

Mr. Mike Powell
News-Post
Frederick, Md. 21701

12/19/88

Dear Mike,

I take the unusual step of submitting this through you to Clem because of two prior experiences that may not reflect prejudice but suggest it.

The last oped page submission was in response to one of Meachum's more outrageous misrepresentations of the military balance in that area. It was edited into a letter in which the ^{quite} ~~gaps~~ were removed, making it almost silly.

When Reid had his anti-ACLU column before the election I submitted an oped piece on the other side. Before drafting it I phoned a spoke to Clem. I did not ask his assurance that he would publish it, as I never ^{have} ~~had~~, only that it would be considered. He not only assured me it would be, he went farther and said it then was quite topical and therefore of more interest. It did not appear in any form and your readers once again got only one side and that side was enormously distorted.

There is no point in my making any submission if it is not going to get fair consideration. There is nothing in me for it and I'm recovering from surgery on my better eye, which will have stitches in it for another 10 weeks. So, I don't want to eye-strain if it is a futility.

Hope you all have a good holiday
and a good year,

Harold

The 'usual distortions'

2/14/89
Were the Messiah to appear at Frederick's square corner, Roy Meachum would find a way to make pro-Arab and anti-Israeli propaganda of it.

This is precisely what he did when historian Barbara Tuchman died. Plus more of his self-promotion and name dropping. Her death was his "personal loss." Read, she'd been his great chum.

With his usual distortions and misrepresentations and writing of *Jewish* attitudes of 1956, he says, in his Feb. 10 column that then "many Zionists still harbored bitter hatred against the English for their resistance to Palestine's conversion into a Jewish-controlled state."

Long before then 70 percent of Palestine had been turned over to the Arabs for the State of Trans-Jordan. It now calls itself Jordan.

Mr. Meachum uses "hatred," which is hardly the word, except for propaganda purposes, and he says it was "against the English," which is entirely untrue. Jewish opposition and resentment was not against a people. It was against a series of British governments because of their actions and refusals to meet their obligations and agreements as a result of which hundreds of thousands of Jews died, some terrible deaths.

He uses the new buzzword for Jews as it is used by Arabs and by the USSR's anti-Semites. He means "Jews." He says "Zionists."

Over the years his timing for self-exposure has been remarkable as it was the very day that column appeared. That same morning *The Washington Post's* story from its Moscow correspondent was headed, "Soviets Assail Anti-Semitism," subhead, "Historians Liken Moscow Tactics to Hitler's."

Those two historians, Sergei Rogov and Vladimir Nosenko, condemned Vladimir Begun and others for sowing "mistrust and suspicion of Jews," leading "to eventual emigration of tens of thousands of Soviet Jews." They compared Begun's writings with Hitler's "Mein Kampf." They concluded that "the only difference is that Hitler wrote about Jews and Begun writes about Zionists." The *Post* said that these historians "also said that in Soviet propaganda, the term 'Zionist' has been more 'camouflage' to mask blatant anti-Semitism."

This has been true of the Muslim world for years and it is true today of Mr. Meachum's shameless exploitation of Barbara Tuchman's death.

Mr. Meachum lectures everybody because he knows more and better than anyone else. He is omniscient. He concludes his Tuchman exploitation by lecturing Israel: its "rulers should examine the lessons taught by the history of other conquerors . . ."

There is no limit to His Omniscience's insensitivity and ignorance. There is no other people more familiar with "the lessons taught by the

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history of other conquerors." Jewish personal experience with this history goes back 4,000 years. It includes too many holocausts, not the least of which was by Mohammed when he drove those Jews he did not kill or keep as slaves or prostitutes out of their native land.

Their recovery of it makes them "conquerors" to Mr. Meachum.

What history teaches Jews is that no people have ever been slaughtered as they have been by other peoples, "conquerors." Countless millions were killed in antiquity. Jews were about 10 percent of the Roman empire when the Romans, as the Greeks before them did, started wiping them out. Jews familiar with their history know what Mohammed did to them.

It is because they know too painfully well what their lesson of history is that Israel's leaders have their own concepts of what their security requires and do not listen to the Meachums great and small.

HAROLD WEISBERG
Frederick

In the interminable series of always biased and factually inaccurate columns on the holy land that by their bias and frequency alone violate traditional American concepts of decent journalism and fairness, in his "Peace promises for Jerusalem" diatribe Roy Metchum again misrepresents, ^{deceives} ~~deceives~~, misleads and is factually incorrect. And, ^{as} ~~as~~ he ^{has} so consistently in the past, he says nothing at all about what he supposedly is writing about, in this case the so-called Arafat guarantee of the security of Israel as a state and the end of terrorism in that area.

A few of the ~~fact~~ ^{all} inaccuracies, and the latitude ordinarily extended to columnist ~~opinion~~ ^{opinion} does not include factual misstatements, he says that "Jordanians" are "foreigners" in what remains of Palestine after, as he has never once said, Great Britain established Trans-Jordan, which now calls itself Jordan to ^{obscure} ~~hide~~ what he ^{observes} ~~hides~~. Jordan, regardless of how Mr. Metchum misrepresents, ^{original} ~~is~~, as a matter of fact, 70 percent of the Palestine territory. Moreover, more than half its ~~present~~ population was born in the part not included in that 70 percent.

