

THE SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE

CASE NO. SCSL-2004-15-T THE PROSECUTOR
TRIAL CHAMBER OF THE SPECIAL COURT
V.
ISSA HASSAN SESAY
MORRIS KALLON
AUGUSTINE GBAO

5 OCTOBER 2004
9.55 A.M.
TRIAL

Before the Judges:

Benjamin Mutanga Itoe, Presiding
Bankole Thompson
Pierre Boutet

For Chambers:

Ms Candice Welsch
Mr Matteo Crippa

For the Registry:

Ms Maureen Edmonds
Mr Geoff Walker

For the Prosecution:

Mr Peter Harrison
Mr Christopher Santora
Mr Bobby Gboyor (Case Manager)

For the Accused Issa Hassan Sesay:

Mr Wayne Jordash
Mr AF Serry-Kamal
Ms Sareta Ashraph

For the Accused Morris Kallon:

Mr Shekou Touray
Mr Melron Nicol-Wilson

For the Accused Augustine Gbao:

Mr John Cammegh
Mr Ben Holden

[Tuesday 5th October 2004]

1 [Open session]
2 [Upon commencing at 9.55 a.m.]
3 [The accused Sesay and Kallon entered court]
4 [The accused Gbao not present]
5 [The witness entered court]
6 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good morning, learned counsel. We are
7 resuming the session and we would continue with the
8 examination-in-chief of the witness.
9 Mr Santora, are you up and doing this morning?
10 MR SANTORA: Ready to go, Your Honour.
11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very ready. Good. Since I imagine you will
12 need a lot of time on your feet, so I hope that they are
13 fully reinforced to lead you to the end of your journey
14 through the examination-in-chief. Well, you can proceed,
15 please.
16 MR SANTORA: Thank you, Your Honour.
17 Q. Good morning, General.
18 PRESIDING JUDGE: General, good morning. I hope that --
19 THE WITNESS: Good morning, Your Honour, sir.
20 PRESIDING JUDGE: I hope you are ready this morning to
21 proceed.
22 THE WITNESS: I am, sir.
23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Feel free, drink your water when you feel
24 thirsty and you don't need to ask for any permission.
25 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
26 PRESIDING JUDGE: And I said all I had to say yesterday.
27 Okay?
28 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Your Honour.
29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, please proceed.

1 WITNESS: JOHN TARNUE [continued]

2 EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR SANTORA: [Continued]

3 Q. Good morning, General.

4 A. Good morning, counsellor.

5 Q. General, before I proceed, I want to remind you when you
6 answer the questions to speak slowly and if you do not
7 understand a question, I will repeat the question in a
8 more understandable manner.

9 A. Yes, counsellor.

10 Q. General, yesterday you said that when you joined the
11 NPFL, you were based in Gbarnga, Liberia and that Charles
12 Taylor was based in Gbarnga, Liberia. Until what year
13 were you based in Gbarnga, Liberia?

14 A. Well, when I surrender in June of 1990, I began the
15 training commander. From 1990, '91, '92, '93, all the
16 way up to '95 when we returned from Abuja and we had an
17 interim government where all of the factions were
18 represented six presidency in August 1995. We had to go
19 down to Monrovia. But I alone have been living in
20 Gbarnga. They call it greater Liberia.

21 Q. So if I understand you --

22 JUDGE THOMPSON: Counsel, does that mean from 1990 to 1995.

23 MR SANTORA: That's what I am going to clarify.

24 THE WITNESS: Yes, Your Honour.

25 MR SANTORA:

26 Q. So in August of 1995 you are saying that Charles Taylor
27 moved from Gbarnga to Liberia -- to Monrovia; is that
28 correct?

29 A. Right. August '95 it was when the Abuja Accord. They

1 had to seat the new transitional government of six
2 presidency. That's when he was elected first
3 vice-chairman and we had to move to Liberia, because of
4 the coup in Monrovia, because of the presence of the
5 ECOMOG, the peacekeeper.

6 Q. Okay. General, I want -- the next set of questions I
7 want you to focus on the time that you and Charles Taylor
8 were based in Gbarnga. Okay?

9 A. Okay.

10 Q. Yesterday you stated that in the meeting on February 27th
11 that there was a plan --

12 JUDGE THOMPSON: Year, counsel.

13 MR SANTORA:

14 Q. On February 27th, 1991 that the plan discussed was for
15 Taylor to provide arms to the RUF. While in Gbarnga, did
16 this happen?

17 A. In respects of the time while in Gbarnga, at the
18 conclusion of the February 27th meeting, Foday Sankoh was
19 designated. Because of their connections as old friends
20 and since they were in so-so, he decided that he will
21 provide manpower, arms, ammunitions, supervisory, to
22 include tactical battlefront and professional guidance
23 and advice to be able to allow Corporal Sankoh, with the
24 292 men deployed at the Liberia border - to be specific
25 in Lofa County - to carry out the invasion of Sierra
26 Leone. In March 1991 up to 1996, the activity of the RUF
27 were being commanded and controlled by Corporal Sankoh
28 and Charles Taylor. It was the conclusion reached.

29 Q. Okay. I want to focus now on the period from 1991 until

1 1995 when you left Gbarnga. During this four-year
2 period, were arms being provided to the RUF by Charles
3 Taylor?

4 A. Quite frankly, besides the initial stage, like I said,
5 they provided 100 AKs, the 50 Berettas, the 20 RPGs, the
6 ten LAR - the light automatic weapons. The boxes of
7 ammunitions were included, the transportation, the diesel
8 trucks, as I stated earlier. Besides that, there were
9 arms coming from Burkina Faso and Libya, and it goes
10 through like the chief logistic and the protocol officer,
11 as I said, Musa Sesay and Blaise Compaore. And because
12 Musa Sesay was based in Danane, he speaks French fluently
13 and he has a very good relationship with the government
14 in Danane.

15 Q. Where is Danane?

16 A. Danane is in Ivory coast. When you cross Loguatu - the
17 border between Liberia and Ivory Coast - the next town is
18 Gbanta and after Gbanta the next town is Danane; and
19 Danane is where the governor was. So he negotiated.
20 Every time this arm flew from Burkina Faso it comes to --
21 Danane to Mann Airport. From Mann Airport the chief of
22 protocol, who was then in charge of logistic as well,
23 will negotiate for these big trailers and they will have
24 them put on the trailers and have them transported by
25 road to come to Danane. And the negotiation will be made
26 and he will contact the governor so that there will be no
27 transference. The [inaudible] where the security guard
28 at various check points. They will allow those trucks to
29 pass based on the previous agreement arranged between

1 Houphouet-Boigny and Blaise Compaore. So they would come
2 through Loguatu. From Loguatu they would move on and
3 the arms will land in Gbarnga. And when it lands in
4 Gbarnga, that's when the distribution begins.

5 Q. Okay. Before you proceed, explain -- when you say "land
6 in Gbarnga", explain what you mean, how the arms would
7 land?

8 A. When I mean it lands in Gbarnga, it means it lands in the
9 hands of Charles Taylor, that was the final destined and
10 that's when the various commanders -- because Charles
11 Taylor did not trust the logistic commander too much,
12 because when these arms come, he keep his in a place
13 there and has his personal supply sergeants, that were
14 strictly responsible to distribute these arms with
15 accurate record, presented to him.

16 Q. By what means would arms land in Gbarnga?

17 A. The arms were landed in Gbarnga through trucks at that
18 time. You know Liberia have two different seasons. We
19 have the dry seasons and the rainy seasons. So the
20 climatic conditions of Liberia and Sierra Leone are
21 almost the same. Now we are getting into the dry season,
22 so when the rainy season started after the capture of
23 Kono in 1992, the rainy season begins. That's when they
24 decided to construct the airstrips in 1993 to make sure
25 that whenever these arms are to the border, it is easily
26 transferable by helicopter to the airfield, and from
27 there it goes through the Bela Forest and land to
28 Kolahun. Again, Daniel Chea was the general coordinator
29 between the --

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: I want to get -- I want to get -- you see,
2 the chain of supply, the chain of supply.
3 THE WITNESS: Yes, I will --
4 MR SANTORA: I will clarify.
5 PRESIDING JUDGE: I would like to get that clearly, you know.
6 Let it be clear on the record.
7 MR SANTORA:
8 Q. Okay, I would like you to --
9 PRESIDING JUDGE: We have talked of the helicopter; we've
10 talked of land; we've talked of all this so --
11 MR SANTORA:
12 Q. Okay. I would like you to --
13 JUDGE THOMPSON: Before you do that, there was a specific
14 question of how the arms were landed in Gbarnga. I think
15 I got by trucks. Was there some amplification of that?
16 MR SANTORA: I was going to clarify.
17 JUDGE THOMPSON: Please, because it's -- I know there is so
18 much massive details coming through --
19 MR SANTORA: I understand.
20 JUDGE THOMPSON: But if we can inject some logic.
21 MR SANTORA: I understand.
22 Q. General --
23 A. Yes, counsellor.
24 Q. You said that you saw arms come to Gbarnga; is that
25 correct?
26 A. Yes.
27 Q. Okay. Before they were in Gbarnga, where were those
28 arms?
29 A. The arms that came they flew directly from Mann and they

1 were from Burkino Faso and they came through Mann.

2 Q. Okay. After they came to Mann --

3 PRESIDING JUDGE:

4 Q. [Microphone not activated] -- let's have the spelling of
5 Mann.

6 A. Mann. M-A-H-N. Mann is a major town in Ivory Coast
7 where they have a very big airport.

8 Q. So Mann is in Ivory Coast?

9 A. Yes, sir. Mann is in Ivory Coast.

10 MR SANTORA:

11 Q. After the arms arrived in Mann, how were they transported
12 to Gbarnga?

13 A. I said when the arms arrived in Mann, Musa Sesay will
14 negotiate for these trucks -- they have these trucks with
15 the big tarpaulins. He would negotiate about six or
16 seven trucks - depends on the quantity of arms and
17 ammunitions. And when he carries them in convoy, before
18 going he will negotiate with the governor in Danane, so
19 it would be understood that I'm carrying X number of
20 trucks to Mann and I will be bringing certain goods or
21 items.

22 Q. Okay. These --

23 A. And I want you to provide safe passage.

24 Q. I understand. So these --

25 PRESIDING JUDGE: This governor, who is this governor?

26 THE WITNESS: Sir?

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: The governor.

28 A. Yes, sir, I don't know his name.

29 JUDGE THOMPSON: Of which particular place?

1 THE WITNESS: The governor from Danane.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: From Danane?

3 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir, from Ivory Coast [inaudible] governor,
4 but that's where Musa Sesay was based.

5 MR SANTORA:

6 Q. Okay. When the arms got to Danane, you just stated they
7 were loaded into trucks; is that correct?

8 A. Right. Right.

9 Q. Okay. And the trucks went from Danane to where?

10 A. The truck went from -- no, from Mann -- after they loaded
11 them from Mann to Danane.

12 Q. And then where did they go?

13 A. From Danane they get to Gbanta. Gbanta is the last town
14 between Loguatou and -- that's the last border town
15 between Loguatou and the Ivory Coast.

16 Q. Okay. And after that, where did they go?

17 A. After they crossed over to Loguatuo and then they will
18 drive on to Gbarnga at the NPFL headquarter.

19 Q. Okay. And when they arrived in Gbarnga --

20 A. Yes.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: [Microphone not activated] -- Loguatuo, how
22 is it spelt, please?

23 A. Loguatuo. L-U, I mean, L-O-G-U-O -- G-U-A-T-U-O.

24 Loguoguatuo. L-O-G-U-A-T-U-O. Lo-gua-tuo. That's the
25 last border town between Liberia and the Ivory Coast.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Then from Loguatuo --

27 JUDGE THOMPSON: Gbarnga.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: -- to Gbarnga?

29 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir, from Loguatuo then they will drive on

1 to Gbarnga.

2 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes.

3 THE WITNESS: G-B -- Gbarnga, yes, that is the headquarter for

4 the NPFL.

5 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes.

6 THE WITNESS: G-A-B-R --

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: We have the spelling.

8 THE WITNESS: Oh, okay, sir.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: By road or by what means? A convoy?

10 THE WITNESS: By road initially, because it was dry season.

11 By road.

12 MR SANTORA:

13 Q. General, you said that they were transported by road.

14 A. Yes, counsellor.

15 Q. Now, you also said there is an airstrip.

16 A. Yes, counsellor.

17 Q. When did this airstrip become constructed?

18 A. Well, the airstrip that they constructed that was between

19 '93 and onward. Like I say --

20 Q. Where was the airstrip constructed?

21 A. At Malike.

22 Q. Where is Malike?

23 A. Malike is also part of Bong county. Malike.

24 Q. How close is Malike to Gbarnga?

25 A. Malike is like 20 miles away from Gbarnga.

26 Q. Now you stated that these arms were coming in by truck.

27 A. Yes, sir.

28 Q. What was the purpose of this airstrip?

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: [Microphone not activated]

1 MR SANTORA:
2 Q. Can you spell Malike?
3 PRESIDING JUDGE: [Microphone not activated]
4 THE WITNESS: M-I-L-I-K-E.
5 JUDGE THOMPSON: [Microphone not activated]
6 PRESIDING JUDGE: [Microphone not activated] -- where is
7 Malike.
8 THE WITNESS: Malike is in Bong county.
9 PRESIDING JUDGE: [Microphone not activated]
10 THE WITNESS: Bong county is the --
11 PRESIDING JUDGE: [Microphone not activated]
12 MR SANTORA: I understand.
13 PRESIDING JUDGE: [Microphone not activated]
14 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. Okay, sir. So Bong county the
15 capital city for Gbarnga -- I mean, is the county and the
16 capital city for Bong county is Gbarnga. So that is one
17 of the 15 regional counties of Liberia so -- Bong county
18 is like a region and the capital city is Gbarnga.
19 MR SANTORA:
20 Q. Where is Malike in relation to Gbarnga?
21 A. Malike is within Bong county.
22 Q. How far from Gbarnga is Malike?
23 A. That's about 20 mile.
24 Q. And you stated there was an airstrip built in Malike.
25 A. Yes, an airstrip constructed in Malike.
26 Q. What was the purpose of this airstrip?
27 A. The purpose of the airstrip was to be able to airlift
28 supplies as quickly as possible if the need arises; one.
29 Two, because Liberia has two different seasons, we have

1 the dry seasons and the rainy seasons. So when it
2 rains - and we know the African road network - the roads
3 are very terrible, so you can't get truck with heavy
4 weight, so many tons, they would get stuck in the mud.
5 So in the process to have quick delivery, you have to use
6 the helicopter to fly over the Belle Forest.

7 JUDGE THOMPSON: So the airstrip was used during the rainy
8 season for the transportation for arms?

9 MR SANTORA: That's my understanding.

10 Q. Is that correct, that the airstrip was --

11 JUDGE THOMPSON: Is that what we are getting to? The airstrip
12 was used during the rainy season?

13 MR SANTORA:

14 Q. During the rainy season?

15 A. The airstrip was constructed -- yes, sir.

16 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes.

17 THE WITNESS: It was constructed during the rainy season and
18 all [inaudible]

19 MR SANTORA:

20 Q. What was flown into the airstrip?

21 A. Pardon me?

22 Q. What was brought into the airstrip in Malike?

23 A. Weapons were brought in.

24 Q. Okay. Where did -- in those --

25 A. To be able to be airlifted from -- when they are brought
26 they will be -- they will take them first to the
27 airstrips and then they will provide trucks to have them
28 transported to the NPFL headquarter and from there
29 distribution begins. The one that has to go to wherever,

1 they have to go, because they have two frontline.

2 Q. Okay, let me, before you proceed -- the arms that came

3 into the airstrip, did they come from the same place as

4 the arms that came by truck?

5 A. They came by truck from Ivory Coast.

6 Q. And the arms from the airstrip came from where?

7 A. They came from Burkino Faso and [inaudible] to Mann and

8 then on to Mann.

9 Q. And what year was this airstrip constructed?

10 A. That was 1993.

11 Q. Okay. And after the arms landed at the airstrip --

12 JUDGE THOMPSON: So, counsel, let us clarify this. In other

13 words, the airstrip was used during the rainy season.

14 MR SANTORA: Starting in 1993.

15 JUDGE THOMPSON: Starting in 1993.

16 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

17 JUDGE THOMPSON: During the rainy season, that's very

18 important, is it?

19 THE WITNESS: Sir?

20 MR SANTORA:

21 Q. During the rainy season --

22 A. During the rainy season, that was between April, May,

23 June, July going on [inaudible]. The rainy season made

24 it impossible for trucks --

25 JUDGE THOMPSON: Road transportation of weapons.

26 THE WITNESS: Exactly. Exactly.

27 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you. I just wanted to make sure that

28 was the distinction.

29 MR SANTORA:

- 1 Q. The arms that came into the airstrip to Malike you said
2 were transferred to the NPFL headquarters --
- 3 A. In Gbarnga.
- 4 Q. -- in Gbarnga; is that correct?
- 5 A. In the warehouse, yes.
- 6 Q. And the trucks that came at other times, either during
7 the dry season, were also transferred to Gbarnga?
- 8 A. To Gbarnga through from -- from -- from -- they would
9 drive from Mann all the way through to Gbarnga.
- 10 Q. Okay. Where did these arms end up in Gbarnga?
- 11 A. When the arm ended up Gbarnga, it was at Charles Taylor
12 Executive Mansion on Gboveh Hill.
- 13 Q. Did the arms from the Malike airstrip also end up at
14 Charles Taylor's mansion?
- 15 A. From Loguato -- when the helicopter picks up the arms
16 from Loguato to Malike airstrips, they are not just
17 going to send it over to where it has to go. It has to
18 be driven from there in another truck to --
- 19 Q. To where?
- 20 A. To Charles Taylor headquarter, Gboveh Hills, where they
21 had the arms storage.
- 22 Q. And this is in Gbarnga?
- 23 A. In Gbarnga.
- 24 Q. Okay. So both -- all of these arms ended up in Charles
25 Taylor's mansion.
- 26 A. Exactly. On Gboveh Hill to be specific.
- 27 Q. Okay. And this continued --
- 28 A. At his residence.
- 29 Q. And this continued until 1995?

- 1 A. It continues until 1995.
- 2 Q. Okay. I want to focus now where these arms went once
3 they reached Charles Taylor's mansion in Gbarnga. Where
4 did they go?
- 5 A. After the deployment of the RUF, that I am knowledgeable
6 of, those arms that they were giving and 1992 it was the
7 very first time in October -- October or November -- now
8 [inaudible] because 14 years back -- I am trying hard to
9 remember the years, but I may not be too exact about the
10 months so --
- 11 Q. Did you just -- you can tell the best that you can
12 remember.
- 13 A. Okay, sir.
- 14 Q. In years and months.
- 15 A. So between October and November, that's what -- that was
16 in 1992 when Kono was captured completely. Absolutely
17 captured, secured and it was fortified and set a
18 defensive, and that was the very first time I saw Sankoh
19 coming in together with Sam Bockarie, together with
20 Mohammed -- I mean, Ibrahim Bah, together with Augustine
21 Gbao, together with Benjamin Yeaten, and some other RUF
22 fighters. They came in with the -- they came in with the
23 man-diesel trucks with looted items: tobacco, cocoa,
24 coffee, lappas that came from [inaudible] or Koindu,
25 because they generally used to have markets in Koindu.
26 So they gathered all these things to include motor bikes
27 and all kinds of looted items. They came over to Gbarnga
28 and of course --
- 29 Q. Did you see them come to Gbarnga?

1 A. Yes, I was in Gbarnga. I was in Gbarnga. It was the
2 very first time I saw, when they came in Foday Sankoh and
3 his delegates they got down and Jackson Naama, the chief
4 security; he was the senior aide-de-camp. Normally
5 before anybody gets in to see Charles Taylor, they have
6 to do a security screening. He had a black [inaudible]
7 on his arm and they open it. And I saw a mayonnaise jar
8 and this mayonnaise jar was water in there with some
9 stones and mix and he said, "Well, we brought something
10 for the chief."

11 Q. Who said that?

12 A. Foday Sankoh. And Benjamin Yeaten said, "Look, I'm the
13 SS director, I don't think you have [inaudible] you have
14 something. We don't want to waste time." So he,
15 Corporal Sankoh -- Benjamin Yeaten, Corporal Sankoh,
16 Ibrahim Bah, Sam Bockarie, Augustine Gbao and those were
17 the hierarchies -- the hierarchies and they went in there
18 and we were all there. That was the first time.

19 Q. Where did they go in?

20 A. They went into Charles Taylor's house and they were given
21 time to sit in the living room, but we were outside.

22 Q. You said that you saw a mayonnaise jar. Who was carrying
23 his mayonnaise jar?

24 A. Say that again.

25 Q. Who had the mayonnaise jar?

26 A. The mayonnaise jar was with Corporal Sankoh.

27 Q. And what exactly was in the mayonnaise jar, to your
28 knowledge?

29 A. The mayonnaise jar was diamonds and mixed with these

- 1 little stones and liquid, water. Mixed with it.
- 2 Q. Was this the first time --
- 3 A. Just about this size.
- 4 Q. Was this the first time you have ever seen diamonds?
- 5 A. That's my first time -- that's the first time I saw
- 6 diamond coming from up that end.
- 7 Q. Okay. Did you go in with them when they went into the
- 8 mansion?
- 9 A. I did not going inside with them.
- 10 Q. Okay. How long did they stay in the mansion for?
- 11 A. Well, they stayed there for some hours and the second
- 12 time after 1992 --
- 13 Q. Let us focus on this time first.
- 14 A. Okay.
- 15 Q. Okay. This time after they stayed in there for hours,
- 16 what happened after they came out?
- 17 A. Well, after they stayed in there for some time and at the
- 18 end of the day they all went by their businesses, because
- 19 some of the fighters that came, the NPFL fighters along
- 20 with the RUF fighters, they had to go across -- they went
- 21 to Danane where they usually sell these looted materials.
- 22 Q. Did you see when they came out of the mansion?
- 23 A. Oh, yes. Yes.
- 24 Q. Where did they go?
- 25 A. I mean, everybody went about their business, because
- 26 Gbarnga was lively and people had to go out to do what
- 27 they had to do. I wasn't monitoring the activity, but
- 28 when it came out, they just went and do their businesses.
- 29 Q. And how -- what type of vehicle did they arrive in? Do

1 you remember?

2 A. They came in a long yellow man-diesel trucks.

3 Q. Do you remember what type of -- did they --

4 A. It was -- it was -- it was yellow, I said. Yellow.

5 Q. Okay. Was there any other instance when you saw RUF

6 leaders come to Gbarnga?

7 A. Oh, yeah, sure. That was 1993, because it was constant.

8 1993, RUF commanders were coming in and when they are

9 going back -- when they come in with looted material, it

10 came to the point where Charles Taylor was concerned

11 about the exposures of the invasion of Sierra Leone and

12 the connections of the National Patriotic Front, NPFL.

13 Q. How do you know he was concerned?

14 A. Well, he told Doupo Mekanzon. He said, "Look..."

15 PRESIDING JUDGE: [Microphone not activated] -- the concern

16 first.

17 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: He should finish the concern first.

19 THE WITNESS: Sir?

20 MR SANTORA:

21 Q. Go ahead and explain what he was concerned about.

22 A. His concern was that the international community were

23 getting to take notice. So what happened was he told one

24 of the battlefront commander from his side, Duopo

25 Mekanzon, he said, "Look, when these boys are coming from

26 the front line with these looted material" - because he

27 loved looting - but he said, "you have to change the

28 name. You have to change the name from Sierra Leone to

29 Kuwait." So instead -- because 1991, '92, if I can

1 remember quite well, they were having the Kuwait war and
2 so when they say they are coming from Kuwait, definitely
3 nobody would know where Kuwait -- whether it's Kuwait in
4 Liberia or it's Kuwait out of wherever. They just said
5 "Kuwait". So it was like a law set, a revelation that
6 nobody should say, "They are coming from Sierra Leone."
7 So everybody asked [inaudible] civilians who went there
8 to buy looted goods, they say, "We are coming from
9 Kuwait." And that was it. So until the war continues,
10 from 1992 up to '96 ending, they were calling the place
11 Kuwait.

12 Q. Okay. You described one instance where you saw some RUF
13 leaders come into Gbarnga. Do you remember any other
14 specific instances?

15 A. Oh, yes. So I remember -- I remember Morris Kallon very
16 well. I remember Issa Sesay and I remember several other
17 RUF, but not by name. I remember Augustine Gbao. I
18 remember Corporal Sankoh himself and I remember some of
19 the soldiers' name, Bangura, but to be specific, I did
20 not interact with those Commanders. But a trained
21 security, you observe to make sure you take your notes
22 accordingly, so --

23 Q. General, focusing on the time in Gbarnga while you were
24 there.

25 A. Yeah.

26 Q. Okay. Which RUF leaders do you remember coming to
27 Gbarnga -- into Gbarnga to Charles Taylor's Executive
28 Mansion?

29 A. In Gbarnga specifically, Corporal Sankoh, part of the

1 leadership high command. Then you have Augustine Gbao,
2 the military adviser, and you have Musa, you have Issa
3 Sesay - excuse me - you have Morris Kallon and there were
4 other people as well. But apparently, like I say, I
5 can't recall everybody's name.

6 Q. How often would you see RUF leaders come into Gbarnga?

7 A. Whenever they need supplies and when they come in with
8 looted goods, because, like I say, Charles Taylor was
9 introducing the modi operandums [sic] of the NPFL. So
10 all of the fighters that went in there, their
11 concentration was looting. So when they come in with
12 these looted materials, they strictly go down to the
13 Ivory Coast and sell that in Danane and get some CFAs and
14 buy some clothes and --

15 Q. Can you slow down. What is CFAs?

16 A. CFA is the currency that is being used in Ivory Coast.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. CFA.

19 Q. Okay. Approximately how many times a month would you see
20 RUF leaders come into Gbarnga?

21 A. The war just started, they were very fresh, so it was
22 like every week, almost, because the distance from
23 Gbarnga to Kolahun during the dry season you can take
24 roughly about maybe eight to nine hours, if you drive
25 very good, but rough driving, maybe 12 hours.

26 Q. You stated that they came when they needed supplies.
27 What kind of supplies?

28 A. Well, the objective of getting the diamonds was to be
29 able to send it over to Burkino Faso and there was a guy

1 they called Jungle James. Jungle James was the one,
2 together with Musa Sesay --

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Look, you -- General, you have been talking
4 of looted property -- looted property, you have not
5 characterised this looted property. I know you mentioned
6 earlier on, you know, that it included bicycles, coffee
7 and other things which were brought in yellow diesel, you
8 know, trucks. You are now talking of diamonds. I mean,
9 where are we? Can you situate us, you know, properly in
10 this transaction?

11 MR SANTORA: I will clarify.

12 Q. General, when was the first time you actually saw
13 diamonds coming to Gbarnga?

14 A. I said 1992, between October and November.

15 Q. Okay. What else did you see coming?

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: [Microphone not activated] -- wait, wait.
17 Slowly.

18 JUDGE THOMPSON: Slowly, counsel.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: In 1992 or between 1992?

20 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

21 JUDGE THOMPSON: Was it [Microphone not activated] 1992?

22 THE WITNESS: '92, sir, between October and November. One of
23 those two months, but I can't be too specific --

24 JUDGE THOMPSON: [Microphone not activated]

25 THE WITNESS: -- on the month now, but I remember the year.

26 JUDGE THOMPSON: That was first time you saw diamonds coming
27 to Gbarnga?

28 THE WITNESS: Yes, Your Honour.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, please.

- 1 MR SANTORA:
- 2 Q. You also stated, General, that you saw looted items
3 coming to Gbarnga.
- 4 A. Yeah, looted items.
- 5 Q. What type of looted items would you see specifically?
- 6 A. I saw tobacco; I saw cocoa; I saw coffee; I saw lappa,
7 big bales of lappas, several of them. I saw bags of
8 slippers; I saw bags of sandals; I saw rice; I saw red
9 palm oil; and, of course, some motor cycles and just
10 basically looted items.
- 11 Q. How often, while you were in Gbarnga, did you see looted
12 items coming back?
- 13 A. Well, most of the time I used to go in and out, so
14 whenever I was there, they were -- they were regular,
15 they were very frequent.
- 16 Q. Can you explain what is "very frequent"?
- 17 A. Very frequent -- it was like weekly, weekly. They were
18 in and out during the weekend and every time they would
19 attack a town and they would loot the place and they got
20 to bring -- almost the same thing NPFL used to do,
21 because Charles Taylor would tell them right now, "The
22 best pay you can get is when you capture a place. You
23 make sure you get what you can get very quickly." And so
24 that was looting.
- 25 Q. Okay. While you were in Gbarnga, aside from this
26 instance you just spoke about in October 1992, are there
27 any other instances that you are aware of that diamonds
28 came back?
- 29 A. No, no, no, no. In '93 I said RUF commanders were coming

1 and they will come in basically with their looted items
2 and then go back with the basic loads.
3 Q. What about diamonds? Were there any other instances?
4 A. I did not see any of the commanders coming in with
5 diamonds. Though, when they came in, I wasn't there,
6 but, of course, once in a while I passed by them and I
7 saw them coming in regularly in Gbarnga.
8 Q. Okay.
9 A. I mean, RUF Commanders and some of the fighters.
10 Q. Okay. Now, you said that they came there to get
11 supplies; is that correct?
12 A. Yes, counsellor.
13 A. Okay.
14 Q. Okay. What specifically do you mean by supplies?
15 A. When I mean supplies, as they continued to fight the war
16 and based on the military alliance and agreement I was
17 signed, Charles Taylor would continue to provide. So his
18 war -- the war was already entering Monrovia, so the
19 [inaudible] would come and sign for the arms and
20 ammunitions and they would drive through. At that time
21 it was the dry season.
22 Q. Okay.
23 A. They would drive through to Voinjama and they would drive
24 through to Kolahun.
25 JUDGE THOMPSON: [Microphone not activated] supplies were arms
26 and ammunitions?
27 MR SANTORA: Yes.
28 THE WITNESS: Arms and ammunitions, sir.
29 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you.

1 JUDGE BOUTET: You just stated that Bockarie would come and
2 who was with him at that time? You mentioned -- you just
3 mentioned --
4 THE WITNESS: Pardon me, sir?
5 MR SANTORA:
6 Q. Who was with Sam Bockarie when he came?
7 A. Those with Sam Bockarie, they were his aides along with
8 Benjamin Yeaten.
9 JUDGE BOUTET: These were the people coming over to get the
10 supplies?
11 THE WITNESS: Yes, Your Honour.
12 JUDGE THOMPSON:
13 Q. Would you specify them again for us?
14 A. Pardon me, sir?
15 Q. Would you specify them again for us? These people.
16 MR SANTORA:
17 Q. Who -- do you remember who these people were coming to
18 get supplies?
19 JUDGE THOMPSON:
20 Q. These people who came to get supplies? Could we have
21 their names again?
22 A. Those that came for supplies during the 1993 --
23 Q. Yes.
24 A. At that time Sam Bockarie was the commander --
25 Q. Sam Bockarie --
26 A. I think the other [inaudible] commanders were on the
27 frontline fighting. So he used to come along with his
28 aide together with Charles Taylor's personal
29 representative.

1 JUDGE BOUTET:

2 Q. Who was Yeaten?

3 A. Sir?

4 Q. What was the name of Taylor's representative, personal
5 representative?

6 A. Those -- that was in 1992, but '93 I saw.

7 Q. In '93. You are describing '93 Bockarie would come over
8 with aides and you said with the personal representative
9 of for Charles Taylor.

10 A. That's -- that's Charles Taylor, Benjamin.

11 Q. Thank you.

12 A. Benjamin Yeaten. Yeaten. Y-E-A-T-E-N.

13 MR SANTORA:

14 Q. Aside from Yeaten and Bockarie, who else would come to
15 get supplies?

16 A. Well, quite frankly, besides Ibrahim Bah used to be
17 frequent, because he was like mediator and coordinator.
18 He was like, how do I term it? He was like -- he was
19 almost like private -- maybe proprietor or whatever, but
20 he was in charge of mediating between RUF and Charles
21 Taylor.

22 Q. Okay. Aside from Ibrahim Bah, Sam Bockarie and Benjamin
23 Yeaten --

24 A. Benjamin Yeaten.

25 Q. Who else would come to get supplies in Gbarnga?

26 A. You have some junior Commanders. You have Issa Sesay,
27 Morris Kallon and some other RUF member besides Duopo
28 Mekanzon, because Doupo Mekanzon was appointed. Nixon
29 Gaye, Mike Guau. But these people are NPFL fighter, but

1 they were fighting for RUF.

2 Q. Did you see these people personally come into the --

3 A. Oh, yes, I saw them and they took delivery of arms to be

4 able to carry on the frontline.

