leader of the Union of Right Forces faction, Boris Nemtsov. They discuss reform of the Federation Council and possibly ending the immunity of deputies.

**4 July 2000** Russian Economic Development and Trade Minister German Gref calls for removing the oligarchs.

**4 July 2000** The Ministry of the Interior (MIA) says that each of Russia's seven federal districts will have a department on organized crime, by ordinance of Interior Minister Vladimir Rushaylo. The new departments will replace 10 regional institutions tackling the investigation issues, function under the supervision of the presidential representatives and have a direct subordination to the investigation committee of the Russian Interior Ministry.

**4 July 2000** Moscow city Interior Department says that an emergency meeting has been held to study the results of the work of the city's antiterrorist centre. A Whirlwind-Antiterror operation has begun in Moscow in connection with a threat of terrorist acts. The police play down the importance of the measures.

**4 July 2000** Audit Chamber head Sergey Stepashin and Federal Security Service (FSS) head Nikolay Patrushev sign a cooperation agreement. The Audit Chamber had already concluded similar agreements with the Chief Prosecutor's Office, the Interior Minister and the Tax Police. Sergey Stepashin believes that that henceforth work aimed at stopping violations in the sphere of credits and finances will become more efficient.

**4 July 2000** The chief executive officer of the Media-Most holding company, Vladimir Gusinskiy, is questioned by Prosecutor-General's Office investigator Valeriy Nikolayev. Gusinskiy refuses to answer the investigation's questions, Media-Most lawyers tells the press afterwards. His lawyers lodge another appeal that Gusinskiy be allowed to travel abroad.

**4 July 2000** The MIA refuses to allow Radio Liberty correspondent Andrey Babitskiy to attend an OSCE parliamentary assembly session opening on 6 July in Bucharest.

**4 July 2000** Duma deputy Boris Berezovskiy says "there can be no military victory in Chechnya".

**4 July 2000** Aleksandr Zvyagintsev, Deputy Chief Prosecutor for the Volga District, says that certain laws of the Republic of Mordovia were abolished as being at variance with the federal legislation.

**5 July 2000** Russian deputy prime minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says the government's economic programme will lay the foundation for economic growth, including an annual increase of GDP by 4 per cent. Kudrin says "we are to raise the GDP amount by 25 per cent by 2004."

**5 July 2000** Vladimir Putin visits the military air base at Mozdok, where an all-embracing conference on Chechnya has started. Law enforcement and a political and economic settlement in the Chechen Republic are being discussed.

**6 July 2000** The Prosecutor-General's Office has charged Vladimir Gusinskiy's aide Mikhail Aleksandrov with illegally keeping ammunition.

**6 July 2000** Vladimir Putin says there will be no repeat of the 1996 debacle in Chechnya.

**6 July 2000** In an interview in *Paris Match*, Putin says "it would be a serious mistake to suppress the desire of a part of the Chechen people for autonomy." He says he is ready to talk to commanders who have laid down their arms. He says, "We are witnessing today the formation of a fundamentalist internationale, which is sowing instability from the Philippines to Kosovo."

**6 July 2000** In a poll taken a hundred days after Vladimir Putin was elected president of the Russian Federation, 17 per cent of the polled Russians said that over this period their attitude to the head of state got better, 14 per cent of them said that it got worse, 58 per cent said that it did not change and 11 per cent were not able to express their opinion on this. At the same time Putin's rating is at 54 per cent.

55 per cent, of the 1,600 Russians polled by the All-Russian Public Opinion Centre on 1st-4th July 2000 believe that the antiterrorist operation in Chechnya should continue while 33 per cent think that peace talks with the rebels must start.

In response to the question what should be done if Russian units sustain heavy losses, 42 per cent called for continuation of hostilities while 43 per cent would opt for peace talks.

52 per cent regard the activities of the federal units as not tough enough, while 22 per cent find them sufficiently tough and 9 per cent believe that they are too tough and hasty.

While 47 per cent believe that the military campaign in Chechnya has failed, 39 per cent regard it as a success.

One quarter of the poll, 25 per cent, believe that mufti Akhmed Kadyrov enjoys great influence in Chechnya and the same number think that his influence is not very great. Kadyrov carries nearly no weight in Chechnya, 10 per cent feel. The largest number, 40 per cent, had no opinion on the subject.

Twenty-seven per cent believe that everything, including the use of force, should be done to prevent Chechnya leaving Russia, while 20 per cent would object to but are prepared to put up with this and 13 per cent would not care if Chechnya became independent. As many as 18 per cent would welcome Chechnya's separation from Russia while 11 per cent believe that it has for all practical purposes already occurred.

**6 July 2000** Vladimir Putin meets power ministers to discuss the ways of delegating power from the Russian government mission in Chechnya to the Chechen administration.

**6 July 2000** Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov and chief of the Chechen administration Akhmed Kadyrov discuss financial aspects of the work to restore the Chechen economy. Kadyrov says that Kasyanov has promised to "unfreeze" all of Chechnya's old bank accounts and open new ones.

**6 July 2000** The Chechen rebels' chief ideologist, former President of the Chechen Republic Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, says in Qatar that Iran and Pakistan have betrayed the Chechen people.

**7 July 2000** Russian Public TV reports that a group of militants has been arrested in Stavropol Territory. They infiltrated from Karachay-Cherkessia.

**7 July 2000** The Federation Council approves the proposal to set up a conciliation commission on the law on the procedure for forming the upper house.

**7 July 2000** The Duma adopts, in the third and final reading, amendments to the law "On the general principles of the organization of local government in the Russian Federation".

**7 July 2000** Yury Chayka, Russian Minister of Justice, says 20 per cent of the laws passed in the constituent parts of the Russian Federation run counter to the federal constitution.

**8 July 2000** The governor of Sverdlovsk Region, Eduard Rossel, attacks Putin's Federation Council reform.

**8 July 2000** Boris Berezovskiy is interviewed in *Kommersant*, outlines a plan to create an opposition party to Putin, whom he accuses of authoritarianism. Berezovskiy says he has discussed the matter with the speaker of the Federation Council, Yegor Stroyev, as well as with Sverdlovsk Region governor Eduard Rossel, Kursk Region governor Aleksandr Ruts koy and Saratov Region governor Dmitriy Ayatskov.

**8 July 2000** In Azeri newspaper *Yeni Musavat*, Chechen foreign minister Ilyas Akhmadov says the Maskhadov leadership is ready for talks with Russia.

**9 July 2000** Interior minister Vladimir Rushaylo is interviewed. He discusses terrorism and the centralisation of crime fighting units.

**9 July 2000** A bomb explosion in Vladikavkaz kills six.

**10 July 2000** Yabloko holds its 8<sup>th</sup> congress. Grigoriy Yavlinskiy is re-elected as leader. Duma member Vladimir Lukin is elected deputy leader.

**10 July 2000** Vladimir Kalamanov, the Russian president's human rights ombudsman in Chechnya, denies reports in the Western media that violence and humiliation are taking place at the detention facilities in Chechnya.

**10 July 2000** Chechen forces report fierce clashes in the Argun gorge.

**10 July 2000** A curfew is imposed in Dagestan along the entire perimeter of the administrative border with Chechnya.

**10 July 2000** Yakutia amends its constitution to conform to the federal one.

**11 July 2000** Representatives of the Russian Prosecutor-General's Office and FSS enter the Media-Most holding company's central office in Moscow in possession of a warrant sanctioning the confiscation of documents. Russian Prosecutor-General's office investigators also come to the editorial office of NTV to remove documents. Documents are also removed from Gazprom HQ.

**11 July 2000** The appeals collegium of the Moscow City Court rejects a petition by Vladimir Gusinskiy's lawyers to declare his arrest warrant, issued on 13th June, unlawful and groundless.

**11 July 2000** The Federal Tax Police Service initiates legal proceedings against Lukoil bosses, whom they suspect of concealing major sums of taxable revenue.

**11 July 2000** The Russian Prosecutor-General's Office suggests that Vladimir Potanin, head of the Interros financial-industrial group, reimburse "the loss caused to the state" by the privatization of Norilsk Nickel to the tune of 140m dollars.

**11 July 2000** NTV reports that a report from Interfax that says that "the leadership of the General Staff of the armed forces has put forward an initiative to reform the Strategic Missile Troops into a branch of the armed forces and to include them within the air force". This is being strongly opposed by Igor Sergeev minister of defence and Commander of the missile forces Vladimir Yakovlev.

**12 July 2000** Vladimir Putin issues decrees establishing the appointments of first deputy presidential envoys to the Volga, Urals and Central federal districts. Sergey Novikov has become first deputy presidential envoy to the Volga Federal District, Sergey Sobyenin to the Urals District and Anton Fedorov to the Central District.

**7 July 2000** The Federation Council issues a resolution (no.196) on Chechnya.

**11 July 2000** *Radio Russia* reports that terrorist attacks against military units in the Moscow region have been thwarted.

**12 July 2000** Leader of the Russian Regions Duma faction Oleg Morozov says that Vladimir Putin has reaffirmed that the Federation Council can no longer exist in its present form and has to be reformed.

**12 July 2000** The Federal Tax Police Service director Vyacheslav Soltaganov accuses LUKoil of siphoning off dozens of millions US dollars from the tax authorities.

**12 July 2000** Tax Police begin an investigation into Avtovaz.

**12 July 2000** A staff member of the Defence Ministry's central research centre (Lt-Col Avramenko), who intended to sell military secrets, is sentenced to four years in prison.

**12 July 2000** Gen Viktor Kazantsev, official representative of the Russian president in the Southern Federal District, meets a group of deputies to the so-called "Maskhadov parliament" in Gudermes.

