

'Not a JFK Book,' Says Mrs. Alphand

By HEBE DORSEY

PARIS, April 4—Mrs. Herve Alphand today denied she was writing a book about the Kennedys. "It's about my eight years in Washington—and the Kennedys were only there three years. Of course, I talk about them as I do about a lot of other people."

Asked just how much, she answered: "One chapter out of the 10 will be about the Kennedys. Besides, I talk about them from my own standpoint—I describe their visits to the French Embassy, the dinner parties, and all that. But I certainly don't go into their private lives, which is none of my business. Somebody even implied that I was going to shed some light on the President's assassination. That's nonsense. I don't have a clue. I just tell how I heard about the assassination, what it meant to me, but it's all about my own reactions."

The Grasset publishing firm here announced that Mrs. Alphand's book ("no title yet," she said) would be published in the fall. "That's wishful thinking on their part," she said. "I started working six months ago but it's very slow going. I'm a very busy woman, we go out a lot, so goodness knows when I'll be able to finish."

"You see, I don't have any notes," she added. "I didn't know at the time that I might be writing a book. All I have are my appointment books and what I can remember. The whole thing is still in the embryo stage."

Mrs. Alphand also strongly denied that the French Foreign Ministry or the Elysee Palace objected to the book. "Nonsense," she said, "and they never objected to my working at Cardin's either. At the time, I asked for the permission and they very kindly granted it to me." However, Mrs. Alphand did say that she didn't know whether she would ever finish that book, let alone publish it. From the way she was talking, the chances are she won't.

WJT
4/4/67