

Letters to the editor
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Throughout his long career as a professional Arab, which is to say making his living by being an Arab and heading a variety of organizations with purposes suited to the time, M.T. Mehdi has said whatever suited his purposes and objectives at any time. In his January 11 letter to the Post he claims to hate Hitler, the Nazis and the Holocaust, but he does not claim to hate anti-Semitism. With his record he cannot.

Back in the summer of 1966 when I was to be a guest on the Alan Burke talk show on WNEW-TV in New York City and was sitting awaiting the filming of the sequence on which I was to appear I was shocked, having lived through Hitler and having written about those horrors when they were current, to see and hear Mehdi ^{di} ~~declaring~~ declaring insistently, loudly and endlessly that there is no such thing as anti-Semitism, that there is only anti-Gentilism-by Jews!

That was truly an original way of expressing his hatred of Hitler, of Nazis and of the Holocaust.

His letter also is not faithful to history. The only reason there were Jews in Europe to return to their homeland, the holy land, is because they were driven from their homeland by a succession of peoples, the last of whom were Arabs. Israel is in fact a very old, if not the oldest state, going back to long before Christ and Mohammed.

Those who ^{last} drove the Jews from Israel, after killing many and making slaves of others, can make a legitimate claim to that land by having taken it from the Jews. But that does not eliminate the legitimate claim of Jews to the land ~~which~~ ^{which} from ~~when~~ they all come.

It was not helpful in the earlier days of the reconstituted State of Israel for M.T. Mehdi to be crusading against it by claiming, as did those he now claims to hate, ~~there~~ there is no ^y such thing as anti-Semitism, there is only anti-Gentilism.

The producer of that TV show was Mel Baily. His assistant was Paul Noble.
Whether either or Alan Burke is still alive I do not know but unless the film that
was used in those pre-tape days was destroyed the station sho^uld have that Mehdi
performance and I do believe that reproducing it or parts of it verbatim could
do much to inform people whether they can believe those who have made their lives
into the kind of profession Mehdi practises and seems to make his living by.

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Not for use: Sorry about my typing. I'm almost 85, unwell, and it cannot
be any better.

I'm sure that the Anti-Defamation League in New York can provide you with
much information about Mehdi and perhaps with an account of that truly shocking
performance and position of his which was really a form of Hitlerism after Hitler.

The Crescent and the Swastika

The Post's Dec. 31 editorial "The Swastika on the Star," which discussed my response to the painting of a swastika on a star-and-crescent display, was fair and balanced and raised some issues of deep concern to all involved. Let me present my position on this matter.

I hate Hitler. I hate the Nazis. I have always denounced the Holocaust as the ugliest period in history.

Hitler killed many millions of human

beings, including Poles, Russians and Ukrainians. But he killed 6 million Jews simply because they were Jews. This deranged behavior therefore is more horrendous than killing the Poles, Russians, Ukrainians, etc.

But it is a part of the ugly reality that Hitler's bestiality against the Jews made them flee their countries in Europe and go to Palestine, which led to the creation of Israel and the present problem for the Jews as well as for those who traditionally have been their best friends and supporters, Arabs and Muslims.

The Jewish occupation of Palestine and the Palestinian tragedy of the past 50 years are the by-product of Hitler's evil deeds against the Jews. Therefore I hate Hitler, Nazism and the swastika twice as much as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu does.

And so when the Islamic star is desecrated with a swastika, we Muslims are subjected to the unkindest cut of all.

M. T. MEHDI

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