

## Russian Domestic Policy: Chronology

### April-June 2001

#### *April*

**2 April 2001** Two more suspects in the recent bomb attacks in two North Caucasus cities are arrested.

**2 April 2001** The Russian Conventional Arms Export Agency deputy director, Valery Rychkov, says Russia delivered 430m dollars' worth of its products abroad in 1999, a 17.5% fall from 1999. Defence hardware was delivered to 29 non-CIS countries and Belarus, Uzbekistan, Latvia and Ukraine. The largest purchasers were the United Arab Emirates, India and Iran.

**3 April 2001** Putin gives his annual state of the nation address to the Federal Assembly.

**3 April 2001** Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Kudrin says that an administrative and structural reform of the Russian government may be launched in May.

**3 April 2001** Gazprom appoints new bosses of NTV. NTV general director Yevgenny Kiselev and deputy general director Sergey Skvortsov are excluded. NTV journalists issue a statement saying Putin is responsible for the fate of NTV. NTV journalists refuse to cooperate with the new management.

**3 April 2001** A VTsIOM poll says that over 55% of Russians believe that Vladimir Putin has succeeded in strengthening Russia's international position in the course of his one year tenure as Russian president and 38% of those polled do not think so. 31% believe that the president has succeeded in improving the economic situation and the country's welfare, while 63% believe that he has not succeeded.

**3 April 2001** MPs, authors and human rights activists issue a statement calling on Vladimir Putin to start peace talks with former Chechen leader Aslan Maskhadov and to stop hostilities in Chechnya.

**4 April 2001** Special presidential human rights commissioner for Chechnya Vladimir Kalamanov flies to Geneva to attend the 57th annual session of the UN Human Rights Commission.

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**4 April 2001** Russian Airborne Troops Commander Georgy Shpak appoints Col Vladimir Levenskiy commander of the airborne operations group in the North Caucasus and deputy commander of the unified federal group in Chechnya.

**4 April 2001** Commander-In-Chief of the Russian navy Vladimir Kuroyedov says the Russian navy should have 12-15 strategic and around 50 all-purpose nuclear submarines.

**4 April 2001** The Ted Turner International company confirms that an agreement had been reached with the head of the Media-Most holding company, Vladimir Gusinskiy. Pending a successful completion of a similar contract with Gazprom and Gazprom-Media, Turner Ventures International intends to secure the future of Russian TV companies NTV, TNT and NTV-plus as free and independent media outlets.

**4 April 2001** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov appoints Col-Gen Nikolay Makarov acting commander of the Moscow Military District.

**5 April 2001** NTV editor Yevgeny Kiselev says that Vladimir Putin has been deliberately disregarding the developments surrounding NTV.

**5 April 2001** Head of the Chechen administration Akhmad Kadyrov appoints Adlan Magomadov deputy head of the administration of Chechnya and a plenipotentiary envoy of the Chechen Republic under the Russian president. Magomadov replaces Shamil Beno.

**6 April 2001** Commander-in-Chief Anatoly Perminov says the formation of Russian Space Forces has begun under the guidance of the General Staff. "A presidential decree on forming the Space Forces will be issued by July 1 of this year."

**7 April 2001** A rally is held in Moscow in support of NTV. NTV claims about 25,000 were present. Official sources claims about 6,000.

**9 April 2001** Mikhail Gorbachev discusses NTV with Putin. He says Putin opposes the nationalisation of NTV.

**12 April 2001** Shamalu (Adam) Deniyev, Chechen envoy to the Middle East and Africa and deputy head of the pro-federal Chechen administration, is killed in Shali.

**13 April 2001** Eduard Limonov, leader of the left-wing radical National Bolshevik Party, is arrested on suspicion of "involvement in the illegal purchase of weapons by members of his party" and held in Lefortovo prison.

**13 April 2001** Vladimir Putin meets representatives of companies specializing in high technology. Putin names four priorities for the development of high technologies. These are legal backing to high-tech businesses, the search for points of contact between the interests of the state and businesses, the provision of interests of Russian enterprises at home and abroad and the protection of intellectual property.

**13 April 2001** Labour and Social Security Minister Aleksandr Pochinok says Russia's population has fallen by 3.5m to 145m over the past seven years and is bound to shrink to 135 million.

**13 April 2001** A source in the UN Russian office says the UN and its partners have implemented more than 56m dollars worth of humanitarian programmes in Chechnya and Ingushetia over the past six months.

**13 April 2001** The government of the Russian Federation and the Central Bank of Russia issues a joint statement on Russian economic policy for the year 2001.

**14 April 2001** Valery Manilov, first deputy chief of the General Staff, says there was a conflict between the chief of Russia's General Staff, Anatoly Kvashnin, and former Defence Minister Igor Sergeyev. He says it is a thing of the past, which is unlikely to affect relations between Kvashnin and new Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov.

**14 April 2001** Yevgenny Kiselev says he will accept the post of acting director-general of TV6.

**14 April 2001** Vladimir Putin attends the Easter service at the Christ the Saviour Cathedral in Moscow.

**14 April 2001** Vladimir Putin pays a surprise visit to Chechnya.

**14 April 2001** Guards at the NTV television studio are replaced by OMON officers and journalists have been denied access to their work areas.

NTV begins broadcasts under new management. A rebel NTV broadcasts on an alternative channel.

Oleg Dobrodeyev says he will resign from the post of the chairman of the All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Corporation because of the NTV situation.

**14 April 2001** Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says Russia's GDP has grown by 4% and industrial production by 3.5% since the beginning of the year. The real income of the population has increased by more than 5%.

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**16 April 2001** Vladimir Putin meets the head of the All-Russian State TV and Radio Company (VGTRK) Oleg Dobrodeyev. He refuses to accept Dobrodeyev's resignation from his post and suggests that he continue to work as VGTRK head.

**16 April 2001** The federal tax police service's Moscow office has brought charges of tax evasion against the TNT television channel's chief accountant, Yelena Metlikina. Her defence attorney Pavel Astakhov quotes the investigators as saying that a similar charge will be brought on 19 April 2001 against TNT director-general Pavel Korchagin.

**16 April 2001** TV anchorman Sergey Dorenko is detained in a road rage incident. He is alleged to have run over naval officer Valery Nikitin on a motorcycle in Moscow.

**16 April 2001** At a meeting of the Finance Ministry board Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov gives an upbeat assessment of the economy.

Taxes and Levies Minister Gennady Bukayev says Russian consolidated budget tax revenues last year totalled 1,700bn roubles, up 60% from 1999.

The State Statistics Committee reports that Russia's industrial production rose 3.3% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2001. Industrial output growth measured 3.6% year-on-year in March, up from 0.8% in February but down from 5.2% in January.

**16 April 2001** The issuing of the *Segodnya* newspaper is suspended.

**17 April 2001** Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says he does not expect a major cabinet reshuffle. He says the structure of the cabinet will be altered.

**17 April 2001** Four centrist blocs in the Duma - the factions Unity and Fatherland-All Russia and the deputy groups Regions of Russia and People's Deputy - reach agreement to create a common coordination council, and an inter-faction coalition.

**17 April 2001** Sergey Ivanov outlines plans for military reform between 2001 and 2005. He says there will be no staff reshuffle in the Russian military leadership.

**18 April 2001** Yabloko expresses concern over the current state of freedom of speech in Russia.

**18 April 2001** Vladimir Putin appoints Col-Gen Ivan Yefremov chief of the main personnel directorate of the MOD.

**18 April 2001** The city of Grozny is symbolically reinstated as the Chechen

capital.

**18 April 2001** A conference on international terrorism opens in St.Petersburg.

**18 April 2001** Russian television journalist Sergey Dorenko says he was beaten up on 15 April.

**19 April 2001** Vladimir Putin appoints Igor Porshnev chief of the presidential information department.

**19 April 2001** The Russian cabinet approves a bill to combat money laundering. It will be submitted to the Duma.

**19 April 2001** The government approves a land code.

**19 April 2001** A new draft law on citizenship is presented by the Russian president to the Duma for approval.

**19 April 2001** The Duma approves upon first reading a draft federal constitutional law pertaining to martial law.

**19 April 2001** Russian human rights commissioner Oleg Mironov says a powerful human rights movement has been formed in Russia but no radical improvement of the human rights situation has been observed so far.

