

# Russian Domestic Policy: Chronology

## April-June 2002

### *April*

**1 April 2002** An opinion poll gives Vladimir Putin the following ratings: 72% of Russians approve of his activities, while 24% think the opposite. Forty-five% of respondents approved of the activities of Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov, and 39% did not; 39% of those polled said they approve of the activities of the Russian government in general, while 50% disapprove.

If elections to the Duma were scheduled for next Sunday 7 April, the CPRF faction led by Gennady Zyuganov would receive a third of all votes (34%), Yedinaya Rossiya 21%, LDPR 8%, Women of Russia 7%, Yabloko 7%, URF 6%.

**1 April 2002** The spring military draft commences. According to the 31 March 2002 presidential decree 161,732 young men aged 18 to 27 are to be called up. With the continuing cuts in the army, the armed forces will be manned 100% by 1 January 2003, other troops and military units 95%.

The Main Organizational and Mobilization Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian armed forces says the Russian armed forces' move to contract staffing is planned to take place in three stages: a preparatory stage lasting to 2004; an implementation stage to 2011; and a final stage, for which the timeframe will be determined according to the outcome of the work done during the second stage.

**2 April 2002** The council of the Duma redistributes leading positions in the Duma committees.

**2 April 2002** OVR Duma deputy Aleksandr Fedulov says he intends to initiate a Duma statement and an appeal to Justice Minister Yury Chayka and Prosecutor-General Vladimir Ustinov to liquidate the Communist Party.

**2 April 2002** Boris Nemtsov says the URF is prepared to vote for a draft motion on establishing a Duma commission to probe the facts concerning the blasts in apartment buildings in Moscow and Volgodonsk and concerning the circumstances of the Ryazan training in autumn 1999.

**2 April 2002** Justice Minister Yury Chayka thinks that law-enforcement bodies "have every reason to bring criminal charges in absentia against former KGB agent Gen Oleg Kalugin and Federal Security Service officer Lt-Col Aleksandr Litvinenko who currently live abroad".

**2 April 2002** Russian Nationalities Policy Minister Vladimir Zorin criticizes the decision of Radio Liberty to start broadcasting to Chechnya in the Chechen language.

The pro-Moscow Chechen government decides to set up a news agency called Grozny Inform. Aslanbek Batalov has been named the agency's director-general. It will commence operations in 2003.

**2 April 2002** Government sources tell Interfax that Russian crude oil production grew 8.7%, or by 7.2m tonnes year-on-year to 89.584m tonnes in the first quarter of this year.

**2 April 2002** The deputy chief of the General Staff, Col-Gen Vladislav Putilin, says the Russian armed forces will be reduced to one million men by 2005. In 2001, the roster strength of the Russian army was cut by 92,000, and by the end of 2002, there will be cuts of a further 117,000 men.

**2 April 2002** A three-day command-post exercise (CPX) of the 58th all-arms army starts in North Osetia and four other southern Russian territories.

**2 April 2002** The outflow of capital from Russia stands at its lowest level since 1998 - around 5% of GDP. The inflow of hard currency to the country nearly halved in 2001 over declining prices on commodity markets. It totalled 6.4bn US dollars over the last three months of 2001. The inflow of direct foreign investments remains insignificant: 2.5bn dollars - even somewhat less than in 2000 - were invested in Russian companies over the entire year in 2001. These figures come from UFG.

**2 April 2002** Interfax reports that oil exports from Russia to countries outside the CIS through the Transneft pipeline network rose 6%, or 2m tonnes, year on year to 37,447,000 tonnes (in the first quarter). This includes 3,659,000 tonnes of transit oil from Kazakhstan (including 1,288,000 tonnes in March), 867,900 tonnes from Azerbaijan (223,500 tonnes) and 156,100 tonnes from Turkmenistan (82,600 tonnes).

LUKoil exported 6.79m tonnes of crude oil to countries outside the CIS in the quarter, including 2,434,000 tonnes in March; Yukos exported respectively 5,778,000 and 2,152,000 tonnes; Surgutneftegaz shipped 4,161,000 and 1,353,000 tonnes; and the Tyumen Oil Company (TNK) 3,709,000 and 1,454,000 tonnes.

Firms that are not vertically integrated oil companies exported 1,857,000 tonnes of oil to outside the CIS through Transneft in the quarter, including 693,100 tonnes in March. The operators of production-sharing agreements exported respectively 141,000 and 47,000 tonnes. Another 728,100 tonnes of oil were exported from Russia in the quarter outside the Transneft pipeline system, including 205,450 tonnes in March. Russian producers also exported 8,435,000 tonnes of crude to other countries within the CIS in the quarter, including 3,009,000 tonnes in March.

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The Energy Ministry says Russia exported 33.29m tonnes of oil to countries outside the former Soviet territory in the first quarter of the year, which is 3.55% less than the amount for the third quarter of 2001.

Russia promised OPEC that it would reduce its exports to 150,000 barrels a day (there are 7.3 barrels to the tonne). It has cut its exports since the start of 2002 on the basis of the level for the third quarter of last year. Daily exports in the first quarter of 2002 averaged 2.7m barrels, compared with 2,735,000 in the third quarter of 2001. This means the cuts have not exceeded 35,000 barrels a day.

**3 April 2002** CPRF Duma deputy Sergey Glazyev says that Vladimir Putin should be involved in resolving the dispute over the distribution of Duma posts.

CPRF leader Gennady Zyuganov and agroindustrial group leader Nikolay Kharitonov say the CPRF and the agroindustrial group will renounce all the leadership posts they hold in the lower chamber if a decision is taken to review the package agreement on the allocation of the posts.

The Duma revises the package agreement on the distribution of top committee posts. The revised package agreement was supported by 260 deputies, with the minimum number of votes for passage being 226.

The Duma appointed Valery Grebennikov of the OVR faction chairman of the Committee on State Construction; Andrey Selivanov of the URF faction chairman of the Committee on Labour and Social Policy; Grigory Tomchin, URF, chairman of the Committee on Economic Policy and Business; Martin Shakkum of the Regions of Russia group chairman of the Committee on Industry, Construction, and High Technology; Viktor Grishin, OVR, chairman of the Committee on Federation Affairs and Regional Policy; Aleksandr Shishlov, Yabloko, chairman of the Committee on Education and Science, and Gennady Kulik, OVR, chairman of the Committee on Agricultural Affairs.

Representatives of the CPRF and Agro-Industrial group of deputies turn down leading posts of Duma committees left to them after a resolution to review the "package agreement" is adopted.

Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev, who summed up the results of a noon session of the State Duma that distributed top posts in the chamber, says he will not hold on to his post. He declines to say when he would decide on this matter and whether he intends to discuss this issue with the president pending his decision.

Yedinaya Rossiya issues a statement criticising the CPRF. It says political profiteering by the Communist Party "is creating a threat to national security and preventing the return to Russia of great-power status."

**3 April 2002** The Federal Migration Service of the Interior Ministry (MVD) says it intends in the near future to introduce a registration card for immigration control.

**3 April 2002** Dagestan's Minister for Nationalities, Information and External Relations Magomedsalikh Gusayev expresses concern in Dagestan over the decision

to start Radio Liberty broadcasts in the languages of peoples of the North Caucasus.

Viktor Kazantsev, the Russian president's representative in the Southern Federal District, casts doubt on the objectivity of Radio Liberty's North Caucasian service.

**3 April 2002** The State Council of Tatarstan makes the final amendments to the Tatarstan constitution. The deputies removed all mention of sovereignty from Article 1 of the constitution. Tatarstan President Mintimier Shaymiyev says: "We cannot go beyond our power limits as a part of a united federal state and assume the obligations and sovereign rights of Russia itself".

**3 April 2002** Large-scale combat exercises begin in North Osetia. The military are ready for any development of events in the Transcaucasus and are practising actions in the event of an exacerbation of the situation in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone. The aim of the exercises is interaction between headquarters and military units deployed throughout the whole of the North Caucasus. The necessary communications links have been set up at the command centre, from private links to satellite links. According to the exercise scenario, the imaginary enemy is trying to break through the Russian-Georgian border. The troops are in defensive positions.

**3 April 2002** Vladimir Putin appoints Maj-Gen Sergey Shmakov, deputy commander of the Kamchatka troops group in charge of air force and air defence, to the post of deputy commander of Russian naval aviation.

**3 April 2002** *Kommersant Dengi* says Vladimir Putin is now in control of TV-6.

**3 April 2002** *Krasnaya Zvezda* reports that a new order by the commander of the Russian forces in Chechnya, Gen Vladimir Moltenskoy, aims to prevent abuses by the military against the civilian population. Any security sweeps in Chechnya will now require Moltenskoy's personal authorization.