**12 July 2000** It is reported there are splits in the MOD leadership over the reorganization of Strategic Missile Troops. First Deputy Chief of General Staff Col-Gen Valeriy Manilov says there are several alternatives: one of them calls for "preserving the Strategic Missile Troops as an independent fighting service and developing the Strategic Missile Troops as a land component of strategic nuclear forces to be incorporated into the armed forces as a combat arm under central control". The chief of the General Staff of the Russian armed forces, Army Gen Anatoliy Kvashnin, has called for turning the country's Strategic Missile Troops into an arm of a service under General Staff control by 2003. This is opposed by defence minister Igor Sergeyev.

**12 July 2000** The Russian MOD collegium decides to establish groupings of general-purpose forces, with a combined strength of 50,000 men, in the southern and southeastern strategic sectors. The first deputy chief of the General Staff of the Russian armed forces, Col-Gen Valeriy Manilov, says the grouping of general-purpose forces in the southern sector would be deployed in the North Caucasian Military District, while the grouping in the southeastern sector would be stationed in the Siberian Military District and part of the Urals Military District.

**12 July 2000** It is reported that the MOD is considering reorganising the command structure of the air force.

**12 July 2000** Putin appoints Lt-Gen Vladimir Shults as state secretary and deputy director of the FSS.

**12 July 2000** Interfax reports that Russia's military command is planning to deploy groupings of general-purpose forces in the southwestern and Central Asian strategic directions. The MOD collegium has been considering this issue. It is planned to increase the number of servicemen in the above two directions by 50,000 men by the year 2003. The MOD collegium also addresses the issue of implementing the principal measures to shape the general-purpose troops, which are to be accomplished by the year 2006. It is planned that the establishment strength of the land forces will be about 380,000 men. This service is expected to comprise three components: permanently ready for action formations and units, reduced personnel and strategic reserves. The numerical strength of the air force is expected to be about 217,000 men. It is proposed that the navy should comprise the four existing fleets (Northern, Pacific, Black Sea and Baltic fleets). The establishment strength of this service should be over 185,000 servicemen.

**13 July 2000** Col-Gen Valeriy Manilov, first deputy chief of the General Staff confirms that field commander Turpal Atgeriyev has surrendered.

Manilov says that in the course of the antiterrorist operation in the North Caucasus 2,493 servicemen of the federal forces have been killed and 7,282 wounded, according to the General Staff's information as of 13 July. In the course of the military operations in the Chechnya since 1 October 1999, 2,215 servicemen of the federal forces have been killed and 6,298 wounded. Since 2 August 1999, a total of 1,619 Russian Defence Ministry servicemen have been killed and 4,526 wounded. The losses of the Interior Ministry are 874 dead and 2,756 wounded.

**13 July 2000** The Kavkaz-Tsentr news agency web site reports that the Chechen law-enforcement bodies are continuing to receive reports about the brutal torture of Chechen hostages in Russian concentration camps. The PAP 1 and PAP 5 camps are located in the Chechen capital. According to the Chechen side, over 500 hostages have completely disappeared in Urus-Martan's concentration camp alone. Their fate is unknown. The Human Rights Watch international organization has disseminated a list of 300 missing hostages from Urus-Martan. According to preliminary data, about 900 hostages have vanished in the PAP 1 and PAP 5 camps. These are approximate figures, given that data about missing persons is constantly growing. The Chechen side reports that 27 hostages have been shot dead over the past 10 days in the Russian PAP 5 camp.

**13 July 2000** The leadership of the Russian General Staff denies there are any serious disagreements in the Defence Ministry on the issue of reforming the Strategic Missile Troops.

**13 July 2000** Defence minister Igor Sergeye says at the current stage of development of the Russian state, the existing structure of the armed forces will be maintained, and there will not at present be a reform of Strategic Rocket Forces.

**13 July 2000** Head of the Russian Tax Police Vyacheslav Soltaganov says in *Vesti* that the criminal charges against the heads of Avtovaz and LUKoil could be dropped if the companies paid up in full.

**13 July 2000** The chairman of the State Duma committee on State Construction, Anatoly Lukyanov, says the Duma-Federation Council conciliation commission on reform of the Federation Council has come very close to reaching an agreement.

**14 July 2000** The Russian president's aide, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, rejects the possibility of holding political talks with the ringleaders of the Chechen fighters, including Aslan Maskhadov. He also says there is no place for mediation by international organizations in efforts to achieve a settlement in Chechnya.

**14 July 2000** The Duma-Federation Council conciliatory commission fails to agree on the formation of the Federation Council.

**14 July 2000** Chuvash President Nikolay Fedorov criticizes Putin for his plans to reform the Federation Council. He says it will introduce a new layer of bureaucracy.

**14 July 2000** The Media-Most holding chief executive officer Vladimir Gusinskiy is refused permission to travel to Israel to attend a session of the Knesset, the Israeli parliament.

**14 July 2000** The Audit Chamber, parliament's budget watchdog, decides to conduct an additional legal study of the legality of the sale of United Energy Systems shares to foreign investors.

**14 July 2000** Shamil Basayev is interviewed on Azeri TV on the Chechen conflict.

**15 July 2000** Vladimir Putin has signs a decree releasing first deputy head of presidential administration Igor Shabdurasulov from his post at Shabdurasulov's own request.

**15 July 2000** The constituent assembly of the Rossiya political movement opens. In its draft programme, the movement calls itself left and democratic. The chairman of the movement's coordinating council is Valery Tsoy. Duma Speaker Gennady Seleznev is unanimously elected chairman of the movement.

**15 July 2000** Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev says that the Duma will be trying to override the Federation Council's veto on the new procedure for the formation of the parliament's upper chamber.

**15 July 2000** The first deputy chief of the General Staff, Col-Gen Valery Manilov, says lasting peace in Chechnya will be restored in two to three years. He says at "the beginning of the counterterrorist operation there were about 26,000 of them, now we are opposed by not more than 2,000 bandits".

**15 July 2000** Russian Deputy Interior Minister and Russian Interior Troops commander, Col-Gen Vyacheslav Tikhomirov says the creation of the 46th Brigade of Interior Troops to be permanently stationed in Chechnya will be finished in August.

**16 July 2000** Russian Defence Minister Igor Sergeev and Chief of General Staff Anatoliy Kvashnin fly to Sochi for a meeting with President Vladimir Putin. The talks are expected to focus on various aspects of military development and on the reorganization of the Strategic Missile Troops.

**13 July 2000** Ali Ulkhayev, the plenipotentiary representative of the Chechen president, visits Azerbaijan. He says that Chechen troops were intending to switch to large-scale actions soon and capture Gudermes, Dzhokhar (Groznyy) and other

settlements. He says, "Our goal is the full liberation of the Caucasus and the creation of a confederate type state."

**16 July 2000** Igor Domnikov, editor of the *Novaya Gazeta* special projects department who was attacked on 13th May, dies at the Burdenko hospital in Moscow.

**16 July 2000** Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko, who has been appointed chairman of the government commission for Chechnya's socio-economic rehabilitation, says Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov has signed a government resolution which puts the Chechen administration in charge of handling budget allocations to Chechnya.

**16 July 2000** The Air Force's Combat Training Department sources say the share of modern warplanes stands at 21 per cent of the stock. Forty eight per cent of the aircraft have been in operation for over 15 years, 23 per cent for ten to 15 years, and 28 per cent for five to ten years. Just about 1 per cent of the aircraft have been in operation for less than five years. About 50 per cent of the aircraft fit for use are not being used as their resource and service life have nearly expired. The percentage of strategic, military transport and tactical aircraft in working order is 83 per cent, 56 per cent and 54 per cent.

**17 July 2000** The Kavkaz Tsentr website says that Gen Baudin Bakuyev reported that at dawn on 16 July mujahedin detachments under his command assaulted a military column of the Russian forces at Starye Atagi highway, two kilometres south of the Rostov-Baku and Dzhokhar Groznyy-Shatoy crossroads, killing 15-20 Russian troops.

**17 July 2000** Tax inspectors start taking an inventory of the property of Gazprom's subsidiary Lentransgaz, says Deputy Taxes and Levies Minister Viktor Zubkov.

**17 July 2000** Security Council Secretary Sergey Ivanov, defence minister Igor Sergeev and CGS Anatoly Kvashnin are interviewed on NTV on military reform. They have today discussed this with Putin in Sochi.

**17 July 2000** Boris Berezovskiy holds a news conference. He says that Chechnya is Putin's major mistake. He also criticises Putin's handling of the Russian business elite and the reform of the hierarchy of power. He suggests a retrospective amnesty for businessmen

**17 July 2000** Head of Chechen administration Akhmed Kadyrov sacks six district heads.

**17 July 2000** Vladimir Putin signs a decree appointing Vladimir Kalamonov to be his special representative for human rights and freedoms in the Chechen republic.

**18 July 2000** First deputy head of the provisional administration of Chechnya, Beslan Gantamirov, has issued an order to begin a mopping-up operation in Gudermes. Kadyrov says he did not authorise this. Chechnya's military commandant Gen Ivan Babichev says Gantamirov has no right to do this.

**18 July 2000** An unidentified criminal shoots the chairman of the Confederation of Caucasus Peoples, Yusup Soslambekov, in Moscow.

**18 July 2000** Vladimir Putin signs a decree relating to the former head of the Moscow Main Directorate of Internal Affairs General Nikolay Kulikov. According to the decree, Kulikov is retiring at his own request. The document also acknowledges Boris Yeltsin's decree on Kulikov's dismissal as invalid.

**18 July 2000** Gantamirov says he disagrees with Kadyrov's decision to dismiss district heads.

**18 July 2000** The Cherkess and Abazin deputies of the People's Assembly of Karachay-Cherkessia announce that they are suspending their responsibilities as deputies until the end of July.

