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Afghanistan Expels Two U.S. Diplomats as Spies

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 15 — The State Department said Afghanistan had informed the United States Embassy in Kabul today that it was expelling two American diplomats accused of spying.

"We are puzzled and concerned by the Afghanistan Government's inexplicable and outrageous action," the State Department said in a statement this afternoon issued two hours after the Kabul radio broadcast news of the expulsion.

The State Department identified the diplomats as Hugh J. Turner, a second secretary, and Rob Q. Blackburn, an attaché.

In May the Afghan Government ex-

pelled another American diplomat, Peter Graham, saying he had sold "pornographic literature." At that time, the department said the charges were "ludicrous, and wholly without foundation."

'Unexpected' Move

The State Department said today that the Afghan expulsion order came "unexpectedly."

"We have pointed out in Kabul that there is no substance whatsoever to the preposterous explanation they have given us for expelling these two American diplomats," said Joseph W. Reag Jr., a State Department spokesman.

He said the acting head of the Afghan Embassy in Washington, M. Haider Refq, would be called to the State De-

partment to be told that the spying charges are baseless. Department officials said there might be some expulsions in response. Missions in both capitals are small.

The Kabul radio said the American chargé d'affaires in Kabul, Edward Hurwitz, had been told that on the basis of "information and reliable documents," the Afghan authorities believed the two men were engaged in espionage.

The broadcast also said that authorities had confessions from two people it called embassy employees, who said Mr. Turner and Mr. Blackburn had produced a letter containing instructions on opposing the Afghan Government that was distributed to insurgents.