



Case No. SCSL-2003-01-T

THE PROSECUTOR OF
THE SPECIAL COURT
V.
CHARLES GHANKAY TAYLOR

TUESDAY, 24 AUGUST 2010
9.00 A.M.
TRIAL

TRIAL CHAMBER II

Before the Judges:

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

For Chambers:

Ms Doreen Kiggundu

For the Registry:

Ms Rachel Irura
Ms Zainab Fofanah

For the Prosecution:

Ms Brenda J Hollis
Mr Mohamed A Bangura
Ms Maja Dimitrova

For the accused Charles Ghankay
Taylor:

Mr Morris Anyah
Mr Simon Chapman

1 Tuesday, 24 August 2010

2 [Open session]

3 [The accused not present]

4 [Upon commencing at 9.38 a.m.]

09:38:10 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good morning. We will take appearances
6 first, please.

7 MS HOLLIS: Good morning, Madam President, your Honours
8 opposing counsel. This morning for the Prosecution, Mohamed A
9 Bangura, Maja Dimitrova and myself, Brenda J Hollis.

09:38:29 10 MR ANYAH: Good morning, Madam President. Good morning,
11 your Honours. Good morning, counsel opposite. Appearing for the
12 Defence this morning is myself, Morris Anyah. Thank you.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah, Mr Taylor is not in court. I
14 do not think that the Chamber is aware of any reasons why he is
09:38:47 15 not in court.

16 MR ANYAH: Yesterday, Madam President. Typically on
17 Tuesdays Mr Taylor is absent for the morning session for reasons
18 I suspect your Honours are now well familiar with. Today the
19 usual reasons would have applied but for the fact that the
09:39:04 20 appointment that he usually keeps was cancelled through no fault
21 of his own. But separate and apart from that, other issues have
22 arisen today which makes it that he is absent and will be absent,
23 not just from this morning's session but from the entire
24 proceedings today.

09:39:21 25 The reasons for that absence I perhaps should convey in a
26 private session because they implicate the privacy of Mr Taylor.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Before we proceed, I would just like to
28 note and apologise that the Chamber started a good 35 minutes
29 late today. The reasons, I am reliably informed, are that a lot

1 of the support staff could not get to court on time due to a
2 massive disruption of the public transportation in The Hague and
3 the staff include, of course, our court reporters who couldn't be
4 here until just now. So that's why we have started late. We
09:40:10 5 couldn't proceed with no record being kept.

6 As for the reasons of Mr Taylor's absence, I think we will
7 go into a private session briefly so that these reasons may be
8 put on the record.

9 [At this point in the proceedings, a portion of
10 the transcript, pages 46943 to 46943, was
11 extracted and sealed under separate cover, as
12 the proceeding was heard in private session.]
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1 [Open session]

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

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Now, I note for the record that Mr Anyah,
4 counsel for the Defence, has in a private session informed the
09:42:48 5 Trial Chamber of the reasons for Mr Taylor's absence. These
6 reasons were stated in private session in order to protect the
7 privacy of Mr Taylor.

8 We have heard the explanation given that the Court may
9 proceed in the absence of Mr Taylor and we are satisfied that it
09:43:15 10 is in the interests of justice to proceed, pursuant to Rule 60(B)
11 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence. And so we will proceed
12 and, Mr Anyah, please call your next witness.

13 MR ANYAH: Yes, Madam President, the Defence's next witness
14 will be DCT-008. Before the witness is brought before the Court,
09:43:37 15 there are a few preliminary matters I should indicate.

16 The first is that the witness will be testifying in
17 Liberian English through an interpreter.

18 The second is that the witness wishes to be sworn by taking
19 the solemn declaration pursuant to Rule 90(B).

09:43:56 20 Last but not the least, is that the witness wishes to avail
21 himself of the protective measure of pseudonym, that is to
22 testify using the pseudonym DCT-008.

23 We submit, as your Honours are well familiar, that a
24 decision rendered by your Honours on 27 May 2009, filed under CMS
09:44:20 25 782 allows ex-combatants of the civil conflicts in either Liberia
26 or Sierra Leone to be afforded the protective measure of
27 pseudonym and this particular witness in our submission falls
28 under the first category, that is being an ex-combatant that
29 fought during the civil war in Liberia. And so he wishes to

1 avail himself of that protective measure. Thank you.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: I do not suppose that there are any other
3 protective measures that he has rescinded?

09:44:57

4 MR ANYAH: No, Madam President, that is the only one
5 applicable to him at this time.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well, that is so noted and the
7 witness will proceed with the protective measure of a pseudonym.
8 Please call the witness in.

09:45:38

9 MR ANYAH: Madam President, while the witness is being
10 brought in can I just indicate very shortly that once I commence
11 the examination of the witness, I will make an application for a
12 private session to elicit information that contains his identity.
13 And later on during the course of his testimony I anticipate that
14 I will also make a similar application to cover matters that will
15 be protective of Prosecution witnesses.

09:45:59

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: May I just inquire if the Liberian
17 English interpreters are in place, please?

18 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, your Honours.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you.

09:46:18

20 WITNESS: DCT-008 [Affirmed]

21 EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR ANYAH:

22 Q. Good morning, Mr Witness.

23 A. Good morning, sir.

09:47:42

24 Q. Before we commence your examination, there are just a few
25 ground rules about giving evidence to a court that I wish to go
26 over with you.

27 The first of those is that you will notice you're wearing a
28 headset and you will hear the voice of an interpreter repeating
29 everything that I say to you from English to Liberian English.

1 So the first request is that you listen carefully to what the
2 interpreter has to say; you wait until the interpreter completes
3 the interpretation before you provide an answer. Do you follow
4 me?

09:48:17 5 A. Yes, I do.

6 Q. And then the second point I wish to indicate is that, when
7 I ask you questions it is typical to look in my direction as you
8 give your answer to the Court, but can I ask you to face the
9 Justices and to provide your responses to the Court and not to
10 me. Do you follow me?

09:48:37 10

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. And the last request is that you speak slowly but also loud
13 and clearly so that everybody can follow you. Okay?

14 A. Yes, sir.

09:48:53 15 MR ANYAH: Madam President, may I make an application to go
16 into private session to elicit biographical information about the
17 witness.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. For the purposes of
19 protecting the privacy or the identity of this witness who enjoys
09:49:13 20 the protective measure of the use of a pseudonym, we will go into
21 a private session briefly to elicit that evidence.

22 [At this point in the proceedings, a portion of
23 the transcript, pages 46947 to 46954, was
24 extracted and sealed under separate cover, as
25 the proceeding was heard in private session.]

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1 [Open session]

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

3 MR ANYAH:

4 Q. Mr Witness, can you tell us your nationality, please.

10:11:06 5 A. Yes. I am a Liberian.

6 Q. Do you belong to any ethnic or tribal groups in Liberia?

7 A. Yes. I am from Nimba County and I am part of the Gio
8 tribe, or Dan.

9 Q. And what languages, if any, besides Liberian English, do
10:11:35 10 you speak?

11 A. No, with the exception of Gio.

12 Q. So you speak Gio and Liberian English?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Are you married, Mr Witness?

10:11:59 15 A. Yes, I am married.

16 Q. Do you have any children?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. How many children do you have?

19 A. I have three children.

10:12:15 20 Q. Now, in December 1989, where were you?

21 A. In December of 1989 I was in Monrovia going to school.

22 Q. What did you do when it came around Christmas time in
23 December 1989?

24 A. During the Christmas time of 1989 I left Monrovia and
10:13:04 25 travelled to Nimba County on a vacation.

26 Q. When you got to Nimba County what did you encounter?

27 A. Okay. First of all, when I left Monrovia, along with my
28 mother and my brother and sister, we hired a truck but we had a
29 breakdown in a town called Totota. So we spent the whole night

1 in Totota. And during the course of that night I saw a movement
2 of security officers in vehicles from Monrovia going towards
3 Gbarnga and from Gbarnga going towards Monrovia. In fact, almost
4 everybody on board the truck was asleep but I was not sleeping
10:14:31 5 and I was not feeling sleepy because, you know, in a strange
6 environment I don't feel like sleeping. So I tried to keep
7 myself awake, and when the security vehicles passed by going
8 towards Gbarnga, on their way back they asked me, they say, "Boy,
9 what are you doing here?" And I told them that we had a
10:15:04 10 breakdown and that that was the reason why we were all there.
11 They then left and later returned and asked me again, and they
12 said, "Why are you not sleeping?" And I told them, "No, I'm not
13 sleeping." So they looked at me for a long time and then decided
14 to go. And the following day the driver got the spare part and
10:15:26 15 we then left but when we got to Nimba County in a town called
16 Beatuo, that was where the late Vice-President Enoch Dogolea
17 hailed from. When we got to Beatuo there was a checkpoint there,
18 and at the checkpoint, some of the AFL personnel who were at the
19 checkpoint called us and told them that there is war here, there
10:16:06 20 is war in Liberia and that currently this place has been attacked
21 by rebels.

22 Q. Mr Witness, thank you for your answer. I needed to stop
23 you because there are a few things to clarify on the basis of
24 what you have just said.

10:16:19 25 A. Okay.

26 Q. You said you saw movement of security officers in vehicles
27 when you were stopped in Totota. Now, the security officers that
28 you saw, were they in uniform?

29 A. Yes, they were in military uniform.

1 Q. These security officers, did they belong to a group or
2 entity in Liberia?

3 A. Yes, they were members of the Armed Forces of Liberia.
4 They were from the Armed Forces of Liberia.

10:16:58 5 Q. Did you understand what was happening when you say you saw
6 the security officers going from Monrovia towards Gbarnga and
7 also from Gbarnga towards Monrovia?

8 A. No, no. I did not understand what was happening.

9 Q. When you got to the checkpoint at the place you referred to
10:17:27 10 as Beatu, were you in the company of your mother, your brother
11 and your sister?

12 A. Yes. I was in company of my mother, my sister and my
13 brother; we were all together, along with other passengers who were
14 heading towards the same direction. In fact, some of them were
10:17:57 15 from the town called Beatu, they got down there and all of us
16 were together.

17 Q. Can you spell the name of this town, Beatu, for us,
18 please.

19 A. Beatu is, I think it is spelt B-E-A-T-U-O.

10:18:19 20 Q. Thank you. You said at the checkpoint there were AFL
21 personnel. And previously you used the term, "Armed Forces of
22 Liberia", this is in relation to the security officers you
23 encountered at Totota. Those you encountered at the checkpoint,
24 when you say AFL personnel, what do you mean?

10:18:44 25 A. Those that I encountered at the checkpoint were people who
26 wore the uniforms of the Armed Forces of Liberia, the AFL
27 uniform. And that is what I mean by saying AFL personnel or
28 Armed Forces of Liberia. Actually, they were members of the
29 government forces.

1 Q. You said they indicated that there is war in Liberia, that
2 currently the place where you were at had been attacked by
3 rebels. What else was said, if anything?

4 A. They told us that we shouldn't continue our journey in that
10:19:40 5 vehicle because, from where they had the checkpoint, going
6 towards our destination would be dangerous for us. So he advised
7 that we should just alight and use the bush path to go towards
8 our destination. We then alighted from the vehicle, we
9 disembarked and we took the bush path towards our destination.

10:20:18 10 Q. Now you don't have to give us the name of your destination
11 if you know how to say it without disclosing something that would
12 reveal your identity. Is this a place you mentioned to us in
13 private session?

14 A. Yes, that was the place I mentioned in private session. I
10:20:42 15 said that was the village where I was born.

16 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. Did the AFL soldiers or personnel
17 that you encountered mention who the rebels were that had
18 attacked that place, or that area?

19 A. No. They only told us that there was a rebel attack and
10:21:10 20 that the place was not safe for us for us to travel on board a
21 vehicle.

22 Q. When you alighted from the vehicle and you said you used
23 the bush path to go towards your destination, what happened?

24 A. Yes. When we alighted from the vehicle, we then walked
10:21:42 25 through the bush path and we got to a village called Florplay and
26 from Florplay, when we got to Florplay the whole town was quiet.
27 So we then made our way through and we took another bush path and
28 we got to a crossing point, or the border point, and we then
29 crossed into Ivory Coast.

1 Q. The border crossing point, did you cross at a town or
2 village and can you give us its name?

3 A. Yes. We travelled from Florplay and we got to a village
4 called Mahnplay and from Mahnplay we got to another village
10:22:52 5 called Zielay. And from Zielay we crossed the river and then we
6 got to a town called Suahplay in Ivory Coast.

7 Q. A couple of spellings. Can you spell these towns for us,
8 starting with Florplay. Can you spell Florplay for us?

9 A. Florplay is F-L-O-R-P-L-A-Y. And then Mahnplay is
10:23:37 10 M-A-H-N-P-L-A-Y. And then Zielay is Z-I-E-L-A-Y. You know, I
11 might not be exact with the spellings but they are African. And
12 then in Ivory Coast we got - we entered a village called Suahplay
13 which is S-U-A-H-P-L-A-Y, Suahplay.

14 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. What was your purpose in going to
10:24:28 15 the Ivory Coast?

16 A. I went to Ivory Coast because there was now war in Liberia
17 and the villages around there were all deserted, so I then went
18 to seek a refuge. I went to seek refuge.

19 Q. Did you go alone or did you go with others?

10:24:58 20 A. I went with my mother, my brother and my sister along with
21 other people with whom we were all on board that car, on the
22 vehicle. We were in that group and we crossed.

23 Q. The brother that you went with, is that the same brother
24 that you referred to in private session or is that another
10:25:30 25 person?

26 A. The same brother that I made mention of in private session
27 and the same sister that I mentioned in private session. Not the
28 brother that was killed.

29 Q. Well, listen to the question carefully. My recollection is

1 that you did not mention any brother except the one that was
2 killed in private session. So the question is this: The brother
3 you went to the Ivory Coast with, is that the same as the brother
4 that was killed?

10:26:03 5 A. No.

6 Q. Now, besides those you went with, your mother, your brother
7 and your sister, did you have any relatives in Ivory Coast when
8 you got there?

9 A. Yes, when we crossed the border and got to Suahplay, I was
10:26:31 10 told that my father and the other family members were in another
11 village in the Ivory Coast called Gahnlay and that was where I
12 went to.

13 Q. Do you know the month and year in which you arrived in
14 Gahnlay, Ivory Coast?

10:27:01 15 A. Yes. It was in December of 1989.

16 Q. For how long did you stay in Gahnlay?

17 A. I stayed in Gahnlay for approximately one month.

18 Q. Can you spell this name Gahnlay for us, please?

19 A. Okay. Gahnlay is G-A-H-N-L-A-Y. That is in the Ivory
10:27:54 20 Coast.

21 Q. After staying in Gahnlay for approximately one month, to
22 where did you go?

23 A. Okay, after staying in Gahnlay for almost a month, I then
24 crossed into Liberia, along with one of my senior brothers whose
10:28:24 25 name I cannot mention now. We crossed over in search of food in
26 Liberia from our village. So, when we got there, we entered our
27 village and at this time the rebels had captured Nimba County up
28 to that village. And, whilst we were there, we encountered a
29 lady called {redacted} who was with the rebels, and I then

1 decided to go along with her to join the rebels, at this time.

2 Q. Now, Mr Witness, a couple of questions flowing from your
3 response just given. Previously you said you were told that your
4 father, and other family members, were in a village in Ivory
10:29:39 5 Coast called Gahnl ay and now you referred to a senior brother of
6 yours going with you back into Liberia in search of food.

7 How many brothers and sisters did you have in Ivory Coast
8 with you and your father and your mother when you were there?

9 A. Okay, in Gahnl ay, the number of brothers I had there,
10 including the one that travelled with me, were about three; even
11 though we had other relatives at the various villages around the
12 border there but in Gahnl ay we were about three.

13 Q. Are you not sure? Why do you say "about" or "around" three
14 brothers? Did you have three brothers or more?

10:30:41 15 A. I have more brothers. You know, my father had two wives.
16 But from my mother's side I have brothers and sisters from the
17 same mother, and I have brothers and sisters from the same
18 father. But at this time we had been spread out and the others
19 from the other villages used to come and visit, spend few days
10:31:11 20 and then leave. So we were not that settled in mind. But
21 actually the brother who travelled with me was - back to Liberia
22 in search of food was in Gahnl ay with my father. And then - and
23 our other younger brother who was here - who was there also. So
24 that made it three, along with me and the other brother with whom
10:31:41 25 I had come from Monrovi a. That in all including makes us four
26 brothers there, and the sister that we came with was the only -
27 sister {redacted} was the only sister there. But I'm sorry, I
28 have referred to the name. So that was how it was.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah, I think we need to do some

1 redactions. Madam Court Officer, you know the name that I refer
2 to that the witness has accidentally mentioned. But also could
3 we have the surname spelling of {redacted}?

4 MR ANYAH: Madam, actually it was --

10:32:19 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Or {redacted}?

6 MR ANYAH: Yes, I will inquire from the witness.

7 Q. Mr Witness, just to remind you to be careful about
8 mentioning names, in particular those that will identify you as
9 we progress, and also to remind you to look at the Justices when
10 you are giving your responses.

10:32:37

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: I am just wondering would this name also
12 not reveal the identity of the witness, the name of this lady?

13 MR ANYAH: Indeed, Madam President, I believe it would and
14 that's why I hesitate to ask about the last name. But can I
15 propose, with leave of your Honours, that that name be redacted
16 and we can ask the witness to write the full name on a piece of
17 paper.

10:32:54

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. Madam Court Officer, we will
19 redact two names. There is the name that appears at page 24,
20 line 22 as {redacted}, and also the latter name
21 mentioned. And the witness will be given a piece of paper to
22 write these names down.

10:33:13

23 So the first name, Mr Witness, is the name of the lady you
24 said was with the rebels with whom you decided to go when you
25 decided to join the rebels. And the second name will be that of
26 your sister.

10:34:04

27 THE WITNESS: This is the sister who travelled with me from
28 Monrovia.

29 MR ANYAH:

1 Q. Mr Witness, can you just hold on for a moment. May we see
2 the document, please. Thank you. You may show it to counsel
3 opposite.

4 Madam President, the witness has written more than two
10:36:18 5 names. He has included the names of other relatives of his and
6 so, with leave of your Honours, I would ask that he put numbers
7 next to the names so that at least on the record it can make some
8 sense. I will then ask him a question, for example, as to who
9 number one is and who number two is until that information is
10:36:43 10 understandable on the record.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: I don't know if it is necessary to put a
12 1 and a 2 and a 3, since the witness has written the
13 relationships right alongside the names. You might consider just
14 referring to the relationships.

10:39:02 15 MR ANYAH: The difficulty is that the witness has listed
16 two brothers, I believe, and then a question arises as to which
17 of those two given names of brothers accompanied him back into
18 Liberia.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, but one is indicated as the older
10:39:21 20 brother and the other merely as the brother.

21 MR ANYAH: Well, I can clarify without the numbers then.
22 You can give it to the witness.

23 Q. Mr Witness, can you please date that document and sign it,
24 please, and indicate your DCT number, which is DCT-008.

10:39:43 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah, please give us a moment to
26 redact.

27 MR ANYAH: Yes, your Honour.

28 THE WITNESS: What should I do, please?

29 MR ANYAH: Just a moment until the Court is ready.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you, Mr Anyah, you may proceed.

