

6/29/92

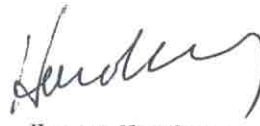
Mr. Mike Powell
New-Post
Frederick, Md. 21701

Dear Mike,

Sorry my typing hasn't improved.

Or that I am always in too much of a rush.

Best,



Harold Weisberg

Roy Meachum's "Rebirth of Hope" column (6/29), consistent with all his columns on the Middle East, is actually his Rekindling of Hate.

Consistent with all his columns, this one tells the reader the only reason there is no peace in the holy land is because Shamir and his Likud bloc would not have it. Only the informed reader will perceive that he gives the lie to this in what he now refers to as a "rebirth of hope."

It is unreal to tell readers that there now or as far into the future as anyone can imagine there is any real prospect for peace there. The entire Muslim world that Meachum loves so much insists on a state of war with Israel, it supports the terrorists, and the PLO's unchanged charter calls for driving all the Jews into the sea.

None of which is in this column.

Toward the end, his "hope," Meachum writes that the incoming prime minister, of the Labor Party, "has openly proposed complete autonomy (a typical Meachum distortion and exaggeration) for most of the West Bank. It may be the best offer Yasser Arafat and his kinsman can expect in their lifetime."

And, in his next paragraph, Meachum says that the election resulted "in the creation of options where there had been none, thanks to intransigence on the part of Mr. Shamir and Mr. Sharon."

What is missing, as this self-anointed expert on almost ^{everything} anything but particularly the Middle East, does not say ^{why} is where there is not that "autonomy" ~~that~~ he now recommends so highly.

He blames that on Shamir, whose partisan I have never been. This is false.

It was the man Shamir succeeded, Menachim Begin, of the same Likud bloc, who with Anwar Sadat and our own President Carter, at Camp David, agreed to autonomy - but the Arabs rejected it!

The other provisions of the Camp David Accords the Likud bloc loved up to, like returning the Sinai to Egypt, with no charge for all the improvements put in, including producing oil wells.

But as soon as the accords were announced the Arabs ~~started~~ who want to wipe

Israel out started killing those who agreed with the Camp David Accord. It was not long before they assassinated Sadat, who negotiated them.

So, Arab intransigence has them not yet back to Camp David and its agreements!

There is much else in this typical Meachum mishmash that is wrong, that for anyone else would be indecent, but it is typical of him.

"like "individual Jews, journalists and others" never dared disagree with Shamir.

If Meachum were not in bed with his Arab sources and saw the Israel press, on that basis alone he'd know how disreputable what he wrote is. I have over the years seen an excellent paper, The Jerusalem Post, and it says Meachum does not know what he talks about on this.

And, of course, he is also say ¹⁹⁶ that those Jews who agreed with Shamir on some issues agreed only because he ^{them} terrorized into it.

He refers to Israel as a "colonial" power. Tiny Israel? Which gave back to Egypt territory greater than it has?

He refers to Israel's alleged repression of human rights, "yet he is silent about how predominating that is in the entire Muslim world, not one ^{country} of which can boast a democratic society. The world's most terrible tyrants rule many of those troubled lands.

He says that "Mr. Rabin ... can achieve genuine peace for the region." False! Only the Muslim rulers can do that and until they agree for Israel to live at peace within its secure borders, it cannot happen, it will not happen, no signature on a piece of paper can make it happen, and the rest is all talk.

Along with all his misrepresentations and incitation to hatred, no matter how carefully he seeks to disguise them, Meachum raises false hopes and those who ^{later} remember this column and his earlier columns will be falsely prepared to blame the lack of peace on Jews when the Arabs could ^{time} have had peace at any beginning in 1947 if they did not want war.

Handwritten signature: Harold Kesley