He says that Egypt's Sadat, who negotiated the ^{Camp David} ~~peace settlement~~ ^{other} ~~the~~ Arabs then did not agree to after Israel returned to Egypt all it had taken in their last war, "went to his death (what a way to describe being assassinated!) a failure" because "of his ^{inability} ~~failure~~ to make himself heard above the din of domestic politics, in this country and ~~in~~ Israel."

Sadat was assassinated, as was Jordan's Abdullah before him and as were many Palestinian Arabs who talked peace with Israel, because he had negotiated a peace agreement that gave Arabs autonomy in Gaza, ^{and in} ~~Samaria~~ and Judea, part of the original Jewish homeland now called the West Bank.

The only reason there has been no peace in that troubled land is because for more than 60 years Arabs have refused to agree to the existence of any Israeli state. In 1937 they refused even to talk about an Israeli state consisting of only 10 percent of what remained of Palestine after creation of the Arab state of Jordan from it. No matter what compromises were offered, ^{and thereafter} ~~Arabs~~ ^{Arabs} rejected them all.

The recent change is that the United States began to talk to the PLO after it supposedly got assurances that in fact it did not get. These include the guarantee of the peaceful existence of the State of Israel and the ~~end~~ ^{end} of terrorism. These ~~alleged~~ ^{alleged} assurances were not by the PLO, regardless of the widespread misrepresentations, but by ^{or} ~~Arafat~~ personally, whatever faith can be put in the words of a man who has not distinguished himself in either truthfulness or forthrightness. And even then Arafat did not say what the U.S. pretends he said.

PLO policy decisions are made only by a two-thirds ~~by~~ ^{vote} of its executive. That executive met only recently ~~at the PLO headquarters in Algiers~~ in Algiers and it then

Harold Weisberg

Refused to make the ^{new} policy changes the diplomatically ~~bankrupt~~ ^{it} Reagan-Bush-Schultz administrations pretend have been made. ~~by~~ ^{alone} Arafat, ~~who~~ ^{can't} make them if he wants to. *He doesn't and he didn't.*

The unchanged PLO charter still calls for driving Israelis into the sea. ~~to~~ ^{This} is the exact opposite of assurance ^{in a peaceful} its existence.

If you read Arafat's exact words, not those ^m mumbled by the administration ~~or~~ or entirely ignored by Mr. Meachum, he mentioned only a single "state" in that area, the one that doesn't exist, "Palestine." He did not mention ^{this state of Israel} and even though it would have been meaningless if he had, ~~he did not assure the peaceful~~ ^{He had to plan assassination if he did.} existence of Israel.

For there ~~of~~ be a "peace promise for Jerusalem" or any other part of the holy land, there must first be an end to the PLO's determination to wipe the State of Israel out. The PLO's executive has steadfastly refused to ~~eliminate these words~~ ^{change this stated objective,} from its charter even when a condition of talks with the U.S. Instead, Arafat ~~promises~~ ^{promises circum-} and the Meachum's pontificate and misrepresent and another holocaust comes a little closer.

(The last pre-Hitler holocaust ~~for~~ ^{of} Jews was Mohammed's, when he was unable to ~~take~~ ^{take} Judaism over ~~and~~ ^{he} proceeded to establish his own religion based in part on Judaism. These Jews who did not escape ^{his murdering} he made either slaves or whores.)

When Mr. Meachum refers to the conditions of Arabs under Israeli control ~~and~~ before ~~then~~ ^{he} is just plain untruthful. However bad their conditions in some areas, those areas where the Arab world was able to control what required UN approval,

they are infinitely better than they were under ~~external~~ Arab control and within Israel ever so much better than almost anywhere in the Arab world. The ~~old~~ ^{it} member of the Israeli parliament who has been a member since it was established is an Arab, not a Jew. Israel established ^{three} ~~to see~~ universities for Arabs on the West Bank ~~where~~ where Hussein had established none.

There has been no peace in the holy land only because ~~Arabs~~ ^{the PLO and other Arabs} decided there would be no peace. All the Muslim world remains in a state of war against Israel not because they want peace but because they don't want either peace ~~or~~ ^{that really means} any Israeli state. The one exception was ~~Adat~~ ^{Arabs} and ~~he was~~ ^{him} assassinated for seeking peace and accomplishing a step toward it.

So far as ending terrorism goes, another Meachum avoidance, Arafat describes terrorism as done ^{only} by others, not by his murderers. ^{pretenses}

In the actualities of the Reagan-Bush-Schultz ~~mumbojumbo~~ or in the misrepresentation so typical of Roy Meachum, there now is no "peace promise for Jerusalem" or any part of the holy land and there will not be without the end of Muslim ~~determination~~ ^{to} to end the State of Israel. The words we hear are deception and self-deception only.