

New Costa Rican President Says U.S.

By JOHN M. CREWDSON
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WASHINGTON, Oct. 7—The recently elected President of Costa Rica has accused the Nixon Administration of having been less than sincere in its efforts last year to return Robert L. Vesco to this country to stand trial in the Watergate case.

Shortly after he took office last May, President Daniel Oduber wrote to Mr. Vesco, a financier who has taken refuge in his country, and reminded him that the Justice Department sought to bring him back to the United States in June, 1973. "It was attempted once,"

President Oduber said, "but in such a way that it seemed aimed at the extradition failing, just as it did."

He cautioned Mr. Vesco that if another attempt were made and sanctioned by the Costa Rican courts, "you will have to be extradited."

A four-page translation of the letter was made public today by the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which has been looking into Mr. Vesco's financial and other activities for the last year.

Mr. Vesco was indicted by a Federal grand jury in New York on May 10, 1973, along with John N. Mitchell, former Attorney General, and Maurice

H. Stans, former Secretary of Commerce, in connection with his having given \$200,000 to President Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign.

Judge Ruled for Vesco

The Justice Department applied to the Costa Rican Government for Mr. Vesco's return, but a judge in San Jose, the capital ruled that the extradition treaty between the two countries did not cover conspiracy to commit fraud and obstruction of justice, the offenses with which Mr. Vesco was charged.

Mr. Vesco then traveled to the Bahamas, where a second extradition proceeding, based

Ⓢdate of letter, 6 May 74
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Was Not Sincere in Its Efforts to Extradite Vesco

on a new indictment charging him with wire fraud, was brought by the United States.

But a Bahamian court held that wire fraud was not an extraditable offense, and shortly afterward Mr. Vesco returned to Costa Rica where he now resides.

The Justice Department, however, has never attempted to extradite Mr. Vesco from Costa Rica on the more specific charge of wire fraud that was the basis of the unsuccessful proceedings in the Bahamas.

Senator Henry M. Jackson, Washington Democrat who is chairman of the subcommittee, expressed dismay today at what he called the Govern-

ment's "half-hearted attempts at Robert Vesco's extradition." He asked whether the Nixon Administration had wished "to keep Robert Vesco out of the country for some reason."

"Did he have some special information which he could supply to explain, in part, the national nightmare we have just lived through?" Senator Jackson asked.

Noting that the Bahamian lawyer hired by the Justice Department at a cost of \$55,000 to represent it in that matter had had "previous ties to Vesco entities and associates," Senator Jackson said he was directing the subcommittee staff to "review" the Govern-

ment's attempts to return Mr. Vesco to stand trial.

José Figueres, President Oduber's predecessor, was in office at the time of the failed extradition attempt, in June, 1973, and Mr. Oduber noted in the letter to Mr. Vesco last May 6 that he had been "a shareholder in companies in which Mr. Figueres has interests."

As a result, he continued, "his enemies were automatically your enemies, and yours, in the international ambit, became his." That will no longer be the case, the President said, adding, "I want to quell at once the suspicions that you may get,

from the incoming Government, treatment different from that of any other immigrant who wants to live among us."

Man Who Is Dead Elected To Australian Town Council

SYDNEY, Australia (Reuters) — A dead man was elected to a town council near here, election officials said.

Alderman Keith Smith died 11 days before the election, but his name was not removed from voting papers.

His wife, Yvonne, was also elected. A by-election to replace Mr. Smith was to be held within three months.