



Case No. SCSL-2003-01-T

THE PROSECUTOR OF
THE SPECIAL COURT
V.
CHARLES GHANKAY TAYLOR

FRIDAY, 11 JANUARY 2008
8.59 A.M.
TRIAL

TRIAL CHAMBER II

Before the Judges:

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

For Chambers:

Mr Simon Meisenberg
Ms Doreen Kiggundu

For the Registry:

Ms Rosette Muzigo-Morrison
Ms Rachel Irura
Mr Vincent Tishakwa

For the Prosecution:

Ms Brenda J Hollis
Mr Alain Werner
Mr Christopher Santora
Ms Maja Dimitrova

**For the accused Charles Ghankay
Taylor:**

Mr Courtenay Griffiths QC
Mr Terry Munyard
Mr Andrew Cayley

1 Friday, 11 January 2008

2 [Open session]

3 [The accused present]

4 [Upon commencing at 8.59 a.m.]

08:59:44 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good morning. Mr Griffiths, if you could
6 sit I would like to bring a certain administrative matter to the
7 notice of the parties. As you all probably know, the ICC has
8 scheduled a function next Thursday, 17 January, for the solemn
9 undertaking of their newly elected judges to the ICC. Now, we
09:00:19 10 have received a request from the ICC administration that they
11 would like to use the public gallery of our court that morning,
12 the morning of 17 January, starting right from the morning
13 through to the lunch break of one o'clock, and so they have
14 kindly asked us to adjourn the proceedings just for that morning
09:00:41 15 and to be able to resume in the afternoon.

16 We have accepted in a spirit of support really and
17 co-operation that we would do that. However, this poses a little
18 difficulty for us, because to us the proceedings - these
19 proceedings - are important and of paramount importance and we
09:01:05 20 would have lost three-and-a-half hours that morning which we
21 intend to make up.

22 Now, our own suggestion is that we then sit a full day for
23 the subsequent two Fridays. Let me just find the dates. That
24 would be the Friday 18th and Friday 25th, which would give us
09:01:38 25 four hours sitting instead of the three-and-a-half. I do not
26 know if you have any objections, but this is the proposal from
27 the bench in order to make up for lost time.

28 Madam Prosecutor?

29 MS HOLLIS: We have no objection, your Honour.

1 MR GRIFFITHS: We have no objection, your Honour.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you very much for your

3 co-operation. I will of course be announcing as we go along

4 reminding you that the sitting hours have been - that sitting

09:02:05 5 times have been so adjusted.

6 So we continue this morning with the witness in the stand,

7 and I think, Mr Griffiths, you were cross-examining this witness

8 yesterday.

9 MR GRIFFITHS: Your Honour, yes.

09:02:18 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please proceed.

11 WITNESS: TF1-406 [On former oath]

12 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR GRIFFITHS: [Continued]

13 Q. Yes. Yesterday before we adjourned I was asking you about

14 one or two propositions of general application in order to elicit

09:02:50 15 your reaction to them. Now can we start again, please.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. The first suggestion that I am going to make is that you

18 were never invited to the President's house on a social basis.

19 Do you agree?

09:03:13 20 A. That is not true.

21 Q. And I suggest that that was the case at the time he lived

22 next door to the German Embassy and also when he lived at White

23 Flower. Do you agree with that?

24 A. President Taylor's house when he was living close at the

09:03:34 25 German Embassy, former President --

26 Q. I am sorry, I didn't understand that answer.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: I am not sure if the question has been

28 properly interpreted. Please ask the question again.

29 Mr Interpreter, listen very carefully and interpret accurately

1 for the witness.

2 MR GRIFFITHS:

3 Q. What I am suggesting is that at no time were you invited
4 socially either to the President's address next to the German
09:04:13 5 Embassy, or to White Flower?

6 A. Who invited me that you are referring to?

7 Q. President Taylor. That he never did?

8 A. Every morning President Taylor, it is my responsibility to
9 see him every morning before we go to job. I was invited every
09:04:43 10 morning. It is my duty as assistant director for operation.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, perhaps you could elaborate
12 on what you mean by socially invited for the interpreters?

13 MR GRIFFITHS:

14 Q. Very well. Let me start at a different point then. Would
09:05:07 15 you regard your relationship throughout the time that you were
16 assistant director, your relationship with President Taylor, as
17 being a friendly one?

18 A. I was not friendly to it. I am a security to him. I have
19 a duty to perform for him. That was why he appointed me as
09:05:35 20 assistant director for operation, whose responsibility was for
21 his security.

22 Q. Now did he ever invite you as a friend to either the
23 address near the German Embassy, or to White Flower?

24 A. We are not friends. I am a security to him, so it is my
09:06:01 25 responsibility every morning to appear before him and to make
26 sure I give instructions to my deputies how for the two different
27 advance and in motorcade I was supposed to go on job and who was
28 supposed to be there today and who is supposed to be there
29 tomorrow. That was my duty every morning. I appeared there to

1 perform my duty.

2 Q. Well, what I suggest is that that was never your
3 responsibility?

4 A. It was my responsibility.

09:06:34 5 Q. Very well. Can we move on then.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Would you agree that you have never sat down and had a
8 drink with Mr Taylor?

9 A. What do you call drink?

09:06:58 10 Q. When friends go out and have a drink together. You have
11 never done that with Mr Taylor?

12 A. But I repeated that to you that we were not friends. I
13 never sat down with him to drink with him.

14 Q. And equally you have never, ever sat down and watched TV
09:07:16 15 with him?

16 A. No.

17 Q. As a consequence you would have no clue what TV programmes
18 he would watch, would you?

19 A. I said that whenever he invited me to his office to give me
09:07:37 20 instructions, the CNN is in his office and also - and in the
21 waiting room. The waiting room where the guests they go to see
22 him to talk to him on a daily basis, they had another television
23 in the area on CNN. That was what I said.

24 Q. My question is different. Did you ever sit down and watch
09:08:03 25 television with him?

26 A. I said whenever he invited me in his residence, or to his
27 office, there is a television on his desk. A CNN television.

28 Q. Did you ever sit down and watch television with him?

29 A. No.

1 Q. Thank you.

2 A. But I saw television in his office and his residence.

3 Q. Next question. Would you agree that you have never spent
4 more than a few minutes in his company at any one time?

09:08:50 5 A. You mean with anybody?

6 Q. What I am saying is that on the occasions that you would
7 see the President, you would only see him for a very short period
8 of time. Would you agree?

9 A. Yes, five minutes/ten minutes.

09:09:26 10 Q. Would you agree that you were never an insider; that is one
11 of President Taylor's trusted inner circle?

12 A. I was one of the trustful men. That was why he appointed
13 me as his deputy chief of staff and also I was the assistant
14 director for operation to him. If he had no trust on me, I would
09:09:55 15 never have been a bodyguard behind the President and also with
16 sidearm to travel with him in the plane from country to country
17 if I was - if he didn't trust me.

18 Q. Do you agree that President Taylor had, as many such
19 leaders do, an inner circle of friends and colleagues?

09:10:30 20 A. Please repeat that question.

21 Q. Would you agree that President Taylor had a trusted inner
22 circle of friends and colleagues?

23 A. He had other trusted people also.

24 Q. Let me put it differently then to see if we can get to the
09:10:53 25 point. Would you agree that someone like Benjamin Yeaten was
26 much closer to the President than you were?

27 A. Yes, of course.

28 Q. And would you agree that there were a number of individuals
29 who were closer to the President than you were?

1 A. Of course.

2 Q. So, would you agree that there was a clear distinction
3 between that inner circle of friends and yourself?

4 A. No.

09:11:39 5 Q. You see what I am suggesting, so that we understand each
6 other, is that you were never an insider, which is the way in
7 which you were depicted by Mr Rapp in a press conference last
8 week? You were never an insider in that sense, do you understand
9 me?

09:12:03 10 MS HOLLIS: Your Honour, the Prosecution would ask that the
11 Defence counsel define for this witness what Defence counsel
12 means when he says "insider". This witness did not give a press
13 conference and "insider" is a very vague term, so perhaps to
14 assist the witness Defence counsel could explain to the witness
09:12:24 15 what Defence counsel is meaning when he is asking him if he is an
16 insider?

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, what do you say to that, if
18 only for the benefit of the interpretation, because I am getting
19 the distinct impression that the terminologies you use are not
09:12:43 20 perhaps even clear to the interpreters in order to portray the
21 question meaningfully to the witness? If you could break it down
22 so that the interpreters accurately convey it to the witness.

23 MR GRIFFITHS: Very well. Very well, your Honour:

24 Q. What it is I am suggesting is that you were never as close
09:13:08 25 to the President as you are trying to suggest to this Court.
26 Now, do you understand that?

27 A. Let me help you. We had different, different jobs in the
28 SSS. The assignment was prepared by me as assistant director of
29 operation. We had the aide de campe group who were in the office

1 with the President, except if the President said he wanted to see
2 John Brown or Peter Brown and then he would call that person. He
3 had special attendants. The special attendants sometimes were
4 five in number. These were people who were always in the
09:13:58 5 President's office, in his bathroom, at his residence and in his
6 house, and also most of these people were members of the Special
7 Security Services and they had directions from their directors.
8 Any time he would say, "Call this director and then call this
9 director", but when the motorcade is ready to move, or the
09:14:25 10 President is ready to move from his house or the office, the
11 direct of SSS will have to be there and the deputy director of
12 operation and the assistant director of operation will have to be
13 there and the CPS. Those are the people who were in charge of
14 the convoy, but taking him to the office after which we go to our
09:14:45 15 various offices. When it is time for him to go back, then the
16 special assistant will call on all the aide de camps again who
17 will come - who will come back together and then take him back to
18 his house. So, I don't know what you mean by "insider"? So if
19 you are talking about an insider maybe it is the special
09:15:04 20 assistants who were with him at his office or at his residence,
21 but we all had obligations to perform.

22 Q. So would you agree, in light of that answer, that your
23 primary responsibility was for the transport of the President?

24 A. That was not my first responsibility. My first
09:15:31 25 responsibility was to protect his life.

26 Q. I am not going to spend more time on that. Would your
27 Honour give me a moment? Yes. Now you accept, witness, that you
28 had been a senior member of ULIMO?

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. You accept that because of that history you were treated
2 with suspicion by many former NPFL members?

3 A. In 2000.

09:16:42

4 Q. Do you accept that, even when you took up the post of
5 assistant director, you were still regarded with suspicion
6 because of your history?

7 A. I said after three years.

8 Q. I don't understand your answer. It is my fault. After
9 three years what?

09:17:05

10 A. That was from 1997 to 1998 and 1999 up to 2000 before he
11 started looking at me with suspicious eyes and then I was
12 transferred into prison.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE:

09:17:29

14 Q. I am sorry, did you say, "He started looking at me with
15 suspicious eyes?"

16 MR GRIFFITHS: Yes, he did.

17 THE WITNESS: Yes, that is what I said.

18 MR GRIFFITHS:

19 Q. Who?

09:17:39

20 A. Mr Taylor.

21 Q. Let me see if I can clarify that, please, witness. Who
22 started looking at you with suspicious eyes?

09:18:01

23 A. The information the NPFL people were giving to Mr Taylor
24 was that the war was coming from Guinea end and that, "Sherif was
25 one of the former ULIMO-K senior commanders and so we don't trust
26 him to be very close to you. So, we want you to transfer him to
27 somewhere else".

28 Q. Now, are you saying that there came a time when Mr Taylor
29 distrusted you?

1 A. It was at that time.

2 Q. Can you help us, please. What time are you talking about?

3 Can you give us a year?

4 A. I am talking about 2000.

09:18:41 5 Q. At the time of the LURD invasion, which involved many
6 former ULIMO fighters, were you regarded with suspicion then?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Now, we know that the LURD invasion was 1998. That is
9 right, isn't it?

09:19:10 10 A. The LURD invasion was in 1998? I know about 1999. 1999.
11 At the end of 1999.

12 Q. But at the very least would you agree that from the time of
13 that invasion you were regarded with suspicion?

14 A. I was put in cell for six months and after that he recalled
09:19:44 15 me and apologised to me and he gave me two different assignments
16 to perform.

17 Q. Would you say that you were as close to the President as
18 Hope Menkorzu [phon], or Mentopou [phon]?

19 A. Please repeat that.

09:20:16 20 Q. Do you know the name Dopoe [sic] Menkerzan [sic]?

21 A. I know the name Duopo Merkazon and also I know him in
22 person.

23 Q. Could you spell the name, please?

24 A. No, I can't spell it.

09:20:37 25 MR GRIFFITHS: My stab at it, your Honour, is D o-p-o-e
26 M-e-n-k-e-r-z-a-n:

27 Q. Would you say that you were as close to the President as
28 him?

29 A. I don't know how close Duopo Merkazon was to the President,

1 but I knew him to be one of the special forces that came with
2 Taylor from Libya; that had their training in Libya.

3 Q. He had a much longer relationship with the President than
4 you?

09:21:39 5 A. I explained that to you already.

6 Q. Now you know the name Roland Duoh, don't you? It is a name
7 that has been mentioned before.

8 A. I know Roland Duoh.

9 Q. Were you as close to the President as him?

09:22:01 10 A. No.

11 Q. Do you know the name Momoh Jibba, again a name we have
12 heard already?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Were you as close to the President as him?

09:22:21 15 A. Momoh Jibba was my senior officer. He was closer to the
16 President more than me, because he was the senior aide de campe
17 of the Republic of Liberia.

18 Q. Now let us move on to another proposition, shall we? Would
19 you agree that you have never seen President Charles Taylor in
09:22:52 20 company with Sam Bockarie?

21 A. I never saw President Taylor together with Sam Bockarie,
22 that is true.

23 Q. Bearing in mind the account you have given us, would you
24 agree that you have no idea why Charles Taylor would want to
09:23:40 25 speak to Sam Bockarie?

26 A. I don't have that idea, because I was not there. What they
27 discussed or what they discussed about, I was not there.

28 Q. Which leads to my next question, the answer to which must
29 be "yes". You were never present when Charles Taylor spoke to

1 Sam Bockarie?

2 A. I was never there when he was talking to Sam Bockarie.

3 Q. Does it follow that consequently you have no idea what they
4 spoke about?

09:24:43 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Asked and answered, I think. That
6 question was asked and answered.

7 MR GRIFFITHS: Very well:

8 Q. Next question. You have never seen Sam Bockarie give
9 diamonds to Charles Taylor?

09:25:00 10 A. I said I never saw Sam Bockarie and Mr Taylor together.
11 What he told me he said, "Do you remember where you met Benjamin
12 Yeaten and Musa Sesay that they took Sam Bockarie from your
13 vehicle?" He said, "Then just go back to that same position.
14 You will meet Sam Bockarie there, or if you don't see him just
09:25:26 15 wait there for ten minutes. They will meet you there". That was
16 the only time myself and him spoke about Sam Bockarie for the
17 second time.

