

Russian Domestic Policy: Chronology

July-September 2001

July

2 July 2001 The Russian Federation Prosecutor-General's Office and Federal Security Service (FSB) freeze the 14% shareholding in *Ekho Moskvy* radio station that was gifted to journalists by the head of the Media-Most holding company, Vladimir Gusinskiy.

2 July 2001 Duma deputy Aslanbek Aslakhanov says he has received a letter from rebel Chechen president Aslan Maskhadov urging him to help initiate talks with the federal authorities.

2 July 2001 Chechen prime minister Stanislav Ilyasov says contractors involved in the implementation of the state order are sabotaging the federal programme for Chechnya's restoration.

3 July 2001 Prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov says that one should not expect any structural or staff changes in the government "tomorrow or the day after tomorrow".

3 July 2001 Georgian television has said that the chairman of Russia's TV6 television station, Badri Patarkatsishvili, who is wanted by the Russian Prosecutor-General's Office on a criminal charge, has left Tbilisi for Turkey.

3 July 2001 Military units of the Leningrad Military District and the Baltic Fleet as well as air force and air defence units deployed on the territory of the district start a command post exercise which will be held in Russia's northwest from 3 to 10 July.

3 July 2001 TV6 reports on changes in the Interior Ministry. Vladimir Gordiyenko is appointed as the new chief of the main directorate of criminal investigation. The chiefs of all the main structures of the Interior Ministry have been replaced. Aleksandr Ovchinnikov is the new chief of the main directorate for organized crime, Aleksey Orlov is the new head of the main directorate for economic crime, Yury Shuvalov is the new head of the directorate of regional public relations, while Aleksandr Dement'yev has taken charge of the criminal police service.

3 July 2001 Russian forces begin large-scale exercises in Dagestan.

3 July 2001 The newspaper *Versiya* carries a report on a statement given by Chief of the General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin on 22 June reviewing Russia's security threats.

4 July 2001 The Duma passes amendments to laws regarding third terms for governors in the 2nd and 3rd readings. The bill was passed in a 247-38 vote with no abstentions. It gives the right to be re-elected for a third time only to incumbent heads of executive bodies of Kabarda-Balkaria, Kalmykia, Komi, and Tatarstan republics, Astrakhan, Novgorod, Leningrad, Sakhalin and Tver Regions, and the city of Moscow.

5 July 2001 Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov appoints new officials to five key posts in his ministry. Col Aleksandr Bokov, former first deputy head of the ministry's operational and tactical department, became head of the main inspection department, which was the main staff of the ministry. Col Boris Shtokolov, ex-head of a department in the Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR), was appointed head of the international cooperation department. Col Mikhail Vanichkin, former head of the main anti-mafia department, was made chief of the Interpol National Central Bureau. Maj-Gen Svetlana Petrova, who headed the financial-economic and rear sections in the Moscow police department, was appointed head of the ministry's main financial and economic department. The new appointees will be introduced to their subordinates by Deputy Interior Minister Yevgenny Solov'yev, who supervises the ministry's staff policy. Sergey Oleynik, former press secretary of the Unity faction in the Duma, has been appointed press secretary of the internal affairs minister and deputy chief of the directorate for information, regional and public relations.

5 July 2001 The heads of the Sernovodsk and Assinovskaya administrations in Chechnya, Vakha Arsamakoyev and Nazarbek Terkhoyev, resign because of their view that Russian military actions in their areas have been excessively severe.

Pro-Moscow Chechen Prime Minister Stanislav Ilyasov will not stay in office unless those guilty of what he described as "serious offences" in the course of mopping-up operations in Sernovodsk and Assinovskaya are brought to justice.

5 July 2001 The cabinet of ministers meet to discuss southern Russia. Mikhail Kasyanov says the southern part of Russia, where almost 70% of the country's population are now living, accounts for only 5% of GDP.

The cabinet of ministers discusses the programme *Elektronnaya Rossiya*. It is expected that the number of PCs in offices will increase six-fold, while the number of PC owners will increase four-fold. The programme expects that by 2005, the number of Internet users will have increased five-fold, and that by 2010 two-thirds of Russian computers will have Internet access.

5 July 2001 The chief of the Internal Affairs Ministry main directorate for fighting economic crimes Aleksey Orlov says about 190,000 economic crimes have been committed in Russia since the beginning of the year. He says 75,000 people were made criminally liable for economic crimes in January-June this year. A total of

Russian Domestic Policy: July-September 2001

116,000 criminal cases were passed to courts. According to the directorate, the state has lost R262bn as a result of economic crimes since the beginning of the year. A total of R173bn, or over 66%, has been reimbursed.

5 July 2001 *Kommersant* publishes an article on Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD) reorganisation.

6 July 2001 The Russian Prosecutor-General's Office seizes the Moscow headquarters of Russia's Media-Most media holding company to compensate a claimant for alleged damage.

6 July 2001 The Duma adopts a law restricting foreign investment in the Russian media. From now on, the stake of foreign investors in a TV channel cannot be more than 50%.

6 July 2001 Interfax reports that Russian federal units have lost 3,433 servicemen with 10,160 wounded in the anti-terrorist operation that started in Dagestan on 2 August 2001 and moved to Chechnya later. In particular, Defence Ministry units have lost 2,036 servicemen dead with 5,701 wounded. Interior Ministry units have lost 1,397 policemen and troops, with 4,459 wounded.

6 July 2001 The Chechen Prosecutor's Office says the pro-Moscow Chechen authorities are investigating alleged excesses by Russian troops during recent operations in Chechnya.

Ingush prime minister Akhmed Malsagov condemns excessive Russian military action in Chechnya.

6 July 2001 A political observer of the radio station *Ekho Moskvy*, Andrey Cherkizov, tenders his resignation.

7 July 2001 Four Russian regions within the Volga Federal District have opted out of individual power sharing agreements with the federal centre. The governors of the Perm, Ulyanovsk and Nizhniy Novgorod Regions and the president of the Mari El Republic sign the appropriate decrees.

7 July 2001 Military and police exercises come to an end in Krasnodar.

8 July 2001 Minister for Federal Affairs, Nationalities and Migration Policy Aleksandr Blokhin says the federal force in Chechnya is functioning on the basis of the Russian constitution. He says "If servicemen violate the law they will be punished".

