

Mr. George Delaplaine
Frederick News-Post
Frederick, Md. 21701

1/16/86

Dear George,

When I wrote you a month ago I did not expect an answer but I did hope that it might cause you to take time from your busy day and give it some thought. I cautioned you that your hireling Meachum had made you his creature and had made your papers into a forum for more than pro-Arab propaganda, a vehicle for anti-semitism. Although Meachum has slacked off a bit, he continued to misinform and mislead your readers - where you have close to a complete monopoly. He continued to defend Arab terrorists and to pretend that they dislike Qaddafi. He also inserted in a column language he can cite to defend himself from his earlier atrocity, inciting anti-Semitism by with complete and knowing falsehood stating that Jews are the only reason there is no peace in the Middle East. But his casual reference to other unpeaceful conditions in that area does not in any way undo the harm he had done, ending with the clamor that "Washington must hear!" from your readers. Who else?

After the murderous Palestinian Arab assaults on the Rome and Vienna airports, which were made possible because Qaddafi provided those terrorists with false official identifications at the very least, in his 1/7/86 column this man who has conned you as I'd never have thought possible told your readers, "Khadafy aslo failed to place himself at the head of the anti-Israel movement (which is an irrelevancy and a digression). Terrorists accepted his money and weapons; they learned they could not live with his erratic behavior. In time, Khadafy found his efforts spurned by Palestinians who discovered they could not trust the Libyan." (Emphasis added)

In a letter to the editor some time ago I reminded them that they have editorial responsibilities and that they include truthfulness, accuracy and with opinion, a valid basis for it. Can you or any of your editors think of any basis for Meachum's statements I underscore above? Can you think of any way he had of knowing what he wrote and you, uncritically, published, it happens at the very moment our government was stating the exact opposite? Obvious he had no basis and it simply is a chain of lies - actually, propaganda, not news and not a legitimate expression of opinion.

I am more troubled by this by what I do not see in today's paper but was all over last evening's radio and net TV news and is the second lead story in today's Washington Post. The page-one head is "Qaddafi Says Libya Will Prepare Arabs For Terror Missions" and the jump head is "Qaddafi: Libya Will Arm, Train Arab Terrorists." This is based on what he said yesterday, which is at direct variance with what the rest of the world knows and he had lied about, that he had been doing it all along.

"Libya, he said, is 'a base for' the Palestinian terrorists, and Qaddafi had taken pains until now to deny direct complicity with these (terrorist) groups and their actions"

Those arabs, including Palestinians, who Meachum said and you published, had "learned that they could not live" with Qaddafi who, according to Meachum and you "found his efforts spurned by Palestinians who discovered they could not trust" him - why they were at the time of Meachum's propaganda and for a month have been in a Congress in Libya, where they passed a number of resolutions having to do with eliminating the State of Israel, "voting to form suicide squads and do whatever is necessary," as they see it, and this clearly includes monstrous atrocities as those at the two airports. Qaddafi announced that he accepted their resolutions and "that they will be trained for terrorist and suicide missions . . . place all weapons needed to perform these missions at their disposal." He also offered them his personal protection because Libya is their base for the elimination of Israel.

The Post's story concludes with Qaddafi's citation of a novel about him (he likes it) in which he provides Palestinian terrorists with a nuclear device with which they are to devastate New York City.

I am not restricting myself to further exposure of Meachum as a propagandist of murder and other evil, which he is. I am raising questions having to do with your and paper policy when so major a news story, so highly topical in the world situation today, gets enormous attention on TV and radio and other newspapers and is without mention in your this morning's paper. You have other international news, most undated, stories that would have as much news value tomorrow as today. And you have a story reporting that the Americans who have been told to leave Libya by our government are refusing, not all that topical. But how can you possibly justify this censorship, which also serves to hide from your readers the egregious error of your propagandist Meachum as well as your policy in continuing to publish his propaganda after it is exposed without a peep from him? (For that matter, when I sent him a sample of the anonymous anti-Semitism his column had inspired, he didn't even bother to phone and claim not to have had anything like that in mind, an indication that it is precisely what he had in mind.)

With all the space you had today, with all the major interest in that precise situation because of this horrible terrorism and our own government's clearly-expressed policy, you had no room for this? You considered that this is not something your readers ought to know? Especially after Meachum and your suppression of my later letters correcting and exposing him? (And do you realize that he has not refuted a single thing I said? Those inspired puffs you printed refuted nothing.)

This newest Qaddafi threat to the entire world is merely another of the many instances in which what Meachum wrote was immediately proven to be wrong. He has an unerring instinct for shooting his own foot - and yours - with it. But this is not what concerns me. I am concerned with what this has done and is doing to our community, to the deliberate misinforming of the people in a system of self-government which requires the people to know what is true so they can make themselves heard.

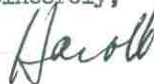
In your own personal interest, in the interest of your papers and of the community, please stand back a bit and think about this. If you think I am in any way unfair or unjustified, please show someone you trust, like your wife, this letter and get an independent opinion.

On another level, I assure you that you are hurting yourself financially. Some of your advertisers are disgusted. On one morning four came up to me (two non-Jews) and expressed themselves clearly.

If I did not believe that you are doing our community serious harm I would not now be taking time for this because I am encumbered in just moving around and face surgery in a few days, with a medical history that makes any surgery dangerous.

If you are ^{not} an anti-Semite, which I do not believe ^{you are,} please do give this and what I wrote you earlier serious thought.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg

cc: Mr. Bob Martin