

# Miss Davis Doubts a Fair Trial

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Special to The New York Times

PALO ALTO, Calif., Dec. 27

—In about a month, Angela Davis goes on trial for her

she will be tried for murder, kidnapping and criminal conspiracy, and if convicted of just one of those offenses, she could be sentenced to death.

Awaiting trial, she is imprisoned in this wealthy college town 30 miles down the peninsula from San Francisco.

She smokes heavily. She worries about her failing eyesight. And she says there is virtually no way for her to receive a fair trial.

But after 15 months of imprisonment, it is the loneliness and the isolation produced by confinement in maximum security that bothers her most.

Largely because of that, Miss Davis, a black woman who advocates revolution and espouses Communism, agreed to an interview, one of the few that she has granted since her arrest in October, 1970.

The interview was held in a special visiting room at the Marin County Jail, north of San Francisco, two days before she was transferred here. She will be tried in San Jose, just south of here, in late January.

She appeared thinner than before her imprisonment, but other than that, the only noticeable difference was the constant cigarette. Her lawyers say she smokes as many as 80 cigarettes a day.

In the two hours that she talked, she showed herself to be a person of many emotions. At the start of the interview, when a matron insisted on entering the visiting room and eavesdropping, Miss Davis showed her temper.

## 'You Can Just Wait'

"You don't come barging in here when I'm talking to white people," she snapped, "so you can just wait outside now. I'm sick of this. Every time a black person comes in here, it's the same



Associated Press

Angela Y. Davis smokes during an interview in California

thing. You can just get out. You don't have to be in here."

The matron left.

The anger lasted but a moment. There were times when she laughed and others when she nearly cried.

She laughed at herself when she recalled how she broke off her education in Europe in 1967 and dashed back to the United States to immerse herself in the movement.

"It was really funny," she said. "I suppose I was overly enthusiastic when I came back because I would get this person's phone number and that person's phone number and go to this group and that group asking whether I could do anything. And then I found out that word circulated that I may be an agent."

Again she laughed.

"I was just completely naive," she said. "Of course anybody would think that anyone who would go to every group and ask what's going on might be an agent. But we got that straight."

Tears welled in her eyes when she talked of George L. Jackson, the black convict who was shot and killed last August at San Quentin prison.

"I felt a very strong love for him on every level," she said in a soft voice, "a very, very strong personal love, love and admiration for his ability to put his commitment to liberation into practice."

She discussed her turn to Marxism in a matter-of-fact manner.

## 'A Lot of Things'

"There are a lot of things at work that led me to Marxism," she said. "Even in Birmingham, growing up, people around me, black people, were members of the Communist party."

"I never developed the kind of resistance you usually find among people in this country to Communism," she said.

Miss Davis, now 27 years old, moved from Birmingham to New York City, where she was graduated from Elizabeth Irwin High School in Greenwich Village. In 1965, she was graduated magna cum laude from Brandeis University.

She embarked on graduate studies at Johann Wolfgang van Goethe University in Frankfurt but broke off abruptly in 1967 and returned to the United States.

"I felt that my commitment to the struggle being