

Russian Domestic Policy: Chronology

October-December 2002

October

1 October 2002 Pro-Moscow Chechen leader says Akhmad Kadyrov says a referendum on a constitution for Chechnya is expected to take place in spring 2003. He blames the Russian military for dragging out the operation. "The backbone of the rebel force has been broken, but there is still a lot to do ... we could have wrapped this up much faster if the military had not touched civilians. Cruel operations in villages, mopping-up operations and passport checks only deepen the confrontation. After these kinds of operations, many people take up arms, and not rebels or mercenaries, but simple people, who have been hurt."

1 October 2002 The autumn draft begins. More than 170,000 are to be conscripted to the armed forces this year.

Krasnaya Zvezda interviews Lt-Gen Vasily Smirnov, head of the Main Organization-Mobilization Directorate of the General Staff on problems of the autumn draft.

1 October 2002 Grigory Yavlinskiy says that URF and Yabloko have not so far agreed on a joint candidate from the democratic forces for the forthcoming presidential election. He says the issue is premature.

2 October 2002 The Energy Ministry says oil production in Russia in January-September 2002 increased 8.7% (by 22.3m tonnes) year-on-year to 279.5m tonnes. The largest producers in the reporting period were LUKoil - 56.32m tonnes (6.17m tonnes in September); Yukos - 50.59m tonnes (6.068m tonnes in September); Surgutneftegaz - 36.28m tonnes (4.139m tonnes); Tyumen oil company (TNK) - 27.64m tonnes (3.17m tonnes); Tatneft - 18.4m tonnes (2.015m tonnes), and Sibneft - 19.11m tonnes (2.31m tonnes).

Gas production in Russia in January-September 2002 amounted to 434.649bn cubic metres, up 3.3% (by 13.74bn cubic metres) from the same period last year. Production in September amounted to 44.835bn cubic metres, up 3.5% (by 1.5bn cubic metres) from September last year.

2 October 2002 Presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy speaks on the antiterrorist operation in Chechnya over the last three years. He says: "The infrastructure has been smashed which underpinned the activity of this terrorist enclave and created the potential for expansion. In particular, we are talking about a centre for training fighters, the most well-known of which was the so-called Khattab camp, and a centre for manufacturing arms on the territory of Chechnya.

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Key bandit groups have also been eliminated, including dozens of significant field commanders. The total number of fighters killed, according to various estimates, ranges from 10,000 to 13,000.”

2 October 2002 The deputy chief of the General Staff of the Russian armed forces, Lt-Gen Vasily Smirnov expresses concern over the number of call up waivers.

3 October 2002 A Public Opinion Foundation poll asks people who they would vote for if a presidential election were held next Sunday.

Vladimir Putin	47%
Gennady Zyuganov	13%
Vladimir Zhirinovskiy	5%

3 October 2002 Rear-Adm Vladimir Kudryavtsev is appointed commander of the Leningrad naval base.

3 October 2002 Moscow mayor Yury Luzhkov says Moscow has accumulated 20bn dollars of foreign investments; that accounts for 55% of the total amount of foreign investments received by Russia.

3 October 2002 Vladimir Putin opens a meeting of the commission on military-technological cooperation in the Kremlin and outlines policy on the subject.

4 October 2002 The commander of Space Troops, Anatoly Perminov, is interviewed in *Krasnaya Zvezda* and in *Vremya Novosti* on the creation and development of the Russian space forces.

4 October 2002 The MOD files a suit against its former chief finance officer, Lt-Gen Georgy Oleynik.

An article in *Nezavisimoye Voyennoye Obozreniye* criticises the defence spending plans in the 2003 budget.

URF leader Boris Nemtsov criticizes the chief of the General Staff, Anatoly Kvashnin, over the current army reform.

4 October 2002 The Moscow city court rules that the Justice Ministry's refusal to register the Liberal Russia movement as a party is lawful.

4 October 2002 The Central Bank states that Russia's international reserves grew 1.292bn dollars, or 2.9% in September, to 45.619bn dollars from 44.327bn dollars. The foreign exchange reserves rose from 40.596bn dollars to 41.887bn dollars in September, while the monetary gold reserves were almost unchanged at 3.732bn dollars as of 1 October.

4 October 2002 Chairman of the Glasnost Protection Foundation Aleksey Simonov describes President Vladimir Putin's decree on Radio Liberty as a worrying symptom of policy of information closeness. This decree revoked the presidential decree 93 of 27 August 1991.

6 October 2002 The chairman of Yedinaya Rossiya's general council Aleksandr Bespalov says Yedinaya Rossiya has become the largest political party in the country. Bespalov says that the party membership has now reached nearly 200,000, and that regional sections have been formed in all 89 constituent parts of the Russian Federation.

6 October 2002 Presidential envoy to the Volga Federal District Sergey Kiriyenko says Russia needs financial aid to destroy its chemical weapons stocks.

7 October 2002 Agriculture Ministry officials state that farmers harvested 87.577m tonnes of grain in bunker weight by 1 October. This is 1.6% less than in the same period of 2001, when 88.872m tonnes were harvested. Crops had been harvested from 83.6% of the planted area. The average grain yield amounted to 2.19 tonnes per hectare, up from 2.14 tonnes per hectare a year earlier. Corn had been harvested from 128,200 ha, or 16.8% of the planted area. The corn output has amounted so far to 472,000 tonnes, up from 332,000 tonnes a year before. Rye output was 7.12m tonnes, up from 7m a year before, while the bulk of the harvest, or 56%, was wheat, with 49.3m tonnes. Russia's grain output in 2002 is expected to be just slightly below 2001's bumper crop of 85.2m tonnes in net weight.

Due to the abundant harvest, Russia is expected to keep strong grain exports in the 2002-03 marketing year (July-June), primarily wheat. Russia's 2002-03 grain exports might reach 10m tonnes, up from 6.2m in 2001-02.

8 October 2002 The State Defence Committee, the Majlis ul-Shura of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria, disseminates an order by the Chechen government on general mobilization. The decision on mobilization was adopted at a meeting in late August.

8 October 2002 The UNHCR says more than 15,000 people have official refugee status in Russia. Ninety% of them are refugees from CIS countries. The overwhelming majority of refugees are citizens of Georgia residing in North Osetia.

8 October 2002 Deputy head of the Europe department of the Ministry for Economic Development and Trade Nikolay Semin says Russian oil production will reach 377m tonnes by the end of December 2002. Exports will be 185m tonnes, including 152.8m tonnes to countries outside the former Soviet Union. In 2003 it is planned to increase oil production to 390m tonnes and export to 191m tonnes with larger exports to countries outside the former Soviet Union (159m tonnes). If the domestic and external market conditions are favourable, Russia may increase oil production to 424m tonnes in 2005 and 510m tonnes in 2010. Exports may amount to 215m tonnes in 2005 and 289m tonnes in 2010, when exports to countries outside the former Soviet Union will be 180m and 249m tonnes respectively.

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Natural gas production will increase. In 2002 it is planned to produce 600bn cubic metres of natural gas. Production may rise to 615bn cubic metres in 2003, 623bn cubic metres in 2005, and 655bn cubic metres in 2010. It is planned to increase exports from the current 185.5bn cubic metres to 190bn in 2003, 208bn in 2005 and 225bn in 2010, while exports to the former Soviet countries will remain 50bn cubic metres a year.

8 October 2002 The head of the Defence Ministry's 12th main directorate Col-Gen Igor Volynkin rules out the possibility of the theft of materials from nuclear munitions warehouses.

8 October 2002 *Severnnyy Kavkaz* reports that Krasnodar kray has set up a security council.

9 October 2002 The Russian census begins.

9 October 2002 A two-day international conference "Urgent problems of fighting terrorism, its regional and international aspects" opens in Kislovodsk. The head of the international legal directorate of the Russian Prosecutor-General's Office, Robert Adelkhanyan opens the conference with a speech. Until recently he was a Stavropol Territory prosecutor and supervised investigations into a number of terrorist acts in Mineralnyye Vody and throughout the region. Dr Rolf Welberts, director of the NATO information office in Moscow, is expected to speak about international cooperation in the war on terrorism.

9 October 2002 Russian Black Sea Fleet commander Admiral Vladimir Komoyedov is dismissed. Vice-Admiral Vladimir Masorin, who was a commander of the Caspian Flotilla, has been appointed the new commander of the Black Sea Fleet.

9 October 2002 Presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says a constitutional referendum in Chechnya may be held during elections to the Duma in December 2003. He says it will take at least a year to finalize the draft of the constitution. He says there are "no fundamental differences" between the administration of Chechen leader Akhmad Kadyrov and the administration of the Russian president on this issue.

10 October 2002 Deputy Interior Minister and Interior Ministry Troops Commander Colonel General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov says Interior Ministry troops will accomplish more law-enforcement missions in future. "A decision on the establishment of special-purpose forces as a separate component of the troops made by the Russian president is a direct confirmation of this ... I have no doubts that special purpose servicemen of the Interior Ministry troops will provide substantial aid to law-enforcement officials in combating organized crime and to authorities of federal districts."

