

# Russian Domestic Policy: Chronology

## July-September 2002

### *July*

**1 July 2002** The Duma starts its summer recess.

**1 July 2002** Representatives of all Russian-language foreign Jewish communities have met for the first time in Moscow to create a World Congress of Russian-Language Jewish Communities. Vladimir Putin sends greeting to this congress.

**1 July 2002** Federal troops commander Vladimir Moltenskoy says the withdrawal of federal troops based in the North Caucasus from Chechnya may be completed by the end of 2002. Following the withdrawal, the Defence Ministry's contingent will be reduced to 22,000 servicemen, including a 14,000-strong contingent of the 42nd Motor-Rifle Division plus the contingents of the military commandant's offices. Currently, the federal group, composed of units of the Defence, Interior, Justice and Emergencies Ministries, the Federal Border Guard Service, the Federal Security Service (FSB) and other agencies, is about 80,000 strong. Moltenskoy says "By the end of the year, the functions of running the antiterrorist operation in Chechnya will be transferred from the FSB to another agency."

**1 July 2002** Minister of Science, Industry and Technology Ilya Klebanov says an explosion of torpedo fuel components, which led to an accident and the sinking of the Kursk submarine, resulted from a leakage of hydrogen peroxide and ignition of materials in the torpedo system. The commission investigating the disaster held its final meeting on 29 June.

**1 July 2002** The first stage of the transition towards the manning of the armed forces with servicemen doing their military service on contract begins.

**2 July 2002** Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeyev says that the floods in Russia's south will not significantly affect the country's plans for the 2002 grain harvest. The forecast is 70-73m tonnes.

**2 July 2002** Deputy chairman of the Federation Council defence and security committee Aleksandr Dondukov says Russian military hardware and armaments are in eighth place in the world in terms of sales on both the domestic and foreign market.

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**3 July 2002** *Kommersant* reports that Nikolay Solov'yev is appointed first deputy secretary of the Security Council. This is in addition to the existing first deputy, Vladislav Sherstyuk.

**3 July 2002** The MOD says the post of chief military inspector has been established in the Russian armed forces. No one has yet been appointed to this post.

**3 July 2002** The trial of Maritime Territory scientist Vladimir Shchurov opens in Vladivostok. The FSB accuses him of disclosing state secrets, smuggling and the illegal export of technology to China.

**4 July 2002** Aleksandr Brindikov, First Deputy Minister of Science, Industry and Technology says the defence industry has about 1,800 enterprises and there are plans that about 900 will remain in the industry after reforms.

**5 July 2002** The Public Opinion Fund conducts a poll. If the presidential election were held next Sunday, 54% would vote for Vladimir Putin. Last week, 46% would have voted for him.

CPRF leader Gennadiy Zyuganov,	13%
LDPR leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy,	4%
Sergey Shoygu	3%
Yabloko leader Grigory Yavlinsky,	2%
URF leader Boris Nemtsov	1%

**8 July 2002** Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev tells Putin that the regions have been denied virtually all powers.

**9 July 2002** Russian Expo Arms 2002 fair in Nizhniy Tagil begins.

**10 July 2002** The Federation Council approves the laws on combating extremism and "On alternative civilian service".

**10 July 2002** The acting head of the General Staff's Main Organizational-Mobilization Directorate, Vasily Smirnov tells the Federation Council that it is not currently possible to transfer all the Russian armed forces to contract service because of the lack of financial resources.

**11 July 2002** The military inspectorate is set up. It is headed by Lt-Gen Aleksandr Lukin.

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**11 July 2002** Dmitry Kozak, deputy head of the Presidential Administration, says the Kremlin welcomes the Constitutional Court ruling reaffirming the principle of replaceability of regional governors.

**11 July 2002** Deputy Interior Minister Vladimir Vasil'yev says the Interior Ministry (MVD) plans a crackdown on organizers and perpetrators of ethnic-based crimes.

**11 July 2002** Vladimir Putin signs a federal law on the Central Bank of Russia affirming its independent status.

**11 July 2002** The MOD makes available its first official statistics concerning military casualties, which show that the armed forces lost 127 servicemen who were on service in the first six months of 2002. Lt-Gen Vasily Smirnov says over the first six months of 2002, 76 servicemen committed suicide, which is 30% less than over the same period in 2001. Twelve army and fleet servicemen died due to carelessness, as compared to 23 over the same period in 2001. Nineteen servicemen died in road accidents, as compared with 30 in the first six months in 2001. Seven soldiers died in incidents involving bullying against 15 in the same period in 2001. Eleven soldiers died due to personal negligence, as compared to 19 in the same period in 2001. Two servicemen were poisoned with spirits as compared with four over the same period in 2001. 356 Defence Ministry servicemen died while off duty over the first six months of 2002.

Lt-Gen Smirnov says 2,265 servicemen, who went AWOL from the Russian armed forces from the day of their establishment on 7 May 1992, are being searched for.

**11 July 2002** Yevgenny Kiselev is removed from his position as director-general of the Moscow Independent Broadcasting Corporation (MNVK, owner of TV6).

**11 July 2002** Mikhail Kasyanov signs a directive to form a commission to reform and develop the defence sector in 2002-2006. The commission has been instructed to coordinate federal executive authorities towards reforming and developing the defence sector, with the territorial particularities of defence plants taken into account, and preparing relevant documents for scrutiny at sessions of the government's military commission. Minister for Industry, Science, and Technology Ilya Klebanov will be chairman of the commission.

**12 July 2002** *Vedomosti* reports that Col-Gen Vladislav Putilin, formerly head of the MOD's Main Organizational and Mobilization Directorate is to move to the Department of Economic Development and Trade. The general will be responsible in his new post for the Russian economy's readiness for war.

**12 July 2002** Vladimir Putin signs a decree appointing Ella Pamfilova chairman of the presidential Human Rights Commission. She replaces Vladimir Kartashkin.

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Putin signs a decree appointing Abdul-Khakim Sultygov his special representative for human rights and freedoms in Chechnya. He calls for stricter rules for Russian security sweeps in Chechnya.

**12 July 2002** Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov says the antiterrorist operation in Afghanistan has not yet reduced the influx of drugs from that country to Russia.

**12 July 2002** Deputy Chief of the Main Automobile and Armour Department of the MOD Maj-Gen Aleksandr Yeliseyev says the stock of Russian military vehicles needs total re-equipment. The vehicles of up to six years of age make up 5% of it.

**12 July 2002** Goskomstat reports that industrial production increased by 3.2% in Russia in the first six months of 2002, compared with the same period in 2001.

