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Length:

Languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish, Russian

GREENLAND: THE LOOKOUT FOR NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS

VIDEO

LANDSCAPE OF HOUSES, SEA,
FLOATING GLACIERS, HUSKIES

SVEND ERIK WALKS PAST
INFRASOUND ELEMENTS

MOON, SEA AND GLACIERS
TUG BOAT, LARGE SHIP WITH
GLACIERS IN BACKGROUND

SVEND ON CAMERA

SVEND ERIK EXAMINES
EQUIPMENT INSIDE STATION

GRAPHIC OF GLOBE SHOWING
INFRASONIC WAVES

SVEND WORKING ON

AUDIO

NARRATION:

Qaanaaq is Greenland's most northern town. It counts more huskies than people among its 650 residents. It's as unlikely a place as any to keep guard against atomic explosions. But at this barren outpost, a committed team uses 'high science' to do exactly that. (20.5)

Station Operator, Svend Erik Ascanius:

(In English) M

"Qaanaaq is located 1100 kilometers north of the Arctic Circle. Winter temperature is about minus 20. In the winter snow and ice and constant darkness makes it difficult to access the elements." (16)

It's Autumn. But Svend Erik braves the conditions year round to run the infrasound station. It detects atomic blasts. (9.5)

The station is part of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty or CTBTO's network of sensors that monitor the globe for violations of the

INFRASOUND STATION

agreement. (9)

CENTRAL STATION WITH SNOWY ROOF

Nuclear explosions produce distinctive, low frequency sound waves that can travel across continents. Arrays like these record them. (8.5)

VIEW OF HILLS AND SEA FROM PLANE

Engineer Juraci Carvalho has travelled from the CTBTO's Vienna headquarters to upgrade the station. (6.5)

RED PLANE LANDING

New antenna and radios are installed that forward data, in near real time, to Vienna for analysis. (6.5)

JURACI WORKING ON ANTENNA

INFRASOUND ARRAYS

JURACI CARVALHO: (In English) M

'It's very easy to check the whole system remotely from the elements to see if you are sending data to the central facility.' (7)

JURACI AND SVEN ERIK
INSTALLING EQUIPMENT AND
LOOKING AT DATA ON
COMPUTER

A visit like this happens roughly once every three years. So a lot gets packed in. A new computer and software is installed // An audit of equipment and spares taken. And most crucial: training // In the harsh, dark winter months to come it's Svend Erik who is on the front line: to keep the station running, to catch any nuclear blasts. (29.5)

SVEND ERIK WORKING ON
ANTENNA
LANDSCAPE SEA AND ICE
MAN WALKS WITH EQUIPMENT