

AN ANTI-U.S. PLAN BY ZAIRE IS SEEN

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Ouster of Envoy Viewed as Mobutu's Deliberate Goal

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LUANDA, Angola, June 22—The departure of Deane R. Hinton, the United States Ambassador to Zaire, from that Central African nation yesterday was viewed by many foreign diplomatic and local nongovernmental observers in Zaire last week as the necessary culmination of a well-planned and well-executed Zaire campaign.

Mr. Hinton was ordered to leave the country following charges in the Zaire press—denied by the United States—that the American Central Intelligence Agency had been behind a recent plot to overthrow President Mobutu Sese Seko.

The Zaire Government has offered no proof of C.I.A. planning in what was described as a plot "for the physical elimination" of Mr. Mobutu. About 45 Zaire soldiers and civilians were said to have been involved.

Last week in Kinshasa both African and foreign opinion was divided over whether there had actually been an attempted coup or plot and, if so, whether the C.I.A. had been involved.

In any case, to many foreign diplomatic and nongovernmental observers in Zaire, the departure of Mr. Hinton was the result of a well-organized campaign.

Campaign Began With Rumors

The campaign began one week ago when a Government newspaper reported what it said were rumors of an attempted coup sponsored by an unnamed foreign power. On the next day the paper published a letter from President Mobutu stating that there had indeed been a coup attempt and that a superpower had been behind it. The newspaper named the United States as the superpower involved.

On Tuesday, Zaire's other French-language daily printed the names of six senior army officers said to have been involved in the plot and accused the United States of having supported them. President Mobutu made a long speech to thousands of his supporters on the same day, again accusing

traitors and a foreign power, that he did not identify.

On Wednesday night, the Foreign Ministry in Kinshasa called in Ambassador Hinton and ordered him to leave the country by Saturday.

A number of foreign observers believe that President Mobutu, who is thought to exercise close control over the Government press, deliberately chose to use the press for the accusations against the United States while he ostensibly remained aloof. The United States has close to \$1-billion invested in Zaire.

Several diplomatic sources suggested that Zaire's Government had been irritated with the United States in recent months because Washington had not helped it to meet some serious financial problems.

Foreign economists and Zairian sources said recently that the African nation, which has rich copper deposits, had spent \$200-million to \$300-million of foreign reserves in the last year, exhausting their reserves. This was attributed mainly to uncontrolled spending on consumer goods and the fourfold increase in the cost of petroleum. The problems were exacerbated, economists say, by a drop in prices for copper,

Zaire's largest earner of foreign exchange.

The United States, the diplomatic sources say, agreed to lend Zaire money to rebuild her foreign exchange resources and thus increase her ability to borrow from other foreign sources, but insisted that Americans have a say in how Zaire would spend money for imports. President Mobutu's Government balked at this, the sources reported.

Then began a series of thrusts and counterthrusts, the Zairian Government sources have said, that led either to an attempt by the Central Intelligence Agency to get rid of Mr. Mobutu or Mr. Mobutu's moves to get rid of Ambassador Hinton.

A number of sources Zairian have said that there was never any coup attempt but that Mr. Mobutu used the charges to get rid of Mr. Hinton whom he considered too close to Secretary of State Kissinger and his Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, Nathaniel Davis. With the same stroke, the Zaire sources observed, the President could get rid of army officers who he felt could threaten his rule in future.

Such charges, the Zairian sources say, could also divert attention of the people from

serious internal economic problems brought on by a combination of inflation, high oil prices and the take-over of foreign-owned businesses and services by Zairians who have not been able to run them efficiently.

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