

China wants apology from U.S.

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China's Hainan Island and reported them to be in good health. Chinese officials refused to allow the American officials to meet alone with the crew members and have not allowed them to contact their families in the United States.

The Chinese today raised the volume of their call for an apology with President Jiang Zemin making the demand for the first time publicly.

"The U.S. side should apologize to the Chinese people," Jiang said in Beijing before leaving on a visit to Latin America, according to the Xinhua News Agency. "The United States should do something favorable to the smooth development of China-U.S. relations, rather than make remarks that confuse right and wrong and are harmful to the rela-

tions."

Prior to Jiang's statement, which came in the middle of the night in Washington, Powell told reporters:

"We have nothing to apologize for. We did not do anything wrong. Our airplane was in international air space, an accident took place, and the pilot, in order to save 24 lives, including his own, under circumstances we now have determined must have been hair-raising, safely got that plane on the ground."

The Navy EP-3E Aries II electronic surveillance collided with the Chinese jet over the South China Sea. U.S. officials said the Chinese plane rammed the spy plane; China blamed the collision on the U.S. plane and said it was subject to Chinese control and inspection because it landed in China without permission.

U.S. officials said today the crew indicated they managed to destroy at least some of the highly sensitive electronic intelligence-gathering equipment and data on board the plane before it landed. It was unclear how much of an intelligence bonanza the Chinese might enjoy if they should keep the plane.

Shortly after the incident, U.S. officials said they believed one of the EP-3E's four engines was damaged in the collision. On Tuesday they said the damage was more extensive, including damage to the nose section, which contains radar equipment; damage to two of the four propellers; and a damaged wing flap.

One official said the plane tumbled 8,000 feet after the collision and had trouble getting its wing flaps down.

Little evidence of discrimination found at KU

LAWRENCE (AP) — A study of equity issues among faculty and staff at the University of Kansas has found that there is little evidence of discrimination among women and minorities,

officials said.

The university administered a year-long review of equity issues at the school.

Although some respondents to the

university's survey of faculty and unclassified staff said they have experienced discrimination — severe, in some cases — the university says most have not.

Struggling rail line gets new owner

WICHITA (AP) — A railroad that operates in Oklahoma and southeast Kansas has agreed to buy the assets of Central Kansas Railway, which has about 900 miles of track in the western part of the state.

Watco Cos. of Pittsburg announced Monday that it had agreed to purchase the assets of the CKR from its parent company, OmniTrax Inc. of Denver. Watco operates the South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad in southeast Kansas.

Rail shippers in south-central Kansas who have been critical of the CKR applauded the change, hoping the new owners would improve service and reverse the trend of track abandonment.

Terms of the agreement, which must be approved by the federal Surface Transportation Board, were not disclosed. The deal is expected to close on May 31.

The name of the railroad will be changed to Kansas & Oklahoma, or

K&O.

Watco officials said they plan a huge building program to improve track in central Kansas, investing a minimum of \$55 million in private money over the next 10 years.

"Let's just say that last year the CKR installed 2,000 ties on its 900-mile system. Our plans are to install 65,000 new ties between June 1 and the end of this year," said Ed McKechnie, director of governmental operations for the South Kansas & Oklahoma.

Best time to prune roses is in spring

The best time to prune roses is in the spring before new growth appears and after the danger of killing frost. Cold temperatures this winter may have killed rose canes further back than usual. Be sure to remove dead stubs. Otherwise, canker fungi may invade stubs and progress into healthy tissue during the summer. Use sharp shears and make cuts at a 45 degree angle about a quarter-inch above healthy buds.

There are three pruning styles, each with a specific purpose.

Heavy or severe pruning is done on well-established, vigorous plants to produce large, showy flowers. Prune



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• ag notebook

to 12 to 18 inches long.

Light pruning may be performed on newly established plants or to rejuvenate plants after years of neglect.

Leave five to seven canes which are about 18 inches or more in length. This helps maximize leaf area for energy production and rejuvenates plants.

If your plants suffered a significant amount of winter damage, they may need to be cut back more severely than even the heavy-pruning style.

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