

Post 12/30/66

Magazine Says Johnson Met Kennedy Demands

From News Dispatches

In the days following John F. Kennedy's assassination, President Johnson acceded to many "unusual demands" by the Kennedy family, a news magazine reported yesterday. U.S. News & World Report, in a copyrighted article, said Mr. Johnson went along with every request made by Mrs. John F. Kennedy in the weeks following the tragedy.

The magazine said:

- Mrs. Kennedy remained in the White House for 14 days after President Kennedy's death. In contrast, when President Roosevelt died in 1945, Eleanor Roosevelt moved out the next day.

- Mr. Johnson carried out Mrs. Kennedy's request that a White House kindergarten set up for her children be continued until the school term ended in late December.

- Mr. Johnson agreed to allow the East Room of the White House—where the late President's body had lain—to remain idle and draped in black for 30 days, even though it meant postponing a Christmas party for underprivileged children.

- Mr. Johnson worked across the street from the White House in the Executive Office Building for days to avoid inconvenience to the Kennedy family.

- Mr. Johnson — at Mrs. Kennedy's request — renamed Cape Canaveral for the late President despite objections by the city of Cape Canaveral and the Chamber of Commerce of the city of Cocoa, Fla.

Meanwhile, a person who had read the Look magazine serialization of William Manchester's

book, "The Death of a President," disclosed these excerpts from it:

- Newsman Charles Bartlett told Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara he had heard from President Kennedy that he was to be Secretary of State in the second term. Bartlett said yesterday he did not care to comment.

(Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., a former adviser to President Kennedy, wrote recently that Mr. Kennedy had decided in 1963 to replace Dean Rusk as Secretary of State after the 1964 election.)

- Manchester says that once Rusk had left, Robert F. Kennedy, then Attorney General, would ask to be Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs.

- President Kennedy was taking French lessons, determined that when he met President de Gaulle he would not only speak to him in his own language but negotiate in it.

- Schlesinger asked Democratic National Chairman John Bailey if it were possible to deny the presidential nomination in 1968 to Mr. Johnson. Bailey said the result would be to lose the election.