

## Irregular Investigation Charged

# Calley Attorneys Assail Gen. Westmoreland

Falls Church, Va.

Attorneys for First Lieutenant William L. Calley Jr. said yesterday interference by the then Army Chief of Staff General William C. Westmoreland, prevented the former platoon leader from receiving a fair trial on charges he murdered at least 22 Vietnamese civil-

ians in the My Lai massacre.

Asking a military appeals court to overturn Calley's conviction or reduce his 20-year sentence, the lawyers accused Westmoreland of conducting a highly irregular personal investigation into the shootings at the Vietnamese village.

The result, they said, was

a "horrible specter of command influence."

The 29-year-old Calley, held under house arrest at Fort Benning, Ga., was not called upon to appear at the hearing before the Army Court of Military Review.

Still-unpublished Army reports say at least 347 innocent civilians died at the hands of American troops,

many of them under Calley's command, on March 16, 1968.

Calley's chief lawyer, George Latimer of Salt Lake City, called the search-and-destroy sweep "the worst-conceived and worst-handled combat operation I've ever heard of."

Government lawyer Merle F. Wilberding said, "there

was no attempt to exercise influence."

Wilberding, an Army lawyer, said everything Westmoreland said or did about My Lai was done in his official capacity as either commander of American forces in Vietnam or Army chief of staff.

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