

Secretary of state sees resolution

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — Secretary of State Colin Powell said Wednesday night that several cases involving detained U.S. scholars in China "are on the way to resolution."

Powell, commenting after a meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan, strongly hinted that China will deport two U.S. scholars who were convicted Tuesday by a Chinese court on charges of spying for Taiwan.

He said a formal announcement by China was expected within 24 hours.

"I think the relationship is on the upswing now, now that these irritations are behind us," Powell said, speaking to reporters.

On Tuesday, the Bush administration reacted sharply when a Chinese court convicted Gao Zhan and Qin Guangguang and sentenced them to 10-year prison terms on spy charges. Both are Chinese-born U.S. residents.

The convictions appeared to cast a pall over Powell's planned visit to Beijing on Saturday. But with China's apparent decision to resolve the issues, Powell said, "I know they are anxious to move forward."

Powell did not mention either Gao or Qin by name, saying only that several of the cases will be resolved shortly.

He said he is optimistic about

Sino-American relations because "they believe that we have a role to play in the region, that they are not trying to squeeze us out."

Earlier Wednesday, China deported a Chinese-born American business professor, Li Shaomin, after he was convicted of spying earlier this month.

Li left Beijing and headed for San Francisco. Powell said he was very pleased by the Chinese action in that case.

Powell is here to attend a meeting of leaders from the Asia-Pacific region. He broke away from the talks in midafternoon for a 30-minute stroll around a nearby lake; a gaggle of journalists struggled to keep up. He stopped several times to talk to Vietnamese.

A passing Vietnamese on a motorbike shouted, "Hey, Colin Powell." Another said, "I want to come to your country."

Powell leaves here Friday and heads to South Korea. He will visit China on Saturday.

A Chinese decision to deport Gao and Qin before Saturday would improve the atmosphere considerably for Powell's meetings with Chinese officials in Beijing.

A senior U.S. official said the United States is seeking their release on humanitarian grounds. Of particular concern is Gao, who has heart

problems. She is married to a Chinese-born American citizen, Xue Donghua, and is the mother of a 5-year old boy. Gao, 39, a professor at American University in Washington, was detained in February.

Xue said Tuesday he is worried most about his wife's physical and emotional health. "I can't imagine how ... she is going to take this," he said after her conviction.

Qin reportedly taught at U.S. universities and worked for a U.S. medical group in Beijing.

The senior U.S. official said the contrast between the negative reaction Tuesday and Powell's positive response Wednesday should not be overstated.

The official said the U.S. dismay over the convictions in genuine but that the outcome will be favorable if the end result is their deportation.

Powell said it was not individual cases that are of the greatest concern but "the whole process by which these people are detained and put on trial."

Later, as Powell was heading into a meeting with Tang, he was asked whether he planned a strong message for Tang concerning Gao and Qin.

He said all issues affecting the relationship would be discussed. Tang said he envisioned a casual meeting that would help prepare for a more serious meeting on Saturday in Beijing.

Bush begins European trip in London as tourist

LONDON (AP) — From VIP tours of London sights to luncheon cocktails with the queen, President Bush was easing into his latest European trip without shying from the policy differences that separate him from U.S. allies.

"I will just tell people what I think," the president said about the six-day tour's centerpiece, a summit of world powers that begins Friday in Italy.

"Some will like it, and some won't like it. But they always know that I will be willing to listen."

But before Bush sits down in Genoa to talk through missile defense, global warming, global economic woes and other thorny issues with skeptical Group of Eight leaders, he and his family were getting in some tourism.

Bush, whose last visit to London was for a business networking conference in 1990, arrived late today with wife Laura and 19-year-old daughter Barbara to bunk at the U.S. ambassador's gated residence in Regent's Park, once a hunting ground for King Henry VII.

On Thursday, the Bushes were getting a private tour of the British Museum, whose treasures include the Rosetta Stone, the discovery that led to the translation of Egyptian hieroglyphics. The president and first lady planned to repay the museum's hospitality by participating in a special session of its regular story hour programs for local children.

After another VIP tour of the once-secret underground war rooms, where Winston Churchill plotted World War II strategy, the Bushes were being treated to the ultimate London tourist opportunity: cocktails and lunch at

Buckingham Palace with Queen Elizabeth II and her husband, Prince Philip. The business side comes later Thursday, when Bush meets Tony Blair at Chequers, the British prime minister's country estate outside London, and takes questions at a news conference.

Bush said before leaving Washington he expected Blair to serve as close partner in persuading other leaders at the summit Mediterranean port of Genoa to help developing nations with grants and free trade.

Blair, for his part, told reporters before Bush's arrival that he sees himself as the one to "build bridges of understanding" between the Bush administration and Europe.

Blair spokesman Godric Smith said the two leaders would discuss, among other issues, Bush's plan for a missile defense system and his rejection of the Kyoto protocol on climate change, which Britain supports, along with the European Union.

"I don't think there's any point in pretending that we have agreement on the issue," Smith said. "The prime minister will underline once again to President Bush that for the U.K. and the E.U., this is a significant issue."