2 MR ANYAH:

3 Q. Yes, Mr Witness, can you sign that document at the bottom,
4 sign it and put today's date, please, which is 24 August, and
10:41:45 5 also put "DCT-008" on that document.

6 A. Is today the 24th or the 25th? The date, please?

7 Q. Today is 24 August. Thank you.

8 Now, Mr Witness, the names you have written, the first name
9 that you wrote, the woman's name, is that the name of the woman
10:43:55 10 you encountered when you crossed from Ivory Coast into Liberia
11 with somebody you said was one of your senior brothers?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. On that document, the person that you referred to as "older
14 brother", is that the same person that you crossed into Liberia
10:44:20 15 from the Ivory Coast?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And who is the person that you referred to as your sister?
18 Don't give us the name, just tell us where in this sequence of
19 events that person fits into it?

10:44:36 20 A. The one - the person that I referred to as my sister is the
21 one with whom I travelled from Monrovia.

22 Q. And what of the last person in that document, the person
23 that you referred to as "my brother", where does that person fit
24 contextually in this series of events?

10:45:03 25 A. The last person, along with the one that I referred to as
26 my sister, all travelled along with me to Monrovia.

27 MR ANYAH: Madam President, can I request, please, that
28 that document be given an MFI number and eventually we will ask
29 that it be marked confidential at a later stage.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. This document which contains
2 four names written by the witness, DCT-008, is marked MFI-33 and
3 will be kept confidentially.

4 MR ANYAH: Thank you, Madam President.

10:45:59 5 Q. Mr Witness, you said that the rebels had captured Nimba
6 County and that whilst you were there with this person you refer
7 to as your senior brother, you encountered a lady who was with
8 the rebels. Did you know who these rebels were at that time?

9 A. No.

10:46:27 10 Q. You said, "I then decided to go along with her to join the
11 rebels at that time." Why did you decide to join the rebels?

12 A. I decided to join the rebels for the reason that I felt I
13 was insecure, I felt not safe, because the rebels had attacked
14 the whole of the Republic of Liberia through Nimba County. But
10:47:10 15 what was more frightening was that the Government of Liberia,
16 particularly so the President at that time, Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe,
17 made a radio announcement on the State radio, that is the ELBC,
18 also called LBS, the Liberian Broadcasting System, warning the
19 parents of Nimba County to tell their children to put down their
10:47:48 20 guns or else, he, President Doe, will burn down Nimba County and
21 will transform it into his farm where he will plant cassava or
22 rice.

23 Moreover, after the 1985 Quiwonkpa coup, there had been
24 problems between the Krahn ethnic group and that of the Gio, or
10:48:30 25 the Nimbadians as a whole, that is the Krahn, were against the
26 Gio or the Mano. And when that attack took place, the soldiers,
27 when the attack took place, before I crossed over into Liberia to
28 join - to actually decide to join the rebels on 1 January 1990 -
29 you know, before crossing to Ivory Coast I had left all my

1 belongings that I had brought with me from Monrovia to that town
2 that I had mentioned earlier, that I entered into after Beatu.
3 I left my belongings there and, on 1 January 1990, I crossed,
4 along with other people, into Liberia to get my belongings, my
10:49:44 5 clothing.

6 Q. Mr Witness, let me just stop you there and see if we can
7 clarify a few matters.

8 You are now speaking of a trip into Liberia with other
9 people to get your belongings. The trip you've just referred to
10:50:01 10 a few seconds ago, is that the friend from the trip you took with
11 your older brother when you encountered this woman who belonged
12 to the rebels.

13 A. Yes, sir. It is different from the trip that I took along
14 with my brother when I encountered the woman.

10:50:25 15 Q. The trip you took with your brother, was that after the
16 trip you took to collect your belongings?

17 A. Yes, it was after the trip I took to collect my belongings.

18 Q. Which of those two trips did you undertake on 1 January
19 1990? Which trip was it that you took on 1 January 1990?

10:50:59 20 A. The one that I said occurred on 1 January 1990 was the one
21 during which I went to collect my belongings.

22 Q. When did the trip that you took with your brother when you
23 met this woman who was with the rebels, when did that take place?
24 Which month and year?

10:51:28 25 A. It happened in January of 1990.

26 Q. Now, going back to my original question, which had to do
27 with why you joined the rebels?

28 A. Yes.

29 Q. You said: "I was insecure. I felt not safe because the

1 rebels had attacked the whole of the Republic of Liberia through
2 Nimba County", and from that you went on to talk about Samuel Doe
3 and a radio broadcast.

10:52:13 4 Were you joining the rebels because you were insecure or
5 afraid of the rebels?

6 A. No. I joined the rebels because I felt insecure in the
7 hands of the government of Liberia at the time.

8 Q. Why were you insecure at the hands of the government of
9 Liberia at the time?

10:52:40 10 A. I was insecure because at this time the government was now
11 considering Nimba County, or Nimbadians as a whole, as a target.

12 Q. What ethnic groups were present in Nimba County in January
13 of 1990; that is what ethnic or tribal groups populated Nimba
14 County at that time?

10:53:13 15 A. In Nimba County we have the Gio and the Mano in the
16 majority, and there are a few portions of the Krahn ethnic group
17 as well.

18 Q. To which ethnic group did President Samuel Kanyon Doe
19 belong?

10:53:40 20 A. He belonged to the Krahn ethnic group.

21 Q. When you say that President Doe warned the parents of Nimba
22 County to tell their children to "put down their guns or else"
23 was there an ethnic dimension to that warning?

24 A. He was talking about Nimba County as a whole and, when you
10:54:22 25 take Nimba County as a whole, he was directly speaking to the Gio
26 and Mano because, he made mention of the Gio and the Mano.

27 Q. What did he say regarding the Gios and the Manos?

28 A. He told the parents of Nimba, in particular the Gio and the
29 Mano to tell their children to put down their guns or else he

1 will burn down Nimba County and transform it into his rice or
2 cassava farm. That was his statement.

3 Q. You referred to there being ethnic problems or problems
4 between ethnic groups after in 1985 Quiwonkpa coup?

10:55:18 5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What do you mean by there being problems because of the
7 Quiwonkpa coup?

8 A. When Quiwonkpa's coup failed, the government then started
9 arresting the Gios and the Manos in Liberia. During that time,
10:55:48 10 after the failed coup, a curfew was put in place and the security
11 forces would go around and if they saw anybody in the street they
12 will stop you - they will say, "Stop, Gio man stop", or, "Halt,
13 Mano man, halt". So at any time they said, "Halt Gio man, halt"
14 or, "Halt Mano man, halt", they will then look at you. If you

10:56:17 15 watched back they will then arrest you and then take you to an
16 unknown destination and that continued during the war. The night
17 after the rebel attack in 1989, going into 1990, there were lots
18 of Nimbadians, Gio and Manos, who went and sought refuge at the
19 Lutheran compound at the Monrovia Sinkor community. Those people
10:56:52 20 were massacred by the AFL Krahn ethnic group, they were massacred
21 by them. So that alone showed that they were targeting the Gios
22 and the Manos. And it also showed that the government took the
23 war to be a tribal and/or an ethnic war.

24 Q. Who was targeting the Gios and the Manos?

10:57:28 25 A. The Gio and the Mano people were targeted by Doe and his
26 Krahn ethnic group at that time.

27 Q. In 1985, when the Quiwonkpa coup occurred, was Samuel Doe
28 the President of Liberia?

29 A. Yes, Doe was President at that time.

1 Q. Was there an ethnic dimension to the Quiwonkpa coup in
2 1985?

3 A. Yes. There were tribal issues involved, and even down to
4 my village, the Krahn element within the Armed Forces of Liberia
10:58:17 5 went there and everybody ran away into the Ivory Coast, and they
6 then looted the whole village, and not my village alone; the
7 whole of Nimba County was terrified by the Krahn elements within
8 the Armed Forces of Liberia.

9 Q. What ethnic group or ethnic groups were affiliated with the
10:58:44 10 Quiwonkpa side, those who orchestrated the coup?

11 A. It was not Quiwonkpa's group. Quiwonkpa was a Gio man from
12 Nimba County.

13 Q. Now, we go back to the trip you mentioned you took on 1
14 January 1990 to collect your belongings. You said you went along
10:59:15 15 with other people to collect your belongings, and you started
16 telling us about that trip and you said something about your
17 clothing.

18 Now, where exactly did you go to within Liberia when you
19 went on that trip?

10:59:34 20 A. Yes, you know, calling the names of the towns will
21 sometimes affect my identity, so I'm afraid of calling the names
22 of the town in open session but, like I mentioned when I left
23 Beatu, the next town that I go to, okay, that was where my
24 belongings were.

11:00:02 25 Q. Very well. And did you make it into that town to collect
26 your belongings on 1 January 1990?

27 A. Yes. On 1 January 1990, when I crossed over from Ivory
28 Coast, along with others who also came into Liberia in search of
29 other things, like food and other things, and some I did not know

1 the reason why they came, and, whilst I was there, and when we
2 entered this town, after few minutes we heard the sound of a
3 vehicle, and suddenly they started firing and somebody said, "Oh,
4 the AFL have entered, the AFL have entered" and each and every
11:01:04 5 one of us ran away and we then went into the bushes. But for me,
6 I did not go deeply into the bushes because I did not understand
7 the terrain, I was not acquainted with the terrain, so I did not
8 go deep. But whilst I was in there hiding, the AFL entered the
9 town. They then started setting houses on fire, burning houses,
11:01:36 10 and at the same time they were saying that you Gio and Mano
11 people, you have started the same thing that you did in 1985, the
12 Quiwonkpa coup, that is the same thing you're trying to do gain,
13 you are again waging war against us, the Krahn, but this time we
14 will deal with you.

11:01:58 15 MR ANYAH: Madam President, may I inquire whether we have
16 time to continue, given that we started with a delayed schedule
17 today?

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: We will - we intend stick to the usual
19 schedule and at this stage we will take a 30-minute break. We
11:02:28 20 will reconvene at 11.30.

21 [Break taken at 11.02 a.m.]

22 [Upon resuming at 11.32 a.m.]

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, Mr Anyah, please proceed.

24 MR ANYAH: Thank you, Madam President.

11:32:23 25 Q. Mr Witness, before court adjourned for the early morning
26 break, you were telling the Court about a trip you took from the
27 Ivory Coast back into Liberia on 1 January 1990. Specifically we
28 had gotten to the point where you said you were hiding in the
29 bushes when the AFL entered the town and they started setting

1 houses on fire. Can you continue from there? What did you do
2 when the AFL entered the town and started setting houses on fire?

3 A. Okay. When they started burning down houses, I was there
4 in the bush, along with a little girl, I think between nine or
11:33:22 5 ten years. She was also with me there when the others left.
6 Because I was not acquainted with the bush. I heard someone
7 crying from the town, and at the same time the AFL were there and
8 they captured a group of men, about 15 of them. They were men
9 from the town, including elderly people. They tied them around
11:33:57 10 their waist with rope and they were in line and they were telling
11 them that their children have repeated the 1985 coup but that
12 they would teach the people a lesson.

13 When the AFL left, the little girl that was with me told me
14 that her grandmother was in the town and that I should take her
11:34:25 15 back to the village to her grandmother. So I took her and she
16 entered in a house where her grandmother was. I did not see her
17 grandmother but she entered the house and I went back into the
18 bush for a while. When the town was quiet, when the AFL had left
19 the town and when I heard the vehicle sound disappearing, I hid
11:34:59 20 myself from them. I was not sure every one of them had left.

21 I came across two elderly people, an old man and a lady - an old
22 lady. The old lady told me, "Oh, my son, your great-grandfather
23 was in that hut and the hut was set on fire and he died there."
24 I said, "So that was the voice of my great-great-grandfather that
11:35:36 25 I heard?" And she said, "Yes. But just leave." So I left them
26 and I went back and crossed into the Ivory Coast.

27 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. Let me stop you there. Thank you.

28 Madam President, one administrative issue just for the
29 record. I have been joined by Mr Simon Chapman at the Defence

1 bar. Thank you.

2 Mr Witness, you said you returned back to the Ivory Coast.
3 Were you successful in obtaining your belongings that you went
4 for in Liberia?

11:36:13 5 A. No. It was taken away - they were taken away. In fact,
6 those houses that were not burnt were looted. I did not even
7 have time to enter the house any more because it was ransacked.

8 Q. Did you ever see the corpse or body of your grandfather -
9 your great-grandfather, I'm sorry?

11:36:41 10 A. I did not go there.

11 Q. Did you or anyone in your family ever hear from your
12 great-grandfather again after you were told he had been in the
13 house that was burned?

14 A. Yes. After I had left, a few days later, other family
11:37:02 15 members came and confirmed that he was burnt to death.

16 Q. Now, for how long did you stay in Ivory Coast when you
17 returned after the trip to Liberia on 1 January 1990?

18 A. After the trip in January 1990, I can't remember how long
19 but it was within the same January that I crossed back into
11:37:32 20 Liberia.

21 Q. This next time you crossed into Liberia in January of 1990,
22 was that the time you went with your older brother you told us
23 earlier about today in court?

24 A. Yes.

11:37:48 25 Q. Was that the time you met the woman whose name you wrote on
26 the piece of paper that you said was a member of the rebel group?

27 A. Yes.

28 Q. You said when you met that woman, you decided to join the
29 rebel group. At that time, did you know the name of the rebel

1 group?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Now, the brother you mentioned earlier today that was
4 killed, that brother, when he was killed, was it before or after
11:38:30 5 your decision to join the rebel group?

6 A. I heard about his death before my decision to join the
7 rebel group. I heard about his death before my decision to join
8 the rebel group.

9 Q. And who was responsible for his death?

11:39:01 10 A. It was the government at the time in power.

11 Q. Now, just summarise for us very briefly the specific
12 reasons why you decided to join the rebel group.

13 A. The reason I decided to join the rebel group was that
14 I felt insecure and I wanted to join the rebels at this time in
11:39:35 15 order to protect the rest of my family, and also the county at
16 large.

17 Q. The brother that you were with when you met this woman that
18 was part of the rebel group, did he also join the rebel group?

19 A. Yes, she joined - we joined together the very day, we made
11:39:59 20 the same plan.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Interpreter, why did you say "she"?
22 Was that a she that joined with him? Are we talking about the
23 brother or the sister?

24 MR ANYAH:

11:40:15 25 Q. Mr Witness, the person that joined the rebel group with
26 you, was it a brother or sister of yours?

27 A. The person with whom I joined was my brother, the older
28 brother that I mentioned on the list.

29 Q. How did you join this group? When you say you joined the

1 group, how, as a matter of fact, did you join?

2 A. Okay. When I met the lady, when we met the lady, she was
3 coming from her own village for a weekend trip. We expressed our
4 desire to join and she said, "Okay, come along, I'll take you."

11:41:03 5 She gave us some password - a password, and that they would ask
6 us such a question and how we were to answer it, and that we were
7 not to be afraid. We went - we went by her instruction and we
8 accepted and we were accepted at the base.

9 Q. Who was to ask you questions when she gave you this
11:41:33 10 password saying that you would be asked questions?

11 A. She told us that the rebels on the base had a checkpoint,
12 they had a checkpoint and that we would encounter some of them on
13 the highway and if they asked us that is how we were to answer,
14 that is the rebels.

11:41:57 15 Q. What were they going to ask you?

16 A. They had a password that says - can I say it?

17 Q. Yes. If it is in a language you can translate it to
18 English for us.

19 A. It's in a language that says, "Zankanyallay", they would
11:42:33 20 say, "Zankanyallay", and then you would say, "Zonzan zankun nwa
21 zonzan kongbi anka", that is the Nimbadians have a favourite food
22 that is made out of cassava tuber called Gainingbah, commonly known
23 in Liberia as GB. So they ask you, "How was the soup, the GB
24 soup yesterday?" And then you will say, "The soup yesterday
11:43:07 25 cannot be compared to today's soup." I don't know what they
26 meant by that anyway.

27 Q. Mr Witness, thank you. Now, you said there was a favourite
28 food the Nimbadians had made out of cassava. Can you spell the
29 name of this food for us.

1 A. To spell the name of that food?

2 Q. Yes, we cannot spell it on the record so can you spell the
3 name of the food that's made out of cassava that's the favourite
4 food of Nimbadians?

11:43:46 5 A. Oh, I can try that. It's G-A-I-N-G-B-A-H, Gaingbah.

6 Q. Thank you. When you refer to it as GB, are you referring
7 to it with the acronym, the letter G and B, like boy?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. In any event, you told us you did not understand what the
11:44:26 10 question and password answer meant. What happened when you got
11 on base? Start by telling us where this base was located?

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: First of all, Mr Anyah, what language was
13 the witness speaking when he said this password?

14 MR ANYAH:

11:44:49 15 Q. Mr Witness, what language was that that you spoke in court?

16 A. It's Gio or Dan.

17 Q. Now, where was the base located at that you went to?

18 A. The base was located in Beatuo, Nimba County.

19 Q. And in what year and what month did you arrive at that
11:45:23 20 base?

21 A. In January of 1990.

22 Q. When you got to the base, were you accepted?

23 A. Oh, yes, I was accepted. I was accepted. I was accepted.

24 Q. And what happened after you joined the group?

11:45:52 25 A. When I joined the group, I was accepted and they conducted
26 - in fact, the training was going on and they put me in a
27 platoon, and then we started taking the training. After one
28 month period, at that base, we heard of another base, a new base
29 in Gborplay that belonged to the same rebel group, so some

1 decided to go to Gborplay.

2 Q. I have a few questions, the name of the rebel group was
3 what?

4 A. The name of the rebel group was the National Patriotic
11:46:51 5 Front of Liberia, the NPFL.

6 Q. You said you started taking training. What sort of
7 training did you take at the base?

8 A. On the base, they taught us guerilla training, ambush
9 tactics, how to fight in a city, physical training, aerobic
11:47:24 10 training, exercises to keep us physically fit, among others.

11 Q. You said after one month period at that base you heard of
12 another base. What is the name of the other base you heard
13 about?

14 A. The other base was in an area called Gborplay, in the same
11:47:51 15 Nimba.

16 MR ANYAH: Madam President, I believe the spellings are on
17 the record, Beatuo, Gborplay and the like.

18 Q. Now, Mr Witness, what did you do in relation to the other
19 training base in Gborplay?

11:48:13 20 A. Okay. When I arrived at the base in Gborplay, I spent
21 about two weeks - one or two weeks there but life there was
22 difficult, that is, hunger. The NPFL authorities had given us a
23 warning that no soldier was allowed to go in any part of the
24 surrounding villages or anywhere under the NPFL-controlled areas,
11:49:05 25 to take things that were not given to you by the owner. If you
26 were caught doing that, then that meant you were looting and you
27 would be executed. So we were not from that end - that area was
28 another district. The food that was provided by the NPFL was
29 insufficient. They used to give about 25 kilo grams of rice to

1 60 to 65 men, and that was insufficient. So the hunger was
2 tough. So I decided to run away, to go back to the previous
3 base, because that area was around my own village. I could run
4 back to my village and get food at any time I needed food.

11:50:03 5 Q. While you were at the base located in Gborplay, did you
6 undertake any training there?

7 A. Yes. While I was at the base at Gborplay, I did not take
8 any intensive training. It was just physical exercises, yes,
9 physical exercises.

11:50:28 10 Q. How long did you stay at that base? You said you spent
11 about two weeks and then you said life was difficult there. How
12 long, in total, did you spend at the base in Gborplay?