18 Q. Does it follow that the answer to my question is, "No, I
19 have never seen Sam Bockarie give diamonds to Charles Taylor"?

09:25:45 20 Is that right?

21 A. I said yes.

22 Q. Next proposition. Do you agree that you have no idea what
23 happened to the diamonds you claim to have seen in Sam Bockarie's
24 possession?

09:26:13 25 A. I don't have that idea.

26 Q. Does it follow that the last time on your account you saw
27 that jar of diamonds was in Voinjama?

28 A. I said when Sam Bockarie was taking off his jacket to go
29 and take bath, I saw a mayonnaise bottle full of diamonds in it -

1 in Sam Bockarie's pocket. That was what I said.

2 Q. And my question is different. Do you agree that you never
3 saw that bottle again?

4 A. You mean for the second time?

09:27:17 5 Q. At any time after that?

6 A. I saw diamonds with Sam Bockarie.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Interpreter, I do not know what it is
8 you are saying to the witness. Please repeat the question
9 accurately to the witness.

09:27:36 10 MR GRIFFITHS:

11 Q. Let me ask the question again. Do you agree that after
12 Voinjama you never saw that jar of diamonds again?

13 A. No, I did not see it again from after Voinjama.

14 Q. Do you agree that you never saw Charles Taylor give Sam
09:28:12 15 Bockarie money?

16 A. I never saw him putting money in Sam Bockarie's hand, but
17 he told me that he had given some money to Sam Bockarie. He was
18 saying his men from Voinjama area and the rest of the other area
19 he will buy their own arms and ammunition, but I never saw him
09:28:38 20 delivering the money into Sam Bockarie's hand and I never saw
21 them together.

22 Q. And the "he" you talk about, is that President Taylor?

23 A. I am referring to former President Taylor.

24 Q. I suggest that is a lie?

09:29:00 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: What is a lie exactly?

26 MR GRIFFITHS:

27 Q. A lie that the President told you that he had given Sam
28 Bockarie money to purchase arms. I suggest that is a lie?

29 A. It is true.

1 Q. Would you agree that you have no idea what instructions, if
2 any, Charles Taylor gave to Sam Bockarie?

3 A. I did not have any idea because, as I said, I was never in
4 their meeting. I said that earlier.

09:29:44 5 Q. Now I want to move on now, please, and deal more
6 specifically with the account you gave of going to Sierra Leone
7 to bring Sam Bockarie back to meet with Charles Taylor. For now
8 I just want you to confirm for us, please, the outline of the
9 account you gave us. I am looking at a transcript of the
09:30:25 10 evidence you gave on this topic. Now, what you told us was --

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: For the record please quote either the
12 date, the date and the page and the line that you are reading,
13 because we don't all have access to it.

14 MR GRIFFITHS: Yes. Your Honour, I am looking at the
09:30:51 15 unperfected transcript for --

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: What is the date indicated?

17 MR GRIFFITHS: It is the day before yesterday. It was on
18 Wednesday, 9 January.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: The page and number would be helpful.
09:31:31 20 The page number and line would be helpful.

21 MR GRIFFITHS: Well, your Honour, my copy is not paginated.
22 The copy I have is not paginated.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well, just read it out. Very well.
24 That is okay.

09:31:47 25 MR GRIFFITHS: Because as I understand it there is an
26 initial draft copy, which is later perfected, and because of time
27 constraints this was the copy I received before the night I began
28 my cross-examination that I am working from.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. Very well. Just make sure

1 you read it out for everyone to hear.

2 MR GRIFFITHS:

3 Q. Now, you began your account regarding this trip by
4 referring to the seizure of that helicopter at Jack(sic) Spring
09:32:26 5 airfield by ECOMOG and you were asked this question, "Now do you
6 recall the month and year that this occurred?", and you said,
7 "That happened in 19 - the end of 98 to - between the end of 98
8 to the start of the year 99". Now, do you agree that is roughly
9 when you say this occurred?

09:32:57 10 A. I said it happened in 1998.

11 Q. Was it at the end or beginning of 1998?

12 A. It was the beginning of 1998.

13 Q. Well I am not going to press you on the date now, but it
14 may become significant later. You went on to say that after that
09:33:29 15 incident at the airport Mr Taylor called me at his fourth floor
16 office at the Executive Mansion?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Present then was Musa Cissay, Joe Tuah, Benjamin Yeaten and
19 Joseph Montgomery. Is that right?

09:33:57 20 A. Including Momoh Jibba and Musa, who was the deputy aide de
21 campe.

22 Q. So consequently all of them were present when you were
23 given this instruction, is that right?

24 A. Yes.

09:34:27 25 Q. And at that meeting he told you to get Sam Bockarie over to
26 him?

27 A. Yes.

28 Q. Fifthly, you told us that Charles Taylor did not explain
29 why he wanted to see Sam Bockarie?

1 A. No.

2 Q. You went on to say - and this is point number 6 - that at
3 the time you were given this assignment you did not know who Sam
4 Bockarie was?

09:35:30 5 A. I know Sam Bockarie to be the RUF commander.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Interpreter, was that "I know", or "I
7 knew".

8 THE INTERPRETER: I knew. I knew Sam Bockarie because when
9 I was in partner with Sam Bockarie during the ULIMO and RUF, I

09:35:54 10 used to hear his name "Sam Bockarie" as the leader of RUF.

11 MR GRIFFITHS:

12 Q. Let me explain why I asked that question. You were asked
13 the same question by my learned friend, Ms Hollis. The question
14 was: "Now at the time you were given this assignment did you

09:36:17 15 know who Sam Bockarie was?" Answer: "No. What - I use to hear
16 his name because we were fighting war against one another between
17 Foya and the Sierra Leone border, but they also were fighting us
18 at the border, so we used to hear Mosquito Sam Bockarie, but I
19 did not know him in particular". Do you agree with that answer
09:36:42 20 that you gave to Ms Hollis?

21 A. I said yes.

22 Q. Point number 7. When you went to see Sam Bockarie, were
23 you given any type of letter of introduction or other document to
24 take with you?

09:37:11 25 A. No.

26 Q. And do you agree that you said, when asked by Ms Hollis on
27 Wednesday this question, "Do you know why you were not given such
28 a document?", you said --

29 MS MUZIGO-MORRISON: Your Honours, we will broadcast the

1 portion of the transcript from which the Defence counsel is
2 examining. If you press button PC1, it is on page 829 of the
3 final corrected revised transcript.

09:38:02 4 PRESIDING JUDGE: And how do we scroll that to get to the
5 relevant pages? Does Mr Griffiths himself have this on his
6 screen?

7 MR GRIFFITHS: I now have it on my screen.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: That means he has to find the page,
9 doesn't it?

09:38:18 10 MR GRIFFITHS: That is the difficulty correlating my
11 references, because I have hand paginated my bundle.

12 MS IRURA: Your Honour, I will scroll up and down.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Nonetheless, Mr Griffiths, I propose that
14 you continue as you have been referring to your rough transcript.

09:38:34 15 MR GRIFFITHS: I am grateful.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: It is quicker that way.

17 MR GRIFFITHS: I think so, your Honour, yes:

18 Q. Do you recall that you were asked this question by Ms
19 Hollis: "Do you know why you were not given such a document?",
09:38:54 20 and your answer was: "If document had been given to me, if
21 ECOMOG intercept that it is going to be a problem so because of
22 ...", and there was an indiscernible word, "... and knowing
23 personally to myself, but he did not explain that to me why he
24 did not give me document and also I did not request for document.
09:39:19 25 I knew that I could do it". Do you remember saying that?

26 A. I said yes.

27 Q. Thank you. "However, do you agree that you told us that
28 you went on that assignment wearing your SSS uniform?", three
29 lines from the bottom of the page now on the screen. Do you

1 agree?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And then you went on to describe the route you took, and I
4 have no intention of going through the details of that, and then
09:40:01 5 you went on to say that you had no difficulty crossing the
6 border into Sierra Leone?

7 A. I never had difficulty at the border.

8 Q. Do you agree that you went on to say that on the occasion
9 when you met up with Sam Bockarie you saw him with a group of
09:40:26 10 Kamajors?

11 A. Yes, in Kailahun.

12 Q. And they were up to five of them? There were five
13 Kamajors?

14 A. Yes, he executed.

09:40:50 15 Q. Because you went on to say that he executed them by
16 shooting them with a gun?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Now would you agree that that act by Sam Bockarie was not
19 only surprising, but also horrific?

09:41:20 20 A. It was bad.

21 Q. And would you agree that it is the kind of incident which
22 would stick in your mind?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Do you recall going on to say that you then travelled from
09:41:41 25 Kailahun, where that incident took place, to Buedu?

26 A. Yes.

27 Q. And in Buedu you were taken to Sam Bockarie's house?

28 A. Yes.

29 Q. Do you agree that you told us that Sam Bockarie was

1 suspicious of you?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And he asked you in particular why did Mr Taylor send you,
4 rather than one of his NPFL members?

09:42:26 5 A. I explained that reason.

6 Q. But he did ask you that question?

7 A. He asked me. He asked me.

8 Q. Because you would agree, wouldn't you, that he would
9 necessarily be suspicious of you because you were a former ULIMO
10 commander who had fought against him?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And is it right that he told you in terms that he did not
13 trust you?

14 A. He was right.

09:43:05 15 Q. Do you agree that you went on to say that you spent the
16 night at Sam Bockarie's house?

17 A. I spend the night in his house.

18 Q. And do you agree that you told us that on the following day
19 you walked about 20 yards from the house to somewhere where a
20 radio was located?

09:43:30

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Now, I wonder if we can scroll on a little bit. Yes, do
23 you agree, bottom of - line 16, bottom of the page, would you
24 agree that he told the radio operator to call Monrovia and the
25 Executive Mansion?

09:44:05

26 A. Yes.

27 Q. And that worried you?

28 A. Yes, yes.

29 Q. Because at that stage - and remember we are talking about

1 1998 - you did not know that the RUF had any connection with the
2 Executive Mansion?

3 A. Yes, the RUF had been in the Executive Mansion from 1995.
4 Up to the time Mr Taylor become President, we did not have any
09:44:40 5 connection with RUF.

6 Q. And then you went on to say, "Who gave the radio ..." - you
7 were asked, "Who gave the radio operator the instruction to call
8 Monrovia?" Could we scroll up, please?

9 A. Sam Bockarie gave the operator - the radio operator -
09:45:04 10 instructions to contact Monrovia Executive Mansion.

11 Q. And then crucially this: "Did you provide them with any
12 information as to how to contact the Executive Mansion in
13 Monrovia?", and your answer was, "No"?

14 A. No, I did not give any information.

09:45:27 15 Q. So it follows, therefore, that the information required to
16 make that radio call was already in Sam Bockarie's possession?

17 A. I do not understand that.

18 Q. It means then, if you didn't give them the necessary
19 details, that they already knew how to get in touch with the
09:45:55 20 Executive Mansion?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. On the return journey, he having been reassured, you
23 travelled by a different route to the one you had taken to get to
24 Kailahun?

09:46:31 25 A. He told me that.

26 Q. And then I want to move on to events which took place when
27 you stopped at Voinjama. You said that one of the reasons why
28 you stopped there was because Sam Bockarie said he wanted to have
29 a bath and he wanted a haircut?

1 A. That was the reason why we stopped.

2 Q. So, you took him to your own family home in Voinjama?

3 A. Yes.

09:47:28 4 Q. And at a time when you were present with one of your senior
5 officers and also Sam Bockarie, Bockarie took off his jacket?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And in the inside pocket of that jacket you saw a
8 mayonnaise jar full of diamonds?

9 A. Yes, a middle size.

09:48:00 10 Q. Can you indicate now, please, how big you say that bottle
11 was? Just indicate using your hands and I will seek to describe
12 it for the purposes of the transcript. Just use your hands and
13 show me how big you say it was.

14 A. The middle size is just like this. A size like this.

09:48:24 15 Q. [Microphone not activated] a bottle some eight inches or so
16 tall?

17 A. Your own hand is more taller. Yes, yes. The middle. The
18 middle.

19 Q. Six inches tall, yes

09:48:39 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Six inches tall by, what, three inches wide?

22 A. From this end to this end. Middle size.

23 Q. Are you saying the length of your palm?

24 A. Yes.

09:48:58 25 Q. And that bottle had hitherto been concealed in his inside
26 jacket pocket?

27 A. Inside jacket pocket. That was the camouflage jacket.

28 Q. Next point. Whilst in Voinjama, a helicopter flew from
29 Monrovia to Voinjama to meet you?

1 A. Not Voi nj ama. Camoufl age flew to Tenebu.

2 Q. How far from Voi nj ama is that?

3 A. Ten miles, yes.

4 Q. And the helicopter had flown from Monrovia?

09:50:02 5 A. To Tenebu.

6 Q. But from Monrovia?

7 A. The helicopter flew from Monrovia to Tenebu. He used a
8 vehicle from Tenebu to Voi nj ama.

9 Q. But, in any event, transported on that helicopter was the
09:50:26 10 director of intelligence?

11 A. Yes, he was the director - assistant director - for
12 intelligence.

13 Q. And from what you have told us, the purpose of his flight
14 from Monrovia to Tenebu was to confirm Sam Bockarie's identity?

09:50:50 15 A. Yes, to confirm if actually Sam Bockarie - the real Sam
16 Bockarie - I was bringing to Monrovia.

17 Q. And as far as you are aware, having confirmed Sam
18 Bockarie's identity that assistant director of intelligence went
19 back to Tenebu, got on the helicopter and flew back to Monrovia?

09:51:23 20 A. Yes, after telling me, "Thank you. He is actually the one
21 you are bringing".

22 Q. So just in practical terms, it would have been possible to
23 put Sam Bockarie on that helicopter and fly him to Monrovia?

24 A. That was not the instruction that was given to me. If I
09:51:51 25 had done that I would not have agreed, because he was my
26 colleague. If I do not receive the direct instruction from
27 Mr Taylor, or from Benjamin Yeaten, I would not have turned a man
28 over to him because he was not a senior officer to me.

29 Q. But my question is very simple. In practical terms,

1 Bockarie could have been put on that helicopter and flown to
2 Monrovia? It was practically possible?

3 A. I said no.

4 Q. No, I am not saying you didn't have those instructions.

09:52:27 5 What I am saying is that, if Mr Taylor had wanted to, he could
6 have got Sam Bockarie put on that helicopter and flown to
7 Monrovia? Do you agree?