**18 July 2000** A blast takes place near the Cherkessk railway station.

**18 July 2000** *Moskovskiy Komsomolets* reports that Vladimir Putin has instructed the natural resources ministry to submit proposals for an independent environmental impact commission.

**19 July 2000** The Duma overrides the Federation Council's veto on amendments to the federal law on the general principles of legislative and executive government bodies. The bill was approved in the initial wording with 362 votes in favour, 35 against and eight abstentions. The required majority was 300 votes.

The amendments give the president the right to temporarily remove and dismiss heads of territorial executive bodies for breaking the law and on the grounds of court decisions.

The Federation Council will comprise two representatives of each component part of the federation, one elected by the local legislature and the other appointed by the region's top executive official. The top executive has the right to appoint the senator on his own, but his decision becomes valid provided it is not protested by the two-thirds of the legislators.

**19 July 2000** Boris Berezovskiy resigns from the Duma. He says he will constructively oppose the authorities.

**19 July 2000** Head of the Chechen provisional administration Akhmed Kadyrov describes the actions of his deputy Beslan Gantamirov as mutiny against the Russian president and the people he has appointed to restore order in Chechnya.

**19 July 2000** Deputy chief of the Chechen provisional administration Beslan Gantamirov says he has scheduled an examination of "combat units" in the centre of Grozny on 20 July. The federal authorities warn Gantamirov to toe the line.

**19 July 2000** The investigators in charge of Vladimir Gusinskiy's case state Gusinskiy's property has been seized. In particular, Gusinskiy's house and a plot of land in the village of Chigasovo in Moscow Region's Sakharovskiy District have been seized.

Valery Nikolayev, senior investigator for especially serious cases of the Russian Chief Prosecutor's Office says the investigators working on "the Gusinskiy case" intend to seize the entire property of the Media-Most head, including that abroad.

**19 July 2000** Maj-Gen Viktor Zakharov is appointed head of the Moscow Directorate of the FSS. He replaces Col-Gen Aleksandr Tsarenko.

**19 July 2000** *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* publishes a government decree "On the organizing of departmental security", listing ministries entitled to have their own security services. The decree is dated 12 July 2000.

**20 July 2000** Russian Chief Rabbi Berl Lazar says in *Izvestiya* that Russia is no more anti-Semitic than any other East European nation.

**20 July 2000** The Commander of the 58th army of the North Caucasian Military District, Lt-Gen Vladimir Shamanov, says in *Trud* that the head of the provisional Chechen administration Akhmed Kadyrov does not fully control the situation in Chechnya. He says life is promoting to him a coalition method of government."

**20 July 2000** The Deputy presidential envoy to the Southern Federal District in charge of Chechnya, Vladimir Bokovikov, bans on a review of the troops led by Beslan Gantamirov, which was to take place in Grozny on 20 July.

**20 July 2000** The Moscow police deny that a Chechen terrorist has been detained at the Kursk railway station in Moscow in the act of planting an explosive device.

**20 July 2000** The first deputy head of the Russian General Staff, Col-Gen Valeriy Manilov, says Chechen rebel activity has intensified.

**20 July 2000** Law enforcement agencies in Dagestan claim that Chechen rebels are planning a two-pronged attack into Dagestan.

**20 July 2000** Russian First Deputy Chief of General Staff Col-Gen Valeriy Manilov says the Russian combined federal force in the North Caucasus has lost 25 people killed and 74 wounded in the past week. The Defence Ministry lost eight people killed and 47 wounded and the Interior Ministry 17 and 27. As of 20 July, the federal forces have lost a total of 2,518 killed and 7,956 wounded since the start of the antiterrorist operation in the North Caucasus on 2 August 1999, according to the General Staff's information. In the course of the combat actions in Chechnya itself that began on 1 October 1999 the federal forces have lost 2,240 people killed and 6,372 have been wounded.

**20 July 2000** The chairman of the Dagestani State Council Magomedali Magomedov is interviewed in *Dagestanskaya Pravda*. He describes the security situation in Dagestan as "alarming".

**20 July 2000** At a meeting between head of Chechnya's civil administration Akhmed Kadyrov and Russian Interior Minister Vladimir Rushaylo, it is agreed to increase the number of Interior Ministry servicemen in the Chechen Republic to 8,000. At the moment, 1,900 people are serving in the Interior Ministry's department for the Chechen Republic on a permanent basis.

**20 July 2000** *Izvestiya* reports that North Osetian laws are brought into line with federal constitution.

**21 July 2000** Vladimir Putin in Blagoveshchensk says that Russia must cardinally change its state policy in the Far East. He says: "If we don't take concrete efforts, the future local population will speak Japanese, Chinese or Korean."

**21 July 2000** Viktor Kazantsev, the Russian president's plenipotentiary representative in the Southern Federal District, says in Nalchik that the conflict between head of Chechen administration Akhmed Kadyrov and Beslan Gantamirov is over.

**21 July 2000** Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov outlines his latest peace initiative in an interview with Azerbaijani TV and radio company ANS. He says the initiative envisages an immediate cease-fire, separation of the warring sides, withdrawal of troops and the establishment of an interim committee of Chechen, Russian and international representatives to monitor adherence to the initiative.

**21 July 2000** The association of social and economic cooperation between the republics, territories and regions of the North Caucasus starts its work in Nalchik. The presidents of the North Caucasus republics, the governors of territories and regions and the chairmen of legislative assemblies are taking part in it.

**24 July 2000** Vladimir Putin visits Kamchatka.

**24 July 2000** Chechen head of administration Akhmed Kadyrov on Monday appoints Adlan Magomadov to be his deputy and general representative to Russia.

**24 July 2000** *Moskovskiy Komsomolets* reports that according to military intelligence, Chechen gunmen and foreign mercenaries are preparing for a new invasion of Dagestan similar to the one in August of last year. This time it is planned to attack from two directions: directly from Chechnya and from Azerbaijan.

**24 July 2000** It is announced that the Russian Interior Ministry's directorate for combating economic crimes will monitor the transfer of budget funds to Chechnya.

**24 July 2000** Lt-Gen Vladimir Bokovikov, the Russian president's deputy representative in the Southern Federal District, says "there can be no political dialogue with Aslan Maskhadov. There can be talk only of his all-out capitulation to our executive and legislative bodies."

**25 July 2000** Navy Commander Adm Vladimir Kuroyedov, defending his doctoral thesis, says to restore Russia as a great naval power, the federal budget should finance "a single military shipbuilding programme until 2010".

**25 July 2000** Vladimir Putin rules out creating a single security service.

**25 July 2000** The chief of the president's Main Territorial Directorate, Sergey Samoylov, says that the strict vertical structure Russia now has will prevent the emergence of separatist feelings because there are unified commands and their implementation is uniform.

**25 July 2000** Boris Berezovskiy denies rumours that he is going to request political asylum in France.

**25 July 2000** Russian Security Council meets to discuss additional measures against Islamic extremism.

**25 July 2000** North Osetian President Aleksandr Dzasokhov says he will vote for the new bill on the formation of the Federation Council.

**25 July 2000** The commander of the eastern federal group, Maj-Gen Aleksandr Popov, says the group is ready to carry on activities and special operations to completely destroy Chechen guerrillas in its area of responsibility but it needs additional reconnaissance and special forces personnel trained for anti-guerrilla operations.

**26 July 2000** The Federation Council passes a coordinated version of the bill to reform the way in which the upper house of parliament is formed by 119 votes against 18, with four abstentions. Under the bill, territorial leaders (governors) in the Federation Council will be replaced by two permanently working representatives from each territory – one from the legislative branch of power and the other from the executive branch of power. All current Federation Council members should be replaced, in keeping with the new bill, by 1 January 2002.

**26 July 2000** Russian Defence Minister Igor Sergeyev says that the federal forces in Chechnya are changing their tactics due to the rebels stepping up their activity with mines and explosive devices.

**26 July 2000** Lt-Gen Vladimir Bokovikov says the conflict between the head of the Chechen provisional administration, Akhmed Kadyrov, and his first deputy, Beslan Gantamirov, has been settled.

**26 July 2000** Chairman of the Federation Council Yegor Stroyev, on behalf of the upper house of the Russian parliament, urges President Vladimir Putin to convene a constitutional conference.

**26 July 2000** Deputy Defence Minister Col-Gen Aleksandr Kosovan says the stationing of the 42nd Motor Rifle Division in Chechnya is expected to be finished before the end of 2000.

**26 July 2000** Sergey Rogov publishes an article in *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* condemning Chief of the General Staff Anatoliy Kvashnin's plan for the reduction of Russia's nuclear arsenal.

**27 July 2000** Russian First Deputy Chief of Staff Col-Gen Valeriy Manilov says the leadership of the Russian MOD has forwarded to the Russian Security Council a proposal to reform the armed forces. He says that the session of the Security Council on the issue was expected to take place in early August. Manilov stresses that "this concerns a package of proposals, relating to creating the face of the armed forces up to the years 2005, 2011 and 2016."

**27 July 2000** The Prosecutor-General's Office discontinues criminal proceedings against Media-Most chief Vladimir Gusinskiy "because of the absence of corpus delicti".

**27 July 2000** Russian MOD and Interior Ministry forces hold command and staff exercises in Dagestan.

**27 July 2000** Head of the Russian presidential administration Aleksandr Voloshin is re-elected board chairman of the United Energy Systems.

**27 July 2000** Vladimir Putin signs an instruction approving proposals made by the highest officials of the constituent members of the Federation for setting up the State Council of the Russian Federation.

