



Case No. SCSL-2003-01-T

THE PROSECUTOR OF
THE SPECIAL COURT
V.
CHARLES GHANKAY TAYLOR

TUESDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2008
9:30 A.M.
TRIAL

TRIAL CHAMBER II

Before the Judges:

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

For Chambers:

Mr William Romans
Ms Doreen Kiggundu

For the Registry:

Ms Rachel Irura

For the Prosecution:

Ms Brenda J Hollis
Mr Alain Werner
Ms Leigh Lawrie
Ms Ruth Hackler

For the accused Charles Ghankay
Taylor:

Mr Terry Munyard
Mr Morris Anyah

For the Office of the Principal
Defender:

Ms Elizabeth Nahamya

1 Tuesday, 2 September 2008

2 [Open session]

3 [The accused present]

4 [Upon commencing at 9.30 a.m.]

09:24:10 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good morning. Appearances, Ms Hollis,
6 please.

7 MS HOLLIS: Good morning Madam President, your Honours,
8 opposing counsel. This morning for the Prosecution: Alain
9 Werner, Ruth Mary Hackler and myself Brenda J Hollis.

09:29:22 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you, Ms Hollis. Mr Munyard?

11 MR MUNYARD: Good morning Madam President, your Honours and
12 counsel opposite. For the Defence there is myself Terry Munyard
13 and Morris Anyah. Also present in court today is the principal
14 defender, Elizabeth Nahamya.

09:29:41 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. We welcome Ms Nahamya to the
16 Court.

17 If there are no other matters then I will remind the
18 witness of his oath. Mr Witness, you recall that yesterday you
19 took the oath to tell the truth. That oath continues to be
09:29:59 20 binding on you and you must answer questions truthfully. Do you
21 understand?

22 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

23 WITNESS: TF1-338 [On former oath]

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. There will be further
09:30:08 25 questions and I again remind you of the need to speak slowly
26 enough for the interpreters and those that are writing what you
27 say.

28 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Ms Hollis, please proceed.

1 EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MS HOLLI S: [Continued]

2 Q. Good morning, Mr Witness.

3 A. Good morning.

09:30:36

4 Q. I would like to remind you that again we are in open
5 session, so please do not give any information that will identify
6 you. Now firstly I would like to ask a few questions to clarify
7 your testimony from yesterday. Now yesterday you testified about
8 material that Joe Tuah obtained from Belle Fassama and for the
9 assistance of opposing counsel and the Court I am referring to

09:31:13

10 pages 15116 to 15118 of yesterday's transcript. Mr Witness, you
11 said that Belle Fassama was under Zorzor, that the people who
12 were, there they were working under the commander that was in
13 Zorzor. Could you tell the Court, please, to your knowledge what
14 group was in control in Zorzor?

09:31:50

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

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

18 A. The overall commander who was there was Equaliser, Fassu,
19 but -

09:32:18

20 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness repeat the
21 name of the other commander.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, the interpreter asks that you
23 repeat the name of the other commander, please.

24 THE WITNESS: JR Unati.

09:32:33

25 MS HOLLI S:

26 Q. Mr Witness, can you assist us at all with the spelling of
27 JR's other name?

28 A. His name was Junior Unati, but they used to call him JR --

29 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can counsel wait for the

1 interpretation.

2 MS HOLLIS: Your Honours, I could only give a phonetic
3 spelling if he is saying Unati, U-N-A-T-I.

09:33:09

4 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Ms Hollis, are you on channel 1 like the
5 rest of us?

6 MS HOLLIS: Yes.

7 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Because you tend to speak over the
8 witness and you don't - or rather over the interpreter and he was
9 saying you should wait.

09:33:19

10 MS HOLLIS: Thank you, your Honour. I am again having some
11 interference with my microphone:

12 Q. Now, Mr Witness, what group was it that was at Belle
13 Fassama?

14 A. Belle Fassama was controlled by NPFL.

09:33:48

15 Q. To your knowledge where at Belle Fassama were these
16 materials stored which Joe Tuah obtained from Belle Fassama?

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

09:34:21

19 Q. Mr Witness, did you ever learn why the materials were kept
20 at Belle Fassama?

21 A. I cannot tell you why the materials were taken from Belle
22 Fassama.

23 Q. Now you testified that eventually these materials were
24 taken by helicopter to Foya and then some of those materials were
25 taken to Sierra Leone. How were these materials transported to
26 Sierra Leone?

09:34:47

27 A. We took it using helicopter and we took them to Foya and
28 whenever we were going to Foya they will bring our --

29 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness speak up.

1 He is not speaking up loudly enough.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, the interpreters are having a
3 problem hearing you. They ask that you speak more loudly. I
4 don't think you are - I cannot see if your microphone is on.

09:35:22 5 Could that be checked, please.

6 MS IRURA: Your Honour, the red light does not show with
7 voice distortion. They are on.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: I understand, thank you. So if you can
9 speak a little louder, please, Mr Witness, and pick up your
09:35:39 10 answer where you said, "We were going to Foya. They will bring
11 our --" Continue from there.

12 THE WITNESS: When we will be going to Foya we will go
13 along with our vehicles from Koidu to Foya and we leave them
14 there. They will be airlifted to Monrovia. So when we come back
09:36:01 15 to Foya we will put the materials in the vehicles that we had
16 brought and go with them in vehicles to Sierra Leone.

17 MS HOLLIS:

18 Q. Now just to be clear, can you tell us in what month in 2000
19 this trip occurred?

09:36:19 20 A. The first trip was in May that we brought materials.

21 Q. And again, Mr Witness, I want to remind you that we are in
22 open session, so when you give your answers please do not
23 indicate in any way your identity. Now, Mr Witness, in 2000 did
24 Issa Sesay travel any other times outside of Sierra Leone?

09:36:47 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. And when was the next trip that he made outside of Sierra
27 Leone?

28 A. It was at the end of May.

29 Q. Where did he go?

1 A. He went to Liberia, Monrovia.

2 Q. And why did he go there?

3 A. According to him, he went there because Charles Taylor had
4 invited him to discuss how to be able to release the United
09:37:21 5 Nations peacekeepers.

6 Q. How did he travel to Monrovia?

7 A. He used a vehicle from Koidu to Foya and from Foya he flew
8 using helicopter to Monrovia.

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

09:37:46 10 A. It was the same Weasua helicopter he had used.

11 Q. And what happened when Issa Sesay arrived in Monrovia?

12 MR MUNYARD: Madam President, before my learned friend
13 continues with this, I know that yesterday her Honour Justice
14 Sebutinde raised the question with Ms Hollis of whether this was
09:38:06 15 direct knowledge of the witness or indirect and my learned friend
16 did indicate that she would enlighten us at some point. I am not
17 clear at the moment, and I think we probably have reached the
18 stage where we ought to know if this witness is giving us
19 evidence of something he actually observed or something he was
09:38:26 20 told about.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: Ms Hollis, your response?

22 MS HOLLIS: That was exactly the question yesterday and, as
23 I explained yesterday, I have prepared the questions so that at
24 the end in more detail can be discussed the basis of knowledge
09:38:45 25 without identifying the person's identity, so that - and this
26 portion, the witness will testify about events and then there
27 will be a portion where for each of the events the witness will
28 explain in detail to the Court how it is the witness has this
29 information.

1 [Trial Chamber conferred]

2 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Ms Hollis, should we for now take it that
3 this is not hearsay evidence at least?

09:39:55

4 MS HOLLIS: Your Honours, for now you should take it that
5 much of this evidence is not hearsay.

6 MR MUNYARD: I am grateful for that.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please proceed.

8 MS HOLLIS:

09:40:23

9 Q. Mr Witness, let me go back to my question. What happened
10 when Issa Sesay arrived in Monrovia?

11 A. He arrived in Monrovia because he said Charles Taylor had
12 invited him to negotiate the release of the UN peacekeepers and
13 when he got there Benjamin Yeaten picked him up and took him to
14 Congo Town guesthouse.

09:40:50

15 Q. And just to be clear, what guesthouse are you speaking of?

16 A. We had a guesthouse in Congo Town which was rented by
17 Charles Taylor for the leader who would come from the peace
18 accord.

09:41:13

19 Q. And what happened after Issa Sesay arrived at this
20 guesthouse?

21 A. It was at night around 10 to 11 that Benjamin Yeaten came
22 to receive him and took him to Charles Taylor at the Executive
23 Mansion, Charles Taylor's place.

09:41:33

24 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness be reminded
25 to speak up a little.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Again, Mr Witness, the interpreter asks
27 you to speak more loudly so he can hear you clearly. Please
28 continue, Ms Hollis.

29 MS HOLLIS:

1 Q. Mr Witness, what happened when Issa Sesay arrived to meet
2 with Charles Taylor?

3 A. They discussed the release of the United Nations
4 peacekeepers, those they had arrested.

09:42:08 5 Q. And what was that discussion?

6 A. Charles Taylor said that the United Nations was after him
7 to talk to the RUF to release the UN peacekeepers. He said
8 because he had even been promised that if he spearheaded the
9 release of the UN peacekeepers he'd be made the ECOWAS chairman.

09:42:40 10 Q. And what else was discussed during this meeting?

11 A. He discussed that he should help to release the UN
12 peacekeepers that he had under - that he had with him, that was
13 Issa, and so if Issa released him he will help Issa in the
14 struggle.

09:43:06 15 Q. And was it discussed in what way Charles Taylor would help
16 Issa in the struggle?

17 A. He said he would help him by - with anything that he asked
18 for, because he had been promised to become the ECOWAS chairman.

19 Q. And what happened after that discussion?

09:43:38 20 A. After the discussion Issa accepted and from there he went
21 back to his lodge where he was in Congo Town and when he got
22 there he had a radio, the HVS radio that he had with him. He
23 communicated directly at the base telling them to prepare the
24 Zambian peacekeepers and bring them to the riverside.

09:44:05 25 Q. And what happened after that?

26 A. After that, the following day he himself got into the
27 helicopter and flew to Foya and he was in Foya, himself and
28 Benjamin Yeaten, and sent someone to go and receive the first
29 convoy in Pendembu, Manowa crossing point, and bring them to

1 Foya.

2 Q. Now when Issa Sesay travelled in this helicopter to Foya
3 did he take anything with him?

4 A. He did not go with anything.

09:44:45 5 Q. Now what happened after these peacekeepers were - the
6 Zambians were brought to Foya?

7 A. When they were brought to Foya they airlifted them to
8 Monrovia to meet with Charles Taylor.

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

09:45:11 10 A. After that he crossed back into Sierra Leone.

11 Q. When Issa Sesay went from Foya back into Sierra Leone did
12 he take anything with him?

13 A. He did not take anything with him.

14 Q. Did Issa Sesay travel outside of Sierra Leone at any other
09:45:36 15 time in 2000?

16 A. Yes, in 2000, July, he travelled to Liberia again.

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

18 A. He came to Monrovia.

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

09:46:10 20 A. Well, some time in July while we were in Koidu Town,
21 Charles Taylor invited Issa Sesay to go with a delegation. He
22 said they had an occasion in Liberia so they should go and
23 celebrate that occasion, so Issa went with his delegation to meet
24 him.

09:46:32 25 Q. How did Issa and his delegation travel to Monrovia?

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

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

1 A. It was Weasua that took them.

2 Q. And what happened when Issa Sesay and his delegation
3 arrived in Monrovia?

09:47:19

4 A. When Issa Sesay and his delegation arrived in Monrovia, I
5 can still recall the date, July 26th. When they arrived there
6 around 4 o'clock they were taken to the Executive Mansion, sixth
7 floor, to Charles Taylor. When they went there they met other
8 four heads of state and Charles Taylor at the Mansion Ground.

09:47:43

9 Q. And who were these other four heads of state who were with
10 Charles Taylor at the Mansion Ground?

11 A. They met Obasanjo who was the former President of Nigeria
12 and we had Eyadema, Yayha Jammeh and they also met Oumar Konaré
13 who they said was the Malian President.

09:48:18

14 MS HOLLIS: Your Honour, the spellings: Obasanjo,
15 O-B-A-S-A-N-J-O; Eyadema, E-Y-A-D-E-M-A; Yayha Jammeh, Y-A-H-Y-A,
16 J-A-M-M-E-H; Oumar Konaré, O-U-M-A-R, K-O-N-A-R-E and that E has
17 an accent acute symbol over it:

18 Q. Mr Witness, you mentioned Eyadema. Who is Eyadema?

09:49:08

19 A. Eyadema was the Togolese President. Sorry, he was the
20 Gambian President.

21 Q. And who was Yayha Jammeh?

22 A. Eyadema was the Togolese President and Yayha Jammeh was the
23 Gambian President.

24 Q. And what happened at this meeting?

09:49:30

25 A. When they entered the place Charles Taylor welcomed them
26 and introduced Issa's delegation to other delegation who had been
27 there already, the four Presidents, that he had invited Issa's
28 delegation, that he invited everybody to come and celebrate that
29 occasion and to change the RUF leadership.

1 Q. And what happened then?

2 A. From there the Nigerian President, Obasanjo, was the first
3 person to talk to the delegation.

4 Q. And what did he say?

09:50:16 5 A. He also thanked the delegation that had come from the RUF
6 end and told them that they were to continue with the good
7 relationship that they had with Charles Taylor, he said because
8 Charles Taylor was doing good things to them and he continued
9 saying that Charles Taylor was a good leader. If Africa could
09:50:35 10 only get ten of his type then the unity Africa is fighting for,
11 they will be able to achieve it.

