

The original documents are located in Box 3, folder “5-15-75 Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 14, 1975

Dear Mrs. Ford,

RE: Proposed Scenario for your Tea with Mrs. Giscard
d'Estaing on May 15, 1975 -- 3:30 p.m.

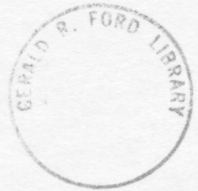
Attached for your review and approval is the proposed
scenario for your Tea with Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing on
Thursday, May 15, 1975 at 3:30 p.m.

approved _____

disapproved _____

Thank you.

Nancy R.



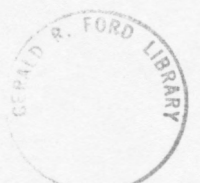
THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MRS. FORD:

Event:

Tea with Mrs. Anne-Aymone Giscard d'Estaing



Date/Time:

May 15, 1975 3:30 p. m.

Sequence of
Events:

3:25 p. m.

Nancy Ruwe will escort you to the Diplomatic Reception Room where you will wait for the arrival of Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing.

Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing will be accompanied by Mrs. Marianne Kosciusko-Morizet, wife of the French Ambassador, and Mrs. Stuart Rockwell, wife of the Deputy Chief of Protocol.

3:30 p. m.

Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing, Mrs. Kosciusko-Morizet and Mrs. Rockwell will arrive through the Southwest Gate. You will greet in front of the entrance to the Diplomatic Reception Room.

NOTE: There will be press photo coverage of the greeting.

3:35 p. m.

You will escort your guests to the Second Floor via elevator.

You will have tea with your guests in the West Hall.

3:45 p. m.

The President will be escorted to the Second Floor where he will join you and Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing, Mrs. Kosciusko-Morizet and Mrs. Rockwell for a brief greeting.

3:50 p. m.

The President will bid farewell and return to the Oval Office.

After the tea, you may wish to give your guests a tour of the Family Quarters.

You will escort your guests to the Diplomatic Reception Room and bid farewell.

NOTES:

A White House photographer will be present.

Suggested talking points and background information are attached. (Tab 1)



Nancy Ruwe



ADMINISTRATIVELY
CONFIDENTIAL

MRS. FORD'S MEETING WITH MRS. GISCARD D'ESTAING

Thursday, May 15, 1975

3:30 p.m.

The Residence



Background

You will be receiving the wife of the French President, Mrs. Anne-Aymone Giscard d'Estaing at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 15. She will be accompanied by the wife of the French Ambassador, Mrs. Marianne Kosciusko-Morizet.

Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing will arrive in the United States on May 12 on a private visit to attend the New York City Ballet's Ravel Festival on May 14. She will come to Washington on May 15 for her call on you. She will also be the guest of honor at a dinner given by the French Ambassador the evening of the 15th. Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing will return to France, via New York, the morning of May 16. (We are providing a special mission USAF aircraft for the flight from Andrews to JFK to permit her to make connections.)

Biographic sketches of Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing and Mrs. Kosciusko-Morizet are at Tab A. A schedule of Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing's visit to the U.S. is at Tab B, and a translation of an interview which she gave to the French weekly Le Point on April 21 is at Tab C.

Recommended Talking Points

1. Welcome Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing to the White House and note how disappointed you were to have been unable to meet her in Martinique.
2. Inquire about both her visit to the New York City Ballet Festival for the Ravel Festival and her trip to the Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center with Mrs. Rockefeller.

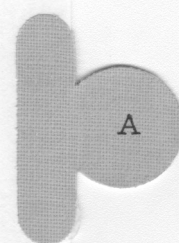
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3. Discuss the respective roles of First Ladies in the United States and France.
4. Inquire about Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing's interest in social welfare matters. (She recently gave a talk on this topic at a meeting in Poitiers (Pwa-ti-ey).)
5. Mention how much Miss Susan Ford enjoyed meeting Miss Valerie-Anne Giscard d'Estaing last month.
6. Note that Miss Ford attends the Holton Arms School and ask whether it is true that Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing's mother also attended the school.
7. State that you and the President are very much looking forward to a State visit by the French President and Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing in 1976. (NOTE: This is not yet the subject of public discussion.)

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Marianne Kosciusko-Morizet

Marianne Kosciusko-Morizet, whose nickname is "Yanie", was born in Dreux, France. Her family originally came from Champagne and Alsace. She is the daughter of André Morizet, who was Mayor and Senator of Boulogne-sur-Seine, a large industrial city on the outskirts of Paris.

