

Song My Private 'Just Obeyed Order'

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Paul Meadlo, the former Army private who told a nationwide TV audience he killed 10 to 15 Vietnamese civilians at Song My, cannot be prosecuted for just following orders, in the view of his attorney.

"How could you run an army if the privates were able to dispute the orders of the officers?" attorney John A. Kesler asked at an impromptu news conference at the Pentagon.

Testimony

Referring to Meadlo's instructions when he entered the Army, Kesler said, "Every ounce of training was that your job is to take instructions and their (the officers) job is to give instruction."

Kesler and his client were at the Pentagon yesterday. Meadlo testified before a military board trying to determine whether reports about the alleged massacre in March, 1968, had been suppressed.

The 22 year old Meadlo declined comment. But Kesler, a Democratic state repre-

sentative from Terre Haute, Ind., spoke to newsmen after the appearance before the board.

"Paul Meadlo has done nothing that he should be prosecuted for that I know of," said Kesler.

"He was drafted when he did not want to be. He was put in the infantry when that was not his choice . . . and he was told to take orders."

Guilt Feeling

It was noted that Meadlo had admitted his guilt in a CBS news interview and had even said he felt guilty about the incident.

But Kesler said that was not the issue.

"He may feel moral guilt for taking life in a war but certainly not legal guilt," the attorney said.