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No. 15

ON THE ISRAELI ARMED FORCES ATTACK
AGAINST THE LEBANON

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STATEMENT BY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA IN CONNECTION WITH
ISRAELI ARMED FORCES ATTACK ON THE LEBANON

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Romania is authorized to state:

"The Romanian Government and people have with deep anxiety learned about the attack unleashed on May 12, 1970, by the land and air forces of Israel against the Lebanon.

"The Romanian people condemns the penetration of the Israeli armed forces into the territory and air space of the Lebanon, which signifies an aggressive act, a brutal violation of that state's sovereignty, a flagrant transgression of the rules of international law, of the principles laid down in the U.N. Charter and disregard of the Security Council resolutions concerning the cease fire and the peaceful settlement of the crisis in the Near East. By this attack, serious responsibility has been assumed by the Government of Israel.

"In the Romanian Government's opinion, no state can assume the right to penetrate with armed forces into the territory of another state, to enforce its will in this way, to attempt upon the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of other countries.

"Any use of force or threat with force can but heighten tension, add further elements of aggravation, complicate still more the situation in the Near East, put away chances of a peaceful settlement of the conflict in that region.

"The Romanian Government consider the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli troops from the territory of the Lebanon necessary, as well as the cessation for good and

all of such acts of force.

"Abiding by the principles of its foreign policy, the Socialist Republic of Romania firmly speaks out for the cessation of the military operations in the Near East, for the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from the occupied Arab territories, for ensuring the right to existence to all states in that zone, for the solving of the problems of the Palestine population according to their legitimate interests, for the peaceful settlement of the conflict, in keeping with the Security Council resolution of November 22, 1967".

THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON THE LEBANON - AN ACT
INTENSIFYING TENSION IN THE NEAR EAST

The situation in the Near East witnesses another serious aggravation following the attack by the military forces of Israel against the Lebanon - appreciates foreign policy columnist Romulus Căplescu, in daily "Scînteia" of May 14.

Learning about this fresh war act, public opinion in Romania has expressed profound disapproval of it, and firmly condemned the action of the Israeli armed forces.

This particularly grave act by the Israeli forces, which followed after similar ones, such as the bombing of the Abu Zabal metallurgical factory or of the elementary school of the Sharkia governorate, which resulted in numerous victims from among the Arab civil population - adds fresh elements of tension in that region of the world, where the military actions have been witnessing of late an increasing scope. The Tel Aviv officials declared that the attack had been intended against the Palestine comandos. Such justification are lacking, however, both legal and moral ground; the idea of actions of reprisals cannot be accepted as a means of settlement of the disputed issues. The way towards peace can, by no means, be that of actions of use of force; on the contrary, the resorting to military means can only complicate the situation and banish still more the prospects of a peaceful solution.

Romania has repeatedly and very clearly expressed its stand on principle in relation to the crisis in the Near East. Firmly speaking up against the settlement of inter-state disputes by use of force, by military actions, Romania appreciates that the mechanism of an equitable settlement can only be by applying the November 1967 reso-

lution of the Security Council, which stipulates the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from the occupied Arab territories, the recognition of the right to independence and sovereign existence of all the states in that area, the solution of the Palestine refugee issue in keeping with their legitimate interests.

In conclusion, "Scinteia" writes:

Blaming the Israeli attack on the Lebanon, public opinion in Romania considers that the whole of recent developments in the Near East points once more to the fact how important it is to obey reason, to urgently end all acts of violence and of war, the actions against the peaceful population and civil objectives. The attempts to solve the litigious problems by the force of arms are not to the advantage of the attacker. The deepening of the conflict in the Near East is advantageous to imperialism only, interested in dividing the peoples, in order to maintain its domination. It is only along the path of political solutions that peace in that area can be restored, in the interest of all the peoples living there, in the interest of détente and security the world over.

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