8 A. No, because James Springfield you had batch of ECOMOG.

9 ECOMOG was there. Where the helicopter - where the helicopter
09:52:53 10 will land in Monrovia that they will not know. This was
11 something we were doing under camouflage.

12 Q. Very well. In any event, you drove as far as Waisue?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. That is where you parted company with Sam Bockarie?

09:53:16 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. On that journey, did you have to go through any ECOMOG road
17 blocks?

18 A. In the whole of Lofa I said yesterday there were no ECOMOG
19 presence there. There were no ECOMOG present in Bong County and

09:53:42 20 there were no ECOMOG in Margibi. ECOMOG were only present around
21 the city starting from 15 gate, so I was posted to go on that

22 mission. That was when Benjamin Yeaten was the director of the
23 SSS and his own vehicle was dark. Nobody will look inside his
24 vehicle. That was the reason why he came to the highway to

09:54:09 25 receive Sam Bockarie from my vehicle and then he told me that
26 they were going to use another means to get him to Monrovia when
27 nobody will know.

28 Q. Now, would you agree - and I am helpfully assisted by a
29 note - that there are - it is possible to land a helicopter

1 within the grounds of the Executive Mansion?

2 A. It never happened before. It never happened before. It
3 never, never happened before. Up to now, no helicopter had never
4 landed inside the Executive Mansion yard and I am still working
09:55:08 5 with the SSS up to this moment.

6 Q. I suggest that is complete nonsense, but anyway let us move
7 on. As far as you were aware, was Sam Bockarie known to
8 President Taylor prior to you bringing Sam Bockarie to Monrovia?

9 A. I cannot explain that, because I didn't know. What I knew
09:55:43 10 was that he instructed me to get Sam Bockarie and bring him over
11 to him.

12 Q. You had no prior knowledge of the relationship between Sam
13 Bockarie and President Taylor?

14 A. I did not know. It was only based on information that
09:56:10 15 Mr Taylor was the one giving support to the RUF. Those were the
16 information, but because of my trip to get Sam Bockarie to bring
17 him over to him and then to take him back he confirmed to me that
18 he was the one giving support to the RUF. That confirmed to me.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: I am sorry, I will have to ask
09:56:41 20 clarification. From the interpretation there were two things
21 that the interpreter said. He said, "He confirmed to me that he
22 was giving support to the RUF", and then he says, "That confirmed
23 to me that he was giving support to the RUF". This is what I
24 heard and they are two different things. If you could examine
09:57:02 25 again around that area, please.

26 MR GRIFFITHS: Very well:

27 Q. Who confirmed to you that he was supporting the RUF?

28 A. I said we used to get the information that Mr Taylor was
29 the one who was supporting RUF, but that was not confirmed. But

1 when he instructed me to go to Sierra Leone and get Sam Bockarie
2 to bring him over to him in Monrovia as the President of the
3 Republic of Liberia, that indicated to me that actually he was
4 the one that was giving support to RUF.

09:57:43 5 Q. As far as you were aware, when you went to collect Sam
6 Bockarie did you have any knowledge if President Taylor had met
7 Sam Bockarie before?

8 A. No, and Sam Bockarie himself confirmed that to me. When I
9 was taking him back he told me, "Sherif, thank you very much. At
09:58:15 10 the time the RUF started their mission it was Foday Sankoh who
11 was dealing with Mr Taylor and we only used to communicate
12 through the phone, or the satellite, or radio, but I never knew
13 Mr Taylor in person and now you have been the cause for me to sit
14 down with him and discuss with him. He has given me money, he
09:58:40 15 has given me satellite and so now I want to say thank you very
16 much for what you have done for me". That was what Sam Bockarie
17 told me when I was taking him back.

18 Q. Now at the time you were sent to Sierra Leone, Lofa County
19 fell under the authority of Christopher Varmoh, didn't it?

09:59:06 20 A. No.

21 Q. Now, Christopher Varmoh - and it is a name we have heard
22 before, your Honours - was also known as the Liberian Mosquito,
23 wasn't he?

24 A. Yes.

09:59:22 25 Q. And what I am suggesting is that he was in charge in Lofa
26 County at the time?

27 A. I said no. There were no government forces around Lofa at
28 that time. It was the former ULIMO that had been dissolved. They
29 were all staying in their individual areas. I was the first

1 government official who visited that area to get Sam Bockarie and
2 bring him over. At this time that we are talking about no
3 government official, no police, no army from Mr Taylor's
4 government that ever stepped his feet in Lofa at that time, and
10:00:08 5 that if I went to go there - if I had not gone there to mobilise
6 the people, to talk with them to work with the Taylor government,
7 they were not going to do it at all.

8 Q. Would your Honours give me a moment? What I am suggesting
9 is that Christopher Varmoh was clearly in charge of that area and
10:00:52 10 that you are not telling us the truth about that?

11 A. That is not true. Christopher Varmoh became the eighth
12 battalion commander. That was after all of my mission had
13 completed. After I had got all the arms and ammunition from the
14 territory of Lofa, I brought Sam Bockarie and took him back and
10:01:22 15 that was after which he started sending the police and the army
16 to Lofa. By the time I am talking about, when I started the
17 mission, I alone went there at that time in order to avoid any
18 problem.

19 Q. I will put my case on this point and move on. You see what
10:01:43 20 I am suggesting is that, if President Taylor wanted to bring Sam
21 Bockarie to Monrovia, it was easy for him to get the one Mosquito
22 to speak to the other and achieve that purpose. He didn't need
23 you and you are lying when you say you were sent to Sierra Leone
24 to bring Sam Bockarie back. That is my case on that. What do
10:02:11 25 you say about that?

26 A. That is not true. I knew Christopher Varmoh as Liberian
27 Mosquito. I knew Mosquito Spray as LURD Mosquito and I knew Sam
28 Bockarie to be the RUF Mosquito. I knew all of them, but this
29 time I am talking about Christopher Varmoh was in Monrovia. He

1 had not taken assignment.

2 Q. I have put my case on that, but I will be coming back to
3 that topic in due course. Can we move on to another matter,
4 please. Witness, in late 1998, beginning of 1999, you began to

10:03:20 5 suffer from a form of African sine, didn't you?

6 A. No.

7 Q. What is African sine?

8 A. I don't know until you explain to me.

9 Q. Have you never heard the term "African sine" before?

10:03:47 10 A. No.

11 Q. Let me put it bluntly then. Did you not begin to suffer
12 from a form of mental illness?

13 A. That is not true.

14 Q. And did that mental illness not develop after the first

10:04:09 15 attack by LURD on Liberian government positions?

16 A. No.

17 Q. And was that mental illness not brought on because of your
18 family background?

19 A. That is not true.

10:04:34 20 Q. In the sense that firstly your family was very anti-Taylor,
21 wasn't it?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And by way of example let us just look at something,
24 please. If we go to page 3 of the bundle which I provided - and

10:04:59 25 I would like the witness to be given that bundle, please, and
26 could the witness turn to page 3. On line 16 on that page: "My
27 father brought his two wives". "Brought to where?" "I said my
28 father brought his two wives". "Two wives". "They were brutally
29 murdered. They catch them and put them in a private car and put

1 fire on them". "Who murdered them?" "NPFL". The number at the top
2 of the page is 00036735. Was that the truth?

3 A. That was true.

10:06:08

4 Q. Does it follow then that your father was very anti-NPFL and
5 Taylor?

6 A. Please repeat that.

7 Q. Given the experience your father had had, his two wives
8 murdered by the NPFL you say in the most brutal fashion, your
9 father hated Mr Taylor, didn't he?

10:06:31

10 A. Yes, that is true.

11 Q. And not only your father. Your family generally hated
12 Mr Taylor, didn't they?

13 A. That is true.

10:06:53

14 Q. And your family were very angry at the fact that given that
15 experience, your father's wives murdered, you had gone to work
16 for the very man who was responsible? They were very angry with
17 you because of that, weren't they?

18 A. That is true.

19 Q. And it caused you a great deal of anguish, didn't it?

10:07:22

20 A. That is true.

21 Q. For all the time that you were working for Mr Taylor, you
22 were trying to come to terms with that contradiction that, "Given
23 what has happened to my family, what am I doing working for this
24 monster?"? That was the thought constantly in your mind, wasn't
25 it?

10:07:47

26 A. No.

27 Q. Did your family not constantly remind you of that
28 experience?

29 A. They reminded me.

1 Q. Were they doing that constantly?

2 A. Of course.

3 Q. Did you have difficulty coming to terms with that?

4 A. I overcame that difficulty because we wanted peace. I did
10:08:19 5 not - I did not want to go to join ULIMO because my father or my
6 father's wife had been murdered or killed by Mr Taylor. The
7 reason was because I have been pushed from one place to another,
8 from one place to another, and by this time I had been pushed
9 against a wall and I wanted to go back home. This was the
10:08:41 10 information I used to give to my family that, these "Things we
11 have to put all aside. If we say, 'Oh, this killed my father or
12 my mother' and we try and revenge that, then the war won't
13 finish. I have to work with Mr Taylor to bring peace".

14 Q. Would it be right that your family would say to you, for
10:09:04 15 example, "How can you be working for this man when formerly you
16 were fighting and risking your life against him"? Did they say
17 that to you?

18 A. They said it to me. They said it.

19 Q. And when LURD attacked Liberia, LURD containing many former
10:09:31 20 ULIMO fighters, did your family say to you, "Look, your former
21 comrades are now fighting against Taylor and there you are
22 supporting him"? Did they say that to you?

23 A. They said that and I was still giving my support and I was
24 still fighting against them, because I told them that this was a
10:09:58 25 constitutional government, the man was democratically elected by
26 the Liberian people and the man called me to work with him and I
27 had to work with him with my heart.

28 Q. What I am suggesting is that because of that conflict in
29 your mind, which you were unable to reconcile, you went

1 clinically mad? That is what I am suggesting.

2 A. That is not true. If that was in my mind I took six months
3 in central police from jail, then from there he gave me arms to
4 go and fight the people they were fighting that were dominated by
10:10:40 5 Mandingo. I lost two of my brothers from one father from the
6 LURD side, but I still defended Mr Taylor. Up to the last, I was
7 the only person in Monrovia that he had hope on. In the night he
8 will call me. In the day he will call me. He said, "Look, do
9 anything to protect my life now because this is not Presidential
10:11:00 10 business because I agree that I am going to leave, but please try
11 to hold on to your position". When his loyal people that he
12 trusted were running away - when they captured Sam Montgomery in
13 the plane at Roberts international airport he was running away.
14 That was the day he said, "Sherif, go and take the deputy
10:11:19 15 commission of our operation, please". That happened.

16 Q. Do you know a plan called Amos Morris? A-m-o-s
17 M-o-r-r-i-s?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. How well do you know him?

10:11:38 20 A. I knew him. I captured him in Lofa from NPFL and later I
21 used him as my driver. Up to this present day he is with me.

22 Q. When you say "with you", with you where? Not where in
23 terms of where you are living. Is he still your driver?

24 A. He is still my driver.

10:12:08 25 Q. Do you have any reason to distrust him?

26 A. I trust him.

27 Q. Would you regard him as a truthful person?

28 A. Yes.

29 Q. Would he have any reason to tell lies about you?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Now tell me if such a man were to say that during this
3 period you were walking around Monrovia naked, shouting to
4 yourself and having to be effectively kept under house arrest by
10:12:48 5 your own family, would he be lying about that?

6 A. That is not true. I never got sick.

7 Q. Was there ever a time when you were walking the streets of
8 Monrovia naked?

9 A. I never walked in the street of Monrovia naked.

10:13:16 10 Q. Were you not given money by Charles Taylor to seek medical
11 treatment for your illness in Mali?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Did you go to Mali?

14 A. No.

10:13:31 15 Q. Because there were no mental health facilities in Liberia
16 which could cope with you, did you not get sent to Mali?

17 A. That is not true.

18 Q. Do you know a man called Musa, M-u-s-a, Cissay,
19 C-i-s-s-a-y, who has since died?

10:13:54 20 A. I knew Musa Cissay, who personally took me as his son. He
21 was Taylor's - Mr Taylor's - main man. By that I mean he knows -
22 he knew most of the secrets of Mr Taylor and he was Mr Taylor's
23 trustful person. He also took me as a son and he told me that -
24 he said whenever I had a problem I should let him know.

10:14:26 25 Q. Was it not Musa Cissay, the person who took you as his son,
26 who arranged for you to be taken to Mali for treatment?

27 A. That is not true.

28 Q. And were you not treated in Mali by a native doctor?

29 A. That is not true.

1 Q. A doctor who was also a Mandingo?

2 A. I don't know any doctor that you are referring to as a
3 Mandingo man.

10:15:16

4 Q. Did that doctor not take you back to Mali to Liberia to the
5 border?

6 A. That is not true.

7 Q. Even though you had not fully recovered?

10:15:43

8 A. You mean you are saying that I was sick? How would
9 Mr Taylor look at a sick person and give him more than 500 bags
10 of ammunition, arms and ammunition, to go and distribute it in
11 different quarters in the Republic of Liberia - this is what you
12 are referring to - and after which he sent me to go to the bush
13 again and fight battle on his behalf?

10:16:02

14 Q. What I am suggesting is that upon your return to Liberia,
15 because you had not fully recovered you received further
16 treatment from a Saudi Arabian man?

17 A. That is not true.

18 Q. Help us with this, please. Have you ever been to the
19 Middle East for military training?

10:16:28

20 A. No, never.

21 Q. In that five missing years when you claimed you were
22 learning Arabic, had you in fact not gone to the Middle East for
23 military training?

10:16:56

24 A. In Kakata there was Habibu Sharif [phon], an Islamic and
25 Arabic school. You can go anywhere and ask and they will tell
26 you that in my absence. That was where they called Habibu
27 Sharif. That is in Kakata.

28 Q. Are you trying to disguise to this Court what you were
29 actually doing for that five year period, which is why you claim

1 you were still at school in 1990? Is that what is going on?

2 A. I am not hiding anything. I never knew about guns. I was
3 not a military personnel at that time never. Never.

10:17:43

4 Q. Is that why, because of your training in the Middle East,
5 you rose so swiftly through the ranks of the LUDF and ULIMO to
6 become a senior commander?

10:18:10

7 A. The reason for me to be rising as senior commander in the
8 guerilla warfare is when you are very strong at the battle front
9 you always get promotion. That was the reason why I had quick
10 promotions. If you are brave somebody, you go to the battle
11 front and then you achieve your goal, you will get promotion.
12 That was in guerilla warfare.

13 Q. And is it not the case that you were moved from your role
14 as assistant director in the SSS because of your illness?

10:18:39

15 A. That was not it. I was being put in jail.

16 Q. I suggest that is why you were moved to immigration, but
17 you were moved to immigration, weren't you?

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: That is two questions, Mr Griffiths.