**27 July 2000** Russian Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin orders the Taxes and Levies Ministry, the Federal Tax Police Service and the Finance Ministry to conduct a check into possible total tax evasion by several oil companies.

**28 July 2000** Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev says Vladimir Putin should become chairman of the State Council of the Russian Federation. Shaymiyev says the idea for the creation of a new state body was initiated by regional leaders.

**28 July 2000** The general manager of TV6 company, Aleksandr Ponomarev, says that the Federal Tax Police Service (Moscow) directorate started a routine check of the company on 27 July.

**28 July 2000** Russian Navy Commander in Chief Admiral Vladimir Kuroyedov is interviewed in *Vremya-MN* on Russian naval strategy.

**28 July 2000** Yury Demin is appointed Russia's first deputy justice minister.

**28 July 2000** Vladimir Putin meets a group of senior Russian businessmen in the Kremlin. He says the privatisations of the 1990s will not be reversed.

**28 July 2000** The Russian presidential aide, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, says the Kremlin's position on negotiations with the rebels is that "the capitulation of the extremists and the surrender of their weapons can be the only subject of such talks". He says "talks of this nature are already being conducted through the administration of the head of the interim Chechen administration Akhmed Kadyrov."

**28 July 2000** The Russian president's representative in the Southern Federal District, Viktor Kazantsev, says the Chechen administration will move to Grozny at the beginning of October.

**28 July 2000** Gen Valeriy Baranov, an acting commander of the federal joint task force, says Chechen rebels can no longer offer serious resistance.

**28 July 2000** Ingush President Ruslan Aushev says 100,000 Chechen refugees will stay for the winter in Ingushetia.

**29 July 2000** The Chechnya Prosecutor's Office decides not to initiate criminal proceedings against Beslan Gantamirov, first deputy head of the Chechen administration. The decision concerns the events in Gudermes on 18 July.

**29 July 2000** Vladimir Putin signs a decree "On amendments and additions to the federal law 'on the general principles of organizing legislative (representative) and executive agencies of state power in the subjects of the Russian Federation' " adopted by the State Duma on 19 July 2000.

**29 July 2000** The president's plenipotentiary representative in the Southern Federal District, Viktor Kazantsev, backtracks on comments he made on 28 July that in Chechnya talks were under way with Aslan Maskhadov and rebel commander Ruslan Gelayev.

**29 July 2000** *Moskovskiy Komsomolets* reports that Putin may be about to replace Russia's defence minister, Igor Sergeyev. MK cites "structures close to the president" as saying that Putin is minded to replace Sergeyev with either the commander of the Strategic Missile Troops, Vladimir Yakovlev, whom he recently promoted to Army General, or the commander of the navy, Vladimir Kuroyedov. MK claims that some in the Kremlin are arguing in favour of a civilian defence minister.

**31 July 2000** Vladimir Putin dismisses six top Defence Ministry officers. They are: head of the Radiation, Chemical and Biological Defence Troops Col-Gen Stanislav Petrov; head of the Air Defence Troops Col-Gen Boris Dukhov; head of armaments Col-Gen Anatoliy Sitnov; head of the main rocket-artillery department Nikolay Karaulov; head of the central department for materiel and foreign economic relations Lt-Gen Aleksandr Zobnin and head of the Defence Ministry press service Maj-Gen Anatoliy Shatalov.

**31 July 2000** Vladimir Putin signs a decree ordering the government to establish a procedure for the creation and operation of district structures of the Interior Ministry.

**31 July 2000** Airborne forces' commanding officer, Col-Gen Georgiy Shpak says the peacekeeping contingent of Russia's airborne forces will be increased by 5,500 men this year and by a further 3-4,000 next year. The total of airborne forces will be 44-45,000. Shpak says there are 4,100 paratroopers currently involved in the Chechnya antiterrorist operation, 3,600 in Kosovo, 1,300 in Bosnia-Herzegovina and 1,500 in Abkhazia.

**31 July 2000** TV6 reports that the destruction of Russian military hardware has started at Tbilisi's armoured vehicle repair plant.

## *August*

**1 August 2000** MOD sources are reported as saying there will be further changes in the MOD and General Staff.

**1 August 2000** The number of Russians approving of Vladimir Putin's work increased by more than 10 per cent in July. Of the 1,600 Russians polled last month 73 per cent expressed their approval of the president's work, up from 61 per cent who supported him the preceding month in a poll conducted by the All-Russian Public Opinion Centre. Among the respondents who are negative about Putin's doings, a positive trend has been observed: in July there were 17 per cent holding this view, while in June the figure was higher at 26 per cent.

Putin is the most trusted politician in Russia. In July 46 per cent of the respondents ranked him first, up from June's 33 per cent.

**1 August 2000** Negotiations begin in Moscow between Russian governmental representatives and prominent businessman Boris Berezovskiy on his handing over to the government the stock he holds in Russian Public Television.

**1 August 2000** A separatist radio station says the Chechen rebel command is preparing to sharply intensify hostilities throughout Chechnya.

**1 August 2000** The office of the Russian president's media aide for Chechnya, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, dismisses the allegation by Chechnya's leader Aslan Maskhadov that the federal centre will start negotiations with him in the autumn.

**1 August 2000** It is reported that several additional garrisons of Russian border guards have been deployed in the foothills along the Chechen section of the country's border with Georgia after the summer thaw in the mountains.

**2 August 2000** Putin criticises the previous leadership for procrastination over Chechnya at the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of Airborne Troops in Pskov.

**2 August 2000** The Russian Audit Chamber begins a new check into Gazprom.

**2 August 2000** Russian businessman Boris Berezovskiy says the state should control ORT.

**2 August 2000** The police seize arms at the Rossiya hotel near Kremlin.

**2 August 2000** The commander of the eastern unit of the Russian federal force in Chechnya, Maj-Gen Aleksandr Popov, says that some 500-600 mercenaries are operating in the area he is responsible for.

**2 August 2000** Col- Gen Valeriy Manilov, deputy chief of the General Staff says that Russian units have killed nearly 14,000 rebels over the period of a year since the start of the anti-terrorist operation in the North Caucasus on 2 August 1999. Of that number, federal army units killed 13,500 rebels at the initial stage of the operation, which involved large units and ended on 14th April 2000, while nearly 500 were killed at the special stage of the operation after that date. He says the federal units were confronted by "a well-manned, armed, equipped and trained terrorist army of about 26,000 men, of whom over 5,000 were mercenaries." He claims that at the start of the operation, the enemy had nearly 30 tanks, over 60 combat vehicles and armoured personnel carriers, 15 self-propelled anti-aircraft systems, a battery of multiple rocket launchers, over 20 large calibre pieces of artillery and mortars, over 100 82-mm mortars, a large number of anti-tank missiles, portable anti-aircraft systems, various grenade launchers and large-calibre small arms. He claims that the bulk of the rebel forces have been defeated.

**3 August 2000** Vladimir Putin says that he does not rule out granting constitutional status to the State Council that is expected to be set up in Russia.

**3 August 2000** Chuvash President Nikolay Fedorov is interviewed in *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*. He expresses disagreement with Putin's plans to reform centre-regional relations.

**3 August 2000** Col-Gen Valeriy Manilov, first deputy chief of the General Staff, says since the beginning of the antiterrorist operation in the North Caucasus a year ago, 2,585 federal forces servicemen have been killed and 7,505 wounded. He says 1,673 of the servicemen were with the Defence Ministry and 912 with the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Some 4,629 Defence Ministry servicemen and 2,876 servicemen with the Ministry of Internal Affairs were wounded. During the first Chechen campaign (1994-96), 3,826 federal forces' servicemen were killed and 17,892 wounded. In addition, 1,906 servicemen are missing. He says the rebel force is nearly 2,000 strong.

The Kavkaz website gives the Chechen command's figures. It states the Chechen armed forces and detachments of people's militia lost 1,463 mujahedin in the period September 1999 to 25th July 2000. Around 1,730 fighters were wounded. A total of 174 mujahedin were taken prisoner or are missing. The Chechen side's data claims that during the same period around 21,000 aggressors were killed. Over 50,000 were wounded. Over 850 units of various armoured hardware were knocked out during fighting and acts of sabotage, including 20 of the latest T-90 tanks. A total of 20 planes and 76 helicopters were shot down.

Some 40,000-45,000 civilians of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria (CRI) have died since the start of the Russian invasion. Over 300,000 have become refugees. Tens of thousands of CRI citizens are missing or in concentration camps and prisons on the territory of the CRI and in Russia. The Chechen side reports that Russian forces total in Chechnya 180,000. The Chechen armed forces and detachments of

people's militia number around 13,500 fighters. Up to 3,000 mujahedin are concentrated in bases in the mountains, ready for operations.

**3 August 2000** Viktor Kazantsev, official representative of the Russian president in the Southern Federal District, issues a statement urging the authorities and the law-enforcement agencies of the district to put up a barrier on the way of spreading religious extremism, specifically Wahhabism, in the Volga area.

**3 August 2000** Viktor Zakharov, newly appointed head of the FSS administration for Moscow and Moscow Region, is interviewed in *Izvestiya*.

**4 August 2000** The Federal Bodyguard Service head Yevgeniy Murov outlines the work of his department.

**4 August 2000** The staff of Russian presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy confirm the killing of two officers of the commandant's office of Chechnya's Vedenskiy District. Their names are: Lt-Col Barankin and Lt-Col Zakharenko.

**4 August 2000** Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko chairs a meeting of ministers and heads of state departments to discuss a draft government resolution on interaction between the federal executive power agencies and the president's representatives in the country's seven federal districts.

**4 August 2000** *Izvestiya* reports that some regional governors are refusing to take the heads of the new federal districts seriously.