**4 April 2002** Deputy head of the president's administration Vladislav Surkov says the Kremlin opposes any attempt to ban the CPRF. A Duma resolution on this will be considered on 19 April 2002. The resolution was drafted by Aleksandr Fedulov, an OVR deputy.

**4 April 2002** The Constitutional Court has upheld a law that allows the president to fire regional leaders. The Russian republics of Adygeya and Sakha (Yakutia) had asked the court to consider the law. The Constitutional Court confirms the right of the country's president to dismiss leaders of constituent parts of the Russian Federation, and has also confirmed the right of federal legislators to dismiss regional parliaments. At the same time the Constitutional Court made this right conditional by adding a number of substantial restrictions, requiring decisions from a minimum of three degrees of jurisdiction, including a decision from the Constitutional Court.

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**4 April 2002** First Deputy Finance Minister and head of the Financial Monitoring Committee Viktor Zubkov says a unit in charge of countering the financing of terrorism has been set up in the Finance Ministry's Currency Control Department.

**4 April 2002** Deputy prime minister Viktor Khristenko says the Russian government will in mid-May 2002 consider the possibility of amending oil export volumes.

**4 April 2002** In Krasnoyarsk, the head of the Territory, Aleksandr Lebed and the head of Taymyr Autonomous Area, Aleksandr Khloponin, discuss Putin's proposals on amalgamation of the three major Russian regions, Evenki Autonomous Area, Taymyr Autonomous Area and Krasnoyarsk Territory.

**4 April 2002** The presidential spokesman on Chechnya, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, says Radio Liberty's North Caucasian service is one sided.

The deputy head of the committee for international affairs of the Duma drafts an address on behalf of the house to the Russian government proposing to recall the Radio Liberty licence for broadcasts to the Russian territories following Radio Liberty's commencement of Chechen broadcasts on 3 April.

**5 April 2002** Duma Chairman Gennady Seleznev tells the press that Vladimir Putin does not think that he should resign. Seleznev therefore refuses to do so.

CPRF leader Gennady Zyuganov thinks that Duma Chairman Gennady Seleznev should step down, as the Duma has begun pursuing an "openly rightist" policy.

**5 April 2002** OVR Duma faction leader Vyacheslav Volodin says Aleksandr Fedulov, who appealed to the Russian Justice Ministry to liquidate the Russian Communist Party, can be expelled from the ranks of the OVR at the next faction meeting on 9 April.

**5 April 2002** A spokesman for the General Staff main mobilization directorate says it expresses concern over a growing number of draft dodgers. The number of people who dodged the autumn draft totalled 28,230 people, which is almost 15% of the number of recruited people. The highest number of draft dodgers is registered in the Moscow Region, where it amounts to about 4,000, and in Moscow, where it exceeds 3,000, which is 50% of the number of young men drafted from the city.

**5 April 2002** Kaliningrad Region governor Vladimir Yegorov says the Russian General Staff plans to cut the number of the Baltic Fleet's military grouping to 8,603 servicemen. Yegorov says that the grouping is currently 25,000 strong.

**5 April 2002** Krasnoyarsk Territory governor Aleksandr Lebed and Taymyr Autonomous Area head Aleksandr Khloponin sign an agreement allowing for the creation of an interregional government.

**5 April 2002** The Russian government information directorate says that the Cabinet of Ministers had passed a resolution on 2 April on a list of strategic mineral resources, making the data on their reserves a state secret. The resolution embraces, in the first place, data on reserves of crude oil, casing-head gas, nickel and cobalt. It also declares as confidential information on reserves, mining and production of tantalum, niobium, beryllium, lithium, rare-earth elements of the yttrium group and raw materials containing super-pure quartz.

**6 April 2002** The URF launches a campaign to win public support for its military reform plans.

**7 April 2002** The first round of the presidential election in Ingushetia takes place.

**7 April 2002** Vladimir Putin says he is against the idea of banning the CPRF.

Putin says reorganization of the government and the Kremlin administration "is a problem that needs to be solved".

Putin says he is absolutely convinced there can be no democratic Russia without a free press. "If freedom of the press is understood as the freedom of some so-called oligarchs to buy journalists and impose their will on them in their group interests and advocate this road of oligarchic development, which has been inflicted on Russia during the last decade, if freedom of the press is understood this way, yes, it is in danger."

**8 April 2002** A ROMIR poll says if the presidential election were held today, Vladimir Putin would collect more than half of the votes cast. Putin enjoys credibility with 76.7% of the polled, 17.9% do not trust him, and 5.4% were undecided. Most of the questioned (62%) said they would vote for Putin if the presidential election were held now.

Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov was in second place with 8.8%, and nationalist Liberal Democratic Party of Russia leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy third with 3.3%. URF deputy Irina Khakamada would collect 2.1% of the votes, Moscow Mayor Yury Luzhkov 1.6%, URF leader Boris Nemtsov 1.5%, and other politicians would share 3.9%.

According to the poll, 4.6% of the electorate would vote against all candidates, 5.4% would not go to the polling stations, and 6.8% have not made up their mind yet. Most respondents made favourable comments on Putin's presidency, 13.3% do not like him as the head of state, and 5% made no comment. The opinion poll was based on a national representative population sample of 2,500 citizens.

**8 April 2002** Vladimir Putin says the government's economic plans need to be more ambitious.

The chairman of the Russian Audit Chamber, Sergey Stepashin, says the entire system of state financial control must achieve more effective performance to make budgeting more transparent.

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The Central Bank says Russia's gold and currency reserves have grown in the first quarter of 2002 by 673m dollars, or by 1.84%, from 36.622bn dollars as of 1 January to 37.295bn dollars as of 1 April 2002. Currency reserves during the period between January and March 2002 grew by 1.96%, from 32.542bn dollars to 33.179bn dollars, and gold reserves grew by 0.88% from 4.08bn dollars to 4.116bn dollars. In the structure of gold and currency reserves the share of foreign currency grew from 88.86% to 88.96%, while the share of gold decreased accordingly from 11.14% to 11.04%.

**8 April 2002** Alikhan Amirkhanov, a member of the Duma and Federal Security Service (FSB) Gen Murat Zyazikov, deputy presidential plenipotentiary representative in the Southern Federal District, will contest the Ingush presidency in an election run-off which, according to law, is to be held in three weeks' time.

**8 April 2002** The State Customs Committee says in the first quarter of 2002 that it opened 46 criminal cases against their own employees - 85% of all criminal cases launched against corrupt customs officials.

**8 April 2002** Evenki Autonomous Area governor Boris Zolotarev says he sees "no urgent need" for merger of the Krasnoyarsk Territory, the Taymyr Autonomous Area and the Evenki Autonomous Area into one constituent part of the Russian Federation.

**9 April 2002** Duma speaker Gennady Seleznev signs his assent on the letter of resignation from the post of head of the Duma apparatus sent to him by Nikolay Troshkin.

**9 April 2002** The OVR Duma faction expel deputy Aleksandr Fedulov. Fedulov proposed banning the CPRF and calling its leader, Gennady Zyuganov, to criminal account.

**9 April 2002** Chairman of the Russian Supreme Court Vyacheslav Lebedev claims that Russia should not punish people with the death penalty.

**9 April 2002** Director of the Federal Border Service Col Gen Konstantin Totskiy says the Federal Border Guard Service has assigned more border guards to protect the Russian-Georgian border in the Abkhaz and North Osetian sectors.

**9 April 2002** Akhmad Kadyrov criticises the Chechen language broadcasts of Radio Liberty.

**9 April 2002** The Commander of the combined group of forces in Chechnya Lt-Gen Vladimir Moltenskiy says that two portable Iгла anti-aircraft missile systems discovered in hiding-places near Vedeno belonged to the Georgian armed forces.

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**9 April 2002** Russian air force commander Vladimir Mikhaylov says that he is satisfied with the results of the command post training that involved control bodies and on-duty forces of the CIS unified air defence system.

**9 April 2002** A conscript doing military service with Russia's federal border guards in Dagestan shot dead four colleagues in the early hours of 9 April.

**9 April 2002** The general director of the Russian Agency for Control Systems, Vladimir Simonov, is interviewed in *Izvestiya*. He says Russia has begun work to rebuild and upgrade its missile defence system. Work is to be complete by autumn 2002.

**10 April 2002** Gennady Seleznev decides to stay as Duma chairman despite a statement from the CPRF Central Committee that he step down. He says he will remain a CPRF member.

**11 April 2002** Chief of the Chechen interim administration Akhmad Kadyrov says the presence of US military advisers in Georgia has a negative effect on the situation in the region.

**11 April 2002** A ROMIR poll asks who would you vote for in a presidential election.

Vladimir Putin	62%
Gennady Zyuganov	8.8%
Vladimir Zhirinovskiy	3.3%

**12 April 2002** Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov says the Interior Ministry has created a directorate to coordinate the forces and resources of the Russian Interior Ministry in the Chechen Republic. This directorate is within the framework of the Interior Ministry's main directorate for the Southern Federal District. This is another step in the strategic direction of creating permanent bodies to maintain the situation in the Chechen Republic.

