The GSG 9 Frees Hostages in Mogadishu (October 18, 1977)

Abstract

On October 13, 1977, four Palestinian terrorists hijacked the Lufthansa plane "Landshut" on its flight from Mallorca to Frankfurt with 86 passengers and five crew members on board in order to press for the release of imprisoned RAF (Red Army Faction) leaders. The plane was diverted and eventually landed in Mogadishu, Somalia. After the flight captain was murdered by the terrorists, the situation escalated further. Representing the German government, Minister of State Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski led the negotiations with the Somali government, which consented to the storming of the plane by the GSG 9, a special unit of the German Federal Border Guard. Three hostage-takers were killed in the rescue operation on October 18, 1977; the hostages remained unharmed.

Source

Translation of transcrption

October 18, 1977. At Mogadishu Airport, the GSG 9, an anti-terrorist unit of the (German) Federal Border Guard, freed all of the hostages from the Lufthansa jetliner "Landshut," which had been hijacked by a Palestinian terrorist commando. Earlier, in the course of the hijacking, the captain of the "Landshut" had been shot dead by the leader of the terrorist commando. The purpose of the hijacking was to press for the release of the RAF (Red Army Faction) leaders who had been imprisoned in 1972. The plan failed, the hostages were released, but the so-called German Autumn still ended in bloodshed when the RAF leadership committed suicide in Stuttgart-Stammheim prison. Hanns Martin Schleyer, the president of the Confederation of German Employers' Associations, who had been kidnapped and was being held by RAF members was then murdered. During the GSG 9's seven-minute rescue mission in Mogadishu, three of the four hostage-takers were killed. An officer from the GSG-9 team and a flight attendant—shown here on her return to Germany—were injured.

Source: 18. October 1977 – The GSG 9 Frees the Hostages in Mogadishu. History Vision (history-vision.de), Clip-ID: JHT000400E (1977).

history-vision.de