

Russian Domestic Policy: Chronology

January-March 2003

January

1 January 2003 New migration controls come into force.

1 January 2003 The army aviation of the land forces is reassigned to the air force.

4 January 2003 The Energy Ministry gives the following figures for the production of oil and gas condensate in Russia in 2002. It amounted to 379.63m tonnes, up 9% from 2001 and the highest production result since 1992. Oil production figures for the following companies were: LUKoil - 75.49m tonnes, Yukos - 69.88m tonnes, Surgutneftegaz - 49.2m tonnes, Tyumen Oil Company - 37.5m tonnes and Sibneft - 26.32m tonnes.

Oil exports to outside the CIS through the Transneft system (including transit) amounted to 151,728,000 tonnes in 2001, up 4.5% year-on-year. LUKoil exported 25.85m tonnes of oil to outside the CIS through the Transneft system in 2002, followed by Yukos - 25.62m tonnes, Surgutneftegaz - 17.45m tonnes, TNK - 14.75m tonnes and Sibneft - 10.49m tonnes.

Gas production in Russia in 2002 increased 2.4% year-on-year to 595.3bn cubic metres, of which Gazprom accounted for 523.79bn cubic metres.

4 January 2003 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says existing laws do not need to be drastically amended to pave the way for the use of the Russian Armed Forces in anti-terrorist operations. "The Armed Forces are functioning in line with a clearly defined legal field that envisions the possible involvement of military units in the eradication of illegal armed formations ... there is no need to review the basis of the armed forces' functions ... certain details in plans for using the army will be hammered out. The key documents on Russia's security, namely the national security concept, will have to be changed." He says that constitutional laws on the military and emergency rules might be revised. "It is too early to speak about specific changes in Russia's defence priorities and the armed forces' objectives in light of the threat of international terrorism. These issues will have to be thoroughly reviewed by both the executive and legislative branches."

5 January 2003 Sergey Ivanov says there will be no large-scale pullout of Russian army units from Chechnya in 2003. "Everything will depend on the local situation. It is inexpedient to have units which do not accomplish combat missions there, but there will be no large-scale pullout either."

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The commander-in-chief of the Russian navy, Vladimir Kuroyedov, is interviewed in *Krasnaya Zvezda*. He says that there will be a 20% reduction in the number of the navy's warships.

Deputy Defence Minister Lyubov Kudelina is interviewed in *Krasnaya Zvezda* on the 2003 defence budget.

6 January 2003 *Itogi* publishes an article on plans to create special anti-terrorist forces in Russia.

8 January 2003 The Justice Ministry warns the National State Party of Russia of the unacceptability of extremist activities and attempts to hide committed violations. One of its leaders, Boris Mironov, was interviewed in *Moskovskiye Novosti* (No 48, 2002). Mironov called for ethnic-based restrictions of constitutional rights, such as stripping ethnic minorities, including Jews, of their voting rights.

8 January 2003 Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says Russia will continue working with the OSCE in Chechnya, even though the mandate for the organization's mission in Chechnya has come to an end.

9 January 2003 *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* reports on an Institute of Philosophy survey of public opinion. The public mood is more optimistic but a majority feel they are ready to forego liberties for the sake of physical, social and legal guarantees.

10 January 2003 The Chechen Electoral Commission says the referendum on a draft constitution for the Chechen Republic and republican draft laws "On the election of a president of the Chechen Republic" and "On the election of a parliament of the Chechen Republic" is to take place on 23 March.

10 January 2003 The State Customs Committee says Russian oil exports in January-November 2002 amounted to 171.47 million tonnes, up 17% from the same period in 2002. Most Russian oil exports went to Germany (18.98 million tonnes), Italy (17.86 million tonnes), Holland (14.95 million tonnes) and Poland (13.87 million tonnes). Oil exports to the CIS in January-November amounted to over 29 million tonnes for 3.189bn dollars. Exports to Ukraine and Belarus amounted to 14.52 million and 12.2 million tonnes respectively (for 1.7bn and 1.286bn dollars).

The Energy Minister Igor Yusufov says Russia will produce 390m tonnes of oil and 603 to 604bn cubic metres of natural gas in 2003. In 2002, Russia produced 379m tonnes of oil and between 593 and 594bn cubic metres of natural gas.

10 January 2003 Chechen rebel president Aslan Maskhadov's emissary Akhmed Zakayev is interviewed in *Kommersant*.

13 January 2003 Vladimir Putin signs into law a bill on presidential elections.

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3 January 2003 Editor-in-chief of the *Novyye Izvestiya* newspaper, Igor Golembiovskiy, expresses concern about freedom of speech in Russia.

13 January 2003 The head of the press office of the Joint Group of Forces in the North Caucasus, Col Nikolay Baranov, says about 1,000 guerrillas are currently operating in Chechnya, of whom 250 are foreign mercenaries.

13 January 2003 An article on the Grani.ru website gives a detailed breakdown of manning levels in the Russian armed forces:

The Ministry of Defence has the largest force. As of 1 January 2003, the armed forces of the Russian Federation should in terms of authorized personnel have 1,162,200 men (plus 737,600 civilians). The armed forces will by the end of 2003 have been downsized by 36,800 men.

There is no personnel-turnover problem in the Ministry of Internal Affairs. People leave at their own request considerably less often than they do the army. Some 649,000 persons in uniform and 94,400 non-uniformed personnel work in the ministry today. These include 462,700 in the internal affairs authorities (plus 89,200 civilians) and 186,300 (and a further 5,200 civilians) in the interior forces. Only the interior forces will be cut - by 4,600 (and a further 100 civilian positions).

The penal system of the Ministry of Justice has 251,600 persons. The border guards' strength level is 165,000 men (plus 19,400 civilian employees).

There are in Russia today 66,200 security officers in uniform and 17,900 civilian employees of the Federal Security Service (FSB).

The government communications agency FAPSI has 38,500 uniformed officers and 14,900 civilian employees. Cutbacks here will affect only civilian employees - there will be 1,000 fewer of them in a year's time.

