

Russian Domestic Policy: Chronology

January-March 2002

January

3 January 2002 OSCE observers begin monitoring the Ingush sector of the Georgian-Russian border. The decision to monitor this sector was made by the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna on 13 December 2001. OSCE observers began to monitor the Chechen sector of the border in January 2000.

3 January 2002 Vladimir Putin signs a decree relieving Nikolay Aksenenko of the duties of railway minister. He is replaced by Gennady Fadeyev.

4 January 2002 Deputy Defence Minister Col-Gen Nikolay Kormiltsev, who is also the Ground Troops' Commander in Chief, says Russia is to reduce its armed forces to 1 million servicemen in 2002.

7 January 2002 Duma deputy and leader of the Agrarian party Mikhail Lapshin is elected head of the Altay Republic in the second round (90% of votes counted).

8 January 2002 The Russian government appoints Vladimir Engelsberg to the post of state secretary and deputy minister of natural resources.

8 January 2002 Goskomstat preliminary statistics indicate that the gross wheat harvest for 2001 totalled 46.87m tonnes, surpassing the 1992 high of 46.17m tonnes. Russia produced 49.6m tonnes of wheat in 1990 and 34.4m tonnes in 2000. This is therefore a record post-Soviet harvest. In January 2002-November 2001 Russia imported 1.69m tonnes of grain, down from 4.48m during the same period of 2000, while the price of grain grew from 117.9 dollars a tonne in the first 11 months of 2000 to 124.2 dollars during the same period in 2001. In 2001 over half of the imported grain, 966,000 tonnes (2.7m in 2000) came from CIS countries. Grain from those countries was imported at 10.5 dollars a tonne (compared to 90.9 dollars in 2000) and from other countries at 142.5 dollars (158.4 dollars) per tonne.

9 January 2002 Duma deputy Sergey Kovalev criticizes the decision of the board of the Russian Supreme Court to uphold the Moscow City Court's verdict involving former Russian diplomat Valentin Moiseyev, accused of spying for South Korea.

9 January 2002 Col Viktor Smirnov has been appointed military commandant of Argun.

9 January 2002 An interdepartmental commission on information security is set up in the Far Eastern Federal District. The commission consists of the heads of Far Eastern directorates of the Federal Security Service, the Federal Agency of Government Communication and Information and the State Technical Commission, representatives of regional executive authorities and local government.

9 January 2002 *Izvestiya* reports that Igor Shchegolev is appointed head of the Russian president's protocol department.

10 January 2002 The Russian president's special envoy for human rights and liberties in Chechnya, Vladimir Kalamanov, visits Chechnya to inspect the living conditions in enforced resettlers' camps.

10 January 2002 Chief of the General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin says talks are being held with Chechen rebels. "We hold talks with everyone. On the one hand, we hold talks with bandits, so that they surrender to justice rather than continue to resist desperately." He says there are no large bandit groups left in Chechnya: federal forces are opposed only by individual groups of rebels no longer subordinate to Aslan Maskhadov or field commander Shamil Basayev.

10 January 2002 The Russian Prosecutor-General's Office investigates the operations of presidential administration head Aleksandr Voloshin during the period when he was involved in business.

10 January 2002 The Bank of Russia reports that Russia's gold and foreign currency reserves rose by 8.65bn dollars in 2001, from 27,972m on 1 January 2001 to 36,622m on 1 January 2002.

11 January 2002 Vladimir Putin signs a decree on combating terrorism in line with UNSC Resolution 1373 of 28 September 2001.

11 January 2002 The presidium of the Russian Higher Arbitration Court leaves in force the ruling on the liquidation of the Moscow Independent Broadcasting Corporation which owns the TV6 channel. It cancelled the 29 December ruling of the Federal Arbitration Court of the Moscow district that had cancelled the liquidation decision.

11 January 2002 Air Force C-in-C, Army Gen Anatoly Kornukov, submits his resignation following his 60th birthday.

11 January 2002 Russian Ground Troops commander Nikolay Kormiltsev says he is not satisfied with the combat readiness level of ground forces.

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14 January 2002 The Ministry of Press, TV and Radio Broadcasting and Mass Communications receives a letter signed by the managing director of the Moscow Independent Broadcasting Corporation (TV6) Pavel Korchagin, in which he gives notice that the corporation will give up its TV broadcasting licence ahead of schedule.

14 January 2002 Khazret Sovmen is announced as the winner of the presidential elections in the Republic of Adygeya.

14 January 2002 *Vedomosti* reports that Russia is now the third biggest arms exporter after the USA and Britain. A study prepared last year by the Centre for the Analysis of Strategies and Technologies shows that the volume of deliveries of Russian arms last year was about 3.6bn dollars (and about 3.68bn dollars in 2000).

15 January 2002 Staff at TV6 resolve to create a new legal entity: the TV6 limited liability company. Putin says he will not interfere in the TV6 row.

15 January 2002 The president's plenipotentiary envoy in the Southern Federal District, Viktor Kazantsev says the antiterrorist operation in Chechnya will be completed this year.

Vladimir Kalamanov, the Russian presidential envoy for human rights in Chechnya says there is less need now for European human rights monitors in Chechnya.

