

Exile Vesco not off hook

NEW YORK — Despite the acquittal of former cabinet officers John N. Mitchell and Maurice H. Stans on criminal conspiracy charges, the government said Monday fugitive co-defendant Robert L. Vesco is not off the hook.

U.S. Attorney Paul J. Curran said the international financier "certainly will be prosecuted if he should set foot in the United States or moves to a country from which he can be extradited."

Vesco fled the United States about a year ago, shortly before the indictment was filed against Mitchell, 60, former attorney general, and Stans, 66, former commerce secretary.

Vesco has twice successfully thwarted attempts by the U.S. Attorney's office in New York to have him extradited from Costa Rica and the Bahamas. On one occasion, he was served with a warrant for his arrest in the Bahamas, but threw it back.

Mitchell and Stans were acquitted of charges they used their influence to impede a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation of Vesco in 1972. They did so, the indictment alleged, in exchange for Vesco's secret cash gift of \$200,000 to the President's 1972 re-election campaign which Mitchell and Stans headed.

Junta issues new decrees

LISBON — Portugal's five day-old military junta, in a series of revolutionary decrees Monday, stripped leaders of the former dictatorship of all their powers, dissolved the former sole legal political party and proclaimed May 1 an international worker's day.

Representatives of formerly banned and now legal left-wing political parties held what they termed a very cordial 90-minute meeting with the chief of the junta, Gen. Antonio de Spínola.

They said they asked him to make way for a democratic government as quickly as possible and he replied that he wants to hand over power to a provisional civilian government in less than the three weeks he originally promised.

"He told us he will accept the will of the majority and move as quickly as possible," Lio Lima, spokesman for the group, told a news conference.

In further moves to sweep away the last traces of 46 years of dictatorship, the junta announced the end of motion picture and theater censorship. Press censorship already has been abolished.

The junta sought to prevent the revolution degenerating into a bloodbath by calling on Portuguese to end a witch hunt of former secret police agents.

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Kansas City teachers' strike ends

KANSAS CITY — More than 62,000 children and 3,000 employees trudged through heavy rain into Kansas City's 98 schools Monday, formally ending the six-week teachers' strike.

Teachers walked out of classes March 18 demanding a 16 per cent pay hike and more voice in the district's educational policies.

The new contract gave them a guaranteed 8 per cent raise and another 2 per cent contingent upon voter approval of a tax increase June 11.

Chemical leak continues in Chicago

CHICAGO — Potentially dangerous chemical fumes continued to leak Monday from a ruptured storage tank despite a four-foot thick concrete collar around a faulty nozzle.

Gerald Spaeth, president of the Bulk Terminals Co., said more quick drying concrete was being applied to the rupture at the company's tank farm on Chicago's South Side. He estimated that about 400,000 gallons of silicone tetrachloride remained in the tank.

Rescuers evacuate Peruvian valley

LIMA — Army troops and rescue workers picked their way through the soggy Andes mountains Monday to evacuate 10,000 persons from a flood-threatened valley where landslides claimed more than 200 lives.

The landslide blocked a river canyon in the central Andes mountains and created an artificial lake 15 miles long. Authorities discounted fears the artificial dam would burst and flood the valley below, but residents were being removed anyhow.

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Nixon offers transcripts

WASHINGTON—President Nixon, conceding that his refusal to surrender secret White House tapes had "heightened the mystery about Watergate" and caused suspicions about his own role, said Monday he will send edited transcripts to the House Judiciary Committee that is considering his impeachment.

Even before Nixon went on nationwide television to announce his decision and to say he also would make the transcripts public, Chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr., D-N.J., said "we will accept nothing less" than

the actual tapes so the committee can decide for itself whether or not Nixon was involved in the bugging scandal and its cover-up.

The President said the transcripts would be released, "blemishes and all," even though they may "embarrass" him and the officials he talked with. He said one reason he hesitated to release the tapes was that "I was frankly quite concerned about the political implications."

Speaking from the Oval Office and flanked by a stack of blue-bound volumes he said contained the 1,200 edited pages of transcripts of Watergate-related conversations from Sept. 15, 1972 through April 27, 1973 that would be sent to the committee, Nixon said his reluctance for many months to part with the tapes was because he had been trying to protect the

confidentiality of his office.

"I am well aware that my sensitivity to this principle has heightened the mystery about Watergate and caused suspicions about my role," the President said. "There are many people who assume the tapes must implicate the President, or why else would he insist on secrecy."

But he said the tapes prove his innocence and will refute the "allegations and insinuations" that had linked him with scandal.

He said he would invite Rodino and the ranking Republican on the committee, Edward Hutchinson of Michigan, to listen to the actual tapes to verify the transcripts.

If there is any disagreement, he said, "we will meet with them personally" to discuss it.

Oilman freed

BUENOS AIRES — American oil executive Victor E. Samuelson was freed Monday seven weeks after the Exxon company paid a record \$14.2 million ransom for him, police sources said.

They said he appeared disoriented but otherwise in good health. He was wearing the same suit he was kidnaped in nearly five months ago.

Samuelson, 37, of Cleveland, Ohio, the father of three pre-teenage children, was kidnaped Dec. 6 from the Esso refinery company cafeteria at Campana, 50 miles north of Buenos Aires, by members of the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), a leftist guerrilla group.

Esso, a subsidiary of Exxon Corp., paid the record ransom March 11 with 142,000 one hundred dollar bills in brief cases.

But weeks passed with no news of Samuelson. Financial sources said the guerrillas apparently delayed his release until they could "launder" the ransom money, that is, change it at various foreign banks so the cash could not be traced.

Soviets pledge peace assistance

ALGIERS — U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, in a crucial step toward a Middle East peace settlement, obtained a promise of Soviet assistance in his efforts to promote a troop withdrawal agreement between Israel and Syria on the Golan Heights front.

In a joint U.S.-Soviet communique issued as Kissinger arrived in the Algerian capital from Geneva and seven hours of talks with Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko, both sides agreed to exercise their influence to obtain a Middle East peace settlement.

Geneva was Kissinger's first stop on his fifth peace-making mission to the Middle East since the October war. He has conceded it may be his toughest assignment yet.

Kissinger stopped over in Algiers for talks with President Houari Boumediene, one of the Arab hardliners.

While he met with Gromyko in Geneva, Israeli and Syrian warplanes duled over the Golan Heights in the worst air clashes since the 1973 Middle East War. A total of nine planes were claimed destroyed by both sides.

On the ground, more tank and artillery battles were reported on Mt. Hermon in the 49th consecutive day of fighting on the Israeli-Syrian cease-fire lines.

Kissinger met with Gromyko to soothe Soviet resentment over his successful shuttle diplomacy, putting them in the backseat of peace negotiations.

The Soviets have bolstered the Syrian arsenal in an attempt to force the United States to reckon with Moscow in peace negotiations.

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