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After saying that, he stood up and said coldly, “The plane will take off in one hour. Mr. Watanabe can prepare to board.”

Having no other choice, Watanabe Goro stood up and slowly walked out of the conference room.

On the airport runway, the plane whose landing gear had been modified into a combination of tires and sleds was undergoing its final pre-flight checks, and the Japanese-dispatched surrender delegation was also preparing to board.

According to the plan, they will land directly on the ice sheet 50 kilometers away from the Japanese research station. In addition to carrying 20 people, the transport plane will also carry two unarmed snow vehicles for their use. So at this moment, the transport personnel are pushing the snow vehicles into the transport plane cabin and securing them with modular fixed base plates.

Goro Watanabe and his assistant went to the back of the plane and waited with the surrender team until the equipment was secured before boarding the plane.

At this moment, Kohei Kikuchi, who was traveling with Wu Bolin (Bick) to McMurdo Station, said to Wu Bolin (Bick), “Masato, we will arrive at McMurdo Station in the United States in three more hours.”

“Very good.” Wu Bolin (Bick) nodded slightly and instructed, “As long as we can get in smoothly, everything will be fine.”

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The research team at McMurdo Station had already received a warning from the Pentagon and was aware of the Japanese research team’s defection.

Although they are unarmed personnel, they possess various cutting-edge technologies, so their radar systems operate at maximum power 24 hours a day, constantly on guard against everything around them.

When Wu Bolin (Bick)’s convoy was detected by their radar, they immediately became alert and radioed: “This is McMurdo Research Station. Approaching vehicles, please state your nationality, number of people, and purpose.”

Kohei Kikuchi was startled. They were still dozens of kilometers away, how could they have been detected? In the dead of winter, were their radars operating at full power?

He immediately reported to Wu Bolin (Bick): “Master, those Americans are asking us to reveal our identities and purpose. What do you think we should do?”

Wu Bolin (Bick) said calmly, “In the polar regions, what is the most common reason you give for contacting foreign scientific expedition members?”

Kohei Kikuchi said, “We need rescue, everyone in Antarctica is quite friendly.”

Wu Bolin (Bick) nodded: “OK, then let’s tell them we need rescue.”

Kohei Kikuchi immediately followed Wu Bolin (Bick)’s instructions and informed him that he was from a Japanese scientific expedition team and was seeking help from an American scientific expedition team because of insufficient vehicle supplies and vehicle malfunctions.

American researchers were on high alert. Why would a traitorous Japanese research team come to their territory?

So they immediately reported the news to the Pentagon.

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Goro Watanabe and his men had all boarded the transport plane.

The conditions inside the transport plane were very basic. All that was available for everyone was a small folding stool along the edge. The entire interior consisted of modular transport tracks and fasteners, with the two snowmobiles secured in the very center of the cabin.

Just when everyone thought the plane was about to close its doors and prepare for takeoff, U.S. Air Force personnel rushed in, unlocked two snowmobiles from their tracks, and moved them outside the cabin.

Immediately afterwards, nearly one hundred heavily armed commandos boarded the plane.

Next, the two snowmobiles that had been pushed away were replaced with four all-terrain armored infantry vehicles.

The soldiers all had stern expressions and remained silent, which greatly surprised Watanabe Goro.

Just then, the former head of the US military base stepped forward.

Watanabe Goro quickly asked, “Commander, what exactly is going on?”

The U.S. military's polar commander said with a grim expression, "We're going to support Antarctica!"

Watanabe Goro exclaimed in surprise, "Weren't we not going to send a single soldier?!"

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The US military base chief remained unfazed by Watanabe Goro's questioning.

He said with a serious expression, "Based on the situation just now, we should indeed adhere to the Antarctic Treaty and not send a single soldier to Antarctica. But now, the situation has changed."

At this moment, Goro Watanabe felt a bit doubtful about life.

He rubbed his eyes, repeatedly confirming that the man in front of him was the base commander who had just told him that he would never send a single soldier to Antarctica.

How come in the blink of an eye, this bastard has organized hundreds of Navy SEALs to prepare to support Antarctica?

He couldn't help but ask, "What has changed? Has our leader requested permission from your leader to send troops?"

