

Russian Domestic Policy: Chronology

October-December 2000

October

2 October 2000 Press minister Mikhail Lesin says the Russian media law must be updated and says that foreign stations in Russia must be placed under equal conditions with Russian stations. He says legislation on the operation of certain stations, in particular Radio Liberty, needs clarification.

2 October 2000 Radio Liberty correspondent Andrey Babitskiy pleads not guilty to charges of knowingly using forged documents. He is on trial at the Sovetskiy District court in Makhachkala.

4 October 2000 The Buryat parliament adopts a package of amendments to the republican constitution, which remove most of the contradictions between the republican and federal legislation.

4 October 2000 Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says the Russian government plans to dramatically increase defence spending in 2001.

5 October 2000 RIA reports that a group of Russian senators is preparing a challenge in the Constitutional Court to laws initiated by the president which have been directed at reinforcing the vertical lines of government. RIA says Chuvash President Nikolay Fedorov and Moscow city дума chairman Vladimir Platonov have drafted an appeal to the Constitutional Court.

4 October 2000 The chairman of Russia's Central Electoral Commission (CEC) Aleksandr Veshnyakov says that federal legislation must take precedence over regional legislation in the forthcoming gubernatorial elections and that the CEC would be monitoring the situation carefully. He singles out the authorities in Ingushetia, Irkutsk Region, Tatarstan and Udmurtia for criticism of the way regional elections are being conducted.

5 October 2000 A new interfaction group of deputies called Russia's North is set up in the State Duma. The chairman of the Duma Committee for the North and Far East, Valentina Pivnenko, is elected the group's chairman.

Russian Domestic Policy: Chronology October-December 2000

5 October 2000 The Public prosecutor and department head of Dagestan prosecutor's office Rashidkhan Magomedov asks the court to condemn Radio Liberty journalist Andrey Babitskiy under the provisions of Article 327 of the Russian Criminal Code (using false documents) and fine him minimum wages of about R20,000.

5 October 2000 Deputy chief of the General Staff of the Russian armed forces Col-Gen Valery Manilov says since the start of the operation in Chechnya (from 1 October 1999 - 4 October 2000), 2,472 servicemen from the Russian Defence Ministry and Internal Affairs Ministry have been killed in Chechnya and 7,076 have been wounded. Manilov says that Defence Ministry casualties in Chechnya were 1,644 dead and 4,603 wounded. Twenty-six federal servicemen were reported missing. Manilov also says that according to the information available to the Russian General Staff, Chechen rebel ringleaders Khattab, Shamil Basayev and Aslan Maskhadov are still in Chechnya.

6 October 2000 Andrey Babitskiy is found guilty at the Sovetskiy District court in Makhachkala of using false documents. The court sentences Babitsky to a small fine and immediately releases him from custody since this article automatically comes under an amnesty law.

6 October 2000 Russia's State Duma passes the country's draft 2001 federal budget at first reading, with 232 deputies voting in favour, 186 against and two abstentions.

6 October 2000 Russian President Vladimir Putin tells a meeting of agricultural industry workers that one of the major goals in achieving "food security" was to avoid dependence on imports. The president said "agriculture has become a profitable industry". This year's harvest is larger than last year's, with "grain growers harvesting 65m tonnes of grain."

6 October 2000 Russian Interior Minister Vladimir Rushaylo expresses concern over the spread of sects in Russia.

6 October 2000 The head of the interim administration in Chechnya, Akhmad Kadyrov, and the Russian president's deputy plenipotentiary representative in the Southern Federal District, Gen Vladimir Bokovikov, hold talks with two Chechen field commanders, Arbi Bisultanov and Vakhid Shakirov. It is reported that Shakirov has surrendered.

6 October 2000 The Russian Emergencies Ministry says three bombs have exploded in Stavropol Territory.

7 October 2000 Russian Economic Development and Trade Minister German Gref, attending the fourth Russian-US investment symposium in Boston, attacks NTV, saying the company's financial problems have nothing to do with freedom of speech.

Dr M A Smith

9 October 2000 At an extraordinary session the Tatar parliament cancels its earlier decision of 23 September setting 24 December 2000 as a date for electing the president of the republic.

11 October 2000 The Kavkaz Tsenter website reports that the Chechen mujahedin command has approved its plans for its winter campaign.

11 October 2000 Ingush Emergencies Minister Valery Kuksa says Chechen refugee camps in Ingushetia may remain unprepared for winter due to poor financing. He says, "The federal budget has not transferred a single kopeck for maintenance of refugees since 5th August." The federal authorities are only responsible for 20% of humanitarian aid directed to Chechens staying in Ingushetia, the rest is provided by various international organizations. Russia's Federal Migration Service and other federal agencies owe Ingushetia over R450m (about 16.2m dollars) for maintenance of refugees.

11 October 2000 The chief of staff of the North Caucasus directorate of the Federal Border Guard Service, Maj-Gen Valery Putov, says the construction of barracks for border guards stationed at the mountainous Chechen section of the Russian-Georgian border since the end of 1999 has not been completed due to insufficient financing. The border guards will have to spend the winter in dug-outs.

11 October 2000 Maj-Gen Viktor Shvidkin says he will stay as acting chief of the Moscow interior department at least until 4 December 2000. Moscow Mayor Yury Luzhkov is still opposing his appointment.

11 October 2000 Commander-in-Chief of the Russian navy Admiral Vladimir Kuroyedov says that work has been completed on drafting Russia's naval doctrine.

Kuroyedov confirms his preparedness to resign because of the Kursk disaster.

12 October 2000 Vladimir Putin opens a meeting of the State Council presidium.

12 October 2000 Head of the interim Chechen administration Akhmad Kadyrov says the Chechen republic's ministries will be transferred from Gudermes to Grozny on 1 November.

14 October 2000 Aleksandr Barkashov, chairman of the radical movement Russian National Unity (RNU) is dismissed from his post. RNU is renamed Russian Revival (*Russkoye Vozrozhdeniye*).

16 October 2000 Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says the Russian government is ready to increase defence spending in 2001 by R12.5m.

Russian Domestic Policy: Chronology October-December 2000

16 October 2000 It is announced that the Russian government has endorsed the procedure for the accounting and utilization of funds obtained by the armed forces of the Russian Federation for services rendered in training military personnel on behalf of foreign states, for military technical cooperation, as well as for other activity allowed under Russian law.

16 October 2000 It is reported that the Strategic Missile Troops are slowing the rate of deployment of new RS-12M2 Topol-M strategic missile complexes because of limited funding. Funding has been cut to about a third of what was planned for this year.

17 October 2000 A CIS HQ spokesman says CIS military cooperation headquarters drafts the federal bill "Concerning the status and protection of air space of the Russian Federation."

17 October 2000 A ROMIR poll gives Putin a 56% approval rating. 5.6% disapprove, and 29.6% did not know.

17 October 2000 Aleksandr Zhukov, chairman of the Duma Budget and Taxes Committee, says that the committee has decided to increase defence spending by R12.6bn.

17 October 2000 The Federal Security Service (FSB) applies to the Ministry of Justice to close down the charity organization called the Society of Social Reforms. The FSB claims that this name is a cover for Islamic extremists.

18 October 2000 A State Duma commission has recommended that Vladimir Putin create a single body of federal authority in Chechnya to control both the federal armed forces and the civilian ministries and government agencies there.

18 October 2000 Beslan Gantamirov is appointed to the post of head of administration in Groznyy.

18 October 2000 The Duma votes by an overwhelming majority against a draft law which would allow the election of heads of the regional bodies of executive power for more than two consecutive terms.

