



Case No. SCSL-2003-01-T

THE PROSECUTOR OF
THE SPECIAL COURT
V.
CHARLES GHANKAY TAYLOR

TUESDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2009
9.30 A.M.
TRIAL

TRIAL CHAMBER II

Before the Judges:

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

For Chambers:

Mr Simon Meisenberg

For the Registry:

Ms Rachel Irura
Mr Benedict Williams

For the Prosecution:

Ms Brenda J Hollis
Mr Mohamed A Bangura
Mr Christopher Santora
Ms Maja Dimitrova

For the accused Charles Ghankay
Taylor:

Mr Courtenay Griffiths QC
Mr Morris Anyah
Mr Terry Munyard

1 Tuesday, 3 November 2009

2 [Open session]

3 [The accused present]

4 [Upon commencing at 9.32 a.m.]

09:30:21 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: We'll take appearances, please.

6 MS HOLLIS: Good morning, Mr President, your Honours,
7 opposing counsel. This morning for the Prosecution, Brenda J
8 Hollis, Christopher Santora and our case manager Maja Dimitrova.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. Yes, Mr Griffiths.

09:34:37 10 MR GRIFFITHS: Good morning, Mr President, your Honours,
11 counsel opposite. For the Defence today, myself Courtenay
12 Griffiths, with me Mr Morris Anyah and Mr Terry Munyard of
13 counsel.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you, Mr Griffiths. Mr Taylor, I
09:34:52 15 remind you that you are still on oath. Yes, go ahead, please,
16 Mr Griffiths.

17 DANKPANNAH DR CHARLES GHANKAY TAYLOR:

18 [On former affirmation]

19 EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR GRIFFITHS: [Continued]

09:34:58 20 Q. Mr Taylor, yesterday we were looking at the testimony of
21 Hassan Bility and we had reached the stage where he was giving
22 testimony about his arrest on 24 June 2002 and he being taken to
23 your home address blindfolded. Do you recall that?

24 A. Yes, I do.

09:35:29 25 Q. He told us this and this is page 22372, transcript of 12
26 January 2009. He describes how he was placed in the back of a
27 jeep, blindfolded. They arrive at White Flower. The blindfold
28 is removed and he is asked, "How did you know where you were?"
29 And he says:

1 "I had lived almost all my life in Monrovia and I know
2 that. I know White Flower. I know Congo Town. I know the
3 President's official residence. I've been there before. I've
4 been there for a Christmas party that the President held for
09:36:22 5 reporters, journalists and other people, so I know the place."

6 Had he been to a Christmas party at your address,
7 Mr Taylor?

8 A. Yes, and a birthday party.

9 Q. And --

09:36:35 10 A. And my birthday party, which is in January.

11 Q. And help us, when was that?

12 A. I would say in 2000 - my birthday in 2000 most of the
13 journalists came in. There's always every year a Christmas
14 party, so I guess if he wanted to be truthful he would have said
09:36:59 15 he could have attended most of the Christmas parties, because
16 every Christmas there was a party held.

17 Q. If as you say he had attended your birthday in the year
18 2000, by that stage on his account he had already been arrested
19 three times and taken in front of you?

09:37:23 20 A. I know, but that's the whole point. That's the whole
21 point. I think we need to probably put this whole Bility - this
22 arrest that I said not only was I aware of the arrest, I
23 acquiesced. And I think we need to put the whole thing into
24 context.

09:37:44 25 We're fighting a war. By 2002 the war has reached the
26 capital city of Monrovia. Prisoners of war have been arrested.
27 Hassan Bility has been named by several prisoners of war as their
28 principal contact in Monrovia that is helping to organise behind
29 the scenes. The intelligence agencies go to work and in fact

1 this POW states that Mr Bility is in contact with Damate Conneh
2 and they are in constant email communication.

3 Q. Who is Damate Conneh?

09:38:32

4 A. Damate Conneh, the then leader of LURD. In fact he is the
5 second. The first leader of LURD whose name is on the record
6 here is - I think it's on the record but I will mention it. It
7 was a gentleman called Vamba, V-A-M-B-A, last name Conneh, C-O -
8 some people spell it with K. C-O-N-N-E-H, Conneh. And that he
9 is in email contact with Damate Conneh and also with Alhaji
10 Kromah who is associating with LURD at the time.

09:39:01

11 The intelligence agencies go to work using whatever methods
12 they have and they intercept and get the actual emails we
13 understand are working with individuals within his establishment.

09:39:29

14 Upon receiving the emails Hassan Bility is arrested by the
15 Justice Department and is looked at as a combatant, okay, an
16 unlawful combatant at the time. There are individuals,
17 especially the United States embassy in Monrovia, Amnesty
18 International, because he has been sending these terrible reports
19 out to them. Everybody is yelling and screaming all over place
20 as usual. You have all these BBC reports and all of that.

09:39:55

21 We expose the email - I mean the emails that he has
22 received, copies of which were given as exhibits before this
23 Court and those emails were exhibited at the time in Liberia as
24 testimony to the fact that he was - yes, no one doubts that he
25 worked for a newspaper but also that he was a combatant in that
26 he had been dealing with them. Even witnesses revealed at the
27 time that he had visited some of the individuals in Sierra Leone.
28 But I take that to be hearsay. What we had factually were the
29 emails of the contact with Damate Conneh and with Alhaji Kromah.

09:40:21

1 Those emails are the ones that were exhibited here.

2 So the United States government begins to mount excessive
3 pressure on the Government of Liberia to release Mr Bility. We
4 refuse. In fact my government made the fact at the time you are
09:41:02 5 holding unlawful combatants in Guantanamo Bay, so this is an
6 unlawful combatant and the Bush administration used the argument
7 that unlawful combatants were not entitled to due process in a
8 court of law. So we followed American legal procedure, so he is
9 not entitled to being taken before a court and he is going to be
09:41:25 10 held until the war is over, just as you said you are going to
11 hold people until the war is over. So this was the argument at
12 the time.

13 Then they moved to phase two. Well, he is dead. He is
14 dead and we want guarantee that Mr Bility is alive. So, fine, we
09:41:41 15 permitted the most senior officials of the United States embassy
16 in Monrovia to visit Mr Bility that Mr Bility testified in this
17 Court about which is true. At least two of the most senior
18 individuals visited Mr Bility. And may I note here, neither of
19 the two - neither of the two stated that Mr Bility had been
09:42:01 20 tortured when they met him. Neither of the two. If they had
21 seen a tortured Bility they would have made the biggest noise
22 about it. We kept Mr Bility. This continued.

23 After a couple of months they said that they had renewed
24 information that Mr Bility had been seriously tortured. He
09:42:21 25 needed medical attention and all. So we say fine. At this
26 particular time the country is really, really, really I would say
27 in a state of near anarchy I admit. Ministries and agencies are
28 closed, officials are not at work. The fight is in the city.

29 I hold an international press conference involving the

1 foreign press, some members of the diplomatic corps, some
2 ministers and I have Mr Bility brought to this meeting. At this
3 particular time it is at my residence that I use sometimes for
4 work, just as most Presidents do. Camp David in the
09:43:03 5 United States is used for work and of course they receive people
6 there. I received people at my house too.

7 Mr Bility was shown in good health and everything. He was
8 not permitted to answer questions at that house. It was very
9 clear, international journalists took pictures and everything and
09:43:23 10 he was taken away.

11 Finally a deal was worked that Mr Bility will leave the
12 country. The United States government guaranteed that if
13 Mr Bility was permitted to leave that would be the end of the
14 story. We accepted that Mr Bility should be - the United States
09:43:37 15 government provided an aircraft for their employee Mr Bility. He
16 was released, turned over to the ambassador directly. He was
17 well attired by clothes that they brought and he was put on the
18 United States government plane from Roberts International Airport
19 and flown out of the country.

09:43:55 20 Following his departure from Liberia until now, and I stand
21 corrected, I would like to see any documents or any reports given
22 by the United States government at that time that they had
23 evidence of the torture of Mr Bility. And I'm sure they are very
24 good at that. If there had been any report, and I do not doubt
09:44:13 25 that they may have had a report, but if there was one I haven't
26 seen it and I would sure like to see it, that they had seen
27 evidence of torture or anything of Mr Bility.

28 So this is the context of Mr Bility's arrest, Mr Bility
29 being brought to my house. It is - well, for Europe you say why

1 would a detainee be brought to the house of the President? It is
2 not unusual in our own setting for these kinds of things to
3 happen if there is a serious matter where someone is invited to
4 be brought to the President or Prime Minister. This is normal.

09:44:47 5 So if we are thinking about Africa that is as normal as day. If
6 we're thinking about - I'm sitting in a court here in Europe,
7 maybe somebody would say why did it happen? Well, it happens.
8 So for the sake of the Court, this is the context of Mr Bility's
9 arrest, my seeing him and his departure from Liberia.

09:45:04 10 Q. Why do you describe him as an employee of the United
11 States?

12 A. Well, it was the view of the Liberian government and the
13 intelligence agencies in Liberia that Mr Bility worked as an
14 agent for the United States governments because the paper that he
09:45:24 15 ran, even the second paper, it was our intelligence that he
16 received monies from the United States embassy, which they do
17 finance several papers in Monrovia, including the Observer. It
18 is not unusual in Liberia. The United States embassy openly
19 provides funds to newspapers - they would say - which most
09:45:43 20 intelligence agencies would do. They would say it is just
21 helping to level the playing field in the country, but normally
22 these people provide reports to them. It's a part of
23 intelligence collection.

24 Q. Well, that's your account of how it was Bility came before
09:46:03 25 you, Mr Taylor?

26 A. That is correct.

27 Q. Let me provide you with his account so you can comment on
28 it. Now, before I go into the detail of his account, can I ask
29 you this: How many times do you say Bility was presented to you

1 as a prisoner?

2 A. Once. Once as a prisoner. That's the final arrest. Once.

3 Q. Because you appreciate, he claims that on the occasion of
4 each of his first three arrests he was brought before you.

09:46:37 5 A. No, that's not true. Hassan Bility was not - there's no
6 way any security agency would have arrested somebody, brutalised
7 them and brought them before me. The director and everybody else
8 would have been dismissed. That's not my style. And no Liberian
9 will ever say that's my style. That would not happen.

09:46:53 10 And the fact that Mr Bility claims that he was arrested,
11 brutalised several times and kept visiting my house, I mean, this
12 is very strange. Mr Bility visited my house for entertainment
13 purposes more than once. And don't let's forget, Mr Bility
14 mentions in his testimony, my chief of protocol, Musa Cisse, is
09:47:18 15 his uncle. Musa Cisse is - he mentions in his testimony.

16 Mr Bility was just one of those individuals that was just odd.
17 His uncle was my chief of protocol, the first man to see me every
18 day and the last man before I went to bed. So, Mr Bility, while
19 he may want to project himself as an enemy to me and the
09:47:40 20 government, he was really not. That Hassan Bility was not.

21 There was no way. One uncle, Musa Cisse, worked as my chief of
22 protocol. His second uncle worked as the assistant director of
23 police, okay.

24 Q. Who is that?

09:47:56 25 A. He is Mainassara Cisse, okay. He worked as an assistant,
26 what do you call, superintendent of police. This Bility boy has
27 several relatives in the government, so it's - how would Musa
28 know and his other uncle in the police know of this vast
29 brutality? This is not - he may want to promote, I guess, his

1 writings, but Bility was not the type of enemy he tried to
2 portray himself to be. He was something like a spoiled child
3 that wanted to be his own person.

4 But I will tell this Court, Hassan Bility was not brought
09:48:38 5 to me, no three, four times, after being arrested, brutalised,
6 beating, and just as he said, he comes, the first arrest, he
7 meets Sam Bockarie and all that type of nonsense.

8 Q. We will come to that in a moment.

9 A. That's not true. Not true.

09:48:52 10 Q. But before I forget, the assistant director of police, can
11 you provide us with a spelling, please?

12 A. Well, they call him Morris, but his actual name is
13 Mainassara, something like the Mainassara that was spelled for
14 Bare, the President of Niger. We just call it short and call him
09:49:14 15 Morris, but it's Mainassara.

16 Q. How do you spell it?

17 A. Please, we just have to look at the records on yesterday
18 for the President of Niger, Bare, that was mentioned by Mr Kargbo
19 as one of the individuals. That's the same spelling.

09:49:34 20 Q. Now, his accounts is this: As he gets up out of the jeep
21 and crosses the road, the blindfold is removed and he is ushered
22 into the building. Your son Chucky and one of your bodyguards,
23 Momo Dgiba, and Benjamin Yeaten are in the same room, the sitting
24 room, waiting room, living room, or whatever you call it, with
09:49:58 25 other people. Then there is another room which I think that was
26 the President's private office and/or meeting room, small in
27 size, and the door is opened.

28 And he goes on to say, I'm referring to the room where
29 President Taylor with some of his government officials were

1 sitting in. I think it's either his private office or his
2 private meeting room at White Flower. When I enter I see a lot
3 of government officials, security chiefs, including Musa Cisse,
4 who was an uncle of mine. I see many of them, Kadiatu Diarra,
09:50:41 5 Emmanuel Shaw. And as I enter, the President, he points at me
6 and tells his ministers, security chiefs, "This is the guy who
7 wants to overthrow my government."

8 Now, Mr Taylor, apart from - you accept there were
9 government ministers present at this meeting?

09:51:01 10 A. Yes, I said there were government ministers, diplomats, and
11 all, foreign press.

12 Q. And there was media present, yes?

13 A. Ye.

14 Q. Now, in that setting, according to Mr Bility, you accused
09:51:13 15 him of wanting to overthrow your government. Did you?

16 A. He's a part of LURD. I did say to him that these are the
17 people that are trying to overthrow the government, yes. He is a
18 combatant yes.

19 Q. And he says that he quickly remarked, "Mr President, that's
09:51:32 20 inaccurate." Did Bility speak at all in the meeting?

21 A. I'm not sure, but he very well could have because he was
22 not restrained. I don't recall, but he very well could have said
23 in his own defence that, "Mr President, it's not true."

24 Q. Then he goes on to say that he went - he was - he sat down
09:51:56 25 and thereafter the President - I'm looking at line 12 on page
26 22374: "The President authorises a video recording team from his
27 television station to come and record what I will say." Is that
28 true?

29 A. Well, yes, that is true, but there's an addition to that.

1 The whole process, because of what we anticipate, especially with
2 all of the innuendo and all of that, the thing is being recorded
3 not just by local press, by international press. Everyone is
4 authorised to video and record what is going on so there can be
09:52:36 5 no misinterpretation of the meeting. So everyone is recording.
6 So it is true that there's national video, but also international
7 media personnel are also authorised to record.

8 MR GRIFFITHS: Now, before I continue, the spelling,
9 Mr President, M-A-I-N-A-S-S-A-R-A. Cisse, C-I-S-S-E.

09:53:05 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you.

11 MR GRIFFITHS:

12 Q. He then goes on to say that the President spoke and was
13 asking me that neither God nor Amnesty International or even the
14 United States government can set me free. He said, it's only the
09:53:21 15 truth and God can set me free here. He said, well, I want to be
16 fair and frank with you here. You have to tell me the truth.

17 And he alleges that I had travelled to Europe, purchased arms in
18 Europe, imported the arms to Liberia and stored the arms at the
19 United States embassy in Monrovia, and that I had travelled to
09:53:42 20 Cote d'Ivoire and contacted and brought into Liberia 24

21 mercenaries who were staying at the United States embassy in
22 Monrovia. And that I, along with the current President, Ellen
23 Johnson-Sirleaf; Bishop Michael Francis, then bishop of the
24 Catholic diocese of Monrovia; Ibrahim Mitchell, then an executive
09:54:04 25 of a political party called the New Deal Movement; Alhaji Kromah,
26 leader of the former ULIMO-K party, a warring faction; and Robert
27 Perry, then assistant Secretary of State or former assistant
28 Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs at the United States State
29 Department, that I, along with all of these people, was plotting

1 to overthrow his government and kill him and he's got me. He
2 said, President Taylor said that now he's got me. He said,
3 President Taylor said that now he's got me. He said he had
4 warned me previously in the past to stop reporting on RUF because
09:54:42 5 it was none of my business, the Foday Sankoh situation, his
6 government's alleged involvement. My involvement is what he was
7 saying in the RUF - with the RUF. He said those were none of my
8 business and he thought that - he repeated it in pretty much the
9 same thing he had been saying to me whenever we met, his support
09:55:05 10 for the RUF and he didn't care who thought what.

11 Now, is that a fair assessment of what you said to him,
12 Mr Taylor?

13 A. No.

14 Q. What do you disagree with?

09:55:18 15 A. Practically everything. Hassan Bility was told that he was
16 a combatant and that he was - how would I say that a little boy
17 like Hassan Bility will buy arms and take it to the US embassy?
18 Am I drunk? Nonsense. Would anybody be - if the United States
19 wants arms at its embassy, some little nonentity would take it to
09:55:41 20 the embassy? They would bring it in themselves. Nonsense. I
21 wouldn't say nothing stupid like that.

22 Hassan Bility was told what the evidence we had. He was
23 told about it in that meeting. He was shown the emails and we
24 said that, "We, for the first time, have evidence of your
09:55:59 25 involvement. We have with us the prisoners of war that have said
26 that you have been cooperating. We have this information," and I
27 told him. It is true. I said, "Look, right now all this" - it's
28 normal for Amnesty International to go yelling all over the place
29 when they have you on their payroll. I said, "The only thing

1 that's going to set you free from here is the truth and we need
2 the truth." Because in those emails you will see, there was a
3 plot being made within the Congo Town area of my residence that
4 LURD will mount an offensive and he was supposed to find the
09:56:39 5 individuals in Monrovia to launch the offensive. And I said to
6 him, we needed the truth because we needed to pick out those
7 people who were in Congo Town to stage this suicide attack on my
8 residence. And that is what he was told.

9 Now, you know, one of the things that Hassan Bility
09:57:00 10 mentions here is the presence of all these people. And, you
11 know, these are very important statements that I really didn't
12 know I will get to this point to be brought before this Court or
13 any other Court. But the Prosecution had sufficient time to get
14 this information because this was done in the world press. It's
09:57:19 15 a very - I don't have it because, I mean, I - a lot of this
16 stuff. I just left Liberia. But I would not have and could not
17 have told him the rest of this nonsense he's talking about and
18 naming this person and that other person. Hassan Bility was
19 accused of being an agent of the United States government. I
09:57:37 20 felt that way then, I still feel that way now, okay, that he was
21 an agent, he was being paid by the embassy, he worked for Amnesty
22 International, he sent out these reports that, in fact, could not
23 be verified and that he worked as a combatant in a different - at
24 a different level, not with an arm going about shooting, but he
09:58:00 25 never let the war go. And I say that again today.

26 Q. Now, Mr Taylor, there's a specific aspect of what he claims
27 you said at that conference, that video recorded conference which
28 I want to ask you about. You see, once - remember, on the first
29 three occasions when he claims he was brought before you, you

1 were expressing your support for the RUF and suggesting that it
2 was none of his business, yes?

3 A. Uh-huh.

09:58:34

4 Q. Now, you see the same theme here. He is saying that you,
5 in front of - you say the world media - in this video recorded
6 session, mentioned the RUF in relation to Hassan Bility. Did
7 you?

09:58:59

8 A. I did not. And, in fact, at this time that he is talking
9 about, it's very clear to any person that really wants to be
10 fair. If I had said before the world press, "I am supporting the
11 RUF and there's nothing you can do about it," it would have been
12 front page on every international paper across the world. This
13 is a blatant lie. How foolish - I mean --

09:59:17

14 Q. Well, Mr Taylor, let me interrupt you to ask you this:
15 This arrest took place on 24 June 2002. What was the situation
16 in Sierra Leone in June 2002?

17 A. 2002, Kabbah is President. I'm not aware of any conflict
18 in Sierra Leone by that time.

09:59:41

19 Q. What was the position of the RUF? We've heard evidence
20 that they were transformed into a political party?

21 A. The RUF had participated in the election as far back as
22 2002 - 2001 /2002 and lost the election. There was peace and
23 stability in Sierra Leone.

10:00:04

24 Q. So help us, Mr Taylor. Why were you then at this press
25 conference talking about your continued support for the RUF?

26 A. But that's the lie that I'm talking about. That's how
27 Hassan Bility put together these things from - to show - he's a
28 show man. To show that I am consistently saying this even when
29 no RUF exists, when there's normalcy in Sierra Leone, but that's

1 how the lie has to continue being read. That's why he's saying
2 that and it's a blatant lie.

3 Q. Because he is asked specifically by Mr Santora, "What
4 exactly did Mr Taylor say with relation to the RUF?" Now

10:00:37 5 remember, June 2002:

6 "Mr Taylor said that he had warned me to get off - to stop
7 reporting on the RUF. Liberia's involvement or contact, support
8 for the RUF and I didn't listen to those pieces of advice in the
9 past and now he says that he's got me and he's got me so firmly
10:01:03 10 not even the US, Amnesty or whatever could set me free. And this
11 investigation personally - he personally interrogated me for
12 about two hours and 20 minutes. I know that because there is -
13 there was a clock on the wall and he talks."

14 Did you interrogate him for two hours?

10:01:25 15 A. No.

16 Q. Over two hours, Mr Taylor, in front of the world media?

17 A. No, that is not true. Why would I be - in fact even the
18 foreign journalists that day would have taken it to be a fun and
19 I think they would have made a heyday in international

10:01:41 20 newspapers. I'm glad that he admits that I didn't do this alone

21 or in the typical way they tried to explain he came to some dark
22 cell, as I was being tortured and - there is all - look, I guess

23 for these people - you can't even blame Hassan Bility. Santora
24 himself knew that there was peace and stability. He posed this

10:02:04 25 question because he wanted Hassan Bility to show - you look at

26 this whole case and you look at the period of indictment, Hassan

27 Bility had to begin to show from the first arrest to the last

28 arrest some continuity of expression of RUF. It's all a plan

29 that they put together with Bility. He had to show continuity.

1 First arrest he talks about RUF, second he talks about it, third
2 he talks about it, fourth he talks about it, fifth he talks about
3 it. It's all a part of the prosecutorial tricks, I call it. He
4 knew that there was stability in Sierra Leone at the time, but
10:02:39 5 that's the way they put it so that they can show that there was
6 prior - I forgot the rule. Prior behaviour. And so he shows he
7 had been involved with them all the way from the first arrest in
8 1997, all the way to 2002. This is the theme that Mr Taylor is
9 stating that I'm supporting RUF, supporting the RUF. They should
10:03:04 10 have known better. So he was led into that and he just followed
11 the lie.

12 Q. Well, he says a bit more?

13 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Griffiths, who is this person Sam
14 somebody? Sam who?

10:03:20 15 THE WITNESS: Santora. Chris Santora sitting over there
16 should have known that in 2002 there was stability in Sierra
17 Leone.

18 MR GRIFFITHS:

19 Q. But he goes on further on the same theme, Mr Taylor, so
10:03:34 20 let's look at it. Page 22377:

21 "Yes, he said many things generally about Sierra Leone.
22 Amongst the things he said that I recall about Sierra Leone were
23 he did say that - it was basically a recap of most of the things
24 he had said to me in the past regarding Sierra Leone. One, he
10:03:56 25 didn't even care who thought about - you know who thought if he
26 were involved with the RUF or not. He didn't care about that.
27 As far as he was concerned his forces, he had the best ground
28 force, I'm not sure what he meant by that, but my opinion was
29 military. He had the best ground force and he was willing to

1 even move into Sierra Leone again if necessary. He also said
2 that he wanted to say something. He said, 'Let me he tell you
3 something. As far as the Tejan Kabbah situation is concerned and
4 the RUF is concerned, the RUF is fighting a just war' - present
10:04:33 5 tense. "'And I'm not going to let anybody arm twist the RUF. I
6 was never going to.' He said he was never going to let that
7 happen. 'And I still stand firm, ready to do whatever it takes
8 if necessary to move into Sierra Leone. You know I'm not afraid
9 of anything.' It was a very wide ranging conversation, you know,
10:04:59 10 and it lasted a long time. I was sitting there scared, actually
11 scared, because I had been accused by President Taylor whom I
12 know of plotting to overthrow him. I thought I was dead
13 instantly. At once I will say not what he wanted me to say, by
14 this time when he asked a question he asked - he did like this.
10:05:23 15 He told the cameraman, 'Roll the' - I'm sorry, but that's what he
16 did, he snapped his finger. 'Roll the camera' and then the
17 camera focused on me. My assumption at that point was that
18 whatever I said would be aired on the radio and on television to
19 make people convinced that indeed this was true and that I had
10:05:44 20 been involved in clandestine activities or been paid by Tejan
21 Kabbah or, you know, Sierra Leonean officials to report on these
22 things in the past. But the fact was I had never personally met
23 any Sierra Leonean officials as such like discussing what your
24 paper wrote, no. I had been in Sierra Leone though through the
10:06:12 25 instrumentality of ECOMOG to witness the removal of the RUF and
26 the reinstatement of the Tejan Kabbah government as a reporter.
27 So President Taylor focusses in part on the Sierra Leonean case
28 and he tries to convince me to think that he had justification
29 and right to support the RUF and it was nobody else's business."

1 Now, Mr Taylor, a couple of things there. Firstly, were
2 you aware that Hassan Bility, through the instrumentality of
3 ECOMOG, had gone into Sierra Leone at the time of the removal of
4 the RUF and the reinstatement of the Tejan Kabbah government?

10:06:55 5 A. No. I was not aware.

6 Q. Did you suggest to Bility that he had any link with either
7 Tejan Kabbah or the Sierra Leonean government at this meeting?

8 A. No. No. No.

9 Q. Did you suggest that you were prepared to move into Sierra
10 Leone again if necessary?

11 A. How did I move into Sierra Leone in the first instance to
12 say I'm prepared to move in again? No. How would I say - before
13 the world press at this particular time in Liberia, and I really
14 want us to focus - to look at the time. We're talking about May
10:07:46 15 2002. At this particular time in Monrovia --

16 Q. June 2002.

17 A. June 2002.

18 Q. Late June.

19 A. There is not one international news agency that is not in
10:07:57 20 Liberia, including the conservative news agency Fox News in the
21 United States. There's everybody there. When Fox comes out you
22 know that's conservative of conservative. Fox was there. I
23 remember the Fox correspondent very well. It was a lady. A very
24 - you know, a petite lady, a Caucasian lady. I remember speaking
10:08:20 25 to her many times.

26 Before the world press I am supposed to be there talking
27 about moving into Sierra Leone when I've got a war in my capital
28 city being fought and how I'm supporting the RUF that doesn't
29 exist any more in late June 2002. And don't let's forget that

1 disarmament, demobilisation, everything over in 2001, Kabbah
2 declares the war over in January 2002 and I'm talking about
3 supporting the RUF? I mean this is - this is the Hassan Bility
4 exaggeration. I did not foolishly state no such thing and, quite
10:08:59 5 frankly, if I had even come close to mentioning that I was
6 supporting or had supported the RUF it would have never escaped
7 the view of the major countries in the international community
8 noting very, very even though Mr Taylor has said in the past that
9 he didn't, here is it for the first time he admits that he is
10:09:29 10 supporting the RUF. I said no such thing. This is the Hassan
11 Bility - maybe you call it the Hassan Bility shuffle. That's all
12 it is. It's a lie.

13 Q. Now help us, Mr Taylor. The sequence, according to
14 Mr Bility, is that he is arrested on the 24th and it's on or
10:09:57 15 about the day of his arrest that he is brought before you?

16 A. That's a lie. That's a bigger lie than he could ever tell.

17 Q. Why do you say that?

18 A. Because he was not brought to me at that time. Hassan
19 Bility was brought to me sometime thereafter. He had gone
10:10:14 20 through interrogation by the NBI. Hassan Bility had been held.
21 Hassan Bility had been visited by the United States embassy the
22 first time and this was - no, this had to be - it was sometime
23 later. No, no, no, no, no. Sometime later. Completely false.

24 I said the man was brought to me. I mean if he had been
10:10:38 25 brought to me immediately I would have said. What difference
26 does it make whether he was brought to me day 1 or day 30? For
27 me I'd say he was definitely brought. I asked him to be brought
28 to me at the time that we had put into the place the
29 international press and certain diplomats from West African

1 countries that we wanted present to demonstrate that he was alive
2 and untortured. So it was not the same day, no.

3 Q. Because the sequence he gives is this, Mr Taylor. That he
4 is arrested on the 24th, he is brought to you and then he goes on
10:11:14 5 at page 22391 to say this, line 16:

6 "Q. When were you arrested this time?

7 A. 24 June 2002.

8 Q. And when were you released finally?

9 A. 7 December 2002.

10:11:37 10 Q. During the course of that time between 24 June 2002 to
11 7 December 2002 how many different places were you held in?

