

Bahamas Won't Extradite Vesco

Nassau, Bahamas

A Bahamian magistrate refused yesterday to order fugitive financier Robert L. Vesco extradited to the United States.

Magistrate Emmanuel Osadebay ruled that a federal wire fraud charge was not a extradictable offense under a 1931 Bahamian-American treaty.

After the ruling, U.S. Attorney Paul J. Curran of New York conferred with Bahamian counsel to find out whether "we may have some rights of review. If so, we may pursue them."

Under Bahamian law no direct appeal of such a decision is possible, but legal sources said there could be an appeal to the Bahamian Supreme Court on a point of law.

Vesco, 38, was not present in court. Authorities said that his \$75,000 cash bond and travel documents confis-

cated upon his arrest in Nassau on November 6 will be returned.

Osadebay ruled that "even if the wire fraud were an extraditable offense under the treaty, the United States failed to produce evidence before this court sufficient to put the accused, Robert L. Vesco, to his trial . . ."

Osadebay said prosecution affidavits were insufficient, some of them based on hearsay and lacking in documentation.

Vesco was charged with wire fraud in the embezzlement of \$50,000 from International Controls Corp.

Vesco is wanted on two other major charges in the U.S., including a federal conspiracy indictment involving an alleged secret \$200,000 campaign contribution to President Nixon. He also faces a civil suit charging fraud of mutual fund investors of \$224 million.

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