9 July 2001 Vladimir Putin says he opposes the restoration of the death penalty.

Dr Mark A Smith

9 July 2001 The Russian prosecutor-general's office completes its investigation in the criminal case against Media-Most finance director Anton Titov. He is charged with fraud.

9 July 2001 Leonid Tropko is appointed first deputy energy minister.

9 July 2001 Leader of the Chechen administration Akhmad Kadyrov criticizes the recent federal operation in the Chechen villages of Kurchaloy, Sernovodsk and Assinovskaya.

A group created to investigate the conduct of the military during a special operation in villages Sernovodsk (in Chechnya) and Assinovskaya (in Ingushetia) starts its work.

The Chechen prosecutor's office forms two groups of investigators to check the credibility of claims by residents of the Assinovskaya, Sernovodsk and Kurchaloy villages that federal forces carried out "massive violations" in the course of their special operations last week.

9 July 2001 Col-Gen Georgy Shpak, the commander of the airborne troops says the group of airborne troops that has been taking part in the counter-terrorist operation in the North Caucasus since August 1999 to the present day has lost 279 personnel.

9 July 2001 Deputy chief of the presidential administration Dmitriy Kozak says that Russia does not have an efficient system to fight corruption.

10 July 2001 Vladimir Putin carries out a reshuffle within the Interior Ministry. Putin decrees the following appointments: Nikolay Bobrovskiy - deputy interior minister in charge of the Criminal Police Service; Mikhail Ignat'yev - deputy interior minister in charge of the Rear Service; Col-Gen of Police Aleksandr Chekalin - deputy interior minister in charge of the Public Security Service.

10 July 2001 Prosecutor-General Vladimir Ustinov leads a discussion by heads of law-enforcement bodies on tougher moves against Islamic extremism.

10 July 2001 Russian presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says "certain violations were committed" by Russian military servicemen in the course of the Russian federal forces' special operation in the Chechen villages of Assinovskaya and Sernovodsk.

Administration head of Achkhoy-Martanovskiy District Shamil Burayev, Sunzhenskiy District leader Khizir Vitayev and the leaders of Assinovskaya and Sernovodsk and 12 villages in Achkhoy-Martanovskiy District decide not to resign.

Russian Domestic Policy: July-September 2001

10 July 2001 The MVD is to soon abolish a separate department on combating hi-tech crimes and include it in the operational and technical missions department.

10 July 2001 Presidential representative in the Siberian Federal District Leonid Drachevskiy says the revision of the treaty on the division of powers between the federal authorities and regions is "on time and correct". Yet there is the federation treaty of 1992, and it cannot be cancelled. Therefore the president has set up a commission to outline parameters of a new law. The Russian constitution does not clearly define relations between the federal authorities and regions.

11 July 2001 Acting commander of the joint group of forces in the North Caucasus Gen Vladimir Moltenskoy has said a special operation to restore the trust of the people of Chechnya in the army is to be conducted from 11 July.

Presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says the Kremlin has not commissioned anyone to mediate in talks with Chechen separatist leader Aslan Maskhadov.

11 July 2001 Gazprom-Media chief Alfred Kokh announces following a three-hour meeting with *Ekho Moskvy* radio staff that he will not sell part of the radio station's shares to the journalists.

URF leader Boris Nemtsov agrees to accept a stake in *Ekho Moskvy* from Alfred Kokh.

11 July 2001 *Izvestiya* reports that law enforcement agencies have met to discuss how to combat Islamic extremism.

11 July 2001 Vladimir Putin has signed a decree promoting Director of the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) Nikolay Patrushev to Army General (four-star general).

12 July 2001 The Russian Supreme Court considers an appeal from the movement for human rights concerning the legalization of anonymous denunciations. It loses its appeal.

12 July 2001 Participants in a constituent convention of Fatherland and Unity have announced the foundation of a Russian national union with the same name. Moscow mayor Yury Luzhkov and Emergency Situations Minister Sergey Shoygu were elected co-chairmen of the Union of Fatherland and the Unity party at the founding congress of the two organizations. Putin welcomes the merger.

12 July 2001 Vladimir Putin signs into law the federal bill "On political parties", which was passed by the Duma on 21 June and approved by the Federation Council on 29 June. The law stipulates that a political party must number at least 10,000 members to be registered. Moreover, its branches in at least half of Russia's

Dr Mark A Smith

regions must number no less than 100 members and in the rest of the regions no less than 50 members.

12 July 2001 The Duma reconsiders the draft law on the police, sent back to it by the Federation Council. Interior ministers and chiefs of main police departments in the Russian Federation's regions will be appointed by presidential decrees, according to amendments adopted by the Duma.

12 July 2001 *Kavkaz Tsent* website reports that former Chechen president Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev has criticised the Arab world for not supporting Chechnya.

12 July 2001 President Vladimir Putin urges parliament to adopt the new Land Code.

13 July 2001 Vladimir Putin discusses the situation in Chechnya with Duma deputy from the Chechen republic Aslanbek Aslakhonov.

Valentin Nikitin, chairman of the State Duma's committee for nationalities, says the government is preparing a federal programme on granting R50bn roubles in 2002-03 for the restoration of Chechnya.

Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says he favours an objective investigation into events that occurred in the Chechen villages of Assinovskaya and Sernovodsk, where federal forces conducted a so-called "mopping-up operation".

Kavkaz-Tsent news agency website reports that the staff of the command of the Supreme Military Majlis ul-Shura confirm the death of the commander of one of the subunits of the Islamic peacekeeping international brigade, Amir Yarmuk Abu Umar. According to the Chechen side, the Chechens have lost 3,875 fighters and suffered about 7,000 wounded since the beginning of military operations on 1 September 1999. Amongst those killed are 11 senior commanders and at least 23 middle level commanders.

13 July 2001 Lt-Gen Anatoly Mazurkevich is appointed head of the MOD department for international military cooperation, replacing Leonid Ivashov. Putin appoints as commander of the Moscow Military District Col-Gen Ivan Yefremov. Lt-Gen Nikolay Pankov has been appointed chief military personnel officer.

13 July 2001 The Duma passes a money laundering bill in the third reading. The bill was approved by 244 deputies to 107. One abstained.

13 July 2001 Prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov says industrial production in Russia grew 5.5% over the first half of the year.