5 Q. Where would they take those arms?

6 A. The arms would be received from Gbarnga, Gboveh Hill at

7 Charles Taylor residence, issued by Philip Keboe, one of

8 the G4s, and it would be driven from Charles Taylor's

9 residence. You know, you pass through Bong county before

10 going to Lofa. There is a bridge bordering Bong and Lofa

11 and they will cross a -- and drive all the way to

12 Salayeah District, Zorzor District --

13 Q. Slow down.

14 JUDGE THOMPSON: [Microphone not activated]

15 THE WITNESS: Sir?

16 JUDGE THOMPSON: They were received at Gboveh, the Gboveh

17 residence of Charles Taylor?

18 MR SANTORA:

19 Q. You stated that these arms were received.

20 A. By?

21 JUDGE THOMPSON:

22 Q. At Gboveh residence?

23 A. Where?

24 MR SANTORA: At the Gboveh residence.

25 JUDGE THOMPSON:

26 Q. The Gboveh.

27 A. No, I said Gboveh Hill; I said Gboveh.

28 Q. Gboveh Hill, yes.

29 A. G-B-O-V-E-H. At Gboveh Hill. Gboveh Hill is the name of

1 the hill that was named in honour of the President who
2 the -- they called Gboveh, Daniel Gboveh, so they call it
3 Gboveh Hill. That was the hill. When you are at the
4 hill, you can see everywhere in Gbarnga.

5 Q. Was Charles Taylor resident there?

6 A. Sir?

7 Q. Was Charles Taylor resident there?

8 A. That's where he was living. That was his residence and
9 he calls that --

10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Is that where the Executive Mansion is?

11 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir, Your Honour.

12 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, yes.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: We want these precisions.

14 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, quite.

15 MR SANTORA: I understand, Your Honour, I am trying to --

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: When you move from Gboveh Hill to Gbarnga
17 and so on --

18 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, quite. We need to have it, yes.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Learned counsel, we are not very
20 knowledgeable.

21 JUDGE THOMPSON: Well, even if we were, we should not even
22 inject our knowledge here.

23 Q. And they were received by whom? Remember, you were
24 saying that the arms and ammunition were received by?

25 A. Sam Bockarie.

26 Q. Yes, we didn't get that, please.

27 JUDGE BOUTET: But you said as well, if I may, you said they
28 were delivered by the G4 --

29 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes.

1 JUDGE BOUTET: -- for Charles Taylor, but I missed the name.

2 You gave the name.

3 MR SANTORA:

4 Q. Of the G4.

5 A. The G4 is Philip Keboe.

6 JUDGE BOUTET:

7 Q. Can you spell that out, please?

8 A. Philip Keboe. K-E-B-O-E. Keboe. Philip --

9 Q. What was his position or function?

10 A. He was -- he was the -- he was the logistics man in
11 charge of distributions.

12 Q. For Charles Taylor?

13 A. For Charles Taylor, NPFL.

14 Q. At his house, at the Mansion?

15 A. At the Executive Mansion.

16 Q. Thank you.

17 A. On Gboveh Hill.

18 JUDGE BOUTET: Thank you. Please carry on. Thank you.

19 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Your Honour.

20 MR SANTORA:

21 Q. General, after these arms were distributed at Charles
22 Taylor's mansion in Gboveh Hill, where would they go?

23 A. When these arms were received and signed for, they will
24 drive them out of the Executive Mansion yard of Charles
25 Taylor and continue driving through until they get to
26 Kolahun. But on their way, they have districts. You
27 have Salayeah Districts, that's in Lofa County.

28 Q. Okay.

29 A. You have Zorzor District; that is also in Lofa. That is

1 my chiefdom. Then you have Voinjama District and after
2 Voinjama District, then you will go on to Kolahun
3 District. That's where it will land and from Kolahun
4 District, then you got Foya District. From Foya District
5 then you have Vaihun District; that is bordering between
6 Sierra Leone and Liberia.

7 Q. Where would they go after Viahun District?

8 A. They go to Kolahun, and from Kolahun then they do the
9 distribution, but I am not there when they are doing
10 their distribution. But what I do know is that's the
11 final [inaudible].

12 Q. Okay. How were they --

13 JUDGE BOUTET: Just a moment. Just a moment. I am just
14 trying to follow through. They would go in Lofa District
15 up to Kolahun and then cross over to Sierra Leone?

16 MR SANTORA:

17 Q. After Kolahun, where would they go?

18 A. No. After Kolahun then they -- they -- they -- the RUF
19 representative, because Sam Bockarie was in charge of the
20 battlefield command and mechanism and they would cross
21 over to Kolahun around Kailahun. They would cross over
22 and go to Sierra Leone, because NPFL was --

23 Q. During this time while you are at Gbarnga, you didn't --
24 did you cross to Sierra Leone with these arms?

25 A. No, no, I never crossed to Sierra Leone with any of the
26 arms, but what I do know is there was no war fought in
27 Lofa county. And so, apparently, every government forces
28 that were in Lofa when NPFL invasions went on, they all
29 retreated in Guinea. So Lofa County border was

- 1 vulnerable and it was directly under control of Charles
2 Taylor.
- 3 Q. Okay. From Gbarnga to the border of Sierra Leone, who
4 was in control during this time?
- 5 A. The NPFL was in absolute control.
- 6 Q. Was any other group in control during this time?
- 7 A. No, there was no other group at that time. Besides
8 '98 -- 1994, there was some disruption where you have
9 ULIMO-K and that was Alhaji Koroma's group. But they
10 were kicked out later.
- 11 Q. Okay. When these arms were being distributed from the
12 Executive Mansion to the individuals that you have
13 already mentioned, did you -- were you present when they
14 were distributed?
- 15 A. Yes, I was present --
- 16 Q. Did you --
- 17 A. -- at the Executive Mansion. I was the principal
18 military staff officer to Charles Taylor and part of the
19 training staff. So at that time training had minimised
20 and we were on peace talk, Lome Peace Accord.
- 21 Q. Okay. Did you see -- did you see the arms being
22 distributed?
- 23 A. Oh, yes, counsellor.
- 24 Q. How were the arms loaded? Where did they -- where did
25 they -- where did they put the arms onto?
- 26 A. The arms that were signed for? The arms were like --
27 these arms that Charles Taylor was using on the front
28 line --
- 29 Q. By what means did they transport these arms from Gbarnga?

1 A. They put them on trucks, the same trucks that were
2 allocated.
3 Q. Do you remember what type of truck that was?
4 A. I say yellow man-diesel.
5 Q. Okay.
6 A. Man-diesel truck.
7 Q. I want you to tell the Court what type of arms,
8 specifically, you are talking about when you say arms.
9 A. I'm talking about --
10 JUDGE THOMPSON: [Microphone not activated] please, slowly, so
11 that we can get it.
12 MR SANTORA:
13 Q. Take it slowly.
14 A. Okay, I'm sorry. I'm talking about AK-47, that's, the
15 Kalashnikov weapons; I am talking about LAR, that is, the
16 light automatic rifles. I'm talking about RPG, rocket
17 propelled grenade; and rockets -- to includes boxes of
18 ammunitions. Then you have some RPGs -- I mean, not
19 RPGs, Berretas. These are oh -- I think, Russian-type
20 weapons, Berretas. That's B-E-R-R-E-T-A, Berretas.
21 Q. General.
22 A. Yes, counsellor.
23 Q. When these arms were stored in the Executive Mansion, do
24 you remember the type of packaging they were stored in?
25 A. Well, when these arms were brought in, they have them in
26 boxes. The AK boxes were very big and you have about ten
27 to 15 pieces in one of those boxes. They are
28 disassembled when they bring them in those boxes and when
29 they bring them, the boxes would be broken into pieces

1 and they remove the AK-47 and have them re-assembled.
2 The slings will be separate -- the magazines would be
3 separate and then your barrels and the bustocks and all
4 of these stuffs would be separate and then the bayonet -
5 that is the M2 - they would also be separate.
6 Q. Okay. These boxes, you stated that they came in wooden
7 boxes; is that correct?
8 A. Right.
9 Q. Did these boxes have any markings on them?
10 A. Yeah, these boxes had like these -- like Arabic marks and
11 I couldn't really read them, but the boxes were like
12 wood, these waw-waw wood. It's a wood, like something
13 that they brought --
14 Q. Were they --
15 A. -- with [inaudible] Arabic writing on it.
16 JUDGE THOMPSON: Arabic inscriptions?
17 MR SANTORA:
18 Q. Was it Arabic inscription or --
19 A. Arabic inscription, yeah. It was inscription written
20 on -- written on the bags, Arabic. I couldn't read that
21 so --
22 Q. Okay. General, you stated that these arms were then put
23 onto trucks. On a typical shipment, how many boxes were
24 put onto a truck?
25 A. Quite frankly, I can't tell you the number of boxes and I
26 can't tell you the amount of arms that were in those
27 boxes combined mathematically, because all I saw was
28 ammunition were being loaded on the truck to be carried,
29 because the commander there should know the quantity

1 between the [inaudible] and the G4s, so I didn't have to
2 go into G4 record. But I saw visibly arms were being
3 loaded on a truck to be taken on the frontline to
4 continue the war.

5 Q. How many AK-47s were in a box; did you say?

6 A. Between ten and 15.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. AK-47. But basically ten or 15.

9 Q. And on a truck -- how many boxes would go on a truck,
10 approximately?

11 A. Well, like I say, I don't want to estimate because --

12 JUDGE THOMPSON: [Microphone not activated] not able to
13 estimate, he said.

14 MR SANTORA: Okay.

15 A. I don't want to estimate that.

16 Q. Okay, that's fine. Okay. General, I want to talk about
17 a new issue and I want to take you to a new time period.
18 Okay?

19 A. Yes, counsellor.

20 Q. I want to talk now about the time that Taylor, Charles
21 Taylor, became President of Liberia. Okay. Do you
22 remember when that was?

23 A. Yes, I remember. Charles Taylor became President of the
24 Republic of Liberia -- July 1990 he was elected. That's
25 when we had a general election, July 19th.

26 Q. Where were you during this time?

27 A. I was serving as --

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: [Overlapping microphones] July what year?

29 JUDGE THOMPSON: [Overlapping microphones] what year?

1 MR SANTORA: I'm sorry.

2 A. I'm sorry, Your Honours, July 1997. I'm sorry.

3 JUDGE THOMPSON:

4 Q. Did you say as a result of a popular election?

5 A. Sir?

6 Q. Did you say as a result of a popular election?

7 A. I didn't get that.

8 MR SANTORA:

9 Q. Was he elected as a result of a popular election?

10 A. Well, it was -- it was a land slide.

11 JUDGE THOMPSON: [Overlapping microphones]

12 Q. There are several ways of becoming president in Africa

13 these days.

14 A. There was -- when you say popular --

15 Q. Well, I just mean election by the people.

16 A. It was generally elected by the people.

17 Q. That's what I mean by popular election.

18 A. Yes, sir, popular, yes.

19 Q. Not popular in the political sense.

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. It's in a technical sense. Okay.

22 A. He was elected popularly by the people.

23 JUDGE THOMPSON: Go ahead.

24 MR SANTORA:

25 Q. General, do you remember around this time when the coup

26 in Sierra Leone was?

27 A. Well, when -- after the elections -- in fact, before the

28 election, somewhere in May, to be specific, I say May

29 25th -- May 25th --

- 1 Q. Of what year?
- 2 A. That was 1997, and I can't remember when there was a BBC
3 announcement and then Charles Taylor also picked it up,
4 because he monitors the news regularly. He said there is
5 a problem at the -- Johnny Paul Koroma has taken over
6 Sierra Leone and Freetown. And he was discussing,
7 laughing, you know, and saying, "Well what goes around,
8 comes around." And at the end of May those discussions
9 was going, but he specifically sent for the Defence
10 Minister.
- 11 Q. Okay. Before we proceed, you stated that Charles Taylor
12 was talking about the coup.
- 13 A. Yeah, yeah. I mean, he was on BBC that there was a coup.
- 14 Q. Were you present when he was making these comments?
- 15 A. Yes, in the fence; that was 1997. I was the assistant
16 chief of staff G3 and then the principal military staff
17 officer to the -- because actually --
- 18 Q. When you were -- when you used the phrase "in the
19 fence" --
- 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Allow him to complete --
- 21 MR SANTORA: Okay.
- 22 PRESIDING JUDGE: -- his answers, please.
- 23 THE WITNESS: When I was the assistant chief of staff G3 --
- 24 JUDGE THOMPSON: [Microphone not activated] -- before he does,
25 there is some left --
- 26 Q. Some statement that Charles Taylor had mentioned that
27 Johnny Paul Koroma had taken over control in Sierra
28 Leone?
- 29 A. Of Freetown, yes.

1 Q. Of Freetown. And laughingly said -- I did not get the
2 quotation. "What goes", is it?
3 A. He said, "What goes, around comes around."
4 Q. "Comes around". I wanted that.
5 A. Oh, yes, sir. "What goes around, comes around." He said
6 that smilingly. He was smiling.
7 Q. Yes.
8 A. He said, "What goes around, comes around."
9 JUDGE THOMPSON: Continue, learned counsel.
10 JUDGE BOUTET:
11 Q. The witness was describing that he was the assistant G3
12 chief of staff?
13 A. Yes, sir, at that time after the elections. The
14 inauguration came in October. I was then the assistant
15 chief of staff G3, but it was after the inauguration.
16 But before the inaugurations -- my pronouncement did not
17 come when the coup took place in Freetown; that was in
18 May. I was staying principal staff officer to Charles
19 Taylor and, at the same time, security liaison between
20 the ECOMOG and Charles Taylor, the interim leader.
21 Q. So at that time you were essentially living close to
22 Charles Taylor, wherever he might have been at that time.
23 In Monrovia, presumably?
24 A. Oh, yes, sir, my house was -- my residence was not too
25 far. It was like a five-minute drive on [inaudible] from
26 there to where Charles Taylor was staying.
27 Q. And as the principal staff adviser to Charles Taylor at
28 the time, during day time did you have an office close to
29 his office? Where were you physically located, if I may,

1 at that time?

2 A. Right besides this -- inside the fence. You talk about
3 the fence. It is like 15 feet high and within there you
4 have barbed wires and like what you see around people's
5 residences. And outside you have another compound,
6 another house where you have the security offices. So
7 that's where we have our office, but from there you make
8 your details. Those are supposed to be in charge of
9 guard duty and what have you, and then you will do your
10 planning. So our office was outside -- not inside, but
11 from the office you go inside and before anybody gets
12 inside the fence, we make sure to monitor and then we
13 allow. So I was very frequent. I never had any
14 limitation, because being a principal military staff
15 officer, you are always with him frequently.

16 Q. Thank you.

17 A. Yes, Your Honour.

18 JUDGE THOMPSON: Continue, learned counsel.

19 MR SANTORA:

20 Q. Okay. General, during this time when the coup took place
21 in Sierra Leone, you stated that you heard Charles Taylor
22 making some comments and you have described those
23 comments.

24 A. Right.

25 Q. What else did he say?

26 A. Well, like I say, he said, "What goes around, comes
27 around." And then, later on, he sends for the Defence
28 Minister.

29 Q. Who is the Defence Minister?

- 1 A. It's Daniel Chea. He has been a Defence Minister in
2 Gbarnga when he -- when Charles Taylor became elected and
3 inaugurated, he also was a Defence Minister. When
4 Charles Taylor was carrying out from --
- 5 JUDGE THOMPSON: Kindly spell the last name.
- 6 MR SANTORA: Chea.
- 7 THE WITNESS: He is still the Defence Minister. Daniel Chea.
8 It's C-H-E-A, sir. C-H-E-A, Chea.
- 9 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you.
- 10 THE WITNESS: Daniel Chea. He still is the Defence Minister.
- 11 MR SANTORA:
- 12 Q. Why did he send for Daniel Chea?
- 13 A. All right. He sends for Daniel Chea and outside --
14 normally Charles Taylor, whenever he comes out, he will
15 sit in the open -- outside of the living room there is
16 another place, it is like an office, but it is outside.
17 It is in the open for ventilation, so he came out and
18 then sent for the Defence Minister on the handset, the
19 radio so --
- 20 Q. Were you present when he sent for him?
- 21 A. Yeah, yeah, I was present. It was early that morning,
22 around 9.00 going to 10.00. He sends for the Defence
23 Minister, Daniel Chea, and said, "Look, Daniel, I want
24 you to fly over to Freetown," that was in June now. He
25 said, "I want you to fly over to Freetown and go and see
26 if you can..."
- 27 PRESIDING JUDGE:
- 28 Q. He sent for him? He sent for him? Did he come?
- 29 A. Your Honour?

1 Q. He sent for him; did he come?

2 A. Yeah, he came, sir.

3 Q. He came?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 MR SANTORA:

6 Q. Were you present when he came?

7 A. I was present when Daniel Chea came. He sent for him and
8 he came.

9 Q. What --

10 A. Because his code, his radio code was Gala C. He said,
11 "Gala C, you report this time." Charles Taylor's radio
12 code are "Union One". In Gbarnga he was "Albany". In
13 Monrovia, when he became elected finally, he changed this
14 from Union One. So it means he was number one in the
15 country.

16 JUDGE THOMPSON:

17 Q. So it was a radio message?

18 A. Sir?

19 Q. It was a radio message calling on the --

20 A. His radio message?

21 JUDGE THOMPSON: Is that it from the Defence -- to the Defence
22 Minister?

23 [HS051004B 10.55 a.m.]

24 MR SANTORA:

10:48:18 25 Q. You stated that Taylor sent for Daniel Chea?

26 A. Yes, sir.

27 Q. Did he do this by radio?

28 A. Yeah, he did that by radio.

29 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, that's what I wanted to know.

1 THE WITNESS: We call him Galaxy.

2 JUDGE THOMPSON: Quite right.

3 THE WITNESS: Say, "Galaxy, you report to Unit 1."

4 JUDGE THOMPSON: Right.

10:48:31 5 THE WITNESS: And he did that by the Motorola handset.

6 JUDGE THOMPSON:

7 Q. And when he came, he said, "I want you to fly over to

8 Freetown"?

9 A. Yes, sir. When -- when he came he order him, militarily

10:48:42 10 -- he say, "You will go to Freetown. Make sure -- meet

11 with Johnny Paul Koroma." You know, they had Weasua

12 Airline under his control. And he sent for the Chief of

13 Protocol, say, "Go to the Springfield airfield. Make

14 contact with the Weasua Airline management, and tell them

10:49:06 15 I want a charter flight and I will pay." So there was a

16 charter flight waiting.

17 MR SANTORA:

18 Q. Before you proceed, what is Weasua?

19 A. Weasua is a name of a transport airline that had been

10:49:20 20 based in Liberia before the war.

21 Q. Okay. General, now I want you to describe -- before you

22 go too far ahead, describe exactly what Taylor had told

23 Chea while you were present.

24 A. Okay. I just trying to tell you --

10:49:36 25 Q. Don't -- but go in increments.

26 A. When -- when -- when they sent for Daniel Chea -- when

27 Taylor sent for Daniel Chea, he came in less than

28 10 minutes. So when he got in the fence, he say, "Yes,

29 sir, chief, I'm here." Say, "Look Daniel," you know.

1 And when he's talking, he talks in the form of jovious
2 and to be very serious and very strict about his order
3 and directives. If you look, he talks with his finger.
4 He said, "Look, Daniel, I want you to go -- in fact, you
10:50:11 5 will go now to Freetown. Try to see if you can get to
6 Johnny Paul Koroma and convince him to see if" --
7 Q. Slow down. Go slowly.
8 A. "Get to Johnny Paul Koroma, who's controlling the AFRC,
9 so that you can convince him to see if he can have a
10:50:38 10 military alliance. But first" --
11 Q. Slow down. Okay, go ahead.
12 A. "To have a military alliance. But first ask him what
13 help we can give him and that we have recognise his
14 government. What help" --
10:50:56 15 JUDGE THOMPSON: [Microphone not activated] to have a military
16 alliance.
17 THE WITNESS: Yeah, military alliance.
18 JUDGE THOMPSON: [Microphone not activated] witness.
19 THE WITNESS: Okay. "See if you can talk to the AFRC leader,
10:51:09 20 that's Johnny Paul Koroma, if we can have a military
21 alliance." And then, final, "if there can be" -- "if
22 there's any other logistics support that he will need
23 from me."
24 JUDGE BOUTET: You did mention something about recognition of
10:51:33 25 his government.
26 [Overlapping microphones]
27 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. He said he recognised -- he
28 recognised Johnny Paul Koroma's government. He said he
29 recognised that. Well, I mean, he was saying that

1 happily.

2 JUDGE THOMPSON: Continue, counsellor.

3 THE WITNESS: And it wasn't just I alone.

4 MR SANTORA:

10:52:27 5 Q. Okay, I'll -- before you proceed, after Chea said these

6 things -- I'm sorry, after Taylor said these things to

7 Chea, did he say anything else aside from what you've

8 already mentioned?

9 A. No. After Taylor told him these things -- I mean, he

10:52:41 10 said these things, and he said, "Go now and come back,"

11 because you also tell him if he needs support or respect

12 to evade [sic] any external or outside invasions, I will

13 be prepared --

14 Q. Okay.

10:53:00 15 A. -- to supply him with artillery pieces.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Artillery pieces.

18 Q. How did Mr Chea respond to this?

19 A. He say, "Yes, sir."

10:53:16 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Can you take that reply again, please?

21 THE WITNESS: Sir?

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Can you take -- can you take your reply

23 again to the last question?

24 MR SANTORA:

10:53:26 25 Q. How did Chea respond --

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: No, no, no.

27 MR SANTORA: I'm sorry.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: The question before this one.

29 MR SANTORA: I'm sorry.

1 Q. What --

2 JUDGE THOMPSON: What else?

3 MR SANTORA:

4 Q. What else did Taylor say?

10:53:35 5 A. Taylor said that --

6 JUDGE THOMPSON: If there is an outside --

7 THE WITNESS: We should also ask him, "If there is any outside

8 interventions -- outside intervention, then I will be

9 prepared to provide some artillery pieces."

10:53:59 10 JUDGE BOUTET: Some what?

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Artillery.

12 JUDGE THOMPSON: Artillery.

13 THE WITNESS: Artillery, yes, sir; artillery.

14 JUDGE THOMPSON: Artillery pieces.

10:54:06 15 THE WITNESS: Sorry for my for pronunciation, sir.

16 JUDGE THOMPSON: It's okay.

17 [Overlapping microphones]

18 THE WITNESS: Yes, Your Honour.

19 JUDGE THOMPSON: Artillery pieces.

10:54:17 20 THE WITNESS: Artillery.

21 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yeah.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Which would supply him, Koroma, with some

23 artillery pieces.

24 JUDGE THOMPSON: Pieces, yeah.

10:54:22 25 THE WITNESS: Sir.

26 JUDGE THOMPSON: That he would be prepared to provide some --

27 THE WITNESS: Artillery pieces "to help you put the situation

28 under control."

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: To help Johnny Paul Koroma put the situation

1 under control.

2 THE WITNESS: To put whatever situation that would occur,
3 because if there is an external, outside intervention he
4 will provide the artillery pieces to put whatever
10:54:45 5 situation that may have -- that may occurred.

6 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yeah, in other words, to take --

7 THE WITNESS: To have it absolutely put under control.

8 JUDGE THOMPSON: In other words, to take care of that.

9 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

10:55:02 10 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thanks.

11 MR SANTORA:

12 Q. After Taylor said these things to Chea and Chea
13 responded, "Yes, sir" --

14 A. Yes, after he say that to --

10:55:11 15 Q. Aside from Chea, Taylor and yourself, who else was
16 present during this conversation?

17 A. Of course, we had the aide-de-camp was there, Musa N'Jai.

18 Q. Proceed slowly.

19 A. The aide-de-camp was there, Musa N'Jai; Momo Jibba;
10:55:31 20 Osebio Demmey; Benjamin Yeaten; Kadiyatu Darrous. There
21 was several. If I start naming them now I won't finish,
22 because there were too many of them.

23 Q. Okay. After Chea said, "Yes, sir," what happened
24 exactly?

10:55:49 25 A. After he -- after he say "Yes, sir" to Taylor, and there
26 was a jeep standing by, the Nissan Patrol jeep -- it was
27 written '02'. All right. 02 is the jeep that he sends
28 when he wants to get people, so black jeep. He said,
29 "Look, you go ahead with the SS group. Tarnue, they'll

1 try to escort Daniel Chea. Musa Sesay have already
2 arranged for the flight. Take him to Springfield."
3 Like, 15 minutes from --
4 Q. So, what's Springfield?
10:56:23 5 A. Springfield is in central part of Monrovia almost, in
6 Sinkor. Springfield, S-P-R-I-N-G, Springfield,
7 F-I-E-L-D, airfield. There was a Springfield airfield.
8 That's where they had the Weasua transport airline.
9 W-E-A-S-U-A-H, Weasua; that was the Weasua airline.
10:56:49 10 Q. So did you proceed to Springfield?
11 A. Yes, sir. After he gave the final order, we got on board
12 the jeep; the SS follow; and Danny Chea is in the back.
13 So we drove to Springfield, and he took off with the
14 Weasua Airline with his bodyguards.
10:57:10 15 Q. Did you go to Freetown with Chea?
16 A. No, I did not go to Freetown.
17 Q. Who went with Chea to Freetown?
18 A. It was his aide, one Massaquoi, and him. They went
19 together.
10:57:21 20 Q. Do you remember what time of the day they left?
21 A. They left -- that was around 10.30, going to 11.00
22 almost, because when they sent for him it was like 9.00,
23 something, and after the instructions were given and then
24 it was like 10.00, 10.30. So the flight took off and
10:57:37 25 then we headed back to White Flower.
26 Q. Okay. You headed back to White Flower. Is that --
27 A. To White Flower.
28 PRESIDING JUDGE:
29 Q. The flight to --

1 A. White Flower, White Flower.

2 Q. Sorry. The flight took off at about what time?

3 A. Sir.

4 MR SANTORA:

10:57:52 5 Q. What time did the flight actually take off the ground?

6 A. Oh, the flight -- the flight took off at precisely 11.00

7 o'clock -- between 11.00 and 11.30, but I can't be too

8 exact on the time, sir.

9 JUDGE THOMPSON: That's a.m.?

10:58:03 10 THE WITNESS: Sir?

11 JUDGE THOMPSON: a.m.?

12 THE WITNESS: a.m., 1100.

13 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, continue, learned counsel.

14 MR SANTORA:

10:58:25 15 Q. So you stated that you then returned to White Flower?

16 A. Yeah, we returned to White Flower.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Charles Taylor's residence.

19 Q. Just to remind the Court and maybe -- it may be already

10:58:34 20 known. What is White Flower again exactly?

21 A. White Flower is Charles Taylor's residence. When he was

22 in Gbarnga he had executive mansion, and now that he King

23 he was at executive mansion in Monrovia. So his

24 residence became White Flower.

10:58:52 25 Q. And where in Monrovia was White Flower?

26 A. White Flower was about 22 miles away from Monrovia. It's

27 -- it was right -- Kongo Town. Kongo Town. It's

28 K-O-N-G-O, Kongo Town. That's where they had White

29 Flower. Kongo Town.

1 Q. Okay. After you returned to White Flower in Kongo Town,
2 what happened?
3 A. After we returned, of course we were there with our
4 normal activities, security, having conversation out
10:59:27 5 there, until the flag came. And I saw the flight land
6 at --
7 Q. What flight?
8 A. The Weasua flight that went on. Because it was a charter
9 flight, he had to wait to bring him back.
10:59:38 10 Q. So the flight came back?
11 A. Yeah, in the afternoon, between 4.00 and 4.30 to 5.00
12 o'clock.
13 Q. Okay. So --
14 A. The plane landed.
10:59:44 15 Q. And this is on the flight --
16 A. And then Defence Minister called.
17 Q. Okay.
18 A. On the radio.
19 Q. So, just to make sure we're clear --
11:00:05 20 A. Yeah, he called.
21 Q. He left Roberts at 11.00 a.m.
22 A. Not Roberts International Airport; it's Springfield.
23 JUDGE THOMPSON: Springfield.
24 MR SANTORA: I'm sorry, I'm sorry. I'm sorry about that, Your
11:00:05 25 Honours.
26 THE WITNESS: Springfield.
27 MR SANTORA:
28 Q. He left Springfield at 11.00 --
29 A. Eleven, and then returned between 4.30 to 5.00

1 specifically.

2 Q. Okay. After he returned, what happened?

3 A. When he returns, then he did call, and we all went in to

4 where the radio. He said, "Unit 50" -- he didn't call

11:00:18 5 the President directly, because --

6 Q. Who was Unit 50?

7 A. -- that was the normal procedure. He had to go through

8 the SS director, and that was Benjamin Yeaten. He said,

9 "Unit 50 come in to Galaxy." And then 50 responded,

11:00:32 10 "Galaxy come in to Unit 50. So I've landed. Inform

11 Unit 1 that mission is accomplished." And from there he

12 drove and he came over say, "Well, you can go and pick

13 him up." So, you know, Daniel Chea first came in, too,

14 so he just got on board his car. He was coming, and they

11:00:55 15 all met and come over to White Flower again.

16 Q. So Daniel Chea returned to White Flower?

17 A. Yes, on his way to White Flower and we met at the

18 intersection of the junction going towards the executive

19 mansion and the airfield.

11:01:08 20 Q. Okay. After --

21 A. And then we all went back to White Flower.

22 Q. So Chea returned to White Flower?

23 A. Yeah, he returned to White Flower with the feedback.

24 Q. Upon his return to White Flower, what happens?

11:01:21 25 A. After he returned to White Flowers, counsellor, he was

26 asked, again outside, he decided to give his briefing,

27 and said, "Chief, everything went well. I met Johnny

28 Paul Koroma, I talk to him. And he willingly -- he

29 accepted your proposal and request. And if anything

1 outside of any interventions, he was going to make sure
2 to signal you, and the military alliance with the RUF and
3 the AFRC holds. So, as I talk to you now, what he will
4 need is maybe SSB long-range radio," so that
11:02:05 5 communication between RUF and Taylor, AFRC, would be
6 good. So that was the deliberations he made.

7 Q. Okay. When Chea --

8 JUDGE BOUTET: Pardon me. You just testified that when Chea
9 came back he informed the chief that the AFRC/RUF
11:02:31 10 alliance was still holding on. When has that alliance
11 taken place? You have not testified as to that.

12 THE WITNESS: Say that again.

13 MR SANTORA:

14 Q. When you spoke about an alliance earlier --

11:02:45 15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. What alliance were you referring to?

17 A. So we're talking about military alliance.

18 JUDGE BOUTET:

19 Q. No, no. No, I don't want to confuse you either. There's
11:02:54 20 been an envoy - the Minister of Defence - that went to
21 talk to Koroma for an alliance. But you've just
22 mentioned that when the Minister of Defence came back to
23 Monrovia to brief the Chief, he did say something about
24 an alliance between the RUF and the AFRC. What did he
11:03:14 25 say and when was that alliance, to your knowledge, taking
26 place?

27 A. Look, when he -- when he came back, based on the
28 instruction that was given to him to go and talk to
29 Johnny Paul Koroma about the military alliance and other

1 supplies that he will need in case of any events that
2 comes up, and Johnny Paul Koroma, according to Daniel
3 Chea when he returned, he met Johnny Paul Koroma and he
4 agreed on the proposals and requests made by Charles
11:03:48 5 Taylor.
6 MR SANTORA:
7 Q. The request --
8 JUDGE BOUTET:
9 Q. Yeah, General, that was not my question. I understood
11:03:53 10 that. But you just testified that the Minister of
11 Defence reported something about RUF and the AFRC. What
12 is it that he did say, if he did say anything, about RUF
13 and the AFRC?
14 A. No, no. What Daniel Chea said was, to make communication
11:04:11 15 easier, he was telling the Chief to be able to get a
16 long-range SSB radio that will be provided to the AFRC,
17 that he will be able to communicate with RUF, and then
18 he, Taylor, will have access to both communication --
19 access to both RUF and the AFRC.
11:04:35 20 JUDGE THOMPSON: Well, that is my difficulty, and it this:
21 that when the General testified earlier on as to what
22 instructions were given by Charles Taylor to the Defence
23 Minister, he didn't really specify the alliance between
24 who and who. He merely said "military alliance". So I'm
11:04:59 25 at a loss to understand why, in the response from the
26 Defence Minister after his mission, there is a reference
27 to even RUF and the AFRC.
28 MR SANTORA: I understand. I --
29 THE WITNESS: Exactly.

1 MR SANTORA: I can clarify. I can --

2 THE WITNESS: Exactly, Your Honour. That's it.

3 MR SANTORA: I can try to clarify to make it comprehensible.

4 Q. Initially, when Taylor gave the instruction to Chea to go
11:05:26 5 over to Johnny Paul Koroma --

6 A. Yes, counsellor.

7 Q. You stated he spoke about a military alliance?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What did -- what did he say with regard to that military
11:05:36 10 alliance? What did he mean?

