

Costa Rica Blocks Vesco Extradition

San Jose, Costa Rica

A Costa Rican federal court refused yesterday to grant a U.S. request that financier Robert L. Vesco be extradited to the U.S.

The decision can be appealed to Costa Rica's Supreme Court.

Vesco, 37, was indicted in New York, charged with trying to influence the Securities and Exchange Commission with a secret \$200,000 contribution to President Nixon's re-election campaign.

Vesco, former Attorney General John Mitchell, former Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans and New Jersey Republican figure Harry Sears were charged in New York with conspiracy and obstruction of justice. Mitchell and Stans also were accused of perjury. Stans, Mitchell and Sears pleaded innocent.

The SEC has charged Vesco and 40 others in a civil action with bilking a mutual fund's shareholders of \$224 million.

The Vesco contribution to the Nixon campaign was returned.

U.S. Ambassador Virnon P. Vaky presented the extradition request earlier this month, asking the high court to throw out its request for more proof of the validity of charges against Vesco.

Federal Judge Atilio Vizenzo, rejected the extradition petition after Vaky failed to furnish the further proof.

Vesco has not been seen in Costa Rica since June 3. He has homes in both Costa Rica and in the Bahamas.

Vesco's investments in Costa Rica are estimated at Rica and in the Bahamas.

A member of a Costa Rican congressional commission, Rafael Valladares, said earlier this month that almost a fourth of the \$224 million in mutual funds allegedly milked from Investors Overseas Services Ltd. went into a company headed by a son of Figueres.

Associated Press