



Case No. SCSL-2003-01-T

THE PROSECUTOR OF
THE SPECIAL COURT
V.
CHARLES GHANKAY TAYLOR

THURSDAY, 15 MAY 2008
9.30 A.M.
TRIAL

TRIAL CHAMBER II

Before the Judges:

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

For Chambers:

Mr William Romans
Ms Carolyn Buff

For the Registry:

Ms Rosette Muzigo-Morrison
Ms Rachel Irura

For the Prosecution:

Mr Stephen Rapp
Ms Brenda J Hollis
Ms Maja Dimitrova

For the accused Charles Ghankay
Taylor:

Mr Courtenay Griffiths QC
Mr Terry Munyard
Mr Morris Anyah

1 Thursday, 15 May 2008

2 [Open session]

3 [The accused present]

4 [Upon commencing at 9.30 a.m.]

09:32:32 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good morning. Appearances are as before,
6 I think, Mr Rapp.

7 MR RAPP: That is correct, your Honour.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: And, Mr Griffiths, I think on your Bar
9 also.

09:32:46 10 MR GRIFFITHS: Good morning, your Honours, counsel
11 opposite. Representation is the same as it was yesterday:
12 Myself, Courtney Griffiths, my learned friend Mr Munyard and
13 Mr Anyah and Ms Logan Hambri ck.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. If there are no other matters
09:33:01 15 I will remind the witness of his oath.

16 Mr Witness, good morning. I must remind you that yesterday
17 you took the oath to tell the truth. The oath is still binding
18 on you and you are to answer questions truthfully.

19 THE WITNESS: Your Honours.

09:33:21 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: I would also request that because
21 everything you say is typed as you speak if you could speak a
22 little slowly so the interpreters and the transcribers can take
23 it and into the microphone, please.

24 THE WITNESS: Yes, your Honours.

09:33:36 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please proceed.

26 MR RAPP: Madam President, your Honours

27 WITNESS: MOSES ZEH BLAH [On former oath]

28 EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR RAPP [Continued]:

29 Q. Good morning, witness.

1 A. Yes, good morning, sir.

2 Q. I will go back to where we were yesterday. We were, I
3 think, on that flight from Burkina Faso to Liberia and there was
4 mention of a sheep that you had obtained. Why had you obtained a
09:34:00 5 sheep?

6 A. Because it was cheaper and it was a different kind of
7 animal to be carried to Liberia. We did not have that type in
8 Liberia.

9 Q. What gender, what sex was the sheep?

09:34:17 10 A. Well, it was a ram, a ram.

11 Q. Why did you need a sheep?

12 A. Well, I had a farm in my village and I rear animals there
13 like cows, goats and sheep, so I wanted that kind of sheep to be
14 carried there.

09:34:36 15 Q. During the time you were ambassador during Taylor's
16 presidency did you continue with your farm during that period?

17 A. Yes, my farm is still there as I speak.

18 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Rapp, you are going too fast. If you
19 look at the record you are overlapping. Just give it a little
09:34:54 20 break before the witness finishes his answer.

21 MR RAPP:

22 Q. Witness, I was asking what do you do with the farm now?

23 A. My farm is now in operation and there are people working on
24 the farm.

09:35:12 25 Q. Do you do anything with the farm?

26 A. Yes, my farm is there and I work on the farm. I'm raising
27 the animals. I have cows and they are grown and sometimes they
28 are sold and sometimes they are killed and then I eat myself.

29 Q. Now, on this trip in Burkina Faso, yesterday you told us

1 what President Compaore of Burkina Faso had told you and Mr Tuah.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What did you say to President Compaore?

09:36:00

4 A. No, it was just a message that I took and I had to come
5 back to Mr Taylor with a response. That's all. I had nothing to
6 say, but to take message and to return the message to the sender.

7 Q. Well, message, did you express that message orally to
8 President Compaore?

9 A. Yes, it was done orally.

09:36:17

10 Q. And I just want to be clear, what was the message?

11 A. The message that he had not forgotten as a friend, that it
12 had taken long that he has not been talking to him, but that he
13 still had him in his mind and that things have been difficult
14 with him himself and that he was having difficulties, people were
15 planning to attack his government from different angles, and that
16 he should still remember him as a friend.

09:36:43

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: There are a couple of "he"s in there and
18 I'd like to be sure who is who.

09:36:59

19 MR RAPP: Thank you very much, your Honour. We will have
20 several questions later on yesterday's record regarding some
21 "he"s:

22 Q. So in this particular answer - perhaps just give it again
23 and use, instead of "he", the name of the individual who
24 expressed these views.

09:37:11

25 A. Mr Taylor had Mr Blaise Compaore still in mind as a friend.

26 Q. And what was President Compaore's response?

27 A. He said - Mr Compaore said that he is not happy with the
28 way the friendship had been going and that he had been risking
29 his life for him, that is Mr Taylor, but that he was not hearing

1 from Mr Taylor any longer and that he was no longer happy about
2 the relationship.

3 Q. Well, when President Compaore said he had been risking his
4 life for Mr Taylor, what did you think he was talking about?

09:38:03 5 A. What I saw and from my own analysis is that he had been
6 helping, he had been sending things, he had been shipping
7 consignments and the news from Gaddafi that he should still send
8 Gaddafi consignments that he, Gaddafi, would replace later.
9 Those were the things I think Blaise was referring to.

09:38:29 10 Q. And when you refer to consignments, what did those
11 consignments consist of to your knowledge?

12 A. The previous consignment that I had made mention about, the
13 arms and ammunition.

14 Q. Now, you told us yesterday that you and Mr Tuah then met
09:38:50 15 Mr Musa Cisse and Ms Grace Minor in Ouagadougou. Did you know
16 that they would be there when you went to Ouagadougou?

17 A. No, sir, I did not know they were there.

18 Q. Did Mr Cisse say anything about both of you being in
19 Ouagadougou at the same time and what that indicated to him?

09:39:22 20 A. No, he only told me briefly. He did not tell me his
21 mission. He only told me that Mr Taylor was running things with
22 a Russian government and that he will send you and later send
23 someone after you.

24 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, the witness is going too
09:39:45 25 fast.

26 MR RAPP:

27 Q. Witness, you may have heard the interpreter that he said
28 you were going too fast. You were telling us about what Mr Cisse
29 had said to you. Would you repeat that slowly?

1 A. Mr Cisse told me in a joke that Mr Taylor was running a
2 Russian government; that is he will send you and send someone
3 after you and you would not know the mission that person was on.
4 So he said that was the kind of government that Mr Taylor was
09:40:20 5 running, so we made a joke and we all laughed over it.

6 Q. Well, what was - what did you think about the joke?

7 A. The joke was just that there were too many people sent on
8 one mission and you didn't know what the other side was after and
9 the other side also did not know what you were after.

09:40:50 10 Q. Well, why did you think Mr Taylor was engaging in this kind
11 of practice?

12 A. I wouldn't know.

13 Q. You had described being on the plane and seeing the cargo
14 and the size of the cargo and the markings on it. Let me ask you
09:41:14 15 about what happened to the cargo when you reached Monrovia?

16 A. The cargo was unloaded at the Roberts international airport
17 and upon arrival, alighting from the plane to come down, there
18 were some trucks, about three or four in the column, and they
19 were waiting to receive the cargos.

09:41:43 20 Q. And what kind of trucks were they?

21 A. Long trucks that we usually use in Liberia to tote cargos
22 and other commodities.

23 Q. Who did the offloading of the arms?

24 A. We saw men on the ground that I wouldn't know, but they
09:42:09 25 were soldiers of our NPFL group. They were already there in
26 position to offload the arms and it was done very fast.

27 Q. And at the time of this particular shipment was there any
28 kind of international presence at the airport, ECOMOG, or UN, or
29 anything like that?

1 A. Not at that moment. At that moment, no, I did not see any.

2 Q. Now, you were on the plane and you mentioned these three
3 other Liberians that had been in Ouagadougou. Did they also
4 travel on the plane with you?

09:42:45 5 A. No, they did not come on the plane. To be specific Grace
6 Minor did not come, he [sic] was afraid and he [sic] was there on
7 different mission according to her. She did not come with me,
8 but I remember seeing Musa Cisse on the plane.

9 Q. And was Mr Tuah on the plane?

09:43:08 10 A. Mr Who?

11 Q. Tuah?

12 A. Yes, Joe and I were on the plane. Joe and I were on the
13 plane, because we went together.

14 Q. Did Ms Minor indicate to you why she was afraid?

09:43:21 15 A. No, she did not. She simply said she was not coming on the
16 plane.

17 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Is it possible to have a time frame for
18 this, please?

19 MR RAPP:

09:43:38 20 Q. Witness, yesterday you told us this happened when you were
21 ambassador and you were ambassador for three years. Do you have
22 any time what time or what year during that ambassadorship this
23 particular shipment occurred?

24 A. I became ambassador of Libya and, like I said earlier,
09:44:03 25 during the cold season I was always in Liberia and so I did not
26 have much time in Burkina - I mean Libya. I was in Monrovia on a
27 break when I was ordered to bring this message over to Blaise
28 Compaore, but I cannot recall the date, please.

29 Q. Just to be clear, when you were ambassador in Libya and

1 Tunisia what months did you generally spend in Liberia?

2 A. I was there during winter and when there was raining season
3 in Liberia I would be there. That is from June, July, August, I
4 was always in Liberia. August is a raining month in Liberia,
09:44:49 5 terrible raining. Immediately after August I tried to go back to
6 duty.

7 Q. But you also referred to winter, when it's cold, and when
8 it was cold in Libya and Tunisia where were you?

9 A. I was in Liberia. I was back in Liberia when it was cold.
09:45:09 10 And when it was cold in Libya at that time it must be raining in
11 Liberia, so I had to go home. As soon as the rainy season
12 stopped, I would go back to Libya.

13 Q. Now, in the months of winter in the northern hemisphere
14 where were you; in other words, in December and January and
09:45:36 15 February?

16 A. I was always in Libya. When it was January, February, I
17 come to Liberia - I mean Libya, in Libya, but I can't recall the
18 winter in Libya. I was always home when it was cold. That I can
19 remember.

09:46:02 20 Q. Do you know where the weapons went from the airport?

21 A. It was offloaded and usually I wouldn't be there when it
22 was offloaded, but I know as member of NPFL I knew where the
23 weapons went when they were offloaded.

24 Q. And where did they go?

09:46:23 25 A. Well I was not at the scene, but usually when weapons were
26 received and when I was at the airport, I would be at White
27 Flower, it goes straight to Mr Taylor's house and at the back of
28 his house there was a place underground where the weapons were
29 kept all the time.

1 Q. And just to explain, what was White Flower?

2 A. White Flower was the code name for the residence of
3 President Taylor.

4 Q. Was that the same as the Executive Mansion?

09:46:55 5 A. No, the Executive Mansion was the seat of government. I am
6 talking about his private residence.

7 Q. And was there just one White Flower, or were there more
8 than one White Flower?

9 A. One White Flower at the time. When he was at the old
09:47:17 10 building and when he left and went to his new house it was also
11 called White Flower. Wheresoever he stayed, whether it was in
12 Gbarnga and anywhere else, anywhere he stayed it was called White
13 Flower. That was the code name of his residence.

14 Q. Well, in Monrovia had there been more than - during the
09:47:40 15 time of his presidency, was there more than one White Flower? I
16 mean, was there a first White Flower and then a second White
17 Flower?

18 A. Yes, when he was in the old house where the Chinese
19 embassy's ambassador is right now that is the house where he
09:47:59 20 lived, and when he built his new house he moved to upper Congo
21 Town. There also was called White Flower.

22 Q. And this second White Flower in Monrovia that was in upper
23 Congo Town, what street was it on?

24 A. The streets are long. The road there is called Tubman
09:48:23 25 Boulevard. That is in Congo Town.

26 Q. And when you talk about the White Flower where there was a
27 hole in back for the weapons, which location are you talking
28 about?

29 A. It was at the back of this building and there was an

1 underground - a very large place, but it was underground in the
2 building and so when the weapons were received there was a
3 storage there, or any war like material. Not at that particular
4 position and at that time, but at any time weapons were received
09:48:59 5 they were stored there. That was where we went to receive them.

6 Q. Now at the time of this particular shipment was Taylor in
7 the new White Flower, the one in upper Congo Town?

8 A. Yes, yes, he was there. He was living there at that time.

9 Q. Do you know where these particular weapons that came in
09:49:24 10 with you that night went from White Flower?

11 A. No, I wouldn't know because there were various units and
12 the distributions went on. The units would take theirs to where
13 they were.

14 Q. Now did you know of any shipments of arms, or were you -
09:49:49 15 did you have any knowledge of shipments of arms from Liberia to
16 Sierra Leone?

17 A. No, I wouldn't know.

18 Q. Now in terms of the security situation that existed at the
19 time these weapons were brought in, do you have any recollection
09:50:08 20 of what the security situation was in Liberia at the time of the
21 shipment that you accompanied?

22 A. Things were getting tense and there were rumours of war.
23 There was ULIMO coming from Guinea - from Guinea and the
24 situation was tense anyway. Everywhere there were rumours of war
09:50:32 25 and at that time the war had not reached Monrovia.

26 Q. You mentioned ULIMO. Were there any other forces, forces
27 by any other name, that you had heard were active at that time?

28 A. Yes, there was ULIMO-J and ULIMO-K at that time.

29 Q. Any other groups?

1 A. No, at that particular time there was ULIMO-K, ULIMO-J and
2 Lofa Defence Forces. Those are the ones I know, and NPFL also.

3 Q. But in terms of those that were threatening the Taylor
4 government, which groups?

09:51:16 5 A. There was ULIMO-K and ULIMO-J that were threatening the
6 government.

7 Q. Do you know how this shipment that you came in with was
8 paid for?

9 A. No, I wouldn't know.

09:51:33 10 Q. Do you know how other shipments were paid for?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Now during the time of - during this particular time when
13 you were ambassador, or during the first year or two when you
14 were Vice-President, did you know of any other shipments coming
09:51:57 15 into the airport of arms?

16 A. Yes, I knew about a particular situation when I was
17 Vice-President lately. That was when a huge sum of consignment
18 came, and at that time President Taylor had left Liberia and the
19 war was closing in on Liberia and Monrovia and he went - he
09:52:27 20 disappeared. People thought he had run away. Then suddenly he
21 appeared that night, and in the morning there was a noise
22 everywhere that a plane landed with large consignment of weapons
23 and it had been seized by the UNMIL forces at that time at the
24 Robert international airport.

09:52:53 25 Q. Okay. Just to be clear, because I asked you about the
26 first years as Vice-President, that particular shipment that you
27 just discussed, during the period of time that you were
28 Vice-President was that toward the beginning or toward the end?

29 A. It was the end - at the end of my vice-presidency.

1 Q. Any in the early part of your vice-presidency that you had
2 any personal knowledge about?

3 A. Yes, but at that time when I was ambassador it was a little
4 bit different. I was closer to any operation that had to do with
09:53:30 5 arms, but when I became Vice-President I was in my office as
6 President of the Liberian Senate and I wouldn't know all the
7 shipment of arms, or arms moving from point to point, as a result
8 of my position at that time.

9 Q. Well, was there ever an arms shipment that came in that
09:53:50 10 might have crashed that you investigated?

11 A. Well, I did not investigate it, but there was a shipment
12 that came in and when it came closer to Roberts international
13 airport we drove in there and we saw the crash, we saw a rescue
14 mission, but that morning we did not identify from where the
09:54:13 15 crash took place and I was leaving my house from Paynesville, off
16 Monrovia, I was out of town, and I saw people yelling everywhere
17 that there was a crash that took place. I took my personal car
18 and when I went there I did not go to investigate to see what was
19 going on.

09:54:33 20 Q. Did you find out anything about what was on that plane that
21 crashed?

22 A. Well, before we approached the area where the crash took
23 place there was a lot of explosions everywhere, boom, boom, boom,
24 so we were advised by the airport securities that it was
09:54:58 25 dangerous at that moment for any authority to go there. So we
26 parked far away from where the explosion was taking place and
27 later when the explosion subsided I drove towards the main
28 airport and I saw two white men bodily carried by security men
29 into the ambulance and taken to the hospital. I tried to stop

1 the vehicle and before they opened the man [indiscernible] I saw
2 the man having - the two of the men having Ukrainian passports.
3 I think one died in fact. I saw the passport and I inspected it
4 and I saw that it was a Ukrainian passport with the man, the one
09:55:43 5 that got wounded.

6 Q. Now, these two shipments that came into Roberts airport,
7 the one that crashed and the one that - well, I guess three
8 shipments, the one that you accompanied and then the one at the
9 very end of your vice-presidency. Was any other airport, to your
09:55:59 10 knowledge, used to receive shipments?

11 A. No, I wouldn't know.

12 Q. Now, during the period of time before the NPFL was in
13 Monrovia, or in the area of the airport at Roberts international,
14 were arms brought in by air to Liberia?

09:56:25 15 A. I wouldn't know. It was based on rumours, but as high
16 officials of government sometimes we heard from our securities
17 that there was a load landing last night, but those I did not
18 follow up because I was not a soldier. I was an ambassador at
19 that time - I was vice-president at that time, so sometimes when
09:56:52 20 those sort of news came around I did not follow up, because I was
21 not instructed to do so.

22 Q. Well, let me just go back for a moment and I know we
23 covered some of this yesterday, but before the Taylor presidency
24 and before you were ambassador, when the NPFL controlled, as you
09:57:11 25 said, 90 per cent of Liberia --

26 A. Yes, sir.

27 Q. -- did shipments come in by air to the NPFL forces?

28 A. No, not that I know of.

29 Q. Now let's go back to talk about individuals involved in the

1 Taylor government and you've given us a couple of names in regard
2 to this mission, or at least two missions in Burkina. Musa
3 Cisse, what was his role in Taylor's government?

09:57:50 4 A. Musa Cisse was the chief of protocol at the Executive
5 Mansion.

6 Q. And what were his responsibilities?

7 A. Musa Cisse's responsibilities at the mansion, according to
8 law, were to receive guests, to inform the President who was
9 coming and who was going out, and sometimes he was sent out of
10 the country on missions by the President. I wouldn't know what
11 type of missions they were.

12 Q. And you talked about his formal role. Did he have any
13 informal role?

14 A. Musa Cisse was a friend of the President. The first time I
09:58:41 15 met Musa Cisse, before he became protocol chief he was Taylor's
16 friend and we met in Ouagadougou and they were friends until
17 Taylor became President and then he became chief of protocol of
18 the Executive Mansion.

19 Q. And what ethnic group did he belong to?

09:59:01 20 A. He was Mandingo by tribe. Mandingo. There is a tribe in
21 Liberia called Mandingo.

22 Q. And what was the general position of a Mandingo regarding
23 Taylor, other Mandingo other than Mr Cisse?

24 A. Mandingos were bitter enemies to Taylor because the ULIMO-K
09:59:26 25 that I have just made mention of was a Mandingo group and they
26 were bitterly against the Taylor forces and they were always in a
27 crash, except for Musa Cisse.

28 Q. Now, you mentioned Grace Minor. What was her role in the
29 Taylor government?

1 A. Grace Minor was called the friend of the President and she
2 was always proud to be called the friend of the President and
3 then later she became senior senator for Montserrado County until
4 Taylor left.

10:00:10 5 Q. You mentioned the name of a county. You said Montserrado
6 County.

7 A. Montserrado County, that is the seat of government. That
8 is where Monrovia is located, within Montserrado County.

9 MR RAPP: I believe that's on the maps, your Honour. If
10:00:29 10 it's not we'll provide the spelling in due course here:

11 Q. You mentioned her role as senator. What kind of
12 assignments did Taylor give her as his friend?

13 A. Well, he became senator. He was elected senator by the
14 people of Montserrado County and he became senior senator of that
10:00:59 15 county. We had two senators in each county and she was one of
16 the senators for Montserrado County.

17 Q. That was a constitutional role as senator. Did she do
18 things specifically for Taylor?

19 A. Well, she was close to the President as a friend of the
10:01:16 20 President. She was not just a friend by mouth, she was with the
21 President. Whatever the President wanted to do, she was going to
22 do it as a friend of the President, besides her job. Her job was
23 very official, but unofficially she was always with the
24 President, talking, discussing together.

10:01:37 25 Q. Other than this time that you met her in Ouagadougou in
26 Burkina Faso, did you have any contact with her?

27 A. Yes, I met her in a location when I was ambassador, when I
28 was on an occasion to Libya, and the morning to take me was not
29 ready by the government and that President Taylor said, "As you

1 are going on your way to Libya you should stop by in Abidjan and
2 then go to where Grace Minor is", and she directed me to her and
3 then I went there. I saw Grace Minor and Grace Minor gave me to
4 3,000 US dollars to help me with my per diem, my transportation
10:02:29 5 and what took me to Libya at that time and she did give me the
6 money. Grace Minor gave me the money.

7 MR RAPP: Your Honours, in case we don't have it, the
8 Montserrado spelling is M-O-N-T-S-E-R-R-A-D-O.

9 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: This other place, on his way to
10 something. There was a place that the witness was going to. He
11 said, "You should stop on your way to ...", a place, "... and
12 then meet Grace Minor". There was a place the witness named that
13 was not recorded.

14 MR RAPP:

10:03:03 15 Q. Witness, you have heard her Honour. What place were you
16 going to?

17 A. I was on my way to Libya, Libya, and I was instructed to
18 stop by Grace Minor in Abidjan to help with my transportation,
19 per diem and when I received it I received 3,000 United States
10:03:30 20 dollars from Grace Minor.

21 Q. Were there any other women that were close to Taylor that
22 also handled those kind of finances?

23 A. Then there was Kaddi eyatu Finlay who was a special
24 assistant to the President.

10:03:51 25 Q. Is that spelt K-A-D-D-I-E-Y-A-T-U?

26 A. Yes, yes.

27 Q. Is the last name an English name, Finlay, F-I-N-L-A-Y?

28 A. Yes, Finlay.

29 Q. Were there any other women that had positions close to

1 Taylor?

2 A. No, those two women that I have just mentioned were very
3 close to Taylor, except for those who were in various offices
4 whom I wouldn't know about, because he was the President.

10:04:35 5 Q. Are you familiar with a woman by the name of Martina
6 Johnson?

7 A. Yes, Martina Johnson was on the military side. She was the
8 commander of the artillery unit. That was where I knew her to
9 be. She was fighting during the war. She was with the NPFL and
10:04:58 10 commander of the artillery unit and she was heading the missiles
11 group. That is what I know about her.

12 Q. And that was during the war.

13 A. Yes, during the war.

14 Q. Do you know what she did after the war?

10:05:15 15 A. After the war, yes, there was a slip of mine. After the
16 war she became - she got a job at the airport at Roberts
17 international airport as one of the commanders, the security
18 commanders at the airport, at Roberts international airport.

19 Q. And did she remain in that position?

10:05:43 20 A. Yes, from there I did not see her any longer. I did not
21 know where she went to. She disappeared. I don't know where she
22 went to. I didn't check that.

23 Q. On the financial side, on the side of the government
24 finances, who did Taylor rely on in that area?

10:06:04 25 A. Well, the finance, when he was President and I was
26 Vice-President I only knew the finance minister at that time who
27 was responsible for finances, but besides that I don't know and
28 besides Kaddieyatu Finlay, who was in the office - like when we
29 were travelling she gave the per diem when, if I happened to have

1 a trip with the President, like to go to up country, sometimes
2 out of Liberia, if I was in Liberia and I needed to travel with
3 the President, or ordered to travel with the President, that was
4 the person we went to to get our per diem for each person and you
10:06:53 5 would sign against our name and you should sign against what
6 amounts you received.

7 Q. Per diem is P-E-R D-I-E-M, which is your daily allowance
8 that you received, correct?

9 A. Yes.

10:07:08 10 Q. You talked about the finance ministers for Taylor. Who was
11 his first finance minister, if you know?

12 A. The first finance minister was a Nimba County man. Sorry,
13 just give me a little bit of time. I will recall the name, but
14 it has been a very long time. I have forgotten some of these
10:07:29 15 things.

16 Q. Well, perhaps if I ask you what Taylor's relationship was
17 with him you will remember. What was his relationship with his
18 first finance minister?

19 A. The finance minister in question was a minister of
10:07:49 20 government and on one occasion he wanted - Mr Taylor wanted some
21 money to be disbursed to the Executive Mansion and he refused to
22 do that on the grounds that every money disbursed from the
23 finance ministry must be signed for and he became very tough on
24 that. I did not see him discussing it with him - discussed, but
10:08:15 25 he discussed that with me and he said, "When the President asked
26 me to give him some money and I refused and that he should sign
27 for this money and that whosoever was to receive money was to
28 sign for that money and it was only on that account that the
29 money will be disbursed", and after that he lost his job. I

1 didn't know what happened, but I saw him at one time and he told
2 me he was not working any longer.

3 Q. Now, I'm not sure whether we have the "he"s correct there.

4 A. The name - I am sorry, Nathaniel Barnes. That's the name.

10:08:59 5 Q. And do you know what he's doing now?

6 A. Nathaniel Barnes is in the United States as ambassador of
7 Liberia to the United States, so he got a job in the foreign
8 ministry.

9 Q. But when you said that "he made requests", who was the "he"
10:09:23 10 that requested money?

11 A. President Taylor at the time requested this money,
12 according to what he told me, Nathaniel Barnes - what he told me.

13 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Witness, could you face the judges and
14 speak into the microphone, please.

10:09:41 15 THE WITNESS: Okay, your Honour.

16 MR RAPP:

17 Q. And just to be clear, you mentioned Barnes or Taylor and I
18 just want to be sure that we know which he is he. I think it's
19 pretty clear, but just for the sake of the record here which has
10:09:55 20 to be clear with your testimony who - would you just recount what
21 you told us with the names of the individuals that were involved?

22 A. The name of this minister was Nathaniel Barnes, minister of
23 finance at the time.

24 Q. Now, do you know who succeeded Mr Barnes as finance
10:10:24 25 minister?

26 A. It was Minister Charles Brett. He succeeded Mr Nathaniel
27 Barnes.

28 Q. And the finance minister, how was the finance minister
29 appointed during Taylor's government?

1 A. All cabinet ministers were appointed by the President.
2 They are under the executive branch of government and only the
3 President could appoint a finance minister.

4 Q. Now yesterday you mentioned at one point the - I think it
10:11:03 5 is the LPRC, the Liberian Petroleum Refining Company. Do you
6 know who headed that during Taylor's government?

