

Vesco May Lose His Hideaway

San Jose,
Costa Rica

An opposition Congressman called on the Costa Rican government yesterday to "repudiate" Robert Vesco's multimillion-dollar investments in the country.

Congressman Rafael Angel Valladares' demand followed newspaper editor Guido Fernandez' call on nationwide television for cancellation of Vesco's Costa Rican passport along with the refund to him immediately of \$8 million he invested in government bonds.

Fernandez said the refund is vital for "the moral health of Costa Rica."

Ironically, Valladares was chairman of the congressional committee which recently investigated Vesco and cleared him of any illegal activities in Costa Rica.

The Congressman disassociated himself from the exonerated, however, and refused to sign it at the time it was released, saying the findings were at variance with his own.

In a "minority report" from the committee, Valladares asked the Costa Rican

congress — dominated by President Jose Figueres' party — to repudiate not only Vesco's investments, which total \$25 million, but also those of Texas financier Clovis McAlpin.

Valladares used the word "repudiate" without defining its precise legal intent but went on to ask also for the revocation of both Vesco's and McAlpin's permanent residence rights in Costa Rica, presumably thus opening the way for their possible expulsion.

In a further move, Valladares called on Congress to repudiate President Figueres' "commercial and eco-

nomie ties with those circles and enterprises controlled by Vesco and McAlpin."

Valladares said the U.S. of the \$224 million in mutual funds Vesco is accused of misusing went into a company headed by a son of President Figueres.

Valladares said the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission found that the \$60 million was transferred from the Bank of Bahamas to Inter-American Capital, S.A., of which Jose Marti Figueres, one of the president's sons, is president.

Fernandez, editor of the leading morning newspaper La Nacion, said Vesco's

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presence here was putting into question Costa Rican prestige and dignity and that already abroad there were jocular references to this country as "Costa Roberto" and "the Tangier of the Western Hemisphere."

Even though it would be a strain on the economy, he said, the return of \$8 million Vesco has invested in government bonds is "vital to the moral health of Costa Rica."

A spokesman for Vesco said he did not know if the American was here or if he had left secretly.

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