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Meachum on Israel amounts to propaganda

Two extremes of Israel-bashing are face to face in the Dec. 6 papers, sophisticated, pretendedly informed and authoritative and subtle in Roy Meachum's column and grossly inaccurate in Louis E. Willhauck's.

In the on-going and apparently never-ending Meachumite rewriting of current history he actually blames the Islamic hostage taking on Israel by the sinister device of inventing the beginning of this hostage taking allegedly by Israel in 1970.

Always the victim of prejudice and ignorance he protests that his "license to do international commentary" was "lifted" for five years because of his version, as he now puts it:

"The first story about hostage-taking that crossed my desk... had to do with nine Lebanese soldiers taken (hostage) by the Israelis, who objected to the movement of Palestinians from out of Jordan and onto their northern borders."

In all his innumerable columns that, like this one, amount to propaganda, he has yet to inform his readers that as of 1970 and with the single exception of Egypt, as of today, the entire Muslim world persists in staying in a state of war with Israel, part of its first unhiddden and recently scarcely hidden determination to wipe the state of Israel out, a determination unchanged in the charter of the PLO.

While "movement of Palestinians" is designed to suggest in peace, perhaps women and children too, in fact it was terrorists and they had to cross Syria to get to Lebanon. For years they inflicted many casualties on Israeli citizens across the Lebanese border, not infrequently when their murder squads crossed it and then returned to Lebanese sanctuary.

Note that while with a state of war insisted upon by Lebanon it makes little difference in the legality of taking prisoners, not "hostages," Meachum is careful not to assure his readers that they were not taken prisoner inside Israel or not themselves caught in inflicting or attempting to inflict harm on innocent Israelis going about their normal lives.

Lebanon was responsible for permitting its territory to be used for warlike purposes, and for the consequences of it.

He continues his false pretense that as of this day there are no such murderous incursions from Lebanon, as there have been, he refers to the "so-called security zone" in southern Lebanon, over which he expresses his "disgust."

Lebanon abounds in terrorist bases and the papers carry the reports when in retaliation against terrorist acts Israel bombs them. What "disgusts" Meachum has saved many lives and is necessary as a means of frustrating murders and maimings to the degree they can be frustrated.

Some of this concoction that does build to an astounding conclusion is sophomoric: "Jordan's King Hussein went to Sandhurst. While his grandson studied at Britain's West Point, old King Abdullah was hardly likely to ruffle London's feathers."

There were real reasons, not this fantasy, for Abdullah's not provoking Britain. Britain organized, financed, led and controlled Abdullah's army. British General Sir John Glubb led it when that Arab Legion joined the other Arab states that attacked Israel when it was founded. Abdullah was not about to bite the hand that fed him after installing him as king over the country that Britain itself created for him.

Hussein was not king when he studied in England. He became king with what Meachum does not trouble his readers to know, Abdullah's assassination by Arabs who suspected he was willing to discuss peace with Israel. This is exactly what happened to Egypt's Sadat when he made peace with Israel. It is what every Muslim ruler has to fear if he decides to really make peace with Israel.

This column apparently expects its readers to be entirely ignorant of recent events in the Islamic world. How else could it even dream of saying, "Violence against the defenseless simply has no place in Islam."

Beginning with Saddam, Meachumized into a "man of god" at the beginning of the Gulf War and since neither repented nor apologized for, perhaps the single most tragic truth in the troubled Islamic world is the exact opposite of this whopper. Saddam is still taking horrible vengeance against "the defenseless" in Iraq, ranging from those he merely dislikes to the Kurds and other minorities. Kuwait, too, has been strongly condemned by Amnesty International and many other groups for precisely what we are to believe "has no place in Islam" in which it has for years been prevalent.

Syria's Assad, President Bush's new ally while Syria is still on the official list of terrorist states, has wiped out as many as 5,000 in a single day of his own "defenseless" for the imagined crime of not liking him.

Another of President Bush's new allies, Saudi Arabia, in the recent past chopped off the hands of those suspected of stealing. It's more modest "violence against the defenseless" that got extensive attention was jailing and otherwise punishing women who dared to drive an auto.

Without a single real democracy in the entire Islamic world "violence against the defenseless" is inevitable and widespread.

After his tirade of disinformation and misinformation and the incitation of hatred of Israel for his trumped-up charge of

beginning recent Middle East hostage-taking, Meachum prates that "any attempt to speak rationally about the Middle East runs into a buzz saw of vented spleen and hate."

If this is an illustration of "rationality" we'd be better off with irrationality. It simply is a contrived vehicle for hate, and that is not rational.

After these "buzz saws" of "spleen and hate" there is the unhidden irrationality and the fantasies presented as fact of Willhauck's "Thoughts on Israel."

He begins it modestly, if history is ignored, the history in which 100 percent of the Muslim world refused to "come to the peace table", with any Israelis until Sadat lost his life for doing that, by a simple and now obvious untruth, referring to "Israel's reluctance to come to the peace table." It was at Madrid, Israel insisted that the conference be in the locale of all the participants, and it stated that it would attend those in Washington four days after the date arbitrarily set by the Bush administration, claiming it needed more time to prepare.

Because it was there and will be there again and again this is Willhaucked into "reluctance" to be there.

He then uses, inside of quotation marks, "jewishness" that in context is attributed to the Israeli government. Neither it nor Jews in general use this invented word. All refer to "Jewishness" and not as Willhauck uses it, as an anti-Semitic epithet.

His contrived justification is that "Israel is one of the most racist and discriminatory regimes in the whole region" because it — and I doubt that he knows what he is talking about — "reject(ed) about 3,000 Ethiopian refugees whose 'credentials' were insufficient to prove the proper degree of 'jewishness.'"

Any person, Ethiopian or other, with a

Jewish mother is, according to Israel law, a Jew. There are no degrees. Israel has run great risks and added materially to its national debt to rescue Ethiopian Jews, 20,000 at a clip one time, and is feeding and housing and educating them because most have no way of making a living.

Willhauck "wonder(s) if all the cutbacks in the return of federal revenues to the states is not fueled by a concern that we have enough money to send to Israel." This is stark, raving mad and another anti-Semitic incitation. There is no relevance at all in the reduction of money returned to the states that began in the Reagan administration.

Where he really zooms into LaLa Land is in saying of "the so-called budget crunch" (if it isn't real enough for him nothing in this world can be) that "there is no lack of funds, just a lack of proper priorities for the distribution of those funds, most blatantly at the federal level and working its way down."

Anyone who can say this can say anything. Come to think of it he does.

The income of all governments, local and national, is down enormously. In addition, a bankrupting percentage of this greatly-reduced income goes to service the national debt. Essential services have been cut and will be cut more.

To say that there is no lack of money is to see cows jumping over the moon that is made of green cheese while hearing shrimps whistle.

Once again the anti-Semites, overt or covert, the Israel-bashers, invent what they say and once again those not-well enough informed are misled and invited to hatred.

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