7 A. I remember there were three managers of that entity during
8 Taylor's government. First it was Cyril Allen. Cyril Allen.
9 The second that I can remember is Bell Dunbar.

10:11:43 10 Q. Okay, let's make sure we have the spelling of those names.
11 Cyril Allen is that C-Y-R-I-L A-L-L-E-N?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And this Bell, that's Bell B-E-L-L?

14 A. Bell, yes. Bell, like in bell.

10:12:00 15 Q. And Dumbar, or Dunbar?

16 A. Dunbar, D-U-N-B-A-R.

17 Q. And what was Taylor's - well, who appointed the head of the
18 LPRC?

19 A. The President of Liberia, Taylor.

10:12:20 20 Q. Did you hear anything about Taylor's role at the LPRC?

21 A. No, no, I wouldn't know.

22 Q. Now, there's - Liberia is famous for its flags of
23 convenience for shipping. What agency in Liberia handles those
24 flags of convenience registry of commercial ships?

10:12:45 25 A. It is the Maritime Bureau. That is they control the fleet
26 that registers Liberians flags.

27 Q. And who headed this bureau, or office, during Taylor's
28 government?

29 A. There was - this time there was - just a minute, I'll come

1 to it. Mr Benoni Urey.

2 Q. And that's spelled B-E-N-O-N-I and then last name Urey,
3 U-R-E-Y?

4 A. Yes, Benoni Urey.

10:13:40 5 Q. And how was that particular program administered, to your
6 knowledge?

7 A. To my knowledge, I got to know when I became President. I
8 didn't know when I was Vice-President how it operated, sir. But
9 what I saw on my records was that this bureau had a headquarters
10:14:00 10 in London and it was also headed by another man but I don't know
11 his name, but the - the one in Liberia, Benoni Urey, paid certain
12 amounts to the government of the proceeds of the taxes, or the
13 dues paid to the - paid to the Liberian government.

14 Q. Well, do you know where the money went during Taylor's
10:14:31 15 government from those dues or payments from the shipping
16 companies?

17 A. No, when I became President that was when I questioned it
18 and I saw receipts. The receipts said that he had paid these
19 monies to the President and I had such receipts from the finance
10:14:53 20 ministry and I said, "You said from the President", and he said,
21 "I paid through the finance ministry and I've taken about three
22 years, four years, I can't remember the date in advance, and you
23 have nothing here, so don't talk to me any more about these
24 maritime monies because it has been paid in advance".

10:15:19 25 Q. When you said paid in advance to the President, who was it
26 paid to?

27 A. He said to President Taylor, but the receipts I saw, I saw
28 - the finance minister had given receipts for the monies that was
29 due to the government at the time.

1 Q. So, the finance minister gave receipts to the companies
2 that paid the money. Is that correct?

3 A. I made the company to give me the receipts. I met the
4 commissioner of maritime to give me the receipt of the monies
10:15:52 5 according to him that he had paid to government.

6 Q. Now, did Taylor give him a receipt for the money that he
7 paid to the President?

8 A. The money had been received I saw were given by the finance
9 minister. I don't know by what means that he paid to Taylor. I
10:16:08 10 don't know how. He will have to say that.

11 Q. Who appoints the head of this office?

12 A. President Taylor appoints that person. Whosoever was
13 President will appoint the commissioner of maritime affairs.

14 Q. To your knowledge was there anyone else, any other
10:16:34 15 officers, that were bringing in funds for the Liberian government
16 or for Taylor?

17 A. No, I wouldn't know.

18 Q. Were you familiar with a gentleman by the name of Talal Lel
19 Ndine?

10:16:51 20 A. I know Talal Lel Ndine. Talal Lel Ndine was a friend of
21 the President. I didn't see him bring money, but I knew that he
22 was very close to the President.

23 Q. Is that name spelt T-A-L-A-L and then a middle name L-E-L
24 and then last name N-D-I-N-E?

10:17:13 25 A. Yes, Ndine.

26 Q. Do you know anything about what his business was?

27 A. Talal had one business. He was involved in fisheries,
28 fishery company. Talal was involved in building materials.
29 Talal was involved in a lot of different businesses in Liberia.

1 He had people working under him. He was just a big boss. And I
2 only knew him to be Talal, the friend of the President. A friend
3 of Taylor, sorry.

10:17:56

4 Q. And what kind of businesses were these that he was involved
5 in?

6 A. He was involved in building materials, he was involved in a
7 fishing company. He was involved in a lot of business that I
8 cannot count now off the top of my head.

10:18:20

9 Q. Witness, let's leave that list of prominent individuals and
10 go back to something you said yesterday. You told us that in
11 your meeting with President Gaddafi in Libya, at a particular
12 time I think when you were ambassador, he asked you about the men
13 who had been trained there in Libya and how they - what kind of
14 positions they had and noted that you and Taylor had good

10:18:49

15 positions and you said you lied to him. How did you lie?

16 A. He wanted to know whether the men who had trained with me
17 were in government positions in high places and he said, "You, I
18 know you. You are an ambassador. What about the other men that
19 were here in training?" So I said, "As for me, I was already an
20 ambassador, Taigen Wantee was an ambassador in Guinea and things
21 were going fine. There were other people working in various
22 places, which I know. We were very few who were working. Some
23 were just there. Some, as I speak now, they are having problems.
24 They are burning coal". That was a lie, because at the time that

10:19:43

25 I told him it was not a great majority of us that were working.

26 We were about three or four who had jobs with the government. So
27 that was a lie, but I told him things were all right.

28 Q. Witness, you said you had of course been adjutant or
29 adjutant general for the NPFL back in Libya. Did you keep track

1 of the men that had trained with you back in Libya?

2 A. Yes, I keep track. The main reason was that we were all
3 from the same ethnic group and they were already around me when
4 there were difficulties. They would come and talk to me, yes.

10:20:29 5 Q. Did you make lists of any of these men?

6 A. Yes, I made a list of these men. We made a list of this
7 list from adjutant up to now. We have a list to know what was
8 happening to them, because we might forget and they will come and
9 say, "You are from NPFL". If you are not listed then you were
10:20:57 10 not there. You were lying. The other junior commandos, people
11 who came when we were fighting, they call themselves Special
12 Forces from Libya. Sometimes it was a lie, because everybody was
13 general, general. We were trying to ensure who this general was
14 and where he was trained, so that was the main reason why we kept
10:21:20 15 the list.

16 MR RAPP: Your Honours, at this point there's a document I
17 would like to have exhibited to the witness. It wasn't in the
18 binder, but it was distributed yesterday. It's the nominated
19 original roster of the Special Force commandos of the National
10:21:41 20 Patriotic Front of Liberia. It carries the ERN number 00100513,
21 a document of five pages - six pages, excuse me. Could that be
22 exhibited to the witness:

23 Q. Witness, do you recognise this listing?

24 A. Yes, I recognise the list.

10:22:31 25 Q. And it's obviously a copy. Do you know where the original
26 of this document is, or who created the original of this
27 document, put it that way?

28 A. Adjutant general. When I was adjutant I must have this
29 list to know who was in the NPFL at the time.

1 Q. And who created the list?

2 A. The list was drawn from the training to know who was in the
3 group of NPFL.

4 Q. Now, witness, and perhaps if we were to - it's on the
10:23:13 5 screen. Witness, I see on this list number one - excuse me,
6 before we do that I think at this point is it possible to have
7 this marked for identification?

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: It can be marked for identification at
9 this point, yes, although we haven't had much evidence about it.

10:23:43 10 I will note that it is a five page typed document with a series
11 of names and it will be marked for identification MFI-16, is it?

12 MS IRURA: That is correct, your Honour.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you.

14 MR RAPP:

10:24:00 15 Q. Okay, well, directing your attention to this document I see
16 the first name "Charles Ghankay Taylor, leader" but then after
17 that I see names with Xs after them, several here at the
18 beginning. Who placed those Xs on the document?

19 A. Those Xs on the document are people who have been killed,
10:24:26 20 who have been executed, during the time of the war and after the
21 war. So we had to mark to know what happened to who.

22 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Rapp, I still don't know who placed
23 the Xs. For all I know, it could be someone in this courtroom.

24 MR RAPP:

10:24:48 25 Q. Who placed the Xs on this document?

26 A. Those Xs, as inspector general I put those Xs on the name.
27 I, Moses Blah.

28 Q. Well, the first person that has an X is the second
29 individual, Cooper G Miller, there's an X. What happened to him?

1 A. Cooper Miller was a first commander, you can see down
2 there. He was the first commander. When we were in training he
3 said that when Taylor was not on the base for a very long time he
4 decided to change the name of the organisation and become the
10:25:31 5 head of this organisation. He influenced a lot of the fighting
6 men, the trainees, that he was now the head of this organisation
7 and nobody should take orders from Taylor any more. But then
8 among the group Taylor had security people implanted in the
9 group, then he got this information and he rushed to base and set
10:25:58 10 up an investigation. Cooper was guilty of doing that with some
11 few other people, so Cooper was arrested and taken out of the
12 base to Burkina Faso. There was Cooper and Augustus Wright.
13 They were taken to Burkina Faso.

14 Q. Well, now, yesterday you told us about them being taken to
10:26:24 15 Burkina Faso and detained, but you have Xs here by both of their
16 names at 2 and 3. You said that Xs indicated that they'd been
17 executed.

18 A. That was later on. I'm waiting for the question to come.

19 Q. [Overlapping speakers].

10:26:41 20 A. They were taken to Burkina Faso and the intention of taking
21 them to Burkina Faso was that you will be there and you will not
22 be able to - nothing will be done to you, you will not be able to
23 go to Liberia. We should have gone to Liberia and fought, he
24 would release them and bring them to Monrovia. They were
10:26:59 25 dangerous to the organisation. But later, as the war went on
26 between Prince Johnson and us, these men surfaced on Prince
27 Johnson's bill. The first man, Cooper Miller, he had a clash
28 with our boys and he was killed. He was executed there on Prince
29 Johnson's base. The second man, Augustus Wright, was also

1 executed in LAMCO Yekepa where he had gone to see Mr Taylor. He
2 went in the place where Mr Taylor was with arms on him. He was
3 searched by security men and they discovered a pistol on him and
4 he should not have carried an arm where Taylor was without
10:27:51 5 authority. He was then executed too.

6 Q. And who ordered his execution?

7 A. As I told you, no execution takes place in NPFL if Taylor
8 does not authorise it, it will become illegal.

9 Q. Now, there was a place name that you mentioned where he had
10:28:18 10 gone to see Taylor. What was that place name?

11 A. Taylor had gone to this place for inspection. This place
12 is called LAMCO, Liberian American Mining Company. There was a
13 headquarters there.

14 Q. I think you told us at one time you worked for LAMCO in
10:28:40 15 Buchanan, was this in Buchanan or elsewhere?

16 A. No, it was in LAMCO, Yekepa. That is in Nimba County and
17 Buchanan is in Grand Bassa County.

18 Q. You said Nimba and then you used a word after Nimba. What
19 was that word?

10:28:59 20 A. Nimba Yekepa. The particular place is called Yekepa where
21 LAMCO was operating, where the mountain is - the Nimba is in
22 Yekepa, in a village called Yekepa.

23 Q. Is that spelt Y-E-K-E-P-A?

24 A. Yes, Yekepa.

10:29:15 25 Q. And is that where the iron comes from?

26 A. Yes, that was where the iron was from.

27 Q. And was that also where he was executed?

28 A. That was where the man was executed.

29 Q. Okay. Well, let's continue on down this list --

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Really, Mr Rapp, in a way we do not have
2 an exact answer to your question as to who authorised, or ordered
3 rather, the execution. We had a general observation.

4 MR RAPP: Thank you, your Honour:

10:29:48 5 Q. Who ordered the execution of Augustus Wright?

6 A. As I said, the man was executed because he had gone into
7 the place of President Taylor with arms, which he was not
8 supposed to do. He was arrested and executed.

9 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Now can you tell us who ordered the
10:30:10 10 execution of Augustine Wright?

11 THE WITNESS: I cannot say outrightly because I was not
12 there. I was told later that he was arrested and executed. From
13 my own analysis, nobody would be arrested and executed in NPFL if
14 the commander-in-chief does not order that. That's my
10:30:36 15 conclusion.

16 MR RAPP:

17 Q. And Mr Miller, do you know who ordered his execution?

18 A. Miller died in a fight. Miller died in a fight because he
19 had left and gone to Prince's base. A group of NPFL ordered by
10:30:56 20 Mr Taylor to move onto Prince Johnson's base and arrest anybody
21 who had escaped to go there and it was at that time that he got
22 killed. He was shot. But it was the order to move into the base
23 that was done by Mr Taylor.

24 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: So then was Miller executed, or he died
10:31:20 25 fighting?

26 THE WITNESS: Let me say he died in a fight. He died in a
27 fight.

28 MR RAPP:

29 Q. Thank you, witness. The Wright execution, do you know

1 roughly what period that might have occurred?

2 A. That I cannot remember, but it happened. It happened.

3 Q. You spoke of Miller having gone over to Prince Johnson's
4 side. I think you also told us in your original answer that both
10:31:55 5 of these men had gone over to Prince Johnson's side, is that
6 correct?

7 A. They had gone there earlier. Augustus had decided to
8 return to Mr Taylor, but I didn't know what message he was
9 carrying, but in the process, when he was going, he was found
10:32:12 10 with arms on him. He was investigated and executed. But for
11 their own safety they were running away from Mr Charles Taylor.
12 They didn't know where to go to be safe. That was when they went
13 to Prince Johnson's base.

14 Q. Let's move on down the list. Before we get to number 9 I
10:32:36 15 take it number 8 is you, correct?

16 A. Yes, yes. Moses Blah, number 8.

17 Q. Now, number 9 has an X by it. You've said you put the Xs
18 there, why did you put an X by Mr Kerseh, Peter Kerseh's name?

19 A. Peter Kerseh was one of the strong fighting men. He
10:32:58 20 crossed over to Prince Johnson and they were fighting against the
21 NPFL. Later he decided to come back to Taylor's group. He was
22 arrested on a motorbike one morning. I don't know the exact
23 date. That case was also reported to the President, that Peter
24 Kerseh had been arrested, and it was ordered that he should be
10:33:27 25 investigated and if he was found guilty he should be executed.

26 Q. Do you know who gave that order?

27 A. From my analysis, as I speak, nobody has a right to kill
28 anybody in NPFL confines if the commanding chief does not give
29 this order, nobody. If you did that you would be arrested too.

1 Q. Before we go to the next X at number 11, the number 10
2 individual, who is Samuel G Varney?

3 A. Samuel G Varney was - he later became commanding general of
4 the Liberian army. He is also from my ethnic group. He was one
10:34:24 5 of the trained soldiers for the Liberian government earlier,
6 before the NPFL was founded.

7 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Rapp, sorry to interrupt, was Peter
8 Kerseh also executed? We haven't got the conclusion of that. We
9 know he was investigated.

10:34:47 10 THE WITNESS: Executed. Sorry, your Honour. He was also
11 executed.

12 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: And his crime was?

13 THE WITNESS: Desertion. He left his post and went over to
14 Prince Johnson.

10:35:01 15 MR RAPP:

16 Q. Just while we're talking about specific crimes, do you know
17 what Augustus Wright was accused of?

18 A. He was entering into a place where Taylor was with an arm,
19 with a pistol on him, and he hadn't a permission to do that.

10:35:21 20 Q. You did give us that, sorry. We were talking about number
21 10, Samuel G Varney. Is he still alive?

22 A. No, Varney is dead. He got sick and died.

23 Q. The 11 individual has an X by him. Why did you put an X by
24 him?

10:35:46 25 A. This man was also executed. He was the most educated man
26 in the NPFL. He was a geologist and he had been very loyal to
27 President Taylor, but he got into trouble. He was also
28 investigated and it was found that he made a coup and wanted to
29 overthrow the organisation at the time and become head of that

1 organisation. He became executed on the orders of Mr Taylor.

2 That I know of.

3 Q. Well, what organisation was he trying to take over?

4 A. National Patriotic Front of Liberia, the NPFL.

10:36:29 5 Q. And was he accused of acting with any other individuals?

6 A. Yes, at that time he - at that time he was executed.

7 Further down there was another person who was arrested and
8 executed.

9 Q. And do you know what time period this was?

10:36:47 10 A. This was during the war. This was during the war. At this
11 time the war was being fought very close to Monrovia, Bomi Hills,
12 and we were fighting to gain territory at that time. It was at
13 the stage of the war.

14 Q. Do you know who conducted the investigation of Mr Degbon,
10:37:16 15 this man that is number 11?

16 A. I wouldn't know. He was far away from where I was. I
17 heard that he was executed and I found out that he was executed.

18 Q. Now, number 12, Prince Y Johnson, is that the individual
19 that led a separate force from the NPFL at one time?

10:37:44 20 A. Yes, this is the Prince Johnson. He is now a senior
21 senator of Nimba County. He is alive. He's in Liberia.

22 Q. Witness, we've seen a number of individuals that had been
23 his followers that ended up executed. You say he's now a
24 senator. How did he avoid that fate?

10:38:04 25 A. As far as I'm concerned, he has not been investigated by
26 anyone. He fled to Nigeria through the help of the United
27 Nations peacekeeping force. He returned to Liberia and maybe he
28 won the election and became senator for my area, Nimba County.

29 Q. Do you know when he went to Nigeria?

1 A. He went to Nigeria when he fled from his camp. Immediately
2 when he killed Samuel Kanyon Doe, he had planned to escape. He
3 was also attacked by us and it was during one of these attacks
4 that Cooper Miller was killed and he too decided to escape from
10:38:57 5 his base. That was when he was escorted from out of there by the
6 Nigerian peacekeeping forces because they wanted peace, so they
7 took him away to Nigeria. He had been there for years. I cannot
8 remember - it was during our last election that he resurfaced and
9 he stood for elections and won.

10:39:18 10 Q. And the last elections, those were elections after Taylor
11 left power, is that not correct?

12 A. Yes, the election after Taylor.

13 Q. Before we go on to the next Xs, the person at 14, V Michael
14 Paygar, do you know anything about him?

10:39:43 15 A. Michael Paygar between the Executive Mansion Guard
16 battalion commander for a time period, but he has been dismissed
17 or transferred because he has not been behaving properly. He'd
18 been drunk. And later in his life he's in Monrovia and he left
19 the job. He was sacked by Mr Taylor.

10:40:15 20 Q. Let's go on to page 2, if we can. We don't see any Xs
21 until we get to number 38, Timothy Mulibah. What do you know
22 about Timothy Mulibah?

23 A. Mulibah was executed on a charge of trying to overthrow
24 Mr Taylor.

10:40:49 25 Q. And was it alleged that he was associated with other
26 persons in that effort?

27 A. Yes, there were other people who were against Mr Taylor
28 like Prince Johnson. There were other people whom I cannot
29 remember off the top of my head now. He was arrested, a board

1 was set up, he was investigated and his execution was ordered by
2 the President.

3 Q. And when you refer to the President?

10:41:22

4 A. President Taylor. I say President, because at the time of
5 the war - I will always say President because we used to call him
6 President even when he was not President. When he was leader of
7 our NPFL organisation we always addressed him as President so,
8 your Honour judge, please excuse me for that.

10:41:50

9 Q. And I just want to be clear. I mean just in terms of the
10 specifics of the order, do you know about this order
11 specifically, or is it a conclusion that you reached about who
12 made the order?

10:42:09

13 A. This investigation, Taylor was involved. He became very
14 serious about this. That was how I came to know. Before he was
15 executed he was hunted because he's been running around, but he
16 was arrested. I should have known at the time because of my
17 position.

18 Q. And, again, who ordered his execution?

19 A. It was Taylor who ordered his execution.

10:42:27

20 Q. Let's continue on down this list toward the bottom if we
21 can to 58, Enoch M Dogolea. Now, I think you mentioned that name
22 yesterday as the man that was Vice-President before you became
23 Vice-President?

24 A. Yes, sir.

10:42:45

25 Q. And you said he died?

26 A. Yes, sir.

27 Q. And did you receive any reports on how he died?

28 A. Well, to my knowledge Enoch was sick and Taylor at the time
29 had sent him to France and to other European countries for

1 medication. He came back, the sickness got worse and he was
2 taken to Abidjan. That was when he died. That is what I know of
3 his death. But rumour came after that that he had been beaten by
4 Mr Taylor and there was a newspaper report that he was beaten by
10:43:26 5 Mr Taylor. I was not there when he was beaten, but from my
6 analysis he died from a sickness.

7 Q. And do you know the source of the rumour?

8 A. Rumours in Liberia are like wildfire. If anything happens
9 in Liberia, everybody will tell you. They will even say things
10:43:47 10 that they do not know about.

11 Q. Can we then move to the third page and just as we pass over
12 names we see at 65 Joe K Tuah. That's the individual that you
13 went to Burkina with?

14 A. Yes, Joe K Tuah.

10:44:11 15 Q. The individual that you have also identified as deputy
16 director of the SSS?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. And going further down the list, Francis Menwon at 72, do
19 you know him?

10:44:24 20 A. I know who Francis Menwon is.

21 Q. And Francis, who is he?

22 A. Francis Menwon was one time investigated. There was a
23 report on Francis Menwon that he was planning to overthrow the
24 government. He was arrested and investigated, but he got off the
10:44:49 25 hook. He wasn't arrested. He was wearing plain clothes, he was
26 no longer close to the President and, as I am speaking to you, he
27 is now in Monrovia doing nothing.

28 Q. The name, just excuse me to go back one to 71, John Duo, do
29 you know what happened to John Duo?

1 A. John Duo, he got sick and died.

2 Q. And the number 75, Oliver Varney, do you know what happened
3 to him?

4 A. Yes, Oliver Varney was arrested and investigated for trying
10:45:37 5 to overthrow Taylor at the time. His execution was also ordered.

6 Q. Do you know who ordered his execution?

7 A. Well, I have been always saying this. I will presume all
8 the time that it was Taylor, because he had the order to execute
9 anybody. He was arrested on a charge of attempting to overthrow
10:45:57 10 him, Taylor as head of NPFL. That was when his execution was
11 ordered.

12 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Was he in fact executed? Was he
13 executed?

14 THE WITNESS: Yes. Yes, your Honour, he was.

10:46:16 15 MR RAPP:

16 Q. Witness, I don't see an X after his name. Is there any
17 reason why there's no X after his name?

18 A. Yes, we skipped that name. We forgot to put the X there.
19 I'm sorry, sir.

10:46:30 20 Q. Let me just ask about two other people on this list.
21 Number 88, Anthony Menquenagbeh. Do you know what happened to
22 him?

23 A. He was also executed for attempting to overthrow the leader
24 of the overall group, NPFL. He was executed - investigated and
10:47:00 25 executed - by the order of President Taylor.

26 Q. Any reason why you didn't put an X behind him?

27 A. I forgot, I'm sorry. I'm sorry, sir. There are other
28 names. You know, I went over them in my mind. I didn't have a
29 good sight.

1 Q. Number 90, Johnson TB Leaman, do you know what happened to
2 him?

3 A. Leaman got sick and died. He had a job as a minister -
4 deputy minister for coast guard affairs in the defence ministry.
10:47:41 5 He got sick and died. He was appointed by President Taylor, but
6 he died. Just recently he got sick and died.

7 Q. I just want to be clear, what position did he hold under
8 Taylor?

9 A. He was deputy minister of defence for coast guard affairs
10:48:07 10 with the marine.

11 Q. And for what period of time was that?

12 A. Immediately when Taylor became President.

13 Q. And for how long during Taylor's presidency?

14 A. He was there for about - he was there for quite a long
10:48:27 15 time. I cannot remember the time frame, but he had been deputy
16 minister for a long while until he got sick and died.

17 Q. Let me ask the Court Attendant to go on to page 4 and let's
18 go further to the top of page 4 on the projector. The individual
19 at number 99, Paul Nimely, do you know anything about him?

10:49:03 20 A. Paul what, sir?

21 Q. The person at 99 if you look at the list?

22 A. Paul Nimely, yes.

23 Q. Do you know anything about him?

24 A. I know about Paul Nimely. He is well. He's okay.

10:49:17 25 Q. And do you know what - did he hold any positions?

26 A. Paul Nimely later became the representative for his county.
27 He was working with the legislator. He was elected during the
28 Taylor government and he was one of the representatives for Sinoe
29 County.

1 Q. Do we have the spelling of Sinoe? I think that's
2 S-I-N-O-E, is that correct?

3 A. Yes, that is it. That's the correct spelling.

4 Q. And what party was he associated with?

10:50:07 5 A. He was associated with the National Patriotic Party, NPP.

6 Q. Let's go on to number 103 and I see an X by the side of the
7 name at number 103, Joe Doe. Why did you put an X there?

8 A. Joe Doe had an unfortunate situation. He was in Monrovia
9 after the war when Benjamin moved to Foya close to Sierra Leone

10:50:38 10 on an assignment. That was where he asked Joe Doe to go, but

11 previously Joe Doe had a problem with Benjamin Yeaten which I

12 investigated between the two of them. Joe Doe's brother's wife

13 was taken by Benjamin as his wife and there was a confusion. Joe

14 Doe being afraid of Benjamin, he didn't want to be involved with

10:51:06 15 our organisation. He fled into La Cote d'Ivoire. Benjamin

16 persuaded him, he sent people after him, they convinced him and

17 he came back to Liberia. When Benjamin went to Foya, as I said,

18 he sent for Joe Doe. He said he wanted to talk to Joe Doe. The

19 night he entered Foya it was that night that he was arrested,

10:51:31 20 investigated that he wanted to overthrow Taylor at the time, and

21 as I heard - from what my security told me there was a bitter

22 argument. He said, "You called me here. How would I overthrow

23 you in the bush?", and they said they should execute him. That's

24 how he got killed. He was executed by Benjamin Yeaten.

10:51:53 25 Q. Well, to your knowledge was he engaged in any effort to
26 overthrow the Government of Liberia?

27 A. That I don't know of. He was a very quiet individual.

28 Very, very quiet indeed.

29 Q. And you said that Benjamin was on assignment up in Lofa

1 County. Do you know what that assignment was at the time?

2 A. Benjamin was moving everywhere, wherever there was
3 fighting. I didn't know whether it was by order of the
4 President, or by himself. He was like - he became so powerful
10:52:30 5 that he could do anything, he could go anywhere, and so he had
6 gone there on one of those occasions to see how the men were
7 fighting at the border with Sierra Leone. That was when he sent
8 for Joe Doe and Joe Doe got killed there. He executed Joe Doe
9 there.

