

Financial Lament

By Angela's Sister

Moscow

Fania Jordan, a black American who is here on a European tour on behalf of her sister, Angela Davis, said yesterday that Soviet groups, though sympathetic, had not made financial pledges to the defense fund of Miss Davis, who faces trial in California on charges of murder, kidnaping and criminal conspiracy.

The young woman made the statement in reply to a question at a news conference organized by her Soviet hosts after having told of the "significant contribution" made by supporters in Western European countries.

Mrs. Jordan's remark may prove embarrassing to the Soviet Union, which has generated a wide publicity campaign around the case of Miss Davis, portraying her as a black martyr who is being persecuted in the United States for her political convictions as a member of the Communist party.

At yesterday's news conference, sponsored by the Committee of Youth Organizations of the USSR in the House of Friendship, Mrs. Jordan depicted what she described as the "problem of political repression" in the U.S., the state of her sister's health and the high cost of American court proceedings.

PROBLEM

"As a result of this tour," she said, "some money has been raised, which will go to the defense campaign of Angela, both the mass cam-

paign and the legal struggle."

When the question of Soviet financial aid was raised, Gennadi I. Yanayev, chairman of the Soviet Youth Committee, who presided over the news conference, smiled in what seemed to be momentary embarrassment but did not comment. Mrs. Jordan said:

"Well, no, we have not received any pledges from Soviet organizations. This entails very big problems in international monetary relations or something and political problems as well. But the support, moral support, of the Soviet Union has really been outstanding."

STANDING

She seemed to be alluding to the lack of international standing of the ruble, which is not freely convertible into U.S. dollars or other Western foreign currencies. The ruble may be used only within the Soviet Union.

The Soviet government does, of course, possess foreign exchange reserves, but these are carefully hoarded to meet the nation's priority needs of economic development.

On Miss Davis's health, her sister said: "We think that she might be suffering from glaucoma, which entails progressive loss of vision and can lead to blindness if not treated properly. At this stage the prison authorities still flatly refuse to allow her specialized medical treatment."

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