

war there is also, on either side, a tendency towards self-deception, where one side wants to think that they are doing all right, that they are winning. There's the wishful thinking... How does one witness, how does one find the truth with all these deceptions and self-deceptions and rapid change? Do we rely...upon officials, upon leaders, upon experts?

Drawing on her own experiences in Africa, China and the Middle East, Ms. Medina stressed how often the official version or prediction is wrong and how the extra effort required to go and see and talk to the people involved can uncover the truth, or at least some part of it. In the Gulf War, reporters were rarely able to do this; they were reduced to conveying official information, much of it deliberately or inadvertently wrong. One of the reasons Mr. Viorst's work won respect was that he went on his own, not as a member of any pool or organized tour, and reported his personal findings, based on observation and interviews inside Iraq and Kuwait before the lids were screwed down. And what about the times when a reporter cannot go and find out personally? Well, said Ms. Medina in answer to a question, let's at least preserve some doubts about whether what we have been told is the truth.

In an overall summing-up at the end of seminar, John Honderich, editor of *The Toronto Star*, questioned the idea that it was necessary to join pools. *The Star* reporter Kevin Donovan, after spending one day in Riyadh, rented a car and, with two American reporters and a Swede, drove north to somewhere near the front. For three weeks he filed war stories to *The Star*, as did his companions to their newspapers, without any interference or complaint from US military authorities.

*The Star's* surveys showed that 75 percent of its readers used television as their primary source of information on the Gulf crisis. Yet in the five days after the war began, daily circulation rose between 40 percent and 60 percent. This showed that even though people watched CNN, they needed more, Mr. Honderich said. "They went to print for perspective."