The U.S. military base chief gave him a disdainful look and said, "As far as I know, your president doesn't have that much influence."

After saying that, he picked up the walkie-talkie and shouted sternly, "Why hasn't M142 arrived yet? Hurry up, we're going to be late!"

Watanabe Goro was speechless.

After all, he is from the Ministry of Defense, and about half of the weapons used by the Self-Defense Forces are made in the United States, with many others being jointly developed by the US and Japan.

Therefore, the moment he heard "M142," he knew that the other party must be referring to the American M142 tracked self-propelled rocket launcher.

This thing is highly mobile and has stronger firepower. The new model can launch guided rockets with a range of 300 kilometers.

Moreover, it features 6×6 all-wheel drive and powerful performance, designed for all terrains. Even if you were to drop it onto the Antarctic ice sheet, it would definitely be able to run smoothly.

The M142 abandoned the tracked design, weighs just over five tons, and can be easily carried by a single transport aircraft in three stages.

Watanabe Goro thought to himself, “Damn, are these Americans out of their minds? Either they don’t send a single soldier, a single bullet, or even allow pilots to carry sidearms, or they just bring out self-propelled rocket launchers and put them in Antarctica to shoot down the snowmobiles of scientific expedition teams from all over the world. It’s like beating up grandsons! It’s easier than a tank shooting down a truck. After all, these things have a much longer range than tanks, and once they are equipped with guided munitions, they can hit any target within 300 kilometers.”

The next second, Goro Watanabe suddenly realized a very serious problem: Could these SEALs and M142 self-propelled rocket launchers be prepared to attack our scientific expedition team?

Japan originally hoped that the United States would send troops, not because it wanted to kill these traitorous scientific expedition members, but because it wanted to take them under control as quickly as possible and capture them alive.

Sending soldiers to capture them alive is perfectly reasonable.

However, sending out self-propelled rocket launchers has absolutely nothing to do with capturing them alive.

Watanabe Goro broke out in a cold sweat and quickly said, “Commander, our... our plan is to prioritize persuasion to surrender. Even if persuasion fails, we should prioritize capture rather than attack. With such heavy firepower, if a misfire occurs, the consequences will be dire...”

The U.S. military base chief said coldly, “You have no right to question or interfere with the military operations of the United States military.”

Goro Watanabe choked up: “Our research team members are only suspected of treason, we can’t just kill them!”

The U.S. military base chief said, “Our previous operation was to transport you to Antarctica. Now our operation is to transport our soldiers and weapons to Antarctica, and we’ll drop you off on the way. So, if you still want to ride this plane, you’d better shut up, or you can just get off!”

Watanabe Goro immediately became much more obedient.

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He also knew his own identity and status in this operation; he was nothing more than a minor supporting character. If he really went head-to-head with the commander on the other side, he would most likely be kicked off the plane.

So he could only sit back down in his seat, feeling rather annoyed.

At that moment, three M142 self-propelled rocket launchers roared onto the runway.

Another modified transport plane taxied to the rear.

Goro Watanabe couldn't believe it. These Americans were actually taking three M142s with them. Were they going to war?

However, this is just an appetizer.

The U.S. military base commander instructed over the radio: "The second echelon of personnel and equipment are all ready. They will come to pick you up after the first drop is completed for the second drop!"

The US military is so nervous because it fears that Japanese researchers who have already defected might attack their Antarctic research station.

McMurdo Station is unlike any other research station. It is a reliable base camp in American Antarctica, much like the base camp on Mount Everest, and is of great strategic importance.

The United States has not only invested a huge amount of manpower and resources in this station, but has also stockpiled a lot of equipment that should not have been taken to Antarctica.

They didn't know if the information had leaked, nor did they know what these defecting Japanese research team members were planning to do, but what they had to do was ensure that McMurdo Station would not bear any risks.

Therefore, they devised two strategies. One was to immediately send a team to McMurdo Station to strengthen its defenses and simultaneously launch an attack on the Japanese research team heading to McMurdo Station. The other strategy was to send another force to land in the middle of the Japanese research team's retreat route and cut off their escape.

