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Secret Meetings

Kennedy Book Settlement Near

NEW YORK — (AP) — Mrs. John F. Kennedy and Look magazine appear to be approaching an agreement on her demands that her personal recollections be cut from the Kennedy book.

One high source said efforts are being made to edit word-by-word William Manchester's book, "The Death of a President," which is about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

"Look is making every effort to safeguard the per-

sonal feelings of Mrs. Kennedy," other sources said.

Secret negotiations were held yesterday in the offices of Cowles Communications Inc., the publishers of Look, by top editors and Richard Goodwin, former aide to President Kennedy who is acting as one of Mrs. Kennedy's advisers.

Another round of negotiations is set for today in hopes of effecting a settlement before Cowles and Harper & Row, publishers of the book, go into court tomorrow to answer charges made by Mrs. Kennedy last Friday in

her suit to block publication.

Attorneys for Mrs. Kennedy have drawn up a memorandum of law citing legal precedents for her suit and outlining the legal basis.

A hearing on the suit is scheduled for next Tuesday.

It was reported Harper & Row, which plans to bring out the 300,000-word book in hard cover next April, would be willing to go along with the changes hammered out by the Look representatives and Goodwin.

Look is going ahead with

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plans to publish a four-part, 60,000-word serialization of the book, beginning in the issue Jan. 10.

While Look and Mrs. Kennedy appeared approaching an agreement, Don Congdon, literary agent for Manchester, said the author is determined to resist changes in the book demanded by Mrs. Kennedy, who alleges invasion of privacy and breach of agreement.

"We've been talking a long time about phrasing," said one source. "But don't forget it's Manchester's prose. He has the final word on what's going into it."

Manchester is understood to have been absent from yesterday's meeting. But it is said that he is being kept informed.

BURIAL DETAILS

A source close to the Kennedy family said last night her main objections center on details dealing with the disposition, preparation and burial of her husband's body.

"Also," the source said, "she objects to the extent of The President's injuries, which is clinical, gruesome detail, and a couple of letters among other things."

From various people who have read the manuscript, it was learned Mrs. Kennedy specifically had objected to these other sections:

- Her reaction to being informed that Lee Harvey Oswald had been identified as her husband's assassin.

"That's absurd," she was reported to have said. "He (President Kennedy) didn't even have the satisfaction of being killed for civil rights. It has to be some silly, little Communist."

- Manchester's detailed account of how she used petroleum jelly to slip her wedding ring from her finger and place it on her husband's hand.

Her ring later was removed from the President's hand at Bethesda Naval Hospital.

Mrs. Kennedy reportedly wore the diamond, emerald ring Monday night when she attended a performance here of the Broadway musical "Cabaret."