**12 April 2002** Maj-Gen Andrey Osin of the electronic warfare directorate gives an interview in *Krasnaya Zvezda*.

**13 April 2002** Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov grants a resignation request by Vladimir Simonov, the director-general of the Russian Agency for Control Systems (RASU).

**14 April 2002** The Congress of Jewish Religious Organizations and Associations in Russia and the Jewish community in Moscow express concern over an attack on a synagogue in Kiev which took place on 13 April.

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**15 April 2002** Leader of the Russian Catholics Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz complains about persecution of the Catholic Church in Russia.

**15 April 2002** The People's Hural (parliament) of Buryatia proclaims the declaration on the republic's state sovereignty null and void.

**15 April 2002** Deputy prime minister Viktor Khristenko says the Russian cabinet's commission in charge of using main oil pipelines will not consider lifting restrictions on oil exports any time soon. The cabinet is still enforcing the decision, made jointly with oil companies, to reduce oil exports by 150,000 barrels per day, nearly 5% of Russia's total, while monitoring world oil prices.

**16 April 2002** Vladimir Kalamanov, the Russian Federation president's special representative for ensuring human and civil rights in the Chechen Republic, says the question of extending the stay of Council of Europe experts in Chechnya for another three months has been resolved in principle.

**17 April 2002** The Duma approves a cabinet-moved alternative military service bill. It had earlier rejected two bills moved by its members.

**17 April 2002** President Vladimir Putin notifies all state organizations, enterprises, companies and banks that all funds, other financial assets and economic resources of Usamah Bin-Ladin, Al-Qa'idah and Taleban members as well as organizations linked to them must be frozen.

**17 April 2002** Chechen Prosecutor Vsevolod Chernov says the law-enforcement agencies in Chechnya are investigating about 150 cases of various crimes committed by servicemen and policemen against civilians in Chechnya.

**17 April 2002** Goskomstat says production of oil with gas condensate in Russia in January-March increased 8.7% year-on-year to amount to 89.5m tonnes. Oil production in March was up 8.8% year-on-year and up 11.3% from February 2002. Production of natural gas in the first three months of the year amounted to 160bn cubic metres, up 1.8% year-on-year.

**18 April 2002** Public Opinion Foundation poll asks who would you vote for if there were a presidential election on 21 April.

Vladimir Putin	50%
CPRF leader Gennady Zyuganov	17%
LDPR leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy	3%
Kemerovo Governor Aman Tuleyev	3%
Yabloko leader Grigory Yavlinskiy	2%
Head of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry Yevgenny Primakov	2%
Minister for Civil Defence	

1,500 people in 100 towns and villages in 44 regions, territories and republics of Russia were polled on 13-14 April.

**18 April 2002** Vladimir Putin gives his annual state of the nation address to the Federal Assembly.

**18 April 2002** Col-Gen Vladislav Putilin, chief of the armed forces' main mobilization directorate and deputy chief-of-staff, says the manning problem will be the most acute for the Russian armed forces from 2005 to 2011.

**19 April 2002** President Vladimir Putin says at a meeting of the State Council that the issue of regulating deals involving agricultural land should be solved more quickly and that the issue of when this land can be used should be determined by the regions.

**19 April 2002** The Duma passes the presidential bill on citizenship in the final reading. A total of 252 MPs voted in its favour, 152 against, with two abstentions.

**19 April 2002** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says it would take a few years and significant financing from the state to transfer the armed forces to a contract basis.

Sergey Ivanov completes his inspection of Russia's military districts which he has been carrying out over the past few months.

**19 April 2002** Goskomstat says Russia's population decreased by 160,200 people (0.1%) in January-February 2002. As of 1 March 2002, Russia's population stood at 143.8m people, compared with 144.7m a year ago. The decrease of the Russian population has somewhat slowed down against January-February 2001. In the first two months of 2001, Russia's population decreased by 163,900 people (also 0.1%).

Both the birth rate and mortality rate have increased in Russia against January-February 2001. The birth rate increased more intensively. In January-February 2002, 222,800 children were born in Russia (compared with 207,300 in the same period of 2001) and 403,600 people died (compared with 385,200 in January-February 2001). Thus, the number of children born increased by 7.5%, while the number of people who died increased by only 4.8%. Nonetheless, while in January-February 2001 the natural decrease of Russia's population reached 177,900, in January-February 2002 it increased to 180,800 (1.6%).

**20 April 2002** The Conference of Catholic Bishops of Russia expresses "a strong protest" against "an organized campaign launched against the Catholic Church in Russia".

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**22 April 2002** Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeyev says the government expects the draft land law to become effective later this year. He outlines the law in an interview on NTV.

**23 April 2002** Former Ingush President Ruslan Aushev resigns from the Federation Council. He calls for an elected Federation Council. He says his decision was due to the situation of Ingush people in the Prigorodnyy District of North Osetia and due to the "unsettled relations" between two constituent parts of the Russian Federation - Ingushetia and North Osetia.

Presidential representative in the Southern Federal District Viktor Kazantsev rules out the possibility of unifying Ingushetia and Chechnya into a single entity.

**23 April 2002** Vladimir Putin signs documents abolishing the treaties on the delimitation of power between the Russian state authorities and the local authorities of Leningrad Region and Krasnodar Territory.

**23 April 2002** The Federation Council issues an address to the president to call for the increased financing of the armed forces to implement the programme for the development of armaments and military equipment up to the year 2010.

**23 April 2002** FSB deputy director Col-Gen Viktor Komogorov says the leadership of the FSB is convinced that an effective antiterrorist coalition will be set up within the framework of the CIS.

**23 April 2002** Lt-Gen Nikolay Rogozhkin has been appointed chief of staff of the Interior Ministry troops.

**23 April 2002** The Ground Forces Staff commence exercises on combat and mobilization readiness during command post training.

**23 April 2002** Mikhail Kasyanov says in Denmark that the Russian cabinet is about to launch a new stage of reforming the economy. He says modernizing technology and improving Russia's environment for investments are the major goals. In 2001 investments in the country's economy increased by a factor of 1.3, to 14.5bn dollars. Foreign trade will gradually liberalize and natural monopolies will undergo reforms. Russia's gold and hard currency reserves have exceeded 38bn dollars. GDP increased by over 20% and industrial output by over 30% within three years.

**23 April 2002** Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeyev says the government is planing to draw up a grain development programme by August.

**24 April 2002** A poll of the All-Russian Centre for Public Studies gives Vladimir Putin a high popularity rating. 71% approve of his work as the country's president

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and only 22% disapprove of it. Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov enjoys the support of 42% of Russians, while 38% disapprove of his work. The work of the Russian government as a whole is approved of by 38% of the respondents, and is disapproved of by 47%.

To the question which politician do you trust the most, the following results: Putin remains a strong leader in the trust rating, with 36% of the respondents having more trust in him than in any other politician. He is followed by Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov with 17%, one of the One Russia leaders, Sergey Shoygu, with 11%, Liberal Democratic Party of Russia leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy with 9%, Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Yevgenny Primakov, Kemerovo Region governor Aman Tuleyev, URF parliamentary faction leader Boris Nemtsov and State Duma speaker Gennady Seleznev with 7% each, and Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov and Yabloko leader Grigory Yavlinskiy with 6% each. Some 22% of the respondents do not trust any Russian politician.

This was an express poll involving 1,600 Russian citizens on 19-22 April.

If elections to the State Duma were held on 28 April the results would be as follows:

CPRF	35% of the vote
Yedinaya Rossiya	18%
LDPR	10%
URF	10%
Yabloko	7%

The figures come from a representative poll of 1,600 Russians taken on 19-22 April by the All-Russian Public Opinion Centre.

**24 April 2002** Mikhail Kasyanov says tax collection rates in Russia are largely similar to those in many Western countries. In 1998 the tax collection rate was at 55 to 60%. Now Russia collects 92 to 93% of due taxes.

**25 April 2002** Members of the Ekozashchita environmental group hold a protest in Red Square against nuclear waste import into Russia.

**25 April 2002** Yedinaya Rossiya holds its first congress in Moscow.

**25 April 2002** The Chechen president's special envoy, Chechen Deputy Prime Minister Akhmad Zakayev denies Russian claims that Chechen commander Khattab is dead.

Pro-Moscow Chechen leader Akhmad Kadyrov denies that he may leave the post of the head of the Chechen Republic administration.

**25 April 2002** Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says Russia's new tax code will finish being adopted in 2002-2003.

**25 April 2002** Russia's foreign trade in January-March 2002 totalled 33.9bn dollars, 7.9% down on the same period of 2001. The trade balance surplus was at

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9.5bn dollars against 14.2bn dollars in January-March 2001. Export from Russia in January-March was down by 14.9% on the year to 21.7bn dollars, including that to non-CIS countries by 15.9% to 18.4bn dollars, and to CIS countries by 8.8% to 3.3bn dollars.

