MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD, EGYPTIAN DEMOCRACY AND OBSTACLES TO PEACE

As a friend of the people of Egypt, omissions of the dark side of the Muslim Brotherhood’s activities are not significant. However, it is otherwise brilliant analysis (JC, February 4)horauxly noted.

Although the Brotherhood has done some excellent educational, health and social work, it has officially renounced violence in the 1970s, other members or splinter groups murderously oppose Western values. A recent interview with Yasser Nokrash, deputy leader, is a former member. They distributed Men’s Kampf and the fascist literature of the Second World War and their most famous spokesman, Sayyid Qutb, proclaimed a paramilitary world revolution.

If their offshoots tried to kill President Mubarak it is a matter of life and death. The result of their efforts, courageously defended them by refusing to fight Israel, in doing so, they saved many Egyptian lives. Andrew R. M. Rosemarine, Coninham Rd, Safford

Am I alone in considering your headline ‘Israelim at risk’ — rather than Israel ‘at risk’ — a more positive comment on the current situation in Egypt? Israel never trembles but stands firm and proud as the only truly democratic nation in the Middle East — and the only country in the region that is one we need to encourage in the region, so that other surrounding countries might aspire to a 21st century outlook and afford their peoples a legitimate right in the running of their lives.

In that part of the world, we are all too aware of the single most important elements taking control. However, one would hope that a more positive headline would send a message that, when these dictatorships outstay their welcome, the true voice of the people will be heard, loud and clear. Stephen Viznick

C/o Jewish Chronicle, London NW2

If Louis Theroux’s The Ultra Zion film did nothing else, it at least showed Jews were ethnically cleansed from the West Bank and Hebron by Arabs. This fact is commonly ignored by those (e.g. Larry Silverman, editors February 4) that Jewish settlers are illegal and physically aggressive to Palestinians. If it’s illegal for Jews to return to where they were expelled from, how could one even think about considering that Palestinians can return to a place that was never theirs?

Adrian Korsner

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Matthew Hermon’s vision in Ramallah of a path to peace (JC, January 26) was delusory. I too was there and heard clearly the intransigent negativity of the young Palestinian graduates regarding the presence of the Israelis. How could one expect them to work for peace when they heard clearly the intransigent negativity of the young Palestinian graduates regarding the presence of the Israelis?

Judy Kahan

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LEAP YEAR AND YAHREZT ABSURDITIES

Please can someone explain the absurdity of having a leap year in Adar when it falls in the winter? If one has a loss in a leap year in either Adar Rishon or Adar Sheni, one month is added and that is in Adar Sheni. Surely it would be logical and fair to celebrate two Purims rather than observe two yahreizts.

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