12 Q. And what happened after that?

13 A. After that Oumar Konaré also spoke but he spoke in French
14 that I couldn't understand and Eyadema also spoke in French and
09:51:00 15 from there Yayha Jammeh too spoke.

16 Q. And what did Yayha Jammeh say?

17 A. Yayha Jammeh also thanked the RUF delegation and he said it
18 was Charles Lord who had invited them to come and talk to the RUF
19 delegation for them to have a new leadership so that they will be
09:51:25 20 able to carry on with the peace process so peace and stability
21 will return to Sierra Leone. He said he himself, the same thing
22 had happened to him when he overthrew in Gambia. People spoke to
23 him to transform his organisation to a political party and that
24 was what he did and at that time he was ruling in Gambia as a
09:51:47 25 young man, so if RUF took that initiative to have a young leader
26 who would be able to carry on with the process then they would
27 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 said
2 Foday Sankoh was too old and that he was too stubborn and he was
3 always being arrested, and that he was a lazy leader, so that he
4 should be changed. It was necessary that he be changed.

09:52:31 5 Augustine Gbao and Issa emphasised that no, that shouldn't
6 happen, but Charles Taylor spoke with them to listen to what the
7 leaders were telling them. So they went on and appointed Issa.
8 First he suggested that he would want to take Mosquito back and
9 Issa said no, and he said, "Ah, but Issa if you would take care
09:52:54 10 as a commander or as a leader". Then Issa said except if he
11 returned and informed the RUF family, he said because RUF was a
12 family. When he would inform the RUF family, then he will
13 respond whether he would take the position or he would appoint
14 somebody else.

09:53:12 15 Q. Now, Mr Witness, let's clear up some of the things you have
16 said. You said, "First he suggested that he would want to take
17 Mosquito back". Who suggested that?

18 A. Charles Taylor suggested that he wanted to send Mosquito
19 back. He suggested that he wanted to send him back to Sierra
09:53:38 20 Leone as RUF leader.

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

24 A. Charles Taylor was saying that to Issa.

09:54:11 25 Q. Then you said that, "Except if he returned and informed the
26 RUF family, then he will respond whether he would take the
27 position." Who is this who is speaking?

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

29 Q. Now what happened after this exchange at this meeting?

1 What happened next?

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

4 Q. And what happened then?

09:54:56 5 A. At night around 11 to 12, Benjamin Yeaten came to receive
6 Issa and Augustine Gbao and one other person who joined them to
7 go and meet Charles Taylor at night.

8 Q. And what happened after Benjamin Yeaten came and got those
9 people?

09:55:24 10 A. When they went they met with Charles Taylor and Charles
11 Taylor said that Issa should bear in mind that the people who
12 were talking to him before then were British elected presidents
13 and he should not --

14 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness repeat
09:55:49 15 this.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please pause, Mr Witness. The
17 interpreter asks you to repeat that part of your answer. Please
18 pick up where you said, "Before then they were British elected
19 presidents and he should not --" Continue from there.

09:56:06 20 THE WITNESS: He said he was not to listen to the Sierra
21 Leone government because the Sierra Leone government was a
22 British elected government and they were remote controlled by the
23 British and so he should not listen to them. And so any time he
24 would be asked to disarm he should just say yes, but he should
09:56:25 25 not do it in reality. And in that case he, Charles Taylor, will
26 continue to assist the RUF as he was doing before. From there he
27 gave Issa 15,000 US dollars and Issa returned home.

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

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

3 A. He was referring to the four - other four heads of state.

09:57:19

4 Q. And then you said that Charles Taylor said that Issa should
5 not - Issa should not what?

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

09:57:47

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

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

09:58:23

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

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And who was that?

09:58:44

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

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

09:59:08

25 A. He went back to the lodge, the guesthouse in Congo Town.

26 Q. And what happened after that?

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

29 Q. When you say he flew back to Sierra Leone, how did he fly

1 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 Leone. He
4 took a flight from Monrovia and he disembarked in Foya and from
09:59:50 5 Foya he took a vehicle to Sierra Leone.

6 Q. What type of aircraft did he take from Monrovia to Foya?

7 A. He used Weasua.

8 Q. Did he take anything back to Sierra Leone with him from
9 Monrovia?

10:00:11 10 A. Issa bought drinks using the money Charles Taylor had given
11 to him and some other things and they were loaded in the chopper,
12 but he was not given anything else from Monrovia to be brought to
13 Sierra Leone.

14 Q. When Issa returned from Foya to Sierra Leone did he take
10:00:32 15 anything with him from Foya to Sierra Leone?

16 A. He took the things he had bought in Monrovia to Sierra
17 Leone.

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

19 A. He convened a meeting, an RUF meeting, in Lebanon, Koidu
10:01:09 20 Town, and he briefed his colleagues what Charles Taylor had told
21 him and all of them said yes, we will accept that to happen, but
22 even there we would want to have a message from the Pa. And Issa
23 said okay, but that had already been in place because Obasanjo
24 had already volunteered to meet with the Pa and to know his view
10:01:31 25 whether they would have a leadership to be working on his behalf,
26 so he had just come to ask who should be the leader. But the
27 colleagues told him they will only appoint somebody if they saw a
28 letter from the Pa himself.

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

1 referring to?

2 A. That was Pa Sankoh.

3 Q. What happened after this?

4 A. From there within two to three days Issa said Charles
10:02:12 5 Taylor had invited him again to go over, that Obasanjo was to
6 return to Liberia and Issa went again to Foya and flew to
7 Liberia?

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

9 A. He was dropped at the international airport in Liberia,
10:02:40 10 RIA.

11 Q. And when he flew from Foya and was dropped at RIA, what
12 type of aircraft flew him from Foya?

13 A. He used the same Weasua.

14 Q. Now what happened at RIA?

10:03:07 15 A. At RIA he met Obasanjo and Oumar Konaré they were taken to
16 the waiting room in RIA. That was where the meeting was held.
17 Obasanjo handed the letter over that he had taken from Freetown
18 from Charles Taylor.

19 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, I don't understand what the
10:03:31 20 witness means.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Interpreter, I didn't hear you
22 clearly.

23 THE INTERPRETER: He said Obasanjo took the letter from
24 Freetown from Charles Taylor and he was mumbling.

10:03:41 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, the interpreter has not heard
26 clearly that part of your answer where you said, "Obasanjo handed
27 the letter over that he had taken ..." Please continue from
28 there.

29 THE WITNESS: The letter he had brought from Sierra Leone,

1 that is from Pa Sankoh, was given to Charles Taylor. And Pa
2 Sankoh - sorry he, Charles Taylor himself, gave the letter to
3 Issa.

4 MS HOLLIS:

10:04:17 5 Q. And what happened when the letter was given to Issa?

6 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Excuse me, Mr Witness, did you say
7 Obasanjo handed the letter that he had brought from Sierra Leone?

8 THE WITNESS: Yes, Ma'am.

9 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Obasanjo brought a letter from Sierra
10:04:41 10 Leone?

11 THE WITNESS: Yes, from Foday Sankoh. He and Oumar Konaré
12 to tell him that he had appointed a new leader to be working on
13 his behalf, Foday Sankoh. He brought the letter from Sierra
14 Leone to Liberia, RIA. That is where they met.

10:05:03 15 MS HOLLIS:

16 Q. Now you said the letter was handed to Charles Taylor and
17 then Charles Taylor handed the letter to Issa Sesay. What
18 happened when Issa Sesay received the letter?

19 A. Issa Sesay passed the letter on to his adjutant, his clerk,
10:05:27 20 but we called it adjutant in the guerilla army. The letter was
21 passed to him and that was Jabba. He was called adjutant Jabba.
22 Jabba opened the letter and showed it to Issa and Issa looked at
23 the signature and he said, "Yes, this is Pa Sankoh's signature".

24 Q. And what happened after that?

10:05:55 25 A. Then Jabba read the letter. According to what he said,
26 because I did not read the letter, he said Pa Sankoh had said
27 Issa should now take control of the leadership and he should take
28 instructions, just as Mosquito used to do while he was in jail -
29 while he, Pa Sankoh, was in jail in Nigeria, that Issa should now

1 take control and instructions from Charles Taylor.

2 Q. Now what happened after this?

3 A. After that Obasanjo took a parcel and handed it over to
4 Issa.

10:06:44 5 Q. And what happened after Obasanjo handed this parcel to
6 Issa?

7 A. He bade farewell. He said goodbye and left the place, he
8 and Oumar Konaré. They left and flew back to their individual
9 countries and Issa came to Monrovia city.

10:07:10 10 Q. What happened after Issa came to Monrovia city?

11 A. When Issa came to Monrovia city, he passed the night there
12 and the following day he came back to Sierra Leone.

13 Q. How did Issa travel from RIA to Monrovia city?

14 A. He used the same chopper to come to Weasua - sorry, using
10:07:45 15 the Weasua and they went to the guesthouse in Congo Town and
16 Benjamin Yeaten.

17 Q. And you said the next day Issa travelled --

18 MR MUNYARD: Again, I am sorry to interrupt, but we have a
19 half sentence there, "And Benjamin Yeaten". I think we would all
10:08:09 20 like to know what "and Benjamin Yeaten" means.

21 MS HOLLIS:

22 Q. Mr Witness, let's be clear on this. You have said, "He
23 used the same chopper to come - sorry, using the Weasua and they
24 went to the guesthouse in Congo Town and Benjamin Yeaten". What
10:08:31 25 did you mean "and Benjamin Yeaten"?

26 A. It was he and Benjamin Yeaten who used the chopper from RIA
27 and they flew to - and they flew and they used Benjamin Yeaten's
28 vehicle and went to the guesthouse.

29 Q. Now you said that Issa passed the night in Monrovia city

1 and the next day he came back to Sierra Leone. How did he travel
2 from Monrovia back to Sierra Leone?

3 A. He travelled using the same Weasua helicopter and he came
4 to Foya. From Foya he drove to Sierra Leone.

10:09:29 5 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Ms Hollis, sorry to interrupt, but I just
6 noticed that the screen keeps going completely blank sometimes
7 and sometimes just dark and black. I don't know what effect this
8 has on the broadcast to the public.

9 MS HOLLIS: Your Honour, I don't know. Mine has gone off
10:09:50 10 because I haven't hit the button to refresh it, but I haven't had
11 it go black otherwise, so I don't know what the problem may be.

12 MR MUNYARD: It all seems to be functioning perfectly well
13 for once on the Defence Bench, I am happy to say.

14 MS IRURA: Your Honour, the feed button to the courtroom
10:10:19 15 was mistakenly pressed in the booth. It has now been restored.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. We will keep an eye on it.
17 Please proceed, Ms Hollis.

18 MS HOLLIS:

19 Q. Mr Witness, when Issa Sesay went back to Sierra Leone from
10:10:43 20 this trip, did he take anything with him?

21 A. No, on that trip he did not take anything with him.

22 Q. What happened when Issa Sesay arrived back in Sierra Leone?

23 A. When he came back to Sierra Leone he convened a meeting
24 again in Lebanon, Koidu Town, and he took out this letter and
10:11:15 25 showed it to the people and the people were happy about it
26 because Issa had been appointed the new leader and should carry
27 on with the work Pa Sankoh was to do.

28 Q. And did the letter explain what that meant, to carry on
29 with the work Pa Sankoh was to do?

1 A. The letter only explained that Issa was to be the interim
2 chairman and at the same time he should take instructions from
3 Charles Taylor just as before as Mosquito had been doing and he
4 should take care of the revolution, he should not allow anybody
10:12:02 5 to mislead him into disarmament. That was what the letter read
6 and the people were happy about it.

7 Q. Now, Mr Witness, can you tell us when this was in 2000 that
8 Issa went to RIA for this visit and then went back to Sierra
9 Leone?

10:12:35 10 A. Everything started in July and continued in July.

11 Q. Did Issa Sesay take any other trips outside of Sierra Leone
12 in the year 2000?

13 A. Yes, he made another trip. That was at the end of 2000,
14 but I cannot be exact on the date, but he took a trip to Monrovia
10:13:07 15 again.

16 Q. And why did he go to Monrovia on this trip?

17 A. He went with diamonds to Charles Taylor.

18 Q. And how did he travel to Monrovia?

19 A. He travelled from Koidu Town to Manowa crossing point and
10:13:32 20 he crossed into Kailahun, Koindu, Foya and he flew to Monrovia.

21 Q. And what type of aircraft was used when he flew to
22 Monrovia?

23 A. He used the same Weasua aircraft.

24 Q. What happened when he arrived in Monrovia?

10:13:58 25 A. When he arrived in Monrovia he was received by Benjamin
26 Yeaten and taken to the guesthouse.

27 Q. And what happened after that?

28 A. Then at night he was taken to Charles Taylor at the Mansion
29 Ground.

1 Q. Now again when you say the Mansion Ground, what location
2 are you referring to?

3 A. In Monrovia.

4 Q. And what building is the Mansion Ground, or what is this?

10:14:38 5 A. That was the Executive Mansion Ground where Charles Taylor
6 was.

7 Q. Now what happened when Issa Sesay went to see Charles
8 Taylor at the Executive Mansion Ground?

9 A. He went to see Charles Taylor to present the diamonds to
10:14:59 10 him that he had taken to Monrovia for him.

11 Q. And what happened at this meeting?

12 A. Issa gave the diamonds to Charles Taylor, but he was
13 expecting that the diamonds presented to Charles Taylor were for
14 arms and ammunition and food, but when Charles Taylor received
10:15:22 15 the diamonds he said no. He said, "This one is for safekeeping
16 until your leader returns".

