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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



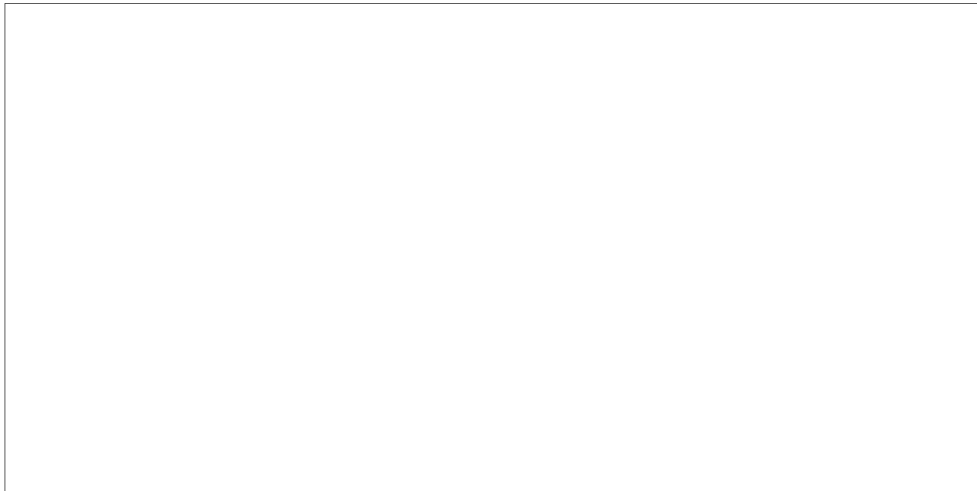
DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

10 February 2003
EID10FEB03

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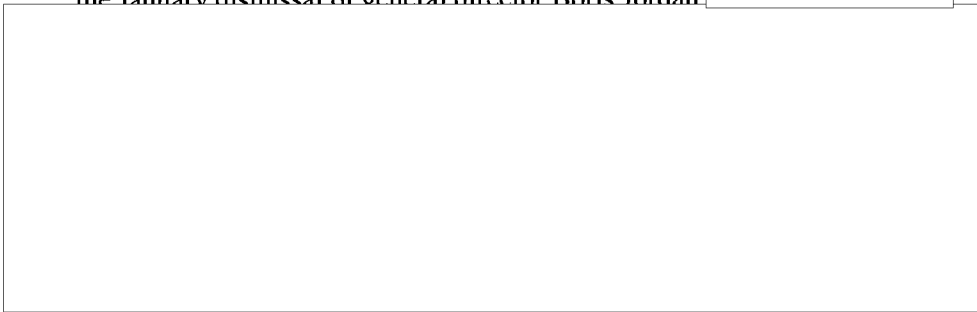


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- The staff at Russia's embattled NTV network is vigorously resisting the management changes imposed by parent company Gazprom-Media since the January dismissal of general director Boris Jordan.



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The EID is prepared by analysts in the Office of Russian and European Analysis and features a first look at developing events. It is not coordinated outside of OREA. Comments are welcome.