Akhmed Zakayev, deputy premier of the Chechen separatist government and special representative of President Aslan Maskhadov to negotiations with Russia, issues a statement on negotiations with the federal government.

15 January 2002 Mikhail Kasyanov says in 2001, Russia's GDP increased by 5.2%, the actual income of the population increased by 6.4% and the budget surplus was 2.4% of GDP.

16 January 2002 Vladimir Putin says he will support the TV6 journalist team.

16 January 2002 The Federation Council meets for its first session in 2002.

16 January 2002 Presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says in *Izvestiya* that the Russian authorities may resume contacts with Chechen leader Aslan Maskhadov if certain terms are met. He says: "It is short-sighted to say that all contacts with Maskhadov will stop forever. If Maskhadov shows a desire to carry out the two conditions of the president's appeal, I am sure that the federal authorities will support such a change of position." Yastrzhembskiy says contacts between the federal centre and odious Chechen warlords such as Basayev and Khattab are out of the question.

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17 January 2002 TV6 boss Yevgenny Kiselev says TV6 will try to remain independent.

17 January 2002 The director of the Russian Federal Border Guard Service, Col-Gen Konstantin Totsky, has said his troops are severely undermanned and underfunded. They are 3,000 men short in the officer corps.

18 January 2002 Vladimir Putin addresses the Federal Security Service collegium.

18 January 2002 The deputy presidential envoy to the Southern Federal District, Viktor Anpilogov, says: "A decision is being prepared to transfer the command of the regional operational headquarters for the implementation of the anti-terrorist operation in the North Caucasus from the Federal Security Service to the Interior Ministry."

19 January 2002 An extraordinary congress of the CPRF takes place in Moscow.

20 January 2002 Vladimir Putin recently endorsed an arms programme up to 2010.

22 January 2002 The transmitter of the TV6 television channel is disconnected. The deputy chief of the government staff, Aleksey Volin, says the Russian government does not see any political undertones in the disconnection of TV6 channel broadcasting.

22 January 2002 Col-Gen Vladimir Mikhaylov is appointed the new Russian Air Force commander-in-chief.

22 January 2002 Border Service chief Konstantin Totskiy says the reform of the Russian Federal Border Guard Service envisions a reduction of 16,000 troops and 1,500 civilian staff.

22 January 2002 Chechen Prime Minister Stanislav Ilyasov says the antiterror operation in the republic will last for no more than half a year.

23 January 2002 The Duma passes a bill on nationalisation in its first reading.

23 January 2002 Human rights group Memorial says the Russian military is still carrying out mass killings in Chechnya.

Vladimir Kalamonov, the Russian president's special human rights envoy for Chechnya, says he does not believe that a political dialogue with Aslan Maskhadov is desirable.

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Vladimir Yelagin, a deputy chairman of the commission for reconstruction in Chechnya, says Aslan Maskhadov does not control the militant groups in Chechnya and any talks with him would be senseless.

23 January 2002 The chairman of the Russian Higher Arbitration Court, Veniamin Yakovlev, rejects statements that the Russian leadership exerted pressure on the court when it was considering the liquidation of TV6.

24 January 2002 Federal Security Service Director Nikolay Patrushev hosts a session of the regional operative headquarters in charge of the anti-terrorist operation in the North Caucasus in Khankala.

Aslan Maskhadov gives an interview on the Chechenpress website.

25 January 2002 The Duma has disavows its resolution of 23 January, in which it passed in the first reading a draft law on nationalization of private property.

25 January 2002 The Duma approves a law which gives students from state general education institutions the right to defer their military service for the period of their study, but only until they reach the age of 20.

26 January 2002 Aslan Maskhadov's term as president of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria formally expires.

27 January 2002 A helicopter with the head of the Russian Interior Ministry's Main Directorate in the Southern Federal District, Lt-Gen Mikhail Rudchenko, crashes in Chechnya. Apart from Rudchenko, the helicopter was carrying the Interior Troops Deputy C-in-C Maj-Gen Davydov, representative of the combined group of troops of the armed forces in the North Caucasus Col Orlenko, senior officials from the Russian Interior Ministry Col Stepanenko and Col Trofimenko, three crew members and bodyguards.

27 January 2002 Yakutia's new president, Vyacheslav Shtyrov, is inaugurated.

28 January 2002 Representatives of the Civic Assistance Committee, the Human Rights Information Centre, the Movement for Human Rights, the Hotline Organization and the Union of Russian Correspondents call on The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) to pay attention to the TV6 situation.

28 January 2002 Maj-Gen Vladimir Chirkin is appointed chief of staff of the 58th Army, based in the North Caucasus Military District.

29 January 2002 Russian law-enforcement agencies reopen a probe involving entrepreneurs Boris Berezovskiy and Badri Patarkatsishvili. The probe is in line

with Article 208 of the Criminal Code, which penalizes the establishment of an armed formation inconsistent with federal law and leadership of such a formation. The two suspects may have financed bandit formations in Chechnya.