**4 August 2000** Delegates at the coordinating conference of leaders of the law-enforcement agencies of the republics, Territories, and Regions of southern Russia and of the federal power structures located in the region meet in Nalchik to discuss law and order in the North Caucasus region and the tasks the law-enforcement agencies are to carry out to strengthen law and order in the Southern Federal District.

**4 August 2000** The Russian Interior Ministry's investigation committee gives the results of work of the ministry's preliminary investigation agencies during the first half of the year. A total of 515,900 people were held accountable for various crimes in Russia during the first half of 2000. Almost 392,000 criminal cases were sent to the courts. The number of cases requiring additional investigation went down. The number of cases on organized crime during the first half of 2000 grew by one-third compared with the same period last year. The number of cases on banditry sent to the courts increased by 5 per cent and on illegal drug dealing by 6.5 per cent. The preliminary investigation agencies resumed their work in Chechnya on 1 November 1999. They dealt with 1,373 criminal cases, including 310 cases sent to the courts (presumably during the first half of 2000). A total of 354 people were charged and taken into custody.

**4 August 2000** *Izvestiya* quotes the Bashkir Constitutional Court chairman, the speakers of the Bashkortostan and Tatarstan parliament and politician Sergey Shakhrai, as criticising the Russian Constitutional Court ruling banning sovereign states within Russia.

**4 August 2000** The Moscow arbitration court has thrown out most of the demands made by the Federal Tax Police Service against the oil company LUKoil.

**4 August 2000** *Kommersant* reports that a special plenum of the All-Tatar Public Centre ATPC has approved the concept of creating a confederation of Idel-Ural national republics, which is to unite the Volga and Ural regions - for resistance to "Russian aggression".

**5 August 2000** Chechen Vice-President Vakha Arsanov denies reports that the Chechen armed forces were preparing large-scale combat operations for 6 August (Chechen independence day).

**5 August 2000** Vladimir Putin signs into law changes and amendments to the federal law "On the general principles of the organization of local self-government in the Russian Federation". The new law, passed by the State Duma on 7 July, enables not only the president but also heads of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation to remove those at the head of municipal authorities.

**7 August 2000** Vladimir Putin signs the law on the new tax code.

**7 August 2000** Vladimir Putin signs the federal law on the formation of the Federation Council. In accordance with the new law the Federation Council will be made up of two representatives from each of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation, one each from the legislative and the executive bodies of regional power.

**7 August 2000** Vladimir Putin appoints Gennadiy Apanasenko first deputy to his representative to the Far Eastern Federal District. Putin also appoints Vladislav Tumanov first deputy presidential representative to the Urals Federal District.

**7 August 2000** Russian Public TV reports the military intelligence service of the Russian federal troops claims that Chechen rebels are receiving aid from Georgian territory.

**7 August 2000** The chief of staff of the Russian Federal Border Service frontier group, Maj-Gen Sergey Zhilkin, says Russian border guards are taking additional measures to strengthen the Tajik-Afghan section of the CIS southern frontiers owing to the escalation in military operations on the territory of the adjacent state.

**8 August 2000** A bomb explodes in Pushkin underpass in Moscow, killing 6 and wounding 50. Mayor Yuri Luzhkov blames Chechen terrorists. Two men are arrested.

**8 August 2000** Travel restrictions on Radio Liberty correspondent Andrey Babitskiy have been lifted with the receipt of guarantees from *Novaya Gazeta* editor-in-chief Dmitriy Muratov and State Duma deputies Sergey Yushenkov and Yuriy Shchekochikhin.

**8 August 2000** Vladimir Putin meets Interior Minister Vladimir Rushaylo, Defence Minister Igor Sergeev, First Deputy Director of the FSS Vladimir Pronichev and Emergencies Minister Sergey Shoygu to discuss the Moscow bombing.

**8 August 2000** A number of prominent political and public figures concerned about the threat of authoritarianism in Russia issue a joint appeal calling for a new public political movement to be born. Signing the document were the writer Vasiliy Aksenov, tycoon Boris Berezovskiy, actor Sergey Bodrov, movie maker Stanislav Govorukhin, journalist Otto Latsis, theatre director Yuriy Lyubimov, actor Oleg Menshikov, the former first deputy chief of the presidential staff Igor Shabdurasulov, and a "founding father" of perestroyka, Aleksandr Yakovlev.

**8 August 2000** The newspaper *Versiya* says Mikhail Kasyanov may be replaced as prime minister by Sergey Ivanov.

**9 August 2000** The FSS and Interior bodies detain two men of Caucasian descent who might have been involved in the terrorist act in Pushkin square in Moscow. One of the detained men is a Chechen and the other one comes from Dagestan.

**9 August 2000** Vladimir Putin says that the Moscow bombers may not necessarily be Chechen.

**9 August 2000** Vladimir Putin visits the scene of the explosion in the underpass on Pushkin Square.

**9 August 2000** The director of the FSS, Nikolay Patrushev, states that the blast in Pushkin Square is regarded as being an act of terrorism.

**9 August 2000** Vladimir Putin has abolished the Political Consultative Council. Putin's main department for internal policy, together with the state-law main department and with the participation of public organizations, political parties and movements have been instructed to draft and, following established procedure, to table a proposal within two months on the organization and functioning of the Russian president's consultative and advisory bodies.

**10 August 2000** Russian President Vladimir Putin has a working meeting with former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in the Kremlin. The formation of the State Council is among the issues being discussed.

**10 August 2000** The Russian Federal Tax Police Service confiscates documents from the Moscow HQ of the Sibneft oil company.

**10 August 2000** The department of the FSS of the Russian Federation for the Chechen republic says it has no information concerning the possible involvement of residents of the republic in the 8 August explosion at central Moscow's Pushkin Square.

**10 August 2000** It is reported that eight people were killed and 97 injured as a result of the blast on 8 August.

**10 August 2000** Russia's Finance Ministry collegium approves as a whole the draft federal budget for 2001. Deputy Finance Minister Tatyana Golikova stresses that the main characteristic of the 2001 federal budget will be a total revenue-expenditure balance. The figure for both components is planned at R1,187bn.

**10 August 2000** The Northern Fleet begins large-scale exercises.

**10 August 2000** Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko and representatives of the Russian chief executive in the federal districts meet and discuss questions of their cooperation with the cabinet. The Russian president's representatives in federal districts will attend government meetings, "above all, on questions directly pertaining to subjects of the Russian Federation or on questions of importance for their districts". They will have non-voting rights at these meetings.

**11 August 2000** The Russian Security Council meets to discuss military reform. Putin allegedly takes the side of the General Staff. The Strategic Rocket Forces will remain a separate branch of the armed forces.

**11 August 2000** NVO interviews the head of the Russian air force's Main Staff, Lt-Gen Boris Cheltsov. He says the air force is still working to define its position in the new structure of the armed forces.

**12 August 2000** Russian nuclear powered submarine Kursk sinks.

**12 August 2000** Putin holds a meeting with the prime minister and the "power-wielding" ministers. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov, Defence Minister Igor Sergeev, Interior Minister Vladimir Rushaylo, Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, Russian Security Council Secretary Sergey Ivanov and FSS Director Nikolay Patrushev.

**12 August 2000** The Kavkaz centre website accuses Russian forces of using bacteriological weapons in Chechnya.

**13 August 2000** The jubilee Bishops' Assembly of the Russian Orthodox Church opens at the Christ the Saviour Cathedral in Moscow. Patriarch Aleksiy II says that in the near future the assembly will "determine the direction of the Russian Church's development in the new millennium". He welcomes cooperation with the Catholic Church but opposes Catholic expansion in Russia. He also protests against "attempts by external forces to split the Russian Orthodox Church and shatter its unity".

**14 August 2000** Russian military sources say the financing of Chechen rebels from abroad is increasing.

**14 August 2000** The Bishops' Council of the Russian Orthodox Church adopts a unanimous decision to canonize Tsar Nikolay II and the members of his family.

**14 August 2000** Ingush President Ruslan Aushev asks Vladimir Putin to introduce "direct presidential rule" in Prigorodnyy District of North Osetia.

**15 August 2000** Vladimir Putin appoints Lt-Gen Vyacheslav Khalilov deputy commander of the Moscow military district, responsible for combat training.

**16 August 2000** Vladimir Putin meets Russian academicians in the Dagomys Centre. The main issue under discussion is the latest achievements in the country's science sector and the problems of its financing. They discuss the brain drain.

**16 August 2000** Mikhail Kasyanov signs a resolution of the Russian government on the order of interaction of the government and federal bodies of executive power with presidential envoys in the seven federal districts.

**17 August 2000** The leadership of Yedinstvo approves a blueprint for the party's participation in the forthcoming regional elections.

**17 August 2000** Mikhail Kasyanov says Russia has asked for foreign assistance in attempting to rescue the Kursk submariners. The Northern Fleet press service says there may be oxygen on the Kursk to last until 20 August 2000.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov says he can not see a single flaw in the actions of the Northern Fleet command to rescue the crew of the Kursk. He says the Kursk shows no signs of an internal explosion; the Kursk was damaged in a collision with a big ship.

Russian Emergencies Minister Sergey Shoygu says Russia has the know-how to seal sunken nuclear submarines, ruling out the leakage of radioactive materials

into the sea and the contamination of the environment as a result of the corrosion of the reactor body.

**18 August 2000** Boris Nemtsov condemns the behaviour of Vladimir Putin over the Kursk. Deputy prime minister Ilya Klebanov says a Northern Fleet flotilla will still be sent to the Mediterranean Sea. Putin says his first wish was to fly to Murmansk when he heard of the Kursk's sinking, but the arrival of non experts gets in the way. He says Russia "had never refused assistance and had accepted it at once as the offers arrived".

