

Argentina Denies Reports of Granting Vesco a Haven

By BILL KOVACH

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 28 — The Government of Argentina denied today published reports that it had granted a permanent resident visa to Robert L. Vesco, the fugitive United States financier.

In a statement issued by a spokesman for the Argentine Embassy here, the Argentine Government also said that instructions had been sent to all consulates not to grant any kind of visa to Mr. Vesco to enter their country should he apply.

"There has been some con-

fusion about the legal status of Mr. Vesco," the spokesman said, "and we want to clarify matters. Mr. Vesco never appeared in our country to complete requirements for immigrant status and thus has received no such status."

Mr. Vesco is currently on \$75,000 bail in the Bahamas and fighting extradition to the United States. Last week, The Wall Street Journal published an article saying that Mr. Vesco had secretly traveled to Argentina in October and that he had received permanent resident status there and had obtained a court ruling that

would protect him from extradition from that country. There was speculation at the time that the move was part of a plan to flee the Bahamas should the United States Government appear to be winning its attempt to extradite him to stand trial on fraud charges.

Confusion Cited

The Argentine spokesman said today that considerable confusion had surrounded court proceedings in his country. Mr. Vesco, the spokesman said, did visit Buenos Aires in late October and his attorneys did ask a court to grant him exemption from arrest in any fu-

ture extradition proceedings. "On Oct. 29, Federal Judge Luis Maria Rodriguez ruled that he could grant no such exemption from arrest because there was no request for extradition before him and thus nothing on which he could rule," the Argentine Government said today. "And that was the only ruling in the matter."

As for permanent resident status, the spokesman said a commercial concern in Buenos Aires, which he declined to name, had asked the immigration authority to grant Mr. Vesco an entry permit.

"However, the spokesman

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continued, "Mr. Vesco never appeared to complete the requirements for such papers and thus he has never received any legal immigration status in the country."

'Leaks' Charged

The spokesman declined to discuss the reasons for today's statement other than to say that his Government wanted the matter "clarified," but other sources familiar with the situation said that recent publicity about Mr. Vesco's activities had proved an "embarrassment to Argentina and they want to get out of the middle."

Immediately after accounts of the trip to Argentina by Mr. Vesco were published, his attorneys in the Bahamas labeled them "leaks" from the United States Government as part of its campaign to extradite Mr. Vesco.

Eugene Dupich, Mr. Vesco's chief defense attorney, contended that the stories were politically inspired and that they constituted evidence that the extradition case against his client was politically motivated—a key element in the defense case since extradition for political prosecutions is specifically

prohibited in the Bahamas' extradition treaties.

Mr. Vesco return is being sought to stand trial in the United States on charges of defrauding a company he once controlled of \$50,000.

He was also been indicted in New York on charges of obstructing justice in a case involving former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former Commerce Secretary Maurice N. Stans that dealt with a \$200,000 cash donation to President Nixon's 1972 campaign. He is also accused, with others, of looting four foreign mutual funds of \$224-million.