By 2006 the Interior Ministry troops districts will be replaced with five regional commands and two regional departments in federal districts. Interior Ministry

Troops have the following primary roles: to keep social order, in cooperation with Interior bodies; to guarantee public security and enforce states of emergency; to guard vital government installations and special cargoes; to defend Russia's territory; to assist Federal Border Guard Service Troops in guarding Russia's state border. Special-purpose units acting as part of operational formations are involved in disarmament and liquidation of illegal armed formations and criminal organizations, suppressing armed disorder and acts of terror, and scouting in areas of mission accomplishment by the Interior Ministry Troops. The Interior Ministry Troops consist of seven districts, the North Caucasus, Moscow, Northwestern, Volga, Ural, Siberian and Eastern districts.

10 October 2002 Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeyev says Russia "has reaped almost the entire harvest". He says farmers have harvested 91 million tonnes of grain.

10 October 2002 A bomb blows up the main police station in Groznyy.

The Tukhcharskiy checkpoint at the Dagestani-Chechen administrative border in Novolaksky District comes under fire from the Chechen side.

Chechen prosecutor Nikolay Kostyuchenko says some 1,100 civilians have been abducted since the start of the antiterrorist operation in Chechnya.

10 October 2002 President Murtaza Rakhimov says Bashkortostan will most probably liquidate the presidency and become a parliamentary system.

11 October 2002 *Vedomosti* reports that the Russian government has authorized the creation of a state enterprise to manage the MOD's involvement in the communications market. The new company is called Voyentelekom.

11 October 2002 The Presidents of North Osetia and Ingushetia issue a statement on cooperation.

11 October 2002 An article in *Vechernyaya Kazan* reports Patriarch Aleksey II criticising Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev for a lack of religious freedom in Tatarstan.

11 October 2002 The presidential main control department issues a report on terrorism which is published on the Russian presidential website.

11 October 2002 The head of the state commission on chemical disarmament, Sergey Kiriyenko, says the executive council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons accepts the Russian proposal to extend till 2007 the initial phase of the programme of Russian chemical disarmament.

12 October 2002 *Izvestiya* reports that a military prosecutor's office answerable directly to the Russian prosecutor-general has been set up at the Combined Force in the North Caucasus.

12 October 2002 The federal census begins in Chechnya.

12 October 2002 A Topol missile is test launched.

13 October 2002 The presidential human rights commissioner in Chechnya, Abdul-Khakim Sultygov, has a meeting with a group of members of the Chechen parliament elected in 1997 in Znamenskoye. Movladi Udugov condemns the MPs for meeting.

14 October 2002 It is announced that the Russian government last week approved a ruling listing locations foreigners cannot visit without special permission and organizations at which they are forbidden to work. These organizations include the Russian armed forces and other military facilities, organizations for the protection of state secrets, facilities dealing with state information and government bodies. Foreigners are also prohibited from working at radiation-sensitive and atomic-sensitive facilities, including those that rework, produce, operate, store, transport or use atomic weapons or radioactive materials.

Foreigners will need special permission to visit the following locations: closed administrative locations; locations where a state of emergency or state of war has been declared; locations of infection or widespread sickness; military bases; counterterrorist operation zones; ecological disaster zones; frontier zones; armed forces' installations and other military facilities; locations where organizations and state bodies using state information and secrets are located; locations requiring that Russian citizens receive special permission to enter.

14 October 2002 Vladimir Putin calls for further currency liberalization.

14 October 2002 Chechen rebel commander Shamil Basayev says the war with Russia has already been won because the Chechens have managed to withstand an onslaught by the Russian army. He calls for direct talks with Moscow.

14 October 2002 Chechen Prosecutor Nikolay Kostyuchenko says about 300 terrorist acts were carried out in Chechnya in the first nine months of 2002, a decrease of 15% from the same period of 2001.

14 October 2002 *Vremya Novosti* reports that Russia has just conducted an exercise involving three simultaneous launches of ICBMs.

14 October 2002 The results of the national census are announced in Chechnya. Prime Minister Stanislav Ilyasov says 1,088,816 people live in Chechnya. He says

this is 15% less than the population of the Chechen-Ingush republic in the former Soviet Union.

14 October 2002 Deputy head of the Russian Energy Ministry's oil and oil processing industry department Boris Vydrík gives figures for oil and gas production. In January-September 2002 oil production was up 22.1m tonnes on the same period of 2001 at 279.5m tonnes, while gas production was up 13.7bn cu. metres (to 434.7bn cubic metres).

15 October 2002 A Federal Security Service (FSB) source tells ITAR-TASS that there have been 763,000 hacking attempts on the FSB website by 1 September.

15 October 2002 Deputy Health Minister Olga Sharapova says an all-Russian prophylactic medical examination among children reveals that 54% of all Russian children are sick. Sharapova says birth rates have gone up in Russia, while the number of abortions has declined. Between 1991 and 2002, birth rates have gone up by 9.6%. The death rate caused by illnesses during pregnancy and childbirth has dropped from 537 to 479 cases over the past three years. The number of abortions has declined from 2.1m in 1999 to 1.9m in 2001. In recent years, infant mortality rates have dropped from 14.6 cases per every 1,000 infants in 2001 to 13.9 in 2002.

16 October 2002 The Russian Health Ministry's chief paediatric surgeon, Yury Isakov says only 4 to 10% of Russian children are healthy. Deputy Health Minister Olga Sharapova says that up to 70% of Russian children are being born with pathologies.

16 October 2002 A constitutional conference in Bashkortostan endorses a new draft constitution that envisages the creation of a parliamentary republic.

16 October 2002 The Dagestani State Council and the Security Council hold a joint sitting to discuss security on the borders with Georgia and Chechnya and fighting terrorism and religious extremism.

16 October 2002 An article in *Krasnaya Zvezda* expresses concern over drug abuse in the Russian armed forces. The Duma is holding hearings on this problem.

16 October 2002 An article in *Vek* outlines the new oligarch alliances in Russia.

17 October 2002 Federal forces state they have destroyed a major base of gunmen in the Urus-Martanovskiy District of Chechnya.

17 October 2002 Russian trade unions hold nationwide protests against low pay.

17 October 2002 The Ministry of Justice registers the Liberal Party after the expulsion of Boris Berezovskiy.

17 October 2002 The Russian National Committee "Stop war and establish peace in the Chechen Republic", the Union of Right Forces and the Liberal Russia party send a message to Aslan Maskhadov, asking him to send a written contribution to an international conference entitled "Stop the war and establish peace in the Chechen Republic" that will be held in Moscow on 9-10 November 2002.

17 October 2002 Lt-Gen Vasily Smirnov, head of the General Staff main mobilization directorate and deputy chief of the General Staff says "transition to professional service will have three stages. The initial, preparatory stage, will last until 2004, the executive stage until 2011 and final stage until 2020." He says there are currently 130,000 professional soldiers in the Russian armed forces.

17 October 2002 In an interview in *Kommersant*, Aslanbek Aslakhonov, Duma deputy from Chechnya, says he met representatives of Chechen separatists in Liechtenstein in August. He calls for talks with rebel leaders.

18 October 2002 Boris Nemtsov is interviewed on military reform on the Gazeta.ru website.

18 October 2002 An article in *Kommersant* claims that the Ukrainian President gave financial support to Vladimir Putin's election campaign in 2000.

18 October 2002 Valentin Tsvetkov, the governor of the north-eastern Magadan Region, is shot dead in Moscow.

18 October 2002 The Duma passes the draft federal budget for 2003 in its second reading. With 226 votes in favour needed for the budget to be passed, 280 deputies supported the document, while 112 voted against. There were no abstentions.

18 October 2002 Military sources state that a total of 2,678 Defence Ministry servicemen have died in the second Chechnya campaign that started in October 1999. 6,322 Defence Ministry servicemen have been injured and 29 are missing.

19 October 2002 Vladimir Putin meets the head of the presidential human rights commission, Ella Pamfilova. He issues a decree specifying the commission's membership.

19 October 2002 President Vladimir Putin signs a decree appointing Col-Gen Vladimir Moltenskoy as deputy commander of the Russian ground forces. Lt-Gen Sergey Makarov has been appointed commander of the Combined Force in the North Caucasus.

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19 October 2002 A car bomb goes off in the southwest of Moscow. The FSB suspects Chechen rebels.

21 October 2002 The head of Goskomstat's department for census and demography, Irina Zbarskaya says Russia's population numbers more than 143.3m people, according to the preliminary data of the national census.

21 October 2002 Vladimir Putin meets Chief of the General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin, Director of the Federal Security Service Nikolay Patrushev and Director of the Federal Border Guard Service Konstantin Totskiy. He discusses strengthening Russia's southern borders.

