

A 'Love Letter' Linking Angela With Jackson

By Carolyn Anspacher

The fragment of a "love letter" written by Angela Davis to George Jackson when he was an inmate of Soledad prison crept into her murder-ki d n a p-conspiracy trial in San Jose yesterday.

Only one portion of the letter, and its concluding "I love you. Hasta la Victoria. Angela" went into the trial record despite a day-long attempt by Miss Davis' attorneys to suppress all correspondence exchanged by her and Jackson.

Jackson, one of the so-called "Soledad Brothers" accused of killing a Soledad guard, was killed last year during a disturbance at San Quentin Prison.

PAMPHLET

This particular "Dear George" letter, written by Miss Davis on June 22, 1970, was contained in a letter from Jackson's then-attorney, John Thorne of San Jose, and also contained a something-less-than-romantic pamphlet: Mao Tse Tung's tract entitled "Combat Liberalism."

Officer Raymond W. Kelsey, then in charge of the Soledad mailroom, said he felt the Davis letter was a "form of contraband," intercepted it and turned it over to his superior, Captain Charles Moody.

Kelsey, red-faced and obviously uneasy, said he read only the opening paragraph and noted the signature before consulting with Moody.

SHEET

He gingerly held the single

sheet of punched binder paper, with handwriting on both sides, and was permitted to read these words:

"Dear George: What activities am I supposed to take time off from? Since that day described to you, my life, all my life's efforts have gone in one direction — free George Jackson and the Soledad Brothers.

"Man, I have gotten into a lot of trouble but I don't give a damn. I love you. I love my people. That is all that matters, liberation by any means necessary. Those means are determined by the nature and intensity of the enemy's response. The America oppressor has revealed to us what we must do if we are serious about our commitment. If I am serious about my love for you, about black people, I should be ready to go all the way. I am. Hence, a myriad of problems which I must talk to you about at some point.

"I love you. Hasta la Victoria. Angela."

LINK

This first concrete link between Miss Davis and Jackson, for whom, the state claims, she plotted and armed the Aug. 7, 1970 escape attempt with its subsequent bloody gun battle at the Marin County Civic Center, was not heard by the jury of eight women and four men.

Almost at the start of the court day the panel was dismissed for the day so opposing counsel could set their legal battlelines for admis-

sion into evidence or suppression of numerous letters exchanged by Jackson and Miss Davis.

(The transcript of the day's testimony was made available to reporters. The jury has been admonished by the court on several occasions not to read accounts of the trial in the press, listen to radio accounts, or watch reports on television.)

ATTACK

In addition to the Soledad letter, marked No. 125 for identification, the defense renewed its violent attack on four letters seized by the FBI at Miss Davis' Los Angeles apartment 11 days after the Marin incident.

The defense also attacked an 18-page letter (or series of letters) found among Jackson's effects after the San Quentin disturbance in which he was killed, and a mysterious two-page letter apparently found in Miss Davis' Marin county jail cell last August.

The 18-page letter (or letters) was identified by Spiro Vasos, fingerprint examiner

for the State Department of Justice. He testified he found the typed sheets in a plain manila envelope in Jackson's cell after the San Quentin disturbance.

PROSECUTOR

The prosecutor, Assistant Attorney General Albert Harris Jr., did not identify the last two-page typed letter beyond describing it as bearing the date 7-8 (with no year) and noting that the

last word in the second page is "George."

Harris called Marin Deputy Sheriff Mary Ann Bron in connection with this document.

Mrs. Brown said that after 10 o'clock on the night of Aug. 28, 1971, she went into Miss Davis' work cell in the Marin county jail. Miss Davis, then awaiting trial, had retired to her sleeping cell for the night.

Mrs. Brown said she removed Miss Davis' electric IBM typewriter on instruction of Undersheriff Sid Stinson, took it to "our office" and there made an exact copy of two pages of typing given to her by Stinson. Then, 45 minutes or an hour later, she returned the typewriter to Miss Davis' work cell and "replaced it exactly as it had been."

CONTESTED

Introduction of all these exhibits was hotly contested, first by defense attorney Doris Brin Walker, and then by her colleague, Leo Branton Jr.

They claimed the Soledad letter had been illegally and unconstitutionally seized in violation of the confidentiality of the lawyer-client relationship. Removal of the 18-page document from Jackson's effects after his death Branton claimed was illegal search and seizure. He termed removal of Miss Davis' typewriter from her cell a violation of her status as a co-counsel in her case.

"At some point," he said, "a letter was found in Jackson's cell and the attorney general's office had someone surreptitiously go into Miss Davis' workroom. They had no search warrant and they violated a policy that that workroom was her law office, full of confidential material."

The defense submitted formal motions for the suppression of all the documents, and the prosecution will offer its answering motions this morning.

Superior Court Judge Richard E. Arnason, who is hearing the trial, is expected to rule quickly.