

1/27/95

Dear Milco,

I am among the American Jews, albeit not a practising one, who contributes to the Hadassah Hospital which has always ~~paid~~^{cared} for Arabs whether or not they could pay.

The purpose of this terrorism, as ^{He}achum did not find space to say in so long a column, is to end the Arafat-Rabin agreement because they want to wipe the State of Israel out and have all that land.

Those who die in their terrorism have been taught to believe that it assures them immediate passage to heaven.

It ~~is~~ is all so very tragic!

Best,

J. A. Holt

At long last, and my, how long it has been, Roy Meachum has finally found it possible to condemn Arab terrorism. But even then, Meachum being Meachum, which is to say the de facto Frederick representative of the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, he uses his condemnation of the bombing of ^{an Israeli} a bus stop for his usual rewriting of the history of that troubled area.

"It must be ^{understood} clearly, embracing Mr. Arafat represented neither Mr. Rabin's official pleasure nor his personal choice. It was a lesser evil, acceptable solely because of the growing power threatened by other, more radical Palestinian factions who had begun replacing the intifada's symbolic stones with live ammunition," he says.

What he refers to as "factions" are in fact other gangs of terrorists none of which he mentions by name. And the replacing of the stones the kids threw at the beginning of the intifada is not only now beginning. Weapons and explosives have been used for years.

Middle-east specialist that Meachum says he is, he knows very well that the only reason the Arabs did not have what they are now getting many years ago is because they rejected the Camp David agreement Jimmy Carter negotiated and for Israel was agreed to by Rabin's political enemy, Begin. The belated ~~Spar~~ acceptance of that agreement has nothing to do with Arab terrorism. They rejected the offer a decade and a half ago.

If Meachum is a fraction of the middle-east specialist he says he is, he had to know that an Arab state in Gaza, Judea and Samaria, ^{renamed} the West Bank by the British, is very much what Rabin wants and risks his ~~own~~ political future to make the reality. All indications now are that for this he will be defeated at the next election if not kicked out earlier.

I refer to Judea and Samaria because, without any question at all, it is the homeland of Jews. The word comes from Judea. Meachum refers to its being "turned back to the Palestinians." They are the descendants of those who took that land from the Jews who originated there. A legitimate claim can be made, and is made by Rabin's opponents, that this turning back should be to those who began there and had their land stolen by force from them.

"Above all else, Meachum writes, radicals on both sides fear compromise that would

deprive them of the fantasy they might eradicate their enemies through purge or slaughter."

To him the PLO represents not ^{of} terrorist or non-radical Palestinians. Wiping Israel and Jews out remains in its charter even after ^{of} the Arafat-Rabin agreement that called for it to be eliminated. But it is not shared by either the Rabin Labor Party ^{or} of the Begin Likud. They not only do not intend "eradicating" Palestinians, they have Palestinians in their Parliament.

It is not only the Arab "radicals" and it is not the Israelis who would "eradicate their enemies." Doing that remains in the PLO's charter.

Meachum laments, and it should be lamented, that when the Israeli's retaliate against Arab terrorism from Lebanon women and children are among the victims. This retaliation is not ^{only} against the Islamic ~~and~~ Jihad, as he says, and the victimization of women and children and the elderly has been an objective of Arab terrorism from Lebanon and elsewhere since the 1940s. The reason Israel had to take the Golan Heights is because with Syria's protection Arab terrorists were shelling Israeli villages. ^{from there} These villages had to have bomb shelters near the kindergartens and the children had to be ^{taught} ~~to~~ flee there as fast as they could.

Without any Meachum lament, ever.

Meachum quotes statistics from the Baltimore Sun on the number of Jews ~~is~~ killed by Palestinians and of Palestinians killed by Jews but with his usual pro-Arab bias he omits the much more significant statistic, the number of Palestinians killed by Palestinians on suspicion of ~~not~~ not hating Jews enough.

Which is to say nothing about the Muslims, probably close to a million or more, killed by other Muslims in that troubled area ^{of} during ^{that} the same period.

Beginning long before there was a State of Israel the Jewish hospitals in Jerusalem always cared for Arabs, particularly women about to give birth and to them and their children without regard for the fact that those people ~~people~~ could not pay for their care. The tragic wars did not end that practise which, to a large degree, is made possible by the contributions of American Jews.

