

10/19/68

# Onassis, a Chivalrous Tycoon, Wields His Wealth on a Grandiose Scale

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Special to The New York Times

ATHENS, Oct. 18 — When Aristotle Socrates Onassis welcomed his bride-to-be to his homeland today, it was with the old-world chivalry that has made him a popular escort on both sides of the Atlantic.

But the tycoon with the acquiline nose and the athletic build has also impressed students of the jet set with demonstrations of power and great wealth and by his grandiose way of operating.

As one of the most influential people in Greece and as the secretive owner of a vast shipping and financial empire, Mr. Onassis has characteristically appeared to mix romance with public interests.

For his marriage, he took time out from negotiations with the Greek Army junta on a package reported to be close to \$400-million in investments and business deals.

**Protection for Couple**  
The Greek authorities went out of their way to insure privacy and protection for the bridal couple.

**The Greek-flag airline,** Olympic Airways, which is owned by Mr. Onassis; considered the flight of Mrs. Kennedy and her party a top-priority operation.

Some scheduled airliners to and from Athens suffered delays, and waiting passengers assumed as a matter of course that the Kennedy flight was the cause.

As Mrs. Kennedy approached Mr. Onassis's private island, Skorpios, his personal security force worked with the Greek police and Coast Guard.

The island was originally developed by the shipowner as a place for rest. But recently there were reports that he planned to place there the permanent headquarters of his business operations.

**Transactions From Yacht**  
These reports were seen as evidence of close cooperation between him and the junta, which took power in a bloodless coup early last year.

Much of Mr. Onassis's operations have been transacted from the yacht Christina, a luxuriously refitted former Canadian frigate. The shipowner formerly spent four to five months every year on the yacht. He acquired a reputation as an in-

somniac by placing radiotelephone calls to aides and business partners deep into the night.

A plane aboard the Christina

allows Mr. Onassis to make quick trips ashore, normally to one of his several homes. They include a permanent suite at the Pierre Hotel in New York.



Associated Press  
The Marchioness of Blandford, Mr. Onassis' first wife, as she left Athens for Madrid yesterday after a brief visit.

a town house in Montevideo, Uruguay; an apartment on Avenue Foch in Paris, and a mansion with marble floors in a fashionable suburb eight miles from the center of Athens.

Earlier, Mr. Onassis seemed to have set his eye on the principality of Monaco as a nerve center for his empire. He bought into Monte Carlo, the tiny principality's gambling-casino capital, in the early fifties.

French newspapers said at the time that Prince Rainier of Monaco and his wife, the former Grace Kelly, resented Mr. Onassis' involvement in Monte Carlo. The shipowner is reported to have sold all or most of his Monaco interests in the last few years.

Mr. Onassis has controlled Olympic Airways since its foundation 11 years ago. The airline concession, renegotiated recently after a long strike by Olympic pilots for higher pay, runs to the year 2004.

Mr. Onassis, who holds dual Argentine and Greek citizenship, seemed to be prepared to increase his stake in Greece's economy after the junta came to power last spring.

The wealth of the 62-year-old Mr. Onassis, who was long an advocate of the construction of supertankers, is be-

lived to have grown greatly as a result of the closing of the Suez Canal in the Middle East war in 1967. Oil from the Persian Gulf is now being shipped around the Cape, and the longer route has made tanker space scarce, increasing the earnings of fleet owners.

The Onassis shipping interest are estimated here to be worth close to \$500-million. Mr. Onassis is also said to own \$50-million in real estate and other assets in various parts of the world.

The deals that Mr. Onassis is said to be negotiating with the Greek junta call for large-scale industrial investments. Creation of a new oil refinery by Onassis interests, and a partnership in an aluminum plant, as well as tourist projects, are foreseen.

Greek sources variously place the total capital of all these "Onassis packets" at \$360-million to \$400-million. Details are hard to come by, and some sources suggest that the Greek Government may consider just one of the various proposals. Mr. Onassis is expected to benefit from special tax privileges for the shipping industry contemplated by the Greek Government if his negotiations are successful.