



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**ARISTOTLE ONASSIS**

**PART 4 OF 4**

**BUFILE: 46-17783**

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### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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NOV 1 1944  
32 JAN 2 1945

JAN 3 3 1945  
61 JAN 16 1945  
172  
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECORDED BY  
JAN 16 1945



FROM: NO RETURN ADDRESS  
Postmarks: Buenos Aires,  
Argentina

TO: [REDACTED] b7c

LIST:

LIST: None

Date of communication Nov 24, 1944	Date of postmark Illegible	Kind of mail Air	Mail No.	Register No. None	Serial No.
Language Russian & English	Previously censored by None	Station distribution D.R. DEC 28, 1944		DISPOSAL OF ORIGINAL COMMUNICATION	
Previous relevant records None	For interoffice use		To whom photograph is to be sent	H	
	To be photographed No	Photo No.		R	
				C	
				RS	
				Sent with comment to—	

Division (or section) B.A. (P)	Table 916 C	Examiner 7263 8411	D. A. C. 6125	Reviewer 5421	Examination date Dec 26, 27 '44	Typing date Dec 28 '44
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COMMENT

RESIDENT OF BUENOS AIRES HELPS BUSINESSMEN THERE WHO DEAL  
SURREPTITIOUSLY WITH GERMANS AND ITALIANS.

In an unsigned letter dated Nov 24, with salutation "Dear Ones",  
writer, after discussing family matters, states: "Sometime ago you  
asked me to furnish you names of persons who should be branded, be-  
cause they were and still are and will be anti-Semites. In any case,  
I give you some incomplete data; here it is.



When we have here ~~ANTONIO MASIAS~~ AND ~~NICOLAS MONTALIDIS~~,  
Greeks. These gentlemen form truck companies under different names  
and trade with GERMANS. They were former small tobacco merchants,  
then wartime agents, and now since the war they have earned big  
money. In order not to reveal themselves, they use friends' names,  
and otherwise donate large sums to the Greek and English Red Cross,  
while continuing work with concerns that are on the black list, getting  
richer and richer. Their addresses are:  
ANTONIO MASIAS  
Iniquista 336 and Av. Alvear 1668  
Buenos Aires, S.A.L. Reconquista 336  
depositos: Paseo Colon 1620.

The above is one of their concerns, formed by them. They receive  
tobacco from Rhodesia (English Africa), and many other products  
from England and the U.S.A. and sell them to Italian and German  
concerns through Sumins. Nico bids, as you see. And one more word  
about tobacco concern; it is: S. Pampallo y Cia Rivadavia 1953.

DECLASSIFIED BY: SP-5 L.../...  
ON: 4/3/70  
10-31-86 SP8BJG/okw 264631

- DR use only
- BL 6832
- cc
- 12/24
- 2-1C
- 1-OSK
- 2-B
- 3-SU
- 3-T
- 6-MI
- 1-IRB
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- 1-FC
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Declassify on: OADR  
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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

XIP-50X  
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[REDACTED]

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- Tolson
- DeLoach
- Mohr
- Bishop
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

delivered 10/15/69  
NOTE: Classified "Secret" as incoming  
so classified.

CLASS. & EXT BY 50-5 [Handwritten]  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 10/13/89

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF 1/2 NO 213

SECRET 5/28/10

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MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

DATE 5/30/80

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We have no information of recent date concerning  
[redacted] and nothing to indicate that he is now working for  
Aristotle Onassis or is involved in arms purchasing deals  
on behalf of the Greek Government.

~~SECRET~~

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. L. V. BOARDMAN

DATE: June 16, 1954

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Belmont	_____
Glavin	_____
Harbo	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Tracy	_____
Mohr	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FROM : MR. A. H. BELMONT

SUBJECT: VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA BY BUREAU'S ARMY LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 10-30-86 BY 51847/act

APRIL 19 - MAY 19, 1954

SYNOPSIS:

General Trudeau, G-2, and his party, accompanied by Bureau's Army Liaison Representative, arrived at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, on April 28, 1954. Saudi Arabia is almost a one-product country, that product being oil, and around this oil revolves the industrial potential of Western Europe, which is dependent upon the flow of this oil. A few major companies have most of the exploration rights for Arabian oil, with the country receiving a royalty on production. The largest company, the Arabian-American Oil Company (Aramco), has built a modern city, Dhahran, in a desert. It produces approximately 1,000,000 barrels of oil per day and recently located a veritable underground oil lake 150 miles long and 20 miles wide. King Saud, unsuccessfully attempting to emulate his father, is believed controlled by some of his unscrupulous advisors, one of whom negotiated the Onassis Agreement. He is trying to form an Arab League within the Arab League, with himself as a leader, meanwhile failing to properly administer his own country. Security of Aramco will be dependent on the U. S. Army in the event of imminent hostilities.

RECOMMENDATION:

For your information. This report covers the visit to Saudi Arabia. Other Middle Eastern countries will be covered in separate reports.

\* Established a competitor to the U.S. in movement of oil by Aramco.

INDEXED - in file  
 SE 40  
 RECORDED  
 EX-130  
 67-101147-4

1 - Mr. Broden, Rm. 1521

67 JUN 28 1954 - F422

Visit to Middle East and North Africa by Bureau's Army Liaison Representative

DETAILS:

Thumbnail Background Sketch of  
Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is an absolute monarchy under the new King and Prime Minister ~~Saudi Ibn al Aziz AL SAUD~~. The new King, who would like to walk in the footsteps of his father (who was an excellent ruler), is having difficulty ~~emulating~~ <sup>emulating</sup> although he recently appears to have stabilized his position and is taking a more active interest in Arab affairs. A number of his policies, however, have run counter to U. S. interests. He apparently intends to continue the Saudi-Iraq rivalry over influence in Syria and Jordan. He also has indicated an adamant attitude in the Saudi Arabian-British two-year-old dispute over the Buraimi Oasis. Furthermore, he has entered into an agreement (the Onassis Agreement) which establishes a competitor to the U. S. for the movement of Aramco oil. The procedural details regarding this agreement could seriously affect the transportation of oil for the U. S. Armed Services by restricting or perhaps prohibiting the carrying of Arabian oil by the military sea transportation service. The internal administration is almost a family affair, the Deputy Minister and Foreign Minister being Crown Prince ~~Faisal Ibn Abd al Aziz AL SAUD~~ and the Minister of Defense being Prince ~~Mish' al Ibn al Aziz Ibn AL SAUD~~. The economy of Saudi Arabia revolves around the question of oil. The exploitation of the very fertile oil fields of this country is in the hands of a few major companies, from which the country receives a royalty on the production. Also around this pivotal oil reserve depends the ability of the Western powers to supply the industrial requirements of Western Europe.

Visit to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

General Trudeau, G-2, and his party, accompanied by the Bureau's Army Liaison Representative, John F. Sullivan, arrived at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, on April 28, 1954.

Upon arrival at the Dhahran Air Base, General Trudeau and key members of the party were briefed in the office of Brigadier General Orrin Grover on the subject of the Saudi Arabian Army Forces, and the organization and functions of the Military Advisory Group (MAAG) in

that country. Later that afternoon, the same group attended a reception at the residence of U. S. Consul General John Carrigan given in honor of the Emir of Al Hassa, one of the most powerful sheiks serving under King Saud. Senior officials of the Arabian-American Oil Company (Aramco) and the Dhahran Air Force Base were present, as well as a number of local Arabian officials. General Trudeau also had a conversation with the American Ambassador, James Wadsworth. The General advised that Mr. Wadsworth had stated he is encountering increasing difficulty in dealing with King Saud, who envisions himself as a worthy successor to his father and would like to become the leader of the Arab world. However, he does not have the ability of his father. It was also learned that Aramco was encountering similar difficulties in dealing with the King.

Arabian-American Oil Company (Aramco)

Aramco Operations

On April 29, 1954, General Trudeau and certain members of the party attended a briefing at the headquarters of Aramco which included the following officials of that firm: Mr. F. A. Davies, Chairman of the Board; Mr. R. L. Keyes, President; Mr. F. W. Ohliger, member of Aramco Board of Directors and Vice-President of Concession Affairs; Mr. Norman Hardy, Vice-President and Manager; Mr. Charles House, Special Security Officer; Mr. T. V. Stapleton, Chairman, Permanent Subcommittee for Field Management; Mr. K. R. Webster, Manager, Dhahran District; and Mr. Garry Owen, Representative to the Saudi Arabian Government. This briefing was a summary of Aramco's activities and problems encountered in oil operations in the country.

Aramco operations are located in three major areas:

- a. In the vicinity of Dhahran.
- b. In a vicinity to the west of Dhahran. It is interesting to note that the party was confidentially advised that this area includes one veritable underground oil lake 150 miles long and about 20 miles wide which is now under development, and which constitutes one-half of all the known oil resources of the world.
- c. Exploration to the south in the Al-Rub'Al-Khali area. Of military significance, it was learned while drilling for oil that some of the drillings have indicated a considerable useable water supply in the area. Test drilling has gone to 7500 feet at present

and is expected to go down to 15,000 feet. Aramco is as yet unable to determine what to expect when the final results of this exploration are in, but it has already proven to its satisfaction that this area will be much more productive than it had been considered heretofore. If the explorations are successful, they feel that the reserves uncovered here will nullify all previous estimates of the amount of oil in Saudi Arabia.

### Production

Mr. Hardy stated that production averages about 1,000,000 barrels of oil per day from 140 wells, of which approximately 300,000 is carried via pipeline to Saidon in Lebanon, 300,000 go to Bahrein for refining and 300,000 plus to Ras Tanura for shipment by tankers. With regard to their pipeline, Mr. Owen pointed out that expenses, including charges levied by numerous nonproducing countries, were becoming so great that pipeline movement was not much cheaper than movement by tanker.

The most serious difficulty confronting U. S. oil operations in Saudi Arabia is a recent agreement made between King Saud and Aristotle Socrates Onassis, a Greek tanker tycoon who is also the owner of the Casino at Monte Carlo. Onassis purchased the Casino for the purpose of using part of it as a headquarters. This agreement was made between the Saudi Arabian Finance Minister, El Suleiman, and Onassis. Under this agreement, which went into effect on April 9, 1954, Onassis obtained the right to henceforth carry all Aramco oil in excess of that carried by Aramco's own tankers operating out of Ras Tanura prior to December 31, 1953. The capacity of company tankers is estimated to be 10 to 20 per cent of the total 1,000,000 barrels. The agreement would prohibit the shipment of oil in charter tankers, the tankers of other nations and in tankers belonging to the United States Navy. The impact of this agreement on the current oil market is so great that it cannot be estimated.

The ramifications of this agreement into other industries likewise cannot be estimated. In return for this agreement, Saudi Arabia will receive one and one-half shillings per ton on all oil shipped in Onassis tankers. This amounts to \$.03 per barrel. Basic tanker rates were established by the U. S. Maritime Commission about the end of the war from the Persian Gulf to all world ports. Post-war demands for Gulf oil and the shortage of tankers resulted in increased shipping rates, exceeding U. S. Maritime rates by 60 to 70 per cent until a short time ago. The world demand for tanker construction was expanded during the post-war years; however, there is at present a surplus of tankers. This has resulted in increased competition and lower rates. It has also enabled Onassis to gain control of a greatly

increased tanker fleet by purchase or charter. The net result is that, while Onassis is to charge U. S. Maritime prices, current shipping rates average \$.86 per barrel below the Maritime rates; thus it will be seen that, while paying \$.03 per barrel to Saudi Arabia, Onassis has a prospective take of \$.83 per barrel over and above current operating profits. Present shipping rates from the Persian Gulf to New York are reportedly less than those from Venezuela to New York.

In return for this agreement, Onassis contracted to train a limited number of Saudi Arabian seamen each year. He further agreed to deliver 50,000 tons of oil per year free to any place designated by the Saudi Arabian Government.

The agreement, according to Aramco officials, is a direct contravention to the terms of the Aramco-Arabian agreement which involves both production and marketing. In a letter dated late in January, 1954, Aramco was instructed by El Suleiman to put its ramifications into effect immediately and report progress to the Saudi Arabian Government. Under date of February 8, 1954, Aramco completely rejected the instructions received from the Saudi Arabian Government and to date has received no reply to its letter.

On April 9, 1954, the U. S. Ambassador was informed that the agreement was in effect. In communications with the State Department, he was instructed to seek an interview with the King and make positive protest over the restrictions on U. S. tankers. It was also suggested that he might want to discuss the related problems involving charter tankers and those of other nations. The Ambassador, who was at the meeting, stated that he was scheduled to visit the King the following day, April 30, and was of the mind that his approach on this matter should be to deal with the whole subject and not only a discussion of Navy tankers. Otherwise, Saudi Arabia might conclude that the other restrictions are being accepted.

Despite the very serious import of this agreement from an economic, and possibly from a political, standpoint, the military aspects may be even more vital, although they cannot be estimated at the present time. The diversion of such oil to Soviet bloc interests, either for their use or for resale with the ruble as the monetary unit, would completely offset world trade, as well as increase the possibility of precipitating a conflict.

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FBI

Date: 3/28/67

REC-12

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Wick
- Mr. Casper
- Mr. Callahan
- Mr. Conrad
- Mr. Felt
- Mr. Gale
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Sullivan
- Mr. Tavel
- Mr. Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Miss Holmes
- Miss Gandy

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-109060)

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (89-45) (RUC)

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY, 11/22/63, DALLAS, TEXAS MISC - INFORMATION CONCERNING

*Raymond*

Re Atlanta teletype to Bureau, 3/28/67.

Enclosed herewith for Bureau are 8 copies of letterhead memorandum concerning information furnished by Mr. TEE DENT PONDER, United Press International, Atlanta, Ga., concerning telephone call received from anonymous source alleging assassination of President JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY was arranged by La Cosa Nostra, 3 copies of LHM enclosed for Dallas, and 3 copies of LHM enclosed for New Orleans. New Orleans furnish copy of LHM to Secret Service.

No further investigation being conducted by Atlanta at this time.

AGENCY REC'D - [unclear] 3/30/67  
DATE FORW. 3/30/67  
BY [unclear]

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 8)
- 3 - Dallas (89-43) (Enc. 3)
- 3 - New Orleans (Enc. 3)
- 1 - Atlanta
- JTB:ld
- (10)

EX-103

REC 12

62-109060-5084

MAR 29 1967

ENCLOSURE

54 APR 25 1967

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Atlanta, Georgia  
March 28, 1967

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY,  
NOVEMBER 22, 1963, DALLAS, TEXAS  
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

On March 27, 1967, Mr. Tee Dent Ponder, Staffer, United Press International (UPI), Atlanta, Georgia, advised at 9:20 p.m. he answered the telephone at UPI Office and the operator said she had a call for anyone concerning the Jim Garrison investigation, New Orleans.

