

Magee Says He Wasn't in The Violence

By Alice Yarish

Ruchell Magee passed out word yesterday from his San Quentin Prison cell that he took no part in the Aug. 21 violence that cost six lives. He also expressed praise for a guard.

Through his court-appointed attorney, Richard Graves, the 32 year old black convict insisted that he tried to get other inmates in the Adjustment Center to "cool it," then withdrew to the back and remained there until the trouble ended.

Graves said that Magee, a defendant in an impending trial over the Aug. 7, 1970, Marin Civic Center shootout, believes news reports on the Aug. 21 violence mistakenly left the impression he was a participant.

Prison officials have said Soledad Brother George Jackson touched off the violence by displaying what one reliable source calls a smuggled 9 mm. Liama "Corto" pistol. He then threw a switch that unlocked the cell doors for 26 Adjustment Center inmates, including Magee. Jackson, two other convicts

and three guards were killed.

After Magee's attorney transmitted the convict's denial of any participation, a San Quentin spokesman said yesterday that the prison could neither confirm nor deny what Magee said because the investigation still is in progress.

Magee's message also included praise for one San Quentin Prison guard, Lt. Aaron Stewart.

Magee said the officer exercised wise leadership, did a great deal to cool the uproar and "probably saved a number of lives."

Despite reports published elsewhere that the gun allegedly smuggled to Jackson was a Spanish-made Astra M-600 about 8½ inches long, the weapon actually was a Spanish-made Liama Corto (short), 5¾ inches long, firing a .380 projectile.

George Jackson is buried
—Page 4.

Terrorist bombs hit three cities—Page 5.