The following agencies will keep their strength levels the same in 2003: the Federal Bodyguard Service (11,500 servicemen and 3,200 civilian employees), the Federal Tax Police Service (36,300 and 7,800 respectively), the Federal Railway Troops Service (48,000 and 6,000), the State Customs Committee (19,100 and 47,700), the State Fire Service (73,000 and 2,900), the Main Directorate of Special Programmes of the President of the Russian Federation (8,000 and 3,500) and the State Courier Service (3,500 and 1,100). The Ministry of Emergencies will in 2003 lose 2,000 military positions but will gain 1,000 civilian positions. The Ministry of Emergencies today has 22,100 men under arms and 7,800 civilian employees.

There are altogether in the "forces" entities of the Russian Federation today 3,203,000 servicemen. By the end of 2003 this figure will have been reduced (according to the calculations of agency personnel officers) by 43,400.

There are just under 3.3m men altogether under arms in the Russian Federation. Counting the civilian employees, Russia's "forces" entities number in their ranks almost 4.5m men.

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14 January 2003 Andrey Nikolayev, chairman of the Duma Committee on Defence, says weapons of mass destruction in Russia are adequately guarded.

14 January 2003 Moscow mayor Yury Luzhkov says migrants into Russia should be nationally registered.

14 January 2003 Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko says Russia will increase oil exports in 2003.

14 January 2003 Head of the Chechen civil administration Akhmad Kadyrov expresses strong disagreement with Chechen Prime Minister Mikhail Babich over the appointment of Eli Isayev as new Chechen finance minister and the dismissal of Sergey Abramov.

14 January 2003 Viktor Zakharov, head of the Security Department for Moscow and the Moscow Region, says that Interpol has informed him that Chechen rebel leader Shamil Basayev has threatened to stage another terrorist act in Moscow.

Deputy Atomic Energy Minister Anatoliy Kotelnikov says Chechen rebels have no technology for manufacturing a nuclear explosive device, but they may try other forms of nuclear terrorism.

Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says Chechen terrorists are trying to gain access to toxic substances in order to carry out large-scale acts of terror in Russia and beyond its borders.

14 January 2003 Col-Gen Konstantin Totskiy, director of the Russian Federal Border Guard Service says Russia will bring additional reserves to reinforce its state border in the North Caucasus in 2003. Totskiy says that in late September and early October 2002 Vladimir Putin held several meetings with heads of power-wielding bodies and decided to draw up a plan for building comprehensive facilities on the border in the North Caucasus, that is the border with Georgia and Azerbaijan.

14 January 2003 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov is interviewed in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* on the national security blueprint.

15 January 2003 The Russian air force commander, Col-Gen Vladimir Mikhaylov, says a unified radar system will be created in Russia. Following the break-up of the Soviet Union, 70% of Russian territory was exposed, that is not covered by radar control. This included eastern areas in the north and western and eastern Siberia.

15 January 2003 Vladimir Putin signs a decree confirming a list of dual-purpose goods and technologies used for nuclear purposes and subject to export control.

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16 January 2003 Mikhail Kasyanov says the defence order in 2003 will increase by one-third. The order is worth R110 billion. About 40% of the sum is expected to be spent on the development of armaments, and 60% on purchasing and repairing weapons.

16 January 2003 A hearing of the lawsuits filed by people rescued from the Dubrovka theatre and relatives of people who died there opens in Moscow.

16 January 2003 The deputy head of the People's Will Party of National Revival, Nina Zhukova, says that several national-patriotic parties have merged into a public organization - The Union For Our Fatherland. The Union For Our Fatherland includes the People's Will Party of National Revival, Russia's Union of Patriotic and National Organizations, Russia's Slavic Party, the Great Brotherhood of Cossack Troops, For Holy Rus and others.

16 January 2003 Presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says he sees no sense in negotiating with Chechen separatist leader Aslan Maskhadov.

16 January 2003 Vladimir Putin appoints Rear-Adm Yuriy Startsev commander of the Caspian Flotilla.

16 January 2003 Vladimir Pekhtin, head of the Yedinaya Rossiya Duma faction is interviewed in *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*. He discusses splits in Yedinaya Rossiya.

16 January 2003 *Gazeta* newspaper summarizes Russian defence spending for 2003, which will rise by a third.

16 January 2003 Sergey Ivanov says in *Kommersant* that there will be no reorganisation of the space forces.

17 January 2003 Gazprom-Media general director Boris Jordan is dismissed.

17 January 2003 The Economic Development Ministry says Russia posted year-on-year GDP growth of 4.1% in 2002. Industrial production increased 3.9%.

Aleksey Gordeyev, the agriculture minister, says Russia exported more than 12m tonnes of grain in 2002, or 150% more than in 2001. In 2002, Russia produced 86.5m tonnes of grain, compared with 85.5m in 2001.

17 January 2003 Valentina Melnikova, head of the Human Rights Research Centre criticises Russian HR policy in Chechnya. "Around 2,500 people have gone missing in Chechnya. Military servicemen abducted them during sweep operations."

17 January 2003 Sweden decides to open a consulate-general in Kaliningrad.

17 January 2003 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says a federal-level administrative reform will be carried out in Russia in 2003-2004. He is interviewed in *Vremya Novostey*. "The result of the reform will be to divide the functions of governmental power...those who establish the rules of the game should not be able to use and control those rules."

18 January 2003 The federal programme for reviving Chechnya's socioeconomic sphere in 2003 has been submitted to the federal government for approval. The programme is valued at R3.5bn.

18 January 2003 Chief of the General Staff Anatoliy Kvashnin says "at present, Russia is facing a much higher level of significant sources of threats, both of an internal and external nature". He discusses Russian security policy at the Academy of Military Sciences.

Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov also speaks. He says he believes that the use of the armed forces in the fight against terrorist groups is legitimate. He says the war on terrorism has replaced the Cold War as the main security challenge to Russia.

Admiral Viktor Kravchenko, chief of the Russian navy staff says the Russian navy must be strengthened. He addresses the Academy of Military Sciences.

20 January 2003 Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, the chairman of the expert council for ethnic and migration policy and liaison with religious associations under the president's plenipotentiary representative in the Central Federal District at a conference on the issue says the number of migrants in Russia had reached about 3m by the beginning of 2003, while annual migration flows are reaching 800,000 people.

