3 Witnesses Link Soledads To Fatal Courthouse Flight

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By Leroy Aarons
Washington Post Staff Writer

SAN JOSE, Calif., April 3—The prosecution in the Angela Davis trial burrowed in today in its effort to connect Miss Davis, the Soledad brothers and the fatal courthouse escape attempt in Marin County, Calif., in August, 1970.

The state produced three witnesses who testified that one of the escaping convicts demanded the release of the Soledad brothers as he led a judge and four other hostages out of Marin County's Hall of Justice.

Jim Kean, a photographer for the San Rafael Independent Journal, told the jury that James McClain said to him, "Tell them we want the Soledad brothers released by 12 o'clock."

Capt. Harvey E. Teague, of the Marin County Sheriff's Department, testified that one of the convicts—apparently McClain—"said something about you have until 12 noon to free the Soledad brothers and all political prisoners."

Officer Clifford Niederer of the Corte Madera Police Department also testified that he heard one of the men demand the release of the Soledad trio.

The Soledad brothers were three black inmates at California's maximum security Soledad Prison, who were accused of slaying a white guard in retaliation for the death of three other blacks at the hands of another guard a week earlier.

One of the three accused inmates—George Jackson—was killed last summer in an alleged prison break attempt at San Quentin. The other two were acquitted of the Soledad charges in San Francisco last week.

Prosecutor Albert W. Harris, in his opening statement last week, disclosed that his case rests on the theory that Miss Davis, in love with George Jackson, conspired in the Marin County escape attempt in an effort to ransom Jackson's freedom.

Since Miss Davis was not at the courthouse on the day of the incident, it is crucial for Harris to establish both that the breakout effort was aimed at the ultimate release of the Soledad three and that Miss Davis participated in the overall plot.

Kean stood fast on his testimony during cross-examination, but Capt. Teague conceded that he had made no mention of the Soledad brothers in his official report that day. Officer Niederer acknowledged that his own report didn't refer to the Soledad brothers and that, in fact, he made the notation: "Suspects had little to say."

Judge Harold Haley and three convicts were killed when police foiled the kidnaping in a shootout outside the building.