

# The Pittsburgh Press

*A Scripps-Howard Newspaper*

Established June 23, 1884—Published Daily and Sunday

JOHN TROAN  
Editor

ROBERT H. HARTMANN  
President & Business Manager

LEO KOEBERLEIN, Executive Editor

Offices, 24 Boulevard of the Allies, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15230  
P.O. Box 566—Telephone (412) 263-1100

*Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way*

Page B-2

Thursday, October 20, 1977

## Blitzing The Terrorists

The successful rescue of 86 passengers and crewmen on a hijacked Lufthansa airline in Somalia has given West Germans a much-needed morale lift as well as a new lease on life to the beleaguered government of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

The news also made decent people everywhere feel pretty good.

The rescue goes a long way toward redeeming the tragedy of the 1972 Olympics in Munich, when a similar attempt to free nine kidnaped Israeli athletes resulted in the death of all of them.

The specially trained commando team that carried out the daring rescue mission in Somalia was, in fact, created because of the 1972 bungle.

This was the first time it had gone into action to do what it had been trained to do—to perform a quick, precise surgical operation, slicing out only the diseased tissue and nothing else.

★ ★ ★

Gladness at the outcome must be tempered by the senseless death of the pilot of the airliner, who was executed by the terrorists.

Jurgen Schumann was a brave man who apparently helped make the rescue possible by slipping out information about the number of hijackers and their weapons during a radio conversation.

But for the time being, West Germans know something of the joy and pride felt by Israelis after the spectacular Entebbe rescue last year.

There are also several fewer terrorists in the world, including three of 11 in West German prisons whose release the hijackers had demanded.

The three reportedly committed suicide when they learned they were not going to be released. Among them was Andreas Baader, co-founder of the notorious Baader-Meinhof gang that launched the terrorist movement in West Germany in 1970.

It was the only worthwhile thing the three ever did.

★ ★ ★

It would be wonderful to think that a fatal blow had been dealt to terrorism. But there are other terrorists roaming around, including six Japanese skyjackers whose demands the Japanese government acceded to only days before the Lufthansa hijacking.

Until airport security everywhere is so tight that no terrorists can walk aboard a plane—and until the civilized countries unite to boycott those like Algeria which give haven to terrorists—the world's ordeal with this peculiar madness of the 20th century will continue.