19 MR GRIFFITHS: Very well.

10:19:02

20 PRESIDING JUDGE: That is two questions in one.

21 MR GRIFFITHS:

22 Q. You were moved to immigration, weren't you?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And did you have the call sign 309?

10:19:15

25 A. Yes.

26 Q. And were you not moved to that post because of your mental
27 illness?

28 A. That was not said to me.

29 Q. I am going to ask you for the last time, witness, have you

1 received treatment for mental illness in any part of the world?

2 A. Common headache, sickness, I always receive that. Even at
3 The Hague here, my head always hurt me. That is for one hour/two
4 hours. I will take Paracetamol and it will go down.

10:20:15 5 Q. So, it follows then that there won't be any medical records
6 of yours relating to you anywhere in the world showing that you
7 were treated for mental illness. Is that right?

8 A. That is not true. That is not true.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Interpreter, I do not know what it is
10:20:41 10 that you interpreted to this witness:

11 Q. Mr Witness, are you saying that it is not true that there
12 are no medical records? Is that what you are saying?

13 A. It means - repeat the question back.

14 MR GRIFFITHS:

10:20:58 15 Q. Is it right that there would be no medical records
16 available anywhere in the world to prove that you were treated
17 for mental illness?

18 A. That is not true. That is not true, no.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: I am not satisfied that the question has
10:21:21 20 been properly translated. Mr Griffiths, can I ask you to ask
21 questions more directly for the sake of the interpreters. If you
22 ask your questions in a round about back to front manner, I don't
23 think we are being fair to the witness. I am not satisfied with
24 this answer. Please ask the question again in a more direct
10:21:44 25 manner and let the witness answer again.

26 MR GRIFFITHS:

27 Q. Would there be any medical records anywhere in the world to
28 prove that you were treated for mental illness?

29 A. If you say my head was hurting I will say, yes, there would

1 be a medical record on me, some time I got sick and I went to the
2 hospital there would be a medical record, but if you are
3 referring to mental problem or this kind of sickness you are
4 referring to I will say no.

10:22:26 5 Q. When was the last time you saw Charles Taylor in person?

6 A. Prior to his departure he sent for me at White Flower, he
7 sent for Musa and then he told me and said, "Sherif, thank you
8 very much for what you have proven to me. People were giving me
9 all kinds of negative information to me about you and now what
10 you have proven is you have proven to me that you are actually
11 somebody that I can trust". And he took 10,000 United States
12 dollars cash, he took it and gave it to me. He also took 5,000
13 US dollars and gave it to me to be giving to Torto Boone [phon].
14 He was one of the brigade commanders that was working along with
15 me - to be given to him. That was our final day.

10:23:34

16 Q. I am not going to dwell on that line, because I want to
17 pursue my line of questioning. You agree that Charles Taylor
18 went to Nigeria when he --

19 MS HOLLIS: Your Honour, I am sorry for the late objection,
10:23:54 20 but I have just seen the transcript and I object to Defence
21 counsel's language that he is not going to "dwell on that lie".

22 MR GRIFFITHS: Line, l-i-n-e.

23 MS HOLLIS: Then I apologise, because it shows as "lie",
24 l-i-e.

10:24:13

25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Ms Hollis, I do understand and I am
26 asking the transcriber to take note of that correction from "lie"
27 to "line".

28 MR GRIFFITHS:

29 Q. When President Taylor stepped down as President, as part of

1 that agreement he went to Nigeria, didn't he?

2 A. He go to Nigeria.

3 Q. Did you not go and visit him in Nigeria?

4 A. I visited him in Nigeria, that is true.

10:24:53 5 Q. So when I asked you earlier when was the last time you met
6 President Taylor and you told me that it was at the Executive
7 Mansion, why did you tell me that a moment ago?

8 A. If I understand the question, I thought you were referring
9 from the time he was in power as the President of the Republic of
10:25:14 10 Liberia.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Actually to be fair to the witness,
12 Mr Griffiths, I think you said, "What was the last time you saw
13 Mr Taylor prior to his departure?"

14 MR GRIFFITHS: No, I didn't, your Honour.

10:25:27 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: That is what I have in my notes. I may
16 be wrong.

17 MR GRIFFITHS: Well, I accept responsibility if it is my
18 fault:

19 Q. So, the last time you saw President Taylor was in Nigeria?

10:25:42 20 A. He invited me to Nigeria, myself and Roland Duoh. We
21 travelled from Monrovia to Ghana and from Ghana we travelled to
22 Togo. We spent a week with Benjamin Yeaten and from Benjamin
23 Yeaten we travelled to him in Kalaba.

24 MR GRIFFITHS: Can I just pause to mention this, your
10:26:07 25 Honour. Page 44 of LiveNote: "Q. When was the last time you saw
26 Charles Taylor in person? A. Prior to his departure, he sent for
27 me at White Flower". That is what the transcript says:

28 Q. So earlier you did say to me, despite the question, that
29 the last time you had seen him was at White Flower. So, I am

1 going to ask you again. Why when I asked you that question did
2 you not tell us that the last time you saw him in person was in
3 Nigeria? Why did you not tell us that?

10:26:52

4 A. I didn't understand what you were referring to. The way I
5 understood it was that I thought you said when he was President
6 of the Republic of Liberia and that what was my last time that I
7 met with Mr Taylor. I said it was at White Flower when we met,
8 he gave me money and he said to me, "Thank you", but then if you
9 asked my last time I saw him was in Kalaba, Nigeria.

10:27:19

10 Q. Now, tell me something. Did you tell the Office of the
11 Prosecutor that you had gone to see former President Taylor in
12 Nigeria?

13 A. No, I cannot remember everything. No, no.

14 Q. Why did you not tell them that?

10:27:43

15 A. Because I cannot remember everything that has happened from
16 1990 to this present moment. If you ask me to explain
17 everything, I think we will stay five months here and I will be
18 explaining. And if tomorrow, if I am going to come to this
19 Court, if something else comes to my mind that happened at that
20 time that I had not said I will say it again. Yes, there are
21 more informations that can come to my memory, and if you gave me
22 the chance I go and sit down I think I come the next day I will
23 explain more. That is why I am explaining what comes to my mind.

10:28:05

24 Q. Did you not think it a matter of some importance to mention
25 to the people who were taking a statement from you the important
26 fact that, "The last time I saw Mr Taylor was in Nigeria"? Why
27 didn't you tell them that?

10:28:33

28 A. I explained the reason to you that that slipped from my
29 memory at the time I was making my statement.

1 Q. Now, when you went to visit --

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, it is half-past-ten and I
3 would imagine this is not a bad place to adjourn.

4 MR GRIFFITHS: It is as good as any.

10:29:10 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: To break, rather. So, you can pick up
6 that question when we return from the break. Mr Witness, we are
7 going to break for half-an-hour and we will resume at eleven
8 o'clock.

9 [Break taken at 10.30 a.m.]

10:55:38 10 [Upon resuming at 11.00 a.m.]

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, please continue.

12 MR GRIFFITHS: I am obliged, your Honour. Before
13 I commence, your Honour, there is one matter that I must the
14 correct. I have been helpfully as always reminded by Ms Hollis
10:59:25 15 that a date that I gave yesterday was wrong because it is dealt
16 with in the agreed facts at AD and I think we ought to correct
17 that now before we go any further.

18 Do you recall me putting to the witness that the helicopter
19 seized at Jack Springs field was on 13 February. That's not
10:59:47 20 right. It is on or around 14 February. It may not amount to a
21 great deal, but for reasons of accuracy I think we ought to
22 accord the date with the agreed facts.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Okay, so the date remains on or about 14
24 February.

11:00:06 25 MR GRIFFITHS: That is the date of the seizure of that
26 helicopter.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: That would be 1998.

28 MR GRIFFITHS: Your Honour, yes.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Okay, so noted.

1 MR GRIFFITHS:

2 Q. Now, witness, I have been assisted over the break and it
3 may be that when I was asking you about mental illness we were at
4 cross purposes because, as I understand it, in Liberian English
11:00:39 5 mental illness refers to a headache.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: Are you asking a question, Mr Griffiths?

7 MR GRIFFITHS:

8 Q. Is that right?

9 A. Headache. I had headache.

11:00:59 10 Q. What I am saying is just in terms of the words used if
11 I said to a Liberian, "You've got mental illness" it just means
12 headache, doesn't it?

13 A. No, what you meant, mental illness, you are telling the
14 individual that they are crazy.

11:01:20 15 Q. I am glad that you understood what I was putting to you
16 because what I was putting to you quite bluntly was that you were
17 crazy, which is the word I am told used by most Liberians to
18 refer to that condition. I just want you to be clear about that.
19 I was suggesting you had gone crazy. Do you understand me now?

11:01:42 20 A. I was never crazy.

21 Q. Now that we have clarified those two things shall we move
22 on. I was asking you when we adjourned half an hour ago about
23 the trip you made to Nigeria. Now do you agree that you went to
24 Nigeria to visit Mr Taylor with Roland Duoh?

11:02:10 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. A name we have heard before and so the spelling of it
27 should not cause any difficulty. Now that trip to Nigeria took
28 place during the transitional period after Charles Taylor stood
29 down as president, is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And prior to going to visit former President Taylor in
3 Nigeria, you had visited the leader of Guinea, President Conteh,
4 hadn't you?

11:03:10 5 A. No, from Kalaba before I went to Guinea.

6 Q. You went to Guinea before you went to Kalaba?

7 A. No, from Kalaba to Guinea.

8 Q. Who did you see in Guinea?

9 A. I went to the lady Aisha Conneh.

11:03:37 10 Q. What is her position?

11 A. She was the former wife of Sekou Damate Conneh. It was
12 Roland Duoh and myself.

13 Q. Can you help us with some spellings, please. Could you
14 spell the first name of the female you referred to?

11:04:05 15 A. I cannot spell Aisha. I can spell Conneh, K-O-N-N-E-H.

16 Q. And the second individual you referred to, could you help
17 us with the spelling of that person's name?

18 A. You mean Roland Duoh?

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: The husband of this lady.

11:04:35 20 THE WITNESS: Sekou Conneh, S-E-K-O-U K-O-N-N-E-H.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: Madam Court Manager, I think the witness
22 needs assistance in some regard.

23 THE WITNESS: Go ahead.

24 MR GRIFFITHS:

11:05:17 25 Q. What was the purpose of the visit?

26 A. It was an ordinary visit. It was not official.

27 Q. Did you not know President Conteh of Guinea from your time
28 with ULIMO?

29 A. During that same trip we met President Conteh also.

1 Q. So the same trip when you saw the ex-wife of Sekou Conneh?

2 A. It was during the same trip that we met Lansana Conteh
3 also.

11:06:20

4 Q. What was your purpose in going to see Lansana Conteh, the
5 President of Guinea?

11:07:00

6 A. We were trying to bring peace. Roland Duoh was one of the
7 trustful fighters from Mr Taylor and also I had been one of the
8 person serving between - as a liaison between ULIMO and NPFL. So
9 we took the decision to meet Mr Taylor in Kalaba and from there
10 we went to Guinea to see Lansana Conteh to make him understand
11 that the war is finished and what will be our mission now, we are
12 working with the DDR, that is the disarmament, the

11:07:41

13 demobilisation, rehabilitation and reintegration. We were now
14 choosing - we were chosen by the interim government in charge
15 that was Gyude Bryant's government to work alongside with the
16 United Nations to make sure the ex-combatants should now
17 understand that the war was over and that they should disarm.
18 That was the message we carried around.

11:08:02

19 Q. This was before the election of the current president of
20 Liberia, Johnson-Sirleaf?

21 A. We are talking about Gyude Bryant's time and now you are
22 bringing me back to the Johnson time.

23 Q. Now Sekou Konneh was one of the leaders of LURD, is that
24 not right?

11:08:31

25 A. He was the leader of LURD.

26 MR GRIFFITHS: Would your Honour give me a moment. Yes
27 I just needed to clarify one or two things.

28 Q. Now this visit to Guinea, Sekou Conneh as you now accept
29 was a former leader of LURD but the other person you mention,

1 Aisha, who was she the daughter of?

2 A. When she was - I knew her to be the mediator between us and
3 Conteh, before we could see Conteh. That is all I know about
4 her.

11:10:01 5 Q. But she is also Conteh's adopted daughter, isn't she?

6 A. I never knew her to be an adopted daughter of Lansana
7 Conteh.

8 Q. Is it not the case that she was your way of arranging a
9 meeting with President Conteh?

11:10:28 10 A. I said we needed her assistance for her to mediate, so she
11 assisted us to see President Conteh so that was what I said.

12 Q. Thank you. So she was the one who arranged that meeting
13 for you?

14 A. Yes.

11:10:59 15 Q. Following that meeting with President Conte, that's when
16 you went to see Mr Taylor in Nigeria, wasn't it?

17 A. That is not true. I have explained that earlier to you,
18 that when we left Monrovia we went to Ghana, from Ghana we went
19 to Togo and we spent a week with Benjamin Yeaten and Benjamin
20 Yeaten communicated with Mr Taylor. When he sat down on the
21 ground and when I was telling him, I said, "Chief, why are you
22 sitting on the ground?" I said, "When I am communicating with my
23 father it just appears to me as if he is still standing over me."
24 That is why I sat on the ground before I started talking to him.

11:11:47 25 But I said to him, "How will he know you are sitting on the
26 ground or you are sitting on the chair talking to him.?" And
27 then that arrangement was made by Benjamin Yeaten before we left
28 Togo to go to Kalaba to see Mr Taylor. It was from there that we
29 made the trip to Guinea. From Guinea we came back to Monrovia to

1 continue our demobilisation and reintegration program.

2 Q. In any event I am going to leave that topic now. In
3 November 2004 Johnson-Sirleaf was elected President of Liberia,
4 wasn't she?

11:12:34 5 A. Please repeat that.

6 Q. In November - and I am corrected - 2005 Johnson-Sirleaf was
7 elected President of Liberia, wasn't she?

8 A. That's true.

9 Q. Did you retain any government post after she was elected?

11:12:52 10 A. I went back into the SSS and up to this moment I am working
11 with the SSS.

12 Q. Is that true?

13 A. Truth and nothing but the truth.

14 Q. Did you at any stage leave Liberia to live in Sierra Leone?

11:13:32 15 A. From the end of - from 2004 and when I was being
16 interviewed by the Special Court they had asked me whether
17 I would be willing to testify. I told them I fear for my life
18 and my family and it was until 2007 when my family was threatened
19 by Roland Duoh, by supporters of the NPFL and that if I was to go
11:14:20 20 to anywhere they wanted me to testify they would need to take my
21 family out of there first.