**20 April 2001** The People's Deputy group tables a motion in the Duma for the number of Duma committees to be reduced from 28 to 12. The CPRF opposes this.

**20 April 2001** Col-Gen Nikolay Kormil'tsev, commander-in-chief of the ground forces, says several rapid deployment army groups will be created in the Russian ground forces.

**20 April 2001** Russian president's representative in the Central Federal District Grigoriy Poltavchenko is interviewed in *Krasnaya Zvezda*. He says production in the defence sector went up by 20% in 2000 and military production is tending to increase.

**20 April 2001** Vladimir Putin addresses the Federal Assembly on the 2002 state budget.

**21 April 2001** The newly appointed commander of the Russian Ground Troops

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Nikolay Kormil'tsev outlines his plans for reforming ground forces in an interview in *Krasnaya Zvezda*.

In *Kommersant* Colonel General Kormil'tsev outlines his plans for recreating the High Command, which Boris Yelt'sin disbanded in 1997, and for reforming ground forces.

**22 April 2001** A new mass grave is discovered in Chechnya.

**22 April 2001** German Gref says tax reform has resulted in tax collection in the first quarter this year growing by 36% against the same period last year. According to Gref, last year the total amount of foreign investment in Russia grew by 15% compared with 1999, and the amount of gold and foreign exchange reserves for the same period went up by 120%.

**23 April 2001** Vladimir Putin gives instructions for the draft land code to be submitted to the Duma this week.

**23 April 2001** 42% of voters would support Vladimir Putin if a presidential election were held next Sunday, according to the results of a poll done by the Public Opinion Foundation on 15 April 2001. The foundation polled 1,500 residents of 56 localities in 29 regions.

Vladimir Putin's popularity rating fell as compared to 1 April 2001. Then, 48% of Russians were ready to support him in a presidential election. The rating of confidence in Putin also dropped from 41% to 37%.

**23 April 2001** The political council of the Fatherland movement votes in favour of a proposal by the leadership of Fatherland and Unity that these political parties unite in a single centrist coalition.

The leaders of the Freedom Generation national movement leave the Unity faction in the Duma.

Obshcheye Delo disbands in order to join the URF party.

**23 April 2001** The Russian Prosecutor General's Office says that a fraud charge against Vladimir Gusinskiy has not been dropped and that a new charge has been added to it, one of large-scale money laundering.

**23 April 2001** One of the leaders of the Naberezhnyye Chelny department of the All-Tatar Public Centre has been detained, accused of extremist Islamic activities.

**23 April 2001** Goskomstat says Russia produced 79.545m tonnes of oil in the first quarter of 2001, 5.9% more year-on-year. Russia produced 149.402bn cubic metres of natural gas in the quarter, 1.8% less year-on-year.

**23 April 2001** Chechens take hostages in a hotel in Istanbul.

President of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria Aslan Maskhadov delivers a speech on national television in the evening. He issued an ultimatum to Russian soldiers and officers. In this ultimatum, which was made in the Russian and Chechen languages, Maskhadov gave the Russian military command two months to withdraw their occupation forces from the Chechen state. Otherwise, when this period expires, the Chechen Armed Forces will start large-scale hostilities to eliminate the Russian invaders.

**24 April 2001** The Russian Supreme Court finds as consistent with existing legislation a Federal Security Service (FSS) instruction allowing inquiries into anonymous reports.

**24 April 2001** *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* publishes Putin's budget message to the Federal Assembly.

**25 April 2001** In the Duma Prosecutor-General Vladimir Ustinov criticises the government's planned legal reforms.

**25 April 2001** The Duma ratifies a 1990 international convention on money laundering.

**25 April 2001** A meeting of the heads of the law-enforcement agencies in the regions of the Southern Federal District takes place in Kislovodsk.

**25 April 2001** Ivan Mokhnachuk, head of the Russian Independent Trades Unions of Workers of the Coal Industry, says Russia's coal reserves are currently estimated at 200bn tonnes.

**25 April 2001** Vladimir Putin signs a decree appointing Col-Gen Nikolay Kormil'tsev, commander-in-chief of the ground forces, to the post of Russian deputy defence minister. Col-Gen Nikolay Solovtsov, head of the Petr Velikiy military academy of Strategic Missile Troops has been appointed commander of the Strategic Missile Troops.

**26 April 2001** Mikhail Kasyanov outlines the bills he would like the Duma to deal with in the next session. There are three or four sets of issues. "Three are purely economic and social laws: the first is related to taxes; the second set of bills is related to structural reforms in the economy, such as the Land Code and the banking sphere; the third set concerns pension reform and labour relations - these include the Labour Code and approximately seven laws that introduce changes to current laws and that reflect the pension reform that we are currently discussing on the National Pension Council; and the fourth set of issues is one that is being led, or rather that is being developed on the direct instructions of the president - namely judicial reform".

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**26 April 2001** The federal constitutional law On State of Emergency is passed in the third and final reading at Duma.

**26 April 2001** Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov signs the draft Land Code and forwards it to the Duma.

**26 April 2001** The Central Bank of Russia says Russia's gold and currency reserves increased by 400m dollars or by 1.32%, from 30.4bn dollars to 30.8bn dollars between 13 and 20 April 2001. At the beginning of 2001 gold and currency reserves amounted to 28bn dollars.

**26 April 2001** The Energy Ministry states that in 2000 the Russian Federation extracted 323.3m tonnes of oil and gas condensate, 258n tonnes of coal and 584bn cubic metres of gas.

**27 April 2001** Duma Chairman Gennady Seleznev says his Rossiya movement supports Russian President Vladimir Putin's course aimed at strengthening Russia's statehood.

**27 April 2001** The commander-in-chief of the newly constituted Russian Space Forces, Anatoly Nikolayevich Perminov, outlines his priorities in an interview with *Krasnaya Zvezda*

**27 April 2001** Russia's Supreme Mufti Talgat Tadzhuddin is interviewed in *Izvestiya*. He says there is a risk of Islamic extremism, fanaticism and varieties of Wahhabism in Orenburg, Ul'yanovsk, Tatarstan and Mordovia, highlighting the threat posed by summer camps for young people run by preachers from abroad.

**27 April 2001** In *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* Deputy Prosecutor-General Sabir Kekhlerov expresses concern that amendments to the laws governing Russia's judiciary will reduce protection of human rights.

**28 April 2001** Most Russians - 68.2% - trust Vladimir Putin, according to a public opinion poll conducted by ROMIR. The poll shows that 26.4% of Russians do not trust Putin fully or partially, and 5.4% of respondents were undecided. The poll conducted across Russia in April 2001 involved 2,000 people.

**28 April 2001** Molodaya Rossiya, headed by URF leader Boris Nemtsov, has decided to disband. The movement adopted this decision at its fourth congress. This is the second political organization that has decided to disband in order to join the Union of Right Forces party, whose founding congress is due to be held on 26 May.

**30 April 2001** Russian GDP grew by 8.3% in 2000, according to revised figures

published by the State Statistics Committee. The statistics committee had initially estimated GDP growth in 2000 at 7.7%. Year-on-year GDP growth measured 9.0% in the first quarter of 2000, 8.6% in the second quarter, 8.8% in the third and 6.8% in the fourth, the revised figures show. Russian GDP grew by 5.4% in 1999 after contracting by 4.9% in 1998.

## *May*

**1 May 2001** Federal forces state they have knocked out Arbi Barayev's unit in Chechnya.

**5 May 2001** Leaders of power structures meet local leaders in the Southern Federal District.

**5 May 2001** Director of the Federal Security Service Nikolay Patrushev says the Chechen government will continue to work in Gudermes for some time, as conditions for the government's safe work in Grozny have not yet been created.

