Vesco May Have Haven In Argentina

New York

Fugitive financier Robert L. Vesco has prepared a haven in Argentina if the U.S. government appears about to win his extradition from the Bahamas, the Wall Street Journal said yesterday in a copyright article.

"Well-placed sources outside the Vesco camp" said Vesco had obtained the status of permanent resident of Argentina with the approval of President Juan Peron, the newspaper said in a dispatch from Nassau by staff reporter Scott R. Schmedel.

Vesco also had been assured by Argentina that any future U.S. request to extradite him from Argentina would be denied, the newspaper said.

The article said Vesco obtained the Argentine assurances on a flying trip to Buenos Aires late last month, accompanied by Jose Marti Figueres, son of Costa Rica's president. Vesco has invested heavily in Costa Rica.

In Buenos Aires, an Interior Ministry source said yesterday that Vesco went there secretly about a month ago to solicit a visa but was turned down when his background was checked.

Vesco has been free on \$75,000 bail since his arrest November 6 by Bahamian police on the basis of a New York indictment charging that he defrauded \$50,000 of a New Jersey firm which he formerly headed.

Associated Press