

Ulrike Meinhof, an Anarchist Leader In Germany, Is Found Hanged in Cell

STUTT GART, West Germany, May 9 (AP)—Ulrike Meinhof, on trial for nearly a year with three other members of the Baader-Meinhof anarchist group, was found hanged today in her maximum security cell, the Stuttgart prosecutor's office reported.

A spokesman said the 41-year-old former journalist was last seen alive last night by a guard and that she was heard typewriting in her cell until 10:30 P.M.

When another guard opened her cell this morning, he found Miss Meinhof hanging at the window rails from a piece of her prison towel.

The spokesman said the papers she left behind gave no indication of any intent to commit suicide. He said further details would be released after an inquiry.

West German authorities put security forces on alert in fear of retaliation by sympathizers of the leftist radical group.

Until 1968, Miss Meinhof was a successful journalist who wrote her own column in a Hamburg-based satirical leftist



Associated Press

Ulrike Meinhof

magazine owned by her husband, Klaus Rainer Röhl, father of her two children. But she departed with her family this year and left her job.

She appeared in West Berlin where authorities said she helped free Andreas Baader who was serving a sentence for an arson attack on a Frankfurt department store. A guard was shot and seriously wounded when Mr. Baader was liberated from the prison library on May 14, 1970.

Miss Meinhof and Mr. Baader went into hiding and organized the Red Army Faction, which the police say was responsible for acts that terrorized most of West Germany in the next few years. The faction became commonly known as the Baader-Meinhof group.

Following the rearrest of Mr. Baader, the arrests of Jan-Carl Raspe and Gudrun Ensslin, Miss Meinhof was apprehended in Hanover-Langenhagen on June 7, 1972. A West Berlin court sentenced her to eight years in prison for the prison attack that freed Mr. Baader.

After her trial in Berlin in

1974, at which she said an "armed battle" to achieve a change in society was legal, Miss Meinhof and the three other members of the group were brought to Stammheim, which was specially constructed outside of Stuttgart for the Baader-Meinhof trial, which began under maximum security precautions on May 21, 1975.

The four were charged with masterminding a wave of anti-state bombings and shootings that killed four United States servicemen and a policeman, wounded several others and endangered at least 54 persons.

The trial, halted by numerous protest motions and outbursts by the defendants, is expected to last at least two years. Most of the time, the defendants have been kept out of the court proceedings or have chosen to remain in their cells.

Miss Ensslin surprised the court last Tuesday by accepting responsibility for all the accused for the three bombings that in 1972 killed the four Americans and injured at least 40 persons.

German Offices in Paris Hit

PARIS, May 9 (AP)—Bomb explosions caused heavy damage this afternoon to the offices of two West German steel concerns. The police said that the blasts were possibly related to the death in a Stuttgart prison of Ulrike Meinhof, the Urban-guerrilla leader.

There were no victims, but damage from the blasts and fires that followed was reported to be extensive.

The offices hit were Kloeckner Ina-France, just off the Champs-Élysées, and Thyssen-France, near the Etoile.