11 A. Well, when you talk about military alliance, it means two
12 forces, two armed groups or organisation or sisters will
13 come together to work as one force to strengthen their
14 capability.

11:05:57 15 Q. No, I understand the definition of an alliance. But I'm
16 asking you what specifically was he talking about when he
17 said "alliance" to Chea before Chea left?

18 A. He was talking about in case of any events RUF and the
19 AFRC will combine, and they'll reconsolidate. And that
11:06:14 20 way RUF will have a corridor.

21 JUDGE THOMPSON: Right, so --

22 THE WITNESS: An easy corridor.

23 JUDGE THOMPSON: -- learned counsel, what I understand is that
24 this witness is now saying, "When I said that Charles
11:06:27 25 Taylor had indicated to the Defence Minister to indicate
26 or to state to Paul Koroma to have a military alliance, I
27 mean a military alliance between the RUF and the AFRC."
28 Would that be a correct effect of your testimony?

29 THE WITNESS: Exactly, that's it.

1 JUDGE THOMPSON: In other words, we have a -- [microphone not
2 activated] -- or probably an amplification.
3 MR SANTORA: And I think -- I will try to clarify maybe as to
4 why that occurred.

11:07:02 5 THE WITNESS: Okay.
6 JUDGE THOMPSON: No, I -- [microphone not activated]
7 MR SANTORA: Okay.
8 JUDGE THOMPSON: I'm not -- I just wanted to be quite sure to
9 have the records clear on that -- [microphone not
11:07:12 10 activated]
11 MR SANTORA: I understand.
12 THE WITNESS: Okay, sir.
13 JUDGE THOMPSON: Continue, learned counsel.
14 MR SANTORA: Okay.

11:07:24 15 Q. After Chea returned and reported to Taylor, did he report
16 anything else aside from what you have mentioned?
17 A. That was the first time when he reported, and that was
18 not the only time he went over. So, based on the first
19 report, Taylor was impressed and decided to send him back
11:07:49 20 again.
21 Q. Okay. When did he send him back again?
22 A. It was a month after. That was right after the
23 elections, July 19.
24 Q. Do you remember a month he went back the second time?
11:08:05 25 A. Between July and August he went back to -- it was -- it
26 was -- it was right after the elections.
27 Q. Okay. I want to talk about the second time that Chea
28 went --
29 A. Right.

1 Q. -- back to Freetown.

2 A. Right.

3 Q. First of all, had it -- first of all, when did he --

4 did he meet with Taylor prior to going back?

11:08:28 5 A. Every time he went to Sierra Leone -- the second time

6 Taylor sent for him -- Taylor will always send for him to

7 come. This time it was -- it -- it was after the

8 elections.

9 Q. Okay. Describe what happened when he sent for him.

11:08:46 10 A. When he sent for him in the fence, he gave him

11 instructions. This time he say, "You go ahead and see

12 once you have the military alliance going through" --

13 PRESIDING JUDGE:

14 Q. You were present?

11:09:01 15 A. I was present, sir.

16 Q. You were present?

17 A. I was present. At that time I had not taken my

18 assignment --

19 Q. Go ahead, go ahead.

11:09:05 20 A. -- as assistant chief of staff. I stayed there as

21 principal military staff officer.

22 Q. Yes. We would like you to be reporting as somebody who

23 was present?

24 A. Yes, sir, I was present.

11:09:15 25 Q. Okay, go ahead.

26 A. So, right there he said, "Look, this time you are going

27 to talk to him like a diplomat. I want him and Sankoh,

28 RUF officials, high command. Get together and see are we

29 getting political support. I'm getting -- I'm already --

1 be President. I'll be elected and I will be inaugurated.
2 I will give him the political support so that they can
3 organise a bogus -- bogus election." Meaning, Foday
4 Sankoh to become President immediately, was going to
11:09:55 5 organise a bogus election and Foday Sankoh would become
6 President. So he was trying to solicit the support of
7 Johnny Paul Koroma, the AFRC leader.

8 MR SANTORA:

9 Q. Okay. Did he describe -- did he say anything?
11:10:10 10 A. After that instruction was given to Daniel --
11 Q. Keep going with exactly what that instruction was. Can
12 you -- to the best of your ability, can you say
13 specifically what the instruction was to Chea?
14 A. For Foday Sankoh to become President -- to organise a
11:10:26 15 bogus election, as soon as Foday Sankoh will become
16 President of Sierra Leone.
17 Q. Did he elaborate on how that would be done?
18 A. Well, bogus election is when you organise it in Freetown,
19 whether the local population, the local pops, take part
11:10:43 20 in the election, that shouldn't be their problem. All
21 they know, the area the AFRC controls, the area the RUF
22 controls, like, what happen when he controls the NPFL
23 within Liberia. So there will be enough to organise it
24 and get his people, because there were some civilian
11:11:04 25 probably within their control territory that were under
26 their command. So they could not voice out. So
27 absolutely they had to vote, because they want to save
28 their lives. So that's bogus elections?
29 Q. Specifically, what did Taylor tell Chea aside from this

1 issue of bogus elections? What else did he tell Chea in
2 the second time -- before the second time Chea went
3 back?

4 A. Well, he told him -- besides the bogus election, he told
11:11:33 5 him, "Go ahead and, after the military alliance, any
6 other logistical support he would need - fuel, gas and
7 other thing - will be able to provide that for him, and I
8 will support him politically."

9 Q. What military alliance was he referring to?

11:11:49 10 A. The military alliance is, when something occurred, the
11 two of them will work together.

12 Q. Two of who?

13 A. The two RUF sisters and the sisters -- the AFRC and the
14 RUF will work together and then react immediately. It
11:12:09 15 means that they have -- they will have strong capability.
16 So if there was problem went on in Freetown, definitely
17 Foday Sankoh will be provided corridor. I mean, not
18 Foday Sankoh -- AFRC leader will be provided corridor to
19 retreat. And when they come over to RUF, militarily we
11:12:28 20 call it reconsolidations. You will reconsolidate and
21 then move out.

22 Q. Did Taylor tell Chea anything else aside from what you
23 have mentioned before Chea went back for the second time
24 to Freetown?

11:12:42 25 A. Well, that was the instruction he gave in my presence, so
26 he proceeded immediately.

27 Q. And besides yourself, Chea and Taylor, were there other
28 individuals present?

29 A. In the fence.

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. Yes, every time I say "in the fence" I'm talking about
3 Charles Taylor's residence. He comes out of the living
4 room and he stand in the fence, is very big. It's like
11:13:09 5 football field - very, very big. So he stands out there
6 and give all his orders, directives and instructions --
7 Q. Okay.

8 A. -- in the very open.

9 Q. Did Chea --

11:13:20 10 A. As a matter of fact, he had a very long table. He got
11 the radio for the -- for the SBU, the Small Boy Unit; the
12 Yellow Jacket; the different kind of units, so the SS
13 personnel are monitoring it, so if one person speaking,
14 he will pick it up and then he will respond quite
11:13:37 15 frankly, so -- how organised it was.

16 Q. After Taylor gave Chea these instructions, before Chea's
17 second trip to Sierra Leone, how did Chea respond?

18 A. Always Chea will respond "Yes, sir," and then he will
19 move on to implement Taylor's directives.

11:13:58 20 Q. And did Chea then go to Sierra Leone again?

21 A. He went on the same charter helicopter to Sierra Leone
22 and we -- not helicopter, I'm sorry. Weasua Airline. He
23 went to Sierra Leone and --

24 Q. Did he proceed from -- did he proceed from --

11:14:13 25 A. From White Flower.

26 Q. Okay.

27 A. Into Springfield. The same normal routine. SS --

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Before you go to the second trip, the
29 details of the second trip, the Court will rise for

1 10 minutes, please. The Court will rise please.

2 [Break taken at 11.20 a.m.]

3 [On resuming at 11.44 a.m.]

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, Mr Santora, you can proceed. Resume

11:37:22 5 the session.

6 MR SANTORA: Thank you, Your Honours.

7 Q. General, when we left off, you were talking about the

8 instance where Daniel Chea was sent to Freetown to meet

9 with Johnny Paul Koroma for the second time.

11:37:42 10 A. Right.

11 Q. And you discussed the instructions from Charles Taylor to

12 Daniel Chea for the second meeting.

13 A. Exactly.

14 Q. Did Daniel Chea go to Freetown?

11:37:58 15 A. Yeah, based on Taylor's instructions and order, he

16 proceeded immediately on the charter airplane, Weasua

17 Airline.

18 Q. And where did that -- where did this flight take off

19 from?

11:38:14 20 A. It took off from Springfield airfield.

21 Q. And what time of the day did this flight take off at?

22 A. Well, the flight, normally when it's sent for him, it's

23 around 9.00, so by the time he get there, was between

24 10.00; 10.30, 11.00. Like I say, I can't be too exact on

11:38:31 25 the time, but it was during the morning hour.

26 Q. You stated the first time he went you accompanied him to

27 Springfield. Did you accompany Chea to --

28 A. The second time, we did.

29 Q. And did Chea return?

1 A. The SS -- the SS personnel along with the aide-de-camps,
2 myself, and -- there were, like, two, three jeeps besides
3 Daniel Chea own mobile.

4 Q. And this time who went with Chea?

11:38:57 5 A. He went with his aide.

6 Q. How many aides, do you remember?

7 A. I only remember the senior aide is Major Massaquoi.

8 Q. Okay. When did Chea return the second time?

9 A. He returned in the evening time, maybe around 4.00, 5.00,
11:39:14 10 but I can't be too specific on time. But it was in the
11 evening.

12 Q. After he returned, what happened?

13 A. When he returns, he calls on the radio as usual. He call
14 Unit 50 and everybody got the message, because we have
11:39:30 15 radio tune open. And then we drove down to Springfield -
16 the SS, myself and the aide-de-camps. And then we pick
17 him up. This time he was still in Springfield - sitting
18 down in the -- in the waiting room. We pick him up and
19 then took him over to White Flower in Konga Town.

11:39:49 20 Q. After you returned to White Flower with Chea, what
21 happened?

22 A. Taylor was already outside waiting for us.

23 Q. Okay. And after you got there and saw Taylor --

24 A. When we got there, he say, "Yes, sir, chief, I'm back."
11:40:01 25 And we all stood around, and he immediately started the
26 briefing?

27 Q. Okay, what -- who started the briefing?

28 A. The Defence Minister. Daniel Chea started the briefing.
29 He started to give the feedback from what he got from

1 Johnny Paul Koroma in Freetown.

2 Q. What did he say?

3 A. He told him that the bogus elections that we talk about,

4 Johnny Paul Koroma is willing to and absolutely got no

11:40:31 5 problem. So he will be looking forward after his

6 inauguration to see all the support he can provide for

7 them to have this bogus elections.

8 Q. Did Chea say anything else in this briefing?

9 A. Well, I think they were just discussing about the same

11:40:50 10 elections and all the logistics, perhaps, that Johnny

11 Paul Koroma will need. He told him specifically fuel,

12 oil, gasoline, financial aid - there were other thing,

13 but the objective the meeting was -- the topic was the

14 bogus elections, and that was it.

11:41:09 15 Q. And was anything else said, then, after Chea gave the

16 briefing?

17 A. Well, not to my knowledge. It was only the bogus

18 elections.

19 Q. You stated that when he went for this second meeting the

11:41:25 20 issue of the military alliance was discussed. Did Chea

21 discuss this issue when he returned in his briefing?

22 A. Well, the military alliance was already understood, that

23 the AFRC and the RUF, already Johnny Paul Koroma and

24 Sankoh agreed. But it was -- when you talk about Sankoh,

11:41:49 25 because 1997 Sankoh was already under house arrest. And

26 everything that was being coordinated, it was Bockarie,

27 Benjamin Yeaten, and the other senior staff of the RUF.

28 Because some -- I mean, Johnny Paul -- not Johnny Paul

29 Koroma, excuse me, sir. Foday Sankoh was already in

1 Nigeria, so everything that was with the RUF high
2 command, Charles Taylor, absolutely, you remember the
3 stratified command, he was definitely with the high
4 command. So he ask himself Foday Sankoh - he can take
11:42:29 5 that decision. So all he does was to give order to
6 Sam Bockarie that look, this is what has been agreed with
7 AFRC and you have to cooperate.
8 Q. Okay. After this briefing by Chea, what happened then?
9 A. Well, after the briefing--
11:42:52 10 JUDGE THOMPSON:
11 Q. The -- just to square my own reflection of the evidence,
12 the main point of the mission, the second mission, in
13 terms of the briefing that was given to Charles Taylor
14 was that the bogus election proposal was accepted?
11:43:17 15 A. Yes, sir.
16 Q. By John Paul Koroma?
17 A. Right.
18 Q. Is that the essence of that part of it?
19 A. That he --
11:43:24 20 Q. In other words, that's all what you got from --
21 A. Bogus election.
22 Q. -- from his briefing. So the bogus election proposal --
23 A. Right.
24 Q. -- from Charles Taylor was accepted by Johnny Paul
11:43:34 25 Koroma?
26 A. Yes, bogus election.
27 [Overlapping microphones]
28 JUDGE THOMPSON: All right, thank you.
29 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir; that's exactly it.

1 MR SANTORA:

2 Q. General --

3 A. Yes, counsellor.

4 Q. -- do you remember the time that the ECOMOG drove the
11:43:53 5 AFRC Government and Johnny Paul Koroma out of Freetown?

6 A. Well, yes, because when -- after the inauguration of
7 Charles Taylor in 1997, his support to the RUF became
8 intensified, and it grew overnight, because financially
9 his encouragement -- because Foday Sankoh was already
11:44:17 10 under house arrest. And he was trying to do everything
11 in his weak way as far as humanely possible to be able to
12 convince the RUF remnants of the leadership. Even though
13 Foday Sankoh is under house arrest, but you still have to
14 remember you have a mission to accomplish. So after the
11:44:35 15 inauguration he begin to encourage them with support --
16 financially, encouragement, giving them logistical
17 supports. The RUF -- Bockarie was frequent to White
18 Flower. When he became inaugurated, like I said, his
19 support to the RUF became intensified. And it went on
11:44:57 20 until February, when the pronouncement came that look --

21 Q. What year was that?

22 A. February was 1998. Yes, '98, February -- between the
23 28th or -- 27th, 28th February when the AFRC was kicked
24 out Sierra Leone by the ECOMOG. Taylor became irritated.
11:45:26 25 He became upset. So you can say: But what is this? I
26 mean, why these guys could not hold their defensive. I
27 fought ECOMOG before and I know what ECOMOG does. When
28 they fight, they will retreat. So what about the
29 situation after he got through playing his tennis. You

1 know he had a very big fence at the backyard of his
2 residence. He had a tennis court. So he plays tennis.
3 So when he got through playing the tennis, in the fence
4 there is -- there is a little entering -- there's an
11:46:01 5 exit. He goes behind there and then go to Benjamin
6 Yeaten's residence. It's not too far, just three minutes
7 walk. He goes there and that's where they had the SSB
8 based radio that you use as long-range to communicate
9 with either Benjamin Yeaten or Bockarie. So he went to
11:46:23 10 inquire what was happening. So Benjamin Yeaten and
11 Sam Bockarie told him, "Look, chief, the ECOMOG have, you
12 know, driven us from Freetown, so we are now set in
13 defensive. But we are running out of arms and
14 ammunitions" --

11:46:41 15 MR JORDASH: Can we just slow down a little bit, please?

16 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. I'm sorry, counsellor. I'll go over
17 that.

18 MR SANTORA:

19 Q. You stated this is now -- you were talking about February
11:46:49 20 1998?

21 A. Right, February 28. Now I can recall - February 28th, to
22 be specific.

23 Q. What precisely happened?

24 A. When he talk on the radio, after he was informed that
11:47:05 25 this is what happen, that ECOMOG have kicked the AFRC and
26 the RUF out of Freetown, he was a little bit irritated.
27 You could tell from his body movement - the body
28 language. So he -- after the tennis -- he did not even
29 complete playing the tennis, as he usually does. He

1 said, "Look, let's go down to the radio room
2 immediately," in a really aggressive tone. And we move
3 on to the radio room, and got to Benjamin Yeaten's
4 residence not too far from Charles Taylor's house. He
11:47:57 5 went in the radio room.
6 PRESIDING JUDGE: Keep the -- [microphone not activated]
7 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. He went in the radio room. The
8 radio room is not too far from Charles Taylor's
9 residence. That's the White Flower in Kongo Town, about
11:48:11 10 two minutes away from the White Flower. When we got to
11 Benjamin Yeaten's house, in a small room -- in a room
12 where they have the radio mounted, it's an SSB
13 long-range, sophisticated communication set. Taylor
14 begin to communicate with Benjamin Yeaten first. He
11:48:41 15 asked Benjamin Yeaten what happens. The SSB radio is
16 very loud; it has very good volume, and you can listen to
17 it. It can be as far as over there.
18 So he said, "Well, chief, we are under attack by
19 ECOMOG, and the RUF and the AFRC have retreated from
11:49:03 20 Freetown." He said, "Well, that's good. But what you
21 need to do now is -- in fact put Bockarie on." He told
22 Benjamin Yeaten to put Bockarie on the long-range,
23 and Bockarie got on the long-range. He said, "Look,
24 Sam Bockarie, you and Benjamin Yeaten will report here
11:49:23 25 immediately. You will make sure to fortify and set a
26 strong defensive. Tell -- give the instructions to your
27 men and you hold to that ground until you can meet me so
28 that we can give you resupplies, period. Report here
29 tomorrow and we'll take care of that issue." And then he

1 took off. And then when we came back--

2 MR SANTORA:

3 Q. Before you go on, did Bockarie --

4 A. We came back. He gave the instruction to Bockarie.

11:49:47 5 Q. And what did Bockarie say?

6 A. Bockarie responded, "Yes, sir." I mean, normally when a

7 senior commander's speaking to you militarily, once you

8 understood the order clearly, you don't need to ask --

9 there's no need to ask when you understood the question.

11:50:03 10 You say, "Yes sir." And that was all I heard: "Yes,

11 sir." Because the order was he and Benjamin Yeaten

12 should report to White Flower the next day.

13 Q. Okay. The next day --

14 A. Of course, the next day Sam Bockarie and Benjamin Yeaten,

11:50:21 15 with his aides -- now, let me just get this very clear.

16 Whenever Sam Bockarie came, he will have some of senior

17 commanders along with him. Firstly, they will start to

18 Benjamin Yeaten's house and, according to the military

19 chain, Benjamin Yeaten is the representation -- the

11:50:45 20 representative to the NPFL, Bockarie and RUF. So he will

21 ever bring Bockarie along with one or two person. And

22 since this was emergency, he wanted to make sure

23 that Bockarie, as a commander, should give him a full

24 detail -- a full briefing as to what really happen before

11:51:05 25 they retreated from Sierra Leone. So they brought him

26 in --

27 Q. So who specifically came?

28 A. Bockarie.

29 Q. And who else came with -- did anybody else come

1 with Bockarie?

2 A. At that time?

3 Q. At this specific instance, yes.

4 A. There were some RUF commanders that came, but Bockarie

11:51:23 5 came in first. And then later on -- Bockarie was the one

6 that came in with Benjamin Yeaten. But the rest of the

7 RUF group were outside, because I was inside when

8 Benjamin Yeaten and Bockarie entered.

9 Q. Do you know which RUF commanders came with Bockarie?

11:51:41 10 A. Yes. After the meeting was over with, and they

11 instructed Kai to go and supply the arms and ammunitions,

12 it was when we follow Kai outside, and then I saw Kallon,

13 Issa Sesay and some other RUF fighters that were there

14 willing to go behind White Flower where they had the

11:51:59 15 storage of weapons and ammunitions.

16 Q. Okay. I want you to tell the Court now, after Bockarie

17 reported to Taylor --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- at this time in February 1998 --

11:52:12 20 A. Right.

21 Q. -- what happened after he got there?

22 A. After he got there, he explain -- he said, "Well, chief,

23 ECOMOG came in with heavy fire; heavy pieces of

24 artillery. And, quite frankly, the -- the -- the

11:52:29 25 suppression -- the fire -- the firing suppression, the

26 power that came in was heavy. So we had to retreat."

27 Q. Okay. Before you tell exactly what was said, who was

28 present during this exchange?

29 A. The aide-de-camps were present; Benjamin Yeaten was

1 there; Kadiyatu Darrous was there; Musa N'Jai was there;
2 the Chief of Protocol, Musa Sesay, was also present.
3 There were lot of other people -- Osebio Demmey. There
4 were other people there besides Benjamin Yeaten
11:53:02 5 and Bockarie, Sam.
6 Q. Where exactly were you?
7 A. Inside the fence, White Flower.
8 Q. Okay. Now, what was said exactly?
9 A. And after that, when they reach our conclusions, say
11:53:12 10 well, look -- I was standing there and he said, "Well
11 Tarnue, in a situation like this, what will happens?" I
12 said, "Well, from the best of my knowledge, as far as I
13 know, once they begin to attack -- and as an
14 international force, if the firing is heavy, you cannot
11:53:31 15 continue to stay if you can't stand the weight of the
16 fire. All you have to do is retreat. You have to
17 continue to retreat until you can reconsolidate." So he
18 said, "Well, look, I think you are quite correct." He
19 said, "Look, Sam Bockarie I think that is the
11:53:48 20 reconsolidation you are on right now. So what you need
21 to do now is make sure you get your supply as quickly as
22 possible. The helicopter is gonna take you back to
23 Kolahun, and you have to find a way to make sure that you
24 set a strong defensive. You're gotta hold the ground,
11:54:04 25 you gotta hold the district. Because this is the only
26 means," and he was talking --
27 Q. What ground -- what ground, what district was he
28 referring to?
29 A. He was talking about Kono District -- his defensive --

1 making sure that ECOMOG will fight, but they should never
2 let them retreat from their defensive, because he
3 specifically mention that -- he say, "Look, this is where
4 you are getting your supplies. This is where you getting
11:54:27 5 whatever arms and ammunitions to be able to get an
6 account when this things are sell, the diamonds. You be
7 able to get arms and ammunition to continue with the war.
8 Outside of that, once they drive you from their
9 defensive, you may end up coming back to Liberia and it's
11:54:44 10 gonna pose a little problem."

11 Q. So he -- when he was referring to the defensive --
12 setting up a defensive, he was referring to Kono
13 District; is that correct?

14 A. Yeah, when I talk about defensive and the fortifications
11:54:58 15 of their stronghold, that's Kono District.

16 Q. Did he say anything else about the defensive -- setting
17 up a defensive?

18 A. Well, he just said, "Secure the place." I mean, all it
19 is, you -- you are defending something again, like
11:55:09 20 somebody attacking you and you have to defend. And so
21 you can't leave -- somebody want to take you from your
22 house and you say, "I can't leave my house, and I will
23 have to fight. Even if you kill me, I will have to
24 remain there." And that was his last instructions.

11:55:20 25 Q. Did Taylor say anything else to Bockarie in your presence
26 at this meeting?

27 A. Well, all he did was told him, "Look, I'm going to
28 resupply you and you go back and make sure that, when you
29 get back, you should set up a defensive and fight back,

1 and call me that you have recapture." So Kai, who was
2 there --
3 Q. Well, before you -- before you proceed, what did Bockarie
4 say to this?
11:55:45 5 A. Bockarie say, "Yes, sir." He didn't actually follow. He
6 say, "Yes, sir." And after he explain that the people
7 drove them from there, and Taylor say, "You have to go
8 back, you setting up your -- your -- your reconsolidation
9 plan, and you have to go back and make sure that you
11:56:00 10 coordinate with Paul Koroma, and make sure to clear place
11 and hold back the ground. So I will instruct Kai now to
12 go and supply. What is the list of items that you need
13 as usual?"
14 Q. Who was Kai?
11:56:16 15 A. Kai is the supply -- is like a personal aide to Charles
16 Taylor, but he was also one of the supply sergeants. His
17 code was Message. So wherever he went, when they say
18 "Message, report," then he would definitely come.
19 Q. So what specifically transpired -- what specifically did
11:56:37 20 Taylor say about Kai in this meeting?
21 A. Well, he told him -- he said, "Go ahead and
22 issue Bockarie and Benjamin Yeaten." He already said
23 "Kai, let's go and get the issue real quick so we can
24 take off tomorrow morning." And they went out there that
11:56:54 25 very night and --
26 Q. Who went?
27 A. That very night behind the White Flower and they were
28 issued.
29 Q. Okay. Where did they go behind the White Flower?

1 A. All right. It's -- it's just about 2 minutes, get
2 outside the fence, and there's a big warehouse, almost
3 about the size of this. And they have stockpiles of
4 ammunitions down the hole -- keyhole. It's -- it's not
11:57:14 5 -- it's attached to Charles Taylor's residence.
6 Q. And who exactly went per this instruction of Taylor?
7 A. Benjamin Yeaten. In fact I was there also, together with
8 the SS personnel, and it was at night. We wanted to make
9 sure that what was being delivered, you know, was the
11:57:32 10 actual materials needed. So Kai was there and he was
11 issuing as he kept writing, until finally it was almost
12 the morning hour between 2.00, 3.00 o'clock in the
13 morning.
14 Q. And who did they give these --
11:57:47 15 A. They give these items to Sam Bockarie and Benjamin
16 Yeaten. And some of the RUF personnel went along and,
17 like I say, Issa Sesay and Morris Kallon, together with
18 few other persons -- the Gbarngaries and different RUF
19 fighters to include the NPFL fighters that came along.
11:58:06 20 There were approximately between 20, 25, but they came
21 with different --
22 Q. And did they all go to this warehouse?
23 A. Not everybody went to the warehouse. Few were inside --
24 the commanders concerned to sign for the items, but to
11:58:19 25 get these items -- cause everybody single filed, went in
26 there to pick one item each, and it was systematic. One
27 item each and carry back in the --
28 Q. Do you know what specific items were issued on this --
29 A. Well, there were ammunitions, arms, and there were rocket

1 rounds.

2 Q. What type of ammunitions and arms?

3 A. AK47s. And they have rocket round, like RPGs, and they

4 have some hand grenades. And then there was some loose

11:58:49 5 ammunitions also in a box, because after the elections,

6 disarmament went on, but, you know, before the

7 disarmament Taylor instructed that they should try to

8 secure some of those weapon that he had. So those were

9 the weapons that they were transporting now from Gbarnga

11:59:10 10 and other places to be brought over.

11 Q. Okay. After these weapons were issued out of Kai's

12 warehouse, where exactly did they go?

13 A. From there they -- we drove them to -- early that morning

14 around 5.30, 6.00 we drove them to Springfield airfield.

11:59:30 15 Q. And when you got to Springfield airfield where did the

16 weapons go?

17 A. They loaded the weapon on the camouflage helicopter that

18 was flown by Ukrainians -- these Ukrainian pilots. And

19 on the helicopter -- it was echo, lima, echo, golf,

11:59:48 20 alpha, lima; it's a big helicopter. And they flew them

21 over to Kolahun.

22 Q. On this specific instance did you go with them to

23 Kolahun?

24 A. No, at that time. That was -- that was around April --

12:00:03 25 March, April. I did not go with them.

26 Q. Okay.

27 A. The only send for them --

28 Q. Who went on the helicopter back to Kolahun on this

29 instance?

1 A. Mike Guan -- Mike Guan -- Mike Guan from the NPFL came.
2 Duopo Mekanzon did not come, but Benjamin Yeaten was
3 there together with some of these RUFs. But the ATU's
4 and few SS were assigned, like Samuel Paye; and then you
12:00:27 5 have Rebel Killers. They had their names. These people
6 were assigned the helicopter to go back along, and then
7 they have to come back with the Ukrainian pilots to bring
8 helicopter back to Springfield airfield.
9 Q. Okay. You said that, aside from Bockarie, there were
12:00:47 10 other RUF commanders present during this time; is that
11 correct?
12 A. Besides?
13 Q. Aside from Bockarie --
14 A. Beside Bockarie, yes.
12:00:53 15 Q. -- did these -- did these RUF commanders also go to
16 Springfield?
17 A. Yeah, they all went together. They all -- they all came
18 together and they all went together. I mean, I did not
19 interact -- actually, once in a while, Sam Bockarie would
12:01:08 20 say, "General, how you doing. You look sharp in your
21 uniform," and he will try to get me some of these
22 ten-packet videos to take and what have you. But
23 I saw Bockarie, I saw Sesay, I saw Kallon, and some other
24 people. And I saw several of them. And even Gbao --
12:01:29 25 when Gbao starting -- I saw Gbao as well.
26 Q. Let's stick to in this specific instance.
27 A. Yeah.
28 Q. When you took them to Springfield, you stated you did not
29 go on the helicopter back with them?

1 A. No, I did not go in the helicopter, because the directive
2 was they should come and then go back with the required
3 supplies and logistics needed to combat the situations.
4 Q. Did the RUF commanders that were there go back on the
12:01:48 5 helicopter?
6 A. They all went back together, because they had to go and
7 accomplish the mission and take back their positions.
8 Q. Okay. You stated that this helicopter, to your
9 understanding, flew to Kolahun; is that correct?
12:02:08 10 A. Yeah, Kolahun -- that was the destination, because that
11 was the central command point for Benjamin Yeaten in
12 coordination with the RUF and the AFRC.
13 Q. And you stated that one Kai provided the weapons --
14 A. Yeah, Kai.
12:02:23 15 Q. -- in this instance?
16 A. Kai normally supplies the weapons, based on the
17 instructions of Taylor, because he keeps -- actually he's
18 I think a sophomore or junior student at the university.
19 So he keeps a very good record.
12:02:37 20 Q. I -- I want -- okay.
21 A. Yeah, so Taylor trusted him. And his code was Message,
22 M-E-S-S-A-G-E, Message.
23 Q. Okay. I want to focus your mind on the time after the
24 AFRC coup.
12:02:52 25 MR CAMMEGH: Before we do, I wonder if the witness would spell
26 'Kai' for us, please.
27 THE WITNESS: Well, Kai is K-A-I, Kai. K-A-I, Kai. Okay.
28 PRESIDING JUDGE: K-A?
29 THE WITNESS: K-A-I, Kai, 'I', Kai.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: I know. K-A-I.
2 THE WITNESS: 'I', yeah, India.
3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Okay.
4 THE WITNESS: India, as in India.
12:03:20 5 MR SANTORA:
6 Q. Do you know Kai's full name?
7 A. No, honestly I can't remember Kai's full name now. But
8 his code was Message.
9 Q. Okay.
12:03:38 10 A. So we all got used to calling Kai, Kai, Kai, and nobody
11 wanted to know -- like commonly they call me General
12 Tarnue. Sometimes they say "Ranger 1"; they don't even
13 call my name. They say, "Ranger 1, Ranger 1," and that's
14 it, so you got used to people until sometimes they don't
12:03:58 15 even ask for your real name.
16 Q. Okay. Now, you stated that the arms were taken by
17 helicopter.
18 A. Yes.
19 Q. From Springfield to Kolahun, Liberia?
12:04:07 20 A. Exactly.
21 Q. And on this instance you did not accompany the
22 helicopter?
23 A. No, I did not.
24 Q. Did you ever accompany the helicopter to Kolahun?
12:04:17 25 A. Yeah, sure. That was -- that was -- that was, to be
26 specific, in May. That was in May. May of ninety --
27 May of 1998. I can't remember.
28 Q. Well, let me ask you, how many times did you accompany
29 the helicopter from Springfield to Kolahun after the AFRC

1 coup?

2 A. It was three times.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE:

4 Q. It's in May 1998, the first time?

12:04:44 5 A. No, the first time was September '97.

6 Q. When you accompanied --

7 A. Yeah, we went along. That was --

8 Q. No, no, no. To accompany the helicopter to Kolahun --

9 Kolahun. What about Kolahun?

12:04:55 10 A. With Daniel Chea.

11 Q. Yes. With you -- you?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Yes, what was the first time?

14 A. Sir.

12:05:02 15 Q. What was the first time you accompanied all --

16 A. That was in September -- September 1997, before the

17 inauguration took place - September 1997 - along with the

18 Defence Minister Daniel Chea, along with Mike Guan.

19 MR SANTORA:

12:05:50 20 Q. General, you stated the first time you personally

21 accompanied the helicopter was September 1997; is that

22 correct?

23 A. Yeah, with the Defence Minister.

24 Q. I want you to describe to the Court exactly what happened

12:06:01 25 on this instance.

26 A. When we got there, apparently this time Bockarie and his

27 aides, together with Benjamin Yeaten--

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: The helicopter took you to where?

29 THE WITNESS: Sir?

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: The helicopter took you to where?

2 MR SANTORA:

3 Q. From the beginning to end describe where you went from --

4 [Overlapping microphones]

12:06:26 5 A. No, no. The helicopter from Springfield -- from

6 Springfield airfield straight to Kolahun -- from

7 Springfield airfield straight to Kolahun.

8 MR SANTORA:

9 Q. Okay, let's start from Springfield. Okay?

12:06:36 10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. September '97?

