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Mrs. John F. Kennedy and Onassis to Wed

Wedding to Be Held Next Week—Family Flies to Greece

By MARYLIN BENDER

Mrs. John F. Kennedy, 39-year-old widow of the 35th President of the United States, and Aristotle Socrates Onassis, the 62-year-old millionaire Greek shipowner, will marry.

Last evening at 7:40 Mrs. Kennedy and her two children left for Greece aboard a chartered airliner. Two of her sisters-in-law, Mrs. Peter Lawford and Mrs. Stephen Smith, also accompanied the former first lady.

The announcement was made at 3:30 P.M. yesterday by Mrs. Kennedy's mother, Mrs. Hugh D. Auchincloss, from her home in Washington and relayed by Miss Nancy Tuckerman, Mrs. Kennedy's secretary in New York. Miss Tuckerman said:

"Mrs. Hugh D. Auchincloss has asked me to tell you that her daughter, Mrs. John F. Kennedy, is planning to marry Mr. Aristotle Onassis sometime next week."

Miss Tuckerman added that "no place or date has been set at the moment."

The announcement followed on a day full of rumors that began with a copyrighted story in The Boston Herald-Traveler yesterday that predicted that the wedding would take place before the end of October in



Mrs. John F. Kennedy



Aristotle Socrates Onassis

Associated Press

New York, Maryland or a European city.

The report gathered substance when Richard Cardinal Cushing, a longtime intimate of the Kennedy family, hinted in Sioux Falls, S. D., that an official announcement on the forthcoming marriage "may be coming up tonight—tonight or tomorrow."

"No comment, my lips are sealed, no comment at all," said the Archbishop of Boston, who was in Sioux Falls for the

ordination of Bishop-elect Paul Anderson.

From then on, events moved swiftly.

Neither Mrs. Kennedy nor Mr. Onassis was available for comment yesterday. Mrs. Kennedy left her 15th-floor apartment at 1040 Fifth Avenue at 6 P.M., accompanied by her children, Caroline, 10, and John, 7. She drove off in a limousine, accompanied by five Secret Service men and two governesses who carried luggage. Mr. Onassis was in

Athens last night but made himself unavailable for comment.

Details of the wedding plans, including the date and place of the ceremony and the religious rite in which it will take place, will be issued today, Miss Tuckerman said.

Mr. Onassis has been divorced. He married the former Athina Mary Livanos, a member of another wealthy shipping family, in the Greek Orthodox

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rite. They were divorced in 1960. Two children by that marriage, Alexander, 20, and Christina, 18, are both citizens of the United States.

The first Mrs. Onassis married the Marquess of Blandford in Paris on October 23, 1961.

Whether Mrs. Kennedy, a Roman Catholic, can marry Mr. Onassis with the approval of her church was a question that the Archdiocese of New York declined to answer yesterday.

"It depends on the circumstances. Many things are possible," Msgr. Thomas McGovern, director of information for the archdiocese, said.

Richard Drayne, press aide to Senator Edward M. Kennedy in Washington, said yesterday that the Senator was not in the capital, but he issued a statement for him.

"I talked to Jackie several days ago," the statement said, "and she told me of her plans, and I gave her my very best wishes for their happiness."

Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy's secretary said yesterday that the mother of the slain President would not comment in any way about her daughter-in-law's marriage plans.

Reports of a romance between the couple had been circulating since August when Mrs. Kennedy, accompanied by her brother-in-law, Senator Edward F. Kennedy, flew to Scorpios, a Greek island that Mr. Onassis owns, to join Mr. Onassis for a cruise on his yacht, the Christina.

In July, they were seen together at Bailey's Beach in Newport, R. I., where Mrs. Auchincloss has a summer estate. Last May, Mrs. Kennedy, accompanied by a Secret Service man, flew to the Caribbean to board the yacht for a week-long cruise.

Visited Family Compound

Several times during the last month, Mr. Onassis has visited Mrs. Kennedy at the Kennedy compound in Hyannis Port, Mass. On one occasion, he dispatched an aide to buy Lucite yo-yos as gifts for Mrs. Kennedy's children.

Until yesterday, the reports of the romance and impending marriage had been competing with continuing speculation over whether Mrs. Kennedy would become the wife of Lord Harlech, a widower and longtime friend of the late President's.

Last week she attended a performance of "The Boys in the Band," with Lord Harlech, who was British Ambassador to the United States during the Kennedy Administration.

Last October, Mrs. Kennedy toured the ruins of Angkor Wat in Cambodia with Lord Harlech and Michael Forrestal, a New York lawyer.

Scores of reporters and photographers dogged their footsteps and fueled the gossip about what many of Mrs. Kennedy's and Lord Harlech's friends considered would be an ideal marriage.

Gilpatric Surprised

The announcement also came

as a surprise to Roswell Gilpatric, a close friend of Mrs. Kennedy's, a former Deputy Secretary of Defense, and a partner in Cravath, Swaine & Moore, a law firm here.

"No, I didn't know about it," he said. "I wish her every happiness."

Mr. Gilpatric, who had accompanied the former First Lady to Palm Beach, Fla., and Mexico earlier this year, was with her the night before her brother-in-law Senator Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated and took her to the plane when word came of his death.

"She once told me," Mr. Gilpatric said, "that she felt she could count on him [Onassis]. It was an attribute she looked for in all her friends. One of the things she is looking for for herself and her children is a private life—not being in the public eye all the time—and he can afford to give her that privacy and protection."

Sister in 'Beautiful' Group

One of "the Beautiful People" is Mrs. Kennedy's sister, Princess Lee Radziwill. In recent years, Princess Radziwill, the wife of a London businessman, has been a close friend of Mr. Onassis' who, in turn, had been a constant companion of Maria Callas, the opera star.

Miss Callas was in New York last month to attend the opening of the Metropolitan Opera. She complained bitterly to friends here about the break-up of her friendship with Mr. Onassis.

Last night in Paris, where she is now living, Miss Callas refused comment on the engagement.

Mr. Onassis, a short, graying man whose friends call him Ari, seemed a surprise choice to the hordes of Mrs. Kennedy's admirers, who include not only friends but legions of magazine readers.

During the last three years, Mr. Kennedy has been recog-

nized principally for setting fashion trends.

When she shortened her skirts to two inches above the knee two years ago, the future of the miniskirt was assured. He rapped at Elaine's, a restaurant on Second Avenue in the Eighties, made that neighborhood bistro a society hang-out.

Mr. Onassis is short and stocky. Like Mrs. Kennedy, he is usually suntanned and wears tinted sunglasses.

Unlike other members of the Kennedy circle, he is not particularly conscious of clothes. Like some of them, however, Mr. Onassis is a self-made man.

He was born in Izmir, Turkey, of Greek parentage, and went to Argentina when he was 16 with about \$60 in his pocket to begin a career as a tobacco importer. He became—and remains—an Argentine citizen.