



Case No. SCSL-2003-01-T

THE PROSECUTOR OF
THE SPECIAL COURT
V.
CHARLES GHANKAY TAYLOR

WEDNESDAY, 4 AUGUST 2010
9.00 A.M.
TRIAL

TRIAL CHAMBER II

Before the Judges:

Justice Julia Sebutinde, Presiding
Justice Richard Lussick
Justice Teresa Doherty
Justice El Hadji Malick Sow, Alternate

For Chambers:

Ms Doreen Kiggundu

For the Registry:

Ms Rachel Irura
Ms Zainab Fofanah

For the Prosecution:

Mr Joseph F Kamara
Mr Nicholas Koumjian
Ms Maja Dimitrova

For the accused Charles Ghankay
Taylor:

Mr Courtenay Griffiths QC
Mr Morris Anyah
Mr Silas Chekera
Ms Logan Hambriick

1 Wednesday, 4 August 2010

2 [Open session]

3 [The accused present]

4 [Upon commencing at 9.04 a.m.]

09:04:06 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good morning. We'll take appearances
6 first, please.

7 MR KAMARA: Good morning, your Honours, learned friends on
8 the other side. For the Prosecution this morning,
9 Maja Dimitrova, Nicholas Koumjian and Joseph F Kamara.

09:04:24 10 MR GRIFFITHS: Good morning, Madam President, your Honours,
11 counsel opposite. For the Defence today, Courtenay Griffiths;
12 with me, Mr Silas Chekera, Ms Logan Hambrick and Mr Morris Anyah.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, welcome back to the Court,
14 and I hope that you are feeling much better this morning.

09:04:51 15 MR GRIFFITHS: Well, what I can say, Madam President, is
16 this: I'm not feeling 100 per cent and there may come a time
17 during the course of the day when, unfortunately, I might have to
18 ask for an adjournment.

19 JUDGE LUSSICK: Mr Griffiths, I'm very sympathetic with
09:05:08 20 your illness, but I, for one, think that the time has come where
21 you should delegate one of your other experienced lawyers to take
22 over the in-chief questioning of this witness if you become ill
23 again.

24 MR GRIFFITHS: Very well.

09:05:28 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, is your computer okay?

26 MR GRIFFITHS: I think so. I'm getting a transcript for
27 Friday, 18 June 2010. I don't know if it's the same for
28 everybody else.

29 JUDGE DOHERTY: So am I, but I notice that it is today's

1 transcript. It's just the date that's wrong.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Are we having problems with LiveNote? I
3 guess not. Let me just establish. No, there isn't anything
4 wrong with the LiveNote and the apparent errors will be corrected
09:06:27 5 in due course.

6 Mr Sesay, good morning, we continue with your testimony
7 this morning. And I remind you of the oath you took to tell the
8 truth. It's still binding on you today.

9 Please proceed, Mr Griffiths.

10 WITNESS: DCT-172 [On former oath]

11 EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR GRIFFITHS: [Cont'd]

12 Q. Mr Sesay, on Monday we were looking at the testimony of a
13 witness who spoke of accompanying you on a number of trips to
14 Monrovia, being present when, amongst other things, you gave
09:07:02 15 diamonds and \$150,000 US to Charles Taylor. Do you recall us
16 going through that testimony?

17 A. Yes, I do recall.

18 Q. And do you recall telling us that the particular individual
19 in question had only ever been with you once to Monrovia? Do you
09:07:24 20 recall that?

21 A. Yes, I do recall that.

22 Q. Now, the witness went on to tell these judges this, in
23 answer to this question. He's asked if there are any further
24 trips, and he says this:

09:07:46 25 "A. It was now going to the end" - and I'm looking at
26 page 15173, 2 September 2008 - "I mean the middle of 2001
27 when Opande came to Issa together with one of the
28 United Nations representatives based in Sierra Leone. I've
29 missed his name. They came to have a meeting convened in

1 Magburaka to discuss about the disarmament of child
2 combatants, and after that meeting Issa travelled to
3 Monrovia to brief Charles Taylor about the suggested
4 disarmament. That was the reason why he travelled to
09:08:30 5 Monrovia in the middle of 2001."
6 Pausing there, do you recall a meeting with General Opande
7 in Magburaka in the middle of 2001?
8 A. Well, I don't remember, but what I know is that myself and
9 General Opande and others used to hold meetings, but I don't
09:09:07 10 remember this specific meeting in the middle of 2001.
11 Q. Well, let me ask you about another detail, then. Do you
12 recall a meeting with Opande to discuss specifically the
13 disarmament of child combatants?
14 A. No, I did not hold such a meeting with General Opande.
09:09:31 15 Q. And the --
16 A. To disarm child soldiers.
17 Q. And the witness goes on to say that following that meeting,
18 you travelled to Monrovia to brief Charles Taylor about the
19 suggested disarmament of child soldiers. Did any such thing
09:09:52 20 occur, Mr Sesay?
21 A. Such a thing never happened. That never happened.
22 Q. Now, having got - having described who the witness was
23 referring to as child soldiers, the witness was asked this
24 question at page 15174:
09:10:24 25 "Q. And when it was suggested that these child combatants
26 be disarmed, what was Issa's response?
27 A. Issa responded to them, but he told them that he was
28 going to consult the RUF family because Issa was somebody
29 at any time someone told him something regarding the RUF,

1 he will tell you that he would want to go and consult the
2 RUF family first before taking the decision. So that was
3 how he operated. So he told them that he was going first
4 to consult the RUF commanders, and the meeting took place
09:11:02 5 in Magburaka. So when we returned to Kono, he told us that
6 he wanted to meet Charles Taylor, to brief Charles Taylor
7 and to get some advice from Charles Taylor.
8 Q. So when Issa travelled to see Charles Taylor on this
9 occasion, how did he travel to see Charles Taylor?
09:11:25 10 A. He travelled on board a vehicle from Koidu Town to
11 Foya, and he travelled by chopper from Foya to Monrovia.
12 He went to consult Charles Taylor regarding the disarmament
13 of the child combatants and that they met at the
14 Executive Mansion Ground in Monrovia. He met with
09:11:47 15 Charles Taylor, he consulted with him, and he told him that
16 Opande and the United Nations Secretary-General's
17 representative Adeniji had told him that he should disarm
18 the child combatants. But the first question
19 Charles Taylor asked him was whether that was safe for him,
09:12:08 20 and then later he told him that he shouldn't accept to
21 disarm to the UN at all. So he said he advised him that he
22 shouldn't disarm at all to the United Nations. He said the
23 United Nations were people who would talk nicely to you
24 today, and tomorrow they would turn around and arrest you,
09:12:29 25 so he asked Issa not to disarm to them at all. So Issa
26 just answered to him. He left and went home, and that was
27 at the guesthouse where he was lodged. He left and went
28 there, and in the morning he jumped on board the chopper
29 again and flew to Foya, and from there he drove to

1 Sierra Leone."

2 Now, what the witness was telling these judges is quite
3 clear, Mr Sesay: that you went to see Charles Taylor to discuss
4 the disarmament of child combatants, and Charles Taylor told you
09:13:10 5 not to disarm to the United Nations. Did you have any such
6 meeting with Charles Taylor, Mr Sesay?

7 A. I did not have such a meeting with Mr Taylor, and he never
8 told me not to disarm with the - to the UN.

9 Q. So what do you say about the testimony that this witness
09:13:44 10 gave to these judges?

11 A. It's a lie. Such a thing didn't happen.

12 Q. But the witness continued in this vein, question, line 27
13 page 15175:

14 "Q. What was Issa's reaction to Charles Taylor telling him
09:14:16 15 not to disarm?

16 A. Well, after he had loaded on board the chopper from
17 Monrovia and gone to Foya, and when he got there and loaded
18 on board his vehicle to Foya, he was grumbling to his
19 commanders that he was travelling with. He said he's not -
09:14:33 20 he is no longer going to do this. He said he doesn't
21 believe that he will continue taking instruction from
22 Charles Taylor. He said Charles Taylor is now living in
23 peace. Now they held the election and he won and he is now
24 the president. And he was saying that he took is going to
09:14:52 25 allow for the disarmament to take place so that he will be
26 able to give peace to his own people in Sierra Leone. That
27 was what Issa was grumbling. It was Issa. He said he was
28 no longer going to allow that. He said he will not
29 continue to take this kind of instruction from

1 Charles Taylor, and now that he is telling him that he
2 shouldn't allow himself to disarm to give his people peace,
3 he said he will not do that, and he, Charles Taylor, had
4 already given peace to his own people in Liberia because
09:15:29 5 they have conducted elections and he won and he is now in
6 power, but he doesn't want he, Issa, to give peace to his
7 own people."

8 Mr Sesay, is there any truth in any of this?

9 A. No. I did not have such a discussion with {redacted}, and
09:15:51 10 I did not tell any RUF commander such a thing.

11 Q. Now, the witness continued at a later stage in his
12 testimony in relation to the same incident in this way,
13 page 15188, line 6:

14 "Q. Mr Witness, you have told the Court about a trip that
09:16:25 15 Issa Sesay took to talk to Charles Taylor about disarming
16 child soldiers, and you indicated that after the meeting
17 with Charles Taylor, Issa was grumbling and said he didn't
18 think he would continue to follow the instructions. Now,
19 when Issa Sesay went back to Sierra Leone, what did he do
09:16:43 20 in regards to disarmament?

21 A. He followed the order that Opande gave to him. He
22 mobilised the child soldiers to be disarmed.

23 Q. Now, after he went back and began this disarmament,
24 what did he do with the arms and ammunition?

09:17:07 25 A. Some of the arms and ammunition were disarmed, but it
26 came to a time when Benjamin Yeaten said to him that
27 Charles Taylor had said the weapons and the remaining
28 rounds were to be sent back to Liberia because those were
29 his weapons. He was the one who supplied them to Issa, so

1 Issa should not use them to disarm."

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just pause. Mr Koumjian?

3 MR KOUMJIAN: I have a brief motion for - in private
4 session, please, for the protection of witnesses.

09:17:50

5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Madam Court Manager, please organise a
6 private session for the protection of witnesses.

7 Could one of you please switch off your microphones. We
8 have a ringing.

9 [At this point in the proceedings, a portion of
10 the transcript, pages 45334 to 45335, was
11 extracted and sealed under separate cover, as
12 the proceeding was heard in private session.]

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1 [Open session]

2 MS IRURA: Your Honour, we are in open session.

3 MR GRIFFITHS: Page 15189, please:

4 Q. Line 3:

09:21:54 5 "Q. Mr Witness, let's be clear on the record about this.
6 When you say that the arms were disarmed, can you explain
7 to the Court what you mean?

8 A. What particular set of arms are you talking about?

9 Q. You said that Issa went back and began to disarm the
09:22:12 10 child soldiers and then you said that the arms were
11 disarmed, what do you mean? "

12 And he goes on to explain that. Then line 25:

13 "Q. Now, Mr Witness, in your testimony you said it came a
14 time when Benjamin Yeaten said to him that Charles Taylor
09:22:30 15 had said the weapons and the remaining rounds were to be
16 sent back to Liberia. Benjamin Yeaten said this to whom?

17 A. He said this to Issa. He said Charles Taylor had said
18 that the arms that he had supplied him with, those that he
19 did not use, he should not use them to disarm with because
09:22:54 20 those arms belonged to him. He should not surrender these
21 arms, he should bring them back because they belonged to
22 him. He had given them to him."

23 And the witness goes on to say that he was referring to
24 Charles Taylor.

09:23:15 25 "Q. And when you say the arms should be brought back to
26 him, to whom should the arms be brought back?

27 A. He should they should take the arms back to Benjamin
28 Yeaten. They should meet Benjamin Yeaten in Vahun. At
29 that time Benjamin Yeaten was in Vahun when the instruction

1 came to Issa. He said Charles Taylor said the arms and
2 ammunition that he had given to him, those that he did not
3 use, he should assemble them and bring them to Benjamin
4 Yeaten because Charles Taylor had said he was the one who
09:23:52 5 had the weapons. He had given them the weapons. If he did
6 not use them, he should bring them back to him."
7 And then he goes on at the bottom of that page:
8 "Q. To bring the remaining arms from where?
9 A. The ones he sent. He, that's you, sent his bodyguard
09:24:18 10 to Gbarnga, for Banyan to collect the heavy weapons that
11 were there and the ammunition that he had in his possession
12 to be brought to Lebanon. And the ones that he had in
13 Lebanon, he put some into the jeep - the truck and the jeep
14 and took them to Vahun to Benjamin Yeaten."
09:24:42 15 Do you recall an event such as this, Mr Sesay?
16 A. No, I don't recall this. Because such an event did not
17 take place. Mr Taylor or Benjamin Yeaten, none of them gave me
18 arms when I became interim leader, no. When Mr Sankoh was
19 arrested, I had no arms from nobody. I was not given any arms.
09:25:15 20 The arms that the RUF had, I ensured that they gave them to the
21 UNAMSIL that disarmed with them, that's what happened.
22 Q. But the witness goes on to become quite specific,
23 page 15191, line 21:
24 "Q. And what exactly was taken to Vahun?
09:25:41 25 A. They went with ammunition, two Chinese 50 calibres and
26 a GPMG, an RPG, an AK rifle and G3 rifles."
27 And he goes on to describe the 50 calibre as a heavy weapon
28 that people mount in vehicles.
29 "At times they mount them on the ground, or at times in

1 vehicles. It should be operated by a team of seven people,
2 that is whenever it is mounted. It is a Chinese-made
3 weapon, a heavy weapon."

4 Mr Sesay, did you hand over that quantity of arms to
09:26:25 5 Benjamin Yeaten at Vahun during the course of disarmament in
6 2001?

7 A. No, that never happened. That never happened. I never
8 gave arms or ammunitions to Benjamin Yeaten from the - during the
9 disarmament of the RUF. That never happened.

09:26:53 10 Q. Now, this witness then goes on to relate another trip that
11 you made to Monrovia, page 15176, please. Now, I'll be corrected
12 if I'm wrong, but this appears to be the tenth trip that you made
13 to Monrovia. This trip is also in 2001 - line 23, page 15176:

14 "Q. In 2001, did Issa Sesay take any additional trips
09:27:39 15 outside of Sierra Leone?

16 A. He was - he did just - he did continue making trips
17 like that. He did not continue making trips like that. He
18 made a trip that I can recall outside Sierra Leone.

19 Q. And where did he go?

09:28:00 20 A. He went to Monrovia.

21 Q. And why did he go to Monrovia on this occasion?

22 A. He was invited by Benjamin Yeaten.

23 Q. And what happened when he arrived in Monrovia at the
24 invitation of Benjamin Yeaten?

09:28:15 25 A. Benjamin Yeaten told him that he called on Issa and he
26 said Charles Taylor told him that the materials that he had
27 given to him, he was to use them to enter Guinea. He said
28 that was the reason why he invited him, so that he will
29 come for them to discuss that."

1 Now, let's just pause there. Now, you will recall,
2 Mr Sesay, that following the previous trip described by this
3 witness, you were supposed to have handed back arms, taken them
4 to Vahun to give to Benjamin Yeaten. Now, the materials that you
09:29:05 5 are - that are being spoken of on this tenth trip, when had you
6 received that material from Charles Taylor to enter Guinea?

7 A. No, I did not receive ammunition from Mr Taylor to enter
8 Guinea, no, he never gave me such ammunitions to enter Guinea.

9 Q. Well, I want you to help us. On the one hand, you are
09:29:34 10 giving back materials to Benjamin Yeaten in Vahun. So why are
11 you giving that material back when Charles Taylor wants you to
12 enter Guinea and he's giving you more materials? Help us,
13 please, Mr Sesay, explain this?

14 A. No, I did not give ammunitions to Benjamin Yeaten, no arms,
09:30:05 15 and Mr Taylor did not give me ammunitions to enter Guinea.

16 During mid-2001 we were on disarmament. At that time, I had
17 disarmed Kambia and I disarmed Tonkolili. So we were holding
18 disarmament tripartite meetings with UNAMSIL. It was not to
19 fight any more. So if anybody told this Chamber that I hid arms
09:30:39 20 - or I handed over arms and ammunition to Benjamin Yeaten, that
21 was a lie. And Mr Taylor never gave me ammunitions to enter
22 Guinea.

23 Q. Well, I'm still having difficulty understanding, Mr Sesay.
24 So following the previous trip, according to the witness, you are
09:30:59 25 giving arms back to Liberia. So why are you giving arms back to
26 Liberia when, according to the witness, you need materials to
27 enter Guinea. What was going on?

28 A. Well, you know, these guys, they just make up stories.
29 This person just made up this story. It's not the true story.

1 That is not the way events happened, at all not - not at all.
2 This kind of event never happened that, during the disarmament, I
3 gave arms and ammunition to Benjamin and that I was given
4 ammunition to enter Guinea. No, those cross-border attacks
09:31:44 5 started from 1998. It started between the RUF and Guinea. So --

6 Q. Benjamin Yeaten --

7 JUDGE DOHERTY: Mr Griffiths, I'm sure I heard you read
8 from the transcript the word "materials" but the question and the
9 answer has focused on ammunition. Am I correct in my reading of
09:32:06 10 this? I'm just also looking at page 15176. Are you saying that
11 "materials" is ammunition?

12 MR GRIFFITHS: Well, I'm not saying that, and I'll ask the
13 witness. Well, let me go to what this witness told this Court
14 back in September. I'm looking at line - beginning at line 5 on
09:32:33 15 page 15177:

16 "Benjamin Yeaten told him that he called on Issa and he
17 said Charles Taylor told him that the materials that he had
18 given to him, he was to use them to enter Guinea. He said
19 that was the reason why he invited him, so that he will
09:32:52 20 come for them to discuss that."

21 Q. Now, did Mr Taylor or Benjamin Yeaten supply you with
22 materials, Mr Sesay, to enter Guinea?

23 A. No, not at all. He did not supply me with any materials to
24 enter Guinea.

09:33:17 25 Q. Line 14:

26 "Q. The materials that Charles Taylor supplied Issa with,
27 he said those were the materials that he was supposed to
28 use to enter Guinea.

29 Q. And did Benjamin Yeaten explain why Charles Taylor said

1 Issa should enter, use these materials to enter Guinea?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And why was he to do this?

09:33:48

4 A. He said it was that so as to be able to disturb the
5 Guineans, because the Guineans had been allowing the LURD
6 rebels to use their grounds to penetrate Liberia. He said
7 as long as the LURD rebels were coming from Guinea into
8 Liberia, he said he was also going to set a defensive
9 against Guinea, so he asked Issa to go and enter Guinea."

09:34:15

10 Were you ever asked by Charles Taylor or Benjamin Yeaten to
11 enter Guinea, Mr Sesay?

12 A. No. They never asked me to enter Guinea, no. And, even
13 what this witness is saying, when you look at it, the Guineans
14 had started attacking RUF positions in '98 in Kailahun, in Kono,
15 across - they used to cross over the border and attack RUF areas.
16 And even in '99 they attacked the Rokupr area --

09:34:42

17 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, could the witness be asked
18 to repeat the last thing that he said.

19 MR GRIFFITHS:

09:34:57

20 Q. Could you start again with that answer, please, because the
21 interpreter missed some of it.

22 A. I said when this witness speaks about LURD rebel and the
23 fight in Liberia, I said when the Guineans started crossing over
24 and attacking RUF position like Yenga in Kailahun and Kono, it
25 was in 1998. The cross-border attacks from the Guineans at
26 Rokupr was in 1999. And at that time in 1998, we had never heard
27 about the name "LURD rebel". So if LURD rebels - so if those
28 attacks had taken place before the LURD rebel - the name of the
29 LURD rebel came out in 1999, and if the LURD rebel were attacking

09:35:24

1 Mr Taylor in Liberia, Mr Taylor shares border with Guinea from
2 Mendekoma, which is the last village to enter Sierra Leone. And
3 from Mendekoma to Nimba, they share border there with Liberia.
4 They share border with Liberia in Lofa, Bong County, Nimba
09:36:13 5 County. Why would Liberia not have used their own territory to
6 repel LURD?

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Sesay, you mentioned a location before
8 Kailahun or in Kailahun, Yenga or something like that. What was
9 this location?

09:36:34 10 THE WITNESS: Yenga. It's a village between Koindu and the
11 river across the Guinea border where the Guineans had crossed
12 in July 1998.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Interpreter, could we have a spelling?

14 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, your Honours. It's Y-E-N-G-A.

09:37:13 15 MR GRIFFITHS:

16 Q. Now, going back to this account:

17 "Q. Now, what happened after Issa had this meeting with
18 Benjamin Yeaten?

19 A. Then Issa answered that okay, when on his return he
09:37:32 20 would go and plan with his other commanders.

21 Q. He would plan what?

22 A. He was going to attack how to plan Guinea.

23 Q. And what happened when Issa then left the meeting with
24 Benjamin Yeaten?

09:37:48 25 A. Nothing else happened. They only agreed on what
26 Benjamin Yeaten had invited him for.

27 Q. And what did Issa do after that meeting?

28 A. On his return, after the meeting, he immediately called
29 on Superman because by then Superman was in Liberia

1 fighting alongside Benjamin Yeaten in Voinjama. So he
2 called him to come back to Sierra Leone and he was replaced
3 by Matthew Barbue and they promoted him to a major general.
4 So Issa told Superman to go towards Kissidougou and he said
09:38:25 5 Morris Kallon should go towards Pamelap because he said
6 Benjamin Yeaten told him they were trying to assemble
7 another force that was supposed to enter through
8 Gueckedou."

9 Line 22:

09:38:43 10 "Q. Now where were they to receive these materials for
11 these operations? Where did they get the materials from?

12 A. They got the materials from Liberia.

13 Q. From who?

14 A. From Charles Taylor."

09:38:59 15 Now, you will recall, Mr Sesay, that this witness said that
16 following the trip you had made to Monrovia to consult with
17 Charles Taylor regarding the disarmament of the child combatants,
18 that you came back after that trip grumbling and saying that you
19 will not - he doesn't believe that he will continue taking
09:39:35 20 instructions from Charles Taylor.

21 Now, so why were you now on this tenth trip going back on
22 what you'd said earlier and following Charles Taylor's
23 instructions in entering Guinea? Why?

24 A. Well, as far as I know and what happened, in the case of
09:40:13 25 what this witness is saying, that that is what I said, that I was
26 not going to take further instruction from Mr Taylor, I am saying
27 that that did not happen. I never said that to anybody. And
28 from February 2001 when Superman left the RUF and went back to
29 Liberia, Superman never returned to Sierra Leone. And Superman

1 never went to Kissidougou from the RUF territory. That is a lie.
2 It's a lie.

3 Q. Was there a time when you replaced Superman with Matthew
4 Barbue and promoted him to a Major General?

09:40:58 5 A. No, Matthew Barbue never came became a major general.
6 Matthew Barbue was a colonel until the time of his disarmament in
7 Makeni. And I told you that Matthew Barbue was a commander. I
8 said that the last time. He was the commander from around Fadugu
9 to Binkolo in part of '99 to 2001 until the disarmament and he
09:41:28 10 never became a brigadier general. Not even a major general, no.
11 I did not become a major general and I was the interim leader.
12 Who else could have become a major general amongst the
13 commanders? No.

