

Russian Domestic Policy: A Chronology

July-September 2003

July

1 July 2003 The Interior Ministry (MVD) decides to enhance the protection of the facilities of special importance. This decision is made at the ministry's board meeting chaired by Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov.

1 July 2003 Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeyev says that according to preliminary estimates, 70 million tonnes of grain will be harvested in Russia in 2003. Over 86 million tonnes of grain were harvested in 2002, while 65-67 million tonnes were harvested annually between 1996 and 2000.

1 July 2003 The MVD begins taking over control of the counterterrorist operation in Chechnya from the Federal Security Service (FSB). Full control will be achieved by 1 September.

1 July 2003 Deputy head of the presidential administration Dmitriy Kozak says that Chechnya will be given "the broadest autonomy, taking into account its particular situation and the events which have taken place in the republic."

2 July 2003 The Ministry of Energy states that Russian oil exports to outside the CIS in January-June 2003 amounted to 72.79 million tonnes (2.69 barrels per day) up 8.9%, or by 5.9 million tonnes, from the same period last year. A total of 70.99 million tonnes of oil was exported through the Transneft system in the first six months of 2003, with 1.8 million tonnes being exported outside the Transneft system. Oil production in Russia in the first half of 2003 increased 11% (by 20,195 million tonnes) year-on-year to 202,362 million tonnes.

Gas production in Russia in the first half of 2003 amounted to 311,25 billion cubic metres (bcm), up 2.8% (8,51 bcm) from the same period in 2002.

2 July 2003 Maj-Gen Sergey Tochilin, deputy commander-in-chief of the MVD's Internal Troops says over 2,240 servicemen were killed in the antiterrorist operation in Chechnya in 1999-2003.

The MVD states that the numerical strength of the MVD internal troops in Chechnya will be cut by 5,000 by the end of 2003.

North Caucasus Military District Commander Col-Gen Vladimir Boldyrev says more than 75 rebel groups are active in Chechnya, including around 1,200 people with

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about 300 foreign mercenaries. Some 26,000 troops of the North Caucasus Military District are currently in Chechnya. The 42nd Motor Rifle Division, two special brigades and an intelligence unit form the backbone of the contingent.

2 July 2003 The head of the State Council of the Chechen Republic, Khuseyn Isayev, says the State Council believes it is necessary to sign a treaty on separating powers between the executive authorities of Russia and the Chechen Republic before the end of October 2003.

3 July 2003 An article in *Trud* discusses the transfer of control of the counter-terrorist operation in Chechnya from the FSB to the MVD.

The head of the International Committee for the Red Cross mission in Russia Michael Minning says that the situation in the Chechen republic is improving. He is meeting deputy secretary of the Security Council Valentin Sobolev.

3 July 2003 Basmannyy District Court in Moscow issues a warrant for the arrest of the head of the Menatep company, Platon Lebedev. He is accused of large scale embezzlement. Lebedev is closely linked with Yukos oil company.

The Duma URF faction leader, Boris Nemtsov, believes that the detention of Platon Lebedev by the Prosecutor-General's Office is a "political affair".

3 July 2003 Valentina Matviyenko, presidential envoy to the Northwestern Federal District and formerly deputy prime minister, says she will run for governor of St Petersburg.

4 July 2003 Mikhail Khodorkovskiy, head of Yukos oil, leaves the Prosecutor-General's Office after questioning.

Yabloko leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, says to journalists that the situation around Yukos is extremely damaging to the country's economy. He condemns the state for cracking down on big business.

4 July 2003 Deputy Interior Minister and head of the Main Internal Affairs Directorate for the Southern Federal District Col-Gen Mikhail Pankov is appointed to head the regional operational headquarters running counterterrorism operations in the North Caucasus.

Vladimir Putin calls for the unmasking of traitors in the Chechen MVD. He says this at a meeting in the Kremlin with Chechen acting President Akhmad Kadyrov, Chechen Prime Minister Anatoliy Popov and head of the Chechen State Council Khuseyn Isayev.

Akhmad Kadyrov, the head of the Chechen administration, says all refugees from Chechnya will return from Ingushetia in September.

Vladimir Putin says the Chechen Republic's presidential election will be held on 5 October.

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4 July 2003 The chairwoman of the Moscow Helsinki Group, Lyudmila Mikhaylovna Alekseyeva, strongly criticises the human rights situation in Bashkortostan.

4 July 2003 An article in *Nezavisimoye Voyennoye Obozreniye* says the Russian army command and control system is overly dependent on foreign IT.

4 July 2003 The president of South Osetia (which is part of Georgia) sends a request to the Russian government for South Osetia to join the Russian Federation.

4 July 2003 Transneft launches the second pipeline strand of the Baltic Pipeline System (BPS). The launch of the second strand will allow increasing BPS's throughput capacity by 6 million tonnes of oil to a total of 18 million tonnes a year. BPS-2 runs parallel to the existing BPS-1 pipeline and will connect the Baltic Sea Primorsk oil terminal with an oil pumping station in Yaroslavl Region.

5 July 2003 Female Chechen suicide bombers carry out a bombing at the Krylya rock festival at Tushino airfield outside Moscow.

The MVD says it will step up counter-terrorism measures following the suicide bombing.

First Deputy Interior Minister Rashid Nurgaliyev says a link has been established between Chechen rebel fighters and the explosions at Tushino.

Salambek Maigov, special envoy of Aslan Maskhadov in Russia, denies that the Chechen separatist leadership is behind the Tushino bombing.

Ravil Gaynutdin, head of the Council of Muftis of Russia, denounces the Tushino bombing.

The minister for ethnic affairs, religious policy and external relations in the pro-Moscow Chechen government, Taus Dzhabrailov, says the suicide bombers were trained outside Russia.

The FSB director Nikolay Patrushev says it will hand over control over the anti-terrorist operation in Chechnya to the MVD by 1 September.

The government of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria states that it has no relation to the reported bombings in Moscow. It condemns suicide attacks and all acts of terrorism.

6 July 2003 Moscow law-enforcement agencies state that 15 people died (plus the two suicide bombers) as a result of the acts of terrorism at Tushino airfield. Sixty people were treated for injuries after the blasts. Forty people are in hospital, and the condition of 12 of them is viewed as grave. One of the dead suicide bombers had a passport in the name of Zulikha Likhadzhieva with the place of residence registered as Chechnya.

6 July 2003 Yukos oil company chairman Mikhail Khodorkovskiy is interviewed on TV-2 in Tomsk. He links the situation surrounding his company "to the beginning of a struggle for power among various wings in circles very close to President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin".

6 July 2003 The Government Commission on Protective Measures in Foreign Trade and Customs and Tariff Policy lowers the export duty on oil to 25.1 dollars per tonne from 1 August.

6 July 2003 A member of the working group for amnesty and the first deputy prosecutor of Chechnya, Vladimir Chernyayev, says the Prosecutor's Office of Chechnya is considering an amnesty for 89 former rebels under the Duma amnesty resolution. 43 former rebels had surrendered to the Chechen MVD and the Prosecutor's Office by 1 July. 12 have been amnestied, and 11 are exempt from criminal proceedings. 46 former rebels have surrendered to the FSB. 19 of them are exempt from criminal proceedings. 31 former rebels have been amnestied in Chechnya.

7 July 2003 Vladimir Putin meets the Russian government to discuss the Tushino suicide bombing and the Chechen situation.

Duma speaker Gennadiy Seleznev says terrorists who commit grave crimes must be sentenced to death.

Acting president of Chechnya Akhmad Kadyrov says proposal by human rights activists to hold talks with representatives of illegal armed units contains nothing new. He rejects the idea of talks with separatist forces.

Ivan Rybkin, the former secretary of the Security Council, and the newly elected leader of the Liberal Russia party, says the Chechen problem cannot be resolved by force and would require an international peacekeeping force. He says talks should be held with separatist leaders.

7 July 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says 80 permanent-readiness units and formations will be manned with volunteer servicemen by the year 2008. This will include 72 Defence Ministry ones and comprise about 130,000 positions.

7 July 2003 Deputy Atomic Energy Minister Sergey Antipov says Russia and the United Kingdom plan to sign contracts worth 56 million dollars in autumn 2003 for the disposal of nuclear-powered submarines and the implementation of other nuclear environmental projects in Russia.

8 July 2003 *Severnyy Kavkaz* reports that the president of Kabardino-Balkaria, Valeriy Kokov, and the leader of South Osetia, Eduard Kokoyty, have signed an agreement on cooperation in the socio-economic and cultural spheres.

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8 July 2003 The Ministry of Finance says Russia's GDP amounted to R6,053.4billion in the first half of 2003. This year's GDP is planned at R13,050billion.

8 July 2003 The Northern and Pacific Fleets begin command post exercises.

8 July 2003 Vladimir Putin's decree on the election of the president of the Chechen Republic comes into force. According to the decree, the election will be held on 5 October.

The head of the Chechen police, Alu Alkhanov, says a special anti-terror unit is being set up in the Chechen police.

The UNHCR says over 84,000 refugees from Chechnya are currently registered on the territory of Ingushetia and are receiving humanitarian aid from the UN.

9 July 2003 Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov says the MVD is drafting proposals on ways to invigorate the struggle against terrorism. "I think the necessity to step up the struggle against terrorism must be reflected in our laws. We shall submit a proposal to prolong the period of detention of those suspected of being involved in terrorist acts to 30 days. This is a must. I think that in September, the State Duma will introduce appropriate amendments to the Criminal Procedural Code."