Mr. Tee Dent Ponder stated he asked for caller's name and the male voice stated "No, I am not going to give my name." Ponder inquired from caller what information he had and the caller answered "Kennedy assassination was not through Jim Garrison or none of the people he has down there. President Kennedy was killed through the La Cosa Nostra. It was hired but not by Clay Shaw but by the La Cosa Nostra." The caller stated Shaw is a member of the La Cosa Nostra but was not involved in the assassination of Kennedy. The caller stated "Clay Shaw never had nothing to do with it." The caller said "Jim Garrison is strictly a liar and is tied up with the La Cosa Nostra." Ponder asked the caller if Garrison was in the La Cosa Nostra. The caller stated "That's right. He has been tied up with the La Cosa Nostra for the past two years. We don't go for what's going on down there." Ponder asked if the caller was an official in the La Cosa Nostra. The caller replied "Yes, I am an official." Ponder then asked why had they hired to have Kennedy killed. The caller answered "It was hired by the La Cosa Nostra. Let me tell you one thing, if you can get this in print, Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy has been dating a member of the La Cosa Nostra for a long time." Ponder asked who this person was and the caller replied that it was Aristotle Onassis, the Greek freighter tycoon.

Ponder then asked the caller if there was anything

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44 JAN 15 1973

62-11001-1  
ENCLOSURE

*W. J. [unclear]*

# Onassis Faces House Quiz On Supertanker Deal

By JACK STEELE,  
Script Editor, *Howard Newspapers*.

WASHINGTON, June 16.—Aristotle Socrates Onassis, millionaire Greek shipowner, is scheduled to make his first appearance before a Congressional investigating committee this week.

Mr. Onassis, who has been in and out of trouble with the United States government for years, has been subpoenaed to testify Thursday before a House merchant marine subcommittee, headed by Rep. Herbert C. Bonner (D., N. C.). It wants to find out how Mr. Onassis managed to outfox the government on another shipping deal.

### \$20 Million Profit.

Mr. Onassis has served notice he plans to walk out on an agreement to build three supertankers in U.S. shipyards, among them a 100,000-ton vessel which was supposed to be the world's largest.

He agreed to build the three tankers at a cost of more than \$50 million in return for government permission to transfer 14 smaller tankers from the American flag to foreign registry.

Mr. Onassis has raked in an estimated \$20 million in profits from these 14 tankers since transferring them to the Liberian flag a year and a half ago.

But now he doesn't want to build the supertankers — on grounds U.S. oil import re-



ARISTOTLE ONASSIS.

strictions have ruined the market for tankers.

The Justice Department filed suit against Mr. Onassis in New York last week, charging him with breach of his agreement. The suit demands that he return the 14 ships to American-flag operation and turn over his profits to the government.

### Zelenko Warning.

Rep. Herbert Zelenko (D., N. Y.), a member of the merchant marine committee, warned last year that the government's deal with Mr. Onassis was full of "loopholes" and that the Greek might waltz on his promise to build the supertankers.

Maritime Administrator Clarence G. Morse insisted at the time he was "proud" of

the deal. He promised to work out an ironclad agreement for Mr. Onassis to build the new tankers in U.S. yards before giving final approval to transfer of the 14 other vessels to foreign flags.

Mr. Morse will get a chance to explain what happened to his ironclad agreement as the subcommittee's first witness tomorrow.

CLIPPING FROM THE

N. Y. N.Y. WORLD TELEGRAM & SUN

EDITION NIGHT

DATED 16 JUN 1958

PAGE 8

FORWARDED BY NY DIVISION

RE: VICTORY CARRIERS, INC.,  
THE GRACE NATIONAL  
BANK OF NEW YORK,  
TRUSTEE AND ALEXANDER  
S. ONASSIS CORP.  
MISC. - CIVIL SUIT

BUFILE 62-

*File 26*

63-4720-A  
NOT RECORDED  
167 AUG 21 1958

REC-8  
52 AUG 25 1958-136

# Modern Greek Colossus

## Aristotle Socrates Onassis

*1906*

**I**N 1953 Aristotle Socrates Onassis, a Greek-born Argentinian ship owner, did the sort of thing that many men dream of doing. Annoyed with the Casino at Monte Carlo, he bought control of it. Aside from his multifarious shipping operations and assets estimated at \$300,000,000, that

is the sort of behavior that has earned for Mr. Onassis the term "fabulous." Yesterday the fabulous Mr. Onassis testified in Washington before a special House Merchant Marine subcommittee on ship contracts.

The purchase of the Monte Carlo Casino came about this way. Mr. Onassis, who had offices in Montevideo, Paris, London, New York, Hamburg and Panama, wanted an office near Marseilles and Genoa on the Mediterranean, where many of his ninety-one ships were repaired.

He tried to rent a resort building that had been closed for years. But the company that controlled the Casino and other buildings said no. So Mr. Onassis bought a controlling block of stock for \$1,000,000.

### From Refugee to Riches

The darkly handsome 52-year-old ship operator with the classic Greek names has a classic history: nearly penniless refugee to multi-millionaire.

Aristotle Onassis was born in Smyrna, the son of a prosperous tobacco merchant. In 1922 the Turks sacked Smyrna and killed thousands of Greeks, including three uncles of Aristotle Onassis. The remaining members of the family escaped to Athens in straitened circumstances.

A family council decided that Aristotle, then 16, was the most likely to rebuild the family's fortunes. They scraped together enough to buy him passage to Argentina. There Aristotle worked as a telephone operator and a tobacco importer. At the age of 24 he was named Greek consul general in Buenos Aires. At 25 he had amassed his first million dollars.

During the depression, Mr. Onassis bought six Canadian freighters at a fraction of their original worth of \$12-



A millionaire at 25

000,000, and was in the shipping business.

For a few years his shipping operations were unprofitable. In 1936, however, he ordered a tanker, and became, he says, the first Greek shipowner to go into the oil tanker field. Oil shipping brought him millions.

During World War II most of his ships lay impounded in Sweden, while the remainder sailed for the Allies, at high freight rates.

In 1946 Mr. Onassis met and married Athina Livanos, a daughter of Stavros G. Livanos, a Greek shipping executive.

Mr. Onassis has homes in New York, Paris, Antibes, Athens and Montevideo. He says his recreation is nautical sports; he owns an 1,800-ton yacht, the Christina, named for his daughter. The Onassises also have a son.

Mr. Onassis' ships fly the flags of five countries—Panama, Honduras, Costa Rica, Liberia and Saudi Arabia.

He speaks English well, with a strong accent. He is of medium height and heavy set.

"I never gamble, it doesn't amuse me," he once said. "I don't oppose it. I understand it. My whole life has been a terrific gamble."

*from Weekly*

*P. R. ...*

CLIPPING FROM THE

N.Y.

EDITION LATE CITY

DATED 20 JUN 1958

PAGE 47

FORWARDED BY NY DIVISION

RE: VICTORY CARRIERS, IN THE GRACE NATIONAL BANK OF NEW YORK, TRUSTEE, AND ALEXANDER S. ONASSIS CORP.

MISC.- CIVIL SUIT

BUFILE 62

60 AUG 26 1958

REC-97

107-101

62-4720-A

AUG 21 1958

# Brownell Called For As Onassis Testifies

By ROBERT K. WALSH  
Star Staff Writer

A demand that former Attorney General Brownell be called to explain a 1955 settlement of cases against Aristotle S. Onassis was made today when a House Merchant Marine Subcommittee resumed questioning of the Greek shipowner.

Representative Zelenko, Democrat of New York, said such an appearance by Mr. Brownell is "vital" because his private law firm advised Mr. Onassis in 1952 concerning minority rights of foreigners in American shipownership. In 1954 the Justice Department filed criminal and civil complaints against Mr. Onassis but settled them in 1955 while Mr. Brownell was Attorney General. Mr. Zelenko said.

Chairman Bonner, Democrat of North Carolina, indicated the committee would decide soon whether to grant Mr. Zelenko's request.

The committee today was especially eager to learn whether Mr. Onassis, while claiming only a 25 per cent stock in Victory Carriers, Inc., actually exercised control. The hearings at which Mr. Onassis first testified last Wednesday grew out of that company's alleged default on contracts for construction of three tankers for American-flag operation.

### Ariona Records Offered

Under Federal Maritime Administration regulations, American citizens must hold majority stock interest in companies such as Victory Carriers, Inc. In response to the subcommittee's request last week, Mr. Onassis today provided records showing he owns practically all of the stock of the Ariona Co., a shipping concern under Panamanian registry. The subcommittee has brought out that Ariona has some stock interest in Victory Carriers, Inc.

Mr. Onassis, in the same colorful manner that marked his appearance last Wednesday, insisted today that he exercises no control over Victory Carriers, Inc., but, on the contrary, assiduously refrained from attempting to suggest how the trustees of the company should handle the tanker construction contracts.

He told the subcommittee that he saw no reason why the trustees should have paid \$200,000 in legal fees alone, but he declared he made not protest. He admitted that he gave the trustees some \$15,000 for certain legal expenses but that this did not constitute any control or interference.

Mr. Onassis put a \$2 million price tag on a congressional hearing.

That's what a previous hearing cost his operations, directly and indirectly, he told the subcommittee.

In addition to legal fees and interruption of tanker operations, Mr. Onassis testified business was affected—folks said "these people are in troubles again. . . . Wait and see what happens."

He added: "The same thing is happening right now—it's worse now."

### Won't Agree on Control

Mr. Zelenko, the subcommittee's principal critic of the activities of Mr. Onassis, asked whether or not he actually had a majority stock interest in his name.

"You mean that money talks," Mr. Onassis said. "I don't agree that I controlled the corporation because I put up a little money for the trustees. The money in that case talked about as much as a fish."

Mr. Onassis repeated his statement of last week that he received no preferential treatment whatever from Mr. Brownell as Attorney General. He explained that the legal advice he received before Mr. Brownell became Attorney Gen-

eral was from the New York firm of which Mr. Brownell then was a member. He said that firm gave the same legal advice to other foreigners. He recalled that the settlement worked out between him and the Justice Department in December, 1955, amounted to a \$7 million payment on the civil claim against him and dismissal of a criminal complaint.

50 AUG 26 1958

- Tolson
- Boardman
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- Holloman
- Gandy

W. C. Sullivan

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EX-140

REC-59

163-4720-A

NOT RECORDED

167 AUG 22 1958

- Wash. Post and Times Herald
- Wash. News
- Wash. Star
- N. Y. Herald Tribune
- N. Y. Journal-American
- N. Y. Mirror
- N. Y. Daily News
- N. Y. Times
- Daily Worker
- The Worker
- New Leader

Date \_\_\_\_\_

JUN 24 1958

*file*

8

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By ROBERT K. WALSH  
Star Staff Writer

AB

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- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
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W. C. Sullivan

*13-11-58*

*Victory Carriers*

- Wash. Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_
- Wash. News \_\_\_\_\_
- Wash. Star AL
- N. Y. Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Y. Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Y. Mirror \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Y. Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Y. Times \_\_\_\_\_
- Daily Worker \_\_\_\_\_
- The Worker \_\_\_\_\_
- New Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

JUN 25 1958

57 AUG 25 1958

EX - 135

REC-16

63-4720-416

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167 AUG 21 1958

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 Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*W. J. Kelly*

**Onassis Probers  
 Call Brownell**

United Press International

Rep. Herbert Zelenko (D. N. Y.) said yesterday that a House Merchant Marine Subcommittee has called former Attorney General Herbert Brownell Jr. to testify at its inquiry into the shipping operations of Aristotle S. Onassis.

Zelenko said Brownell would be asked to explain "why he did not disclose the interest of his law firm" in an Onassis tanker deal when he acted as Attorney General in a case against the Greek shipping magnate.

**VICTORY CARRIERS INC., ET AL.  
 MISCELLANEOUS CIVIL SUIT**

**Bufile 63-4720**

**New York - Office of origin.**

**New York auditing books and records subject corporation upon request of Department to determine disposition made of corporate earnings and whether they were used for the benefit of Onassis interests or for development of new U. S. Merchant Marine ships.**

Wash. Post and Times Herald A-1  
 Wash. News \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wash. Star \_\_\_\_\_  
 N. Y. Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_  
 N. Y. Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_  
 N. Y. Mirror \_\_\_\_\_  
 N. Y. Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
 N. Y. Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daily Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
 New Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Date 6/22/58

REC-12

63-4720-7  
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 16. AUG 21 1958

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EX-128

57 AUG 25 1958

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 Boardman   
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 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*W. C. Sullivan*

*W. C. Sullivan*

*0 Victory Cruise, Inc.*

# Brownell Faces Onassis Quiz

The House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee will question former U.S. Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell next week about his relationship with Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Socrates Onassis.

Rep. Herbert Zelenko (D-N.Y.), who has been conducting an investigation into the alleged illegal purchase of surplus government tankers, said the committee specifically wanted to know why Brownell did not disclose his connection with Onassis when the latter was indicted while Brownell headed the Department of Justice.

Brownell took office in 1953 and resigned last October. Onassis was indicted on a charge of conspiring to violate a law restricting sale of such ships to American citizens. The indictment was dismissed.

*Handwritten scribbles*

Wash. Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wash. News \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wash. Star \_\_\_\_\_  
 N. Y. Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_  
 N. Y. Journal-American 6  
 N. Y. Mirror \_\_\_\_\_  
 N. Y. Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Daily Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
 New Leader \_\_\_\_\_

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163-4720-A

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16 AUG 21 1958

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EX-136

57 AUG 25 1958

Date \_\_\_\_\_

JUL 7 1958



**VICTORY CARRIERS INCORPORATED  
GRACE NATIONAL BANK OF NEW YORK  
TRUSTEE, ALEXANDER S. ONASSIS  
MISCELLANEOUS - CIVIL SUIT**

Bureau File (63-4720)

Statement which was entered into by Department while Brownell was Attorney General related to the tanker investigation involving Onassis and others in 1951-1952. Bureau conducted extensive investigation into this matter.

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Boardman \_\_\_\_\_
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- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
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*W. J. [unclear]*

# Brownell Defends Ships Settlement

**Associated Press**  
Former Attorney General Herbert Brownell yesterday defended the Government's 1955 settlement of suits against Aristotle S. Onassis' shipping interests.

"I have no reason to think it was not entirely in the public interest," Brownell told a House Merchant Marine Subcommittee inquiring into shipping deals of the fabulously wealthy Onassis.

The suits involved surplus U. S. ships bought by Onassis shortly after the end of World War II.

Brownell, who was Attorney General from 1953 to 1957, said he did not participate in handling of the Government's case.

"My participation was restricted to approval of the recommendations from my as-

sistants in whom I had confidence," Brownell said. He added that while he was Attorney General he was "administratively responsible."

Brownell was a member of a New York law firm, Lord, Day and Lord which he said the Greek-born Onassis consulted from time to time from 1948-50 on interpretation of the law on citizenship requirements in the buying of surplus American ships.

But, Brownell said, he did not participate in the advising and has never met Onassis.