12 A. Yeah, September of '97.

13 Q. What time of the day did you leave; do you remember?

14 A. We left very early. It was below 9.00 -- between 8.00 to

12:06:47 15 8.30.

16 Q. What did you have on the helicopter?

17 A. On the helicopter we have additional arms with

18 ammunitions, with food supplies, with some gasolines, and

19 some fuel, oil; that Taylor personally instructed Daniel

12:07:06 20 Chea, because he was the General Coordinator and Defence

21 Minister. And so we wanted to make sure that these

22 things were properly delivered.

23 Q. The arms on this helicopter?

24 A. Yeah, yeah, they were on the helicopter.

12:07:16 25 Q. Do you remember how many boxes on this trip,

26 approximately?

27 A. On that trip I can't really remember. There were several

28 other boxes with loose AK's that were being sent for from

29 Gbarnga, and they were all lubricated. And then they put

1 it on with approximately 50 -- 50 bags of rice, with some
2 Argo oil mixed with different stuff, cigarettes, and all
3 these other things so. There was lot of stuff on the
4 helicopter.

12:07:48 5 Q. Okay. On this trip in September 1997 about how many of
6 you were on the helicopter -- how many people going to
7 Kolahun?

8 A. Danny Chea with his aides, and I had two aides. Danny
9 Chea had three or four. Major Massaquoi was head of his
12:08:04 10 team. And then Mike Guan came in, because the
11 instruction was Bockarie and Benjamin Yeaten, they all
12 should remain on the frontline because they had to make
13 sure to recapture the defensive. So they all were
14 waiting.

12:08:20 15 Q. But this is in September '97?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. When you went there?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. First of all, who flew the helicopter in
12:08:27 20 September '97; do you remember?

21 A. Who was in helicopter.

22 Q. Who flew the helicopter?

23 A. Ukrainians -- they were from Ukraine. These were
24 Ukrainian pilots. They were hired by Taylor.

12:08:39 25 Q. Do you remember how many there were?

26 A. There were two - the pilot and the co-pilot.

27 Q. What happened in September '97 on this first trip that
28 you accompanied when you landed in Kolahun?

29 A. When we landed in Kolahun, Sam Bockarie and his

1 bodyguards were all there, together with Benjamin Yeaten
2 and his bodyguard. Because body -- Benjamin Yeaten had
3 the RUF aides and then mixed with the NPFL. So there
4 were enough manpower there so --

12:09:24 5 Q. Where were they specifically?

6 A. They were in Kolahun. That's where Benjamin Yeaten had
7 his headquarter. He had his headquarter in Kolahun.

8 Q. And who from the RUF was in Kolahun on this trip in
9 September '97?

12:09:38 10 A. Now, this time it was Benjamin and Sam Bockarie and his
11 aides, this time around.

12 Q. Okay. And when you landed, did you meet Sam Bockarie,
13 his aides, and -- [Overlapping microphones]

14 A. Yeah, he was -- there were there and Benjamin Yeaten.

12:09:51 15 They were all sitting waiting, because they communicated
16 that the chopper would be landing in about two, three
17 hours so --

18 Q. What happened, then, when you got there?

19 A. When we got there the chopper landed and Benjamin Yeaten
12:10:05 20 led them to the chopper and they unloaded -- they
21 offloaded all the stuffs, took them to the place. And
22 then, after 30 minutes, we flew back.

23 Q. Was there any -- did you witness any conversation or
24 communication between Chea or anybody else?

12:10:23 25 A. No, Bockarie -- Benjamin Yeaten called -- I mean, not
26 Benjamin Yeaten -- Danny Chea, the coordinator, he called
27 Benjamin Yeaten and Sam Bockarie. He said, "Look, the
28 chief tell we should bring these other things. I know
29 the first one you brought, I know is all done in May --

1 April -- I mean April. So you have to hold on to this.
2 He's busy right now with this inaugural programme,
3 because presidents were coming and he hasn't -- so he say
4 we should bring this. But make sure that you keep your
12:10:56 5 defensive." And that's it, we left.

6 Q. Okay. You said that Sam Bockarie came with his aides; is
7 that correct?

8 A. Yeah, aides, yeah.

9 Q. Do you know the names of any of those aides?

12:11:10 10 A. No, I can't -- I didn't ask for the names of the aides.
11 I only concerned with the - I would never have too much
12 time to go to cross-examination asking for names, but I
13 knew Sam Bockarie very well.

14 Q. You stated that this was the first time you personally
12:11:24 15 accompanied a helicopter?

16 A. Yeah, 1997, yes, September.

17 Q. When was the second time you accompanied the helicopter?

18 A. The second time was after they came in March or April for
19 the supplies and they went back. The second time was in
12:11:47 20 May of 1998.

21 [12:16 HS051004C]

22 Q. Okay, I want you to describe to the Court this time
23 exactly what happened. First of all, where did you take
24 off from this time?

12:15:40 25 A. When we took off from Springfield, the same helicopter,
26 the same pilots, and Daniel Chea with his same aide and I
27 had two aides so -- you know, it was like covert
28 operation so he didn't want too many people to be aware.

29 Q. Do you remember the time of the day that you took off on

1 this second trip?

2 A. The time of the day we took off on the second trip, Mark

3 Guan was also there -- it was between 8 and 9 normally,

4 because it was getting clearer.

12:16:10 5 Q. 8 and 9 in the morning or the evening?

6 A. In the morning.

7 Q. And you flew to where?

8 A. He flew back to Kolahun. That was May '98 -- May of

9 1998.

12:16:24 10 Q. When you arrived in Kolahun in May of 1998 what happened?

11 A. Sam Blockarie and Benjamin Yeaten - they came over with

12 their aides and some of the fighters -- the NPFL fighters

13 that were there and took delivery of the arms and

14 foodstuffs and other things as usual.

12:16:48 15 Q. Who specifically was with Sam Bockarie and Benjamin

16 Yeaten?

17 A. At that time it was their aide and men. So that was

18 1997, May.

19 Q. I am asking you about the June --

12:17:00 20 A. I mean, 1998 May, sorry

21 Q. Okay. And when, landed in Kolahun and you met Bockarie

22 in the town, what happened then?

23 A. Well, they received their delivery and Benjamin Yeaten

24 received all of the goods and turned it over to Sam

12:17:24 25 Bockarie from Daniel Chea. So right after that we went

26 back to White Flower and made a report through -- because

27 he was the spokesman -- Daniel Chea was then the Defence

28 minister - the coordinator. So I was only there to

29 observe.

1 Q. Okay. After you offloaded the weapons -- first of all,
2 how long did it take you to offload the weapons?
3 A. It took less than two hours.
4 Q. And where did you offload these weapons to?
12:18:02 5 A. The weapon was offloaded from the field to Benjamin
6 Yeaten's -- he had a big fence with a very big living
7 room and they offloaded all these things and packed them
8 there.
9 Q. And this Benjamin Yeaten's --
12:18:16 10 A. Yes, Benjamin Yeaten.
11 Q. Compound -- is this is Kolahun?
12 A. Yes, yes, a very big compound; that's where the
13 commissioner was staying, the commissioner for Kolahun.
14 That's his residence he was using as his operational
12:18:28 15 office.
16 Q. And after you offloaded, you said you returned back
17 there.
18 A. Yes, we went to back to Springfield airfield, and the
19 cars were there to pick us to our respective points at
12:18:42 20 White Flower.
21 Q. You stated that you personally travelled in this
22 helicopter three times and you described two instances.
23 Can you tell the Court about the third time you travelled
24 on a helicopter?
12:18:56 25 A. Well, the third one it was getting -- it was getting
26 devastating, because they could not regain the ground
27 anymore, and situation was getting deteriorated. So what
28 happened -- ECOMOG continued to push them back and then
29 Sam Bockarie -- it was approaching after '98 going

1 upward. They could not really regain Freetown because
2 the tension was tough; ECOMOG was busy -- and I think
3 government forces here was pressurising them --
4 definitely they kept retreating. They retreated until
12:19:36 5 Sam Bockarie did not even come back, because December Sam
6 Bockarie, I think 1999, maybe November or December, but
7 Sam Bockarie retreated and never returned. I mean, he
8 retreated with so many numbers of the RUF and so the
9 second trip was between '99 when I was then nominated to
10 be --

11 Q. Well, I'm asking you about the third trip.

12 A. I mean, the third trip -- excuse me, sorry. The third
13 trip -- sorry, the second trip was in May '98 and the
14 third trip was between '99 and 2000. Like I said the
12:20:10 15 years, I just have to take time because 14 years back is
16 a --

17 Q. Then you can take your time and go slowly.

18 A. So 1999 when I was nominated to become the Commanding
19 General of the Armed Forces, Sam Bockarie was already out
12:20:28 20 because I remember we celebrated the Christmas together
21 and I saw him. So he didn't go back.

22 Q. This third trip --

23 A. And between '99, 2000 that was when we made the third
24 trip.

12:20:44 25 Q. Okay, I want you to tell the Court about --

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: When you say you were nominated to become
27 the Commanding General of the Armed Forces, you would say
28 the Commanding General of the Liberian Armed Forces?

29 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Of the Liberian Armed Forces?

2 A. Yes, sir. The AFL; the Armed Forces of Liberia. So I

3 was nominate '99 December, I can't remember the date. So

4 2000, January I was finally commissioned, but before I

12:21:18 5 received the commission, within the period of that time,

6 I remember we flew to Kolahun --

7 MR SANTORA:

8 Q. Okay, I want you to describe that trip.

9 A. And when he got to Kolahun, of course Sam Bockarie was no

12:21:22 10 more there, Benjamin Yeaten was still there, Mark Guan

11 was there, Kallon was there, Issa Sesay was there with

12 few of the RUF fighters and the NPFL. So they signed

13 for all of the contingency -- the consignments that were

14 taken over there through Daniel Chea as before.

12:21:48 15 Q. This third trip where did it take off from?

16 A. We took off from the airfield, because that time the

17 situation was getting intensified.

18 Q. Again, I know this is repetitive, but what time of the

19 day did you take off for the third trip?

12:22:04 20 A. Well, the normal time 8:00 o'clock, 8:30, 9:00. I mean,

21 I can't be too specific on time, but in between then; the

22 morning hours.

23 Q. And what happened after you arrived in Kolahun?

24 A. When we arrived in Kolahun, as usual Benjamin Yeaten

12:22:24 25 came, but this time instead of Sam Bockarie because we

26 left him in Monrovia, it was Issa Sesay, Kallon and few

27 of the RUF personnel that came in to receive the weapons

28 from the helicopter to Benjamin Yeaten's compound, where

29 the commissioner's house was and then from there we left

1 them there and I'm sure they signed for it and took it to
2 the war front.
3 Q. Okay, did you personally see Issa Sesay?
4 A. Yes, I saw Issa Sesay.
12:23:04 5 Q. But on this particular trip, who received the weapons?
6 A. They received the weapons together with Benjamin Yeaten.
7 Normally, Benjamin Yeaten is Charles Taylor's
8 representative so he receives all supply that come in,
9 and then from him it goes down to the RUF commander.
12:23:30 10 That was the systematic procedure.
11 Q. Okay. On this third trip, how long did you stay in
12 Kolahun?
13 A. Normally we don't stay more than 30 to 45 minutes, then
14 we go right back.
12:23:38 15 Q. So on this third trip you stayed 30 to --
16 A. We went back right away to Springfield airfield and then
17 we continued our routine when the plane dropped us, and
18 then we go back to White Flower.
19 JUDGE BOUTET:
12:23:52 20 Q. I do have one question if I may for clarification. You
21 did mention around -- when you were discovering this
22 third trip to Kolahun that Bockarie was not there any
23 more. You have mentioned something and on these lines
24 that Bockarie had retreated so many times; that he was
12:24:12 25 there. So where is Bockarie -- is he now permanently
26 living in Monrovia; is it?
27 A. Chief Bockarie -- 1999 I remember I saw Bockarie. We
28 had -- they had a Christmas party at Benjamin Yeaten's
29 house and I was there for the security group as according

1 to the Chief Security Director, Benjamin Yeaten, he said,
2 that was a job well-done, but he said he was already on
3 the front line, apparently he instructed his deputy, Joe
4 Montgomery to take the initiative. So at that time
12:24:36 5 Bockarie was in Monrovia until I became commanding
6 general. My connection with White Flower was slowing
7 down, because I had to report directly to the chief of
8 staff in keeping with the chain of command, so -- but
9 Bockarie was within Monrovia. Even when I was commanding
12:25:22 10 general, once in a while I would pass by to White Flower
11 and I saw Bockarie. In fact, at last he became one of
12 the aide-de-camp at White Flowers.

13 Q. But what, at that time when you fly for the third time to
14 Kolahun, is the relationship, if any, between Bockarie
12:25:46 15 and those that you described that you saw at Kolahun?

16 You mentioned Sesay, Kallon and others, what's the
17 relationship between Bockarie and these people?

18 A. What's the any what, sir?

19 Q. What's the relationship -- the command structure --

12:26:00 20 A. Or the relationship between --

21 Q. These people.

22 A. You mean Sesay and Kallon?

23 Q. That's right; RUF commanders.

24 A. They were all members of the RUF. Bockarie was the
12:26:12 25 overall boss, and apparently when Bockarie left I guess
26 Sesay and Kallon and the rest of the RUF fighters and the
27 AFRC as well, they begin to take over the command, but I
28 physically saw Kallon, Sesay with some other people that
29 were from the NPFL, Mark Guan, Nixon Gay [phonetic] and

1 all of these people were together when they received the
2 supply. Benjamin Yeaten signs for it and they took it
3 over to the compound where Benjamin Yeaten resides.

4 MR SANTORA:

12:27:06 5 Q. Okay. General, after this third trip, did you ever
6 personally make any other trips on a helicopter to
7 Kolahun?

8 A. No, that was only the three trips I can remember that I
9 really went with Daniel Chea and based on Taylor's
12:27:24 10 instructions: "Go ahead and see what is happening." So
11 I flew with Daniel Chea on three consecutive times:
12 September of 1997, May of 1998, I can't be specific about
13 the date, and 1999 -- between '99 and 2000. Again, I
14 can't be too specific about the month, because at that
12:27:40 15 time my nomination came in and then I was trying to work
16 towards the commissioning and all these kinds of things.
17 So it was like I couldn't remember which one of the
18 months, but it was between 1999 and 2000. But at that
19 time Sam Bockarie was already out of -- he was out of
12:28:14 20 Sierra Leone completely; he was within Monrovia because I
21 saw him physically.

22 Q. General, you stated that in 1992 -- in October of '92 --
23 earlier you stated that you, for the first time,
24 personally saw diamonds --

12:28:32 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. -- being brought to Taylor?

27 A. Right.

28 Q. I want to focus now on the time after the AFRC coup.

29 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Okay. And from the AFRC coup time and the years onwards,
2 did you know of diamonds being brought to Taylor?
3 A. Well, that was after the inauguration. The AFRC was
4 being kicked out of Sierra Leone and then Benjamin
12:29:04 5 Yeaten, Sam Bockarie came in March/April, I quite
6 remember, 1997 and we had a trip there, but before then,
7 the 1997 first trip after Benjamin Yeaten and Sam
8 Bockarie came for the supplies, the inauguration came in,
9 we were very busy. After the inaugural ceremony of
12:29:30 10 Charles Taylor and he was then put in office as
11 legitimate president of the Republic of Liberia, November
12 again, there was another courtesy call. This time,
13 again, Sankoh was never there because he was still in
14 Nigeria -- there was another courtesy call, they brought
12:29:48 15 in along this time Talal El-Ndine --
16 Q. Can you slow down. You say Talal --
17 A. Talal is a Lebanese man. He was one of the principal
18 financier lieutenant to Charles Taylor. So this time he
19 was around, and when the call came -- the radio call
12:29:58 20 came--
21 PRESIDING JUDGE:
22 Q. Can you spell his name, please?
23 A. Sir.
24 Q. Can you spell the name of this Lebanese.
12:30:20 25 A. Talal T-A-L-L-A-H. [Sic]
26 Q. Yes.
27 A. El-Ndine, well I can't quite spell it but I will try.
28 Q. Try.
29 A. A-U-E-D-E-N [sic] it should be something, but he is Talal

1 El-Ndine. Maybe from the phonetic, we will try to get
2 the right spelling.
3 Q. What was he?
4 A. Yes.
12:30:48 5 Q. You say he was chief financier of what -- of Taylor?
6 A. He was one of the financiers. Whenever Taylor wants to
7 give money to other people that has to travel, he gave
8 money to the people. One of Charles Taylor's personal
9 financier.
12:31:02 10 MR SANTORA:
11 Q. Okay. General, let me ask you the question again and I
12 will try to ask you more clear question. You said that
13 in 1992, you saw --
14 A. Can I drink a little water?
12:31:26 15 Q. Of course.
16 A. Thank you.
17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Now, look there is a trend. He brought in
18 Talal El-Ndine as one of the financiers. Why did that
19 name come in? He was following up a trend.
12:31:44 20 MR SANTORA: I wanted to clarify to make sure the context is
21 as wide as --
22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Right, please, if you can please.
23 MR SANTORA:
24 Q. General, you said that in 1992, you know that RUF leaders
12:32:08 25 brought diamonds to Charles Taylor?
26 A. Yes.
27 Q. I want to focus your mind now on the time -- periods
28 1997, 1998, 1999 - these years.
29 A. Right.

1 Q. During these years, do you know if RUF leaders brought
2 diamonds to Charles Taylor?
3 A. I said that was 1997 to be specific about the month, it
4 was in November after the inaugural programme of Charles
12:32:32 5 Taylor.
6 Q. Okay. So this was the first time you were aware --
7 A. After -- besides '92, that was the second time I saw it,
8 but the first time after Charles Taylor became president.
9 Q. Okay. Do you know whether in 1998 and 1999 did RUF
12:32:54 10 leaders bring diamonds to Charles Taylor?
11 A. Well, let me be very frank to you; I mean they used to
12 come but not all the time I would be there when they
13 brought in diamonds, but the particular incidents that
14 happened when I'm there, that's what I try to remember
12:33:14 15 but they were frequent. When Sankoh was in prisons -- he
16 was on house arrest, the RUF commanders at that time --
17 Taylor being one of the leadership high command
18 controller, command and control was absolutely within his
19 hand -- the RUF. So every instruction that came from the
12:33:36 20 RUF it went down through the SSB radio to the commanders.
21 Q. Okay. Back to what you -- you stated that it was
22 frequent that RUF commanders were coming to Taylor in
23 '97, '98 and '99?
24 A. Yes, frequently, because that was the initial stage --
12:33:48 25 you see, when the initial war started, Foday Sankoh was
26 on the battle front with the men, and definitely Charles
27 Taylor, on the other hand, was on the SSB radio
28 influentially communicating.
29 Q. Let's focus on '97, '98 and '99.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Let's focus on that time period.

3 A. That's what I'm saying.

4 Q. Who -- what RUF leaders would come to Taylor frequently?

12:34:22 5 A. 1997 up to 1999, of course at that time I was already

6 nominated in '99, so I can't say too much on 2000. When

7 he became president, I was assistant chief of staff --

8 G3. I was frequent because [inaudible] that was the

9 initial stage and based on the Abuja accord that we had

12:34:44 10 to restructure the national army.

11 Q. I understand. Which -- but which -- you stated RUF

12 leaders came frequently in 1997, 1998, '99?

13 A. Yes, '97, '98, '99 until finally when Bockarie finally

14 came, but '97, '98 Bockarie was always coming along with

12:35:08 15 few of the RUF commanders.

16 Q. Which RUF commanders came during this time period; '97,

17 '98, 1999?

18 A. Well, sometimes Issa will come, and sometimes Kallon will

19 come and sometime they will come with Benjamin Yeaten,

12:35:20 20 with Nixon Gay [phonetic] Mark Guan, with Adolphus Dulo,

21 with Rolan Duo, with T. Zeamay and these are different

22 because they all were mixed. They classified the NPFL --

23 MR CAMMEGH: I'm sorry, could we have the list of those names

24 slowly spelt out so we can take it down.

12:35:46 25 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes. Learned counsel, let's go -- do that

26 methodically.

27 MR SANTORA: Yes, Your Honour.

28 A. I can go over that.

29 Q. Go over what you just said slowly as to who came --

1 A. Well, these were just names, because you asked for names
2 and if I have to begin to name everybody that were over
3 there perhaps, then it mean we have to start to write the
4 spellings and -- so I just wanted to give one or two
12:36:10 5 names to tell you that yes, these people were present at
6 so - so and so time this event took place and the
7 objective is did these people bring diamonds and you saw
8 that.

9 Q. Okay, slow down for a moment.

12:36:24 10 JUDGE THOMPSON: Learned counsel, are we covering the
11 two-year period 1997 up to 1999?

12 MR SANTORA: That's what I'm trying to focus --

13 JUDGE THOMPSON: Tell him that we are going to be patient. We
14 are not, of course, expecting an exhaustive list, but he
12:36:40 15 must endeavour to follow your requirement of specificity
16 which you want.

17 MR SANTORA:

18 Q. Try to listen to exactly what I am asking about in terms
19 of time periods.

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. Okay?

22 A. Okay.

23 Q. Now, you --

24 MR CAMMEGH: Forgive me. I would like the witness to repeat
12:37:00 25 the list of names he just gave us slowly so I can write
26 them down. I want him to repeat what he just said; to
27 repeat his evidence, to give us a fair chance of getting
28 down what he said.

29 JUDGE THOMPSON: Learned counsel, try and achieve the

1 objective. The Bench, too, is interested in having
2 specificity --
3 MR SANTORA: I understand --
4 JUDGE THOMPSON: -- and also clarity.
12:37:22 5 MR SANTORA: Actually I was trying to do --
6 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, I understand the difficulty.
7 MR SANTORA:
8 Q. General, you mentioned a list of people that used to come
9 to White Flower during this time period of 1997, 1998 and
12:37:24 10 1999. Can you slowly say who those people were?
11 A. In 1997 I said after the inauguration of Charles Taylor,
12 November of the same year, 1997, Sam Bockarie together
13 with Benjamin Yeaten came, but this time they were met by
14 Talal El-Ndine. This is the time Taylor instructed him
12:38:24 15 to go and meet them to Springfield airfield so that they
16 would come along with whatever they have. At that time,
17 he just got inauguration and we were regularly within the
18 fence, and Talal El-Ndine, the SS jeep, 02, black jeep,
19 Land Cruiser Defender drove together with few of the SS
12:38:26 20 cars, went to Springfield airfield and brought in
21 Benjamin Yeaten, Sam Bockarie with few of the aides and
22 they brought them into White Flower.
23 Q. What aides?
24 A. Sam Bockarie's aides.
12:39:08 25 Q. Do you know who they were?
26 A. Well, anybody that comes with Sam Bockarie -- he is the
27 most senior man -- we classified them to be his aide. At
28 that time you have Issa Sesay, you have Kallon, I think
29 Bangura. Then Benjamin Yeaten, you have Mark Guan, you

1 have Say -- Samuel Say and you have several other person
2 that came along, but they were all fighters.

3 Q. Can you -- I know this is a -- but can you spell those
4 names that you just stated?

12:39:46 5 A. You say Samuel Say. Samuel is the normal spelling for
6 Samuel. Say is S-A-Y, and you have Morris, I think it's
7 the same Morris. Well, Kallon is a Sierra Leonean name;
8 it's like Kallon or Orlon -- so I don't know how they
9 spell that. Then -- because we have Sesay so I don't
12:40:16 10 know how to spell Sesay here, but back in Liberia, Sesay
11 is S-A-Y-S-A-Y --

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. -- and Issa is whether it I, one S or thee Ss or two Ss,
14 it should be Issa. Then you have Mark, M-A-R-K Guan.
15 Guan is G-U-A-N. Then you have T. Zeamay, T is by itself,
16 then you have Z-E-A-M-A-Y. Then you have Rolan Duo;
17 R-O-L-A-N D-U-O. So these were people mixed with RUF,
18 NPFL that came along, that were on board the helicopter
19 and they picked them and brought them. That was in '97
12:40:22 20 after the inauguration of Charles Taylor.

21 Q. What happened after they brought these people?

22 A. After they brought them, they took them in and they all
23 went to the living room.

24 Q. Did you go into the living room as well?

12:41:38 25 A. No, I did not go into the living room -- outside.

26 Q. And what happened after they brought them into the living
27 room?

28 A. After they got into the living room, we were outside and
29 that was it. So from there, say few hours and they all

1 came outside. But the few aides that left outside, you
2 know, Musa Sesay and few of those other dignitaries that
3 used to visit Charles Taylor's fence, whenever the RUF
4 personnel comes together with Benjamin Yeaten, they would
12:41:52 5 always say, we brought -- you know when they asked, they
6 say, "We brought some stones for the papay." They use
7 the word, "papay."

8 Q. On this instant, is that what happened?

9 A. Yes. That's what happened; "All right, we brought some
12:42:22 10 stones for the papay."

11 Q. Did you actually see the stones on this instant?

12 A. No, no. I said when they came out -- that's why they
13 sent Talal, and when Talal came in, they had to go into
14 the living room and they went into the living room,
12:42:30 15 because Benjamin Yeaten was there, Sam Bockarie and Talal
16 El-Ndine.

17 Q. When they said "stone for papay", who is "papay"?

18 A. It's something like when you talk about -- you know, we
19 have our own cultural and traditional values and when you
12:42:54 20 want to be very courteous, someone older than you and
21 it's an honourable name --

22 Q. Who were they referring to as papay?

23 A. Charles Taylor. They said, "We brought some stones for
24 papay." That was like, oh, yeah, you brought some stones
12:43:12 25 for papay --

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: But let us get it precisely. Is it -- I am
27 caught up with the pronunciation, you will excuse me
28 please.

29 A. Sir.

1 Q. I'm caught up with the pronunciation, that they brought
2 what to papay?
3 A. Stone.
4 Q. Stones?
5 A. S-T-O-N-E.
6 Q. Right. I'm confused about the pronunciation. You will
7 excuse me.
8 A. Yes, S-T-O-N-E-S. I mean, they were using the nickname
9 for diamonds -- they called it stones. They say we
12:43:34 10 brought some sto --
11 JUDGE THOMPSON:
12 Q. Meaning?
13 A. Meaning diamonds.
14 Q. That's your understanding?
12:44:04 15 A. Exactly, sir.
16 Q. For whom?
17 A. For the papay, and the papay means Charles Taylor.
18 Q. Right.
19 A. And you can sense that with --
20 Q. And you want to venture to spell Papay?
21 A. Papay is P-A-P-A-Y.
22 Q. Right. Thanks.
23 A. And normal papay, you say papa, papay.
24 Q. I understand.
12:44:06 25 A. So -- but you could sense that from the surrounding
26 security, because there is something they used to call --
27 I don't know -- that's when I started to hear that name,
28 they say "point-point diamonds", and these point-point
29 diamonds - these are diamonds that don't have values;

1 they are not up to carat, I think it is less one or two
2 -- so they called it point-point diamonds and they would
3 begin to do -- the normal security [inaudible] would
4 begin to do their transactions with these local ministers
12:44:54 5 and other things. So that was very obvious around White
6 Flowers. That was very obvious.

7 MR SANTORA:

8 Q. I mean, I ask you to explain what you mean that you had a
9 sense --

12:45:02 10 A. Say that again?

11 Q. Explain what you mean that the lower personnel were doing
12 transactions with --

13 A. What I mean the subordinate fighting men -- those that
14 were subordinate -- we are not talking about Sam Bockarie
12:45:24 15 and other junior commanders with him, but those
16 subordinate officers that had the opportunity to be able
17 to -- because when the commander goes home, sometimes the
18 subordinate, too, got to, you know, hustle -- try to get
19 what they can get, and when they get the low point-point
12:45:44 20 diamond according to them, when they come --

21 Q. What do you mean by point-point?

22 A. Well, that's why I said those were the words.
23 Point-point means that -- if you say a decimal point -- a
24 decimal point mathematically is like a small point, like
12:45:44 25 a period, but these diamonds are not up to carats; they
26 are not too valuable. They may be between \$100 and \$200,
27 but this is something they used to buy cigarette. So
28 that's why they were referring to point-point diamonds;
29 it's like glass bottle. I saw some.

1 Q. Who had these point-point diamonds?

2 A. These aides, I can't remember who, but they had these
3 aides that were just -- like some of the NPFL aides like
4 Mark Guan and some other people from the RUF. I couldn't
12:46:28 5 remember everybody's name, but the key leaders that were
6 in charge of the RUF command structure, because when they
7 used to come, these were people with a listing, and these
8 people that are supposed to be entering and definitely
9 you got to know who is entering the fence, and through
12:46:44 10 that media, then of course I get to know who is what. If
11 you talk about Bockarie is entering and who Bockarie is
12 and as a security measure, you got to be very sensitive
13 to know and look at the physique, the face of the people
14 and know their composition, so tomorrow when you are
15 asked, you should be able to identify --

16 Q. Slow down, slow down.

17 A. I'm sorry -- should be able to identify the persons.

18 Q. And you said that the first time you remember RUF leaders
19 coming was after the inauguration --

12:47:16 20 A. Yes of 19 --

21 Q. -- in this time frame; is that correct?

22 A. -- of 1997, yes.

23 Q. When was the next time, if you remember, or was there a
24 next time for RUF leaders coming in a similar fashion?

12:47:30 25 A. Well, like I said, they used to come in and out, but at
26 that time, being the assistant chief of staff, G3 our
27 task was some responsibility. I had to prepare the
28 restructuring organisational chart, a proposal, because I
29 was then the chairman for the restructuring committee.

1 Q. Okay, let me ask --

2 JUDGE THOMPSON: Counsel, you remember you were working

3 within a two-year time frame, 1997 to 1999. We've

4 covered 1997. I wonder whether it would be appropriate

12:48:00 5 to cover 1998.

6 MR SANTORA: That's exactly what I was going to do.

7 Q. General, I want to focus your mind on 1998 now.

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Okay. You just described an occurrence that occurred

12:48:20 10 after the inauguration when RUF leaders came.

11 A. Right.

12 Q. Now let's move on to 1998.

13 A. Okay, sir.

14 Q. Did -- were you aware of any RUF leaders coming to Taylor

12:48:32 15 in 1998?

16 A. Well, yes, they used to come; the RUF - Bockarie was

17 still coming along with his code of officers, but like I

18 say, my interactions was a little bit limited because of

19 my responsibility as assistant chief of staff, G3, though

12:48:52 20 in the morning I will pop in at White Flowers making sure

21 the convoy is set. It was part of my responsibility as

22 plain unit training offers, and when he goes to the

23 executive mansion and then around 4:00 o'clock before he

24 leaves, we would drive on to the mansion, and we would

12:49:08 25 all go to West Flower and [inaudible] -- so I wasn't too

26 frequent to the White Flower as before.

27 Q. Okay. What -- let's focus on 1998 now. What RUF leaders

28 are you aware of that visited white Flower?

29 A. Well, quite frankly, sometimes I used to see, Bockarie,

1 Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon, Augustine, there was another
2 guy who later on they send him to Battala training base.
3 He was also with the anti-terrorist unit now, but he was
4 very, very smart. I just forgot his name, I don't know
12:50:06 5 whether he was Borry or whatever, but he was from the
6 RUF.
7 Q. This is 1998?
8 A. That was 1998, but those days were like just passing by
9 and --
12:50:16 10 Q. In 1998 how frequently were RUF leaders coming to visit
11 Taylor at White Flower?
12 A. Well, like I say, I was very, very busy and I used to
13 come in -- the day I see them -- I mean, I can't say that
14 it was very frequent, because it would be like
12:50:34 15 coincidence, but I saw them once in a while. It was a
16 normal routine anyway because --
17 Q. First of all, how did you know that they were coming?
18 A. How do I know they were coming? When they come normally,
19 they are at White Flower and when they come, you know --
12:50:54 20 you see the differences from a Liberian man, you know,
21 we've been interacting, so I know the differences between
22 the SS, the RUF and our NPFL fighters.
23 Q. Approximately, in 1998 how many times did you see RUF
24 leaders visiting White Flower?
12:51:12 25 A. Well, I can't tell you how many times, counsellor because
26 I would be -- if I tell you five times, six times, seven
27 times, two times -- I can't be too specific about that
28 because, like I say, once in a while when I pop in I will
29 see them and that's it. So I can't tell you exactly how

1 many times.

2 Q. Let me ask you this. Was it more than two times?

3 A. I can say more than one or two times, but it was in and

4 out of '98 going to '99. I was not concentrating on

12:51:42 5 years; I mean, if I tell you '98 I saw them at so many

6 times, '99 I saw them, then I would be putting myself in

7 a difficult predicament, but what I do know is I saw them

8 once in a while between '98, '99 until I became nominated

9 as commanding general of the armed forces.

