



TV

# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## UN IN ACTION

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Release Date: July 2012

Programme No. 1355

Length: 2'57"

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

#### 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

SVEND WORKING ON  
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

The station listens for nuclear noise around the clock. (3.5)

RED PLANE LANDING

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

JURACI WORKING ON ANTENNA  
INFRASOUND ARRAYS

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

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

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)

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

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)

UN LOGO

This report was produced by Kirstie Gregorich Hansen for the United Nations. (4.5)