

Satellite to fall to Earth, poses negligible threat

■ SPACE: The Chinese satellite is likely to fall into water, officials say

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — A 2-ton capsule from a Chinese spy satellite was tumbling out of control Monday and could hit land by the middle of the week, the Air Force said.

The U.S. Space Command, which has been tracking the FSW-1 imaging satellite since its launch Oct. 8, 1993, estimated the capsule would re-enter Earth's atmosphere by early Tuesday.

Officials said there was a good chance it would survive re-entry into the atmosphere and crash somewhere on the planet by Wednesday.

"With the Earth 70 percent water, we're comfortable that there is a 70 percent chance of it going into the ocean," said Maj. Steve Boylan. "People should not fear this."

The capsule is the last of the satellite's eight components to remain in orbit. The main satellite, a rocket body and five pieces of debris returned to Earth within the established time line of less than a month of the launch.

The capsule, which weighs 4,000 pounds, is carrying a diamond-encrusted button commemorating Mao Tse-tung's 100th birthday and a 24-karat gold mold for printing U.S. banknotes, according to a report last year by China's *Xinmin Evening*

News. The report said the items were among souvenirs put aboard the satellite in hopes the space trip would increase their value.

The satellite was designed to re-enter Earth's atmosphere over China with the activation of a solid propellant motor located below the capsule. But while seven pieces of the satellite fell to Earth, the capsule went into a higher orbit.

"I wouldn't even want to speculate what happened," Boylan said.

The Space Command said the capsule appears on radar to be 1.5 square meters, a size large enough to give it a chance of surviving re-entry. Smaller objects usually burn upon re-entry.

Aviation Week has said the satellite likely will smash to Earth virtually intact because it has a heat shield designed to protect its cameras and film.

On the other hand, Boylan said, it is difficult to predict what condition the capsule is in after spending 30 times longer in space than it was supposed to. "There are too many variables," he said.

In 1994, 96 objects a square meter or larger re-entered the atmosphere, with most of them landing in oceans, the space center said. So far this year, 11 objects have reentered, all of them over ocean areas.

The space command said 11 ground-based radars worldwide have been tracking the capsule, which has been orbiting Earth every 88 minutes.

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Clinton attacks Congress' disregard for environment

■ SPEECH: The president proposes \$2 billion in tax breaks for companies to clean up contamination

HACKENSACK, N.J. (AP) — In a stinging denunciation of Republican clean-Earth policies, President Clinton accused Congress on Monday of engineering an "anti-environmental campaign" in concert with industrial lobbyists.

Making his first election-year address on the environment, Clinton proposed \$2 billion in tax breaks for companies that clean up and develop land contaminated by toxic waste. And he promised more vetoes for bills he thinks would undermine the environment.

"When it comes to protecting our air, our food, our water, I cannot sacrifice America's values or America's future," Clinton told a crowd of 6,000 at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Fighting a bad winter cold, Clinton also traveled to neighboring New York City to be honored as *Irish America* magazine's "Irish American of the Year." The president, who heads to Egypt on Tuesday for an anti-terrorism summit, also met in Hackensack with families of two American victims of Middle East bombings.

In his main address of the day, Clinton called for a bipartisan approach to environmental control — a point easily lost in a highly partisan speech.

"It is incredible to me now that the environment has, for the first time in a generation, become a source of political division," the president said.

His voice cracking from his

cold, Clinton added, "Congress has mounted the most aggressive anti-environmental campaign in our history. And I am proud that we have stood against that."

Poll after poll shows Clinton making strides against Republicans by portraying them as enemies of the environment.

Republicans argue that the Environmental Protection Agency is a bulky bureaucracy that over-regulates. EPA money and rules can be trimmed without hurting the environment, the GOP says.

Clinton began the day with a tour of a Superfund site in nearby Wellington, N.J. His motorcade rolled past a sign reading, "Danger: Hazardous Waste" and wound down to the bottom of a bowl-shaped field that consists of 20,000 tons of snow-covered PCB-contaminated soil.

At the rim of the field stood an elementary school, its students lining a security fence and shouting down happily to Clinton.

He was told that cleanup work at the abandoned Industrial Latex site stopped last year after Congress imposed a 25 percent cut in the Superfund budget.

"We cannot afford to just stop things like this," Clinton replied.

Though the GOP budget included a major cut for Superfund projects, so did a stop-gap spending bill signed by the president this year to reopen the government.

The EPA says the budget restraints forced the agency to abandon cleanup work at 60 other toxic waste dump sites across the country.

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