

WIDER GUARD USE IN RIOTS IS URGED

'Think Tank' Would Remove
Pressure From the Police

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 (UPI)—A Government research organization has recommended that the National Guard take over a major share of riot control duties to avoid further public antagonism toward the police.

The Institute for Defense Analyses, one of the private "think tanks" engaged in research for the Defense Department, handed the recommendation last month to the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice.

More frequent use of the Guard, it said, "may eliminate any residual burden of antagonism toward the police." This would permit the police to concentrate on "day to day problems," the report said.

The institute said there was "no question that the federalized forces are better organized to control a major riot than is almost any local police force."

It also recommended a thorough investigation of an assortment of nonlethal weapons on the market that could be used in riot control. They include hand-held chemical spray guns, foam generators that can entrap rioters in a sea of bubbles, dart guns and even paint guns that can mark a lawbreaker for later identification.

Nightstick Hailed

For the time being, it said, the best nonlethal weapon is the nightstick, but many policemen are inadequately instructed in its use. National Guardsmen, it said, should be taught to use nightsticks rather than bayonets. In most cases bayonets are "inappropriate" for riot control, the institute said.

The report, written by Joseph F. Coates, mildly scolded the police for "to liberal use [of firearms] in intrinsically minor situations, with the consequent risk of summary justice in the street far more severe than any likely to be meted out by judge or jury." But it said there was no evidence of general conscious abuse of firearms by the police.

The current trend, the institute said, is toward restricting police use of firearms, the institute said. For this reason, it declared, there is an "urgent need for effective weaponry to replace firearms."

Chemical agents, the report said, represent "the single most promising avenue for the development of new, effective and useful police weapons."

It gave particularly high marks to a device called the "chemical mace," an aerosol can that releases heavy droplets of tear gas or other chemicals at a range of 8 to 20 feet. The mace, since it is capable of rapid fire, gives the police the option of dealing with several assailants at one time, does not require a direct hit to be effective, can incapacitate for 15 to 20 minutes and is effective virtually instantaneously, the report said.

Nonlethal Weapons

The report also discussed the following nonlethal weapons and made these comments:

FOAM—A high-volume foam generator for mob control, which can lay down a five-foot layer of foam the width of a 200-foot street in 10 minutes to direct crowds and block traffic.

BARBED TAPE—The Army has developed what it calls an "antipersonnel obstacle" about the size of three stacked shoe boxes. When set in the street and activated, it releases eight reels of barbed steel tape that might be useful in blocking street and enforcing curfews.

PAINT GUNS—A gas-power pistol now used for marking trees or animals with paint might be applied to mark individuals in a crowd for later identification. Dyes and markers that show up only under special lights or can be detected by police dogs or chemical means should also be investigated.

DART AND INJECTOR WEAPONS—As developed at present dart and hypodermic guns now used to tranquilize animals are unsafe for police use because they are potentially dangerous to the eyes and too potent for human use.

CATTLE PRODS—The use of electrified prods against civil rights demonstrators in the South was "unfortunate." The police should adopt a policy of "not using new weapons for the first time in socially critical situations, if possible. Experience and public acceptance should be developed gradually in situations not charged with widespread emotions."

Dozens of other nonlethal weapons were discussed. They included teflon, which could be laid down on a street to make it difficult to walk, laser beams, heat rays and ball guns that stun but not kill. There is even a "super water gun" on the market that sprays extract of pepper.

The institute recommended that a central research agency be established to develop new techniques and to establish weapons standards.