

# Germany's deadly nightmare

From our correspondent in Hamburg

**THE ABDUCTION** by terrorists of the president of West Germany's Employers' Federation, Hanns-Martin Schleyer, has resulted in demands for a reintroduction of the death penalty.

It has also prompted some prominent figures, including Golo Mann, son of the late Thomas Mann, the German novelist, to declare that the nation is now in a state of civil war.

While some German newspapers have expressed similar views, the Government considers this highly alarmist. Talking about civil war also plays into the terrorists' hands, as they have always claimed to be urban guerillas killing for political motives.

Members of the Baader-Meinhof group, the oldest and most infamous of about half-a-dozen terrorist groups, call themselves the Red Army Faction.

The Government, as well as the courts, have always treated them as common criminals because of their murders, kidnaps, bank robberies and other acts of violence.

The terrorists so far have killed 22 people, injured 90 and kidnapped 14. Ten terrorists have lost their lives.

Germans fear that no matter what protection police offer, the fanatics, who are working with the determination and skill of wartime

commandos, will get their man.

The terrorists have studied the manuals of South America's urban guerillas and received some of their training from Arab militants in the Middle East.

Gloom and frustration are coupled with a realisation that the Government, though



Hanns-Martin Schleyer

obviously playing for time, will eventually give in to the terrorists' demands that 11 jailed colleagues be freed and flown to South Yemen.

It is generally felt that police can no longer be expected to risk their lives hunting and arresting people who are destined to be freed a few months later.

Leading politicians, judges, prosecutors and key men of banking and industry are being protected by police around the clock. Others are hiring private bodyguards.

One private security ser-

vice offered its services in newspaper advertisements: Remember what happened to Schleyer. Don't let it happen to you.

Terrorist plans seized indicate that the next person likely to be kidnapped will be from the nuclear power arena.

Since Dr Schleyer's abduction on September 5 police on escort duty no longer rely on revolvers. They now carry automatic rifles.

Tanks and armoured cars are posted outside Government offices, and ministers' private homes have been turned into fortresses.

There is a martial law atmosphere, although the Government does not dream of declaring a state of emergency. Politicians are taking great pains not to over-react because this, they say, is what the nation's terrorists want.

Police are hampered in their work by the terrorists' sympathisers, numbering more than 5,000, who provide them with money, shelter and cars.

Some French newspapers have expressed sympathy with the terrorists and described them as fighters against a police State.

The West German press is accusing these newspapers of seeking to drive a wedge between the two countries, which established very close relations after World War II.

The terrorists aim to pro-



Andreas Baader, of the Baader-Meinhof gang . . . one of the first

voke the authorities to such an extent that fascism will develop, which they will then smash with the help of a sympathetic people.

They believe that fascism was not eradicated with Hitler's defeat, and that West Germany needs a revolution to remove what is left of Nazism.

The terrorists have their origin in the student demonstrations on the late 1960s, when university students fought police in the streets of the major cities.

Those protesting students who didn't settle down afterwards joined the terrorists.

Many are women, and nearly all from upper middle-

class families. Some used to belong to extreme leftist movements.

Many admit being at loggerheads with their parents. They see in the nation's establishment secret admirers of Nazism, in spite of the fact that the coalition Government consists of social democrats and liberals.

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