Russian Domestic Policy: July-September 2001

14 July 2001 The Duma adopts two amendments to the Land Code, restricting foreigners' right to land in Russia. The amendments forbid them from owning land in border areas.

The State Duma passes the draft Land Code in its second reading with 253 deputies voting for, 152 against and six abstentions.

14 July 2001 Minister of economic development and trade German Gref says that according to a forecast made by the Ministry, towards the end of 2001 GDP growth will be higher than estimated and reach 4-5%.

16 July 2001 *Ekho Moskvyy* radio's editor-in-chief Aleksey Venediktov says, "The conflict with Gazprom-Media has been exhausted". He expresses the hope that *Ekho Moskvyy* radio will not "experience any more pressure" in the future.

16 July 2001 The Russian Navy press service says the active sea stage of the operation to raise the Kursk nuclear-powered submarine has started.

16 July 2001 Goskomstat says industrial production grew 5.5% year-on-year in the first half of 2001.

Goskomstat says the population of Russia is continuing to decline. At the beginning of 2001 the number of Russians was down 750,000 on the beginning of 2000. The population is now 140,800,000. The Russian population has contracted by more than 6.5m in the past eight years. Life expectancy is 72 for women, 59 for men.

16 July 2001 The commander of the joint group of forces in the North Caucasus, Vladimir Moltenskoy, announces the outcome of an investigation into criminal cases in connection with violations during special operations in the villages of Sernovodsk, Assinovskaya and the District centre of Kurchaloy. He says procedure was breached in the course of the operations.

Vladimir Moltenskoy says the Chechen sector of the Russian state border is reliably sealed and protected.

Director of the Federal Border Service Konstantin Totskiy says international terrorism is to blame for the situation in Chechnya.

17 July 2001 Vladimir Putin says the process of making the federal state machinery function properly has taken too long. He says there is a tug of war between the different levels.

17 July 2001 Presidential plenipotentiary representative in the Southern Federal District, Viktor Kazantsev, confirms there had been violations of the law in the course of the security sweeps in the Chechen villages of Sernovodsk and Assinovskaya by the federal forces.

17 July 2001 The commission for delimiting the powers of the federal centre and the regions meets in Moscow. The commission's main task is to set out clearly the responsibilities of the centre and the regions. Vladimir Putin says the demarcation of powers is not the raising of a Great Wall of China between the federal centre and the regions of the Russian Federation. Just the opposite, it means creating the conditions, which are missing today, for closer and more civilized cooperation between all these bodies of power and management.

18 July 2001 Vladimir Putin signs the federal law "On restricting the state ownership of land".

19 July 2001 The Chechen prosecutor, Viktor Dakhnov, says that six Russian federal servicemen have been detained on the results of a prosecutor's investigation into special operations conducted in the Chechen communities of Assinovskaya, Sernovodsk and Kurchaloy in early July.

18 July 2001 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says that Russia will be able to sustain and increase agricultural production which grew by 5% last year; it will be able to start exporting grain in two years.

18 July 2001 Minister for Labour and Social Development Aleksandr Pochinok says Russia faces an economic threat in its ageing. He says that the increasing ageing of Russia's population is a "serious demographic problem and carries a real economic threat". People aged 65 and older make up 12.5% of the population, while the UN classification defines 7% as normal. Pochinok cited a prognosis that the proportion of people of retirement age "will begin to intensively grow" from 2006, to 24.8% by 2016. Two times more people died than were born in Russia in the first six months of 2001. Russia's mortality rate is 15 per 1,000 population, above all European countries. The population could total 130m people by 2015.

19 July 2001 The presidential information department says the capital drain from Russia was over 11bn dollars in 2000. About 80% of capital went to the USA. The volume of foreign investment in the Russian economy in 2000 was 7,888m dollars.

19 July 2001 Deputy Justice Minister Yevgenny Sidorenko says all political organizations in the country must re-register within the next two years in compliance with the new law on political parties.

19 July 2001 Akhmad Kadyrov, head of the Chechen administration, says the generals in the operations in the villages of Assinovskaya, Sernovodsk, and Kurchaloy, must be held accountable.

Kadyrov rules out the possibility of negotiations with Aslan Maskhadov.

Head of the OSCE mission in Chechnya Alexandru Cornea says that the human rights situation in Chechnya was much better than two and half years ago before the anti-terrorist campaign started.

Russian Domestic Policy: July-September 2001

20 July 2001 The Federation Council approves a bill reducing the mandatory sale of foreign currency earnings from 75% to 50%.

The Federation Council approves a law on money laundering.

The Federation Council votes against a bill passed earlier by the Duma, which would prevent most of the chief executives of Russia's regions from being elected to office for a third time. The Duma earlier limited from 69 to nine the number of governors that can be elected for a third time, despite the fact that the Federation Council had asked the deputies not to amend the previous version of "the re-election bill".

20 July 2001 Goskomstat says Russia ended the first five months of 2001 with a foreign trade surplus of 23bn dollars compared with a surplus of 24bn dollars for the same period in 2000. Russia's foreign trade turnover grew by 8.8% in January-May 2001, with exports growing by 4.9% and imports by 18.2%.

Russia increased its food imports in the period between January and May. In the first five months of 2001, Russian imported 462,200 tonnes of meat, which is 3.5 times more than for the corresponding period of 2000 (133,300 tonnes).

20 July 2001 The Russian government approves in general the draft federal targeted programme on eliminating consequences of accidents and catastrophes for the period up to 2010.

20 July 2001 Maj-Gen Andrey Kazakov is appointed head of the Defence Ministry administrative office.

20 July 2001 The Russian government approves a socio-economic programme for 2002-2204. It says economic growth in 2002-2004 should be at least 3.5-4.5% on average per year. Investment should increase by at least 18.5-25% in this period and by a rate of no less than 6-8% on average per year. Realizing these factors will enable GDP growth of at least 4% per year, which will bring GDP up by around 15% from 2000. In dollar equivalent, GDP, calculated by the current exchange rate, should rise by around 60%.

21 July 2001 The command of the Russian navy is reshuffled. Pacific Fleet commander Adm Mikhail Zakharenko has been appointed first deputy navy commander-in-chief. The fleet's command will be taken over by Vice-Adm Gennadiy Suchkov, first deputy Black Sea Fleet commander.