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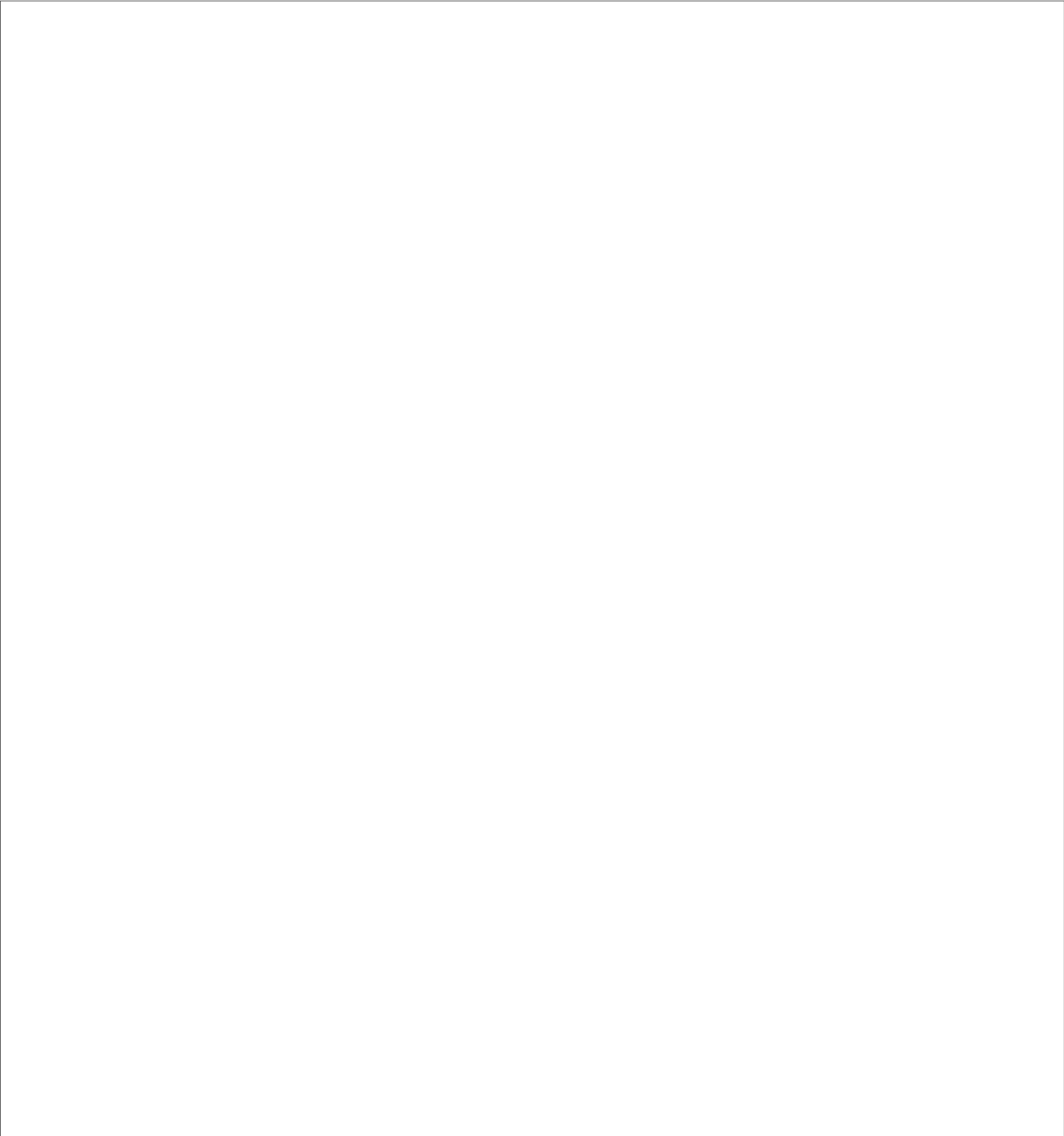
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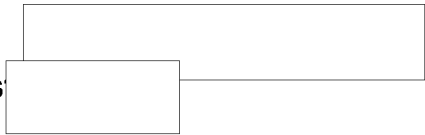