30 January 2002 A poll shows 75% approve of President Vladimir Putin's activity, while in December 2001 this figure was slightly lower - 73%. At the same time, 19% disapprove of his activity, the same as December 2001. 49% of Russians approve of Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov against 45% in December 2001. 34% of respondents disapprove of his work (35% in December). Putin also maintains the highest trust rating. When asked to name five or six political figures whom they trust most of all, 48% of respondents mentioned Putin, against 47% a month ago. This information is from VTsIOM, which conducted polls of 1,600 Russians in late January and late December.

31 January 2002 Vladimir Putin signs federal martial law legislation, approved by the State Duma and endorsed by the Federation Council. It says that martial law shall be introduced by the president on Russia's entire territory or in individual regions in the event of aggression against Russia or under the direct threat of aggression. A presidential decree on the introduction of martial law shall be submitted to the upper house of parliament and confirmed or rejected within 48 hours.

30 January 2002 The Federation Council elect four deputy chairmen of the Federation Council. These are Mikhail Nikolayev, former Yakutia president; Andrey Vikharev; Aleksandr Torshin, and Valery Goreglyad, who has become first deputy speaker.

The following heads of Federation Council committees were confirmed: Yury Sharandin (Evenki Autonomous Area) - Committee on Constitutional Legislation; Aleksandr Yevstikheyev (Yamal Nenets Autonomous Area) - Committee on Judicial and Legal Issues; Viktor Ozerov (Khabarovsk Territory) - Committee on Security and Defence Issues; Yevgeny Bushmin (Nizhniy Novgorod Region) - Committee on the Budget; Sergey Vasilyev (Leningrad Region) - Committee on Financial and Currency Regulation; Valentina Petrenko (Republic of Khakassia) - Committee on Social Policy Issues; Oganeg Oganyan (Komi-Permyak Autonomous Area) - Committee on Economic Policy, Entrepreneurship and Property Issues; Valentin Zavadnikov (Saratov Region) - Committee on Industrial Policy; Mikhail Margelov (Pskov Region) - Committee on International Affairs; Ivan Starikov (Kostroma Region) - Committee on Agrarian and Food Policy; Vladimir Nikitov (Smolensk Region) - Committee on Science, Culture, Education, Health Care and Ecology; Aleksandr Kazakov (Rostov Region) - Committee on Federation Affairs and Regional Policy; Aleksandr Nazarov (Chukotka Autonomous Area) - Committee on Affairs of the North and Small Ethnic Groups; Ravgaz Altynbayev (Tatarstan) - Committee on Local Self-government; Vadim Gustov (Vladimir Region) - Committee on Affairs of the Commonwealth of Independent States; Valery Tikhomirov (Omsk Region) - Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Protection.

The following were appointed heads of the Federation Council commissions: Nikolay Tuvayev (Kaliningrad Region) - Commission on the Regulation and Organization of Parliamentary Activity; Vladimir Kulakov (Magadan Region) - Commission Monitoring the Back-up for Federation Council Activities; Sergey Agaptsov

(Volgograd Region) - Commission on Cooperation with the Russian Federation Audit Chamber; Gennady Burbulis (Novgorod Region) - Commission on the Methods of Implementing the Constitutional Powers of the Federation Council; Yefim Kepelman (Yamal Nenets Autonomous Area) - Commission on Youth and Sport Issues; Dmitry Mezentsev (Irkutsk Region) - Commission on Information Policy; Mikhail Odintsov (Ryazan Region) - Commission on Natural Monopolies.

31 January 2002 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov briefs Vladimir Putin on the state of the armed forces. The numerical strength of the Russian armed forces was 1.247m on 1 January 2002. In addition 865,000 civilians are working at Defence Ministry institutions.

31 January 2002 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov confirms that Russia will expand its oil production in 2002. In March 2002 the government intends to review its strategy in this sphere and to provide specific figures for oil production and exports in order for Russian oil companies to be able to gauge better the need for investment and the number of refineries required.

31 January 2002 An article in *Obshchaya Gazeta* criticises the armaments programme for 2010 signed by Vladimir Putin.

February

1 February 2002 The Interior Ministry denies reports that it is drafting proposals aimed at restricting access of Russia's citizens to the Internet.

1 February 2002 The deputy chief of the presidential administration, Viktor Ivanov, says more than 5.6m foreign nationals have settled in Russia after expiry of their permission to stay.

4 February 2002 Vladimir Putin meets the government and discusses centre-regional relations.

4 February 2002 Chairman of the Duma Defence Committee Army Gen Andrey Nikolayev proposes revising all resolutions on building and developing the Russian armed forces. He says all attempts at reform have failed.

4 February 2002 Delegates to the All-Russia Democratic Conference protest against the closure of the TV6 television company. The statement was signed among others by Yabloko party leader Grigory Yavlinskiy, URF leader Boris Nemtsov, Social Democratic Party of Russia leader Mikhail Gorbachev, human rights activists Yelena Bonner and Sergey Kovalev, Liberal Russia leader Sergey Yushenkov, Economic Freedom Party leader Konstantin Borovoy and Republican Party leader Vladimir Lysenko.

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6 February 2002 Goskomstat says Russia's GDP grew by 5% in 2001 and measured R9,041bn in current prices.

7 February 2002 Former federal inspector in the Southern Federal District Beslan Gantamirov is appointed Chechen deputy prime minister and media minister.