And, he said, the Government's case against Onassis was not based on the advice given by Lord, Day and Lord, but on a series of acts by Onassis interests after 1951.

Rep. Herbert Zelenko (D-N. Y.) has contended that as Attorney General Brownell

indicted the Onassis interests "for the very thing you advised them to do."

The Greek magnate's troubles with the U. S. Government began shortly after World War II when Onassis interests bought 23 surplus U. S. ships.

Later the Government filed suit saying the ships were bought on false representation that they would remain in American hands.

In 1955 a civil suit was settled in negotiation and the criminal charge was dropped. The Onassis companies paid penalties of some \$7 million. In return Onassis retrieved 14 of the ships and was permitted to transfer them to a foreign flag subsidiary with the stipulation that he build equivalent tanker tonnage in

this country for American flag operation.

But plans to build three tankers at a cost of \$50 million have not been carried out. The Government was told it would be impractical to build the vessels at this time.

The Justice Department filed suit last month alleging breach of contract on the tankers.

*for*

- Wash. Post and Times Herald **A-13**
- Wash. News \_\_\_\_\_
- Wash. Star \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Y. Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Y. Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Y. Mirror \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Y. Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Y. Times \_\_\_\_\_
- Daily Worker \_\_\_\_\_
- The Worker \_\_\_\_\_
- New Leader \_\_\_\_\_

On 5/22/58, Civil Division of the Department requested Bureau to conduct investigation regarding Onassis' owned interests in the United States cancelling contracts with Maritime Administration to build three super tankers at a cost of \$51,000,000. Department requested Bureau to audit trust fund and the corporations involved. Bureau investigation completed and investigation reflected that Onassis' corporations have made no payments into the trust fund which was to be used to build the new tankers.

REC-10 | 63-4720-A

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16 AUG 21 1958

Date 7/23/58

EX-128  
59 AUG 25 1958

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*Ans Ber*

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

VICTORY CARRIERS, INC.

*6 file*  
*Donahue*

UPR-33.

(TANKERS)

A HOUSE MERCHANT MARINE SUBCOMMITTEE IS STUDYING AN "APPARENT CONFLICT" BETWEEN TESTIMONY BY FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL HERBERT BROWNELL AND ARISTOTLE S. GNASSIS, GREEK SHIPPING MAGNATE, REP. HERBERT ZELENO (D-N.Y.) SAID TODAY.

AFTER THE STUDY IS COMPLETED, ZELENO SAID IN A STATEMENT, THE SUBCOMMITTEE WILL DETERMINE WHAT COURSE TO FOLLOW IN CONNECTION WITH IT. HE DID NOT EXPLAIN WHY HE THOUGHT THERE WAS A CONFLICT.

ZELENO IS A MEMBER OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE WHICH IS INVESTIGATING GNASSIS' DEALINGS WITH THE GOVERNMENT. TWO GOVERNMENT SUITS AGAINST GNASSIS WERE SETTLED IN 1955 WHEN BROWNELL WAS ATTORNEY GENERAL. A NEW SUIT WAS FILED AGAINST GNASSIS INTERESTS LAST MONTH CHARGING BREACH OF CONTRACT OF AN AGREEMENT TO BUILD THREE NEW SUPERTANKERS.

ZELENO SAID SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS WILL BE RESUMED SOON WITH MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR CLARENCE E. MORSE AND ALLEN J. KRAUSE, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT LAWYER, AS WITNESSES.

7/28--JM1011A

REC-83

63-4720-A

NOT RECORDED

16 AUG 25 1958

EX-123

AUG 27 1958

# Onassis Quiz To Hear Judge

By **ROBERT K. WALSH**  
Star Staff Writer

Representative Zelenko, Democrat of New York, said today that conflicting testimony of former Attorney General Herbert Brownell and Aristotle S. Onassis has caused a House Merchant Marine subcommittee to invite Judge Warren E. Burger as a witness at further hearings.

Judge Burger, now on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, was an Assistant Attorney General at the time of settlement of civil and criminal cases against Mr. Onassis, Greek-born shipping magnate.

Mr. Zelenko announced also that Chairman Bonner, Democrat of North Carolina, will call Allen J. Krause, an attorney in the Justice Department criminal division, and Maritime Administrator Clarence Morse for subcommittee questioning within a few days. A written invitation is being sent to Judge Burger, he said.

Mr. Brownell appeared before the subcommittee last Tuesday. Mr. Onassis testified several weeks ago in connection with complaints of failure to carry out a contract to build three super tankers for eventual American flag operation. That contract grew out of the \$7 million settlement of the civil suit in December, 1955. The criminal case dropped at the same time involved charges of conspiracy to violate the ban on alien ownership of American flag ships.

Mr. Zelenko brought out in questioning of Mr. Brownell that Mr. Krause, who presented the Justice Department's move in Federal court to dismiss the criminal case, had previously written a memorandum urging prosecution. Mr. Brownell said he did not recall having seen it, but saw no inconsistency on the part of Mr. Krause. He defended the settlement as proper and in the public interest.

Judge Burger was head of the Justice Department's civil division at the time of the settlement.

Mr. Zelenko said that after a study of varying versions and interpretations given by Mr. Brownell and Mr. Onassis on several points the subcommittee "will determine what course of procedure to follow in connection with it."

- Tolson
- Belmont
- Mohr
- Nease
- Parsons
- Rosen
- Tamm
- Trotter
- W.C. Sullivan
- Tele. Room
- Holloman
- Gandy

*04*

*VICTORY CARRIERS, INC.*

- Wash. Post and Times Herald
- Wash. News
- Wash. Star
- N. Y. Herald Tribune
- N. Y. Journal-American
- N. Y. Mirror
- N. Y. Daily News
- N. Y. Times
- Daily Worker
- The Worker
- New Leader

REC-36 163-4720-A

NOT RECORDED  
167 AUG 21 1958

Date JUL 28 1958

EX-128

57 AUG 25 1958

*A288*

*Handwritten notes and signatures:*  
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# Zelenko Hints Brownell and Onassis Differ

Washington, July 27 (UPI).—Rep. Herbert Zelenko (D-N.Y.) said today a House Merchant



Aristotle S. Onassis      Herbert Brownell  
*Testimony under study*

Marine subcommittee is studying an 'apparent conflict' between testimony given by former Attorney General Herbert Brownell and Aristotle S. Onassis, Greek shipping magnate.

Zelenko, a member of the subcommittee, did not explain why he thought there was a conflict.

The subcommittee is investigating Onassis' dealings with the government. Two government suits against him were settled in 1955, when Brownell was Attorney General.

Brownell, in testimony last Tuesday, denied ever having a financial interest in the government's 1955 settlement of civil and criminal suits against Onassis. These involved surplus shipping bought by Onassis after World War II. There was a question whether he was entitled, as a Greek citizen, to buy of the vessels.

- Tolson ✓
- Belmont ✓
- Mohr ✓
- Nease ✓
- Parsons ✓
- Rosen ✓
- Tamm ✓
- Trotter ✓
- W.C. Sullivan ✓
- Tele. Room ✓
- Holloman ✓
- Gandy ✓

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*Handwritten note: July 25*

- Wash. Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_
- Wash. News \_\_\_\_\_
- Wash. Star \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Y. Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Y. Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Y. Mirror \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Y. Daily News *LC* \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Y. Times \_\_\_\_\_
- Daily Worker \_\_\_\_\_
- The Worker \_\_\_\_\_
- New Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Date JUL 28 1958

REC-10

NOT RECORDED  
AUG 21, 1958

EX-128

59 AUG 25 1958

*Vertical handwritten note: ONASSIS (ARRIVED) 1/10*

ONASSIS INQUIRY  
NEARING AN END

House Group Plans One More  
Session—C. O. P. Member  
May Boycott Meeting

The House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee plans to hold one more session in its inquiry into the shipping activities of Aristotle S. Onassis. But one member of the committee may decline to attend.

Thor C. Tollefson, Republican of Washington, said yesterday that he would not participate in further sessions if they continued to deal with the Department of Justice's handling of a case against the Greek shipping operator.

The inquiry, which has been going on for some weeks, started out as an investigation of a contract between Victory Carriers, Inc., and the Government, for the construction of three supertankers.

Pact to Build Ships

Victory Carriers had agreed to build the ships in return for permission to transfer a number of old tankers and freighters to a foreign flag. The arrangement came under the Maritime Administration's "trade out and build" program, designed to stimulate ship construction in this country.

In most recent sessions, under the questioning of Representative Herbert Zelenko, Democrat of Manhattan, the committee has been investigating how the Department of Justice settled an old legal action against Mr. Onassis.

Mr. Tollefson said yesterday that the questioning had shown nothing "out of the way" in the settlement of the case.

Criticizes Inquiry

"I don't want to waste any more of my time at it," he said. "The old case had nothing to do with the current issue—the performance of Victory Carriers under its trade out and build contract."

Victory Carriers was set up under a trust arrangement in behalf of two minor Onassis children. The trust was established as a guarantee that the ships involved would be controlled by United States citizens. The company is headed by citizens, the stock is held by the Grace National Bank, and Mr. Onassis has no voice in its affairs.

The vessels turned over to Victory Carriers were ships purchased years earlier by other Onassis companies from the United States Government.

Negotiated Settlement

Under the law the purchasers had to be citizens, but the Government questioned the citizenship of the buyers and brought both criminal and civil actions. They were settled through negotiation, with the terms including approved citizenship control. The trust agreement carried out these settlement terms.

In time the trust company decided on the trade out and build formula, and pledged itself to construct one tanker of 106,000 tons and two of 46,000 tons each.

Early this year the company notified the Maritime Administration that it might not be able to carry out the construction because of a depressed tanker market.

Oil Curbs Are Cited

The Government's restrictions on oil imports were cited as a factor. The House committee inquiry then followed, although none of the three construction contracts has actually been canceled.

On Wednesday, Mr. Zelenko accused the Greek shipping operator of "fraud" by "fooling" the committee into holding its inquiry.

Yesterday Mr. Tollefson denied this. "Nobody fooled the committee into anything," he said. "We were fully aware of what was going on. We knew the trust company had requested the Maritime Administration to renegotiate the contract to build because the tanker market had dropped."

"We decided to hold the hearing. But the subject of the hearing has nothing to do with the old Department of Justice settlement."

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Moutley

CLIPPING FROM THE  
N.Y. TIMES

EDITION LATE CITY  
DATED 15 AUG 1958  
PAGE 45

FORWARDED BY NY DIVISION  
RE: VICTORY CARRIERS, INC.,  
THE GRACE NATIONAL  
BANK OF NEW YORK,  
TRUSTEE, AND ALEXANDER  
S. ONASSIS CORP.  
MISC.- CIVIL SUIT

BUFILE 62-

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167 AUG 25 1958

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EX - 123

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. *[Handwritten initials]*

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February 14, 1955

FROM : M. A. *[Handwritten initials]*

SUBJECT: INQUIRY REGARDING THE STATUS OF

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conduct an investigation in behalf of Aristoteles Socrates Onassis. It will be recalled that Onassis was charged in a sealed indictment on October 13, 1953, that he conspired with others to violate the false statement statute of the United States by submitting false statements to the U.S. Maritime Commission in the purchase of surplus tankers.)

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BUREAU**

REPORT MADE AT <b>WASHINGTON, D.C.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>8/10/53</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>7/16/53</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b> <i>b7c</i>
TITLE <b>[REDACTED]</b> <i>b7c</i>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SPECIAL INQUIRY</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Mr. PATRICK F. COONEY, Attorney, Claims Division, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., advised seven libels of forfeiture had been filed against U.S. Petroleum Carriers, Incorporated, by the U.S. Government to attempt to compel that company to return seven tankers to U.S. Government ownership. Information regarding appointee and U.S. Petroleum Carriers, Incorporated, as contained in Interim report of the committee on Government operations by its Senate Permanent Sub-Committee on Investigations (Hoey Committee) on sale of Government owned surplus tanker vessels set out.

-RUC-

REFERENCE: Report of SA **[REDACTED]** dated July 17, 1953 *b7c*

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

MISCELLANEOUS

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DATE 6/16/82 BY SP7MAC/dd *(6)*

Mr. PATRICK F. COONEY, Attorney, Claims Division, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., advised SA **[REDACTED]** JR., that seven libels of forfeiture had been filed against the United States Petroleum Carriers, Incorporated, by the United States Government to attempt to compel that company to return seven tankers to Government ownership. He further related that in substance these libels employed the same ligations and phraseology with the exception of the names of the tankers, dates and descriptions. He also said that additional libels were in

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COPIES OF THIS REPORT  2-Bureau 1-Washington Field <b>25 AUG 26 1953</b> 77-44395)		<i>[Handwritten notes]</i>	RECORDED - 41 INDEXED - 41  EX-12

the process of being filed against the subsidiary companies of the United States Petroleum Carriers, Incorporated, namely, Victory Carriers, among others.

The following information concerning the appointee and the United States Petroleum Carriers, Incorporated, is contained in Senate Report No. 1613 of the 82nd Congress, second session, entitled "Interim Report of the Committee on Government Operations Made Available by its Senate Permanent Sub-Committee on Investigations (Hoey Committee) on the sale of Government owned surplus tanker vessels."

In March, 1951, the Sub-Committee on the Reconstruction Finance Corporation of the Senate Committee on banking and currency received testimony that a group, headed by former Congressman. ~~JOSEPH E. CASEY~~, had acquired tanker vessels from the United States Maritime Commission and had subsequently disposed of its interest in these vessels at a large profit. After taking some testimony in connection with these tanker transactions, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation Sub-Committee decided that this matter was beyond the scope of the authority of the Sub-Committee, and for that reason this case was referred to the Senate Permanent Sub-Committee on Investigations for further inquiry.

The primary objectives of the Sub-Committee in this inquiry were to determine whether the tankers were purchased and sold in accordance with the Merchant Marine laws and regulations and further, to ascertain whether the various individuals and corporations who made substantial financial gain in these tanker deals, escaped the payment of Federal taxes.

While the Sub-Committee devoted most of its efforts to the investigations of the acquisition and disposal of surplus vessels by the American Overseas Tanker Corporation and affiliated companies, it would make some inquiries, as previously indicated in this report, into other cases involving the disposal of surplus vessels by the Maritime Commission.

It appears that ~~JOSEPH H. ROSENBAUM~~, a senior partner in the Washington Law Firm of GOODWIN, ROSENBAUM, MEACHAM and BAILEN, and ~~ROBERT W. DODLEY~~, an associate and later, a partner in the Rosenbaum Law Firm and a brother-in-law of CASEY, were very active in handling clients who sought to obtain surplus vessels from the Maritime Commission. In a number of these cases CASEY was associated with the Rosenbaum Law Firm, either co-counsel or as a stockholder, or as both. It was determined

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that ten companies, including the United States Petroleum Carriers, Incorporated, which was mentioned in the preceding section of this report, were represented by the Rosenbaum Law Firm which acquired a total of thirty-three surplus vessels.