**12 July 2002** Presidential administration chief Aleksandr Voloshin is elected chairman of the board of directors of United Energy Systems (UES). Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin is elected his deputy.

**12 July 2002** An article in *Vek* claims that Vladimir Putin wants to deal with the regions from a position of force.

**12 July 2002** Abdul-Khakim Sultygov, the Presidential envoy for human rights in Chechnya, says he believes that former Chechen president Aslan Maskhadov should be tried by his own people.

The presidential information department says the federal authorities regret a decision by Memorial and a number of other non-governmental human rights organizations to halt negotiating activity in Chechnya.

**13 July 2002** Abdul-Khakim Sultygov is interviewed in *Kommersant*. He criticizes abuses by the Russian military in the republic.

**13 July 2002** Duma chairman Gennady Seleznev says he intends to create a new party, the Socialist Party of Russia on the basis of his Rossiya movement.

**13 July 2002** The Justice Ministry refuses to register the Liberal Russia party. Boris Berezovskiy is the party's chairman.

**13 July 2002** Chairman of the Federation Council Sergey Mironov backs the idea of extending the presidential term in Russia. He advocates five years. Mironov opposes prompt constitutional amendments.

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**16 July 2002** Bailiffs raid the editorial office of *Domovoy*, a magazine owned by Boris Berezovskiy.

**16 July 2002** Goskomstat reports that Russia's population decreased by 385,600 people, or 0.3per cent, in January-May 2002. A total of 143.6m people were living in Russia as of 1 June 2002. In the first five months of 2002, 567,700 births were recorded in Russia (compared to 536,600 in the same period last year) and 998,300 people died (against 948,4000 in the same period last year). Thus the birth rate was up by 5.8% and the death rate went up by 5.3%. The natural population reduction (the number of deaths minus the number of births) was 411,800 in Janaury-May 2001. In January-May 2002, it reached 430,600, or 4.6%.

**16 July 2002** Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says the experiment to have Russia's 76th Airborne Division manned by contract soldiers will dictate strategies for having the entire armed forces manned on a contractual basis. Having the division manned by contract soldiers will cost more than R3bn.

**17 July 2002** The head of the Kabarda-Balkar dzhamaat, amir Seyfullay says it is time for the peoples of the Caucasus to join the fight against the "Russian empire".

**18 July 2002** The Russian government assesses the state of the economy in the first six months of 2002. Mikhail Kasyanov says the growth in GDP in the first six months is 3.8%.

**18 July 2002** Defence minister Sergey Ivanov is interviewed in *Komsomolskaya Pravda*.

**19 July 2002** Gleb Pavlovskiy, president of the Effective Policy Foundation and an unofficial adviser of the head of the Kremlin administration Aleksandr Voloshin, says that Vladimir Putin will not seek a third presidential term in 2008.

**19 July 2002** The Volgodonsk Atomic Power Station says neither plutonium nor any other radioactive material has been stolen from the station. This statement was in answer to an article in *The Guardian* claiming that there have been thefts of radioactive material, possibly including plutonium.

Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev discusses security at civilian nuclear sites in the journal *Yadernyy Kontrol*.

**21 July 2002** Chief of the Russian Audit Chamber Sergey Stepashin says he believes that figures on Russia's shadow economy are overly exaggerated. He says "it is believed that 40bn dollars is annually illegally exported from Russia and that shadow businesses make up 70% of the Russian economy. How have these figures been obtained? If this is so, these 70% actually constitute the Russian economy, and we have the wrong laws and a topsy-turvy economy." He also says that the international agency for combating money laundering should have crossed Russia

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off its blacklist a long time ago as Russia has fulfilled all of its 25 terms. He outlines a plan to combat corruption in Russia.

**21 July 2002** The Chairman of the Baltic Republican Party in Kaliningrad Region calls for a referendum on independence.

**22 July 2002** Military sources tell Interfax 4,249 servicemen of the joint group of federal forces in the North Caucasus were killed in Dagestan and Chechnya in the period between 7 August 2001 and 22 July 2002. In this period, 12,285 servicemen were wounded. Twenty-nine servicemen are listed as missing. A total of 13,517 extremists have been killed since the beginning of the antiterrorist operation in the North Caucasus on 7 August 1999.

**22 July 2002** An expanded meeting of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria (CRI) State Defence Council, presided over by President Aslan Maskhadov takes place. The Council adopts a decision to set up a military committee, which will be in charge of the operations of all units of the CRI Armed Forces and an Information Committee, the purpose of which is to coordinate the activities of all the resistance movement's information centres. The military committee is to be headed by Shamil Basayev, who has also been appointed as the deputy commander-in-chief of the CRI Armed Forces.

**23 July 2002** Sergey Yushenkov says the Liberal Russia party recognises Chechnya's right to become independent.

**24 July 2002** Pro-Moscow Chechen prime minister Stanislav Ilyasov states Chechen guerrillas do not have large forces at their disposal and are incapable of staging large-scale subversion and terror attacks.

**24 July 2002** Andrey Kushnirenko, head of the tariff regulation department at the Economic Development and Trade Ministry, says the government commission for foreign trade protection and customs-tariff policy has decided to increase the export duty on fuel oil from 10 to 20 euros per tonne. He says that more than likely this duty will be in place from mid-September.

**24 July 2002** The Stroytransgaz company has finished the construction of a 251-km-long section of the Yamal-Europe trunk gas pipeline from the Smolenskaya compressor station to the Berezina river. Sixty-four kilometres of the pipeline have been laid on Russian territory, and another 184 km run through Belarus. All tests have been finalised.

**24 July 2002** An article on the Grani.ru website criticises the C in C of the Navy Admiral Vladimir Kuroyedov.

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**25 July 2002** The Economic Development and Trade Ministry states that Russia's GDP increased by 3.8% in the first half of 2002 as compared to the same period last year.

**26 July 2002** Vladimir Putin instructs Prosecutor-General Vladimir Ustinov to inform the public as much as possible of the results of the investigation into the loss of the Kursk nuclear submarine.

**26 July 2002** Secretary of the Russian Security Council Vladimir Rushaylo meets the head of the Chechen government Stanislav Ilyasov to discuss Chechnya's reconstruction.

**26 July 2002** An article in *Nezavisimoye Voyennoye Obozreniye* calls for enhancing the role of the General Staff in the armed forces.

Another article, by Andrey Borisov calls for the FSB to play a bigger role in countering crime in the armed forces.

**26 July 2002** Web site Nuclear.ru reports that Vladimir Putin has received proposals to disband the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry and transfer its functions to three departments - the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Defence, and the Ministry of Industry, Science and Technology.