Ren TV reports that the FSB has ordered all mobile phone companies to discontinue the practice of encoding conversations following the Tushino bombing.

Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov says two people have been detained in Tver Region on suspicion of plotting further suicide bombings.

9 July 2003 Federation Council speaker Sergey Mironov says that the Federation Council should become an elected body.

9 July 2003 Yukos denies information cited in an inquiry filed with the Prosecutor-General's Office by Duma deputy Mikhail Bugera in which he claimed that Yukos has possibly evaded taxes.

9 July 2003 Energy Minister Igor Yusufov asks Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov to order ministries and departments to prepare and submit to the government a draft directive on the development of a feasibility study for the Murmansk pipeline system, with a capacity of up to 150 million tonnes, including 10 million tonnes of reserve capacity. As part of the Murmansk project it is planned to transport oil from Western Siberia to Murmansk and then export it to the USA and Europe.

9 July 2003 Chechnya's Central Electoral Commission officially declares the launch of the presidential election campaign.

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9 July 2003 The female bomber captured by police in Moscow is believed to be Zarima Muzhikhoyeva, 22, an ethnic Ingush.

9 July 2003 The Ministry of Justice deletes the Working Russia's Communist party, headed by Viktor Anpilov, from the state register of political parties.

10 July 2003 Acting Chairman of the Financial Monitoring Committee Viktor Zubkov says some Russian banks may have links with drug trafficking.

10 July 2003 MVD spokesman Yuriy Shuvalov says the MVD possessed information about planned suicide bombings in Moscow before they occurred, but did not know where the bombings would take place.

10 July 2003 Assistant to the Russian President Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says Moscow does not intend to hold talks with Aslan Maskhadov on a settlement in Chechnya, and no initiative of this kind on his part would be of any interest to the federal centre.

10 July 2003 The government adopts the federal target programme to man the armed forces with servicemen doing their military service on the basis of contracts. In the space of four years (2004-2007) 147,500 contract soldiers and sergeants will be taken on. This equates to 80 permanent-readiness units, of which 72 will be within the Ministry of Defence's remit, three under the command of the Border Troops and five under the command of the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Internal Troops. The government cuts the financing envisaged to implement the programme to transfer a part of the armed forces onto a contract basis from R138 billion to R79.1 billion for the period up to the year 2008.

Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says contract soldiers will not replace all of the conscripts in the Russian armed forces in the foreseeable future. Contract servicemen filling the positions of privates and non-commissioned officers will account for 49% of the Russian armed forces' manpower at the end of 2007. The current percentage is 22, with the number of contract soldiers totalling 130,000.

URF leader Boris Nemtsov sharply criticizes the army reform plan proposed by the MOD and approved by the government.

10 July 2003 The Prosecutor-General's Office officially confirms that its officials are conducting searches and other investigative activities under the criminal case against Menatep chief Platon Lebedev.

11 July 2003 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov signs a decree bringing the Russian government tighter control over the management of foreign financial assets of the former Soviet Union.

11 July 2003 The Council of Europe and the State Council of Tatarstan hold a conference in Kazan on federalism in Russia and other European countries.

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12 July 2003 Former Security Council Secretary Ivan Rybkin says he intends to overcome the splits in the Liberal Russia party. On 4 July Ivan Rybkin was elected co-chairman of the party.

12 July 2003 Drilling in the Sakhalin-1 oil investment project begins.

14 July 2003 Andrey Illarionov, President Vladimir Putin's economic adviser, says reviewing private property rights in Russia may lead to a civil war. He says the attacks on Yukos "are hampering efforts to improve the business climate in Russia".

14 July 2003 Presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says Chechen separatist leader Aslan Maskhadov will not be amnestied and therefore will not be able to take part in the upcoming elections in the republic.

14 July 2003 Igor Ivanov, on a trip in the Middle East, discusses the situation in that region with US Secretary of State Colin Powell and British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw by telephone.

15 July 2003 Deputy head of the presidential administration Dmitriy Kozak says human rights organizations should "put pressure on the authorities" demanding that legal and economic mechanisms of human rights protection be created. Kozak is speaking at an all-Russian meeting of heads of human rights commissions of constituent parts of the Russian Federation.

15 July 2003 President of Ingushetia Murat Zyazikov says that around 64,000 displaced persons from Chechnya and 20,000 from North Osetia are in Ingushetia at present.

15 July 2003 Economic Development and Trade Minister German Gref says that GDP grew by 7.2% in the first half of 2003.

16 July 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov visits Chechnya. He rules out the possibility of conducting negotiations with Aslan Maskhadov. He says nearly 1,300 rebels are currently operating in Chechnya. This includes 300 foreign mercenaries.

16 July 2003 GRU chief Col-Gen Valentin Korabelnikov is interviewed in *Izvestiya*.

16 July 2003 Yukos oil company head Mikhail Khodorkovskiy warns that there could be significant capital flight from Russia.

16 July 2003 Chechen head Akhmad Kadyrov says a power-sharing agreement between his republic and the federal government should give Chechnya broad autonomy.

17 July 2003 Dagestani MVD reports that a powerful explosion has taken place in Khasavyurt.

17 July 2003 FSB director Nikolay Patrushev visits Chechnya and Ingushetia.

17 July 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says that the Russian leadership has long-term plans, over the course of 10-12 years, to create a normal infrastructure to base the Black Sea Fleet in Krasnodar Territory. He says "this isn't something for now, or for the next few years - it's a long-term prospect". He visits the Novorossiysk naval base. He says this does not mean that the fleet will be transferred from Ukraine to Russia.

17 July 2003 Krasnodar Territory governor Aleksandr Tkachev sets up an antiterrorist foundation. The money will be spent to ensure the security at important strategic facilities and pay rewards for local residents who have supplied information about preparation of terrorist attacks.

18 July 2003 Centre TV journalist Alikhan Guliyev is murdered in Moscow.

18 July 2003 The Office of the Prosecutor-General insists that the arrest of Menatep head Platon Lebedev was legitimate and justified.

18 July 2003 ITAR-TASS reports a MOD source as saying that a complete inventory of the portable anti-aircraft missile systems is being made in the armed forces of the Russian Federation parallel to the tightening of control over storage and relocation. This step is dictated by the need for counteracting international terrorist organizations that are seeking to get possession of such systems.

18 July 2003 Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev says MinAtom intends to commission a number of new nuclear power-generating facilities and extend the period of operation of a number of existing nuclear power facilities.

18 July 2003 Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeyev says that Russia will collect no less than 70 million tonnes of grain in 2003.

18 July 2003 Presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says: "We are well able to resolve the problem of Chechnya without any international mediators. Russia had the experience of using mediators after the first Chechen campaign, and this experience proved to be unsuccessful, to put it mildly. At that time, the OSCE representative often lost impartiality." The International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights has proposed an initiative to invite the OSCE or UN as mediators in negotiations on Chechnya.

19 July 2003 The Liberal Russia party holds an extraordinary party congress.

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19 July 2003 Deputy Prime Minister Boris Aleshin says Vladimir Putin's target of doubling GDP by 2010 can be met.

21 July 2003 Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeyev says the 2003 grain harvest will be less than the 2002 harvest.

21 July 2003 Aslan Maskhadov presents a settlement plan for Chechnya on the Chechenpress website. It advocates "conditional independence via an international administration" for the settlement of the Russian-Chechen conflict.

22 July 2003 Vladimir Putin signs a decree on aspects of the organization of civilian service as an alternative to military service.

22 July 2003 Duma Chairman Gennadiy Seleznev says he believes the death penalty should be introduced for terrorists.

22 July 2003 The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MEDT) states that GDP grew 7.3% in June against June 2002.

In the first half of 2003, GDP grew by 7.2% compared to the first half of 2002, when it was 4.5% higher than in January-June 2001. In June 2002, GDP grew 3.6% against June 2001. MEDT expects GDP to grow by 5.9% in 2003.

MEDT reports that foreign trade turnover in January-June 2003 increased by 25.5% compared with the same period in 2002, and reached 93.9 billion dollars. The trade surplus amounted to 28.5 billion dollars, with exports exceeding imports by 90%.

Exports amounted to 61.2 billion dollars, a 28.3% increase compared with the first half of 2002, and exceeded the figures for the past few years. Exports to the far abroad outside CIS amounted to 51.9 billion dollars, a 27.5% increase, while exports to the CIS countries amounted to 9.3 billion dollars, a 30.9% increase.

Imports in the first half of 2003 amounted to 32.7 billion dollars, a 20.7% increase compared with the first half of 2002.

22 July 2003 Ivan Rybkin says that Aslan Maskhadov must take part in the forthcoming presidential elections in Chechnya.

22 July 2003 Abdul-Khakim Sultygov, the president's commissioner for human rights in Chechnya, suggests checking the sources of financing for non-governmental human rights organizations (NGO) to probe their possible involvement with the international terrorist network.

22 July 2003 Vladimir Putin discusses the state of affairs in the Russian army. The meeting was attended by Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov, his deputy, Lyubov Kudelina, and Chief of General Staff Anatoliy Kvashnin.

23 July 2003 Vladimir Putin signs a decree on measures to carry out administrative reform in 2003-04.

23 July 2003 A VTsIOM survey gives Vladimir Putin an approval rating of 78%, up from June's 77%. 9% of those polled (22% in June) said they disapprove of his performance.

Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov's actions were supported by 42% of respondents (36% last month) and came under criticism from 47% (57%). Putin is also Russia's most trusted political figure (49%). He is followed by Communist Leader Gennadiy Zyuganov and Emergencies Minister Sergey Shoygu, each with 13%.

Some 22% of those polled said they do not trust any of the country's politicians. The poll involved 1,600 Russians.

23 July 2003 Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov says since the declaration of the amnesty for participants of armed formations in Chechnya, around 200 fighters have surrendered to the law-enforcement bodies.

Head of the Central Electoral Commission Aleksandr Veshnyakov says Chechen rebel president Aslan Maskhadov has the right to run for president of Chechnya.

Stanislav Ilyasov, the federal minister for Chechen affairs, says the issue of who will be in charge of Chechnya's resources, its subsoil reserves and natural monopolies' services will be resolved within the framework of an agreement between the federal centre and the republic on the division of powers. The draft agreement should be ready by the end of August.

24 July 2003 In a letter to *Kommersant*, Boris Berezovskiy accuses Vladimir Putin of carrying out a creeping anticonstitutional coup d'état in Russia in relation to his policy towards the oligarchs.

24 July 2003 The Ministry of Agriculture states that Russia harvested 9.3 million tonnes of grain by 23 July, a 50% drop from last year.

24 July 2003 The head of Rosneft, Sergey Bogdanchikov, says oil production in Chechnya increased by 27% to 1.75 million tonnes in January-June 2003. 700,000 tonnes of oil were produced in Chechnya in 2001.

24 July 2003 Former defence minister Igor Rodionov says the thoughtless introduction of Western military experience is to blame for the miserable condition of the Russian armed forces. He criticises plans to create a professional army. "The armed forces are capable of maintaining defence capability, because there is something left in the Strategic Missile Troops and the navy ... however, an army-level joint operation involving three divisions interacting with aviation and the navy with the help of a well-trained headquarters and inflicting efficient fire strikes is something that we cannot carry out." He warns that "we are currently incapable of sealing off Chechnya efficiently enough to prevent any gang and any cart with TNT from going through. We cannot do it."

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24 July 2003 Col-Gen Vladimir Bulgakov has taken the office of Russian Ground Troops deputy commander-in-chief. He was chief of staff of the North Caucasian Military District.

24 July 2003 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov appoints Nikolay Kutyin state secretary and deputy director-general of the Russian Conventional Weapons Agency. He replaces Aleksandr Nozdrachev. Prior to his current appointment, Kutyin worked as deputy director-general of the Russian Munitions Agency.

24 July 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov visits St Petersburg. He meets the plenipotentiary representative of the Russian president in Northwest Federal District, Valentina Matviyenko. He discusses the transition to contract service. He notes that one regiment of the 76th Airborne Assault Division had already been brought up to full strength on a contract basis and that it had commenced its combat tasks in Chechnya. Two permanent-readiness units in Leningrad Military District, the 138th and the 200th brigades, are due to go over to a contract basis in 2006 and 2007 respectively.

25 July 2003 The MVD states that explosive devices have been found at the village of Tolstopaltsevo in Moscow Region.

25 July 2003 Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov says the latest terrorist attacks in Russia show organized aggression by forces of international terrorism. Gryzlov is speaking at a graduation ceremony for students of the Krasnodar Law Institute.

25 July 2003 The head of the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources, Vitaliy Artyukhov, says that more than 15% of Russian territory has an environment that does not meet any admissible norms. He says more than 60% of the Russian population live in polluted areas and the main part of GDP is produced in those areas.

25 July 2003 Colonel Yuriy Budanov has been declared guilty of the murder of the 18-year-old Chechen woman, Elza Kungayeva, in March 2000 and sentenced to 10 years in prison, to be served in a strict-regime colony.

25 July 2003 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov says that the experience of the war in Chechnya has prompted a revision of combat training priorities in the armed forces.

A large-scale tactical exercise with live firing begins at facilities of the North Caucasus Military District's 20th Motor-Rifle Division stationed in Volgograd Region.

25 July 2003 The Kaliningrad Region administration says it opposes the proposal made by the Russian president's special envoy for Kaliningrad Region Dmitriy Rogozin on creating a federal district in the region.

25 July 2003 New staff appointments have been made in the border guard service of the FSB. Six deputies have been appointed to the head of the border guard service, Col-Gen Vladimir Pronichev. Lt-Gen Vladimir Rozhkov and Col-Gen Mansur Valiyev, who also takes over the service's organizational department, have been appointed first deputy chiefs of the service. Lt-Gen Aleksandr Manilov and Major-Generals Aleksandr Mizon, Nikolay Rybalkin and Viktor Trufanov have been appointed to the four posts of deputy chief of the service.

On 11 March 2003 President Vladimir Putin signed a decree on reorganizing a number of Russian security departments. Under the decree, the service was passed to the jurisdiction of the FSB and subordinated to the first deputy director of the FSB, Vladimir Pronichev.

26 July 2003 Dagestan's new constitution comes into force.

26 July 2003 Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin says he expects the amount of net capital transferred to Russia to exceed capital flight in 2003, which will be the first such occurrence in the modern history of Russia. The Finance Ministry estimates that net capital transfers from private sources to Russia will total 2 billion dollars in 2003, 4 billion dollars in 2004 and 6 billion dollars in 2005. Capital flight totalled 11.1 billion dollars in 2002, down from 16.3 billion dollars in 2001 and 24.8 billion dollars in 2000. In the first half of 2003, net capital transfers to Russia reached 2.6 billion dollars, against the net capital flight of 2 billion dollars in the first half of 2003.

26 July 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov congratulates the sailors and officers of the country's Northern Fleet on the 70th anniversary of the fleet's foundation.

26 July 2003 VTsIOM and the Public Opinion Foundation (FOM) have conducted polls among voters. If the Russian parliamentary election were held tomorrow, the chances of Yedinaya Rossiya and the CPRF would practically be equal. 27 and 26% of voters are ready to vote in favour of One Russia and the Communists, respectively, according to VTsIOM, and 21 against 19%, according to FOM.

28 July 2003 The Prosecutor-General's Office brings new tax evasion charges against the chief executive of Menatep and co-owner of the Yukos oil company, Platon Lebedev.

URF leader Boris Nemtsov says "it is critically essential for the authorities and business to reach a rapid compromise" in the Yukos case. He says that "the Russian stock market has lost more than 25 billion dollars and went down by nearly 20% since the conflict began".

28 July 2003 Vladimir Putin signs a decree incorporating the new name of Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area in the constitution of the Russian Federation. It will now be called the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area - Yugra.

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28 July 2003 The Prosecutor-General's Office says the murder of the Liberal Russia political party's MP Sergey Yushenkov had been solved. Six people will face charges.

28 July 2003 Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko announces that oil production in Russia in the first half of 2003 totalled 202 million tonnes against 182 million tonnes over the same period in 2002.

28 July 2003 Abdul-Khakim Sultygov, the Russian president's special envoy to Chechnya, addresses a letter to Sergio Vieira de Mello, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Secretary General's special envoy in Iraq. He says: "I suggest conducting joint research into the international experience of preventing servicemen from committing crimes against civilians during wars, local conflicts and UN peacekeeping operations since the adoption of the Geneva conventions."

28 July 2003 Vladimir Putin urges the Economic Development and Trade Ministry, the Defence Ministry and the Finance Ministry to accelerate their work on the military budget and defence orders for 2004.

29 July 2003 Vladimir Putin has said there will be no further major upheavals in the country's military and security structures. He is speaking at an awards ceremony for top officers in Moscow. He says "the reorganization of the power-wielding bloc is complete". He says the fight against international terrorism remains the priority for Russia's security agencies.

29 July 2003 Eurasia leader Aleksandr Dugin says that the Eurasia party intends to take part in the Duma election in December 2003 in a bloc with Sergey Glazyev, a co-chairman of the People's Patriotic Union of Russia.

29 July 2003 Shaykh Nafigulla Ashirov, the co-head of the Council of Muftis of Russia and the supreme mufti for the Asian part of Russia, has urged the Russian leadership to put an end to oppression of Muslims and incitement of ethnic enmity.

29 July 2003 Responsibility for the Regional Operations Staff (ROS) running antiterrorist operations in the North Caucasus in effect passes from the FSB to the MVD. FSB Director Nikolay Patrushev and Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov presented the new head of the ROS at the main military base in Khankala. Deputy Interior Minister Yuriy Maltsev has been appointed to the post, replacing FSB Col-Gen Anatoliy Yezhkov.

29 July 2003 The commander-in-chief of the Russian navy, Vladimir Kuroyedov, is interviewed in *Izvestiya* on the navy's future.

30 July 2003 Army Gen Nikolay Kormiltsev, the commander-in-chief of the land forces and deputy defence minister says the MOD is drafting a resolution on the formation of regular peacekeeping units.

30 July 2003 The Air Force announces that its aircraft fleet may be halved by 2011 unless financing is disbursed to overhaul and replace it. At least 40% of the aircraft have been used for over 20 years. Just over 3% of the fleet has been in use for ten years. Around 1% of planes and helicopters were received less than five years ago.

Commander of the Russian Airborne Troops Col-Gen Georgiy Shpak says he is against changes to the status and subordination of the troops under his command. "We want the airborne troops to be an arm per se of the armed forces - with its own specifics, its morale, traditions and team spirit - for it to provide assistance in the development of the other arms of service. We do not claim anything else but it is desirable for us to be left alone. This is the view of the command and the military council of the Airborne Troops."