17 So when he said this he got up and entered into one of the
18 rooms in the place where we had met and brought three plastic
19 bags, those plastic bags in which they put drugs, and he showed
10:15:43 20 them to Issa. He said, "Look at these diamonds. These were the
21 diamonds that Mosquito brought when he was in charge of the
22 revolution. I am keeping them until the time Foday Sankoh will
23 be released then I will hand them over to him". He said, "But
24 meanwhile I will help you with whatever you need for the
10:16:01 25 revolution in Sierra Leone". He said, "But the diamonds, I am
26 going to have them for safekeeping until Pa Sankoh returns".

27 Q. What quantity of diamonds did Issa take to Charles Taylor
28 on this occasion?

29 A. It had a Sellotape. There were many, but it was in paper

1 and Sellotaped. It was not counted in my presence.

2 Q. And this Sellotaped container, can you tell us how big that
3 was?

10:16:52

4 A. It was - it's like the size of the opening of this cup,
5 this glass.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, we cannot see what you are
7 indicating because of the screen in front of you. Could you
8 please lift it up so the lawyers and the Bench can see it more
9 clearly.

10:17:04

10 THE WITNESS: It was like the opening of this glass, but it
11 was Sellotaped.

12 MS HOLLIS:

13 Q. Now, when you look at that glass, can you give us an
14 estimate of the diameter of that glass, how far it is across?

10:17:35

15 A. I did not say - I said the opening, not in the glass. I
16 said the opening of the glass. I did not say it was in the
17 glass. I said the opening of the glass was how it was
18 Sellotaped.

10:17:56

19 MS HOLLIS: Perhaps the Court Attendant could measure the
20 diameter of that glass.

21 JUDGE LUSSICK: Ms Hollis, you asked the witness how big
22 the container was. I can't see how knowing the diameter of the
23 top of the glass can help us with that question.

24 MS HOLLIS: Hopefully we can build on that, your Honour.

10:18:38

25 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Whilst the Court Officer is handling that
26 the witness said at page 24, line 6, he says it had Sellotape,
27 but there were many, but something paper and Sellotaped. What is
28 that?

29 MS IRURA: Your Honour, the diameter is seven and a half

1 centimetres.

2 MS HOLLIS:

3 Q. Now, Mr Witness, when you were describing this package the
4 diamonds were in, you said it was Sellotaped and paper. Can you
10:19:21 5 explain to us more clearly what kind of package the diamonds were
6 in?

7 A. They were in a paper, wrapped in a paper, and it was
8 Sellotaped to protect it. It was Sellotaped. It was wrapped in
9 a paper and Sellotaped.

10:19:45 10 Q. So if you could tell us what shape was this container? Was
11 it square? Was it rectangular? Was it round? What was the
12 shape of the container?

13 A. It was round in a circle form, because it was wrapped and
14 Sellotaped in a circle form.

10:20:12 15 Q. Now you have said the diameter was about the diameter of
16 that glass. Can you tell us how big this package was?

17 A. Yes, the package was big. It was big. It can fit into my
18 hand if I hold it. But it was not as big as if I spread my hands
19 like this and open all my fingers. It was not as big as that.

10:20:38 20 Q. Can you hold your hand up so the judges and Defence counsel
21 can see and show again the size of your hand that this package
22 would fit into. You said it was big, but not with your hand
23 spread out, so show them the size this package would fit into.

24 A. It would fit like this. Like this.

10:21:03 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: For the record I note that the witness
26 has demonstrated by holding his hand up and cupped.

27 MS HOLLIS:

28 Q. So, Mr Witness, the package would fit from the palm of your
29 hand up to the end of your fingers as you had cupped them, is

1 that correct?

2 A. I will make my hands like this on top of the parcel, but I
3 cannot spread out my fingers like the way I have done on this
4 glass.

10:21:36 5 Q. So, Mr Witness, you held your hand up cupped. So my
6 question is the parcel would fit from the palm of your hand up to
7 the end of your fingers as you had cupped them. Is that correct?

8 A. I held it like this. It would be around the second lining
9 of my fingers. Like the second lining of my fingers to the end
10:22:03 10 of my palm.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: For the record I note that the witness
12 held his hand up and demonstrated by running his finger at the
13 top of the bottom joint.

14 MR MUNYARD: I wonder if he could do that again for my
10:22:17 15 benefit.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, please demonstrate again as
17 you have done so counsel for the Defence can see you. Please
18 hold your hand up and demonstrate again.

19 THE WITNESS: It would be from this second line of my
10:22:33 20 fingers and it would fill my palm and like I just folded it up
21 like this.

22 MS HOLLIS: Now perhaps we could trouble the Court
23 Attendant to make that measurement as well.

24 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Witness, I am holding a glass in my
10:22:59 25 hand. This parcel you are describing, can you tell us whether it
26 was bigger than this glass or smaller than this glass? I believe
27 you have the same glass in front of you.

28 THE WITNESS: It was like this. Like this. Like this. It
29 would be like this. It was in my palm like this from the up -

1 not from under, but from up.

2 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: So it would be like half the glass? Half
3 of this? Half this glass?

10:23:44

4 THE WITNESS: Yes, like from here, the opening here,
5 because it was wrapped and Sellotaped. It was in a form like
6 this, wrapped up like this one, and it was Sellotaped.

7 MS HOLLIS: Your Honours, the witness has taken the paper -
8 the round paper that the glass sits on and has basically wadded
9 it up into a circle to demonstrate that.

10:24:15

10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Madam Court Attendant was going to
11 measure the distance between the palm and the fingers. Is that
12 the joint as indicated by the witness? Ms Hollis, is that the
13 measurement you wish to have done?

14 MS HOLLIS: That is correct, Madam President.

10:24:55

15 MS IRURA: Your Honour, the witness has indicated 11
16 centimetres.

17 MS HOLLIS:

18 Q. Now, Mr Witness, what happened then after Issa Sesay gave
19 these diamonds to Charles Taylor and Charles Taylor indicated
20 that he would keep them for safekeeping until Pa Sankoh returns?

10:25:16

21 A. From there Issa said they lacked materials and the enemies
22 were threatening their positions.

23 Q. And did Issa refer to what types of materials were lacking?

24 A. He did not name any materials. By the end of it all we
25 went and took some materials at Schefflein. They had a barracks
26 called Schefflein in Monrovia. It was called Camp Schefflein.
27 We met some materials there, boots and uniforms in large
28 quantities. We brought AK-47 rounds, RPG rockets and G3 rounds.

10:25:53

29 Q. Now first of all, Mr Witness, going back to what Issa Sesay

1 told Charles Taylor, he said the enemies were threatening their
2 positions. Do you know what enemies he was referring to?

3 A. He was referring to the Kamajors and the UN forces who had
4 joined the former SLAs and the Kamajors around Kono.

10:26:54 5 Q. Now when Issa said they were lacking materials, what if
6 anything did Charles Taylor say about that?

7 A. He said he will talk to Benjamin Yeaten.

8 Q. So after this meeting then, where did Issa Sesay go?

9 A. He drove back to his house, the guesthouse in Congo Town.

10:27:34 10 Q. Then you said that Issa went and took some materials at
11 Camp Schefflein. How did Issa travel from the guesthouse to Camp
12 Schefflein?

13 A. He used a vehicle together with Benjamin Yeaten in a jeep.

14 Q. And what materials did Issa receive at Camp Schefflein?

10:28:07 15 A. He met uniforms there and boots and he also met AK-47
16 rounds in large quantities, G3 rounds and RPG rockets.

17 Q. And what happened after Issa got these materials at Camp
18 Schefflein?

19 A. Being that the materials were many and they had manpower
10:28:40 20 enough to go, so they took some of the materials in the ATU
21 chopper that Momoh Gibba was the commander and they went there
22 and met him. He was called Bulldog. He brought the chopper and
23 the times were loaded in there, but not everything, and it was
24 taken to Foya. Not everything was loaded in the chopper.

10:29:00 25 Q. Let's pause for a moment and clarify some of the things you
26 just said. You said, "Being that the materials were many and
27 they had manpower enough to go", what do you mean they had
28 manpower enough to go?

29 A. They had other fighters. We had some militia boys who

1 travelled to go and - who wanted to travel to go and meet their
2 commander in Kolahun, Foya and Kolahun.

3 Q. When you say militia boys, who are you talking about?

10:29:47

4 A. Militia boys, that was a group in the Charles Taylor
5 government. They called them militias. They were fighting in
6 the Foya axis; Foya, Kolahun and Voijnjama axis.

7 Q. And who were they fighting against?

8 A. They were fighting against the LURD.

9 Q. Now you said that the materials were in the ATU chopper.

10:30:13

10 What is ATU?

11 A. ATU was a group that Charles Taylor had in Monrovia. They
12 said they were his securities. They were called Anti-Terrorist
13 Unit, but we just called them ATU.

10:30:42

14 Q. And you said that Momoh Gibba was the commander. Was the
15 commander of what?

16 A. For the ATU and he was the one who brought the chopper. He
17 said that was an ATU chopper.

18 Q. You said that not everything was loaded on the chopper.

10:30:59

19 What happened to the other materials that were not loaded on the
20 chopper?

21 A. The other materials were kept in Camp Schefflein at the
22 barracks and other one that was there, Issa took them to Foya.

23 Q. Now what happened when Issa took these materials to Foya?

24 A. He transported them to Koidu Town, Sierra Leone.

10:31:33

25 Q. And how were they transported to Koidu Town in Sierra
26 Leone?

27 A. Issa had a truck that he had arrested from UNAMSIL and at
28 the time he was coming he came with some jeeps from Koidu Town to
29 Foya. So when he arrived with the materials that was where he

1 loaded them for them to be taken to Koidu Town in Sierra Leone.

2 Q. You said, "Issa had a truck he had arrested from UNAMSIL".
3 What do you mean he had arrested from UNAMSIL?

4 A. That they had captured from the UNAMSIL. It was not Issa
10:32:24 5 himself who physically captured it. The boys that he had with
6 him, those were the ones that captured them at the time they
7 arrested the UNAMSIL. So that was one of the trucks that they
8 used.

9 Q. The material that Issa Sesay took back to Sierra Leone, how
10:32:42 10 was that used?

11 A. Well, the materials were at first stored in Sierra Leone
12 and they used some during the Guinea mission and they used some
13 in Sierra Leone and some remained in Liberia for our forces who
14 were there helping to fight against the LURD rebels who were
10:33:07 15 there assisting Charles Taylor. They were using the remaining.

16 Q. Now the materials that were used in Sierra Leone, how were
17 they used?

18 A. They used them against the Kamajors and some of the UNAMSIL
19 who had been fighting and pushing towards Makeni.

10:33:34 20 Q. You indicated that this trip that Issa took to Monrovia
21 occurred at the end of 2000. Did Issa take any other trips
22 outside of Sierra Leone in the year 2000?

23 A. That was the last trip he made in 2000 and at the end of
24 2000 going to 2001 he made another patrol to go there.

10:34:09 25 Q. Another patrol to go where?

26 A. To go to Monrovia.

27 Q. Can you tell us again when this was, what year?

28 A. That was in 2001, early 2001.

29 Q. And why did he go to Monrovia in early 2001?

1 A. He still took diamonds with him to Charles Taylor.

2 Q. And how did he travel to Monrovia on this trip?

3 A. He travelled from Koidu Town in his jeep, he went to
4 Kailahun, he came to Manowa, he crossed over, he came to
10:35:04 5 Kailahun, Koindu to Foya.

6 Q. And then from Foya how did he travel to Monrovia?

7 A. From Foya, the ATU chopper came and collected him from Foya
8 and took him to Monrovia.

9 Q. What happened when he arrived in Monrovia?

10:35:29 10 A. When he arrived in Monrovia he drove to the hotel this time
11 round. He did not go to the guesthouse. He went to a hotel, the
12 Boulevard Hotel, close to a gas station.

13 Q. Now you said he drove there. What type of vehicle was used
14 when he drove to this hotel?

10:35:56 15 A. He used a Nissan Patrol jeep and that was Benjamin Yeaten's
16 vehicle, but I can't recall the number.

17 Q. What happened then after he arrived at the hotel?

18 A. At night from the hotel Benjamin Yeaten still collected him
19 and took him to the Executive Mansion Ground to Charles Taylor
10:36:25 20 for him to hand over-over the diamonds that he took for Charles
21 Taylor.

22 Q. And what happened when Issa met with Charles Taylor?

23 A. When he met with Charles Taylor he handed over the
24 consignment and Charles Taylor asked him what he had done about
10:36:45 25 the UNAMSIL, being that he said whether they were still
26 threatening him. He said he had managed to get the situation
27 under control, but that the Kamajors were still posing a threat.
28 So from there Issa returned to the hotel.

29 Q. And what quantity of diamonds did Issa take on this trip?

1 A. Issa took with him the same quantity, a similar quantity
2 that he had taken with him during that other trip.

3 Q. Now what happened then after Issa went back to the hotel?

10:37:40

4 A. The following day he went back and boarded the chopper with
5 few materials and flew to Foya.

6 Q. And what kind of materials did he take with him on the
7 chopper?

10:38:05

8 A. This time round he took arms and ammunition with him, few
9 AK rifles, few G3 rifles, G3 rounds and RPG rockets. He took
10 with him some bags of rice and about four drums of diesel.

11 Q. This diesel, do you know what the diesel was used for?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What is that?

10:38:35

14 A. They used the diesel on the vehicles and they also used
15 them on the machines that they had in Kono, the Caterpillars that
16 they used to dredge the ground to pave the way so that the
17 manpower will go there to mine for the diamonds. They used the
18 diesel on these Caterpillars.