12:52:00 10 Q. Okay. This time period -- let's focus on 1998/1999.

11 A. Right.

12 Q. Okay. In these time periods when you were aware that RUF

13 leaders were visiting, were they bringing diamonds during

14 these time periods?

12:52:12 15 A. No, I did not really see them coming with -- if they

16 brought diamonds, this time Talal El-Ndine was then

17 mediating, Ibrahim Bah was then mediating, because

18 Ibrahim Bah and Talal El-Ndine were working together. So

19 apparently they were coming in, but my own focus was I

12:52:14 20 had a job responsibility because, in keeping with the

21 Abuja accord, we were supposed to overhaul and

22 restructure the national army so that it can meet

23 international standards. So that was my focus.

24 Q. I understand.

12:52:44 25 JUDGE THOMPSON: So, counsel, the real answer is that I

26 wouldn't -- I did not really know whether during those

27 times, when they came occasionally, they brought

28 diamonds. That would be the state of the evidence; would

29 that be right?

1 A. Say that again, sir?

2 Q. That occasionally when they came during 1998 when you
3 were otherwise engaged, you would not be able to say
4 whether they brought diamonds during that period?

12:53:16 5 A. If I'm saying whether they brought diamonds?

6 MR SANTORA:

7 Q. You are not aware whether --

8 A. I'm not aware, because I can't say they brought diamonds.

9 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, quite. That's what I wanted to make
12:53:22 10 sure that the evidence is that.

11 A. Yes, sir. I'm not aware they brought diamonds. You are
12 quite correct, sir.

13 MR SANTORA:

14 Q. Okay, General, you've mentioned two names and I want to
12:53:38 15 focus on those.

16 A. Yes, go ahead.

17 Q. During this time period of 1997, 1998 and 1999 who was
18 Ibrahim Bah?

19 A. Ibrahim Bah was a mediator -- he was the mediator and
12:53:54 20 coordinator. There was a word -- okay, Charles Taylor
21 usually tell him "my operative." That's the word I was
22 looking for - "operatives". He was his operatives; I
23 mean, he goes in and operate with Bockarie and then come
24 out and meet Benjamin Yeaten and they will all come
12:54:20 25 together and then transact from there. So they call him
26 the operatives. So he was the mediator, he was mediating
27 between Sam Bock -- we was frequent into Sierra Leone.

28 Q. Do you know Ibrahim Bah's background?

29 A. Well, I didn't ask him for his background, but I know he

1 got personality.

2 JUDGE THOMPSON:

3 Q. Who was he mediating between? I mean mediator is a --

4 MR SANTORA:

12:54:44 5 Q. Who do you mean when you say mediator -- between who?

6 A. He mediate between the RUF commander, Benjamin Yeaten and
7 Charles Taylor.

8 Q. What do you mean by mediating?

9 A. Well, mediate. It's like you have a mediatory committee,
12:55:02 10 or you, the counsellor and somebody on the other side,
11 before the person that deals with me -- I'm not there,
12 but my representative is there. You deal with the
13 representative and then from there, when the
14 representative deals with you, then you will come and
12:55:16 15 deal with me. So you are the Mediator. Charles Taylor
16 normally don't go over to Bockarie, but he has his
17 representative. So Ibrahim Bah will mediate with
18 Bockarie together with Benjamin Yeaten and then he would
19 be able to come over and meet Charles Taylor. So he was
12:55:24 20 mediating, transacting, and coordinating --

21 JUDGE THOMPSON: Learned counsel, would coordinator be the
22 better word?

23 MR SANTORA: I think that --

24 THE WITNESS: Exactly.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Coordinator, go-between, you know, something
26 like that, you know.

27 JUDGE THOMPSON: Of course, it's much broader concept.

28 MR SANTORA:

29 Q. You stated that, according to your knowledge Ibrahim Bah

1 would mediate and coordinate --

2 A. Yes, would mediate and coordinate.

3 Q. -- between Taylor and Bockarie?

4 A. Yes, he was Taylor's personal operatives.

12:56:06 5 Q. Do you know more specifically what he would do, or you

6 are not aware?

7 A. Normally, when he come -- I remember on one or two

8 occasions -- I think one or two occasions whenever --

9 especially when he became president, he had to go to

12:56:20 10 Burkina Faso; Taylor had to go to Burkina Faso to tell

11 Blaise Compaore the good news, and in there you have

12 Ibrahim Bah and Talal and several of his dignitaries will

13 fly along with him. On one occasion I remember, we flew

14 together and that was when I got to see the luxurious

12:56:50 15 house he had in Ouagadougou. I was also opportune to

16 visit the full military base in Burkina Faso.

17 Q. You also mentioned an individual name Talal El-Ndine.

18 A. Talal El-Ndine.

19 Q. Now, during 1997, 1998 and 1999 what was his role?

12:57:14 20 A. Talal's role was to be able to make sure whatever --

21 because Taylor was specifically giving him instructions

22 in '97 before I became actively involved with this

23 planning issue '98 and '99, he would tell him to make

24 sure that if he has to fly to go out of the country with

25 some diamonds, he would call Blaise Compaore, and

26 definitely once he calls him, he would say, "I would be

27 sending Talal or Musa Sesay along with Ibrahim Bah." It

28 depends on what person that would be designated to go,

29 and so upon their arrival, they would also -- it would be

1 coordinated on a satellite phone right outside and then
2 he would say, "Okay, Musa Sesay, you have to go with
3 Talal." And then they will fly to Abidjan and that was
4 the Routine, because they had the Fokker 28 Burkina jet
12:57:22 5 that was available to him any time he wanted to use it.
6 Q. I want to again focus you on 1997, 1998 and 1999.
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. During this --
9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please, I'm not -- my notes are not clear on
12:58:34 10 the role of Talal El-Ndine in this. Can the witness take
11 the evidence again, please?
12 MR SANTORA:
13 Q. Can you again explain the role of Talal El-Ndine during
14 this time period?
12:58:40 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: And you should take it slowly, please.
16 MR SANTORA:
17 Q. And slowly.
18 A. All right, sir. Talal El-Ndine is the financier in
19 charge of helping Ibrahim Bah, Musa Sesay to sell the
12:58:54 20 diamonds. The proceeds from the diamonds is being turned
21 over to Talal, and Taylor would instruct him exactly what
22 to be done with the money. I remember when I got injured
23 Taylor instructed Talal to give me some money for my
24 treatment. So every other security personnel that were
12:59:26 25 to receive money from Charles Taylor, it went through
26 Talal assisted by Khadiatu Darus [phonetic] so in other
27 words, Talal was the financier to Charles Taylor, sir.
28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, I'm clear about the role of Talal
29 El-Ndine. Now you were talking of -- we are at 1:00 --

1 past 1:00 already, and I think this is a convenient point
2 to break. So you went into some explanation as to a
3 Fokker airliner which belongs to Burkina Faso --
4 A. Yes, sir.

13:00:34 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: And which was placed at the disposal of, I
6 do not know who. I would like to clarify this situation
7 in the afternoon when we resume at 2.30. So the Court
8 will rise and will resume it sitting at 2.30.
9 [Break taken at 1.01 p.m.]

14:40:56 10 [On resuming at 2.45 p.m.]
11 [HS051004D]

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good afternoon, learned counsel. I think we
13 are resuming our session and Mr Santora, you may wish to
14 continue --

14:49:11 15 MR SANTORA: Thank you, Your Honour.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: -- with the witness and your
17 examination-in-chief, please.

18 MR SANTORA: Thank you, Your Honour.

19 Q. General, before we begin, I again want to remind you to
14:49:25 20 speak slowly when I ask you a question and you respond;
21 okay?
22 A. Okay.

23 Q. General, when we left, you were talking about the role of
24 an individual named Talal El-Ndine?

14:49:45 25 A. Yeah, Talal El-Ndine.

26 Q. And you spoke of an aircraft that he would sometimes
27 fly called a Fokker aircraft; do you remember that?
28 A. My headphone's not working.

29 Q. I'll ask --

1 A. It's not --

2 Q. Can you hear me now?

3 A. Yes, go ahead.

4 Q. Okay. General, before we left, we left in the last

14:50:24 5 session --

6 A. Do you want to listen to it and try and see?

7 Q. Can you hear me speaking now?

8 MR WALKER: Try it again.

9 JUDGE BOUTET: Put it on the other side.

14:50:40 10 MR WALKER: It's all right now.

11 THE WITNESS: It's all right now.

12 MR SANTORA:

13 Q. General, can you hear me now?

14 A. Right.

14:50:47 15 Q. Okay. Before we left, you described to the Court the

16 role of an individual named Talal El-Ndine; do you

17 remember that?

18 A. Right.

19 Q. And you spoke about a Fokker aircraft?

14:51:02 20 A. Yes, Fokker aircraft -- Air Burkina has --

21 Q. Explain what was the role of the Fokker aircraft?

22 A. The role of the Fokker aircraft was to be able to

23 transport delegates from Charles Taylor end, because this

24 was the aircraft that was originally assigned to him, and

14:51:32 25 so when he became president, they would stay -- the

26 duties and responsibilities of Burkina Faso president,

27 whenever he requested, they would make it available for

28 him to go to Burkina Faso.

29 Q. Who owned the aircraft?

1 A. The aircraft was owned by Blaise Compaore, the president
2 for Burkina Faso.

3 Q. Now, in describing the role of Talal El-Ndine, you stated
4 that he was the financier in charge of helping Bah and
14:52:11 5 Musa Sesay sell the diamonds; is that correct?

6 A. Exactly.

7 Q. Where did Bah get these diamonds?

8 A. He got them from Sierra Leone. Those diamonds that were
9 brought in by Bockarie and some of the RUF members --
14:52:27 10 include Sankoh originally -- these diamonds were taken
11 over to Taylor and the original plan was to be able to
12 collect these diamonds and have them sold. So apparently
13 these diamonds were turned over to him, since he was the
14 financier assisted by Musa Sesay, because Ibrahim Bah was
14:52:50 15 mediating at the time, so whatever diamonds collected
16 were being carried to Burkina Faso for all war
17 transactions.

18 Q. How do you know that Bah received these diamonds from
19 Bockarie and from Sierra Leone?

14:53:05 20 A. You mean Bah?

21 Q. How do you know that Bah received these diamonds from
22 Sierra Leone?

23 A. They all came along -- they all came along -- Bah --
24 whenever Bah came into defence, he was like a personal
14:53:21 25 security mediating between Taylor and the RUF. Whenever
26 you saw Ibrahim Bah together with Benjamin Yeaten and Sam
27 Bockarie, it means they came with a parcel. But in 1997,
28 after the election, whenever diamonds were available to
29 be brought, Benjamin Yeaten would call from the borders

1 and the helicopter would pick them up and, when they land
2 to Springfield airfield, Talal would proceed and be able
3 to receive -- Benjamin Yeaten, Bockarie and Ibrahim Bah,
4 and they would all come together.

14:54:10 5 Q. Okay.

6 JUDGE BOUTET: Just a moment. I missed one portion, General.
7 When you said who would call from -- you said that at
8 some given time they would call and then get a
9 helicopter. Who would call from where and to whom?

14:54:26 10 A. Apparently at White Flowers, whenever diamonds are ready,
11 because there is long-range radio available to every
12 military stations. Whenever diamond was ready from the
13 RUF-end, Benjamin Yeaten, Charles Taylor's personal
14 representative at the frontline, would make this call and
14:54:55 15 Taylor would tell them to come over.

16 Q. He would make this call from where?

17 A. He would make the call from Kolahun where he was
18 stationed in Lofa. That's where they had their base and
19 they would come, because Lofa is bordering Sierra Leone,
14:55:10 20 and they would come through from that and come to
21 Kolahun.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: And he would make the call to whom?

23 A. He would make the call directly to the radio operator at
24 Benjamin Yeaten's house and the radio operator would
14:55:23 25 relay the message with the aide-de-camp, and the
26 aide-de-camp would let Charles Taylor know, and he would
27 say, "Let them come over."

28 JUDGE BOUTET:

29 Q. The aide-de-camp was with Charles Taylor at the White

1 Flower?

2 A. At White Flower, and then Charles Taylor would give the
3 order that they should make the chopper available and
4 inform the pilots, because the pilots were living at
14:55:49 5 Hotel Africa where Gus Kouwevhoven was taken care of
6 so --

7 Q. Hotel Africa, this is in Monrovia?

8 A. Yes, Hotel Africa is in Monrovia.

9 Q. Go slowly, because I'm just trying to follow in sequence
14:56:01 10 here.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Some of us have not been to Monrovia.

12 THE WITNESS: Well, I'm sorry. Hotel Africa is in Monrovia.

13 JUDGE BOUTET: So when there's a call to White Flower from
14 Kolahun about diamonds --

14:56:23 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: By Yeaten?

16 A. Yes, sir, Benjamin Yeaten would call from the border that
17 Ibrahim Bah is available with Sam Bockarie, and they
18 would, in turn, call on the radio, because Benjamin
19 Yeaten had a base radio -- SSB radio mounted at his
14:56:42 20 house. So the operator would come in and inform the
21 aide-de-camp there's a call from the border and they
22 would inform the president. At that time he would order
23 that they should make the helicopter available, so they
24 would pick them up and they brought them to Springfield
14:56:59 25 airfield.

26 JUDGE THOMPSON:

27 Q. Would you clarify the message that would be embodied in
28 the call? You said they would call that so-and-so were
29 ready?

1 A. Benjamin Yeaten would call and say that, "We want a
2 chopper to come over, because we have something for the
3 president." That's radio conversation and he would call
4 at once to come, because they have something for the
14:57:22 5 president.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE:

7 Q. You talked of pilots. You talked of pilots --

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. -- who were living in a certain hotel. Who were these
14:58:00 10 pilots?

11 A. The pilots were Ukrainians -- Ukrainians, U-R --

12 Q. I know --

13 A. Okay, that's fine. The Ukrainians, there were
14 two Ukrainians -- but there were four in number, but
14:58:15 15 formally two fly at a time, so they were scheduled.

16 Q. And you say they were lodged in which hotel?

17 A. They were lodged at Hotel Africa -- Hotel Africa, and the
18 hotel was being run by Gus Kouwevhoven -- I think he's a
19 Dutch fellow.

14:58:45 20 Q. That's all right.

21 JUDGE BOUTET:

22 Q. Now, I'm trying to relate this now to flights to Burkina
23 Faso. So what's the connection?

24 A. Okay, sir. When the call is made and they come over,
14:59:31 25 that's Benjamin Yeaten --

26 PRESIDING JUDGE:

27 Q. They come over with the flight?

28 A. No, sir. The call is made and then the helicopter -- the
29 purpose of the call is to be able to make the helicopter

1 available. The helicopter is -- that's the ELG --

2 Q. Never mind, never mind. Please, go ahead. Helicopter,

3 let's just have it.

4 A. The helicopter. The camouflage helicopter would then

14:59:58 5 take off and a few of the SS and the ATU would be

6 assigned, and they would go straight to Kolahun and they

7 would pick Benjamin Yeaten, Ibrahim Bah, together with

8 Sam Bockarie and their aides, and then they would bring

9 them over to Springfield airfield.

15:00:25 10 JUDGE BOUTET:

11 Q. But my question was you did testify about going to

12 Burkina Faso. What's the relationship between this and

13 Burkina Faso? Are you talking of diamonds?

14 A. No, he asked me that, when these diamonds come, where do

15:00:44 15 they take them from White Flower. This is where I was

16 trying to tell the counsellor --

17 Q. Okay, thank you.

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 MR SANTORA:

15:00:56 20 Q. General, these transactions that you have just described

21 where the call was made for the chopper, I want to focus

22 your mind on the time period again after Taylor's

23 inauguration. Through 1999 about how many times did this

24 happen?

15:01:21 25 A. Well, like I say, because when Taylor was inaugurated,

26 November, they had -- they brought a few diamonds -- that

27 was in November -- and in 1998, beginning, definitely

28 there was some problem. The fighting occurred. That's

29 when the AFRC and jointly with the RUF were driven out.

1 So the fighting became intensified, so they were trying
2 to defend the area. So apparently they were not really
3 focusing on -- but people were still carrying out diamond
4 operations. At that time I told you already I was busy
15:02:09 5 with the G3 work at the Ministry of National Defence, so
6 I wasn't too frequent as was from 1990 up to the time he
7 had elections. So apparently I can't tell you the number
8 of times actually that these calls were made, but
9 I remember specifically on that particular occasion this
15:02:32 10 call was made and Talal at that time he had already left
11 from the other -- the old house to the new house.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Learned counsel, I don't think you should
13 belabour this point, because this witness has been very
14 persistent with this reply on this issue.

15:02:47 15 MR SANTORA: I will move on --

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: That is that. You know, he was taken by
17 other duties and so they came in and out. He wasn't
18 there, he couldn't say how many times.

19 MR SANTORA: I understand, Your Honour.

15:02:57 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: I think he's been very consistent with his
21 reply to this question.

22 MR SANTORA: I understand.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please, you can proceed, please.

24 MR SANTORA: Okay.

15:03:05 25 Q. You talked about a long-range radio facility that was
26 located behind the tennis courts --

27 A. Yes, counsellor.

28 Q. -- of Charles Taylor's house; is that correct?

29 A. Right, counsellor.

1 Q. I'm going to ask you some specific questions about this
2 radio facility, and I want you to listen to the question
3 exactly as I ask and respond, okay?

4 A. Go ahead.

15:03:30 5 Q. Exactly where was the radio facility located?

6 A. The radio was located in Benjamin Yeaten's house, Kongo
7 Town, right behind Charles Taylor's White Flowers fence.

8 Q. And what was the exact type of radio?

9 A. The exact type of radio was the SSB Motorola - SSB.

15:03:55 10 Q. And who was working in this radio room?

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: SSB what?

12 THE WITNESS: Motorola, SSB. The base-type SSB is very
13 sophisticated and it has a very good long range for
14 communications.

15:04:16 15 JUDGE THOMPSON:

16 Q. Let me clarify this. My records indicate that the
17 long-range radio system was located at Charles Taylor's
18 house, but then of course you became specific. You said
19 it was located at Benjamin Yeaten's house?

15:04:54 20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. What is the location relationship between the White
22 Flower and Benjamin's location, because I see you're
23 trying to say it's located at Yeaten's house --

24 A. Let me clarify that.

15:05:11 25 Q. That's not clear to me.

26 A. Let me just make that clarification, sir.

27 Q. Yes, right.

28 A. I'll go over that again. I said the long-range radio SSB
29 Motorola was based in Benjamin Yeaten's house --

1 Q. Based?

2 A. Sir?

3 Q. Did you say "based"?

4 A. Based, B-A-S-E-D.

15:05:37 5 Q. Right, good. So, yes?

6 A. Was based in Benjamin Yeaten's house, one of the rooms --

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. In Benjamin Yeaten's house, and Benjamin Yeaten's house

9 is adjacent --

15:05:49 10 Q. Good, that's the relationship I wanted.

11 A. -- adjacent to the president's fence.

12 Q. That was not clear from the testimony.

13 A. Thank you, sir.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Witness, you earlier said "behind", so we

15:06:01 15 should change it to "adjacent", not "behind"?

16 THE WITNESS: Adjacent -- sorry, adjacent.

17 JUDGE THOMPSON: That's all right. Adjacent to White Flower,

18 Charles Taylor's house. Thank you.

19 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir, Your Honour.

15:06:18 20 MR SANTORA:

21 Q. General, was there anybody who worked in this radio

22 facility?

23 A. Yes. Well, we used to call him Hollywood --

24 Q. Slow down. Who exactly worked in the radio facility?

15:06:35 25 A. One of the radio operators -- in fact, there were two.

26 One of them was called Hollywood and the other one was

27 called -- she was a girl -- Korpu, C-O-R-P-O [sic],

28 Korpu -- she was -- Hollywood and Korpu, C-O-R-P-O [sic],

29 Korpu --

1 Q. Is Korpu her real name or is that --
2 A. Korpu is a traditional name -- her real name, Korpu, yes,
3 it's her real name -- her first name is Korpu, but the --
4 PRESIDING JUDGE: [Microphone not activated]
15:07:11 5 THE WITNESS: K-O-R [sic] -- Korpu -- that's a name from Lofa
6 County.
7 JUDGE THOMPSON: The first you said was Hollywood?
8 THE WITNESS: Yeah, Hollywood; that's a code name they're
9 using. I don't know his real name.
15:07:27 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Who was the girl and who was the boy?
11 THE WITNESS: The boy Hollywood; the girl was called Korpu.
12 MR SANTORA:
13 Q. General, aside from these two people, was there anybody
14 else who worked in the radio room that you were aware of?
15:07:55 15 A. Well, sometimes security personnel answers the radio, but
16 they were specifically radio operators.
17 Q. Okay. You stated earlier that there was a specific
18 instance where Taylor radioed Bockarie to come to White
19 Flower; is that correct?
15:08:14 20 A. Yes, counsellor.
21 Q. How often did Taylor transmit messages to Bockarie that
22 you're aware of?
23 A. Well, the one I was aware of was March -- between March
24 and April, and there were some instances that after his
15:08:42 25 tripping the tennis ball, because it was habitual -- he
26 plays the tennis ball, he wants to always go back there
27 and make one or two calls. I can't tell you really how
28 many times, but it was something consistent, because he
29 wanted this communication link to make sure to know

1 exactly what was happening on the frontline.

2 Q. Who exactly was he transmitting messages to?

3 A. As I continue to say, it was Benjamin Yeaten and Sam

4 Bockarie on the frontline.

15:09:11 5 Q. And would anybody else transmit messages to Yeaten or

6 Bockarie from this facility?

7 A. Well, sometimes he gave the instruction to Momo Jibbah

8 and Momo Jibbah would go ahead and give the instruction

9 to the radio operator to have the message sent if he

15:09:33 10 wants Benjamin Yeaten or Sam Bockarie to report.

11 Q. Aside from Benjamin Yeaten and Sam Bockarie, did they

12 ever transmit messages to anyone else that you're aware

13 of?

14 A. That I can't really recall, because he was utilising the

15:09:49 15 chain of command, in keeping with the stratified

16 operational plans of action.

17 Q. I want to take you now to --

18 MR JORDASH: Just before my learned friend does, can we just

19 clarify the year that the call went from Charles Taylor

15:10:07 20 to Sam Bockarie, please? It was in March or April, but

21 we didn't get a year.

22 MR SANTORA:

23 Q. General --

24 A. What did he say?

15:10:19 25 Q. The communication where you spoke of earlier in your

26 testimony today where Charles Taylor radioed Sam Bockarie

27 to report to White Flower, you said March or April; do

28 you remember the year?

29 A. Yeah, that was 1997.

1 Q. Okay. And if earlier today, when you were speaking of
2 a --
3 A. No, no, 1997 -- no, 1998, because -- it was 1998 --
4 March -- between March and April 1998, not 1997.
15:10:59 5 Q. Is it after Charles Taylor's inauguration as president?
6 A. 1997 Charles Taylor was inaugurated, October.
7 Q. Okay. And this message occurred after that; is that
8 correct?
9 A. You mean after his inauguration?
15:11:18 10 Q. Yes.
11 A. That was in November -- November was when they came over
12 with the first visitation.
13 Q. The message you spoke about earlier where Taylor
14 communicated to Sam Bockarie to come to White Flower, you
15:11:33 15 stated earlier that Bockarie came and then they received
16 weapons?
17 A. That was in March -- between March and April of 1998.
18 Q. Okay. I just wanted to clarify that.
19 A. That's what I'm saying, March and April -- between March
15:11:51 20 and April of 1998 specifically.
21 PRESIDING JUDGE:
22 Q. After his inauguration?
23 A. After his inauguration, because after his inauguration,
24 November, Bockarie, together with Ibrahim Bah, together
15:12:10 25 with Benjamin Yeaten, they came down in November, but
26 then 1998 of April and March was when -- when Taylor
27 communicated after the fall of the AFRC in February.
28 Q. Thank you, General. General, I want to take you to a new
29 time period a little later. Earlier you stated to your

1 recollection that Sam Bockarie left Sierra Leone in
2 November or December of 1999.
3 A. Yeah -- well, any part of the year between November and
4 December, but I can't be specific on the month.
15:13:09 5 Q. Okay. After Sam Bockarie left, did other RUF leaders
6 continue to visit White Flower?
7 A. Yes, I repeatedly said that --
8 PRESIDING JUDGE: He has said so, learned counsel. It's on
9 the record.
15:13:25 10 MR SANTORA: I was trying to clarify exactly the time,
11 though --
12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Okay, if it's clarification, you can go
13 ahead, but he said so. Go ahead, please.
14 MR SANTORA:
15:13:35 15 Q. After Sam Bockarie left, which RUF leaders continued to
16 visit White Flower?
17 A. Those that I met on one or two occasions, that was after
18 we first went to Kolahun, I met Morris Kallon, I met Issa
19 Sesay, I met a few other RUF together with Benjamin
15:13:57 20 Yeaten, and then in 2000 -- that was within 2000 then --
21 I also interacted with them when I was then commissioned
22 commander general. It was when they had the five
23 visitations of the five head of States, Eyadema of Togo
24 -- at that time he was the OU chairman --
15:14:22 25 Q. Slow down. Let's talk about this particular event.
26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Leave those heads of States and their
27 involvement there. General, concentrate on the evidence
28 before now, although maybe you can, to refresh your
29 memory, would be able to talk about events but

1 concentrate more on --

2 THE WITNESS: Okay. I said 2000, because this was when after

3 I met them in Kolahun, apparently we delivered the

4 ammunitions and arms under the leadership of the Defence

15:14:57 5 Minister was when I met the two of them again, because

6 Sam Bockarie was already out of Lofa and Sierra Leone --

7 he was in Monrovia and they were the ones we interacted

8 with, together with a few other RUF persons, Mike Guan,

9 another Mosquito -- they call him Christopher Vamoh, and

15:15:25 10 there were several other persons, but RUF commander

11 Bockarie was no more presence in Kolahun.

12 MR SANTORA: Okay. Your Honours, I was going to talk about a

13 specific event, but it does make reference to a

14 conference that was held --

15:15:45 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please go ahead, feel free.

16 MR SANTORA: But I will not --

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: That is all right, if the conference is

18 relevant to the issues, it can come in; there's no

19 problem.

15:15:57 20 MR SANTORA:

21 Q. You stated there was a time in 2000 when a conference was

22 held.

23 A. Yes. In 2000 -- in fact, it was when they abducted the

24 UN peacekeepers -- I think the Tanzanians also.

15:16:20 25 Q. Who abducted the UN peacekeepers?

26 A. The RUF, and Foday Sankoh was still being tried, they

27 were going to try him, but apparently the command

28 structure -- because Taylor was still interacting with

29 the RUF commanders on a daily basis, so when the

1 information came that the UN peacekeepers were abducted,
2 at that time I was the commanding general, but there was
3 another guy who was working alongside White Flower --
4 he's from Ghana -- they call him Abu -- Alpha Bravo --
15:16:59 5 Alpha Bravo, together with Colonel Adams, they also were
6 Ghanians, together with a few of those guys from Gambia,
7 the guy who is -- they call him Lampty. He was the
8 ambassador in Libya. Now, when the news hit that they
9 abducted the UN peacekeepers, they were trying to see if
15:17:29 10 they could get them brought back to Freetown, but Taylor
11 personally said, "Oh, well, what we can do is probably
12 I will need to communicate and see if I can get the
13 leader of the RUF" and, in the process, there was a quick
14 radio message sent to Benjamin Yeaten that they should
15:17:51 15 get in touch with Issa Sesay and they should try to
16 release those peacekeepers that were being abducted.
17 Q. Were you present when this message was transmitted to --
18 A. Yes, because when the information came, they were trying
19 to get in fact the NSA's director, the police director --
15:18:17 20 I was the commanding general of the Armed Forces and
21 definitely I had a big presence, and the chief of
22 staff -- everybody got concerned -- the Defence minister
23 so they said, "Well, what we're going to do is, we will
24 have to get this conference where the head of states from
15:18:35 25 Togo -- he was the chairman of the OAU --
26 Q. Okay.
27 A. Then they have the head of State from Mali.
28 Q. You don't have to name all the heads of State who were
29 present.

1 A. Konare. What I'm saying is that -- Obasanjo, these are
2 the people -- there were five different -- four different
3 heads of State and Charles Taylor hosted them. So they
4 came over and Charles Taylor personally made available
15:18:58 5 the chopper, the helicopter, and they flew over and pick
6 up Issa Sesay, but they brought him over together with
7 Augustine Gbao, Kallon, and almost all of the RUF high
8 command. They brought them to Roberts International
9 Airport.

15:19:21 10 Q. Were you at Roberts International Airport when they
11 arrived?

12 A. Yes, I was at Roberts International Airport.

13 Q. What exactly did you see?

14 A. Well, when they brought the RUF high command to
15:19:27 15 Roberts --

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: You said they brought who --

17 THE WITNESS: Roberts International Airport.

18 JUDGE THOMPSON: I'm not even clear who --

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Taylor sent a helicopter.

15:19:37 20 JUDGE THOMPSON: "They" --

21 PRESIDING JUDGE:

22 Q. Who sent a helicopter --

23 A. Charles Taylor sent a helicopter.

24 Q. And he brought who?

15:19:46 25 A. He brought Issa Sesay, he brought Kallon, and he brought
26 Augustine Gbao. They brought them to -- the helicopter
27 brought them to RI -- the Roberts International Airport.

28 JUDGE BOUTET:

29 Q. You also stated when you described them "the high

1 command". What do you mean by this?

2 A. When you talk about the high command of the RUF at the
3 time, those that were taking care of the leadership of
4 the RUF in the absence of Foday Sankoh and Bockarie.

15:20:27 5 That was in 2000?

6 Q. Now, what's the relationship between that and the head of
7 States? Is it because it's the same time frame? I'm
8 trying to see if there's any connection?

9 A. I'm just trying to say that he acts -- besides the 1997
15:20:53 10 and 1998 and 1999, when they do interact with RUF
11 official, but I'm trying to say that this was one of the
12 occasions where I saw Issa Sesay, Augustine Gbao, Kallon,
13 and some other people.

14 MR CAMMEGH: This is fascinating information and I rise at
15:21:22 15 this point to make this clear -- this is the first that
16 I've ever heard about this, and I've been served all the
17 documentation pertaining to this witness that I believed
18 to have been available. I think Mr Jordash will say the
19 same thing. And I note that my learned friend --

15:21:36 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Jordash doesn't appear to have the same
21 reaction.

22 [Defence Counsel confers]

23 MR CAMMEGH: My misunderstanding. The information we have may
24 well suggest that Mr Sesay came over, but there's
15:22:02 25 certainly no reference to Mr Gbao, and I wonder if Your
26 Honours would give me an opportunity now -- it may
27 involve Your Honours having to rise for a few minutes for
28 me to speak to Mr Santora to discover whether or not this
29 was something he anticipated, because if it is, then

1 there should be something on paper about it which I would
2 like to see, because it's really taken me by surprise.
3 It's a massive departure in relation to the case against
4 Gbao, as far as I can see.

15:22:52 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: We will rise for five minutes and allow you
6 to consult with your colleague on the other side.
7 [Break taken at 3.22 p.m.]
8 [On resuming at 3.32 p.m.]
9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Learned counsel, we are resuming the
15:35:11 10 session.

11 MR CAMMEGH: Your Honours, I'm grateful --

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Cammegh, do you have a truce to announce
13 to us --

14 MR CAMMEGH: I'm grateful to Your Honour.

15:35:23 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: -- or are we on the warfront now in these
16 circumstances.

17 MR CAMMEGH: I'm grateful for Your Honours for rising so
18 quickly and also, I am sure, for appreciating the issue
19 that had befallen me at that point. I've spoken to
15:35:39 20 Mr Santora about what arose and I'm content with his
21 response, and I'm sure we can continue.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Right, thank you very much. The Chamber
23 notes with a lot of satisfaction there was a truce --

24 MR CAMMEGH: Well, it's only a temporary one.

15:35:55 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: A temporary one, yes. In warfare even
26 temporary truces, you know, could be very consoling -- it
27 leaves room for hope.

28 JUDGE BOUTET: That's the purpose of the truce -- it's an end
29 to hostilities; it's a truce.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. Mr Santora, can you resume your
2 examination-in-chief of the General, please?

3 MR SANTORA: Yes, Your Honour.

4 Q. General, I want to bring you back to the issue we were
15:36:25 5 just discussing before we rose.

6 A. Yes, counsellor.

7 Q. You stated that in 2000 you remember an instance where
8 Taylor sent for Sesay and RUF leaders to come?

9 A. Right.

15:36:41 10 Q. Okay. What happened -- did they actually come and see
11 Taylor?

12 A. Go over that again.

13 Q. Did the RUF leaders come and see Taylor?

14 A. Well, they came in -- we were at Roberts International
15:37:00 15 Airport and the conference was held. After the
16 conference, they drove back to White Flower.

