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TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION OF LIBERIA
DIASPORA PROJECT

PUBLIC HEARING
HAMLIN UNIVERSITY
June 13, 2008
St. Paul, Minnesota

TESTIMONY OF
SAMUEL KALONGO LUO

- TRC Commissioners:
 - Chairman Jerome Verdier
 - Vice Chairperson Dede Dolopei
 - Oumu Syllah
 - Sheikh Kafumba Konneh
 - Pearl Brown Bull
 - Rev. Gerald Coleman
 - John H.T. Stewart
 - Massa Washington

- Court Reporter:
 - Sherri Flagg, RPR, CLR

1 The following proceedings were had and made of
2 record, commencing at approximately 9:30 a.m.

3 * * *

4 HEARING OFFICER TEAYAH: Good morning, Ladies and
5 Gentlemen. I want to say welcome again to the TRC public
6 hearings this morning. To officially begin the hearings,
7 shall we all stand to observe a few moments of silent
8 meditation.

9 (There was a brief pause.)

10 HEARING OFFICER TEAYAH: Thank you very much.
11 Please be seated.

12 Okay, our first witness this morning is Samuel
13 Kalongo Luo. Welcome. Shall we rise once more for the
14 demonstration of the oath. Will you raise your right hand.

15 * * *

16 SAMUEL KALONGO LUO,
17 being first duly sworn to tell the truth
18 testified as follows:

19 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Good morning,
20 Mr. Witness.

21 THE WITNESS: Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen.

22 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: We are pleased to
23 receive you today at the TRC. I want to tell you thanks for
24 coming, volunteering to share your experiences with us. The
25 forum of the TRC is intended for us Liberians to examine our

1 past by sharing experiences in the hope that we can learn
2 lessons from the past so that together we can find a solution
3 how to move forward.

4 As you know, in our tradition we say you sit on
5 the old mat to plant the new one.

6 THE WITNESS: That's it.

7 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Yeah. So that is
8 basically what these processes are all about. Individually
9 we have our own experiences, but putting all the bits and
10 pieces together will help us to understand why we had this
11 conflict in the first place, what went wrong, and then we can
12 collectively decide how to proceed. So we are grateful that
13 you have come and we say welcome again.

14 We say welcome to you who have waited a little
15 over ten minutes before our late commencement. Please do
16 accept our apologies for this. We'll make sure that the
17 situations that warranted this will not happen again.

18 Mr. Witness, I will use this time to introduce the
19 Commissioners. Following that, you will say a little bit
20 about yourself based upon brief questions we ask, and then
21 you proceed into your testimony.

22 The Commissioner on the extreme left is
23 Commissioner Pearl Brown Bull. Next to her is Commissioner
24 Gerald Coleman. Next to him is Commissioner Dede Dolopei,
25 Commissioner Massa Washington at my immediate right,

1 Commissioner John Stewart and Commissioner Oumu Syllah. I'm
2 Jerome Verdier.

3 Can you kindly repeat your name for us.

4 THE WITNESS: My name is Samuel Kalongo Luo.

5 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Samuel Kalongo Luo.

6 Your date of birth, please.

7 THE WITNESS: December 4, 1934.

8 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Vocation? What do you
9 do?

10 THE WITNESS: I used to -- I did agriculture in my
11 civilian life, but after that I joined the army April 1961.

12 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Okay. Where do you
13 reside currently in the U.S.?

14 THE WITNESS: Presently I live in Brooklyn Park,
15 6725 - 78th Avenue North.

16 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: And when did you migrate
17 to the U.S.?

18 THE WITNESS: I came in America December 29, 1985.

19 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Thank you very much for
20 that. We say thanks and please proceed now.

21 THE WITNESS: So I can proceed?

22 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Yes, sir.

23 THE WITNESS: Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm really
24 happy to be here this morning. I think this is a time for us
25 to come together and share our problems with one another.

1 I joined the Liberian government 1961, April,
2 as private, a graduate from BWI, which were contrary because
3 those days the proceeding was when you are a BWI graduate,
4 you should be -- come in as second lieutenant. But I was
5 denied because my name were Kalongo Luo.

6 But as time go by, they let Mr. Togba, who was a
7 secretary to Grizby, Badeley (ph) Grizby. When I told him,
8 he went to Grizby and told Grizby, he say, "One fellow here
9 from Nimba County, his name is Kalongo Luo, but he's a BWI
10 graduate. So why you say that he is in the army as private?"

11 Fortunately for me Grizby was very, very nice. He
12 called most of our top brasses. He told them, he say, "This
13 fellow is a BWI graduate and all the other BWI graduates
14 entering the army, they enter here as second lieutenant. Why
15 is it that he is a private? So I would like for you to fill
16 a commission for him to become second lieutenant." And that
17 very day they filled in commission and told them to wait
18 until I'm commission before they could be released to go
19 home. And I were happy.

20 And I went to Congo 1962 as U.S. -- United Nations
21 peacekeeping force. I were there for six months. I came
22 back to Liberia 1963. January I were recruited by one Connor
23 David from here in U.S., Connor David, from here to Liberia.
24 He who went there and recruited some Liberians and who were
25 -- I was one of those. And he went to Nigeria, he went to

1 Congo, he went to Tunisia. And we all came in 1963 and met
2 with 44,000 American recruits who went to Fort Dix for basic
3 training. From there -- we were here for one year. We went
4 back to Liberia.

5 I'm saying all of this because I want to let
6 you people know what happened, our problems in Liberia,
7 because when you suffer for something, you should enjoy it.
8 But some of us suffer for some things we did not enjoyed
9 because we were called "country boy." Liberia is a country
10 that all of you sitting down there know it. We are peaceful
11 people. Nowhere in Liberia those days (INAUDIBLE) you would
12 go anywhere and enter the country or enter the town, you
13 would not be treated like you are from that area. What
14 happening now, it never used to be like that before.

15 So I'm trying to say that our problem in Liberia
16 is because of our own attitude. It not from Nigeria, it not
17 from Congo, it not from Ivory Coast. It's because of our own
18 attitude, the unfairness that went on in Liberia that were
19 causing our problem today.

20 So when I came from Congo, I went back -- I -- in
21 fact, when I came from America here, I went back to Liberia,
22 we were selected to train the other people, and that what we
23 were doing with Victor Stewart in Schefflin. We were on
24 there until I was commissioned by the late Tolbert as
25 captain.

1 Now, when Tolbert got assassinated by a group
2 of soldiers, who Doe was the president at that time, I was
3 not in Monrovia when Tolbert was assassinated; I was in Lofa
4 Bridge diamond mine trying to look for money for my family
5 and myself. But during those day when the solders go to this
6 area, we would do our own thing. That is, we get civilian
7 young men to come and dig for us.

8 So in the interim, it was my time to supervise
9 the work that day, and then midnight we start digging the
10 gravel, and then we will share it. The man who is the
11 supervisor will divide the gravel. And it was my time and
12 Doe came. Doe came 2:00 midnight. He went -- he came right
13 behind me and say, "Captain Luo, please help me." I say,
14 "What happened?" He say, "Please get me some gravel." I
15 say, "Who that?" He say: "My man, you hear?" So I took
16 five bag of gravel. I say, "Take it." Delit Pettiqua, he
17 was captain, too, and some other officers who were there
18 plenty.

19 So they told me, they say, "Well, Captain Luo, how
20 you going to give the man a whole five bag of gravel and the
21 man's just coming?" So I told them: "Gentlemen, all of us
22 be here for a long time. You look in your pocket, you've got
23 something in the pocket. That is, we've been making money
24 there. So the man's just coming? Why you talking,
25 quarreling with me for giving him five bags?" I say, "Massa

1 Sahe, this is damn talk. Get people to take your gravel to
2 the waters and wash it." So he did exactly what I told him.