21 January 2003 Boris Jordan leaves his post as head of NTV.

21 January 2003 Goskomstat says industrial production in Russia in 2002 increased 3.7% in 2002, compared with growth in 2001 of 4.9%.

21 January 2003 *Severnyy Kavkaz* reports that the council of leaders of Southern Federal District entities of the Russian Federation held its first session under the leadership of Viktor Kazantsev, the Russian president's plenipotentiary representative in the Southern Federal District, in Kislovodsk on 15 January. It was also attended by Governor Aleksandr Chernogorov. It discussed anti-terrorist measures in the North Caucasus.

22 January 2003 A session of the board of directors of the NTV television company elects a new general director. He is Nikolay Senkevich, deputy general director of the Gazprom-Media open joint-stock company.

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23 January 2003 Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeyev says experts forecast that Russian farms will be able to produce 65-70 million tonnes of grain in 2003, 20% down from the output figure for 2002. This is due to weather conditions.

24 January 2003 Goskomstat states that Russia harvested 86.5m tonnes of clean weight grain in 2002, 1.5% more than in 2001 (85.2m tonnes). Grain yield grew by 1.4% from 1.94 to 1.96 tonnes per hectare. The production of winter and spring wheat rose by 7.6% to 50.6m tonnes in 2002 from 47m tonnes in 2001. Winter and spring rye production was also up by 7.6% from 6.6m tonnes to 7.1m tonnes.

28 January 2003 Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says capital flight from Russia dropped to 11-12bn dollars in 2002, according to preliminary figures, against 16bn dollars in 2001. Net capital flight totalled 24bn dollars in 2000.

28 January 2003 Gazprom's deputy chairman, Aleksandr Ryazanov, says Gazprom plans to keep up its annual output at 530bn cubic metres for 27 years to come. Gazprom in 2002 produced 522bn cubic metres of gas. In the next five to seven years Gazprom will increase gas exports to 160-170bn cubic metres from the 134bn cubic metres it plans to export in 2003.

Goskomstat reports that Russian nuclear power plants generated 139.687bn kWh of electricity in 2002, up 4.75% from 133.367bn kWh in 2001.

29 January 2003 All-Russian Public Opinion Research Centre conducts a poll. 75% of the respondents surveyed said they feel positive about Vladimir Putin's performance as president, while 2% responded negatively. 44% of the respondents are positive about Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov's performance, while 45% think differently.

Putin continues to enjoy the top rating among politicians. When asked to name the politicians they trust most, 45% of those surveyed named Putin. He is followed by Sergey Shoygu (emergency situations minister, 16%), Gennadiy Zyuganov (Communist leader, 14%), Mikhail Kasyanov (prime minister, 10%), and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy (leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia faction, 9%). Yabloko leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov and Moscow mayor Yuriy Luzhkov were each named by 6% of the respondents.

20% said they did not trust any politician.

30 January 2003 The first deputy chairman of the Federation Council's defence and security committee Col-Gen Valeriy Manilov says a new edition of the Russian national security concept will be drafted.

30 January 2003 The leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF), Gennadiy Zyuganov, says that neither Boris Berezovskiy nor the Yukos oil company were financing his party's activity.

30 January 2003 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says advanced weapon designs will start arriving in the armed forces in 2008.

31 January 2003 Agriculture minister Aleksey Gordeyev, who is also a deputy prime minister, says: "Today, we produce 8bn dollars' worth of agricultural products, while our imports total 10bn dollars." He says Russia should produce 80% of its food needs.

31 January 2003 Vladimir Putin tells the FSB leadership that he believes there must be no let-up in the development of international cooperation in the struggle against terrorism.

31 January 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov is interviewed in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*. He says the armed forces will start receiving modern equipment in 2008.

Minister of Industry, Science and Technology Ilya Klebanov outlines plans for reforming Russia's military-industrial complex. It provides for the creation of 70 integrated enterprises by 2006. In 2003, 18 such enterprises will emerge. The government will hold the controlling stakes in all newly-formed structures.

February

1 February 2003 Vladimir Putin signs a decree on awarding Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov the Order of Great Services to the Fatherland, Second Class.

1 February 2003 Various political parties and human rights organizations stage a demonstration in Moscow calling for an end to hostilities in Chechnya.

2 February 2003 Lt-Gen Yevgeniy Abrashin is appointed military commandant of the Chechen Republic by a joint order issued by the defence minister Sergey Ivanov, interior minister Boris Gryzlov and Federal Security Service director Nikolay Patrushev. Abrashin has been a deputy commander of the Combined Task Force in charge of Internal Troops units.

3 February 2003 Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko says Russia produced 380m tonnes of oil in 2002. Oil production in Russia in 2001 amounted to 348m tonnes, he said. Primary oil refining in 2002 amounted to 184.5m tonnes (179m tonnes in 2001). Oil exports to outside the CIS in 2002 increased to 150m tonnes, of which 20m tonnes were exported by rail and 125m tonnes by pipeline. Exports to the CIS in 2002 amounted to 34m tonnes.

Russia produced 598bn cubic metres of gas in 2002, up 2.3% from 2001. Domestic gas supplies amounted to 362bn cu.m, up 2%. Gas exports to the CIS amounted to 55bn cu.m, the same as in 2001, with exports to outside the CIS up 2% to 129bn cu.m.

3 February 2003 Rosoboroneksport General-Director Andrey Belyaninov is interviewed in *Vedomosti*. He says equipment sales rose to 4bn dollars in 2002 while total revenues reached 4.3bn dollars. In 2001, Rosoboroneksport exported equipment worth 3.2bn dollars while its revenues stood at 4.2bn. Belyaninov also said Rosoboroneksport plans to increase naval and air defence equipment exports in 2003. Currently, 75% of Rosoboroneksport's sales are military aircraft, while sales of weapons and equipment for land forces constitute about 15% and naval and air defence equipment exports account for 6% and 4% of exports respectively, he noted. Meanwhile, small contracts - those worth less than 50m dollars - accounted for 95% of all Rosoboroneksport's contracts in 2002.