13 A. I can't remember exactly but I believe it was one or two
14 weeks in total.

11:50:48 15 Q. You said from there you went back to the previous training
16 base. Are you referring to the base that is in Beatuo?

17 A. Yes, that's correct.

18 Q. When you returned to Beatuo, how long did you remain in
19 Beatuo?

11:51:12 20 A. When I returned to Beatuo, I stayed there for about a month
21 and a half, about a month and a half.

22 Q. And after the month and a half came to an end, to where did
23 you go?

24 A. After the time was over, after I was now trained, I was
11:51:47 25 sent to the front, and at this time I was - at this time that
26 I was sent to the front, I was sent to a place called Compound 3,
27 that is in Grand Bassa County in Liberia, Compound 3 along the
28 LAC rubber plantation, the previous agricultural company, that is
29 LAC. That is where I was and, when I got there, I took another

1 training, I did artillery training, that is where I did the
2 artillery training and I was trained by an ex-AFL officer who was
3 now with the NPFL. He was called John Gongor.

4 Q. Can you spell Mr Gongor's last name?

11:52:43 5 A. It is G-O-N-G-O-R, G-O-N-G-O-R.

6 Q. Thank you.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah, LAC Rubber Plantation is LAC?

8 MR ANYAH:

9 Q. I will ask the witness. Mr Witness, when you said LAC
11:53:12 10 Rubber Plantation, what does LAC stand for?

11 A. LAC is the acronym for Liberia Agriculture Company.

12 Q. Now, before we come to your artillery training, in the
13 vicinity of this area you referred to as LAC Rubber Plantation,
14 when you trained in Beatuo and in Gborplay, where you trained to
11:53:47 15 use weapons, that is guns?

16 A. Yes. I was trained to use weapons, like light weapons.
17 I was trained to use light weapons.

18 Q. What do you mean by light weapons?

19 A. By light weapons I mean AK-47 rifle, I was trained to use
11:54:14 20 AK-47 rifle, and a gun called Beretta, among others. These were
21 the portable weapons.

22 Q. Were recruits like yourself handed actual weapons to use
23 during the training?

24 A. During our training, we used sticks, we used sticks. But
11:54:47 25 when it came to being trained in weapons for the whole group,
26 they would bring one AK or even one Beretta and everybody would
27 surround that and look at how it would be dismantled and
28 assembled, but we were trained with sticks or baton.

29 Q. And when you went to the LAC Rubber Plantation, for how

1 Long was your artillery training?

2 A. The artillery training, it was a battlefield thing. It was
3 done on the battlefield. It was less than a month, I think so,
4 but I can't recall the actual time frame. I can't recall the
11:55:45 5 time frame.

6 Q. When you say that the artillery training was done at the
7 battlefield, were you posted at the battlefield as a fighter?

8 A. No. Before then, this area, this Compound 3, which is
9 around the LAC Rubber Company that I mentioned, it was a distance
11:56:15 10 away from the battlefield, at a place called Command Post, the
11 CP. I was not assigned at the battlefield prior to my training
12 in artillery weapons.

13 Q. After your training on the artillery weapons, were you ever
14 assigned to the battlefield to fight?

11:56:42 15 A. After the training in artillery weapons, yes, I was
16 assigned to a battlefield to fight but it was like we would go
17 and fight and, after the fighting, we would return to the CP,
18 because the heavy weapon was not allowed to stay at the
19 battlefield whilst there was no fighting going on. It was not to
11:57:09 20 stay at the front line.

21 Q. You said you were with the rebel group, the NPFL. Who were
22 the NPFL fighting at the time you were stationed at the LAC
23 Rubber Plantation?

24 A. The NPFL was fighting against the government of President
11:57:36 25 Samuel Doe.

26 Q. Were those the two parties fighting at that time in
27 Liberia? Were those the only two parties fighting?

28 A. At that time, those were the only two parties.

29 Q. For how long were you assigned to the vicinity of the LAC

1 Rubber Company?

2 A. I can't recall the time, but I left there after we had
3 captured - after we had fought and captured the city of Buchanan
4 in Grand Bassa County. When we captured Buchanan, that was when
11:58:21 5 we left LAC with the heavy weapon and we were based now in
6 Buchanan.

7 Q. Who was your commander within the NPFL first when you were
8 in the vicinity of the LAC Rubber Company and second, when you
9 went to Buchanan?

11:58:40 10 A. My immediate commander was John Gongor that I had
11 mentioned, but at this time the NPFL had divided the front line
12 into two. We had the 1st Battalion, in which I was, that fought
13 from LAC, that fought from LAC to Buchanan. Then Harbel, as far
14 as Camp Schefflein. It was - the battalion commander was one of
11:59:21 15 the Special Forces called Edward Mineh, Edward Mineh.

16 Q. We understood that. You said the NPFL had divided the
17 front line into two and then you spoke of the 1st Battalion. Was
18 there another battalion of the NPFL at that time besides the 1st
19 Battalion?

11:59:50 20 A. Yes, besides the 1st Battalion, the NPFL had the 2nd
21 Battalion, and the 2nd Battalion was responsible for the front
22 line - for the front line between Ganta and Monrovia, that is
23 from Ganta to Gbarnga, Totota onward to Monrovia.

24 Q. And who was the commander, if you know, of the 2nd
12:00:27 25 Battalion?

26 A. I can't recall the name of the commander for the 2nd
27 Battalion.

28 Q. What month and what year were you based in Buchanan?

29 A. In Buchanan, we - I was based in Buchanan from 1990 - from

1 --

2 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honour, can he kindly repeat this
3 answer.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, can you please repeat your
12:01:07 5 answer? When were you based in Buchanan?

6 THE WITNESS: Yes. I was based in Buchanan in 1990.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: You had said from 1990 to a certain
8 period.

9 THE WITNESS: Okay. I was based in Buchanan in 1990, but
12:01:35 10 from 1990 to '91, you know, we moved; we moved from Buchanan
11 onward. We had targets ahead of us. We had the Firestone area,
12 the Schefflein, which was our main target, so I can't recall the
13 time frame, but I was - in 1990 I was in Buchanan, anyway.

14 Q. Mr Witness, for how long did you stay in Buchanan, how many
12:02:09 15 weeks, months, did you stay in Buchanan?

16 A. I can't recall the time frame.

17 Q. Where did you go when you left Buchanan?

18 A. After I had left Buchanan, when we captured the Firestone
19 area, I was now based in Firestone but, more precisely, in a town
12:02:43 20 called Smell No Taste, in a community called Smell No Taste - not
21 a town but a community - it is in Margibi County.

22 Q. What were your duties when you were based in Smell No Taste
23 in Margibi County?

24 A. Okay. After we captured the Camp Schefflein military
12:03:21 25 barracks, I had toothache, I was suffering from toothache, as a
26 result of which I was not living in Smell No Taste. I was
27 something like a civilian soldier; I was there, even though I was
28 a member of the NPFL group, at this time I was living like a
29 civilian.

1 Q. For how long did you remain in quasi-civilian status?

2 A. I was there until - I think between 1991 or '92, I can't be
3 precise now, but until Prince Johnson, Prince Y Johnson, of the
4 Independent National Patriotic Front, INPFL, attacked the
12:04:30 5 Firestone plantation; more in particular, the main hospital at
6 Firestone, the Firestone company's main hospital called the
7 Duside Hospital, Prince Johnson attacked --

8 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honour, can he kindly repeat the
9 name of the hospital and speak slowly.

12:04:50

10 MR ANYAH:

11 Q. Mr Witness, we are trying to follow you, and if you could
12 kindly repeat the name of the hospital, the hospital you say
13 Prince Johnson of the Independent National Patriotic Front of
14 Liberia attacked?

12:05:06

15 A. The hospital is called Duside Hospital. It belongs to the
16 Firestone Rubber Company.

17 Q. Can you help us spell Duside, please?

18 A. Duside is something like D-U-S-A - S-A-H, I'm not too
19 certain. I'm not certain of the spelling.

12:05:42

20 Q. Yes, you said that you were there until this attack by
21 Prince Johnson. What did you do after there was this attack at
22 the Duside Hospital by Prince Johnson?

23 A. When this attack was going on, what I did was that I joined
24 a fellow, one of my cousins called --

12:06:14

25 Q. You don't have to mention the name of the man?

26 A. Okay, okay. I joined a fellow - I ran away, I escaped to
27 Gbarnga within that time frame.

28 Q. You say you joined one of your cousins and you escaped to
29 Gbarnga?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Who was - who was in charge of the area in Harbel Firestone
3 before you escaped? By "who was in charge", I mean which
4 fighting force controlled that area?

12:06:55 5 A. It was the NPFL that was controlling Firestone.

6 Q. When Prince Johnson of the INPFL attacked that area, your
7 relocation to Gbarnga, did you go alone or were others in that
8 area relocating themselves as well?

9 A. Other people relocated themselves in various directions but
12:07:27 10 for me, and the fellow that I followed, we went to Gbarnga.

11 Q. What happened to the unit that you were assigned to before
12 you sustained your toothache?

13 A. The unit that I was assigned to was still in existence but
14 at this time the 1st Battalion was not engaged in intensive
12:07:56 15 fighting. After we had captured Schefflein we were told that it
16 was the 2nd Battalion's responsibility to enter Monrovia. That
17 notwithstanding, the 1st Battalion used to go out to help the 2nd
18 Battalion to fight in Monrovia.

19 Q. How severe was the attack to the Harbel area by Prince
12:08:25 20 Johnson's INPFL?

21 A. The attack was severe. There were sounds of heavy weapons,
22 Prince Johnson entered with sounds of heavy weapons, launching
23 rockets, et cetera, it was the sound of the rockets that
24 terrified everybody.

12:08:50 25 Q. When you fled to Gbarnga, do you know what year and month
26 you got to Gbarnga?

27 A. Between 1991 and 1992. I can't actually remember.

28 Q. How many warring factions were there in Liberia at that
29 time? The groups that were engaged in the fighting.

1 A. At that time, there were three fighting groups - three
2 fighting groups.

3 Q. And what are the names of the groups?

12:09:43

4 A. The National Patriotic Front, the NPFL, the Independent
5 National Patriotic Front of Prince Johnson, on the other hand,
6 and the government of President Doe.

7 Q. When you got to Gbarnga, did you consider yourself still to
8 be a member of the NPFL?

12:10:09

9 A. When I got to Gbarnga, I considered myself to be a member
10 of the NPFL, but I was not on active duty. I was not on
11 assignment.

12 Q. For how long did you remain in inactive duty while in
13 Gbarnga?

12:10:36

14 A. At the time that I was in Gbarnga, I was maybe there for up
15 to four to five months period before I left the original area
16 where I was - where I was staying and moved to another area.
17 I moved to my elder brother, whose name I had mentioned from the
18 beginning, whom I said joined with me, joined the rebels with me
19 in 1990. So I moved to his area.

12:11:05

20 Q. When you say you moved from one area to another, are the
21 two areas in the same Gbarnga?

22 A. In the same Gbarnga. I moved from --

23 Q. Mr Witness, it's not necessary that you give us --

12:11:31

24 A. Yes, I moved - it was in the same Gbarnga, I moved from one
25 location to another location but in the same Gbarnga - in the
26 same Gbarnga Town.

27 Q. And when you moved to the second location where your
28 brother was, did you resume active duty?

29 A. Yes. When I moved to the second location where my brother

1 was, I joined the Executive Mansion Guard Battalion, artillery
2 unit of the NPFL.

3 Q. Who was the commander of that unit?

12:12:28

4 A. This artillery unit was commanded the artillery unit was
5 commanded by one Joseph Karyah but the Executive Mansion Guard
6 Battalion itself was commanded by one - I've forgotten his name a
7 little bit. I will think about the name. I can't remember now.

8 Q. For how long did you remain with the Executive Mansion
9 Guard Battalion artillery unit?

12:13:00

10 A. I was with the Executive Mansion Guard Battalion artillery
11 unit for up to 1994 when I joined another unit, but before
12 joining another unit, until 1994, when I joined another unit.

13 Q. And the unit you joined in 1994 was called what?

12:13:38

14 A. In - sorry, not 1994, please. 1992, sorry, it's not 1994,
15 I made a mistake. In 1992, I joined a unit called the SSS Cobra
16 Unit, the Special Security Services Cobra Unit.

17 Q. Who was in charge or at the head of the Special Security
18 Services in 1992 when you joined this Cobra Unit?

19 A. The head of the - the SSS Cobra?

12:14:14

20 Q. Well, let's take it in stages. First, the entire SSS, not
21 just the Cobra Unit, who was in charge of the entire SSS when you
22 joined the Cobra Unit?

23 A. The overall boss of the SSS was Benjamin Yeaten.
24 Benjamin Yeaten.

12:14:39

25 Q. And the particular unit you joined, the SSS Cobra Unit, who
26 was in charge of that unit?

27 A. The SSS Cobra Unit was headed by one Cassius Jacobs.

28 Q. Where was the SSS Cobra Unit based?

29 A. The SSS Cobra Unit had a base in a village along the

1 Monrovia-Gbarnga Highway called Gbatala.

2 Q. Is that where you yourself was based?

3 A. That was where I was trained.

4 Q. What sort of training did you receive while with the SSS
12:15:36 5 Cobra Unit?

6 A. When I was with the SSS Cobra Unit, I was trained in the
7 same guerilla warfare, ambush tactics, and they taught us
8 physical fitness, which is self defence and a little bit of
9 martial arts, among others.

12:16:10 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah, before we lose sight, there is
11 some spelling names, Joseph Karyah could we have the surname
12 spelling, please?

13 MR ANYAH:

14 Q. Mr Witness, can you spell that surname for the Court,
12:16:28 15 please?

16 A. K-A-R-Y-A-H.

17 MR ANYAH: Madam President, I believe Cassius Jacobs is on
18 the record, and I think that was the only other name mentioned.

19 Q. Now, Mr Witness, I believe my last question was: How long
12:16:58 20 your training at Gbatala lasted for.

21 A. I can't remember, but we were in training when suddenly
22 Cassius Jacobs came and told us that, "Even though you guys have
23 not graduated but your graduation would be at the front line."
24 That is he told us that a rebel group, a new group, from
12:17:38 25 Sierra Leone has launched an attack on the NPFL position around
26 the Cape Mount County area. That was where our graduation
27 ceremony was going to be held, that is, our graduation ceremony
28 was to fight the rebel group.

29 Q. The rebel group from Sierra Leone that was said to have

1 I launched an attack on the NPFL position, what was the name of
2 that group?

3 A. From the time that he told us that he gave us that
4 information, at that time, I did not know the name, that
12:18:28 5 notwithstanding the name of the rebel group was ULIMO, it was
6 ULIMO.

7 Q. When did you come to know the name of that rebel group?
8 You said initially you did not know the name but when did you
9 come to know its name?

12:18:44 10 A. I got to know the name ULIMO when we got to the front line,
11 they had their name written on all the walls of the various
12 buildings that were there as sign posts.

13 Q. You said the NPFL positions they attacked - or position
14 they attacked was around Cape Mount. Do you mean Grand Cape
12:19:09 15 Mount County?

16 A. Yes, Cape Mount County.

17 Q. And when you say you went to the front line to fight, in
18 which county was the front line?

19 A. It is an area but I do not know the actual geographic
12:19:31 20 demarcation, it's in Cape Mount but it's between Cape Mount and
21 Bomi but it's in Cape Mount County.

22 Q. You said you were told this group, ULIMO, came from
23 Sierra Leone. Do you know what nationalities its members were?

24 A. Okay. When we were fighting against the ULIMO, I got to
12:20:01 25 know that ULIMO comprised Liberians and Sierra Leoneans that
26 came. But it was mainly a Liberian group that belonged to
27 Mr Alhaji GV Kromah.

28 Q. Did you say GB Kromah or GV Kromah?

29 A. GV Kromah.

1 Q. Do you know where ULIMO was trained?

2 A. We got information that they were trained in Sierra Leone.

3 Q. Do you know from where they got their fighting materials?

4 A. No.

12:21:07 5 Q. You said that the geographic area where you encountered
6 ULIMO was somewhere between Cape Mount and Bomi Counties. What
7 NPFL group was based in that area?

8 A. That year was controlled by the NPFL 6th Battalion.

9 Q. Who was the commander of the NPFL's 6th Battalion at that
10 time?

11 A. It was commanded by General Oliver Varney, and one Yegbeh
12 Degbon.

13 Q. We will come back to those two names in a minute. What
14 happened when you fought ULIMO?

12:22:11 15 A. Okay. When we got there, there was a village there called
16 Lofa Bridge. That was where the vehicle - that was where we
17 disembarked from the vehicle. Then the following morning we went
18 to the front line. At that time, we were told that the ULIMO was
19 occupying an area called, I think, Vahgbay. I'm not from that
12:22:48 20 area anyway so I'm not acquainted with the names of the villages.

21 It was called Vahgbay. Unfortunately for us, when we went to the
22 front line, there was a village there called Tan which was our
23 command post. Instead of Vahgbay which was before - which was
24 after Tan we were now attacked in Tan by ULIMO. And on that very
12:23:16 25 day, they dislodged us from Tan to Lofa Bridge. They forced us
26 across the bridge on the other side - to the other side of the
27 bridge, whilst they controlled the other side of the bridge in
28 that particular town.

29 Then, the following day - okay, before then, during the

1 process, when they dislodged us from Tan, we were 50 - I think
2 52, 52 Cobra Unit soldiers were the ones who went with the
3 exceptions of Cassius Jacobs and Benjamin Yeaten and their
4 bodyguards. So when they dislodged us from Tan, they had Cassius
12:24:12 5 - Cassius Jacobs and the other groups were missing in action and
6 one of our Cobra Unit men called Esau Bahn, Esau Bahn was
7 captured by ULIMO in Tan, in that village called Tan, and then
8 they opened his bowel and they used his intestines as gate and
9 they hung his body on a tree. So we lost one man. We lost one
12:24:55 10 man.

11 The following day, we reconsolidated and dislodged them
12 from Lofa Bridge into Tan, as far as close to the Liberian-Sierra
13 Leonean border. But on the day - on the day that they were
14 finally driven out of Liberia, I was not on the front line but
12:25:20 15 they were driven out of Liberia and they crossed back into
16 Sierra Leone from that point.

17 Q. Mr Witness, thank you. Let's clarify a few matters. The
18 town you mentioned that was originally said to be the front line
19 where ULIMO was you referred to it as Vahgbay. Can you spell
12:25:44 20 Vahgbay for us?

21 A. Vahgbay, I think it is spelt as V-A-H-G-B-A-Y.

22 Q. The town that you mentioned where ULIMO ultimately attacked
23 you, you referred to as Tan. Can you spell Tan for us?

24 A. Tan, I think it is spelt as T-A-N, Tan.

12:26:20 25 Q. You mentioned the name of somebody called Esau. Can you
26 spell Esau's first name and last name for us, please?

27 A. Esau is a Biblical name. I'm not sure of the spelling now.

28 Q. Okay. Then spell his last name for us?

29 A. Bahn, B-A-H-N.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: I think Esau is the regular spelling,
2 E-S-A-U.

3 MR ANYAH: Yes, that's how I would spell it.

4 Q. Mr Witness, you said Esau's last name is Bahn, B-A-H-N?

12:27:12 5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You said you ultimately drove ULIMO out of Liberia and they
7 crossed back into Sierra Leone. Do you remember what year and
8 what month that was?