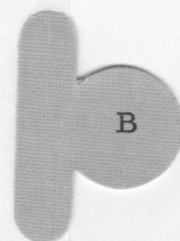
As a student of pharmacology she excelled in her studies, receiving a diploma from the Faculté de Paris and earning the high degree of "Interne des Hopitaux de Paris" which entitled her to serve a residency in the Paris hospitals.

During the war she took an active part in the Resistance at her husband's side.

A career woman, she has successfully combined the work of directing her own pharmacy with bringing up her four children and performing her duties as wife of an ambassador.

Hobbies: Madame Kosciusko-Morizet is very skilled with her hands and takes great pleasure in decorating her home (she regularly attends antique auctions) and loves to entertain.

She personally tends her garden and is quite talented in the art of flower arrangement.



Schedule for the Visit of

Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing to the US - May 12-16, 1975

Monday, May 12

- 3:55 p.m.
- Arrival in New York (Air France Flight 077)
 - French Consulate General*
 - Family dinner at the home of Count and Countess de Brantes (the Count is the brother of Mme. Giscard d'Estaing)

Tuesday, May 13

- [10:00 a.m.
- Possible visit to the NBC Studio]
- 11:00 a.m.
- Visit to the Metropolitan Museum
- 12:30 p.m.
- Lunch in the Museum Director's dining room (20 people)
- 2:00 - 2:30 p.m.
- Visit to the Guggenheim Museum
 - Return to the French Consulate General
- 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
- Reception at the French Cultural Center. Speech and conferral of Ravel medals.
- 6:45 - 8:30 p.m.
- Reception of the French community at the Consulate General (approx. 200 people)
 - Private dinner

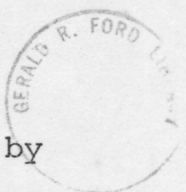
* While in New York, Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing will be staying at the French Consulate General, 972 Fifth Avenue, tel. RE7-9700.

Visit of Mrs. Giscard
d'Estaing (continued)

- 2 -

Wednesday, May 14

- 10:30 a.m. - Visit to Memorial Hospital (cancer care units and research laboratories of Sloan-Kettering) with Mrs. Rockefeller
- 12:30 p.m. - Lunch at the France-America Society (150 people). Speech.
- Afternoon free (Shopping at Brooks Bros.)
- 7:00 p.m. - Gala evening dedicated to Ravel at the Lincoln Center, followed by a dinner dance.



Thursday, May 15

- 10:30 a.m. - Departure from New York (LaGuardia - American Airlines)
- 11:30 a.m. - Arrival in Washington* (National Airport)
- 12:15 - 1:00 p.m. - Visit to Children's Hospital, 2125 13th Street, N.W.
- Private luncheon at French Embassy Residence
- 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. - Tea at the White House with Mrs. Ford (accompanied by Mrs. Kosciusko-Morizet)
 - enter via SW Gate.
- 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. - Visit to the Phillips Collection
- 8:00 p.m. - Dinner at the Residence with personalities of political and art circles of the capital (approx. 40 people)

*While in Washington, Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing will be staying at the French Embassy Residence.

Visit of Mrs. Giscard
d'Estaing (continued)

- 3 -

Friday, May 16

Departure for New York from Andrews
Air Force Base [leaving Residence at
9:00 a.m. (if flight is by Jetstar),
at 8:45 (if by Convair)]

9:30 a.m.

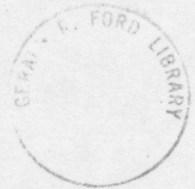
- Direct transfer from plane to
Air France flight 010

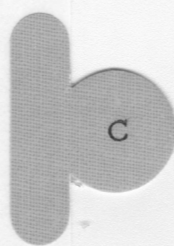
10:00 a.m.

- Departure for Paris

10:10 a.m.

- Arrival in Paris





INTERVIEW

MRS. GISCARD D'ESTAING INTERVIEWED BY
CHRISTINE CLERC AND JACQUES DUQUESNE OF LE POINT
APRIL 21, 1975

COMMENTARY:

For the first time, the wife of the President of the Republic, Anne-Aymone Giscard d'Estaing, participated in a political meeting, that of Edgar Faure's* group, the New Social Contract, at Poitiers. Does this act announce a new way of construing the role of the First Lady of France?

