

# Faulty Charge Against Mrs. Onassis Admitted

**Incident Took Place 9 Days  
After He Filed His Action,  
Galella Tells U.S. Court**

**MAX H. SEIGEL**

Ronald E. Galella, the freelance photographer who is suing Mrs. Aristotle Onassis, conceded on the witness stand here yesterday that he had once signed a complaint against her for an incident that did not allegedly take place until nine days later.

The complaint, signed in New York City on July 13, 1970, charged, among other things, harassment on the Greek Island of Skorpios by a Secret Service agent as Mr. Galella was trying to get a picture of Mrs. Onassis and her family. But the alleged incident on the beach did not take place until July 22, 1970, the photographer admitted yesterday.

Mr. Galella said that he could not understand how the account had come to be in the complaint. But he stressed that the harassment ultimately took place.

Under cross-examination by Martin London, a lawyer for Mrs. Onassis, he conceded that he had reaffirmed the complaint in a pretrial deposition last January.

### Three Trials at Issue

The present trial — the first of three consecutive trials involving Mr. Galella, Mrs. Onassis and the United States Government — is considering the photographer's suit for \$1.3-million in damages from Mrs. Onassis for allegedly interfering with his livelihood.

In a countersuit, Mrs. Onassis is seeking to make permanent a temporary injunction that bars the photographer from coming within 100 yards of her residence at 1040 Fifth Avenue and within 50 yards of her away from the building.

Finally, the Government is seeking to enjoin Mr. Galella from interfering with the Secret Service agents assigned to guard the Kennedy children.

Earlier in yesterday's trial, which is being held in the Federal Court House at Foley Square, Mr. London challenged a statement by Mr. Galella that he had turned over to the defense all the photos he had made of Mrs. Onassis. The lawyer produced a photo of Mrs. Onassis taken on the steps of the Metropolitan Museum of Art late in November, 1971.

Mr. Galella conceded that he



Mrs. Aristotle Onassis



Ronald E. Galella

The New York Times

had not turned in this photo, saying it was under consideration by Photoplay Magazine for purchase, as were several other shots taken there.

### Frustrations Recounted

Under questioning in the morning by his own lawyer, Alfred S. Julien, Mr. Galella continued to detail frustrations he said he encountered in trying to get candid photos of Mrs. Onassis and members of her family.

He told of an opportunity to get a rare group picture of Mr. and Mrs. Onassis, John and Caroline Kennedy and Mr. Onassis's daughter, Christine, at the Metropolitan Opera House the night of May 17, 1970.

Mr. Galella said he first hid near the box that the Onassis family occupied. But when the performance had ended, he recounted, a Secret Service agent pushed him away, and he got no picture.

Then he went to the garage where a limousine was waiting for the group. But, the photographer said, another Secret Service agent and two New York City policemen got him out of the way.

"I don't give up easily," Mr. Galella said.

He then stationed himself, he said, at the top of a ramp where automobiles came to a halt before leaving the garage. But a policeman came up, grabbed his flash gun and prevented him from taking the photo, he testified.

Mr. Galella also told of being pushed into a snowbank by a Secret Service agent on Jan. 3, 1971, when he tried to take pictures of Mrs. Onassis in the snow in Central Park.

During the hearing this morning the lawyer for Mr. Galella

elcted from the defense word, that Mr. Onassis was in this country. The lawyer hopes to subpoena Mr. Onassis to testify.

The trial will resume tomorrow at 2 P.M. with Mr. Galella facing more cross-examination.

The case is being heard without jury by Federal Judge Irving Ben Cooper.