12 A. Thirteen different places."

13 Then he goes on:

14 "Q. During the course of that time - during the course of
10:11:56 15 that time did anything - were you ever physically - did
16 anything ever happen to you physically?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. What happened?

19 A. It started at - well, at a police station in Congo
10:12:09 20 Town. Opposite - I think it's slightly opposite the
21 Paynesville community high school. I was tortured. I was
22 what was referred to then in Liberia as tie-bayed. I was
23 tie-bayed regularly. That is in terms of description the
24 hands being tied behind the back with the two elbows
10:12:28 25 attaching each other and a sort of rope we referred to as
26 the twine was used to tie me which split my flesh here. I
27 had several physical marks on my body."

28 He goes on to describe:

29 "In addition to being tie-bayed I was electrocuted on my

1 genitalia several times, probably over 20 times. And all
2 of these have been at Klay Junction midway - about 22 miles
3 between - it's midway between Monrovia and" - well, it's 22
4 miles away he says. Now, Mr Taylor, that description of torture
10:13:13 5 during those months from June through to December, what do you
6 know about that?

7 A. Look, Hassan Bility and his book and his nonsense, I tell
8 you if anybody believes that I Charles Taylor and the Liberian
9 government, which have never been published, were involved in
10:13:37 10 torture - this boy is a liar. Hassan Bility will be tortured and
11 electrocuted on his genitalia and all that kind of thing and the
12 United States government who saw him, who took him out of the
13 country would say nothing about it? Is he a blatant liar. This
14 is a typical thing around the world where people - electrocuted
10:13:56 15 in Liberia? Total - let's go back to page 92, line 1. I will
16 show you one way how when these boys are portraying their lie.
17 He says he is taken to a police station in Congo Town and he says
18 it's slightly opposite the Paynesville community - how can a
19 police station in Congo Town be opposite the Paynesville
10:14:23 20 community school, two different cities. This the way when they
21 are talking fast - look, well then the United States government
22 did not do --

23 Q. What do you mean two different cities?

24 A. Well, let's - but Paynesville and Congo Town are two
10:14:35 25 different cities. If you look at 22392, line 1, where he
26 describes that he is arrested and taken to a police station in
27 Congo Town and he says he thinks that this station is opposite
28 the Paynesville community something. So how does that --

29 Q. Sp where is the Paynesville Community High School?

1 A. Some 10 kilometres away from Congo Town. Two different
2 areas. If you look at the line you'll see he mentions two
3 different cities on the one breath and, you know, fits in the lie
4 immediately, 22392, line 1. So, I mean, listen, the only thing I
10:15:13 5 can say in this Court is this: Hassan Bility was visited by the
6 United States embassy. Hassan Bility was turned over to the
7 United States government. He was airlifted out of Liberia in the
8 custody of the US ambassador. And if this Prosecution or anyone
9 has any reports coming from the United States government after
10:15:41 10 Hassan Bility left Liberia that shows that he was examined and
11 shows that these things had happened, I would like to see it. I
12 don't think the US would have missed it, and he remains with
13 them. He remains with them. You look at his statements, he is
14 in Boston or wherever he is. I saw his statement where he was.
10:16:01 15 I know the federal building in downtown Boston. I know it very
16 well.

17 While he is there - there is no - Hassan Bility wanted to
18 do a book, but I can tell you, I don't care where I am, I'll be
19 waiting for the book and he will have a fight on his hands
10:16:14 20 because he told a lie to this Court about being tortured. It is
21 a blatant, blatant lie. Prisoners of war that were arrested by
22 my government were released without even - combatants, generals,
23 and officers in LURD that were arrested, the last thing that I
24 did before I resigned from my office, they were released and
10:16:35 25 turned over to the press. There was no such thing.

26 Any human on this planet that says that there was torture
27 during the Charles Taylor administration is a liar and I
28 challenge them any time to bring any evidence. It's not true.
29 He is lying. It's a blatant lie. He is electrocuted on his

1 genitals and all this nonsense, that's the - maybe in other
2 countries he has been reading stories, not in Liberia. But then
3 the US surely missed it.

10:17:06 4 Q. Now, he does accept, Mr Taylor, that he was visited whilst
5 in custody, because at page 22397 he says this, line 23: "The
6 Amnesty International and the international community had mounted
7 pressure on the government that they thought that I was dead
8 and/or severely tortured. The government, in its attempts to
9 dispel such rumours, allowed United States embassy officials and
10:17:34 10 persons of - then deputy chief of missions, Thomas White, and a
11 visa counsel, I don't know his name, went to visit me, were
12 allowed, you know, were allowed to see me and to convince me."

13 Now, where was he being detained at the time of this visit,
14 Mr Taylor?

10:17:52 15 A. The National Bureau of Investigation.

16 Q. Where?

17 A. In Monrovia.

18 Q. In Monrovia. And he says that he was told by them that:
19 We have talked to the government of President Charles Taylor and
10:18:09 20 our sense is, he has agreed to release you but on one condition,
21 that you leave Liberia, you leave West Africa immediately. And
22 he asked, where I am going? Well, we, the United States, have
23 offered to take you to the United States.

24 And in due course that is precisely what happened, wasn't
10:18:27 25 it, Mr Taylor?

26 A. Exactly what happened.

27 Q. Now, Mr Taylor, before I come to deal with one final matter
28 in relation to this man, can I ask you this: Besides this
29 allegation made by this journalist, Hassan Bility, was any other

1 journalist or reporter in Liberia tortured during your
2 presidency --

3 A. No.

4 Q. -- or detained?

10:18:56 5 A. Not that I know of. Detained, it's possible that somebody
6 could have been detained. But tortured, no, because that would
7 have reached me. No, not that I know of.

8 Q. Was any other journalist or reporter airlifted out of
9 Liberia to the United States, to your knowledge?

10:19:20 10 A. Airlifted, no. I don't know. Maybe a journalist left.
11 Not to my knowledge.

12 Q. Do you know if any other journalist for whom the United
13 States provided an aircraft to take them out of the country and
14 offered them residence in the United States during your

10:19:41 15 presidency?

16 A. No, I know of no other. Only Hassan Bility.

17 Q. Can you recall the United States government showing similar
18 interest in relation to any other journalist in Liberia during
19 your presidency, Mr Taylor?

10:20:02 20 A. No, I cannot - I cannot recall, really. I cannot recall.
21 I cannot recall. In the way that they did - no, I cannot recall
22 right now, no.

23 Q. And you say, do you, that the intelligence you received
24 suggested that Bility was an employee of the United States?

10:20:26 25 A. Oh, definitely. That was our intelligence, that he
26 received monies from the embassy, that is true.

27 Q. Now, I want to deal with one final point in relation to
28 Mr Bility, Mr Taylor, and it's a discrete point. Now, the
29 witness, at page 22629, was asked regarding - about a handwritten

1 note he had made regarding his arrests in 1997 and amongst the
2 note - in amongst the note was a reference to his arrest October
3 20, 1997:

10:21:33 4 Taylor said to me, if I thought his government could not
5 remove Kabbah, then I must be from an alien continent. I have
6 the best ground force in West Africa and Kabbah wants to try me.
7 I will make sure his government does not stay in power. Tell him
8 or tell America, he also added, that he would do anything -
9 everything, including supporting the RUF, to unseat Kabbah. I
10:21:57 10 had been arrested and taken to the NPP headquarters for
11 publishing a front-page story entitled: In Sierra Leone, who is
12 the Government of Liberia supporting? Taylor said he thought I
13 was writing these stories because, like Kabbah, I was a Mandingo.
14 Also present, he says - now, this is 20 October 1997.

10:22:22 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Were Joe Tate, Varmuyan Sherif, ULIMO, Benjamin Yeaten, and
17 RUF representative Mosquito. He is asked, who is that Mosquito?
18 Sam Bockarie. So, according to him, Sam Bockarie is in the NPP
19 party headquarters present when Bility is brought before you on
10:22:54 20 20 October 1997, Mr Taylor.

21 A. You know, that whole thing that you've just read is all a
22 fabrication. Let's break it up. I am saying to him that I will
23 make sure that Kabbah is removed from power in October 1997.

24 Q. Where is Kabbah in October 1997?

10:23:21 25 A. He is already out of power, sitting down in Freetown. The
26 junta is in power. I don't know how I can remove Kabbah from
27 power in October 1997 when Kabbah is already out of power.
28 That's a blatant lie because that's how he constructs the lie.
29 Kabbah is in Freetown. The junta is in power in October 1997, so

1 I cannot be saying to him, "I will make sure that Kabbah is
2 removed from power," when Kabbah is not in power. He is lying
3 through his teeth.

4 But there is another witness --

10:23:51 5 Q. Where is Kabbah in October 1997?

6 A. He is in Conakry. He is in Conakry, Guinea. He is not in
7 power. The junta is in power in Freetown.

8 Q. Yes. So, Mr Taylor, why are you telling Hassan Bility on
9 20 October, according to this note which he made?

10:24:08 10 A. How would he make such a note. That just shows this Court
11 what type of people we're dealing with here against me. Here is
12 a man who is a journalist, he is educated, he says, okay, and he
13 is saying he is making a note that I have just threatened that
14 I'm going to make sure that Kabbah is removed from power when
10:24:26 15 Kabbah is not in power. How do I say that?

16 Then he goes - but there is another witness that I referred
17 to the other day that talks about this very Sam Bockarie as not
18 being in Liberia and I say, well, that contrasts seriously with
19 Hassan Bility. Here is Hassan Bility putting Sam Bockarie in
10:24:43 20 Monrovia in October 1997, okay, when other witnesses are putting
21 him in a different place. This just shows you what I'm up
22 against here.

23 Q. And he is there, Bockarie, with Varmuyan Sherif, who you
24 will recall, Mr Taylor, according to his testimony, was sent to
10:25:05 25 bring Bockarie to Monrovia?

26 A. So then that means that, according to - you know, in tying
27 up this lie, so the next thing will be, this is about the time
28 now that Bockarie - after Varmuyan goes and gets him, he comes on
29 time at the headquarters. That's how the lie is supposed to

1 continue and that's what exactly what - well, then that means
2 that it's a pick and choose. Other witnesses have put Sam
3 Bockarie in a different place by this time. I forgot the witness
4 I made a reference to contrasting that with what Bility had said
10:25:43 5 and we said we were going to get to it. But it just shows you
6 how well put together this whole regime change of Charles Taylor
7 got all of their players coming in, a bunch of liars that have
8 been brought to this Court, and God help me. I mean, so many of
9 them that people will have to fish between to find out who is
10:26:04 10 lying, who is telling the - this is almost a Godly affair. You
11 have to almost be a near God to go through this kind of thing.

12 This boy is lying about being brought to me in 199 -
13 totally. Hassan Bility or no other person was brought to me at
14 NPP headquarters. There was no Sam Bockarie and no NPP
10:26:29 15 headquarters in 1997 October. That is a lie. But he has to put
16 it together in this way. That is not true. Kabbah is supposed
17 to be - I'm fighting to remove Kabbah from power when he's
18 already out of power and in a different country? All of these
19 things here, that's the saga of Charles Taylor, I guess.

10:26:52 20 Q. And just a couple more details on that discrete point,
21 Mr Taylor. Firstly this: What's Bility's ethnic origin?

22 A. Bility is Mandingo.

23 Q. What is Varmuyan Sheriff's ethnic origin?

24 A. Varmuyan is Mandingo. Now, you mentioned that he had said
10:27:18 25 that Kabbah, to the best of my knowledge, from what I understand,
26 Tejani is also - people think he is Soso, so I'm not sure if he
27 is all Mandingo, but he can speak for himself. But, you know,
28 that is brought in that way to show - well, I have mentioned to
29 this Court and I may as well mention it, he's trying to show that

1 this is supposed to be something taken out against Mandingos. I
2 have mentioned to this Court, I'm married to a Mandingo woman. I
3 had Mandingos throughout my security. Momo Dgiba, my senior
4 aide-de-camp, is Mandingo. My chief of protocol, Musa Cisse,
10:28:01 5 Mandingo. I had Musa N'jie, the deputy aide-de-camp from the
6 Gambia, Mandingo.

7 So this nonsense of trying to project that image, Taylor is
8 anti-Mandingo, is hogwash because there are so many Mandingos in
9 the security. In fact, some of his own relatives, Papa Kouyate,
10:28:19 10 another assistant director of police, Mandingo. Mainassara,
11 Morris, Cisse - well, Mainassara, but we call it short Morris.
12 Just in case, for future reference, it's the same person.
13 Mainassara Cisse, Morris, is the same person - Mandingo. So I
14 don't have - have ministers in my government. Bangalle Fofana,
10:28:43 15 Mandingo.

16 So, look, that Mandingo thing he is trying to throw at me
17 that he is doing this because it's Mandingo is total, total
18 nonsense. And probably - and he knows Fatoumatta very well
19 because I have said to this Court I have two wives and that's an
10:28:58 20 African - I have two wives, Fatoumatta Yatara. She is from
21 partly Senegal and Guinea, I'm married to her and I have my
22 present wife that I'm still married to. And so that Mandingo
23 stuff he is trying to throw, Taylor is anti-Mandingo, total,
24 total hogwash.

10:29:30 25 Q. Mr Taylor, before I leave this witness can I ask you this
26 question: Did you ever discuss Sierra Leone or the RUF with
27 Hassan Bility?

28 A. No. No. No.

29 Q. Let's move on. I want to go on and deal with another

1 witness, Mr Taylor. This is TF1-590. I cannot mention his name.
2 This individual, in an open session on 13 June 2008, mentions
3 that he had been arrested by the ATU and in particular by your
4 son Chucky and others and taken to a camp where he was tortured.

10:30:52 5 Okay?

6 A. Uh-huh.

7 Q. And he says this:

8 "Everyone was kicking us, stepping on us, all these things.

9 One Campari wanted to kill us, so it was then that I saw another
10:31:12 10 man, another soldier, who was coming around saying to me that, 'A
11 message from Papay.' So Chucky received the message and came
12 towards Campari. He was very, very angry and said, 'Papay want
13 to see these men.' When he said Papay he was referring to
14 Charles Taylor of course. So he said he want to see these men.

10:31:34 15 So it was then they started beating us. They started melting
16 candle wax on us, on our privates, on our buttocks and so on."

17 Do you recall this testimony, Mr Taylor?

18 A. Yes, I do.

19 Q. And you will recall that the individual in question was a
10:31:58 20 Sierra Leonean who had been effectively just picked up off the
21 streets, yes? Do you recall that?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Now question number one, Mr Taylor, is this: As President
24 of Liberia was it your business to see every detained individual?

10:32:22 25 A. No. And I didn't. No.

26 Q. Now, do you recall sending a message to your son Chucky
27 that you wanted to see these men who had been - on the basis of
28 the testimony of the witness - just randomly picked up off the
29 streets in Liberia?

1 A. No. Never sent any such message, no.

2 Q. Now, this individual claims that he was being detained at
3 Gbatala or near to Gbatala. How far is Gbatala from Monrovia,
4 Mr Taylor, just roughly?

10:33:12 5 A. I would say about 200 kilometres or thereabouts.

6 Q. Do you recall sending an order that this detained
7 individual should be taken from that distance to Monrovia to meet
8 you?

9 A. No. Never. I would have never even - I would have never
10:33:48 10 even known that some arrested individual was arrested. I would
11 not even know except this is - if it's an extraordinary case that
12 reaches the level of maybe the national security adviser through
13 the reports. If it's contained in the report then it would be of
14 interest, but arrests in Liberia? I mean, many arrests go -
10:34:20 15 arrests are conducted by the military, by the police. They don't
16 reach to me.

17 Q. Now, the witness continued, and I'm looking at page 11812:

18 "They were crazy, beating us, melting this plastic on us,
19 this candle and other things, cigarettes. So it was then that
10:34:49 20 they tied us again and blindfolded us and loaded us inside the
21 jeeps to Monrovia."

22 Page 11813, line 16:

23 "After the message came that Papay wanted to see us in
24 Monrovia, it was then they did all the beating, the plastic, the
10:35:08 25 candle burning on us, all these things. And they tied us as they
26 usually do. They tie-bayed us again, the same position, and were
27 loaded on the jeeps and then taken to Monrovia."

28 He goes on, page 11814, line 22:

29 "We went directly to the President's compound, Charles

1 Taylor's compound in Monrovia, in Congo Town.

2 Q. How did you know that you were at his compound?

3 A. I knew that after we were in BTC and when we were going
4 there."

10:35:57 5 Page 11815:

6 "Q. Where is this compound, that's Charles Taylor's
7 compound?

8 A. In Congo Town. So when we reached Congo Town they
9 opened the gates and Chucky and Campari, they were ahead.

10:36:15 10 They went inside the compound and they were directing the
11 car inside. So when they went inside, both of them, by
12 then my hood - the bag like or something that they

13 blindfolded me with has gone off while we were travelling
14 on the road. So I could able to see around. And after

10:36:35 15 some time Mr Charles Taylor himself came outside with some
16 other people, some other officials, so they came, because
17 our mouth was Sellotaped, so he walked directly to us and
18 when he came it was then he asked one of the soldiers, one
19 of the ATU soldiers who were guarding us inside the car,

10:36:56 20 that they should take the Sellotape from our mouths, so he
21 did. And after he did Mr Charles Taylor said if we were
22 guys that refused to go to our country to fight when we are
23 most needed and we never said anything."

24 Mr Taylor, did this happen?

10:37:20 25 A. This never happened but I know this witness's own
26 predicament because this was a witness that was used in the -
27 this is the assault. This witness was used in testimony against
28 my son in the United States and so this is the liar that now must
29 connect to me. This man was never, ever brought to me. I didn't

1 even know this man. And in fact in your cross-examination or
2 whoever cross-examined him at that time even asked him to
3 describe my front yard and he couldn't and that's why I
4 specifically mentioned when my yard was being shown he couldn't
10:38:04 5 remember anything in my front yard. This man was never, ever
6 brought to me. That's the only person that's ever been
7 prosecuted in United States history, the typical assault. They
8 came after me, my family and everybody. My son, an American
9 citizen, was charged in the United States with torturing somebody
10:38:23 10 in Liberia and so he's one of the witnesses that continued the
11 lie on here maybe to authenticate it. I never saw or knew this
12 man in my life. Never. Never brought to me. It's a lie. I sat
13 here and listened to him.

14 Q. Well, let's finish what he had to say:

10:38:46 15 "Mr Taylor was asking us this question who refused to go
16 and fight in our country when we are most needed, so we could say
17 nothing. After some moments then he asked if we are the Kamajors
18 that are sent to come and overthrow his government. So during
19 this time of the first - second question I was trying to say - I
10:39:12 20 said no. I was trying to say something and we were looking
21 ourselves, we were three. So later I said, 'We are refugees. We
22 are registered refugees', we don't know anything about what he is
23 saying. All three of us were Sierra Leonean refugees. Then he
24 said, 'Well, if you are refusing to say the truth they are going
10:39:36 25 to take you guys to the beach and we kill you. And they are not
26 going to fire you, they are going to use the knife to cut your
27 head. So after some time Campari was standing by his side and
28 the other officers were standing by the other behind them, like
29 this by the side. So he tapped Campari on the shoulder. So it

1 was the time Campari and Chucky and the other guys were still
2 inside the car. We were trying to go out of the gates. So it
3 was then one of the officers that was standing" - he goes on
4 intervenes and effectively saved his life.

10:40:12 5 Now, Mr Taylor, let's picture this image because the
6 conditions told us this happened at night. In fact, he went on
7 to say that you came out in your pyjamas. So we have this image:
8 These beaten and tortured Sierra Leonean refugees in a car at the
9 front of your house and you're threatening them that they are
10:40:42 10 going to have their throats cut, yes?

11 A. Uh-huh.

12 Q. Did you?

13 A. Never. Never. Never. Never, God no. Never. And here we
14 are, they are ordered to be killed and they are not killed.

10:41:00 15 Somebody lower than me, a security, intervenes and saved their
16 lives. How is that possible? How is that possible? I don't
17 know how these people manage with these things. Somebody is
18 brought to me, beaten up, tortured, I come down out of my bed in
19 my pyjamas, look at them - and you know one thing, I haven't seen
10:41:25 20 the year that he is talking about because there's a statement
21 where he says, "You are the people that refused to go to your
22 country and fight." Maybe as we go along we may see the year,
23 then we can determine if there's any fighting going on in Sierra
24 Leone at the time. But that's another story. And I'm supposed
10:41:46 25 to say that they should be taken out later on and killed, but
26 they are miraculously saved by another security person. I mean,
27 what command do I have that I will give that is overridden by an
28 ordinary security? That's a lie. Total, total, total lie.

29 Q. The witness also claims, Mr Taylor - and again this is a

1 matter you will have to deal with - that he saw Sam Bockarie in
2 Voinjama with two Arab guys whom he later learned were your
3 diamond dealers and they were part of a convoy going to Sierra
4 Leone. What do you say about that?

10:42:42 5 A. That's not true, but at least - you know, I don't know why
6 they took him through all of this examination because I can only
7 deal with these things - it is only when these people start
8 giving years and dates and time that you will be able to direct
9 it in the way that, you know, to untie the lie. Because they are
10:43:02 10 just speaking vaguely. He could very well be saying that he saw
11 Sam Bockarie in 2000 going to Sierra Leone or in 2001. I do not
12 know what year he is giving this testimony, he is not asked by
13 the Prosecution what time is he talking about. But there is no
14 way that Sam Bockarie is travelling with diamond people from me
10:43:26 15 to Sierra Leone. But only time - if the time was stated that
16 would be easy to really just, what we say, pooh-pooh the idea
17 that this is a lie. So it's a blatant lie that Sam Bockarie is
18 supposed to be carrying diamond people from Liberia to Sierra
19 Leone, my diamond people.

10:43:51 20 Q. Now just to return briefly to the scenario painted by the
21 witness in your front garden, Mr Taylor. He also says - and this
22 is at page 11838 - that in your presence he was hit with a gun on
23 his chin and he was beaten in your presence. What do you say
24 about that, Mr Taylor?

10:44:24 25 A. A blatant lie. Blatant lie. Blatant lie. He is brought
26 and beaten in my presence? Nobody would dare touch any - even if
27 violence occurred outside, this I cannot account for anybody,
28 maybe sometimes security people all over the world - police in
29 America beat people. But when you get before authority to say

1 violence occurred - police beat people all over the place.
2 London, at the last conference, police beat people. So beating
3 is something - police knock some people, they hit people, but to
4 arrest somebody and bring him before the President and beat him
10:45:06 5 is a lie.

6 Q. He also claims Daniel Chea, your Defence Minister, was also
7 present, Mr Taylor.

8 A. No, that's not true. And I'm sure Daniel Chea is
9 available, alive and well. That's not true.

10:45:28 10 Q. Were you in the habit, Mr Taylor, of coming out to meet
11 people in your pyjamas?

12 A. No. Why would I leave my bed and come outside in pyjamas?
13 That's very, maybe, Viking. Maybe during the period of the
14 Vikings in Europe, but not for me. At least I'm more cultured
10:45:55 15 than that to come outside in the presence of people in a pyjama.

16 If you say the man came out in his robe, yes, but in a pyjama,
17 that's very uncouth.

18 Q. Mr Taylor, that's all I want to ask you in relation to that
19 witness. And so we come to the final witness I want to ask you
10:46:26 20 about, and that's Moses Blah. Now, Moses Blah came to give
21 evidence before this Court in May 2008. Now, before we look at
22 specific aspects of his testimony, Mr Taylor, can I ask you one
23 or two general questions. First of all, how well do you know
24 Moses Blah?

10:47:20 25 A. That's a - to help - well, I know Moses. When you say how
26 well, one can never tell these days, but I know Moses. Not very
27 well, but I know him.

28 Q. When did you first meet him?

29 A. I first met Moses in 19 - briefly, I would say - very

1 briefly I would say as far back as 1980, '81. Very briefly.

2 Q. And what can you tell us about his level of education?

3 A. Moses may have graduated from high school, but I can't be
4 certain about that. But no further. Because my first wife was -

10:48:46 5 that I was married to was Moses Blah's first cousin, so I know
6 the family. Got married - was married to his first cousin, and I
7 have - we have two beautiful girls by my first wife, who is Moses
8 Blah's first cousin. So I know him very well. I know him well
9 to that extent. I don't think - he may have graduated from high
10:49:08 10 school, but I know he went no further. I doubt if he did, but I
11 can't be sure.

12 Q. Was he a military man, Mr Taylor?

13 A. No. Moses was not a military man. But he was one of those
14 - he's from Nimba. He was one of those that were forced in exile
10:49:35 15 after the Quiwonkpa situation with Doe following the 1985
16 elections.

17 Q. And what's his ethnic background?

18 A. Moses is Gio. What we call Dan. He is Dan Gio.

19 Q. From what part of Liberia?

10:50:01 20 A. He is from Nimba County.

21 Q. And just in general terms, Mr Taylor, and we'll come to
22 look at some of the details later, why was he appointed your
23 Vice-President?

24 A. Well, the context is this: Following the unfortunate
10:50:33 25 actions of Samuel Doe in Liberia after the 1985 elections and
26 unsuccessful attempt by General Quiwonkpa to overthrow him,
27 several people went into exile. I was already in exile at the
28 time and had the knowledge and international contacts to try to
29 avenge or to get back to remove Doe to re-establish democratic

1 norms in Liberia. Now, I did not have a fighting force. Most of
2 the individuals that were outside capable of being trained to
3 carry out this revolution were from Nimba County predominantly
4 from the Gio, the Dan and the Mano, the Mahn ethnic groups that
10:51:40 5 are the largest ethnic groups in Nimba County. Of course, there
6 were other people that participated.

7 Now, after meeting with them - in fact, at the time the
8 senior people that were leading them at this particular time in
9 exile included, amongst others, Tiagen Wantee, Alfred Mehn,
10:52:18 10 that's M-E-H-N, Wantee is spelled W-A-N-T-E-E, and others. So we
11 met and a decision was taken that they would provide the fighting
12 force, and if we were successful in removing Doe by launching
13 this revolution, the presidency would be mine but the
14 Vice-Presidency would go to them that constituted the fighting
10:52:42 15 force. That was the agreement, that was the promise, as I then
16 went out, found a place, had them trained to come to launch the
17 revolution.

18 And so, upon succeeding, this is why the first
19 Vice-President at the time, Enoch Dogolea, late, was a member of
10:53:04 20 the Special Forces. So, in other words, I kept my promise. So
21 the Vice-President at the time was not chosen because of his
22 great academic or other ability, but it was chosen on the basis
23 of a promise that we had - an agreement that we had that one of
24 them - so after the death of Enoch Dogolea, the second person
10:53:34 25 that I picked was another Special Forces. And that process was
26 to end after my first term as President. Then I had the liberty
27 of choosing who I felt could better serve in the capacity as
28 Vice-President. That's how Enoch got in. That's how Moses
29 subsequently got in.

1 Q. So it was basically a deal which had been sewn up prior to
2 the revolution being launched?

3 A. Definitely. Definitely. And may I just add, Moses gets
4 chosen at this time because he had spent some time in Europe, in
10:54:21 5 Germany, not in any school. He had fled Liberia at one time. He
6 can come to Germany. And then following my election, I sent him
7 to Libya as Vice-President, so at least that little exposure gave
8 him a jump on the rest of the Special Forces in the country.

9 Q. Now, help me with this, Mr Taylor: Was Blah implicated in
10:54:51 10 any way in the Quiwonkpa coup, as far as you're aware?

11 A. No, as far as I'm aware, no, I cannot say. I do not
12 dispute it. I was out of the country by then, but most people
13 from Nimba were implicated, I would say. So he would not have
14 been an exception.

10:55:28 15 Q. In what capacity did you send him to Libya, Mr Taylor?

16 A. He was sent as ambassador extraordinary and
17 plenipotentiary.

18 MR GRIFFITHS: Because I note, Mr President, at line 11 and
19 12 of my font that he is described as sent to Liberia as
10:55:45 20 Vice-President. It should be Libya as ambassador.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: I can find that. What reference --

22 MR GRIFFITHS: It's in response - it's on page 43 of my
23 font, and in answer to the question, "So it was basically a deal
24 which had been sewn up prior to the revolution being launched,"
10:56:15 25 on mine it says, "He had fled Liberia at one time. He came to
26 Germany. And then following my election, I sent him to Liberia
27 as Vice-President."

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: I see. Yes, that should be Libya --

29 MR GRIFFITHS: As ambassador.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: -- as ambassador.

2 Yes, Ms Hollis.

3 MS HOLLIS: I would simply suggest that we have them listen
4 to the tape and see what was said because I seem to recall what's
10:56:44 5 on the transcript here. So perhaps the witness misspoke. So
6 perhaps the most accurate thing would be for them to listen to
7 the tape and verify exactly what was said.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes. So you think that what the
9 transcript reflects now is correct?

