

Costa Rica Clears Vesco On Guns

San Jose, Costa Rica

The Costa Rican government says it has found that financier Robert L. Vesco did not smuggle guns into the country and therefore it will not deport him.

Public Security Minister Mario Charpentier told a news conference Wednesday that the government's investigation revealed that arms apparently destined for Vesco were purchased in California. But he said the guns are still in the United States, the guns carried by Vesco's bodyguards are all properly registered and government agents who searched Vesco's properties in Costa Rica found no trace of illegal weapons.

Vesco has been living in Costa Rica to escape U.S. prosecution on charges of making an illegal \$200,000 contribution to the reelection campaign of former President Nixon in an attempt to influence an investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The United States has tried twice to extradite Vesco, but the Costa Rican Supreme Court rejected both petitions.

Associated Press