22 Q. Now it may be my fault so let me clarify it. Did there
23 come a time when you left Liberia to live in Sierra Leone; yes or
24 no?

11:14:47 25 A. What year?

26 Q. After the election of President Johnson-Sirleaf did there
27 come a time when you left Liberia to live in Sierra Leone?

28 A. Never, never.

29 Q. So you have remained living in Liberia until recent times,

1 have you?

2 A. Yes, yes.

3 Q. And you are still employed, are you, as assistant director
4 in the SSS?

11:15:25 5 A. No, I was - before I left the country I was the resident
6 commander. I was the resident commander for SSS at the Ellen
7 Johnson-Sirleaf residence.

8 Q. So did there come a time when you left the country?

9 A. No, beside that visit I am talking about when I went to
11:15:56 10 Nigeria, I passed through Guinea and I came back. I worked
11 alongside with the United Nations to disarm. We started doing
12 our campaign for the Unity Party and the Unity Party won and they
13 employed us, I went back into the SSS.

14 Q. Between about 2005 and the end of last year have you ever
11:16:27 15 lived in Sierra Leone?

16 A. Never, never. Never visited even the border.

17 Q. Have you throughout the time you have been in contact with
18 the Office of the Prosecutor until you arrived in The Hague, have
19 you continued to live in West Africa?

11:16:59 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Is it not the case that you lost your job following the
22 election of Johnson-Sirleaf?

23 A. I did not lose my job. Up to this moment I still have my
24 ID card and up to this moment I am still working with the SSS.

11:17:40 25 The Special Court - before I left there to come, the Special
26 Court had to go and ask permission from Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf in
27 order for her to allow me to come and testify.

28 Q. Very well. I am going to move on to another topic now. We
29 know that on 23 February 2005 you were interviewed by

1 investigators and lawyers from the Office of the Prosecutor for
2 the Special Court in Sierra Leone; that's right, isn't it?

3 A. It is not in front of me. I am not looking at it. Maybe
4 that was it.

11:18:34 5 Q. Now before we come to look at the bundle of documents that
6 I placed before you - I wonder if that can be supplied to the
7 witness, please. If you turn to page 2 of that bundle this is an
8 88 page transcript of an interview conducted with you on
9 Wednesday 23 February 2005, an interview which commenced at 10.24
11:19:32 10 a.m. which is shown on page 00036734 and which concluded at
11 12.37 p.m. on that same day. Do you recall that interview?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Was that the first interview conducted with you?

14 A. Yes.

11:20:02 15 Q. Prior to that interview on 23 February 2005, had you spoken
16 to anyone attached to the Special Court of Sierra Leone?

17 A. I spoke to Special Court people for the second time, but
18 I can't recall their names and I can't recall the time, but after
19 that I also spoke to them.

11:20:37 20 Q. The reason why I ask that is this: If we turn to page 1 in
21 that bundle you will see that on 22 February 2005 you were seen
22 by a John Stein, a Michael Gonsalves and prosecutor Chris Santora
23 who has joined us today sitting at the back of the Court. You
24 were seen by those three individuals at Mamba Point hotel in
11:21:29 25 Monrovia, is that right?

26 A. Yes.

27 Q. You will see that they had travelled to Monrovia, it would
28 appear, on that day. Do you agree?

29 A. I did not understand that.

1 Q. If you look at the top line, "22 February 22 2005,
2 investigators from the OTP had travelled to Monrovia to conduct
3 interviews with potential witnesses from or associated to Lofa
4 County." Then it goes on to say that you were interviewed, yes?

11:22:10 5 A. Yes.

6 Q. That page for reference is 00036822. Before we come to
7 deal with the contents of that interview I would like to ask you
8 about one or two preliminary matters, please. Firstly this: In
9 terms of this meeting on the 22nd, who approached who? Did you
10 approach the OTP or did they approach you?

11 A. They asked me questions and I answered to them.

12 Q. No, no. In order for you to have met them on 22 February
13 somebody had to have initiated the contact. Do you agree?

14 A. I don't know how they got my contact number. They called
11:23:25 15 me on telephone.

16 Q. Prior to them calling you had you let it be known to them
17 that you wanted to speak to them?

18 A. They asked me that they wanted to speak to me and then
19 I went to meet them.

11:23:49 20 Q. With respect, my question is different and I will
21 interrupt.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please do desist from interrupting when
23 the witness is answering because we will confuse the record. One
24 person should speak at time for the sake of the record. If you
11:24:06 25 speak over each other's voice the transcribers are confused.

26 MR GRIFFITHS:

27 Q. I want you to be clear about my question. It is an
28 important point so please think carefully. Before they
29 telephoned you had you indicated to them by any means that you

1 wanted to talk to them?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Did it then come as a surprise to you when they telephoned
4 you?

11:24:41 5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And when they telephoned you, were you immediately willing
7 to speak to them?

8 A. No.

9 Q. How long did it take before you became willing?

11:25:01 10 A. Before they had - before they came we had heard
11 information. Roland Duoh called us to a meeting and he said that
12 they have got the information that some people are coming from
13 Freetown from the Special Court. They are coming to convince
14 some people to explain what happened during the term of office of

11:25:31 15 Mr Taylor. And I said before the Special Court got to Monrovia
16 we got the information from Roland Duoh. He called us and
17 informed us that we should be very mindful and we should be very
18 careful, people were coming from Freetown from the Special Court.
19 He said they called him and he switched off his phone because he

11:26:01 20 never wanted to talk to them. They also called Joe Tuah and Joe
21 Tuah was advised to leave Monrovia to go to Nimba and those of us
22 who were in Monrovia, he said we should be very careful. He said
23 these people were coming to get information. That was my only
24 time I got to know that people were coming to find out, to get
11:26:26 25 information about the things that happened during the Taylor
26 time.

27 Q. Now given that, what you have just told us, are you saying
28 that you were initially reluctant to speak to them?

29 A. I was skeptical. I never knew what their mission was,

1 because the information that Roland Duoh gave us moved most of us
2 into fright. So he said they were calling people on their phones
3 telling them that we are the people working from the Special
4 Court and we want to talk to you, but before that time Roland
11:27:29 5 Duoh had frightened so many people already, so most people were
6 just running helter-skelter, moving from one place to another.
7 And most people in fact changed their SIM cards.

8 Q. So just so that we are clear, it was not you who approached
9 the OTP?

11:28:00 10 A. It was not me. They contacted me on my mobile phone.

11 Q. Very well. It wasn't because you were broke and you
12 thought you could make some money by selling a false story to the
13 OTP?

14 A. No, not for that. I was not broke. Mr Taylor left some
11:28:37 15 money with me. I still had it. He left 10,000 United States
16 dollars with me. I still had it. That money was with me.

17 Q. So when we come then - turn over please to page 2. When we
18 come then to the interview which took place on 23 February can we
19 take it that by that date you were willing and happy to speak to
11:29:12 20 the OTP?

21 A. I was willing.

22 Q. Were you happy?

23 A. I was willing.

24 Q. Were you happy to speak to them?

11:29:33 25 A. I said to you I was willing to speak to them.

26 Q. Let's try my question again, shall we. There is a
27 difference between willingness and happiness?

28 A. I choose willingness.

29 Q. I asked you about happiness as well. So let me try my

1 question again. Happiness is a simple word. Were you happy to
2 speak to them; yes or no?

3 A. I said to you I was willing.

11:30:11

4 Q. Do I take it you have no intentions of answering my
5 question?

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, to be fair to the witness
7 happy is not a simple word, especially in the context in which
8 you have used it. I am happy to let you stand there and address
9 the Court. It doesn't mean I am laughing. I think the witness
10 has given you his version of the answer.

11:30:27

11 MR GRIFFITHS: Very well, your Honour. I won't pursue that
12 any further.

13 Q. Now during the course of that interview was the interview
14 tape recorded?

11:30:46

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So someone was operating a tape machine and recording your
17 voice?

18 A. I do not know whether they had a machine, but what I do
19 know, somebody was writing.

11:31:06

20 Q. Well, if there is a tape I have never seen it, but I am
21 sure that we will be enlightened in due course, so let's move on.
22 What did you think the purpose of that interview was?

23 A. The purpose of that interview was to put the truth what
24 happened and they asked me, "We want you to explain to us exactly
25 what you know about - from the day you were born up to this
26 present, what all you passed through, if you participated in the
27 war up to election, where you worked. We want the entire story
28 of what you have passed through." That is what they told me.

11:31:38

29 Q. Consequently you appreciated from the outset the need to be

1 truthful, did you?

2 A. I was truthful and I am still truthful.

3 Q. So you have been truthful to the OTP and to this Court
4 throughout, have you?

11:32:29 5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And everything you told the Office of the Prosecutor
7 throughout those interviews and later interviews, you were always
8 truthful, were you?

9 A. Yes.

11:32:47 10 MR GRIFFITHS: Now, your Honours, amongst the matters
11 I will be asking this witness about are certain payments that
12 were made to him during the course of his contact with the office
13 of the OTP and it's important that we be in a position to
14 correlate those payments with the dates of the interviews
11:33:10 15 conducted with him. Consequently I have put together a schedule
16 which might be of assistance to us all, which illustrates those
17 facts and I would like copies now please to be distributed, and
18 I do have a copy for my learned friend, to the witness and to the
19 Court so we can follow the chronology of events.

11:34:23 20 Now your Honours will quickly see the scheme of this
21 document. In column number one we have the dates upon which this
22 witness was interviewed. In the third column we have the dates
23 upon which payments were made to him and those dates have been
24 taken from a schedule of payments which your Honours will find at
11:34:51 25 the back of the bundle of documents with which I have provided
26 the Court.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Would that be tab 13?

28 MR GRIFFITHS: Yes, it would be, I think. Yes, it is. It
29 is referred to as Special Court of Sierra Leone, all

1 disbursements for witness TF1-406. So the dates in the final
2 column come from that document.

3 Q. Could you turn, please, to page 1 - sorry, page 2 of this
4 bundle. This is the interview conducted on 23 February 2005 and

11:35:59 5 I do not apologise for the fact, witness, that we are going to
6 spend a little time going through this interview. We will see on
7 page 1, at line 26, that, having mentioned where you were born,
8 the fact that you are a Mandingo.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, for the record could you
11:36:23 10 please refer to the correct page number in your bundle which is
11 page 2 and not page 1. We are looking at page 2, are we not?

12 MR GRIFFITHS: Yes we are. The reference at the top of the
13 page is 00036734.

14 Q. We see that you were being interviewed by three
11:36:50 15 individuals: Christopher Santora who, as I mentioned, sits at the
16 back of the Court, a Mr Gonsalves and a Mr Stein. Having
17 mentioned where you were born and at line 26 the fact that you
18 are a Mandingo, when we go over the page to page 3 at the bottom,
19 00036735 at the top, you mention the fact --

11:37:32 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Madam Court Manager, that's the wrong
21 page you are showing. It is the page previous to that.

22 MR GRIFFITHS: Page 3, 00036735.

23 Q. You mention on that page at line 9 that you were a student
24 in Kakata when the war came, at line 14. You then mention at
11:38:06 25 line 18 the fact that your father's two wives were brutally
26 murdered. They had been put in a private car and set on fire by
27 the NPFL. I have asked you already about that this morning,
28 haven't I?

29 A. That's true.

1 Q. You told us how you felt about Mr Taylor as a result, yes?

2 A. I told you that I never had problem with that. That was
3 the will of God.

11:38:50

4 Q. Over the page to page 4 at the bottom, 00036736 at the top,
5 you deal with the various movements you made as a consequence of
6 the offensive launched by the NPFL and, at the bottom of the
7 page, that you had joined the LUDF. That's right, isn't it?

8 A. Please repeat. Please repeat that question.

11:39:24

9 Q. At the bottom of page 4, 00036736 at the top, you mention
10 the fact that you felt compelled to join the LUDF, don't you?

11 A. Whether I was compelled to LUDF?

12 Q. Yes, it says that at the bottom of that page, doesn't it?

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, I am sorry to interrupt.

11:39:51

14 I need to ascertain from this witness if he can read English and
15 follow. This is an assumption you make. Mr Witness, can you
16 read English?

17 THE WITNESS: Yes, yes.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Are you able to follow this text that the
19 lawyer is taking you through, line by line?

11:40:10

20 THE WITNESS: You are referring to 29?

21 MR GRIFFITHS: I am referring to page 4, bottom right-hand
22 corner.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, can you answer my question.

24 Are you able to follow this document in English?

11:40:21

25 THE WITNESS: Yes.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Fluently?

27 THE WITNESS: Yes.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, please proceed.

29 MR GRIFFITHS:

1 Q. Now do you see at line 26 the words "So the fear was in us
2 so we were compelled to join the militia force, the militia
3 force, yes, LUDF." Do you see that?

4 A. Yes.

11:40:50 5 Q. And you agree that is the case, and I am not dwelling on
6 that, I am just demonstrating the scheme of this interview. We
7 will come to the points of dispute in a minute. When we go over
8 the page to page 5 now, 00036737 at the top --

9 A. 5?

11:41:14 10 Q. Page 5 at the bottom right-hand corner. Do you see line
11 16, "I stayed with the LUDF until after six months the force was
12 getting bigger when we changed the name to the name of ULIMO."
13 Do you see that?

14 A. Yes.

11:41:44 15 Q. We have gone over that and I have no purpose in asking you
16 any further questions about that.

17 Over the page again please to page 6, at line 5, 00036738
18 at the top, "After clearing the Sierra Leone border we crossed
19 over into Liberia" and then at line 20, "ULIMO eventually split
11:42:18 20 into two factions", and we have gone over that already, haven't
21 we, witness? We have gone over that already, haven't we?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. So again I am not delaying matters. Then at page 7 at line
24 12 to 14 and again at lines 20 to --

11:42:42 25 A. Where?

26 Q. Page 7, bottom right-hand corner?

27 A. 12?

28 Q. No, 7, 7, bottom right-hand corner?

29 A. Mmm.

1 Q. 00036730 at the top. I am grateful, your Honour.
2 Commencing at line 12 through 14, picked up again at line 20
3 through 22, you deal with your employment by Mr Taylor following
4 his election. You agree with that?

11:43:17 5 A. Yes.

6 Q. When we go over the page to page 8, 00036740 at the top,
7 you see at line 16 the questioner says, "I want to talk about
8 what you saw and heard in terms of Taylor's relationship with the
9 RUF."

11:43:55 10 A. That's it, yes.

11 Q. Now let's just pause there for a minute. Here the
12 questioner was making clear what the objective of the interview
13 was. Do you agree?

14 A. The objective of the interview, what they told me, they
11:44:20 15 wanted to know from the day I was born up to present.