10:57:00 10 MS HOLLIS: I'm not sure. That's why I think perhaps the
11 witness could have misspoke. They can simply verify it on the
12 tape one way or the other, and whatever they hear is what goes on
13 the record.

14 MR GRIFFITHS:

10:57:13 15 Q. Mr Taylor, let's try and clear this up once and for all.
16 Did you send Moses Blah to Libya as Vice-President?

17 A. No. My statement was: Following my election as President
18 of Liberia, Moses Blah was sent as ambassador extraordinary and
19 plenipotentiary - this is my statement - to Libya.

10:57:42 20 Q. Thank you. Now, let's - now, again, Mr Taylor, before we
21 embark on a more detailed examination of the testimony of Moses
22 Blah, let me ask you, in general terms, what's your considered
23 view of Blah's testimony, in general terms?

24 A. In all honesty, to a great extent, Moses told the Court the
10:58:35 25 truth. There are about three areas that unfortunately - and I
26 use the word very, very much - not in anger of Moses.
27 Unfortunately - and I don't know why that he - I'm not sure if I
28 should say he lied or misled the Court. Unfortunately, but I
29 would say, if I'm assigning percentages, I would say about 90, 95

1 per cent of what he said was true. And I can specify the areas
2 that I think he misled the Court or, whatever, misspoke or what.

3 One of them is where Moses Blah - the way he dealt with the
4 Sam Bockarie situation was an unfortunate lie because Moses Blah
10:59:29 5 was sent to Nimba to handle the Sam Bockarie situation. Moses
6 Blah brought Sam Bockarie's body to Monrovia. Moses Blah
7 deposited the body at the funeral home and the affidavit of that
8 who mentioned it will be brought before of this Court and anybody
9 else. The report that I received of what happened in Nimba
10:59:51 10 County was given to me by my Vice-President Moses Blah. He could
11 have told the Court that. Unfortunately I don't know why he
12 lied.

13 The second lie is that Moses Blah told this Court that he
14 was not aware that he would be President and that I was stepping
11:00:13 15 down. I don't understand why he would say this. It's not true.
16 In line with the constitution, almost two weeks - and those
17 documents will be presented to this Court. The procedure of the
18 constitution of Liberia - I did not run away from Liberia. I
19 didn't just pack up and say, "See you later." Every step as
11:00:37 20 provided under the constitution of Liberia was followed. A
21 letter was written to the national legislature, the Senate and
22 the House of Representatives informing them of my decision to
23 resign and in that letter it stated when I would resign, the
24 date, time to the very last minute, because according to the
11:01:03 25 constitution I had to resign by 11.59 on that day and nearly two
26 weeks before then that letter went to the legislature.

27 Moses Blah served under- in Liberia, like the United
28 States, he is President of the Senate. He presided over the
29 session that received the letter and read it. He was well

1 prepared. Invitations were sent out to foreign Heads of State.
2 Moses Blah's speech was prepared.

3 So again I'm saying unfortunately - he could have
4 misspoken. I don't know why he told this terrible lie to this
11:01:41 5 Court. And maybe it's not a lie. Maybe he forgot. I don't
6 know. That's the second area.

7 The third area, I think he could have been more forthcoming
8 about the activities of Sam Larto as he explained it because he
9 knows that Sam Larto was tried by court martial.

11:02:19 10 So if you look at that, and I'm assigning percentages,
11 those are the areas. Other than that I think he - for whatever
12 reason he came here, I think he was as factual as he can be
13 except in those areas and I cannot exact any reason why he chose
14 to shy away from those additional facts. That's as best as I can
11:02:51 15 put it.

16 Q. Right. Let's now start having a look at what he told us.
17 I want to take up his account, please, Mr Taylor, on 14 May 2008,
18 page 9798. In the context of him having gone into exile he said
19 this:

11:03:40 20 "We were planning by ourselves to regroup and come back to
21 Liberia. We will overthrow the government. But we didn't
22 know how to do it.

23 Q. Did you seek any assistance?

24 A. No, we were planning that together. Later then a man
11:04:04 25 came in, one of the man men" - I think that should be main
26 man - "of our tribe came in called Alfred Mehn, popularly
27 known as Godfather."

28 Let's pause there. Alfred Mehn, that's a name you've
29 already mentioned, Mr Taylor, yes?

1 A. Yes, it's pronounced Mehn. Alfred Mehn.

2 Q. And was he known as the Godfather?

3 A. Yes, they called him Godfather. That's true.

4 Q. And "a main man of our tribe." Which tribe is that?

11:04:44 5 A. He says a main man of our tribe, I guess he is just
6 referring to a member of the tribe.

7 Q. He is then asked, line 18:

8 "Q. What were you planning to do?

9 A. What I said was that we were regrouping. We were
11:05:11 10 grouping and planning to come back to Liberia and did not
11 know how to come back to Liberia.

12 Q. What assistance did this Alfred Mehn provide you?

13 A. He came with a word from former President Taylor and,
14 to be specific, his wife Agnes Taylor had sent him to see
11:05:34 15 if we can regroup and proceed to a location and there would
16 be assistance that we would be able to return to Liberia."
17 Now, Mr Taylor, this suggestion that your then wife Agnes
18 Taylor was involved, is that true?

19 A. That is true.

11:06:02 20 Q. And was it your wife Agnes Taylor who sent Alfred Mehn to
21 La Cote d'Ivoire?

22 A. That could very well be, because at this time I'm
23 incarcerated in Ghana, accused of being a CIA spy, so she carried
24 on. So I would say yes.

11:06:32 25 Q. Over the page to page 9799:

26 "Q. Did Mr Mehn tell you anything about Charles Taylor?

27 A. Yes. He told us that there's a man called Charles
28 Taylor and this man is somewhere in Ghana and being
29 detained because he was arrested on a charge that he was

1 grouping to overthrow the Government of Liberia, but then
2 his wife is present somewhere in Burkina and she will
3 assist or, you know, then we should go further to Burkina
4 Faso where we would meet this lady."

11:07:23 5 One detail, Mr Taylor: Were you arrested in Ghana for
6 grouping to overthrow the Government of Liberia?

7 A. No. I was accused of being a spy for the CIA. That's why
8 I was arrested.

9 Q. Jump a few lines. Line 20:

11:07:45 10 "Q. And then did you go to Burkina Faso?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. And how many of you went to Burkina Faso?

13 A. Initially we were about 22 in the group.

14 Q. How did you travel to Burkina Faso?

11:07:58 15 A. We went by the bus, by the transport bus, and later,
16 from the point in Abidjan, we went by train. We were
17 assisted. We received assistance because our transport was
18 paid for. We had food while en route to Ouagadougou and
19 while we were in Ouagadougou we had a place to stay.

11:08:21 20 Q. Who provided this assistance?

21 A. It was Mrs Taylor at the time through Alfred Mehn.

22 Q. When you reached Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso where did
23 you stay?

24 A. We were taken to a military camp and in this camp was a
11:08:41 25 hilly area and we were in a camp. Military food was coming
26 to us through the military vehicles and military men was on
27 the vehicle that brought the food.

28 Q. And what did you do at the camp?

29 A. While in the camp we were taking some exercises,

1 running, long jump and anything that could keep you fit at
2 the time.

3 Q. Any other kind of training?

11:09:16 4 A. Another kind of training but it was not military
5 training. We were running from place to place and to keep
6 our fit at the time.

7 Q. Do you know who the leader of Burkina Faso was at the
8 time you arrived?

9 A. We were in Burkina Faso when Thomas Sankara was
11:09:32 10 President of Burkina."

11 Now I want to just pause there, Mr Taylor. I don't think
12 we have dealt with this aspect before. Was it the case that
13 initially before going to Libya some Liberians went to Burkina
14 Faso?

11:09:55 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And where the mention is made of the number 22, is that
17 roughly the number who went to Ouagadougou?

18 A. I would say yes.

19 Q. And is it also true that they were provided assistance with
11:10:14 20 their travel through your then wife Agnes Taylor and Alfred Mehn?

21 A. That is true, yes. Yes.

22 Q. And just so that we have the full picture, where did the
23 money come from to provide that assistance?

24 A. Oh, I would - remember now I'm being held by Ghanaian
11:10:39 25 authorities. That money had to come from probably some
26 assistance from the - I would say it had to come from the Libyan
27 government at the time through Burkina Faso. I'm sure they
28 assisted with the cost of transportation. That would have to be
29 the Libyans assisted with that.

1 Q. Earlier in your testimony, Mr Taylor, you told us about
2 fundraising activities in, amongst other places, the United
3 States of America, yes?

4 A. Yes.

11:11:24 5 Q. Just taking things in stages, who was responsible for
6 fundraising in the US?

7 A. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the present President of Liberia.

8 Q. Now, the money raised at that stage by, amongst others,
9 Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, was any of those funds channelled to West
11:11:45 10 Africa at the time Moses Blah is talking about, to your
11 knowledge?

12 A. Well, when you say "at the time" we're talking about the
13 first group. There were several groups. After the second group
14 left, some of the monies started coming from the movement of
11:12:03 15 individuals. At the initial stage, I am still in jail. Plans
16 have been made. Other people like Ellen and others in America
17 are watching. They know of things, but they want to see it being
18 serious. So if you see the first group, it's about 20, 22. And
19 if - we know from evidence before this Court, there are a total
11:12:26 20 of about 100 and, what, close to 80 individuals or 60 individuals
21 that travel. So they travel in small groups.

22 So, now, in direct answer to your question, at this point
23 with the first group, no, there is no money coming from America.
24 The second group, there is no money. But beginning the third
11:12:45 25 group, we begin to receive funds from Ellen and the group in
26 America.

27 Q. Right. Now, is it also true, Mr Taylor, that Thomas
28 Sankara was President of Burkina at the time when this first
29 group arrived?

1 A. Yes, that is true.

2 Q. And a follow-on question from that in light of an earlier
3 answer you gave with regard to assistance from Libya through
4 Burkina: Was President Thomas Sankara assisting you at this
11:13:27 5 stage?

6 A. Yes. Thomas was, yes. In fact, at the time Blaise
7 Compaore was the number two man. But this - to give some
8 context, I had travelled to Burkina Faso several times. This
9 issue of the movement of men had been put together. At some
11:13:56 10 point before we could actually get engaged in the actual movement
11 of the men, this is when I'm incarcerated. So my wife continues.
12 But Thomas is still President. In fact, he is still President,
13 but while I'm still in jail in Ghana, he is killed, but he is
14 still President at the time of the movement of this group that
11:14:23 15 Moses is talking about, that is correct.

16 Q. Now, Mr Taylor, you mentioned the coup which resulted in
17 his death. Did you have a hand in that?

18 A. I was in prison in Ghana. No, Thomas was a friend.
19 Sankara was a good friend, a very good revolutionary brother.

11:14:44 20 Thomas was a personal friend of mine. I was in jail and he was
21 helping tremendously, and so it was an unfortunate situation.
22 But no, how would I - no.

23 Q. Now, the witness continued in this way. Mr Taylor, one of
24 the reasons I am looking in some detail at the testimony of this
11:15:19 25 Moses Blah on this point, you appreciate that it is alleged that
26 you were party to a plan hatched in Libya, yes?

27 A. Yes.

28 Q. And this tribunal has only heard testimony from two
29 individuals regarding what happened in Libya. You appreciate in

1 that, don't you?

2 A. Yes, I do.

3 Q. Moses Blah being one of them, and the other being a Gambian
4 witness who came to give evidence. You recall that?

11:15:47 5 A. Oh, yes, I do.

6 Q. So that's why we need to look at things with care. He goes
7 on:

8 "We were there very briefly," this is in Ouagadougou, "and
9 his government was overthrown and Blaise Compaore took over
11:16:01 10 the country as President.

11 Q. For how long a period of time did you remain in
12 Burkina?

13 A. We were in Burkina for about six months."
14 Is that true.

11:16:20 15 A. No. No. No. No. No, no. When Moses and the group - as
16 they arrived in Burkina Faso a few weeks and they will board a
17 plane and get out. No, they did not spend any long period there,
18 no.

19 Q. And another detail I should have asked you about from the
11:16:42 20 previous page, Mr Taylor. When they arrived in Burkina Faso were
21 they housed in a military camp?

22 A. I would say yes. Not - yes, I would say they were - yeah.
23 Well, in Burkina Faso that we'd have - I would say yes. Like I
24 say, I'm in prison, but they were not just left to wander around
11:17:08 25 the in the city. I'm still in prison in Accra. But to the best
26 of my recollection, they were taken not far from Ouagadougou and
27 kept in a place they would not be exposed to the public. So if
28 he calls it a military camp, I don't disagree.

29 Q. Mr Taylor, you mentioned you were in prison at the time in

1 Ghana.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So help us: So to what extent were you able to monitor the
4 situation on the ground?

11:17:37 5 A. Not very much. Mostly - in fact, throughout my detention
6 at that particular time, the only contact that I had was I think
7 once or twice throughout the eight months that my wife visited
8 me. So most of the information is after I get out that I get to
9 find out what's going on.

11:18:03 10 Q. He is then asked:

11 "Q. Did you meet Agnes Taylor?

12 A. Yes, I met her on several occasions in Burkina.

13 Q. And what did she tell you when you met her?

14 A. Well, the first meeting I had with Agnes was at -
11:18:17 15 Mr Taylor was being detained in Ghana by the President of
16 Ghana on the charge that he was training a group of
17 Liberians coming to declare war on Liberia, overthrow the
18 government. And since you are in trouble with Samuel Doe
19 and there are a lot of trouble with the Gio and Mano tribe,
11:18:33 20 this is the assistance. There's a location that we will
21 take you people to and you can regroup and come back as a
22 trained military people. That's what she told us.

23 Q. You said you were 22 when you went to Burkina?

24 A. Yes, true.

11:18:53 25 Q. Did your numbers change at the time you were in Burkina
26 Faso?

27 A. No, the number did not change until we moved to a
28 location and recruitment went on, and there were more
29 groups added to our group.

1 Q. Did your group have a name at this time?

2 A. No, at that moment there was no name given to the
3 group."

4 Now I want to pause again, Mr Taylor, and seek your
11:19:17 5 assistance using this testimony as a guide with one or two
6 details. Now firstly, the witness, as we will see in more detail
7 in a moment, speaks of groups of Liberians going first to Burkina
8 Faso and then being flown to Libya, as opposed to one mass
9 movement.

11:19:43 10 A. That is correct.

11 Q. Is that true?

12 A. That is correct.

13 Q. And why did things occur in that way?

14 A. Well, we are dealing with two principal issues here:
11:19:56 15 Number 1, we're dealing with the Cold War period. Libya is
16 considered a pariah state. The United States and Libya are - oh
17 boy, Libya is being threatened. If I remember very well, that
18 was during the Reagan administration, if I'm not mistaken, and
19 Liberia's own close relationship with the United States, knowing
11:20:23 20 that Liberians are going to train in Libya, would have raised
21 many red flags. And so all care is taken that the movement of
22 these men is done covertly and secretly not to: One, aggravate
23 the United States; and, two, alert Doe that plans are afoot to
24 launch a revolution in Liberia.

11:20:56 25 Q. Right. Now, on that note, Mr Taylor, these individuals who
26 went to Libya, were they all volunteers, or were any of them
27 coerced into going?

28 A. All were volunteers. Every one was volunteers. Every one,
29 all volunteers.

1 Q. Now, is it also true that at this time the group didn't
2 have a name?

3 A. Yes, it is true. I'm in jail and we haven't given it a
4 name. In fact, we finally give it a name when I come out and
11:21:31 5 meet with everybody. But it's not given a name at this point.

6 Q. Now, given your position in jail, Mr Taylor, at this early
7 stage of events who is the prime mover behind this movement of
8 people? You know, the person who has made the contacts to get
9 the finance from Libya to arrange transport and so on, who is -
11:21:58 10 who is the person doing that?

11 A. Well, at this particular time we're talking about one of
12 our - my principal associates, Tom Woveiyu, is helping with the
13 coordination, so he is the prime mover at this particular time.
14 Although Ellen is not involved in physical movement, but Tom is
11:22:28 15 coordinating with her in trying to plan to prepare minds for if
16 there will be any spillover of this situation. But the prime
17 person I would say is Woveiyu, who is really moving up and down.
18 Because my wife doesn't go there, but Woveiyu goes to Libya and
19 everything.

11:22:53 20 Q. Is it Tom Woveiyu?

21 A. Yeah, that's W --

22 Q. Yes, I know. But is he the one who makes the contact with
23 Gaddafi?

24 A. No, no, no, no, no. No. All plans have been made. He and
11:23:09 25 myself have gone. Ellen did not go, but she is aware. All of
26 the plans are on the ground. Before I can begin to implement, I
27 am taken out of the process by the Ghani an government.

28 Q. Right.

29 A. But the plans continue. So I have already made contacts

1 along with my other - the other two. With the knowledge of Ellen
2 and with Tom who had gone there with me, all contacts had been
3 made with them.

4 Q. "Q. You said she arranged for you to go to another

11:23:50 5 location. Where was the other location?

6 A. The location was Libya at Tripoli. We moved into
7 Libya, Tripoli in a group of 22.

8 Q. How did you travel to Tripoli?

9 A. We flew by plane by Aeroflot Airlines and we went to
10 Libya."

11 Who provided the aircraft, Mr Taylor?

12 A. Well, the aircraft belonged to Aeroflot. The fare was paid
13 for by the Libyan government.

14 Q. The aircraft belonged to who?

11:24:17 15 A. Aeroflot, the Russian airline.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. But the fare was paid by the Libyan government.

18 Q. "When we arrived at Tripoli were we were taken directly to
19 a military base called Tajura Camp. We were in the camp
11:24:32 20 for about a month or two. Then 47 men came to join our
21 group."

22 Agree?

23 A. I would say about that, yes. Yes.

24 Q. "And did your group grow beyond that additional group -
11:24:47 25 that additional number of 47 that arrived?

26 A. Exactly so. There was some coming further to 30 in
27 group, 22 in group, another 40 in a group, and we came up
28 to 180 in a group.

29 Q. How long did it take for the group to reach that number

1 of 180?

2 A. It took about two, three months, sir."

3 Would you agree with that, Mr Taylor?

4 A. Yes, I would agree with that.

11:25:13 5 Q. "Q. What did you do in the camp?

6 A. In the camp we got engaged in military training - full

7 military training. We learned out to drill. We learned

8 how to listen to instructions, and then we learn how to

9 assemble, disassemble, and assemble Kalashnikov, which is

11:25:33 10 the AK-47, some more arms and artillery pieces like old

11 military weapons and missile. We had some people who could

12 work on missiles, air-to-air missiles, ground-to-air

13 missiles."

14 Does that kind of sum up the training, Mr Taylor?

11:25:46 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. "Q. Who trained you there?

17 A. We were trained by the Libyan. We were trained -

18 initially it was a man called Mohamed who was heading this

19 training, and from time to time the trainer changed. They

11:25:59 20 would bring the man today, bring a man tomorrow. The name

21 was not actually necessary for you as a trainer, and they

22 could come and say, 'Well look, I'm this and I've come to

23 take over this unit,' and that went on for months.

24 Q. You said that you had met Agnes Taylor back in Burkina

11:26:19 25 Faso. Did she come with you?

26 A. No, she didn't."

27 Is that true?

28 A. That's true.

29 Q. "Q. Did you ever see Charles Taylor in Burkina Faso when

1 you were there with your group of 22?

2 A. Not until when the group swelled up to 110 when the
3 45-man group arrived. It was just suddenly after that then
4 Taylor appeared.

11:26:45 5 Q. Where was it that he appeared?

6 A. In the camp. In Tajura camp."

7 Is that true, Mr Taylor?

8 A. That is true.

9 Q. So very first time you saw this group was in Tajura in
11:26:59 10 Libya?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. And by the time you saw them, had the number swelled to
13 over 100?

14 A. I would say yes. That's about - if I can be exact, that's
11:27:13 15 got to be late 1987. I would put it to about that time.

16 Q. When you first went to the camp?

17 A. That is correct. Very late 1987.

18 Q. Jump a few lines:

19 "Q. And when did Taylor come in the sequence of additions?

11:27:36 20 A. He was very often there. He came and we held a
21 meeting, and after the meeting from time to time he goes
22 and comes back."

23 Now, you agree with that, don't you?

24 A. Yes, I did not live in the camp, no. That's true.

11:27:48 25 Q. "Q. What did he do the first time he was there?

26 A. When he came we had a formation, called all the people
27 together, all the soldiers, and said, 'I am Charles Taylor.
28 This is my organisation I establish - rather this
29 organisation, but I was in jail in Ghana. I was held

1 there, you know, under suspicion of overthrowing
2 government, and I'm the biggest man in this organisation.'
3 He is the only one you will report to, but nobody else, and
4 this organisation is named National Patriotic Front of
11:28:27 5 Liberia."

6 Roughly accurate?

7 A. Yes, I would say. Well, that's Moses - well, I wouldn't
8 fuss with that. I'm not that "I am the only man" different
9 thing, because I get out of jail. After consulting with Tom, and
11:28:45 10 Tom talked to Ellen and talked to other individuals, we finally
11 decide that the National Patriotic Front was an organisation
12 launched by the late General Thomas Quiwonkpa in his failed
13 attempt to remove Samuel Doe, and this is the very organisation
14 that led to this massive killing of Liberians by Doe and the
11:29:12 15 exodus into La Cote d'Ivoire. So what we said was that because
16 General Quiwonkpa was someone that was respected and had died for
17 this cause, that we would just rename it the National Patriotic
18 Front. So he doesn't know the background, but I accept most of
19 what he is saying here.

11:29:34 20 Q. Jump a few lines:

21 "Q. Did he ever appoint anyone under him to supervise when
22 he was not there?

23 A. Yes, when he was not there he further said one Cooper
24 Miller was the commander and Augustine Wright was his
11:29:51 25 deputy at the time. Whenever he's absent, these people
26 are in full control of the camp."

27 True?

28 A. That is true.

29 Q. "Q. You said he came on several occasions. What did he do

1 on the occasions when he came after the first time?

2 A. He came while the training was on. He came to inspect
3 to see how the training is going, who is capable of doing
4 this, who is capable of doing that, and he would leave
11:30:14 5 instruction again that we should be strong, he had come to
6 liberate the people of Liberia, more especially tribal
7 Nimba, 'You've been oppressed by Samuel Kanyon Doe. I will
8 give you - you will be at liberty when you enter home this
9 time', and that's the kind of encouraging words that were
11:30:29 10 given from time to time when he visited the camp."

11 True?

12 A. True.

13 Q. "He said he was based in Burkina Faso at the time." True,
14 Mr Taylor?

11:30:41 15 A. That is true.

16 Q. So you were based in Burkina but you would travel up to
17 Libya and visit them in the camp?

18 A. That is correct. When I was released from jail in Ghana, I
19 was given 48 hours to leave the country, and I went and I was
11:30:55 20 resident in Burkina Faso. I only visited Libya from time to
21 time. That is true.

22 Q. "Q. Did he tell us anything else that he was doing?

23 A. He was - he didn't say in detail. He would say - we
24 wouldn't have questioned the authority at the time. He
11:31:10 25 would leave and go say, 'Well, I'm going to Burkina.

26 I will be in touch. You will hear from me through the
27 commander', and that went on from time to time."

28 MR GRIFFITHS: Is that a good point, Mr President?

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: We're just about out of tape now,

1 Mr Griffiths. So we'll take the morning break and resume at
2 12 o'clock.

3 [Break taken at 11.30 a.m.]

4 [Upon resuming at 12.00 p.m.]

12:02:54 5 MR GRIFFITHS:

6 Q. Mr Taylor, before we broke we'd reached Libya, okay?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Now, let's pick up, please, on page 9806, line 4:

9 "Q. Did he" - that being you - "exercise his authority in
10 any way?"

11 A. Yes, he came in as a chief and everybody said 'Chief'
12 and you saluted him and he was the chief of the
13 organisation and he was known by that."

14 True?

12:03:36 15 A. True.

16 Q. "Q. You mentioned Mr Cooper and Mr Wright. Did they
17 remain as his local commanders?"

18 A. No, further on down the line they got implicated in
19 something called a coup to overthrow his authority at the
12:04:01 20 time in the camp. They had decided themselves to take
21 over. At one point he went and did not return on time, he
22 was there for a long time, and these two men have decided
23 since he's away for a very long time they would have taken
24 over the organisation, they would come in their own right.
12:04:18 25 Cooper declared himself President and Wright was his
26 deputy, Vice-President, but unfortunately for them it was
27 not long when Taylor returned and this matter was reported
28 to him by security people he had on the ground. So he
29 decided to take these people away, two of these men, Cooper

1 Miller and Augustine Wright and he said he was taking them
2 to Burkina Faso and he have them detained until after the
3 revolution. After we have succeeded in Liberia, he will
4 bring them over into Liberia.

12:04:49 5 At that point Isaac Musa was brought and he brought Isaac
6 with him in fact as a commander in place of Cooper Miller
7 and he appointed me as adjutant in charge of training under
8 Isaac Musa. So we were both in command when Isaac - I mean
9 when Cooper and Wright were taken away.

12:05:14 10 Q. Do you know what happened to Miller and Wright?

11 A. They were taken away to Burkina Faso, according to what
12 he said, but we were in training at the time so I didn't
13 know what happened when he took them away.

14 Q. Did you eventually learn what happened to them?

12:05:28 15 A. Yes, I learned later that they were detained in Burkina
16 Faso. They were in jail."

17 Is that correct, Mr Taylor, about Miller and Wright -
18 Cooper and Wright?

19 A. Yes, they were taken, but the whole statement - now, there
12:05:48 20 are so many things that Moses got wrong there, so I will answer
21 your question. But there's a whole lot to that that is not -
22 that I think we need some context.

23 Q. All right. Well, provide it then.

24 A. Well, the issue that Moses does not explain in detail,
12:06:04 25 because I guess he's not asked the questions, this is the
26 beginning of what finally ends up in Liberia as Black Kadaffa and
27 the plan that I was talking about. It starts on the base. It is
28 not just Wright and Miller. There's a bunch of others that are
29 involved in this plan that, fine, when we get back to Liberia,

1 after we succeed, we will then destroy him and the rest of the
2 organisation. So these - the two principal leaders are withdrawn
3 from the base to keep them from polluting the situation. But the
4 rest of them are there, and that is Mekunagbe and all of these
12:06:51 5 other people, including, to a great extent - some of them denied
6 it, but we left them. Prince Johnson and others were all
7 suspected, they denied it, but what we did was to - I removed the
8 top two, brought them to Burkina Faso, and after the revolution
9 started, we released them. They eventually ended up in Liberia -
12:07:15 10 in fact, Cooper Miller with Prince Johnson after he broke away.
11 But I thought to put it into context because he's not asked to go
12 into this.

13 The remnants of that group come into Liberia and eventually
14 they are the ones that carry on some of these clandestine
12:07:31 15 activities, one of which is this whole Foday Sankoh thing I'm
16 sitting in here now for, helping to train, they do the Black
17 Kadaffa, the rest of them are eventually arrested after we detect
18 this Black Kadaffa thing and they are tried and executed. But it
19 starts from Libya and ends up in Liberia.

12:07:51 20 Q. Now, just pausing there for a moment. When they were
21 removed from Libya, Mr Taylor, what was done with them
22 physically?

23 A. They were - we just kept them in detention. I asked for
24 them to be held because if they had been released before the
12:08:09 25 revolution, they would have exposed it. So they were kept in
26 detention in Burkina Faso.

27 Q. Who by?

28 A. By the government. We asked for them to be held.

29 Q. So the Government of Burkina Faso detained them in Burkina

1 Faso?

2 A. That is correct.

3 Q. Page 9807:

4 "Q. Who appointed you as adjutant?

12:08:35 5 A. I was appointed by Mr Taylor at the time as adjutant to
6 work along with Isaac Musa as his deputy."

7 True?

8 A. Not as his deputy. The adjutant is not the deputy, but he
9 was appointed as adjutant. Isaac Musa was commander, but he was
12:08:54 10 not the deputy.

11 Q. "Q. You mentioned that there were security people on the
12 ground that reported to Taylor. Who were these people?

13 A. Well, he had his own security network. He has other
14 people that I wouldn't know and they were doing undercover
12:09:09 15 security watching, who were all there and doing what, who
16 was there, because he was not permanent in the camp he had
17 a lot of people there and I wouldn't know.

18 Q. Were these people among your group?

19 A. Yes, they were training with us, sir.

12:09:26 20 Q. Were they among the group of 180?

21 A. They were there previous. They were there before the
22 group. I wouldn't know, because he has people with us in
23 the 22 group that should report to him undercover."

