



Lt. Calley's Sentence

The news that Lt. William Calley has had his sentence reduced and, in your words, "is likely to be a free man by autumn" will be yet another bitter pill for one group of Americans. I refer to the hundreds of young men who, rather than make themselves available for My Lai-type operations, chose to leave the country, and their families and friends, permanently.

It really seems criminally unfair to continue to deny these young men amnesty while a convicted perpetrator of mass civilian murder gets specially-lightened treatment from the highest authorities in the country.

LOUISA WELLEMAYER.

Washington.

~*~

The Post's editorial on the reduction of William Calley's sentence says: "with the war in Vietnam over, mercy and compassion have a proper place ..."

If mercy and compassion had their proper place in our calloused American hearts, we would understand that having brought the U.S. troops home doesn't mean the war in Vietnam is over. The same chauvinism that excused the bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki because they "saved American lives" keeps us blind to the continuing suffering of our fellow human beings in Southeast Asia, where the war and the imprisonments go on with important U.S. support.

One of the major tragedies of the world today is American insensitivity.

SAM LEGG.

Baltimore.