9 A. Yes, it happened in 1992 but I can't remember the month.

12:27:36 10 Q. Do you know what was happening in Sierra Leone in 1992?

11 A. Okay. In 1992, I overheard from people in Gbarnga that
12 there was fighting in Sierra Leone, but how I got to know was
13 that there were some NPFL fighters who would come to town and say
14 they were from Kuwait and they said this Kuwait was referring to
15 Sierra Leone but they said there was fighting there. This is
16 what I know - this is how I knew what was going on at the time in
17 Sierra Leone, between that time.

18 Q. Do you know why Sierra Leone was referred to as Kuwait?

19 A. I don't know.

12:28:45 20 Q. These NPFL fighters who came to town and said they were
21 from Kuwait, do you know what they did when they were in Kuwait?

22 A. Actually, they used to come with goods and they would say
23 they bought them from Kuwait.

24 Q. Besides coming with goods, do you know what they did when
12:29:14 25 they were in Kuwait?

26 A. No.

27 Q. You referred to two names before. You said Oliver Varney
28 commanded the NPFL 6th Battalion and there was also somebody
29 called Yegbeh Degbon. After you fought ULIMO and after you drove

1 ULIMO into Sierra Leone, did you hear anything further about
2 those two men?

3 A. Okay. After we had fought ULIMO and driven them out of
4 Liberia, what I heard again about those two men was that, you
12:29:58 5 know, the information - the pieces of information were
6 conflicting, they came in different versions. But what happened
7 was that he was tried and then executed, but people said that
8 they were tried and executed because they connived with the
9 enemy. And there were others who said that they sold arms with
12:30:30 10 the NP - I mean the RUF rebels in Sierra Leone.

11 And then what was stated on the local station, that is the
12 FM station, told us that Oliver Varney, Yegbeh Degbon and others
13 formed a group called the Black Kadaffa. This Black Kadaffa
14 consisted of Liberians and Sierra Leoneans whom these people had
12:31:02 15 with them. The aim of this group was to overthrow the leadership
16 of the NPFL. For this reason, they were court-martialled and
17 found guilty and later executed. This is how the information
18 came.

19 Q. You referred to RUF rebels in Sierra Leone. Do you know
12:31:33 20 what RUF stands for?

21 A. Yes. For now I know the meaning of the RUF, but at that
22 time I did not know the meaning of the RUF.

23 Q. And what is the meaning of the RUF as you know it today?

24 A. They said it's called the Revolutionary United Front.

12:32:09 25 Q. When you say they were court-martialled and executed, who
26 exactly was court-martialled and who was executed?

27 A. Oliver Varney was court-martialled, Yegbeh Degbon was
28 court-martialled and also one Sam Larto. But in the case of Sam
29 Larto, even though he was part of that group, but he was accused

1 of killing a lot of people from Maryland County in Liberia.
2 Maryland County, they said he killed a lot of people there. So
3 he was court-martialled in addition to these crimes.

4 Q. You referred to an FM station. Whose station was that?

12:33:11 5 A. The FM station was in Gbarnga.

6 Q. And what was your assignment at this particular time?

7 A. At this time, I was still with the Cobra Unit.

8 Q. For how long did you remain with the Cobra Unit?

9 A. I remained with the Cobra Unit up to 1993, and I decided to
12:33:50 10 remove myself from the Cobra Unit because of a reason.

11 Q. And what was that reason?

12 A. The reason was that, you know, from the beginning the Cobra
13 Unit was a small unit, it was not large, but during the war this
14 unit or the group had risen to even a battalion or a division

12:34:25 15 size, so there were a lot of guys in that unit; most of them
16 disgruntled. They used to do things on their own accord, harass
17 people on their own without the consent of the commander or even
18 without the consent of the leadership of the NPFL, and they were
19 bringing bad reputation. So I decided not to be part of a group

12:34:53 20 that was doing such things. It was not the whole Cobra Unit
21 actually but there were some elements within the Cobra Unit that
22 were doing these things, so I decided to move out of the Cobra
23 Unit.

24 Q. When you left the Cobra Unit, did you still consider
12:35:14 25 yourself a member of the NPFL?

26 A. Yes. I was still a member of the NPFL, but without an
27 assignment.

28 Q. For how long did you remain without an assignment after
29 leaving the Cobra Unit?

1 A. Up to 1994. Up to 1994.

2 Q. What assignment did you take up in 1994, if any?

3 A. Now, in 1994, the SSS was conducting, I think, its third
4 training class, and the SS had a radio communication unit. It
12:36:16 5 was called the radio dispatch unit. And I had the desire or the
6 ambition of doing radio communication. So, because of that,
7 I then decided to apply for the SSS training and I was accepted
8 and I was trained as a normal SSS personnel for the period
9 I think approximately of three months.

12:36:53 10 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. We will come to that period when
11 you trained with the SSS. I want to go back and ask you one
12 specific - ask you questions about a specific issue. You told us
13 about fighting at the front lines in the vicinity of Buchanan.
14 You told us about your artillery training as a member of the
12:37:17 15 Executive Mansion Guard Battalion artillery unit, and you told us
16 of your training in Beatuo, Gborplay and how you ultimately went
17 to fight the ULIMO in the vicinity of Cape Mount County.

18 Now, given those experiences that you had, the persons that
19 fought alongside with you, members of the NPFL, can you give us
12:37:43 20 an idea of their age ranges in these various battles?

21 A. Okay. At the various battles - in fact, even the time
22 I went to the first training base, they asked me about my age,
23 and they told me that they would only accept people who were age
24 17 upwards, ranging from 17 years of age upwards; but, if you
12:38:23 25 fell below 17 years of age, that meant that you were a child and
26 they were not going to accept you.

27 Q. Well, notwithstanding what you said you were told, were
28 there any members of the NPFL that were below 17 years of age
29 during the period of time you made your way from Beatuo to

1 Buchanan to Grand Cape Mount County, or Cape Mount County, as you
2 call it, and when you returned to Gbarnga to join the SSS?

3 A. No.

12:39:04

4 Q. Did you see, amongst NPFL members, persons who were under
5 17 years of age?

6 A. I did not see anyone within the NPFL as an NPFL soldier
7 that was below 17 years of age.

12:39:34

8 Q. Well, listen to my question: The soldiers in the NPFL that
9 you worked with and you saw, were any of those soldiers in the
10 company of young people below 17 years of age? Did they have
11 with them people that were below 17 years of age?

12:40:15

12 A. Oh, okay. Yes. In the company of the NPFL people, they
13 had young children, young boys, with them, below the age - below
14 the age of 17. But these young boys were with their relatives or
15 brothers who took them along with them, but they were not part of
16 the NPFL, but they were with their relatives.

17 Q. Did the NPFL, to your knowledge, have a unit called an SBU?

18 A. No. The NPFL never had a unit called SBU. But can
19 I emphasise on the issue of the SBU?

12:40:53

20 Q. Yes.

12:41:22

21 A. Let me throw a little bit of light. The NPFL never had a
22 unit called the SBU, but those officers, or older force members
23 who had their relatives, their younger brothers or sisters with
24 them, at the time in their home, at any time they were moving
25 from one point to the other, they referred to them as SBU. SBU
26 was the name given to those children who were with their senior
27 brothers or sisters at that time. And even if an individual had
28 one child with him or her, at home, and if an individual had a
29 child with him or her, he or she would refer to that child as "my

1 SBU".

2 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. Mr Witness, remember to slow down
3 as you speak so that the interpreters can - the children you
4 referred to as SBU --

12:42:10 5 A. Okay, sir, I'm sorry.

6 Q. -- were they ever, to your knowledge, used by the NPFL in
7 fighting?

8 A. No. In the first place, I told you that the NPFL did not
9 train anyone below the age of 17. Even between the age of 15 and
10 16, they did not train anyone of those to fight or to even assign
11 them to an area as soldiers, never.

12 Q. Now, let's go back to 1994 --

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah, before you go on, the witness
14 has said that these older relatives would move with these
15 children, their SBUs, from place to place. Does this include
16 moving with them to front lines and to training camps?

17 MR ANYAH:

18 Q. Mr Witness, you understand the Presiding Judge's question?

19 A. Yes, your Honour, I answered your question. These children
12:43:27 20 were - these children did not go with their elderly brothers or
21 sisters to the front line. They were always with them around the
22 safe zones, far away from the front lines. They were not
23 soldiers.

24 Q. Mr Witness --

12:43:52 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Wait a minute. No, wait a minute. And
26 were these children - you said that they were not used in
27 fighting, were they used in any way to assist the fighters?

28 THE WITNESS: They were used - for example, if I had my
29 brother with me or my son or my relative with me within that age

1 bracket, that person will stay in the home, you know, in our
2 setting. The younger ones are the ones that do the domestic
3 chores like washing of dishes, washing of clothes, or to even
4 fetch water. Those who were around 15 to 16, they were used to
12:44:51 5 wash their elder brothers' clothes, or even to fetch water for
6 them or sometimes help the women in the kitchen. And that is
7 part of our tradition in Liberia.

8 MR ANYAH: Madam President, may I proceed? Thank you.

9 Q. Mr Witness, we go back to 1994. You said the SSS was
12:45:19 10 conducting training, you referred to the SSS as having a radio
11 communication unit, and you said it was called the radio dispatch
12 unit and then you said you were accepted and you trained as a
13 normal SSS personnel for about three months. In what unit of the
14 SSS were you accepted into?

12:45:45 15 A. I was accepted as a normal SSS personnel, in the SSS unit
16 itself, and the SSS body itself. And you know, in the SSS, there
17 are various areas of assignment, and number one is what
18 I referred to the radio communication unit. They had a
19 communication unit, they had the advance team, and they had
12:46:17 20 others, but before then I was first accepted as a regular SSS
21 personnel, without assignment.

22 Q. The three months training that you undertook with the SSS,
23 what did it entail? What was the nature of that training?

24 A. Okay. The nature of the training we went through was that
12:46:50 25 we were trained on VIP protection, how to provide protection for
26 the President, foreign guests and other diplomats, we were
27 trained on courtesy and discipline. We were trained on
28 diplomatic relationship because they told us that as SSS
29 personnel, they can even send you to the foreign affairs or they

1 can send you to the immigration at any time to work or to carry
2 on --

3 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, could the witness be asked
4 to repeat the last thing that he said slowly.

12:47:30 5 MR ANYAH:

6 Q. Mr Witness, you're speaking a little bit too fast for the
7 interpreters again. Just kindly go slowly and everybody will be
8 able to follow you.

9 You were saying that you were trained on diplomatic
12:47:43 10 relationship and you said they can even send you to the foreign
11 affairs or they can send you to the immigration at any time to
12 work, or to carry on - and that's where we could not follow you.
13 What were you saying about those who were sent to the
14 immigration?

12:48:03 15 A. Yes, I said we were told during the training programme that
16 as SSS personnel, you should be expected at any time to change
17 assignment. You can be even sent to work with the immigration,
18 that is the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalisation, and you can
19 be sent there to work on a temporary basis, and also you can be
12:48:40 20 sent to work at the foreign ministry at any time. So they taught
21 us diplomatic relationship.

22 Q. Who was your supervisor at the time you were undertaking
23 this training with the SSS?

24 A. It was Joseph Montgomery.

12:49:06 25 Q. Now, after your training, what duties were you assigned?

26 A. After the training, I then applied for the radio
27 communications training. I was then sent to be trained by the
28 SSS radio communication unit commander, who was called {redacted}
29 and, amongst other people, we were trained.

1 Q. Is it the case you were accepted after applying to be
2 trained in the SSS radio communications unit?

3 A. After, after the regular SSS training, I then applied for
4 radio communication.

12:50:04 5 Q. Were you accepted?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. When you were accepted, how did the training unfold?

8 A. When I was accepted at the training, we were taught about
9 the parts of the radio. We were taught how to communicate. We
10 were taught the various forms of communication messages in radio
11 communication, and other things.

12 Q. We will come back to more specifics about the training.
13 You mentioned a few minutes ago somebody called {redacted}.
14 Who was {redacted}?

12:50:53 15 A. {Redacted} was the commander at the SSS office for the
16 radio dispatch unit in Gbarnga.

17 Q. How do you spell the last name, is it {redacted}?

18 A. Yes, sir, {redacted}.

19 Q. Did {redacted} answer any other names besides the names
12:51:24 20 you've given us?

21 A. Yes. {Redacted} had his radio code called Mission 5,
22 Mission 5.

23 Q. You said that he was commander of the SSS dispatch unit.

24 Besides the dispatch unit, did the SSS have any other radio
12:51:52 25 communications unit within itself besides the SSS dispatch unit?

26 A. The SSS had a communication crew at the Executive Mansion
27 also, they were all SSS personnel. They had radio at the
28 Executive Mansion, but {redacted} was in control of the radio at
29 the main office of the SSS.

1 Q. Very well. When you say Executive Mansion in this case, is
2 it an Executive Mansion in Gbarnga?

3 A. Yes. The Executive Mansion in Gbarnga, under the NPRAG of
4 Mr Taylor.

12:52:45 5 Q. What does NPRAG stand for?

6 A. National Patriotic Reconstruction Assembly Government.
7 National Patriotic Reconstruction Assembly Government.

8 Q. When you joined the SSS dispatch unit, where were you
9 based?

12:53:22 10 A. I was based at the SSS main office in Gbarnga.

11 Q. Previously you said there were others who you trained with.
12 Can you give us the names of some of those you trained with?

13 A. Yes. I was trained along with - should I call the name?

14 Q. Well, Mr Witness, if you were trained with many people, I
12:54:01 15 don't think that will run the risk of revealing you're identity,
16 but if there were only a few people we can always have you write
17 their names on a piece of paper.

18 A. I was trained along with one {redacted} and one
19 {redacted}, one {redacted}.

12:54:30 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah, I'm really concerned if the
21 witness is now going to list the group of people that he did
22 train with.

23 MR ANYAH: Very well. I can ask him in another way.

24 Q. Mr Witness, how many persons in total were you trained
12:54:43 25 with?

26 A. I think we were about five.

27 MR ANYAH: Madam President, may I ask, given the indication
28 by the Court, that the two names mentioned by the witness who
29 were not properly spelled, I believe, in some instances, be

1 redacted from the record?

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, I agree. Madam Court Manager, we
3 will redact the names appearing at page 69 towards the end, the
4 two names appearing, in order to protect the security of this
12:55:35 5 witness and his identity.

6 MR ANYAH: Thank you, Madam President.

7 Q. Mr Witness, you told us that you were at the SSS main
8 office. You also mentioned that the SSS had a radio at the
9 Executive Mansion in Gbarnga. Besides those two locations, did
12:55:56 10 the SSS have radios anywhere else in Gbarnga in 1994?

11 A. No.

12 Q. With respect to your place of assignment, what sort of
13 radio did the SSS have there at its main office?

14 A. At its main office, the SSS had a radio called Yaesu FT -
12:56:37 15 Yaesu FT-ATC. Yaesu radio, VHF radio.

16 Q. What was the range of that radio? How far could it reach?

17 A. It could go extensively across Liberia and beyond. It
18 could go beyond Liberia.

19 Q. Could it reach, for example, Ghana or Nigeria?

12:57:11 20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. How about North Africa? Egypt or Algeria?

22 A. I did not try that, but I believe it could reach there if
23 you have someone there who operates on the same frequency.

24 Q. Now, the radio that you referred to the SSS having at the
12:57:36 25 Executive Mansion, what kind of radio was it?

26 A. It was a VHF radio, very high frequency.

27 Q. And who was its maker? That is, what was its brand name?

28 A. I never visited the office there, the SSS office at the
29 Executive Mansion, to know what type. But there were a lot of

1 VHF radios in existence at that time.

2 Q. What about the range of the radio at the Executive Mansion?
3 Did you know how far it could reach?

12:58:44

4 A. It was the same VHF, so I believe they have the same travel
5 distance.

6 Q. As the radio that was at the SSS main office?

7 A. Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

12:59:03

8 Q. Now, besides those two radios in Gbarnga, did the NPFL -
9 I'm no longer referring to the SSS, did the NPFL have any other
10 radios in Gbarnga in 1994?

11 A. Yes, sir. The NPFL had a radio at the SSS office, like
12 I said. They had a radio at the mansion. They had a radio at
13 the division headquarters, that is the military wing of the
14 Executive Mansion Guards at that time. I think so far those are
15 they.

12:59:39

16 Q. These radios, the three of them that you have mentioned
17 now, the last one being the radio at the military wing, you call
18 it division headquarters, I believe you said, did they have call
19 signs or names assigned to them?

13:00:02

20 A. Yes, sir. They had call signs.

21 Q. Let's start with the radio where you worked at at the SSS
22 main office. What was the call sign for that radio?

23 A. Well, the name of the call sign for the SSS main office
24 radio was Base 1.

13:00:27

25 Q. How about the radio that was at the Executive Mansion?
26 What was its call sign?

27 A. The call sign for that radio was Electron. Electron.

28 MR ANYAH: Madam President, that seems to be spelled
29 correctly on the record.

1 Q. What about the radio at the divisional headquarters? What
2 was the call sign of that radio?

3 A. The call sign for that one also was Tree Top. Tree Top.

4 Q. You've referred to {redacted} having a radio code name of
13:01:11 5 Mission 5. Was it the case that other radio operators of the
6 NPFL also had code names?

7 A. Yes, sir. Other radio operators had code names but I'm
8 still having problems with their names being called in an open
9 session.

13:01:38 10 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. I'm not going to ask you to call
11 their names. Can you do us a favour and spell Base 1 because it
12 appears in a particular way on the record. I just want to check
13 if what we have on the record is the correct spelling. Can you
14 spell Base 1 for us?

13:01:58 15 A. Yes. Base 1, base is B-A-S-E. B-A-S-E is base. And
16 against that is O-N-E, one, but the 1 can either be numerical or
17 alphabetical.

18 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. Now, you said {redacted}
19 commanded the radio where you worked at the SSS office. Who was
13:02:31 20 the commander of the radio at the Executive Mansion?

21 A. Actually, I did not know the command structure there.

22 Q. What of the radio at the divisional headquarters, the
23 military wing that you referred to as Tree Top? Who was the
24 commander there?

13:03:00 25 A. I remember that it was commanded by one Fox.

26 Q. Do you know the proper name for Fox?

27 A. It's Mark Kushin.

28 MR ANYAH: Madam President, I believe that name is on the
29 record. The last name at least. I'm not sure.

1 Q. Mr Witness, the first name, is it Mark or Mike?

2 A. Mark, M-A-R-K.

3 Q. Thank you.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah, I'm not sure that the surname

13:03:55 5 is on the record. I have no recollection of it. So there is no
6 harm in having a spelling of his surname.

7 MR ANYAH:

8 Q. Mr Witness, can you spell Mark Kushin's surname or last
9 name?

13:04:12 10 A. I will try but I might not be exact.

11 Q. Just do your best.

12 A. Okay. K-U-S-H-I-N, Kushin.

13 Q. Thank you. Where was Mr Taylor when you were with the SSS
14 dispatch unit in Gbarnga?

13:04:47 15 A. Mr Taylor was residing in Gbarnga.