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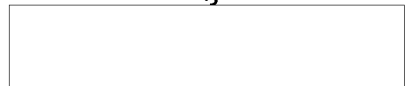
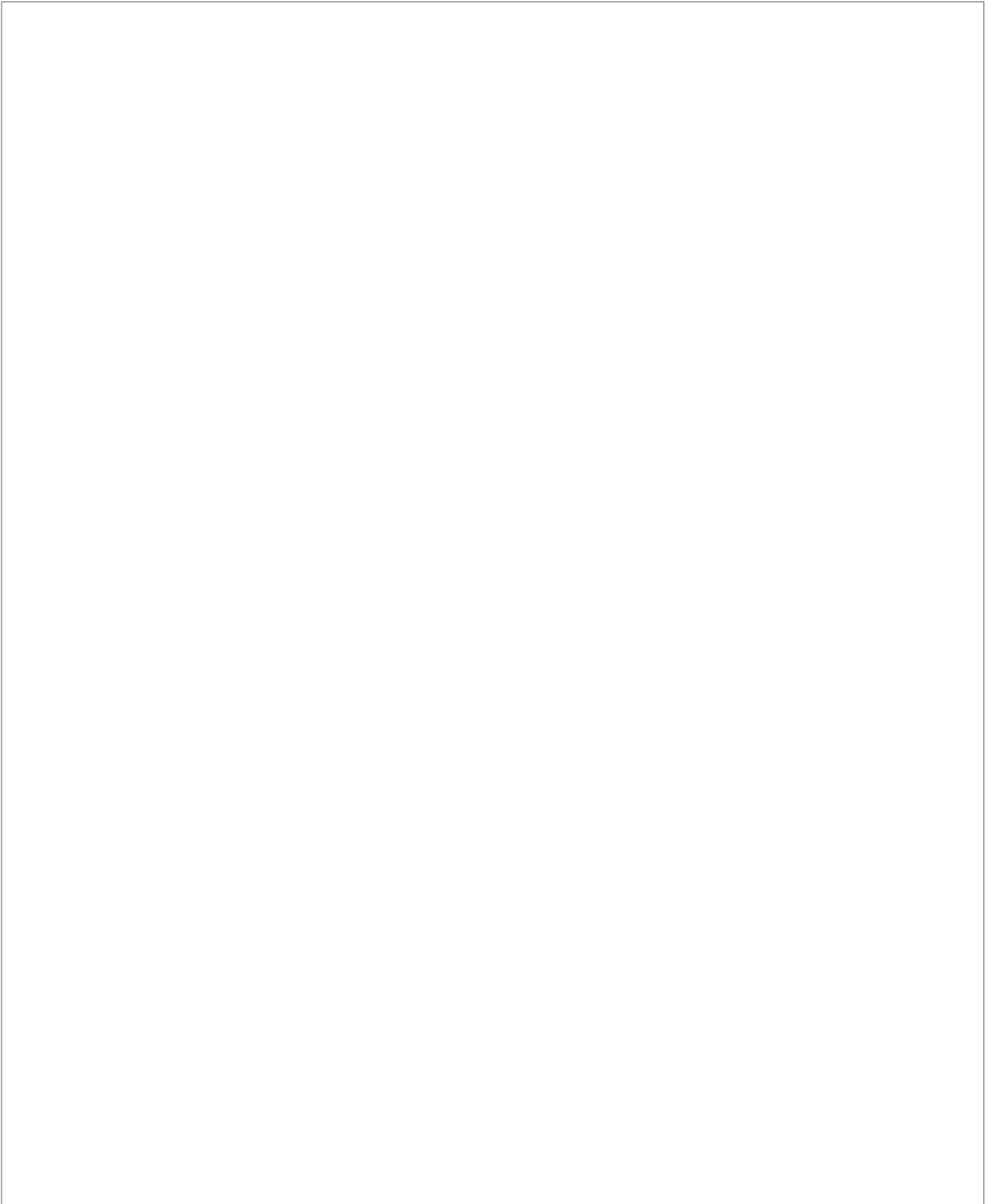
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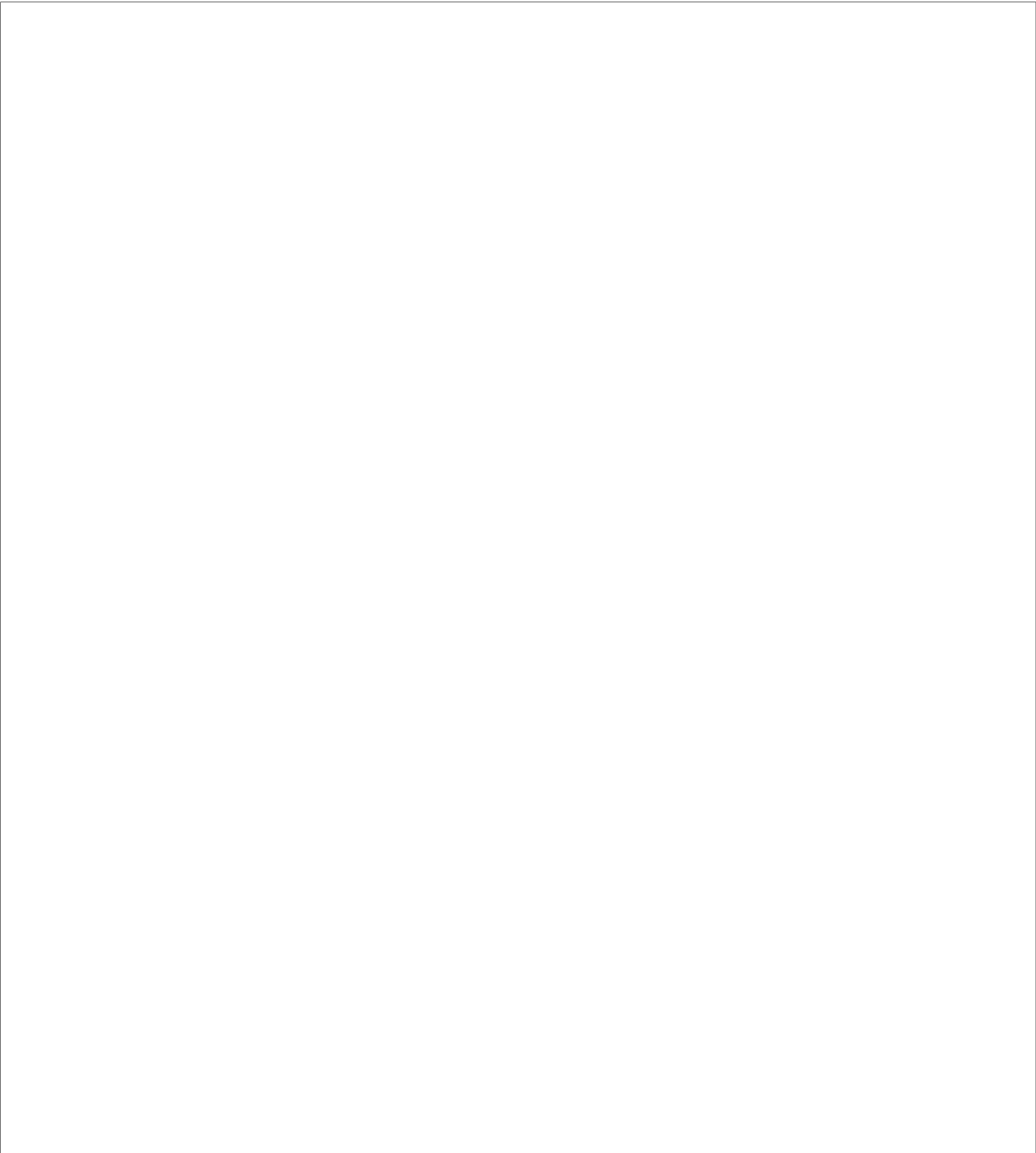
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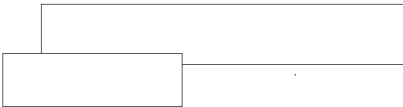