10:52:46 10 Q. Now, going on down the list I see 121. That is the
11 Benjamin Yeaten that we've been talking about, is it not?

12 A. Yes, that's the Benjamin Yeaten.

13 Q. And I'm just going to be clear, he could go all over. Did
14 he go anywhere that Taylor did not want him to go?

10:53:10 15 A. He must go with permission. Each time you see Benjamin you
16 will see the chief. He had greater power in a way. The only
17 person that was above Benjamin at the time, that I know, was
18 President Taylor, nobody else.

19 Q. Now down to 123. Yesterday you mentioned Dopoe Menkarzon
10:53:32 20 as being one of the leaders of the Liberians that went into
21 Sierra Leone. Is this that same individual?

22 A. Yes, this is the Dopoe Menkarzon, yes.

23 Q. If I can ask the Registry to go on to page 5 and just to
24 ask about one of the names that's not checked here. Paul Vaye,
10:53:59 25 do you know what happened to Paul Vaye?

26 A. Paul Vaye got sick with AIDS and died.

27 Q. Did he have a position before his death?

28 A. No, Paul Vaye never had a position.

29 Q. Now 132, a Musa Cisse. Is this the same as the Musa Cisse

1 that was involved as chief of protocol for Taylor?

2 A. Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

3 Q. So it's spelled a little different, but sometimes these
4 spellings aren't standard, is that the case?

10:54:34 5 A. Yes, that is his name. Yes, sir. Your Honour, sir, your
6 Honour, judge? I want to use --

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, please assist the witness. Mr Rapp,
8 if you wish to have a seat.

9 MR RAPP: Thank you, your Honour. I will take a short
10:54:50 10 break while the witness goes to the restroom.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: I hope you're more comfortable,
12 Mr Witness. Now, Mr Rapp, when you are ready to proceed, please.

13 MR RAPP: Thank you, Madam President:

14 Q. Let me go on down the list here. I see an X by 138, Sam
11:00:07 15 Larto. Is that the individual you spoke of yesterday?

16 A. Yes, Sam Larto.

17 Q. You described him being killed, did you not?

18 A. Sam Larto was one of the strong fighters of the National
19 Patriotic Front. He got killed on the highway of
11:00:42 20 Monrovia-Gbarnga. He saw a man with a television set and he
21 stopped that man for inspection. He inspected the boy and the
22 fellow said it was a TV and he said, "You've stolen this TV", and
23 got into the quarrel and he got the man, he took out his pistol
24 and he shot the man. He was arrested by Mr Taylor and put in
11:01:15 25 detention. He was investigated and executed.

26 But previously Sam Larto had gone into Zwedru, Grand Gedeh.
27 Whoever had - they had brought some people to safety, from the
28 bushes where we were controlling Grand Gedeh, and I was
29 responsible for the elderlies, the pregnant women, the old

1 Ladies. At one time I went to the highway as I mentioned,
2 Maryland, Cape Palmas Highway, Sam Larto went after me. In my
3 absence he went there, in the old administrative building where I
4 kept these people. I was caring for these people. He went there
11:02:08 5 and executed all of them, about 70 some persons, and upon my
6 return I ran to Gbarnga with this report to the President. He
7 was not in Gbarnga and the President said, "I will have him
8 brought here to be investigated." It was not until I was in
9 Gbarnga that I heard that he had been arrested for killing
11:02:30 10 another person. It was then that President Taylor ordered that
11 he be executed.

12 Q. So between the time of him being detained for that first
13 allegation that you brought, had he been freed?

14 A. Yes, he had been freed. He was not arrested in my presence
11:02:51 15 when I brought this first report. The second time I saw him,
16 that was the time that he was executed. He was in jail for
17 shooting the man with the television set.

18 Q. You mentioned the name of this place in Grand Gedeh County.
19 It was something like Zwedru?

11:03:17 20 A. Yes, Z-W-E-D-R-U, Zwedru.

21 Q. Let's go on down the list. There's another name here,
22 number 155. I see a mark there. What does that mark mean?

23 A. Well, this other fellow was killed in an ambush. I wasn't
24 there, but the story surrounding this man - Elmer Glee Johnson
11:03:47 25 was an American citizen, Liberian American citizen. He had come
26 to Liberia and was a friend of Mr Taylor and had decided to fight
27 alongside, because of his military experience, but at one time
28 there was an ambush near Buchanan. He fell into that ambush, but
29 the story surrounding his killing was that - I was not there, but

1 rumour has it that he was killed on the orders of Taylor, that he
2 was getting more aggressive, he was not taking orders, but
3 officially he was killed in an ambush, but I didn't know who set
4 the ambush and who killed him, but that was what was said at
11:04:39 5 every quarters when I asked how he got killed.

6 Q. You mentioned there was a rumour. Do you know the source
7 of the rumour?

8 A. That's what I said. There were no special persons who were
9 saying this, how he got killed, "Oh, this man was not killed by
11:04:59 10 an enemy, he was killed by his own forces on the order of the
11 President, that was how he got killed." That was what I heard.

12 Q. And who did you hear that from?

13 A. From a lot of fighters, the civilians, many people. I
14 can't name one person. I didn't take it serious. I didn't
11:05:16 15 investigate this matter.

16 Q. Going down finally to page 6, the last page, the individual
17 at 160, Tom Woveiyu.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Do you know this individual?

11:05:34 20 A. Yes, I know Tom Woveiyu.

21 Q. And what happened to him?

22 A. Tom Woveiyu was a friend of President Taylor. He was
23 introduced to us - to me. When I say "us" I'm talking about
24 because I was an adjutant in Libya. He went to Libya along with
11:06:01 25 President Taylor. At that time he was introduced to the
26 battalion, that he was a best friend of Taylor, he was working
27 with the organisation, but that he was in America taking care of
28 some other things being done on the other side in America. Later
29 he became defence minister in the NPRG government, the government

1 I told you that was set up in Gbarnga. At one time he was
2 arrested. He was arrested. According to him he was arrested on
3 the order of Mr Taylor. He had been detained by the Small Boy
4 Unit in another place called Mabarklay. He had been detained,
11:07:03 5 his Nissan car patrol jeep was taken in a dirty place where these
6 boys were. They knew him to be a minister of defence for us at
7 the time. He was detained for a very long time. He didn't like
8 the treatment he received. He told me that. Since then he left
9 and went back to the United States.

11:07:27 10 Q. What happened as a result of the investigation against him?

11 A. On the investigation a lot of things happened. He was in
12 America. He had left and there was no real investigation. When
13 this thing happened he reported it to the President, Taylor at
14 the time, he was not happy with the response, so he left the
11:07:50 15 organisation and went.

16 Q. Witness, you said he had some involvement with Small Boy
17 Units?

18 A. Yes, he was arrested by them. They were at the checkpoint.
19 At the checkpoint there were only Small Boy Units where he was
11:08:13 20 travelling through to go to Monrovia. It was there that he was
21 stopped and taken out of his car into a little house in a little
22 shack where they were. They asked him why he was roving up and
23 down the road. He said he was the defence minister, he had every
24 right to patrol the area controlled by NPFL. They had him there,
11:08:34 25 he did not say he was treated - during the conversation he said
26 he was not treated fairly. He tried to report this to the
27 commander-in-chief of our group at the time, Mr Taylor, and the
28 response he received was not satisfactory to him so he had to
29 leave. He left and went to the United States.

1 Q. You said he hadn't been treated fairly. Did he say who had
2 not treated him fairly?

3 A. He said the Small Boy Units, they forced him out of his car
4 with no due respect. They dragged him to some place and searched
11:09:12 5 him. It was not done properly, as a man who considered himself
6 as a minister of defence at the time, to be treated thus.

7 Q. Did he talk about what happened to him in detention?

8 A. He sat there, it was a rainy season, rain was pouring down
9 on him. He was searched vigorously without any due respect.

11:09:43 10 Q. Yesterday you talked about the Small Boy Units, or small
11 boys that had arrested you. Who did the small boys take orders
12 from?

13 MR GRIFFITHS: I'm sorry, your Honours, yesterday there was
14 no evidence that the Small Boy Units had arrested this man.

11:10:05 15 There was no evidence to that effect yesterday.

16 MR RAPP: I think counsel may be precisely correct:

17 Q. You said that small boys had been involved in detaining
18 you, is that correct?

19 A. Yes, they detained me, when they were around the prison
11:10:22 20 walking up and down and they were saying, "We will take this man
21 away who has been giving our arms to Prince Johnson." They did
22 not arrest me, but they were around. They were guarding around
23 where I was detained.

24 Q. Do you know who the Small Boy Units, or these young men and
11:10:42 25 Small Boy Units took their orders from?

26 A. There were two ways. They took orders from Benjamin Yeaten
27 at the time. The other person was the President to them.
28 Sometimes the President gave direct orders. As
29 commander-in-chief he had all right to order the units. They

1 were not units that were positioned in one place. Every area,
2 every commanders had Small Boy Unit. I told you yesterday that
3 everybody had a Small Boy Unit because they were unreasonable and
4 everybody would like to have a group of small boys in their
11:11:20 5 command.

6 Q. You said Taylor had some role with Small Boy Units. Did he
7 have his own Small Boy Unit?

8 A. Yes, a lot of them in the Small Boy Unit. At one time
9 there was a unit called - majority of them were Small Boy Unit.

11:11:42 10 He had a unit before ATU. I will call their name later.

11 Q. So you don't recall at this point the name of this Small
12 Boy Unit?

13 A. No, no. I don't remember.

14 Q. What did this unit do specifically?

11:12:03 15 A. They took military operations and assignments assigned to
16 them. They will bring the man, arrest the man, block the road,
17 they will block the roads. I said they were very, very
18 unreasonable. They could be assigned anywhere to do any dirty
19 operations, because they had no reasoning, they had no sense of
11:12:26 20 direction to do anything. Like I must say that I had one with
21 me, I had a Small Boy Unit too.

22 Q. The particular unit that you can't remember the name of,
23 how was that unit different, if at all, from any other unit?

24 A. They were all Small Boy Unit. One small boy under age they
11:12:56 25 called Small Boy Unit. The assignment would make them look
26 different. If you had to do some jobs that had to do with a big
27 person in the organisation, you would behave differently, but
28 they were all called Small Boy Unit. There was no special name
29 to be given to them.

1 Q. You told us just now that a great many units or forces had
2 Small Boy Units attached to them.

3 A. Yes, sir.

11:13:28

4 Q. Was there an overall command structure for the Small Boy
5 Units?

6 A. Yes, because they had their own commanders at that time and
7 they only reported to their commanders and they were so
8 unreasonable, they wouldn't even report to you as the inspector
9 general, overall commander for that unit. They had their own
10 chiefs. If you wanted to talk to them you will have to talk
11 through their commanders. That was how they operated.

11:13:45

12 Q. And do you recall the name of any of their commanders?

13 A. Yes, there was Zubon who was originally the commander of
14 the Small Boy Units and the first unit that I knew about was
15 headed by one Zubon. He is now in the United States of America.

11:14:10

16 Q. Is that name spelt Z-U-B-O-N?

17 A. Yes.

18 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Rapp, sorry to interrupt again. I
19 don't recall from this witness that he has explained to us really
20 what these Small Boy Units are, or what the ages of these small
21 boys were.

11:14:31

22 MR RAPP: Your Honour, we talked about the one yesterday
23 that detained him, but let's talk about all the Small Boy Units:

24 Q. From your observation of the Small Boy Units, what were the
25 ages of the these people who were --

11:14:48

26 A. Well, from my observation if you are a small boy and you
27 are part of the Small Boys Unit they were between, 13, 14, 15 age
28 brackets and if you were above 15 you were old, you wouldn't be
29 referred to as Small Boy Unit.

1 Q. Well, you said that over 15 they weren't Small Boy Units.
2 How about anybody under 13?

3 A. Yeah, under 13.

4 Q. What ages other than 13 or 14 were involved?

11:15:32 5 A. Well, you would be called Small Boy Units except that you
6 had fallen into another unit, but you would not be accepted into
7 the Small Boy Units group if you were above 15, 16. It means you
8 were too old and that you had sense of direction, you could
9 reason.

11:15:51 10 Q. What was the youngest age that you saw involved in a Small
11 Boy Unit?

12 A. The youngest was 13.

13 MR RAPP: We'll put aside this particular exhibit until we
14 can conclude the testimony and seek to offer it:

11:16:12 15 Q. Witness, we've been talking about individuals that were
16 with you in the Libyan camps, about 161. Over the time of the
17 conflict, over the time of the war, at its greatest how large
18 were the numbers in the NPFL?

19 A. The numbers were up and down because, as we recruited, more
11:16:44 20 groups were added to the units in training. Like I told you, we
21 started from 22 and we went up to 80 [sic]. We went to 80.

22 Q. Well, let's talk about after the NPFL entered Liberia. How
23 large did the NPFL become?

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Rapp, before the witness answers I
11:17:13 25 thought I heard the witness say 180. It's recorded as 80.

26 THE WITNESS: 180.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. Please proceed, Mr Rapp.

28 MR RAPP:

29 Q. I asked the question and I want to ask something now that I

1 hear it's 180, but the question I asked you specifically was:
2 How large did the NPFL become after it entered Liberia?

3 A. We went up to almost 10 - 20,000 and the control was not
4 with me at that time, because at that time we had some other
11:17:52 5 groups. We had some other groups coming in and they were given
6 names by the commander-in-chief and they were not under my
7 control. We grew up to about 70,000 or so because we had many
8 men. You could not even count the numbers any longer, because
9 they were under different commands and different operations and
11:18:15 10 they were no longer operating to the adjutant general, or the
11 inspector general. Like the Executive Mansion Guards unit, they
12 had their own group and I wouldn't know how many persons were
13 there in that group.

14 Q. You said the group grew to 70,000. Do you have any idea
11:18:41 15 how many men were killed in combat from the NPFL during the war?

16 A. I could have reported the number of people within the NPFL
17 who were trained in Libya. I recorded that. But with the
18 general casualties in the NPFL and the additional men that had
19 joined us, I would not be able to tell. The numbers were huge,
11:19:09 20 very, very huge. Very huge. We lost almost over 10,000 men.

21 Q. Now, you said "we lost 10,000 men", you have mentioned
22 casualties also. Were there men that were wounded or disabled as
23 a result of the fight?

24 A. Exactly. Wounded people, disabled people, people who were
11:19:33 25 killed in combat, because it was not easy attacking a sitting
26 government. It was a big fight.

27 Q. After the war, what happened to those that had been
28 disabled in the conflict that had fought for the NPFL?

29 A. Well, one incident that I can remember that occurred was

1 that on one occasion the wounded people were collected almost at
2 the end of the war when we were in serious combat with LURD. The
3 men were assembled by Benjamin Yeaten on one occasion and I don't
4 know how much was their number, but they were in a big truck and
11:20:22 5 they were taken to a place on the Bomi Hill Highway, to a river
6 called Mahare River.

7 When these people got to this river and when Benjamin said
8 that, "You have been requesting for benefit and you are all
9 wounded, so now you have to come here and this is where you are
11:20:43 10 going to get your pay for what you have done", and that pay was
11 converted into serious execution. He shot some of them, they
12 sent them into the river and the trucks did not return with them.

13 I got this information from areas within Bomi Hills and
14 those areas, that those people were killed. I don't know who
11:21:07 15 killed them, but it was Benjamin who personally took them away
16 and he said he killed them because they were embarrassing the
17 organisation because they were wounded and they would come to
18 Monrovia and they have seen them everywhere, that they were
19 wounded by the NPFL, so that was not going to give the
11:21:28 20 organisation a good name, so he took them away to pay them. That
21 was what I heard from civilians and other people. He dumped them
22 all into the river, Mahare River. That is on the Bomi Hills
23 Highway.

24 Q. The river, would you spell that?

11:21:45 25 A. Mahare, I don't know. It is a native name, Mahare.
26 M-A-H-H-E-R, or something like that. Mahare River.

27 Q. Anyway, you said they were embarrassing in Monrovia. Who
28 were they embarrassing?

29 A. They were - the citizens, the civilians, the population,

1 they were all wounded. Some had amputated arms, some had one eye
2 gone, one foot gone, they were begging everywhere, they wanted to
3 survive and they never had anything to eat so they were going
4 around. So Benjamin said it and I heard that from him on several
11:22:39 5 occasions, that these people will be paid one day, but I did not
6 know the payment that he was talking about was that he was going
7 to take them and execute them.

8 Q. Had they taken any political role?

9 A. Who are "they"?

11:22:59 10 Q. These wounded men.

11 A. No, they did not. They were just there as beggars, going
12 from place to place begging people.

13 Q. In terms of the time that this happened, I think you told
14 us about an event, but can you fix it more precisely in time?

11:23:19 15 Was this during Taylor's presidency, or before it?

16 A. That was around 2003. That was the time it happened. It
17 was almost at the end of his presidency. That was the last war
18 between LURD and the government when this incident occurred.

19 Q. I'm just a little unclear with what you said. What did
11:23:45 20 Yeaten say specifically about these individuals to you?

21 A. In conversations I had with him before, or a week before,
22 or even after the incidents happened, he said that these boys are
23 disturbing everywhere in town and that there was need for them to
24 be paid and, "I will take them somewhere and they will get their
11:24:11 25 pay." It was a large number, a very large number. Some were
26 wounded, some even the sore had not healed yet, some of them
27 blood was still on them and he said they did not have a place to
28 keep these people and he said it would be an exposure of us and
29 we will take them somewhere - "I will take them somewhere and

1 they will get their benefit", and later we discovered that he had
2 done such a thing to these people, that he took them to Mahare
3 River and had them executed.

4 Q. When did you find out about this, this event?

11:24:53 5 A. It was a day or two after that I was told and knowing me to
6 be the Vice-President, that you cannot get to the President at
7 the time you wanted certain information, to clarify some people
8 might come to me and they asked, "What's happening? Yesterday we
9 saw a truck load of children, wounded children, and they were
11:25:17 10 dumped into Mahare River and they were shot at." Then I said,
11 "Well", and then they told me, they said they saw Benjamin and
12 the road was blocked for minutes or for hours whilst the
13 operation was taking place and we saw people guarding and we saw
14 people floating everywhere and people were crying and they said
11:25:36 15 these people have not yet died and they were shooting in the
16 water and they were consulting with me, they were asking who were
17 those people. Then they said Benjamin took a group of people and
18 he said he wanted them to be paid and for them to get their
19 benefits, and I did not know actually whether that was his
11:25:52 20 intention and I did not go back to him to ask. But at that time
21 the war was raging, there was severe fighting all over. LURD was
22 fighting to enter Monrovia at that time.

23 Q. And why didn't you ask?

24 A. I did not ask at that moment because we were all fighting
11:26:14 25 for safety. There was nowhere to get rice, nowhere to get water.
26 I was disturbed, everybody was disturbed. Instead of taking care
27 of my family I would not go to ask such a question. Whom would I
28 have gone to to ask that question in fact?

29 Q. Why didn't you ask Taylor?

1 A. No, I wouldn't at that time because I told you the
2 Executive Mansion Guards, if they were involved in anything I had
3 limited authority. I did not question their operations. My
4 operation was outside the Executive Mansion Guards unit, or the
11:27:01 5 Executive Mansion Guards. More especially, when I was
6 Vice-President you don't just approach your President. We
7 thought that he would say certain things happened at certain
8 places at this time and at that time, but I was not authorised,
9 more especially when Benjamin Yeaten was involved, no. Knowing
11:27:22 10 him to be a crucial man and a most powerful man working with the
11 President, I left that up to him. It was up to him to find it
12 out by himself.

13 Q. You said that the individuals who had visited you mentioned
14 that the road had been guarded. Did they tell you who was
11:27:40 15 guarding it?

16 A. Which individual?

17 Q. You said as Vice-President you'd had people come to you and
18 report on this incident one or two days after it happened and I
19 believe the record will reflect that they said that the area had
11:27:59 20 been guarded where the shooting was taking place. Did they tell
21 you who was guarding it?

22 A. No, there was Benjamin Yeaten who had blocked the highway
23 and he authorised a group of the Jungle Fire unit to block the
24 road away from people and they had stopped everybody from a
11:28:20 25 certain distance from where the incident was taking place, and
26 they stood there for a while and they did not move a step. You
27 don't go behind, you don't come to the front. After the
28 operation had happened they allowed them to pass and as soon as
29 they took off, they saw the vehicles taking off then the

1 civilians knew that they were allowed to move back and forward at
2 that time.

3 Q. Witness, we've been talking about Liberians that had been
4 involved with the NPFL and the Taylor government. Were there any
11:28:53 5 non-Liberians close to Taylor?

6 A. Yes, there were other groups of - other than Liberians that
7 were close to Taylor, like the Gambians. I know about the
8 Gambians. The Gambians were very close and even one became the
9 aide-de-camp to the President, a senior aide-de-camp to the
11:29:23 10 President on one occasion.

11 Q. And who was that Gambian individual that became
12 aide-de-camp?

13 A. The name I can't remember. I think the name was N'jie.
14 Musa N'jie.

11:29:38 15 Q. Would that be spelt M-U-S-A N' -J-I-E?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Now, I think yesterday you told us about an attempt on
18 Taylor's life at the Executive Mansion when he was part of the
19 seven man government, or the seven person government. You said
11:30:02 20 an individual by the name of General Jackson was a Gambian. How
21 did you know that he was a Gambian?

22 A. He was a Gambian. I knew that because I had met with
23 Jackson even before I came from Libya. I knew that he was with
24 Dr Manneh and in fact he was a brother to Dr Manneh and President
11:30:27 25 Taylor had taken him to be his senior aide for a very long time,
26 and when the President got to the mansion - when the President
27 was attacked at the mansion he escaped it and Jackson was killed
28 because he was the cover guard and he was shot at that time, but
29 actually he was a Gambian. You will know someone if he was a

1 Gambian or a Liberian and even in our region if I speak my
2 English they will know that I speak the Liberian English, that is
3 even the reason why the judges are finding problems with my
4 language, because I want to speak the Liberian English and I want
11:31:15 5 to speak standard English and that I will try to do.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Rapp, I note the time and this is the
7 time we usually take the mid-morning break. So we are going to
8 adjourn now, Mr Witness, until 12 o'clock.

9 [Break taken at 11.30 a.m.]

10 [Upon resuming at 12.02 p.m.]

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Rapp, please proceed.

12 MR RAPP: Madam President, your Honours, before I proceed,
13 first of all on a spelling I think of this - we have looked up a
14 the name of this river and I think the spelling was reported
12:01:52 15 incorrectly. So the correct spelling of Mahare River is
16 M-A-H-A-R-E.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you.

18 MR RAPP:

19 Q. Before I return to the Gambians question, just a couple of
12:02:04 20 things to follow up from questioning earlier this morning. When
21 we were looking at the list, the roster of the special commandos,
22 did you conduct the investigations of any of the persons there on
23 the list who were executed?

24 A. No.

12:02:37 25 Q. And do you know who would have conducted investigations in
26 those cases?

27 A. When a high profile investigation involving Cassius and
28 some other people, that is the Executive Mansion Guard unit, we
29 had to do that. Not with me. Even if it is outside of where the

1 President, it's not close to - like upcountry he had a full
2 control over them to investigate.

3 Q. Well, who had full control over them?

4 A. President Taylor. Benjamin Yeaten.

12:03:28 5 Q. And do you know what investigations would consist of at
6 that level?

7 A. I said again Benjamin became so powerful during operation
8 he was - it was not too close to --

9 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honour, the witness has to repeat
12:03:52 10 this bit.

11 THE WITNESS: I wouldn't know what the investigation would
12 be because he does not report to me and so I wouldn't know.

13 MR RAPP:

14 Q. Okay. I don't know if it was necessary to repeat the
12:04:06 15 beginning of your answer. Would you repeat the beginning of your
16 answer when you were talking about Benjamin Yeaten?

17 A. I said Benjamin became so powerful and he will also conduct
18 an investigation, sometimes ordered by the President. So I
19 wouldn't know what the investigation entailed, because I did not
12:04:29 20 have the authority to question him.

21 Q. Well, in your role as inspector general, I want to find out
22 a couple of things.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. How long were you inspector general?

12:04:42 25 A. I was inspector general from 1991 until the time I became
26 Vice-President of Liberia.

27 Q. Was --

28 A. Becoming ambassador to Libya, sorry.

29 Q. So did you start - in what year did you begin?

1 A. 1990/'91 I became inspector general.

2 Q. And what year again did you become ambassador to Libya and
3 Tunisia?

4 A. '87.

12:05:16 5 Q. Excuse me, do you mean '87?

6 A. '87. Is it '87? The year, no, it was 2000.

7 Q. Witness, when was it in relation to Taylor becoming
8 President?

9 A. My relationship?

12:05:35 10 Q. No, when was the appointment as ambassador in relation to
11 Taylor's presidency?

12 A. I became ambassador because I was inspector general of the
13 organisation. I sometimes travelled with him when he was going
14 out of Liberia and I don't know the answer directly.

12:06:01 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, I understood the question was
16 when was the appointment as ambassador?

17 THE WITNESS: I said it was 2000.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: And when was that in relation to
19 Mr Taylor's presidency?

12:06:15 20 THE WITNESS: In relationship - in relation with what?

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: I understand, Mr Rapp, you are talking
22 about a time, are you?

23 MR RAPP: Well, thank you very much, your Honour:

24 Q. Just in Taylor's presidency, was it in the first year,
12:06:28 25 second year, third year, or what year of Taylor's presidency was
26 it?

27 A. That was the third year.

28 Q. And when did you become Vice-President?

29 A. I became Vice-President the third year - I became

1 ambassador, the third year Enoch was there, the beginning of the
2 presidency. He died after three years and I was there 2000 - I
3 became ambassador in 2000 - I mean President - I am getting
4 confused now.

12:06:59 5 Q. Okay, witness, so why don't we just slow down here. When
6 did Taylor become President?

7 A. Taylor became President in 1997.

8 Q. And how long after he became President did you become
9 ambassador to Libya and Tunisia?

12:07:19 10 A. After three years.

11 Q. Well, when did you become Vice-President?

12 A. I became ambassador when Taylor became President, sorry,
13 and I became Vice-President in 2000.

14 Q. Okay. So I think you told us a minute ago that you were
12:07:46 15 inspector general from 1990/1991 up until the time you became
16 ambassador.

