

Terrorist gang has Germany in grip of fear

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Los Angeles Times

BONN — A murderous new gang of political guerrillas has sprung up in West Germany only five years after the federal government smashed a similar band.

Like the notorious Baader-Meinhof gang, the new terrorist group has created a wave of fear and anger across the country. Government officials at all levels have bolstered security forces. Private businessmen, the targets of the terrorist attacks, have hired bodyguards and installed elaborate protective systems. A special crisis cabinet headed by Chancellor Helmut Schmidt has been meeting regularly to plan a unified anti-terrorist strategy.

OF IMMEDIATE concern are negotiations with the kidnapers of Hanns-Martin Schleyer, the 62-year-old chief spokesman for German industrialists and member of

the board of the Daimler-Benz Corp. Schleyer was seized in a Cologne suburb and taken to a secret hiding place by a gang who used submachineguns to kill his driver and three bodyguards.

Under pressure from the conservative opposition, public opinion and the press, the government was reported Monday to be stiffening in its determination not to yield to the demands from Schleyer's kidnapers. They want the release of 11 imprisoned terrorists, payment of \$44,000 to each of them and a flight out of Germany.

The original terrorist group, named for its founders Ulrike Meinhof and Andreas Baader, grew out of the anti-Vietnam War movement in Germany.

BUT THE POLITICAL motivation of the terrorist movement has diminished, and the gangs have become self-perpetuating criminal conspiracies.

Government officials believe the present leaders are lawyers who previously publicly defended the radicals.

The terrorists often speak as self-appointed representatives of the working class, but an analysis of their backgrounds shows that they are overwhelmingly bourgeois, middle- to upper-class in origin.