

Calley given life in prison; reactions mixed

FT. BENNING, Ga. AP—Lt. William Calley Jr. was sentenced by a military jury Wednesday to life imprisonment at hard labor for the murder of at least 22 Vietnamese men, women and children at My Lai three years ago.

The Western White House reported President Nixon is receiving thousands of telegrams, running 100 to 1 against the conviction and urging clemency.

Asked if it was in Nixon's power to grant clemency, presidential press secretary Ronald Ziegler said, "That would not be a procedure that would be taken at this time."

Calley's lawyer called the life imprisonment penalty "the lesser of two evils."

Within minutes after Calley was sentenced to hard labor for life for the murder of 22 Vietnamese civilians at My Lai, Sen. Frank Moss, D-Utah, said in Washington he would introduce a resolution calling on President Nixon to reduce the term.

"We as a nation," he said, "cannot wipe this blemish from our national conscience simply by finding one man guilty. Lt. Calley should not go unpunished, but he alone should not be called on to pay the price."

Enlisted men who tasted combat in the Americal Division, the outfit of Calley believe he got "a bum rap for something we've all done at one time or another," as one of them put it.

Among 30 enlisted men interviewed before Calley was sentenced to life Wednesday, there was not one who agreed with the jury's decision that he committed premeditated murder at the village of My Lai. Many of them had been in combat in the same hostile hills.

The Soviet news agency Tass, reporting the life imprisonment sentence imposed on Calley, said Wednesday "the main initiators of this bloodbath escaped punishment."

The two-paragraph story said the Pentagon brought Calley to trial "under pressure by the indignant public."

Calley also was ordered dismissed from the service, where he had earned awards for gallantry in Vietnam and a Purple Heart for combat wounds. His monthly pay of \$773.10 was ordered forfeited.

The sentence carries the possibility of parole after 10 years.

An appeal of the sentence is automatic and is expected to take a year or more.

U.S. Sen. B. Everett Jordan, D-N.C., said, "I'm willing to do everything I can to expedite Calley's appeal."

George Latimer, chief defense lawyer, said, "I'm confident the sentence will be abated."

After the sentencing, Calley was taken under guard to the Ft. Benning stockade where he has been held since his conviction Monday of premeditated murder at My Lai.

Calley could have been condemned to death. His conviction had stirred a nationwide furor and letters of encouragement by the armload had arrived during the day addressed to the defendant.

"You'll find no case in military justice that has torn America apart like this case has torn America apart," Latimer told the six-man military jury before it retired Tuesday afternoon to begin deliberating the penalty to be assessed against Calley.

Speaking to newsmen after the life sentence was imposed, Latimer said: "I had the choice of two evils. I got the lesser of two evils. I'd say Calley feels the same way."

Members of the jury were tight-lipped as they left the courthouse.

"It's been a long time," said one, Maj. Carl Bierbaum. The others declined comment.

Calley left the courthouse for the stockade flanked by military

policemen. He saluted a silent crowd of about 150 spectators across the street. One woman in a red slacks suit shouted, "They crucified him."

A spokesman for Ft. Benning said there were no plans at present to move Calley elsewhere. But Latimer predicted Calley would end up in the disciplinary barracks at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., "in a hurry."

Parole denied

WASHINGTON AP—The U.S. Parole Board Wednesday denied parole to Teamsters President James Hoffa, apparently ending his chances for reelection as chief of the world's largest union.

The board continued Hoffa's case to June of 1972, long after the union election next July.

Parole Board Chairman George Reed said the seven members of the board made the decision after fully reviewing the entire record of Hoffa's case.

A statement issued by the board said Hoffa had been notified of the decision.

James Neagles, staff director of the parole board, read the board's statement but refused to answer any questions. The board did not divulge the vote on the parole decision nor did it indicate its reason for making the decision.

District capital attacked by VC

SAIGON AP—North Vietnamese troops attacked Duc Duc, a northern district capital, and burned most of the town before withdrawing Wednesday. It was the second enemy blow this week in the area south of Da Nang.

To the northwest, there was no word from an elite South Vietnamese strike force of 200-300 men flown into southern Laos to assault an enemy base.

In the central highlands, two U.S. Army helicopters were reported shot down 27 miles northwest of Kontum, killing one crewman and wounding one.

The attack on Duc Duc, a town of about 10,000 located 25 miles southwest of the Dan Nang base, began with a mortar barrage Sunday followed by a ground probe. That was the day enemy sappers struck Firebase Mary Ann, 40 miles south of Da Nang, inflicting severe U.S. casualties. It was not known whether the two assaults were related.

Duc Duc formerly known as An Hoa is in a major refugee resettlement area.

Field reports said 300 Vietnamese civilians were killed or wounded at Duc Duc, 18 regional militiamen were killed and 36 wounded and 1,000 houses were burned. One U.S. soldier was wounded slightly.

'Big ash tray'

An American who flew over Duc Duc said it looked "like a big ash tray."

A captured North Vietnamese soldier said the assault followed a three-day forced march from the Ho Chi Minh trail in Laos. Two North Vietnamese battalions launched the assault.

