

Joan Kennedy Sanitarium Patient

Joan Kennedy, wife of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), has been a patient in a New England sanitarium for the past three weeks.

Richard C. Drayne, Sen. Kennedy's press aide, issued the following statement yesterday without further comment:

"Mrs. Kennedy has been under continuous strain be-

cause of the serious illness (bone cancer) of the Kennedys' older son, Edward Jr., which required the amputation of his leg last November and regular preventive treatments since that surgery.

"She was also very fatigued," the statement continued, "when she returned from the trip she took with Sen. Kennedy and two of

their children, 12-year-old Edward and 14-year-old Kara, to Europe and the Soviet Union in April. Her doctor urged that she take a complete and prolonged rest. She is well and expected back home within a week."

Drayne issued the statement following a report in The Sydney (Australia) Sun that Mrs. Kennedy had been

admitted to the privately-operated sanitarium for psychiatric treatment.

Mrs. Kennedy began seeing a Washington psychiatrist in 1971. She explained later that she began psychotherapy "because I had lost my self-confidence" in dealing with the continuing political and personal crises in which the Kennedy family has been involved.