



NTV - FIRST FREE MEDIA PIONEER



THE independent Russian television channel, NTV, was the first recipient of a new award established by the IPI and the Freedom Forum to honour an individual or an institution which has fought against all the odds to ensure freer and more independent media in the country in question. The IPI Director, Johann P. Fritz, declared: "This richly deserved award is in recognition of NTV's outstanding professionalism and commitment to a democratic media system ... During the war in Chechnya, NTV earned respect for consistently attempting to report objectively on the conflict, rather than support any official position ... NTV's pioneering commitment to the autonomy of its journalists has won admirers throughout Russia, who turn to its news bulletins in the confidence that the reporting will be accurate, unbiased and concerned only with delivering facts. Furthermore, NTV's brand of investigative journalism has become a model for others to follow in both the print and electronic media in Russia. It has thus contributed to the ending of the Soviet-style information policy in a society where those in power still believe that TV is their principal asset for mobilising support for their own political interests." (Above left): The IPI Director presents the Free Media Pioneer 1996 Award to Yevgeny Kisselyov, NTV's vice-president. In the picture on the right, Charles Overby (far right), president and chief executive officer of the Freedom Forum, is flanked by (left to right): Oleg Dobrodeev, NTV's vice-president and news director; Vladimir Luskanov, its chief news correspondent, and Mr Kisselyov

Interview with Yevgeny Kisselyov, page 60

Freedom Forum Journalists Memorial and Newseum

Chris Wells, the Freedom Forum's senior vice-president for international affairs, announcing to IPI Congress delegates the imminent dedication in Washington of the Freedom Forum Journalists Memorial, honouring nearly 1,000 journalists who have



died in the pursuit of the news. The memorial will be part of the Forum's Newseum, a \$40-million project still under construction which will house the world's first journalism museum. (The memorial was dedicated by Hillary Clinton on May 21 - Editor's Note.)