

Pirated Kennedy Book Is Banned on Taiwan

TAIPEI, Dec. 24 (UPI)—The Nationalist Chinese government today banned the publication or sale of William Manchester's controversial manuscript of "The Death of a President" in its original form.

Dung Sheng Hsiung, director of the Interior Ministry's publication department, said all publishing companies have been warned against printing the original and that police have been ordered to seize all copies if they appear in book stores.

Official sources said the government, acting on advice from the U.S. State Department, was determined to suppress the pirating of the book so as not to jeopardize Sino-American relations.

Despite the official ban, however there seemed little chance distribution of the manuscript could be prevented since literary "pirates" on the Nationalist Chinese island are believed to already have copies.

In Washington, State Department Press Officer Robert

J. McCloskey said that so far as he knew the Chinese Nationalist regime was the only foreign government with which the United States had had discussions about the manuscript.

In Hamburg, a spokesman for the magazine Stern, which purchased the West German serialization rights from Look magazine, reiterated its intention to publish with no changes.

"We have bought a historical document and no changes," Norbert Sakowski, news editor of Stern said. "It is our opinion that we, therefore, print the book unchanged. German press law says that only a statement which has been proven false can be held up from print."

[In Amsterdam, the Geïllustreerde Pers publishing firm, which bought the manuscript for Holland serialization, took the same position as Stern, Associated Press reported. The articles will appear in the Dutch weekly magazine Revue.]