

Calling Shots

Riy Meachum's columns and my letters and commentaries on them have caused some local controversy. I have been specific in my criticisms, and factual, and I've called on him to retract and apologize for specific errors. He has been silent, save for the empty pretense of being above the fray and having learned early in his writing career to take the heat. With the outbreak of violence in Gaza and then the West Bank, he launched into a series of columns that were deceptive and misleading to those who do not have real knowledge of the people and forces in that area. Just before the Superbowl game I drafted four commentaries addressing those columns. No sooner had I done this than several ~~stories~~ ^{of} appeared in the Washington Post, which he reads and boasts often enough ^{They make} for having worked for, ^{making it clear} ~~all~~ ^{all} over again that on the two matters about which I have criticized ~~him~~, ^{his writing} Kurt Waldheim and Mr. Meachum's anti-Semitic and anti-Israel columns he was, as usual, quite wrong. *and racist.*

To dramatize how easy it is to call the shots on his supposedly well-informed columns I wrote a letter to the editor as soon as I saw the first of the Waldheim ~~stories~~ ^{only} I mailed it to myself to establish when I wrote and mailed it, February 3. I intended to wait two weeks to see if, as I am confident he will not, Mr. Meachum retracts and apologizes for those many errors in those three columns that I did note in what I wrote, and then send the still sealed and dated envelope to the editor.

Then, ~~on~~ ^{on} February 4, the Washington Post had a lengthy story from its staff correspondent in Amman, Jordan, underscoring the ^{obviousness} seriousness of Mr. Meachum's errors, *confirming the commentaries* ^{just} as I had ~~just pointed out in what I'd~~ ^{alleged} mailed to the papers, ^{He could not be more wrong about} ~~in his comments on freedom~~ in the Arab world and the ^{alleged} lack of it for Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. It is under Israel only, ^o according to him, that these people have no civil and legal rights. I wrote that the opposite is true, that they have more under Israel than in most of the Arab world, where there are almost no governments meeting out concept of democracy.

Mr. Meachum also wrote that from his personal knowledge and experience Arabs are peaceful and nonviolent as individuals. (He avoided mention of their governments, of which this cannot be said.) I have Arab and part-Arab friends, some close friends,

and I have never known them to be violent or to indicate they might be. On the other hand, when I was in college many years ago, I read all 20 volumes of Burton's translation and annotation of The Arabian Nights. The hardly recount personal nonviolence, as anyone remembering the story of Scheherazada should remember. Or Ali Bahi and the 40 Thieves. I omit what I learned in North Africa in World War II because Arabs are like other peoples, you just can't generalize as Mr. Meachum did and be truthful or even intend to be. Arabs are as good as any other people and as much the opposite/as any others.

I have written that Mr. Meachum's columns that I have addressed are irresponsible, propaganda rather than legitimate columns. ^{They are} racist, ^{and} untruthful that he ought to know better than what he has written and I believe does, that he just puts on paper the first thing that pops into his head and that contrary to his proud boast he does not and will not correct his many errors or apologize for imposing on the trust of both the papers and his readers. *He does not deny any of this.*

I'll mail what I now write and after the passing of a reasonable amount of time will send it to the editor in the sealed envelope in which I'll mail it to myself to ^{date} date my calling of this second shot.

Jordanians, Jonathan C. Randal wrote in the Washington Post, like people in most of the rest of the world, see demonstrations staged all over the world, "while Arabs in the rest of the world have never been allowed ~~to~~ by their repressive regimes to show their own feelings." As they have been doing, I add, for several months in Israeli-controlled territory, including Israel proper.

^{At the} Elsewhere in the Arab world there have been no mass sympathy demonstrations to match those in Israel itself, according to a ^u Survey by The Associated Press. . . those ^(Arabs) who demonstrate have been stopped" by ^{their} Arab governments and "most of the Arab public appears content to keep their anger to themselves."

9) "Rallies in Egypt and Morocco in support of the Palestinians were broken up by tough police action. . . .

"In Arab countries . . . significant criticism of the government is often automatically considered/subversive.

"Police clashed with demonstrators at Morocco's University of Fez² on Jan. 20" in support of the Palestinians and AP was told "that six protesters were killed. . .

~~"So deeply ingrained is government suspicion of democracy,"~~
(Arab)

"So deeply ingrained is government suspicion of democracy," according to a member of the PLO's central committee, "We have systems in the Arab world that are afraid even of demonstrations that support them."

~~But~~ according to Amnesty International and other human rights ^{monitoring} groups, in

most of the Arab world "arbitrary arrest, torture and summary execution can be commonplace." *Q This is free than Gaza, or the West Bank and Israel, where Arabs vote?*

Same current details
Sve in a few dated details what Correspondent Randal reports is not new and for years has been well known. It should have been known to any self-proclaimed expert on those peoples and that area ^{- Mr. Meacham} which is what ^m Mr. Meacham describes himself.

But he not only has said nothing at all like this in all those columns - he had indicated the opposite in the falsehood that Israel denies Palestinians rights they had earlier and have under Arab governments.

His writing, vicious and virulent by any reasonable standard, ^{and} as just as false in many particulars, ^{It is} is all aimed at Israel and Jews. It is designed and intended to incite race hatred and given his claimed expertise, I believe this is by now obvious.

From the time I wrote news copy, as I did, in 1947 or 1948, reporting that the Allied ~~power~~ powers permitted the active Nazi and Nazi propagandist known as the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem to leave Berlin and set up shop I in Jerusalem, when he continued Hitler's inflammatory anti-Semitism, I have believed that one of the real reasons all Muslim governments were so opposed to the existence of the State of Israel is because ^{its} the freedoms ~~it~~ and benefits there are a shining light to the masses of the usually oppressed Islamic ^{countries} peoples and they don't want an example of what freedom can mean and be for their peoples to see.

Especially because of his proud ^{b/}boast of personal knowledge and area expertise Mr. Meachum's many columns on that part of the world and on Jews are self-described, ^t even if he did support Steve Sachs, an irrelevancy ^{+ intently} as anti-Semitic and anti-Israel, and ~~as intended to be.~~

The second news story of the same day ^{forecast} relates to the Waldheim flap. It ~~indicates~~ that ~~there may be~~ further developments so I let that wait.