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ONASSIS' ISLAND RETREAT: Skorpios, the 500-acre island in the Ionian Sea near the Gulf of Corinth, has a 20-room cottage and smaller houses. There is a small heliport and, reportedly, an airstrip for Mr. Onassis' planes.

Onassis Yacht A glow With Light Off Skorpios, His Island Retreat

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Special to The New York Times

MEDRY, Greece, Oct. 18—Skorpios, the Ionian Sea island retreat of Aristotle Socrates Onassis, seemed deserted tonight to observers aboard a small fishing boat slicing through the dark waters nearby.

But lying at anchor beside the island was Mr. Onassis' large white yacht, Christina, ablaze with light from stem to stern. Arrangements were reported under way for a large party aboard her tomorrow night.

A sailor in this village on the island of Lefkos, overlooking Skorpios, said that Mrs. John F. Kennedy and her two children, John and Caroline, were aboard the yacht with Mr. Onassis. Mrs. Kennedy was said to have gone to the island with Mr. Onassis in a speedboat from a nearby town. The children were flown to Skorpios by helicopter.

The news of the impending marriage of Mr. Onassis and Mrs. Kennedy was the single topic of conversation tonight at the outdoor cafes in this village.

Greeks here were repeatedly discussing conflicting rumors and reports this afternoon and evening about the itinerary of Mrs. Kennedy from Andravida Airport near Olympia, where she landed this morning, to Skorpios. Inhabitants of widely scattered villages insisted that they had seen her passing by, veiled but recognizable.

A local official said this afternoon that a flood of telegrams was arriving for delivery to Skorpios, mostly expressions of goodwill from friends. Many messages, however, were said to contain instructions for

the delivery of flowers to the island and for the stocking of provisions aboard the yacht for the couple and their guests.

Newsmen Converge

Greek and foreign journalists were converging today on points near Skorpios, which lies off the mountains and rough roads of western Greece. It is sheltered between the islands of Lefkos and the mainland. Skorpios is owned by Mr. Onassis, who transformed it into a tree-covered vacation retreat from a barren and waterless waste.

The island is well guarded, and few uninvited persons ever succeed in drawing near it by boat.

Tonight, for example, the helmsman of a chartered fishing boat nervously swung away from the island after coming within about 200 yards. Requests that he steer alongside the yacht were coldly ignored.

Photographers were searching in anguish in the dark for a vantage point on nearby islands from which to capture with large telescopic cameras any signs of movement on Skorpios and the Christina with the break of day.

Local officials only smiled and shrugged when asked if correspondents would be given permission to visit the island. The rumor circulated that the Town Council of Lefkos had been authorized to select a few newsmen to attend the ceremony. But officials in the council building tonight said that they knew nothing of such permission having been granted by Mr. Onassis.

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