LE POINT: You made your entrance into politics then at Poitiers.

MRS. GISCARD D'ESTAING: That's saying a lot. The group of the New Social Contract is not a political party.

LE POINT: Well, they talk politics...

MRS. GISCARD D'ESTAING: They talk politics, but at Poitiers that was not my topic. My topic was social welfare, a question which interests me. Mr. Edgar Faure invited me, specifically because of International Women's Year; the President of the Republic encouraged me strongly to go, and I chose the theme for my participation.

LE POINT: Do you often receive such invitations?

MRS. GISCARD D'ESTAING: No, this was the first.

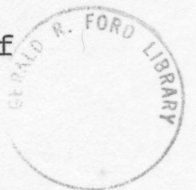
LE POINT: Would you go to a Communist meeting if you were invited?

MRS. GISCARD D'ESTAING: If I were invited, why not?

LE POINT: Do politics interest you?

MRS. GISCARD D'ESTAING: One cannot be disinterested in what goes on in his country. But it is a delicate

*Edgar Faure is President of the French National Assembly.



affair for the wife of the President of the Republic to participate publicly in a political debate: in effect, she cannot speak on her behalf alone, as a woman deputy can.

LE POINT: The President of the Republic has been increasing symbolic gestures in other domains to promote change. But you have not. You seem to exemplify the traditional role of the wife in the shadow of her husband.

MRS. GISCARD D'ESTAING: First, as for change, I've initiated some myself. It has been on a smaller scale of course, but my field of operation is narrow: I have to go about progressively. I have the impression that you are confusing my situation with that of the women ministers, and it's not at all the same thing. I am only the wife of the President of the Republic.

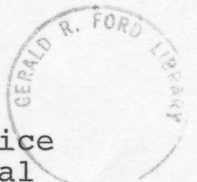
LE POINT: Basically, you represent housewives then.

MRS. GISCARD D'ESTAING: I don't have any problem with that. It is good that women can choose between two situations. I'm convinced that a housewife can have a very full life. I also feel that it would be reasonable to give housewives a salary. Knowing the price of collectives such as nurseries, you could measure the service that women who raise their own children render to the community. It's logical that this service be recompensed. Another situation which seems completely unjust to me is that of women who become widows before they are 55 or who become divorced; thus, losing not only the rights to their husband's retirement benefits but also, a little later, their social security.

LE POINT: Do women write to you about this?

MRS. GISCARD D'ESTAING: I receive a great deal of mail. Because of this, I've had to organize an office - you see, I do nonetheless have a small professional activity. There are those who ask for financial help, or aid in resolving administrative problems. Many others are just giving their opinion.

LE POINT: Has anyone written to you about unemployment?



MRS. GISCARD D'ESTAING: Up until now, not so much. However, I do receive many requests from people who are unable to meet payments due to rent increases.

LE POINT: Does all this information that you receive from the mail cause you to sometimes reflect on it with the President?

MRS. GISCARD D'ESTAING: Certainly.

LE POINT: Have you been able to preserve your family life this past year?

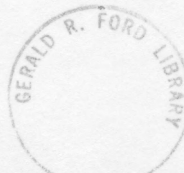
MRS. GISCARD D'ESTAING: Just about. We manage to get together with our four children, for example, at least one evening a week and often more. And then you know that we take our vacation together normally.

LE POINT: During your vacation you even did delta-wing gliding - a dangerous sport.* This surprised people because it doesn't conform to your image.

MRS. GISCARD D'ESTAING: You don't think so? I had already made parachute jumps, so I found that rather exhilarating.

LE POINT: Here at the Elysee, do you want to make your mark in decorating or in action?

MRS. GISCARD D'ESTAING: I would like to change the traditional image of the wife of the Chief of State to make it coincide with the aspirations of the modern woman.



*A sport which consists of wearing delta-wings (kite-type construction) for flying downhill.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 12, 1975



MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. FORD

FROM WILLIAM R. CODUS *WRC*

SUBJECT SCENARIO OF MRS. GISCARD D'ESTAING'S
VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

Attached is a brief scenario of Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing's visit to the United States this week which I thought you would like to have before your tea on May fifteenth.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520



May 12, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. FORD

FROM WILLIAM R. CODUS *WRC*

SUBJECT SCENARIO OF MRS. GISCARD D'ESTAING'S
VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

1975 MAY 14

PM

1:39

Attached is a brief scenario of
Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing's visit to the United States
the week which I thought you would like to have
before your tea on May fifteenth.