17 Q. Who drove back to White Flower?

18 A. Issa Sesay because --

19 PRESIDING JUDGE:

15:37:16 20 Q. Excuse me, excuse me. Witness, you mentioned that Issa
21 Sesay, Kallon, and the high command --

22 A. The high command of the RUF.

23 Q. The RUF were flown into the Roberts Field --

24 A. Roberts International Airport.

15:37:36 25 Q. Yes. That is where we stopped.

26 A. Yes, sir.

27 Q. What happened when they were flown into the Roberts Field
28 International Airport?

29 JUDGE THOMPSON: With respect, before that, you actually added

1 to that list the third accused, and then we rose because
2 of an objection. I would be interested to know what the
3 state of the evidence would be. Has that been
4 abandoned --

15:38:05 5 MR SANTORA: I can go ahead and --

6 MR HARRISON: The evidence stands as is. There was no
7 objection. Mr Cammegh simply stood up and said, "I wish
8 to rise for a moment to consult with the Prosecution."
9 That consultation took place. There never was an
15:38:17 10 objection, and there's no retraction of any of
11 this whatsoever --

12 JUDGE THOMPSON: No, I understood it to be -- stand up,
13 counsel. I understood it to be an objection, because the
14 name of the third accused was mentioned, and counsel did
15:38:30 15 say that in fact that would seem to be going outside what
16 was disclosed before he invited the Chamber to allow him
17 to consult with you. I characterised it as an objection,
18 and -- except we have a quibble here.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: No, we're not quibbling. It was indeed an
15:38:52 20 objection, and that's why we allowed them to consult and
21 that is why I called the result a truce --

22 JUDGE THOMPSON: I want to know the true state of the record
23 here; in other words, do we maintain in my record that
24 Augustine Gbao was part of the group that the helicopter
15:39:08 25 was sent to bring to Roberts Field. That's all I wanted
26 clarified for the purpose of my record.

27 MR HARRISON: The only evidence before you is that Mr Gbao was
28 present.

29 JUDGE THOMPSON: Good, that's what I wanted to confirm.

1 MR CAMMEGH: Well, I don't want to risk breaking the truce
2 already, but I think, that being said, it should also be
3 stated that that hitherto was something that had not been
4 disclosed, so -- and I think I can speak for Mr Kallon in
15:39:46 5 that regard as well. So --

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: Two counsel don't stand up at the same time,
7 please. Let Mr Cammegh make his point. Thereafter you
8 can make your point as well, Mr Santora.

9 MR CAMMEGH: I am not going to take what may be an unfair
15:40:05 10 point against the Prosecution, and I'm not going to ask
11 for Gbao's name to be removed from the record or anything
12 like that. Of course, it's a matter that I may wish to
13 visit at some length in cross-examination, and I'll leave
14 it there.

15:40:24 15 JUDGE THOMPSON: Right. In fact, we have a decision which
16 would allow you to revisit that, and you can revisit it
17 as extensively as you can.

18 MR CAMMEGH: I'm obliged.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: And that same decision, the decision of this
15:40:40 20 Chamber, says that the oral testimony of a witness is not
21 necessarily limited to the statements which have been
22 served on you. It could be expounded upon --

23 MR CAMMEGH: That is as --

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: That is where you have the principle of
15:40:57 25 orality, you know, prevailing over what is in recorded
26 statements.

27 MR CAMMEGH: Of course as Your Honour I'm sure knows, the same
28 rules apply, and that is why I'm not going to attempt any
29 sort of artificial -- or to persuade Your Honours into

1 any artificial ruling that Gbao's name should be ruled
2 out. According to the principle of orality that this
3 Court has expanded upon on many occasions in the time
4 I've been here, I accept Gbao's entry into the evidence
15:41:26 5 on this issue is not something that I can ask to be
6 excised from the record. It is something which has
7 happened. It wasn't disclosed, but it therefore gives me
8 a certain amount of latitude in cross-examination and
9 that is something --

15:41:40 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: It is your perfect right, Mr Cammegh. When
11 we come to that --

12 MR CAMMEGH: I'm quite happy to leave it there.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: -- we're very happy to allow you to visit
14 that and others when you come on for cross-examination.

15:41:51 15 MR CAMMEGH: Yes.

16 JUDGE THOMPSON: You have my own assurance on that.

17 MR CAMMEGH: Thank you very much.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good. Mr Santora, can you take over,
19 please.

15:42:00 20 MR SANTORA: Thank you, Your Honour.

21 Q. General --

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: So we have it on record that Mr Gbao the
23 third accused was present.

24 MR SANTORA: Yes.

15:42:09 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Was amongst -- was part of the delegation of
26 the high command of the RUF that arrived at Roberts
27 Field.

28 MR SANTORA: Yes.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: That is what is on the records.

1 MR SANTORA: Yes, Your Honour.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Right.

3 MR SANTORA:

4 Q. General, when the RUF high command arrived in Roberts,
15:42:31 5 what happened then?

6 A. When they arrived at Roberts International Airport and
7 they went in the conference room and we were outside.

8 Q. And you did not go into the conference room with them?

9 A. No, no, no.

15:42:46 10 Q. And how long did they stay in the conference room?

11 A. Well, it lasted for almost three or four hours and the
12 very day everybody dispatched -- disbursed from the
13 conference room and they flew back to their respective
14 countries.

15:43:01 15 Q. And aside from the RUF high command, who else was in that
16 conference room?

17 PRESIDING JUDGE:

18 Q. You say it lasted about four hours? How many hours did
19 you say this conference lasted?

15:43:11 20 A. It lasted for about four hours, almost.

21 Q. And this conference was attended by the four visiting
22 heads of State?

23 A. The four heads of State.

24 Q. Including Charles Taylor?

15:43:29 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. So there were five heads of State in attendance?

27 A. Yes, sir.

28 Q. And the conference was in the Roberts Field --

29 A. At Roberts International Airport.

1 MR SANTORA:

2 Q. General, aside from the RUF high command that went in,
3 who else was in there during this three to four-hour
4 meeting?

15:44:12 5 A. Well, like I said, Issa Sesay was brought in.

6 Q. Who else besides the RUF high command?

7 A. Well, you have the Ministers, you have the speakers, you
8 had the aides, the aide-de-camps, and some of the local
9 government officials, to include the deputy information
15:44:35 10 minister, Honourable JJ. JJ was also present. The
11 Information Minister was also present.

12 Q. Was --

13 A. The chief of staff, the deputy chief of staff -- they
14 were all present, but we were outside --

15:44:51 15 Q. Was Charles Taylor present in that conference?

16 A. Say that again.

17 Q. Was Charles Taylor present?

18 A. Oh, yes, Charles Taylor was there. He hosted the
19 meeting.

15:45:01 20 Q. Do you have any knowledge as to the content of their
21 meeting?

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please, I want to get my records right.

23 Now, you say Charles Taylor was there and then you had
24 the heads of State of Togo?

15:45:14 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. Nigeria?

27 A. At that time he was then the chairman for OAU.

28 Q. Nigeria?

29 A. Obasanjo.

1 Q. Who else?

2 A. You have Konare, Mali.

3 Q. Mali?

4 A. Yes, Mali.

15:45:31 5 Q. Who else?

6 A. And then Charles Taylor hosted, so it made it five.

7 Q. We have Togo, Nigeria, Mali --

8 A. Mali and Gambia.

9 Q. Gambia?

15:45:45 10 A. Yahyah Jammal.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, proceed, please.

12 MR SANTORA:

13 Q. General, do you have any knowledge as to the content of

14 this meeting?

15:45:59 15 A. Well, we were out there, and after the meeting was held

16 and they came out, because we were out there with the

17 chief of staff, the deputy chief of staff --

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: General --

19 A. Sir.

15:46:11 20 Q. General, do you have any knowledge of what happened

21 inside --

22 A. No, sir.

23 MR SANTORA:

24 Q. What happened after the meeting was over?

15:46:26 25 A. After the meeting, all of the heads of State went back

26 and we all drove back to town.

27 Q. And what about the RUF high command that was present?

28 A. Well, let me just make one point clear, because when you

29 mentioned about --

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: General, please wait.

2 A. Yes, Your Honour.

3 Q. Wait. All the heads of States went back. Did they go
4 back on the same day or the following day?

15:46:51 5 A. Well, after the -- after the meeting, we all left and
6 apparently the head of States -- I guess some of them
7 went and some stayed, but --

8 Q. That is okay. You're not very sure?

9 A. I'm not too sure.

15:47:10 10 Q. You can continue.

11 A. But all I know was the meeting was held and one point
12 I wanted to make, Your Honour, sir, is that it was like
13 action was being put together. They sent for Alpha
14 Bravo, who was then in charge of the anti-terrorist unit
15:47:32 15 in coordination with negotiating as to how the
16 [inaudible] were going to come to Springfield airfield,
17 but again --

18 MR SANTORA:

19 Q. What --

15:47:45 20 A. -- my memory --

21 JUDGE THOMPSON: General, general.

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. You should be guided by learned counsel for the
24 Prosecution, because we're not sure whether -- if you
15:47:54 25 just volunteer what you want to volunteer, you may in
26 fact not be -- going outside what he wants to present to
27 the Court, and of course if matters come out which do not
28 relate to how he wants to present his case, the other
29 side would be entitled to cross-examine on those matters

1 since they're coming out -- they may be outside your
2 statement.
3 A. Well --
4 Q. It's entirely up to you, but he should guide you as to
15:48:27 5 what --
6 A. I'm sorry.
7 Q. -- testimony he wants --
8 A. I'm sorry, Your Honour. All I was trying to do here
9 is -- 2000, 1998, 1999 -- [inaudible] of the RUF
15:48:45 10 commander, and it was when my memory served me right that
11 the abductions [sic] of the UN peacekeepers, it got the
12 concern of all of the security apparatus and definitely
13 we had to go to Roberts when they said the head of States
14 were coming. I just want to make one point clear here
15:49:08 15 that, I think it was Issa Sesay and Augustine Gbao, but
16 I can't quite frankly remember if Kallon was among,
17 because these are reflective memory and sometimes it's
18 very, very hard to be able to, because I just try to
19 recollect, because Issa, Gbao -- I think these were the
15:49:35 20 high command, because according to the information we got
21 from there after the meeting -- was Issa was the one that
22 abducted the peacekeepers and Charles Taylor ordered him
23 to come, and they came through the helicopter and
24 Augustine Gbao was there as spokesman, but --
15:50:03 25 MR CAMMEGH: I'm sorry to interrupt --
26 THE WITNESS: -- the information came out.
27 MR CAMMEGH: Excuse me.
28 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
29 MR CAMMEGH: -- but the witness is running on quite quickly

1 and I do need to try and get a note. If we could just
2 take this very slowly, please.

3 MR JORDASH: Just while there's an interruption, can we know
4 from whom this information came?

15:50:18 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes.

6 MR SANTORA: I was exactly going to ask that question.

7 Q. General, I want you to make sure that when I ask you a
8 question, you answer specifically my question.

9 A. Okay.

15:50:29 10 Q. Okay?

11 A. Yes, counsellor.

12 Q. You said that you received information that the RUF had
13 abducted UN peacekeepers. How specifically did you
14 receive this information?

15:50:42 15 A. This information some time they come through --

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: The information I have on my record is that
17 from the information he had, it was Issa Sesay who
18 abducted the UN officials, and that is why he was asked
19 to come.

15:50:58 20 MR SANTORA:

21 Q. How did you get information --

22 A. The information was gathered from White Flower, because
23 they said that Charles Taylor was supposed to be sending
24 for Issa Sesay, and they abducted Abu, the one who
15:51:17 25 brought this information.

26 Q. Who bought the information?

27 A. Abu -- General Abu.

28 Q. And who is General Abu?

29 A. General Abu was one of the aides, military adviser to

1 Charles Taylor and he said Charles Taylor sent for Issa
2 Sesay, they warned him to release the UN abductees, so he
3 instructed for him to go and make sure to take record of
4 those abductees that would be brought from wherever they
15:51:43 5 had them.

6 Q. How do you know that Abu said this?

7 A. Abu -- we went together.

8 Q. Okay. Were you present when he said this?

9 A. Yes, I was present, and in fact he was assigned to
15:51:54 10 Springfield, together with Adams -- Colonel Adams, and a
11 few of the ATUs and SSU. They were directly in charge of
12 getting all the abductees in the helicopter.

13 Q. Who made this assignment --

14 JUDGE BOUTET: Just a moment, please. I just want to make
15:52:14 15 sure we're not moving in another direction. The witness
16 just talked of Springfield. Are we talking about a
17 separate incident now, or are we still at Roberts?

18 MR SANTORA:

19 Q. What airfield?

15:52:26 20 A. I'm talking about Roberts International Airport.

21 JUDGE BOUTET:

22 Q. Yes, but you just testified that you were at Springfield.

23 A. No, Roberts International --

24 Q. I know, I'm just asking you the question. You testified
15:52:35 25 that you were at Springfield. My question: are we
26 talking about different incidents?

27 A. We're talking about a different incident. I'm saying at
28 the Robert International Airport, and then the abductee
29 had to come, this time it was not the same day, but the

1 abductee that they brought from where they had them on a
2 hostage. They were brought at Springfield and that's
3 where the entire operation were being carried. All of
4 the abductee that came, they were brought at Springfield
15:53:03 5 airfield.

6 JUDGE BOUTET: No, I'm questioning you because you did mention
7 Springfield for the first time. I didn't know what it
8 meant. Now I do.

9 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

15:53:13 10 MR SANTORA:

11 Q. General, you said that Abu passed the information that
12 the UN peacekeepers had been abducted; is that correct?

13 A. And that Charles Taylor sent him to --

14 Q. Just answer my question. Is that correct?

15:53:30 15 A. It's correct, yes.

16 Q. Okay. And after he relayed this information --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- what did Charles Taylor say?

19 A. Well, I didn't talk to Charles Taylor.

15:53:42 20 Q. Okay.

21 A. I talked to Abu.

22 Q. What did Abu tell you?

23 A. ABU said that Taylor gave him the instruction that he had
24 to go to the Springfield airfield, which he did, and

15:53:53 25 I saw him at the Springfield airfield when the abductees
26 were coming and he began to get their names and
27 information regarding them -- with equipments and
28 everything.

29 Q. Did you see the abductees come to Springfield?

1 A. I saw them.

2 Q. Can you describe what you saw?

3 A. Well, I saw the abductees coming in with all the

4 equipment -- they brought all the weapons and other

15:54:15 5 things they captured from the abductees right to

6 Springfield airfield.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: I think sequence -- sequence is very

8 material in important cases like this. We have left

9 Roberts Field. We have left Roberts Field. We suddenly

15:54:34 10 see abductees. We hear that there were instructions

11 given that something had to be done in order to release

12 the abductees. Then we leave Roberts Field and we just

13 go to Springfield. We go back to Springfield. How did

14 the abductees start arriving at Springfield?

15:54:51 15 MR SANTORA: I will clarify.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: That nexus is very, very important.

17 MR SANTORA: I will clarify that.

18 Q. General, I want you to --

19 MR CAMMEGH: Excuse me, Your Honour, one other thing. The

15:54:59 20 reason I rose just now to get the witness to slow down

21 was he did mention my client's name. He hasn't revisited

22 that, and it will be on the court transcript. It isn't

23 on mine. Can the witness please be asked to repeat what

24 it was he was saying about Augustine Gbao in relation to

15:55:19 25 what was happening at Roberts International Airport?

26 MR SANTORA: I will go back to Roberts and proceed

27 chronologically and try to take this in as chronological

28 a fashion as possible with this event.

29 Q. General, I wanted -- you said that the RUF high command

1 arrived at Roberts International Airport --

2 A. Airport, yes.

3 Q. -- during this conference?

4 A. Yes, sir.

15:55:44 5 Q. Okay. And you said that they went into a three- to

6 four-hour meeting?

7 A. Deliberation, yeah.

8 Q. After this meeting, and the respective heads of state

9 went to their respective countries --

15:55:59 10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. -- what happened to the RUF high command that was

12 present?

13 A. The RUF high command that were present, I don't know

14 exactly where they went, but the point is I saw Issa

15:56:15 15 Sesay and Augustine Gbao. The next instruction given --

16 Q. Slow down. Don't jump. Let's stick as you see things.

17 Did you see --

18 A. I didn't see where they went.

19 Q. Did you see them actually come out of the conference?

15:56:31 20 A. Yeah, they came out of the conference. I did not see

21 where they went, because we had to go -- everybody was

22 busy going back to their respective home, until the next

23 day when Abu told me that --

24 Q. Now, let's --

15:56:43 25 JUDGE THOMPSON: Slowly, slowly.

26 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry.

27 MR SANTORA:

28 Q. The next day --

29 JUDGE THOMPSON: So after the meeting was over --

1 A. After the meeting was over.

2 Q. "Issa Sesay and Augustine Gbao, I did not see Issa

3 Sesay."

4 A. No, I didn't see Augustine Gbao.

15:57:00 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Saw them coming out of the meeting.

6 MR SANTORA: Saw them coming out of the meeting is my

7 understanding of what he just said and not after --

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: You didn't see where they went to because

9 everybody --

15:57:07 10 A. No, I wasn't keeping close eyes on them.

11 [HS51004E 3.55 p.m.]

12 JUDGE THOMPSON:

13 Q. Then we have this episode, "I received information that

14 the RUF officers had abducted the UN peacekeepers or

15 something like that came on and then the information came

16 from General Abu..."

17 A. Abu.

18 Q. One of the aides.

19 A. Right.

20 Q. This is the connection we are struggling to process

21 intellectually.

22 MR SANTORA: If Your Honours -- I think I am going to be able

23 to --

24 JUDGE THOMPSON: Very well, to make that connection.

25 MR SANTORA: -- to clarify exactly how this proceeded

26 according to his recollection.

27 Q. After the conference at Robert's.

28 A. Right.

29 Q. Okay. The next day, what happened?

1 A. The next day -- Abu works with the Anti-Terrorist Unit
2 and we interact everyday, because we all go at White
3 Flower. He said, "The Chief told me that" - that's
4 Charles Taylor - "the abductees would begin to arrive."
5 Q. Okay. So the next day --
6 JUDGE THOMPSON: Slowly. Slowly.
7 Q. So the next day --
8 A. The next day --
9 Q. You were having a conversation with General Abu?
10 A. Abu, yes. Yes, sir.
11 JUDGE THOMPSON: The next day --
12 THE WITNESS: The next day.
13 JUDGE THOMPSON: I was --
14 THE WITNESS: He said the abductees would begin --
15 MR SANTORA: Slow down. Slow down.
16 JUDGE THOMPSON: Wait, wait, wait.
17 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry.
18 JUDGE THOMPSON:
19 Q. "I was having a conversation with General Abu," said one
20 of the aides to the Charles Taylor?
21 A. Yes.
22 Q. When he told me what?
23 MR SANTORA:
24 Q. What specifically did Abu tell you?
25 JUDGE THOMPSON:
26 Q. He told me what?
27 A. Abu told me that Charles Taylor -- he normally says the
28 chief. So when I say --
29 Q. [Microphone not activated]

- 1 A. -- so when I say the chief in this respect, I am
2 referring to Charles Taylor. He said, "The chief told me
3 to go and make sure that I should organise a team that
4 will receive..."
- 5 Q. Slowly.
- 6 A. "Organise a team that will receive the abductees that
7 will be coming from wherever they had them."
- 8 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes.
- 9 MR SANTORA:
- 10 Q. Did Abu say anything else to you?
- 11 A. No, he did not say anything else. He said he was there
12 to make sure and, quite frankly, the same day, before
13 12.00 --
- 14 Q. Slow down. Let's just keep going --
- 15 JUDGE THOMPSON:
- 16 Q. No, wait, wait.
- 17 A. The same day, before 12.00, the abductees begin to arrive
18 with all their weapons.
- 19 Q. Before 12.00?
- 20 A. They began to arrive with their weapons and equipments.
- 21 Q. The abductees began to arrive with all their weapons, you
22 said?
- 23 A. Yeah, with their weapons and equipments.
- 24 Q. With weapon and equipment. Yes.
- 25 MR SANTORA:
- 26 Q. Okay. General, were you present when they arrived?
- 27 A. I was present when -- because when they started
28 arriving --
- 29 Q. Just answer my question. You were present, yes?

1 A. I was present.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Yes, Your Honour.

4 Q. Where exactly did they arrive? The abductees, where did
5 they arrive?

6 A. They arrived at Springfield Airfield. Springfield
7 Airfield.

8 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes.

9 MR SANTORA:

10 Q. Do you know how they arrived, by what means?

11 A. They started transporting them by helicopter, the
12 camouflaged helicopter.

13 Q. Do you know approximately -- how many abductees arrived?

14 A. I can't really tell you the number of abductees. I was
15 there when the first two helicopter came in, the first
16 consignment came. The second group, and Abu had his own
17 responsibility, and he dedicated that responsibility to
18 Abu, so I have my own assignment. I came Shelfling the
19 road leading to Roberts International Airport, so I
20 wasn't there to know exactly the total number of men that
21 were abducted, the number of equipments, but I saw them
22 coming in the first two helicopter. I came; I saw them.

23 Q. And after the first two helicopters came in, where did
24 you go?

25 PRESIDING JUDGE:

26 Q. He came in what helicopters?

27 A. Sir?

28 Q. In what helicopters did they come in?

29 A. They came in this --

1 JUDGE THOMPSON: Camouflage, is it?

2 MR SANTORA: I think he said the --

3 THE WITNESS: It's E-L-G-A-L; that is the air call [inaudible]

4 Alpha, but the helicopter is almost like a dragon type,

5 but it's like --

6 JUDGE THOMPSON: You said it's camouflaged?

7 THE WITNESS: It's camouflaged helicopter.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: They belonged to who?

9 THE WITNESS: Well, the Ukrainian gave it to Charles Taylor;

10 two camouflage helicopter and two MI18 helicopters.

11 Camouflaged.

12 MR SANTORA:

13 Q. General, the two helicopters of abductees that you saw,

14 did you know where these abductees were from?

15 A. Well, I did ask and Abu told me they were coming from --

16 I think Kono District.

17 Q. Okay. After the two helicopters arrived, where did you

18 go?

19 A. I just told you that I went back to my office Camp

20 Shelfling.

21 Q. And did you return back to Springfield at any point that

22 day?

23 A. No, I did not come back until when all of the abductees

24 were brought in. I didn't go back. The own only thing I

25 heard from Abu at the Mansion -- at the Executive

26 Mansion, was that the abductees were all brought and then

27 they sent them back to Sierra Leone.

28 Q. Okay.

29 A. From Springfield they transported them back to Sierra

1 Leone.

2 Q. When did you hear this from Abu?

3 A. That was a day or two later, because from Camp Shelfling
4 to Monrovia is like 30 to 35 miles. So that's how far my
5 office was.

6 Q. Okay. Did Abu tell you anything else about this
7 incident?

8 A. No, sir.

9 Q. Okay. General, I am going move to a new area.

10 A. Yes, counsellor.

11 Q. You stated yesterday that you received the commission to
12 be commanding general.

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. In what month was that again?

15 A. I was nominated to become a commanding general of the
16 armed forces in December of '99. And January I was
17 commissioned finally as commanding general of the armed
18 forces.

19 Q. How long did you remain in this position?

20 A. Well, I stayed in this position as commanding general
21 from 2000 to 2001 August.

22 Q. And in 2001 of August what happened?

23 A. Well, in the first place, 2000, when I became commanding
24 general in January, I decided to invite the US military
25 attache, and since we just coming from 14 years of
26 devastating war, we needed some logistics and some
27 training materials. So that that will help, because of
28 the long-standing relations --

29 Q. General, you need to proceed slowly.

1 A. Because of the long-standing --
2 PRESIDING JUDGE: [Microphone not activated] -- the Defence
3 are taking notes.
4 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, sir.
5 PRESIDING JUDGE: [Microphone not activated]
6 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, Your Honour.
7 PRESIDING JUDGE: You need to go very slowly, General.
8 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, sir.
9 PRESIDING JUDGE: I know that it is not within the context of
10 these proceeding that we will change, you know, your
11 manner of speech --
12 THE WITNESS: No, sorry.
13 PRESIDING JUDGE: -- of speaking, but please make an effort.
14 THE WITNESS: Yes sir.
15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Right.
16 THE WITNESS: I said 2000, January, when I was -- when I
17 received my commission finally as commanding general, I
18 felt it was challenging to me to be able to help to
19 restructure the national army as quickly as possible so
20 that it can meet international standards. Because I know
21 all over the world, once you have a well-trained,
22 organised, equipped, disciplined, civil-oriented army, it
23 is a prerequisite for national security. So that was my
24 primary concern. When I got this assignment, sir, I
25 decided to invite the US military attache from my own
26 goodwill and he accepted the invitation in the presence
27 of Major Joseph W Lanctus [phonetic]. They brought
28 him -- he came over and I informed --
29 MR SANTORA:

1 Q. Slow down, General. When did he come over?

2 A. That was -- that was in January. He came over in --

3 Q. Who is he?

4 A. -- January, immediately after --

5 Q. Who is he, exactly?

6 A. Major Lanctus is the military -- the US military attache
7 attached to the US embassy in Liberia.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. So he came along with his sergeant.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE:

11 Q. This was January. What year?

12 A. Sir, that was 2000.

13 Q. 2000?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. After you were commissioned?

16 A. Commissioned, yes, sir. So he came along with his
17 sergeant, Sergeant Davies, and they showed their concern.
18 It was in an office. At that time the office was
19 dilapidated. He came and saw there was no good desks, no
20 chairs and everything, and he agreed in the presence of
21 my general and special staff that, "We would do all we
22 can to help you with some training materials." The
23 following day my staff and myself drove to Firestone
24 Plantation Company where I met with the general manager
25 as well. I said, "Well, I am now the new commanding
26 general of the armed forces and my office is within
27 Margibi county. I want you to please help do a complete
28 renovations of the office. That way we are going to have
29 a good office to do a very good job to protect the

1 country."

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. So the first -- the manager for the Firestone Plantation

4 Company accepted my request and said, "This is very

5 professional. I think we are there to help soldiers."

6 Especially when I told him that, "Look, Mr Manager, you

7 know, the military job we do: We are soldiers. We lay

8 down our lives for other people to live in a just and

9 free society, so we want you to help us. This is not

10 forced, but it's a request." And he agreed. In two

11 weeks' time, honestly speaking, he was able to renovate

12 the office of the commanding general to include all of

13 the general and special staff. That was the whole

14 building. Right now the building is at Roberts

15 International Airport. When the Defence Minister saw the

16 move --

17 Q. Okay. Who was the Defence Minister again?

18 A. Daniel Chea. He decided to manipulate -- he told the

19 president, "Well, Tarnue extension to the US military

20 attache, now they are doing something I am not aware of."

21 The Defence Minister -- but I am the commanding general

22 of the armed forces. I am charged with certain

23 responsibility. So the defence minister, after his

24 manipulations he say I was trying to connive with the US

25 military attache to assassinate the president. So the

26 following week I saw a letter of arrest and as you have

27 myself confined at my house without leaving the house --

28 Q. General, who was this letter from?

29 A. The letter came directly from the adjutant general by the

1 director of the commander in chief through the Defence
2 Minister and it went to the chief of staff and the chief
3 of staff sent the directive back to the adjutant general.
4 So was placed -- disrobed and placed under house arrest
5 in 2000.

6 Q. What month was that?

7 A. That was in June of 2000.

8 Q. What happened then after you were placed under house
9 arrest?

10 A. When I was placed under house arrest, they set up a board
11 of inquiry headed by the Inspector General of the Armed
12 Forces of Liberia, Brigadier General Emmanuel Saye. He
13 conducted an investigations together with --

14 JUDGE BOUTET: Slowly, slowly, please. Slow down.

15 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please go slowly. Please.

17 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, chief.

18 MR SANTORA:

19 Q. Who was the head of this investigation again? Can you
20 say the name?

21 A. The head of the investigation that investigated me was
22 Brigadier General Emanuel Saye. S-A-Y-E. Brigadier
23 General Emmanuel Saye, together with the assistant chief
24 of staff G2. They call him Colonel Sakajepo Kotor.
25 Colonel Sakajepo. S-A-K-A-J-A-P-O. Sakajepo. J-E-P-O,
26 sorry. S-A-K-A-J-E-P-O, Sakajepo Kotor.
27 K-S-A-K-A-G-E-P-O. Sakajepo Kotor. K-O-T-O-R.

28 Q. General, what was the result of this investigation?

29 A. At the end of this investigation I was found not guilty

1 and I asked to resume back to work.

2 Q. Did you resume back to work?

3 A. Yes, counsellor, I resumed to work.

4 Q. Okay. How long did you resume work for?

5 A. Well, I worked again from 2001 -- from 2000 June, up to
6 the end of 2000, and then we got in 2001.

7 Q. Okay. Let us take it now from 2001.

8 A. 2001, again, Daniel Chea said that I was in cohorts with
9 the RUF to infiltrate rebel activity to be able to take
10 over Charles Taylor government. But he was manipulated
11 to get me into problem. Again, another board of inquiry
12 was --

13 Q. How do you know Chea was doing this?

14 A. Daniel Chea?

15 Q. How did you know that he was doing this?

16 A. Oh, yes, all the directive came from the President to him
17 and he personally told me that, that because every time
18 he gave order to me, we shall have one or two letters to
19 prove. He will give instructions, and I say, "Honourable
20 Minister, this is normal rebel activity. We are talking
21 about professionalism. Order come from the
22 commander-in-chief, it comes to you and he sends it down
23 to the chief of staff. The chief of staff will send it
24 to me and I will send it down to the men for
25 implementation. When I begin to take order from you as
26 Defence Minister, and I will be overlapping function, it
27 means --

28 Q. Slow down, General.

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. After this second dispute with Chea, what happened?

2 A. After the second dispute with Chea, this time they
3 investigated me; I was acquitted.

4 Q. Who investigated you the second time?

5 A. It was the same Emmanuel, because that was the chairman
6 of the special tribunal that was set. So he investigated
7 me for the time. Again, I was acquitted.

8 Q. Okay. So after the second time you were acquitted, when
9 was this?

10 A. That was in August 2000. And this time -- when I was --
11 when I was acquitted in August 2000, the Defence Minister
12 again went to the president and said, "I cannot work with
13 John," and that was pronounced in my presence. He was
14 the chief of staff, "I'm not going to work with..." I
15 said, "But you don't have to call me John. I have a
16 title. Even if I should die today, I am the late
17 Brigadier General John S Tarnue. I should be
18 transferred -- I am still formal. So you call me by my
19 title."

20 Q. After these interactions with Chea, let us move on. How
21 long did you stay in the position of Brigadier General
22 for?

23 A. I stayed in the position for --

24 Q. Until when?

25 A. Up to 2000 August, when that incident occurred. And then
26 I was transferred from brigadier general -- from the
27 commanding general position to that of the Anti-Terrorist
28 Unit directly to the Executive Mansion.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: We were focused on a chain of events.

1 MR SANTORA: And I was moving through, I thought --

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: We are focused on a chain of events. This

3 man said there was a second report made by Chea against

4 him. There was a second commission of inquiry; he was

5 acquitted. Chea came and said somewhere, you know, that

6 he can't work with -- with John.

7 THE WITNESS: Exactly.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Can you -- can you establish a chain there

9 instead of --

10 MR SANTORA: I Would be more than happy to, Your Honour. I

11 was trying to just --

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: The rungs of the ladder in this process

13 which you, learned counsel, should please try to go

14 through, please.

15 MR SANTORA: I will have -- I have no problem, Your Honour. I

16 was just trying to make sure to try to pull out material

17 and avoid extraneous material that perhaps wasn't --

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: [Microphone not activated] -- because I have

19 learnt from this -- from the nature of this evidence that

20 it is very difficult, you know, to distinguish between

21 extraneous and relevant material. I asked him to stop

22 when he was talking on the conference of heads of states,

23 because I didn't think it was relevant. Later on, it

24 turned out that those heads of states came and issues

25 that arose there and the evidence that came out, you

26 know, was relevant to these proceedings.

27 MR SANTORA: Yes, Your Honour.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: So, you never know.

29 MR SANTORA: Yes, Your Honour.

1 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Your Honour.

2 JUDGE THOMPSON: [Microphone not activated] -- with what my
3 learned brother has said, we have taken a very liberal
4 view of relevance, having regard to the fact that the
5 burden is on the Prosecution to prove their case beyond a
6 reasonable doubt. But, clearly, there are times when I
7 think we probably are multiplying issues and, you know,
8 we have got to keep a focus on the ascertainment of the
9 facts in issue, much as there is latitude in context and
10 circumstances.

