

STERN WILL DEFER TO MRS. KENNEDY

Will Delete Parts of Book
as a 'Personal Gesture'

Special to The New York Times

BONN, Jan. 25 — Stern magazine, which has been publishing the uncut serialization of William Manchester's "The Death of a President" for the last three issues, announced today that it would delete future passages as "a personal gesture to Mrs. John F. Kennedy."

Two days ago, Stern won a court decision in Hamburg against an injunction demanded by Look magazine, thus freeing the West German weekly to continue the uncut serialization. Stern had purchased the Manchester story of President Kennedy's assassination from Look for \$72,500.

Since Look had agreed to a series of deletions asked for by the Kennedy family it attempted to impose the same deletions on its contractual partners. Stern was the one magazine that refused outright.

Immediately after winning the court test, Stern's editor, Henri Nannen, sent a telegram to the President's widow, reading:

"Dear Mrs. Kennedy. What I could not do either under political censorship or pressure of legal actions I gladly consent to do voluntarily. The next Stern issues will not contain the personal passages you object to. I am very sorry to have caused you displeasure, yours very sincerely, Henri Nannen."

Mrs. Kennedy has since sent a reply thanking Stern for this decision.

Another Stern editor said this evening that originally the Kennedys had demanded deletion of 7,911 words from the Look serialization. This demand was later reduced to 1,700 words.

The editor said Stern had published 480 words of the disputed passages in its last three issues.

The remaining 1,220 words, which Stern has said it will not publish, deal with "ridiculously trivial things," the editor said, and were along the lines of the uncut passage published yesterday that disclosed that Mrs. Kennedy smoked and that she had discovered a wrinkle on her face.

An editorial statement issued by Mr. Nannen's office said:

"Stern will from now on voluntarily abridge from William Manchester's report a few passages in which Mrs. Kennedy revealed personal problems to the author and whose omission she had requested.

"But Stern continues to refuse to submit to the political censorship of Senator Robert Kennedy. None of the politically and historically interesting passages he objected to will be omitted."

Published in Soviet

MOSCOW, Jan. 25 (AP)— A Soviet magazine published excerpts from the uncut version of William Manchester's book "The Death of a President" today.

Literaturnaya Gazeta, 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 had sold the publication rights to the German magazine.

"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 Russian magazine.

"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.

But the Soviet magazine left out all references in Stern's version to the assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, his stay in the Soviet Union and his Russian-born wife.