

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## to peace in Idle East

G. M. Adler  
 James (letter, December 1) is wrong in finding a parallel between European colonists in Australia and the Jews in Palestine. Numerous historians, including the Holy Land, historians and officials, have attested to a period of Ottoman rule in the region from 1500 until the British scale Jewish return to the desolate and denuded land. The Jewish thropy and the Jewish bought large tracts of land in the marshy and barren land at exorbitant prices, transformed the land, crop-bearing land, together with public land by the British after the War, which brought the Middle Eastern region of employment. The placing a settled population, Jewish investment attracted it.

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 rawal to its pre-1967 ly to result in the ist violence, for the experienced such ore the 1967 war. shows that it would he UN resolutions law to resolve ter- tween Muslim and ns. f Pakistan was cre- readership thought he Hindu-Muslim for all. But there all-scale wars be- mtries since 1947, going on right at shmir. y needs peace. Its e West Bank and

## Battle over Europe's future form

From Mr Nigel Farage, MEP for South East Region (UKIP)

Sir, Peter Riddell mentions (Comment, December 3) the skirmishing that is taking place in regard to the future shape and direction of the EU. In fact, a right battle royal is under way at the very centre between, on the one hand, the inter-governmental approach supported by, amongst others, Tony Blair and President Chirac and the centralised, Community "method", as favoured by Romano Prodi, the President of the European Commission.

The inter-governmental approach appears to be in the ascendancy — to the alarm and annoyance of the Commission and the European Parliament. The response of the former is the White Paper on EU governance, launched by Signor Prodi, which seeks to reassert the dominance of the Commission. Governments and political leaders may come and go, but the Community ethos grinds on relentlessly, using every opportunity to secure the further centralisation of its powers. Ultimately, the will of the Commission must prevail.

The idea that we are part of a federation of nation states is completely at variance with everything I have observed in the European Parliament, which is now feverishly preoccupied with ensuring that a single police force, judiciary and army join the flag, anthem, citizenship and other unitary trappings that characterise the single superstate.

Yours faithfully,  
 NIGEL FARAGE  
 (Group for a Europe of Democracies and Diversities),  
 European Parliament,  
 Rue Wiertz, B1047 Brussels.  
 December 4.

From Mr Andrew Scott

Sir, Your article, "Long-term fears overshadow euro launch in France"

## The Filkin affair

From Mr Tony Eldridge

Sir, The undermining of Elizabeth Filkin [letters, December 7] is just one more of so many examples of the

(December 5), quotes Patrick Artus: "Without federalism, the single currency is heading for catastrophe." He is one of many eminent economists who have made clear the importance of a federal budget to a single currency system.

It is time Mr Blair addressed this issue and the constitutional ramifications of joining the euro, rather than focusing on the five very subjective economic criteria.

If he believes that Britain has "missed the boat in Europe in the past", perhaps he would show us the courtesy of arguing the constitutional and federal issues inherent in joining the euro.

Yours faithfully,  
 ANDREW SCOTT,  
 Lower Lye, East Knoyle,  
 Salisbury, Wiltshire SP3 6AQ.  
 December 6.

From Mr Jorrit Kamminga

Sir, As a Dutch student of international relations, I am following the discussion about whether Britain should join the euro with much interest. The delay sometimes gives people from the Continent the impression that Britain only wants to join when it seems totally safe and profitable, without sharing the costs and possible initial setbacks of this major and unprecedented European project.

A German friend used the analogy of a party, to which a person only wants to go when the partygoers are already happily cheering and dancing.

My friend concluded that, if this was the case, Britain should be prepared to bring a lot of beer.

Yours faithfully,  
 JORRIT KAMMINGA,  
 Gellingestraat 39/11,  
 9711 NB Groningen,  
 The Netherlands.  
 jorrit1@go.com  
 December 7.

change some unfair procedures at Waterloo International Station.

I cannot imagine Parliament having a better champion to deal with matters concerning the probity of its members and it is very sad that she

## The right to die in a dignified way

From Mr Tony Kerpel

Sir, Diane Pretty and others in her terminal situation do not need *The Times's* option of "refusing to be fed by tube" (leading article, November 30). The whole point of being voluntarily and legally able to choose a dignified death, as Mrs Pretty is striving to do, is to avoid the unnecessary and prolonged distress to both the terminally ill and their families which current law forces on those trapped in this terrible situation.

We are not forced by law to stand by and watch animals suffer in this way. Indeed vets specifically make judgments based on an animal's quality of life and the consent of the human who has responsibility for that animal. Why should terminally ill humans not have the legal right to choose to be treated with the same compassion?

Yours faithfully,  
 TONY KERPEL,  
 13b Downside Crescent, NW3 2AN.  
 December 6.

From Mr J. K. Brennand

Sir, On April 17, 1970 you published a letter from the distinguished Methodist minister, the Reverend Dr Leslie D. Weatherhead, in which he stated: I feel our great-grandchildren will express astonishment that with such simple means in our hands we forced people to go on living — if that is a meaningful word — in a condition which if enforced on an animal would lead to a prosecution for cruelty.

Let us hope that, another generation hence, a change in the law will have rendered unnecessary letters like his, and that of Professor A. R. Michell, making the same point (December 4).

Another distinguished Methodist minister, Lord Soper, could see the illogicality of some of the religious objection to euthanasia. His enjoyment of a long and full life embraced a readiness to pass on to what his faith told him was a better life.

Yours faithfully,  
 J. K. BRENNAND  
 (Consultant surgeon, 1968-99)  
 1 Brompton Terrace, Perth PH2 7DH.  
 December 4.