

Six hours have passed. You have just been dropped by helicopter on the deck of the whaler *Arctura*. Captain Lindstrom is briefing you on the progress of his mission.

"We have wonderful tapes of the new whalesong," the captain says, "but we haven't been able to decipher it. They're working on it at MIT, you know."

"What about the Russian defector?" you ask.

"Ah, yes," Lindstrom replies. "We have on board Alex Minkov, who deserted from a Russian submarine. He has told us that he has a secret but he doesn't feel ready to tell yet. He says that, although he has defected from Russia, he still loves his country and has a certain loyalty to it. I respect that. I respect him because he is honest and sees that everything is not simple."

Lindstrom is interrupted by amplified melodic sounds coming from the monitoring station.

"Those are real whales you're listening to," he says, "not just recordings. But that's an old song. We think it means gather here. They're only a few hundred yards away."