24 Now, is that true, Mr Taylor?

12:09:43 25 A. Yeah, but what the - Stephen Rapp did not pursue this.
26 What Moses explained, every military organisation, every military
27 unit has what you call military intelligence, MI. You have
28 military intelligence and, of course, they are not known. Every
29 armed forces in the world, United States, Britain, Russia, you

1 have military intelligence and they are part of the unit that you
2 do not know. And even you have military intelligence in some of
3 these units and you even have counterintelligence. So what Moses
4 is saying here is that, of course, there are intelligence
12:10:21 5 individuals that are within this unit. This is a company plus
6 it's a military unit and, of course, there is military
7 intelligence. But because it is intelligence, it is not for the
8 other members of the unit to know. That's what he's trying to
9 explain, but it's not pursued. But that's true.

12:10:38 10 Q. Is it the case, Mr Taylor, that these individuals were your
11 eyes and ears in the camp at Tajura?

12 A. Well, I can say yes, but, I mean, I think my explanation
13 should suffice. We have a military unit with military
14 intelligence people and they keep intelligence on the unit, not
12:11:00 15 just for me but anything that is going on. So in a way I can say
16 yes to your answer, but they are also eyes and ears of the entire
17 situation.

18 Q. And was it through them that you discovered the activities
19 of Cooper and Wright?

12:11:15 20 A. That is correct. They were properly investigated and
21 admitted and we removed them.

22 Q. Right. Going on:

23 "A. I was appointed as adjutant and I was called adjutant
24 general, but I was adjutant in charge of training."

12:11:32 25 True?

26 A. You are adjutant, you are adjutant in a military unit.
27 You're in training, what, but you're the adjutant. What is the
28 adjutant? The adjutant is the individual that keeps the records
29 of the unit. So if he calls himself in charge of training, even

1 thought there was nothing else being done but training, but he
2 was the adjutant.

3 Q. Well, he goes on to say this:

12:11:57

4 "A. I was responsible for people who were training, if you
5 are improving in training, how capable you are, what you
6 are good for, if you could operate this weapon, if you
7 could disassemble and assemble well, if you are physically
8 fit, that was recorded by me during training."

9 True?

12:12:13

10 A. He had some records. But if we want to go into military,
11 the way how I understand it, how we had it, the training officer
12 is not the adjutant. The training officer is normally what we
13 call your G3. The adjutant is the G1. So, yes, he kept records
14 of what was going on. If he wants to say in charge - that he
15 kept - well, you know, he has some records as adjutant, yeah, but
16 he was not in charge of training. That's the job of the G3.

12:12:35

17 Q. And he goes on:

18 "A. I keep all for the commander-in-chief at the time, who
19 was Mr Taylor.

12:12:54

20 Q. And did you report them to Mr Taylor?

21 A. Yes, I reported all of those to him."

22 Is that true?

23 A. Yes, I reviewed the records, yes.

12:13:04

24 Q. "A. It went well. It went well, because that's what he
25 wanted. He wanted to know who is doing this, who is doing
26 that, who was frequent in training, who does not like
27 training, who was capable of what. That was all included
28 in the report and sometimes he would very appreciate the
29 report.

1 Q. How would you describe your relationship with Taylor
2 at this time?

3 A. It was good. It was good. He was my boss and he
4 proved to me and he liked my job and on many occasions he
12:13:30 5 said, well, he congratulates me. He said, 'Look, you are
6 congratulated and you are doing well'.

7 Q. Did you discover whether you had any kind of ties to
8 Taylor? Family ties?

9 A. Yes, I knew. I knew before I went to the base that his
12:13:49 10 wife, his wife Tupee Taylor, is my first cousin, so I think
11 he might know a little. I knew before I went to training,
12 but I did not tell him."

13 Is that true, Mr Taylor?

14 A. I knew he was Tupee's cousin because Tupee - Moses carries
12:14:07 15 a name Blah, but the family line is Toweh, T-O-W-E-H, and my wife
16 is a Toweh, so I knew that they were cousins. So maybe he
17 thought it was a secret, but I already knew from earlier years.

18 Q. And then he goes on to say he didn't tell you of that fact,
19 and he continues over the page, page 9810:

12:14:33 20 "Tupee was the first wife of Mr Taylor, even when Taylor
21 was a teacher, a school teacher and Tupee was married to
22 him, they had big children. Later on when Agnes came in,
23 but Tupee was his wife that I know.

24 Q. And how long were you in the camp in Libya?

12:14:50 25 A. We were there for a year and a half."

26 Is that correct, Mr Taylor?

27 A. A little over, but that's close to it. I would say close
28 to two years. Closer.

29 Q. Very well. And now things get interesting:

1 "Q. Were there other nationalities in the camp?

2 A. Yes, in the camp we met - the Gambians have just
3 entered their training and through their struggles they
4 went home and - they went to overthrow their government and
12:15:25 5 they didn't make it and they came back and some were
6 arrested of course and they came back. We met there
7 Filipinos there training. They had their own thing that
8 they should know. Then we met the Sierra Leoneans in a
9 very small group in the camp headed by their leader.

12:15:48 10 That's the others I know of.

11 Q. Okay. Well, let's just talk about the Gambians for a
12 moment. Was the leader of the Gambians in the camp?

13 A. No, he was in town in a place in Tripoli and only his
14 boys were in the camp with us and we moved together. But
12:16:09 15 they have finished the training and we needed help from
16 them, because they would tell you what is men what is for
17 and we needed them very seriously because they knew
18 everything we were going through.

19 Q. And you said their leader was in town. What was their
12:16:24 20 leader's name?

21 A. He was called Dr Manneh. The only thing I know is
22 Dr Manneh, the only name I know.

23 Q. And did you ever see Dr Manneh in Libya?

24 A. Yeah, I met him in - I met him on one or two occasions
12:16:40 25 some place in Mataba. A place called Mataba."

26 Now pause there, Mr Taylor. Do you agree that Dr Manneh
27 did not live on the base Tajura?

28 A. Yes, I do.

29 Q. In the same way that you did not live on the base Tajura?

1 A. That is correct, yeah.

2 Q. Because as you've told us earlier in your testimony, only
3 the men undergoing training were actually based on the camp. Is
4 that right?

12:17:10 5 A. That is correct.

6 Q. Leaders like yourself and Dr Manneh would visit your men on
7 the base but would not live on the base yourself?

8 A. That is correct, yes.

9 Q. And you agree, do you not, with Moses Blah's description,
12:17:28 10 because it accords with your earlier testimony, that the Gambians
11 had been trained, had attempted a coup in The Gambia which had
12 failed, and they had come back to Libya. That's right?

13 A. Yes, but one slight disagreement, and I think we need to
14 set the record straight. Anyone who knows the history of the
12:17:50 15 attempted coup against Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara occurred before
16 the period in question, so he's gotten it mixed up here. The
17 coup by Kukoi Samba Sanyang, that we know as Dr Manneh, occurred
18 many years before the time in question here, 1987. And so the
19 Gambians are met in Libya, they have staged their coup, they have
12:18:23 20 been unsuccessful, they've fled. In fact, Dr Manneh had visited
21 several countries and they finally end up in Libya. His
22 description here that they were trained, went and failed and came
23 back, must be put in the context of sometime before we get there,
24 okay?

12:18:44 25 And the second disagreement that I have is that Moses just
26 is wrong. The Gambians are already trained, they've staged their
27 thing. There may be a second group or something, but to the best
28 of my knowledge, most of the Gambians are already trained and at
29 the Mataba. Some of them are even serving as security guards at

1 the Mataba. They are not physically in the camp. I think he got
2 this mixed up.

3 Q. Now, one other little detail contained in that. "Then we
4 met the Sierra Leoneans in a very small group." Is that true,
12:19:25 5 Mr Taylor, that it was only a small group of Sierra Leoneans?

6 A. Quite frankly, I cannot attach a figure. Small - depending
7 on what he means by "small". There are Sierra Leoneans because
8 Ali tells me that, but I do not know the number. So I would be
9 misleading if I say that they were small. I really don't know.

12:19:49 10 I know that the - because Ali and I did not discuss it, but there
11 are Sierra Leoneans there. We meet them there, yeah.

12 Q. Now page 9811, let's pick up where we left off:

13 "Q. Did you ever see Dr Manneh in Libya?

14 A. Yeah, I met him in - I met him on one or two occasions
12:20:10 15 some place in Mataba. A place called Mataba. Mataba was
16 an organisation established by Gaddafi to help any
17 oppressed group in a country, oppressed by their
18 government, he was - Mataba was there to assist you to
19 overthrow your government or to assist you to remove the
12:20:27 20 government forcibly and then you can take over yourself."

21 Now again, Mr Taylor, Mataba is the ideological, is it not,
22 organisation behind the Tajura Camp, if I can put it in that way;
23 would you agree?

24 A. No, I would not agree.

12:20:52 25 Q. Very well. You tell us then?

26 A. Because, you see, the ideological organisation behind the
27 training - some of us were in Libya. Ideology was not central to
28 it. The Mataba was the - I would call it the management
29 organisation that oversaw the activities of the training. But

1 ideological is where I disagree because, I mean, ideologically -
2 I was not within the same, I would say, thinking of the Libya
3 Jamahiriya, no. No, I would say ideologically there were
4 differences, so I wouldn't say that.

12:21:36 5 Q. Very well.

6 "Q. And where was this Mataba location where you met
7 Dr Manneh?

8 A. It was off the camp. It was in town - in Tripoli town
9 itself, somewhere in Tripoli, not very far from Tajura
10 Camp."

12:21:53

11 Again you agree with that, don't you, Mr Taylor?

12 A. Well, no. If he says "not far from Tajura", I'm sure the
13 Court by now, after seeing the map, will be able to determine. I
14 would not describe it as not far. I think there's a little

12:22:10

15 distance, but I'm sure the Court understands now from the map.

16 Q. "Q. And you said you talked to the Gambians about what
17 they had done in their country. What did they tell you
18 they had done?

19 A. They told me that they were trained where we are, where
12:22:28 20 we were, and they were training and they went to overthrow
21 their government through the assistance of Mataba and they
22 didn't succeed, they met with failure and they had to come
23 back.

24 Q. You said you met Sierra Leoneans and their leader. Who
12:22:43 25 was their leader?"

26 Now I want you to listen carefully now, Mr Taylor:

27 "A. It was Foday Sankoh and he was the leader according to
28 them.

29 Q. And do you recall how many Sierra Leoneans were in the

1 camp?

2 A. Yes, we knew he was Sierra Leonean. We knew he speaks
3 the Sierra Leonean.

4 Q. How many Sierra Leoneans roughly were in the camp?

12:23:08 5 They were in a small group and, as a result, their
6 commander was not taken serious. It was about 10, 15 at
7 the time.

8 Q. Did you have contact with Mr Sankoh yourself?

9 A. Yes, as I said we were all training. At the training
12:23:28 10 we will all meet and talk and joke, talk about your
11 government and he would talk about his government, so we
12 would meet from time to time.

13 Q. What was your impression of him?

14 A. We didn't take him serious, no, because he was in the
12:23:46 15 tea shack making tea for me at the time, because I was
16 adjutant, so I didn't take him serious. I didn't take him
17 serious."

18 Now pause there. Now, Mr Taylor, you've told us repeatedly
19 that you did not meet Foday Sankoh in Libya, yes?

12:24:07 20 A. That is correct.

21 Q. Now, as Moses Blah has indicated, you did not live on the
22 base; Dr Manneh did not live on the base. Now help us. If Foday
23 Sankoh was leader of the Sierra Leoneans, why, as implied here by
24 Moses Blah, was he living on the base with Moses Blah and the
12:24:34 25 other people training? Why?

26 A. Well, you know, that's the point I tried to make earlier.
27 I don't know, Moses does so well. But at some point sometimes
28 it's regrettable that he, I would really say, strays off into a
29 diabolical lie. Here is someone that Moses Blah is describing as

1 his tea maker who is the leader of the Sierra Leonean group. I
2 don't know why he slips down this lie, this slippery slope
3 really. I can't tell, but Moses knows that Foday Sankoh was not
4 the leader, and there is no leader of any group that was in Libya
12:25:16 5 at the time that stayed in the camp. Zero. None. And even if
6 we look at the two individuals that this Court brought here,
7 Moses and Suwandi Camara, Suwandi talks about Ali Kabbah. Ali
8 Kabbah is the leader. He lives at the Mataba. So this matter
9 that he - I don't know why he slips into this lie. Instead of
12:25:44 10 being harsh with him, I can say he slips into this error - it is
11 an error - that somebody, the leader of the Sierra Leonean group,
12 is making tea for him and is a tea boy in a camp must show any
13 reasonable person that Foday Sankoh is not the leader.

14 Q. Well, that leads me then to my next question, Mr Taylor.

12:26:04 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just before you go on, I think it may be
16 important to correct the record here just in case it's missed
17 when the record is edited at the end of the day. Mr Taylor has
18 just described Sankoh as, "Here is someone that Moses Blah is
19 describing as his tea maker." Well, if you go back a few
12:26:32 20 questions - I make it page 75, line 18 - the question was, "What
21 was your impression of him?" and the answer recorded was, "We
22 didn't take him serious, no, because he was not in the tea shack
23 making tea for me."

24 Now, I don't think the word "not" was mentioned.

25 MR GRIFFITHS: No, it wasn't.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: And it shouldn't appear in the
27 transcript. It should read, "Because he was in the tea shack
28 making tea for me." Does everybody agree with that? I did not
29 hear the word "not" said.

1 MR GRIFFITHS: No, it wasn't said. I'm grateful,

2 Mr President:

3 Q. Now, Mr Taylor, because of the centrality of this issue,
4 let me ask you point blank: Did you make any agreement with this
12:27:29 5 tea boy in Libya?

6 A. Never. Never talked to him. Here is my adjutant talking
7 to him and making tea for him. Never. Never saw or met Foday
8 Sankoh in Libya. Never. God be my witness: Never. Never.

9 Q. Let's go back. Before I do: Jamahiriya, Mr President,
12:27:58 10 J-A-M-A-H-I-R-I-Y-A. "I didn't take him serious."

11 Bottom of page 9812:

12 Q. You said you talked about each other's countries. What
13 did he tell you about his country?

14 A. Well, he said he has come to train and overthrow his
12:28:19 15 government, become the head of the Sierra Leone government,
16 but I saw him with 15 men.

17 Q. Did you individuals talk about doing anything together
18 in the future?

19 A. No, we didn't discuss that. We didn't discuss that."

12:28:40 20 Now, Mr Taylor, in light of that answer by Moses Blah, and
21 in possible anticipation of a certain interpretation or gloss
22 which may be put on the evidence in due course, if you yourself
23 did not talk to Foday Sankoh, did you arrange for anyone in your
24 group of 180 or so to speak to him on your behalf?

12:29:11 25 A. No, no.

26 Q. And we see here the blunt question by Stephen Rapp, "Did
27 you individuals talk about doing anything together in the
28 future?" That is, did you conspire together? And the answer is,
29 "No, we didn't discuss that."

1 "Q. Was there any ideology taught in the camp?

2 A. Yeah, what we learnt in the camp in Mataba that there's
3 a Mataba how to share the wealth of your government, what
4 distribution of wealth that your country will develop and
12:29:55 5 we would say a whole lot in the camp in Libya.

6 Q. Let me just be clear about this, this Mataba
7 organisation. You said that it was sort of a separate
8 place near the camp. Is that where you'd go to talk about
9 Mataba, or how would this Mataba --

12:30:15 10 A. We would stay right in the camp. The camp was a very
11 big place. Very large.

12 Q. Were there others beyond the nationalities that you
13 just listed training there as well?

14 A. Yeah, they were training and we were training as well.

12:30:30 15 Q. And this Mataba, did you receive any books or any
16 lesson papers in that particular ideology?

17 A. Yeah, the ideology was taught in Mataba. Not in the
18 camp, not in Tajura, we were taught in Mataba itself.

19 Mataba had a headquarters where they have a school where
12:30:53 20 people go once you can read and write, where you go to
21 learn the ideology of. You learn about the Green Book,
22 the ideology and the Green Book, how the government are
23 cheating other government, the politics, when you go you
24 represent yourself, you don't have representative, because
12:31:14 25 he would not represent you properly, and all of that.

26 Those are the ideology we were taught."

27 Do you agree with that, Mr Taylor?

28 A. Well, my - to a great extent, yeah, there was at the
29 Mataba - and Moses and these people, like he said, were not

1 involved in that. Leaders were given a document that they could
2 read and adopt certain parts. It was called then the Green Book.
3 But like I said, there are different levels of people that went,
4 again, and the Mataba, I have mentioned this in my prior
12:32:04 5 testimony, was considered for most of us - was a pan-African
6 movement that some of us went there for and ideology was not a
7 part of our being there. We were there because of the
8 pan-African approach.

9 So while that is true, it was made available to the
12:32:25 10 leadership at the Mataba and some of us did not really pay too
11 much attention to it and that would be even noted in some of the
12 lines that - if you look at the records - as early as the time
13 that we launched the revolution in Liberia, all of the statements
14 that we make immediately, ideologically, anyone can see our
12:32:54 15 leaning immediately. So he is right about the availability of
16 certain ideological teachings at the Mataba. He's right about
17 that.

18 Q. Now, he goes on to deal with this, Mr Taylor: Were you
19 able to complete the physical training, he's asked:

12:33:16 20 "A. No, I did not complete the training. I was near
21 completion and I got sick. I was taken to the hospital and
22 the doctor discovered that I have a cardio problem and my
23 left side of my heart was weak, it had a lot of fat on it
24 and the pressure was high. I was also advised I should do
12:33:39 25 light duty as inspector - I mean adjutant general. I
26 shouldn't undertake physical training. My health would not
27 allow me to do so."

28 Then he goes on to deal with being in the hospital, and so
29 on, and providing with medication. Is that true?

1 A. That is true.

2 Q. Then let's jump to line 20. This is important:

12:34:10

3 "Q. Before we leave talking about the others in the camp,
4 did Taylor have any meetings with others in the camp, other
5 nationalities?"

6 A. Not to my knowledge at that point. He used to come
7 directly to me and what happened was that the head of - the
8 heads of Sierra Leone used to pay a courtesy call on him,
9 'Oh, chief', and we call him chief. We used to go to visit
10 and call him chief too."

12:34:33

11 What do you say about that, Mr Taylor?

12 A. I'm not aware of this. It's possible that while I visited
13 the camp, because of the association with other people, other
14 individuals in the camp from different places would just come and
15 speak, yes. So to a great extent, there were people that came
16 and spoke to me. "This is our chief. Hello." Pass. "This is
17 our chief." And so we got to know quite a few people, yes.

12:34:57

18 Q. Now, let me break my question down into two, because in
19 that answer Moses Blah was telling this Court that he wasn't, to
20 his knowledge, aware of you meeting with others in the camp,
21 other nationalities, but then he goes on to say: "He used to
22 come directly to me and what happened was that the head of - the
23 heads of Sierra Leone used to pay a courtesy call on him." Who
24 was the head of the Sierra Leonean group, Mr Taylor?

12:35:29

25 A. I really don't - the head of the Sierra Leonean group in
26 Libya was Ali Kabbah. So in the camp, the Liberians had a big
27 group. There were many other groups. And I don't agree that I
28 used to go to him. Isaac Musa was the commander. You go on the
29 base, you don't go to the adjutant and leave the commander out.

12:35:49

1 But to the extent of really being factual to this Court
2 that, while I'm there, the possibility of others coming and
3 speaking and passing what he calls a courtesy, there were quite a
4 few individuals from different, different groups, while I'm
12:36:26 5 there. Sometimes I spent about an hour on the base. Courtesy,
6 somebody will come. If you're friendly with somebody, "Oh, I
7 want you to say hello to my chief." That happened with many
8 other groups, whether from the Far East and different things.
9 But like he said, there was no meeting, but a courtesy - the
12:36:46 10 soldiers in the camp formed - they had friends. They knew each
11 other. "Oh, my chief is here today. Come and speak to him.
12 Hello, sir," and pass. That is it, yeah.

13 Q. "Q. Did the Liberians call Foday Sankoh chief?
14 A. No, we didn't call him chief, but he called my boss
12:37:10 15 chief at the time. He called Mr Taylor chief."
16 Implying there, Mr Taylor, that you met Sankoh.

17 A. No. No, I didn't. The word again "chief", if every body
18 is - if the leader goes to the camp and everybody is saying,
19 "Chief, chief, chief," no other group will walk up to you and
12:37:36 20 say, "Hello, Charles Taylor." You will say hello to everybody.
21 You're in a military situation, somebody will say "chief"? But,
22 no. Foday Sankoh, with his age and different things, would have
23 been able - and, you see, this is the little nuance that Rapp is
24 trying to pull. "Oh, then he met him in the camp." This man has
12:37:56 25 already said that when I went to the camp I went to him. He's
26 already said that I did not hold any meetings with people but
27 there were courtesy calls. Now he brings in this nuance to show
28 that, well, you met him. So that's, when I said earlier, you
29 lawyers make white black and black white. I did not meet this

1 man in this camp.

2 If a couple of Sierra Leoneans came and spoke to me - I
3 accept that a few Sierra Leoneans, you know, could have come.
4 Just like Ghanaians were there, different people. There was
12:38:26 5 nothing specified, "This is the leader. Here's Foday Sankoh." I
6 mean - and Foday Sankoh would have been distinguishable because
7 he was an older man. This is not the case. But I can see how
8 he's trying to bring in this - trying to turn this thing into
9 maybe orange, you know, towards white, which I didn't, and that's
12:38:45 10 why he's trying to lead Moses. Moses has said there is no
11 meeting and then he brings up this other one.

12 Q. "Q. Did any of the other nationality groups use the term
13 in regard to Mr Taylor?

14 A. Yes, they called him chief, but they were not very
12:39:01 15 close. The chief of Sierra Leone would say, 'Yes, we have
16 a chief here visiting us.' He was the only serious person
17 in the eyes of the Libyan because he was well respected by
18 us and we have a very large group, so everyone called him
19 chief at the time.

12:39:20 20 Q. Where did the Liberians go after the training was
21 completed?

22 A. After the training the men were moved from the training
23 to Ouagadougou in the first place.

24 Q. And were they all moved at the same time?

12:39:33 25 A. No, the group was very large and we didn't have a
26 private aircraft. We were moved according to numbers.
27 Sometimes we move 50 men, we would move 30 men, we would
28 move 20 men. It all depends on the seats that we have on
29 the plane to come."

1 Is that true, Mr Taylor?

2 A. That is true.

3 Q. Going on:

4 "Q. Who organised the transport?

12:39:58 5 A. The transport was organised by the Libyans. The
6 Libyans organised that, but I was instructed by Mr Taylor
7 to make sure that we put the men together when it's time to
8 airlift them and I shouldn't tell the other group that
9 about 20 men was leaving. We shouldn't tell the other
12:40:15 10 group that they were leaving to come to a particular
11 location. It was secret between he and I. Just when I was
12 escorting the group, as I was driving and then I come back
13 to camp."

14 Again, Mr Taylor, was the departure of your men cloaked in
12:40:33 15 secrecy in the way suggested by Moses Blah?

16 A. Yes, accept that it was not just with him. The commander,
17 Isaac Musa, is aware and that's true, because we didn't want the
18 news getting out because these are all covert movements, but it
19 was cloaked in secrecy, yes.

12:40:54 20 Q. Very well.

21 "Q. Before we leave the time in the camp, did anybody in
22 the Liberian group make decisions other than Taylor?

23 A. Nobody besides Taylor, nobody. He's the only boss
24 we had and the only man we know to be the head of the
12:41:14 25 group."

26 True?

27 A. I would say yes. This is a military organisation. There's
28 one commander. That's it, yes.

29 Q. "A. Yes, we moved into Burkina Faso.

1 We were in sequence. Like the group we went about 50, 20,
2 30, 40 and 50. There was no particular sequence when
3 everybody go. When there were more seats on the plane than
4 you go."

12:41:41 5 And then he goes on to deal when he arrived:

6 "Q. Did Taylor tell you what you were going to do in
7 Burkina Faso?

8 A. Yes, that what we knew at the time was that it was time
9 to go and attack in Liberia and we were only waiting for
10 time.

12:41:58

11 Q. Did you take any of the arms with you?

12 A. No, we didn't come with arms. We didn't have arms when
13 we entered Burkina Faso from training, no."

14 Is that true, Mr Taylor?

12:42:12 15 A. That is true.

16 Q. "Q. Was there any discussion about how would you have arms
17 if you were going to invade Liberia?

18 A. Yeah, there was discussion. The discussion was that
19 when it's time to enter Liberia the arm would be provided
20 and we were just waiting for the time to come.

12:42:27

21 Q. Did anybody tell you who would be providing the arms?

22 A. It was the Libyans that were providing the arms."

23 Was that the plan, Mr Taylor?

24 A. That was the plan.

12:42:47 25 Q. Did the plan materialise?

26 A. No.

27 Q. "Q. When you were in Burkina Faso on this occasion, where
28 did you stay?

29 A. I stayed in the camp of Mataba."

1 He apologises because he'd made a mistake:

2 "When I was in Burkina I lived in the town and the men that
3 we carried, they were a very large group of men, and they
4 were living in the military barracks, in a camp.

12:43:13 5 Q. Was this the same or a different military camp than
6 you'd done physical training in earlier?

7 A. No, when we went back for the second time we were in a
8 bigger camp. We were in a camp very far from Ouagadougou."
9 Is that true?

12:43:29 10 A. Yes.

11 Q. "Q. How long did the others stay in the camp?

12 A. We were in Burkina for pretty close to a year and the
13 delay was getting too much. The men was getting out of
14 control. They were coming to town. They were moving to
15 places and we had to relocate them immediately to Cote
16 d'Ivoire."

12:43:45 17 Is that true?

18 A. That is true.

19 Q. "A. We came back to our previous base - I mean previous
12:44:03 20 places where we were, like in Danane, like Bouyen. We had
21 to come there because we speak the same dialect and we
22 were there by the borderline, by the waterway, and making
23 sure that we stay there and don't cause noise. So we left
24 the men there waiting to penetrate Liberia."

12:44:24 25 Is that true?

26 A. That is true.

27 Q. So when they came back into Cote d'Ivoire they were located
28 close to the Liberian border, Mr Taylor, yes?

29 A. That is true. Let me just - I think it would be good for

1 another time. The town that he's called, the records here show
2 Bouyen, and I disagree with how the record reflects it, but
3 that's the record. The town is called Bin-Houye. So the record
4 spells it as Bouyen, but the town that I sent him in - and this
12:45:02 5 could be just for a future date - it's called Bin-Houye. And
6 that's on the map, we've seen it, it's called Bin-Houye. It's
7 misspelled and pronounced, but that's the record, I can't change
8 it. But my testimony is that they were sent to Bin-Houye.

9 Q. Now, Mr Taylor --

12:45:17 10 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Could you spell that for us, please.

11 THE WITNESS: Bin-Houye. Oh, your Honour, I'm sorry, your
12 Honour, we have to look on - I think it's B-E-H-N-W-E-Y, but we
13 can just look on the Ivorian map. It's Bin-Houye for the correct
14 spelling. But I think the record here is wrong, but it's

12:45:44 15 Bin-Houye.

16 MR GRIFFITHS:

17 Q. And I note, Mr Taylor, that Moses Blah said:

18 "We had come there because we speak the same dialect and we
19 were there by the borderline."

12:46:00 20 A. That is correct. That's the - Bin-Houye, Zongway, these
21 are all Gio - like we talked about before - across the border
22 there are Gios that speak the same language, they are families
23 so. We put them close to the border where they would just mix
24 with the local population. So it's Bin-Houye. If you look at
12:46:35 25 that from the Liberian side it's not too far from Gbutuo, we
26 entered. I've gone through that before on the map. Not too far
27 from Gbutuo near the border.

28 Q. I was hoping not to delay, but I think maybe it might be an
29 idea if we have a look at a map and see if we can find it.

1 A. Sure. Okay.

2 MR GRIFFITHS: Could I ask, please, if we look at - there
3 is a coloured map of Liberia which looks like that.

4 JUDGE DOHERTY: Is that a Prosecution map or a Defence map?

12:47:47 5 MR GRIFFITHS: It's a Prosecution map, L1 in the left-hand
6 corner. That's the one. Could you put it up on the screen,
7 please:

8 Q. Now, Mr Taylor, just momentarily could you just change
9 seats for a minute, please. In the blue coloured zone in the
10 middle of that map, yes, do you see Gbutuo?

11 A. Yes, here is Gbutuo. Here is Bin-Houye right here.

12 Q. And it's spelled B-I-N hyphen H-O-U-Y-E.

13 A. Yeah, it's Bin-Houye.

14 Q. That's where you're talking about?

12:48:44 15 A. Yeah, that's Bin-Houye. That's where they were posted and
16 that's right across from Gbutuo, where we finally attacked, they
17 are all posted. It's a Gio town in la Cote d'Ivoire.

18 Q. Thank you. Now we've got our bearings. If we could put
19 that away, please.

12:49:19 20 And then he is asked this:

21 "Q. Did you go there with the men?

