

RUSSIA ASSURED BY MRS. KENNEDY

No Policy Break, Book Says She Wrote Khrushchev

New York, Feb. 19 (AP)—Ten days after the assassination of President Kennedy, his wife wrote to Nikita S. Khrushchev, Soviet Premier, "You and he were adversaries, but you were allied in a determination that the world should not be blown up."

Mrs. Kennedy's letter to the Russian leader said she was certain that President Johnson would continue this policy.

The letter, dated December 1, 1963, appears in the fourth and final installment of *Look* Magazine's serialization of the book, "The Death of a President," by William Manchester. Writing the letter, Manchester said, was one of Mrs. Kennedy's last actions in the White House.

Khrushchev Thanked

She began it by thanking Khrushchev for sending his deputy, Anastas I. Mikoyan, to represent him at the President's funeral. She said she had read that Mrs. Khrushchev "had tears in her eyes" when she signed the book of mourning at the American Embassy in Moscow, and added, "Please thank her for that."

But the burden of her letter was political.

"I know that President Johnson will continue the policy in which my husband so deeply believed—a policy of terror and restraint—and he will need your help," Mrs. Kennedy wrote.

Referring to the relationship between Mr. Kennedy and Khrushchev, she said, "You respected each other and could deal with each other." What troubled her husband, Mrs. Kennedy wrote, was the danger that war might be set off "not so much by the big men as by the little ones."

Mr. Kennedy and Khrushchev met in Vienna in June, 1961. Mrs. Kennedy's letter recalled the "kindness" extended to her husband and herself by the Soviet leader and his wife at that conference.

On October 16, 1964, Moscow announced that Khrushchev had been deposed.

In the final installment of Manchester's book, he reports:

1. Mr. Johnson had "tentatively" decided that a commission composed exclusively of Texans should be organized to investigate Mr. Kennedy's assassination. The Deputy Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach, later named Attorney General, learned of this plan "to his horror" and discussed it with a Washington attorney, Abe Fortas, now a Supreme Court Justice, who called the plan a "ghastly mistake."

2. Robert F. Kennedy, attorney general, arrived late for Mr. Johnson's first Cabinet meeting and entered the room while the President was speaking. Several members rose, shook hands with Kennedy, or clapped him on the back.

The book reports that Mr. Johnson said he had heard Kennedy deliberately interrupted the meeting. Kennedy denies this.

None the less, Mr. Johnson felt that Kennedy "destroyed" the effect of what he was saying. Manchester quotes one of those present as saying, "There was real bitterness in Lyndon's voice on this one."

Gifts Placed In Coffin

3. Mrs. Kennedy placed two of her Christmas gifts to her husband in the coffin before it was sealed, along with letters from herself and her daughter Caroline and an illegible scrawl pencilled by her son, John.

The gifts were an \$800 pair of cufflinks and a scrimshaw, a decoration carved from whale bone. It bore the presidential seal.

"You must write a letter to daddy and tell him how much you love him," Mrs. Kennedy told Caroline. The little girl then held her brother's hand and helped him scribble some words.

Robert Kennedy accompanied her to the room in the White House where the coffin rested. Mrs. Kennedy placed the three letters and two gifts in it. Her brother-in-law put beside them a silver rosary given him by his wife, Ethel, at their wedding.

Then he removed his PT-109 tie clip—modeled after the craft John Kennedy had commanded during the Pacific war—and left it with the other articles in the coffin.

Mr. Kennedy left the room carrying a lock of her husband's hair.

4. At first, Mr. Johnson asked virtually all the Kennedy aides to remain in office. But later, Manchester wrote, "the very mention of their names would annoy him."

So did the PT-109 tie clip. Mr. Johnson, the book says, came to "resent the Kennedy aura" to such an extent that any White House employee seen wearing the tie clip "would run the risk of incurring the presidential wrath."

5. The possibility that Mr. Kennedy might have been the victim of a conspiracy continued to haunt Washington during the first days of Mr. Johnson's regime. Lee Harvey Oswald, the suspected assassin, was shot to death by the late Jack Ruby two days after Mr. Kennedy was killed, heightening the suspicion of a plot.

Therefore, James Rowley,

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

Rowley

- The Washington Post _____
- Times Herald _____
- The Washington Daily News _____
- The Evening Star (Washington) _____
- The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
- Daily News (New York) _____
- Sunday News (New York) _____
- New York Post _____
- The New York Times _____
- World Journal Tribune (New York) _____
- The Sun (Baltimore) _____
- The Worker _____
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- People's World _____

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of the Secret Service, did not want Mr. Johnson to walk behind the gun carriage bearing Mr. Kennedy's body during the funeral. At first, the President agreed. But he said later:

"Lady Bird told me I should do it, so I changed my mind."

6. Mr. Johnson showed Theodore Sorensen, special counsel to Mr. Kennedy, an FBI memo advising him that the heads of "an unfriendly power" had been hoping for Mr. Kennedy's death.

The book says the memo contained no names or hard facts and a code word had been used to identify the FBI's informant. Sorensen studied the memo for a moment and said, "meaningless."

7. Charles Bartlett, newspaper columnist and a friend of the Kennedys, told Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense, that Mr. Kennedy had planned to name him Secretary of State during his second Administration. Bartlett said the President had told him this.

McNamara indicated that he also had heard the report and said, "I don't know what I could have done about policy, but I could have helped with the Administration."

8. Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., a White House aide, asked John Bailey, Democratic national chairman, if it would be possible to drop Mr. Johnson from the 1964 presidential ticket. The book quotes John Kenneth Galbraith's writer and economist, as saying Schlesinger dwelt on the possibility of a ticket headed by Robert Kennedy and Senator Humphrey of Minnesota in the 1964 elections.

Bailey replied that it might be technically feasible to dump Mr. Johnson but this would cause the Democrats to lose the election.

Schlesinger suggested that either Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York or former Vice-President Nixon would win anyway, by carrying the big industrial states. Schlesinger added, "But I suppose Johnson is astute enough to recognize this, too, which means that he may be driven to an aggressive liberal program."

Look's final installment of the Manchester book carries the story from the night of the autopsy in Bethesda Naval Hospital through Mr. Kennedy's interment in the Arlington National Cemetery.

At the hospital, Mrs. Kennedy was told that a man suspected of shooting her husband had been captured and that he was

be a Communist. She thought this robbed Mr. Kennedy's death of any meaning and said, "He didn't even have the satisfaction of being killed for civil rights—it had to be some silly little Communist."

Seemed Impervious

Mrs. Kennedy seemed impervious to sedatives as she waited for the autopsy and the embalming of her husband's body to be completed.

A physician injected 100 milligrams of a sedative, "a formidable dose," into her arm. He then went to sleep himself. Ten minutes later, he was awakened by the sound of Mrs. Kennedy walking through the room with a firm step, looking for a cigarette.

McNamara came to the hospital and sat on the floor in the kitchen while Mrs. Kennedy talked, unceasingly. Eventually, she asked, "Where am I to live now?"

Mr. Kennedy had sold their home in Washington after he was elected.

Manchester wrote that Mrs. Kennedy now wanted to return to that house, even though she foresaw it would be "unbearable" to live there alone.

The author quoted McNamara as saying he would repurchase the house for her.

Robert Kennedy kept busy with some necessary arrangements.

He told the White House staff to remove his brother's personal possessions from the west wing before Mrs. Kennedy returned. He asked that the Navy hymn be played during the funeral procession.

Meanwhile, morticians were preparing the President's body. David Powers, one of his aides, chose the clothes, a blue-gray suit, black shoes, a blue tie with a pattern of dots, and a white silk shirt with the monogram, "JFK" on the sleeve.

As time passed, Mrs. Kennedy showed signs of exhaustion, but she said, "I'm not leaving here till Jack goes. But I won't cry till it's all over."

Mrs. Kennedy did not want the coffin left open. However, Manchester wrote, McNamara told her that people would want to view the body of a head of state.

In the end, after some discussion, Robert Kennedy made the decision. He ordered the coffin closed.

Manchester wrote on the morning after the assassination, Mr. Johnson wanted to move his aides into some of the offices in the White House by 9.30. The writer said that when Robert Kennedy heard this, he was "appalled" and gasped, "Oh, no." The book says:

"As one Chief-Executive's furnishings departed, another's arrived—a huge gold-framed portrait of Lyndon Johnson, brought over from his vice-presidential office, was swiftly hung."

However, those who saw Mr. Johnson that morning found him anguished, Manchester wrote. The President reportedly told the British Ambassador, Sir David Ormsby-Gore, that if his family were to vote on whether he should remain in the presidency, there would be three votes for resigning immediately—"and maybe four."

Manchester wrote that Mr. Johnson's "chameleon nature" had never been more evident.

Mr. Johnson saw former President Eisenhower standing beside the catafalque and told Mr. Eisenhower he would like to talk with him for about 20 minutes. Their conversation lasted two hours.

Manchester wrote Mr. Eisenhower told him the talk covered both foreign and domestic policy. The author quoted Mr. Eisenhower as saying, "He did seem less informed about foreign policy than about domestic policy."

While they were talking, Schlesinger's letter of resignation was placed before Mr. Johnson. He refused to accept it.

It is a tradition that Cabinet members submit their resignations to an incoming President. Mr. Eisenhower advised Mr. Johnson to follow this tradition and then take a few days to decide which he would accept. The President, apparently feeling the need for experienced advice everywhere, wanted no resignations at that time.

More friction between Mr. Johnson and Robert Kennedy arose over the question of when Mr. Johnson should address a joint session of the House and Senate, Manchester wrote. The new President wanted this to take place on Tuesday, November 26. Kennedy said he thought the event should be delayed until at least a day after his brother's funeral.

During the 14-minute ceremony at the Capitol rotunda, Mr. Kennedy told Caroline that they were going to "say goodbye" to Caroline's father. They walked to the coffin, knelt, closed their eyes, and kissed the flag covering it.

Manchester wrote that near the end of the funeral mass, Caroline noticed the tears in her mother's eyes, took her hand and said, "You'll be all right, mummy. Don't cry. I'll take care of you."

When the band began the presidential salute, "Hail to the Chief," Mrs. Kennedy said to her son, "John, you can salute daddy now and say good bye to him."

The little boy raised his hand. On the night of the funeral, Manchester wrote, Mrs. Kennedy and the Attorney General drove out to the grave in Arlington. She brought a spray of lilies of the valley.

At the grave site, they found a number of objects—a greener beret, a military policeman's brassard, a symbol of the Army's 3d Division. Kennedy pointed them out to his sister-in-law.

The author said only two military policemen were present in the cold and darkness. Mrs. Kennedy and the Attorney General knelt in the flickering light of the eternal flame and began praying.

The clocks in Washington tolled midnight.