

**The New York Times**

EDITORIAL DESK

## **Fighting Back, While Preserving Our Values**

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To the Editor:

Re "In for the Long Haul" (editorial, Sept. 16):

As we mourn the events of Sept. 11, let us give the president time to develop a good strategic response. No doubt the planners of this horror wanted to provoke quick, violent retaliation on our part, to rally other nations and people to their cause and draw us into their cycle of violence. A basic principle for dealing with terrorists is to refuse to play their game.

We welcome the suggestion by Secretary of State Colin L. Powell that the United States lead a broad campaign against terrorism everywhere, working in coalition with other countries to close all havens. Particular outlaws may hide out indefinitely, but our country may feel justly proud if we protect life by making it ever harder for terrorists to organize and operate.

DENIS PELLI

JAMES RADNER

New York, Sept. 17, 2001