3 February 2003 An official of the Russian Aerospace Agency (Rosaviakosmos), Vyacheslav Mikhaylichenko says Russia and the US have begun consultations on the future of the International Space Station (ISS).

4 February 2003 The Russian Prosecutor-General's Office is initiating a procedure to qualify individual organizations entered on the FSB's black list as terrorist organizations. The list comprises 15 organizations operating in Russia and abroad, including the Supreme Military Majlis Shura of the Joint Mojahedin Forces of the Caucasus, led by Shamil Basayev, and Al-Qaeda, led by Usamah bin Laden.

Other organizations on the list include: the Congress of the Peoples of Ichkeria and Dagestan (Chechnya), led by Basayev and Movladi Udugov; Isbat al-Ansar (Lebanon); Jihad (Egypt); Al-Jama'ah al Islamiyah (Egypt); the Muslim Brotherhood (an international organization); the Islamic Liberation Party (an international organization); Lashkar-i-Toiba (Pakistan); the Taleban movement (Afghanistan); the Islamic Party of Turkestan (formerly the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan); the Social Reform Society (Kuwait); the Islamic Heritage Revival Society (Kuwait), and Al-Haramayn (the Two Holy Sites of Mecca, Saudi Arabia).

4 February 2003 Deputy Economic Development and Trade Minister Arkadiy Dvorkovich says Russia's GDP grew 4.2% in 2002. GDP grew 5% in 2001 and 9% in 2000, according to the State Committee for Statistics.

4 February 2003 Duma deputy and member of the state commission for the disposal of chemical weapons Nikolay Bezborodov says about 40,000 tonnes of warfare chemicals are stored in Russia, and these are to be destroyed by 2012.

5 February 2003 Khurshed Numanov, head of section at the Internal Affairs Ministry's Main Directorate for Criminal Investigations, says a total of 360 terrorist acts were carried out in Russia in 2002, 10% more than in 2001. The bulk of terrorist acts are still being perpetrated in the Southern Federal District, with 272 recorded in Chechnya alone in 2002. Other "dangerous areas" include Dagestan, with seven terrorist acts, and North Osetia and Stavropol Territory, with five apiece.

5 February 2003 The Duma adopts in the third and final reading the bill "On the Russian language as the state language of the Russian Federation". In accordance

with the document, Russian is deemed the official language throughout Russian territory.

Vladimir Putin meets Nationalities Minister Vladimir Zorin on to discuss the preservation and development of ethnic languages. Zorin says that teaching in Russia's schools is conducted in 38 ethnic languages. In 9,000 schools, 75 ethnic languages are studied as native languages. In addition, 400 newspapers and magazines are published in 59 ethnic languages. Television and radio programmes are broadcast in 56 languages.

6 February 2003 The Bashkir Legislative Chamber of the republic's State Assembly passes a bill on the republic's presidency in the first reading. The parliamentarians made 27 amendments to 16 articles of the previous text and they all follow mainly from the new Bashkortostan constitution adopted on 3 December 2002.

6 February 2003 The market research company Komkon says that the number of Russians using the Internet totalled 5.1m people in 2002, accounting for 3.9% of Russia's population older than 10 years of age. The figure includes 3.6m urban Internet users, accounting for 6% of the total urban population older than 10 years of age, the statement said. About 78% of users are regularly visiting web sites, 72% are using e-mail, 21% are communicating through ICQ and 51% are using other Internet services.

7 February 2003 The Central Bank states that Russia's gold and foreign exchange reserves increased from 47,793m dollars to 49,274m dollars (3.1%) in January 2003. The country's currency reserves increased by 3.4% - from 44,054m to 45,534m dollars in the first month of 2003, while the monetary gold reserves increased from 3,739m to 3.74bn dollars during the same period. The share of foreign currency in the structure of the gold/currency reserves has grown from 92.2% to 92.4% and the share of gold was reduced from 7.8% to 7.6%.

8 February 2003 Sergey Ivanov says the Russian leadership will not negotiate with Chechen rebels. He attends the 39th international conference on fighting terrorism, in Munich.

8 February 2003 The Liberal Party offers to unite with URF and Yabloko.

8 February 2003 The chairman of the Chechen government, Mikhail Babich, resigns from his post.

10 February 2003 Vladimir Putin signs a federal law introducing changes to a law on the rehabilitation of victims of political repression. The federal law envisages the restoration of rights of underage children of whom one or both parents were victimized in the Stalin era. Minors whose parents were imprisoned or vanished in the Soviet death chain were officially stigmatized as CSIR, a Russian acronym for "members of families of traitors of the Motherland", and were placed in orphanages or left to their own devices. The federal law retrospectively recognizes people who

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were left at minority without care from one or both purged parents as victims of political repression.

10 February 2003 The Prosecutor-General's Office begins a procedure to declare 15 organizations as terrorist ones that harm Russia's security.

10 February 2003 Anatoliy Popov is appointed new prime minister of the pro-Moscow Chechen government.

11 February 2003 The Russian Prosecutor-General's Office takes the Tatarstan parliament to court. Moscow believes that 19 articles of the new constitution of Tatarstan run counter to the federal law and 18 of them are void because they have already been recognized to be in violation of the Russian constitution.

11 February 2003 An article in *Gazeta* quotes chief of the General Staff, Anatoliy Kvashnin, as admitting that there has been no military reform in the army.

12 February 2003 The Duma adopts a resolution "On stopping the activity of terrorist organizations on the territory of the Russian Federation".

12 February 2003 The Federation Council rejects the law on the state language of the Russian Federation which had earlier been passed by the Duma.

12 February 2003 Chechnya's administration chief, Akhmad Kadyrov, wants excessive troops to pull out of the republic once its Interior Ministry is in place.

13 February 2003 CPRF leader Gennadiy Zyuganov acknowledges that the CPRF has an ageing membership. The average age of CPRF members is more than 55.

14 February 2003 Energy Minister Igor Yusufov says Russia "has become the world's largest oil producer, and has taken a firm grip of global leadership in the export of hydrocarbon products ... in the final quarter of last year, Russia's oil production volume reached the level of 8m barrels a day".