21 October 2002 Presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy states that the federal government refuses to negotiate with Chechen rebels.

21 October 2002 The FSB branch for Chechnya reports on the results of its three-year-long activities. Lt-Gen Sergey Babkin, Chechnya's branch chief, says that over this period his officers had conducted 750 special operations, killing 965 rebels. Babkin says that his branch had prevented 54 major acts of sabotage and terrorist attacks in Chechnya, seized 1,021 kg of explosives, 994 rifles and over 500,000 cartridges. According to the general, the process of normalization in Chechnya has become irreversible. Governing and control bodies are being reinforced and permanent law-enforcement agencies are being established.

21 October 2002 Russian democratic groups meet in Moscow to discuss putting forward a single candidate for the presidential election.

22 October 2002 The State Council meets to discuss plans for local government reform.

22 October 2002 Vladimir Putin receives Minister of Energy Igor Yusufov who reports to him on the performance of the fuel and energy complex of the country during the first nine months of 2002.

22 October 2002 Chief of the General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin arrives in Chechnya on an inspection trip.

Lt-Gen Sergey Makarov has been appointed as commander of federal troops in the North Caucasus.

22 October 2002 Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs and Commander-in-Chief of the Internal Troops (MVD) Col-Gen Vyacheslav Tikhomirov says as part of the MVD troops reform programme by 2005 the MVD Internal Troops will be cut by 33,900 officers. By 2006, five regional commands and two regional directorates of troops will be set up to replace the districts. "At present there are 207,000 servicemen in

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the Internal Troops, and 60% of these are in operations units assigned to Chechnya and the North Caucasus region."

23 October 2002 Vladimir Putin discusses reform of local government at the State Council. He says a new law should be in force by 1 January 2005.

23 October 2002 The Duma passes the second reading of a draft federal law which strengthens the legislative provision for countering the dissemination of the ideas behind extremism or terrorism. The draft was passed by 259 votes, with 34 against and two abstentions.

23 October 2002 Prosecutor-General Vladimir Ustinov says the state is not doing all it can to counter manifestations of extremism. He is speaking during the parliamentary hour in the Duma.

23 October 2002 The Prosecutor-General's Office files charges of large-scale embezzlement against Boris Berezovskiy.

23 October 2002 The Russian minister for Chechnya, Vladimir Yelagin, says all contacts and talks with Chechen separatist leaders take place "only as a public initiative" and have nothing to do with the Russian government. The head of the Chechen administration, Akhmad Kadyrov, says he opposes talks with Akhmed Zakayev, who represents the Chechen militants' leader Aslan Maskhadov.

23 October 2002 The leaders of the Russian Union of Right Forces Boris Nemtsov and Irina Khakamada have been detained in Belarus. They are later expelled. The Russian leadership expresses concern over these events.

23 October 2002 Chechen fighters seize control of the Dubrovka theatre in Moscow and take about 700 people hostage. They demand a Russian withdrawal from Chechnya and threaten to blow up the theatre. The fighters are led by Movsar Barayev.

24 October 2002 An article in *Versty* by Colonel Vyacheslav Kruglov criticises military reform.

24 October 2002 Duma speaker Gennady Seleznev's movement Rossiya says it will leave the People's Patriotic Union of Russia.

24 October 2002 Ravil Gaynutdin, head of the Council of Muftis of Russia, says that the Council and the coordinating centre of the Muslims of the North Caucasus strongly condemn the terrorist act in Moscow.

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The head of the Chechen administration, Akhmad Kadyrov signs a decree on additional measures to ensure the rule of law and order in Chechnya.

25 October 2002 Grani.ru website article by Colonel Vitaly Koloskov gives a breakdown of the composition of Russian forces in Chechnya.

25 October 2002 Aslan Maskhadov denies that the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria (CRI) has anything to do with the theatre seizure in Moscow.

Deputy head of the FSB public relations centre Sergey Ignatchenko claims Aslan Maskhadov knew in advance of the theatre seizure in Moscow.

An anti-Chechen war rally takes place in Red Square as demanded by the hostage takers.

Deputy Interior Minister Vladimir Vasil'yev says all unsanctioned rallies in Moscow will be suppressed.

Interior Minister Boris Gрызлов decides on a number of additional preventive measures to preclude terrorism and hostage-taking. The heads of interior departments are instructed to strictly adhere to the fixed number of road posts and other law-enforcement squads within their location. The minister also instructs them to take additional measures to guarantee the personal safety of policemen on duty, to provide them with means of personal protection and active defence, as well as with all the necessary armaments. In addition to this, tougher measures are to be taken to register citizens. People avoiding timely registration at the place where they are staying will be strictly punished.

The press service of the Moscow Region governor announces that all unregistered individuals who have been detained on the territory of Moscow Region are to be urgently deported. Detailed checks will be run on construction firms, which sometimes hire citizens from other Russian regions and other CIS countries to work on a temporary basis, without paying any attention to the fact that they are unregistered. The reliability of security is currently being checked at all educational establishments, kindergartens, hospitals, shops, cinemas, as well as markets and stadia, in the area around Moscow. A special permit regime has been introduced at those facilities which present an increased danger to people's lives and health. The governor's duty service, the police, the local gas and electricity industries and staff at Mosvodokanal [Moscow water utility] are working round the clock. All military and civilian airports are being checked.

25 October 2002 The Duma establishes a seven-per-cent threshold for parties and electoral blocs for entering the Duma. The amendment to the draft bill on parliamentary elections is expected to come into effect as of 2007.

25 October 2002 First Deputy Press Minister Mikhail Seslavinsky says the Ministry for Press, Television and Radio Broadcasting and Mass Communications has decided to take off the air the Moskoviya (Channel 3) television company. The decision had been taken following gross violations of the current legislation on the fight against terrorism and the mass media. The Press Ministry also sends a

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request to the ministry's leadership asking it to close down the web site of the *Ekho Moskv* radio station following publications on this website of interviews with terrorists holding hostages in Moscow.

25 October 2002 Ingush Interior Minister Akhmed Pogorov says Ingush security agencies are stepping up measures to prevent terrorist acts in the republic.

25 October 2002 A meeting has taken place at FSB HQ between FSB Deputy Director and Head of the Analysis, Forecasting and Strategic Planning Department Vladimir Kolmogorov and the official representatives of foreign security bodies of several foreign states in Moscow.

Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov has a telephone conversation with US FBI Director Robert Mueller.

25 October 2002 The Atomic Energy Ministry steps up security at nuclear power plants and potentially dangerous radioactive and chemical facilities. An operational HQ headed by Deputy Minister Anatoly Kotelnikov is formed at the ministry. Furthermore, "the ministry's security staff and the Internal Troops of the Interior Ministry have stepped up the protection of all facilities belonging to the Atomic Energy Ministry".

26 October 2002 Special forces attack the theatre in Moscow, ending the siege by Chechen fighters. Gas is used to incapacitate the fighters. Most of the fighters, including their leader Movsar Barayev, are killed. Many hostages are killed and others incapacitated by the gas.

26 October 2002 Deputy Interior Minister Vladimir Vasil'yev is interviewed on *Zerkalo* TV programme on the theatre siege. He says that the decision to storm the theatre was taken by the operations HQ.

Russia's supreme mufti, Talgat Tadzhuddin, thanks Russian law enforcers for defending the honour and dignity of the country and its Muslim community and has congratulated them on the successful outcome of a hostage-release operation.

Vyacheslav Trubin, traffic police spokesman, says checks on all cars entering and leaving Moscow have been tightened up.

The MVD says "there is every reason to believe that a network with a terrorist focus exists in the Moscow area".

Boris Nemtsov says: "Until recently I didn't call Maskhadov a terrorist, but my conversations with Movsar Barayev, who called Maskhadov his commander, and with Abu Bakar have raised serious doubts ... Maskhadov now can lose any chance of becoming a partner for negotiations. He is in a terrible situation. A peace process is needed, but I think that the Russian authorities and the Russian public won't forget the Moscow events and Maskhadov's role in them soon."

Chechnya's military commandant, Sergey Kizyun, denies media reports of a large-scale operation on the territory of the Chechen Republic.

26 October 2002 A command and staff exercise took place on 24-25 October in the North Caucasus to practise collaboration between the law-enforcement agencies in districts bordering on Georgia.

27 October 2002 Chechen rebel President Aslan Maskhadov is interviewed on the Chechen press website. He denies any links between his fighters and the Al Qaeda network.

27 October 2002 Moscow city chief physician Andrey Seltsovskiy says 646 casualties of the terrorist act are in Moscow hospitals at the present time: 150 of them in resuscitation, of whom 45 are in a grave condition. There are 117 dead: 63 men and 54 women. Fifty-one people have been identified to date - or less than half. More than 750 people were freed as a result of the special operation. Seltsovskiy does not clarify whether the figure for those in hospital includes patients already discharged. All but two of the hostages died because of the gas used by special forces. It is reported that the hostages in the hospitals are not been allowed to leave the hospitals or see diplomats from their embassies.

