

Costa Rican Leader Concedes He Helped Vesco Write Speech

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, July 9 (AP)—President José Figueres acknowledged Monday night having written part of a speech Robert L. Vesco, the fugitive American financier, delivered on national television earlier this year.

A prominent San José lawyer, Gerardo Fernandez Duran, charged earlier that Mr. Figueres served as Mr. Vesco's "adviser and intellectual collaborator" in writing "substantial parts" of the speech in which Mr. Vesco defended his own presence in this country.

"Maybe he thinks we need a Watergate here," Mr. Figueres said of Mr. Duran in a statement delivered to newsmen following a newspaper article listing Mr. Fernandez Duran's charges against the President.

Mr. Figueres said he wrote a draft for Mr. Vesco before the financier went on national television.

Mr. Fernandez Duran displayed at a news conference Monday what he said were copies of a manuscript Mr. Figueres wrote one day before Mr. Vesco made the speech defending his controversial Costa Rican investments.

At his own meeting with the press, Mr. Figueres congratulated the attorney for "discovering that I am helping investors to transfer their capital to Costa Rica."

Mr. Vesco, 37 years old, is under criminal indictment in New York on charges of trying to influence a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation with a \$200,000 contribution to President Nixon's 1972 campaign fund. Mr. Vesco failed to appear in a New York court last month to answer the indictment, and Costa Rican courts have refused to extradite him.

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