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charlie wade also considered asking Nanako Ito for help, to directly report the problem to the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

However, upon closer reflection, if this is to be done, it must be done without leaving any trace; otherwise, once there is an information link, there is a possibility that someone will trace the source.

He also didn't want to leave any risk for Nanako Ito.

After thinking for a long time, he said to Lin Wan'er (Alani) and the other two, "I've decided to start with those Japanese research team members and get them to expose their secrets to the Japanese."

Lin Wan'er (Alani) asked, "Does Young Master have any specific ideas?"

charlie wade said, "These Japanese research team members have all been given the psychological suggestion that they must not reveal the actual situation to their superiors or family members in China. If we let them directly reveal the information, no matter what method they use, it will seem very deliberate in the eyes of that elder. So... I want their equipment to help us convey these messages."

"equipment?"

Lin Wan'er (Alani) asked, "You mean vehicles or helicopters?"

charlie wade said, "It's an icebreaker."

charlie wade continued, "The icebreaker is the only piece of equipment they haven't tampered with in terms of the information upload system. The information upload equipment for other vehicles and helicopters has been removed from their original machines and left in fixed positions to give the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology the illusion that it has never been moved."

"However, since the icebreaker was not intended to move and was too large a target, they had no choice but to freeze it in place, so the Japanese side could keep track of its location."

At this point, charlie wade analyzed, "I'm thinking that with all the intensive searching they've done these past few days, consuming so much diesel, the icebreaker's fuel level must be decreasing rapidly. If the fuel level information is synchronized with the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in real time, they will definitely notice the anomaly. So it's highly likely that the ship's engine room workers tampered with the fuel level detection. No matter what they did, I'll find a way to restore

it to normal. When the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology sees that the fuel level has decreased by thousands of tons in an instant, they will definitely realize something is wrong.”

Lin Wan’er (Alani) nodded and said, “The fuel consumption is their biggest bug. So many vehicles and ships are not moving in the eyes of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. Once they get the real fuel consumption, they will definitely find out that the most fuel-consuming snow vehicles must have been moving behind their backs. Moving equipment without authorization is already serious, but deliberately damaging equipment information is even worse. They will definitely find a way to investigate it.”

charlie wade said, “I’ll call Matsushita Heikichi on the research vessel.”

Matsushita Heikichi was resting in the captain’s cabin at the time. After the entire ship broke down, he basically had no real work and just spent his days eating and waiting to die.

Upon receiving charlie wade’s call, charlie wade’s mental suggestion immediately took effect. He became fully alert and pressed the answer button: “Hello, sir!”

charlie wade hummed in agreement and asked, “Do you include your remaining fuel in the data you report to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology every day?”

“Of course,” Matsushita Heikichi said. “There are electronic level sensors and physical sensing floats in the fuel tank. They calculate the data every minute and automatically upload it to the cloud, so the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology can check it at any time.”

charlie wade then asked, “Did you tamper with the fuel level information?”

“I did it,” Matsushita Heikichi said. “The master instructed me that we must not let the country detect anything unusual, so I arranged for several engine room workers to remove the electronic liquid level sensor and the corresponding error reporting module. The physical sensor float was also tampered with, and its height was artificially controlled to create the illusion that fuel consumption was very slow.”

charlie wade thought to himself that he had expected this, and then asked him, “What method did you use?”

Matsushita Heikichi said, “Inside the fuel tank, a small micro-controlled motor was suspended from the top of the fuel tank using a strong magnet. It was controlled by a microcontroller. The motor drove a reel, which slowly lowered the float to create false fuel level information.”

charlie wade asked him, “What would happen if the micro-control motor malfunctioned, causing the float to quickly return to its actual liquid level?”

Matsushita Heikichi said, “That’s terrifying. The system will think that we rapidly consumed thousands of tons of fuel in the few seconds or tens of seconds between the two data readings. This is obviously far beyond the fuel consumption of our icebreaker. Therefore, the system will immediately determine that it is a fuel leak, and a high-speed leak at that, which will trigger a level one emergency signal.”