21 July 2001 Oleg Zhitkov is appointed mayor of Groznyy, the capital of the Chechen Republic.

23 July 2001 Vladimir Putin holds a ceremonial meeting with top-ranking officers of law-enforcement structures. He calls upon them to act lawfully.

23 July 2001 *Argumenty i Fakty* outlines a peace plan for Chechnya linked with Khozh-Akhmed Nukhayev. Under Nukhayev's plan, Chechnya would be split into two parts - the mountains and the plain. The mountains would end resistance to the Russians and give up the idea of establishing an independent state but preserve "national theocratic autonomy".

24 July 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov denies rumours of the possible merger of the Foreign Intelligence Service and the Main Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian armed forces.

24 July 2001 Aleksandr Blokhin, minister for federation affairs, nationalities and migration policy says Russia's demand for a workforce, including above all immigrant labour, amounts to 700,000-800,000 people a year. He says Russia needs immigrants because of the decline in the country's population.

24 July 2001 The presidential human rights representative for Chechnya, Vladimir Kalamonov, notes "positive and serious changes" in the human rights situation in the republic, though "stagnation" might be possible due to recent mopping-up operations by federal forces.

Aleksandr Blokhin says Chechnya has 230,000 people who left their homes in order to flee the fighting. He says that about 140,000 Chechen refugees live in the neighbouring republic of Ingushetia and that a total of 400,000 displaced people live in Chechnya, Ingushetia and other regions of Russia.

24 July 2001 Vladimir Putin discusses with the railways minister Nikolay Aksenenko a project to extend the Trans-Siberian railway to Sakhalin.

24 July 2001 Goskomstat says oil production in Russia increased 6.9% year-on-year to 162,449,000 tonnes in the first half of 2001. The leading Russian oil producer is LUKoil with 30,927,000 tonnes, up 1.5% year-on-year. Yukos, Surgutneftegaz, Tyumen Oil Company and Tatneft produced 18.3m tonnes (up 20.2%), 19.8m (up 7.3%), 12.7m (up 25%) and 12.26m tonnes (down 0.3%) respectively. Russia produced 297,377m cubic metres of natural gas over this period, down 0.9% year-on-year, including production by Gazprom of 267,042m cubic metres (down 2.34%).

24 July 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says that the status of the Moscow Military District commander might be raised in the near future. Ivanov spoke while introducing the new district commander, Col-Gen Ivan Yefremov, to his subordinates in the district headquarters.

24 July 2001 *Severnyy Kavkaz* reports that a new edition of the Constitution of Kabarda-Balkaria, which eliminates disparities with the Russian Constitution, has been adopted by the republic's Constitutional Assembly.

Russian Domestic Policy: July-September 2001

25 July 2001 Russian Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov announces the appointment of a new chief of the capital city's police force - Maj-Gen Vladimir Pronin. Pronin's candidacy is cleared with Moscow mayor Yury Luzhkov.

25 July 2001 Vladimir Putin appoints heads to the interior departments of four federal districts. Lt-Gen Aleksey Krasnikov has been appointed head of the Interior Department in the Urals Federal District; Maj-Gen Boris Uyemlyanin to the Northwestern Federal District; Lt-Gen Sergey Shchadrin to the Central Federal District and Lt-Gen Vladimir Shcherbakov to the Volga Federal District.

25 July 2001 Prosecutor-General Vladimir Ustinov appoints Vsevolod Chernov as Chechnya's acting prosecutor.

25 July 2001 Vladimir Putin appoints Lt-Gen Vladimir Zaritskiy chief of the ground missile troops and artillery.

Putin appoints Maj-Gen Nikolay Frolov chief of the Moscow Military District's missile troops.

26 July 2001 A VTsIOM poll says that 72% of the population approve of Putin's activities, while 22% disapprove of them. The rest were unable to form an opinion.

Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov has an approval rating of 48%. 35% disapprove.

27 July 2001 Combined-arms exercises take place in the Siberian Military District.

27 July 2001 Vladimir Putin signs into law the naval doctrine of the Russian Federation.

27 July 2001 Chechen administration head Akhmad Kadyrov says elections in Chechnya must be held no earlier than two years after the end of the antiterrorist operation. He says he cannot say when this operation will be completed.

27 July 2001 The government approves a plan for reforming the military-industrial complex over the period 2001-06.

Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says the military-industrial complex should concentrate its efforts not only on the production of armaments, but also on the expansion of production of high-technology goods for civilian purposes. The Cabinet approves a federal programme for reforming and developing the defence industry in 2001-2006.

27 July 2001 The trial of Aslan and Murad Bastanov, Muradbi Tuganbayev, Taykan Fransuzov and Muradbi Bayramukov is taking place in one of the special

Dr Mark A Smith

regime establishments in the suburbs of Stavropol. They are being tried for the bomb explosions in Moscow in 1999. The trial is being held behind closed doors.

28 July 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov visits Vladivostok. Ivanov will present the new Pacific Fleet commander, Vice Admiral Gennady Suchkov, to his subordinates. He says serious changes will take place in the Pacific Fleet.

28 July 2001 Igor Spasskiy, the Rubin design bureau general director, says the cost of raising, moving and utilizing the Kursk submarine will total about 130m dollars.

30 July 2001 NTV reports that military exercises are being held in North Osetia.

30 July 2001 Goskomstat says the number of terrorist acts committed in Russia increased over eightfold in the first six months of 2001 compared to the same time in 2000. According to the committee, 180 terrorist acts were committed in the country in six months. On the whole, the number of the crimes solved fell by 3%.

Goskomstat says Russia registered a 5.9% industrial growth in the first five months of the year.

The Russo-European Economic Policy Centre says industrial production in Russia in 2000 was 43.2% lower than in 1989.

31 July 2001 The Ministry of Agriculture says Russia harvested 24.3m tonnes of grain by 30 July, 9.8m tonnes more than by the same date in 2000. An area of 8.4m ha of grain has been threshed, which is 17% of the total area, and 2.8m ha more than on the same date last year. The harvest averages 2.89 metric tonnes per hectare, or 0.3 tonnes more than on the same date last year.

31 July 2001 Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov says by the year 2002 the total number of Russian Interior Ministry employees carrying out their duty in the North Caucasus will be reduced by 12,000. In 2002 there would be 42,000 employees of law-enforcement agencies working on Chechen territory.