Russian presidential human rights commissioner in Chechnya Vladimir Kalamonov says in an interview with *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* that "nearly a dozen" criminal actions have been initiated against federal servicemen who participated in the special operation in the Chechen village of Bachi-Yurt.

7 February 2002 Russia's chief rabbi Berl Lazar and the Association of Jewish Defence Committees urge Kostroma governor Vladimir Shershunov to put an end to the anti-Semitic activity of RNU in his region.

8 February 2002 URF leader Boris Nemtsov proposes setting up a public commission for press freedom.

8 February 2002 Head of the State Duma Defence Committee Gen Andrey Nikolayev is interviewed in *Nezavisimoye Voyennoye Obozreniye*. He criticises the current state of military reform, which he says has resulted in a decline in Russian military capabilities. Nikolayev deplores the fact that there is no civilian control over the armed forces in Russia. He urges Putin to pay greater attention to defence problems because in military terms Russia is almost a generation behind America. Nikolayev puts forward a detailed four-stage plan for military reform he would like to see implemented within 15 years.

9 February 2002 Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov has strategic stability consultations in London.

9 February 2002 A new party, Yedinaya Rossiya, is formed out of the merger of Otechestvo, Yedinstvo and Vsyá Rossiya. It will support Putin.

9 February 2002 A public council on freedom of the press is created at the international conference "Power of the Press and the Press of Power".

10 February 2002 Minister of Nationalities Policy Vladimir Zorin is interviewed in *Vek* on the work of the commission to demarcate powers between the federal, regional and local organs of government.

11 February 2002 Vladimir Putin meets top law enforcement officials at the Prosecutor-General's Office. He rebukes them for failing to tackle crime

First Deputy Interior Minister Vladimir Vasil'yev says the Interior Ministry exposed 382,000 economic crimes in 2001. 8,000 cases of corruption were exposed - 12%

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up against the previous year. In 2001 more than 10,000 police were taken to account for legal abuse. 1,700 of them were indicted on criminal charges for abuse of power and corruption. 300 police officials were found guilty of taking major bribes.

11 February 2002 CPRF leader Gennady Zyuganov gives a report on domestic and foreign policy at a session of the executive committee of the union of Communist Parties.

11 February 2002 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov signs a decree to appoint Sergey Shatalov first deputy finance minister.

11 February 2002 Vladimir Putin is interviewed in the *Wall Street Journal*.

11 February 2002 The Justice Ministry officially registers the Constitutional Party of the Russian Federation.

13 February 2002 presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says elections may be held in Chechnya in the foreseeable future if a new constitution is adopted.

14 February 2002 *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* reports that Duma and Federation Council members are considering increasing the powers of the Audit Chamber.

15 February 2002 The Duma sends an address to Vladimir Putin calling on him to lift the moratorium on the death penalty.

15 February 2002 Deputy prime minister Valentina Matviyenko says all Russia's ministries will soon be setting up working groups which will include representatives of human-rights agencies and other non-governmental organizations.

15 February 2002 Justice minister Yury Chayka says he is against the proposed lifting of Russia's current moratorium on the death penalty.

15 February 2002 The International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights issues a declaration against "spy mania" in Russia. The campaign is set off by spying charges against military journalist Grigory Pasko, scientist Igor Sutyagin and former diplomat Valentin Moiseyev.

18 February 2002 Vladimir Putin signs a decree appointing Ilya Klebanov minister of industry, science and technology and relieving him of the post of deputy prime minister.

18 February 2002 Larisa Brycheva, chief of Vladimir Putin's main state law directorate, says almost half of all treaties on division of powers between Russia's federal centre and constituent regions are losing their legal effect. Nine documents out of the total of 42 have now been cancelled and 10 more are at the stage of revision. The old treaties are being cancelled under provisions of the 1999 law stipulating that Russia's constituent regions bring their treaties with the centre in conformity with the national constitution by the end of July 2002.

19 February 2002 Kremlin deputy chief of staff Vladislav Surkov says the Russian law "On State Service" will be amended in 2003 to allow top state officials, including the president, to join various political parties.

19 February 2002 The URF drafts a plan for a radical military reform in which the armed forces would be reduced to one third of their current size and manned by professionals.

20 February 2002 Prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov says the foreign debt payments due in 2003 are no longer a problem to Russia.

Finance minister Aleksey Kudrin says capital flight from Russia totalled 17bn dollars in 2001, down 7.4bn dollars from 2000. Foreign investment in non-financial sectors amounted to 9.7bn dollars in the first nine months of 2001. In 2001 Russia's GDP grew by 5%, the positive trade balance increased by 10.7bn dollars, gold and forex reserves rose by 8.6bn dollars, the budget surplus reached R265bn, or 2.9% of GDP, and the annual inflation rate totalled 18.6%. In 2001 foreign debt went down by 9.6bn dollars, reaching 138.1bn dollars as of 1 January 2002. Domestic debt went down by R26.3bn and reached R531.1bn as of 1 January 2002.

20 February 2002 The speaker of Tatarstan's State Council Farid Mukhametshin says the citizenship law will limit the power of the subjects of the Russian Federation.

20 February 2002 The State Council of Udmurtia repeals a number of republican laws that contravened Russian federal legislation.