**5 May 2001** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov subordinates a number of additional structures to Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Ground Troops Col-Gen Nikolay Kormil'tsev.

**7 May 2001** *Itogi* publishes an article on the balance of power in the Russian military establishment.

**7 May 2001** *Profil* reports that Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov announces that all enterprises in the Military-Industrial Complex must be converted to joint-stock companies. The state plans to retain control of the most significant of them.

**7 May 2001** Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says a special operation is under way in Argun.

**7 May 2001** Grozny mayor Bislan Gantamirov confirms that he has ordered his subordinates to kill terrorists caught red-handed. Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov has condemned an instruction from Gantamirov to shoot to kill terrorists who have killed Russians in the city.

The commander of the North Caucasus Military District, Gennady Troshev, says that main rebel forces are eliminated, but that no end result is in sight unless the Chechen people themselves begin, "with our help", to fight the bandits and terrorists.

**7 May 2001** Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov signs a regulation on development of the federal purpose-oriented programme aimed at reform and development of the

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defence industry for the period up to 2010.

**7 May 2001** The State Customs Committee says that Russian imports from countries outside the former USSR increased by 1.8% in April 2001 compared with March to 2.376bn dollars. Compared with April 2001 2000, imports increased by 35.8%, and growth was observed in all the basic areas. In April 2001 imports of food and raw materials for food production came to 604.3m dollars, imports of chemical products came to 452.9m dollars, imports of textiles and footwear 109.4m dollars, and imports of machine-building products 842m dollars. According to the preliminary customs statistics, imports from countries outside the former USSR came to 8,147m dollars in January-April 2001.

**8 May 2001** The Russian Prosecutor-General's Office gives official US representatives a package of documents necessary for the extradition of Media-Most head Vladimir Gusinskiy.

**8 May 2001** *Kommersant* reports that The Yakut Supreme Court has satisfied the request of the republic's prosecutor, Nikolay Polyatinskiy, who demanded that almost half the 114 articles of the republic's fundamental law be deemed at odds with the federal constitution.

**8 May 2001** The Central Bank says Russia increased its gold and foreign exchange reserves by 13.14% in the first four months of 2001 to 31.65bn dollars from 27.97bn. The foreign exchange reserves grew 14.85% in this period, to 27.87bn dollars from 24.26bn, while gold reserves swelled to 3.78bn dollars from 3.71bn.

**9 May 2001** Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov attacks Putin for not dismissing Kasyanov, Chubays and Aksenenko.

**10 May 2001** Vladimir Putin says that positive trends in the development of the Russian economy are continuing: the GDP has grown, the volume of production is increasing, the reserves of the Central Bank and the volume of retail are increasing.

**10 May 2001** The Russian Prosecutor-General's Office states that investigative actions are being conducted at *Ekho Moskvy* radio station.

**10 May 2001** The media ministry warns TNT TV company that it violated various laws in Nizhniy Novgorod.

**10 May 2001** In January to March, Russia exported 48,674m cubic metres of natural gas or 18% (10,876m cu m) less than during the same period in 2000.

**10 May 2001** The HQ of the Volga Military District receives a telegram from Russian Chief of General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin ordering them to complete

unification of the Volga and Urals military districts by 1 September 2001.

**10 May 2001** Kvashnin appoints Col-Gen Yuriy Baluyevskiy head of the working group for restructuring the Defence Ministry's main department for international military cooperation. This department will be transformed into a regular department and made subordinate to Col-Gen Igor Puzanov, state secretary and deputy defence minister, who will also be in charge of military-diplomatic activities of the Defence Ministry foreign relations department. The financial section and services in charge of arms exports will be separated from the international military cooperation department. The same is true for the section in charge of cooperation within the CIS, which will be directly subordinate to the chief-of-staff.

**10 May 2001** Col-Gen Leontiy Shevtsov, the Interior Ministry troops' chief inspector-coordinator says the internal troops will remain in the new structure of the Internal Affairs Ministry for the next five years. Shevtsov says there are plans to transform districts of the Internal Troops into regional commands, and district headquarters into regional departments. The strength of the troops will be reduced by 33,000 people.

**11 May 2001** Vladimir Putin addresses the Security Council on military pay. He says around 40% of military families live below subsistence level.

**11 May 2001** The Foreign Ministry says Russia expects "the OSCE Assistance Group to shortly move from Moscow to Chechnya and begin carrying out its mandate to a full extent."

**11 May 2001** Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says Russia's GDP growth has "slightly topped 4%" during the first four months of 2001.

**11 May 2001** *Severnny Kavkaz* reports that the Kabarda-Balkar parliament's council of the republic has adopted in the third reading a law banning religious extremist activity.

**12 May 2001** Vladimir Putin meets his plenipotentiary representatives in the Federal Districts in Moscow. The president signed the decree on setting up the Districts a year ago and the representatives were appointed then.

**14 May 2001** Prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov says structural changes are to take place and new appointments made in the Russian government in the second half of May.

**14 May 2001** Yevgenny Kiselev is confirmed as director-general of the TV6 television channel.

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**14 May 2001** Minister for the Press, TV and Radio Broadcasting and Mass Communications Mikhail Lesin is interviewed in *Izvestiya* on press freedom.

**14 May 2001** Deputy prime minister Ilya Klebanov says work to raise the sunken nuclear-powered submarine Kursk will begin in July and end in late September.

**15 May 2001** Archbishop Aleksandr of Kostroma and Galich, who heads the Moscow Patriarchate's department for youth affairs, says in an interview with *Komsomolskaya Pravda* that the time has come to talk about national spiritual security. He is talking of the expansion of various sects in Russia.

**15 May 2001** The Commander of the North Caucasus Military District Col-Gen Gennady Troshev has again been put in charge of the joint group of federal forces in Chechnya. He will take over the command from Col-Gen Valery Baranov. Russian Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov made Troshev commander of the unified federal group in the region again for a period of three months. Col-Gen Baranov will take a holiday but will not return to Chechnya for he is to go back to the duties of the district's first deputy commander, his main post. Lt-Gen Vladimir Bulgakov, the district's chief of staff and first deputy commander, will be acting commander during Troshev's service trip.

**15 May 2001** Col Ali Muguyev, deputy head of the Russian Interior Ministry's office in Chechnya, says federal troops fully control the situation in Groznyy.

**15 May 2001** The Central Electoral Commission of Tyva announces that a new constitution has been adopted following a referendum.

**15 May 2001** The State Customs Committee states Russia has increased its oil export to foreign countries (except CIS) by 5%, having shipped 32,392,000 tonnes of oil at the total cost of 5,262,000,000 dollars. Within this period, export of crude to the CIS countries has increased by 2.4 times and reached 1,767,500 tonnes, which was worth 259.6m dollars. During the same period, Russia has imported 1,689,600 tonnes of oil at a cost of 167.3m dollars, all of it from the CIS countries.

**15 May 2001** Russian Food and Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeyev say he expects Russia to harvest 65-68m tonnes of grain this year compared to 65.4m last year.

**15 May 2001** FSS Director Nikolay Patrushev says that Russian power-wielding structures intend to prevent a new aggravation of the situation in Chechnya and stepped-up activities by armed gangs there. "We do not set a specific date for ending the counter-terrorist operation, but deem it necessary, above all, to prevent stepped-up activities by gunmen." The power-wielding ministers give Vladimir Putin results of the counter-terrorist operation in the Chechen republic.

**15 May 2001** The head of the Human Rights Watch Moscow office, Diderick Lochman, accuses Russia of attempting to conceal atrocities in Chechnya. He says Moscow must undertake a full investigation into a mass grave in the village of Dachnoye near Grozny.

**16 May 2001** Russian presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy denies claims that the federal government is having talks with Aslan Maskhadov.

**16 May 2001** Russian Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov holds talks with Putin on how the state defence order, including arms purchases and the repair and disposal of military hardware, is being financed.

