New York a Home to Mme. Mendes-France, Who Waited Out Most of the War Here
By TANIA LONGSpecial to The New York Times.
New York Times (1857-Current file); Nov 18, 1954; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2002)
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OTTAWA, Nov. 17—To the wife of French Premier Pierre Mendès-France New York is almost a second home.

The attractive, dark-haired, gray-eyed woman who is accompanying her husband on his whirlwind visit to Ottawa, Washington and New York spent most of the World War II years there with her two young sons. A refugee from France with whose Vichy Government her husband had broken, Mme. Mendès-France, like so many other French women, waited for peace to come while her husband served with the Free French forces in Britain.

Her years of exile in New York have left many happy memories and resulted in the making of many friends. Her one regret on this trip is that there will be so little time to see the city she came to love and to renew old friendships.

Mme. Mendès-France received a group of women reporters before leaving with her husband for the United States.

The Premier is broad and stocky, but she is slight and slim. Where he appears impassive, almost hard, she is gentle, intensely feminine and full of charm. She smiles easily, which he does not, and her large eyes sparkle.

Mme. Mendès-France is soft spoken and modest in demeanor. She knows how to put people at ease, and she looks much too young to be the mother of two sons, 18 and 20 years old.

The Premier's wife is an Egyptian by birth. She had an English nurse at an early age, which accounts for her excellent English, and later went to study in France. As she put it, she fell in love there and except for one quick trip before her marriage has not been back to Egypt since.

Mme. Mendès-France is an artist. She paints portraits and still-lifes but finds very little time for her painting these days. She has made many quick sketches of her husband but has never attempted a job with a subject with whom she is emotionally involved.

Mme. Mendès-France made it clear she was not altogether delighted with her new life as wife of the Premier. Her husband is so busy that he is away from home from early morning until late at night. He rarely returns for dinner before 10 or 11, she said, and rises at 7 o'clock.



AGIP (Cohen)
Mme. Pierre Mendès-France

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