22 A. No, I didn't go. I was at the back with special
23 instructions.

24 Q. What special instruction did you have?

12:49:33 25 A. The instruction I received from Mr Taylor at the time
26 was to stay at the back and go back to Libya. You stay in
27 the Mataba Camp, when there is any attack the Libyans will
28 give the weapons and you have to transport them to our
29 location where we are fighting. That was the instruction."

1 Is that true?

12:50:19 2 A. No. Not really, no. Moses was not well and we - he was
3 instructed actually to stay in Ouagadougou and that he would be
4 able to provide any information as to what was going on. But not
5 to go back to Libya, no.

6 Q. "Well, I did not go immediately. The whole thing was
7 delayed and Libya was delaying until 1989, December, Christmas
8 Eve. There was news from the Libyan that came to me I didn't
9 know. The Libyan came and said, 'Look, you're sitting here, your
12:50:40 10 chief has attacked the country and he has entered the country
11 with shotguns, with cutlasses and with knives and we're not
12 informed and this is a very dangerous issues. But anyway we have
13 to talk to Blaise Compaore. He will give you what he has and
14 later then when we are prepared then we have to pack you off to
12:51:00 15 go.' That's what they did and they gave Blaise the instruction
16 to give what he has."

17 Is that true, Mr Taylor?

18 A. Some part of that is true; the other part - it is true that
19 we attacked with shotguns - with hunting guns. We had nothing.
12:51:17 20 We were about to lose everything. We could not get the material.
21 Remember, at one point I had gone to my friend Joseph Momoh in
22 Sierra Leone. I had had this unfortunate situation of being
23 arrested by Bambi Kamara. Momoh had come, released me, so the
24 Sierra Leonean side was out. The boys were - you know, were just
12:51:45 25 breaking up, and people were just about to begin to find their
26 own way. And we had a very brave commander, Prince Johnson, and
27 others said: Well, listen, chief, we are trained as Special
28 Forces and there are garrisons across the border in Liberia. We
29 will go and get the weapons that they have and we will begin to

1 fight, so all we need is some shotguns to begin the process. And
2 quite frankly, this is when I explained before we made the plan
3 of how to take the weapons from the Armed Forces of Liberia and
4 fight and defeat them. So that was the plan. So we get the
12:52:31 5 shotguns and they go in. So to the extent that he explains that
6 they hear it, that's true. As to what he claims that the Libyans
7 said or didn't say to him, he never explained that part to me, so
8 I'm not in a position to say whether they did. But I heard that
9 in court. He had never, over the years, explained that part to
12:52:54 10 me.

11 Q. But there's a detail in that I seek your assistance with,
12 Mr Taylor. Was Blah in Libya at the time of the Christmas Eve
13 invasion?

14 A. No, he was in Burkina Faso.

12:53:07 15 Q. He claims he was in Libya at the time?

16 A. No, he was in Burkina Faso.

17 Q. Because he is asked specifically:

18 "Q. You were in Libya when the Libyans had this
19 conversation with you?

12:53:16 20 A. Yes, yes."

21 A. No, he's in Burkina Faso. To the best of my knowledge,
22 he's in Burkina Faso, because I had at the border myself. I am
23 at the border, and I leave him in Burkina Faso for any
24 eventuality, not in Libya.

12:53:33 25 Q. "And at the time that they spoke to you about the fact
26 that there had been this attack by Taylor's forces into
27 Liberia, did you know anything about that attack?

28 A. No, I didn't know.

29 Q. And what you said they expressed, I wasn't sure I

1 understood exactly what they - were the Libyans happy or
2 unhappy about this?

3 A. The Libyans wasn't happy because they had told me to
4 wait and I was getting instructions from them whenever they
12:53:59 5 would be prepared for me to go. But they stopped there
6 unaware, according to them, that they were not informed
7 when Mr Taylor declared an attack on Liberia."

8 Now, Mr Taylor, did you inform the Libyans before you
9 attacked?

12:54:14 10 A. No, I didn't.

11 Q. Why not?

12 A. There was no need to. The Libyans - we had gone through
13 it. We had gone into training, we had trained and just as Moses
14 explained, which is right, we had been in Burkina Faso for almost
12:54:31 15 a year. Every possible detail that we had planned on how to
16 receive material did not work, so the Libyans were not able to
17 give us any weapons and did not give us any weapons. I said that
18 decision to attack came on the ground in Bin-Houye in la Cote
19 d'Ivoire. I'm present there. Moses is behind because he was not
12:54:54 20 going to fight anyway. And after sitting with the men and

21 discussing they said: Well listen, we've gone through this all
22 the years. You've spent all this time training us, so you have
23 to give us an opportunity. We will go in with Special Forces and
24 that's our training. We will find the weapons, we will take it
12:55:13 25 from them, and we will defeat them. So all we need now is the
26 capacity to cause the type of noise and immediate damage. Once
27 we take the first garrison - because there was a garrison at
28 Gbutuo - and once we get that garrison we'll begin to move
29 actually.

1 Q. Fine, Mr Taylor. We understand that. Let's move on. Now
2 he goes on - he is asked this:

3 "Q. Did they tell you" - "they" being the Libyans - "any
4 reason why they hadn't given you the go ahead or what they
12:55:45 5 said they would have given you?

6 A. Yes, they told me. They said well, they were doing it
7 tactically because the Americans had sanctions on them and
8 they didn't want to rush with such an operation. They want
9 to do it their own way. But then they were delaying close
12:56:07 10 to a year after training and that when NPFL took the
11 decision anyway."

12 Now, Mr Taylor, did you have any conversation with Gaddafi
13 where he explained, as Mr Blah puts it, those tactical reasons
14 for the delay?

12:56:21 15 A. No, no, no, no. If Joseph Momoh had not baulked the first
16 time and his absence from Sierra Leone with the fiasco with Bambi
17 Kamara, the weapons, to the best I can see, would have probably
18 gone to Sierra Leone. I don't think the Libyans - we never had
19 any such conversation where they were concerned. They had
12:56:49 20 trained with the Liberians over there. The Americans knew that
21 there were several training camps at Tajura. The Americans
22 bombed Libya while we were there, so there was nothing - there
23 was nothing that was awkward to Libya or our knowledge of the
24 whole - in fact, Blah was in Libya when the Americans bombed
12:57:12 25 Libya, including Gaddafi's house and all of that. So that was
26 not the concern. At least, I did not hold such discussions, no.

27 Q. "Q. Did you have occasion to talk to Taylor about your
28 conversation with the Libyans?

29 A. Yes, when I returned - when I returned to Ouagadougou

1 to see him. He had left Ouagadougou when I returned. He
2 had gone further regarding what Libya promised to give.
3 Libyans had promised to give, through Blaise Compaore, some
4 weapons that could help us go in further while they are
12:57:42 5 finding ways tactically to send what they have. But when I
6 returned to Ouagadougou he has gone ahead and I have to
7 follow. I told him exactly we have gone to Cote d'Ivoire
8 and that I have to follow to brief him exactly what the
9 authority in Ouagadougou was saying.

12:58:06 10 Q. When you were still in Tripoli, did you have any
11 contact with Taylor after this conversation that the
12 Libyans had with you?

13 A. No. There was no contact between us at that time.
14 What he told me was whenever the Libyans are ready and
12:58:17 15 prepared to send what they promise, I should find a way to
16 contact him to know what exactly - when the things would be
17 arriving at this location."

18 Is that true, Mr Taylor?

19 A. Okay, I think he said at his location. That's referring to
12:58:32 20 Ouagadougou. That's what I'm saying: He was stationed there;
21 and (a), if there were any progress. I don't know why he extends
22 it to Libya, but he was stationed in Ouagadougou on my orders. I
23 said, "You remain in Ouagadougou. If there is anything, will you
24 inform me." Now, that's what - so "arrive at his location", he
12:58:49 25 means at Ouagadougou. That's fairly straight, yeah.

26 Q. And then let's skip a bit.

27 "Q. Did you receive any other assignment from Taylor at
28 this time?

29 A. When the war started to fight and we have gone deep

1 into the war, that's when I was from being adjutant general
2 I became the inspector general of the NPFL."

3 Is that true?

4 A. Yes.

12:59:11 5 Q. And then he is asked:

6 "Q. ... when you were in Burkina Faso. Did he give you an
7 assignment at that time?

8 A. No, in Burkina Faso there was no other assignment. I
9 was still the adjutant general.

12:59:28 10 Q. Where did you go after you were in Burkina Faso?

11 A. I was in Burkina Faso, I came further inland to
12 Abidjan. It is in Abidjan that I was instructed to come
13 back to Abidjan for further consignment.

14 Q. Who instructed you for this task?

12:59:43 15 A. Mr Taylor.

16 Q. A consignment. What was the consignment?

17 A. The consignment of arms and ammunition in Abidjan. It
18 was already in position where the gendarmerie of Cote
19 d'Ivoire was overseeing and I went directly to the minister
13:00:01 20 of defence at the time, one Cona Coffi, during
21 Houphouet-Boigny administration. He was called Cona
22 Coffi."

23 Now, what he's describing there, Mr Taylor, is a
24 consignment of arms in Abidjan under the direct control of the
13:00:19 25 Ivorian Ministry of Defence. Is that true?

26 A. Totally false. But does he ever bring those material? The
27 government of la Cote d'Ivoire under the late President
28 Houphouet-Boigny never ever provided, not even a pistol or a
29 round of ammunition throughout the war. That is not true.

1 Totally untrue. That's another - where he slips into an
2 unfortunate lie, but - well, if he received such material, what
3 happened to it?

4 Q. Well, let's go on because he goes on:

13:01:04 5 "Q. This consignment that you were to take care of, did
6 you discuss this with the Ivorian Defence Minister?

7 A. Yes. Upon our return to him with a message I told him
8 I've gone there for so, so, so, and then he said, 'Okay,
9 which is good, but the problem we are having is that we do
10 not have money and we would not like the military trucks to
11 take these things. It would expose the country to danger.

12 So we have to find trucks, civilian trucks, from outside
13 and then we can transport it in troops for civilian trucks
14 and that's the only way you can take this thing from here.

13:01:43 15 If you have money to pay for the trucks, they would be
16 ready at any time you are ready', and I was there and
17 calling back to headquarters to him to make sure that the
18 money comes through so these things can be transported."

19 Now, Mr Taylor, he's quite clear there about this
13:02:06 20 conversation with the Ivorian Defence Minister about arms.

21 A. I never authorised and neither do I know of any
22 conversation that Moses Blah had with the Ivorian authorities
23 because President Houphouet-Boigny never - neither did the
24 Defence Minister ever give any arms and ammunition. If Moses
13:02:29 25 Blah tried to go there to talk to somebody, I'm not aware, and I
26 don't think he did because how would the government of La Cote
27 d'Ivoire have arms and ammunition to give to me that they would
28 not get to me right in another section of the country? Who is
29 there to stop them? There's nobody there to stop them. Moses -

1 Like I say, he goes good, good, good, then he slips into - I
2 don't know what's the purpose that the Prosecutor is having him
3 go down this way.

4 There is not one arm transported. This is not going across
13:03:02 5 two countries. La Cote d'Ivoire wants to give Charles Taylor
6 arms. We are right in the Danane region. There are military
7 bases all in La Cote d'Ivoire including Danane. Is it a
8 difficult problem? No. That's not true. He's totally off the
9 wall on this one.

13:03:23 10 Q. Well, let's examine that a little further, Mr Taylor. Is
11 it the case that these arms weren't arms being given to you by
12 the government of Cote d'Ivoire, but it was a consignment which
13 had come from Burkina Faso?

14 A. No. But he would say that if that was the case. No. No.

13:03:50 15 Q. Now, it continues, line 24:

16 "A. I was in Abidjan and I was called upon by him on one
17 occasion. I had to elaborate further. I was in Abidjan
18 when one Prince Barclay was sent to find out why I was
19 delaying in bringing the weapons we have. I told Prince
13:04:12 20 that the delay came from funds. We do not have funds to
21 charter trucks - civilian trucks - to transfer these things
22 to the trucks and so that's the difficulty I'm having.

23 Then he went back to where we were in Liberia at the
24 border, to the chief. I was just then taking the weapons
13:04:30 25 and trying to transfer them to a man called Prince Johnson
26 at the time, who was in our group and who had broken away,
27 and I got to know this when I returned to the camp. He
28 called me. He didn't talk until he ordered me back to come
29 to Gborplay, and as soon as I entered Gborplay I was

1 arrested and I was put into jail."

2 Now, Prince Barclay, Mr Taylor, who is he?

3 A. He's late now. I know Prince Barclay. He was - Prince
4 Barclay was the contact man that we had in Freetown with Momoh,
13:05:06 5 President Momoh. He is part Sierra Leonean and part Liberian.

6 Q. Did you send him to Abidjan to meet with Moses Blah?

7 A. No, I did not. In fact, Prince Barclay was on his - he
8 spent some time at the base. He is mostly Liberia, but he spent
9 some time - he was one of the Special Forces. His name is on
13:05:28 10 that list.

11 Q. Was Moses Blah arrested in Gborplay?

12 A. I don't recall. If Prince Johnson had arrested Moses Blah,
13 he was not going to get away. Quite frankly, I don't --

14 Q. No, no, no, no, that's not what is being suggested. It's
13:05:51 15 being suggested that - there was a suggestion that he was going
16 to deliver this consignment of arms to Prince Johnson, who had
17 broken away, and that was the reason for his arrest. That's
18 what's being suggested.

19 A. Yeah, but he was arrested. He said he was arrested in
13:06:04 20 Gborplay. But Gborplay is my base. And to the best of my
21 recollection, Prince - I mean, this man was not arrested. He was
22 not - Moses was not arrested in Gborplay for any reason that I
23 know of.

24 Q. Well, he does say, Mr Taylor, and this is page 9823:

13:06:26 25 "A. We was called directly from Mr Taylor that I should go
26 to Gborplay. He got a message. I didn't know until I
27 arrived in Gborplay that when I knew I was delaying because
28 I was transferring the weapons I should have brought to
29 Gborplay to Prince Johnson, I didn't even know Prince

1 Johnson had broken away from us at the time because I was
2 at Cote d'Ivoire.

3 Q. What happened when you got to Gborplay?

4 A. When I entered Gborplay I was arrested immediately.

13:07:00 5 Q. Who arrested you?

6 A. It was Mr Taylor who arrested you [sic]."

7 Now, Mr Taylor, is that --

8 A. I don't recall arresting Moses, no. No. Because that's -

9 I get in Gborplay round about April 1990. No, I don't recall

13:07:20 10 Moses being arrested by me in Gborplay. No, I don't recall that,

11 and that's something I would be able to recall. If I arrested

12 Moses Blah in Gborplay I would say one of my soldiers - why would

13 arresting one of my soldiers be in contention? No, he was a

14 soldier. And I - no - I really do not recall arresting Moses in

13:07:45 15 Gborplay, no. It could have slipped me, but that would very

16 rarely - no, I don't remember that.

17 Moses Blah was very, very close to me. Why would I arrest

18 Moses? In fact, Moses was with me, I can remember, he doesn't

19 touch it here, on a trip that I was on my way coming from

13:08:14 20 Ouagadougou somewhere later in - I think it could have been

21 April/May. I had a terrible accident, broke three of my ribs.

22 Moses was always with me, and he was close to me because I look

23 at him like almost like family. No, I never - no, I didn't

24 arrest Moses.

13:08:34 25 Q. Well, he goes into even more detail about this arrest,

26 Mr Taylor, because he mentioned that - he's asked this question:

27 "Q. And what units were involved in arresting you?

28 A. There was a lot of security units that were putting in

29 place at the time. There were other units, MP units were

1 there, then we have a group of people called Small Boy Unit
2 and they were all there. A lot of people was there. A lot
3 of security people was there.

4 Q. And what role did the Small Boy Units play with you?

13:09:16 5 A. They were just unreasonable people. Unlike the MPs
6 that could reason with me and they could give me water to
7 drink, but with the Small Boy Unit they were small in group
8 but they were very aggressive indeed and they didn't know
9 me and they didn't even know who they were talking to. So
13:09:32 10 they didn't even know I was part of the National Patriotic
11 Front.

12 Q. And what was their responsibility as to you?

13 A. He was there and they come to the prison where I was
14 and where they had other people too. They arrested people
13:09:46 15 from the front line and they were in the same prison with
16 me. They would say, 'Oh, we'll kill this man. This is the
17 man who was sending our arms to Prince Johnson. We will
18 execute him tonight. We will do that to him', and they
19 went on and they went on. I keep saying I even regret ever
13:10:05 20 being a member of NPFL at that moment, I was a little bit
21 afraid."

22 Now, Mr Taylor, he's being quite explicit there. He's in
23 prison being abused by these Small Boy Units and you caused him
24 to be arrested.

13:10:21 25 A. Moses is lying there. Come on. Just as Moses says he
26 didn't know he would become President. Look, Moses Blah is a
27 Special Forces. He's adjutant of that unit. At Gborplay are
28 Special Forces. The commander of the unit is Special Forces.
29 Everybody there. In fact, at Moses's level at that time, if

1 Moses had been arrested, he would have been arrested by Special
2 Forces.

3 I do not know why Stephen Rapp decided to bring in this
4 nuance to talk about Small Boys, because what are we talking
13:10:55 5 about here? We're talking about - I enter Liberia about April
6 1990, or thereabouts, where we just - I just get to enter the
7 country. So what Moses is talking about is impossible that I
8 would not remember. And I'm sure it did not - this is another
9 nuance of Moses going off, for what reason the Prosecution wants,
13:11:16 10 I don't know.

11 Look, your Honours, it's simple. Moses Blah is a soldier.
12 If I had arrested Moses Blah in Gborplay, he's one of my
13 soldiers, I would say I arrested him. Look, every soldier in the
14 world, and the Prosecution knows, they have former military
13:11:34 15 people with them, there are two things that must - that soldiers
16 - you must have for soldiers. You must have a jail and you must
17 have Military Police. Now, if one of my soldiers had misbehaved
18 or whatever I had arrested Moses I would say I arrested him. I
19 wouldn't lie about it.

13:11:50 20 I think Moses goes off on a tangent here where if Moses was
21 arrested as a Special Forces commando at that time, he would have
22 been arrested by Special Forces and he would have been - and for
23 a reason. But this nonsense he is talking --

24 Q. Well, the reason is quite straight forward. He was trying
13:12:09 25 to send the arms consignment in Cote d'Ivoire to Prince Johnson.

26 A. Impossible. I never - nobody ever accused Moses of that.
27 Moses - and Prince Johnson could not walk from here a stitch. So
28 Moses and Prince Johnson, never. I mean, I would not be that low
29 to even state that Moses would collaborate in some way with

1 Prince Johnson, no. That would be foolish to think that. He
2 would not. That's not his style. And even I'm not going to lie
3 on the man to say that he was doing that. He was never doing
4 that. As far as I know, he was never suspected of doing that.

13:12:44 5 So this matter of this arrest, I do not really recall Moses Blah
6 at that time being arrested, no, not at all. No, I don't.

7 Q. Now, Mr Taylor, at this point in his testimony the topic of
8 child soldiers, SBUs, having been introduced, Mr Rapp, who was
9 conducting his examination, made a detour to examine this topic,
10 and I'm looking at page 9825 and there are two passages in
11 particular on this page I want to draw your attention to. Is it
12 on the screen, Mr Taylor?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. "Q. Did you find out from anyone why there were Small Boy
15 Units?"

13:13:30 16 A. No, I didn't. I considered them to be other soldiers.
17 There were other people in different units fighting much
18 smaller than the Small Boy Unit. Everybody had a Small Boy
19 Unit with them. You had little boys who were dragging your
13:13:49 20 weapons behind you and they would say, 'Oh, they're my
21 Small Boy Unit'. It was a common name to everybody."

22 What do you understand by that?

23 A. Well, I don't know what Moses is trying to explain here,
24 but my knowledge of this thing - and I think I have explained to
13:14:15 25 the Court. There were these people - men in the NPFL that had
26 their family members during the war that they move along with,
27 your younger brother or your cousin, and when you ask them they
28 will say, "This is my family member with me." But like I said
29 before, there was no organised training and fighting force called

1 Small Boy. I guess, you know, as I'm seeing Moses, he wants to -
2 you know, he's fighting here to tell the truth of the matter.

3 That: Yes, there are young men with their brothers and their
4 cousins and different things. But that's what he means when he
13:14:51 5 says: Oh, there are people having - like he said, you had little
6 boys who were dragging your weapons behind you and they say: Oh,
7 they were my Small Boy Unit. It was common name. This is what
8 he's talking about with them, with your family and different
9 things. This is what I'm aware of. But these were not fighting

13:15:12 10 men. They were going into battle; they don't want to leave their
11 little brother at home; they will be with their brothers because
12 of the war. But to say an organised training and equipping of
13 small boys I'm saying didn't happen. This is what he means by
14 that "them" - that would be with them and other people.

13:15:35 15 Q. On the same topic let's jump to line 24 on the same page:
16 "Q. How were they recruited?

17 A. Well, some voluntarily would come in and some people
18 would come along with their brothers and they would say,
19 'Well, this is my brother. I want him to join a unit.'

13:15:54 20 And some were captured in places that we captured and the
21 younger ones would be running around and don't know where
22 to go. We have to - the NPFL forces would take them in and
23 would say, 'Look, you come. I will care of you.' And they
24 began to build a from there."

13:16:16 25 What do you say about that, Mr Taylor?

26 A. No, that's not - Moses struggles here to get what Rapp
27 wants him to say. I think Moses has really gotten to the crux of
28 this earlier, when he says there are young men that are with
29 people that are related to them that, you know - that stay with

1 them. I mean, this is how - and in fact, it worked. Now, I
2 guess in trying to squeeze him to say you've got to say that
3 these people were trained, I guess he fights along this
4 particular line. But I will tell you there were young men that
13:16:51 5 went that were with their brothers and cousins and different
6 things, just as I have explained. This leader of the NPFL at the
7 time never permitted any organised training of SBU.

8 Q. Well, let me break it into two then, Mr Taylor. The first
9 proposition being made by Mr Blah here is that some people would
13:17:12 10 come along with their brothers. Do you agree with that?

11 A. Yes, people came with their brothers, yeah.

12 Q. Do you also agree with the second proposition, that when
13 NPFL forces captured any particular location, where there were
14 children running around who had nowhere to go, would they be
13:17:32 15 taken in or taken along with the NPFL combatants?

16 A. No. We had orphanages that we had opened in NPFL area for
17 young people, and some of those people that ran those orphanages
18 I'm sure in time will be able to talk about them.

19 Q. Very well. Now, he goes on to say, Mr Taylor, on the next
13:17:56 20 page - and I want to go as swiftly as I can over this passage to
21 finish with this allegation of arrest - he says at line 5 and 6
22 that he was arrested by Benjamin Yeaten, okay? And he then says,
23 picking it up at line 9:

24 "Q. Did you see the chief on the next day?

13:18:27 25 A. I didn't see the chief until his return from Abidjan.
26 He had gone to Abidjan after me to make sure of this
27 information he got from Prince Johnson. But when he got
28 there the Coffi Cona, the Defence Minister, tried to say,
29 'Where is Moses Blah who you assigned here earlier?' He

1 went on to explain that this man that have been detained
2 because whatsoever he has sent me for, I was trying to have
3 them transferred to Prince Johnson. And the man said, 'No,
4 this is not the case. Moses Blah came here. He didn't
13:18:57 5 have shoes to wear. I have to buy clothes for him
6 personally.' He fed me with food. Well, this man that I
7 heard from politicians that have come to say all sorts of
8 things about you. Mr Taylor is a good man."

9 And so he says that you then returned to Gborplay
13:19:17 10 immediately, brought him bread and sardines. Over the page,
11 quickly, line 13: He'd been in detention for about eight days,
12 you released him and, in effect, exonerated him.

13 Now, Mr Taylor, this is a fairly detailed account of his
14 arrest. Are you still maintaining this didn't happen?

13:19:53 15 A. I've already said it. It never happened. Here is a man
16 who said he enters Liberia and he's arrested by groups, he says
17 Small Boys Unit and different things. He doesn't remember if
18 Benjamin Yeaten arrested him until later on. He now remembers
19 that Benjamin Yeaten arrested him? First he says he's arrested
13:20:10 20 by groups of people that don't even know him. That's what he
21 said earlier in the text, that these people do not even know who
22 they were talking to or dealing with. But Benjamin Yeaten is a
23 Special Force, they all trained together. So now he comes later
24 on and says he is arrested by Benjamin Yeaten. So which part of
13:20:27 25 this arrest are we supposed to believe: That he was arrested by
26 groups that did not know him, or he's arrested by Benjamin
27 Yeaten? What are we supposed to believe? You know, wherever
28 Moses has told the truth here I will tell this Court he has told
29 the truth. This is a Prosecution witness. But he slips into

1 pathetic lies unnecessarily, and I don't know the objective of
2 some of these pathetic lies that he slips into, okay? Benjamin
3 Yeaten arrests you. When the Prosecutor asks you, you have said:
4 Well, when I returned because of the weapons delay, Benjamin
13:20:59 5 Yeaten arrested me. You say you are arrested by different
6 groups, and some of them are SBU, and you don't know them and
7 they don't know you. Now you say Benjamin Yeaten does. Total
8 nonsense. Moses Blah, my soldier, was never ordered arrested by
9 me and he was not arrested at all. Why he goes into this I don't
13:21:17 10 know, but Moses is not arrested. Moses is close to me. He is
11 working. He is kept in the rear to do a lot of little things
12 because he's sick and he cannot fight. I leave him in Burkina
13 Faso to do things. He is present with my accident. In fact,
14 he's in Burkina Faso after I'm taken back to the hospital in
13:21:36 15 Ouagadougou. He's close to me. We are like family. I'm married
16 to his first cousin. There is none of this nonsense that Moses -
17 the only time Moses Blah falls afoul of me is when the covert
18 plan for regime change against me in 2003 did not work and when
19 the generals decided - after he asked them to stage a coup and
13:21:59 20 they failed was when he was arrested. Other than that, at no
21 time was Moses - Moses had the best of everything in the NPFL.
22 No, he lied here.

23 Q. Now, following his release, Mr Taylor - and we find details
24 of that on page 9828, and for completeness, line 4:

13:22:23 25 "Q. Did you hear what you were being charged with?

26 A. Yes, other people told me that I was transferring their
27 equipment that belongs to NPFL to Prince Johnson. That's
28 when I know Prince Johnson had broken away from the NPFL."
29 Then he goes on, line 13:

1 "When I got freed, I was asked to go back to Abidjan. The
2 weapons that I told you about, they were still in Abidjan. He
3 asked that I go back to Abidjan and bring whatsoever was there.
4 I said no, I would not go because it was so dangerous."

13:23:00 5 But he then goes on to say, over the page, page 929, line
6 7:

7 "A. When I got to Abidjan and they called, the Defence
8 Minister said, 'Well, the money has been paid and we've got
9 everything in the truck, and they're on their way already
10 to your location.'

13:23:21

11 Q. And do you know what happened with the weapons?

12 A. The weapons were crossed over to Liberia. The truck
13 entered and I went back to Gborplay and saw the weapons.

14 Q. How many trucks were involved?

13:23:38

15 A. It was three trucks. Three or four trucks.

16 Q. What kind of weapons were they?

17 A. Kalashnikovs, AK-47, BZT rounds."

18 And he goes on to describe the other weapons that were in
19 these trucks. Last line:

13:24:03

20 "Q. Do you know where those weapons came from originally?

21 A. No, I didn't check on that."

22 So again, Mr Taylor, he's quite clear.

23 A. He's not --

24 Q. You receive a consignment of arms, three or four

13:24:20

25 truckloads, from Abidjan in Cote d'Ivoire?

26 A. No. Let's - no, he's not clear at all. No. Look, let's
27 go through the facts. Moses Blah claims that he is released and
28 he is ordered to go back to Abidjan for the weapons, and what
29 does he do? He refuses. He tells me no. Moses Blah could not

1 have had any amount of Whi skey to do that nonsense to me, or he
2 or anybody else, that I would order a soldier and a soldier will
3 look at me and tell me no. No amount of liquor would have caused
4 him to do that. He is lying. He knows he is lying wherever he
13:25:09 5 is even now listening. It would never happen to me. He knows
6 that. He or no other person, number 1.

7 But mind, you see how the nuance goes. But the weapons
8 finally comes in and he knows nothing about it until it finally
9 comes in. He's supposed to now all of a sudden, after telling me
13:25:26 10 no, he's not going any place, finally he gets some place and the
11 people say, "Well, you're late. The weapons are on their way,"
12 and he finds them in - a blatant lie. Listen, the Ivorian
13 government - I'm telling you, if Ivory Coast had given me
14 weapons, I would say so. The Ivorian government never during the
13:25:45 15 civil war in Liberia gave me not one round of ammunition - ever.