10:39:02

19 Q. Now what kind of chopper was it that flew Issa and these
20 materials back to Foya?

21 A. It was the ATU chopper.

22 Q. And what did Issa do after he arrived in Foya?

10:39:27

23 A. When he arrived in Foya - at all times when Issa came from
24 Koidu Town to Foya he would bring his jeep and he will fly to
25 Monrovia and get the materials. And when he returned to Foya he
26 would load them on board the vehicle again and return to Sierra
27 Leone.

28 Q. You indicated that on this trip Issa Sesay brought back
29 arms and ammunition. How did he use the arms and ammunition that

1 he took back to Sierra Leone?

2 A. He used them against the Kamajors and the others were used
3 against the UNAMSIL and some were stored.

4 Q. Where were they stored?

10:40:13 5 A. They had a store in Koidu Town.

6 Q. Did Issa Sesay take any other trips outside of Sierra Leone
7 in 2001?

8 A. Yes, he made another trip - one more trip to Liberia.

9 Q. And where did he go in Liberia?

10:40:34 10 A. He went to Monrovia.

11 Q. Do you recall when it was that he made this other trip to
12 Monrovia?

13 A. Well, that was in 2000, but I can't recall the month. It
14 might be March or May or April, something like that, but I cannot
10:41:03 15 recall the actual month because I was not keeping record of those
16 dates.

17 Q. And what year are you talking about?

18 A. I am talking about 2001.

19 Q. And why did he take this trip to Monrovia?

10:41:25 20 A. He again took diamonds with him to Charles Taylor.

21 Q. How did he travel to Monrovia on this trip?

22 A. He travelled using a vehicle from Kono, came to Manowa, he
23 crossed over, went to Kailahun, he went to Koindu and crossed to
24 Foya and from Foya he was collected by the chopper and he flew.

10:41:55 25 Q. And what type of chopper was it on this trip?

26 A. He still used the ATU chopper.

27 Q. And what happened once Issa Sesay arrived in Monrovia?

28 A. This time round, whilst he was going to Monrovia he moved
29 together with Benjamin Yeaten from Foya because he met Benjamin

1 Yeaten there. He and Benjamin Yeaten moved from Foya to Monrovia
2 and when they arrived there they met Benjamin Yeaten's vehicles
3 parked at the field and the chopper landed at the Weasua
4 airfield. And when they moved from there Benjamin Yeaten took
10:42:44 5 him to the Boulevard Hotel and Benjamin Yeaten drove off and went
6 to his own house.

7 Q. And then what happened after Issa Sesay was at the
8 Boulevard Hotel?

9 A. Later, Benjamin Yeaten came and collected him and they went
10:43:05 10 to see Charles Taylor at the Mansion Ground.

11 Q. And you said later. Do you know what time of the day or
12 night this happened?

13 A. It was at night, around 10 o'clock.

14 Q. And what happened then when Issa Sesay went with Benjamin
10:43:29 15 Yeaten to the Mansion Ground?

16 A. He went with the diamonds that he had brought with him to
17 be given to Charles Taylor.

18 Q. And what happened then with this meeting with Charles
19 Taylor?

10:43:56 20 A. When he went and handed over the diamonds Charles Taylor
21 told him that he shouldn't be coming frequently with diamonds to
22 him. He said because the UN observers and the international
23 community was having eyes on him to see whether he had
24 connections with the RUF and that they were always bringing
10:44:21 25 diamonds to him. He said Issa shouldn't be bringing diamonds to
26 him, but that he was going to try and get somebody - present
27 somebody to him who will be assisting him when he got diamonds
28 from him to get certain items for him, so that he said Issa
29 shouldn't be bringing diamonds frequently to him. So that was

1 what he said when he received the diamonds from Issa and later
2 Issa drove back to the Boulevard Hotel.

3 Q. Now the diamonds that Issa gave to Charles Taylor, what was
4 the quantity of diamonds on this trip?

10:45:14 5 A. He brought a similar parcel, because at any time they got
6 diamonds over there they will weigh them, they will parcel them
7 and especially when they said they were diamonds for safekeeping.
8 Any diamond that was meant for safekeeping, they will weigh them,
9 they parcel them and he will take them over with him.

10:45:37 10 Q. Now you said that, "He said Issa shouldn't be bringing
11 diamonds to him, but that he was going to try and get somebody -
12 present somebody who will be assisting him". Now who was going
13 to try and get someone?

14 A. Charles Taylor said he will look for somebody to whom Issa
10:46:08 15 will be bringing his small small diamonds to him for him to be
16 exchanging it for money so that when Issa gets the money he will
17 use it to buy his basic needs that he would use on the front
18 line.

19 Q. Use on the front line where?

10:46:29 20 A. In Sierra Leone.

21 Q. So then what happened after Issa drove back to the
22 Boulevard Hotel?

23 A. He passed the night there and the following morning he was
24 still there. He did not travel until in the evening when
10:46:53 25 Benjamin Yeaten brought two white guys to him. The one called
26 himself Alpha Bravo. The other one I did not know his name, I
27 don't recall it. And he said he was called Alpha Bravo and he
28 did not tell us what Alpha Bravo meant. He said he was from
29 Belgium. And then Issa said, "I know these people", he said

1 because he recalled at one time in 1999 they visited Mosquito and
2 Mosquito took them to Kono. He said, "I think I recall this
3 face".

10:47:31 4 Q. Now was it explained to Issa why Alpha Bravo and this other
5 man were brought to Issa?

6 A. Well, Benjamin Yeaten told Issa that those were the white
7 men, they were diamond dealers from Belgium, and that they
8 brought him so that the small small diamonds that Issa has been
9 getting from Sierra Leone, he will be able to bring them to the
10:48:03 10 man so that he will sell them to him so that he will use the
11 money to get his needs to support his fighters in Sierra Leone.

12 Q. Issa would bring these small small diamonds to whom?

13 A. To Alpha Bravo.

14 Q. Now what else happened during this meeting between Benjamin
10:48:31 15 Yeaten, these two white men and Issa Sesay?

16 A. They just introduced themselves. Nothing else happened
17 between them and they left.

18 Q. And what did Issa do after that?

19 A. After that Issa decided to go back to Sierra Leone.

10:49:02 20 Q. And did Issa take anything back with him to Sierra Leone?

21 A. He took some bags of rice with him, diesel and some
22 medicine, some drugs, and he took them to Sierra Leone.

23 Q. And this diesel that he received, what was this diesel used
24 for?

10:49:33 25 A. They used the diesel on the vehicles that Issa was using in
26 Sierra Leone and also the Caterpillars that were mining the
27 diamonds and the dredge that they used to pave the land for
28 mining.

29 Q. How did Issa travel from Monrovia when he went back to

1 Sierra Leone?

2 A. He travelled using a chopper to Foya and from Foya he had
3 his vehicles there. He loaded the things on board his vehicle
4 and then they drove to Kono, Koidu Town, in Sierra Leone.

10:50:14 5 Q. And what kind of chopper was it that took him from Monrovia
6 to Foya?

7 A. It was the ATU chopper.

8 Q. Now during 2001 did Issa make any other trips outside of
9 Sierra Leone?

10:50:37 10 A. He made a trip to go and meet Benjamin Yeaten when they
11 went and met Alpha Bravo with a small consignment containing
12 diamonds.

13 Q. Do you recall when this was in 2001 that he made this trip?

14 A. I don't recall that now.

10:51:09 15 Q. And how did he travel on this trip?

16 A. He travelled from Koidu Town, he came to Foya and there he
17 met Benjamin Yeaten and they flew to Monrovia.

18 Q. And what kind of aircraft did they use to fly to Monrovia?

19 A. They again used the ATU chopper, the aircraft.

10:51:45 20 Q. And what happened when Issa and Benjamin Yeaten arrived in
21 Monrovia?

22 A. They were taken to a guesthouse. I don't recall the name
23 now, but they said the guesthouse belonged to Monie Captan, but I
24 don't recall the name of the guesthouse now. That was where they
10:52:12 25 were lodged and that was where Alpha Bravo met them.

26 Q. To your knowledge, who was Monie Captan?

27 A. Well, I did not see Monie Captan and I did not know Monie
28 Captan, but I was told that he owned the guesthouse.

29 Q. What happened then when Alpha Bravo came to the guesthouse

1 and met with Issa and Benjamin Yeaten?

2 A. When they came, they weighed the diamonds that Issa had
3 brought and after weighing the diamonds they did not actually
4 announce the weight of the diamond and I did not hear it, but in
10:53:02 5 return Alpha Bravo gave Issa about \$300,000 and from that money -
6 the money itself Issa divided the money into two parts and he
7 took \$150,000 to Charles Taylor he said for safekeeping and the
8 returning \$150,000 he took with him to Sierra Leone.

9 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Ms Hollis, what dollars are these?

10:53:33 10 THE WITNESS: United States dollars.

11 MS HOLLIS:

12 Q. Now, Mr Witness, this transaction occurred in this
13 guesthouse?

14 A. It took place in the guesthouse.

10:53:49 15 Q. And how did Issa travel back from Monrovia to Sierra Leone?

16 A. He still travelled together with Benjamin Yeaten from
17 Monrovia to Foya and Issa loaded on board his vehicle and he
18 returned to Sierra Leone to Koidu Town.

19 Q. And what type of aircraft did they use to go from Monrovia
10:54:18 20 to Foya?

21 A. It was the ATU chopper they used.

22 Q. What was it that Issa loaded on to his vehicles to return
23 to Sierra Leone?

24 A. Issa bought some drinks, some beer, some hard liquors. He
10:54:50 25 bought some shoes, some clothing, some trousers. According to
26 him he said he was going to give them to some commanders. And he
27 also bought some drugs that he loaded on board the chopper and he
28 brought them to Foya and from Foya he loaded them on board the
29 vehicles and drove them to Koidu Town.

1 Q. During 2001 did Issa Sesay make any other trips outside of
2 Sierra Leone?

3 A. He used to make trips still to Monrovia.

10:55:37

4 Q. And why did he make these trips to Monrovia in 2001, other
5 than the ones you have already talked about?

6 A. It was now going to the end - I mean the middle of 2001
7 when Opande came to Issa together with one of the United Nations
8 representatives based in Sierra Leone. I have missed his name.

10:56:12

9 They came to have a meeting convened in Magburaka to discuss
10 about the disarmament of child combatants and after that meeting
11 Issa travelled to Monrovia to brief Charles Taylor about the
12 suggested disarmament. That was the reason why he travelled to
13 Monrovia in the middle of 2001.

14 Q. And Opande, who was Opande?

10:56:37

15 A. Opande was the force commander for the UN.

16 Q. Now at this meeting - you said it was about the disarmament
17 of child combatants. What about the disarmament of child
18 combatants?

10:57:07

19 A. It was in Sierra Leone and how they were to arrange for the
20 disarmament of the child combatants and the disarmament was
21 almost starting its process for the disarmament of the RUF, so
22 they came and convened a meeting as to discuss how they could
23 disarm the child combatants.

24 Q. And when you say child combatants, who are you referring
25 to?

10:57:31

26 A. They had a group in the guerilla army that were referred to
27 as the SBU and the SGU, the Small Boys Unit and the Small Girls
28 Unit. So the plan was how to first of all collect the arms from
29 those young kids and later they will think about the elderly

1 ones.

2 Q. And when you say those young kids, could you give us the
3 age range for the kids in the SBU and SGU?

10:58:19

4 A. Some were around the age of ten, some around 12 years, some
5 were around 14 years.

6 Q. And when it was suggested that these child combatants be
7 disarmed, what was Issa's response?

10:58:50

8 A. Issa responded to them, but he told them that he was going
9 to consult the RUF family because Issa was somebody at any time
10 someone told him something regarding the RUF he will tell you
11 that he would want to go and consult the RUF family first before
12 taking the decision, so that was how he operated. So he told
13 them that he was going first to consult the RUF commanders and
14 the meeting took place in Magburaka. So when we returned to Kono

10:59:09

15 he told us that he wanted to meet Charles Taylor to brief Charles
16 Taylor and to get some advice from Charles Taylor.

17 Q. So when Issa travelled to see Charles Taylor on this
18 occasion, how did he travel to see Charles Taylor?

10:59:41

19 A. He travelled on board a vehicle from Koidu Town to Foya and
20 he travelled by chopper from Foya to Monrovia.

21 Q. And what happened then when Issa Sesay arrived in Monrovia?

22 A. He went to consult Charles Taylor regarding the disarmament
23 of the child combatants.

11:00:13

24 Q. And where did he go to consult with Charles Taylor? Where
25 in Monrovia?

26 A. At the Executive Mansion Ground in Monrovia.

27 Q. And what happened during this meeting?

28 A. Well, he met with Charles Taylor, he consulted with him and
29 he told him that Opande and the United Nations

1 Secretary-General's representative Adenigi had told him that he
2 should disarm the child combatants. But the first question
3 Charles Taylor asked him was whether that was safe for him and
4 then later he told him that he shouldn't accept to disarm to the
11:00:57 5 UN at all. So he said he advised him that he shouldn't disarm at
6 all to the United Nations. He said the United Nations were
7 people who were would talk nicely to you today and tomorrow they
8 would turn around and arrest you, so he asked Issa not to disarm
9 to them at all. So Issa just answered to him, he left and went
11:01:19 10 home and that was at the guesthouse where he was lodged. He left
11 and went there and in the morning he jumped on board the chopper
12 again and flew to Foya and from there he drove to Sierra Leone.
13 Q. Now let's clear up some of what you said. You talked about
14 the meeting and that the first question Charles Taylor asked was
11:01:45 15 whether that was safe for him. Safe for whom?
16 A. Safe for Issa and the RUF movement.
17 Q. And then you told the Court that, "Later he told him that
18 he shouldn't accept to disarm". Who told whom not to accept to
19 disarm?
11:02:16 20 A. Charles Taylor told Issa that he shouldn't accept to disarm
21 to the UN.
22 Q. Then you testified that, "He said the United Nations were
23 people who would talk nicely to you today and tomorrow they would
24 turn around and arrest you". Who said that about the United
11:02:41 25 Nations?
26 A. It was Charles Taylor.
27 Q. What was Issa Sesay's reaction to Charles Taylor telling
28 him not to disarm?
29 A. Well, after he had loaded on board the chopper from

1 Monrovia and gone to Foya and when he got there and loaded on
2 board his vehicle in Foya he was grumbling to his commanders that
3 he travelled with. He said he is not - he is no longer going to
4 do this. He said he doesn't believe that he will continue taking
11:03:23 5 instruction from Charles Taylor. He said Charles Taylor is now
6 living in peace. Now they held the election and he won and he is
7 now the President. And he was saying that he too is going to
8 allow for the disarmament to take place so that he will be able
9 to give peace to his own people in Sierra Leone. That was what
11:03:43 10 Issa was grumbling.

