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When Watanabe Goro rushed to the room where Kikuchi Kohei was being held, Kikuchi Kohei's body was hanging on the bathroom door frame.

The item he used to hang himself was his own thermal pants. This material, specially developed for polar regions, is warm, skin-friendly, breathable, and tough. The two pant legs, when tied together, can easily hang an adult weighing over 140 pounds.

Unlike most people who hang themselves, Kohei Kikuchi's expression showed no pain or ferocity; on the contrary, he wore a smile that suggested he was ready to die.

Just as Goro Watanabe and the other Americans were at a loss, the research station's doctor arrived and immediately pulled Kohei Kikuchi's body from the knots made of his clothes. The doctor performed CPR on him while checking his pulse and heartbeat.

Unfortunately, Kohei Kikuchi was already dead by then.

The research station was neither a prison nor a police station; there were no special detention rooms. After interrogating Kohei Kikuchi, they put him in an empty room and left a few soldiers outside to guard him in case he escaped. But no one expected that he would commit suicide.

The Americans were baffled. The military official angrily cursed, "Is this guy fucking crazy? What's the big deal? Even if we send him back to Japan for trial, if nothing serious happens, he'll only get five to eight years at most, right?"

After saying that, he pointed at Goro Watanabe and questioned, "Come on, tell me, how many years will he be sentenced for this unauthorized command of a scientific expedition to explore Antarctica?"

Watanabe Goro looked bewildered: "I don't know either. It's never happened before. It depends on whether he had the intent to commit treason. If it doesn't involve treason and it's just unauthorized exploration, he should be sentenced to less than five years. But if it involves treason, he might be sentenced to death."

The military official sneered, “Don’t try to scare us. That gunman from the mountain only got a life sentence, right? This Kohei Kikuchi won’t get the death penalty when he goes back to court, will he?”

Goro Watanabe said awkwardly, “What you said isn’t entirely unreasonable.”

The military official then pointed to Kohei Kikuchi’s body and asked, “Since he was unlikely to be sentenced to death, why did he commit suicide?”

Watanabe Goro, unable to contain his emotions any longer, said angrily, “I don’t know either. You didn’t let us speak to him from beginning to end, and you didn’t let us participate in the interrogation. Now that he has committed suicide, you come to question me. I want to question you too. Did you put pressure on him or torture him to extract a confession?”

Realizing he couldn’t get anything out of Watanabe Goro and not wanting to be reprimanded in front of everyone, the military officer immediately told the soldiers around him, “Take him and the other members of the Japanese surrender delegation to the Third District for residential surveillance. Without my order, they are not allowed to step out of the Third District!”

McMurdo Station is the largest Antarctic research station. It is a huge scientific research institution with several semi-independent areas.

The term “semi-independent” means that these areas are all connected to the core area. To put it simply, it’s like multiple prison sections in a large prison, where all sections can be completely sealed off.

Goro Watanabe and the members of the Japanese surrender delegation who accompanied him were all placed under house arrest by the US military in the Third District.

Immediately afterwards, the US military was deployed.

Just as the US paratroopers began boarding their planes in preparation for takeoff, Charlie Wade also set off alone from the Nordic research station to Showa Station.

Through Nanako’s connections in Japan, he learned that the Japanese scientific expedition team heading to McMurdo Station in the United States had been intercepted en route, and that the elder of the Anti-Qing Society had fled on the way back to Showa Station. This meant that the US military would definitely take over Showa Station, and that the elder would certainly not dare to return.

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charlie wade's trip to Showa Station was to see as soon as possible how the US military would handle the matter. If he could also obtain some evidence that was detrimental to the US military, the subsequent developments of this matter would be even more interesting.

After all, he knew very well that the Americans' secret deployment of troops to Antarctica violated the Antarctic Treaty. However, the location of the US landing was not known to the outside world. The few foreign research stations with scientific research teams stationed in Antarctica were far from the landing site, and due to the weather, they rarely went far. Therefore, the US military's plan this time was to come and go quietly, trying to keep the outside world from knowing that they had been there.