**27 July 2002** An article in *Krasnaya Zvezda* discusses measures to enhance Russia's arms exports.

**27 July 2002** In an interview in *Rossiyskaya Zvezda* CGS Anatoly Kvashnin says the combat strength of the Russian army is to be reduced to one million. Kvashnin says the cuts will fall mainly on the strategic nuclear forces.

**27 July 2002** An article by Viktor Litovkin in newspaper *Vremya MN* criticises the state of the Russian Navy.

**28 July 2002** Vladimir Putin signs the federal law "On alternative civilian service", approved by the State Duma on 28 June and by the Federation Council on 10 July. Putin also signs the federal law "On measures to combat extremism", adopted by the State Duma on 27 June and endorsed by the Federation Council on 10 July.

**28 July 2002** Russia's Chief Rabbi Berl Lazar calls on the authorities to take emergency measures to fight anti-Semitic extremism. Berl Lazar said that security and law-enforcement agencies must establish a special body to fight anti-Semitism.

**29 July 2002** Vladimir Putin states that the government communications agency FAPSI should increase its role in ensuring national security.

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**29 July 2002** The UN suspends humanitarian programmes in the Northern Caucasus following the abduction of Nina Davidovich, the head of the Druzhba non-governmental humanitarian organization in Chechnya on 23 July. This is criticised by Akhmed Kadyrov.

**29 July 2002** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia has no intention of reinforcing its military group in the Kaliningrad Region.

**29 July 2002** An article by Andrey Nikolskiy in *Vedomosti* discusses Rosoboroneksport arms sales plans for 2002. Rosoboroneksport plans to increasing the export of military equipment this year by 15% to approximately 4.2bn dollars. Arms exports in 2001 compared to 2000 based on various military-technical cooperation entities are estimated at the following: Rosoboroneksport - 3.3bn dollars (3.09bn in 2000); Antey Concern (the air defence Almaz-Antey Concern has now been created based on this) - 138m dollars (393m dollars); the Instrument-Making Design Bureau - 107m dollars (73m); the MiG Russian Aircraft Manufacturing Corporation - 97m dollars (86m); the Machine-Building Science and Production Association - 31m dollars (39m); the Machine-Building Design Bureau - 32m (zero). The total volume of arms sales amounted to 3,705m dollars in 2001 (3,681m in 2000).

**30 July 2002** The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) decides to continue work in Chechnya. In 2002, the ICRC North Caucasus mission will render humanitarian relief worth 26m US dollars.

**30 July 2002** Sergey Ivanov orders the Baltic Fleet to defend oil rigs in the Baltic in the event of a terrorist threat.

**31 July 2002** UN agencies will resume humanitarian activities in Ingushetia. Assistance to Chechnya is suspended indefinitely, while Nina Davidovich remains unfound.

**31 July 2002** Transneft announces plans to build a new oil pipeline from the East Siberian town of Angarsk, Irkutsk Region, to the Sea of Japan. The company plans to start construction in 2004.

**31 July 2002** Ilya Klebanov, Minister of Industry, Science and Technology holds the first meeting of a commission set up to implement a targeted federal programme of reforming the defence complex in 2002-2006.

## *August*

**1 August 2002** All-Russia Public Opinion Centre gives out the results of a poll on Vladimir Putin: 73% approve of his activities, while 20% do not (the rating was 75% and 20%, respectively, in June). 43% of respondents approve of the activities of

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Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov, while 38% do not (44% and 40% in June). 36% feel positive about the work of the government in general, while 48% disapprove (the indices were equal - 39% - in June). 50% of respondents named Putin when replying to a question on which politicians they trusted most. This reflects a 4% rise when compared to June (46%). They also trust:

Yedinaya Rossiya leader Sergey Shoygu,	18% (15% in June)
CPRF leader Gennady Zyuganov	14% (17% in June)
Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov	9% (7%)
Moscow mayor Yuri Luzhkov	8% (7%)
LDPR Vladimir Zhirinovskiy	8% (10%)
Yabloko leader Grigory Yavlinskiy	6% (7%)
URF leader Boris Nemtsov	6% (8%)
Governor of Kemerovo Region Aman Tuleyev	6% (9%)
Duma speaker Gennady Seleznev	5% (6%)

21% of the respondents said they had no confidence in any Russian politician (17% in April). The information was collected in an express poll of 1,600 citizens of Russia on 26-29 July.

**1 August 2002** The MVD states that over 230 officers of the MVD main directorate for fighting organized crime have died in the course of the antiterrorist operation in Chechnya since August 1999, and about 900 have been wounded.

**1 August 2002** A military exercise begins on the Caspian Sea. Participants in the exercise will spend four days training in cooperation of all forces and means aimed to protect Russia's interests and security on the Caspian Sea, including cutting channels to Russia for drugs, weapons and international terrorists. They will train in steps to protect Caspian biological resources and oil fields.

**1 August 2002** Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko says so far, the state has not received any actual benefits from projects implemented under production sharing agreements (PSA). The government's commission on PSA issues has just had a session. The session primarily focused on the work on an annual report addressing the progress in PSA projects in 2001. Of 27 PSAs, only three are actually being implemented.

**1 August 2002** *Yezhenedelnyy Zhurnal* publishes an article on the poor state of military equipment in the Russian armed forces and those of other CIS countries.

**2 August 2002** The court of jury of the Stavropol district court rules the ringleader of the Dzhamaat criminal gang, Khyzyr Salpagarov, and his accomplices, Eduard Kharatokov and Ramazan Gochiyayev, guilty of plotting a coup d'etat in the Karachay-Cherkess Republic and the Kabarda-Balkar Republic.

**2 August 2002** An article in the Dagestani newspaper *Novoye Delo* discusses the proposed North-South transport corridor from Northern Russia to the Persian Gulf.

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**2 August 2002** *Novyye Izvestiya* reports that Lt-Gen Sergey Makarov has replaced Col-Gen Vladimir Moltenskoy as commander of the joint group of forces in the North Caucasus.

**4 August 2002** V-Adm Vladimir Masorin, commander of Russia's Caspian Sea naval flotilla, says that he does not rule out a situation where Chechen militant groupings might turn up on the shores of the Caspian Sea.

**4 August 2002** In an interview in *Vek*, Federation Council chairman Sergey Mironov calls for the repopulation of the Russian Far East.

**6 August 2002** Vladimir Putin discusses the restructuring of military industry with Science, Industry and Technology Minister Ilya Klebanov.

