

# Jackie's Letter to Khrush

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A never before published letter from Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy to Nikita S. Khrushchev, then the Soviet premier, concludes the Look magazine serialization of William Manchester's "The Death of a President."

Mrs. Kennedy, who thanked Khrushchev for sending a representative to her husband's funeral, said of her letter:

"I send it only because I know how much my husband cared about peace, and how the relation between you and him was central to his care in his mind. He used to quote your words in some of his speeches—'In the next war the survivors will envy the dead.'

"You and he were adversaries, but you were allied in a determination that the world should not be blown up. You respected each other and could deal with each other. I know that President Johnson will make every effort to establish the same relationship with you."

Writing one of her last letters on White House stationery, Mrs. Kennedy also said, "I know that President Johnson will continue the policy in which my husband so deeply believed—a policy of control and restraint—and I know he will need your help."

The fourth and final installment of the serialization of Manchester's book carries his controversial account from the final hours of the day of the assassination of John F. Kennedy through the midnight visit of Mrs. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy to the new gravesite.

Manchester is now at work on an account of the dispute with the Kennedy family over publication of his

Monday, February 20, 1967

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## for Peace

*"I send it only because I know how much my husband cared about peace. . ."*

Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy writing to Premier Khrushchev

work. A spokesman for Look said the magazine expects to have first refusal rights to the new manuscript.

In the final segment of the assassination narrative, Manchester tells of:

- How large doses of sedative administered to Mrs. Kennedy after her arrival with her dead husband at Bethesda Naval Hospital had little or no effect.

- The decision to use a closed coffin for the funeral.

- Stories that Mrs. Kennedy spent the night making fast decisions about the funeral arrangements were misleading.

- How clergymen of all faiths volunteered to pray for the dead President in a "kind of spontaneous ecumenical council."

- How, despite her misgivings, nursemaid Maude Shaw was prevailed upon to tell Caroline Kennedy: "Your father has been shot. They took him to a hospital, but the doctors couldn't make him better."

- How Mrs. Kennedy broke the news to John Jr.

Much of the account is devoted to Lyndon Johnson's continuing problems with the assumption of office—problems of when to occupy the Presidential offices, of replacing furniture, of addressing Congress. His difficulties

are set against the background of the split between the loyalists—still devoted to the dead President, and the realists—realizing that the government must continue and devoting themselves to the needs of the new President.

Manchester says Johnson displayed his "chameleon nature" to its utmost on his first full day as President "so that each visitor would leave with a feeling of warmth and reassurance."

Loyalists, the author said, saw a "humble" and "shattered" Johnson and others saw a shrewd and strong man. Of the realists, Manchester says they "played a valuable and difficult role—and history may award them the higher grade, for their service to the national interest was great."

Manchester describes Johnson's first cabinet meeting as less than a success. It took place in an atmosphere of depression and tension caused by the late arrival and silence of Robert Kennedy.

Robert's presence, Manchester says, was somewhat of an accident, as his initial purpose in coming to the Cabinet Room was to assure that his late brother's chair was removed. Persuaded to enter the room, he came in in the middle of Johnson's speech, interrupted it, accepted greetings, and the remained in silence.

Johnson was under the impression that Robert had deliberately arrived late in order to embarrass him, but Manchester notes that Robert was surprised, and then amused, when he later learned how Johnson had interpreted his behavior.

## **SCHLESINGER REPLIES**

"A melodramatic distortion of a wholly academic conversation."

This is the way historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr. described yesterday William Manchester's account of a conversation Schlesinger had with the Democratic National Chairman in 1963 concerning the possibilities of replacing President Johnson with Robert Kennedy as the Democratic candidate in 1964.

The conversation is reported in the final installment of Manchester's book "The Death of a President" in Look magazine today.

Schlesinger revealed an entry he made in his diary concerning the conversation he had with chairman John Bailey on Nov. 23, 1963, one day after President Kennedy died.

"I talked with John Bailey this morning. I asked him whether, regardless of merits, it might be technically possible to beat Johnson at Atlantic City. John said that it might be technically feasible, but the result would be to lose the election for the Democrats.