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# Vesco Says He Is Not A Fugitive

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, June 7 (UPI)—New Jersey financier Robert Vesco said Wednesday that he did not consider himself a fugitive, despite a U.S. indictment charging him and two former members of the Nixon administration with obstruction of justice.

Vesco also said in a statement to a newspaper here that he has fired his personal representative, Raul Espinosa, after adverse reaction to a remark Espinosa made that the Vesco case "put Costa Rica on the map."

Vesco was indicted for conspiracy to defraud the United States and obstruction of justice in connection with a secret \$200,000 cash contribution to President Nixon's re-election campaign. Also indicted were three other men, including former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans.

Vesco also stands charged with 40 others of having drained \$224 million from mutual funds they controlled.

Vesco said he did not consider himself a fugitive and, "up to a certain point," he did not think he was subject to the jurisdiction of U.S. courts. He said he had left the United States and lived abroad about a year before any charges were brought against him.

"All my acts," he said, "have always been in the best interests of the shareholders, towards whom I feel myself responsible."

In San Jose, meanwhile, the Banco Credito Y Ahorro Ponceño, a Puerto Rican bank, asked U.S. district court to serve as custodian of the \$1 million certificate of deposit and to decide its legal ownership.

The certificate was purchased by the Bahamas Commonwealth Bank, which has figured in many of Vesco's transactions. The SEC obtained a U.S. court order on March 28 freezing monies deposited by the bank in the United States. The SEC maintains that Vesco controls the

bank.

Lawyers for two other local bank branches holding similar certificates of the Bahamas Bank said they would follow the same course of action as Banco Credito if they received instructions conflicting with the SEC freeze order.