

NORTHERN IRELAND INFORMATION SERVICERADIO / TV TRANSCRIPTPROGRAMME: NEWSBREAKDATE: Friday 21/6/96.

JEH 07a ti

Mr spoke: Bruton has

been widely shown on tv, hnt

Sajid K.

602/1

The Taoiseach John Bruton has said the IRA were in the process of making more weaponry at the time last night's big arms find in Co Laois. He was speaking before the European Summit Meeting in Florence where he's due to meet John Major later today. Our Political Editor Jim Dougall sends this report from Florence.

According to Mr Bruton last night's explosive find generated deep concern about the intentions of the IRA. He said there was no doubt that members of that organisation were involved and at the time of the find were in the process of making weapons. He said that again raises serious questions for Sinn Fein.

Mr Bruton

X

The fact that we discovered the IRA is actually manufacturing or attempting to manufacture arms puts again into a matter of very current importance whether or not Sinn Fein supports this and supports the armed struggle because if they do that's inconsistent with one of the Mitchell principles that they said they accepted only two weeks ago.

JIM DOUGALL

As they meet here in Florence the British and Irish Prime Ministers will reaffirm their determination to use all the means at their disposal against terrorism. For his part John Bruton said that the Irish Government and security forces were working in every way possible to take violence out of the equation and allow political dialogue in Northern Ireland to succeed.

Meanwhile Gardai are carrying out a forensic examination of the scene where the arms find was made. Our Dublin Correspondent, Shane Harrison, reports from Clonaslie.



Chief Superintendent Sean Cavan who is leading the investigation says it will be several days before the results of the forensic examinations are known. Six men are still being questioned about the find, four in Dublin and two in Port Laois. Armed police can be seen going to the outhouse adjacent to where the discovery was made. The Gardai are reluctant to confirm that the find of the explosives, mortar components and timing devices, came as a result of a tip-off but they say they're delighted with the help the public have been giving in their on-going investigation into the murder of Detective Gerry Maccabe in Adare, Co Limerick, earlier this month.

PAGAB/3062