

## Alphand says JFK flirted with scandal

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PARIS (AP) — John F. Kennedy flirted with scandal during his White House years because of his love of "pleasure and women," according to former French ambassador Herve Alphand.

Alphand, the envoy to Washington from 1956-65 and a personal friend of the Kennedy family, made the comment in his diary just published in France under the title "The Astonishment of Being."

"His (Kennedy's) desires are difficult to satisfy without raising fears of scandal and its use by his political adversaries," Alphand said in an entry dated Aug. 2, 1962.

"This will come perhaps one day, for

he does not take sufficient precautions in this puritan country," the envoy added.

Alphand, known as a fancier of fine living himself, speaks of Jackie Kennedy with flattering words and generally admires her efforts to redecorate the White House and improve its fare with a French chef who got tips from Alphand's own cook.

He described her appearance at an intimate White House dinner a month before the Nov. 22 1963 assassination: "Jackie, a little heavier, dressed Italian style, her back largely exposed; a beautiful head and the hairdo of a lioness, with a voice soft as that of a dying woman."

Alphand's generally favorable assessment of the Kennedy years includes some criticism of U.S. foreign policy.

The envoy portrays Kennedy as young, enthusiastic and intelligent, but so anxious to prove he was tough that people wondered whether he really would be in an emergency.

"If he (Kennedy) has taken care to maintain his country in the front row of world powers and assure its atomic superiority, why does he give the feeling, in seeking negotiation with the Soviets (which is natural), that he would not follow his resolutions to the end?" Alphand wrote.

"It is impossible that (then French President Charles) De Gaulle has not sensed these hesitations and the risk they carry. This explains the French nuclear policy so unpopular with the young president of the United States and his advisers, the brilliant minds of Harvard."

Most of the diary contains Alphand's irregularly jotted notes on significant diplomatic events in which he participated during an active career from 1939 until 1972. But he digresses frequently to record impressions of personalities he came into contact with.

Alphand's tenure in Washington span-

ned some of the most difficult periods of U.S.-French relations, including the 1956 Anglo-French Suez expedition, French nuclear weapons development and De Gaulle's pullout from the NATO military structure.

He looks down his nose at some things on the American scene.

Describing Newport, R. I., and its mansions, he says: "It's a nightmare, but Americans are proud of it and a preservation society conducts visits of these horrors for an ecstatic public."