Challenging Meachum on the Middle East

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If Pulitzers were given for indecency, hate-preaching or flaunted ignorance, Roy Meachum would be a shoo-in with his "How much Blood?" column of April 8, 1988.

For the blood-money he gets for the evil he commercializes he now has dipped his hand into the blood of a 15-year-old Jewish girl killed on the West Bank. Perhaps to his sick mind mutilating her after death was not indecent and barbaric. But he is consistent in not having a single criticism of anything Islamic. Yet how much Muslim blood have Muslims shed in that part of the world that, much as he proclaims his love of them, does not bring him any of the "special pain" this innocent girl's death — he says — brings him?

"She should have been at home," he pontificates, and her walk in the countryside "was an act of criminal irresponsibility." More so, perhaps, because it was at Passover, when Jews celebrate their and mankind's first celebration of freedom.

"Did she volunteer," he asked for what "was intended as a political statement, to demonstrate possession?"

There is no need for any demonstration of possession of the West Bank and there has not been for the 20 years since Israel drove Jordan out of it, Jordan having taken it by force of arms 20 years earlier.

This is not more of his typical stupidity. It is propaganda. Nor is it more of his typical stupidity when he prates that "the only hope for preventing the violence from inflicting more senseless casualties lies with Secretary of State George Schultz's peace initiative."

What he does not say, here or ever, is that no Islamic government ever accepted that or any other peace offer. There were many. Nor has he ever mentioned that the Camp David accord, which Israel did accept and implement — was rejected by all Islamic governments except Egypt. And it wasn't long before Muslims assassinated Egypt's Sadat, who negotiated it; as earlier they assassinated Trans-Jordan's King Badullah for merely talking to Jews about peace; as currently the Abu Nidal terrorists are assassinating Arabs who talk with Israelis and their own members who decide to abandon terrorism. (Abu Nidal is to him the personification of our founding fathers. He has been explicit in declaring that Nidal and his thugs are not terrorists and are only "patriots.")

For those who would like an impartial recounting of the innumerable occasions beginning in 1937 on which Arabs rejected, "without discussion," all the many plans for peace in the Holy Land, the current book by the eminent British gentile historian, Paul Johnson, "A History of the Jews," details them beginning on page 529. The reason all peace proposals are rejected by Arabs is because, despite their expedient rhetoric, they intend that Israel be wiped out. "The very concept of negotiations toward a final settlement," Johnson writes, is "to them a betrayal of principle," the principle of wiping out "the designed dhimmi," other peoples, especially Jews.

Mohammed "applied the principle of what he called the jihad. This divides the world into the dar al-Islam," or Islam, and "the dar al-Harb, the 'territory of war,' controlled temporarily by non-Moslems . . . the dar al-Harb . . . can end only when the entire world submits to Islam."

If our self-described savant and pre-eminent Middle East expert knows anything at all about the area and people of his self-touted expertise, he has to know that no Islamic ruler dares sign any peace or other agreement with Israel and hope to survive it. His pretended hope for the Reagan /Schultz retreading of Camp David's accord is merely to suggest falsely that Israel prevents any settlement. The actuality is, after 40 years, that 21 of the 22 Islamic states remains in a state of war with Israel. Sadat alone signed a peace treaty and was assassinated for it.

Why are there all these Arab refugees? Israel resettled all Jews who could escape Islamic states, where thousands still are held and refused exit while the Islamic states created the Arab refugee situation by refusing to accept them.

Johnson explains this by saying that to the Arabs a peace treaty is "a kind of surrender. This was why they did not want the refugees resettled because it meant a final disposal of a moral asset. As Cairo Radio put it: 'The refugees are the cornerstone in the Arab struggle against Israel. The refugees are the armaments of the Arab struggle against Israel.' "

To assure that the refugees would suffer and become a serious problem when Egypt occupied the Gaza Strip and Jordan the West Bank, they refused to make any improvements in the conditions of the Arabs they made refugees and when they were driven out they and the other Islamic states blocked all Israel's improvement plans that required international approval.

Hussein's concept of improving the plight of those on the West Bank was to begin construction of another expensive summer place for himself on the heights in Jerusalem. After driving him out Israel established in that small area, among other things, four Arab universities.

None of this and so much more like it readily available in bookstores and libraries is, apparently, fit for our local sage's readers.

Instead he writes that those who took this girl for a walk in the country after her long observance of a holiday to freedom have her "blood on their hands."

As is so often the case in his endless diatribes, his Jew- and Israel-hating columns, his timing is remarkable for its self-exposure. This column appeared the very day that Muslim "patriots" hijacked a Muslim-owned airplane and threatened to kill all its Muslim passengers, including members of the Kuwaiti ruling family. The next day these Muslims began cold-blooded murder after torture of their captive of Muslims. Hear that, George Washington, Tom Jefferson. This is the real and the true "patriotism," Meachum style.

"How much blood?" he asks and feigns "special pain" over the "stupid" death of this one girl.

During the time he has been palming off Arab propaganda as his own thoughts he has never once felt any "special pain" for the hundreds of thousands of Muslims killed by Muslims, nor was he troubled by the forced deportations of hundreds of thousands of Muslims from their homelands by their Muslim governments.

"How much blood?" In only the first seven years of Israel's existence 1,300 civilians, mostly women, children and old men, were murdered in Arab raids. Not enough to cause him pain.

Thousands more since then? No pain.

Those innocent civilians killed by his "patriot" Nidal, including young and old Americans, when the Nidals bombed the Rome and Vienna airports and pirated the Achille Lauro? No pain for American blood, either — and no columns denouncing those murders and many more like them.

What blood? Whatever he can commercialize and exploit in his endless preaching of hatred.

If this is journalism, then the slime of the foulest sewer is ambrosia.

It is shameless and shameful, it is indecent and evil, it besmirches the community and it demeans the papers that publish it.

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