14 Q. What nationality was Matthew Barbue?

09:41:51 15 A. Matthew Barbue was a Liberian but he trained with the RUF
16 and he was a vanguard. All of us trained together at Camp Naama.
17 And as we are speaking now, he is still living in Makeni because
18 he got married to a native of Makeni, in Makeni Town.

19 Q. Page 15179, line 8:

09:42:22 20 "Superman was replaced by Matthew Barbue and Matthew Barbue
21 was promoted to a major general. Matthew Barbue was an RUF
22 vanguard but he was a Liberian.

23 Q. And who promoted him to major general?

24 A. The agreement was between Benjamin Yeaten and Issa.
09:42:41 25 The two of them joined together and promoted him.

26 Q. Now, you've told the Court that it was planned to
27 attack Pamelap and Kissidougou. Did these attacks occur?

28 A. Yes, they occurred.

29 Q. And was the attack on Pamelap successful.

1 A. It was successful.

2 Q. And how long did the attackers remain in Guinea at
3 Pamelap?

09:43:12

4 A. They were there for almost a month because they were
5 there for more than three weeks.

6 Q. And what year did this occur?

7 A. It occurred at the end of 2001."

09:43:39

8 Now, at the end of 2001, Mr Sesay, bearing in mind that the
9 war was declared over in January 2002, what were you and members
10 of the RUF doing at the end of 2001?

11 A. Well, at the end of 2001, I used to have meetings with
12 General Opande at places like Tongo Field, Kailahun, about the
13 disarmament in those areas. Because around the end of 2001 it
14 was only Tongo Field, Kailahun and Makeni that had not yet
15 disarmed. So in Makeni we did a disarmament around November and
16 that was the same with Tongo Field, and Kailahun was
17 around December of 2001. So those are the programmes that I was
18 engaged in.

09:44:19

19 Q. Now, it may be of assistance for us to look at this -
20 remind ourselves at this stage of exhibit P-28, bearing in mind
21 that this promotion of Matthew Barbue happened at the end of
22 2001, page 15179. Now, just two points: Note the date,
23 20 January 2001. And then when you look, you see at number 2,
24 Major General Matthew Barbue. Was Matthew Barbue a major general
25 in January 2001 or at any other time?

09:46:56

26 A. No, on the 20th January 2001 Matthew Barbue - on the
27 20th January 2001 Matthew Barbue was a colonel at this time. He
28 was a colonel and he was staying in Makeni.

29 Q. Was he at any stage in 2001 a major general?

1 A. No, he did not become a major general.

2 Q. Do you know of a colonel - we can put that away, please.

3 Page 15186, please, just to complete this particular piece of
4 testimony on this topic. Page 15186, line 20:

09:48:14 5 "Q. Do you know the names of any other RUF commanders who
6 were in Liberia fighting against the LURD?" Line 25.

7 "A. One called Colonel Eagle. There was CO Harry too."
8 First of all, who is Colonel Eagle?

9 A. Eagle is Karmoh Kanneh.

09:48:45 10 Q. Did you send Karmoh Kanneh to Liberia to fight against
11 LURD?

12 A. No, I did not send Karmoh Kanneh to go and fight against
13 LURD.

14 Q. Do you know if Karmoh Kanneh in fact entered Liberia to
09:49:07 15 fight LURD with or without an order from you?

16 A. Well, I did not send him there. And before the
17 disarmament, I did not know of him crossing over the border to go
18 and fight against LURD. I did not know about that. Except if it
19 happened after the disarmament, but before that, I did not know
09:49:32 20 about that.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: This name Karmoh Kanneh is already on the
22 record I believe?

23 MR GRIFFITHS: Yes, it is.

24 MR KOU MJIAN: And just so that there's - to remind
09:49:49 25 everyone, Karmoh Kanneh testified openly. We earlier read
26 testimony from Karmoh Kanneh about being sent to Liberia to fight
27 LURD.

28 MR GRIFFITHS:

29 Q. Now, moving on to another topic raised during the course of

1 the testimony of this witness, and it relates to diamonds,
2 Mr Sesay. And I'd welcome your assistance with this.

3 Page 15192, line 5:

09:50:36 4 "Q. Mr Witness, earlier you testified about Mr Sesay
5 taking diamonds to Monrovia and giving diamonds to
6 Charles Taylor. Where did Issa Sesay get the diamonds that
7 he was giving to Charles Taylor?

8 A. He got them from Kono and Tongo.

9 Q. And did Issa ever say anything about how many diamonds
09:51:00 10 he took to Charles Taylor?

11 A. He said something about it sometime in 2002.

12 Q. And what did he say?

13 A. In 2002, when the RUF had been transformed into a
14 political party, the man he was appointed to be the
09:51:20 15 presidential candidate of the RUF asked Issa what his
16 account was, and he said he hadn't any account but that he
17 had - he had diamonds with Charles Taylor, up to 5,000
18 carats, and he had \$150,000 that he had given to
19 Charles Taylor for safekeeping. And Charles Taylor had
09:51:48 20 said any time elections would be coming close he would
21 assist the RUF and that was why he was keeping the
22 diamonds. "

23 I will continue in a moment, but I pause to seek your
24 assistance with this: What's the name of the man who was
09:52:08 25 appointed to be presidential candidate of the RUF?

26 A. Dr Palo Bangura.

27 Q. And just to be sure about this, the first name is spelt in
28 what way?

29 A. P-A-L-O.

1 Q. Do you recall a conversation with Dr Palo Bangura when he
2 asked you for an account?

3 A. Dr Palo never asked me about an account and I never
4 discussed with him about any account or about any diamonds given
09:53:03 5 to Mr Taylor. I never told Dr Palo that.

6 Q. Specifically, had you given some 5,000 carats worth of
7 diamonds to Charles Taylor, along with \$150,000?

8 A. It's a lie. Where can I get 5,000 carats from? That's a
9 lie. I never gave such a diamond to Mr Taylor. Never did I even
09:53:36 10 give him \$150,000. That never happened.

11 Q. Question, line 22:

12 "Q. Now, you testified that Charles Taylor had said that
13 he was going to hold on to the diamonds that were given to
14 him by Issa and by Sam Bockarie to give to Foday Sankoh
09:53:54 15 when Foday Sankoh was released. To your knowledge, did
16 Foday Sankoh ever receive those diamonds from
17 Charles Taylor?

18 A. Well, he did not receive them in my presence and,
19 in fact, he did not receive them because Foday Sankoh was
09:54:11 20 not released, he died in detention."

21 Over the page:

22 "Q. To your knowledge did Issa Sesay ever receive these
23 diamonds?

24 A. No, he did not receive them.

09:54:27 25 Q. To your knowledge, did anyone in the RUF receive those
26 diamonds that Charles Taylor held?

27 A. No, nobody in the RUF received them.

28 Q. You have also testified about Issa Sesay meeting a
29 person known as Alpha Bravo and on one occasion taking

1 diamonds to Alpha Bravo. Were there any other times that
2 diamonds were taken to Alpha Bravo?

3 A. Yes, but he did not go. He used to send one of his
4 securities to Eddie Kanneh. Eddie Kanneh, in turn, would
09:55:04 5 meet Five Zero and they would take the diamonds to Alpha
6 Bravo.

7 Q. Who was Five Zero?

8 A. Five Zero was a code name for Benjamin Yeaten. He was
9 called Unit 50, again, Benjamin Yeaten.

09:55:22 10 Q. And how many times did that happen?

11 A. It happened about two times, that I can recall now."
12 Did you have such an arrangement with Eddie Kanneh, Alpha
13 Bravo and Benjamin Yeaten, Mr Sesay?

14 A. No, I never had such an arrangement with Eddie Kanneh. I
09:55:51 15 never sought an arrangement with Eddie Kanneh - never took place,
16 that I sent my security to go and give him diamonds, no.

17 Q. Over the page, please, 15194:

18 "Q. Now, in addition to diamonds being given to
19 Charles Taylor and to Alpha Bravo, during the time that
09:56:19 20 Issa Sesay was the leader of the RUF were diamonds given to
21 anyone else?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And to whom were diamonds given?

24 A. Eddie Kanneh brought a man from Belgium also. His name
09:56:35 25 was Minie.

26 Q. And can you help us with the spelling of this man's
27 name, Minie?

28 A. M-I-N-I-E.

29 Q. And then what happened when Eddie Kanneh brought this

1 Belgium man Minie?

2 A. They communicated to Issa. He said he had got another
3 man who was a diamond dealer, that he would be coming from
4 Belgium to Liberia, so he would want to start a business
09:57:08 5 with him. So Issa told Eddie Kanneh and asked him where
6 the man was to base, and he said the man was to base in
7 Liberia. So he dispatched one of his bodyguards, together
8 with Rashid Foday, and Rashid Foday escorted the bodyguard
9 to Foya with the diamonds. To my knowledge, it was about
09:57:35 10 350 pieces and he gave them to Eddie Kanneh for Eddie
11 Kanneh to take them to Minie."

12 Who is Minie from Belgium, Mr Sesay?

13 A. I don't know anybody called Minie. I only know Sammy.

14 Q. Did you ever have any dealings, either directly or through
09:58:04 15 Eddie Kanneh, with a diamond dealer called Minie?

16 A. No. I have testified about the man that I know, but this
17 Minie, I don't know that person.

18 Q. But the witness goes on to give some more detail, and
19 perhaps I should remind you of this detail, line 22:

09:58:36 20 "Q. What happened then after the diamonds were taken to
21 Eddie Kanneh?

22 A. The bodyguard who brought the diamonds, he met Eddie
23 Kanneh in Monrovia, and he and Eddie Kanneh came to an
24 hotel, Palm Africa, Palm Hotel, that was where Minie was
09:58:58 25 lodged and they gave the diamonds to Minie. Between three
26 days to one week later, Minie called Eddie Kanneh and said
27 Issa had said he was going to send 40 carats of diamonds to
28 him and the bodyguard was to go to Vahun and receive the
29 person who was to bring the diamonds. So the bodyguard

1 moved to Monrovi a at night and received this 40 carats and
2 brought it back to Eddie Kanneh and the diamonds were taken
3 to Minie.

09:59:39

4 Q. Now, where was it that the bodyguard was given those 40
5 carats of diamonds?

6 A. Vahun. They met in Vahun with the person who had come
7 from Kono.

8 Q. And in the 40 carats of diamonds, where were they taken
9 after they were given to the bodyguard in Vahun?

09:59:57

10 A. The bodyguard took the diamonds to Monrovi a to Eddie
11 Kanneh and Eddie Kanneh and the bodyguard went to Minie in
12 Palm Hotel in Monrovi a."

13 And then this, page 15196, line 10:

10:00:20

14 "Q. When the 40 carats were taken to Monrovia, what
15 happened?

16 A. They took them to Minie. Minie was resided in Palm
17 Hotel, Monrovi a.

18 Q. And what happened then?

10:00:35

19 A. From there, he and Issa spoke, and they agreed on
20 US \$200,000 but Minie said he would only give 150,000 but,
21 when he would go to Ivory Coast, was where he would invite
22 Eddie Kanneh to give the money to him. Then Eddie Kanneh,
23 in turn would, then bring the money to Issa."

10:01:03

24 And the witness goes on to say that you communicated with
25 Minie via a satellite phone. Did you do a deal with Minie for
26 diamonds worth 200,000 United States dollars, Mr Sesay?

27 A. Not at all, no.

28 Q. Another topic, Mr Sesay, and it's this: Do you know of
29 Foday Sankoh in 1992 travelling to Gbarnga to get arms and

1 ammunition from Charles Taylor?

2 A. No, that did not happen in '92.

3 Q. Page 15102, please - testimony of 2 September 2008, line
4 29:

10:02:48 5 "Q. Now you have testified that you went on trips with
6 Foday Sankoh in 1992 to Gbarnga to get arms and ammunition
7 from Charles Taylor. How many trips did you accompany
8 Foday Sankoh on?

9 A. Personally, I went with him on two of the trips in
10:03:05 10 1992. Those other trips that you have said he took with
11 other of his bodyguards, how did you know about those other
12 trips?

13 A. I was with Foday Sankoh at the Mansion Ground in
14 Kailahun. We had a ground in Kailahun that we referred to
10:03:23 15 as Mansion Ground. At this Mansion Ground there is many of
16 us who were bodyguards. So any time he went, he will not
17 go with all of us, he will pick some of us; he would choose
18 from among us and go with them; and the next trip take some
19 other bodyguards, not the previous ones he had used. So
10:03:43 20 whenever he would be returning, if he brought loads, we
21 would stay behind, we would off-load them and put them into
22 the store, that was how I knew."

23 Do you know anything about any such trips, Mr Sesay?

24 A. No. In '92? No.

10:04:09 25 MS IRURA: Your Honour, this is private session material.

26 MR GRIFFITHS:

27 Q. Mr Sesay, help me with this --

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, are we done with the
29 passage that you were dealing with? Personally, I do not think

1 that there's any danger in the excerpt already out on the public
2 record, but, Mr Koumjian, what do you think? Should this be
3 redacted?

4 MR KOUMJIAN: I don't believe so at this point.

10:05:15 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. Please proceed.

6 MR GRIFFITHS:

7 Q. Mr Sesay, the individual we are discussing, when did that
8 person join the RUF?

9 A. He joined the RUF in '91.

10:05:38 10 Q. Where?

11 A. Kailahun Town.

12 Q. Are you feeling okay, Mr Sesay?

13 A. No, I'm feeling pain in my teeth. But we can go ahead.

14 MR GRIFFITHS: I'm sorry, I missed that. What did you say?
10:06:06 15 What's the problem?

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: He has a toothache, but he says we can go
17 ahead.

18 MR GRIFFITHS:

19 Q. And was there a Mansion Ground in Kailahun?

10:06:24 20 A. Yes, '91, '92. There was a place where Mr Sankoh stayed
21 called Mansion, and there were places in Pendembu, Kailahun Town
22 and Koindu, in '91, '92.

23 Q. And was there a store at the Mansion Ground in Kailahun
24 where war materials were stored?

10:06:56 25 A. It was Pendembu 1991. That was where there was a store
26 where Mr Sankoh used to park ammunition.

27 Q. But was there one in Kailahun, a store?

28 A. No. I did not see that in Kailahun, because I used to
29 visit Mr Sankoh's house in 1992, but I did not see an ammunition

1 store there, because in 1992, Mr Sankoh did not bring ammunition.

2 Q. Did you, at any stage in 1992, see Mr Sankoh bring arms and
3 ammunition either both or individually from Gbarnga to Kailahun?

4 A. No. 1992, that did not happen.

10:08:09 5 Q. Let's move to another topic. Page 15227, line 4.

6 MR KOUMJIAN: Excuse me. May I just review this? I think
7 this is private session. I think it's just safer to read private
8 session in private session but I agree that certainly not every
9 single word would reveal the identity of the witness, and if
10:08:40 10 we're going to read it, then I just need a moment to review it.

11 MR GRIFFITHS: I hope this assists, but I'll be looking at
12 page 15227 through to page 15236.

13 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honour, my understanding is on this -
14 the way this witness's testimony was broken down, the private
10:09:29 15 session was specifically to deal with information that would have
16 revealed the identity of the witness. The witness talked about
17 certain events, and then in private session revealed his own role
18 in those events. So I think it should be in private session.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, unless you have any serious
10:09:48 20 objection, I am going to order a private session.

21 MR GRIFFITHS: No.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Madam Court Manager, please arrange a
23 private session, for the protection of a witness.

24 [At this point in the proceedings, a portion of
25 the transcript, pages 45355 to 45364, was
26 extracted and sealed under separate cover, as
27 the proceeding was heard in private session.]
28
29

1 [Open session]

2 MS IRURA: Your Honour, we are in open session.

3 MR GRIFFITHS:

4 Q. Was FOC at Magburaka to meet that shipment?

10:33:11 5 A. No, no. He was not there.

6 Q. If someone were to say that both Mike Lamin and FOC were at
7 Magburaka, would that statement be truthful or would it be a lie?

8 A. That is a lie. It's a lie because - it's a lie because I
9 left both of them in Freetown when I went with SO Williams and we
10:33:52 10 used helicopter to go. And I did not go with any other bodyguard
11 because I met the RUF who were already in Magburaka and Makeni,
12 Kailondo and Rambo. I met them at the airfield, Mayagba. So
13 those two names, Mike and FOC, they were in Freetown, they were
14 not in Mayagba Town.

10:34:17 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Interpreter, what is the name of that
16 location?

17 THE INTERPRETER: Mayagba.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please spell it.

19 THE INTERPRETER: M-A-Y-A-G-B-A.

10:34:33 20 MR GRIFFITHS:

21 Q. Right. Now, I want to ask you about a different witness
22 now, Mr Sesay. Mr Sesay, help me with this: When did Isaac
23 Mongor come to Camp Naama?

24 A. It was in - it was in late December or January
10:35:40 25 - December 1990 or January 1991. It was between those two
26 periods.

27 Q. And do you know how it was that he came to go to Camp
28 Naama?

29 A. Yes, I later knew that in Camp Naama that it was Pa Kallon

1 who was advisor to Mr Sankoh who recruited Isaac Mongor at
2 Harbel. He was the one who connected him to Mr Sankoh.

3 Q. How do you know that, Mr Sesay?

4 A. Mamie I used to come to Camp Naama. Mamie I used to Camp
10:36:39 5 Naama. He used to prepare food for us, the recruits, and I used
6 to see her and Isaac discuss, and I understood that later. And
7 even Isaac himself said that later, because Pa Kallon's child who
8 was at the base, Raka, was very close to Isaac Mongor. So he had
9 known him before that time.

10:37:03 10 Q. Raka, what is that?

11 A. It's a name. Pa Kallon's --

12 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, could the gender of the
13 child be specified by the witness.

14 MR GRIFFITHS:

10:37:18 15 Q. Could you say that again, please, Mr Sesay. Raka, what is
16 that?

17 A. I said Raka is a name; it's Pa Kallon's last child,
18 R-A-K-A, Raka.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Is that a boy or a girl?

10:37:38 20 THE WITNESS: A boy.

21 MR GRIFFITHS:

22 Q. So just to be clear, Mr Sesay, your knowledge of how Isaac
23 Mongor came to be at Camp Naama came from who?

24 A. I said I heard from Raka, because I used to see him close
10:38:01 25 to Isaac Mongor and Raka told me that he knew him from Harbel,
26 and every other time Mamie I used to come to the place and
27 prepare food for us, sometimes she would be there for two or
28 three days. I saw that Isaac was close to her, and Isaac too
29 said it, that it was through Pa Kallon that he came to know Mr

1 Sankoh. He said that at the base.

2 Q. That's what Isaac Mongor himself said; that it was Pa
3 Kallon who?

4 A. He introduced him to Mr Sankoh.

10:38:39 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Sesay, how old was Raka when he told
6 you this?

7 THE WITNESS: Raka was around 13 to 14 years, because that
8 - that is the same name that I carry - I carry; it was a society
9 name, so he was fond of me.

10:39:12 10 MR GRIFFITHS:

11 Q. And so just to be clear, you heard this from Raka, did you
12 also hear this from Mamie I?

13 A. I heard it from Mamie I and I heard it from Isaac himself
14 at the base.

10:39:29 15 Q. Did Isaac himself ever say to you at the base that he had
16 been sent by Charles Taylor to train the RUF?

17 A. No. Isaac never told me that - such a story, throughout
18 the time we spent at Naama. And even the time he and I were
19 together, even during the war in Sierra Leone, he never told me
10:39:55 20 that.

21 Q. Now, at Camp Naama, Mr Sesay, were you aware of any
22 Sierra Leoneans who had been detained by the NPFL and who had
23 been released from jail and taken to Camp Naama?

24 A. No. I never knew about that.

10:41:10 25 Q. During the training at Camp Naama, Mr Sesay, do you recall
26 Foday Sankoh mentioning Charles Taylor to the recruits?

27 A. No.

28 Q. Could we have a look, please, at testimony at page 5667
29 from the 10th of March 2008, this was in open session, line 9:

1 "Q. Now, you mentioned that Foday Sankoh was at Camp
2 Naama. Did you hear Foday Sankoh speaking to the recruits?

3 A. Yes. Foday Sankoh used to speak to the recruits.

10:43:15

4 Q. Do you recall now anything that he would tell the
5 recruits at Camp Naama?

6 A. Well, he used to tell them that Sierra Leone had a one
7 party system at that time, so the country was corrupt, and
8 that he was training them for them to go and free the
9 people from that one party system and for them to take over
10 power and rule the country. So those were the things that
11 he used to tell the men during parades, and that they
12 should be strong and that she should be courageous.

10:43:39

13 Q. Did he ever indicate, that you can recall, how he would
14 accomplish this task of taking over the country in

10:44:02

15 Sierra Leone?"

16 Now, this answer:

17 "A. Well, he used to say that, 'When you are here and you
18 are training I can say I am a poor man, I don't have money;
19 but all that I am doing here, it is my brother, who is
20 Mr Taylor, that is doing it'. So that was what he used to
21 tell the men."

10:44:20

22 Now, do you recall Foday Sankoh ever saying such a thing to
23 the men at Camp Naama, Mr Sesay?

24 A. No, I don't recall that. To say that everything that he
25 was doing there, it was his brother who was doing that, I never
26 heard Mr Sankoh say that during parade. Yes, he used to address
27 us during parades during the morning hours, but I never heard
28 such a thing.

10:44:45

29 "Q. Would you, yourself, ever talk privately with Foday

1 Sankoh?

2 A. Yes, I used to talk with Foday Sankoh.

3 Q. Did Foday Sankoh ever mention Mr Taylor in your
4 discussions with him?

10:45:16 5 A. Yes, he used to talk about Mr Taylor.

6 Q. Can you recall now anything he said about Mr Taylor?

7 A. Well, he said that Mr Taylor was his brother and that
8 what he was doing - that is when he was training those men,
9 it was Mr Taylor who was doing it for him, and that after

10:45:36 10 the completion of the training for them to go, it was
11 Mr Taylor that he depended on to do everything. And so
12 even myself, he used to encourage me and he used to tell me
13 that the job I was doing, I should exercise patience and
14 bear with him.

10:45:53 15 Q. Did Foday Sankoh ever tell you how he met Mr Taylor?

16 A. Yes, he said Mr Taylor and himself had met for a long
17 time. He said at one time he was in prison in Ghana and it
18 was Mr Taylor who fought hard for him to be released and
19 that they had all gone to Libya and undergone training, so
10:46:15 20 those were the things he told us."

21 Did Mr Sankoh ever tell you about being imprisoned in
22 Ghana, Mr Sesay?

23 A. No. I never heard that from Mr Sankoh.

24 Q. Or that it was Mr Taylor who had secured his release from
10:46:37 25 prison in Ghana?

26 A. No. I never heard that from Mr Sankoh.

27 Q. Yes. Now this: In 1993, Mr Sesay, what was the position,
28 so far as the border between Liberia and Sierra Leone. Could you
29 cross it?