In the case of the United States Petroleum Carriers, Incorporated, the Sub-Committee found that in 1947 the Rosenbaum Firm, through ROBERT W. DUDLEY, had represented one CONSTANTINE KONIALIDIS, a Uruguayan citizen of Greek origin, in the latter's efforts to purchase surplus vessels from the Maritime Commission. This application was denied by the Commission on September 12, 1947, because it was felt that a sale to a non-citizen for Panamanian flag operation would remove the vessels from "effective control of the United States."

Two weeks later, the Rosenbaum Firm organized the United States Petroleum Carriers, Incorporated, as a citizen corporation with an authorized capital stock of 1,000 shares; 600 shares of the stock were issued to ROBERT W. DUDLEY, Admiral H. L. BOWEN, and ROBERT L. BERENSON, all of whom were United States citizens, 400 shares remained unissued as of that date.

On December 30, 1947, the Maritime Commission approved the sale of four T-2 tankers to United States Petroleum Carriers, Incorporated.

[REDACTED] b7c  
On the same date, the Sociedad Industrial Maritima Financiera Ariona, Panama, South America, owned by one ARISTOTLES S. ONASSIS and his two cousins, NICHOLAS and CONSTANTINE KONIALIDIS, who were not United States citizens, purchased the remaining 400 shares of the authorized stock.

During the following six months, the above-mentioned Panamanian Corporation, owned by ONASSIS and the KONIALIDIS brothers, who had failed originally as purchasers, acquired an additional [REDACTED] BERENSON, giving them a total of 490 shares, or a 49 per cent interest in the Corporation. At the same time, BERENSON reduced his own [REDACTED] to each of the three United States citizens, identifiable as CLIFFORD W. CARVER, NICOLAS COKKINIS, and ARNE C. STORER. The result was that in a six-month period following the allocation of the four tankers to the United States Petroleum Carriers, Incorporated, allegedly, a United States Citizen Corporation foreign interest, in the person of ONASSIS and the KONIALIDIS

brothers, acquired a 49 per cent interest in the stock of the corporation. At the same time, a three per cent interest in the corporation was acquired by three citizen stockholders, all of whom were tied closely to ONASSIS through mutual business interest.

This Senate report also stated "Looking at this series of transactions from the point of view of voting stock control, it is evident that the three minority stockholders, COKKINIS, CARVER, and STOREN, held the balance of power at the voting, and in the event of any dispute between BERENSON and the ONASSIS-KONIALIDIS interests, anyone of the three United States citizens could put the foreign interest in the position of control."

The Department of Justice has under consideration certain transactions as they relate to the possible criminal violation, involving officials and various representatives of American Overseas Tanker Corporation, National Tanker Corporation, China International Foundation, Incorporated, United Tanker Corporation, North American Shipping and Trading Corporation, Incorporated, and United States Petroleum Carriers, Incorporated, as well as the subsidiaries and affiliates of these firms. The possible criminal violation under consideration, involves the willful falsification or concealment of material facts as well as conspiracy to defraud the Government in connection with the various phases of these tanker transactions.

The Sub-Committee is of the opinion that there appears to be sufficient evidence of violation of the first provision of the Merchant Shipping Act in these tanker transactions to warrant board action of the Department of Justice. In addition, the concealment and misrepresentation of pertinent facts by various officers and representatives of the firms involved in this inquiry in their dealings with the Maritime Commission, leads the Sub-Committee to believe that various criminal statutes may have been violated by these individuals.

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# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. *[Handwritten initials]*

DATE: December 2, 1954

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Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

FROM : M. A. *[Handwritten initials]*

SUBJECT: ARTICLE, TRUE MAGAZINE  
DECEMBER, 1954, ON  
ARISTOTLE SOCRATES ONASSIS

As requested by you there is submitted a review of an article about Aristotle Socrates Onassis entitled "The Man Who Bought the Bank at Monte Carlo" which appeared in the December, 1954, issue of "True" magazine. The article was written by Maxwell Hamilton.

The article relates the activities of Onassis known as "The Mystery Man of Greek Shipping." He owns a whaling fleet of nineteen vessels, including a helicopter. The fleet costs \$35,000 a day to operate.

Onassis is described as forty-eight years of age, citizen of Greece and of Argentina, owner of about one hundred cargo ships, whalers and tankers, head of or holder of controlling interests in thirty-odd corporations located in many different countries. He owns mansions in Paris, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, French Riviera and New York, although he resides in the United States less than two months a year.

Onassis bought the world-famous gambling casino at Monte Carlo in 1952 for one million dollars after the directors refused to rent him office space.

The article relates that Onassis is rumored to have cleaned up financially during World War II by turning over his worn-out ships to the Allies, collecting the insurance each time one of his ships was sunk and by managing to have his best vessels interned in neutral ports so that they were available at the end of the war. Onassis has his ships registered from peculiar countries such as Costa Rica, Panama, Honduras, Liberia and Saudi Arabia. His reason for doing this is "business sense," since these countries are not greedy about taxes and have no lofty ideas about high wages for the ships' crews. According to the article, his detractors held that the real reason Onassis

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December 2, 1954

bought Monte Carlo is because it is located in one of the last European principalities, Monaco, which levies no income taxes, personal or corporate.

The article relates that Onassis received his start in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and was allegedly assisted by Alberto Doderio, the deceased South American shipping magnate, and Fritz Mandl, the munitions king.

Onassis' wife, Athina, is described by the author as a slender, dark-eyed Grecian-type beauty of twenty-five, mother of the two Onassis children. Her father, Stauros Livanos, is the head of a Greek shipping dynasty. Her sister is married to Stauros Niarchos who is Onassis' biggest competitor and with whom he is in cut-throat competition.

The article relates that Onassis has been indicted by the United States for conspiracy to defraud the United States Government. He is alleged to have violated the "Ship Sales Act" by the gimmick of setting up dummy corporations in the United States, the officers of which were Americans but the corporations were financed by aliens such as Onassis.

According to the author, the Onassis whaling fleet on its present expedition could be the whaling expedition to end all such journeys. While there is an international agreement setting limits to the size of the catch a whaling party could make, the minimum length of the whales to be taken and how much of the product could be utilized, Onassis learned that Panama tended to be lax in enforcing the regulations. Therefore, he registered his whaling ships under the Panamanian flag.

It should be noted that recently Peru seized six of the Onassis whaling vessels for violating the laws concerning whaling, and the November 30, 1954, issue of the "Washington Star" contained an item that Onassis had been fined three million dollars and was given five days to pay in order to obtain the release of his seized vessels.

REVIEW OF BUFILES:

For your information, Aristotle Socrates Onassis was born September 21, 1900, at Salonika, Greece, and is reportedly an Argentine citizen. In 1943 and 44 the Bureau conducted a security type investigation of Onassis based on allegations that during World War II he had expressed sentiments inimical to the interests of the United States. (100-125834-2, 6)

Memorandum to Mr. Nichols:

December 2, 1954

Allegations were made that during World War II Onassis was a partner in various firms in Argentina and smuggled tobacco into Argentina to avoid the high duty. He was also alleged to have done business with various German and Italian firms during World War II. No confirmation was received of these allegations. (Buenos Aires Confidential Informant [redacted] 64-2811-A-502, 491)

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On October 13, 1953, an indictment of nine individuals and six corporations on charges of conspiracy to make false statements and to defraud the United States in connection with the purchase of surplus tankers and other vessels was returned by a District of Columbia Grand Jury but was sealed by court order until after the surrender of Aristotle Socrates Onassis in February, 1954. (46-17783)

On February 8, 1954, Onassis voluntarily appeared in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia at which time he was arraigned and entered a plea of not guilty. The court placed him on a bond of ten thousand dollars with the condition that he not leave this country. This case is presently in a pending status awaiting trial in the United States District Court. (46-17783-363)

MAXWELL HAMILTON:

No information could be found in Bufiles identifiable with Maxwell Hamilton, the author of the article.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

*JMN*





Tina Onassis and her multimillionaire husband, Aristotle Socrates.

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ENCLOSURE

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"The Man Who Bought the Bank at Monte Carlo"  
TRUE, THE MAN'S MAGAZINE, Dec. 1954, Pg. 16

# The Man Who Bought The Bank at Monte Carlo

**This Greek has a word for it—money. Aristotle Onassis, mystery shipping millionaire, is still piling up profits with one hand and fighting off a federal jail sentence threat with the other**

BY MAXWELL HAMILTON

**N**ot long after he bought the world-famous gambling casino at Monte Carlo, late in 1952, Aristotle Socrates Onassis—who is one man and not three, and maybe the world's richest one at that—was asked by a reporter if he intended to risk a couple or so of his estimated three-to-four-hundred-million bucks on an occasional turn of the wheel or flip of the cards.

Onassis said he didn't, and that he never gambled in that way.

"I have 1,000 men in my fleet," he said, speaking of his nineteen-vessel (including helicopters) whaling fleet, "and costs me more than \$35,000 a day to operate it. You gamble against the elements—storms, fogs, icebergs. You gamble that you will find whales. Then, suppose everything goes well, and in six months you bring back a good cargo of oil. After that comes the biggest gamble of all. You never can predict prices of whale oil. Maybe I get \$13 million return . . . maybe I get only \$3 million. . . . That's the kind of gambling that interests me."

It's also the kind of gambling that best describes Aristotle Socrates Onassis, a stocky, swarthy, heavy-lidded, 48-year-old Greek-Argentinian, whose rumored million claims for every day there is in the year, whose dabbling in oil transportation on a grand scale, and whose fabulous comings-and-goings among the international set have made him into the new colossus of postwar finance. But where ordinary men would call it gambling if they risked their all in a win-or-lose proposition, Onassis has developed an entirely different perspective.

The main chance with him involves the simple question, *Will I gross eleven million or only three?*

In view of his philosophy—it isn't surprising that Onassis is regarded by many as the modern-day John D. Rockefeller, Sr., or Jay Gould. And perhaps because no one, probably including Onassis himself, has even a faintly accurate picture of just how vast his financial empire really is, Ari, as his pals call him, has come to be known as a *Medlin of Money* or *The Mystery Man of Greek Shipping*.

It is this last soubriquet which pains Onassis most of all. As he sees it, his life is an open book, and when reporters call on him in his glass-enclosed Manhattan office, he receives them warmly and graciously—if he isn't off somewhere perhaps entertaining royalty on his yacht, or more likely chasing another million or so in untapped dollars, pounds or drachmas.

What's more, he tells the press anything they want to know. He tells them of the hundred-or-so whalers, tankers and cargo ships he owns. He tells them of the 30-odd corporations he heads or controls in as many different countries (though rarely with his own name figuring prominently on their books). He tells them of his mansions in New York, Paris, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, and on the French Riviera.

And he tells them how he bought the casino at Monte Carlo for \$1 million after the directors refused to rent him office space.

He also tells them of his attractive wife and two small children. He tells them how he started at 16, with \$60 to his name, and became a millionaire by the time he was 25. He tells them how he became a wealthy shipping magnate before he was 30. And, lastly, he'll even discuss openly with them his present nasty situation, which finds him under federal indictment for conspiracy to defraud the United States government, a caper for which—if he is found guilty—he could be sent to the clink for quite a spell.

As you can see, Ari Onassis is as frank and open a party as anyone would care to interview, and it just beats the hell out of him that, for all his candor and forthrightness, he still is referred to in print as a mystery man. After all, just what does a guy have to do around here to get to be known as an honest, tell-all citizen?

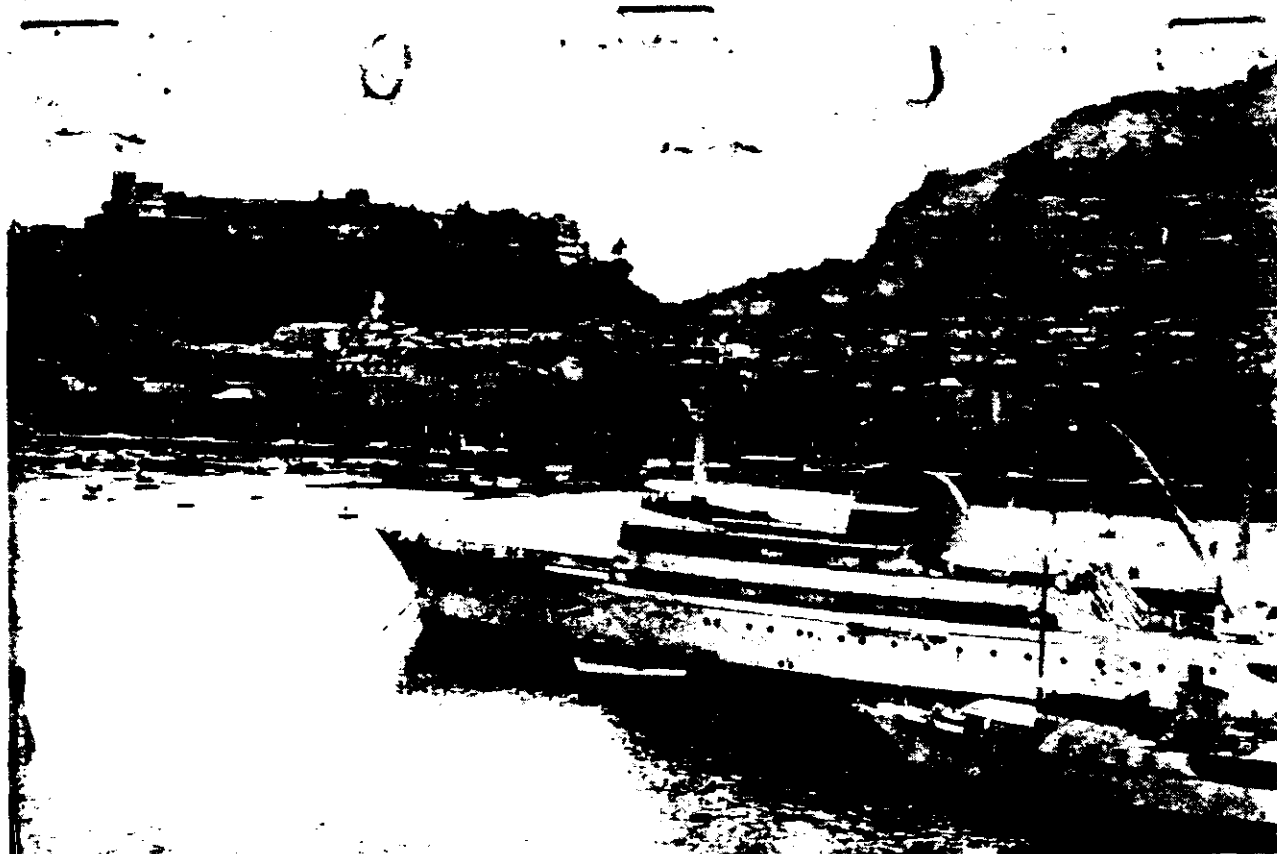
The answer to this one would seem to be that there are a number of things he might do. He could, for example:

1. Shed some light on just how extensive are his vast holdings, which are so confused, deliberately so, that it would take a battery of experts years to unravel them.

