



Case No. SCSL-2003-01-T

THE PROSECUTOR OF
THE SPECIAL COURT
V.
CHARLES GHANKAY TAYLOR

MONDAY, 2 AUGUST 2010
9.00 A.M.
TRIAL

TRIAL CHAMBER II

Before the Judges:

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

For Chambers:

Ms Doreen Kiggundu

For the Registry:

Ms Rachel Irura
Ms Zainab Fofanah

For the Prosecution:

Mr Joseph F Kamara
Mr Nicholas Koumjian
Ms Maja Dimitrova

For the accused Charles Ghankay
Taylor:

Mr Courtenay Griffiths QC
Mr Morris Anyah
Ms Silas Chekera
Ms Kathryn Hovington

1 Monday, 2 August 2010

2 [Open session]

3 [The accused present]

4 [Upon commencing at 9.04 a.m.]

09:04:17 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good morning. We will take appearances
6 first, please.

7 MR KAMARA: Good morning, your Honours. For the
8 Prosecution this morning, Maja Dimitrova, Nicholas Koumjian and
9 myself Joseph Kamara.

09:04:39 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Deputy Prosecutor, you're welcome to
11 the Court.

12 MR GRIFFITHS: Good morning, Madam President, your Honours,
13 counsel opposite. For the Defence today, myself Courtenay
14 Griffiths, with me Mr Silas Chekera, Mr Morris Anyah and we're
09:04:57 15 joined by our legal assistant Ms Kathryn Hovington who has been
16 with us before.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good morning, Mr Sesay. This morning we
18 continue with your evidence-in-chief and I remind you of your
19 oath to tell the truth, that oath is still binding on you today.
09:05:12 20 Please continue.

21 WITNESS: DCT-172 [On former oath]

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

23 Q. Good morning, Mr Sesay.

24 A. Yes, good morning.

09:05:19 25 Q. Mr Sesay, during the period of the AFRC, when you were
26 based in Freetown, is it right that you were living in Hill
27 Station?

28 A. Yes, I lived there.

29 Q. At villa number 47?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Who was living with you at that address?

3 A. Myself, my wife.

09:05:49 4 JUDGE DOHERTY: Mr Griffiths, I only heard the 47, I didn't
5 hear the street.

6 MR GRIFFITHS: It's Hill Station - well, let me ask the
7 witness.

8 Q. Were you living at Hill Station villa?

9 A. Yes.

09:05:59 10 Q. And was that number 47?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. With whom were you living at that address?

13 A. Myself, my wife, and my bodyguards.

14 Q. And who were your bodyguards at that time?

09:06:19 15 A. Late Mohamed James, Isiaka, Boy George, Victor Kamara,
16 Bolopieu, Musa Vandi, those were my bodyguards, and Tommy.

17 Q. Was FOC ever a bodyguard to you?

18 A. No, FOC was not my bodyguard.

19 Q. Was FOC ever an intelligence officer for you?

09:07:07 20 A. No, no. Never.

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

22 A. Very sure. FOC never became an intelligence officer for
23 me. He never became an IO. In fact he never operated with the
24 intelligence unit.

09:07:42 25 Q. Was FOC ever a Black Guard commander?

26 A. No. He never was a Black Guard commander. He was just a
27 Black Guard personnel, but he never became a commander of that
28 unit.

29 Q. Did he ever work directly for you?

1 A. No. He never worked directly for me.

2 Q. For whom did he work, then, to your knowledge?

3 A. Well, he worked for Mr Sankoh as his bodyguard and when
4 Mr Sankoh was arrested in Nigeria, '97, he worked in the Black
09:08:39 5 Guard unit and throughout '98 he was in Kono and --

6 Q. After you became interim leader, Mr Sesay, did you ever
7 give FOC any appointment?

8 A. No. I did not give FOC appointment. After they escaped
9 from Freetown, during Mr Sankoh's arrest, that demonstration, May
09:09:12 10 8, he came to Makeni and during the time that the ECOWAS leaders
11 invited me, he was the one who went with me as a Black Guard
12 commander because I asked for a Black Guard. He was the one that
13 went with me for that meeting. That is the July meeting with the
14 ECOWAS.

09:09:43 15 Q. And that was in July, you say, yes?

16 A. Yes, July of 2000.

17 Q. Did you ever travel outside of Sierra Leone with FOC on any
18 other occasion?

19 A. Well, that was the only time. The second time that
09:10:07 20 I wanted to travel with him was October 2000 when I was going to
21 escort the Abuja I delegation, but because of the incident that
22 happened around Bunumbu, when one of Mr Sankoh's bodyguards shot
23 and killed Sheik Fofana, from that time, the officers who were
24 with me advised me to be careful with the Black Guards because of
09:10:42 25 the statement that the Black Guard who had shot Sheik Fofana
26 made. So he did not go with me. I left him in Pendembu.

27 Q. Now, I want to be clear about this, Mr Sesay. Did you, on
28 any occasion, give FOC any assignment outside of Sierra Leone?

29 A. No. I never gave FOC any assignments outside of Sierra

1 Leone.

2 Q. Did you, in the year 2001, appoint him as a commander in
3 Foya to coordinate activities between the RUF, the AFRC, and the
4 Liberians?

09:11:38 5 A. No. I never appointed FOC as commander in Foya to
6 coordinate activities. In fact, during this time, we and the
7 AFRC had no business. I never appointed him to become the
8 commander in Foya. That did not happen.

9 Q. Are you sure --

09:11:58 10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- that you did not appoint him in order for him to assist
12 in the shipment of arms and materials destined for Sierra Leone?

13 A. No. I never gave him that appointment. I never appointed
14 FOC to be a commander in Foya. That never happened.

09:12:19 15 Q. And did you not, thereafter, appoint somebody else to take
16 over from him?

17 A. No.

18 Q. That is Junior Vandj?

19 A. No. Junior Vandj was never in Foya as commander throughout
09:12:38 20 2000 and 2001, Junior Vandj was based in Kailahun Town, 2000 and
21 2001, until the disarmament.

22 Q. Now, I want to ask you about a specific allegation and seek
23 your assistance with it. Now, there was a time, was there not,
24 when Kailahun was referred to as Burkina Faso; is that right?

09:13:14 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. Now, there was also a time then, was there not, when Zogoda
27 fell and those who were at Zogoda sought to make their way from
28 there back to Kailahun? Is that right?

29 A. Yes, yes.

1 Q. Likewise, a similar fate befell members of the RUF in
2 Pujehun District; is that right?

3 A. Yes. From Zogoda, when they were going to Pujehun.

09:13:54

4 Q. And is it not right that during the course of their retreat
5 from Pujehun, Zino, unfortunately, lost his life?

6 MR KOUMJIAN: Objection, counsel is leading the witness.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, Mr Griffiths, I think you are.

09:14:18

8 MR GRIFFITHS: But, Madam President, with respect, these
9 are well-established facts now. Why do we really need to waste
10 time having to go over the same ground over and over again when
11 they are clearly established on the record?

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Not with this witness, they're not.

13 MR GRIFFITHS: Very well.

14 Q. Who is Zino?

09:14:36

15 A. Zino is Mohamed Tarawalli.

16 Q. Is Mohamed Tarawalli still alive?

17 A. No. Mohamed Tarawalli died during the retreat from Zogoda
18 to Kailahun. That was where the Kamajors killed him around
19 Bunumbu.

09:14:57

20 Q. Well, given that you haven't given any evidence about this,
21 Mr Sesay, take your time, please, and explain to us how Mohamed
22 Tarawalli, AKA Zino, came to take his life. Take your time.

09:15:30

23 A. Well, during the peace accord between Tejan Kabbah and
24 Mr Sankoh - former President Kabbah and Mr Sankoh, there was a
25 ceasefire but the Kamajors and the army, that is the SLPP
26 government, they violated the ceasefire, they attacked the RUF
27 bases.

28 Q. Remember, take your time, Mr Sesay, because the
29 interpreters need to follow. Go on.

1 A. So during those attacks, some RUF bases were dissolved,
2 like the Koribundu Jungle, the Bo Highway, the - they attacked
3 Zogoda and during that cause, Mr Sankoh sent a message to Mohamed
4 Tarawalli that he should divide the group into two, he should
09:16:24 5 head the group that was going from Zogoda to Kailahun and Mike
6 Lamin should head the other group going to Pujehun. So Mohamed
7 Tarawalli left with his group, headed for Kailahun. They got to
8 a village called Basara and the army and the Kamajors
9 disorganised them, so he left with a few of his bodyguards,
09:16:57 10 around Bunumbu to cross the road between Bunumbu and Gandorhun,
11 Bandajuma Highway, that is on the main way to go to Kono, that
12 was where they fell in a Kamajor ambush. And those who came said
13 he was shot, during that cause he died because he did not reach
14 in Kailahun because from that time we never heard any news about
09:17:24 15 him until the disarmament. And those attacks continued, Peyima
16 Jungle was dissolved and even Pujehun. That was what happened.

17 Q. Now, during the time when those various RUF bases were
18 being dissolved as a result of pressure from the SLPP government
19 and the Kamajors, where was FOC?

09:17:56 20 A. FOC was with Zino's group that was going to Kailahun but he
21 was lucky to reach Giema and Kailahun. He was one of the ones
22 that survived but he had swollen feet and swollen face, but he
23 got to Giema - when he got there, he was under medical treatment.

24 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, the interpreter would like
09:18:25 25 to make a correction. My colleague has reminded me that the word
26 is not Bandajuma Highway, it is Bandajuma Yaweh.

27 MR GRIFFITHS: I'm grateful for that correction,
28 Mr Interpreter. And now could I seek further assistance, could
29 you spell it for us.

1 THE INTERPRETER: Bandajuma, B-A-N-D-A-J-U-M-A. Yaweh is
2 Y-A-W-E-H.

3 MR GRIFFITHS: I'm grateful.

09:19:01

4 Q. Now, for how long did FOC remain in Giema following the
5 retreat?

6 A. FOC was in Giema until May of 1997.

7 Q. Then what happened to him?

09:19:26

8 A. Well, after the AFRC overthrow, it spoke to Mr Sankoh and
9 he - Mr Sankoh gave instruction to Sam Bockarie, FOC was among
10 the group with whom we all came from Giema to Daru, he travelled
11 with Sam Bockarie to Freetown and I remained in Daru.

12 Q. I will come back to that in a moment, but in between times,
13 I want your assistance with this account, please. Evidence of
14 the 1st of September 2008, page 15114, line 19, please:

09:20:48

15 "Q. At the beginning of 1997, where was Foday Sankoh?

16 A. Well, by then we heard that he had been arrested in
17 Nigeria.

18 Q. And how did you hear about that?

19 A. We heard that over Daybreak Africa on the BBC.

09:21:12

20 Q. After you heard of his arrest, did you receive any
21 communications from Foday Sankoh?

22 A. We got communication from Foday Sankoh, but it was not
23 a direct communication.

24 Q. When you say it was not a direct communication, tell us
09:21:33 25 what you mean.

26 A. Well, the communication was sent to Mosquito by
27 somebody else and that person did say that it was Foday
28 Sankoh who sent him to do so.

29 Q. And who was this other person who sent the

1 communication to Sam Bockarie, to Mosquito?

2 A. We heard one Jungle who was called Daniel.

3 Q. Who was Jungle?

4 A. Jungle was an SSS in Liberia.

09:22:15 5 Q. When you say he was an SSS, what do you mean?

6 A. Special Security Services.

7 Q. And for whom did Jungle work, if you know?

8 A. He worked for Charles Taylor.

9 Q. Now, what was this communication that Jungle passed to
09:22:32 10 Mosquito?

11 A. Jungle passed ranks to Mosquito, the communication was
12 about ranks.

13 Q. What do you mean it was about ranks?

14 A. Well, he promoted Mosquito, Issa, and some other
09:22:51 15 fighters, then he said that Charles Taylor had said Papay
16 said Mosquito should take direct orders from him.

17 Q. Mosquito should take direct orders from whom?

18 A. From Charles Taylor.

19 Q. Now, you said he said Charles Taylor said Papay said.
09:23:19 20 So who was it telling Mosquito that Charles Taylor had said
21 something from Papay?

22 A. Jungle was the one who sent the communication over the
23 VHF radio to Mosquito. He said it was from Charles Taylor.
24 He said Charles Taylor had told him that he should send the
09:23:44 25 message to Mosquito that Papay had promoted him to force
26 commander and Issa was his deputy and then he promoted
27 other commanders. And Jungle also said that Foday Sankoh
28 had said that Mosquito should take instructions and command
29 from Charles Taylor until he returned from Nigeria."

1 Then he goes on to explain about who returned from Nigeria.

2 "Q. Did Sam Bockarie obey that instruction" - line 8.

3 "A. Yes, he obeyed the instruction."

4 Now, pause there. First of all, as far as you're aware,
09:24:41 5 was Jungle a member of the SSS in Liberia?

6 A. No. He never told me that and I never heard about that.

7 Q. And Jungle was a good friend of yours, wasn't he?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And as far as you're aware, did Jungle work for Charles
09:25:08 10 Taylor?

11 A. No. From 1992 Jungle became part of the RUF, and it was
12 Mr Sankoh who called Jungle from Abidjan in 1996, so Jungle was
13 in Abidjan at Mr Sankoh's house and Mr Sankoh went to Nigeria in
14 Cocody, Abidjan.

09:25:37 15 Q. At or about the time that Foday Sankoh was arrested in
16 Nigeria, do you recall Jungle sending a message promoting,
17 amongst others, yourself and some other fighters?

18 A. Yes, because Jungle was at the house in Cocody, sometimes
19 when Mr Sankoh would call on the telephone line, it was Jungle
09:26:09 20 who would receive the message and he will give it to Memunatu
21 Deen and Memunatu Deen, in turn, would transmit it on the field
22 radio. There were times it was Memunatu Deen who would receive
23 the phone call from Mr Sankoh and he will send - and she would
24 send a message to Mosquito from Mr Sankoh. That was what
09:26:31 25 happened in '97 before the coup.

26 Q. Now, this passage on page 15115, I'm seeking your direct
27 assistance with it. "Jungle passed ranks to Mosquito. He
28 promoted Mosquito, Issa and some other fighters." Do you recall
29 that occurring?

1 A. It was not Jungle who sent the messages. Jungle was not a
2 radio operator. It was Memunatu Deen who sent the messages,
3 because she would have to code it before sending it to Mosquito.
4 Foday Sankoh sent promotions through Abidjan, and Memunatu sent
09:27:14 5 the message to Sam Bockarie, when he promoted Sam Bockarie to
6 field commander, a colonel; and he promoted Mike Lamin to
7 colonel; he promoted Superman to colonel; Isaac Mongor to
8 colonel; myself, Issa, to lieutenant colonel, battle group
9 commander; and Peter Vandi, lieutenant colonel, area commander
09:27:37 10 for Kailahun. These were the promotions that Mr Sankoh sent.

11 Q. And when did he send that - the message to that effect?

12 A. This was around March.

13 Q. Of which year?

14 A. Of 1997.

09:27:52 15 Q. And during the course of sending that instruction, was
16 there any mention of Charles Taylor?

17 A. No. There was no mention of Charles Taylor in that
18 message.

19 Q. Do you recall a VHF message coming from Jungle or Memunatu
09:28:15 20 Deen to the effect that Mosquito should take instructions from
21 Charles Taylor?

22 A. No. I did not see that kind of message and Mosquito never
23 told me that.

24 Q. And picking up on an earlier comment you made, line 26 on
09:28:32 25 page 15115, was Jungle a radio operator?

26 A. No. Jungle was not a radio operator.

27 Q. Line 26 on that page:

28 "Jungle was the one who sent the message over the VHF radio
29 to Mosquito. He said it was from Charles Taylor."

1 Two things there. Firstly, was he the one who sent the
2 message over the VHF?

3 A. No. It was Memunatu who sent the messages, it was not
4 Jungl e.

09:29:12 5 Q. Secondly, what was the source of that message, was it Foday
6 Sankoh or Charles Tayl or?

7 A. The message was from Mr Foday Sankoh to Sam Bockarie, that
8 was how the messages were addressed.

9 Q. When Foday Sankoh returned from the Lome peace talks and
09:29:44 10 went to Monrovi a, who went to Monrovi a to meet Foday Sankoh?

11 A. It was Sam Bockarie from Kailahun who went from Buedu, he
12 was in Monrovi a when he went; and Superman from Makeni , but they
13 passed through Freetown. Superman, Pa Binda, Patrick Binda, and
14 Jackson Swarray, they were the ones who were in Monrovi a.

09:30:19 15 Mr Sankoh met them there.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: What does the witness mean when he says
17 "it was Sam Bockarie from Kailahun who went from Buedu, he was in
18 Monrovi a when he went." Now, there are like four places in
19 there.

09:30:35 20 MR GRIFFITHS:

21 Q. Let's take it in stages, Mr Sesay. From where did Sam
22 Bockarie travel to go to Monrovi a on that occasion?

23 A. From Buedu, Kailahun Di strict.

24 Q. And when he left from Buedu in Kailahun Di strict to go to
09:30:54 25 Monrovi a, with whom did he travel?

26 A. Hi msel f, hi s bodyguard, commander late Sabado, and one of
27 hi s other bodyguards, Foday.

28 Q. By what means did he travel?

29 A. They went by road through Foya and through Gbarnga to

1 Monrovia.

2 Q. And did he arrive in Monrovia, to your knowledge, before
3 Foday Sankoh arrived?

4 A. Yes. They were there when Mr Sankoh came.

09:31:35 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: So when the witness says he was in
6 Monrovia when he went, is he talking about one person or two
7 people or what?

8 MR GRIFFITHS:

9 Q. Well, let me ask you, Mr Sesay: The record shows you
09:31:52 10 saying "it was Sam Bockarie from Kailahun who went from Buedu, he
11 was in Monrovia when he went." What did you mean to tell us?

12 A. I meant that Sam Bockarie was in Monrovia before Mr Sankoh
13 came and met him in Monrovia.

14 MR GRIFFITHS: Can I continue, Madam President? I'm
09:32:23 15 grateful.

16 Q. Now, was anybody else present in Monrovia to meet
17 Mr Sankoh?

18 A. Yes, Johnny Paul also was there. Johnny Paul, Jumu Jalloh
19 and Honourable Sammy, they had come there and they were there
09:33:05 20 until Mr Sankoh came and met them there. So Johnny Paul and his
21 two men, together with Sam Bockarie and Superman and others who
22 came from Makeni through Freetown, that is Superman, Patrick PS
23 Binda and Jackson Swarray.

24 Q. Was FOC in Monrovia to meet Sankoh when he arrived?

09:33:26 25 A. No, no. During this time, FOC was in Makeni because by the
26 time I left Buedu I met him in Makeni in October of '99.

27 Q. Are you sure he was not in Monrovia at the time Sankoh
28 arrived?

29 A. No. He did not go to Monrovia, because when Sam Bockarie

1 returned from there, he told me that Mr Sankoh said I should go
2 to Makeni to - and take over command in Makeni, and he did not
3 tell me that FOC was there and, when I went to Makeni, I saw FOC
4 in Makeni before Mike Lamin came and collected them to Freetown.

09:34:10 5 Q. Are you sure about this, Mr Sesay?

6 A. Yes. Had FOC been in Monrovia I would have known. FOC was
7 not there. He did not go there. It was Superman, Patrick PS
8 Binda and Jackson Swarray who travelled.

9 Q. Page 15116, please, line 15; this is the testimony of
09:34:50 10 TF1-338:

11 "A. I did not see Foday Sankoh again from after 1996 to
12 1999.

13 Q. In 1999, where did you see Foday Sankoh?

14 A. I saw him in Liberia, Monrovia.

09:35:11 15 Q. And do you know why Foday Sankoh was in Monrovia in
16 1999 when you saw him?

17 A. He came from the peace talks, when he returned.

18 Q. Do you know what peace talks he was returning from?

19 A. He said Lome Peace Accord.

09:35:31 20 Q. Now what happened when you saw Foday Sankoh in Monrovia
21 in 1999?

22 A. Mosquito sent for me. He said Foday Sankoh had said
23 I should go, because there was an infighting between him
24 and Superman, so Foday Sankoh said I should go to explain
09:35:54 25 about the infighting and some other development that had
26 taken place in his absence."

27 Over the page, please:

28 "Q. Now you said that Mosquito said that he sent for you
29 and said Foday Sankoh said you should go because there was

1 an infighting between him and Superman. The infighting was
2 between who and Superman?

3 A. Superman, Gibril Massaquoi on the one hand, and then
4 Mosquito, Issa, Boston Flomo on the other hand.

09:36:31 5 Q. Now what happened after you were in Monrovia with Foday
6 Sankoh?

7 A. When I was in Monrovia with Foday Sankoh, we saw
8 Charles Taylor twice and later he sent me as an advance
9 team to come and see if Freetown was safe because he wanted
09:36:55 10 to fly directly from Monrovia to Freetown, that is in
11 Sierra Leone.

12 Q. When Foday Sankoh saw Charles Taylor twice, this first
13 time Foday Sankoh saw Charles Taylor, what happened, if you
14 know?

09:37:15 15 A. The first time he saw Charles Taylor, all of us went
16 there and we saw him on the sixth floor mansion office in
17 Monrovia."

18 Line 24:

19 "A. When all of us saw him he thanked Mosquito because he
09:37:32 20 had maintained the RUF until Foday Sankoh's return. He
21 also thanked him for - because he secured Foya and Voinjama
22 from the LURD rebels and he told us not to encourage
23 infighting amongst us.

24 Q. Now, when you say he thanked Mosquito, who was it who
09:38:00 25 was thanking Mosquito?

26 A. Charles Taylor thanked Mosquito.

27 Q. Did anything else happen during the meeting, if you
28 know?

29 A. After he had thanked them and advised that we should

1 not encourage infighting among us, we should love each
2 other, later on he gave us \$15,000. He gave the money to
3 Mosquito for the guys who had come.

09:38:32

4 Q. Now you testified there was a second meeting between
5 Foday Sankoh and Charles Taylor. What happened at that
6 meeting, if you know?

09:38:51

7 A. Well, that one I did not enter into Charles Taylor's
8 office. It was only Mosquito and Foday Sankoh who entered
9 the place and later we went downstairs for dinner in the
10 hall, downstairs in the hall, the mansion ground."

11 Now, first of all, after Foday Sankoh's return, did
12 Mosquito return from Monrovia to Sierra Leone?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Did you see him upon his return?

09:39:20

15 A. Yes, I saw him, he gave me the instruction that Mr Sankoh
16 said I should move to Makeni, to go and take over command from
17 Superman.

18 Q. Did you speak to him about what had occurred in Monrovia
19 during his stay there?

09:39:40

20 A. Yes. He told me about Superman's group that arrived there,
21 because he said Mosquito came with Patrick PS Binda, and
22 Mr Sankoh said he should not go back to Makeni with Superman. He
23 said - Mr Sankoh said he should come to Kailahun and, when he
24 comes, he should give statements to the MPs about what had
25 transpired in Makeni during the infighting.

09:40:04

26 Q. Did Mosquito, upon his return, relay to you that he had met
27 with Charles Taylor in the company of Foday Sankoh?

28 A. No. Sam Bockarie did not tell me that.

29 Q. Did Sam Bockarie suggest to you that he had been personally

1 thanked by Charles Taylor for maintaining the ground until
2 Sankoh's return?

3 A. No. Bockarie did not tell me that.

09:40:57 4 Q. Did Mosquito tell you that Charles Taylor had thanked him
5 for securing Foya and Voinjama from the LURD rebels?

6 A. No. Bockarie did not tell me that. How could Charles
7 Taylor thank Bockarie for securing Voinjama and Foya when he was
8 not there. Charles Taylor had his own troops, he had his own
9 army that were in Voinjama and Foya.

09:41:26 10 Q. What is being suggested, you see, by this individual who
11 was testifying to these judges was that at some stage prior to
12 Sankoh arriving in Monrovia in 1999 the RUF had been fighting in
13 Lofa County, in Foya and Voinjama on behalf of Charles Taylor.
14 Do you understand that?

09:41:55 15 A. Yes. I understand that.

16 Q. Prior to Sankoh's return, were the RUF fighting on behalf
17 of Mr Charles Taylor in Foya and Voinjama?

18 A. No. RUF did not fight in Voinjama in '99. They did not
19 fight there before Mr Sankoh's - before Mr Sankoh arrived. They
09:42:21 20 did not fight in Voinjama, they did not fight in Foya.

21 Q. And do you recall any message being relayed to you by
22 Mosquito that he, having spoken to Charles Taylor, had received
23 instructions from - or advice from Mr Taylor that the RUF should
24 no longer cause infighting amongst themselves?

09:42:52 25 A. No, I have not heard that before.

26 Q. And help me, two more matters with - well, one more matter
27 with this passage. When Mosquito returned, did he boast of
28 having \$15,000 given to him by Charles Taylor?

29 A. No. Bockarie did not tell me that because when Bockarie

1 returned, he spoke with me before I left for Makeni.

2 Q. Let me ask you about a detail before I go on to ask you
3 about another passage of testimony. Remind us: After the RUF -
4 no, let me start again. Who was the first mining commander
09:44:17 5 appointed by the RUF?

