

Kennedy Book Battle Shifts



WRITER WILLIAM MANCHESTER

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World Journal Tribune Staff

Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy's legal fight over "The Death of a President" shifted to Germany today, following the out-of-court settlement here of her suit to block publication of the controversial book by William Manchester.

"The lawsuit in America has ended," said Simon H. Rifkind, lawyer for Mrs. Kennedy. "In Europe it is now begun."

Rifkind said that Mrs. Kennedy might be a co-plaintiff in any lawsuit brought against Stern, a leading West German illustrated weekly magazine which has refused to delete

from its serialization of the book certain passages that Mrs. Kennedy considered objectionable.

Look magazine, which sold rights to the serialization to Stern for \$72,500, has threatened to sue the German magazine because of Stern's persistent refusal to go along with cuts in the text agreed to by Look and Mrs. Kennedy last month.

END OF FIGHT

The settlement reached yesterday by representatives of Mrs. Kennedy, Manchester and Harper & Row, publishers of the hardcover edition of the book, ended one of the most sensational literary fights in U.S. history.

Supreme Court Justice

"It is impossible to describe the personal distress caused . . . after months of discussion, reassurance and promises."

—From a statement for Mrs. Kennedy

"The objective was to produce a unique work which is also a fitting memorial to the late president."

—Harper & Row, publishers

"The catastrophe (of the assassination) was insane. It was the nightmare of our generation. One cannot always be sensible about it."

—William Manchester, author

Saul S. Streit, who presided over the bitter dispute, signed and approved the decree. He said that the agreement was "amicable" to all parties in the case.

The terms of the agreement—which "remain in full force and effect" for 100 years—stipulate that:

- All unauthorized versions of the book be destroyed within 45 days, except that Manchester may keep two file copies and the publisher may keep one file copy.

- Manchester return to Mrs. Kennedy all letters between her and President Kennedy and all letters from him to their children.

- The 10 hours of taped conversation that Manchester recorded from Mrs. Ken-

nedy be returned to her to be placed under seal at the Kennedy Memorial Library in Cambridge, Mass. Also, all tapes and other voice recordings furnished by her family, and members of her household will be returned to her. Transcripts of the recordings will be destroyed.

- Harper and Manchester be permanently enjoined from granting publication rights to "anyone, except with consent of plaintiff and copyright proprietor of the manuscript of the material to be divulged."

Letters from other persons—including President Johnson—to Mrs. Kennedy will be used only with the permission of the writers.

The title page of each copy

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to Germany



Associated Press Photos

LAWYER SIMON RIFKIND

of the book published here and abroad will state that "Harper & Row wishes to make it clear that neither Mrs. John F. Kennedy nor Sen. Robert F. Kennedy has in any way approved or endorsed the material appearing in this book. The author, William Manchester, and the publishers assume complete and sole responsibility."

Mrs. Kennedy's suit against Manchester and Harper would be dropped.

Rifkind said that he would serve a copy of the decree on all news media to prevent any publication of the deleted material. He said that a violation of the decree could result in contempt of court action.

But a spokesman for the

Kennedy family insisted that the Kennedys "have no interest in bringing any lawsuit against any paper or any news media."

A Kennedy spokesman said that the dispute centered on 25 passages to which Mrs. Kennedy objected. All the material—which amounts to about eight pages of the book's 645—has been modified or deleted.

The Kennedy spokesman said that "in retrospect, the whole agreement with Manchester to write the book was a mistake. In 1964, however, it seemed like a good idea." He declined to elaborate.

Harper plans to publish the book in early April.