

Angela Defense Hints

A Quick Windup

By Stephen Cook

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SAN JOSE — Angela Davis' murder - kidnap - conspiracy trial was recessed here today to give her attorneys time to prepare an "abbreviated defense."

The surprise defense move immediately brought speculation that Miss Davis' attorneys might not offer a defense case at all and would rest her case when the trial resumes at 9 a.m. Monday. Chief defense counsel Howard Moore Jr. hinted that might happen.

Miss Davis had been under instruction by Superior Judge Richard Arnason to be prepared to call her first witness this morning. But as soon as the proceedings opened, Moore requested the delay so the defense could "alter" its trial position.

Arnason granted the motion "with some reluctance."

Moore said it had been the defense's position since the start of the case that they wanted it to go to a jury as soon as possible. In preparing the former UCLA philosophy instructor's case, he

said, her attorneys had "looked into every conceivable nook and cranny to seek out the truth."

The defense team is now reexamining its earlier extensive witness list and the more than 6000 pages of prosecution testimony.

After careful analysis, Moore said, defense lawyers have decided "if we alter our trial position we could save a substantial amount of

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time" by switching strategy and presented an abbreviated defense.

Soon to Jury

He promised Judge Arnason that if the delay were granted, the case could go to the jury by the end of the month. Given the time necessary for any rebuttal witnesses for Prosecutor Albert W. Harris Jr., final arguments by both sides and instructions by Arnason, that would mean any defense testimony would be extremely brief.

Outside the courtroom, Moore added to the speculation that no witnesses would be called, telling reporters, "We don't know what's going to happen Monday. We may just start arguing Monday . . . We expect some abbreviated defense action."

Miss Davis is accused of helping plan the kidnap of Superior Judge Harold J. Haley from the Marin County Hall of Justice on Aug. 7, 1970. The judge, two San Quentin convicts and the youth accused of smuggling guns into the courtroom for the breakout were slain in the ensuing shootout.