

British 'stun' grenade used

Noise, flash stopped enemy

LONDON, Wednesday. — The "stun" grenades which played a vital part in the West German commando raid to overcome the terrorists on the hijacked Luthansa airliner, were supplied by Britain, it was learnt last night.

Two members of Britain's Special Air Service (SAS) were at Mogadishu Airport to advise the West Germans on how to use them.

Britain's role in the successful anti-terrorist operation in Somalia became clear last night and was acknowledged by the West German Government in a warmly-worded message of thanks to the Prime Minister Mr Callaghan, from the Chancellor, Mr Schmidt.

The British-designed grenades have been stockpiled for some time in Britain and have been used experimentally by the 22nd regiment of the SAS, which forms Britain's anti-terrorist force.

They immobilise an enemy for six seconds by temporarily blinding him by their flash and deafening him with their exaggerated report.

But they do not scatter metal fragments like a conventional combat grenade, and therefore do not inflict serious injury.

Britain offered to supply them, together with SAS expertise, soon

after the Boeing 737 was hijacked last week and arrangements were completed on Friday when a West German envoy flew to London for high-level talks.

The two SAS men flew first to Dubai in preparation for a West German assault there, then to Mogadishu for Monday night's operation.

It is understood that they were called in to advise not only on the use of the British weapons, but on the operation itself — a reflection on the SAS's reputation as a counter-insurgency unit.

(AAP)