JERUSALEM, Nov. 18 (JTA) -- Communications Minister Mordechai Ziori contended today that Defense Minister Ariel Sharon did not have retroactive approval of the Cabinet when he allowed Christian Phalangists to enter the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in west Beirut last September 16.

Ziori's testimony before the commission of inquiry into the refugee camps massacre contradicted the Israeli Maischam Begin, the evidence against the commission two weeks ago that decisions taken at a June 15 Cabinet meeting were sufficient authorization for Sharon to act for three months later without prior consultation with the full Cabinet.

Responding to a question from Gen. (res.) Yosef Ephrat, a member of the three-member panel, Ziori said the Cabinet decided on June 15 that the Israeli army should not enter west Beirut.

No 'Warning Light'!

But according to Ziori, that could not and should not be interpreted as a mandate for sending in the Phalangists, as Sharon later did. Ziori elaborated on the June 15 Cabinet meeting when the commission went into closed session: "However, at that time, the news of the news of the Phalangists' entry into the refugee camps did not trigger a 'warning light' in his mind for any of the minds of his Cabinet colleagues as they met in emergency session the night of September 16.

Ziori said he was out of the Cabinet room briefly when Deputy Premier David Levy expressed his fear that the Phalangists would wreak vengeance on the Palestinians in the refugee camps. Ziori said he first learned of the massacres from a public presentation on September 17 but was unable to contact the heads of military intelligence and general security services to confirm the reports. He said he telephoned Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir suggesting that he check the reports himself, to which Shamir replied, 'I heard you.' Ziori said.

ISRAEL-LEBANON TALKS DEADLOCKED

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 18 (JTA) -- The commencement of talks between Israel and Lebanon over withdrawal, security and normalization is still hamstrung over procedural problems. A meeting between Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and U.S. special envoy Morris Draper here yesterday failed to break the deadlock. Israeli sources said they were hopeful nevertheless. Israeli talks with Lebanon would get under way before long.

President Reagan's newly appointed special ambassador to the Middle East, Philip Habib, who was involved in working out the plan for the evacuation of the PLO forces from west Beirut, left the U.S. for the Middle East last night. He will apparently focus first on the question of the withdrawal of the Syrian, Israeli and PLO forces from Lebanon but is also expected to lend his weight to the effort to launch talks between Israel and Lebanon.

Shamir stressed to Draper yesterday that Israel insists the agreement it plans to sign with Lebanon be political in character and provide for elements of normalization across the border, in the absence of a formal peace treaty which Israel no longer considers a realistic possibility at this time. For that reason, Shamir said, Israel demands now, at the outset, that the format of the talks be political, with civilian officials, not military men heading the two delegations.

So far, Lebanon is proposing a military man, a veteran of past mixed amistice commission talks, with Israel, to head its delegation. But it is willing to include civilian diplomats and a judge in its negotiating team.

Israel sources noted there have been frequent, ongoing unofficial talks between Israel and Lebanon on various levels. 'The problem is,' as these sources define it, 'to pull the talks out from under the table and put them on the table,' meaning a formal, political-military negotiations format to result in a signed accord. Draper will return to Beirut to submit Israel's position on this issue once again to government leaders there.

SPD RE-INTRODUCES LEGISLATION AGAINST NEO-NAZI PROPAGANDA

By David Kantor

BONN, Nov. 18 (JTA) -- The Social Democratic Party (SPD), now in the opposition, has re-introduced legislation aimed at combating Sedition, which was rejected a month ago when the SPD headed West Germany's governing coalition government.

The draft bill which would close loopholes in existing anti-Nazi laws was killed in the Bundestag, the upper house of parliament, 258, the Christian Democratic Union. The CDU is now the governing party.

The proposed legislation would provide state prosecutors the power to try persons who publicly deny that Jews were persecuted by the Third Reich or that the Holocaust occurred. It would impose tighter restrictions on the import and distribution of Nazi propaganda material produced abroad and limit the sale of reproductions of material that existed in Nazi Germany.

CDU officials have expressed reservations toward the draft bill from its inception but never said specifically that they would try to defeat it. The Bundestag's Justice Committee which prepared the legislation believe there were enough votes in the lower house to pass it after differences over the text were resolved. But the Bundestag, which represents the various state governments of the Federal Republic, did not feel bound to accept the compromise version adopted by the Justice Committee.