The Federation Council approves amendments to the law on the status of servicemen.

The Federation Council rejects the amendments on delaying conscription for military service. They widened the range of categories of citizens eligible for delayed call-up.

**16 May 2001** The Federation Council approves the federal constitutional law "On a state of emergency".

**16 May 2001** The deputy head of the Kremlin administration, Dmitry Kozak, says from 1 January 2003 in all regions in the Russian Federation a jury system in courts will be introduced.

**16 May 2001** The 3rd convention of the Russian Jewish Congress elects Leonid Nevzlin as its president. Nevzlin calls on rabbis representing different trends in Judaism "to oppose attempts by certain state officials to use religious disagreements" to split the Russian Jewish community.

**17 May 2001** The Duma adopts in its first reading the amendment to the law on general principles of organizing legislative and executive power bodies in constituent parts of Russia, depriving the majority of governors of the right to run for a third term. Only nine are allowed to run again.

**17 May 2001** *Grani.ru* website claims Russian soldiers in Chechnya are selling weapons to Chechens.

**17 May 2001** The Ministry of Taxes says the total amount of taxes and levies paid into the federal budget in the first four months of 2001 was about R281bn, which is almost 60% more than the taxes collected in the same period of 2000.

**18 May 2001** Lieutenant General Vladimir Bezugly, head of the FSS branch in North Osetia, says some 40 international humanitarian organizations are operating

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in the Northern Caucasus and there are people among their workers who engage in espionage.

**18 May 2001** Novgorod Region governor Mikhail Prusak says regional heads should be appointed directly by the president. Prusak says that the gubernatorial election should be abolished altogether and regional heads should be appointed directly by the president.

**18 May 2001** Bislan Gantamirov resigns from his post as head of the pro-Moscow administration of Grozny.

**18 May 2001** Dagestan newspaper *Novoye Delo* says the police have arrested 48 "Wahhabis" so far this year.

**18 May 2001** The Cabinet of Ministers discusses the situation in flooded areas.

**18 May 2001** Head of the Duma committee for agrarian questions Vladimir Plotnikov says Russia has fully lost self-sufficiency in food as a result of the drop in farm production during the past decade. Imports constitute over 40% of overall food consumption in Russia and exceed 50% in big cities. He says over the past decade, production of grain in Russia fell by 45%, meat by 57% and milk by 41%. At the same time, imports of meat soared 250%. Imports of sugar, sunflower oil and milk also went up. Annual spending on food imports reaches R225bn, which is 10 times greater than government support for farming.

**18 May 2001** The Finance Ministry says Russia's federal budget surplus was R49.2bn in the first quarter of 2001, and the primary surplus before debt servicing was R82.7bn, or 4.4% of GDP. Revenues totalled R318bn, or 11.7% more than the target for the quarter. Russian GDP grew 4.2% year-on-year in the quarter to R1,881bn. Industrial production was up 4.1%. Inflation in the quarter was 7.2%.

**18 May 2001** A contract for the operation to raise the Russian nuclear-powered Kursk submarine is signed with the Dutch company Mammoet. The contract was signed for the Russian side by chief designer and head of the Rubin design bureau Igor Spasskiy (in the capacity of client) and deputy commander-in-chief of the navy Mikhail Barskov (in the capacity of state client). Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov says the operation will start in mid-July and will consist of two stages. The first stage of the operation will last until 8-10 September. The second stage (the lifting of the submarine and transporting it to dock) is scheduled for 10-20 September.

**18 May 2001** Aleksey Arbatov, deputy chairman of the defence committee in the Duma, says the share of modern armament and military equipment in the Russian army does not exceed 20% and continues to decline.

**19 May 2001** Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev calls for building more nuclear power stations in Russia.

**19 May 2001** Yegor Gaydar, chairman of DVR, says at the DVR congress that liberal and centre-right forces have no other choice but to form a new political party. He says the DVR should be dissolved and members should join the URF. The DVR does so.

**21 May 2001** Sources in Russian power structures claim that Aslan Maskhadov is trying to establish contacts with representatives of the Estonian Defence Ministry.

**21 May 2001** Gennady Raykov says the political movement People's Deputy (Narodny Deputat) will be transformed into the People's Party of Russia. The founding congress of the new party is planned for early June.

**21 May 2001** First Deputy Chief of the Russian General Staff, Col-Gen Valery Manilov, says the situation in Chechnya is fully controlled by federal troops and is characterized by the planned, calm and consistent conduct of the special operation there. He says that about a dozen and a half or two dozen separatist leaders remain in the republic, adding that catching the main leaders - Khattab and Shamil Basayev - is most difficult.

**21 May 2001** An opinion poll on Kaliningrad's status gives the following results. 8% of those questioned said that the Region should become "an independent state", 35% - "a constituent part of the Russian Federation with special status stipulated by the Russian constitution", and 26% said that the Region should obtain more economic freedom, while its political status should be unchanged.

**21 May 2001** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov visits the Air Force Staff to hear Air Force Commander Anatoly Kornukov reporting on the state and development prospects of the air force. Ivanov and staff officials define priorities of air force development.

**21 May 2001** The Russian Children's Foundation says the number of children in Russia has decreased by four million over the last 10 years. There are 33 million children in Russia today.

**22 May 2001** The case of Tamara Rokhlin goes to the European human rights court.

**22 May 2001** Russia's prosecutor-general, Vladimir Ustinov, dismisses reports that he is opposed to the introduction of trial by jury.

**22 May 2001** Presidential human rights commissioner in Chechnya Vladimir

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Kalamanov says Russia's policy in Chechnya rules out any return to the August 1996 Khasavyurt agreements. "Chechnya has always been and will always be a part of Russia and the Chechens are our fraternal people."

**22 May 2001** Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says foreign debt repayment will be kept to schedule. He says the government would resort to debt restructuring "only in an extreme case, in a dramatic deterioration of the economic situation. Russia had already repaid 11.5bn dollars in debt servicing and repayment in 2000. Another 14-14.5bn dollars would be repaid this year and a similar amount in 2002. About 20bn dollars was due to be repaid in 2003.

**22 May 2001** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov states that plans for the development of Russia's armed forces, earlier confirmed by the Security Council, do not need any serious adjustments. He visits the main naval headquarters and reviews the future development of the navy with the commander of the Russian navy, Vladimir Kuroyedov.

**22 May 2001** The director-general of the Russian Munitions Agency, Zinovy Pak, says Russia will not manage to destroy its chemical weapons stocks by 2007 as was planned in 1997 after the State Duma ratified the relevant UN convention.

**22 May 2001** Diderick Lochman, director of the Human Rights Watch Moscow office, says the inquiry into the mass grave in the settlement of Zdorovyie outside the Russian military base in Khankala near Grozny is less than impartial or comprehensive.

**23 May 2001** The Russian president's human rights envoy in Chechnya, Vladimir Kalamanov criticises Human Rights Watch.

**23 May 2001** Abdulla Bugayev is appointed Chechnya's deputy prime minister in charge of contacts with the Russian military and law-enforcement agencies.

**23 May 2001** The Prosecutor General's Office searches the central office of Media-Most.

**23 May 2001** Goskomstat and the State Customs Committee says Russia's oil exports in the first three months of 2001 increased by 6.5% from the same period of last year to 36.9m tonnes. Crude oil exports earned the budget 5.8bn US dollars or 99.6% of the January-March 2000 level. Natural gas exports in the first three months of 2001 amounted to 54bn cubic metres worth 5.5bn dollars. This represents a decrease of 16.8% from the same period of last year in real terms, but an increase of 15.5% in terms of value.

The State Customs Committee says Russia reduced wheat imports 76% in January-March this year compared to the same period in 2000. In the first three months of the year Russia imported 218,700 tonnes for 22.6m dollars, down from 924,100

tonnes for 81.2m dollars last year. The bulk - 215,300 tonnes for 22.3m dollars - came from CIS countries. On the whole Russia imported grain for 46m dollars in the first quarter of this year, which is 66% down from last year's 137.9m dollars.