11 Q. Now when you tell the Court that, "He said he is no longer
12 going to do this", who is the "he" you are referring to?

13 A. It was Issa. "He" was the Issa. He, Issa, said he was no
14 longer going to allow that. He said he will not continue to take
11:04:16 15 this kind of instruction from Charles Taylor and now that he is
16 telling him that he shouldn't allow himself to disarm to give his
17 people peace, he said he will not do that. And he, Charles
18 Taylor, had already given peace to his people in Liberia because
19 they have conducted elections and he won and he is now in power,
11:04:31 20 but he does not want he, Issa, to give peace to his own people.

21 MS HOLLIS: Your Honours, the witness referred to Adenigi,
22 A-D-E-N-I-G-I:

23 Q. Mr Witness, in 2001 did Issa Sesay take any additional
24 trips outside of Sierra Leone?

11:05:00 25 A. In 2001 he was - he did not just - he did not continue
26 making trips like that. He made a trip that I can recall outside
27 Sierra Leone.

28 Q. And where did he go?

29 A. He went to Monrovia.

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

2 A. He was invited by Benjamin Yeaten.

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

11:05:50 5 A. Benjamin Yeaten told him that he called on Issa and he said
6 Charles Taylor told him that the materials that he had given to
7 him, he was to use them to enter Guinea. He said that was the
8 reason why he invited him, so that he will come for them to
9 discuss that.

11:06:13 10 Q. Now let's go back to that a moment. "Benjamin Yeaten told
11 him he called on Issa and he said Charles Taylor told him that
12 the materials he had given to him ..." Materials who had given
13 to whom?

14 A. The materials that Charles Taylor supplied Issa with. He
11:06:39 15 said those were the materials that he was supposed to use to
16 enter Guinea.

17 Q. And did Benjamin Yeaten explain why Charles Taylor said
18 Issa should enter - use these materials to enter Guinea?

19 A. Yes.

11:07:01 20 Q. And why was he to do this?

21 A. He said it was that so as to be able to disturb the
22 Guineans, because the Guineans had been allowing the LURD rebels
23 to use their grounds to penetrate Liberia. He said as long as
24 the LURD rebels were coming from Guinea into Liberia, he said he
11:07:29 25 was also going to set a defensive against Guinea. So he asked
26 Issa to go and enter Guinea.

27 Q. Now what happened after Issa had this meeting with Benjamin
28 Yeaten?

29 A. Then Issa answered that, okay, when on his return he will

1 go and plan with his other commanders.

2 Q. He would plan what?

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

4 Q. And what happened when Issa then left the meeting with

11:08:26 5 Benjamin Yeaten?

6 A. Nothing else happened. They only agreed on what Benjamin
7 Yeaten had invited him for.

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

9 A. On his return after the meeting he immediately called on

11:08:54 10 Superman, because by then Superman was in Liberia fighting

11 alongside Benjamin Yeaten in Voinjama. So he called him to come

12 back to Sierra Leone and he was replaced by Matthew Barbue and

13 they promoted him to a major general. So Issa told Superman to

14 go towards Kissidougou and he said Morris Kallon should go

11:09:22 15 towards Pamelap because he said Benjamin Yeaten told him they

16 were trying to assemble another force that was supposed to enter

17 through Gueckedou.

18 Q. Now Pamelap is in what country?

19 A. Pamelap is on the border between Guinea and Sierra Leone.

11:09:58 20 Q. And Kissidougou is in what country?

21 A. In Guinea.

22 Q. Now where were they to receive these materials for these
23 operations? Where did they get the materials from?

24 A. They got the materials from Liberia.

11:10:14 25 Q. From whom?

26 A. From Charles Taylor.

27 Q. Now, you have said that --

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Sorry to interrupt, Ms Hollis, but I am
29 not clear who was promoted to a major general and who was

1 replaced by Matthew Barbue.

2 MS HOLLIS: Thank you, Madam President.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: It is page 48 around line 13/14.

4 MS HOLLIS: Thank you, Madam President:

11:10:42 5 Q. Mr Witness, you talked about Superman being recalled from
6 Liberia to Sierra Leone and you said he was replaced by Matthew
7 Barbue. Who was replaced by Matthew Barbue?

8 A. Superman was replaced by Matthew Barbue and Matthew Barbue
9 was promoted to a major general.

11:11:07 10 Q. Now who was Matthew Barbue?

11 A. Matthew Barbue was an RUF vanguard, but he was a Liberian.

12 Q. And who promoted him to major general?

13 A. The agreement was between Benjamin Yeaten and Issa. The
14 two of them joined together and promoted him.

11:11:35 15 Q. Now you've told the Court that it was planned to attack
16 Pamelap and Kissidougou. Did these attacks occur?

17 A. Yes, they occurred. Yes.

18 Q. And was the attack on Pamelap successful?

19 A. It was successful.

11:12:08 20 Q. And how long did the attackers remain in Guinea at Pamelap?

21 A. They were there for almost a month because they were there
22 for more than three weeks.

23 Q. And what year did this occur?

24 A. It happened at the end of 2001.

11:12:34 25 Q. The attack on Kissidougou, was that successful?

26 A. It was also successful. They captured Kissidougou but they
27 did not go that far inland and they were repelled. They came
28 back to Sierra Leone.

29 Q. And the attack on Kissidougou, when did that attack occur?

1 A. It occurred in the same year, around the same time, the
2 time it happened in Pamelap.

3 Q. Now you also talked about an attack on Gueckedou. Tell us
4 about that attack.

11:13:18 5 A. Gueckedou.

6 Q. Tell us about that attack, please.

7 A. The attack on Gueckedou was organised by Benjamin Yeaten.
8 And part of the RUF force that Matthew Barbue had travelled with
9 from the RUF zone and came to Foya, they were combined with the
10 militia, General Fassu, Equaliser, who led them, he led those
11 forces to enter Guinea in Gueckedou.

11:13:45

12 Q. Now you said that Matthew Barbue went there with RUF
13 fighters. These RUF fighters, from what groups did they come
14 from?

11:14:09 15 A. They came from the RUF.

16 Q. And were there any fighters who were not RUF?

17 A. No, no, they weren't fighters - all those fighters who came
18 from Sierra Leone were RUF.

19 Q. And how did they get these fighters from Sierra Leone? How
20 did they select them to go and fight at Gueckedou?

11:14:31

21 A. Well, some went willingly, some were arrested, put into
22 jail and from there they would be taken from there and sent
23 directly to the place.

24 Q. And what happened with this attack on Gueckedou?

11:15:02

25 A. Well, they succeeded entering Gueckedou and they captured
26 half of the town, but because of mismanagement they were repelled
27 and there so many people lost their lives.

28 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, the last bit of the
29 witness's testimony was not very clear to the interpreter.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, the interpreter has not heard
2 the last part of your evidence clearly. Please pick up your
3 answer and continue from where you said, "There so many people
4 lost their lives". Continue from there.

11:15:39 5 THE WITNESS: They repelled them from - when they crossed
6 into Gueckedou they captured half of the town, but because of
7 mismanagement or because of administrative lapses the Guinean
8 troops repelled the Sierra Leone/Liberians who had crossed. So
9 they too rushed and crossed the river. So many people lost their
11:16:09 10 lives in the river. That was where most of them lost their
11 lives.

12 MS HOLLIS:

13 Q. Who was it who lost their lives in the river?

14 A. Some RUF lost their lives there and some Liberian forces
11:16:25 15 too. They were drowned in the river.

16 Q. The arms and ammunition for this attack, where did those
17 arms and ammunition come from?

18 A. They got them from Foya - I mean from Monrovia.

19 MS HOLLIS: Your Honours, at this time just to orient
11:16:52 20 ourselves, it may be of assistance if the witness can be shown
21 the map that is shown at M5. This is an exhibit. It's P-4 and
22 it's a map showing Guinea, Sierra Leone and part of Liberia and
23 Cote d'Ivoire. It should be at M5:

24 Q. Now, Mr Witness, if you could just take a moment to look at
11:18:09 25 that map and familiarise yourself with that map. You can pick it
26 up and hold it if you want and take a look at it. Now,
27 Mr Witness, you talked about an attack against Pamelap. From
28 where was that attack launched?

29 A. It was from the Kambia area going towards Pamelap and some

1 took it from Koidu Town, Sefadu, and they went towards
2 Kissidougou on the other side.

3 Q. Can you show us on that map where Pamelap is located?

4 A. Pamelap is ahead of Kambia towards the border.

11:19:24 5 Q. Now you also mentioned an attack against Kissidougou. Can
6 you tell us from where that attack was launched?

7 A. They took off from Sefadu in Kono District.

8 Q. And can you show us where Kissidougou is, the Kissidougou
9 that was attacked by Superman's force?

11:19:56 10 A. Kissidougou is just - around Koidu Sefadu, when you go just
11 above there you will see Kissidougou. You will see Kissidougou
12 up. If you watch towards Kabala you will see the line and you
13 will see that from Koidu Sefadu going towards the border you will
14 see Kissidougou up.

11:20:27 15 Q. Now you also talked about an attack against Gueckedou.
16 From where was that attack launched?

17 A. They took off from Lofa County in Foya Town and they went
18 through Seru [phon] and went to Gueckedou.

19 Q. And can you show us the Gueckedou that you're referring to,
11:20:57 20 the Gueckedou that was attacked?

21 A. Yes, from Foya - if you look at the map from Foya you will
22 see Voinjama, and then you see a line running directly from Foya
23 between Voinjama and Kailahun. There is a straight line running
24 from Foya going towards Gueckedou. That is the border area.

11:21:45 25 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. That can be removed.

26 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Ms Hollis, I am just wondering about this
27 evidence where the witness is just pointing and not marking.
28 What really is the - what are you going to achieve for purposes
29 of record, permanent record? He has not marked anything.

1 MS HOLLIS: Your Honours, we can certainly have him mark.
2 Pamelap, I believe it is the only Pamelap on the map by Kambia.
3 Kissidougou I believe is the only Kissidougou up from Koidu and
4 over and down from Kabala. And Gueckedou up from Voinjama in the
11:22:29 5 line between Voinjama and I think he said Foya, but it certainly
6 is possible. If it would make the record even more clear to have
7 it mark it we would be happy to do that:

8 Q. Mr Witness, you have shown us on the map the Pamelap which
9 was attacked. Could you take a pen, please, and circle Pamelap
11:22:54 10 and put a "1" by Pamelap. If you could do that, please, and if
11 perhaps the witness could be assisted with a pen.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, take care that you don't go
13 outside those curtains.

14 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Ms Hollis, I take it that this is
11:23:29 15 evidence relating to attacks by the - I don't know what forces
16 this would be, I wouldn't want to state, but forces from Liberia
17 into Guinea?

18 MS HOLLIS: Your Honour, I believe the evidence is that
19 forces both Liberian and RUF went from Liberia to attack
11:23:48 20 Gueckedou, the forces that went into Kissidougou and Pamelap I
21 believe the witness testified were sent by Morris - by Issa
22 Sesay. I will clarify exactly who those forces were. They were
23 led by Superman to Kissidougou and Morris Kallon to Pamelap. But
24 thank you, your Honour, I will clarify who those forces were:

11:24:13 25 Q. Now, Mr Witness, first of all could you find Pamelap again
26 on the map and circle that location and put a 1 by Pamelap if you
27 would, please.

28 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Does the witness not have a different
29 coloured pen than the map?

1 MS HOLLIS:

2 Q. Now, Mr Witness, I believe you have also drawn an area from
3 Kambia up. Is that correct?

11:25:39

4 A. Yes, that was the route that they took from Kambia to
5 attack Pamelap, just to indicate and to show Pamelap.

6 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you talked about the attack on Pamelap
7 being led by Morris Kallon. Who were the forces that he took
8 with him or led on this attack on Pamelap?

11:26:08

9 A. It was the RUF forces that he led. The RUF and the AFRC
10 forces who were with him.

11 Q. Mr Witness, now if we could turn to the attack on
12 Kissidougou and again if you would find Kissidougou on the map
13 and circle it and put the number 2. Mr Witness, if you need to
14 move that while you are doing it go ahead so that you are able to
15 mark it. And again find Kissidougou and circle it and put the
16 number 2.

11:26:59

17 Mr Witness, you said that Superman was in command of this
18 attack. Who were the fighters that were with him on this attack?

11:27:46

19 A. Superman had fighters from Sierra Leone, the RUF/the AFRC
20 and at the time he was coming from Liberia he brought some
21 Liberians with him and all of those followed him to go on that
22 mission.

