

July 11, 1996:

Letter to The Editor

ARAFAT'S LIES

Sir, - The obsessive efforts of Misha Louvish to clear the tsaddik Yasser Arafat of any suspicion of wrongdoing leads him to ignore not only that gentleman's repeated prognostications of Israel's elimination as a state and the dispersal (or whatever) of its Jews, but also Arafat's own attestation that the Palestinian National Covenant is alive. It would save Mr Louvish a lot of time and energy if he would learn, once and for all, that Arafat was lying eight years ago and then again later, if he said the covenant had been revoked. The covenant could in fact be revoked or amended only by the "Palestinian National Council," and then only by a two-thirds majority.

Arafat himself used this fact time after time for over two years as an explanation for the covenant's not being revoked. He claimed he was unable to muster the necessary two-thirds majority. Maybe Mr Louvish will try to understand then why the covenant has still not been revoked, or amended, and how it is that when the council finally did meet it decided - now, in 1996 - only that a committee, to be appointed, would determine which clauses should be amended in that still live and barbaric document.

One statement in Mr Louvish's letter was correct. He described a sentence in my published article as a falsehood. It was; only it was not what I had written - there had been an editing error.

Referring to the PNC's decision I wrote: "in effect, it repeated, after nearly three years, no more than the original 1993 undertaking made by Arafat - and the covenant remains in force until a 'committee' decides which clauses are to be amended."

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Ed.J.P. We regret the editing error in Mr Katz's original piece.