17 February 2003 Perm Region Governor Yuriy Trutnev and the head of the Komi-Permyak Autonomous Area, Gennadiy Savelev, sign an agreement and memorandum in Kudymkar (Komi-Permyak AA) to establish a new constituent member of the Russian Federation through the merger of their two provinces.

18 February 2003 Justice Minister Yury Chayka says making sure Russian federal and regional laws are consistent with each other remains one of the chief aims of the Justice Ministry in 2003. In 2002 some 43,000 legal acts of subjects of the federation were examined, out of which 4,500 were found not to be in keeping with

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Russia's constitution and federal legislation. The minister said some 80% of them were brought into line with federal law without the intervention of the prosecutor's office or a court.

18 February 2003 Nikolay Ovchinnikov, police colonel and Duma deputy (Narodnyy Deputat) is appointed head of the Interior Ministry (MVD) main main directorate for combating organized crime (GUBOP).

18 February 2003 Viktor Ivanov, a deputy head of the presidential administration, says the Ministry of Justice should strengthen its monitoring of political parties and associations to prevent extremists from gaining a foothold in power.

18 February 2003 Vladimir Rushaylo, secretary of the Security Council, says the political settlement in Chechnya is proceeding "not as fast as one would like, but there is no other way to achieve stability in Chechnya".

18 February 2003 The Russian army's Commander-in-Chief and Deputy Defence Minister Nikolay Kormiltsev says the MOD plans to start a partial withdrawal of military troops from Chechnya in early March. The number of servicemen in Chechnya is planned to be reduced by 2,000. The army does not disclose how many soldiers are serving in Chechnya. He says that the 42nd Motor Rifle Division and the 46th Brigade of Interior Forces will be permanently stationed in the republic.

18 February 2003 Goskomstat reports that foreign investment in Russia totalled 19.78bn dollars in 2002, up 38.7% year-on-year. Foreign direct investment totalled 4,002m dollars, or 20.2% of the total, and was up 0.6% from 2001. Investment of 1,713m dollars went into capital (8.6%, a rise of 34.8%), 1.3bn in loans received from foreign co-owners (6.6%, down 38.6%), 989m in other direct investment.

Foreign portfolio investment amounted to 472m dollars (2.4% of the total and 4.6% up on 2001), including 283m in stocks and shares (1.4%, down 14.1% year-on-year), and 129m in company debt instruments (0.7%, up 23.5%). Other investments amounted to 15,306m dollars (77.4% of the total and up 55.8% year-on-year), including 2,243m in trade loans (11.3%, up 22.2%), 12,928m in other loans (65.4%, up 63.6%), and 135m in other investment components (0.7%, up 51.9%).

18 February 2003 The State Customs Committee states that Russian oil exports in 2002 amounted to 186.7m tonnes, up 19% year-on-year. Most oil exports went to Germany (20.6m tonnes), Italy (19.5m tonnes), Holland (15.56m tonnes) and Poland (15.1m tonnes). Exports to the CIS in 2002 amounted to over 32m tonnes for 3.56bn dollars, including exports to Ukraine and Belarus of 15.78m tonnes and 13.6m tonnes respectively (1.85bn and 1.46bn dollars).

Russian gas exports increased by 3% year-on-year to amount to 181.7bn cubic metres in 2002, a source close to the State Customs Committee told Interfax. In cost terms, gas supplies were down 14% year-on-year to 15.5bn dollars.

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Natural gas exports from Russia to outside the CIS amounted to 130.86bn cubic metres for 13,179m dollars, with exports to the CIS of 50.8bn cubic metres for 2.36bn dollars. Most natural gas exports went to Germany (29.6bn cubic metres), Ukraine (27.4bn) and Belarus (17.2bn).

18 February 2003 Chairman of the Russian Committee on Military Technical Cooperation with Foreign Countries says Russia plans to export at least 4.5bn dollars worth of armaments and military hardware in 2003.

19 February 2003 An article in *Vedomosti* gives a detailed overview of Russian arms sales in 2002 and plans for 2003. The chairman of the Russian Committee on Military-Technical Cooperation, Mikhail Dmitriyev, says that the plan for weapons deliveries for 2003 is set at the 4.5bn-dollar level.

19 February 2003 First deputy chief of the General Staff Yuriy Baluyevskiy says chemical weapons have been completely removed from the Russian armed forces' arsenals and placed under government control exercised by the Russian Munitions Agency.

21 February 2003 Goskomstat says a total of 505,700 refugees and displaced persons were residing in Russia at the beginning of 2003. About 217,300 people (43%) came from Kazakhstan, 65,200 (12.9%) from Uzbekistan, and 45,000 (8.9%) from Tajikistan. At the same time, more than 80,000 people (16.3%) had to resettle inside Russia due to social and political instability in their native regions.

Goskomstat says the number of Russia's stable population decreased by 856,700 in 2002 (0.6%) without taking into account the results of the census, and by 1 January 2003 it was 143.1m people. A total of 1,396,800 births and 2,331,400 deaths were reported in Russia in 2002 which is, respectively, 85,200 and 76,500 more than in 2001. The natural decrease, calculated as the difference between the number of births and deaths, was 934,600 against 943,300 in 2001.

21 February 2003 *Novyye Izvestiya* suspends publication due to a conflict between the editorial staff and the publisher.

21 February 2003 Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says the Russian economy is ready for a possible oil price drop.

21 February 2003 Tax minister Gennadiy Bukayev says the contributions of the Ministry of Taxes and Levies to the federal budget (excluding unified social tax receipts) were 4.6% below target in 2002, with the shortfall amounting to R55bn. He said that tax collection for the federal budget, excluding the unified social tax, amounted to R1,150bn in 2002, up 20% on the year. Tax contributions including the unified social tax were R1,485bn in 2002, 0.2% above target.

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21 February 2003 Goskomstat says Russia's foreign trade surplus totalled 46.416bn dollars in 2002, against 47.851bn dollars in 2001. Foreign trade totalled 167.456bn dollars in 2002, up 7.8% from 155.379bn dollars in 2001. Exports rose 5.2% from 101.615bn dollars to 106.936bn dollars, and imports went up 12.6% from 53.764bn dollars to 60.52bn dollars.

