



Case No. SCSL-2003-01-T

THE PROSECUTOR OF
THE SPECIAL COURT
V.
CHARLES GHANKAY TAYLOR

FRIDAY, 25 APRIL 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 Simon Meisenberg
Ms Doreen Kiggundu

For the Registry:

Ms Rosette Muzigo-Morrison

For the Prosecution:

Mr Nicholas Koumjian
Ms Shyamala Alagendra
Mr Alain Werner
Ms Maja Dimitrova

For the accused Charles Ghankay Taylor:
Mr Morris Anyah

For the Office of the Principal Defender:
Mr Silas Chekera

1 Friday, 25 April 2008

2 [Open session]

3 [The accused present]

4 [Upon commencing at 9.30 a.m.]

09:29:47 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good morning. I note appearances are as
6 before, Ms Alagendra.

7 MS ALAGENDRA: Good morning, your Honours. That is
8 correct.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah?

09:30:09 10 MR ANYAH: Good morning, Madam President. Your Honours,
11 good morning. That is correct.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: If there are no other matters I will
13 remind the witness of his solemn declaration.

14 Mr Witness, I again remind you as I have done on other
09:30:26 15 mornings that you took a solemn declaration last week to tell the
16 truth. That declaration is still binding on you and you must
17 answer questions truthfully. Do you understand?

18 THE WITNESS: Yes, my Lord.

19 WITNESS: TF1-334 [On former affirmation]

09:30:35 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please proceed, Mr Anyah.

21 MR ANYAH: Thank you, Madam President.

22 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR ANYAH: [Continued]

23 Q. Mr Witness, when we left off yesterday we were engaged in
24 discussions about the Great Commission, the books of Matthew and
09:30:53 25 the books of Mark, and we will leave the scripture for a moment
26 and come back to it some time later perhaps. I want to now ask
27 you questions about events after or around the time of the Lome
28 peace talks, through the period of time when you said you and a
29 delegation from Sierra Leone paid a visit to the President of

1 Liberia, Mr Charles Taylor. What is the West Side Boys,
2 Mr Witness?

3 A. Well, the West Side Boys comprised the SLA soldiers, the
4 RUF and the small boys that we had that we had trained in that
09:31:49 5 area. So we were called the West Side Boys and we were the only
6 set of people who were very close to Freetown.

7 Q. You said it comprised the SLAs, the RUF, some small boys
8 that you had trained in that area. Are those the three
9 constituent members of the West Side Boys?

09:32:23 10 A. Well, we had some STF, like I said earlier, who joined us.
11 That is when Gullit had advanced to Makeni and then we had some
12 former NPFL fighters with us there at the base.

13 Q. Well, you just mentioned the name Gullit. I thought Bazzy
14 was head of the West Side Boys?

09:32:53 15 A. This is very simple. I said when Gullit had left us. He
16 left us and went. I am not saying that Gullit was with us again.
17 And it was after that we went to that area and formed the West
18 Side Boys.

19 Q. The head of the West Side Boys was Bazzy Kamara, yes?

09:33:13 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Not Alex Tamba Brima or Gullit, yes?

22 A. Yes, my Lord.

23 Q. Hassan Papa Bangura, or Bomb Blast, was also a member of
24 the West Side Boys, yes?

09:33:31 25 A. Yes, my Lord.

26 Q. And you as well, true?

27 A. Yes, my Lord.

28 Q. The persons who took some UNOMSIL soldiers hostages, the
29 record says UNAMSIL, but you had said UNOMSIL and at the time it

1 was the observer mission in place. Would you agree with that?

2 A. Yes, my Lord.

3 Q. Yes, it was not UNAMSIL. I am speaking of July now 1999,
4 correct. It was UNOMSIL, observer mission?

09:34:12 5 A. That was what I said. I said UNOMSIL.

6 Q. Now the people who took some UNOMSIL soldiers, some ECOMOG
7 soldiers, Bishop George Biguzzi, is that the name you said?

8 A. Yes, Biguzzi, yes.

9 Q. Then the bishop of Makeni, yes?

09:34:36 10 A. He was the bishop in Makeni. Bishop Biguzzi. He was in
11 Makeni.

12 Q. The people who took all of those people hostage in about
13 July, you said, was the West Side Boys, right?

14 A. Yes, my Lord.

09:34:59 15 Q. Are you sure the West Side Boys were not exclusively made
16 up of AFRC or SLA members?

17 A. No, my Lord. We were mixed.

18 Q. We are now speaking of the time around the Lome Peace
19 Agreement. Do you still maintain you were all mixed? Is that
09:35:26 20 your evidence, Mr Witness?

21 A. Yes, my Lord, we were mixed. We were together. There was
22 coordination up to the Lome Peace Accord.

23 Q. And after Lome there was no coordination, right?

24 A. No, the coordination continued until the arrest of the
09:35:53 25 UNOMSIL and that led us to go to Liberia.

26 Q. Let's talk about what else was happening around this time.
27 Foday Sankoh was initially in custody at Pademba Road before the
28 J6 or 6 January invasion, correct?

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. And when you and your fellow SLA members entered Freetown
2 on 6 January and you went to Pademba Road, Foday Sankoh had been
3 moved, right?

09:36:47 4 A. Well, it was not just I and my fellow SLA members. Like I
5 said, it was a mixed force. It was a mixed force that went to
6 Freetown, but before we could arrive there we already noticed
7 that Sankoh had been taken out of the prison.

8 Q. Okay, let's adopt your terminology for a moment, mixed
9 force. The point is Sankoh had been taken away, right?

09:37:10 10 A. Yes, according to the people that we released from the
11 prisons - from the prisons. What they told us was that, they
12 said before we reached there the ECOMOG people had just come
13 there and taken Pa Sankoh away.

14 Q. By April of that year would you agree that Foday Sankoh had
09:37:30 15 been flown to Lome, Togo?

16 A. Well, maybe if you tell me the year. I want you to state
17 the year so that I will get it very clear, because I am not sure
18 what year you are talking about now.

19 Q. That's fair enough. That's fair enough. I am speaking of
09:38:00 20 the year 1999. By April 1999 would you agree Foday Sankoh had
21 been flown to Lome, Togo?

22 A. Yes, like I said, he called whilst we were in Newton and he
23 said he was on the preparation to go on the peace accord. That
24 one I know, yes.

09:38:27 25 Q. You have answered the question saying he called when you
26 were in Newton to say he was in preparation. It doesn't say
27 where he was calling from. What I am putting to you is that
28 Foday Sankoh was in Lome, Togo in April 1999. Do you agree?

29 A. Well, I never knew anything about that. He only called and

1 told us that he was on preparation to go to Lome for the peace.

2 Q. Well, let's start with the first of several BBC reports I
3 will hand out to the Court. We have heard a lot about the BBC in
4 this case. Madam Court Officer, could you put one on the

09:39:54 5 overhead projector, if you don't mind? Thank you.

6 Mr Witness, the document in front of you is from the
7 Internet. Its source is given at the bottom of the page. It is
8 a BBC extract from the BBC website. The caption or the title of
9 the article says, "World: Africa, Rebel leader freed for talks".

09:40:24 10 If you look at the top of the page it has a date on it. It says
11 Sunday, April 18, 1999. Do you see that, Mr Witness?

12 A. Yes, my Lord.

13 Q. And then you see a picture, right?

14 A. Yes, my Lord.

09:40:48 15 Q. Soldiers with weapons and in some kind of military fatigue,
16 right?

17 A. Yes, my Lord.

18 Q. And you see the first paragraph beneath that photograph
19 says:

09:41:00 20 "The leader of the Sierra Leonean rebels, Foday Sankoh, has
21 arrived in the Togolese capital, Lome, following his release from
22 jail to consult his commanders on possible peace talks to end
23 Sierra Leone's eight-year civil war."

24 Do you see that?

09:41:20 25 A. Yes, my Lord.

26 Q. Having seen this, do you agree now that Foday Sankoh was in
27 the capital of Lome, Togo in April 1999?

28 A. Well, yes, according to this paper, I agree.

29 Q. And if you go down a little bit where it says:

1 "The rebel leader is due to hold a week of discussions with
2 his military commanders in the Togolese town of Kara - the home
3 town of Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema, who is helping to
4 broker the peace initiative?"

09:42:09 5 Do you see that?

6 A. Yes, my Lord.

7 Q. It is the case, is it not, that as of April already in 1999
8 the peace process was in motion?

9 A. Yes, my Lord.

09:42:27 10 Q. Thank you. And this is the same time you testified that
11 you and other West Side Boys were engaged in an attack on Port
12 Loko, right?

13 A. Yes, my Lord.

14 Q. Yes. We will come back to that. And, by the way, it was
09:42:46 15 in Port Loko you captured the two Malian soldiers, right?

16 A. Yes, my Lord.

17 Q. What was the fate of those two Malian soldiers, Mr Witness?

18 A. Well, like I said, we captured them in Port Loko and then
19 we handed them over to Bazzy who was the commander and then he
09:43:10 20 informed Gullit - I mean he informed Mosquito in Kailahun and it
21 was only after the peace accord, when they had signed the peace
22 accord that Bazzy went and handed them over to the Government of
23 Sierra Leone.

24 Q. They were captured about 7 May, right?

09:43:29 25 A. Yes, within that time. Yes.

26 Q. Now the President of Togo, Gnassingbe Eyadema, not the
27 current Eyadema who is President of Togo. Gnassingbe Eyadema,
28 the father, he was chairman of ECOWAS at that time, right?

29 A. Well, since I was in the jungle save that you are

1 explaining it to me now, because we were in the bush.

2 Q. Have you heard of ECOWAS before, Mr Witness?

3 A. Yes, my Lord.

4 Q. You have also heard of the United Nations of course, right?

09:44:12 5 A. Yes, my Lord.

6 Q. When you folks took those hostages including the bishop,
7 both ECOWAS and the UN were involved in trying to secure their
8 release, right?

9 A. All what I knew was that, like I said, we got in touch with
09:44:34 10 the government in Freetown and, like I said, that was the time
11 Abdulai Mustapha communicated with us and said they were coming
12 to come and receive us. And like I said also, Johnny Paul also
13 called and said he was now on preparation to go to Liberia and
14 that we should go and join him there.

09:45:02 15 Q. Are you aware that the border between Liberia and Sierra
16 Leone was closed from December 1998 until October of 1999 by
17 President Charles Taylor?

18 A. Well, I was not around that area, the borderline, save that
19 you are informing me today.

09:45:30 20 Q. You are saying you are not aware of that fact?

21 A. I know, yes, my Lord.

22 Q. This Court has determined it to be a fact that the Lome
23 Peace Agreement was signed on 7 July 1999. Your Honours, I want
24 to cite to the judicial notice decision. I am referring to
09:46:09 25 CMS-370 and this is fact number W. It says:

26 "On 7 July 1999 the Government of Sierra Leone signed a
27 peace agreement with the RUF in Lome, Togo (Lome Peace
28 Agreement)."

29 Mr Witness, 7 July is when this Court concludes Lome was

1 signed. At that time, 7 July, what was the status of the RUF/SLA
2 relationship? Can you tell us, please?

3 A. Well, it was good. It was good.

09:47:06 4 Q. You told us yesterday that when you arrived at this plan as
5 to how to abduct the hostages - and this abduction took place is
6 it in Magbeni, yes?

7 A. Yes, my Lord. It was in Magbeni that we captured the
8 UNOMSIL and the ECOMOG officers and then Bishop Biguzzi and
9 others.

09:47:31 10 Q. You and your fellow fighters came up with a plan for Hassan
11 Papa Bangura to lure them into a meeting and upon him removing
12 his hat, you said, you would then arrest the hostages. Is that
13 fair to say, Mr Witness?

09:48:04 14 A. Well, you have misinterpreted me. I said Bazy called a
15 meeting and it was during that meeting that this plan was
16 designed. He said we should go to the meeting and he explained
17 what Hassan Papa Bangura was supposed to do and after doing that
18 we will arrest the hostages.

09:48:27 19 Q. Yes, Bazy called the meeting, but a part of the meeting
20 called for a certain cue sign by Bomb Blast to the rest of you as
21 you went to move in, correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And the act which was to signify that it was time for you
24 to move in was him taking off his hat, correct?

09:48:52 25 A. Yes, my Lord.

26 Q. A minor point, but you told the Prosecution before that it
27 was him having to take off his glasses and not his hat. Do you
28 recall telling the Prosecution that before?

29 A. Well, that might have been a mistake, but, like I said, it

1 was the hat and that was what I told the Prosecution - the
2 investigators. I said no sooner he took off his hat then the
3 troops will enter.

4 Q. But it is possible you said glasses before, right?

09:49:36 5 A. Well, my Lord, like I said, what I saw is what I have said
6 in the Court. I said he took off his hat.

7 Q. Okay, I will come back to that. At this time you and your
8 fellow fighters thought Johnny Paul Koroma was under arrest in
9 Kailahun by the RUF, right?

09:50:03 10 A. Yes, my Lord.

11 Q. You also knew that the AFRC was not mentioned in the Lome
12 peace agreement, true?

13 A. Yes, the SLA - he spoke about the SLA, that they did not
14 include the SLA in the Lome Peace Accord.

09:50:37 15 Q. When you say he spoke about the SLA, are you referring to
16 Johnny Paul Koroma?

17 A. Well, yes, he included Johnny Paul Koroma because he too
18 was an SLA.

19 Q. When you say "he", that is what I want to know. Who
09:50:58 20 included Johnny Paul Koroma?

21 A. Johnny Paul Koroma was an SLA.

22 Q. Let's leave Koroma for a second and focus on what you and
23 your fellow fighters at Magbeni knew at the time, or thought at
24 the time. You and the people in Magbeni felt that Johnny Paul
09:51:20 25 Koroma was being held under arrest by Sam Bockarie in Kailahun,
26 correct?

27 A. Yes, according to Bazzy he said he was considering that
28 very much, because it had taken a long time that Johnny Paul had
29 not communicated with them, it seems he was under house arrest.

1 Q. And eventually when you did speak with Johnny Paul Koroma
2 and you said there were two conversations, and I am not saying
3 you in particular spoke with him, on one of those occasions you
4 felt that he was speaking under duress, or stress. Is that fair
09:52:05 5 to say, Mr Witness?

6 A. Yes, indeed, because that was what we told him, because of
7 the response that he made to us.

8 Q. Would it be fair to say that there were about three reasons
9 why you and other fighters in Magbeni decided to take these
09:52:35 10 UNOMSIL, ECOMOG and media and religious people hostages, the
11 first one being you wanted the release of Johnny Paul Koroma?
12 Would that be fair to say, Mr Witness?

13 A. Well, we did say we wanted to talk with him wherever he
14 was.

09:53:06 15 Q. Was securing his release one of the objectives behind
16 taking these hostages, Mr Witness?

17 A. Well, the question you are asking is - you see the point
18 was clear. He said that it had taken a long time that Johnny
19 Paul had not spoken to us and we now want to talk to Johnny Paul
09:53:37 20 Koroma.

21 Q. The lack of communication between you, Bazy and the rest
22 and Johnny Paul Koroma was a source of concern for you, right?

23 A. Yes, my Lord, it was a concern.

24 Q. The lack of recognition of the SLAs or AFRC in the Lome
09:54:03 25 Peace Agreement was a source of concern for you and other
26 fighters in Magbeni, correct?

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: When you put it that way, Mr Anyah, are
28 you putting that as the second of your three reasons that you are
29 putting to the witness?

1 MR ANYAH: Yes, Madam President:

2 Q. Yes, Mr Witness?

3 A. You might want to go back to the question because I did not
4 get it clear.

09:54:24 5 Q. I will. The lack of recognition of the SLAs, what I call
6 the AFRC and you call the SLAs, was a source of concern - well, I
7 will take that again. I will withdraw that and rephrase it. The
8 lack of recognition of the SLAs and the AFRC at Lome and in the
9 peace agreement was a source of concern for you and the other
09:54:47 10 fighters at Magbeni when you took these hostages, true?

11 A. Yes, my Lord.

12 Q. And after you spoke with Johnny Paul Koroma you also had in
13 mind the possible role in the peace process and in the new
14 government for Johnny Paul Koroma, a position of chairman for
09:55:15 15 Consolidation of Peace. Yes, Mr Witness?

16 A. No, just when we got to Liberia that Johnny Paul indicated
17 to us that there was a position like that in existence.

18 Q. While you were still at Magbeni, one of the hopes or
19 aspirations of you and the other fighters were that the AFRC, or
09:55:44 20 SLA as you call them, would have some kind of role to play in the
21 new government, yes?

