

# West Germany's Leftist Guerrillas Reawaken Sensitive Political Issues

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BONN, March 3—West Germany's left-wing guerrilla movement was considered by many to be close to collapse after the arrest in 1972 of many of its key figures.

But in the last year the movement has reappeared seeming more effective and daring than ever, to plague a country where political extremism and police security are highly sensitive issues.

The daylight kidnapping in West Berlin last week of Peter Lorenz, the city's Christian Democratic party leader, and the subsequent demand for the release of six terrorists held in West German prisons were preceded by bombings, shootings and prison protests, which have become more important political issues than the uncompromising Marxist ideology that the terrorists are trying to spread.

The terrorists themselves are mostly former students in their mid-twenties who are veterans of the political struggles that swept German universities in the late nineteen-sixties.

The group that has taken responsibility for the West Berlin kidnapping takes its name, the June 2 Movement, from the killing of a student by the West Berlin police at a demonstration in 1967. The incident was considered the spark that set off the radical student movement in West Germany and West Berlin.

Many of the terrorists have been on the West German wanted posters for years, although few are well known. They have shown skill at existing underground despite intensive police investigations.

West German opinion has tended to give the guerrillas a single label, the Baader-Meinhof gang, named for two radicals who were arrested in 1972 and are still in prison. But recent events seem to indicate that there are at least two separate—and perhaps rival—bands with similar political goals.

The Red Army faction was active up to 1972, but then splintered with the arrest of many of its leaders—Andreas Baader and Ulrike Meinhof among them.

The June 2 Movement, which was already active in 1971, is believed to have attracted many of the radicals who drifted away from the Red Army faction after 1972. The June 2 group has recently been considered by the West Berlin police to be the most active and dangerous in the city.

Much like the Symbionese Liberation Army in the United States, the group seems entirely devoted to revolution through

violence, with little of the intellectual reflection used by the early Baader-Meinhof faction to justify its acts.

Lately the Red Army faction has been mainly involved in protests over alleged harsh treatment of its many members in prison. Included was a hunger strike last fall during which one member, Holger Meins, died despite intravenous feeding. Few people seemed convinced by the protests that the group was being unfairly treated.

Two days after Mr. Meins's death Judge Günter von Drenkmann, president of West Berlin's highest court, was assassinated presumably by leftist terrorists. During November, as public outrage over the shooting remained high, the West German police conducted a number of raids that netted dozens of radicals and sympathizers.

The activity of the June 2 Movement goes back at least to 1970, when, with the Baader-Meinhof faction, it carried out a series of spectacular bank raids. In February, 1972, a bomb blast at a British boat club in West Berlin that killed one person was laid to the group.

Last June the band killed one of its own members, Ulrich Schmücker, who had become a police informer.

By mid-1974 several of the group that had been captured and officials began to fear that they would take a prominent hostage in an attempt to win freedom for the prisoners. The shooting of Judge von Drenkmann is thought to have fol-

lowed an unsuccessful attempt at kidnapping.

The police believe a key leader of the June 2 Movement is Ralf Reinders, 26 years old, whom they had connected by evidence to the killing of Judge von Drenkmann. He is also believed to have taken part in a bank robbery in December, 1974.

Angela Luther, 34, a former teacher who was identified by Mr. Lorenz's chauffeur as one of his kidnapers, has been sought since 1971. Last June an apartment she had rented in West Berlin under a false name caught fire, revealing a bomb factory.

The six radicals whose freedom the kidnapers had demanded in exchange for Mr. Lorenz—who was a candidate for Mayor of West Berlin in elections this weekend—were all unknown except for 39-year-old lawyer, Horst Mahler.

Though the West German police estimate the hard core of left-wing radicals at fewer than a hundred, they have noted that violent incidents traced to political groups have risen steadily in 18 months.

The recent acts, which also included an unsuccessful shooting attack on the home of a prominent Christian Democratic Deputy, Walter Kiep, are particularly chilling since political figures have become targets. Although a number of German diplomats have been kidnapped by terrorists groups abroad, especially in South America, no major public figure had been kidnapped in West Germany in the postwar period.



Associated Press

Photograph from television screen of Heinrich Albertz, former Mayor of Berlin serving as a guarantor, and Gabriele Kröcher-Tiedemann, an anarchist, taking off in a special Lufthansa 707 jet from Frankfurt, West Germany, for Aden. The event was broadcast live in West Berlin for the benefit of the kidnapers of Peter Lorenz.