Russian exports to fellow CIS countries totalled 16.246bn dollars in 2002, up 6.9% year-on-year. Exports to non-CIS countries were up 4.9% to 90.69bn dollars. Imports from CIS countries dropped 5.5% to 12.32bn dollars, while imports from non-CIS countries increased 18.4% to 48.2bn dollars.

Deputy Finance Minister Sergey Kolotukhin says Russia's state foreign debt excluding guarantee commitments totalled 120bn dollars at the end of 2002.

21 February 2003 A National Army Conference takes place in Moscow discussing military priorities. Vladimir Putin and Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov attend. Putin says the army must adopt a counter-terrorist role.

21 February 2003 Abdul-Khakim Sultygov, the presidential envoy for human rights and freedoms in Chechnya, says Chechen separatist representatives could participate in political processes under certain conditions, provided they refrain from using force. Sultygov initiates a Chechen public accord agreement that envisages separatists' participation.

22 February 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov is interviewed in *Parlamentskaya Gazeta* on the anti-terrorist operation in Chechnya and military reform.

23 February 2003 The director of the Russian Federal Border Guard Service, Konstantin Totskiy, has been given the rank of general of the army. Totskiy was appointed as the director of the Russian Federal Border Guard Service in 1998.

24 February 2003 Roman Abramovich has lost control of TVS. The Chubays group now controls 45% of shares and has six seats on the board of directors. The Abramovich group now also controls 45% of shares and has six seats. The station's journalists own 10% of shares and have one seat.

25 February 2003 The Security Council meets to discuss fundamentals of the military-technical policy of the Russian Federation for the period until 2015.

25 February 2003 Vladimir Putin signs a decree appointing Gennadiy Troshev to the post of adviser to the Russian President. Troshev will be in charge of coordinating the activities of the Russian presidential envoys to the federal districts on supervising the Cossack societies included in the state register of Russian Cossack Societies.

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25 February 2003 The Federal Monitoring Authority for Nuclear and Radiation Safety states it has tightened antiterrorist control on the physical security of nuclear and radioactive facilities.

25 February 2003 Yabloko says that media freedom is in danger following the closure of *Novyye Izvestiya*.

25 February 2003 Shamil Basayev claims responsibility for the destruction of the pro-Moscow Chechen government building in Groznyy on 27 December 2002.

26 February 2003 The Ministry for Press, Television and Radio Broadcasting and Mass Communications officially warns *Zavtra* newspaper that spreading material of an extremist nature through media and extremist activities is inadmissible. This warning was issued following the publication in the paper's 6 and 7 February 2003 issues of Aleksandr Prokhanov's interview with Chechen separatist envoy Akhmed Zakayev, currently on the international wanted list.

26 February 2003 Chechnya's military commandant Yevgeniy Abrashin says that the military have implemented their tasks in the republic in full. "Large rebel groups have been destroyed and their remaining elements dispersed."

Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says Russia might reduce its troops in Chechnya but that there will be no "sharp reduction". "Reductions won't affect the 42nd Motor Rifle Division, special army forces or the military commandants' offices that come under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Defence. At the present time, there remain only six military commandants' offices in Chechnya, and they are situated in the mountain regions of the republic."

Aleksandr Mokritskiy, chief military prosecutor of the federal grouping of forces in Chechnya, says military prosecutors of the joint federal grouping have opened a total of 162 criminal cases on servicemen who committed crimes against the civilian population.

27 February 2003 The chairman of Yedinaya Rossiya general council, Aleksandr Bespalov, is appointed head of the Gazprom department for information policy.

27 February 2003 Secretary of the Security Council Vladimir Rushaylo says border security should be tightened up. He speaks at a conference on problems of safeguarding Russia's national interests on the borders.

27 February 2003 Valeriy Manilov, first deputy chairman of the defence and security committee of the Federation Council, says the number of officers living below the poverty line increased to 56%. Some 370,000 servicemen do not have their own flats.

Dr Mark A Smith

March

4 March 2003 Vladimir Putin signs a decree appointing Lt-Gen Anatoliy Grebenyuk chief of construction and quartering of troops and deputy defence minister. This decree relieves General Aleksandr Kosovan as chief of construction and quartering of troops.

4 March 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says as many as 1,270 army personnel and 200 pieces of hardware will be pulled out of Chechnya in the next few days. Up to 30,000-35,000 servicemen involved in special missions will stay in Chechnya on a temporary basis. Apart from this, the 42nd Motor Rifle Division of the Defence Ministry and the 46th Internal Troops Brigade of the Interior Ministry, the military commandant's offices and military registration and enlistment offices will be based there on a permanent basis. Deputy Defence Minister Col-Gen Igor Puzanov arrives in Chechnya to supervise the departure of the first trains carrying troops and materiel of the combined force in the North Caucasus.

5 March 2003 An article on the state of the Russian military industrial complex by Mikhail Sergeyev is published on the Strana.ru website.

6 March 2003 Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo visits Chechnya.

6 March 2003 Chechen separatist spokesman Movladi Udugov says in an interview with the Georgian newspaper *The Georgian Times* that the USA and Israel are aiming to destroy Islam.

10 March 2003 Chechen prime minister Anatoliy Popov is interviewed on TV on the constitutional referendum on 23 March.

11 March 2003 Vladimir Putin announces a reorganisation of some internal security organs.

An independent federal body is created - the State Committee of the Russian Federation to Control the Trade in Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances;

The Federal Tax Police Service of the Russian Federation is abolished. Its material and technical resources and its staff are transferred to the newly created body for combating narcotic and psychotropic substances. The tasks for uncovering, providing warnings about and preventing tax crimes are to be transferred to the Interior Ministry;

The Federal Border Guard Service is to be placed under the authority of the FSB;

FAPSI is abolished. Its functions are to be distributed between the FSB and the Defence Ministry;

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Under the auspices of the Defence Ministry the Russian State Committee for the State Defence Order is set up, which will take on the function of the sole commissioner of conventional weapons.

The presidential envoy for the Northwest Federal District, Viktor Cherkesov, is appointed chairman of the State Committee of the Russian Federation to Control the Trade in Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances. He will cease to hold the post of presidential envoy. The post of presidential envoy for the Northwest Federal District is to pass to Valentina Matviyenko.

