

German kidnap victim still alive

BONN (Reuter) The West German government has received new proof from the guerrilla kidnapers of industrialist Hans-Martin Schleyer that their victim is alive nearly three weeks after the abduction, informed sources said Sunday.

The sources declined to comment on a newspaper report that the kidnapers had threatened to begin mutilating their 62-year-old captive unless the government fulfils their demand to release 11 anarchists from jail.

The Cologne newspaper

Koelnische Rundschau said the threat was contained in a message from the kidnapers.

The government has imposed a news blackout on its negotiations with the kidnapers, with Swiss lawyer Denis Payot acting as intermediary.

But sources said the government's special crisis group, comprising cabinet ministers and security chiefs, met Sunday to discuss the latest message.

Schleyer, president of the West German Employers' Federation, was kidnapped Sept. 5 after a street gun battle in which his chauffeur and three bodyguards were killed.

In Wiesbaden, the Federal Police Bureau described as "pure speculation" a report Sunday in the newspaper *Bild am Sonntag* that West German extremists planned to seize a prominent hostage in the Netherlands.

The unsourced report said Dutch police found plans on suspected anarchist Knut Folkerts which led them to conclude that guerrillas wanted to kidnap the West German ambassador in The Hague or Prince Claus von Amsberg, the German-born husband of Dutch Crown Princess Beatrix.

Folkerts, wanted in West Germany in connection with the killing of Chief Public Prosecutor Seigfried Buback last April, was arrested in Utrecht on Thursday after a gun battle.

Dutch police are still looking for a woman Folkerts was with in the Netherlands.