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"The Man Who Bought the Bank at Monte Carlo"  
TRUE, THE MAN'S MAGAZINE, Dec. 1954, Pg. 17



Onassis' newest yacht *Christina* has a convertible swimming pool—dance floor.

2. Dispel the nasty rumor that he made his biggest pot of dough during the war when, supposedly out of pure, flag-waving patriotism, he turned over his ships to the Allies, but actually is said to have cleaned up by charging all the wartime traffic would bear; and that he scooped it in even faster by collecting the insurance every time the Nazis sank another of his shopworn tubs. Onassis' detractors even go a step further and state that he turned over to the war effort only those ships which were so old and rusty he was exultant every time one of them sank, and that he managed to get his best bottoms interned in neutral ports for the duration, where they'd be available after the war.

3. Be a touch more candid concerning the fact that the majority of his fleet flies the flag of such peculiar maritime countries as Costa Rica, Panama, Honduras, Liberia and Saudi Arabia. As Onassis himself says about this, it's just "business sense," since those countries aren't greedy as regards taxes, and have no lofty ideas about high wages for their ships' crews. When it is suggested that this course, although admittedly good business, might be a little shy of moral values, Ari's champions stoutly maintain that the poor guy does, after all, have some ships under the Canadian flag, as well as a few other ships under the colors of other countries which are fairly advanced in their social thinking. (Scoffers reply: "Sure, he has a few under those flags only because he bought and financed them in the latter countries, and the law won't let him transfer them to the tax-free paradises of the banana belt.")

4. Give the straight dope on his reasons for buying the bank at Monte Carlo. According to Onassis, he shelled out a million for the famous gambling casino because he needed office space within ~~summiting~~ <sup>summiting</sup> distance of his villa

at Cap d'Antibes. Pretty flimsy explanation. But the thing that pains Ari's defenders is that certain crass characters keep hinting that the real reason the mystery man bought Monte Carlo—and promptly fired the directors who'd refused to rent him office space—is that the joint happens to be in one of the last remaining European principalities which levies no income taxes, personal or corporate.

5. Clear up the confusion regarding his citizenship. Born either a Turk or a Greek, he later lost both these birth rights and promptly became an Argentinian. Then, for awhile, he was both a Greek *and* an Argentinian, maybe a Monegasque—as the citizens of Monaco are called—and of late has been making noises indicating his wish to be an American. In fact, discussing Uncle Sam's conspiracy suit against him, he remarked that the really painful thing about it was not that it could cost him a big bundle, and maybe send him to jail, but that the suit had been brought by "the greatest government in the world." This statement clashes head-on with another of Onassis' stated conclusions, namely that "My favorite country is the one that grants a maximum immunity from taxes, trade restrictions and unreasonable regulation."

6. Another thing he could do is perhaps be a touch more candid about the element of gambling he claims is present in the whaling racket. Some insist that his beginnings in high finance stem from an early-day Antarctic whaling expedition, in which Ari took a small flyer and which returned with concrete proof that a guy without too many scruples actually has a pretty sure thing in fishing for the monsters of the deep. There is further gossip right now that his newest expedition after whales has an even smaller element of risk involved in it than any he's ever staged in

the past, and that it could result in more international hot water for Onassis than any he might have landed in with his surplus ship deal.

7. Finally, he could give us all the McCoy concerning his beginnings. Depending on who's telling the story—Ari or his critics—he began his meteoric career in Buenos Aires, starting with virtually nothing and becoming a tycoon as the result of sheer pluck and luck; or, to take some of the Alger-type overtones off the tale, he started at the bottom all right, but owes a lot of his success to having met up with the right people, a couple of whom are alleged to have been Alberto Doderio, the late South American shipping magnate, and Fritz Mandl, the munitions king.

Those who know Aristotle Socrates Onassis—including his avowed enemies—admit that none of these malicious charges bothers him a bit. Had he made one big killing, they say, and then retired from the field, you might call him a lucky fool. But, as his wide-eyed critics agree, a guy who starts with virtually nothing and makes coup after financial coup, until he is today one of the richest men in the world, must have something on the ball. There is plenty of evidence that Onassis has it, even though no one knows precisely what it is.

Looking at him, you'd never pick Ari as the personification of fabulous wealth. No fat paunch, fatty jowls, and 85 cigars for him; rather does he look—with his stocky, chunky build, his dark, gray-tinged hair, and his deepset, heavy-lidded brown eyes—like a middle-aged, successful restaurant owner who got into that dodge after a long career as a professional wrestler. That you can tell a money-bags the minute you see him hardly is borne out in Ari's case. If someone didn't tell you, when you walk into Onassis' New York offices, just which one was the boss, you'd never pick him out from the average well-developed clerk or book-keeper.

As a matter of fact, a member of Ari's New York staff tells the tale of having accompanied him to a party at which neither was known to the other guests, all of whom immediately settled on the staff member—in his natty brown suit, white shirt and silk tie—as Onassis. Ari himself in his traditional vestless, rumpled flannels, noted the confusion at once, and signaled to his associate to play along with it. He passed the rest of the evening in happy and barely noticed anonymity, with most of the people probably pegging him as the local bookie.

Such incidents appeal to the Onassis sense of the dramatic. As a multimillionaire who never has been known to wear a top-coat or overcoat, regardless of the weather, he knows he can stroll along Madison Avenue during his rare visits to New York (he spends less than two months a year in the United States) and never be taken for anything but just another Greek who's out casing a good buy in crullers for the diner he probably owns out on the North Shore of Long Island.

Similarly, his New York office, situated on the 9th floor of a new, but average-looking, midtown skyscraper, is equally ordinary. Housing the clerical force of the Central American Steamship Agency, one of Ari's many companies, the offices share the floor with four other tanker companies (with none of which Ari claims to have any connection). In the reception room, there again is no ostentation. Except for a green simulated-leather sofa, box-shaped end-tables, a couple of straight, ferocious-looking chairs, and a cage for the receptionist-telephone operator, the room is barrenly austere. This is hardly the front for a dynamically successful shipping magnate. Instead it looks like the front office of a two-man-and-a-girl insurance agency.

Onassis likes things that way, since he feels an office is supposed to be a place in which to work, and not a show-place for one's ego. Consequently, when he manages to spend a few days in his New York headquarters, he is more than likely to be found wandering around the halls in his shirt sleeves, his collar open and his tie loose, rather than ensconced behind an executive-type desk. Furthermore, he rarely is seen in the Manhattan bright spots for the simple reason that he tries to cram as much paper work into his flying visits as possible. Frequently, when he is in town, he can be found behind his desk late into the night, long after the rest of the staff have gone home.

"That's when he gets his real work done," an official of Central American put it. "He does more work in one evening than the rest of us can do in a week."

"What kind of a gent is he to work for?" the spokesman was asked. Immediately, a transfixed stare came into the guy's eyes, and a glow as if from on high fell on his face.

"Wonderful!" he purred, in a cultured but pronounced accent. "There isn't a thing he wouldn't do for the people who work for him. Why I've known him to pull out a roll of bills and give any amount of money to a typist or clerk whose mother was sick or who needed help in any way. They love the guy here, no mistake about it, and there isn't

a one of them here who wouldn't *keep* it, if you said anything bad about him!"

Sobered by this intelligence, Ari moved toward Sutton Place, stamping ground of the rich in New York, a cliff-like, three-block long area overlooking the East River at 57th Street. Here you can pick up a small house for yourself and the kiddies if you happen to have about two hundred grand on you. It is there, in a four-story, brick building, manned by a single housekeeper who knows how to keep her mouth shut, that Onassis lives in monastic solitude—without even a cat or a canary—during his sporadic stays in Manhattan.

The house, oddly enough, is owned by Ari's wife Athina (he calls her Tina) a slender, dark-eyed Grecian-type beauty who, at 25, is the mother of his two children and who manages to get Ari talked about almost as much as his commercial hijinks. Regarding Tina, Ari's critics are nasty enough to suggest that, while he may have loved her dearly from the moment of their first meeting, the fact that her father happens to be Stavros Livanos, himself the ruler of a Greek shipping dynasty which is one of the largest in the world, could have contributed to his first having been attracted to her.

But this is a curve ball in Ari's direction, for it wasn't he who pursued Tina; it was old Stavros, who introduced Onassis to his daughter back in 1916, when Tina was only 17. The story is that the elder Greek made the introduction with a purpose, because he wanted sons-in-law who could hold their own with the old man when it came to sharp trading. That he got one in Ari goes without saying, as it does also in the case of his second son-in-law, Stavros Niarchos, who is Ari's only rival when it comes to ruling the commercial seas. In fact, when it comes to the tanker business, it's questionable in many minds as to which is the bigger operator, Onassis or his brother-in-law, with whom he is in the cut-throat competition.

In the Niarchos camp, of course, they complain that Onassis is more than just competition for his kinfolk: in fact, they say that Niarchos suffers in the public mind from the fact that few Americans know one Greek from another, and that every time something bad is written about Onassis, Joe Blow immediately thinks Niarchos did it. And, in truth, the evidence tends to dispute this belief. Even though Niarchos has settled his troubles with Uncle Sam, he still seems to get the blame for every new touch cut up by Ari.

A glance at the Onassis career, however, and you have to conclude that this lad is in a class by himself.

Perhaps the one characteristic that distinguishes him from the average mortal is his ability to land on his feet. This has been apparent ever since he first began to have to fend for himself, at the age of 15, in Smyrna, on the Anatolian coast of Turkey. He claims his father, a Greek tobacco merchant, was one of the three most important businessmen among the 3½ million Greeks inhabiting the colony. In 1922, however, Kemal Attaturk, leader of the Turkish nationalists, decided 3½ million were a few too many Greeks to be on Turkish soil, and his legions went to work on them. They reportedly slaughtered hundreds of thousands and sent the rest packing.

Aristotle, his father, his mother, and his three small sisters eventually reached Greece—after the two male members, according to Ari's story, had spent a couple of anxious months in a Turkish prison waiting to be hanged. Once back on the ancient soil of the homeland, the Onassis clan found itself in desperate straits. In addition to their own family's womenfolk, Ari and his father were saddled with

some sixteen other female relatives whose breadwinners had been knocked off by the Turks. There was virtually no money, and jobs were impossible to find.

That, as Ari tells it, is when his career really began. With \$100, he was sent off to the Argentine, in a boat jammed to the masts with starving Greeks, to make his fortune. It's along about here, though, that the story begins to get a touch cloudy. As our hero spins it, there he was, 16 years old, with but \$60 of the original century still in his possession, thousands of miles from home, and in a strange country whose language was anything but Greek to him. Again, as Ari tells it, there he was, two years later, still in the same, strange, foreign country, and he now has a net profit for his two years of hard work amounting to exactly \$100,000! Not bad going for a teen-ager.

The next question anyone asks, naturally, is how come? Well, depending on who's telling the story to whom, Ari started on a shoestring, became a bootblack and a day laborer, a night switchboard operator and eventually drifted into tobacco importing, a trade he'd learned from his father. Thus he was off and running, and it makes for a nice, romantic, Algeresque yarn to tell your week-end guests while lolling on your yacht off Capri. The only hitch is that a lot of writers get the idea that, maybe with a little effort, they could do the same thing, and they press for more details.

When this occurs, Onassis explains that story isn't true. He didn't really start on a shoestring. Sure, he left Greece with a steamship ticket and a hundred bucks, all that could be scraped together after the debacle in Smyrna, and he had sixty of the hundred left when he got to Argentina. And . . . well, it wasn't really *all* he had; you see, even though the family was starving in Greece, his father still had a few bank accounts lying around in other countries which Ari could draw on, and never mind why the elder Onassis didn't pick up his brood and head for one of those countries, rather than send a 16-year-old boy off alone to a strange land.

But, no matter. There were also Papa Onassis' many friends from his business connections, who were scattered here and there and particularly in Argentina. These, too, now get credit for lending a helping hand when the going got rough for Aristotle. Whether or not one of these was Mandl and another Dodero, Ari doesn't say. At Dodero's New York office, it was explained that this indeed was possible, since the late industrialist "helped thousands of young men" get a start, and one of them conceivably could have been young Ari. No one recalled for sure if one of them was, however.

The same reply came from friends of Mandl, the munitions man, who numbers among his other claims to prominence the fact that he was the first husband of Hedy Lamarr. So there you are, faced with the fact that Onassis either did or did not start on a shoestring, but that he unquestionably took off like a rocket from whatever the precise beginning was.

Regardless, so successful was he in running his little tobacco importing business, and picking up a stray peso here and there, that he finally gave up his switchboard job—after a year or so of getting only three hours sleep a night—and devoted all his time to his own operations. Eventually, he added cigarette manufacturing to importing, began dabbling in wool, grains, hides and similar marketable items and, by 1928, had begun to coin money hand over fist. He also had begun to sleep a normal eight hours a night. He was so successful [Continued on page 83]

# The Man Who Bought the Bank at Monte Carlo

[Continued from page 20]

that the Greek government appointed him their man in negotiations then going on for a new trade treaty between Greece and Argentina. This naturally was duck soup for Ari and resulted in his being appointed Greek Consul General at Buenos Aires as a reward for his services to the homeland. He was then 25.

The homeland? Well, that brings up Onassis' citizenship, and unraveling that one perhaps explains why he today selects as his home port that country or countries which give him the best return on the dollar.

It seems the boy was born in Greece, went to Turkey as a child, and still was a Greek when Attaturk took after everyone with his army. But, when the refugees from Smyrna got back to Athens, it was to discover that they'd lost their Greek citizenship. So there was the Onassis family without a country it could call its own.

Ari fixed that, too; when he got to Argentina, he applied for Argentinian papers, and got them. Then, no sooner was he an up-and-coming South American than word came from Greece that Athens had restored citizenship to the refugees from Smyrna, leaving Ari with simultaneous patriotic ties to two countries. Which, of course, is running true to Onassis form: he never was one to do things by halves.

His wife Tina has also bounced around the international checkerboard with almost, but not quite, the verve displayed by her spouse. Born a British subject, of Greek parents, the petite and neatly stacked Tina is now an American citizen. So are Ari's two children by her, Alexander, 6, and Christina, 3, whom he sees about as seldom as would any man who is always hustling off somewhere to sew up another million. Mrs. Onassis, who naturally has a bit more time for socializing than her globe-trotting husband, gets around in the classier circles of Cannes, Paris, New York and London a lot more than he does. Her polished, Mayfair British accent (contrasted with Ari's pronounced and heavy international one) is heard regularly in the proper drawing rooms of the top-drawer set of those cities.

Today, the house on Sutton Place is in Mrs. Onassis' name while her spouse likes to call Paris "home," even if he is in the process of moving his gear down to Monaco where they shoot tax collectors on sight.

