

Editor
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Roy Meachum's January 18 column, ~~which~~ builds to a Hitlerian indecency, the allegation that Israel^{is}he calls "Hardliners" and in the past has equated with the Israeli government, bombed the PanAm jet and murdered more than 275 people, mostly Americans, including Jews. His convoluted and entirely baseless reasoning is that they "have more to gain than Abu Nidal," followed by the irrelevancy, the fictitious, "if the deaths...^{have been hung on} could be attributed to the PLO." Nobody in his right mind does blame Arafat and his PLO faction.

~~It~~ ^{Mr. Meachum} concludes with the false pretense that he answers my many criticisms of his defense of Arab terrorists by ~~attributing my~~ ^{representing} ~~pretending~~ that they are limited to allegedly confusing Abu Abbas with Abu Nidal. My point was and remains that Mr. Meachum stated without any ifs or buts that the Arab terrorists ~~were~~ ^{are} not terrorists but are merely patriots, sort-of modern-day George Washingtons.

Until Mr. Meachum either defends what he actually wrote and has ~~never~~ ^{not} retracted or ~~apologized for or~~ apologizes and retracts now, there is no way he can escape responsibility for what he did write and the papers did publish after that earlier outrage that he then quite specifically defends ^{by} the terrorists' piracy and cold-blooded murder of the aged and infirm American, Leon Klinghofer, whose ^{body} they threw ^{his body} into the Mediterranean along with his wheelchair. ^{ate it in months} Months after the fishes finished with it what remained washed up on an eastern shore.

^{insisting they are} Forgetting his defense of terrorists by ~~calling them~~ ^{insisting they are} only patriots, he now says ~~what without realizing it he portrays as false,~~ "I defended their upholding international law," referring to Italy and Yugoslavia turning Abu Abbas free although the United States wanted him tried.

"Abu Abbas," Mr. Meachum pontificates, "was subsequently tried by an Italian court ~~and~~ (and is) a convicted terrorist which he was not before that trial." ~~He~~ ^{clear} ~~was~~ a terrorist before the trial but, obviously, until he was tried he could not be "convicted." ~~It is obvious, however,~~ ^{clear} that "international law" did apply to Abu Abbas otherwise

he could not have been tried at all.

Perhaps in all that world-wide experience of which he has boasted so often "r. Meachum never heard of piracy. ^{to know that murder is murder} but one doesn't need the credentials he claims, ~~one need~~ only ~~common sense~~ ^{and} to know that piracy is piracy and ^{has} always been law violation.

I don't pretend ^{full} ~~Mr. Meachum's~~ knowledge of ^{all} (things Arab. Maybe his omniscience ^{the / Mr. Meachum's} ~~can~~ ^{will report} let us know whether or not there is any connection between Abu Abbas and Abu Nidal. ^{is} ~~It~~, for example, ^{including Abbas. If so} ~~is~~ the top boss of ~~those~~ those international terrorists, ^{is not mine} ~~and if so~~ ^{is} the alleged confusion ~~Mr. Meachum's or mine?~~

Now that he has gone through this journalistic ~~is~~ sleight-of-hand so long after most readers and probably editors (if any editor dare lay a pencil on what he writes) can no longer remember what he actually wrote; ^{now that he misrepresents the thrust of my criticism he ignored for so long} ~~and having again misrepresented what he~~

~~did write without retraction or apology,~~ perhaps "r. Meachum will go back to those columns of the time immediately after ^{that} the Abu Abbas "patriotism" and ^{still deny that he said} ~~tell his readers~~ whether or not he did call Arab terrorists ^{is} / only patriots ~~and not terrorists.~~

Something like ~~900~~ ⁹⁰⁰ acts of international terrorism have been attributed to Abu Nidal's gang of murderers and bombers of places of worship by our government. Included are those great patriotic ^{exploits} ~~efforts~~ of bombing the Rome and Vienna airports in which many Americans, including children, were killed. Maybe - if he ever once did it - Mr. Meachum can now ^{continue} ~~reprint his~~ ^{condemns} ~~condemnations~~ of terrorism as terrorism to the Abu Nidal gang. I don't remember his ever doing that. Only after Arafat got away with pretending he guaranteed what he in fact did not guarantee did Mr. Meachum ~~murder~~ ^{utter} a word against Abu Nidal.

Harold Weiskopf