1 A. Yes, in 1993 ULIMO had occupied Lofa county and ULIMO was
2 in control of the border between Liberia and Sierra Leone.

3 Q. During that year, 1993, to your knowledge, were the RUF
4 involved in any military actions inside Liberia?

10:48:02 5 A. No, no.

6 Q. Are you sure about that, Mr Sesay?

7 A. Very well. Yes.

8 Q. Page 5677, please, testimony of the 10th of March 2008;
9 line 21:

10:48:30 10 "Q. When you say you would go there to fight, you would go
11 where to fight, Mr Witness?

12 A. I will go to Liberia to fight.

13 Q. Okay. Do you recall what year it was when you went to
14 Liberia to fight?

10:48:46 15 A. It was in 1993 when the ULIMO occupied Voinjama. So
16 Foday Sankoh called me and said his brother said I should
17 send troops to clear that place. When I'm talking about
18 Foday Sankoh's brother, I am referring to Mr Taylor. So I
19 went with troops, and NPFL too were coming from Gbarnga
10:49:21 20 end, fighting to come to Voinjama, where we were all to
21 meet at that place to ensure that we had cleared the place.
22 So I fought there and I captured Voinjama from the ULIMO.
23 That was the fight I went for that I told you about.

24 Q. When you were fighting in Liberia after receiving this
10:49:45 25 direction from Foday Sankoh, who were you reporting to in
26 Liberia?

27 A. Well, I was reporting to - because the time we were
28 fighting I joined with one other NPFL man, who is called
29 General Fayia. He was in charge of the Lofa end, so I

1 joined forces with him to fight and so whatever we were
2 doing I reported to him.

3 Q. Now, Mr Witness, the troops that you had under your
4 command in this fighting in Lofa, who were they, who were
10:50:26 5 these troops?

6 A. They were RUF men."

7 Line 25:

8 "Q. How long did you remain in this fighting in Lofa
9 County?

10:50:39 10 A. Well, I was in Lofa, in Voinjama, I spent about a month
11 about some days and then I left."

12 Mr Sesay, do you recall anything like this ever occurring?

13 A. No. I don't recall this and this did not happen. Because
14 in '93 Isaac was in Pendembu until the time the government troops
10:51:20 15 pushed us out of Pendembu. In fact, he was operating the heavy
16 weapon, the 106 missile that we had captured from - from the NPRC
17 troops in Baiima in '92. It was Isaac who was operating that
18 weapon in '93. So he was in Pendembu until the time we were
19 being pushed by the government troops. And even during the time
10:51:43 20 Mr Sankoh said we should repel the attack in Pendembu when I got
21 wounded, I and Isaac - all of us went on that attack. He was
22 operating the BZT. But I never heard that he went to Liberia to
23 fight.

24 Q. And Isaac, Isaac who?

10:52:01 25 A. Isaac Mongor.

26 Q. Now, Mr Sesay, are you quite - are you confident that there
27 was no RUF men fighting in Lofa in 1993?

28 A. Yes, I'm quite confident. I have the confidence that no
29 RUF man went to fight in Lofa in 1993, because at this time

1 Mr Sankoh and Mr Taylor were not in good terms because since the
2 withdrawal of the NPFL from Sierra Leone, that made Mr Sankoh
3 very angry with Mr Taylor. So you would realise that there was
4 no relationship between them at the time the ULIMO had taken Lofa
10:53:01 5 from the NPFL.

6 Q. Mr Sesay, weren't you one of the RUF men who went to fight
7 in Lofa in 1993?

8 A. No. I did not fight in Lofa. I did not fight in Lofa.

9 Q. Page 5681, line 13:

10:53:24 10 "Q. Now, Mr Witness, you've talked about this operation
11 that you were on in Lofa County. When you left Lofa
12 County, did anyone replace you?

13 A. Yes, somebody replaced me. It was Morris Kallon and
14 Issa Sesay.

10:53:44 15 Q. And were they - do you know if they were engaged in
16 fighting in Lofa against ULIMO also?

17 A. Yes, they too were fighting against ULIMO.

18 Q. What happened to Kallon and Sesay's group, if you know?

19 A. Well, Issa Sesay was taken from there and when he came
10:54:04 20 back to Sierra Leone, Morris Kallon was there then. Morris
21 Kallon was still there, but they fought but couldn't - they
22 couldn't dislodge the ULIMOs. Since they could not
23 overpower the ULIMOs, he planned to take a bypass to go to
24 Gbarnga but they couldn't make it up and the manpower that
10:54:27 25 he had, all of them were killed and Morris Kallon was able
26 to escape. He survived that attack.

27 Q. Did he return immediately to Sierra Leone, do you know?

28 A. He returned but not immediately after the incident. It
29 took some time before he came.

1 Q. Were Morris Kallon and Issa Sesay fighting along with
2 any other forces - any allies in that fighting in Lofa?

3 A. Yes, I want to tell you, I want to tell the Court, the
4 RUF was the NPFL's younger brother, and whenever NPFL would
10:55:12 5 get an attack from ULIMOs, their younger brother, which was
6 the RUF, will go there and fight together.

7 Q. So you indicated, Mr Witness, that the Kallon group was
8 defeated in Lofa County at that time. Did that apply also
9 to NPFL forces in Lofa County at that time?

10:55:31 10 A. Yes. The NPFL together with the RUF could not occupy
11 the position where the ULIMOs were."

12 So according to this witness, you were involved in that
13 fighting in Lofa in 1993. What do you say about this, Mr Sesay?

14 A. I did not take part in any fighting in Lofa in 1993. I was
10:55:57 15 not involved.

16 Q. Was Morris Kallon then involved in fighting in Lofa in
17 1993?

18 A. No. Morris Kallon was a battalion commander in '93.

19 Q. And where was he based in '93?

10:56:16 20 A. He was in Buedu and he was in Koindu. And that was after
21 Mr Sankoh had withdrawn him from the Baiwala area.

22 Q. Now, after ULIMO closed the border, was there communication
23 still going on between the RUF and Liberia? Was there
24 communication between the RUF and anyone in Liberia after ULIMO
10:56:59 25 closed the border?

26 A. Yes, because some of the RUF vanguards were Liberians, they
27 had their families in Liberia. And like Nya, he was an operator,
28 so they used to send messages to their families. I was aware of
29 that.

1 Q. And how would they send messages to their families?

2 A. Well, for example, Nya was a radio operator, he would
3 contact another radio operator and then give the message.

10:57:39

4 Q. And did that contact, after the border was closed, include
5 contact with Charles Taylor?

6 A. No. I told you that during this time in '93 Mr Sankoh was
7 embittered by Mr Taylor's behaviour because - as a result of the
8 withdrawal of his troops and the lack of support. So from '92 to
9 '93, that meant Mr Sankoh not to have any business with

10:58:12

10 Mr Taylor. And he used to say it, because sometimes I was with
11 him when the government troops captured the last village from us
12 in November from Baidu and from Baidu you have to cross the
13 border and go to Mendekoma. And I was there when Mr Sankoh stood
14 in front of all the fighters and he swore that he would never

10:58:34

15 speak to Mr Taylor because Mr Taylor has tried to sabotage his
16 mission. And then he said he will never cross into Liberia,
17 instead he was go into the jungle and open - establish places to
18 live in the jungle. He said since then he was going to transform
19 his programme into a guerilla warfare. So at this time I know
20 that Mr Sankoh had no dealings with Mr Taylor.

10:58:53

21 Q. November of which year?

22 A. November of '93 when the RUF were finally pushed - flushed
23 out of all the villages in Kailahun Town - I mean Kailahun
24 District, when RUF and Mr Sankoh went into the bush. I'm saying
25 that that day Mr Sankoh was grumbling because from '92 Mr Taylor
26 never cooperated with Mr Sankoh, so that resulted into the RUF
27 being pushed to the borderline. So Mr Sankoh was - he swore and
28 he was saying bitter things against Mr Taylor.

10:59:17

29 Q. I asked for this reason - page 5688, testimony of the same

1 witness, 10 March 2008:

2 "Q. Mr Witness, during the time that the border was
3 closed, was there any communication going on with Liberia?

10:59:59

4 A. Yes. Communication used to go on with Liberia because
5 we had a communications set and the one that had been sent
6 to us by Mr Taylor. After that particular one we had
7 already, we had also captured some other communications
8 sets that were now with us.

9 Q. Now, do you know if Foday Sankoh was using the radio?

11:00:21

10 A. Yes, Foday Sankoh used the radio.

11 Q. Do you know who he communicated with on the radio?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Who would he talk to or communicate with?

11:00:36

14 A. Well, he used to talk to his brother who is called
15 Mr Taylor."

16 Is that statement true or false, Mr Sesay?

11:01:04

17 A. That statement is a lie because after the RUF - after the
18 RUF had been dislodged in Kailahun by the NPRC, we then went into
19 the various villages by the borderline. This particular witness
20 - this particular witness was in a nearby village close to where
21 I was and by then I had the radio set. Throughout,

22 from November of 1993 to June of 1994, this man, except that he
23 came to visit me where I was, that is the only - and to hear
24 people speak over the radio. But where he was, they never had a
25 radio set there. So how did he manage to monitor communication
26 between Mr Sankoh and Mr Taylor when he never had a radio set?
27 So this is a lie.

11:01:31

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, in view of the time we'll
29 take the midmorning break and reconvene at 11.30.

1 [Break taken at 11.02 a.m.]

2 [Upon resuming at 11.34 a.m.]

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, Mr Griffiths, please continue.

4 MR GRIFFITHS:

11:34:42 5 Q. Mr Sesay, the events which led to Operation Stop Election,
6 who gave the order for that?

7 A. It was Mr Sankoh.

8 Q. At the time that Mr Sankoh gave that order, was Mr Sankoh
9 in contact with Charles Taylor?

11:35:33 10 A. No, as far as I knew, they were not in contact with each
11 other.

12 Q. Very well. Let's have a look at some more testimony, shall
13 we, page 5688, testimony of 10 March 2008, line 16:

14 "Q. Mr Witness, do you recall elections in Sierra Leone?

11:35:59 15 A. Yes, I recall that there was an election in Sierra
16 Leone.

17 Q. Do you recall the year of the elections?

18 A. 1996. They have an election in Sierra Leone and, at
19 that time, we were still in the bush.

11:36:20 20 Q. Now, Mr Witness, at the time of the elections, did the
21 RUF have any plans because of the election? Let me start
22 over. Let me strike that question. Mr Witness, what was
23 the attitude within the RUF towards the election? Did
24 Foday Sankoh speak about the elections?

11:36:46 25 A. Yes."

26 Line 4, page 5689:

27 "A. Well we started getting the information that there was
28 going to be an election. At that time, Foday Sankoh was in
29 the jungle. That is a bush where he - where we had

1 established a jungle for him and the place was called
2 Zogoda. That was where he was. So he called we, the
3 commanders, to tell us what the plans were that the
4 government had with regard the elections. So Foday Sankoh
11:37:24 5 said that it appeared to him as though the government never
6 wanted to recognise us because, whilst the fighting was
7 going on, they were pushing on with the elections and they
8 did not even call our attention to that. So he said we
9 were also going to carry out some kind of offensive that
11:37:46 10 will not allow the elections to hold. So we were called
11 upon and we came to Zogoda.
12 I came there and I was there when his radio man came to
13 call him and he said to him that his brother, Mr Charles
14 Taylor, wanted to speak to him and then Foday Sankoh got up
11:38:13 15 and then I joined him and we both went to the radio house.
16 So when we went there we entered and then he sat down and
17 he started talking to his brother, that is Mr Taylor. And
18 when they spoke on the talk, lasted up to 20, 25 minutes,
19 during which Foday Sankoh explained how we had been cut off
11:38:41 20 and that we were not even getting supplies from Liberia any
21 longer and what were the plans on the government side that
22 they had decided to carry on with the elections. And so he
23 had called on his commanders to meet him and that he wanted
24 to give them a plan that we shall go on an offensive to
11:39:03 25 make sure that the election does not hold at all, and that
26 the offensive that we were to undertake we should make
27 fearful and that anybody who we will capture, we will have
28 to amputate that person and we will ask that person to take
29 his hands off the election.

1 So he was telling him that these were the plans that I had
2 put together, that was why I called my commanders to come
3 so that I will explain to them the offensive that we were
4 to undertake. And then his brother told him in his reply
11:39:54 5 that the plan is not a bad one, that is Mr Taylor, and so
6 two days after they had spoken to each other we went on the
7 offensive."

8 Now, as far as you're aware, Mr Sesay, was Charles Taylor
9 involved in any discussion with Foday Sankoh in relation to the
11:40:27 10 1996 elections in Sierra Leone?

11 A. As far as I knew, no, Mr Taylor was not involved.
12 Mr Taylor and Mr Sankoh had no business at this time during the
13 elections in Sierra Leone. That is 1996.

14 Q. Now, at or about the time of those elections in 1996, did
11:40:57 15 Foday Sankoh call a meeting of all his commanders at Zogoda?

16 A. No. As far as my memory can serve me, I think before or
17 during the elections, Mr Sankoh was in Ivory Coast because
18 I could recall Mr Sankoh calling a meeting, which this particular
19 witness attended, that is January 1996, because that was the time
11:41:30 20 it was during that meeting that Mr Sankoh appointed him as one of
21 the commanders.

22 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours could the witness kindly
23 repeat the last part of his answer, commanders for whom.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Sesay, please pause. You said it was
11:41:50 25 during that meeting that Mr Sankoh appointed him as one of the
26 commanders; commanders for whom?

27 THE WITNESS: Commanders for the RUF, one of the jungles,
28 that is January '96, because from 1991 to 1995, he was in
29 Kailahun throughout. So during January '96 he was among the

1 group of officers who came from Kailahun to attend the meeting at
2 Zogoda with Mr Sankoh, and Mr Sankoh gave him this appointment.
3 This was before the elections.

4 MR GRIFFITHS:

11:42:38 5 Q. Now, what happened at that meeting in January 1996?

6 A. That meeting, what I heard was that Mr Sankoh briefed them
7 about the ongoing peace talks that was to take place in the Ivory
8 Coast. The most that the external delegation had made, the
9 contacts they had made to meet with the NPRC government and some
10 change of command in certain areas. That is what Mr Sankoh did.
11 Because the Operation Stop Elections, Mr Sankoh did not hold a
12 meeting for that. He sent a radio message. He did not come for
13 a meeting for that.

14 Q. And to whom did he send that radio message?

11:43:43 15 A. Mohamed.

16 Q. Mohamed who?

17 A. Tarawalli, Zino.

18 JUDGE DOHERTY: Mr Griffiths, could I please clarify. The
19 witness in reply to your last - the preceding, said: "What
11:44:05 20 I heard was that Mr Sankoh briefed them at a meeting." I don't
21 know if that means he heard himself, in the course of the
22 meeting, or it was recounted to him that it had happened at the
23 meeting.

24 MR GRIFFITHS:

11:44:19 25 Q. Let me approach it in this way: Mr Sesay, were you present
26 at that meeting called in January 1996 by Mr Sankoh?

27 A. No. I wasn't present. I was in the Ivory Coast, but I
28 later came to know what happened during the meeting because,
29 like, Peter Vandi attended the meeting and Peter Vandi travelled

1 with Mr Sankoh to Abidjan, where they met me.

2 Q. So you were told about the meeting as opposed to being
3 present; is that right?

4 A. Yes. I wasn't present, because even my issue was discussed
11:45:04 5 in the meeting, about setting up a board of investigation against
6 me, so I knew about the discussion in the meeting but I wasn't
7 present.

8 Q. And the radio message from Sankoh to Mohamed Tarawalli,
9 firstly, when was that?

11:45:28 10 A. I don't recall the month now, but it was during the
11 election period, because I came to know from Mr Sankoh in the
12 Ivory Coast, in Abidjan, from Yamoussoukro to Abidjan, that the
13 plan to stop the elections was between himself, Maada Bio and Tom
14 Nyuma; they were the ones who had made the plan, with the
11:45:56 15 assistance of Deen-Jalloh and his wife, because the plan was that
16 if the politicians, especially the SLPP politicians, if they
17 wanted to conduct the elections, they wanted to say the elections
18 should go ahead, because Maada Bio and the NPRC had said there
19 should be peace before elections. So Maada Bio advised Mr Sankoh
11:46:28 20 that Mr Sankoh should attack Kenema, and should attack Bo and
21 Magburaka, and when RUF would attack, he, Maada Bio, would order
22 the army to withdraw to Freetown, so that would stop the
23 elections. That was the agreement.

24 Q. Now, Mr Sesay, this radio message from Sankoh to Mohamed
11:46:54 25 Tarawalli regarding stopping of the election, where was Mr Sankoh
26 when that message was sent?

27 A. I think Mr Sankoh was now in the Ivory Coast.

28 Q. And where was Mohamed Tarawalli?

29 A. Mohamed Tarawalli was in Zogoda.

1 Q. Now, the witness continued on this same topic in this vein
2 - and I'm at page 5690, line 22:

3 "Q. And you heard this radio conversation that you just
4 told us about between Sankoh and Taylor, correct?

11:47:53 5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Who was present in the room?

7 A. Well, the radio man who was there was Foday Sankoh's
8 radio man and he was Zedman, and whilst Foday Sankoh was
9 going he went with his securities, but when the securities
10 got there, they didn't enter the radio room. The
11 securities took positions around the booth where the radio
12 was located, and then Foday Sankoh entered the radio room
13 and he sat down. And myself, I stood just in front of the
14 radio room where he entered.

11:48:07 10
11:48:33 15 Q. Were you able to hear what Foday Sankoh was saying?

16 A. Yes, I heard what Foday Sankoh was talking and I also
17 heard Mr Taylor's responses to him."

18 And then he continues, page 5693:

19 A. Yes, I said what Foday Sankoh discussed with Taylor;
11:48:58 20 he explained to all the commanders who were present there
21 in that meeting.

22 Q. Okay. Now, you said that Foday Sankoh talked about
23 cutting hands; is that correct?

24 A. Yes. He said anybody whom we captured, we should
11:49:16 25 amputate that person, and we should tell the person that he
26 should take his hands off the election. So the people who
27 were to go and vote were the people that we were supposed
28 to do these things to. So we had different targets to
29 which we were to carry on with those offensives.

1 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you said that the people that you were
2 going to cut the hands off the people who were to go and
3 vote, how would you determine who were the people who were
4 to go to vote?

11:49:47 5 A. Well, when we see you, because what normally happened
6 in Sierra Leone, when somebody was going to vote, that
7 person was to have an ID, that is a identity card, it was
8 that ID card that you would use before you were allowed to
9 enter the voting booth. So that was how we managed to know
11:50:09 10 the people. And some of them, after voting, you will see a
11 blue indelible ink on their fingers. So that was how we
12 identified them.

13 Q. You said that there were various targets for this
14 planned attack. What was your target that you were
11:50:27 15 assigned to?

16 A. Masingbi."

17 Line 29:

18 "Q. Do you recall any of the other targets given to any of
19 the other commanders?

11:50:39 20 A. Yes, the Western Jungle, it was Mohamed Tarawalli and
21 Superman, and their target was to be Magburaka and Makeni,
22 and I was to go to Masingbi, and Rambo and Mosquito were to
23 go to Kenema Town, and those who were in Kailahun, they
24 also had their own targets that they were supposed to face,
11:50:59 25 and that was the Pendembu area."

26 And then he goes on, line 13:

27 "Q. This meeting with the commanders, who was present at
28 the meeting, which commanders that you can recall now?"

29 Then this:

1 "A. Well, we were many. All the commanders, like from
2 Kailahun, some from the Western Area, and in the case of
3 those it was Mohamed Tarawalli who came to represent them.
4 There were some other people like Issa Sesay. He was
11:51:36 5 already, at that time, on the punishment, so he had been at
6 Zogoda already and, like Augustine Gbao, he was also
7 present at the meeting. We had other people around the
8 Pujehun target area; they also came like Rocky CO, Rambo,
9 Jungle."

11:52:00 10 So what this person was telling these judges, Mr Sesay, was
11 this: You were present as a commander, at a meeting in 1996,
12 where you received orders directly from Foday Sankoh to amputate
13 people in an attempt to stop the elections. Were you at such a
14 meeting?

11:52:25 15 A. No, no. I was not even in Sierra Leone. The meeting that
16 I knew about that Mr Sankoh held was in January '96 but a meeting
17 to stop election, no, such a meeting did not take place and I did
18 not attend such a meeting.

19 Q. Page 5695: Testimony of the 10th of March 2008, line 21:
11:52:59 20 "Q. At the time of this operation, first of all, did the
21 operation have a name?

22 A. Yes. The operation had a name and the name that the
23 operation had was Operation Stop Elections."

24 Now, you tell us that you were in the Ivory Coast. When
11:53:25 25 did you go to the Ivory Coast at this time, Mr Sesay?

26 A. I went to the Ivory Coast in November '95.

27 Q. For how long were you in the Ivory Coast?

28 A. I was in the Ivory Coast for two - April and then I came to
29 Kailahun. Then from there I came to Zogoda. I was being

1 investigated.

2 Q. In April of which year did you return to Kailahun?

3 A. April of '96.

4 Q. So you were in the Ivory Coast from November '95 until

11:54:11 5 April '96; is that correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. When were the elections in Sierra Leone?

8 A. I think the elections were around March.

9 Q. At the time of the elections in Sierra Leone, were you in

11:54:30 10 the country, that is, Sierra Leone?

11 A. No. I wasn't there.

12 Q. So when this witness told these judges that you, Issa
13 Sesay, was present as a commander at Zogoda for this meeting to
14 stop the elections, were you in the country to attend such a

11:54:53 15 meeting?

16 A. No. I was not in the country to attend such a meeting.

17 These are all the same made-up stories.

18 Q. During the period when the RUF joined with the AFRC,
19 Mr Sesay, you've told us that Ibrahim Bah came to Sierra Leone
11:55:37 20 during that time. Is that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And just briefly, for what purpose did he come to Sierra
23 Leone at that time?

24 A. He came to arrange about the transportation of the arms and
11:55:59 25 ammunition from Burkina Faso to Sierra Leone.

26 Q. When he came, did he suggest to you or to any senior member
27 of either the RUF or the AFRC, that he came with a message from
28 Charles Taylor?

29 A. No, no. He did not suggest that to me, nor any other

1 person, because I did not hear that. And I knew that Ibrahim Bah
2 was from Burkina Faso to Abidjan through Guinea to Freetown.
3 That was how he travelled, based on the request that Johnny Paul
4 made when he sent for him, and it was Gibril Massaquoi who went
11:56:58 5 for him.

6 Q. Well, listen to this, and then help us whether this is true
7 or false. Page 5705, testimony of the 10th of March 2008:

8 "Q. At the time that you were a member of this council,
9 did anyone from another country come to meet with the
11:57:30 10 council?

