

## **Six Communist States break off Relations with Israel. - Communist Denunciation of Israel and Support for Arabs. - Rumanian Refusal to break with Israel.**

With the outbreak of war in the Middle East, the Soviet Government issued a statement on June 5 condemning what it described as Israel's "aggression," and saying that it reserved the right "to take all steps that may be necessitated by the situation." After calling upon Israel to cease "immediately and unconditionally its military actions against the U.A.R., Syria, Jordan, and other Arab countries" and to withdraw immediately behind "the truce lines" [i.e. the 1949 frontiers], the Soviet statement accused Israel of pursuing a course of "recklessness and adventurism," and alleged that she had launched the war with "encouragement by covert and overt actions by certain imperialist circles"—a charge on which the Soviet Government did not elaborate.

**On June 7 the Soviet Government issued another statement accusing Israel** of "grossly and blatantly trampling underfoot" a resolution by the security Council for an immediate cease-fire; of "disregard for the principles and purposes of the U.N. Charter"; and of "disregarding elementary standards of international relations." **After threatening to break off relations with Israel, the Soviet Government also threatened to "implement other necessary measures stemming from Israel's aggressive policy," without specifying the nature of these measures.**

The violence of the Soviet attacks on Israel was paralleled in all the East European Communist countries with the sole exception of Rumania, whose press and radio took neither a pro-Arab nor a pro-Israel stand but reported the Arab-Israel war factually and objectively. On June 9 leaders of the Communist parties and Governments of the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Eastern Germany, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, and Yugoslavia held a "summit" meeting in Moscow to discuss what a joint statement described as "the situation created in the Middle East by Israel's aggression." Seven of the eight countries represented—the exception being Rumania—signed a statement denouncing Israeli "aggression" and expressing full support for the Arab nations.

After saying that Israel's "aggression" was "the result of the collusion of certain imperialist forces, and first of all the United States, against the Arab countries," the statement accused Israel of continuing its "military actions" against the Arab countries in defiance of security Council resolutions; said that the occupation of Arab territories by Israel "would be used for the restoration of the foreign colonial regime"; and accused Israel of subjecting Syrian towns to "barbaric bombing." The statement went on to declare that the "Socialist countries" were completely on the side of the Arab peoples who were "struggling against imperialism for their freedom and independence," and continued:

**"At a difficult hour for the States of the Arab East, the Socialist countries declare their full and complete solidarity with their just struggle, and that they will render them aid in the**

**cause of repelling aggression and defending their national independence and territorial integrity.**

**“The States taking part in this meeting demand that Israel immediately cease its military actions against the neighbouring Arab countries and withdraw all its troops from their territories to behind the truce line.**

“It is the duty of the United Nations to condemn the aggression. If the security Council does not take the appropriate measures, a grave responsibility will rest with those States which failed to fulfil their duty as members of the security Council....

**“If the Government of Israel does not stop its aggression and withdraw its troops behind the truce line, the Socialist States which sign this statement will do everything necessary to help the peoples of the Arab countries to administer a resolute rebuff to the aggressor, to protect their lawful rights, to extinguish the hotbed of war in the Middle East, and to restore peace in that area.”**

The signatories to the above statement were as follows:

Soviet Union—Mr. Brezhnev, Mr. Kosygin, and President Podgorny.

Bulgaria—Mr. Todor Zhivkov, first secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party and Prime Minister, and Mr. Zhivko Zhivkov, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Czechoslovakia—President Novotny and Mr. Jozef Lenart, Prime Minister.

Eastern Germany—Herr Waiter Ulbricht, first secretary of the Socialist Unity Party, and Herr Willi Stoph, Prime Minister.

Hungary—Mr. Janos Kadar, first secretary of the Socialist Workers' Party, and Mr. Jeno Fock, Prime Minister.

Poland—Mr. Wladyslaw Gomulka, first secretary of the United Workers' Party, and Mr. Cyrankiewicz, Prime Minister.

Yugoslavia—President Tito and Mr. Vladimir Popovich, of the central committee of the Yugoslav League of Communists.

Rumania was represented at the Moscow meeting by Mr. Ceausescu, first secretary of the Communist Party, and Mr. Maurer the Prime Minister, neither of whom signed the abort; statement,

**The Soviet Union broke off diplomatic relations with Israel. on June 10, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria also on June 10, Poland and Hungary on June 12, and Yugoslavia on June 13.** Eastern Germany had no diplomatic relations with Israel, but an anti-Israel campaign of exceptional virulence was waged in the East German press and radio.

The Soviet Government's decision to sever diplomatic relations was communicated in a Note to the Israeli Ambassador in Moscow, which said: "The news has just reached here that Israeli troops, ignoring the security Council's resolution on the termination of military operations, are proceeding with these operations, seizing Syrian territory, and are advancing in the direction of Damascus. The Soviet Government has warned the Government of Israel that it bears the full burden of responsibility for its perfidy and its glaring violation of the security Council decisions.

**"Unless Israel immediately halts its military actions, the Soviet Union, jointly with other peace-loving States, will adopt sanctions against Israel, with all the consequences flowing therefrom.**

"The Soviet Government states that in view of the continued Israeli aggression against Arab States and its gross violation of the security Council resolutions, the Soviet Government has decided to sever diplomatic relations with Israel."

The Polish Note announcing the Polish Government's decision to break off diplomatic relations with Israel accused the latter of "ignoring the reiterated resolutions of the security Council calling for the cessation of military operations," and of "stubbornly continuing the aggression with the aim of overthrowing the progressive Governments of the U.A.R. and Syria and subordinating the Arab countries to the rule of neo-colonialism." [The Polish Note thus made no reference to Jordan.] The Note added that Poland would only be ready to re-establish diplomatic relations "when Israel withdraws from the territories of Arab States which it has seized by force and ceases the policy of aggression towards these States."

It was pointed out in the Western Press that the Soviet Government apparently placed no credence in the Egyptian allegations of Anglo-American air support for Israel in the Middle East war, as no mention of the Egyptian charges was made in Soviet newspapers or on the radio, nor by any official Soviet source.-(Soviet and Polish Embassies, Press Departments, London - Bulgarian Telegraph Agency, Sofia - Times - Guardian) (Prev. rep. middlewar 22099 A.)