**18 August 2000** Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says the draft federal budget for 2001 sets aside R4.5bn for Chechnya. This year about R3.5bn will be allocated for the war torn republic. Together with off-budget sources, Chechnya is to get about R7bn.

**18 August 2000** The Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church asks Vladimir Putin to help reconstitute all the church property and to negotiate compensation for the property demolished or ruined in Soviet times.

**19 August 2000** Patriarch Aleksey II consecrates the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, Moscow's main church.

**19 August 2000** Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov says that the sunken nuclear submarine Kursk may be lifted from the bottom "only through underwater cooperation".

**20 August 2000** Voting for the Duma seat in Chechnya takes place.

**20 August 2000** Norwegian divers go down to the Kursk. NTV reports that the relatives of the Kursk submariners think that the authorities are lying to them. Boris Berezovskiy criticises Putin's handling of the Kursk disaster. Capt Sergey Prokofyev of the antisubmarine ship Admiral Chabanenko says it did not discover any foreign submarines in its control zone during the recent Northern Fleet exercises.

**21 August 2000** The head of the Russian Interior Ministry's public order department Lt-Gen Aleksandr Chekalin says the fifth phase of the Vikhr-Antiterror campaign that was launched after the 8th August blast in the underground passage in Moscow has resulted in the detention of 408 suspected criminals and the confiscation of 124 tonnes of explosives, 3,800 pieces of firearms and more than 4m pieces of ammunition.

**21 August 2000** The Russian government has decided to increase its allocation to the Murmansk regional administration to give financial aid to the families of the crew members of the submarine Kursk to R1.5m from R0.5m.

Gennady Seleznev calls for an investigation commission into the Kursk disaster. Federation Council Chairman Yegor Stroyev calls for creating a parliamentary commission to investigate the Kursk nuclear submarine accident in the Barents Sea.

Northern Fleet commander Adm Vyacheslav Popov says it has finally been established by a joint investigation of the nuclear submarine Kursk, which sank in the Barents Sea on 12th August, by Russian and foreign experts that the entire submarine is flooded and all the crew of 118 men has perished.

Defence minister Igor Sergeyev says that "mistakes were made" in dealing with the stricken Russian submarine Kursk.

**22 August 2000** The governor of Kursk Region, Aleksandr Ruts koy, says there was a "nonregulation torpedo" on board the submarine Kursk. He says, "I do not rule out the possibility that the exercises in the Barents Sea might have been combined with testing of the new torpedo, and that this caused the destruction of the nuclear submarine."

Putin visits Murmansk

The URF and Yabloko issues a call in *Segodnya* for civilian monitoring of power structures following the Kursk disaster.

Putin criticizes naval rescue services at a meeting with relatives of the Kursk crewmen.

Ivan Shabanov, the chairman of the Federation Council committee for security and defence and governor of Voronezh Region says the Federation Council will set up a working group to investigate the causes of the Kursk submarine tragedy.

Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov who heads the ad hoc government commission for investigating the last week's nuclear submarine accident, says as long ago as on the second half of the day on the 14th August it was clear that there was no-one alive in the Kursk submarine. He says if the Norwegian rescue divers had arrived at the site of the Kursk sinking earlier, it would not have changed the situation. Klebanov also expressed his indignation about media attacks on the Russian Northern Fleet command and Russian leadership in relation to the failure of the rescue operation in the Barents Sea.

**22 August 2000** *Moskovskiy Komsomolets* accuses Putin, and the defence minister Igor Sergeyev of "criminal sluggishness" over the Kursk.

**22 August 2000** The Russian government approves the 2001 federal draft budget. Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says that the share of the gross domestic product to finance the Russian army will rise with every passing year. Over R206bn will be appropriated from the federal budget next year under the article "National Defence". Power-wielding structures will receive more than R129bn from the budget. All in all, power-wielding structures, including the Interior Ministry which is partially financed from budgets of regions, will receive R164bn next year. Kudrin specifies

that the budget has a special item, providing for allocating R3.9bn to fund the reform of the armed forces.

**22 August 2000** The Chechen Election Commission announces that General Aslanbek Aslakhanov has won the State Duma by-elections held on Sunday with 31 per cent of the voters supporting him.

**22 August 2000** Segodnya reports that the FSS has been granted the power to bug telephones and mobile telephones and to gain access to emails without obtaining legal permission.

**23 August 2000** NTV reports that signs of radioactive contamination have been registered on the Barents Sea coast. However the Norwegian Crisis Committee for Nuclear Accidents set up after reports on the Kursk tragedy said none of the tests taken by its experts show any signs of leaks.

Russian navy officials categorically deny reports that the sunken submarine Kursk may have collided with a Russian project 941 strategic submarine (Typhoon by NATO classifications) or with a large antisubmarine ship, the Marshal Ustinov.

Mourning functions are cancelled in the northern settlement of Vidyayevo, where the submarine Kursk was based.

Putin is interviewed on TV on the Kursk disaster. He says he has refused to accept the resignations of Defence Minister Igor Sergeev and senior navy commanders until a thorough investigation of the circumstances of the sinking have been carried out. He accused unnamed groups and individuals of seeking to make political capital from the sinking of the Kursk, and assured viewers that, despite the setback, there would be a revival of both the navy and the state.

Military-diplomatic sources say Russia intends to step up efforts aimed at expanding the scope of agreements with Western countries on preventing accidents in the high seas and the airspace above them. They say that British and US submarines frequently enter Russian waters and collisions take place.

*Krasnaya Zvezda* criticises western navies from sailing submarines near the Russian coastline. Had three foreign submarines stayed away from the Barents Sea on the tragic day of 12th August, there would be no pretext to suspect them of complicity to the Kursk submarine accident.

**23 August 2000** A VTsIOM poll shows a drop in support for Putin since the Kursk disaster. At the end of August 2000, 65 per cent of Russians supported his efforts as president compared to 73 per cent at the end of July. The number of Russians disapproving of Putin's activities grew from 17 per cent in July to 26 per cent in August. The All-Russian Public Opinion Centre polled 1,574 people on 21 August.

**23 August 2000** The Russian Justice Ministry's bailiff service is carrying out a seizure of money at the premises of Most Bank. R1.5m and 80,000 dollars are seized.

**23 August 2000** Former State Duma deputy and one of the leaders of a new sociopolitical movement Boris Berezovskiy has called on President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin to consolidate society and not divide it. He is critical of Putin's comments over the Kursk incident.

**24 August 2000** The relatives of the dead crew of the nuclear submarine Kursk set sail for the site on the Barents Sea where the submarine sank.

The Russian prosecutor-general initiates a criminal investigation into the sinking of the Kursk.

The first deputy chief of the General Staff of the Russian armed forces, Col-Gen Valeriy Manilov, says the disaster may bring corrections to the plan of the voyage by a multi-purpose flotilla of the ships from the Northern, Baltic and Black Sea Fleets to the Mediterranean.

**24 August 2000** Vladimir Putin has signs a decree instructing the government to raise by 20 per cent from 1st December 2000 the pay of servicemen, the staff of internal affairs bodies, the Justice Ministry's main penal directorate, customs and tax police bodies.

**24 August 2000** At a regular sitting of the Federal Antiterrorist Commission, Prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov says the struggle against terrorism will continue.

**25 August 2000** Most Bank says its operations have been fully blocked.

**25 August 2000** The head of the Audit Chamber, Sergey Stepashin, says the Audit Chamber is to consider the results of the checks conducted on the United Energy Systems joint-stock company at its board meeting on 1 September.

**24 August 2000** Vladimir Putin appoints Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin as governor for Russia at the International Monetary Fund. Tatyana Paramonova is appointed deputy IMF governor for Russia.

**24 August 2000** New CIS air defence exercises are in progress at the Ashuluk training ground in Astrakhan Region. In addition to the regular participants, Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, air defence units have been sent from Armenia, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. The Uzbek military were also expected to attend but their visit had to be cancelled because of the continued fighting against Islamic fighters in that republic. Ukraine, on the other hand, sent two Su-27 fighters to mark its attendance for the first time.

**24 August 2000** Exercises aimed at wiping out major rebel groups are taking place in eastern Russia under the leadership of Armed Forces Chief of General Staff Gen Anatoliy Kvashnin.

**25 August 2000** Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says radiation background levels in the area where the nuclear-powered submarine Kursk sank two weeks ago remain normal.

**25 August 2000** The posts of president and vice-president have been instituted in the republic of Karachay-Cherkessia by deputies of the Karachay-Cherkessia people's assembly, who simultaneously abolished the post of the head of Karachay-Cherkessia.

**26 August 2000** Vladimir Putin holds a meeting in the Kremlin attended by Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov, head of the presidential administration Aleksandr Voloshin, Security Council Secretary Sergey Ivanov, Internal Affairs Minister Vladimir Rushaylo, Defence Minister Igor Sergeev, FSS Director Nikolay Patrushev and Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov. Putin holds a working meeting with Vladimir Rushaylo and Sergey Ivanov.

**28 August 2000** A major fire takes place at Ostankino TV tower.

NTV offers its broadcasting facilities to ORT following the Ostankino fire. Information minister Mikhail Lesin rejects the offer.

**28 August 2000** The Ingush leadership protests against the shelling of its territory by Russian forces in Chechnya.

**28 August 2000** Sergey Grigoryants, Glasnost Foundation head, says in an interview with *Ekho Moskv*y radio that 10 people wearing masks and the uniform of OMON (rapid-reaction police) raided the Glasnost Foundation.

