

Three guerrillas hinted of suicide

BONN (Reuter) — Three Baader-Meinhof guerrilla leaders who died in their prison cells last month hinted to police well before their deaths they would commit suicide, according to a government report released Wednesday.

Andreas Baader, Jan Carl Raspe and Gudrun Ensslin gave that impression in separate interviews with representatives of the West German Federal Criminal Office (BKA) in Stuttgart's top-security Stammheim Jail.

The report is an official account of the kidnapping and murder of West German employers' leader Hanns-Martin Schleyer and the hijacking of a Lufthansa airliner to Somalia. Both actions were part of attempts to free the guerrillas.

The report does not cover the actual deaths of the Baader-Meinhof leaders which are being investigated by the government of the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, which is responsible for Stammheim Prison.

The report, however, is a further embarrassment to West German authorities, already shocked over the Stammheim affair and the apparent ease with which the guerrillas furnished their cells with weapons and explosives.

The interviews with the three were conducted over a five-week period during the captivity of Dr. Schleyer. He was found murdered in eastern France on October 19, the day after West German commandos stormed

the Lufthansa plane at Mogadishu and rescued 86 passengers and crew members who were being held hostage.

The hijackers and kidnappers made identical demands for the release of 13 imprisoned urban guerrillas, including the three Baader-Meinhof leaders who were serving life sentences.

Justice officials said Baader, 34, and Raspe, 33, shot themselves through the head with smuggled pistols, and that Ensslin, 37, hanged herself with an electrical cord. Leftist sympathizers have questioned whether they actually committed suicide.

The report said **Baader** told a BKA official during a meeting in Stammheim on October 8—10 days before he died—that if the guerrillas were not released, the government would be confronted with "their irreversible decision" which would mean the prisoners would no longer be under its control.

The official said he gained the impression from his seven-minute conversation that Baader "was at the end of his tether" because of the isolation of the guerrillas and his uncertainty over his fate.

"The decision he mentioned could only have meant suicide. Whether this is intended seriously and whether the prisoners could have agreed to it is not certain," the unidentified official noted after this interview.