

THE STATES-ITEM

14 March 72

U.S. Opens Campaign

Angela: Democracy at Work?

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has quietly mounted a worldwide campaign to portray the murder conspiracy trial of Angela Davis as an example of democracy at work, and to counter claims she is being persecuted because she is a black and a Communist.

The U.S. Information Agency has sent packages of background information and detailed instructions, some of them classified, to its 106 posts overseas on how the story should be played.

"As soon as this broke, I knew it would be a cause celebre around the world," said Ken Towery, USIA policy chief. "That's the way the Commies operate."

"Our only goal here is to see the U.S. gets a fair trial overseas," said Joseph Glazer, a labor economist who heads a 20-member, all-white agency task force to handle the Davis case.

Besides its instructions and

background information, the agency last year notified its posts in a classified circular that they could order up to three copies of the Grand Jury proceedings that led to Miss Davis' indictment on charges of murder, kidnaping and conspiracy.

Miss Davis, an avowed Communist who was dismissed from the University of California faculty in 1966, is accused of supplying guns used in a 1970 shootout at the Marin County, Calif., courthouse. Three black convicts and a judge were killed.

Now on trial in San Jose, Calif., Miss Davis says she is innocent and claims she is being persecuted because she is black, a woman and a Communist.

Twenty-five USIA posts ordered copies of the Grand Jury transcript, which presents only the state's side of the case.

Lyle D. Copmann, chief of USIA's Overseas Press Service, said mailing of the transcripts drew a complaint from

an agency official in Brazil that the move was unusual and possibly illegal since such proceedings usually are kept secret.

Copmann said, however, the agency's legal department had ruled there was nothing wrong with the action since the transcript already had been made public in this country and did not violate California law.