The State Customs Committee says that Russian exports of primary aluminium fell by 1.5% year-on-year to amount to 768,000 tonnes in physical terms and were down 12.8% in cash terms to 955.8m dollars in the first quarter this year. Russian nickel exports in the first three months fell 1.8% in physical terms to 55,100 tonnes and 28.3% in cash terms to 360.7m dollars, in comparison with the same period one year earlier. Russia increased exports of refined copper 3.5% in physical terms to 162,000 tonnes and 3.4% in cash terms - to 266.8m dollars.

**24 May 2001** Prosecutor-General Vladimir Ustinov says the death penalty does not make a country undemocratic.

**24 May 2001** The Duma passes in the first reading a money-laundering bill submitted by the government.

**24 May 2001** Goskomstat says there were 777,000 displaced persons and refugees in Russia on 1 April 2001. Over one-third (287,300) come from Kazakhstan, 12.7% from Uzbekistan (98,500), and 10.2% from Tajikistan (78,900). In addition, 134,000 (17.3%) have fled from areas in Russia with an unstable political and social situation to more peaceful places.

**24 May 2001** Andrey Illarionov, economic adviser to the Russian president, forecasts a 2-3% growth of GDP this year. He says the growth will be smaller than the 4% set by the budget if the macroeconomic tendencies, which emerged at the beginning of the year, remain.

**24 May 2001** The Duma passes in a 261-56 vote with one abstention in the second reading a Political Parties bill sent to them by Vladimir Putin.

**24 May 2001** Yabloko leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, co-chairman of the Democratic Russia movement Lev Ponomarev, and members of its coordinating council Yevgenny Ikhlov and Oleg Mustafin, sign a joint statement on setting up a union of democratic forces - a democratic coalition.

**24 May 2001** *Moskovskiy Komsomolets* publishes a report stating that former FSS personnel have been appointed to the interior ministry to take responsibility for interior ministry cadre policy.

**25 May 2001** Director Konstantin Totskiy says the Russian Federal Border Guard Service has exhausted its reserves. The Border Service took over in 1991 over 3,500 km of new border where there were no border installations.

Totskiy says the Federal Border Guard Service has stepped up the guard on the

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Chechen section of the frontier with Georgia.

**25 May 2001** Deputy prime minister Ilya Klebanov says the nuclear submarine Kursk will be raised on 15 September and by 20 September it will be taken to the dry dock.

Navy commander in chief Admiral Vladimir Kuroyedov says the Kursk nuclear submarine accident was caused by a torpedo explosion.

**26 May 2001** The URF holds it's founding congress.

**26 May 2001** Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says he intends to ask Vladimir Putin to postpone for one or two weeks the structural reform of the government, which was initially planned for late May.

**26 May 2001** The commission reporting to the Russian president on Chechen prisoners, internees and missing persons issues a report to the Duma.

**27 May 2001** Boris Nemtsov is elected chairman of the URF.

**28 May 2001** The office of presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy confirms that the chairman of Chechnya's state order committee, Khamzat Idrisov, was detained on 24 May on charges of embezzlement and his case is being handled by the prosecutor's office. The office denies media reports claiming that Idrisov was deputy chairman of the Chechen government.

**28 May 2001** Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says a total of 2,682 servicemen died during the counter-terrorist operation in the North Caucasus from August 1999 "to the present day", including 2,026 from among the Defence Ministry's group.

**28 May 2001** The Russian Audit Chamber sends to the Duma the results of inspections into distribution of federal budget allocations for national defence in 2000. The inspections found out that the Defence Ministry had caused damage to the budget or embezzled funds worth a total of R1.5bn (51.53m dollars) and repaid to the budget only R257.4m (8,843,000 dollars).

**28 May 2001** The MOD submits a draft armaments programme approved by the government to the president. The programme sets three main tasks: a guaranteed solution of the nuclear deterrence problem, comprehensive supplies to general-purpose forces, among them the constant-alert units, and the development of information and control systems.

Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says the amount of funding provided to the Russian armed forces will change by 2010. According to the reform plan, by 2005 the maintenance/development ratio of the Russian armed forces will be 60% to 40%,

instead of the current 70% to 30%. He says by 2010 it is planned to achieve "the ideal fifty-fifty ratio."

The MOD drafts a letter addressed to Vladimir Putin with a request to veto amendments to the law "On the status of servicemen" adopted by the Duma, and approved by the Federation Council. The amendments envisage adjustment of servicemen's monetary allowance to the wages of federal state employees, thus increasing servicemen's income by 100 or 150%.

**28 May 2001** Sergey Ivanov says the formation of Russia's space troops will be completed by 1 June.

**28 May 2001** Aleksandr Blokhin, minister for Federal Affairs, Nationalities and Migration, says experts estimate the number of illegal migrants on the territory of the Russian Federation at between 700,000 and 1.5 million.

**28 May 2001** Yedinstvo leaders say Yedinstvo and Otechestvo are unlikely to merge into one structure but they may form a coalition.

**29 May 2001** Police seize 193 tonnes of explosives from the premises of a company based in Leningrad Region.

**29 May 2001** Vladimir Putin says that until "a normal political system" is created in the country, the president and heads of the regions are responsible for everything that happens in Russia.

**29 May 2001** The Moscow Arbitration Court appeals department orders the liquidation of the Media-Most group.

**29 May 2001** Gen-Col Vladimir Boldyrev is appointed commander of the Siberian Military District.

**29 May 2001** Deputy head of the Russian Border Guard Service Kaliningrad Regional directorate Col Nikolay Gorbatenko says the strength of border guard troops in Kaliningrad Region will be cut by 40% by 2005.

**29 May 2001** Sergey Yushenkov discusses his plans to set up a right-wing party with Boris Berezovskiy. It will oppose Putin. Yushenkov states that the URF is too loyal to the Kremlin.

**29 May 2001** Natalya Rimashevskaya, director of the Institute of Socio-economic Problems of the Population at the Russian Academy of Sciences, says Russia's population could shrink by approximately 60% over the next half-century. She warns that unless demographic trends improve, the population could slide to 132m

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in 2015, to 87m in 2025, and just 55m in 2050. Rimashevskaya says that the latest official figures put the Russian population at 144.7m.

**30 May 2001** The government approves a mid-term programme for Russia's socio-economic development in 2002-2004.

**30 May 2001** Aleksey Miller is elected chairman of the board of Gazprom replacing Rem Vyakhirev. Miller was deputy Russian minister of energy.

**30 May 2001** The International Committee of the Red Cross suspends its activities in Chechnya until more precise information is available on security conditions.

**30 May 2001** The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade says that Russian GDP grew by 14% in 1999-2000. Industrial output was up 18% and capital investments 24%. In 2001-2004, the annual industrial production growth rate is expected to be 3.8-4.5%, with the increase over the 2000 level totalling 16-19%.

**30 May 2001** Space Troops commander Anatoly Perminov says the establishment of the Space Troops Staff is generally completed and it will take command of the troops on 1 June. Perminov says he and the commander of the 3rd Separate Army of the missile and space defence had reported to Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov on the state of the troops and combat readiness of their units. Over 80% of posts in the Space Troops leadership have been filled, but selection of candidates is still under way.

**30 May 2001** *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* publishes an article on the effect of the reform of the Federation Council.

**30 May 2001** The State Commission for Chemical Disarmament states that Russia will be unable to destroy 40,000 tonnes of chemical weapons on its territory by 2009 as laid out by the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention.

**30 May 2001** Tatarstan President has talks with Putin in Moscow. He says the process to bring Tatarstani laws into line with federal laws will not affect the treaty on the delimitation of powers signed by Moscow and Kazan in February 1994.

**31 May 2001** Justice Minister Yury Chayka says the Justice Ministry has brought nearly all legislative acts of the Russian regions in line with the federal law. He says a year ago, some 30% of the legislative acts of the subjects of the federation ran counter to the Russian constitution, while today the figure does not exceed 5 or 6%.

