

# French Embassy in Washington Will Be Opened to UPI Editors

Washington—UPI—Popular French Ambassador and Madame Herve Alphand Thursday invited wives of delegates attending the conference of United Press International editors and publishers to tour the palatial French Embassy during the two-day meeting in early September.

The Alphands, one of the most glamorous diplomatic couples in the nation's capital, have set aside 3:30 p.m. Sept. 9 for a reception and tour of the embassy.

The greystone mansion on Kalorama rd. is one of the landmarks of embassy row. Its fabulous furnishings, magnificent chandeliers, Aubusson carpets and paintings, by the masters, all have been imported from France.

Built in 1910 The imposing mansion was built in 1910 as the home of the late John Hays Hammond, the mining engineer who made millions with the diamond syndicate of South Africa.

It was purchased by the French government in 1936 and it has been refurbished several times by each new embassy chatelaine. The embassy got its latest face-lifting last April in preparation of President de Gaulle's visit to Washington.

Nicole Alphand, a tall hazel-eyed blond beauty who is a walking model of French chic, has added her own artistic touches to the embassy. The most breath-taking are her flower arrangements on the

ground floor of the 69-room structure. Visitors will be struck by enormous bouquets of multi-colored garden flowers, many a deep blue, which fan out from oversize brassy glass shaped vases. The trick is that while most of the posies are artificial, though it's impossible to tell without touching, a few also are fresh. The effect is dazzling.

**Overlooks Park** The embassy has a commanding view of Rock Creek Park and its French doors open on a lovely terrace overlooking rolling lawns that look like velvet.

The entrance hall is furnished with a red velvet large Louis XV sofa and six match-

ing armchairs. The dining room is paneled with green painted 18 century mythological scenes of gay gods and goddesses. It has a large round dining table with 40 Louis XV white and gold antique chairs upholstered in light brown velvet.

On the walls are still lifes by Matisse, Bonnard, Vlaminck and Lortjou and a sea picture by Claude Monet.

**One by Candlelight** The main drawing room is beautifully appointed with empire sofas, chairs and tables. The upholstery is striped almond green satin and in addition to tapestries, the decorations include antique candelabra and a marble

For smaller receptions and parties, the Alphands use a more intimate smaller drawing room furnished in the Louis XV period. The marble hearth is pink and grey. The blue rug is Persian.

Dinners at the French Embassy are always by candlelight. The gourmet menus are prepared in the embassy kitchen by — of all things — an Italian chef. The finest of wines are served. And champagne is a "must" with every dessert.

The embassy is known for its sevre porcelain, baccarat glass, table linen of white batiste embroidered with nosegays of tiny flowers and celebrated silverware.

### FEAR NEW RECESSION

Ann Arbor, Mich.—UPI—A survey by the University of Michigan Research Center indicated today fears are on the rise that another recession is near. The center said after polling 1,400 persons that three out of every five believed a new recession would strike within the next year or two. One out of six said they believed a new recession had already started.

Arlington, Ore.—UPI—An assured minimum budget fund of approximately \$9,000 and a six-county planning agency has been formed here in anticipation of an unprecedented industrial growth in eastern Oregon.

Florence, Ore.—UPI—Ray Stevens, 60, of Berkeley, Calif., attempted to board his boat from a city dock.

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