18 October 2000 A commission consisting of experts from Tatarstan, the Volga Federal District, Moscow and Nizhnyy Novgorod begins analyzing Tatarstan laws with a view to bringing them into line with federal laws.

18 October 2000 Col-Gen Mikhail Pankov, the new Chief of Main Staff of the Internal Troops of the Interior Ministry, takes up office.

Dr M A Smith

19 October 2000 The widow of the commander of the submarine Kursk, Irina Lyachina, announces her resignation from the commission set up to offer assistance over the sailors' deaths in Murmansk Region. In an open letter published in *Komsomolskaya Pravda* she accuses commission members of inappropriate use of the fund's money, which was sent in from all over the country in the form of voluntary contributions towards helping the families of the dead crew members of the Kursk.

Vladimir Putin instructs Vladimir Kuroyedov, commander-in-chief of the Russian navy, and Deputy Prime Minister Valentina Matviyenko to sort out the incidence of the misuse of funds

19 October 2000 Nikolay Fedorov, the president of the Chuvash republic and deputy chairman of the Federation Council's International Affairs Committee, says that limiting the period in office of the heads of constituent parts of the Russian Federation to two (four-year) terms is "a violation of the existing constitution and of all the principles of the Russian federal system."

20 October 2000 The State Duma approves the draft 2001 federal budget on the second reading. The budget was passed with 302 votes in favour, 129 against and one abstention.

20 October 2000 Vladimir Putin tells Gazprom head Rem Vyakhirev and United Energy Systems (UES) head Anatoly Chubays that a strategy of the Russian fuel and energy balance till the year 2020 must be drafted by the end of November.

21 October 2000 Divers begin cutting into the outer hull of the ninth section of the nuclear submarine Kursk.

22 October 2000 ITAR-TASS reports that a search for German TV reporters who have illegally arrived in Chechnya from neighbouring Ingushetia is under way.

23 October 2000 The presidential plenipotentiary representative in Central Federal District, Georgy Poltavchenko, says Putin is not involved in the court decision to ban Aleksandr Rutskoy from running in the Kursk gubernatorial election.

23 October 2000 It is reported that the conciliatory commission to bring Tatarstan's laws in accordance with federal law has concluded the first stage of its work. The Tatarstan State Council is to amend 26 laws that run counter to federal legislation. Another 27 legislative acts are disputed.

23 October 2000 A conference "The Russian Media: Market and Information Security" is held on information security in Moscow. Anatoly Streltsov, deputy head of the Information Security Department in the staff of the Russian Security Council and one of the authors of the information security doctrine, attends the conference.

Russian Domestic Policy: Chronology October-December 2000

Streltsov says he believes it is necessary "to define the status of foreign media and foreign journalists in Russia".

Russian presidential spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, speaking at the conference, says that laws regulating the activities of mass media in emergency situations should be adopted in Russia.

23 October 2000 The Russian United Social Democratic Party (RUSDP) led by Mikhail Gorbachev and the Socialist Party of Russia (SPR) led by Ivan Rybkin decide to merge.

23 October 2000 Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov orders the creation of mobile groups of rebels in every settlement for a large-scale guerrilla war during the autumn and winter.

24 October 2000 Vladimir Putin meets Economic Development and Trade Minister German Gref. Putin says the state must maintain strict control over the major natural monopolies.

24 October 2000 Navy C in C Admiral Vladimir Kuroyedov says during a meeting with the wives of submariners at the Northern Fleet base of Vidyayev that "I am 80% convinced there was a collision" between the Kursk and another submarine.

24 October 2000 A command and staff exercise takes place in North Osetia. Police units and services of the North Osetian Interior Ministry, in co-operation with units of the 58th combined army, 99th Interior Ministry troops division, 44th Federal Border Guard Service detachment, the Emergencies Ministry North Osetian department and the Federal Security Service North Osetian department trained in measures for curbing militant penetration into the territory of the republic. The exercise is being held on the order of Interior Minister Vladimir Rushaylo. It is commanded by Lt-Gen Kazbek Dzantiyev, the North Osetian interior minister.

25 October 2000 Chechen Housing and Public Utilities Minister Adu Sugaipov says the Chechen administration is likely to postpone its move to Grozny because conditions are nonexistent for normal functioning of governing bodies in Grozny. He says funds have not so far been allocated to Grozny's reconstruction.

25 October 2000 Russian divers cut a hole in the reinforced inner wall of the No 8 compartment of the sunken nuclear submarine Kursk.

25 October 2000 Presidential envoy to the Southern Federal District Viktor Kazantsev says "new and flexible administrative agencies" may be established in Chechnya shortly. He says an appropriate presidential decree and a provision on the functions of the new agencies are being drafted.

Dr M A Smith

25 October 2000 Federation Council chairman Yegor Stroyev is interviewed on Russia TV on centre-regional relations.

26 October 2000 The head of the Russian navy's press service, Igor Dygalo, says that a note found in the pocket of Lt-Capt Kolesnikov, one of the dead seamen from the Kursk nuclear submarine whose body has been raised to the surface, says that 23 people were left alive on the submarine after the accident.

26 October 2000 In an interview with *Le Figaro*, Putin says the main goals which were set in Chechnya a year ago have been achieved and the antiterrorism operation there is nearing its final stage.

Putin says that democratic elections will be held in Chechnya "as soon as the situation there is ripe for them". Putin says there are two main tasks in Chechnya: to rule out the possibility of Chechnya being used as "a springboard to attack Russia" and to "rid the Chechen people of fundamentalism". Putin says that bandits plan to create a so-called new state - "The United States of Islam", stretching from the Baltic to the Black Sea.

Russian presidential human rights envoy to Chechnya Vladimir Kalamonov says he is surprised and disappointed at the latest report from the international organization Human Rights Watch (HRW) on Chechnya.

27 October 2000 A Circassian, Alik Kardanov, has been appointed chairman of Karachay-Cherkessia government by decree of the republic's president, Vladimir Semenov.

27 October 2000 A working meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his plenipotentiary representative in the Central Federal District Georgy Poltavchenko takes place.

27 October 2000 Russian Chief of the General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin says that at Russia does not have biological weapons.

27 October 2000 Auditors have released their report of the audits of two TV companies. The auditing commission has discovered faults in the financial accounts of the Russian Public TV (ORT), but says there has been no wrongdoing.

28 October 2000 A congress of the Yabloko party opens in Moscow Region's Golitsyno.

28 October 2000 The Unity (Yedinstvo) party holds a congress in Velikiy Novgorod. Unity leader Sergey Shoygu addresses the congress. He calls for tightening party discipline. He presents a draft of the party's programme.

Russian Domestic Policy: Chronology October-December 2000

28 October 2000 The 5th congress of the Russian Party of Social Democracy confirms the mandate of Samara Region governor, Konstantin Titov, as party leader and of Aleksandr Yakovlev, the party's founder, as its "spiritual leader". The congress also adopted the party's programme and charter.

28 October 2000 The Chechen leadership claims that some Russian media have launched a purposeful propaganda campaign against the republican administration chief Akhmad Kadyrov.

30 October 2000 Command exercises begin for the 42nd motor rifle division, which is permanently stationed in Chechnya.

30 October 2000 Interior minister Vladimir Rushaylo says that it is impossible for the Kadyrov leadership to move to Groznyy as planned on 1 November 2000, as it is impossible to guarantee their security.

November

1 November 2000 The commander of the Internal Troops North Caucasus Military District Col-Gen Mikhail Labunets says federal troops engaged in the counterterrorist operation in Chechnya will not be withdrawn from the republic in the near future.

Interior Minister Vladimir Rushaylo says the police force in Chechnya will be built up.