**6 August 2002** The head of the Volga customs directorate for security, Vladimir Yegorov, says customs officers in the Volga Federal District have been discovering literature of a radical Islamic nature smuggled on to their territory.

**6 August 2002** The FSB brings a new charge of espionage for the USA against Russian academic Igor Sutyagin.

**6 August 2002** The representative for Chechnya in the Russian Federation Council Akhmar Zavgayev is interviewed on *Ekho Moskvy* radio on the situation in Chechnya. He is optimistic and calls for a joint Russo-Georgian operation in Pankisi Gorge.

**7 August 2002** A spokesman for the regional headquarters running the counterterrorist operation in the North Caucasus, Col Ilya Shabalkin, says a suspect in the murder of four British subjects (Granger Telecom workers Peter Kennedy, Darren Hickey, Rudolf Petschi, Stanley Shaw) in December 1998 has been detained in Chechnya. His name is Khuseyn Idigov, born 1966, chief of staff of the group of militants under rebel commander Arbi Barayev.

**7 August 2002** Several appointments are made to the Russian air force command. Lt-Gen Aleksandr Zelin becomes aviation chief and deputy commander of the air force. Maj-Gen Vladimir Gorbas is appointed commander of the 4th army and Maj-Gen Anatoliy Maksimov chief of the Military Aviation and Technical University.

Lt-Gen Nikolay Pankov, chief of the Defence Ministry's Main Personnel Directorate and deputy defence minister, says the Russian armed forces lack about 48,000 officers.

Minister of Science, Industry and Technology Ilya Klebanov outlines the three-year government strategy of rational spending of budget allocations for re-equipping the armed forces with fifth generation weapons.

**7 August 2002** The Bank of Russia says Russia's international reserves shrank in July by 0.65%, from 43.579bn dollars to 43.294bn dollars. The hard currency reserves fell from 39.848bn dollars to 39.564bn dollars in July, while monetary gold reserves stayed invariable for the third month in a row at 3.731bn dollars. Since the start of 2002, the gold and hard currency reserves have increased by 6.672bn dollars.

**7 August 2002** Chechen rebel spokesman Mayrbek Vachegayev says that Chechen fighters who are on Georgian territory are not part of the Chechen resistance movement. He is interviewed on *Ekho Moskv*y radio.

**8 August 2002** *Kommersant* produces a detailed analysis of the 2003 draft budget.

**9 August 2002** Vladimir Putin signs laws guaranteeing the rights of indigenous small peoples in the north, Siberia and the Far East, and on granting small indigenous peoples the right to alternative civilian service.

**9 August 2002** Akhmad Kadyrov predicts that army operations will be completed in Chechnya by September. He says a Chechen MOD will be set up.

A poll by VTsIOM shows in July only 29% of respondents support continuation of the military operation in Chechnya. 61% of respondents believe that the Kremlin should start peace talks with the separatists. 10% could not say.

**9 August 2002** The main command of the Russian air force says it has begun forming a federal reconnaissance and aerospace control system. Air Force Commander-in-Chief Vladimir Mikhaylov says: "The system should unite the technical and financial capabilities of all agencies that have radar means in a single entity capable of performing all of the tasks in air defence and air traffic control".

**10 August 2002** Heavy flooding takes place in southern Russia.

**10 August 2002** Russian air force commander-in-chief Col-Gen Vladimir Mikhaylov is interviewed in *Krasnaya Zvezda*.

**11 August 2002** The Institute of Agrarian Market Research says Russia exported a record-high 6.6m tonnes of grain last agricultural year (from 1 July 2001 to 1 July 2002) against 1.2m tonnes a year earlier. IAMR General-Director Dmitry Rylko says that: "Russia currently ranks among the world's eight leading grain exporters (the European Union regarded as a single exporter) and among the world's four leading barley exporters. Russia's share on the world grain market currently stands at 4% and on the barley market at about 15%." Russia's main importers are Middle Eastern, North African and South European countries.

**11 August 2002** Commander-in-Chief of the force Col-Gen Vladimir Mikhaylov says the present programme for upgrading the Russian air force will be carried out in two, no more than three years.

**12 August 2002** Federation Council chairman Sergey Mironov expresses concern about the under population of the Russian Far East.

**12 August 2002** Goskomstat says foreign investments in Russia grew 25.2% year on year in the first half of 2002 to 8,368m dollars. Foreign direct investments decreased by 25.4% to 1,872m dollars.

**12 August 2002** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov meets the servicemen of the 7th Airborne Division and border guards in Karachay-Cherkessia.

**12 August 2002** Vladimir Putin signs a decree changing the composition of the Council for Cooperation with Religious Associations. The council involves chairman of the North Caucasus Muslims coordinating centre mufti Magomed Albogachiyev. Muslims will be represented by the leaders of three Islamic organizations - the chairman of the central religious board of Muslims in Russia, mufti Talgat Tadzhuddin; the head of the council of muftis of Russia, Ravil Gaynutdin, and an Ingush mufti, who chairs the North Caucasus Muslim organization. In addition, the council includes the head of the Russian eparchy of the Armenian Apostolic Church, bishop Ezras Nersisyan, and the chairman of the Russian Combined Union of Evangelic Christians, Sergey Ryakhovskiy. The new members will replace former leader of Russian Baptists Petr Konovalchik, Pentecostals head Vladimir Murza and the head of the department of religious studies of the Academy of Public Service, Nikolay Trofimchuk, who died in April. The council is headed by presidential chief of staff Aleksandr Voloshin.

**12 August 2002** Peter Arjan Erkel, head of the humanitarian mission Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) is kidnapped in Dagestan.

**13 August 2002** Vladimir Putin signs a decree approving the general principles of conduct for civil servants.

**13 August 2002** Chechnya's administration head Akhmad Kadyrov urges local law-enforcement agencies to take the lead in the fight against terrorism and banditry in the republic.

**13 August 2002** In an interview in *Itogi*, Labour Minister Aleksandr Pochinok warns of a demographic crisis for Russia.

**13 August 2002** *Vedomosti* publishes a detailed article on Russian defence spending in 2003.

**14 August 2002** Goskomstat statistics reveal that Russian life expectancy has begun to rise again after falling in the mid-1990s. According to official prognoses, overall life expectancy should rise to 67 years by 2015. This year the figure is 65.6 years, which is slightly higher than in 1995. Next year the average Russian should be living 66 years. The difference between life expectancy for men and women is 13.5 years. According to Goskomstat, men are living 59.5 years on average, and women 73 years.