Mikhail Fradkov, hitherto head of the tax police, is appointed the Russian Federation's envoy at the European Union, with ministerial rank. Konstantin Totskiy is appointed permanent envoy of the Russian Federation to NATO. The post of head of the Federal Border Guard Service will pass to the first deputy director of the FSB, Vladimir Pronichev. Vladimir Matyukhin, the director of FAPSI, is appointed chairman of the State Committee for the State Defence Order, with the rank of first deputy defence minister.

11 March 2003 Presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says Russia hopes the United States will include more terrorist organizations active in the North Caucasus on its list of international terrorist organizations that is being assembled by the US State Department.

11 March 2003 Russian Deputy Defence Minister Col-Gen Igor Puzanov about 1,000 rebels are acting in the Chechen highlands, Nozhay-Yurtovskiy and Vedenskiy Districts.

11 March 2003 The head of the Kaliningrad oblast regional administration's department for international affairs and foreign economic relations, Viktor Romanovskiy, says residents of Russia's Kaliningrad Region will be able to obtain free 12-month visas for visits to Poland.

11 March 2003 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev attends a conference on the safety of radioactive sources in Vienna. He says that disintegration of the former USSR has upset control of radioactive sources and in some cases led to their loss in other CIS member-states.

11 March 2003 The MFA, State Chemical Disarmament Commission and Ammunition Agency are negotiating with donor states for the Russian chemical disarmament programme on creating industrial areas of chemical weapons destruction sites.

12 March 2003 Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says that the reorganization of civil ministries and agencies must be carried out at a faster pace. Kudrin says he has been instructed to look into the financing of newly formed federal agencies, in cooperation with their chiefs. Kudrin believes that the newly established State Committee to Control the Illegal Trade in Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances will be less costly than the Federal Tax Police Service.

The MVD creates a department for fighting tax crimes.

12 March 2003 A meeting on law enforcement takes place at the Prosecutor-General's Office. Vladimir Putin; Prosecutor-General Vladimir Ustinov; Federation Council speaker Sergey Mironov; Duma Chairman Gennadiy Seleznev; presidential administration head Aleksandr Voloshin and his deputies Viktor Ivanov and Dmitriy Kozak; Security Council Secretary Vladimir Rushaylo; Audit Chamber Chairman Sergey Stepashin; Constitutional Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin and Supreme Court Chairman Vyacheslav Lebedev; FSB Director Nikolay Patrushev; Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov; Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov and Emergencies Minister Sergey Shoygu attend the meeting.

12 March 2003 the Chairman of Russia's Audit Chamber, Sergey Stepashin says misspending by state organizations and companies amounted to a total of R5.5bn in Russia in 2002. R711m of budget money allocated for the reconstruction of Chechnya were misspent.

13 March 2003 Public Opinion Foundation publishes a poll. 49% of Russians have said that there are more successes than failures in the three years of Vladimir Putin's presidency. 15 expressed the opposite opinion and 36% were undecided. The poll showed that the number of Russians who approve of Putin's work has declined, as compared to 60% in March 2001 and 61% in March 2001 [sic]. The number of those who are undecided has increased, against 27% in 2001 and 26% in 2002. 1,500 people were polled.

14 March 2003 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says the structure of the Russian government may be reformed later in 2003.

14 March 2003 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev says Minatom is planning to scale up antiterrorist protection of nuclear facilities, nuclear materials and radioactive emission sources. "The Atomic Energy Ministry, in cooperation with the Health Ministry and other ministries and departments, will create a large-scale system of control over nuclear materials and ionizing emission sources."

14 March 2003 The head of Russia's Central Electoral Commission, Aleksandr Veshnyakov, says a group of international observers will go to Chechnya on 21 and 22 March. About 40 international observers, including 20 from Islamic organizations, will monitor the referendum on 23 March on Chechnya's new constitution. The OSCE will send 10 observers and there will be another 10 representing CIS countries.

Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov has ruled out holding any talks with leaders of Chechen rebel groups.

Akhmad Kadyrov, administration chief of the North Caucasus republic says Chechnya must have a special economic, but not a special political, status within Russia. He says the federal centre should sign an accord with Chechnya as "a constituent part of the federation".

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14 March 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says the MOD Defence Ministry has prepared a draft of a federal special-purpose programme to man army units with soldiers serving under contract. "By 15 May, we plan to finish working on the federal special-purpose programme and submit it to the government for approval ... by this date, we will also draft a set of bills spelling out steps for the transfer to a contract basis."

Col-Gen Aleksandr Morozov, chief of staff and first deputy commander of the Ground Troops, gives a report at the Ground Troops council, analysing the activities of control bodies in the sphere of stepping up readiness to prevent terrorist acts.

Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says technical re-equipment of the Russian armed forces will start in 2006-07.

15 March 2003 Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says Moscow opposes a discussion of the Chechen issue at the upcoming session of the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

16 March 2003 The FSB and MVD propose amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code, extending to 30 days the period during which persons suspected of terrorist acts can be held. Currently all suspects can only be held without charge for up to 48 hours.

17 March 2003 Vladimir Putin makes a major TV address to the people of Chechnya.

Head of the Chechen administration Akhmad Kadyrov says a treaty on the division of jurisdiction between the Russian Federation and Chechnya will be signed 1.5-2 months after the constitutional referendum. He says a Chechen president will be elected in December.

18 March 2003 Vladimir Putin meets the leaders of the Komi-Permyak Autonomous Area and Perm Region and backs their decision to merge.

18 March 2003 Vladimir Rushaylo, secretary of the Security Council, says the state will clamp down on Nazi, fascist or other parties and movements of the sort, as well as totalitarian sects.

18 March 2003 Akhmad Kadyrov, the chief of the Chechen administration, says he supports the idea of declaring amnesty for some rebels.

19 March 2003 The State Council of Chuvashia has made substantial changes to the constitution of Chuvashia at a routine session in Cheboksary. The mandate of members of parliament and the president of the republic is being extended from four years to five. The number of members of parliament is also to be reduced at the next election, from the 73 now working in the State Council to 44.