17 A. Exactly, sir.

18 Q. And that would be 1990/1991 to 1997?

19 A. Yes, sir.

12:07:59 20 Q. Was that an active position during all of those six or
21 seven years?

22 A. No, when he became President everything slowed down. There
23 were no more active operations for inspector general any more. I
24 was just - I was a member of the organisation at the time, until
12:08:21 25 I became ambassador.

26 Q. Witness, when you were inspector general, what part of the
27 country did you spend most of your time in?

28 A. I was in southeast - the southeastern part of Liberia. I
29 don't know if I called those names. I was in Grand Gedeh,

1 Maryland, Si noe, the southeast of Liberia.

2 Q. You mentioned Grand Gedeh, which I think we have had the
3 spelling of and Maryland I presume we do.

4 A. Yes, Maryland and Si noe.

12:09:04 5 Q. I think we have all of those spellings.

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Witness, just another question from this morning. We were
8 talking about Musa Cisse and you coming back with him on this
9 plane between Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, and Monrovia, Liberia.

12:09:23 10 Did you travel outside Liberia on any other occasions with Musa
11 Cisse?

12 A. No, not that I can remember.

13 Q. Do you know of any other foreign missions that Musa Cisse
14 was involved in?

12:09:45 15 A. There are so many that I wouldn't be able to say how many.
16 He was always out of Liberia on missions for the President.

17 Q. Do you happen to know what countries he may have visited?

18 A. Musa went to nearly almost - except for America, he went
19 anywhere where the President wanted him to go and at one time he
12:10:15 20 went to Asia and on that mission he was given money, a huge sum
21 of money, up to a million dollars, to negotiate and purchase arms
22 for the organisation. He came back with a report that the money
23 was missing. He had been duped out of the money by a Chinese
24 national and that caused a big uproar and he wanted to know what
12:10:47 25 he did with this money. That money was not like \$50, or like
26 \$100. As the investigation went on the President discovered the
27 investigation. President Taylor discovered the investigation
28 that Musa was not educated and so he could make such a mistake.
29 It was possible. So that was left alone.

1 Q. So he was not punished for that?

2 A. He was not punished for that.

3 Q. And just to be clear about dollars, I know Liberia has a
4 dollar that is different to --

12:11:17 5 A. US dollars, please.

6 Q. Just for the sake of clarity, we have talked about that
7 half a million dollars that you had taken from Gaddafi to
8 President Taylor in South Africa, was that US dollars or --

9 A. US dollars.

12:11:38 10 Q. What happened to Musa Cisse?

11 A. Musa Cisse died. He fell ill and died.

12 Q. Witness, let me go back to where we were with the Gambians.
13 You mentioned this General Jackson who had died, or had been
14 killed saving Taylor's life. He was called General Jackson. Why
15 was he called a general?

12:12:02 16 A. When you are an aide-de-camp to the President you will be
17 called a general, a brigadier general, must be the head. Either
18 brigadier or a lieutenant general will occupy that position. So
19 he must be called a general when you are an aide-de-camp to the
12:12:26 20 President.

21 Q. And where had you first met this General Jackson?

22 A. I met General Jackson first in Burkina with his brother,
23 who is Dr Manneh, who happened to be the head of the group that
24 went to The Gambia to find them through their government. That
12:12:54 25 is the younger brother who was Jackson. I met them together in
26 Burkina.

27 Q. Do you know when that was when you met them in Burkina?

28 A. We were in Burkina in 1989, 1989, the later part of 1989.
29 After that we separated and we went our separate ways towards

1 Liberia.

2 Q. Did you ever see Dr Manneh again?

3 A. No, until we entered Liberia and we captured Buchanan.

4 That was when I saw Dr Manneh. He was in Buchanan like he was in
12:13:38 5 charge of Buchanan. I didn't know how he got that appointment.

6 He was in Buchanan and he became so powerful he was ordering
7 soldiers to war and things. Mr Taylor at the time didn't like
8 what he was doing. As a result of that, he had to leave. He
9 left. Since then I have not seen him any more.

12:13:59 10 Q. Well, who was he ordering? Which soldiers?

11 A. Ordering our soldiers. He came along with a dozen of
12 Gambians. They were there together with our own fighting forces.
13 They were all - they were on mixed operations. Nobody would know
14 who was a Gambian. No Liberian would know who was a Gambian, or
12:14:27 15 who was a Liberian, except you had that kind of - that level of
16 experience, but he was fighting alongside our forces.

17 Q. And was he investigated?

18 A. Not that I know of, but there is like - he was not
19 satisfied with the treatment too because he was becoming
12:14:57 20 powerful. He was deputy to Taylor in operations, which President
21 Taylor didn't like very much. He was the sole owner of the
22 revolution. He didn't have a deputy at the time to say, "You
23 deputise today, you deputise tomorrow." That was Manneh's
24 behaviour, so he had to go back to where he came from.

12:15:19 25 Q. Do you recall any other Gambians that were in Liberia at
26 this time with the NPFL?

27 A. There were a lot of them. There were lots of them. There
28 was a fellow who called himself Yank Smith, who himself was a
29 Gambian and he became a Liberian ambassador to Tunisia and Libya

1 in my stead when I became Vice-President. Yank Smith.

2 Q. Just stop there for a moment.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What did you say his name was?

12:15:59 5 A. Y-A-N-K, Yank Smith, S-M-I-T-H.

6 Q. S-M-I-T-H, so it is Smith in the English pronunciation?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Smith and first name Yank. Was that his true name?

9 A. No, that was a pure Liberian name. I don't know how he got
12:16:37 10 that name, but that was a name he used in Liberia. As I speak he
11 is known as Yank Smith, but he is a Gambian.

12 Q. What was the source of that name, do you know?

13 A. No, I wouldn't say.

14 Q. How, as a non-Liberian, was he able to be an ambassador to
12:17:00 15 a foreign country on behalf of Liberia?

16 A. That was illegal, but I wouldn't say. I don't know how.

17 Q. Do you know of any other Gambians that had positions in the
18 NPFL, or in Taylor's government?

19 A. Yes, Yank Smith, there was a guy who became aide-de-camp to
12:17:27 20 the President, General Jackson who also became a senior aide and
21 he died in the process. There was Rebel, but I can't remember
22 his name. He was called some kind of rebel, also from The
23 Gambia. There were many. Some died during the war. They were
24 fighting alongside us. I will come to that name later.

12:17:50 25 Q. Do you know an individual whose last name was Monsua
26 [phon]?

27 A. Yes, Monsua, yes.

28 Q. Can you remember what his first name was?

29 A. Monsua, no, I can't remember. I will remember later. It

1 has been quite a long time so I am having difficulties
2 recollecting the names.

3 Q. Okay. Do you know an individual by the name of Mustafa
4 Jalloh?

12:18:18 5 A. Yes, Mustapha Jallow, he is a Gambian too. I remember that
6 name.

7 Q. Did he hold a position in Liberia?

8 A. They were all attached to the Executive Mansion Guard unit.
9 They were closer to the President. You investigate to know what
10 their positions were and what their assignments were. They were
11 like backup forces. They were there, but I can be clear on the
12 Liberian citizens than the Gambians. They were coming in like
13 mercenaries because they were there on some secret operation
14 which I can specify.

12:19:02 15 Q. You mentioned someone just before we passed the Gambians
16 and go on to other nationalities that was called Rebel. Do you
17 have any idea was that his nickname or what?

18 A. That is a name. He was some kind of a rebel, but he was a
19 Gambian. He was a Gambian, a very tall man, but I have forgotten
12:19:21 20 his name.

21 Q. You said yesterday that you had seen Bockarie in Liberia
22 during Taylor's presidency. Can you give us more precision about
23 when you first saw him there?

24 A. I saw Mosquito first in Benjamin Yeaten's house at the back
12:19:44 25 of Mr Taylor's residence, down in a slope where Benjamin lived.
26 That was where I met Mosquito for the first time. He was
27 introduced to me by Benjamin Yeaten and he said, "This is
28 Mosquito", I mean Sam Bockarie called Mosquito. He shook my
29 hands and said, "Chief, how do you do, sir?" I said, "I am all

1 right. I am all right. I am Blah. I am the Vice-President of
2 Liberia." From then on he has called me chief. Sometimes I see
3 him driving in a Nissan patrol jeep, a grey jeep that was given
4 to him by the President, President Taylor.

12:20:34 5 Q. Did Mr Bockarie tell you why he was in Liberia?

6 A. No, he didn't tell me, but I saw him with Benjamin Yeaten
7 and I concluded that he has come to Liberia by order from the
8 President, or by Benjamin Yeaten, because I saw him in Benjamin
9 Yeaten's house for the first time.

12:20:57 10 Q. And if he didn't tell you what he was doing, did you find
11 out what he was doing?

12 A. No, I did not.

13 Q. You said you saw him once at Benjamin Yeaten's house. Did
14 he stay anywhere else?

12:21:11 15 A. Yes, he was there and later he was given a house very close
16 to the Nigerian House. He was there with his group for some
17 time. Excuse me, please. I saw him first at the Nigerian House,
18 but I did not go in there to talk to him. I drove by and he said
19 one Mosquito lives there. It was on the second time that I
12:21:39 20 intercepted and shook hands with him in Benjamin's house and he
21 introduced - Benjamin introduced him to me and we shook hands.

22 Q. Well, let's be clear about the Nigerian House. Where was
23 the Nigerian House?

24 A. The Nigerian House is in Congo Town, very close to the
12:22:01 25 first White Flower, the first place where Taylor stayed that I
26 mentioned earlier, by the German embassy in Monrovia and at the
27 back a little bit you have got the Ghanaian embassy. In between
28 there is White House and in between there was a road. That was
29 where he was.

1 Q. When you saw him this first time had Taylor moved into the
2 second White Flower in Monrovia or was he --

3 A. Exactly so. No, when I met him for the first time Taylor
4 was in the first White Flower where he was - where the Chinese
12:22:38 5 embassy is now.

6 Q. And again, and I'm not sure we got precision on this, in
7 terms of Taylor's presidency, beginning in '97, how long into his
8 presidency was it before he got the second or built the second
9 White Flower in Monrovia?

12:22:57 10 A. That I wouldn't know, because, as I told you, I was up and
11 down. I didn't know when he moved. But at one time when I came
12 - I went on a mission. They said he had moved to his new house.
13 All of us were happy and we moved to where he was, his new place.
14 I didn't keep track of the movement of the President. I didn't
12:23:27 15 keep track of that.

16 Q. You said that he was there with his group, Bockarie was
17 there with his group. Again, where was he with his group?

18 A. When I met him at Benjamin Yeaten's house I met him alone,
19 but when I was coming out of the house I saw people speaking
12:23:53 20 Krio. It was not a very big group. They were like nine, ten men
21 outside Benjamin Yeaten's residence. They all stood up and they
22 watched me pass by, the time we met in Benjamin Yeaten's house.

23 Q. And how were you able to tell they were speaking Krio?

24 A. I know. As I told you earlier I know the Sierra Leoneans
12:24:19 25 when they speak. I know the Liberians when they speak. I know
26 all those people, all those foreigners. Within our region when
27 they speak we do know each other by speaking.

28 Q. Did you see these Sierra Leoneans on any other occasion?

29 A. Yes, I saw them around - the last time I saw them - no,

1 before the last time I saw them it was when I was arrested and
2 put into detention, in prison. There were a lot of them by where
3 I was. From the back of the window to the front of the house
4 they were there passing and threatening me with statements, "Oh,
12:25:09 5 we will kill the Pa's Vice-President tonight. We will go to
6 Robertsfield tonight". They were speaking - they were speaking
7 to each other in Krio. I was not sleeping. I was a little bit
8 disturbed. I was still alive and they were talking and talking
9 right where I was detained. I used to see them through the
12:25:32 10 windows and watch them as they moved about. They were fully
11 armed with rifles, guarding where I was.

12 Q. Okay, we will get on to that situation later. Let's just
13 ask you though whether you saw any other Sierra Leoneans other
14 than this group at any time in Liberia during Taylor's
12:25:58 15 presidency?

16 A. They were always there. They were always there. My God,
17 come back with the question.

18 Q. Well, let me ask you about any official visitors from
19 Sierra Leone. Were there any of those?

12:26:24 20 A. Yes, yes. On one occasion there was a little conflict
21 between Sam Bockarie and Foday Sankoh and Johnny Paul Koroma.
22 They came to Liberia. They had a meeting in which I was not
23 involved, but according to Foday Sankoh who said they had come to
24 chief to settle this matter between us and so that we can go
12:27:05 25 back. I didn't know how it ended.

26 The last time I saw Johnny Paul Koroma was when he was at
27 Spriggs Payne airport, a smaller airstrip that we have in
28 Liberia. He boarded a helicopter. We had our own helicopter
29 that took him back to Sierra Leone. That was the last time, but

1 he seemed not to be satisfied because he spoke to me before he
2 boarded the plane that he had also come to the chief but the
3 treatment he received from the RUF was not satisfactory so he was
4 going back. He said he was not satisfied with the judgment
12:27:43 5 anyway.

6 Q. Well, who is he referring to when he spoke - when he said
7 that he had spoken to the chief?

8 A. He was speaking to the President. He said, "Well,
9 President Taylor has called us to settle this matter, but it
12:28:03 10 looked like I am not satisfied with the judgment, but I have to
11 take it as it is". He went back to Sierra Leone on the
12 helicopter.

13 Q. Well, what did he mean by "judgment"?

14 A. They had conflict. They had dispute among themselves and
12:28:21 15 so they had to come down to President Taylor to see how he will
16 unite them to work as a unit. He said he was not satisfied with
17 the decision taken by President Taylor.

18 Q. Well, why did Taylor have the ability to make a decision
19 for them?

12:28:39 20 A. I wouldn't know.

21 Q. How would you describe their relationship with Taylor?

22 A. It was cordial, because if you come to somebody to try to
23 determine the matter between you - between both of you - it could
24 be that the relationship is good.

12:29:10 25 Q. You said he left in a helicopter?

26 A. Yes.

27 Q. Was it a Liberian helicopter?

28 A. A helicopter, yes, we had a helicopter.

29 Q. And do you know where he was going precisely in Sierra

1 Leone?

2 A. No, I wouldn't know.

3 Q. And do you know what position Johnny Paul Koroma held or
4 had held in Sierra Leone?

12:29:34 5 A. Johnny Paul Koroma was the head of the junta. From what I
6 read in the papers and listened to the radios, that he was head
7 of the junta in Sierra Leone.

8 Q. And to the best of your knowledge when he came to Sierra
9 Leone on this occasion, was he then a head of the junta?

12:29:57 10 A. No, he was not. Something happened that I did not know.
11 Either he was caught in the RUF territory or something, because
12 something happened, some misunderstanding. They wanted someone
13 to unite them. That was why they came to President Taylor.

14 Q. Could you tell whether this was before or after the period
12:30:19 15 of the junta?

16 A. It was after the period of the junta, because the reason is
17 that the discussion we had, he was talking like he was not in
18 control of anything at that time.

19 Q. Did Yeaten ever discuss with you the Sierra Leoneans that
12:30:52 20 were with him?

21 A. No, he did not.

22 Q. You mentioned the Sierra Leoneans being with Yeaten when
23 you saw him at Yeaten's house and then later when you were
24 yourself detained. Do you know what the Sierra Leoneans did for
12:31:16 25 Yeaten?

26 A. I saw them with Yeaten and on some occasions I saw them in
27 a car riding around town or going on duty, but I wouldn't say
28 directly what they were doing with Yeaten. I told you my
29 authority was limited to talking to the Executive Mansion Guard,

1 or unit, to be investigated and what I was trying to find out I
2 will get into trouble.

3 Q. Well, were any Sierra Leoneans involved in the war in
4 Liberia?

12:31:53 5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And which Sierra Leoneans were involved?

7 A. The Sierra Leoneans fought along the LURD, they attacked
8 LURD in Ganta and the Sierra Leoneans whom we saw were with
9 Benjamin Yeaten. They fought and pushed the LURD rebels from -

12:32:20 10 they pushed them towards Guinea and I saw them on two or three
11 occasions with heavy weapons. They were very powerful indeed.

12 Q. Let's talk about LURD for a moment. What was LURD? I am
13 not sure we have mentioned that word yet?

14 A. LURD was the movement, a fighting force, backed by the
12:32:44 15 Mandingo ethnic group. They were fighting against the government
16 of Liberia. There were three factions. There was Government of
17 Liberia, the LURD and MODEL and they were helping alongside the
18 government forces to push the LURD back into Guinea.

19 Q. Okay. Now we are in a pronoun situation. They were
12:33:07 20 fighting alongside government forces. Who was the "they"?

21 A. The group from Sierra Leone. They were fighting alongside
22 the government forces.

23 Q. And did the group from Sierra Leone have a name?

24 A. Yes, the LURD - I mean the RUF headed by Mosquito,
12:33:26 25 Sam Bockarie.

26 Q. And what relationship did Yeaten have to this group of RUF?

27 A. They had a good relationship. I met them together. They
28 moved together. They ate together. They were very friendly.
29 They were very, very friendly. He hosted them and we found a

1 place for them. They were in my county and they were at various
2 locations, sir. They were posted.

3 Q. And when this fighting happened with the LURD in which the
4 RUF was involved, were you ambassador then or were you
12:34:03 5 Vice-President?

6 A. I was Vice-President of Liberia then.

7 Q. And did they fight anywhere else other than in this battle
8 that you described with the LURD?

9 A. They fought - they fought in Lofa, but what I heard - it
12:34:22 10 was rumoured - someone told me that it was Benjamin himself who
11 said, "You people should not worry. Do not be worried. If LURD
12 was coming from Guinea to attack our area like in Voinjama they
13 will be cut off by our brothers from Sierra Leone". He did not
14 say RUF when he was telling us. He said, "Our brothers from

12:34:46 15 Sierra Leone will be there and they will be cut off by them".

16 Q. And when was that roughly when he was telling you that?

17 A. He was telling me that in 2003. It was a recent
18 conversation - it was a recent conversation in 2003.

19 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Rapp, the witness mentioned two groups
12:35:05 20 LURD and MODEL I think. What was MODEL and how do you spell it?

21 MR RAPP:

22 Q. You heard the judge's comment. Let me pose a question.
23 What was MODEL and how do you spell MODEL?

24 A. MODEL was a group that grew out of ULIMO-K. They were from
12:35:29 25 the Krahn ethnic group. They were backed by MODEL. M-U-D-E-L,
26 MODEL. M-U-R-D-E-L or M-U-D-L. It can be spelled in two ways.

27 Q. Now you indicated that this group of RUF under Bockarie was
28 fighting the RUF. Were they also involved - or they were in the
29 RUF, they were fighting LURD. Were they also involved against

1 MODEL?

12:36:16 2 A. Yes, they were fighting against MODEL in Lofa. MODEL was
3 coming in from Voinjama backing - how do they call it? Backing
4 from Guinea. In fact they were coming from Guinea on to Voinjama
5 and they were trying to come to Foya where we had a bigger base
6 where our men were posted. They had been pushed back by the RUF
7 forces. From what Benjamin said, I was not there, he said, "Our
8 brothers, the RUF forces, will have to push them back. Our
9 brothers are there to push them back".

12:36:45 10 Q. Do you know where they pushed them back to?

11 A. Back to Sierra Leone. That's what he said. We all knew
12 that they were from Sierra Leone.

13 Q. Did this Bockarie group go into any other country?

12:37:05 14 A. I only knew that they were coming from out of Cote
15 d'Ivoire. I didn't know when they went to Cote d'Ivoire, but I
16 saw them coming from out of Cote d'Ivoire into Liberia for the
17 last time.

18 Q. And when did you see them coming out of Cote d'Ivoire?

12:37:25 19 A. That was in May. It was in May, only May. They came
20 through Loguatu, entry point to Cote d'Ivoire. They came into
21 Ganta and on to Saclepea where they were in a very large group.

22 Usually I go to my town to spend weekends. As
23 Vice-President, when I am taking a break off, or time off, I go
24 to my home, which is Toweh Town, Nimba County. On one occasion I
12:37:53 25 was going home when there was a big convoy of LURD - of RUF
26 fighters entering the country and people were all panicky because
27 they were bringing arms, ammunition, trucks, cars. The civilians
28 in Ganta said, "Well, where are these boys coming from? It is a
29 very big group and they were fighting people." They did not

1 bother anyone. They went and left towards my home town and they
2 based in Saclepea. When I got to Saclepea I went to the old
3 school building where they were. They brought women, they
4 brought children from Cote d'Ivoire, they brought arms and
12:38:32 5 ammunition and cars. At one point they were fighting over a car,
6 so I went to where they were. I didn't see Sam Bockarie there,
7 but I saw other commanders who came with them. I said, "Where
8 are you people based and what are you doing here?" They said
9 they were coming from - there was a conflict with their group in
12:38:55 10 Cote d'Ivoire and, "We had to escape to come to Liberia with our
11 properties", their cars, women, their children and they were all
12 at the school building in Saclepea.

13 Q. I don't know if we have the spelling of Saclepea. How is
14 that spelt?

12:39:12 15 A. S-A-C-L-E-P-E-A, Saclepea.

16 Q. Okay, I think we have got S-A-C-L-E-P-E-A.

17 A. Yes, P-E-A.

18 Q. And you said this was in May. May of what year?

19 A. 2003.

12:39:34 20 Q. And do you know --

21 A. 2002, sorry.

22 Q. Do you know where they went after that?

23 A. They were there helping to fight the group in Ganta. They
24 were there for quite a long time. On what I saw earlier or
12:40:01 25 later, what I saw was I was on my way to my home again on another
26 weekend when I discovered the men were still on the road, but the
27 fighting in Ganta - by the time we got to Ganta we had to bypass
28 Ganta because there was fighting going on. When I took the back
29 road where we used the pass and came on to Cocopa, Roberts

1 plantation, that was when I saw the manager of that plantation,
2 called Harrison Karnwea.

3 Q. Okay, we have a couple of locations there. You said you
4 went to a Cocopa plantation. What type of plantation was that?

12:40:44 5 A. That was a Roberts plantation called Cocopa plantation.

6 Q. Is that C-O-C-O-P-A?

7 A. Yes, Cocopa.

8 Q. And you mentioned there was an individual at the plantation
9 called Harrison Karnwea.

12:40:57 10 A. Karnwea, the manager of the farm, of the plantation.

11 Q. Is that K-A-R-N-W-E-A?

12 A. Yes, Karnwea.

13 Q. How do you know Harrison Karnwea?

14 A. Harrison had been my old time friend. He had been my
12:41:14 15 friend for quite a very, very long time and we are of the same
16 ethnic group.

17 Q. Before we leave the Sierra Leoneans, you talked about
18 Bockarie staying at the Nigerian House near the German embassy in
19 Monrovia at one point.

12:41:36 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Do you know where he stayed after that?

22 A. From there, as time went by, in 2002 that was the time I
23 discovered that they had come through Cote d'Ivoire and he has
24 come along with his group and they were based at this plantation.

12:41:57 25 That was where he stayed: Harrison Karnwea's house in Cocopa.

26 Q. And do you know how long he stayed at this house in Cocopa?

27 A. No, I wouldn't say. I wouldn't say exactly how long, but
28 that was where he was based. The men were staying in Saclepea
29 because he had a very large group. The group was in Saclepea

1 with their wives and children. When they leave Saclepea they go
2 to help to fight in Ganta.

12:42:39 3 Q. Again, because I know we are going back and forth in dates,
4 this battle that was going on in Ganta, who were they fighting in
5 Ganta?

6 A. They were fighting LURD in Ganta. LURD was attacking Ganta
7 and trying to control Ganta in order to stay and base there. We
8 too were trying, as a government, to push them out of Ganta into
9 Guinea and LURD was assisting us to do that.

12:43:00 10 Q. LURD was assisting you to fight the LURD? I mean who was
11 assisting you to fight the LURD?

12 A. RUF. Bockarie's group was fighting us from Sierra Leone.

13 Q. Well, you talk about pushing them back into Guinea. Did
14 RUF --

12:43:17 15 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Rapp, you had better get this evidence
16 sorted out. The witness has replied, "The RUF were fighting us
17 from Sierra Leone." Was that the evidence?

18 MR RAPP:

12:43:34 19 Q. Let's be clear here, witness. On what side was the RUF
20 fighting?

21 A. RUF was not fighting us, sorry, judge. RUF was fighting,
22 assisting us to fight LURD to go back into Guinea from two
23 fronts. The first front the fighting was was in Voinjama.

24 Voinjama LURD would come and attack. The LURD would come and
12:43:56 25 attack to push us out of Voinjama. RUF will come from out of
26 Guinea to assist us to push them back into Guinea.

27 Q. Okay, Voinjama I think we have that several times.

28 A. Yes, Voinjama fighting was a separate fight. Voinjama when
29 they discovered - when RUF is coming out of Sierra Leone, to

1 assist us push LURD, is a different occasion. Then the occasion
2 with LURD, that time LURD had not come out of Cote d'Ivoire to
3 enter. They later entered into Liberia, it was in May 2000. I
4 mean that is 2002. That was when they entered through Cote
12:44:42 5 d'Ivoire to assist us with the Ganta war. That is what I am
6 trying to say. They are two separate times. They were always
7 assisting us from out of Sierra Leone.

8 Q. And just to be clear, you said push LURD back into Guinea.
9 Did the RUF go into Guinea?

12:45:04 10 A. No, they were assisting us to push them. We did not go to
11 Guinea because it was not possible. They will assist us to push
12 -delay them from taking big cities like Voinjama and Ganta.

13 Q. Okay. Let's go on to your vice-presidency and your
14 official role. As Vice-President did you take any official trips
12:45:34 15 on behalf of your government?

16 A. Yes, to my knowledge I went to - I went to South Africa to
17 represent the government when there was the Francophone
18 conference. They wanted President Taylor to attend. He couldn't
19 go because there were frequent attacks from LURD and MODEL, so he
12:46:07 20 could not go, so he asked that I go to represent him in South
21 Africa. Then there was another occasion when I had to go to
22 Nigeria to represent Liberia at the inauguration of Obasanjo in
23 Nigeria and I will recollect later.

24 Q. Did you make any official visits to countries that adjoined
12:46:41 25 Liberia?

26 A. Yes, when these visits happened I was then the President.
27 It was not under his administration.

28 Q. Well, as a Vice-President did you make any visit to Sierra
29 Leone?

1 A. Yes, I went to Sierra Leone. He had asked that I go to
2 Sierra Leone to take along a communication from him to President
3 Tejan Kabbah of Sierra Leone, which I did.