30 July 2003 An anonymous government official informs journalists that Vladimir Putin's proposals for the formation of a government drawing support from the parliamentary majority do not imply a transition to a parliamentary republic. He says the president's proposal was aimed at winning support for the government's policies in the Duma. "What is intended is to establish some kind of tradition of more active involvement of parliament in the formation of the government, along with the emergence of mutual responsibility of the parliamentary majority towards the government and of the government towards the parliamentary majority."

31 July 2003 Vladimir Putin visits the Federal Nuclear Centre in Sarov. He says Russia intends to continue to adhere to its commitments not to conduct nuclear tests. He says Russia will remain a nuclear power.

Deputy director of the Safe Nuclear Power Engineering Institute Igor Linge says the federal programme of nuclear and radiation security of Russia has been financed by the state to 3-5% of the planned amount. Linge specified that since 2000, the Atomic Energy Ministry has been the coordinator of the programme planned for a term of six years. The funds planned to be allocated to the programme total more than R6.5 billion, including R2 billion intended for research and R3.4 billion for investments.

31 July 2003 Vladimir Putin praises religious freedom in Russia.

31 July 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov is interviewed on military reform in *Gudok*.

31 July 2003 Col-Gen Aleksandr Savenkov, the deputy prosecutor-general and chief military prosecutor, says in an interview in *Komsomolskaya Pravda* that the illegal actions of Russian generals and admirals have caused damages to the state totalling about R2.4 billion.

August

1 August 2003 Dagestani newspaper *Novoye Delo* reports that large scale mobilisation exercises will be held in Dagestan in early September.

1 August 2003 A poll conducted by the Public Opinion Foundation shows that that 21% of those polled are ready to vote in favour of Yedinaya Rossiya, while 20% would vote for the Communist Party.

LDPR	8%
Yabloko	5%
URF	4%
People's Party	2%
Against all	5%
Don't know	21%
Do not intend to vote	13%.

The poll was conducted 26-27 July in 100 villages, towns and settlements in 44 Russian regions, territories and republics; 1,500 residents were polled.

1 August 2003 Economic Development and Trade Minister German Gref says an outflow of capital has again started in Russia due to the situation with the Yukos company.

1 August 2003 The commander of Russian Airborne Troops, Georgiy Shpak, is interviewed in *Nezavisimoye Voyennoye Obozreniye*. He says the measures being taken to detain and destroy the political and military leaders of Chechen separatists are not sufficient.

The Russian president's special representative for human rights in Chechnya, Abdul-Khakim Sultygov, says the amnesty in Chechnya may be prolonged. It is due to end on 1 September.

1 August 2003 A bombing at the military hospital in Mozdok has caused at least 25 casualties.

2 August 2003 Moscow's law-enforcement bodies have been put on increased alert by joint decision of the MVD and the Moscow Main Internal Affairs Directorate.

2 August 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says that a new military hospital will be built in Mozdok. He criticises security arrangements around the hospital.

The Chechen separatist leadership denies involvement in the hospital bomb blast.

3 August 2003 The number of people killed in the bombing of the military hospital in Mozdok rises to 52. Deputy Prosecutor-General Sergey Fridinskiy says two people have been detained in Mozdok for their suspected involvement in the suicide bombing.

4 August 2003 Chechen administration head Akhmad Kadyrov has officially notified the election commission that he will run for president of Chechnya.

4 August 2003 The Kursk submarine salvage operation, which has lasted for almost three years, comes to an end.

5 August 2003 Health Minister Yuriy Shevchenko writes an article on the state of health in Russian society in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*. He says only about 20% of the population is healthy.

5 August 2003 Deputy Finance Minister Anton Siluanov says Russia's GDP is projected at R15,300 billion in 2004.

5 August 2003 Chechen Prime Minister Anatoliy Popov has been appointed acting president of the Chechen Republic. This is because the current acting head of the republic, Akhmad Kadyrov, is standing down as he is running for president.

5 August 2003 The commander of the Baltiysk naval base in the Kaliningrad Region, Vice-Adm Viktor Mardusin, has been appointed deputy commander of the Pacific Fleet by a presidential decree.

5 August 2003 Deputy Prosecutor-General Sergey Fridinskiy says a third suspect has been detained in the investigation into the act of terrorism committed in Mozdok.

6 August 2003 Boris Berezovskiy says he will probably run in the December 2003 Duma elections.

6 August 2003 The Prosecutor-General's Office confirms that the office of the company Sibintek in Moscow was searched as part of a probe into the activities of Platon Lebedev.

6 August 2003 The shareholders of Yukos and Sibneft have agreed on the main management principles for the YukosSibneft company, which is to be created as a result of their merger by the end of 2003.

Russian oil exports in January-June 2003 amounted to 106.019 million tonnes, up 16% year-on-year. Russian oil exports to outside the CIS in January-June 2003 amounted to over 87.2 million tonnes for 15.4 billion dollars. Most oil exports went to Germany (12.21 million tonnes), Italy (9.37 million tonnes), Holland (8.87 million

tonnes) and Poland (7.45 million tonnes). Exports to the CIS in the first six months of the year amounted to over 18.8 million tonnes of oil for 2.27 billion dollars, including exports to Ukraine and Belarus of 7.77 million tonnes and 9.658 million tonnes respectively (953.27m and 1.182 billion dollars).

Exports of Russian gas in January-June 2003 amounted to 95.24 billion cubic metres - up 1.5% year-on-year. In cost terms, exports of natural gas in the reporting period were up 30% to 10.02 billion dollars. Exports of natural gas to outside the CIS in January-June amounted to 72.477 billion cubic metres for over 9 billion dollars, with exports to the CIS of 22.76 billion cubic metres for 1.014 billion dollars. Most natural gas exports went to Germany (16.87 billion cubic metres), Italy (10.19 billion cubic metres), Ukraine (11.88 billion cubic metres) and Belarus (9.37 billion cubic metres). Natural gas exports in June amounted to 13.859 billion cubic metres for 1.54 billion dollars, of which 10.38 billion cubic metres went outside the CIS (1.38 billion dollars), with exports to the CIS of 3.477 billion cubic metres (159m dollars). Natural gas exports in 2002 amounted to 181.7 billion cubic metres for 15.5 billion dollars.

7 August 2003 The Federation Council speaker Sergey Mironov suggests that the Federation Council be elected as of 1 January 2005.

7 August 2003 The director of the FSB Nikolay Patrushev believes that an "effective fight against international terrorism is impossible without tighter security on Russia's southern borders". Patrushev has talks in Sochi with the leadership of Krasnodar Territory and officials from the Federal Border Guard Service.

7 August 2003 The nationalities policies minister, Vladimir Zorin, says Russia ranks third in the world in the inflow of migrants after the USA and Germany. He says since the 1989 census, about six million migrants have come to Russia. According to the 2002 census, Russia's population is currently 145.2m.

7 August 2003 An article in *Krasnaya Zvezda* says that the consistent shortfall in funding for new armaments for the Russian armed forces is putting key projects in doubt. The paper says that the armaments budget has a current shortfall of R40-42 billion.

The Russian Conventional Weapons Agency states it is exporting its products to 14 countries.

7 August 2003 Dagestani newspaper *Zhizn* states that the Kremlin no longer supports Akhmad Kadyrov as head of the pro-Moscow Chechen administration. It says FSB officer Said-Selim Peshkhoyev is "the most likely Kremlin candidate".

8 August 2003 CPRF leader Gennadiy Zyuganov expresses regret that Sergey Glazyev, a member of the Communist Party faction, has decided to run for parliamentary elections separately from the faction. He says the Kremlin is trying to split the opposition vote.

8 August 2003 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says industrial growth in Russia totalled 6.8% over the first six months of 2003, while it was 3.2% over the corresponding period in 2002.

8 August 2003 In an interview with the Shariat news agency, the amir of the Riyadus Salikhin (Black Widows) brigade, Abdullah Shamil Basayev, takes responsibility for the suicide bombings in Mozdok (5 June) and Chechnya (20 June).

8 August 2003 A report on Russian Centre TV states that the air forces have said that about 50% of Russian air space is not under control of Russian military radar.

10 August 2003 Yevgeniy Kiselev (former editor-in-chief of the independent TV channel TVS) says Russia is on the edge of a political ice age. Kiselev says he does not see any possibility for TVS journalists to set up a new channel. "It is unrealistic to win a tender for a TV channel. The federal tender commission is a completely controlled structure. What the Press Ministry decides goes."

11 August 2003 Secretary of the Yedinaya Rossiya general council Valeriy Bogomolov is interviewed in *Kommersant-Vlast*. The article also gives an outline of YR's structure and history.

11 August 2003 Sergey Glazyev, chairman of the Congress of Russian Communities, calls for creating a single bloc uniting all patriotic forces to contest the Duma elections.

11 August 2003 Chechen Prosecutor Vladimir Kravchenko says about 100 rebels have been amnestied in Chechnya.

11 August 2003 The MVD says that the formation of six new spetsnaz units has been completed within the MVD Internal Troops. 16 spetsnaz units were presently operating within the ministry structure.

12 August 2003 Vladimir Putin signs a decree "Issues of the Federal Security Service of the Russian federation". The decree establishes the Statute on the FSB of the Russian Federation and the structure of the agencies of the Federal Security Service.

