

'I Am a Woman Above All Else'

TEHRAN (Iran) — (AP) — "I am today what I was yesterday and with luck, what I will be tomorrow," says Jacqueline Onassis. "I am a woman above everything else."

Visiting Tehran with her husband, Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis, Jackie was buttonholed by an Iranian woman reporter and asked whether she is the same sort of person today as she was when she was the wife of President John Kennedy.

The reporter, Maryam Kharazmi of the English-language newspaper Kayhan International, gave this account of the interview:

Stay True

"Why do people always try to see me through the different names I have had at different times?" Mrs. Onassis asked. People often forget that I was Jacqueline Bouvier before being Mrs. Kennedy or Mrs. Onassis. Throughout my life I have always tried to remain true to myself. This I will continue to do as long as I live.

"I am a woman above everything else. I love children, and I think that seeing one's children grow up is the most delightful thing any woman can think about.

"I have been through a lot, and I have suffered a great deal, as you know. But I have had lot of happy moments as well.

"I have come to the concl-

sion that we must not expect too much from life. We must give to life as least as much as we receive from it.

"Every moment one lives is different from the other, the good, the bad, the hardship, the joy, the tragedy, love and happiness are all interwoven into one single indescribable whole that is called life.

"You cannot separate the good from the bad. Perhaps there is no need to."

Mrs. Onassis recalled she had been a reporter herself before her first marriage and the job taught her a lot about life.

Expect Little

"My job was to ask a single question from six or seven different people each day and then photograph them while they talked," she explained. "Often it was difficult to get anything. It taught me not to expect too much and not to take things for granted."

"I get afraid of reporters when they come to me in a crowd," she explained. "I don't like crowds because I don't like impersonal masses. They remind me of swarms of locusts.

"The truth of the matter is that I am a very shy person. People take my diffidence for arrogance and my withdrawal from publicity as a sign, supposedly, that I am looking down on the rest of mankind."