**31 May 2001** Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov says that Vladimir Putin will in the next two weeks sign decrees on reforming the ministry.

**31 May 2001** Duma deputy Dmitry Rogozin says the plan for settlement in Chechnya worked out by Russian MPs is to be reported to the Russian president. The plan worked out by the MPs was submitted to the meeting of the joint Duma-PACE working group last week in Prague.

**31 May 2001** The Russian prosecutor-general's office demands that powers to bring criminal charges in court cases are vested only in public prosecutors.

**31 May 2001** Human rights activist Sergey Kovalev condemns a directive from the presidium of the Russian Academy of Science called "On plans for measures by the Academy of Science to prevent damage being done to the Russian Federation".

## *June*

**1 June 2001** The presidium of the Unity faction in the State Duma agrees with the proposal of the Federatsiya group of Federation Council senators not to stop regional governors from running for a third term in office.

**1 June 2001** The Unity party and the Fatherland movement decide at a coordinating council meeting to set up an alliance. The alliance will hold a convention in November.

**1 June 2001** The C-in-C of the Russian air force Gen Anatoly Kornukov says the US proposal to purchase Russian S-300 missiles is "not serious".

**1 June 2001** A VTsIOM poll gives the following results if Duma elections were held on 10 June:

CPRF	37%
Yedinstvo-Otechestvo	20%
URF	11%
Yabloko	10%
LDPR	7%
Against all	5%

**1 June 2001** *Izvestiya* reports that an Islamic school (the Yoldyz madrash) linked to extremists in Tatarstan is closed down.

**1 June 2001** The *Daily Telegraph* publishes an article claiming that the Russian Academy of Sciences is tightening up its rules on contacts with foreigners.

**2 June 2001** The RAS defends its position over contacts with foreigners in an article in *Izvestiya*.

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**2 June 2001** Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov says the Interior Ministry is planning to cut its internal troops by 37,000 before 2005.

**2 June 2001** The chief of the General Staff, Army Gen Anatoly Kvashnin, and the commander of the Ground Troops, Col-Gen Nikolay Kormil'tsev, arrive at the main military base of federal troops in Chechnya at Khankala.

Russian forces claim to have captured Shamil Basayev's intelligence chief Magomedali Bagiyev.

**4 June 2001** The Human Rights Ombudsman for Chechnya Vladimir Kalamanov says Russia favours the abolition of the death penalty. This follows a call by Commander of the Northern Caucasus Military District General Gennady Troshev for the public execution of terrorists.

Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov says it is vital to extend the period of preliminary detention for people accused of terrorism to 20 days.

Chief Military Prosecutor Mikhail Kislitsyn informs the Duma that the Russian Chief Military Prosecutor's Office has opened since August 1999 a total of 76 criminal cases, 21 of them murder cases, against Chechen civilians.

**4 June 2001** Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov repeats his call for talks with Moscow.

**4 June 2001** Members of the Committee of Soldiers' Mothers hold a demonstration in Voronezh.

Vladimir Putin says that a new draft law on wages to army servicemen will be presented to the Duma for approval. Putin says he is annoyed that it took the government almost a year to prepare proposals on the status of servicemen and that it took a long time to finalize these proposals.

**4 June 2001** Russia produced 139.15m tonnes of oil and gas condensate in the first five months of 2001, up 6.6% or 8.61m tonnes year-on-year. Exports to countries outside the CIS grew 12% to 60,577,000 tonnes, of which transit via Russia was 6,499,000 tonnes.

**5 June 2001** Vladimir Putin signs a decree on structural reform of the Russian Interior Ministry. Interior minister Boris Gryzlov says three services will be created within the central apparatus of the ministry. Each will be headed by a deputy minister. These will be criminal police, a public security service and logistics. The Interior Ministry will create main directorates in each of the federal districts. These structures will also be part of the ministry's central apparatus and will be subordinated directly to the minister. The Ministry's central apparatus will be cut by 500 people. Interior troops will remain within the Interior Ministry.

**5 June 2001** The deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Court, Viktor Zhuykov, opposes Putin's legal reforms as threatening the independence of judges.

**5 June 2001** Deputy defence minister Col-Gen Igor Puzanov rules out setting up professional armed forces in the near future.

Vladimir Putin appoints Lt-Gen Aleksandr Skorodumov as head of the Ground Forces main combat training department. Skorodumov's previous post was deputy commander of the Siberian Military District. Lt-Gen Aleksandr Morozov, commander of the 41st army, has been nominated for Ground Forces chief-of-staff.

Sergey Ivanov says airborne forces will not be abolished.

The Ministry of Finance states that the 2002 draft budget will allocate R262.9bn to defence and R152.4bn to law enforcement and security. R7.8bn will be spent on judicial reforms. 400,000 will be dismissed from the armed forces in 2001-2.

**6 June 2001** The law allowing the import of spent nuclear fuel to Russia for reprocessing or temporary storage passes its third and final reading in the Duma.

**6 June 2001** Vladimir Putin accepts a proposal by Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov to postpone any decisions on government reshuffles for two weeks.

**6 June 2001** Boris Berezovskiy sacks Vitaly Tret'yakov as editor of *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*.

**6 June 2001** Mikhail Lesin, the Russian Minister for the Press, Television and Radio Broadcasting and Mass Communications, says in an interview with *Moskovskiy Komsomolets* that Radio Liberty's decision to start Chechen service broadcasting is discourteous. He says Radio Liberty will not be jammed.

**6 June 2001** Presidential press secretary Aleksey Gromov says Vladimir Putin considers it necessary to accelerate the elaboration of a federal target programme to reform the military-industrial complex.

**6 June 2001** The MOD decides to speed up implementation of the armed forces development plan for 2001-2005 and complete it by the end of 2002. The armed forces have practically adopted the three-service structure and currently comprise the ground forces, air force and navy. Establishment of the ground forces command is nearing completion and the same is true for departments and support structures of the Strategic Missile Forces and Space Troops, which are two new military branches developed on the basis of the abolished fourth service, the Strategic Missile Troops. The number of military districts will be reduced from seven to six in 2001 due to the unification of the Urals and Volga Military Districts. By the end of 2002 the armed forces will abolish 365,000 posts of military specialists, including several hundred posts occupied by generals and 2,000 posts occupied by colonels.

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**6 June 2001** Chechen Prime Minister Stanislav Ilyasov says Chechen leaders and Russian Defence Ministry officials intend to present their proposals for stabilization in the republic to Vladimir Putin.

**6 June 2001** Interior Minister Boris Gрызlov says Russia's efforts to fight money laundering provide enough grounds for removing it from the Financial Action Task Force "blacklist". He says Russia is drafting a law on money laundering and has already ratified the European convention on money laundering.

**7 June 2001** The head of the Media-Most holding company, Vladimir Gusinskiy, files a claim against the NTV television company and its general director, Boris Jordan, with the Presnya district court in Moscow. He is seeking to recover a debt.

**7 June 2001** The Russian Supreme Court annuls the guilty verdict against Tamara Rokhlina for shooting her husband, State Duma Deputy Lev Rokhlin. She will face a re-trial.

**7 June 2001** The government endorses the main parameters of the draft federal budget for 2002. Mikhail Kasyanov expects economic growth next year to be 3.5%.

**7 June 2001** The first deputy chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, Tatyana Paramonova, speaking at the tenth International Banking Congress, says that \$20-25bn have flown out of Russia annually over the past few years.

**7 June 2001** Deputy Atomic Energy Minister Bulat Nigmatullin says MinAtom intends to build new reactors with a capacity of 9.1 gigawatts before 2010.

**8 June 2001** Tatyana Koshkareva is elected editor-in-chief of *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*.

**8 June 2001** Deputy prime minister Victor Khristenko says foreign investments in the economy of Russia stood at 22bn dollars by 1 April 2001, including 16bn dollars in direct investments.

Khristenko is interviewed in *Izvestiya* on the future of the Russian oil industry.

