

Time's Poll On My Lai Incident

New York

A majority of Americans are more disturbed over publicity given the alleged My Lai massacre than they are over the apparent killings, Time magazine reported yesterday.

Time said a poll it commissioned from the Louis Harris organization also showed "considerable sympathy for Lieutenant William Calley, the platoon leader charged with more than 100 of the deaths at My Lai.

"By a margin of 55 per cent to 23 per cent, they believe Calley is being made a scapegoat by the government," Time said.

The magazine said that 67 per cent of those polled "believe that the press and TV should not have reported statements by soldiers involved prior to a trial."

And, it said, "surprisingly, Americans are not particularly disturbed by the disclosure that U.S. troops apparently massacred several hundred South Vietnamese civilians at My Lai.

"By a substantial 65 per cent to 22 per cent, the public shrugs off My Lai, reasoning that 'incidents such as this are bound to happen in a war.'

"It also rejects by a margin of 65 per cent to 24 per cent the charge that My Lai proves that the U.S. involvement in the war has been morally wrong all the time," the magazine said.

That magazine said the cross section of 1608 households indicated an upsurge in support for President Nixon's handling of the Vietnam war.

Over-all, the magazine said, "the American public by a majority of 82 per cent believe that President Nixon is doing all he can to end the war."

United Press