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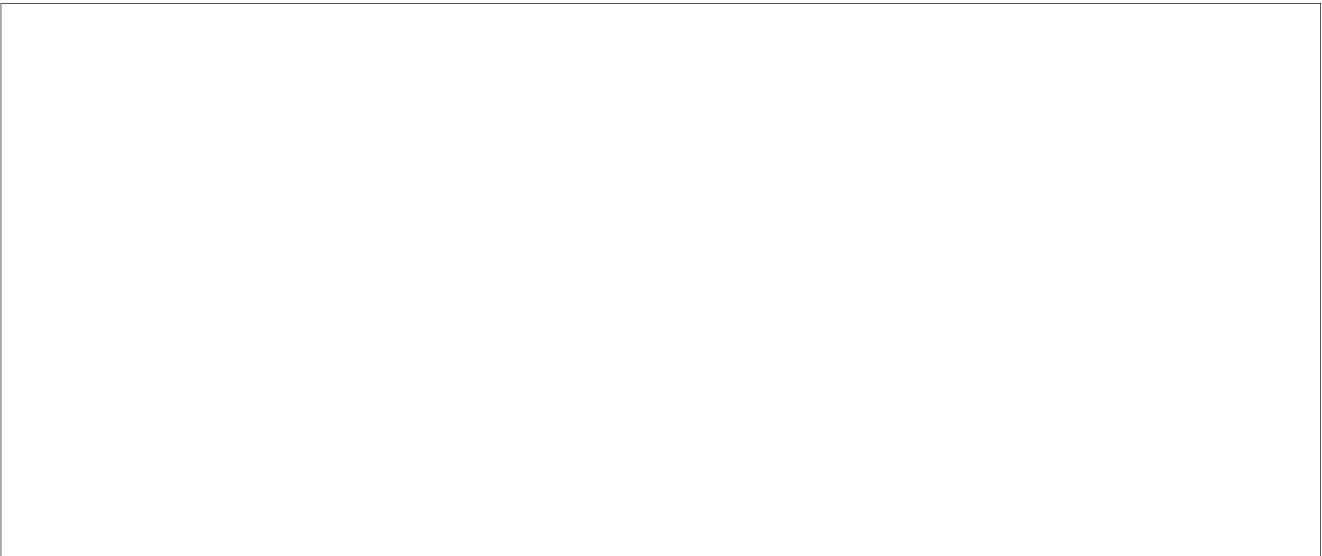
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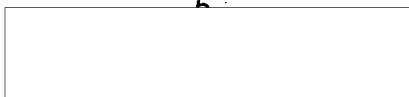
5. Staff of Russia's NTV Strikes Back at New Management. The staff at the embattled NTV television network has taken several public steps to protest the management changes imposed by NTV's owner, Gazprom-Media, since the January dismissal of general director Boris Jordan, *but NTV's staff has few legal levers and appears to be hoping to embarrass its parent company into meeting at least some of the staff's demands.*