20 February 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says the financing of the armed forces in Russia has normalized.

21 February 2002 Twelve people involved in explosions of the Perm-Kazan-Nizhniy Novgorod and Urengoy-Uzhgorod gas pipelines in December 1999 are sentenced to a total of 120 years in prison.

21 February 2002 Goskomstat reports that Russia's GDP grew 20.6% in the three years from 1999 to 2001, including 5.4% in 1999, 9% in 2000 and 5% in 2001. The preliminary GDP estimate for 2001 is R9,041bn. The GDP estimates for 1999 and

2000 have been revised up: from R4,757bn to R4,767bn in 1999 and from R7,063bn to R7,302bn in 2000.

Goskomstat states Russia had a visible foreign trade surplus of 49,652m dollars in 2001, down from 60,703m dollars in 2000. The visible foreign trade turnover grew 4% to 156,432m dollars last year from 150,427m dollars in 2000. Exports fell 2.4% to 103,042m dollars, while imports were up 19% to 53,390m dollars, from, respectively, 105,565m dollars and 44,862m dollars in 2000. Exports to fellow members of the CIS rose 7.5% to 15,305m dollars, while exports to the rest of the world fell 3.9% to 87,737m dollars. Imports were down 2.3% and up 28.1% to the CIS and rest of the world respectively, to 13,117m dollars and 40,273m dollars.

Mikhail Kasyanov says that the management of the state debt of Russia has improved over the past few years. In 1990 the state debt had been equal to 130% of Russia's GDP, while by today it had been reduced by 50%. Russia's foreign debt amounted to 157.4bn dollars on 1 January 2001. It was reduced to 137bn dollars by 1 June 2001.

21 February 2002 Vladimir Putin meets the leaders of the Federation Council. He says one of the principal tasks of the Federation Council is to maintain a balance between state and regional interests.

22 February 2002 Goskomstat states that Russia's population shrank by 846,600 people in 2001 and was put at 144m on 1 January 2002. In 2000, the population dwindled by 740,100. In 2001, 1,308,600 people were born in Russia compared with 2,251,800 who died, up 3.3 and 1.2% on the same period last year. Natural diminution calculated as the variance between death and birth rates stood at 943,200 people compared with 958,500 people over the same period last year. The number of marriages and divorces has increased by 11.6 and 21.6%, respectively.

23 February 2002 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov signs a document on the distribution of responsibilities between deputy prime ministers and ministers. The document states that the prime minister is to have responsibility for the Atomic Energy Ministry, the Property Relations Ministry, the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology, the State Customs Committee, and the Federal Property Fund. The prime minister is also to head the government commission on military-technical affairs, and coordinate operations with the Central Bank and the Russian Academy of Sciences.

As part of his duties in the Cabinet of Ministers, the prime minister will ensure the coordination of the work done by federal executive agencies, which are controlled by the president. These agencies include the Interior Ministry, the Emergencies Ministry, the Foreign Ministry, the Defence Ministry, the Justice Ministry, the Courier Communications Section, the Foreign Intelligence Service, the Federal Security Service, the Federal Tax Police, the Federal Border Service, the Federal Agency for Government Communications and Information, the presidential administration, and the commission for military-technical cooperation with foreign states.

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Minister for Trade and Economic Development German Gref is to supervise the Russian government's Centre for Economic Conditions and Working Centre for Economic Reforms.

Ilya Klebanov will oversee and direct affairs of the Aviation and Space Agency, the Agency for Munitions, the Agency for Conventional Weapons, the Agency for Weapons Systems, the Agency for Shipbuilding and the Agency for Patents and Trademarks. He is also to coordinate and control the work of the Fund for Fundamental Research and the Fund for the Humanities.

Emergencies Minister Sergey Shoygu is to oversee and direct affairs of the Federal Nuclear and Radiation Inspectorate and the Federal Mining and Industry Inspectorate. The head of the government apparatus, Igor Shuvalov, is to coordinate the government's legislative programme, and direct the affairs of the State Committee on Standardization and Metrology and oversee the work of the Institute of Legislation and Comparative Regional Geography of the Academy of National Economy, and of the Academy of Finance.

Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Gordeyev is to coordinate agriculture and related industries, the fisheries, the fish-processing industry and trade in farmland. He will also supervise geodetic, cartographic, weather and environmental monitoring services. Gordeyev will keep his current post as agriculture minister and will monitor the Fisheries Committee, the Geodesy and Cartography Service, the Land Survey Service, the Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring and the State Grain Inspectorate.

Deputy Prime Minister Valentina Matviyenko's responsibilities include coordination of social and migration policy, labour relations, education, health care, culture, sports, tourism, youth policy and contacts with Russian-speaking communities abroad. She will also be in charge of the government's liaison with trade unions, public and religious organizations and the media. She has to directly supervise the ministries of labour, health, education, culture and the press, the State Committee for Sports, the archive services, the Pension Fund, the Social Security Fund and the Compulsory Medical Insurance Fund.

