

JBR

Stories That Onassis Planned A Divorce Denied by Daughter

NYTimes

APR 18 1975

PARIS, April 17 (AP)—Christina Onassis, daughter of the late Aristotle Onassis and principal heir to his shipping fortune, denied today that her father had planned to divorce Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

"These stories are totally untrue," she said.

In a statement issued here, through the offices of Olympic Airways, Miss Onassis, 24 years old, also said her relations with her stepmother, described by many intimates as strained, were based on friendship and respect.

"There are no financial or other disputes separating" her father's widow and herself, Miss Onassis said.

The statement followed reports from New York that Mr. Onassis had asked a lawyer last December to consider being his attorney in divorce proceedings. There were also reports of disputes between Miss Onassis and her stepmother concerning the inheritance.

[Meanwhile, Miss Onassis filed a lawsuit in Athens seeking the annulment of the marriage to Stavros Niarchos, the ship-

ping tycoon, Reuters reported. Miss Onassis's suit contended that her mother's marriage to Mr. Niarchos—who is Christina's uncle—was not valid because she was his fifth wife and a close relative. Greek law allows a Greek Orthodox to marry to three times and forbids wedlock between close relatives.]

Cohn Calls Article True

The New York Times reported last Saturday that, on Dec. 3 of last year, and associate of Mr. Onassis called Roy M. Cohn, the lawyer, and asked him if he would represent Mr. Onassis in a divorce action against Mrs. Onassis.

Reached by telephone yesterday, Mr. Cohn said that The Times article was correct.

"It was true, exactly as printed," he said.

Mr. Cohn, who was not the source of the original Times article declined to comment further.

However, it has been learned that the conversation on Dec. 3 between Mr. Onassis's associate, John Meyer, and Mr. Cohn was not their first, and that Mr. Cohn had been consulted several times before the that about an Onassis divorce.

It was also learned that Mr. Onassis had made inquiries about hiring a private investigator to gather evidence he could use in a divorce proceeding.