**25 April 2002** Vladimir Putin visits the Caspian flotilla in Astrakhan. He orders the flotilla to plan exercises for the summer.

**26 April 2002** The press service of the Duma CPRF faction says that nearly 73% of Communists and their supporters back expelling Duma speaker Gennady Seleznev from the party over his failure to implement the plenum's ruling and quit his post.

**26 April 2002** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov states that Chechen warlord Khattab has been killed. Pro-Moscow Chechen Deputy Prime Minister Beslan Gantamirov says he does not believe it.

Beslan Gantamirov says the summer of 2002 will be a turning point in the antiterrorist campaign in Chechnya.

The deputy presidential representative in the Southern Federal District, Viktor Krokmal says the federal authorities have assigned R20bn for reconstruction of the Chechen Republic in 2002. In 2001 R14.5bn was assigned, he said. It is planned to assign R80bn more within the next four years.

**26 April 2002** Vladimir Kozyr is appointed new federal inspector in Krasnodar Territory and the Republic of Adygeya. He will work as the Russian president's special envoy to the southern federal district.

**26 April 2002** The president of the Russian region of Tatarstan, Mintimer Shaymiyev, signs into law draft amendments to the Tatarstan constitution.

**27 April 2002** The Islamic Party of Russia public political organization is to become an all-Russian party. This is decided at its third party congress. The Islamic Party of Russia was founded in May 2001. Since then 63 regional branches have been set up. The party's membership is 1.5m people.

**27 April 2002** Russian presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy describes the recently launched Radio Liberty broadcasts to Chechnya as mainly critical.

**27 April 2002** Smolensk Region governor Aleksandr Prokhorov's electoral headquarters is destroyed by an explosion. Nobody was injured.

**27 April 2002** First Deputy Finance Minister and Chairman of the Russian Financial Monitoring Committee Viktor Zubkov says the process of dropping Russia

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from the Financial Action Task Force black list of non-cooperative states may take longer than expected.

**27 April 2002** Russian long-range aviation completes its largest training exercise in the last 10 years.

**27 April 2002** Col-Gen Viktor Komogorov, deputy director of the FSB, is interviewed in *Argumenty i Fakty*. He says that foreign intelligence activity has been stepped up in Russia.

**28 April 2002** Krasnoyarsk Territory governor Aleksandr Lebed is killed in a helicopter crash in Krasnoyarsk territory. The helicopter hit an electric power line in conditions of poor visibility and fell from low altitude.

**28 April 2002** A bomb explodes at the central market in Vladikavkaz, North Osetia.

**28 April 2002** Former president of Chechnya Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev states that Khattab has been killed. Chechen rebel website Kavkaz Tsentr also states that he has been killed.

**28 April 2002** Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev is interview on TV on his relationship with the CPRF.

**29 April 2002** Chief of the Russian General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin visits Chechnya. He claims that Shamil Basayev May 2002 have been killed.

**29 April 2002** Gennady Raykov, leader of Narodnyy Deputat, says 50,000 Russians have signed an address to the administration of the Vatican protesting against the establishment of Catholic dioceses in Russia.

**29 April 2002** FSB General Murat Zyazikov is elected president of Ingushetia.

**29 April 2002** *Kommersant* reports that Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov has signed an order for the formation of a military inspectorate of the armed forces, which will report to the minister personally.

**30 April 2002** Vladimir Putin says the Interior Ministry will be given greater powers in the counter-terrorist operation in Chechnya.

Prime minister of Chechnya Stanislav Ilyasov says it is premature yet to hold presidential elections in Chechnya.

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Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov says the military phase of the antiterrorist campaign in Chechnya is over in general. It is now time for operations against concrete ringleaders.

**30 April 2002** *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* reports that Russia will increase oil export duties.

## May

**2 May 2002** The former president of Chechnya, Aslan Maskhadov, sets up a supreme military council.

**3 May 2002** The Chief Military Prosecutor's Office is investigating 19 criminal cases against top brass. The criminal cases were instituted against generals and admirals for the abuse of power and misappropriation and embezzlement of state property. According to the Prosecutor-General's Office, 513 criminal cases have been instituted into malfeasance in the country's armed forces.

**3 May 2002** Human Rights Commissioner Oleg Mironov says he is concerned about the situation with the freedom of speech in Russia.

**3 May 2002** The Centre for Internet Technologies says the number of Internet users in Russia increased by almost 100% in 2001 against 2000, exceeding 18m people, including 8m regular users. In 2000, 60% of Internet users in Russia were corporate and 40% were private, in 2001 63% were corporate and 37% private, and in 2002 the number of corporate users is projected at 65% and private users at 35%. Most Internet users are in Moscow and St Petersburg. They account for 66.3% of the Internet users in Russia.

**4 May 2002** Vladimir Putin congratulates Russia's Orthodox Christians on their Easter celebrations. He sends a message to Patriarch Aleksey II.

**5 May 2002** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov and Director of the Federal Security Service Nikolay Patrushev hold a conference in Chechnya to discuss the anti-terror operation in Chechnya. Taking part in the conference were Chechen administration head Akhmad Kadyrov and Gen Vladimir Moltensky, commander of the joint group of troops. Patrushev says the vector will increasingly shift towards maintaining law and order, "and I think that at some stage we will be considering the handing over of the leading role to the Interior Ministry".

Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says the 42nd Division has been posted to Chechnya permanently. Other units, carrying out themselves, and helping to carry out, special and combat functions in the interests of other power-wielding ministries and departments, such as the Federal Security Service, and the future departments of the Interior Ministry, will also remain.

**6 May 2002** A ROMIR poll states that 71.4% of Russian citizens trust Putin. 23% of those polled to varying degrees do not trust the head of state, and 5.6 of those taking part in the research refused to answer this question.

**6 May 2002** The Energy Ministry says Russia produced 119.8m tonnes of oil in the first four months of 2002, 8.8% or 9,722,000 tonnes more than in the same period of 2001. Russia produced 30,196,000 tonnes of oil in April alone.

Russian vertically integrated oil companies produced 108,923,000 tonnes in the four months and 27,489,000 tonnes in April. Russian and partly foreign-owned joint ventures produced just over 7,076,000 tonnes of oil in the four months and 1.78m tonnes in April. Gazprom, the country's gas monopoly, produced 3.44m tonnes of oil (834,700 tonnes in April).

Russian oil exports to outside the CIS in January-April 2002 amounted to 44,214,000 tonnes, which is 4% (1.69m tonnes) more than in the same period last year. The Transneft pipeline system exported 43,457,000 tonnes of Russian crude in the first four months of the year, with 756,600 tonnes being transported outside the Transneft system.

Transneft transported 11,008,000 tonnes of oil abroad last month, with ports outside the Transneft system of 114,700 tonnes. LUKoil has exported 8.85m tonnes of oil outside the CIS since the start of the year (2,057,000 tonnes in April); Yukos 8,008,000 tonnes (2,229,000 tonnes); Surgutneftegaz 5,675,000 tonnes (1,514,000 tonnes); Tyumen Oil Company 4,814,000 tonnes (1,104,000 tonnes); and Sibneft 3,243,000 tonnes (798,000 tonnes).

Companies that are not part of vertically integrated oil companies exported 2.677m tonnes of oil through the Transneft system in the first four months of the year (820,100 tonnes in April), and production sharing agreement operators exported 182,000 tonnes (41,000 tonnes). Transit of oil from Kazakhstan in January-April amounted to 4,845,000 tonnes (1,185,000 tonnes in April); Azerbaijan 1,137,000 tonnes (269,100 tonnes) and Turkmenistan 162,700 tonnes (6,600 tonnes). Russian oil producers exported 11.4m tonnes of oil to the CIS in the reporting period, compared with 1,826,000 tonnes in the same period last year.

The Energy Ministry says Russia produced 210,225m cu.m. of gas in the first four months of 2002, 2.6% or 5,277m cu.m. more than in the same period of 2001. Russia produced 50,515m cu.m. of gas in April 2002. Gazprom produced 184,249m cu.m. in the four months and 44,094m cu.m. in April. Vertically integrated oil companies produced 11.49bn cu.m. (2.83bn cu.m.). Other producers turned out 14.48bn cu.m. m of gas in the four months (3,585m cu.m. in April).

Goskomstat says Russia's reserves of oil, including gas condensate, natural gas and coal amounted to 190.7m tonnes of fuel equivalent in March, increasing by 7.4m tonnes or 4% against the same month of 2001. In March 2002 oil constituted 45.5% of overall reserves, natural gas 34.2% and coal 20.3%. The fuel and energy reserves stood at 80bn kWh of electricity or 4% less than in March 2002, 56.7bn cubic metres of natural gas (0.2% up), 60.6m tonnes of oil and gas condensate (3.6% up) and 57.9 million tonnes of coal (12.2% up).

