

Schmidt Hopeful on Terrorist Hunt

By FLORA LEWIS

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BONN, Nov. 9—Chancellor Helmut Schmidt said tonight that he expected the major West German terrorists and their collaborators would be arrested "in a matter of time" either in West Germany or in neighboring countries.

He warned, however, in a television interview, that threats of further terrorist action "must be taken seriously," and said that there might be "more incidents."

The terrorists have threatened to blow up three Lufthansa airliners after Nov. 15, one for each of the three "Red Army Faction" prisoners who died, reportedly by suicide, after the failure of hijackers to force their release in return for hostages aboard a West German plane in Mogadishu, Somalia.

Criticism in French Press

The Chancellor agreed to an interview on French television to discuss the terrorist situation. Parts of the French press have been particularly critical of the West German reaction, warning of a revival of fascism, danger to civil liberties and possible police excesses, and questioning the official report on the prison suicides.

Asked by two French television reporters whether he felt that such press criticism reflected a deterioration in French-West German relations, Mr. Schmidt said he wanted to be careful not to attack the whole press but that some commentators "on the far left" deliberately refused to accept evidence of the suicides.

Nonetheless he said, he was not responsible for the situation in the Stammheim prison, outside Stuttgart, which is under the jurisdiction of the Christian Democratic state government of Baden-Württemberg, and that he was as "shocked, surprised and angered" as anyone to learn that the prisoners had been

able to hide guns, explosives and radios in their cells.

The focus of the interviewers was on the question of a swing to the right in West Germany, which Mr. Schmidt firmly denied. He gave a sharp answer to a question on whether the rise of terrorism in West Germany was the result of a "blocked society" in which the political parties were "too much alike."

"Terrorism is not a specifically German phenomenon," the Chancellor said, pointing out that there had been many incidents in Northern Ireland, Britain, France, Italy, Spain and elsewhere. Nor, he said, did he consider it anything but "normal" and "healthy" that West Germans, "fed up" with the Nazi past and living alongside East Germany, refused to give large numbers of votes to Communist parties as in France or Italy, or elect neo-Fascist deputies, as in Italy.

Asked whether it was necessary to offer more ideals to today's youth, Mr. Schmidt said he had a very careful and reserved attitude about the state's "preaching a blue-eyed idealism."

"I saw the terrible moral collapse at the end of the 60's in the U.S., after the great moral appeal of President Kennedy at the beginning of the decade," he said.

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