Drug Suspects Seized

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Undercover agents swapped 167 automatic weapons with silencers for 260,000 quaalude tablets, then arrested the three men they were dealing with, U.S. Attorney Don Beckner said today.

Two women were later arrested in what authorities said was an effort by narcotics smugglers to arm themselves for gang fights and drug raids. "Florida is so heavily patrolled now that the major drug traffic is coming into Louisiana and Texas," Beckner said.

Col. Bo Garrison, head of the State Police, said, "We see a trend developing in which smugglers are prepared to fight for their loads, either with us or their competitors. They are asking for sophisticated weapons. Whether they want to use (Continued on Page 3, Col. 5)

them in trade for more drugs or arm themselves, we are not sure. But we believe some of these weapons are for them.

After a lengthy undercover operation, four agents met Monday in a Baton Rouge motel room with three men they had been dickering with, Beckner said.

The three — along with two women arrested later — were booked with possession of a dangerous substance with intent to distribute, he said. All five were scheduled for arraignment later.

The five were identified as Charles McDonnell, 26, of Rosedale; Sharon Magee, 24, Baton Rouge; Edward Gantt, 30, Grosse Tete; Joseph Krohn, 33, Hattiesburg, Miss., and Virginia Kaines, 40, Rosedale.

Drug

(Continued From Page 1)