In an interview Tuesday that was released today by the White House, Bush said he has tried to explain to allies that the Kyoto pact would have set emissions reduction standards that the United States "was unable to withstand." He said he would again seek to assure them that the United States will develop a responsible alternative.

"Some leaders were more sympathetic than others, I must confess," Bush said. "Nevertheless, I do believe

that people appreciated the frank assessment. And I believe they're going to appreciate the strategy that we lay out over time to help meet the needs."

Meanwhile, U.S. officials looking ahead to the Italy summit said they expected developing nations to join with the United States in accepting genetically modified crops. Europe does not approve the crops, but Americans argue that the technology would boost production, particularly in food-starved poorer countries.

When Bush made his first trip to Europe as president in June — a trip that he called "an icebreaker" with counterparts who started with a misimpression of him — his itinerary isolated him from everyday Europeans.

He stuck to tightly controlled summits of NATO and the European Union, with but one outing to a Belgian chocolate shop. On this trip, he appears determined to break out a bit more, with the museum storytelling and tourist stops here plus a tour of Rome's coliseum on Sunday.

Not that he's developed a sudden fondness for crowds, or the protesters that nowadays shadow world-leader summits.

Before leaving Washington, he told foreign journalists that one of the things he liked about an April summit in Canada was that tight security had completely sanitized the place due to protesters. "I got to see Quebec City in kind of a near-empty state, which was beautiful," Bush said.

The Bushes' other twin daughter, Jenna, skipped this trip in order to stay home for a summer job, a spokesman said.

Crops welcome abundance of rain

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gusts in Sharon Springs, he said, which people said caused minor damage. There was also a report of dime-sized hail west of Sherman County, Nelaimischkies said, which may have caused damage to crops or property.

Lynn Hoelting, general manager of Mueller Grain in Goodland, said farmers have told him hail has caused some damage to fall crops in Sherman County, but he wasn't sure of the extent. He said the rain has been beneficial, especially to the sunflower crop.

Sunflowers tend to stop developing, Hoelting said, until the plant gets the moisture it needs to grow. Therefore, he said, dry weather can cut yields. But the crop got rain just in time.

"It was very, very timely rain for the sunflower crop," Hoelting said, noting that most of the plants are now in the bud or pre-flower stage, when getting the right amount of moisture is crucial to healthy development.

While some farmers south of town need more rain, he said, a majority of the fall crops, including sunflowers, corn, milo and soybeans, are in fair condition. The fall harvest usually starts in early to mid-September.

Those farmers may get the rain, as Nelaimischkies said there is a good chance for more thunderstorms tonight and Thursday night. He said the rainfall may not be quite as heavy, but flooding is possible as the ground is nearly saturated.

Nelaimischkies said the rain may

stop this weekend as a high pressure ridge builds over the High Plains and the cold front moves out. He said humidity may drop, but temperatures will remain in the mid-80s to mid-90s.

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4-H's gather for tour

TOUR, from Page 1

and nutrition. Nicole Hendrich, 7, showed the apron she made for level I sewing and a basket she made. She said she also has a project for cooking.

The tour led the 4-Hers north of Goodland to the Holloway farm, where Justin Holloway presented his breeding heifer, Laramie, and his market steer, Twister.

Justin also showed his goat, Spice, and his sister Melissa's goat, Marshmallow. Justin said he acquired a new goat on Friday, July 27, which he expects to enter as well.

Next, the tour moved to the Reitechek farm, where Kayler and Kali showed their beef projects and Kali showed her projects for buymanship and stitchery.

The group also visited the Raymer farm to see Samantha and Derek's sheep and pigs and the Gausman farm to see Chelsie and Ryan's sheep and pigs.

Group leader Cris Riebel said the tour used to be the highlight of the 4-H project season when most of the

projects were livestock.

In the past, she explained, 4-H was primarily for farm kids who had room for livestock at home. At that time, Riebel said, the tour was emphasized more than it is now, because most of the projects had to be viewed on the tour.

Times have changed, though, she said. Now, many of the youngsters participate in such projects as sewing, cooking, rocketry, handpets and cats.

This means, she said, that many of the projects are now small items, that can be brought to the 4-H building to be shown.

Some of the changes in 4-H began because city kids wanted to participate, she said. Now, there are not only different types of projects, Riebel said, but sometimes 4-Hers who live in Goodland even rent or share space to have an animal. Farm kids and city kids, she said, can participate more equally in 4-H now than in the past.

The Sunflower club has 36 members, Riebel said, noting that there are six 4-H clubs in Sherman County, which all have tours.

June unemployment is up

TOPEKA (AP) — The Kansas unemployment rate jumped in June, but the state expected the increase because of an annual influx of students into the job market.

The Department of Human Resources reported Tuesday that the unemployment rate last month was 3.9 percent, up from 3.5 percent in May.

Bill Layes, the department's chief of

labor market information, said that students flood the job market after high school and college classes let out for the summer.

Layes noted that unemployment has increased in June for every year since at least 1976.

The department counts people as unemployed if they are available for work, looking actively, but can't find jobs.

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