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Onassis Reportedly Wanted a Divorce

NEW YORK, April 12 (AP)—Aristotle Onassis decided to divorce his wife, Jacqueline, shortly before his death last month and asked a lawyer to start proceedings, The New York Times reported today.

The newspaper said Mrs. Onassis, also the widow of the late President John F. Kennedy, receives a bequest of \$3 million in the Onassis will, a sum far less than published reports had indicated.

Quoting friends of the Onassis family, the article said the Greek shipping magnate's will stipulated that trust funds of \$1 million each be set up for Mrs. Onassis' children, Caroline and John.

It said they will receive incomes from the funds until they are 21. Previous reports had placed their inheritance as high as \$15 million each.

The Times said that last Dec. 3, John Meyer, a close associate of Onassis, called lawyer Roy M. Cohn and said that Onassis wanted him to be his attorney in a divorce action against Mrs. Onassis.

"He called me when Mr. Onassis was with him," the Times quoted Cohn as saying Friday. "He said it was absolutely definite and that Mr. Onassis wanted to end the marriage."

Meyer declined comment on the phone call, the Times said.

The newspaper quoted several friends of the Onassis family as saying that Onassis' daughter, Christina, by his first marriage, was instrumental in persuading her father to seek a divorce.

Onassis was suffering from the muscular disease myasthenia gravis, and the newspaper reported friends saying that it was poor health rather than a reconciliation with Mrs. Onassis



JACQUELINE ONASSIS
... \$3 million legacy

that led Onassis to drop the divorce action.

Rumors of a divorce between the couple dated back to 1970, but both always denied it.

Some estimates had placed Mrs. Onassis' inheritance as up to \$200 million. Onassis' wealth was estimated as high as \$500 million.