

# Life sentences for German guerillas

STUTTGART, April 28. — The three defendants in the Baader-Meinhof urban guerilla trial were each sentenced to life imprisonment here today.

The sentences on Andreas Baader, Jan-Carl Raspe and Gudrun Ensslin were announced at the climax of a spectacular 23-month-long trial packed with controversy and incident.

The three were charged with murder, bank robberies and bombings in 1972.

Three of the bombs exploded in US army installations, killing four soldiers.

Baader, Raspe and Ensslin were sentenced in their absence in an almost deserted courtroom at the top-security Stammheim prison.

Within seconds of the five judges taking their places on the bench, Presiding Judge Eberhard Foth delivered the verdicts on the three accused, said by the prosecution to be the surviving hard-core leadership of West Germany's most notorious urban guerilla group.

Neither the defendants nor their de-

fence counsel attended the final session in the whitewashed concrete chamber built specially for the trial.

The three guerillas, all in their 30s, have been on hunger strike for four weeks in protest against their confinement at Stammheim.

Their lawyers say their health has seriously deteriorated.

Judge Foth said the accused were guilty of murdering four US soldiers in bomb attacks in Frankfurt and Heidelberg in 1972.

They were also guilty of 37 attempted murders, most of them through bomb attacks on US bases, and of belonging to a criminal organisation.

The defendants, who had rarely appeared in court for the past year, admitted political responsibility for the crime, but did not admit carrying out the attacks themselves.