NTV reports that a secret channel for supplying arms to Chechnya via the republic's territory has probably been uncovered there. A lorry with a huge number of arms on board, including anti-aircraft missiles, was detained in Dagestan.

1 November 2000 An investigator from the Russian Prosecutor-General's Office summons Media-Most holding company chief Vladimir Gusinskiy to the office to be questioned as a defendant on 13th November 2000 relating to Media-Most losses in 1999.

1 November 2000 Boris Berezovskiy is summoned to the Prosecutor-General's Office to face charges in connection with "the Aeroflot case".

1 November 2000 *Ekho Moskvyy* reports that former FSB officer Lt-Col Aleksandr Litvinenko has requested political asylum in the United Kingdom. In 1999 Litvinenko and several of his colleagues made a sensational statement to the press, saying that on the FSB chiefs' orders, they were involved in a plot to kill Boris Berezovskiy.

Dr M A Smith

1 November 2000 Russian Defence Minister Igor Sergeyev arrives in Chechnya to carry out an inspection. He rules out the possibility of a withdrawal of troops from Chechnya.

2 November 2000 On the Ingush government website the Ingush President appeals to Putin to introduce direct presidential rule in the Ingush-North Osetia conflict zone.

2 November 2000 Internal Affairs Minister Vladimir Rushaylo speaks at the Ministry on the crime situation. He notes that 2.215m crimes were registered in Russia in the course of the first nine months of 2000. This is "3% less than during the same period last year."

2 November 2000 The chairman of the commission for rehabilitation of victims of political repression attached to the Russian Federation president, Aleksandr Yakovlev, says Putin backs a proposal to set up an interdepartmental commission for studying materials related to political repression. Yakovlev says that 4,047,000 people had been rehabilitated in 12 years, and that 800,000 of them were still alive. Another 500,000 cases have not been considered yet.

2 November 2000 Vladimir Putin orders the setting up of a commission to investigate the fire attack on the car of head of the Chechen administration, Akhmad Kadyrov, on 31 October.

2 November 2000 The director of the Federal Tax Police Service, Vyacheslav Soltaganov, says the Service intends to coordinate the work of the law-enforcement agencies against money laundering. The delegation of these powers to the tax police is stipulated by the bill "on the agencies of the financial police in the Russian Federation", which the service has prepared and passed to the Russian presidential office and a number of other agencies for approval. The bill also envisages the tax police's transformation into the financial police.

2 November 2000 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov appoints Col-Gen Aleksey Shcherbakov first deputy minister of communications and information technology. Aleksey Shcherbakov was born in 1941. Since January 1996, Shcherbakov has served as first deputy director of the foreign intelligence service. Kasyanov also appoints Aleksandr Kiselev deputy minister of communications and information technology.

2 November 2000 The Russian Supreme Court confirms the lawfulness of Kursk Region governor Aleksandr Rutskoy's removal from the Kursk gubernatorial election.

2 November 2000 The Secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council Sergey Ivanov says in an interview in *Vek* that the Strategic Missile Troops will remain as a branch of the armed forces until the year 2006. However, Missile Space Defence

Russian Domestic Policy: Chronology October-December 2000

Troops will become part of the Russian air forces within 12-18 months. He denies that a new KGB-style superstructure will be set up to control the security services. He says FAPSI's role will increase. "The government is expected to approve a targeted programme to establish and develop a special information and telecommunication system in the interests of the state power bodies for 2001-2007, where FAPSI is defined as a government contractor."

3 November 2000 The Moscow city court indefinitely postpones its hearings of the case of US businessman Edmond Pope, who is standing trial on espionage charges, as Pope's health has deteriorated.

3 November 2000 The new edition of the Constitution of Bashkortostan is passed virtually unanimously at a meeting of Bashkortostan's State Council.

3 November 2000 Director of the Federal Tax Police Service Vyacheslav Soltaganov says a financial amnesty needs to be announced in Russia, to help repatriate money taken out of the country.

3 November 2000 The Interior Ministry's temporary press centre in the North Caucasus says a large rebel base was discovered and wiped out in Chechnya's mountainous Shatoy District.

3 November 2000 The State Duma's commission for assistance to normalization and human rights in Chechnya approves a set of settlement proposals in connection with the establishment of a post of presidential representative in Chechnya.

3 November 2000 Head of the Chechen civil administration Akhmad Kadyrov says there is no need to resume large-scale employment of the air force, artillery and regular army in the current phase of the antiterrorist operation in the North Caucasus. He says, "The troops have successfully coped with their job and created conditions in which the burden of completing the elimination of illegal armed formations should be shifted onto the interior forces and special services."

3 November 2000 The Russian navy commander-in-chief, Admiral Vladimir Kuroyedov, says he is certain the Kursk submarine disaster was caused by a collision with a foreign submarine.

4 November 2000 The Kursk Region court rejects three complaints filed by the supporters of incumbent governor Aleksandr Rutskoy, who has been barred from gubernatorial elections.

4 November 2000 Vladimir Putin signs a decree creating the federal state unitary enterprise Rosoboroneksport. The decree notes that the state enterprise Rosoboroneksport is being created by merging Rosvooruzheniye and Promeksport,

Dr M A Smith

with the aim of enhancing the effectiveness of military-technical cooperation between the Russian Federation and foreign states. The president also signs a decree appointing Andrey Belyaninov as director-general of Rosoboroneksport.

4 November 2000 Commander-in-Chief of the Strategic Missile Troops Vladimir Yakovlev says the composition of the Russian nuclear force and its tasks may change. He says: "Several versions of the form and the use of strategic force in the future are being considered at present - from preserving the current arsenal to developing a fully non-nuclear strategic force ... It is important to note here that even now options are being examined for hitting strategic enemy targets with high-precision long-range arms, including intercontinental ballistic missiles with conventional warheads."

5 November 2000 Fighting has been reported between Russian forces and Chechen rebels in Grozny's Leninskiy district.

5 November 2000 A Russian Navy spokesman says it is confident the Kursk disaster was caused by a collision with a NATO submarine.

5 November 2000 Deputy head of the Moscow-backed Chechen administration Beslan Gantamirov is interviewed in *Kommersant*. He says he has settled his differences with administration head Akhmad Kadyrov over personnel.

6 November 2000 NTV reports that Aleksandr Rutskoy will not contest the court decision barring him from running in the Kursk oblast gubernatorial elections.

7 November 2000 Chief of the Northern Fleet's press service Vladimir Navrotskiy says the operation to bring the bodies of the Kursk submariners to the surface is over.

7 November 2000 A gas pipeline explodes in Moscow. Some experts suspect terrorism and Moscow mayor Yury Luzhkov says "outside interference" is a possible cause of the explosion.

8 November 2000 Airborne Troops deputy commander in charge of peacekeeping operations Maj-Gen Aleksandr Popov in Kosovo says Russian Airborne Troops will be reduced in 2001 by 5,000 to about 35,000 men in line with the Russian government's decision.

Vladimir Putin calls for a strengthening of Airborne Troops and stresses that nobody was planning to make cuts in this branch of the forces.

8 November 2000 President Putin says the restoration of Chechnya and the resolution of the refugee problem must be accelerated.

Russian Domestic Policy: Chronology October-December 2000

Chechen head of administration Akhmad Kadyrov leaves for Moscow with proposals on improving the power structure in Chechnya. Kadyrov plans to seek wider powers for the Chechen leadership.

