

NIARCHOS DISCLAIMS ATTACK ON ONASSIS

A dispatch from Cairo in yesterday's New York Times mistakenly referred to widely publicized charges of corruption made against the Argentine-Greek tanker owner Aristotle Onassis, by his "brother-in-law and shipping rival, Stavros Niarchos."

The dispatch dealt with a disputed tanker contract made a year ago by Mr. Onassis with the Saudi Arabian Government. The contract has been widely condemned in maritime nations as monopolistic and is at present the subject of discussion between the Saudi Arabian Government and the Arabian American Oil Company.

Mr. Niarchos refuted the reference to him yesterday and pointed out that the charges of corruption, which received wide circulation in recent months, had been made, "not by me, but by Mr. Onassis' one-time colleague and associate, Mr. Spyros Catapodis." He added that the documents "supporting the charges so made were examined by a well qualified American expert and found by him to be authentic."

As to the basic argument over the contracts, Mr. Niarchos said that he had deplored the Onassis contract and still objected to it as "being a political crime and an economic monstrosity." He also noted that his continuing objection to the exclusive contract did not make him "unique" since major oil companies and the governments of many nations, including the United States and Britain, had also protested it.

The Cairo dispatch also said that major oil companies of the world were now boycotting the Onassis fleet, seeking to force modification of the contract. It did not identify any of these companies, but in a later reference said that Arabian American Oil Company was operated by Standard Oil Company (New Jersey), Socony-Vacuum Oil Company, Standard Oil Company of California and the Texas Company.

An official of Socony-Vacuum said last night that there was no basis for the boycott statement and that his company had engaged in no boycott activities.

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