23 Q. Now, these --

11:28:02

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: Sorry to interrupt, Ms Hollis, but I
25 think unfortunately we are out of time and we will have to
26 adjourn at this point. It is a pity we just weren't able to
27 finish it neatly. We will resume court at 12 o'clock.

28 Mr Witness, we are going to take the mid-morning break
29 because the tape has also run out. We will resume court at 12.

1 Please adjourn court.

2 [Break taken at 11.29 a.m.]

3 [Upon resuming at 12.00 p.m.]

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Ms Hollis, please proceed and perhaps if
12:00:12 5 Madam Court Attendant could assist the witness on the next part
6 of the evidence.

7 MS HOLLIS:

8 Q. Mr Witness, before we took the break you were explaining to
9 the Court that Superman was in command of the attack against
12:00:45 10 Kissidougou and that among the fighters he took with him on this
11 attack there were Liberians. Can you tell us who were these
12 Liberian fighters who were with Superman on this attack against
13 Kissidougou?

14 A. Yes.

12:01:08 15 Q. Who were these Liberian fighters?

16 A. The Liberian fighters were fighters whom he met in Kolahun.
17 When he went to repel Voinjama, they joined him to do the attack,
18 so when he was coming back he had already left some of his
19 bodyguards with Benjamin Yeaten, the national security director.

12:01:31 20 So when he was coming he took some of the fighters as his
21 bodyguards to Sierra Leone. Those were the ones he used to
22 Kissidougou.

23 Q. And these fighters that he had met in Liberia, these
24 Liberians, to what group did they belong, if you know?

12:01:51 25 A. They were Liberians. They were Liberian militias.

26 Q. And the militias were under whose command, to your
27 knowledge?

28 A. They were under Benjamin Yeaten's command.

29 Q. Now you also talked about the attack against Gueckedou and

1 if you could please find that on the map and if you could circle
2 that and put the number 3 at Gueckedou where this attack occurred
3 that you talked about.

4 Mr Witness, if you could put the number 3 there, please, by
12:03:05 5 Gueckedou. Sorry, Mr Witness, I think you had done that and I
6 just didn't recognise it as a 3.

7 Mr Witness, you said that Superman had been assigned to
8 Liberia fighting against the LURD when he was recalled to Sierra
9 Leone to go on this mission against Kissidougou. To your
12:03:40 10 knowledge, how long had the RUF been in Liberia fighting against
11 the LURD before Superman was recalled to Sierra Leone?

12 A. The RUF was still there. It was only Superman that was
13 called as commander to go and bring his men for this fighting.

14 Q. And to your knowledge when was it that the RUF went to
12:04:15 15 Liberia to fight against the LURD?

16 A. RUF went to Liberia early 2001. It was when Issa sent
17 Superman to Liberia to go and lead the troops that were used to
18 fight against the LURD.

19 Q. You said that Superman was the commander there and then he
12:04:40 20 was replaced by Matthew Barbue. Do you know the names of any
21 other RUF commanders who were in Liberia fighting against the
22 LURD?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Who is that?

12:05:01 25 A. There was one called Colonel Eagle whom I stated in my
26 statement that I didn't know his real name, but his war name was
27 Colonel Eagle. There was CO Harrie too.

28 Q. CO Harrie?

29 A. Harrie. Harrie.

1 Q. Is that H-A-R-R-Y?

2 A. H-A-R-R-I-E.

3 Q. This CO Eagle, you said you didn't know his real name. Did
4 you know him by any other name?

12:05:45 5 A. I heard him being called Karmoh, something like that.
6 Karmoh.

7 Q. And CO Eagle, what was his nationality?

8 A. He was a Sierra Leonean.

9 Q. This CO Harrie that you mentioned, what was his
12:06:05 10 nationality?

11 A. Sierra Leonean.

12 Q. Did you know him by any other name?

13 A. No, I only knew Harrie.

14 Q. The RUF that were fighting in Liberia against the LURD, who
12:06:29 15 was the overall commander in this fight against the LURD in
16 Liberia?

17 A. It was Super, he was the overall commander, but when he was
18 leaving there he left Eagle in charge.

19 Q. And was there any commander above him in Liberia fighting
12:06:49 20 against the LURD?

21 A. Yes, there was the national security director who was
22 called Benjamin Yeaten. He was the overall boss for both the RUF
23 and the Liberians who were there.

24 Q. These RUF who were fighting in Liberia against the LURD,
12:07:15 25 where were they getting their arms and ammunition for this fight?

26 A. They used to get them from Liberia.

27 Q. From whom in Liberia?

28 A. They got them from Charles Taylor in Liberia.

29 MS HOLLIS: Madam President, I would ask that this map be

1 marked for identification.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. I think that will be MFI-1,
3 Madam Court Attendant? That is a map marked by the witness and
4 it becomes MFI-1.

12:08:23

5 MS HOLLIS:

6 Q. Mr Witness, you have told the Court about a trip that Issa
7 Sesay took to talk to Charles Taylor about disarming child
8 soldiers and you indicated that after the meeting with Charles
9 Taylor Issa Sesay was grumbling and said he didn't think he would

12:08:42

10 continue to follow the instructions. Now when Issa Sesay went
11 back to Sierra Leone what did he do in regards to disarmament?

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

12:09:06

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

16 A. Some of the arms and ammunition were disarmed, but it came
17 to a time when Benjamin Yeaten said to him that Charles Taylor
18 had said the weapons and the remaining rounds were to be sent
19 back to Liberia because those were his weapons, he was the one
20 who supplied them to Issa, so Issa should not use them to disarm.

12:09:35

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: Ms Hollis, your first question in this
22 group of questions related solely to the child soldiers and then
23 you said "this disarmament". Are you specifying the child
24 soldiers or are you talking more generally of disarmament in
25 relation to the arms and ammunition?

12:09:56

26 MS HOLLIS: More generally, your Honour.

27 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Ms Hollis, forgive my question, it's
28 really out of ignorance. When the witness said the arms were
29 disarmed, I am not sure what that means. You asked him what

1 happened to these arms and he said they were disarmed.

2 MS HOLLIS:

3 Q. Mr Witness, let's be clear on the record about this. When
4 you say that the arms were disarmed, can you explain to the Court
12:10:27 5 what you mean? What happened to those arms?

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

7 Q. You said that Issa Sesay went back and began to disarm the
8 child soldiers and then you said that the arms were disarmed.
9 What do you mean "the arms were disarmed"?

12:10:57 10 A. You did not get me clearly. I said after that grumbling
11 when he went back he mobilised the child soldiers who had arms,
12 who had their own rifles that they used to fight and he started
13 disarming them, the ones who had rifles.

14 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Witness, you were then asked what
12:11:20 15 happened to the arms that were recovered from the child soldiers
16 and you said, "Some of them were disarmed and others were to be
17 returned to Liberia to Charles Taylor who had given them in the
18 first place". So the question is what do you mean by those that
19 were disarmed? What happened to those weapons?

12:11:49 20 THE WITNESS: The weapons that had been taken from them,
21 the UN destroyed them. Just when the child combatants were
22 disarmed, they will give your own very arm to you and they will
23 give you a hammer to destroy it yourself.

24 MS HOLLIS:

12:12:12 25 Q. Now, Mr Witness, in your testimony you said, "It came a
26 time when Benjamin Yeaten said to him that Charles Taylor had
27 said the weapons and the remaining rounds were to be sent back to
28 Liberia". Benjamin Yeaten said this to whom?

29 A. He said this to Issa. He said Charles Taylor had said that

1 the arms he had supplied him with, those that he did not use he
2 should not use them to disarm with because those arms belonged to
3 him. He should not surrender those arms. He should bring them
4 back because they belonged to him. He had given them to him.

12:12:57 5 Q. When you say those arms belonged to him, who are you
6 referring to? The arms belonged to whom?

7 A. He was referring to Charles Taylor.

8 Q. And when you say that the arms should be brought back to
9 him, to whom should the arms be brought back?

12:13:29 10 A. He said they should take the arms back to Benjamin Yeaten,
11 they should meet Benjamin Yeaten in Vahun. At that time Benjamin
12 Yeaten was in Vahun when the instruction came to Issa. He said
13 Charles Taylor said the arms and ammunition that he had given to
14 him, those that he did not use he should assemble them and bring
12:13:50 15 them to Benjamin Yeaten because Charles Taylor had said he was
16 the one who had the weapons - he had given them the weapons. If
17 he did not use them he should bring them back to him.

18 Q. Now what happened after Benjamin Yeaten had this
19 conversation with Issa Sesay?

12:14:13 20 A. Immediately after that Issa called one of his securities
21 and sent him to Tongo to bring the remaining arms from Gbarnga to
22 Koidu Town.

23 Q. To bring the remaining arms from where?

24 A. The ones he sent - he sent his bodyguard to Gbarnga to -
12:14:45 25 for Banya to collect the heavy weapons that were there and the
26 ammunition that he had in his possession to be brought to
27 Lebanon. And the ones that he had in Lebanon, he put some into
28 the truck and a jeep and took them to Vahun to Benjamin Yeaten.

29 Q. And who was Banya?

1 A. Banya was a battalion commander. Even though that is not
2 part of my statement, he was a battalion commander in Tongo.

3 Q. And to what group did Banya belong?

4 A. Banya was an RUF commander.

12:15:29 5 Q. Did you know Banya by any other name?

6 A. That is no nickname. His real name is Banya. They usually
7 call him Sama Banya, but we call it short, Banya.

8 MR MUNYARD: Madam President, can I just be clear that
9 where we see in this particular passage he sent his bodyguard to
10 Gbarnga, we are talking about Banya.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, I was going to --

12 THE WITNESS: Not Gbarnga. He sent them to Banya in Tongo.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: The witness has answered your question,
14 Mr Munyard. It would appear that something was lost in

12:16:11 15 translation there.

16 MS HOLLIS:

17 Q. Now you indicated that Issa sent someone to collect the
18 heavy weapons and that they were to be taken to Vahun. Did this
19 happen?

12:16:33 20 A. Yes, he sent one of his bodyguards.

21 Q. And what exactly was taken to Vahun?

22 A. They went with ammunition and two Chinese 50 calibres and a
23 GPMG, an RPG, an AK rifle and G3 rifles.

24 Q. Now when you say two Chinese 50 calibres, what is a 50
12:17:08 25 calibre?

26 A. It is a heavy weapon that people mount in vehicles. At
27 times they mount them on the ground or at times in vehicles. It
28 should be operated by a team of seven people that is whenever it
29 is mounted. It is a Chinese made weapon, a heavy weapon.

1 Q. And what happened then when these materials were taken to
2 Vahun?

3 A. The man who took them there, he handed them over to
4 Benjamin Yeaten and the following day he returned to Issa.

12:17:56 5 Q. Now, Mr Witness, earlier you testified about Issa Sesay
6 taking trips to Monrovia and giving diamonds to Charles Taylor.
7 Where did Issa Sesay get the diamonds that he was giving to
8 Charles Taylor?

9 A. He got them from Kono and Tongo.

12:18:27 10 Q. And did Issa ever say anything about how many diamonds he
11 took to Charles Taylor?

12 A. He had said something about it some time in 2002.

13 Q. And what did he say?

14 A. In 2002 when RUF had been transformed into a political
12:18:56 15 party, the man who was appointed to be the presidential candidate
16 of the RUF asked Issa what his account was and he said he hadn't
17 any account, but that he had diamonds with Charles Taylor up to
18 5,000 carats and he had \$150,000 that he had given to Charles
19 Taylor for safekeeping and Charles Taylor had said any time
12:19:22 20 elections would be coming close he would assist the RUF and that
21 was why he was keeping the diamonds.

22 Q. Now you testified that Charles Taylor had also said that he
23 was going to hold on to the diamonds that were given to him by
24 Issa and by Sam Bockarie to give to Foday Sankoh when Foday
12:19:42 25 Sankoh was released. To your knowledge, did Foday Sankoh ever
26 receive those diamonds from Charles Taylor?

27 A. Well, he did not receive them in my presence and, in fact,
28 he did not receive them because Foday Sankoh was not released.
29 He died in detention.

1 Q. To your knowledge, did Issa Sesay ever receive those
2 diamonds?

3 A. No, he did not receive them.

12:20:23

4 Q. To your knowledge, did anyone in the RUF receive those
5 diamonds that Charles Taylor held?

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

7 Q. You have also testified about Issa Sesay meeting a person
8 known as Alpha Bravo and on one occasion taking diamonds to Alpha
9 Bravo. Were there any other times that diamonds were taken to
10 Alpha Bravo?

12:20:53

11 A. Yes, but he did not go. He used to send one of his
12 securities to Eddie Kanneh. Eddie Kanneh in turn would meet
13 Five-Zero and they would take the diamonds to Alpha Bravo.

14 Q. Who was Five-Zero?

12:21:20

15 A. Five-Zero was a code name for Benjamin Yeaten. He was
16 called Unit 50 again, Benjamin Yeaten.

17 Q. And how many times did that happen?

18 A. It happened about two times that I can recall now.

12:21:47

19 Q. Now you testified that when Issa Sesay took diamonds to
20 Alpha Bravo, Issa Sesay was given \$300,000. On these other
21 occasions when diamonds were taken to Alpha Bravo what, if
22 anything, did the RUF receive in exchange for these diamonds?

23 A. When they took the diamonds, RUF could not receive
24 anything. All what Issa got - heard was that Alpha Bravo had
25 gone back to Belgium. He said he would come later.