22 A. Yes, my Lord.

23 Q. Would you say that those three things I have mentioned,
24 playing a role in the new government, having communication with
09:56:07 25 Johnny Paul Koroma and the fact that you were not represented at
26 Lome, those three things were contributing factors to you taking
27 these hostages?

28 A. Yes, my Lord.

29 Q. When Johnny Paul Koroma called, or when you had a

1 communication with him and he said, "Put together a delegation
2 and go to Freetown", the President of Liberia was sending a
3 helicopter to pick him up, Johnny Paul Koroma, to Liberia, you
4 and your fighters left Magbeni and you went to - is it Mansumana,
09:57:07 5 Mr Witness?

6 A. Yes. Yes, my Lord.

7 Q. Eventually you arrived in Freetown, yes?

8 A. Yes, my Lord.

9 Q. Stayed at the Solar Hotel, right?

09:57:26 10 A. Yes, my Lord.

11 Q. None of this was done in secret, was it, Mr Witness?

12 A. Well, we were under strict security control. I don't know
13 what the government did, but we were escorted by armoured cars up
14 to where we went to. To say that we had the opportunity or

09:57:53 15 chance to go about visiting people, no.

16 Q. I didn't ask you about visiting people. I was asking you
17 if you had to hide, or sneak into Freetown. This was all done in
18 daylight, right?

19 A. Well, we left Magbeni at night and, like I said, when we
09:58:17 20 were moving we were escorted by ECOMOG to Freetown.

21 Q. Well, at the Solar Hotel General Maxwell Khobe came to pay
22 you a visit, right?

23 A. Yes, my Lord.

24 MR ANYAH: For the record, Khobe is spelt K-H-O-B-E.

09:58:37 25 Maxwell, regular spelling:

26 Q. Khobe at the time, a Nigerian general, was chief of army
27 staff of the Sierra Leone Army, correct?

28 A. Yes, my Lord.

29 Q. Kenyan general, four star general, Daniel Opande, came to

1 see you at the Solar Hotel, correct?

2 A. Yes, my Lord.

3 Q. Opande was overall force commander for ECOMOG at the time
4 in Sierra Leone, true?

09:59:10 5 A. Yes.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: [Microphone not activated].

7 MR ANYAH: Yes, Opande is spelt O-P-A-N-D-E. Daniel,
8 regular spelling:

9 Q. All of these people, these important dignitaries, military
09:59:25 10 men, they all knew you were going to Liberia to meet President
11 Charles Taylor, yes?

12 A. Yes, my Lord.

13 Q. His Excellency Tejan Kabbah's protocol officer, Abdulai
14 Mustapha you said, was waiting for you in Freetown when you

09:59:50 15 arrived, correct?

16 A. Yes, my Lord.

17 Q. All of this was official. The Government of Sierra Leone
18 was involved, yes?

19 A. Yes.

10:00:04 20 Q. The UN was involved. There were UN representatives waiting
21 to meet you when you arrived in Freetown, yes?

22 A. Well, like I said, those were the only people, Maxwell
23 Khobe and Opande, that met us. We did not see any other UN
24 people who went to visit was at Solar Hotel.

10:00:51 25 MR ANYAH: Madam President, may I have a moment, please?

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes.

27 MR ANYAH:

28 Q. Well, UNAMSIL personnel welcomed you - or rather UNOMSIL
29 personnel welcomed you when you were at Mansumana, correct?

1 A. They went there to receive us.

2 Q. Well, let me just cut to the chase. I will read to you
3 what you told the Prosecution on 7 November 2003. Your Honours,
4 I am reading from tab 4 in the bundle of Defence documents handed
10:01:38 5 out yesterday. Mr Witness, you can follow what I am reading if
6 you want to check the accuracy. It is in that set of documents
7 you have there and, Madam Court Officer, could you kindly display
8 the relevant pages for the public on the overhead. Your Honours,
9 this is tab 4 and I think it's page 32. I will find the ERN

10:02:22 10 number in a minute. Mine does not have the ERN number on the top
11 as does yours. Yes, the ERN number is 00100398 and it is page 32
12 paginated at the bottom right-hand corner. Mr Witness, these
13 are records of your interview with the Office of the Prosecutor
14 on Friday, 7 November 2003 and at the bottom of that page it

10:03:03 15 says:

16 "A. At Mansumana we met a very big delegation comprising
17 of ECOMOG, UNAMSIL and other top militaries?

18 Q. Did you go to Liberia at all?" I am now on page 33.

19 "A. Yes, we were taken to Freetown we stayed at Solar
10:03:25 20 Hotel. At Solar Hotel we were visited by Khobe who was the
21 then army Chief of Staff and Khobe encouraged us, telling
22 us that we should not mix up ourselves in politics and that
23 if we say we want the military we are always welcome. "

24 I will agree with you that there is no indication UNAMSIL
10:03:45 25 or UN officials met you in Freetown just yet as far as this
26 passage is concerned, but it does confirm you were met with a big
27 delegation including UNAMSIL officials at Mansumana, yes?

28 A. Yes, my Lord.

29 Q. We will come back to that passage, because there are

1 important aspects of it I want to ask you about, or that section
2 of this document. Now the plane you took from Lungi to Roberts
3 international was an official plane provided by who?

4 A. Well, we met it there just like I told you. We had nothing
10:04:40 5 else to do with that. When we went there with the helicopter we
6 met the plane. The aircraft was parked and then we and Abdul ai
7 Mustapha, we went there and then we entered the aircraft.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, do you know or do you not
9 know --

10:04:59 10 THE WITNESS: Yes, my Lord, I don't know.

11 MR ANYAH:

12 Q. Well, the Court did not finish her question. You don't
13 know who provided the plane; is that what you're trying to say,
14 Mr Witness?

10:05:11 15 A. Yes, my Lord, I don't know.

16 Q. But none of you or your fellow fighters had to pay for your
17 airfare from Sierra Leone to Liberia, yes?

18 A. Yes, my Lord, we did not pay. Like I said, we did not know
19 about who. We just saw the flight.

10:05:33 20 Q. Significantly Abdul ai Mustapha flew on that flight with
21 you, President Kabbah's protocol officer, yes?

22 A. Yes, my Lord.

23 Q. And when you arrived at Roberts international airport was
24 Momoh Gibba waiting for you there?

10:05:58 25 A. No, I said when we got there we saw two vehicles that came
26 to receive us.

27 Q. These vehicles you testified yesterday had unique licence
28 plates. One had Guest 1 on the front licence plate and other one
29 had Guest 2 on the front licence plate, correct?

1 A. I am sorry, it's not correct. I said the vehicles that
2 came to pick us up, they were jeeps. They came to Roberts
3 airfield. And the men were dressed in coats and they told us
4 that they were special guards to the President. They picked us
10:06:39 5 up and we went to Boulevard Hotel.

6 Q. Well, there were cars and security personnel sent by the
7 President of Liberia to welcome your delegation, right, at the
8 airport?

9 A. Well, yes, it was those jeeps that picked us up and then
10:07:00 10 they drove us to the hotel.

11 Q. At the Boulevard Hotel the Sierra Leonean ambassador to
12 Liberia at the time came to visit you and your fellow fighters,
13 yes?

14 A. Yes, my Lord.

10:07:20 15 Q. He knew what you were in Liberia for, correct?

16 A. Well, he visited us there, yes.

17 Q. That was not my question. He knew you were in Liberia to
18 consult with Johnny Paul Koroma and to possibly meet the
19 President of Liberia, yes?

10:07:44 20 A. Well, I was not there to enter his mind. I only knew that
21 he came there to visit us as Sierra Leoneans who had come to
22 lodge in the hotel.

23 Q. He didn't just come because you were only Sierra Leoneans.
24 He came for another reason. What was the nature of the
10:08:05 25 conversation that you had with him at the hotel?

26 A. Well, we never had anything to discuss with him. What we
27 told him and what especially Bazzy told him was that if he wanted
28 to talk anything with us he should go to Johnny Paul Koroma to
29 talk with him. We never had anything to talk with him.

1 Q. But the point is you agree that the President's protocol
2 officer accompanies you from Lungi to Liberia and then the Sierra
3 Leonean ambassador comes to pay you a visit at Boulevard. Are we
4 in agreement, Mr Witness?

10:08:43 5 A. Yes, my Lord.

6 Q. When did you meet Momoh Gibba in Liberia the first time?

7 A. It was in the hotel. He was the person that we met in the
8 hotel. He welcomed us.

9 Q. I see. The protocol officer of the President of Liberia
10:09:06 10 came to welcome you and your fellow delegation members, yes?

11 A. Well, he introduced himself to be the ADC. He said he was
12 Momoh Gibba and he is the ADC to the President. He moved us to
13 the hotel manager and then he gave his orders for us to stay in
14 the hotel.

10:09:33 15 Q. Fair enough. We will accept that he is the ADC,
16 aide-de-camp, to President Taylor. The point is the President's
17 aide-de-camp came to welcome you and your group, right?

18 A. We met him there. When we came we met him in the hotel.

19 Q. He was there to receive you, you said a few minutes ago,
10:09:55 20 correct?

21 A. Yes, my Lord.

22 Q. When did these two vehicles you spoke of yesterday with the
23 unique licence plates Guest 1 and Guest 2 - when did they come to
24 pick you up?

10:10:14 25 A. That happened the next day and when we reached he said we
26 should take our baths and then we should feel free. And then the
27 next day we saw two black cars that came to pick us up.

28 Q. You didn't have to pay for your stay at the Boulevard
29 Hotel, did you, Mr Witness?

1 A. Like I said, Momoh Gibba said that we shouldn't use money
2 on anything there. He passed this order, they gave us the rooms.
3 He said except for alcohol. He said we can use anything there
4 except alcohol. If we wanted to take in alcohol we should buy it
10:11:02 5 for ourselves, but all other things were free for us.

6 Q. Yes, all expenses paid for except for alcohol, yes?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. It was clear that these vehicles that came to pick you up
9 were official government vehicles, was it not, Mr Witness?

10:11:24 10 A. Well, I saw Guest 1, Guest 2, they came and picked us up,
11 and I want to believe that it was a government official vehicle.

12 Q. Were there any RUF members among the 11 of you, Mr Witness?

13 A. No.

14 Q. I thought you told us RUF members were still part of the
10:11:54 15 West Side Boys before you left?

16 A. Yes, but not part of the delegation that went. Like I
17 said, our focus was the SLA that was left out of the Lome Peace
18 Accord.

19 Q. Would you say after the Lome Peace Agreement and the
10:12:16 20 failure to mention the SLAs, as you call them, in the agreement
21 the SLA and the RUF went their separate ways, Mr Witness?

22 A. No, we did not have separation at that time. We only
23 showed this concern and then Bazzy planned the operation and then
24 we went and executed it. The SLAs who were there with them and
10:12:42 25 even the RUF were still there, we left them all there. Stagger,
26 Eddie and others, they were all there. And we only decided to
27 launch this operation to ensure that we were recognised.

28 Q. That who was recognised, Mr Witness?

29 A. The SLA.

1 Q. You told us of a meeting that you and your contingent had
2 with Johnny Paul Koroma at some lodge in Monrovia, right?

3 A. Yes, my Lord.

10:13:23

4 Q. Do you know who was providing that residential facility for
5 Johnny Paul Koroma?

6 A. Well, like I said, Johnny Paul told us that it was
7 President Taylor who gave him that facility and his guards were
8 there and I also saw RUF men and in fact it was Johnny Paul who
9 showed them to us. He said, "Do you see the RUF moving around?"

10:13:46

10 Q. When you said that yesterday, Mr Witness, it occurred to me
11 that I had not read about it before. Did you tell the
12 Prosecution when you spoke with them 7 November 2003 you saw RUF
13 men with Johnny Paul Koroma in Monrovia? Did you tell them that?

14 A. Well, I said - I said it. I am not guessing. What
15 happened is what I am saying.

10:14:09

16 Q. Well, we are still on the tab I mentioned. This is the
17 record of your interview, tab 4. I stopped at page 32 and 33.
18 If we move on the same tab to page 34. The ERN number is
19 00100400. Mr Witness, let me read what you said to the
20 Prosecution about this whole entire Liberian mission. This is
21 what they have down as you telling them in 2003, one of your
22 earlier interviews with them. Page 34 reads:

10:14:53

23 "From Lungi we went to Liberia in an aeroplane and Abdulai
24 Mustapha was in that group. One hour later we arrived at Roberts
25 airfield in Monrovia. We were received by men who were not
26 dressed in uniform, but I was told they were security men for
27 Charles Taylor who came in two jeep cars. We were taken to Hotel
28 Boulevard in Monrovia where we stayed. After some time we were
29 visited by the Sierra Leone ambassador to Liberia.

10:15:22

1 Later Johnny Paul sent a car which collected us and took us
2 to the house where he stayed. We had a closed door talk with
3 him. Johnny Paul Koroma told us the situation he found himself
4 in in Kailahun. He told us how he was molested by the RUF, how
10:16:04 5 his wife too was molested by the RUF in Kailahun.

6 When Johnny Paul Koroma asked us for our demands Bazzy was
7 very, very persistent in asking for the AFRC to come back. When
8 we were consulted, the junior men were consulted, we told Johnny
9 Paul Koroma that the men on the ground said that they wanted the
10:16:37 10 army to be reinstated. The reason is if we talk about the AFRC
11 not everybody will be involved in politics, but if we say 'the
12 army' everybody will partake of it, especially when it was said
13 that the army was disbanded."

14 I can read on to the next page, but I will read the last
10:17:04 15 paragraph just so we conclude the part when your meeting with
16 Koroma took place, or you have made reference to your meeting
17 with Koroma.

18 "In that meeting Johnny Paul Koroma also said that since he
19 has no office and there was vacancy for the CPP office, he said
10:17:22 20 he was asking for that office to be given to him so that he also
21 can take part in the peace negotiation in Sierra Leone."

22 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

23 A. Yes, my Lord.

24 Q. I have read it to you. That's the record of your first
10:17:38 25 description of this meeting with Johnny Paul Koroma. Any
26 reference there to the SLAs? It says AFRC, does it not?

27 A. Well, I did not see reference like that there, but this -
28 what happened is what I have explained.

29 Q. But do you get my point? You have been insistent on

1 calling them SLAs before this Court. Five years ago you were
2 calling them AFRC, right?

3 A. Well, this was the name given to us. Those of us, the SLAs
4 in the bush, they said AFRC/RUF fighters and people knew that the
10:18:20 5 AFRC was part of the SLA and people called us AFRC/RUF fighters.

6 Q. Any reference to seeing Johnny Paul Koroma surrounded - or
7 having about himself RUF men at this house, Mr Witness?

8 A. I have not seen reference like that. Maybe it was up to
9 the investigators and the people who wrote this, but what I told
10:18:48 10 them was that I said Johnny Paul showed us the RUF boys who were
11 with him. So it was only up to the investigator who wrote this
12 thing.

13 Q. I will come to two more interviews you had about this
14 subject in 2007 and we will find out then if you told them about
10:19:05 15 RUF in the same house. We will get to it. Now, Mr Witness, do
16 you see some of the concerns of the AFRC members being described
17 on this page. They wanted the military to be reinstated. Do you
18 see that, Mr Witness?

19 A. Yes, my Lord.

10:19:26 20 Q. Do you see the reference to having some kind of
21 participation by Johnny Paul Koroma in the new government that
22 was forming following the Lome Peace Agreement?

23 A. Yes, my Lord.

24 Q. How about the reference to Johnny Paul and his wife being
10:19:45 25 molested by the RUF. Do you see that, Mr Witness?

26 A. Yes, my Lord.

27 Q. Indeed, Johnny Paul Koroma did tell you about his
28 experiences in Kailahun, yes?

29 A. He told us that, that is true. He told us.

1 Q. Your evidence before this Court is at this time, after what
2 they had done to your leader, Johnny Paul Koroma, RUF men were
3 still part of the West Side Boys. Is that your evidence,
4 Mr Witness?

10:20:17 5 A. We were all there at the West Side, yes. They were part of
6 the West Side Boys.

7 Q. Yes, you still had RUF members as part of the West Side
8 Boys. Now, after this meeting with Johnny Paul Koroma you
9 eventually got to meet with Charles Taylor during this visit,
10:20:49 10 correct?

11 A. Yes, my Lord.

12 Q. Was it on the same day you met with Koroma, or was it on
13 the following day?

14 A. It was not the same day. I think it was the following day.
10:21:14 15 I think it took us one or two days when Johnny Paul sent to us
16 saying that we should prepare to go and meet the President, when
17 Bazy chose from amongst us some people who should go and meet
18 with the President.