3 The following Friday, that was the time they had a
4 coup and I was not there. I was in Lofa Bridge. When I went
5 to the same area, across the river I saw a lot of people
6 there who wanted to go to the diamond area to go steal. So
7 somebody saw and said, "Captain Luo, standing there," I say,
8 "Who's that?" He called his name. He say, "but your man
9 took over the government." I say, "Who?" He say, "Doe." I
10 say, "For true?" He say yes. I say, "But what are you
11 people doing here? Do you know when they say coup in a
12 country, it's a lawless country and anybody can come here and
13 kill any of you people and nothing will come out of it? So
14 nobody should come here where I'm at. I only want two person
15 to bring canoe to me to go across and go back in town." They
16 did what I told them and we all left.

17 Then when we were going, we met Superintendent
18 Taylor (INAUDIBLE) in his new pickup. The soldier told me we
19 should arrest that man and take the pickup from him. I say,
20 "Why you want to arrest the man and take the pickup from him?
21 That the man property. The only thing we will do is ask him
22 so he can drop us in Monrovia so we can come back."

23 So I asked him, I say, "Mr. Taylor, please can you
24 carry my group and myself because today we heard that Tolbert
25 have been overthrown." So he did exactly what I asked him to

1 do. When we got in Duala, I asked those soldiers, I say,
2 "You get another taxi for us to carry us home." So when they
3 got taxi, I told Mr. Taylor, I say, "Mr. Taylor, I want you
4 to return, get in your car and go, because I don't want you
5 -- anything happen to you to say that Captain Luo is the
6 cause. So please go back. Thank you very much for what you
7 did."

8 So we got taxi, we went in Monrovia. I went to my
9 house on United Nation Drive, and those soldier say, "You
10 will be arrested, all of your friends are being arrested.
11 They packed them into BTC to the grandstand." I say,
12 "Nobody's going to arrest me." They say, "How sure are you?"
13 I say, "Doe will not look at me and arrest me." So they say,
14 "Okay, go."

15 I went to my house. The following day I took
16 bath, I dressed in my uniform with my arm on me. I were
17 walking to the mansion with my steep hat on my head. So when
18 those soldiers saw me, they all start rushing forwards:
19 "Captain Doe coming! Captain Doe coming!" So they all came
20 and took me to the fourth floor where Doe was sleeping in the
21 couch on the fourth floor.

22 So when he saw me, he came and hugged me. He say,
23 "Captain Luo, this is our time. We took over the country."
24 So he gave me one of the couch and say that "You're part of
25 this bed because this is where I've been sleeping." He and

1 myself were there for three good months. I will not sit down
2 here and discredit Doe at that time. Doe was not no bad
3 human being. He was a very nice fellow and whatever I say to
4 him, he would listen to me. Even some of the people that
5 they arrested and brought them to the mansion, to the back of
6 the mansion there and put them down, they were looking at the
7 sun, some of them I know that they were very good human
8 being, too.

9 I told -- I pointed at them, I say this, this,
10 they're good people. One of them was Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's
11 brother, Konneh Johnson. So he released some of those people
12 and they went.

13 And we work there very nicely. I don't move
14 without him. If I moving to go anywhere, I would tell him.
15 If I go and stay, oftentimes he was staying two, three so
16 yards behind me, I say that we will bring them in. I will go
17 back to him.

18 But my people, let me tell you something. You
19 know sometime something can go -- leader can go astray
20 according to their advisors that he had, people around him.
21 And you, too, who are the leader, when there were people
22 around you tell you something that will smell, you are aware
23 of anything, you should put an objection to it.

24 When Doe and myself were to that mansion for three
25 good months, he even told me one night, he say, "Luo, this

1 thing is too heavy. I want to resign." I say, "My man, why
2 you talking?" He say, "But you know some of your people
3 better. You went a little bit further in education. But I'm
4 sitting down here, the diplomatic people bring you all kind
5 of information." I say, "You know why? Those are for who
6 know better, who around you will tell you what to do. So
7 don't be discouraged." If there's something bad I say it,
8 then I say it.

9 All the people that they killed, their property
10 that were confiscated, I was the one who they put it in my
11 charge as director working with Agriculture Ministry as
12 Assistant Minister. So most of those property were rental
13 properties. When the month ends, I would collect all the
14 checks and deposit it to the housing bank down Waterside
15 until one time I was told that the one security went to my
16 office when I have been around Agriculture Ministry to go pay
17 the Agriculture employees.

18 The unclaimed money I collected was \$60,000. I
19 brought it, I were making my report. Then Security went to
20 my office and told me that the CIC say, "You should report
21 yourself to NSA." I say, "But what happened?" Anyway, I was
22 a soldier and I had to obey order. So I told him, I say,
23 "Just give me some more chance. Let me bring my report and
24 turn money over to them." So I did exactly what I was doing
25 and I turned the money over to -- to the Minister of

1 Agriculture, then I went to NSA.

2 When I went, I met a lot of my friends, people
3 like Modzee Popoo (ph), Harry Nyuan, Degay Mosadil, John
4 Nyumah and some other who were about either ten or more, so
5 so Nimba people. So as soon I enter, I saw them, they all
6 started laughing, "So why are doing here?" I say, "But what
7 are you come to do? What brought you here?"

8 You see, in Liberia you heard that I talk over
9 radio. Why I talk over radio I will tell you people today.
10 The reason why I talk, Pennue used to all the time in the
11 evening go there to go kill some of us. Someone said when
12 you were doing that, I was planning too for him. This is how
13 I managed to give that testimony over radio. If I had not
14 done so, some people are going to get killed.

15 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: What was the testimony?

16 THE WITNESS: Huh?

17 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: What was the testimony
18 you gave on the radio?

19 THE WITNESS: The testimony I gave was Thomas
20 Quinwonkpa did not plan to overthrow Doe. It were true,
21 because when people pushed Thomas Quiwonkpa, they say he
22 should get rid of Doe, he doesn't want to listen to what they
23 are saying. He say, "But what Doe have done to me? Doe not
24 done anything to me. Why must I go and overthrow him?"

25 So that was testimony I give. But what I say they

1 went and reverse it to their own taste because Doe called me
2 to the mansion and we have conference that Dr. Wongay, his
3 private doctor, went and told Doe a whole lot of lie about
4 me. And who called Dr. Wongay to be a private doctor to do?
5 I was the cause, because he and myself are family people, we
6 went to one elementary school together. He told me from the
7 beginning that he's scared of going, he doesn't want to go.
8 I say, "My man, you will be the doctor for President Doe,"
9 and he did it.

10 So that was the reason why I gave that testimony.
11 When I gave that testimony, Doe told the people that whenever
12 Pennue go around anywhere where we are, they should let him
13 know, he know what -- what to do to him.

14 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: What year are we talking
15 about now?

16 THE WITNESS: It was -- we were arrested in
17 November 1983 and when they get us in tribunal for
18 investigation and we were not guilty, they gave a party. It
19 was in -- I think in October 1984.

20 So after we were pardoned, I was in Monrovia. One
21 time some business people from Italy sent for me. General
22 Zayay and myself went there. Pennue followed us there, said
23 my car that I was having, they should take it away from me.
24 There was another heated argument. So Zayay told them, he
25 say, "Nobody should trouble this man."

1 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Is "Pennue" Harrison
2 Pennue?

3 THE WITNESS: Huh?

4 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Is "Pennue" Harrison
5 Pennue?

6 THE WITNESS: Harrison Pennue.

7 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: And Zayay was who?

