

29 June 1992
Røyken, Norway

C-SPAN
400 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Suite 650
WAsHington, D.C.
USA

Dear Viewer Information & Services department,

Thank you very much for your response to my letter in April expressing my regret at the loss of the Worldnet signal in our area. After many calls I found out that our cable service out of Asker, Teletransmisjon, no longer distributes the French TV 5 signal that includes the four-hour-long Worldnet package, a mixture of USIA, PBS, and C-SPAN programs. As of April 15, our new signal has only French programing. Cable subscribers in Oslo, however, still receive Worldnet via the old frequency. Apparently, they are able to switch back and forth. I have called our cable company to ask them to switch back to the old signal but do not have very high hopes of this happening as there are few native English-speaking viewers in this outer ring suburb of Oslo.

Although we receive CNN and BBC via cable and can get in Armed Forces Radio Service (which offers NPR) from the NATO base outside Oslo, I still miss C-SPAN. I am American and moved abroad in 1976. I first became acquainted with C-SPAN last year while living temporarily in Minneapolis.

As I indicated in my first letter I do not have a very high regard for the Worldnet programs put out by USIA. The Worldnet Dialogue discussion programs are directed at a closed circle of bureaucrats and the Lifestyle USA clips are embarrassingly old. The only things I watched were the C-SPAN programs like Journalists' Roundtable and campaign trail. The call-in program was very popular with Europeans and Americans living abroad who frequently called in their questions and views. I remember Brian Lamb this spring asking a caller from Turkey how he received Journalist's Roundtable. When he replied "TV 5" the panel seemed a bit bewildered at the world-wide reach of the program. What struck me about these calls was how acutely interested Europeans are in American affairs.

The Worldnet technician I spoke with at the American Embassy in Oslo freely admitted that Worldnet was in shambles and has been threatened - rightfully - with extinction for some time. As I understand it, TV 5 has been airing Worldnet as filler material as USIA is not paying them anything. Furthermore, the package airs during the afternoon when few potential viewers are at home.

My reason for writing to you is to encourage C-SPAN to take over Worldnet's public programing duties completely. I would

like to see at least one 24-hour C-SPAN channel satcast overseas. I realize that this is a tall, probably prohibitively expensive order, but one which is nevertheless heartfelt meant. The embassy told me that USIA's contract with TV 5 runs out Sept. 15 and that no one knows what is going to happen. Believe me, there is a hungry audience over here for C-SPAN programing. We need some balance to the commercial American TV shows that clog the European state TV and cable channels and we need it at a time of day when it will be watched by people over here.

My hope is that Europeans will one day be granted the same bird's eye view of American institutions that Americans have through C-SPAN and C-SPAN II.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Ms. [REDACTED]

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