**14 August 2002** MSF suspends its operations in Dagestan. On 29 July it suspended its activities in Chechnya after the disappearance of Nina Davidovich. The ICRC says it will continue its humanitarian activities in the North Caucasus.

**14 August 2002** New appointments are made to the command of MVD troops. Col-Gen Valery Baranov, former commander of the unified federal troops group in the North Caucasus, is appointed first deputy commander of MVD troops. Baranov's predecessor, Lt-Gen Nikolay Garidov, died in an air crash in Chechnya in January 2002. Maj-Gen Yevgenny Lazebin is appointed deputy commander of MVD troops and chief of the troops' combat training department. Lazebin's predecessor, Lt-Gen Nikolay Rogozhkin, is now chief of staff and first deputy commander of MVD troops. Maj-Gen Yury Pylnev is appointed deputy commander of MVD troops in charge of aviation and chief of the troops' aircraft department. He replaced Lt-Gen Viktor Yakunov, who had retired due to poor health. Maj-Gen Yuriy Kotov has been appointed commander of the western district of MVD troops. Maj-Gen Igor Artykbayev has been appointed chief of staff and first deputy commander of the western district. Maj-Gen Aleksandr Stolyarov is appointed chief of staff and first deputy commander of the Siberian district of MVD troops.

**15 August 2002** Vladimir Putin meets the president of Ingushetia, Murat Zyazikov. They discuss refugee return from Ingushetia to Chechnya.

**15 August 2002** The MVD tightens up anti-terrorist security in southern Russia.

**15 August 2002** The State Customs Committee says Russia's grain imports were reduced by 22.4% year-on-year in January-June 2002. Russia imported 871,700 tonnes of grain in January-June 2002 as compared to 1.1m tonnes in January-June 2001.

**15 August 2002** Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says Russia's proposed defence spending next year is set at R346.1bn - 14.9% of overall budget spending.

**15 August 2002** *Novyye Izvestiya* reports that Lt-Gen Vasily Smirnov has been appointed chief of the Main Organization and Mobilization Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces. In this post he replaces Col-Gen Vladislav Putilin, who in July 2002 transferred to work in the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade as one of German Gref's deputies.

**15 August 2002** The chief of Russia's Central Electoral Commission, Aleksandr Veshnyakov, says the best time for holding elections in Chechnya will be the end of 2003 when Duma elections are held. For the election in Chechnya to be arranged properly a referendum must be held and a constitution adopted first. The referendum will decide the basic principles of Chechnya's statehood, such as the structure of parliament, the number of parliament members and the rules governing their election. The decree on the referendum is to be signed by the Russian president.

Former Security Council secretary Ivan Rybkin has talks with Aslan Maskhadov's envoy Akhmed Zakayev in Zurich. Rybkin says the Chechen side is prepared to return to the agreement of 12 May 1997.

**16 August 2002** Ingush President Murat Zyazikov says there will be no union between Chechnya and Ingushetia.

Aslan Maskhadov's official representative Mayrbek Vachegayev says the guerrilla war will go on until the Russian government is forced into negotiations with the rebels.

**16 August 2002** The FSB in Chelyabinsk Region says it will invite FBI representatives to Russia in connection with an investigation launched into an unsanctioned entry into Russia's computer networks. The FSB department in Chelyabinsk Region has instituted criminal proceedings into the case of unsanctioned access to computer information in Russia by the USA's special services.

**16 August 2002** A Moscow district military court grants an amnesty to the former chief financial officer of Russia's Defence Ministry, Col-Gen Georgy Oleynik, but he remains in custody on another charge.

**16 August 2002** Deputy chief of the General Staff, Col-Gen Aleksandr Rukshin, says Russia is to develop its strategic nuclear troika without giving precedence to any one of its components.

**17 August 2002** The chairman of an army veterans' committee affiliated to the CIS heads of government, Ruslan Aushev, says at least 288 servicemen have remained on the missing list after the former USSR withdrew its contingent from Afghanistan in 1989.

**17 August 2002** Akhmad Kadyrov says a referendum on the constitution of Chechnya is to take place between 10 and 15 December 2002, and elections for president of the Chechen Republic can be held six months after it is adopted.

Chechen prime minister Stanislav Ilyasov says the Russian government has approved an overall reconstruction and development plan for the Chechen capital Groznyy.

Ivan Rybkin gives an interview to *Ekho Moskvy* on his talks with Akhmed Zakayev in Zurich.

Rebel commander Shamil Basayev is interviewed by the rebel web site Kavkaz-Tsentr on the Chechen military situation. He says Georgia should legalise Chechen fighters in Pankisi Gorge.

**19 August 2002** HQ of the joint group of forces states that Chechen rebels have downed a Mi-26 military transport helicopter which was carrying servicemen of the federal group of forces. There were 112 servicemen onboard.

The Federal Migration Service says that 15,000 Chechens intend to come back to the republic. The number of forced migrants staying in Ingushetia has fallen from 148,600 people to 90,000 since the beginning of 2002. 19,000 refugees live in tent camps.

**19 August 2002** Magadan regional дума proposes extending the presidential term to seven years.

**20 August 2002** Goskomstat reports that production of goods and services in the five core sectors of the Russian economy - industry, construction, agriculture, transport and retail trade - grew 4.1% year-on-year in the first seven months of 2002, compared to a growth of 5.4% in the same period of 2001. In the first seven months of 2002, industrial output grew 3.9% year-on-year. Farm output was also up 3.9%. Capital investments grew 2.6% and freight turnover was up 4.9%, of which rail freight grew 2.5%. Retail turnover increased by 8.7%.

**20 August 2002** The commander of army aviation, Gen-Col Vitaly Pavlov, is suspended from his post until the end of the investigation into the shooting down of the Mi-26 helicopter in Chechnya.

**20 August 2002** The Chechen National Salvation Committee calls for talks with Moscow on the basis of the Zakayev-Rybkin talks in Zurich.

A ROMIR poll claims 90% of Russians are against negotiations with militants on a peace settlement in Chechnya. 33.3% support the current policies in Chechnya - 3.7% less than in February. The number of those undecided grew by 5% to 19.2%. According to the same opinion poll, 47.5% of the polled disagree with the government's policies in Chechnya. A third of those polled said the policies in Chechnya must be very tough. 24.6% said the policies in Chechnya must combine power tactics and economic assistance; 6.7% believe the emphasis must be made on local authorities and 3.9% said the policies in Chechnya must remain unchanged. 3.6% said negotiations with the militants' leaders were a possibility. The opinion poll was based on a national representative population sample with 2,000 respondents aged over 18 taking part.