8 THE WITNESS: Harrison Pennue?

9 CHAIRPERSON JEROME VERDIER: You said Zayay said
10 nobody should trouble you.

11 THE WITNESS: Zayay was the commanding general at
12 that time.

13 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: His full name?

14 THE WITNESS: I don't know his first name, but I
15 know it's Zayay.

16 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Okay.

17 THE WITNESS: So they left me. After that they
18 left me, I went home. I mean, I was in Liberia. Every now
19 and then I go back to diamond mine because I was not working.
20 I go to diamond mine until each time I wanted to come to
21 America, people would tell me you are black-listed, don't go
22 to that place. If you go there, you will be arrested.

23 So one day I say they recommend that -- people are
24 always telling me about I got to go to that embassy and go
25 get my visa. Then one of the businessmen, they call him

1 Kolelio (ph), he's a Spanish man, he called me in his office
2 and said: "Luo, what are you still doing in this country?"
3 I say, "But Mr. Kolelio, I don't have any money." He say,
4 "Because you help a lot of people in this place here, we
5 don't want to see you killed for nothing." I say, "I have no
6 money. If have money, you don't think I could have taken --
7 I could have found my way out of here?"

8 So he say, "Okay, try and get your visa. I will
9 pay your way to go wherever you want to go." That how I went
10 to the embassy. You see God that all of us have in our mouth
11 is a sincere and loving God. I got to the embassy, a lot of
12 people went there for visa. Only two people have gotten
13 visa, I was the third person. So as soon the people gave me
14 a visa, I say, "Kalongo Luo, Gio." I say, "Yeah, you don't
15 know what Babo say? Babo say the first you'll be the last
16 and the last you'll be the first?" They started laughing. I
17 say, "Yeah, I'm gone." (LAUGHING)

18 So I left there. I came to them there, I showed
19 him my visa. He took my ticket and give it to me. I left
20 Liberia July 29, 1985. All the rest that happened, that
21 happened behind me. I don't know. So that how I came in
22 America and I'm still here today. Now I'm homesick. My body
23 is here but my spirit is in Liberia. So this is the end of
24 my experience.

25 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Thank you very much.

1 Thank you very much, Mr. Witness. We appreciate you coming
2 to share all of this experience with us, and we'll use this
3 time to ask you some questions --

4 THE WITNESS: Sure.

5 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: -- so you can throw
6 light on some of the things you said or clarify what we may
7 not have heard properly. The first thing is that --

8 THE WITNESS: Excuse me. This is the picture I
9 have of -- from my former people, Doe and his group.

10 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Okay. You want to give
11 that to us?

12 THE WITNESS: Yeah, if you want it.

13 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Thank you very much.

14 THE WITNESS: You can take it.

15 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Thank you very much.

16 THE WITNESS: If you want to make copy.

17 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: I will ask three
18 straight and direct questions: Of all members of the PRC,
19 those you just presented to us, do you know how many of them
20 are still alive? That is one. How many of them are still
21 alive and if you know where they are, you can say.

22 THE WITNESS: I know Jeffrey Gbatu still living in
23 North Carolina, and Tarwo is still living.

24 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Tarwo?

25 THE WITNESS: Tarwo is from -- from -- I think

1 Tarwo from Lofa and Albert Toe is still living. He's a
2 representative now in Liberia. When he came here, he sent
3 for me, I met with him.

4 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: He's in Liberia now?

5 THE WITNESS: Yes, in Liberia, he's going back.
6 I think Kolonseh Onyor is still living.

7 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Where is he?

8 THE WITNESS: He is in Liberia.

9 Those are who I remember. Tubman's still living.

10 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: What Tubman?

11 WITNESS: Tubman is J.B. Tubman, right here.

12 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: J.B. Tubman?

13 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: They were all original
14 members of the Council, the PRC?

15 THE WITNESS: Um-hmm.

16 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Okay, thank you.

17 During the early days of the coup, as you stated,
18 you spent about three months in the mansion with the late
19 president. Can you tell us if, during that period, you
20 learned how the coup was staged, how it was organized and
21 what happened?

22 And then the second question to that is:

23 Information on how the initial 13 persons were executed, what
24 led to the execution, how the decision was taken and why they
25 were summarily executed.

1 THE WITNESS: The first question was what?

2 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: The first question is
3 the coup, how the coup was organized, how it came together,
4 who led the coup.

5 THE WITNESS: Well, according to the information I
6 got--I was not in Monrovia when the coup took place, but
7 still I got some information.

8 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Yes.

9 THE WITNESS: Robert Zuo, the late Robert Zuo, was
10 there. He was the arm room personnel at the mansion. When
11 they were organizing the coup, that the arm room in mansion
12 they want to use. That day he told the people he were
13 cleaning the arms, the arms were too dirty and he were
14 cleaning the whole place because he were there for a whole
15 day until in the evening. So I started saying: "Brother,
16 why you been here so long?" He say, "The place is so dirty
17 so I've got to clean it." So he cleaned it.

18 Then in the evening, time for them to go to the
19 mansion, some of them don't want to go. So according to what
20 I heard, Thomas Quiwonkpa told them: "If any of you refuse
21 to go, I think it will cause people to know that we're going
22 to do this." That's the time they all -- they got a
23 telephone from BTC, they all -- "Every one of you got to go
24 before me so we can go to the mansion, go to the back of the
25 mansion and clamp on the fence."

1 And when they got there, coming was the officer of
2 the day at that time. So when I got there, he the one who
3 led them from floor to floor. He would be the first to go
4 and tell the security "Put down your arm and whosoever
5 doesn't put down his arm, you will be killed." But we let
6 them know we are afraid of those things. So right away they
7 put down their arms from first floor to the floor where
8 president was living.

9 When we got there, one lieutenant, it's a very
10 young man, I'm forgetting his name. He was at President Doe
11 as security. So when they got there, they told him to give
12 his arm. He took his pistol. He wanted to shoot them so
13 they shot him right there and kill him. Then they went
14 inside to Tolbert, according to the information I heard.
15 When they went inside to Tolbert, I think Pennue was the
16 first person who shot Tolbert.

17 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Pennue?

18 THE WITNESS: Pennue, yes. So Harry killed
19 Tolbert.

20 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: So they were all from
21 BTC and not part of the battalion or the executive branch --

22 THE WITNESS: That's it.

23 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Then the execution?

24 THE WITNESS: The execution, I don't know much
25 about it. The same way we all heard it, that they arrested

1 these people and they put them into post stockade. And then
2 people started planting those poles. But I was told that --
3 when I asked, I was told that the pole were planted because
4 they want to execute some people. I were not present when
5 the execution went on, but I heard it because I don't want to
6 go there to go see it.

7 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: But you were very close
8 to Doe at the time, you were together.

9 THE WITNESS: I was close to Doe. To be frank, I
10 was close to Doe. But I can't say that Doe is not living
11 today, what happened between he and myself, I'm gonna allow
12 him, no.

13 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Thank you, sir.

14 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER OUMU SYLLAH: Thank you very much for
16 coming today to share your experience. Now, this will be a
17 follow-up question to what the Chairman just asked. You said
18 you were very close to Doe and then initially that Doe was
19 not a bad man but the advisor that worked with him. So I'm
20 just wondering as to what kind of advice Doe was given at
21 that time--because you've been very close to him--about the
22 execution of the 13 person.

23 THE WITNESS: The execution, when the execution
24 was -- was done, I was not as close to Doe as I used to be
25 because when the -- when he arrested all of my friends, the

1 officers, and put them to grandstand in BTC, I was the cause
2 of them releasing all of them. Each time they release
3 somebody, you will come to me and thank me. You will come
4 and thank me. Doe -- they execute, I know some of them very
5 well.