19 Q. Only five of you were chosen at that time, right? Five of
10:21:36 20 the 11?

21 A. Yes, my Lord.

22 Q. Mr Witness, before you and the 11 even left Freetown to go
23 to Liberia to meet with President Taylor, you wanted some
24 guarantees or assurances that you wouldn't be arrested, right?

10:22:02 25 A. Well, this question looks - I want you to repeat it again.
26 Let me get it clear.

27 Q. The West Side Boys were --

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Sorry to interrupt, Mr Anyah. Just to
29 make sure is it arrest within the Sierra Leone area, or arrest

1 within the Liberian area you are talking about?

2 MR ANYAH: I will clarify. I hope to clarify. Thank you,
3 Madam President:

10:22:33

4 Q. Mr Witness, the West Side Boys were under tremendous
5 pressure after they took these hostages in July/August 1999,
6 correct?

7 A. Well, I want you to describe for me the pressure under
8 which we were.

10:22:54

9 Q. You were under pressure from the international community,
10 yes?

11 A. Well, it was the Sierra Leone government and the ECOMOG
12 that said we should release their people and the UNOMSIL
13 officials who were there, the UN also said we should release
14 them.

10:23:09

15 Q. So, ECOMOG was insisting you should release them, yes?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. UNOMSIL, UN, was insisting that you released them, right?

18 A. Yes, they said to release the ones who were under arrest,
19 the ones we captured.

10:23:29

20 Q. The Sierra Leonean government was also insisting you
21 released the hostages, right?

22 A. Yes.

10:23:43

23 Q. Well, that is the pressure to which I am referring. Do you
24 consider there to have been pressure on the West Side Boys around
25 the time when you took these hostages?

26 A. Yes, by the bodies that I have made mention of.

27 Q. And it is fair to say, is it not, that before you departed
28 for Liberia you wanted some assurances from the Liberian
29 government that nothing would happen to your delegation once you

1 got to Liberia, yes?

2 A. Well, before we left Abdulai Mustapha had assured us that
3 since the hostages were with us nothing was going to happen to
4 us. We never wanted assurance from the Liberian government. We
10:24:26 5 said we wanted to see Johnny Paul so that we will talk with him.
6 We knew that we had people under our arrest, so nobody was going
7 to arrest us.

8 Q. I repeat my question: Did you, the West Side Boys, have
9 any concern about being arrested upon arrival in Liberia?

10:25:06 10 A. Well, the only concern we had was for Freetown in general,
11 because we were afraid a little that if we went to Freetown maybe
12 they would want to arrest us, but we knew very well that if the
13 government had a plan to arrest us then our men also on the
14 ground will do away with the people who were there with us, the
10:25:30 15 hostages. So that was our only fear.

16 Q. We are now back in Monrovia and you go for your visit with
17 President Taylor. This was at the Executive Mansion you said.
18 Correct me if I am wrong.

19 A. Yes, my Lord.

10:25:53 20 Q. When you made your way to meet the President of Liberia, he
21 was accompanied by Daniel Chea, his Minister for Defence, right?

22 A. Yes, my Lord.

23 Q. Momoh Gibba was also present in the vicinity, yes?

24 A. Yes, my Lord.

10:26:14 25 Q. And he met the five of you, right?

26 A. Yes, my Lord, including Johnny Paul Koroma.

27 Q. Charles Taylor was meeting with you at the request of
28 ECOWAS, true or false?

29 A. I did not know anything about that. Like I said, I did not

1 know anything about that, whether it was ECOMOG or ECOWAS that
2 did it. I did not know about that. It was only Johnny Paul that
3 told us that we should prepare, that we are going to see the
4 President where we will discuss and we will see how we can solve
10:26:51 5 the problem.

6 Q. Charles Taylor was meeting with you to facilitate peace in
7 Sierra Leone. True or false, Mr Witness?

8 A. Well, we went to solve - the only thing, like I said,
9 Johnny Paul told us that President Taylor was ready to meet with
10:27:12 10 us so that we will tell him exactly our demands.

11 Q. And part of the demands included the SLA being more
12 involved in the new government that was being formed in Sierra
13 Leone after Lome, correct?

14 A. Yes, we said we should be part of the Lome Peace Accord.

10:27:33 15 Q. You would agree with me, Mr Witness, that it was important
16 to have the SLAs play a role in this peace process in Sierra
17 Leone if the Lome agreement was to be successfully implemented?

18 A. Yes, my Lord.

19 Q. And Charles Taylor was trying to solve some of your
10:27:55 20 concerns, the concerns of the SLA, right?

21 A. Well, like I said, we arrested people. We took people
22 hostage and then we discussed our demands, and then Johnny Paul
23 told us that we should be prepared to go and meet with him in
24 Liberia and then we will meet the President of Liberia so that we
10:28:21 25 will discuss this issue.

26 Q. Johnny Paul was essentially telling you that Charles Taylor
27 would facilitate - or help resolve some of your concerns, right?

28 A. Yes, he said we should go and meet with him and then we put
29 forward our demands and then they will find ways and means to

1 solve it.

2 Q. During this meeting with the President of Liberia,
3 yesterday you told us he gave your group 15,000 United States
4 dollars. Do you remember telling us that?

10:29:00 5 A. Yes, my Lord.

6 Q. You described in some detail how he pulled it out of some
7 portfolio you called it, right?

8 A. Yes, my Lord.

9 Q. Was there anything illegal about that, or criminal about
10:29:18 10 giving you 15,000 dollars, Mr Witness?

11 A. Well, he handed it over to Johnny Paul and he told him to
12 give it to us so that we shall feel free and buy things around,
13 go around shopping. I cannot say exactly that the way you are
14 putting it that is it, but except you explain it to me now, but
10:29:49 15 all I am saying is that he handed it over to Johnny Paul and he
16 asked Johnny Paul to give it to us.

17 Q. Do you know what kola nut is, Mr Witness?

18 A. Well, I know kola, people chew it in Freetown.

19 Q. Yes, kola nuts. When you go and consult some elderly
10:30:14 20 people in Sierra Leone sometimes do you take kola to them,
21 Mr Witness?

22 A. I don't understand the kind of consult you are talking
23 about.

24 Q. When you have social interactions in Sierra Leone and
10:30:31 25 sometimes you visit an older statesman, as a sign of respect
26 sometimes do you break kola with him, Mr Witness?

27 A. Well, I have not done that before, wherein I will go and
28 meet somebody, because I am not a crook. I am not involved in
29 crookish activities to say I will go to somebody and take out

1 something and say, "Here is kola nut for you." No, I have not
2 done that.

3 Q. Are you saying that breaking of kola signifies some kind of
4 crooked activity? Is that what you are saying, Mr Witness?

10:31:16 5 A. Well, in my own view that is what has destroyed Freetown.
6 When people want their businesses to go through they take
7 something and take it to the big man in the office and give it to
8 him. They say, "This is your kola", and the business - what they
9 want will happen. But those of us who do not have it, for the
10:31:38 10 poor people, if they don't have the kola to take it to that big
11 man your business will not go through. That is what has
12 destroyed Freetown.

13 Q. I am not asking you what has destroyed Freetown. I am
14 asking you, the entire west coast of Africa, from Nigeria when
10:31:53 15 you start, you move up the coast through Liberia to Sierra Leone,
16 the breaking of kola traditionally is a sign of respect between
17 elder and junior, correct?

18 A. I don't know, because I was not - I did not grow up in the
19 provinces. I live in the city, so I don't know much about that
10:32:17 20 tradition you are talking about.

21 Q. It is also the case that when young people visit a senior
22 man in the community he will give them something to take back
23 with them as a token of friendship and goodwill, is it not?

24 MS ALAGENDRA: Your Honours, can I just clarify whether
10:32:31 25 this is a question being put, or whether counsel is making a
26 statement of fact that this is what happens.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Counsel is putting a proposition, but
28 maybe phrase it as a question, Mr Anyah.

29 MR ANYAH: I did phrase it - I did phrase it as a question.

1 I will rephrase it.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, indeed.

3 MS ALAGENDRA: The record says that, "It is also the case
4 that when young people" --

10:32:56 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: He ended it by saying, "Is it not?"

6 MR ANYAH: Yes:

7 Q. Mr Witness, I will repeat my question. I'll read it:

8 "It is also the case that when young people visit a senior
9 man in the community he will give them something to take back
10 with them as a token of friendship and goodwill, is it not?"

10:33:16

11 Do you agree with that, Mr Witness?

12 A. Well, that has never happened to me. Since I was in the
13 military to say I will go and meet my colonel to - when I go to
14 my seniors, my colonel, the orders he gives me is what I execute,
15 but to say I have ever gone to my colonel and then he will take
16 out something and give it to me as kola, kola nuts, no, I have
17 never done that. That has not happened.

10:33:42

18 Q. Have you ever received someone in your household that
19 looked up to you, a young person, and when they were leaving you
20 said, "Take this money and pay your transport"? Have you ever
21 done that, Mr Witness?

10:33:58

22 A. Well, for me I don't do that, because everybody knows me
23 for that. If I don't invite you to my house and you come to me
24 and you expect me to give you money, I will not do it. I don't
25 do that.

10:34:26

26 Q. You don't, but do you know people in Sierra Leone who when
27 young people visit them they say, "Young man, young woman, take
28 this, pay your way, pay your tuition"? Are you familiar with
29 that culture in West Africa, Mr Witness?

1 A. My Lord, you are forcing me to say what you want me to tell
2 you. That has not happened to me. I am telling you what has
3 been happening to me. I have not witnessed that and I have not
4 done it.

10:35:00 5 Q. Would you agree that Charles Taylor giving you 15,000 on
6 the day in question in 1999 was a symbol or token of goodwill and
7 friendship? Would you agree that, Mr Witness?

8 A. I was not in his head or in his mind. He gave it to Johnny
9 Paul to give it to us. I didn't know his intention. He just
10:35:25 10 said we should buy logistics and other things like clothing
11 whilst we were in Liberia.

12 Q. You have used the magic word "logistics". What do you mean
13 by logistics? You always - you refer to arms and ammunition as
14 logistics. Are you referring to something sinister when you say
10:35:43 15 logistics, Mr Witness?

16 A. Well, logistics could comprise food, arms and ammunition,
17 all of those could be part of logistics. When they say go for
18 the military logistics, even the uniform is inclusive, the food
19 could be part of logistics, ammunition could be part of
10:36:05 20 logistics, arms could be part of logistics.

21 Q. Are you saying that following a meeting where President
22 Taylor was trying to solve problems regarding peace in Sierra
23 Leone, are you suggesting he was giving you 15,000 to buy arms,
24 Mr Witness? Are you possibly suggesting that to this Court?

10:36:26 25 A. No, he said you should buy clothing and some other things.

26 Q. Then I go back to my question. His giving you that money
27 was a token of goodwill and friendship, true?

28 A. He gave it to us. He gave it to Johnny Paul and told him
29 to give it to his men so that we will buy clothings. I didn't

1 know his intention.

2 Q. When he says you should use the money and buy clothing, do
3 you view that as something of generosity, Mr Witness? Kindness,
4 a good gesture on his part?

10:37:22 5 A. Well, that was up to him, but we received it. That was up
6 to him.

7 Q. It is not whether it was up to him. I persist with my
8 question, Mr Witness. When somebody gives you money to buy
9 clothing and other like items, do you, in your experience as a
10 grown man, view that as a gesture of goodwill?

11 A. Well, to me it could have different meanings, because, like
12 for me, for example, if I give money to anybody that person must
13 have done something for me. I cannot just give him money without
14 doing anything for me. I will not do it. So that's why I said
10:38:10 15 it is up to him. I didn't know his intention. He gave the money
16 so that we could buy clothing and some other things.

17 Q. I see. Your evidence is you never give out money to
18 others. You do not give people return fare money as a matter of
19 custom in West Africa when they visit you. This is your evidence
10:38:35 20 to this Court, Mr Witness, right?

21 A. I am talking about my personal principle. I don't know
22 about others. I am talking about my personal principle. I
23 cannot just give money to people without - even my wife. Except
24 if I - except if she asks that she wants to buy some clothing or
10:38:56 25 something to do with the child's schooling, or to go to the
26 market, then I will give money, but I do not just give money like
27 that.

28 Q. During this meeting with President Taylor, yesterday a
29 number of things you said caught my attention. You said

1 President Taylor spoke of having reorganised some SLAs and sent
2 them back to Sierra Leone. Do you recall saying that,
3 Mr Witness?

4 A. Yes, my Lord.

10:39:32 5 Q. You said President Taylor spoke of "the movement" and his
6 support of the 6 January invasion of Freetown. Do you recall
7 saying that, Mr Witness?

8 A. Yes, my Lord.

9 Q. Yes. And then you told us of the \$15,000 pulled out from
10:40:07 10 the portfolio and handed to you, yes?

11 A. Yes, my Lord.

12 Q. Let's look at what you told the Prosecution when they first
13 interviewed you in 2003 about this meeting with the President of
14 Liberia. Your Honours, I am still at tab 4. It will now be page
10:40:32 15 35, ERN number 00100401. Mr Witness, 7 November 2003, this is
16 all you told the Prosecution about this meeting with the
17 President of Liberia. At the top of the page, that paragraph:

18 "We went back to the hotel after the closed door meeting to
19 wait for further instructions. Later some vehicles were sent to
10:41:24 20 take Johnny Paul Koroma to meet President Charles Taylor in the
21 mansion. We went together with Johnny Paul Koroma to the mansion
22 and we had some discussion with Charles Taylor. Charles Taylor
23 told us in that meeting that the RUF and the SLA should come
24 together so that we can fight for what we want. Since he was a
10:41:50 25 President, we did not say anything. We only listened to Johnny
26 Paul Koroma to address the issue. We left the mansion, we went
27 back to the hotel, and Johnny Paul Koroma went to his own base."

28 I will just read a little bit into the next paragraph:

29 "After that Johnny Paul Koroma brought another paper to us

1 which stated that President Kabbah has agreed to reinstate the
2 army and that the office of the CCP has been given to him. We
3 all signed."

4 This is all you told the Prosecution when you first met
10:42:30 5 with them in November 2003 about this entire meeting with the
6 President of Liberia, yes, Mr Witness?

7 A. Well, yes, and it was in response to a question that they
8 put to me. It was the way the question was asked. In fact there
9 are sometimes I wanted to explain further and they said, "No,
10:42:53 10 just stop there, this is what we want for now, if we want more we
11 will ask you later." And was the question they put to me and I
12 answered exactly the question. You can see clearly we had a
13 meeting. They did not ask me to dilate further what went on in
14 the meeting.

10:43:08 15 Q. On 7 November 2003 you were not at that time living in a
16 house being paid for by the Special Court, were you, Mr Witness?

17 A. No, I was not there at that time. I was at my house.

18 Q. 7 November 2003 Charles Taylor had not been arrested and
19 detained by the Special Court, yes, Mr Witness?

10:43:35 20 A. Yes, my Lord.

21 Q. No mention in that statement I have read about 6 January
22 invasion of Freetown, yes, Mr Witness?

23 A. As I said, it is not there, but it was the - I answered
24 questions in response - I answered questions just as they were
10:44:00 25 put to me. I could not have said things that were not in
26 response to questions asked to me. At times I wanted to explain
27 some things and they said, "No, just stop there. When we want
28 that later we will ask you." I said, "I also want to explain"
29 and they said no, I will be limited. "You should answer the

1 questions that" - that's what they will tell me, "Answer the
2 questions that are put to you."

3 Q. Yes, we understand all these instructions that are not
4 reflected in the paper. Let's focus on what's in the paper.

10:44:30 5 There is no mention of Charles Taylor providing arms and
6 ammunition to the SLAs, is there?

7 A. It is not there, but he tells you that we had a meeting.
8 We had a meeting with the President. So if they had asked me,
9 "What did you discuss in this meeting" then you will have seen it
10 in the same document.

11 Q. No mention of this \$15,000 from that portfolio, US dollars,
12 being brought out by President Taylor. No mention of that, yes?

13 A. Yes, my Lord. They did not say it, but they mentioned the
14 meeting that we had.

10:45:10 15 Q. No mention of Charles Taylor reorganising SLA soldiers who
16 came through Guinea and him sending them back to Liberia. No
17 mention of that, Mr Witness, yes?

18 A. It is not there, as I said, but the meeting that we had, it
19 is reflected here that there was a closed door meeting with the
20 President, but the investigator did not ask me to elaborate.

10:45:35 21 Where he asked me to stop there, that is where I stopped. If he
22 had asked me, "What did you discuss in the meeting, after this
23 what happened" I would have gone ahead to dilate to elaborate
24 further.

