

# MOBUTU REPORTS A COUP ATTEMPT

JUN 19 1975

An Official Editorial Also  
Implicates U.S.

NYTimes

By THOMAS A. JOHNSON

Special to The New York Times

KINSHASA, Zaire, June 17—Zaire's President, Mobutu Sese Seko, charged today that there had been a recent unsuccessful coup attempt aimed at his "physical elimination" and he "eign power" and Zaire citizens "thirsty for money."

The President's remarks were contained in a letter published in the Government-controlled daily Elima, which also carried an editorial indicating that those who attempted to eliminate Mr. Mobutu came from the United States.

The editorial, which one American source here called "the most virulent anti-American statement made in this country during the last decade," also warned that "if any misfortune should come to the President"—through attempts to sabotage his works or his person—"let the Yankees know that none of them will leave Zaire alive."

American Embassy sources here denied any knowledge of an attempted coup and expressed surprise at the tone of today's editorial and at the Mobutu charge. They said they thought relations were very good between Mr. Mobutu and the United States, since the United States is fast becoming Zaire's principal foreign investor.

No details of the reported coup attempt have been made public so far. There have been no announcements about what Zaire citizens were involved or how many had been arrested.

An editorial published yesterday in the shame newspaper had reported so far unconfirmed rumors of an attempted coup for "tribal and money reasons," but also reportedly would involve black Americans armed with rifles with telescopic sights.

The President's letter was in answer to the first editorial that was published yesterday.

In his letter, Mr. Mobutu wrote that there had been an unsuccessful coup attempt by "imperialists" displeased by recent moves on his part in international and Zaire affairs. Among these he included his United Nations speech of Oct. 4, 1973, in which he announced the breaking off of relations with Israel; his Nov. 30, 1973, speech in which he announced the nationalization of many foreign-owned business, and a speech made here last fall in which he condemned the appointment by the United States of Nathaniel Davis as Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs.

He said also "reactionaries, colonialists and imperialists" objected to the "sincere and reciprocal friendships" developing between Zaire and China and North Korea.

The general tone of the Mobutu letter was calm and expository. The tone of today's editorial was strident.

The editorial said that "in the United States there are bandits who are masters of political assassination but that they cannot bring this to Zaire."

The editorial also said: "The American people are strong, generous and great, a people who also recently knew colonialization and who fought for their own independence. In spite of appearances, we are convinced that the American people will condemn as they have already done with the war in Southeast Asia, these acts of destabilization, Balkanization of peaceful countries by a handful of bandits who continue to perpetuate these acts across the world."