11 A. Yes, we had another person who came from a different
12 country to meet us.

13 Q. Who was that?

14 A. It was Mr Ibrahim Bah that I had spoken about before.

11:57:42 15 He came and met us because he met first those of us in the
16 RUF because we knew him before. He had fought alongside
17 with him before in - we had fought alongside with him
18 before in Sierra Leone. So he brought a message that
19 Mr Taylor gave him for him to give to us. So when he came
11:58:09 20 and met us, he told us that, the Pa, who is Mr Taylor, sent
21 me to come and talk to you so that you and the brothers
22 whom you have come to join, that is the AFRC men, he is
23 asking that you work together.

24 Q. Was Ibrahim Bah at that time to your knowledge a
11:58:37 25 civilian or a military person?

26 A. Well, I knew that Ibrahim Bah was an NPFL, he was an
27 NPFL."

28 Page 5711, please, line 26:

29 "Q. Going back to the meetings you mentioned yesterday

1 afternoon with Ibrahim Bah" - this is testimony of 11 March
2 now - "you said that there were two meetings. Where did the
3 first meeting take place?

11:59:21

4 A. The first meeting took place at Hill Station where Sam
5 Bockarie was residing, that is, his house. That was where
6 the first meeting took place and the meeting took place
7 amongst us, the RUF authorities and Ibrahim Bah.

8 Q. Was Sam Bockarie present?" - line 11.

11:59:45

9 "A. No, Sam Bockarie was not present but it was in that
10 house that Sam Bockarie resided at the time he went to
11 Freetown.

12 Q. At the time you had this meeting, to your knowledge,
13 was Sam Bockarie in Freetown?

14 A. He was not in Freetown. He was in Kenema.

12:00:00

15 Q. Who was present at this first meeting at Bockarie's
16 house with Bah?

17 A. Issa Sesay was there. Morris Kallon, CO Nya, who is
18 also called Foday K Lansana, Gibriil Massaquoi, and then
19 they sent for me."

12:00:25

20 Now, pausing there for the moment, where this witness has
21 told these judges that we had fought alongside with him, that is,
22 Ibrahim Bah, before in Sierra Leone, do you recall Ibrahim Bah
23 fighting with the RUF in Sierra Leone?

12:00:53

24 A. Ibrahim Bah did not fight. He did not go to the
25 battlefield. I only saw Ibrahim Bah in Pendembu once with
26 Mr Sankoh. When he came he returned with Mr Sankoh. But he
27 never went to the battlefield.

28 Q. When did you see Ibrahim Bah with Mr Sankoh in Pendembu?

29 A. That was 1991.

1 Q. And can you help us as to roughly when in 1991 that was?

2 A. Well, that was the early part of '91, around - around May
3 to June of 1991.

4 Q. And were you aware of - as to why Ibrahim Bah was in Sierra
12:01:47 5 Leone at that time?

6 A. Well, I understood from CO Mohamed that CO - that Ibrahim
7 Bah was a friend to Mr Sankoh. That was what I knew about.

8 Q. Now, after that, can you help us to when was the next time
9 you saw Ibrahim Bah in Sierra Leone?

12:02:16 10 A. Since then, the only time I again saw Ibrahim Bah in Sierra
11 Leone was in 1997, although I had seen him in Abidjan, but it was
12 in '97 that he came back to Sierra Leone. But since '91, the
13 other time was in '97 that I saw him, he came to Sierra Leone.

14 Q. Now, where this witness is speaking, and I referred you to
12:02:43 15 it, at page 5712, to a meeting with Ibrahim Bah at Hill Station
16 in Sam Bockarie's house, even though Bockarie was not present.
17 Were you present in Sam Bockarie's house for a meeting with
18 Ibrahim Bah?

19 A. No. Such a meeting did not take place in Sam Bockarie's
12:03:11 20 house with Ibrahim Bah, and such a meeting did not take place in
21 Sam Bockarie's house, not at all. And it was Johnny Paul who
22 invited Ibrahim Bah. And even the meeting that he had with
23 Johnny Paul, Sam Bockarie himself did not attend it. Isaac did
24 not attend and Mike Lamin did not attend. That was at Johnny
12:03:41 25 Paul's house.

26 Q. Well, the witness says that you were present in Bockarie's
27 house for such a meeting and he continues, page 5712, line 23:

28 "Q. What happened at the meeting?

29 A. During that meeting, Mr Bah came to talk to us, the

1 RUF, for us to join hands with the AFRC whom had called on
2 us for us to work together with them. He said it was that
3 message that he brought from Mr Taylor to us - for us.

12:04:26

4 Q. What was the reaction, if any, from the RUF members
5 present?

6 A. Well, we did not do anything because we knew Ibrahim
7 Bah. He had been with us before and we knew him to be a
8 liaison officer who had been with the RUF. So when we saw
9 him and when he brought the message, we were happy and we
10 received the message according to how he brought it."

12:04:49

11 Now, does that enlighten you as to whether you were present
12 at such a meeting, Mr Sesay?

13 A. No. That does not give me any idea because such a meeting
14 did not take place, this person is lying, and it was not

12:05:15

15 Mr Taylor who instructed the RUF to join the AFRC. That order
16 came directly from Mr Sankoh. So the coming of Ibrahim Bah to
17 Freetown never had anything absolutely to do with Mr Taylor,
18 nothing. When Ibrahim Bah came until he returned to Burkina
19 Faso, Mr Taylor's name was never made mention of it during
20 Ibrahim Bah's visit to Freetown.

12:05:42

21 Q. "Q. Mr Witness, this message from Mr Taylor, that you
22 should work - the RUF should work with the AFRC, did the
23 members of the RUF discuss that? Or was there any reaction
24 given to General Bah about whether they accepted that?

12:06:04

25 A. Well, we accepted it because it was not that we went to
26 have another meeting because of the message that he
27 brought. We accepted it. We accepted that the message he
28 brought, we received it, and then we took him, the Bah, we
29 took him, the Bah, to JPK's place, that is, Johnny Paul

1 Koroma, so that he will also get to know the message that
2 Ibrahim Bah brought.

3 Q. When you got to Johnny Paul Koroma's house, who was
4 present there?

12:06:43 5 A. Johnny Paul Koroma, he sent to call the other officers,
6 those were the SLA officers, they called SO Williams, they
7 called Gullit, Bazzy, they called on all the other
8 authorities who belonged to the AFRC and they were also
9 present there.

12:07:03 10 Q. What was said at the meeting at JPK's house?

11 A. JPK and all of us who were there together with Ibrahim
12 Bah, we went to introduce the man to tell him - to tell him
13 that this man was the man who has been with us and that it
14 is the Pa who sent him for him to come and talk to all of
12:07:28 15 us. When I say the Pa, that is Mr Taylor. So he brought a
16 message that we should all work hand in hand and that is
17 the reason why Mr Taylor sent him here. So we brought him
18 so that you will also see him and then he will explain to
19 you the reason why he was sent.

12:07:54 20 Q. When Mr Bah delivered this message, what was the
21 reaction of those present?

22 A. Well, everybody was happy for the message. We all
23 accepted it and we all agreed with him.

24 Q. Did Johnny Paul Koroma say anything?

12:08:15 25 A. Johnny Paul himself received the message, he was happy
26 too for the reason being that for the message for which
27 Mr Taylor had sent the man.

28 Q. You say that the reaction was that those present were
29 happy. Can you explain why they were happy?

1 A. Well, they were happy because we also needed help and
2 the reason why they also accepted it was because that man
3 will be able to help us to get ammunition because we were
4 fighting and the AFRC also never had enough ammunition that
12:08:57 5 they would use to continue the war.

6 Q. Was this something that was stated at the meeting:
7 That there was a need for ammunition?

8 A. Yes, we discussed that one. In fact, that was our main
9 topic that we had in mind.

12:09:15 10 Q. How long, to your knowledge, did Ibrahim Bah stay in
11 Freetown on that occasion?

12 A. Well, after that day, the next morning I didn't see him
13 again. He went.

14 Q. At the meeting when Bah delivered this message from
12:09:32 15 Taylor, was there any response given to Bah to take back?

16 A. Yes, we told Bah that we have agreed and the thing that
17 he explained to us, that he brought from Mr Taylor, we all
18 accepted it, that we were ready to work with Johnny Paul
19 Koroma, and we ensured that we submitted ourselves to
12:10:01 20 Johnny Paul and we worked hand in hand with him. But after
21 that Johnny Paul and Ibrahim Bah had a closed-door meeting
22 but that was not disclosed to us, whatever they discussed
23 in that meeting."

24 Now, Mr Sesay, do you recall such a meeting attended by Bah
12:10:28 25 at Johnny Paul's house where Charles Taylor's name is mentioned
26 in the context of him saying that the AFRC and the RUF should
27 work together and Johnny Paul thinking this was a good idea
28 because the AFRC were short of ammunition and Mr Taylor might be
29 in a position to assist? Do you recall such a discussion?

1 A. Such a meeting did not take place. The meeting that took
2 place on the arrival of Ibrahim Bah in Freetown was between Sam
3 Bockarie, Ibrahim Bah and Johnny Paul and that was about the
4 transportation, the flight. That was the meeting that took place
12:11:17 5 when Johnny Paul gave 90,000 to Ibrahim Bah and presented two of
6 his officers to travel with Ibrahim Bah as representatives of him
7 to Burkina Faso. And this man did not attend that meeting.
8 I myself, I did not attend that meeting. And the way he has
9 explained, that was not what the meeting was held about, that was
12:11:41 10 not the content for which that meeting was held. Such a meeting,
11 the way he has explained about it, that type of meeting did not
12 take place at Johnny Paul's lodge with Ibrahim Bah. And I think
13 at the time you asked me the first question, you said - I heard
14 something like you said he was a member of the council, was that
12:12:06 15 the case?

16 Q. Well, he mentioned that he was present at a council meeting
17 but you help us: Was Isaac Mongor a member of the council?

18 A. Never. He never became a council member. And he never
19 attended a council meeting. And even when you go through the
12:12:32 20 gazette his name is not there. He never attended such a meeting.

21 Q. And that was the gazette that we looked at earlier and I'm
22 not asking that we look at it again, but did Isaac Mongor's name
23 appear in that gazette as a council member?

24 A. Oh, no, no.

12:12:55 25 Q. Another topic dealt with by this witness, page 5734,
26 testimony of 11 March 2008. Line 8:

27 "Q. Mr Witness, you said in regards to the intervention in
28 February 1998 'we started running and we pulled out'. Who
29 pulled out? Can you explain who it was?

- 1 A. When I say we, I mean we, the fighters for the
2 AFRC/RUF, and our Head of State, who was Johnny Paul
3 Koroma. All of us pulled out together with the STF. We
4 pulled out from Freetown and went to go into the bush."
12:13:52 5 At the time of the intervention, where was Isaac Mongor?
6 A. He was in Freetown.
7 Q. What was he doing in Freetown?
8 A. He was there when Johnny Paul gave him an appointment as
9 the anti-looting squad commander.
12:14:15 10 Q. Now he continues:
11 "All of us pulled out together from the STF. We pulled out
12 from Freetown and went to go into the bush.
13 Q. When you got to Masiaka, did you see anybody you knew?
14 A. Yes. I saw people whom I knew.
12:14:31 15 Q. Who was in Masiaka?
16 A. I met SO Williams who was one of the senior men for the
17 AFRC. I met Issa Sesay there, and other fighters."
18 Is that correct?
19 A. Yes, that was where they met us.
12:14:50 20 Q. "Q. Were these people that had previously been in
21 Freetown?
22 A. Yes, they were in Freetown.
23 Q. Do you know how they got to Masiaka from Freetown?
24 A. They passed through the peninsula to Tombo and they
12:15:06 25 used a boat to cross over to Four Mile. They walked and
26 arrived in Masiaka, that is how they travelled. Those of
27 us who stayed behind did the same thing."
28 Had you travelled from Freetown to get to Masiaka,
29 Mr Sesay?

1 A. No. I was not in Freetown when the intervention took
2 place, when they retreated. I was in Makeni when I heard about
3 the attack. So I was not on the other side. I was on the
4 Masiaka side, so I was not amongst the retreating RUF/AFRC that
12:15:46 5 were coming from Freetown.

6 Q. Page 5735:

7 "Well, when I arrived in Makeni I saw a lot of commanders
8 who had pulled out from Freetown; Superman, Issa Sesay, Gullit,
9 Five-Five."

12:16:07 10 Same question, Mr Sesay: Had you pulled out from Freetown?

11 A. I did not pull out from Freetown, and I was not amongst the
12 people who pulled out from Freetown. This witness met me in
13 Masiaka. And from Masiaka, they were the first set of commanders
14 who left from Makeni. So to say he met Gullit in Makeni, it was
12:16:31 15 a lie. Gullit was not in Makeni. Gullit was in Kono at this
16 time and he left Kono and went to Kailahun. In February of '98
17 Gullit was not in Makeni. Isaac Mongor, Mike Lamin, Five-Five,
18 PLO-1, Abu Zagalo, PLO-3, with the army colonels, the AFRC
19 colonels, FSY Koroma, SAJ Musa, and Johnny Paul. Those were the
12:16:58 20 ones who travelled together from Makeni to Masiaka. So to say he
21 went and met those --

22 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, could the witness be asked
23 to repeat from that area.

24 MR GRIFFITHS:

12:17:12 25 Q. Mr Sesay, "Those were the ones who travelled together from
26 Makeni to Masiaka. So to say he went and met --" Can you pick
27 it up from there, please, because the interpreter missed the last
28 few sentences of what you said.

29 A. I said he was amongst the first group that left Masiaka to

1 go to Makeni during this retreat in February '98. And to say he
2 met Gullit in Makeni, that is a lie. He did not meet Issa in
3 Makeni, he did not meet Gullit in Makeni. Issa stayed in Masiaka
4 to proceed to go to Bo and attack Bo, to attack the Kamajors. At
12:18:01 5 this time Gullit was in Kono, so when the Kamajors attacked Kono,
6 Gullit retreated from Kono to Kailahun District. So had he said
7 if he - if he came to this Court and said that he met Issa and
8 Gullit in Makeni, that is a bloody lie. They were the first set
9 of commanders who went to Makeni and they were the ones who
12:18:23 10 looted Makeni, starting from Lunsar up to Makeni. They were the
11 ones who looted there, because they left Freetown, they did not
12 have vehicles with them, so when they went to Lunsar and Makeni
13 they looted civilians' vehicles there.

14 Q. Who looted civilian vehicles?

12:18:43 15 A. I am talking about Isaac Mongor, Mike Lamin, the AFRC
16 commanders and the RUF commanders who left - who retreated from
17 Freetown, they came to Masiaka and left Masiaka and went to
18 Lunsar and Makeni. They looted civilian vehicles, including
19 vehicles from hospitals.

12:19:02 20 Q. And what was Gullit doing in Kono at this time?

21 A. Well, Gullit was the AFRC representative for the mining in
22 Kono. He was the head of - he was supervising the mining in
23 Kono. So when the intervention took place in Freetown and the
24 Kamajors also attacked Kono, Gullit then retreated into Kailahun
12:19:27 25 in February of '98.

26 Q. Now, one other matter regarding this retreat. First of
27 all, during the course of that retreat from Freetown, where was
28 it that you first came in contact with Johnny Paul Koroma?

29 A. It was when I went to receive my family at a particular

1 spot, because for me too my family was in Freetown. I had sent
2 my bodyguards to go and collect them. That was in Fogbo. I was
3 there when the boat landed from Tombo, so I saw Johnny Paul. But
4 this man Samuel Kargbo, Honourable Sammy, he went with - he had
12:20:17 5 his vehicles because he too was in Kono when the intervention
6 took place in Freetown, so he came together with Five-Five. They
7 came to Fogbo to receive Johnny Paul Koroma and they took him to
8 Masiaka.

9 Q. And from your first contact with Johnny Paul Koroma, as far
12:20:38 10 as you were aware, where was Johnny Paul Koroma intending to move
11 to?

12 A. It was at Masiaka that I was able to talk to Johnny Paul.
13 And at Masiaka when I spoke to Johnny Paul, Johnny Paul had the
14 intention to go to Kailahun. In fact that was the reason for us
12:21:02 15 to attack Bo, so that we will be able to clear up Bo and then we
16 will be able to connect with Sam Bockarie in Kenema.

17 Q. Did Johnny Paul Koroma express to you any intention to
18 travel beyond Kailahun to Liberia?

19 A. No. At that initial stage he did not say that, but during
12:21:29 20 the discussion I had with him in Masiaka he did not say that.

21 Q. Did Johnny Paul at any stage, up until you arrived in
22 Kailahun District, express an intention to travel on to Liberia?

23 A. No. Johnny Paul did not tell me that in Masiaka. He did
24 not tell me that at the time I met him in his village in
12:22:00 25 Magbonkineh. And even during the meeting in Kono he did not say
26 that before we retreated to Kailahun. It was in Kailahun that we
27 later heard that that was in Buedu before the problem between him
28 and Bockarie, the problem with the diamonds.

29 Q. Very well. Page 5736, please. The testimony of 11 March

1 2008. Having described Johnny Paul going to his village
2 Magbonkineh, near Binkolo, the witness was asked this:

3 "Q. Did you see Johnny Paul Koroma there in his village?

4 A. Yes, I saw him in the village."

12:22:53

5 Line 17:

6 "Q. Anyone else?

7 A. Yes, he was there with other securities who were
8 fighters. They were with him, together with his family
9 members; his wife and other people were also there.

12:23:04

10 Q. Did you speak with Johnny Paul Koroma there?

11 A. Yes, I spoke with him.

12 Q. What did he say?

13 A. Well, I told him that we should go to Kono and he said
14 yes, that was why he had called me, for us to prepare to

12:23:22

15 leave Makeni, because he wants to go to Kailahun. So, the
16 plan which we had, for him to travel to Mr Taylor, it would
17 be good for him to make that trip, so I too said okay.

18 I returned to Makeni to organise ourselves to go.

19 Q. Sir, can you explain that answer? When you say that in
12:23:50 20 order for - because Johnny Paul Koroma had plans to travel
21 to see Mr Taylor, it would be good for him to go to
22 Kailahun, can you explain that?

23 A. Yes. I had told you that plans were underway at the
24 time we were in Freetown, that Johnny Paul was to go to
12:24:09 25 Liberia to Mr Taylor, so that plan was still in place.

26 So, when he goes to Buedu, the distance will be shorter
27 because from Buedu to Liberia was not a far distance. It
28 was closer to Liberia. It was close to Liberia, sorry.

29 So, he agreed to go to Kailahun and the plan that we had he

1 still had in mind, so he thought that when he goes to that
2 end that plan could materialise, materialise for him to
3 travel, so that was why he wanted us to move with him from
4 that place to go to Kailahun."

12:24:54 5 Did you know about the existence of such a plan, Mr Sesay?

6 A. I never heard that, except that I have heard it in this
7 courtroom, to say there was a plan for Johnny Paul to go to
8 Monrovia to see Mr Taylor or during the AFRC, I never heard that.
9 This is my first time hearing this.

12:25:15 10 Q. On the same note, the witness went on to say this, page
11 5741, line 6:

12 "Q. Was the top command restructured in any way after the
13 intervention?"

14 A. Yes, they made changes. They made promotions at the
12:25:51 15 top. They made Sam Bockarie - he was over all of us, the
16 fighters; they had Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon and other
17 commanders like Akim Turay, Leather Boot, Banya, those
18 people, they too had their own promotions."

19 Line 17:

12:26:17 20 "Q. Who was it that appointed Sam Bockarie to that
21 position, that is Defence Chief of Staff?"

22 A. It was Johnny Paul who did the restructuring, because
23 he said he had spoken to his brother and the plan that he
24 had to travel, he was going to travel, so he wanted to
12:26:39 25 leave the AFRC and the RUF in one accord. So, that was why
26 he had done these promotions, so that he would leave us on
27 the ground before he goes.

28 Q. Please explain for the record, when you say Johnny Paul
29 had spoken to his brother, who did you refer to?

1 A. I am talking about Mr Taylor, and I have told you that
2 the way Foday Sankoh was talking - the way he referred to
3 Charles Taylor, was as his brother; that was the footstep
4 Johnny Paul had taken, so when he was talking about Charles
12:27:40 5 Taylor, he will refer to him as his brother."

6 Now, do you recall, at the time that these promotions were
7 made by Johnny Paul Koroma, any discussion about Charles Taylor
8 having any hand in those promotions?

9 A. No. When we got to Buedu and Johnny Paul issued that
12:28:15 10 promotion for Sam Bockarie, he did not discuss anything about
11 Mr Taylor. This witness, we left him in Kailahun. Then we went
12 with Johnny Paul to Buedu, and from that time we left him in
13 Gandorhun in late February. I don't think this witness went
14 there. And this witness might have only seen Johnny Paul in
12:28:43 15 early 1999 to 2000 in Freetown, but since they - the whole of '98
16 this witness was not in Kailahun, okay, in December '98 to
17 February, he was in Pendembu; but for the whole of December '98
18 he was not in Kailahun, but - so I don't know where he went and
19 got that information from that Johnny Paul spoke to Mr Taylor,
12:29:13 20 but I never heard that, and I never saw that happen in Buedu
21 before Johnny Paul issued the promotion to Sam Bockarie.

22 Q. Yes, can we go to page 5780 please, just to set something
23 in context, line 6:

24 "Q. When you talked about the advice you gave Mosquito,
12:30:01 25 Sam Bockarie, about Superman, can you tell us again what
26 advice you gave to Sam Bockarie about his argument with
27 Superman?

28 A. When I told him that we should forget about this and
29 that he should forget about Superman, I said we shouldn't

1 have anything like infighting because I wanted us to
2 concentrate on the enemies, but if we started petty
3 conflict amongst ourselves, the enemy will take that as an
4 advantage to advance on your positions. So I told him that
12:30:32 5 we should forget about these things. So he listened to me
6 and he agreed. That was the reason why he brought the
7 discussion up when he was trying to get some other people,
8 and when I came he said I was lucky to be present and that
9 when, we all met, we sit down and discuss it. That was how
12:30:52 10 it happened.

11 Q. Then you told us that the next day there was a meeting
12 of commanders; is that correct?

13 A. Yes, we met.

14 Q. Where did that meeting take place?

12:31:03 15 A. We held the meeting in Buedu.

