

# Angela Trial Politics, Russ Reporter Insists

By Don West

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SAN JOSE—Newspaper readers in Communist countries do not expect "objective" reports on Angela Davis' murder-kidnap trial here, according to Red newsmen assigned to the case.

"Journalism is a political thing — I don't think objectivity exists in this profession," contends Edward Baskakov, reporter from the USSR's news service, Tass, which serves nearly a billion readers.

Baskakov, a 40 year old journalist whose two decades of reporting have included assignments in 13 countries, sees his job as "subjectively" telling his story as he observes it taking place, conditioned as he is by a political and social system he considers superior.

He is one of three reporters who have been warmly received by Miss Davis' entourage.

## Greetings

Dr. Klaus Steiniger of East Germany and Peter Vajda of Hungary are the other international correspondents welcomed for the greetings brought to the defendant from their homelands.

Steiniger yesterday displayed his unusual technique by twice interrupting a news conference for Miss Davis, not to ask questions, but to proclaim his country's support for her.

Steiniger announced an invitation to Miss Davis to attend a 1973 Communist

youth conference in his country, then presented copies of pro-Angela Davis notices being circulated in East Germany.

## TV Victim

Baskakov, chewing his omnipresent pipe, is less intense and aggressive than his German counterpart. His three years experience in this country, nearly all in New York City, have led to a relaxed, bantering style,



**EDWARD BASKAKOV**  
Works "subjectively"

making him master of a reporters' "bull session."

He complains only half jokingly that his 11 year old daughter has been "captured by your American television until her writing is absolutely terrible."

Comparisons between Moscow and U.S. public transportation systems by Baskakov led inevitably to the conclusion that this country is slave to the auto and "this is not the hope of the future."

But all of these jibes are made with the good-natured disclaimer that "I am not here to make propaganda. Those are your problems to solve."

His view of the Angela Davis trial is that this is a political case.

"Why else would the prosecutor be asking all those questions about Communism and people's knowledge of

Communists if it were not political?" he posed.

## Litigant

No stranger to U.S. courts — he is still involved in litigation with the Jewish Defense League in New York over an embassy attack — he seemed honestly puzzled at our system of selecting trial jurors, which he believes seeks people with no knowledge of public life.

Baskakov received nationwide attention for his first day's dispatch, a five-page story that told of "artificial hysteria" being manufactured at the trial by authorities.

Defending this analysis,

Baskakov said he considered the security measures established by sheriff's deputies, searches of court spectators and participants as part of this "artificial hysteria."