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30 alleged Taiwan agents arrested in Hongkong

From Our Correspondent
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Hongkong's Special Branch has announced the arrest of more than 30 suspected Chinese Nationalist agents and the seizure of arms, rockets and explosives, believed to be intended for sabotage inside China.

Fifteen private residences were raided on Hongkong island and in Kowloon. A number of suspects managed to escape, including the leader of the alleged ring, who is believed to have boarded a waiting motor junk for Taiwan.

Special Branch officers allowed photographs to be taken of the seized explosives, James Bond-type equipment (including a poison-injecting "fountain pen" with a hypodermic needle, and documents and letters from China, some with postscripts in invisible ink.

Communist Party representatives in Hongkong hinted pri-

vately today that the raids had been the result of tip-offs from the mainland. Special Branch detectives declined to comment.

The action was one of the biggest yet in Hongkong, recalling similar mass raids and seizures of explosives and sabotage equipment in November last year.

As in the past, those arrested last week who are said to be the leaders of the alleged ring, will be quietly deported to Taiwan. There will be no public trials.

Some of the American-made explosives, rockets and arms are believed to have come from the Philippines or Vietnam. It is suspected they are all being smuggled in and out of Hongkong by Taiwan and Hongkong-based Nationalist agents whose leaders are listed as colonels and army officers.

There is no evidence that China uses Hongkong as a base for espionage or propaganda operations against Taiwan.