Tatyana Paramonova says capital flight from Russia varies from 5 to 7bn dollars a year. The overall capital flight amounted to 24bn dollars in 2000.

**9 June 2001** Yabloko holds a party conference in St.Petersburg.

**9 June 2001** Head of the Chechen administration Akhmad Kadyrov denies rumours about his pending resignation from the post of head of the republic.

**9 June 2001** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov presents Gen Vladimir Nikolayevich Yakovlev as chief of headquarters for coordination of the CIS military partnership. This is a decision of the council of CIS state leaders dated 1 June. He was commander of the Strategic Missile Forces. Ivanov says terrorism and extremism are the main threats to CIS members.

**10 June 2001** On the occasion of Vladimir Putin's visit to Ufa President Murtaza Rakhimov of Bashkortostan and his Tatarstan counterpart Mintimer Shaymiyev strongly criticize the Ministry for Federal Affairs and Nationalities and Migration Policy.

**12 June 2001** Vladimir Putin says he is so far not contemplating a second term as president.

**12 June 2001** Putin signs a decree confirming the Chuvash Republic changing its official name to the Chuvash Republic - Chuvashia from the Chuvash Republic - Chavash.

**13 June 2001** Russian Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov appoints Sergey Shchadrin to the post of the head of the Ministry's main directorate in the Southern Federal District. He will be a deputy minister.

**13 June 2001** The Duma votes against the anti-corruption bill in its first reading.

**13 June 2001** Vladimir Putin affirms his commitment to a free press.

**13 June 2001** The Russian Prosecutor-General's Office brings new charges against Anton Titov, the head of the Media-Most holding company's financial division. In addition to large-scale fraud, he also stands accused of large-scale money laundering and forgery.

**13 June 2001** A report in *Izvestiya* says major cuts in the air force are planned.

**13 June 2001** The Russian Munitions agency states that Russia will not be able to destroy its arsenal of chemical weapons, 40,000 tonnes of poisonous gases, before 2012. Russia had undertaken to do so before 2007 in line with an international convention banning the development, production and storage of chemical weapons and providing for their destruction.

**14 June 2001** The Duma passes amendments to Russian election legislation. The Russian president and heads of executive bodies of power in Russia's regions will not have the right to run for re-election if they have resigned early or have been dismissed from office.

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**14 June 2001** The Russian Prosecutor-General's Office brings a charge against former chief of the Media-Most financial department Anton Tikhonov.

**14 June 2001** Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Interior Troops Lt-Gen Stanislav Kavun says a total of 738 servicemen of the Interior Troops have been killed and 2,560 wounded and injured since the beginning of the antiterrorist operation in Chechnya on 1 October 1999.

**14 June 2001** The Foreign Ministry states that the OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya will resume its work in Chechnya on 15 June.

**14 June 2001** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov rejects the reform plan for the Defence Ministry central administration drafted by the General Staff. The reform envisaged transformation of the ministry's main international military cooperation department into a regular department and its removal from the minister's direct control to be controlled by CGS. This idea was turned down by Ivanov who also ordered to leave the department for cooperation with CIS nations within the main department's structure.

**14 June 2001** A commission of the Ural Military District headquarters starts taking command of units of the Volga Military District. The commission is led by the Ural Military District commander, Col-Gen Aleksandr Baranov.

**14 June 2001** The Russian government approves the basics of the state policy in the Arctic region and submits the document to Vladimir Putin.

**14 June 2001** The secretary-general of the Reporters Sans Frontieres organisation, Robert Menard, criticises the lack of press freedom in Russia.

**15 June 2001** Maj-Gen Vladimir Popovkin is appointed chief of staff of space forces and first deputy commander. Aleksandr Kvasnikov was appointed his first deputy and Maj-Gen Vladimir Derkach his deputy. Maj-Gen Oleg Gromov becomes chief of armaments and Maj-Gen Viktor Starukhin chief of the operational department. Lt-Gen Ivan Khomenko is appointed deputy commander for training and education.

**15 June 2001** The Duma adopts the Russian draft Land Code, submitted by the government, in the first reading.

**16 June 2001** Yuriy Yusufov is appointed energy minister and Vitaliy Artyukhov natural resources minister in the Russian government.

**15 June 2001** *Kommersant* reports Aslan Maskhadov denying that he has been ousted as leader of Chechnya by Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev.

**16 June 2001** The public political movement Enterprise Development transforms itself into a political party with the same name. The leader of the party is Duma deputy Ivan Grachev.

**16 June 2001** The official Chechen website says it has information from the general staff of the Chechen armed forces. It says the armed forces of Chechnya are getting down to the decisive phase in preparing a large-scale counteroffensive with the aim of totally annihilating the Russian occupiers.

**18 June 2001** Director of the OSCE Bureau for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Gerard Stoudmann meets Russian human rights commissioner Oleg Mironov and discusses Chechnya.

Russian presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says Russia is interested in the presence of the OSCE mission in Chechnya.

The FSS says 19 servicemen have been detained in Chechnya on suspicion of killing civilians in the Grozny district on 14 June 2001.

Former mayor of Grozny Beslan Gantamirov has been made the chief federal inspector for Chechnya. He is to coordinate work to draft a constitution for the Chechen republic; to establish a working group; to coordinate compliance of constitutional clauses at various levels. Secondly, to prepare documents, to assist the republic's electoral commission, to coordinate organization of parliamentary elections in the Chechen republic.

**18 June 2001** Businessman Sergey Darkin is elected governor of the Maritime Territory.

**18 June 2001** President Vladimir Putin appoints Maj-Gen Sergey Minakov chief of the western regional border guard department.

**19 June 2001** Yedinstvo discusses possible changes to the package agreement on distribution of posts of heads of committees between factions in the Duma as well as the replacement of the State Duma speaker Gennady Seleznev. The deputy head of the presidential administration, Vladislav Surkov, takes part in the meeting.

**19 June 2001** Yevgenny Murov, head of the Federal Bodyguard Service, says in an exclusive interview that the service views the Chechnya situation as "most complex" and hence is undertaking extra measures to guard the Russian president.

**19 June 2001** Deputy head of the Interior Ministry's main criminal investigation department Maj-Gen Viktor Gosudarev says there have been 379 explosions in Russia since the beginning of 2001, which killed 146 people and injured another 613. 150 blasts were proven acts of terror.

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**19 June 2001** Chief of the General Staff Gen Anatoly Kvashnin confirms that a special operation for catching Chechen rebel leaders is under way. "A special operation for catching Khattab, Basayev and Maskhadov is being carried out."

**19 June 2001** Central Electoral Commission chairman Aleksandr Veshnyakov says local elections in certain areas of Chechnya may take place in 2002.

**19 June 2001** Vladimir Putin has talks with members of the regional legislative bodies.

**20 June 2001** Boris Berezovskiy says he is attempting to develop an opposition political party.

**20 June 2001** The Duma passes the second reading of the draft new criminal procedural code.

**21 June 2001** Vladimir Putin signs a decree on the establishment of a commission for drafting proposals on power sharing between the federal, regional and local authorities. The commission, led by deputy presidential chief of staff Dmitriy Kozak, has 22 members, among them Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko, Minister for Federal Affairs and Nationalities and Migration Policy Aleksandr Blokhin, President of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaymiyev. The commission will begin its work with a review of the 42 agreements that currently exist between federal and regional authorities. All power-sharing agreements must be brought into accordance with the constitution before 30 July 2002.

**21 June 2001** The Duma passes in the third and final reading a bill on political parties submitted by Vladimir Putin by 238 votes against 164. There were no abstentions.

**21 June 2001** Rebels attack the house of Chief federal inspector in the Southern Federal District Bislav Gantamirov.

**21 June 2001** The head of the Chechen administration, Akhmad Kadyrov, says that "combing operations should be stopped and normal life restored" in order to ensure a refugee return to Chechnya. He calls for the withdrawal of federal armed forces and the transfer of power to the local interior ministry.

