

Editor  
News-Post  
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1/1/86

Dear Editor,

Because I have interest in and some knowledge of matters to which Roy Meachum has devoted a disproportionate portion of his columns I have characterized him as irresponsible and dishonest in those columns. This is an exercise to make two points: first that my characterization of him is accurate and second that, for comprehensible reasons, you have not exercised proper editorial supervision over him and thus, along with him, have become a propagandist. He is that, and a ~~propagandist rather than a~~ columnist rather than a columnist.

This letter will bear tomorrow's postmark and will be unopened when you get it, to reflect the fact that it is not any kind of trick and not in any sense after the fact.

Meachum is so devoted to the Arab side of the controversy he gets indigestion when Arafat breaks wind.

Arafat has just pulled one of his regular tricks, pretending he and the PLO oppose terrorism when, in fact, he encouraged it, as from the first he promoted it as the basic PLO strategy. The sad truth is that just a few hours before the cold-blooded murders and woundings at the Rome and Vienna airports he was refusing to come out against terrorism in a British interview aired on public TV.

Once again Arafat is seriously embarrassed by the international outrage and indignation over this horrible, subhuman slaughter and once again he has gone through his stock charade, pretending to condemn Arab terrorism when in fact he again endorsed it. (He and the PLO lie all the time, as your readers would never know from Meachum's propaganda. A recent example, <sup>Meachum</sup> he understated to refer merely to the "deaths" of Jews in a slaughter on Malta and Arafat and the PLO denied responsibility only to have it proven that in fact that was PLO terrorism.)

Today's Washington Post carries an AP story datelined Tunis, Dec. 31 in which Arafat admits, as Meachum has yet to do, that "unnamed Arab intelligence services" provided the "backing (of) terrorist operations against innocent civilians and said he condemned such terrorism." What follows, and I omit nothing in quotation, is "He did not mention last Friday's airport attacks in Rome and Vienna."

Far from actually condemning all "such terrorism," Arafat encouraged more of it - but limited to Jews! His condemnation, for whatever, given his and the PLO's history, any condemnation from him is worth, is limited to what was not "fighting the Zionist enemy." Thus he continues to encourage, openly and quite specifically, *more terrorism*.

Let us now wait and see what Meachum says and does - and you along with him by your uncritical publication of what, without question, now greatly exceeds support for his version of the Arab cause and has become deliberate anti-semitism.

I also noted the irresponsibility of his total dependence on a note prepared by one of the Arab airport terrorists only to be found and thus intendedly propaganda for Meachum's defamatory and racist repetition of the big lie that only Arab children are being killed (and only by Jews). The lead story in the same issue of the Post reports that both Austrian and Italian authorities described that note as a fake in the name of a phony organization to hide the actual perpetrators.

I suggest again that your staff is a local reporting staff and that none of you has the time or need to keep up with national and international matters to the degree necessary to adequately supervise a determined partisan who has become an overt propagandist and that you are not in a position to recognize that he is dishonest, deliberately dishonest, and is using you and the papers to retail his venom. Thus you are party to his campaign to mislead and misinform your readers and incite ~~to~~ anti-semitism.

Sincerely, Harold Weisberg

