

LOCAL OPINION

THE FIRST WORD ON THE NEWS



Kenneth W.

Lipman

U.S., Israel stand up against evil

As the world awaits the Israeli response to the latest Iraqi missile attack, American Jews once again find themselves touched by ambivalence.

We are sensitive to our nation's desire to maintain the anti-Iraq coalition. Yet every emotional fiber calls for Israel to strike back.

The real issue is the longer-term lessons we may take from these tragic events.

The first is that many of the old ambivalences toward Israeli hard-line policy will fade in the minds of fair-minded persons. Demands for a "Palestinian homeland" seem quaint and tragicomic in the face of the certainty that poison gas would be raining on Israel today had it succumbed to demands it create an enemy state on its own doorstep.

Second, the willingness to fight and die to oppose evil and maintain democracy is a great historical tradition for America. For Israel, this principle is not merely tradition, but a matter of survival. As long as these truths remain a reality, the interests of Israel and the United States will remain bound to the other, forever. □

■ Kenneth W. Lipman is a litigation attorney, practicing and residing in Boca Raton. Readers are invited to submit brief commentaries on local topics. Write: Local Opinion, The News, 33 SE 3rd St., Boca Raton 33432.