

Court Tells Army to Reply
To Helicopter Pilot's Plea

BALTIMORE, March 27 (AP) — The Army has been given 23 days to show why Pfc. Robert K. Preston, charged in connection with landing an Army helicopter on the White House lawn in a fusillade of shotgun fire, should not be released from the Fort Meade, Md., stockade.

Private Preston petitioned the Federal District Court in Baltimore, to end what he said was his illegal confinement. The order requiring the Army to respond was issued yesterday by Judge Joseph H. Young.

The habeas corpus petition filed by Private Preston's lawyers contended that the Army was keeping the private in virtual isolation in the stockade, thus hampering his efforts to prepare his defense.