Undoubtedly the real springboard for Onassis came with his appointment as Consul General at Buenos Aires. In such a job, he was able to mingle freely with the very best people, and also to pick up loads of tidbits of information which would be valuable to a young man on his way up. No matter that the Depression year of 1931 had come upon us, with the bread lines beginning to form, and the bottom falling out of business generally, the situation was a natural for any fellow with a fountainhead of inside information and a little unexpressed dough. Ari came equipped with both.

From his inside sources, he learned that the Canadian National Steamship Lines had some 30 oceangoing freighters which had cost them roughly \$2 million each to build

in 1920. They were, the story had it, willing to sell them for \$20,000 a copy, which was considerable of a mark-down. Onassis bought six of them, put two of them into immediate service, and stored the other four away until the pesky Depression should run its course. Then all six of them began to steam across the seas and to bring home the bacon to Aristotle.

"You could get a 10,000-ton ship for the price of a Rolls Royce," Ari says today of the lush days of 1931, a period when most people in the world didn't have enough for streetcar money, much less the price of a Rolls. But much of his success has stemmed from just that setup—he bought when everyone else was in the mood to sell, and they do say that's a way to get rich, if your luck holds out.

Ari's did, and it was his start in the shipping game. When the Depression let up, and with the other four of his bargain boats now

plying the seas, Onassis, in a manner of speaking, struck oil, becoming convinced that great dry cargoes all hollow as a means of making money as a shipper. Thus he was among the first of the Greeks to favor tanker operation, in preference to the dry cargoes which had been traditional with his countrymen since the days of Helen of Troy. By the time World War II erupted, he was moving right along, and it was inevitable that some of his ships should have been caught in neutral ports and bottled up till after V-J Day.

Ordinarily such a fate would have disturbed the average shipper; after all, it's no fun having some of your best ships grounded right at the outset of a lush market. There are those who snidely say, however, that Ari wasn't terribly concerned. Shucks, he still had quite a fleet of rusty hulks he could turn over to the Allies for the North Atlantic run—at the then prevailing high

"The Man Who Bought the Bank at Monte Carlo"  
TRUE, THE MAN'S MAGAZINE, Dec. 1954, Pg. 83

weight rates. What did it matter? Nazis blew most of them out of the sky. There was always the insurance, and, besides, Ari didn't have to see himself.

The result, of course, was that Onassis turned up at war's end with a considerably larger poke than he'd had when it started—and now there were those tankers that had been safely tied up in neutral ports while the shooting was going on. He was ready to roll in high gear.

And roll he might, unbeknownst to anyone but those in the upper echelon of shipping circles, had it not been for what might be termed Ari's one possible blunder—the deal to buy Monte Carlo.

Since he always has been something of a silent partner, or silent owner, in the many corporations he controls throughout the world, Onassis was virtually an unknown when his Monte Carlo coup blazed across the front pages. And he might still be that today, for all his fabulous wealth, since one facet of his operations always has been to keep his financial didoes a secret, not only from the press but from his competitors as well. But Monte Carlo is a byword for romance, melodrama and intrigue. So it was inevitable that any man who bought it immediately should land in the spotlight—and the spotlight rarely is kind to anyone.

The hell of it was that it was all so unnecessary. Onassis had his villa at Cap d'Antibes, as did a lot of other wealthy Greek shippers who virtually had turned that lush playground of the rich into a Greek colony. Had he simply been content to loll quietly on the veranda of his mansion—formerly the home of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor—his postwar shenanigans might have gone unnoticed by the very busybodies he today excoriates as being the cause of his present nasty predicament.

But, as has been pointed out, it was so far to the office, and there was that unused building—the old Winter Sporting Club—attached to the casino. Onassis reasoned that it would make a right handy place to stack typewriters and filing cabinets, not to mention the neat saving in tax money, so he made a casual bid to rent the old building. To his astonishment, and probably his annoyance, the directors turned him down.

He promptly bought the casino and sold the directors down the river by accepting their resignations.

Not that it was as easy as it sounds, even for one of the world's best-heeled citizens. Oh, sure, the price was right—a million clams was nothing to a chap with Onassis' bank account—and, besides, the casino, which virtually supports the whole of Monaco, was known to be losing more money than it was making. But the trouble in Monaco at the time was that His Serene Highness, Prince Rainier III, ruler of Monaco, had sent some of his boys off to Paris to borrow money from the banks. These bucks had come home with promises of enough financial support to tide the casino over its current troubles. Result, no one was in a mood either to rent or sell.

That's when Ari went to work in earnest. Having heard that Prince Rainier coveted a yacht like those owned by his rich neighbors, Onassis dug up a dazzling 135-foot, Diesel-powered job which he discovered he could let go to the bug-eyed prince for a paltry \$117,000. While His Serene Highness

was jumping up and down and clapping his royal hands over this new toy, Onassis had his boys at the Paris Bourse buying the casino stock they could lay their hands on. Thus, when it came time to get down to cases, Ari had Prince Rainier in his corner, he owned roughly a third of the outstanding stock in the casino (enough to give him voting control), and he was in, just like Flynn.

"For a million dollars," he says of the deal, "I got control of a property with a real estate value alone of \$20 million."

That isn't all he got. In addition to a beachhead on tax-free Monaco, he also got himself catapulted overnight into being a world-renowned celebrity. At the same time he provoked the silent ire of his fellow-Greek shippers, who quietly accused Ari of



having put them, as a group, into the public eye and perhaps made them targets for everyone from Senator McCarthy to the Department of Justice.

The result is that, today, Onassis is anything but a carefree millionaire. As he recently confided to a reporter, he may be the richest, or one of the richest men in the world, but he also claims the titles of being the "loneliest" and the "unhappiest."

"It's the toughest thing that ever happened to me," he says, mournfully, of his indictment by the Feds. In fact, so tough is it that, to hear him talk of it, one is led to conclude that all the joy has been taken out of even his latest little deal, an arrangement with the government of Saudi Arabia whereby Onassis' ships will carry all that

country's oil output, not handled by the Arabian-American Oil Company. Since the British have estimated that this latter will mean an additional \$10 million in profits each year for the Onassis empire, you can imagine the degree of Ari's gloom.

The tough thing about the indictment, from the Onassis point of view, is that it's so unjustified. He didn't break any laws, he says. The U. S. government passed a Ships Sales Act in 1946, which was designed to rid Uncle Sam of the big fleet of surplus vessels he owned at war's end. All Onassis feels he did—and he claims he did it with the legal advice of some of the best sea lawyers in this country—was to aid the United States by taking some of those old hulks off her hands, and at a price which should have made any taxpayer as happy as the first guy in line at a run on the bank.

The government's feeling, however, is that Onassis may have been a little confused about the intent of the Ships Sales Act. It wasn't designed to unload the ships, the Feds say; instead it was passed as a means of getting the United States out of the shipping business by making its surplus bottoms available to private American shipping interests, and thus build up our merchant marine. Thus, preference in buying the surplus ships—and special allowances in certain cases—was to be given to American citizens, with noncitizens like Onassis to have their choice after the locals had picked over the stock.

But the boys in Washington say that Onassis got around this proviso with a little gimmick—he is alleged to have set up dummy corporations in this country, the officers of which were Americans but which were financed by aliens such as Ari. This, says Uncle Sam, just wasn't cricket, and the old boy in the red, white and blue top hat is asking for an explanation in open court.

Pending the delivery of this explanation—a good many months hence—the government has moved to seize twelve of Ari's ships which the Department of Justice claims should be declared forfeit. They've also thrown that conspiracy charge at our boy who now is free on \$10,000 bond awaiting trial.

But some say—including a flock of shipping men who haven't exactly been writing love notes to Onassis—that he will bear the rap, no question about it, and that he knew this when he came voluntarily to America last winter to answer the indictment.

For one thing, just last July, Chief Judge Paul Leahy of the United States District Court, sitting in Wilmington, Delaware, threw out of court one of the government's principal claims against Onassis. The judge ruled that it was not a legal contention in the government's move to claim forfeiture of one of the surplus ships, the tanker *Lake George*. As the judge saw it, for the government to have the right to seize the ship, it—the federal government—would have to be a United States citizen. And according to Judge Leahy, the government ain't no such thing, a decision which probably fooled a lot of people including Uncle Sam.

Thus, in this instance at least, one of the four points in the government's case has been given the heave, leaving only three, which the defense insists are "minor." The dismissed point contained "the heart of the case" against Ari, according to his lawyers.

Which brings up another interesting facet: the government's case in the *Lake*

George business was against the United States Petroleum Carriers, Inc., which United States says is an Onassis outfit. Ari, on the other hand, is a U.S. outfit.

Now then, the United States Petroleum Carriers, Inc., occupies office space in, of all places, the 9th floor of 655 Madison Avenue, New York City, which is back-to-back next door to the Central American Steamship Agency, Onassis' Manhattan headquarters. And with people running in and out and back and forth between the two offices, the spectator standing in the hall waiting for an elevator could be excused for thinking that, in this case at least, the government may be on the right track. Yet a spokesman for Onassis, while hinting that Ari had an ace up his sleeve and would win out in the *Lake George* case, blandly asserted that he had no connection with the *Lake George*, and it was just the damndest of coincidences that the U. S. Petroleum Carriers, Inc., happened to be on that same floor, a thin partition away from the headquarters of A. S. Onassis.

Meanwhile, Ari's brother-in-law, Niarchos, recently worked out a package deal with the government in his surplus ships dealings. Agreeing to return nineteen ships, Niarchos also, in compromise of Uncle Sam's claim to profits earned by the ships, promised to pay \$4 million in cash. For its part, the government canceled some \$8 million due it in mortgage payments on the vessels, and indictments charging Niarchos and some of his pals with fraud were dismissed. But Ari, who is rumored not to have this kind of cash lying around, supposedly isn't keen on such a compromise in his own case.

Regardless of what Niarchos did or did not do, however, Aristotle Onassis insists he is not going to be swayed. He didn't do any wrong in the surplus ships thing, he insists. At the same time he suggests that he will prove eventually that the government blame well knew he had offered to buy the ships, and even had come to him, way back early in the deal, and told him to come take the lousy ships off the government's hands, as he had agreed to do. Which, if he can prove it, will enable Ari to have the Feds over the well-known barrel.

Even if he is convicted in the surplus ship charge, however, there are many who are of the opinion that Ari isn't exactly going to lose any sleep over the matter. Sure, no one wants to spend any time in the hoosegow, especially if you have several hundred million bucks in your account and can afford better accommodations. But, as for the ships, even if they are declared forfeit, Onassis still figures to land butterside-up.

The way that works is this: A tanker which cost maybe \$3 million during the war has by now begun to wear out a bit, and the market is shot to hell, too, so that its current resale value isn't much more than say a little over a million. Since Ari paid only \$1,600,000 apiece for the ships he bought in 1947, however, and probably still has each of them mortgaged for approximately \$800,000, he has had to shell out only his original investment of some \$400,000, plus approximately \$600,000 in interest and carrying charges, or roughly a million bucks out of pocket for each ship since the deal was made.

But, as the economically minded have pointed out, since the net income from oper-



ing each ship in the years since Ari bought them has amounted to a million more than Onassis originally paid—approximately \$2 million apiece—he stands to make a neat profit of exactly that, one million, on each ship! In short, the government can have them and be damned. Ari, in cut-throat competition with his brother-in-law, has more ships abuilding anyway.

The result, of course, has been a merry sound of riveting in the shipyards until the tanker market went to hell this year, as more and bigger tankers—ordered by Onassis, Niarchos, and one or two others—come rapidly into being. A year ago, the *Tina Onassis*, named for Ari's wife and, at 45,000 tons, almost twice the size of the largest tanker ever built up to that time, came sliding down the ways in Germany.

In February 1954, Niarchos topped that with the *World Glory*, which could carry 800,000 more gallons of oil than the *Tina Onassis*. Then, last spring, Ari answered this thrust with the *King Ibn Saud I*, a 47,000-tonner which, at launching time, was the largest tanker ever built.

And so the competition goes on, even in the face of a declining tanker market which this year has thrown a trace of panic into the voices of nearly all tankermen with the exception of Onassis and Niarchos. Ari, for all his plea of being lonely and unhappy, still goes merrily on, betting on the future, meanwhile commuting around the world, occasionally turning up with his handsome wife at a swank Riviera dinner party thrown by the playboy set, or taking people out for rides on his combination whaling-ship-and-private-yacht (complete with its own two-motored, executive-type plane lashed to the afterdeck).

This vessel, when it isn't off harpooning whales, usually can be found tied up at Cap d'Antibes. Those who have been lucky enough to have cruised on her to Tangier or some other romantic spot, as a guest of Ari, have come back insisting that you just haven't seen luxury until you've tried that. Whaler or no, the ship is alleged to be the

last word in plushy elegance, being fabulously fitted with the very finest of woods and the most expensive furniture made. It also boasts a Hollywood-type swimming pool which can be covered for evening dances.

The plane, meanwhile, serves a variety of utilitarian purposes, not the least of which is skimming along the water ahead of Ari, who cavorts behind her on his favorite recreational tools, a pair of water skis. As his friends say, when Ari is in trouble, he likes nothing better than to get out of the hot water and into the cold, either on his water skis or in a fast game of water polo, at which he is said to be the equal of men years his junior. Being a moderate drinker and only an average cigarette smoker, Onassis is not a gent anyone would be wise to come to grips with, either at water polo, water skiing, hand-wrestling, or plain old punch-trading. You have to hand it to the guy—he keeps in shape, mentally, physically and financially.

Financially? Well, now, you'd guess that a guy who is reported to have all those bucks wouldn't be worried about next month's rent, wouldn't you? And yet, as happens to so many millionaires, the story is that Onassis is really worried and hard up for ready cash.

Oh, sure, he's got plenty of assets, but the wise boys say that what Ari needs right now is something on which he can make a big killing, quick-like; and those same wise boys hint they think maybe he has hit on just the thing—another whaling expedition.

But, Ari himself said that was a gamble, didn't he? Sure, but maybe he's found a way to take some of the gambling out of the whaling dodge. Like this:

Years ago, in the Moby Dick era, you went out whaling, caught as many as you could, and came home to Mamma. But that was before the age of modern science which took a lot of the guesswork out of whaling. The big fishermen then began getting whales every time they went looking for them, bringing home more and more until the big mammals began to get scarce. The humplack

whale was the first to disappear; the blue whale was next, and now the finback, the biggest item in today's catch, is starting to run thin.

Naturally a situation like that called for action, international action, since whales are caught out in deep water. Accordingly a series of international conferences were called, with most of the nations—knowing it was in their own best interests—taking part and signing the agreements as they were made. The most recent of these conferences, held in Washington in 1946, set rules for the size of the catch a whaling party could make, the minimum length of whale to be taken, how much of the product could be utilized, etc. All of these rules were designed to limit the whaler's haul.