But charlie wade couldn't let them have their way.

He must obtain evidence of American military intervention in Antarctica and make it public.

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The U.S. military acted swiftly, completing the assembly of personnel and equipment, as well as the maintenance and takeoff preparation of transport aircraft, in just over two hours. Such efficiency in such extremely cold weather is truly remarkable.

Two hours after the transport fleet took off, it arrived at Showa Station in Japan. Nearly 100 Navy SEALs and several infantry fighting vehicles were airdropped near Showa Station and then surrounded the station.

The research team at Showa Station was still carrying out the exploration mission devised by Wu Bolin (Bick). Most of the research team members were not at the research station at the moment, so the US military simply occupied the research station first and forcibly demanded that the few Japanese research team members stationed at the research station recall all the research team members using the internal radio.

However, the captured Japanese expedition members were all loyal to Wu Bolin (Bick). They believed that they were all carrying out the mission assigned by the Immortal Guanghan, and

naturally they would rather die than betray the Immortal. So even with guns pointed at them, no one was willing to give in and submit.

Enraged, the U.S. military commander immediately ordered soldiers to torture several Japanese expedition members.

Several soldiers, still somewhat hesitant, whispered, "Sir, we attacked Japanese researchers at the Japanese research station for no reason. Won't this cause a diplomatic incident? This is Antarctica, not the Middle East..."

The U.S. military official launched a tirade: "For us Americans, what's the difference between Antarctica and the Middle East besides the climate? Even in Europe, if those people dare to go against us, we'll take them down! The President might be sending troops to Greenland soon, and trash like you won't have a chance to make a name for yourselves then!"

The soldiers were given a severe dressing-down, and their last shred of conscience vanished.

If a soldier is deemed a coward by his superior, his chances of climbing the ranks will be extremely slim.

So they immediately went berserk, dragged several Japanese research team members into a room, and started beating them.

Several unarmed and untrained expedition members were beaten black and blue, some even on the verge of death, but they remained steadfast and refused to submit.

Even the American soldiers couldn't stand it anymore and ran out to report to their commander: "Sir, those Japanese are almost dead, but none of them will give a word. They're tighter on the lips than trained special agents!"

The US military commander was furious: "Go, strip them all naked, take them out and freeze them until they suffer hypothermia, then bring them back. I don't believe we can't pry their mouths open!"

Several Japanese research team members were stripped down to their underwear and dragged out of the research station by several American soldiers, directly into the polar night where the temperature was minus sixty degrees Celsius.

The intense, bone-chilling cold instantly froze their skin, leaving it stiff and numb. But this was followed by excruciating pain, as if thousands of needles were piercing their skin—a pain that most people could not endure.

After these people were exposed to the extreme cold for several tens of seconds, their skin began to show visible signs of frostbite, and they instinctively screamed in pain.

Seeing that the time was right, the American soldiers used guns to drive them back to the research station.

Unbeknownst to them, outside the snow-covered research station, a man was silently hiding in the snow. He used his spiritual energy to insulate himself from the extreme cold and used his mobile phone to record the entire process of the US military, armed with live ammunition, torturing half-naked Japanese research team members!

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The Japanese research team members, who had been frozen by the extreme cold, turned bright red as soon as they entered an indoor space with a temperature of around 20 degrees Celsius. The temperature difference of more than 80 degrees Celsius made their skin turn red immediately, as if they had just been scalded by boiling water.

The itching and pain were even more intense than when exposed to the elements, to the point that everyone was frantically scratching their entire bodies, some even scratching themselves until they were covered in sores.

The US military commander hadn't expected that just a few dozen seconds would be enough to torment them to this extent, and he couldn't help but worry that they might have gone a bit too far. After all, if the protests in Japan escalated and the White House felt the pressure of public opinion, it would likely have to push the White House to take the blame.

However, he thought again, who cares? The more he looked at this matter, the stranger it seemed. If he didn't get these Japanese to talk, he might miss some great secret. If there were really some extremely valuable clues in this, he might be able to make a great contribution.