Moscow city prosecutor Mikhail Avdyukov declares that the prosecutor's bodies have given no order to prevent relatives from gaining access to the casualties of the Moscow terrorist act. He says the medical services who decide who can be let in to see their relatives, and who can't.

A report on *Ekho Moskvy* radio station claims that Arabs and Afghans were among the hostage-takers in the Dubrovka theatre.

Stanislav Ilyasov, Chechen prime minister and Akhmad Kadyrov, head of the Chechen administration, call for a tougher line in Chechnya. Ilyasov says "it is vital to neutralize Maskhadov, and Basayev ... the earlier this is done the better ... the liquidation of these people can only bring positive results ... there can be no talks with the leaders of the fighters ... there can be no question of this. Just as there can be question of withdrawing troops from Chechnya."

27 October 2002 The second round of presidential elections takes place in Kalmykia. The incumbent Kirsan Ilyumzhinov wins.

28 October 2002 Vladimir Putin issues a statement on terrorism. "I want to declare with complete responsibility that if anybody so much as tries to use such weapons against our country, Russia will respond with means appropriate to the threat to the Russian Federation, wherever the terrorists themselves, the organizers of these crimes, or their ideological and financial backers may be, I stress, wherever they may be. Orders to that effect will be given today to the General Staff of the Russian army, orders to introduce changes to the plans for using the armed forces. I ask all members of the government to present any ideas they have had based on analysis of the situation which has arisen in Moscow over the last few days, and ask you in your own area of responsibility to make corresponding suggestions

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aimed at preventing similar occurrences happening in the future and at minimizing the consequences of acts of terrorism, including the one we experienced in Moscow several days ago."

Deputy Prime Minister Valentina Matviyenko says that a government instruction on helping the victims and relatives of those killed in the Dubrovka theatre siege has been drafted.

Head of the main internal affairs directorate for Moscow, Vladimir Pronin, says reinforced security measures will be in force in Moscow until a special directive is issued.

The chief physician of the hospital of the all-Russian disaster medicine centre, Irina Nazarova, says Russian medical officials have still not been told what gas was used in the Dubrovka theatre siege.

An article in *Kommersant* suggests that Russian forces used an experimental gas in the Dubrovka theatre siege.

The website Gazeta.ru says that Russian forces used a an opium based gas to end the Dubrovka theatre siege.

Three residents of Chechnya have been arrested in Moscow in connection with the 19 October McDonald's explosion.

A 27 year old Chechen is arrested in Moscow. He had instructions in minelaying and staging blasts as well as 400g of explosive material.

28 October 2002 Presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy is interviewed on TV. He condemns the Danish authorities for allowing the World Chechen Congress to be held in Copenhagen.

The Chechen World Congress opens in Copenhagen. It calls for talks between the Russian and Chechen leaderships.

Aslan Maskhadov calls for talks with the Russian leadership. Yabloko deputy Vladimir Lukin describes this as blackmail.

The president of the National Association of Russia TV and Radio Broadcasters, Eduard Sagalayev, warns of the danger of the media becoming an unwitting mouthpiece of terrorists in hostage crises and says the performance of the Russian media in covering the hostage drama in Moscow raises the question of the necessity of creating a code of rules to regulate the behaviour of journalists in crises.

An article in *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* claims that that Vladimir Putin is considering the creation of a national guard to be formed from MVD troops.

Vladimir Putin meets Federation Council chairman Sergey Mironov to discuss possible changes to the law to facilitate combating terrorism.

29 October 2002 *Ekho Moskvy* reports that a policeman has been arrested in Moscow in connection with helping the Chechen terrorists who seized the Dubrovka theatre. The Moscow city prosecutor refuses to confirm this report.

Moscow Region governor Boris Gromov claims that the Chechen terrorists had accomplices among the Dubrovka theatre staff, who allowed them to pre-position explosives and weapons in the theatre.

Minister of Internal Affairs Boris Gryzlov says that several dozen people have been arrested on suspicion of involvement in the Moscow hostage-taking.

An assistant to the Russian Health Minister, Aleksandr Zharov, says a medicine called naloxone was used to bring hostages back to consciousness after the storming of the Dubrovka theatre. The US Embassy in Moscow claims that the gas used by Russian forces was an opiate.

Vladimir Putin meets the heads of power structures, and instructs the government to draw up a new wording of the National Security blueprint, to incorporate plans for the use of the armed forces in dealing with security threats within the Russian Federation. Sergey Ivanov, defence minister says: "Moving on now to the statement made by the president yesterday on the use of the armed forces: We all realize that terrorist threats to Russia from within and also from abroad are gathering strength. We cannot fail to react to this fact. And, indeed, we need to take account of the dangers posed not only by those who carry out terrorist attacks, but also by their accomplices, inspirers and financiers, who are to be found outside the border of the Russian Federation. We need to take account of the dangers posed by these, well, I suppose you could call them people. In view of this, the president has instructed several ministries and agencies to draw up a wording of the National Security blueprint in which plans for the use of the armed forces will be part and parcel of it."

The meeting is attended by Chairman of the Russian Supreme Court Vyacheslav Lebedev, Prosecutor-General Vladimir Ustinov, Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov, Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov, Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, Federal Security Service Director Nikolay Patrushev, Chief of the General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin, Federal Tax Police Service Director Mikhail Fradkov, and head of the Financial Monitoring Service Viktor Zubkov.

29 October 2002 Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Aleksey II is in hospital with hypertension.

29 October 2002 A helicopter crashes in Chechnya near the Russian forces HQ in Khankala, killing four.

29 October 2002 Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov says the necessary legislation for the creation of an interior ministry in Chechnya will be drawn up by the end of November 2002.

29 October 2002 Moscow mayor Yury Luzhkov suggests there should be more rigorous monitoring of people coming to Moscow.

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Duma deputy for Chechnya Aslanbek Aslakhonov claims that Chechens across Russia are being forced to give their fingerprints. Aslakhonov has drafted a letter to the interior minister, prosecutor-general and head of the Federal Security Service asking for this to be stopped.

29 October 2002 The activities of the Baltic Republican Party in Kaliningrad Region are suspended.

29 October 2002 *Ren TV* reports sources in the MOD as saying that the Russian president has given written instructions to Chief of the General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin regarding the new tasks of the Russian armed forces. The instructions are likely to concern carrying out strikes against known terrorist bases outside Russia.

Vremya Novosti argues that Vladimir Putin's recent announcement that Russia will hit back against terrorist attacks anywhere in the world presages a fundamental refocusing of the country's military strategy.

29 October 2002 Aleksey Arbatov writes in *Moskovskiye Novosti* that mass terror threatens Russia if no deal is reached over Chechnya.

30 October 2002 Health minister Yury Shevchenko says the gas used in the Dubrovka theatre operation was based on derivatives of fentanyl.

A VTsIOM poll shows that 85% of Russians support Vladimir Putin's handling of the Dubrovka theatre crisis.

The Federation Council issues a statement on the Dubrovka theatre crisis.

The Federation Council passes a resolution suggesting the government increase by R3bn (95m dollars) the sum allocated for antiterrorist measures in the 2003 budget.

The Moscow Main Interior Directorate confirms that a minibus with a Chechen licence plate and traces of TNT in its luggage compartment was intercepted in Shchelkovskoye Shosse (motorway in the east of Moscow) on 28 October. The driver and 15 passengers, three men and 12 women, mostly ethnic Chechens, are detained and undergo checks for complicity in terror attacks. They are later released.

30 October 2002 Minister of Atomic Energy Aleksandr Rumyantsev confirms that security has been stepped up at all nuclear installations in Russia. He says that a conference of the Atomic Energy Ministry's heads took place on 30 October. It focused on "analysis of the state of security at the industry's nuclear installations and facilities, plus introduction of a special security regime during the transport of radioactive waste from nuclear production by rail in Russia".

30 October 2002 An article on Strana.ru argues that the General Staff is to play the lead role in coordinating anti-terrorist measures. It is likely that Russian forces will have the right to operate outside Russia's borders to launch preventive anti-terrorist strikes. A similar article is published in *Izvestiya*.

31 October 2002 Presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says at the moment the federal centre can see no-one it could negotiate a Chechen settlement with. The federal centre's strategy with regard to Chechnya is currently made up of three components: political, economic and military.

1. It is necessary to speed up work on completing the drafting of a Chechen constitution, and to put it to a referendum. If the draft is accepted, then a series of elections can be held: presidential, parliamentary and local ones. Then as much power as possible should be delegated to the elected authorities from the federal centre.
2. It is necessary to increase investment in the republic and step up supervision of how it is spent.
3. The military component consists of "destroying the terrorist underground in Chechnya and rendering harmless the leading field commanders, such as Aslan Maskhadov, Shamil Basayev and Ruslan Gelayev".

The Moscow city authorities ban a picket against the war in Chechnya.