The duties of Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin are to coordinate economic forecasting, economic strategy, the securities market, antimonopoly policy, support for private business, foreign economic relations and measures against money laundering. He remains finance minister, but will also oversee the Ministries of Economic Development and Trade, Taxes and Antimonopoly Policy, the State Statistical Committee, the Securities Commission, the Service for Financial Rehabilitation (Bankruptcy), the State Reserves Agency and the Financial Monitoring Committee. He also has to monitor revenues coming from customs duties and cooperate with the Central Bank on monetary and credit policy.

Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko's duties are: federal relations, the pricing of the goods and services of natural monopolies, the energy sector, including the nuclear industry, transport, roads, communications, construction, housing reforms, mineral resources, environmental protection and Russia's relations with other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States and with the European Union. He is to supervise the Ministries of Energy, Natural Resources, Communications, and Railways, the State Committee for Housing and Construction Policy (Gosstroy) and the Federal Energy Commission.

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23 February 2002 Igor Rodionov, the leader of the People's Patriotic Party (PPUR), announces a plan to bring Russian "patriots" together in a proposed coalition whose members would be the NPPR and the Communist Party.

24 February 2002 Prosecutor-General Vladimir Ustinov is interviewed on television. He says there is no evidence of a foreign submarine collision in the Kursk disaster.

26 February 2002 The Russian Federation minister in charge of restoration work in Chechnya, Vladimir Yelagin, says the draft constitution suggested by head of the pro-Moscow Chechen administration Akhmad Kadyrov is too radical. He says that the draft resembles the first constitution of Tatarstan.

Chechen administration chief Akhmad Kadyrov says elections in Chechnya should not be held before the situation returns to normal and all refugees return to their homes.

27 February 2002 A meeting of the Security Council takes place in which Vladimir Putin sets out Russian policy in Chechnya.

Deputy Russian Security Council Chief Valentin Sobolev says Chechnya no longer poses a threat to Russia's territorial integrity. "Today, we can say with all confidence that there is no military threat, no threat to the unity and territorial integrity of the state, no threat of another large armed conflict, uprising or seizure of a city." He says the current tasks are liquidating ringleaders of band formations and putting a stop to the financing of militants in Chechnya.

27 February 2002 The chief of the manning department of the General Staff's main organizational and mobilization directorate, Maj-Gen Valery Astanin, says the General Staff of the Russian armed forces has finished the drafting of a blueprint for transferring the army and the navy to contract service.

March

1 March 2002 *Nezavisimoye Voyennoye Obozreniye* says Sergey Ivanov is likely to be dismissed as defence minister and replaced by Anatoly Kvashnin.

2 March 2002 The Unified Socialist Party of Russia (Spiritual Heritage) holds its founding congress near Moscow.

4 March 2002 Oil production in Russia in January-February 2002 increased 8.7% (by 4.69m tonnes) year-on-year to amount to 58,427,000 tonnes. Russian vertically integrated oil companies produced 53,089,000 tonnes of oil in the first two months of the year, including production in February of 25.35m tonnes. The largest producers in the reporting period were LUKoil - 12.2m tonnes (5.8m tonnes in February), Yukos - 10.2m tonnes (4.88m tonnes), Surgutneftegaz - 7.5m tonnes

(3.6m tonnes), Tyumen Oil Company - 5.8m tonnes (2.76m tonnes), Tatneft - 3.97m tonnes (1.88m tonnes) and Sibneft - 3.79m tonnes (1.8m tonnes). Companies with Russian capital and joint ventures with foreign investment produced over 3.42m tonnes of crude oil in the first two months of 2002, including 1.64m tonnes in February. Production by Gazprom in January-February amounted to 1.7m tonnes (836,400 tonnes in February); by Rostopprom - 91,300 tonnes (44,200 tonnes) and PSA operators - 77,800 tonnes (36,900 tonnes).

Gas production in Russia in January-February 2002 amounted to 105,468m cubic metres, up 1.8% (by 1.9bn cubic metres) from the same period last year. Gas production in February was 50bn cubic metres. Gazprom gas production in the first two months of the year was 92,613m cubic metres (43,913m cubic metres in February). Russian vertically integrated companies produced 5,778m cubic metres of gas in January-February, including 2,729m cubic metres in February. The most gas produced by companies in January-February 2002 came from Surgutneftegaz - 2,067m cubic metres (1,007m cm in February); Rosneft - 1,096m cubic metres (526.5m cm in February); LUKoil - 767.3m cubic metres (360.8m cm in February), and Tyumen Oil Company - 689.8m cubic metres (321.9m cm in February). Other oil and gas companies produced 7,075m cubic metres of gas in the first two months (3,357m cm in February).

4 March 2002 Aleksey Gorshkov is appointed the new head of the Russian government information department.

5 March 2002 A spokesman for the Prosecutor-General's Office, Pavel Barkovskiy, says new evidence has been found against Boris Berezovskiy. Witnesses have testified that Berezovskiy financed the Chechen incursion into Dagestan. He is also being investigated for complicity in the abduction of senior military officials in Chechnya.

5 March 2002 A group of Russian human rights advocates calls on all civil forces in Russia to unite to defend democracy in the country. "We call on all civil forces recognizing the primacy of human rights, whether they be political or non-political, right wing or left wing, to unite in the name of Russia, in the name of saving democracy, and in the name of personal freedom and dignity," reads a statement circulated by the group in Moscow.