8 November 2000 Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov chairs another session of the government commission in charge of the investigation into the Kursk tragedy. Klebanov says he does not share the opinion of Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy Vladimir Kuroyedov, who insists that the Kursk had collided with a foreign submarine. He says: "the commission is still considering three main versions, namely a collision with a mine dating back to World War II, an emergency situation in the first compartment, and a collision with a foreign submarine ... None of the versions has so far gained dominance over the others". Klebanov tells the meeting that an international consortium has been set up to lift the Kursk submarine. The consortium will include the Rubin central design bureau and representatives of the United States, Belgium and the Netherlands set up to investigate the causes of the disaster.

Russian Defence Minister Igor Sergeyev says if the nuclear submarine Kursk sank in the Barents Sea as a result of collision with a foreign submarine, the identify of the culprit sub will be established.

8 November 2000 Sergeyev says the transfer of control over military-technical co-operation with foreign countries from the ministry of industry, science and technology to the Defence Ministry will make it more effective.

9 November 2000 The Moscow District Military court begins hearings into the murder of Dmitriy Kholodov, a journalist at *Moskovsky Komsomolets* who was killed in an explosion allegedly deliberately engineered to hush up a journalistic investigation into corruption among the top brass.

9 November 2000 *Izvestiya* reports that Chuvash President Nikolay Fedorov is appealing to the Constitutional Court to challenge Putin's laws on strengthening the vertical power structure.

9 November 2000 Yelena Volchinskaya of the Russian Security Council says the Council has developed a draft concept for a legal framework for the country's information security. The draft follows the doctrine for Russian information security approved by presidential decree on 9 September.

Security Council secretary Sergey Ivanov is interviewed in *Komsomolskaya Pravda* on the role of the Security Council.

The Security Council meets to take final decisions on military reform. It votes for the reform of the Russian military forces. Sergey Ivanov says the 3-million-strong army was a "crushing burden" for the Russian economy. Vladimir Potapov, Russian Security Council Deputy Secretary, says the number of servicemen in various power-wielding federal departments will have been reduced by 600,000 by 2005. 365,000 Russian Defence Ministry servicemen are included in the number. In all there will be reductions of 470,000 servicemen and approximately 130,000 civilian

personnel. Potapov says that this will make it possible by the end of 2005 to at least double the spending on each remaining serviceman still in service. In keeping with plans, this spending ought at least to treble by 2010. Potapov also stresses that the "a firm financial groundwork underpins this plan". The programme assumes an annual 5 to 5.5% growth in GDP. Potapov recalls that the Russian leadership is proceeding from the fact that Russia is unable to wage a large-scale conventional war until 2010.

10 November 2000 The C-in-C of the Russian Interior Ministry's Internal Troops, Col-Gen Vyacheslav Tikhomirov says they will be cut by 33,000 in the context of Russia's military reform.

Tikhomirov says that Internal Troops in Chechnya are placing the emphasis on intelligence and tracking operations. He says: "We are abandoning massive operations which irritate the civilian population but still allow the bandits to behave as they please."

10 November 2000 Defence Minister Marshal Igor Sergeev is interviewed in *Krasnaya Zvezda*. He says the bandits in Chechnya are entering their last winter. "The onset of autumn and winter will prove more favourable for us completely to achieve the tasks before us".

11 November 2000 *Kommersant* reports the council of the Muslim Refakh movement has decided to begin the process of turning into a political party. Refakh is also holding talks with a number of political organizations on setting up a unified party of Russian Muslims. It is planned to hold the inaugural congress of the new party in the first quarter of 2001.

11 November 2000 *Kommersant* reports that Sergey Kiriyeenko, the president's plenipotentiary representative in the Volga Federal District, is visiting Ufa to discuss the delimitation of powers between the federal centre and Bashkortostan.

11 November 2000 The deputy secretary of the country's Security Council, Vladimir Potapov, is interviewed in *Krasnaya Zvezda*. He says Russia will be incapable of waging large-scale conventional war until at least 2010 and will have to rely on its nuclear deterrent. He discusses the 9 November meeting of the Security Council on military reform.

12 November 2000 Two people are killed in Khasavyurt, Dagestan, when an explosive device carried by one of the victims unexpectedly exploded.

13 November 2000 *Ekho Moskvy* radio reports that MEDIA-MOST has settled its debt claim with Gazprom. The debt is \$211.6 million.

Russian Domestic Policy: Chronology October-December 2000

13 November 2000 The Russian Prosecutor General's Office places Vladimir Gusinskiy, head of the Media-Most holding company, on the federal wanted list. Gusinskiy has been charged with large-scale fraud.

14 November 2000 Alfred Kokh revokes his signature to the full and final deal reached between Media-Most and Gazprom-Media.

14 November 2000 A VTsIOM poll asks who would you vote for if there were Duma elections next Sunday?

CPRF	37%
Yedinstvo	21%
URF	11%
Yabloko	9%
LDP	6%
Women of Russia	4%
Otechestvo	3%
Gennadiy Seleznev's Russia	2%
Agrarian Party	1%
People's Republican Party	1%
NDR	1%
RNU	1%

3% against all

14 November 2000 Mikhail Dmitriyev, former deputy minister of industry, science and technology, has been appointed a deputy defence minister. He was in charge of military-technical cooperation at the Ministry of Industry, Science and Technology.

14 November 2000 The commander-in-chief of Strategic Missile Troops, Vladimir Yakovlev, says there are provisions to cut his forces by 10,000 men next year, but the whole programme provides for reduction by 60,000 men before 2006.

Deputy Emergencies Minister Stanislav Suanov says the Emergencies Ministry's civil defence troops will reduce 20% of their personnel by 2005. Civil defence troops are to lay off 5,000 servicemen in the next five years.

14 November 2000 A four day training stint of the armed forces top generals at the MOD under control of Defence Minister Igor Sergeev begins. The training will last for four days. The main aim is to sum up the results of the combat exercises conducted in the army and navy for the past year. It also aims to determine tasks for the next training period in accordance with military reform.

The Moscow air force and air defence district sums up the results of training in 2000. Col-Gen Gennadiy Vasil'yev, district commander, says the district was provided only 35% of needed fuels and lubricants, which led to changes of combat training plans and reduction of flying exercises. Vasil'yev says the pilots' flying time in 2000 was 10 to 15 times less than that of NATO fliers.

15 November 2000 The Military News Agency reports that the North Caucasus Military District badly needs urgent renovation of its armament. Many types of armament in the district's units have not been renewed for 10 to 15 years, and the armament currently in use is in need of medium and capital repairs. More than half of missile and artillery armament has been in operation for over 15 years, and some 60% of air defence missile systems were adopted over 20 years ago.

Defence minister Igor Sergeyev says the new stage in the reform of the armed forces is based on existing macroeconomic forecasts. He says: "Everything will depend on how correct they turn out to be. If they turn out to be correct, we will be able to begin buying new generation armaments and hardware in around 2015-2020."

15 November 2000 Boris Berezovskiy says he will not show up for questioning at the Prosecutor-General's Office over the alleged embezzlement of Aeroflot funds. He attacks Putin for forcing him to become "a political emigrant." He says he helped finance the Yedinstvo Duma election campaign in 1999.

The leader of the Yedinstvo Duma faction, Boris Gryzlov, denies Boris Berezovskiy's claim that Unity's election campaign was financed from the profits of Berezovskiy-controlled Aeroflot and its Swiss partners.

15 November 2000 Akhmad Kadyrov, Head of the Chechen administration, calls for a reduction of Russian troops in Chechnya. He says the number of checkpoints in Chechnya should be reduced as well, because "they are useless". "

16 November 2000 Presidential plenipotentiary representative in the Far East Federal District Konstantin Pulikovskiy says he intends to carry out a full-scale audit of the budget funds' appropriation by the Maritime Territory authorities.