**20 August 2002** An explosion takes place in an apartment block in north Moscow. At least 8 people are killed.

**20 August 2002** An article in *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* accuses generals of blocking military reform.

**20 August 2002** Goskomstat states that Russia's agricultural production in January-July rose 3.9% on the year.

**20 August 2002** Vladimir Putin's economic aide, Andrey Illarionov, says economic growth of 8-10% a year is "realistic and possible" for the Russian economy over the next 10-20 years.

**21 August 2002** A Duma deputy, Vladimir Golovlev, is murdered in Moscow.

**23 August 2002** The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade states that Russia's GDP growth was an estimated 4% in the first seven months of 2002 in relation to the same period of 2001.

**23 August 2002** Igor Matlashov, first deputy energy minister says Russia expects to produce 360m-362m tonnes of oil in 2002. Matlashov says Russia expects to export 145m tonnes of oil in 2002. In the first seven months of 2002, Russia produced 214.4m tonnes of oil, up 8.3% year-on-year. Gas production went up 3.3%.

**24 August 2002** The commander of the Far Eastern Air Force and Air Defence Army, Maj-Gen Igor Sadofeyev, is interviewed in *Krasnaya Zvezda* on the state of the air force in the Russian Far East.

**25 August 2002** The Russian government submits the draft budget for 2003 to the Duma.

**26 August 2002** Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov instructs ministries and departments to draw up a list of measures aimed at stabilizing the ethnic-political situation in the country.

**26 August 2002** Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeyev says Russia will harvest 75-77m tonnes of grain in 2002, compared to 85.4m tonnes in 2001. The average growth of agricultural production totalled 6.2% over the past three years, which was nearly 2% more than the average growth rates in other sectors.

**26 August 2002** The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade has drafted a concept on special economic zones (SEZ) which have been submitted to the government. It is hoped that the SEZs will enlarge direct foreign investments in the Russian economy to 7-10bn dollars a year.

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**26 August 2002** President Vladimir Putin says Russia is developing a programme for the re-equipment of its naval forces. He says the navy's share of defence budget "was too little ... we forgot about building new ships."

**26 August 2002** Human rights commissioner Oleg Mironov says that excess federal troops, except those permanently deployed, should be pulled out of Chechnya before holding free elections there.

Commander of the joint federal forces in the North Caucasus Col-Gen Vladimir Moltenskoy says troops of the joint group of forces in the North Caucasus are being withdrawn from the republic. Moltenskoy says that surplus detachments and military assets are being pulled out from the republic as the structure of the rest of the forces is being improved.

A representative of the headquarters of the Combined Federal Forces says a total of 13,833 extremists have been killed since the beginning of the counter-terrorism operation in the North Caucasus in August 1999.

**27 August 2002** Chechen administration chief Akhmad Kadyrov's bodyguard, Murat Radiyev, is murdered.

**27 August 2002** The Federal Border Service says shots have been fired at its soldiers from Georgian territory in the region of the Kerigo Pass.

**28 August 2002** The Presidential website publishes a speech by Vladimir Putin to the command of the Siberian Military District on military reform. It also publishes a speech by Putin to the Pacific Fleet command on naval policy.

**28 August 2002** *Krasnaya Zvezda* publishes an assessment of the military situation in Chechnya.

The Russian army states that mass graves containing remains of Russian army servicemen and civilians have been found in Chechnya. Around 80 bodies are estimated to be in the graves.

**28 August 2002** Defence minister Sergey Ivanov issues a decree bringing into force a government resolution under which the St Petersburg Military Space Engineering University named after Mozhayskiy once again becomes the Space Military Academy. The academy is part of the Space Troops and trains highly-qualified officers with specialized military degrees for the MOD and other force structures. A new higher education establishment has been set up in Kubinka in Moscow Region. It is the Space Troops' Moscow Military Institute of Radioelectronics.

**28 August 2002** A VTsIOM poll gives Vladimir Putin an approval rating of 76%, an increase of 3% on July. 20% of Russians say they disapprove of his performance. The disapproval rating was also 20% in July.

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43% support Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov, and 41% disapprove (43% and 38% in July). 35% approve of the Russian government's performance, 54% disapprove (36% and 48% in July).

Putin is still the most trusted politician with 47% (44% in July). Others are:

Sergey Shoygu, Yedinaya Rossiya party leader and the emergencies minister,	17% (18% in July)
CPRF leader Gennady Zyuganov	14% (14%)
LDPR leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy	10% (8%)
Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov	8% (9%)
Moscow Mayor Yury Luzhkov	8% (8%)
Deputy Prime Minister Valentina Matviyenko	7% (5%)
Kemerovo Region governor Aman Tuleyev	6% (7%)
Yabloko party leader Grigory Yavlinskiy	6% (6%)
URF leader Boris Nemtsov	6% (5%)

20% trust no politician.

The poll was conducted by VTsIOM among 1,600 Russian citizens on 21-27 August.

**29 August 2002** The general director of Atomstroyeksport, Viktor Kozlov, outlines Atomstroyeksport's marketing strategy.

**29 August 2002** Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev criticizes the federal centre saying that it "tries to take upon itself more authority and is impinging on the remits of the regions".

**30 August 2002** Vladimir Putin addresses the Third World Tatar Congress in Kazan, Tatarstan. Putin rules out the creation of a Soviet style state in Russia.

Mintimer Shaymiyev addresses the Congress. He accuses the federal centre of encroaching on the jurisdiction of the regions. The Congress passes a resolution expressing concern over the growth of centralism in Russia.

**30 August 2002** Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov states that the Mi-26 helicopter that crashed 19 August in Chechnya was downed by a ground-to-air missile. He says various Russian military officials will be disciplined in connection with preparations for the flight.

**30 August 2002** The Gazeta.ru website reports the head of the Chechen administration's Security Council, Rudnik Dudayev, as saying that "it is possible to talk" with Chechen rebel leaders Shamil Basayev and Aslan Maskhadov.

Shamil Basayev denies any rift with Aslan Maskhadov.

**30 August 2002** Gazprom approves a programme for the development and reconstruction of its gas transport systems by 2006. After 33 years in use, 14% of

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Gazprom's 154,900-kilometre-long gas pipeline system has been worn out. About 64% of the facilities have been used for 10-32 years, while the remaining 22% have been functioning for less than 10 years. The pipelines' average age is 22 years.

**30 August 2002** A State Customs Committee official states that the export duty on Russian fuel oil will double and amount to 20 euros per tonne as of 1 September. Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov signed an ordinance to this effect on 27 July.

