

Callaway Gave More Clemency

Associated Press

Pentagon sources say Secretary of the Army Howard Callaway went far beyond the recommendations of a clemency board in halving Lt. William Calley's prison sentence to 10 years for the My Lai massacre.

Callaway's decision meant Calley could come up for parole within the year.

The Army said it could not make public the recommendation of the Army-Air Force Clemency and Parole Board. But sources said the board proposed only a slight reduction in Calley's 20-year sentence.

Callaway said he remitted 10 years of Calley's prison sentence because of "mitigating circumstances indicating that Lt. Calley may have sincerely believed that he was acting in accordance with the orders he had received and that he was not aware of his responsibility to refuse such an illegal order."

At the same time, the Army secretary said Tuesday "there is no reasonable doubt in my mind that he perpetrated the acts for which he stands convicted."

The case is now before President Nixon, who has said he will review it personally and make the final decision. Army lawyers said Nixon could affirm the present sentence or cut it further but could not increase it.