

# The Army's My Lai Report Is Released

## Washington

Army Secretary Howard H. Callaway released yesterday part of the long-secret Peers Report, which concluded that at least 28 officers — two of them chaplains — contributed to the coverup of the My Lai massacre.

The report, prepared by now-retired Army Lieutenant General William R. Peers, said that the officers by either commission or omission helped cover up the slaughter of Vietnamese civilians in March, 1968.

Peers investigated the coverup after published reports brought the massacre to light, and announced on completion of his report in March, 1970, that he had found "serious deficiencies in the actions" of 14 officers from the rank of captain up.

Callaway, at a news conference, released two of the four volumes prepared by Peers — one of which set the number of officers involved at 28, including Major General Samuel W. Koster, commander of the Americal Division whose units were involved in the air and ground sweep at My Lai.

Also named were Lieutenant Colonel Francis R. Lewis and Captain Carl E. Creswell, chaplains who served in the division.

The report said Creswell reported what he knew to Lewis but that Creswell failed to report it as well through military channels. Lewis was accused of limiting his action "to informal discussions with various staff officers."

Callaway, asked by reporters if he thought an incident such as My Lai might

## Ford Would Compromise On Surtax

### Washington

President Ford is ready to work out a compromise with Congress on his controversial proposal for a five percent tax surcharge on higher incomes, White House press secretary Ron Nessen said yesterday.

"If Congress wants to change the formula he is certainly willing to look at it, if it reaches the same goal," Nessen told reporters.

As it stands, the President's proposal to raise taxes and finance a jobs program for the unemployed, increased unemployment insurance and other measures to deal with the recession, appears doomed to failure in the Democratic-controlled Congress.

But a White House source said "the President is an old legislator and he knows how to compromise."

Reuters

recur, said, after a moment's thought: "I don't guess anything is going to prevent it. I do feel though that it isn't going to happen again."

He said the training of today's GIs takes My Lai into account and the men are more carefully schooled in their responsibility toward civilians.

Callaway said the Peers

text had been withheld thus far to protect the rights of the accused. Army sources, however, said former President Nixon's administration had insisted on suppressing the report and that after President Ford took office the wheels immediately began turning to make the report public.

All 14 officers originally named by Peers were charged with crimes in connection with the massacre. Only Colonel Oran K. Henderson, commander of the unit that made the My Lai sweep, was tried on coverup charges and he was acquitted in December, 1971, after a four-month court-martial.

Callaway released Volume 1, the conclusions and recommendations, and Volume 3, the documentary evidence amassed by the inquiry — but withheld Volumes 2 and 4, the voluminous text of the testimony and investigative reports.

The inch-thick Volume 1 said that Koster — later demoted to one-star general through administrative action — had information from three different sources that civilians had been killed but failed to report this to higher authorities.

The report then detailed 19 specific acts of omission by Koster contributing to the coverup, such as failure to tell superiors that the Vietnamese district chief had told him 500 civilians had been murdered.

The Peers Report concluded:

"The massacre resulted primarily from the nature of the orders issued by persons



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HOWARD CALLAWAY  
28 officers in coverup

in the chain of command within Task Force Barker.

"The task force commander's order and the associated intelligence estimate issued prior to the operation were embellished as they were disseminated through each lower level of command and ultimately presented to the individual soldier a false and misleading picture of the...Area as an armed enemy camp largely devoid of civilian inhabitants."

United Press