6 But I have been in that position at that time, I
7 know I'm going to take some sort of position because Doe
8 never used to tell me no. But he have a whole lot of advisor
9 around him now. That's the reason why I was unable to tell
10 anything.

11 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: Now, you also --
12 I'll be asking two more question and maybe at the end, you'll
13 be able to answer the two question. You say usually they'd
14 carry people on the executive mansion ground and sometimes
15 they asked him to put in line of the sun, and you intervened
16 and thought on behalf of the people that were good and they
17 were released. So what happened to the other people and why
18 were they arrested? That's one.

19 And then the other question was: At one point in
20 time, you were in prison and said that you were planning to
21 overthrow the government. You were released. Can you name
22 the other people that were in prison at that time and what
23 happened to them? Thank you.

24 THE WITNESS: Your first question -- the last
25 question I understand it. The first one I didn't understand

1 it.

2 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: At some times they
3 used to arrest people and carry them out on the executive
4 ground, and you identified people that were good, you talked
5 with the former president and he released them. So the
6 question is: Why would he arrest them? What's happened to
7 the other people that you didn't talk for?

8 THE WITNESS: At the time there were being a lot
9 of arrests, I had already spent enough time with Doe and
10 Thomas Quiwonkpa hired me to go and be with him and I were
11 with Thomas Quiwonkpa at that time. I was not there. But
12 even though when he went to do some things, he used to call
13 me. Like when -- when Weh Syen came (INAUDIBLE), he sent for
14 me. He say, "Go get Thomas Quiwonkpa, I want to see both of
15 you." And we went there.

16 He told Thomas Quiwonkpa, he say, "Send soldier to
17 go arrest Weh Syen." Thomas say, "Chief, what happened?" He
18 say, "Mr. Commanding General, I told you arrest Weh Syen
19 because Weh Syen want to kill you and myself." So he say,
20 "But, Chief, we can't investigate among ourselves before we
21 do what you telling me?" So after Thomas left his office, he
22 sent people himself and they went and arrested Weh Syen to
23 Matardi junction there because they were coming from Bassa
24 playing football. So that what happened.

25 The second question was what?

1 COMMISSIONER OUMU SYLLAH: The people that were
2 arrested on the executive ground.

3 THE WITNESS: Okay, I already gave you the answer.
4 I say I was not as close as I used to be. When Doe and
5 myself were together, whatever I say to him, he would listen
6 to me. But we were many now, and then I was not close to him
7 like before.

8 COMMISSIONER OUMU SYLLAH: Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: Thank you very much,
10 Captain Luo, for coming. I would just like to ask you one or
11 two questions. Talking about -- you mentioned that there
12 were a number of advisors around Doe. The Chairman asked you
13 a question earlier about the executions. Where were you at
14 the time of the executions? And if you were around and had
15 an idea, who were some of those that participated in the
16 decision that led to the execution of the 13 officials?
17 That's one.

18 The other question is: What were the reasons,
19 would you believe, that led to the execution of Weh Syen, the
20 13 commandos, and what was the role of Dr. George Boley in
21 all of this?

22 THE WITNESS: All right. Your first question?
23 Please forgive me because they are a little bit far apart
24 from one another. That's why I'm not going to understand
25 clear. I want to understand clear so I can give you a clear

1 answer. Your first question was what?

2 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: You said you were
3 close to Doe and you came to the mansion right after the
4 coup, and the 13 government officials were not executed on
5 the day of the coup, they were executed some days later.
6 Where were you at the time the decision was made to execute
7 those government officials and who were those that made that
8 decision, that constituted that body to decide on execution
9 of the 13 officials?

10 That's the first question.

11 THE WITNESS: Okay, you want me to answer that?

12 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: Yes.

14 THE WITNESS: Okay, let me answer that. When the
15 list was made, I was nowhere around, no more around. The
16 very Boley that you're talking about, he were one of those
17 who was with Doe at that time. So when he come on that, I do
18 not know. What I -- the part I play, that what I told you
19 people, like the officer was arrested when the coup took
20 place. I got all of them out from where they were in
21 confinement. But these people making their list for them to
22 be executed, what I heard was they were corrupt, they did not
23 help Liberian people, they did not help Liberia. That's the
24 reason why they had them to be executed.

25 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: According to what you

1 heard, who were those who made the decision to execute?

2 THE WITNESS: Okay, the people who made a
3 decision, they were the Council member, the advisors.

4 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: There were stories
5 that there were some civilian politicians such as Dr.
6 Tipoteh, Dr. Sawyer, Dr. Fahnbulleh, who were part of the
7 decision. Can you corroborate that these people were a part
8 of that decision or this was the decision of strictly the
9 military men?

10 THE WITNESS: I'm going to be honest with you.
11 Those were some of the -- were some of the advisors. But for
12 me to sit down here and say that they were there, I cannot
13 tell you. But they were, all of them, almost -- they were
14 the advisor to the people.

15 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: The execution of
16 Thomas Weh Syen, what was the root cause -- and the 13
17 commandos who were executed shortly after that, what were the
18 reasons that led to the execution of these commandos? There
19 were reports that --

20 THE WITNESS: Oh, you mean the officers?

21 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: Thomas Weh Syen and
22 the 13 commandos who were executed.

23 THE WITNESS: When Doe say Weh Syen want to
24 overthrow them, their regime, that why he told Thomas
25 Quiwonkpa in his office, why Thomas and myself went there.

1 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: Did his execution have
2 anything to do with money?

3 THE WITNESS: Do with what?

4 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: With money that was
5 supposedly retrieved from the -- from the late president's
6 house in Bensonville.

7 THE WITNESS: Okay, I went to president's house in
8 Bensonville. I asked Doe, I say: "Chief, have you ever sent
9 somebody to Bensonville?" Because I heard some of the
10 soldiers went in there and they bust into a safe and took
11 some money from there. He say, "And, Luo, you are here with
12 me? Why you can't go there?" I say, "How will I go there?
13 You got to give me order. I can't take myself and go to the
14 place."

15 He say, "Okay, but where is Patrick Tuazama?" I
16 say, "I don't know," even though I knew where Patrick was. I
17 say, "I don't know." He say, "Why?" I say, "Because I heard
18 that some of your Krahn boys want to kill Patrick Tuazama."
19 Then he say, "But who told you so?" Glay was standing right
20 at (INAUDIBLE). "Some of our boy been looking for Patrick to
21 kill him." So he say, "Luo, but you can't get Patrick?" I
22 say, "I will try."

23 Then when the coup took place, somebody took
24 Patrick and hid him somewhere and he came to me and told me,
25 he say, "We have Patrick somewhere in somebody warehouse." I

1 say, "You keep him there until I talk to Doe." And so when
2 this time came, I told him, I say, "I will try and get
3 Patrick." So Patrick's brother called Samuel Gee, he was an
4 SSS man. So I call him, I told him, because we all are one,
5 I say, "Doe would like to see Patrick." He say, "Oh can't
6 go. They will kill the man."

7 I say, "Before they kill Patrick, I will be the
8 first person because I am putting my life on line for him."
9 Before they brought Patrick, when they brought Patrick,
10 Patrick came to me first. I say, "Patrick, don't be afraid.
11 Nothing going to happen to you. Let's go to the mansion."

12 Patrick and myself went to the mansion. When we
13 went to the mansion, Doe, he say, "Patrick, don't be afraid.
14 Luo already told me about you so be calm. Select your own
15 security to be guarding you, people that you trust. But I
16 want to ask you question."

17 Then Doe had asked me this question before that
18 they heard that Tolbert bury money in the grave. I told him
19 Tolbert did not bury any money in the grave because I was
20 also close to Tolbert in my civilian life and in my military
21 life. So he asked -- he asked Patrick, Patrick said, "No,
22 Tolbert did not bury any money in the grave. What happened
23 we were about to travel out of Liberia so the money we were
24 carrying, the money supposed to be in Bensonville to his
25 house."