By decree, the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation is also permitted to have two first deputy directors, a first deputy director who is the head of the Border Guard Service, a deputy state secretary of the director of the Federal Security Service, six deputy directors who are heads of departments of the Federal Security Service, a deputy director who is the head of the Inspector's Directorate of the Federal Security Service and is permitted to form a board numbering 19 people.

12 August 2003 The Chechen Electoral Commission invites international observers to the forthcoming presidential elections in Chechnya. Official invitations are sent to leaders of the OSCE democratic institutions and human rights bureau, the PACE secretary-general, the Islamic Conference Organization, the League of Arab States and the chairman of the CIS Executive Committee.

12 August 2003 Vice-Adm Mikhail Abramov, former commander of the Pacific Fleet's Maritime Flotilla, is appointed chief of staff and first deputy commander of the Baltic Fleet.

13 August 2003 The Justice Ministry strikes off two political parties from the election list: the New Communist Party and the Socialist People's Party of Russia, thus bringing the number of officially registered parties down from 50 to 48.

13 August 2003 The MVD establishes a new division, Centre T, to combat mercenary terrorism. The new division will deal with terrorism with mercenary motives and will be attached to the Main Department for Combating Organized Crime of the MVD's Criminal Police.

13 August 2003 Goskomstat states that foreign investment in Russia totalled 12.66 billion dollars in the first half of 2003, up 51.3% year on year. Foreign direct investment totalled 2.53 billion dollars, or 20% of the total and was up 35.3% from the first half of 2002. Investment of 862m dollars went into capital (6.8%, an increase of 8.7%), 862m dollars was in loans received from foreign co-owners (6.8%, up 12.7%) and 798m dollars was other direct investment (6.3%, up 170%).

Foreign portfolio investment amounted to 38m dollars (0.3% of the total, down 81.1% on the first half of 2002), including 36m dollars in stocks and shares, down 67.3%, and 2m dollars in company debt instruments, down 98.1%. Other investments amounted to 10.91 billion dollars (79.7% of the total and up 60.2% year on year), including 1.57 billion dollars in trade loans (12.4%, up 94%) and 8.44 billion dollars in other loans (66.6%, up 56.3%).

Most of the foreign investment came from Germany (3.14 billion dollars), Britain (2.05 billion dollars), Cyprus (1.57m dollars), Virgin Islands (1.06 billion dollars), Switzerland (643m dollars), the Netherlands (692m dollars), the USA (458m dollars) and France (406m dollars).

13 August 2003 Goskomstat states that Russia produced 8.6 million tonnes of grain as of 1 August, which is 71.2% less than the amount produced by the same date in 2002.

14 August 2003 An article in *Izvestiya* discusses the Russian Far East's population drain.

14 August 2003 The deadline for self-nomination as a presidential candidate in the Chechen Republic expires at 1800 Moscow time. Abdul-Kerim Arsakhanov, the

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head of the election commission, says that 15 candidates had submitted documents for self-nomination. They are:

Said-Khamzat Gairbekov, a builder from Astrakhan
 Zayndi Mavlatov, a war pensioner from Grozny
 Avkhat Khanchukayev, a senior tutor at Grozny State University
 Malik Saydullayev, businessman
 Nikolay Payzulayev, a member of staff at the press service of the Chechen president
 Said-Selim Tsuyev, the republic's deputy military commandant
 Kudus Saduyev, general director of the Grozneftegaz open joint-stock company
 Ruslan Zakriyev, deputy editor-in-chief of the inter-district newspaper "Marsho" (Freedom)
 Khuseyn Biybulatov, aide to the president of the Elektrogorsk centre for research into safety at atomic power stations
 Akhmat Kadyrov, the head of the republic's administration
 Khasav Dadayev, a resident of Grozny
 Khuseyn Dzhabrailov, first deputy general director of the "Hotel Rossiya" open joint-stock company
 Abdula Bugayev, a public figure
 Shamil Burayev, former head of Achkhoy-Martanovskiy District
 Deputy Aslambek Aslakhonov.

Acting head of Chechnya Anatoliy Popov says there are up to 3,000 rebels in Chechnya. He says that no large rebel groups are left. Rebels act in groups of 10-15. Popov declares that the anti-terrorist operation in Chechnya is over.

Popov says that all of the Chechen refugee camps in Ingushetia are to be closed by 1 October 2003. All refugees will be moved to Grozny. Some 9,500 Chechen refugees currently live in camps in Ingushetia.

14 August 2003 An Economic Development and Trade Ministry report envisages an increase in oil exports of 22-36% by 2006. The main importers of Russian oil will be countries in Western Europe (Germany, Italy) and also in Central and Eastern Europe. There is some potential to increase oil exports by developing an energy dialogue with the USA.

By 2006 it is expected to increase oil exports to the CIS (up 19-22% from 2002), with oil product exports up 11-27% and coal up 13%, while keeping gas supplies to these countries stable.

14 August 2003 An article in *Kommersant* gives details of the 2004 defence order. Expenditure on the development and purchase of arms is expected to increase from the present R119.8 billion to R188 billion.

15 August 2003 The Fatherland-All Russia faction of the Duma decides to change its name. It will now be called Fatherland-One Russia (Otechestvo - Yedinaya Rossiya). The faction has 57 deputies.

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16 August 2003 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov approves a programme of Russia's social and economic development for 2003-2005.

16 August 2003 Justice Lt-Gen Aleksandr Ivanov, deputy chief military prosecutor, discusses in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* the theft of weapons from the armed forces.

17 August 2003 In the first round of voting in the presidential elections in Karachay-Cherkessia the main opposition candidate, republic's chief banker Mustafa Batdyyev, and incumbent president Vladimir Semenov polled 42.04 and 36.41% of votes respectively.

18 August 2003 The CPRF discusses KRO leader Sergey Glazyev's initiative on setting up a broad coalition of people's patriotic forces before the forthcoming Duma election.

18 August 2003 Vladimir Putin discusses Chechnya with Interior Minister Boris Gрызlov. Gрызlov says that the situation in Chechnya is "under control".

A train carrying military hardware is blown up on the North Caucasus railway. The explosion beneath the 18th carriage of train No 3801, comprising 41 carriages carrying military hardware, occurred on the Gudermes-Chervlennaya Junction stage of the two-track non-electrified Gudermes-Mozdok section.

18 August 2003 About 240,000 people are officially registered in Russia as HIV-infected. That is, 160 out of every 100,000 are infected. Russia has the highest pace of HIV infection spread.

18 August 2003 Army Gen Vladimir Matyukhin, first deputy chairman of the state committee for the defence order under the Defence Ministry, is interviewed *Voyenno-Promyshlennyy Kuryer*. He says the state is developing an efficient inspection system for the formation and accomplishment of the state defence order and long-term armament programme.

18 August 2003 Large-scale military exercises involving subunits from the Pacific Fleet, the Ground Troops and all the regional security bodies begin in the Russian Far East. Over 70,000 people will be taking part. Among the large number of scenarios to be simulated are antiterrorist operations, the arrest of poachers and dealing with results of natural disasters.

The Baltic Fleet begins a major naval exercise which will last until 21 August.

18 August 2003 *Kommersant* reports that Vladimir Putin and the head of Gazprom, Aleksey Miller, met on 15 August to discuss the expansion of Gazprom into Europe and the USA.

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19 August 2003 Leader of the Narodnaya Party Gennady Raykov is interviewed in *Komsomolskaya Pravda*. He says the party intends to produce a draft for the reform of property relations in Russia. He calls for public ownership, but rejects the Soviet model.

19 August 2003 Anatoliy Chubays will stand as a URF candidate in the Duma elections.

19 August 2003 Vladimir Putin attends the Maks airshow in Moscow.

19 August 2003 The Chechen government estimates that over the first half of 2003, 267 people were declared missing in the republic. A total of 564 people went missing in Chechnya in 2002.

19 August 2003 54 regional parliament heads meet in Moscow to discuss the 2004 draft federal budget. The chairman of the Khabarovsk Territory legislature, Yuriy Onopriyenko, is critical of the budget. He notes that 58% of all revenues go to the federal authorities and only 42% to the federation's constituent parts, saying that "these proportions are unfair". In the three years since the tax system was reformed, Khabarovsk Territory has lost at least R3 billion and is set to lose out on another R1 billion next year.

19 August 2003 A large mobilization exercise begins in the North Caucasus Military District.

Navy Commander-in-Chief Vladimir Kuroyedov says the large-scale exercise that is under way in the Russian Far East and Pacific Ocean will make it possible for the navy to elaborate combat documents determining its role in a state of emergency and in combating terrorism.

Units of the North-eastern Regional Border Department (NEBD) of Russia's Federal Border Guard Service are holding tactical exercises on land and at sea. Russian border guards are to hold exercises in conjunction with the ships of the US Coast Guard in the Bering Sea on 23-25 August to relieve those in distress and jointly patrol the convention-defined area.

Airborne troops begin a strategic command post exercise (CPX). The main goal of the five-day strategic CPX is to update practical skills of Airborne Troops leaders in managing troops and to practise interaction with the General Staff of the Armed Forces and other control bodies of ground troops groups in the accomplishment of assigned missions.

The Leningrad Military District launches a planned command post exercise (CPX).

