

Zaire Orders U.S. Envoy To Leave

Washington

Zaire has ordered U.S. Ambassador Dean Hinton to be expelled in a continuing dispute over allegations that the Central Intelligence Agency sponsored a planned coup against President Mobutu Sese Seko, the State Department said yesterday.

Hinton, who has served in Kinshasa for the past four years, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry Wednesday night and ordered to leave by tomorrow in the interests of U.S.-Zaire relations, State Department spokesman Robert Anderson said.

"We believe this action is unfortunate," Anderson said. "But we attach great importance to our longstanding good relations with Zaire."

Anderson denied charges published in Zaire that the CIA was behind a recent plot to assassinate Mobutu.

"These allegations are without foundation," Anderson said. "We would welcome the chance to examine any evidence (the Zaire government) may have."

Ndagano Bulumba, the Zaire charge d'affaires, was called in to the State Department on Tuesday for discussion of the charges which first appeared on Sunday in the Zaire newspaper Elima.



AP Wirephoto

AMBASSADOR HINTON
He was told to get out

Mobutu told a rally in Kinshasa Wednesday that he had irrefutable proof that rifles equipped with telescopic sights and silencers had been distributed to Zairians involved in the plot. He did not name any country as the sponsor.

Anderson said the United States has not been given any evidence to support any of the charges. He declined to comment on a suggestion that Mobutu was "a creature" of the CIA.

The United States supported Mobutu in the early 1960s when he emerged as the leader of the country after civil war in the former Belgian Congo.

Mobutu said some of his closest aides participated in the plot which, he said, was revealed to him by a young soldier who had been paid in dollars to take part.

Reuters