

Marin Asks Big Change at Quentin

Marin County supervisors want maximum security San Quentin Prison converted to a minimum security institution for less volatile convicts.

A resolution adopted last night declared the prison was antiquated, understaffed and burdened with physical and psychological conditions that contributed heavily to explosive conditions leading to the Aug. 21 bloodbath in which six men died.

Governor Reagan was asked to appoint immediately a committee to look into inadequacies in the State's penal system in general and San Quentin in particular.

The resolution came from the county's Human Rights Commission which had one of its own committees make an on-the-spot survey.

Assistant District Attorney Gary Thomas, paralyzed in courthouse shooting last year that claimed four lives, suggested the supervisors ask that the prison be reclassified as it was never intended for maximum security, hardened criminals.

Thomas' addition was accepted by the supervisors and added to the final resolution, adopted by the five supervisors without dissent.