20 August 2003 A helicopter containing the governor of Sakhalin Region, Igor Farkhutdinov, goes missing.

20 August 2003 An express poll of 1,600 Russian citizens taken on 15-18 August by the All-Russian Public Opinion Centre gives the following results:

74% of Russians approved of Vladimir Putin's work as head of state and 23% disapproved, compared to 78% and 19% in June.

45% were supportive of Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov, and 47% opposed.

Putin also topped the confidence rating list. When people were asked to name politicians whom they trusted, 43% named Putin. Second place continued to belong to Emergencies Minister Sergey Shoygu (whom 17% trust), and third place to CPRF leader Gennadiy Zyuganov (14%). They were followed by Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy with 13%, and Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov with 10%.

The top 10 most popular Russian politicians include Moscow mayor Yuriy Luzhkov (8%), presidential envoy in the Northwestern Federal District Valentina Matviyenko and Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov (both 7%), Yabloko leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy (5%) and Kemerovo Region governor Aman Tuleyev (5%). 20% did not trust anyone.

If elections to the Duma were held on 24 August the CPRF would beat Yedinaya Rossiya, obtaining 28% against 23% of the votes respectively. In July, the CPRF support was 26% and Yedinata Rossiya support was 27%.

The August poll showed that the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) would get 9% of the vote (5% in July), Yabloko 6% (6%) and the Union of Right Forces (SPS) 5% (4%).

If the elections were held next Sunday, 54% of Russians would cast their ballots, 26% do not intend to vote and 18% have not yet decided whether to vote or not.

20 August 2003 Goskomstat states that Russia's population shrank by 454,200 (0.3%) over the first half of the year to 144.5m people.

21 August 2003 Secretary of the Chechen election commission Ela Vakhitov states that 11 people have submitted registration documents of Chechen presidential candidates to the republican election commission. Three others also submitted invalid documents so only 11 candidates can run. They are:

- Aslanbek Aslakhanov, Member of the Duma, lower house
- Khuseyn Biybulatov, adviser to director of the Elektrogorskiy research centre on security of nuclear stations
- Abdula Bugayev, public figure
- Shamil Burayev, former head of the Achkhoy-Martanovskiy District administration
- Khuseyn Dzhabrailov, first deputy managing director of the Rossiya Hotel
- Akhmat Kadyrov, the present head of the republic and acting Chechen president
- Nikolay Payzulayev, staff member of the press service of the Chechen administration
- Kudus Saduyev, deputy managing director of the Grozneftegaz [Groznyy oil and gas] company
- Malik Saydullayev, businessman

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Sayed-Salim Tsuyev, deputy military commandant of the Chechen Republic
Avkhat Khanchukayev, a lecturer of Grozny University.

22 August 2003 The main political parties sign a declaration and a public agreement titled "Election-2003" in Moscow. These documents consist of some ethical guidelines for conducting the forthcoming election campaign and an undertaking to eschew "dirty tactics" and "mud-slinging wars". 27 of the 43 parties that can take part in the elections signed them. Among them were all parties represented in the Duma, with the exception of Yabloko.

22 August 2003 Abdul-Khakim Sultygov presidential human rights commissioner for Chechnya, dismisses claims by Amnesty International that Chechen refugees are being returned to Chechnya from Ingushetia by coercion and with no security guarantees.

22 August 2003 NTV external service reports that Primorskiy kray is holding exercises preparing to receive refugees from North Korea in the event of a US-North Korean war.

23 August 2003 It is confirmed that Sakhalin governor Igor Farkhutdinov was killed in a helicopter crash in Kamchatka on 20 August. The deputy governor of Sakhalin Region, Ivan Malakhov, has become the region's acting governor.

23 August 2003 The MVD, the FSB and the Emergencies Ministry are practising joint actions in Khabarovsk as part of a large-scale exercise. According to the scenario, they will have to prevent a terrorist attack on a bridge across the River Amur.

24 August 2003 Sergey Glazyev announces the creation of a coalition of left-wing patriotic forces. Representatives of 17 parties and movements, which do not include the CPRF, sign an agreement forming this coalition. The new Party of Russia's Regions led by Sergey Glazyev and Dmitry Rogozin is part of this coalition.

24 August 2003 The FSB states that operational-tactical exercises of the Special Purpose Centre and Aviation Directorate of the FSB were conducted in the Mount Elbrus area of Kabarda-Balkaria from 21 to 23 August.

24 August 2003 Russian presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says the Kremlin will accept whoever wins the Chechen presidential election.

25 August 2003 An endorsed programme of Russia's socio-economic development in 2003-2005 published by the government information department forecasts that GDP will grow 15-18% in 2003-05. GDP will grow 5.6% in 2003, 3.8-5% in 2004, and 4.8-5.9% in 2005. In 2008, GDP is expected to grow by 5.0-6.5% against 2007.

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25 August 2003 Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister Aleksey Gordeyev has confirmed his ministry's forecast for 2003's grain crop of 70 million tonnes. If Russia harvests 70 million tonnes of grain, it will be able to export 5 million tonnes.

25 August 2003 Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko says Russian oil companies are likely to increase oil extraction by 9.3% to 415 million tonnes by the year-end, against 378 million tonnes in 2002.

25 August 2003 Three bomb blasts take place in Krasnodar.

25 August 2003 The Russian Ministry of Antimonopoly Policy and Enterprise Support s approves the merger between TNK International and Russian assets of BP.

25 August 2003 Units of the 42nd Motor-Rifle Division stationed in Chechnya have practised interaction with the MVD and border forces of the FSB.

26 August 2003 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says that the Russian government supports the idea to unify the Komi-Permyak Autonomous Area and Perm Region to form a new region of the Russian Federation.

26 August 2003 Chechen Prime Minister Anatoliy Popov says there are currently 2,000-3,000 rebels operating in Chechnya. He says that each rebel group is generally composed of 5 to 12 members.

Popov says the number of displaced persons from Chechnya currently living in tent camps in Ingushetia has dropped two-thirds since the start of the year. At the moment, there are under 10,000 people at these camps.

26 August 2003 The office of Russia's human rights commissioner Oleg Mironov is burgled.

26 August 2003 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov signs the draft federal budget for 2004 and the whole package of attachments to it. It is submitted to the Duma on 27 August.

Federal budget revenue is planned at R2,743 billion or 17.9% of GDP. Targeted expenditure is R2,659 billion or 17.4% of GDP. The budget surplus is projected at R83.403 billion or 0.5% of GDP. GDP is projected at R15,300 billion and inflation is planned at 8% to 10%.

Spending items include: R411.473 billion or 15.5% of the total expenditure on defence; R310.577 billion or 11.7% on law enforcement. Financial assistance to regions is R810.617 billion or 30.5%.

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27 August 2003 Vladimir Putin attends the funeral of Sakhalin Region governor Igor Farkhutdinov.

27 August 2003 Dagestani minister for national policy, information and external affairs, Magomedsalikh Gusayev (formerly named as Gasayev) dies in a terrorist attack in Makhachkala.

27 August 2003 Ingushetia's President Murat Zyazikov meets World Food Programme officials in Magas to discuss help to displaced persons from Chechnya. Zyazikov said there are about 59,000 Chechen displaced persons in Ingushetia. Of them, 11,000 are living in tent camps, and others are staying in the private sector and leased housing.

27 August 2003 The Chechen Electoral Commission starts registering candidates for president of Chechnya.

27 August 2003 Defence minister Sergey Ivanov outlines details of the structure of military spending for next year. 41.8% of the total will go on upkeep of the armed forces (paying the servicemen). A total of 15.7% will go to army and naval training. 14.2% will go to procurement, 8% on repairs and maintenance, and 13.4% on research and development. 3.7% will go on capital construction, 2% on switching the armed forces to a contractual basis, 0.5% on insurance and about 1% on education and healthcare.

Ivanov says defence spending is planned at R411.5 billion, or 15.5% of the 2004 federal budget. He says the personnel of the Russian armed forces will be reduced to 1,062,000 by the end of 2003. When he was appointed (in May 2001) the personnel of the armed forces was 1,365,000. Ivanov says in 2004 spending on the government programme of armaments is expected to be R148 billion.

27 August 2003 Vladimir Putin appoints Deputy Interior Minister Col-Gen Aleksandr Chekalin head of the Federal Migration Service.

27 August 2003 Russian TV reports that the Ministry of Education will allow religious education in schools. Only those who represent religious organizations that have been registered in Russia as legal entities for no less than 15 years will be able to teach.

28 August 2003 Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov promises to tighten up antiterrorist measures in Moscow.

28 August 2003 The MVD takes over control of the counter-terrorist operation in Chechnya from the FSB.

Acting Chechen president Akhmat Kadyrov writes to Russia's top law-enforcement officials. He complains about criminal activity by some security and law-enforcement officials.

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Chechnya's election commission registers another three candidates running for the post of the republic's president. They are deputy director-general of the Groznetgaz company Kudus Saduyev, deputy military commandant of Chechnya Col Said-Selim Tsuyev and former head of the Achkhoy-Martanovskiy District administration Shamil Burayev.

28 August 2003 *Moskovskiy Komsomolets* interviews the head of the Russian drugs agency, Viktor Cherkesov.

28 August 2003 Pacific Fleet commander Rear-Adm Vladimir Avdoshin praises recent exercises in the Far East.

29 August 2003 The Justice Ministry denies registration to the National Bolshevik Party.

29 August 2003 Acting Chechen President Akhmat Kadyrov hands over authority to the chairman of the republic's government, Anatoliy Popov, for the duration of the election campaign.

