

## Harold Weisberg

9/28/93

# Meachum's indecency

If I were not a Jew I would still be outraged at Roy Meachum's indecency in marking ... (the) holy days with more of his blind, unthinking, always biased and untruthful anti-Israel and anti-Semitic propaganda (Sept. 15, "Days of Awe"). I hate to use the word but some of this rotten commemoration of a period so sacred to so many is just plain lies.

"... (P)ease cannot be realized unless you are willing to talk to your enemy. It was a principle ceded by Mr. Arafat in 1988, when his organization first" (First? When at all?) "recognized Israel's right to a peaceful and secure existence..."

To this the ... propagandist adds (nothing omitted in quotation): "on land that once belonged to Palestinians." That very land first belonged to Jews, and this propaganda line is unrelated to the gross misrepresentation that proceeds it.

In 1988, when the Bush administration was pressuring Arafat to recognize the right of the State of Israel to live at peace and within secure borders, the words of the UN resolutions, Arafat's "organization" met in North Africa and refused to do just that. On his part, as usually mumbling out of all sides of his mouth, Arafat avoided this also but his substitute was greeted by the administration and all pro-Arabs as though he had. I challenge pontificator Meachum to get and quote Arafat's exact words. He did not mention "the State of Israel." For one of Meachum's pretensions of vast knowledge of the area, this is a lie, not just a mistake.

"For the United States and Israel to stick their heads in the sand, refusing to admit the existence of the mainstream Palestinian movement, never made sense."

That "mainstream Palestinian movement" refused to recognize the existence of the State of Israel and as of today its charter calls for wiping all Israelis out. All Arab lands save Egypt still refuse to recognize the right of the State of Israel to exist, all remain in a state of war with it, not one recognizes it, and it is Israel and the U.S. that have their heads in the sand, refuse to recognize? For shame! To so mislead trusting readers.

Meachum refers to "native Arabs' right to their grandfathers' land"

... when many of those ARABS IMMIGRATED after the State of Israel was established. And how can anyone with any knowledge of the history and of fact say that the land in question, which is where all Jews originate, is only the land of those Arab grandfathers? Many times in history the Jews were driven out of their own land and always many in the end returned. When they could. The last major expulsion was by Mohammed, and that is how it became Arab land. Anyone at all familiar with the Bible

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... knows that Judea and Samaria, renamed "the west bank" for reasons Meachum never tells his readers, was the Jewish homeland.

At the end of World War I there was an agreement that what then, if I recall correctly, was first called "Palestine" would be divided between Arabs and Jews. British anti-Semites prevented that part that was to be the Jewish state from becoming that state. It was the land west of the Jordan, and it includes what is now called "the west bank." On what was the east bank, then given the name further confirming what I say, "Trans-Jordan," was established as the Arab state created from the Arab share of that until then Turkish territory Britain took over. It's more than 70 percent of the original territory.

To obscure the reality, Hussein changed his state's name by elimination of the "Trans." Since then it is "Jordan."

Meachum also quotes Sadat, who

did not survive his own recognition of the State of Israel, as Hussein's grandfather, Abdullah, did not survive the suspicion that he had that in mind, as saying there would be no peace until it was made directly with the Palestinians. This ignores the state of war against Israel that has existed since the UN created it and the refusal of all Arabs as of that time to recognize Israel. Meachum, as usual, turns in all around. He knows very well that those kinds of talks cannot be held without recognition, withheld by all Muslim powers, or with a state of war, in which they persisted and persist in remaining.

And this is how he shows his respect for what he terms these "Days of Awe."

What is really awesome is that he can be so callous, so indecent, so much the persisting McCarthyite in his writing about that area.

I ask him as McCarthy was asked, "Have you no shame?"

This kind of propaganda, this kind of hate-incitation, to mark such holy days?

*Harold Weisberg writes from Frederick.*