



REPORT #12,527

Report type: Incident Report

Date of incident: November 15th, 2020

Location: Kingsley & Tristam Island
(coordinates: [REDACTED])

Description of the incident

On the 15th of November of 2020, around 7:05pm (5:05pm Central African Time), Namibian Coast Guards listening on the 12,403.5 kHz frequency received an SOS call from an unknown source. Using RDF techniques with other receiving stations, they determined the approximate coordinates of the source to be [REDACTED]. The source claimed to be on an island, which did not match their maps.

A contact in Namibia, [REDACTED], alerted us to this call. These coordinates correspond to a pair of islands, Tristam Island and Kingsley Island, which the Crown used for military purposes until early 1962 (see Report #5,585). These islands do not appear on a conventional map, as what happened on the island is still under SECRET classification (see Report #5,586). The island still contains numerous pieces of evidence related to the experiments, as the island had to be evacuated precipitously in early 1962 following the catastrophic failure of the tests (see Report #5,585).

Steps taken

Seeing as:

- a discovery of the island might embarrass the Crown;
- the castaway had the means to call Namibian Coastguards for help until rescued, and potentially divulge information,

the following measures were taken:

- on the 16th of November 2020, at 1:30 am (11:30pm Central African Time), an AW101 Merlin helicopter of the Royal Navy left HMS [REDACTED] stationed in [REDACTED] in direction of Kingsley and Tristram Island;

- Her Majesty's Ambassador to Namibia was notified, and diplomatic channels were used to request secrecy on the sensitive matter;

- on the 17th of November 2020 at 4:30 pm (2:30pm Central African Time), the helicopter team radioed being on their way back after finding and picking up a Crown subject, [REDACTED];

- the subject [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was flown to London and remains at Thames House for the moment.

Remediation and recommendations

Seeing as:

- Report #5,585 has been classified for 57 years;
- the activities of the Crown on the island did not violate international treaties at the time;
- extensive archival research (see attached queries) has shown that the past activities of the Crown on the island do not represent a threat to the current activities of the Crown;
- some knowledge, including the location of the island, has leaked,

we recommend that:

- exploratory steps be taken towards declassification of Report #5,585 and public acknowledgement by the Crown of its past activities on Tristram Island;

- the subject [REDACTED] [REDACTED] be reminded of the penalties that come with disclosing SECRET information;

- the subject [REDACTED] [REDACTED] be informed of the fact that the Crown is considering declassifying the information;

- the subject [REDACTED] [REDACTED] be informed of the fact that [REDACTED] will have the opportunity to tell [REDACTED] story to the press, and gain some level of prominence as a result, when this process is accomplished. This is more likely to ensure compliance than the legal threat.

This report is filed as Report #12,527 and is classified at the SECRET level.