16 November 2000 Saratov governor Dmitry Ayatskov, a member of the State Council, says he intends to leave the Federation Council and also proposes that the functions of the Federation Council should be handed over to the State Council.

16 November 2000 The Chief of the General Staff, Anatoly Kvashnin, proposes a strict division of functions between the Defence Ministry and the General Staff. Kvashnin makes the proposal while delivering a speech on the army reduction plans at a session of the Duma's defence committee. He says the division was necessary because of the forthcoming unification of the rear, medical, personnel and other services of the country's law-enforcement bodies. They should be commanded by a single body and that body is the General Staff, which would be more logical to rename into a unified staff. He says the MOD should be left with the solely political functions and be headed by a civilian. Kvashnin also proposes the restructuring of the Interior Ministry troops' main command and transforming the Federal Border Guard Service into a military service subordinate to the General Staff. These measures will help reduce the expense of the troops' management, bring down the number of border guards generals and plan the use of the Border Troops as part of the land forces in the so-called "special period."

Russian Domestic Policy: Chronology October-December 2000

He says Interior Ministry Troops should be transformed into a national guard and withdrawn from the Interior Ministry's structure. He says this is necessary to compensate for the land forces reduction by 180,000 people.

The commander-in-chief of Russia's Strategic Missile Troops (SMT), Army Gen Vladimir Yakovlev, says that the scale of the SMT reform will depend on the progress of Russian-US talks on the reduction of strategic offensive weapons. It is planned that the SMT will be cut by 60,000 men by 2006. Five Topol-M missile systems are to be put in service in Tatishchevo in Saratov Region by the end of 2000. Yakovlev warns that financial difficulties may prevent this.

17 November 2000 Vladimir Putin says a Siberian development concept must be worked out in 2001. He says the cabinet and the Russian Security Council must do this. "Cooperation with the rapidly expanding economies of North America and the Asian-Pacific countries is moving to the foreground." The natural riches of Siberia should be put to better use, the president says. By developing the already known fields in Eastern Siberia, oil output could be increased by 30m-40m tonnes and gas output by 50bn-55bn cubic metres a year. He says that the export of electric power to Europe is also a promising project.

17 November 2000 The Russian Prosecutor-General's Office resumes criminal proceedings against Vladimir Gusinskiy on charges related to the Russkoye Video case.

17 November 2000 *Kommersant* reports that the Presidential Staff has approved Interior Minister Vladimir Rushaylo's draft order establishing a federal criminal police committee within the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The head of the department has thereby completed the establishment of a state structure similar to the US FBI, which combats corruption and organized crime. The new structure will comprise the Interior Ministry's three leading main administrations - the GUBOP (main anti-organized crime administration), administration "R", and the operational search administration. The new structure will be headed by Vladimir Kozlov, first deputy minister of internal affairs (although he will not lose his present post), and his deputy will be Vladislav Selivanov, chief of administration "R."

17 November 2000 NTV reports a new agreement has been signed between Gazprom, Gazprom-Media and Media-Most on settling the latter's debt.

17 November 2000 Russian presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says the next few months will be decisive for the antiterrorist operation in Chechnya. "It is obvious that the federal troops in Chechnya have a unique chance to complete the special operation ... the foliage is diminishing, winter makes its advance clear, which is unfavourable for the militants who are entering this winter in conditions much worse than a year ago ... There is no sense talking about achievement of other aims in the Chechen Republic's territory before neutralization of several prominent people, first of all (Shamil) Basayev and Khattab."

Chief of the Chechen interim administration Ahmad Kadyrov calls on people who fled Chechnya to come back.

Dr M A Smith

18 November 2000 The fifth congress of the Russian Party of the Working People's Self-Government, set up by the famous ophthalmologist Svyatoslav Fedorov who died in June, chooses Levon Tchakhmachyan, 48, as its new leader. The party will be named after Fedorov to perpetuate his name. The Fedorov Party has more than 10,000 members and branches in 56 Russian regions. The congress also reached a decision to join the Russia movement, headed by Duma speaker Gennadiy Seleznev.

18 November 2000 Vladimir Putin signs a decree on the line-up of the commission for military cooperation between Russia and foreign countries. Putin will head the commission.

18 November 2000 Admiral Vladimir Kuroyedov tells a navy command meeting that Russia will be building up its naval might in the near future.

Russian air force commander-in-chief Gen Anatoly Kornukov says new equipment will start coming into use by the Russian air force and anti-aircraft defence units in a big way in 2007-2010. He says 36,000 jobs are to be cut. He says the air force is to form two armies and three divisions against the background of these cuts and reforms. "This is no simple task. We believe that by the end of 2001 we shall bring the strength level of absolutely all units to 92-95%. We shall boost the permanent-readiness units. We shall add another nine regiments to the number of permanent-readiness units. These are units that will have nearly wartime strength levels and be capable of immediately performing tasks according to role."

18 November 2000 First deputy CGS Col-Gen Valery Manilov visits China. He says that Russia and China have "full understanding" in their approach to international terrorism. "We have a convergence of views and approaches to the threat of international terrorism in all its manifestations. We coordinate our actions both on a bilateral basis and within the framework of the Shanghai Five."

19 November 2000 A session of the Duma faction of the URF, which is currently a coalition of founding organizations, have opted unanimously to turn the URF into a single political party in the first six months of next year. It confirms its former position that the Putin leadership should be supported in all cases where their actions are in accordance with the programme and principles of the URF and opposed where they take steps which run counter to them. The URF deputies also discuss relations with Yabloko and decide to continue the policy of uniting the two organizations.

19 November 2000 Dagestan public figure Magomed Khachilayev dies following a street brawl in Makhachkala. Khachilayev who had masterminded, together with his brother, an attack on the republic's government house a few years ago, was later amnestied for this incident.

20 November 2000 NTV director-general Yevgeniy Kiselev attends the Prosecutor-General's Office to be interrogated as a witness.

20 November 2000 Vladimir Putin says that 1,670 servicemen from the Defence Ministry had been killed in the counterterrorist operation in the North Caucasus (Dagestan and Chechnya). He is speaking at a conference of the MOD leadership. He says that 2,600 people from the Russian power-wielding structures had been killed in the counterterrorist operation. Putin stresses that "right now the formal status of the Chechen Republic is not that important. What is important is that this territory must never be used as a bridgehead for attacking the Russian Federation and that this territory must not become a source of interregional or ethnic conflicts." He stresses that the Chechen conflict and its future status would be determined "only by political means. No-one will be allowed to resolve disputes with Russia from a position of strength."

20 November 2000 The Baltic Fleet commander, Adm Vladimir Yegorov, is elected governor of Kaliningrad Region.

20 November 2000 The chairman of the State Duma Committee on Corruption, Nikolay Kovalev, says the committee will consider a recent statement made by Boris Berezovskiy on his claims that some Swiss companies connected with Aeroflot were involved in financing the election campaigns of Russian President Vladimir Putin and Yedinstvo. He says if Berezovskiy provides documents and proof of his statement, the committee will make a decision to hand the materials over to the Prosecutor-General's Office "to make further procedural decisions in accordance with current legislation."

20 November 2000 Akhmad Kadyrov says that many Chechen commanders of gunmen groups are in Georgia now, while their families, in particular those of Aslan Maskhadov, field commanders Shamil Basayev, Movladi Udugov, Khalimov and Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, are in the world's richest countries.

20 November 2000 It is reported that border guards of the Nazran border detachment have completed measures to reinforce the Ingush section of the Russian-Georgian border.

20 November 2000 The Russian Jewish Congress has expressed "extreme indignation" over a recent attack on Sergey Maksachev, former deputy governor of Kursk Region, in the regional administration building on 19 November 2000. Vladimir Putin asks Russian Prosecutor-General Vladimir Ustinov to establish special personal control over the case.