Anyway, these Japanese are going to be transferred to McMurdo Station. Those who are injured can simply be detained for a longer period of time and released when they recover. If they complain to the Japanese government, we can simply deny it. We have plenty of ways to smooth things over.

He then ordered his men to intensify their interrogations of the Japanese expedition members, forcing them to issue orders to all their comrades outside the expedition to retreat.

However, if these Japanese research team members were to push the intensity any further, it would likely result in fatalities. Their resilience far exceeded their expectations; even after being tormented to this extent, they showed no signs of giving up.

The US military commanders were somewhat puzzled. Even many specially trained agents and special forces soldiers would find it difficult to withstand such torture, so why were these ordinary scientific expedition team members, who had no military experience, completely unafraid?

His subordinate ran up to him and asked, "Sir, for some reason, these people have an extremely strong sense of conviction. Our conventional interrogation methods simply cannot break down this conviction. We really don't know where to begin!"

The US military commander said coldly, "I don't believe there is any belief in this world that cannot be destroyed. Did you not spend enough time outside in the cold just now?! Keep the intensity going!"

The subordinate said with some concern, "If the intensity continues to increase, people might die. Their skin has already started to ulcerate! It looks like they've been scalded with boiling water. If they go out into the cold again, I'm afraid their entire bodies will be completely destroyed!"

The US military commander was horrified. He had no idea that temperatures of minus sixty degrees Celsius could be so deadly. If these people were frostbitten to the point of being unrecognizable, it would be difficult to explain.

He was somewhat worried. At this rate, it would probably not be easy to gather the Japanese scattered in Manchuria back. If he alerted them, they might destroy the evidence.

There are two options now. One is to wait and wait for the Japanese research team members to return for supplies. This would definitely be effective, but it might take a long time.

The second option is to take the initiative and send troops out in all directions to capture all the Japanese research team members who are working outside. This would be much faster, but it would be a test for the soldiers, since they would have to split up and pursue them for hundreds or thousands of kilometers.

After much deliberation, he decided to report to the White House, presenting two options to them and see which one they would choose.

He immediately used a satellite phone to report the situation to the White House.

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The White House is becoming increasingly curious about the secrets of the Japanese expedition team. They can't understand what secrets Antarctica holds that would make these people risk their lives to protect it. Even Epstein's secrets weren't kept to this extent, were they?

The more this happened, the more eager they became to find out the truth. So the White House immediately ordered them not to sit idly by, but to send troops to arrest them. Once arrested, the personnel were immediately interrogated and the equipment was sealed off, with the equipment awaiting their technical experts to retrieve the data.

Upon receiving instructions from the White House, the U.S. military commander immediately began to regroup the troops and track the tracks left by the expedition vehicles on the ice sheet when they set off.

Charlie Wade bypassed them and waited until all their armored vehicles had departed before quietly leaving the Showa Research Station in Japan. However, he did not rush back to the Nordic Research Station. Instead, he used satellite network to send Li Yalin videos of the US military abusing the Japanese research team in the extreme cold weather, as well as videos of US Navy SEALs boarding armored vehicles and leaving the research station.

He then called Li Yalin and instructed him: "Detective Li, have the AI model capture the contact information of major online influencers in Japan, preferably their email addresses for collecting materials, and then send these two videos to them through a secure channel."

charlie wade sent the video to those Japanese internet celebrities because he felt that the Japanese government might not have the backbone to stand up to the United States. If the video were given to them, they might cover it up first.

But the general public is different.

The public doesn't have a sense of the bigger picture, and since this kind of thing doesn't involve their own interests, they are mostly driven by emotions. These videos will definitely anger them, so they will most likely choose to expose them.

Moreover, internet celebrities value traffic above all else. If they can get their hands on such a sensational video, it's like entertainment bloggers have obtained the most explosive evidence of a top-tier celebrity's scandal, and they will definitely release it immediately to gain traffic.

Moreover, charlie wade gave it to more than one internet celebrity, which is equivalent to having multiple backups. Even if internet celebrity A does not choose to be exposed, internet celebrity B, internet celebrity C, and even internet celebrity Z will compete to be exposed.

