

Argentine Probe Set On Vesco

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 11 (AP)—The Argentine government has ordered an investigation to determine why permission to live in this country was granted last September to fugitive American financier Robert L. Vesco, government sources disclosed today.

The newspaper La Opinion reported that Interior Minister Benito Llambi ordered a "thorough investigation," to be conducted by Esteban Rey, one of his legal advisers.

A ministry source confirmed that the investigation will be made but said, "we are not in a position to confirm it officially."

Vesco is wanted by the United States on an indictment charging fraud against one of his companies and also in connection with cash contributions to President Nixon's re-election campaign.

Vesco last week won a fight against extradition on the fraud charge from the Bahamas. The decision is still being reviewed by U.S. officials for the possibility of appeal.

The Argentine Bureau of Migrations last September granted Vesco the status of a "permanent resident" in Argentina, an action that only recently became publicly known. It would enable him to enter and leave this country at will and to obtain Argentine identity papers.

A local federal judge, Luis Maria Rodriguez, ruled favorably on a Vesco request for a court statement that there were no legal grounds for his extradition to the United States, under the terms of the present Argentine-U.S. treaty of extradition.

Vesco, through an Argentine lawyer, contended that he was wanted by U.S. courts for "political reasons" and enclosed a full record of the Watergate case to back his request. The judge ruled in favor of Vesco's application, despite the fact that at the time there was no formal extradition request by the U.S. govern-

ment.

But Vesco's efforts were then marred by the Foreign Ministry, which instructed all Argentine consulates not to grant Vesco a visa to enter the country.

Government sources said that President Juan D. Peron was annoyed by the transfer of the "Vesco affair" to Argentina and ordered an investigation.

Judge Rodriguez, who retired last month, turned down a second request by Vesco for guarantees that he would not be arrested here, should the U.S. government seek his detention. The judge said that since there was no request for arrest at that moment, there was no ground for such a resolution.