4 Q. And what was that communication?

12:47:16 5 A. Well, there was an explanation that he was involved with
6 the war in Sierra Leone, that he was not, that he was a member of
7 - as a member of the Mano River basin he would not attack his
8 neighbour. A lot of explanations to clarify things to President
9 Tejan Kabbah. Taylor wanted to clarify to President Tejan
12:47:42 10 Kabbah, so I took the communication. I was head of a delegation
11 that went. I was not alone. The defence minister was there and
12 the advisor of national security was also with me. We went to
13 Sierra Leone, but I headed the delegation.

14 Q. You were delivering this message that you just described to
12:48:07 15 us. Do you know what that message was in response to, if
16 anything?

17 A. Well, I did not take the response with me. I was asked too
18 many questions by the press, my involvement, my country's
19 involvement with the war in Sierra Leone, whether we were
12:48:30 20 harbouring Mosquito. A lot of questions came up from the press.
21 What I did was to tell them that they did all that, but there was
22 no response. He received a letter that and I should tell his
23 brother thanks.

24 Q. Well, I think you just told us that he was saying, "We are
12:48:51 25 not involved in attacking our fellow country in the Mano River
26 region." Was that a response to something that you were
27 delivering?

28 A. The response to what? The accusation from all the Sierra
29 Leoneans, from newspapers, from everywhere. The accusation was

1 so large that people would talk about it all over the place:
2 Mosquito being in Liberia, that Liberia is backing the war in
3 Sierra Leone. That was what he was trying to refute: That he
4 was not. That was what the letter said.

12:49:35 5 Q. And whom did you meet in Sierra Leone?

6 A. I met President Tejan Kabbah first and then I went on to -
7 with his permission I went in to see - because there was a lot of
8 talking that he denied. He instructed me - President Taylor did
9 not instruct me to do, but I went to see the amputees, their
12:50:02 10 condition, to make sure that it actually happened to the people
11 of Sierra Leone. I went to the amputees camp, I saw them, I
12 greeted them. I said in general, "I am not trying to preach at
13 the people of Liberia, but you allege saying that we are killing
14 your people. We are not in court, but I am sorry for what
12:50:27 15 happened to you. This is war. If there was something, I don't
16 think we were fully responsible. This is the money from my own
17 pocket." I saw some people they were very, very sorrowful. They
18 had both hands amputated, their legs. I saw a fat woman in a
19 condition, it almost brought tears to my eyes. I said, "Sorry,
12:50:53 20 why must this thing happen? This is a high degree of cruelty."
21 I spoke to her, I rubbed her back and I gave them some money.
22 That was what I did in Sierra Leone.

23 Q. I just want to be precise. What did you say about
24 Liberians in Sierra Leone, or what did you say on behalf of your
12:51:14 25 country?

26 A. I said I was sorry, I was sorry. I said, "This is an
27 accusation. If this happened I am very, very sorry." I couldn't
28 say yes at the time, that Liberians were killing Sierra Leoneans.
29 I said I was sorry for the condition - I was sorry for the

1 condition of those people, so I had to give them some money on my
2 own. It was not from the Government of Liberia. I told them
3 that.

4 Q. Well, why couldn't you say yes, it had been Liberia?

12:51:48 5 A. No, at that time it was not possible for me to say. Then I
6 will be judging my President, I will be judging myself. So what
7 I said was that I was sorry for what was happening so I gave them
8 some money and I said, "Well, look, I am sorry, if this is the
9 case I am sorry, we will talk at a later date", but the President
12:52:09 10 had sent to me already that he was not involved with the war in
11 Sierra Leone. I mentioned the letter that was given to Tejan
12 Kabbah that I brought.

13 Q. Now you used this expression there was a lot of talking
14 that he denied. What did you mean by "a lot of talking"?

12:52:26 15 A. People said we have Sam Bockarie in Liberia, we have men in
16 Sierra Leone fighting and I was - I was hit hard by the press of
17 Sierra Leone. They had twisted me everywhere to find facts that
18 we were backing the war in Sierra Leone and I said, "No, I don't
19 know anything about that".

12:52:54 20 Q. This Bockarie comment at the time that you - did they
21 accuse you or was - the discussion that Bockarie was in Sierra
22 Leone, did you respond to that? Excuse me, in Liberia. Did you
23 respond to that?

24 A. No, I responded and said he was not in Liberia. At that
12:53:14 25 time I had not seen him in Liberia. It was later on that I came
26 to see him and talk to him.

27 Q. Yesterday, and I wasn't sure we got a precise date, you
28 mentioned this press conference or announcement that Taylor was
29 involved in where Christopher Varmoh known as Liberian Mosquito

1 was shown off and said, "This is the only Mosquito that we have
2 in Liberia". When was that in time compared to these allegations
3 that you were hearing when you were over there in Sierra Leone?

12:53:56 4 A. The allegation went around for some time. Everybody heard
5 it everywhere. Sierra Leone and Liberians are so close that
6 people in Liberia, some are married to Sierra Leoneans. Some
7 women are married to Liberians. We are mixed. And this thing
8 was embarrassing. Wherever you turned they tell you, "Your
9 government was fighting another war in Sierra Leone. You have
12:54:19 10 your own war here which you should fight". And when President
11 Taylor called a press conference he called Christopher Varmoh,
12 Liberian Mosquito, he is called Mosquito also, he said, "Well,
13 there is the only Mosquito I have in Liberia. He is called
14 Christopher Varmoh. We do not have Sam Bockarie of RUF here in
12:54:46 15 Liberia", and that was said publicly in the newspapers, on the
16 radios and on television, et cetera

17 Q. Just in relation to time, was that before or after your
18 visit to Freetown?

19 A. It was before my visit to Freetown, after I returned from
12:55:04 20 Freetown.

21 Q. Wait. Was it after you returned to Freetown or before you
22 went to Freetown?

23 A. Before I went to Freetown. Before I went to Freetown. I
24 think that's number of days - he wanted to give the clarification
12:55:23 25 to his brother. He said, "Take the letter to Tejan Kabbah after
26 the press conference".

27 Q. Well, about how much time elapsed between the press
28 conference and your departure to Freetown?

29 A. There was no time in between I could remember. It was very

1 short. Immediately after the conference he asked that I go to
2 Freetown.

12:55:58 3 Q. And in terms of your three years as Vice-President what
4 time of your term was this? Was it the beginning, the middle, or
5 the end?

6 A. That was in the middle of his term. The first President -
7 the Vice-President was called Enoch Dogolea. This is the man I
8 said got sick and died. I had returned from Libya to see my
9 family and I wanted to go back and they said, "Wait, wait, you
10 wait until there is an election by our party in the legislature",
11 and I became Vice-President of Liberia.

12 Q. Witness, I think you may have confused my question or maybe
13 I didn't put it precisely enough. I was asking about your visit
14 to Sierra Leone, this visit that you have just described.

12:56:41 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You said it was during your vice-presidency?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you have told us you were Vice-President for three
19 years?

12:56:49 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Beginning in 2000?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Now was it in the first, second, third year? Which year
24 was it of your vice-presidency?

12:56:59 25 A. It was in the second year. It was in the second year. I'm
26 sorry, I didn't understand the question.

27 Q. At any time before or after your visit to Freetown did you
28 attend any meetings regarding the peace process in Sierra Leone?

29 THE WITNESS: Your Honours, sir, can you please allow me to

1 use the restroom?

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Again, Mr Rapp, if you wish to have a
3 seat.

4 MR RAPP: Thank you.

13:02:38 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please proceed, Mr Rapp.

6 MR RAPP: Thank you, Madam President, your Honours:

7 Q. Witness, when we broke I was asking you whether at any time
8 before or after your visit to Freetown as Vice-President did you
9 attend any meetings regarding the peace process in Sierra Leone?

13:03:04 10 A. Yes, we went on to Togo where there was a peace conference
11 with Foday Sankoh and other members of the RUF who I might not
12 know and there was a meeting to try to stop the conflict in
13 Sierra Leone. That was held in Togo and it was headed by the
14 Togolese President at the time.

13:03:40 15 Q. And did you have any contact with any peacekeepers that
16 were involved in the Sierra Leone peace process?

17 A. Contact with peace?

18 Q. Peacekeepers.

19 A. Peacekeeping force, no. I don't know. I never.

13:04:03 20 Q. Do you know anything about what happened with the
21 peacekeeping force in Sierra Leone?

22 A. Yes, I heard of that. There were conflicts between the
23 peacekeepers and Sam Bockarie, to be precise with the RUF, and
24 they were disarmed and they were taken hostage. That is what I
13:04:33 25 know.

26 Q. And do you know what happened thereafter?

27 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Who was taken hostage?

28 THE WITNESS: The peacekeepers were taken hostage in Sierra
29 Leone by the RUF.

1 MR RAPP:

2 Q. And do you know what happened afterwards?

3 A. After that that was the time ECOWAS wanted the President at
4 the time, President Taylor, to intervene and to ensure that the
13:05:10 5 peacekeepers were released. They actually wanted his
6 intervention and the request was all over the international
7 community wanted him to intervene.

8 Q. Did he intervene?

9 A. Yes, he did intervene. He intervened and some of the
13:05:32 10 peacekeepers were brought to Monrovia and they were turned over
11 to their rightful commanders.

12 Q. Do you know where they were taken in Monrovia?

13 A. No, I don't know where they were taken to, but I knew that
14 President Taylor had instructed that they be brought to Monrovia
13:05:57 15 and he in return will turn them over to where they were supposed
16 to go as peacekeepers for their own safety.

17 Q. You said President Taylor had instructed. Who did he
18 instruct?

19 A. He had told the RUF to release the men and turn them over
13:06:18 20 to him in Monrovia and that he intervened and he promised the
21 international community that the people will be released. He,
22 Taylor, intervened.

23 Q. Witness, earlier you had quoted Yeaten in a meeting saying,
24 "You people should not worry", because he had this group that
13:06:51 25 could protect them. Who was he referring to as "you people"?

26 A. No, his people. By that I mean our people and that meant
27 the RUF and later he specified that he was talking to the RUF.
28 And I wanted to know who the groups were and he said the RUF will
29 be coming in to block the LURD so that they will not be able to

1 take Foya and that Foya was beyond Voinjama where they were
2 supposed to use the same route from Guinea to enter Liberia. And
3 he said he had people there, his friends, his brothers. He said
4 our brothers were there and they were there to block the road.

13:07:33 5 And that happened for about ten to 20 times. They will come and
6 we will hear from radio communication that they have been blocked
7 and that they have been pushed back with a heavy force and people
8 wanted to think about it and said, "Who are these people?" And
9 we used to tell other people that the government had people from
13:07:53 10 Sierra Leone and they were pushing the people back.

11 Q. And I think we had people there in two things. Which
12 people were pushed back?

13 A. The RUF was there to push the LURD and to delay the LURD
14 from coming into attack Liberia, because they were very close to
13:08:14 15 the LURD and the fighting men from the government.

16 Q. Now there was an earlier question and I just want to be
17 precise because I recall you and I think we can go back and see
18 it in the record, Yeaten said, "You people should not worry".
19 Who was he speaking to when he said "you people"?

13:08:39 20 A. He was talking to the fighters; people who were concerned
21 with war and people who were leaders in Liberia. But
22 specifically he was talking, when I was in conversation with him,
23 that LURD was trying to enter and it was as a result of that he
24 said the people should not worry and he was telling me some other
13:09:03 25 things that people will not question and he said I should tell
26 the people that they should not worry, that the people of Liberia
27 should not worry, because we had the RUF coming from Sierra Leone
28 and they were always blocking so that they will not be able to
29 penetrate to pass through.

1 Q. You also said that the RUF was closer to the LURD. What
2 did you mean by that?

3 A. Well, they were in the same region. Now we don't have the
4 map here to show where they were coming from. Sierra Leone was
13:09:38 5 on the left-hand side and Guinea was on the right-hand side and
6 in between where the LURD was passing through to come was very
7 close to the RUF. So they had the power to block where they were
8 coming from, because they were very close.

9 Q. And what county were they in?

10 A. In Lofa County. All of this happened in Lofa County.

11 Q. Now you said you had heard Benjamin Yeaten say this thing
12 about, "You people should not worry" and you spoke of there being
13 soldiers and leaders. Did you participate in meetings to discuss
14 the security situation?

13:10:18 15 A. No. It was on one occasion that he said this thing and it
16 was in an open conversation and he was laughing about it and that
17 we heard that day that the LURD will be pushed back by forces and
18 by our forces and then he said, "But we told you that the people
19 should not be worried because we have our brothers there that
13:10:45 20 will push the LURD back at any time they attempted to enter
21 Liberia". He was generally talking and everybody was listening.
22 It was in an open - it was not in a secret - it was not in a
23 meeting.

24 Q. Do you know where these security issues were discussed?

13:11:05 25 A. Most of the time security issues were discussed at White
26 Flower and there is a place where they went, where they had the
27 maps, where there were commanders, field commanders, who will go
28 and as Vice-President I would not go there because the people who
29 were concerned with the war will go, sit and discuss and find

1 locations, the route of enemies and that often happened, but
2 there was no special time. It was when there was war. There
3 wasn't any special time that they were called. And when the
4 commanders were going to fight at certain location and they will
13:11:51 5 go and they will ask, "Where is your position now? Where are you
6 and where are the enemies?" And they will sit there and say,
7 "The enemies are advancing" or, "The enemies have been pushed
8 back" and the map will be brought and then the discussion will go
9 on like that and that was in White Flower.

13:12:07 10 Q. And how did you know about that?

11 A. I knew about it. I had been Vice-President, I had been
12 inspector general of the organisation. I had been nearly
13 everything. I was not present in the meeting, but I must know.
14 Most of the times I told you they were informations I received
13:12:32 15 and some happened in my presence myself.

16 Q. Well, when you were Vice-President did you ever go to that
17 room where these meetings were held?

18 A. I can't say yes or no. I knew where the room was and I
19 knew what was discussed there and at least on one or two
13:12:53 20 occasions I will pass by and the President will allow me in and
21 he will brief me that so and so things are happening, the boys
22 are at this and that location or they are advancing or that
23 enemies are advancing on us. It was not a secret place for any
24 member of the NPFL, especially when you were in a high position.

13:13:18 25 Q. Could you describe the room that Taylor showed you?

26 A. Well, it was an ordinary place, an ordinary seating place,
27 where you could sit and discuss, converse, you sit down and talk
28 and the map will be brought, they will show you the locations.
29 It was not a special kind of place that was under control. It

1 was a place where you will sit and discuss other matters too.

2 Q. You mentioned that on one or two occasions when you were
3 passing by Taylor invited you in and you were provided with
4 information. Who provided you with the information?

13:13:57 5 A. President Taylor. Sometimes when there are things that he
6 wanted to do, yes, he will discuss it with me and he will say
7 that, "President Blah, this is our situation position. We are
8 trying to put the situation under control. You people should not
9 worry". He encouraged me and he was - but sometimes I was a bit
13:14:20 10 nervous when the enemies were approaching Monrovia or approaching
11 a location where they could even overthrow the government, but he
12 will say something that gave us courage.

13 Q. Did this room have a name?

14 A. No, no special name. No special name. It was just a
13:14:44 15 sitting place where you will go and discuss war when it was
16 necessary and it wasn't having a name. It was not a secret
17 place. It's a place where you go and you discuss war and
18 sometimes other matters about government will come up and then
19 you discuss it, but it did not have a special name.

13:15:08 20 Q. Earlier you had described, I think just at the beginning
21 this morning, the weapons being brought into Burkina Faso and
22 your own knowledge about the storage of weapons at White Flower.
23 Would you describe exactly what the facility was where weapons
24 were stored?

13:15:32 25 A. The facility I mentioned earlier was under the house. It
26 was like an underground. On the left-hand side of the building
27 of his residence, you go down, a little bit down the slope, then
28 you turn right, there was an opening that would be closed where -
29 which was a store for weapons to be used, or weapons that were to

1 be dispatched to the war front, or sometimes the engineer, the
2 mechanic, will have to work, go in there to see the weapons fixed
3 and then return to the front to whosoever it concerned. It was
4 that kind of place and it was highly restricted and nobody could
13:16:19 5 go there easily. Highly restricted area. But it was under the
6 residence of Mr Taylor. It was like an underground.

7 Q. Well, if it was highly restricted how did you know about
8 it?

9 A. Oh, I should know. I should know. As inspector general,
13:16:39 10 as ambassador, as Vice-President I must know. I must know. If I
11 was not supposed to know, then I must ask.

12 Q. Specifically how did you learn about this place?

13 A. This was a place that when driving on car to the mansion,
14 that is the President's residence, you see trucks backing up and
13:17:06 15 they will say, "Back off, back off, back off", and you see
16 somebody towing loads to put on a truck, at least you will be
17 concerned and you will want to see what was taken out of there
18 and you must know, as long as you were concerned about the
19 organisation.

13:17:27 20 Q. Witness, did the subject of Sam Bockarie ever come up in a
21 meeting with President Taylor?

22 A. Yes, on one occasion when Bockarie entered Liberia and
23 before I went to my farm, there was a one on one meeting and it
24 went like this: If you were visiting the President or in fact he
13:18:02 25 will call some people in and they will say, "Sam Bockarie is here
26 in Liberia. What to you think should be done to him?" And
27 everybody had different suggestions. Like me, what I said was,
28 "Chief, if we should have this man arrested and taken to Sierra
29 Leone so at least we will have good face from the Sierra Leonean

1 government because they have been accusing us for a very long
2 time". Then he will say "Okay, okay, I heard your view. Thank
3 you, thank you". And that was the response to me when he
4 consulted with me.

13:18:38 5 Q. Well, just to be clear here, you were discussing arrest of
6 Bockarie. Why would he be arrested?

7 A. I said this is a man that the Liberian government has been
8 accused of that he was based in Liberia and he was fighting from
9 out of Liberia and if he is here this time and he has entered the
10 country he should be arrested and turned over to Sierra Leone
11 government so that the Liberian government will have a good face
12 to the Sierra Leone government. And all he said was that, "Okay,
13 okay, I have got your view". Then he was asking views from
14 different government officials, asking them how they felt about
15 Sam Bockarie's presence in Liberia. It was not like a meeting
16 that was held. It was just consultations with government
17 officials.

18 Q. Well, I am not sure I got a clear answer to the question.
19 Arrested, who was going to arrest him?

13:19:44 20 A. The government of Liberia should arrest Sam Bockarie. If
21 he was in the country then he should be turned over to the Sierra
22 Leone government and then the Government of Sierra Leone will be
23 able to have good rapport with the Government of Liberia, because
24 the Government of Liberia headed by Taylor had been accused by
25 the Sierra Leone government repeatedly that Sam Bockarie was in
26 Liberia and now that he had entered the country he should be
27 arrested and turned over to the Sierra Leone government.

28 Q. Well, did you know what the Sierra Leone government wanted
29 of Bockarie?

1 A. They were in search of him and according to them he had
2 committed atrocities in the country and he had committed so many
3 crimes in Sierra Leone and that if he had been - he has been
4 connected to Liberia and that fighting was going on in Sierra
13:20:41 5 Leone and they were supporting them with arms. This was not a
6 secret. It was on international radios, on televisions, human
7 rights groups from all over the world were accusing Liberia at
8 that time.

9 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Rapp, is it possible to have a time
13:20:58 10 frame for this little conversation, this particular conversation?

11 MR RAPP:

12 Q. This conversation that you had with Taylor in regard to
13 Bockarie's presence --

14 A. It was very brief. Your Honour, it was very, very brief.
13:21:14 15 Like we heard that Sam Bockarie is here and he asked, "What do
16 you think about his being here?" Then he said "Oh, Sam Bockarie"
17 --

18 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Witness, I am asking when did this
19 conversation take place, not how long was the conversation. When
13:21:33 20 did it take place?

21 THE WITNESS: Well, your Honour, if you are talking - are
22 you talking about time and date? It happened in 2003, your
23 Honour.

24 MR RAPP: Thank you:

13:21:50 25 Q. You said that after you had given Taylor this advice he
26 said, "Okay, I got your view". What did you do then?

27 A. What else could I have done at that time? I left it. I
28 left it at that and I walked out of his sight.

29 Q. You said that he consulted with people. Were others in

1 your presence at the time of this meeting?

2 A. No, I was alone when he consulted me, but then when I got
3 out I heard from other government officials that Sam Bockarie was
4 in the country and that he had been through - and that they have
13:22:41 5 been through such consultations, but I did not want to find out
6 what their responses were to it. I only knew about what my
7 response was to the President at that time.

8 Q. Did you see Sam Bockarie after the meeting?

9 A. Yes, I saw Sam Bockarie. I saw him on two occasions. The
13:23:13 10 first one was at Cocopa on the way to my village and I stopped by
11 my plantation and when going in by Harrison Karnwea, usually
12 where they go towards the company, and sometimes where the field
13 company - usually when I was going to Ganta I will bend down, I
14 get fuel from the company, and then in those areas we had to stop
13:23:43 15 and get fuel and that time we stopped there to enter the camp and
16 the Harrison camp was on the road and they said I have been a
17 stranger here in the house, "I will not have a place for you
18 because you don't have a space", and he said, "Sam Bockarie is
19 here", and then I allowed him in my jeep.

13:24:01 20 We drove and we went to his house and that was where I saw
21 Sam Bockarie with cars, with Ivory Coast licence plates, cars all
22 over the place, vehicles of different type: Citroen, Peugeot,
23 all French made cars, they were all around. So I was joking with
24 him and I said, "My man, you are rich with vehicles", and then he
13:24:28 25 laughed and then he called Sam Bockarie out. He came and shook
26 my hands again and that was my first time seeing Sam Bockarie
27 close to him in Nimba County and then he said, "Chief, how are
28 you doing?" He saw me in Benjamin's house before and then I left
29 them there and I patrolled, Harrison came on the way and he gave

1 my fuel and then I took off from that end and then went to my
2 village.

3 Q. Just to be clear, this particular visit, this was before or
4 after this meeting that you had with Taylor?

13:25:04 5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Was it before or was it after?

7 A. No, it was after. It was after, after the meeting, and
8 Sam Bockarie had just entered Liberia at that time. I think it
9 was about two days or three days.

13:25:22 10 Q. You said you saw him two times after the meeting.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Where did you see him the next time?

13 A. The last time I saw Sam Bockarie was in the evening. I had
14 gone to the farm again. I think that took about three to four

13:25:40 15 days as somebody died in my town and I went for the funeral and
16 in that evening I drove from Monrovia to my farm and it is in the
17 far distance. I had a hut - not in my big house, I had a hut in
18 my compound and one of my senior bodyguards came around, I think
19 it was about 10.30 to 11.00 and he said, "But, chief, we have

13:26:14 20 lots of vehicles passing, lots of people passing. What is
21 happening?"

22 Then I told him to return to double check where the cars
23 were going to and then when he went outside - and my house was
24 very close to the road and when he went out he did not stay. In
13:26:31 25 no time he came back and he said, "Chief, put on your clothes. I
26 saw Benjamin coming into you. Dress properly."

27 Then I went in and put on my jacket and my trousers and I
28 came outside. As I approached the main road Benjamin was almost
29 at my door and then he said, "How do you do, chief?" I said,

1 "Oh, Ben, where are you going to?" He said, "We are taking
2 patrol tonight." At back of the jeep, the jeep where he was in,
3 he dropped down from the car and the car was coming slowly
4 towards me. That was when I saw Bockarie. He jumped out of the
13:27:09 5 car. His wife, Benjamin's wife, and a lady that I cannot name,
6 those ladies alighted from the car and hurried ladies started
7 calling for seats. He said, "Chief, bring the seats. There are
8 visitors here."

9 Q. Calling for what?

13:27:29 10 A. Seats. They were calling for some place to sit and then I
11 said, "You should please come and find seats. You are visitors
12 here", and usually that was my usual attitude. I was a big man
13 in government and when I saw the director I said they should take
14 seats. I gave them seats to sit down. They sat down and this
13:27:50 15 was outside and it was the dry season and there was good weather
16 at that time. I said, "We can all sit here and converse."

17 Then they sat down and on the right-hand, or rather left, I
18 saw Sam Bockarie's wife, who was later introduced to me, and I
19 saw Benjamin Yeaten's wife, whom I knew very well, and there was
13:28:11 20 a strange girl too. That was my first time seeing her and she
21 was also introduced to me. I saw Benjamin and another group of
22 people. The people I saw in majority were Sierra Leoneans and I
23 didn't have time because they couldn't speak to me as they were
24 all standing by their vehicles, but then Benjamin and the other
13:28:34 25 group got down and I gave them seats they sat down.

26 Then I said, "I have food, do you want to eat?" Then he
27 said, "Oh, yes, we are hungry. In fact, we did not eat in
28 Ganta." I said, "Okay, fine." I called my younger sister, I
29 said, "Look, bring food for Ben and his people to eat", and then

1 my sister brought rice. He cooked nice cassava leaf to be
2 precise, to be exact, and everybody brought plates and they
3 started dishing the food.

4 Then I asked Ben, I said, "Ben, I have cold water." I
13:29:09 5 said, "I have a bottle of whisky here", and then he said, "Bring
6 that also", and then I asked my security boy, I said, "Go in and
7 look in my cooler. Don't bring - just bring the big gallon and
8 the ordinary big bottle." I said, "Please don't bring my liquor
9 here because if people pass by you will drink the balance." I
13:29:34 10 said, "Please bring my liquor", and we all laughed over it and he
11 brought the bottle of gin.

12 Benjamin was sitting right close to Sam Bockarie and
13 Sam Bockarie had on a jacket, a military jacket, and with his
14 pistol by his side and what did I notice next that he had on? He
13:29:54 15 was in a combat fatigue, likewise Benjamin. He was in military
16 fatigue. He was uniform. He had a pistol and then they went on
17 eating. They almost - they drank almost half of my liquor. They
18 almost finished it and I said, "You can take the bottle with
19 you." Then I asked them, "Where are you travelling to?" They
13:30:16 20 said, "Chief, we are going to my village and from my village we
21 are turning left and we will go to Kamplay and from Kamplay we
22 will be coming back to Ganta." I said, "Oh, I wish you good
23 luck", and we laughed over it and then all of them boarded the
24 vehicles and the convoy started moving. They were moving.