Internet celebrities themselves have a huge fan base, so as soon as they release a video, it will immediately spread throughout the entire Japanese internet.

When the Japanese people are outraged, this will be quite a spectacle.

Moreover, once Japanese netizens begin to condemn the incident, it will certainly attract global attention. At that time, anyone with a sense of justice will likely condemn the actions of the US military, especially their violation of the Antarctic Treaty by sending troops into Antarctica, which will certainly be subject to accusations from countries around the world.

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It was morning in Japan at that time.

Many online influencers who make a living by shooting videos are currently brainstorming ideas for their video content.

There is too much homogenized content online now, and plagiarism and imitation are very common. Top bloggers are now increasing their investment in content planning, trying to find more unique themes and entry points to attract fans' attention.

Many bloggers have also opened email addresses for submitting materials, and some even offer substantial rewards, promising to deliver on their promises once the material is accepted.

Just as many bloggers and teams were racking their brains for today's work, an email suddenly appeared in their inboxes with a horrifying subject line: The United States violated the Antarctic Treaty, secretly deployed troops to Antarctica, controlled the Japanese Showa Research Station, and arrested and abused Japanese research team members!

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Upon first seeing the email's subject line, almost all Japanese social media influencers assumed it was a prank.

The United States has deployed troops to Antarctica? It has also taken control of Japan's Showa-era research station and even arrested and abused Japanese research team members?

How is that possible?

In their view, the US-Japan alliance is more solid than the alliances between most countries in the world.

Moreover, Japan has always been subservient to the United States, even with utmost humility and worship. Every year, the Japanese people hold large-scale events to commemorate and remember Matthew Perry, who invaded Japan and opened its doors to the world. Such subservience is rare in the world. Under these circumstances, how could the United States possibly harm their scientific expedition team in Antarctica?

However, despite their doubts, human curiosity led them to open the video file in the email.

Once they opened it, the scene in the video immediately left them speechless with astonishment.

Armed Marines are at gunpoint at the Showa Research Station in Antarctica, where several Japanese researchers, who are only wearing underwear, are forced to expose themselves to the extreme cold.

The Japanese research team members immediately erupted in frantic screams of pain, a truly horrific scene.

As fellow Japanese, almost every Japanese internet celebrity felt extremely angry seeing their country's scientific expedition members being mistreated in this way.

They posted the received materials online almost immediately. Some posts directly condemned the atrocities committed by the US military, while others questioned the authenticity of the video and hoped that netizens could help verify it. After all, AI is becoming more and more popular and widespread, and the authenticity of AI videos is getting higher and higher. If this video is really made by AI, wouldn't that be wronging our ally, the United States?

These videos immediately caused a huge uproar on the Japanese internet upon release.

Most people can tell that this video is definitely not fake, because it looks so real.

Now that it can be determined that the video is not fake, all the questions are focused on why the US military would take action against the Japanese research team members? These research team members were all unarmed civilians!

Japanese high-ranking officials also discovered the videos immediately, and the entire leadership was instantly overwhelmed, completely unsure of how to respond.

Through Goro Watanabe's report, they naturally learned about the domineering behavior of the US military in Antarctica. However, they knew very well that they had no control over the US military's actions in Antarctica, so they could only suffer in silence.

I thought this matter could only be left to the United States to investigate, but I never expected that they would treat their own scientific expedition team members so cruelly.

For the Japanese leadership, the mistreatment of their own research team members by the US military was not unacceptable in itself; what was unacceptable was that such an incident was filmed and posted online.

After they did this, the Japanese high command could no longer turn a blind eye.

They immediately lodged a public protest with the United States through diplomatic channels, demanding that they immediately cease their aggression against the Japanese research team and withdraw their troops from Antarctica.

Within a few dozen minutes, not only Japan lodged a protest, but also China, as well as the permanent members of the UN Security Council, including the UK, France, and Russia, all lodged strong protests with the United States, demanding that they provide a reasonable explanation for their secret deployment of troops to Antarctica and violation of the Antarctic Treaty.

It was late at night in America.