20 November 2000 Putin meets the Russian military leadership at the MOD. They discuss the results of the activity of the Russian armed forces in 2000 and their tasks in 2001. Putin criticises the implementation of reforms. Putin also holds a separate meeting at the Defence Ministry with the troop and district commanders and navy commanders. Russian Security Council Secretary Sergey Ivanov, Defence Minister Igor Sergeyev and Chief of the General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin were present.

Dr M A Smith

21 November 2000 Aslan Maskhadov is interviewed by *Moskovskiy Novosti*. He says the Russian army is presently suffering losses two or three times greater than during open hostilities and that Russian generals were afraid to acknowledge this fact. He says he is ready for talks with Putin.

Kremlin spokesman on Chechnya Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says he does not see anything fundamentally new in proposals made by Chechen separatist leader Aslan Maskhadov in his interview with *Moskovskiy Novosti*. He says Maskhadov "refuses to understand that there is a fundamental difference in his position and the attitude of the federal authorities to him in 1996 and 2000."

21 November 2000 Col-Gen Yury Baluyevskiy, the head of the main operational directorate and first deputy chief of the General Staff, says the Strategic Missile Forces, as an independent type of armed forces, will be abolished and reorganized into a type of troops within the Armed Forces. He says "a transition to a three-type structure including land troops, the air force and the navy will be carried out." In addition, three independent types of troops will come within the armed forces composition: the Strategic Missile Forces; the Airborne Troops; and - counting as a single type of troops - the Aerospace Forces and the Missile-Space Defence Forces.

CGS Gen Anatoly Kvashnin says the plan for building the Russian armed forces in 2001-2005 will be referred to the Russian president in early December 2000.

21 November 2000 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov signs a government resolution endorsing division of functions among federal executive bodies involved in the implementation of international treaties in the sphere of chemical disarmament.

22 November 2000 Vladimir Putin opens the first sitting of the State Council of the Russian Federation. He says the State Council "must function as a strategic political body". "The State Council should set the country's direction, but must not be a substitute for the parliament and government." At the session he says that a programme of long-term development of the regions and districts of Russia would be drawn up in the near future. He says that the government had been instructed to work on a national development programme until the year 2010 in conjunction with a State Council working group and to present it by February 2001. The programme should be drawn up in such a way that medium-term plans could be drawn up on the basis of it. A programme for the country's development for 2002-2003 should be approved in April.

22 November 2000 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says that the Emergencies Ministry and the Finance Ministry should develop a more effective method of controlling how funds allocated for the liquidation of emergencies are being spent. He was speaking at the All-Russia conference on the single state system of predicting and mitigating the consequences of emergency situations.

22 November 2000 Russian ombudsman Vladimir Kalamonov says members of the migration, refugees and demography committee under the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) marked improvements in the sphere of human

Russian Domestic Policy: Chronology October-December 2000

rights in Chechnya. A PACE delegation visited two refugee camps in the town of Sernovodsk and another one in the village of Znamenskoye.

22 November 2000 The Federation of Russia's Jewish Communities issues a statement condemning anti-Semitic manifestations in Kursk. The new governor of Kursk, Aleksandr Mikhaylov, has made anti-Semitic remarks and been reprimanded by the presidential plenipotentiary representative in the Central Federal District, Georgy Poltavchenko.

22 November 2000 Moscow mayor Yury Luzhkov says a new Russian Constitution may eventually be adopted. Luzhkov heads a working group on the improvement of the system of state authorities and management in the State Council. The working group will submit its proposals to the State Council next February.

22 November 2000 Duma deputy Sergey Kovalev says all democratic forces in Russia should unite on the basis of common understanding of the need to oppose dangerous trends in the state's development. He says an all-Russian extraordinary convention on human rights protection will be held in Moscow on 20-21 January 2001.

22 November 2000 Airborne Troops Commander Col-Gen Georgy Shpak says the airborne troops of Russia will be cut by 5,500 officers and men in the course of the reform of the Russian armed forces over the next five years. Slated for reduction is the 10th Airborne Regiment that is now deployed at the military base in Gudauta (Georgia). A regiment of the Pskov Division, the Podolsk Air Force Squadron, and some of the present peacemaking units will also be reduced.

22 November 2000 A General Staff official tells Interfax that two combat-ready army groups will be set up in southwest and Central Asia. Their manpower will be increased by 50,000 men before 2003. The 42nd Motor Rifle Rapid Deployment Division will be the core of the army group in the southwest, covered by the North Caucasus Military District. The official says the southwestern army group must be reinforced not only because of the "complicated situation" in the North Caucasus, in particular Chechnya, but also because of NATO plans to increase its military presence "on the southern flank."

23 November 2000 The Russian cabinet discuss the adoption of an energy strategy up to 2020.

23 November 2000 Russian Defence Minister Igor Sergeyev says that the Interior Ministry is expected to take control over the anti-terrorist operation in Chechnya after the remaining rebel units are liquidated.

Sergeyev says that "religious extremism, separatism and international terrorism" are the biggest threats to Russia's security. "The greatest threat to Russia's security comes from the North Caucasus and Central Asia ... today's international terrorist centre is Afghanistan." He says that Moscow has decided to station more

Dr M A Smith

armed forces in southwest Russia and the regions bordering Central Asia. He also says it is planned to start arming the Russian armed forces with fifth generation weapons between 2020 and 2025.

23 November 2000 Head of the Chechen administration Akhmad Kadyrov appoints Shamal Adam Deniyev special envoy to the Middle East and African countries.

23 November 2000 Rear-Adm Lev Sidorenko, chairman of the Maritime Scientific Committee, is interviewed in *Krasnaya Zvezda* on the development of the Russian Navy. He says the Northern and Pacific fleets will each have a minimum of 2-3 aircraft carriers, 8-10 strategic nuclear submarines, 20-25 multipurpose nuclear-powered submarines, 85-95 major surface ships (destroyers, frigates) and up to 300 aircraft and helicopters. The Baltic and Black Sea fleets will have 18-20 non-nuclear powered submarines, 20-24 small surface ships (including cutters) and up to 100 aircraft and helicopters.

23 November 2000 The Duma gives a first reading to a draft law envisaging changes in the periods and conditions involved in the conclusion of a contract to perform military service. As soon as the law starts to operate the number of contract servicemen in the Russian army will sharply increase.

24 November 2000 The Federation Council discusses military reform with defence minister Igor Sergeyev.

Sergeyev denies media reports about negotiations with rebel leaders allegedly under way in Chechnya. There are claims that Ruslan Gelayev is talking with representatives of the presidential representative of the Southern Federal District, Viktor Kazantsev.

CGS Anatoly Kvashnin discusses military reform with the Duma.

27 November 2000 Putin addresses an all-Russia congress of judges on judicial reform.

27 November 2000 An interfaction deputies' group, Volga-Urals, is set up in the State Duma. The group comprises deputies from regions that are included in the Volga Federal District. Fifty-two deputies from Unity, the Communist party, Union of Right Forces, Fatherland - All Russia, the People's Deputy group, Russia's Regions and the Agroindustrial group wish to work in the group. The chairman is Aleksandr Belousov, the Volga-Urals chairman and coordinator and a deputy from Samara Region.

27 November 2000 The Russian president's representative in the Southern Federal District, Viktor Kazantsev, denies claims that he is holding talks with field commanders in Chechnya.

Russian Domestic Policy: Chronology October-December 2000

27 November 2000 Vladimir Kalamonov, the Kremlin human rights commissioner for Chechnya, says that it is now safe for aid workers and other international officials to work in Chechnya.

