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Self-destructive Meachum is out

Roy Meachum has told us that Hitler had to be coerced into killing 6,000,000 Jews; that Klaus Barbie, the "Butcher of Lyon," was a minor character because the deaths for which he was responsible number only in the thousands; that, coinciding with the Gulf War, Saddam Hussein was a man of peace because he had found Allah, proof, he was photographed at prayer; and that Arab terrorists, especially those who kill unarmed and innocent civilians, are not terrorists at all — they are patriots, the Arab George Washingtons.

Now, with six weeks to consider how he would make the pretense of addressing my article again demonstrating how he is without exception wrong in every column he writes about the Middle East, his screed appeared along with it on March 27.

Needing some kind of peg on which to hand his resumed Israel-bashing, titled "Killing . . ." he says it is "to update the current Middle East disaster."

"Update" it is not. Out of date it is. The most recent event he mentions is the Arab barbarity in bombing the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires in which only four of the known 28 killed were Jews.

His "update," which is really more of his propaganda, begins 20 years ago — in 1972.

And it is the dirtiest of dishonest writing. I address only a few examples.

He begins by saying that "these are particularly" anxious times for the Palestinians who live in "south Lebanon's refugee camps." Why? Because they fear retaliation from Israel over the Arab Buenos Aires monstrosity.

This tells the reader that Israel retaliates by bombing the refugees, and that is a lie. It retaliates against terrorist installations in Lebanon, against those who terrorize Israelis, almost always civilians. Israel has bombed these terrorist camps only in

retaliation against Palestinian atrocities.

Next he justifies the Arab Buenos Aires slaughter by referring to it "as revenge for the political assassination committed by U.S. helicopters weapons systems," a dirty slanting to prejudice the reader, only slightly relieved by his saying they were "fired by Israeli military."

Mixing "choppers" up with "jets" he says the "murdered sheik" was retaliation for the "loss of three Soviet immigrants." What he is really talking about is their being cut to death by Arabs while they slept.

He says of this sheik only that he was "the leader of the pro-Iranian Hizbullah faction."

"Faction" of what? He could and he should have said of the most extreme of terrorists, those who among other abominable acts resorted to the barbarism of the world's uncivilized past in taking and holding all those innocent Americans and others hostage, torturing some and dumping their bodies for the carrion eaters. They have murdered countless Israelis and this sheik was one of their leaders in these atrocities.

Or, he was a legitimate target for retaliation as a terrorist leader.

When Meachum slips and gets close to the truth he understates it and misdirects the reader.

It is to a degree true that the "only common ground shared by all Arabs rests on a bitter hatred for Israel." But the reality is that all Muslim countries save Egypt have persisted in maintaining a state of war with Israel and in the expressed determination to drive all Jews into the sea, to wipe Israel out. This also remains the PLO's objective.

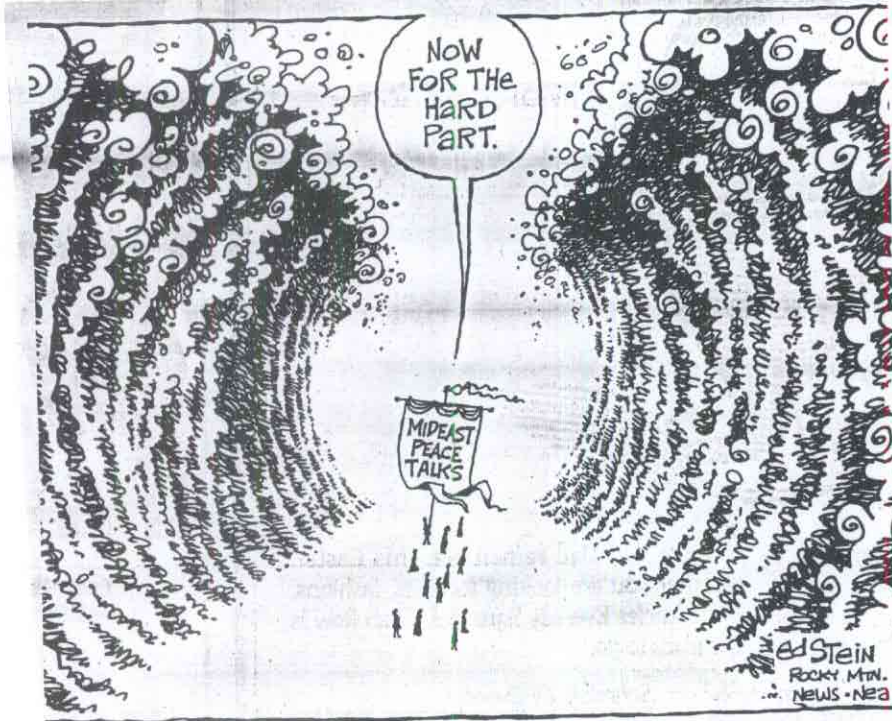
Next Meachum says what is not so, that there was no real threat (of which he refers only to the alleged "Soviet threat to the world's oil supply") once "Sadat sent all the Russians packing out of Egypt in 1972."

And thus, of course, there was no reason for the U.S. to aid the only democratic state

and dependable ally in the region, Israel.

Not only does 20 years of history prove that as usual Meachum is wrong but as I pointed out he has an unerring sense of timing, his pro-Arab propaganda appearing along with new proof that he is still again wrong. Here he says that since 1972 there was no real threat against Israel and March 11 he referred to "that tired old propaganda wheeze, to push Israel into the sea."

of date on Israel



The very day his "tired old wheeze," that Israel is under no threat, appeared the Iranian News Agency reported that Iran's spiritual leader "called for attacks against Israel and its interests and led thousands of demonstrators in chanting "Death to America' and 'Death to Israel.'"

Also on that very day CIA Director Robert Gates testified to Iran's "now buying \$2 billion worth of weapons" yearly, including

"advanced warplanes, anti-aircraft missiles and some extended-range Scud missiles" plus "at least two Russian submarines." In 10 years Iran spent \$10 billion for offensive terror weapons.

Gates described this as "hostile to U.S. interests."

He testified also to "Iran's growing support of radical Palestinian groups," to its closeness to Libya (which Meachum described as friendless in the Muslim world); to its opposition to Middle East peace; and as promoting terrorism and other active measures to undermine peace efforts.

Iran alone, Gates testified, is close to achieving a nuclear-weapons capability and poison gas warheads for its improved missiles of greater range and accuracy. He believes it is developing a bacteriological warfare capability, just what the U.S. wants those terrorists believing in "Death to America" to have.

Gates also testified that Meachum's man of peace, Saddam, still has Scud launchers plus several hundred of those missiles along with some chemical and biological weapons and the means to make more.

As I pointed out, refuting Meachum's "tired old wheeze" propaganda, heavily-armed Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia have been modernizing their military. They can attack Israel and some of their long-range aircraft and rockets are for this purpose.

It is truly remarkable that self-important and pretently omniscient Meachum has this ineffable timing for his endless anti-Israel and pro-Arab propaganda so that it appears along with the proof that he is always wrong on both fact and opinion.

Hail, self-destructive Roy Meachum. He is (thank God) unique in Frederick.

Harold Weisberg lives in Frederick.