1 So he say, "Okay, I'm going to appoint some of you
2 people to go there, but the full person who I want you to
3 handle everything is Kalongo Luo." He say, "(INAUDIBLE),
4 Boley and nine Krahn soldiers, including Patrick." He say,
5 "Go, but the person who I would like for you to handle
6 everything is Kalongo Luo because he the one that I trust."

7 I say okay. We went. And luckily for us, for us
8 to bust the door, it took us four hours. But when we bust
9 the door, we got into the room, the first room we got into,
10 that his dress room. Those soldiers start fighting over the
11 man's clothes. I were observing them.

12 So when we went in the bedroom, we got a locker
13 and these three presidential bag were inside. Patrick say,
14 "This is the locker that we had the bag in here. So we took
15 it. When we took it, it were locked. We wanted to crate it
16 down through from second floor. Then the whole thing came
17 out. Then when we want to put it on, it went back again and
18 locked. So we repeat the whole thing again. Then it came
19 out and I grabbed it.

20 They set it down, I hold the drawers. Then I
21 start taking the thing -- I saw a whole lot of bank paper, I
22 saw \$20 of gold coin, I saw \$25 gold coin, I saw \$100 gold
23 coin, that the gold (INAUDIBLE) the money in three bags, one
24 black, one blue, one white. I took everything, I put in one
25 of the trays and we carry it downstair and put in the gray

1 Jaguar that were using, Boley were driving it. So we left
2 and soldiers were riding in the Jeep.

3 So we left, we went to Monrovia. We reported the
4 whole thing then. And Boley told me, he told Patrick and
5 myself -- Patrick was the only person who knew how to open
6 those bags because he the butler to Tolbert. So Boley told
7 Patrick and myself that "You go home. We'll be out the whole
8 day until sunset. So you go home and come back 5:00 so
9 Patrick can open these bags so we can look into it and see
10 what is there."

11 After we left, we came home, they took bayonet and
12 both those bags. How am I to know that money were in it? It
13 was the man who were Doe's aid-de-camp, he was a Mano boy,
14 General Seah from Ganta. When we got there, I went to Doe, I
15 say, "Chief, we are here." He told me, he say, "Oh, Boley
16 told me those papers were in those bags." I say, "No, it's
17 not true." He say, "That what Boley told me."

18 So the half hour went, half hour stopped. I can't
19 pass there, I don't argue with the man. So the young man --
20 when I were about to go out, he follow me, he say -- he say,
21 "Go Mecca!" I say, "My Man, what happened? (INAUDIBLE)
22 money to the people?"

23 Okay, the money business Weh Syen got to know,
24 Thomas Quiwonkpa got to know, and all the Council people got
25 to know when Thomas is aware and Weh Syen's aware that all

1 the Council people got to know. So they went in meeting for
2 that money business. They told Doe and Boley to bring the
3 money, the money were not for them, they were for the
4 Liberian people because when I went to (INAUDIBLE).

5 But there were no hate, no tear for that money.
6 But Weh Syen was firing that money business all the time
7 telling Doe to bring the money; if he doesn't bring the
8 money, it will not be good.

9 So my own analysis that how I get to say that Weh
10 Syen were not planning no overthrow and the money business.

11 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: So you believe that
12 the late Thomas Weh Syen was framed by Doe because of the
13 money?

14 THE WITNESS: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: And you think this was
16 influenced by some of his advisors who were around him such
17 as Dr. Boley who went to you to retrieve this money?

18 THE WITNESS: It could be because Boley, they the
19 one that have all the money and he especially because he was
20 the -- the center to do at that time.

21 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: So the other Council
22 members who were executed, was the execution also linked to
23 their demands for accountability for that money? Is that the
24 reason why they were executed? Or there were plans by them
25 to overthrow Doe?

1 THE WITNESS: Well, that question, I can't answer
2 it because what I know is Weh Syen were really pushing Doe
3 for that money business. But this overthrow business, when
4 Doe talked to Thomas and myself, that why he told Thomas, he
5 say Weh Syen want to overthrow their government, and Thomas
6 say, "No, let's investigate." But Doe did not agree.

7 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: Where was General
8 Quiwonkpa when these people were being executed?

9 THE WITNESS: Huh?

10 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: Where was General
11 Quiwonkpa during the execution of Thomas Weh Syen and others?

12 THE WITNESS: According to General Quiwonkpa, he
13 say Doe told him time for execution. He will come when he
14 come. Then he and Thomas Quiwonkpa going to go there, but
15 Thomas Quiwonkpa waited, he didn't see Doe. So Thomas
16 Quiwonkpa did not go there. I was there. I was there that
17 night because when they shot Weh Syen at post stockade, he
18 say, "I'm still the Head of State."

19 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: There were reports
20 that U.S. Marines were present at the compound when -- at the
21 the post stockade compound when these people were executed.
22 Is there any truth to that?

23 THE WITNESS: Huh?

24 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: There were reports
25 that the post stockade compound was sealed off by U.S.

1 Marines at the time of the execution. Is there any truth to
2 that?

3 THE WITNESS: I was there but what was happening
4 behind me, I don't know. But they were there.

5 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: Thank you very much.

6 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: Mr. Witness, thank
7 you for coming again.

8 What was the relationship with George Boley and
9 the late President Tolbert, if you know?

10 THE WITNESS: Who?

11 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: What was the
12 relationship between George Boley and the late President
13 Tolbert?

14 THE WITNESS: With Tolbert?

15 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: Yes.

16 THE WITNESS: That's a good question and you will
17 get good answer. Boley was care by Tolbert and his wife.
18 They're the one who educated Boley, or the relationship.

19 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: So in other words,
20 he was their foster son or adopted son?

21 THE WITNESS: That's it.

22 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: General Thomas
23 Quiwonkpa staged an attempted coup in November of 1985. You
24 left Liberia, according to you, in July of 1985. General
25 Quiwonkpa was in exile, he lived in the United States for a

1 while and came back to Liberia to stage a coup. I'm just
2 curious: Where were you or what do you know about
3 Quiwonkpa's attempted coup?

4 THE WITNESS: The only thing I know about it is I
5 heard over the air that Quiwonkpa is in Liberia. I was here,
6 but I didn't know nothing about it.

7 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: He never contacted
8 you as a former colleague to assist in the coup?

9 THE WITNESS: People advise him to kill me. He
10 say no. They said because Luo got more military experience
11 than you, even though you are general. But he say, "When I
12 take over the country, I will send for him."

13 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: So in other words,
14 you never met with him --

15 THE WITNESS: No.

16 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: -- to discuss
17 going back to stage the coup?

18 On the day that the 13 government officials of
19 the Tolbert administration were executed, what was the
20 general atmosphere with President Samuel Doe and other
21 officials from the government that day? How did it feel?
22 What were they doing?

23 THE WITNESS: They who planned and made a list of
24 the people. How you think they're going to feel?

25 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: So they were

1 excited?

2 THE WITNESS: Sure.

3 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: This is just a
4 follow-up question. I'm just curious: You were close to
5 Doe, very close to Doe. I'm just wondering as to how is it
6 that a very important decision like executing the 13
7 government official was something that he didn't consult you
8 on and nobody told you about it, you didn't hear about it?
9 Why do you think -- if that is true, why do you think they
10 left you out of that whole information about the execution of
11 these 13 officials?

12 THE WITNESS: You know, that's a very good
13 question, but I will tell you. I say from the beginning of
14 the coup, the three good months, I was the only person who
15 really could tell Doe what to do and Doe will do it. But
16 after that when people start coming in, when the advisors
17 start coming in, then I found my way to Thomas Quiwonkpa.
18 I'm going to be honest with you.