27 November 2000 Interior Minister Vladimir Rushaylo says there are no plans for personnel changes in the Ministry, but there will be structural changes. Rushaylo says crime police committees would be set up at regional level and this would lead to some minor structural changes. He added that the chain of command for some operational services would be different.

27 November 2000 Professor Viktor Petrunin, director general of the State Research and Development Institute of Organic Chemistry and Technology, says the destruction schedule for Soviet-era chemical weapons should be elaborated and corrected on the basis of Russia's current financial capabilities.

28 November 2000 Interior Minister Vladimir Rushaylo says some extremist sects should be banned.

28 November 2000 President Vladimir Putin has signed a decree appointing Vladimir Yelagin as minister responsible for the coordination of activities by the federal bodies of executive power on the socioeconomic development of the Chechen Republic.

28 November 2000 The leader of the Chechen administration, Akhmad Kadyrov says he does not recognize the Chechen state council led by Malik Saydullayev.

28 November 2000 Russian presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says no talks are under way with top-level Chechen rebel field commanders, but Chechen administration head Akhmad Kadyrov is engaged in talks with some second-tier commanders.

28 November 2000 Chief of the General Staff Gen Anatoly Kvashnin believes there are no large bandit formations on Chechen territory but only small groups of from 5 to 20 bandits.

28 November 2000 Ingush President Ruslan Aushev and the Russian special presidential envoy for the settlement of Osetian-Ingush conflict, Aleksey Kulakovskiy, discuss a plan of joint actions to return forced Ingush migrants from Prigorodnyy District, North Osetia, to their permanent places of residence.

28 November 2000 Russian navy C-in-C Adm Vladimir Kuroyedov says the naval doctrine of the Russian Federation has been worked out and will be approved by the Russian president at the end of 2000.

Dr M A Smith

28 November 2000 Russian Defence Minister Igor Sergeyev says the number of troops in the Siberian and Far Eastern Military Districts will be cut by more than 20% in the course of reforming the Russian army.

29 November 2000 A VTsIOM poll gives Vladimir Putin's a high popularity rating. 70% of Russians approve of his work, where 64% approved a month ago. 22% disapprove of his work (in October 2000, 26% disapproved). They were obtained from a representative poll of 1,600 Russians conducted 24-27th November and compared with a similar poll at the end of October.

The rating of Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov has risen: last month 45% of Russians approved of his work and this month 47% approved. The latest polls also shows that 38% of respondents generally approve of the work of the Russian government, whereas in October 39% approved.

29 November 2000 Defence Minister Igor Sergeyev rules out troop cuts in Central Asia.

29 November 2000 Russian presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says in winter a decisive blow must be delivered upon the main units of Chechen guerrillas hiding in the mountains.

First Deputy Internal Affairs Minister Vladimir Kozlov says federal forces have scaled up operations against Chechen separatist leaders. The operations involve special units of the Internal Affairs Ministry, the North Caucasus regional anti-mafia police department, detachments of the Federal Security Service (FSB) and military intelligence. They aim to arrest leading warlords.

29 November 2000 Federal Border Service director Konstantin Totskiy says the military personnel of the Federal Border Guard Service is to be cut by 15,000 and its civilian personnel by 1,000.

29 November 2000 The State Duma adopts in the first reading a bill providing former Russian presidents and their families with social guarantees and exempting them from legal prosecution. The bill was carried by 282 to 130 votes.

29 November 2000 The Duma adopts in the first reading a draft law allowing top executives in the regions to be elected to the office three times in succession. The draft law was passed only at the third attempt by a 240-150 vote with seven abstentions.

29 November 2000 The Federation Council speaker, Yegor Stroyev, suggests in the future the members of the Federation Council should be elected by universal suffrage rather than appointed by regional governors and legislative bodies.

Russian Domestic Policy: Chronology October-December 2000

29 November 2000 Central Electoral Commission (CEC) head Aleksandr Veshnyakov says he is concerned about the expression of anti-Semitic remarks by some officials in the regional elections.

29 November 2000 The Military News Agency quotes a General Staff source as saying that the Russian General Staff is completing analysis of suggestions on forming troops manoeuvre groups capable of combating rebels. The core of such groups in every regiment will be a modernized motorized battalion with fire support means, such as AGS-17 Plamya grenade launchers, antitank guided missiles, flame-throwers.

December

1 December 2000 Putin denies he plans to dismiss the Cabinet of Ministers.

1 December 2000 Tu-95 Bear strategic bombers are deployed near Alaska, on the Bering Strait shore in the areas of Anadyr and Tiksi.

1 December 2000 Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Kudrin says the 2001 federal budget will not suffer if international financial institutions refuse to offer loans.

1 December 2000 The Duma approves as a basis the draft federal budget for 2001 in the third decisive reading. 279 voted for, 87 against and three deputies abstained.

2 December 2000 The CPRF 7th Congress opens.

2 December 2000 The commanding officer of the Strategic Rocket Troops, Vladimir Yakovlev, says a third regiment of Topol-M new-generation intercontinental ballistic missiles will become operational in December 2000.

2 December 2000 *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* reports that a delegation headed by deputies belonging to Yedinstvo, Abdul-Vakhid Niyazov and Kurban-Ali Amirov – they are part of the Refak Moslem grouping which is part of Yedinstvo, visit Iran.

4 December 2000 A senior investigator for serious crimes, Valery Nikolayev, says an international warrant has been issued for Vladimir Gusinskiy, the head of the Media-Most holding company.

4 December 2000 Andrey Nikolayev, chairman of the Duma defence committee, says Governmental and State Duma representatives have signed the protocol on adding R6.5bn (233.11m dollars) more from additional budget profits to the national defence item. Money will be given in the second half of 2001. R3bn

Dr M A Smith

(107.59m dollars) of that sum will be spent on building houses for servicemen, R2.5bn (89.66m dollars) on buying oil and lubricants and R0.5bn (17.93m dollars) on medical care and clothing allowance for servicemen.

5 December 2000 The Moscow prosecutor's office for the air service seizes financial documents at the office of ORT television company in the framework of an investigation into nonpayment of customs duties for foreign films purchased by the company.

5 December 2000 The Moscow court of arbitration stops legal proceedings in Gazprom-Media's suit against Media-Most for the recovery of 248.5m dollars, due to Gazprom-Media's refusal to sue.

5 December 2000 Boris Nemtsov, URF Duma leader, meets Vladimir Putin and gives his proposals for a political settlement of the situation in Chechnya.

6 December 2000 President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov say the general financial and economic situation in Russia remains stable.

6 December 2000 Russian Prosecutor-General Vladimir Ustinov orders a probe to find out whether the use of arms during a search and the confiscation of documents at the ORT television company was justified.

6 December 2000 Presidential Aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says he believes that the federal forces in Chechnya will be able to finally crush the bandit groups in the republic in the course of the next few months.

6 December 2000 Groznyy mayor Beslan Gantamirov accuses the Russian military in Chechnya of making an attempt on his life.

6 December 2000 The Kursk Region prosecutor's office refuses to institute criminal proceedings over remarks made by the new Kursk governor. He made anti-semitic remarks.

7 December 2000 The former deputy director-general of Aeroflot, Nikolay Glushkov, is arrested.

7 December 2000 Yury Lvov is appointed deputy Russian Finance Minister.

7 December 2000 The prosecutor's office of the Russian Krasnoyarsk Territory acquits former head of the Krasnoyarsk aluminium works Anatoly Bykov of complicity in the murder of a local businessman.

Russian Domestic Policy: Chronology October-December 2000

7 December 2000 Security Council Secretary Sergey Ivanov says it will take at least 10 years to reform Russia's military organization.