16 Q. Who was present at the meeting?

17 A. Myself, I was there; Mosquito was there; Jungle was
18 there because he was also based in Buedu; we had other
19 commanders who were also based on the ground, like some
12:31:21 20 SLA, he was called Sambebe, he was also present, and some
21 other commanders who were in Buedu, we and the late Pa
22 Rogers. "

23 Q. What was discussed again at this meeting of the
24 commanders?

12:31:39 25 Line 17:

26 "A. Well, I've told you that we did, during our
27 discussions we were talking about ammunition because we had
28 run out of ammunition, so we did not have enough ammunition
29 again to continue our offensive or to fight, or to even

1 defend our areas, so we discussed that it would be - it
2 will be better that this time around we all ensure to write
3 a letter and give it to brother Jungle to take it to
4 Mr Taylor for him to help us get some ammunition. So,
12:32:14 5 those were the things that we discussed and we all came to
6 the conclusion that we agreed. We told the adjutant, who
7 was Rashid Sandy, to write a letter and he wrote it. He
8 read the letter out to everybody, and from there we
9 enveloped it and we gave it to Colonel Jungle to take
12:32:36 10 along. So, Colonel Jungle went with the letter and, after
11 three days, Sam Bockarie called us and said he had received
12 a message from the Pa, that is Mr Taylor, that he himself
13 should go, that is Sam Bockarie, that he should go to
14 Monrovia. So, Sam Bockarie called us and informed us and
12:33:00 15 we also said, 'Okay, it is not bad', and he said, 'Okay,
16 but since I am leaving, I want Issa to come to Buedu and
17 stay here and you, Isaac, you should go to Pendembu and
18 stay there', because that was where Issa was. That was his
19 own area of control. So, I went to where Issa was and then
12:33:27 20 Issa came to Buedu. So, when Mosquito was leaving, he
21 said, 'I will not go alone. I wanted to go with some other
22 people.' So, he went with Rashid Sandy, he went with Pa
23 Rogers, he went with Lawrence Womandia afternoon and Eddie
24 Kanneh also.

12:33:53 25 Q. Mr Witness, can you give us an estimate of when it was
26 you held this meeting in Buedu where you drafted the letter
27 for Charles Taylor?

28 A. Well, at Buedu, the place where they used to hold
29 meetings or discussions, it was not actually in the town

1 itself, but it was out of the town going towards Liberia,
2 there was a place that was called Waterworks, that was
3 where we used to hold our meetings."

4 And then he not having answered the question, the question
12:34:29 5 was asked again, line 27:

6 "Q. Mr Witness, do you recall when the month or the season
7 that it was that you held the meeting in Buedu where you
8 drafted the letter to Jungle?

9 A. The letter, I can say it was in early November,
12:34:46 10 something like that. It was during the dry season."

11 Line 13:

12 "Q. Which year?

13 A. It was 1998."

14 Now, Mr Sesay, first of all, do you recall such a meeting
12:35:14 15 at Waterworks?

16 A. No, I did not attend a meeting together with Isaac at
17 Waterworks, and, as far as I know, from February to November of
18 '98 that man never came to Pendembu. Sorry, he never came to
19 Buedu - sorry, from February to November of '98 he never came to
12:35:52 20 Buedu for any meeting. He was in Kono. In fact, he was in
21 Gandorhun from February to August; from August when Superman
22 broke away and he left, Sam Bockarie appointed him as an adviser
23 to Rambo.

24 Q. Appointed who as adviser to Rambo?

12:36:18 25 A. Isaac Mongor.

26 Q. Go on. You were going on to say?

27 A. Yes. I said in November, Sam Bockarie sent a message to
28 him that he should move and come to be based in Pendembu. So, he
29 left Kono with his bodyguards, his two wives, and he met me in

1 Pendembu. When he met me in Pendembu, that was when I got a
2 message from Sam Bockarie that I should move to Buedu. So,
3 I moved to Buedu, and Sam Bockarie left me and Mike Lamin in
4 Buedu and he travelled in late November 1998, and Isaac Mongor
12:36:58 5 did not come to Buedu in November, nor did he come there in
6 December until I left to go and attack Kono. So, to say that
7 I wrote a letter to be given to Jungle, that's a lie.

8 Q. Were you - were you present at any meeting, Mr Sesay, when
9 there was a discussion about writing a letter to be taken by
12:37:30 10 Jungle to Charles Taylor?

11 A. No, no. I did not attend such a meeting and I did not hear
12 about such a meeting taking place in Buedu.

13 Q. Now, it is said that this letter was written in early
14 November 1998. By early November 1998, had Bockarie met with
12:37:59 15 Charles Taylor?

16 A. He met him on two different occasions; he met him in
17 October and in September. So there was no need again for
18 commanders to go and sit down to write a letter to Mr Taylor when
19 Sam Bockarie had met Mr Taylor twice before this November.

12:38:20 20 Q. That was the point I was getting to. What was the purpose
21 of writing a letter to Charles Taylor in early November 1998,
22 given that Bockarie had already met him on two occasions? Can
23 you help us with that?

24 A. That doesn't make any sense. It's a lie. Just a false
12:38:41 25 story.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, I'll take advantage of your
27 pause just to address the parties. The judges have an urgent
28 matter to dispose of this afternoon. So we will rise a little
29 earlier than normal at 1 o'clock instead of 1.30 but we will

1 return for the afternoon session at the normal time, 2.30.

2 MR GRIFFITHS: Very well.

3 Q. Now, on the same page, Mr Sesay, 5783, it was in 1998, line
4 13:

12:39:32 5 "Q. Thank you. You indicated that Sam Bockarie left and
6 he asked you to have a new assignment because he was going
7 to Liberia; is that correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Did you take that assignment?

12:39:44 10 A. Yes, I took it.

11 Q. So where did you go?

12 A. I went to Pendembu.

13 Q. Do you know if Issa Sesay replaced Bockarie in Buedu
14 during the time he was gone?

12:39:57 15 A. Yes, Issa Sesay replaced Bockarie in Buedu.

16 Q. Now, the letter you said was given to Colonel Jungle
17 and you mentioned him before, you said he was based in
18 Buedu. Can you explain what you mean when you say he was
19 based in Buedu?

12:40:12 20 A. Colonel Jungle was based in Buedu with Mosquito, he had
21 his own place there where he was staying, but he would go
22 to Liberia and come back because himself and Mosquito
23 belonged to the same tribe so they were doing things
24 together, so he was also there. He had his own bodyguards
12:40:35 25 with him and he was there in the place.

26 Q. When you say that Jungle and Mosquito were the same
27 tribe, which tribe were they?

28 A. It was Kissi.

29 Q. What language would Jungle and Mosquito speak when they

1 spoke to each other?

2 A. Well, they would speak the Liberian English and
3 sometimes when they were together again they would speak
4 the Kissi.

12:41:01 5 Q. What was Jungle's job when he was there in Buedu?

6 A. Well, Jungle was there as a liaison officer. He used
7 to carry messages and he will bring things - come again, so
8 that was just what he was, liaison officer.

9 Q. Liaison between which parties?"

12:41:22 10 Line 23:

11 "A. I've said before that Jungle will go to Monrovia and
12 then he will bring ammunition, I've even told you that at
13 one time when I was in Kono, I requested for ammunition,
14 when Mosquito told me that I should exercise patience,
12:41:38 15 because Brother Jungle had gone to Monrovia to bring some
16 ammunition, he went to the Pa, that is, Mr Taylor. So if
17 you were asking that, when he took something along and then
18 he brought something back, the something that I'm talking
19 about is ammunition.

12:42:00 20 Q. You indicated he was a liaison, liaison between who?

21 A. A liaison between the RUF and the NPFL.

22 Q. Do you know if at that time in 1998 Colonel Jungle
23 belonged to any unit?

24 A. Colonel Jungle the was part of the Executive Mansion
12:42:20 25 Guard but they had changed his name. At that time, I was
26 not there any longer but at that time I knew him to be an
27 Executive Mansion Guard but they had changed the name from
28 Executive Mansion Guard and now they had another name."
29 Now, Jungle, part of the Executive Mansion Guard? Can you

1 assist us with that, please?

2 A. Yes. From the time I knew Jungle in '92, Jungle, Issa,
3 Late Major Brown, Isaac Mongor, all of us were in Giema in '94
4 and 1995. And Isaac even left Jungle in Giema when he went to
12:43:13 5 Zogoda, so I don't know how he will say Jungle was an Executive
6 Mansion Guard because all of us were in Giema, so I didn't know
7 him for that.

8 Q. And do you recall occasions when Jungle would bring
9 ammunition from Liberia?

12:43:37 10 A. No. I did not witness that and I did not hear it.

11 Q. Now, if such a thing had occurred, would you have known
12 about it?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. How would you have known about it?

12:43:53 15 A. Well, 1998, I met with Jungle in Monrovia when I lost those
16 diamonds and some part of '98 when he used to bring those food
17 items from the Lebanese, like rice, salt, those condiments and
18 sometimes medicine and used clothing from the Lebanese who used
19 to buy the produce from Sam Bockarie, I knew that. I knew that
12:44:26 20 and even this November that you were talking about, I was in
21 Buedu with Sam Bockarie - when Sam Bockarie left I was in Buedu
22 with Mike Lamin, so if anything like that went on I would have
23 known.

24 Q. Now, you recall the witness talking about this trip, this
12:44:52 25 meeting, in early November, preceding a journey to Liberia by Sam
26 Bockarie. Let's go to page 5793, please, line 13:

27 "Q. Now, you've told us quite a bit about Bockarie talking
28 to you about this trip. I would just like you to go over
29 that more slowly. Where did Bockarie indicate he had been

1 on this trip outside of Sierra Leone?

2 A. He went to Liberia because that was where he had
3 received a call to go. When he called us to inform us,
4 that was why he gave me that assignment to go to Pendembu.

12:45:45 5 But when he went to Liberia, what he told me, when he had
6 gotten these things and brought them, he said Mr Taylor had
7 made another connection for him when he connected him to
8 the Burkina Faso president. So he went there to see the
9 man, the President. So it was he and Mr Rogers who went
12:46:11 10 there.

11 Q. When Sam Bockarie went to Liberia, you said he was
12 looking - trying to obtain ammunition; correct?

13 A. Yes, in Liberia.

14 Q. Was he planning on exchanging anything for that
12:46:25 15 ammunition?

16 A. Yes. The thing that we had heard, I told you that when
17 I was coming I came along with some people who were in the
18 mining group who brought some diamonds. So those diamonds
19 were the ones he took along and when he came back he told
12:46:43 20 us that the diamonds that he went with, he left them there
21 with Mr Taylor.

22 Q. Now, you said that Mr Taylor had made a connection for
23 Bockarie with Burkina Faso and Bockarie went to Burkina
24 Faso. Did he say who he went with on this trip to Burkina
12:47:04 25 Faso?

26 A. Yes. He said he went with SYB Rogers."

27 And then he goes on to discuss photographs which need not
28 detain us. Line 20:

29 "Q. Did Sam Bockarie indicate what the result was of his

1 time in Burkina Faso?

12:47:36 2 A. Well, he said he had gone and seen the Burkina Faso
3 president and they have spoken for us to be able to buy
4 ammunition from there. So they had made those - that
5 arrangement - they had made that arrangement already. So
6 whenever we went those things - whenever we want those
7 things he will make sure that he goes there. So that was
8 what he said.

12:47:53 9 Q. Did Sam Bockarie indicate where the ammunition came
10 from that you saw in the storeroom?

11 A. The ammunition which he brought, he told me he had
12 brought them from Liberia and that it was Mr Taylor who
13 gave them to him.

12:48:13 14 Q. After your conversation with Sam Bockarie, where he
15 showed you the ammunition, what happened then in Buedu?

16 A. Well, after he had shown the ammunition to me, he told
17 me the plan that he had come with with respect to those
18 ammunitions. He told me that he and Mr Taylor sat together
19 and planned to come and run an operation. He said he sat
12:48:35 20 with the Pa, Mr Taylor, who took out a map and showed the
21 locations where the RUF and the SLAs were occupied. He
22 showed that to him. He came with a plan for us to launch
23 an operation whereby we'll capture Kono, Makeni and advance
24 to Freetown. And we were also to attack Joru. So those
12:49:01 25 were the areas we were to capture. We were also to launch
26 another attack on Kenema. We were to attack Kenema as
27 well. He said he discussed with the Pa, that is Mr Taylor,
28 to meet with Superman, that of the two of us one person
29 should attack Joru. When that person would have attacked

1 Joru he should advance on Zimmi. He said he discussed
2 that."

3 And for completeness, line 26:

4 "A. Bockarie discussed with Mr Taylor for I and Superman,
12:49:43 5 one of us should attack Joru but Superman was in Koinadugu
6 District, so Mosquito told the Pa, that is Mr Taylor, that
7 Superman was far away from Buedu so I was close to the
8 place, and they said I should attack Joru and advance.
9 When I would have captured Joru I should advance on Zimmi
12:50:11 10 because I was to receive some other people from the NPFL
11 who were to come from Liberia. I was to receive them.
12 I was to receive them in Zimmi. I should be in Zimmi when
13 they came. That was the reinforcement that would have
14 arrived."

12:50:31 15 Now, let's stop there for the moment and let me ask you
16 about one or two details. The trip that Sam Bockarie made to
17 Burkina Faso in late 1998, Mr Sesay, who arranged that?

18 A. According to Sam Bockarie, it was Mr Taylor who spoke to
19 President Blaise that the RUF should visit in respect of
12:51:05 20 revisiting the Abidjan Accord.

21 Q. Now, second thing is this: As far as you're aware, when
22 Bockarie went on that trip to Burkina Faso, did he take along
23 diamonds with him?

24 A. No. Sam Bockarie did not go with diamonds.

12:51:26 25 Q. In November/December of - well, in November of 1998, did
26 the RUF control either Tongo Fields or Kono, the mining
27 districts?

28 A. No. The ECOMOG and Kamajors were in Tongo and Kono. RUF
29 were in the surrounding villages - surrounding villages around

1 Koidu and Kono. And during this time the Alpha Jets used to raid
2 the RUF positions. That was the situation.

3 Q. So in November 1998, prior to Bockarie's trip to Burkina
4 Faso, what access did the RUF have to diamonds?

12:52:22 5 A. It was very little because the mining itself was very
6 small-scale mining.

7 Q. Now, so did Sam Bockarie take diamonds with him on that
8 trip?

9 A. No. Sam Bockarie did not talk about taking diamonds with
12:52:54 10 him. He did not go with diamonds on that trip.

11 Q. As far as you're aware, when in Burkina Faso on that trip,
12 did Sam Bockarie strike a deal with the President of Burkina Faso
13 to obtain any arms and/or ammunition?

14 A. I did not hear that.

12:53:19 15 Q. So did he obtain anything from the President of Burkina
16 Faso?

17 A. No. I did not hear about anything that he obtained. From
18 Burkina Faso he went to Libya, that is what he said. He said he
19 had money from Libya.

12:53:43 20 Q. Now, again, there is this allegation being made that on his
21 return from that trip, via Monrovia to Burkina Faso and Libya,
22 that Sam Bockarie came back and told the commanders on the ground
23 that he had a plan from Charles Taylor to attack Kono, Makeni and
24 then advance to Freetown. So here is another witness coming with
12:54:27 25 that same allegation. Now, Mr Sesay, did Bockarie return to
26 Sierra Leone stating to you commanders that he had received
27 orders from Charles Taylor to attack Kono, then Makeni, then
28 Freetown?

29 A. Sam Bockarie did not tell me that, and even the meeting

1 which I attended before my departure to Kono, that is at
2 Waterworks, Sam Bockarie did not tell me that. And this one was
3 not present in the meeting, he was in Pendembu. And the plan was
4 not to attack Kono, Makeni and Freetown. What we discussed in
12:55:21 5 the meeting and the mission that Bockarie gave to me was to
6 attack Kono because even myself or Bockarie, we were not sure if
7 we could capture - recapture Kono - capture Kono from the ECOMOG,
8 so there was no need to make further plans apart from Kono.

9 Q. At the time of the meeting which preceded the attack on
12:55:45 10 Kono, did the RUF have the capacity at that time to advance all
11 the way to Freetown?

12 A. That is what I'm telling you. I said we were not sure of
13 capturing Kono from ECOMOG. We were not sure of that. I was the
14 commander who led the mission. I was the one who went and
12:56:11 15 I discussed with the commanders in Kono before the attack on
16 Kono. And during the meeting that we held at Waterworks with Sam
17 Bockarie, we were not sure of capturing Kono, that I could
18 capture Kono. The plan was just to attack the ECOMOG in Kono.
19 So even myself when we captured Kono from the ECOMOG, it was a
12:56:35 20 surprise to me, it was a big surprise to me. And the ammunitions
21 and arms that we captured, the tanks, that was what made Sam
22 Bockarie to say, "Okay, so what you should do, you should pursue
23 the ECOMOG whilst they are running away." So we pursued them.
24 Right up to Makeni, they were running.

12:56:53 25 Q. Now, there is another aspect to this account that I want to
26 draw your attention to before we move on and this is where this
27 witness, Isaac Mongor, told these judges this:

28 "Bockarie discussed with Mr Taylor for I and Superman - one
29 of us should attack Joru, but Superman was in Koinadugu District.

1 So Mosquito told the Pa, that is Mr Taylor, that Superman was far
2 away from the Buedu end, so I was close to that place and they
3 said I should attack Joru and advance and when I would have
4 captured Joru I should advance on Zimmi because I was to receive
12:57:44 5 some other people from the NPFL who were to come from Liberia.
6 I was to receive them. I was to receive them in Zimmi, I should
7 be in Zimmi when they came. That was the reinforcement that
8 would have arrived."

9 Question one: Was Isaac Mongor given any particular target
12:58:12 10 to attack in or around November/December 1998?

11 A. Well, before my departure to Kono, no. It was after I had
12 captured Kono and were moving down to Makeni, that was when
13 I heard that Isaac Mongor set an ambush between Joru and Kenema.
14 He did not even attack Joru; he only set an ambush. Bockarie
12:58:42 15 said he should set an ambush between Joru and Kenema and some NGO
16 trucks fell in that ambush and people were amputated and others
17 were killed, because the news about that ambush was even on the
18 BBC around January '99.

19 Q. So the plan to attack Kono, at the time of that plan, was
12:59:15 20 there a simultaneous decision made that Mongor would attack Joru
21 and advance from there to Zimmi?

22 A. No, no. Such a plan wasn't there. There was no plan like
23 that. It was after I had captured Kono, trying to move down to
24 Makeni was when Bockarie started giving those missions around
12:59:42 25 Kailahun, Joru ambush, Bunumbu, Segbwema. It was after the fall
26 of Kono, because we were not sure if Kono would fall to the RUF
27 or the RUF would be able to capture Kono. So there was no other
28 further plans before my departure from Kailahun. It was only the
29 attack on Kono. And look at him talking about capturing Zimmi

1 and that reinforcement should come. Why should you go first and
2 capture near Joru and leave that place, go and capture Zimmi
3 before reinforcement could come from Liberia? Why doesn't the
4 reinforcement just come from Foya, and there is no - because
13:00:23 5 there was no fighting there from Foya to come to Buedu, except
6 you would have to go round to go and fight to places where there
7 was fighting, no.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, at some stage, if you must
9 finish the trend of your thought, do so.

13:00:42 10 MR GRIFFITHS: I think I can finish developing that point
11 after the lunch break.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. We will adjourn early for the
13 luncheon break for the reason I stated earlier and reconvene at
14 2.30.

13:01:25 15 [Lunch break taken at 1.00 p.m.]

16 [Upon resuming at 2.32 p.m.]

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, please continue.

18 MR GRIFFITHS:

19 Q. Before we pick up where we left off, Mr Sesay, could I
14:33:56 20 invite your attention, please, to exhibit P-58. This is the
21 gazette that you reminded me about this morning, Mr Sesay. Have
22 a look at the second page. Tell me, does the name Isaac Mongor
23 appear there amongst that list of 34 names as a member of the
24 council?

14:36:54 25 A. No, it is not there.

26 Q. If you were not a council member, could you attend council
27 meetings?

28 A. No, no.

29 Q. So when Isaac Mongor claims to have attended council

1 meetings, was he telling the truth about that?

2 A. He was not telling the truth. He was lying, because he
3 never attended council meetings, because when Gibril Massaquoi
4 came from Nigeria, he left Mr Sankoh there. That was one of the
14:37:38 5 messages that Mr Sankoh sent to Sam Bockarie, that Isaac Mongor,
6 Superman, should don't become members of the Supreme Council
7 because they had Liberian nationalities. So Isaac never attended
8 council meetings.

9 Q. Why didn't Sankoh want Liberian members of the RUF to be
14:38:02 10 council members?

11 A. Well, what I understood was that it will not be nice for
12 the Liberians, who had been vanguards and who were part of the
13 RUF, for them to come and get top offices in Sierra Leone amongst
14 the Sierra Leoneans. So it was like, even if Mr Sankoh had
14:38:26 15 succeeded, they would have just served as securities to Mr Sankoh
16 but not for them to have top positions in the Sierra Leone
17 government. They should not be part of the decision-making body
18 over the Sierra Leonean people.

19 Q. Now, when we adjourned for lunch we were looking at page
14:38:48 20 5796, transcript for 11 March 2008. Can we go back to that now,
21 please:

22 "When I should - would have captured Joru I should advance
23 on Zimmi because I was to receive some other people from the
24 N" --

14:39:24 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: What line are you reading from?

26 MR GRIFFITHS: Line 2.

27 Q. "...who were to come from Liberia. I was to receive them.
28 I was to receive them in Zimmi. I should be in Zimmi when they
29 came. That was the reinforcement that would have arrived."

1 Now, do you recall any discussion in November 1998 in which
2 it was suggested that Liberians, members of the NPFL, would enter
3 Sierra Leone at or about that time to assist in this plan given
4 to Bockarie by Charles Taylor to attack Kono, Makeni and then on
14:40:23 5 to Freetown? Do you recall any discussion about that?

6 A. No. I don't recall any discussion about that, to say the
7 reinforcement should come from members of the NPFL in Liberia to
8 come and join the RUF. That kind of discussion did not take
9 place. That kind of discussion did not take place, and it was
14:40:48 10 not even within the rank and file of the RUF that a reinforcement
11 was to come and join us to attack Kono, Makeni and Freetown, no.
12 That was the reason why I had said if what this man is saying is
13 the truth, why then was he supposed to have attacked Joru and
14 from there go to Zimmi to receive reinforcement from Liberia
14:41:12 15 whilst is the border from Koindu up to Dawa, up to Vahun, up to
16 Kungbohun, up to Lofa Bridge, the borders were open and the
17 border was free from the Liberian side, except someone moved from
18 Kailahun up to Zimmi to link with Liberia before reinforcement
19 enters. That does not make any sense because it's a lie.

14:41:38 20 Q. Now you mentioned one name in there before - from Koindu,
21 up to Daru, up to Vahun, up to - you mentioned another name.
22 What was that, Mr Sesay?

23 A. I said from Koindu to Dawa, and up to Vahun, and from Vahun
24 to Kungbohun, and up to Lofa Bridge.

14:42:10 25 Q. It is the second to last name, how do you pronounce it?

26 A. Kungbohun, that is opposite Jojoiima, the Gola Forest.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Interpreter, please spell Kungbohun
28 for us.

29 THE WITNESS: K-U-N-G-B-O-H-U-N.

1 MR GRIFFITHS: Thank you.

2 THE WITNESS: So what I'm saying is that the border by this
3 time in 1998, all the areas I have referred to, it was the RUF
4 and the Government of Liberia forces sharing that border. So why
14:42:54 5 would it have been necessary for someone to go and fight around
6 the Kamajor and ECOMOG-controlled areas just to get a connection
7 from the Liberian border, leaving out the place where the
8 Liberian border was already connected?

