

Terrorists not murdered — government

BONN, West Germany (UPI) — The West German government today denied reports that terrorist leader **Andreas Baader** and two of his associates had been murdered in prison and said a preliminary investigation showed their deaths were suicides.

Traugott Bender, justice minister of Baden-Wuerttemberg state, said the convicted members of the Baader-Meinhof guerrilla gang knew beforehand of the commando raid in Somalia despite security so strict that they were cut off from the outside world.

Bender called charges the three had been murdered "infamous, slanderous, and insane."

West German government spokesman Klaus Boelling also said the reports are "nonsense" but added that Bonn wants to find out how the terrorists managed to get their suicide weapons.

an autopsy on the three terrorists had been performed by two German doctors and an Austrian, Swiss and Belgian doctor in the presence of lawyers of the terrorists. Authorities said the official autopsy report would be made in about eight days.

"None of us can grasp how it was possible for prisoners in Stammheim Prison to get weapons," he said. "I can't get it through my head."

Bender said **Baader**, 34-year-old leader of the Red Army Faction guerrillas, shot himself as did Jan Carl Raspe, 33. He said Baader's girlfriend, Gudrun Ensslin, a 37-year-old clergyman's daughter, hanged herself on the window of her cell with an electric cable.

A fourth terrorist, Irmgard Moeller, 30, who tried to kill herself with a bread knife, underwent a one-hour heart operation today at a hospital in Tuebingen, officials said.

The members of the gang, had been off from all news after the kidnaping by fellow gang members of industrialist Hanns-Martin Schleyer on Sept. 5.

"Before their suicide they learned of the commando liberation action despite the news blackout," Bender said.

Hans Filbinger, minister president (governor) of the state, promised the state parliament a speedy and thorough investigation.

The special anti-terrorism team that performed the rescue of the hostages in

Mogadishu returned Tuesday.

The troopers from Unit 9 of the West German Border Police returned to Cologne from Somalia Tuesday, having stormed a hijacked Lufthansa 737 jet, killed three of four hijackers, rescued 86 hostages and wrote a new chapter in the war against terrorism.