6 A. It was Mohamed Kamara, CO Mohamed Kamara. He was the first
7 person who was appointed by Bockarie.

8 Q. Pause for a moment, please, Mr Sesay, and could you take
9 your time and provide us with the names of all the mining
09:44:40 10 commanders appointed by the RUF throughout the conflict in Sierra
11 Leone? Take your time.

12 A. Well, in 1998, after we had withdrawn to Kono together with
13 Johnny Paul, and then we continued onwards to Kailahun, when we
14 arrived in Kailahun in March of 1998, Sam Bockarie appointed CO
09:45:17 15 Mohamed Kamara as mining commander. So he was in Kono until the
16 ECOMOG flushed the RUF out of Koidu Town and they continued --

17 Q. And when was that?

18 A. That was in May of '98, when the ECOMOG pushed the RUF out
19 of Koidu Town, that was in early May. And in July of 1998, Sam
09:45:48 20 Bockarie replaced Mohamed Kamara with Matthew Kennedy Sesay as
21 mining commander. So Matthew Kennedy was the mining commander
22 from July '98 until - up until February 2000 when Mr Sankoh said

23 I should replace him. And when - at the time of his replacement,
24 I appointed Peleto, so Peleto served as mining commander up to
09:46:22 25 late 2000 and I sent him to Tongo and I then appointed officer
26 Med who was - who stayed - remained in Kono up to the
27 disarmament.

28 Q. And Med, how do you spell Med?

29 A. M-E-D.

1 Q. Mr Sesay, were there any other mining commanders appointed
2 by the RUF?

3 A. Well, those were the commanders that I know about for the
4 area of mining, because throughout '99 from January to December
09:47:13 5 '99 there was no mining going on in Togo. So in 2000, it was
6 the brigade commander who was supervising the mining in Togo.
7 And that was at the time late 2000 when I sent Peleto there, he
8 was the mining commander at this time that I know because during
9 the AFRC, Sam Bockarie appointed the late Major Gweh who was
09:47:42 10 undertaking mining activities for Sam Bockarie in Togo Field.

11 Q. Major what's his name?

12 A. Gweh

13 MR GRIFFITHS: I wonder, Mr Interpreter, if you can assist
14 us with a spelling.

09:47:55 15 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, your Honours, it's G-W-E-H.

16 MR GRIFFITHS:

17 Q. Did Sam Bockarie appoint anyone as mining commander in
18 December 1998?

19 A. No. After I had captured Kono, it was Kennedy who
09:48:18 20 continued to serve as mining commander. Sam Bockarie did not
21 appoint any other person.

22 Q. Page 15023, please, transcript of 1 September 2008. Line
23 6:

24 "Q. So did you go to Monrovia with Sam Bockarie before you
09:48:53 25 were appointed mining commander in December 1998?

26 A. Yes."

27 Was anyone appointed mining commander in December 1998,
28 Mr Bockarie - sorry, Mr Sesay, by Mr Bockarie?

29 A. No. I said at the time I captured Kono in December '98 it

1 was still Kennedy who was serving as mining commander and he
2 continued until February of 2000.

3 Q. Grateful.

09:49:34

4 "That's what I spoke about. When we left Freetown I went
5 to Monrovia.

6 Q. And it was before you were appointed mining commander?

7 A. Yes, we left Freetown first before I became the mining
8 commander.

09:49:51

9 Q. And then you went on to tell us how you stayed at a
10 place called Elawa Junction.

11 A. It was not Elawa, E-L-W-A. There was no Elawa Junction
12 in Monrovia. We just passed the night." Line 20.

13 "Q. What was the purpose of Sam Bockarie's trip to
14 Monrovia?

09:50:10

15 A. When we went to Buedu, it was when Sam Bockarie said he
16 had received a message that Charles Taylor had invited him
17 to Monrovia, Liberia, but it so happened that the two of us
18 would go. I was to go and stop in Voinjama for this same
19 negotiation. There was a police commander in Voinjama at

09:50:38

20 that time - he was a Gio man, but I have forgotten his name
21 now - and so I travelled together with him and we went to
22 Monrovia and we returned. That was the mission I went on
23 for Voinjama. But when I went there he explained to the
24 police commander, he said he was going to leave me there to
25 be running in between."

09:51:07

26 Now, pausing for a minute, remind us, I don't want to lead:
27 When was Bockarie invited by Charles Taylor to go to Monrovia?

28 A. Well, at first it was in September when Dopoe came and
29 collected Bockarie from the border, September of '98.

1 Q. With whom did he travel to Monrovia on that occasion?

2 A. It was together with his bodyguards, three of his
3 bodyguards, Sabado, Foday, and Junior Vandj.

4 Q. Spell the first name for us, please.

09:51:56 5 A. S-A-B-A-D-O.

6 Q. When Bockarie went to Monrovia on that occasion, where was
7 FOC?

8 A. FOC was in Kono from February '98 when we retreated from
9 Kono, FOC was in Kono up until December when I went back to Kono
09:52:27 10 and met him there and during this period he never came to Buedu
11 nor even the Kailahun District. He never crossed the Moa River
12 throughout '98 up until December when I went to Kono, I met him
13 in Kono. And from there, he was with Rambo when we moved to
14 Magburaka, Makeni, and he was with Rambo up to Waterloo towards
09:52:56 15 the late January to February of '99. He did not go to Kailahun
16 during this time and even up to '99 FOC did not go to Kailahun.

17 Q. Now, how do you know this, Mr Sesay?

18 A. Well, I left FOC in Kono and we travelled with Johnny Paul
19 to Kailahun. In March to April, I was in Buedu before I left for
09:53:24 20 Monrovia and when I came back I went to Pendembu, so had FOC come
21 to Kailahun District I would have known because I was always -
22 I used to visit Kailahun Town from Pendembu and when I came back
23 in December he was there, and we were all at a meeting before the
24 attack on Kono. And when we captured Koidu Town I used to see
09:53:51 25 him every other day when he was with Rambo at the front line, up
26 to the time I met them in Makeni.

27 Q. Let's go to page 15024, please, line 25:

28 "Yes, I travelled with him" - that's Sam Bockarie - "to
29 Monrovia because Charles Taylor had invited him. I didn't know

1 why he was invited but Charles Taylor invited him and we went
2 there and even when we went, we were at the house when Benjamin
3 Yeaten invited him at night and they went out at night."

4 Over the page. He goes on to give at line 13 the reasons

09:54:40 5 why he had travelled. The one is Voinjama and the other is:

6 "I travelled with him to Monrovia because he did not go
7 with any senior officers so I went with him, with his bodyguards.
8 Those are the two reasons."

9 Pause. Help me with this: At the time that Sam Bockarie
09:55:05 10 travelled at the invitation of Charles Taylor to Monrovia, what
11 business did the RUF have in Voinjama?

12 A. Well, I did not know about the RUF having any business or
13 Sam Bockarie having any business in Voinjama because even the
14 visit in November in 1998 that Sam Bockarie made, Sam Bockarie
09:55:33 15 invited me from Pendembu when he said Mike Lamin and I should
16 stay in Buedu until his return. I was in Buedu and I did not see
17 FOC there up until the time Sam Bockarie returned before I left
18 to go on the attack in Kono. FOC was not in Buedu, not at all,
19 he was in Kono up to the time I met him in Kono.

09:55:56 20 Q. Now, the reason I'm asking you about this is this: Let's
21 go to the bottom of the page, line 28.

22 This witness, who was giving this account, was then
23 reminded of a prior statement he had made to investigators for
24 the Prosecution, and he had told them this, and I'm reminding you
09:56:21 25 because it directly implicates you, Mr Sesay. What he had told
26 the investigators and was being reminded of was this:

27 "Witness clarifies in relation to paragraph 6 of that
28 previous interview that he knew diamonds he presented to
29 Issa Sesay, whilst as overall mining commander, was taken

1 to Buedu and handed to Sam Bockarie contrary to what
2 witness said he never knew about - knew what was done with
3 the diamonds. Witness states that Sam Bockarie or Issa
4 Sesay, or both of them, will travel with the parcel of
09:57:06 5 diamonds to Monrovia, Liberia. Witness knew that the
6 diamonds were taken to Monrovia, because, firstly, Mosquito
7 would tell them that he was taking the parcel of diamonds
8 to Charles Taylor in Monrovia."

9 Line 11:

09:57:23 10 "Secondly, on two or three occasions, witness accompanied
11 Mosquito to Monrovia with parcels of diamonds which he
12 would take to Charles Taylor."

13 Now, do you recall, Mr Sesay, you, Issa Hassan Sesay,
14 presenting diamonds to Sam Bockarie for transport to Charles
09:57:54 15 Taylor? That's question one.

16 A. No. Throughout '98, no RUF mining commander gave me
17 diamonds, and FOC never became mining commander in '98, nor even
18 '99 or 2000, no.

19 Q. Line 5 on that page:

09:58:13 20 "Was there ever an occasion when you travelled with Sam
21 Bockarie to Monrovia?"

22 A. No.

23 Q. "Both of them will travel." Was there ever an occasion
24 when you travelled with Sam Bockarie to Monrovia?

09:58:33 25 A. No. Sam Bockarie and I never travelled to go to Monrovia
26 throughout '98 and throughout '99.

27 Q. Was there ever an occasion when you travelled with Sam
28 Bockarie to Monrovia?

29 A. No. Sam Bockarie and I never travelled to go to Monrovia.

1 Q. And just to be complete --

2 MR KOUMJIAN: Excuse me, I just want to point out that the
3 passage read, I don't read it as saying "they travelled
4 together", it's that "they both will travel". It never says
09:59:07 5 Bockarie and Sesay together.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, but it's capable of that
7 interpretation as well; in my understanding, it could be both
8 together. I mean, you're both right. It's liable to either
9 interpretation, so the question may be put.

09:59:24 10 MR GRIFFITHS:

11 Q. I'm merely seeking clarification, Mr Sesay, so that we all
12 know what this Prosecution witness was saying. Was there ever an
13 occasion when you travelled with Sam Bockarie to Monrovia
14 carrying diamonds for Charles Taylor?

09:59:46 15 A. No. I said Sam Bockarie and I, throughout '98 and
16 throughout '99, Sam Bockarie and I never travelled to go to
17 Monrovia, he and I together, no.

18 Q. Could we go to testimony of 1 September 2008, page 15060,
19 please? Yes, bottom of the page, line 24. This witness's
10:00:49 20 attention was then drawn to another passage of testimony that he
21 had given to investigators for the Prosecution in which he had
22 said this, line 29:

23 "The witness states that the matters therein is what Issa
24 Sesay would tell the civilians to motivate them to work and
10:01:12 25 not to escape, but it was not true. The witness knows that
26 the diamonds were being sent to Liberia to Charles Taylor."
27 Line 5:

28 "A. That was how it happened, that was for us to let the
29 civilians work because, if we told them that we were going

1 to keep the diamonds elsewhere, and we are not going to do
2 anything with it, maybe they would be discouraged. That's
3 why they said that."

4 Line 12:

10:01:45 5 "A. This story, the one that you've read, what happened is
6 what I have said. I said that was just a way of
7 encouraging the people to work, but the diamonds were
8 actually kept across to Charles Taylor. But they would not
9 tell the civilians, they would not call the name Charles
10:02:03 10 Taylor to the civilians for them not to go and tell other
11 people that Charles Taylor who is the one taking our
12 diamonds. We didn't want that, so we did not tell them."

13 Pause there. Now, you see, Mr Sesay, that the witness was,
14 in effect, suggesting that you were misleading those engaged in
10:02:30 15 mining for the RUF by not telling them frankly that their hard
16 labour was for the benefit of Charles Taylor. You do follow,
17 don't you?

18 A. Yes. I'm following.

19 Q. Were you misleading people, members of the RUF, in that
10:02:51 20 way, Mr Sesay?

21 A. No. I did not mislead members of the RUF, nor did
22 I mislead civilians, and even Bockarie, because the mining in
23 1998 was a very small-scale mining and the enemies, that is the
24 ECOMOG and the Kamajors, had occupied Kono, and the Alpha Jets
10:03:16 25 used to raid Kono every day, during the day. And during that
26 time, and even in '99 when Bockarie was the one receiving the
27 diamonds, he used to send food supplies and used clothing,
28 medicine, provision, bales of clothing and plastic sandals to the
29 miners and the mining commander - through the mining commander.

1 So where did Bockarie get those things from if he was not selling
2 diamonds? That's when I came into the mining, in February 2000,
3 it was a two-pile system that was operating. So when they would
4 get the gravel, they would divide it, one pile for the miners,
10:04:13 5 whether you're a civilian or a fighter, they will be having the
6 one pile and the other pile would be washed for the RUF. And the
7 people come from Makeni, Magburaka, Masingbi on their own from
8 Port Loko District, Kambia. They will go to Kono and mine on
9 their own.

10:04:38 10 Q. Just pause for a minute, Mr Sesay, and help me with this:
11 At the time of the incident you told us about, at Spur Road in
12 May 2000 involving Mr Sankoh, who was present with Mr Sankoh at
13 that address?

14 A. Well, Gibril Massaquoi was with Mr Sankoh, Superman,
10:05:14 15 Jackson Swarray, FOC, with other people. Even Sheik Fofana was
16 there.

17 Q. And how many of those managed to escape and return to
18 RUF-held territory?

19 A. Like, Sheik Fofana, Gibril Massaquoi, Superman, FOC,
10:05:44 20 Jackson Swarray, these are the ones I can recall for now.

21 Q. Now, the first name you called something Fofana, what's the
22 first name?

23 A. Sheik, Sheik Fofana.

24 Q. How do you spell it?

10:06:01 25 KOUJIAN: It's on the record.

26 MR GRIFFITHS: I'm grateful.

27 Q. Now, when those individuals - did you meet with those
28 individuals following their escape?

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. And did any of them give you a report as to what had taken
2 place outside Mr Sankoh's compound in Freetown?

3 A. Yes. When they went they gave me information about what
4 had transpired in Freetown.

10:06:39 5 Q. Who did?

6 A. Like Gibriil spoke about what happened, FOC and Jackson
7 Swarray, and even Sheik Fofana.

8 Q. Let's go to page 15123, please. Just to put matters in
9 context, line 1:

10:07:24 10 "They just gave one warning shot to instill fear in the
11 demonstrators with the hope that they would return after
12 the warning shot."

13 Line 7:

14 "A. The demonstrators had gunmen, those who were the West
10:07:44 15 Side Boys and the Kamajors, they had mingled with them.
16 So, when they heard the gunshot they thought it was the RUF
17 who had shot, and so they replied. So there was firing
18 between the UNAMSIL soldiers, the Nigerians and the
19 demonstrators."

10:08:02 20 Line 14:

21 "So we ran to Foday Sankoh where he was. We jumped over
22 the fence with Foday Sankoh and we went with him because we
23 didn't want him to be armed. After that we went into the
24 bush, we were talking to Foday Sankoh for us to mobilise to
10:08:18 25 go to Makeni and he said he was not going anywhere because
26 he said he had supporters and he would not risk the lives
27 of those people who were there already. We were there
28 until a bomb blasted nearby us and all of us dispersed."

29 Over the page, please, line 6:

1 "When we went by the bush and the bomb exploded and all
2 of us dispersed, we scattered, and everyone was looking for
3 a safe haven now. From there, Gibri I Massaquoi, myself,
4 Superman, we mobilised ourselves to pave our way to Makeni.
10:09:01 5 We went into the jungle to come to Makeni, and that that
6 was successful. When we got to Makeni paragraph" - and
7 this is the part I want to ask you about - "we met Issa.
8 Line 24:
9 "Because there had been infighting between Superman and
10:09:24 10 Issa so he thought about that infighting and said 'If you
11 went there without having anything to say that it was Pa
12 Sankoh had sent him, Issa would arrest him and imprison him
13 and maybe would eventually kill him.' So he too played a
14 trick and said to Pa Sankoh - and said Pa Sankoh had sent
10:09:45 15 us, he said 'You should be the commander.'
16 Q. Who was it who was saying that if you went there
17 without having anything to say that it was Pa Sankoh who
18 had sent him, who was saying this?
19 A. Super - Superman, Dennis Mingo."
20 Line 10:
21 "So we convened a forum and we appointed Issa's commander
22 and he made his various appointments."
23 So pausing there. Were you appointed commander at some
24 stage after the events at Spur Road by the "we", some of whom had
10:10:30 25 escaped from Foday Sankoh's compound, Mr Sesay?
26 A. No, no. I was not appointed before - before the incident
27 I was the field commander and, when they escaped from Freetown,
28 I still had the position, I was not appointed to any other
29 position.

1 Q. Are you sure there wasn't a further appointment after the
2 Spur Road incident?

3 A. No, no. They were not the ones to appoint me. I was a
4 field commander from December 1999 when Sam Bockarie left. So
10:11:07 5 when they escaped from Freetown, they went - I was field
6 commander already because Mr Sankoh had appointed me.

7 Q. And did you not, having been appointed commander, did you
8 not yourself make further appointments?

9 A. No.

10:11:31 10 Q. Well, let's have a look at this page, Mr Sesay, line 10:
11 "A. So we convened a forum and we appointed Issa as
12 commander, and he made his various appointments. What
13 appointments did he make?

14 A. He appointed Dennis Mingo as commander for Makeni."

10:11:52 15 Did you do that?

16 A. No.

17 Q. "Taking care of Lunsar Highway, and he appointed Gibriil as
18 the spokesman." Did you?

19 A. No. Gibriil was a spokesman before they escaped from
10:12:11 20 Freetown.

21 Q. And he, that's you, appointed Morris Kallon as his deputy.
22 Did you do that?

23 A. No. Mr Sankoh had appointed Morris Kallon around January -
24 of 2000, January of 2000 as battle group commander, so Morris
10:12:34 25 Kallon was already a battle group commander.

26 Q. "And he appointed Kailondo as a commander." Did you?

27 A. Kailondo was already the commander of Makeni Town before
28 the incident. Kailondo was the commander of Makeni Town and he
29 remained to be the commander.

1 Q. Line 20:

2 "A. We told him that the Pa had said that he would not be
3 able to come because he wouldn't want to leave the other
4 people in Freetown and just come like that. So we should
10:13:11 5 come and meet Issa and Issa should take care of the
6 revolution until such a time when all of us will meet
7 together again. And Issa should not disarm to the RUF. He
8 should not disarm to anybody. That was" --

9 JUDGE LUSSICK: "Should not disarm to the UN" that should
10:13:35 10 read.

11 MR GRIFFITHS: Yes.

12 Q. "A. Should not disarm to the UN, he should not disarm to
13 anybody."

14 I'm grateful. Now, did you have such a discussion,

10:13:45 15 Mr Sesay, with those who returned from Foday Sankoh's compound
16 following the incident at Spur Road?

17 A. No. We did not have such a discussion. What one of them
18 told me, that is FOC, is that when they got to Lunsar was where
19 they heard about the release of the UNAMSIL teams to Mr Taylor
10:14:18 20 that I did, so Superman and Gibril grumbled bitterly that I had
21 no right to release the UNAMSIL while the Government of Sierra
22 Leone arrested Mr Sankoh, I should have negotiated the release of
23 Mr Sankoh before releasing the UNAMSIL but I did not do that and
24 I had released the UNAMSIL. That was a sellout and that I sold
10:14:43 25 Mr Sankoh out, but they - they did not give me such information.

26 Q. And if this is right, Mr Sesay, is it not the case that you
27 had been, in effect, appointed as interim leader by Foday Sankoh,
28 not by ECOWAS, because I listen to what he said: "Issa should take
29 care of the revolution until such time." Are you sure Foday

1 Sankoh had not given you that instruction or sent that
2 instruction to you?

3 A. No. Mr Sankoh did not send that instruction to me. He did
4 not send that instruction to me and I did not get that
10:15:32 5 information from anybody.

6 Q. Now, help us. You've mentioned that you had a conversation
7 with FOC at or about this time following these events at Spur
8 Road. Help us. What was the nature of the conversation you had
9 with FOC at that time?

10:15:54 10 A. I asked FOC about Mr Sankoh, I said, what really brought
11 about the problem that Mr Sankoh was arrested? And FOC said,
12 people, that is the civilians, demonstrated against Mr Sankoh but
13 there were Kamajors amongst them, including the AFRC the West
14 Side, so when they got near Mr Sankoh's house, the UN that was
10:16:30 15 guarding Mr Sankoh fired a warning shot in the air so from the
16 warning shot the demonstrators opened fire at Mr Sankoh's house,
17 and they were launching, so they escaped with Mr Sankoh from the
18 compound, they jumped with him over the fence, so from there they
19 opened fire on them and so they dispersed. And they left
10:17:00 20 Mr Sankoh, they went through the mountains, that is the
21 peninsula, and they crossed Waterloo and they came to Lunsar.
22 That is what he explained to me.

23 Q. Now, just to get the full picture, let's just go quickly
24 over the page, to page 15126, line 2:

10:17:32 25 "A. Foday Sankoh did not actually instruct us to tell him
26 anything. I told you it was Superman, Dennis Mingo and
27 Gibril Massaquoi who sat together and made this plan so
28 that trick would work because there was infighting between
29 him and Issa. He feared that if he had just come like that

1 without saying he had come from Foday Sankoh, maybe Issa
2 would arrest him and imprison him. Maybe he would
3 eventually kill him. So he said, 'well, let's have a plan
4 and say Foday Sankoh has sent us to tell you that you would
10:18:06 5 be in charge of the revolution until he returns'".

6 Now, just so that we are clear, whether the message came
7 from Sankoh or whether it was a trick made up by Superman and
8 Gibriil Massaquoi, did you have such a conversation about you
9 taking over the revolution with any of these individuals,
10:18:30 10 Mr Sesay?

11 A. No. None of these individuals told me this. This is my
12 first time to hear this.

13 Q. Let's go to page 15128, please, line 6:

14 "Q. Now, Mr Witness, I would like you to think about the
10:18:59 15 year 2000, after you had gone to Makeni and then moved on
16 to Lebanon in Koidu Town. To your knowledge, during this
17 period, what trips, if any, did Issa take outside Sierra
18 Leone?

19 A. When he arrived in Makeni, I had just given Issa this
10:19:19 20 message, he appointed the commanders and later he said
21 Charles Taylor had spoken to him, he had called him and he
22 should take somebody there" - line 24 - "Issa said Charles
23 Taylor had told him that he should go with one person from
24 among the people who were in Freetown when Pa Sankoh was
10:19:52 25 arrested, he should take that person to him in Monrovia in
26 Liberia.

27 Q. Now, you said that Issa said that Charles Taylor had
28 told him, and earlier you said Charles Taylor had spoken
29 with him. Did Issa say in what way Charles Taylor

1 communicated with him?

2 A. Issa used satellite phone and it was through that
3 satellite phone that he used to communicate. I was not
4 present whether he spoke to him or not, but that was what
10:20:34 5 he said.

6 Q. Now, after Issa relayed this information, what did Issa
7 do?

8 A. So he made a delegation and they went to meet Charles
9 Taylor.

10:20:57 10 Q. And how did they travel to meet Charles Taylor?

11 A. They took a UN vehicle from Koidu Town, they went
12 through Manawa and crossed in Pendembu, went to Kailahun
13 and travelled to Koindu, Foya and it was from Foya that the
14 chopper came and took him to Monrovia. The chopper was
10:21:22 15 Weasua, Weasua was an airline company that was in Liberia
16 during Charles Taylor's time.

17 Q. And what happened when Issa and the delegation arrived
18 in Monrovia?

19 A. They took them to a guesthouse in Congo Town and that
10:21:40 20 was the guesthouse the RUF was using in Congo Town.

21 Q. Do you know who worked at the guesthouse?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Who worked there?

24 A. Rashid Foday was a Black Guard, he was put there by Pa
10:21:59 25 Sankoh, there what the Memuna Deen, she was a radio
26 operator, and her husband Tolo, who was Osman Kamara."

27 He's asked some details about that, that need not detain
28 us. Line 8:

29 "Q. So what happened after Issa and the delegation went to

1 the guesthouse?

2 A. From there at night about 10 to 11 clock Benjamin
3 Yeaten, who was the national security director, came and
4 drove them to the mansion ground to meet with Charles

10:22:35 5 Taylor."

6 Then clarifies what he means about mansion ground.

7 "A. From there he took them to the sixth floor in one of
8 the waiting rooms to meet with Charles Taylor. From there
9 Charles Taylor came and he sat with them. He greeted and
10 they all greeted back. And he asked what had occurred in
11 Freetown, who was the right person that came from there.

10:22:59 12 And the person who had come from there got up and he asked
13 him that why had his brother been arrested, that was Foday
14 Sankoh, and the person explained to him and it was because
10:23:21 15 of - it was because the UN officials were arrested. That's
16 what made the pro-government officials to attack Foday
17 Sankoh's lodge on the 8th of May."

18 Over the page:

19 "Q. What happened after that exchange?

10:23:38 20 A. Thereafter, he asked if they knew about any British
21 military observers that were arrested in some parts of
22 Sierra Leone and the same person replied, 'Yes', that
23 he knew about a British military observer but he had been
24 handed over to the Indian UNAMSIL contingent who were in
10:24:02 25 Kailahun."

26 Now, before we get lost in some of this detail, I now want
27 us to go back to seek your assistance with certain aspects of
28 this account given by this witness to these judges. Let's go
29 back now, then, please to page 15128 and recap.

1 Now, first of all, Mr Sesay, you told us earlier this
2 morning that when you met with FOC and the others, you had
3 already released the UNAMSIL personnel; is that correct?