**28 August 2000** The federal draft budget for 2001 sets aside a total of R42.442bn for expenditure in the fields of industry, energy and construction. The bill on the draft budget has been presented to the State Duma. Total defence expenditure is to be R206.324bn, with R195.898bn for upkeep of the armed forces, R5.129bn for the atomic energy programme, R2.277bn for mobilization and reserve training, R2.715bn for CIS collective security and peacekeeping, and R302m for defence industries.

**29 August 2000** A member of the governmental commission investigating the accident on the nuclear submarine Kursk, Sergey Zhekov, says a new torpedo test is likely to have caused Kursk accident.

**29 August 2000** Deputy Prime Minister Valentina Matviyenko attends functions in Kazan devoted to the decade of the Republic of Tatarstan. She says there is a need for joint painstaking work to bring legislation of regions in coordination with federal laws.

**29 August 2000** The Krasnoyarsk region's prosecutor's office protests a ruling made by Valentina Gordiyenko, the judge of the central court of Krasnoyarsk, to release businessman Anatoliy Bykov.

**29 August 2000** It is announced that the Russian government will provide R60m by the end of 2000 for the establishment of the Interior Ministry units in the new federal districts. According to the Interior Ministry main financial and economic department, the draft budget for 2001 envisages the financing of the districts' police. The districts' units will be manned by acting policemen. The commanders and their deputies will be appointed and fired by the president. Prior to that they are to be put forward to the appointment by the Interior Minister. Security Council Secretary Sergey Ivanov is charged with controlling the new units' formation and supply.

**29 August 2000** Vladimir Putin meets Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov. They discuss the Kursk. Klebanov says work on a project to raise the Kursk nuclear submarine that went down in the Barents Sea is to begin at the end of September. The submarine will be lifted after one year in September 2001. The deputy Prime Minister lets it be known that the torpedo launch was not being viewed as one of the likely causes of the disaster. Klebanov thinks military budget for the year 2001 (R206 billion) will not change.

**30 August 2000** Vladimir Putin visits Samara.

**30 August 2000** Russian Interior Minister Vladimir Rushaylo says on average, from seven to 15 employees of internal affairs agencies die in Russia every week while detaining criminals.

**30 August 2000** The deputy head of the criminal police of Moscow Region's Main Directorate for Internal Affairs, Vladimir Novokshchenov, says there are currently 74 ethnically-based criminal groupings operating in Moscow city and Moscow Region. He says Georgian, Azeri and Chechen groups dominate.

**31 August 2000** The Russian Agency for Conventional Armaments boosted the sales of most types of weapons by 25.6 per cent in the first six months of 2000 compared to the same period last year, with exports totalling R8bn.

## ***September***

**1 September 2000** the MOD says a US Toledo sub was in the area of the Kursk disaster.

**1 September 2000** Vladimir Putin issues a decree approving the composition of a presidential commission for military-technical cooperation with foreign countries.

Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov was appointed commission chairman, Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov and deputy chief of the presidential administration Sergey Prikhodko - his deputies.

**1 September 2000** Putin decrees the formation of the State Council.

The State Council consists of the chairman of the State Council and its members who take part in its work on a voluntary basis. Members of the State Council are high-ranking officials (leaders of top executive bodies of state power) of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation. A presidium is to be formed for settling operational issues. It will consist of seven members. The Russian president decides who will be in the presidium. Its members are to rotate every six months. The presidium will hold sittings as and when necessary, but at least once a month. Its presidium is:

Viktor Ishayev, head of the Khabarovsk Territory administration;

Viktor Kress, head of the Tomsk Region administration (governor);

Yuriy Luzhkov, Moscow mayor;

Magomedali Magomedov, chairman of the State Council of the Republic of Dagestan;

Leonid Roketskiy, Tyumen Region governor;

Mintimer Shaymiyev, president of the Republic of Tatarstan;

Vladimir Yakovlev, St Petersburg governor.

The deputy chief of the presidential administration Aleksandr Abramov will perform the duties of secretary.

**2 September 2000** The commander of the 58th Army, Lt-Gen Vladimir Shamanov, says operations to render Chechen warlords harmless never stop, but it is difficult to neutralize field commanders Khattab, Basayev and Gelayev as they change their whereabouts three to four times a day.

**2 September 2000** Vladimir Putin asks the leader of Ingushetia to revoke one of his decrees. Ruslan Aushev, president of Ingushetia, has recently issued a decree prohibiting people who are not registered as residents of the republic and who arrive from other regions and do not register with the Ingush migration service to sell, make a gift of or exchange residential houses and apartments, the press service said. The decree also bans notaries' offices from issuing authorities for possession, use and disposal of real estate to such people. It is valid until 1 January 2004.

**4 September 2000** Former Duma Deputy Boris Berezovskiy decides to transfer his package of shares in Russian Public Television to journalists and other representatives of the creative intelligentsia. He says so in a letter to Vladimir Putin.

Boris Nemtsov and other Duma deputies cast doubt on the authenticity of Boris Berezovskiy's transfer of shares.

**4 September 2000** The government adopts a decision "On measures to provide social protection for the families of servicemen who lost their lives whilst performing military duties aboard the nuclear submarine Kursk".

First Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Russian armed forces Col-Gen Valeriy Manilov say the Russian military leadership still believes collision with a large underwater object, comparable to the Russian submarine to be the most likely theory for the sinking of the Kursk.

**5 September 2000** Vladimir Putin signs a decree entitled "Issues within the remit of interdepartmental commissions of the Russian Security Council." The first clause of the decree stipulates establishment of a new commission under the Security Council - the commission in charge of problems of the CIS. The previously existing commissions have been renamed, and a new status of commission chairman has been endorsed. Thus, the commission for constitutional security shall be headed by the justice minister, and the commission for border guard policies is to be headed by the director of the Russian Federal Border Guard Service.

**5 September 2000** Boris Berezovskiy warns against Putin's striving for absolute power.

**6 September 2000** Yury Luzhkov says the Fatherland movement supports all efforts of the president to consolidate the executive authorities.

**6 September 2000** The leadership of Yedinstvo gives preliminary approval to a draft party programme.

**7 September 2000** A grenade explosion takes place in Moscow's Sukharevskaya Square. 16 people are injured.

**7 September 2000** Boris Berezovskiy says that the head of the president's administration, Aleksandr Voloshin, demanded that he hand over a package of Russian Public TV shares to the state.

**8 September 2000** Irina Khakamada, deputy speaker in Russia's State Duma, warns in *Komsomolskaya Pravda* of a threat to press freedom by the Russian authorities.

**8 September 2000** The Duma's autumn session begins.

**8 September 2000** Putin welcomes Berezovskiy's move to turn over the TV shares.

**8 September 2000** The deputy director of the Dagestani division of the FSS, Azizbek Cherkesov, told the antiterrorist commission reporting to the Dagestani

government that a Chechen force 2,000-strong has concentrated in Akhmeti District of Georgia.

**9 September 2000** *Ekho Moskvyy* Radio station reports that the daily analytical "Vremya" programme presented by Sergey Dorenko of ORT has been taken off the air on 9 September. Sergey Dorenko says his programme had "caused great annoyance in the Kremlin" which is why it had been taken off air with Putin's blessing.

**9 September 2000** Vladimir Putin signs a decree "On suspending the validity of the decree by the president of the Republic of Adygeya No 83 of 30 May 1994 "On measures to restrict migration into the Republic of Adygeya" as one that runs counter to the federal legislation.

**9 September 2000** Krasnoyarsk region governor Aleksandr Lebed sets up a party to campaign for the economic independence of Krasnoyarsk.

**10 September 2000** Boris Berezovskiy says that freedom of speech is being restricted in Russia.

**11 September 2000** URF parliamentary group leader Boris Nemtsov says he is worried over the plans to bring leading TV channels under state control.

**11 September 2000** Beslan Gantamirov, the former first deputy head of the Chechen administration, sharply criticizes head of the republic Akhmed Kadyrov while speaking at a rally in Groznyy.

**11 September 2000** Russian Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov officially denies assumptions that the Russian nuclear submarine Kursk was sunk by a torpedo launched from the Russian cruiser Petr Velikiy.

**12 September 2000** NTV reports that on 11 September a Zhiguli car nearly ran into the president's car on Kutuzovskiy Prospekt. The Zhiguli driver started manoeuvring in close proximity to the presidential motorcade, which was moving at high speed on its way out of town from the Kremlin. Officers from the main bodyguard directorate reacted to the actions of the Zhiguli, and their car split the suspicious Zhiguli away from the motorcade.

**12 September 2000** Deputy chief of the Russian Security Council's information security department Anatoliy Streltsov says Vladimir Putin endorsed on 9 September the Doctrine on Russian Information Security.

**12 September 2000** Vladimir Putin submits to parliament a draft amendment to budget legislation that would effectively ban regional administrations from signing international economic agreements.

**12 September 2000** The chief of the Kremlin bodyguard service's public relations centre Sergey Devyatov says information about a planned attempt on the life of Russian President Vladimir Putin at the informal summit of the CIS in Yalta in August has been received from the Russian special services. He confirmed that the Kremlin bodyguard service had received threats of an attempt on Putin's life during his stay in Ukraine.

**12 September 2000** The government commission to inquire into the causes of the Kursk submarine disaster opens in St Petersburg.

**12 September 2000** Andrey Nikolayev, Defence Committee chairman of the State Duma, says the Russian army will still lack new armament if the national defence section of the draft 2001 federal budget is left intact.

**12 September 2000** *Moskovskiy Komsomolets* reports that by 2003 the numerical strength of the Russian army is to be cut from 1.2m servicemen to 850,000. MK speculates that defence minister Igor Sergeev and his supporters will depart, and be replaced by supporters of Chief of the General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin.