**30 August 2002** The Justice Ministry warns the Baltic Republican Party (BRP), operating in Kaliningrad Region, that the federal law "On counteracting extremist activities" may be applied to it.

**31 August 2002** An Mi-24 helicopter is shot down in Chechnya.

**31 August 2002** Deputy chairman of the Duma Security Committee Gennady Gudkov says Chief of the General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin has issued a secret directive to disband by September the Tbilisi garrison and the command body of the group of Russian forces in the Transcaucasus.

## *September*

**1 September 2002** Col Boris Podoprigora, a deputy joint group of forces commander, says that portable anti-aircraft weapons have been delivered to Chechnya in recent months. A batch of them was delivered across the Russian-Georgian border on 27 July 2001.

**1 September 2002** The 76th Pskov Airborne Division begins the planned experiment on the transition of units and subunits to a completely professional service.

**1 September 2002** Anatoly Kvashnin issues guidelines to restore the post of deputy commanders in charge of political work in armies and corps. Restoration of this post at the corps and army level is being carried out by Lt-Gen Nikolay Reznik, chief of the armed forces department for political work. Opportunities are also being considered to restore the posts of deputy commanders on political work in all services of the armed forces, in branches, military districts and fleets, supposedly to be effective in early 2003.

URF leader Boris Nemtsov is interviewed on *Ekho Moskvy* on military reform. He claims that Russian generals and the General Staff are trying to derail the military reform by overstating its cost.

The MOD states that it will transfer the Ground Forces' aviation units to the air force command by 1 November 2002.

**4 September 2002** The FSB states that 2,014 explosions took place in Russia from the beginning of 1999 to May 2002, including 359 which appear to be acts of terrorism. These explosions killed 1,088 people and injured over 1,500. A total of 729 criminal cases have been initiated on these blasts.

**4 September 2002** Chechen administration head Akhmad Kadyrov states that he met with a man who introduced himself as "Ichkerian President Aslan Maskhadov's" representative. Kadyrov says under certain circumstances he would meet Maskhadov. The Maskhadov leadership denies such contacts.

**4 September 2002** Lord Judd of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) arrives in Chechnya to prepare a report for the Council of Europe.

**4 September 2002** The Russian MOD denies the possibility of nuclear weapons being stolen from storage facilities. Col-Gen Igor Volynkin, head of the Defence Ministry's 12th main department in charge of nuclear security and head of the Atomic Facilities Nuclear Safety Inspectorate of the Russian MOD) states, "A theft or a leak from our nuclear weapons storage facilities is absolutely impossible". Volynkin says that security measures at nuclear weapons storage facilities have recently been increased threefold. "We have very tough security measures. The procedure of opening nuclear facilities alone is so complicated that nobody, including officials, can enter them without a pass." Volynkin says that in 2002 no attempt on the part of terrorists to enter Russian nuclear facilities or conduct reconnaissance there has been reported.

**4 September 2002** Lord Judd of PACE says there are over 700 people missing in Chechnya.

**5 September 2002** Aleksandr Veshnyakov, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, calls for joint presidential and Duma elections on 14 March 2004.

**5 September 2002** Col-Gen Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, Internal Troops commander, says the Internal Troops' personnel will be cut by more than 33,000 people by 2005 as a result of Russia's military reform. He says it is planned to transform districts of the MVD Troops into regional command departments in federal districts and to put operational units on a brigade basis.

**5 September 2002** The commander of the unified group of forces in Chechnya, Col-Gen Vladimir Moltenskoy, says he has no information on the elimination of Chechen guerrilla warlord Aslan Maskhadov.

**6 September 2002** Vladimir Putin makes assurances to the Russian Jewish community that the government will continue to counteract any manifestations of extremism and anti-Semitism.

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**7 September 2002** Gennady Seleznev is elected leader of Russia's Revival Party at the party's founding congress held in Moscow.

**7 September 2002** The Government Commission for Protection Measures in Foreign Trade and Customs Tariff Policy has taken the decision to increase the rate of duty on oil exports from 22 dollars per tonne to 26 dollars per tonne, as of 1 October.

**7 September 2002** The Chechenpress website publishes a peace plan proposed by Ruslan Khasbulatov.

**9 September 2002** Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo is hospitalised following a car crash in Kamchatka.

**9 September 2002** Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says net capital outflow from Russia is expected to drop to 9-10bn US dollars in 2002 from 16bn dollars in 2001.

**9 September 2002** The UN resumes humanitarian operations in Chechnya. They were halted on 29 July after Nina Davidovich was kidnapped.

**9 September 2002** Chief of the General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin begins the inspection of the units of the Combined Force in the North Caucasus.

**10 September 2002** Commander of the Combined Forces in the North Caucasus Col-Gen Vladimir Moltenskoy says he aims to destroy separatist president Aslan Maskhadov.

**10 September 2002** Deputy Emergencies Minister Lt-Gen Gennady Korotkin says that by 2005 the Emergencies Ministry will complete the reform of the civil defence troops in order to raise their efficiency in peace and war times.

**11 September 2002** Vladimir Putin says that infrastructure of international terrorism in Chechnya has been destroyed. "A powerful material blow has been dealt on bandit detachments and the local structure of international terrorism has been destroyed. One of the reasons interfering with effective struggle against terrorism is that in certain parts of the world territorial enclaves remain outside the control of the national governments which - for a variety of reasons - cannot or do not want to confront the terrorist threat." Putin says the situation in Pankisi Gorge is "poisoning the interstate relations with Georgia and the Georgian people ... it is also poisoning the feelings of mutual sympathy and respect towards the Georgian people".

**11 September 2002** The autumn session of the Duma begins.

Defence minister Sergey Ivanov gives an account to the Duma on military reform.

**12 September 2002** Rudnik Dudayev, pro-Moscow Chechen security chief, says that it is too early to cut back Russia's armed forces in Chechnya.

*Dagestanskaya Panorama* analyses the Chechen draft constitution.

**12 September 2002** Deputy interior minister, Vladimir Vasilyev takes personal control of the investigation into the kidnapping of LUKoil vice-president Sergey Kukura.

**14 September 2002** Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov is interviewed in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*.

**15 September 2002** Representatives of several Islamic organizations decide to establish a new Islamic party, called the True Party of Russia.

**16 September 2002** Interfax reports that Aslan Maskhadov has made changes to the command of Chechen armed formations. Maskhadov appoints Arab mercenary Abu-al-Walid, who was earlier responsible for financing sabotage and terrorist activities of guerrillas in Chechnya, his deputy. Doku Umarov is appointed "commander of the southeastern front".

