
Around the Nation

Two Charged in Selling Computers to Soviet Bloc

BOSTON, Feb. 22 (AP) — An Englishman who owns a concern that makes computer gear and an employee were arraigned in Federal District Court today on charges of selling the high technology devices, which are "controlled for national security reasons," to three Communist nations.

Brian A. Moller-Butcher and Paul C. Carlson entered pleas of not guilty before Judge Lawrence Cohen. The judge scheduled a trial for May 3. An assistant United States attorney, Joan Stanley, said the prosecution would call 25 or 30 witnesses and take two to three weeks to present its case.

In a 30-count indictment, Mr. Moller-Butcher, 50 years old, of Camberly, England, and Mr. Carlson, 40, of Bridgewater, Mass., were accused of selling the high technology devices to Poland, Rumania and Bulgaria. Mr. Moller-Butcher is the owner and Mr. Carlson is the chief operating officer of M.E.S. Equipment Inc. of Brockton, Mass.

Last October President Reagan ordered a crackdown on the sale of American high-technology items to the Soviet bloc. Ed Kitritch of the United States Customs Service in Washington said the prosecution was the first since the enforcement effort began.