

FIGUERES WON'T BE SHIELD FOR VESCO

NYTimes MAY 26 1973
Costa Rica President Avers That Courts Will Decide

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica May 26 (AP) — Costa Rican President Figueres said Thursday night extradition of Robert L. Vesco to the United States would be "automatic" if a court here approved any move to extradite the financier.

"The executive branch has nothing to do with it," Mr. Figueres told a news conference. "The Costa Rican judicial system is probably the most autonomous in the world."

State Department lawyers are studying a 1922 United States-Costa Rica extradition treaty to determine if they can begin proceedings to return Mr. Vesco, 37 years old, to the United States for trial.

Mr. Vesco was indicted in New York along with former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans.

The indictment charges that Mr. Vesco tried to buy off the Securities and Exchange Commission with a secret \$200,000

contribution to President Nixon's re-election campaign.

Mr. Vesco's interests have been closely linked with Mr. Figueres's financial dealings.

Mr. Vesco was in trouble with the S.E.C. before the campaign fund indictment. The commission had brought suit against him and 40 others for allegedly bilking shareholders of \$224-million from Investors Overseas Services, Ltd. Mr. Vesco took control of that mutual fund in 1971.

Yesterday a member of a Costa Rican congressional commission, Rafael Valladares, said that almost a fourth of the \$224-million went into a company headed by a son of Mr. Figueres.

Mr. Valladares contended that the S.E.C. found \$60-million was transferred from the Bahamas Commonwealth Bank, a Vesco-related enterprise, to Inter-American Capital, S.A. He said that José Martí Figueres, the son of the President, headed Inter-American Capital.

The commissioner said that the money then went to Phoenix Financial, S.A., a Panama-based company that the younger Mr. Figueres also heads.

Mr. Vesco did not show up in court with Mr. Mitchell and the others earlier this week, and a New York court issued a bench warrant for Mr. Vesco's arrest.