

State Ready For Riots

Sacramento

Half a million dollars worth of modern riot control equipment is stockpiled at 14 secret locations in California for use by law enforcement officials in the event of large disturbances, state officials said yesterday.

Purchased by the Office of Emergency Services with federal funds, the material includes riot vests, disposable plastic handcuffs, stun guns that fire "beanbag" ammunition, assorted tear gas dispensers and gas guns, small walkie-talkie type radios and base radio stations.

Officials declined to say exactly where the equip-

ment is stored.

"We don't want to alert dissidents," said Alex R. Cunningham, assistant emergency services director.

The highly refined equipment includes the newly nicknamed "Sacramento vest," much like the military's so-called flack jacket. At nearly \$100 a piece, the vests are designed to protect against rocks, bottles and .38-caliber bullets. A special chest panel is designed to protect against pistol shots fired at close range.

Purchase of the equipment was made possible by a \$484,000 Federal Safe Streets Act Grant, officials said.

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