

8953660GPRWH G
SEEK AK NZ2901
TX 15
15/7/85

ATTN MAUREEN
REPORT TO MARINE DIVISION, REGARDING THE BOMBING OF
RAINBOW WARRIOR.

AT APPROXIMATELY 11.45PM. WEDNESDAY, 10 JULY, TWO LARGE
EXPLOSIONS OCCURRED ON BOARD RAINBOW WARRIOR, CAUSING
THE VESSEL TO QUICKLY SINK AT THE DOCK. ONE CREW MEMBER WAS
DROWNED.

THE EVENING OF THE INCIDENT HAS BEEN A FAIRLY RELAXED ONE.
THERE HAD BEEN A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR STEVE SAWYER, FOLLOWED
BY A MEETING OF THE SKIPPERS OF THE VESSELS GOING TO
MORUROA. THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN THE THEATER AND LASTED
FROM AROUND 9 P.M. TO 11 P.M. AT 11 SOME CREW STARTED
GOING TO BED AND SOME WENT TO THE CREW'S MESS TO RELAX AND
LISTEN TO MUSIC.

I WAS IN BED, ASLEEP WHEN THE FIRST EXPLOSION WAS HEARD.
HALF A MINUTE LATER I MET DAVEY EDWARD, THE VESSEL'S CHIEF
ENGINEER. HE ADVISED ME, AND I COULD SEE THAT THE ENGINE
ROOM WAS ENTIRELY FLOODED. THE WATER LEVEL AT THAT POINT
WAS ABOUT 3 OR 4 FEET BELOW THE MAIN DECK LEVEL. PEOPLE
WERE LEAVING THEIR CABINS AT THIS TIME. I MOVED AFT TELLING
EVERYONE TO LEAVE THE VESSEL. WHEN I GOT TO THE AFTER
ACCOMMODATION I COULD SEE SHIEF MATE MARTIN GOTJE BEGINNING
TO COME UP THE COMPANIONWAY. THIS WAS WHEN THE SECON
EXPLOSION OCCURRED, THISTHIS LEVEL WOULD HAVE BEEN
APPROXIMATELY SEVEN FEET BELOW SEA LEVEL. THIS WAS EVIDENCED
BY WATER JETTING INTO THE COMPARTMENT THROUGH WIRE RUNS, UNDER
GREAT PRESSURE. THE FORCE OF THE SECOND EXPLOSION RUINED THE
INTEGRITY OF THE COMPARTMENT, AND IF FLOODED INSTANTLY.

I GAVE THE ORDER TO ABANDON SHIP, AND STARTED MOVING FORWARD
ALONG THE ACCOMMODATIONS ON THE MAIN DECK LEVEL, MAKING SURE
EVERYONE WAS OUT. I REACHED THE FORWARD END OF THE HOUSE WITH
THE INTENTION OF GOING DOWN TO THE THEATER TO MAKE SURE THAT
AREA WAS CLEAR. WHEN I GOT TO THE HATCH, THE WATER HAD ALREADY
REACHED THE TOP OF THAT COMPARTMENT.

APPROXIMATELY 2 MINUTES HAD GONE BY. I TURNED BACK TO MY CABIN
TO GET EITHER CLOTHES OR MY GLASSES. BUT THE VESSEL STARTED
TO LIST SO I WENT BACK DOWN THE ALLEYWAY TO THE AFTER
ACCOMMODATIONS AND JOINED BY CHRIS ROBINSON, WADED OUT THE DOOR
TO THE CASTING DECK, CLIMBED UP TO THE BOAT DECK AND WAS ABLE
TO JUMP UP TO THE GANG PLANK AND PULL MYSELF UP TO THE DOCK.
3 TO 4 MINUTES HAD GONE BY - CHRIS ROBINSON HAD GONE UP TO THE
BRIDGE WHICH WAS OUT OF WATER. WE DID A HEAD COUNT. AND REALIZED
THAT HANNA SORENSON AND FERNANDO WERE MISSING.

DAVID EDWARD AND I WENT BACK ON BOARD, AND OPENED THE ENGINE
ROOM STACK COVER. APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES LATER THE AUTHORITIES
ARRIVED.

HANNA SORENSON ARRIVED AT THE POLICE STATION LATER. IT WAS NOT
TILL THEN, WHEN COMPARING NOTES WITH OTHERS THAT WE REALIZED
THAT FERNANDO WAS MOST LIKELY ON BOARD AND NOT ASHORE AS I HAD
ASSUMED. AT APPROXIMATELY 4.30 A.M. HIS BODY WAS FOUND, AND
IDENTIFIED BY MYSELF.

SINCERELY,
PETER WILLCOX, MASTER.
SEEK AK NZ2901

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