

China denies helping Iraq install fiber-optic communications

INTERNATIONAL

BEIJING (AP) — China today denied U.S. claims that its government or private companies helped Iraq install fiber-optic communications cable at military sites in violation of U.N. sanctions.

Washington protested to Beijing about the alleged help to improve Iraqi military communications. U.S. military officials said the Chinese were reportedly working at some of the air defense sites around Baghdad targeted by U.S. and British jets in a Feb. 16 raid.

An official Chinese investigation, launched after the U.S. complaints, has disproved the reports, Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan said.

"The result of the investigation is that Chinese enterprises and corporations have not assisted Iraq in building the fiber-optic cable project used for air

defense," Tang said.

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines' Supreme Court today rejected a request that would have allowed prosecutors to immediately file charges against ousted leader Joseph Estrada.

The ruling, which means Estrada cannot be charged until March 23, was in response to a request by Ombudsman Aniano Desierto that the court lift its 30-day suspension of criminal cases against Estrada.

The court said the suspension, ordered last month, cannot be lifted since its ruling Friday that stripped Estrada of immunity has not yet become final. Estrada had 15 days to appeal Friday's ruling.

NATIONAL

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii — A se-

ries of missteps by the crew of the USS Greeneville paved a destructive path that led to the submarine's fatal collision with a Japanese fishing boat, according to testimony from a Navy admiral.

The mistakes ranged from the submarine rushing to get back on schedule to vital sonar data not getting to the skipper, Rear Adm. Charles Griffiths testified Monday, the opening day of a Navy court of inquiry into the Feb. 9 collision.

Griffiths, who conducted the preliminary investigation, painted a picture of a submarine crew so consumed with putting on a good show for 16 civilian guests that standard procedures fell by the wayside.

The nuclear attack submarine was demonstrating an emergency surfacing drill for the guests when it smashed

into the Ehime Maru. The boat, carrying 35 people, was on an expedition to teach high school students from Uwajima, Japan, how to fish. Four teens, two teachers and three crewmen were never found.

Three Navy admirals will recommend whether any disciplinary action is warranted against the Greeneville's top officers: Cmdr. Scott Waddle; his executive officer, Lt. Cmdr. Gerald Pfeifer; and Lt. j.g. Michael Coen, officer of the deck.

UNADILLA, Ga. — A somber procession of military vehicles delivered the remains of 21 guardsmen to a central-Georgia air base as Army investigators scrambled over the site where their plane crashed, mapping and videotaping the charred wreckage.

Lt. Col. Deborah Bertrand, a Robins

Air Force Base spokeswoman, said the bodies were transported Monday to the base south of Macon. Local law enforcement officers escorted the convoy.

The remains of the three Florida Army National Guard crew members and 18 passengers from the Virginia Air National Guard were to be flown today, weather permitting, to an Air Force casualty center in Dover, Del.

Investigators from the Army Safety Center at Fort Rucker, Ala., were expected to finish their onsite probe by week's end, but it could be months before they announce a cause of the crash.

About a dozen Air Force and Army investigators were mapping the location of each piece of the plane's wreckage with global positioning devices.

The plane, a C-23 Sherpa was flying from Florida to Virginia when it crashed Saturday in a field. The recovery team had been slowed by 3 feet of mud caused by a 4-inch deluge of rain. Wind and sunshine helped dry the field Monday.

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON — Vice President Dick Cheney should be able to continue in his job unimpeded by his latest heart problems, doctors say, shrug-

ging off any suggestion that he should curtail travel or his intense workload.

But Cheney also was given some tough news after he had an angioplasty to unclog a coronary artery Monday.

"Well, it's possible for the narrowing to come back, and I think I quoted around 40 percent," Dr. Jonathan Reiner, who performed the surgery at George Washington University, told a crowded news conference. "There are studies that may show, you know, a little bit higher than that. If the narrowing is going to come back, usually it comes back within the first six months."

Cheney, who has had four heart attacks, underwent the angioplasty after he experienced a series of subtle pains in his chest.

Doctors said their best evidence indicated that Cheney, 60, had not suffered another heart attack. The artery, which had been opened during surgery at the same hospital in November, had partially reclosed, Reiner said.