4 A. Yes. That's what happened.

10:24:52 5 Q. Now, I want to be clear about this. Let's get the
6 sequence, please. I'm going to name three events and I want you
7 to give me the order in which these events occurred: You going
8 to Monrovia to meet with Mr Taylor regarding the release of the
9 UNAMSIL personnel; the incident at Spur Road; and you meeting
10 with Gibri I Massaquoi, Superman and FOC following their escape
11 from Spur Road. In which order did those three events take
12 place?

13 A. Well, the first one that took place was in late May 2000
14 when Mr Taylor sent a helicopter to invite me and the helicopter
10:25:51 15 landed in Pendembu. Then I was in Kailahun and the message was
16 given to Denis Lansana to inform me, through radio, that
17 Mr Taylor wanted to see me. At that time I was in Kailahun -
18 I was in Makeni, so I drove from Makeni to Kono to Kailahun, and
19 I went to see Mr Taylor. And he said he had had a mandate from
10:26:12 20 the ECOWAS leaders to release UNAMSIL. That was the first event.
21 And I came, took those people, and I released them. At that
22 time, those gentlemen from Freetown had not come yet. It was
23 after the release of the UNAMSIL that they showed up in Lunsar
24 and they came to Makeni. At that time I had released the UNAMSIL
10:26:33 25 and had returned to Sierra Leone.

26 Q. Mr Sesay, there is one event which you've not mentioned
27 which I asked you about, and I want you to place that event
28 within the sequence of events. The incident at Spur Road, when
29 did that occur, in terms of what you've just explained to us?

1 A. Well, the incident occurred on 8 May. This incident
2 occurred before I released the UNAMSIL to Mr Taylor in Monrovia.
3 The incident of the May 8 occurred first, and I went and released
4 the UNAMSIL in late May, and around early June was when these
10:27:22 5 gentlemen showed up in Lunsar and they went to Makeni.

6 Q. Thank you for that. So just so that I'm clear: Incident
7 at Spur Road, you go to Monrovia, then these gentlemen turned up
8 - turn up; is that correct?

9 A. Yes, you're correct.

10:27:40 10 Q. So by the time you went to Monrovia to meet with Charles
11 Taylor, Foday Sankoh - had Foday Sankoh already been arrested?

12 A. Yes. He had been arrested.

13 Q. When you went to see Charles Taylor regarding the release
14 of the UNAMSIL personnel, were you aware of the circumstances
10:28:07 15 which had led to the incident at Spur Road?

16 A. Well, no. I did not have the details. The only thing that
17 I knew was that the problem that had occurred was about the
18 arrest of the UNAMSIL. That was what had led to that but, I did
19 not know exactly what happened in Mr Sankoh's compound.

10:28:32 20 Q. But had the arrest of Mr Sankoh been broadcast on the - in
21 the media in Sierra Leone before you went to meet with Mr Taylor?

22 A. Yes, yes. It was broadcast by the SLBS, even the BBC,
23 other radio stations and even the newspapers, they brought them
24 from Freetown because during this time traders used to come from
10:29:00 25 Makeni through Rokupr and they went to Freetown. So they brought
26 the newspaper and I saw it, before the release of UNAMSIL.

27 Q. Was there anything to prevent you, Mr Sesay, when you went
28 to see Charles Taylor, regarding the release of the UNAMSIL
29 personnel - was there anything to prevent you talking to

1 Mr Taylor about the events surrounding the arrest of Mr Sankoh?

2 A. Well, there was nothing to prevent me, but when I met
3 Mr Taylor, the mood in which he was, he was unhappy because of
4 the way he had expressed his concerns about the disappointment in
10:29:50 5 Mr Sankoh regarding the capture of the UNAMSIL. So I couldn't
6 have said anything about Mr Sankoh's interest, because Mr Taylor
7 was visibly unhappy with Mr Sankoh's behaviour towards whatever
8 had been happening.

9 Q. Now, I asked for this reason, you see: Going back to page
10:30:11 10 15128, this witness is saying, line 9:

11 "Q. Did Issa take - what trips if any did Issa take outside
12 Sierra Leone?

13 A. When he arrived in Makeni, and I had given Issa this
14 message" - that's the message supposedly from Sankoh - "he
10:30:38 15 appointed the commanders and later he said Charles Taylor
16 had spoken to him, he had called him, and he should take
17 somebody there."

18 Line 24:

19 "One person from among the people who were in Freetown when
10:30:57 20 Pa Sankoh was arrested, he should take that person to him
21 in Monrovia."

22 Over the page. Now, did you receive any instruction from
23 Charles Taylor to take someone who had been present at the time
24 of Sankoh's arrest to Monrovia to meet Charles Taylor? Do you
10:31:25 25 follow?

26 A. Yes, I understand.

27 Q. Did you, as suggested at the top of page 15129, have a
28 telephone conversation with Charles Taylor over a satellite phone
29 in which you received such an instruction?

1 A. No. This is a big lie. It's a lie. Mr Taylor never gave
2 me such an instruction, and I never talked to him through a
3 satellite phone after the release of the UNAMSIL or even before
4 that, I did not talk to him through a satellite phone, and he
10:32:02 5 never gave me instruction that I had to take with me someone who
6 was present during the arrest of - or somebody who was present
7 during the demonstration, when Mr Sankoh was arrested; Mr Taylor
8 never gave me such an instruction. This is my first time hearing
9 this kind of story.

10:32:18 10 Q. Now, just so that we are clear and so that we can put the
11 testimony of this witness in context, just remind us, Mr Sesay -
12 you've told us this before but I don't want to lead - when was
13 the first time you met Charles Taylor?

14 A. It was in late May 2000.

10:32:43 15 Q. What was the purpose of that meeting?

16 A. It was about the release of the UNAMSIL.

17 Q. When was the next time you met him?

18 A. The next time was in July 2000.

19 Q. What was the purpose of that meeting?

10:32:59 20 A. He had invited me to have the meeting with him and the
21 ECOWAS leaders, when he said I should go with some commanders,
22 for me to have a meeting with the five ECOWAS leaders.

23 Q. When was the meeting after that?

24 A. The meeting with the ECOWAS leaders was in July 2000; I met
10:33:26 25 with the five Heads of States in July 2000, myself and other
26 colleagues.

27 Q. And did you meet with - again, with the ECOWAS Heads of
28 State or some of them?

29 A. Yes, I met with two of them again, with some other

1 representatives from others, in August 2000.

2 Q. Now, between your visit in May and the visit in August, was
3 there another meeting you're not telling us about, Mr Sesay, when
4 you went, at the request of Charles Taylor to Monrovia, in order
10:34:06 5 to take with you someone who was present during the Spur Road
6 incident? Do you follow me?

7 A. Yes, I follow. Well, that did not happen. That did not
8 happen. Mr Taylor never gave me instruction to take anyone with
9 me who had been present in Mr Sankoh's house, and that did not
10:34:28 10 happen. That never happened. That never occurred. The only
11 meetings I had with Mr Taylor was one in late May about the
12 release of the UNAMSIL in 2000, the other one was in July with
13 the five ECOWAS leaders, and then the ECOWAS meeting, when I was
14 appointed as interim leader. Those were the meetings that took
10:34:54 15 place between May to August of 2000.

16 Q. What is Weasua?

17 A. Weasua is an airline.

18 Q. Based where?

19 A. In Monrovia.

10:35:12 20 Q. On any of the three trips you've described between May and
21 August 2000, did you ever travel on Weasua?

22 A. No. It was the ATU helicopter that used to collect me,
23 myself and the people with whom I went; it collected us from
24 Foya.

10:35:41 25 Q. Mr Sesay, are you sure you haven't forgotten a detail here,
26 and that you, in fact, travelled with Weasua Airline, taking with
27 you someone who had been in Spur Road at the time of Sankoh's
28 arrest? Are you sure you've not forgotten that?

29 A. I have not forgotten. I am saying what happened, because

1 I did the talking and I was the one that received the calls, so
2 what I'm telling you is what happened. The only time during
3 those times that I saw a "Weasua" written on a small airplane was
4 when the helicopter landed at Spriggs Field, and when we alighted
10:36:35 5 you would see small airplanes on which it was written "Weasua" at
6 Spriggs Field, and that was where all the helicopters and some
7 air taxis used to land.

8 Q. Well, this account is embellished with a number of details,
9 and I want to ask you about those details, because the giver of
10:36:58 10 this account says, page 15129:

11 "They took a UN vehicle from Koidu Town. They went through
12 Manowa, crossed in Pendembu, went to Kailahun and travelled to
13 Koindu, Foya, and it was from Foya that they took the Weasua
14 helicopter to Monrovia."

10:37:22 15 Isn't all of that true, Mr Sesay?

16 A. That is not true, because even the UNAMSIL vehicles that
17 RUF seized, and everybody who was within the RUF knew that I did
18 not use any one of those vehicles. I had a Nissan Patrol with me
19 that was in good order that Mr Sankoh had bought for me through -
10:37:52 20 the one that he had bought from the late Jami I Sahid's son. That
21 was the Nissan Patrol that I was using, and I had a Land Cruiser,
22 so I did not use any one from amongst the UNAMSIL vehicles.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: It was the late who's son?

24 THE WITNESS: The late Jami I Sahid, the son of the late
10:38:18 25 Jami I Sahid.

26 MR GRIFFITHS: Those names are already provided; they are
27 on the record.

28 THE WITNESS: My Lady, please, I want to use the restroom,
29 just for two minutes, ma'am.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, the witness may be escorted out,
2 please.

3 MR GRIFFITHS:

4 Q. Well, Mr Sesay, we were looking at this detailed account
10:41:29 5 given to these judges by a Prosecution witness. So what are you
6 saying? Are you suggesting that these details, particular
7 details such as the name of the airline on which you flew, are
8 you saying those are all lies?

9 A. Yes. This is a lie. These are all made-up stories.

10:41:51 10 Q. So in any event, this individual goes on, they were taken
11 to a guesthouse in Congo Town, that was the guesthouse the RUF
12 was using in Congo Town, and he goes on to name Rashid Foday,
13 Memuna Deen and Tolo, that is Osman Kamara, being resident at
14 those premises. Is that part correct, yes or no?

10:42:26 15 A. Well, yes. That one is correct. They were the ones living
16 in the guesthouse. Memuna and Tolo were operators and Rashid
17 Foday was a Black Guard.

18 Q. Now, help me with this:

19 "After Issa and the delegation went to the guesthouse" -
10:42:44 20 line 8, page 15130 - "from there at night, around 10 to 11
21 o'clock, Benjamin Yeaten came and drove them to the mansion
22 ground to meet with Charles Taylor."

23 And then goes on to explain that that was the sixth floor
24 of the Executive Mansion. Question one, Mr Sesay: Was there an
10:43:11 25 occasion when you went to the sixth floor of the Executive
26 Mansion at 10 or 11 o'clock at night in order to meet with
27 Charles Taylor?

28 A. I went to the Executive Mansion on the sixth floor but it
29 was not at night. It was not at that time, 10 to 11 at night.

1 All the times I went there during my visits there were broad
2 daylight.

3 Q. So let us be sure about when such visits occurred. On how
4 many occasions did you go - you, Issa Sesay - to the Executive
10:43:53 5 Mansion in Monrovia?

6 A. Well, I paid three visits to the Executive Mansion. That
7 was - one was in May to - the release of the UNAMSIL. And two,
8 the meeting with the ECOWAS Leaders, the meeting with the ECOWAS.
9 Those are the two times I went to the Executive Mansion. In
10:44:22 10 fact, the third meeting was at RIA.

11 Q. So just to be clear, on how many occasions did you go to
12 the Executive Mansion?

13 A. The Executive Mansion, three times. May - May 2000, July,
14 and after the meeting with the ECOWAS Leaders at RIA before
10:44:49 15 I left I went to the mansion to bid - to say goodbye to
16 Mr Taylor. That was May, July and August of 2000.

17 Q. Two further details. One, on any of those three occasions,
18 did you go to the Executive Mansion at night?

19 A. No, no. It was during daylight.

10:45:14 20 Q. On the three occasions that you went, on any of those
21 occasions were you taken by Benjamin Yeaten?

22 A. Yes. The meeting with the ECOWAS, it was Benjamin Yeaten
23 who brought two jeeps to the guesthouse, that drove us to the
24 mansion ground. That was around 10 o'clock to 11 o'clock in the
10:45:48 25 morning. It was around 11.

26 Q. And was that the occasion when you met the five ECOWAS
27 Leaders?

28 A. Yes.

29 Q. Now, the other passage that I want your assistance with

1 begins at line 20 on page 15130. Now, I appreciate, Mr Sesay,
2 that you've told us that no such trip occurred but I have to ask
3 you about the details, do you see? Line 20 on that page: So
4 you're now supposedly on the sixth floor of the Executive Mansion
10:46:38 5 in the presence of Charles Taylor.

6 "From there Charles Taylor came and he sat with them. He
7 greeted them and they all greeted back and he asked what had
8 occurred in it Freetown, who was the right person that came from
9 there. And the person who had come from there got up and he
10:46:59 10 asked him that why had his brother been arrested, that was Foday
11 Sankoh, and the person explained to him that it was because of
12 the - it was because the UN officials were arrested. That's what
13 made the pro-government officials to attack Foday Sankoh's lodge
14 on May 8".

10:47:26 15 Question: Mr Sesay, who was this person that you took with
16 you to Monrovia to provide this explanation? I want a name,
17 please.

18 A. Well, I cannot give you names because I did not take anyone
19 with me to go and explain - to go and explain these events to
10:47:48 20 Mr Taylor and Mr Taylor did not even tell me to go with anyone to
21 explain these events that happened in Freetown. And in fact, the
22 way I observed Mr Taylor at the time he invited me and what he
23 told me about the release of the UNAMSIL, he did not have any
24 interest in knowing about what was the problem with Mr Sankoh in
10:48:06 25 Freetown or what happened when Mr Sankoh was arrested, because
26 the mood I saw him and the way he spoke to me, he did not tell me
27 anything like that. He did not ask me such questions.

28 Q. So when you met him, what was he interested in, if not in
29 Mr Sankoh's arrest?

1 A. What he was interested in, and what he said, was that - he
2 said this is a very big disappointment on the part of Mr Sankoh,
3 he said, because this has brought a setback to the Lome Accord
4 and that people in the rest of the world, like America, England,
10:49:04 5 he said the things that were happening, they thought Charles
6 Taylor had hands in them. But he said there was a God that knew
7 that he was innocent and had no hands in it and he said this was
8 the worst thing Mr Taylor could - Mr Sankoh could ever do in his
9 life. Mr Taylor uttered those statements.

10:49:23 10 So I heard the things he told me and, the way he was
11 speaking, he did not have any interest in knowing about
12 Mr Sankoh, what had happened to Mr Sankoh in Freetown, or what
13 problem he had had in Freetown, no. I did not notice that from
14 his face. I did not observe his face like that and he did not
10:49:41 15 ask me about Mr Sankoh's condition in Freetown. He only told me
16 about the mandate that the ECOWAS leaders had received from the
17 Security Council to facilitate the immediate release of the
18 UNAMSIL. So he said that was the reason why his colleague ECOWAS
19 leaders had asked him to talk to the RUF, to release the people.

10:50:06 20 So he asked me, he said, "Where are the people?" And
21 I said the people were in Kono. And he said, "Well, I will only
22 allow you to pass the night here today and the following morning
23 you should - the helicopter will take you to Foya. And then when
24 you transfer the people to Foya I will send helicopter to pick
10:50:24 25 the people up and bring them to Monrovia." But I told him that
26 my major problem at that time now was diesel, so he gave me
27 \$5,000 US. That was what Mr Taylor told me, but he did not ask
28 me anything about the situation or condition of Mr Sankoh in
29 Freetown. He did not ask me such.

1 Q. Well --

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, I think I know what the
3 witness means but he seems to have fallen short of stating what
4 it was that Mr Taylor was interested in. He said this was a big
10:50:57 5 disappointment on the part of Mr Sankoh. What is he referring to
6 there?

7 MR GRIFFITHS:

8 Q. What was a big disappointment on the part of Mr Sankoh,
9 Mr Sesay?

10:51:09 10 A. He said because they had all gone, sat down and signed the
11 Lome Accord and if Mr Sankoh came back and decided to put up such
12 a behaviour, he said then this was a disappointment to him and
13 even other guarantors to the Lome Accord.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Sesay, you don't understand what I'm
10:51:31 15 asking. What behaviour are you referring to of Mr Sankoh? What
16 behaviour?

17 THE WITNESS: About the capture of the UNAMSIL, ma'am.

18 MR GRIFFITHS:

19 Q. Now, it goes on and I need to ask you these details,
10:51:49 20 Mr Sesay. Page 15131, line 2:

21 "Thereafter he" - that being Charles Taylor - "asked if
22 they knew about any British military observers that were arrested
23 in some part of Sierra Leone and the same person replied, said
24 yes, that he knew about a British military observer, but he had
10:52:15 25 been handed over to the Indian UNAMSIL contingent who were in
26 Kailahun."

27 Line 17:

28 "So he" - that being Charles Taylor - "said that you have
29 done a great mistake. You have made a great mistake. You would

1 have held on to that man and use him as a --"

2 Line 26:

3 "He would have been used as a bargain chip - as a
4 bargaining chip for Foday Sankoh to be released because he said
10:52:50 5 he saw the way the man was received at the airport in England, he
6 said he was received with flowers at the airport."

7 Now, do you understand what was being said to these judges
8 by this witness, Mr Sesay? That you were told - you were
9 admonished by Mr Taylor for having released some British military
10:53:20 10 observers whom you should have held on to and used as a
11 bargaining chip for the release of Foday Sankoh. First of all,
12 did you have such a conversation with Charles Taylor?

13 A. No, Mr Taylor never told me that. I did not have such a
14 conversation with him.

10:53:47 15 Q. Have you ever had such a conversation with Charles Taylor?

16 A. No.

17 Q. At the time when you went, having been summoned by Charles
18 Taylor to Monrovia regarding the release of the UNAMSIL
19 personnel, did the RUF have in their custody, or had they
10:54:14 20 recently had in their custody, any British military observers?

21 A. Yes. Before Mr Taylor invited me, when the capture of the
22 UNAMSIL took place in Makeni, the commanders in Kailahun also
23 arrested the military observers, and amongst them was a British
24 man. But the chiefs in Kailahun told the commanders and those
10:54:46 25 were their children, they said oh, they will not accept this kind
26 of thing to happen, they will not agree for this to happen. So
27 they said they should release the military observers because they
28 said they had heard the government's helicopter gunship had
29 started bombarding Makeni, so they wouldn't want to be bombarded

1 in Kailahun too, so they pleaded with the commanders in Kailahun
2 to release the military observers and, indeed, they released
3 them. And the military observers went and joined the Indian
4 contingent that was based in Kailahun. That happened and it took
10:55:23 5 up to a week or two that Mr Taylor invited me to go to Monrovia,
6 and I passed through Kailahun to go to Monrovia.

7 Q. So had the British military observer been arrested and
8 released before you arrived in Monrovia?

9 A. Yes. About two weeks before I left for Monrovia.

10:55:47 10 Q. But look at the detail being given by this witness,
11 Mr Sesay. Are you sure you're telling us the truth about this,
12 Mr Sesay? Because the witness goes on to say that Mr Taylor told
13 you how the man had been received with flowers. I guess like the
14 Lockerbie bomber who was received back in Libya with flowers at
10:56:17 15 the airport. And that, line 9 on page 15132, Mr Taylor had seen
16 it on CNN. Are you saying this witness has made up all those
17 details, Mr Sesay?

18 A. Yes. It's a lie, because the only time that Mr Taylor and
19 I discussed about the UNAMSIL was when he invited me for the
10:56:46 20 release of the UNAMSIL. That was in late May 2000. From that
21 point, and even in the meeting with the ECOWAS, we did not
22 discuss anything about the release of the UNAMSIL, nor did it
23 happen in the July or the August meetings, no.

24 Q. Page 15132, line 13:

10:57:11 25 "And he - that being Charles Taylor - "said, okay, that one
26 is past now, it's gone. And he advised that Issa" - that's
27 you - "should take care of the ground. He should maintain
28 the ground until Foday Sankoh returned, and he said Foday
29 Sankoh was too old for him to be arrested severally. He

1 was arrested in Sierra Leone, later in Nigeria, now again
2 in Sierra Leone, that the man was too stubborn, the man was
3 stubborn. Issa said the UNAMSIL and other pro-government
4 forces were still attacking him but he hadn't any
10:57:58 5 materials. So he had told him to appoint one person to go
6 with Joe Tuah."

7 Now, did you have any discussion with Mr Taylor regarding
8 materials during that visit to Monrovia in late May?

9 A. No. Mr Taylor and I never had such a discussion.

10:58:42 10 Q. In late May of 2000, Mr Sesay, was the RUF in need of war
11 materials?

12 A. Yes, because at this time the government troops had started
13 attacking us, the Kamajors, the AFRC, and the helicopter gunship,
14 it was attacking.

10:59:12 15 Q. And did you obtain material --

16 JUDGE DOHERTY: Excuse me, Mr Griffiths, the witness has
17 said that Kamajors, the government troops and the AFRC and the
18 helicopter gunships were attacking. Does the witness mean that
19 the AFRC had joined with the Kamajors, the government troops,
10:59:34 20 et cetera, to attack the RUF?

21 MR GRIFFITHS:

22 Q. Mr Sesay, was the RUF - AFRC involved in attacking the RUF
23 at that time?

24 A. Yes. At that time, they had joined the government.

10:59:49 25 Q. Which part of the AFRC?

26 A. The West Side.

27 Q. And where were the West Side attacking the RUF?

28 A. In Lunsar.

29 Q. And who was the RUF commander in Lunsar at that time?

1 A. Melusky Kallon.

2 Q. How do you spell the first name, please?

3 A. I think it's M-E-L-U-S-K-Y.

4 Q. Can we go over the page to page 15133, please. Madam

11:00:45 5 President, I note the time, and I won't be able to conclude this
6 chapter in 30 seconds.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. We will take the midmorning
8 break now and reconvene at half past 11.

9 [Break taken at 11.00 a.m.]

11:27:04 10 [Upon resuming at 11.31 a.m.]

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please continue, Mr Griffiths.

12 MR GRIFFITHS:

13 Q. Mr Sesay, before the short adjournment we were looking at
14 certain testimony regarding a visit you allegedly made to

11:31:34 15 Monrovia shortly after the arrest of Foday Sankoh, when you were
16 asked to take with you someone who could recount the details of
17 Sankoh's arrest. And I am going on now to page 15133 of the
18 transcript of 1 September 2008. Line 5:

19 "Q. Who told who to appoint one person to go with Joe
11:32:13 20 Tuah?

21 A. Charles Taylor told Issa to appoint one person to go
22 with Joe Tuah.

23 Q. And just so we are perfectly clear for the record, you
24 have been talking - you've been talking about Issa. Issa,
11:32:30 25 what is Issa's last name?

26 A. Issa Sesay.

27 Q. Who was Joe Tuah?

28 A. Joe Tuah, I know him and saw him with Charles Taylor in
29 Monrovia that night when we went there.

1 Q. Who is Joe Tuah?

2 A. Joe Tuah was a Liberian who I knew was with Charles
3 Taylor.

4 Q. Where were they to go?

11:32:55 5 A. They were to go to Belle Fassama to receive materials,
6 they will be able to take that."

7 Over the page, please, 15134, line 10:

8 Q. Belle Fassama was in - was between Gbarnga and Zorzor."
9 Mr Sesay, do you know of a place Belle Fassama?

11:33:36 10 A. No, I don't know this place.

11 Q. "A. It's under Zorzor. The people who were there, they
12 were working there under the commander that was in Zorzor?"

13 Q. And what are these materials that they were to get from
14 Belle Fassama?

11:33:59 15 A. It was for Issa to take them.

16 Q. And what kind of materials are we talking about?

17 A. AK-47 rounds, G2, G3 rounds, RPG rockets and some
18 rifles.

19 Q. So after Charles Taylor told Issa to appoint someone to
11:34:19 20 go with Joe Tuah, what happened then?

21 A. So Issa appointed somebody and the person joined Joe
22 Tuah and all of them went.

23 Q. And where did they go?

24 A. They went to Belle Fassama.

11:34:41 25 Q. How did they travel there?

26 A. They travelled from Monrovia direct to Gbarnga and
27 Zorzor and from Zorzor they went to Belle Fassama.

28 Q. And what kind of transportation did they use?"

29 Next page:

1 "A. When he was going, he used a Hilux, but when he
2 receive the materials, they were put into a truck, and they
3 brought them.

11:35:11

4 Q. Now when you say when he was going he used a Hilux, who
5 are you talking about?

6 A. When Joe Tuah and the person who was appointed were
7 going, they used a Hilux from Monrovia, but when they
8 received the materials, when they were coming back, the
9 materials were put into a truck to be brought to Monrovia.

11:35:30

10 Q. And what size truck were the materials put into?

11 A. It was an eight-tyred truck."

12 Line 21:

13 "Q. Can you tell us the quantity of materials that were
14 retrieved from Belle Fassama?

11:35:46

15 A. The materials were many, but I wouldn't tell the exact
16 quantity now, but it was much.

17 Q. What happened once the materials arrived in Monrovia?

18 A. When they went with it, the person who Issa appointed
19 was left on the ground. He stayed there, and from there
20 Joe Tuah proceeded to the mansion ground with the truck.