16 Q. And what was his title at that time?

17 A. At that time he was referred to as the President.

18 Q. President of what?

19 A. President of the National Patriotic Reconstruction Assembly
13:05:17 20 Government of the NPFL.

21 Q. In which premises in Gbarnga was he residing?

22 A. At this time, he was residing at the commissioner's
23 compound in Gbarnga, the district commissioner's compound in
24 Gbarnga. That used to be the administrative office for the
13:05:50 25 district commissioner.

26 Q. Was there a radio at that compound where Mr Taylor resided
27 in Gbarnga?

28 A. Yes. At that time there was a radio there.

29 Q. What was its call sign, if any?

1 A. That was what I referred to earlier as Electron.

2 Q. What you referred to as the district commissioner's
3 compound in Gbarnga, is that different from or the same place as
4 the Executive Mansion?

13:06:32 5 A. Yes, it is the same place as the Executive Mansion.

6 Q. Now, radio operators had code names. How about the
7 President? Did he have a radio code name when you were in
8 Gbarnga in 1994?

9 A. When I was in Gbarnga in 1994, we had a code name for the
13:07:03 10 President as 407 - 407. And then within the SSS net, the SSS
11 referred to him as Unit 1 or Gentleman - Unit 1 or Gentleman.
12 That was the code from the SSS. That was the code for the
13 President within the SSS.

14 Q. And the code you referred to as 407, who gave the President
13:07:43 15 that code name?

16 A. Anyway, I entered the system when the code was already in
17 existence.

18 Q. Did the President at that time have radio operators
19 assigned to him?

13:08:17 20 A. At that time, those who the operators at Electron were the
21 operators that were assigned at the mansion.

22 Q. Did he have, that is President Taylor, a specifically
23 assigned radio operator when you were in Gbarnga?

24 A. No. Those people were there under the auspices of the SSS
13:08:55 25 and they were running in shifts. There was no one particular
26 person, but they used to run shifts.

27 Q. Are you aware of a code name Butterfly?

28 A. Yes.

29 Q. Whose code name was Butterfly?

1 A. The code Butterfly was the code name of Mr Yanks Smythe but
2 during that time that I became part of the radio communication
3 unit, Butterfly was no longer on the communication unit, but
4 I was told that Butterfly - Butterfly and Butterfly B, were
13:09:54 5 Mr Taylor's first radio operators, but I don't know when.

6 Q. Who is Butterfly B?

7 A. Butterfly B was a lady called Oretha Gweh.

8 Q. Were either of those two persons, Butterfly and Butterfly
9 B, present in Gbarnga in 1994 when you were there working for the
13:10:28 10 SSS dispatch unit?

11 A. Yes. I saw Butterfly and Butterfly B in Gbarnga at that
12 time.

13 Q. Now, apart from the radio communications network that the
14 NPFL had in Gbarnga, with respect to the rest of Liberia, were
13:10:52 15 there any NPFL radio units to be found?

16 A. Yes. During that time, the NPFL had various divisions.
17 For example, the marine - the marine division had their own radio
18 communications unit. The army division had their communication
19 unit. The various divisions had their individual communication
13:11:31 20 units.

21 Q. Let's take the marine division, for example. You said they
22 had their own radio communications unit. Where was it based?

23 A. The marine division was based in Margibi County, somewhere
24 around the Firestone Rubber Plantation but actually we used to
13:11:58 25 call them, I was not with them in the bush or in the bushes to
26 know exactly which village or what area in Margibi that the radio
27 was actually installed.

28 Q. What about the army division? Do you know where it had its
29 radio communications equipment?

1 A. The army division, I do not recall now.

2 Q. Do you know what sorts of radio equipment these divisions
3 had?

4 A. All of them had the same VHF radios.

13:12:43 5 Q. During the time period when you were in Gbarnga, to your
6 knowledge, was there any radio communication between the NPFL and
7 anyone in Sierra Leone?

8 A. During the time I was in Gbarnga, at that time, I had no
9 knowledge of the NPFL having communications with anybody in
10 Sierra Leone, but prior to that, between '91, '92, according to
11 the previous operators that I met, they said they had radio
12 communication link with the RUF in Sierra Leone. That was
13 between '91 to '92. But in '94, when I became part of - or when
14 I got into the communications unit, there was no communication -
13:13:11 15 existing communication link between the NPFL or between Liberia
16 and Sierra Leone at that time.

17 Q. How about in 1993? Did you hear anything about any radio
18 communication between the RUF and the NPFL?

19 A. No. I was told that those communications were between '91
13:14:13 20 and '92.

21 Q. Do you know why the communications stopped?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Very well. How long did you remain in this assignment with
24 the SSS dispatch unit at Base 1?

13:14:38 25 A. I was assigned at Base 1 from '94 up to late '94, in
26 September, when Gbarnga was attacked by ULIMO, when Gbarnga was
27 attacked by ULIMO in September, I then escaped and went to Ganta.

28 Q. Where was President Taylor when Gbarnga was attacked by
29 ULIMO?

1 A. President Taylor was in Ghana attending a - attending peace
2 talks when ULIMO attacked his headquarters.

3 Q. When you say you escaped and you went to Ganta, did you go
4 to Ganta alone or were there others who escaped with you?

13:15:39 5 A. Almost the entire population in Gbarnga at that time ran
6 towards Ganta, that is including civilians and NPFL soldiers.

7 Q. What did you do when you got to Ganta?

8 A. When I got to Ganta, I think few days after, I mean a week
9 or less, but even before then, when we were in Gbarnga, during
13:16:20 10 those times, in late '94, there was another rebel group called
11 the Liberian Peace Council, the LPC, that launched its attack
12 also in the eastern part of Liberia. So the SSS director left
13 Gbarnga to go and repel the attack there. I am here speaking
14 about director Benjamin Yeaten. He was also in the southeast

13:16:58 15 fighting against the LPC, when Gbarnga fell to the hands of
16 ULIMO. So when I got to Ganta, few days later, he arrived. He
17 arrived with a group of bodyguards, and at this time he formed a
18 unit in the southeast called the Jungle Fire. So he came with
19 that unit to go and fight in Gbarnga against the LURD - I'm
13:17:36 20 sorry, against ULIMO. So I joined the Jungle Fire and fought
21 along the Jungle Fire to regain Gbarnga.

22 Q. How long did you stay in Ganta before Benjamin Yeaten came
23 with the group you referred to as Jungle Fire?

24 A. I think a week or less than a week.

13:18:14 25 Q. Who was the head of the other group you referred to as the
26 Liberian Peace Council? Who was its leader?

27 A. The LPC was headed by one George Boley.

28 Q. When you told us that in September 1994 ULIMO attacked
29 Gbarnga, were ULIMO in control of Gbarnga at the time you were in

1 Ganta?

2 A. ULIMO was in total control of Gbarnga at the time I was in
3 Ganta.

4 Q. When Benjamin Yeaten came to Ganta with the Jungle Fire,
13:19:02 5 can you give us an idea of the approximate size of that group?

6 A. Yes. When he came with this group, there were
7 approximately 50 men - 50 men.

8 Q. Do you --

9 A. Or a little more or less.

13:19:27 10 JUDGE DOHERTY: [Microphone not activated]

11 MR ANYAH:

12 Q. Mr Witness, one of the Justices is not clear of the number.
13 Did you say 50 or 15? What number did you say?

14 A. I am talking about 5-0.

13:19:44 15 Q. Do you remember the names of any of those Jungle Fire
16 members?

17 A. Yes. When he came at that time, he had a lot of strange
18 men with him who joined the Jungle Fire there. To name few,
19 there was one Junior Gbarjulu some other people called him Julius
13:20:15 20 Gbarjulu. But usually I called him Junior Gbarjulu. And then
21 Zigzag Marzah - Zigzag Marzah, whose real name is Joseph Marzah,
22 Zigzag Marzah.

23 Q. Yes, besides Junior Gbarjulu and Zigzag Marzah, do you
24 remember the names of any other Jungle Fire members?

13:20:45 25 A. You mean those who came along with the director from the
26 southeast?

27 Q. Yes.

28 A. I would think, but - but after the Jungle Fire came,
29 myself, along with other people that I find difficult to name

1 now, joined the Jungle Fire.

2 Q. When you say you're finding it difficult to name, are you
3 afraid that saying their names will disclose your identity or you
4 cannot recall their names?

13:21:50 5 A. I'm afraid that going too deep into the calling of names
6 will disclose my identity.

7 Q. Well, did you yourself join the Jungle Fire?

8 A. Yes. I fought along the Jungle Fire, even though I was an
9 SSS personnel, but I fought along with the Jungle Fire.

13:22:22 10 Q. Were members of the Jungle Fire considered to be SSS
11 personnel or were they a distinct and separate unit from the SSS?

12 A. They were totally a separate group from the SSS.

13 Q. And when you say you fought alongside the Jungle Fire, did
14 that make you into a Jungle Fire personnel?

13:22:52 15 A. Yes. As well. That made me a member of the Jungle Fire.

16 Q. Besides you, were there other SSS personnel who fought with
17 the Jungle Fire?

18 A. Yes. There were some SSS personnel who were assigned with
19 the director, who fought alongside the Jungle Fire.

13:23:25 20 Q. Now, who exactly did the Jungle Fire fight against?

21 A. The Jungle Fire initially were fighting against the ULIMO.
22 But after some time, I think one month or less than that, the LPC
23 also came from Grand Bassa County towards the - I mean, from
24 Grand Bassa County along with ECOMOG, so let's just say the NPFL

13:24:09 25 as a whole was now fighting against three different groups in
26 Gbarnga; That is ULIMO, LPC, and ECOMOG, the peacekeeping force.

27 Q. And for how long did this fighting last?

28 A. Approximately three months, from September to December.

29 Q. What happened in December 1994?

1 A. In December of 1994, the NPFL regained Gbarnga, and then in
2 1995, we moved back to Gbarnga. I then went back to my mother
3 unit, the SSS, as radio operator, but at this time my assignment
4 was at a building in Gbarnga that was used by the
13:25:22 5 telecommunications. We call the building the telecom building,
6 the Liberian Telecommunications Building. That was where the SSS
7 installed a VHF radio which was few metres away from the SSS
8 second office because the first office was burnt down by the
9 ULIMO, so that was where I was assigned.

13:25:49 10 Q. You said in December 1994 the NPFL regained Gbarnga, and
11 you said it was in 1995 you moved back to Gbarnga. Where was
12 Mr Taylor during this period of time?

13 A. Mr Taylor was in - if I'm not mistaken, he was in Ganta.

14 Q. You said you took up assignment at the telecommunications
13:26:22 15 building. You said the previous office of the SSS, you referred
16 to it as the first office, was burnt down by ULIMO. The first
17 office to which you refer, is that where Base 1 was originally
18 stationed?

19 A. Yes. The Base 1 was at the previous office.

13:26:55 20 Q. And was that previous office the SSS headquarters office in
21 Gbarnga?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. The telecommunications building that you moved to, what was
24 the call sign of the radio there?

13:27:15 25 A. The call sign of the radio there was Planet. Planet.

26 Q. After the NPFL regained Gbarnga, did it continue to have
27 radio communications equipment at the Executive Mansion in
28 Gbarnga?

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. And what was the call sign of that radio at the Executive
2 Mansion after Gbarnga was retaken by the NPFL?

3 A. After Gbarnga was regained, the previous mansion had been
4 also burned down by the enemy forces, that is ULIMO, and at the
13:28:17 5 second mansion, the call sign there was 38, 3-8.

6 Q. What about the divisional headquarters of the military wing
7 that you referred to before, where there was a radio with a call
8 sign Tree Top, did that radio and that premises survive the ULIMO
9 capture of Gbarnga?

13:28:48 10 A. After ULIMO captured Gbarnga, I don't know whether it
11 survived. I did not go there. But again I want to make it
12 clear, I did not visit the division headquarters. I did not know
13 the actual site, but it was around the mansion, so I did not know
14 what happened next to it. But what I recall was that after the
13:29:12 15 recapture of Gbarnga by the NPFL, this call sign, Tree Top, was
16 to longer in existence.

17 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. When you were at the
18 telecommunications building, what sort of radio equipment did you
19 have at Planet?

13:29:38 20 A. At Planet, we were using a VHF radio. I think this time it
21 was a model called Icon. Icon.

22 Q. And while you were stationed there after Gbarnga had been
23 retaken by the NPFL, are you aware of any radio communications
24 with Sierra Leone from the NPFL side?

13:30:08 25 A. Nothing.

26 Q. How about from the Executive Mansion's radio? Are you
27 aware of communications between that radio and anywhere in
28 Sierra Leone after the NPFL retook Gbarnga?

29 A. No.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah, I just want to seek
2 clarifi cation. After the retake of Gbarnga, the Executive
3 Mansion radio was called 38. Does it mean they no longer
4 referred to it as Electron?

13:30:44

5 MR ANYAH:

6 Q. Mr Witness, can you assist us by answering that?

7 A. Yes. It was no longer called Electron.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah, I think this is an appropriate
9 time to break. We will have a luncheon break and reconvene at
10 2.30.

13:31:04

11 [Lunch break taken at 1.30 p.m.]

12 [Upon resuming at 2.33 p.m.]

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good afternoon.

14 Mr Anyah, please proceed.

14:34:18

15 MR ANYAH: Thank you, Madam President. Good afternoon.

16 Q. Mr Witness, before the luncheon adjournment, we were
17 speaking about a time period when you had taken up assignment at
18 the telecommunications building in Gbarnga. Now, for how long
19 were you assigned as a radio operator within that building?

14:34:38

20 A. I cannot remember how long, but it was within the same
21 1995, I think May, or late '95. I was then transferred to the
22 mansion, to the Executive Mansion, as radio operator again.

23 Q. And the Executive Mansion that you've just referred to,
24 where was that mansion located at? As in, which town or city in
25 Liberia?

14:35:14

26 A. It was in Gbarnga, Bong County.

27 Q. Where was President Taylor at that time, in 1995?

28 A. At that time he was in Monrovia, in the six man council
29 government.

1 Q. Where was Benjamin Yeaten at that time, while you worked at
2 the Executive Mansion in Gbarnga?

3 A. Benjamin was in Monrovia with the President.

14:36:04 4 Q. What was the status of the group you mentioned previously
5 called Jungle Fire, by this time in 1995?

6 A. At this time in 1995, Jungle Fire was not an actual
7 movement like the other unit. It was peacetime. Jungle Fire was
8 there but it was not active; that was how it was.

9 Q. When you say "Jungle Fire was there", what do you mean it
14:36:39 10 was there? Are you referring to a place or do you mean it was in
11 existence?

12 A. Okay. During that time, I think - I can't remember whether
13 it was before - until the disarmament, during the peace process,
14 Jungle Fire, like any other unit, was still in existence, but
14:37:06 15 right after the disarmament, Jungle Fire was dissolved, like all
16 the other units.

17 Q. When you refer to a disarmament, who was disarmed?

18 A. I'm talking about the disarmament by ECOMOG, that which was
19 done by ECOMOG in Liberia before the elections. In 1995, Jungle
14:37:32 20 Fire was not in existence, it was actually not in existence. It
21 had been dissolved, and people had been disarmed to ECOMOG. It
22 was dissolved.

23 Q. Who had disarmed to ECOMOG? When you say "people", what
24 people or persons had been disarmed to ECOMOG?

14:37:50 25 A. The NPFL as a whole disarmed to ECOMOG.

26 Q. Was it only the NPFL that had disarmed to ECOMOG?

27 A. The NPFL, together with all warring factions involved at
28 the time, underwent the disarmament exercise.

29 Q. For how long did you remain assigned to the Executive

1 Mansion in Gbarnga?

2 A. I remained at the Executive Mansion in Gbarnga from '95
3 till '97, after the elections.

4 Q. What happened in 1997?

14:38:46 5 A. In 1997, I was called by the SSS office for re-assignment,
6 this time to join the radio dispatch unit at the Executive
7 Mansion in Monrovia, as a national SSS, not for NPRAG but
8 national SSS.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah, if I may interrupt, please, to
14:39:21 10 seek clarification, was Jungle Fire part of the NPFL?

11 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. Jungle Fire was a part of the
12 NPFL, but it was a unit - it was a bodyguard unit by Benjamin
13 Yeaten. It was not a division like the others. It was a
14 bodyguard unit, a fighting unit to Benjamin Yeaten. So it was
14:39:50 15 regarded as a unit under the NPFL.

16 MR ANYAH:

17 Q. Were the members of this unit that you referred to as the
18 bodyguard unit of Benjamin Yeaten, were they regularly trained
19 and within the NPFL structure?

14:40:11 20 A. No. They came from other units. They were a collection of
21 men from other, previous units that make up the bodyguard units
22 that he formed in the southeast. It was composed of other units
23 that had already been trained.

24 Q. And those other units, were they units from the NPFL?

14:40:45 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. Were any members of these Jungle Fire recruited by Benjamin
27 Yeaten without them having been previously in the NPFL?

28 A. No.

29 Q. Now, we go to 1997. You said, "I was called by the SSS

1 office for re-assignment." At this time in '97, was this before
2 or after the elections in Liberia?

3 A. It was before the inauguration of the President.

4 Q. When was the President inaugurated, if you recall?

14:41:30 5 A. On 4 August 1997.

6 Q. And how many weeks before the inauguration were you called
7 for re-assignment?

8 A. I can't remember.

9 Q. Was it after the elections in July that you were called for
14:41:51 10 re-assignment but before inauguration on 4 August, as you say?

11 A. It was after the elections - it was after the elections and
12 the results had been announced, but the President had not been
13 inaugurated.

14 Q. Now, going back from this period of time, around August
14:42:19 15 1997, back to the time when you were in the telecommunications
16 building in Gbarnga in 1995, was there, to your knowledge, any
17 communication between the NPFL and any warring faction in
18 Sierra Leone, in particular the RUF?

19 A. No.

14:42:42 20 Q. Did you, indeed, go to Monrovia in 1997?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. When you got to Monrovia, what assignment did you have?

23 A. When I got to Monrovia, I was not immediately assigned
24 because I was told to wait - even though I had been called by the
14:43:13 25 SSS, I should wait until the inauguration of the President. So
26 during that time, I was now with {redacted}, Benjamin Yeaten, at
27 his residence in Sinkor - at the YWCA community.

28 MR ANYAH: Madam President, there is a redaction we make an
29 application in respect of.

1 Q. Mr Witness, there is a way we can proceed that you would
2 not identify yourself in public session, but just listen to the
3 questions carefully and just answer the question you're asked. I
4 asked you what was your assignment. You said you were not
14:43:56 5 immediately assigned because you were told to wait until the
6 inauguration of the President. Now --

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: You applied for a redaction, and does
8 that relate to the relationship mentioned by the witness?

9 MR ANYAH: Yes, Madam President.

14:44:15 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Madam Court Manager, at page 88, line -
11 let me just see what line - line 19 on my font. Anyway, just
12 before the words "Benjamin Yeaten", please redact the
13 relationship mentioned there.

14 MR ANYAH: Thank you, Madam President.

14:44:49 15 Q. Mr Witness, so before the inauguration you stayed with
16 Benjamin Yeaten. After the inauguration, did you take up an
17 assignment?

18 A. Yes, sir. I took up an assignment after the inauguration.

19 Q. And where was your base?

14:45:09 20 A. I was now assigned at the Executive Mansion as a radio
21 operator.

