

World Reaction To the Acquittal

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S.F.
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World reaction was generally reserved yesterday on the acquittal of Angela Davis, whose arrest on murder and conspiracy charges was often severely criticized by left-wing groups and newspapers.

The official Soviet news agency Tass reported without comment that Miss Davis, long-championed in the Soviet press as a heroine who was "framed" because she was black and Communist, had been found innocent.

"The jury verdict declared her not guilty after thorough consideration of all the materials," Tass said.

In Frankfurt, West Germany's "Angela Davis Solidarity Committee" greeted her acquittal as a prevention of a "political terror verdict" but said: "It doesn't

only concern Angela Davis, rather the fate of all political prisoners in the U.S.A. who are less prominent."

A Black Panther party spokesman in Algiers said the verdict was "a good thing, but we still have no illusions about the situation in the (United) States. Many political prisoners — prisoners of war — are being tried unfairly."

The spokesman said it was his contention her all-white jury was not "this time . . . prejudiced against her. They didn't judge her for what the prosecution said about her political stance," he said.

Miss Davis' political mentor, Professor Herbert Marcuse of the University of California, said in Frankfurt he was "delighted" at the news of her acquittal.

"Although I never for one moment believed Angela was guilty, it still came as a wonderful surprise," the 73-year-old philosophy professor said. "Given the political pressures, it speaks very much for judge and jury that they returned the verdict."

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