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Taiwan Pledges Effort to Ban Pirate Edition of Kennedy Book

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TAIPEI, Taiwan, Dec. 24 — The Nationalist Chinese Government has pledged "its best effort" toward preventing any publication here of an unexpurgated edition of "The Death of a President."

According to Lai Chia chui, a spokesman for the Ministry on Foreign Affairs, his Government is acting at the suggestion of its Washington embassy. The matter has been discussed with the American embassy here but at the Chinese initiative, Mr. Lai said. The discussions have primarily been within the Government, between the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of the Interior, he said.

Informed American and Chi-

nees sources here believe there was no real threat that an unexpurgated edition would be published in Taiwan. Mr. Lai said notices would be sent to publishers here notifying them of the Government's grave concern.

"We will make it a matter of extremely important courtesy," he said.

The publication here of unauthorized editions of American bestsellers has been a sore point for years. Bookstalls in Taipei offer a full range of current bestsellers at prices between one-fifth and one-third the price of the American edition.

Almost all recent books about President Kennedy were quickly pirated here.