

552 : daylead baader:

by george vine

stuttgart, west germany, april 27, reuter -- defence lawyers for the baader-meinhof urban guerrilla trial will deliver their final pleas to journalists in an hotel here today, having refused to appear in the specially-built bomb-proof courtroom.

verdicts and sentences in the mammoth trial lasting nearly two years are expected on thursday with the prosecution demanding triple life terms for the three surviving defendants andreas baader, 33, gudrun ennslin, 36 and jan carl raspe.

justice authorities have warned that the three accused, on hunger strike for four weeks, could die if they are not forcibly fed soon. doctors are constantly monitoring their condition.

two others have died since the trial began in may 1975. Ulrike meinhof, joint organiser of the +red army faction (raf)+ guerrillas with baader, was found hanged in her cell last may. Volker meins, charged as a ringleader of an underground criminal organisation, died in november 1974 after a 135-day hunger strike.

the accused are charged with killing four people and wounding 54 in six bank robberies and six explosions between may and june, 1972, in which 435,000 marks (over 100,000 sterling) was stolen.
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0557 : daylead baader 2 stuttgart:

the accused have refused to make any formal plea or statement except to accept +political responsibility+ for some bombings. three exploded in u.s. army headquarters, killing four american soldiers. others were directed at police stations and the conservative springer press.

according to the prosecution, the defendants have continued to control the underground from their prison cells with the aid of their lawyers. police are still searching for 30 guerrillas pledged to wage war on existing society.

the court has heard evidence from several hundred people but no eye-witnesses have been produced. dierk hoff, a confessed bomb builder, and gerhard mueller, former electrician to the group, turned state's evidence and testified against the accused.

the prosecution described the defendants as +dream world revolutionaries.+ the defence claimed they were making war on capitalism and should be treated as prisoners of war not criminals.

twentyfive people have died at the hands of west german guerrillas, including two diplomats, four policemen and 10 of the attackers.

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0601 : daylead baader 3 stuttgart:

the cost of countering the violence has been estimated by justice authorities at over 100 million marks (nearly 25 million sterling) - including 12 million marks (three million sterling) for building the huge concrete bunker where the trial is being held.

the closing stages of the trial were overshadowed by the revenge killing of public prosecutor siegfried buback - the man chiefly responsible for bringing the baader-meinhof anarchists to trial. he was shot with his chauffeur and a companion by two gunmen on a motorcycle while in his car near the high court in karlsruhe on april 7.

the bizarre trial has been marked by legal disputes, walkouts and scuffles. the defendants have shouted +pig+ and +nazi+ at the five judges. their cells and lawyers' offices have been dugged on the grounds that they are members of a conspiracy.

law experts believe that there are so many points in the conduct of the trial which would be challengeable that, if a verdict of guilty is reached, it could be quashed on appeal and a new trial ordered.

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1349 :baader-parents:

1 geneva, april 27, reuter -- a delegation of 10 parents and relatives demanded that urban guerrillas held in west german jails be treated as prisoners-of-war at a five-minute demonstration in the united nation's european headquarters here today.

headed by pastor helmut ennslin, father of one of the accused at the baader-meinhof trial expected to end in stuttgart this week, they unfurled a banner in a main entrance hall of geneva's palais des nations calling for the geneva red cross conventions to be applied to all political detainees.

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1358 : baader -- parents 1a geneva:

pastor ennslin's daughter gudruy, 36, is one of three defendants in the baader-meinhof trial accused of killing four people and wounding 54 in six explosions and six bank robberies in 1972.

another member of the group was the mother of brigette schulz, held in israel and reported to have been picked up by israeli forces in a raid on entebbe airport to free israeli passengers aboard a hijacked airliner.

the group said they wanted an international red cross conference here updating conventions governing the rules of war to extend the convention of human rights for war prisoners to international fighters struggling against imperialistic oppression, exploitation and the terror imposed on persons with certain convictions. + 1/2

a commission of the conference last week approved a new article to the conventions granting guerrillas throughout the world all the rights of prisoners of war.

reuter rf

eun700 epa119

1727 :nightlead baader:

by george vine

stuttgart, west germany, april 27, reuter -- lawyers defending the three accused in the baader-meinhof anarchist trial today justified the alleged crimes of their clients as legitimate acts of war by guerrillas helping the vietnam communists

+they were helping the liberation struggle of the vietnamese people against an imperialist power, america, with west germany as its accomplice,+ said herr otto schily, leader of the defence team.

the lawyers shunned the special bomb-proof court in stammheim jail, where the baader-meinhof verdict is due tomorrow, and made their final plea to more than 100 german and foreign reporters in front of a battery of television cameras in a hotel 10 kilometres (seven miles) away.

andreas baader, 33, gudrun ennslin, 36, and jan-carl raspe, 32, are charged with murder, robbery and bombings in 1972. three bombs were planted in american army headquarters, killing four soldiers.

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in geneva today, 10 parents and relatives of the accused in the two-year trial demonstrated at the european headquarters of the united nations to demand that they be treated as prisoners of war.

led by pastor helmut ennslin, gudrun's father, they unfurled a banner in the entrance hall of the palais des nations.

herr schily, leading four defence lawyers who have boycotted the trial for six weeks, told the news conference in the park hotel here the defendants were victims of a political trial.

the verdicts -- which he expected would be that they were guilty -- had been +programmed.+

the three accused have been on hunger strike in protest at conditions in stammheim, a top security jail, for six weeks and herr schily said their condition had deteriorated.

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1736 : nightlead baader 3 stuttgart:

justice officials have said they could die if they are not force-fed soon.

herr schily said they were not criminals but politically-motivated guerrillas.

+the question here is : were these not political crimes committed against the criminal policies of an imperialist super-power?+ he asked

he compared american +genocide+ in vietnam with nazi liquidation of jews in world war two

the two u.s. army headquarters in heidelberg and frankfurt, where bombs were exploded, were advance bases used in prosecuting the vietnam war, he said

herr schily asked: +would a bomb placed in the nazi gestapo headquarters in the last war have been counted as a crime if it helped to save jews from the gas chambers?+

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1738 : nightlead baader 4 stuttgart:

herr schily, speaking for all the defence lawyers, said they would make no formal plea of guilty or not guilty because they challenged the whole basis of the trial.

a separate team of lawyers appointed by the court to represent the accused has already made final pleas in the courtroom, calling for the trial to be stopped because of procedural irregularities

the three defendants are the survivors of an original five charged with belonging to a criminal conspiracy called the +red army faction (raf).+ one of them, holger meins, died after a hunger strike before the trial opened.

woman journalist ulrike meinhof was found hanged in her cell last may.

the defence did not deny the accused were members of the raf, herr schily said, but did deny this was a criminal conspiracy. they should be treated as prisoners of war.

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