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Christina Denies Story of Onassis-Jackie Divorce

Paris

Christina Onassis yesterday described as "totally untrue" reports that her father, Aristotle Onassis, planned to divorce Jacqueline Onassis. She said the couple was happily married.

The statement, issued here through the offices of Olympic Airways, also said relations between Miss Onassis and her stepmother are based on friendship and respect.

Miss Onassis, 24, is the principal heir to the shipping magnate's fortune, estimated at \$1 billion.

The statement was prompted by recent reports that Onassis asked a lawyer last December to consider being his attorney in divorce proceedings. Other reports said there were disputes between Miss Onassis and her stepmother over the inheritance.

Mrs. Onassis reportedly will receive \$3 million under Onassis' will, and trust funds of \$1 million each will be set up for Mrs. Onassis' two children by her marriage to President Kennedy. Earlier reports indicated Mrs. Onassis would receive much more money and her children would get as much as \$15 million each.

A friend of the Onassis family said that Miss Onassis was very disturbed by the reports and worked most of yesterday drawing up her statement, which said:

"Miss Christina Onassis is very much distressed at the distorted stories and speculations which appeared in the international press about her late father and Mrs. Jacqueline Onassis.

"These stories are totally untrue and she repudiates

them. In fact, the marriage of the late Mr. Onassis and Mrs. Jacqueline Onassis was a happy marriage and all rumors of intended divorce are untrue.

"Her own relationship with Mrs. Jacqueline Onassis was always and still is based on mutual friendship and respect and there are no financial or other disputes separating them.

"It is the desire of Miss Christina Onassis and she understands it to be also the desire of Mrs. Jacqueline Onassis that they both be left at peace and all detrimental and harmful speculations cease."

In Athens, Miss Onassis' lawyer said she has sued her former stepfather, Stavros Niarchos, for the estimated \$300 million inheritance he received when her mother died last October.

The suit also demands that Niarchos' wedding to her mother, Tina Livanos, be declared null and void.

Miss Onassis claims the marriage was illegal according to Greek Orthodox law because Niarchos had been married three times previously. The Orthodox Church in Greece permits its members to marry in the church three times.

Associated Press