

Representatives Again Meet on Kennedy Book

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Sources Say Settlement Appears Close; Efforts Made to Block Foreign Versions

NEW YORK (AP)—Representatives of Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy and Harper & Row met again Friday to discuss revisions in "The Death of a President" amid reports that a settlement is imminent.

The negotiators were searching for an out-of-court agreement that would permit Harper & Row to publish William Manchester's book in April.

An agreement apparently will be reached when all passages in the 300,000-word manuscript which Mrs. Kennedy considers too personal are removed or revised. The book relates the events surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy.

A source close to the negotiation said: "There is generally a good feeling of working some of these things out." Two other sources said a settlement appeared close at hand.

Changes Submitted

A spokesman for the publisher said a copy of the revised manuscript had been sent to Simon H. Rifkind, a former federal judge who is counsel for Mrs. Kennedy. "The manuscript includes the changes we propose to make," the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, officials at Cowles Communications, Inc., considered sending an emissary to West Germany in an effort to persuade the illustrated magazine Stern, to follow revisions agreed to for serialization in Look magazine.

Stern's editor-in-chief, Henri Nannen, said that his magazine plans to print the complete and unchanged text. He said he was not bound by the settlement between Look and the Kennedys.

The publishers of Look agreed late Wednesday night to change or delete 1,600 words in its 60,000-word, four-part series beginning in the issue to be released Jan. 10.

Look paid Manchester \$665,000 for serial rights and then sold foreign rights to publications in West Germany, England, France and Italy. Nannen said Stern, with a circulation of 1,600,000, paid \$72,500 for the German language rights.

Nannen, vacationing at an undisclosed winter resort, said through a spokesman Friday that he was not worried about any legal steps Look might undertake. "I know the German press law better," he was quoted as saying.

The State Department in Washington has received some assurances from Nationalist China concerning unauthorized publication of an unrevised version of the book. Talks are taking place in Formosa between the U.S. Embassy and officials of the Chinese Nationalist government.

Mrs. Kennedy, who had originally asked Manchester to write the book, filed suit last week against Manchester, Harper & Row and Cowles Communications. She charged breach of contract and invasion of privacy.

A hearing in the suit is scheduled in Manhattan Supreme Court Tuesday, but if an agreement is reached with all parties before that time, presumably Mrs. Kennedy will withdraw her suit.

Mrs. Kennedy is scheduled to fly to Antigua in the British West Indies Monday with her two children. She is due to return Jan. 5.