After these two groups take out the defectors who are preparing to go to McMurdo Station by launching a pincer attack, they can immediately join forces and advance together to the Japanese research station to complete the suppression of the rebellion.

For safety reasons, they brought older armed personnel and weapons, so that if any Japanese research team members dared to advance recklessly, they could open fire directly without asking for permission.

As three M142s drove into the cargo hold of the second transport plane, the plane carrying Goro Watanabe began taxiing.

After a roar, the plane soared into the sky, followed closely by another transport plane that also took off.

Watanabe Goro sat on the narrow bench, feeling uneasy, still not understanding what had happened.

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Wu Bolin (Bick)'s team is getting closer and closer to the McMurdo Grand Prix.

What puzzled Kohei Kikuchi was that more than half an hour had passed since he sent out his distress signal, and the communications personnel at McMurdo Station had not responded.

"That's absolutely outrageous!"

Kohei Kikuchi couldn't help but complain: "How can this be? We said we needed rescue, and they didn't even reply! They have no humanitarian spirit at all."

Wu Bolin (Bick) frowned and asked, "What would happen if we drove straight there?"

Kohei Kikuchi thought for a moment: "We don't have any inside help, so driving straight in probably won't work. Their radar has already locked onto us. If we rashly rush in, they will definitely report to the US military immediately. Their nearest military base can get here in just over two hours. We don't have any weapons, so we definitely don't have much of a chance of winning."

Wu Bolin (Bick) said doubtfully, "They're just a group of scientific expedition members. I can handle them myself."

As they were talking, a warning came through the wireless communication system from McMurdo Station staff: "On behalf of the United States government, I demand that you immediately cease approaching McMurdo Station!"

Kohei Kikuchi retorted angrily, "Baka! We've come for help! The US and Japan are allies, and even closer partners. We're just having a little trouble, what's wrong with you helping us?"

The other party is very nervous at this moment.

According to intelligence, this group of Japanese scientific expedition members has collectively betrayed their country. Anyone capable of doing such a thing is either mentally ill or utterly inhuman.

They're coming for the American research station now; they definitely don't have good intentions!

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Wu Bolin (Bick)'s patience was wearing thin. Now all he wanted was to rush in, take control of everyone inside, and end the battle in the shortest amount of time.

However, the loyal Kohei Kikuchi stopped him and advised, "Masato, don't be impulsive! Their radar coverage is already so wide, which proves that they have entered a high-level state of alert. The radar and surveillance information may be uploaded to the US government in real time. If you make a move now, the surveillance video will be sent to the Pentagon before you even get inside. If they find out Masato's true identity, Masato will only be in more trouble!"

Wu Bolin (Bick) gritted his teeth and asked, "Didn't you say they were easy to communicate with? Why have you suddenly become so wary?"

Kohei Kikuchi shook his head: "Masato, I really can't understand this either. The relationship between the various research stations in Antarctica is better than the relationship between countries. Because on the basis of the alliance between countries, there is an additional sense of mutual reliance and mutual support on the Antarctic continent. Normally, if we go to the American research station, when we drive to the door, many people will come out to welcome us. We have never been so wary before."

Wu Bolin (Bick) frowned: "Did they find out about Wu Hangong's situation?"

Kohei Kikuchi looked equally puzzled: "It shouldn't be, right? We are all sworn to be loyal to Makoto to the death, and there is absolutely no way we would leak even the slightest bit of information."

Wu Bolin (Bick): "That's very strange. What exactly makes them so wary?"

Just as Wu Bolin (Bick) was racking his brains and didn't know how to proceed, two beams of light appeared in the sky and were getting closer and closer to them.

The American transport plane has finally arrived.

In just over two hours, their plane was running at full speed, flying from the South American military base to the airspace over the Antarctic continent.

Upon seeing the plane, Kohei Kikuchi exclaimed in alarm, “Oh no, it’s an American plane!”

Wu Bolin (Bick) asked, “Can American planes still come to Antarctica at this time?”

Kohei Kikuchi said, “Private airlines and ordinary passenger planes certainly do not have this capability. Without exception, any aircraft that can fly over Antarctica during this season must be a military aircraft.”

Wu Bolin (Bick) was shocked: “You mean the American army has arrived? What are they here for?”