Security Council secretary Vladimir Rushaylo says the system of work of law-enforcement bodies and secret services in the struggle against terrorism "needs a review with the accent on taking preventive measures at the stage when terrorist acts are plotted and prepared". He is commenting on an instruction given by the Russian president to several ministries and departments, to prepare a new wording of the current concept of Russian national security whose component part should be plans for use of the Russian armed forces.

31 October 2002 The head of the Federal Migration Service, Col-Gen Andrey Chernenko, says foreign citizens staying in Russia will be obliged to get a migration card stating the aim of their stay in the Russian Federation. This comes into force on 1 November 2002. The migration card is being introduced as part of the visa-free regime between Russia and CIS countries because the main inflow of migrants is from the CIS.

31 October 2002 The head of the Military Committee of the State Defence Committee - Majlis ul-Shura of the CRI, Abdullah Shamil Abu Idris (Shamil Basayev) states he is responsible for the Dubrovka theatre siege. He says Aslan Maskhadov has no responsibility for the siege. Presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says Basayev is covering up for Maskhadov.

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November

1 November 2002 The Duma passes amendments to the law on mass media in its third reading. They stipulate the inadmissibility of propagating terrorist activities and broadcasting interviews with terrorist leaders by Russian TV companies and radio programmes and publishing them in newspapers. Some deputies believe this is stifling the media.

1 November 2002 Viktor Zubkov, head of the Russian Financial Monitoring Committee, says that a special database is being formed on which organizations suspected of financing terrorist groups will be entered. The first deputy chairman, Yury Chikhanchin, says at a conference that channels of contact with international financial intelligence organizations are being formed.

1 November 2002 The Moscow Military District Court begins the trial of Russian career intelligence officer Aleksandr Sypachev, who is accused of spying and passing on secrets to the CIA.

1 November 2002 A law stipulating the rights and obligations of foreign citizens in the Russian Federation has entered into force. Requirements for people planning to live temporarily or permanently in Russia have been tightened.

1 November 2002 Federal Border Guard Service Director Col-Gen Konstantin Totskiy says eighty border guards have died and 220 have been wounded in the antiterrorist campaign in Chechnya.

1 November 2002 Lt-Gen Viktor Burov, deputy chief of the MOD's main financial and economic department, says the Russian Ministry of Finance has transferred to the Defence Ministry over 80% of the funds allocated for armed forces maintenance in 2002.

1 November 2002 The Duma gives the first reading to a draft law aimed at streamlining organization and technical support for the Internal Troops of the Interior Ministry. The draft law stipulates that the Internal Troops should be organized on a operational-territorial basis where the specific type of operational-territorial subdivisions, such as districts, regional commands or regional directorates, is to be approved by the president of the Russia Federation.

The MVD sets up 16 special purpose detachments.

1 November 2002 The Foreign Ministry (MFA) criticises Turkish media coverage of the Dubrovka theatre siege.

The FSB raids the offices of *Versiya* newspaper. This is because *Versiya* was planning to bring out today a special version of the paper devoted to the Dubrovka theatre siege.

2 November 2002 Presidential representative in the Southern Federal District (which incorporates Chechnya), Viktor Kazantsev, says in an interview on *Zerkalo* there can now be no talks with Chechnya's rebel president, Aslan Maskhadov.

3 November 2002 An Mi-8 military helicopter is shot down near Khankala in Chechnya. Nine servicemen are killed, including Deputy Commander of the 58th Army Col Stanislav Marzoyev.

Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov orders a halt to all plans to reduce the military presence in Chechnya. He says: "The troops in Chechnya today launched a tough but targeted special operation in all districts of the republic to avert threats at their initial stage."

4 November 2002 The Russian government's commission on the restoration of Chechnya and the operational staff of the counterterrorist operation hold a joint meeting in Magas, Ingushetia. The discussion focuses on the return of refugees from Ingushetia to Chechnya and the restoration of the latter's social infrastructure. FSB director Nikolay Patrushev attends the meeting.

4 November 2002 Murat Abdurazakov, nicknamed Abkhaz Murat, and Suleyman Tsimpayev have been detained in the village of Khandzhalmakhi in connection with the terrorist bombing in Dagestan on 9 May.

4 November 2002 Sergey Kiriyyenko, chairman of the Russian state commission for chemical disarmament and plenipotentiary representative to the Volga Federal District, says Russia is taking additional measures to prevent terrorist penetration of chemical weapons storage facilities.

4 November 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov believes that future amendments to be made to the plans for using the armed forces requested by President Vladimir Putin deal with countering terrorist threats.

4 November 2002 Rosoboroneksport marks its second anniversary. The Rosoboroneksport press service states that the enterprise is now cooperating with more than 60 countries and that it has permanent offices in 35 of them. Rosoboroneksport has 22 offices in the principal industrial regions of Russia. Since November 2000, Rosoboroneksport has exported more than 8.2bn dollars' worth of military goods. Its orders have increased to 12.6bn dollars in the course of this period. Signed contracts add up to almost 10bn dollars.

5 November 2002 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov is interviewed in *Izvestiya* on military reform and security policy. He says Russia is about to launch a major rethink of its defence and national security policies.

5 November 2002 Vladimir Putin meets Chechen administration head Akhmad Kadyrov. Putin says Russian forces will not undertake any large-scale military actions in Chechnya, and instead all strikes will be pin point in nature.

5 November 2002 Transneft President Semen Vaynshtok says Russia's annual oil output is expected to reach 408-410m tonnes by 2010, according to data provided by Russian oil companies to Transneft. 210m tonnes of the 2010 total would likely be exported, including 172m tonnes to countries outside the CIS and 39m tonnes to other CIS countries and the Baltic states.

Goskomstat says Russia's oil output rose 7.7% on the year in 2001 to 337m tonnes. The Finance Ministry said earlier that Russia's oil output was expected to rise 6.9% on the year in 2002 to 372m tonnes.

6 November 2002 Vladimir Putin sends his best wishes to Moslems on the first day of Ramadan.

6 November 2002 The FSB arrests six people suspected of involvement in the assassination of liberal lawmaker Galina Starovoytova four years ago and several others are declared wanted.

6 November 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov makes the following statement on Chechnya: "I believe that it is premature to withdraw troops - even though some people may believe that there are excessive troops there - until the ringleaders, their accomplices and simply blind cogs in that machine, I mean those who carry out acts of terrorism, including suicide fighters, the so-called shahids, are destroyed."

Chechen prime minister Stanislav Ilyasov expresses disagreement with Ivanov's statement on large-scale targeted operations throughout Chechnya.

7 November 2002 President Vladimir Putin issues a decree appointing current Chechen Prime Minister Stanislav Ilyasov a minister of the Russian Federation.

10 November 2002 Vladimir Putin says Russia will not sign a new agreement with Chechnya such as that signed in Khasavyurt in 1996.

Putin states that Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov has signed a directive on the creation of a Chechen Interior Ministry.

11 November 2002 Gennady Seleznev's party Revival of Russia is registered at the Ministry of Justice.

11 November 2002 The military prosecutor's office sends to court the second criminal case against Aleksandr Oleynik, former chief finance officer of the Defence Ministry.

11 November 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says that targeted sweep operations will continue in Chechnya until all rebels have been eliminated. The commander of Interior Troops in the North Caucasus, Col-Gen Mikhail Labunets, says there is no longer any need for large-scale operations in Chechnya.

11 November 2002 Chief of the Russian Munitions Committee, Zinovy Pak, says Russia is doing all it can to upgrade the safeguarding of its chemical weapons. Most of Russia's chemical weapons will be destroyed in 2006-2010.

12 November 2002 Igor Kondakov, deputy head of the Federal Department for Safe Storage and Destruction of Chemical Weapons under the Russian Ammunition Agency, says additional security measures have been taken at Russian chemical weapons storage and disposal facilities due to the growing threat of terrorist attacks.

Col Mikhail Sukhodolskiy, head of the Interior Ministry's security department, says the MVD has taken more special-purpose facilities under its control as a part of its efforts to prevent the terrorist threat.

12 November 2002 Goskomstat states that the Russian economy has received a total of 39,802m dollars in foreign investment by the end of September 2002. This was 15.6% higher than by September 2001. In the first nine months of 2002, Russia received 12,905m dollars in new foreign investment, while 8,293m dollars in foreign capital left the country. The stock of foreign capital in Russian industry was 15,572m dollars on 1 October.

19,388m dollars of the total foreign investment was direct investment; 3.5% or 1,386m dollars portfolio investment; 47.8% or 19,028m dollars other investment in the form of loans by international financial organizations, trade credits. Most of the cumulative investment came from Germany (6,839m dollars), the USA (5,483m dollars), Cyprus (5,158m dollars), Britain (4.81bn dollars), France (3,393m dollars), the Netherlands (2,807m dollars) and Italy (1,511m dollars), which between them accounted for 75.4% of the total, including 74.3% of the direct investment.

