

# Vesco Fires Back at His Critics

San Jose,  
Costa Rica

Fugitive financier Robert Vesco denied yesterday any wrong - doing in this Central American coffee country and promised critics who want him deported he will not use his millions to quiet them.

<sup>4 DEC</sup>  
In a television and radio appearance late Wednesday night, Vesco depicted himself as a law-biding foreign resident and said "I am not

going to buy off my detractors."

The former head of the Swiss-based, scandal-racked Investors Overseas Services Mutual Fund gave no indication he would voluntarily end his self-imposed exile, despite a "Vesco go home" campaign launched by a group of citizens.

Their petition, bearing 209 signatures and submitted last week to President Daniel Oduber, made Vesco

break the silence he has maintained since coming here 2½ years ago. The petition asked the government to expel the 39-year-old Vesco, whom they linked with "the Mafia."

Vesco denied Mafia connections.

The petition, which called Vesco a "fugitive from justice" and his exile here "last stop before jail," was read on television Wednesday by the vice rector of the University of Costa Rica,

Maria Eugenia de Vargas. Among the signers was former President Jose Joaquin Trejos Fernandez, three former vice presidents and several cabinet ministers.

U.S. efforts to have Vesco extradited on charges that he contributed \$250,000 illegally to former President Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign failed when the Costa Rican Supreme Court ruled there were no legal grounds for deporting him.

<sup>4 DEC</sup>  
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