11:36:07

21 Q. And when you say this person appointed by Issa was left
22 on the ground, what do you mean? Where were they left?

23 A. At the lodge in Congo Town, the lodge that was there
24 for the RUF.

11:36:32

25 Q. And you said that Joe Tuah went to the mansion ground
26 with the truck. Again, what do you mean by the mansion
27 ground?

28 A. The Executive Mansion ground where Charles Taylor was.
29 From there, the next morning, when they were taken from the

1 Weasua airport, they took them to the Weasua airport and
2 they met the materials, had already been loaded in the
3 chopper and they went to Foya.

11:37:04

4 Q. And what kind of chopper was this that went from
5 Monrovia to Foya?

6 A. Weasua.

7 Q. And what happened once the materials arrived in Foya?

11:37:19

8 A. They were off-loaded. Some were taken to Sierra Leone
9 to Kono, Koidu Town, where Issa was based, and some were
10 stored in Foya. And later they came for the remaining, and
11 it was divided. Some stayed in Foya that was used there,
12 and the remaining was taken to Kono again."

13 Now, Mr Sesay, first of all, who was it that you appointed
14 to go with Joe Tuah to Belle Fassama?

11:37:52

15 A. I never appointed anybody to go with Joe Tuah to a place
16 called Belle Fassama, no. And Belle Fassama, this is my first
17 time to hear this kind of name, this place name.

18 Q. Now, Mr Sesay, Weasua, the airline, is that a military
19 company?

11:38:27

20 A. No. It is a civilian one, a civilian company.

21 Q. Now, did you or any other RUF commander transport war
22 materials on a Weasua, a civilian helicopter, back to Foya?

23 A. No. That never happened.

11:39:04

24 Q. Well, this witness told these judges that it did and that
25 you were involved in the shipment of those war materials on a
26 civilian helicopter from Monrovia to Foya. Now, help us,
27 Mr Sesay: When and why did you do that? Let's start with the
28 when. When did you do that?

29 A. Well, I never did that so I don't know. That never

1 happened.

2 Q. So was this individual telling these judges the truth about
3 this incident?

4 A. No. That is not a true story.

11:39:48 5 Q. Another detail about this, about which I seek your
6 assistance, help me: Did the RUF have an arms dump in Foya?

7 A. No. RUF never had an arms dump in Foya, never.

8 Q. I ask for this reason, you see - page 15136, line 18: "They
9 were off-loaded. Some were taken to Sierra Leone, to Kono, Koidu
11:40:25 10 Town, where Issa was based, and some were stored in Foya. And
11 later they came for the remaining and it was divided. Some
12 stayed in Foya that was used there."

13 So help me: What did the RUF use the war materials which
14 were stored in Foya, what did they use them for? Sometime after
11:40:57 15 May 2000, what did the RUF use the war materials transported from
16 Monrovia to Foya, what did they use them for in Foya?

17 A. Well, I did not transport any ammunition that I stored in
18 Foya and no ammunition was transported from Monrovia to Foya
19 during and after the release of the UNAMSIL personnel. In fact,
11:41:26 20 even when the government troops and the AFRC used to attack
21 Lunsar from late May, June, July, we did not have light
22 ammunition, minus the one that they captured from UNAMSIL, we did
23 not have any light weapons. That was the reason - that was the
24 reasons I --

11:41:53 25 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness repeat this
26 last part of his answer kindly.

27 MR GRIFFITHS:

28 Q. That is why you did what?

29 A. I said because during the fight between the government

1 troops and the AFRC, on the one side, against the RUF on the
2 other, around June/July, that is why I sent one of the tanks that
3 we captured from the ECOMOG because there were many rockets in
4 Kono, that's why they used to fight in Lunsar, because we did not
11:42:27 5 have ammunition for AK rounds at that time.

6 Q. Mr Sesay, I think something has been missed in the
7 translation. Where you said, "That was why I sent for one of the
8 tanks that we captured from the ECOMOG" and then you went on to
9 say something about rockets, what rockets were they?

11:42:52 10 A. The rockets for the tanks because we captured many of those
11 in December '98 that filled the house. Those are the rockets
12 that we used during the fight between us and the government
13 troops between June and July.

14 Q. And were those rockets for use in tanks?

11:43:15 15 A. Yes. It was only the tank that used them.

16 Q. Let's go back to page 15136. Now, you claim not to know
17 anything about this RUF arms dump in Foya, Mr Sesay, but I want
18 to have a look at line 23:

19 "Q. Where was it in Foya that this other material was
11:43:40 20 stored?

21 A. They had a ground there that was called Tamba Taylor
22 ground. There was a chief called Tamba Taylor who was in
23 Foya. His house was what was used as the ground."

24 Who is Tamba Taylor, Mr Sesay?

11:44:04 25 A. Tamba Taylor was the late paramount chief in Foya and
26 during this time, May, June, July and August, when I used to
27 visit Monrovia, one of his sons what the paramount chief and that
28 house was full of children and civilians. They were the ones in
29 that compound.

1 Q. How do you know?

2 A. Well, the compound is very close to the airfield and I used
3 to load opposite the compound where the commander was.

4 Q. And how well did you know this Tamba Taylor?

11:44:48 5 A. Well, that name was a well-known name. Even in 1992 when
6 the ULIMO captured Foya, Chief Tamba Taylor was on the border for
7 some time before he crossed into Guinea between the Sierra
8 Leone-Liberian border.

9 Q. What was his association with the RUF?

11:45:14 10 A. He had no connection with the RUF. It was only that the
11 area where RUF controlled was inhabited by the Kissi people and
12 across Liberia as well there were Kissi people.

13 Q. Have you been to Tamba Taylor's compound?

14 A. No. I used to be lodged opposite Tamba Taylor's compound,
11:45:49 15 while I be transited to Monrovia but I never stayed at the
16 chief's own house. But where I stayed was close to the field,
17 like, you look at the house and opposite there was Tamba Taylor's
18 house and nearby there was the field.

19 Q. Could you physically see Tamba Taylor's house from where
11:46:06 20 you were staying?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So when you say that there were children and such like
23 staying in that compound, was that something that you, Issa
24 Sesay, saw with your own eyes?

11:46:23 25 A. Yes. I saw that. I saw the compound because the compound
26 was not having any fence. It was open. If you are passing,
27 using the street, you can see straight into the yard, wherever
28 you be passing from the field, from the street you can see
29 straight into the yard. Many people were living there, including

1 the chief's family members.

2 Q. And are you sure it was not used as an arms dump, Tamba
3 Taylor's house?

4 A. No. I never used there as an ammo dump.

11:47:00 5 Q. Back to the same page please, line 27:

6 "Q. Now, the material that was taken back to Sierra Leone
7 in this instance, how was that material used in Sierra
8 Leone?

9 A. They used it to fight against the Kamajors and the
11:47:16 10 pro-government forces that were chasing Superman and
11 others, firstly from Freetown to Makeni. So they used them
12 against the Kamajors and those pro-government forces.

13 Q. Now, to your knowledge, after this trip to Monrovia to
14 talk about Foday Sankoh's arrest, did Issa Sesay go back
11:47:38 15 outside of Sierra Leone? Did he take any other trips
16 outside of Sierra Leone in 2000?

17 A. Yes."

18 Now, let's continue with this account. Let's go to page
19 15139, line 7:

11:48:44 20 "Q. Yesterday you testified about material that Joe
21 Tuah obtained from Belle Fassama" - and then the reference
22 is given. "Mr Witness" - line 10 - "you said that Belle Fassama
23 was under Zorzor, that the people were - there they were
24 working under the commander that was in Zorzor. Could you
11:49:11 25 tell the Court please to your knowledge what group was
26 in control in Zorzor.

27 A. It was the NPFL group that controlled Zorzor.

28 Q. And do you know the name of the commander who was at
29 Zorzor when this trip was made to obtain materials in 2000?

1 A. The overall commander who was there was Equaliser,
2 Fasu."

3 And then line 24:

4 "A. Junior Unati."

11:49:48 5 Now, first of all, in the year 2000, Mr Sesay, to your
6 knowledge was there NPFL in Zorzor, NPFL?

7 A. No, no. What I knew was that it was the AFL that was in
8 Lofa, not NPFL.

9 Q. And do you know of a commander in Zorzor called Equaliser?

11:50:19 10 A. No. I don't know that name, Equaliser. I don't know that
11 person.

12 Q. What about Junior Unati, line 28.

13 A. Junior Unati, he was one of the NPFL fighters and he was
14 the deputy commander to Christopher Varmoh, he was in - we were
11:50:45 15 in 1991. That is the name, Junior Unati.

16 Q. So Junior Unati was the deputy commander to Christopher
17 Varmoh - and that Varmoh is V-A-R-M-O-H - in 1991; is that right?

18 A. Yes, Kui va.

19 Q. And how do you know that?

11:51:13 20 A. I used to visit Kui va because during that time Morris
21 Kallon was the commander for the RUF in Kui va and there was the
22 NPFL group and there was the RUF group. Kallon was the commander
23 for the RUF and I used to go there at that time.

24 Q. Page 15140, line 12:

11:51:47 25 "Q. What group was it that was at Belle Fassama?

26 A. Belle Fassama was controlled by NPFL.

27 Q. To your knowledge, where at Belle Fassama were these
28 materials stored which Joe Tuah obtained from Belle
29 Fassama?

1 A. I did not get to Belle Fassama forest. I stopped at
2 Zorzor because I was not well that night.

3 Q. Did you ever learn why the materials were kept at
4 Belle Fassama?

11:52:25 5 A. I cannot tell you why the materials were taken from
6 Belle Fassama.

7 Q. How were these materials transported to Sierra Leone" -
8 line 25 - "we took it using helicopter and we took them to Foya
9 and whenever we were going to Foya there will bring our
10 --"

11:52:48 10 --"
11 Line 12, on the next page, please.

12 "When we will going to Foya we will go along with our
13 vehicles from Koidu to Foya and we will leave them there.

14 They will be airlifted to Monrovia so when we come back to
15 Foya we will put the materials in the vehicle that we have
16 brought and go with them in vehicles to Sierra Leone.

11:53:04 15 Foya we will put the materials in the vehicle that we have
16 brought and go with them in vehicles to Sierra Leone.
17 Q. Now, just to be clear, can you tell us in what month in
18 2000 this it trip occurred.

19 A. The first trip was in May that we brought materials.

11:53:28 20 Q. And again, Mr Witness, I want to remind you that we are
21 in open session. Now, Mr Witness, in 2000 did Issa travel
22 any other trips outside of Sierra Leone?"

23 And I want to close the chapter on this first trip. This
24 witness is being very clear, Mr Sesay. In May of 2000 you went
25 to Monrovia and returned carrying materials from Charles Taylor
26 which ended up in Sierra Leone. Is that true or false?

11:53:53 25 to Monrovia and returned carrying materials from Charles Taylor
26 which ended up in Sierra Leone. Is that true or false?
27 A. That is false. It's false. Mr Taylor did not give me any
28 war materials.

29 Q. In May of it 2000, Mr Sesay, how many trips did you make P

1 to Monrovia?

2 A. One trip. I made one trip in late May 2000.

3 Q. And for how long did you stay in Monrovia on that occasion?

11:54:39

4 A. I stayed there for one night and returned the following
5 day.

6 Q. Just to be sure. On the day of your arrival when did you
7 arrive in Monrovia?

8 A. I arrived in Monrovia around 1 o'clock.

9 Q. Is that 1 o'clock at night or when?

11:55:03

10 A. One in the afternoon.

11 Q. And when did you see Mr Taylor, the next day or when?

12 A. That very day; as we arrived, we landed in Spriggs Field
13 and I was driven straight to the guesthouse and - so the mansion.
14 It was around 2 o'clock that I saw Mr Taylor, 2 p.m.

11:55:35

15 Q. For how long did you see Mr Taylor?

16 A. For about 45 minutes to an hour, then he said I should be
17 taken back to the guesthouse and I should prepare myself to
18 travel the following day, that a helicopter should take me to
19 Foya so I should rush to go and bring those people from Kono.

11:56:00

20 Q. And who went with you to Monrovia on that trip?

21 A. Samuel Jabba went with me, Samuel Jabba who was my
22 adjutant. Musa Vandi - Samuel Jabba, Musa Vandi and Colonel
23 Lion, the three of them went with me.

24 Q. And when you went to see Mr Taylor, who went with you?

11:56:40

25 A. I went together with Lion.

26 Q. And when you actually entered the room in which you spoke
27 to Mr Taylor, who was present within that room as you spoke to
28 Mr Taylor?

29 A. Myself, Lion, Mr Taylor and one other man; he was a

1 security officer, but I don't recall his name.

2 Q. Was anybody else present within that room as you spoke to
3 Mr Taylor?

4 A. No, no other person was present.

11:57:19 5 Q. Was Joe Tuah in that room?

6 A. No, Joe Tuah wasn't there.

7 Q. What's Lion's real name?

8 A. I have forgotten his first name but his second name is
9 Blamoh.

11:57:39 10 Q. Is that B-L-A-M-O-H?

11 A. Yes, but if you look at the vanguards list, the list that
12 you showed to me, his name is among that list, he is on that
13 list. His second name is Blamoh.

14 Q. Other detail: After that meeting with Mr Taylor where did
11:58:06 15 you go that afternoon?

16 A. They brought me back to the guesthouse.

17 Q. And what did you do after you got back to the guesthouse?

18 A. I was at the guesthouse, I did not go anywhere. I passed
19 the night and the following morning I was taken to Spriggs Field
11:58:32 20 and boarded the helicopter to Sierra Leone.

21 Q. And at what time were you fetched to go to - to be taken to
22 Spriggs Field?

23 A. Around 9 in the morning.

24 Q. And from Spriggs Field where did you go?

11:58:53 25 A. We flew with the helicopter to Foya. That was a one-hour
26 flight.

27 Q. So what time did you arrive in Foya?

28 A. I was in Foya around 10 o'clock in the morning.

29 Q. Help me. Are you familiar enough with the geography of

1 Liberia to give us an idea as to the distance between Monrovia
2 and Zorzor?

3 A. Yes, especially - because we used to drive from Monrovia to
4 Kakata and to Gbarnga and from Gbarnga to Zorzor it's a very long
11:59:37 5 distance.

6 Q. Just give us an idea, Mr Sesay, given that you have done
7 this journey. How long does it take to drive from Monrovia to
8 Zorzor in a truck, just roughly?

9 A. Well, I cannot be specific regarding truck because I never
12:00:03 10 used the truck on that road. But what I do know is that it's a
11 very long distance, because even from Gbarnga to Saint Paul River
12 it's a very far distance and from Saint Paul River to Zorzor it's
13 another far distance.

14 Q. I am asking you for this reason, Mr Taylor - I mean
12:00:27 15 Mr Sesay: You see, you tell us you arrive at about 1 o'clock one
16 day and you leave 9 o'clock the next morning. Did you have time
17 during that period to send one of your men with Joe Tuah to a
18 forest near Zorzor to pick up a consignment of arms, bring them
19 back to Monrovia for loading on to a civilian helicopter to be
12:00:53 20 taken to Foya. Did you have time to do that?

21 A. No, I had no time to do that because at the time I went I
22 did not have any discussions with Mr Taylor concerning
23 ammunition. Mr Taylor's concern and focus was that he spoke to
24 me, he said the following morning they should take me back and I
12:01:15 25 should run fast enough to go back to Kono and make sure I bring
26 those people.

27 Q. Now listen to - now just remind us, Mr Sesay, how many
28 trips did you --

29 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, there seems to be an alarm

1 going on. I don't know if it's a fire alarm or so but it is
2 actually disturbing the microphone. We can't actually hear
3 anything.

12:01:43 4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Madam Court Manager, can we establish
5 what is going on, please.

6 MR GRIFFITHS: I think it has stopped.

7 MS IRURA: Your Honour, I am assured that it's a drill that
8 is normally conducted at the beginning of the month and it is
9 nothing that should raise our concern. We will be informed
12:02:15 10 further if it is something that is of alarm.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. In that case please continue,
12 Mr Griffiths.

13 MR GRIFFITHS:

14 Q. Mr Sesay, before we were interrupted I was going to ask you
12:02:34 15 this: How many trips did you make to Monrovia in May 2000?

16 A. One trip in late May.

17 Q. Are you telling us the truth about that, Mr Sesay?

18 A. Honestly speaking, yes.

19 Q. Let's go back to that same page:

12:03:03 20 "Q. When was the next trip that he" - that's you - "made
21 outside of Sierra Leone?

22 A. It was at the end of May."

23 You made two trips to Monrovia in May 2000, didn't you?

24 A. No, no, no. I made one trip and the one trip was about the
12:03:30 25 release of the UNAMSIL.

26 Q. Well, Mr Sesay, can you help us as to why someone has told
27 this Court - what motive would someone have to tell this Court
28 that you went to Monrovia twice in May 2000?

29 A. Well, this is an event that did not take place. This is a

1 lie. It is a made-up story. And amongst our RUF people I know
2 that they had seen the Special Court as a place they could make
3 money. So any one of them could make up stories and just tell
4 lies. This was not a hidden thing. Because most of the RUF who
12:04:23 5 used to visit me at the detention, they used to tell me that.

6 Q. "It was at the end of May. Where did he go?" Over the
7 page:

8 "A. He went to Liberia, Monrovia.

9 Q. And why did he go there?

12:04:42 10 A. According to him, he went there because Charles Taylor
11 had invited him to discuss how to be able to release the
12 United Nations peacekeepers."

13 So what this person is telling the Court is: First visit
14 in May is to find out what happened to Foday Sankoh; the second
12:05:06 15 visit in May is in relation to the peacekeepers. Do you follow
16 that, Mr Sesay?

17 A. Yes, I follow.

18 Q. "Q. How did he travel to Monrovia?"

19 A. He used the vehicle from Koidu to Foya and from Foya he
12:05:26 20 flew using helicopter to Monrovia.

21 Q. And do you know what kind of helicopter he used?

22 A. It was the same Weasua helicopter he had used.

23 Q. And what happened when Issa Sesay arrived in Monrovia?"
24 Over the page, line 11:

12:05:50 25 "A. He arrived in Monrovia because he said Charles Taylor
26 had invited him to negotiate the release of the UN
27 peacekeepers and when he got there, Benjamin Yeaten picked
28 him up and took him to Congo Town guesthouse.

29 Q. And just to be clear, what guesthouse are you talking

1 of?

2 A. We had a guesthouse in Congo Town that was rented by
3 Charles Taylor for the leader who would come from the peace
4 accord.

12:06:19 5 Q. And what happened after Issa Sesay arrived at this
6 guesthouse?

7 A. It was at night, around 10 to 11 that Benjamin Yeaten
8 came to receive him and took him to Charles Taylor at the
9 Executive Mansion, Charles Taylor's place."

12:06:39 10 Now this is the second time you are said at night, between
11 the hours of 10 and 11, to have been taken by Benjamin Yeaten to
12 the Executive Mansion. Is there any truth in any of this,
13 Mr Sesay?

14 A. This is not a true story. It is not a true story. And in
12:07:03 15 fact, I was unable to use vehicle from Kono to cross the Moa
16 River. Normally what I did, I will use vehicle --

17 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, could the witness be asked
18 to slow down.

19 MR GRIFFITHS:

12:07:19 20 Q. Start again, Mr Sesay. Start right from the start and
21 let's have your answer very slowly so that we don't miss a word
22 of it. What were you saying?

23 A. I said this witness is lying because I went to Monrovia
24 once and that was about the release of the UNAMSIL. I did not go
12:07:44 25 there on two occasions. And even the vehicle that the witness is
26 saying I was driving the vehicle from Kono and I crossed the Moa
27 River to go to Foya, that was a lie, because in 2000 there was no
28 ferry to cross a vehicle. So if I drove from Kono I will leave
29 the vehicle at Manowa and then I would use a canoe and cross.

1 And at the time I would be leaving Kono I would tell the
2 commander that - in Kailahun to bring a pick-up to pick me up.
3 And that was the pick-up I used from the border - from there,
4 from Manowa to go to the borderline in Foya. So the first time
12:08:27 5 Mr Taylor invited me and the first time I sat with him to discuss
6 with him, it was all about the release of the UNAMSIL. It was
7 not about Mr Sankoh's condition in Freetown. That is a black
8 lie.

9 Q. Now on the occasion that you went to Monrovia to discuss
12:08:48 10 the release of the UNAMSIL peacekeepers, which is the account
11 that the witness is now giving to the judges, by what means did
12 you travel to Monrovia?

13 A. Oh, I travelled - you mean about the release of the
14 UNAMSIL? I travelled from Makeni because I was in Makeni when I
12:09:24 15 got the information from the commander in Pendembu, Denis
16 Lansana, who sent the message. So I travelled to Kono. From
17 Kono I drove to the Moa River at Manowa where I left my vehicle
18 and I crossed together with Lion and others on the canoe and then
19 we used the pick-up and went to Foya through Kailahun Town, Buedu
12:09:47 20 and then we went to Foya. That was how I travelled. When we
21 arrived at Foya I went to the commander and the commander called
22 Monrovia and the helicopter collected me, an ATU helicopter, to
23 Monrovia.

24 Q. Thank you. Page 15144, line 1:

12:10:10 25 "Q. What happened when Issa Sesay arrived to meet with
26 Charles Taylor?

27 A. They discussed the release of the United Nations
28 peacekeepers, those they had arrested.

29 Q. And what was that discussion?

1 A. Charles Taylor said that the United Nations was after
2 him to talk to the RUF to release the UN peacekeepers. He
3 said because he had even been promised that if he
4 spearheaded the release of the UN peacekeepers he would be
12:10:50 5 made the ECOWAS chairman.

6 Q. And what else was discussed during this meeting?

7 A. He discussed that he should help to release the UN
8 peacekeepers that he had under - that he had with him, that
9 was Issa, and so if Issa released him, he will had help
12:11:13 10 Issa in the struggle. He said he would help him by - with
11 anything that he asked for because he had been promised to
12 become the ECOWAS chairman.

13 Q. And what happened after this - that discussion?

14 A. After the discussion, Issa accepted, and from there he
12:11:37 15 went back to his lodge where he was in Congo Town, and when
16 he got there he had a radio, the HVS radio that he had with
17 him. He communicated directly at the base, telling them to
18 prepare the Zambian peacekeepers and bring them to the
19 riverside.

12:11:59 20 Q. And what happened after that?

21 A. After that, the following day, he himself got into the
22 helicopter and flew to Foya, and he was in Foya, himself
23 and Benjamin Yeaten, and sent someone to go and receive the
24 first convoy in Pendembu, Manowa crossing point, and bring
12:12:22 25 them to Foya.

26 Q. Now when Issa Sesay travelled in this helicopter to
27 Foya, did he take anything with him?

28 A. He did not go with anything.

29 Q. Now what happened after those peacekeepers were - the

1 Zambians were brought to Foya?

2 A. When they were brought to Foya, they were - they
3 airlifted them to Monrovia to meet with Charles Taylor.

4 Q. And what did Issa Sesay do after that?

12:12:51 5 A. After that, he crossed back into Sierra Leone.

6 Q. When Issa Sesay went from Foya back into Sierra Leone,
7 did he take anything with him?

8 A. He did not take anything."

9 Let's look at this second trip and let's concentrate on the
12:13:09 10 part dealing with the discussion you have with Charles Taylor.

11 So let's return to page 15144. Did Charles Taylor, when you
12 discussed with him, or when he discussed with you, the release of
13 the UN peacekeepers, did he make - did he suggest that his
14 appointment as ECOWAS chairman was dependent upon that outcome?

12:13:48 15 A. No. He did not tell me that.

16 Q. Did he promise you that in return for their release, he
17 would help you in the struggle?

18 A. No. He did not make any promise to me.

19 Q. The discussion you had with Charles Taylor regarding the
12:14:11 20 release of the UN peacekeepers, was it in the nature of a
21 bargain: If you do this, I will do this in return?

22 A. No, no. It was not a negotiation, nor was it a bargain.
23 We did not bargain on anything.

24 Q. So if it wasn't a discussion or a bargain, you use a word
12:14:41 25 which is familiar with you to describe what actually went on.

26 A. Yes. I said it was not a bargain and it was not a
27 negotiation to say when I give you this, you will give me that,
28 to say there were preconditions put down for the release of the
29 UNAMSIL, no.

1 Q. So what was it, Mr Sesay? Were you given an option?

2 A. Well, when I went, the way Mr Taylor spoke to me, because
3 that was my first time meeting him, and the way he spoke to me, I
4 knew that he was - he was not happy as he was speaking because he
12:15:31 5 looked very serious, and he told me that he had got money from
6 his colleague ECOWAS leaders, that he should help for the release
7 of the UNAMSIL. And the way he was talking to me, he was saying
8 that this is the worst mistake Mr Sankoh has ever done in his
9 life and this will not be good, he said because the thing has

12:15:57 10 brought the Lome - even the Lome Accord into a problem, and he
11 even went to the extent and said that, "Do you think you can
12 fight the UN?" He said, "This is not in your interest." He
13 said, "So where are the people?" I said the people were in Kono,
14 and he said, "Well, I will only allow you to pass the night here,
12:16:14 15 and tomorrow morning you go back and bring them." So, for me, he
16 brought the understanding to me that we cannot fight the UN and
17 holding on to the UN personnel would be a problem for the RUF.
18 That was what I understood from the discussion that I had with
19 him.

