

Court Delays Calley Release

Washington

An appeals court judge late yesterday delayed until Monday the release of former Lieutenant William L. Calley Jr. while the Army considers appealing a federal court ruling overturning Calley's conviction for murder in the My Lai massacre in Vietnam.

Chief Judge John R. Brown of the U.S. Court of Appeals in New Orleans ordered a four-day delay in carrying out the direction of a lower federal court that Calley be released "forthwith."

U.S. Solicitor General Robert H. Bork authorized the Army to seek the new delay yesterday, and Brown granted a temporary stay minutes later.

The Army sought a 15-day delay while it considered the lower court decision issued Wednesday.

U.S. District Judge J. Robert Elliott of Columbus, Ga., who overturned the conviction and ordered Calley's immediate, unconditional release, had refused an Army request that he stay his own order to allow time to decide whether his ruling would be appealed.

A Justice Department spokesman said Brown acted within an hour after Elliott had turned down the Army motion for a 15-day stay. Brown also refused an Army request for clarification of the order that Calley be given immediate, unconditional freedom.

The Army said the legal moves were needed to give it time to study the issues contained in Elliott's 132-page opinion in the Calley case and decide whether to appeal his overturning of the 1971-conviction.

Governor's Mansion Low Bid

Sacramento

A low bid of \$1.29 million has been offered to construct a controversial "dream house" governor's mansion long sought by Ronald Reagan for future chief executives, it was disclosed yesterday.

The proposal by contractor Budd O. Stevenson of Redwood City was the lowest of three received on the project but still is \$40,000 more than cost estimates made by the state, the state architect's office reported.

Ed Schleiger, chief engineer for the project, said acceptance of the bid and award of a contract would await action by the state Supreme Court on a lawsuit seeking to block construction, acquisition of extra funds from the Department of Finance and verification of the bidder's bond.

The mansion would be constructed on an 11-acre site donated to the state by Reagan supporters. The bid would cover costs of constructing six bedrooms, a courtyard, guest rooms, formal and family dining rooms, two rooms for employees and a study. It would involve 12,000 square feet of space.