

## 35 held as cops smash Taiwan agents' spy ring

HONGKONG Police — in the biggest spy hunt in many years — have reportedly rounded up more than 35 suspected Taiwan agents and seized a quantity of arms, ammunition and propaganda-scattering missiles.

Some microfilms, believed to be about activities of agents in China, were found in a cake of soap during the raids which started at 4 am yesterday.

All detained suspects, including some women, are being held at the political prisoners detention centre in Victoria Road.

Sources said most of them will be deported to Taiwan when they have been processed by Special Branch detectives.

Yesterday's raids were believed to be part of the follow-up action to last

week's raids in Kowloon in which five agents, one suspected to be a military intelligence colonel in the Taiwan Army, were arrested.

Eight teams took part in the raids during which more than 100 detectives combed a number of addresses on both sides of the harbour.

The detention centre today, like last night, was bustling with activity.

More than 10 cars, all with special parking permits, were outside and plainclothes detectives were seen hustling between the centre and unknown destinations.

The centre is normally deserted except for an obscure police guard and residents in the area last night said it was unusual for it to be lit up.

A detective who spotted a STAR team across the road from the centre said last

night: "It's good you identified yourselves — you could have been shot, you know."

Some of the ammunition seized in the raids was found in what looked like cans of ordinary tinned food.

The microfilm was discovered by a policewoman, who after searching a flat for three hours, wanted to wash her hands.

Some bazookas with warheads that allegedly scatter propaganda scrolls when fired into the air were also seized in the raids.

Sources said some machine guns also were found.

The raids were based on information from Mainland Chinese agents in Hongkong who have been helping Special Branch detectives for months against activities aimed at China by groups in Hongkong.