12:16:31 20 Q. Now, did you understand from that discussion that you had
21 any other option but to release the peacekeepers?

22 A. Yes. I had no other option but to release the
23 peacekeepers, because I, too, I was avoiding further problems.

24 Q. Page 15145, let's go back to the testimony of this witness
12:17:03 25 please, line 14:

26 "Q. Did Issa travel outside of Sierra Leone at any other
27 time?"

28 Now remember, this witness has already described two trips
29 in May; do you follow this, Mr Sesay?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. This is trip number three.

3 "Q. Did Issa Sesay travel outside of Sierra Leone at any
4 other time in 2000?

12:17:32 5 A. Yes. In 2000 July, he travelled to Liberia again.

6 Q. And to what location in Liberia did he travel?

7 A. He came to Monrovia.

8 Q. Why did he travel to Monrovia in July 2000?

9 A. Well, sometime in July, while we were in Koidu Town,
12:17:58 10 Charles Taylor invited Issa Sesay to go with the
11 delegation. He said that they had an occasion in Liberia
12 so they should go and celebrate the occasion. So Issa went
13 with his delegation to meet him.

14 Q. How did Issa and his delegation travel to Monrovia?"

12:18:22 15 Before we get to the travel arrangements, what was it that
16 you were being invited to go to Monrovia to celebrate, Mr Sesay
17 in July 2000?

18 A. Mr Taylor invited me to Monrovia to go with the delegation
19 to meet with the ECOWAS leaders, and there were five Heads of
12:18:48 20 States, in late July of 2000. It was not for a celebration.

21 Q. Yet, but look, the witness is quite clear: "They had an
22 occasion in Liberia". So there is something going on in Liberia,
23 and you were being invited by the Head of State of Liberia to go
24 there to celebrate it. So help us: What was the event you were
12:19:13 25 going to celebrate?

26 A. I said I did not go there for any celebration, and
27 Mr Taylor did not invite me to any celebration. Mr Taylor
28 invited me to go and have a meeting with the ECOWAS leaders about
29 the replacement of Mr Sankoh's leadership. That was the reason

1 for which they called me.

2 Q. Okay. Now just to backtrack a little bit before we go into
3 the details of this trip, when you went to Liberia to discuss the
4 release of the UNAMSIL personnel, were you going there because

12:20:00 5 Mr Taylor was your boss?

6 A. No. Mr Taylor was not my boss. My boss was Mr Foday
7 Sankoh.

8 Q. And when you said that you felt you had no option but to
9 release the peacekeepers, was that because you had received

12:20:17 10 orders from your boss and you had felt compelled to follow them?

11 A. No, that is not what I meant. I think - last week or week
12 before last, I testified telling this Court - I informed this
13 Court that - I said after the capture of the UNAMSIL, nobody
14 contacted me with regards the release of the UNAMSIL, and that

12:20:48 15 even if any other person had contacted me for the release of the
16 UNAMSIL, I wouldn't have had any other option but to release the
17 UNAMSIL. That is what I meant.

18 Q. I want to be clear about this, Mr Sesay, because - was it
19 the case that you were there like a boy, just accepting an order
20 from your superior, your boss, and you felt "I've got to do what
21 my boss tells me to do"? Was that the situation?

12:21:11 22 A. No. That is not the situation. That is not the situation.
23 I never worked with Mr Taylor before, I never took instruction
24 from him, and that was the first time of him speaking to me. So
12:21:37 25 I did not look at it that way, saying that I was taking
26 instruction from my boss, no.

27 Q. Well, just explain your own mental processes, then. Why
28 did you, Issa Sesay, decide that releasing the UN personnel was
29 the thing to do? Why? Just explain what was going through your

1 mind.

2 A. Well, one, I was the field commander. And the figure of
3 the UN who had been captured was many. I was thinking about
4 their feeding, I was thinking about their medication. And at the
12:22:19 5 initial stage when Mr Sankoh planned this thing, I had advised
6 him that this thing would not be in the interests of him, nor
7 would it be in the interests of the RUF. So he got annoyed with
8 me. So I did not support the idea of capturing these people,
9 when I knew that they were peacekeepers, because I knew that the
12:22:40 10 problem was between Mr Sankoh and General Jetley, who was the
11 force commander. So keeping hold on those people was not good,
12 and that meant that we should expect attacks and the peace accord
13 will have been thrown into the dustbin, and what I could have
14 done about their feeding, their medication, these were all
12:23:04 15 worries for me. So when Mr Taylor invited me and asked me for
16 their release, I was fully aware that Mr Sankoh had been arrested
17 in Freetown. If I, too, had said, "Look, I am not going to
18 release these people until they release Mr Sankoh," I could have
19 done that also. If I had said that that was what I was going to
12:23:24 20 do, Mr Taylor would not have forced me because I would have left
21 Liberia and come back to Kailahun. He wouldn't have done
22 anything whatsoever to me. But that is what I thought to do. In
23 fact, when he invited me and the - when he called me at one time
24 about the return of Sam Bockarie, I told him, I said, "Look, Sam
12:23:48 25 Bockarie - the problem between Sam Bockarie and the RUF is not
26 our problem, ourselves or other commanders. He has problem with
27 Mr Sankoh." Mr Taylor did not force me that Sam Bockarie must
28 come, by all means. It was a request that he made. And I told
29 him clearly that the problem with Bockarie is between him and

1 Mr Sankoh and not us. So when I told him, that was the end of
2 it. So that did not show any sign that I was taking any
3 instructions from him.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Can I seek one clarification from
12:24:20 5 Mr Sesay? Mr Sesay, if you say that you were of the view that it
6 was wrong to continue detaining these UNAMSIL personnel, why did
7 you wait to release them? Why did you wait for Mr Taylor to
8 speak to you? Why didn't you release them before Mr Taylor spoke
9 to you?

12:24:42 10 WITNESS: Well, my Lord, the capture of a UNAMSIL was an
11 order from Mr Sankoh. So I wouldn't have just decided within the
12 RUF to say I was going to release them. The RUF wouldn't have
13 accepted that from me. But had any other person contacted me,
14 even if it was not Mr Taylor, I would have said, "Oh, I have
12:25:04 15 somewhere to lean on to say, oh, yes, somebody has contacted me
16 for the release of these people," so I would have released the
17 people, but I wouldn't have just stood there against Mr Sankoh's
18 orders without hearing anything from Mr Sankoh and other people
19 within.

12:25:20 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Wait. But I thought you told this Court
21 that when Mr Taylor gave you these orders, you didn't consult any
22 RUF back at home before you released the UNAMSIL personnel.
23 Isn't that correct?

24 THE WITNESS: My Lord, I think I recall that I said that I
12:25:40 25 told Morris Kallon. When I returned from Monrovia to Kono, I
26 sent a message to Morris Kallon in Makeni and even Kamara whom I
27 sent to buy the diesel, I gave him a message.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. Please proceed.

29 MR GRIFFITHS:

1 Q. On that same note, Mr Sesay, in respect of the learned
2 judge's question you said this: "I wouldn't have just decided
3 within the RUF to say I was going to release them. The RUF would
4 not have accepted that from me, but had any other person
12:26:20 5 contacted me other than Mr Taylor" - any person other than
6 Mr Taylor like who.

7 A. Like even within amongst the UNAMSIL authorities. Yes,
8 amongst the UNAMSIL authorities. Had the UNAMSIL authorities
9 made any moves to contact me I would have responded to them. For
12:26:45 10 example, when General Opande sent Muckson, who was at Mile 91, to
11 say that he wanted to have a meeting with me who had the project
12 --

13 Q. Pause. Before we lose sight of it, give me that name
14 again?

12:27:04 15 A. Muckson.

16 Q. How do you spell that, do you know?

17 A. M-U-C-K-S-O-N.

18 Q. Now go on. You were saying "for when he sent Muckson". Go
19 on.

12:27:18 20 A. Yes. I said when General Opande wanted to contact me and
21 have a meeting with me, he came from Freetown to Mile 91 and he
22 met Muckson there who was heading an organisation called OPARD.
23 He gave him a message. He asked him whether they would travel to
24 Magburaka. He said yes. He said, "Civilians sometimes come here
12:27:42 25 to buy goods and go back to Magburaka. They come and buy Hondas
26 and bicycles." And he said, "Okay, I want to give you a message
27 for Issa. Will you give him the message?" He said yes. And
28 when Muckson came he gave me the message that General Opande
29 wanted to talk with me.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please remember to slow down, Mr Sesay.
2 Somebody is trying very hard to write what you're saying at the
3 speed at which you speak.

4 MR GRIFFITHS:

12:28:08 5 Q. Mr Sesay, before you pick up with your answer, what was the
6 name of the organisation for which Muckson worked?

7 A. OPARD.

8 Q. How do you spell that?

9 A. O-P-A-D [sic].

12:28:24 10 Q. And can you help us as to what that stands for?

11 A. No, no.

12 Q. But, in any event, you were saying: Can you give me the
13 message that General Opande wanted to talk with me. And did you
14 receive that message?

12:28:42 15 A. Yes. I received the message.

16 Q. And, having received that message, what did you do?

17 A. Well, I responded to Muckson and I told him that I welcomed
18 the idea and I told him to ask General Opande to give a date.

19 And I said, in fact, I - should I suggest a meeting, I welcome

12:29:05 20 the idea and I would like to meet with General Opande between
21 Magburaka and Mile 91 at the buffer zone. And I said I would
22 like General Opande to give us the dates for holding the meeting.

23 Q. And did you in due course attend that meeting?

24 A. Yes. Upon the message that I received and the dates that

12:29:30 25 General Opande suggested, I made myself available together with
26 other commanders at the Ferry Junction where we met and had the
27 meeting with General Opande. And after that meeting the United
28 Nations redeployed in the RUF-controlled areas and the peace
29 process forged ahead.

1 Q. Now one further question.

2 JUDGE DOHERTY: Mr Griffiths, is this an example of a
3 meeting with the UN or is this pertinent to the UNAMSIL personnel
4 who were detained?

12:30:02 5 MR GRIFFITHS: My understanding was the former, but I will
6 clarify it.

7 Q. Mr Sesay, why are you telling us about this particular
8 instance of you meeting with General Opande?

9 A. Well, I am just showing a reason, saying that even if they
12:30:19 10 within the UN had contacted me I would have made myself
11 available. And if any other person could have contacted me about
12 the release of the UNAMSIL, I would have made myself available.
13 That is what I mean.

14 Q. And one other matter flowing from the Learned President's
12:30:40 15 question: Was Charles Taylor's advice following that meeting in
16 Monrovia of assistance to you within the RUF?

17 A. No. Mr Taylor did not help us. The only thing I know was
18 that what they told me to do as ECOWAS leaders in respect of the
19 Lome Peace Accord was what I did. He personally did not do any
12:31:09 20 other thing for the RUF. He did not even make any promises to
21 the RUF through me, no.

22 Q. Can we go back to the transcript please, page 15145, line
23 21:

24 "He said they had an occasion in Liberia so they should
12:31:31 25 go and celebrate that occasion. So Issa went with his
26 delegation to meet him.

27 Q. How did Issa and his delegation travel to Monrovia?

28 A. They took a vehicle from Koidu Town and travelled to
29 Foya and from Foya they were airlifted to Monrovia.

1 Q. And you said they were airlifted. What type of
2 aircraft was used to airlift them?

3 A. It was Weasua that took them.

12:32:11

4 Q. And what happened when Issa and his delegation arrived
5 in Monrovia?

6 A. When Issa and his delegation arrived in Monrovia, I can
7 still recall the date, July 26th. When they arrived there,
8 around 4 o'clock, they were taken to the Executive Mansion,
9 sixth floor, to Charles Taylor. When they went there they
10 met other four Heads of State and Charles Taylor at the
11 mansion ground. When they went there they met other four
12 Heads of State and Charles Taylor at the mansion ground.

12:32:37

13 Q. And who were these other four Heads of State who were
14 with Charles Taylor at the mansion ground?

12:33:06

15 A. They met Obasanjo who was the former President of
16 Nigeria, and we had Eyadema, Yahya Jammeh, and they had
17 also met Oumar Konare who they said was the Malian
18 President."

19 Line 24:

12:33:32

20 "Q. And what happened at this meeting?

21 A. When they entered the place, Charles Taylor welcomed
22 them and introduced Issa's delegation to other delegation
23 who had been there already. The four Presidents that he
24 invited Issa's delegation - he invited everybody to come
25 and celebrate that occasion and to change the RUF

12:33:58

26 leadership."

27 Over the page:

28 "Q. And what happened then?

29 A. From there the Nigerian President Obasanjo was the

1 first person to talk to the delegation.

2 Q. And what did he say?

3 A. He also thanked the delegation that had come from the
4 RUF end and told them that they were to continue with the
12:34:25 5 good relationship that they had with Charles Taylor. He
6 said because Charles Taylor was doing good things to them.
7 And he continued saying that Charles Taylor was a good
8 leader. If Africa could only get 10 of his type then the
9 unity Africa is fighting for, they will be able to achieve
12:34:49 10 it.

11 Q. What happened after that?

12 A. After that Oumar Konare spoke but he spoke in French
13 that I couldn't understand. And Eyadema also spoke in
14 French and from there too Yahya Jammeh too spoke.

12:35:13 15 Q. And what did Yahya Jammeh say?

16 A. Yahya Jammeh also thanked the delegation and he said it
17 was Charles Lord who had invited them to come and talk to
18 the RUF delegation for them to have a new leadership so
19 that they will be able to carry on with the peace process
12:35:34 20 so peace and stability will return to Sierra Leone. He
21 said he himself, the same thing had happened to him when he
22 overthrew in Gambia. People spoke to him to transform his
23 organisation to a political party, and that was what he
24 did. And at that time he was ruling in Gambia as a young
12:35:58 25 man. So if RUF took that initiative to have a young
26 leader who would be able to carry on with the process then
27 they would achieve their objective.

28 Q. And what happened after that?

29 A. After that Charles Taylor himself said that it was

1 necessary to change the leadership of the RUF because he
2 said Foday Sankoh was too old and he was too stubborn and
3 he was always being arrested and that he was a lazy leader,
4 so that he should be changed, it was necessary that he be
12:36:34 5 changed. Augustine Gbao and Issa emphasised that, no, that
6 shouldn't happen, but Charles Taylor spoke with them to
7 listen to what the leaders were telling them. So they went
8 on and appointed Issa. First he suggested that he would
9 want to take Mosquito back and Issa said no. And he said
12:37:07 10 but, 'Ah, but Issa, if you would take care as a commander
11 or as a leader' - then Issa said except if he returned and
12 informed the RUF family, he said RUF - because RUF was a
13 family - when he would inform the RUF family then he will
14 respond whether he would take the position or he would
12:37:37 15 appoint somebody else."

16 Now before we go on - well, no:

17 "Q. Now, Mr Witness, let's clear up some of the things
18 that you have said. First, he suggested that he would want
19 to take Mosquito back. Who suggested that?

12:37:57 20 A. Charles Taylor suggested that he wanted to send
21 Mosquito back. He suggested that he wanted to send him
22 back to Sierra Leone as RUF leader.

23 Q. And then you said, 'But Issa, if you take care as a
24 commander or as a leader.' Who was saying that to Issa?

12:38:27 25 A. Charles Taylor was saying that to Issa.

26 Q. And then you said 'except if he returned and informed
27 the RUF family, then he will respond whether he would take
28 the position', who is this who is speaking?

29 A. Issa was the one speaking to the delegation.

1 Q. Now what happened next?

2 A. Later Issa and others return to the guesthouse where
3 they were in Congo Town."

4 Let's stop there. Now help me with this: Going back to

12:39:06 5 page 15146, the beginning of the description of this meeting,
6 when you when to Monrovia on this occasion, Mr Sesay, first of
7 all was it on 26 July of the year 2000? Can you recall, line 5?

8 A. No, it was not on the 26th.

9 Q. Can you remember the date?

12:39:37 10 A. I think we arrived in Monrovia on the 23rd, then 24th we
11 had the meeting with the ECOWAS leaders.

12 Q. Now, did you arrive with a delegation?

13 A. Yes. I went with a delegation.

14 Q. How many people were in that delegation?

12:40:06 15 A. Well, let me call out their names. Augustine Gbao, Patrick
16 PS Binda, Samuel Jabba, FOC and Colonel Lion. Five of us, plus
17 myself, now six.

18 Q. Secondly, same page, 15146. Did this meeting take place on
19 the sixth floor of the Executive Mansion?

12:40:58 20 A. Well, I did not count the floors but it was in Mr Taylor's
21 office, the Executive Mansion, the meeting took place there.

22 Q. And do you agree that there were five Heads of State
23 present?

24 A. Yes.

12:41:24 25 Q. At that time did those five Heads of State form any
26 particular group within ECOWAS?

27 A. Yes, I think they were there, the five states of ECOWAS.

28 Q. Did those five Heads of State have any particular
29 responsibility with ECOWAS for Sierra Leone?

1 MR KOUMJIAN: Objection, leading.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: No, I will allow that.

3 MR GRIFFITHS:

4 Q. Did those five Heads of State have any particular
12:42:12 5 responsibility within ECOWAS for Sierra Leone, Mr Sesay?

6 A. Yes, that was the committee to oversee the peace process of
7 Sierra Leone, the committee of five.

8 Q. Thank you very much. Now, when you arrived in the room
9 where this meeting took place, apart from your delegation, were
12:42:49 10 there any other delegations present?

11 A. No, only the Heads of State and my delegation; and it was
12 not a small room. It was a conference hall. It was a big place,
13 not a small room.

14 Q. Now I have good reason for asking this question, Mr Sesay,
12:43:13 15 so try and help us. You have already accepted that there were
16 the five Heads of State in the room; is that right?

17 A. Yes, yes, that's right.

18 Q. You have also told us that there were the six members of
19 your delegation in the room; is that right?

12:43:35 20 A. Yes, you're right.

21 Q. Who else was in the room, apart from those 11 individuals?

22 A. Nobody else was in that room, because I can recall that
23 even the ADCs to the Heads of State were outside of the room.

24 Q. Now, line 25 page 15146:

12:44:08 25 "When they entered the place Charles Taylor welcomes them
26 and introduced Issa's delegation to other delegation who had been
27 there already."

28 Well, who was this delegation that you were introduced to,
29 help me?

1 A. No, only the five ECOWAS Leaders, the five Heads of State.
2 They were the only ones there. And those of us who entered, six
3 of us, besides those, there were no other people there.

12:44:46 4 Q. So who is this delegation that this witness was telling
5 this Court about that your delegation was introduced to, who were
6 they? Help us, please.

7 A. Well, there were no other people, no other delegation was
8 there, except if the person decided to add his own story but
9 there was no other person, as far as I know. Only the ECOWAS
12:45:12 10 Leaders and the six of us, we were the ones in that room - in
11 that conference place.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, if I read lines 26 and 27,
13 the witness says this - well, the witness that was testifying,
14 the one that you are quoting.

12:45:30 15 "Mr Taylor welcomed them and introduced Issa's delegation
16 to the other delegation who had been there already; the four
17 presidents, that he had invited Issa's delegation."

18 Wouldn't the word "delegation" in that regard, wouldn't
19 that refer to the four Presidents?

12:45:52 20 MR GRIFFITHS: I don't know, Madam President, which is why
21 I was asking the witness, because I wasn't there.

22 Q. So was there or wasn't there any other delegation there,
23 Mr Sesay?

24 A. No, it was only the ECOWAS Leaders, the five Heads of State
12:46:13 25 and us who were the ones there.

26 Q. Did all five Heads of State speak, Mr Sesay?

27 A. Yes, they spoke.

28 Q. Now, let's go to page 15148, again in relation to this
29 testimony, line 5:

1 "Augustine Gbao and Issa emphasised that no, that
2 shouldn't happen, that is the replacement of Foday Sankoh."

3 Q. Did you object to the replacement of Foday Sankoh at this
4 meeting?

12:47:04 5 A. No. I did not object. The only person who objected was
6 Augustine Gbao, but I did not make any objections.

7 Q. "So they went on and appointed Issa." Were you appointed
8 leader at that meeting, Mr Sesay?

9 A. Yes, because Obasanjo suggested to the other leaders that I
12:47:34 10 should become the interim leader; he and Mr Taylor suggested
11 that, but I responded that I would not accept the leadership, I
12 said because Mr Sankoh was operating on divided loyalties, so it
13 would be good for me to be given one week to go and inform the
14 other RUF commanders. So I will get back to them.

12:48:01 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Before we lose sight, the witness said
16 Mr Sankoh was operating on divided loyalties.

17 MR GRIFFITHS:

18 Q. Now, was there any discussion about Sam Bockarie at that
19 meeting, Mr Sesay?

12:48:22 20 A. No, no, no. No, his name was not even mentioned in the
21 entire discussion.

22 Q. Now, just so that we understand the context. In December
23 of 1999, and I am being cautious because I don't want to be
24 accused of leading. What happened to Sam Bockarie?

12:48:51 25 A. After Sam Bockarie had resigned from the RUF he went to
26 Liberia, Monrovia. On his arrival to Liberia, Foday Sankoh went
27 from Freetown to Monrovia with Obasanjo and facilitated a meeting
28 and they decided that Sam Bockarie should stay in Monrovia in
29 order not to obstruct the peace process in Sierra Leone. That is

1 what I was aware of when Mr Sankoh came to meet us in Pendembu,
2 Kailahun and he informed us.

3 Q. Now, by the time of this visit in late July by you to
4 Monrovia, was Sam Bockarie still in Liberia, to your knowledge?

12:49:43 5 A. Yes, he was in Monrovia. He was there, because I even went
6 to his house.

7 Q. We will come to that, but had you - had you - to your
8 knowledge, had Bockarie remained in Liberia throughout that seven
9 month or so period between December 1999 and late July 2000 when
10 you went to Monrovia?

11 A. Yes, Bockarie was in Liberia.

12 Q. Now, you will see that this witness, at line 7, says this:

13 "A. So they went on and appointed Issa. First he
14 suggested that he would want to take Mosquito back and Issa
15 said no."

16 Line 18:

17 "A. Charles Taylor suggested that he wanted to send
18 Mosquito back, he suggested that he wanted to send him back
19 to Sierra Leone as RUF leader."

12:50:59 20 So help me, Mr Sesay, which one was it: Were you being
21 appointed as RUF leader or was Mosquito being sent back as RUF
22 leader, which of the two is right?

23 A. I was appointed as interim leader and even during the first
24 meeting I was the one on that the ECOWAS - I had suggested to be
12:51:30 25 appointed - I was the one who suggested I should come to consult
26 the RUF because if I had accepted right there and if, for
27 example, Superman and Gibril Massaquoi and their followers did
28 not accept, that would have been a problem. So they should wait
29 until I go to inform them about the ECOWAS leader's decision.

1 That's why President Eyadema said there was some - that made some
2 sense. So I was the one who was appointed. There was nothing
3 about Sam Bockarie. Nobody mentioned Sam Bockarie's name,
4 Mosquito's name.

12:52:11 5 Q. Let's go to page 15149. The witness goes on to say that
6 after the meeting you and the others returned to the guesthouse
7 where you were staying in Congo Town, lines 2 and 3 :

8 "Q. So what happened then?

9 A. At night, around 11 to 12, Benjamin Yeaten came to
12:52:42 10 receive Issa and Augustine Gbao and one other person
11 who joined them to go and meet Charles Taylor at night.

12 Q. And what happened after Benjamin Yeaten came and got
13 these people?

14 A. When they went they met with Charles Taylor and Charles
12:53:07 15 Taylor said that Issa should bear in mind that the people
16 who were talking to him before then were British elected
17 Presidents."

18 There is some discussion about what was said, line 20:

19 "He said - that being Charles Taylor - "he was not to
12:53:31 20 listen to the Sierra Leone Government because the Sierra
21 Leone Government was a British elected government and they
22 were remote controlled by the British so he should not
23 listen to them. And so any time he would be asked to
24 disarm he should say yes, but he should not in reality.
12:53:53 25 And in that case, he, Charles Taylor, will continue to
26 assist the RUF as he was doing before. From there he gave
27 Issa \$15,000 US and Issa return home.

28 Q. Now, you said Issa should bear in mind that the people
29 who were talking to him before then were British elected

1 presidents. Who is that that were being referred to, these
2 people?

3 A. He was referring to the four, the other four Heads of
4 State".

12:54:39 5 Line 6:

6 "A. That Issa should not listen to them, he said, today
7 for example, they will embrace him and the other day they
8 will just deny him.

9 Q. And now you indicated that Charles Taylor - you said he
12:54:51 10 would continue to assist the RUF. Did he indicate in what
11 way he would continue to assist the RUF?

12 A. He just said that he would assist them, just that he
13 had been assisting them before.

14 Q. Now, you indicated that Charles Taylor told Issa that
12:55:10 15 any time he was asked to disarm he should just say yes.
16 Was it indicated who would be asking him to disarm?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And who was that?

19 A. He said any time the UN would tell him to disarm he
12:55:27 20 would accept but would not actualise it. He will not
21 follow the instruction. He will just say yes for the
22 moment and not do it in reality.

23 Q. You said that after this Charles Taylor gave Issa
24 \$15,000 and Issa returned home. What do you mean?

12:55:50 25 A. He went back to the lodge, the guesthouse in Congo
26 Town.

