

Gunman Slays West Germans

KARLSRUHE, West Germany (AP) - A gunman firing from a motorcycle assassinated West Germany's leading prosecutor of urban terrorists today as his car pulled away from a traffic light in downtown Karlsruhe, police said.

The Baden-Wuerttemberg Interior Ministry said Federal Prosecutor Siegfried Buback, 57, and his driver died instantly and his bodyguard was critically wounded.

Police said the murder vehicle carried a driver and passenger. The rider sprayed the car with machine-gunfire. The motorcycle carried a license plate from Ludwigshafen, 30 miles down the Rhine River, the spokesman said.

Witnesses told police the driver of the Japanese-manufactured vehicle may have been a woman. Both assassins were wearing crash helmets and heavy clothing.

Police sealed off all roads leading from Karlsruhe and searched all cars entering and leaving the city.

Officials of the West German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg said one person had been taken into custody, but it was not known if the person was a "genuine suspect."

Buback, West Germany's

top prosecutor for the last three years, was responsible for all trials of alleged terrorists, including the leaders of the West German Baader-Meinhof gang now on trial for the deaths of four American servicemen and a West German policeman in 1972.

Officials said it was not known if Buback's assassins were connected to the so-called **Red Army Faction**, believed to have been led by the Baader-Meinhof group, which was West Germany's largest anarchist operation.

Buback's shooting came three days after he announced warrants were being issued against two other suspected terrorists who had fled to Sweden, where they were accused plotting to force the release of the remaining leaders of the Baader-Meinhof gang.

Police said the assassins were waiting for Buback's Mercedes at an intersection near the city art museum as he drove to work from his suburban home about 9:10 a.m. When the traffic light turned green, the passenger on the motorcycle opened fire. Witnesses said 13 bullet holes were found in Buback's car.

The driver slumped over the steering wheel and fell out of the car, which rolled about 20 yards before coming to rest on the sidewalk, police reported. The bodies of the driver and prosecutor, who had been hit several times in the neck and chest, lay in the street covered by a sheet hours after the attack.

Buback was the prosecutor who drew up the 354-page document of charges before the opening in 1975 of the trial of Andreas Baader, Ulrike Meinhof, Gudrun Ensslin, Holger Meins and Jan-Carl Raspe, reputed leaders of West Germany's largest terrorist gang.

The charges against the group included the 1972 bombings of a U.S. Army officers' club in Frankfurt and the parking lot at the U.S. Army's European headquarters in Heidelberg. Three American servicemen were killed in the Heidelberg bombing and one in the Frankfurt attack.