

D.B. Today is 28 April 2003

D.B. ... and the time by my watch is 0920 in the morning.

D.B. We are going to conduct errr... we are here to conduct an interview with Mr. Shukri BUJA in the capacity of witness...

D.B. ... on the premises of the Finnish KFOR Battalion in Kosovo.

D.B. Beforc we start... before we start I want to... to remind those present here that we might have problems with power cuts today, so we may also have problems with the recording.

D.B. I... before we start I would ask each person present here to introduce himself.

D.B. My name is Ole LEHTINEN and I am an investigator at the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Tribunal in The Hague.

D.B. My name is Alex Whiting. I am a tri... trial attorney at the Office of the Prosecutor of the Hague Tribunal.

D.B. My name is Fat errr... my name is Andrew Cayley. I am the prosecutor dealing with the case against Fatmir LIMAJ and others at the International Tribunal in The Hague.

D.B. I am the interpreter, Durim, with the Tribunal of course.

S.B. I am Shukri BUJA,

S.B. ... born in 1966 in Bujan...

S.B. ... in Bujan in Lipjan municipality.

D.B. Because of... because of the lack of... because of the lack of space errr... not errr... not everybody can be seen on the video so I ask the prosscutor to stand up and show his face on the video errr... cassette.

D.B. Mr. BUJA, do you have any problems with the interpreter's language? Do you understand the Albanian he speaks?

S.B. Of course I do.

D.B. Everything said in this room will be translated from Albanian into English and from... from English into Albanian.

D.B. So we will put questions that will be translated for you into Albanian and vice versa, you will answer in Albanian and your replies will be translated by the interpreter into English.

D.B. Apart fro,... apart from questions and answer, you are not errr... not allowed to enter into discussions with the interpreter.

D.B. ... only in the event of anything unclear in relation to the language or of... of anything unclear in connection with the questions.

D.B. Do you understand all these things?

S.B. Yes.

D.B. I want to start with a little personal information.

D.B. What is your full name please?

S.B. My first name is Shukri.

S.B. My father's name is Gani.

S.B. My surname is BUJA.

D.B. Errr... your date of birth?

S.B. 27...

S.B. ... 08-1966.

D.B. Your place of birth?

S.B. Bujan, Lipjan.

D.B. Are you married?

S.B. Yes.

D.B. Do you have children?

S.B. Yes.

S.B. Three children.

D.B. Sons, daughters?

S.B. Two sons, one daughter.

D.B. And what is your present address? Where do you live?

S.B. Prishtina, Dardania, the 'Dardania' neighbourhood,

S.B. ...9/4.

D.B. /inaudible/

S.B. 9/4.

D.B. What is this? It's...

S.B. It means, Block nine, slash, four. I don't know what it's called.

D.B. Apartment?

S.B. Yes, yes, apartment.

S.B. Like this, slash.

D.B. Nine and slash, then four.

S.B. Yes, yes.

S.B. Number 22, flat number

S.B. 22

D.B. You said you were born in Bujan.

S.B. Yes.

D.B. Did you spend your childhood in Bujan? Did you live there?

S.B. /Yes/.

D.B. What was your father's job?

S.B. My father, a farmer.

D.B. What schools have you finished? Meaning what education? From the start.

- S.B. I finished high school in Lipjan, and elementary school, of course.
- D.B. In the village?
- S.B. In the village, yes /?four-grade/.
- D.B. School... high school?
- S.B. Four-grade... school in the village, four grades in Krajishtë, another village.
- D.B. Elementary... err education is eight years?
- S.B. Elementary.
- S.B. High-school education in Lipjan.
- S.B. I continued studies in Prishtina.
- S.B. At the university,
- S.B. ... at the College of Education.
- D.B. At... teacher training, to be a teacher?
- S.B. Yes... no, in mathematics, because they were separated like that.
- D.B. So in mathematics. This means errr... that you finished university errr...
- S.B. I continued studies, but I didn't fin.... level of mathematics, then I was imprisoned.
- D.B. You... I am sorry, but this is unclear, you continued your studies at university and then interrupted them?
- S.B. I continued my studies at university and Serbia interrupted them.
- D.B. When did they errr... when did they expel you from school, meaning from the university? Do you remember when, the time?
- S.B. Ycs. I was expelled in 1989 when I was imprisoned.
- D.B. 89?
- D.B. And... later, did you errr... fini.... did you finish your studies at university?
- S.B. After errr... after my release from prison...