## A Russian Chronology: April-June 2002

In March 27.7% of the oil was consumed on the domestic market and 24.4% was exported, 64.3% and 35.7% of the gas respectively, 30.6% and 7.4% of the coal respectively. In addition 47.9% of oil and 62% of coal were left in reserve.

The Central Bank says Russia's gold and foreign exchange reserves were up 1% between 19 and 26 April, rising by 400m dollars from 38.4bn dollars to 38.8bn dollars.

**6 May 2002** Deputy FSB director Col-Gen Oleg Syromolotov says many foreign secret services view Russia as "a priority in their endeavours". He says 14 foreign agents had been caught red-handed by DKR (FSB counter-intelligence) personnel in the past two years, and that ten of those foreign agents were staff members of foreign intelligence agencies. In the same two-year period, some 260 staff members of foreign secret services were "identified and put under watch", and espionage and sabotage activities by over 40 of them were thwarted.

**6 May 2002** The head of the FSB's counterintelligence operations department Lt-Gen Nikolay Volobuyev is interviewed in *Gazeta*.

**6 May 2002** Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov signs a regulation expanding the list of territories restricted for foreigners. The visiting of the territory of Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Area within the line running from Ust-Kara through Aksarka, Kholmy, Vyangapurovsky, Khalyasavey and Tibesale up to the coastline of the Taz river, through the water boundary of the Tazovskaya Bay, Obskaya Bay, the Malygin Strait, the Kara Sea and the Baydaratskaya Bay, except for the Ust-Kara community and the ship route along the Ob river, by foreigners will be specially regulated.

**7 May 2002** Head of the Duma's Budget Committee Aleksandr Zhukov says Russia's reserve fund totals about R100bn. The reserve fund totalled around R81bn in 2001 and reached at least R100bn in the first quarter of 2002.

**7 May 2002** The head of the FSB department for Chechnya, Sergey Babkin, is interviewed in *Kommersant*. He says it is too early for the FSB to hand over the job of maintaining law and order to the local police in Chechnya.

FSB deputy director, Col-Gen Oleg Syromolotov, who is responsible for counterintelligence is interviewed in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*. He outlines the work of the FSB counterintelligence department.

**8 May 2002** Federation Council senator from Kaliningrad Region Valery Ustyugov proposes limiting Russian nationals' entry into the Region in the light of EU expansion, and thus to provide more freedom of travel for Kaliningrad residents.

**8 May 2002** Yury Shafranik, the chairman of the board of the Soyuzneftgaz international oil and gas company says: "To limit OPEC's regulating functions, and to regard supplying petroleum products to European customers as a priority are the

main directions of Russia's oil policy." "Europe is our main consumer. We should expand our presence there, however, we should sell not crude, but petrol and petrochemicals to any customer. It will help us to stop being a raw material supplier and will protect Russia in the oil market." He says Russia may increase its oil production to bring it to the USSR level of 1988 when 570m tonnes of crude were produced annually.

**9 May 2002** A bomb explodes at a Victory Day parade in Kaspiysk in Dagestan, killing 32. Putin meets power structure heads and orders a comprehensive probe. The probe is to be headed by Aleksandr Ovchinnikov, head of the Interior Ministry Main Directorate for Combating Organized Crime.

The central stadium in Grozny comes under fire during Victory Day celebrations.

**10 May 2002** Chairman of the Dagestani State Council Magomedali Magomedov says several people suspected of involvement in the terrorist act in Kaspiysk have been detained in a number of towns in the Russian Federation.

**10 May 2002** The General Staff say the number of Russian troops carrying out peacekeeping duties in Kosovo will be cut in the period May-June 2002. Maj-Gen Nikolay Kriventsov says that about 1,200 troops and 300 pieces of military hardware will be withdrawn from the region from 13 May to 23 June 2002. More than 600 Russians will remain as part of the international forces and will continue to carry out peacekeeping duties in the eastern sector, and also at Slatina airport.

**11 May 2002** Tatarstan's new constitution comes into effect.

**11 May 2002** FSB head Nikolay Patrushev says Russian counter-intelligence services should focus on protecting the state from international terrorism.

**12 May 2002** The three men suspected of organizing terrorist acts in Makhachkala deny their involvement in the blasts. The men are brothers Artur and Zaur MaMay 2002ev, and their namesake Shamil Mamayev. All three were born in Makhachkala, where, before their departure for Chechnya, they were engaged in the production of footwear.

**13 May 2002** Seventeen members of the so-called Islamic Society Number Three go on trial in Pyatigorsk. This extremist Wahhabi organization and its members are accused of plotting an armed seizure of power in Karachay-Cherkessia and Kabarda-Balkaria.

**13 May 2002** Human rights commissioner Oleg Mironov presents his annual report on human rights. An entire chapter is given to victims of terror attacks and other violent crimes. The number of terror attacks outside Chechnya increased in Russia from 20 in 1999 to 135 in 2000 and over 300 in 2001.

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**13 May 2002** Commander-in-chief of the Russian Internal Troops, Col-Gen Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, says the Internal Troops of the Russian Interior Ministry have taken extra security measures across the whole of Russia, and in particular in all major cities, in the wake of the terror attack in Kaspiysk.

Tikhomirov says an overhaul of Russia's Internal Troops is expected to be completed by late 2005. They will be downsized by 33,700 servicemen. The Internal Troops are currently some 200,000 strong.

**13 May 2002** Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeyev says Russia will harvest 70-73 million tonnes of grain this year.

**15 May 2002** Russian Prosecutor-General Vladimir Ustinov makes an annual report at the Federation Council. He calls for stepping up the drive against corruption in Russia. He says in 2001 more than 25,000 officials were brought to justice for corruption-linked crimes.

**15 May 2002** Security Council secretary Vladimir Rushaylo says foreign extremist organizations are trying to destabilize the situation in Russia's strategically important regions by legal and secret means.

**15 May 2002** The Duma begins debating a legal initiative paving the way for formation of the government via parliamentary majority. It is proposed to amend Article 7 of the Russian Government Law so that it would outline the role of political parties in the government's structure.

The proposed amendment is as follows: a prime minister-designate would be named by the Duma's political majority and then passed along for the president's consideration. The president would then submit the candidacy to the Duma for final endorsement. The aim is to increase parliament's control over the government and reduce the president's.

**15 May 2002** The Federation Council adopts the federal law "On citizenship of the Russian Federation".

**15 May 2002** Vladimir Yelagin, the Russian minister for the restoration of Chechen economy, reports to the Federation Council on the Chechen economy.

**15 May 2002** Prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov reports to the Duma on Russia's economic performance in the first quarter of 2002. He says industrial growth reached 2.6% in the first quarter of 2002. Production in railway engineering and the defence and food industries increased at the highest rates at 14.5%, 10% and 7 percent respectively. He says Russia's economic achievements are not enough for sustainable long-term growth.

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**15 May 2002** The newly-elected Ingush president, Murat Zyazikov, meets an EU delegation in Ingushetia. They discuss refugee problems.

**15 May 2002** The Federation Council approves changes and additions to the federal law on bringing into force the new Code of Criminal Procedure of the Russian Federation. In accordance with these amendments, from 1 July 2002 any arrests and any detention of suspects for more than 48 hours can only be made with a court order.

**16 May 2002** A poll asked who would you vote for if there were presidential elections next Sunday.

Vladimir Putin	48%
Gennady Zyuganov	14%
Vladimir Zhirinovskiy	4%
Aman Tuleyev	4%
Yevgenny Primakov	3%
Grigory Yavlinskiy	2%
Yury Luzhkov	2%

The Public Opinion Foundation released this information with reference to a poll of 1,500 people in 100 towns and villages in 44 Regions, Territories and republics of Russia on 11-12 May. 42% of respondents assess the activities of President Putin as "satisfactory" (43% in mid-April), 37% said they were "good" (36% in mid-April), and 7% said they were "excellent" (6% in mid-April).

**16 May 2002** Gazprom closed 2001 with pre-tax profits up 53% to R117.71bn.

**16 May 2002** Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov signs a resolution on setting a new oil export duty. Starting from 1 June 2002, the export customs duty on oil exported from Russian territory outside the countries participating in agreements on the customs union will be charged at 20.7 dollars per tonne. The current duty is 9.2 dollars per tonne.

**16 May 2002** The Central Bank of Russia's department of external and public relations announce that Russia's gold and hard currency reserves stand at 40bn dollars as of 10 May.

**16 May 2002** The Duma passes in its first reading the government's version of a draft law on the transfer of agricultural land.