THE VISIT OF
MADAME GISCARD D'ESTAING
TO THE
UNITED STATES
MAY 12-16, 1975

Monday, May 12, 1975

3:55pm Arrive New York aboard Air France flight #077.
evening Private dinner with M. and Mme. de Brantes.



Tuesday, May 13, 1975

11:00am Visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.
12:30pm Luncheon in the Director's Dining Room at the
Metropolitan Museum of Art.
2:30pm Visit to the Guggenheim Museum.
5:30pm Reception at the French Cultural Center.
6:45pm Reception of the French community at the Consulate.
8:30pm Private dinner.

Wednesday, May 14, 1975

10:30am Visit to Memorial Hospital to view the cancer research
laboratories of the Sloan-Kettering Center with Mrs.
Nelson Rockefeller.
12:30pm Lunch given by the France-American Society.
7:00pm Gala evening in honor of Ravel at Lincoln Center, fol-
lowed by a dinner dance at the Center.

Thursday, May 15, 1975

10:30am Depart New York.
11:25am Arrive Washington.
12:30pm Visit to Children's Hospital.
Private lunch.

Thursday, May 15, 1975 (continued)

3:30pm Tea with Mrs. Ford at the White House.
5:30pm Visit the Phillips Collection.
8:00pm Dinner at the Residence of the French Ambassador.

Friday, May 16, 1975

8:00am Depart Washington enroute New York (Andrews Air
Force Base).
9:00am Arrive JFK Airport, New York.
10:00am Depart for Paris aboard Air France flight #010.
10:10pm Arrive Paris.



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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20520

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MRS. GERALD FORD
THE WHITE HOUSE



Mrs. Gerald Ford



PRÉSIDENCE
DE LA
RÉPUBLIQUE

DUPRÉ ET C^{ie}
141 FAUB. ST. HONORÉ, PARIS

MADAME VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING

We were so sorry you
were prevented from coming
to Antinique with the
President. With our very

best wishes for a prompt
recovery, we ask you to
accept those "souvenirs" of
France.

A. Picard & Co. St. Louis

V. Picard & Co. St. Louis

MADAME VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 25, 1975

Dear Mrs. Ford,

Per our phone conversation this morning, I am sending you the attached items that I received from the French Embassy.

Thank you.

Nancy R.



MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

1709

March 25, 1975



MEMORANDUM FOR NANCY RUWE

FROM: Jeanne W. Davis *JWD*

SUBJECT: Letter to Mrs. Ford from Madame Giscard d'Estaing

In the attached personal letter to Mrs. Ford, Madame Giscard d'Estaing says that she will be coming to the United States to attend the Ravel Festival at the New York City Ballet. She accepts with pleasure Mrs. Ford's kind invitation to tea. Madame Giscard indicates that she will be in Washington on May 15 and hopes that the date will be convenient for Mrs. Ford. In closing, Madame Giscard expresses regret that Mrs. Ford was not able to accompany the President to Martinique and indicates that she looks forward to making Mrs. Ford's acquaintance during her forthcoming trip to the United States.

Madame Giscard's letter is being transmitted to the State Department for an official translation, which we will forward to you when it is received. As I indicated, we are also checking into Madame Giscard's schedule during her stay in the U. S.

Madame V. Giscard d'Estaing

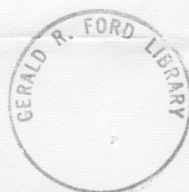
Le 20 mars 1975

Madame

Votre lettre si aimable m'a
vivement touchée et je vous en
remercie de tout coeur.

Je dois en effet faire aux
Etats-Unis un court séjour à
l'occasion du Festival Ravel
au New-York City Ballet, et
je me réjouis beaucoup de
participer à cette célébration de
l'amitié entre nos deux pays.

Ce sera avec un très grand
plaisir que je me rendrai à



2791 mai 08
votre gracieuse invitation à
prendre le thé avec vous. Je
serai à Washington le 15
mai et je souhaite vivement
que cette date vous convienne.

Le Président de la République
et moi-même avons profondé-
ment regretté que vous ayez été
empêchée de venir à la Partinque
et je serai particulièrement heureuse
de faire votre connaissance à
l'occasion de mon voyage aux
Etats-Unis.

Verailles, Madame, partager
avec le Président Gerald Ford
l'expression des souvenirs am-
icaux que mon mari et moi
vous prions de trouver ici.

