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Jury Deliberates 13 Weeks

Angela Davis 'Not Guilty'

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — An all-white jury found black militant Angela Davis innocent Sunday of murder-kidnap-conspiracy charges and was given an ovation of cheers and applause in the courtroom.

"Power to the people! Power to the jury!" shouted defense attorney Howard Moore, Jr., as jurors were led past Miss Davis' cheering supporters in the courtroom after announcing

their verdict, reached after 13 hours of deliberation in the 13-week-long trial.

Two jurors—a 22-year-old woman and a 69-year-old man—were wiping tears from their eyes as they left the jury box.

Miss Davis burst into tears, hugged her long-time friend Kendra Alexander seated next to her, then went into the spectator section and threw her arms around her mother, Sallye Davis. The tall, slender defendant then embraced her father, brothers and sister.

The 28-year-old Miss Davis, a Communist party member and former UCLA philosophy teacher, had faced for nearly two years charges that she plotted a 1970 Marin County courthouse escape attempt in which four died. She had spent 16 months in jail while awaiting trial, but was freed on bail just before the case went to court Feb. 28.

She was not present at the scene of the crime and maintained throughout that she was "totally innocent."

"The defendant will be discharged," announced Superior Court Judge Richard E. Arnason. "The bail will be exonerated."

The judge praised all participants and said that as a result of this trial, "all of us who walk the streets of our society can hold our heads higher than before...You have conducted yourselves admirably."

Defense attorney Leo A. Brandon, saying he spoke for the prosecution and defense, praised Arnason for "the even-handed manner in which you have handled this trial." He called Arnason's work "a credit

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to the judiciary and the country."

Miss Davis, still tearful with joy, told reporters, "This is the happiest day of my life."

Asked if she thought she had gotten a fair trial, she said, "The very fact of an acquittal means that there was no fair trial because a fair trial would have been no trial at all."

Of her future plans, Miss Davis said she probably would remain in California. At present, she said, "I guess we're going to celebrate some, and steel ourselves for the struggle ahead ... I can begin to give all I have to free all political prisoners as oppressed people."

She said that her personal safety may be a problem in her future travels and public appearances. "Over the last week or so, we've heard of numerous threats that have come in," she said. "But I'm not going to allow that to prevent me from becoming active in the liberation struggle."

Asst. Atty. Gen. Albert Harris Jr., who prosecuted Miss Davis, declined comment and left the courthouse. He did not ask for individual polling of the jurors after the verdict was announced.

Brandon called the prosecution case "weak" and criticized the state for keeping Miss Davis jailed for 16 months "when they had no case against her."

He said he still considered the case "a frame-up" which resulted because Miss Davis was a celebrity.