9 MR GRIFFITHS:

14:43:07 10 Q. Well, Mr Sesay, it might be of more assistance for you to
11 explain that for us on a map. If I could just be excused for a
12 moment to pick up my map from under the table.

13 Yes, could the witness please be shown exhibit P-5, S1 from
14 the bundle of maps.

14:44:27 15 Now, Mr Sesay, I would like you to change places please,
16 once the map is on the screen. Now, Mr Sesay, just to put this
17 in context. First of all, where is Joru, which is mentioned by
18 Isaac Mongor as the target for him to attack, J-0-R-U. Where is
19 it, or just roughly where is it?

14:45:23 20 A. It is around this area.

21 Q. The witness is pointing to an area just to the south of
22 Kori bundu, yes?

23 A. Yes, because this area is Potoru.

24 Q. And Joru is near there, is it?

14:46:03 25 A. I have not yet seen Joru.

26 Q. But you say it's in the area of Potoru, yes?

27 A. Yes, because this is the survey road moving here to this
28 area at the back of Kenema and this is the Moa River. Joru is
29 supposed to be around here, before you come to Joru and then you

1 come down to Zimmi, so--

2 Q. Now, Mr Sesay, you were telling us that there was an area
3 of the borderline between Liberia and Sierra Leone which at this
4 time in 1998, late 1998, was open. Now without looking for the
14:47:05 5 particular place names that you mentioned, just trace the pen
6 along that part of the border you were describing, please?

7 A. Okay. I was trying to describe that from Koindu - because
8 here is Koindu, this is Koindu. From Koindu we share a border
9 with Liberia up to Buedu and from Buedu up to - all these areas
14:47:38 10 which here border with Liberia. And here, at Zimmi, this is

11 Zimmi in Pujehun District, this was where the Kamajors were. It
12 was only this place that the Kamajors were, while all this area
13 starting from Buedu, like he alleged, he left this area, he came
14 here to fight down here before going to the Liberia, but why did
14:48:04 15 he leave all these areas? These areas were under the RUF control
16 along the Liberian border, from here up here Koindu. All these
17 areas. So that was the reason why I said it doesn't make sense
18 because he is lying. If there was a reinforcement around here to
19 come here, why would he have left from Koindu, Buedu up to
14:48:25 20 Pendembu, all these areas? Why should he leave all these areas,
21 fight until you come and capture a Kamajor and ECOMOG place in
22 Zimmi before linking with the Liberian border.

23 Q. So I just want to make sure that I understand. On this map
24 as we look at it, that part of the border between Liberia and
14:48:52 25 Sierra Leone, from about, if you look to the left of the letter L
26 in Liberia, see an area called Kongo, from there to the sea are
27 you saying that area was covered - controlled by the Kamajors and
28 ECOMOG?

29 A. Yes from this Kongo, coming down to Sulima, close to

1 Sulima, because this is now the sea coast. This is where the
2 Mano River is. Here was controlled by Kamajors, the Kamajors and
3 the ECOMOG. But starting from here, from Kongo, K-O-N-G-O, going
4 upwards up to Koindu, it was the RUF that controlled these areas.

14:49:42 5 So you will see that the areas where the RUF controlled triples
6 the area where the ECOMOG and the Kamajors controlled along the
7 Liberian border. You can see from this point to this point was
8 the only place that was controlled by ECOMOG and Kamajors. But
9 starting from here up to this point up, upwards, it was the RUF
14:50:05 10 that controlled along this borderline.

11 Q. So help us, Mr Sesay. Was there anything to prevent
12 Liberian reinforcements entering Sierra Leone through Kailahun,
13 say, at this time?

14 A. No. There was nothing that could have stopped that. There
14:50:31 15 was nothing that could have prevented the NPFL or the Liberian
16 AFL to enter Kailahun District as reinforcement along this
17 borderline. There was nothing preventing them. Because on the
18 Liberian side there was Liberian securities and on the Sierra
19 Leonean side there was RUF securities. So there was nothing like
14:50:51 20 an obstacle to block the Liberian reinforcement.

21 So that is why I said if what he is saying is the truth,
22 there was no need for the Liberian reinforcement to have come
23 through Zimmi where ECOMOG was and then leaving out the place
24 which was free where they could have just walked in easily and
14:51:11 25 come to Kailahun.

26 Q. So, Mr Sesay, this suggestion made by Isaac Mongor, is it
27 truthful or is it a pack of lies?

28 A. These are just pack of lies because even for someone like
29 you who was not there, if it was true, what I have explained to

1 you, you can see that there was no obstacle here to reinforcement
2 the RUF. Then why could someone come to a place where there was
3 obstacle to receive reinforcements? It's a lie.

4 Q. Thank you. Can we put that map away, please. Same page,
14:52:00 5 5796:

6 "Q. Now you indicated that Mr Taylor had told Bockarie
7 that you or Superman should attack Joru and advance to
8 Zimmi in order to receive some NPFL who were to come from
9 Liberia. Do you know why it would be you or Superman who
14:52:22 10 would have been chosen for that assignment?

11 A. Yes, because the two of us used to be NPFL fighters and
12 we were familiar with the NPFL brothers.

13 Q. Did Sam Bockarie indicate what the purpose of this
14 attack was going to be? What was the ultimate purpose?

14:52:42 15 A. The reason for this attack - for this advance on the
16 various places and for us to take those places, you can
17 remember that at that time Foday Sankoh had been moved from
18 Nigeria and he was in jail in Freetown, so we were to
19 attack Kono and take there. We were to attack Freetown in
14:53:05 20 order to free Foday Sankoh and the others who were in jail
21 there. We were also to ensure that we seized power.

22 Q. Did Sam Bockarie indicate to you in his discussion with
23 Mr Taylor if there was any discussion about how the attack
24 should be carried out in order to free Sankoh?

14:53:26 25 A. Yes. He said they discussed it. After he had shown
26 those places to him, they discussed that we should run that
27 mission to ensure that we free Foday Sankoh and others and,
28 on the operation, we should ensure that the ammunition is
29 not wasted. We should make the operation fearful, that all

1 the other operations that we had undertaken because we want
2 to make sure that we take Freetown and hold on to power.

3 Q. Mr Witness, are you telling us now when you talk about
4 the plan for a fearful operation, that this is what
14:54:11 5 Bockarie told you he discussed with Charles Taylor?

6 A. Yes, that was what Sam Bockarie said."

7 Now, what do you understand by the use of the word
8 "fearful", Mr Sesay?

9 A. Well, fearful - fearful. Fearful is to do terrible things
14:54:46 10 beyond expectation, that is what you call a fearful thing,
11 because the context in which "fearful" is used is to go and
12 fight, the way he used it.

13 Q. So if you made an operation fearful, what kind of operation
14 would that be?

14:55:10 15 A. Well, that was - here it was committing crimes against the
16 people, the civilians and even against the troops that you are
17 fighting against. Because if you said to go and make something
18 fearful at the battlefield, that is what it means; destruction.

19 Q. Now, you have learnt, have you not, Mr Sesay, even though
14:55:32 20 you were, yourself, not present, that some fearful things were
21 done in Freetown during the invasion in January 1999. You know
22 that, don't you?

23 A. Yes, yes. I know that.

24 Q. Now, I want you to understand what this witness was telling
14:55:52 25 these judges, so let's put it together, shall we. One, the plan
26 to attack Kono, Makeni and on to Freetown came from Charles
27 Taylor, brought by Sam Bockarie; Liberians were also supposed to
28 be involved in this operation; and the operation was to be made
29 fearful and, again, that was a suggestion originating from

1 Charles Taylor. Did anything like that go on, Mr Sesay?

2 A. Well, such a thing did not happen because I left this man
3 in Kailahun in Pendembu and when - I went on the attack in Kono
4 and from Kono to where the RUF fighting went on in Makeni,

14:56:45 5 fearful things did not happen there. The fearful things that
6 happened in Freetown, they were not - the RUF did not take part
7 in them. RUF did not plan it. So it is just for him to make up
8 his own story, because that was what the RUF insiders do, to make
9 up their own stories, to make up their own lies to suit them and

14:57:13 10 to get what they want. But I am telling you that this man was
11 far off in the Kailahun District. When these atrocities were
12 being committed in Freetown he was not in Freetown, he was not
13 close to Freetown, he did not take part in the plan. So - just
14 very much surprised that he is claiming these kinds of things

14:57:41 15 that RUF was part of it. It is a big lie. The RUF was not part
16 of it. In Freetown they disturbed police stations, they bombed
17 out police barracks and they killed police officers but where I
18 first, like, in Makeni, Makali and Masingbi, nothing happened to
19 the police stations. So the things that happened in Freetown in
14:58:07 20 January '99 and the things that happened in Makeni and Magburaka,
21 Makali, Masingbi, those are two different things.

22 Q. Now, the witness went on, line 19, page 5797:

23 "Q. So when he spoke at the meeting the late Pa Rogers,
24 the SYB Rogers that I smoke about with whom he came, he
14:58:35 25 stood, and told and thanked Sam Bockarie and he told us
26 that if Sam Bockarie was the rebel leader at the time the
27 war started, then the war would have ended quickly because
28 the ammunition which they brought, the man who was Foday
29 Sankoh was the rebel leader, had never brought that

1 quantity of ammunition which they had now brought.

2 Q. Who was present at this meeting of commanders in Buedu
3 that you just discussed?

4 A. I was there, Mike Lamin was there, Leather Boot was at
14:59:10 5 the meeting, Akim Turay, Eddie Kanneh and other commanders
6 from other places, they too came and they were present."

7 Middle of the page, line 12:

8 "Q. Can you tell us if you recall any RUF commanders,
9 beside Mike Lamin, being present at this meeting and
14:59:28 10 yourself?

11 A. You had Monkey Brown, who was also another RUF
12 commander.

13 Q. Thank you.

14 A. Issa Sesay too was there".

14:59:41 15 So, Mr Sesay, if you should have been at this meeting and
16 you heard about the Liberians coming in and you heard about the
17 rest of the plans. Did you go to this meeting that Isaac Mongor
18 was describing?

19 A. Such a meeting did not take place in Buedu. The meeting
14:59:59 20 which I attended before my departure to Kono, Isaac Mongor was
21 not present, he was not part of that meeting.

22 Q. Line 19:

23 "Q. Now, sir, you indicated that the plan for your own
24 assignment was to go and an attack Joru and Zimmi to
15:00:23 25 receive NPFL troops. What do you mean at this time in 1998
26 by NPFL forces?

27 A. NPFL forciers were those who came from Liberia, were
28 Charles Taylor's men and who were in Liberia. They were
29 the ones who were to join us, but I was to go and receive.

1 That was why he said I should attack Joru and advance on
2 simply for me to receive them. They were to join us, for
3 us all to run the operation."

4 Now, at the meeting which preceded the attack on Kono,
15:01:24 5 Mr Sesay, was there any discussion about SAJ Musa and his forces
6 in the north in the Koinadugu area having some role to play in
7 this operation?

8 A. No. The meeting which I attended, there was no mention of
9 SAJ Musa, neither from Sam Bockarie nor from any others. Sam
15:01:57 10 Bockarie, Mike Lamin, Late SYB Rogers, Eddie Kanneh, Lawrence
11 Womandia and Rashid Sandy, we were the ones who attended the
12 meeting at Waterworks. There was no mention of SAJ Musa,
13 nothing.

14 Q. Now, Mr Sesay, you have described, in detail, the movement
15:02:20 15 of SAJ Musa and his forces towards Freetown, SAJ Musa's death and
16 the taking over of command from him by Gullit, you've told us
17 about that. Now, my question now in that regard is this: At
18 this meeting in Buedu at the end of 1998, was there a discussion
19 with SAJ Musa to coordinate his advance with your attack on Kono
15:02:57 20 and from then on to Makeni? Do you follow me?

21 A. Yes, I do follow you.

22 Q. Was there?

23 A. No. Nothing was discussed about SAJ Musa. Even his name
24 was not mentioned in that meeting - that discussion. The meeting
15:03:20 25 before my departure from Buedu to Kono, SAJ Musa's name was not
26 even mentioned that meeting.

27 Q. Now, I want to be clear about this, Mr Sesay. Was there -
28 was the movement of Musa's forces coordinated from the beginning
29 with the movement of your force on to Kono and then to Makeni?

1 A. I said no. We did not have any plan beyond Kono. The only
2 plan that was discussed in that meeting was to attack Koidu Town.
3 We had no other plan beyond Kono because we were not sure if we
4 could even capture Kono or not. And at this time there was
15:04:13 5 nothing that we discussed regarding SAJ Musa's cooperation, no.
6 Before this time even SAJ Musa and RUF had no business, himself
7 and Sam Bockarie had no business. So there was nothing in which
8 SAJ Musa's name came up in that meeting, no.

9 Q. So listen to what Isaac Mongor told these judges back in
15:04:42 10 March of 2008. Page 5799, line 16:

11 "Q. At this meeting in Buedu that you have talked about
12 was SAJ Musa present?

13 A. No, SAJ Musa was not there. SAJ Musa and Superman were
14 in that Koinadugu area, so he was not there.

15:05:06 15 Q. At the meeting was there any discussion of the forces
16 in the north, SAJ Musa and Superman's forces, taking any
17 part in your plans?

18 A. Yes. We discussed them and we all agreed that we
19 should send - Mosquito should send radio message to them
15:05:29 20 for all of them to join hands so that we can run the
21 operation, but we all decided that Mosquito would not be
22 the best person, but it would be better for Johnny Paul to
23 talk to SAJ Musa, for us to forget about the past, to put
24 all the infighting behind us and run the operation. That
15:05:56 25 was what we agreed upon and sent to Johnny Paul and Johnny
26 Paul was able to talk to SAJ Musa and others for us, all to
27 join hands together to run the operation and they agreed.

28 Q. How do you know about the communication between Johnny
29 Paul Koroma and SAJ Musa?

1 A. Well, that was something that we talked about at the
2 meeting and we all agreed that we must include you because
3 you were supposed to be there, we all agreed that Johnny
4 Paul should do it because he will be the best person, and
15:06:44 5 it went on, because I, too, had a radio in my own area. So
6 my radio man monitored it and he told me that the message
7 went. That they've sent the message to SAJ Musa and others
8 for all of them to join hands in the operation.

9 Q. Do you know if SAJ Musa gave any response to Johnny
15:07:11 10 Paul Koroma's request that they all join hands?

11 A. Well, SAJ Musa accepted to run the operation.

12 Q. Do you know if there were any RUF with SAJ Musa at that
13 time?

14 A. Yes. I had said it from the early stages, that at that
15:07:32 15 place we had had some RUF men who retreated from Makeni to
16 that end, so there were some RUF men with SAJ Musa".

17 And then he goes on to name them, line 24:

18 "A. Alfred Brown, King Perry."

19 Now, do you understand what is being said here, Mr Sesay?
15:08:02 20 There is this plan which Bockarie brings back from Monrovia,
21 Kono, Makeni, on to Freetown. Liberians are to be involved
22 through Zimmi and, in addition, there is only one plan and that
23 plan also includes SAJ Musa and his troops coming from Koinadugu
24 area. Do you understand what is being suggested; that the RUF
15:08:35 25 were linked with the AFRC right from when SAJ Musa started to
26 advance in Koinadugu right down to Freetown? Do you understand
27 what this man told these judges, Mr Sesay?

28 A. Yes, I'm following.

29 Q. Is there a grain of truth in any of it?

1 A. This man's entire story, the entire made-up story, because
2 the story was made up, it is a big lie. He made up this story,
3 because this Johnny Paul that he is suggesting that he sent
4 message to SAJ Musa to cooperate with the operation, that is a
15:09:22 5 lie, because I saw Johnny Paul the day before I left for Buedu.
6 After the meeting with Sam Bockarie, we went to Kangama and we
7 met Johnny Paul, and Sam Bockarie briefed Johnny Paul that he was
8 going to send me to go and attack Kono. That was when Johnny
9 Paul himself gave me advice that I should pay attention and the
15:09:49 10 attack in Kono, I should put the men under control. That is our
11 fighters. Johnny Paul did not say anything about SAJ Musa
12 because Johnny Paul did not communicate with SAJ Musa about
13 anything. During this time, when we left Buedu, when I left
14 Buedu to go and attack Kono, at that time SAJ Musa was around
15:10:15 15 Port Loko District on their way to Freetown, on their way to
16 Freetown. They had made the plan even before this time. So that
17 plan was an independent plan completely from the RUF. It was an
18 AFRC plan. RUF had nothing to do with the plan. So when you
19 look at it, it only coincided when the RUF captured Kono, going
15:10:42 20 down to Makeni, and they too went to attack Freetown. But when
21 you look at the atrocities, the things that happened in Freetown,
22 what happened in Makeni, you got to comprehend these two things.
23 It's like death and sleep. You know, people were killed, burning
24 houses. Look at Makeni; not a single civilian house was burnt
15:11:06 25 down. Can you compare the things that happened in Freetown to
26 the ones that happened in Makeni? Where we fought in Magburaka
27 and Makeni, not a single civilian structure was burnt down. When
28 they went to Freetown, they burnt down people's houses. These
29 were two different plans, and the attackers were two different

1 groups.

2 Q. Now, you said something there, and I seek some
3 clarification on it, Mr Sesay, and I am grateful for that answer.
4 Where was SAJ Musa and his forces at the time when you attended a
15:11:42 5 meeting in Buedu?

6 A. During the time that I attended the meeting and my
7 departure time from Buedu, I heard on the BBC that soldiers in
8 combat had attack and captured Lunsar from the ECOMOG and the
9 Kamajors. That was SAJ Musa's group. That was SAJ Musa's group.
15:12:15 10 At this time, they were on their way, coming down to Freetown,
11 before we could even make the plan to attack Kono from Buedu,
12 before I left Buedu to go to Kono.

13 Q. So just to be clear, was SAJ Musa in Koinadugu when that
14 meeting took place in Buedu?

15:12:39 15 A. No. They were in the Port Loko axis. That is the last
16 district to enter into Freetown. From Port Loko there is no
17 other district in between. So the Port Loko and the Western
18 Rural share boundaries.

19 Q. Now, at the time of this meeting that you attended - and I
15:12:59 20 am not talking about the meeting described by this witness, who
21 you call a liar - but at the time you attended a meeting, at that
22 point, what was Johnny Paul Koroma's role within the RUF?

23 A. He used to advise Sam Bockarie, because after the plan and
24 the meeting, myself, Mike Lamin, Sam Bockarie, Kaisuku, we drove
15:13:29 25 to Kangama where we met Johnny Paul the following day after the
26 meeting. And Sam Bockarie explained to him and Johnny Paul too
27 gave his pieces of advice about his support and regarding the
28 attack on Kono.

29 Q. And tell me, at this time, what control or authority did

1 Johnny Paul Koroma wield over the AFRC?

2 A. The AFRC under SAJ Musa's command, Johnny Paul had no
3 control about it, even before this time. From February of 1998,
4 when SAJ Musa and that group left Makeni for Kabala, Johnny Paul
15:14:13 5 had no control over them. Up to SAJ Musa's death in December
6 '98, Johnny Paul had no control over SAJ Musa.

7 Q. Page 5801, line 13 - well, line 11, let's include the
8 question:

9 "Q. After that meeting, what did you do, after the meeting
15:14:43 10 of all the commanders where the plan was made for the
11 offensive?

12 A. Well, everybody agreed to run the operation. People
13 had their various targets where they should go, and they
14 were to be supplied with ammunition to go. The only people
15:15:00 15 who were not able to receive the supplies at that moment
16 were the ones who were in the Northern Jungle in the
17 Koinadugu District. At that moment, we were not able to
18 receive any - they were not able to receive any supplies,
19 but those of us who were to go to the various targets, we
15:15:23 20 received supplies.

21 Q. And can you explain again why those in the Northern
22 District could not receive supplies at that time?

23 A. I think I have said it, and I'll say it again. I said
24 because there was no way for us to transport any ammunition
15:15:40 25 to go their way, because the enemies who were we were
26 fighting, that is the ECOMOG troops and the loyalists to
27 former President Tejan Kabbah and the Kamajors were based
28 in Koidu Town, so we had no way of taking any ammunition to
29 them.

1 Q. After the meeting, did you receive ammunition?

2 A. Yes. I received ammunition to go to my own target.

3 Q. And do you recall what ammunition you received?

4 A. Yes, I received AK rounds, RPG and GMG.

15:16:15 5 Q. Do you recall how many boxes of AK rounds you received?

6 A. Well, I can't - I can recall I received 15 boxes of AK
7 rounds, but the 15 boxes which I received, I was to leave
8 five at the other place called Mobai."

9 Now, do you recall this man, Isaac Mongor, at about this

15:16:43 10 time receiving 15 boxes of AK ammunition, Mr Sesay?

11 A. No. That did not happen.

12 Q. How many boxes of AK rounds did you receive for this attack
13 on Kono?

14 A. I received between 18 to 20 boxes of AK rounds, around

15:17:11 15 that.

16 Q. And tell me, at this time, do you have any idea how many
17 boxes of AK rounds the RUF had access to?

18 A. About 40 boxes.

19 Q. And then he was asked this at line 23 on page 5803:

15:17:49 20 "Q. Where did these boxes of ammunition come from that you
21 took with you?

22 A. They had all come from Liberia when they were brought
23 to Buedu, and it was in Buedu that I was given for me to
24 take to my own target.

15:18:10 25 Q. After the meeting when the ammunition was distributed,
26 do you know if any ammunition was given to the SLAs or AFRC
27 soldiers?

28 A. Yes, because the commander, like Akim Turay, they too
29 were there, they too were to go to their own targets, so

1 they had their own ammunition. Issa Sesay too was to go on
2 his own target, together with Morris Kallon. So all of
3 these people were supplied."

15:18:46 4 Now, do you recall a number of commanders being provided
5 with ammunition in Buedu and then leaving for their various
6 targets, Mr Sesay?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Who received such supplies in Buedu? Tell us.

15:19:12 9 A. It was myself, who was going to attack Kono. Sam Bockarie
10 gave me ammunition supply. Because this Akim Turay that you are
11 talking about, he did not come to Buedu. He was in Gandorhun.

12 He was the battalion commander in Gandorhun. So when I was going
13 to Kono, I met Akim in Gandorhun because he was deployed in the
14 Kono District. So the following day he went to meet me at the
15:19:35 15 Superman Ground, and we planned the attack on Koidu Town. So he
16 had no ammunition from Buedu, and he was not even in Buedu at
17 this time. And he, Isaac Mongor, was not given any ammunition in
18 Buedu at the time when I was there until the time I left.

19 Q. Yes. Now, when you went on that mission to capture Kono,
15:20:18 20 Mr Sesay, were you monitoring the radio?

21 A. I was not an operator to be sitting near the radio to
22 monitor, but I sent messages and I received messages.

23 Q. Page 5804 please, line 24:

24 "Q. Mr Witness, did you receive information while you were
15:20:55 25 involved on your mission, about any of the operations in
26 other parts of the country?