13:30:38 25 As we were talking I did not know there were a lot of cars
26 parked on the main road, but we stood there and we saw the
27 lights. It was at night and we saw the cars passing and passing.
28 For about 20 to 30 minutes cars were still passing and they all
29 went. When they went, we went back to sleep, about maybe 1.30,

1 12 to 1 o'clock, I saw --

2 Q. The question has gone on and we may be approaching the
3 break, but I think we will pick this up in the afternoon.

4 A. Okay.

13:31:16 5 Q. I just have one of these questions about "he" that I want
6 to clarify.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Who said that they were going on to his village and then to
9 Kamplay?

13:31:25 10 A. Benjamin Yeaten, sorry, sir. Benjamin Yeaten told me that
11 he was taking patrol. He did not make mention of Sam Bockarie.
12 He said that, "We are going. These are my people. We are taking
13 a routine military patrol and we are passing through my village",
14 Benjamin's village, and that they will come on to Sanniquellie.

13:31:50 15 That was a bad road and they will come on to Ganta that night.
16 He said that was what they were on. I said, "Okay, okay", and we
17 knew at that time there was war everywhere and that he had rights
18 to patrol everywhere. Then I said to them, "Okay, I will see you
19 when I come to Ganta", and then they left that night. They left
13:32:11 20 to go to Benjamin Yeaten's village that night.

21 MR RAPP: Fine. I think that would be the break, your
22 Honour.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, indeed, Mr Rapp. It is just after
24 our normal lunchtime adjourning. Mr Witness, we are going to
13:32:25 25 adjourn for the lunchtime break. We will start again at 2.30.

26 THE WITNESS: Your Honour, sir.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please adjourn court until 2.30.

28 [Lunch break taken at 1.32 p.m.]

29 [Upon resuming at 2.30 p.m.]

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Rapp, when you are ready to proceed.

2 MR RAPP: [Microphone not activated] Thank you very much,
3 your Honours:

4 Q. Good afternoon, now that the mic is on.

14:31:32 5 A. Good afternoon.

6 Q. We have had a request from the interpreters and court
7 reporters to go slower with the answers and certainly feel free
8 to break up your answers and we will have follow up questions.

9 A. Yes, sir.

14:31:54 10 Q. Witness, when we broke we were talking about you meeting
11 with Yeaten and Bockarie at your farm. You said you had met in a
12 particular - did you say you met in a particular room at the
13 farm?

14 A. It was not in a room. It was in front of my house. It was
14:32:22 15 outside. It was not in a room. We were seated outside of my
16 house.

17 Q. And did that place have any location, or have any name?
18 Did that location have any name?

19 A. We were in a town called Toweh Town.

14:32:38 20 Q. I think earlier we had the spelling. It is T-O-W-E-H,
21 right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you said that someone told you where they were going
24 and they were going to follow this route and I believe you told
14:32:54 25 me what they said, but would you just repeat. Who told you what
26 their route would be?

27 A. Benjamin Yeaten told me that they were on a patrol and that
28 they were taking another direction on their return. They were
29 going to Sanniquellie on to Ganta.

1 Q. I don't know if we have had a spelling of Sanniquellie, but
2 it is S-A-N-N-I-Q-U-E-L-L-I-E.

3 A. You are correct.

14:33:34

4 Q. But you said they were going first to Yeaten's town. What
5 was the name of that town?

6 A. Yeaten is from Butuo Tiaplay.

7 Q. So Tiaplay is T-I-A-P-L-A-Y, but you used a word or a name
8 in front of Tiaplay?

14:34:01

9 A. Tiaplay. The identical for Yeaten's town is Tiaplay. They
10 were going first to Butuo before going to Tiaplay.

11 Q. Okay. And Butuo, how is that spelt?

12 A. B-U-T-U-O, Butuo.

13 Q. And did they tell you where they were going to spend the
14 night?

14:34:18

15 A. No, we didn't discuss that. What was said was that they
16 were on patrol and they were going through Benjamin's home town
17 on to Sanniquellie and on to Ganta.

18 Q. When they arrived, did you see what kind of vehicle
19 Bockarie was in?

14:34:40

20 A. Bockarie was in a jeep, in a Nissan patrol jeep, together
21 with Benjamin, and there were a lot of vehicles - Toyota Land
22 Cruiser pick-up trucks. There were other vehicles, other
23 pick-ups, Nissan pick-up trucks. There were a lot of vehicles,
24 different kinds of vehicles, that Benjamin used and his soldiers.

14:35:11

25 Q. Now, did he leave in the same vehicle?

26 A. Yes, they went back into the same vehicle that brought them
27 to my place.

28 Q. And the women that were with him, I think you have told us
29 about Bockarie's wife was there and Yeaten's wife was there?

1 A. Exactly, sir.

2 Q. And there was a third woman. Could you describe her?

3 A. She - I don't know her by name. She was black and tall, a
4 young girl. She was black and tall like a teenager. She was

14:35:48 5 huge. She was a huge person.

6 Q. And do you know why the women were along if they were on
7 patrol?

8 A. That I wouldn't know. Even when I was an NPFL, I would set
9 an example. When I am travelling sometimes I take my wife with
10 me. There was no question about that.

14:36:11

11 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: I am sorry, Mr Rapp. Do we have a time
12 frame for this?

13 MR RAPP: I believe we may, but let's get it:

14 Q. Approximately when was this, witness?

14:36:23

15 A. They came in pretty close to midnight. They came in about
16 10.30/11 o'clock. I did not know the exact time. I had slept a
17 little bit when I woke up afterwards. It was not --

18 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Witness, sorry, I should have been
19 clear. I meant month, or year, when this incident happened.

14:36:47

20 THE WITNESS: Your Honour judge, it happened on 5 May 2002.

21 MR RAPP:

22 Q. 2002?

23 A. 2002, May. 5 May.

24 Q. And, witness, after the group left what did you do?

14:37:14

25 A. The group left and we went back to sleep. I slept up to
26 2.30 - 2 o'clock/2.30 - and I heard somebody knocking at my door.
27 I jumped off my bed and dressed up and came outside. I thought
28 it was the same group that was coming back, but I saw my
29 bodyguards - one of my bodyguards - called Leeway [phon] who

1 said, "Chief, are you sleeping?" And I said, "Yes". He said,
2 "Look, one boy from Benjamin's bodyguard, Justice, who was my
3 friend, has told me they went on a mission, apparently the
4 mission has failed and he was shaking and telling me - as he was
14:38:09 5 telling the boy. He didn't even ask - he said what the mission
6 was and he said, "Didn't you know that when we passed here
7 something was happening, that we were carrying this man to some
8 place whilst they put up a resistance. There was heavy fighting
9 that ensued at the border." He didn't calm down to say what it
14:38:34 10 was, so the boy came back to me running. He said, "I am hearing
11 something. You better put on your clothes so that we can get out
12 of here". The boy is telling me something and he is shaking and
13 he is talking about fighting. If it is fighting and you are here
14 and don't have much protection it wouldn't be good for you.

14:38:58 15 So I dressed up, I put on my clothes and by the time we got
16 out another vehicle came back. They said they were fighting just
17 now, it was not easy and some people had died. It was at that
18 time that I said, "Let us get out of here". I myself drove that
19 night with three or four men that I had with me. We drove, we
14:39:20 20 used another road back of where - it was not the main road.
21 There was a road from my house to Saclepea. That was the road we
22 used. We got closer to Saclepea. We parked somewhere for a
23 while waiting for daylight.

24 Later my bodyguard decided we should go further up. So we
14:39:42 25 got to Flumpa. There is a place called Flumpa, F-L-U-M-P-A. We
26 parked the vehicles off the road. We parked our vehicles,
27 I think there were three cars. We went off the road, put out the
28 lights and we were waiting and as we were waiting it was not up
29 to 30 minutes that vehicles started passing with a heavy speed.

1 People passing. Cars running at a high speed. So the boy crept
2 on the road and said that it was Benjamin and his group passing,
3 but that the speed was very heavy. Something was amiss.

4 So we waited there until daylight. We waited for like
14:40:24 5 about an hour and a half, then daylight came. There was
6 daylight. We started seeing people walking and I told them to
7 get on the road. I was still driving. You know, I like driving
8 so we got to the road and I said we can now go onto Monrovia.

9 We used the road to Monrovia. We were almost approaching
14:40:46 10 Ganta. We used the back road. We usually used the bypass, so we
11 took this road, we used this road and reached at Saw Mill Camp.
12 There was a heavy road block there mounted by soldiers that no
13 vehicle should pass through. So I stopped the car. Then the boy
14 came up to me and said, "Chief, Benjamin is in the company camp.
14:41:11 15 He wants to talk to you".

16 Q. Before we continue with the account you said there was a
17 camp, that that is where you stopped. What was the name of that
18 camp?

19 A. It is Saw Mill Camp. Saw Mill Camp. Where people saw
14:41:29 20 logs.

21 Q. It was a camp?

22 A. Where they saw lumbars.

23 Q. Okay, saw mill.

24 A. Saw mill.

14:41:34 25 Q. Okay. And someone told you that Benjamin wanted to see
26 you?

27 A. Yes, he wanted to see me in his car. So when I went into
28 the camp and he said, "Chief, come here". He was sitting on a
29 chair outside. He said, "Come, chief". I went to him and he was

1 still sitting down and he got up and he said, "Oh, chief,
2 I called you. We went on an operation last night". I asked him
3 what operation it was. He said, "Look in that pick-up, you will
4 see the operation".

14:42:07 5 There was a pick-up that was parked not too far from him,
6 but it was parked by the side of a house and you wouldn't
7 recognise what was in the pick-up except you went closer. So
8 I went closer with my bodyguard. My bodyguards were anxious to
9 see what was there even before me, so the other boy - two of my
14:42:26 10 boys first went and they said, "Oh" and they came back to me.

11 And I went to the pick-up and I saw the body of Sam Bockarie
12 still dressed as he was at my house the previous night; the way
13 he was dressed in that military vest. He was lying on his back.
14 Another body was beheaded, the head was cut off, the head was
14:42:54 15 aside the body. And in the same car there were two corpses in
16 that same car. I saw - when I saw these corpses I turned around
17 because somebody I had just spoken to, we shared jokes together
18 and you see the corpse of that person.

19 And I said, "All right. Attend to Benjamin". I came to
14:43:17 20 him and said, "Ben, is this the mission that you were on?" He
21 said, "Yes, that's the mission". I said, "All right, all right.
22 Then I'm going to Monrovia". Then he said, "The pick-up is going
23 to Monrovia. I am sending the pick-up to chief". As we were
24 talking the pick-up pulled off. They didn't want to leave us
14:43:36 25 behind or for us to go ahead of them. They were always ahead.
26 When we passed by them when I attempted to drive fast they would
27 double their speed to pass by me to go ahead.

28 Q. Witness, just a moment. You are now on the road passing
29 pick-ups. I just want to go back and discuss some detail. The

1 second individual who was beheaded, could you tell whether that
2 was a man or a women?

3 A. That was a man. That was a man. I didn't see the man when
4 they only stopped by my house. It could be that this man was a
14:44:18 5 soldier, he was on duty also. He was a huge fellow. So I
6 couldn't recognise him. I only saw the corpse and it was
7 beheaded; the head was off. The head was by the body of the man
8 himself in the same pick-up with Sam Bockarie. As we drove
9 along --

14:44:37 10 Q. Just before we deal with that, you said you spoke to
11 Yeaten, Benjamin Yeaten, about the mission that he was on.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Did he say anything else?

14 A. What he said was, "Look in that pick-up and you will know
14:44:54 15 the mission". He said, "Look in that pick-up truck. You will
16 see the mission that I was on". And I went and my bodyguards
17 went ahead and they saw it. They called me up I went and looked
18 and I shook my head and returned to my car. I simply said, "Ben,
19 we are on our way to Monrovia". Then he said, "Okay, I am
14:45:16 20 sending the pick-up back to Monrovia to the chief". I said,
21 "Okay".

22 Q. He said he was sending the pick-up back to the chief?

23 A. Yes, to the chief to Monrovia, the pick-up with the corpses
24 inside.

14:45:28 25 Q. Why was he sending the pick-up to the chief?

26 A. I don't know. I don't know.

27 Q. Did he explain to you why he had done this?

28 A. No, I didn't ask him. I didn't ask him at that particular
29 time. I did not ask him. And for security reasons it was not

1 necessary for me to ask him.

2 Q. Did he ever explain to you what had happened?

3 A. He did not in detail. At that moment I did not ask. He
4 only said it was the mission that he went on and that's the
14:46:01 5 mission in the pick-up. He did not say anything in detail.

6 Q. Well, you said he didn't discuss in detail. At any time
7 did he tell you why he had done this mission?

8 A. At that particular time, no. At that particular time he
9 did not say and it took me some time before I could see him. At
14:46:35 10 a later date - I have something that I can explain so that
11 I won't miss the track.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Sorry, Mr Witness, I didn't quite
13 understand what you said. Please repeat it. You said you want
14 to explain?

14:46:50 15 THE WITNESS: Yes. How this thing actually occurred. If
16 you cut me off I will not be able to keep the connection.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: I see. Mr Rapp, will lead you in your
18 evidence.

19 MR RAPP:

14:47:03 20 Q. I just want to - I would like to get it clear here. You
21 said not at that particular time did you discuss it with him.
22 When did you discuss it with him?

23 A. It was when he came to Monrovia, about a week or two, when
24 he returned to Monrovia when I asked him he jokingly said, "Look
14:47:26 25 we did that thing to destroy evidence". It was at that time - it
26 was at that time that I knew that it was Sam Bockarie's body. He
27 said, "Oh, President Blah, this is an operation. You are small
28 in it. We want to destroy the evidence. We don't want anything
29 exposed. The way you were thinking was the wrong way". Then

1 I said, "All right". That was what I said at the wrong time.

2 Q. When he said, "The way you were thinking was the wrong way"
3 what was he referring to by "the way you were thinking"?

14:48:07

4 A. The consultation that I had with the President Taylor at
5 the time was that he was to arrest this man and send him over to
6 Sierra Leone at least to have better face with the Government of
7 Sierra Leone. That was the way I was thinking. To have him
8 arrested and send him over to the Government of Sierra Leone.

14:48:27

9 That was what I thought. But the thought of killing him to
10 destroy evidence was not my thought. I never thought of that.

11 I think that was what he was referring to.

12 Q. You used the word - I think I have to get it exactly from
13 the record, but I think you said, "Because we'd be exposed". I
14 think words to that effect.

14:48:44

15 A. NPFL government or Charles Taylor's government will be
16 exposed.

17 Q. Exposed. What would be exposed?

14:49:04

18 A. Whatever secrets they may have had with the links with RUF
19 and the government of Charles Taylor, that he was supporting the
20 government, that he was supporting those fighting in Sierra
21 Leone. These were things that were not supposed to be exposed
22 from my own analysis.

23 Q. But this word "exposed", who used that word?

24 A. Well, Benjamin.

14:49:21

25 Q. Now let's go back to the highway. You said you drove from
26 there. Where did you go?

27 A. I was on my way to Monrovia.

28 Q. And did you reach Monrovia?

29 A. Yes, I got to Monrovia and when I reached there I went into

1 my house. As soon as I got to my gate - as soon as I got to my
2 gate I saw my little daughter and they said the girl was in
3 school and the car did not go to pick her up. What I did was to
4 go to the school and say, "You have to wait for me because I want
14:50:00 5 to go and see the President on some serious matter before I come
6 to take you to go home". She waited and I drove directly to
7 White Flower at the time.

8 When I got to White Flower I went in and asked the security
9 man at the gate whether the chief was there, whether the
14:50:20 10 President was there. He told me to wait out for a while.
11 He went to see him and he said, "Okay, you can come in". When
12 I went inside then I said - I saluted him and I said, "Chief,
13 Benjamin passed by my village last night and when I came back on
14 the main road I saw the corpse of Sam Bockarie and another corpse
14:50:42 15 in the car". That was when he told me, "No, that is not your
16 business, it is a military operation. I only would like to hear
17 it from a military people and not from you". That was how that
18 conversation ended and I came back to my pick-up and went back to
19 take my daughter from school.

14:51:04 20 Q. Who told you - I just want to be clear. You were using
21 "he" there, he said this was a military operation?

22 A. The President Taylor. He told me it was a military
23 operation, that it was none of my business as Vice-president of
24 my country. That was when I left and went and took my daughter
14:51:33 25 back home and I told my people who were supposed to go around me,
26 who did not go with me to Toweh Town, I called them and told them
27 this is what I saw, this is what happened on our way from Toweh
28 Town. I like talking, I like conversing with other people I have
29 working with me.

1 Q. And did you learn anything else?

2 A. Yes. Later that same afternoon - this happened in the
3 morning. Late in the afternoon there was an announcement by the
4 defence ministry, to be precise the defence minister came up with
14:52:15 5 an announcement that Sam Bockarie and his group were entering
6 Liberia from Cote D'Ivoire by way of Butuo border last night and
7 the border guards tried to arrest him and they put up some
8 resistance and there was a bitter exchange of gunfire and he died
9 in the process and his corpse has been brought to Monrovia.

14:52:39 10 Q. Now, witness, did you learn anything from anyone else about
11 what happened, about the fate of anyone that was with Bockarie?

12 A. That was what we heard from Benjamin Yeaten's bodyguard,
13 who had told one of my bodyguards called Leeway. That was why
14 I didn't know exactly where they took the man before they killed
14:53:19 15 the man. They said it was not easy. They didn't want an alarm
16 because his wife was in the other house nearby and they didn't
17 want him to scream and cause alarm so as to cause alarm among the
18 other people. He was not killed by hand. He was choked to death
19 before they could go and take his wife and she was also killed.

14:53:47 20 This I did not see, but I was told by Leeway, who is a
21 friend of one of Benjamin's bodyguards who had informed him
22 earlier when I was in sleep. It was the same boy who came and
23 told Leeway that something has happened. That was how we left
24 Toweh Town that night. This is the same fellow who told Leeway -
14:54:07 25 in fact, Leeway was looking for him to say - after announcements
26 by the defence minister Leeway become curious and Leeway said,
27 "I will find this boy to tell me exactly what happened". So when
28 Leeway returned from Benjamin Yeaten's bodyguards, whose name
29 I cannot remember, that was when he told me exactly what took

1 place, but government had come out to say that Sam Bockarie was
2 killed in a fight when he was trying to force his way into
3 Liberia.

14:54:41 4 Q. Did you find out, or did Leeway find out and report to you,
5 who the second individual was in the pick-up?

6 A. He also told me that that was a bodyguard to Sam Bockarie,
7 one of his closest bodyguards. After that - after Sam Bockarie
8 was killed, he wanted to run away. He was chased and also
9 brought back and that was how they severed his neck.

14:55:03 10 Q. Now, what happened - you said there were young women
11 along - well, Bockarie's wife and there was this tall woman as
12 well. Did you find out what happened to them?

13 A. Yes, according to Leeway, Leeway's friend said this girl
14 was also killed. That was a long conversation. Exactly all what
14:55:28 15 happened he tried to explain to Leeway and Leeway told me that
16 this girl was also killed and Sam Bockarie's wife was also
17 killed. A few of his bodyguards fled into the bushes and they
18 were running after them and they caught them one after the other.
19 Some of them fled, some of them went away and they did not see
14:55:53 20 them.

21 Q. Did you see the bodies of the two women?

22 A. No, I didn't. I was not close to the scene. I was on my
23 way to Monrovia already and I heard this in Monrovia. What
24 I heard when I saw the body in the car that Ben said he had a
14:56:11 25 mission to do, but I didn't see the bodies of the women.

26 Q. And did you find out, or did Leeway report to you, what
27 happened to the bodies of the women?

28 A. He also said in the conversation, according to this boy,
29 that the bodies were buried on the scene of the accident. They

1 were not brought to Monrovia.

2 Q. Now, witness, yesterday --

3 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: What accident?

4 THE WITNESS: In this fighting that killed Sam Bockarie,

14:56:45 5 because he was grabbed and choked to death at the time. After he
6 had died, they went after his wife and this tall girl. According
7 to the story again that tall girl that I just mentioned, I don't
8 know her by name, this girl was the one that sent - that Benjamin
9 sent to Monrovia to bring Bockarie's wife and Benjamin's wife.

14:57:11 10 This girl was the one he had sent to Monrovia to bring those
11 people to Cocopa, where they were, before they took off to pass
12 by my direction, my village. For fear of exposure, this girl
13 will be curious so that she will not tell other people so they
14 killed her. I asked Leeway what did the boy say about why this
14:57:35 15 girl was also killed, because she was not concerned. He said,
16 "Well, they believed that the girl would go and spill and so they
17 killed her because she would have let out the secret. That was
18 why she was killed".

19 Q. Witness, I think the judge is asking you about the word
14:57:52 20 "accident". You used the word "accident".

21 A. I said accident. That is the confusion. The grabbing of
22 the man and the killing of the man, that is what I called
23 accident. That was the time this thing took place.

24 Q. Witness, you told us yesterday that you often listen to
14:58:13 25 international news and you told us also a little bit ago that the
26 government put out an account of what occurred. Did you hear
27 anything of the account on international news, or in any news
28 programme?

29 A. No, I heard that from Liberia radio. We had different FM

1 radio stations. Everybody was carrying the news about the
2 defence minister. Nobody knew how this man was killed. It was
3 only the defence minister who came out and said that this man was
4 killed because he was illegally entering Liberia through Cote
14:58:56 5 D'Ivoire. At the border town, Butuo, he was intercepted by our
6 bodyguards and he resisted arrest and he was killed in the
7 process. That was what the radio said and that had come from the
8 defence minister of Liberia.

9 Q. And did they say how he had been killed?

14:59:20 10 A. The defence minister said he got killed in that process.
11 He did not say how, by what means. He said he got killed in the
12 process.

13 Q. And do you know what happened to Bockarie's body?

14 A. Bockarie's body was taken to Freetown later when there was
14:59:45 15 some investigation going on. Maybe the Sierra Leonean Government
16 requested the body and they wanted to see his body to make sure
17 it was Sam Bockarie. It was then that the corpse was turned over
18 to the government. I was not in the process to go and see the
19 corpse to make sure it was Sam Bockarie, no, but I had seen him
15:00:06 20 already so I had no cause to go after the body any more. It was
21 purely a military arrangement.

22 Q. Do you know what happened to Sam Bockarie's property? Do
23 you know anything about that?

24 A. What happened was that I heard this too. Harrison Karnwea
15:00:31 25 was the man whose house Sam Bockarie was staying in that Cocopa
26 rubber plantation. He had come to Monrovia after this thing had
27 occurred. He became nervous and so he came to Monrovia and went
28 over to my house. It was then that he said that, "I have seen
29 something in my life the experience of which I will never

1 forget", and I asked him, "What?" He said, "Those boys came and
2 took the man from my house and carried him", and on their return
3 one of Benjamin Yeaten's bodyguards saw Karnwea's little boy who
4 was minding his house and he shot the boy on the spot. When he
15:01:15 5 shot this boy, he gained access to Bockarie's room where he was
6 living. He took a bag full of US dollars and a jar with diamonds
7 inside. He was not there on the scene, because he had seen the
8 scene - the things that Sam Bockarie brought in his house
9 earlier. When he went back the house was empty, everything was
15:01:45 10 ransacked and even his clothes and like personal belongings like
11 shoes they were all taken away that night. He said this kind of
12 experience was very terrible. As he was talking to me, he was
13 shaking and he was nervous.

14 Q. Well, you said - you mentioned that dollars were taken.
15:02:03 15 Did he give any indication of the quantity of dollars?

16 A. Oh, he didn't count the dollars. He said it was in a bag.
17 This was a bag - a kind of straw bag. We call it refugee's bag.
18 If you are a Liberian and you were there during the war, you will
19 know what I am talking about. It is a bag made of straw. It is
15:02:25 20 a big bag. It has sizes. The size of that bag was huge. There
21 was US dollars, say for the currency from Cote D'Ivoire, they
22 were all mixed. He took the bag away.

23 Q. The diamonds, did he say anything about the quantity of
24 diamonds in the jar?

15:02:49 25 A. It was in a jar, a very big jar. He says the size was like
26 this. It was very large. It was a large quantity and it was in
27 a jar. Earlier he had said that Sam Bockarie had told him, that
28 is Karnwea - had shown him what he had. He said, "This is all my
29 life. Wheresoever I travel these are the things I travel with

1 because they are my life, because my life ends rights here. My
2 money and my diamonds, wherever I went I will take them with me."
3 Earlier, before he was killed, he said that was the conversation
4 between him and Sam Bockarie.

15:03:25 5 Q. The diamonds, you have motioned about the size of the jar
6 and I don't know whatever your unit - do you use inches, or
7 centimetres? How tall was the jar?

8 A. It is a jar with - it is a jar. The example was like a
9 mayonnaise - the mayonnaise we eat with bread, there is a bigger
10 jar. It is long and very big. That is the type where the
11 diamonds were.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: It seems that the witness is using his
13 hands to show the size of the jar. Is that correct, Mr Witness?

14 THE WITNESS: Yes, I am showing you my hands to see.

15:04:02 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Could you hold it up so we can all see it
16 and show counsel for the Defence?

17 THE WITNESS: It was like this. It was a jar with a size
18 like this.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Seven to eight inches in length?

15:04:17 20 THE WITNESS: Yes, it was like that, or a little bit bigger
21 than that.

22 MR RAPP:

23 Q. Witness, you are identifying the water pitcher in the Court
24 and it was a little bit bigger than the water pitcher?

15:04:33 25 A. Yes, it was bigger than the water pitcher. It is bigger.
26 A little bit longer than this.

27 Q. And in terms of width, how did it compare to the water
28 pitcher?

29 A. He didn't say in weight, because - he himself did not tell

1 me the weight. He said it was a large quantity of diamonds and
2 the man told him again that that is all he has to live within his
3 life. That was he, Bockarie, said to Harrison Karnwea, the man
4 whose house he was living. That was what he told the man before
15:05:06 5 he was killed.

6 Q. Now, witness, let me ask about another individual that you
7 met from Sierra Leone. You also mentioned a person by the name
8 of Johnny Paul Koroma as having been in Liberia at one point. Do
9 you know anything about what happened to Johnny Paul Koroma?

15:05:24 10 A. Johnny Paul Koroma, when he fled from there - this was a
11 pure rumour. This is what I heard from people. They said Johnny
12 Paul Koroma was in Lofa forest and he was killed. I wouldn't say
13 in detail how he was killed, who killed him. I have tried to
14 find out who actually killed this Johnny Paul Koroma, but it was
15:05:52 15 said that Johnny Paul Koroma was killed in Lofa, close to the
16 Sierra Leone border.