**13 September 2000** The Presidium of the Russian Supreme Court rejects an appeal by the General Prosecutor's Office and left in force the decision of the St Petersburg municipal court of 29th December 1999 to acquit Aleksandr Nikitin, a former naval officer accused of espionage and of divulging to Norway state secrets about submarines.

**13 September 2000** The Kavkaz-Tsentr news agency has received the text of the resolution of the supreme military Majlis ul-Shura Congress of the Chechen mujahedin. The resolution is signed by Amir of the Majlis Shamil Basayev and military amir Khattab. It calls for the death of Putin. The supreme military Majlis ul-Shura announces the following financial rewards in US dollars for:  
Boris Yeltsin (ex-president of the Russian Federation) - 1m dollars;  
Vladimir Putin (president of the Russian Federation) - 2m dollars;  
Igor Sergeev (Russian Defence Minister) - 500,000 dollars;  
Anatoliy Kvashnin (head of the General Staff) - 500,000 dollars;  
Vladimir Rushaylo (Russian Interior Minister) - 300,000 dollars;  
Commander of the North Caucasus Military District Gennadiy Troshev (general) - 200,000 dollars;  
Commander of the 58th Army Vladimir Shamanov (general) - 200,000 dollars;  
Commander of the combined forces in the Northern Caucasus Viktor Kazantsev (general) - 200,000 dollars;  
First deputy chief of the General Staff Valeriy Manilov (general) - 150,000 dollars;  
Anatoliy Kornukov (commander of the Russian Air Force) - 300,000 dollars;  
Vladimir Kuroyedov (commander of the Russian Navy) - 300,000 dollars;

Sergey Ivanov (Russian Foreign Minister) - 300,000 dollars;  
 Vladimir Lukin (deputy of Russian State Duma) - 50,000 dollars;  
 Viktor Sheynis (deputy of Russian State Duma) - 50,000 dollars;  
 Russian Duma Deputy Gadzhi Makhachev (shepherd from Dagestan in the Russian State Duma) - 25,000 dollars;  
 Russian Duma Deputy Aslambek Aslakhanov (Chechen national scum in the Russian State Duma) - 25,000 dollars;  
 Mikhail Leont'yev (presenter of "Odnako" programme on the Russian Public TV) - 50,000 dollars;  
 Petr Deynekin (former commander of the Russian Air Force) - 200,000 dollars;  
 Anatoliy Kulikov (former Russian Interior Minister) 200,000 dollars;  
 Pavel Grachev (former Russian Defence Minister) - 200,000 dollars.  
 To receive the fixed sum, the executor of the sentence must confirm the execution of the sentence against a war criminal (with video or photo documents).

**13 September 2000** A senior presidential aide denies that Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov will be dismissed.

**13 September 2000** The chief executive of the Russian energy monopoly United Energy Systems, Anatoliy Chubays, signs an order prohibiting the cutting off of power supplies to strategic missile units that owe the company money for power consumption.

**13 September 2000** The Finance Ministry says it has allocated additional funds worth R1.3bn to the Defence Ministry to pay arrears to power suppliers in September 2000.

**13 September 2000** The Federal Tax Service says it has recovered about R6bn for the budget over the eight months of 2000 as a result of a number of criminal proceedings.

**13 September 2000** *Segodnya* says that Boris Berezovskiy is promoting TV presenter Sergey Dorenko as a rival to Putin.

**13 September 2000** The Prosecutor-General's Office says it will continue investigating the criminal case that involves Vladimir Gusinskiy.

**13 September 2000** Pavel Krasheninnikov, the chairman of an independent Russian commission on Chechnya, says he has sporadic contacts with civilians who back the Chechen separatists.

**14 September 2000** The leader of the People's Deputy group of deputies, Gennadiy Raykov, says that Putin does not rule out the possibility of lifting the moratorium on the death penalty.

**14 September 2000** Staff of the Moscow Regional Directorate for Combating Organized Crime have arrested a 26-year-old resident of Groznyy, Isa Verigov, for possession of explosives.

**14 September 2000** The Russian Union of Journalists sharply criticizes the information security doctrine approved by Putin.

*Segodnya* publishes an article criticising the new information security doctrine.

**14 September 2000** Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov signs the International Criminal Court statute at the instruction of President Vladimir Putin.

**15 September 2000** The Duma discusses the Kursk disaster.

**16 September 2000** The head of the Chechen administration Akhmed Kadyrov has warned of "serious negative consequences if the federal forces continued the practice of massive 'mopping-up operations' ". He says there could be protest actions.

**17 September 2000** President Vladimir Putin holds a planned meeting in the Kremlin with Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov, presidential administration head Aleksandr Voloshin, Security Council Secretary Sergey Ivanov and a number of power ministers.

**18 September 2000** Vladimir Gusinskiy states that the agreement concluded with Gazprom on 20th July 2000 on the transfer of all of Media-Most's member companies (to Gazprom) for debts, was signed under pressure.

**18 September 2000** Vladimir Kalamonov, the Russian president's special representative for ensuring human and civil rights in Chechnya, says he believes that Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe is impressed by work in Chechnya.

**19 September 2000** President Vladimir Putin orders implementation of the plan to recover the bodies of the crew from the sunken submarine Kursk and also to raise the wreck of the submarine.

**19 September 2000** The presidential press service informs RIA that Vladimir Putin has ordered stringent implementation of decrees and instructions relating to social guarantees and support for families of servicemen, who died while on duty.

**19 September 2000** The Russian Prosecutor-General's Office launches an inquiry in connection with a statement from the administration of gas giant Gazprom in which it requested that the question of the liability of Media-Most officials be

resolved in the matter of nonrepayment of a guaranteed loan and the transferring of assets offshore to avoid fulfilling contract obligations.

**19 September 2000** The public council of NTV asks Russian President Vladimir Putin for "an urgent meeting" with its chairman, the former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev. NTV council states that it believes "that appendix No 6 to the so-called contract between Gazprom-Media and Media-Most as a flagrant case of blackmail by the state".

**19 September 2000** Deputy Prosecutor-General Vasilii Kolmogorov says tycoon Vladimir Gusinskiy is to be questioned again. He says the Russian Prosecutor-General's Office, which has begun examining the situation surrounding the Media-Most holding's stock, may well open a criminal case.

**19 September 2000** Justice minister Yury Chayka reports to Vladimir Putin on exerting federal laws in the regions.

**20 September 2000** It is reported that Press minister Mikhail Lesin intends to sue Igor Malashenko, the first deputy of the Media-MOST holding, for slandering him on the NTV live "Hero of the Day" programme, broadcast this evening.

**20 September 2000** Boris Berezovskiy accuses Putin of behaving like Pinochet. He says Putin is attempting to gain control over the media.

**20 September 2000** Gennady Seleznev says the movement Rossiya will be an ally of the CPRF and will join the PPUR, but does not intend to convert into a political party.

**20 September 2000** Russian Interior Minister Vladimir Rushaylo leaves for Chechnya after meeting Magomedali Magomedov, chairman of the Dagestani state council and other republican leaders at Makhachkala airport.

**20 September 2000** A member of presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy's staff says charges have been brought against Russian Col Yuriy Budanov, who stands accused of raping and killing a young Chechen woman.

**21 September 2000** The Office of the Russian Prosecutor-General starts a criminal investigation into information relating to the diversion of assets of the Media-Most holding company.

**21 September 2000** The Moscow Directorate of the Federal Tax Police Service has brought criminal charges against the management of United Energy Systems for evading tax payments in excess of R3.2bn.

**22 September 2000** Bailiffs begin seizing the securities of NTV.

**22 September 2000** *Segodnya* claims that the presidential administration has formed a subdivision which Kremlin officials privately call a "rapid response group". Its job is to devise so-called active measures against mass media which the authorities find objectionable.

**22 September 2000** National Unity Party expels its leader Aleksandr Barkashov.

**22 September 2000** In *Kommersant* Chechen separatist leader Aslan Maskhadov calls for unconditional talks with Moscow.

**23 September 2000** The PPUR holds its third congress.

**26 September 2000** Yury Luzhkov says the registration of non-residents in Moscow will continue.

**27 September 2000** Journalist Andrey Babitskiy says that Putin authorised the exchange of him with Chechen POWs in January.

**27 September 2000** The Eastern and Western federal groups of forces in Chechnya have been disbanded in a reorganization of forces. The reorganization of forces mainly deals with the reduction of management chains.

**28 September 2000** The Russian Prosecutor-General's Office institutes criminal proceedings against the leaders of the companies that make up Media-Most.

**28 September 2000** The head of the General Staff's main organizational and mobilization department, Vladislav Putilin, says it is planned to cut the Russian armed forces personnel by over 350,000 from 2001 through to 2003.

**29 September 2000** The State Council holds its first meeting. Putin attends.

**29 September 2000** Russian Security Council Secretary Sergey Ivanov says there is no direct threat of the Taleban invading the territory of Tajikistan. He says "there is no urgent need to enhance the Russian military presence in Tajikistan".

**29 September 2000** The Russian Central Electoral Commission says it regards as illegal the transfer of the date for Tatarstan's presidential elections from March 2001 to 24 December 2000.

**29 September 2000** The Russian government says it will fund the activities of Russian and Norwegian teams regarding the sunken nuclear submarine Kursk.

**29 September 2000** Anatoliy Kvashnin, head of the Russian General Staff, makes it clear that the military units of the Russian armed forces will not be sharply downsized. He says the Airborne Troops are to play "the most important role in carrying out peacekeeping tasks and eliminating local armed conflicts".

**30 September 2000** Vladimir Putin issues a decree "On calling up citizens of the Russian Federation into the army and dismissing servicemen who have undergone compulsory military service".

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