13 November 2002 The Federation Council approves amendments to the laws "On Mass Media" and "On the Fight Against Terrorism" which regulate media coverage of antiterrorist operations.

The Duma rejects two draft resolutions proposing to set up a parliamentary commission to investigate the circumstances of the seizure of hostages at the Dubrovka theatre in Moscow on 23-26 October 2002.

13 November 2002 Mikhail Babich is appointed new Chechen prime minister. He was deputy governor of Ivanovo Region. Former head of the Chechen government Stanislav Ilyasov has been transferred to Moscow and appointed minister of the Russian Federation for the coordination of activities aimed at Chechnya's social and economic development.

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13 November 2002 Two Russian employees of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the North Caucasus are kidnapped in Chechnya.

13 November 2002 The Russian Natural Resources Ministry unveils a proposal spelling out ways to develop Arctic offshore oil and gas fields, at an international conference in Murmansk.

14 November 2002 The general secretary of the Union of Journalists, Igor Yakovenko, urges the press to lodge a request with Vladimir Putin not to sign amendments to the country's media and antiterrorism laws. He warns of a return of the iron curtain.

14 November 2002 Chief of the General Staff Anatoly Kvashnin says that the troops will be withdrawn from Chechnya, but it will be done in parallel to the republic getting rid of militants.

The director of the Federal Border Guard Service, Konstantin Totskiy, says the Russian border in the North Caucasus will be technically reinforced in 2003.

Vedomosti reports that the MOD opposes increased allocations for anti-terrorist needs.

Lt-Gen Aleksandr Ovchinnikov, head of the MVD Investigation Committee Main Administration for Combating Organized Crime says: "We are currently observing a merging between criminal communities and terrorist and extremist criminal groups. They are making continuous efforts to get into power."

14 November 2002 Russian presidential special envoy for Chechnya Abdul-Khakim Sultygov tells an extended meeting of the Duma commission for political settlement and human rights in Chechnya that a referendum on a new Chechen constitution has initially been slated for March 2003.

15 November 2002 A poll by the Public Opinion Foundation shows that 67% of Russians believe that the authorities demonstrated their ability to handle crisis situations during the Moscow theatre siege. 19% think that the authorities acted inefficiently and demonstrated an inability to cope with crisis situations.

15 November 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says Moscow will not negotiate with Chechen separatist leader Aslan Maskhadov. He says federal forces in Chechnya number about 80,000.

15 November 2002 Nationalities Minister Vladimir Zorin says preliminary results of the recent nationwide census conducted in Russia indicate that the Russian population is about 145 million people, while experts expected this figure to be 143 million.

15 November 2002 The Duma passes a law on languages of the peoples of Russia. The amendment says that the "alphabets of the Russian Federation's state language and the state languages of the republics of the Russian Federation are based on the Cyrillic alphabet". Constituent parts of the federation are ordered to bring their laws into line with the amendment within 12 months after it comes into force. The head of the Tatarstan representative office in the Russian Federation, Nazif Mirikhanov, tells *Ekho Moskv*y radio that the amendment was a "human rights violation".

15 November 2002 FSB Director Nikolay Patrushev calls for effective counteraction against foreign special services in Kaliningrad Region. He warns about the activity of German revanchist organisations.

15 November 2002 The Chechen prime minister Mikhail Babich officially takes office.

16 November 2002 The Russia movement headed by Duma speaker Gennady Seleznev holds a congress. It leaves the People's Patriotic Union of Russia bloc.

16 November 2002 The SLON party is set up. Its founder is Vyacheslav Igrunov, a well-known representative of the Yabloko party in the State Duma.

16 November 2002 Yabloko leader Grigory Yavlinskiy says talks with Aslan Maskhadov are no longer possible.

17 November 2002 Two Russian Red Cross workers kidnapped in Chechnya on 13 November are released.

18 November 2002 Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says the Russian government will allocate an additional R3bn in the 2003 budget to finance the struggle against terrorism.

18 November 2002 The Rodina Party of Greens holds its founding congress in St Petersburg.

18 November 2002 The State Customs Committee states that Russian oil exports in January- September 2002 amounted to 138.67m tonnes, up 15% (by 18.1m tonnes) from the same period last year. Most oil exports went to Germany (14.97m tonnes), Italy (13.89m tonnes), the Netherlands (12.67m tonnes) and Poland (11.4m tonnes).

Exports to the CIS in January-September amounted to over 23.6m tonnes for 2.335bn dollars. Exports to Ukraine and Belarus amounted to 11.7m tonnes and 10.1m tonnes respectively (for 1.22bn dollars and 976.19m dollars respectively).

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Russian oil exports in September 2002 amounted to 17.18m tonnes for 3.049bn dollars, including 14.5m tonnes to outside the CIS for 2.67bn dollars and 2.64m tonnes to the CIS - for 379.23m dollars.

Russia's oil output rose 10.4% on the year in 1-10 November 2002 to 10.6 million tonnes.

Russia's oil exports outside the CIS rose 15.5% on the year in 1-10 November to 3.9 million tonnes, while oil exports to CIS countries and the Baltics rose 8.7% on the year to 942.300 tonnes.

Oil supplies to domestic refineries rose 8.1% on the year to 5.8 million tonnes, while processing was up 3.5% on the year to 5 million tonnes.

18 November 2002 The Gazprom board outlines its plans for 2003. It plans to produce 531.7bn cubic metres. The board also decides to implement the North European gas pipeline project.

18 November 2002 A new commander of peacekeeping forces in the region of the Georgian-South Osetian conflict, Maj-Gen Svyatoslav Nabzdorov, takes the post over from Maj-Gen Vasily Prizemlin.

18 November 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says he has not ruled out a further reduction of the armed forces. He says: "Fifteen years ago we had an army of over 3m, now it is a little over 1.1m."

19 November 2002 The MVD's economic crime department has formed a special force to resist legalization of incomes having criminal origin.

19 November 2002 Russian TV reports that the Ministry of Education is specifying the inclusion of Orthodox Church religious teaching in Russian schools as an optional subject.

19 November 2002 Pro-Moscow Chechen ministers and heads of other republican agencies, heads of district administrations and members of the advisory council reporting to the head of the republic's administration call on Vladimir Putin to put a stop to illegal activities carried out by federal units.

19 November 2002 Minister on Chechnya's Affairs Stanislav Ilyasov outlines plans for rebuilding the Chechen economy.

UNICEF representative and acting UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Russia Rosemary McCreery says Russia will allot 163.7m dollars for the restoration of Chechnya in 2003. The 2002 figure is 142 million dollars. Out of the funds the Russian government allotted for social and economic programmes in Chechnya in 2002, 57m dollars finance the provision of housing and essential necessities, 19m dollars for the restoration of the agriculture and industrial sectors, 7.9m dollars for

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electricity supplies, 6.8m dollars for the healthcare system, and 3.8m dollars for public education.

19 November 2002 Andrey Belyaninov, general director of Rosoboroneksport, says the company has reached the objective of an annual sales volume of 4bn dollars.

20 November 2002 The Human Rights Watch international human rights organization claims that army recruits in Russia have had their rights violated.

20 November 2002 Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov is elected chairman of the Supreme Council of Yedinaya Rossiya. In-between congresses, the party is run by the Central Political Council, and in-between its sessions by the General Council led by Aleksandr Bepalov.

20 November 2002 The heads of leading Russian media organizations sign an appeal to Vladimir Putin asking him not to sign into law amendments to the law on the media adopted by the State Duma and endorsed by the Federation Council.

20 November 2002 The FSB charges six people with the murder of Duma deputy Galina Starovoytova in 1998.

20 November 2002 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says the expenditure of the federal budget on civil defence will increase three-fold next year. He attends a meeting at the Emergencies Ministry. He says the state's responsibility for ensuring the security of its citizens will increase further because international terrorism has made the border between war and peace illusory.

Kasyanov says some 340,000 people were affected by emergencies in Russia in 2002, and over 1,600 were killed as a result. This was 25% more than in 2001.

20 November 2002 A Public Opinion Foundation poll asks who would vote for if there was a presidential election on Sunday.

Vladimir Putin	51%
Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov	16%
LDPR leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy	4%
Kemerovo Region Governor Aman Tuleyev	3%
Emergencies Minister Sergey Shoygu	2%
Yabloko's leader Grigory Yavlinskiy	2%
Head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Yevgenny Primakov	2%
Moscow mayor Yury Luzhkov	1%
Head of the Union of Right Forces Boris Nemtsov	1%
Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov	1%

1,500 respondents were polled across Russia on 16-17 November.

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21 November 2002 Vladimir Putin attends a meeting of the State Council and discusses centre-regional relations. He says a renewed legal basis is essential for a more precise division of power between all levels of authority.

The Russian government discusses draft laws on local government.

21 November 2002 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says the use of soldiers for agricultural and building work must stop.

Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says there are about 600,000 soldiers and sergeants in the Russian armed forces. He says the armed forces should become more compact, mobile and capable of counteracting terrorism, and certain steps to enhance the army's ability to tackle terrorism have already been taken. He says the term of service in the Russian armed forces cannot be reduced before rapid-deployment alert units are fully manned and the number of well-trained reservists is sufficient.

21 November 2002 The civil chamber of the Supreme Court endorses the protest of Russian Deputy Prosecutor-General Aleksandr Zvyagintsev over the fact that the court decisions to bring Tatarstan's constitution in accord with the Russian constitution and federal laws have not been fulfilled.

21 November 2002 *Kommersant* discusses recent changes in the leadership of Yedinaya Rossiya. Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov has been elected sole chairman of the party.

22 November 2002 Human Rights Ombudsman Oleg Mironov sends a telegram to Vladimir Putin suggesting that he reject parliament-adopted legislative amendments that impose restrictions on media coverage of counter-terrorist operations.

22 November 2002 Gazprom chairman Aleksey Miller says activities on the North Europe gas pipeline project to ship Russian gas through Finland and the Baltic Sea to Europe will start in January.

22 November 2002 The Duma passes the 2003 draft budget in the third of four readings: 283 vote for it, 15 vote against and no abstentions.

22 November 2002 Vladimir Putin's top economic adviser Andrey Illarionov says that GDP will increase between 2 and 3% in 2003 and that the 2002 GDP will show a growth of 4%.

24 November 2002 The FSB's Irkutsk department (Siberia) says it will not initiate criminal action against environmentalists of the Baykal Ecological Wave organization.

25 November 2002 Vladimir Putin vetoes amendments to the law on the media already adopted by the State Duma and endorsed by the Federation Council. Media bosses had already asked Putin to veto the amendments to a number of federal laws setting out conditions for the work of the media in extreme situations. The appeal was signed by Konstantin Ernst, the general director of the first channel, Oleg Dobrodeyev, chairman of the all-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, chief editors of *Izvestiya*, *Moskovskiy Komsomolets*, *Kommersant* newspapers and a number of other leading media figures.

26 November 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says radical Islamic groups in the North Caucasus pose the greatest danger to Russia at the moment. "The radical Islamic movements and their activity in the North Caucasus are posing a special danger to Russia ... actively supported and financed by Islamic circles from abroad, rebels are being sent from different countries to the North Caucasus."

26 November 2002 Vladimir Putin instructs the MOD to establish "tight control" over the use of public funds. He says the MOD often does not know where the money goes. He says it would be easier to oversee spending if all the ministry's accounts were moved to the federal treasury.

Vladimir Putin meets MOD officials and military commanders to discuss military reform. The meeting is attended by the commanders-in-chief of all arms and services of the armed forces, the heads of all MOD and General Staff departments, and the commanders of all the fleets and military districts. He says the armed forces must adapt to cope with international terrorism. "International terrorism is becoming more and more a factor in global politics and to combat it effectively it is not just amendments of doctrine that are required but optimizing the actual structure of the armed forces as well, along with more effective cooperation between the army, the law-enforcement agencies and other power-wielding bodies. Amending the national security blueprint must be both the basis of and the first step in work in this direction."

Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says the numerical strength of the Russian armed forces will be cut to 1,126,000 before the end of 2002. There will be 860,000 civilian personnel in the armed forces. He expresses concern over the state of conventional forces.

Deputy defence minister and CinC of Ground Forces Nikolay Kormiltsev is interviewed in *Krasnaya Zvezda* on the state of the ground forces.

27 November 2002 Army Gen Vladimir Isakov, chief of the logistics directorate of the Russian armed forces and deputy minister of defence, is interviewed *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*. The armed forces' demand for uniform will be satisfied only by 40% in 2003. Fuel and oil supply for the armed forces is generally financed at 60-65%, 80% for military colleges and academies. In aviation, each pilot has a 50% fuel supply. Isakov says that in 2001 flight time per pilot was not more than 25 hours.

The new deputy commander of the Russian Ground Forces, Col-Gen Vladimir Moltenskoy, is introduced to the command of the forces.

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Commander of Russian naval infantry Lt-Gen Pavel Shilov is interviewed in *Krasnaya Zvezda* on the naval infantry.

28 November 2002 Patriarch Aleksey II of Moscow and All the Russias is discharged from hospital.

28 November 2002 Tatarstan President Mintimir Shaymiyev says that he will appeal to Vladimir Putin to veto amendments to the law of language of peoples.

28 November 2002 The Legislative Chamber, the lower house of the State Assembly of Russia's internal Republic of Bashkortostan, passes a draft of the republic's constitution in the first reading. Under this version of the document, Bashkortostan will retain presidential rule. At the same time, the draft stipulates that the same person will take on the duties of president and head of the republic's government.

29 November 2002 A meeting of the MVD high command takes place in Moscow. It discusses MVD objectives for 2003.

29 November 2002 Nationalities Minister Vladimir Zorin says the preliminary results of Russia's national census suggest that the country's population is 145.1m. The previous census in 1989 showed a total of 147m.

29 November 2002 Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, commander of MVD troops, says the number serving in MVD forces have been reduced by 3,000 to 193,000 this year.

The Strana.ru website publishes a report on the reform of the MVD troops. There will be several commando units, some of which will be permanently stationed in Chechnya. The long-term plan is to establish a National Guard, "elite presidential troops" that will help prop up "the vertical axis of power" across the country.

30 November 2002 Deputies of the Tatarstan State Council pass an address to Vladimir Putin, asking him not to sign the Law on Languages. They also ask Putin not to introduce the subject of Russian Orthodox culture into the curriculum. The address is published in *Respublika Tatarstan*.

30 November 2002 The upper chamber of Bashkortostan's State Assembly agrees with the legislative assembly's decision not to abolish the presidential post in the republic. On 10 November, President Murtaza Rakhimov made a statement saying that he would not nominate himself for the 2003 presidential election and offering to turn the republic into a parliamentary one by abolishing the post of president.

30 November 2002 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev outlines plans for the development of the Atomic Energy Sector up to 2020.

December

1 December 2002 Russia increases the export duty on crude oil from 26.2 dollars to 29.8 dollars a tonne.

2 December 2002 A landmine destroys a car on a highway regularly used by the Russian air force commander-in-chief, Vladimir Mikhaylov. Three people are killed.

3 December 2002 It is reported that Russia is to declassify information about commercial nickel and cobalt reserves at deposits on the Taymyr Peninsula.

3 December 2002 *Argumenty i Fakty* publishes a VTsIOM poll on Vladimir Putin's popularity. Putin's personal ratings were 77% in October. In November: 83%.

4 December 2002 An article on the nuclear.ru website discusses large-scale personnel changes in the Atomic Energy Ministry.

4 December 2002 Eduard Vorob'yev, deputy chairman of the Duma Defence Committee and former Ground Forces deputy commander-in-chief, is interviewed in *Chelyabinskiy Rabochy*. He gives a highly critical assessment of the state of Russia's armed forces.

5 December 2002 The Liberal Russia party disassociates itself from Boris Berezovskiy.

5 December 2002 An article on the Grani.ru website argues that Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov, supported by business magnates and the entourage of former Russian President Boris Yeltsin, has reportedly scored several victories in the undercover struggle for power against the so-called "St Petersburg team".

5 December 2002 *Respublika Tatarstan* reports Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev as criticising amendments to the law "On the status of the Federation Council member and the status of the State Duma deputy". He argues that it violates the rights of the regions.

7 December 2002 Supporters of Boris Berezovskiy vote him in as leader of the Liberal Russia party.

9 December 2002 The Duma discuss illegal migration. Minister for Ethnic Policy Vladimir Zorin, who leads a government commission responsible for developing Russia's migration policy, says there are at least 3 million illegal migrants in Russia at the moment.

9 December 2002 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says Chechen rebels must be treated as terrorists.

9 December 2002 Russia's supreme mufti, Talgat Tadzhuiddin, sends a message to Vladimir Putin expressing his concern at attempts to introduce the Latin script for the national language in Tatarstan.

10 December 2002 Talgat Tadzhuiddin, the head of the spiritual board of Muslims of Russia and the European countries of the CIS expresses concern about the spread of the radical Islamic movement Wahhabism in some regions of Russia, including Penza, Ulyanovsk, Orenburg and Sverdlovsk Regions and the Republic of Tatarstan.

10 December 2002 Vladimir Putin receives representatives of the presidential human rights committee in the Kremlin. He concedes there are shortcomings in the human right situation in Russia.

10 December 2002 Asu Dudarkayev, head of Federal Migration Service's department for the Chechen Republic, says the number of Chechen refugees remaining in Ingushetia is estimated at 22,150.

10 December 2002 The commander of the North Caucasus Military District, Col-Gen Gennady Troshev, rules out the possibility of forming a separate military district on the territory of Chechnya.

The Russian General Staff distributes a directive concerning prevention of possible terrorist and provocation acts in military districts and fleets.