19 March 2003 Vladimir Putin meets senior MOD officials over a federal programme on the contract staffing of some military units. The meeting is attended by Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov, the chief of the General Staff, Anatoliy Kvashnin, deputy defence ministers Lyubov Kudelina and Vladimir Isakov, and Airborne Troops Commander Georgiy Shpak. Ivanov says it is planned to add up to 167,000 soldiers and sergeants to the Russian army on a contract basis in the 2004-07 federal programmes.

20 March 2003 Economic adviser to Vladimir Putin Andrey Illarionov says the anti-Iraqi war launched by the USA might have an adverse medium-term (ie five years) effect on the Russian economy.

21 March 2003 Minatom and MVD says they are tightening up security at nuclear power stations and nuclear installations.

21 March 2003 Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says Russian legislation allows the freezing of bank accounts if there is a suspicion of laundering of illegal financial funds or involvement in terrorism; but Russia has no such information as yet relating to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. The USA has demanded that Saddam Hussein's financial accounts all over the world be frozen.

23 March 2003 The Chechen constitutional referendum takes place. The chairman of the republic's Electoral Commission, Abdul-Kerim Arskhanov, claims that by 1800 hours 79.64% of those registered had cast their votes. The OSCE gives a cautious welcome to the referendum.

Russian presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says Moscow will not negotiate with Aslan Maskhadov. He says Moscow is prepared to talk with sensible and moderate opposition leaders.

Head of the Chechen Republic's administration Akhmad Kadyrov says unlawful combatants must be given the chance of return to peaceful life once Chechnya's constitution is adopted.

24 March 2003 The chief of the Chechen government's law department, Yevgeniy Popov, says under the new constitution approved in the referendum of 23 March, the head of Chechnya's administration, Akhmad Kadyrov, will be acting president as of the moment the referendum returns have been formally published. He will also lead the republic's executive bodies of power until a newly elected president takes office.

Vladimir Putin says the referendum on the constitution in Chechnya means that the last problem with Russia's territorial integrity has been resolved.

A group of CIS observers led by CIS Secretary Yuriy Yarov says the constitutional referendum in Chechnya was held in keeping with international standards and national legislation.

The head of the Chechen administration, Akhmad Kadyrov, signs a decree declaring the day of 23 March the Chechen Republic Constitution Day.

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Akhmad Kadyrov and Tatarstan Prime Minister Rustam Minnikhanov sign an agreement on trade and economic research and development as well as cultural cooperation between the Chechen administration and the Tatarstan government.

24 March 2003 Vladimir Putin issues a decree appointing Sergey Verevkin-Rokhalskiy deputy interior minister and head of the federal service for fighting economic and tax crime set up at the Interior Ministry.

25 March 2003 Boris Berezovskiy and his business partner Yuriy Dubov are arrested in London.

25 March 2003 A report on the Grani.ru website analyses crime and bullying in the Russian armed forces.

26 March 2003 Vladimir Putin meets Yedinaya Rossiya leaders. He praises the development of the party.

26 March 2003 Col-Gen Vladimir Bulgakov has been dismissed as chief of staff of the North Caucasus Military District. He is likely to be replaced by Lt-Gen Alexey Maslov, who is commander of a corps stationed in the city of Ulan-Ude.

26 March 2003 Gen Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, Internal Troops commander-in-chief, says plans for a reform of MVD troops envisage considerable cuts in their numerical strength. It is planned to cut them by 33,900 before 2005.

26 March 2003 Igor Belousov, a senior official from Rosoboroneksport, says Russia supplies 12-15% of weapons and military hardware to the global market.

26 March 2003 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev says MinAtom has set up its own emergency rescue service.

26 March 2003 Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko says growth in oil exports in 2003 will amount to not less than 7.5%. In 2002 Russia exported 151.728m tonnes of oil to outside the CIS (including transit) via the Transneft system, which is 4.5% more than in 2001.

27 March 2003 The chairman of the Chechen Republic's electoral commission, Abdul-Kerim Arsakhanov, says that the turnout for the 23 March referendum was 89.48%. Of those voters who took part in the referendum, 95.97% voted in favour of the constitution of the Chechen Republic.

27 March 2003 The chief of the Duma defence committee, Andrey Nikolayev, says Russia's annual GDP growth has been big enough to allow for an increase in the

country's defence budget. He says the 3.5% of GDP allocated for the country's defence needs is a well-founded figure. If the national leadership makes appropriate amendments to next year's federal budget, national defence financing will be increased by R120bn to a total of R470bn.

27 March 2003 The Chechen Electoral Commission gives the official results for the 23 March referendum. 89.48% of the voters on the voting lists took part in the referendum. Of them, 95.97% voted for the Chechen constitution, 95.4% supported the law on presidency, and 96.05% voted for the law on parliamentary elections. On average, about 3% voted against.

27 March 2003 President Vladimir Putin meets the president of the republic of North Osetia-Alania, Aleksandr Dzasokhov.

28 March 2003 Anatoliy Pivovarov is dismissed as deputy director-general of the Russian Agency for Conventional Weapons.

28 March 2003 The North Caucasus Military District begins command post exercises. They will last until 4 April, around the waters of the Black and Caspian Seas. The war games are designed to train interaction of security agencies when fighting terrorism. Units of the MVD, the Emergencies Ministry and other ministries and agencies will attend the exercises.

Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says: "The process of decline of the combat readiness of the armed forces that continued throughout the 1990s has been stopped."

29 March 2003 Yedinaya Rossiya holds a congress in Moscow. Chairman of the Supreme Council of Yedinaya Rossiya Boris Gryzlov outlines the main goals and tasks of the party.

31 March 2003 Gazprom and LUKoil sign a cooperation agreement. LUKoil will be selling gas to Gazprom from the Nakhodka gas field in the Bolshekhetskaya depression in the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Area which it is currently developing. In turn Gazprom pledges to transport the gas along the unified gas supply network in Russia.

31 March 2003 Vladimir Putin signs the decree "On drafting Russian Federation citizens for army service in April-June 2003 and on discharging military conscripts from service in the army". From 1 April till 30 June 175,050 citizens of the Russian federation aged between 18 and 27 who are not reservists and are due for conscription will be drafted into the army.

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