19 And again let me repeat: Doe was not bad. Doe
20 was not bad at all, but Doe was a very nice young man. But
21 when you get people -- when you are a leader, you get people
22 surrounding you, if you pay attention to some of their
23 suggestion, will make you bad like what happened to Doe.

24 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: You mentioned that
25 at the night of the coup or at the time the coup took place,

1 you were in the Lofa Bridge area digging diamonds, right?

2 THE WITNESS: Yes.

3 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: And then you also
4 mentioned that at one point there were soldiers who were
5 there, used to come to dig diamond, and that Samuel Doe came
6 before and asked for gravel and you assisted him. My
7 question is: Why were the solders digging diamonds up in
8 Lofa Bridge? Was it standard procedure for military officers
9 or soldiers to be digging diamonds and what happened to the
10 diamonds you got?

11 THE WITNESS: It was illegal for soldier to dig
12 diamonds, but conditions cause soldier to dig diamond,
13 including myself.

14 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: Anybody know you
15 were digging diamonds from the government or anything they
16 done?

17 THE WITNESS: Huh?

18 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: Anybody know you
19 were digging diamond?

20 THE WITNESS: You say anybody?

21 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: Yes.

22 THE WITNESS: Yes, I say it was illegal for us to
23 go there, but because of condition, we got to eat, we got to
24 put our children in school. So that was in their remedy.

25 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: So government

1 authorities knew that practice was going on?

2 THE WITNESS: Oh, yes. What happened is they were
3 not even -- there was somebody's place that we went and were
4 working there. It were not just a bush that we went there
5 and we look for a place and we did this. It was somebody
6 claim.

7 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: You also stated
8 that when the coup took place, they were arresting soldiers.

9 THE WITNESS: The officers.

10 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: Yeah, the
11 arresting officers. Now, why were they arresting officers if
12 the coup took place by military mandate? Why were they
13 arresting other military men?

14 THE WITNESS: (Laughing) That the same thing.
15 Maybe the fear was that these officer want to group some
16 other soldiers so they can have a coup.

17 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: Hopefully that's
18 my last question to you. I didn't write everything down.
19 Okay, thank you.

20 THE WITNESS: Thank you, too.

21 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: Good morning. I
22 have so many questions.

23 THE WITNESS: Go ahead.

24 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: You said that you
25 were in the diamond mines when the coup took place. How long

1 after the coup did you come, yourself, to Monrovia?

2 THE WITNESS: In our diamond mine, to the diamond
3 mine at that time, I did not go there at that time to go dig.
4 I went there because of accident took place there and the
5 people who can dig diamond under the ground, the whole thing
6 collapse. So I have a brother there, so I went there to go
7 find out whether he was among those people. That how I went
8 there.

9 But when I got there, I heard about a coup. I
10 cross the river right away. I came to Lofa Bridge and I took
11 taxi, I came to Bomi Hill, then I came straight to Monrovia.

12 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: Was it one day --

13 THE WITNESS: Yeah, one day.

14 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: -- that you took?

15 And so from that day, the coup took place that day
16 and the next day you were in Monrovia to report yourself?

17 THE WITNESS: Um-hmm.

18 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: And then you were
19 accepted by Samuel Doe --

20 THE WITNESS: Sure.

21 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: Okay. So from
22 that day, you were part of that government?

23 THE WITNESS: Yes.

24 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: The military took
25 over?

1 THE WITNESS: I were waiting for three months.

2 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: Then we come to
3 the people who were killed. You said that when they were
4 killed -- when they were about to be killed, you did not know
5 what decision had they made, a decision to kill them?

6 THE WITNESS: Yes.

7 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: Is that what you
8 said?

9 THE WITNESS: That what I say. I heard that they
10 say that they were corrupt.

11 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: Okay. You heard
12 they were corrupt. So what was your role as somebody who Doe
13 trusted? You said for three months he trusted you. What
14 were your role when you heard that they were corrupt? What
15 kind of advices did you give?

16 THE WITNESS: I told you the time I were very
17 close to Doe, if that had happened, my input would be there.
18 But he got a whole lot of advisors and then he got his
19 Redemption members. Whenever they -- whenever they went in
20 their meeting, they don't invite me there. They were people
21 who where advisors. Because I were not an advisor at that
22 time; I were an advisor from the beginning.

23 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: Okay. You said
24 you were an advisor for three months before other people
25 started coming around to give him bad advices. Is that what

1 I understood you to say?

2 THE WITNESS: Yes, that's what I say.

3 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: Okay. And how
4 long after the coup did they kill these people?

5 THE WITNESS: How long what?

6 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: After the coup
7 were these people killed?

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ten days.

9 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: After the coup
10 took place, how long between the coup and the death of these
11 people?

12 THE WITNESS: I cannot remember the time, but I
13 don't think it was too long.

14 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: It were not too
15 long. It was ten days.

16 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: The coup took
17 place on the 12th and the execution took place on the 22nd.

18 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: So it was within
19 that three-month period that Doe was listening to you, to
20 your advice, and you heard that these people were being
21 charged for corruption. So I say again: What was your
22 advice to this? Did you advise on this?

23 THE WITNESS: I am telling you, too, that when
24 they were having the meeting to have the people listed, I was
25 not invited.

1 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: Okay. You talk
2 about Quiwonkpa coup. You said that you went on the radio
3 and gave a message as to that coup?

4 THE WITNESS: No, that were Doe and Quiwonkpa, a
5 problem, and they arrested us and they put us into NSA there.
6 That's the time I talk.

7 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: Doe and Quiwonkpa
8 had a problem?

9 THE WITNESS: He and Doe, they had a split. When
10 they split and he told Thomas Quiwonkpa to become Secretary
11 General and Abraham Kollie to become Commanding General.
12 That's how that problem came about.

13 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: Can you please
14 repeat again the message that you had on the radio.

15 THE WITNESS: The message I had was that there
16 were -- I have had meeting with Doe from NSA to carry me
17 there and Colonel Clark, the police director, was there,
18 Abraham Moses, Sylvester Moses were there, and General Dunbar
19 were there, and the Justice Minister were there. And he --
20 they call me -- when they call me, he ask me, he say, "Luo,
21 what did you say to Dr. Wongay?" So I say, "What Dr. Wongay
22 told you?" I say to him. He say, "You don't remember what
23 you said to Dr. Wongay?" I say, "I remember what I say to
24 him." He say, "What did you say?"

25 I say, "I went to Dr. Wongay, I told Dr. Wongay, I

1 say, 'Dr. Wongay, you are close to Doe as I am. What went on
2 between he and Thomas Quiwonkpa is ugly. People want to say
3 that because they already say we are little boy, they say
4 power is in our hand, but we are not able to control the
5 power, to carry all the power. We're making trouble among
6 ourselves, it doesn't look nice. It better for us to talk to
7 both of them so they can stop doing what they are doing."

8 So he say, "That how you told him?" I say, "Yeah,
9 that how I told him." He say, "You didn't tell him that I
10 stealing money, tell him to making development?" I say,
11 "Where is he?" I say, "You ask him." He say that I say
12 Nimba people and Sinoe people went to find you because you
13 stealing money.

14 So I ask him whether anybody was there when he and
15 myself were discussing this, for he and myself to advise both
16 of you. So Dr. Wongay were there. He say, "Dr. Wongay, when
17 you and Luo were talking all of this, who were there?" He
18 say nobody. So Doe said, "Okay. If it's so, then you go
19 back to NSA. He know what happened is we talked a lot, we
20 talk a lot of things, but he told Doe my own (INAUDIBLE).