Defence minister Sergey Ivanov gives a detailed report on the state of the armed forces in *Krasnaya Zvezda*.

11 December 2002 *Gazeta* newspaper assesses Russian arms exports in 2002.

The chairman of the committee for military cooperation with foreign states, Mikhail Dmitriyev, says the total export of Russian armaments may exceed the planned volume of 4.3bn dollars in 2002.

11 December 2002 The Duma turns down in the second reading a bill that would amend the acting law "On the Russian government", introducing an age and residence qualification for a candidate for prime minister.

11 December 2002 The Congress of Chechen Peoples is held in Gudermes. It pledges loyalty to the Russian government.

11 December 2002 The Duma passes the 2003 budget in its fourth and final reading.

11 December 2002 Deputy Director of the Federal Border Guard Service Col-Gen Aleksey Kozhevnikov says Russian border guards have confiscated over 3.6 tonnes of drugs, including 2.3 tonnes of heroin, on the Tajik-Afghan border since the beginning of 2002.

11 December 2002 The Duma passes a federal law which provides for the allocation of R500m for the fight against terrorism. These funds will be used to finance the Federal Security Service's special assignment centre and its purchase of weaponry, military equipment and housing for participants in anti-terrorist operations.

11 December 2002 The Federation Council approves amendments to the law on the state border designed to tighten up border security.

12 December 2002 Vladimir Putin signs a decree on arrangements for holding a referendum in the Chechen Republic.

12 December 2002 Putin signs the federal law "On introducing addenda to Article 3 of the Russian Federation law 'On languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation'", which was adopted by the State Duma on 15 November 2002 and then approved by the Federation Council on 27 November 2002. From now on Article 3 of the Russian Federation's law "On languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation" contains a new norm stipulating that the alphabets of the state language of the Russian Federation and the state languages of its republics must be based on the Cyrillic script. Other scripts for the alphabets of the state language of the Russian Federation and the state languages of its republics can only be adopted under federal laws.

12 December 2002 URF leader Boris Nemtsov calls for troop cuts in Chechnya.

13 December 2002 The Russian Union of Orthodox Citizens and the Popular Patriotic Union of Russia (PPUR) reach agreement on holding common political actions. This decision was made at a recent meeting between PPUR leader (and Communist Party leader) Gennady Zyuganov and Chairman of the Union of Orthodox Citizens Valentin Lebedev.

14 December 2002 The Human Rights Party holds its founding congress in Moscow.

15 December 2002 The Eurasian Party - Union of Patriots of Russia is registered at the Justice Ministry.

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16 December 2002 Vladimir Putin signs a decree to appoint Ruslan Tsakayev Chechnya's interior minister.

16 December 2002 Deputy head of the Duma defence committee Maj-Gen Nikolay Bezborodov outlines a military reform plan drafted by the committee.

17 December 2002 Interfax claims that the headquarters of the Russian Combined Federal Force in the North Caucasus have stated that a total of 4,705 servicemen and law enforcers have been killed in Chechnya since the beginning of the antiterrorist operation in October 1999. From 1 October 1999 to 15 December 2002, 13,040 army servicemen and policemen were wounded, and 28 people are missing. The MOD's losses in the second Chechen campaign have totalled 2,738 men killed and 6,439 wounded. According to the headquarters' information, as of the end of October, federal forces had lost 4,632 killed in the antiterrorist operation in Chechnya. Some 14,113 guerrillas have been killed over the three years of the campaign.

17 December 2002 Maj-Gen Sergey Shishin has been appointed new chief of the Russian Federation FSB directorate of internal security and is interviewed in *Gazeta*.

18 December 2002 The Federation Council approves the 2003 draft budget.

18 December 2002 The Duma recommends that the Russian president consider declaring a state of emergency in Chechnya and continue the troop pull-out, to include forces of the defence and interior ministries "temporarily deployed there". Kremlin aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy has said there is no need for one.

18 December 2002 Vladimir Putin relieves General Gennady Troshev from the post of commander of the North Caucasus Military District. Troshev has refused to be transferred to the Siberian Military District. Putin appoints Col-Gen Vladimir Boldyrev to the position. He was Siberian Military District commander.

19 December 2002 Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov says that all military commandant offices in Chechnya will go under the control of the MVD.

19 December 2002 Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says the Russian government plans to borrow 3bn US dollars on the international markets in 2004, and 4bn dollars in 2005. In 2004, Russia's foreign debt payments will amount to 14.5bn dollars and in 2005 Russia will have to pay 17.2bn dollars on its foreign debt. In 2003, Russia is due to pay 17.3bn dollars.

19 December 2002 The Grani.ru web site publishes an article on personnel changes in the military.

19 December 2002 The Chief Military Prosecutor's Office rejects lawyer Boris Kuznetsov's statement that the disaster involving the nuclear submarine Kursk should be re-examined.

20 December 2002 Col Yuri Budanov, who is accused of murdering a Chechen girl in 2000, has been sent for treatment to the medical ward of the remand centre. This decision is taken by the North Caucasus Military District court.

23 December 2002 Yabloko states it will not form a coalition with the URF in the upcoming Duma election. A decision about the common stand to be taken in the presidential election will be made in January 2004.

23 December 2002 A draft Chechen constitution is published in Chechen newspaper *Vesti Respubliki*.

23 December 2002 Central Bank of Russia first deputy chairman, Oleg Vyugin says capital outflow from Russia is expected to total 10bn US dollars in 2002, down 6bn dollars on the year. Earlier in December Russian Deputy Finance Minister Andrey Petrov said that capital flight from Russia totalled 3bn dollars in January-October. This compares to 16bn dollars and 24bn dollars for the whole of 2001 and 2000 respectively. Capital flight from Russia is expected to amount to 10-12bn dollars in 2003.

24 December 2002 The Duma reconsiders its decision to suggest a state of emergency be declared in Chechnya. The Duma voted 341 against 17 not to declare a state of emergency in Chechnya (with one abstention). They have adopted the draft statement and are currently discussing amendments to it.

24 December 2002 German Gref, the economic development and trade minister, says Russian GDP will grow by 4% to 4.1% this year.

25 December 2002 Vladimir Putin signs the 2003 budget into law.

25 December 2002 Vladimir Putin appoints Col-Gen Nikolay Makarov commander of the troops of the Siberian Military District.

26 December 2002 The Russian president's economic adviser, Andrey Illarionov, says Russia does not need foreign loans and is not going to need them in future. He says Russia's financial reserves will total R250bn following the government's sale of its stakes in Russian oil majors LUKoil and Slavneft. According to the 2002 budget, the financial reserves should total R197.4bn on 1 January 2003. Russia's foreign debt due in 2003 is now estimated at 17.3bn US dollars.

Dr Mark A Smith

26 December 2002 The chief of staff of the North Caucasus regional border guard department, Lt-Gen Valery Putov, is appointed acting head of the department. He replaces Col-Gen Yevgenny Bolkhovitin.

27 December 2002 Suicide bombers destroy the Russian government buildings in Grozny, Chechnya. At least 40 are killed. Akhmed Zakayev denies the involvement of the Aslan Maskhadov leadership.

27 December 2002 The state prosecutor demands a 12-year prison term for Colonel Yury Budanov, accused of killing a Chechen girl.

27 December 2002 The Federation Council approves a new version of the draft law concerning presidential election procedures.

27 December 2002 The commander of the 37th Strategic Air Force Army, Lt-Gen Igor Khvorov, is interviewed in *Krasnaya Zvezda* and says long-range aviation will be strengthened and expanded primarily in the north of the country.

28 December 2002 Viktor Kazantsev, the president's representative in the Southern Federal District, blames the explosions in the Chechen capital on lax security.

29 December 2002 Chechen prime minister Mikhail Babich says the death toll in the 27 December 2002 bombing has reached 61.

30 December 2002 The death toll in the Grozny bomb blast rises to 80.

30 December 2002 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says the fight against international terrorism is a priority for the armed forces in 2003. "In 2003, the armed forces will again focus on providing the country's military security and tackling international terrorist threats." He also says that another priority for 2003 is to complete the transition of the armed forces to a contract basis, particularly standby units.

31 December 2002 The chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, Aleksandr Veshnyakov, says the next Duma election will be on 14 December 2003.

31 December 2002 The chairman of Goskomstat, Vladimir Sokolin, says the living standards of the Russian population are approaching the level of 1998 before the August default.

31 December 2002 The North Caucasus district military court says Col Yury Budanov, charged with murdering Chechen girl Elza Kungayeva, is deemed not of

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sound mind at the moment of committing the crime and has been absolved of criminal liability. The court has decided to send Budanov to a specialized psychiatric hospital.

Human rights commissioner Oleg Mironov expresses concern over the acquittal.

31 December 2002 The MFA says the OSCE's Assistance Group to Chechnya is ending its work; its mandate, which expires on 31 December, will not be extended.

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