16 Q. Does it not say here - and this is the first time when the
17 purpose of the interview is being spelt out - "We want to talk to
18 you about what you saw and heard in terms of Taylor's
19 relationship with the RUF." You knew that was the principal
11:44:47 20 reason for them talking to you, didn't you?

21 A. While they were interviewing me all that came about, but
22 the starting of the interview, they told me they wanted to know
23 from the day I was born up to present. Whilst we were
24 interviewing all that came about later.

11:45:13 25 Q. You knew from near the beginning of this interview that
26 they were primarily interested in President Charles Taylor and
27 his relationship with the RUF. You knew that, didn't you?

28 MS HOLLIS: Your Honour --

29 A. That is true. I have that information. I told you that

1 Roland Duoh told us that people were coming to interview former
2 combatants.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: I think I will still take the comment
4 from Ms Hollis.

11:45:52 5 MS HOLLIS: Thank you, your Honour. The objection that
6 I came to my feet to make is that Defence counsel is being
7 argumentative with the witness and is ignoring the fact that from
8 page 2 through to page 7, or up to the time they began to talk
9 about this witness's involvement with Charles Taylor, they talked
11:46:19 10 about his date of birth, personal background, where he went to
11 school, coming to Sierra Leone, becoming part of LUDF and then
12 becoming part of ULIMO. So in fact counsel is ignoring the fact
13 that this background was covered and there is nothing in these
14 first few pages to indicate that he was told a primary purpose of
11:46:46 15 this interview. I believe the question was argumentative.

16 MR GRIFFITHS: I totally disagree, your Honour, and I am
17 somewhat annoyed that my learned friend has misread my line of
18 questioning in that way. First of all, it is normal practice in
19 any jurisdiction when investigating officers are conducting an
11:47:05 20 interview with an individual that they ask first of all for
21 certain background details, then they make clear what the purpose
22 of the interview is. That is point number 1.

23 Point number 2 is I was at pains to go through those first
24 seven pages to make clear that that normal practice had been
11:47:28 25 followed. Now when we get to page 8 we see the questioner
26 setting out the purpose of the interview. So in my submission it
27 was perfectly legitimate for me to ask the witness - that
28 background material having been got out of the way - did he not
29 regard this as being the true purpose of the interview and unless

1 I am stopped from asking that question --

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, this is now a different
3 question you are asking. The question you asked previously was
4 whether the witness was aware of the primary purpose of his
11:48:04 5 interview with OTP and he answered to you - the answer he gave
6 actually was that he learnt the purpose not from OTP, but from
7 Mr Roland Duoh. This is what is on the record.

8 Now the issues raised by Ms Hollis are pertinent. There
9 are seven pages prior to the 8th page where the background of the
11:48:29 10 witness, including his role in the war, is covered. That record
11 speaks for itself.

12 Now, if you want to rephrase the question in the manner you
13 are now putting it, whether he understood the purpose of the
14 interview as that portrayed in line 16 to 18 of your page 8, that
11:48:51 15 is different. That's a different question.

16 MR GRIFFITHS: But your Honour --

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Otherwise I would have to sustain the
18 objection of Ms Hollis. I think she does have a point.

19 MR GRIFFITHS: Your Honour, at page 70 at line 19 of the
11:49:04 20 LiveNote record, having referred the witness to that passage
21 I said, "You knew from near the beginning" and we are near the
22 beginning. Page 8 of 88, "You knew from near the beginning of
23 this interview that they were primarily interested in President
24 Charles Taylor and the relationship with the RUF." That was my
11:49:26 25 question.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: And the answer that the witness gave is
27 that he knew this purpose from Roland Duoh who is not part of
28 OTP.

29 MR GRIFFITHS: Very well.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: That is what the record says, so maybe we
2 can proceed from there.

3 MR GRIFFITHS: Very well, your Honour.

4 Q. Can we have a look at page 8, please. Page 8, bottom
11:49:52 5 right-hand corner, 00036740 at the top please. Do you have that?
6 Do you see at line 16 this sentence, "I want to talk about what
7 you saw and heard in terms of Taylor's relationship with the
8 RUF." Do you see that?

9 A. I saw it.

11:50:34 10 Q. What did you understand by that question?

11 A. What I understood, they wanted me to give information about
12 what I know that I can explain to them about the line between the
13 RUF and the NPFL, Mr Taylor. That was what I understood from
14 them.

11:51:01 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Interpreter, did you say the lie
16 between?

17 THE INTERPRETER: Can the witness please go over that?

18 MR GRIFFITHS:

19 Q. Can you repeat your answer, please?

11:51:23 20 A. Please repeat the question.

21 Q. When the interviewer said to you, "I want to talk about
22 what you saw and heard in terms of Taylor's relationship with the
23 RUF", what did you understand by that?

24 A. What I understood was that they wanted to get information
11:51:57 25 from me, what I saw and what I know that existed between the RUF
26 and Mr Taylor.

27 Q. And did you appreciate that they were particularly
28 interested in that?

29 A. The information they needed from me and I gave that to

1 them.

2 Q. Were you aware that they were particularly interested in
3 that topic?

4 A. I was not located in their hearts, for me to open up their
11:52:45 5 heart to tell what they wanted. They only asked me to questions
6 and then they said if I could assist and then I assisted.

7 Q. If we jump to line 28 on that page we see an answer from
8 you:

9 "A. AFRC, when ECOMOG removed them from Freetown, he
11:53:08 10 called me to the office.

11 Q. Taylor called you to the office?

12 A. Yes. He said, 'I want you to try and get Mosquito for
13 me'."

14 Do you see that?

11:53:21 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So within a few questions of them mentioning, "We want to
17 ask you about Taylor's relationship with the RUF" you immediately
18 mention Taylor wanting you to get Mosquito, don't you?

19 A. Every question they asked me, if I knew I could assist and
11:53:48 20 that I had information relating to that question, I will do.

21 Q. You agree, don't you, that it must be seconds after they
22 mention what they are looking for from you you mention going to
23 get Mosquito, don't you?

24 A. That was not the only thing they were looking for. They
11:54:17 25 started from my age, my school days and we passed through a lot
26 of areas before we reached the Sam Bockarie area. So whatever
27 question they asked me and I knew I had information relating to
28 that question, I will assist them by giving them the information.

29 Q. Turn to page 10 at the bottom, please. That's

1 page 00036742. Beginning at line 9 - well, line 8, you deal with
2 the difficulties the government was facing following President
3 Taylor's election because, jumping to line 10, "Everybody didn't
4 give all the arms to ECOMOG. Some people were still hiding gun.
11:55:28 5 Some ULIMO were still hiding guns. Not only ULIMO, all the
6 factions."
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. "Not only in Lofa County." And you have already told us
9 about that and you agree with all of that, don't you?
11:55:42 10 A. Yes.
11 Q. And when we go over the page to page 10 we see the same
12 theme of disarmament being pursued from line 2 through to line
13 13?
14 A. I see it.
11:56:03 15 Q. Can you see at line 10 that you mention again Taylor asked
16 you to get Mosquito - no, you are asked again, "Taylor asked you
17 to get Mosquito?" You say yes and you accept it. Is that right?
18 A. Yes, yes.
19 Q. Just to conclude that issue on disarmament, because the
11:56:35 20 interviewer has jumped from topic and back to topics, so if we
21 can deal with things in chapters. If we jump forward to page 41,
22 that is page 00036773 at the top, at line 19 you are reminded
23 that you had earlier mentioned the disarmament process and how
24 the arms were supposed to be turned in. That topic is taken up
11:57:23 25 further on the next page, page 42, 36774 at the top.
26 A. Yes.
27 Q. You will see at line 28:
28 "Q. So Taylor told you to go up to Lofa with money and
29 have people turn in their arms and they won't be troubled, but he

1 would [inaudible] communicate with Sam Bockarie and the RUF to go
2 into Lofa to meet people. The various commanders and soldiers
3 who would be having arms, commanders, but the first thing the
4 government will want to know what is happening in Lofa."

11:58:16 5 Do you see that?

6 A. I see it.

7 Q. Then when we go over the page to page 44 for completeness
8 you will see between lines 15 and 20 mention is made of President
9 Taylor saying he would send money to Mosquito to buy those arms.

11:58:55 10 Do you see that?

11 A. I see it.

12 Q. Pausing there, did President Taylor himself say to you he
13 would send money to Bockarie to buy arms?

14 A. Let me make this thing clear to you. He said to me, yes.

11:59:33 15 Q. Then when we go over to page 45, 367777, at line 21 you
16 mention getting a lot of ammunition. Over the page, page 46,
17 36778, line 8, that you had four loads of cars and you brought it
18 to Monrovia and that's the truth, is it?

19 A. Yes.

12:00:10 20 Q. Then at line 23, that those arms had been hidden by Alhaji
21 Koroma?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Who is he?

24 A. Former leader of ULIMO-K.

12:00:38 25 Q. At page 47, again for completeness, from line 17 to 29
26 there is references there to taking four loads of pick-ups to
27 Mr Taylor's house in Kongo Town and I am not going to go back
28 over that because that is territory we have covered already.
29 This discussion about continued disarmament continues for the

1 next few pages until on page 51 - turn over to 51, please - at
2 line 26 you deal with the purpose of that disarmament.

3 "Charles Taylor wanted for the arms to be out of Lofa. Not
4 to say that the only army was depending to sponsor Mosquito.

12:01:46 5 That's not the arms that he was depending on to sponsor Mosquito.
6 It was just how to get Lofa under control because he didn't want
7 ULIMO to be armed, who have arms. He wanted to control the area
8 so he set up this. He have to involve money how to get it out."

9 Pause there, it is right, isn't it, that the strategy
12:02:15 10 involved buying the arms off the former ULIMO fighters?

11 A. The arms were not bought from the former ULIMO fighters.

12 That was to encourage me as the assistant director of operation
13 and also for senior officer of ULIMO-K, so he gave me that money
14 to take care of whom I will be able to take care of, but he

12:02:50 15 didn't give me the money to go and buy arms. It was for my use.
16 I needed to buy fuel to put it in a vehicle. I used two to three
17 vehicles in the Lofa area. One was in the Kolahun, one was in
18 the Voinjama area. So that was the reason why he was giving me
19 money, so that I will not get problem in doing my job.

12:03:14 20 Q. Now you had said earlier, you see, that Sam Bockarie had
21 been given money to buy arms provided from former ULIMO fighters.
22 That's right, isn't it?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Let's now start looking at line 11 on this page, page 52,
12:03:35 25 please.

26 "From ULIMO and then this started to happen and there were
27 RUF fighters coming in, Voinjama, Kolahun, Foya, everywhere, with
28 money and with looted goods, money, and besides bringing their
29 money in the ULIMO soldiers were taking their own arm and even

1 going after RUF to look for them."

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. "Q. So the ULIMO fighters would be going to Lofa, even not
4 come to you. A lot of people were going in there now with
12:04:13 5 their ammunition and their arms to sell it to the RUF?

6 A. Yes."

7 Pause there?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Is that the truth?

12:04:25 10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So help us with this then, which is right: Had Taylor
12 given money to the RUF to buy the ULIMO arms or were ULIMO
13 fighters involved in a little private enterprise selling the
14 weapons to the RUF themselves, which is right?

12:04:46 15 A. Mr Taylor told me that, "I have given some money to Sam
16 Bockarie to use whoever to assist him buying the arms." I said
17 at that time I met with Zigzag Mazhar who said that he had money
18 that he was taking to Sam Bockarie. He showed me the money and
19 I saw the arms and ammunition in Zigzag Mahzar's car and he said
12:05:20 20 this to me. That was between Foya and Kolahun. And before
21 I moved from Foya I left Sam Bockarie and Benjamin Yeaten
22 together in Foya.

23 Q. We have been over that before. Now let's try my question.
24 Which was right: were ULIMO fighters selling their arms to the
12:05:43 25 RUF?

26 A. Both is correct. The RUF were buying. At the same time
27 the former ULIMO-K would also take their arms to them for sale.

28 Q. Because when we go back to that page we see this, don't we,
29 line 23:

1 "Because it was a good way to make money, yeah? You would
2 get money, or you get diamonds, or that, what would influence you
3 even to get small ammunition. You want to go to Tongo area
4 there, you go in, go get it."

12:06:28 5 "Q. So this starts happening after your trip with Mosquito
6 and this goes on for how long?

7 "A. Months."

8 A. Yes, yes.

9 Q. Let us just pause there for a minute and examine that in a
12:06:41 10 little more detail then, shall we? So there is a period of
11 several months, after you collected Bockarie in early 1998, when
12 effectively that Lofa County was totally lawless, wasn't it?

13 A. There was no control there. That one I agree with.

14 Q. As a result, because none of these combatants were being
12:07:19 15 paid, in order to make money they were busy selling arms and
16 ammunition to the RUF, weren't they?

17 A. That is also true.

18 Q. So the RUF and ULIMO, even though they had been former
19 enemies, were involved in their own little arms trade, weren't
12:07:45 20 they?

21 A. During that time.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Is that a yes, Mr Witness? Is that a yes
23 to the question asked?

24 A. He needs to repeat the question because I don't know the
12:08:14 25 time he is referring to because if he says they were selling to
26 RUF, I am referring to 1998. It was not the time that they were
27 fighting against each other. If you are talking about 1998, yes.

28 MR GRIFFITHS: That is what I am talking about.

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. The period after the Abuja Peace Accord. After that time
2 they were selling arms to the RUF, weren't they, former ULIMO
3 fighters?

12:09:00 4 A. After Sam Bockarie made several visits to Monrovia, the
5 area I was instructed myself to coordinate that was the RUF and
6 the NPFL area. Since then the business went on.

7 Q. I don't want to be diverted, but I have to take you up on
8 an aspect of your answer. Several visits from Sam Bockarie,
9 where did you get that from?

12:09:27 10 A. When I took Sam Bockarie to see Mr Taylor, I took him back.
11 Some other time I saw Sam Bockarie in Monrovia when he went to
12 Martina Johnson's house and the other time I saw Sam Bockarie at
13 the Roberts international airport. That was why I said he was up
14 and down and also at the point in time myself when I visited Foya

12:09:56 15 I saw Sam Bockarie and Benjamin Yeaten together, so Sam Bockarie,
16 I can say, was now frequent in Liberia. He was almost like a
17 free man.

18 Q. Very well, so that is your evidence, which brings me nicely
19 onto the topic of Sam Bockarie. Can we go back to page 8,
12:10:29 20 please. Just to remind you, that is where you mention the former
21 president inviting you to the mansion and asking you to get
22 Mosquito for him. When we go over to page 9, 00036741 at the
23 top, you say this at line 2, "He says, 'I want you to try and get
24 Mosquito for me so you can make it?' I say, 'Yes, sir.'