August

1 August 2001 The Council of Russian Muslims issue a statement saying they support Vladimir Putin's policies. It is signed by its chairman sheikh Ravil Gaynutdin.

1 August 2001 The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade says Russian exports in the first half of 2001 totalled 51.4bn dollars, a 4% increase over the same period of 2000. Imports totalled 24.1bn dollars, an 18.1% increase.

Russian Domestic Policy: July-September 2001

2 August 2001 Col-Gen Valery Baranov takes charge of the joint federal group of forces in the North Caucasus on returning from leave, during which Lt-Gen Vladimir Moltenskiy was acting commander of the group.

Maj-Gen Sergey Kizyun is appointed commandant of Chechnya.

2 August 2001 The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade says Russia has scored a 5.4% growth of its gross domestic product and a 5.5% increase in the industrial output over the first six months of 2001. Over the same time, investment has been 4.2% up, and prices have increased by 12.7%.

Production of oil and gas condensate in Russia in January-July 2001 increased 7% year-on-year (by 13.2m tonnes) to amount to 197.7m tonnes. Oil exports outside the CIS in the first seven months of 2001 increased 12% year-on-year to amount to 87m tonnes, including 9.5m tonnes of oil transiting through Russia.

4 August 2001 The organizing committee of Russia's United Social Democratic Party approves the concept of its charter and the main guidelines for its programme. Its leader is Mikhail Gorbachev.

5 August 2001 The law-enforcement agencies in the Chechen Republic have detained Chechnya's deputy housing and utilities minister, Vialdy Aydayev, accused of the use of funds not for the purpose intended.

5 August 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov announces that the Russian paratroopers performing peacekeeping functions inside and outside the CIS will be replaced by Ground Troops.

6 August 2001 A VTsIOM poll shows that 55% consider the search operations which have been carried out by the Russian military in various parts of Chechnya to be essential and justified; 24% regard them as senseless and inhuman, while 21% find it difficult to express a point of view.

6 August 2001 Vladimir Putin signs the law "On the police". The law establishes new procedures for appointing and dismissing leading Interior Ministry cadres in the regions.

6 August 2001 Air force Maj-Gen Nikolay Bezborodov, the deputy chairman of the State Duma Defence Committee and member of the state commission for chemical disarmament says Russia will be eliminating chemical weapons stockpiles for artillery and missile warheads on schedule.

Russian air force commander Army Gen Anatoly Kornukov says that Russia's air force has "practically ceased" to be a service in "permanent battle readiness".

Dr Mark A Smith

6 August 2001 Vladimir Putin signs into law a bill on measures against money laundering. The law comes into effect on 1 February 2002.

6 August 2001 Militia Lt-Gen Mikhail Rudenko is appointed deputy internal affairs minister and chief of the main internal affairs directorate for the Southern Federal District.

8 August 2001 Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov criticizes the work of the police in the Northwestern Federal District. Gryzlov orders the closing of all criminal police committees in all subjects of the Russian Federation and Regional anti-organized crime departments.

8 August 2001 Representatives of Yaroslavl Region MVD department deny claims that there is a Kurdish rebel training camp in the region.

8 August 2001 An Energy Ministry report says oil extraction in Russia increased in the first half of this year. Russia extracted 167.4m tonnes of oil in the first six months of 2001, an increase of 10.85m tonnes from the same period of 2000. Coal extraction also grew by 2.3% from the same period of 2000 to 134.65m tonnes. In the first half of 2001, Russia extracted 294.52bn cubic metres of gas, a decrease of 2.8bn cubic metres from 2000. Power generation in the first six months of 2001 was projected at 458.7bn kilowatt-hours, but actual production was 451.1bn kilowatt-hours.

8 August 2001 Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov says that large-scale modernization of Russia's Air Force will begin in 2002.

9 August 2001 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov denies rumours of an impending cabinet dismissal, in an interview with *Komsomolskaya Pravda*.

9 August 2001 Sources from the office of Russian president's aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy deny allegations by former Chechen leader Aslan Maskhadov about "repeated attempts by the Russian leadership to begin secret talks with rebel leaders".

URF leader Boris Nemtsov says Russia should negotiate with the Chechen people's chosen representatives, not the ones chosen by Moscow.

9 August 2001 The air force commander-in-chief, Anatoly Kornukov says the Russian air force hopes to retrofit 80% of its air fleet by the year 2005.

10 August 2001 The Ministry of Finance says Russia's GDP is expected to go up 4.3% in 2002 to R10,600bn.

Russian Domestic Policy: July-September 2001

10 August 2001 Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says consolidated budget spending in 2002 should total R2,790bn, or 26.38% of GDP. Consolidated budget spending is set at R2,460bn for 2001.

11 August 2001 The Health Ministry says the birth rate went up again in Russia in 2000. Almost 45,000 more children were born in Russia in 2000 than in 1999. The infant mortality rate in 2000 was the lowest in the past 10 years (15.3 children per 1,000 live births).

11 August 2001 Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeyev says Russia will harvest 72-75m tonnes of grain in 2001, a 10% increase from last year's average.

13 August 2001 Vladimir Putin signs a decree on the creation of the federal state unitary enterprise, the Russian Television and Radio Broadcasting Network.

14 August 2001 The commander-in-chief of the Russian airborne forces, Col-Gen Georgy Shpak, denies reports that rebels have seized Vedeno in Chechnya.

14 August 2001 The Baltic Fleet begins large-scale exercises.

14 August 2001 Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says Russia plans to borrow between 500m dollars and 1bn dollars abroad in 2002.

The Finance Ministry submits to the cabinet's consideration a draft federal budget for 2002 with spending amounting to about R1,868bn and revenues at about R1,995bn. The draft sets GDP growth at 4.3% to R10,600bn.

15 August 2001 Rosoboroneksport Director-General Andrey Belyaninov says Rosoboroneksport has profited 2.8bn dollars in hard currency from export activities in 2001.

15 August 2001 Vladimir Putin meets First Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin and Media Minister Mikhail Lesin. They discuss state strategy of support for and the development of the market of electronic and printed media, as well as the financing of the electronic media dissemination network.

15 August 2001 Vladimir Putin meets regional leaders in St.Petersburg. He meets presidential representative in the Northwest Federal District Viktor Cherkesov, the governor of Leningrad Region Valery Serdyukov and the head of the St Petersburg administration Vladimir Yakovlev.