27 Q. And what happened after that?

28 A. From - he spent 26th of July and the following day he
29 flew back to Sierra Leone.

1 Q. How did he fly back to Sierra Leone?

2 A. I think you did not get me clearly. He did not fly to
3 Sierra Leone. He flew to Foya. Then he went to Sierra
4 Leone. He took a flight from Monrovia and he disembarked
12:56:20 5 in Foya, and from Foya he took a vehicle to Sierra Leone.

6 Q. Did he take anything back to Sierra Leone with him from
7 Monrovia?

8 A. Issa brought drinks using the money Charles Taylor had
9 given to him and some other things and they were loaded in
12:56:39 10 the chopper, but he was not given anything else from
11 Monrovia to be brought to Sierra Leone."

12 And then he goes on to say, "He took the things that he had
13 bought in Monrovia to Sierra Leone."

14 Just stop there. Now, page 15149. According to this
12:57:04 15 witness, Mr Sesay, this is the third time you are picked up late
16 at night by Benjamin Yeaten and taken to see Mr Taylor. It had
17 happened twice in May and now it was happening for a third time.
18 What was going on in these late-night rendezvous with Charles
19 Taylor, Mr Sesay? Tell us.

12:57:35 20 A. Well, when we went to have the meeting with the ECOWAS,
21 Mr Taylor did not invite me at night. Benjamin Yeaten did not
22 pick me up to Mr Taylor's place at night. That did not happen.
23 From the meeting that we had with the ECOWAS leaders during the
24 daytime, and that is the 23rd and the 24th, we returned on the
12:58:08 25 25th to Sierra Leone. So I was not taken to Mr Taylor at night.
26 That did not happen, no. I had no meeting with Mr Taylor at
27 night.

28 Q. Was it the case that - as we see it from line 20 on that
29 page - he, that being Mr Taylor, said he was not to listen to the

1 Sierra Leone government because they were remote-controlled by
2 the British, so any time you were asked to disarm, you said - you
3 should say yes, but you shouldn't do so?

4 Now, just so we understand what was being suggested by
12:58:49 5 these witnesses to the judges, it is that Mr Taylor was saying
6 one thing in front of the other four Heads of State, but behind
7 their backs, at night, in private to you, he was telling you to
8 do something completely different. Do you understand that,
9 Mr Sesay?

12:59:12 10 A. Yes, I do follow what you're saying.

11 Q. Was that the reality of what was going on during your trip
12 to Monrovia on that occasion?

13 A. No. That was not the reality. That did not happen. And
14 what they told me to do, to work with the Government of Sierra
12:59:34 15 Leone and to work with the United Nations mission in Sierra
16 Leone, that is what I did at the end of the day, and that is what
17 they, the ECOWAS leaders, including Mr Taylor, told me. That is
18 what they told me. But he did not used to call me in the corner
19 to say, "Don't accept, don't disarm." That's a lie.

12:59:57 20 Q. Did Mr Taylor give you \$15,000 on that occasion?

21 A. Not at all. He did not give me money during that trip.

22 Q. Now, you mentioned, before we go on to what happened on
23 your return to Sierra Leone, that during the course of that
24 visit, you met with Sam Bockarie. Is that right?

13:00:21 25 A. Yes. After the meeting, Sam Bockarie came to the
26 guesthouse and he said hello to us, and we too went to visit him
27 where he was and his wife and children.

28 Q. Was that the first time you had seen him since December
29 1999?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What did you discuss?

3 A. Well, he just said he had come to say hello to us, he said
4 because I had been saying that he was not the one who wanted
13:01:02 5 peace, and now that we have seen the way Mr Sankoh has behaved,
6 well, who do we blame now in that case, himself and Mr Sankoh?
7 Then I said, "I came from Makeni to talk to you but you did not
8 listen to me. You asked that an ambush be set in front of me.
9 So the whole thing did not work. If you had listened to me, what
13:01:23 10 happened shouldn't have happened." And he said, "Well, that one
11 is passed now. That one is behind our back." So, we spoke and
12 from there - from the guesthouse, we went to his own house and we
13 said hello to his wife, his children and his mother. From there,
14 we returned to the house, myself and Augustine Gbao.

13:01:49 15 Q. Now, 15151, line 18:

16 "Q. What happened after Issa arrived back in Sierra Leone?

17 A. He convened a meeting, an RUF meeting, in Lebanon,
18 Koidu Town, and he briefed his colleagues that Charles
19 Taylor had told him, and all of them said, 'Yes, we will
13:02:16 20 accept that to happen, but even there we would want to have
21 a message from the Pa,' and Issa said okay. But that had
22 already been in place because Obasanjo had already
23 volunteered to meet with the Pa and to know his view,
24 whether they would have a leadership to be working on his
13:02:38 25 behalf. So he had just come to ask who should be the
26 leader. But the colleagues told him they will only appoint
27 somebody if they saw a letter from the Pa himself.

28 Q. Now just for clarity, when you refer to the Pa, who are
29 you referring to?

1 A. That was Pa Sankoh.

2 Q. What happened after this?

3 A. From there, within two to three days, Issa said Charles
4 Taylor had invited him again to go over, that Obasanjo was
13:03:15 5 to return to Liberia and Issa went again to Foya and flew
6 to Liberia.

7 Q. When he flew from Foya, where did he go?

8 A. He was dropped at the international airport in Liberia,
9 RIA.

13:03:32 10 Q. What type of aircraft flew him from Foya?

11 A. Weasua.

12 Q. What happened at RIA?

13 A. At RIA he met Obasanjo and Oumar Konare. They were
14 taken to the waiting room in RIA. That was where the
13:03:53 15 meeting was held. Obasanjo handed a letter over that he
16 had taken from Freetown, from Charles Taylor."

17 Line 29: "The letter he had brought from Sierra Leone."

18 Over the page: "That is from Pa Sankoh was given to Charles
19 Taylor, and Pa Sankoh - sorry he, Charles Taylor, himself, gave
13:04:16 20 the letter to Issa.

21 Q. And what happened when the letter was given to Issa?"

22 And some clarification was sought. And at line 11, the
23 witness said: "Yes, from Foday Sankoh. He and Oumar Konare to
24 tell him that he was appointed a new leader to be working on his
13:04:38 25 behalf, Foday Sankoh. He brought the letter from Sierra Leone to
26 Liberia. That is where they met.

27 Q. Now you said the letter was handed to Charles Taylor
28 and then Charles Taylor handed the letter to Issa Sesay.
29 What happened when Issa Sesay received the letter?

1 A. Issa Sesay passed the letter to his adjutant, his
2 clerk, but he called it adjutant in the guerrilla army.
3 The letter was passed to him, and that was Jabba. He was
4 called Adjutant Jabba. Adjutant Jabba opened the letter
13:05:14 5 and showed it to Issa, and Issa looked at the signature and
6 he said, 'Yes, this is the Pa's signature.'
7 Q. And what happened after that?
8 A. Then Jabba read the letter. According to what he said,
9 because I did not read the letter, he said Pa Sankoh had
13:05:29 10 said Issa should now take control of the leadership and he
11 should take instructions, just as Mosquito used to do while
12 he was in jail, while he, Pa Sankoh, was in jail in
13 Nigeria, that Issa should now take control and instruction
14 from Charles Taylor.
13:05:53 15 Q. And what happened after this?
16 A. After that, Obasanjo took a parcel and handed it over
17 to Issa.
18 Q. And what happened after Obasanjo handed the parcel to
19 Issa?
13:06:07 20 A. He bade farewell, he said goodbye and left the place,
21 he and Oumar Konare. They left and flew back to the
22 individual countries, and Issa came to Monrovia city.
23 Q. What happened after Issa came to Monrovia city?
24 A. When Issa came to Monrovia city, he passed the night
13:06:31 25 there and the following day he came back to Sierra Leone.
26 Q. How did Issa travel from RIA to Monrovia city?
27 A. He used the same chopper to come, Weasua, using the
28 Weasua, and they went to the guesthouse in Congo Town and"
29 - line 26 - "it was he and Benjamin Yeaten who used the

1 chopper from RIA and they flew to - they flew and they used
2 Benjamin Yeaten's vehicle and they went to the guesthouse.

13:07:16 3 Q. Now you say that Issa passed the night in Monrovia city
4 and the next day came back to Sierra Leone. How did he
5 travel from Monrovia back to Sierra Leone?

6 A. The same Weasua helicopter came to Foya. Foya, he
7 drove to Sierra Leone."

8 Line 19:

13:07:36 9 "Q. When Issa Sesay went back to Sierra Leone from this
10 trip, did he take anything with him?

11 A. No. On that trip, he did not take anything with him."

12 Pause there. Now we have the full account of this meeting,
13 so let's again - I again seek your assistance with one or two
14 details.

13:07:56 15 When you went to that meeting at RIA, Roberts International
16 Airfield, at whose invitation did you attend that meeting?

17 A. Well, the ECOWAS, because they had told me that after the
18 one week I should come back.

19 Q. And was it a personal invitation just from Charles Taylor?

13:08:28 20 A. No, no. It was all the five Heads of States who agreed
21 that they should give me one week to go and consult with my
22 colleague RUF members.

23 Q. Now some more details. Page 15151, line 19: When you
24 returned after the first trip to meet the ECOWAS leaders to
13:08:53 25 Sierra Leone, did you convene a meeting in Lebanon?

26 A. Yes.

27 Q. Who attended that meeting?

28 A. Well, commanders from Kailahun, commanders from Tongo
29 Field, from Kono itself, from Magburaka, from Makeni, Lunsar,

1 Kamakwie and Kambia.

2 Q. Who called that meeting?

3 A. I called the meeting.

4 Q. What for?

13:09:34 5 A. Well, for the decision that the ECOWAS had reached and what
6 they had told me, and I too told them that I was coming back to
7 inform the RUF and that I will - I decided to call this
8 consultative meeting to inform them about what ECOWAS had decided
9 to do about the leadership of the RUF.

13:09:54 10 Q. And is it the case, as suggested at line 26, that at that
11 meeting your colleagues told you that they will only appoint
12 somebody if they saw a letter from the Pa himself?

13 A. No. During that meeting, some people suggested Mike Lamin,
14 some people suggested the late SYB Rogers, whilst others
13:10:25 15 suggested me, and that was what happened.

16 Q. Now, the issue of a letter being written by Foday Sankoh,
17 when had that idea first arisen?

18 A. That was during the meeting with the ECOWAS leaders, that
19 as I was coming to inform my RUF colleagues, they were writing to
13:10:51 20 inform Mr Sankoh in Freetown.

21 Q. Is it the case that the idea of obtaining a letter from
22 Foday Sankoh only arose at this meeting in Lebanon after you had
23 returned?

24 A. No, no. The idea of the letter came up during the ECOWAS
13:11:16 25 meeting because the objections that Gbao made when he said that
26 he will not allow anyone to dictate to the RUF to change the
27 leadership of Mr Sankoh, that was the statement that he made
28 before - in front of the five Heads of State. He said nobody
29 will dictate to the RUF to change - to replace Mr Sankoh. So

1 that was when the idea of the letter writing came up during our
2 meeting with the ECOWAS before we left to go back to Kono, and
3 that was before the meeting in Kono.

13:11:58 4 Q. When you went to Roberts International Airport who gave you
5 the letter for Foday Sankoh?

6 A. It was President Obasanjo.

7 Q. Page 15152, line 29:

8 "The letter you had brought from Sierra Leone, that is from
9 Pa Sankoh, was given to Charles Taylor. Charles Taylor himself
10 gave the letter to Issa."

11 Is that true?

12 A. No. It's not true. It was President Obasanjo himself who
13 gave the letter to me. He told me, he said, "Look, here is the
14 letter from your Pa." It was Obasanjo who gave me, not Charles
13:12:39 15 Taylor. And even the helicopter that this person is talking
16 about, he said the helicopter took us from Foya to RIA, it's a
17 lie. We went, we passed the night in Monrovia and we drove from
18 Monrovia, from the guesthouse, to RIA.

19 Q. I was coming to that detail in a moment, but let's just
13:12:59 20 take things in stages, shall we. Now, line 19:

21 "Q. Issa Sesay passed the letter to his adjutant, his
22 clerk, but we called it adjutant" - and he goes on to name
23 the adjutant as adjutant Jabba. Now this: When did you receive
24 that letter from Foday Sankoh?

13:13:30 25 A. It was on 5 August 2000.

26 Q. Where were you when you received that letter?

27 A. I was at RIA with the ECOWAS leaders.

28 Q. Where in RIA were you?

29 A. Well, I don't know how to actually refer to the place but

1 it was like a conference room for the Liberian President at that
2 time. Because I see the place was well furnished with the
3 carpet, nice chairs, you know. And there was another smaller
4 room after the conference room which was also well - because I
13:14:11 5 recall that after the meeting in the conference hall, the three
6 Heads of States went to that small room where they invited me in
7 there also. And I was the only person who entered there with
8 them. My colleague RUF who went with me, they did not - none of
9 them entered that smaller room.

13:14:31 10 Q. Right, we will leave the smaller room for now. Did you
11 receive the letter in the larger room or the smaller room?

12 A. The large room, in the conference room.

13 Q. Who was in that room when you received the letter?

14 A. Well, those of us who were present at that meeting were
13:14:56 15 myself, Augustine Gbao, Jonathan Kposowa, Samuel Jabba, Lion. We
16 were the ones who went on that meeting. And Patrick PS Binda too
17 was there.

18 Q. Was FOC at that meeting?

19 A. The second meeting with the ECOWAS, FOC was not there. I
13:15:25 20 did not go with him.

21 Q. And when you received that letter did you give it to your
22 adjutant Jabba?

23 A. No. I handed the letter over to Kposowa.

24 Q. And was the letter opened there and then?

13:15:47 25 A. Well, at that moment the letter was not opened. The ECOWAS
26 Leaders told us that this was the letter from my Pa and then
27 Kposowa opened the letter and read through it and he said, "Well,
28 the Pa too has approved of what the ECOWAS people have said, that
29 you should become the interim leader." It was Kposowa who read

1 the letter.

2 Q. When Kposowa read the letter and described its contents,
3 did he do so in the presence of the ECOWAS leaders?

4 A. Yes.

13:16:23 5 Q. And did he do that in your presence?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. So were all the persons present in that room acquainted
8 with the contents of the letter at the same time?

9 A. Yes.

13:16:41 10 Q. Page 15153, line 38:

11 "Then Jabba read the letter. According to what he said,
12 because I did not read the letter, he said Pa Sankoh had said
13 Issa should now take control of the leadership and he should take
14 instructions just as Mosquito used to do while he was in jail,
13:17:08 15 while he, Pa Sankoh, was in jail in Nigeria, that Issa should now
16 take control and instruction from Charles Taylor."

17 Now the letter that was read and described in your
18 presence, Mr Sesay, did it say anything to that effect?

19 A. No, no. Nothing like that was in that letter.

13:17:35 20 Q. Now I want to be clear about this. How many Heads of State
21 were present in that room when the letter was read?

22 A. Three of them. President Obasanjo, President Taylor and
23 President Alpha Konare?

24 Q. Now in their presence was a letter read to the effect that
13:18:02 25 you should now take instructions from Pa Taylor in the same way
26 Sam Bockarie had before you? Was such a letter read in the
27 presence of those three Heads of State?

28 A. No. No such letter was read there and no such letter came
29 from Mr Sankoh because, later I came to know that this letter

1 that they are talking about that Mr Sankoh wrote, Mr Sankoh wrote
2 it in the presence of President Kabbah, President Obasanjo and
3 Alpha Konare. So how could have Mr Sankoh written that to say I
4 should take instructions from Mr Taylor in the presence of
13:18:54 5 President Kabbah? That is not possible. These are all made-up
6 stories.

7 Q. How do you know that the letter was written in the presence
8 of President Kabbah?

9 A. President Kabbah testified to this during my Defence case.

13:19:10 10 And in fact President Kabbah testified before Trial Chamber I
11 that the letter - he first wrote the letter in the name of Foday
12 Sankoh and he gave the letter to Foday Sankoh to sign and then
13 Foday Sankoh said no. He said, "My men know my handwriting. If
14 this one reached them they will not believe it. So you have to
13:19:34 15 give me chance to write." So they had to forget about the one he
16 wrote and Mr Sankoh himself wrote his own letter and he handed it
17 over to President Obasanjo, the signed one, and that was what
18 they conveyed to Monrovia and they gave to me at RIA.

19 Q. Did you physically read that letter yourself, Mr Sesay?

13:19:55 20 A. Yes, after the meeting with the ECOWAS, Kposowa gave the
21 letter to me, so I read the letter later and I gave it to my
22 adjutant because the letter was given to me, so the letter
23 remained in my possession, so I read it.

24 Q. And did the letter you read - was it written in Foday
13:20:18 25 Sankoh's handwriting?

26 A. Yes. He wrote it.

27 Q. Did it make any mention of you taking orders from Pa Taylor
28 in the way that Sam Bockarie had?

29 A. No. No such thing was included in that letter, not at all.

1 Q. So what do you say about this assertion made by this
2 witness to these judges in September 2008 that that is what that
3 letter said?

13:21:00 4 A. I am saying that that witness was lying because FOC did not
5 go on that trip. So if that witness is making mention of FOC and
6 saying this type of stories, I will say that they are made-up
7 stories. They are lies. They are big lies.

8 Q. And at the meeting at RIA was Gibril Massaquoi present?

13:21:32 9 A. No, Gibril was not there. It was when I returned - Gibril
10 was not there, because after the meeting in the conference hall -
11 during the closed-door meeting that I had with the three Heads of
12 State was when they told me that I should have a delegation that
13 should stay in Monrovia.

14 Q. Yes?

13:21:49 15 A. That should stay in Monrovia so that at any time the ECOWAS
16 would have to be in contact with me they will be able to talk to
17 that delegation. So when I returned to Kono, that was the time I
18 called on Gibril from Makeni when I told him that he and Abdul
19 Razak should actually go to Monrovia and join Kposowa and others,
13:22:14 20 because I left Kposowa there to wait for Gibril and the other
21 man. So Gibril was not present at the August meeting at RIA.

22 Q. Page 15155, line 22.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, if I may inquire of the
24 witness: Upon your becoming interim leader, Mr Sesay, from whom
13:22:40 25 were you supposed to receive instructions and take instructions?

26 THE WITNESS: My Lord, I was not to take instructions from
27 anybody else because I had been made interim leader, so I was now
28 the leader of RUF at that time. They only advised me that I
29 should work together with the Government of Sierra Leone and the

1 United Nations mission in Sierra Leone

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you.

3 MR GRIFFITHS:

13:23:12

4 Q. Did you feel, upon your return to Sierra Leone following
5 that meeting as interim leader, that you were required to take
6 instructions from anyone, Mr Sesay?

13:23:38

7 A. No. On behalf of the RUF, I was not to take instructions
8 from anybody else because I was then the interim leader. It was
9 just like Mr Sankoh was leader and he did not used to take
10 instructions from anybody.

11 Q. When you took on the mantle of interim leader, what did you
12 understand the responsibilities of a leader to be? Did you
13 understand that to include the taking of instructions from
14 others?

13:24:00

15 A. No. Being a leader, you should not take instructions
16 because you are the leader and you are the high command. So
17 whatever decision, you had the last say. So you should give
18 instruction. People should take instruction from you. So it was
19 from me that people were taking instructions, starting from
20 August 5th when I was made interim leader.

13:24:18

21 Q. At any stage during that meeting at RIA were you told by
22 any Heads of State, or perhaps more than one Head of State, that
23 you were to take instructions from anyone?

24 A. No, they did not tell me that.

13:24:44

25 Q. On that note, page 15155, line 22:

26 "Q. What happened when Issa Sesay arrived back in Sierra
27 Leone?

28 A. When he came back to Sierra Leone he convened a meeting
29 again in Lebanon, Koidu Town, and he took out this letter

1 and showed it to the people, and the people were happy
2 about it, because Issa had been appointed the new leader
3 and should carry on with the work Pa Sankoh was to do.
4 Q. And did the letter explain what that happen meant, to
13:25:19 5 carry on with the work Pa Sankoh was to do."
6 Over the page:
7 "A. The letter only explained that Issa was to be the
8 interim chairman and at the same time he should take
9 instructions from Charles Taylor, just as before as
13:25:37 10 Mosquito had been doing, and he should take care of the
11 revolution, he should not allow anybody to mislead him into
12 disarmament. This was what the letter read and the people
13 were happy about it."
14 Now, again, just so that we are clear: In that letter,
13:26:02 15 which you have told us a short while ago was initially written by
16 President Kabbah and then rewritten in President Kabbah's
17 presence by Foday Sankoh, was there something to the effect that
18 you should not allow anyone to mislead you into disarmament? Was
19 that sentiment contained in that letter which you took back to
13:26:29 20 Sierra Leone?
21 A. No. There was no such thing in the content of that letter.
22 And if - even if there was something like that in that letter,
23 the two Heads of State, President Obasanjo and Konare, wouldn't
24 have brought that letter to Monrovia. Even President Kabbah
13:26:53 25 wouldn't have allowed his colleagues to bring such a letter to
26 me, which was saying - which would have instructed me not to -
27 not to walk in line with the disarmament which was the focus of
28 the ECOWAS leaders disturbing their lives and their reigns and
29 all the times to talk about. So what they insisted at that time

1 was for the disarmament to care on in Sierra Leone from the RUF.
2 So if they received the letter from Mr Sankoh that was giving the
3 instruction that I should not go in line with the disarmament or
4 the peace process, definitely I think they wouldn't have brought
13:27:37 5 such a letter to me.

6 Q. Line 11, page 15156:

7 "Q. Did Issa Sesay take any other trips outside of Sierra
8 Leone?"

9 A. Yes, he made another trip. That was the end of 2000,
13:27:56 10 but I cannot be exact on the date but he took a trip to
11 Monrovia again.

12 Q. And why did he go to Monrovia on this trip?

13 A. He went with diamonds to Charles Taylor.

14 Q. How did he travel to Monrovia?

13:28:09 15 A. Koidu Town, Manowa crossing point, Kailahun, Koindu,
16 Foya, flew to Monrovia, Weasua aircraft.

17 Q. What happened when he arrived in Monrovia?

18 A. When he arrived in Monrovia he was received by Benjamin
19 Yeaten and taken to the guesthouse."

13:28:32 20 Help us. Remind us, I don't want to lead you. After that
21 trip to RIA, when was your next trip to Monrovia?

22 A. October 2000.

23 Q. Any further trips in the year 2000?

24 A. Yes, around early December 2000.

13:29:00 25 Q. Any further trips in 2000?

26 A. No.

27 Q. So after RIA, two trips, one in October, one in December;
28 is that correct?

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. Now, you have already accepted, and we did this at the
2 Prosecution's request in open session last week, you already
3 conceded that in October you did take some diamonds to Sierra
4 Leone, did you - from Sierra Leone to Liberia, did you not?

13:29:32 5 A. Yes.

6 MR GRIFFITHS: Madam President, I note the time, and this
7 trip to Monrovia involves a little detail; would that be a
8 convenient point?

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Certainly. We will adjourn for the
10 Luncheon break and reconvene at 2.30.

11 [Lunch break taken at 1.29 p.m.]

12 [Upon resuming at 2.30 p.m.]

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good afternoon. Mr Griffiths, please
14 continue.

14:34:45 15 MR GRIFFITHS:

16 Q. Mr Sesay, we were talking before the adjournment about a
17 fifth trip you were supposed to have taken to Monrovia in the
18 year 2000. And just to recap: You recall this witness told the
19 jury - the judges about two trips in May, another on the 26th
14:35:11 20 of July, and another at Roberts International Airfield. Now the
21 witness is talking about a fifth trip, and I want to pose the
22 details of the allegation to you so that you can tell us what
23 your recollection is of events.

24 "Q. How did he travel to Monrovia?

14:35:37 25 A. He travelled from Koidu Town to Manowa crossing point,
26 and he crossed into Kailahun, Koindu, Foya and he flew to
27 Monrovia."

28 This is, by the way, page 15156. We're at now line 21:

29 "Q. What type of aircraft was used when he flew to

1 Monrovia?

2 A. He used the same Weasua aircraft.

3 Q. What happened when he arrived in Monrovia?

14:36:16

4 A. When he arrived in Monrovia he was received by Benjamin
5 Yeaten and taken to the guesthouse.

6 Q. And what happened after that?

7 A. Then at night he was taken to Charles Taylor at the
8 mansion ground.

14:36:34

9 Q. Now again, when you say the mansion ground, what
10 location are you referring to?

11 A. In Monrovia.

12 Q. And what building is the mansion ground, or what is it?

13 A. That was the Executive Mansion ground where Charles
14 Taylor was.

14:36:50

15 Q. Now, what happened when Issa Sesay" - that's you -
16 "went to see Charles Taylor at the Executive Mansion
17 Ground?

18 A. He went to see Charles Taylor to present the diamonds
19 to him that he had taken to Monrovia for him.

14:37:09

20 Q. And what happened at this meeting?

21 A. Issa gave the diamonds to Charles Taylor, but he was
22 expecting that the diamonds presented to Charles Taylor
23 were for arms and ammunition and food, but when Charles
24 Taylor received the diamonds he said no. He said 'This one
25 is one is for safekeeping until your leader returns.'