21 That what happened because he were the medical
22 doctor with the man, and what he told me if I told Doe,
23 "Right there they gonna cut your throat." But I swallow it
24 and never say it, I never told Doe.

25 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: So what was the

1 message that you had on the radio? What clarification were
2 you making?

3 THE WITNESS: The message?

4 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: That you had on
5 the radio.

6 THE WITNESS: In the radio?

7 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: Yes.

8 THE WITNESS: Our -- because when I went to him,
9 we had a meeting. He told me, he say, "Luo, what I want you
10 to do is go over the radio and tell the people to come back,
11 they will not be scared, then they come back. And when you
12 are saying it, tell them that I have already spoken to you."

13 So when I left, then Colonel Clark told him, he
14 say, "You prove yourself to Luo. When Luo finished with you,
15 nobody will like to see you anymore. So once you told him to
16 do certain thing, just let him do it on his own." But he
17 told me that when I'm -- when I'm telling the people to come
18 -- because most of our people in Nimba, they have all taken
19 cover in the bush, some of them are going to Ivory Coast,
20 some of them are going to Guinea, some of them are going
21 different, different places. So I were telling them to come
22 back. That were the message.

23 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: Okay. What
24 happened to Patrick Tuazama after he showed you people the
25 combination and everything? What happened to him?

1 THE WITNESS: He did not show the combination. I
2 say when Boley told us to go and come back, when we went home
3 to go rest and come back, by that time they took bayonet and
4 bust those three bags.

5 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: Okay. So what
6 happened to Patrick? He's still alive?

7 THE WITNESS: He's still alive. He is in Ghana
8 now.

9 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: You said when
10 Quiwonkpa were coming into Liberia with the coup, the coup he
11 came here with, you said our people advised him to take you
12 along because you were more military inclined than him. Who
13 were those people?

14 THE WITNESS: Were the people who told me
15 something in confidence, I should quote their names here?

16 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: Well, we are
17 looking for the truth.

18 THE WITNESS: Yeah, but --

19 VICE CHAIRPERSON DEDE DOLOPEI: So this is why I
20 ask the question.

21 THE WITNESS: If anything happen to me, then when
22 they say anything to me, you don't think people would say:
23 Luo, when you tell him, he will go expose it? (INAUDIBLE) I
24 got to be loyal to the people.

25 COMMISSIONER GERALD COLEMAN: I had several

1 questions but because of time, I'll congest it into two major
2 frames. One frame I'm trying to understand: In your
3 opinion, is it clearly -- was it clearly the will of the
4 Liberian army that destroyed the country in seeking to
5 restore economic justice because they felt that the
6 leadership was corrupt, they decided to rise up and kill the
7 president?

8 So as you analyze it now, was it they were the
9 sole responsible parties, there was no other international
10 forces involved? There were no other political leaders that
11 influenced them? They got up and did this to Liberia?

12 THE WITNESS: Well, thank you very much. Do you
13 know when (INAUDIBLE) came to United Nation, what speech he
14 made? He say the Israeli must give Palestinian land. I
15 think that was the cause of that coup.

16 COMMISSIONER GERALD COLEMAN: So you're saying
17 there was outside influence that stimulated the army?

18 THE WITNESS: I think you know it better.

19 COMMISSIONER GERALD COLEMAN: Okay. I just want
20 to understand this and have it on the record. Okay, thank
21 you.

22 COMMISSIONER PEARL BROWN BULL: Mr. Witness, thank
23 you for participating in the TRC process in an effort for us
24 to find a root cause of the Civil War.

25 What's your tribe and which county are you here

1 from?

2 THE WITNESS: I'm a typical Gia man, a Dahn man
3 from Nimba County, from (INAUDIBLE) and Gbehlageh.

4 COMMISSIONER PEARL BROWN BULL: Thank you.

5 You talk about the president butler, William
6 Tolbert butler, Patrick Tuazama. Where did he here from and
7 what's his tribe?

8 THE WITNESS: He's a Gio man, too. He's a Dahn
9 man.

10 COMMISSIONER PEARL BROWN BULL: From Nimba?

11 THE WITNESS: From Nimba, Tuazama.

12 COMMISSIONER PEARL BROWN BULL: And that was his
13 butler?

14 THE WITNESS: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER PEARL BROWN BULL: You talk about
16 Samuel Gee (ph)?

17 THE WITNESS: Um-hmm.

18 COMMISSIONER PEARL BROWN BULL: Who was an
19 aid-de-camp to the president. Where was he from?

20 THE WITNESS: He was the NSA member, he from --
21 that Patrick Tuazama brother.

22 COMMISSIONER PEARL BROWN BULL: Okay. You said
23 that they told you that these people were killed for
24 corruption, and you said also that you were very close to Doe
25 because from the second day of the coup, you were with him

1 for three months, according to the statement made. You left
2 Liberia July 1985. You talk about Boley and the rest of the
3 people going to take the money from the home, and from 19 --
4 from August -- April 12th to the 13th, you came close to
5 Mr. Doe until 1985, July.

6 The government, you said, and Mr. Doe was very
7 good for the people around him, but yet we hear about money
8 business. Your own opinion from that period then, if you
9 have opinion, was that government corrupt or it was not?

10 THE WITNESS: You mean the Doe government?

11 COMMISSIONER PEARL BROWN BULL: Yes, from the time
12 you were there. We're talking about what you heard at just
13 the time you were there.

14 THE WITNESS: They were corrupt. They were
15 corrupt. Yes, they were corrupt.

16 COMMISSIONER PEARL BROWN BULL: Thank you very
17 much. Good work, thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER SHEIKH KAFUMBA KONNEH: Thank you,
19 Mr. Witness, for coming. (INAUDIBLE) you see the (INAUDIBLE)
20 government and see the indigenous government. And you said
21 people were mistreated, marginalized as "country boy" and,
22 for that reason was part of the reason why the military
23 staged a coup and you lived to witness that indigenous
24 government.

25 If you were asked today to make a comparison of

1 the two, what would you say, which of the two was the best or
2 the worst?

3 THE WITNESS: Please repeat that.

4 COMMISSIONER SHEIKH KAFUMBA KONNEH: The True Whig
5 Party government.

6 THE WITNESS: The True Whig Party government?

7 COMMISSIONER SHEIKH KAFUMBA KONNEH: And the
8 PRC government and NPP government. As far as NPP government,
9 if you were to compare the two, who you think were worse than
10 the other?

11 THE WITNESS: All of them are -- they were worse.
12 True Whig Party government, those who were NPP, they used to
13 kill people and they used to bury people alive. So all of
14 them are --

15 COMMISSIONER SHEIKH KAFUMBA KONNEH: And the
16 PRC government?

17 THE WITNESS: They all were worse.

18 COMMISSIONER SHEIKH KAFUMBA KONNEH: They all were
19 worse, okay. Thank you.

20 So can you tell us, then, if -- because when the
21 talk about revolution is to change wrong to right, to correct
22 the wrong; and if those who claim to have tried to correct
23 the wrong did not correct the wrong, do you think that a coup
24 was justifiable?

25 THE WITNESS: The coup were not justifiable

1 because of what you say, because if you want to --

2 COMMISSIONER SHEIKH KAFUMBA KONNEH: No, let me
3 -- don't say what I say. What you think? Because you were
4 in the army in the True Whig Party government. You see how
5 you were treated as a BWI graduate. You understand?

6 THE WITNESS: Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER SHEIKH KAFUMBA KONNEH: But you never
8 went to jail. But in the PRC government, you were falsely
9 accused, you were taken to jail. You understand?

