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For Immediate Release

COMPUTER ACCESSED AT LOS ALAMOS

Los Alamos, N. M., August 11, 1983 -- Late in June, 1983, unauthorized persons gained access to a small, unclassified VAX computer at Los Alamos National Laboratory that was connected to TELENET, a commercial computer communications network. The entry was detected by the Laboratory's security system and the incident was reported to the Department of Energy. The incident is under investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The Los Alamos TELENET-connected computer processes only routine unclassified, nonsensitive data. The Laboratory's computer network is partitioned into three compartments -- general correspondence, reports, etc.; a compartment for sensitive information, such as payroll records and personnel records; and a classified section.

It is not possible for anyone using the telephone system to gain access to the two segments of the Los Alamos network that handle classified information and sensitive personnel data.

The unauthorized access to the Laboratory's open, TELENET system was

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detected by elements of the Laboratory's security system that watch for such activity. The entry was identified and confirmed as unauthorized. This was possible through the use of attentive system managers and records of transactions -- key elements in the detection of the unauthorized access. Information developed through the Laboratory's Security Division was given to the DOE, TELENET officials, and the FBI.

There was no damage to Los Alamos computers or data, and no sensitive or classified information was compromised.

Los Alamos National Laboratory is operated by the University of California for the Department of Energy.

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