

1320 : Lead arrest:

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stuttgart, west germany, may 4, reuter--police were put on full alert in three west german states after the reported sighting of a man wanted over the killing of federal prosecutor siegfried buback.

the wanted man, christian klar, was reported to have been seen in mannheim after a running gun battle near the swiss border yesterday in which two other suspected guerrillas were wounded and arrested.

federal prosecutor erwin fischer said an intensive hunt had been launched for klar.

guenther sonnenberg, accused of being an accomplice in the buback assassination, was arrested yesterday in singen, near the swiss border, together with a frau verena becker after a chase by car and foot.

sonnenberg, who was shot in the head, was reported critically ill today. frau becker was shot in the leg but not seriously wounded. a policeman shot in the chest is recovering in hospital.

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1325 : Lead arrest 2 stuttgart:

arrest warrants were issued for klar, sonnenberg and knut folkerts shortly after herr buback, his driver and body guard were killed in an attack by two men on a motorcycle in karlsruhe on april 7.

police today issued the top-priority +alarm alert+ in the states of hesse, rhineland palatinate and baden-wuerttemberg in their search for klar, who was said to be accompanied by at least one other person.

the head of the federal criminal office's anti-terror department, herr gerhard boeden, said in a radio interview that police ballistics experts had established beyond doubt that a submachine gun carried by sonnenberg and frau becker was the weapon used in the buback killing.

he said they had a number of weapons, identity papers and other documents with them, and were planning to cross the border illegally.

asked whether he believed there was a base for guerrillas in switzerland, herr boeden said: +well, we will have to wait and see whether there is a base there. but it is quite certain that a meeting was supposed to take place there.+

(pickup as required)

reuter ds/ws/haa

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stuttgart, west germany, may 4 (upi) -- police credit a woman guest in the cafe hanser in the town of singer near lake constance for their first breakthrough in west germany's biggest murder hunt.

she might soon be 200,000 marks (dlrs 83,600) richer. that is the reward that has been offered for information leading to the arrest of the murderers of siegfried buback, west germany's chief prosecutor who led the campaign against terrorists.

the woman phoned police to report a man wanted in connection with last month's murder was having breakfast in the cafe with a young woman. not only was the man on the terrorist wanted list, but his companion was, too.

police arrested the two tuesday after a chase and gun battle in which two policemen and the two suspects were wounded.

the man was shot in the head. his condition was so critical that it took hours to identify him beyond doubt. justice authorities finally said he was guenter sonnenberg, 22-year-old heidelberg university sociology student who was placed on the +most wanted+ list after buback's murder.

authorities said the woman, who was shot in the thigh, was verena becker, 24, wanted for murder. becker was one of five urban guerrillas freed from jail and flown to south yemen in 1975 in return for the release by terrorists of peter lorenz, the chairman of the west berlin branch of the christian democratic party.

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justice authorities said that while in the near east she took part in a course on aircraft hijacking given by the peoples front for the liberation of palestine.

she is accused of having helped plant a bomb in 1972 in the british yacht club in west berlin that killed a german caretaker.

she was taken by helicopter to stuttgart's stammheim prison, where three other urban guerrillas are being held. they were sentenced to life imprisonment thursday for killing four american soldiers in two bomb attacks in 1972.

one of the two policemen wounded in the gun battle tuesday was said to be in a serious condition.

buback, his bodyguard and driver were shot to death april 7 while their automobile was waiting at a red traffic light on a karlsruhe street. the killer opened fire with a submachinegun from the rear saddle of a motorcycle.

police said sonnenberg and becker were armed tuesday with a submachine gun, two pistols, two revolvers and a dagger.

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0327 :daylead arrest:

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stuttgart, west germany, may 4, reuter -- police arrested two suspected urban guerrillas after a running gunbattle yesterday and said they had evidence linking them with the killing of federal prosecutor siegfried buback last month.

police said last night that a submachine gun found on the two suspects was the one that killed herr buback, his chauffeur and a passenger in his car on april 7 in karlsruhe.

the two suspects were named as guenter sonnenberg, 22, and frau verena becke, 24. police said becker was hit in the leg and sonnenberg, who has been named by police as being wanted in connection with herr buback's assassination, was shot in the head and body.

two policemen were wounded in the chase. they were checking on the couple in a cafe at singen, near the swiss border. as they escorted them out the two opened fire, wounding the policemen and then commandeering a car at gunpoint.

they were chased by squad cars and eventually fled on foot across a meadow before being hit by police bullets.

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0335 :daylead arrest 2 stuttgart:

soon after herr buback's murder, police said sonnenberg was the man who hired the motorcycle used in the attack.

his description and those of fellow-suspects knut folkerts and christian klar were given to police forces throughout western europe. folkerts and klar are still at large.

frau becker was one of five urban guerrillas freed in march 1975 and flown to aden in response to the demands of extremists who had kidnapped christian democratic politician peter lorenz in west berlin. she had not been seen since. herr lorenz was freed.

before her release she was serving a six-year prison sentence imposed in 1972 for her part in the bombing of the british yacht club in berlin, in which a night watchman died.

reuter srp cp dms