

The News Tribune

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★★★★ MIDDLESEX COUNTY EDITION 20¢

Chesimard in county jail

NEW BRUNSWICK — Joanne Chesimard was returned to the Middlesex County Jail yesterday morning to await trial on a charge of murder in the killing of New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster of Old Bridge, May 2, 1973, in a shootout on the New Jersey Turnpike.

Mrs. Chesimard, the reputed soul of the Black Liberation Army, was picked up by Sheriff Joseph DeMarino at Rikers Island in New York where she had been incarcerated after being found not guilty of a New York bank robbery.

Some 30 state troopers, sheriff's officers and New Brunswick policemen armed with rifles and shotguns stood guard on the Kirkpatrick Street side of the jail as the manacled and shackled woman was brought into the prison.

Mrs. Chesimard, who has a reputation for defiance of all police authorities, was dressed in a print dress and long coat and wore a modest Afro-style hairdo as she entered the jail with no expression of emotion.

The 28-year-old defendant was picked up shortly after 8 a.m. and released to county authorities who brought her in a

three-vehicle caravan. She is being housed in a special cell prepared for her use in the basement of the antiquated county jail.

Mrs. Chesimard was an occupant of a car which was stopped near Exit 9 by Foerster for a routine traffic check early on the morning of May 2, 1973.

Foerster and Black Liberation Army member James Coston Jr. were killed at that time and Mrs. Chesimard is accused of shooting Foerster. Clark Squire, 39, the other occupant of the car, was sentenced to life imprisonment in state prison March 16, 1975, for the murder of Foerster and the attempted murder of Trooper James Harper of Freehold.

Authorities at Trenton State Prison said recently that Squire may have been the center of the Jan. 23 breakout attempt, and officials were concerned that an attempt to free Mrs. Chesimard might have been made yesterday.

Middlesex County Prosecutor C. Judson Hamlin said yesterday that jury selection in Mrs. Chesimard's trial before Superior Court Judge Theodore Appleby will begin March 1 in Morristown. Jury selection is

taking place there to insure that the women is tried before an impartial jury.

Hamlin said that as of now Raymond Brown and Evelyn Williams (Mrs. Chesimard's aunt) are the attorneys of record, but that Brown has applied to be relieved of the case. Hamlin added that Mrs. Chesimard might elect to represent herself as she did in the most recent case involving her in New York.

FRONT PAGE