16 Houphouet-Boigny did not. Nobody in La Cote d'Ivoire did
17 anything. The only time we got some material into Liberia, I am
18 telling you, after I entered Liberia and went back to Burkina
19 Faso we received some material in the initial stages that came
13:26:10 20 from Burkina Faso all the way across La Cote d'Ivoire. Moses
21 Blah is lying very much and pathetically. And I don't know why,
22 because he's been doing so well. He's lying. La Cote d'Ivoire
23 never, ever, ever gave me any material. Houphouet-Boigny made it
24 very, very, very, very clear. I never discussed that with

13:26:37 25 Houphouet-Boigny. The only thing that Houphouet-Boigny did
26 during that particular time was Houphouet-Boigny said that he
27 wanted nothing to do with the war in Liberia, Liberians coming
28 and going. If they did not enter La Cote d'Ivoire with arms they
29 could move up and down. Even passing those weapons from Burkina

1 Faso through La Cote d'Ivoire was done very, very secretly. We
2 used - we had to bribe a Gio fellow in the gendarme to try to get
3 those things through. In fact, I was hunted in the initial
4 stages of this war to be arrested by the Ivorian government.

13:27:26 5 Moses Blah is lying. He will tell me he's not going any place?

6 Q. Mr Taylor, let's pose the question differently. During the
7 course of the Liberian civil war, did you ever receive arms from
8 Burkina Faso which came into Liberia via La Cote d'Ivoire?

9 A. Yes, I did. Yes.

13:27:48 10 Q. At what stage did such arms shipments begin arriving in
11 Liberia via that route?

12 A. I would say some - it started around April/May of 1990. We
13 had at least one, two very, very small amounts during the initial
14 stages, and then it stopped because we had sufficient on the

13:28:21 15 ground. But the initial stages, yeah, very small amounts.

16 Q. Very small amounts?

17 A. That is correct.

18 Q. And for how long was that route used?

19 A. In terms of arms coming in, not - not after 1990. All of
13:28:49 20 this I'm talking about occurred between April, I would say, and
21 about October/November of 1990, yes.

22 Q. I can use the remaining minute to deal with one matter.

23 There's an answer which was given by Moses Blah on page 9830
24 which I would like to invite your comment on, line 10:

13:29:20 25 "Q. Did you know what Prince Johnson was doing?

26 A. Well, yeah. Prince Johnson broke away and he has his
27 own group Independent NPFL, and at that time other people
28 were caught unaware. He was still carrying
29 Charles Taylor's name and trying to recruit more men and

1 say, 'I'm still working with Charles Taylor. I'm fighting
2 for Charles Taylor', and you wouldn't know until you get
3 into his truck and he would take you to a base when he
4 would brief you later and say, 'Look, I'm no more with
13:29:50 5 Charles Taylor. I don't fight for countrymen, I'm going to
6 fight for myself and you've got to join me,' and all of
7 that. That's how he got his group going."

8 Do you agree with that?

9 A. Yes, I do.

13:30:14 10 MR GRIFFITHS: Would that be a convenient point?

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes. We will take the lunch break now
12 and resume at 2.30.

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

14 [Upon resuming at 2.30 p.m.]

14:31:35 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, Ms Hollis.

16 MS HOLLIS: Thank you, Mr President. I simply wish to note
17 for the record that as of 12 o'clock today the Prosecution was
18 joined by Mohamed A Bangura.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you, Ms Hollis.

14:31:48 20 MR GRIFFITHS: Mr President, can I note the departure of
21 Mr Terry Munyard from the Defence benches.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes. Thank you, Mr Griffiths.

23 MR GRIFFITHS:

24 Q. Now, Mr Taylor, before the luncheon adjournment we had
14:32:02 25 looked at events up until the start of the revolution in Liberia
26 and Moses Blah's allegation about his arrest in relation to a
27 consignment of arms in Abidjan, yes?

28 A. Yes.

29 Q. Now, I want to take us forward now to deal with what

1 Mr Blah went on to say about his knowledge of events in Sierra
2 Leone and I am going to page 9857. He said this. He was asked
3 this question and we need to look at a couple lines in order to
4 put matters in context. Line 18:

14:32:48 5 "Q. In your role as inspector general, what geographical
6 territory were you responsible for?

7 A. At that time in the NPFL we had taken 90 per cent of
8 Liberia, so I had a very large area in which I was in
9 control of."

14:33:07 10 And can I pause, Mr Taylor. What did his role as
11 inspector general involve?

12 A. Blah was responsible to go throughout the length and
13 breadth of our controlled area to look specifically at any
14 possible abuses, the overall comportmentation of the soldiers,
14:33:36 15 were they behaving properly, were there any complaints from
16 civilians, were there any of our - because we had published what
17 they call an operational order, to see in fact if that order was
18 being, you know, being carried out in full in line with the aims
19 and objectives of the revolution. That the soldiers are not
14:34:01 20 harassing civilians, that is civilians carrying out their own
21 activities. Schools were kept open. Making sure that there were
22 no disruption to the normal way of life of Liberians by any NPFL
23 soldier. And if there were any problems, he would report the
24 commander or the soldiers involved. This was his function.

14:34:24 25 Q. Now, help me, Mr Taylor. In the command structure of the
26 NPFL which obtained at about this time, we are looking at 1990
27 now, how senior position was the role of inspector general?

28 A. Inspector general was I would say most senior. And let me
29 explain what I mean by most senior. The overall general

1 commanding the forces in Liberia, as he mentioned, was General
2 Isaac Musa. Musa could not order Moses Blah in line with his
3 duties. The post of inspector general was designed to keep an
4 eye and control the activities of soldiers themselves. So no
14:35:13 5 general could command him. That is one of those areas where the
6 army people say assignment is greater than rank, although rank
7 prevails. But his job was to look at and possibly investigate
8 any wrongdoing on the part of any armed forces personnel from the
9 chief of defence staff down. That's his function.

14:35:39 10 Q. Now, Mr Taylor, in that position then, tell me, what access
11 would the inspector general have to the internal details and
12 strategies of the NPFL?

13 A. He would know. He would have - oh, he would have knowledge
14 of any - in terms of policy, he would know. If there were any
14:36:11 15 major decisions being taken by the armed forces, he would know.
16 He would know.

17 Q. Major decisions like what?

18 A. Let's say for example if the army had to stand down on a
19 particular situation, he would know. If the army had to act
14:36:28 20 militarily in any specific situation, he would know. Because you
21 have a situation where what if soldiers went and did something
22 and he was not aware that they had orders to do it, he could say,
23 "Well, why did you do this" and they would have to prove that
24 they had orders from either their commander or higher authority.

14:36:48 25 So he would definitely know major policies, major military
26 operations in specific areas. So if any abuse occurred - and
27 mind you I think the Court needs to know, he was
28 inspector general, but there were people that worked in that
29 department. So he is not a one man show running all over the

1 place. There were people that work in the office of
2 inspector general that even though he may not be at a point but
3 someone in the inspectorate there would be able to give reports
4 to him. So while he may not physically be someplace, he could
14:37:26 5 find out what a policy was, you know, and act on it.

6 Q. Yes. Now he continues:

7 "Q. And how were you able to stay up to date with what was
8 happening across that area, that's the 90 per cent of
9 Liberia controlled by the NPFL?

14:37:47 10 A. I had very few field commanders who were reporting to
11 me directly of any happening - any illegal happenings in
12 their areas of control - and I was always on the field. I
13 was always on the field. I had a communication in my car
14 and a communication in my house.

14:38:10 15 Q. What was the form of this communication in your car?

16 A. It was a long-range radio communication

17 Q. And what kind of communication did you have in your
18 house?

19 A. The same kind of communication.

14:38:27 20 Q. And this kind of communication, was it the kind of
21 communications where you would hear conversations between
22 other persons?

23 A. Yes. It was open. I can talk to anybody in the field
24 and if you are in the house and you are part of the
14:38:42 25 organisation, you will listen to me. You will hear what I
26 am talking about. It was not a secret.

27 Q. Well, then, how did you prevent information that was
28 passed through that system from coming into the hands of
29 unfriendly forces?

1 A. We spoke in codes."

2 Then he goes on to describe what some of the code were.

3 "We have other code names", he went on, line 27. Then

4 this:

14:39:12 5 "Q. In 1991, did you ever hear a code that you didn't
6 understand?"

7 And he answers:

8 "A. Yes, in 1990" - but that must be a mistake - "I heard

9 about a code name Kuwait. I didn't know what Kuwait was

14:39:32 10 until I came to Gbarnga and asked my radio operator what

11 was Kuwait and he said Kuwait was Sierra Leone."

12 Pausing there, Mr Taylor. That word "Kuwait", had you

13 heard it?

14 A. No. I had not heard the word "Kuwait", no.

14:39:57 15 Q. Were you aware in or about 1991 that Sierra Leone was being
16 referred to as Kuwait?

17 A. No, no.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, Ms Hollis.

19 MS HOLLIS: Excuse me. Perhaps I don't have the right

14:40:32 20 transcript, but when Defence counsel was referring to this
21 passage about Kuwait, he read - and it's at my line 22 of page

22 116 - "And he answers, 'Yes, in 1990' - but that must be a

23 mistake." In my transcript I don't have the word "that must be a

24 mistake". So I don't know if I have the wrong transcript or --

14:41:05 25 MR GRIFFITHS: I'll make it clear. I added those words for

26 this reason: When one goes to the previous page, the question

27 is, "In 1991, did you ever hear a code that you didn't

28 understand?" The witness answers, "Yes, in 1990." What I'm

29 saying is the reference in the answer of the witness to 1990 must

1 be a mistake in light of the question.

2 MS HOLLIS: Well, we would object to that. The witness has
3 said what he said. It's up to your Honours to determine if
4 that's a mistake.

14:41:39 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: What do you say to that, Mr Griffiths?

6 MR GRIFFITHS: Well, unless my learned friend is suggesting
7 that the invasion of Sierra Leone took place in 1990, when I
8 think it is an agreed fact that it took place in March 1991, I
9 really don't see what the objection is.

14:41:58 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Well, I think you are stuck with the
11 transcript though, aren't you?

12 MR GRIFFITHS: Very well:

13 Q. "Yes, in 1990 I heard about a code name Kuwait." In 1990,
14 Mr Taylor, did you hear a code name Kuwait?

14:42:14 15 A. No.

16 Q. In 1991, did you hear a code name Kuwait?

17 A. No.

18 Q. In 1992, did you hear a code name Kuwait?

19 A. No.

14:42:24 20 Q. When was the first time that you heard the code name
21 Kuwait?

22 A. Here in this courtroom.

23 Q. Now, Mr Blah continues:

24 "Q. And when you came to Gbarnga and found out it was

14:42:40 25 Sierra Leone, did you ask why Kuwait was being mentioned on
26 the radio?

27 A. Well, I wouldn't ask any question about that.

28 Q. Well, did you learn anything about Kuwait?

29 A. Yes, I learnt a lot about Kuwait.

1 Q. And what did you learn?

2 A. Through friends, through soldiers, through my security,
3 that they were people in Sierra Leone. That we had men in
4 Sierra Leone fighting.

14:43:08 5 Q. And you said men. What kind of men?

6 A. Soldiers in Sierra Leone fighting.

7 Q. And what organisation were the soldiers affiliated
8 with?

9 A. With the NPFL, fighting associated with the RUF.

14:43:21 10 Q. Did you find out how they got into Sierra Leone?

11 A. No, I did not.

12 Q. Did you learn anything about the relative strength of
13 the Liberians that were there and the Sierra Leoneans that
14 were there?

14:43:44 15 A. At the initial stage there was a small group of
16 Liberian group soldiers moving. There were little bit more
17 than the RUF."

18 Now, Mr Taylor, the inference from what Mr Blah told this
19 Court is that he discovered about the invasion of Sierra Leone
20 after the event, because you note that answer at line 18:

14:44:10 21 "Q. Did you find out how they got into Sierra Leone?

22 A. No, I did not."

23 Now, help me, Mr Taylor, you spent a little while moments
24 ago outlining the duties and responsibility of the
25 inspector general. How is it that your inspector general, a
26 witness called by the Prosecution, didn't know?

14:44:30 27 A. Well, you know, these are some of the issues in this
28 particular case. How is it, your Honours, that the
29 inspector general, who is in the field moving up and down and

1 listens to radio - I don't listen to radio communication - is not
2 aware that something like this is going on in Sierra Leone at the
3 time now, depending on what year we are looking at - because we
4 are stuck with the transcript, whether it's 1990, or whether it's
14:45:17 5 1991 - but I am speaking specifically about we know that
6 the - that from evidence led in this Court that the invasion
7 takes place in March, if I am not wrong, of 1991. So I am
8 speaking from March 1991.

9 Now, if anyone should know of an official operation or
14:45:43 10 something going on in Sierra Leone, it should be this
11 inspector general. He doesn't know because it is not official.
12 That's why he doesn't know; because it's not official. Because
13 Moses Blah, who is inspector general, who is a senior NPFL
14 individual, who is a Special Forces, if this is official, would
14:46:06 15 know that it is official and it's going on. If he doesn't know,
16 how would I know? I mean, this even demonstrates the point. I
17 don't know that this is going on. He finds out later, but I am
18 the leader. I am supposed to have found out even before he did.
19 Even if he was not briefed, at least this inspector general,
14:46:25 20 knowing this thing - he does not even say that he comes and he
21 tries to ask - or say to me - which he has access to me on two
22 levels, both in his position and even as a member of the family -
23 never raises any issue of this with me. So how come he does not
24 know? Because it is not official. As simple as that. It is not
14:46:49 25 official.

26 This is a move being made clandestinely that is being done
27 by these people putting in their code names and calling - he
28 stumbles into it because he has men in the field. So it is a
29 closely guarded situation that people are operating on. I don't

1 know. He doesn't know. So I don't see how he doesn't know if
2 it's official. It is not official.

3 Q. "Q. Did you find out how they'd got into Sierra Leone?

4 A. No, did not.

14:47:19 5 Q. Did you learn anything about the relative strength of
6 the Liberians that were there and the Sierra Leoneans that
7 were there?

8 A. At the initial stage there was a small group of
9 Liberian soldiers moving. There were a little bit more
14:47:34 10 than the RUF.

11 Q. Why do you say there were more Liberians than RUF?

12 A. That is an information from my soldiers, from my
13 information, my radio communication and their location. My
14 operator would brief me on what was happening.

14:47:50 15 Q. Well, did you find out the reason why the soldiers had
16 gone in?

17 A. Yes, they said they were fighting alongside. It was
18 later that I knew that they were in there."

19 How come he has to find out after the event, Mr Taylor?

14:48:08 20 A. For the same reason that, I mean, I found out, that it must
21 be clear that I am supposed to know everything: Because it is
22 not official. And one would expect someone as high as Moses
23 Blah, who served as inspector general and later on as
24 Vice-President of Liberia, that is a big - that is a big deal for
14:48:33 25 this Prosecution. This Prosecution should have been able to
26 specifically get out of Blah for Blah to say - what's his
27 usefulness in this matter if he - he doesn't know. It's not
28 official. Blah should have been able to say to these judges, "I
29 am aware of what was going on and this was an NPFL operation

1 authorised by Mr Taylor." He should have been able to say this.
2 He didn't say it because that was the truth, that I was not aware
3 of it. And he was not aware of it, and it beat him. He is the
4 inspector general in the field. It beat him.

14:49:09 5 Now, interestingly, his people informed him. They did not
6 say to him: Well, you know, we knew it, but we heard that the
7 President's order is, so we were afraid to talk about it. You
8 see what I am trying to say? I mean, they would say he has got
9 informants in the field. They would say: Chief, we heard about
14:49:32 10 it, but, you know, we heard that the chief ordered it, so we
11 didn't touch it. I mean, I did not - I don't care what this
12 Prosecution tries do, my God, no matter what they do, I did not
13 know about what was going on. I did not, and that's why he
14 didn't also know.

14:49:50 15 Q. "A. It was later that I knew that they were in there.

16 Q. Who were they fighting alongside?

17 A. The RUF.

18 Q. And what was the RUF?

19 A. RUF are forces head - they were fighting alongside
14:50:05 20 forces headed by the - just a minute. Sankoh. They were
21 fighting alongside Sankoh. Foday Sankoh forces.

22 Q. You testified earlier about meeting a Foday Sankoh in
23 Libya. Did you determine whether this was the same
24 individual?

14:50:20 25 A. The same Foday Sankoh. I met him in Gbarnga.
26 I met him in Gbarnga.

27 Q. Did you ever find out who was leading the Liberian
28 group that was in Sierra Leone?

29 A. I found out that once you were inside Sierra Leone you

1 were headed by Foday Sankoh, because he was the one who was
2 in control."

3 Pause there. Mr Taylor, I thought you were in control.

14:51:02 4 A. Foday Sankoh was in control, and, again, Rapp plays a
5 little something here. Yes, Moses Blah met Foday Sankoh in
6 Gbarnga. He should have met him in Gbarnga. But he didn't ask
7 for the time he met him here in Gbarnga yet, okay? So --

8 Q. We will come to that, Mr Taylor. Just hold your horses.
9 We will come to that in one moment, I promise you.

14:51:21 10 "A. I found out that once you were inside Sierra Leone you
11 were headed by Foday Sankoh, because he was the one who was
12 in control.

13 Q. And were there any leaders of the Liberian group within
14 Sankoh's forces?

14:51:35 15 A. Yes, there were two I could name at that time. There
16 was Dopoe Menkarzon and the Liberian Mosquito."

17 Remind us, who is Liberian Mosquito?

18 A. Liberian Mosquito is Christopher Vambos.

19 Q. And then he goes on to deal with the spelling. And then
14:51:58 20 over the page at page 9861, let's pick up at line 13:

21 "Q. Did you have any occasion to talk to Sankoh after his
22 forces had gone into Sierra Leone?

23 A. The fact is that when the fighting was going on in
24 1991, I was in Cape Palmas as inspector general, and when I
14:52:24 25 returned to Gbarnga one morning to report to the

26 headquarters, I drove by a place called New Gbarnga. That
27 was the time I saw Foday Sankoh that morning. I stopped my
28 car and I alighted and embraced him, and I said I have not
29 seen him for a very long time, since in Libya. He said,

1 'Look, I am here now.' I am a rebel commander. I am no
2 more a small boy and you have to salute me.' And I saluted
3 him and I said, 'Okay.' I said, 'Okay, I know you are my
4 boss now.' He said, 'Look, I have come here for a serious
14:53:06 5 matter.' And I asked him what the matter was. He said,
6 'The boys from NPFL whom the chief sent to help me, they
7 got involved into a lot of atrocities, raping women,
8 looting people's property and killing people, and these are
9 the people I have gone to liberate and I am losing respect
14:53:27 10 amongst my tribesmen. This is what I have come to consult
11 with the chief on.' "

12 Now, pause there. Now, we saw from testimony of this
13 witness this morning, Mr Taylor, that Moses Blah was in Libya
14 with Foday Sankoh, yes?

14:53:52 15 A. That is correct.

16 Q. And as you have indicated in earlier testimony, friendships
17 developed between the men who underwent training at Tajura Camp
18 in Libya?

19 A. That is correct.

14:54:07 20 Q. Now, you will note here that Moses Blah is saying here, "I
21 have not seen him for a very long time since in Libya", yes?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Now, help me, Mr Taylor. According to some of the
24 testimony this tribunal have heard, Foday Sankoh was your
14:54:32 25 right-hand man in Liberia after the start of the revolution?

26 A. Yes.

27 Q. So can you help us by explaining how it is that your
28 inspector general, Moses Blah, despite the fact that Foday Sankoh
29 is around in Libya, hadn't seen him since Libya? Can you help us

1 with that, please?

2 A. That's the whole point. Because all this thing that they
3 are talking about, that Foday Sankoh is my right-hand man and
4 moving around with me in Liberia, Moses would have seen him. So
14:55:08 5 Moses is now saying in 1991 he sees Foday Sankoh. And let's be
6 very clear about the records about this, because there are two
7 sets of information here that are important. 1991, because he is
8 saying here that Foday Sankoh says the boys that I sent are
9 misbehaving. Okay. That rings a bell: Men I sent to Libya.

14:55:36 10 But we are talking about, what? In dealing with --

11 Q. To Libya?

12 A. Excuse me, to Sierra Leone. Excuse me, your Honours. In
13 dealing with what? In dealing with ULIMO. You understand me?
14 In dealing with ULIMO. Okay? That's when the people are sent.
14:55:53 15 And Sankoh is saying that these people are causing trouble. So
16 when we draw the timeline, we are talking about sometime after
17 March of 1991. That's the attack. Then we look at when? Around
18 what? April, May, June of the ULIMO incursion. And we look at
19 the August calling of Foday Sankoh for assistance. So we are
14:56:25 20 talking about a period between May and August 1991. That's
21 what's in my head, okay? And how he explains it here, the people
22 that the old man sent are doing this. So now we get to see.

23 There is all of 1990, and we have to put it to up until
24 about mid 1991. Where is Foday Sankoh in Liberia that Moses Blah
14:56:48 25 does not see him or gets no report that he is around in Liberia?
26 Where was he? He is just not there.

27 Q. And this passage, Mr Taylor, "I am no more a small boy and
28 you have to salute me", how do you interpret that?

29 A. Well, Moses and Sankoh were making - he was - you know,

1 well, my tea boy in Libya has grown up to be a big boy. That's
2 the only thing I can put it to. I used to make tea for you in
3 Libya, and now look at what I am doing. That's the only thing I
4 can lay my finger on. I could be wrong, but this is the way I
14:57:30 5 interpret it. I am no more small boy. It simply means that on
6 the base when he - when they knew each other, Sankoh was nothing
7 but a little - not "boy" in terms of age, but, I mean, he was
8 just, figuratively speaking, a small potato. That's what he
9 meant, "I'm no longer a little boy." That means I am no longer
14:57:51 10 the fellow that used to make your tea; I am a big guy now.
11 That's how I look at it.

12 Q. Now, it continues. We are at page 9862.

13 "That was what the two of us discussed and I said, 'All
14 right, this is good. If this is the case then it is okay',
14:58:10 15 and I passed by him that morning.

16 Q. Did you have a chance to talk to him after the
17 conversation, this morning conversation?

18 A. Talk to who, please?

19 Q. Sankoh.

14:58:22 20 A. Yes, after that conversation I talked to him, whether
21 he had seen chief. He said, 'Yes I have seen chief. I
22 have talked to the chief.' But he was still not satisfied
23 with the response he had from the chief and he said when he
24 goes back, he will know what to do.

14:58:40 25 Q. Did you have any opportunity to talk to Taylor about
26 Sankoh's complaint?

27 A. It was not really a conversation. He was walking
28 around his palace where he lived in Gbarnga ..."

29 Did you have a palace, Mr Taylor?

1 A. No, I didn't.

2 Q. "... his palace where he lived in Gbarnga and went close to
3 speak to him to salute him.

4 Q. Any conversation?

14:59:11 5 A. He said he didn't know earlier that Foday Sankoh had
6 talked to me about this matter. He said, 'Look, your man
7 Foday Sankoh is here and he is saying that the people are
8 destroying his people, looting his property.' He said,
9 'How could the war be fought? When you talk about a
14:59:34 10 guerilla war it is destruction, and this type of thing
11 must happen if you are fighting a war. You are not eating
12 bread and butter; you are fighting.' If he continues with
13 such a report, according to him he will withdraw his men
14 from there. That is all I knew."

14:59:53 15 Now, Mr Taylor, do you recall such a conversation with
16 Blah?

17 A. I did speak to Moses about Sankoh, but now as I am
18 reflecting on this, the answer - I did speak to him, but this has
19 got to be 1992 that Moses is talking about Foday Sankoh saying,
15:00:14 20 "I know what to do about it." So I have - I disagree with Moses
21 about the year he is mentioning now. This is about '92.

22 Q. Well, I am not so sure we are at liberty to make that
23 assumption that he is talking about the same year, Mr Taylor?

24 A. Well, then I disagree with his assertion here that Foday
15:00:40 25 Sankoh says he knows what do and I threaten to withdraw my men
26 because a withdrawal occurs in 1992 and a discussion with Foday
27 Sankoh about what the men are doing occurs in 1992. So while
28 this conversation that he is alluding to here - I disagree with
29 the time frame he attaches to this conversation.

1 Q. Very well. But what about the content of the conversation
2 as recalled by him?

3 A. No, no. I talk to him about Foday Sankoh's complaint and
4 what I said: Look, we have got a lot of problems in Liberia. We
15:01:20 5 have not won the war. And I am not in - we are there on security
6 purposes. I am not there to fight Foday Sankoh's war. If he
7 continues these things, I am just going to withdraw the men,
8 okay, from there because I am not - we are not there to fight
9 Foday Sankoh's war. We are there for security purposes, to fight
15:01:40 10 ULIMO to keep them from coming into Liberia. So if this
11 continues, we have to solve the problem by pulling our men out of
12 Sierra Leone.

13 Before I can take this decision, this clash occurs with
14 this fight between the men and then I finally do that. That's
15:01:56 15 why I am saying I disagree with his timeline.

16 Q. Now, let me ask you about one detail in that conversation
17 he recalls. He recalls you saying, "Look, your man". That's you
18 speaking to Blah and describing Foday Sankoh as being Blah's man.
19 Is that possible?

15:02:21 20 A. Yes, it's even probable. No, that is - how can I put it?
21 That is - basically I would term it a figure of speech in
22 Liberia. Sometimes you come and he says, "Oh, your man", you
23 know, or "your friend", you know, something like that. You know,
24 "This is your man, Foday Sankoh", meaning that you say you knew
15:02:54 25 him before so he is like somebody you know. You can categorise
26 it almost like a figure of speech, "this is your man". It
27 doesn't really mean that he is owing to anything with Sankoh, but
28 just you come to intervene for somebody and say, "Oh, this is
29 your guy", you know, something like that. That's what it was.

1 Q. Right. So would it be fair to say that it denotes some
2 prior association between the two?

3 A. Oh, yes, yes. I mean because Moses said when he came to
4 see me, "Oh, I saw Sankoh" and he explained to me his association
15:03:34 5 with him in Libya and I said, "Look, this is your man. If he
6 continues this thing, I am not - I am there not to fight his war.
7 I am there for security for Liberia and if we cannot have any
8 type of cooperation over there, we will just withdraw our men."

9 Q. Now, he continues, page 9863:

15:03:56 10 "Q. Did you have an opportunity to meet any of the
11 Liberians who had gone into Sierra Leone?

12 A. Yes. On one occasion I met one Yammayan Kollie who
13 happened to be my bodyguard later. He was assigned to me
14 by President Taylor when I became Vice-President and that
15:04:15 15 was when he told me about what happened in Sierra Leone,
16 who were they fighting, what they did there, and he told me
17 a whole lot of things in Sierra Leone.

18 Q. Well, what did he tell you?"

19 And then there is an exchange which needn't trouble us.

15:04:33 20 But before we move on, let's pause. Does this name Yammayan
21 Kollie mean anything to you, Mr Taylor?

22 A. Yammayan Kollie. No, not really. I know Nammayan [phon]
23 but I am not certain if his last name is Kollie. The last name
24 that I know is Nammayan, so I cannot say with any certainty that
15:05:04 25 this is the same person. But I know a few Nammayans.

26 Q. Mr Taylor, let's us look at the second sentence in this
27 answer carefully. "He", that is Kollie, "was assigned to me by
28 President Taylor when I became Vice-President." When did he
29 become Vice-President?

1 A. After the death of Enoch Dogolea. That's around '99 or so.

2 Q. 1999 or so?

3 A. Round about that, yes.

4 Q. Listen carefully:

15:05:41 5 "He was assigned to me by President Taylor when I became
6 Vice-President and that was when he told me about what happened
7 in Sierra Leone."

8 Now, help me, Mr Taylor, prior to 1999 when he became

9 Vice-President, did Moses Blah ever come up to you and say,

15:06:03 10 "Chief, what's happening in Sierra Leone?" Anything like that?

11 A. Never, no.

12 Q. Any discussions about Sierra Leone with him apart from the
13 conversation you recall in 1992?

14 A. None whatsoever. None whatsoever.

15:06:17 15 Q. Any question by Blah to the effect, "Why did you send the
16 men into Sierra Leone in the first place, chief?" Anything like
17 that?

18 A. No, no.

19 Q. Can you help us as to why it took until 1999 for your

15:06:36 20 inspector general to find out what was going on in Sierra Leone?
21 Can you help us?

22 A. No, I can't. I can't help. I don't know why it took him
23 this long. I guess it was something that was maybe not important
24 to him, but I have no reason what - but he never asked me. And

15:06:54 25 even before Moses Blah - before he goes off to Libya as
26 ambassador, he spends a lot of time in Monrovia. The
27 ambassadorial positions are not given out immediately in 1997,
28 people started on assignment in 1998, and so I have no idea. It
29 just shows that Moses - like I say, sometimes Moses goes on the

1 deep end. So I really can't tell why he didn't.

