

West Germany Tightens Security Near Its Airports

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BONN, Nov. 6—The West German police adopted special measures near airports over the weekend to foil possible terrorist missile attacks on airliners just after takeoff or during landing approach.

Units of the Federal Border Protection Police and other security forces were combing wooded patches, buildings and other areas that could provide cover for launchers of ground-to-air rockets fired to intercept aircraft in the most vulnerable part of their flight path.

The extra precautions were ordered

after Lufthansa, the West German national airline, and news organizations received letters yesterday warning that urban guerrillas were preparing to blow up planes in midair. "There is no possibility of preventing this," the messages, mailed in Frankfurt last Wednesday, said.

Experts here said that terrorists in West Germany and elsewhere had in the past proved they were able to put mobile or fixed missile launchers in position, although their preparations to use the sophisticated weapons systems had failed in several instances.

Last August, a group of guerrillas was about to fire 42 deadly rockets simultane-

ously at the offices of the federal chief prosecutor in Karlsruhe when policemen, tipped off at the last minute, burst into the apartment in a nearby building where the multiple launcher had been expertly set up. Weapons specialists said later that the terrorists had assembled a lethal system that would have caused a massacre if activated.

Three years ago, the Italian police arrested Arab terrorists who had rented an apartment in Rome's seaside suburb Ostia, clearly in a plot to fire missiles from the terrace at a jetliner of El Al, the Israeli airline, while it was approaching or taking off from the nearby Fiumici-

no international airport. A missile launcher was seized.

The letters received yesterday warned that on Nov. 15 or later three Lufthansa planes would be destroyed by explosions in flight to avenge "the assassination of three comrades in our struggle" who died in Stammheim prison on the outskirts of Stuttgart.

The threats referred to Andreas Baader, Gudrun Ensslin and Jan-Carl Raspe who died Oct. 18 in an apparent suicide pact. Radicals in West Germany and elsewhere allege that the three convicted terrorists were murdered in a conspiracy involving the Bonn Government.

The three died within hours after West German commandos had freed all 86 hostages aboard a hijacked Lufthansa airlin-

er at the airport of Mogadishu, Somalia, and killed three of the four Arabic-speaking terrorists who had commandeered it soon after takeoff from Palma, Majorca, on a flight to Frankfurt.

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