Jewish leaders here have expressed concern over the SPD's latest initiative which was in part a product of their own lobbying efforts. They fear it may now be reduced to one of party politics. The SPD and Social Democrats have been leading the internal opposition within the Free Democratic Party (FDP), the CDU's coalition partner, seem eager to prove that there are substantial differences between themselves and the CDU-led government policy toward rightwing extremists.
The Foundation for Conservative Judaism in Israel, created this year, embraces all arms of the Conservative Movement, including the Women’s League. It will coordinate the activities of and provide a cohesive program to which the Movement is already committed in Israel. It includes the establishment of the first Conservative kibbutz; the opening in the fall of 1984 of a rabbinical training program in Israel for Israeli Conservative rabbinical students.

Also, expansion of the publication "Jerusalem Newsletter" in Hebrew and English; creation of a Conference Center to bring Israeli and American families together in Israel for educational programs; opening more Conservative synagogues in addition to the 40 which now exist in Israel; and enrichment of youth, educational, Women’s League and other programs in Israel.

Gordis said the decision to “no longer stand on the sidelines” will “force the Conservative Movement to define what we exist for. This is what both Israel and the Movement require.” The movement is important not only for Conservative Jews but for Israel, Gordis maintained.

“As a Jewish State, Israel must connect with Jewish tradition for all Jews. Israel is the principal arena in which Jewish life today is being worked out, and we on the movement must participate wholeheartedly in creating Israeli society,” Gordis said.

HILLEL ARZIELI DEAD AT 74

ROME, Nov. 18 (JTA) — Prof. Hillel Arzieli, a teacher of Hebrew, Talmud, Kabbalah and Jewish history in Rome for the past 15 years, was buried on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem today. He died here Monday at the age of 74. His body was flown to Israel for burial.

Born Ilyusha Ivasoff in Tiflis in the Russian province of Georgia, he came to Palestine in 1923, making a long march through Turkey with his parents, grandparents and three brothers. He had been teaching in Rome since 1967 under the auspices of the Jewish Agency and was highly regarded by the local Jewish community for his total dedication to the cause of the Jewish people.

LAST TYRE BLAST VICTIM BURIED

TEL AVIV, Nov. 18 (JTA) — The funeral of the last Israeli victim of the explosion which destroyed the Israeli military headquarters in Tyre last week was held in Haifa today. Cpl. Amram Shitrit, of Acre was on guard at the entrance of the building at the time of the explosion. He was buried under the wreckage and positive identification of the body took much time. The casualties of the explosion included 75 Israeli military and civilian personnel and 14 Arabs. Twenty-eight Israelis and 28 Arabs were injured.

ISRAEL’S NEWEST RAILWAY LINE IS OFFICIALLY INAUGURATED

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israel’s newest railway line was officially inaugurated Wednesday when the first train travelled from Tel Aviv to Kiryat Gat, over a new track and parts of a rebuilt track along an old right-of-way. The new link involving 12 miles of completely new embankment and track from Ashkelon to Kiryat Gat plus restoration of the Ashkelon-Ashdod line, part of the old Palestine-Egypt railroad, is intended to speed and serve potash and phosphate exports from the Dead Sea to Ashdod Port, bypassing the overloaded Lydda junction. Work on the new and rebuilt line took three years and cost $23 million.
JEWS IN THE WORLD IS MARKED BY ANXIETY, ADL LEADER SAYS
By Murray Zuckoff

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 18 (JTA) — The condition of Jewish life around the world is characterized by "malaise, uneasiness and anxiety," Abraham Foxman, associate national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, told several hundred delegates at a plenary session at the 51st General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations.

There is a growing concern that the condition of Jewish life, "is altering, and not for the better," he said. "For the first time in a long time, Jews are anguishing over Israel and the Jewish people.

"This is a trend that has intensified in recent years with outbreaks of ant-Semitic violence on the part of extremist groups, in this country and abroad, and by terrorist attacks," Foxman observed.

The feeling of anxiety and uneasiness has also increased with the shift in the attitude of the general population toward the Jewish people and Israel, he said. Foxman said this shift has taken the form of viewing Israel as a nation which is no longer vulnerable. He said that changed attitude can be traced to Israel's swift victory in the Six-Day War "which helped to erase the feeling of guilt" over the annihilation of six million Jews in the Holocaust. "Israel appeared so much closer to safety and security," after the 1967 war, he said.

A Change In The Historical Course

In addition, Israel and the Jewish people also felt closer to safety and security after that war and as a number of historical developments unfolded in the 1960's, Vatican II opened a dialogue with Jews, Soviet Jews were making their way to freedom, and the civil rights movement in the United States "produced an upsurge of activism and hope that religious and racial bigotry were beginning to wane," he said.

