

Federal computers under study

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The government's 9,000 computers, which store such data as Social Security and Internal Revenue Service records, are vulnerable to terrorism, vandalism and natural disasters, a congressional study said yesterday.

The General Accounting Office released its findings after a study of security precautions at 28 federal data processing facilities around the country.

"It is impossible to estimate the effects on millions of our elderly citizens whose livelihood depends on Social Security should the computers be destroyed," said Sen. Abraham Ribicoff, D-Conn., who requested the study.

Ribicoff said the report found that "not only are these thousands of computers frequently allowed to function without proper controls, but

... they are dangerously vulnerable to terrorist activity.

"The potential threat is not limited to Social Security. In terms of federal revenues, for instance, imagine the havoc that would result from the destruction of federal tax revenues."

Ribicoff said the Government Operations Committee will begin a preliminary inquiry into security procedures at the facilities.

Ribicoff also released another GAO study which found that the government was losing millions of dollars through errors committed by incorrectly programmed computers.

In its report on security, the GAO found 14 facilities using combustible magnetic tape files that were stored in computer rooms, thus exposing the systems to losses from fire.

Other installations were vulnerable to flooding, theft, terrorism or vandalism, the agency said.

The study also said 14 installations lacked contingency plans to insure that operations be continued in the event of an accident.

New Lebanon president attempts end to fighting

BEIRUT, Lebanon (UPI) — Elias Sarkis, meeting his first challenge as Lebanon's President-elect, helped calm a fierce mountain battle yesterday and started to forge an understanding with the leftist opposition.

Sarkis, elected amid leftist machine gun fire and mortar blasts Saturday to succeed President Suleiman Franjeh, held telephone consultations with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and other faction chiefs to slow fighting in the Mount Lebanon region north-east of the capital.

Reports from the snow-patched combat zone said Moslem and Christian batteries were still trading mortar fire, but the week-long tank and infantry battle which claimed more than 500 lives had died down by late afternoon.

"Look to the mountains and you will see the signs," one Palestinian official said. "If there is peace in the mountains, there is a chance for a political solution."

Right-wing troops had used American-made tanks and heavy field artillery in a massive drive to dislodge leftists from a strategic road, provoking an angry reaction from Arafat's El Fatah guerrillas.

An El Fatah statement warned the Palestinians would enter the battle on the

leftist side if the fighting continued.

The guerrillas directed the warning at both the rightists and Syria, which agreed under the April 16 Damascus peace plan to restrain right-wing Phalangist militias if the Palestinians would restrain the left.

Political sources said the 51-year-old Sarkis may soon hold a meeting with Jumblatt to try to patch up relations with the powerful Socialist chief.

Jumblatt's leftist alliance was bitterly opposed to Sarkis' candidacy, and leftist deputies boycotted the parliamentary meeting Saturday which elected the rightist-backed Central Bank governor president by a vote of 66-0.

The leftists issued an immediate call to reject the election as a "flagrant forgery" and the result of Syrian pressure.

But they restrained their troops from breaking the ceasefire, except for several sporadic gunbattles in the capital's suburbs and several sudden barrages of mortar fire against Christian-held eastern Beirut.

A leftist radio station claimed Moslem troops had "advanced 100 yards along every axis" in the suburbs and gained ground in the shattered port district, but local residents said there had been almost no fighting at all.

Drug bill passes in Senate

HARRISBURG (AP) — The Senate has passed a bill that kept first marijuana convictions off the criminal records.

The bill was approved 45-0 and sent to Gov. Shapp.

It would change the definition of who can qualify for the program, called probation without verdict.

A person would have to

prove that he is dependent on drugs, under the bill. Formerly, all drug abusers qualified.

The program is limited to first offenders, who plead guilty or no contest to a nonviolent charge.

The Senate acted over the opposition of Dr. Richard Horman, executive director of the Governor's Council on

Drug and Alcohol Abuse.

In a letter last week to all 50 senators, Horman said the bill hurts the people best served by the no conviction program.

"The provision was written to provide judicial alternatives to clients who are not drug dependent or who may be occasional users or experimenters with marijuana."

Knight murder trial opens

PHILADELPHIA (UPI) — A protest by the defense attorney over questioning of prospective jurors marked the first day yesterday of the state murder trial of Salvatore Soli, charged with the fatal stabbing of newspaper heir John S. Knight III.

Soli, 37, was one of three men charged in the slaying of Knight, who was stabbed Dec. 7 in his fashionable downtown apartment on Rittenhouse Square during an apparent robbery attempt.

Steven Maleno, another suspect, will be tried separately. Isais Felix Melendez, the other suspect, was found shot to death on a New Jersey golf course.

After the trial opened before Judge Robert W. Williams Jr., defense attorney Nino Tinari objected to the manner in which District Attorney F. Emmett Fitzpatrick was questioning prospective jurors.

Tinari said Fitzpatrick was "giving his opening arguments" when

he told veniremen what they should expect in the trial.

Williams told prospective jurors the jury would be sequestered during the trial, which he estimated would take about two weeks.

Police contended that Soli, Maleno and Melendez went to the Knight apartment early on the morning of Dec. 7 to rob him. They said Knight, special projects editor for the Philadelphia Daily News, was stabbed during the course of the robbery.

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CORRECTION

Pi Lambda Theta's

Student Teaching Forum will not be held tonight but will be rescheduled for Monday, May 17. Room 111 Chambers 7:30 - 9:30 PM

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Today's Schedule

BLUESDAY

HUB

12:00 - 1:00 PM

Dizzy Sullivan and Rob Salmon
North Lounge

1:00 - 3:00 PM

Films:
"Lightning Hopkins"
and "Delta Blues Singer"

3:00 - 5:00 PM

Music
with Stan Shepherd, Dave Morgan
and Bob Bernstein

American Indian

KERN

12:00 - 1:00 PM

Concert in Lobby

1:00 - 2:00 PM

Music Workshop in Room 112

2:00 - 3:30 PM

Films in Room 112
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