

Verdict Protested Anew; 3 Try to Jail Themselves

By LINDA CHARLTON

The outcome of the trial of First Lieut. William L. Calley Jr. continued to stir protests yesterday, with many Americans expressing their feelings through telegrams, petitions and resolutions and a few taking more dramatic action.

More than 5,000 telegrams reached the White House, and they were said to be "100 to 1 in favor of clemency" for Lieutenant Calley, who was convicted of the premeditated murder of 22 noncombatants at Mylai in South Vietnam and sentenced yesterday to life imprisonment.

Two men in Cushing, Okla., and another in Coventry, R.I., tried to have themselves jailed, asserting that they, during their military service, committed acts against civilians similar to those for which Lieutenant Calley was convicted of premeditated murder and given a life sentence.

"We shot up villages under orders," said Stanley Gertner of Cushing, a former master sergeant in the Marine Corps. "We feel like if this man is guilty, then he is guilty for the same things we did."

Thousands Held Guilty

Richard Whalen, who with Mr. Gertner turned himself in to the Cushing police and was briefly locked up at his own request, said: "If Calley is guilty, so are the thousands of pilots who have dropped bombs in past wars, killing civilians." Mr. Whalen is a former Army sergeant.

In Coventry, R.I., Carl E. Savard asked to be jailed and was allowed to stay overnight. He said, "If he [Calley] can be tried for those crimes, I would like to be tried for crimes I committed in World War II."

Mr. Savard said that he "killed a mother with an infant in her arms" in a town in Germany in 1945 and "also killed a 10-year-old boy who had just shot and killed my radio man."

Raymond Hufft, a retired Army major general in New Orleans, said he issued a "no prisoners" order during World War II.

"We shot everything that moved," he recalled. "If the Germans had won, I would have been on trial at Nuremberg instead of them."

General Hufft called the verdict a "damned shame."

Clemency Urged

The overwhelming majority of the telegrams arriving at Fort Benning, Ga., where Lieutenant Calley was tried, and to the White House were reported to express similar feelings.

The White House press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, said that as of yesterday morning, about 5,000 telegrams — "100-to-1 in favor of clemency" — had been received at the executive mansion and that all four Western Union circuits into the White House were jammed.

Mr. Ziegler, who was in San Clemente, Calif., with the President, said he had been told that the backlog could amount to as many as 20,000 telegrams by the weekend.

Mr. Ziegler said the White House reported having received about 1,500 telephone calls, also largely "against the verdict."

He said he could not be more specific as to whether the pleas for clemency favored freedom for Lieutenant Calley or a reduced sentence or as to whether or not there was any pattern apparent in them.

At Fort Benning, hundreds of telegrams, arrived, addressed to the judge and jury. All but a few reportedly supported the lieutenant.

"Please save this true and great American patriot," said one from New Orleans.

"How could you? It is clearly self-defense," said another from Tampa, Fla.

From Ann Arbor, Mich., came a telegram signed by "mother of two haircut clean-cut all-American boys." It read: "Battles are lost by cowards and deserters. Mistakes are made by hundreds. Lt. Calley is guilty only of being a soldier."

About 100 young soldiers marched on the Fort Benning stockade, where Lieutenant Calley is being held, to protest the conviction Tuesday night.

They chanted, "Free Calley, free Calley, free Calley," and were dispersed by the military police.

Andy Stapp, the chairman of the American Servicemen's Union, a militant radical group said in a statement that Lieutenant Calley's conviction "is a whitewash because the senior officers who are as guilty as Calley and who gave him his orders have all had the charges dropped against them."

Former Senator Eugene J. McCarthy said the investigation should not end with Lieutenant Calley.

"If he was guilty as charged, it seems to me that you have to make some further inquiries, as to the orders that were given or the orders that were not given," he said at a news conference in Houston.

Thieu Expected Justice

Special to The New York Times

DONG HA, South Vietnam, March 31 — President Nguyen Van Thieu said today that he had been confident that justice would punish those guilty of the killings at Mylai.

The President made the comment at a news conference in a burial ground near here, about seven miles south of the demilitarized zone.

The official South Vietnamese reaction to first reports of the mass killings appeared to observers to have been tempered by the often-expressed opinion that to make an issue of the incident would be playing into the hands of Communist propaganda.

In the only known official statement, issued on Nov. 22, 1969, the Defense Ministry said that all civilian deaths at Mylai had been the result of aerial bombing. The statement, which was edited and approved by President Thieu, said that 125 "enemy" and 20 civilians had been killed.

President Thieu's comment today was viewed here as the first official expression of disapproval of the slayings.

Pravda Scores Pentagon

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, March 31 — The Communist party newspaper, Pravda, charged today that Lieutenant Calley was a "scapegoat" and that his trial had been part of "a whole series of machinations by the Pentagon to save from justice most of those involved in the crime."

The Soviet press agency, Tass, in reporting the life sentence imposed on Lieutenant Calley, said that "the main initiators of this bloodbath escaped punishment."