Yvonne Ficaud d'Estaing.

A Madame

Madame Gerald Ford

PALAIS
DE
L'ÉLYSÉE

*Ambassade de France
aux Etats-Unis*

*Mr. Gerald Ford
The White House*



MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

1709

March 27, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR SUSAN PORTER

FROM:

Jeanne W. Davis 

SUBJECT:

Madame Giscard d'Estaing's Visit to the U.S.

Attached is the official translation of Madame Giscard's letter to Mrs. Ford, together with her schedule. Would you please let us know if Mrs. Ford will be available to receive her on May 15.

cc: Nancy Ruwe

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF LANGUAGE SERVICES

(TRANSLATION)

LS NO. 48014
MM/SKP
French



Dear Mrs. Ford:

Thank you so much for your gracious letter, which I greatly appreciated.

I do indeed plan to make a short visit to the United States on the occasion of the New York City Ballet's Ravel Festival and I am delighted to take part in this celebration of the friendship between our two countries.

I shall be most pleased to accept your gracious invitation to have tea with you. I shall be in Washington on May 15 and I very much hope this date is convenient for you.

2:30 IS BEING
EXPLORED.
S.

The President of the Republic and I were so sorry that you were unable to come to Martinique and I am particularly looking forward to meeting you during my trip to the United States.

My husband and I extend our cordial wishes to you and to President Ford.

Sincerely yours,

[s] Anne-Aymone Giscard d'Estaing

Schedule for Madame Giscard d'EstaingMonday, May 12

Arrive New York

Dinner with Mr. and Mrs. de Brantes
(relatives)Tuesday, May 13

morning

Visit Metropolitan Museum of Art

Lunch with Museum Director

afternoon

Reception at French Cultural Center

Dinner given by Ambassador Kosciusko-
Morizet in New YorkWednesday, May 14

morning

Visit Museum of Modern Art

Lunch given by The Honorable William
Burden, President, France-Amerique Society

evening

Ravel Centennial Gala

Thursday, May 15

11:30 a.m.

Arrive Washington

•Visit a children's hospital

Lunch at Embassy

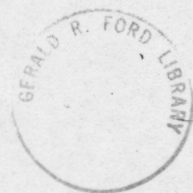
Tea with Mrs. Ford (time uncertain)

Visit Phillips Gallery

Dinner given by French Ambassador Kosciusko-
MorizetFriday, May 16

10:00 a.m.

Depart JFK Airport, New York, for Paris


 CK.
 2:30 - 3:00?

New Role for Mrs. Giscard: Husband's Unofficial Envoy



The New York Times/Don Hogan Charles

Anne-Aymone Giscard d'Estaing wore Courrèges cream-colored dress

By MARYLIN BENDER

Shortly before Anne-Aymone Giscard d'Estaing set out on her current, semi-private, semiofficial visit to the United States without her husband, the French newspaper *Le Monde* analyzed to its usual fare-thee-well the role of Presidential wife.

By sending her out alone on national conferences and on overseas trips, is President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing assigning her a political duty? Is he cracking cherished French Republican tradition and embarking on "an era of dynasties"? *Le Monde* seemed to be concerned that he might, as it drew the inevitable comparisons between the Giscards and the Kennedys. "The hostess of the Elysée cannot be a Jackie Kennedy," *Le Monde* asserted.

Observing Mrs. Giscard as she moves through the rituals of her four-day visit to New York and Washington—blessing the New York City Ballet and its "Hommage à Ravel" festival, and touring Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center with Happy Rockefeller as she did here yesterday, having tea with Betty Ford as she will in Washington today—one concludes that the Giscard-Kennedy parallels are not close enough for *Le Monde* to worry about.

At 42, Anne-Aymone Giscard d'Estaing is a fragile-looking Brunette with

doesn't particularly admire because it lacks a scent.

In 1952, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, then a precocious, 26-year-old inspector in the Finance Ministry, sent anemones and poetry to 19-year-old Anne-Aymone de Brantes, who was of a titled, military and landowning family. He had met her recently and would marry her at Christmastime. She was taking courses in bilingual secretarial skills and art history.

Mrs. Giscard acknowledged yesterday that she "regretted" not having a university education, "but I'm from another generation." "My mother didn't think it was necessary. Today every girl must have training, so that she can be able to support herself. She can't ask for equality with men if she is not independent," she said.

