

Lt. Calley's sentence to stand

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WASHINGTON — President Nixon decided yesterday against further shortening Army Lt. William Calley's sentence for the massacre of Vietnamese civilians at My Lai.

In terms of Calley's freedom, however, the President's decision will mean little. Nixon's Army secretary, Howard Callaway, reduced Calley's sentence from 20 to 10 years April 16 making him eligible for parole after he serves slightly less than six months more of imprisonment.

Calley, now free on bond, is expected to remain free until a federal judge in Columbus, Ga., acts in a separate civil case brought by Calley's lawyers to reverse his courtmartial conviction.

Meanwhile, Callaway ordered Calley dismissed from the Army.

In cutting the sentence to 10 years, Callaway said, "There are mitigating circumstances indicating Lt. Calley may have sincerely believed he was acting in accordance with the orders he received and that he was not aware of his responsibility to refuse such an illegal order."

But he also said Calley committed "acts of murder and assault against unarmed civilians . . . so abhorrent to those who accept the fundamental legal and moral bases for this republic that they cannot be condoned or forgotten."