**21 June 2001** The Duma passes in the first reading a governmental federal draft law on privatization of state and municipal property.

**22 June 2001** Goskomstat states that Russia's population shrank by an estimated 308,800 or 0.2% in the first four months of this year to 144.5m as of 1 May. The decline in population accelerated from the first four months of 2000, when the

country's population fell by 293,000, which also amounted to 0.2%.

**22 June 2001** Adlan Magomadov, plenipotentiary representative of the head of the Chechen administration in Moscow, says as many as 100,000-150,000 refugees may return to Chechnya by the beginning of autumn.

**22 June 2001** Goskomstat reports that Russia's GDP grew 4.9% year-on-year in constant prices in the first quarter of 2001 and measured R1, 886bn in current prices. However, GDP in the quarter was down 12.7% from the fourth quarter of 2000. Industrial production was up 5.9% year-on-year in the five months. Agricultural output grew 0.5%. Russia has a visible foreign trade surplus of 18.8bn dollars in the first four months of the year, down from 19bn dollars in the same period last year.

**22 June 2001** Vladimir Putin signs a decree appointing Lt-Gen Aleksandr Zelin to command the Fourth Air Force and Air Defence Army stationed in the North Caucasus.

**22 June 2001** Boris Berezovskiy is interviewed on *Ekho Moskvy*. He says he plans to fight for power in Russia and says Putin's days are numbered.

**23 June 2001** Col-Gen Anatoly Perminov, commander of Russia's space forces says he is considering restoring a former number of satellites and building a new ground radar network. He says a new radar station will become operational in either 2001 or 2002 in Baranovichi, Belarus.

**23 June 2001** A scientific and practical conference on "Russia's unified social democracy - a real political force" takes place outside Moscow. At the conference the leaders of the Russian Social Democracy Party (RSDP) and the Russian United Social Democratic Party (RUSDP) confirm their readiness to unite. RUSDP leader Mikhail Gorbachev states that the new party will be a reliable bulwark and defence for President Putin.

**24 June 2001** German Gref in a TV interview gives an upbeat assessment on the Russian economy. He says that growth rates are higher than expected, inflation is under control, and the government has done everything possible to attract foreign capital. He forecast that the reform of the electricity grid would proceed and said the Russian government was exploring the idea of a single economic space with the EU.

**25 June 2001** Vladimir Putin appoints Maj-Gen Akhat Asadulin to the post of chief of the air force central command post.

**25 June 2001** Chechen fighters attack the Russian base at Khankala.

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**25 June 2001** Deputy Prime Minister Valentina Matviyenko denies rumours about her resignation and possible appointment as ambassador to a European country. Valentina Matviyenko speaks at the World Congress "Information: A 21st Century Challenge". She says the Russian government supports freedom of the press.

**25 June 2001** Defence minister Sergey Ivanov gives an interview to *Izvestiya*. He says the initial results of military reform can be expected in 2004-2005.

Airborne Troops commander Col-Gen Georgy Shpak says no more cuts are planned for Russia's Airborne Troops in 2001 and 2002.

**26 June 2001** Chechen commander Arbi Barayev is killed by Russian forces in Alkhan-Kala.

Akhmad Kadyrov, the head of the Chechen administration, says the situation in Chechnya is "tense and difficult". He says badly thought-out actions by the federal forces contribute to this, and that the rebel forces are in decline.

**26 June 2001** Prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov visits Primorskiy kray. He says prospects for introducing presidential rule there depend "on how critical the situation gets next winter."

**26 June 2001** Former Defence Minister Marshal Igor Sergeyev, strategic stability aide to the Russian president, expresses concern over the possibility of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Vladimir Putin meets Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov and Interior Minister Boris Gрызlov.

Chief of Staff Anatoly Kvashnin orders the establishment of a military and historical college in the General Staff military academy. A higher captainship school will also be established in the college.

**27 June 2001** The commander of the North Caucasus Military District General Gennady Troshev says the latest fighting in the Sharo-Argun Gorge involves Chechen forces that have infiltrated from Georgia.

**27 June 2001** Gen Anatoly Kornukov, commander-in-chief of the Russian air force, says the current state of the Russian air force's flying stock is "critical".

**27 June 2001** Airborne troops commander Georgy Shpak is interviewed in *Vremya MN* on reform of the airborne forces.

**28 June 2001** *Kommersant* reports that North Caucasus Military District exercises at the Prudboy combined-arms test range began 27 June 2001.

**28 June 2001** The Russian government approves a socio-political and economic modernization plan for the second half of 2001.

**28 June 2001** The Duma passes the law "On admission of new constituent parts to the Russian Federation and formation of new constituent parts within the Russian Federation."

**29 June 2001** Vladimir Putin describes the efforts of the government to manage the economy in the first half of the year as fairly effective.

Putin says the economic indices of January-June 2001 "appeared to be slightly better than expected." The growth of gross domestic product exceeded 5% instead of the 4-4.5% planned

**29 June 2001** The Federation Council passes the bill "On political parties" in a 110-3 vote with 6 abstentions.

The Federation Council rejects a federal law "On alterations to Articles 7 and 9 of the Russian Federation law 'On the police'".

**29 June 2001** Minister for Chechnya development Vladimir Yelagin says at the Federation Council that it is planned to repair 3,500 houses in Chechnya this year. R14.4bn has been assigned for the social and economic rehabilitation of Chechnya in 2001.

**29 June 2001** The chief federal inspector in the Southern Federal District, Bislan Gantamirov, says the draft constitution of the Chechen Republic, which is now "on the drawing board", may suggest broad autonomy for Chechnya. Gantamirov is head of the working group on drafting a Chechen constitution. It will be based on the Tatarstan constitution.

Gantamirov says the problem of armed resistance in Chechnya can be resolved only by force. "However cruel it may sound, we must finish the war. And I assure you that no matter how many losses we sustain, finishing the war - even if it entails enormous cruelty - will be more humane than dragging it out, more humane than starting new negotiations and trying to settle the conflict by so-called political methods. War can only be finished with war."

**29 June 2001** Vladimir Putin issues an order releasing First Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces Valery Manilov from his duties.

The MOD says Russia needs to have up to 1,500 nuclear warheads to ensure its security for the next few years.

The MOD says the reduction of 365,000 servicemen is to be completed by 2003-2004 in order to reach the optimal size of the army and navy of 1,000,000 servicemen.

Dr M A Smith

**29 June 2001** Badri Patarkatsishvili, the chairman of Russia's TV6 television, rejects criminal charges against him and threatens counteraction.

**29 June 2001** The deputy chairwoman of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, Tamara Morshchakova, says she opposes the possible introduction of the death penalty in Russia.

**29 June 2001** The leaders of the human rights centre Memorial say that they have never called for "struggle against the state and the authorities". This is the reaction of the Memorial board to a statement made by the chairman of the human rights commission with the Russian president, professor Vladimir Kartashkin who says some Memorial leaders were "calling for struggle against the state and the authorities being at the same time leaders of political organizations".

**29 June 2001** The chairman of the State Duma committee on ethnic affairs, Valentin Nikitin, says no one has ever denied nor is denying that human rights are breached in Chechnya. He says both bandits and Russian military are to blame for this. He says the Russian prosecutor's office is slow to deal with cases, but also that many human rights violations are exaggerated.

**30 June 2001** AP official Vladimir Kozhin says Russia's property abroad will be managed by the Foreign Ministry and the president's administrative department.

**30 June 2001** Russian TV reports that Russian forces are holding mountain warfare exercises in North Osetia.

**30 June 2001** Vladislav Putilin, deputy chief of the General Staff, says the spring call-up to the army was completed today. The call-up plan was fulfilled by 100%.

**30 June 2001** A special federal programme is approved for the modernization of Russia's transport system through to 2010 at a joint conference of the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Railways.

**30 June 2001** *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* reports that Oleg Mironov, the commissioner for human rights in the Russian Federation, has offered to operate as middleman in talks between representatives of the federal centre and Aslan Maskhadov if such talks are held.

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