12:22:21

26 Q. So on these other two occasions to whom were these diamonds
27 given?

28 A. Eddie Kanneh said he gave the diamonds to Alpha Bravo, that
29 he and Benjamin Yeaten went there.

1 Q. Now, in addition to diamonds being given to Charles Taylor
2 and to Alpha Bravo, during the time that Issa Sesay was the
3 leader of the RUF were diamonds given to anyone else?

4 A. Yes.

12:23:13 5 Q. And to whom were diamonds given?

6 A. Eddie Kanneh brought a man from Belgium also. His name was
7 Minie.

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

12:23:36 10 A. Minie is M-I-N-I-E.

11 Q. And then what happened when Eddie Kanneh brought this
12 Belgium man, Minie?

13 A. They communicated to Issa. He said he had got another man
14 who was a diamond dealer, that he would be coming from Belgium to
12:24:01 15 Liberia, so he would want to start a business with him. So Issa
16 told Eddie Kanneh and asked him where the man was to base and he
17 said the man was to base in Liberia, so he dispatched one of his
18 bodyguards together with Rashid Foday and Rashid Foday escorted
19 the bodyguard to Foya with the diamonds. To my knowledge, it was
12:24:30 20 about 350 pieces and he gave them to Eddie Kanneh for Eddie
21 Kanneh to take them to Minie.

22 Q. And what happened then after the diamonds were taken to
23 Eddie Kanneh?

24 A. The bodyguard who brought the diamonds, he met Eddie Kanneh
12:24:50 25 in Monrovia and he and Eddie Kanneh came to a hotel, Palm Africa
26 - Palm Hotel. That was where Minie was lodged and they gave the
27 diamonds to Minie. Between three days to one week later mini
28 called Eddie Kanneh and said Issa had said he was going to send
29 40 carats of diamond to him and the bodyguard was to go to Vahun

1 and receive the person who was to bring the diamonds, so the
2 bodyguard moved to Monrovi a at night and received this 40 carats
3 and brought it back to Eddie Kanneh and the diamonds were taken
4 to Mi nie.

12:25:31 5 Q. Now where was it that the bodyguard was given these 40
6 carats of di amonds?

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

9 Q. And then the 40 carats of diamonds, where were they taken
12:25:50 10 after they were given to the bodyguard in Vahun?

11 A. The bodyguard took the diamonds to Monrovi a to Eddie Kanneh
12 and Eddie Kanneh and the bodyguard went to Mi nie in Palm Hotel in
13 Monrovi a.

14 Q. And this hotel that you are speaking of, can you tell us
12:26:14 15 the name again?

16 A. Palm Hotel. Palm Hotel. P-L-A-M, Palm Hotel.

17 Q. P-A-L-M?

18 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Interpreter, P-A-L-M.

19 THE INTERPRETER: No, your Honour, the witness said
12:26:32 20 P-L-A-M.

21 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: No, he did not. Mr Witness, please spell
22 it again.

23 THE WITNESS: Palm, P-A-L-M, Palm Hotel.

24 MR MUNYARD: Well, I heard the witness say P-L-A-M. I am
12:26:52 25 merely putting down on record what I heard him say from his own
26 lips, not translated or interpreted.

27 MS HOLLIS: That is what I heard as well. I hear the
28 witness saying Palm and spelling P-L-A-M.

29 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: But, Ms Hollis, you did not establish

1 from this witness if he is literate in English and you are asking
2 him these spellings.

3 MS HOLLIS: Well, I asked him what languages he spoke, he
4 said English and I asked him what languages he read and he said
12:27:24 5 English:

6 Q. Now, Mr Witness, could you tell us when it comes to
7 spelling English words what is your proficiency? What is your
8 ability to do that?

9 A. I can read English. I can spell some words.

12:27:48 10 Q. So now, Mr Witness, when the 40 carats were taken back to
11 Monrovia, what happened?

12 A. They took them to Minie. Minie was resided in Palm Hotel,
13 Monrovia.

14 Q. And what happened then?

12:28:10 15 A. From there he and Issa spoke and they agreed on 200,000
16 United States dollars, but Minie said he would only give 150,000,
17 but when he would go to Ivory Coast was where he would invite
18 Eddie Kanneh to give the money to him. Then Eddie Kanneh in turn
19 would then bring the money to Issa.

12:28:36 20 Q. Now you said that he and Issa spoke. How did they speak?
21 By what means did they communicate?

22 A. They communicated using the satellite - using satellite
23 means.

24 Q. Now you indicated that Minie said he would only give
12:28:57 25 \$150,000. Now in what location was that \$150,000 to be given to
26 the RUF?

27 A. He said except when he would go to Ivory Coast then he will
28 call for Eddie Kanneh to go and receive the money.

29 Q. Now to your knowledge did Eddie Kanneh get this \$150,000?

1 A. To my knowledge, no, I don't know whether he got it.

2 JUDGE LUSSICK: Ms Hollis, I am not quite understanding
3 this arrangement that was reached over these diamonds. The
4 witness said that the agreement was for \$200,000, but Minie said
12:29:55 5 he would only give 150,000. So was there any agreement for
6 200,000 or did Minie cheat him out of 50,000?

7 MS HOLLIS:

8 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you have heard the judge's comments and
9 questions about what you have said. You have mentioned that
12:30:18 10 Minie said that he would give 200,000, but then that he would
11 only give 150,000. So can you tell us what did you mean when you
12 said he said he would give 200,000 and then said he would only
13 give 150,000?

14 A. The negotiation between Issa and Minie and Eddie Kanneh,
12:30:51 15 the diamonds valued up to \$200,000, but Minie said, no, he would
16 not pay that money, he said he would only pay \$150,000. That was
17 the last agreement they had.

18 Q. Now to your knowledge were there any other - and by the way
19 when did this trip to Minie - when did that occur? In what year?

12:31:22 20 A. It was in 2001.

21 Q. To your knowledge after this trip where the 40 carats were
22 given to Minie, were there any other trips in which diamonds were
23 taken to Minie?

24 A. They had first made two trips before the 40 carat diamond
12:31:53 25 was sent.

26 Q. And in what year did these two earlier trips take place?

27 A. It was in 2001.

28 Q. And these earlier trips to Minie, what was the quantity of
29 diamonds that were taken, if you know?

1 A. The first one was 350 pieces and the second one was 260
2 before the 40 carat diamond was sent.

3 Q. Now I think I heard you talk about pieces and then I
4 thought I heard you say, "Before the 40 carat bulk diamonds were
12:32:42 5 sent". Did you say bulk diamonds - carats?

6 A. That was just one diamond, but it weighed 40 carats.

7 Q. Now these pieces that you talk about, what kinds of
8 diamonds were those?

9 A. They were industrial diamonds. Industrial diamonds. There
12:33:17 10 are different types, ten carats, five carats, two carats, four
11 carats, like that. Small sizes, but there were 350 pieces.

12 Q. So after the 40 carat diamond was taken to Minie were there
13 any other instances after that when diamonds were taken to Minie?

14 A. After the 40 carat, no, there was no other time that
12:33:56 15 diamonds were taken to Minie.

16 MS HOLLIS: Your Honours, at this time I am going to
17 request a private session so that the witness can go into detail
18 with your Honours and opposing counsel as to the basis of
19 knowledge for all of the things to which he has testified. These
12:34:22 20 would go into matters that would be identifying to the witness so
21 I am asking that we be allowed to do this in private session.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Munyard, you have heard the
23 application.

24 MR MUNYARD: Your Honours, we don't oppose this, but I
12:34:37 25 would invite the Court to be vigilant to ensure that matters that
26 don't go to identify the witness are able to be heard in open
27 session.

28 [Trial Chamber conferred]

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: We will allow the private session and for

1 purposes of record and in accordance with rules I inform the
2 public and the broadcasters that the next part of the evidence,
3 for reasons of security of the witness, will not be made public.
4 People in the gallery can see into the Court, but they will not
12:35:42 5 be able to hear. Please implement private session.

6

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[At this point in the proceedings, a portion of
8 the transcript, pages 15200 to 15257, was
9 extracted and sealed under separate cover, as
10 the proceeding was heard in private session.]

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1 [Open session]

2 MR MUNYARD:

3 Q. Right. I just want to summarise the general evidence that
4 we've had from you and I can do it I think in a sentence; that
15:53:00 5 apart from listening once in February of 2007 to BBC Focus on
6 Africa you have not followed this trial at all from any source,
7 is that right?

8 A. You're right, apart from that.

9 Q. And since you have been in The Hague although you have met
15:53:24 10 other people from Sierra Leone in the house that you're staying
11 at you had never met any of them before you met them in The
12 Hague, right?

13 A. I have never met a person before I came to The Hague. I
14 met him or her here.

15:53:43 15 Q. And I want to ask you when you first were interviewed by
16 the Prosecution about the trial of Charles Taylor?

17 A. It was in 2003.

18 Q. And have you been interviewed many times since?

19 A. They have interviewed me, yes, about two or three times
15:54:23 20 that I can still recall.

21 Q. Well we'll go through some dates with you in due course,
22 but if I suggested to you that it was far more than two or three
23 times since that first interview would you agree with that?

24 A. On my part I won't agree with that, because that is what I
15:54:47 25 have in mind. Maybe somebody might go and talk to me and I
26 wouldn't know he had come or he or she had come from the Court,
27 but on my part from the Court it's two or three times that I can
28 recall.

29 Q. Very well. Now you've been actively involved as a

1 potential Prosecution witness against Charles Taylor since 2003,
2 do you agree?

3 A. Repeat that question.

4 Q. You have been actively involved as a possible Prosecution
15:55:31 5 witness in the trial of Charles Taylor since 2003, do you agree?

6 A. They obtained statement from me in 2003. They interviewed
7 me in 2003. Since then I have not been positively involved to
8 say that I was going to meet them every day and every night.

9 Q. No, I'm not suggesting every day and every night, but I'm
15:56:02 10 suggesting 2003, 2006, 2007 and many times this year, 2008.

11 Would you agree that you've been seen by the Prosecution over
12 that period?

13 A. Yes, I agree with you. Yes.

14 Q. Thank you. And you still maintain that despite the fact
15:56:34 15 that it's nearly five years since you were first interviewed by
16 them as a possible witness against Charles Taylor that you have
17 only once listened to an account of his trial and that was in
18 February of 2007?

19 A. I said it was only in 2007 that I heard they were
15:57:07 20 announcing over the BBC Focus on Africa.

21 Q. And never again have you heard anything at all about the
22 evidence in this case from any source. Is that what you're
23 saying?

24 A. Apart from the statement, or what some Special Court
15:57:36 25 workers had with me, I have not heard from any evidence in
26 relation to this case.

27 Q. What do you mean "apart from what some Special Court
28 workers had with me"? Do you mean that you've been told about
29 evidence by some Special Court workers?

1 A. No, they did not tell me about any evidence. Apart from
2 the fact that they come to me at the house to tell me that so and
3 so time or so and so date we would like to come and collect you
4 because we want to ask you two or three questions, apart from
15:58:21 5 that I have never sat close to a news or somebody to tell me so
6 and so trial is going on, or so and so people have spoken in the
7 Court.

8 Q. And when you were first interviewed, was a record made of
9 that interview?

15:58:43 10 A. They wrote it on paper. They were writing it on paper. I
11 can't know whether they made record of it, but they were writing
12 it on paper and they were similarly typing it on that type of
13 screen in front of you.

14 Q. On a computer?

15:58:59 15 A. It could likely be a computer, but they were typing on it.

16 Q. Was any tape recording made of your first interview?

17 A. My first interview maybe a tape recorder was there, but I
18 did not see it being played.

19 Q. So if any of your interviews were taped, you have no
15:59:23 20 recollection of that happening?

21 A. I can't remember that that happened, one that I am aware
22 of.

23 Q. The first interview, can you remember what month it was in
24 2003?

15:59:47 25 A. I can't remember. I can't exactly know the month.

26 Q. Or what time of year, perhaps?

27 A. It was in 2003.

28 Q. How was it that you came into contact with the Prosecution
29 in 2003?

1 A. In 2003 I was working at the
2 [Redacted] I was at sea for six months.
3 When I came to the shore my general manager told me that two
4 Special Court vehicles came here enquiring about me and they left
16:00:26 5 a number that when I returned I should contact that number, so
6 when I came and he gave me that number I immediately contacted
7 the number and it was answered by one Chris Bamford and he asked
8 me where I was and I told him and he went and met me there. That
9 is how we met.

16:00:40 10 MS HOLLIS: Madam President, given the accumulation of
11 information in that answer the Prosecution is going to ask that
12 that not be part of the public record. There are several
13 discrete facts which put together could certainly identify this
14 person to the individuals at that location at that time.

16:01:04 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Munyard?

16 MR MUNYARD: Entirely a matter for the Court.

17 [Trial Chamber conferred]

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: We have considered this and we feel that,
19 given the wide nature of the industry, et cetera, and the
16:02:55 20 information, it would be sufficient to redact the name of the
21 company that is recorded on the first line. So, please redact
22 the name of the company referred to in the first line of that
23 answer.

24 MR MUNYARD:

16:03:19 25 Q. Do you know how it was they'd got your name, or your
26 employer's contact?

27 A. I can't tell, because he did not tell me about it and I was
28 trying to find out how come they knew I was working at that
29 place. He just told me that we should forget about that.

1 Q. And when you first met them, did you discuss with them the
2 sort of things that you would be able to tell them in an
3 interview?

4 A. They too were asking me questions just like you are doing
16:03:54 5 now. Just what they asked me was what I told them.

