

APR 20 1972

NYTimes

Love Letter Read

At Angela's Trial

Defense Seeks to  
Suppress Link to  
George Jackson

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Special to The New York Times

SAN JOSE, Calif., April 19—

A Soledad Prison guard read into the record at the Angela Davis trial today a portion of one of the controversial letters that she wrote to George Jackson.

The guard, Raymond W. Kelsey, said he confiscated the letter in June, 1970, addressed to Jackson, the black revolutionary who was slain last year at San Quentin Prison.

The letter is one of many that the prosecution hopes to use to show that Miss Davis, a former philosophy instructor and avowed Communist, was so in love with Jackson that she conspired with his younger brother, Jonathan, to force his release from prison.

Miss Davis, who is on trial on charges of murder, kidnaping and conspiracy, is accused of having helped plan the seizure of hostages and of purchasing guns for it.

The charges stem from an attempted escape from the Marin County Courthouse in August, 1970, by three San Quentin convicts who seized five hostages before fleeing the courthouse. In the shooting that followed, a judge and three of the kidnapers, including Jonathan Jackson, were shot to death.

#### Jury Excused

Although a portion of one of the letters was read today, none of them were placed into evidence and when the letter was read, the jury was not in the courtroom.

Judge Richard E. Arnason excused the jurors today while the prosecution attempted to introduce the letters and the defense tried to have them suppressed.

During the prosecution's effort to introduce the letters, Mr. Kelsey read a portion of one that he said he seized at the Soledad Prison on June 29, 1970.

The letter was addressed, "Dear George."

Mr. Kelsey then read:

"What activities am I supposed to take time off from? Since that day described to you, my life, all my life 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.

#### 'Go All the Way'

"The American 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."

Mr. Kelsey said that the letter was signed, "I love you hasta la victoria, Angela."

In his testimony Mr. Kelsey, a prison guard for 18 years, said that the letter was contained in a letter to Jackson, then an inmate at Soledad Prison, from his attorney, John Thorne of San Jose. Mr. Kelsey said that he was working in the prison's mailroom at the time and opened all mail to inmates in an attempt to intercept contraband.

He added that, although the letter was only signed "Angela," he recognized it as being from Miss Davis and then turned it over to his superior because she was not one of the persons authorized to correspond with Jackson.

#### Seizure Called Illegal

The defense asked that the letter be suppressed contending that it was illegally seized. Leo Branton, a defense attorney, argued that the taking of the letter violated the attorney-client privilege.

The prosecution also sought to win approval to introduce into evidence what it called an 18-page letter from Miss Davis to Jackson that was seized at San Quentin last Aug. 21, just a few hours after Jackson was shot and killed in what the authorities said was an attempted prison escape.

Judge Arnason did not rule on the motions to suppress the letters. He put off his decision until tomorrow, promising to rule from the bench after the prosecution makes rebuttal arguments.