22 Q. Were you the only person assigned at the Executive Mansion
23 at that time as a radio operator?

24 A. No. We were many.

14:45:30 25 Q. Were the others who were there at the Executive Mansion
26 working as radio operators before you were assigned there?

27 A. Yes. There were others who were there as radio operators.
28 Some were from William S Tubman's administration, some were from
29 Tolbert's administration, and others from Doe, and some others

1 came in from the past interim government before the elections.
2 They were all there.

3 Q. What sort of radio did the Government of Liberia have at
4 the Executive Mansion?

14:46:22 5 A. The Government of Liberia at the Executive Mansion had two
6 kinds of radios. They had the VHF video and the UHF, or the
7 short range radio, that controls radios like the walkie-talkies.
8 But this was the base set. It was not a mobile set; it was a
9 base set of the walkie-talkies. It was a Motorola.

14:47:04 10 Q. How about the UHF radio? Was that mobile or was that a
11 base station?

12 A. It was a base station.

13 Q. Who was the head of the radio section of the government
14 within the Executive Mansion?

14:47:27 15 A. The head of the radio dispatch section of the Executive
16 Mansion was Colonel Elita Yates, who --

17 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he kindly repeat this
18 part of his answer.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please pause, Mr Witness. Please pause.

14:47:55 20 Can you please repeat this part of your answer for the
21 interpreters.

22 THE WITNESS: I said the SSS radio unit or dispatch - it
23 was sometimes called dispatch unit, radio dispatch unit, was
24 headed by a lady called Colonel Elita Yates, Colonel Elita Yates.

14:48:26 25 She was employed with the SSS during the late President
26 WS Tubman's administration.

27 MR ANYAH:

28 Q. Was there then in existence, during the administration of
29 President Tubman, a part of the Liberian government called the

1 SSS?

2 A. Yes. During the administrations - the administration of
3 Tubman, there was a security unit responsible for the protection
4 of the President called the special security service. This was
14:49:10 5 the history I got about the SSS.

6 Q. And apart from President Tubman's administration, how about
7 during President Doe's administration? Was such a unit in
8 existence?

9 A. Yes. The SSS was in existence during President Doe's
14:49:30 10 administration.

11 Q. Now, can you spell the name of this colonel you just gave
12 us. You said the first name was Elita and the last name Yates.
13 Can you spell --

14 A. The last name?

14:49:46 15 Q. The first and last name, if you may.

16 A. E-L-I-T-A, Elita; Yates, Y-A-T-E-S.

17 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. Were other operators, including
18 yourself, working at the Executive Mansion within the SSS?

19 A. Yes, there were other radio operators, including myself,
14:50:31 20 working at the Executive Mansion with the SSS.

21 Q. Well, my question is not whether you were working with the
22 SSS. Can you tell us the branch of government that you were
23 subsumed under, that is, the radio operators beneath Colonel
24 Yates, all of you; what unit within the government were you
14:50:49 25 assigned to or did you fall under?

26 A. I am talking about the Special Security Service; that was
27 the unit or the security body for the protection of the
28 president.

29 Q. Were radio operators all members of the SSS, those at the

1 Executive Mansion?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. The two types of radios you mentioned, the VHF and the UHF,
4 at the Executive Mansion, in which part of the building were they
14:51:35 5 located at?

6 A. They were located on the fourth floor of the Executive
7 Mansion.

8 Q. What else was located on the fourth floor of the Executive
9 Mansion besides the radios?

14:51:53 10 A. Okay. On the fourth floor of the Executive Mansion there
11 was the SS office - the SS office was on the fourth floor of the
12 Executive Mansion and the office of the President was also on the
13 fourth floor of the Executive Mansion. So the entire fourth
14 floor was covered by the SSS.

14:52:27 15 Q. How big was the section of the fourth floor where the radio
16 unit was situated in?

17 A. The section where the radio unit was located was not that
18 big. I can't give - I can't describe it, in terms of its
19 measurement, but it was not that big.

14:52:55 20 Q. How many rooms in the fourth floor were assigned for radio
21 operations?

22 A. Okay. On the fourth floor there was one room, but it was
23 like it was divided. It was just like a partition, they were
24 divided into partitions. On the outside, that was where the base
14:53:26 25 shift commander, the general shift commander for a particular
26 shift, that was where he had his office. And, when you pass
27 through the shift commander's office, you get into the radio
28 room. Normally, it was one office - one room, but it was divided
29 into smaller compartments for the radio.

1 Q. The shift commander you referred to, was that a shift
2 commander in relation to the radios?

3 A. The shift commander I'm referring to was the shift
4 commander that controlled the entire Executive Mansion. He was
14:54:08 5 responsible for posting - for positioning men at the various
6 entrances or strategic points in the Executive Mansion; they
7 called him the base shift commander.

8 Q. Did you have to work shifts when you worked at the
9 Executive Mansion in 1997?

10 A. Yes, we worked in shifts. We had three shifts, and it was
11 rotational.

12 Q. When you say "rotational" and "three shifts" was that
13 applicable to radio operators, that is, did all radio operators
14 have to work these shifts?

14:55:01 15 A. Yes.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah, is that three shifts per day?

17 MR ANYAH:

18 Q. Mr Witness, can you give us an indication of time frames of
19 the shifts, when you said you had three shifts?

14:55:18 20 A. Exactly. Three shifts a day. The first shift starts at 8
21 to 4, then the second shift from 4 to 12, and the third shift
22 from 12 to 8 a.m; that is 8 a.m. to 4 p.m, 4 p.m. to 12 a.m, and
23 12 a.m. to 8 a.m.

24 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. What was the range of the UHF radio
14:55:55 25 that was within the Executive Mansion?

26 A. The UHF radio covers Monrovia - not every part of Monrovia
27 but almost the entire Monrovia.

28 Q. Could it go outside of Monrovia?

29 A. No.

1 Q. Now, the record shows you as saying that was in relation to
2 the UHF radio. The VHF radio, the very high frequency radio,
3 what was its range?

14:56:55 4 A. The very high frequency radio has an extensive range. It
5 could travel outside of Liberia as well as - as well as in
6 Liberia.

7 Q. The radios at the Executive Mansion, let's start with the
8 VHF, or very high frequency; did that radio have a call sign?

14:57:25 9 A. Yes. The radio at the Executive Mansion - the radios at
10 the Executive Mansion, both the short range and/or the long range
11 have - had a signal call sign called proton.

12 Q. Proton?

13 A. Proton.

14 Q. Now, besides this radio at - besides the radios at the
14:57:46 15 Executive Mansion, did the Government of Liberia have radios
16 anywhere else within the city of Monrovia? This is now the
17 period 1997, after the election of Charles Taylor as President.

18 A. Okay. Please, let me clarify something that concerns the
19 radio at the Executive Mansion before answering your question.

14:58:16 20 Q. Go ahead.

21 A. The long range - the long range and the short range were
22 both installed on the fourth floor and in the same room, but the
23 long range was not receiving - was not transmitting clearly. It
24 never had clear signals. So it was later transferred. In '97 it
14:58:48 25 was transferred to the seventh floor of the Executive Mansion
26 where the antenna was high above the building to receive good
27 communication signals. That's - that was what I wanted to make
28 clear before answering the next question.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: And, Mr Anyah, in 1997, this radio at the

1 Executive Mansion, the call sign was now Proton, what happened to
2 the former call sign or call name of 38?

3 THE WITNESS: Yes. The call sign 38 - the call sign 38 was
4 a radio that was in Gbarnga during the NPFL days - at the NPFL
14:59:49 5 mansion or the NPRAG mansion, but the Proton is the call sign
6 referring to the Executive Mansion of the Republic of Liberia in
7 Monrovia.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: So after 1997 what happened to the
9 Executive Mansion radio in Gbarnga with the call sign 38? It's
15:00:12 10 after 1997.

11 THE WITNESS: After the '97 elections, the radio remained
12 in Gbarnga. The radio remained in Gbarnga, and it still had the
13 title "38".

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you.

15:00:39 15 MR ANYAH:

16 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you have said the long-range radio, the
17 VHF, was moved to the seventh floor. Now, go back to my
18 question. Apart from that VHF radio and the UHF one within the
19 Executive Mansion in Monrovia, did the Government of Liberia have
15:01:03 20 other radio stations in the city of Monrovia post the 1997
21 election?

22 A. Okay. The Government of Liberia had other radio stations.
23 The police barracks, or the national police headquarters, had a
24 radio; the Justice Ministry had a radio; the Defence Ministry had
15:01:33 25 a radio; the Bureau of Immigrations and Naturalisation Office,
26 the head office in Monrovia, had a radio and other security
27 operators.

28 Q. Do you know where President Taylor resided in Monrovia
29 during the period of the six person Council of State you referred

1 to previously?

2 A. Okay. When President Taylor moved to Monrovia in 1995, he
3 was at first residing in a building opposite the United States
4 embassy at Mamba Point in Monrovia. He later moved - he later
15:02:37 5 moved down to Sinkor near the German embassy in Monrovia.

6 Q. Do you know the year in which he moved from the Mamba Point
7 area to the area called Sinkor?

8 A. No, I was not in Monrovia at that time.

9 Q. Did he move to Sinkor before your arrival in Monrovia in
15:03:11 10 1997?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. Do you know whether, at the residence in Sinkor, there was
13 a radio that the President - or at this time Council of State
14 member Taylor used?

15:03:27 15 A. Okay. There was a radio at his residence near the German
16 embassy at this time.

17 Q. Did he have a radio before the election in 1997?

18 A. I can't remember that, but I remember when he moved near
19 the German embassy.

15:03:59 20 Q. Well, when you say "When he moved near the German embassy"
21 is that the same location you referred to as being in Sinkor?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. When he was residing near the German embassy, did
24 Charles Taylor have a radio at his residence, to your knowledge?

15:04:18 25 A. When he moved near the German embassy he had a radio
26 positioned right outside his fence. There was a security booth
27 there before entering the fence, that is where the radio was.

28 Q. And do you know what call sign, if any, that radio had?

29 A. Yes, at this time they used the call sign Electron.

1 Q. When the inauguration came and President Taylor was sworn
2 in, do you know where he resided after being sworn in as
3 President?

15:05:18 4 A. After he was sworn in as President, he was residing close
5 to the German embassy, in that same building. And then later
6 in January of 1999, he then moved to a house in Congo Town that
7 was called White Flower. He moved there to celebrate his
8 birthday in January of 1999.

15:05:55 9 Q. Well, we'll come to that later on. We go back to 1997, you
10 say President Taylor resided in Sinkor near the German embassy
11 with a radio call sign of Electron and you tell us of other
12 places where the Government of Liberia had radios and you said
13 the Executive Mansion's radio, the long range and short range
14 were both called Proton. How about Benjamin Yeaten? Where did
15:06:22 15 he reside, to your knowledge, when you were based at the
16 Executive Mansion in 1997?

17 A. In 1997 Benjamin Yeaten was residing in Sinkor in a
18 community called YWCA along the Tubman Boulevard.

15:06:54 19 Q. Do you know whether he had a radio at that time at his
20 residence?

21 A. He never had a radio at that time, at his house.

22 Q. Now, you and others, you say, worked under Colonel Elita
23 Yates. For how long did you remain in that assignment at the
24 Executive Mansion?

15:07:25 25 A. I was at the Executive Mansion from '97 to late '98.

26 Q. And during the entire period of time when you were at the
27 Executive Mansion from 1997 until late 1998, were there, to your
28 knowledge, any communications by the Government of Liberia radio
29 operators with Sierra Leone?

1 A. No.

2 Q. What assignment did you take up - well, let me rephrase
3 this. You mentioned an assignment you took up in 1998, in
4 private session. Now, did that assignment bring you in the
15:08:25 5 vicinity of Benjamin Yeaten's house to do your work?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And the sort of work you were engaged in at that time was
8 what?

9 A. As a radio operator.

15:08:50 10 Q. Now, what radio did you operate at that time?

11 A. VHF radio.

12 Q. There was also a radio operator at that time called
13 Sunlight, yes?

14 A. Yes.

15:09:16 15 Q. And you had opportunity to observe what Sunlight was doing?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Now, this VHF radio, where was it located at?

18 A. This VHF radio was located on the ground floor of Benjamin
19 Yeaten's two-storey building where he was residing.

15:09:53 20 Q. And in which part of Monrovia was that building located at?

21 A. The building was located in Congo Town, few metres away
22 from President Taylor's private residence, that is White Flower.

23 Q. Well, you told us President Taylor moved into White Flower
24 in January 1999. Now --

15:10:31 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. When you started working as a radio operator for Benjamin
27 Yeaten --

28 A. I started to --

29 Q. -- that was before the existence of White Flower, is that

1 correct?

2 A. I started working as an operator when White Flower was
3 still under construction, but at this time the SSS director had
4 moved to - into a house at the back of White Flower, few metres
15:11:19 5 away from White Flower.

6 Q. And what part of Monrovia is that building called - I'm
7 sorry, I've asked you that question, so I withdraw that.

8 You said a few metres. Can you give us an idea of how
9 many metres the residence of Benjamin Yeaten was from the White
15:11:44 10 Flower that was under construction?

11 A. Approximately one-fourth metre away from White Flower.

12 Q. If you were to walk the distance between the two buildings
13 how long would it take you?

14 A. Okay, that's correct. If you were to walk from White
15:12:15 15 Flower to Benjamin Yeaten's house, it would take you about five -
16 four to five minutes.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Did the witness, in terms of distance,
18 did the witness say one quarter of a kilometre?

19 MR ANYAH:

15:12:31 20 Q. Mr Witness, what exactly did you say when you gave us an
21 estimate of the distance?

22 A. Okay. I was just guessing that - I was guessing a distance
23 in terms of calculation, but I might not be exact. But in terms
24 of time, it might take you four to five minutes or even above.

15:13:01 25 Q. Now, you said that the VHF radio was located on the ground
26 floor of Benjamin Yeaten's two-storey building where he was
27 residing. When was that VHF radio placed within that building,
28 if you know?

29 A. Okay. The VHF radio was placed in that building after

1 the September 18th fracas that took place at the Camp Johnson
2 Road involving Roosevelt Johnson and the Government of Liberia.
3 It was immediately after the September 18th war that the SSS
4 director - the SSS director then took this radio. But according
15:14:02 5 to him, the reason was that during this time Roosevelt Johnson
6 and his men, the ULIMO-J, even though they had been moved from
7 Camp Johnson Road and they were no longer there, but there - as
8 we were there, there was security information filtering in that
9 these men had regrouped with other groups outside Liberia to
15:14:33 10 launch another war on the government and people of Liberia. But
11 according to information, some were saying that they would start
12 the attack from the Liberian-Ivory Coast border, or some would
13 say Liberia-Sierra Leone border, or some would say
14 Liberian-Guinean border. Okay.

15:14:58 15 And now there were radios at some border points. There
16 were VHF radios at some border points, but at this time there was
17 no telephone communication as it is now in Liberia. The
18 telecommunications system in Liberia at that time was not
19 perfectly functioning, that is the Telecom. So - and moreover,
15:15:26 20 on the short-range radio, there were some people who had been
21 maybe working in the government before but I did not know how
22 they used to get these pieces of communication equipment - they
23 were in possession of the walkie-talkies that the security SSS
24 were using and they used to monitor the net and sometimes they
15:15:50 25 would go on the SSS net and disturb for the rest of the day. And
26 sometimes they used to - to use insults on the President on the
27 SSS net. So at any time there was communication coming in from
28 the border point that there is an insurgency at this point or a
29 sensitive security information to the Executive Mansion, and when

1 we received such information from outside to the Executive
2 Mansion we would give the information to the director of the SSS.

3 Q. Thank you. If I can ask you to just go a little bit
4 slower. Let's consider some of what you've said in your

15:16:32 5 response. Now, I asked you a question, "When was that VHF radio
6 installed at Benjamin Yeaten's house?" Can you give us a month
7 and a year for its installation?

8 A. Yes, it was in September but it was after the September
9 18th war.

15:17:00 10 Q. In what year are you referring to?

11 A. Okay 1998, September 1998.

12 Q. The September 18 war you have just referred to, is that the
13 same of what you spoke a few minutes ago as being the fracas at
14 Camp Johnson Road?

15:17:21 15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Now, you went on to give us reasons why the radio was
17 installed there. Can you indicate for us why, to your knowledge,
18 it was necessary to have that radio at Benjamin Yeaten's house?

19 A. Yes. The reason was that when there was an information
15:17:55 20 from the border involving an attack and when that is relayed to
21 the Executive Mansion, we would have to do onwards relay of the
22 information to the SS director through our commanders. But when
23 the SSS director was not at the Executive Mansion, either at his
24 home or outside the Executive Mansion, it would not be safe at
15:18:27 25 that time to transmit the message on the short-range radios, that
26 is the walkie-talkies, and that would be monitored by the
27 detractors and then prematurely that information will be to the
28 public domain, at which time the government would not have
29 verified the accuracy of the information or the incidents or what

1 have you. So prematurely, the public would have been served this
2 information and thereby creating fear in the people. So --

15:19:15 3 Q. Mr Witness, if I could just ask you this: At which border
4 points within Liberia did the Government of Liberia have radio
5 stations?

6 A. The Government of Liberia had a radio at the border point
7 with Ivory Coast. There was a radio there. The Government of
8 Liberia also had a radio at the border between Liberia and
9 Sierra Leone in Cape Mount.

15:19:45 10 Q. With respect to the Ivory Coast, what was the town or city
11 in which the Government of Liberia had a radio, with the Ivorian
12 border?

13 A. There was a radio in a town called Loguato.

14 Q. And with respect to Cape Mount and Sierra Leone, what was
15:20:06 15 the town in Cape Mount where the Government of Liberia had a
16 radio?

17 A. The border town, I do not recall the name, but it was at
18 the border. That was the immigration radio.

19 Q. Now, you spoke of premature dissemination of information to
15:20:32 20 the public creating fear. Was the Government of Liberia engaged
21 in any conflicts at this time that would create fear and require
22 restriction of who had access to information?

23 A. Okay. At this time, the Government of Liberia had just
24 engaged in a fight with Roosevelt Johnson, and it was within that
15:21:02 25 same period of time that people's ears were still very sharp,
26 being mindful of what could happen in the next few hours or days.
27 So that was the reason.

28 Q. The radio at Benjamin Yeaten's house, did it have a call
29 sign?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What was its call sign?

3 A. It was called Base 1.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Sorry, I thought the witness mentioned
15:21:47 5 something about Sunlight. How was Sunlight related to Base 1?

6 MR ANYAH: I will ask the witness.

7 Q. Can you answer that question, please? How is Sunlight
8 related to Base 1?

9 A. Now, when this radio at the SSS director's house was
15:22:06 10 installed, the director of SSS then requested the radio dispatch
11 unit, through the administration of - through the normal channel,
12 for Sunlight to be re-assigned with him as radio operator within
13 his SSS bodyguard unit.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: So then Sunlight was the code name of the
15:22:40 15 operator, but Base 1 was the code name for the radio station?

16 THE WITNESS: Yes, your Honour. Sunlight was the code name
17 of the operator and Base 1 was the call sign for the radio.