Monday night Cheney was groggy and sedated, but Reiner said he should be back at work this week. When asked whether Cheney could face travel restrictions, or any restrictions at all, Reiner said, "no."

March audio cassettes and books have arrived

This is a list of the new books and audio cassette tapes available for adults and children at the Goodland Public Library.

ADULT FICTION

Blood Lure, by Nevada Barr; The Cat Who Smelled a Rat, by Lilian Jackson Braun; Gangster, by Loranzo Carcaterra; The Long Journey Home, by Don Coldsmith; A Darkness More Than Night, by Michael Connelly; Commitments, by Barbara Delinsky; Hunting Season, by Peter Deutermaann; The Widow's Kiss, by Jane Feather; Cause Celeb, by Helen Fielding; Trust Fund, by Stephen Frey; Irish Love, by Andrew Greeley; Cold Flat Junction, by Martha Grimes;

A Painted House, by John Grisham. (also in large print edition); Equivocal Death, by Amy Gutman; Mystic River, by Dennis Lehane; The Cutout, by Francine Mathews; The Birthright, by Janette Oke; The Whitechapel Conspiracy, by Anne Perry; The Secret Ingredient Murders, by Nancy Pickard.

ADULT NON-FICTION

Photoshop 6 for Dummies, by Deke McClelland; Kansas Business Directory - 2000 edition; Scientific American Great Science Fair Projects; NCLEX-LPN Certification Exams, by Lorna Aliperti; Physicians' Desk Ref-

erence - 2001 edition;

The Carbohydrate Addict's Healthy Heart Program, by Richard Heller; Turn Off the Fat Genes, by Neal Barnard; Telecommunication Technologies, by John Ross; Consumer Guide Used Car Book - 2001 edition; Ortho's All About the Easiest Flowers to Grow, by Penelope O'Sullivan;

Ortho's All About Attracting Birds, by Michael McKinley; Ortho's All About Attracting Hummingbirds and Butterflies; Insider's Guide to Finding the Perfect Job, by Robert Orndorff; Insider's Guide to Writing the Perfect Resume, by Karl Weber; The Everything Online Genealogy Book, by Pat Richley

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Elmo Says, Achoo!, by Sarah Albee; Darth Maul's Revenge, by Eric Arnold (Star Wars reader); The Berenstain Bears Dollars and Sense, by Stan & Jan Berenstain; Theodore's Best Friend, by Andrew Cochran; Earthquake!, by Jerry Jenkins (Left Behind, the Kids #12);

Into the Storm, by Jerry Jenkins (Left Behind, the Kids #11); Psyduck Ducks Out, by Jennifer Johnson (Pokemon #15); Hattie's Story, by Susan Kirby (American Quilts #2); My Favorite Letters, by Deborah Reber

(Blue's Clues); The Quest for the Holy Pail, by Sarah Willson (Rugrats Files #3)

AUDIO CASSETTES

Blood Lure, by Nevada Barr (CD); The Cat Who Smelled a Rat, by Lilian Jackson Braun; Riley in the Morning, by Sandra Brown; Gangster, by Lorenzo Carcaterra (CD); A Darkness More Than Night, by Michael Connelly (CD); Hunting Season, by P.T. Deutermaann; Cause Celeb, by Helen Fielding;

Special Ops, by W.E.B. Griffin; Under Cover of Darkness, by James Grippando; A Painted House, by John Grisham (CD); Mystic River, by Dennis Lahane (CD);

The Magic Tree House Collection #2, by Mary Pope Osborne (JF); Junie B. Jones Collection, by Barbara Park (JF); The Case of the Vanishing Fishhook, by John R. Erickson (JF); The Garbage Monster From Outer Space, by John R. Erickson (JF); Slim's Goodbye, by John R. Erickson (JF)

Prom Extravaganza

Saturday, March 10th

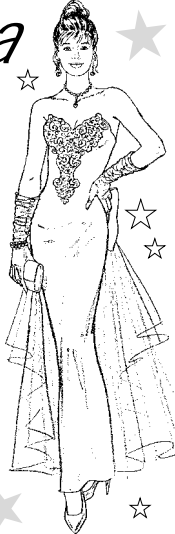
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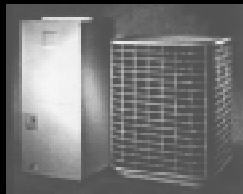
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