

There was little information on other parts of the country, or even of the large city of Baghdad, but viewers of CNN did at least see the war through the eyes and lenses of Arnett and his camera crew, from the first scary shots from inside his hotel room to the dreadful scenes of carnage when an American bomb hit an air-raid shelter crammed with women and children. For showing this film footage, Arnett and CNN were bitterly attacked by some members of the US Congress -- something that happens in every war when the written or the filmic word suggests that people in the enemy country are human too.

Almost the whole world, it is not too much to say, watched highlights of this story in "real time." If people in some parts of the world, particularly in the Arab world, thought the Western media did not cover it fairly from their point of view, it would still be hard to fault CNN, since so much of its coverage consisted of actuality film of actuality film of actual events, and the reportage that went with it, especially Arnett's, was painstakingly factual.

During a panel discussion mainly on other subjects (See Chapter V), Mark Starowicz, Executive Producer of CBC's *The Journal*, expressed reservations about live television as distinguished from carefully edited film documentary.

Governments' press strategies and the sheer numbers of the press will continue reducing many world events to the level of mass photo opportunities. And I think a large part of the Gulf War can be described as a mass photo opportunity.

This leads to a pernicious form of escalation, the escalation by anchor man.... It is a competition for the backdrop, the Berlin Wall or the blue domes of the Dhahran Hotel. Everybody thought it was part of a mosque, but, you know, the blue domes are over the pool.... Our man in Amman, in a shirt with epaulettes, has become the cargo-cult journalism of the satellite age. "If I am standing here live, and there is a minaret behind me, then I am a journalist and you should believe me."

"TV is still a very primitive medium," Starowicz said. The CBC has one Asia correspondent, who is expected to cover a continent of billions. The same could be said of some Canadian newspapers; but most have no Asia or foreign correspondents at all. However, the difference is that newspapers use international news agencies that do have