Kohei Kikuchi shook his head: “I don’t know what they’re here to do in Antarctica, but I get the feeling they’re here to support the McMurdo Station.”

Wu Bolin (Bick) frowned: “They’re here to support McMurdo Station, so you mean they’re guarding against us?”

“Yes.” Kohei Kikuchi nodded. “They must be wary of us.”

Wu Bolin (Bick) cursed, “Isn’t this like seeing a ghost? Why are they so nervous all of a sudden?”

As they were talking, the tail door of the plane opened, and parachutes began to unfurl from the rear. Kikuchi Kohei turned pale with fright: “It’s an airborne force! The United States has gone mad! The Antarctic Treaty does not allow any country to send troops or transport weapons to Antarctica, yet they have sent airborne troops directly here!”

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No sooner had he finished speaking than a super parachute, many times larger than a regular parachute, suddenly opened.

Kohei Kikuchi’s legs went weak with fear: “Masato, the other side is not friendly. They’ve even deployed heavy weaponry here!”

Wu Bolin (Bick) was furious. He had been riding in a snowmobile for several days before finally reaching the vicinity of McMurdo Station. Just when he thought he was almost there, the United States sent troops over.

In this situation, even a direct assault would be pointless, because what he needed was to recruit the entire research team of the American research station to his own side without alerting them.

But once the other side starts to be wary of him, even if he rushes over now and takes control of everyone, the other side will still send a continuous stream of troops over, which is something he alone cannot withstand.

So he asked Kohei Kikuchi, “In your opinion, what should we do now?”

Kohei Kikuchi replied without hesitation, “Our best course of action now is to evacuate as soon as possible and avoid a direct confrontation with America.”

Wu Bolin (Bick) was furious and angrily questioned, “Are you saying we’ve made a wasted trip?”

Kohei Kikuchi nodded: “Masato, it’s good enough that we made a wasted trip. What I’m most afraid of now is that their goal is not just to protect McMurdo Station. If they catch up with us and ask us what’s going on, that would be troublesome. Wu Hangong’s situation will definitely be exposed!”

Upon hearing this, Wu Bolin (Bick) urged without hesitation, “Quickly, quickly, turn back now! We can’t afford to lose more than we gain!”

Wu Han Palace was Wu Bolin (Bick)’s foundation in Antarctica. With the help of those Japanese research team members, his goal of exploring Antarctica had a basic guarantee.

His desire to expand his territory and increase his manpower was also based on the premise that the Japanese scientific expedition team was already operating at full capacity.

Therefore, he could accept the failure of this territorial expansion, but what he absolutely could not accept was that this failure would endanger the safety of Wu Han Palace.

So, the snowmobiles immediately stopped, turned around, and sped back without stopping.

At that moment, the US military officer in charge on the first transport plane immediately received a message from the research station.

On the radar, all the approaching vehicles had turned around and left.

The U.S. military commander, with a serious expression, said coldly, “The faster they run, the more it proves they’re up to something! The second echelon must quickly proceed to their likely return route to prepare for interception. I will lead the remaining SEALs and members of the Japanese surrender delegation. Turn around immediately and head to Showa Station, Japan! Leave one M142 at McModo Station for defense; the remaining two should not be deployed, but will accompany me to Showa Station, Japan!”

Upon hearing this, Watanabe Goro’s heart pounded with fear.

He personally witnessed the deployment of about fifty Navy SEALs and two armored personnel carriers. If the remaining personnel and equipment were to be brought to Showa Station, the firepower would be enough to flatten Showa Station several times over. If there were any conflict, wouldn't the Americans go on a killing spree?

Thinking of this, he felt extremely uneasy, fearing that the situation would get out of control.

The strategy currently being formulated by the United States is no longer related to the Japanese. The Pentagon's requirement is to first ensure the security of McMurdo Station, and then, based on that security, immediately arrest all Japanese research team members. They are determined to find out two things: first, why they betrayed their country; and second, what they are searching for in Antarctica in their various groups! If there are any unknown secrets involved, the Pentagon will not allow those secrets to slip away.

So now that Wu Bolin (Bick) has escaped, their mission has naturally become to capture all the Japanese research team members!