

2 in San Francisco Linked to Slaying Of Patrolmen Here

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By NICHOLAS GAGE

The slaying of two policemen here last May 21 was reported yesterday by sources close to the investigation to have been brought closer to a solution by the recovery of a revolver taken from one of the patrolmen.

Charles Barca, chief of inspectors in the San Francisco Police Department, said yesterday that the gun had been found in the possession of two men arrested in San Francisco on Aug. 28.

Chief Barca identified the men as Anthony Bottom, 19 years old and Robert Johnson, 21, both of whom gave San Francisco addresses. He said they were arrested after a chase through streets during which shots were exchanged

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with the police.

When they were arrested, he said, they had a .38-caliber service revolver, later identified as the one taken from Patrolman Joseph Piagentini, 28, who was slain here along with his partner, Patrolman Waverly Jones, 33.

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Police Commissioner Patrick V. Murphy refused to comment about the developments when questioned at a news conference yesterday. But sources close to the investigation called the San Francisco developments "a major break" in the case that would lead to arrests for the murder of the patrolmen.

Chief Barca said that two detectives from New York had been in San Francisco for a week investigating the developments there. He identified the detectives as William Butler and William Siffers.

Chief Barca said that Mr. Bottom and Mr. Johnson had been arrested following a chase that resulted when they drove alongside the police car of Sgt. George F. Kowalski and aimed a machine gun at him.

The weapon did not fire, Chief Barca said, and the car sped away followed by police cars alerted by Sergeant Kowalski. Mr. Bottom was wounded in the leg and neck during the caputre, he said.

Chief Barca said the two

men had a third weapon, a .45-caliber pistol, with them. He said the gun had not been checked out yet.

Patrolman Piagentini, white, and Patrolman Jones, black, were shot from behind as they emerged from a Harlem housing project where they had responded to a sick call.

The police described the suspects in the shooting on the basis of information from witnesses as two young black men.

One was said to be 18 to 24 years old, 6 feet tall, 150 to 160 pounds. The second man was described as 20 to 24 years old, 5 feet 7 inches to 5 feet 9 inches tall, 155 to 170 pounds.

One of the witnesses was Clarence Lee, 18, of Brooklyn, who told the police he had been less than 20 feet from the scene of the killings.

Chief Barca denied reports that Mr. Lee and a second witness had been flown to San Francisco to look at Mr. Bottom and Mr. Johnson.

"As of now no witnesses of the New York shooting have been brought out here," he said.

Mr. Bottom and Mr. Johnson were arraigned Thursday amid elaborate security precautions and were held on \$50,000 bail each.