**16 May 2002** The MOD is concerned over the state of its airfield network. The ministry has some 150 airfields with an airstrip of 1,800 metres and longer. Their balance sheet value is over R45bn (1.44bn dollars). Repairs and reconstruction of the network requires some R600m (19.19m dollars) a year. Repairs of almost 50 military airfields were scheduled for 2001 and 2002. The service was supposed to

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receive R200m (6.4m dollars) for that purpose but received less than half of that sum.

**16 May 2002** Vladimir Putin says that the time has come to widen the powers of the head of the Chechen administration. He meets leaders of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation forming the Southern Federal District in Sochi. Putin announced that he had signed a decree under which the head of the Chechen administration will independently appoint members of the republic's government and heads of districts and settlements. Candidacy for the post of Chechen prime minister will be coordinated with the presidential representative in the Southern Federal District.

Vladimir Putin meets head of Dagestan's State Council Magomedali Magomedov in Sochi and discusses Dagestan's security and economic problems.

**17 May 2002** Sergey Ivanov says the armed forces' contingent in Chechnya will most likely be reduced as Interior Ministry and FSB operations are more important.

**17 May 2002** Mikhail Kasyanov says Russia will in the next two months steadily lift its restrictions on oil exports, introduced on 1 January 2002 at the request of OPEC. The decision was taken at a meeting between Kasyanov and the leaders of the country's major oil companies. The restrictions specified 150,000 barrels of oil a day.

**17 May 2002** Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo opens a conference on the problems of the country's military-industrial complex.

**17 May 2002** Gennady Seleznev says he is determined to be the chairman of the Russian State Duma and hopes to remain a member of the CPRF.

**18 May 2002** Russian Prosecutor-General Vladimir Ustinov orders the prosecutors of republics, territories, regions, cities and districts to tighten up prosecutor's control over the implementation of laws aimed at combating the manifestations of fascism and various kinds of extremism. Ustinov instructs his subordinates to give an immediate and appropriate legal assessment of every incident of a display of fascism and other forms of political or religious extremism. He has also told them to use every opportunity to find and cut off sources funding of any radical organizations.

**18 May 2002** Mikhail Kasyanov says Russia might set up an oil exchange later in 2002.

**18 May 2002** Goskomstat says the accumulated volume of foreign investment in the Russian economy stood at 34.45bn dollars at the end of March 2002, up 8% from the same date of 2001. In the first quarter of 2002 Russia received 3.79bn dollars in foreign investment, while 2.76bn dollars was withdrawn. 49.9% of foreign

investment was direct investment (17.18bn dollars), 3.9% was portfolio (1.35bn dollars) and 46.2% was other investments (15.9bn dollars), including loans from international financial organizations, trade loans and others. The share of direct investment was at 50.0% at the end of March 2001, portfolio investment accounted for 2.3% and other investments for 47.7%. The main investor countries are Germany (accumulated investment of 6.31bn dollars), the USA (5.31bn dollars), Cyprus (4.55bn dollars), Britain (3.66bn dollars), France (3.32bn dollars), the Netherlands (2.33bn dollars) and Italy (1.46bn dollars), accounting for 78.2% of overall accumulated investment, including 75.4% of direct investment.

Russian investment abroad reached nearly 4.4bn dollars in the first quarter of 2002, a 40.7-per-cent increase from the first quarter of 2001. Meanwhile, foreign investment in Russia in the first three months reached only 3.8bn dollars. Of Russian investments accumulated abroad, direct investment accounts for 2.4bn dollars, portfolio investment for 155m dollars, and other investment for 1.03bn dollars. Russia's largest accumulated investment is in Belarus (577m dollars), Iran (554m dollars), Cyprus (452m dollars), the Netherlands (434m dollars), Liberia (227m dollars), Moldova (170m dollars), Armenia (127m dollars), the British Virgin Islands (118m dollars), the US (94m dollars) and Germany (70m dollars).

**20 May 2002** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says terrorists have run out of resources for carrying out major terrorist acts in Chechnya and in other Russian regions.

**20 May 2002** Aleksey Lapin is appointed internal affairs minister in Karachay-Cherkessia.

**21 May 2002** Vladimir Putin addresses the Federation Council. He says he wants stronger regional legislatures.

**21 May 2002** Federation Council Sergey Mironov says the Council of Legislators is to meet every six months under the Russian president in the Kremlin. Mironov also says that in the autumn the Council of Legislators under the Federation Council (which has just been formed) would be renamed the Council of Legislators under the President of the Russian Federation.

**21 May 2002** Deputy Ministry of National Resources Aleksandr Povolotskiy announces that the Russian Ministry of National Resources and the Interior Ministry intend to create a federal ecological police force.

**21 May 2002** Georgy Satarov, president of the INDEM Centre for Applied Political Studies says Russian citizens spend at least 37bn dollars on bribes to various officials each year. Satarov says the turnover of "non-business corruption" is estimated at 2.8bn dollars. "People spend the most money on admission to universities (449m dollars), followed by bribes to traffic policemen (368m dollars) and courts (274m dollars). The total amount of bribes paid for various services relating to medical care reaches some 600m dollars." Satarov says that the amount

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of bribes paid in business annually reaches 33.5bn dollars, while Russian budget revenues in 2000 were 40bn dollars.

**21 May 2002** Chechen administration head Akhmad Kadyrov appoints Movsar Khamidov as deputy prime minister in charge of the power-wielding structure. Movsar Khamidov worked at the central administration of the FSB.

Nikolay Kostyuchenko has been appointed as the prosecutor of Chechnya.

**21 May 2002** Gazprom deputy chairman Vitaly Savelyev says the company's proved gas reserves amount to 18,900bn cubic metres of gas with an estimated value of 40bn dollars. Gazprom owns about 60% of the world's proved gas reserves. According to Savelyev, Gazprom's total estimated reserves stand at 28,000bn cubic metres of gas.

**21 May 2002** Goskomstat says Russian industrial production grew 3% year-on-year in the first four months of this year. Year-on-year industrial growth slowed from 5.6% in the first four months of 2001. Industrial output growth accelerated to 4.3% year-on-year in April from 3.7% in March, 2% in February and 2.2% in January. However, output in April was down 4.3% from the previous month.

**21 May 2002** Russian Ministry of Agriculture says Russia's gross grain crop is expected to amount to between 70 and 73m tonnes this year, as against 85.2m tonnes in 2001. Grain output would be reduced because of unfavourable weather conditions.

**22 May 2002** CPRF leader Zyuganov criticises CPRF members Viktor Zorkaltsev, Nikolay Gubenko, Svetlana Goryacheva, Valentina Nikitina and Vitaly Sevastyanov for continuing in their posts of the heads of four Duma committees and the credentials commission.

**22 May 2002** Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo opens an extended plenary sitting of the scientific council under the Security Council. He says in 2003-05 "we propose to move away from doing discrete research towards carrying out integrated scientific work aimed at identifying, analysing and categorizing potential threats to national security up to 2010".

**22 May 2002** FSB chief Nikolay Patrushev says several arrests have been made in connection with the Kaspiysk bombing.

**22 May 2002** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov criticises the performance of the armed forces in winter exercises. The top military command of the Russian armed forces meeting began in Moscow today. Participants in the meeting are considering issues of military-technical supplies, financing and reforms of the army and navy, as well as issues of combat training of the troops, summing up the winter training period of the armed forces.

**23 May 2002** The presidium of the CPRF unanimously decides to deny party membership to communist deputies who remained in key posts in the State Duma despite a previous resolution that they should abandon their posts. The expulsions are faced by Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev, chairman of the Duma Committee on Culture and Tourism Nikolay Gubenko and chairwoman of the Committee on Women's Affairs, the Family and Youth Svetlana Goryacheva.

**23 May 2002** The Central Bank states from 10 to 17 May, Russia's gold and foreign exchange reserves went up 600m dollars, a rise of 1.5% from 40bn to 40.6bn dollars.

**23 May 2002** Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says Russia will not limit oil exports if the price exceeds 20 dollars per barrel.

Kudrin says Russia's foreign debt dropped to 128.3bn dollars at the end of the first quarter of 2002.

**24 May 2002** Goskomstat says in the first quarter of 2002 the population of Russia shrank by 229,500 or 0.2%. According to its estimate, on 1 April the country had a population of 143.7m.

**25 May 2002** Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev is expelled from the CPRF.

The Central Committee of the CPRF launches a strong attack on the Putin leadership.

**26 May 2002** Boris Nemtsov, URF leader, says that the country's "democratic forces must nominate a single candidate" for the next presidential elections.

**26 May 2002** The head of the FSB regional directorate Major N Dzhengurov, is killed in Kalmykia's capital, Elista.

**28 May 2002** The government approves amendments to the main provisions of the Russian energy strategy up to the year 2010. The amended version of the document will be submitted for the examination of the cabinet next 1 October.

