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C-Span

Washington, D.C.

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Dear Sir,

The scenario is familiar. As the show opens Mr. Lamb goes straight for the hard sell propaganda. Wes Pruden, the mouthpiece for Brian's favorite propaganda organ (subsidized by foreign fascist funds and very non-"mainstream"-the unofficial voice of the CIA, U.S. colonialism and the bible of U.S. reactionaries) refers to Bush's latest atrocity as a spectacular success.

Of course what made it a success is U.S. TV's complete collusion with the military's policies of martial law and a fascist silencing of the press in Panama. The army takes the propaganda footage and pipes it to the collaborationist U.S. TV, which runs this propaganda without even asking what is really going on in that beleaguered little country. This tiny former U.S. colony, trying to break away and struggling to establish some kind of sovereign nationhood is treated with the contempt given any Central American small country with no large military for us to respect. The power brokers in Washington and consequently our TV "PRESS" feel it is suited to be a high tech warfare battleground because of one foolish leader who has made deadly enemies of the people in power in the nearby northern colossus, he is to become a whipping boy to beat up on with deadly force by powerful men and for political reasons that have nothing to do with Panama just as his fellow pariah in Libya was.

Our "MEDIA" has done its part. It has kept us in the dark and served as a cheerleading team for Bush's illegal, vicious and unjustifiable invasion.

Cities are bombed out. 25,000 people are homeless. Thousands are killed in the bombing and fighting. Thousands more

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including thousands of civilians are arbitrarily picked up by special G.I. squads and made political prisoners for devious Pentagon and CIA reasons as the invading hit squads kick in doors and drag people. ^{off} There are no rights. These civilian victims are under a state of siege. It is reminiscent of Nazi Germany's brutal takeover in Prague. They have lists of names. Political prisoners are taken. People disappear.

As the PDF scatters and is destroyed, a new malleable armed force is already being formed that will serve the invader. In its desperate maneuvering the invading country feels it necessary to swear in the new president of their new satellite before launching the invasion. Who swore him in they do not say. Already rumors of mass graves are circulating.

Back to the phones.

As the propaganda call-in show progresses it goes bad for the spin man. It takes one of the reporters to inform us that these clips of Noriega in U.S. custody were taken and put out courtesy of the DEA and the U.S. army. (This reporter is obviously not Brian's strawman.) The army films are reminiscent of the excellent old SS film documentation.

Callers criticize Bush's adventure. Brian cuts them off neatly and perfectly and tosses the questions over to his "kicker" on the show (There is almost always one Rightwinger or strawman on each panel of reporters to catch and deflect the critical calls.). Brian is deft and clever. His timing is perfect. He has the quick finger. Cut the caller off quickly, deflect the left-wing criticism to the Rightwing strawman and go over quickly to the next call. No batting those "bad" calls around the table. Again and again the spinner controls the question and speaks only to his spin partner: "Mr. Gannon, do you think this invasion was a success or failure for our image?"

At last a caller praises the bombings of tiny crowded Panama, a country ^{of} mostly mulatto and "greaser" population.

U.S. GOVERNMENT
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