10 THE WITNESS: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER SHEIKH KAFUMBA KONNEH: People were
12 killed, and at last we have war and after war a government
13 came in. Now, you saw all what happened so you are best
14 place -- you are in a better place to make analysis of the
15 three because you are here before us not wanting to testify
16 but to share your view with us so that we can take it as part
17 of our report. You participated.

18 So now I'm asking you: Don't tell me what I say.
19 Your opinion.

20 THE WITNESS: I understand. What you are saying
21 is between the three people, why do I -- what is my analysis?

22 COMMISSIONER SHEIKH KAFUMBA KONNEH: Yeah.

23 THE WITNESS: If you -- my analysis is if you go
24 and steal and another person went and killed, then another
25 person went and broke into somebody's car, they are the same

1 crime.

2 COMMISSIONER SHEIKH KAFUMBA KONNEH: What is the
3 lesser crime?

4 THE WITNESS: They're the same crime, even though
5 one steal it and the one who killed took life. But crime is
6 nothing but crime.

7 COMMISSIONER SHEIKH KAFUMBA KONNEH: Who was this
8 Dr. Wongay?

9 THE WITNESS: Dr. Wongay a Gio man, I recommended
10 him to Doe.

11 COMMISSIONER SHEIKH KAFUMBA KONNEH: Why do you
12 think he have to go and lie on you when you belong to the
13 same tribe, you recommended him, you have the same culture?

14 THE WITNESS: Well, I wonder the same thing.
15 That's true. But do you know that when I were with Tubman,
16 my own brother that I put him in school, he wrote Tubman
17 saying that when Joseph Farngalo was arrested, when Kennedy
18 was arrested, when Babia (ph) was arrested, because he went
19 and did something to our home and somebody came and say let's
20 go and release those people that joined Batua, arrested them,
21 let's go and beg for them, do you know that the man wrote?
22 He wrote Tubman that I, who he say I'm his honest lieutenant
23 staying with him assigned to Totota, I'm a supporter of
24 people who want to overthrow him. And he wrote a letter and
25 sent it to Tubman. And know who were my savior? That was

1 the late Tolbert. So it's (INAUDIBLE) among human being.

2 COMMISSIONER SHEIKH KAFUMBA KONNEH: There's one
3 thing that all the Commissioners have asked you and we want
4 you to make a crystal clear clarification. You said when the
5 coup took place, you have rendered some favor to Doe and Doe
6 had this at back of his mind. Immediately when he come, he
7 say, "In fact, you and myself will sleep here in the
8 Executive Mansion," a privilege that was never given to
9 anybody during Doe life. While you was there, three months
10 you said you were almost wholly and solely advisor to him,
11 and the 13 men was each executed in the first month of the
12 three.

13 Are you saying you were never hinted, you were
14 never consulted, you don't know anything about the execution
15 of the 13 person?

16 THE WITNESS: And I'll make crystal, as you say,
17 I'm very honest and loyal Christian to God. When I were with
18 Doe from the beginning of the coup, Doe used to tell me some
19 sensitive issue. But when it come on those people, Doe have
20 a lot of advisors, including the Redemption Council. When
21 they're having such meeting, I say I was not there and I was
22 not there.

23 COMMISSIONER SHEIKH KAFUMBA KONNEH: But you were
24 still an advisor to him.

25 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I consider myself as an

1 advisor. When he didn't call me, I can't fool myself. You
2 know, the military thing now, I was way captain down there
3 and he got his colonel, his general and his this and that.

4 COMMISSIONER SHEIKH KAFUMBA KONNEH: There's
5 rumors around --

6 THE WITNESS: Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER SHEIKH KAFUMBA KONNEH: -- that when
8 the 1985 attempted coup was staged by Quiwonkpa, Doe was
9 arrested and placed into your hand for custody, but he talked
10 to you and you took him to Camp Schefflin. Now you are
11 saying that you were in America at the time.

12 THE WITNESS: Who took Doe to Schefflin? I?

13 COMMISSIONER SHEIKH KAFUMBA KONNEH: It said
14 Quiwonkpa placed Doe into your hand.

15 THE WITNESS: No, that -- that wrong name you
16 heard. That not Kalongo Luo.

17 COMMISSIONER SHEIKH KAFUMBA KONNEH: What is the
18 right name?

19 THE WITNESS: Well, I heard about I think it
20 Maquee (ph). But it were not even so. Doe was not arrested
21 at all because I can tell you I have a living witness who is
22 also a family member to me who was in the SSS, when all Doe
23 advisor, his country people who were behind him, when the
24 time came, they all left Doe. That young man was alone with
25 Doe.

1 When Thomas Quiwonkpa went before the mansion,
2 a firing at the mansion, according to the young man, Doe
3 father told Doe, he say, "Quiwonkpa will not do nothing to
4 you. Go and give up yourself." And Doe were coming to the
5 step before the mansion, but Thomas Quiwonkpa came from
6 Sinkor way and got into Mowa. And he started at Mowa, he
7 turned in right to Sinkor way. And the young man told me, he
8 say, "Luo, when I saw that, I say what kind of stupid man
9 that the man coming to turn himself to him and then he going?
10 That how he went. That how he went.

11 And then the next thing was somebody from Grand
12 Gede took Kessay (ph), he the one who kill Thomas Quiwonkpa
13 and they brought his body to BTC. I saw that one over at
14 Kessay. Some people say it were not Thomas Quiwonkpa, I knew
15 he was the one.

16 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Mr. Witness, I want to
17 thank you very much. We just got word that you have to catch
18 a flight and your time is running out, that you have to go.

19 THE WITNESS: Thank you very much.

20 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: We thank you so much. I
21 want to assure you that your testimony has contributed to
22 work of the TRC which eventually will lead to lasting peace
23 and reconciliation in our country. Before you leave, do you
24 have any last word or final statement you want us to hear
25 before you leave?

1 THE WITNESS: Okay. My last word for all of us
2 sitting down here, most especially us Liberians, is Liberia
3 is still backward. Liberia is still backward. Liberia eyes
4 still closed, Liberia eyes still closed. And all you
5 educated people sitting down here and the youngster who
6 coming up, we are the one that will cause Liberia to open its
7 eye because we are not fair to ourself for money business.

8 Whenever you are a leader in Liberia, the money
9 for government is for you, no development. And you all know,
10 some of you have just come from Liberia, you know there no
11 road there now. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf is just struggling,
12 she's struggling as a woman. So I will really like for all
13 of us to think about that.

14 You see the interim government, Bryant, you know
15 what Bryant did with the money there? When Jimmy Carter came
16 from Liberia, he made comment on that. He say, "How the
17 gift" -- when he went for Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf inauguration,
18 he didn't see anything. So he say, "How did they make the
19 money and they didn't do nothing with it?" That our problem
20 in Liberia. That our problem in Liberia.

21 So the way you, too, are struggling going up in
22 the airplane coming down and going in the car because of
23 risking your life, the way you are risking your life for your
24 people to gain something out of it. That is, let's all go
25 together and stop this stealing in Liberia. That my last

1 word for you people.

2 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Thank you very much.
3 And on behalf of the Commission, we say we very appreciate
4 your contribution and you can leave now.

5 THE WITNESS: Thank you, too, for having me here.
6 I hope we have more time.

7 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Yes, we will look for
8 another opportunity. Are you prepared to come to Liberia
9 now?

10 THE WITNESS: I say my spirit is in Liberia, only
11 my body here.

12 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: We'll take a break for
13 three minutes, please. Just three minutes.

14 (Time noted: 10:57 a.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Sherri Flagg, a Registered Professional Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages of typewritten material constitute an accurate verbatim stenographic record taken by me of the proceedings aforementioned before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia, on the 13th day of June, 2008, at the time and place specified.

DATED: July 8, 2008.

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