27 A. Yes, I heard.

28 Q. How did you hear?

29 A. I heard it from the radio which we were using because

1 it was a field radio. I heard that they had captured Koidu
2 Town, and Akim Turay too had advanced on Jaiama Nimi koro,
3 and Rambo was advancing towards Makeni, and those who were
4 going to Freetown, Superman too, had left the Northern Area
15:21:32 5 and they had attack Makeni together with Rambo, and they
6 were fighting at Teko Barracks, and they had been able to
7 capture Teko Barracks. SAJ Musa and Alfred Brown moved
8 towards Freetown and arrived in Waterloo - sorry, Masiaka.
9 That was where I spoke with Alfred Brown. Alfred Brown
15:21:55 10 told me that they had arrived in Masiaka and that was where
11 they were, but that he would talk to me when they reached
12 the next target, which was Waterloo, and that was where
13 they were heading, then I said okay."
14 Pause. Now, you have already told us, Mr Sesay, that
15:22:15 15 Alfred Brown, the RUF radio operator, was with SAJ Musa's group
16 which advanced upon Freetown. By the time SAJ Musa's forces had
17 reached Masiaka, as far as you're aware, was there any radio
18 contact between that group and the RUF?
19 A. No. There was no radio contact between that group and the
15:22:48 20 RUF, because even after the infighting between SAJ Musa and
21 Superman in the Koinadugu District, when SAJ Musa left and joined
22 Gullit and others in Major Eddie Town, around Bombali District,
23 that is around September of '98, before the attack on Freetown
24 was planned, September to October of '98. SAJ Musa gave strong
15:23:25 25 orders that King Perry and Alfred Brown should not go close to
26 the radio set, they should avoid the radio set. Those were the
27 orders SAJ Musa gave when they were on the move to Freetown. So
28 if Isaac is now claiming that during that time when SAJ Musa's
29 group attacked Masiaka he was communicating with them, that is a

1 black lie. It was not possible.

2 Q. Now can we go to page 6162, please, evidence of 31 March
3 2008. Mr Sesay, for your assistance, we are dealing with the
4 same witness. Line 3:

15:24:48 5 "Q. And can you remind us which forces were fighting in
6 the Hastings area?

7 A. Well, it was Rambo and other people who were fighters
8 that were around the Hastings area fighting.

9 Q. And just as we concluded I was asking you about your
10 knowledge of the geography of the peninsula in which
11 Freetown is located and you told us you were familiar with
12 that. My question for you now is what importance did it
13 have strategically that Rambo's forces were at Hastings to
14 the battle and the retreat of Gullit's forces from
15 Freetown?

15:25:29 16 A. Well, it was important because it was a forested area
17 and it was a hilly area. Therefore, when Rambo engaged the
18 ECOMOG troops around the Hastings area, the men who were
19 retreating from Freetown were able to use the forest to
20 come towards the Waterloo area where our men occupied.

15:25:51 21 Q. Okay. And with that situation were Gullit's forces
22 able to largely withdraw intact from Freetown during the
23 retreat?"

24 Line 24:

15:26:15 25 "Were Gullit's forces able to withdraw or unable to
26 withdraw from Freetown when ECOMOG counter-attacked?

27 A. Yes, they were able to move from out of the town and
28 come towards the Waterloo area.

29 Q. Mr Witness, in general, from your observations as an

1 RUF commander, and from your monitoring of communication
2 during the period January 1999, can you tell us what was
3 the relationship between RUF and the AFRC forces during
4 that month January 1999?

15:26:59 5 A. Yes. The relationship that was between the AFRC and
6 the AFRC and the RUF was cordial and we had understanding.
7 We were together as one. We had no problems amongst us."
8 Now, two things there. First of all, did Rambo and his
9 forces get as far as Hastings?

15:27:32 10 A. No. Rambo's forces stopped at Waterloo.

11 Q. Why did Rambo's forces go to Waterloo?

12 A. Well, it was later that Rambo's forces came to Waterloo
13 because when we captured Makeni, Rambo first attacked Bumbuna,
14 while Superman attack Kabala. From there they were not
15 successful in the two attacks, so Sam Bockarie told them to
16 attack Port Loko. So it was after the attack on Port Loko and
17 they failed, the Guineans put up a resistance in Port Loko and
18 Sam Bockarie said they should use the main road. So it was not
19 like we just captured Makeni and we ran to Waterloo. It was not
15:28:26 20 like that. And Freetown was the seat of power in the country, so
21 what RUF had been fighting for - that was what RUF had been
22 fighting for from 1991, to gain government. So it doesn't mean
23 that if RUF went to Waterloo was to link-up or to open a way for
24 AFRC. The AFRC started attacking from the Koinadugu District.
15:28:56 25 They were not capturing like they could attack and capture.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Sesay, pause. The question simply
27 asked of you was why did Rambo's forces go to Waterloo? Now in
28 everything that you have said I haven't seen an answer to that
29 question. Why did Rambo's forces go to Waterloo?

1 THE WITNESS: Your Honour, the answer is within what I have
2 said. I said Freetown was the seat of power. That is Freetown.
3 So if Rambo went to Waterloo --

4 MR GRIFFITHS:

15:29:29 5 Q. Go on, Mr Sesay. If Rambo went to Waterloo, what?

6 A. That is RUF's move. That doesn't mean that RUF went there
7 to Waterloo to connect with the AFRC, no.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, but what do you mean by that was
9 RUF's move? What is your answer? Why did Rambo's forces go to
10 Waterloo? What is your answer?
15:29:54

11 THE WITNESS: My Lord, I said Rambo was an RUF group. His
12 going to Waterloo, RUF was fighting to go to Freetown also,
13 because Freetown was the seat of power, the seat of government.

14 MR GRIFFITHS:

15:30:16 15 Q. How close is Waterloo to Freetown, Mr Sesay?

16 A. 20 miles.

17 Q. In order to get to Freetown do you need to pass through
18 Waterloo?

19 A. Yes. There is no other way, except through Waterloo.

15:30:36 20 Q. So if the RUF, as you have told us on at least three
21 occasions now, wanted to capture Freetown, the seat of power,
22 would you need to go through Waterloo?

23 A. Yes, even if - even the first time that RUF made attempt to
24 capture Freetown in 1995, they came to Lumpa and to Waterloo, but
15:31:04 25 they were pushed back.

26 Q. Now, 6163:

27 "The relationship between the AFRC - the AFRC and the RUF,
28 during the month January 1999 was cordial and we had
29 understanding. We were together as one. We had no problems

1 amongst ourselves."

2 Is that a truthful statement?

3 A. That is not a truthful statement. This man, during this
4 time, he was not in that area. He was far off in Kailahun. So
15:31:53 5 he cannot tell what was the actual thing that obtained between
6 the north and the Western Area. He was in the far east in the
7 Kailahun District.

8 Q. Now, putting together what he was saying, Mr Sesay, firstly
9 that the attack on Freetown by SAJ Musa's group was coordinated
15:32:20 10 and that, in effect, in January 1999 the AFRC and the RUF were,
11 in effect, one organisation, is that true?

12 A. That's not true.

13 Q. Tell me, after the Freetown invasion what was the
14 relationship between - or at the time of the Freetown invasion,
15:32:50 15 was there a relationship between the RUF and the AFRC?

16 A. Yes. After the withdrawal of the AFRC from Freetown, when
17 they came to Benguema, the relationship with the RUF was not
18 good. That was why Rambo decided to pull out of Waterloo and
19 come back to Makeni.

15:33:26 20 Q. And when you say that the relationship between the RUF and
21 the AFRC was not good when they withdrew from Freetown, can you
22 give any examples of any incident which highlights that, what you
23 have just told us?

24 A. Yes, because when the AFRC withdrew from Freetown they came
15:33:57 25 along with some politicians and Sam Bockarie said I should go and
26 bring - tell Gibril Massaquoi and for me to meet with those
27 politicians for them to come to Makeni. When I went even with me
28 the commanders who had withdrawn from Freetown, the one or two
29 that I was able to meet with, they were grumbling that we failed

1 to reinforce them and we failed to cooperate with them and that
2 was the more reason why they had been pushed out of Freetown.
3 They said if when they were in Freetown had we cooperated with
4 them and had we sent reinforcement to them, ECOMOG wouldn't have
15:34:31 5 been able to send them out of Freetown. But because we did not
6 cooperate with them and reinforce them, that is why they have
7 been pushed out of Freetown. So they were angered with the RUF.

8 Q. And just to add some more detail there, can you give us the
9 names of any of those individuals who were expressing such
15:34:54 10 sentiments?

11 A. Yes. When I came to Waterloo to call Gibril Massaquoi I
12 met with Bazzy; Bazzy grumbled. And even Gullit grumbled to
13 Kallon that we failed to reinforce them. So that was the reason
14 why they did not pull on well with Rambo who was our commander at
15:35:22 15 Waterloo. So for that reason, Rambo decided to withdraw with the
16 RUF from Waterloo back to Makeni, because they used to open fire
17 against each other at any time they met anywhere. So I also told
18 Sam Bockarie about that and Sam Bockarie said they should
19 withdraw from Waterloo to come back to Makeni.

15:35:43 20 Q. Who would open fire against each other at any time they
21 met?

22 A. The AFRC and the RUF at Waterloo.

23 Q. Now this, same page: Mongor goes on to say that he went to
24 Makeni, that was his next assignment. Line 20:

15:36:30 25 "Q. Who else was there in Makeni with you?

26 A. Well, we were many. We had Brigadier Mani who was one
27 of our big men from the AFRC side. He was also there. We
28 also had Colonel Tee who was also an AFRC man. Issa Sesay
29 also was in Makeni. And we also had Rambo and Superman.

1 He was also there. Of course he was based in Lunsar but he
2 used to come to Makeni and spend some time with us".

3 So was Isaac Mongor with you in Makeni?

4 A. Isaac Mongor came to Makeni in March of 1999 when Sam
15:37:16 5 Bockarie sent him and Major Mulbah, Colonel Mulbah, Sam Kollah,
6 Jackson Swarray and Patrick PS Binda to come and investigate the
7 problem between myself and Superman. That was the first time
8 Isaac Mongor came to Makeni since February '98.

9 Q. Now this, another topic dealt with by this witness, line
15:37:50 10 27, same page:

11 "Q. Sir, during 1999 in the period after the Freetown
12 invasion and before the Lome Accord was signed, was the RUF
13 engaged in any operations outside of Sierra Leone?"

14 Now, Mr Sesay, when was the Lome Accord signed? I am not
15:38:17 15 allowed to lead you, you see.

16 A. July '99.

17 Q. So the period we are talking about is January to July 1999.

18 "Q. Was the RUF engaged in any operations outside of
19 Sierra Leone?"

15:38:40 20 A. Yes . Yes, they were involved in another operation
21 that did not take place within Sierra Leone.

22 Q. Can you please tell us about that operation.

23 A. Well, that operation was in Liberia. That was where
24 the RUF went on an operation to fight.

15:39:03 25 Q. Who was the RUF fighting against in Liberia in that
26 operation?

27 A. Well, they had one man who was called Mosquito Spray.
28 That was his operation and they were fighting to kick
29 Mr Taylor out of power. So those were the people that the

1 RUF went to fight against."

2 Line 14:

3 "Q. Sir, were you part of that operation yourself?

4 A. No, I did not go.

15:39:38 5 Q. Do you know under whose orders RUF forces went into
6 Liberia to fight against Mosquito Spray.

7 A. The order came from Liberia, according to Mosquito,
8 because he said - he did say that Mr Taylor asked him that
9 he should send some people to go and fight against Mosquito
10 Spray and his men in the Lofa area.

15:40:02

11 Q. Okay, thank you, Mr Witness. There is a fact that has
12 been stipulated in this Court that there was a peace treaty
13 signed in Lome on 7 July 1999."

14 Now, we will come to that, but first Mosquito Spray,

15:40:29

15 Mr Sesay, is that a name with which you are familiar?

16 A. Yes. That name was over the BBC. The BBC used to talk
17 about it.

18 Q. And in what context was that name mentioned on the BBC
19 news?

15:40:47

20 A. Well, that was the rebel commander who was attacking from
21 Guinea into Liberia, attacking the Liberian Government.

22 Q. Attacking from where?

23 A. They were attacking from Guinea into Liberia through
24 Lofa County.

15:41:08

25 Q. And when did this attack occur?

26 A. Those attacks took place around September/October of '99.

27 Q. And --

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Sorry, is this a different group from
29 LURD?

1 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am, because at the time they launched
2 this attack we had not heard about LURD. They were just talking
3 about Mosquito Spray who was the commander. It was later now
4 that I understood that it was the same LURD.

15:41:53

5 MR GRIFFITHS:

6 Q. So in 1999, by what name was this insurgent group entering
7 Liberia from Guinea known?

8 A. Well, I do not recall that name any more.

15:42:25

9 Q. Very well. But, in any event, do you recall Mosquito Spray
10 attacking Liberia between January 1999 and 7 July 1999?

11 A. No. I recall that those attacks were over the news around
12 September/October of '99.

13 Q. Now the next stage to my question then is this: Do you
14 know of the RUF sending forces into Lofa County to fight against
15 Mosquito Spray between January 1999 and July 1999?

15:43:04

16 A. No, no. I did not see RUF send forces to Liberia to fight
17 there.

18 Q. Now --

15:43:34

19 A. Because, like even the one who is speaking, from March of
20 --

21 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, the witness was not very
22 clear in his last statement.

23 MR GRIFFITHS:

24 Q. From March of what, you were saying?

15:43:44

25 A. From March of 1999 he did not go to Kailahun until the time
26 we disarmed.

27 Q. So where was Mr Mongor during that time?

28 A. Mr Mongor, starting from March to October of 1999, he was
29 in Makeni and Lunsar. So when I came to Makeni in October, after

1 he had looted the NGO vehicles, Action Faim, MSF, they had looted
2 their vehicles, he then went to Freetown. He was in Freetown
3 until May 8 and he was arrested because, on the 7th of May he
4 came along with General Gabba, the deputy force commander of
15:44:33 5 UNAMSIL, he, together with Lawrence Womandia, and they met me in
6 Lunsar. So on 8 May they were arrested in Freetown. He was in
7 prison until 2006 when SLPP released him. He then went and
8 visited me at the detention centre at the Special Court.

9 Q. I am coming to that. Now, was Isaac Mongor supposed to go
15:45:04 10 to the talks in Lome?

11 A. No. Mr Sankoh did not invite him.

12 Q. Page 6164 line 22 - line 24:

13 "Q. Were you part of any peace talks or any delegation to
14 Lome in 1999?

15:45:31 15 A. Well, I was one of the people who was selected to go
16 but at that time I had a problem with my commander,
17 Mosquito. So I did not make it to go because I and
18 Brigadier Mani came from the Makeni side to join them to go
19 together with Gibril Massaquoi, but because of a certain
15:45:51 20 problem that existed between the commander and I, I did not
21 make it to go on the peace accord."

22 Do you recall him being - requested to go but not being
23 able to go because of difficulties between him and Bockarie?

24 A. No, no. Mr Sankoh did not request for Isaac, Mr Sankoh
15:46:18 25 requested for Superman, Gibril Massaquoi, Brigadier Mani, Black
26 Jah, Gullit, they were to go and meet Sam Bockarie in Kailahun
27 for them to go to Lome. But Mr Sankoh did not request for Isaac,
28 not at all.

29 Q. During the year 2000, Mr Sesay, what was the extent of the

1 contact between you and Foday Sankoh?

2 A. Well, in the year 2000 we had frequent contact through
3 radio, through the satellite phone, through personal meetings
4 with Mr Sankoh, one-on-one. When he used to visit Kono we
15:47:12 5 sometimes we met in Fadugu, we met in Lunsar - I mean, in
6 Segbwema, I was getting in contact with him until the time he was
7 arrested in May 2000.

8 Q. Now, during that period, up to the time of his arrest in
9 May of 2000, what, if anything, did Mr Sankoh say to you about
15:47:34 10 contacts between himself and Charles Taylor?

11 A. Well, after - the contact between Mr Taylor and Mr Sankoh
12 in 2000 was not as constant as - after the release of Mr Sankoh
13 in October to December of '99.

14 Q. And was there a reason for that?

15:48:20 15 A. Yes, there was a reason.

16 Q. Now, just returning to the suggestion that Isaac Mongor was
17 supposed to go to the talks in Lome. If Foday Sankoh had issued
18 an order for Isaac Mongor to go to Lome, did Sam Bockarie have
19 the power to countermand that - such an order?

15:49:00 20 A. No. Bockarie never had such a power because, for example,
21 those whom Mr Sankoh invited from Makeni to go to Togo, they said
22 they cannot go through Kailahun but the one went, like General
23 Massaquoi, he went through there and then went to Guinea and
24 further went on to Lome. And super - even Superman and others,
15:49:29 25 they met Mr Sankoh in Monrovia.

26 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, could the witness be asked
27 to it repeat that area.

28 MR GRIFFITHS:

29 Q. Can you repeat that answer again please, Mr Sesay.

1 A. I said even Superman and others, whom Mr Sankoh had invited
2 to go to Lome, they did not go through Kailahun. Instead they
3 went through Freetown, they went and waited on Mr Sankoh in
4 Monrovia where they later met with Mr Sankoh. Sam Bockarie did
15:50:01 5 not have any authority to stop Superman from reaching Mr Sankoh.
6 Sam Bockarie did not have authority to stop Isaac from meeting
7 with Mr Sankoh.

8 Q. Now, you mentioned Isaac Mongor coming to visit you at the
9 detention centre; is that correct?

15:50:24 10 A. Yes. After his release from prison.

11 Q. What did you talk about?

12 A. Well, he just visited me. He said he came to say hi to me.
13 He said really I disappointed the leader. He said all of them
14 who were at the Pademba Road Prison were completely unhappy with
15:50:51 15 me. He said I was not supposed to disarm. He said now I decided
16 to disarm, look at the way I have been treated. He said if I
17 supported the idea not to disarm he said by now I wouldn't have
18 found myself in the prison. And I said to him, "Well, everything
19 happens the way it happen."

15:51:10 20 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, could the witness be asked
21 to slow down that area and repeat from where I stopped.

22 MR GRIFFITHS:

23 Q. So you said everything happens. Go on.

24 A. I said if what - everything that has happened is by the
15:51:29 25 will of God. But I said disarming the RUF was not anything that
26 was bad that I did. And he said, "Had you not disarmed, you
27 wouldn't be here where you are now." And I said, "Well, you and
28 Mr Sankoh, all of you who were at the Pendembu region, you don't
29 want me to disarm." And he said, "Of course" and I said, "Well,

1 I have disarmed." I said, "For peace to come to Sierra Leone, I
2 will go to prison. I will go to the prison." I said, "Okay, it
3 will not be a bad thing but I have done it."

15:52:04

4 Q. Did you talk about anything else, and I am asking for a
5 very good reason, Mr Sesay?

6 A. Well, after that visit he went back. In fact, he visited
7 me up to six or eight times. And after that visit, the other
8 time he came and visited me, again he said he wanted to go to
9 Makeni to go and speak with our other brothers to give statements
10 for my Defence case but he said he needed transport. And I told
11 him, I said, "I don't have money" I said "except if you can meet
12 my investigators, maybe they will assist you with transport" I
13 said, "That would be nice."

15:52:29

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Sesay, weren't you asked to speak
15 slowly. Why are you running. Please, slow down.

15:52:47

16 THE WITNESS: I forget, ma'am.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Then I will keep reminding you.

18 MR GRIFFITHS:

15:53:00

19 Q. So he told you that you should communicate with your
20 investigators and they may arrange transport and you were saying
21 that would be nice. Go on.

22 A. Yes. My investigator assisted him with transport fee for
23 him to go and come back, so he gave him 50,000 leones. So he
24 went to Makeni, he went and spoke to some ex-RUF men, some
25 vanguards, who gave statements later like Ritchie Cooper, Musa
26 Gbembo, Matthew Barbue, all of them gave statements to my
27 Defence. So from that point he came back to Freetown and he came
28 to the detention and told me.

15:53:26

29 Q. So how many occasions do you say he came to visit you

1 whilst you were in detention?

2 A. I said up to eight times.

3 Q. I ask for this reason, let's go to page 6183 where this
4 account begins. 6183, testimony of 31 March 2008, line 23:

15:54:25 5 "Q. First of all, you said you were arrested on 7 May.
6 What were you charged with? Yes, first let me ask were you
7 ever told of any charges against you?

8 A. When I was arrested and taken to Pademba Road I was not
9 charged until we went to court. And when that - when we
15:54:51 10 went to court the charges that were read to us were murder,
11 intent to shoot. So those were the things that we were
12 charged with.

13 Q. And the murder that was charged, when did that occur?

14 A. Well, they said it happened on May the 8th when
15:55:09 15 shootouts took place around Foday Sankoh's house.

16 Q. May the 8th of which year are you speaking of?

17 A. May the 8th in the year 2000.

18 Q. Thank you. And then can you tell us again what year
19 you were released? You gave us the amount of time but when
15:55:29 20 were you released from prison?

21 A. I was not left in the prison. They took me out of the
22 prison because I had already said that the judge had
23 realised that my name was not on the list. So after I had
24 spent five years, three months they also sent me to the
15:55:47 25 police. They sent me to the police station. So I was in
26 the police station and in the police cell for 21 days and
27 after that they brought a paper saying that the President
28 had signed the paper asking that I should be released and
29 so I was released in 2005, the 1st of August."

1 Now this is the important part, Mr Sesay:

2 "Q. Now, Mr Witness, after your release in August of 2005
3 did you ever see Issa Sesay again?

4 A. Yes, I saw him.

15:56:26 5 Q. When was it that you saw Issa Sesay?

6 A. I saw Issa Sesay at the Special Court detention centre.
7 That was where I saw him.

8 Q. And why was it that you were at the Special Court
9 detention centre?

15:56:42 10 A. I went to visit the brothers who were there. That was
11 Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao. I went
12 to visit them.

13 Q. Just to be clear, did anyone send you or was it your
14 own idea to go and see these people?

15:57:02 15 A. Nobody sent me. I did it on my own accord.

16 Q. When you spoke with Issa Sesay, what did you talk
17 about?

18 A. Well, I went to Issa Sesay, I went to visit them, for
19 them to know that I had been released. And when they saw
15:57:22 20 me, they were happy. They sympathised with me, and Issa
21 Sesay started explaining to me what had happened at the
22 time we were arrested already. He told me that he was in
23 communication with Mr Taylor, that he sent people to
24 Mr Taylor the time the disarmament had been going on and
15:57:47 25 elections were coming closer, so campaigns were on. So he
26 sent people to Mr Taylor for him to send some money so they
27 could carry on with the campaign. What he told me was that
28 the people he sent were arrested and were put in a cell."
29 Pause there. You do recall someone giving an account to

1 that effect, don't you, Mr Sesay, of being sent to fetch \$150,000
2 from Mr Taylor and was promptly arrested by Mr Taylor. Do you
3 remember someone giving that account?