16 August 2001 Vladimir Putin arrives in Karelia from St Petersburg to begin his vacation.

16 August 2001 Prosecutor-General Vladimir Ustinov says an armed rebellion has been thwarted in Karachay-Cherkessia and Kabardino-Balkaria. Ustinov says the aim of the rebels was to establish a single Muslim, Wahhabite state throughout the North Caucasus. He arrives in the Northern Caucasus to investigate human rights abuses in Chechnya.

16 August 2001 The Interior Ministry reports that nearly 1.8m crimes were registered in Russia in January-July 2001, a 4% increase over 2000. Murder is up by 14%.

16 August 2001 Stanislav Ilyasov, the head of the Chechen government, says the situation in Chechnya is under the control of the defence and security agencies, and executive authorities are working in all regions.

17 August 2001 Finance minister Aleksey Kudrin says Chechnya will have its own budget.

17 August 2001 Kavkaz-Tsentr news agency web site reports fierce fighting Vedenov.

20 August 2001 Vladimir Putin emphasises the importance of Christianity for Russia, in a visit to the Solovetskiy Monastery. He also says that "contrary to the teaching about the God-chosen nature of individual peoples that asserted itself in medieval Western Europe, the Russian Orthodox culture has been laying the main emphasis on the equality of all peoples, which is a matter of principle for Russia ... since time immemorial, our country has been called 'holy Russia' and these words have carried a great spiritual meaning, as they emphasized the special role assumed by Russia voluntarily, as the keeper of Christianity ... without Christianity Russia would have hardly become an accomplished state. It is therefore extremely important, useful and timely to get back to this source".

20 August 2001 A major article is published in *Vesti* on the Russian Navy.

20 August 2001 The government says Russia's population decreased by 458,400 or 0.3% in the first half of 2001 to 144.4m. In the first six months of 2000, the country's population shrank by 425,400.

21 August 2001 The Russian government approves the draft budget for 2002.

21 August 2001 A high-ranking commission of the Russian Defence Ministry signs the final act on unification of the Volga and Ural Military Districts.

Russian Domestic Policy: July-September 2001

22 August 2001 The Russian defence industry's output in 2004 will be 60% greater than that of 2000, says Aleksandr Kabanov, deputy head of the Defence Industry Department in the Industry and Science Ministry.

23 August 2001 The Pyatigorsk district court acquits defendants Vladimir Mukhanin and Ilyas Saraliyev, who were accused of staging an explosion at the railway station in Pyatigorsk last autumn.

24 August 2001 Maj-Gen Nikolay Artyukhin, new chief of the General Staff Department on Control over Treaties Implementation, takes office.

24 August 2001 The Russian Ministry of Economic Development and Trade says the volume of foreign investments in Russia's economy in the first half of 2001 amounted to 6.68bn dollars, thus increasing by almost 40% on the first half of 2000.

The volume of direct foreign investments in January-June amounted to 2,509m dollars, or 40.5% higher than the level of the corresponding period in 2000. The volume of portfolio investments amounted to 238m dollars (4.7 times increase). Other investments amounted to 3.94bn dollars, or 33.8% higher than the corresponding period in 2000. The total accumulated volume of foreign investments in Russia is 33.84bn dollars, out of which direct investments amounted to 17.57bn, portfolio investments about 1bn and other investments 15.27bn dollars.

The Ministry says Russia's GDP went up 5.5% year-on-year in the first seven months of 2001. Russia posted a balance of trade surplus of 32.4bn dollars in the first seven months of 2001. Foreign trade turnover totalled 90.6bn dollars, up 10.5% year-on-year. Exports were up 6% to 61.5bn dollars, including a 4.6% increase in exports to non-CIS countries and a 14.8% increase to CIS countries. Imports were up 21.2% to 29.1bn dollars, including a 21.8% increase in imports from countries outside the CIS and a 16.9% increase from CIS countries.

26 August 2001 The Russian government submits a draft federal budget for 2002 to the State Duma, the lower house of parliament. Federal revenues are projected at R1,998bn and spending R1,872bn, with a surplus of almost R126bn roubles.

27 August 2001 Federal Affairs, Nationalities and Migration Policy Minister Aleksandr Blokhin says Germany will allocate DM35m to a federal programme aimed at the socioeconomic and cultural revival of Germans living on the territory of the Russian Federation.

27 August 2001 A VTsIOM opinion poll gives the following results to the question who would you vote for if Duma elections were to be held next Sunday.

CPRF	34%
Yedinstvo	25%
Yabloko	7%

Dr Mark A Smith

URF	7%
Liberal Democratic Party	6%
Otechestvo	5%

The Russian People's Republican Party of Aleksandr Lebed, the Russia movement of Duma speaker Gennadiy Seleznev, the Agrarian Party of Mikhail Lapshin and the United Social Democratic Party of former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev would get 1% of votes each. 5% said they would vote against all parties.

28 August 2001 Chechnya's military commandant General Sergey Lizyun says in *Kommersant Daily* that the Russian armed forces are in full control of the Chechen town of Vedeno.

28 August 2001 Agricultural Ministry sources state that Russia has threshed 57.9m tonnes of grain, a 14.5m-tonne year-on-year rise.

28 August 2001 The Baku-Novorossiysk pipeline is blown up 40 km from Makhachkala.

28 August 2001 The 7th airborne division headquartered in Novorossiysk starts a planned command post exercise.

29 August 2001 SovEcon analysis centre states that Russia exported 52,800 tonnes of wheat in July, against 34,500 tonnes in June 2001 (25,300 in July 2000).

30 August 2001 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov denies reports by some Russian media about forthcoming absorption of military intelligence (Main Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian armed forces, widely known as the GRU) by the Foreign Intelligence Service, successor to the former KGB 1st Directorate.

31 August 2001 Aslan Maskhadov is interviewed in *Kommersant Daily*. He calls for talks with Moscow. Sergey Yastrzhembskiy rules this out. He criticises the Khasavyurt agreement made in 1996. Yastrzhembskiy denies that Maskhadov's envoy met Russian MPs in Switzerland.

Maskhadov says that there will be an eventual peace agreement with Moscow, as the Russian army in Chechnya is exhausted.

