

eun247 epc115

1315 : trial:

47

tel aviv, july 6, reuter -- two west germans and three arabs went on trial today accused of attempting to shoot down an israeli airliner with a rocket at nairobi last year, the west german embassy said.

israeli officials refused to divulge information about the secret trial. but a west german spokesman said here that it opened today and an embassy observer was attending.

west germany complained last march that it had not been told for more than a year of the arrest of brigitte schultz, 23, and thomas reuter, 24.

at the same time a bonn foreign ministry spokesman confirmed press reports that they had been held in connection with an attempt to shoot down an el al boeing 707 with a strella rocket as the plane was landing at nairobi in january, 1976.

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eun249 epc116

1318 : trial 2 tel aviv:

press reports published outside israel said the five accused had been arrested by a special anti-terror unit of the kenyan police.

their release was also reported to be one of the demands of the guerrilla band which hijacked an air france plane to entebbe a year ago. the hijack ended when israeli commandos launched an airborne raid to free the hostages.

an israeli military spokesman refused to give any details of the trial, which is being held at a secret location.

but an earlier official announcement said they face charges of attempting to attack an el al airliner at a foreign airport and of membership in the popular front for the liberation of palestine (pflp) guerrilla group.

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