

press
john pitman
the daily world
205 west 19th street
new york, n.y. 10011

1972 FA-36

angela arrives

by lionel martin (prensa latina special to daily world)

havana, sept 27 -- the plane from prague touched down at havana's jose marti international airport at 2:20 am. this morning, thousands of people jammed the upper ramp and ground-level side of the terminal building to greet angela davis whose name is practically legend in cuba.

after being officially welcomed by jesus montane, vilma espin, blas roca and lazare pena, all of the central committee of cuba's communist party, angela walked across the airfield as the loudspeakers blared out cuba's most popular protest song: +angela davis+.

angela strided along the edge of the cordoned off crowd. people cheered wildly, hands reached out to touch her and signs and banner waved in the air. blacks and whites, young and old had waited for hours for her arrival. the central committee members followed behind her with broad smiles.

Later, in the comparative quiet of a waiting room, angela answered questions for the cuban and foreign press corp. more...es...

asked about her welcome angela remarked:

+we think this was about the warmest greeting we have received. for the last month we have been travelling through the soviet union, the ger, bulgaria and czechoslovakia. everywhere we've had extremely warm welcomes, but this was perhaps the most.+

asked about her plans, she answered:

+in a few weeks we will be returning to our country to further participate in the struggle...we believe we will be able to make extremely important contributions to the struggle of the blacks, the puerto ricans, mexican americans, to the struggle of women and all the working people because we will be able to take back with us our concrete experiences with socialism around the world. after our last visit to cuba, we were able to go back to our country and tell our people how racism had been virtually eliminated in a very short period of time here. we were able to tell them how the struggle for the emancipation of women was proceeding at a very rapid pace. in this way we were able to tell our people concretely what socialism would mean in the united states.+

regarding the specific activities that she will undertake upon her return she declared:

+most immediately our efforts will go into building our party's campaign in the short period before elections. after the elections we plan to devote most of my political activities to the building of a national defense organization that our party and other progressive people are projecting now. it will be an organization to support and defend political prisoners, not only political prisoners per se, but all victims of racist and class injustice...+
more...es...

angela davis...three and final

angela davis spoke of the need to shed light on the real situation in vietnam and accused the nixon administration of deceiving the people by making them believe that the war is winding down.+ she said that it must be demonstrated that the only way to bring an end to the war is to evict nixon and the republican administration. she added:

+this is not to say that the democratic candidate george mcgovern would immediately end the war because we realize that he is just as much a part of monopoly capitalism as is nixon. but we feel that the democratic party at this point would be more susceptible to mass pressure than richard nixon.+

angela arrived on the eve of the celebration of another anniversary of cuba's committees for the defense of the revolution. it is expected that she will have the opportunity to speak to hundreds of thousands of people in revolutionary square and millions by television thursday as she shares the same platform with the cuban prime minister.