10:45:52 25 Q. Mr Witness, if you go to tab 1, the very first tab of that
26 set of documents, and we will come back to your additional
27 statements on this issue in 2007, but that's tab 1, Mr Witness,
28 let's focus on tab 1 for a second. This document has all the
29 dates on which you have met with the Office of the Prosecutor for

1 which we have records and we see that your meetings with them
2 started on 5 November 2003 right up until this month, the month
3 of April, 10 April 2008. You have met with them for 31 times, 31
4 times, Mr Witness, during that period of time?

10:46:59 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Did you say 31? I am just looking at the
6 number at the bottom. It says 21.

7 MR ANYAH: On the far right-hand corner, Madam President,
8 is the tab or page where the interview notes are found. That's
9 on the right-hand side. But on the left-hand side where it says
10:47:15 10 number of - yes.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Indeed I see it now. It was covered
12 over. I'm sorry, Mr Anyah.

13 MR ANYAH: Yes, Madam President:

14 Q. Mr Witness, you see what I am referring to, right?

10:47:29 15 A. Yes, my Lord.

16 Q. Do you know when the first time you mentioned receiving
17 15,000 United States dollars from President Charles Taylor was,
18 what interview date you mentioned that amount being given to you?
19 Between 2003 and 2008, when did you first tell them that?

10:47:53 20 A. Well, they used to call me for interview intermittently
21 right up until this time and so maybe you can refer me, because
22 you have the document in front of you. So please you can refer
23 to that document, because I cannot recall because they were
24 calling me - I am not a machine. I am a human being. They used
10:48:14 25 to invite me, they asked me questions and I answered.

26 Q. I was waiting for the phrase you are a mortal man. Do you
27 know what that phrase is: You are a mortal man? Can you explain
28 what that phrase is to us?

29 MS ALAGENDRA: Your Honours, can I ask the relevance of

1 this question?

2 MR ANYAH: He said he was a human being. I am phrasing it
3 in vernacular he might be more familiar with.

4 MS ALAGENDRA: There is still the relevance, your Honour.

10:48:39 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: He is entitled to put the question,
6 Ms Alagenda, because the witness himself has said, "I am a human
7 being."

8 MR ANYAH:

9 Q. You know what "mortal man" means, Mr Witness, yes?

10:48:52 10 A. I said I am a human being. It is not that I have a machine
11 implanted in my head. I am liable to make mistakes, or I can
12 forget. I am not a machine like this that you have, now you can
13 save something in its memory, when you come back you can just
14 click on something and it can pop up. I am a human being.

10:49:19 15 Q. You wanted me to point you to the relevant tab where you
16 speak of the 15,000. I am putting it to you it was on 6 April
17 2008 and the tab number is tab 18, tab 18. Can you flip to tab
18 18 and you will see the reference to the 15,000 United States
19 dollars. It was a Sunday, Mr Witness. 6 April was the 28th
10:50:04 20 meeting, 28th time you had met with the Office of the Prosecutor,
21 at least from what they have disclosed to us, and you see what it
22 says there. It says:

23 "Witness states that at the end of the meeting with
24 President Charles Taylor in Liberia in 1999, Taylor gave the
10:50:22 25 group of soldiers with Johnny Paul Koroma the sum of 15,000 USD
26 to share among themselves."

27 Yes, Mr Witness?

28 A. Yes, my Lord.

29 Q. Does that juggle your memory, or revive your memory as to

1 when you first told the Prosecution about this 15,000 dollars?

2 A. Well, this was a time that they asked me a question
3 relative to that and, as I said, prior to that time they did not
4 bring questions relating to that, but when they brought a
10:51:00 5 question like that to me then I answered. So this was the time
6 that they brought the question relative to that: "What did you
7 discuss in the meeting? How did you end up?"

8 Q. I see. Mr Witness --

9 A. Yes, my Lord. Yes, your Honour, I want to use the gents.

10:51:30 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please assist the witness.

11 THE WITNESS: Please.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, I have asked if you can be assisted
13 to leave. Yes, Mr Anyah, you wish to speak?

14 MR ANYAH: Madam President, may Mr Taylor be excused to
10:51:54 15 also use the washroom?

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, please leave. If he can also be
17 escorted.

18 Mr Anyah, please proceed.

19 MR ANYAH: Thank you, Madam President:

10:55:37 20 Q. Mr Witness, let's go to 2007 and let's now see your
21 description about this meeting with President Charles Taylor. I
22 would refer you and others here present to tab 13. Tab 13
23 contains notes from your meeting with the Office of the
24 Prosecutor almost a year ago, 8 May 2007. It is about four and a
10:56:45 25 half years or four years removed from your first meeting with
26 them in 2003. Well, four years or less, but over three years
27 certainly. If you go to page 2, starting at the bottom of page 2
28 of that tab, ERN number 0032137 - Mr Witness, if you flip the
29 page over to page 2, the bottom right-hand corner, there is a

1 paragraph there that starts, "JPK communicated from the Kailahun
2 after the adoption of the UNAMSIL." Perhaps that was supposed to
3 be abduction of the UNAMSIL and we have clarified you meant
4 UNOMSIL and not UNAMSIL. So:

10:57:49 5 "JPK communicated from the Kailahun after the adoption of
6 the UNAMSIL soldiers that they should be released, but the SLA
7 soldiers based at West Side refused, that JPK was under gunpoint
8 forcing him to order the release. He later communicated that an
9 11 man delegation be formed to be sent to Liberia."

10:58:15 10 Now over on the next page, ERN00032138. You see that
11 sentence right there after "Liberia", Mr Witness, it says, "This
12 was coordinated by both the Sierra Leone government and the
13 Liberia government." Do you see that, Mr Witness?

14 A. Yes, my Lord.

10:58:44 15 Q. Your trip to Liberia with this delegation was an official
16 matter between Sierra Leone and Liberia, correct?

17 A. Yes, it was between governments. They took us from
18 Freetown and flew us to Liberia and the Liberian government
19 received us in Liberia.

10:59:03 20 Q. Do you see the next sentence? Considering I asked you a
21 few minutes ago whether you were seeking assurances from the
22 Liberian government, do you see the next sentence, it reads, "The
23 SLAs at West Side had to get assurance from the Liberian
24 government to confirm that nothing will happen to them on arrival
10:59:25 25 in Liberia"? Do you see that, Mr Witness?

26 A. I see it, yes, my Lord.

27 Q. This is what you told the Prosecution back in May 2007,
28 yes?

29 A. Yes, my Lord.

1 MS ALAGENDRA: Your Honours.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just pause, Mr Anyah. Yes, Ms Alagendra,
3 do you wish to say something?

4 MS ALAGENDRA: I was going to ask that the counsel put the
10:59:54 5 whole of the issue with regards to assurance, which appears in
6 the next paragraph.

7 MR ANYAH: Yes, of course. I intended to do so to be fair
8 to all sides, of course:

9 Q. Mr Witness, the next paragraph says:

11:00:06 10 "The SLAs requested for the assurance of the delegation to
11 travel to Liberia because the Liberian government had influence
12 over the RUF. Through the communication JPK told witness and
13 others that a helicopter had been sent on the orders of Charles
14 Taylor to pick him and flown to Liberia."

11:00:28 15 That is what you told the Office of the Prosecutor, right?

16 A. Yes, my Lord.

17 Q. Now, what you mean by assurance, I have put to you before,
18 was that you and fellow SLA members were concerned something
19 would happen to you in Liberia. Do you challenge that,

11:00:44 20 Mr Witness?

21 A. As it is in my statement, first we had a fear for Freetown
22 because after 6 January they are said we were to go there and so
23 we said no. Secondly, we had another fear because RUF had a
24 strong connection in Liberia, whether they would have anything to
11:01:11 25 do to us, so that is why we were asking for assurance and they
26 told us nothing would happen to us.

27 Q. I see. If we go down to the bottom of the page, where it
28 says, "The following day JPK and the delegation met Charles
29 Taylor." Do you see that, Mr Witness? The last paragraph of the

1 page. It reads:

2 "The following day JPK and the delegation met with Charles
3 Taylor and JPK introduced the delegation. After the
4 introduction, JPK read out the demands of the SLAs. Charles
11:01:46 5 Taylor responded that he was very much happy to receive the
6 delegation, that he was not happy with the division between the
7 RUF and AFRC. Charles Taylor further said that he hopes to
8 achieve peace between the two groups."

9 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

11:02:03 10 A. Yes, my Lord.

11 MS ALAGENDRA: Your Honours, can I ask that the whole
12 paragraph be put to the witness, please.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: I am not sure that counsel has completed
14 his question.

11:02:15 15 MR ANYAH: I will read to the next page to assure my
16 learned colleague if that would be of assistance.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please proceed.

18 MR ANYAH: Thank you:

19 Q. Mr Witness, do you see the reference there about Charles
11:02:28 20 Taylor hoping to achieve peace between the two groups?

21 A. Yes, my Lord.

22 Q. He was a mediator during this process, a mediator for
23 peace, yes?

24 A. Yes, well, if he hadn't a concern for us they would have
11:02:49 25 sent us to Ghana, but it was because he had hands in the AFRC/RUF
26 fighters, that's why we were taken to Liberia.

27 Q. What is the reference in your response to Ghana? Are you
28 suggesting that Ghana had the chairmanship of ECOWAS back in
29 1999, around this time? Is that what you're suggesting,

1 Mr Witness?

2 A. No, what I am saying is that if you are saying that it was
3 a peace mediator, then even Ghana would have mediated, because
4 they would have even said, well, now that you are fearing for RUF
11:03:34 5 we will send you to Ghana so there will be no RUF there, but it
6 was because they knew Charles Taylor had direct hands in the
7 RUF/AFRC, that's why they suggested Liberia.

8 Q. That was not the original point of focus of my question.
9 It was simple. It was whether or not Charles Taylor, given what
11:03:57 10 you are quoted as telling the Prosecution, was facilitating peace
11 between these factions?

12 A. Yes, because he was the immediate person that had direct
13 influence on the AFRC and the RUF. That's why the government
14 said to facilitate the meeting in Liberia. We insisted that we
11:04:24 15 had some fear for the RUF, but they still said we should go
16 there.

17 Q. We have already established that he was facilitating this
18 peace in the context of something or a process that you told the
19 Prosecution was being coordinated by the governments of Sierra
11:04:42 20 Leone and Liberia, yes?

21 A. Yes, my Lord.

22 Q. Continuing to read on the page: "He cited instances how he
23 had been assisting RUF/AFRC after the intervention." Over to the
24 next page, ERN ending in 2139, and here you give an answer, you
11:05:06 25 say:

26 "The instance he was referring to was that he allowed his
27 border with Sierra Leone to be opened so that soldiers who
28 escaped from the front lines came to Liberia. That the escaped
29 soldiers were arrested and sent back to Sierra Leone to fight.

1 That he had distributed arms and ammunition to Mosquito to
2 counter the offensive of Mosquito Spray who attacked Liberia from
3 Guinea. Charles Taylor said that he provided logistics which
4 comprised of arms and ammunition, food, et cetera. Charles
11:05:42 5 Taylor further assured the delegation of his continued support to
6 AFRC/RUF. Charles Taylor advised both groups to unite and not
7 allow the politicians to divide the group, otherwise everyone
8 will find themselves in prison?"

9 The next sentence I will leave for later. It's important.

11:06:01 10 I won't read it now, but it speaks of the STF. We will come back
11 to it. But let's focus on what I have just read, Mr Witness. In
12 May of 2007 you knew by then that Charles Taylor was in the
13 custody of the Special Court, yes?

14 A. Yes, the whole world knew.

11:06:29 15 Q. Precisely. May of 2007 you are living in a house being
16 paid for by the Special Court, yes?

17 A. Yes, my Lord.

18 Q. May of 2000 when you speak with the office of the
19 Prosecutor for the first time you start talking about Charles
11:06:47 20 Taylor providing logistics to the SLAs and AFRC, yes?

21 A. Well, it was depending on the question. At this time they
22 brought the question. You could see that from the various
23 interviews that I had with them, it was that time that they
24 brought the questions. If they did not ask me a question I will
11:07:08 25 not volunteer answers. They asked me to explain at that time and
26 so I explicated further.

27 Q. Do you remember the document I showed you in tab 2 that
28 delineates your interview dates with the Office of the
29 Prosecutor? Do you know that 8 May 2007 was your 22nd interview

1 with the Office of the Prosecutor? 22. And that is the first
2 time you are now talking about Charles Taylor providing logistics
3 to the SLAs, yes, Mr Witness?

4 A. Yes, in the various trials too I said it, but when the
11:07:50 5 investigator was asking me before then he did not ask me about
6 that, but later when he asked me that he wanted to have more
7 information I answered that. Before then he did not ask me to go
8 further, but on this occasion they asked me to elaborate and I
9 dilated further. What I did not know I will tell them that it is
11:08:11 10 not to my knowledge, but what I knew and for the sake of justice
11 I said I will say it. And this time I told them, the
12 Prosecution, that I had no fear as I had before. I said because
13 before when Charles Taylor was the President I had a fear that if
14 I had said we went to Liberia I would fear for my life, but now
11:08:35 15 that Charles Taylor is no longer President I will not have fear
16 to say anything. I will tell the truth and whatever I knew I
17 will say everything and that is what I did.

18 Q. I see. Let me consider your answer for a moment. Let me
19 take a look at it. You are saying to this Court, Mr Witness -
11:09:03 20 your Honours, the answer of course is on page 48 and it starts at
21 line 15 for me which is a 12 point font I am using and I want to
22 start with the part where he says:

23 "What I do not know I will tell them that is not to my
24 knowledge, but what I knew and for the sake of justice" - let me
11:09:26 25 stop this so I can read it.

26 "But what I knew and for the sake of justice I said I will
27 say it and this time I told them, the Prosecution, that I had no
28 fear as I said before. As I said because before when Charles
29 Taylor was the President I had a fear that if I had said we went

1 to Liberia I would fear for my life, but now that Charles Taylor
2 is no longer President I have no fear to say anything. I will
3 tell the truth and I will say everything and that is what I did?"

4 That's what you just told us; now Charles Taylor is no
11:10:04 5 longer President you have no fear. Mr Witness, the first time
6 they asked you to tell them what happened about this meeting with
7 Charles Taylor, that was your third time meeting with them, 7
8 November 2003, yes?

9 A. Yes, my Lord, according to you.

11:10:26 10 Q. 7 November 2003 Charles Taylor was no longer President of
11 Liberia, yes? He had left office in August of 2003, right?

12 A. Except when you are telling me now, but I can still recall
13 he was a President. I can recall he was a President before I
14 start elaborating.

11:10:55 15 Q. Are you saying that when you met with them for the third
16 time, 2003, 7 November, Charles Taylor was still President of
17 Liberia? Is that your evidence? Is that what made you afraid so
18 that you could not speak freely, Mr Witness? Well, I have two
19 questions in one.

11:11:13 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes.

21 MR ANYAH: So let me rephrase it:

22 Q. Are you saying on 7 November 2003 Charles Taylor was still
23 President of Liberia?

24 A. Well, I cannot recall the date that he was the President or
11:11:30 25 no longer a President, but, as I said, when he still was a
26 President I had fear for my life because that man was really
27 influential, because when I went to Liberia I saw it myself and
28 he was a President. And I said I was afraid because most of our
29 SLA brothers crossed to Liberia and he rescued them and I said

1 something could happen and maybe my life would be at risk. That
2 is one. And second point, I answered the questions that were
3 asked to me. I did not volunteer answers. During the first
4 interview they did not ask me to elaborate about the meeting, but
11:12:11 5 when they asked me later I had to dilate.

6 Q. There are about 19 meetings between your third interview
7 with them and your 22nd interview with them and it is only in
8 2007 you start speaking about Charles Taylor providing logistics
9 to the RUF, yes, Mr Witness?

11:12:35 10 A. That was the time the question was asked to me and that was
11 the time I answered.

12 Q. Mr Witness, are you aware of the role Charles Taylor played
13 and the role played by Liberia, I put the two together, in the
14 peace process in Sierra Leone?

11:12:58 15 A. Except if you will want to explain to me so that I will
16 know.

17 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Witness, is that a no? Is that a no,
18 you're not aware?

19 THE WITNESS: Yes, my Lord, I don't know. Yes.

11:13:13 20 MR ANYAH:

21 Q. Are you aware that RUF delegates came through Liberia, were
22 picked up by a United Nations aircraft and flown to Lome for the
23 peace agreement? Are you aware of this occurrence, Mr Witness?

24 A. Well, we were at the West Side, as I said. We didn't know
11:13:40 25 how they arranged their delegation, how they went to Lome.