Chechen interior minister Alu Alkhanov says there are currently 1,200 guerrillas, including 200 foreigners, in Chechnya. He says there are 58 bandit groups.

Col-Gen Valeriy Baranov has been appointed commander of the headquarters of the federal forces in the North Caucasus.

29 August 2003 The commander-in-chief of the Russian navy, Vladimir Kuroyedov, says the major military exercise held in the Russian Far East to fight terrorism and emergencies exposed numerous legal problems connected with the introduction of a state of emergency.

The Russian Baltic Fleet begins training for sea and airborne assault on the coast of the Baltic Sea.

30 August 2003 The Chechen Electoral Commission registers the last of the 11 presidential candidates. Duma deputy Aslambek Aslakhanov is registered.

30 August 2003 Vladimir Putin welcomes the process of developing a common European security and defence policy.

30 August 2003 A Russian submarine with 12 people on board sinks in the Barents Sea.

31 August 2003 Prosecutor of Chechnya Vladimir Kravchenko says he favours an extension of the amnesty for rebels, which is due to expire at midnight. A total of 145 former rebels have been amnestied by the Duma's resolution of 7 June 2003.

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31 August 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov sails out to the spot where the K-159 submarine sank in the Barents Sea.

Ivanov reports on his visit to Severomorsk to Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

September

1 September 2003 Vladimir Putin states that foreign direct investment in Russia totalled 12.7 billion dollars in the first half of 2003. This is "one and a half times as much as in the same period last year".

1 September 2003 By presidential decree the MVD takes over the command of the operational headquarters of the antiterrorist operation in the North Caucasus from the FSB on 1 September 2003. Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov will replace FSB Director Nikolay Patrushev in the post of commander of the operational headquarters. Deputy Interior Minister Yuriy Maltsev will head the regional headquarters.

1 September 2003 Initial reports indicate that the head of the Karachay-Cherkess national bank, Mustafa Batdyev, has won the presidential election in Karachay-Cherkessia. He beat the incumbent, Vladimir Semenov.

1 September 2003 Adm Viktor Kravchenko, the navy's chief of staff, says the nuclear-powered submarine K-159 and the bodies of its crew cannot be recovered earlier than 2004.

1 September 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says the experience of military operations in Chechnya and the war in Iraq is being carefully taken into account in Russian military education.

1 September 2003 The gubernatorial election in Sakhalin Region is to be held on 7 December. First deputy governor Ivan Malakhov is currently performing the duties of the head of Sakhalin Region administration.

2 September 2003 Vladimir Putin signs a decree on holding elections to the Duma on 7 December.

2 September 2003 The Energy Ministry says oil production in Russia in January-August 2003 increased 11.2% (by 27.72 million tonnes) year-on-year to amount to 275.12 million tonnes. Gas production in Russia in January- August amounted to 404.69 billion cubic metres, up 3.7% (by 14.4 bcm) from the same period in 2002.

2 September 2003 The Karachay-Cherkessia electoral commission officially recognizes National Bank head Mustafa Batdyev's victory in the republic's

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presidential election. His precursor in this post, Vladimir Semenov, trailed him by 1.5% of the votes.

2 September 2003 FSB director Nikolay Patrushev holds a conference in Magadan on fighting terrorism and guaranteeing regional border security in the Russian Far East.

2 September 2003 An officer from the Dagestani interior ministry's department for fight against extremism and criminal terrorism and his wife are gunned down in Makhachkala.

3 September 2003 Terrorists blow up a train in Stavropol.

3 September 2003 Olga Kryshtanovskaya, head of the centre for studying the elite, of the Institute of Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences is interviewed on *Ekho Moskvy*. She discusses the growing influence of the security services in Russian politics.

3 September 2003 The Duma election campaign begins officially.

3 September 2003 The Russian government says it will provide aid to Vladivostok to help it solve the fresh water crisis. The city has declared a state of emergency.

3 September 2003 Chief Military Prosecutor Aleksandr Savenkov says non-combat losses in the Russian armed forces have reached 2,465 in 2003.

4 September 2003 Vladimir Putin says that the federal law on land should be introduced as soon as possible. The law will allow heads of regions to put it into practice when they see that the region is ready for its implementation.

4 September 2003 FSB director Nikolay Patrushev supervises anti-terrorism exercises of the power-wielding structures in Sakhalin. The exercises are aimed at prevention of terrorism, illegal migration, poaching and fish smuggling.

4 September 2003 Deputy Interior Minister, head of the Federal Migration Service Aleksandr Chekalin says up to 3 million illegal migrants live in Russia.

4 September 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov visits Astrakhan Region. He will observe the Combat Commonwealth 2003 exercise.

5 September 2003 It is reported that members of Akhmad Kadyrov's personal security service took control over Groznyy television and the offices of all eight newspapers published in Chechnya.

5 September 2003 The Justice Ministry submits a list of political parties and public movements eligible for participation in the Duma elections in December 2003 to the Central Electoral Commission. The list includes 44 parties and 20 organisations.

5 September 2003 The Yedinstvo faction in the Duma changes its name to Yedinstvo – Odn Rossiya.

5 September 2003 The Party of Revival of Russia led by Duma speaker Gennadiy Seleznev and the Russian Party of Life headed by Federation Council speaker Sergey Mironov agree to form an electoral alliance.

5 September 2003 The first ever all-Russian conference on civil defence is under way in Moscow. Emergencies Minister Sergey Shoygu addresses the conference.

5 September 2003 The government publishes its energy strategy on its website.

5 September 2003 Chechen prime minister Anatoly Popov says some 23,000 people who left Chechnya during the anti-terrorist operation have now returned to Chechnya.

6 September 2003 Yabloko holds a pre-election congress.

The CPRF holds a pre-election congress.

6 September 2003 Deputy prime minister Vladimir Yakovlev says 14 regions are in a critical situation in relation to the winter.

6 September 2003 Shamil Basayev claims responsibility for the blowing up of a military hospital in Mozdok on 1 August.

7 September 2003 The Liberal Russia party holds a pre-electoral congress. It decides to set up a single electoral bloc with the Republican Party and the Motorists' Movement of Russia.

8 September 2003 Boris Nemtsov says the URF will contend the Duma election without allies. Anatoliy Chubays, co-chairman of the URF, says that their key task for the next few years is to unite the country's democratic forces in time for the 2008 presidential election.

8 September 2003 Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov says that the law-enforcement agencies have uncovered an organized terrorist network, in the course of investigating terrorist incidents in Moscow.

9 September 2003 Gosomstat says Russia increased its GDP by 7.2% year-on-year in the second quarter of 2003. GDP rose 6.8% year-on-year in the first quarter.

10 September 2003 chairman of the all-Russia movement "For Human Rights" Lev Ponomarev and director of the Sakharov Centre Yuriy Samodurov say they will not monitor the Chechen presidential elections. Ponomarev says: "The elections in Chechnya will take place in what is actually a state of war, so they won't be legitimate ... we know for sure that there will be colossal pressure on the voters, and the Kalashnikov assault rifle will be the main argument."

10 September 2003 Vladimir Putin appoints Lt-Gen Aleksandr Kolmakov the new commander of the Russian Airborne Troops. Hitherto he worked as deputy commander of the Far Eastern Military District. The former commander of the Airborne Troops, Col-Gen Georgiy Shpak, who was 60 on 8 September, according to existing legislation, leaves the armed forces because he has reached the retirement age.

An opinion poll submitted to the defence committee of the Duma by the editorial staff of *Pravo v Vooruzhennykh Silakh* magazine shows there is growing discontent within the officer corps of the Russian armed forces with conditions of military service. Only 9% of officers interviewed are ready to sign new contracts under current conditions, while the rest of them consider such conditions to be unacceptable.

11 September 2003 The Russian Central Bank states that Russia's gold and foreign currency reserves were 62 billion dollars on 5 September, down from 62.7 billion dollars on 29 August.

11 September 2003 Deputy Economic Development and Trade Minister Arkadiy Dvorkovich says Russia's industrial output rose by 6.6% on the year in January-August.

11 September 2003 Andrey Korotkov, first deputy minister of communications and information technology says a new wording of the federal purpose-oriented programme Electronic Russia may be adopted as early as this year.

11 September 2003 Duma deputy Aslambek Aslakhonov is appointed aide to the Russian president.

12 September 2003 The parliament of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria impeaches Aslan Maskhadov. It nominates vice president Vakha Arsanov as new president.

Russian presidential aide Sergey Yastrzhembskiy says that the Chechen rebel parliament's decision to impeach Maskhadov will have a positive effect on the situation in Chechnya and gives a signal to the international community.

Dr Mark A Smith

Deputy Prosecutor-General Sergey Fridinskiy calls on Britain to extradite Chechen rebel envoy Akhmed Zakayev to Russia.

12 September 2003 Former commander of the Airborne Troops, Georgiy Shpak, says intends to go into politics as part of the Glazyev-Rogozin bloc once his retirement has officially taken effect.

12 September 2003 An article in *Profil* claims that about 20,000 kilometres of Russia's border are unguarded.

12 September 2003 An article by Aleksandr Budberg in *Moskovskiy Komsomolets* previews the Duma elections.

13 September 2003 The separatist Chechen foreign ministry website rejects reports that the separatist Chechen parliament has impeached Aslan Maskhadov.

The separatist Chechen parliament issues a similar statement.

13 September 2003 Duma chairman Gennadiy Seleznev says he is willing to stay in office for a third term after the next Duma election in December.