That's where Ari Onassis is alleged to have come into the whaling picture. According to people who should know Ari scouted around and discovered that Panama, by golly—although a late-signing subscriber to the Washington whaling regulations—tended to wink an eye at enforcing them; and, since Onassis' ships fly the flag of that country, he caught the wink and proceeded to take all the whales he damn well pleased out of the ocean.

Now, though, the whaling interests are really worried. They hear that Ari's latest whaling junket, presently in the Antarctic, could be the whaling expedition to end all whaling expeditions, and indeed all whales. For, says the rumor, both the *Ibn Saud* and the *Tina Onassis* were due to accompany the expedition and help to refuel the fleet at sea. This report prompts veteran whalers to ask just why anyone would need two 45,000-ton tankers to refuel a fleet of nineteen whaling ships!

The answer, the boys say, is simple: the *Ibn Saud* and the *Tina Onassis* ostensibly are going along to help in the refueling, but actually they are going to be used to store whale oil, 90,000 tons of it in addition to that carried normally by the rest of the fleet. Which, if true, will be the biggest catch in whaling history, and Ari's profit will keep him out of the red for years. What is worse for the world, though, is the fact that Onassis' present expedition could be the last ever staged by anyone, anywhere, since it may pull in every whale in the whole damned ocean. Then the whale will take its place in museums alongside of the dinosaur.

"I could have sworn," a New York Greek shipping man told this writer, "that Onassis was finished last winter when he kept building more and more big tankers, at a time when the rest of us were convinced the tanker market had reached the saturation point. But I said then that Ari probably knew more than the rest of us did—and maybe whaling is what he knew. Still, he's taking an awfully long chance."

Aristotle Socrates Onassis? He never took a chance in his life.—Maxwell Hamilton

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The records of the Clerk of the United States District Court, Washington, D. C., were reviewed on May 8, 1957, by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. It was noted that criminal indictment 1647-53 was filed on October 13, 1953, in which the following defendants were named: ~~ARISTOTELES S. ONASSIS, with alias ARISTOTLE S. ONASSIS; ROBERT L. BERENSON; NICOLAS COKKINIS; JOSEPH E. CASEY; JOSEPH H. ROSENBAUM; ROBERT W. DUDLEY; CHARLES AUGENTHALER; GEORGE COKKINIS; HAROLD O. BECKER; United States Petroleum Carriers Inc.; Victory Carriers Inc.; Central American Steamship Agency Inc.; Sociedad Industrial Martima Financiera Ariona, Panama, South America; Sociedad Maritima Miraflores; Transatlantica Financiera Industrial, Panama, South America~~

In Count 1, paragraph 10, it is stated that on or about June 1, 1947, and continuously from that date to the date of the finding of this indictment and within the District of Columbia and elsewhere, the above-named defendants did conspire together and with the other, and with divers other persons to the Grand Jury unknown, to commit certain offenses against the United States, namely, to violate Section 80, Title 18, U. S. Code (1948 edition) and Section 1001, Title 18, United States Code (1948 edition) and to defraud the United States by means of submitting and filing with the aforesaid agencies of the United States (U. S. Maritime Commission and its successor the Maritime Administration, Department of Commerce) in matters within the jurisdiction of said agencies, false application for the purchase of vessels and false balance sheets and financial statements.

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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REPORTING OFFICE <b>WASHINGTON FIELD</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>WASHINGTON FIELD</b>	DATE <b>JUL 5 1957</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>5/16, 21, 31; 6/3-5, 7, 11-13, 18, 19/57</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>[REDACTED]</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b>	TYPED BY <b>phi</b>
CHARACTER OF CASE <b>REGISTRATION ACT</b>		<b>INDEXED - 32</b>	

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12-13-57

SYNOPSIS: **b7C b7D**

**[REDACTED]**

DECLASSIFIED BY: **SP4 [REDACTED]**  
DATE: **3/13/84**  
DECLASSIFY ON: **OADR**  
COM: # **2222610010107**

REC'D FEB 12 1958  
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INDEXED - 82  
EX - 126  
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APPROVED <b>[Signature]</b>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
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is a free lance writer and is presently writing material concerning ARISTOTLE ONASSIS who is a personal friend of

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REPORTING OFFICE <b>NEW YORK</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE <b>1/30/69</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>1/31/68 - 1/19/69</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM IN GREECE (ACDFG)</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b>	TYPED BY <b>rgm</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>IS - GREECE; RA - GREECE</b>	

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REFERENCES:

*1/22/87*  
Classified by *sp2medld*  
Declassify on: **OADR**  
*# 264631*

Report of SA **[REDACTED]** dated **[REDACTED]**  
2/14/68, at NY.  
NY teletype, 1/19/69.

- P\* -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

**[REDACTED]**  
**[REDACTED]**

*b2 b7D*

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED		<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVICT	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
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- 4 - New York (105-88068) (1-105-93635) (IAFDG) (1-105-95972) (RESISTANCE)

**17-5120**      **52**

**2 JAN 31 1969**

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Agency	<b>[REDACTED]</b>
Request Recd.	
Date Fwd.	<b>2/4/69</b>
How Fwd.	<b>1-14 F, h, n, 1, 0, 6, 2 - 14</b>
By	<b>[Signature]</b>

Notations: *9-28-78*

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The "Daily World" dated Friday, October 25, 1968, on page nine, contains an article entitled, "What is Onassis' role in fascist Greece?". This article states:

"Dr. Theodore Stathis, chairman of the Committee for Democracy and Freedom in Greece, commented on a week in which the widow of an assassinated President of the United States married a dominant magnate of fascist Greece, and in which the United States resumed shipments of arms to the Greek government. (C)

"Dr. Stathis, a seven-year emigre from his homeland, now a professor of mathematical physics at Manhattan College, said: (C)

"I won't speculate on any direct connection between those two events. But the simple and obvious fact is that the marriage has already made things a lot easier for those who have been trying to weaken American opposition to Greek fascism." (C)

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"Onassis' role

"To what extent is ~~Aristotle~~ Onassis, new husband of the former Jacqueline Kennedy, involved in the murder of Greek democracy? ( )

"That is impossible for me to say except by inference from what everybody knows. Onassis is a principal financial and commercial figure of his country. He must have known that the colonels' putsch was being prepared. He could have thrown his weight on the side of the democratic government, and later he could have thrown it against the phoney constitution that has been foisted on the Greek people. He did neither of these things, nor anything else to stop the crushing of our freedom by the boots of the fascists.' ( )

"The man who married the former first lady of the U.S. has a contract with the Greek government to operate its only overseas airline, Olympic Airways. The contract runs until 2001. In addition to his huge holdings in ship operations, there is a good chance that he will be given control of the big new shipbuilding facility at Piraeus, Stathis said. ( )

"Exploiter of labor

"Onassis didn't get rich by being a nice man,' the chairman of CDF pointed out. 'He has always been an exploiter of labor, and exploitation of labor is going to intensify in Greece under the fascist regime.' ( )

"From his briefcase, Dr. Stathis took an envelope he had received through the mail. It was from The Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce, 25 Broadway, N.Y., but in a lower corner was the familiar linked-rings symbol of the Olympic Games, and the slogan. 'Fly Olympic Airways.' Inside

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"the envelope was a card bearing a photo-colored night-view of the Acropolis and Athens. (u)

"Two million of these have been mailed out in this country," Stathis said. The card read: (u)

"Invest in Greece because Greece is the only other country in Europe, besides Finland, in which new direct investments by American Business are accorded preferential treatment under the U.S. Government program for improving the U.S. balance of payments position.. (u)

"Greece is a country which offers the most comprehensive protection to foreign capital, a true and time-tested friend of the United States, where free enterprise is the accepted basis of the economy." (u)

"But that economy appears to be ill already in many respects," Dr. Stathis said. Exports of agricultural products - mostly fruit, tobacco and cotton - have begun to decline. Monopolization is proceeding rapidly among the few industries Greece has. (u)

"What is booming is militarism. The NATO base in Crete is being expanded. The scare of Soviet ships in the Mediterranean is being worked to the limit. Present treaties permit the landing of U.S. forces in Greece without notice to the Greek government. (u)

"This is Jackie's new homeland

"We can only hope that she will be happy there," said Dr. Stathis." (u)

It is noted that the Committee for Democracy and Freedom in Greece is the ACDFG. (u)

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- Deleted under exemption(s) b7c b7D with no segregable material available for release to you.
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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WA ---22---

FBI NEW YORK

9:58 PM URGENT 10-30-68 AUS

TO DIRECTOR 109-12-223, AND WFO 109-109 (CODE)

ATTENTION DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

FROM NEW YORK 109-114

FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS-PANAMA; IS-PANAMA.

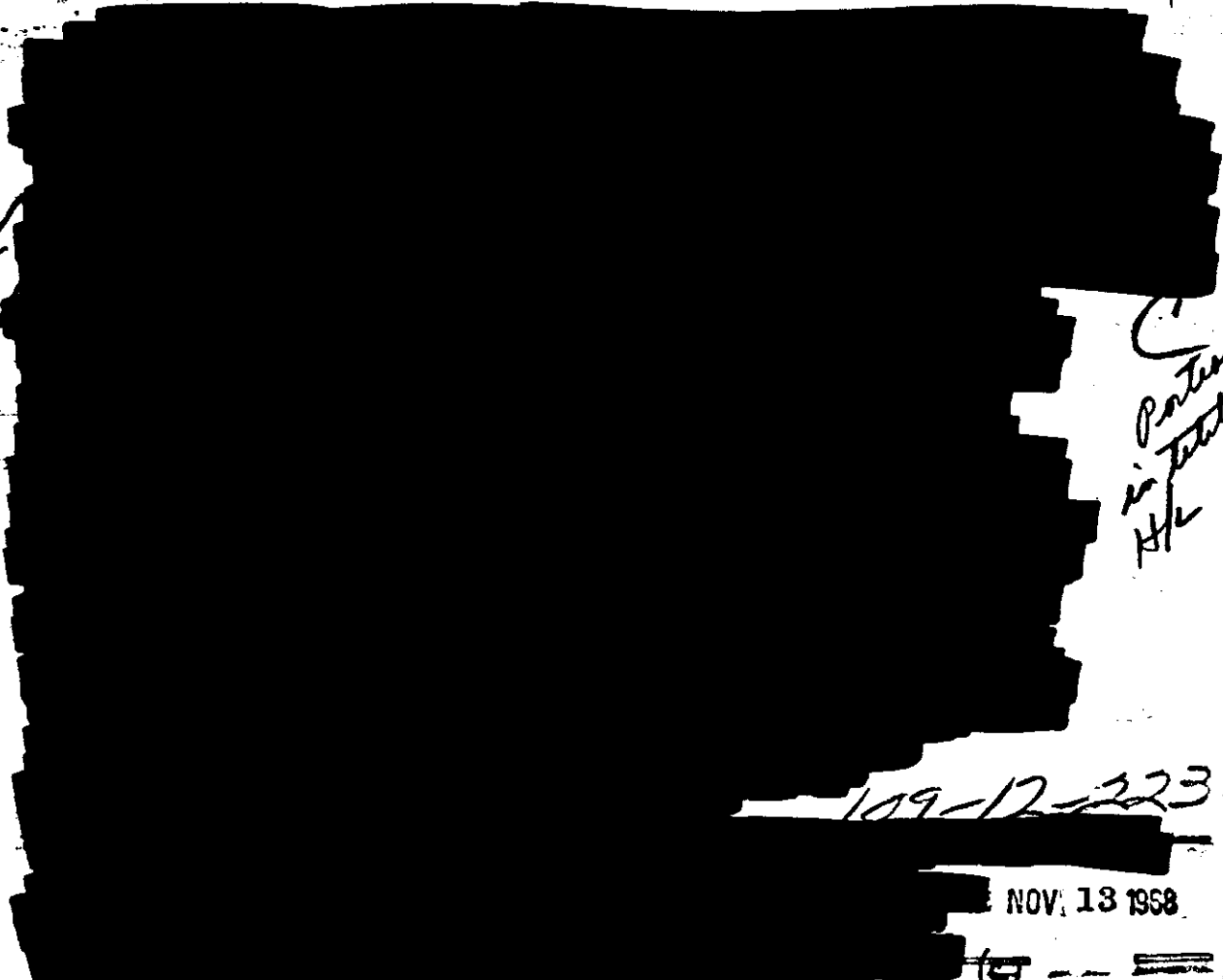
VIA TELETYPE  
OCT 30 1968  
ENCIPHERED

~~SECRET~~

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Bishop \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

8-30-87  
Classified by SP8 WJ/bel  
Declassify on: OADR  
# 264,631

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE



b1  
Particular included  
in teletype  
HLC 10/31/68  
epb

109-12-223-2403

NOV 13 1968

END PAGE ONE TWO COPIES WFO

TELETYPE TO:

FTB 57

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

~~SECRET~~

109-12-223

[REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~

[REDACTED]

b1

DIRECTORY IN LOBBY AT SIX FOUR SEVEN FIFTH AVENUE,  
NYC, A FIVE STORY STRUCTURE KNOWN AS ~~OLYMPIC AIRWAYS BUILDING~~,  
LISTS, UNDER VICTORY CARRIERS, INC., ONE

[REDACTED]

b7c

IT WILL BE NOTED THAT TIME MAGAZINE OF OCTOBER  
TWENTY FIVE LAST, REPORTED ON THE WEDDING OF ~~ARISTOTLE ONASSIS~~  
AND COMMENTED CONCERNING HIS OWNERSHIP OF ~~OLYMPIC AIRWAYS~~  
END PAGE TWO

~~GREECE~~

~~GREECE~~

~~SECRET~~

PAGE THREE

~~SECRET~~

ON WHICH HE HOLDS A CHARTER FROM THE GREEK GOVERNMENT.

THE RECORDS OF THE NYO OF THE FBI REFLECT THAT IN THE COURSE OF AN INQUIRY CONCERNING VICTORY CARRIERS, INC., THE GRACE NATIONAL BANK OF NEW YORK TRUSTEE AND ALEXANDER S. ONASSIS CORPORATION IN A MISCELLANEOUS-CIVIL SUIT MATTER, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7c

IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT THIS INQUIRY DETERMINED THAT THE ABOVE TWO ORGANIZATIONS WERE PART OF A TRUST AGREEMENT<sup>ENT</sup> BETWEEN THE GRACE NATIONAL BANK OF NEW YORK AND ARISTOTLE S. ONASSIS, GREECE AT THAT TIME VICTORY CARRIERS, INC. WAS LOCATED AT SIX FIVE FIVE MADISON AVENUE. THE RECORDS OF THE NYO OF THE FBI CONTAIN NO FURTHER IDENTIFYING DATA WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH THAT VICTORY CARRIERS PRESENTLY LOCATED AT SIX FOUR SEVEN FIFTH AVENUE HAS PRESENT

END PAGE THREE

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

PAGE FOUR

CORPORATE LINKS WITH ONASSIS' INTERESTS.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

[REDACTED]

b1

[REDACTED] (c)

INFORMATION IS CLASSIFIED "SECRET-NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION" IN VIEW OF SENSITIVE NATURE OF SOURCE.

