

She Meets Press --And Her Public

By Carolyn Anspacher

Angela Davis observed her first full day of freedom yesterday by lending her presence to an extraordinary press conference in San Jose that was, in essence, a victory celebration.

The 28-year-old black militant, freed from jail Wednesday night after \$102,500 bail had been posted for her, observed the conditions of her release so scrupulously that she limited herself to one brief statement, and answered a single question.

Miss Davis, who goes to trial on Monday on charges of murder, kidnap and conspiracy arising from the Marin Courthouse shooting 18 months ago in which four were killed, arrived fashionably late — 40 minutes — for her meeting with reporters and cameramen.

Jammed into the smallish whitewashed headquarters of the San Jose branch of the United Committee to Free Angela Davis were 200 newsmen and women, representatives of the regular press, the underground press, the Communist press and the college press. Also on hand was a highly vocal and partisan clique of Davis supporters.

Wearing a dark green

dress and a Roman striped stole, flanked by three of her four attorneys, and her sister, Fania Jordan, she faced a sea of sweat-drenched faces, a thicket of microphones and a forest of television cameras.

Her first words, uttered as a voice level test were:

"Power to the people."

She was smiling broadly.

Franklin Alexander, coordinator of the Davis defense committee, who pres-

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By Barney Peterson

ANGELA DAVIS AT CONFERENCE
She had a statement

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ided as master of ceremonies and stage manager, laid down stern groundrules. Because, under orders of Superior Court Judge Richard E. Arnason, Miss Davis, among other prohibitions, is precluded from attending rallies or meetings or discussing evidence in the forthcoming trial, he said she would answer no direct questions, only those filtered through him or her attorneys.

Through waves of applause and shouts of encouragement, Miss Davis read from her prepared statement, that her release on bail was a "victory for the

people and for all political prisoners."

She said her release meant that "political prisoners can no longer be held indefinitely in jail . . . to break their will to fight."

POSSIBLE

She said that last week's ruling by the California Supreme Court declaring capital punishment unconstitutional would not have been possible without the "murder of George Jackson . . . and the massacre at Attica."

For a larger victory, she said, "a lot of people, all truly interested to see justice done, must intensify their efforts to "free the So-

ledad Brothers, the San Quentin Six," and a prisoner whom she erroneously identified as "Warren Wells."

At the conclusion of the 20-minute conference, she said she had not meant "Warren Wells," the Oakland Raiders' wide receiver now committed to the Oakland facility of Synanon for a variety of offenses. She said, laughing a little, that she had meant Wesley Robert Wells, a Los Angeles black, who has spent nearly all of his 63 years in prison.

"We must free all those forced to live behind concrete and steel," she said.

SACRIFICES

Miss Davis expressed her thanks to "all who struggled so hard" for her freedom, and expressed gratitude for their "sacrifices" in enabling her to be free on bail.

To the one question answered directly, Miss Davis said she "felt fine — better than she has in 16 months." She applauded her attorneys, Margaret Burnham and Doris Brin Walker, and kissed the third, Howard Moore Jr.

Moore said he found significance in the fact Miss Davis was released on February 23 — the birthday of Dr. W.B. DuBois, whom he described as a greater fighter for freedom of black people.

Mrs. Walker appealed to the press, in the name of "humanity and responsibility" to "respect Miss Davis' privacy and security."

"Please," she entreated, "do not try to find out where and with whom she is living. This is of the utmost importance."

JOY

Mrs. Jordan, who arrived from Iowa yesterday morning, bespoke the joy of the entire Davis family over her sister's release on bail.

Asked how Miss Davis had spent her first evening of freedom, Alexander replied: "With a few friends. We had champagne and hugged and kissed one another all night long."

American Communist Party head Gus Hall was to have been present at the press conference but was delayed by a late flight.

Early in the day Miss Davis canceled plans to attend the San Francisco trial of the so-called Soledad Brothers, accused of killing a prison guard. Her spokesmen said she called off her **appearance** at the trial because "there was too much of a chance it would violate the court order" granting her bail.