

would have on standby the appropriate congressmen, senators and representatives of the administration to react. When we were doing a follow-up story we would find them quoting each other based on what they had seen on CNN, which was kind of a dog chasing its tail and a little scary, but it made an impression on us, *deja vu* was very *vu*!

The Gulf War, though, became the story to confirm how wired the universe is. Our coverage began on 2 August, the day of the invasion, and quickly dominated the twenty-four hour cycle. It soon became the exclusive story we reported. However, I am proud to let you know after listening to Milton [Viorst's] interesting remarks at noon, that we began doing the package reports, enterprise pieces on it, as early as April and had begun rather intensive coverage the first of July and stepped up our reporting to almost every hour as he moved troops in the middle of July toward the border.

CNN's relations with the all-important outlet Iraq TV in Baghdad went back to the beginning of the Iraq-Iran war, wherein we regularly asked for and used their coverage of the war from their side, as we did with Iran TV from Teheran's perspective. As you will recall, access to both sides was at best difficult for Western journalists. We frequently would tape their news programming as seen in Amman or Jerusalem or off the Arab satellite Arabsat.

Then about three years ago, CNN developed a programme we called *World Report*. Iraq TV became one of the regular contributors to the programme. It was then a weekly, and now it is a daily amalgam of news from 164 member countries. CNN's international editors became known to their counterparts in Iraq TV, and we had the advantage of being seen in Baghdad on a very limited basis. We think there were three downlink dishes in the capital city, one at the palace where Saddam stayed, one for the foreign minister and one for the information minister. The only other broadcast signals that I know of coming in from the West were BBC World Service Radio and the Voice of America. The upshot was that when the invasion occurred, we were dealing with long-time acquaintances. Iraq TV was not shy about touting its offerings after August the 2nd and most notably the speeches of Saddam Hussein, most often as read by that Omar Sharif look-alike if you remember. And given the penalty for failure in Iraq, one is not surprised how ardently these offerings were presented.