

Mrs. JFK, Photographer Planned Picture Book

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Within weeks after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, his widow, Jacqueline proposed that she write her version of the history of his administration by preparing the captions or text for a book of photographs

depicting his "Thousand Days" in the White House.

According to Major Cecil Stoughton, who served as official White House photographer during the Kennedy administration and the early months of the Johnson administration, Mrs. Kennedy suggested in December 1963 that she write captions for pictures selected from those he made of the Kennedys in the White House, at Hyannisport, Mass., and Palm Beach, Fla.

The idea pre-dated designation of William Manchester by the Kennedys to write "The Death of a President."

Stoughton, now stationed at the Pentagon, said the picture book was "in the talking stage that December" and that they had spoken of it "on a couple of other occasions, but never pointedly to say yes or no."

The thousands of photographs he took now repose in the Kennedy archives.

He speculated that the picture book project may have been postponed "because of the rash of other books that have come out to her dislike."

To do such a book on his

own, Stoughton believes he probably would need Mrs. Kennedy's premission. At any rate, he prefers to collaborate in accordance with her original idea.

Stoughton, 47, is rounding out his military career and will retire shortly. He has been approached by publishers to write a book but wants to avoid offending the Kennedys by revealing anything they want kept confidential.

"It puts me in an awkward position of not being able to do these things on my own," he said. "I'm not the type who wants to get involved in another hassle."

As did other Kennedy aides, Stoughton stayed on in the Johnson administration but reportedly requested permission in mid-1965 to travel to England with the Kennedy family for the dedication of the monument at Runnymede.

Shortly after he returned he was switched from the White House to the Pentagon Yoichi Okomoto of the U.S. Information Agency was given the job of "shadowing" the President and photographing him in every situation.