2 Q. Let's jump to the bottom of page 9864:

3 "Q. And you said he told you" - well, I am helpfully if
4 one goes to page 9883, Moses Blah said he became Vice-President
15:07:43 5 in the year 2000.

6 A. 2000. '99, 2000.

7 Q. Bottom of page 9864:

8 "Q. And you said he told you a lot about what happened in
9 Sierra Leone.

15:08:00

10 A. Exactly.

11 Q. Do you remember anything?

12 A. He told me about when they were in Lofa - no, not Lofa,
13 in Sierra Leone, there was a lot of looting that went on.

14 They had everything that they wanted. Things were very,

15:08:16

15 very easy with them. They could get this, they could get
16 that. He said a lot of that I cannot remember off the top
17 of my head to tell you, but it was all illegal anyway.

18 Q. Did he indicate whether he had been punished or not?

19 A. No, I didn't ask him that far, but what he said that

15:08:34

20 was happening at the war front whilst he was fighting, so I
21 didn't go further to ask what he did. What he could teach

22 me was Krio, the Krio that he had learnt whilst he was in

23 Freetown in Sierra Leone. He was speaking Krio like a

24 Sierra Leonean and I used to enjoy him speaking social

15:08:50

25 language to me, so I would tell him, 'Look, speak Krio to
26 me', and he will speak Krio to me and I would laugh.

27 Q. Were there other Liberians that returned from Sierra
28 Leone?

29 A. Yes. Later I went to Gbarnga because I was in Gbarnga,

- 1 in and out of there, and I saw this thing - I told you I
2 saw Dopoe, Liberian Mosquito, Christopher Varmoh, they all
3 agreed that they had returned from Sinoe, there was a
4 conflict between them and Foday Sankoh. Foday Sankoh did
15:09:22 5 not appreciate what they did for him and he was reporting.
6 And they didn't know why they were doing that if it would
7 not be appreciated by Foday Sankoh.
- 8 Q. Do you know if any of these other individuals were
9 punished for what they did in Sierra Leone?
- 15:09:38 10 A. They were not investigated nor punished that I know of.
- 11 Q. And when they came back to Liberia what kind of
12 positions did they have?
- 13 A. Menkarzon, he got a job at the Bureau of Maritime
14 Affairs and Security, head of the security there."
- 15:09:54 15 Is that true, Mr Taylor?
- 16 A. Yes, that's true. But I am not sure if the record - I saw
17 something in the record here on 9865 that he said people returned
18 from Sinoe. I disagree that Foday Sankoh was in - that somebody
19 had gone to meet Foday Sankoh in Sinoe. Line 22, 9865.
- 15:10:31 20 Q. Where is Sinoe?
- 21 A. Sinoe is in Liberia in the southeastern part of Liberia.
22 But it's in the record there, so I am not agreeing to that, based
23 on your question.
- 24 Q. Okay. But in any event, did Menkarzon work at the Bureau
15:10:53 25 of Maritime Affairs after you became President?
- 26 A. Yes.
- 27 Q. Was Christopher Varmoh security at the LPRC, Liberian
28 Petroleum Refinery Company?
- 29 A. Yes, later on, but that was not his first assignment. But,

1 yes, he was there.

2 Q. Then he is asked this at line 14:

3 "Q. Do you know if all the Liberians came back from Sierra
4 Leone?"

15:11:18 5 A. No, I wouldn't know this, but I was the head. Dpoe
6 Menkarzon, Christopher Varmoh, apart from that I don't
7 know. I didn't know the number of groups that went, so I
8 wouldn't know how many of them came back.

9 Q. But while you were inspector general, did you receive
15:11:38 10 any other assignment?

11 A. Yes, briefly. I was still inspector general and I was
12 again appointed as liaison between the NPFL and
13 ECOMOG - between ECOMOG forces."

14 Now, let me pause there, Mr Taylor. In general terms, what
15:12:00 15 do you say about Moses Blah's account with regard to the start of
16 the conflict in Sierra Leone, Kuwait as he puts it?

17 A. For me, I don't have any problems. I cannot dispute his
18 account that he got to find out later and he heard this special
19 call on the radio. I'm in his shoes, I got to find out myself.
15:12:32 20 So his general account that he did not know demonstrates the fact
21 that a lot of things went on that did not reach me. He doesn't
22 report that he told me and I did nothing about it. He doesn't
23 know as inspector general. He has people in the field assigned
24 to report these kinds of matters to him.

15:12:53 25 And so generally his description of what he knows about
26 Sankoh and when he does meet him I have a little disagreement
27 - well, a big disagreement as to the year regarding when the
28 conflict starts and when he meets Sankoh and the withdrawal from
29 Sierra Leone. I think it's sufficiently established that the

1 withdrawal occurred in 1992. And so, besides that, generally I
2 think he has given a fairly reasonable account of his knowledge,
3 you know, of this and what happened.

15:13:38 4 Q. Now he goes on to deal with the relationship between the
5 NPFL and ECOMOG. Let's just look at that briefly. Line 22, page
6 9866: "... briefly. I was still inspector general and I was
7 again appointed as liaison between the NPFL and ECOMOG." Was he?

8 A. Yes, one of the liaisons, yes.

15:14:03 9 Q. "ECOMOG had just returned. We had conflict with them. But
10 when they returned to work in our territory where we
11 controlled they couldn't go alone. So I was there with
12 them and I used to fly in the helicopter to go to town.

13 Before they landed anywhere, I had to make sure that where
14 we were going was safe, because the previous order to them
15:14:20 15 was that - when they were disarmed we had a heated
16 agreement so the President ordered that they should go
17 back. He didn't want ECOMOG at the time because they were
18 doing a lot of illegal things in our territory.

19 Q. You mentioned to disarm. How did you accomplish that?
15:14:42 20 These were armed men, were they not?

21 A. Well, yes, it went well. It went well, because ECOMOG
22 went into our area and there was a lot of conflict. They
23 wanted to overtake the entire area as if they were in their
24 own country. So President Taylor told them that it was not
15:15:01 25 fair. If ECOMOG comes here and are not under our command
26 they must be disarmed and returned to their headquarters.
27 So that went very well. They were disarmed and put on a
28 truck from various locations. It was done systematically.
29 They were all disarmed at the same time, on the same date,

1 the same hour. We succeeded in doing that."

2 Was there such an event, Mr Taylor?

3 A. Yes, there was such, yeah.

4 Q. "Q. Was anything else done to them? To which headquarters
15:15:34 5 were they brought?

6 A. So their headquarters, ECOMOG headquarters, because
7 they were sent back. And from where they were in various
8 locations in our occupied territories, they were all
9 disarmed at the same time and they were put on board

10 trucking in various locations and they were taken back to
11 where they came from.

12 Q. How long were you in this position as coordinator?

13 A. Less than a month."

14 And then he goes on:

15 "The ECOMOG went in as a fighting force and they had their
16 own map. They had to go to places that the map dictates they
17 should go, and they were not coordinating with us to say that:
18 Yes, you should go there or go there and they disagreed. They
19 said the NPFL was a rebel force and that they were not under NPFL
15:16:06 20 command and they were very harsh.

21 So apparently the President went annoyed and he said if
22 that is the case then, he said, they wanted to bypass his
23 operation. That was why the order was given, but he should know
24 the reason why the order was given."

15:16:42 25 Then he goes on to deal with the NPFL controlling 90
26 per cent in '91, '92. Were in full control of 90 per cent of
27 Liberia. And then he goes on to describe the government that was
28 set up, Mr Taylor. Line 20 on page 9869:

29 "Q. When the NPFL was in charge of 90 per cent of Liberia,

1 what kind of government did the NPFL provide?

2 A. Before that time we had the National Reconstruction
3 Assembly Government in which President Taylor was President
4 for our own area. They controlled the territory that we
15:17:34 5 controlled. We had our own minister of defence, we had our
6 own minister of finance, we had our own bank in Gbarnga.
7 We had everything a government should have. The capital
8 was Gbarnga."

9 Is all of that correct, Mr Taylor?

15:17:52 10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Mr Taylor, he goes on to say, stayed in Gbarnga.
12 "When he was in Gbarnga we used to visit him. We used to
13 go to Gbarnga. We talked to him, we briefed him about
14 things that were happening around, and then we would go
15:18:06 15 back to our posts.

16 Q. And when you visited him, were you able to see how he
17 stayed up to date on events?"

18 And he then goes on to describe - and we need not delay
19 with the detail - how you had a radio, you had a television, you
15:18:25 20 had a satellite radio, and you used to listen to CNN and the BBC,
21 and so on and so forth?

22 Is that all of that correct, Mr Taylor?

23 A. I don't want to fight about. I didn't have a satellite
24 radio, but the rest of it is right.

15:18:42 25 Q. Did you have a satellite television?

26 A. Yes, I had a satellite television.

27 Q. And did you watch CNN or listen to CNN radio and BBC radio?

28 A. I listened to BBC, yes, and watched CNN, yeah.

29 Q. And we will come to the reason for these questions in a

1 moment, but just to complete the context, page 9871, line 9:

2 "He listened to the radio, he watched television, and he
3 was well informed, and he like to listen to Focus on Africa. All
4 of us listened to that. In fact, I had my own radio. I used to
15:19:21 5 listen to Focus, Network Africa, early in the morning, and we
6 were informed about what was happening outside. We had our own
7 newspaper, The Patriot newspaper ..."

8 Is that true?

9 A. Yes.

15:19:36 10 Q. "... the newspaper we used to read. It was once in the
11 month or twice a month."

12 And then he goes on to deal with the fact that he would
13 read the newspaper. And then this - and this the whole purpose
14 behind asking him about your access to the media. Line 28, page
15:20:02 15 9871.

16 "Q. In the course of reading newspapers or listening to
17 the radio, did you hear anything about the situation in
18 Sierra Leone?

19 A. Yes, I listened to that very much. We were
15:20:16 20 people - Sierra Leone was not a locked-up people. People
21 used to come from Sierra Leone and some people used to
22 cross over. They would come to the market and others go on
23 the other side and they used to tell us these things are
24 the things that were happening in Sierra Leone, and there
15:20:36 25 were a lot of accusations from Sierra Leone that we heard
26 Liberian people attacking them, killing them. We heard a
27 whole lot of things from Sierra Leone."

28 Now, point 1 that I want to ask you, Mr Taylor, is this:

29 That description of people crossing backwards and forward between

1 Sierra Leone and Liberia, is that the truth?

2 A. Yes, people crossed backward and forward. I don't know
3 what time Moses is talking about here, really, but people
4 travelled across. Once you came into Liberia without a weapon,
15:21:14 5 you travelled, yes. There was free movement of people, the
6 civilians that came in. Yes, there was free movement.

7 Q. And then he goes on at line 10:

8 "Q. Did you hear any of that in the news media?

9 A. Yes. In the newspapers I heard that there was an
15:21:43 10 accusation in the newspaper that President Taylor was helping the
11 forces of the RUF and they were fighting in Sierra Leone. And at
12 one time there was a big delegation from ECOWAS from friendly
13 governments to come and see, and there was also accusation that
14 Mosquito Sierra Leone was in Liberia, and that was the time that
15:22:07 15 we showed them the Liberian Mosquito, Christopher Varmoh at that
16 time, and we said, 'This is the only Mosquito that we have here.
17 This is Christopher Varmoh', and that was widely read in every
18 newspaper and photographs were taken in all of those."

19 Can you give us a date for that - no. First of all, did
15:22:27 20 such an event take place?

21 A. Yes, such an event did take place.

22 Q. Where Liberia's Mosquito, Christopher Varmoh, was paraded
23 before visitors?

24 A. Yeah, that's - yes.

15:22:44 25 Q. Can you help us with a date?

26 A. That's in 2001. In 2001. After Mosquito leaves Liberia,
27 they continue to report that Mosquito has not left Liberia; he is
28 in Liberia. So because they keep hearing that there is a
29 Mosquito in Liberia, so the international press and everybody

1 would say: Look, Sam Bockarie has already left Liberia. The
2 only Mosquito here is this one, what we call Christopher Vambos,
3 because his name was Mosquito from the time we started the
4 Liberian civilian war. So this is in - now we have leapfrogged
15:23:32 5 way into 2001. That's the incident here.

6 Q. "Q. Who showed off Christopher Varmoh?

7 A. It was President Taylor at the time who showed that
8 Christopher Varmoh - because there was continuous
9 accusation that Varmoh - I mean Mosquito - was in Liberia.

15:23:51 10 So he said - he displayed this other Mosquito and said,
11 'This is the Mosquito that I have here.' And he showed
12 Mosquito, and everybody came to see who that Mosquito was.
13 So all the press came. It was a press conference. So all
14 of them came and saw that Mosquito with their own eyes.

15:24:13 15 Q. Did you hear anything about human rights groups and
16 what they were saying?

17 A. Yes. They were saying that we were involved in Sierra
18 Leone - that Taylor was involved in Sierra Leone fighting
19 and killing a lot of people, and all sorts of things were
15:24:27 20 said. This was why Mosquito was shown, that we did not
21 have Mosquito based in Liberia and he was over there in
22 Sierra Leone and not in Liberia.

23 Q. Was Mosquito - Sam Mosquito Bockarie in Liberia?

24 A. No. At that time, no. I had not seen him. I did not
15:24:51 25 know him at that time.

26 Q. When did you see Sam Bockarie after that time?

27 A. After that I can't remember the date and the month. I
28 saw him in Benjamin Yeaten's house on one occasion, and he
29 was introduced to me by Benjamin Yeaten, and he said to me,

1 'This was Mosquito.' Then I said, 'Oh, is this the man
2 they have been looking for?' and we all laughed. We
3 laughed. 'But he looks like a real Mosquito', I said. So
4 we laughed over it, and that was the first time I saw him.

15:25:25 5 Q. And did Mr Bockarie say anything to you?

6 A. No, he only greeted me as a chief. I was introduced to
7 him and then he said, 'Chief, how are you? I am Mosquito
8 and I am your son.' I said, 'All right, you are my son, I
9 agree.' We shook hand and then I left.

15:25:43 10 Q. This meeting that you had, was this during the time
11 that Taylor was President of Liberia, or before he was
12 President of Liberia?

13 A. He was President at the time."

14 Mr Taylor, was Moses Blah in Lome for the peace talks in
15:26:05 15 1999?

16 A. No. No, Moses was not there. Not to my - no. No, Moses
17 was not there. Not to my knowledge.

18 Q. Very well. Let's have a look at this same page, 9874, line
19 19:

15:26:37 20 "Q. Were elections ever organised?

21 A. Yes, the election was organised later. Later there was
22 an election and at this time everybody took part, and they
23 saw it and President Taylor won in 1997.

24 Q. Did you ever travel anywhere with Taylor during that
15:26:56 25 time that the seven-member government was in effect?

26 A. Yes, I travelled that one time to Togo, and when I went
27 to Togo there was a little bit of confusion again from the
28 RUF and we had to go to Togo, and Foday Sankoh was there.
29 The President of Togo was there. The President of Togo was

1 there and intervened to bring peace to that country, and
2 they wanted President Taylor to be there, and he was there
3 also to take part in that committee."

4 What do you know about that?

15:27:31 5 A. No, Moses was nowhere in Togo. Nowhere in Togo. All the
6 pictures we had, is there any Blah in any of those pictures?
7 Moses Blah was never in Togo. The people that accompanied me to
8 Togo, the most senior person that - remember now, what is Moses
9 Blah's position in 1999? He is ambassador to Libya.

15:27:57 10 Q. But let's go back and see what the question was.

11 A. Okay. So what does he have to do with this peace?
12 Nothing.

13 Q. Let's go back, Mr Taylor. The question, line 23, look
14 carefully: "Before we go up to that date ..." That's 1997, the
15:28:18 15 election. So before 1997, "... during the time that this
16 seven-member government was in effect, did you ever travel
17 anywhere with Taylor during that time?"

18 So he is saying when that seven-member government - prior
19 to the general election in '97 - during that time you travelled
15:28:39 20 to Togo and met, amongst others, Foday Sankoh. Did you?

21 A. Moses is crazy. No. Before the election in 1997 where is
22 Foday Sankoh? Locked up in jail. Remember now, Foday Sankoh is
23 arrested in Nigeria in early 1997. So therefore then, 1996,
24 Foday Sankoh goes to Ivory Coast, okay, and not to Togo, for an
15:29:16 25 agreement that he signs with Tejan Kabbah --

26 Q. In November?

27 A. In November. So Moses slips a whole lot of these things,
28 unfortunately. But the only time Foday Sankoh ever comes out of
29 Sierra Leone, based on all of the evidence before this Court, is

1 in 1996, when he goes to Abidjan for the agreement. From there
2 he goes to Nigeria, arrested, he is in jail. So before - in
3 fact, I put it all the way back to 1996. There is no such thing
4 as a meeting in Togo. Moses has just got it mixed up. I guess
15:29:59 5 he is confused. That's the best I can say. But I think there is
6 sufficient evidence before this Court to suggest that there is no
7 Sierra Leonean peace discussions in Togo that I am involved in
8 until July 1999 and Moses Blah is not present. He is ambassador
9 to Libya at this time. No, I think he has got it all wrong.
15:30:25 10 It's not true.

11 Q. But let's go on, Mr Taylor. The next question he is asked
12 is this. So he says that and at that point Mr Rapp says:

13 "Q. Let's not talk about that. Any times you travelled
14 with Taylor during the period of time of the seven member
15:30:49 15 government in Liberia?

16 A. No, no, never.

17 Q. You said Taylor was one of the seven in the
18 government?"

19 And then he goes on to ask about the specific role.

15:31:04 20 A. I disagree that there was a seven member government in
21 Liberia, but if that's what Rapp says. There was never a seven
22 member government in Liberia. It was a six man Council of State,
23 so I disagree with Rapp.

24 Q. Okay. But in any event, just so that we are clear, because
15:31:21 25 on the face of the transcript there appears to be some confusion
26 here. Whilst you were a member - in the pre-1997 election
27 period, Mr Taylor, when you were a member of what you say was the
28 six man Council of State, yes, did you travel to Togo to see
29 Foday Sankoh; yes or no?

1 A. No.

2 Q. When you did go to Togo in 1999 July, did Moses Blah go
3 with you?

4 A. No, he was in Libya.

15:31:55 5 Q. Thank you. Now, Mr Blah goes on to describe the membership
6 of that committee and when we go on to page 9876, he tells us
7 this, line 4:

8 "It was ECOMOG troops and everybody had ECOMOG assigned to
9 them, every head of government at that time.

15:32:21 10 Q. Were there other security?

11 A. They had their own, their own personal securities.
12 They had their own security guards and ECOMOG was also
13 there to reinforce."
14 Is that true?

15:32:33 15 A. Oh, yes, that's true.

16 Q. "Q. Were there any problems with Taylor's security?" And
17 then he goes on to describe at line 13 an attack upon you by
18 Roosevelt Johnson's group, an attempt to attack and assassinate
19 you, and how one General Jackson was killed in the process.

15:32:56 20 Now we have dealt with that so we won't take any great deal
21 of time with that, Mr Taylor, but we will move on to the
22 election. You will note that at page 9877 that particular phrase
23 "You killed my ma, you killed my Pa, but I will vote for you" is
24 again the topic of examination-in-chief by lead counsel for the
15:33:29 25 Prosecution, Mr Rapp:

26 "Q. Do you remember any slogans that were used by the NPP
27 supporters?

28 A. Yes, during campaigns - during campaigns we had slogans
29 that we shared for Taylor to become President. Like we

1 said - like the one I recall, 'You killed my mum, you
2 killed my father and I will vote for him.' So that is one
3 that I can remember.

4 Q. What did that mean?

15:33:56 5 A. That meant that whether you had done anything to me
6 during the past, I wouldn't mind it. I will vote for you
7 still. I will bring you to a presidency. I will cheer you
8 up.

9 Q. Well, how did that persuade people to vote for you?

15:34:13 10 A. Well, it was said by mostly our fighters, our fighters
11 were involved, and other Liberian citizens too, and all of
12 them were singing it. It was now a big slogan in Liberia,
13 'You killed my mother, you killed my father, I will vote
14 for you.' It was almost a song, so everybody was singing
15 it. Everybody else until he became President."

16 Pressed still further by Mr Rapp:

17 "Q. I am trying to get the things clearly and it may be a
18 problem with the translation."

19 A. No problem.

15:34:50 20 Q. Pardon?

21 A. No, no, I am listening to you.

22 Q. "... he all you killed. Would you repeat the slogan again?

23 A. Well, no, it was a general term, if you killed my
24 mother and if you killed my father, I will still vote for
15:35:02 25 you. They were not calling a particular person's name, but
26 it was just a saying from the NPP group. They said, 'If
27 you killed my mother, if you killed my father, I will still
28 vote for you.' It was generally said. It was not directed
29 to a particular person."

1 Finally the topic is dropped. Then he goes on to say that
2 he was appointed Liberian ambassador to Libya and Tunisia. Is
3 that right?

4 A. That is correct.

15:35:33 5 Q. And do you recall now, Mr Taylor, how long he stayed in
6 that post?

7 A. Yeah, for about - well, I would say until Enoch's death and
8 I would accept that that's - I would put it to late '99, early
9 2000. But he stayed there throughout that period, from about I
10 would say the beginning of '98.

15:36:01

11 Q. Okay. Now he says this - he was asked this question, line
12 21, page 9878:

13 "Q. During the course of your ambassadorship, did you meet
14 with Gaddafi?

15:36:41

15 A. Yes, on several occasions, when it was necessary. When
16 there was any instruction for me to meet him I would meet
17 him.

18 Q. Did Gaddafi provide Libya with any assistance?

19 A. Yes, on some occasions he provided me with a jeep - he
20 provided him with a jeep that he was riding in his
21 presidency, a bulletproof jeep, a Mercedes jeep, and that I
22 knew about and some other assistance for some time. It was
23 not actually a big contribution, but he was ensuring that
24 he protected his presidency."

15:37:04

25 Did Gaddafi give you a bulletproof jeep, Mr Taylor?

15:37:22

26 A. Yes, he did.

27 Q. "Q. Did he provide other forms of assistance other than
28 vehicles?

29 A. Yes, he did that. At one time he provided the NPP

1 government with some consignment of crude oil, at least to
2 be sold and the proceeds to go to at least the military
3 hardware, police uniforms and some other things that I know
4 about, but I wouldn't know all the assistance that we were
15:37:58 5 given, but the ones that I was supposed to know, I know
6 them."

7 Is that true?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. A consignment of crude oil from Libya?

15:38:11 10 A. Not a consignment. What happened - you know, if we go
11 through all the details with Moses he doesn't really know. Like
12 I could have objected, he said - the transcript here says he gave
13 Libya something, in the lines there. There are a lot of little
14 things that you know we can't just - but I think for the sake of
15:38:32 15 the record, even though you asked me did I receive a jeep, yes,
16 but the transcript said that Gaddafi gave Libya some things. And
17 so, I mean, the transcript is - I am sure it's an error.

18 But in terms of the crude oil, for the benefit of the
19 Court, you don't get crude. I don't have a refinery in Liberia.
15:38:56 20 What happens is that for assistance you have a certain amount,
21 the government will tell you - will say we will give you a
22 certain amount of tonnage at a discount. And then what you do,
23 it is sold, and the discount becomes yours. They don't send you
24 the crude. But he doesn't know the details and I don't want to
15:39:16 25 hold up the Court, but I will just say, yes, he did make some
26 crude available to us, but you don't get the physical crude. You
27 only get the discount that is from the - let's say if it's Libya
28 has what you call light sweet crude and depending on the
29 prevailing price on the market at a particular day you can sell

1 and then you get the difference. That's what they do.

2 Q. Okay. Now, you noticed that Mr Blah had mentioned military
3 hardware?

4 A. No, he never provided any military hardware.

15:39:54 5 Q. And, of course, Mr Rapp seizes upon that term and asks:

6 "Q. You say military hardware. What kind of military
7 hardware did he provide?

8 A. Like uniform for police, uniform for soldiers at the
9 time and fighting forces at the time, government fighting

15:40:15 10 forces. At that time it was our government and we got what

11 we wanted for our government, ambulances for hospitals, so
12 many things were requested. He gave what he was able to

13 give and sometimes he turned down the request."

14 Is that true, Mr Taylor?

15:40:31 15 A. That is true. But that's --

16 Q. So Gaddafi provided you with uniforms, ambulances. What
17 about military hardware?

18 A. No, and that's why Moses corrects it. Because for me
19 military hardware means guns, arms and different things. No,

15:40:51 20 Gaddafi never provided that. These are what we would call

21 non-lethal paramilitary equipment. Non-lethal equipment, yes.

22 Uniforms, boots, ambulances for the hospitals, yes, he did.

23 Q. Line 19:

24 "Q. Did he give anything to Charles Taylor himself?

15:41:13 25 A. In terms of money, cash money? Sometimes, yes,

26 sometimes he tried to give him some money. When he needed

27 money he will ask that I go to him that he needed money so

28 much, because when he became President there was no money

29 in the treasury. We had just returned from war, so when he

1 needed assistance he asked for it and when it was available
2 at the time Gaddafi will give it.

3 Q. Do you remember any occasion being involved in
4 delivering money to Taylor from Gaddafi?

15:41:48 5 A. Yes, at one time he was in South Africa in the
6 hospital. He had gone there for a check-up and he asked
7 that Gaddafi send some money and this money was, I think,
8 about half a million dollars and it was sent across to him
9 in South Africa.

15:42:06 10 Q. Did his level of support remain consistent during the
11 time you were ambassador?

12 A. There was - things were not going well. He said he was
13 under treasure, he couldn't do this, he couldn't do that
14 and President Taylor himself got fed up because there were
15 a lot of promises. Every time he promised, he would not do
16 it and the relationship was not too good at that time."

17 Pause. Firstly, did Gaddafi give you cash money,
18 Mr Taylor?

19 A. Yes, in the South Africa situation, yes, but not where he
15:42:51 20 says here. Yes, he did.

21 Q. When you were in South Africa for that check-up, did you
22 receive money from Gaddafi?

23 A. Yes, I did.

24 Q. Was it half a million dollars?

15:43:00 25 A. No, it was not.

26 Q. How much was it?

27 A. About \$100,000 through the embassy down there.

28 Q. Through the embassy?

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. Did you express dissatisfaction about Gaddafi's generosity
2 to Moses Blah as suggested in the second answer I read out?

3 A. His generosity to Blah?

4 Q. No, no. The answer beginning at line 6?

15:43:29 5 A. Well, his generosity to Liberia?

6 Q. Yes. "He said he was under pressure, he couldn't do this,
7 he couldn't do that and President Taylor himself got fed up
8 because there were a lot of promises" - in effect promises that
9 were not good and so consequently your relationship with Gaddafi
10 deteriorated. Is that true?

15:43:49

11 A. This is one ambassador. Let me put it this way: There
12 were some diplomatic snares between Libya and Liberia, and I
13 would say that there was some deterioration in relationship, yes.

14 Q. And then this, line 19:

15:44:27

15 "Q. Did you provide Gaddafi with news about or with a
16 message with regard to Mr Taylor's attitude about him
17 during this time period?

18 A. No, I did not. To be exact, I didn't tell Gaddafi
19 Taylor wasn't happy. The message came from Gaddafi to
20 Taylor through me that he said, 'Please tell your President
21 that I am not happy because he is not doing according to
22 the revolution.' And there were even particular occasions
23 when he said that he shouldn't go close to Foday Sankoh.
24 And he never wanted him to associate himself with Foday
25 Sankoh. He was not happy. If he did that he would not be
26 happy, and I told Taylor that. Gaddafi wasn't happy with
27 Foday Sankoh and that Taylor shouldn't associate with Foday
28 Sankoh, but he didn't say the reason why?"

15:44:48

15:45:05

29 Did Blah pass on such a message from Gaddafi to you,

1 Mr Taylor?

2 A. Let me see if I can remember the very content of the
3 discussion. Blah did tell me that Gaddafi did not like the
4 Sankoh situation. He did mention that to me, because Sankoh was
15:45:54 5 not a revolutionary, and my response was that there was nothing
6 that I was - that I would do. What he was trying to do, after
7 hearing the news reports that we are helping Sierra Leone,
8 Gaddafi is saying, "Advise him not to do it. This guy is not a
9 revolutionary. He doesn't have any credentials." And my reply

15:46:17 10 is, "That's only the news. I would not help him because I cannot
11 help myself." This was the discussion.

12 Q. So there was such an exchange?

13 A. Exactly.

14 Q. Was it after you had become President?

15:46:26 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Now, Mr Blah goes on at page 9882 at line 22 to inform us
17 that he was ambassador for three years.

18 "Q. And after being ambassador, did you move to another
19 position?