S.B. I went off to Switzerland.

S.B. And I continued part-time studies in journalism.

S.B. I also worked for a time as a journalist too.

D.B. What work do you do now, what position errr... do you have right now? What is your job?

S.B. Errr.. I don't know what to call it! A private business.

S.B. I am also a member of the Managing Council of the Democratic Party of Kosovo, at Kosovo level.

D.B. What kind of business do you have? A private business?

S.B. Yes we have... I had a depot for building materials. Now I have star... I have changes by business. I have started with oil derivatives.

D.B. With products... by-products of oil? With... with...

S.B. Yes, derivatives.

D.B. So, errr... you import and errr... are...

S.B. No, I only deal with... small-scale retail. I have a petrol station.

D.B. Can you describe to us briefly why errr... you were imprisoned in 89 as you mentioned.

S.B. Yes. I was involved in an organization. I was in an organization, obviously against the Serbian occupier.

S.B. I was involved in organizing demonstrations.

S.B. And in organizing demonstrations, distributing leaflets, writing slogans...

S.B. errr.... The Serbian police imprisoned me in an operation.

S.B. I was charged under Article 139.

D.B. 139?

S.B. ... in conjunction with Article 114. That's what they said, in conjunction with Article 114.

D.B. Besides Article 139, Article 114 as well?

S.B. Article 139 in conjunction with Article 114.

S.B. The appeal court lifted Article, which meant that Article 114 was left.

D.B. Which article did it lift?

S.B. It lifted 139, and only 114 was left.

S.B. These were /inaudible/

D.B. Errr... how long was your sentence, the length of your sentence?

S.B. My sentence was 13 years.

S.B. Err... the appeal court, after removing Article 139, reduced it to nine years,

S.B. The changes that happened in the former Yugoslavia errr.. meant that I was amnestied because I was a political prisoner.

D.B. In... in what year?

S.B. I was amnestied, which meant, I was errr... until errr.. I was kept in prison until 94.

D.B. To... to which prison were you sent to serve your sentence?

S.B. errr... First I was in the remand prison in Prishtina.

S.B. ... and then, after sentencing that is, I was sent to Dubrava prison.

S.B. I was taken from Dubrava to Gjurakoc.

S.B. and from Gjurakoc back to Dubrava.

S.B. ... and to Niš prison, for most of my sentence.

D.B. Because of your earlier profession of journalist, did you write in... in the press about... about your experience, that is, as an activist, an activist for the KLA?

S.B. /inaudible/

D.B. Simply, did you write, did you contribute articles to the press about your experience, taking part in... in the movement, in... in.. the KLA?

S.B. Errr... no. I would say no, errr...

S.B. ... that is, I came to Kosovo to assume responsibility for information or journalism, but my task changed after... after I came to Kosovo.

S.B. Meanwhile, in my time in journalism before the war, as we reckon, I errr... mainly errr... edited articles for the KLA, articles that were pro-KLA...

D.B. But after the war, did you write history of about your experience of... errr... of war?

S.B. Errr... I did not, directly. It is a bit... it is not logical to write about yourself.

S.B. And it might be misunderstood.

D.B. When you were... in your childhood... errr... was your family involved in politics? Was it active in politics?

S.B. Yes, almost the entire family.

D.B. Errr... what party did you support at that time?

S.B. well...

D.B. That is what party did your family support, because you were of course a child.

S.B. Errr... I'm not clear what period you mean.

D.B. Errr... during your childhood.

S.B. errr... that is during my childhood, I had no way of knowing.

D.B. But errr... what comes to your mind first in connection with this question?

S.B. Mainly we used to errr... we tried to follow Albania, Albanian television, Albanian radio, which means....

S.B. Some time later, at the age, that is-at the start of puberty, errr...