17 Q. Well, you mentioned rumours. Was there any person
18 specifically that provided you with this information?

19 A. That was my radio operator. He said that they were hearing
15:06:17 20 some signals that Johnny Paul Koroma was killed in the Lofa
21 forest and people were calling in code to pass it on to other
22 people. I said since we don't know who killed because he
23 couldn't tell me who did it. He said it was a radio. We had a
24 radio. Even as I speak now, I have a radio at my house with an
15:06:42 25 antenna. The radio is there, but it is of no use. It is not
26 being used by me anymore because we have stopped hostilities.

27 Q. Just to be clear was your radio operator with you in the
28 Monrovia area, or is he back in the Lofa forest?

29 A. When I left, I left with him. I left him in Monrovia and

1 at that time the radio was still in operation. He was always on
2 the radio. Always on the radio. I stopped the radio at the time
3 that I was arrested.

15:07:24 4 Q. As far as this particular area of Lofa County, at the time
5 that you were hearing these reports who was in charge of the
6 military there?

7 A. It was one Roland Duo who was in charge of that Lofa Foya
8 area, Foya airfield, back in the bush. He was the commander
9 there.

15:07:44 10 Q. And is that spelt Roland R-O-L-A-N-D?

11 A. Yes, R-O-L-A-N-D.

12 Q. And the surname D-U-O, or D-U-O-H?

13 A. Yes, yes, D-U-O. He was commander there at the time.

15:08:13 14 Q. Just to be a little more specific, the report from your
15 radio operator to you did they say what had happened with Johnny
16 Paul Koroma?

17 A. He said he has been killed. He was arrested and killed.
18 And according to the radio message, like I am saying, I kept
19 asking how was he killed? He said it was not clear how he got
15:08:36 20 killed, but he has been killed anyway and the radio did not say
21 in detail. They were speaking in code, "The man is dead, the man
22 is dead". They were trying to see which man that was and his
23 friend on the radio in Lofa said it was Johnny Paul Koroma, the
24 junta leader of Sierra Leone. He was killed in the forest and
15:08:59 25 the commander at the time was Roland Duo. He was in command of
26 that area.

27 Q. Was there anything about the location where he may have
28 been killed, other than forest of Lofa County?

29 A. No, he said closer to the Foya airfield in Lofa County.

1 Not in Foya airfield itself, it was in the forest, that was where
2 he got killed.

15:09:41

3 Q. Now, witness, in terms of time was this report you were
4 receiving from your radio operator - did this happen before or
5 after the killing of Bockarie?

15:10:12

6 A. This was immediately after Bockarie's killing. It was
7 about a month - two weeks interval. It was not too far from the
8 time Sam Bockarie was killed and that of the killing of Johnny
9 Paul Koroma. But Johnny Paul Koroma's killing was based on pure
10 rumours and messages from radio operators, unlike Sam Bockarie's
11 killing which was something I saw, because I saw the corpse in
12 the car and I saw him passing by my village and stopping by me.
13 That was very clear.

15:10:33

14 Q. Witness, before we leave these two individuals, on Bockarie
15 again you had indicated that you did listen to the radio on
16 occasion. Do you recall ever hearing any kind of international
17 report on the death of Bockarie?

15:10:54

18 A. Well, there were other radio stations that came out with
19 the killing of Bockarie, but it was said that Bockarie was
20 finding his way into Liberia, he resisted arrest and he got
21 killed by the border patrol - by the border patrol guards. But
22 they did not say he was killed by anyone other than the border
23 patrol.

15:11:15

24 MR RAPP: With the Court's permission, in the book we
25 provided of exhibits we might use with this witness at tab 8 is a
26 report from BBC and carrying the headline "Bockarie died a wanted
27 man" and it is showing a publication date of 8 May 2003 and
28 I would like to have this, if possible, exhibited to the witness:

29 Q. Witness, could you take a look at that document and glance

1 through it from beginning to end and see if that's - just take a
2 look at it now and then I will have a question for you. Witness,
3 would you just look over to the second page. If we can have the
4 screen show the second page. Now, first, witness, is this report
15:15:05 5 consistent with reports that you heard on the international news?

6 A. Yes. Yes, when I listened to a BBC report like this, but
7 it was not as clear as this, as in detail as this.

8 Q. Witness, at the bottom, if we can pull it up just a little
9 bit on page 2 so there is some small writing, this indicates that
15:15:42 10 it was published at least under the date convention seems to be
11 reversed from largest to smallest from 2003, May 8 at 2200 hours.
12 You indicated to us that you thought these events happened in May
13 2002. Do you think that's a correct date for what happened?

14 A. Well, I must say I am sorry for the date, but it was in
15:16:10 15 May, that I am sure of. But the year 2002, that was a mistake
16 I think. But it was in 2003. I don't know - I considered the
17 year to be 2002, but I see here 2003. I don't know, maybe I am
18 making a mistake.

19 Q. Okay, witness. Additionally it says:

15:16:41 20 "Liberian authorities say Mr Bockarie was killed by
21 Liberian forces as he tried to enter the country from Ivory Coast
22 with his bodyguards."

23 Is that part consistent with what you had heard broadcast
24 at the time?

15:16:56 25 A. No, because this is the BBC saying that he was killed -
26 that Mr Bockarie was killed by Liberian forces when he tried to
27 enter the country from Ivory Coast. Yes, because that was what
28 the radio - that was what they heard. That was what they heard
29 from the government radio station.

1 MR RAPP: Your Honours, we would like to have this
2 particular document marked for identification, I think as MFI-17.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: That was a two page document headed "BBC
4 News" with a subheading "Bockarie died a wanted man". It will be
15:17:47 5 MFI-17.

6 MR RAPP:

7 Q. Before we leave the other gentleman, you said that your
8 radio man had been dealing with code. What kind of code was
9 that?

10 A. No, I wouldn't know. He was trained to speak to his
11 colleagues in code. They didn't want other people to know what
12 they were talking about, but he will interpret to me what was
13 happening in what location in clear terms, that this has happened
14 and this is what I received and this is what we have been doing
15:18:02 15 all along.

16 Q. And what groups used code?

17 A. The radio operators used the code and you, the chiefs, it
18 would be interpreted to you in a clear language, clear English.

19 Q. But what organisation's code was being used?

15:18:51 20 A. The organisation of the National Patriotic party
21 government. We used the code from the war, from the NPFL. It
22 continued on. That was the kind of code we used. When they are
23 talking - when the operators are talking to each other they will
24 use the codes and if you are not trained you will not know what
15:19:19 25 the man was talking about.

26 Q. Thank you. Let me go up to June 2003 and ask you as of
27 June 2003 where were you staying at that time?

28 A. June 2003, I was staying in Monrovia.

29 Q. Just a few details about Monrovia. Did you have a special

1 vice-presidential residence as Vice-President?

2 A. No. In June 2003 I was in my house, in a rented house that
3 I was occupying when I was ambassador to Libya and Tunisia where
4 my family was staying while I was in Libya. That was on Duport
15:20:25 5 Road in Congo Town.

6 Q. I was asking - you don't have to give any locations
7 specifically where you may be living now, but what I am
8 interested in is when you were Vice-President, that is June 2003,
9 were you staying in your own home, or were you staying in a
15:20:46 10 rental home?

11 A. I was in a rented home and rental allowances were given to
12 me. I told them that I was building my house and the government
13 was trying to find a place, a better house for me. They
14 apologised and said, look, it's better I live here whilst I am
15:21:11 15 building my own house and adding to the money that I had plus the
16 rental allowance that was given to me, I will put that together
17 to see how well I can finish my new house, my house. That was
18 just what I did and I moved into my own house later.

19 Q. Well, just to be clear, in June 2003 you were staying then
15:21:32 20 in a rented house?

21 A. In a rented house.

22 Q. In what city?

23 A. In Paynesville city, Paynesville, Congo Town, Paynesville,
24 on a road called Duport Road.

15:21:52 25 Q. And how is Duport spelt?

26 A. D-O-P-O-R-T. Duport Road.

27 Q. Duport?

28 A. Yes, Duport.

29 Q. D-U-P-O-R-T?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. Got you. Now when you were Vice-President did you
3 have an office?

4 A. Yes, I had an office at the Capitol Building.

15:22:11 5 Q. What was the security situation like in June 2003?

6 A. June 2003 there was confusion again, there was fighting
7 again with some - there was some fighting going on. Was it
8 ULIMO-K? Yes, ULIMO-K and with government and - yes, there was
9 fighting on and off, on and off.

15:22:56 10 Q. Now, was there any effort to reach a peace accord to stop
11 the fighting?

12 A. Yes, there were efforts by ECOWAS involving the President
13 of Nigeria, who was in and out of Monrovia, to ensure that the
14 war stopped finally and we have reached peace to see how best the
15:23:30 15 people of Liberia come together to have a fine country, according
16 to him.

17 Q. Now, did any of those peace negotiations take place outside
18 Liberia?

19 A. Yes, many, many times. Some inside Liberia, some in Ghana.
15:23:53 20 Most times it was Ghana and other West African countries, but
21 I can't remember off the top of my head now. There were meetings
22 here and there moving from one country to another in West Africa
23 to ensure that the peace holds.

24 Q. Did you have occasion to go to the peace conferences in
15:24:14 25 Ghana while you were Vice-President?

26 A. I went to Ghana on several occasions that I can remember.
27 One time we went earlier. There was the first peace conference
28 on the war which I attended that I can remember, but the one that
29 was headed by these African leaders I did not attend.

1 Q. And who attended from Liberia at the one headed by African
2 Leaders?

3 A. That is President Taylor.

4 Q. And did anyone go with him to that peace conference?

15:24:56 5 A. The last peace conference that we heard that I mentioned
6 was the last peace conference we had. My wife went with the
7 President when the indictment was served from the Special Court
8 on him in Ghana. That is one I can remember.

9 Q. Before we talk about the indictments, you said your wife
15:25:25 10 went with you?

11 A. Yes, with the President.

12 Q. And why did your wife go with President Taylor?

13 A. She went with President Taylor to buy - she has a boutique
14 where she sells African clothing, so the cheapest way was to go
15:25:49 15 with the President in order to be able to buy what she needed at
16 a cheaper rate and come with the President on the presidential
17 plane at least to have - so that she would have some profit on
18 what she would buy.

19 Q. You said a moment ago something about indictments by the
15:26:11 20 Special Court. When did you find out about indictments of the
21 Special Court?

22 A. President Taylor had gone to Ghana for this peace meeting,
23 and when they were in the meeting it was announced to the
24 delegation of African Leaders that there was an indictment on
15:26:40 25 President Taylor to be brought over to Sierra Leone to answer
26 questions. That was what I know. My wife was there. They were
27 all disturbed and they didn't know how to get home. My wife was
28 with me on the telephone telling me what was going on and she
29 said, "Oh, no, we are kind of confused here and do not know where

1 to go. There has been an indictment over the President and
2 I don't know how to come back." She fought her way anyway and
3 entered the plane that was bringing the President, but then she
4 was ordered back out of the plane and there was another plane to
15:27:15 5 come after the President's plane. So the plane that was offered
6 to bring President Taylor back to Liberia was the Ghanaian
7 presidential aircraft. The Ghanaian leader ordered that this
8 plane should take President Taylor back home to Liberia, and the
9 second plane that brought the security and bodyguards and whoever
15:27:41 10 was with President Taylor came with that second plane; the
11 previous plane that took him to Ghana. So, that plane was the
12 plane my wife happened to be on when they came to Liberia.
13 Q. Let's stop for a moment and deal with some issues here.
14 When did you first find out that Taylor was subject to an
15:28:04 15 indictment?
16 A. It was a telephone call from my wife. Upon hearing that,
17 the government officials came, the cabinet ministers, the
18 legislators, they all came over to my house and they persuaded me
19 to go to the radio station to announce that the President has had
15:28:32 20 an indictment over him in Ghana, but I refused on grounds that
21 I will only do that on the orders of the President and I told
22 them I will not do it. Within that period when I was trying to
23 refuse to make this announcement, Benjamin Yeaten went on the
24 radio and said that, "President Taylor has an indictment.
15:28:58 25 Anybody who tampered with his government military vibration will
26 take place". I am quoting him directly. That was what he said
27 to the Liberian people. And people got confused and they said,
28 "You are the Vice-President and now the Director of the SSS is
29 making such an announcement." I said, "Maybe that is the

1 instruction he has got." I told you that he was so powerful and
2 so to show his power he went on the radio and announced about
3 State matters and he said he would do military vibration. That
4 is what I know.

15:29:35 5 Q. I want to be clear, because I thought I heard "military
6 vibration". What do you mean by that?

7 A. Oh, usually when vibration it is a shake. He said if
8 anybody would not adhere to his orders at that time they would be
9 shaken. Something else will happen militarily. That was what he
10 said. He was threatening the whole country at that time.

11 Q. Now during this time period before Taylor came back, did
12 you receive any other contacts other than the contact from these
13 legislative and other cabinet individuals?

14 A. What happened was upon his return I went to the airport to
15 receive the President. I hugged him, I welcomed him and
16 I thanked God that he has returned home safely. He said, "Well,
17 tomorrow there will be a meeting and all of you will have to
18 attend to brief the officials of government of what had happened
19 in Ghana."

15:30:45 20 But surprisingly to me, as I went home with my luggage, my
21 wife's luggage in my car, there was a call from Benjamin Yeaten
22 again. As soon as I entered my yard with my wife, he came down -
23 she came down and invited to take the things with my bodyguards
24 and there was a phone call. It asked, "Is this President Blah?"

15:31:11 25 I said, "Yes", and they said I should report to White Flower
26 immediately and that the chief wants to see me. I told my wife,
27 "Please let your things remain in my car. Upon my return we will
28 offload it and I will lock the car". She joked and said, "Your
29 boys will steal my things", and I said, "I will have it locked."

1 They will not steal your goods".

2 As I approached the White Flower I saw a group of men,
3 soldiers in readiness everywhere, but I drove in. I drove in the
4 place and parked my car and somebody led me. I didn't know who
15:31:50 5 that soldier was. He was one of the presidential bodyguards. He
6 took me down to a very big beautiful sitting place where I saw
7 all the cabinet ministers, legislators, sitting everywhere
8 around. As I entered I was not given a seat and they said, "You,
9 you, Moses Blah". He did not address me as "Vice-President" at
15:32:14 10 that time. He said, "You, Moses Blah, wanted to overthrow my
11 government when I was out of here", and I said, "No". I said,
12 "No, sir". He said, "Don't lie to me". I said, "No, sir".

13 Q. Excuse me just a moment. I think it may be clear, but we
14 need full clarity for the record. Who said these things to you?

15:32:31 15 A. President Taylor approached me in this beautiful place that
16 I was talking about where there were government officials,
17 legislators, the cabinet ministers, all sitting down. President
18 Taylor had told me - he told me, "Do you want to overthrow my
19 government while I was absent from this country?", and I said,
15:32:55 20 "No". The question went on and on and he said, "You are lying.
21 You are American. You are a CIA agent. You are a spy on me",
22 and I said, "No". He said, "If you are lying to me, if you lie
23 to me you will see what will happen to you", and I said, "No".

24 We argued for some time and he said, "Benjamin Yeaten, take
15:33:13 25 the man out of here". He brought me outside like a real prisoner
26 and, you know, they took me away, brought me out of this building
27 and denied me of my car. They wanted my car key. They wanted my
28 cell phone. They wanted my pistols. They rounded up my
29 bodyguards at the time. They were all arrested - I think they

1 were five in number - handcuffed, some were tied behind the back
2 and they were taken to unknown destinations. They took me to a
3 place going towards Benjamin Yeaten's house and there was another
4 order that I should be taken left to Joe Tuah's house. That was
15:33:55 5 where they kept me while we were waiting for orders as to what
6 will happen. What my fate will be.

7 Q. I just want to be clear on this. You have indicated Taylor
8 made accusations of you alleging you were trying to overthrow his
9 government?

15:34:14 10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And he said you were an American agent?

12 A. Yes, CIA agent.

13 Q. Had you had any contact with the American Government during
14 the time that Taylor was in Accra?

15:34:30 15 A. While he was away, the Charge d'Affairs of the American
16 Embassy called. Upon hearing of this indictment, everybody
17 running up and down in Monrovia, this fellow said - the Charge
18 d'Affairs of the American Embassy called on the phone and said,
19 "Is this President Blah's phone?", and I said, "Yes". He said,
15:34:54 20 "Are you aware of what is happening around town this evening?"

21 I said, "What is it?", and he said, "The notorious ATU are on the
22 rampage and we have the American agents outside. They are
23 threatening everybody here in this city". So I said, "No,
24 nothing will happen. Please be calm. I am outside myself on
15:35:18 25 patrol until the President returns. Benjamin Yeaten is also on
26 patrol as Director of SS. Nothing will happen. I will not sleep
27 until the President returns. I have got word from my wife that
28 the President will be returning, so please don't have any fear".
29 That was the only discussion I had with the American Embassy.

1 When I was arrested in the parlour of the President that
2 evening, where all these ministers were sitting, he asked the
3 question. He said, "Did you talk to the Americans?", and I said,
4 "Yes", and I repeated what I have just said to him, that this was
15:36:00 5 the only conversation I had with the Americans. Besides that
6 I had no more conversations with the Americans. That was the
7 time he said, "Take the man out of here". That was when they
8 took me out of his sight.

9 Q. Just one detail. You mentioned ATU. What was the ATU?

15:36:17 10 A. That was a powerful Executive Mansion Guard headed by his
11 son, Chucky. He was the chief of ATU and ATU would only report
12 to the President. It is like - it is similar to the special
13 security, but they had a military operation. They were more
14 powerful, well armed and they could do anything to anybody
15:36:41 15 because they only reported to the President at the time and that
16 was what the American Embassy was referring to. He said, "The
17 notorious ..." - just like he put it. He said, "The notorious
18 ATU were up and down the street. We saw them everywhere in
19 Monrovia. Do you think this city is safe?" I went ahead and
15:37:03 20 told him that, "Yes, everywhere is safe. The President will be
21 returning. I am outside on patrol. At least my presence will
22 make them be afraid and Benjamin Yeaten was also out trying to
23 patrol the streets as well".

24 Q. Witness, do you know what ATU stood for?

15:37:20 25 A. ATU, I wouldn't know now off head. ATU, I will know later.

26 Q. Witness, you mentioned his son Chucky. Who is the "his" in
27 that expression?

28 A. He was the commander. He headed the force - the ATU force
29 - at the time.

1 Q. And when you say "his", whose?

2 A. Taylor's force at the time.

3 Q. And you referred to his son as Chucky. What was his full
4 name?

15:37:59 5 A. It was Charles Taylor Junior. He was called Charles Taylor
6 Junior.

7 Q. Now, witness, you describe being taken out towards
8 Benjamin's house and then ending up in some location.

9 A. Joe Tuah's house. From Benjamin's house, when I was almost
15:38:22 10 approaching under guard to Benjamin Yeaten's house, that was when
11 I was turned leftwards to go to Joe Tuah's house. I was under
12 command. I will turn everywhere, anywhere. Wherever they tell
13 me to turn, I will turn. If they say, "You go this way", I will
14 go that way. I was looking straight as I got the command.

15:38:43 15 Q. And where were these houses in relation to White Flower?

16 A. They were below White Flower. There is a downhill area and
17 after there there is a big swamp. I don't care, you cannot cross
18 it on foot. It was a swamp like area. The houses are in front
19 of the swamp. On the right-hand side was Benjamin Yeaten's house
15:39:10 20 and on the left was Joe Tuah.

21 So I was taken to Joe Tuah's house and taken to a room.
22 Immediately I was there the room was locked. Unfortunately for
23 me a little boy I had with me, Tamba, he was my bodyguard, Tamba
24 went inside. He went before me because the people - everybody
15:39:31 25 was rushing to see me go to jail. Nobody took notice of him, so
26 he went into the house and went under the bed of the house. So
27 when I went in immediately the door was locked. That was when
28 Tamba came out and said, "Let's pray" and we prayed.

29 Q. Witness, you were in Joe Tuah's house. What level of his

1 house were you in?

2 A. What level of what?

3 Q. Does his house have more than one level? Were you on the
4 first floor?

15:40:00 5 A. No, no. It's a flat. It's a single flat. I was in fact
6 in his room. That was where they took me. I was in his room.
7 I saw his clothes hanging everywhere. That was where we were.

8 Q. Did you have any visitors at that location?

9 A. Yes. Later on in the night, that was very late, the door
15:40:28 10 was opened, because I was not in control of the door. I don't
11 know by what means my wife entered. She brought food.

12 Q. And did she tell you how she was able to get there?

13 A. Excuse me. I don't want to repeat.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Would you like a glass of water,
15:40:50 15 Mr Witness? Please assist the witness. Are you okay,
16 Mr Witness?

17 THE WITNESS: Yes, your Honour, sir.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Are you feeling all right or would you
19 like a break?

15:41:38 20 THE WITNESS: Your Honour, I'm okay. I can go on.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: Take your time.

22 MR RAPP:

23 Q. Well, let's make a small change in question and we will
24 come back to that. Did you find out any time whether any other
15:41:50 25 individuals had been accused?

26 A. Yes. When my wife came to me with the food, that was when
27 I learnt that the deputy minister of works and the deputy
28 minister of national security has been arrested and they have
29 been taken to an unknown destination.

1 Q. You say the deputy minister of - you say of works? What
2 kind of works?

3 A. Public works.

4 Q. And who was the deputy minister of public works?

15:42:32 5 A. Isaac Vaye.

6 Q. That's Isaac?

7 A. Isaac, yes.

8 Q. I-S-A-A-C and the last name Vaye, Vaye, V-A-Y-E?

9 A. Yes. Thank you.

15:42:48 10 Q. And he was the deputy minister of works and you said the
11 deputy minister of another department. What department?

12 A. National security.

13 Q. And who was that?

14 A. John Yormie. And she said they have been taken to an
15:43:09 15 unknown destination and that we should pray.

16 Q. So first of all let's get this person's spelling. Yormie,
17 that's is Y-0 --

18 A. Y-0-R-M-I-E, John Yormie.

19 Q. And that night when you saw your wife, did she know what
15:43:33 20 had happened to them?

21 A. No, she didn't know at that time but what she said was that
22 we should pray. She and I prayed and she gave me some
23 encouraging words and she told me to be strong.

24 Q. Did she tell you how she was able to make this visit?

15:43:54 25 A. She talked to some bodyguards. Perhaps she paid some
26 money, I don't know, and they allowed her to come and see me.
27 She bribed her way in to see me. She paid some money anyhow.
28 She came to see me. It was raining and what I heard, somebody
29 was giving her seats to sit down and she said she was not going

1 to sit down.

2 Q. Now, witness, did you at any time learn what happened to
3 Mr Yormie?

15:44:40

4 A. In the morning when she returned to me she said Yormie and
5 Vaye had been killed.

6 Q. Did you ever learn how they had been killed?

7 A. She said they were taken away towards Nimba County and they
8 were executed and I was not outside. I was thinking.

15:45:11

9 Q. Now, witness, did you find out anything about the arrest of
10 Yormie?

11 A. They were arrested. At that time what I heard - what
12 I knew was they were arrested and taken away but I was so
13 concerned about myself first and what will be my fate and the
14 fate of my bodyguards that I have been arrested. I heard them
15 crying.

15:45:35

16 Q. Who did you hear crying?

17 A. My bodyguards.

18 Q. And what happened next from your observation?

15:45:52

19 A. They took them away to various prisons with the national
20 security, with the MBI and other places to which they took them
21 to. Two of my senior bodyguards were handed over to the Sierra
22 Leoneans, the Sierra Leonean bodyguards who were with Benjamin
23 Yeaten. They took them to some place. The name will come later.
24 These boys, they had known my bodyguard Leeway, my senior aide.
25 They told the boys, "Are you people going to kill us?" Then the
26 boy told him, "You will wait. When we carry you you will not
27 look outside and you will be here until you hear the last order.
28 Don't worry about killing or no killing".

15:46:19

29 He disclosed to Leeway that in the night Yormie and this

1 boy were killed in Nimba County and that they were waiting for
2 the pick-up that will take me away, so the pick-up delayed. That
3 was why your boy is still there, but I know tonight they will
4 carry him. The following day I was there praying and praying.

15:47:00 5 My wife came and I told her not to come again, but that she
6 should stay.

7 Q. Who asked the question, "Are you going to kill us?"

8 A. Leeway, my bodyguard who was already detained with the
9 Sierra Leonean bodyguards that were assigned with Benjamin Yeaten
15:47:21 10 and he asked Leeway - Leeway asked if he was going to be killed
11 and they said we should pray. The other boy was crying
12 continuously.

13 Q. Witness, when you were in this detention you had said
14 earlier that you had heard Sierra Leoneans - I think in a

15:47:46 15 question quite a long time ago that on that occasion that the
16 Sierra Leoneans when you were detained were speaking Krio. Did
17 you understand what they were saying?

18 A. Yes, they were speaking English. Some were saying, "Oh,
19 let's us carry the Vice-President half on the highway tonight on
15:48:10 20 Roberts airport road and he is going to America tonight". They
21 were saying that close to my window and I overheard them, so
22 I kept praying, so I said, "God, receive my soul".

23 Q. Witness, how long were you detained?

24 A. 11 days.

15:48:29 25 Q. After you were released did you come to understand how you
26 were released, or why you were released?

27 A. Yes, the people of Nimba came together and it was headed by
28 one former chief justice of Liberia, Emmanuel Gbalazeh. He had a
29 big organisation of Nimba citizens in government and in various

1 workplaces in Liberia and they were to come and talk to the
2 President on this matter. And on exactly the 11th day the
3 President ordered that I go to hospital to do my check-ups and he
4 asked my wife, saying that, "Moses should go to hospital. I know
15:49:31 5 he has a problem, he has a cardiac problem". But my wife said,
6 "No, he has his personal medicine with him". Apparently my wife
7 was afraid to go to the hospital because she didn't know which
8 doctor was going to check me. So she said, "No, he will not go
9 to hospital, he has his medicines with him".

15:49:50 10 Then later he asked that they should go and bring my
11 clothes to change and that we were going to the mansion and that
12 the people of Nimba were there for them to look into this matter.
13 When we went to the mansion and he explained what happened, what
14 Benjamin told him, and he was out of the country when he got the
15:50:13 15 news upon his return that I was planning to overthrow his
16 government and he had heard where Benjamin was but Benjamin could
17 not be found. Everybody was asking, "Where is Benjamin? Where
18 is Benjamin", but Benjamin was nowhere to be found.

