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U.S.I.A. Drive Seeks to Counter Idea Miss Davis Is Persecuted

WASHINGTON, March 14 (AP)—The United States has quietly mounted a worldwide campaign to portray the murder-conspiracy trial of Angela Davis as an example of democracy at work and to counter contentions that she is being persecuted because she is a black and a Communist.

The United States Information Agency has sent to its 106 post's abroad packages of background information and detailed instructions as to how the story should be treated. Some of the instructions are classified as not for public disclosure.

"As soon as this broke, I knew it would be a cause célèbre around the world," said Ken Towery, the agency's policy chief. "That's the way the Commies operate."

"Our only goal here is to see the U.S. gets a fair trial overseas," said Joseph Glazer, a labor economist who heads a 20-member, all-white agency task force to handle the Davis case.

Besides sending out instructions and background information, the agency last year notified its posts in a classified circular that each could order

up to three copies of the grand jury proceedings that led to Miss Davis's indictment on charges of murder, kidnapping and conspiracy.

Miss Davis, an avowed Communist who was dismissed from the University of California faculty in 1966, is accused of supplying guns used in a 1970 gun battle at the Marin County, Calif., courthouse. Three black convicts and a judge taken as a hostage were killed in an escape attempt.

The agency also classified its initial policy guide, sent out Jan. 21, 1971, with a 16-page analysis of the case by the legal department, along with three pages of answers to what were described as the most commonly asked questions.

A revised policy paper, called an "infoguide," was issued last month. It is almost identical with the first one but it is not classified.

Under the heading "Treatment," officials are told to "explain to all audiences, especially influential opinion molders, how the Anglo-American judicial processes differ—sometimes sharply—from the judicial processes in other countries."

Among other points officials are told to emphasize are that Miss Davis is innocent until proved guilty; the trial is open; "Free Angela Davis Committees" are operating freely across the country to raise defense funds; and "loose charges by Angela Davis Committees of genocide against black militants are not justified by the facts."

The paper concludes by urging officials to "give the subject particular play to Soviet audiences."