15:58:36

4 JUDGE DOHERTY: Wasn't the arrest by Benjamin Yeaten rather
5 than Mr Taylor?

6 MR GRIFFITHS: Well, Benjamin Yeaten but in Monrovia.

7 Q. Do you remember somebody giving that account, Mr Sesay?

8 A. Yes, I recall.

15:58:50

9 Q. Now, did you discuss such an event with this man Isaac
10 Mongor?

11 A. No. I did not get any such discussion with Isaac Mongor.
12 I did not discuss that kind of thing with him. Not at all.

13 Q. Let's carry on with his account. Let's carry on with his
14 account. I see Mr Macdonald has arrived. Let's continue with

15:59:20

15 this account:

16 "After some time they were released and they came back
17 and he too, they wanted him to go to Monrovia but he said
18 at that time he did not go, he refused to go. He said even
19 before the campaign could start he, together with Gibriil
20 Massaquoi, went to Mr Taylor, together with Morris Kallon.
21 All of them went to Monrovia and he said the Pa, who was
22 Mr Taylor, invited them for a meeting for them to allow Sam
23 Bockarie to return.

15:59:40

24 Q. Okay, Mr Witness, let me interrupt you so we can
25 clarify a few things. What you are talking about right
26 now, this meeting in Monrovia that Issa Sesay said he went
27 to, discussing Sam Bockarie, did Issa Sesay make it clear
28 to you - did he tell you what year this happened?

16:00:05

29 A. He told me that it was the time - it was the year 2002.

1 That was the election time before the election. That was
2 when they went on that meeting for Sam Bockarie to be
3 allowed to return.

16:00:47 4 Q. Okay. And at this meeting can you tell us again what
5 Issa Sesay told you Charles Taylor said about Sam Bockarie?

6 A. He said - what Issa Sesay told me was he said the Pa,
7 Mr Taylor, when he called them, he told them that they
8 should allow Sam Bockarie to come back to take over the
9 command. So those were the issues discussed with them by
16:01:07 10 Mr Taylor.

11 Q. Did Issa Sesay tell you how he responded to Charles
12 Taylor's suggestion that Sam Bockarie come back and take
13 over command in Sierra Leone? What did Issa Sesay tell
14 Charles Taylor about that?

16:01:25 15 A. He responded saying, 'Yes, sir', but that they had had
16 to come and consult the combatants and other bosses that
17 they were coming to consult those people.

18 Q. And did Issa Sesay indicate whether or not he did go
19 back to Sierra Leone and consult with other commanders
16:01:45 20 about the return of Sam Bockarie?

21 A. Yes. They said they came back for them to talk to the
22 combatants and, when they came, they held a meeting. But
23 Morris Kallon himself gave a piece of advice that they
24 should not accept Sam Bockarie to return because, if Sam
16:02:05 25 Bockarie returned, there would be infighting because he was
26 a man who was full of grudge because Pa Sankoh had said to
27 arrest him and he escaped to Liberia. If he came back he
28 will still have that in his heart and he would have that in
29 his mind and would want to revenge."

1 Now, first of all - no, let's finish the passage:

2 "That will be a problem. So he suggested that they should
3 not agree that the man should return.

16:02:41

4 Q. Okay. Now you mentioned that there was a further
5 delegation, I believe you used the word, regarding
6 elections in 2000. Can you explain what Issa Sesay told
7 you about the elections in 2000?

16:03:05

8 A. Yes. The 2002 - the elections in 2002 - I'm sorry -
9 yes, the 2002 elections, during the campaign, he sent a
10 delegation so that the Pa would send some money and some
11 materials so that they could be able to go on with the
12 campaign and the people he sent were arrested.

13 Q. Just to be clear, can you tell us again who sent the
14 delegation. First who sent the delegation?

16:03:27

15 A. It was Issa Sesay who sent - who sent the delegation to
16 Mr Taylor.

17 Q. Thank you. Do you know - did Issa tell you the names
18 of any of the persons that were in the delegation?

16:03:47

19 A. He said he sent a man called FOC, his name is Francis.
20 He was bodyguard to Foday Sankoh ."

21 Now there's a lot there to digest so let's just take it in
22 small portions. First of all, did you have a meeting with
23 Charles Taylor in which Charles Taylor told you that Bockarie
24 should return to Sierra Leone to take over control of the RUF?

16:04:22

25 A. Well, that question is two-pronged. It should have two
26 answers. Mr Taylor invited me in December 2000 about the return
27 of Sam Bockarie, but he did not say that Sam Bockarie should come
28 and take control over the RUF. They spoke about unity and peace
29 amongst us for Sam Bockarie to return. That is what he said, but

1 we did not accept that. So we told him that the problem Sam
2 Bockarie had was with Mr Sankoh, not with any other commanders,
3 so we should consult the other commanders. But Morris Kallon was
4 not present in that meeting.

16:05:19 5 Q. Who was present in that meeting?

6 A. Myself Issa, Gibriil Massaquoi, Colonel Lion, Eddie Kanneh.
7 We were the ones in that meeting.

8 Q. Now, having clarified that, second portion: Did you have a
9 discussion with Isaac Mongor when he came to see you in the
10 detention centre as outlined by him in his testimony?

16:05:49

11 A. I did not have such a discussion with Isaac Mongor. In
12 fact when Isaac Mongor used to visit at the detention, most times
13 it was in the afternoons. He used to pay his visit in the
14 afternoon at Gbao's table, that's where we used to sit, because

16:06:26

15 he --

16 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness repeat this
17 part of his answer slowly.

18 MR GRIFFITHS:

19 Q. Pause there. You were telling us that this discussion
20 would take place in the afternoon at Augustine Gbao's table; is
21 that right?

16:06:36

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Now go on and continue with your explanation, please,
24 slowly?

16:06:51

25 A. Where Augustine Gbao's table was and where the prison guard
26 used to sit, it's just like the distance between that table and
27 this other table. The prison guard will be sitting there and
28 Augustine Gbao's table was like here. So I did not have such a
29 discussion with Isaac Mongor. Not at all. All the visits that

1 he paid to me in detention, I did not tell him anything about
2 Mr Taylor. Because these are things that did not happen, so how
3 would I formulate stories to tell Isaac Mongor? No.

4 Q. Well, according to him, you had further discussions because
16:07:33 5 it continues:

6 "Q. What else did Issa Sesay tell you about what happened
7 when these delegates were arrested? Did he tell you
8 anything else about that?

9 A. He said they were arrested and later they were released
16:07:50 10 and they returned. They did not bring anything because
11 they wanted him to go, but because he had seen those he had
12 said were arrested he said no, he was not going there
13 because if he went there maybe they would kill him. So
14 that was what he explained to me.

16:08:10 15 Q. Okay, again just to be clear, who was afraid that they
16 would kill him?

17 A. He" - that was you - "said he was afraid that Charles
18 Taylor would kill him.

19 Q. Yes, who said that, just to be clear for the record?

16:08:28 20 A. It was Issa Sesay who told me that."

21 Now, Mr Sesay, did you tell Isaac Mongor that you were
22 afraid Charles Taylor would kill you?

23 A. No, I did not tell Isaac that. The two of us never had
24 such a discussion. When he used to go, it was myself, him, Gbao
16:09:00 25 and his wife whom we went with. All of us would be sitting
26 together, and he would eat and we would discuss, because he was
27 leaving at Eddie Bockarie's place. But the two of us never
28 discussed about Mr Taylor or about me sending people to
29 Mr Taylor, or that I was afraid to go to Mr Taylor for Mr Taylor

1 not to kill me. I never told Isaac Mongor such a story.

2 Q. Mr Sesay, tell me: If, as suggested by this witness, you
3 were afraid that Charles Taylor was going to kill you, what are
4 you doing here giving evidence on his behalf?

16:09:43 5 A. Well, I wouldn't have found it necessary to come here to
6 testify on his behalf because I would have had that grudge
7 against him, that Mr Taylor wanted to kill me or he would have
8 killed me. I shouldn't have been here if that was the case.

9 Q. Now, Mr Sesay, do you know of a location in Sierra Leone
16:10:26 10 called Dia, D-I-A?

11 A. Yes, I know the place.

12 Q. Where is it?

13 A. It is located between Kailahun Town and Koindu, on the
14 Guinean border, on the side of the Guinean border.

16:10:48 15 Q. Now help me: Is that an area where diamond mining occurs?

16 A. No. There is no diamond mining in that area because there
17 is no diamond there.

18 Q. Were the RUF - did the RUF capture Dia right at the start
19 of the war in 1991?

16:11:21 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And following the capture of Dia in 1991, did the RUF carry
22 out any diamond mining in Dia?

23 A. No. I never heard that the RUF mined in Dia, and I never
24 witnessed that, when they captured Dia in '91, no.

16:11:58 25 Q. Same page, line 17:

26 "Q. Mr Witness, when did you first, if ever, see diamond
27 mining going on in Sierra Leone?

28 A. I witnessed it right at the start of the war.

29 Q. Where was it where you first saw diamond mining going

1 on?

2 A. I saw it at Dia.

3 Q. What year was it that you saw this diamond mining in
4 Dia?

16:12:32 5 A. It was the year 1991.

6 Q. Who was doing the diamond mining in Dia?

7 A. It was the RUF who were was doing the diamond mining,
8 but we had one man who was an adviser to Foday Sankoh. He
9 was called Pa Kallon. He was in charge.

16:12:52 10 Q. So who was actually physically doing the mining in Dia?

11 A. Well, the mining was done by the civilians for the
12 RUF."

13 And then he goes on to say that the civilians were not
14 paid, the only thing they provided them was food to eat, that was

16:13:10 15 it.

16 Now, is that true?

17 A. No. I did not hear about any diamond mining in Dia in
18 1991, no.

19 Q. Then this, page 6189, line 20:

16:14:00 20 "Q. Mr Witness, you talked in your testimony about a
21 period of time when ULIMO was occupying Lofa County. Do
22 you recall during that period of time was the RUF doing any
23 diamond mining?

24 A. The time the LURD occupied the border that you're
16:14:18 25 talking about, we were not doing any mining because at that
26 time we had also been pushed.

27 Q. During the period of time, do you know if the RUF had
28 any diamonds that it tried to take out of the country
29 during the time that ULIMO blocked Lofa?"

1 JUDGE DOHERTY: Mr Griffiths, I think you read "the time
2 LURD occupied the border" and I think the transcript says "the
3 time that ULIMO occupied the border."

4 MR GRIFFITHS: Did I say "LURD"? My fault. I must have
16:14:56 5 LURD on the brain.

6 Q. "Q. Mr Witness, you talked in your testimony about a
7 period of time when ULIMO was occupying Lofa County. Do
8 you recall during that period of time was the RUF doing any
9 diamond mining?

16:15:12 10 A. The time the ULIMO occupied the border that you're
11 talking about, we were not doing any mining because at that
12 time we had also been pushed.

13 Q. Okay. During that period of time, do you know if the
14 RUF had any diamonds that it tried to take out of the
16:15:34 15 country during the time that ULIMO blocked Lofa?

16 A. Yes. We had diamonds that we tried to take out of the
17 country to be sold in Liberia.

18 Q. And do you recall what year that was?

19 A. If I am not mistaken, it should be 1994.

16:15:56 20 Q. But was it during the time that ULIMO blocked the Lofa
21 County?

22 A. Yes, it was the time that ULIMO had blocked that area.
23 In 1993 they were there and they'd occupied the whole
24 border area and we never had any chance at all sometimes to
16:16:19 25 cross over, but we tried to find a way so that we could
26 sell these diamonds and then get some ammunition, and that
27 was to be done in Liberia.

28 Q. How were you to get the diamonds to Liberia? What
29 happened?

1 A. Well, we tried and there was one man called Mr Alhaji
2 Kamara, and one Mama Er, who was Pa Kallon's wife. That is
3 the Pa Kallon that I've spoken about who was the adviser to Foday
4 Sankoh, his wife who was Mama Er, and Alhaji Kamara travelled
16:17:06 5 through Guinea, but when they entered Guinea, they were arrested,
6 they were arrested and taken to Freetown."

7 Now, do you recall Pa Kallon's wife being arrested at or
8 about this time in 1994, Mr Sesay?

9 A. No. In '94, Pa Kallon's wife, that is Mamie I, was not
16:17:33 10 arrested. I think it was in '95 when she was arrested and
11 brought to Freetown from Guinea, '95. I think it was in '95.

12 Q. Now, at the time of her arrest in Guinea, had she been
13 provided with diamonds to be sold and the proceeds used for the
14 purchase of arms and/or ammunition in Liberia?

16:18:14 15 A. No. It was not diamonds. Mr Sankoh used to send money.
16 She would collect the money from me in Kailahun because she used
17 to buy the ammunition '94/'95 in Guinea. I think it was in '95
18 or '96 when she was arrested and brought to Freetown. It was
19 around that time. That was when she was arrested and brought to
16:18:40 20 Freetown. And the ammunition was brought from Guinea. She used
21 to buy them from Guinea, not Liberia.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Sesay, did you say she used to collect
23 money from you in Kailahun?

24 THE WITNESS: Yes. Yes, ma'am. The other time she
16:18:58 25 collected money that Mr Sankoh had sent to me. She came to
26 collect the money, and she went to buy the ammunition in Guinea.

27 MR GRIFFITHS:

28 Q. Mr Sesay, during the time that Sam Bockarie was in charge
29 of the RUF, how regularly would he be in touch with Charles

1 Taylor, to your knowledge?

2 A. Well, what I know is from the time Mr Sankoh left and
3 appointed Sam Bockarie in March '97, throughout that '97, Sam
4 Bockarie was not in touch with Mr Taylor. The first time I heard
16:20:03 5 - and Sam Bockarie would have told me - he went to Monrovia to
6 meet Charles Taylor was September of 1998. That was the first
7 time.

8 Q. But what about communications by radio or other - or
9 satellite phone?

16:20:27 10 A. Well, during these times that I am referring to, Bockarie
11 hadn't a satellite phone. Bockarie did not have a satellite
12 phone in '97. It was late '98 that he got one. And I never saw
13 a radio message from Mr Taylor to Sam Bockarie. Never did I see
14 such a radio message in Sam Bockarie's logbook, '97 or even '98.

16:21:03 15 And even the logbook that the Prosecution tendered as exhibit
16 against me, for the whole of 1999 to 2000, there is no message
17 that was from Mr Taylor to any RUF member.

18 Q. Well, listen to this and tell me whether this is an
19 accurate description of the state of communications between

16:21:36 20 Charles Taylor and Sam Bockarie. Page 6227, line 13:

21 "Q. Were you ever present when Sam Bockarie was
22 communicating with Charles Taylor, or did you ever learn
23 about communications between Bockarie and Charles Taylor?"
24 This is the answer:

16:21:58 25 "A. I think I had said here some time ago, something that
26 has to do with the communication that went on between
27 Mr Taylor and Sam Bockarie, and I did say that the
28 communication between Charles Taylor and Mosquito went on
29 on a daily basis. I think I'd said that, because he used

1 to give reports about all the things that had happened at
2 the battlefield and other command points, and all the
3 reports that came from the defence headquarters, he always
4 reported it to Mr Taylor, and I had said that at one time I
16:22:40 5 came and I saw some of the reports that Sam Bockarie had
6 written, that he had been sending, and he had the copies in
7 his hand. I have spoken about that, I think. And those
8 were some of the reports. Those were some of the daily
9 reports about the activities that used to take place in the
16:23:03 10 field."

11 Mr Sesay, were you aware of that level of contact between
12 Sam Bockarie and Charles Taylor: every day reports being sent to
13 Charles Taylor by Sam Bockarie?

14 A. That is a bloody lie. Isaac is telling lies here, because
16:23:33 15 even the - he was in Gandorhun from late February to November
16 to --

17 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness kindly
18 repeat this slowly?

19 MR GRIFFITHS:

16:23:53 20 Q. Mr Sesay, I am sorry, I have to interrupt you because the
21 interpreter has lost you. Can you start again? You were saying,
22 from a date in --

23 A. I said from February to November 1998 Isaac Mongor was in
24 the Kono District. He did not come to Kailahun, nor did he come
16:24:24 25 to Buedu from February to November. I said he's telling lies.
26 How did he know that Sam Bockarie was reporting on a daily basis
27 when he was not coming to Buedu? From February to November Isaac
28 Mongor never came to Buedu where Sam Bockarie was based, and even
29 when he came in November in Pendembu up to the time I left Buedu

1 in December Isaac Mongor never came to Buedu. So he is telling
2 lies. Because if what he is alleging that Bockarie used to
3 report to Mr Taylor on a daily basis, if that is true, then these
4 messages would have been in the radio logs '98, '99 - especially
16:25:16 5 '98, '99, because the radio log that the Prosecution tendered as
6 an exhibit, there are messages from '99, from January downwards,
7 '99, there are messages there and there is no message like that
8 in the logbook that Mr Taylor sent to Sam Bockarie or Sam
9 Bockarie sent to Mr Taylor, no.

16:25:50 10 Q. Well, Isaac Mongor is giving a different account here
11 because he says, in answer to this question:

12 "Q. Approximately when was it that you saw these reports?
13 Page 6228:

14 "A. Well, I saw these reports at the time I came to Buedu
16:26:14 15 and whilst I was talking with him. That was the time he
16 showed me some of the reports that he had been sending to
17 the Pa, that is Mr Taylor.

18 Q. When you testified earlier you talked about these two
19 trips to Buedu in 1998. That's what you're referring to?

16:26:35 20 A. Yes, I even talked about the trips that he made. I
21 think I even talked about them before we went on the
22 recess."

23 Now, from what you have told us in 1998 between March and
24 November Isaac Mongor did not go to Buedu; is that correct,
16:26:58 25 Mr Sesay?

26 A. 100 per cent correct, he did not go to Buedu, not at all.

27 MR KOUMJIAN: Can we clarify how the witness knows this, if
28 he was in Buedu?

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Sorry, if who was in Buedu?

1 MR KOUMJIAN: The witness who has testified to this fact,
2 Mr Sesay.

3 MR GRIFFITHS:

16:27:40

4 Q. Mr Sesay, how do you know that Isaac Mongor was not in
5 Buedu between March and November 1998?

16:28:17

6 A. Well, I knew because, one, Isaac Mongor was a senior
7 commander in the RUF and, two, I was in Buedu in March, April and
8 I lost those diamonds when I went and I returned and I was posted
9 to Pendembu. And if in between May and November Isaac Mongor had
10 left Kono to Buedu I would have known. I would have known that,
11 that wouldn't have been a secret to me. When Morris Kallon came
12 twice to Buedu I knew it. When Bockarie invited the vanguards to
13 have a meeting in Buedu, I knew about it. When Superman came to
14 Buedu from Kono in '98 July I knew about it. So if Isaac Mongor
15 had come to Buedu, obviously I would have known.

16:28:49

16 Q. And if Mongor was coming from his assigned position to
17 Buedu, could he have done that without receiving permission from
18 Bockarie?

16:29:16

19 A. No. He could not have done that without Bockarie's
20 approval, because even when myself, Johnny Paul and Mike Lamin
21 left Gandorhun where we left Isaac Mongor and we went to
22 Kailahun, Bockarie sent a strong order that myself, Mike Lamin
23 and Johnny Paul were the only ones allowed to go to Kailahun and
24 the order that was in Kailahun was that nobody should cross the
25 Moa River without the directive or instruction of Sam Bockarie.

16:29:42

26 Q. Thank you. I want to deal with one more point before we
27 conclude today so that we can finish with this man Mr Mongor
28 today. Page 6228:

29 "Q. Within the RUF how did you refer to Charles Taylor?

1 A. Well, we called Charles Taylor as the CIC. He was the
2 CIC. He was the commander-in-chief. We called him the CIC
3 at the time he was fighting. At the time he now became
4 President we were calling him Mr Taylor.

16:30:25 5 Q. What does the term commander-in-chief mean? When the
6 RUF called Charles Taylor commander-in-chief, what did that
7 mean?

8 A. It means he had command over the RUF and we took it
9 that the RUF belonged to him. Although he sent somebody to
16:30:39 10 head the RUF, but he was the owner of the RUF. What I mean
11 by saying that he sent somebody to help the RUF, that was
12 Foday Sankoh because he was the one that prepared Foday
13 Sankoh to carry out the mission, so the RUF was in the
14 hands of Mr Taylor."

16:30:59 15 Did you refer to Charles Taylor as commander-in-chief of
16 the RUF, Mr Sesay?

17 A. No, no. The commander-in-chief of the RUF was Mr Sankoh
18 and that was what was his name. At times "the leader", at times
19 "CIC", that is commander-in-chief. I never heard any RUF member
16:31:28 20 referring to Mr Taylor as CIC of the RUF. That is a bloody lie .
21 Because you cannot have two CICs in one organisation. That is
22 not possible.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Sorry, Mr Griffiths, what was that last
24 page you were reading from?

16:31:47 25 MR GRIFFITHS: Page 6629, the transcript of 31 March 2008
26 lines 5 to 10.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. Have you concluded that point
28 that you wanted to conclude?

29 MR GRIFFITHS: Yes.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. We are going to adjourn,
2 Mr Sesay. We are going to stand over your testimony. That means
3 you are going to take a break from giving evidence for the reason
4 that starting tomorrow the Prosecution was granted leave to
16:32:21 5 re-open their case by calling three additional witnesses. These
6 witnesses, I imagine, are not going to be very long in their
7 testimonies and you will be recalled back to finish your evidence
8 after those three witnesses have given their evidence.

9 So in the meantime, Mr Sesay, as usual, I ask you not to
16:32:58 10 discuss your evidence with anyone and the Court --

11 MR GRIFFITHS: Your Honour, can I just seek some
12 clarification? Am I to understand that we won't be reaching this
13 witness again until Tuesday of next week?

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Tuesday of next week is the 10th, I
16:33:29 15 presume, and we have witnesses scheduled for the 9th and the
16 10th, isn't it right?

17 MR KOUMJIAN: That is correct, your Honour, although we
18 would anticipate that the witness for tomorrow would finish
19 tomorrow, so Friday would be available.

16:33:47 20 MR GRIFFITHS: That's precisely why I was asking, but of
21 course that is dependent on the outcome of a motion which we
22 filed and which we are still awaiting an answer on as to whether
23 or not tomorrow's witness will be concluded.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: In any event, let me say this to
16:34:05 25 Mr Sesay, that we will have three Prosecution witnesses
26 interposed in your testimony and you will be informed when you
27 should return to continue with your testimony.

28 Otherwise the proceedings are adjourned until tomorrow.
29 The decision that Mr Griffiths is alluding to will be issued

1 today.

2 MR GRIFFITHS: I am grateful.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: I will adjourn until tomorrow at
4 9 o'clock.

16:35:04 5 [Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 4.34 p.m.
6 to be reconvened on Thursday, 5 August 2010 at
7 9.00 a.m.]

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I N D E X

WITNESSES FOR THE DEFENCE:

DCT-172	45328
EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR GRIFFITHS	45328