26 Q. Are you aware of President Taylor being part of the
27 Committee of Six formed by ECOWAS, Economic Community of West
28 African States, to facilitate the Lome Peace Agreement? Are you
29 aware of that, Mr Witness?

1 A. I am not aware, except that you are telling me now.

2 Q. And you see even as far as May of 2007, this paragraph I
3 have just read in tab 13, do you see any mention there that
4 Charles Taylor assisted in the 6 January invasion of Freetown?

11:14:21 5 This paragraph I have read, do you see any mention there,
6 Mr Witness, of that fact, what you told us in Court yesterday?

7 A. Which - what is the reference?

8 Q. The page you are looking at ends in ERN number 2139. From
9 the top of the page: "The instance he was referring to was that
11:14:42 10 he allowed his border with Sierra Leone to be opened so that
11 soldiers who escaped from the front lines came to Liberia." That
12 entire paragraph, is there reference there, Mr Witness, to
13 Charles Taylor facilitating the 6 January invasion of Freetown?

14 A. No, I don't see any reference here to that, but in the
11:15:05 15 meeting that was what he discussed with us. That is what I told
16 the Court.

17 Q. Do you know when you made your reference to 6 January, a
18 few months later they came back to you again. The Prosecution
19 came back to you again, Mr Witness. It's in tab 15. And then
11:15:23 20 you added some words to this paragraph. You specifically added
21 some words to this paragraph. Let's go to tab 15. Tab 15, page
22 3, the ERN number of that page ends in 0519, the date of this
23 meeting between the witness and the Office of the Prosecutor
24 appears on page 1, 20 September 2007.

11:16:08 25 Madam Court Officer, could you give him tab 15, page 3?
26 Paragraph 13 of that page, Mr Witness, there was your 24th
27 meeting with the Office of the Prosecutor, 20 September, they
28 came back to you and then you added something to that paragraph I
29 have just read. It says, 13, ERN number 00032139, paragraph 11,

1 the fourth sentence should read, "Charles Taylor said that he
2 provided logistics which comprised of arms and ammunition, food,
3 etc, to the troops" and here is the relevant language, this is
4 what you have inserted in that paragraph after "food etc", you
11:17:11 5 have added: "Since they were driven from Freetown by ECOMOG
6 during the intervention, even during the January 6 invasion up to
7 the ceasefire." This is what you have added a few months later,
8 yes, Mr Witness?

9 A. Yes, when this question was brought to me regarding the
11:17:36 10 meeting, if I had any knowledge about Charles Taylor and I said,
11 "Yes, he discussed that with us in a meeting." I told them that.
12 I told the investigator who interviewed me.

13 Q. Are you saying when you met with them in May it escaped
14 your mind to tell them that Charles Taylor had provided all of
11:18:03 15 these logistics as you prefer to call them --

16 A. Well --

17 Q. May I finish my question? That Charles Taylor had provided
18 all of these logistics since you were driven from Freetown by
19 ECOMOG during the intervention period, even during the 6 January
11:18:26 20 invasion up to ceasefire? Did this escape your mind when you
21 spoke with them on 8 May 2007?

22 A. Well, it depended on the questions that they asked of me.
23 If they wanted to ask me questions they would call me, they asked
24 me what do you know about this and I will answer. If after some
11:18:52 25 time they wanted to ask me some other questions they will call me
26 and ask me and then I will give them the answers. They were the
27 investigators. They were asking me the questions. I wouldn't
28 have suggested questions to them. So I answered the question to
29 them because it was asked. So this question was asked, was

1 answered, because they asked it of me. I couldn't have
2 volunteered answers.

3 Q. But you see, Mr Witness, even after you met with them 8 May
4 2007 and they came back for more, 20 September, in both of those
11:19:25 5 interviews you still left out the \$15,000. It was only when you
6 came to The Hague in April of this year you added one more thing,
7 "Oh, by the way, he took out \$15,000 from a portfolio and he gave
8 it to us." Yes, Mr Witness?

9 A. Except if the investigators had been omitting that, but I
11:19:47 10 mentioned that. I can remember even during the AFRC trials I
11 mentioned that when the Defence objected that that was not part
12 of the statement. I can recall.

13 Q. I see. Mr Witness, are you aware of the fact that within a
14 few weeks after you and your delegation returned to Freetown
11:20:18 15 Foday Sankoh flew in from Lome?

16 A. Yes, together with Johnny Paul Koroma.

17 Q. Well, I have not finished my question.

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. Johnny Paul Koroma was still in Monrovia, yes?

11:20:34 20 A. Yes, my Lord.

21 Q. Foday Sankoh flew in from Lome to Monrovia, yes?

22 A. Well, we had left Monrovia at that time. As I said,
23 President Taylor told us that Pa Sankoh was leaving to go, coming
24 through Ghana, and he will meet us there so we will discuss. But
11:21:00 25 I said when that incident happened that forced us to move. It
26 was only Major Gbonkelenkeh that we left behind. So it was when
27 we were in Freetown that we were told that Sankoh had arrived in
28 Liberia and he was trying to prevail on Johnny Paul Koroma to
29 come to Freetown.

1 Q. Yes. Two men were in Monrovia and they met with President
2 Taylor. Are you aware of that, Mr Witness?

3 A. Well, I was not in Liberia again as I said. We had left.
4 It was only Major Gbonkelenkeh who was part of our squad that
11:21:39 5 left in Liberia with Johnny Paul Koroma.

6 Q. Let's see what the BBC says about this meeting in Monrovia.
7 Madam Court Officer, I would be grateful for your assistance. I
8 hope I have enough copies. Mr Witness, you told us several times
9 of listening to Focus on Africa over the BBC or France

11:23:08 10 International, AFI, but this is from the BBC. The reference
11 appears below from the internet website. Do you see at the top
12 of the page it says, "Friday, August 6, 1999." Do you see that,
13 Mr Witness?

14 A. Yes, my Lord.

11:23:32 15 Q. Do you see the caption, "World: Africa, Sierra Leone, Who
16 are the kidnappers?" That's the question posed.

17 A. Yes, my Lord, I see it.

18 Q. And you read the first paragraph:

19 "The rebel group at the centre of the Sierra Leonean
11:23:50 20 hostage crisis can be traced back to the 1997 coup which
21 overthrew the government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. Among
22 the demands of the kidnappers is the release from captivity of
23 Johnny Paul Koroma - the man who led the Sierra Leonean army in
24 the coup against President Kabbah in 1997.

11:24:18 25 The kidnappers say they are from the Armed Forces
26 Revolutionary Council (AFRC), the movement led by Mr Koroma.
27 They say their leader is being held prisoner by the Revolutionary
28 United Front - another rebel movement which recently signed the
29 Lome Peace Accord with President Kabbah's government."

1 And then interestingly you see the next paragraph,
2 Mr Witness. Its says: "Previously, the AFRC and RUF have fought
3 together against the Kabbah government."

4 And then we go to the next page. There is a paragraph
11:25:06 5 there I will come back to, but let me read it for now. It says:

6 "In fact, the protracted war fought against the rebels by
7 the ill-paid soldiers" - and this relates to the history from the
8 provisional ruling council all the way from Strasser's
9 administration all the way to Momoh - I'm sorry, all the way to
11:25:27 10 Kabbah --

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: You're not actually quoting there,
12 Mr Anyah. You are putting in an comment.

13 MR ANYAH:

14 Q. Yes, I will come back to this issue, but let me read it for
11:25:36 15 now. This is what it says, it reads:

16 "In fact the protected war fought against the rebels by the
17 ill-paid soldiers contributed to the resentment which eventually
18 triggered the coup."

19 We will discuss what caused that coup, but let me read on:

11:25:57 20 "When Mr Koroma and his soldiers took power in Freetown,
21 the RUF offered its support and was granted a share in the
22 government."

23 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

24 A. Yes, my Lord.

11:26:06 25 Q. This is saying when the AFRC took power in 1997 RUF offered
26 its support. Do you see that, Mr Witness?

27 A. I see it.

28 Q. If you go down a little bit where it says "Fought
29 together", that is the transitional phrase, do you see, "However,

1 the RUF and the AFRC retained distinct identities." Do you see
2 that, Mr Witness?

3 MS ALAGENDRA: Your Honours, in fairness for that paragraph
4 to make sense the paragraph above that needs to be read to the
11:26:43 5 witness.

6 MR ANYAH: Okay, thank you, learned counsel. I will read
7 the first paragraph.

8 Q. The section is "Fought together." It says:

9
11:26:52 10 "The two groups fought together against a counter-offensive
11 launched by the Nigerian-led ECOMOG intervention force, which was
12 attempting to restore President Kabbah to power. However, the
13 RUF and the AFRC retained distinct identities."

14 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

11:27:11 15 A. I see it.

16 Q. This is saying that even after the junta period, after
17 President Kabbah was thrown out of government, AFRC and RUF
18 retained distinct identities. Do you agree, Mr Witness?

19 A. I disagree. The person who wrote this was not on the
11:27:37 20 ground. I was there. I disagree.

21 Q. You are entitled to disagree, but you quoted the BBC and we
22 now quote the BBC, so let's read on.

23 A. Well, I am quoting, I was on the ground, what happened.
24 This one was written by a journalist who was not on the ground.
11:27:58 25 I was on the ground.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: We understand your answer, Mr Witness.
27 Allow counsel to continue, please.

28 MR ANYAH:

29 Q. Now the next paragraph is also important. This is no

1 longer junta period this is talking about. There is now talking
2 about 6 January and that invasion you spoke a lot about. It says
3 - and I will skip the one that says when Mr Kabbah returned to
4 the presidency last year, we move to the next paragraph:

11:28:22 5 "The RUF continued to control large areas of the country,
6 but it was the AFRC which came very close to gaining control of
7 the capital once more in an attempted insurrection in January."

8 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

9 A. Yes, my Lord.

11:28:41 10 Q. They are saying that the 6 January invasion was an AFRC
11 matter. Do you agree, Mr Witness?

12 A. I disagree.

13 MR ANYAH: I see the time and the Chamber's concern.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, I was just about to note that too,
11:28:55 15 Mr Anyah. Mr Witness, it's now the time for the mid-morning
16 break. We will be taking 30 minutes and we will be resuming
17 court at 12 o'clock. Please adjourn court until 12.

18 [Break taken at 11.29 a.m.]

19 [Upon resuming at 12.00 p.m.]

12:00:42 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please proceed, Mr Anyah.

21 MR ANYAH: Thank you, Madam President:

22 Q. Mr Witness, before the break we were considering an article
23 by the BBC dated 6 August 1999, and I recall I was on page 2 of
24 the article and I read to you a paragraph and I asked you a
12:01:13 25 question about the 6 January invasion. I want to read that
26 paragraph again. It is on page 2, Mr Witness, the page on which
27 Johnny Paul Koroma is pictured, and it says down in the middle of
28 the page:

29 "The RUF continued to control large areas of the country,

1 but it was the AFRC which came very close to gaining control of
2 the capital once more in an attempted insurrection in January."

3 Mr Witness --

4 A. Yes, my Lord.

12:02:11 5 Q. -- do you agree that the invasion of Freetown on 6 January
6 1999 was exclusively an AFRC affair?

7 A. I disagree.

8 Q. When we go down on the same page there is the paragraph
9 that says:

12:02:40 10 "Johnny Paul Koroma had been expected at the Lome talks and
11 is believed to have been on the list of people nominated by the
12 RUF to form part of a Government of National Unity, but he never
13 arrived in Lome. Mr Koroma had been living in hiding with the
14 RUF rebels and their military commander Sam (Mosquito) Bockarie."

12:03:10 15 Then we go to the next page, Mr Witness, the third page,
16 and there is a section that says "Fears of Koroma's influence".
17 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

18 A. Yes, my Lord.

19 MR ANYAH: Madam Court Officer - yes, thank you:

12:03:29 20 Q. And if you go down to the paragraph that says:

21 "Believing their leader was kept away from the talks, the
22 AFRC kidnapers are now complaining they were neglected in the
23 peace process. They want to be readmitted and paid as soldiers
24 in the Sierra Leone Army which is being re-established following
12:03:52 25 President Kabbah's return to office."

26 Do you see that, Mr Witness? Can you answer affirmatively?

27 A. Yes, my Lord.

28 Q. Now we have been reading this article and there is a clear
29 distinction, is there not, between the AFRC and the RUF? Yes,

1 Mr Witness?

2 A. Well, as I say, when I look back to the date - excuse me,
3 please - to say August 1999 this person was a writer. He wrote.
4 He was not on the ground when the troops entered Freetown. It

12:04:40 5 was what he understood. That is what he wrote and published, but
6 I disagree to what he wrote. He was not on the ground.

7 Q. Well, will you agree with the writer that the AFRC was
8 complaining about being neglected during the peace process?

9 A. I have said that clearly in the Court. I said that was why
12:05:10 10 we captured the UNOMSIL. Thankfully, you have seen it in the
11 writing.

12 Q. You would agree with the writing that it said the soldiers
13 wanted to be readmitted? That is the AFRC soldiers wanted to be
14 readmitted into the Sierra Leone Army, yes?

12:05:30 15 A. Yes, my Lord, because that was one of our demands that we
16 went with in Liberia, that we were to be recognised and
17 reinstated into the national army.

18 Q. So we now have two aspects of the article with which you
19 agree, yes, Mr Witness?

12:05:51 20 A. Maybe you can name the other one, but I think this is the
21 one that I agree with, the reinstatement of the army. That is
22 why the delegation went.

23 Q. We are still on page 3 now and you recall a few minutes ago
24 you agreed with me and the article when it says that you felt
12:06:14 25 neglected from the peace process. Would that make it number 2
26 point with which you agree, Mr Witness?

27 A. This is the only one I have seen that I can agree on,
28 because that was why we did that operation at West Side. Maybe
29 you would want to remind me of the other one that I agreed with

1 you on, but I can remember it is this one that I agreed with you
2 on.

3 Q. Well, I will let the record speak for itself on that.

12:06:58

4 MS ALAGENDRA: Your Honours, can I also say that I am not
5 aware of the other one myself, if counsel can say what was the
6 other proposition.

12:07:16

7 MR ANYAH: Well, Madam President, with respect I have been
8 interrupted during my cross-examination and I am entitled to have
9 some latitude in how I examine the witness. I have not misstated
10 any facts.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please feel calm, Mr Anyah.

12 Ms Alagenda, there was a reference to the AFRC complaining
13 and he said, "I clearly said that in court".

14 MS ALAGENDRA: That is still one, your Honour.

12:07:29

15 PRESIDING JUDGE: And the neglected.

16 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Ms Alagenda, there are two paragraphs
17 that counsel is putting before the witness on page 3 I believe;
18 that is the paragraph beginning with the words "Believing their
19 leader" and the second paragraph is "They want to be readmitted".

12:07:50

20 Now, there are two separate propositions in those two paragraphs
21 with which I imagine that the witness says he agrees.

22 Do you agree with the things written in those two
23 paragraphs, Mr Witness?

24 THE WITNESS: Yes, my Lord.

12:08:08

25 MR ANYAH: Thank you, Justice Sebutinde:

26 Q. Shall we go back to page 2, Mr Witness, the preceding page.
27 Right next to the picture of Johnny Paul Koroma, slightly below
28 it, there is a paragraph that starts:

29 "When Mr Koroma and his soldiers took power in Freetown the

1 RUF offered its support and was granted a share in the
2 government. "

3 Mr Witness, do you agree with that paragraph?

4 A. Yes, my Lord.

12:08:50 5 Q. Indeed during the course of your evidence you told us you
6 recalled a BBC broadcast by Foday Sankoh where you heard for the
7 first time the name People's Army, correct?

8 A. Yes, my Lord.

9 Q. And that was Foday Sankoh suggesting or directing his RUF
12:09:10 10 members to go and join the AFRC in Freetown, yes?

11 A. Yes, that was what he said.

12 Q. You would agree that it was not Charles Taylor who asked
13 the RUF to go and join the AFRC junta in Freetown, yes?

14 A. Well this was an order from their commander at the moment,
12:09:37 15 yes, that is the AFRC. It was when the AFRC overthrew, not 6
16 January. It was when Foday Sankoh called the RUF to join forces
17 with the AFRC in Freetown.

18 Q. Yes, but I want to be clear about this. We are speaking of
19 the same event, 25 May 1997. My question is this: It was Foday
12:10:04 20 Sankoh, not Charles Taylor, who directed or ordered the RUF
21 members to go and join the junta or AFRC in Freetown, yes?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. When we go down to the section that says "Fought together
24 "- you see that, Mr Witness?

12:10:38 25 A. Yes, my Lord.