A bomb goes off in Grozny killing 18 people. The Prosecutor of Chechnya Nikolay Kostyuchenko has denied reports claiming that the death toll of the terrorist act in the centre of Grozny has risen. He says 7 were killed.

**17 September 2002** Central Electoral Commission head Aleksandr Veshnyakov discusses the draft bill on presidential elections. The bill is being considered by the Duma. If it is approved, the next president of Russia will most likely be nominated by a political party, because it creates the most favourable regime for parties that managed to override a 5% hurdle during the previous Duma elections. The only thing they will have to do is to nominate a candidate at a party congress. The number of parties that have overridden the 5% hurdle is limited.

**17 September 2002** Salambek Maigov, Chechen Antimilitary Congress chief says that 60,000 to 80,000 civilians have been killed over the three years of the military operation in the republic.

Akmad Kadyrov says Chechen rebels are receiving financial aid from abroad. He says funds have been arriving from Turkey.

The head of the Spiritual Board of Chechnya, Mufti Akhmad-Khadzhi Shamayev, and Salambek Maigov call for Russian troops to be withdrawn from Chechnya and talks to start with Chechen rebel President Aslan Maskhadov.

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**17 September 2002** Defence minister Sergey Ivanov is interviewed in *Itogi* on military reform, Georgia and Iraq.

**18 September 2002** The head of the Russian internal affairs ministry, Boris Gryzlov, says that additional troops will be sent to Chechnya. The joint forces in Chechnya will be supported by two special purpose detachments. Gryzlov says that it has been decided to establish a special purpose force within the interior troops.

**19 September 2002** Deputy Minister Arkady Dvorkovich at the Ministry for Economic Development and Trade says Russia's GDP grew by 4.1% in the first eight months of the year. The Ministry is predicting that GDP will grow by 3.9% in 2002.

**19 September 2002** Goskomstat say Russia's population was 143.4m as of 1 August 2002, and it had decreased by 505,900, or 0.35%, in January-July 2002. Compared to last year, the decrease in Russia's population slowed down, as in January-July 2001 it decreased by 536,400, or 0.37%.

**19 September 2002** Interfax reports that the Russian air force is sending reinforcements to the North Caucasus. This is later denied by the air force.

**20 September 2002** Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov says his ministry might be divided into federal and municipal police. He says the Interior Ministry is creating six new special task-force units within the Internal Troops, numbering 3,700 in total, to rebuff terrorism and extremism. Two newly created units will be deployed in Chechnya on the territory of the 46th special task-force brigade.

Boris Gryzlov says he is against any talks with Chechen rebels "except those on the terms of their surrender".

An article in *Komsomolskaya Pravda* criticises the Russian counter-terrorist operation in Chechnya for being ineffective. The article looks at the tactics of Russian and Chechen forces.

**21 September 2002** The Liberal Russia party adopts an amended edition of its charter at an extraordinary congress in Moscow. The party will make a new attempt to register at the Justice Ministry.

The Liberal Russia party calls on the Russian leadership to launch peace talks with Chechen leader Aslan Maskhadov.

**23 September 2002** The Party of Life is registered at the Justice Ministry.

**24 September 2002** The Ministry for Economic Development and Trade states that Russia's GDP grew by 4.0% in January-August 2002, as compared to the same period in 2001. In August 2002, Russia's GDP exceeded the level of August 2001

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by 3.3%, and in July by 5.5%. In January-August 2001, GDP grew by 5.3% against the same period in 2000 and in August 2001 by 6.5%.

**24 September 2002** Novgorod Region governor Mikhail Prusak calls for more power for the regions.

**24 September 2002** Vladimir Putin signs a decree on creation of a state committee on combating illegal turnover of drugs and psychotropic substances under the Interior Ministry.

**25 September 2002** The Duma begins its first reading of the 2003 draft budget. The chairman of the Duma budget committee Aleksandr Zhukov gives it his backing. The Duma adopts the draft 2003 budget in its first reading by 309 votes, with 112 against and four abstentions. The draft federal budget envisages revenue of R2,417,791m; expenditure of R2,345,641m and budget surplus of R72,150m. The 2003 GDP should come to R13,050bn.

**25 September 2002** Abductors release the first vice-president of the LUKoil company Sergey Kukura.

**25 September 2002** The Justice Ministry registers a new public organization, the Russian Agrarian Movement. Its leader is Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeyev.

**25 September 2002** The commander of the joint group of troops in the North Caucasus, Col-Gen Vladimir Moltenskoy, is appointed first deputy commander of the Russian Ground Troops.

An article in *Moskovskiy Komsomolets* argues that defence minister Sergey Ivanov has no power base in the MOD. Most MOD generals are allies of Anatoly Kvashnin, whose long-term aim is to become defence minister.

**25 September 2002** A Stalin era mass grave is found near St Petersburg near the town of Toksovo.

**25 September 2002** Mikhail Khodorkovskiy, president of Yukos, criticises the Russian government's plans to create an oil reserve.

**26 September 2002** *Novyye Izvestiya* says the Justice Ministry has registered a Nazi party. Its official name is the National Great-Power Party of Russia (*Natsionalnaya Derzhavnaya Partiya Rossii*). Its leader is Boris Mironov.

**26 September 2002** A major clash between Russian and Chechen forces takes place in Galashki in Ingushetia. Russian forces claim the Chechen forces infiltrated from Georgia.

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**27 September 2002** Anatoly Kvashnin says the structure of the Russian armed forces will be adjusted to the current situation in the country and around the world. He says: "The Russian armed forces must correspond to the level of threats and the state's economic capabilities. The structure of the Defence Ministry is being streamlined. All excessive and parallel bodies that are so enduring will be abolished."

**27 September 2002** Vladimir Putin signs the federal constitutional law "On amending and supplementing the federal constitutional law on Russian Federation referendums."

**29 September 2002** A URF rally in Moscow calls for a professional army.

**29 September 2002** First Deputy Chairman of the Central Bank of Russia Oleg Vyugin says the outflow of capital from Russia will total 11bn dollars this year. Vyugin says that capital flight from Russia had reached 24bn dollars annually in the past. According to the balance of payments, the outflow from private and state sectors edged up on 16bn dollars in 2001.

**29 September 2002** The Krasnoyarsk territorial electoral commission rules to invalidate the results of the gubernatorial election because of numerous violations of the election law.

**30 September 2002** Pro-Moscow Chechen leader Akhmad Kadyrov says that the Russian military have agreed not to carry out any more of their controversial security sweeps in Chechnya, when they seal off entire villages.

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