18 MR ANYAH:

19 Q. Who was the primary radio operator assigned to that radio,
15:23:07 20 given the observations you had?

21 A. The primary operator of the radio Base 1 was Sunlight.

22 Q. Now, we're in the period late 1998; you said
23 after September 18, 1998. Besides that radio at Benjamin
24 Yeaten's house that you referred to as Base 1, did any other
15:23:41 25 government official have a radio at his or her house --

26 A. Yes.

27 Q. -- in Monrovia?

28 A. Yes.

29 Q. Who else besides Benjamin Yeaten, within the Government of

1 Liberia, had a radio in their house?

2 A. The foreign minister, Monie R Captan, Monie Captan, had a
3 radio at his house. The deputy director for operations, Joseph
4 Montgomery, also had a radio at his house. And the chief of
15:24:32 5 protocol, Ambassador Musa Cisse, also had a radio at his house.

6 Q. When you referred to Joseph Montgomery as deputy director
7 for operations, in which entity or part of the Liberian
8 government was he deputy director?

9 A. Of the Executive Mansion's Special Security Service.

15:25:05 10 Q. He was under Benjamin Yeaten?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. You've referred to Musa Cisse, you've referred to Monie
13 Captan. Anybody else within the Government of Liberia that had a
14 radio in their house at that time, late 1998?

15:25:27 15 A. So far, those are the ones that I remember for now.

16 Q. The radio at Joseph Montgomery's house, did it have a call
17 sign?

18 A. The radio at Joseph Montgomery's house was called after its
19 operator. I mean, it had a call sign. The call sign was Jungle
15:25:55 20 Mark, not after the operator, but the call sign was Jungle Mark.

21 Q. How do you spell the Mark?

22 A. M-A-R-K, Jungle Mark.

23 Q. And what of the radio at Monie Captan's house? Did it have
24 a call sign?

15:26:19 25 A. I have forgotten the call sign.

26 Q. And what of the one at Musa Cisse's house?

27 A. Okay. The one at Musa Cisse's house was called after its
28 operator, Visa, Visa.

29 Q. Besides --

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Is that as in the card, credit card,
2 Visa?

3 MR ANYAH: I will clarify it, Madam President.

4 THE WITNESS: Yes, that is V-I-S-A.

15:27:00 5 MR ANYAH: Thank you.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah, you didn't elicit the code
7 names for the border radios at Loguato and the other place.

8 MR ANYAH: Yes.

9 Q. Now, you could not, Mr Witness, tell us the name of the
10 town in Cape Mount where you say the Government of Liberia had a
11 radio, but do you remember the call sign of that radio?

12 A. I don't remember the call sign, and I don't remember the
13 town also, because we just referred to them as the radio in Cape
14 Mount and the borderline, so actually I don't know. But for the
15 radio in Nimba, it was based in a town or village called Loguato
16 and its call sign was Lima Tango. That is the phonetic acronym
17 for Loguato, LT to say.

18 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. Now we're back in Monrovia, it's
19 late 1998, you've told us of radios at Benjamin Yeaten's house,
20 Monie Captan's house, Musa Cisse's house, Joseph Montgomery's
21 house. You've also told us that Charles Taylor was residing near
22 the German embassy and also had a radio in a house in the
23 security section - or a radio in a security booth near his house.
24 Is that what you said, Mr Witness?

15:28:54 25 A. Yes, I want to re-emphasise, on the radio at the
26 President's house at this time. Now, the radio that was at the
27 President's house at this time was now under the auspices of the
28 Special Security Service, and the Special Security Service had
29 their office there, and that was where the radio was now located,

1 and it was under the control of the Special Security Service.

2 That was outside the President's fence.

3 Q. And are you referring to the time period when you say
4 President Taylor resided near the German embassy?

15:29:39 5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Now, when you had your --

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: We haven't - well, could we clarify the
8 radio call sign for this particular radio outside the President's
9 fence, please?

10 MR ANYAH:

11 Q. Mr Witness, can you tell us the call sign for that radio?

12 A. Yes. The call sign for that radio was Electron.

13 Q. So we have Electron near the President's house, Proton at
14 the Executive Mansion, and Base 1 at Benjamin Yeaten's house?

15:30:25 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Now, while you were in the vicinity of Base 1 at Benjamin
17 Yeaten's house, who were some of those who were Benjamin Yeaten's
18 bodyguards?

19 A. Those who were bodyguards to Benjamin Yeaten were one
15:31:05 20 Sampson Wehyee, he was the special aide to Benjamin Yeaten; one
21 Benjamin Mason, who was the SSS bodyguard commander to Benjamin
22 Yeaten. That was Benjamin Mason. We had one old man called
23 David; I have forgotten his surname. There were many. There
24 were many assigned to Benjamin as SSS bodyguards.

15:31:43 25 Q. Let me get some spellings here. Sampson Wehyee, can you
26 spell the last name of Sampson?

27 A. Yes. Wehyee, W-E-H-Y-E-E.

28 Q. And the person you mentioned, Benjamin Mason or something
29 to that effect. Can you spell the last name of that Benjamin?

1 A. Yes, sir. Mason, M-A-S-O-N, Mason.

2 Q. And what of David? Did that person have a last name and
3 can you spell it?

15:32:48

4 A. I have forgotten David's last name. He was an elderly man,
5 of course.

6 Q. Now, while you were able to be at Benjamin Yeaten's house,
7 what did you observe in relation to this person, Sunlight? This
8 is in late 1998.

15:33:17

9 A. While there, Sunlight was the radio operator to Benjamin
10 Yeaten, and he was a part of the SSS bodyguards assigned to the
11 director. His sole responsibility was to operate the radio, call
12 the various border points and get information from them, and
13 relay that message to Benjamin Yeaten.

15:33:54

14 Q. The messages that Sunlight would get on the radio, how were
15 those messages preserved or noted down for Benjamin Yeaten?

15:34:33

16 A. Yes, there was a message book, a log. When these messages
17 came, Sunlight would - first of all - the messages would, first
18 of all, come coded. He would decode those messages and write it
19 down into the logbook before giving them to the director, or he
20 would explain them to the director.

21 Q. And the codes you referred to, who came up with those
22 codes?

15:35:06

23 A. Those codes that I have referred to were - were codes that
24 were in existence with the Government of Liberia, in the
25 communications sector across Liberia.

26 Q. Were they created by a radio operator within the Government
27 of Liberia?

28 A. Yes. They were created by a radio operator in the
29 Government of Liberia and then distributed to all concerned

1 stations.

2 Q. To your knowledge, were those codes shared with anyone
3 outside the Government of Liberia?

4 A. No. Absolutely not.

15:35:48 5 Q. This fellow, Sunlight, to your knowledge, did that person
6 reside in Benjamin Yeaten's house on a permanent basis?

7 A. Sunlight used to report for duty at Benjamin Yeaten's house
8 and then return home to rest.

9 Q. Who else was residing in that house with Benjamin Yeaten in
15:36:15 10 late 1998?

11 A. Benjamin Yeaten was there in 1998, primarily with his two
12 wives and children in 1998.

13 Q. And how many children were residing there with his two
14 wives?

15:36:35 15 A. Please give me some moments to think about it. About five
16 children.

17 Q. And was that the place Yeaten resided in at the end of each
18 day?

19 A. That was where he was residing up to 2003.

15:37:14 20 Q. While Sunlight was Benjamin Yeaten's radio operator in the
21 late part of 1998, do you know whether Sunlight had any
22 communication via the radio with anyone in Sierra Leone?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What do you know about that?

15:37:38 25 A. Whilst Sunlight was operating the radio, as the - at the SS
26 director's residence, I think that was in late September or so,
27 there were few - or I think a week after the radios had been
28 installed and Sunlight had taken up assignment, one day Sampson
29 came along with a fellow, an individual called Daniel Tamba, also

1 called Jungle. He introduced Daniel Tamba - Sampson introduced
2 Daniel Tamba to Sunlight, saying that the chief said I should
3 bring this fellow to you so that he can call to Sierra Leone. He
4 is the member of the RUF. He is a part of Sankoh's boys. So
15:38:58 5 Jungle came along with the RUF frequency on a piece of paper
6 which he gave to Sunlight and told Sunlight that that was the
7 frequency, and the operator there was called --

8 Q. Can I stop you there. First of all, you may complete your
9 answer. You were giving us the name of the operator. What is
15:39:22 10 the name of the operator you just mentioned?

11 A. Sellay. Sellay.

12 Q. Let me stop you there. We will continue, but I want to ask
13 some clarifying questions.

14 You said that Sampson came along with a fellow called
15:39:39 15 Daniel Tamba, also known as Jungle. The person you referred to
16 as Sampson, is that the same person you spoke of previously whose
17 last name is Way?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. You said Sampson introduced this Daniel Tamba to Sunlight
15:40:04 20 and that he said something to the effect that the chief said that
21 you should bring this fellow to Sunlight. The chief there that
22 Sampson was referring to, who is that person?

23 A. Sampson was referring to the director of the SSS, you know,
24 in Liberia, every high-ranking officer was referred to as
15:40:32 25 "chief" by his subordinates. He was referring to the Director,
26 Benjamin Yeaten.

27 Q. You said "Sampson said" in relation to what the chief has
28 said, that "this fellow Jungle was a part of Sankoh's boys." Who
29 is Sankoh?

1 A. Sankoh was the leader of the RUF in Sierra Leone.

2 Q. Do you know the full name for Sankoh?

3 A. Yes, Foday Sankoh; Corporal Foday Sankoh.

4 Q. You went on to say that Jungle came along with the RUF

15:41:18 5 frequency on a piece of paper which he gave to Sunlight. What do
6 you mean by RUF frequency?

7 A. Yes. The frequency is the assigned number - it is the
8 assigned number to the radio through which transmissions can be
9 done.

15:41:55 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Sesay, this operator, Sellay, this was
11 the operator on the other side in Sierra Leone?

12 MR ANYAH: I am about to ask him that.

13 Q. You referred to an operator called Sellay. You said the
14 operator there was called Sellay. Where is the place that this
15:42:19 15 Sellay was?

16 A. Sellay, according to Sampson and Jungle, more especially
17 Jungle, Sellay was in Sierra Leone.

18 Q. In which part of Sierra Leone, if you know?

19 A. He said Sellay was in Buedu.

15:42:44 20 Q. Now, you were explaining what a frequency is, and you said
21 that the frequency is the assigned number, "it is the assigned
22 number to the radio through which transmissions can be done." Do
23 all radios, or at least the ones that were in use in Liberia in
24 late 1998, did they all have frequencies?

15:43:16 25 A. Yes, the radio - you know, the frequency is an assigned
26 number or the band on which a transmission is done on a radio at
27 a particular time; it could be changed, but the radio that the
28 NPFL was using --

29 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honour, can he kindly repeat his

1 answer slowly.

2 MR ANYAH:

3 Q. Mr Witness, the interpreter did not keep with up with your
4 response. Just remember to slow down.

15:43:46 5 A. Okay, okay.

6 Q. [Microphone not activated] You said the frequency is the
7 assigned number or band on which a transmission is done at a
8 particular time. You said "it could be changed, but the radio
9 that the NPFL was using" and that's where we could not follow
10 you. What about the radio the NPFL was using?

15:44:04

11 A. Yes, I think you asked me, if I'm not mistaken, you asked
12 me whether the radio used by the NPFL had a frequency. Was that
13 the question?

14 Q. Yes. I wanted to know whether the radios being used, not
15 by the NPFL but by the Government of Liberia at this time, the
16 ones you've mentioned, for example, like Benjamin Yeaten's house,
17 at Joe Montgomery's house, Musa Cisse's house, Monie Captan's
18 house, whether they all worked on frequencies?

15:44:23

19 A. Yes, they were all working on frequencies, and that was the
20 frequency of the Government of Liberia.

15:44:48

21 Q. Were they all working on the same frequency or on different
22 frequencies?

23 A. Okay. They were all working on the same frequency, that of
24 the Government of Liberia were all working on the same frequency;
25 but for other sections, for example, the Armed Forces of Liberia,
26 within their scope of operation and where their radios are
27 stationed, they operated on other frequencies that were not
28 connected to the general frequency. But this general frequency
29 is the frequency where every radio within the Republic of Liberia

15:45:11

1 under the government connects to each other and transmit messages
2 at a particular time.

3 Q. Were there any other frequencies available to radios once
4 they connected with each other on the general frequency?

15:45:54 5 A. Yes. This is the frequency I'm referring to. The general
6 frequency, once you connected to each other, once you are
7 connected to each other on this general frequency you would now
8 move from this general frequency to another frequency so as to
9 give way to the flow of communication so that you would not block
15:46:23 10 other communications.

11 Q. I asked you previously a question about the codes that were
12 used to transmit radio messages, about whether or not others
13 outside the Government of Liberia had access to those codes. Let
14 me ask you the same question in relation to the frequencies: Was
15:46:46 15 it the case that someone outside the Government of Liberia would
16 have access to the frequencies on which the government's radios
17 operated?

18 A. It is possible that somebody outside of Liberia monitored
19 the frequency which - on which the Government of Liberia
15:47:09 20 operated. It's possible.

21 Q. How about somebody within Liberia, is it possible for them
22 to monitor and thereby know the frequencies on which the
23 Government of Liberia operated?

24 A. Please repeat that question.

15:47:26 25 Q. Yes. You just answered saying that "it is possible that
26 somebody outside Liberia monitored the frequencies on which the
27 Government of Liberia operated." I am asking you, in relation to
28 persons inside Liberia, was it the case that they could also
29 monitor and discover the frequencies on which the government

1 operated?

2 A. Yes, it's possible that someone in Liberia discovered -
3 discovers the frequency of the Government of Liberia and monitor
4 it. It's possible.

15:48:05 5 Q. Now, going back to the episode where you said Sampson
6 brought Jungle, and you said Jungle came along with the RUF
7 frequency on a piece of paper and that was given to Sunlight.
8 You went on to say that Sunlight was told about the frequency and
9 the operator there was called Sellay. What exactly did Sampson
10 or Jungle say to Sunlight about this frequency?

11 A. Okay. Before that, when Sampson brought Jungle and told
12 Sunlight that this fellow is called Jungle and introduced Jungle
13 to Sunlight, he also said that he had been taking - he had taken
14 Jungle to the Executive Mansion now on the seventh floor, to
15:49:06 15 communicate - for Jungle to communicate with the RUF or - to the
16 RUF in Sierra Leone, but at this time he was doing it through one
17 of the operators called --

18 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honour, can he kindly repeat the
19 name of the operator?

15:49:23 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please repeat the name of the operator.

21 MR ANYAH:

22 Q. What was the name of the operator at the Executive Mansion
23 that Sampson spoke about?

24 A. Sampson said his name was {redacted}. I think I had
15:49:43 25 mentioned that name earlier.

26 Q. Is that the same person you referred to previously as
27 Mission 5?

28 A. That's correct.

29 Q. What did Sampson say about {redacted}, Jungle and the

1 Executive Mansion radio?

2 A. Sampson said he has been taking - taking Jungle to
3 {redacted} during {redacted} shift - during {redacted} shift
4 and {redacted} had been assisting them to communicate with the
15:50:23 5 RUF, but that was done secretly. That is, he said it was done
6 when no other operator knew. The government did not know about
7 it at all. So it was done in secret.

8 Q. How about the President? Did Sampson say anything about
9 whether the President knew about what was happening through
15:50:48 10 {redacted}?

11 A. Sampson said they were hiding it and the government did not
12 know about it. They were even hiding it from the President.

13 Q. Did Sampson say anything about when they started using
14 {redacted} to communicate with the RUF?

15:51:14 15 A. Sampson said he had been taking Jungle there for the past
16 days. I did not know for how long, but I believed it was within
17 the same September, because he said "the past days".

18 Q. Had you seen this person, Jungle, before?

19 A. No, I had not seen Jungle before, at that time.

15:51:53 20 Q. Do you know if Sunlight had any dealings with this person,
21 Jungle, before that time?

22 A. Sunlight said he had not seen Jungle before, that was the
23 first time when he was brought - the first time he saw Jungle was
24 when he was brought to him by Sampson.

15:52:19 25 Q. Where was Benjamin Yeaten when Sampson brought this Jungle
26 - or this person called Jungle to his residence?

27 A. When Sampson brought Jungle to Sunlight at Benjamin
28 Yeaten's house, Benjamin Yeaten was at work at the
29 Executive Mansion. He was not home. This was how Sampson told

1 Sunlight that the chief said I should bring this fellow.

2 Q. What happened in relation to the frequency and piece of
3 paper that Jungle brought with him?

15:53:09

4 A. The piece of paper that Jungle had, Sunlight had to call
5 that frequency. He had the frequency, he had programmed it on
6 his radio.

7 Q. And what was the result of that dialling of that frequency?

15:53:49

8 A. When Sunlight made the call Sellay answered and then he
9 lent Daniel or Jungle to Sellay and they began communicating, but
10 it was in Krio and Sunlight did not understand what they were
11 saying. That is, the conversation that was going on between
12 Sellay and Jungle, it was in Krio.

15:54:19

13 JUDGE DOHERTY: Mr Anyah, the witness in a previous answer
14 said, "The chief said I should bring this fellow", that's what
15 Sampson told Sunlight. Who is the chief in this regard, because
16 we've been told that many people were referred to as chief?

17 MR ANYAH:

15:54:35

18 Q. Mr Witness, do you follow the question? I had asked you
19 earlier who the chief Sampson referring to was. In this instance
20 when you say, "This was how Sampson told Sunlight that the chief
21 said I should bring this fellow", who is the chief there in that
22 reference?

15:54:58

23 A. The chief Sampson was referring to was the SSS director,
24 director Benjamin Yeaten. And I said earlier that there is a
25 tendency in Liberia that every high-ranking officer or anyone in
26 position was referred to as "chief".

27 JUDGE DOHERTY: I did remember that and that's why I asked
28 the clarification.

29 MR ANYAH: Thank you, your Honour.

1 Q. Mr Witness, you said, "Sunlight made the call, Sellay
2 answered." Then you told us about a conversation that Jungle and
3 Sellay had. Do you, Mr Witness, understand or speak Krio?

4 A. No.

15:55:46 5 Q. In calling Sellay, that is, Sunlight calling Sellay, was
6 there a call sign or code name for Sellay's radio?

7 A. Yes. As I said, Sunlight had been told by previous
8 operators, that was between '91 and '92, the NPFL radio operator
9 had been in contact with the RUF. In that process they used to
10 call the RUF 35B, that was the call sign for the RUF - for the
11 RUF at that time; 35B. And Sunlight used this call sign to
12 contact Sellay to contact 35B and Sellay responded immediately.
13 It was Sellay who was on the alert for a call by somebody using
14 that call sign, 35B.

15:56:59 15 Q. Do you know whether Sunlight had ever contacted Sellay
16 before that day when Jungle came?

17 A. No.

18 Q. When you say no, is it that you don't know, or you know it
19 never happened?

15:57:18 20 A. It never happened. Sunlight never knew Sellay until that
21 time.

22 Q. Do you know whether any aspect of the conversation between
23 Jungle and Sellay became known to Sunlight?

24 A. No. I said that the conversation was in Krio and Sunlight
15:57:49 25 did not understand the conversation because it was done in Krio.

26 Q. What nationality, to your knowledge, is Sunlight?

27 A. Sunlight is a Liberian.

28 Q. What nationality, to your knowledge, is Jungle?

29 A. Jungle is a Liberian.

1 Q. From where in Liberia is Jungle from?

2 A. Jungle is a Liberian from Lofa County, Foya district.

3 Q. And how about Sellay? Were you able to tell what
4 nationality Sellay was when he and Jungle spoke using Base 1?

15:58:46 5 A. Yes, I assumed that Sellay was a Sierra Leonean because he
6 spoke Krio very well.