- Just a week after the 22 January appointment of Nikolay Senkevich as NTV's new general director, the network's governing board passed a vote of no confidence in his leadership. Various media outlets have ridiculed the appointment of Senkevich, a physician by training who has little television management experience, and of his deputy, Aleksey Zemskiy, who has produced entertainment programming rather than news.
- The following week, the board sent a well-publicized letter to Gazprom chief Aleksey Miller asking for a meeting to settle the "crisis" at NTV.
- Both Gazprom-Media chief Dybal and Gazprom CEO Miller have met with prominent NTV journalists, but last week NTV sources were still telling the press that, unless a compromise were reached, most of the NTV staff would resign. Leonid Parfenov, the well-known host of NTV's talk show "Namedni," announced last Thursday that he is taking his program off the air for at least three months.



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The scandal is the continuation of a long-running battle for control of NTV, Russia's most professional and independent nationwide network, seen by competing Kremlin factions as an instrument for manipulating voters' preferences in upcoming elections and as a means for self-enrichment. The appointment of Senkevich seemed to be a victory for the Kremlin's security services - allied faction (the "siloviki"). The speed of the appointment allowed the rival Yeltsin "Family" group little time to promote a candidate, and Senkevich's last job was



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under Dybal at Gazprom-Media, which has been tied to the security services. Last fall, a bank reportedly linked to the security services bought a 49-percent share in Gazprom-Media in a deal allegedly facilitated by banker and *siloviki* ally Sergey Pugachev.

- As punishment for Jordan's role in brokering that deal, Press Minister Lesin and presidential chief of staff Voloshin--representing the Yeltsin Family--pushed for Jordan's dismissal,

[Redacted] *Not surprisingly, the Yeltsin Family is now seen as benefiting from the embarrassing public spat at NTV.*

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- Lesin, *who has his eye on NTV's advertising business for his "Video International" firm*, released a statement last Thursday obliquely criticizing Dybal's and Miller's handling of the crisis at the network. [Redacted]

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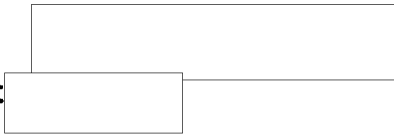
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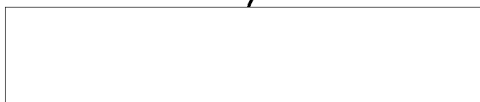
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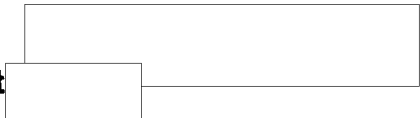
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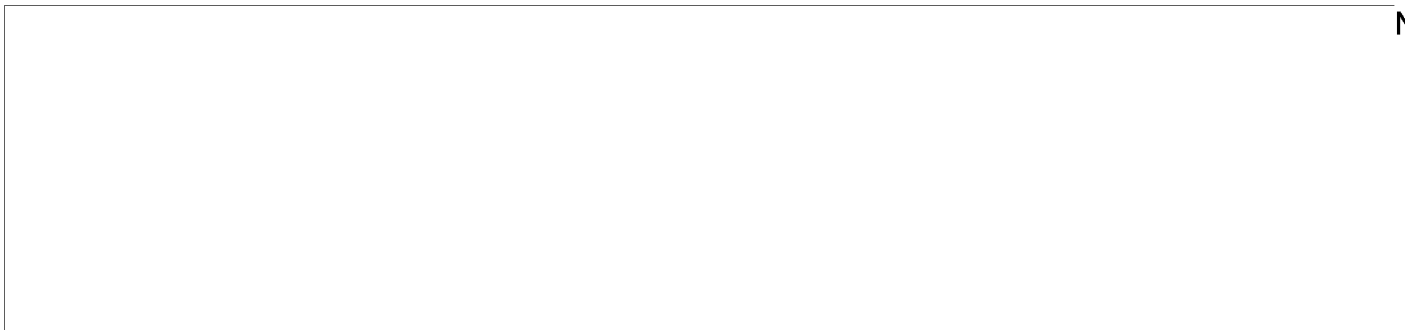
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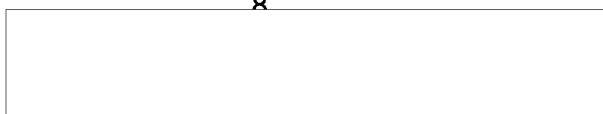


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