

Berlin mayoral candidate kidnap victim

BERLIN (AP) — The Christian Democratic candidate for West Berlin mayor was kidnaped at gunpoint Thursday with the election less than three days away.

The abduction of Peter Lorenz, 52, chairman of his party, was the first political kidnaping in postwar German history.

Many hours after Lorenz was seized there was no word of his whereabouts or what was wanted by the gang that drove him away in his own car, its windshield knocked out apparently to provide for a clear field of fire.

Police said they suspected

anarchist terrorists might be connected to the kidnaping but this suspicion had not yet been confirmed.

Manfred Kittlaus, head of the police investigation, said Lorenz's driver "positively identified" pictures of a known anarchist woman who dropped out of sight in 1972.

Kittlaus said her description matched that of a woman Lorenz's driver said followed their car before its path was blocked by a radio-equipped truck.

A following car driven by a woman moved up and as Lorenz's driver got out, he was slugged unconscious from

behind, police said. When the driver came to, he could hear Lorenz cry for help, Kittlaus said.

Kittlaus identified the suspect as **Angela Luther**, 34, who faces earlier charges of belonging to a criminal organization.

In 1972, a nationwide police crackdown put behind bars leading members of the so-called Baader-Meinhof gang, described as a criminal band charged with various acts of violence.

In November of last year, still unknown assailants shot and killed West Berlin chief judge Guenter Drenkmann with police theorizing Drenkmann

was to have been kidnaped as a hostage for the release of jailed anarchists.

On Nov. 29, the Bonn government released confiscated letters and documents alleging a conspiracy by accused Baader-Meinhof anarchists to force their release from jail.

One letter, apparently written by accused gang cochief Andreas Baader, 30, urged sympathizers to organize "some sort of exchange" with kidnaped West German politicians and judges "types who represent groups on whose loyalty the government is dependent" were escribed as likely targets.