

Vesco Role Stirs Costa Rica

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, May 24 (UPI)—Former President Otilio Ulate said today Costa Rica has been "compromised" by the Watergate scandal and that he has sent a personal letter to President Nixon about American financier Robert Vesco's controversial activities in this country.

Ulate said he will disclose

Hovercraft Mishap

Agence France-Presse

NAPLES, May 24—Fifty-one persons were hospitalized, two of them in a serious condition, when a hovercraft ferrying passengers from Naples to Capri ran onto rocks outside the port of Capri today. The accident occurred in thick fog.

the contents of the letter Monday after its receipt by Nixon.

Ulate, a political foe of President Jose Figueres, made known the existence of the letter in an announcement issued through his National Union party.

A statement released through the party's executive committee said the letter was sent to Nixon "to restore the good name of Costa Rica, compromised by the Watergate scandal, because of the business relationship existing between the president of the republic (Figueres) and Mr. Robert Vesco."

Among Vesco's multi-million dollar investments in

this country are certain enterprises in which Figueres also has an interest. This business connection has come under increasing attack by the press here and by Figueres' political opponents.

Criticism of Figueres' explanation of his New York bank account came today from the independent newspaper La Republica which questioned "the close ties between the political power (the Figueres administration) and the political power of a foreigner (Vesco)."

Vesco remained in a secret hideout today and there was no immediate indication if he will respond to demands for "repudiation" of

all his investment along with cancellation of his permanent residence rights and his Costa Rican passport.

The sweeping demands came from Congressman Rafael Angel Valladares, chairman of the committee which investigated and exonerated Vesco of any illegal activity in this country.

But Valladares refused to sign the committee's findings and instead issued a "minority" report from himself alone asking the Costa Rican government—dominated by Figueres' party—to "repudiate" not only Vesco's investments which total \$25 million but also cancel his residence rights in this country.