12:11:16 25 "Q. He asked you can you make it and you said, 'Yes, sir.'
26 Had you met Mosquito at this point? Did you know who he was?

27 "A. I never met Mosquito before.

28 "Q. Had Taylor met Mosquito before this time personally?

29 "A. Taylor never knew Mosquito before now. They only been

1 communicated on phone."

2 Who told you that?

3 A. The reason is that the secret communication that went on
4 between Sam Bockarie and Joseph Montgomery when I was in Sierra
12:11:52 5 Leone, in Buedu, that was an indication to me that they had been
6 communicating. Also Sam Bockarie made it very clear to me, when
7 I was taking him back, that, "I don't know Mr Taylor and
8 I doesn't know me, but we have been communicating through radio,
9 but you are the person who is now making it possible for me to go
12:12:14 10 and see Mr Taylor, sit with him together and talk one to one, so
11 thank you for your efforts."

12 Q. Don't thank me at all, it is a pleasure.

13 MS HOLLIS: Your Honour, I believe the witness was quoting
14 what Mr Taylor said to him not thanking defence counsel, or what
12:12:37 15 Sam Bockarie said to the witness. I don't believe the witness
16 was thanking defence counsel.

17 MR GRIFFITHS: Very well. Turn to page 12, please.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Interpreter, can I please ask you to
19 be accurate in your interpretation. We are getting disparities
12:13:00 20 between what the witness is saying and what you are interpreting.
21 It is very important that you interpret accurately. If you find
22 that the witness is too fast for you to keep with, by all means
23 say so and then we will try and slow down the witness. Am
24 I clear on this?

12:13:18 25 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, your Honours.

26 MR GRIFFITHS:

27 Q. Can we go to page 12, please, 36744 at the top, line 9,
28 "The very day he gave me the instructions I left that night.

29 "Q. That night, who did you take with you?

1 "A. Only my driver and my one bodyguard.

2 "Q. What were their names?

3 "A. Morris Kolahay [phon].

4 "Q. Morris Kolahay, okay. Was he the bodyguard?

12:13:54 5 "A. Yeah, bodyguard.

6 "Q. Who was the driver?

7 "A. Crazy.

8 "Q. That's alright, is it? Is that alright?"

9 A. That was his nickname, Crazy, but his full name was Abdul ai
12:14:14 10 Koroma.

11 Q. If we look further down the page we see that name there, so
12 I will not delay. Over the page, please, page 13, 36745 at the
13 top, line 19:

14 "Q. He didn't give you any documents?

12:14:32 15 "A. They were risky?

16 "Q. It was risky.

17 "A. ECOMOG was sending information that people that
18 escaped from Freetown were coming to Monrovia.

19 "Q. So ECOMOG was worried about people escaping from
12:14:43 20 Freetown, from the former junta government coming to Monrovia.

21 "A. Yes and also some were arrested, those that took the
22 helicopter from Freetown."

23 We have already examined that so I will not delay. Turn to
24 page 15, please, 00036747 at the top, line 10, "I was in
12:15:16 25 uniform". Line 14, "The Executive Mansion uniform, the special
26 security uniform." Then you go on to say that the route you
27 took, at line 19, "I normally travel with. I am aware of both
28 Liberia and Sierra Leone." You agree that you had no problem
29 finding your way.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Then when we go to page 17 you see at the top, page 36749,
3 line 4, you mention going to Kailahun Town. Do you see that?

4 A. Yes.

12:16:06 5 Q. Let us just pause and remind ourselves - let me ask you
6 this: what was the most significant thing that happened when you
7 met Sam Bockarie in Kailahun?

8 A. When I got to Kailahun, in the central town of Kailahun
9 there were a group of armed men. We could see them on our right.

12:16:37 10 They were taking some people from inside the cell. They were all
11 naked. They had no shirt. They were all tied up with rope.

12 Then I said to myself we cannot pass here, but we stopped there
13 and I sent one of my bodyguards to get one of the fighters who we
14 could get information from and we were so lucky, the person that

12:17:08 15 was contacted was one of Sam Bockarie's bodyguards. He came to
16 me and I asked him. He told me, "Yes, that man you see standing
17 in front of the group there, with the arm in his hand pointing to
18 the people, he is the Sam Bockarie, but now he is busy. You have
19 to wait a little bit. When he is finished I will inform him

12:17:32 20 about you people." I explained to him that we came from Monrovia
21 and I work with the SSS and I had a message for Sam Bockarie.

22 Q. Then Sam Bockarie, on your account, proceeded to shoot five
23 men right in front of your eyes?

24 A. Yes, sir, these are Kamajors and - go ahead.

12:18:08 25 Q. We are at 17 now. Let us just look at the account you gave
26 to the OTP regarding this, line 4:

27 "Q. You went to Kailahun, to Kailahun Town?

28 "A. Yes.

29 "Q. What, when you I [sic] got to Kailahun, when I get

1 from Kailahun they say, 'Oh, Mosquito was just here and he just
2 left.'

3 "Q. He just left? Who told you this?

4 "A. The commander in Kailahun.

12:18:32 5 "Q. Do you remember his name?

6 "A. No, it was the same night.

7 "Q. Does the name Augustine Gbao sound familiar to you?

8 "A. That name is familiar, but I don't know whether he is
9 the one that talked to me that night.

12:18:45 10 "Q. Okay, so that night they explained to you that
11 Mosquito had just left.

12 "A. Mmm.

13 "Q. And gone to Buedu, okay, to Buedu, so did you proceed
14 to Buedu?

12:18:59 15 "A. I proceed to Buedu.

16 "Q. Now, are you still with just your vehicle, or did the
17 RUF send people with you?

18 "A. No, they didn't send nobody. I know that whole area.

19 "Q. Okay, so they let you go on alone.

12:19:16 20 "A. Yes.

21 "Q. Did they give you any sort of pass?

22 "A. No.

23 "Q. No paper?

24 "A. No. When I get to Buedu they say, 'You can't enter in
12:19:25 25 the town, the master is in the town.'

26 "Q. And who was the master?

27 "A. Mosquito.

28 "Q. Okay, so there was a check point?

29 "A. There was the check point. I gave them the

1 information I have to Mosquito from Monrovia, from
2 Charles Taylor.

3 "Q. You gave them the information that you had sent for
4 Mosquito from Charles Taylor?

12:19:46 5 "A. Yes, they said, 'But you have to disarm yourself.'

6 "Q. They asked you to disarm yourself."

7 Let us pause there, what is missing from that account?

8 A. If the document said if I went to Kailahun maybe that is
9 the one. I said when I crossed to Sierra Leone I went to Bomaru,
12:20:13 10 from Bomaru to Baiwala, from Baiwala I went to Pendembu. It was
11 at Pendembu that I got the information when they told me that,
12 from the commander, that Sam Bockarie had just passed. I want
13 that to be made clear, Pendembu.

14 Q. In this account you are dealing with your recollection of
12:20:35 15 what happened in Kailahun. Do you agree that on these two pages:
16 1, you don't mention meeting Sam Bockarie in Kailahun. Do you
17 agree with that, in the passage I have just read? Yes or no? Do
18 you agree?

19 A. Please repeat, please repeat that question.

12:21:01 20 Q. In the two pages I have just read, page 17 and 18, do you
21 agree that you do not mention meeting Sam Bockarie in Kailahun?

22 A. I did not have conversation with Sam Bockarie in Kailahun.

23 Q. Did you not tell us that you saw Sam Bockarie in Kailahun
24 and he executed five Kamajors?

12:21:35 25 A. I was present when that happened.

26 Q. Why did you not tell that to the investigators when you
27 were describing in this passage what happened in Kailahun? Why
28 didn't you mention that?

29 A. I mentioned it, but if it is not written then maybe it is

1 their error.

2 Q. We are to blame the investigators because you told them and
3 even though this was being recorded contemporaneously somehow
4 they omitted it from the transcript, is that right?

12:22:17 5 A. I cannot say yes, or no.

6 Q. But you go even further because in this passage, page 17,
7 line 7, "When I get from Kailahun they say, 'Oh, Mosquito was
8 just here and he just left.'" According to you, you saw him
9 executing people in Kailahun so which is right: Were you told he
10 had just left, or did you see him executing people?

12:22:47

11 A. The one that is right, the area that they told me that he
12 just - but that was in Pendembu and you are leaving that area
13 out. That took place in Pendembu. I drove from Pendembu to
14 Kailahun before I could see Mosquito demonstrating executing
15 Kamajors.

12:23:12

16 Q. Why did you say in this statement that you were told, when
17 you got to Kailahun, that Mosquito had just left? Why do you say
18 that here?

19 A. I do not understand what you are saying. I explained what
20 happened and even the document is my writing, which I made clear
21 how things do happen. The one I am just explaining now, just
22 take that.

12:23:31

23 Q. That is why I am asking you about it, you see, because it
24 differs so markedly from the account you are giving us now. What
25 I want you to try and explain to us, please, is why didn't you
26 give the account you are giving us now back on 23 February 2005
27 when you spoke to the OTP? Why has your account changed?

12:23:56

28 A. The story has taken a long time. I want you to understand
29 that. Even all what I am explaining now maybe later I will leave

1 from here, something else might happen, will come to my memory.
2 These things have taken almost 18 years now. It is not a day, or
3 one month, or two months issue, so you must please understand
4 with me what I am explaining to you. If I do forget, or leave
12:24:47 5 some part out, if it comes to my memory before I leave from here
6 I will explain it. The way the story happened is the one I am
7 just now explaining, so you can take what I am explaining to you
8 today.

9 Q. I am not accepting it, which is why I am asking you. Why -
12:25:07 10 this was the first time you had met Sam Bockarie, wasn't it?

11 A. I don't understand that now.

12 Q. Where was the first place that you set eyes on Sam
13 Bockarie?

14 A. Kailahun.

12:25:27 15 Q. Thank you. On that very first occasion when you saw that
16 man, he shot five people dead right in front of you. How did you
17 forget to tell the OTP about that?

18 A. I explained that to you earlier. If the story that I left
19 something out and today I mention it because it had taken a long
12:26:01 20 time.

21 Q. Because when we continue on page 18 - because I think the
22 point is now clear. Page 18, 36750 at the top:

23 "Q. They took the pistol and they let you proceed?

24 "A. No, they said, 'Wait here.'

12:26:27 25 "Q. 'Wait here'?

26 "A. Yeah, I wait there and they carried the message to
27 him. When they told him who is that they said, 'Somebody came
28 from Monrovia in the uniform to say that Charles Taylor send him
29 to come to see him.' He said, 'Oh, but we took the gun from

1 him?' 'No, no, carries gun back to him.' 'Give his gun back to
2 him. Tell him to come back again and allow him to come.'

3 "Q. So they allowed you to come in?

4 "A. Yes.

12:26:56 5 "Q. Now I want you to explain as you come, in where
6 exactly did you go in Buedu?

7 "A. We went to his house.

8 "Q. His house? Do you remember his house?

9 "A. Yes.

12:27:11 10 "Q. When you got to his house did you see who was, who was
11 there at his house?

12 "A. The place was heavily deployed.

13 "Q. Heavily deployed? Meaning there was a lot of men
14 there?

12:27:24 15 "A. Yes, they have weapons in the jeep at the back of the
16 house.

17 "Q. There were weapons in the jeep at the back of the
18 house?

19 "A. Yes.

12:27:31 20 "Q. Was there a gun mounted?

21 "A. Yes, an AA mounted on the jeep."

22 Pause there, would you now agree, having read through these
23 two and a half pages, that in this account you appear to be
24 suggesting that the first time you met Bockarie was in Buedu not
12:27:52 25 Kailahun? Do you agree?

26 MS HOLLIS: Your Honour, again I am going to have to object
27 to the clarity of this. The witness has testified that he saw
28 Sam Bockarie in Kailahun. He has never testified before this
29 Court that he actually was personally introduced, or met the man.

1 Now he says he went to Buedu and he met him, so I believe that
2 this question is unfairly confusing these two terms: Saw him and
3 met him.

4 MR GRIFFITHS: My fault.

12:28:27 5 THE WITNESS: Madam, I want to go to the bathroom please.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, I think you can be escorted
7 out. I hope this will not take very long because we still have
8 another 25 minutes or so.

9 [Break taken at 12.29 p.m.]

12:29:32 10 [Upon resuming at 12.32 p.m.]

11 THE WITNESS: Sorry to cut you off.

12 MR GRIFFITHS: Not at all.

13 Q. Would you agree with me - I am sorry, your Honour. Would
14 you agree, witness, that from the passage I have just read to you
12:33:00 15 the first time you claim to have seen Sam Bockarie was in Buedu
16 not Kailahun? Do you agree.

17 A. I repeat that I said that I saw him in Kailahun, but to sit
18 with him and discuss with him, that took place in Buedu.

19 Q. Do you agree that in this interview that is not the account
12:33:27 20 you gave, that in this interview the account you gave was that
21 you first saw him in Buedu? Do you agree?

22 A. If that is the one I wrote that means they made a mistake,
23 but what happened, my first time to see him took place in
24 Kailahun when I saw him demonstrating executing Kamajors, but -

12:34:00 25 Q. Who had made the mistake?

26 A. I do not know.

27 Q. Very well. To keep the sequence - and let me make it quite
28 clear to you why it is that I am asking you about these matters
29 in such detail. I am going to suggest to you in due course that

1 you have, quite wickedly and deliberately, lied about
2 Charles Taylor sending you to get Sam Bockarie on this occasion.
3 Do you follow me?

4 A. That is not true.

12:34:40 5 Q. I suggest that these discrepancies in your account have
6 come about because you are lying.

7 A. I am not lying. I am saying the truth, nothing but the
8 truth.

9 Q. I am going to suggest that the difficulty with telling lies
12:35:00 10 is you need to have a good memory, which is why you keep
11 forgetting aspects of the lie. Do you follow me? Do you
12 understand?

13 A. I am following. This is a case - that book you are looking
14 into, if I happen to take that whole book you can read it within
12:35:25 15 your head?

16 Q. In any event, what we have established so far is the
17 account you first gave about what happened in Kailahun is
18 completely different from the account you gave this Court. That
19 is number 1.

12:35:43 20 I want us to look at another one now, please. Let us move
21 to page 31. In fact, no, we should start at page 30, my fault.
22 Page 30, 00036762 at the top, line 26:

23 "Q. So when you get to Voinjama did you spend the night or
24 what?

12:36:29 25 "A. Yeah, we spent the night. He cut the hair."
26 Who is he?

27 A. That was error on the document.

28 Q. No, no. When you say "he", "He cut the hair", I am sure
29 that it must be just your accent. I am not suggesting anyone was

1 saying he cut his own hair, but the "he" there is Sam Bockarie
2 there, isn't it? He had a hair cut?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. "... everything.

