

OPINION PAGES

Our VIEW

In over our heads

Enforcing peace accord could be tough

Friday's Middle East peace accord ranks among the most blatant examples of Uncle Sam's increasingly heavy hand in international relations.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat signed the accord Friday at the White House after nine days of intense bargaining on Maryland's Wye River.

The final result of their bargaining was a trade deal: land for peace.

Israel gives up another 13 percent of its territory on the West Bank of the Jordan River in return for Palestinian leaders strengthening anti-terrorist measures.

But the enforcer of the essential anti-terrorist requisite isn't among those who signed the accord. The enforcer is the CIA.

According to provisions of the accord, the CIA will monitor Palestinian progress in arresting alleged terrorists and in confiscating weapons.

CIA operatives will referee disputes about the handling of suspected terrorists, will monitor who is arrested and jailed by officials on both sides of the accord and will help establish top-notch border checkpoints.

It's a new and precarious role for the U.S. agency. It's a role that broadens the agency's mission and international influence and could ruin the work of Middle East operatives.

Although CIA operatives have performed some of the duties required by the accord for three years, they have performed them quietly and without sole responsibility for monitoring and verifying actions of Palestinian and Israeli officials.

Under the accord, the CIA — the new international umpire — will be blamed if anything goes direly wrong in the Palestinian-Israeli peace game.

The possibility of failure is great. Already violent Palestinian protests of the accord prove that peace could remain elusive and sporadic, even after the accord's three-month implementation period. One terrorist attack during the period could shatter the accord.

The accord also compromises the safety and effectiveness of CIA operatives in the Middle East. In the past, the quiet nature of operatives' work there has ensured their sources, methods and safety. All could be jeopardized by their roles in the international limelight as required by the accord.

As a result, although the Wye River accord takes important, if unpopular, steps that could promise a tenable peace between two historically warring peoples, it relies too heavily on U.S. interference and monitoring.

The United States isn't the facilitator of this accord, but its pillar and its crutch.

Unless Israelis and Palestinians find the peace accord so essential that they're willing to police themselves, the accord is doomed.

Mook's VIEW



Mr. personalit(ies)

Clearing up the editor's note confusion



CLIFF HICKS is a senior news-editorial and English major and the Daily Nebraskan opinion editor.

(Editor's note: This column was written with both factual and humorous intent. Please consume to enable a better understanding of the paper; i.e. read it, knucklehead, and it'll all become abundantly clear.)

A lot of people over the past few months have asked me who writes those damn things. The answer isn't as clear as you'd probably like it to be.

(Editor's note: Oh sure it is, you're just complicating things.)

Look, be quiet you, I'm talking to the audience here.

(Sorry.)
Thank you. Now, as I was saying...

(They're not listening, you know.)

Folks, let me tell you what's bizarre about this. That guy in italics, the one with all the snide remarks and weird flippant comments, that's usually me.

(Liar!)
Oh hush up.

(You're not me. I'm you.)

That's perhaps one of the most ridiculous things I've ever seen in print on these pages.

And that's saying something.

Dropping the parentheses, are we?

They're cramping my style, man.

Right. Whatever. Anyway, more often than not, I write these weird little things called editor's notes. They aren't from the editor in chief, so don't blame her for these often-imposing comments that seem to sneak into columns more and more regularly.

We don't write all of them, though. That's what you told me last week.

Well? I told you? I have GOT to be

going crazy. I'm right, though. I don't write all of the editor's notes.

Well, if I don't write them, and the editor in chief doesn't write them, who the hell does?

The columnists.

The who?

You know, those people who write the columns?

But, but, but... but they're not editors!

Who said they had to be?

It quite clearly says "Editor's note." If they aren't from an editor, that's misleading the public, that is.

What are you blithering about?

Editor's notes should be from editors!

Well, I approve them, so they're from me, indirectly.

It's not the same.

Too bad.

But you write most of them?

Most of them, yeah.

So why do you have so much to say in all these columns, then?

A lot of times, when I'm reading through a column with a columnist, I make little comments out loud that are more for my own amusement than anything else. They help me think. Occasionally, a columnist thinks those remarks would fit in perfectly in a column. And thusly, they are added.

So, in other words, you just won't shut up.

Basically, yeah... hey, wait a minute! How can I be insulting myself?

It's not that hard, believe me.

You're a big help.

Believe me, man, I'm trying.

The thing that's been reassuring to me is that a lot of people seem to really enjoy the editor's notes. It's that same kind of artistic masochism that spawned "Mystery Science Theater 3000"

You're not half as cute as Crow is, though, nor a quarter as witty as Tom Servo.

Don't make me delete your formatting.

You wouldn't dare.

Try me.

Gulp. I'll behave.

Thanks. So, as I was trying to say,

you can blame me or the columnists for editor's notes, but don't take them to the editor in chief. They aren't her fault.

Yeah, blame me. I'm an italics-addict. I can't help it. Hi, my name's Cliff and I'm an italiholic.

"Hi Cliff! We love you!"

What the hell was that?

Beats me, man. I don't know who let those boldface people in here.

Now, I am starting to get weirded out.

You and me both, brother.

Well, at least they love me.

They say that to alcoholics too, man. Let's get out of here before this gets out of hand.

I'm not going to be intimidated by my own writing.

OK, whatever, your funeral. Later man, I'm outta here.

Where are you going?

...

Damned split personalities. While I've got the open floor, though, let me make a few more points to the general public.

Most importantly, these are the opinion pages. Look to your left. It's there in huge letters. Now see those other pieces, like this one, that have mug shots of the person that wrote it? Those are columns. Say it with me.

"Columns!"

Um, right.

Bet that scared the life out of you, huh?

Yeah, I wasn't exactly expecting a response.

Pssh. Don't mention it. Now why are we stressing that they're columns?

Because so many letter writers have written regarding our "articles." They aren't articles, dammit, they're columns!

Yeah! You tell 'em!

And that thing on the left side of the page, underneath the words "Our View," that's an editorial!

Yeah! Oh Cliff?

Yeah, man?

We're out of space.

Dammit. Bye folks. We'll continue this another time.

(Editor's note: Oh Lord, I hope not.)

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