15:46:57 20 A. Yes, I became Vice-President when Enoch Dogolea died.
21 When the former Vice-President died, then I became
22 Vice-President in his place."

23 Now, let's deal with another topic in relation to Mr Blah,
24 shall we? Now, he describes how, whilst in Libya, he would spend
15:47:43 25 June, July, August in Liberia because of the weather - I am
26 looking at page 9897 - and he says how he would return to Liberia
27 in the winter months when it was cold. Then he goes on to
28 mention this. He is asked this question:

29 "Q. Do you know where the weapons went from the airport?

1 A. It was off-loaded. And usually I wouldn't be there
2 when it was off-loaded. But I know - as a member of NPFL,
3 I knew where the weapons went when they were off-loaded.
4 Well, I was not at the scene, but usually when weapons were
15:49:00 5 received and when I was at the airport, I would be at White
6 Flower, it goes straight to Mr Taylor's house and at the
7 back of his house there was a place underground where the
8 weapons were kept all the time."

9 Where is that place, Mr Taylor?

15:49:19 10 A. I have no idea. I have no idea. There was never then, nor
11 is there an underground there. If there were - I can see why the
12 Americans went and searched my property looking for Moses Blah
13 lying underground. There got a search warrant twice. They have
14 been on my property two times.

15:49:40 15 Q. How many times have they been on the --

16 A. My property in Monrovia at White Flower has been searched
17 twice.

18 Q. Who by?

19 A. The first search was under - what do you call it? A search
15:49:52 20 warrant from the Special Court of Sierra Leone.

21 Q. What year was that?

22 A. I was in Nigeria. I forgot the year. That's about, I
23 would say, 2002 - no, no, no excuse me, 2002. 2004 or 2005.
24 2004. I would put it to 2004.

15:50:12 25 Q. So they searched your property?

26 A. My entire property was searched. In fact, documents from
27 my property are still being held by the Court - the Special
28 Court. The second time was last year while I was incarcerated
29 here. This was accompanied by officials from the United States

1 embassy in Monrovia, and my property was searched for the second
2 time. There was no underground on that property. If it was so,
3 they would have told you. That's a lie. There is not one
4 whole - even a little truth - on my property. That's a lie.

15:50:48 5 Q. Well, Mr Taylor, Mr Blah is not the only witness who has
6 spoken of such a thing. You will recall other witnesses claiming
7 there was a cave at the back of White Flower where arms were
8 kept. Are you sure there wasn't?

9 A. Well, like I say, the Court - this Special Court has
15:51:07 10 searched the property. The Americans got a warrant. In dealing
11 with my son's trial in the United States, they went back last
12 year and searched the property. There is no cave, hole, nothing
13 on that property. They have been through it through and through.

14 Q. And over the page at page 9898 he is asked to explain what
15:51:38 15 was White Flower:

16 "White Flower was the code name for the residence of
17 President Taylor."

18 Line 11:

19 "Wheresoever he stayed, whether it was in Gbarnga or
15:51:55 20 anywhere else, anywhere he stayed it was called White Flower.
21 That was the code name of his residence."

22 Now, that accords with what you've told us.

23 A. That is correct, yes.

24 Q. That wherever you were, that is White Flower, yes? That's
15:52:09 25 the code name?

26 A. That is correct.

27 Q. And then he goes on to describe at line 18, for
28 completeness, he is in his old house where the Chinese embassy's
29 ambassador is right now. Is that true? Line 18, page 9898.

1 A. Yes. Well, he calls it the second, but I lived at - that
2 was - I lived at that residence, yes, up until 1999, yes, but --

3 Q. And then he goes on: "When he built his new house and he
4 moved to Upper Congo Town"?

15:52:55 5 A. That is correct.

6 Q. "There also was called White Flower"?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Jump to line 26:

9 "Q. When you talk about the White Flower where there was a
10 hole in back for the weapons, which location are you
11 talking about?

12 A. It was at the back of this building. And there was an
13 underground, a very large place, but it was underground in
14 the building. And so when the weapons were received, there
15 was a storage there, or any war like material. Not at that
16 particular position and at that time, but at any time
17 weapons were received they were stored there. That was
18 where we went to receive them."

19 So, Mr Taylor, tell me: When you were using your swimming
15:53:22 20 pool, were you swimming on top of a load of war material?

21 A. No, no, there's nothing. No hole, nothing.

22 Q. Because there is a tennis court at the back, as we saw in
23 the video and the photographs, and then a swimming pool,
24 underneath all of that was there bombs and ammunition and the
15:54:00 25 like stored?

26 A. No. No. I don't know how they could have missed it,
27 because the search that was conducted by the Special Court
28 through asking for that search warrant, the United Nations
29 military forces participated in that entire search of the

1 property. There were people - they know that property better
2 than I know it now, because they were the last to be there.
3 There is no such thing on that property. And I do not
4 understand, for the life of me, how people make up these kinds of
15:54:36 5 stories. I do not understand it. I mean, it - I do not
6 understand it. My life is just swinging in the balance on these
7 lies. There is no such thing, counsel. Two groups have been
8 there: The Court have been there, and then the other people went
9 there too. There is no such thing. Never was, never is now.

15:55:02 10 Q. Now, before we move on, Mr Taylor, let us just recap.

11 Moses Blah starts off as your inspector general?

12 A. Uh-huh.

13 Q. Following the election he becomes ambassador to Libya?

14 A. Yes.

15:55:20 15 Q. And help us. In terms of importance, and given the
16 historical link between yourself and Libya, how important was
17 that role as ambassador to Libya?

18 A. I considered it a very important role.

19 Q. And he leaves from there after three years whilst on - in
15:55:55 20 January/February - in certain - spending three months or so a
21 year in Liberia, he comes back to be Vice-President. Yes?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. How important a role does the Vice-President have,
24 Mr Taylor?

15:56:12 25 A. The Vice-President has an important role. Our constitution
26 is modelled - and let me just add something. Maybe Moses is
27 counting the half year of 1997 as a year, but there is some
28 disagreement I have with three years. I think it's two and a
29 half. Having said that, our constitution is modelled after that

1 of the United States. The roles are the same. The
2 Vice-President stands - he is President of the Senate. The
3 Vice-President takes over in case of the death or incapacity of
4 the President and all of the trappings that are related to the
15:57:07 5 presidency in case of death or inability to function. Like I
6 say, he serves as President of the Senate, and really he is a
7 close working companion of the President.

8 Q. Now, the reason I ask, Mr Taylor, is this: When we look at
9 the middle of page 9899, Mr Blah is asked this blunt question,
15:57:35 10 line 14:

11 Q. Now, did you know of any shipments of arms or were
12 you - did you have any knowledge of shipments of arms from
13 Liberia to Sierra Leone?

14 A. No, I wouldn't know."

15:57:53 15 Mr Taylor, if your government was shipping arms to Sierra
16 Leone, would Blah have known?

17 A. Yes, the Vice-President would know. Of course he would
18 know.

19 Q. Can you contemplate any scenario where your government
15:58:14 20 would be sending arms to Sierra Leone, arms which, given the
21 nature of the allegation you face, originate in Libya and enter
22 Liberia from Burkina Faso - that appears to be the suggestion -
23 can you contemplate any situation where your ambassador in Libya
24 who is speaking to Gaddafi, who later becomes Vice-President,
15:58:45 25 wouldn't know about arms being shipped to Sierra Leone? Can you
26 help us?

27 A. Yes, I can help you. Well, there are two scenarios here.
28 In any case, he would know at some point along the line, first
29 instance. He is ambassador in Libya. If arms are sent from

1 Libya designated for Sierra Leone through Liberia, he would
2 definitely know because that - the whole arrangement would have
3 to be channeled through him and he would have to say to this
4 Court: Well, arms were given for Sierra Leone and sent to
15:59:26 5 Liberia. He would not be able to say whether they went or not.
6 I give him that benefit of the doubt. On the second hand, he
7 becomes Vice-President. He would know if any weapons went
8 through. He sits on the national security council. He is my
9 closest person.

15:59:44 10 I mean, in the final analysis, before the President takes a
11 final decision, of course you want to do it with at least the
12 acquiescence of the Vice-President. Even if you do not get the
13 acquiescence of the Vice-President, even if this is just what you
14 must do, you will still inform the Vice-President and say, "Well,
16:00:07 15 look, I have listened to your advice, I have listened to
16 everything, here is my decision." And the Vice-President would
17 do, he would support it. In either scenario, he would know. At
18 one point of the - whether it's the upper or lower end of the
19 food chain, he would know.

16:00:30 20 Q. Now he says this, and this is about the arms that are
21 coming into Liberia through the airport:

22 "Q. Now in terms of the security situation that existed at
23 the time these weapons were brought in, do you have any
24 recollection of what the security situation was in Liberia
16:00:50 25 at the time of the shipment that you accompanied?"

26 Remember he told us about a shipment that - where he had
27 gone to Burkina Faso and he brought back the sheep or the goat on
28 the plane, remember? You remember that one?

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. Now in relation to that he says:

2 "Things were getting tense and there were rumours of war.

3 There was ULIMO coming from Guinea - from Guinea and the

4 situation was tense anyway. Everywhere there were rumours of war

16:01:22 5 and at that time the war had not reached Monrovia."

6 When do you think this time period can be, Mr Taylor?

7 A. I would put it to about 2001. Around about the beginning
8 of 2001.

9 Q. Now you notice that the witness refers to ULIMO-J and
16:01:59 10 ULIMO-K in this regard, yes?

11 A. But then - well then, I mean, then that statement - I have
12 to withdraw that statement because there is no ULIMO-J or K while
13 Moses Blah is Vice-President or ambassador.

14 Q. All right. Let's take things in stages. Can you recall an
16:02:25 15 occasion when Moses Blah went to Burkina Faso and came back on
16 board on aeroplane with a consignment of weapons?

17 A. I would put it to --

18 Q. Well, take it in stages. First of all, did such an event
19 take place?

16:02:44 20 A. With Blah? I really, really, really cannot recall
21 Moses - okay, yeah, I think it was around - if I am not mistaken,
22 around 2001 that Moses - when things were very hard, but not with
23 ULIMO. 2001, that Moses went to Burkina Faso when LURD was
24 attacking us very seriously and we had nothing and I sent there
16:03:29 25 to see if we could get some little assistance at that particular
26 time, in 2001.

27 Q. And did he return with some assistance?

28 A. Yes, he came back with some assistance in terms of
29 ammunition.

1 Q. Now help us with this then, Mr Taylor: If you trusted
2 Moses Blah enough to send him to Burkina Faso to fetch arms, why
3 didn't you tell him that you were sending arms over the border to
4 Sierra Leone?

16:03:56 5 A. Moses Blah wasn't informed because I didn't, so there was
6 nothing to tell him. It was because I didn't. Moses Blah was
7 very close to me and that's why - he was very, very close to me.
8 In his position at the time he knew Burkina Faso. In fact Moses
9 speaks a little bit of French, so - and by this time he is
16:04:16 10 Vice-President. So he runs over there because we have a real
11 emergency and there is a very, very small plane and he brings a
12 little bit of ammunition back. But in direct answer to your
13 question, there was no such thing going on, that's why he was
14 never told.

16:04:41 15 Q. And he is asked thereafter at page 9900:
16 "Q. Do you know how this shipment that you came in with
17 was paid for?

18 A. No, I wouldn't know.

19 Q. Do you know how other shipments were paid for?

16:05:27 20 A. No.

21 Q. Now during the time of - during this particular time
22 when you were ambassador, or during the first year or two
23 when you were Vice-President, did you know of any other
24 shipments coming into the airport of arms?

16:05:40 25 A. Yes, I knew about a particular situation when I was
26 Vice-President lately. That was when a huge sum of
27 consignment came and at that time President Taylor had left
28 Liberia and the war was closing in on Liberia and Monrovia
29 and he went - he disappeared. People thought he had run

1 away. Then suddenly he appeared that night and in the
2 morning there was a noise everywhere that a plane landed
3 with large consignment of weapons and it had been seized by
4 the UNMIL forces at the time at the Roberts International
16:06:18 5 Airport."

6 Now, Mr Taylor, do you know anything about that?

7 A. No, I don't know what he is talking about here. There is
8 no UNMIL that seized any arms belonging to me or the Government
9 of Liberia. That is not correct.

16:06:41 10 What I do recall, for the record, is this: In August 2003,
11 before I step down as President, about a week into my - we had
12 gotten a consignment of weapons that was a part of the
13 consignment that I had written the Security Council on. I think
14 that was one of the second to the last consignments that landed
16:07:16 15 at Robertsfield and the peacekeepers had just arrived. These
16 were not - these were Nigerians and because the war was coming to
17 a close, those things were given to the Nigerian contingent that
18 landed at the airport. That's in August 2003. That's recorded
19 in the UN report. There was no UNAMSIL seizing weapons anytime,
16:07:43 20 no.

21 Q. He also goes on to say this - he is asked this at page
22 9901:

23 "Q. Was there ever an arms shipment that came in that
24 might have crashed that you investigated?

16:08:02 25 A. Well, I did not investigate it. But there was a
26 shipment that came in and when it came closer to Roberts
27 International Airport we drove in there and we saw the
28 crash. We saw a rescue mission. But that morning we did
29 not identify from where the crash took place and I was

1 leaving my house from Paynesville off Monrovia. I was out
2 of town. And I saw people yelling everywhere that there
3 was a crash that took place. I took my personal car and I
4 went there. I did not go to investigate to see what was
16:08:33 5 going on."

6 Now, Mr Taylor, was there such an event?

7 A. There was a plane crash in 2002.

8 Q. 2002? Which plane was it?

9 A. It was a chartered plane that was bringing in supplies for
16:08:51 10 us and it crashed.

11 Q. What supplies?

12 A. Arm and ammunition.

13 Q. And it crashed?

14 A. Yes.

16:08:58 15 Q. And that was in 2002?

16 A. 2002, yes.

17 Q. Then he is asked this:

18 "Q. Now these two shipments that came into Roberts airport,
19 the one that crashed and the one that - well, I guess three
16:09:25 20 shipments. The one that you accompanied, then the one at
21 the very end of your vice-presidency. Was any other
22 airport to your knowledge used to receive shipments?

23 A. No, I wouldn't know."

24 Now let's look at that in a little detail. A shipment at
16:09:45 25 the end of his vice-presidency, when did his vice-presidency come
26 to an end, Mr Taylor?

27 A. In about July/August 2003.

28 Q. And when do you say there was a shipment that landed and
29 was handed over to the Nigerians?

1 A. That's the very August in 2003. That's the shipment he is
2 talking about, I am sure.

3 Q. You also accept there was an aircraft which crashed, yes?

4 A. Yes.

16:10:09 5 Q. And you also accept there was an occasion when Blah
6 accompanied a small consignment from Burkina Faso?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Any other arms shipments, Mr Taylor?

9 A. Yes. I have made it very clear, beginning 2001, with the
16:10:31 10 war approaching Monrovia, and I know where Stephen Rapp is going
11 because there is a United Nations Security Council arms embargo,
12 I, Charles Ghankay Taylor, President of the Republic of Liberia,
13 wrote the Security Council and said that according to the United
14 Nations charter, the Security Council had no right under the
16:10:51 15 charter to deny Liberia legitimacy of defence and that Liberia
16 would be ordering arms. We gave the destination, the country,
17 the quantity of arms, which was Serbia, we wrote the
18 Security Council. They went to Serbia and checked that it was
19 true. And we told them that under the charter, and we quoted - I
16:11:12 20 think Article 51 I quoted, that they had - the Security Council
21 has no right to deny any member state legitimacy of defence.

22 And then we said that - we quoted other permanent members
23 of the council that had said they had a right to act on the
24 perception of a threat and that some of those permanent members
16:11:35 25 had acted and that to deny Liberia legitimacy of defence we
26 thought was in violation of the charter and that we would act in
27 line of the charter by informing them and we did. And we brought
28 in weapons in 2001, in 2002 and 2003 for the legitimate
29 self-defence of the Republic of Liberia. I authorised it and

1 that is what happened.

2 Q. The witness was also asked at page 9902, line 24:

3 "Q. When the NPFL controlled, as you said, 90 per cent
4 of Liberia, did shipments come in by air to the NPFL
16:12:23 5 forces?

6 A. No, not that I know of."

7 Did you ever receive any arms and ammunition by air from
8 anyone during that period, Mr Taylor?

9 A. No, no.

16:12:36 10 Q. Now, Mr Taylor, I am going to deal with one or two short
11 matters before we come to the final two areas that I want to
12 cover with you. I think for completeness we ought to give you
13 the opportunity to comment on these. At page 9907, the witness
14 was asked this, line 16:

16:13:05 15 "Q. Perhaps if I ask you what Taylor's relationship was
16 with him" - this is your finance minister.

17 "A. The finance minister in question was a minister of
18 government and on one occasion he wanted - Mr Taylor wanted
19 some money to be disbursed to the Executive Mansion and he
16:13:29 20 refused to do that on the grounds that every money
21 disbursed from the Finance Ministry must be signed for and
22 he became very tough on that. I did not see him discussing
23 it with him - discussed, but he discussed it with me and he
24 said when the President asked me to give him some money and
16:13:49 25 I refused and that he should sign for this money and that
26 whosoever was to receive money was to sign for that money
27 and it was only on that account that the money will be
28 disbursed, after that he lost his job."

29 And the name was that of Nathaniel Barnes. Did you have

1 such a difficulty with your finance minister, Mr Taylor?

2 A. No. Nathaniel Barnes served as my finance minister but he
3 was dismissed for a matter I am sure that Nat Barnes wouldn't
4 want for me to bring before this Court. Nat Barnes was not
16:14:30 5 dismissed because he, quote unquote, refused to give me money.
6 To set the Court - to give some information, Nat Barnes was the
7 third finance minister in my government. The first one was a
8 gentleman called Elie Saleeby who worked many years for the World
9 Bank and IMF. Very, very, very professional individual.

16:14:59 10 Q. Spelling?

11 A. Elie Saleeby. It's a Lebanese name but he is Liberian
12 Lebanese, what we call mulatto, Metis. And he was moved to the
13 Central Bank. And I must say that the Central Bank - I am an
14 economist by profession, and I don't believe in what this board
16:15:23 15 is saying; and the second one was John Bestman; the third was Nat
16 Barnes that was not brought in. To tell you the truth, Nat
17 Barnes was dismissed because of an act of corruption on the part
18 of Mr Barnes, and I don't think I want to get into the details.
19 But he was not dismissed alone: He along with another official.

16:15:47 20 The matter of signing for money. If this was the case where
21 somebody needed money and the finance minister says that somebody
22 had to sign for the money, anybody in my office could have signed
23 for money if it was a money issue. So that is incorrect. And I
24 doubt very much if Nat Barnes told him that, because it would
16:16:08 25 have been very simple. All documents that are processed through
26 the Finance Ministry are processed through a system that we call
27 a voucher. The voucher is processed. It goes through the
28 general accounting office. It goes through a pre- and a
29 post-auditing system. It is processed through the controller's

1 office at the treasury. So no one can just call and ask for
2 money.

3 Secondly, maybe I didn't know about this. We could have
4 even introduced a document. The laws that were introduced during
16:16:49 5 my presidency in setting up the Central Bank of Liberia, all
6 monies - and it may not be too late to introduce it through
7 somebody else - all monies, all finances, cash, which is the
8 accountants' name for money, in the Republic of Liberia, the
9 Finance Ministry does not keep cash. The Central Bank of Liberia
16:17:13 10 is the storage area, is the custodian of all cash, bonds and
11 other things. The only thing that in Finance Ministry - even all
12 taxes collected by the government of Liberia are not kept by the
13 Finance Ministry. So it would be silly for anybody to say that
14 you can just call the finance minister and say, "Give me some
16:17:33 15 cash." Total stupidity on his part.

16 MR GRIFFITHS: Can I pause for a spelling, Mr President?
17 Elie Saleeby, E-L-I-E, S-A-L-E-E-B-Y.

18 Q. Mr Taylor, who is Talal El-Ndine?

19 A. I know a Talal El-dine [phon]. So maybe they may be
16:18:07 20 speaking about the same person, but we are in a court of law.

21 Q. Page 9911, please?

22 A. I don't know this person mentioned here. I know a Talal
23 El-dine.

24 Q. All right. On the basis that this may be an error of
16:18:24 25 spelling, the person you know, who is he?

26 A. Talal El-dine is an American - a Lebanese American who, if
27 I am not mistaken, was born and raised in Liberia and served as a
28 businessman and a very good friend of mine. Very good friend of
29 mine. He had long before - in fact, during the administration of

1 Late President Samuel Doe, Tal al El-dine had a supermarket chain
2 in Liberia. He had the only flour mill in Liberia. He was a
3 very big businessman before the NPFL initial incursion into
4 Liberia. We met him in Buchanan. I met him in Buchanan for the
16:19:15 5 first time in about July 1990. For the first time that I met
6 him, he was in Buchanan. He is a friend of mine.

7 Q. Now, Mr Blah was asked this at page 9911.

8 "Q. Were you familiar with a gentleman with the name Tal al
9 Lel Ndine?

16:19:43 10 A. I know Tal al Lel Ndine. He was a friend of the
11 President. I didn't see him bring money, but I knew that
12 he was very close to the President.

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

14 A. Tal al had one business. He was involved in fisheries,
16:20:02 15 fishery company. Tal al was involved in building materials.
16 Tal al was involved in a lot of different businesses in
17 Liberia. He had people working under him. He was just a
18 big boss. And I only knew him to be Tal al, the friend of
19 the President. A friend of Taylor, sorry. He was involved
16:20:23 20 in building materials, he was involved in a fishing
21 company. He was involved in a loft business that I cannot
22 count now off the top of my head."

23 Now, Mr Taylor, in order to forestall any future reference,
24 was there any corruption relationship between you and that
16:20:44 25 American Liberia businessman?

26 A. No. In fact, Stephen Rapp, I am sure, has met Tal al
27 El-dine. He is an American. He is travelling up and down.
28 They've interviewed him ten, twenty times in Lebanon, in the
29 United States. Tal al El-dine was a businessman long before the

1 NPFL came, and a very big one. It is customary in - across the
2 length and breadth of most Africa countries - there is not one
3 major businessman in any country almost in Africa that is not at
4 least an acquaintance of the President. Nothing corrupt about it.

16:21:23 5 He is a friend of mine. I would never deny it to my death. He's
6 a very good friend of mine. Nothing corrupt about it. I
7 wouldn't deny it.

8 Q. Was he providing you with money on the side, Mr Taylor?

9 A. No, he supported the - he is a Liberian. He has dual
16:21:38 10 citizenship. He supported the NPP. He was on the ground. Like
11 I say, from about July 1990 throughout the war Talal was in
12 Liberia in the NPFL area. He, Moses, knows him very well. But
13 nothing like giving me money or something, no.

14 Q. Well, let's look at another possible suggestion. Was he
16:22:03 15 getting preferential treatments?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Soft contracts, or anything like that because of this
18 friendship, Mr Taylor?

19 A. No, there was not one contract that was ever awarded to
16:22:17 20 Talal during my presidency, and I challenge anyone to bring me
21 anything to the contrary. Not one contract with the Government
22 of Liberia. Like I say, he was a businessman before the NPFL
23 came in, and he remained a businessman. He talks about
24 fisheries. He had this fishery before I became President. He
16:22:36 25 was involved in the supermarket business. He had supermarkets in
26 Buchanan, in Nimba. Nothing. But during my presidency I
27 challenge anyone to bring one instance that there was a contract
28 awarded by my government to Talal. Never.

29 MR GRIFFITHS: A spelling, Mr President - and this is taken

1 from the 2000 UN panel of experts' report - T-A-L-A-L, separate
2 word, E-L, hyphen, N-D-I-N-E.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you.

4 MR GRIFFITHS:

16:23:27 5 Q. Another detail, Mr Taylor. Now, Mr Blah told us at page
6 9912 that in a meeting with President Gaddafi in Libya, line 11:
7 "Gaddafi wanted to know whether the men who had trained
8 with me were in government positions in high places, and he said:
9 'You, I know you. You are an ambassador. What about the other
16:24:02 10 men that were here in training?' So I said, as for me I was
11 already an ambassador. Tiagen Wantee was an ambassador in Guinea
12 and things were going fine. There were other people working in
13 various places."

14 Now, I mention that for this reason. Tiagen Wantee: Is
16:24:25 15 this the same ambassador who sent the letter in August 1998?

16 A. Tiagen Wantee, yes, the same ambassador.

17 Q. And is the spelling of name there correct?

18 A. Yes, that's it. Tiagen Wantee, W-A-N-T-E-E, yes.

19 Q. The witness thereafter, Mr Taylor, was shown - do you
16:24:53 20 remember that - you and I have looked at that, the list of
21 special force that is trained in Libya, yes?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. He was shown that list and he was taken through the list to
24 explain why the symbol "X" appeared next to some of the names.

16:25:10 25 Do you recall that?

26 A. Yes, I do.

27 Q. Now, let's just go through these names so that you can
28 provide your account as to what happened to these named
29 individuals. And this particular phase of his

1 examination-in-chief commenced at page 9914, line 26:

2 "A. Those Xs, as inspector general I put those Xs on the
3 name. I, Moses Blah.

16:25:48

4 Q. The first person that has an X is the second
5 individual, Cooper Miller, there is an X. What happened to
6 him?

16:26:02

7 A. Cooper Miller was a first commander, you can see down
8 there. He was the first commander. When we were in
9 training he said that when Taylor was not on the base for a
10 very long time he decided to change the name of the
11 organisation and become the head of this organisation. He
12 influenced a lot of the fighting men, the trainees, that he
13 was now the head of this organisation and nobody should
14 take orders from Taylor any more. But then among the group

16:26:21

15 Taylor had security people implanted in the group, then he
16 got this information and he rushed to base and set up an
17 investigation. Cooper was guilty of doing that with some
18 few others, so Cooper was arrested and taken out of the
19 base to Burkina Faso. There was Cooper and Augustus

16:26:40

20 Wright. They were taken to Burkina Faso. They were taken
21 to Burkina Faso and the intention of taking them Burkina
22 Faso was that you would be there and you will not be able
23 to - nothing will be done to you. You will not be able to
24 go to Liberia. We should have gone to Liberia and fought.

16:26:59

25 He would release them and bring them to Monrovia. They
26 were dangerous to the organisation. But later, as the war
27 went on between Prince Johnson and us, these men surfaced
28 on Prince Johnson's bill. The first man, Cooper Miller, he
29 had a clash with our boys and he was killed. He was

1 executed there on Prince Johnson's base. The second man,
2 Augustus Wright, was also executed in LAMCO Yekepa, where
3 he had gone to see Mr Taylor. He went in the place where
4 Mr Taylor was with arms on him. He was searched by
16:27:40 5 security men. They discovered a pistol on him, and he
6 should not have carried an arm where Mr Taylor was without
7 authority. He was then executed too."

8 True or false?

9 A. False. Cooper Miller joined Prince Johnson.

10 Q. Yes?

11 A. And on Prince Johnson's base, he and Prince Johnson had
12 their problems. That had nothing to do with the NPFL. Augustus
13 Wright --

14 Q. What happened to him though, Cooper Miller?

16:28:13 15 A. He was killed on Prince Johnson's base.

16 Q. By whom?

17 A. By Prince Johnson people. I am not sure if that's what he
18 is trying to explain.

19 In the case of Augustus Wright, Augustus Wright was - I
16:28:28 20 mean, did have a pistol and tried to kill me. He was arrested
21 and tried and executed, yes.

22 Q. When you say he tried to kill you, how close did he get?

23 A. Very close. He got close enough that if he had gotten a
24 good shoot, he would have hit me.

16:28:44 25 Q. So you agree he was executed?

26 A. Oh, yes.

27 Q. Now, the names that I am referring to, Mr Taylor, are taken
28 from Prosecution exhibit P-116 - 16, yes?

29 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. That's just for a general reference. Now --

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just before you go on, I am just
3 cautioning you you have less than two minutes. So if you are
4 starting a long --

16:29:38 5 MR GRIFFITHS: I think it might be easier if we were to
6 conclude now. Mr President, can I take the opportunity to give
7 your Honours an update so far as timing is concerned.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes.

9 MR GRIFFITHS: This is the final witness whose evidence I
16:29:52 10 will be going through. Thereafter, we have a bit of tidying up
11 to do but I anticipate that I should be able to conclude by
12 Monday - hopefully early Monday - at the latest.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: All right. Thank you. We are going to
14 adjourn now. Mr Taylor, I remind you there is an order in place
16:30:15 15 that you are not to discuss your evidence.

16 We will adjourn until 9.30 tomorrow morning.

17 [Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 4.30 p.m.
18 to be reconvened on Wednesday, 4 November 2009
19 at 9.30 a.m.]

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I N D E X

WITNESSES FOR THE DEFENCE:

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EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR GRIFFITHS	30932