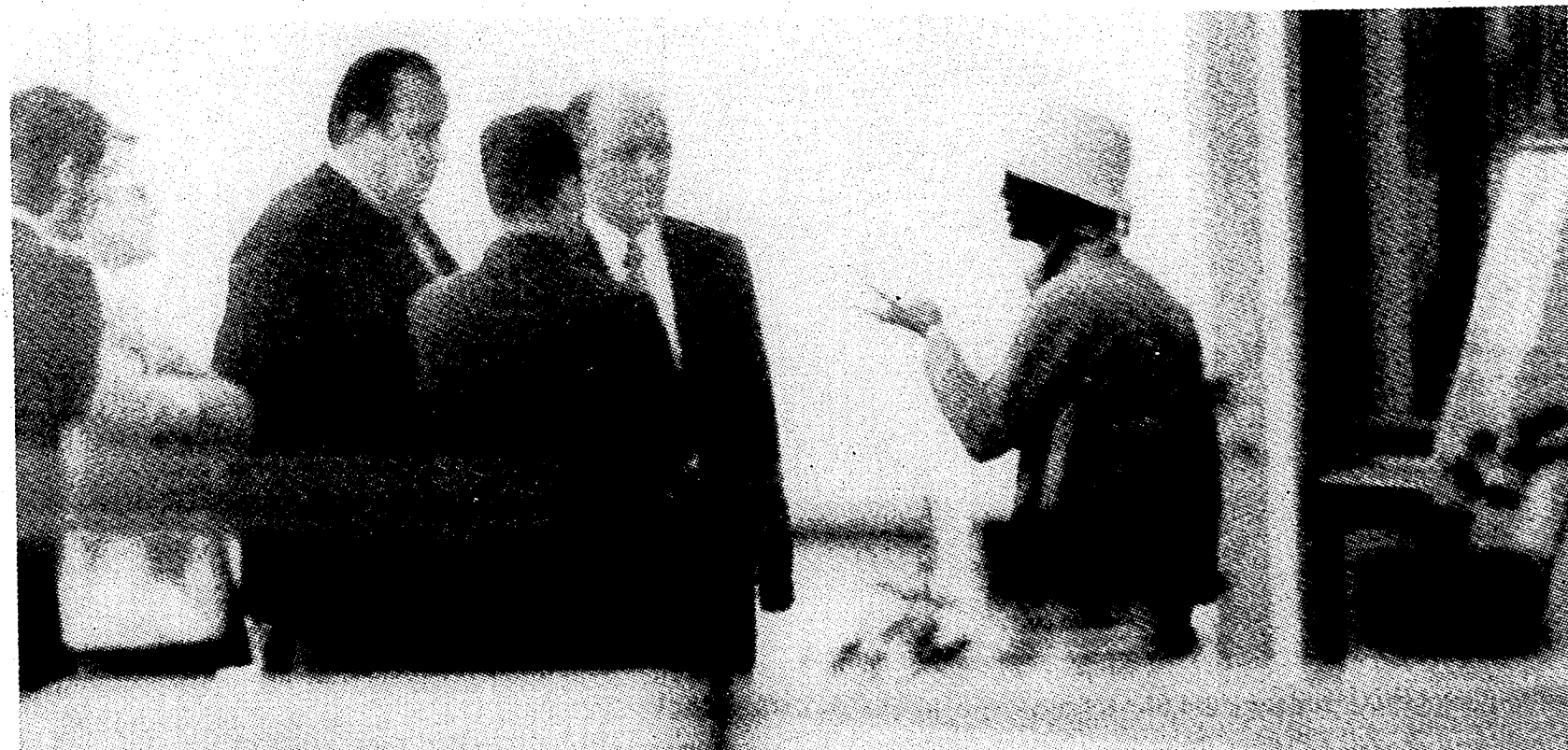


Olympic security dilemma vexes Germans

By Larry Eldridge Staff correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

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pg. 1



UPI photo

Officials negotiate with Arab guerrilla (right) on fate of Israeli hostages

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By Larry Eldridge
Staff correspondent of
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Munich, Germany

*Munich caught between 1972 tensions
and avoidance of 1936 police-state games*

A mood of horror and stunned disbelief fills this Olympic city today after Arab terrorists broke into the Athletes' Village, killed two Israelis, and took between 9 and 13 others hostage.

