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Feb. 19, 1991

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Mr. Brian Lamb,
C-SPAN
400 N. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20001

MAR 5 - ANS'D

Dear Brian,

Moral authority is an intangible phenomenon which George Bush, his secretary of state, Baker, and others in the current administration do not understand. His position as president gives him a certain measure of authority, but, when he shakes his head and professes to not understand why he does not have the full support of the American public, he is either feigning disbelief, or he has deceived himself by thinking that he can gain office by hook or by crook and still have the informed populace, notably the genuine journalists, behind him when the going gets tough. Of course, much of the media is toeing the official line, whooping it up for the boys and girls "over there" and, out of indolence, ignorance or cowardice, failing to give us the explanations for the reasons for the war. Any national leader in a supposedly civilized country who publicly states he is going to "kick butt" of his counterpart on the opposing side, and to talk about "read my lips" and by offering other ignorant and arrogant gestures in place of admitting that some mistakes had been made long before he came into office and to explain the Mid-East mess, including the Israeli-Palestinian debacle, and of plans to work to correct it does not deserve the full support of the media and of the public, regardless of the state of negotiations with his international opponent of the moment. If programs such as yours and of Peter Arnett's reports via CNN were not to be broadcast the loss to the American public would be a greater loss than all of the oil in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. I mean the loss of freedom of expression. We can develop alternative lifestyles, alternative fuels, conservation and some other healthier attitudes in regard our role as leaders in the world. But, if we kow-tow to the hawks, and those who want the U.S. to rule the world by bomb and bullying we may one day also see the bullying of the public here at home such as happened in other military dictatorships.

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Bush won the election with misleading emotional ads, such as the Willie Horton ad, and with the emotional death-penalty issues, the confusing abortion issues. He did not get a blank check to send American troops to keep oil prices down or to settle the centuries old religious and cultural battles of Palestinians, the Israelis and other middle east factions. It is tragic that we sold weapons to Saddam Hussein and other violent and irresponsible leaders in the MidEast. Bush was involved in other deceptions, such as the Iran Contra affair, and the drug dealing with Noriega, but when he is reminded of it he says, "Oh, that's History." That is a remark that is not consistent with his claim to be "the education president." An education president would not look at the history of events of his country as items of information that can be swept under the rug. He would like to forget this history. But, a good historian could explain to him that events and actions by public figures come back to haunt them. Thanks for your efforts to get on your programs persons who can provide the perspective of history, of technology, of politics and of war. They talk about the "fog of war." The fog of the war that Bush has presented was spread for years to deceive us of the problems that he and some of our other leaders compounded while they were creating our military machine and weakening the moral fabric of our society, and of our economy.

Congratulations to you and your associates at C-Span for bringing us a lot of information as well as providing both spectrums of the body politic a forum for airing their grievances. I have watched you, Regina Hunter, and other of your staff members and admire your patience in listening to the anger vented from both sides, especially from the hawks in and out of uniform who would like to curtail the freedom of the press. I usually do not have the patience to listen to them, but I think it is good that someone does. I suppose it is kind of therapy for them, but we must not let their views prevail. They do not like so see people take to the streets, but they will see much worse street scenes if they succeed in muzzling the press in this country.

Your programs of in-depth coverage of the war, politics and social problems is a dream come true. I spent over 30 years in print media, and four years in broadcast media in a Latin

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American country when a repressive government was in power. A few months ago took retirement. Until then, I had not had time to get acquainted with the programs of cable-television such as C-Span and CNN. I see now that I was missing out on a lot of news coverage in depth. Thank God you are here when we need you in this time of international crisis. And thank God for journalists with the ability and the courage of Peter Arnett. Good luck in explaining his role to those who insist on wearing blinders to what is going on in the world. Meanwhile, take care of yourselves. We need you. Remember, when Dole and Bush were trying to show their respective toughness, Bush claimed to be a Pitt Bull. In our city and many other parts of the country, Pitt Bulls are kept penned in or on a very short leash. Toughness is a good quality. But virtues do not travel alone. Honesty needs defending. Please continue to help keep the press and the president honest.

Sincerely Yours,
[REDACTED]