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Angela Ready for Long Fight

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SAN JOSE—Angela Davis was suffering from a flu-like cold today, but attorneys said she would make no effort to postpone the scheduled start of her long-delayed murder trial here.

The 28 year old avowed Communist and former UCLA philosophy teacher was said to be ready to start her long battle against the murder, kidnap and conspiracy charges rising from the fatal shootout at Marin County Civic Center Aug. 7, 1970.

A panel of 150 prospective jurors was summoned by Superior Judge Richard E. Arnason. The size of his courtroom — 64 seats, of which 30 were reserved for the press — meant that the jurors would have to wait in a separate room until called to the jury box itself.

Observers felt it would take less time to select a jury than had been expected before the California Supreme Court made its historic recent decision outlawing the death penalty. Many jury-selecting processes in the past have been prolonged by talesmen's soul-

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searching over capital punishment.

Stringent security measures remained in effect for the court, though the Supreme Court ruling led to Miss Davis' release last week on \$102,500 bail.

Security

Steel mesh fences and alarm systems have been set up, and all participants including prospective jurors must submit to searches for possibly hidden weapons.

This — hidden weapons — was what started the entire tragic case.

The shootout 19 months ago came when 17 year old Jonathan Jackson smuggled four guns into the courtroom of the Marin County Superior Judge Harold Haley in an abortive attempt to gain freedom for certain San Quentin convicts.

The judge, Assist. district Attorney Gary W. Thomas and two woman jurors were forced outside the Civic Center and into a rented van.

Minutes later, in a roaring exchange of gunfire, the judge, young Jackson and convicts James McClain and William Christmas were killed, convict Ruchell Magee was wounded, and prosecutor Thomas was paralyzed by a bullet in his spine.

State Claim

Magee was originally Miss Davis' co-defendant, but their cases have since been separated.

The state claims Miss Davis procured the guns for the Jackson youth, in a plot to free his older brother, George Jackson, one of the so-called "Soledad Brothers" accused of slaying a guard at the state prison at Soledad.

Jackson, with whom the state says Miss Davis was in love, was killed later in another shootout, this one at San Quentin.

Miss Davis flew to Los Angeles a few hours after the Civic Center gun battle, disappeared, and was arrested by FBI agents in a New York motel two months later.

Trial Moved

Her trial was originally scheduled to take place in Marin County, where the shootout occurred, but her attorneys, headed by Howard Moore Jr. and Leo Branton Jr., obtained a change of venue to Santa Clara County on charges that there was prejudice against her in Marin.

They fought to have it moved again, on similar claims of prejudice, but were turned down.

Supporters of the petite, bespectacled defendant met for a special service at Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco yesterday, hoping that she, too, would be present.

But the Rev. Cecil Williams explained:

"I just talked to Angela on the telephone. She's sick. She's got the flu. She's down — but she's not low. She told me to be sure to give you her revolutionary love."

Little Nephew

Her 19 - month - old nephew, Benjie Davis III, acted as a sort of stand-in for Miss Davis. He clenched his tiny right fist in the "power to the people" salute, just as his accused aunt had done at many pre - trial hearings in San Rafael.

He was held high by his father, Ben Davis, professional football star, while his

grandparents, Sallye and Frank Davis — mother and father of Angela — smiled proudly.

The participants, present in standing - room - only

numbers, stamped their feet and cheered in a revival meeting atmosphere, complete with a light show, revolutionary singing, holding hands and dancing.



A "POWER TO THE PEOPLE" SALUTE FROM ANGELA'S NEPHEW BENJAMIN III
Youngster is held by his father, football player Ben . . . at the left is Angela's mother, Sallye Davis

—Examiner photo by Teresa Zabala