

Hitachi enters guilty plea, fined \$10,000

United Press International
SAN FRANCISCO — The Japanese electronics corporation Hitachi Ltd. entered a surprise guilty plea to charges of plotting to steal IBM computer secrets and was fined \$10,000.

"The trial is something like a fish bone stuck in the throat and our decision to plead guilty is to remove this and concentrate on our business," Hitachi Vice President Keisuke Arai said in Tokyo today.

Hitachi, which has annual revenues of more than \$15 billion, admitted its guilt Tuesday after a plea-bargain in which the U.S. government promised not to file more criminal charges in the industrial espionage case. The company also apologized to the court.

Hitachi employees Kenji Hayashi, a senior engineer, and Isao Ohnishi, a software section manager, also pleaded guilty and were fined \$10,000 and \$4,000, respectively. Hayashi also was put on five years unsupervised probation and Ohnishi

two years with the stipulation they conduct no business in the United States.

"We think we lacked prudence in our information gathering activities," Arai said. "We are determined not to repeat this case."

The fine — handed down against the company by U.S. District Judge Spencer Williams — was the maximum according to law.

Hitachi and 17 people were indicted in June after an FBI undercover sting operation in California's famed "Silicon Valley" disclosed they had conspired to steal IBM secrets and transport the data to Japan.

The guilty pleas were announced when attorneys for the defendants had been scheduled to ask the court to dismiss the charges.

The attorneys had maintained since the one-count indictment was issued the government engaged in selective prosecution of the Japanese corporation and entrapped the defen-

dants into the plan to steal the IBM documents.

Hitachi still must defend itself against a civil lawsuit filed by IBM which seeks the return of documents containing trade secrets IBM said were stolen and an unspecified amount of damages that could run into the millions of dollars, according to its attorneys.

Arai said IBM and Hitachi already have agreed on a 60-day truce in the trial and will talk about an out-of-court settlement in the case.

An American involved, Tom Yoshida, president of NCL Data Inc., of Santa Clara, Calif., did not join in the plea agreement and is still scheduled to go on trial April 14.

As part of the agreement, the United States agreed charges against Kanimaga Inoue, a programmer with Hitachi America Ltd. of San Francisco and Keizo Shirai, of Nissei Electronics Ltd., of Japan would be "resolved" without a plea of guilty and without a trial.

Hitachi earlier pleaded innocent to the criminal charges, contending the FBI was acting as IBM's agent in an effort to injure Hitachi's ability to compete with IBM in the field of computer software compatible with new sophisticated systems.

What's Up

Wednesday

COLLEGE REPUBLICANS:Fort Worth oilman Eddie Chiles will address the University community at 8 p.m. in 701 Rudder. Everyone is welcome. Admission is free.

MCFADDEN HALL:Cookies, brownies and cakes, donated by Farmer's Market, will be sold in front of Sbsa between 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

BLACK AWARENESS COMMITTEE & GREAT ISSUES: Tickets are on sale now to see actor, comedian, and civil rights activist Dick Gregory at 8 p.m. Tonight in Rudder Auditorium. Gregory will speak on "Social Problems: Social or Antisocial."

KEATHLEY HALL:Today is the last day to buy carnations for your valentine. They will be sold from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in front of Sbsa. Delivery will be on Feb. 14. The cost is \$1.50 per flower.

MSC AGGIE CINEMA:A movie poster sale is scheduled for today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the MSC main hall. Come early for the best selection.

INDIA ASSOCIATION:Membership applications are available now until March 3. For more information, call 260-1896 or 693-0389.

POLITICAL FORUM:Sign up now for the annual trip to Washington D.C. A \$200 deposit is due by Wednesday. For more information, call 845-1515.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT — TRADITIONS COUNCIL:Howdy Week is coming! Howdy T-shirts and buttons will be on sale in the MSC from Feb. 14 through Feb. 18. Help us promote Aggie traditions!

A&M RUGBY CLUB:Practice and training is held every Monday through Thursday at 5 p.m. on the Main Drill Field.

CANTERBURY STUDENTS CENTER:Come share the joy of fellowship and the celebration of communion at 6 p.m. at the Canterbury House. A FREE dinner will follow.

ACT (AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATORS OF TOMORROW):Story ideas for the Agriculturist, the ACE conference, and work positions at the Houston Livestock Show will be discussed at 7 p.m. at the third

floor RDMC. Also, members will vote on several positions and issues.

WOMEN'S STUDENT ORGANIZATION:A general planning meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in 2144 Sterling C. Evans Library.

OFF CAMPUS AGGIES — APT. COUNCIL:The Event, a bake sale, M*A*S*H B*A*S*H and a balloon sale will be discussed at 6:30 p.m. in 510 Rudder.

DATA PROCESSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION:Computer pioneer Grace Hopper, who developed COBOL, will speak at 7:30 p.m. in Rudder Forum. Anyone with an interest in computer and/or Data Processing is welcome to attend.

PSI CHI CLUB:Sheldon Wolstein from Human Factors will speak at 7 p.m. in 402 Academic Building. Everyone is welcome.

TAMU SCUBA CLUB:Spring break dive trip will be discussed at 7:30 p.m. in 504 Rudder.

THEATER ARTS PROGRAM:"Blood Wedding," a Pulitzer Prize winning play by Federico Garcia Lorca will be shown tonight, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 8 p.m. in Rudder Theater. Tickets are available at the MSC Box Office.

MBA ASSOCIATION:Officer nominations are scheduled for a meeting at 6 p.m. in 156 A&A. New members are welcome.

CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION:A Bible study on the Book of Revelations will be held at 6 p.m. in the Student Center. Everyone is welcome.

AGRICULTURE COMMUNICATORS TOMORROW:The Agriculturist will be discussed in meeting at 7 p.m. on the third floor Reed McDonald Building. The theme for this publication will be "History of Education in Agriculture at A&M." If you have story ideas let us know at the meeting or call Jane 693-4025.

DANCE ARTS SOCIETY:Beginning jazz class is from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and intermediate/advanced jazz is from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. in 268 E. Kyle. Membership is \$20 per semester.

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