14:37:35

26 So when he got this he got up and entered into one of the
27 rooms in the place where we had met and brought three
28 plastic bags, those plastic bags in which they put drugs,
29 and he showed them to Issa. He said, 'Look at three

- 1 diamonds. These are the diamonds that Mosquito brought
2 when he was in charge of the of the revolution. I am
3 keeping them until the time Foday Sankoh will be released
4 then I will hand them over to him', he said, 'but meanwhile
14:38:19 5 I will help you with whatever you need for the revolution
6 in Sierra Leone.' He said, 'But the diamonds, I am going
7 to have them for safekeeping until Pa Sankoh returns.'
- 8 Q. What quantity of diamonds did Issa take to Charles
9 Taylor on this occasion?
- 14:38:38 10 A. It was a Sellotape. There were many, but it was in
11 paper and Sellotape. It was not counted in my presence.
- 12 Q. And this Sellotaped container, can you tell us how big
13 that was?"
- 14 And then he goes on at some length to describe how large it
14:38:57 15 was, and we need not detain you over that.
- 16 Now, is there any truth in that suggestion, Mr Sesay?
- 17 A. No, there was no truth in it.
- 18 Q. Now, you realise what is being suggested here; that you,
19 sometime after your appointment at Roberts International Airport,
14:39:29 20 went to Monrovia carrying with you a parcel of diamonds which you
21 gave to Charles Taylor. You understand that, don't you?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. You understand that?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 14:39:42 25 Q. Now, taking things in stages; in October, which you tell us
26 was your first visit to Monrovia after your visit to RIA
27 in August, on that October visit, who did you travel with?
- 28 A. I travelled with Morris Kallon, Jamba Goba, Samuel Jabba,
29 and Abdul Mansaray, one of my bodyguards.

1 Q. Did FOC go with you?

2 A. Well, the October trip, yes, I had - I had a plan that all
3 of us would be in the trip to go, but, based on the incident that
4 happened in Bunumbu, when one Mr Foday Sankoh's bodyguard shot
14:40:49 5 and killed Sheik Fofana in the vehicle that I was driving. So
6 Jabba, Morris Kallon and others cautioned me, because when we
7 asked the bodyguard "Why did you shoot?" He said we were talking
8 about peace and Mr Sankoh was in jail. So Morris Kallon said,
9 "Oh, Issa, you have to be aware of these Black Guards." So that
14:41:19 10 gave me the cause to leave FOC in Pendembu. So from that time
11 FOC was not close to me any more, he did not go with me in
12 that October trip that I made because of the incident that
13 happened on the way, and it was one of his colleague Black Guards
14 who shot and killed Sheik Fofana.

14:41:39 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, what was the second name,
16 something Goba?

17 MR GRIFFITHS: Well, Mr Sesay, you tell us, what was the
18 second name of Mr Goba?

19 THE WITNESS: Madam Jamba Goba, she is a woman.

14:42:00 20 MR GRIFFITHS:

21 Q. Is that the sister of Jamba Goba?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And is that a name we've had mentioned before?

24 A. Yes.

14:42:09 25 Q. Thank you. Now, there's another aspect of this with which
26 I seek your assistance, Mr Sesay. On page 15157 the witness was
27 telling these judges that when you took the diamonds to Mr Taylor
28 you were expecting to receive arms and ammunition and food in
29 return. But Mr Taylor told you that the diamonds were going to

1 be - he would be keeping those diamonds on behalf of Mr Sankoh
2 until Mr Sankoh's return. And then he produced further diamonds
3 to show that he had been safekeeping diamonds brought to him by
4 Mosquito. Now, what I want to ask you is this: Were the RUF
14:43:05 5 giving diamonds to Charles Taylor for safekeeping or were they
6 giving diamonds to Charles Taylor as payment for arms, ammunition
7 and other war material? Which was it?

8 A. Well, as far as I know, we did not give diamonds to
9 Mr Taylor to give us arms and ammunition; we were not storing
14:43:32 10 diamonds with Mr Taylor for safekeeping, and when Mr Sankoh would
11 be released he would hand them over to him. No, as I explained
12 moments ago, the diamonds that I took with me that October when I
13 was going to accompany that delegation, it was Michel and Louis
14 who brought the diamonds through Ibrahim Bah, but I did not give
14:43:55 15 diamonds to Mr Taylor.

16 Q. Let's pick up this account about this trip at page 15161,
17 line 18:

18 "Q. Now, Mr Witness, what happened then after Issa Sesay
19 gave these diamonds to Charles Taylor and Charles Taylor
14:44:25 20 indicated that he would keep them for safekeeping until
21 Pa Sankoh returned?

22 A. From there Issa said they lacked materials and the
23 enemies were threatening their position.

24 Q. And did Issa refer to what type of materials were
14:44:48 25 lacking?

26 A. He did not name any materials. By the end of it all,
27 we went and took some materials at Schefflein, they had a
28 barracks called Schefflein in Monrovia. It was called Camp
29 Schefflein. We met some materials there, boots and

1 uniforms in large quantities. We brought AK-47 rounds,
2 RPG rockets and G3 rounds.

3 Q. Now, first of all, Mr Witness, going back to what
4 Issa Sesay told Charles Taylor. He said the enemies were
14:45:35 5 threatening their position. Do you know what enemies he
6 was referring to?

7 A. He was referring to the Kamajors and the UN forces who
8 had joined the former SLAs and the Kamajors around Kono.

9 Q. Now, when Issa said they were lacking materials, what,
10 if anything, did Charles Taylor say about that?

11 A. He said he will talk to Benjamin Yeaten.

12 Q. So after this meeting then where did Issa go?

13 A. He drove back to his house, the guesthouse in Congo
14 Town.

14:46:14 15 Q. Then you said that Issa went and took some materials at
16 Camp Schefflein. How did Issa travel from the guesthouse
17 to Camp Schefflein?

18 A. He used a vehicle, together with Benjamin Yeaten, in a
19 jeep.

14:46:28 20 Q. And what materials did Issa receive at Camp
21 Schefflein?

22 A. He met uniforms there, boots. He also met AK-47 rounds
23 in large quantities, G3 rounds and RPG rockets.

24 Q. And what happened after Issa got these materials at
14:46:49 25 Camp Schefflein?

26 A. Being that the materials were many and they had
27 manpower enough to go, so they took some of the materials
28 in the ATU chopper that Momoh Gibba was the commander and
29 they went there and met him. He was called Bulldog; he

1 brought the chopper and the things were loaded in there,
2 but not everything, and it was taken to Foya. Not
3 everything was loaded in the chopper.

14:47:26

4 Q. Now, pause for a moment and clarify some of the things
5 you just said. You said 'being that the materials were
6 many and that they had manpower enough, what do you mean
7 they had manpower enough?

14:47:44

8 A. They had other fighters. They had some militia boys
9 who travelled to go and who wanted to travel to go and meet
10 their commander in Kolahun - Foya and Kolahun.

11 Q. Militia boys, who are you talking about?

12 A. That was a group in the Charles Taylor government, they
13 called them militias. They were fighting in the Foya axis:
14 Foya, Kolahun, Voinjama axis.

14:48:06

15 Q. And who were they fighting against?

16 A. LURD.

17 Q. Now you said the materials were in the ATU chopper;
18 what is the ATU?

19 A. Anti-Terrorist Unit."

14:48:16

20 Line 12:

21 "Q. And you said that Momoh Gibba was the commander. Was
22 the commander of what.

23 A. For the ATU.

24 Q. You said not everything was loaded in the chopper.

14:48:29

25 What happened to the other materials?

26 A. The other materials were kept in Camp Schefflein at the
27 barracks and another one was there. Issa took them to
28 Foya. He transported them to Koidu Town, Sierra Leone.

29 Q. And how were they transported to Koidu Town in

1 Sierra Leone?

2 A. Issa had a truck that he had arrested from UNAMSIL."

3 And then he goes on over the page, "Taken to Koidu Town."

4 Goes on to explain that the truck had been arrested from UNAMSIL,

14:49:09 5 "but it wasn't you had physically done that, that it was your

6 boys who had done that," and then he continues:

7 "Q. The material that Issa Sesay brought back to

8 Sierra Leone, how was that used?

9 A. Well, the materials were at first stored in

14:49:30 10 Sierra Leone, and they used some during the Guinea mission

11 and they used some in Sierra Leone and some remained in

12 Liberia for our forces who were there helping to fight

13 against the LURD rebels who were there assisting Charles

14 Taylor. They were using the remaining --

14:49:52 15 Q. Now, the materials that were used in Sierra Leone, how
16 were they used?

17 A. They used them against the Kamajors and some of the

18 UNAMSIL who had been fighting and pushing us towards

19 Makeni."

14:50:06 20 Now, pause there. I want to ask you about this aspect of
21 the trip. Where is Camp Schefflein, Mr Sesay?

22 A. Camp Schefflein is between RIA and Monrovia.

23 Q. Have you ever been into Camp Schefflein?

24 A. No, I never went into Camp Schefflein. I used the main

14:50:37 25 road - well, it's a military barracks, but I never entered there.

26 Q. Have you driven past Camp Schefflein?

27 A. Yes, because that's the main road between RIA and Monrovia.

28 Q. When did you drive past Camp Schefflein?

29 A. Well, I drove past Camp Schefflein during the Lome Accord

1 because that's the road leading to the airport and from the
2 airport to Monrovia, and I drove past there during the meeting
3 with the ECOWAS in August.

14:51:27 4 Q. On this visit to - was there a visit to Monrovia when you
5 went to Camp Schefflein and were provided with a large
6 consignment of AK-47 rounds, RPG rockets and G3 rounds, along
7 with boots and uniforms?

8 A. No, no. Since I was appointed interim leader, I never
9 brought uniforms and boots to the RUF, nor did I bring AKs.

14:52:03 10 Q. In late 2000, Mr Sesay, to what extent were the RUF engaged
11 in hostilities with other forces within Sierra Leone?

12 A. Well, in late 2000, fighting had ceased between the RUF and
13 the government soldiers and the AFRC. It was only the Kamajors
14 who used to come from certain areas, like between Magburaka, like
14:52:39 15 between Masingbi and Kono, around the Fotaneh Junction, Sewafe,
16 and on the border between Kono and Guinea, they were the - those
17 were the places the Kamajors attacked once in a while. But
18 hostilities had ceased between us and the Government of
19 Sierra Leone, like the way the fighting was between the RUF and
14:53:01 20 the government forces in Lunsar, in the Lunsar area,
21 around June July - around June July, no, there was no fighting
22 now in this October - from August, the fighting ceased between
23 the RUF and the government forces.

24 Q. And in terms of - no, let me start again.

14:53:23 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Before you continue, there was a certain
26 junction that the witness named. What was that junction again?

27 THE WITNESS: Fotaneh Junction. It's between Magburaka
28 Town and Masingbi.

29 MR GRIFFITHS: Could somebody assist with a spelling,

1 please?

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Interpreter?

3 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, your Honours, it's F-O-T-A-N-E-H.

4 MR GRIFFITHS:

14:53:54 5 Q. Now, Mr Sesay, I'm looking for a description of what was
6 happening militarily in Sierra Leone from about the middle of the
7 year 2000. Now, you've told us no hostilities with the
8 government forces. What about hostilities with UNAMSIL forces?

9 A. No. We were not fighting with the UNAMSIL.

14:54:21 10 Q. So after August 2000, is it your evidence that hostilities
11 were only ongoing between the RUF and the Kamajors?

12 A. Yes, only between the RUF and the Kamajors, and the
13 cross-border attacks on the border from the Guineans because the
14 Guineans used to cross over and attack certain areas like the
14:54:52 15 Rokupr area, that is the Kambia axis, and the Kono axis. But
16 from the Government of Sierra Leone, from Freetown, fighting
17 ceased from August 2000.

18 Q. Now, from about August 2000, then, what were the needs of
19 the RUF? And I ask you as commander and interim leader. What
14:55:13 20 were the needs of the RUF, in terms of fighting materials, in
21 order to combat these hostilities between yourselves and the
22 Kamajors and the cross-border attacks?

23 A. Well, those cross-border attacks or those Kamajor attacks
24 were not really full-scale operations, they only happened once in
14:55:43 25 a while, and the various commanders had some ammunition with
26 them, even before this time. So I did not concentrate on looking
27 out for ammunition for those around that time, no.

28 Q. Now, can we approach this description of events in
29 Sierra Leone at this time from a different standpoint?

1 By August 2000, had any disarmament taken place in Sierra Leone?

2 A. Well, disarmament had taken place before this time. Like
3 in December '99, March 2000, January or February 2000,
4 disarmament had taken place, before --

14:56:43 5 Q. Taken place where, Mr Sesay? And just give us the names of
6 the places.

7 A. Mr Sankoh disarmed Lunsar and around Gberi Junction,
8 Mamusa; that is December '99. And Mr Sankoh disarmed in Fadugu;
9 that is January 2000, yes. And he came and disarmed Segbwema,
10 March 2000.

14:57:13

11 Q. Now, in those three episodes of disarmament, firstly, how
12 many combatants were disarmed? Just a rough figure, Mr Sesay.

13 A. Port Loko, Superman disarmed over 2,000 armed men in the
14 DDR camp in Port Loko. He was based there.

14:57:45

15 Q. And the other two?

16 A. Like Segbwema, up to 400 to 500 men were disarmed in
17 Segbwema. It was only Fadugu that they were about 50 to 60
18 because there were not many.

14:58:12

19 Q. So by the summer of August of 2000, based on the figures
20 you've just given us, some 2,500 RUF combatants had disarmed; is
21 that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And this process of disarmament, what did it actually
24 involve? Did it actually involve the men handing over the arms
25 and ammunition and other munitions in their possession? Is that
26 what it involved?

14:58:29

27 A. Yes, that is what we call disarmament. You will be
28 disarmed of the weapon, and the ammunition will be disarmed,
29 both.

1 Q. Now, during that - during the period when those 2,500 men
2 were disarming along with their weapons and other munitions, was
3 the RUF under attack from the Kamajors at that time?

4 A. No. At that time, the Kamajors were not attacking. It was
14:59:16 5 after the May 8 incident that they started attacking some areas.

6 Q. Now, after August of 2000, did any further disarmament take
7 place up until the end of 2000?

8 A. No, disarmament did not take place, because after my
9 appointment as interim leader, I sent the delegation to Abuja
14:59:51 10 in October, and they said we should have another meeting. So
11 I was waiting for the ECOWAS to invite us. So when they invited
12 us in May 2001, from there, the tripartite meeting was called and
13 the disarmament restarted.

14 Q. Restarted when?

15:00:13 15 A. After the Abuja II meeting in May 2001.

16 Q. Thank you. Back to page 15162, please. Do you know Momoh
17 Gibba?

18 A. Yes, I know Momoh Gibba.

19 Q. Is he known by any other name?

15:00:37 20 A. Well, I only know Momoh Gibba. I don't know any other name
21 for him.

22 Q. When in October of 2000 you travelled to Monrovia, which
23 helicopter took you there and back?

24 A. It was an ATU helicopter.

15:01:06 25 Q. At the - in or about October of 2000, did you have the use
26 of a captured UNAMSIL truck?

27 A. No. I was not using any truck from Kono to Moa River. The
28 trucks were in Kono, and they were using them to go and purchase
29 rice at Rokupr, but I did not have any truck that I was using

1 from Manowa to Kono, no.

2 Q. Were you given materials by Charles Taylor on that trip,
3 for operations in Guinea?

15:01:58

4 A. No, no. Mr Taylor did not give me ammunition for any
5 operation in Guinea.

6 Q. Page 15164, please, line 23 - no, line 20:

7 "Q. You indicated that this trip that Issa took to
8 Monrovia occurred at the end of 2000. Did Issa take any
9 other trips outside of Sierra Leone in the year 2000?

15:02:31

10 A. That was the last trip he made in 2000."

11 So just to summarise, Mr Sesay, according to this witness,
12 you make two trips May, one trip July, one trip August, and this
13 trip at the end of 2000, so that's five trips. If I understand
14 the evidence you've told us, you made one trip in May, one

15:03:05

15 in July, one in August, one in October, and one at the end of
16 2000. Is that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. But the witness says - line --

15:03:23

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, if I'm looking at the line
20 23 of that page --

21 MR GRIFFITHS: Which page is that?

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: The page that you just referred to. I'll
23 just make sure. I think it's 15164.

24 MR GRIFFITHS: Yes.

15:03:36

25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Line 23. The witness, when asked, "Did
26 Issa take any other trips outside of the Sierra Leone in the year
27 2000," he says, "That was the last trip he made in 2000 and at
28 the end of 2000 going to 2001 he made another patrol to go
29 there."

1 MR GRIFFITHS: I was coming on to that, Madam President. I
2 was coming on to that.

3 Q. Now, did you, in addition to the five trips described by
4 the witness, make a sixth patrol to go to Monrovia?

15:04:15 5 A. In 2000? No. I recall that I made five trips to Liberia
6 in 2000.

7 Q. Now, the reason I asked that question earlier in relation
8 to Madam President's question is because the witness goes on to
9 say:

15:04:41 10 "Q. Another patrol to go where?

11 A. To go to Monrovia.

12 Q. Can you tell us again when this was, what year?

13 A. That was in 2001, early 2001."

14 So if that answer by the witness is correct, there's five
15:05:01 15 trips in 2000 and a patrol in early 2001.

16 "Q. And why did he go to Monrovia in early 2001?

17 A. He still took diamonds with him to Charles Taylor.

18 Q. And how did he travel to Monrovia on this trip?

19 A. He travelled from Koidu Town in his jeep. He went to
15:05:36 20 Kailahun, he came to Manowa" - now remember this is early
21 2001. "He crossed over, he came to Kailahun. Koindu to Foya.

22 Q. And then from Foya how did he travel to Monrovia?

23 A. From Foya, the ATU chopper came and collected him from
24 Foya and took him to Monrovia.

15:06:00 25 Q. What happened when he arrived in Monrovia?

26 A. When he arrived in Monrovia he drove to the hotel this
27 time around. He did not go to the guesthouse. He went to
28 a hotel, the Boulevard Hotel, close to a gas station.

29 Q. What type of vehicle was used when he drove to this

1 hotel?

2 A. He used a Nissan Patrol jeep and that was Benjamin
3 Yeaten's vehicle but I can't remember the number.

4 Q. What happened then after he arrived at the hotel?

15:06:43 5 A. At night from the hotel Benjamin Yeaten still collected
6 him and took him to the Executive Mansion Ground to Charles
7 Taylor for him to hand over the diamonds that he took for
8 Charles Taylor."

9 Pause. Details, please. Did you go to Monrovia in early
15:07:07 10 2001?

11 A. Yes. I went to Monrovia in March of 2001.

12 Q. Next question: How did you travel to Monrovia on that
13 occasion?

14 A. I travelled from Kono to Manowa and then I crossed into
15:07:33 15 Pendembu and I was in Pendembu when Ibrahim Bah sent a pick-up
16 with Eddie Kanneh. The pick-up came through Bomi Hills, Lofa
17 Bridge and it came through Vahun and crossed over to Bomaru and
18 went to Baiwala and picked me up in Pendembu. And we used the
19 same route to go back to Monrovia.

15:07:56 20 Q. Did you take a trip to Monrovia in early 2001 when you
21 travelled by road and other means to Foya where you were picked
22 up by an ATU helicopter and taken to Monrovia?

23 A. No, no. No, that was not me. The trip that I made is what
24 I have spoken about.

15:08:26 25 Q. Next: Apart from Eddie Kanneh and the driver, who
26 accompanied you on this trip to Monrovia that you made
27 in March of 2001?

28 A. It was myself, together with two of my bodyguards, Tommy
29 and Abdulai, we went.

1 Q. Now, you've assisted me with this before, but I just want
2 everyone to be clear. Did FOC accompany you on this trip
3 in March 2001?

4 A. No. FOC did not accompany me, not at all.

15:09:16 5 Q. The trip you made in March 2001, did you meet with Charles
6 Taylor?

7 A. No, I did not meet with Charles Taylor.

8 Q. Page 15165:

9 "At night from the hotel Benjamin Yeaten still collected
15:09:35 10 him and took him to the Executive Mansion Ground to Charles
11 Taylor for him to hand over, over the diamonds that he took
12 for Charles Taylor.

13 Q. And what happened when Issa met with Charles Taylor?

14 A. When he met with Charles Taylor, he handed over the
15:09:54 15 consignment and Charles Taylor asked him what he had done
16 about the UNAMSIL, being that he said - being that he said
17 when they were still threatening him. He said he had
18 managed to get the situation under control, but that the
19 Kamajors were still posing a threat. So from there Issa
15:10:15 20 returned to the hotel.

21 Q. And what quantity of diamonds did Issa take on this
22 trip?

23 A. Issa took with him the same quantity, a similar
24 quantity that he had taken with him during the other trip.

15:10:30 25 Q. Now, what happened then after Issa went back to the
26 hotel?

27 A. The following day he went back and boarded the chopper
28 with few materials and flew to Foya.

29 Q. And what kind of materials did he take with him on the

1 chopper?

2 A. This time around he took arms and ammunition with him,
3 few AK rifles, few G3 rifles, G3 rounds and RPG rockets.

4 He took with him some bags of rice and about four drums of
15:11:04 5 diesel.

6 Q. This diesel, do you know what the diesel was used for?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What is that?

9 A. They used the diesel on the vehicles and they also used
15:11:13 10 it on the machines that they had in Kono, the Caterpillars
11 that they used to dredge the ground, pave the way so that
12 the manpower will go there to mine for the diamonds. They
13 used the diesel on these Caterpillars.

14 Q. And what kind of chopper was it that flew Issa and
15:11:35 15 these materials back to Foya?

16 A. It was the ATU chopper.

17 Q. And what did Issa do after he arrived in Foya?

18 A. When he arrived in Foya - at all times when Issa came
19 from Koidu Town to Foya he would bring his jeep and he
15:11:50 20 would fly to Monrovia and get the materials. And when he
21 returned to Foya he would load them on board the vehicle
22 again and return to Sierra Leone.

23 Q. You indicated that on this trip Issa Sesay brought back
24 arms and ammunition. How did he use the arms and
15:12:08 25 ammunition that he took back to Sierra Leone?

26 A. He used them against the Kamajors and others were used
27 against the UNAMSIL and some were stored.

28 Q. Where were they stored?

29 A. They had a store in Koidu Town."

1 So that's a trip - a sixth trip described by this witness
2 in early 2001. So there's five trips by you in 2000, then this
3 trip, trip number six, in 2001. The account given by the
4 witness, Mr Sesay, is there any truth in it?

15:12:53 5 A. This is not true, because in the March that he has said I
6 was using ammunition against UNAMSIL, by then UNAMSIL had
7 deployed in Makeni, Magburaka --

8 Q. Can I interrupt you, Mr Sesay. He does not say March. He
9 says "early 2001". He doesn't specify a month. Okay?

15:13:20 10 A. Okay.

11 Q. Continue. What were you saying?

12 A. What I am saying, I said in 2001 UNAMSIL had redeployed -
13 in early 2001 UNAMSIL had redeployed in Makeni, Magburaka, so -
14 because I had the meeting with General Opande in December 2000

15:13:46 15 and then from then it was only after two weeks that UNAMSIL
16 redeployed. And since the time they redeployed in RUF-controlled
17 areas, UNAMSIL and RUF never had problems until the disarmament
18 came to an end. So I did not have any need for ammunition in
19 either 2000 or early 2001, no, I did not have any need - any use
15:14:10 20 for ammunition.

21 Q. Now, let's look at trip number seven, as described by this
22 witness. Page 15167, line 6:

23 "Q. Did Issa Sesay take any other trips outside of
24 Sierra Leone in 2001?"

15:14:31 25 A. Yes, he made another trip, one more trip to Liberia.

26 Q. And where did he go in Liberia?

27 A. He went to Monrovia."

28 Now, let's me ask you, Mr Sesay: After your March trip
29 when you were collected by Eddie Kanneh, did you make any other

1 trip to Monrovia in 2001?

2 A. No, I did not go to Monrovia again.

3 Q. I just want to be clear about this, Mr Sesay. After
4 the March trip when you went by road with Eddie Kanneh,

15:15:11 5 between March 2000 and January 2001 - sorry. Start again. Just
6 to be clear, between March 2001 and January 2002, did you make
7 any further trips to Monrovia?

8 A. I said no. I did not make any other trip to go to
9 Monrovia.

15:15:41 10 Q. So just to be clear then, Mr Sesay. Your account is this:
11 One trip in May --

12 MR KOU MJIAN: Can the witness give his own account. I
13 object to that. Leading.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: I thought that counsel was summarising
15:15:57 15 the evidence already given by the witness.

16 MR KOU MJIAN: Then it would be asked and answered and just
17 repetitive, so I would object to it on that basis.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: No. I think he's summarising for a
19 reason. Please go ahead.

15:16:09 20 MR GRIFFITHS: I'm grateful, Madam President.

21 Q. Just to summarise, Mr Sesay: One trip end of May, is that
22 right?

23 A. A yes.

24 Q. One trip end of July, is that right?

15:16:25 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. One trip in early August, is that right?

27 A. Yes.

28 Q. One trip in October, yes?

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. One trip end of 2000, yes?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Final trip May - I mean, March 2001. Is that correct?

