

NL STERN (250)

HAMBURG, GERMANY, JAN. 23 (AP)-THE WEST GERMAN MAGAZINE STERN MAY CONTINUE TO PUBLISH THE UNABRIDGED SERIALIZATION OF WILLIAM MANCHESTER'S BOOK "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT," A HAMBURG COURT RULED TODAY.

LOOK MAGAZINE HAD FILED SUIT TO BAR STERN FROM PUBLISHING WHAT IT CONTENDED WAS AN UNAUTHORIZED VERSION OF ITS SERIES. THE BOOK DEALS WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

STERN HAD REFUSED TO MAKE CHANGES IN THE ORIGINAL TEXT. THE KENNEDY FAMILY HAD REQUESTED THE CHANGES AND LOOK AND MANCHESTER HAD AGREED.

IN WASHINGTON, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE KENNEDY FAMILY SAID NEGOTIATIONS WITH STERN WERE CONTINUING AND THAT "WE'RE RATHER HOPEFUL" A SETTLEMENT COULD BE REACHED SHORTLY THAT WOULD EXCLUDE PORTIONS OF THE TEXT OBJECTED TO BY MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID HE CONSIDERED THE COURT DECISION "A NARROW ONE" THAT DID NOT PRECLUDE A "SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THIS THING."

TWO INSTALLMENTS OF STERN'S SERIALIZATION HAVE APPEARED. THEY INCLUDED MATERIAL CUT OUT OF THE LOOK VERSION. THE NEXT ISSUE OF STERN NORMALLY WOULD HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE ON NEWS STANDS TODAY. BUT ITS DISTRIBUTION WAS DELAYED UNTIL TOMORROW, APPARENTLY TO AWAIT THE VERDICT.

THE GERMAN MAGAZINE SAID IN ITS STATEMENT:

"STERN HAS REPEATEDLY DECLARED THAT IT HAD NO INTENTION OF INTRUDING UPON THE INTIMATE SPHERE OF MRS. KENNEDY, BUT THAT IT OPPOSES ALL CENSORSHIP AND THAT IT WILL NOT ACCEPT ABRIDGEMENT OF POLITICALLY OR HISTORICALLY INTERESTING PARTS OF THIS REPORT."

LOOK HAS FOUR WEEKS TO APPEAL.

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