19 But he said "Anyway, I want Moses Blah to be reinstated as
15:50:38 20 Vice-President of this country" and that we should forget about
21 what happened and that the case had no magnitude in it and he is
22 still the Vice-President of Liberia. And then car was sent for -
23 the presidential car that was seized was sent for and my
24 bodyguards were ordered released, but it was not on the same day
15:50:52 25 that I was released and it was after that when I started going,
26 moving from prison to prison looking out for my bodyguards. So
27 that was how I got out of the trouble.

28 Q. Before we go on you mentioned a former chief justice from
29 Nimba County. What was his name?

1 A. Emmanuel Gbalazeh.

2 Q. The last name, how do you spell the last name?

3 A. G-B-L-A-Z-E-H. Emmanuel Gbalazeh.

4 Q. Now once you were out did you find out what Yormie and Vaye
15:51:40 5 had been accused of?

6 A. When I got out Yormie's case was not known anyway and I was
7 stressed. I did not even believe whether they were killed,
8 because the wife and Yormie, they had gone to Benjamin Yeaten and
9 Benjamin Yeaten took Yormie's cell phone, his watch, his marriage
15:52:02 10 ring and then he said here are their rings and then I think he
11 said nothing happened to them, they are somewhere and he said
12 they were in safe hands, they will be all right and he said in a
13 few days they will come.

14 But the gathering that Gbalazeh organised at the Executive
15:52:26 15 Mansion was set. It was said by President Taylor himself that
16 these people will be released and they would be brought forward,
17 only that some of them got wounded in the process and they were
18 seeking medical care. So no sooner they got well they will be
19 released and returned to their families. That was what he said
15:52:43 20 amongst the group that day, the day I was released.

21 So when I got into my presidential car I went home, I had -
22 I was tired, but I remained Vice-President and I was in office
23 until he left the presidency according to our constitution, the
24 constitution of Liberia. Judge, your Honours, I am sorry, I did
15:53:12 25 not --

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: No, no, no, don't worry.

27 THE WITNESS: I did not want to repeat such an incident.
28 It brings --

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: We accept that you get upset. Don't

1 worry. If you need a break, just tell us.

2 THE WITNESS: I am sorry.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Take a deep breath and, if you are ready
4 to proceed, we will do so. If you are not ready, we will break.

15:53:28 5 THE WITNESS: Thank you. Thank you, your Honour.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: And maybe if you can you speak a little
7 slower as well, that will also help.

8 THE WITNESS: Okay, thank you.

9 MR RAPP:

15:53:37 10 Q. Now Yormie and Vaye, did they ever - did you ever see them
11 again?

12 A. No, up until now I have not seen them and I don't know
13 where they are.

14 Q. Now, did you find out what had happened from anyone with
15:54:02 15 their arrest?

16 A. They were arrested like I told you. We got news from
17 people that they were killed and so we had all reason to believe
18 that they were killed, because it has been a long time and nobody
19 had seen them after that and nobody knows where they are. So,
15:54:22 20 they might have been killed at that time.

21 Q. Did you hear any reports of them being confronted with
22 accusations?

23 A. Well not to my knowledge, and by that time people were
24 talking and talking that they have killed their family, they have
15:54:46 25 killed that person and they have killed that person. Those were
26 the only confrontations I heard from people, that is relatives of
27 the dead men, but that had not taken any effect and nobody minded
28 them.

29 Q. Well, do you know if they were accused of anything?

1 A. Yes. Yormie especially was accused of bringing arms from
2 across Cote D'Ivoire and trying to overthrow the government of
3 President Taylor, but in the case of Isaac unfortunately for him
4 he was not accused of anything and on the night of his arrest
15:55:27 5 Yormie had gone over to Isaac's house because they were friends,
6 they were two friends, neighbours, and they were cooking soup.
7 Their soup was almost done for them to have a meal together and
8 that was when Benjamin Yeaten sent a fellow, I will call his name
9 later, and they went with a jeep and they said, "The President
15:55:50 10 wanted to see you, Yormie".

11 It was at that time when Isaac said, "I will take Yormie
12 along, because I cannot let him go to the President alone because
13 the time is late now and the place is dark." As Yormie went,
14 when Yormie entered White Flower to see the President Isaac was
15:56:08 15 still in the car waiting for his friend to come out as he was
16 talking to the President, but unfortunately for him, Isaac,
17 another fellow came from inside and said, "Isaac, are you still
18 here?", and then he said, "Why is it that you are asking me that
19 if I am still here? I said I came to escort my friend for him to
15:56:29 20 discuss with the President and then we will go." As the story
21 went, the fellow came inside and Isaac was wounded. He was hit
22 in the eyes, like somebody said his eye was plucked out, and then
23 blood was running all over his face and they covered his head and
24 then they asked, "What is happening to you? You say you are
15:56:55 25 asking what happened?" He said, "You too will go", and then they
26 grabbed Isaac, they covered their faces and then took them away
27 that night and up to this moment they have not returned from
28 where they took them that night.

29 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Witness --

1 THE WITNESS: I am sorry, judge. I am sorry.

2 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: We understand this is hard for you to
3 recount, but the people recording wanted you to slow down a bit.

4 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. Thank you, your Honour.

15:57:19

5 MR RAPP:

6 Q. Okay, witness. How did you find out - you just told us
7 this account of Vaye and Yormie going to White Flower. Who told
8 you about what happened at White Flower?

15:57:42

9 A. It was very, very easy to find out. With President Taylor
10 being President, the majority of his bodyguards were from my
11 ethnic group - they were from Nimba - and as we were working
12 anything that happened at the mansion if I wanted to know I would
13 know, because he wouldn't know they were related to me but they
14 were very close to me and they will tell me that this happened

15:58:06

15 today, that happened yesterday and this was the plan, the
16 President was leaving behind him and he was going to so and so
17 place, and so that was how I managed to know. And he did not
18 know that the people who are around him most of them were my
19 tribesmen, so most times they gave me messages and information.

15:58:25

20 Q. Well, did they tell you anything about what happened before
21 Vaye came in? You said Yormie was injured. Did they tell you
22 how he came to be injured?

23 A. They said he himself insulted Yormie, the President
24 himself. He said, "You are noted for killing Presidents".

15:58:46

25 Charles Taylor said, "You are noted for killing Presidents, but
26 I will be the last President that you will kill", and then he hit
27 him in his eye and there was blood coming out of there.

28 Q. And when you say "he" hit him?

29 A. President Taylor hit him. He hit him in his eye and he was

1 seriously bleeding and his head was covered when he said, "You
2 take the man out of here", whereas Isaac Vaye was still waiting
3 in the car outside for his friend to come. That was how he got
4 into trouble by just waiting, but he was not charged for
15:59:30 5 anything. He did not do anything.

6 Q. You said that when you were in detention in Tuah's house a
7 man had said that you would be taken out on the highway tonight.
8 What did you understand that to mean?

9 A. Well, I knew who was Benjamin Yeaten. If Benjamin Yeaten
15:59:58 10 took somebody to Taylor and he said, "We are taking this man",
11 and the actions and the manner in which I was detained and the
12 conversation I had in the President's palace, it was like I was
13 almost guilty and was to be taken away to be killed and so
14 I thought I was on my way to die. So, that was how I thought.

16:00:25 15 They were taking me away. That was not the way I used to travel.
16 For Sierra Leonean bodyguards to take me at night on the highway,
17 that appeared to me as though I was going. I was dying.

18 Q. Witness, you were describing this scene where you say that
19 it was reported to you that Taylor hit Yormie and made this
16:00:47 20 comment about, "You are the killer of Presidents". What did he
21 mean by that?

22 A. Yormie was involved in killing Doe, together with Prince
23 Johnson, and it was on television and it was on all news media
24 that he was present when Doe was killed by Johnson. But then
16:01:12 25 what he said was that, "You are noted for killing Presidents, but
26 I will be the last President that you will kill." I did not know
27 what he meant by that, but he will have to explain if necessary.
28 I did not know what he meant by that, but he said it clearly that
29 Yormie was noted for killing Presidents, but that he will be the

1 last President that he will try to kill and that was the
2 statement I heard from him that night.

3 Q. Who did you hear that from?

16:01:49

4 A. I heard that from people, from his close bodyguards and
5 other people that I wouldn't name. I can't recall them to name
6 them.

7 Q. Now when you were released, did you find out if there had
8 been any international involvement in your release?

16:02:22

9 A. Oh, yes. I was told by my wife that she had made a lot of
10 contacts with friendly governments and that I had children in
11 other states and they were in contact with the State Department
12 and they were always saying, "Wait. Nothing will happen.
13 Nothing will happen". There were a lot of contacts made, a lot

16:02:44

14 of contacts were made, and there were a lot of calls reaching him
15 too. People were calling. People at low level, people in
16 foreign countries, they were calling and calling. They were
17 harassing him and calling. They said, "Do not kill our father".
18 Some were my children, some were my cousins, some were my closer
19 relations. They all had contact with White Flower at that time.

16:03:12

20 Q. Was there any kind of demand made to Taylor by any
21 international organisations, or any international leader, that
22 you were aware of?

16:03:35

23 A. What we saw - what my wife saw and told me about was that
24 when I was detained there was a call to Mr Taylor during which we
25 were not there, but we saw the action by the American military.
26 The American military helicopter gunship was flying over and they
27 were flying over where I was. They were circling Taylor's
28 building. They were circling everywhere. And my wife said that
29 the Charge d'Affairs said that if I am executed Taylor will not

1 leave the country. They will have to arrest him right away and
2 that she shouldn't cry. She shouldn't feel bitter about
3 anything. They said they know that he will not kill me, but
4 there were a lot of American military presence around Taylor's
16:04:19 5 area at that time.

6 Q. Now, you said something about your wife talked to somebody
7 and did I hear that it was the Charge d'Affairs?

8 A. The Charge d'Affairs of the American Embassy. She went and
9 he said, "You have planned coup with my husband to overthrow the
16:04:41 10 government and the President", and the man said, "No". She
11 explained - he explained to her again what the discussion was
12 between they and I and then the embassy people explained to them
13 what I just said.

14 Q. You said that when President Taylor ordered you released he
16:05:04 15 said you would be staying as Vice-President.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Do you know if there was any action to remove you as
18 Vice-President?

19 A. He had said earlier to remove me and he said I should
16:05:19 20 resign my position as Vice-President. And before a long time,
21 about six/seven months, up to the time this incident occurred
22 before my arrest, he had told me earlier that he will give me
23 some money and I will resign as Vice-President of Liberia and be
24 replaced by a more suitable person - a younger person - and he
16:05:50 25 said he will give me the money. He called the amount, about a
26 million dollars, and then we were joking. I said, "President
27 Taylor, you can give me that amount right now. Even half of that
28 I will be happy. I will take the money and go into business".
29 That was the discussion we had. He said, "Oh, I am not ready

1 yet". We joked about it and I left him. All the time he had
2 decided that he was not ready to keep me as his Vice-President
3 and I saw that the relationship itself was not straight any
4 longer, but later he changed his mind and I don't know why he
16:06:29 5 changed his mind.

6 Q. From a constitutional legal standpoint, how long - you were
7 Vice-President, as you said, elected to the vacancy created by
8 the death of Enoch Dogolea. How long was your term to run as
9 Vice-President if you had stayed to the end of your
16:06:50 10 vice-presidential term?

11 A. I should stay until his term ended. We were supposed to
12 end the term together and, according to the law, he did not have
13 any sole authority to remove a Vice-President without consulting
14 with the legislature. Maybe he was doing that to intimidate me,
16:07:16 15 but I knew the law and I knew what was stated in the law, but
16 that was what he said that night that we should write a letter of
17 resignation. The law makers met my wife and said, "This is
18 illegal. This cannot happen in any law. The President has no
19 sole power to remove a Vice-President", so that means that that
16:07:39 20 was how we got stopped and he agreed that I should be reinstated
21 as Vice-President until he leaves office.

22 And the second thing I will want to comment on here is when
23 I remain as President in his place he did not like that. He had
24 a speaker called Nyundueh Monkomana. Nyundueh Monkomana was the
16:08:06 25 speaker of the house. He was the person he favoured. That was
26 the man he wanted for him to become Vice-President immediately he
27 left office and that immediately he left office that man should
28 be President of Liberia, but the legislators disagreed with him
29 and they said that would not happen because they said this man

1 has been Vice-President for two years, he is able, he is not
2 sick, we do not have medical reports to tell us that the man is
3 sick and he is not sick and he will stay in power until the
4 appropriate time when the house deems it necessary. That was how

16:08:46 5 I stayed as Vice-President of Liberia until when he left I became
6 President and that is according to the constitution of Liberia.

7 Q. I just want to be clear here on times. When Taylor asked
8 you to resign and to sign a resignation, when was that in
9 relation to the time period when you were detained?

16:09:12 10 A. I was in detention already when the paper was brought to me
11 to sign that I should resign, that I am not physically fit. My
12 medical doctor advised that I should resign the position and that
13 was while I was in detention that the paper was brought to me.

14 But I received a lot of advices from law makers and they said,
16:09:42 15 "No, don't do that. If he has to kill you let him kill you, but
16 this is against the law of Liberia. You cannot resign under such
17 a tension". And they asked me not to write the paper, but I was
18 afraid because I was under serious pressure and later he himself
19 ordered that we should forget about the document.

16:10:06 20 Q. Now, witness, you said that when you were released your
21 wife didn't want you to go to the hospital. Why didn't she want
22 you to go to the hospital?

23 A. No, I was in detention and President Taylor asked her that
24 I should be dressed up and I should be taken to the hospital, but
16:10:30 25 my wife refused on the grounds that she was afraid and this is a
26 man who had put my husband in jail and taken him from jail
27 straight to hospital. She said maybe I was not going to get the
28 right treatment and that was what she said so him, that, "This
29 man has his own medicines and I will not allow him to go to any

1 other hospital because the doctors he is going to do not know his
2 condition and he has his own tabs and even maybe the equipment
3 used to examine my husband is not in this country. So he has the
4 medicine prescribed by his own doctor". So that was my wife's
16:11:13 5 grounds of refusal.

6 Q. Told who? Told her?

7 A. Told President Taylor.

8 Q. Did anyone ever recount any conversation that they had with
9 Taylor regarding these events and what he had done?

16:11:41 10 A. That I wouldn't know, except it is made clear to me at that
11 time.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, did you say you didn't
13 understand, the question you mean?

14 THE WITNESS: Your Honours, yes, the question.

16:11:54 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Rapp, perhaps you can rephrase it.

16 MR RAPP:

17 Q. Well, after Taylor left office did anyone you know talk to
18 Taylor about you?

19 A. Yes, except for the people of Nimba who had gone into the
16:12:12 20 parlour of the Executive Mansion to talk to Taylor, but apart
21 from that, that I can't remember. But the people of Nimba were
22 talking, other legislators were talking, explaining to him about
23 how a government runs and that I was not present in such a
24 conversation with him.

16:12:38 25 Q. I am not talking about the period of time you were
26 detained. I am talking about after Taylor was removed from
27 office and was in Nigeria. Did anyone you know talk to him about
28 Moses Blah?

29 A. Yes, I recall that Harrison Karnwea when he visited Kalaba

1 upon his return he came to my house at night and said, "Oh,
2 I have just returned from your chief". I said, "How is he
3 feeling?" He said, "He is okay", but in conversation with me,
4 according to Harrison Karnwea, he said in conversation with him
16:13:12 5 he said, "God bless that Moses Blah man that I did not kill him".
6 That was what Harrison told me. He said he told him that God
7 blessed me because he did not kill him. I did not know what he
8 meant about that, but by then I was already President of Liberia.

9 Q. Now, at this time or after you are released what is the
16:13:41 10 security situation in the country?

11 A. It was terrible. I was President and there were shootings
12 everywhere around me. I was President for half of Monrovia, not
13 even half, just a little portion of Monrovia that I was
14 occupying, but I was still referred to as President of Liberia
16:14:07 15 and I was heavily guarded by the peacekeepers and by our own
16 army, the Liberian soldiers that were in control. There were
17 several attempts by the LURD rebels to remove me from power, to
18 overthrow the Government of Liberia, but they were resisted and
19 I remained in power until the appropriate time that I resigned as
16:14:37 20 President.

21 Q. Witness, we will get into the period of your presidency but
22 I think you probably misunderstood my question. I was talking
23 about when you were released from detention and you were still
24 Vice-President of Liberia. What was the security situation like
16:14:53 25 at that point?

26 A. No, it was bad. The situation was bad. I was under
27 threat. I was not moving freely. There was fear. Everybody was
28 shaking. He himself was about to leave. The pressure from
29 ECOWAS leaders, or the African leaders, they were coming in and

1 out of Liberia ensuring that he should leave and according to the
2 international community, including myself as Vice-President, or
3 the incoming president, I had serious security threats.

16:15:40 4 Q. Now earlier you talked about an arms shipment that occurred
5 in these late days when the UN, you said, had stopped the arms
6 shipment. What were you talking about?

7 A. Okay, I remember that. I said earlier that he left the
8 country and when the fighting was going on against the LURD and
9 they had taken over the free port and they had taken over almost
16:16:04 10 half of Monrovia there was heavy fighting. At that point he
11 disappeared and nobody knew where he went to.

12 But then after a week when people were a little bit
13 confused he arrived, he reappeared and we got news that - I did
14 not know where he went to. But then at night after his arrival
16:16:30 15 there was a huge aeroplane loaded with weapons and that on
16 landing at the Roberts International Airport it was intercepted
17 by the peacekeepers and they decided to search the plane to see
18 what was on board. I did not see the consignment, but it was
19 very, very huge according to some of the peacekeepers.

16:16:55 20 And even the peacekeepers that I had guarding me went to
21 the airport with their commander to see what they were talking
22 about and they said it was a huge consignment of arms that were
23 brought in out of Libya, because the pilot was arrested and the
24 plane was grounded by force and they showed where they were from
16:17:19 25 and what the peacekeepers said at that time was that whilst they
26 were off loading the plane they wanted peace in Liberia, they are
27 not going to seize the plane. They left the plane and the pilot
28 and then they went. But the consignment itself was seized by the
29 ECOMOG forces, I mean UNMIL forces at that time.

1 Q. Witness, was this before or after the time that you were
2 detained?

3 A. Yes, it was after when I was detained, it was almost nearer
4 to my presidency. It was nearer, nearer, it was a few days. It
16:17:58 5 was not even a week before he could leave the country.

6 Q. Witness, you said that you followed international news and
7 there is a document that we distributed earlier today, a
8 CNN.com/World story dated 7 August 2003 "Liberia weapons plane
9 intercepted" and I would like to have this document displayed to
16:18:26 10 the witness.

11 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Rapp, whilst the witness is reading
12 the document there was a body he named, UNMIL I think, UNMIL or
13 something.

14 MR RAPP: He said UNMIL.

16:19:17 15 THE WITNESS: Those were the peacekeepers from United
16 Nations who were on the ground at that time.

17 MR RAPP: I believe that is U-N-M-I-L, all capital letters:

18 Q. Witness, I should ask you did you hear any reports in the
19 news regarding this arms shipment?

16:20:15 20 A. Yes, there was news from the CNN. I listened to the
21 radio - I mean international radio, BBC and this announcement was
22 heard, that the peacekeepers had intercepted a plane loaded of
23 arms from Charles Taylor.

24 Q. Is this report that I have shown you - is this consistent
16:20:46 25 with your recollection of the reports that you heard?

26 A. Exactly.

27 MR RAPP: Your Honour, in that case we would like to have
28 this two page document marked at this point as an MFI, marked for
29 identification, presumably number 18.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: This is a three page document headed "CNN
2 International.com/World" with a subheading "Liberian weapons
3 plane intercepted" and it is marked for identification MFI-18.

4 MS IRURA: That is correct, your Honour.

16:21:28 5 MR RAPP:

6 Q. In this document it says that: "Taylor has said the choice
7 for president is between Vice-President Moses Blah and house
8 speaker Nyundueh Monkomana." That's on page two. First of all
9 I guess there was a name that you mentioned to us in one of your
10 answers. I forgot to ask, is this the individual that you
11 discussed?

16:21:48

12 A. Yes, he is called Nyundueh Monkomana. It is very difficult
13 to spell. Nyundueh Monkomana. He was the speaker of the house
14 at the time.

16:22:03

15 Q. According to the article his surname is M-O-N-K-O-M-A-N-A,
16 first name N-Y-U-N-D-U-E-H. Is that correct to your knowledge?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Now at this point this is a report on 7 August. Did you
19 know whether you were going to remain as Taylor's successor at
20 this point?

16:22:30

21 A. No, I did not know. I was not sure of anything. I was not
22 sure that I would become President of Liberia because he did not
23 like the idea. He expressed it to me since the time I was
24 promised to retire, so that somebody else will come on. I had
25 given up the post of Vice-President and I was thinking about
26 something else to do.

16:22:56

27 Q. When you say you had given up, I think I asked you at one
28 point - and I am not sure I got an answer directly - when was
29 your term? You said your term would go until the end of Taylor's

1 term?

2 A. Exactly.

3 Q. And under the law, what was the date at that point where
4 the term of both of you would have ended?

16:23:27 5 A. We were to go into elections the next - the month after
6 August, and by January the following year it was supposed to be
7 the time we should have the inauguration for the new and incoming
8 President and that should be the time we should give power to the
9 next President.

16:23:52 10 Q. So in terms of your vice-presidential term, if you weren't
11 essentially the NPP candidate in the election come January 2004
12 you would have no longer been Vice-President?

13 A. No, no longer. No. I would have been out of the office of
14 Vice-President.

16:24:10 15 Q. Now, you said Taylor disappeared for a few days. Do you
16 know where he went?

17 A. Excuse me, sir. He went to - it was not hidden. From
18 information from top security people they said he went to Burkina
19 Faso, but the question that remained unanswered was whether he
16:24:43 20 was coming back, or whether he had gone into exile, and it was
21 not until his return when people saw him that everybody was happy
22 that he did not run away and that he had come back as President
23 of Liberia until the appropriate time. We were all happy,
24 because I will stay in power too as Vice-President at the time.

16:25:10 25 Until the African leaders came in, the Presidents of the various
26 countries like the President of Ghana, the President of Nigeria,
27 the President of South Africa, the President of Mozambique,
28 I think there were four heads of States that came to Liberia, and
29 on that day they came that was the day that I took the President

1 that was sworn into office as President of Liberia and that was
2 the same day President Taylor was taken out of Liberia. There
3 was no previous discussion. It is just like you remove this
4 glass from here and you put the next glass there. So, that was
16:26:00 5 the same day. He left the country the day I was sworn in as
6 President of Liberia.

7 Q. I will ask you to describe that scene in a moment, but
8 I just want to be clear. You said Taylor returned after having
9 gone - well, you said perhaps after being gone a week.

16:26:19 10 A. About a week.

11 Q. And when he came back, how did his return relate to the
12 arrival of the arms; this arms shipment that was seized at
13 Roberts?

14 A. He came in the morning - no, he came at night and then the
16:26:37 15 next morning the arms arrived. It was almost the same time. It
16 was sequential. He came at night and the arms arrived in the
17 morning and the peacekeepers refused to let the arms go. They
18 said they would not. They seized the plane briefly, but later
19 they reordered the plane to go back. I did not know what the
16:27:03 20 negotiation was between the pilot and the peacekeepers, but they
21 released the plane and it went, but they seized the arms. It was
22 about two days after that it had to leave when the President
23 came. It was in sequence like that. There was no time frame in
24 between.

16:27:26 25 Q. Okay. Witness, after the President arrived, was there any
26 mention made of arms or of any shipment that might be arriving?

27 A. No, he did not talk to anybody. He did not talk to me
28 about it. I wouldn't say anybody. He did not talk to me about
29 it. I did not know where he went to and I did not know what he

1 was bringing. But then the following morning when the noise
2 started at the airport we heard it from even civilians who were
3 passing by that there was a plane load of arms last night that
4 Taylor brought, but it was seized by the peacekeepers at the
16:28:04 5 airport. It was just the talk of the town. Everybody knew about
6 it. Everybody who was in town knew about it at that time.

7 Q. Now, witness, you have told us about these four Presidents
8 from these four African countries being involved and you taking
9 over as President. Where did that happen?

16:28:25 10 A. At the Executive Mansion where the President was sworn in
11 at the Capitol building, but this time to my presidency I was
12 sworn in at the Executive Mansion because it all happened in a
13 hurry because that same day he was taken away.

14 Q. And would you describe what happened that day?

16:28:50 15 A. What happened was that I was sworn in by the Chief Justice
16 of Liberia on that day, and immediately after I took oath briefly
17 he went outside and then when he came down with the President
18 I saw the convoy was ready to take the President to the airport
19 and we all followed and I saw him boarding the plane. He was the
16:29:18 20 first to leave, to climb into the plane, and the other African
21 leaders, four of them, they all entered the same plane and they
22 all took off.

23 Q. Did he say anything on the occasion of his leaving office,
24 or you being sworn in?

16:29:36 25 A. Oh, yes, he said - he made some few remarks. He said that
26 he was leaving as President of Liberia. He said he has been
27 forced out of office by the international community and that he
28 hoped in his own words that the developments he did not do, the
29 international community should help, the United Nations should

1 help to improve Liberia to bring development to the country, but
2 God willing he shall return.

3 Q. And did you say anything? Just one last question, did you
4 say anything on that occasion?

16:30:15 5 A. Oh, I spoke briefly. I accepted the presidency and
6 I promised that I will work with the Liberian people and that
7 I will ensure that peace returns to Liberia and the peace will be
8 a peace - a genuine peace - that will come to stay. That was the
9 promise I made.

16:30:37 10 MR RAPP: Thank you, witness.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: I am afraid we are out of time,
12 Mr Witness, and we are going to adjourn now until tomorrow
13 morning. I will remind you, as I did yesterday, that until all
14 your evidence is finished you should not discuss your evidence
16:30:51 15 with anyone else.

16 THE WITNESS: Your Honour, sir.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very good. We will adjourn until 9.30
18 tomorrow morning. Please adjourn court.

19 [Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 4.30 p.m.
16:31:10 20 to be reconvened on Friday, 16 May 2008 at
21 9.30 a.m.]

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I N D E X

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EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR RAPP	9891