6 Q. But on that very first occasion when you met them, were
7 they making any notes or not?

8 A. The very first day, the first day that I met with them, it
9 didn't take long. He just asked me for my name, whether I was --

16:04:14 10 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, he's called his name.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, do not mention your name and
12 if that name has been put out on the broadcast - it's not on the
13 record. If it has been put out on the broadcast it is to be
14 redacted from the broadcast and if there are any members of the
16:04:37 15 public who have heard a name it is not to be repeated. Continue,
16 Mr Munyard.

17 MR MUNYARD: Thank you:

18 Q. What I want to know is after they first meet you and just
19 confirm your name and your contact details, did they have a
16:04:55 20 discussion with you about the sort of areas you could tell them
21 about before they sat you down and had a formal interview session
22 with you?

23 A. They just asked me for my name, where I was, the work I was
24 doing. That was what we talked about and they told me that they
16:05:18 25 would get back to me later.

26 Q. In the course of any of the interviews that you had with
27 the Prosecution, were you - sorry, was the information you gave
28 to them read back to you so that you could confirm it was correct
29 or add anything to it?

1 A. At first when they obtained the statement from me they did
2 not give it back to me for me to read it or review it, because it
3 was on a screen like this as I have been telling you.

16:06:09 4 Q. After that, did their recording of the information you were
5 giving to them change?

6 A. Well, I do not know whether they changed it. As I've been
7 telling you, the person who was talking to me during my first
8 interview when they were obtaining the statement from me, that
9 person was typing on a screen like this, just like you were
16:06:30 10 typing. I was talking and the person was typing. Thereafter I
11 did not see the woman. Since 2003 I did not see her to say that
12 she will give me the statement for me to read.

13 Q. All right, what about the later interviews? Did they
14 always type them on a computer screen or did they at some later
16:07:04 15 stage just write them down in handwriting and then read them back
16 to you for you to correct them or to add anything to them?

17 A. Sometimes they used to do that.

18 Q. And did you ever correct anything that they had wrongly
19 recorded?

16:07:34 20 A. At times I can recall correcting them. I can remember when
21 I met with them, when they were reading it I would tell them
22 that, no, this is not the real word.

23 Q. So you did listen carefully to what they were reading back
24 to you and correct it when they got it wrong, yes?

16:08:02 25 A. Not all my statements, yes.

26 Q. Did they read back most of your statements to - well, most
27 of your interview notes to you?

28 A. In Freetown, yes.

29 Q. And let us just be clear about something. Did they ever

1 write out what you had told them and get you to sign it as a true
2 account of what you had told them?

3 A. Yes, they did that in Freetown.

4 Q. Did you sign a handwritten version or a typed version?

16:08:55 5 A. Yes, I signed many.

6 Q. Did you sign handwritten versions or typed versions?

7 A. It was the typed one that I signed on, my signature.

8 MR MUNYARD: Well, your Honours, if that is the case then
9 we would be grateful to see the copies with the witness's
16:09:29 10 signature on them because so far we haven't had any such
11 documents. Unless I've missed something, but I think on this
12 point I'm fairly secure.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Ms Hollis, can you assist us? You've
14 heard the witness's answers.

16:09:47 15 MS HOLLIS: Your Honour, we will certainly check with
16 everything that we have disclosed and make sure that we haven't
17 failed to disclose something.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you, Ms Hollis.

19 MR MUNYARD: I'm grateful to my learned friend:

16:10:07 20 Q. Right. Well, let us deal first of all then, please, with
21 how you came to be in the RUF. The word you've used is that you
22 "volunteered" to join the RUF. Can you remember saying that at
23 the beginning of your evidence?

24 A. Yes.

16:10:30 25 Q. And you know the difference between volunteering and having
26 no choice but to join, don't you?

27 A. Yes, I know the difference. I know the difference.

28 Q. And on the account you've given us in evidence you felt you
29 had no choice but to join them, didn't you?

1 A. I hadn't - I did not say I hadn't any choice but to join
2 them. I did not tell you that I hadn't any choice but to join
3 them.

16:11:20 4 Q. Did you have a realistic choice as to whether or not to
5 join the RUF back in 1991?

6 A. I had a reason why I raised my hand.

7 Q. And what was that reason?

8 A. The reason was that that was my first time of seeing a man
9 with a gun not in uniform. A man with a gun who plaited his
16:11:56 10 hair. So when they came and asked who wants to join us, that was
11 why I put my hand up, because if I had not done so it might have
12 been that they would have changed by shooting at us, so I thought
13 that I would be saved by doing that.

14 Q. In other words, you thought that if you didn't put your
16:12:14 15 hand up you might be shot dead. Is that right?

16 A. That was what I thought. That was what I had in mind.

17 Q. But that's not volunteering, is it?

18 A. Well, they did not force me. That was how I classed being
19 a volunteer. Those who did not raise their hands, they did
16:12:36 20 nothing to them and I did not try to escape to say that I was
21 going back to Koindu, so I just thought that I was willing to
22 join them.

23 Q. At that time you were in the fifth form of your secondary
24 school, weren't you?

16:12:54 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. And you'd been all the way through primary school. Is that
27 right?

28 A. Yes.

29 Q. And when these people appeared in your village they made it

1 clear that they were trying to free the people of Sierra Leone
2 from the oppression of the government, didn't they?

3 A. That was what they said.

16:13:33

4 Q. And did you agree with what they were trying to do at that
5 stage?

6 A. Well, during that time I had no feeling that - I was not
7 feeling any oppression, but that was what they were saying, that
8 they had come to redeem us from the oppression and the system.

9 Q. When you joined them were you given lessons in ideology?

16:14:04

10 A. They later gave us ideology. That was when I was with
11 Foday Sankoh. That was when they were giving us ideology
12 classes, when I became a bodyguard to Foday Sankoh.

13 Q. What year was that?

14 A. That was in 1992, '92 ending to '93.

16:14:30

15 Q. And at that stage did you agree with the aims of the RUF?

16 A. That time I had been trained and I had become part of them,
17 so I was going - I was agreeing with them with some of the things
18 that I was going through.

19 Q. And who was it who ran the ideology classes?

16:14:55

20 A. The ideology class - the Pa himself, old man Foday Sankoh,
21 used to take the ideology classes. Colonel Zino used to take
22 ideology classes.

23 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he repeat the last
24 name.

16:15:09

25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, the interpreter asks you to
26 repeat the last name.

27 THE WITNESS: Mike Lamin.

28 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Witness, could you repeat that last
29 name, please.

1 THE WITNESS: Mi ke Lami n. Mi ke Lami n. M-I-K-E, Mi ke.

2 L-A-M-I-N. Mi ke Lami n.

3 MR MUNYARD:

16:15:52

4 Q. Where were you late '92, early '93? What part of what
5 country?

6 A. I was in Sierra Leone.

7 Q. What part of Sierra Leone?

16:16:24

8 A. In early '93 I was within Sierra Leone. I was between
9 Kenema in late '93. Between Kenema and Bo. From '94 I was -
10 '93. '92 I was in Pendembu, Kailahun and Sandiaru.

11 Q. And were you ever pushed out of Sierra Leone in late '92 or
12 early '93?

13 A. They pushed us out of Sierra Leone in early - yes, early
14 '93.

16:16:49

15 Q. And who pushed you out and where did you go?

16 A. It was the NPRC and we went to Foya for us to use a bypass
17 to go and open up a jungle.

16:17:19

18 Q. Now by this time it's right, isn't it, that all of the
19 Liberian troops or all of the Liberian fighters, I should say,
20 who had been alongside the RUF in Sierra Leone had withdrawn and
21 gone back to Liberia?

22 A. Some of them had withdrawn, those who were doing bad
23 things. Those who were loyal to RUF stayed.

24 Q. But the majority of them had withdrawn, hadn't they?

16:17:46

25 A. Majority had withdrawn.

26 Q. And that was by the middle of 1992, wasn't it?

27 A. It was at the end of - mid '92 to '93.

28 Q. I'm suggesting it's by the middle of 1992. Are you
29 agreeing with that?

1 A. Mid 1992.

2 Q. In early '93 when you were pushed into Liberia who was
3 controlling the border between Liberia and Sierra Leone then on
4 the Liberian side?

16:18:39 5 A. When they pushed us, at that time it was ULIMO that was
6 based at Foya.

7 Q. And when you say ULIMO based at Foya, do you mean that they
8 were controlling the border between Sierra Leone and Liberia?

9 A. Yes.

16:19:04 10 Q. Is it right that at some time in 1993 ULIMO had succeeded
11 in closing the border between Liberia and Sierra Leone?

12 A. At the end of '93 to '94 they had succeeded in closing the
13 border, that is between Sierra Leone and Liberia.

14 Q. Had you gone back into Sierra Leone by the time they closed
16:19:30 15 the border?

16 A. Before - before I had returned to Sierra Leone then.

17 Q. Just help us with when you returned to Sierra Leone,
18 please.

19 A. It was some time in 1993 to '94. That was when I crossed
16:19:53 20 back into Sierra Leone.

21 Q. How were you able to cross back into Sierra Leone if ULIMO
22 had closed the border between the two countries?

23 A. We used a bypass. We had some Loma boys with us, they
24 showed us a bypass that we could use to Kolahun, bypassed Foya,
16:20:20 25 then we came to Dawa behind Koindu at a village called Sondokoro
26 Bendu.

27 Q. And are you able to be more precise about when it was that
28 you returned to Sierra Leone?

29 A. It was in 1993. It was in 1993.

1 Q. What part of the year, please?

2 A. It's been long, I cannot recall the particular month, but
3 it was in 1993 when I fought my way - when we fought our way to
4 enter Sierra Leone.

16:21:05 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Can we just clarify what is meant by Loma
6 boys. Is that a group, or a village, or an ethnicity?

7 THE WITNESS: It's a tribe. It's a tribe in Liberia.

8 MR MUNYARD: I'm sorry, your Honour, I'm having difficulty
9 working out where that is on the screen, but I don't personally
16:21:36 10 need to pursue it.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: The witness has answered the question
12 very adequately and the record is page 153 - the reference is
13 page 153, line 16.

14 MR MUNYARD: It's long gone off the top of my screen in my
16:21:57 15 font, so I don't need to pursue it. Thank you:

16 Q. Now, once ULIMO had closed the border it's right, isn't it,
17 that all the supplies between the NPFL and the RUF had been cut
18 off?

19 A. Yes, they had cut them off.

16:22:41 20 Q. So where did the RUF then turn to get more arms and
21 ammunition?

22 A. In late 2000 - in late 1993 to 1994 RUF only depended on
23 the government forces to get arms. That is, they went deep in
24 the rear, set an ambush, whatever was captured there they used on
16:23:07 25 the enemy.

26 Q. Well, that wasn't their only source of arms, was it?

27 A. That was the only area from which we got arms.

28 Q. Did you get any arms from Guinea after ULIMO closed the
29 border?

1 A. ULIMO had not fully closed the border. They were in
2 Voinjama. That was early in '93 - at the end of 2000. At the
3 end of 1992 to '93 when Voinjama had been cut off they were
4 trying to fight to open it up, we converted into getting
16:23:52 5 materials from the Guinea border.

6 Q. How was it that you got materials from the Guinea border?

7 A. We got it through the Guinean soldiers who were there.

8 Q. Do you mean you got materials that belonged to the
9 government of Guinea from its own army?

16:24:22 10 A. The Guinea government army. We were getting materials from
11 them at this time.

12 Q. But buying them from the government or buying them from
13 Guinean soldiers who were making a bit of money on the side?
14 Which was it?

16:24:41 15 A. The Guinean soldiers, we were buying from them.

16 Q. And how were you buying these arms from the Guinean
17 soldiers?

18 A. We bought them sometimes with money and sometimes with
19 produce. Sometimes we would take diamonds to them.

16:25:09 20 Q. What year or years is this that you would buy arms and
21 ammunition from the Guineans with money, produce or diamonds?

22 A. That was at the end of 2002 and in the mid 2000 - at the
23 end of 1992 and mid-1993 because it was about six months that
24 that happened before we could push from Sierra Leone.

16:25:40 25 Q. And where were the diamonds coming from, Mr Witness?

26 A. The diamonds were coming from Kono.

27 Q. When did the RUF start mining in Kono?

28 A. They started to mine in Kono in 1992. They mined up to '93
29 and they stopped. That was when they were dislodged from Kono

1 from Koidu Town.

2 Q. We'll come back to diamonds in due course, but I'm dealing
3 still with arms and ammunition. Did you get any arms and
4 ammunition from any other source once the border between Sierra
16:26:34 5 Leone and Liberia had been closed by ULIMO?

6 A. We used to get arms and ammunition from the Guinean troops
7 and from the government forces in Sierra Leone.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Munyard, I hope this will be a
9 convenient place to adjourn because we've been alerted that
16:26:55 10 we're, I think not only up to time, but maybe slightly over it.

11 MR MUNYARD: If we're over time I won't pursue it till
12 morning. Can I just ask that we deal with one thing in the
13 morning before the witness is brought into court, and that is a
14 formula for my asking him a question which I would like to
16:27:12 15 ventilate with the Court and not before the witness.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. Madam Court Attendant, if you
17 note that please and advise the appropriate officers.

18 We will adjourn, Mr Witness, now until tomorrow morning. I
19 again remind you that you are under oath and you must not discuss
16:27:34 20 your evidence with any other person while you under oath. Do you
21 understand?

22 THE WITNESS: I don't talk with people.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: That's very good to know. Please adjourn
24 court until tomorrow at 9.30.

16:27:47 25 [Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 4.30 p.m.
26 to be reconvened on Wednesday, 3 September 2008
27 at 9.30 a.m.]

28
29

I N D E X

WITNESSES FOR THE PROSECUTION:

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