14 September 2003 The second extraordinary congress of the People's Party of the Russian Federation has approved a list of candidates for the elections to the Duma. It will seek cooperation with Yedinaya Rossiya.

15 September 2003 The Eurasian Party of Russia, the Russian Party of Peace and the Civil Party of Russia form an electoral bloc. It will be called Great Russia - Eurasian Union. Its chairman is Pavel Borodin.

15 September 2003 Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov says that according to preliminary figures, GDP for the first eight months of 2003 has grown by 6.9% compared to the same period last year. He adds that industrial production grew by 6.6% from January to September, which is over 1.5 times more than last year. He says that Russia has a total of 48.3 billion dollars of foreign investment at the end of July.

15 September 2003 The parliament of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria denies that it has impeached Aslan Maskhadov.

15 September 2003 An explosion takes place at the FSB HQ for Ingushetia in Magas. The FSB's acting head in Ingushetia, Andrey Buskikh, is seriously wounded.

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15 September 2003 A large-scale command post exercise of the Internal Troops begins. These are the first antiterrorist manoeuvres to cover the whole of Russia. 20,000 servicemen and executive bodies of the Russian Federation's constituent parts are involved.

16 September 2003 Maj-Gen Aleksandr Studenikin, new commander of the Russian military force in Transcaucasus, starts discharging his duties. He succeeds Maj-Gen Nikolay Zolotov, who has been put under the command of the Ground Troops commander-in-chief.

17 September 2003 A command-post mobilization exercise starts in Dagestan and North Osetia-Alania.

17 September 2003 Centre TV reports that a programme for the development of civil defence for the next four years has been adopted in Moscow.

18 September 2003 Akhmed Zakayev denies a *Deutsche Welle* report that the separatist Chechen leadership has decided to start guerrilla warfare on the entire territory of Russia.

The C-in-C of Russian Internal Troops, Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, says Chechnya is a test-bed for international terrorism. The MVD is holding an exercise across Russia to harmonize the activities of Internal Troops with those of all other security structures.

18 September 2003 A referendum on the merger of Perm Region and the Komi-Permyak Autonomous Area into a single constituent part of the Russian Federation will take place on 7 December.

19 September 2003 The Duma adopts the draft federal budget for 2004 in the first reading. Budget spending is planned at R2,659,447m, while revenue is set at R2,742,850.4m, with a primary surplus of R83,403.4m (0.5% of GDP). By comparison with the 2003 budget, the draft provides for a 19% increase in spending on national defence (to R411,473m), a 30% increase on the legal system (to R33,251m), 27% on law enforcement and security (R310,577m), 23% on health (R48,208m) and 21% on education (R117,792m).

20 September 2003 Yedinaya Rossiya holds its pre-election congress. Putin visits it.

20 September 2003 Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov says work to build a new base for the Black Sea Fleet at Novorossiysk will start in 2005. He says Sevastopol will remain as the Fleet's main base.

21 September 2003 The Ministry of Natural Resources is to offer 44 sections of the continental shelf in northern and Far Eastern waters for oil and gas exploration

and extraction. The sections have a total area of 315,000 sq.km. (about 5% of the total area of the shelf).

21 September 2003 The largest command and staff exercise in the last 15 years starts in the North Caucasus Military District. Over 10,000 servicemen and 2,000 items of military hardware of the 58th Army are taking part.

22 September 2003 The Prosecutor-General's Office files an extradition request for former Russian media magnate Vladimir Gusinskiy with the appropriate agencies of Greece.

23 September 2003 The MVD calls for an increase in the time permitted for the initial detention of terrorism suspects.

24 September 2003 *NTV Mir* reports that the FSB is stepping up the monitoring of electronic communications. A system has been developed in Moscow for automatically checking mobile telephone text messages. This is later denied.

24 September 2003 Viktor Ozerov, the head of the Federation Council Defence and Security Committee, says the inflow of migrants has overwhelmed Russia so much that it threatens socio-economic and political stability, and national security. He says in 1991-2002 over seven million people moved into Russia, while just over three million left the country.

Deputy Prime Minister Galina Karelova says premature death rate is the most acute demographic problem among the rural population of Russia. The rural population of Russia currently stands at just under 39m people, or 27% of the total population; in 2002 it decreased by 346,000. The death rate exceeds the birth rate in 75 out of 89 regions.

24 September 2003 The MOD announces that three generals have been dismissed from the armed forces following the suicide bombing in Mozdok on 1 August.

24 September 2003 The Federation Council passes the law on local government.

24 September 2003 Representatives of the Moscow Helsinki Group call the approaching presidential election in Chechnya senseless and lacking alternative candidates.

The Duma receives a letter from the head of the Chechen administration, Akhmad Kadyrov, in which he asks MPs to extend the term of the resolution on amnesty for rebels in Chechnya for another three months.

24 September 2003 Yuriy Demidov, head of the T Centre of the MVD is interviewed in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*.

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24 September 2003 An article in *Kommersant* reports how Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov is creating a shadow cabinet which enhances his own power.

24 September 2003 The Central Electoral Commission registers the electoral bloc Motherland-People's Patriotic Union. The Motherland bloc was set up on 14 September. It is led by Sergey Glazyev and Dmitriy Rogozin.

25 September 2003 Chechen administration head Akhmad Kadyrov visits the USA.

The Russian Supreme Court backs the legality of the decision of the Chechen Supreme Court barring Malik Saydullayev from taking part in the Chechen presidential elections on 5 October.

25 September 2003 The Rosenergoatom consortium's technical director Nikolay Sorokin says it will assign over R2 billion for a nuclear power plant safety programme in 2003. Rosenergoatom is operating 30 power units at 10 nuclear plants in Russia.

25 September 2003 The chairman of the Audit Chamber, Sergey Stepashin, says experts estimate that Russia's budget loses up to 60m US dollars to capital flight every five years.

25 September 2003 Deputy defence minister and chairman of the committee for military-technical cooperation with foreign states Mikhail Dmitriyev says in 2003 Russia will achieve its arms export plan objective, as approved by the government. He says "according to the arms export plan, we should earn 4.4 billion dollars. We will definitely achieve more than that." He thinks that additional revenue of "about 200m dollars" could be achieved.

26 September 2003 Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Yakovlev says Kamchatka may become the first Russian region to be placed under external administration, owing to the local authorities' inability to prepare the housing and utilities system for winter.

26 September 2003 Acting Chechen leader Anatoliy Popov is interviewed in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* on the Chechen presidential election.

26 September 2003 Deputy Defence Minister Mikhail Dmitriyev gives an interview to *Nezavisimoye Voyennoye Obozreniye* on Russian arms exports in 2003.

27 September 2003 Deputy defence minister and head of the armed forces rear services Gen Vladimir Isakov says the merger of the rear services of all power-wielding agencies will be completed by 2005.

Dr Mark A Smith

27 September 2003 Acting Chechen President and head of Chechen government Anatoliy Popov is taken to hospital with acute food poisoning. His condition is said to be serious.

28 September 2003 TV reports that military exercises are being held in the North Caucasus Military District.

29 September 2003 Aleksandr Telyunkov, deputy head of Atomflot shipyard in Murmansk, is arrested on suspicion of stealing and selling radioactive materials.

29 September 2003 The Prosecutor-General's Office confirms charges against two people suspected of carrying out explosions in Moscow and Volgodonsk in the autumn of 1999 - Adam Dekkushev and Yusuf Krymshamkhalov - and sends a criminal case to court.

29 September 2003 The Central Clinical Hospital says there are no signs of deliberate poisoning of Chechen Prime Minister Anatoliy Popov.

29 September 2003 Deputy Prime Minister Boris Aleshin outlines key tasks for military-technical cooperation with foreign states.

29 September 2003 Black Sea Fleet commander Vladimir Masorin says that construction of the Novorossiysk naval base will be concluded by 2010.

30 September 2003 The Security Council meets to discuss border security.

30 September 2003 Chechen Prime Minister Anatoliy Popov leaves the Central Clinical Hospital in Moscow for Chechnya. An officer from Popov's security service confirms to Interfax on a condition of anonymity that Popov was poisoned intentionally. Andarbek Yandarov, official spokesman of the Chechen mission under the Russian president, denies reports about Popov being poisoned and his health deteriorating.

30 September 2003 Five policemen are killed in a shooting attack in Khasavyurt, Dagestan.

30 September 2003 The investigation directorate for the Central Federal District of the investigation committee of the MVD brings charges on the basis of Article 286 (exceeding authority by officials) of the Criminal Code against the former governor of Kursk Region, Aleksandr Ruts koy.

30 September 2003 Vladimir Putin signs a decree "On Conscripting Russian Citizens for Military Service in October-December 2003 and Discharging Enlisted Personnel". 175,806 Russian citizens 18 to 27 years of age, who are not listed in

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the reserves, are to be conscripted for military service between 1 October and 31 December 2003.

Col-Gen Nikolay Reznik, chief of the Armed Forces Education Directorate says about 1,800 Russian servicemen have gone AWOL.

30 September 2003 Justice Minister Yuriy Chayka says he regrets the decision of the PACE and OSCE not to send their observers to Chechnya to monitor the presidential elections.

A statement on the Chechenpress website by Chechen separatist MPs calls on the international community to boycott the Chechen presidential poll on 5 October.

30 September 2003 The National Bolshevik Party holds a rally outside the Lithuanian consulate-general in St Petersburg.

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