

Institute, said the world had a ringside seat to revolution. What he called the CNN-ization of the world. Our live camera from the roof of the building in which our bureau was housed looked down on the square on one side of the Russian Parliament building in Moscow. We saw the barricades go up live. The tanks rolled by. Boris Yeltsin got up on one of the tanks. We heard from our correspondent inside the building as its occupiers prepared for the worst. In one sixteen-hour period, the first night in the day of the coup, the viewers of the world learned of the takeover, saw the protesters and they watched a press conference of the coup leaders -- the eight grey men. We heard the women from Alma-Ata saying that people of Kazakhstan will hang with the people of Moscow in opposing the takeover. We saw the 300,000 demonstrators in Leningrad; they were seen worldwide. We watched it all collapse.

The President at Kennebunkport watched as did leaders across the West. Certainly, there were many factors in the failure. One has to believe that one of them was the open, complete and unhysterical reporting of the journalists on the scene. So my answer to the question: are we ready to do this and other similar tasks? -- is yes.