“Okay.” charlie wade asked him, “If I need you to destroy this device, can you do it without anyone noticing?”

“It’s not difficult,” Matsushita Heikichi said. “I can change the microcontroller’s program parameters to make it rapidly reverse the gears and lower the float within a certain time period. After it’s done, I can simply rewrite the microcontroller to restore it. At that point, the data will be unrecoverable, and no one will know that I tampered with it.”

charlie wade smiled and said, “Okay, then wait for my message. Do it immediately if needed!”

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Because they were to travel nearly 3,000 kilometers and the road conditions were complicated, Kohei Kikuchi specially arranged for a tanker truck to accompany their convoy.

Otherwise, the range of any car would be far less than three thousand kilometers.

Moreover, the harsh environment here requires a large amount of fuel for heating and warming up equipment, making the overall fuel consumption even more astonishing.

After the tanker trucks were added to the convoy, Kohei Kikuchi checked the condition of all the vehicles and, after confirming that everything was in order, said to Bolin Wu, “Masato, we can set off now.”

Wu Bolin (Bick) nodded and said to Kikuchi Kohei, “Let’s go immediately!”

The convoy, consisting of four snowmobiles and one tanker truck, set off immediately, traveling southwest along the coastline before turning northwest to complete a U-shaped route.

It would take them about eight days to travel one way, and charlie wade could use the location of the oil tanker to track their movements in real time.

Four days after Wu Bolin (Bick) set off, Charlie Wade called Matsushita Heikichi and told him, "You can operate the float now."

Matsushita Heikichi immediately replied, "Yes, sir, please wait a moment."

After hanging up the phone, Matsushita Heikichi immediately went to the fuel tank and rewrote the program for the microcontroller of the recommended control system.

He then returned to his lounge, and after waiting for five minutes, the entire cabin was filled with alarms!

The system's AI alarm sounded from the speaker: "Suspected fuel leak, please check immediately!"

Because a Level 1 emergency was triggered, everyone on board became alert. The engineer immediately went to the fuel tank to check the situation. After discovering that the problem was with the buoy, he immediately raised the buoy back up and then manually entered the code to deactivate the alarm.

The entire alarm lasted approximately three minutes.

In those three minutes, the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology was in an uproar.

The moment the alarm was uploaded, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's system sent a synchronization message to senior system administrators.

When they saw that the research vessel had issued a Level 1 emergency warning indicating a rapid oil leak, they were all terrified.

After all, this research vessel is the only heavy icebreaker in all of Japan. If anything were to happen to it, the entire country would lose its icebreaking capability for a short period of time.

Just as the higher-ups were asking the research vessel questions, the vessel's response left them puzzled.

The research vessel responded that the liquid level monitoring system was malfunctioning, but the problem has now been resolved.

It seemed like a false alarm, but the astute staff immediately realized something was wrong.

It's possible for the electronic liquid level system to malfunction, since sensor problems aren't uncommon.

However, it's rather strange that the physical float malfunctioned.

Moreover, the float malfunctioned by suddenly issuing a low liquid level warning, which proves that the float physically shifted downwards in an instant.

However, a float is a hollow, sealed body made of corrosion-resistant material. It is like a buoyancy board specially used for learning to swim. If this thing is put in a sealed pool and no one touches it or any external force touches it, it will not sink to the bottom on its own, not to mention a month or two, even ten or eight years.

This means that even if the float in the fuel tank might get stuck and remain motionless, it is absolutely impossible for it to suddenly plunge into the fuel and get stuck, as this does not conform to the logic of physics.

Therefore, the staff member immediately realized that the lowest liquid level detected by the buoy should be the true liquid level of the icebreaker. The reason why such a low position had not been detected before must be that something was limiting its sinking speed!

