

3 Terrorist Murders Denied

(U.S., Britain aided Bonn in rescue, Page B-8.)

BONN. (UPI) — The West German government today denied as "infamous" reports 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 strict security.

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

State legal authorities said 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 for the terrorists. Authorities said the official autopsy report would be made in about eight days.

Bender said Baader, the 34-year-old leader of Red Army Faction guerrillas, shot himself, as did Jan Carl Raspe, 33. He said Baader's girl friend, Gudrun Ensslin, a 37-year-old daughter of a clergyman, 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 cut off from all news after the kidnapping by fellow gang members of industrialist Hanns-Martin Schleyer Sept. 5.

In another development, the extreme left-wing Paris newspaper Liberation said today it has received a communique signed by the Red Army Faction asserting that Schleyer has been killed.

Simultaneously, police in Mulhouse, France, working on an anonymous tip, found a West German car allegedly containing the body of the missing industrialist. But there was no body inside the car.

However, they were trying to open the luggage compartment of the vehicle. Fearing the possibility of an explosive device rigged to the compartment, police called in explosives experts.

The special anti-terrorism team that performed the rescue of the hostages in Mogadishu, Somalia, returned yesterday.

The troopers from Unit 9 of the West German border police had stormed the hijacked Lufthansa 737 jet, killed three of four hijackers, rescued 86 hostages and wrote a new chapter in the war against terrorism.

Though four of the 86 remained in Somalia for medical treatment, all had survived 106 hours of hell.

The mood in Cologne and Bonn was tinged with grief for Juergen Schumann, 37, captain of the hijacked plane, who was shot in the head in front of the passengers for standing up to the terrorists.

The hostages returned to a moving memorial service for Schumann in a maintenance hangar.

An American woman, Christine Santiago of Santee, Calif., who was on the hijacked plane with her 5-year-old son Leo, was in a state of shock and resting in seclusion in Germany, the U.S. Consulate in Frankfurt said. She will return home in a few days.

Thirteen terrorists' freedom had been demanded in exchange for the lives of the Lufthansa hostages.

They include Baader, who shot himself with a 7.65mm pistol, the type used by local police, Bonn officials said.