

## Editorial

### *When the truth comes out*

As soon as the Persian Gulf war started, President Bush signed three secret Executive Orders which put the U.S. media under U.S. intelligence agency war-time control. According to Washington, D.C. radio reports on Jan. 17, this is part of a deliberate propaganda effort intended to demoralize Iraq and engender pro-war sentiment in the United States. The role of the international Cable News Network (CNN) is key to this operation.

CNN was formed in 1970 by Robert Edward "Ted" Turner III, seemingly out of nowhere and with unknown financing. Over the next decade, Turner depicted himself as a maverick intent on taking on the establishment media. Former CIA director William Colby has been one of Turner's top advisers. Within a mere 20 years, CNN had expanded to an international audience of 53 million, with audiences in South America, the Middle East, and Asia. It is well placed for intelligence gathering and black operations, such as running the disinformation campaign about the Gulf war.

In the opening hours of the war on Jan. 16, CNN Pentagon correspondent Wolf Blitzer claimed that "high-level Pentagon sources" had just told him that the first U.S. bombing raid of Iraq had already "decimated" Iraqi military and industrial capabilities. Reality has proven otherwise. Then, take the case of the bombing of a Baghdad factory which produced Iraq's only supply of infant formula. When the Iraqis protested the genocidal implications of such targeting, the Pentagon tried to sell the story that this was really a chemical warfare installation. Even CNN correspondent in Baghdad Peter Arnett felt obliged to contradict this lie.

The press has proven restive in the face of this extreme censorship. One reporter in Dhahran, for example, had his cameras pan in on a crater presumably caused by an Iraqi Scud missile, while he read the official Army disclaimer that not all Scuds had—at that time—been intercepted by U.S. Patriot missiles.

In France, censorship is apparently extending to the domestic anti-war movement. Several demonstrations against the war have been stopped by French police,

and anti-war videos have been confiscated.

Meanwhile, Bush's Soviet "partner," Mikhail Gorbachov, has abandoned the pretense of perestroika and glasnost. First Gorbachov demanded renewed press censorship inside the Soviet Union, to repress accounts of events in the Baltic states. The Soviets moved to take over the Lithuanian communications media, first in the violent takeover of the Vilnius TV tower on Jan. 13, and on Jan. 23, when the Red Army seized paper and ink production facilities that supplied Lithuanian government papers. Similar moves are occurring throughout the U.S.S.R. as Moscow embarks on bloody repression of the independent republics, and potentially in Eastern European countries such as Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia as well. Soviet moves toward police-state repression are greatly underplayed by the U.S. media.

Bush's Gulf war is based upon two major premises: first, that the U.S. will be able to force Iraq into submission before the war spreads to other nations, thus going out of control; and second, that the day of East/West conflict is past. Both premises are wrong. By lying to the American people, Bush is ensuring that their anger will be that much greater when the truth comes out.

Unfortunately, it is not just the political future of the Bush crowd which is at stake. As the Gulf war spreads and the U.S. atrocities become known, the United States ceases to be a credible rallying point for those who would fight repression. In a period when the Soviets are reasserting their imperial ambitions, George Bush is putting the future existence of the United States in jeopardy.

The handwriting has been on the wall since Bush and the liberal Establishment that backs him, began trying to silence the voice of Lyndon LaRouche and the press which publishes his writings, such as *EIR*, through financial warfare and Soviet-style court proceedings, against LaRouche himself and his close associates. The spread of this publication's circulation is the best defense of freedom of the press in the U.S.A. and in the world. That is where *you* come in.