

VESCO PILOT SAYS FLIGHT WAS LEGAL

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Defends Seizure of Plane
Before Judge in Newark

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NEWARK, May 13 — A former pilot for Robert Vesco, the fugitive financier, today handed over a handful of parts to a lavish Boeing 707 jetliner to a New Jersey Superior Court judge to show that the plane had been decommissioned at its berth at Newark International Airport.

Alwyn Eisenhower, who flew the plane into Newark Friday afternoon as part of his effort to recoup more than \$50,000 he says Mr. Vesco owes him in unpaid salary, also told Judge Irwin I. Kimmelman that, to his knowledge, no national laws or international aviation regulations had been breached by his unorthodox reclamation project.

During more than 30 minutes of testimony, the pilot stressed the legality of his actions, adding at one point, "I did not want to make any mistake and embarrass the United States or Panama."

Sauna on Plane

The plane, outfitted with \$750,000 worth of penthouse-style furnishings and a five-person sauna, arrived in Newark after an overnight flight from Panama's Touma Airport with a crew of what Mr. Eisenhower described as "moonlighting airline personnel."

Mr. Eisenhower handed Judge Kimmelman a small red bag containing parts he said were essential to the starting of a jet engines.

The judge, jiggling the bag, peered inside and asked, "Do you mean this is all it takes to decommission a plane?" Mr. Eisenhower replied, "that's right, your honor."

Lawyers for Fairfield General Corporation, who were appointed as receivers for the bankrupt former property of Mr. Vesco nearly a year ago by Judge Kimmelman, also appeared in court to explain their role in the removal of the plane from Panama.

John McLaughlin, a Newark attorney, said, "We had run out of alternatives, to marshal the assets of Fairfield."

The plane, worth \$2-million to \$3-million, is regarded by Fairfield's receivers as its chief asset, and they hope to resell to soon to the highest bidder.