THE NYO IS CONTINUIN ADDITIONAL INQUIRIES IN ORDER TO DETERMINE ANY ONASSIS CONTROL OR INTEREST VICTORY CARRIERS, SIX FOUR SEVEN FIFTH AVENUE.

END

WA....RDR R RELAY

FBI WASH DC

~~SECRET~~

CC- MR. SULLIVAN

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### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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- For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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- The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
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*POLITICAL MUNITI*  
COMMUNISTS SEEK SUPPORT FOR THEIR CANDIDATES

Moscow in Spanish to Cuba 0030 GMT 18 Oct 68 L

[Text] The Venezuelan Communist Party has called on the people to cast their votes in the general elections next December for candidates who guarantee the expulsion from Venezuela of the U.S. military mission, which is the center of plots against the country's progress and the instigator of repression against the patriots.

REC 29

In a statement issued in Caracas, the Communist Party has come out in favor of a general and total amnesty, the legalization of the Communist Party and the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, the abolition of repressive organizations, and the punishment of those responsible for the crimes committed by the DIGEPOL and the Armed Forces Intelligence Service--SIPA.

The Venezuelan Communist Party demands the annulment of all those agreements which are detrimental to national sovereignty and the carrying out of an oil policy which corresponds to the national interests and which will put an end to the country's dependence on foreign monopolies. The Communist Party of Venezuela urges citizens to vote for Jesus Maria, Gustavo Machado, Pompeyo Marquez, Guillermo Garcia Ponce, and other revolutionary fighters.

The statement points out that authentic changes in a progressive spirit mean housing, education, and health for the masses and the ending of domination by Yankee imperialism.

MIR SPLIT ON PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

Caracas LA VERDAD 16 Oct 68 p 8 X

[Text] Serious differences are reported to have arisen within the leadership of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) with regard to its possible participation in the forthcoming elections.

A reliable source has stated that some MIR leaders, including some guerrilla leaders, are in agreement about suspending armed activities for the remainder of the election process until the outcome is known. This sector is also reported to be drawing up a formula whereby party members would be instructed to vote for the candidate supported by the greatest number of "progressive" forces.

This group is reportedly opposed by another which, according to this source, has been the strongest up to now. This group favors total abstention in the forthcoming elections because it believes that conditions in the country do not permit the holding of normal elections. It alleges that the disqualification of the MIR and the Venezuelan Communist Party, the imprisonment of numerous persons for political reasons, and the atmosphere of violence prevailing in the country prevent any such election process from being normally carried out.

It is reported that the MIR national conference will be held shortly with the participation of representatives of all sectors of the party, including leaders of the guerrilla groups, to definitely establish the position of the MIR with regard to the elections.

DAILY REPORT FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE  
Dated: October 23, 1968

*Cont. 56 cont.*

EX 114 REC 29 NOT RECORDED 109-12-228 1156

18 OCT 28 1968

*ZLSK*

*File in 109-12-228*

55 NOV 8 - 1968

The Rumanian foreign minister will visit the coastal regions tomorrow and return on Thursday, on which day the agreement between the two nations will be considered. Among the commercial aspects of the negotiations which Minister Manescu will ratify or expand are the purchase of 11,000 metric tons of oil by means of a contract which would be in effect until 1980, and the creation of mixed mining and lumber firms.

#### Petroleum Exports

Buenos Aires ANSA in Spanish 0403 GMT 22 Oct 68 C (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

[Excerpts] Caracas, 21 October--Venezuela will start exporting oil to Rumania next year, according to sources close to the Rumanian delegation accompanying Foreign Minister Corneliu Manescu on an official visit here.

The first oil talks were held within the framework of the agreement signed on 28 May between the Venezuelan Petroleum Corporation (CORVENPET) and Industrial-Export of Rumania.

Foreign Minister Manescu and his team of experts will meet with officials of the CORVENPET to set the dates and the conditions for cooperating with it.

#### Trade Exchange Program

Buenos Aires REUTERS in English to REUTERS London 1615 GMT 22 Oct 68 C  
(FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

[Excerpts] Caracas--Rumania and Venezuela have started a trade exchange program with the arrival here today of (number indistinct) tractors at a cost of some 400,000 dollars. In exchange, Venezuela will export 1 million kilograms of tobacco to Rumania, according to businessman Diogenes ~~Duzoglous~~. Duzoglous is the Venezuelan representative for Greek millionaire Aristotle ~~Anassis~~. The exchange program was made possible through a Venezuelan mission which visited Rumania last July and was followed up with a visit here of a 16-man Rumanian mission last month.

GREECE

Meanwhile, Rumanian Foreign Minister Corneliu Manescu, now in Venezuela on a 5-day visit, today announced another trade group from his country would soon visit this nation to study the possibility of mining or buying Venezuelan nickel. Although Manescu refused to confirm the tractors' arrival, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said this was part of an agreement reached between the Rumanian mission which visited this country last month and private enterprises here.

The Rumanian foreign minister will leave here on Friday for Santiago, Chile.

#### INDUSTRY URGES MORE COMPLEMENTATION SCHEMES

Caracas REUTERS in English to REUTERS Buenos Aires 1528 GMT 18 Oct 68 P  
(FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

[Text] Caracas--The Venezuelan industrial chamber has called for more emphasis on complementation schemes instead of tariff-cutting in Andean pact negotiations. The statement was made last night by the chamber's president, Emilio ~~Conde~~ ~~Jahn~~, while addressing members of the organization.

VEN.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

DATE: Nov. 20, 1954

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT: ARISTOTLE ONASSIS

- Tolson
- Boardman
- Nichols
- Belmont
- Harbo
- Mohr
- Parsons
- Rosen
- Tamm
- Sizoo
- Winterrowd
- Tele. Room
- Holloman
- Gandy

[redacted] called me on November 16, 1954, and stated that he had just run into a strange situation. He stated that [redacted] had called [redacted] an International News Service correspondent, to inquire how International News Service (INS) treated a story originating in Athens, Greece, involving Aristotle Onassis, which story charged Onassis with bribing Saudi Arabian officials.

[redacted] stated that INS did have such a story but did not use it. They checked with the State Department and the State Department knew nothing of the charges and, accordingly, they were afraid to disseminate the story. What concerned him was [redacted] to find out how the story was treated. [redacted] that the United Press had referred the story to their libel lawyers who would not permit them to use the story. [redacted] also knew that INS had made inquiry at the State Department and [redacted] was wondering if there was anything we could give him on Onassis.

[redacted] briefly of Onassis' background and referred him to the December, 1954, issue of True Magazine which has an extensive story on Onassis as the man who bought the famous gambling resort at Monte Carlo.

[redacted]

[redacted] stated this explained the matter to his complete satisfaction and he expressed appreciation and said he would keep his eyes open.

cc: Mr. Boardman  
 Mr. Belmont  
 LBN:arm  
 (4)

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FOIPA# 264,631

RECORDED-31  
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EX - 107

11-20-54

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# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson *[Signature]*

DATE: Nov. 22, 1954

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Boardman \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_
- Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT: ARISTOTLE ONASSIS *Arabia*

*Political Matter - Arabia*

There is attached hereto, for record purposes, an article by Joachim Joesten which appeared in the Sunday Star on November 21, 1954, which purports to give the background of Onassis' dealing in Saudia, Arabia, which should be made a matter of record for possible future reference.

Attachment  
LBN:MP  
(2)

*[Faint handwritten notes and scribbles]*

*A*

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*FOIPA # 964,631*

RECORDED-31  
INDEXED-31

*101-10-245-33*  
*W. J. Hall*

DEC 6 1954

*[Handwritten signature]*

58 DEC 16 1954



...in the United States...  
...high. They include...  
...American investment...  
...periodically...  
...of...  
...appropriation.

Principal protagonists in the...  
...multilateral...  
...are.

The new King...  
...Arabia and two of his...  
...both cabinet...  
...exists.

The Arab...  
...Co. (Aramco).

German...  
...the Ruhr...  
...industry.

The weekly...  
...operator, Aristotle...  
...Onassis.

In the...  
...looms the bitter...  
...leud between Israel...  
...and the Arab League...  
...which is being...  
...further...  
...envenomed by...  
...lingering...  
...Nazi influences...  
...in the Near East.

### New It Started

The story—which has many...  
...elements of a real life...  
...“foreign intrigue”...  
...thriller—begins one...  
...year ago.

Old King Ibn Saud, one of...  
...the last and most colorful...  
...of feudal despots, was...  
...lying near death in his...  
...sumptuous summer...  
...palace at Taif, near...  
...Mecca. For more than...  
...half a century, the...  
...fierce, one-eyed...  
...warrior had ruled his...  
...arid realm with an...  
...iron hand, but now...  
...his strength was...  
...waning.

Crippled by arthritis and...  
...suffering from a heart...  
...disease, the Arab King...  
...was beset by serious...  
...financial troubles.

At the time the most...  
...powerful man in Saudi...  
...Arabia, outside of the...  
...royal family, was the...  
...Minister of Economy...  
...and Finance, Sheikh...  
...Abdullah Sulaiman, who...  
...had been keeper of the...  
...royal purse for over 30...  
...years. Ibn Saud had...  
...good reason to be...  
...grateful to the Sheikh...  
...for it was he who in...  
...1933-1938 had played a...  
...leading role in...  
...negotiating the...  
...profitable Aramco...  
...contract.

...of the...  
...President...  
...of the...  
...Committee...  
...this...  
...has...  
...been...  
...officially...  
...identified...  
...in the...  
...draft...  
...of the...  
...agreement...  
...of...  
...1933...  
...as...  
...“Onassis”...  
...Most...  
...recently...  
...he...  
...was...  
...Minister...  
...of...  
...Commerce.

The...  
...mission...  
...last...  
...several...  
...weeks...  
...in...  
...Germany...  
...King...  
...Bern...  
...Berlin...  
...Mannheim...  
...Duesseldorf...  
...and...  
...Essen...  
...among...  
...other...  
...cities. The...  
...Germans...  
...banned...  
...over...  
...sightward...  
...to...  
...accommodate...  
...the...  
...visitors...  
...from...  
...Arabia. They...  
...were...  
...lodged...  
...in the...  
...swankiest...  
...hotel...  
...suites...  
...and...  
...showered...  
...with...  
...honors. The...  
...Arabs...  
...repaid...  
...their...  
...hosts...  
...with...  
...erudite...  
...compliments.

“I thank...  
...merciful...  
...God...  
...that...  
...He...  
...allowed...  
...me...  
...to...  
...watch...  
...this...  
...spectacle,”...  
...the...  
...68-year-old...  
...Sheikh...  
...Sulaiman...  
...exclaimed...  
...as...  
...he...  
...stood...  
...gazing...  
...at...  
...the...  
...industrial...  
...beehive...  
...of...  
...the...  
...Oberhausen...  
...steel...  
...plant...  
...in...  
...the...  
...Ruhr. The...  
...party...  
...also...  
...visited...  
...the...  
...nearby...  
...Krupp...  
...works...  
...and...  
...famed...  
...Villa...  
...Huegel...  
...residence...  
...of...  
...the...  
...Krupp...  
...family.

Shortly...  
...after...  
...the...  
...delegation...  
...returned...  
...home...  
...King...  
...Ibn...  
...Saud...  
...died...  
...on...  
...November...  
...9...  
...1953. He...  
...was...  
...succeeded...  
...by...  
...his...  
...eldest...  
...son...  
...Saud. The...  
...new...  
...monarch...  
...took...  
...several...  
...of...  
...his...  
...brothers...  
...into...  
...his...  
...cabinet...  
...in...  
...particular



Dear King Saud



Ship King Onassis

Prince Faisal, who became...  
...Foreign Minister, and Prince...  
...Sultan, who was made Minister...  
...of...  
...Finance.

In the following months, a...  
...number of remarkable events...  
...transpired in quick succession...  
...of German...  
...and technicians...  
...began...  
...pouring...  
...into...  
...Saudi...  
...Arabia...  
...by...  
...midsummer...  
...of...  
...this...  
...year...  
...the...  
...brand-new...  
...German...  
...colony...  
...ranked...  
...second...  
...in...  
...numbers...  
...only...  
...the...  
...long-established...  
...American...  
...group...  
...centered...  
...on...  
...the...  
...American-operated...  
...oil...  
...fields.

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...HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED...  
...DATE 11/4/87 BY...

FOI PA# 244,631

109-12-2 45-33

...the new government...

...the new government...

Between these two deals King Saud gave a strong hint of his future policies with a virulent speech at Riyadh, in which he assailed Israel as a "cancer" that must be "excised." And a few months later Saud sent the American Economic Mission home. There were strong indications that his displeasure at American assistance to Israel was the dominant motive.

Meanwhile, it looked as though the Germans were going to take over Saudi Arabia lock, stock and barrel. But then a curious incident occurred that upset carefully laid plans.

Two of "Govenco's" chief executives, Heinrich Starke, managing director, and his assistant, Kurt Basse, quarreled. The latter, fired from a \$1,000-a-month job, took vengeance by whispering a long story of bribes and kickbacks into Foreign Minister Prince Faisal's ears.

According to Basse, the German firm had secured its juicy contract with the royal government by paying plenty of money to a young man named Mohamed Ali Misy, who happened to be the son of the late official under the Minister of Economic and Finance.

The government controller appointed by Sheik Sulaiman to supervise "Govenco's" operations was also getting a fat commission on all contracts approved by him. Basse charged.

...the new government...

Sheik Sulaiman suddenly resigned for reasons of health and has not been heard of since.

The men were finally permitted to leave the country, early in October, after United States Ambassador George Wadsworth also had interceded for them.

Last week the picture was further complicated by an allegation by a Greek claiming to have been an agent of Mr. Onassis' that Commerce Minister Ali Reza had been in the Onassis camp because of payment of a million-dollar bribe, to be divided among several palace officials.

The Saudi Arabia contract with Mr. Onassis still stands, of course, and therein lies another tale. There are several discriminatory clauses, such as the one barring Jews from Onassis-controlled companies, and a pledge not to trade with Israel.

But the real story behind the contract is more shocking: Young King Saud obviously is preparing the decks for eventual expropriation of the American oil companies' \$700 million investment in Saudi Arabia.

Atamco's contract still has 20 years to go, but the pace at which Saudi Arabia is moving indicates little hope that the company will last that long. The Saudi Arabian Maritime Tankers Co., which Mr. Onassis is setting up, will be more than a shipping firm. It will train a Saudi Arabian merchant marine.

As soon as King Saud thinks his own crews and tankers are ready, the world can look for a new expropriation move a la Mossadegh in Iran. The new Saudi Arabian monarch has profited from Mr. Mossadegh's mistakes.

When King Saud is ready for his big move, he'll have the tankers, the crews and all the technical help he needs to keep the Saudi oilfields going.

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