

VIP

7-3-75 Memoirs Of Jackie Onassis?

By Maxine Cheshire

Doubleday & Co. has hired Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis' former press secretary, Nancy Tuckerman, and could pull off a publishing coup.

One of Miss Tuckerman's duties, in addition to publicity and promotion, will be finding new books and new authors.

There is suspicion among Doubleday's competitors that the first hot property Miss Tuckerman will produce is the former First Lady's memoirs. Miss Tuckerman denied that negotiations have already begun between Doubleday and a representative for Mrs. Onassis.

Doubleday, which paid Rose Kennedy \$1.5 million for her memoirs, is already high in the esteem of the Kennedy family for the "tasteful" way they handled that book.

Mrs. Onassis' life story is expected to bring much more than her mother-in-law's.

"Many millions of dollars," one knowledgeable publishing source predicted last week. "Reprint rights, serialization rights, foreign rights, movie rights, television rights," he said. "There has never been a book printed that would be more of a money-maker... not even Howard Hughes authorized biography, not even if he autographed every copy."

Mrs. Onassis could not be reached for comment. She is getting ready to go to Greece for a vacation of "several weeks" on the island of Skorpios, in which she inherited a 25 per cent interest from her late husband.

According to Miss Tuckerman, Mrs. Onassis will be joined there by her children and a "group of friends."

Among the friends are Paris-based writer Clem Woods and his wife and Karl Katz who is in charge of Special

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Publishing Coup?

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Exhibitions and Loans at the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

Katz, a bachelor and once curator of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem and later head of the Jewish Museum in Manhattan, may or may not be advising Mrs. Onassis on her memoirs.
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But Katz is the person credited by friends with inspiring Mrs. Onassis to write an article that appeared in The New Yorker magazine's "Talk of the Town" section earlier this year.

Katz, described by Mrs. Onassis as "an ebullient man of 45," is mentioned in almost every paragraph of the lengthy reportage on the newly created International Center of Photography. It was Katz, "one of the moving spirits behind it," who enlisted Mrs. Onassis' support for the ICP.

Katz and Mrs. Onassis are "friends and nothing more," Miss Tuckerman said yesterday. To squelch any suggestion of romance, one of Aristotle Onassis' sisters will be on Skorpios and so will Mrs. Onassis' step-daughter, Christina.