11 MR SANTORA: Yes, Your Honour.

12 Q. Okay, General.

13 A. Yes, counsellor.

14 Q. You said that after the second investigation --

15 A. Yes, counsellor.

16 Q. -- you were again acquitted.

17 A. I was acquitted.

18 Q. When did this happen?

19 A. That specifically happened in August of 2001.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. When I was acquitted --

22 Q. Wait, let me ask you the questions and then you proceed.

23 A. Okay, sir.

24 Q. After -- in August 2001, after you were acquitted, what
25 happened?

26 A. After I was acquitted this time, Daniel Chea said that,
27 "I cannot not work with John," and I told him, "Don't
28 call me John." And the next thing I saw in the afternoon
29 was a transfer memorandum that I am now transferred to

1 the Anti-Terrorist Unit at the Executive Mansion as
2 planning and training officer under Chuckie Taylor, who
3 is the son of the president, who got no military training
4 whatever.

5 Q. Okay. First of all, tell -- can you please tell the
6 Court what the ATU is?

7 A. That is the Anti-Terrorist Unit.

8 Q. Okay. What was its function?

9 A. The function ws to provide security guards to the
10 president directly.

11 Q. Was the ATU within the Liberian military?

12 A. No, it was outside of the Liberian Army and that is one
13 of the reasons why, when I begin to tell the minister and
14 the chief of staff in all the meetings we have had, that,
15 "Look, the Anti-Terrorist Unit is an established -- is a
16 separate established entity outside of the national army,
17 and being a commander general I have a constitutional
18 mandate to be able to protect lives and property and
19 making sure to restructure and overhaul the national
20 army."

21 Q. Okay. Let's move now -- let's talk about -- you said you
22 were transferred.

23 A. I was transferred from the commanding general position to
24 the anti-terrorist --

25 JUDGE THOMPSON: Just a minute. Let the witness wait. Are
26 you trying to elicit a grievance perspective on that part
27 of the evidence?

28 MR SANTORA: No, Your Honour.

29 JUDGE THOMPSON: Well, perhaps you need to control the

1 witness.

2 MR SANTORA: Okay.

3 JUDGE THOMPSON: I mean, we are not here to adjudicate

4 grievances.

5 MR SANTORA: Of course not. I am actually -- I'm just going

6 into an area back to his personal background.

7 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, I understand the context is important,

8 but then, as my learned brother the Presiding Judge has

9 said, there is also the doctrine of extraneity [sic] when

10 it comes to context, because the grievance aspect -- I

11 don't know whether that is not multiplying issues here.

12 MR SANTORA: Right. No, that's why I am trying to move

13 through to much more --

14 JUDGE THOMPSON: I can understand the difficulties.

15 MR SANTORA: -- and so I am just trying to -- this is again --

16 this area is his personal background.

17 JUDGE THOMPSON: Quite right. But we will be patient.

18 MR SANTORA: Thank you, Your Honour.

19 Q. General, you said you were transferred to the

20 anti-terrorism unit in August 2001; is that correct?

21 A. Yes, counsellor.

22 Q. Okay. And how long did you stay with the anti-terrorism

23 unit?

24 A. Well, when I got transferred to the Anti-Terrorist Unit,

25 that was in August. And in August -- before I took up my

26 assignment, Chuckie Taylor was then the commander and he

27 generally asked one or two questions.

28 Q. Slow down here. Before -- just -- specifically answer

29 the question. How long did you stay in the position --

1 with the ATU?

2 A. I stayed in the position from August up to 2000, April,
3 when I left the country.

4 Q. Okay. You started the appointment in August of 2001.

5 A. Right.

6 Q. Okay. And when did you stay in that appointment until?

7 A. Well, that's why I wanted to throw light. August, when I
8 got the assignment, the following week I reported to
9 Chuckie Taylor. I didn't stay too long, September
10 2000 -- September 11, 2001 when something happens and --

11 Q. Let's move - and I understand it is difficult because
12 there is a lot of information - but I would like you to
13 tell me when you -- when you left the ATU?

14 A. I left the ATU 2002, April.

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. Okay. Why did you leave the ATU?

17 A. Well, I left the ATU, because Chuckie Taylor -- again,
18 that's what I wanted to say. When September 11 happens,
19 I prepare a protective services order and says it has to
20 do with anti-terrorist activity to provide security for
21 the Mamba Point area where they have foreign dignitaries
22 that were living. And so based on that protective
23 services operational order, he said that I was again in
24 cohorts with --

25 Q. Who said this?

26 A. With Chuckie Taylor.

27 Q. Okay.

28 A. He said I was again in cohort with the US military
29 attache. So he instructed an order; one squad, armed to

1 the teeth, to come to my house and have me arrested.

2 Q. And did they come to your house?

3 A. They went to my house.

4 Q. When did they come to your house to have you arrested?

5 A. They went to my house 2002, January.

6 Q. Okay. Describe that incident when they came to your
7 house.

8 A. When they came to my house, it was on the radio when he
9 said, "Look, you all bring the damn Tarnue man," that's
10 the slang they use, "Damn Tarnue man." So when I
11 monitored that, I said, "What is going on?" And I saw
12 the ATU pick-up came in. The colonel came down, Dolo,
13 Adolphus Dolo. He said, "Chief, Chuckie Taylor says you
14 are under arrest. We should carry you." I said, "But
15 for what?" It was on 5th January. That was the very day
16 I had my wedding anniversary. So I said, "But today's
17 Saturday. Why are you saying Chuckie says I'm under
18 arrest?" So he went back and communicated with Chuckie
19 Taylor and said, "The general says he is having his
20 anniversary. He is not coming." So Chuckie Taylor say,
21 "Whatever way you can bring him, I want that general
22 here." So I went inside. I was very much annoyed,
23 because the first arrest, the second arrest, I felt it
24 was too much. Enough was enough for me. So I went in
25 there. I had on my short trousers with my muscle arm
26 T-shirts in the room. My wife was in the room. I took
27 off my AK with three magazines and when she saw my
28 actions she said, "What happened?" I said, "But look
29 around the house, you see you have ATUs all around. I

1 don't know what is happening." And she said, "Whatever
2 the situation, put the arm down, because if anything
3 happens here, maybe we are all dead." So I look at her.
4 I listen to her, but tears are running from my eyes.
5 Anyway, I put the weapon down and I came out. The minute
6 I came out, the commander ordered - based on the last
7 instruction from Chuckie Taylor - that they should have
8 me knocked down and arrested immediately, and right
9 before my wife and children at [inaudible] Road. I was
10 knocked down, arrested, stripped -- if I should take off
11 my shirt, you are going to see the burn marks.

12 Q. That's okay.

13 A. Take off my shirt and I was in brief. They took me over
14 to the Executive Mansion.

15 Q. Who exactly took you over to the Executive --

16 A. The ATUs. They threw me in the back of the pick-up and
17 took me to the Executive Mansion where Chuckie Taylor
18 was.

19 Q. Okay. What happened when you got to the Executive
20 Mansion?

21 A. When I got to the Executive Mansion, the torturing began.
22 I was seriously tortured. They user used the muzzle of
23 the weapon and hit my right eye.

24 Q. Who did that?

25 A. One of the aides to Chuckie Taylor. And then --

26 Q. Was Chuckie Taylor there?

27 A. Yes, he was present. And then, one of the aides came and
28 pulled my penis. I had infused bleeding from my
29 testicles and also they used the plastic and lighted fire

1 and burnt my chest. I have those scars on my skin right
2 now as I talk to you. And also, they used the bottle
3 stopper and scratched my face. You can see the marks all
4 over here. [Indicates] And so when that happens, I went
5 off completely. But they there were other --

6 Q. What do you mean you went off completely?

7 A. I went unconscious.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. There were some other ATU personnel that didn't really
10 like the idea, because I was the training commander,
11 apparently, so they informed Lewis Brown. He was
12 political adviser to the president. He said, "But
13 something happening down -- they are treating General
14 Tarnue," and he also went and informed the chief of
15 protocol. So just in that time the chief of protocol
16 came and he took me to the clinic.

17 Q. Okay. Which clinic did they take you to?

18 A. They took me to SD Cooper Clinic and they formed my wife.
19 My wife is a nurse. She works with World Vision. So the
20 following morning she and Bernice Bettie -- my wife is
21 Lawho K Tarnue - she and Bernice Bettie went to the
22 mansion and requested that they wanted me to go to the
23 hospital.

24 [HS051004F 4.30 p.m.]

16:21:06 25 So that excuse was granted, that I should go to the
26 hospital.

27 Q. Okay, so after you -- after you got to the hospital --
28 which hospital was this?

29 A. When they took me to Cooper clinic I told her that it

1 wasn't too safe for me. Then they took me to Harbel; I
2 said it was not still safe.
3 Q. Slow down. Harbour?
4 A. Harbel Firestone Plantation Company, right. Not too far
16:21:33 5 from Robert International Airport.
6 Q. Is there a hospital here?
7 A. There's a hospital there.
8 Q. Okay.
9 A. So I told them that, "Look, whatever situation" -- I told
16:21:41 10 my wife, I wanted to go to Ghana.
11 Q. You told your wife you wanted to go to Ghana?
12 A. I said I wanted to go to Ghana, so she should go and get
13 some money from World Vision so I can buy my plane
14 ticket; and she agreed. The following day we bought my
16:21:58 15 plane ticket, and I left from Liberia with only own
16 trousers and my paperwork. I went to Ghana April.
17 Q. Okay, and this is April of 2002?
18 A. April of 2002. And she and myself discuss, and I told
19 her, "Well, honey, I'm not going to come back. The way I
16:22:17 20 see, I will go for the hospital treatment, but I'm not
21 going to come back."
22 Q. Hospital -- you were going for hospital treatment in
23 Ghana?
24 A. Yeah, in Ghana; at the military hospital. And when I got
16:22:29 25 to the place I reported myself to the military barracks,
26 because Lieutenant-General Opande was the Deputy Force
27 Commander for ECOMOG, and when I was serving --
28 [inaudible]
29 Q. He's the member of the Canadian Armed Forces?

1 A. Exactly. So he knew me well. When I went to him and he
2 saw my condition, he decided to give me slip --
3 transmitter slip, so that I will go to the hospital for
4 treatment. And I went to the military hospital; I was
16:22:57 5 there for three months.

6 Q. Which hospital is this specifically?

7 A. At the Ghana Military Hospital. So, while there -- and I
8 got information. I was -- I was day patient. I was
9 stopping at Kanda -- Kanda Hotel. While there, I got a
16:23:15 10 information from Captain Smith, that three to four months
11 they have not seen me, so they sent people in Ghana to
12 find me.

13 Q. Who sent people in Ghana?

14 A. Charles Taylor sent Danny Chea, Benjamin Yeaten, Osebio
16:23:32 15 Demmey to find me, through the Ghanian security, because
16 General Abu was already in Ghana working with Kofuo's
17 Government. So he wanted to go through him to have me
18 arrested and sent back to Liberia.

19 Q. So how -- how did you specifically learn that they had
16:23:48 20 sent men for you -- that Taylor had sent men?

21 A. It was through Captain Smith, because one other brigadier
22 general was in the camp; they call him Glaye. Alfred
23 Glaye was also assassinate -- he was also killed.

24 Q. Slow down here because --

16:24:03 25 A. Yes, sir.

26 Q. -- it gets kind of --

27 A. One brigadier general was also in the camp seeking
28 refuge.

29 Q. What camp are you referring to?

1 A. Camp -- Bunguburan Camp, where they have the refugee camp
2 in Ghana for the Liberian that escaped the war in
3 Liberia.

4 Q. Okay, and who was General Glaye?

16:24:22 5 A. General Glaye was the former senior aide-de-camp to the
6 late Samuel Kanyon Doe.

7 Q. And you said that you received information that he was
8 killed?

9 A. He was killed. So I did not go on the camp. Instead I
16:24:33 10 went to Accra itself, where I pay for two months in
11 advance for the hotel I was being accommodated in; \$5 per
12 day.

13 Q. Where was this hotel?

14 A. That was in Kanda.

16:24:46 15 Q. And Kanda is where exactly?

16 A. It's in Accra, Ghana.

17 Q. Where was your family at this point?

18 A. My family was still in Liberia. But a discussion between
19 my wife and myself was never disclosed.

16:25:01 20 Q. What were your intentions at this point?

21 A. Never to go back to Liberia.

22 Q. So what were your intentions -- so your family was still
23 in Liberia, though; is that correct?

24 A. They were still in Liberia. And after June, July, I was
16:25:16 25 filing for my asylum to the UNHCR office in Ghana.

26 Q. Okay. This is what year again, to make sure we're clear?

27 A. That was June, July of 2002.

28 Q. And you filed for asylum?

29 A. Right, I filing for an asylum. I give a copy to the US

1 Embassy in Accra.

2 Q. Who specifically did you file your asylum with?

3 A. The UNHCR High Command in -- yes, Commission -- the UNHCR

4 High Command of the refugees in Ghana.

16:25:50 5 Q. After you filed our asylum what happened?

6 A. After filing the asylum, I went through the interviews

7 and everything was successful.

8 Q. Who -- who--

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: He was granted asylum. Do we need these

16:26:09 10 details as to --

11 THE WITNESS: No, no, the asylum was not granted, sir. When I

12 file in --

13 MR SANTORA: That's what I was trying to --

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Go ahead, go ahead. I'm following you very

16:26:19 15 carefully. [Microphone not activated]

16 MR SANTORA: I understand.

17 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

18 MR SANTORA:

19 Q. After you filed your asylum with the UNHCR office in

16:26:26 20 Ghana --

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Okay, can you tell us what happened after that?

23 A. Well, they were in the process of trying to approve of

24 the asylum to resettle my family, when I got the breaking

16:26:38 25 news that I was being hunted for. So Captain Smith

26 said --

27 Q. Slow down then. What -- what do you mean by "breaking

28 news that you were being hunted for"? What specifically

29 is --

1 A. That there were people on the ground already;
2 intelligence. They were trying to find me, so that Abu
3 or Lampty or Colonel Adams, that used to work for Charles
4 Taylor before, were already in Ghana as part of Kofua's
16:27:04 5 security. So they were going to do everything
6 possible --
7 Q. How did you get this information?
8 A. I got the information from Captain Smith, one of the
9 former AFL personnel that I was commanding.
16:27:14 10 Q. After getting this information, what did you do?
11 A. Well, I decided to inform Teahjay, who was in the United
12 States, that he should try to see if he can make a quick
13 contact. And I was putting a package together to send to
14 him.
16:27:30 15 Q. Who is Teahjay?
16 A. Teahjay was the former Deputy Defence -- I mean, Deputy
17 Information Minister for Liberia, and also International
18 Media Consultants.
19 Q. And how did you know to contact him?
16:27:44 20 A. I got the number from Captain Smith - the telephone
21 number - and I called.
22 Q. Upon contacting him what happened?
23 A. When I contacted him, I didn't get him, I left a message
24 on the voice mail. And so, the cell phone I had, I gave
16:28:02 25 him the number, and he did call the following day and
26 asked me what was happening.
27 Q. And did you tell him the situation?
28 A. I explained to him exactly the situation I was faced
29 with; my life was threatened, so --

1 Q. So what did he say then?

2 A. He told me to send a package of the entire stuff. So I
3 prepare the package and I send it over to Daniel -- I
4 mean, to Milton Teahjay.

16:28:34 5 Q. Okay. Specifically, what did you put in this package to
6 Milton Teahjay?

7 A. Well, I put in the package the assault; the bruises on my
8 eye, on my penis, the burns, the various news report, the
9 letters and other things. Those were substantial
16:28:53 10 documents to at least to be able to help with him so that
11 he will be able to talk to the State Department to see if
12 they can get me out very quickly.

13 Q. Okay, after --

14 A. So as for me to do those documentary --

16:29:05 15 Q. After you sent those documents to him, what happened?

16 A. After I send the document he told me -- he say, well, in
17 about a week or two he got the documents. And he said,
18 "Well, John, I got the documents. What I'm going to do
19 is I will have to go to the State Department and see if I
16:29:20 20 can quickly file your case." So, after a week later, he
21 told me, say, "Well, John, I think I -- I got a solution
22 to your problem already. There is one investigator that
23 I met, and he is willing to help. But I will let you
24 talk to him the next meeting we have again." So I was
16:29:42 25 very happy about the news.

26 Q. What did he mean by investigator?

27 A. He said that he was the investigator for the UN Special
28 Court.

29 Q. Okay. Then what happened after he told you about --

1 [Overlapping microphones]

2 A. The second time when he calls me on the cell phone, at

3 that time it was the very first time that I ever talk to

4 Dr Al White

16:30:06 5 Q. Who is Dr Al White?

6 A. Dr Al White at the time I didn't know. He said he was in

7 charge of the UN investigation team.

8 Q. And did you have a subsequent conversation with Dr White?

9 A. Well, it was not lengthy. It was -- the introduction he

16:30:21 10 made and said, "Well, whatever the situation is, Milton

11 Teahjay told me. I saw all the documents; I have them in

12 my possession. But I will see if we can come over to get

13 you." And I told him, screaming on the phone, I say,

14 "It's very serious. People are on the ground now to be

16:30:39 15 able to" -- so, from there on, Milton was communicating

16 with me.

17 Q. Okay. What exactly did Dr White tell you?

18 A. Well, he told me he was going to make sure to see if they

19 can come over to Ghana.

16:30:55 20 Q. Okay. And did he come to Ghana?

21 A. Yes. Dr Al White, along with five FBIs, flew from the

22 United States and came to Ghana.

23 Q. And did you meet them?

24 A. When they arrived one Halliue Kebeddeh -- he was in

16:31:16 25 charge of the Immigration Services and naturalisations in

26 Ghana. He called me and say, "One Dr Al is here; he

27 wants to talk to you." But when I got on the phone he

28 say, "Well I'm here and where is your present location?"

29 I told him, "Where? I'm in Kanda, but I can't get out."

1 So he say, "Okay, just stay right there. There is a
2 Ghanian who is our driver. He knows -- just give him the
3 right direction of the place and we'll come and pick you
4 up."
16:31:45 5 Q. And did they come?
6 A. Yes. Dr Al White was in the front seat. It was a long
7 white Chevrolet van that came. So the four guys were in
8 the middle -- in the middle seats; Dr Al White was in the
9 front. And, then, when they came in, they went -- they
16:32:02 10 drove me to the fence and I got in the Chevrolet and they
11 took me to the US Embassy.
12 Q. Okay. What happened after you arrived at the US Embassy?
13 A. And after we arrive at that US Embassy we got in the --
14 in the little conference room, and --
16:32:19 15 Q. Who's "we" exactly? Who's there?
16 A. After we got in the US Embassy we got in a conference
17 room, and they introduce themselves. Al took out his
18 complimentary card, and say, "I am the chief
19 investigator."
16:32:33 20 Q. Okay, and there were other people present?
21 A. Halliue Kebeddeh was --
22 Q. Okay, you don't have to name names?
23 A. Okay.
24 Q. But there were other people present?
16:32:42 25 A. Yeah, there were -- there were four FBI's with Kebeddeh,
26 so other four were present.
27 Q. Okay. And what happened then?
28 A. And after that they say, "Well, we got a package. Are
29 you aware of this package?" I say, "Yes." They say,

1 "Okay, we are here to go through one or two
2 questionnaires with you. Are you prepared?" I say,
3 "Yes, any time." And they say, "Okay, we going to
4 relocate you from here."
16:33:08 5 Q. And I -- before you proceed any further, at this point I
6 don't want you to discuss your -- where you moved to.
7 Okay?
8 A. Okay.
9 Q. I just want to focus on what happened in Ghana?
16:33:25 10 A. Okay.
11 Q. Okay. What was -- what happened when you arrived and
12 met Dr Al White and these other people?
13 A. Of course, when I met him, and they went through some
14 preliminary cross -- cross-examinations with respect to
16:33:39 15 the documents I sent, and to ask if I got some
16 information concerning -- because when I mentioned that I
17 work in the armed forces of Liberia, under the leadership
18 of three different presidents before the elections, the
19 late William VS Tubman, the late Tolbert and the late
16:34:02 20 Doe, before Charles Taylor; and when I surrender I work
21 all along, so they kind of interested. So he decided --
22 they say, "Well, what we need to do is we have to find a
23 safety zone." So we move in one of the hotels.
24 Q. Okay. Now, I want you to just very much answer these
16:34:21 25 specific questions at this point, okay?
26 A. Yes, sir.
27 Q. The time that Dr White arrived --
28 A. Yeah.
29 Q. -- in Ghana?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Did he make any sort of payment for you?

3 A. Well, when I got to Ghana, in fact, the hotel bills

4 accumulated up to about \$700 almost.

16:34:34 5 Q. And who -- who --

6 A. My diplomatic passport --

7 Q. Who -- please just answer -- try to answer the question

8 specifically?

9 A. Yeah.

16:34:45 10 Q. Okay. You say the hotel bills accumulated to how much?

11 A. \$750.

12 Q. Who paid that? Who paid for -- [Overlapping microphones]

13 A. Dr Al White.

14 Q. Okay.

16:34:53 15 A. He paid that.

16 Q. While in Ghana, what else did Dr Al White pay for?

17 A. The food I ate; I think it was about \$150. And, besides

18 that, like I say, he had to release my diplomatic

19 passport. That -- that's when he paid the \$750, and the

16:35:15 20 \$150, and accumulated to the order of 900.

21 Q. Okay. While in Ghana did he pay --

22 A. While in Ghana.

23 Q. Did he pay for anything else?

24 A. Not to my knowledge, because we were already in a hotel

16:35:26 25 that he was paying for, so -- well, the fact is they were

26 doing their interviews and they brought a polygraph

27 machine.

28 Q. Okay, I don't want -- I just want to talk -- answer the

29 questions I ask you, okay, General?

1 A. I'm sorry.

2 Q. Aside from these hotel bills and these other expenses,
3 how long did you stay in Ghana for then?

4 A. We're there for like five days.

16:35:50 5 Q. Okay. After Ghana you flew out of Ghana; is that
6 correct?

7 A. Right, he flew me out of Ghana.

8 Q. The -- who paid for you to fly out of Ghana?

9 A. It was Dr White.

16:36:03 10 Q. Do you know how much that cost?

11 A. I think the ticket was about 900 plus.

12 Q. Okay. Now, when you were flying out of Ghana, did
13 anything else happen at the airport before you left?

14 A. When -- when -- when I was flying out -- in fact, when we
16:36:23 15 got to the airport already, Jack the Rebel, Osebio
16 Demmey, to include --

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: He's flying out of Ghana. We can end here
18 and continue in the next 10 minutes, please. The Court
19 will rise.

16:36:56 20 [Break taken at 4.44 p.m.]

21 [On resuming at 5.05 p.m.]

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, Mr Santora?

23 MR SANTORA: Thank you, your Honour.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: I imagine you must be rounding up.

16:59:51 25 MR SANTORA: Yes, your Honour.

26 Q. General, I want you to just answer specifically what I
27 ask you.

28 A. Yes, counsellor.

29 Q. When you arrived at the airport in Ghana with Dr White,

1 who did you see there?

2 A. When we arrive at the airport in Ghana I saw Osebio

3 Demmey, Jack the Rebel, with four other person -- four

4 other SS personnel that came from Liberia.

17:00:25 5 Q. And what happened after you saw them?

6 A. When I saw them I informed Dr White, said, "Those were

7 the same gentlemen that they send" -- in fact, they were

8 along with Abu and Adams, Colonel Adams. But it was too

9 late, because they were already processing my expedition

17:00:48 10 paper.

11 Q. Okay. Did you have any conversation with these

12 individuals at the airport?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Okay.

17:00:56 15 A. They were about 12 feet away from us in the airport.

16 Q. Okay. After you went to your new location, where was

17 your family at this point?

18 A. My family was still in Liberia.

19 Q. Did your family eventually join you in your new location?

17:01:22 20 A. No. As a matter of fact, when I left, December 18, that

21 was on my birthday, to my new locations, my family did

22 not join me until January of 2003.

23 Q. Okay. Who paid for your family's departure from Liberia?

24 A. The International -- the IOM, International Organisation

17:01:49 25 for Monetary Funds. They are the one who pay this ticket

26 fare through the International Rescued Committee.

27 Q. Okay. Who -- did anybody else pay for any portion of

28 their departure from Liberia?

29 A. From Liberia it was through Dr Al White. To get them

1 from Liberia was, like, they had to pay 6,000 plus for
2 the round trip tickets. They were about eight persons in
3 number, and when they got to Ghana, and then --
4 Q. Okay, and then I don't want you -- I don't want you to
17:02:27 5 say after --
6 A. I'm sorry.
7 Q. -- where they went.
8 A. I'm sorry.
9 Q. So you say that Dr White paid for 8,000 -- [Overlapping
17:02:31 10 microphones]
11 A. The 6,000 --
12 Q. Six thousand.
13 A. -- for the tickets.
14 Q. Okay.
17:02:35 15 A. He did.
16 Q. In your new location, when you arrived, did Dr White give
17 you any other monies?
18 A. Well, at the new location, when we got there -- in fact,
19 when I got there he designated one Milton Teahjay to --
17:02:55 20 because he was in the States, so that he would be able to
21 get a house at a new location, to be able to --
22 Q. Answer the question exactly, okay?
23 A. Okay, sir.
24 Q. After you arrived at your new location, did you receive
17:03:13 25 any other monies from Dr White?
26 A. It was \$6,000, through Milton Teahjay.
27 Q. Okay. And then after receiving this \$6,000 from
28 Dr White, have you received any other monies?
29 A. Well, to take care of the family, I've not received any

1 money, but it's through Milton Teahjay.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please, please, answer the question

3 directly. Have you received any money?

4 THE WITNESS: No, sir.

17:03:56 5 JUDGE THOMPSON: Continue, counsel.

6 MR SANTORA: Your Honours, that is all that we have for this

7 witness.

8 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you, learned counsel.

9 MR SANTORA: Thank you, General.

17:04:05 10 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.

11 JUDGE THOMPSON: Learned counsel Jordash and Serry-Kamal, we

12 certainly would like to commence cross-examination of

13 this witness, and then go up to 6.00 o'clock and then

14 adjourn till tomorrow.

17:04:48 15 MR JORDASH: Certainly, your Honour. Your Honour, could I

16 just raise one issue, which is I will be able to deal

17 with some preliminary matters.

18 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay.

19 MR JORDASH: But it will be useful if, for tomorrow, the

17:05:03 20 witness is given a copy of his own witness statements,

21 because I'll be taking him through them extensively.

22 JUDGE THOMPSON: Very well.

23 CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR JORDASH:

24 MR JORDASH: Thank you.

17:05:13 25 Q. If I can just, Mr Tarnue, stick with one of your later

26 topics concerning when you first met Mr White. And you

27 met him, is this right, in Ghana?

28 A. Yes, sir.

29 Q. And he was accompanied by four FBI personnel?

1 A. That's correct, counsellor.

2 Q. They travelled with him; is that correct?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. They were working, on the face of it, with him; is that

17:05:56 5 correct?

6 A. Pardon me?

7 Q. Were they working -- did they appear to be working with

8 him?

9 A. Well, at the time I didn't know, so -- they came along

17:06:05 10 with him.

11 Q. Well, they came together -- they knew each other?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 [HS051004 5.10p.m.]

14 Q. Was there one of them out of the group who appear to be

17:10:00 15 leading the investigation?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. Who was that?

18 A. Dr White.

19 Q. And the 4 FBI personnel, what were they doing when you

17:10:18 20 first met them?

21 A. They were with Dr White.

22 Q. And you were interviewed by Mr White; is that correct?

23 A. If I was introduced?

24 Q. Interviewed.

17:10:28 25 A. No, I wasn't interviewed by Mr White.

26 Q. Didn't you mention, before the short break a few minutes

27 ago, five days of interviews?

28 A. That was a conversation talk when he was in the States,

29 not when he arrived in Ghana.

1 Q. Didn't you mentioned a polygraph machine?

2 A. Yes, I did.

3 Q. Tell us about the polygraph machine, if you would.

4 MR HARRISON: Objection.

17:10:58 5 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, counsel, sit down. Yes, learned
6 counsel.

7 MR HARRISON: I think generally speaking the law with respect
8 to polygraph is that it's not admissible. I'm suggesting
9 to the court that, if you are interested in hearing some
17:11:06 10 arguments on polygraph, that there is actually a case on
11 this in the ICTY where they commented upon polygraph
12 evidence and said that it was actually a case where the
13 accused was seeking to get an order that a polygraph
14 could be taken and the court refused to grant the order,
17:11:28 15 saying that polygraph could be of no use.

16 JUDGE THOMPSON: But that would be the position in national
17 systems.

18 MR HARRISON: That's also a position in national systems -- I
19 don't think all national systems, but in most.

17:11:42 20 JUDGE THOMPSON: Well not all, quite. Remain standing. Let
21 me ask the -- the question put to him did not raise the
22 issue at this point of the admissibility of polygraph
23 evidence. It merely referred to something that he had
24 said in his testimony. So at this stage I think the
17:12:02 25 objection is premature.

26 MR HARRISON: My suggestion to the Court might be, though,
27 that the Court may wish to view this in the context of
28 whether questions about whether asking if a polygraph was
29 taken ought to be allowed, because it's two-way -- it

1 cuts both ways. If you say, did you take the polygraph
2 and the answer is yes, and there is nothing pursued -- it
3 may be pursued as a [ought helping] -- that it's
4 bolstering the witness's credibility. On the other hand,
17:12:24 5 if nothing is pursued, it may be seen as a polygraph that
6 failed. In either way it's not assisting the court, and
7 it's contrary to the laws of evidence.

8 JUDGE THOMPSON: No, I wouldn't disagree with you, but we
9 haven't got to that stage yet. That inquiry is not --
17:12:50 10 it's premature because the question, as I understand it
11 is, "Did you mention about a polygraph in your
12 testimony?" Wasn't that what he said? Wasn't that what
13 you said, Mr Jordash?

14 MR JORDASH: Certainly, I have not asked about any result
17:13:04 15 and --

16 JUDGE THOMPSON: Precisely. I mean, I don't disagree with
17 your exposition of the law at this stage, but I think the
18 question was simply that in your testimony here over the
19 last couple of days you did mention a polygraph and we
17:13:26 20 didn't get the answer before your objection came in.

21 MR HARRISON: Quite right.

22 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you.

23 JUDGE BOUTET: I would like at this stage to observe that,
24 Mr Jordash -- it's only that we are in an area at this
17:13:42 25 stage where it's -- there might be sensitive information
26 about the location of the witness. So I'm just
27 cautioning both Defence and Prosecution to go cautiously,
28 and the same with the witness, as such as you know, your
29 location - your actual residence is not being disclosed

1 publicly. So you've been granted that protection by the
2 court and, therefore, any question in this respect should
3 be dealt with carefully. Thank you.

4 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.

17:14:14 5 JUDGE THOMPSON: Learned counsel for the Prosecution, your
6 objection is overruled on the grounds of being premature,
7 not as to the merits of the law, which we may have - if
8 it becomes necessary - have to discuss.

9 MR HARRISON: Thank you.

17:14:24 10 JUDGE THOMPSON: Right.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: I'm addressing myself to the witness.

12 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Your address, where you have been

14 relocated -- your address and even your country of

17:14:46 15 relocation is still protected. So you should not answer
16 any question like my colleague had pointed out -- my
17 learned colleague, Judge Boutet has pointed out -- you
18 should not answer any question under cross-examination
19 that would make you reveal, you know, your address or
17:14:52 20 your country of location or residence.

21 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

22 JUDGE THOMPSON: Proceed, Mr Jordash.

23 MR JORDASH: Thank you, Your Honour.

24 Q. Just to get the sequence right, Mr Tanu, you met Mr --

17:15:32 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: General Tanu, please.

26 MR JORDASH: I beg your pardon, General.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: He may take his shoes with you like he took
28 his shoes with Mr Chea, the Defence Minister who
29 addressed him, "Peter" and he said, "Look, I am a

1 General, you can't degrade me to an ordinary civilian."
2 Go ahead Mr Jordash.
3 MR JORDASH: Thank you.
4 PRESIDING JUDGE: You have before you a General and refer to
17:15:50 5 him as a General. Even if he is retired, he is still a
6 General. Thank you.
7 THE WITNESS: That's right. Yes, sir.
8 MR JORDASH:
9 Q. I do apologise, General.
17:15:58 10 A. Okay.
11 Q. You were taken to the US embassy -- I think that's what
12 you said -- by Mr White.
13 A. Say that again?
14 Q. Upon meeting Mr White and the FBI personnel, you were
17:16:14 15 taken to the US embassy?
16 A. Yes, counsellor.
17 Q. You went to a conference room and --
18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Learned counsel, please take it -- you were
19 worried about speed a couple of moments ago. We
17:16:34 20 also want to have you clearly on record as well. He said
21 after meeting the FBI staff he was taken to the US
22 embassy?
23 MR JORDASH: And taken to a conference room within.
24 Q. Is that correct?
17:16:46 25 A. Yes.
26 Q. And it was clear to you that they wanted to question you
27 to see if you had any information of use to them; is that
28 correct?
29 A. It was only introductory aspects; they introduced

1 themselves and that was it.

