

Not many networks can do this. As a part of this responsibility, I have heard criticism that we at CNN and the global television news are putting too much pressure on politicians -- statesmen as they like to call themselves -- whenever the colloquy is international and not just local politics. When its war, they claim statesmanship. When it's our local highways being resurfaced, it's politics.

Well, perhaps we will serve to create a higher class of politicians. Certainly, we have seen over the decades that the political class has a remarkable ability to adjust quickly. And if no comment is proper for our satellite signal, then an intelligent policy-maker will tell us "no comment." If this limited stress is unacceptable, then perhaps we need some new leaders.

All the above is applicable to institutional, private sector, military and religious leaders, rock stars excepted. In his book *Mass Media and American Foreign Policy*, Patrick O'Heffernan said television impacts foreign policy in three ways. TV increases the number of players in international events, TV accelerates the pace of policy, and TV sets the policy agendas. The author notes that the players may not be to the liking of the diplomatic establishment since we seek participants who may be terrorists, sometimes a lunatic fringe, some who are not of the accepted and somewhat elitist diplomatic milieu.

In an interview, US political analyst Robert Beckel says he believed President Reagan found himself forced to keep sending Secretary of State George Schultz back to the Middle East because of the provocative effects of the televised clash between the Israeli army, the police and *Intifadah*. Viewers around the world fully expect complete coverage of the next war, not realizing that they hardly had complete coverage of the one we are still fighting. For instance, you have yet to see videotape or still picture of the war on the ground. What you did see was carefully controlled, except for the CNN open microphone in Baghdad, the flyaway in the Iraqi capital plus the live or near-live reports of the Scud-Patriot missile intercepts. We nearly all drowned in the Pentagon pools.

The air war was seen through the lens of the fighter bomber's government released successes. They did not show us any misses, which gave the impression of a Hollywood western -- I'm sorry, Toronto western -- where the good guy never misses.