12:36:58 5 "Q. Who cut the hair?

6 "A. I have a haircutter there.

7 "Q. Oh, you had a haircutter in Voinjama?

8 "A. Yeah, they cut the hair and everything.

9 "Q. So you guys spent the night in Voinjama?

12:37:10 10 "A. I take a bath and changed.

11 "Q. You took off the uniform?

12 "A. Yeah.

13 "Q. You have a uniform with Kono.

14 "A. Sierra Leone Kono.

12:37:19 15 "Q. I am sorry, he had a uniform?

16 "A. Yes.

17 "Q. He took it off?

18 "A. Yes, everything.

19 "Q. What kind of uniform was he wearing?

12:37:26 20 "A. Sierra Leone uniform.

21 "Q. Sierra Leone uniform?

22 "A. Military uniform with Kono.

23 "Q. Said Kono on the sleeve?

24 "A. Yeah, Kono rank.

12:37:38 25 "Q. On colonel rank, sorry. So after he spent the night
26 in Voinjama, while you were there in Voinjama was Mosquito still
27 constantly on the radio?

28 "A. Constantly communicating.

29 "Q. In Mende?

1 "A. Mende.

2 "Q. In Krio?

3 "A. Mostly in Mende and Krio.

4 "Q. Did you hear anything else he was saying.

12:37:56 5 "A. Sometimes he was yelling, 'This one were not happy.
6 You arrest this person and put him in jail and I am coming.' All
7 these things he would be talking. While we on that route
8 Charles Taylor sent a helicopter.

9 "Q. Charles Taylor sent a helicopter?"

12:38:15 10 Pause there, what is missing from that account?

11 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, the interpreter in the
12 Liberian/Krio booth is again reporting that the counsel is
13 reading too fast for his comfort.

14 THE SECOND INTERPRETER: I do not understand because you
12:38:36 15 explain so much. You have to do it little by little.

16 MR GRIFFITHS: I thought perhaps I could go faster, your
17 Honour, because the witness accepts he reads English.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, but I think the interpretation is
19 not just for the witness. It is for the public out in Liberia
12:38:51 20 where these proceedings are being video linked.

21 MR GRIFFITHS: Very well, your Honour. Let me start from
22 the beginning again. Page 30 at the bottom, 36762 at the top:

23 "A. Yeah, we spent" - line 28 - "we spent the night. He
24 cut the hair, everything.

12:39:19 25 "Q. Who cut the hair?

26 "A. I have a haircutter there.

27 "Q. Oh, you had your hair cut in Voinjama?

28 "A. Yeah, they cut the hair, everything.

29 "Q. So you guys spent the night in Voinjama?

1 "A. I take a bath and change.

2 "Q. You took off the uniform?

3 "A. Yeah.

4 "Q. You have a uniform with Kono?

12:39:48 5 "A. Sierra Leone, Kono.

6 "Q. I am sorry, he had a uniform?

7 "A. Yes.

8 "Q. He took it off?

9 "A. Yes, everything.

12:39:58 10 "Q. What kind of uniform was he wearing?

11 "A. Sierra Leone uniform.

12 "Q. Sierra Leone uniform?

13 "A. Military uniform with Kono.

14 "Q. Said Kono on the sleeve?

12:40:11 15 "A. Yeah, Kono rank.

16 "Q. Oh, colonel rank, sorry. So after he spent the night

17 in Voinjama, while you were there in Voinjama was Mosquito still

18 constantly on the radio?

19 "A. Constantly communicating.

12:40:30 20 "Q. In Mende?

21 "A. Mende.

22 "Q. In Krio?

23 "A. Mostly in Mende and Krio.

24 "Q. Did you hear anything else he was saying?

12:40:41 25 "A. Sometimes he would be yelling, 'This one were not

26 happy. You arrest this person and you put him in jail. I am

27 coming.' All these things he would be talking. While we were on

28 that route, Charles Taylor sent a helicopter."

29 Pause there, what is missing from that account?

1 A. That areas it was not written correctly. The actual
2 statement is when we got to Voinjama I sent for headquarter to
3 cut Sam Bockarie's hair. He had a camouflage jacket that was a
4 uniform jacket I was referring to from Sierra Leone because the
12:41:44 5 rank was on top of his jacket. It was a Sierra Leonean rank and
6 I asked what was the position for that and he said it was a
7 colonel's position. That was a camouflage jacket that he was
8 using. He went took bath. From there Robert Bier came. He saw
9 him and he went back. We left from Voinjama that same day. We
12:42:15 10 did not sleep.

11 Q. What is missing from the account recorded in this
12 interview?

13 A. The difference is that I am saying over there is you said
14 we slept in Voinjama. We did not sleep.

12:42:39 15 Q. Very well, let me put it differently. There is no mention
16 of a bottle of diamonds emerging from his pocket when he went to
17 get a bath, is there?

18 A. Also they did not mention that.

19 Q. That is not referred to when you deal with him taking off
12:43:02 20 his uniform and having a bath. There is no mention of him taking
21 a mayonnaise jar, 6 inches tall by 3 inches wide, of diamonds out
22 of his inside pocket. There is no mention of that, is there?

23 A. The interviews I had with these people is more than ten.
24 That I can remember, so I will give some information today and
12:43:35 25 I will stop and I will not give all the information another time.
26 You see another people to interview me, I will explain some.
27 I did not sit down with these people and give an explanation from
28 the beginning to the ending. That didn't happen to one person.

29 Q. How could you have forgotten a mayonnaise jar full of

1 diamonds being taken out of this man's inside pocket? How could
2 you forget that?

3 A. I did not say that I forgot. What I am saying to you, when
4 I was giving the information I will give some information and
12:44:16 5 when I am tired I will stop.

6 Q. So did you deliberately not give that information on this
7 occasion?

8 A. I gave the information, but the information was not given
9 to one person.

12:44:31 10 Q. Did you deliberately not tell them about the diamonds on
11 this occasion?

12 A. I have answered your question. The information I gave to
13 the first people and another people will interview me another
14 time, they will hear additional information. Then you will find
12:44:56 15 another people interviewing me another time, they will also have
16 additional information, what the first and second never had.
17 That is how this information a just adding, adding, adding until
18 we completed these informations. That is how I was operating.

19 Q. Very well. I want to press you a little further on this
12:45:30 20 because if we turn now to page 40 at the bottom, page 00036772 at
21 the top, line 2, page 40. Let us start at line 2. Have you got
22 it?

23 A. 14?

24 Q. 40, 00036772 at the top.

12:46:06 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. Line 2, "Did he give anything to the Papa?" If we refer to
27 the previous page you are talking about Sam Bockarie. Who is the
28 Papa?

29 A. Papa was one of my drivers that was assigned to me from the

1 office.

2 Q. No. Let us just read the passage and then we will come
3 back:

4 "Q. Did he give anything to the Papa?

12:46:48 5 "A. I am sure it would be diamonds.

6 "Q. You are sure it would be diamonds?

7 "A. Yes.

8 "Q. What makes you say that?

9 "A. Because the RUF bodyguard, one of the bodyguard, made
12:47:08 10 me to know that happened after the whole process.

11 "Q. After this was all over?

12 "A. Yeah, he said the day that I will come here with
13 Mosquito. Mosquito have a lot of diamonds with him. That bag he
14 took from his car to get to Musa Cissay, he had diamonds. It was
12:47:41 15 a lot of diamonds was inside that.

16 "Q. You learnt this after?

17 "A. Yes.

18 "Q. At the time, Mosquito didn't tell you, 'I have
19 diamonds'?

12:47:53 20 "A. No, he didn't tell me.

21 "Q. You learned from his bodyguard that, after that,
22 during this trip, he took diamonds to the Papay?

23 "A. Yes.

24 "Q. Okay, on this trip specifically you say that Taylor
12:48:14 25 gave Mosquito a satellite phone."

26 Pause there, which is of these is right: Did you see a
27 bottle of diamonds taken from his pocket, or were you told about
28 diamonds after the trip?

29 A. I saw a diamond in Mosquito's jacket pocket.

1 Q. Pause there, so why were you telling the investigators that
2 you only found out about it afterwards?

3 A. Let me make something clear, the first set of people that
4 interviewed me I did not give all the information because I did
12:49:08 5 not know them properly, so I will give some information, certain
6 areas I will jump. Unless - when I began to know that they had
7 no threat against my life and they just wanted the truth from me
8 before I started to give them the actual story, the entire story,
9 some of the places I left out. I started giving them the story.

12:49:40 10 Q. Help me with this then: When on this page, page 40, you
11 said to the investigator that you only found out afterwards, you
12 were lying to them, weren't you?

13 A. I was not lying.

14 Q. The fact is you had seen the jar so if you tell them
12:50:05 15 "I only found out afterwards", that must have been a lie, must it
16 not?

17 A. It is not a lie. I saw the diamonds with Sam Bockarie.

18 Q. Well, if you saw the diamonds with Sam Bockarie, why did
19 you tell the investigator something completely false, which is
12:50:31 20 that you only found out after the event? Why did you tell them
21 that?

22 A. I needed more information from the bodyguard of Sam
23 Bockarie related to the diamond issue. I never explained to him
24 what I saw. I needed additional information, that was why I went
12:50:57 25 through the bodyguard. I tried to ask him and he explained to
26 me, but I saw the diamonds with my - for myself.

27 Q. Can you remember when I first started asking you about
28 these interviews I asked you if you had been truthful with the
29 OTP throughout and you told me yes? Do you remember telling me

1 that this morning?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So help us please, why were you giving the OTP false
4 information in this interview?

12:51:36 5 A. I don't have any false information here. I told you that
6 the discussion between Sam Bockarie's bodyguard and myself was
7 because I needed additional information relating to Sam
8 Bockarie's diamond issue, which I saw for myself, but I didn't
9 explain to him that I saw diamonds with Sam Bockarie. But
12:52:02 10 I wanted him to give me details because he was directly assigned
11 to Sam Bockarie and my first explanation, that was what
12 I explained. In other explanations later - I did not explain all
13 of these stories in a day.

14 Q. Very well. Let me try again by directing your attention
12:52:25 15 now, please, to page 69, 00036801 at the top of the page. Have
16 you got it?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Have you got it?

19 A. Yes.

12:52:55 20 Q. If you start at line 15, Mr Santora, you know the man
21 sitting at the right at the back, he said:

22 "As one of the final things before we finish, I want to ask
23 you about diamonds. I know that you said that you learned later
24 that Mosquito had a parcel of diamonds with him when he came to
12:53:28 25 meet Taylor at the trip that you described. Are you aware of any
26 other instances where you saw, or you were present, when RUF
27 leaders around this time, or any time in that year after, came
28 with diamonds to Taylor, or did they give diamonds to Yeaten?

29 "A. No myself information.

1 "Q. Okay, you just heard about it from others?

2 "A. Yes.

3 "Q. But you yourself didn't see it?

4 "A. No, I didn't see it."

12:54:11 5 Pause there, is that right?

6 A. What is the question there?

7 Q. You told them:

8 "Q. But you yourself didn't see it?

9 "A. No, I didn't see it."

12:54:28 10 Is that right?

11 A. I said I did not see Sam Bockarie handing diamonds over to
12 Mr Taylor. I did not see that please, but I saw diamonds with
13 Sam Bockarie and I saw the Eddie Kanneh visited my house and he
14 told me that he is a diamond business manager between the RUF and
12:54:52 15 Taylor and the Liberian Government. Eddie Kanneh, he personally
16 told me that.

17 Q. Sorry, if you look at question you were asked, the question
18 said, "came with diamonds to Taylor" on the instant when you took
19 Mosquito to him and you say, "No, I didn't see." Why did you say
12:55:21 20 that if now you are telling us you saw a mayonnaise jar full of
21 diamonds taken out of his pocket in Voinjama? Why did you tell
22 that lie?

23 A. This is not a lie. Let me make it clear. I saw a diamond
24 with Sam Bockarie and I did not see Sam Bockarie and Mr Taylor
12:55:45 25 standing talking together, or handing - Sam Bockarie handing over
26 diamonds to Mr Taylor. This is the clear indication. This,
27 please - I did not understand your question, but my answer is
28 I saw a diamond with Sam Bockarie.

29 Q. I will try and explain myself then. Do you agree there is

1 a difference between "I saw diamonds" and "I did not see
2 diamonds"? Do you agree?

3 A. There is a difference.

4 Q. Both of them cannot be right at the same time, can they?

12:56:23 5 A. I see that -

6 Q. Just answer the question. Both of them cannot be right at
7 the same time, can they?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Consequently if someone says on one occasion "I did not
10 see" and on another occasion "I did see", one of those must be a
11 lie, mustn't it? Yes or no?

12 A. No, no. The way they asked the question to me that is how
13 I answered it. If you ask me if I do see diamonds with Sam
14 Bockarie then I will tell you yes. If you ask me was somebody
12:57:18 15 introducing themselves to me as Eddie Kanneh as a diamond manager
16 for RUF, between Mr Taylor's government, then I will say yes.
17 But if you ask me if I see anybody from RUF giving diamonds to
18 Mr Taylor in my presence, then I will say no.

19 Q. Let me give you one reference to think about over the
12:57:40 20 weekend before we resume on Monday, page 74, please, 00036806 at
21 the top, line 8:

22 "Q. I know that you weren't involved in the diamond
23 transactions. I know that you didn't see that personally.

24 "A. I didn't see.

12:58:15 25 "Q. Now you know who was in charge for Taylor of the
26 diamonds from the RUF.

27 "A. Diamonds?

28 "Q. Mm.

29 "A. I don't think Charles Taylor can trust anybody in

1 di amond busi ness besi des Benjami n Yeaten. If any di amond is
2 comi ng from Mosqui to, had to come to hi m, i t woul d be Benjami n
3 Yeaten.

4 "Q. That is just your opi ni on?

12:58:38 5 "A. Yes, yes."

6 But you had seen a jar of di amonds, hadn' t you, hadn' t you?

7 A. I saw the jar of di amonds.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Gri ffi ths, I thi nk we have to wi nd up
9 there in vi ew of the tape. The tape is comi ng to an end very
10 speedi ly. We are goi ng to adjourn to Monday at 9 o' clock.
12:59:00

11 Mr Wi tness, before we adjourn I want to caution you again
12 not to discuss your testi mony unti l Monday. Court adjourns to
13 Monday at 9 o' clock.

14 [Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 1.00 p.m.
12:59:16 15 to be reconvened on Monday, 14 January 2008 at
16 9.00 a.m.]

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I N D E X

WITNESSES FOR THE PROSECUTION:

TF1-406 1023

CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR GRIFFITHS 1023