ISRAELI CABINET

(Continued from Page 7)

television appearance. Shultz also defended the President's proposal saying that it was to "draw people to the peace table."

At the State Department, spokesman John Hughes refused to comment on whether Reagan's call for a freeze to settlement policy on the West Bank was included in the Camp David accords. He said that the President made his proposal to facilitate the peace process. "There is nothing inconsistent with Camp David in encouraging any state to take action which he (Reagan) believes will facilitate the peace process," Hughes said. He refused to call the Israeli Cabinet decision on the Reagan plan a rejection. He added that the U.S. was "not disappointed nor surprised" by the Israeli reaction since there are different interpretations of the Camp David accords and the peace process.

BAN FRENCH EXTREMIST GROUP

PARIS (WNS) -- In the first attempt to implement the crackdown on terrorist activities in France, the Administration of President Francois Mitterrand ordered the dissolution of Direct Action (Action Directe), an extremist group that has claimed responsibility for a series of attacks against French Jews and Israeli and Jewish-owned installations and firms.

Presidential spokesman Jacques Attali said Direct Action was being banned under a 1936 law prohibiting private militias. The Direct Action group, which police estimate has about 100 members, is said to have links to the PLO, the Red Army Faction in West Germany and the Red Brigade in Italy. The main significance of the dissolution order is that membership in or any activity connected with the group will be considered an offense, making it easier for police to apprehend suspected members.

At the same time, police in Paris launched a major manhunt for the leader of Direct Action after he told a newspaper that the group had carried out a number of anti - Semitic attacks in the city. The leader was identified as Jean-Marc Rouillan. His statement to the newspaper was the first time an identified member of Direct Action discussed the attacks. But police are still unable to trace those who were responsible for the terrorist attack on Goldenberg's restaurant on August 9 in which 6 people were killed and 22 others wounded.

But French police have reported that one of the weapons used in the attack on Goldenberg's restaurant has been found. The Polish made "WZ-63" submachinegun was found in the Bois de Boulogne in western Paris. Fingerprints have been found on the weapon and French police are currently checking with several West European countries trying to establish the identity of the attackers. However, police officials remained perplexed as to the circumstances of the discovery, questioning why the attackers would leave the weapon in a relatively exposed area of the park where it would undoubtedly be found.

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"JEWISH SILENCE" OVER LEBANON

BY RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

Is the American Jewish community guilty of "the moral crime of silence" regarding Israel's military action in Lebanon?

That question has haunted large segments of American Jewry, especially many of its religious and communal leaders. Perhaps the clearest statement of the Jewish moral dilemma over Lebanon was expressed by Albert Vorspan, vice - president of the Reform Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and director of its Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism.

Writing in a recent Op-Ed column of the New York Times, Vorspan identifies himself as a deeply committed Zionist who applauded Prime Minister Begin's genuine sacrifice for peace with Egypt. He also said that Israel's moving across the border to smash the PLO, a lawless, bloody international Manson gang was not only justified but necessary.

But Israel's army pushing into Beirut has cost heavily in death and suffering. While many Jewish leaders have spoken out against the needless death of civilians, most have not. Why?

Vorspan says that most Jews have remained silent because of the double standards inflicted on Israel. Who judges Iran and Iraq where 80,000 troops have been killed and some 200,000 wounded, more people decimated than were lost in the entire invasion of Lebanon?

It is not easy, Vorspan adds, to dump on Israel in a world in which Arab rejectionism, United Nations lynch mobs, Western lust for Petrodollars, Soviet malevolence, and constant thrashing by the media represent profound dangers to Israel's long - range survival.

When the world deals fairly with Israel, American Jews will be freer to go public in their self - criticism.

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