

## \$50m mainland gang thwarted

By DARREN GOODSIR

POLICE are hunting a mainland gang - thwarted yesterday in an attempt to rob an armoured Securicor van of \$50 million - after the arrest of a senior staff member of the company.

Officers have placed under witness protection a Securicor guard who gave police details of the failed raid.

He was last night under 24-hour police watch.

A Securicor security manager was in police custody after being arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to rob.

The Organised Crime and Triad Bureau will today continue searching for the gang members, thought to be on the run in China. It was

alleged they had planned to hold up a company van yesterday during its scheduled trip from Securicor headquarters at Cheung Sha Wan to the Hongkong Bank at Kowloon Bay.

The van was carrying much of the weekend takings of the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club.

Organised Crime and Triad Bureau sources said the 39-year-old suspect was arrested at 8 am at the Cheung Sha Wan premises, where the firm's major vault was located.

A spokesman for Securicor refused to comment.

Last month, 12 Securicor security guards were given jail sentences between four and 16 months after an ICAC investigation uncovered a pay phone racket.