The statement was signed by Yelena Bonner, Arkady Vaksberg, Aleksandr Tkachenko, Feliks Svetov, Lev Ponomarev, Yuly Rybakov, Sergey Yushenkov, Gleb Yakunin, Yury Samodurov, Valerya Novodvorskaya, Andrey Piontkovsky, Lev Gudkov, Igor G Yakovenko, Aleksey Zakharov, Yevgeny Ikhlov, Tatyana Kotlyar, Yury Milovidov, Igor A Yakovenko and Yury Ryzhov.

5 March 2002 Akhmed Kadyrov says elections in Chechnya may be held only when two years have elapsed from the end of the counterterrorist operation in the republic. He meets the new head of the OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya, Jorma Inki, in Groznyy.

5 March 2002 At a news conference by exiled Russian businessman Boris Berezovskiy in London, he says the Russian special services had a hand in the

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1999 explosions in Moscow. The Federal Security Service says it will not respond to these allegations.

6 March 2002 Russian industry and science minister Ilya Klebanov says Russia in 2001 received 4.4bn dollars in cash from the export of military products.

7 March 2002 Economist Mikhail Delyagin is appointed aide to Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov.

12 March 2002 The head of Russia's Central Election Commission Aleksandr Veshnyakov has reaffirmed that parliamentary elections will be held on 21 December 2003, while presidential elections will be conducted on 7 March 2004, in keeping with the law.

12 March 2002 First Deputy Chief of the General Staff Yury Baluyevskiy says up to 1,500 militants "including around 250 mercenaries from the CIS and other countries" are fighting federal troops in Chechnya. He says that "up to 400 militants from Khattab's group, about 350 militants of Shamil Basayev's group and some 150 fighters of Maskhadov's group constitute the backbone of the bandit movements ... two bands led by Akhmadov and Salamov total 100 militants each."

12 March 2002 The Russian government states it regards introducing oil export quotas as inadvisable as current export levels help maintain the price of oil on the foreign market at the level to ensure budget revenue targets.

12 March 2002 Large-scale 10-day exercises of forces with the participation of reservists begin in the Siberian Military District.

Col-Gen Aleksandr Baranov, commander of the Volga-Urals Military District, says a command post exercise started at the 2nd Combined-Arms Army. He says the exercise is taking place in the Samara, Orenburg and Saratov Regions as well as in Bashkortostan.

13 March 2002 Vladimir Putin says he will not interfere in preparations for an auction of the TV frequency on which TV6 once broadcast its programmes.

14 March 2002 Vladimir Putin announces the new members of the State Council. The State Council presidium will have the following composition: Chita Region governor Ravil Geniatulin, Astrakhan Region governor Anatoly Guzhvin, Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Area governor Yury Neyelov, Novgorod Region governor Mikhail Prusak, Orel Region governor Yegor Stroyev, Samara Region governor Konstantin Titov and Sakhalin Region governor Igor Farkhutdinov.

14 March 2002 The Press Ministry completes consideration of documents submitted by bidders in the tender to broadcast on the TV channel earlier occupied

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by TV6, which is to take place on 27 March, and barred one of the bidders from taking part in the tender.

15 March 2002 Russian Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko resigns.

16 March 2002 A decision to found a public consultative council to promote a political settlement in the Chechen republic is made. The council will be operating under the auspices of the Duma-PACE joint working group.

17 March 2002 NTV decides not to show Boris Berezovskiy's film about explosions at apartment blocks in Russia in September 1999.

17 March 2002 Deputy prime minister Viktor Khristenko says the schedule of Russian oil exports, confirmed for the second quarter of the year, will remain at the first quarter's level.

18 March 2002 The URF officially registers as a party.

18 March 2002 Vladimir Putin appoints head of the Federal Security Service division for the Baltic Fleet and troops deployed in Kaliningrad Region Rear-Adm Vladimir Sotnikov as head of the Federal Security Service division for Kaliningrad Region.

19 March 2002 President Putin meets representatives of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia. Chief rabbi Berl Lazar has said that the emigration of Jews from Russia is decreasing. "Many Jews prefer to stay in this country, as they welcome the current upsurge in Jewish life in Russia."

20 March 2002 The Duma votes to deprive its speaker Gennady Seleznev of his casting vote in the Duma Council.

20 March 2002 The Duma appoints Sergey Ignat'yev to the post of chairman of the Central Bank of Russia. He rules out any major monetary policy change.

20 March 2002 Vladimir Putin addresses a joint conference of the State Council presidium, the Security Council and the Council for Science and Technology under the Russian President in the Kremlin. He outlines measures for improving state support for science.

First Deputy Secretary of the Russian Security Council Vladislav Sherstyuk says by the year 2010 spending on science in Russia will have increased five-fold.

20 March 2002 Airborne Troops Commander Georgy Shpak appoints Col Mikhail

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Los head of the airborne operations group in the North Caucasus and deputy commander of the combined federal force in Chechnya.

20 March 2002 Prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov meets the directors of Russia's major oil companies.

20 March 2002 Vladimir Putin has a conference with the MOD leadership to work out a defence development strategy. They discuss military reform and the 10 year armaments programme. Putin says Russia must promptly respond to the latest changes in the country and the world, and serious geopolitical changes.

