

Ted's Aide Calls Pia Tale Phony

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Sen. Edward Kennedy's press assistant described as preposterous today a British weekly newspaper's report that Kennedy went nightclubbing with an Italian princess the night before he attended the memorial service for Gen. Charles de Gaulle.

"It's a phony," said Richard Drayne, the press aide.

The British weekly, The People, published a picture it said showed Kennedy and an unidentified man escorting Princess Maria Pia "from one of Paris' swankiest restaurants to a club where they danced till 5 a.m."

Drayne said Kennedy does not know Maria Pia and was not dancing with anybody. An aide said Kennedy's wife was with him in Paris.