

U.S., Britain Aided Bonn In Rescue

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WASHINGTON—The United States and Britain played a major role in paving the way for West Germany's spectacular rescue of the 86 Lufthansa hostages, diplomatic sources have disclosed.

President Carter sent a private message to Somalian President Mohammed Said Barre in the hours before West German commandos stormed the hijacked aircraft at Mogadishu airport, urging him to assist the Bonn Government.

Britain joined the United States in bringing diplomatic pressure on Somalia. Sources said two members of Britain's elite special Air Service Commando Force flew into Mogadishu to advise the crack German unit that freed the hostages.

While the White House declined to disclose details of Mr. Carter's secret message to Said Barre, the President yesterday sent a second cable to the Somali leader publicly expressing "my personal appreciation for your vital and decisive role" in the safe release of the hijack victims.

While the United States was urging the Somalis in general terms to cooperate with the West Germans, the British were riding the Bonn government in a more direct way.

Two British commandos were dis-

patched to the desert airport at Dubai late last week after West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt appealed to British Prime Minister James Callaghan for aid.

The two men also were with the German commandos in Mogadishu, sources said, but did not take part in the assault on the plane.

The significance of the roles played by the United States and Britain in ending the Lufthansa saga was evident in the warm thanks Schmidt this week extended to both Callaghan and Mr. Carter.

A number of additional details also emerged about the contacts between Bonn and Washington.

When it was learned that two Americans Mrs. Christine Santiago, and her son, Leo, 5, of Sandee, Calif., were aboard the plane, the State Department set up a special Lufthansa hijacking task force that went on round-the-clock duty.

A similar "crisis center" was set up by the West German government in Bonn, and the two governments quickly began exchanging information they had been able to gather about the hijacking.

The International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations, however, called on pilots around the world to begin a 48-hour strike next Tuesday to protest the hijackers' killing of the Lufthansa captain.