

# Women shy over JFK slay book

## Page Six

VETERAN Kennedy assassination conspiracy theorist Mark Lane is raring to prove with his new book that the CIA killed JFK — but some of the tome's pivotal characters aren't so eager.

Thunder's Mouth Press, publisher of "Plausible Denial," has had to hire two private detectives to track down two women who play key roles in the book, and convince them to participate in the tome's P.R. campaign.

"Plausible Denial," due out on the 28th anniversary of JFK's murder, focuses on a 1985 libel trial that overturned an award against a writer who claimed that Watergate burglar and former CIA agent E. Howard Hunt might have had a role in the crime.

Although both women were located, one — a former CIA operative who's the mother of Cuba leader Fidel Castro's child — wants to keep her whereabouts a secret. Former super-spy Marita Lorenz — whose identity was pre-

viously concealed by the publisher and author — agreed to appear in a 40-minute videotaped interview that Lane has already shot, but otherwise will keep a low profile. "She doesn't want anyone to find her," says Lane.

During the 1985 trial, Lane explains, Lorenz gave key testimony — also videotaped — that placed Hunt in Dallas days before the assassination with a group of people, one of whom subsequently admitted to her he'd been involved in the crime.

In 1977, Lorenz reportedly accused her old espionage partner, Watergate burglar Frank Sturges, of threatening her if she continued to talk to authorities about the assassination. Sturges was arrested but acquitted.

Earlier in her colorful life, Lorenz not only had an eight-month affair and a child with Castro but also reportedly was recruited by Sturges for a failed mission to kill the hitrate Havana honcho.

After nearly six weeks of searching, a detective also found Leslie Armstrong running a help-oriented talk show for substance abusers on a Miami radio station.

Armstrong, who was the jury forewoman in the libel case, had moved from her Florida home without leaving a forwarding address. "When I first got wind that they were fishing around for me, I was not responsive," Armstrong told us in a phone interview. "I figured it was the CIA."

When Armstrong realized it was Lane who was seeking her, she agreed to cooperate and has even provided this statement for the publisher to release: "Mr. Lane was asking us [the jury] to do something very difficult — he was asking us to believe that John Kennedy had been killed by our own government. Yet when we examined the evidence closely, we were compelled to conclude that the CIA had indeed killed President Kennedy."