Mrs. Giscard has been nudged into public duties as a proponent of women's rights. Although she is a devout Catholic and her younger sister, Marguerite, is a prioress in a Benedictine nunnery in Senegal, Mrs. Giscard firmly supports recent legislative changes on birth control. Abortion and the sale of contraceptives have been legalized during her husband's administration.

On abortion: "Every woman normally feels great revulsion toward abortion, but one had to see the fact that many

Observing Mrs. Giscard as she moves through the rituals of her four-day visit to New York and Washington—blessing the New York City Ballet and its "Hommage à Ravel" festival, and touring Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center with Happy Rockefeller as she did here yesterday, having tea with Betty Ford as she will in Washington today—one concludes that the Giscard-Kennedy parallels are not close enough for Le Monde to worry about.

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pendent," she said.

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On abortion: "Every woman normally feels great revulsion toward abortion, but one had to see the fact that many

*'Every woman normally feels great
revulsion toward abortion, but one had to see
the fact that many women did seek it.'*

a reserved manner that breaks into a dazzling smile. Her personal passions seem to be those shared by French and American aristocrats — those rather English fondnesses for flowers, horses, long weekends and other sojourns in the country—as well as a proficiency in sports, particularly skiing.

Friends ascribe some of her past shyness to extreme myopia and a vanity about being seen wearing eyeglasses. Some say one reason she has blossomed in the political spotlight is that she discovered contact lenses shortly before her husband ran for president last year.

Whatever the cause, Mrs. Giscard cherishes her privacy and seems determined to maintain it. She still goes shopping alone and walks her aging cocker spaniel, Bambou, in the Bois de Boulogne alone.

"Why shouldn't I? Who would want to kill me? Kidnap me? Perhaps. But if I want to go into the Bois, no one knows in advance, so they can't make any preparations," she said yesterday in an interview at the French Consulate where she has stayed since her arrival last Monday.

With a slightly testy edge to her soft voice, she commented in fluent English on the "concern for my security in New York." Right at the heels of spectator pumps are one or more French security agents, distinguishable from their American counterparts by the Cardin-ish flare of their suits.

Life seems freer in Paris because the French First Family continue to live in their apartment in the Rue Bénouville, near the Bois in the fashionable 16th arrondissement. The excuse for using the Elysée Palace as an office is that it has too few bedrooms to accommodate a family of four children.

The Giscard children are: Valérie-Anne, 21, who works for the Secretary of State for Culture; Henri, 18, who is studying political science; Louis, 16, and Jacinte (which means hyacinth), 15. The two younger children attend private high schools in Paris.

The daughters were christened botanically, according to maternal family tradition. Valérie-Anne is a play on the herb valerian. Mrs. Giscard's name is a word play on anemone, a flower she

women did seek it. The women who were richest could have their abortions abroad where it was legal. The only victims were women who had no money. It was very unjust. Society ought to make conditions so that women would desire to have their children."

On contraception: "It's a private, moral matter everyone should decide for herself. Those whose ethics or religion do not forbid it must be allowed to have it. It's the best way to prevent abortion."

The new law on contraceptive sales removes the requirement of parental permission for those under 18. "Of course, that sounds terrible," she said, "but I don't suppose any girl dared ask her parents so the problem stayed."

The Government bill for liberalizing divorce in the direction of mutual consent is coming up for debate soon. Present law demands proof of wrongdoing by one party. "It would be progress to find a new way where there would be no feeling of guilt," Mrs. Giscard said. "No one feels successful when you have to divorce."

Her oldest brother, Paul, the Marquis de Brantes, married a divorced American Suzanne Solomon Cardozo, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Harry A. Solomon of New York. Her younger brother, Guy, 37, an investment counselor, has lived here since 1965. His wife, the former Marina Boissevain, is a member of a Huguenot family that fled from France to The Netherlands in the 17th century.

Marina de Brantes, chairman of the New York City Ballet Ravel festival, invited Mrs. Giscard here to attend the benefit last night.

In her pre-presidential era, Mrs. Giscard enjoyed the luxury of not caring too much about fashion. She preferred sweater and skirt simplicity and ordered all of her formal clothes from one couturier, Jean-Louis Scherrer. Now she must act as an ambassadress of the haute couture, with a wardrobe from Dior, Courrèges, Givenchy and Chanel as well.

"Thank goodness, though," she commented about the decline of fashion importance. "It was one way of keeping women in a very silly condition," she said.