He retrieved the icebreaker's data and, using the height difference between the two floats, immediately determined that the icebreaker had underreported its fuel consumption by at least 1,300 tons.

A thought popped into his head: what were these people doing in Antarctica, secretly using 1,300 tons of fuel?!

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A high-ranking official from Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, who usually works a relaxed 9-to-5 job, surprisingly stayed late to work overtime today.

They were having a heated discussion in the fully enclosed conference room about the icebreaker's fleeting liquid level signal.

The person who discovered the problem reported: "I personally believe that this matter is extremely serious. These people are keeping it from us and doing something in Antarctica. Moreover, they are using all Japanese scientific research equipment, but they are not carrying out exploration missions issued by Japan. I have reason to suspect that they have committed treason!"

The person in charge at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology was completely bewildered.

Although he knew the situation was serious, as the person in charge, he didn't want to admit it was serious.

Nobody wants such a serious systemic problem to occur under their jurisdiction. Once it's reported, how can they report it or give a performance review? They might even be removed from their posts.

So he tried to speak in a gentle tone: "Mr. Watanabe, please don't get too agitated. We don't have any other evidence to prove that our Antarctic expedition team has betrayed the country. Besides, the signal you mentioned only appeared for a moment. What if it was a false alarm?"

"Impossible, absolutely impossible!" the reporter immediately said. "The liquid level signal is not a high-precision device, nor is it a micro-control device. Its existence is to provide a backup redundancy for all electronic systems. So the fact that it can show that height data proves that the float must have reached that height. Unless someone jumps in, holds the float, sinks rapidly in a short period of time, and then lets go instantly, it is impossible for such data fluctuations to occur."

The second-in-command asked him, "You said there's a difference of 1,300 tons. Does that mean they've used that much fuel behind our backs?"

"Yes!" the reporter explained, "Their previous fuel consumption curve was very linear, slow and reasonable. After all, the icebreaker was frozen, so they wouldn't start the main engine, only the generator set. The fuel consumption rate couldn't be fast no matter what, unless there was a fuel leak."

The person in charge said, "That might just be a fuel leak!"

For him, an oil spill was far better than a mass defection.

Even if the icebreaker were blown up and destroyed, it would be far better than the entire crew betraying their country.

After all, no scientific expedition team in history has ever committed such a colossal act as the entire crew of a traitor; if word got out, it would likely become an international laughingstock.

The second-in-command, wanting to amplify the matter, said sternly, "If the consumption of over a thousand tons of fuel was truly kept secret from us, it proves they are carrying out a large-scale operation. We still don't know what they are doing. What if they are carrying out some kind of terrorist activity? What if they are massacring scientific expedition members from other countries in Antarctica? If this is exposed, our country will lose all face!"

Everyone immediately expressed their strong agreement.

That place is frozen over now, and people can't usually get in. What if these people really go crazy and cause trouble up there?

Moreover, everyone knows that the person directly in charge of such a big matter will bear primary responsibility, and the top leader will bear secondary responsibility. Therefore, everyone hopes that an investigation can be launched as soon as possible to prevent the situation from escalating. Otherwise, everyone may lose their jobs.

The person in charge was also on the verge of collapse. He asked everyone, "Can you help me think of something? Under what circumstances could dozens of scientific expedition team members from different teams, different units, and different companies simultaneously betray their country?"

Even if you had eight brains, you still wouldn't be able to figure this out.

This is a group of scientific expedition members, and they are not from the same team. Some of them are from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, while others are from other research institutions. After all, all research institutions across the country, and even some companies, will ask the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for help in renting research stations or purchasing quotas if they have any needs for Antarctic scientific expeditions.

It's like a hastily assembled tour group; how could it possibly have such strong unified action?

Someone exclaimed, "Shouldn't we quickly check everyone's survival status? What if many of these people have already been killed or imprisoned? We can't guarantee that all reliable individuals are psychopaths or extremists, but what if there are a few, and these few have taken control?"

