

# Russians Hail Davis Acquittal as a 'Victory for the

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Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, June 5 — The Soviet Union, after having made a virtual folk heroine of Angela Davis, today hailed her acquittal yesterday as a "victory for the progressive American and world community."

The official press agency Tass, in a dispatch from New York, said:

"The charges were so unfounded that they were refuted even by the carefully selected jury, which did not include a single black or a single poor person."

The relatively low-key handling of the news, which appeared tonight on an inside page of the Government newspaper Izvestia under the headline "A. Davis is free," seemed almost anticlimactic after the intensive publicity campaign mounted on behalf of Miss Davis in the controlled Soviet media.

Her case had been eagerly seized upon by the powerful Communist propaganda apparatus in support of its contention that racial discrimination and injustice remained rife in American society.

Throughout the 13-week trial of the black militant, the Soviet newspapers did not come to grips with the details of the charges of murder, kidnapping and conspiracy in connection with the 1970 gun battle outside the Marin County Courthouse in California.

### Previous Coverage

Commentaries and occasional news reports from the trial in San Jose, Calif., tended to suggest that Miss Davis was being prosecuted mainly because she was a black and a Communist.

Yesterday, just a few hours before the verdict of acquittal was announced, the Tass agency said the jury had not yet reached a decision on the "fabricated charges."

"Meanwhile, reactionaries have been intensifying their attacks against Angela Davis," the agency said. "The ultras, evidently not expecting to achieve much with their unconvincing and absurd charges against the courageous Com-

munist, have been making open threats to take the law into their own hands."

The Tass dispatch on the acquittal did not try to review the complex testimony provided by the state in an attempt to link Miss Davis to an unsuccessful escape-and-ransom plot to seize hostages from the Marin County courtroom. The plot failed and four persons, including a judge, died in a gun battle.

Instead the Soviet agency said the State of California "made every effort to try to get even with the Communist."

"It prepared 97 'witnesses for the prosecution' and a tremendous amount of 'evidence,'" Tass said, adding that the trial had cost \$800,000.

"However, attempts by the prosecution to prove Angela Davis's 'participation' in a 'conspiracy' and 'murder' were refuted by the Communist's defense," the Soviet agency said.

### Move Hailed in Europe

LONDON, June 5 (AP)—A number of European newspapers today hailed the acquittal of Miss Davis as a demonstration of the impartiality of American justice.

Terming the verdict "a milestone in America's tormented racial history," The London Daily Mail said it "sensationally disproves that in the United States today a controversial black cannot get a fair trial from all-white jurors in a bourgeois middle-class area where anti-Negro emotions have so long been potent."

The independent Messaggero, Rome's biggest newspaper, said the trial had "elements of political and racial discrimination such as to threaten the fairness of American justice."

... All Americans breathed with relief at this reconfirmation of the democratic validity of the most sacred institution in the history of the nation."

Sweden's liberal Expressen concluded that those who argued that a black Communist could not get justice before an American court had been proved wrong. It said the ver-

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## Progressive American

dict was not unexpected in view of the prosecution case. jurisprudence and that he was not disappointed.

**F.B.I. Chief Not Disappointed**  
NEWARK, June 5 (UPI) — The acting F.B.I. director, Patrick Gray 3d, said today that the verdict represented the responsible working of American

**Communist Leader Elated**  
Henry Winston, national chairman of the Communist party, U.S.A., declared yesterday that freeing of Miss Davis was "a blow struck for liberty

and peace throughout the world." Calif., yesterday, the Associated Press reported. "She has had to endure one year of prison unnecessarily because of that system."

**Black Panthers Bitter**  
"We do not give credit to the American judicial system for declaring her innocent," said a Black Panther party leader, Elaine Brown, in Oakland, Calif., yesterday, the Associated Press reported. "I think the verdict indicates that the trial

never should have taken place."  
"I only wish she could sue the state for taking so much time from her life and jeopardizing her life," the Negro leader continued. "But I don't think she'll be able to."

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