8 December 2000 The Duma adopts the old Soviet national anthem. It also adopts the tricolour flag and the double-headed eagle coat of arms. It also decides on the flags of the armed forces.

9 December 2000 Yury Luzhkov says the OVR political association will cooperate with the government and the president.

10 December 2000 *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* quotes Yury Luzhkov as saying that Otechestvo will become a political party.

12 December 2000 The head of the Media-Most holding company, Vladimir Gusinskiy, is arrested in Spain.

12 December 2000 The Chairman of Russia's Constitutional Court, Marat Bagla, says that "the scope of violation of human rights and law in the country is still large".

13 December 2000 The director of the tax police service, Vyacheslav Soltaganov, says Putin backs the proposal by the Federal Tax Police Service to set up a financial intelligence agency in Russia.

13 December 2000 Chief investigator in the Mabetex case, Ruslan Tamayev, says the Russian Prosecutor-General's Office will not initiate legal action against first Russian President Boris Yel'tsin and members of his family, who were witnesses in the Mabetex case.

13 December 2000 The Russian president's envoy in the South Federal District, Viktor Kazantsev, says special operations against rebel group leaders in Chechnya are going to be stepped up during the winter months.

13 December 2000 Russian Justice Minister Yury Chayka says over the last four months the Justice Ministry and the Prosecutor-General's Office have uncovered 2,930 legal acts of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation that do not conform to the Russian constitution and federal laws. Of them, 730 have already been brought in compliance with federal laws.

14 December 2000 The Duma passes a law on the delimitation of state ownership of land. The deputies after a third reading voted in favour of the bill by a large majority. In all, 324 people voted for, and seven against, with no abstentions.

14 December 2000 The State Duma passes the 2001 budget plan in the fourth and final reading. The budget was passed by 308 votes for and 108 against, with no abstentions.

14 December 2000 Chief Russian Military Prosecutor Mikhail Kislitsyn says that Col-Gen Georgy Oleynik, the head of the Main Directorate for the Military Budget and Finance, will be removed from office in the near future.

14 December 2000 Chairman of the State Duma Defence Committee Andrey Nikolayev welcomes the decision by Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin to reveal the main articles of expenditure by the Defence Ministry. He says, "The adopted decision is the first meaningful step to establish civil control over the armed forces."

14 December 2000 Vladimir Putin says that peace negotiations in Chechnya are possible only with those who are inclined towards a settlement within the law. He says a settlement can be reached with the people of Chechnya.

14 December 2000 It is announced that Lt-Gen Valery Baranov, the current combined federal force commander in Chechnya, is to be replaced by Lt-Gen Vladimir Bulgakov, the current deputy commander of the North Caucasus Military District.

15 December 2000 In an interview in *Kommersant* CEC Chairman Aleksandr Veshnyakov outlines a draft law on political parties. It will probably be adopted as law in the first half of 2001.

17 December 2000 A deputy editor-in-chief of *Novaya Gazeta*, Yury Shchekochikin, says the authorities are intimidating unsuitable journalists.

17 December 2000 Presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says on the *Zerkalo* programme that the administration of Akhmad Kadyrov and Kadyrov himself, "alas, do not have the influence hoped for by the federal authorities".

18 December 2000 A source in the Airborne Troops outlines reform plans for the Airborne Troops. He says personnel will be reduced by 5,500 servicemen within the framework of Russian armed forces reform. The Airborne Troops currently number 37,500 servicemen, including 5,000 peacekeepers.

19 December 2000 A deputy mayor of Moscow, Iosif Ordzhonikidze, is injured in an assassination attempt.

19 December 2000 It is reported that the Russian government has endorsed a statute for the Defence Ministry's internal security service.

19 December 2000 Yegor Gaydar says that the URF has no intention of going over to opposition to the president and the government.

19 December 2000 A source in the administration of Chechnya's leader Akhmad Kadyrov says that the post of prime minister in the government will be offered to Chechen businessman Malik Saydullayev.

19 December 2000 Presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says he rules out the possibility of direct or mediated negotiations with Chechen warlords.

20 December 2000 The Federation Council terminates the powers of a number of regional chiefs under the new law on forming the house: chairmen of the legislative bodies of the Yamal-Nenets autonomous district Aleksey Artyev and of Kaliningrad Region Valery Ustyugov. Leonid Gorbenko, the governor of Kaliningrad Region, and Valentin Tsvetkov, governor of Magadan Region, absolved themselves of their duties in the house. The powers of the Saratov governor Dmitriy Ayatskov and of governor of the Jewish Autonomous Area Nikolay Volkov in the upper house were terminated ahead of schedule at their own wish.

20 December 2000 The head of the Chechen administration, Akhmad Kadyrov, says he believes that he should head the republic's government.

Kadyrov nominates Akhmad Zavgayev as his representative to the Federation Council.

20 December 2000 The Russian security services celebrate their 80th anniversary. Putin says the purpose of security services is to defend citizens' rights.

20 December 2000 The Federation Council approves the draft law "On the 2001 federal budget". 122 members voted for, 12 against and two abstained.

21 December 2000 Vladimir Putin reaffirms his determination to carry through the antiterrorist campaign in Chechnya and to restore law and order in Chechnya.

21 December 2000 Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov calls for the earliest possible legalization of private land ownership in Russia.

21 December 2000 Mikhail Kasyanov says the Russian government will formulate its proposals to improve the structure of the Cabinet of Ministers by the spring of 2001 and submit them for Vladimir Putin's consideration.

21 December 2000 Russian Deputy Interior Minister Gen Igor Zubov says terrorism may increase in Dagestan.

Dr M A Smith

22 December 2000 Navy C-in-C, Vladimir Kuroyedov, warns the Navy is on the brink of disintegration.

25 December 2000 In a TV interview, Putin says he is generally happy with Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov's performance and rules out any major government reshuffles.

Putin meets his plenipotentiary representatives in the seven Federal Districts. He instructs them to work on the division of competencies between the regions and the centre. He declares that there could be no question of forming any "regional governments".

26 December 2000 The fourth meeting of the presidium of the State Council takes place. It approves a blueprint for the division of powers between the federal centre and regions of the federation.

28 December 2000 Vladimir Yelagin, the Russian minister coordinating the socioeconomic efforts of federal agencies in Chechnya, calls for the rapid formation of a professional government in Chechnya. He says the current government lacks legitimacy.

Deputy presidential envoy to the Southern Federal District Lt-Gen Vladimir Bokovikov says the Russian authorities do not intend to hold official negotiations with representatives of the Chechen separatists and bandit formations.

The leader of the URF faction at the State Duma, Boris Nemtsov, outlines a Chechen settlement plan.

28 December 2000 Russian navy Commander-in-Chief Adm Vladimir Kuroyedov says the navy command will concentrate its efforts on two key goals in 2001: the training of personnel and the building of new ships. He says the Russian Navy will reenter the world's oceans in 2001.

29 December 2000 Col-Gen Georgy Oleynik, the head of the budget and finance department of the Russian MOD, who has been charged with exceeding his authority, has also been suspended pending an investigation.

29 December 2000 Rudnik Dudayev is appointed deputy head of Chechnya in charge of relations with federal forces deployed in Chechnya. In recent years he has headed the CIS council for relations with Islamic countries. Dudayev has taken over the post recently held by Beslan Gantemirov, who resigned as deputy head of the republic's administration after being appointed mayor of Grozny.

January 2001

1 January 2001 The New Russian Tax Code comes into force.

Disclaimer

**The views expressed are those of the
Author and not necessarily those of the
UK Ministry of Defence**