21 March 2002 The State Committee for Defence of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria forms a commission under the State Committee for Defence for talks with the Russian Federation. Its chairman is Chechen Deputy Prime Minister Kazbek Makhashev.

21 March 2002 Anatoly Chubays, the head of United Energy Systems, calls for the destruction of the "iron curtain" between the energy systems of the East and the West. He made the appeal during a joint meeting of the CIS Electric Power Council and the Union of the Electric Industry (Eurelectric) in Warsaw.

22 March 2002 Oil production in Russia, including gas condensate, increased 8.5% year-on-year to 58.425m tonnes in January-February 2001. Statistics of oil production, not including condensate, amounted to 56.435m tonnes (also up 8.5%). Most oil in the reporting period was produced by LUKoil - 12.008m tonnes (up 1.63%); Yukos - 8.17m tonnes (up 18.47%); Surgutneftegaz - 7.558m tonnes (up 10.79%); Tyumen Oil Company - 5.421m tonnes (up 6.9%); and Tatneft - 3.972m tonnes (down 0.56%). Russia produced 105.721bn cubic metres of natural gas in January-February - up 1.99% year-on-year. Gazprom produced 92.646bn cm of gas in the reporting period (up 0.19%).

23 March 2002 Commander-in-Chief of the Interior Ministry Troops Vyacheslav Tikhomirov says their numerical strength will be reduced by 37,400 by 2005.

26 March 2002 Presidential human rights commissioner Oleg Mironov says the number of complaints about human rights violations has sharply grown in Russia in the past few years. He criticises the lack of media freedom in Russia.

26 March 2002 Federal Security Service director Nikolay Patrushev says the Service has evidence that Boris Berezovskiy has funded Chechen rebels.

Patrushev says that the Service may give up its coordinating role in Chechnya.

26 March 2002 AVN website says a total of 2,331 servicemen of the MOD have died since the start of the counterterrorism campaign in the North Caucasus (1999-

2002). A further 5,898 have been wounded and 26 are officially considered missing.

Deputy commander-in-chief of the Internal Troops Lt-Gen Stanislav Kavun says 889 servicemen of the Internal Troops have been killed and 3,074 wounded.

Yevgenny Primakov says on *Ekho Moskvy* that Moscow sees a need to talk with Chechen separatists. He says Chechnya's status might be discussed. "We can draw on existing examples: we have national republics which possess rather extensive rights and authority. For instance, there is Tatarstan - this is a very good example as both the federal interests and the interests of the territory inhabited by the titular population are taken into consideration. If you are talking about Russia - it also has had such examples. Finland once was a part of Russia with a special status."

26 March 2002 *Kommersant* reports that the Economic Development and Trade Ministry has reported how the Russian economy behaved in February. Growth in GDP since the start of the year was 3.2% and 3% in February alone. The Russian economy is still dependent on oil prices.

27 March 2002 The nonprofit partnership Media-Sotsium is declared the winner of the bidding for use of the sixth TV channel. Arkady Volskiy, president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, and Yevgenny Primakov, head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, were the founders of the partnership.

27 March 2002 Council of Europe Secretary-General Walter Schwimmer says there has been significant progress in efforts to restore the rule of law in Chechnya.

28 March 2002 President Vladimir Putin approves a blueprint for the transfer to a professional army.

Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov criticizes the level of combat readiness of the Airborne Troops, but promises that it will remain a separate branch of service.

28 March 2002 Yevgenny Primakov says the new TV-6 should exercise self-censorship.

29 March 2002 Presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy rejects any possibility of negotiations between the federal centre and Aslan Maskhadov. He says Moscow does not rule out the possibility of dialogue on a peace settlement in Chechnya with rebel leaders other than Aslan Maskhadov.

29 March 2002 A news and analysis agency has been set up under the Russian President's plenipotentiary representative in the Far Eastern Federal District.

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29 March 2002 The governors of Taymyr and Evenki autonomous areas state they do not support the proposal by their Krasnoyarsk counterpart that the three regions be merged into one constituent member of the Russian Federation.

29 March 2002 The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade presented two scenarios for Russia's socioeconomic development in 2003-2005.

29 March 2002 Licensed organizations, together with FAPSI, have been actively engaged in work to protect confidential information in a range of structures. FAPSI Deputy Director-General Viktor Pyarin speaks about the phases in developing a protected interdepartmental electronic document-transmission system for the bodies of state power.

30 March 2002 A demonstration against the presence of US special service forces in Georgia has been held in Krasnodar.

30 March 2002 The Liberal Russia movement holds a convention in Moscow.

31 March 2002 Special correspondent for the newspaper *Moskovskiy Novosti* Valery Batuyev is killed in Moscow. Batuyev worked previously for the newspapers *Argumenty i Fakty* and *Moskovskiy Komsomolets*. He specialized in military subjects and had made several duty trips to Chechnya.

31 March 2001 Federation Council chairman Sergey Mironov says the relationship between the central government and the regions laid out in the 1992 Federation Treaty is developing in a normal and democratic way. He says the Federation Council is awaiting the results of the Kozak commission on centre-regional relations.

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