U.S. Acts to Repair Its Ties With Zaire

The State Department is sending two officials to Zaire to attempt to patch up deteriorating relations with the African country, the department said yesterday.

The move follows by a day the announcement that American Ambassador Deane R. Hinton had been told to leave Zaire amid charges of CIA involvement in a plot to overthrow President Sese Seko Mobutu. The State department has denied the charges.

State Department spokesman Robert Anderson said that the two special emissaries of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger are Sheldon B. Vance, ambassador to Zaire for five years before Hinton's appointment a year ago and now a senior adviser to Kissinger on international narcotics matters, and Walter L. Cutler, director of the office of Central African affairs.

The action "underscores the importance we attach to U.S.-Zaire relations," Anderson said. Kissinger suggested to Mobutu that sending the emissaries "might be a useful move to clarify the situation," Anderson said.

The Zaire news agency AZAP said yesterday that the government already has decided to withdraw its ambassador to Washington, Mkeba Makosso, according to a Reuter dispatch from Zaire's capital, Kinshasa.

Meanwhile, reports from neighboring Tanzania indicated that the Zaire army may be impeding efforts to rescue three students, two of them American, kidnaped by left-wing guerrillas of Zaire's outlawed People's Revolution Party.

An official in DaresSalaam, capital of Tanzania, who asked to remain unidentified, accused the Zaire army of stopping the normal flow of people into the area of Zaire controlled by the guerrillas, where the students are believed to be.

But a third group of letters from the hostages was received and indicated they have been in good health during their month-long abduction, the U.S. embassy in DaresSalaam said yesterday.

The students, who were studying at a Stanford University animal research station in Tanzania, are Carrie Jane Hunter and Kenneth Steven Smith of the United States, and Emile van Zinn Bergmann of the Netherlands.