7 Q. The person you referred to as {redacted}, also known
8 as Mission 5, what nationality is he?

9 A. Excuse me. Can you do me a favour, please?

15:59:19 10 Q. Yes.

11 A. By using Mission 5 code instead of his name.

12 Q. And why is that? We have already mentioned his name.

13 A. Well, for security. Because Mission 5 is like he's
14 {redacted}.

15:59:50 15 Q. Mr Witness, that's enough.

16 Madam President, we already have that name on the record
17 and the time period for any redactions is not allowed and I'm in
18 the hands of the Court as to whether this last instance, the
19 Court wishes to redact it.

16:00:09 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: What would the witness prefer that the
21 Court uses; the name or the code name?

22 THE WITNESS: The code.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. Madam Court Manager, if you
24 can look through the text and redact the name associated with
16:00:38 25 Mission 5 throughout the transcript, if you can.

26 Well, not literally throughout all the transcript but, say,
27 in the last 10 minutes or so, 15 minutes or so.

28 Also the reference to "because this person is very close to
29 another person", that reference should also be redacted at

1 page 122, line 17.

2 Just do the best you can. Please proceed.

3 Mr Anyah, though, I would like to know the time frame when
4 this communication with Sierra Leone happened.

16:01:33 5 MR ANYAH: Yes, Madam President.

6 Q. Mr Witness, can you give us a month and a year for the time
7 period when Sampson brought Jungle to Sunlight and this
8 communication with Sellay was initiated?

9 A. Yes, this communication took place in September -

16:02:07 10 late September 1998. Late September 1998.

11 Q. Now, going back to my question about Mission 5. What
12 nationality, to your knowledge, is Mission 5?

13 A. Mission 5 is a Liberian. He is a Liberian.

14 Q. And one last procedural issue: Can you please spell this
16:02:42 15 Sellay, the name for us, please?

16 A. I will try. It's an African name. S-A-L-L-E-Y, Sellay.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Interpreter, might you know how the
18 name is spelt in Sierra Leone?

19 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, it's S-E-L-L-A-Y.

16:03:15 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you.

21 MR ANYAH: Madam President, I believe the name is on the
22 record previously and it is more consistent with what the
23 interpreter has spelt.

24 Q. Now, Mr Witness, do you know the nature of the
16:03:32 25 communication that Mission 5 had with Sierra Leone that you
26 learned about?

27 A. No.

28 Q. Did Benjamin Yeaten, to your knowledge, find out about this
29 communication with Sierra Leone from Sunlight?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Yes. Can you tell us how he found out about the
3 communication?

4 A. After the communication, when Benjamin Yeaten came home
16:04:19 5 that evening, Sunlight told Benjamin Yeaten that Sampson brought
6 a fellow here by the name of Jungle, and he said, "You sent him
7 so that Sunlight would connect him with someone in Sierra Leone
8 with the RUF," and Ben told Sunlight that, "Yes, I'm aware I have
9 a friend in Sierra Leone and that you should allow Daniel or
16:04:57 10 Jungle at any time he came here to talk to him. I have a friend
11 there."

12 Q. And what was Sunlight's response when Benjamin Yeaten said
13 this?

14 A. It was nothing but "yes, sir".

16:05:19 15 Q. And the friend in Sierra Leone that Benjamin Yeaten
16 referred to, do you know who that person is?

17 A. When he said he had a friend in Sierra Leone, he did not
18 call the name, but later I got to know that it was Sam Bockarie.

19 Q. And who is Sam Bockarie?

16:05:46 20 A. Sam Bockarie was the leader of the RUF there. He was one
21 of the commanders.

22 Q. Do you know whether Charles Taylor was aware of this
23 communication between Benjamin Yeaten's radio and an RUF radio in
24 Sierra Leone?

16:06:16 25 A. No.

26 Q. But when you say "no", is it that you do not know whether
27 Charles Taylor knew or he did not know?

28 A. Charles Taylor did not know.

29 Q. How do you know that?

1 A. Because Benjamin Yeaten told Sunlight that, "What I have
2 told you should be kept to yourself and must not share it with
3 any other government radio operator or anyone around you, not
4 even your wife, because this relationship between myself and the
16:07:16 5 friend over there," that is Sam Bockarie, "the President does not
6 know about it. The President does not know about it, and you
7 should keep it as a secret to yourself." And he further went on
8 to say that, "If - if anyone - if anyone - if this secret is
9 disclosed to anyone and the President discovers this, I will be
16:07:47 10 arrested by the President and I will be finished. But before the
11 President deals with me, I would have dealt with that person
12 first." So that was how I drew my conclusion that the President
13 did not know about this relationship.

14 Q. One question about why it was Sampson brought Jungle to
16:08:24 15 Sunlight. Do you know why Sampson did not use Mission 5 on this
16 particular occasion to transmit a message to the RUF and instead
17 decided to use Sunlight?

18 A. I believe he was afraid that Mission 5 was assigned at the
19 Executive Mansion and that his deal would be uncovered at any
16:09:03 20 time, and the Executive Mansion was exposed to a lot of security.
21 So I believe he was afraid, but he did not actually tell me the
22 reason why he decided to call off his going to Mission 5.

23 Q. What sort of relationship did Benjamin Yeaten have with
24 this person, Sampson, who brought Jungle?

16:09:39 25 A. Benjamin Yeaten - please repeat that.

26 Q. Yes. The question was: What sort of relationship did
27 Benjamin Yeaten have with Sampson, Sampson being the person who
28 brought Jungle to Sunlight?

29 A. Sampson - Sampson was the special aide to Benjamin Yeaten

1 in the SSS. He was the special aide to Benjamin Yeaten, and we
2 referred to that in the security sector as a special attendant to
3 the director. So he was very close to the director. Moreover,
4 Sampson and Yeaten hail from the same county and from the same
16:10:39 5 village.

6 Q. The county in question being what?

7 A. Nimba.

8 Q. Now, this one occasion when Jungle came and radio contact
9 was made with Sellay, was that the only time Jungle came to use
16:10:59 10 Sunlight's radio?

11 A. No. After the first visit, I think the following day or
12 few times in between, Jungle again came along with Sampson, and
13 Sunlight connected him with Buedu, with Sellay. And at this
14 time, Jungle told Sellay that, "I would want to speak with the
16:11:39 15 brother," and then Sellay brought in someone, and Jungle
16 communicated with that brother, and after all - after their
17 communication - and that communication too was done in Krio,
18 Sunlight did not understand it also. And after the
19 communication, Jungle told Sunlight that, "The brother I am
16:12:08 20 talking to is Mosquito, Sam Bockarie."

21 Q. Let me pause you there for a moment. You said, "The
22 following day or a few times in between" - at least that's what
23 the record has - "Jungle came along with Sampson." Was it the
24 day after the first radio call or was it a few days after the
16:12:35 25 first radio call that Sampson and Jungle returned?

26 A. I think it was the day after the first call.

27 Q. And you said that Jungle requested to speak with "the
28 brother" and later on it was made known that the brother that was
29 being referred to was Mosquito, Sam Bockarie. Now, was

1 Sam Bockarie also known as Mosquito?

2 A. Yes, Sam Bockarie was known as Mosquito.

3 Q. Were either you or Sunlight able to follow the conversation
4 between Jungle and Mosquito?

16:13:24 5 A. No.

6 Q. Was Benjamin Yeaten aware of this second visit by Jungle to
7 use Sunlight's radio?

8 A. Please repeat your question.

9 Q. Was Benjamin Yeaten aware of the second visit by Sunlight
10 to use the radio at his house - sorry, of the second visit by
11 Jungle to use the radio at his house?

12 A. Yes. Ben was aware - okay. You asked the question and I
13 said no. It has - I have now recalled. You know, after the
14 conversation, Jungle told Sunlight that what they discussed was

16:14:25 15 that Sam said that they were running out of food and that he
16 should give the message to Benjamin Yeaten and Musa Cisse that
17 they were running out of food and for them to assist him with
18 food. That was the nature of the communication. And to answer
19 your question, Benjamin Yeaten knew that Jungle was coming to his
16:14:53 20 house to communicate because he had already ordered Sunlight to
21 permit Jungle at any time he comes.

22 Q. Do you know what sort of relationship Benjamin Yeaten had
23 with Sam Bockarie, also known as Mosquito?

24 A. Yes. The relationship between Sam Bockarie and Ben was -
16:15:31 25 was that they were very good friends, and I observed that, after
26 Sam Bockarie had come to Liberia and left for the first time, the
27 friendship was so cordial, they were very close.

28 Q. When did Sam Bockarie come to Liberia, and you seem to have
29 said "for the first time". When did Sam Bockarie come to Liberia

1 for the first time?

2 A. After Jungle's second visit to the radio room. Okay. I
3 stopped seeing Jungle for a while, I think for a period of one
4 week, and when he resurfaced, he and Sampson came down and told
16:16:32 5 Sunlight that, "Oh, the brother wants to see you at the YWCA."
6 That was where Sampson was living.

7 Q. Mr Witness, just pause for a minute. You said after
8 Jungle's second visit, you did not see Jungle for a while, and
9 then later on you said he came and told Sunlight something. Were
16:16:58 10 you present when Jungle came to tell Sunlight that "the brother
11 wants to see you at YWCA"?

12 A. Yes, I was present.

13 Q. What do you mean by "YWCA"? Is that an organisation, is
14 that a place?

16:17:16 15 A. YWCA is an institution called the Young Women's Christian
16 Association, and it's located along the Tubman Boulevard in
17 Sinkor. So that acronym then became the name of the community
18 all around that institution, so it was called the YWCA community.

19 Q. You also said that that was where Sampson was residing or
16:18:02 20 living. What do you mean by that was where Sampson was living?

21 A. Okay. This particular building that I am referring to here
22 was a house that Benjamin Yeaten previously lived - resided
23 before moving to Congo Town, in this house where he has the
24 radio. So when he left that building, he told Sampson and others
16:18:38 25 to go and occupy the building, because he had rented the place
26 and the rent agreement has still not expired. So they were there
27 to cover the remaining period of time.

28 Q. Now, this place where Sampson was living at, that you said
29 was a place rented by Benjamin Yeaten, you said you saw Jungle

1 and Sampson when they came and told Sunlight that "the brother
2 wants to see you at the YWCA". Do you know whether Sunlight went
3 to the YWCA to see the brother?

16:19:43

4 A. Yes. Sunlight went to the YWCA to see the brother, along
5 with Sampson and Jungle, and then Jungle introduced Sunlight to
6 Sam Bockarie, that - saying, "This is Sunlight," and Sam Bockarie
7 greeted Sunlight, and after some time Sunlight left and went back
8 to his assignment at Base 1.

16:20:20

9 Q. What month and what year was this when Sam Bockarie met
10 Sunlight at the YWCA community in Monrovia?

11 A. It was in late September or early October, but I want to
12 believe it was late September of 1998.

16:20:56

13 Q. And just so the record is clear, the person that Jungle and
14 Sampson referred to as the brother, is that the same person as
15 Sam Bockarie?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Were you present when Sunlight met Sam Bockarie?

18 A. Yes, Sunlight met Sam Bockarie and I was present.

16:21:21

19 Q. In the house where Sunlight met Sam Bockarie, was
20 Sam Bockarie alone or were there others with him there?

21 A. He was not alone. He came with others. He came with his
22 operator that Sunlight had been in communication with, and that
23 is Sellay, he came with Sellay, and some other people.

16:21:53

24 Q. Do you recall the names of any of the others who were
25 there, besides Sam Bockarie and Sellay?

26 A. Sam Bockarie and Sampson was there, Jungle was there,
27 Zigzag Marzah was also there because Zigzag was also living in
28 that house, but what I recall are the few names of those that he
29 came with, I think, I believe, during his second visit.

1 Q. Now, you've just said a second visit was made but the
2 sentence preceding that you said "but what I recall are the few
3 names of those that he came with, I believe, during his second
4 visit". We are still speaking of the first visit and we're
16:22:59 5 trying to ascertain the names of those he came with. We will get
6 to the second visit.

7 These names you've given us: Sellay, Zigzag Marzah,
8 Sampson, Jungle, Sam Bockarie, Sunlight, were those the only
9 persons present at the house when Sam Bockarie was met by
16:23:18 10 Sunlight at the YWCA community during his first visit?

11 A. During his first visit, what I recall is that those with
12 whom he came, namely, that {redacted}, was Sellay the
13 radio operator, because Sunlight was also a radio operator and he
14 met with Sellay, and he and Sellay had been communicating for a
16:23:49 15 few days without seeing each other and knowing each other.

16 Q. Was Benjamin Yeaten aware of Sunlight's visit with
17 Sam Bockarie?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Was the President of Liberia aware of Sunlight's visit with
16:24:14 20 Sam Bockarie?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Now, in relation to the two communications you say Sunlight
23 had with the RUF at the request of Jungle, and, in relation to
24 the news of communication between mission 5 and the RUF, is it
16:24:42 25 possible that others within the Government of Liberia radio
26 network could have listened to those conversations?

27 A. I don't know, but, as far as I am concerned, they felt
28 nobody monitored the communication because it was done on a
29 private frequency; but maybe, but I'm not sure.

1 Q. When you say "it was done on a private frequency" what do
2 you mean by "it was done on a private frequency"?

3 A. I mean, this communication was done - I mean, it was not
4 done on the frequency of the Government of Liberia. And, again,
16:25:51 5 when Sunlight contacted Sellay, Sellay gave Sunlight another
6 frequency which they switched over to in code and that was where
7 the conversation was carried on. And in - during that process,
8 in communication, when you switch from one frequency to another
9 frequency, you feel somehow safe and secure and you think that
16:26:20 10 nobody follows you or monitors you. But, mind you, there are
11 times that others would monitor you but you would not know.

12 MR ANYAH: Madam President, I have an application for a
13 redaction. It appears on my page 131, and I use a 14 point font
14 and it is at my line 21, that's page 13, 1, line 21, and it is
16:26:51 15 the word "remembers".

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, I saw that and I wondered actually.
17 Madam Court Manager, do you see that? It's either on
18 page 131, line 23 or thereabouts where the word "remembers"
19 occurs? Can we redact that, please.

16:27:23 20 MR ANYAH:

21 Q. Now, Mr Witness, could you give us a ballpark figure, an
22 approximation of how many radio operators the Government of
23 Liberia had, just in Monrovia alone, in late 1998? If you were
24 to count those at the Executive Mansion, those at the SSS office
16:27:47 25 outside President Taylor's house near the German embassy, those
26 at Benjamin Yeaten's house, Musa Cisse's house, Monie Captan's
27 house, Joe Montgomery's house, how many would you say the total
28 number was?

29 A. I can't estimate that, because the SSS radio operators were

1 many, and I do not know, in terms of quantity, how many they were
2 because they were running a shift, and you would only know
3 someone if you and the other person worked during the same shift.
4 So I am unable to estimate that.

16:28:49 5 Q. Is it more than a hundred?

6 A. I don't know.

7 Q. Now, you referred to a second trip by Sam Bockarie, you
8 said a second visit. What were you referring to when you used
9 the phrase "second visit"?

16:29:07 10 A. I am talking about after his first visit in late September,
11 he then came back. I do not remember the time, but it was
12 between October to December. But he came back the second time
13 and then Jungle told me that "Oh, the brother has come again".
14 So, when Sunlight heard this, he took upon himself, as an
16:29:57 15 uninvited guest, and he went to greet Sam Bockarie. And at this
16 time Sam Bockarie was at the YWCA community but not in the
17 previous house that he had first stayed.

18 Q. Mr Witness?

19 A. Yes.

16:30:14 20 Q. Let me stop you there. Let me ask you a clarifying
21 question. When Jungle told you that the brother had come again,
22 was Sunlight present or did Sunlight hear about that?

23 A. Yes, Sunlight was present. He heard about it. That was
24 why he took upon himself at this time, while even though he was
16:30:40 25 not invited - because at the first time they said the brother
26 wanted to see him, but he took it upon himself to go and greet
27 Sam Bockarie.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah, the time frame for this latter
29 visit, is it late September or October to December of 1998?

1 MR ANYAH: I will ask the witness, Madam President.

2 Q. Mr Witness, you said that the visit was
3 between October to December. What year are you referring to?

4 A. I am talking about - what I'm trying to say - what I'm
16:31:26 5 saying is between September to December Sam Bockarie made three
6 trips to Liberia, but the one that I actually remember was the
7 first one made in September; but, after his first trip
8 in September, he did make another trip in late 1998. He made two
9 trips.

16:31:59 10 Q. So do you remember the month in late 1998 that he came for
11 the second time to Monrovia?

12 A. I think the last trip was in December, but I'm not sure.
13 But what I'm sure of is that he came before the end of 1998. All
14 the three trips were made before 1999. It was between September
16:32:36 15 to December of 1998. So in 1998 was when he made his three
16 trips, late 1998.

17 MR ANYAH: Madam President, I note the time. Thank you.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. I just need to know Mr Anyah,
19 tomorrow - is Mr Sesay returning to give evidence or do we
16:33:03 20 continue with the evidence of this witness?

21 MR ANYAH: Madam President, I do not know as I stand before
22 the Court what Mr Sesay's condition is. I had expressed some
23 apprehension about interposing this witness, but we had to comply
24 with your Honour's directive, because we are now found in a
16:33:22 25 position where, to the extent Mr Sesay is able to continue, which
26 should be the ordinary course of things as far as we are
27 concerned. This witness will be stood down for quite a while,
28 but I do not know what Mr Sesay's condition is, and perhaps
29 someone from WVS might be able to give an indication to the

1 Court.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: What is the Defence's preference? If,
3 for argument's sake, Mr Sesay is well tomorrow and he's able to
4 testify, what is your preference, that you continue and finish
16:33:59 5 Mr Sesay's testimony or that you finish this witness's testimony?

6 MR ANYAH: Well, the obvious preference, from our position,
7 would that Mr Sesay's testimony be completed. There are so many
8 logistical issues associated with him.

9 And moreover, this witness's testimony, having just
16:34:16 10 commenced today, all indications are that it will last about four
11 or five days, at least we've indicated that much in our
12 submissions to the Court. So we prefer that Mr Sesay's
13 cross-examination be resumed tomorrow morning.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. Then, subject to Mr Sesay
16:34:31 15 being well tomorrow, we will continue with Mr Sesay's testimony
16 tomorrow, if he is well and he is in court. In the event that he
17 is not well, we will continue with this witness's testimony
18 tomorrow.

19 Mr Witness, we've - we're going to adjourn for now, and
16:34:54 20 depending on what happens tomorrow, you may or may not return
21 tomorrow to finish your evidence.

22 If you don't return tomorrow, you will return at another
23 time to finish your evidence. But between now and your return,
24 you are not to discuss your evidence with anyone. Do you
16:35:13 25 understand that directive?

26 THE WITNESS: Yes, your Honour.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. We'll adjourn to tomorrow at
28 9 o'clock.

29

1 [Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 4.35 p.m.
2 to be reconvened on Wednesday, 25 August 2010
3 at 9.00 a.m.]

13:31:58

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I N D E X

WITNESSES FOR THE DEFENCE:

DCT-008	46945
EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR ANYAH	46945