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U.S. Agrees To Split Vesco Trial

By a Washington Post Staff Writer
NEW YORK, July 31—The

government has agreed, in papers filed here yesterday, to separate the trial of Harry L. Sears from that of former Cabinet members John N. Mitchell and Maurice Stans.

The three, along with fugitive financier Robert L. Vesco, were indicted here May 10 for obstruction of justice and conspiracy in connection with a \$200,000 payment of Vesco to the Nixon re-election campaign.

Mitchell and Stans also were charged with perjury before the grand jury.

The government said it agreed to severing Sears' trial from the others because "Sears has made certain statements which would not be admissible at a joint trial."

It asked that Sears' trial begin shortly after the first trial has ended. The trial of Mitchell and Stans is scheduled to begin Sept. 11.

The government also opposed motions by Sears and Stans to dismiss the indictments, change the venue and continue the cases indefinitely because of pre-trial publicity.

Whatever publicity did come about, said the government, made no comment as to the guilt of those charged.