The games themselves suddenly lost their importance in the wake of the commando attack. Everyone's immediate concern was the fate of the prisoners. Next came tightening of security to prevent further violence, and of course the endless debate about how it happened and what the eventual effect will be.

"The Olympic peace has been broken by a murderous attack of criminal terrorists," said outgoing International Olympic Committee president Avery Brundage and West German Olympic Organizing Committee president Willi Daume in a joint statement read to a hushed news conference.

"The whole civilized world condemns this barbarous act," they added.

Mr. Brundage and Mr. Daume announced that "in respect for the victims and as a token of our involvement," all the main events Tuesday would be canceled. They said a memorial service would be held Wednesday morning.

Meanwhile, there were reactions, recriminations, and charges throughout the vast Olympic complex, where some 10,000 athletes plus at least that number of officials and journalists are gathered for these quadrennial games.

Charges that the Germans had not provided adequate security were especially ironic, for it was just the opposite sort of thing — militarism and police state efficiency of Germany in 1936 — which is remembered from the last Olympics held in this country.

Haunted by the memory of that 1936 Nazi propaganda show in Berlin, the 1972 organizers did their best to keep away this time from any such appearances — only to run into criticism the other way.

Many, however, feel that such criticism is hardly justified. The eight-foot wire fence around the village was adequate for its normal purpose of keeping ordinary citizens out. But Olympic Villages aren't normally built to keep out commandos in pre-dawn raids, and it is difficult to see how they could be, short of constructing a mini-Berlin wall somewhere every four years.

"I don't blame the German people as a whole, but I blame the police for lack of adequate security," Israeli journalist Don Shilon said on German television. "These games are overorganized in many ways, but not organized enough in some things, especially the security."

Asked how he thought the incident would affect relations between Israel and West Germany, which have been steadily on the upswing in recent years:

"This is only my personal opinion, but I think it will do something to them. This is a real shock to Israel. If there were some hard feelings before the games that Israel had to

compete in Germany, I think these will be increased now."

But next to Israel, of course, Germany was the country most horrified by the day's events. The people here had worked for years to make these Olympics a showcase to the world for the new and prosperous nation they have built from the ashes of World War II. They had succeeded admirably, showing a mixture of organization and Bavarian charm that was the envy of all. But now, no matter what else happens, they know these Olympics will always be remembered most of all for the terrorist attack.

★Please turn to Page 11

★Raid dilemma grips Munich

Continued from Page 1

The raid occurred sometime Tuesday morning, when about five terrorists armed with submachine guns got into the village and took over the Israel quarters.

They killed one man as they fought their way in. He was identified as Moshe Weinberg, the Israel wrestling coach. Another fatality was reported later, an Israeli weightlifter, Yosef Romano.

Holding the rest of those they had surprised as hostages, the commandos demanded the release of 200 Arab political prisoners in Israel. Later they asked instead for air transportation for themselves and the hostages out of the country.

Negotiations were continuing in the evening, with Israeli diplomats and West German Chancellor Willy Brandt flying in to conduct them.

Since the attack, the Olympic Village, once so easy to enter, has been cordoned off tightly by police. Even accredited journalists were no longer permitted entry, and spectators were kept several hundred yards away.

Advance warning?

Reports that filtered out, however, indicated that the whole raid had been carefully planned and executed.

An Israeli newsman said the team had received a warning Monday that an Arab commando squad had entered Germany via Scandinavia, and to be careful of gift packages that might contain bombs.

A member of the Uruguay team, which is housed nearby, said he saw two Arabs in the village the day before the raid, apparently scouting it out.

After the raid, he said, the Arabs appeared confident and relaxed as they manned their guns and awaited the outcome of negotiations.

Among the extra security measures taken Tuesday was the removal of U.S. swimming star Mark Spitz, who is Jewish, from the village. He later decided to fly back to California.

Armed guards also were placed around the headquarters of the Egyptian team to forestall any possible violence there. Eventually, however, the Egyptians forfeited a basketball game, and it was reported that their entire contingent was going home.