Despite their losses, the South Vietnamese never lost control of the district headquarters, although reinforcements were unable to break into the town until early Wednesday. U.S. helicopters immediately began evacuating the wounded.

It was not known why the North Vietnamese attacked Duc Duc, about 40 miles east of the Laotian

Newsroundup

from AP reports

WASHINGTON—The Federal Reserve Board differed with the Nixon administration Wednesday in calling for a six-month limit on the President's power to control wages and prices. Shortly after the central bank's chairman, Arthur Burns, went on record in favor of the restriction, a Treasury Department official urged its removal. "This is a tremendously broad power," Burns told the Senate financial institutions subcommittee. "It would give the President virtually dictatorial powers."

WASHINGTON—Divided House Democrats adopted a compromise end-the-war resolution Wednesday that aims at withdrawal of U.S. troops from Indochina by the end of 1972. The 132 to 68 vote for the resolution at a party caucus marked a dramatic shift in sentiment in the House, which has steadfastly supported administration policy in Vietnam in the past.

CALCUTTA, India—President Agha Mohammed Yahya Khan's army has restored order throughout East Pakistan where people are "preparing to resume normal economic life," the official Radio Pakistan announced Wednesday. An estimated 50,000 Punjabi, Pathan and Baluchi soldiers from West Pakistan are reported to have fanned out across the breakaway eastern province, surrounding many major towns.

TEL AVIV—Egyptian troops fired machine-gun bursts across the Suez Canal on Monday night in the first reported shooting incident at the waterway since the Middle East cease-fire ended March 7, the Israeli military command said Wednesday. The incident was also reported by U.N. observers. The command said Egyptian gunners fired "a few bursts" across the northern sector of the 103-mile-long waterway, that the Israelis did not return the fire and that no Israeli troops were wounded.

QUITO, Ecuador—A military faction headed by an ousted general revolted Wednesday against the government of Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra, elected president of Ecuador five times and ousted three times. The nation's armed forces were reported to be seriously divided, with some units supporting the 78-year-old president and others backing the rebels.

WASHINGTON—A Justice Department official testified Wednesday that half of the nation's serious crimes are being committed by juveniles and that youth crime is climbing at a rate almost four times faster than the youth population. "Somber as these arrest statistics are," said Richard Velde, associate administrator of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), "recidivism figures for the young age group are far more frightening."

Draft bill passes test in House

WASHINGTON AP—An effort by Indochina war foes to dismantle the entire U.S. draft system to cut off manpower for the conflict was overwhelmingly rejected by the House Wednesday 73 to 11.

At the same time the House wrote draft deferments for divinity students back into a two-year draft-extension bill by 114-29 vote.

The amendment to dismantle the draft system was introduced by Rep. Bella Abzug, D-N.Y., who said that action should be "merely the first step to ending that ignominious war in Indochina."

It was quickly and easily rejected.

The House was considering a draft extension bill nearly tripling President Nixon's pay-boost incentives for his "zero draft" all-volunteer army plan—to \$2.7 billion from his \$987 million request.

The bill also would authorize President Nixon to abolish student draft deferments and increase the nonmilitary service obligation for conscientious objectors to three years from two.

Mrs. Abzug's amendment would have dismantled the Selective Service System as of next Jan. 1. She said that step by Congress should be followed by cutting off all funds for the war.

She said the draft system "made possible the maintenance and escalation of the war in Indochina without the approval of the American people or indeed this body the House."

Rep. Charles Gubser, R-Calif., said the deterrence to war is a strong American military and if Mrs. Abzug succeeded in cutting out manpower forces the reliance would have to go to nuclear weapons.

The amendment by Rep. James Byrne, D-Pa., to put divinity deferments back into the bill was approved after speakers argued the deferments preserve traditional separation of church and state and have been granted in every American war except the Civil War.

border in a river valley at the base of jungled mountains.

It appeared possible that in attacking Duc Duc and Mary Ann, the North Vietnamese were attempting to counter the South Vietnamese drive into Laos that ended last week.

Raid announced

President Nguyen Van Thieu announced the raid into Laos against an enemy base west of the A Shau Valley and about five miles inside the country. This is south of the South Vietnamese invasion area of February and March.

Thieu made the announcement while visiting troops on the northern front.

The raid is expected to last two or three days. The Black Panther troops were flown into Laos by 45 Huey Helicopters from the U.S. 101st Airborne Division. Other Hueys, Cobra gunships and scouts escorted the assault force to the target area.

The objective is believed to be along Highway 922, which runs east from the main Ho Chi Minh trail arteries to the A Shau Valley of South Vietnam.

Twelve hours after the assault began a spokesman for the U.S. Command said he had no report of any helicopter losses associated with the operation. South Vietnamese headquarters gave no indication the troops had made contact with the enemy.

Similar plans

The attack was similar to one planned Monday but called off because of heavy anti-aircraft fire and fog.

Thieu told newsmen at Dong Ha, 11 miles south of the demilitarized zone separating the Vietnams, that the Laotian invasion was "a moral, political and psychological Dien Bien Phu" for the Communists. The reference was to the battle in which Ho Chi Minh's forces routed the French in 1954.