**28 May 2002** A Ministry of Natural Resources report says Russia may fully use up the explored reserves of oil on its territory by the year 2040 if the current correlation of commercial oil output and deposit prospecting remains unchanged. The report says Russia has 2,734 commercial deposits of oil and gas at the moment and occupies the second position on the list of countries with largest explored oil reserves. It has about 12% of global reserves of crude. 50% of the known reserves have been exhausted to date. The more westward the field is, the bigger is the exhaustion factor, the report says. Forecasts say Russian companies will build up production of oil to 400m tonnes annually by the year 2020.

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Goskomstat sources inform Interfax that production of oil, including gas condensate, in Russia in January-April, increased 8.6% year on year to amount to 119.627m tonnes. Oil production, not including condensate, amounted to 115.596m tonnes (up 8.51%). Most oil in the reporting period was produced by LUKoil - 24.506m tonnes (up 1.74% year on year); Yukos (not including Eastern Oil Company - VNK) - 16.839m tonnes (up 17.75%); Surgutneftegaz - 15.556m tonnes (up 11.35%); Tyumen Oil Company - 11.816m tonnes (up 7.94%) and Tatneft - 8.061m tonnes (down 61%). Russia produced 210.191bn cubic metres of natural gas in January-April 2002, up 2.56% from the same period in 2001. Gazprom produced 184.083bn cubic metres of gas (up 1.35%).

**29 May 2002** Chechnya and Ingushetia sign a friendship and cooperation treaty. The two republics also adopt an agreement on the return of forced migrants from Ingushetia to Chechnya.

**29 May 2002** Duma deputy Sergey Yushenkov suggests increasing the president's role in holding antiterrorist operations. Yushenkov submits amendments to the acting law "On combat against terrorism" to the Duma Council. Yushenkov suggests that the decision to hold an antiterrorist operation in Russia must be made by the president, rather than the government, as is stipulated by the existing law.

**29 May 2002** Russian Chief Mufti Talgat Tadzhuiddin and other Islamic leaders call on Vladimir Putin to clear Russian territory of "pseudo-Islamic instigators".

**29 May 2002** Russian Jewish Congress president Yevgenny Satanovskiy expresses concern about recent anti-semitic incidents.

**29 May 2002** Press Minister Mikhail Lesin, speaking in the Federation Council, criticizes Radio Liberty for broadcasting in the Chechen language.

**29 May 2002** Vladimir Putin says one of the goals of the Chechen settlement process is to hold a referendum on its constitution and elect its head.

**29 May 2002** NTV Mir reports the Interior Ministry is to set up a new unit to fight illegal income and money laundering.

**29 May 2002** *Kommersant* newspaper reports that the Russian government has approved the basic provisions of energy strategy for the period to 2020. Energy consumption in Russia over that period is expected to go up by 22-36%.

**30 May 2002** The Eurasia all-Russian political public movement decides to transform itself into a political party bearing the same name. It is led by Aleksandr Dugin.

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**30 May 2002** Russian presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says the human rights organization Amnesty International far too often works with biased information on Chechnya.

**30 May 2002** Chief of the General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin says Russia's armed forces are "in worse than critical condition."

**30 May 2002** Vladimir Putin opens a meeting of the commission in charge of proposals on the distribution of powers among the federal, regional and local agencies. He says that to restore consistency of the Russian legal system is a task of paramount importance for agencies of state power. The first phase of making the Russian legal system consistent was drawing to an end as the country's constituent territories had revised the laws to match with the provisions of federal legislation. "In the next phase, we will design a clear scheme of power distribution to make the entire system of state power more efficient."

**30 May 2002** Maj-Gen Aleksey Orlov, head of the Interior Ministry's chief department for the fight against economic crimes says up to 30bn dollars flee Russia every year. He says "three or four years ago, 45bn to 50bn dollars were fleeing Russia every year".

**31 May 2002** A Goskomstat report states as many as 47.7m Russians, or 33% of the population, had incomes below the subsistence level in the first quarter of 2002. In the same period in 2001 that number was 52.9m, or 36.6%.

**31 May 2002** Vladimir Putin calls for a crackdown on police corruption.

**31 May 2002** NTV Mir reports that the federal centre will intensify its control over mayors. The Kremlin is preparing a new reform for local government.

**31 May 2002** The Security Council meets to discuss military reform. Vladimir Putin says troops in the various non-MOD power ministries will be reduced.

The Security Council approves the draft principles of the state policy in the field of military development for the period of up to 2010.

## ***June***

**1 June 2002** The Russian Prosecutor-General's Office dismisses the allegations of international rights groups that the Russian authorities have failed to react to rights violations by the Russian armed forces and civilian authorities in Chechnya. Deputy Prosecutor-General Sergey Fridinskiy says that the authorities reacted promptly to each instance of civil rights violation. A total of 395 cases against civilians in Chechnya have been opened since Russia moved its forces into Chechnya. About 130 cases were instituted against Russian servicemen over

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offences against civilians, including 45 cases of murder, three cases of manslaughter, four cases of hooliganism, three cases of rape and six kidnappings.

**1 June 2002** Vladimir Putin sends his budget message for 2003 to the government and parliament.

**1 June 2002** Oil export duties on Russian oil more than double. Now traders are to pay 20.4 dollars to the state budget for each exported tonne of oil.

**1 June 2002** Goskomstat reports that over the last nine years, child population in Russia has dwindled by 5%. In 1992 children under 14 accounted for 22.6% of the country's total population, in 2001 the figure was 17.6%.

**2 June 2002** Russian Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo says a growing number of Chechen guerrillas and their leaders have come to realize that armed resistance to the federal forces has no prospects. He says "numerous members of illegal armed formations are voluntarily laying down their weapons and returning to a peaceful life, and certain warlords are appealing to their men to stop resisting federal forces and to concentrate their efforts on restoring the Chechen economy". Rebel fire at federal positions decreased by almost two-thirds in the first four months of 2002 as compared to the same period in 2001. He says a Chechen constitution should be adopted at a republican referendum.

**3 June 2002** The NTV company's broadcasting licence is extended by five years. This decision is taken by the Federal Competition Commission.

**3 June 2002** Vladimir Putin meets the cabinet of ministers and specifically instructs the government to start working actively on the 2003 budget.

**3 June 2002** Lt-Gen Nikolay Pankov is appointed chief of the main personnel directorate and deputy defence minister in charge of personnel issues. Lt-Gen Pankov was chief of the Defence Ministry's main personnel directorate.

**3 June 2002** Yegor Gaydar says URF and Yabloko may cooperate in the parliamentary and presidential elections. Gaydar says that the parties could run in the election with two separate lists of candidates but would not electioneer against each other. Gaydar describes as sensible Boris Nemtsov's proposal for the democratic forces to nominate one candidate in the next presidential election.

**3 June 2002** The Energy Ministry says Russia's oil production in January-May 2002 grew by 8.7% (12m tonnes) to 151,206,000 tonnes, as compared to the same period last year. In May 2002, Russia produced 31,455,000 tonnes of oil. Russian vertically-integrated oil companies extracted 137,505,000 tonnes of oil in the first five months of 2002, and 28,635,000 tonnes in May alone. Exports of Russian oil to outside the CIS in January-May 2002 amounted to 56.027m tonnes, up 3.6% (by

1.9m tonnes) year on year. A total of 54.849m tonnes of oil was exported through the Transneft system to outside the CIS in the first five months, with 1.178m tonnes exported outside the Transneft system.

Gas production in Russia in January-May amounted to 258,955m cubic metres, up 2.6% (by 6.62bn cubic metres) year-on-year.

**4 June 2002** Speaker of the State Duma Gennady Seleznev, Chairwoman of the Duma Committee on Women's Affairs, the Family and Youth Svetlana Goryacheva and Chairman of the Duma Committee on Culture and Tourism Nikolay Gubenko are expelled from the CPRF Duma faction.

**4 June 2002** A bill on counter-extremism is submitted to the Duma. It will give registering and other bodies broad powers to suspend the operation of public organizations before trial and without a court ruling. Lev Levinson, an expert with the Human Rights Institute, says that the Duma may pass the bill on second and third readings before the end of June. Sergey Kovalev criticises the draft law.

**4 June 2002** Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Gordeyev says that Russia's crop harvest this year may be lower than expected due to the dry weather experienced by the majority of Russia's regions in May. The grain harvest is projected at 70-73m tonnes.

**4 June 2002** In an interview in *Severnyy Kavkaz*, pro-Moscow Chechen leader Akhmad Kadyrov calls for the creation of a common home in the Caucasus.

**4 June 2002** Oleg Mironov, human rights ombudsman, reports to the Duma on his activities in 2001.

**5 June 2002** Col-Gen Ivan Chizh says the death rate among Russian active-duty and professional servicemen decreased by 10% in 2001.

**6 June 2002** Georgy Satarov, the head of the Indem foundation and former aide to Boris Yeltsin says bribery costs Russia R33bn, which is almost comparable with the revenue side of the federal budget, which is R40bn.