But then, Foxman told the forum on "Global Perspective of the Jewish Condition," a development detrimental to the Jewish people and the State of Israel took place. The United Nations General Assembly adopted the infamous resolution equating Zionism with racism in 1975 and it has been repeated regularly since then at international conferences and forums with which it serves as a rallying point for various interest groups and blocs seeking to defame Zionism and the Jewish people and to set the stage for undermining and eventually destroying Israel, Foxman said.

He emphasized that Jews who feel that anti-Semitism is on the rise are not being paranoid. "Jews do not live with the belief that the world wants them dead, but they live with the memory that the world did nothing to help them stay alive," he declared.

Call To Help European Jewry

David Lewis of Great Britain, representative of the European Council for Jewish Community Services, which he said collectively speaks for some 1.5 million Jews in Western Europe, called on worldwide Jewry to "mobilize its forces to help European Jewry" who stand once again "on the new front line of anti-Semitism."

He recounted the upsurge of anti-Jewish and anti-Israel incidents, including bombings and mass demonstrations, in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Italy, France and West Germany. He noted, for example, that in Denmark, a traditionally tolerant society, 10,000 people gathered recently to protest what they perceived to be Israel's policy.

He pointed out that Israel's policy toward the Palestinians, and specifically the war it launched in Lebanon, along with the media distortion of Israel's policy has awakened dormant anti-Semitism in European countries. This policy has also created a feeling of disquiet among Jews because there is a "conflict between what Israel does and what we believe in terms of justice for all," Lewis said.

In Great Britain, so far, there have been no bombings or explosions directed against Jewish or Israeli institutions and installations, Lewis said. But there has been a considerable number of anti-Semitic articles in the newspapers, vandalism of Jewish installations, and there are anti-Jewish sentiments on university campuses.

Jews in Britain, Lewis noted, are now the smallest ethnic minority, outnumbered by Blacks and Asians. Whatever revival of dormant anti-Semitism there is in the country, is primarily due to the rightwing lunatic fringe and the growth in the mentality of scapegoating in a period of a general economic recession, he said.

Situation Of Jews In France

France's Chief Rabbi Rene Sirat whose address in French was translated said that there has been diminishing support for the Jews of France in the general population since the bombing of the Rue Copernic synagogue in 1980. In the aftermath, some 300,000 people took to the streets of Paris to protest the attack, he said. This was duplicated on a smaller scale in other French cities, which have Jewish communities. "It was, he stressed, a national response. The bombing also acted to solidify Jews, Sirat pointed out. He said that in response to his personal appeal following the synagogue bombing, more Jews than ever attended Yom Kippur synagogue services that year.

But the decline in the support of Israel and of Jews in France since then has been due in part to actions by Israel which has been "disconcerting not only to Jews but to many French people," Sirat said. Diminishing support has also been due to the pro-Palestinian sentiment and anti-Israeli focus of the news media.

Sirat was highly critical of Pope John Paul II for holding a private meeting with PLO chief Yasar Arafat. He said he was told by a Vatican official in Paris that the Pope would not receive Arafat privately but only as part of a general audience. But even as the official was reassuring Sirat, the rabbi said he learned that the Pope had agreed 15 days earlier to meet privately with the PLO chief. Sirat said it was imperious to counter pro-Arab and anti-Israeli propaganda.

The Scene In South Africa

Alec Goldberg, executive director of South Africa's Board of Jewish Deputies, said that anti-Semitism in his country is not a great problem. The government does not tolerate it and Jews enjoy all rights, he said. Also, there is no fallout from international terrorism in South Africa. The violence in the country is committed by the under-ground extremist African National Council against white-owned property like the railroad lines and banks, not against Jews. The anger is directed against white domination, not against the Jewish community, Goldberg explained.

But Jews are part of those targeted for violence because they are perceived as an influential element in the white community and because they do not eat white meat. Rather than as Jews — use their influence to end discrimination against Blacks in the economy as a whole and in the economic sectors, such as mining, where Jews are dominant.
Black radicals are opposed to Israel primarily because they see Israel as allying itself with the racist government of South Africa and therefore see both governments as cooperating in suppressing and dominating Blacks and nonwhites—in the case of Israel, the Palestinians. Radical Blacks, Goldberg said, have been influenced by Arab propaganda and are sympathetic toward the Third World. They are also influenced by the large Moslem community in the country which is sympathetic to the Arab cause.

In South Africa do face a moral dilemma, Goldberg observed. The dilemma, he noted, is that the ethical imperative instructs that discrimination is antithetical to Judaism; the historical imperative says that Jews who for centuries were victims of discrimination should not countenance discrimination. But to combat discrimination would require that Jews as a group enter the political arena. This, however, would be a dangerous step, Goldberg said.

