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Angela Through Foreign Eyes

The Angela Davis trial is being covered by reporters representing newspapers, magazines and television and radio stations around the world. Here are the thoughts of three correspondents from Europe:

Two of the Communist reporters assigned to the trial frankly say they have already rendered a journalistic verdict and found Miss Davis innocent.

"America is going through a period of political upheaval, and your government is striking out against all those who have the courage to speak out against the injustices and racism occurring in this United States at this time," said Edward Baskakov, a correspondent for Tass, the official Soviet news agency.

"Angela Davis is a victim of this persecution and while you Americans may not realize this, it is abundantly clear to the rest of the world. She is on trial because of her political beliefs and for no other reason," the pleasant, soft-spoken Baskakov said with conviction.

COVERAGE
Baskakov said his agency's decision to send a correspondent to San Jose was not based on the fact that

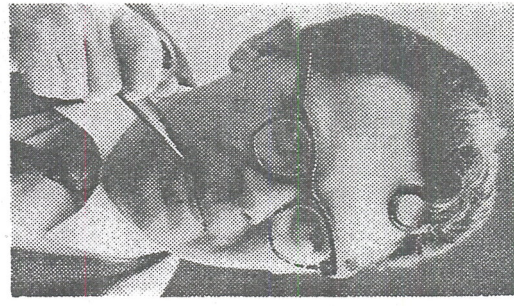


KLAUS STEINIGER
'No basis'

Miss Davis is a Communist. "Of course that makes it even more interesting for my readers," he said, "but our primary interest is the fact that a heroic young woman who is struggling in behalf of her people is being subjected to political trial.

"The fact that she also happens to be a dedicated member of the Communist Party of your nation is incidental to the issue.

"Tass is also covering the (Rev. Phillip) Berrigan trial in Philadelphia and will be covering the (Daniel) Ellsberg trial in Los Angeles. Neither are Communists. 'We would be here even if



EDWARD BASKAKOV
His mind is made up

she (Miss Davis) were a nun," Baskakov said.

GERMAN
Dr. Klaus Steiniger, political correspondent for Neues Deutschland, the newspaper (circulation one million) that is the official organ of the Communist Party in East Germany, is even less objective than his Russian counterpart.

He caused U. S. newsmen's heads to turn recently when he interrupted a San Jose press conference. Steiniger presented to Franklin Alexander, of the National United Committee to Free Angela Davis, a book he had written about the case, and



GITTA BAUER
West German reporter

loudly proclaimed he supported the committee's demand that "all charges against her be dropped."

Steiniger emphasized that in addition to being a reporter he is also a lawyer: "In fact, I have served as a prosecuting attorney in my country."

He said he had made a careful study of the case, and concluded, "Your government has no basis for trying Angela Davis ... none whatsoever" ... the (Marin county) grand jury indictment clearly demonstrates there is no evidence linking her to the tragic occurrence in 1970."

"The people of my nation were shocked by that occurrence, for any such act puts revolution in jeopardy. Communism rejects such actions, as anyone who has read Marx well knows.

"That is even more reason we know her to be innocent, for as a dedicated Communist she would never become involved in anything like that," Steiniger said.

RALLIES

Support for Miss Davis is not limited to Communist nations.

West Germany, for example, has been the scene of many rallies in which thousands of students and workers have chanted "Free Angela."

"She (Miss Davis) has caught the imagination of many of our young people," said Gitta Bauer, correspondent for the Springer chain of seven West German newspapers and two magazines, with a total circulation of 13 million readers.

The reporting of the case in West Germany has been on an objective, straight-down-the-middle level, and those supporting her, Mrs. Bauer said.

"She is young, attractive and articulate," said Mrs. Bauer, "and to the youth of West Germany she is a kind of new prophet."