September

1 September 2001 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov denies rumours of possible cabinet reshuffles.

Russian Domestic Policy: July-September 2001

3 September 2001 A bomb explodes in the pro-Moscow Chechen government building in Groznyy.

3 September 2001 Yevgenny Primakov resigns as leader of the Otechestvo-Vsya Rossiya faction in the Duma.

3 September 2001 Central Bank head Viktor Gerashchenko says he opposes increasing the proportion of Russia's foreign currency reserves held in euros.

3 September 2001 The Russian Taxes and Levies Ministry says a total of R133.03bn worth of taxes on the incomes of individuals was collected in the seven months of 2001, which represents an increase of 53.9% on the same period of 2000.

4 September 2001 Yevgenny Primakov says that he resigned as parliamentary leader of Otechestvo-Vsya Rossiya because he was dubious about the plan to turn it into a party and merge it with Yedinstvo.

5 September 2001 A delegation of Duma deputies leaves for the North Caucasus. They are going to present their peace plan to the Chechen administration.

6 September 2001 Presidential envoy to the Southern Federal District Viktor Kazantsev criticises URF leader Boris Nemtsov's statement on the need to launch negotiations with leader of the Chechen separatists Aslan Maskhadov.

6 September 2001 Vladimir Putin says Russia is a unique place where Islam and Christianity live side by side.

6 September 2001 Deputy Minister for Communications Aleksandr Volokitin says the number of Internet users in Russia will exceed 26m by 2010. He says that more than 80,000 domains have been registered in the .ru zone of the Internet. The number of Internet users has grown more than five-fold since 1997, reaching 1-2% of the total population.

7 September 2001 Boris Nemtsov accuses Putin of being intolerant to criticism.

7 September 2001 Vladimir Putin meets southern regional leaders in Kislovodsk.

7 September 2001 Head of the Chechen administration Akhmad Kadyrov believes talks are possible with rebel leader Ruslan Gelayev.

Dr Mark A Smith

10 September 2001 Chairman of the Federation Council Yegor Stroyev says that the Federation Council and State Council should merge.

10 September 2001 Yedinstvo and Otechestvo form a joint front for elections in the regions and in the Moscow city дума.

11 September 2001 The US Embassy in Moscow tightens up security following the terrorist incidents in the USA.

Head of the Russian air force's press service Aleksandr Drobyshevskiy says a number of antiterrorist measures are being carried out due to the developments in the USA.

11 September 2001 Russian military sources claim that the number of Chechen rebels in northern Afghanistan is about 1,000. It says some 800 Chechens are currently being trained at three camps near Kunduz, the capital of Kunduz province, which is controlled by the Taleban.

12 September 2001 A joint command-post exercise of headquarters and forces of the North Caucasus Military District and Black Sea Fleet commence. The exercise is supervised by the district's commander, Lt-Gen Gennadiy Troshev, and the fleet's commander, Adm Vladimir Komoyedov.

12 September 2001 The Board of Russia's Muftis condemns the terrorist act in the USA committed by terrorists in the United States and terrorism itself in all manifestations. "Terrorism is trying to put on religious clothes, often by using Islamic symbols."

12 September 2001 Five members of the URF faction submit a draft resolution of the Duma to the House Council. The draft asks the Constitutional Court to verify the constitutionality of the decree of former President Boris Yel'tsin of 23 September 1999, which set the rules for the anti-terrorist campaign in Chechnya.

12 September 2001 An article in *Moskovskiy Komsomolets* says that the Russian air defence forces have to rely on outdated armaments and would find it difficult to deal with a terrorist attack similar to the attacks in the USA.

12 September 2001 Vladimir Putin appoints chief research worker of the Institute of State and Law of the Russian Academy of Sciences Vladimir Kartashkin to the post of chairman of the presidential commission on human rights under the president of the Russian Federation.

12 September 2001 The FSB says it has been holding antiterrorist exercises codenamed Atom 2001 in Volgogradsk.

Russian Domestic Policy: July-September 2001

12 September 2001 The 51st Russian air defence corps stationed in the south of the country has taken additional measures to strengthen air space security in the area.

12 September 2001 Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) Gerard Stoudmann meets Russian special presidential human rights Commissioner for Chechnya Vladimir Kalamonov to discuss the situation in Chechnya.

12 September 2001 The Chechen Maskhadov leadership expresses condolences to the USA regarding the terrorist incidents in the USA.

13 September 2001 Vladimir Putin meets Justice Minister Yury Chayka. They discuss perfecting legislation on the fight against terrorism in accordance with the European convention on halting terrorism and the UN convention on preventing the financing of terrorist activities.

14 September 2001 *Nezavisimoye Voyennoye Obozreniye* publishes a report damning the state of Russian air defences.

15 September 2001 Agriculture minister Aleksey Gordeyev says Russia is planning a 15% increase in its winter grain crop sowing area this year. The agriculture ministry forecasts a winter crop harvest of 32.5m tonnes for 2001, which is 40% of the total expected grain output. In 2000 Russia had a winter crop output of 24.4m tonnes, or 37% of the total. Gordeyev says Russia will produce between 72m and 75m tonnes of grain in 2001 compared with 65.4m tonnes in 2000.

16 September 2001 Vladimir Putin meets the heads of the power structures to discuss issues of domestic and foreign policy. Those attending are Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov, head the Kremlin administration Aleksandr Voloshin, Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo, Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov, Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov and head of the Federal Security Service Nikolay Patrushev.

17 September 2001 Vladimir Putin congratulates Russian Jews on the Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year) holiday.

18 September 2001 Goskomstat says the volume of industrial production in Russia in January-August 2001 increased by 5.3% in comparison with the same period in 2000.

19 September 2001 Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov speaks on terrorism at a conference in Pyatigorsk in the North Caucasus. He speaks on Chechnya.

Dr Mark A Smith

19 September 2001 Russian presidential representative for human rights and freedoms in Chechnya Vladimir Kalamonov says at the Council of Europe that international terrorist forces are operating in Chechnya. He says Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev lives in Afghanistan or Pakistan and that he is closely linked with Saudi Arabian millionaire Usamah bin Laden.

19 September 2001 The Duma passes a resolution supporting the actions of President Vladimir Putin after the terrorist attacks in the United States.