26 Q. There is a paragraph that says:

27 "The two groups fought together against the
28 counter-offensive launched by the Nigerian-led ECOMOG
29 intervention force which was attempting to restore President

1 Kabbah to power."

2 You agree they fought together, right, Mr Witness?

3 A. Yes, my Lord.

12:11:06

4 Q. Then the next paragraph beneath that: "However, the RUF
5 and the AFRC retained distinct identities." Do you agree with
6 that, Mr Witness?

12:11:30

7 A. I would want you to break it down for me. What do you mean
8 by different identities? I want to have it clearly. Because
9 I can remember this question was put to me that they were not
10 together, now you are talking about identity. I would like you
11 to make it a little more clear.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Pause, Mr Witness, and I will ask
13 counsel. It would appear the witness does not fully understand.
14 Please rephrase it or explain it.

12:11:44

15 MR ANYAH: Yes, Madam President. I will try:

16 Q. Mr Witness, is it fair to say that after the junta period
17 there was still, on the one hand, the RUF and, on the other hand,
18 the AFRC, as in they were not one and the same?

12:12:12

19 A. No, they still continued to be the same. They were SLA on
20 our own end and there were SLAs in Kailahun. They were in Daru -
21 towards Daru. So they were still the same. Right up to even
22 after the peace negotiations.

23 Q. I will clarify. I understand. Mr Witness - I'm sorry,
24 Justice Sebutinde.

12:12:31

25 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Witness, are you saying that the RUF
26 and the AFRC became the same organisation, were fighting as the
27 same organisation, or that they were two distinct organisations
28 fighting together?

29 THE WITNESS: They were two different organisations, but we

1 had the same aim and we were doing organised operations,
2 coordinated operations, RUF/SLA. That was how the operations
3 went on.

12:13:08 4 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: So then they were two distinct
5 identities, but fighting together with a common aim. Is that
6 your evidence?

7 THE WITNESS: Yes, my Lord.

8 MR ANYAH: Thank you, Justice Sebutinde:

9 Q. The two groups in question had a common enemy in the
12:13:26 10 government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, correct?

11 A. Yes, my Lord.

12 Q. Yes. There is another article from the BBC I would like to
13 be assisted with. Mr Witness, do you have an article before you
14 from the BBC with the date 1 October 1999?

12:14:44 15 A. Yes, my Lord.

16 Q. "World: Africa", that's what it says, "Sierra Leone rebel
17 leader delays return." Do you see that, Mr Witness?

18 A. Yes, my Lord.

19 Q. There is a picture there. Underneath the picture reads,
12:15:05 20 "The peace accord was signed in Lome in July." Do you see that,
21 Mr Witness?

22 A. Yes, my Lord.

23 Q. Do you see Corporal Foday Sankoh in that picture,
24 Mr Witness?

12:15:17 25 A. It is not too clear. Yes, I see him. It is not so clear.

26 Q. We go down to the first full paragraph, it says:

27 "The Sierra Leone rebel leader, Foday Sankoh, has delayed
28 his return home. Mr Sankoh, who heads the Revolutionary United
29 Front (RUF), had been expected back in Freetown on Friday along

1 with the head of the former military government, Johnny Paul
2 Koroma, but Mr Sankoh told the BBC he would not return to Sierra
3 Leone until next week. The BBC correspondent in Freetown says
4 the country has ground to a standstill in anticipation of their
12:16:11 5 homecoming, which would mark a key stage in the peace process."

6 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

7 A. Yes, my Lord.

8 Q. This return homecoming of both Foday Sankoh and Johnny Paul
9 Koroma was a significant event for peace in Sierra Leone, yes?

12:16:33 10 A. I did not get that clear. I did not get that clearly.

11 Q. Yes, I understand. I will try and be clearer, Mr Witness.
12 The BBC is saying that Freetown had ground to a halt in
13 anticipation of the return of both Foday Sankoh and Johnny Paul
14 Koroma. Do you agree with that proposition, Mr Witness?

12:17:04 15 A. When you say standstill, I don't understand when you say
16 Freetown was in a standstill. I don't understand what that
17 means.

18 Q. Would you agree that it was very important to peace in
19 Sierra Leone, the arrival of these two men together, united in
12:17:23 20 Freetown in 1999, the month of October?

21 A. Yes, my Lord, I will agree.

22 Q. Let's go back down to the end of the page, same page we are
23 on. At the bottom there is the reference:

24 "The two men held more than three hours of reconciliation
12:17:52 25 talks in" - over to the next page - "Monrovia mediated by
26 Liberian President Charles Taylor on Thursday."

27 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

28 A. Yes, my Lord.

29 Q. So there was this significant event in Sierra Leone and

1 Charles Taylor spent three hours with two men facilitating
2 reconciliation and mediating whatever disputes they may have.

3 This is what the BBC says, do you agree, Mr Witness?

4 A. Yes, according to what is written here.

12:18:35 5 Q. Johnny Paul Koroma told you before you left Monrovia that
6 he was going to meet with President Taylor, right?

7 A. Yes, before we went to Monrovia.

8 Q. And it was anticipated at that time before your departure
9 for Lungi that Foday Sankoh would soon arrive from Lome, Togo in

12:19:00 10 Monrovia, yes?

11 A. No, I did not get that right.

12 Q. There was talk before your delegation left Monrovia that
13 Foday Sankoh would soon be coming to Monrovia from Lome, Togo,
14 yes?

12:19:17 15 A. No. I said when we met with President Taylor he told us
16 that Foday Sankoh was leaving and would come to Ghana. From
17 Ghana he will come to Monrovia and he will meet with the team
18 that went there, the delegation, and we will discuss things out.

19 Q. You see the paragraph after the one I have just read, it
12:19:45 20 says: "Afterwards the two rebel leaders appeared in jovial mood
21 as they spoke to reporters." It quotes Johnny Paul Koroma as
22 saying, "I am satisfied. Everything is fine now." This is
23 after their meeting with Charles Taylor. Do you see that,
24 Mr Witness?

12:20:02 25 A. Yes, I can see it, but this thing happened because of a
26 reason.

27 Q. Yes. At the time all of this was going on - well, let's go
28 back a few months before. Did your West Side Boys take two RUF
29 commanders hostage; Mike Lamin and Superman, Denis Mingo?

1 A. Can you please tell me the time frame, because it happened
2 after some time. I want the time frame.

3 Q. I will do so. In the month of August 1999 did the AFRC, or
4 SLA members, as you call them, take Denis Mingo aka Superman and
12:21:05 5 Mike Lamin into custody?

6 A. Yes, it happened. It was after the return when we came
7 from Liberia and Johnny Paul and others had come to Freetown.
8 That happened.

9 Q. Are you aware that it was Charles Taylor who facilitated
12:21:24 10 the release by the AFRC of Mike Lamin and Denis Mingo?

11 A. No, I don't know that because Johnny Paul gave the order.
12 When he came he said we should release them. That I know of.

13 Q. Johnny Paul Koroma was at the time in Monrovia, right,
14 Mr Witness?

12:21:51 15 A. Well, I think you are teaching me things that I witnessed.
16 I told you that it was after we came from Liberia we went into
17 the jungle. When Johnny Paul and Foday Sankoh arrived, that was
18 the time we arrested Mike Lamin, Superman and others. That is
19 what I know, but if you are saying that at that time Pa Sankoh
12:22:24 20 and Johnny Paul had not come yet, no, I disagree.

21 Q. That is not what I am saying. You appear to be saying that
22 Johnny Paul Koroma was already in Sierra Leone when Mike Lamin
23 and Denis Mingo were arrested. Is that your evidence?

24 A. Yes, my Lord, because we had left Liberia and we had come,
12:22:47 25 moved to the West Side when Johnny Paul and Foday Sankoh were now
26 in Freetown and that was when we ran that operation and we
27 arrested those guys.

28 Q. I want to be clear about this because it could lead to some
29 confusion. What I wish to know is this: The date of arrest, not

1 the cause of the detention, the date of arrest of these two men,
2 did it take place when Johnny Paul Koroma was in Sierra Leone?

3 A. Yes, at that time they had come. We had left Liberia. We
4 were now in the West Side jungle. Johnny Paul and Foday Sankoh
12:23:30 5 had left. We heard over the radio that they had arrived in
6 Freetown because the ECOMOG forced us that all the commanders
7 should go back to their areas. It was when we left that Johnny
8 Paul and others arrived. So Johnny Paul and Pa Sankoh arrived in
9 Freetown while we were in the West Side together with the other
12:23:51 10 commanders because all of us were together. After which when
11 Johnny Paul arrived it was within that week that we arrested Mike
12 Lamin, Superman. There was FAT Sesay. We arrested all of them,
13 because he too was with the squad that came from Makeni.

14 Q. Mr Witness, are you telling the Justices that after Johnny
12:24:17 15 Paul Koroma had met with Foday Sankoh in Liberia for
16 reconciliation talks with Charles Taylor, upon arrival back in
17 Sierra Leone his AFRC fighters arrested two RUF commanders? Is
18 that your evidence, Mr Witness?

19 A. Yes, we arrested them. We arrested Mike Lamin and Superman
12:24:44 20 and there was a reason why Bazzy ordered their arrest.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, counsel is asking about a
22 time frame. Concentrate on the time.

23 MR ANYAH:

24 Q. Mr Witness, I am not quarrelling with you whether or not
12:25:01 25 they were arrested. I just want to know whether it was before
26 the meeting between Koroma, Sankoh and President Taylor, or after
27 the meeting.

28 A. It was after the meeting when we had left Liberia. That
29 was when we came and did the arrest, when we arrested Mike Lamin

1 and Superman.

2 MR ANYAH: Madam Court Officer, can you assist me please.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah, I obviously do not want to
4 interfere with your cross-examination, but it appears to me that
12:25:37 5 you are honing in to the return date of Sankoh and Koroma.

6 MR ANYAH: That is correct, Madam President.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Whereas the witness appears to be
8 replying on his return date.

9 MR ANYAH: For my purposes it will not make a difference,
12:25:50 10 but I will seek to clarify first.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well.

12 MR ANYAH:

13 Q. Mr Witness, was Johnny Paul Koroma in Sierra Leone on the
14 date the AFRC members arrested Mike Lamin and Denis Mingo?

12:26:10 15 A. Yes, my Lord.

16 Q. And he had just come from Liberia. Is that your evidence?

17 A. Yes, my Lord.

18 Q. And he had just come from the meeting that this BBC article
19 speaks about between himself, Corporal Foday Sankoh and President
12:26:31 20 Charles Taylor?

21 A. Yes, the two of them came to Freetown. They were in
22 Freetown when we did the arrests of these two people.

23 MR ANYAH: Madam Court Officer, may I have your assistance
24 please:

12:28:04 25 Q. Mr Witness, this is an article from a website that keeps
26 day to day accounts of news from Sierra Leone. The citation
27 appears below, "sierra-leone.org", it is a news archive and you
28 see the date there on the top of 31 August 1999. Do you see
29 that, Mr Witness?

1 A. Yes, my Lord.

2 Q. I will read that paragraph. It says:

3 "Two RUF commanders, Brigadier Dennis 'Superman' Mingo and
4 Brigadier Mike Lamin, were reportedly abducted by AFRC rebel
12:28:46 5 soldiers late Monday or early Tuesday while travelling between
6 Freetown and Makeni."

7 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

8 A. Yes, my Lord.

9 Q. It says:

12:28:58 10 "The kidnapping took place in the area near Okra Hill, some
11 45 miles east of Freetown, where rebel soldiers earlier this
12 month kidnapped nearly 40 UN military observers, aid workers,
13 ECOMOG soldiers and journalists."

14 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

12:29:19 15 A. Yes, my Lord.

16 Q. "The rebel commanders were part of an RUF advance team
17 which has been holding talks with the government officials in
18 Freetown on ways to implement the peace accord signed in Lome,
19 Togo last month. The reasons for Tuesday's abductions was not
12:29:36 20 immediately clear."

21 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

22 A. Yes, my Lord.

23 Q. This is speaking about the abduction of two RUF rebel
24 commanders who played a part in the peace process, Mike Lamin and
12:29:50 25 Dennis Mingo, and it is saying it took place 31 August 1999. Does
26 that refresh your recollection regarding when Mike Lamin and
27 Dennis Mingo were arrested?

28 A. I know of the arrest and they were not just two, and apart
29 from that I disagree with this date because we had come and

1 Johnny Paul Koroma together with Foday Sankoh had come first
2 before we did the arrest, when Johnny Paul ordered that we should
3 release them. We moved with them and all of us went to Freetown
4 even.

12:30:30 5 Q. Do you know why the date is important, Mr Witness? It is
6 important because I am putting it to you that Charles Taylor
7 brokered or facilitated the release of these two men.

8 A. Well --

9 Q. May I finish? Mike Lamin and Denis Superman Mingo, and he
12:30:52 10 did it in conjunction with the meetings between Foday Sankoh and
11 Johnny Paul Koroma to facilitate peace. Do you agree with that
12 proposition?

13 A. I disagree.

14 Q. Let us go down the page. Let us talk about the Malians and
12:31:09 15 who else Foday Sankoh was meeting with, on the same page. You
16 told us of the Malians and you remember I said they were arrested
17 7 May. It says:

18 "Two Malian ECOMOG soldiers who were captured by the RUF on
19 May 7 during a rebel attack on Port Loko returned to Bamako on
12:31:28 20 Monday, according to Malian state radio. The two, who were
21 reported to be in good health, were released August 29 following
22 lengthy negotiations by Sierra Leone and Mali within the
23 framework of ECOWAS, the radio said."

24 Do you see that, Mr Witness? Please say yes or no, or
12:31:49 25 answer in the affirmative?

26 A. Yes. Yes, I see it.

27 Q. This is suggesting that ECOMOG - I am sorry, that ECOWAS
28 was involved in all of these negotiations. Would you agree with
29 that, Mr Witness?

1 A. Well, I did not see any ECOWAS member with me. It was
2 Johnny Paul's order that we executed. No ECOWAS member went
3 there to talk to us.

12:32:27 4 Q. Do you see reference to lengthy negotiations by (1) Sierra
5 Leone, (2) Mali, (3) within the ECOWAS framework? Do you know
6 what that means, Mr Witness?

7 A. I will explain.

8 Q. Please do.

12:32:50 9 A. These Malians whom we released, we demanded that we would
10 only release them if they would release our brothers who were in
11 custody in Guinea. So this negotiation was ongoing between the
12 Sierra Leone Government and the Malian government, so when our
13 men were released and they confirmed to us that they had come
14 that was when we released them too. So, it was not an ECOWAS
12:33:13 15 effort. It was the Sierra Leone and Malian government in
16 relation to what we demanded. That was why this release
17 happened.

18 Q. So you disagree with the part that suggests negotiations
19 took place within the ECOWAS framework, but you agree that the
12:33:32 20 Malian government and the Sierra Leonean Government negotiated
21 the release, right?

22 A. Yes, because it happened.

23 Q. Shall we go to the next paragraph and see who Foday Sankoh
24 met with in addition to President Taylor:

12:33:49 25 "30 August 1999" RUF Leader Corporal Foday Sankoh said
26 Monday he was preparing to depart Togo for Freetown. 'I will be
27 leaving here within the next few days or even hours. I met
28 President Eyadema today to say goodbye', he said".

29 Eyadema, Gnassingbe Eyadema Senior of Togo, was President

1 or chairman of ECOWAS at that time. Do you agree, Mr Witness?

2 A. Yes, according to this paper. That is what I see.

3 Q. Well the paper calls him President, but it doesn't say of
4 where. I am proposing to you he was chairman of ECOWAS, the
12:34:33 5 Economic Community of West African States, at that time. Do you
6 agree?

7 A. I am happy that it is your proposition. That is what you
8 are saying, but I am not seeing it here.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, do you know whether President
12:34:49 10 Eyadema was President of ECOWAS, or do you not know?

11 THE WITNESS: I know he was a President in Togo, but he is
12 saying he was the chairman and I don't know. I am not seeing it
13 here even.

14 MR ANYAH: Madam Court Officer, could you assist me.

12:35:10 15 I have one more of these.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: I notice I said "President of ECOWAS"
17 when I should have said "chairman".

18 MR ANYAH:

19 Q. Mr Witness, this is another article from the same website,
12:36:18 20 sierra-leone.org, and for counsel's references they can verify
21 the citation at the bottom of the page printed by myself a few
22 days ago. Mr Witness, it speaks of 30 September 1999 and you see
23 the first sentence reads:

24 "RUF Leader Corporal Foday Sankoh and former AFRC Chairman
12:36:59 25 Lieutenant-Colonel Johnny Paul Koroma met in Monrovia for the
26 first time on Thursday, and held more than three hours of
27 reconciliation talks mediated by Liberian President
28 Charles Taylor."

