

U.S. Grants Meadlo Immunity; He May Testify in Calley Trial

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4 (AP)—A former soldier in Lieutenant William Calley's platoon was granted immunity from prosecution today, paving the way for his testimony when Lieutenant Calley's murder trial resumes next week. The man, Paul D. Meadlo, previously had refused to testify.

The order was signed by Will R. Wilson, an Assistant United States Attorney General.

Mr. Meadlo said in a television interview in November 1969 that he personally killed 10 to 15 Vietnamese men, women and children on the day the platoon swept through Mylai.

But on the stand as a prosecution witness on Dec. 3, Mr. Meadlo refused to answer any questions. He was granted immunity by the commanding general of Fort Benning, Ga., where the trial is being held, but continued to invoke his Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination in a stormy session with Judge Reid W. Kennedy.

Lawyer Had Objected

Mr. Meadlo's lawyer argued that the granting of immunity by the military authorities did not lift the danger of self-incrimination in some possible civilian prosecution. Mr. Wilson's order met this objection.

Lieutenant Calley is on trial on charges of murdering at least 102 Vietnamese civilians. A three-week holiday recess ends next Monday.

The order was issued under a section of the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970 that says, in part:

"The witness may not refuse to comply with the order on the basis of his privilege

against self-incrimination; but no testimony or other information compelled under the order . . . may be used against the witness in any criminal case . . ."

Meadlo Under Subpoena

Capt. Aubrey Daniel 3d, the military prosecution, refused to comment when asked whether Mr. Meadlo would be recalled. Mr. Meadlo still is under subpoena to the court and has been ordered to be at Fort Benning next week.

His lawyer, John A. Kesler, said "there is good likelihood he will testify." Mr. Kesler is to meet with Army lawyers tomorrow.

The prosecution had rested its case conditionally—receiving from Judge Kennery the assurance it could call two additional witnesses no later than next Monday. When the trial recessed Dec. 17, the defense had called its 21st witness.

Lieutenant Calley is expected to take the stand in his own behalf soon after the recess ends. His lawyers have attempted to establish through testimony that he was only following order from his superiors.