

Zairians Charge U.S. Directed Coup Attempt Against Mobutu

By David B. Ottaway

Washington Post Foreign Service

LUANDA, June 17—The main state-controlled newspaper in Kinshasa, Zaire's capital, has accused the United States of "financing and directing" a coup attempt against President Sese Seko Mobutu in what could be a prelude to the expulsion of the U.S. ambassador there and possibly a break in diplomatic relations.

The accusation was made in a front-page editorial Sunday in the newspaper *Elima*. Yesterday, President Mobutu wrote to *Elima* to thank it for the editorial and referred to the alleged "criminal enterprise aimed at eliminating me physically."

Mobutu did not name the United States specifically in his letter, but it was clear throughout to which country he was referring.

The charges of U.S. involvement in the alleged plot could be a prelude to a decided swing to the left on the part of Mobutu, who has been under heavy attack by African radicals who charge that he is a "stooge" of Washington.

The United States has been



PRESIDENT MOBUTU
... swing to left?

a leading backer of Mobutu and of a united Zaire since the early 1960s, when civil war nearly destroyed the country, formerly the Belgian Congo. The United States has provided Zaire with arms and there is a military advisory assistance mission in Kinshasa.

The *Elima* report said a

group of dissident Zairians were plotting the "physical elimination" of Mobutu and his civilian and military advisers.

The paper said the plotters are now in the custody of Zaire's security forces and that they had been prompted largely by "selfish and tribal interests."

"There was a coup planned, financed and directed from abroad, more precisely by the United States of America," the report said.

It also alleged that the Zairian plotters had recruited "certain American blacks and gave them prefected weapons equipped with scopes for the liquidation of the president and all his civilian and military collaborators."

Other reports reaching here said that between 10 and 20 officers of the Zairian army had been arrested a week to 10 days ago in Kinshasa on suspicion of plotting a coup.

The *Elima* editorial called for the plotters to be put on trial and "punished in accordance with the gravity of their criminal intentions."

Mobutu said in his letter to

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the attack on the United States are growing economic difficulties stemming principally from the rapid Africanization of Zaire's economy and a sharp drop in the price of copper, its main export.

If Mobutu really believes that the United States was backing the plot to kill him, it would seem probable that American Ambassador Dean Hinton will shortly be expelled.

The *Elima* article called Hinton "a dubious diplomat" and said it had warned the Zairian government against his presence in the country.

Rival Angola Groups Work Toward Unity

NAKURU, Kenya, June 17—ers agreed today on measures Rival Angolan liberation lead to restore peace to the Portuguese colony and worked toward creation of a united Angolan army, conference sources said.

"Things are running very smoothly indeed," said a delegate to the conference of the three independence groups called together by Kenyan President Jomo Kenyatta.

Fighting among the rivals is said to have taken up to 1,000 lives in the last four months. Attending the meeting are Holden Roberto of the National Front for the Liberation of Angola, Agostinho Neto of the Marxist-oriented Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola and Jonas Savimbi of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola.

A joint communique said agreement was reached on "The series of measures considered fundamental for the reestablishment of a climate of peace."

Conference sources said delegates worked on a plan to integrate the three movements' armies—taking 8,000 men from each—into a combined force.

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the paper that ever since 1965 "Zaire has definitely rid itself of all compromises and has become the faithful friend of the progressive countries, of the oppressed peoples and of the truly nonaligned countries."

The president also said he would "never be forgiven" for his "policy of radicalization" involving the Africanization of the Zairian economy or his public denunciation of the appointment of Nathaniel S. Davis as the new U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs.

"Add to that our sincere and reciprocal friendship with the People's Republic of China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and you will understand that a foreign power instigated certain unworthy sons of this country to undertake a criminal enterprise aimed at eliminating me physically," the president said.

Western observers here said that Mobutu's allegations of American involvement in the plot could be also part of the political maneuvering going on here in Angola among three feuding liberation movements.

Mobutu has been castigated by the socialist-oriented and Eastern bloc-backed Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola for his support of its main rival, the non-ideological National Front for the Liberation of Angola, based in Kinshasa.

The Popular Movement in particular has accused Mobutu of heading a "reactionary regime" and of being supported by the "imperialistic" United States.

There are signs that Mobutu has some aspiration of eventually playing the role of conciliator among the feuding Angolan factions. This however would be impossible so long as he is viewed as an "American lackey" by the Popular Movement and its supporters.

Other suggested motives for