29 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

1 A. Yes, my Lord.

2 Q. We have been through this before, right, in the context of
3 a BBC article a few minutes ago, yes?

4 A. Yes.

12:37:29 5 Q. You see the next sentence:

6 "The two rebel leaders told reporters afterwards that they
7 had ironed out their differences, but did not elaborate 'I am
8 satisfied. Everything is fine now', Koroma told reporters."

9 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

12:37:49 10 A. Yes, my Lord.

11 Q. Let's go down further in the paragraph. There is something
12 there of importance. If you go down to where it says "In
13 September ...", it is around the middle of the page and it reads:

14 "In September, Koroma and 13 of his followers issued a
12:38:19 15 document claiming they were 'unrepresented, unrecognised and
16 marginalised in all the deliberations and final outcome of the
17 Lome Peace Agreement' and that their interests had been ignored
18 by RUF leaders."

19 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

12:38:37 20 A. Yes, my Lord.

21 Q. This is speaking of a dispute between the RUF and the AFRC,
22 is it not, Mr Witness?

23 A. Yes, but there was a time frame. There was supposed to
24 have put the time there that it happened after the peace accord,
12:39:00 25 because we were left out.

26 Q. Let us go down a little bit:

27 "Among their demands were that they be reinstated into the
28 Sierra Leone Army and that they be given a voice in the
29 power-sharing agreement with the Sierra Leone Government."

1 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

2 A. Yes, my Lord.

3 Q. And now we come to something of note, of importance. The
4 next sentence:

12:39:32 5 "Prior to the talks Taylor told the rebel leaders he had
6 been in contact with ECOWAS, the UN and the OAU to ensure that
7 all parties to the Sierra Leone conflict were included in the
8 government and 'to make sure that as you prepare to go to
9 Freetown they are part of the process, that they are present and
12:40:01 10 that they accompany you to Freetown'. Taylor said he had
11 contacted Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema, current ECOWAS
12 chairman, to 'finalise the arrangement' for their return home.
13 Liberian information minister Joe Mulbah told reporters Wednesday
14 night that Sankoh and Koroma would fly to Freetown on Friday and
12:40:31 15 'will be escorted by some officials of the Liberian Government'."

16 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

17 A. Yes, my Lord.

18 Q. The media is reporting that Charles Taylor was in contact
19 with ECOWAS, with the chairman of ECOWAS Gnassingbe Eyadema, with
12:40:53 20 the UN, with then the Organisation of African Unity all in
21 efforts to facilitate peace between Foday Sankoh and Johnny Paul
22 Koroma. Do you agree or disagree, Mr Witness?

23 A. This was not to my knowledge, because when I went to
24 Liberia he did not tell us any of this. That is not to my
12:41:15 25 knowledge, because it was when we captured Johnny Paul Koroma
26 that was - I heard Charles Taylor saying we should go and see
27 Johnny Paul Koroma.

28 Q. Well, let me break that question into two because it is not
29 fair to you.

1 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Really, is this what the witness said,
2 "When we captured Johnny Paul Koroma"? Is that what the witness
3 said?

12:41:47

4 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, your Honour. It could have been a
5 mistake on his part.

6 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: He is shaking his head in disagreement.
7 Witness, can you please repeat what you just said.

12:42:09

8 THE WITNESS: I said the only time - what I know, it was
9 after we had captured those UNOMSIL officials and that we
10 demanded that we wanted to see with Johnny Paul Koroma and that
11 was when we went there and I don't know anything about this
12 negotiation that Charles Taylor negotiated with the UN or ECOWAS
13 for us to go and meet with Johnny Paul Koroma.

14 MR ANYAH:

12:42:26

15 Q. So your answer is that you do not know whether or not
16 Charles Taylor spoke with all of these people? Is that your
17 response, Mr Witness?

18 A. Yes, my Lord, because Johnny Paul just told us that he had
19 spoken to Charles Taylor to ensure that the - facilitate a
20 helicopter to go and pick us to go to Freetown.

12:42:48

21 Q. But you would agree with what is written on the print. You
22 would not disagree that this paper or this article is suggesting
23 that Charles Taylor did all of these things?

24 A. Well, my Lord, this is a writing of a journalist. If they
25 favour somebody they write in that person's favour, so they can
26 write anything.

12:43:17

27 Q. I see. I have one more article. You mentioned Christo
28 Johnson to us yesterday. Do you recall that, Mr Witness?

29 A. Yes, my Lord.

1 Q. A journalist taken hostage by you and your fellow fighters
2 in Magbeni, yes?

3 A. Yes, my Lord.

12:44:31

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, is there something you wanted
5 to say?

6 THE WITNESS: I am sorry, I am taking a drug that makes me
7 to urinate frequently, so I want to use the gents.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: We understand. Please assist the
9 witness, Madam Court Officer.

12:48:46

10 MR ANYAH: Madam Court Officer, could the witness kindly be
11 given a copy of a document, this is a BBC article, and could one
12 copy be placed on the overhead, please:

13 Q. Mr Witness, yesterday you told us of a reporter by the name
14 of Christo Johnson. Do you recall that, Mr Witness?

12:49:10

15 A. Yes, my Lord.

16 Q. Christo Johnson was one of the journalists taken hostage by
17 you and your fellow fighters at Magbeni, yes, Mr Witness?

18 A. Yes, my Lord.

12:49:28

19 Q. When did you say that hostage taking took place again,
20 Mr Witness?

21 A. It was say after the Lome Peace Accord, just after the Lome
22 Peace Accord was signed, around July/August.

23 Q. The date on this article if you look at the top says
24 Friday, 6 August 1999. Do you see that, Mr Witness?

12:49:47

25 A. Yes, my Lord.

26 Q. It says, "World: Africa, Sierra Leone hostage tells of
27 ordeal." Yes, you see that, Mr Witness?

28 A. Yes, my Lord.

29 Q. Then we read the first paragraph:

1 "Reuters reporter Christo Johnson, who was among the
2 hostages captured by Sierra Leone rebels, talks of his ordeal
3 following his release."

4 Yes?

12:50:17 5 A. Yes, I have seen that.

6 Q. Then as you look through the pages of this article you will
7 see Johnson's name in bold letters and the words after his name
8 as if he's answering questions. Can you look through the article
9 to familiarise yourself with this process. I will start with the
10 first paragraph where the name Christo Johnson is highlighted in
11 bold on the first page:

12 "Christo Johnson: We first arrived in a village where they
13 (the rebels) released 22 children. From there we moved on to the
14 place where we were supposed to collect another batch of
15 children, which would have brought the number up to about 200.

16 While waiting for these children to come in, we were told we
17 would have to attend a meeting with the soldiers. We were
18 invited to this meeting hall by a spokesman for the AFRC soldiers
19 (from the former militia regime). And when we entered they asked
12:51:40 20 us to stand for prayers. After prayers the spokesman came out
21 with a statement from their side saying that they had problems.
22 They had been looking for food and medicines. People seemed to
23 be neglecting them. They had a lot of problems. Patience was
24 running out and they were looking to the international community
12:52:08 25 and the government. While this was happening a group of guys
26 came in and said, 'Look, you guys, hands up!' - we put our hands
27 up. They said, 'Hands up, give up everything you have.' We had
28 no alternative but to obey their instructions."

29 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

1 A. Yes, my Lord.

2 Q. Is this narrative similar to what you recall happening to
3 Christo Johnson and the rest back in what you say was July 1999?

4 A. There is - part of it is similar, is true.

12:52:53 5 Q. Continuing, this is Mr Johnson speaking:

6 "They said, 'Look, don't get scared, we are not going to
7 harm you. We just want the international community to know what
8 our grievances are and you will have to take these grievances to
9 the government and the world'."

12:53:15 10 You see that, Mr Witness?

11 A. Yes, my Lord.

12 Q. We get to the next page. This part is important,
13 "Question" - now you will agree this is somebody asking Christo
14 Johnson a question and the question is:

12:53:30 15 "Were you able to establish whether these men were just
16 members of the former AFRC militia regime or whether they were
17 also some Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in the group?"

18 Mr Johnson answers: "We established that they were all
19 AFRC members, former members of the Sierra Leone Army. There
12:53:56 20 were no RUF people there."

21 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

22 A. Yes, my Lord.

23 Q. Christo Johnson is telling the BBC and the world that the
24 people who took him hostage were all AFRC members, not even one
12:54:12 25 was an RUF. Do you agree with that, Mr Witness?

26 A. I disagree. I totally disagree.

27 Q. You continue to maintain - may I finish my question? You
28 continue to maintain that RUF members were part of this West Side
29 Boys you claim to have been a member of?

1 A. Yes and I want to give a brief explanation with the Court's
2 permission in this particular area.

3 Q. Is the explanation something you haven't told us before,
4 Mr Witness, when you were questioned by the Prosecution?

12:54:58 5 A. Well this is something that I have seen established by
6 Christo Johnson here and he is a journalist, and even when he was
7 in the camp he had limited areas to go to. We limited his
8 movement. He did not go to all the areas that we were and with
9 certain senior commanders he did not even visit them. And then
12:55:24 10 we - when we called him, we explained things to him. The senior
11 commanders explained to him and then he told us that he will go
12 and put it over the news, you see, and that was what happened.

13 And Christo Johnson himself was just limited at the headquarters.
14 Bazy and other commanders, he only spoke to them. He was not
12:55:42 15 allowed to go to the villages, or the areas around us. He was
16 only limited to the headquarters where the commanders were, the
17 commanders who explained this thing to him, that is Bazy, Bomb
18 Blast, Tito and others, Junior Lion and all of us who were there.
19 So if he is saying here that what he saw at the headquarters is
12:56:06 20 what he is explaining here then I don't agree with it, because
21 there were some other villages where there were different,
22 different battalions situated there.

23 Q. What you are telling the Court, Mr Witness, is that the
24 area around which Christo Johnson was allowed to stay had no RUF
12:56:24 25 members in that vicinity. Is that what you are trying to suggest
26 to this Chamber?

27 A. What I am saying, no, I said the man was limited. We
28 arrested them and it was only at the headquarters where Bazy and
29 others were that he was allowed to go. When we needed him we

1 will go and collect him from Tito's place and then he will come
2 to Bazzy, but to say he had a free movement all around the area,
3 that didn't happen. So he never even knew who and who were
4 staying in that camp, because he was only limited to the
12:57:01 5 headquarter. And mostly when he was staying with Tito and he
6 would be taken from Tito's place and be brought to Bazzy's place
7 when we needed him, so that was all. He came there at Bazzy's
8 place and then things were explained to him, then he said he will
9 go to Freetown and send it over air and he will give the news to
12:57:21 10 the world. Then that was what happened.

11 Q. Are you saying, Mr Witness, that because he was kept at the
12 headquarters that prevented him from knowing who else was at this
13 camp? Is that what you are suggesting to this Chamber?

14 A. Yes, my Lord, because he was limited. He would only move
12:57:47 15 from Tito's place where he was staying and then come to Bazzy,
16 who was the overall commander. You will always see soldiers
17 passing, roaming about all over the place, but he did not know
18 actually who and who were there. The only things he said when he
19 was supposed to have were the things we told him. The things we
12:58:07 20 told him were the things he was supposed to have said.

21 Q. Oh, is that your evidence now, that he only said the things
22 you told him? Is that your evidence, Mr Witness?

23 A. Yes, we told him to go and tell the international
24 community. I have said this earlier in my testimony. We said he
12:58:30 25 should go and inform the international community that we want our
26 leader to be released and he was held hostage in Kailahun and we
27 want the international community to ensure that he has been
28 released and then - those were the news items we gave to him and
29 when we heard him over the air he did not state these things that

1 I see here. He only went over the air and said very good things
2 about us, but all of these things he has established here were
3 not said over air.

4 Q. You understand, Mr Witness, that the top of the article
12:59:06 5 says:

6 "Reuters reporter Christo Johnson, who was among the
7 hostages captured by Sierra Leone rebels, talks of his ordeal
8 following his release"?

9 You understand he was making these comments after his
12:59:22 10 release, Mr Witness, yes?

11 A. Well according to the paper, yes. Just as I am sitting
12 here somebody can ask me about the Special Court and I can say
13 anything and that will be my own comment, but not what maybe
14 somebody told me to say. This must have been his own comments
12:59:44 15 that he made, but he was limited in the camp. He was just
16 limited between two areas.

17 Q. And is that why he did not know or professes not to have
18 known there were RUF members amongst your number?

19 A. He did not know anything about the camp. The only thing
13:00:05 20 was that he was held hostage. And when we discovered that he was
21 a journalist, when he told us, he said he wanted us to take him
22 to Bazzy so that he will be released so that he will go to town
23 and tell the international community the reason why we held the
24 people hostage. So that was all that he knew about the camp. He
13:00:28 25 only saw us roaming about the camp.

26 MR ANYAH: Madam Court Officer, could we turn to page 2 for
27 the public on the overhead:

28 Q. Mr Witness, let us read on to the next part of this
29 article. There was a question posed to Mr Johnson:

1 "What else did they have to say about the situation in
2 Sierra Leone?"

3 Answer: "One of the commanders said to us, 'Our problem is
4 that the RUF general, that is Sam Bockarie, has arrested our
13:00:59 5 leader, Lieutenant-Colonel Johnny Paul (Koroma), who was chairman
6 of the AFRC regime. He has been arrested and he has not been
7 allowed to move'.

8 All they wanted was for the government of President Tejan
9 Kabbah to use his influence to get (RUF leader) Corporal Foday
13:01:21 10 Sankoh and Charles Taylor to get Sam Bockarie to release Johnny
11 Paul immediately"?

12 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. This confirms that Johnny Paul Koroma had been arrested,
13:01:40 15 yes?

16 A. Well, we were not at the scene. Like I said, he was no
17 longer communicating, so as Bazzy said we have not been getting
18 communication from this man for a long time and if this man has -
19 if for a long time now we have not been communicating with him it
13:02:04 20 means he must be under arrest, so if he has not been calling us
21 all this while then he must be under arrest.

22 Q. At the time this was going on the members of your group
23 wanted President Kabbah and President Taylor to step in to solve
24 these problems, yes?

13:02:21 25 A. No, all what we had decided on was that we had said that if
26 we held this - if we arrested these UNOMSIL people who came and
27 we held them hostage, they will recognise us. Whosoever, the
28 government and the international community, they will recognise
29 us. And then we said if we arrested them and held them hostage,

1 that will show our concern to the international body.

2 Q. This article is dated 6 August 1999 and we have seen
3 articles whereby as of October President Taylor had gathered all
4 of these warring factions together, specifically Koroma and

13:03:06 5 Sankoh. You recall that, Mr Witness?

6 A. Yes, according to the paper. He had direct influence and
7 he was the only person they knew would be able to do that.

8 Q. He was the person who sent that helicopter to pick Johnny
9 Paul Koroma and take him to Monrovia, right?

13:03:29 10 A. Yes, according to Johnny Paul, according to what he told us
11 on the radio set.

12 Q. And then we go down on the same page to the next question:
13 "How would you describe the mood of these abductors? Are
14 they desperate men?"

13:03:49 15 And then the answer comes:

16 "They are very, very desperate. They want their man,
17 Johnny Paul, to be released because they are desperately in need
18 of peace. If Johnny Paul is not released, I think they want to
19 fight the RUF."

13:04:06 20 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

21 A. Yes, my Lord.

22 Q. Christ is painting a picture of how desperate you and your
23 fellow fighters were. Do you agree with the picture that is
24 painted by this article?

13:04:21 25 A. Well, I agree that we were desperate to see Johnny Paul.

26 Yes, we were desperate. Yes. We did say that we wanted to see
27 him, because they did not make mention of him and us in the Lome
28 Peace Accord and for a long time he has not been talking to us
29 and so we are desperate to see him.

1 Q. The article specifically is saying you were desperate for
2 peace. Do you agree with that proposition?

3 A. Yes, we also wanted peace. We needed peace because we had
4 now realised that if Johnny Paul was not included in the Lome
13:05:11 5 Peace Accord then we will be out, so we were also supposed to be
6 part of the Lome Accord because we were now a force to reckon
7 with.

8 Q. And when you went to Liberia to meet President Taylor you
9 were going in search of solutions to facilitate peace, right?

13:05:27 10 A. Well this question that you are asking me, what I know we
11 arrested people, but Johnny Paul did not tell us that,
12 "Charles Taylor, we want peace". We did not tell him, "We need
13 peace", or, "We need peace". Johnny Paul told us that, "You
14 should now move with your delegation. You go to Freetown and
13:05:57 15 then you meet me in Liberia."

