

BONN WILL SET UP ANTITERROR UNIT

Agency Plans to Infiltrate Groups Plotting Violence

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COLOGNE, West Germany, March 8—West Germany's security authorities are in the process of establishing a special antiterrorist department to counteract foreign and domestic political militants suspected of plotting violence.

Knowledgeable sources in the intelligence community said today that the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution had recently been authorized to set up a "terrorism department."

Its principal task is to infiltrate German and foreign anarchist groups with the aim of gathering the kind of intelligence that would enable the police to take preventive measures.

The main targets at the moment, it is understood, are Palestinian terrorists operating under the wing of Al Fatah, and their German aides and imitators.

It is believed that since most of the terrorists active in this part of the world in recent years are under 30 years of age, the terrorism-department personnel will also be young men and women, for the most part.

Called 'Terrorist Troupe'

In recent years the Federal Office here, a branch of the Interior Ministry in Bonn, has had about 140 officers assigned to surveillance of leftist radical groups — roughly twice the number assigned to observe right-wing radicals.

The "terrorist troupe," as it is coming to be known, was conceived fundamentally in response to the experience of West German intelligence and police personnel in dealing with the urban guerrilla group known as the Baader-Meinhof gang.

Named for Andreas Baader and Ulrike Meinhof, both behind bars and facing heavy penalties, the leftist-anarchist gang took form in 1970 and was later charged with numerous bank robberies, bombings and shootings that resulted in a dozen dead and millions of marks stolen.

For a time the group, numbering more than 40 hard-core members and scores of sympathizers, cultivated contacts with Palestinian terrorists. The gang was smashed last year and almost all of its members put under arrest.

Munich Tragedy the Spur

The attack by Palestinian terrorists on the Israeli Olympic team that resulted in 17 deaths in Munich last September spurred authorities to new vigilance and fostered development of the terrorist troupe.

The terrorism department is being guided by Gunther Nollau, a 61-year-old scholar who took over the Cologne office as president last year.

Dr. Nollau, a Social Democrat whose preoccupation with left-wing politics resulted in three internationally renowned books on Communism, has made the study of anarchism a hobby for some years.

Last fall he published an essay suggesting that the Baader-Meinhof gang, and other terrorist groups, could be viewed not only as national phenomena but as an extreme response of frustrated young people to the "specialization, bureaucratization and alienation" inherent in highly industrialized modern societies.

The terrorism department is believed to have been conceived by him as a new means of combating this phenomenon.

Executive police powers remain the prerogative of West Germany's 10 state governments. Such federal agencies as the criminal office in Wiesbaden and the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution in Cologne have only investigative rights.

But in recent months the federal agencies have assumed more and more authority, and as a result they were deeply involved in the operations leading to the capture of the Baader-Meinhof gang members and in the shootout following the Palestinian invasion of the Israeli Olympic team quarters in Munich last September.

In both cases federal officers played supervisory roles, although they were nominally under the command of state police chiefs.

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