

Amin's 'Unacceptable' Greetings to Nixon

Washington

The United States has decided not to send a new ambassador to Uganda following a Fourth of July message to President Nixon by President Idi Amin in which the African leader wished Mr. Nixon "a speedy recovery from Watergate."

State Department spokesman Paul J. Hare said yesterday that Amin's latest message to Mr. Nixon was "totally unacceptable in substance and tone," and that a protest would be lodged with the Ugandan government.

Accusing Amin of a record of "insults" against the U.S., Hare said that "under the present circumstances, we have no intention of nominating a new ambassador"

to Uganda. The former ambassador, Thomas P. Melady, was recalled to Washington in February because of critical messages to Mr. Nixon from Amin on Vietnam.

Ugandan policy in recent years has led to bitter disputes with its neighbors, and the expulsion of about 40,000 Asian residents. In recent months Amin has also adopted a sharply anti-Israel line, leading to criticism from Jewish leaders in this country over his alleged anti-Zionist statements.

Hare said that in addition to Melady's recall five months ago, the U.S. has also begun curtailing its economic aid programs in recent months because of the "generally unsatisfactory relations."

He said that virtually all American advisers have now been withdrawn and all 114 Peace Corps volunteers left last fall because of "Ugandan internal security problems."

American aid to Uganda, mostly technical assistance, had been averaging about \$2 million yearly. In April, the U.S. began phasing out its programs and no new ones are budgeted for the fiscal year ending next June 30.

In his message to Mr. Nixon, Amin complained about American interference in other countries' affairs. He said American power "has not only enabled her to reach the moon with ease, but has made her prone to interfering in the internal affairs of other countries in the world." *New York Times*