16 Q. Do you see the last part of the paragraph I just read? It
17 says, "If Johnny Paul is not released, I think they want to fight
18 the RUF." Do you see that, Mr Witness?

19 A. Yes, my Lord.

13:06:12 20 Q. This is the same RUF you said had members amongst your
21 number at the same time Christo was held hostage, yes?

22 A. Go back to the question, please.

23 Q. You have told this Court that amongst your group were RUF
24 members when Christo Johnson was held hostage, yes?

13:06:45 25 A. Yes, my Lord.

26 Q. The same RUF members, or the same RUF organisation, that
27 you wanted to fight if Johnny Paul was not released, you had
28 their members amongst your number. Is that your evidence,
29 Mr Witness?

1 A. Yes. Yes, my Lord, they were with us.

2 Q. The same RUF members that you wanted to fight you tell us
3 were present at the house, or lodge, where Johnny Paul Koroma was
4 in Monrovia when you visited him about a month later. Do you

13:07:23 5 stand by that evidence, Mr Witness?

6 A. Yes, my Lord, they were there.

7 Q. I see.

8 A. I want to state this clear, that our determination when we
9 held that man was that they should release our leader. So we did

13:07:48 10 not have any difference with them at that moment, we were

11 together as one, but because we were not made mention of in the

12 Lome Peace Accord so we decided to arrest those people so that we

13 will make it a condition that if they don't release our leader we

14 will cause problem for the peace process in Sierra Leone.

13:08:12 15 MS ALAGENDRA: Your Honours, if I can just clarify

16 something. The answers the witness has been giving to these

17 questions seem to suggest that he is agreeing the RUF was there,

18 but the issue as to whether they wanted to fight the RUF has

19 still not been clarified.

13:08:35 20 MR ANYAH: I have asked the questions I need to ask for my

21 examination on this issue.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: There will be re-examination,

23 Ms Alagenda.

24 MR ANYAH: Madam President, if it please the Court, I would

13:08:47 25 ask for MFI numbers for the five articles I have put before the

26 Chamber.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah, perhaps in order to get them in
28 the right sequence I can rely on you to go through each one.

29 MR ANYAH: Yes, Madam President. The first one was a BBC

1 article, dated 18 April 1999, and the title is "World Africa:
2 Rebel leader freed for talks."

3 MS MUZIGO-MORRISON: That would be MFI-27.

4 MR ANYAH: 27, is that it?

13:09:56 5 MS MUZIGO-MORRISON: 27.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: All right. That is a three page document
7 with the heading "BBC News" and a subheading "World Africa:
8 Rebel leader freed for talks", dated Sunday, 18 April. Is that
9 the correct one? Yes, that is MFI-27.

13:10:20 10 MR ANYAH: I thought it would be 26.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: So did I. I am just relying on Court
12 Management to keep the master record.

13 MS MUZIGO-MORRISON: Madam President, 26 is Port Loko.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, very well.

13:10:37 15 MR ANYAH: Thank you.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you for that. MFI-27.

17 MR ANYAH: The second one is also a BBC article, the date
18 is 6 August 1999. The title is "World: Africa, Sierra Leone,
19 Who are the kidnappers?"

13:11:04 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: That is a three page document headed "BBC
21 News", subheading "World: Africa, Sierra Leone, Who are the
22 kidnappers?" It becomes MFI-28.

23 MR ANYAH: The next one is a news archives from the website
24 sierra-leone.org and it relates to the dates 31 August 1999 and
13:11:34 25 30 August.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: This is a one page document headed
27 "Sierra Leone, News Archives, August 1999, Sierra Leone Web",
28 sub-dated 31 August 1999, it becomes MFI-29.

29 MR ANYAH: The next one is also a news archives article

1 with the date 30 September 1999 and it has two photographs, one
2 of - well, that was not introduced in evidence, but it's one of
3 Foday Sankoh and one of Johnny Paul Koroma.

13:12:36 4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. It's a one page document
5 headed, "Sierra Leone, News Archives, September 1999, Sierra
6 Leone Web, News Archives" with a sub-date of 30 September 1999
7 and that becomes MFI-30.

8 MR ANYAH: I think there are two more. The next one is an
9 article from the BBC from 1 October 1999.

13:13:09 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: This is a three page document headed,
11 "BBC News" with a subheading, "World: Africa, Sierra Leone Rebel
12 Leader delays return" with the date of Friday, 1 October 1999.
13 That becomes MFI-31.

14 MR ANYAH: I misspoke, I said five, but I think there are
13:13:32 15 six. The sixth and last one is what I have just been through
16 referring to Christo Johnson. The title is "Sierra Leone hostage
17 tells of ordeal." It is dated 6 August 1999.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. That is a three page document
19 headed, "BBC News" with a subheading, "World: Africa, Sierra
13:13:52 20 Leone Hostage tells of ordeal" and the date Friday, 6 August
21 1999. It becomes MFI-32.

22 MR ANYAH: Thank you, Madam President:

23 Q. Mr Witness, while we are on the topic of Johnny Paul Koroma
24 you will agree with me that Johnny Paul Koroma and Foday Sankoh
13:14:28 25 returned from Monrovia to Freetown on 2 October 1999. Does that
26 sound right to you, Mr Witness?

27 A. Well, I can't recall the particular month or the date, but
28 I do recall that it was some weeks after we had left Liberia and
29 returned to Sierra Leone that Johnny Paul Koroma and Foday Sankoh

1 came.

2 Q. And they came together, yes?

3 A. Yes, my Lord.

4 Q. And they came together from Liberia, yes?

13:15:16 5 A. Yes, my Lord.

6 Q. In respect of Johnny Paul Koroma, Mr Witness, you have told
7 the Office of the Prosecutor that you are not aware and you have
8 no knowledge about any diamond transaction - rather, about
9 diamond transaction between Charles Taylor and Johnny Paul Koroma
10 for arms and ammunition. Would you agree that you have told the
11 Prosecution that?

12 A. Yes, I agree.

13 Q. Would you agree that at no time before after Lome from the
14 junta period all the way until disarmament --

13:16:11 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just pause Mr Anyah. The record shows
16 you to say, "At no time before after Lome." I am not quite sure
17 which.

18 MR ANYAH: Okay, yes, I will correct it:

19 Q. Mr Witness, between the junta period, 25 May 1997 and the
13:16:30 20 time you met Johnny Paul Koroma in Monrovia, at no time during
21 that period did he go to Liberia. Do you agree with that?

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: The junta period, you say 25 May 1999.
23 Do you mean '97?

24 MR ANYAH: I thought I said 1997. I will have to rephrase
13:16:53 25 the question.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: In fact, you are right, I have a note
27 that you said '97. Please ensure that the transcript is
28 corrected.

29 MR ANYAH:

1 Q. Mr Witness, here is the proposition: From when the junta
2 took power in Freetown on 25 May 1997 up until August 1999 when
3 you met Johnny Paul Koroma in Monrovia, at no time did Koroma go
4 to Monrovia. Do you agree with that?

13:17:22 5 A. Well, I disagree because I was only limited to the time
6 when we left Freetown. That was the intervention time. And he
7 left us in Kono and then he went to Kailahun. So since then
8 I did not know anything about his movements when he was in
9 Kailahun. I can only tell you about the moment we were in
13:17:49 10 Freetown when we left Freetown up to the time we went to Kono,
11 Gandorhun and then he left us and went.

12 Q. So there are periods of time when you cannot account for
13 Johnny Paul Koroma's whereabouts?

14 A. Well, yes, because when we left Kono and he left and it was
13:18:18 15 only when we were at West Side now that we said that for a long
16 time now the man has not been talking to us, so we decided to
17 kidnap those hostages.

18 Q. I am looking at the answer you gave, the first sentence
19 where you say, "Well, I disagree because I was only limited to
13:18:37 20 the time when we left Freetown." What did you mean by that,
21 Mr Witness?

22 A. Well, what I mean is that when we left Freetown, up to the
23 time we escorted Johnny Paul to Gandorhun when he left, I know
24 about that time. But after which when he left us there and went
13:19:00 25 to Kailahun I don't have any idea about his movement within that
26 area.

27 Q. Was Johnny Paul Koroma made a part of the new government
28 post-Lome, after he returned to Freetown from Monrovia?

29 A. Well, he did not become a member in the new government, but

1 he had an appointment that was given to him and he was the CCP
2 chairman.

3 Q. Precisely. And that's what he wanted when he was in
4 Monrovia, right?

13:19:46 5 A. Well, when we went to Monrovia he said that that was the
6 only space that he saw where he was - where he would occupy so
7 that he can be able to assist in bringing peace. He said it was
8 the CCP office that was vacant.

9 Q. But you remember --

13:20:12 10 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Could we have the full description of
11 that acronym, please?

12 MR ANYAH: Yes, the witness told us yesterday that it stood
13 for chairman for Consolidation of Peace.

14 THE WITNESS: It's CCP, chairman Consolidation For Peace.
13:20:36 15 Chairman for the Consolidation of Peace, CCP.

16 MR ANYAH: When I said chairman for consolidation I forgot
17 the "the", but fair enough, it's his evidence.

18 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: But I thought the witness said he was the
19 CCP chairman. Is the CCP not the council for the Consolidation
13:20:55 20 of Peace, or committee, or something?

21 MR ANYAH: I can clarify:

22 Q. Mr Witness, what is the CCP? Please tell us first what the
23 acronym means, CCP?

24 A. Chairman for the Consolidation of Peace. So we just used
13:21:12 25 to call him chairman, CCP chairman. That was how people used to
26 call him in short, CCP chairman.

27 Q. Was the CCP an arm of the new government, an arm or unit, a
28 component of the new government?

29 A. The only thing I knew was that it was when the issue of the

1 peace process came up that they formed this office to coordinate
2 the peace process. I don't know whether it had any direct
3 business with the government or influence with the government.

13:21:56 4 Q. But the new government came in and formed an office that
5 had something to do with CCP, right?

6 A. Yes, to coordinate the peace activities in the country with
7 the various factions that were fighting.

8 Q. And this is what Johnny Paul wanted when you met with him
9 in Monrovia, right?

13:22:23 10 A. Like I said, he told us that there was no other office that
11 was vacant at that moment. He said it was only the CCP office
12 that was vacant and it was that office that he had seen as a
13 place where he can occupy, because he said he has seen that
14 appointments - all other appointments have been given to people,
13:22:50 15 to other people, but he said the CCP office was free. So for the
16 sake of peace he said he was ready to accept that office. So he
17 was made the chairman for the Consolidation of Peace in Sierra
18 Leone.

19 Q. You remember I read you some of your responses that were
13:23:06 20 recorded by the Office of the Prosecutor when you met on 7
21 November 2003 and there is a part where you said you signed
22 something. It reads: "We left the mansion, went back to the
23 hotel and Johnny Paul Koroma went to his own base." For
24 counsel's purposes I am reading from tab 4, page 35, ERN number
13:23:31 25 00100401, but I will be brief.

26 "After that Johnny Paul Koroma brought another paper to us
27 which stated that President Kabbah has agreed to reinstate the
28 army and that the office of the CCP has been given to him. We
29 all signed."

1 You recall that, Mr Witness? We went through this.

2 A. Yes, it happened.

3 Q. And I am putting it to you that Charles Taylor, President
4 of Liberia, facilitated the acquisition of this position for

13:24:13 5 Johnny Paul Koroma. Do you agree?

6 A. My Lord, I disagree.

7 Q. I am putting it to you that Charles Taylor, President of
8 Liberia, facilitated the reinstatement into the army of Johnny
9 Paul Koroma and others. Do you agree?

13:24:42 10 A. I disagree. Johnny Paul was not reinstated. We were
11 reinstated. Johnny Paul was retired. We were reinstated. It
12 was not Charles Taylor who facilitated that. It was our action.
13 It was our action as a result of which Charles Taylor mediated
14 that we should go to Liberia and then we discussed then. That
13:25:12 15 happened.

16 Q. Well, just to be clear on the last point, yes, I concede
17 that you say Johnny Paul retired, that's what you say, but with
18 respect to the rest of it I am putting it to you that
19 Charles Taylor facilitated your reintegration and reinstatement
13:25:32 20 into the Sierra Leone Army. Do you agree, Mr Witness?

21 A. I disagree.

22 Q. How is it that two of the main demands your group had, a
23 role for Johnny Paul Koroma in the new government and the
24 reinstatement of SLA members into the army, were accomplished
13:25:55 25 while you were in Monrovia. Can you explain that?

26 A. Well, if we had not arrested the UNOMSIL we would have
27 continued our life like that. They would have disarmed us. It
28 was because we arrested the UNOMSIL and we demanded for Johnny
29 Paul Koroma. That was how he came in to be able to negotiate

1 this thing, because they had now - he himself saw that, "This has
2 now reached a point that it was going to be difficult if I just
3 sat by and did not put involvement into it", so that was why he
4 decided that he was going to Liberia and then when he gets to
13:26:36 5 Liberia he will facilitate for our own movement also to Liberia
6 so that they will let the government see reason and then
7 cooperate with us.

8 Q. Is your evidence to the Court that the reasons your demands
9 were met was because you had hostages?

13:27:00 10 A. Yes, my Lord. If we had not held those people hostage,
11 they would not have taken us seriously. They would not have
12 known anything about us. They will all just say, "The Lome
13 Accord said we were all RUF. We were all combatants", but we
14 also said, "No, no, no, we are not going to accept that. They
13:27:19 15 should recognise the SLA". If we had not taken that action they
16 would not have recognised us, Johnny Paul himself wouldn't have
17 gone to Liberia and we ourselves wouldn't have gone to Liberia to
18 meet with Charles Taylor.

19 Q. But the fact remains, does it not, that Liberia, Monrovia
13:27:37 20 specifically and specifically President Charles Taylor, was the
21 site or the location where there was a meeting of the minds and
22 there was agreement to reinstate you and others into the army?
23 Did you understand what I said, Mr Witness?

24 A. No, my Lord, I did not get anything from the interpreter.

13:28:06 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Interpreter, are you in position?

26 MR ANYAH: I did not hear an interpretation.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: No. Is there a Krio interpreter in
28 position?

29 THE WITNESS: It is okay.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah, we are --

2 THE INTERPRETER: There is a Krio interpreter, but I learned
3 counsel was going fast. I think he was talking to him from the
4 booth, but the microphone does not go from the floor.

13:28:50 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: I understand, thank you. Mr Anyah, two
6 matters. It would appear your question wasn't put because you
7 were speaking too quickly and, secondly, we are coming close to
8 the lunch break. So, please put your question again and we will
9 look at the time when we hear the answer.

13:29:03 10 MR ANYAH: Yes, Madam President:

11 Q. Mr Witness, can you hear me through the interpreter?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. My question is this. Do you agree that Monrovia and
14 President Charles Taylor were the central location, the focus,
15 for the meeting of the minds for peace between the RUF and the
16 AFRC - that is question one - around this time, post-Lome?

17 A. Well, that only happened when we had done the abductions.
18 That was the reason why it happened.

19 Q. Do you agree that it was in the city of Monrovia and at the
13:30:14 20 behest of Charles Taylor that all of your requests, requests to
21 be reinstated into the army and to give Johnny Paul Koroma the
22 position of CCP, were accomplished and achieved?

23 A. Yes, because of the abduction that we did. That was the
24 reason why they asked us to go - they invited us to go - and so
13:30:41 25 that we will pass our intentions over to them and then they will
26 do what we want.

27 Q. Now, one last question. Is your evidence that
28 Charles Taylor played no role in securing this position of CCP
29 for Johnny Paul Koroma and in facilitating the reinstatement of

1 you and others into the Sierra Leone Army?

2 A. It is not to my knowledge.

3 MR ANYAH: Thank you, Madam President.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: It is now our usual time for adjourning
13:31:15 5 for the lunch break, but as this is Friday we attend to other
6 matters and other meetings on Friday afternoon. Therefore, we
7 will be resuming court on Monday at 9.30, Mr Witness. You may
8 recall this from last week. I again remind you, Mr Witness, as
9 I have done on other occasions, that since you have taken the
13:31:35 10 solemn declaration you are not to discuss your evidence with
11 anyone else. You understand?

12 THE WITNESS: Yes, my Lord.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. Please adjourn court until
14 Monday at 9.30.

13:31:47 15 [Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 1.30 p.m.
16 to be reconvened on Monday, 28 April 2008 at
17 9.30 a.m.]

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I N D E X

WITNESSES FOR THE PROSECUTION:

TF1-334	8557
CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR ANYAH	8557