4 A. Yes, you are correct.

15:16:47 5 Q. Now, bearing that in mind, now let's look at the account
6 given by the witness. The witness says that you made a seventh
7 trip, line 6:

8 "Q. Did Issa Sesay take any other trips outside of
9 Sierra Leone in 2001?

15:17:05 10 A. Yes, he made another trip. One more trip to Liberia."
11 So this is a second trip being described in 2001 by the witness:

12 "Q. And where did he go in Liberia?

13 A. He went to Monrovia.

14 Q. Do you recall when it was that he that he made this
15:17:24 15 other trip to Monrovia?

16 A. Well, that was in 2000 but I can't recall the month.
17 It might be March or May or April, something like that, but
18 I cannot recall the actual month but I was not keeping
19 record of these dates.

15:17:40 20 Q. And what year are you talking about?

21 A. I'm talking about 2001.

22 Q. And why did he make this trip to Monrovia?

23 A. He again took diamonds with him to Charles Taylor.

24 Q. How did he travel to Monrovia on this trip?

15:17:57 25 A. He travelled using a vehicle from Kono, came to Manowa,
26 he came crossed over went to Kailahun, he went to Koindu
27 and crossed to Foya and from Foya he was collected by
28 the ATU chopper and taken to Monrovia" --

29 JUDGE LUSSICK: It doesn't say ATU chopper.

1 MR GRIFFITHS: I'm just summarising, your Honour.

2 JUDGE LUSSICK: I'm reading the transcript, Mr Griffiths.

3 MR GRIFFITHS:

15:18:31

4 "He went to Koindu and crossed to Foya, and from Foya he
5 was collected by the chopper and he flew.

6 Q. What type of chopper?

7 A. He used the ATU chopper."

8 I was just seeking to summarise it.

9 Q. "Q. And what happened once Issa Sesay arrived in Monrovia?

15:18:43

10 A. This time around, whilst he was going to Monrovia,
11 he moved together with Benjamin Yeaten from Foya because he
12 met Benjamin Yeaten there. He and Benjamin Yeaten moved
13 from Foya to Monrovia and, when they arrived there, they
14 met Benjamin Yeaten's vehicles parked at the field and the
15 chopper landed at the Weasua airport. And then when they
16 moved from there, Benjamin Yeaten took him to the Boulevard
17 Hotel and Benjamin Yeaten drove off and went to his own
18 house.

15:19:04

19 Q. And then what happened after Issa Sesay was at
20 Boulevard Hotel?

15:19:23

21 A. Later Benjamin Yeaten came and collected him and they
22 went to see Charles Taylor at the mansion ground.

23 Q. Do you know what time of the day - night this happened?

24 A. It was at night, around 10 o'clock.

15:19:44

25 Q. And what happened then when Issa Sesay went with
26 Benjamin Yeaten to the mansion ground?

27 A. He went with the diamonds that he had brought with him
28 to be given to Charles Taylor.

29 Q. And what happened then with this meeting with Charles

1 Taylor?

2 A. When he went and handed over the diamonds, Charles
3 Taylor told him he wouldn't be - he shouldn't be coming
4 frequently with diamonds to him. He said because the UN
15:20:15 5 observers and the international community was having eyes
6 on him to see whether he had connections with the RUF and
7 that they were always bringing diamonds to him. He said
8 Issa shouldn't be bringing diamonds to him and that he was
9 going to try and get somebody - present somebody to him who
15:20:37 10 would be assisting him when he got diamonds from him, to
11 get certain items for him, so that he said Issa shouldn't
12 be bringing diamonds to him frequently. So that was what
13 he said when he received the diamonds from Issa and later
14 Issa drove back to the Boulevard Hotel."

15:21:02 15 Pause there. Help me with this: Did such a trip take
16 place?

17 A. No. After March - after March 2001 I did not go to
18 Monrovia again.

19 Q. Now, you will recall that this witness spoke of Charles
15:21:35 20 Taylor having a member of his SSS, one Jungle, as his
21 representative. Do you recall the witness saying that? We went
22 through that this morning?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So when Mr Taylor was expressing these concerns, according
15:21:56 25 to the witness, page 15168, about the UN observers and the
26 international community, why were you drawing attention to
27 yourself by making these trips, Mr Sesay, when you could have
28 sent Jungle, Mr Taylor's representative?

29 A. Well, as far as I know, such an event did not take place.

1 Such an event did not take place. And, during this time, Jungle
2 was no longer with the RUF; Jungle was no longer part of the RUF,
3 and such an event did not take place.

15:22:39 4 Q. Now, I want you to help me with something else in this
5 regard. Mr Sesay, you have admitted to these judges that
6 in October 2000, and again in March of 2001, you traded in
7 diamonds in Monrovia, diamonds which originated in Sierra Leone.
8 What was your opinion as to the legality or otherwise of your
9 actions on those two occasions?

15:23:10 10 A. Well, whether it was legal or illegal.

11 Q. Yes, please.

12 A. Well, I did not know whether it was illegal because I had
13 gone there and the ECOWAS had given me responsibility, and nobody
14 ever gave me a loan for a bag of rice so that I could be able to
15:23:42 15 manage the welfare of the RUF. So it was only through the mining
16 that I was able to manage the welfare of the RUF and I was able
17 to lead them up to disarmament, and even certain activities
18 involving the RUF, that's the transformation of the RUF to a
19 political party. Also, because after the signing of the Lome
15:24:06 20 Accord, Mr Sankoh received assistance from even the British High
21 Commissioner in Freetown by then. Even after the signing of the
22 Lome Accord, President Obasanjo sent some thousands of bags of
23 rice for Mr Sankoh to feed the RUF combatants. But after the
24 ECOWAS leaders had gone and appointed me leader to implement the
15:24:33 25 Lome Accord, nobody gave me a cent, so how could I have been able
26 to manage the welfare of the RUF, except through the mining
27 activities? Because the RUF had nothing else to say this was
28 money that belonged to the RUF, no.

29 Q. Now, Mr Sesay, let me ask you this question then: Your

1 dealings with foreign - foreign diamond merchants on those two
2 occasions, did you conduct that business openly or clandestinely?
3 Put differently: Did you hide what you were doing from your
4 fellow members within the RUF?

15:25:22 5 A. No. My colleague RUF members knew because with even the
6 selling of the diamonds in October, Gibriil Massaquoi knew about
7 it, Morris Kallon was there, and Superman knew about it. And
8 even the one in March of 2001, Gibriil Massaquoi was there and
9 Kallon knew about it, Gbao knew about it, I did not hide it away
15:25:53 10 from my colleague RUF members, no.

11 Q. Did you, on those two occasions when you were going to his
12 capital to conduct that business, inform Mr Taylor that you were
13 engaged in such activity in October 2000 and March 2001?

14 A. No, I did not inform him. Like, in the case of
15:26:23 15 the October, he - he called me that I should go and take the
16 delegation with me - they were going to Abuja - and for the - in
17 the case of Ibrahim Bah, Louis and Michel had come to Monrovia.
18 They were in Monrovia before I arrived there. I did not explain
19 that to Mr Taylor and he did not know about it. And even with
15:26:42 20 the diamond that I sold, when Ibrahim Bah was in the hotel in
21 with Sammy, Mr Taylor did not know about it. The only person who
22 knew was Benjamin Yeaten, who later got a commission from the man
23 who bought the diamond. That was in March 2001. But even with
24 the October - the one in October, Benjamin did not know about it.

15:27:06 25 All they knew about was that I took a delegation with me to be
26 sent to Abuja.

27 Q. Now, my next question then is this: Why didn't you tell
28 Mr Taylor that you were conducting diamond transactions in his
29 capital, given that you had - he was one of those five leaders of

1 ECOWAS who appointed you interim leader?

15:27:54 2 A. Well, I did not deem it necessary to tell Mr Taylor,
3 because at the time they appointed me, he was one of the ECOWAS
4 leaders. They did not make any provisions for me, and even the
5 ECOWAS leaders during the two meetings for my appointment, they
6 did not make mention to me that I shouldn't undertake mining and
7 they did not say otherwise that I should do mining or I should
8 not do mining. All they knew was that what demanded that
9 United Nations give to them, was what they advised me on, and
10 what they advised me on was what I implemented.

11 Q. When you say, Mr Sesay, "They did not make provisions for
12 me" what do you mean?

13 A. Well, like, at the time they made me interim leader to
14 implement the Lome Accord, they did not give me any support with
15 regards the welfare of the RUF, like how to keep RUF medication,
16 or how to get food for RUF, or how to keep RUF well informed in
17 communication or to say they gave me condiments or other things,
18 no, that never happened.

15:28:35 19 Q. Page 15169, please, line 3, picking up this account about
20 trip number seven:

21 "Q. Now the diamonds that Issa gave to Charles Taylor,
22 what was the quantity of diamonds on this trip?

23 A. He brought a similar parcel because at any time they
24 got diamonds over there they will weigh them, they will
15:29:16 25 parcel them, and especially when they said they were
26 diamonds for safekeeping. Any diamond that was meant for
27 safekeeping, they will weigh them, they parcel them and he
28 will take them over with him.

29 Q. Now, you said that 'Issa shouldn't be bringing diamonds

1 to him but that he was going to try and get somebody -
2 present somebody who will be assisting him.' Now, who was
3 going to try and get someone?

15:29:50 4 A. Charles Taylor said he will look for somebody to whom
5 Issa will be bringing his small small diamonds to him, for
6 him to be exchanging it for money so that when Issa gets
7 the money he will use it to buy his basic needs that he
8 would use on the front line.

9 Q. Use on the front line where?

15:30:07 10 A. In Sierra Leone.

11 Q. So then what happened after Issa drove back to the
12 Boulevard Hotel?

13 A. He passes the night there and the following morning he
14 was still there. He did not travel until in the evening
15:30:21 15 when Benjamin Yeaten brought two white guys to him. The
16 one called himself Alpha Bravo. The other one I did not
17 know his name, I don't recall it. And he said he was
18 called Alpha Bravo, and he did not tell us what 'Alpha
19 Bravo' meant. He said he was from Belgium. And then Issa
15:30:49 20 said, 'I know these people', he said."

21 Let us just remind ourselves, and I want you to do this
22 shortly, Mr Sesay: How many times did FOC accompany you to
23 Monrovia.

24 A. FOC accompanied me to Monrovia once during the first
15:31:12 25 meeting with the five Heads of States. Since then, FOC and I
26 never went to Monrovia together again up to the time for the
27 disarmament.

28 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honour, there is a short matter I have.
29 I don't know if I could do it now, but it would need to be in

1 private session.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Koumjian, you know that before I
3 announce a private session I must give reasons for it.

4 MR KOUMJIAN: It concerns the security of witnesses.

15:31:48 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. Then we will go into a brief
6 private session, please.

7 MR GRIFFITHS: I don't know if Mr Koumjian requires the
8 witness to withdraw? He hasn't indicated whether he does or he
9 doesn't.

15:32:10 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: He doesn't.

11 [At this point in the proceedings, a portion of
12 the transcript, pages 45302 to 45304, was
13 extracted and sealed under separate cover, as
14 the proceeding was heard in private session.]

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1 [Open session]

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

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, Mr Koumjian.

4 MR KOUMJIAN: There's one matter I would like to draw to
15:38:59 5 everyone's attention, because by the end of the day it may be too
6 late, and that is, earlier, the transcript of 1 September was
7 read. Many listening may have gotten the impression - I don't
8 know if your Honours did - that the testimony of one witness was
9 being read, because counsel was going back and forth between two
15:39:24 10 different witnesses.

11 So I just wanted to point out that, on 1 September,
12 testimony was read this morning from two different witnesses.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: I thought the witness that testified on
14 1 September poured into 2 September.

15:39:44 15 Mr Griffiths, is that wrong?

16 MR GRIFFITHS: That was my understanding, my reading of the
17 transcripts.

18 MR KOUMJIAN: Apparently, counsel didn't realise he was
19 doing it. The 1st September, the witness on the 2nd did start,
15:39:59 20 but also there was a witness being completed that had started
21 earlier. Counsel went back and forth between two different
22 witnesses.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: What pages in particular are you
24 referring to, Mr Koumjian? And I think you'd better take us into
15:40:15 25 the record, because this is important.

26 MR KOUMJIAN: Well, if you look at the testimony of
27 1 September, the last page, you will see the pages that each
28 witness testified. I can get that. But basically - and the
29 witness that testified on the 2nd began his examination on

1 page 15081. Testimony was read on earlier pages, and it was read
2 around the time that counsel was asking the witness about who he
3 appointed mining commanders, who the various mining commanders
4 were.

15:41:00 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, but I'm referring to the record,
6 today's record. What pages are you referring to where counsel
7 was referring to a previous witness other than 338?

8 MR KOU MJIAN: That will take me a moment to find.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. Do look, and in the meantime,
15:41:26 10 I'll ask Mr Griffiths to continue.

11 MR GRIFFITHS: Can I just say, to assist Mr Koumjian, that
12 on 1 September TF1-367 gave evidence, and on 1 to 5 September,
13 TF1-338 gave evidence.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Apparently, Mr Griffiths starts citing
15:42:10 15 pages 15114, this is the first time he cites the transcript of
16 1 September, and 15114 obviously relates to 338, and then,
17 of course, goes on to 2 September. But if I'm wrong,
18 Mr Koumjian, you'll take your time and let the Court know.

19 JUDGE DOHERTY: That's today.

15:42:40 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes.

21 MR KOU MJIAN: I believe it's approximately page 23 of
22 today's LiveNote, and line 17. There's a reference to page -
23 counsel's reading, for example, from page 15023, which was the
24 testimony of a different witness.

15:43:29 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: I'm afraid I can't see the excerpt on -
26 what line on page 23?

27 MR KOU MJIAN: We also have, on page 26 of the LiveNote,
28 line 7, counsel refers to page 15024.

29 MR GRIFFITHS: Madam President? Madam President?

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, Mr Griffiths?

2 MR GRIFFITHS: I hate to sound like a killjoy, and
3 interesting as this may be, surely it's something that can be
4 resolved overnight when Mr Koumjian has all the time available to
15:44:08 5 him to sort out whatever transcript references he thinks might be
6 of assistance to your Honour and we can deal with the matter very
7 shortly in the morning. It seems that we're occupying valuable
8 time now conducting research which Mr Koumjian can do in the
9 quiet of his office upstairs at his own leisure.

15:44:30 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: I think it was - it is pertinent for him
11 to have pointed this distinction out. I'm not sure that it
12 changes the gist of the testimony, though. But it's vital to
13 note that there were, in fact, two witnesses that testified on
14 1 September, and I think we'll leave it at that, and any issues
15:44:52 15 arising will be handled in cross-examination.

16 MR GRIFFITHS: And I'm most grateful to Mr Koumjian for
17 having pointed this out. This has been of great assistance.
18 Q. Now, can we go back, please, to page 15169, bottom of the
19 page, please?

15:45:25 20 "A. He passed the night there, and the following morning
21 he was still there. He did not travel until in the evening
22 when Benjamin Yeaten brought two white guys to him. The
23 one called himself Alpha Bravo. The other, I did not know
24 his name, I don't recall it. And he said he was called
15:45:44 25 Alpha Bravo, and he did not tell us what Alpha Bravo meant.
26 He said he was from Belgium. And then Issa said, 'I know
27 these people,' he said, because he recalled at one time in
28 1999 they visited Mosquito and Mosquito took them to Kono.
29 He said, 'I think I recall this face.'

1 Q. Now was it explained to Issa why Alpha Bravo and this
2 other man were brought to Issa?

3 A. Well, Benjamin Yeaten told Issa that those were the
4 white men, they were diamond dealers from Belgium, and that
15:46:33 5 they brought him so that the small small diamonds that
6 Issa had been getting from Sierra Leone, he will be able to
7 bring them to the man so that he will sell them to him so
8 that he will use the money to get his needs to support his
9 fighters in Sierra Leone.

15:46:51 10 Q. Issa would bring these small small diamonds to whom?

11 A. To Alpha Bravo.

12 Q. Now, what else happened during this meeting between
13 Benjamin Yeaten, these two white men and Issa Sesay?

14 A. They just introduced themselves. Nothing else happened
15:47:15 15 between them, and they left.

16 Q. And what did Issa do after that?

17 A. After that, Issa decided to go back to Sierra Leone.

18 Q. And did Issa take anything back with him to
19 Sierra Leone?

15:47:28 20 A. He took some bags of rice with him, diesel and some
21 medicine, some drugs, and he took them to Sierra Leone.

22 Q. And what was the diesel used for?"

23 And I'm paraphrasing:

24 "A. They used the diesel on the vehicles that Issa was
15:47:48 25 using in Sierra Leone and also the Caterpillars that were
26 mining the diamonds.

27 Q. How did Issa travel from Monrovia when he went back to
28 Sierra Leone?

29 A. He travelled using a chopper to Foya, and from Foya he

1 had his vehicles" - line 7 - "It was an ATU chopper."

2 Now, one other matter I want to deal with, before we deal
3 with another trip to Monrovia, allegedly made by you.

4 What I seek your assistance with is this: When we look at
15:48:24 5 page 15168 we see this, line 20: "Charles Taylor told him that he
6 shouldn't be coming frequently with diamonds to him." And then
7 he goes on to express his concern about the UN and the
8 international community.

9 "He said Issa shouldn't be bringing diamonds to him but he
15:48:45 10 was going to try and get somebody - present somebody to him who
11 will be assisting him when he got diamonds."

12 Then when we go to page 15170, line 6:

13 "Well, Benjamin Yeaten told Issa that those were the white
14 men, they were diamond dealers from Belgium, and that they
15:49:11 15 brought him so that the small small diamonds that Issa had
16 been getting from Sierra Leone, he will be able to bring
17 them to the men - man - so that he will sell them to him so
18 that he will use the money to get his needs to support his
19 fighters in Sierra Leone.

15:49:29 20 Q. Issa would bring these small small diamonds to whom?

21 A. To Alpha Bravo."

22 Now, putting those two together, Mr Sesay, the clear
23 suggestion is that it was Charles Taylor who put you in touch
24 with some white diamond dealers from Belgium. Who put you in
15:49:53 25 touch with Michel and Louis, Mr Sesay?

26 A. It was Ibrahim Bah, October 2000. And it is the same
27 Ibrahim Bah who brought Michel and Louis around August/September
28 of 1999 to Sam Bockarie. So from that time I had known Michel
29 and his colleague, the other man. So in October 2000, it was

1 Ibrahim Bah who brought them, who called them and they met
2 Ibrahim Bah in Monrovia, so they were with him when I went there.
3 I went there to accompany the delegation when I went to them.

15:50:47 4 Q. Now, I want to bottom out this association, so help me with
5 this: As far as you're aware, when did any member of the RUF
6 start dealing with Michel and Louis?

7 A. It was around August/September of 1999 when Ibrahim Bah
8 brought them to Sam Bockarie. That was the first time that
9 Michel and Louis started dealing with the RUF members. And the
15:51:21 10 second time that Ibrahim Bah brought them to Mr Sankoh in Kono,
11 that was in December '99. And in March, again, they came to
12 Freetown to meet Mr Sankoh. That is, Michel, Ibrahim Bah and
13 Louis. And with me it was 2000, October, when Ibrahim Bah
14 brought them to Monrovia and I transacted business with them.

15:51:54 15 Q. And when did - for how long did the relationship continue
16 with Louis and Michel? Until when?

17 A. Well, when I transacted business with them in October - no,
18 Ibrahim Bah started dodging to give the remaining \$60,000. So
19 from that time I did not do business with them. For the entire
15:52:25 20 2000 until the disarmament I did not see them.

21 Q. So when was the last time that any representative of the
22 RUF did any diamond trading with Michel and Louis?

23 A. October 2000.

24 Q. Thank you. Page 11571. Now here the witness describes an
15:53:03 25 eighth trip that you made to Monrovia:

26 "Q. Now, during 2001, did Issa make any other trips
27 outside of Sierra Leone?

28 A. He made a trip to go and meet Benjamin Yeaten when they
29 went and met Alpha Bravo with a small consignment

1 containing diamonds."

2 Now, did you know either Michel or Louis by the name Alpha
3 Bravo, Mr Sesay?

4 A. No, not at all.

15:53:56 5 Q. Were they ever - either or both of them ever referred to by
6 that name in your presence by anyone?

7 A. No, no.

8 Q. "Q. Do you recall when this was in 2001 that he made this
9 trip?

15:54:20 10 A. I don't recall that now.

11 Q. And how did he travel on this trip?

12 So help us before I move on, I'm helpfully reminded, who is
13 Alpha Bravo?

14 A. I don't know Alpha Bravo, because I've never come across
15:54:45 15 that name, Alpha Bravo, a white man.

16 Q. Line 13:

17 "Q. Do you recall when this was in 2001 that he made this
18 trip?

19 A. I don't recall that now.

15:55:00 20 Q. And how did he travel on this trip?

21 A. He travelled from Koidu Town, he came to Foya, and
22 there he met Benjamin Yeaten and they flew to Monrovia.

23 Q. And what kind of aircraft did they use to fly to
24 Monrovia?

15:55:19 25 A. They again used the ATU chopper, the aircraft.

26 Q. And what happened when Issa and Benjamin Yeaten arrived
27 in Monrovia?

28 A. They were taken to a guesthouse, I don't recall the
29 name now, but they said the guesthouse belonged to Monie

1 Captan, but I don't recall the name of the guesthouse now.
2 That was where they were lodged and that was where Alpha
3 Bravo met them".

4 Who is Monie Captan?

15:55:55 5 A. Monie Captan was the minister of what? I think he was the
6 finance minister. He was one of the ministers in Mr Taylor's
7 government, that's what I know, because I heard that name, but I
8 never spoke to him directly.

9 Q. Very well.

15:56:15 10 A. I heard the name.

11 Q. "Q. To your knowledge, who was Monie Captan?

12 A. Well, I did not see Monie Captan and I did not know
13 Monie Captan but I was told that he owned the guesthouse.

14 Q. What happened then when Alpha Bravo came to the
15:56:35 15 guesthouse and met with Issa and Benjamin Yeaten?

16 A. When they came, they weighed the diamonds that Issa had
17 brought and after weighing the diamonds they did not
18 actually announce the weight of the diamonds and I did not
19 hear it, but in return Alpha Bravo gave Issa about \$300,000
15:56:59 20 and from that money, the money itself, Issa divided the
21 money into two parts and he took \$150,000 to Charles
22 Taylor. He said for safekeeping. And the returning
23 \$150,000 he took with him to Sierra Leone."

24 Pause there. Now, you've just heard what I read, Mr Sesay,
15:57:32 25 yes?

26 A. Yes, very well.

27 Q. So you sold \$300,000 worth of small small diamonds to Alpha
28 Bravo and you gave \$150,000 of it to Mr Taylor?

29 A. No, this one is a big lie. It's a big lie.

1 Q. And then you took \$150,000 back to Sierra Leone.

2 A. It's a lie.

3 Q. Tell me, Mr Sesay, what use did you have for \$150,000 in
4 Sierra Leone?

15:58:10 5 A. Well, I did not transact such a business where I gave
6 Mr Taylor 150,000 and I brought with me 150,000. That's a lie.
7 And I transacted no business with anybody called Alpha Bravo.
8 That is a lie.

9 Q. What happened to \$150,000 you took back to Sierra Leone
10 according to this witness, Mr Sesay?

11 A. This witness is telling lies. I did not bring such an
12 amount, nor did I sell such a quantity of diamonds to anybody
13 called Alpha Bravo. The diamonds that I sold, I told you about
14 them.

15:58:55 15 Q. Let's just see if we can finish this trip before we have to
16 conclude for the afternoon. Line 12:

17 "This transaction occurred in this guesthouse. It took
18 place in the guesthouse.

19 Q. And how did Issa travel back from Monrovia to
15:59:13 20 Sierra Leone?

21 A. He still travelled together with Benjamin Yeaten from
22 Monrovia to Foya and Issa loaded on board his vehicle and
23 he returned Sierra Leone to Koidu Town."

24 And he goes on to describe that the ATU chopper was used.

15:59:30 25 "Q. What was it that Issa loaded on to his vehicle to
26 return to Sierra Leone?

27 A. Issa brought some drinks, some beer, some hard liquors,
28 he brought some shoes, some clothing, some trousers.

29 According to him, he said he was going to give them to some

1 commanders. And he also bought some drugs that he loaded
2 on board the chopper and he brought them to Foya and from
3 Foya he loaded them on board the vehicles and drove them to
4 Koidu Town."

16:00:03 5 Mr Sesay, where did you buy the liquor and the drugs that
6 you took back to Sierra Leone, according to this witness?

7 A. Well, I did not make such a trip in 2001.

8 Q. What do you say about the testimony that this witness has
9 given about these eight trips that you were supposed to make to
16:00:33 10 Liberia, Mr Sesay?

11 A. It's a false story. It's a made-up story. It's not true.

12 Q. We've still got some further trips to go but I think we
13 might have to delay that pleasure until tomorrow.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. As announced earlier, we're
16:00:52 15 going to adjourn now until tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock.

16 Mr Sesay, you are not to discuss your evidence with anyone.
17 Court adjourns accordingly.

18 [Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 4.01 p.m.
19 to be reconvened on Tuesday, 3 August 2010 at
13:30:33 20 9.00 a.m.]

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I N D E X

WITNESSES FOR THE DEFENCE:

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|--------------------------------------|-------|
| DCT-172 | 45176 |
| EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR GRIFFITHS | 45176 |