

Mrs. Kennedy and Onassis Arrive on His Island



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Island of Skorpios in Ionian Sea, where the wedding of Aristotle Onassis and Mrs. John F. Kennedy may take place

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Special to The New York Times

ATHENS, Oct. 18 — Mrs. John F. Kennedy and Aristotle Onassis arrived on a picturesque island in the Ionian Sea today to make plans for their forthcoming marriage, perhaps this weekend.

The 39-year-old widow was greeted by the Greek shipping millionaire as she landed at a small airfield at Andravida on the mainland.

Reporters and cameramen were ordered from the field

and locked in a waiting room just before the Boeing 707 jet arrived from New York, but airport employes said that Mr. Onassis greeted Mrs. Kennedy with a kiss on the cheek.

Mrs. Kennedy, accompanied by about a dozen persons, walked briefly along the runway in the bright sunshine with her two children, Caroline, 10, and John, 7. She then boarded Mr. Onassis' private DC-6, flew to Aktion on the west coast of Greece, where they were reported to

have transferred to a helicopter for the trip to Skorpios, the secluded island owned by Mr. Onassis.

The arrangements for the wedding are being surrounded with all the secrecy of a military operation.

Mr. Onassis himself did not clarify matters, saying only, "I'm marrying her tomorrow or within three days at the latest."

Spokesmen for Olympic Airways, which is owned by Mr. Onassis, said there was no word on when the wed-

ding would take place, but there were some indications it could be either tomorrow or Sunday.

"Mr. Onassis is handling all the details and has revealed nothing further to us yet," the spokesman said. "We have no word on guests."

There was also no word on where the ceremony would take place. Tonight, on the island purchased by Mr. Onassis for just under \$100,000 five years ago, workmen

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were reported to be putting a coat of paint on the small chapel.

But one rumor was the ceremony would take place aboard the Onassis yacht, the Christina. In any case, the ceremony will be private, and no news coverage is planned.

"The only thing I know," said Mr. Onassis to reporters today, "is that it will be a close family affair. The rest you'll have to arrange with Jackie."

Mrs. Kennedy is a Roman Catholic but a Roman Catholic ceremony appears to be ruled out because Mr. Onassis is a divorced man.

The Greek Orthodox Church allows three sequential marriages so Mr. Onassis' divorce presents no problems in his faith. The Orthodox Church allows marriage to a Roman Catholic but Mrs. Kennedy will be expected to sign a pledge that any children from the new marriage be brought up in the Orthodox faith. This would not apply to her present children, a spokesman for the Greek Church said. He added that Mrs. Kennedy does not have to convert to the Orthodox faith.

Civil Ceremony Unlikely

One solution would have been a civil ceremony, but such ceremonies are not recognized by the Orthodox Church in Greece.

Mr. Onassis was previously married to Athina Mary Livanos, a daughter of another wealthy shipping family. Two children by that marriage, Alexander, 20 and Christina, 18, are United States citizens. Mr. Onassis' former wife, who is called Tina, was married to the Marquess of Blandford in Paris in 1961.

Mr. Onassis, speaking briefly to reporters at Athens airport this morning before he left to meet Mrs. Kennedy, said the couple planned to spend their honeymoon on Skorpios unless "Jackie wants to make a tour of the Mediterranean" on the Christina.

The yacht, moored beside the private island tonight, has cabins named after the Greek islands, priceless works of art, marble bathtubs, and gold faucets.

Has Cruised on Yacht

Mrs. Kennedy has cruised aboard the yacht on several occasions in the past, most recently in August. Then, accompanied by her brother-in-law, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, she flew to Skorpios to join Onassis for a cruise.

Earlier in the year they were seen together in Newport, R. I., where Mrs. Kennedy's mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh D. Auchincloss, who also arrived at the island today, have a summer estate. In May Mrs. Kennedy flew to the Caribbean for a week-long cruise on the Christina.

Moreover, several times in

recent weeks, Mr. Onassis visited Mrs. Kennedy at the Kennedy compound in Hyannisport, Mass.

But the Greeks — who have closely followed Mr. Onassis' past romances, including the long alliance with the opera star Maria Callas—saw nothing particularly unusual in the visits with Mrs. Kennedy. They thought it was merely another example of Mr. Onassis' wish to offer hospitality to famous people.

Has Improved Island

Since purchasing Skorpios, Mr. Onassis is estimated to have spent \$2.4-million on improvements. There is a 20-room house and smaller buildings on the island overlooking spacious gardens and olive and pine trees. There is a small landing pad for helicopters and reportedly a small airstrip.

According to friends of Mr. Onassis in Athens, he has leveled the top of one hill to prepare for construction of a huge mansion that will overlook the sea. The grounds will include a new golf course, tennis courts and a swimming pool.

Mr. Onassis is reported to have as many as 200 servants on the island.

Among those at the island tonight in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Auchincloss are Mrs. Kennedy's two sisters-in-law, Mrs. Peter Lawford and Mrs. Stephen Smith. Airport employes also reported that Mrs. Kennedy's sister, Lee, who is Princess Stanislas Radziwill, was aboard the plane but there was no confirmation.