

McGoohan was finally back on *The Prisoner* set in early September. At the end of that month he fronted the series' pre-launch press conference, while filming, later that same day, *Living in Harmony*. The first episode, *Arrival*, aired at the end of September, with McGoohan hard at work finishing the remaining few episodes and writing the conclusion, *Fall Out*. The series had already been cancelled and the penultimate story *Once Upon a Time* had been completed months earlier. Thus the star knew that the finale could be almost anything he wanted it to be.

Subsequently, after months of post-production, *Zebra* finally had its US release in October, 1968, in 70mm Cinerama in selected cinemas. McGoohan's face was now at last on giant billboards, with the press describing the actor as "A six-foot, two-inch lance of a man with electric blue eyes and sandy hair (who) is Britain's highest paid television star."

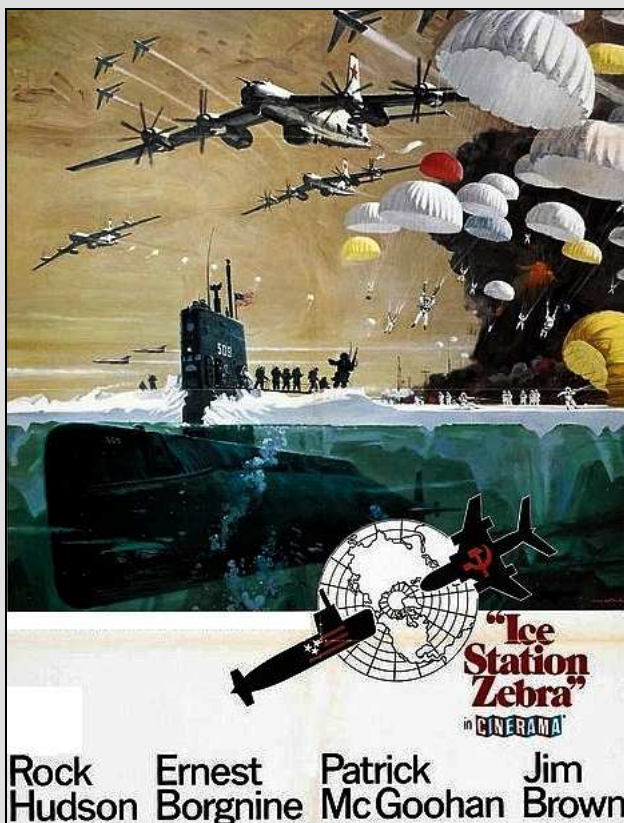


A review of the movie in *Variety* magazine praised the British actor: "(The) film's biggest acting asset is McGoohan, who gives his scenes that elusive 'star' magnetism. He is a most accomplished actor with a three-dimensional presence all his own."

In order to promote *Zebra* while it was still having a successful run, MGM held back the planned release of *2001: A Space Odyssey*. The space movie had been produced at MGM Borehamwood, where of course *The Prisoner* had been in months of production.

At the 1969 Oscars ceremony, *2001* won the Special Visual Effects category, although *Zebra* had also been nominated, as well as being up for the Best Cinematography award, but missing out on that one too.

Although *Zebra* might be blamed as contributing to the early demise of the *Prisoner* series, the movie can also be appreciated as a rare outing for McGoohan in a top flight Hollywood cinematic production.



ICE STATION ZEBRA IS AVAILABLE ON DVD AND BLU-RAY

