

'Stop hunt or Schleyer dies': gang

BONN (AP) — The kidnappers of Hanns Martin Schleyer have threatened to kill the prominent industrialist unless the search for him is halted, the West German government revealed today.

The threat was contained in a ransom letter the government made public 24 hours after it failed to meet a deadline set by the kidnappers for the release of 11 jailed terrorists.

That deadline expired at 8 a.m. local time Wednesday, but hours later the government demanded that the kidnappers send a tape recording of Schleyer answering personal questions to prove he was alive.

A videotape was delivered Wednesday night, but officials refused to say what was on it. It presumably showed Schleyer in captivity.

The kidnappers' letter demanded "the immediate halt to all search efforts or Schleyer will be shot at once."

Free terrorists

It said Schleyer would be released if the government freed six men and five women imprisoned for terrorist crimes, handed over 100,000 marks (\$43,450) for each freed prisoner and provided a plane to take them to a destination of their choosing.

The abductors also demanded that the prisoners be accompanied out of the country by 85-year-old Pastor Martin Niemoeller, a noted anti-Nazi and foe of postwar German rearmament and militarism, and a United Nations official.

Niemoeller offered in a radio interview today to mediate with the kidnappers. He said he would try to arrange an exchange of imprisoned terrorists for Schleyer if it would help to save lives.

The kidnappers seized the 62-year-old head of the Associations of Industries and Employers in a sub-machine-gun ambush Monday in Cologne in which his chauffeur and three bodyguards were killed.

The newspaper Die Welt said a letter from the kidnappers to the government included a photograph of Schleyer in his undershirt sitting in front of an emblem of the **Red Army Faction** with a sign around his neck reading Prisoner of the RAF.

The Red Army Faction was the name used by the Baader-Meinhof gang of anarchists, West Germany's leading organization of urban terrorists in the early 1970s.