**6 June 2002** The Duma adopts the first reading of the presidential bill "On countering extremist activities". Extremist activity is defined in the bill as illegal actions by organizations or individuals designed to seize power and hold on to it by force, to carry out terrorist activities, to instigate ethnic, racial or religious hatred, to impede the lawful activities of federal and local organs of state power.

**6 June 2002** Former top manager of the Gazprom Rem Vyakhirev is appointed an adviser to first deputy chief of the presidential staff Dmitry Medvedev.

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**6 June 2002** Kemerovo Region governor Aman Tuleyev says Gennady Zyuganov should step down as CPRF leader.

**7 June 2002** *Nezavisimoye Voyennoye Obozreniye* states that 34,000 weapons have been stolen by Russian military personnel.

**7 June 2002** The Central Electoral Commission says the next Russian presidential elections have been scheduled for 14 March 2004. Duma elections are scheduled for 14 December 2003.

**7 June 2002** The Bank of Russia states that the gold and foreign currency reserves of Russia increased by 5,605m dollars (15.3%) in January-May 2002, from 36,622m dollars on 1 January to 42,227m dollars on 1 June.

**8 June 2002** Governors from the Northwestern Federal District voice concern about Russia's plans to join the World Trade Organization.

**9 June 2002** A major riot takes place in central Moscow following the Russia-Japan football match in Japan. One person is killed and over 50 injured.

**10 June 2002** R-Adm Viktor Gavrikov is appointed commander of the Troops and Forces of the Russian Northeast, also known as the Kamchatka grouping.

**10 June 2002** The Russian Finance Ministry submits the draft basic parameters of the federal budget for 2003 to the cabinet of ministers. The draft budget has a surplus of R99.13bn, or 0.77% of GDP. The source said the federal budget for 2003 is expected to have revenues of R2,370bn, or 18.45% of GDP. Expenditure is projected at R2,270bn, or 17.67% of GDP.

The head of the Security Council's economic security directorate, Konstantin Trofimov, says the Security Council has drafted a state strategy for Russia's economic security to the year 2010.

The Russian Central Bank has estimated the inflow of capital into the Russian economy in the second quarter of 2002 at 1bn dollars. First Deputy Chairman of the Central Bank Oleg Vyugin says: "For the first time in the history of the new Russia, an inflow of capital has been registered."

**11 June 2002** RIA news agency reports that Russia's child population has fallen by 4m over the last 10 years.

The Russian nationwide census is launched in the country's remote areas,

**12 June 2002** Sergey Kiriyyenko, the chairman of the State Commission for Chemical Disarmament, says the elimination of chemical weapons and facilities for

their production in Russia is fully on schedule. The federal programme for the elimination of chemical arsenals and production facilities covers the period until 2007, although, Kiriyenko said, it would be more realistic for it to be extended to 2012. A total of 2bn dollars has been allocated from the Russian federal budget to implement the programme. The rest of the money, 1bn dollars, will come from successive allocations by 17 foreign states which co-sponsor the programme.

**13 June 2002** The Moscow city court will hear the case of former KGB general Oleg Kalugin, charged with high treason, in the absence of the defendant.

**13 June 2002** Secretary-General of the National-Patriotic Forces of Russia Shmidt Dzoblayev says Kemerovo Region Governor Aman Tuleyev has consented to head the party.

**18 June 2002** The Supreme Court of the Russian Federation judges 37 articles of the constitution of the Republic of Bashkortostan to be at variance with federal legislation.

**20 June 2002** The Duma adopts the second reading of the presidential bill "On countering extremist activities".

**21 June 2002** Col Viktor Papsuyev, the head of the main criminal search department with the Interior Ministry's criminal police says there are some 1.5m people who are in Russia illegally.

**21 June 2002** The deputy chief of the FSB's department for Volgograd Region Vladimir Svetlichny says foreign Islamic extremist organisations are operating in Volgograd Region.

**21 June 2002** Head of the Chechen administration Akmad Kadyrov says there is no force or personality in Aslan Maskhadov's entourage worthy of being negotiated with on a settlement in Chechnya.

Akhmad Kadyrov and Prime Minister Stanislav Ilyasov deny rumours of a conflict between them.

**21 June 2002** The Duma votes that foreigners can only lease, but not own, agricultural land.

**23 June 2002** Various democratic forces set up a coordinating antifascist committee in Moscow.

**23 June 2002** The Irkutsk Aircraft Production Association (IAPO) commences deliveries of Su-30MKI multifunctional jet fighters to India.

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**24 June 2002** Dagestani and Russian law-enforcement agencies arrest and bring charges against eight out of the 18 members of a terrorist gang that staged a bombing attack in Kaspiysk on 9 May 2002.

**25 June 2002** Chief of the interior ministry anti-drugs department Lt-Gen Aleksandr Sergeev says Russia has signed an agreement on cooperation in the struggle against drugs trafficking with 66 states.

**25 June 2002** Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov signs an instruction setting up a government commission for migration policy.

**25 June 2002** The Ministry for Economic Development and Trade says Russia's GDP grew 3.7% year-on-year in the first five months of 2002. The ministry is forecasting GDP growth of 3.6% for 2002.

**25 June 2002** Aslan Maskhadov writes to the presidents and prime ministers of the G7 calling them to help stop the war in Chechnya. He proposes a ceasefire to begin on 15 July 2002.

Viktor Kazantsev, official representative of the Russian president in the Southern Federal District, dismisses Aslan Maskhadov's peace proposal.

Russian forces capture documents from Aslan Maskhadov's HQ.

**25 June 2002** Magomedali Magomedov is re-elected chairman of the State Council of the Russian region of Dagestan.

**25 June 2002** The political party Eurasia receives its certificate of registration at the Justice Ministry.

**26 June 2002** Retired KGB General Oleg Kalugin is sentenced in absentia to 15 years' imprisonment in a high-security jail.

**26 June 2002** The Duma passes the federal bill on the sale of farmland.

**26 June 2002** Nikoil President Nikolay Tsvetkov says the investment requirement of the pipeline transport industry in Russia over the next 20 years is estimated at 100bn-150bn dollars.

**26 June 2002** Akhmad Kadyrov again rules out talks with Aslan Maskhadov.

**26 June 2002** The Federation Council ratifies the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.

Dr Mark A Smith

**26 June 2002** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia will not resume nuclear testing on the Novaya Zemlya archipelago in the Arctic Ocean.

**26 June 2002** Russia launches its first strategic submarine since the collapse of the USSR, the Dmitry Donskoy.

**27 June 2002** *Izvestiya* reports that Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov has approved the Defence Ministry's draft programme on the transfer of the 76th Pskov Airborne Division to partial contract recruitment. On 1 September 2002 the document, which has been given the status of a federal targeted programme, will launch the experiment aimed at studying the possibility of the Russian army's complete transfer to a contract system of recruitment.

**27 June 2002** Leonid Reyman, IT minister, outlines the national strategy for developing information technology in Russia over the next decade in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*.

**27 June 2002** The coordinating council of heads of tax (financial) investigation bodies of the CIS adopts a resolution on the creation of a common data bank on violations in the financial sphere.

**27 June 2002** The Duma passes in the third, final, reading the law "On countering extremist activities." 274 deputies vote in favour of the law, 145 deputies vote against it.

**27 June 2002** The Central Bank says Russia's gold and foreign currency reserves were at 43.1bn dollars on 21 June, up from 42.5bn dollars on 14 June.

**27 June 2002** Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration Dmitry Kozak says judicial reform should be completed by the end of 2002. The new Criminal-Procedural Code comes into force on 1 July.

**28 June 2002** Special envoy of Aslan Maskhadov, Mayrbek Vachagayev says the former Secretary of Russia's Security Council Ivan Rybkin "may be a link between the Russian and Chechen sides". This follows an open letter by Rybkin to Putin calling on him to negotiate with the separatist leadership.

**28 June 2002** The Duma passes the law "On alternative military service".

**28 June 2002** Andrey Chernenko, the chief of the Federal Migration Service at the Interior Ministry, says illegal migration in Russia's border districts leads to the heightening of interethnic relations posing a real threat to national security.

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**28 June 2002** Deputy Prime Minister Victor Khristenko is elected as chairman of the board of directors of Transneft.

**29 June 2002** Vladimir Putin sends his greetings to the delegates of the constituent congress of the Russian Party of Life in Moscow.

**29 June 2002** Former State Duma speaker Ivan Rybkin is removed from the post of chairman of the United Socialist Party of Russia. The reason for Rybkin's removal was his recent statement on the need for talks with Aslan Maskhadov.

**30 June 2002** Col-Gen Rashid Nurgaliyev is appointed deputy interior minister and chief of the ministry's criminal police service. He replaces Lt-Gen Nikolay Bobrovskiy.

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