"Holy shit!"

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The person in charge immediately started swearing.

If your mother were to commit some kind of horrific murder in Antarctica, even if she didn't commit seppuku, she'd still have to kneel before the entire nation.

He quickly instructed: "The meeting is suspended. You all immediately contact the families of all the expedition members and subtly inquire when they contacted their families. Can you be 100% certain that the person they contacted was the person they were talking to? If you can, record it as 'alive'; if you can't, record it as 'questionable'. Let's take a look at the general situation first."

Everyone immediately got to work.

Half an hour later.

Watanabe, the reporter, began: “Sir, we just did a count, and the families have basically video chatted with them. They have internet access there, so it seems that no horrific bloodshed has occurred.”

The person in charge breathed a sigh of relief: “That’s great, that’s great...”

No one died, and his initial worries vanished instantly, replaced by a strong sense of relief.

He said, “Since they are alive, let’s try to investigate their current situation and see if we can ask the U.S. military for help. Ideally, they could send a reconnaissance plane to take a look.”

Some agreed: “Yes! Asking America for help is the best thing to do! Make the situation sound serious. The United States has hundreds of research team members in Antarctica. They will definitely take this situation very seriously and help us find out the truth!”

The person in charge nodded: “In that case, let’s report the situation to the Ministry of Defense and request that they contact the United States for assistance!”

...

When the U.S. Department of Defense received the notification from the Japanese Ministry of Defense, the person in charge had a stiff expression.

He found the information provided by Japan absurd and ridiculous—the entire research team had betrayed their country? What kind of logic led them to make such an assumption?

However, based on their alliance, they decided to help Japan confirm the situation first.

Therefore, the order was given to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which required them to immediately develop a feasible plan to confirm the situation of the Japanese Antarctic expedition team.

The U.S. military has extensive experience in warfare, and they quickly found a way to approach the issue.

There’s no need to send any commandos or scouts to infiltrate. To determine whether these Japanese have betrayed their country, we only need to ascertain one thing: whether the Japanese research team’s machinery is resting at home or out working.

The Japanese were wondering where the fuel went, weren't they? Fuel can't be eaten or drunk; its only use is to fill these machines.

If these vehicles were all sitting at home, the US military wouldn't need to waste time arguing with Japan; there's a high probability that the fuel signal is malfunctioning.

But if none of these cars are home, then this is a big problem.

Because in the Japanese GPS system, these cars have been at home and haven't moved at all!

So a military high-altitude reconnaissance aircraft immediately took off from its base in South America and headed to Antarctica.

At this time, the Japanese scientific expedition team was still carrying out Wu Bolin's exploration requirements.

Almost all the cars that could move were out of the house, leaving only a few open-top snowmobiles, because these things really can't be driven in extremely cold weather.

The research team members didn't even notice when the reconnaissance plane arrived.

Because the sound of the aircraft engines was almost drowned out by the noise of their mechanical equipment, and the radar was running at high power, and the diesel engines were running at full throttle to provide sufficient power and electricity, no one noticed that a reconnaissance plane was flying at high speed over Antarctica in the frigid winter when almost no planes fly over it.

The aircraft's thermal imaging system clearly captured many unusual heat sources on the frigid Antarctic continent; these were all mechanical devices that the Japanese were operating at breakneck speed.

Soon, when the images captured by the aircraft were synchronized to the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff, the commander in charge of the operation had a moment of shock.

Pointing to the various photos on the big screen, he questioned, "What on earth are these Japanese research team members doing?! They've deployed almost every vehicle they can!"

One of his men blurted out, "This is extremely serious, and they've split into multiple groups; it's obvious they're on a reconnaissance mission!"

The commander immediately said, "Report to the Pentagon immediately!"

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At this moment, Wu Bolin (Bick) is still sitting cross-legged in the snowmobile.

