

ad ng .F. re- e- le- ide ice. CA- lley re- un- ex- EC. ling on- rite

# AUTHOR DENIES BREACH OF FAITH WITH MRS. KENNEDY

IAN BALL

Daily Telegraph Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK, Sunday.

WILLIAM MANCHESTER denied today that he took advantage of Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy's words and emotions to write "Death of a President." He declared: "John Kennedy was my President. To suggest that I would dishonour his memory or my association with him is both cruel and unjust."

Mrs. Kennedy has started a law suit to halt publication of the book by Harper and Row, and its serialisation in *Look* magazine. She complains that the author tastelessly exploited the emotional state she was in after the assassination.

### Standards of excellence

In a written statement issued through the offices of *Look*, Mr. Manchester stressed that the Kennedy family had sought him out to write the definitive account of the assassination. "President Kennedy's standards of excellence guided me through this work."

Mr. Manchester said: "It has been said that I have broken faith with Mrs. Kennedy, that I took advantage of her confidence in me and that I recorded too faithfully her words and emotions. I do not believe this to be so."

He denied that the book was being published prematurely and that the Kennedy family had not authorised its serialisation in *Look*. "In the summer of 1966, authorisation was given by the family for publication of the book

in early 1967, to be preceded by serialisation in *Look*.

The book has been read by friends and advisers of the family and changes were made at their suggestion. Mrs. Kennedy herself did not ask to see the manuscript and still hasn't. If she had, I would, of course, have given it to her."

Mrs. Kennedy was in tears today when she left the Wall Street offices of a lawyer representing *Look*, after reviewing controversial passages in the book. Her own lawyer, Mr. Simon Rifkind, a former federal judge, accompanied her to the meeting.

### Johnson "bewildered"

The *New York Times* reported today that President Johnson is pictured in the book as being sympathetic to the Kennedys after the tragedy "but bewildered by the Kennedy group's hostility towards him."

Quoting a person who read the book recently, it said that Mr. Johnson emerges as "a guy who is in a state of shock and who is confused by the Kennedy hostility."

IS or in 11-2.