

# Bonn Radical Group Has Violent Past

BONN (UPI) — Anarchist urban guerrillas are posing the worst threat to the West German Republic—the richest nation in Western Europe—in its 26-year history.

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt made that charge Friday night, and no one disputed him. Hours earlier the Red Army Faction of the Baader-Meinhof guerrillas had staged their latest spectacular attack, this time in Stockholm.

Six gang members stormed into the West German embassy in the Swedish capital, shot and killed the commercial and military attaches and seized 13 hostages. They demanded that 26 of their fellow gang members be freed from West German prisons.

When Bonn refused, the anarchists dynamited the embassy's top floor. Five gang members were captured, a sixth reportedly committed suicide.

Schmidt told parliament his government would battle the anarchists every step of the way and was cheered lustily when he said: "We are determined not to yield."

The embassy attack was the latest in a string of kidnappings, murders and firebombings carried out by a group that says its goal is destruction of West Germany's social establishment.

The Red Army Faction grew out of the student revolts in the late 1960s, when leftist revolutionaries like Rudi Dutschke and Daniel "Danny the Red" Cohen-Bendit took to the barricades.

Ulrike Meinhof, a 41-year-old former journalist and mother of twin daughters, and Andreas Baader, a 31-year-old mechanic who had been convicted repeatedly of car thefts and barroom brawls, emerged as leaders of the movement.

Preaching violent confrontation with the establishment and an action program of arson, bombings and bank robberies to support itself, the movement gained a following among leftwing university students, many of them women.

Mrs. Meinhof gained notoriety in May 1970, when she and two accomplices freed fellow gang-member Baader from prison where he was awaiting trial on arson charges.

The gang claimed responsibility for a wave of bank robbery and arson. They were also charged with an unsuccessful plot to kidnap former Chancellor Willy Brandt.

In May, 1972, the guerrillas claimed responsibility for the bombing of U.S. military headquarters in Frankfurt and Heidelberg, killing four American soldiers and injuring 30 other persons.

In a police crackdown after that bombing, police rounded up 20 members of the group, including Baader and Mrs. Meinhof.

Last November a court convicted Mrs. Meinhof on the charge of attempted murder

in connection with Baader's 1970 jail escape, and sentenced her to eight years in prison.

Security officials maintain that Mrs. Meinhof and other leaders of the band continued to direct terrorist activities from behind bars with the help of their lawyers and sympathizers still at large.

In September of last year, Mrs. Meinhof called on fellow inmates to join in a hunger strike to protest their detention and to seek special status as "political prisoners."

One of the strikers, Holger Meins, died in his cell of starvation Nov. 9, and the following day West Berlin's chief justice, Guenter von Drenkmann, was shot to death in what the gang said was an act of reprisal.

Two months ago, authorities freed five imprisoned guerrillas and flew them to Communist South Yemen to gain the release of kidnaped conservative politician Peter Lorenz, who was running for mayor of West Berlin at the time.

Meinhof, Baader and other gang leaders face trial May 21 on charges including four murders, 54 attempted murders, and numerous counts of arson, bombing and bank robbery.

More than two dozen gang members are in prison awaiting trial, and security officials estimate that another 100 sympathizers of the gang are still at large.