While he was still helping the more than 200 researchers at the McMurdo Station in the United States to rest and recuperate, he was unaware that the Pentagon was already discussing countermeasures against the rebellion with the Japanese Ministry of Defense.

He is currently about two days' drive from McMurdo Station.

After confirming that the Japanese research team members had indeed committed treason, the Pentagon did not take much proactive action other than reminding its own research station staff to be wary of the Japanese.

However, the Japanese Ministry of Defense, upon learning of the confirmed cases, showed a strong will to survive and only wanted to do its utmost to resolve the issue in the shortest possible time to prevent further spread.

After a day of discussions between the Pentagon and the Japanese Ministry of Defense, the Pentagon chief gave the Japanese Ministry of Defense a preliminary counterinsurgency plan.

The other party stated in the video conference: "Our idea is for the Japanese Ministry of Defense to send a negotiation team, which will fly directly to Antarctica aboard our specially modified LC-130 Hercules transport aircraft, to meet with the defecting Japanese research team members. On the one hand, we want to find out the specific situation, and on the other hand, we want to stabilize them through negotiations. Ideally, we would persuade them to surrender and bring them directly back to the US military base for interrogation."

After hearing this, the head of the Japanese Ministry of Defense felt that this method was too unreliable, so he said: "We actually hope to urgently deploy 100 special forces and 6 special operations armored infantry vehicles to the Antarctic continent, capture these people and forcibly bring them back to Japan."

The Pentagon official shook his head: "That's impossible. According to the Antarctic Treaty, no country is allowed to conduct military operations in Antarctica, not even military exercises."

The Japanese defense ministry official gave an awkward laugh and retorted, "But, Your Excellency is, after all, representing the United States. The United States has absolutely no obligation to abide by these treaties!"

The Pentagon chief firmly stated, "We cannot bear the stigma of conducting military operations in Antarctica, so the best solution is for you to send unarmed personnel to quell the rebellion."

After saying that, he reminded the other party: “Although your scientific expedition team members have all betrayed the country, they certainly do not have weapons. We have no need to send troops to deal with a group of unarmed people.”

The Japanese Ministry of Defense was also helpless.

The main problem is that with the current weather, there are very few planes that can fly to Antarctica and land successfully on the ice sheet.

Japan doesn’t have its own, so it can only rely on the United States.

The Americans felt that there was no profit to be made in this matter, and whether or not the rebellion was quelled had little to do with them, so they were not very concerned about it.

Sending troops there to provoke the Antarctic Treaty over this matter is not worthwhile in their eyes.

The Japanese Ministry of Defense had no choice but to temporarily dispatch a team of twenty negotiation experts, psychological experts, and legal advisors to persuade the Japanese to surrender. The team then flew to a US military base in South America.

After all, they had to rely on American planes to reach Antarctica.

After a 20-hour flight, Wu Bolin (Bick) arrived at the U.S. military base, where he was not far from the McMurdo Station.

Accompanying the surrender delegation to the US military base was a high-ranking official from the Japanese Ministry of Defense named Goro Watanabe.

Goro Watanabe’s mission was to persuade the Americans to send a portion of their Navy SEALs to Antarctica before the American Hercules transport planes took off for the mission, in order to deal with any unforeseen events.

However, despite Watanabe Goro’s best efforts to persuade the US military officials, they only replied, “I’m sorry, Mr. Watanabe, the Pentagon has clearly instructed that no armed personnel may be taken to Antarctica. Even the US pilots who are helping you transport the surrender delegation are not allowed to carry sidearms while flying.”

Watanabe Goro said dejectedly, “Sir, this is a bit too inhumane. The success rate of the persuasion group is not high. If they fail, they can only retreat, and we will be helpless against those traitors.”

The U.S. military official adjusted his sunglasses and smiled, saying, “Mr. Watanabe, not sending a single soldier or a single bullet to Antarctica is the bottom line for the U.S. military, and we hope you can understand.”