Arab terrorism did not end that humane practise. ^{of} Nor did the wars against Israel.

Only recently a little Jrdanian girl had rare and expensive life/saving surgery at no cost to her parents, who could not afford it. Jews paid for it.

That is not quite the same as "eradicating" Arabs.

It is unfortunate that virtually all the information, and it is hardly that, available to the people of this area comes from so openly biased a source who is either not the middle-east expert he pretends to be or is less than honest in his reflection of what as an expert he has to know and knew very well.

Harold Weisberg

Roy Meachum



Killing begets killing

1/26/95
When will the brutal slaughter stop?

They were little more than boys: few over 25. They thronged the bus stop Sunday after happy Sabbath furloughs spent being themselves at a nearby resort. On the other end of a ride awaited reality in the form of barracks and sergeants and army routine.

As the world knows, at least 84 Israelis near the station's snack bar were wounded in explosions set off by a pair of suicide bombers. For 19 victims, mostly boys, life ended abruptly, snuffed out by TNT and screaming metal.

A gang calling itself Islamic Jihad (holy struggle) bragged it was responsible for the latest atrocity to stain the soil held holy by the West's three major faiths.

The bus stop murders were purportedly in retaliation for the deaths of three Palestinian policemen by soldiers from the dead boys' army. Mention was also made of an assassination by another explosive device blamed on Israeli intelligence, which didn't bother to deny the charge. The victim that time was a Gaza Arab. Sunday's killers were supposedly from Gaza, too.

In the past 13 months, since an understanding was reached with the PLO, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has watched more of his countrymen die than in any comparable period of the intifada, the uprising that helped persuade Israel to recognize Yasser Arafat's organization.

It must be understood clearly, embracing Mr. Arafat represented neither Mr. Rabin's official pleasure nor his personal choice. It was a lesser evil, acceptable solely because of the growing power threatened by other, more radical Palestinian factions who had begun replacing the intifada's symbolic stones with live ammunition.

In the uprising's first six years, the *Baltimore Sun* reported, a total of 178 Israelis died for 1,206 Palestinians killed by the occupying army or civilians, chiefly West Bank settlers. In 1993, 73 Israelis were killed by Palestinians, the report said, com-

pared to 152 Palestinians who died at Israeli hands.

What set off the current cycle of revenge murders was February's slaughter of 25 praying Palestinians in a Hebron mosque. Their assailant belonged to Kach, one of two Jewish extremist groups put on a "black" list this week by President Bill Clinton. The other proscribed organizations are Islamic and generally lumped together as terrorists.

Not counting attacks around Israel's so-called northern security zone, the Hebron massacre was followed by nine bloody incidents before Sunday's carnage. Air strikes and land assaults over the border (by both sides) simply cannot be calculated accurately, because truth was long ago lost in the shadow war that still blazes in Lebanon.

The way the routine normally goes, Israeli jets, probably joined by commandoes, will shortly stage a raid on Lebanese strongholds nominally under Islamic Jihad control. Along with some fighting men, women and children usually wind up dead.

In any event, survivors feel honor-bound to seek vengeance, following a code considered ancient long before the Middle East received its present name. In fact, mass violence has been a sporadic visitor to the region and usually the product of outside factors.

Virtually all of today's mess can be attributed to elements on the fringe, both Jews and Arabs, who are determined to thwart attempts by responsible leaders to find a formula for their people to live together.

In February's mosque massacre, available information suggests the murderer acted out of fear the peace process, honored by the Nobel Prize, would result in the West Bank, including Hebron, being turned back to the Palestinians. He feared not continuation of the past, but change that would have brought his disarmament and removal, to inside

pre-1967 Israel.

The most recent murderers belong to what amounts to a gang of malcontents, numbering considerably less than 100 and probably financed by pro-Iranian fanatics headquartered safely in Syria. They share with the Hebron gunman a fervent desire to retain the status quo.

Above all else, radicals on both sides fear compromise that would deprive them of the fantasy they might eradicate their enemies, through purge or slaughter. They don't care which.

In the continuing uncertainty that confronts both Muslims and Jews, the only thing that can be considered surefire is the reality there will be more bombs and blood. Gangsters of both persuasions need victims to provide the survivors who fill their ranks.

Around earth's most sanctified sites, as nowhere else, killing begets killing...