

Angela Letter to Jack

By Stephen Cook
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SAN JOSE — Portions of another fervent letter from Angela Davis to George Jackson were disclosed today as the defense in her trial battled desperately to keep them from being read to the jury.

The new document was produced by the prosecution through R. W. Kelsey, a guard at Soledad prison, where Jackson was once confined and where he was accused of taking part in the murder of a guard.

Kelsey, speaking in the absence of the jury, which had been sent home for the day while arguments raged over admission of the letters, said he intercepted this one in the prison mail room on June 29, 1970.

'Contraband'

It was, he said, dated June 22, and in an envelope that bore the return address of John Thorne, Jackson's attorney. He opened it, Kelsey related, read the first paragraph and the signature, determined it was "not from

Thorne" and seized it as contraband.

At the request of Prosecutor Albert Harris Jr., Kelsey read the opening paragraph — a long one.

"Dear George," it began. "What activities am I supposed to take time off from? Since that day described to you, my life, all my life efforts, have gone in one direction, free George Jackson and the Soledad Brothers.

"Man, I have gotten into a lot of trouble but I don't give a damn. I love you, I love my people. That is all that matters, liberation by any means necessary.

"Those means are determined by the nature and intensity of the enemy's response. The American oppressor has revealed to us what we must do if we are serious about our commitment.

"If I am serious about my love for you, about black people, I should be ready to go all the way. I am. Hence, a myriad of problems which I must talk to you about at some point."

The letter, Kelsey said, was signed: "I love you, hasta la victoria, Angela." It also bore a postscript signed "Jon" — presumably Jackson's younger brother, Jonathan.

Defense attorneys opposed admission of the letter on the grounds that Kelsey violated the attorney-client privilege when he read it.

Harris also mentioned an 18-page letter not yet disclosed, and indicated there were others. The day was devoted entirely to arguments over letting the jury hear and see them, for they bear on Miss Davis' alleged motive in joining the conspiracy that resulted in the Marin County Courthouse shootout.

'Letters in Cell'

Defense Attorney Leo Branton Jr. also filed a formal motion to quash as evidence a sample of typing from the machine in Miss Davis' Marin County jail cell taken without her knowledge on Aug. 26, 1971, more than a year after the shootout.

Five days after George Jackson was killed in a San Quentin escape attempt last year, prison authorities allegedly discovered letters from Miss Davis in his cell. Harris apparently hopes to link them to her through the typewriting specimen.

But the defense contended that the machine was in her workroom where she kept confidential documents, and that she had been assured it would never be searched unless her attorneys were present.

The reason Miss Davis allegedly supplied guns used in the kidnaping of a Marin County superior court judge by San Quentin convicts on Aug. 7, 1970, according to prosecution claims, was her love for George Jackson.

Harris charges that she

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hoped to hold Judge Harold Haley and others as hostages for the release of Jackson and Fleeta Drumgo and John Clutchette, accused with him in the murder of a guard.

Second Phase

After calling 42 witnesses, Harris yesterday shifted his attention from the bloody ending of that attempt (Judge Haley, two convicts and Jackson's younger brother, Jonathan, were killed) to a second phase of the trial, one during which he promises to prove Miss Davis' participation in the plot.

When he attempted to call former FBI Agent James W. McCord, the man who found three love letters addressed "Dear George" in Miss Da-

vis' apartment Aug. 18, 1970, the defense opened another effort to bar the letters as illegally seized material.

The letters, made part of the court record last November during the first defense effort to have them returned as illegally seized evidence, contain a confession from Miss Davis that she fell in love with George Jackson at first sight — when she saw him in a Salinas courtroom May 3, 1970.

Search Goal

Writing another of the letters in early morning hours of June 10, 1970, Miss Davis wrote: "The night after I saw you in court . . . I dreamt we were together fighting pigs, winning. We were learning to know each other."

Calling Jackson her "beautiful black warrior," Miss Davis discussed in one letter the role black women must play in the revolution:

"We too must pick up the sword. Only a fighting woman can guide her son in a warrior direction . . . We have to learn to rejoice when pig's blood is spilled . . . to learn how to set the sights accurately, squeeze rather than jerk and not be overcome by the damage."

Defense attorney Doris Brin Walker, questioning McCord out of the presence of the jury, first suggested he exceeded the authority of his search warrant in seizing the letters since the warrant was for evidence that Miss Davis had fled the state to avoid prosecution

and evidence of her whereabouts.

Harris, though, pointed out that the warrant specifically named letters as items to be seized and McCord said he hoped to gain some clue as to where Miss Davis was by reading her correspondence.

The defense resumed its attack today, Mrs. Walker moving that the letters be suppressed on the grounds that they constituted "tainted or unlawfully obtained evidence."

She protested that two of the letters were photocopies, a fact of which the defense had not been apprised during the pre-trial discovery procedures.