

Kidnaper Releases 7-Year-Old German Boy for \$47,900

MUNICH, Germany (AP)—A seven-year-old German boy who a kidnaper said was mistaken for the son of an American diplomat, was freed Friday night in exchange for \$47,900 ransom. He was abducted last Monday.

Michael Luhmer, shivering with cold and suffering from influenza, was turned over in a woods on the edge of Munich to Till Burger, a well-known Munich criminal lawyer. Burger took him to police headquarters where his mother was waiting.

Burger said the kidnaper who delivered the boy told him the abductors had intended to snatch the son of an American consul who lived in Michael's hometown of Niederbachem, near Bonn. Michael is a bus driver's son.

Source of Money

The ransom money was provided by the government of the state where the boy lives.

An American Embassy spokesman in Bonn said that no member of the embassy staff lived in Niederbachem and the only embassy official with the title of consul lived in Bad Godesberg about 10 miles from the village.

The boy was abducted when he left his home to watch a carnival parade.

The first anonymous tele-

phone calls from the kidnapers suggested they might be members of a leftist group known as the Mahler-Baader gang who intended to exchange him for the release of a leftist lawyer, Horst Mahler, from a West Berlin jail.

Later callers said the gang had nothing to do with the abduction and Mahler, 36, issued a statement asking the kidnapers to release the boy.

Mahler is to face trial Monday in connection with the escape of a prisoner, **Andreas Baader**, 27, who was serving a three-year term for arson.

Another Plot

West German newspapers said earlier this month they had learned of a "daring plan" to kidnap West German Chancellor Willy Brandt and exchange him for Mahler.

Burger said that the kidnaper who turned Michael over to him said he represented a group called Socialist Nationalists. Burger described it as a rightist organization.

He said he was called to the rendezvous by telephone. He already had seen the child earlier in the negotiations for his release and was in possession of Michael's Indian costume, which he was wearing at the time of his abduction.