2 Q. What happened then?

3 A. And after that we were relocated to a hotel.

4 Q. What conversation took place, though, in the conference
17:17:18 5 room? Again, mindful of not revealing anything about
6 your current location, what conversation took place in
7 the conference room?

8 A. Well the conversation was based on the documentation that
9 I sent that has to do with my [inaudible] and my tenure
17:17:22 10 of service in the military; 31 years of experience and
11 working with Charles Taylor from 1990 up to the time I
12 left. So they wanted to -- in fact, they asked as to
13 whether I'm knowledgeable about some atrocities and what
14 have you, and of course, I said yes.

17:17:54 15 Q. And is this the situation that you were sitting around
16 the table with, as you've said, Mr White leading the
17 questioning?

18 A. He wasn't leading the questioning. It was the head of
19 the FBI agent at the time and later on Mr White -- I
17:18:12 20 mean, Dr White came in as chief investigator.

21 Q. So he came into the conference room?

22 A. No, I mean when I say he came in, he came into the
23 conversation. That's what I mean.

24 Q. I see. Did any of the people in that room take note of
17:18:38 25 what you were saying?

26 A. Can you speak a little louder, please, counsellor?

27 Q. Did any of the people in that room take notes of what you
28 were saying?

29 A. Oh, yes, the four of them were taking note. It was only

1 Dr White and the four FBI, nobody else.

2 Q. So Dr White and the four FBI personnel were taking note?

3 A. Right.

4 Q. You were then taken to a hotel; is that correct?

17:19:06 5 A. Right.

6 Q. And is that where a polygraph machine was located?

7 A. The polygraph machine was not located at the hotel.

8 Q. Where was the polygraph machine?

9 A. The polygraph machine was brought along.

17:19:22 10 Q. Brought along from where to where?

11 A. I don't know where it came from, but the polygraph

12 machine was brought along.

13 Q. To where?

14 A. In Ghana.

17:19:30 15 Q. To which place in Ghana?

16 A. At the hotel where we were.

17 Q. With Mr White -- Dr White and four FBIs?

18 A. With the four FBIs.

19 Q. Was the polygraph machine used?

17:19:48 20 MR HARRISON: Objection. I would like to try to persuade the

21 court that we are not to embark on any questions about

22 whether or not the polygraph machine was used. I tried

23 to outline briefly what the objection was. The case from

24 the ICTY - I did not bring it with me, but there is a

25 case perhaps someone from Chambers may be able to provide

26 it to the Court quicker than I could, but there is a case

27 on this - the use of polygraph, and again it cut both

28 ways, and the reason why courts typically have not even

29 embarked upon the exercise of allowing questions on

1 whether the test was taken is because if you say, yes,
2 the test was taken, then two conclusions can be drawn.
3 One is that it was taken and it was passed, but you don't
4 learn that and it's simply ought helping, it's bolstering
5 the witness's credibility. The second one is that the
6 witness took it and he failed, in which case it's
7 denigrating the witness's credibility. In either case, a
8 polygraph itself is unreliable, and that's why no
9 questions ought to be allowed with respect to whether or
10 not the test was taken.

11 JUDGE THOMPSON: Well, let me respond in two perspective.

12 Stay on your feet. One, suppose I tell you that that
13 rule against the admissibility of polygraph in the
14 national systems and -- would necessarily be, because we
17:21:18 15 will come to the international system that perhaps here
16 is an area of unsettled law - it varies from country to
17 country. I know that in the American system that is the
18 position as you've stated it. It definitely is not
19 admissible within the American system of jurisprudence,
17:21:42 20 but suppose I tell you that the whole question of
21 polygraph falls within the strict issue of admissibility
22 of evidence in common law systems because the polygraph
23 does create the kind of problems that you analysed, and
24 that in a system where the operative principle is
17:22:06 25 extensive evaluation -- extensive admissibility of
26 evidence, leaving the issue of reliability to be
27 determined when you factor the final equation of
28 probative value, and that professional judges would be
29 able to make that determination since we are not having a

1 trial here -- trial by judge -- that we are more
2 familiar, we know that even if we admit evidence of that
3 nature, we are very conscious as to their limitation in
4 terms of reliability. So why -- you need to convince us
17:22:44 5 why should we be governed by the strict rules of
6 admissibility of polygraph evidence because this is the
7 position in national systems. Suppose we want to break
8 new ground here and say that as professional judges we
9 will be able to treat polygraph evidence and determine
10 the whole issue in the context of the totality of the
11 evidence deciding whether it's reliable, you know, as to
12 probative value. So let's argue for that.

13 MR HARRISON: The ICTY has ruled on this already though. So
14 it's not just the national systems that have commented
15 upon this trend, and I can tell you that in addition to
16 the United States, the law in Canada is that polygraphy
17 evidence is not admissible. My understanding is that
18 that is case of the law in Australia and also the law in
19 UK.

20 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes.

21 MR HARRISON: I think Your Lordship partly appreciates that
22 when you talked about polygraph evidence, what you are
23 only talking about is a take of expert evidence, because
24 the person is giving their opinion upon a type of
25 information that is evaluate -- it's very similar to a
26 person who has breathelised the test, but he had driving
27 while prohibited to, driving along point zero weight of
28 alcohol content, and an expert has to be qualified to
29 then give information about it before it ever becomes

1 admissible. In this case, we would not be able to do
2 any of those tests. We simply have an answer and you
3 would have expert opinion which has never been actually
4 evaluated upon whether this person has any expertise in
17:24:10 5 order to pass that opinion. So you have an opinion
6 without any foundation and which, in my submission, would
7 be unreliable. And although I accept -- I think the
8 starting premise -- Your Lordship started with which says
9 that, this Court, if there is relevance to the evidence
17:24:30 10 and if the evidence is reliable - if it meets those two
11 criteria, then the court probably would take the view
12 that it's something that it could consider. If all we
13 have is relevance, no indication of reliability, then
14 that's why it falls short on the second test of whether
15 or not this Court should entertain that alone, and that's
16 why I said it's not meeting that threshold for even a
17 panel of professional judges to consider this type of
18 information. Unfortunately, my recollection of the
19 reading of the ICTY case is not as vivid and clear as
17:24:46 20 what I wish it would be, but my recollection was that the
21 court in that case simply said that it was entirely
22 unreliable.

23 JUDGE THOMPSON: Well, I think what it said it was the
24 introduction of polygraph evidence is unlikely to
25 expedite proceedings.

26 MR HARRISON: I beg your pardon?

27 JUDGE THOMPSON: That it is unlikely to expedite the
28 proceedings, the introduction of a --

29 MR HARRISON: That would be likely --

1 JUDGE THOMPSON: -- and, of course, the question really is
2 that that particular case was drawing also from the
3 national systems that in the scientific community -- in
4 the national systems, based on the scientific evidence,
5 polygraph evidence is unreliable and that's the
6 consensus. So --

7 MR HARRISON: I accept that.

8 JUDGE THOMPSON: -- virtually that decision was based on an
9 adoption of the principle in the national systems.

10 MR HARRISON: I accept that. Your Lordship seems more familiar
11 with the case than I.

12 JUDGE THOMPSON: And of course in our case here, in the
13 international tribunals we have a tripartite formula:
14 Relevance, reliability and probative value. So evidence
15 will have to pass those three tests. We can admit it,
16 but we find that it is not reliable. Is it possible?

17 MR HARRISON: In my submission --

18 JUDGE THOMPSON: We can admit it, if we have the -- say, we
19 have a three-prong test; relevance, reliability and
20 probative value. If it passes the relevance test, it can
21 still fail the reliability test and so if we apply the
22 principle of extensive admissibility of evidence -- but
23 when it comes to the question of reliability and
24 probative value, we can still say it doesn't pass the
25 test. Would that -- or would you caution us against any
26 kind of approach that way?

27 MR HARRISON: I have warned the court against that course of
28 conduct. I'm not persuaded that that is the course of
29 conduct that's been adopted in other tribunals. Of

1 course, I stand to be corrected by my colleagues on the
2 other side, but my understanding of the [microphones not
3 activated] although this Court may take a more expansive
4 view --

5 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, quite right. We're entitled to do that.

6 MR HARRISON: -- of the information that they can rely upon.

7 If the Court has a view that the information is
8 unreliable, then it's not admissible.

9 JUDGE THOMPSON: That's the difficulty -- that's the point I'm
10 making.

11 JUDGE BOUTET: If I may --

12 JUDGE THOMPSON: Well, let us listen to my brother, the
13 learned -- do sit down.

14 JUDGE BOUTET: -- because I know the case law that you are
15 quoting comes from ICTY, but I just would like to put it
16 in the real context. That particular decision is focused
17 on an application by an accused to be given the
18 opportunity to be interrogated on the application of a
19 polygraph. It is quite a different scenario than the one
17:25:54 20 we have here. So that decision doesn't rule at all on
21 the issue that we are facing today, although it does deal
22 with polygraph - it's polygraph in that particular
23 decision under a situation where an accused says, "I
24 would like to have the polygraph result in court to
25 support my position as an accused," which is not what we
26 have here today. So when the court was dealing with
27 that issue in that case, these were the facts that they
28 dealt with, not the facts as we have them. It's not
29 polygraph for polygraph; it was polygraph applicable to

1 that particular scenario.

2 MR HARRISON: I accept that. Sorry, Mr Jordash.

3 JUDGE THOMPSON: Let's hear you, Mr Jordash.

4 MR JORDASH: I might be able to assist. Certainly today I

5 would not be asking this witness what the result of any

6 polygraphy test was --

7 JUDGE THOMPSON: Oh, well, that's helpful.

8 MR JORDASH: I don't think the foundation has been laid.

9 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes.

10 MR JORDASH: Certainly, I'm surprised and concerned that there

11 hasn't been disclosure of this fact until it came out of

12 the witness's -- General Tanu's mouth a few moments ago

13 that there was a polygraph machine in a room with him.

14 JUDGE THOMPSON: But perhaps that was not considered to be an

15 important part of the res gestae, because it may well be

16 that that is not -- from their attitude you can see that

17 they probably do not consider it to be part of the res

18 gestae in a sense.

19 MR JORDASH: If I could be allowed to continue, I will not be

20 asking this witness, certainly not today. I would

21 discuss any such question --

22 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay, all right.

23 MR JORDASH: -- but I am interested as to whether it was there

24 and working.

25 JUDGE THOMPSON: I mean, for me, my response here would be to

26 wait until we get there, because this arose out -- this

27 came out in examination-in-chief and you are entitled to

28 cross-examine on it.

29 MR JORDASH: I'm grateful.

1 JUDGE THOMPSON: It came out in examination-in-chief. When
2 the issue of admissibility arises, then, of course, the
3 discussion that we've been having here becomes relevant
4 and of the moment.

17:30:12 5 MR JORDASH: Certainly.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: I think following the compromise suggested
7 by learned counsel Mr Jordash, we can proceed --

8 MR JORDASH: Thank you.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: -- and see how we revisit this issue. Let's

17:30:30 10 proceed and gain the time that we have, you know, at our
11 disposal, please. Mr Jordash, you can proceed with your
12 cross-examination.

13

14 MR JORDASH:

17:30:46 15 Q. The polygraph machine was brought to the room
16 specifically to be there when you were there; is that
17 correct?

18 A. Yes, the polygraph machine was brought to be there.

19 Q. Were you questioned with the polygraph machine working?

17:31:08 20 A. Pardon me?

21 Q. Were you questioned when the polygraph machine was
22 working?

23 A. If I was questioned --

24 Q. Was the polygraph machine operative - working when you
17:31:18 25 were being questioned?

26 A. The polygraph machine was working, yes.

27 Q. And the polygraph machine had, as part of its
28 construction, a tape-recorder; do you recall that?

29 A. I don't know about that, because I'm not a technician

1 with polygraph machine.

2 Q. Did you see them operating the polygraph machine - the
3 people who were questioning you?

4 A. Well, I saw him operating the polygraph machine.

17:31:52 5 Q. Dr White and the four FBI personnel, we are talking
6 about; is that correct?

7 A. I talked to White and the four FBIs.

8 Q. And when the -- the nature of the questioning, was it
9 about the evidence you're giving today?

17:32:16 10 A. Pardon me?

11 Q. Were you asked questions about the evidence you're giving
12 today and yesterday; was that the subject of the
13 questioning?

14 A. You got to paraphrase that question; I don't understand
17:32:30 15 what you mean.

16 Q. You were asked about your history within liberia; is that
17 correct?

18 A. Yes, I was asked about my history within Liberia.

19 Q. You were asked about your relationship with Charles
17:32:48 20 Taylor?

21 A. I was asked about my relationship with the armed forces
22 of Liberia and that of the NPFL.

23 Q. And Charles Taylor?

24 A. Yes, NPFL is Charles Taylor.

17:33:14 25 Q. Well, Charles Taylor, the man, I'm talking about.

26 A. Say that again.

27 Q. I'm talking about Charles Taylor, the man. Were you
28 asked about your relationship with him, the man?

29 A. Charles Taylor the man. What do you mean "Charles Taylor

1 the man"?

2 Q. But he is a man, isn't he?

3 A. Yes, Charles Taylor, the man.

4 Q. Were you asked about him his role within Liberia, but

17:33:36 5 also your relationship with him as a person?

6 A. Well, I was asked with respect to my job responsibility

7 and there were a lot of human rights and other things.

8 So -- and that was it.

9 Q. Where you asked about the accused Mr Sesay?

17:33:54 10 A. No. Which Sesay?

11 Q. Mr Sesay; Issa Sesay.

12 A. No. In fact they did not mention anything about RUF

13 issue. They only mentioned -- can I elaborate a little

14 further, judge?

17:34:06 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, please.

16 A. The only thing they asked was, "How long did you serve

17 the military and what was your training blackground?"

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Excuse me. Let me get one answer to a

19 question right. It is true to have you on record as

17:34:42 20 saying that in the course of their questioning you, they

21 did not say anything about -- they did not question you

22 on the RUF?

23 A. There?

24 Q. Yes.

17:34:48 25 A. They only asked me about any connection with Charles

26 Taylor from the time I surrendered in June, and I said

27 yes.

28 MR JORDASH:

29 Q. Well, let me just refer you you to an interview you had

1 with Mr White later on -- an interview you had. You will
2 be able to have a copy of this, I think tomorrow. So you
3 will have to take my word at the moment. This is what it
4 says. You were interviewed on April the 9th and
17:35:26 5 April 10th by Allan -- Dr Allan White, do you recall
6 that?
7 A. I recall that.
8 Q. Now, looking at that --
9 JUDGE THOMPSON: What is the date, counsel?
17:35:38 10 MR JORDASH: 8th and 9th of April -- sorry, 9th and 10th of
11 April --
12 JUDGE THOMPSON: Counsel is on his feet, sit down.
13 MR HARRISON: I apologise for interrupting his
14 cross-examination, but I even have a copy of it here, if
15 Mr Jordash would allow, I could put it in front of the
16 witness.
17 MR JORDASH: Certainly.
18 MR HARRISON: Is that acceptable to the court? It's a clean
19 copy.
17:36:18 20 MR JORDASH: Thank you very much.
21 JUDGE THOMPSON: Mr Jordash, you said the date was 8/9th
22 April --
23 MR JORDASH: 2003. Sorry, 9th and 10th of April 2003.
24 JUDGE THOMPSON: 9th and 10th of April.
17:36:20 25 MR JORDASH: And I note Your Honours don't have the same
26 numbers as --
27 JUDGE THOMPSON: That's Okay.
28 MR JORDASH: But my numbering is 129 on the right hand side,
29 the right corner -- the right top corner.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: 9th and 10th of April 2003?

2 MR JORDASH: Your Honour, yes.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Page?

4 MR JORDASH: 129. I don't know if my learned friend --

17:37:04 5 JUDGE BOUTET: It's page 8221.

6 MR JORDASH:

7 Q. Just so that we are working from the same page, does your

8 129 start with, "him, they manage to get help in exile"?

9 General Tanu, does the top of your page 129 start with,

17:37:50 10 "him, they managed to get help in exile to help

11 Compaore"?

12 A. Where did it start from?

13 Q. Is that how it starts, "him, they manage to get help..."

14 A. This has to do with --

17:38:54 15 Q. No, no, I'm not asking you about Compaore at this stage.

16 What I'm asking you about firstly is just to confirm we

17 are both on the same page. Top of the page 129, "him,

18 they manage to get help in exile to help Compaore," is

19 that correct; are we on the same page?

17:39:08 20 A. Right.

21 Q. We are, good.

22 A. We are on the same page.

23 Q. Great, great. Now the bit I am interested in is

24 immediately after "Compaore" where you said to Dr White,

17:39:20 25 "All those stories I am telling you concerning his

26 connections with Benjamin Yeaten, with Sankoh and what

27 have you, they were all explained after we met when I

28 surrender." Do you see that?

29 A. I saw that.

1 Q. Which occasion were you referring to when you talk of
2 explaining previously to Mr White stories about Sankoh
3 and Benjamin Yeaten?

4 A. Well, I see where they have, "I surrender." The only
5 surrendering I did was in 1990 in Banga.

6 MR HARRISON: I would ask if it is possible for the witness to
7 be -- have his attention drawn to the sentence
8 immediately before that so the whole paragraph --

9 THE WITNESS: Because I just see, "I surrender." I don't know
10 what you are talking about --

11 JUDGE THOMPSON: Witness. General, General.

12 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

13 JUDGE THOMPSON: Hold on.

14 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry.

15 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, let me hear you.

16 MR HARRISON: I'm just asking if the whole paragraph could be
17 read by the witness. He may then be able to put it in
18 context and respond. It's somewhat disjointed, I think,
19 now.

17:40:20 20 JUDGE THOMPSON: Mr Jordash, counsel has made a suggestion
21 that in fact the entire paragraph should be put to the
22 witness so that we can make a lot more sense out of it --

23 MR JORDASH: Certainly.

24 JUDGE THOMPSON: -- rather than separate sentences which can
17:40:28 25 be disjointed.

26 JUDGE BOUTET: And I would suggest, Mr Jordash -- I have the
27 document in front of me, too - that you asked the witness
28 to look at the previous page, because that's where it
29 starts. So at least he could put it in context and then

1 probably be able to give you a more complete answer. So,
2 Mr Witness, can you look at the page before that one --
3 that precedes that one?
4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Let me say this, Mr Jordash: Why don't you
17:41:20 5 read it, because this witness is under some pressure, you
6 know. Why don't you read - he will be looking at what
7 you are reading so that he follows you along,.
8 MR JORDASH: I will.
9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please.
17:41:26 10 MR JORDASH:
11 Q. To be fair to you, General Tanu, I will start reading
12 from near to the top of page 128.
13 A. 1 -- 1 what?
14 Q. 128.
17:41:30 15 A. 128. Okay.
16 Q. The question from Dr White is, "When did Yeaten and
17 Taylor first become acquainted?" Did you see that?
18 A. That's page 128.
19 Q. Yes.
17:41:32 20 A. Below I see, "was probably Taylor [inaudible] friend."
21 That's what I saw. You're talking about 128.
22 JUDGE BOUTET: Yes, that's the page, a few lines down from
23 there.
24 THE WITNESS: You are reading different page.
17:42:22 25 JUDGE BOUTET: That's the right page, General Tanu.
26 MR JORDASH:
27 Q. It's few lines from the top of the page, "When did Yeaten
28 and Taylor..." this is page 128, General. "When did
29 Yeaten and Taylor first become acquainted."

1 JUDGE BOUTET: Line 5 of that page.
2 MR JORDASH:
3 Q. Line 5, do you see that?
4 A. "When did Yeaten and Taylor first became acquainted?"
5 Q. You see that; you got it?
6 A. Yes, I saw that, okay.
7 Q. You say, "From the day they recruited him on the training
8 base in Libya."
9 A. Yes.
17:42:38 10 Q. "When was this?" "They met in Burkina Faso; that was the
11 middle of 1986."
12 A. Right.
13 Q. Question, "May 1986?" Your answer, "Middle of 1986."
14 A. Right.
17:42:48 15 Q. Dr White: How do you know that? Answer: The middle of
16 1986 I got to know that when I surrendered to Charles
17 Taylor June 1990 and then before that I was with AFL. At
18 1985 Kpenkpah division --
19 A. "Invasion."
20 Q. Pardon?
21 A. The word should be "invasion" not "division."
22 Q. "Kpenkpah invasion, the former commaders -- commanding
23 general's division, it's Konah Kpenkpah division who was
24 former commander general and after he killed, they all
25 flee to Burkina Faso." Still sticking with your answer,
26 "And it was when Taylor, according to him, they managed
27 to get help in exile to help Compaore." Then you say,
28 "All these stories I'm telling you concerning his
29 connection with Benjamin Yeaten..." "his" being Charles

1 Taylor; is that right?

2 A. So what is your question?

3 Q. If you listen, I'll just ask one.

4 A. I'm seeing that.

5 Q. "All these stories I am telling you concerning his

6 connection..." "his" is Taylor; isn't it?

7 A. Yes, his connection with Compaore.

8 Q. "Taylors's connections with Benjamin Yeaten, Sankoh and

9 what have you, they were all explained after we met when

17:42:50 10 I surrendered." "After we", you and Allan White?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So you had explained to Allan White when you surrendered

13 the connection between Taylor, Yeaten, Sankoh.

14 A. So what does it imply to you?

15 Q. What it implies to me is not really the point the point

16 is is that what you were doing --

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: General --

18 THE WITNESS: Sir.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: I would like to draw your attention to the

17:43:00 20 fact that you will answer the questions. Follow them

21 very carefully and answer them. Don't ask counsel,

22 "what does that imply to you?"

23 THE WITNESS: Okay, sir.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just restrain yourself and confine yourself

17:45:04 25 to answering his question. If you do not know -- if you

26 know the answer to a question, you answer the question.

27 If you do not, you say you do not. If you can remember,

28 you answer. If you cannot remember, you know -- just

29 take it easy. Don't have the impression that you are

1 being trapped, you know, somewhere. Be yourself and --

2 THE WITNESS: I'm relaxed, sir.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: I know you are very relaxed.

4 THE WITNESS: I'm relaxed.

17:45:32 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please, just answer the questions and we'll

6 proceed.

7 THE WITNESS: Go ahead, counselor.

8 MR JORDASH:

9 Q. A very straightfoward question, General. You explained

17:45:40 10 to Dr White at the time of your surrender about the

11 connection between Taylor, Yeaten and Sankoh; is that

12 correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Was that when you were in a hotel room with a polygrapg?

17:46:08 15 A. In a hotel room with a polygraph?

16 Q. Straightfoward question, General. Was that when you were

17 in the hotel with the polygraph?

18 A. No, at the time these questions were being asked, the

19 polygraph wasn't on.

17:46:24 20 Q. When was thay then?

21 A. It was in a hotel room. We had separate hotel rooms and

22 the hotel rooms were four different rooms besides where I

23 was.

24 Q. If we just stick with wo was in the room when that

17:46:48 25 conversation took place with Dr White.

26 A. The FBI were there.

27 Q. Right. Was this the same occasion when the polygraph

28 machine was there?

29 A. All of these statements that were being spoken about,

1 there was no polygraph machine yet.

2 Q. And then the polygraph machine came afterwards?

3 A. We went through this conversation without polygraph

4 machine.

17:47:06 5 Q. Did the polygraph machine come afterwards?

6 A. After the interview, yes.

7 Q. And then you were interviewed further with the polygraph

8 machine on; is that correct?

9 Q. After the questioners, the polygraph machine came.

17:47:24 10 Q. And it was on for further questioning?

11 A. That was at the end of the interview.

12 Q. Was it on for further questioning?

13 A. No, during the questioning the polygraph was never on.

14 Q. So why did they switch the polygraph machine on?

17:47:38 15 A. It was only one person that conducted the polygraph

16 machine.

17 Q. Who was that?

18 A. One of the FBI.

19 Q. And what was the conversation?

17:47:54 20 A. Which conversation?

21 Q. When the polygraph machine was switched on, was there

22 conversation in the room?

23 A. The question asked by the person who conducted the

24 polygraph machine was, "General, were you ever involved

25 into human rights abuse?" I said, "No." "Did you see

26 the attrocidity Charles Taylor committed against the

27 Liberian people?" I said, "Yes." Then he asked other

28 questions to verify as to whether what I was telling him

29 about the human right abuse and what have you were true

1 and that was it.

2 Q. Dr White was there during this?

3 A. Say that again?

4 Q. Was Dr White there during this?

17:48:28 5 A. When the polygraph machine was being conducted, Dr White

6 wasn't there.

7 Q. He wasn't there?

8 A. No, he wasn't in there.

9 Q. Where did he go, do you know?

17:48:36 10 A. I don't know where he went.

11 Q. Before the polygraph machine was switched on Dr White

12 questioned you and took notes; is that correct?

13 A. All of these question -- yes -- were asked before the

14 polygraph machine came in.

15 Q. And Dr White took notes, is that correct?

16 A. Well, I don't know whether he was teking notes --

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Don't pusue him with too -- the questions

18 are coming in too quick. Take it --

19 THE WITNESS: He asked the question whether he was taking note

17:49:00 20 or not. He did ask and that was it.

21 MR JORDASH:

22 Q. Now, did Dr White ever explain to you what he was doing

23 there with the FBI personnel?

24 A. Well, Dr White came in, he said, "Look, I am the

17:49:12 25 investigator for the Special Court, and I want to make

26 sure you have just told me from your preliminary hearing

27 that you are a veteran; you worked with three different

28 governments and you surrendered to Charles Taylor. In

29 the process, we are trying to inquire -- there are a lot

1 of attrocity that went on in Liberia. So we want to know
2 exactly what is your knowledge, because Charles Taylor --
3 from 1990 up to '96 there were a lot of issues that went
4 on. Can you verify; 79"

17:49:56 5 Q. I'm sorry to interrupt, but General, you understood at
6 this stage Dr White was from the Special Court?
7 A. Yes, sure.
8 Q. What did you understand the FBI to do with the Special
9 Court?

17:50:16 10 A. I'm just telling you --
11 Q. I'm just asking you, General. What did you understand
12 the FBI were there to do?
13 A. The FBI and Dr White came to make sure as to whether they
14 were talking to somebody credible.

17:50:16 15 Q. Did Dr White explain to you why he was with FBI
16 personnel?
17 A. But Dr White -- I told you earlier that he introduced
18 himself as the investigator for the Special Court.
19 Q. And did he -- what did he say about the FBI personnel?

17:50:40 20 A. He said the FBI personnel were there to make sure that
21 the investigation went through and that whatever he
22 arrived at based on the decision from the State
23 Department, then he would be able to take an action.
24 Q. So you understood from Dr White that the FBI were an
17:51:06 25 important aspect of his investigation; is that correct?
26 A. Pardon me?
27 Q. You understood from Dr White that the FBI were an
28 important part of his investigations into you; is that
29 correct?

1 A. Of course, yes.

2 Q. Of course.

3 MR JORDASH: Any questions I have to, Your Honours, to follow

4 up on this subject probably would be best left to do in

17:51:42 5 closed session. The questions I would like to follow on

6 in terms of this subject undoubtedly would reveal his

7 location.

8 JUDGE BOUTET: Can I ask you how many questions we are talking

9 about? Just trying to assess time here.

17:52:04 10 MR JORDASH: A great deal of questions I would --

11 JUDGE BOUTET: A great deal, because it's 5:55. I'm just

12 trying to determine how best to proceed.

13 MR JORDASH: Yes, Your Honours I'm not asking for that to

14 happen today. It's certainly a lengthy subject what's

17:52:16 15 the reason in relation to the connection of the OTP

16 investigator and the State Department.

17 JUDGE BOUTET: And are you at that stage in your

18 cross-examination now where you want to do that or --

19 MR JORDASH: I can leave it until later on down the line, but

17:52:34 20 I just notice the time and I see it is 5:55.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: Since you want to make an application for a

22 closed session, I think we can rapidly take that and then

23 we go into closed session tomorrow morning. Are you

24 going to be long, you know, in making this application

17:52:54 25 for a closed session because we can take those arguments

26 now and --

27 MR HARRISON: I'm sorry, we will consent to a closed session

28 if that is what Mr Jordash is suggesting.

29 MR JORDASH: In order to make the best use of time, this area

1 I would prefer to explore some way down into my
2 cross-examination -- there are subjects I would like to
3 cover before, but I was particularly keen at this stage
4 to deal with the preliminary issues concerning what
17:53:24 5 happened in Ghana.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: So what do you want to do, Mr Jordash?

7 MR JORDASH: Well, I'm moving on to a fresh subject. So I'm
8 in Your Honours' hands.

9 JUDGE BOUTET: When you say "fresh subject", you mean you
17:53:44 10 would like to move into closed session so as to explore
11 these.

12 MR JORDASH: I haven't been very clear. Basically, I'm moving
13 now to another section of cross-examination. I will
14 return to this subject but in closed session.

17:54:00 15 JUDGE BOUTET: Okay. But just for a clear understanding of
16 closed session, you will be -- you're asking the Court to
17 sit in a closed session hearing for that part of your
18 cross-examination that you will be doing, dealing with
19 the State Department, FBI, because all of these
17:54:16 20 questions, according to you, are likely to reveal --
21 disclose the address and so on of this particular
22 witness.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Or the country of relocation, is that what
24 you are saying?

17:54:20 25 MR JORDASH: Your Honour, yes.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Jordash, what do you want then -- you
27 want to do that now?

28 MR JORDASH: No, I would like to go home. I can apply for a
29 closed session now if it's convenient for Your Honours.

1 JUDGE THOMPSON: [Microphones not activated] -- most
2 convenient. Isn't it better to come -- in case we are
3 inclined to adjourn now, because we did make a commitment
4 to finish at 6:00 -- to come tomorrow morning, go into
17:55:02 5 closed session, you cover the areas that you proposed to
6 cover in closed session and then get back into open
7 session, because --
8 PRESIDING JUDGE: It depends on the length of time he is going
9 to take at the closed session, because, you know, we have
17:55:14 10 the gallery who also --
11 JUDGE THOMPSON: It's just this idea of getting members of the
12 public to go and come back, you know -- for example, if
13 we start with your examination-in -- your
14 cross-examination in the morning, you cover areas in open
17:55:34 15 session, and then you move on to closed session, and then
16 you finish that and then we go back to open session.
17 It's also the convenience of the public that's equally
18 important here and their right to hear the proceedings.
19 MR JORDASH: Well, I could certainly deal with any follow-on
17:55:50 20 question in any subject related in a space of probably
21 45 minutes tomorrow morning if that is --
22 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, I just think that we should just --
23 JUDGE BOUTET: Did you say 45 or 425?
24 MR JORDASH: 45.
17:56:12 25 JUDGE THOMPSON: I just think it's convenient to start the
26 closed session in the morning, getting it done, and we
27 can then go back into open session.
28 MR JORDASH: Certainly.
29 PRESIDING JUDGE: We would like as much as possible to go into

1 closed session just once, you know, not repeatedly during
2 the cross-examination.

3 MR JORDASH: I think I will be able to do that.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: You think in about 45 minutes. Let's put it
17:56:34 5 one hour. You would at least be through with all that
6 would be examined in closed session. Now if we start at
7 9:30 tomorrow morning, it means that at about 10:30 we
8 should be through with the closed session. So can we ask
9 our dear gallery to be here, you know, at 10:30? Please
17:56:52 10 assure them -- yes, I mean, it's important.

11 JUDGE THOMPSON: And it imposes a kind of discipline on your
12 own presentation, too. It makes your work easier.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Well, Mr Jordash, we don't want to press you
14 too hard. We would adjourn and we will resume tomorrow
17:57:08 15 at 9:30, and the gallery is advised to come in, you know,
16 at about 10:30. If we are not through with the closed
17 session, well, you will be mute over there, you will hear
18 nothing until we are through with the closed session. So
19 the Tribunal will rise and resume tomorrow at 9.30.
20 Thank you.

21 [Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 5.58 p.m., to be
22 reconvened on Wednesday, the 6th day of October 2004 at
23 9.30 a.m. in closed session.]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

We Susan G Humphries, Ella K Drury, Momodou Jallow, and
Maureen P Dunn, Official Court Reporters for the
Special Court for Sierra Leone, do hereby certify that the
foregoing proceedings in the above-entitled cause were taken
at the time and place as stated; that it was taken in
shorthand (machine writer) and thereafter transcribed by
computer, that the foregoing pages contain a true and
correct transcription of said proceedings to the best of our
ability and understanding.

We further certify that we are not of counsel nor related
to any of the parties to this cause and that we are in
nowise interested in the result of said cause.

Susan G Humphries

Ella K Drury

Momodou Jallow

Maureen P Dunn

WITNESSES FOR THE PROSECUTION:

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