20 September 2001 The Duma gives final approval to the Land Code.

20 September 2001 The FSB says it believes that brothers Nawar and Selim Al-Khazimi, who took part in the recent terrorist acts in the United States, might have been trained and fought in Chechnya.

FSB director Nikolay Patrushev visits Chechnya.

20 September 2001 Deputy mayor Valery Shantsev says the Moscow authorities are prepared to consider a proposal by the air force commander-in-chief, Anatoly Kornukov, that portable air defence systems should be deployed on Russia's high-rise buildings to protect the city from terrorist attacks.

21 September 2001 The head of the Russian Council of Muftis Sheikh Ravil Gaynutdin says Islam and terrorism should not be equated.

21 September 2001 Russian presidential representative to the Duma Aleksandr Kotenkov calls for introducing a state of emergency in Chechnya.

The president's representative in the Southern Federal District, Viktor Kazantsev says there will be no political dialogue with former Ichkeria president Aslan Maskhadov.

21 September 2001 Russian Prosecutor-General Vladimir Ustinov says in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* that his office has direct evidence of links between Chechen terrorists and bin Laden.

22 September 2001 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says regarding rebel activity in Chechnya that

"We are linking this to what has happened in the USA. We think that all these are links in a chain. We think that all these are the fruits from one tree if I am allowed to use the analogy. We think that the rebels were mainly trying to divert our attention from playing an active role in the international fight against terrorism."

Russian Domestic Policy: July-September 2001

24 September 2001 The government information directorate states that a directorate for the protection of state secrets and a control directorate are being set up in the Russian government administration.

24 September 2001 Vladimir Putin meets the religious leaders of Russian Muslims.

Putin holds a meeting with Duma, Federation Council and Security Council members to discuss the international situation.

Russian Justice Minister Yury Chayka calls for the immediate approval of amendments to national legislation to toughen the fight against terrorism. The Justice Ministry has drafted a related law and submitted it to the Duma.

24 September 2001 Aslan Maskhadov breaks off ties with the Council of Europe. He says the CE has not dealt with Russian human rights violations in Chechnya.

24 September 2001 Goskomstat says Russia's population shrank by 530,800 people (0.4%) in the first seven months of 2001 and stood at 144.3m as of 1 August.

25 September 2001 The MVD says it conducted a nationwide anti-terrorist drive on 17 to 23 September. Over 49,000 people are detained as suspects in various crimes.

25 September 2001 Chechen president Aslan Maskhadov accepts Putin's offer of talks.

Commander of the North Caucasus Military District Col-Gen Gennadiy Troshev says if Aslan Maskhadov refuses to disarm rebel formations within 72 hours, the federal troops "will start acting differently" in Chechnya.

The president's special envoy to the Southern Federal District, Viktor Kazantsev, starts organizing voluntary disarmament of Chechen rebels. He says no mercy will be shown to those who refuse to lay down their arms.

Severnyy Kavkaz newspaper reports that Nikolay Patrushev, director of the Russian Federal Security Service, and other FSB officials visit Kabarda-Balkaria. They hold another sitting of the council of heads of security bodies of the Russian FSB in the Southern Federal District.

25 September 2001 Vladimir Putin signs a decree on the autumn call-up for military service. The document says that from 1 October to 31 December 2001 almost 195,000 citizens of the Russian Federation aged 18-27 years old are to be called up.

25 September 2001 Andrey Illarionov, Vladimir Putin's economic adviser, says that the 2002 draft budget adjusted by the government today is not well enough guaranteed against domestic and foreign economic and political risks.

26 September 2001 Presidential plenipotentiary representative in the Southern Federal District, Viktor Kazantsev says troop levels in Chechnya will be reduced if weapons are handed over.

26 September 2001 Andrey Stepanov is appointed deputy presidential plenipotentiary representative in the Northwestern Federal District. He will coordinate the work of power structures in Kaliningrad oblast.

27 September 2001 Commander of the Moscow Military District Col-Gen Ivan Yefremov has nominated Maj-Gen Nikolay Kriventsov for commander of the Russian military contingent in Kosovo. He will replace Maj-Gen Vladimir Kazantsev, whose year-long term of service in the Balkans expires in October. The Russian military contingent comprises about 3,000 servicemen, including over 2,000 officers, warrant officers and professional soldiers of the Airborne Troops.

27 September 2001 A deputy commander of the division, Aleksandr Rubtsov, says more than 1,500 servicemen by October will join the 201st Russian Motor-Rifle Division based in Tajikistan.

27 September 2001 The president's plenipotentiary representative for the Southern Federal District Viktor Kazantsev says talks with Aslan Maskhadov could take place in the near future.

28 September 2001 The Russian Federation Security Council meets to discuss drug trafficking in Russia. Vladimir Putin says at the meeting that "terrorism and drugs are absolutely related phenomena ... It is a well-known fact that 80% of heroin is supplied to the world market from Afghanistan. And the fighters from individual movements control the distribution of drugs from there to Central Asia and further to Europe. It goes through Russia."

28 September 2001 The Duma passes the 2002 budget plan in the first reading.

28 September 2001 Russian presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says he believes that "the president's address to Chechen guerrillas has attained its principal objective".

29 September 2001 *Ekho Moskvy* radio reports that the first contacts between Russian authorities and Chechen fighters have taken place. Akhmed Zakayev, a member of the Chechen separatist government, confirms this. He was appointed by Chechen president Aslan Maskhadov.

Russian Domestic Policy: July-September 2001

The head of Chechnya's pro-Russian administration Akhmad Kadyrov warns that Chechnya may become a second Afghanistan if Russia withdraws its troops from the region. He is meeting with Romanian diplomat Alexandu Cornea, the head of the OSCE mission to Chechnya.

29 September 2001 President Vladimir Putin hosts a session attended by Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov, presidential chief of staff Aleksandr Voloshin, Defence and Interior Ministers Sergey Ivanov and Boris Gryzlov, and Director of the Federal Security Service Nikolay Patrushev in the Kremlin.

29 September 2001 The political movement Narodny Deputat becomes a political party. It is holding its second congress. It pledges its support for Putin.

29 September 2001 The PPUR organises a congress to draft a socioeconomic programme of action for left-wing forces.

29 September 2001 Aslan Maskhadov is interviewed in *Kommersant*. He says Chechen separatists have never had any dealings with Usamah bin Laden, nor any official relations with the Taleban.

Disclaimer

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