

25 JAN 1967
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KENNEDY BOOK (550)

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW, JAN. 25 (AP)—A SOVIET MAGAZINE TODAY PUBLISHED EXCERPTS FROM THE UNCUT VERSION OF WILLIAM MANCHESTER'S BOOK "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT."

UX LITERATURNAYA GAZETA (LITERARY GAZETTE), A WEEKLY PUT OUT BY THE SOVIET WRITERS' UNION, CARRIED PART OF THE TEXT FROM THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE WEST GERMAN MAGAZINE STERN.

STERN REFUSED TO ELIMINATE MATERIAL THAT MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY OBJECTED TO AND WAS SUED BY LOOK MAGAZINE, WHICH SOLD THE PUBLICATION RIGHTS TO THE GERMAN MAGAZINE. A HAMBURG, GERMANY, COURT RULED MONDAY THAT STERN MAY CONTINUE TO PUBLISH THE UNABRIDGED SERIALIZATION.

"THE TEXT WHICH APPEARED IN LOOK MAGAZINE HAS BEEN CHANGED ON THE DEMAND OF THE KENNEDY FAMILY," SAID A PREFACE TO THE EXCERPTS IN THE LITERARY GAZETTE.

"STERN MAGAZINE REFUSED TO MAKE ANY CHANGES. IN SPITE OF A SUIT BY LOOK MAGAZINE THE EDITORS OF THE WEST GERMAN WEEKLY PUBLISHED THE ORIGINAL VERSION.

"HERE WE OFFER TO THE READERS' ATTENTION SOME EXCERPTS PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF STERN MAGAZINE."

THE EXCERPTS DESCRIBED EVENTS ON THE DAY BEFORE PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION.

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MEANWHILE, EVAN THOMAS, EDITOR OF THE BOOK, CONFIRMED YESTERDAY IN NEW YORK THAT HE HAD REQUESTED MANCHESTER TO MAKE SOME REVISIONS IN IT.

"THE MANCHESTER BOOK WAS REVISED IN RESPONSE TO MANY OF THE EDITORIAL COMMENTS MADE BY THE KENNEDY READERS AND MYSELF," SAID THOMAS, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD OF PUBLISHERS HARPER & ROW.

HOWEVER, THOMAS SAID ONE OF MRS. KENNEDY'S ADVISERS VIOLATED A "PERSONAL AND PRIVATE" RELATIONSHIP WHEN HE MADE PUBLIC PASSAGES FROM A LETTER WRITTEN BY THOMAS TO MRS. KENNEDY'S REPRESENTATIVES.

THOMAS' LETTER, DATED MAY 16, WAS ADDRESSED TO JOHN SEIGENTHALER, EDITOR OF THE NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN, AND EDWARD GUTHMAN, OF THE LOS ANGELES TIMES. BOTH HAD SERVED IN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

WHEN SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, D-N.Y., WAS ATTORNEY GENERAL.

RICHARD GOODWIN, ADVISER TO THE LATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND CURRENTLY MRS. KENNEDY'S ADVISER, SAID SUNDAY THAT A LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHERS TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE KENNEDY FAMILY DESCRIBED THE BOOK AS "IN PART TASTELESS AND GRATUITOUSLY INSULTING TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND, FOR THAT MATTER, TO THE MEMORY OF THE LATE PRESIDENT."

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IN HIS PREPARED STATEMENT, THOMAS DID NOT REFER SPECIFICALLY TO GOODWIN OR THE MAY 16 LETTER. HIS STATEMENT SAID:

"THE FUNCTION OF AN EDITOR IS TO EDIT AND THAT'S WHAT MY JOB WAS IN CONNECTION WITH THE MANCHESTER BOOK.

"IT WAS COMPLICATED BECAUSE FOR A PERIOD OF MONTHS STARTING IN MARCH OF 1966, I WAS WORKING ON THE MANUSCRIPT WITH A NUMBER OF SEN. KENNEDY'S REPRESENTATIVES. WHEN SEVERAL PEOPLE ARE THUS WORKING EDITORIALY ON ANY WORK (AND EDITORS ARE NEVER WORKING SEPARATELY FROM THE AUTHOR--IT'S HIS WORK AND THEY ARE WORKING WITH HIM) THE EDITORS' EXCHANGES OF VIEWS WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH THE AUTHOR ARE ALWAYS AS CONF

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ARE ALWAYS REGARDED AS CONFIDENTIAL--THEY ARE PERSONAL AND PRIVATE AND PART OF A WORKING PROCESS.

"EVERY EDITOR MAKES CRITICAL COMMENTS IN THE COURSE OF EDITING A WORK--THEY ARE PROPERLY SUBJECT TO DISCUSSION BETWEEN AUTHOR AND EDITOR OR EDITORS. THE MANCHESTER BOOK WAS REVISED IN RESPONSE TO MANY OF THE EDITORIAL COMMENTS MADE BY THE KENNEDY READERS AND MYSELF. HARPER REGARDS THE FINAL VERSION AS A FINE WORK."

COMMENTING ON THOMAS' STATEMENT, A SOURCE CLOSE TO THE KENNEDY FAMILY SAID:

"HIS (THOMAS') STATEMENT ABOUT EDITING IS ACCURATE. AN ENORMOUS EFFORT WAS MADE TO TRY AND MODIFY THE BOOK SO IT WOULD NOT BE IN MR. THOMAS' WORDS 'TASTELESS AND GRATUITOUSLY INSULTING TO MR. JOHNSON AND TO THE MEMORY OF THE LATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY.'

"MANY SUCH MODIFICATIONS WERE MADE BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, BECAUSE THE AUTHOR REFUSED TO ABIDE BY THE AGREEMENT, THE EFFORT WAS NOT COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL."

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