Police Stockpile Weapons, Preparing for Riots

WASHINGTON, March 1 (AP) —

"When I look at this thing," said Deputy Chief Daryl Gates of the Los Angeles police, "I think, my God, I hope we'll never have to use it.

But then I realize how valuable it would be in Watts, where we had nothing to protect us from sniper fire.

"We might as well be prepared," said Gates.

Policemen in most cities are tempering this show of firmness, however, with efforts to improve their relations with slum dwellers. "Our first defense against riots," said Chief Reddin in Los Angeles, "is to mobilize 6,000 untouchables against those who cause riots."

The Tampa arsenal, he said, includes 162 shotguns, 150 bayonets, 5 sniper rifles, 25 carbines and M-1 rifles, 300 gas masks. And State Attorney Paul Antineri has recommended to the Legislature for $1-million to train police and training officers to get $500,000 more from Federal sources.

Cops in Chicago

"The police are not the only weapons in the city," said Chief of Staff, told Congress recently. But in the Army, the police have hired 225 new police, 20 men for their intelligence section, and want to buy a helicopter.

"A cop in Chicago," said Police Commissioner Bay Girardin. "So much talk about riots that may not occur creates tensions which could lead to riots," added Police Chief Michael Blackwell of Cleveland.

Instead of riot preparations, police officials prefer to emphasize community relations programs. In another tactic aimed at preventing crime, police officials on patrol are required to carry out legal duty.

"We don't make for good security," said Detroit Police Commissioner James B. Conklin, "to mobilize 6,000 unformed policemen and detectives within several hours in any location in the city.

"We're following through on the military concept in attack," said Eugene Olaff, New Jersey State Police operations officer in disarming that the state police has been doing undercover work. On a larger scale, Federal officers are gathering data submitted by cities across the land in riots, as in the basement of Justice Department headquarters. The computer will help decide what, if any, Federal response is required to meet this trouble this summer.

"Mobility is basic in police riot-control plans.

Philadelphia Police Chief Frank Rizzo keeps his forces alert in the case of riots. The police have 15 special weapons and tactics teams and are training 30 more.

"As if to underscore this determination, a gray telephone with a red light instead of a dialing mechanism—a" hot line" to the Pentagon—has been installed at the safety of command posts.

"There is no substitute for firmness," the sheriff is spending his ty, the sheriff is spending his money on riot-control preparations. A red light instead of a dialing mechanism—a "hot line" to the Pentagon—has been installed at the safety of command posts.