

The point is carried further by Michael O'Neill, former editor of the *New York Daily News*. In a new book entitled *The Roar of the Crowd*, he says: "thanks to the communications revolution and the new technology, the old world of diplomacy is itself in ruins." The game used to be played by professionals, who considered public opinion a vulgarity and had only disdain for politicians, journalists and, more often than not, the statesmen who employed them. "Now, however," O'Neill writes, "every Tom, Dick and Harry is trampling over their red carpets. They are no longer the chief custodians of policy. Their arts are the arts of an era that has disappeared ... and ambassadors [have] become a threatened species."

That observation might please Pierre Trudeau. He thought diplomacy was outmoded 25 years ago. Granatstein and Bothwell quote him as telling a reporter: "In the early days of the telegraph, you needed a dispatch to know what was happening in country A, whereas now, most of the time, you can read it in a good newspaper."

Today, apparently, you can see it on CNN.

Jordan's King Hussein, irritated by something George Shultz said on CNN, did not call his foreign minister or ambassador in Washington. He called CNN to broadcast his reply. Criticized for favoring Iraq in the Gulf War, the King again chose CNN as the quickest and most forceful way to get to President George Bush.

Initially hesitant in the Moscow coup of 1991, President Bush decided whom to support only after seeing the defiant Yeltsin on top of a tank—on television.

After the Gulf War, Bush was determined not to be drawn into Iraq's internal battles, confident that the blows he had dealt Saddam Hussein would cause his overthrow. Instead, Saddam attacked the Kurds and pictures of their misery were so affecting that Bush felt forced to intervene to protect them.

When President Ronald Reagan saw television pictures of the massacre of Palestinians in Lebanese refugee camps, he quickly sent in the Marines, an ill-considered mission that ended in tragedy.

It is a commonplace now to say with Marshall McLuhan that the Viet Nam war was lost in the living rooms of America. It was far more complicated than that, as I have argued elsewhere, but there is enough truth in the observation. Since Viet Nam, the reach and pervasiveness of television have increased exponentially.