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The Nation
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"Arafat's Speech" (The Nation 1/2/89) is entirely different in the Arafat version and that of your devil-beater.

In two full pages of Goebbels-like diatribe Cockburn did not quote a single word by Arafat. He did invent a completely dishonest paraphrase: "a pacific P.L.O. extended recognition."

To say that the PLO recognized Israel is to lie deliberately. To say that Arafat did is to misinterpret both what he actually said and his powers. He cannot unilaterally override the PLO executive, which met in Algiers and refused to recognize Israel. Moreover, he did not.

, With his customary evasiveness, Arafat mentioned only a single state he said would be secure - Palestine - a state that does not exist, save for the 70 percent of original Palestine that is now known as Jordan.

Not only did Arafat not recognize and promise security to Israel, as the PLO council also did not, the PLO charter still calls for wiping Israel out. Some "recognition!"

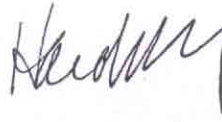
This is as "pacific" as was the slaughters of the innocent at the Rome and Vienna airports, on the Greek ferry, in the various synagogues bombed and as was the murder of the aged and infirm Leon Klinghofer.

Not one of these acts, "pacific" to Cockburn, atrocities

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to me, is to Arafat even "terrorism." Not one was connected to the State of Israel.

What have we come to when a gifted Nation columnist can write such Hitlerian lies and incitations to further horrors and The Nation, without even a murmured demurrer, headlines them on its cover!



Harold Weisberg