There are differing views in the Jewish community on the issue of apartheid, he said, and a unified stand on this is not possible. Nevertheless, the Board of Deputies has spoken out in resolutions opposing segregation. Recently, Goldberg reported, the Board protested against the practice of detaining individuals without trial. The detentions affect primarily Black opponents of the government. The general outlook in South Africa, he said, is that eventually there will be a Black-white confrontation but Jews will not figure as Jews in that clash.

CUCO: WORLD HAS LOST ITS SENSE OF SHAME IN ASSAULTING ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Nov. 18 (JTA) — Governor-elect Mario Cuomo told a State of Israel Bond audience here last night that “it appears the world has lost its sense of shame” when it measured Israel “by standards too harsh to be used against others.”

Cuomo addressed some 400 labor, government, business and communal leaders at a testimonial dinner at the Sheraton Centre in honor of Morton Bahr, vice president of the Communication Workers of America. More than $1 million in Israel Bond sales was produced at the dinner in support of Israel’s economic development.

The Governor-elect decried the fact that “indignation is heaped upon Israel while Cambodia commits auto-genocide ... punishments are demanded of Israel while a self-proclaimed emperor in Africa willfully decimates his people ... Israel is threatened with expulsion from the United Nations while the ayatollahs send children into minefields.

“This is not to say that Israel is not capable of imperfection,” he said. “It is just that in judging her we appear too quick to remember the imperfection and to forget the virtue.”

Cites Israel’s Compassion

Cuomo pointed out that “even in the midst of a mortal struggle for survival, Israel has not permitted compassion to become a casualty. In the wake of Sabra and Shatila, Israeli weeps for the fate of her enemies; 400,000 Israeli Jews filled the streets of Tel Aviv to demand that inquiry be made lest there be found the taint of passive complicity. Israel is plumbing the depths of her national soul even though it is certain—yesterday a doubt that no Jewish hand fired a weapon and no Jewish throat issued an order to kill.

Cuomo affirmed that he had come to “repeat my support for Israel,” which he called “a nation which is a friend of this nation, a place and a people tied to us by blood, by heritage and by common need.”

“Has there ever been a nation which has so passionately yearned for peace as Israel has?” he asked. “And has there ever been a nation which has been denied peace as Israel has?”

Cuomo said that while Israel had come into existence as “an act of justice,” it was “only after the Jewish civilization in Europe was reduced to ashes that justice was allowed to happen. Israel was a response to the world’s inactivity, its shame,” he said. “We should see all of history when we make our judgments.”

At the dinner, Bahr was presented the State of Israel Menorah Award by Raymond Corbett, president of the New York State AFL-CIO, for his “dedicated and inspiring leadership in the efforts to foster Israel’s growth and progress through the Israel Bond program.”

DEFENSE MINISTRY DISSOCIATES ITSELF FROM WEST BANK GUIDELINES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 18 (JTA) — The Defense Ministry has dissociated itself from guidelines recently issued by the West Bank civil administration instructing regional authorities to undermine the political influence of pro-Jordan Arab leaders in the territory. The document raised angry protests in the Knesset Tuesday from coalition as well as opposition MKs.

A statement released yesterday by the office of the Coordinator of Activities in Judea and Samaria, a Defense Ministry bureau, said the guidelines had no validity. They were issued by Col. Yigal Kamon, acting head of the civil administration. But according to the Coordinator’s office, neither it nor the Defense Ministry as such had any part in drafting the orders or knowledge of the discussions which led to them.

Kamon’s initiative was widely interpreted as a measure to counter a perceived rapprochement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization. But it was learned here that the Jordanian government has failed to collect sufficient signatures on a petition in support of such a rapprochement from PLO supporters.

FATE OF EL AL DEFERRED

TEL AVIV, Nov. 18 (JTA) — A vote on the fate of El Al was deferred yesterday when the airline’s shareholders decided at a special meeting to continue deliberations next Wednesday. El Al is 98 percent owned by the government. It has been grounded for nearly two months.

Yesterday’s meeting was called to vote on whether to put the company into voluntary liquidation, or to merge it with another, or to sell it to private interests or to reorganize it on a reduced scale under severe austerity terms proposed by management. Those terms would invest management with sole authority for running the airline with virtually no input from employees.

The week-long suspension of discussions has given both management and labor time to amend or accept the terms. The tension between labor and management was underlined by the strict security that surrounded yesterday’s shareholders meeting. It was imposed to prevent disruption by angry workers groups who broke into management deliberations on two previous occasions. Heavy police guards surrounded the Transport Ministry offices where the meeting was held and elevators skipped the floor where the offices are located.

There will be no Bulletin dated November 25, Thanksgiving Day, a postal holiday.