

GERMAN DEFIANT ON BOOK CHANGES

Editor of Stern Vows to Run
Original Manchester Text

By PHILIP SHABECOFF

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BONN, Dec. 23 — The editor-in-chief of West Germany's illustrated magazine Stern said today he would ignore demands by Look magazine and begin serializing the original text of "The Death of a President" Jan. 15.

Henri Nannen, the editor, said by telephone that Look told him in a message yesterday that it was sending Stern revised proofs of the book about the assassination of President Kennedy.

He said the message asserted that it was "imperative" that only the revised version be published and demanded that the original proofs of the book by William Manchester be destroyed.

Mr. Nannen added that he understood Look was threatening legal action to prevent Stern from publishing the controversial book.

Look agreed to delete portions of the text after Mrs. John F. Kennedy objected to the original version on the ground that it contained references that related to the personal life of herself or her children.

Deleted Passages

Mr. Nannen said that as far as he knew the passages deleted by Look concerned relations between the Kennedy family and President Johnson.

"Perhaps this will not be very pleasant for the political career of Robert Kennedy, but that cannot keep us from printing the historical record," he declared.

"No passage in the book goes into the personal life of Mrs. Kennedy, but there are passages which are not very friendly to Johnson. I never read such a compelling book.

"If it hurt Mrs. Kennedy in any way I would naturally stop publication immediately. But I am convinced it is politics — Bobby's career — [that caused the objections to the book] and that is not our concern."