S.B. ... I started that is, I too... to look up to my big brother, that is Ramë, who  
/?started/ political organization errr... against Serbia.

S.B. that means that later, of course... errr... starting from the example of my big  
brother.

S.B. ... I had sympathy for this movement.

S.B. I was involved in organizing demonstrations at the age of 16.

D.B. At that time it was more activity as a sympathizer...

S.B. ... in organizing demonstrations in Lipjan.

S.B. If you are asking about the later period, that is after 90...

S.B. I was already in prison then.

S.B. My party supported errr... the party of the time, which we considered to be a  
movement... the LDK.

S.B. Indeed, my brother was a member of the presidency at Kosovo level...

S.B. ... only to break with the LDK at the time when the LDK lost support, that is at  
a certain period in the war.

S.B. But I was a member of the LDK, that is errr... at a certain period of time.

S.B. That is, after your release from prison.

S.B. ... in 1994.

S.B. ... at one time I was the leader of the LDK's Youth Forum in Lipjan.

S.B. but it was for a very short time.

S.B. /?I wanted to get away abroad/.

D.B. Besides your imprisonment, which you told us about, were there other  
occasions on which you... errr... were imprisoned by the Serbian authorities? That is,  
besides your experience of prison from 89 to 94, that is before the war, were there  
other occasions on which you were detained or were...?



S.B. Detained, yes, errr... in the sense that... Serbia had a special strategy of operation.

S.B. ... especially after I was released from prison errr... there was continuous pressure, that is, I was summoned for interviews.

S.B. ... and indeed they stopped me whenever they saw me in the street,

S.B. ... and this was intolerable.

S.B. however I was not sentenced again.

S.B. this was... this was the largest part of /inaudible/

D.B. and when... when they took you in for interviews... did they keep you for several days or did they only carry out the interview and then... release you?

S.B. Yes they /inaudible/ inside the whole day for questioning, and then released me to sleep. I did go there for two days, that is successive days. And they summoned me, that is, to report each day to the police.

S.B. their intention... their intention was at the same time to make you appear to be their collaborator, in the eyes of the people.

S.B. That is, I refused to report every day.

S.B. usually, I told them, if you need me, come, and they arrested me.

S.B. So this was the manner... there were many kinds of pressure, but this was one of the /inaudible/ kinds.

D.B. How were you treated in these interviews? Did they... did they beat you?

S.B. errr... not, they did not.... errr... beat me, that is, in fact...

S.B. say, that is,.... after prison, after my release from prison that is, they did not physically beat me

S.B. But before I was in prison, that is in the time... before my sentence, in fact when they arrested me, when they kept me in for investigation, as usual they used violence.

S.B. But during those two days after my time in prison... they took me in... they took me in but did not use violence.

D.B. Was this the reason why you were obliged to go away, to leave the country and go abroad?

S.B. Errr... yes. These were some of the reasons.

S.B. Yes. Then there was an accumulation of economic problems, but this was the main reason.

D.B. Do you remember when you left Kosovo?

D.B. approximately of course.

S.B.. In 1995, about eight or nine months after errr... I was released from prison.

S.B. at the start of 1995.

D.B. Before you left Kosovo, had you heard at that time about the formation of the KLA?

S.B. errr... the formation of the KLA... I did not hear, because it was impossible, but when I was released from prison errr... of course I had contact with Nait HASANI.

D.B. Who did you meet?

S.B. Nait HASANI.

D.B. Nait HASANI?!

S.B. Nait.

S.B. who... whom I met... errr... in Montenegro on holiday.

S.B. and also as fellow-prisoners, as people who were together in prison in Dubrava, we talked about political developments...

S.B. ...and errr... indirectly.... a military organization was also broached.

S.B. because, as was normal, Nait HASANI had his reservations about talking openly when we were...

S.B. however, I did not errr... I did not at that time thinking of taking part directly in... errr.... in any military or political organization.

S.B. ...in the sense of an underground organization.

S.B. and errr... Nait HASANI too agreed that I should not become involved.

S.B. even after discussions with.... errr, other people organizing the LPK or at that time the LPRK.

D.B. The People's League of Kosovo?

S.B. The People's Movement of Kosovo.

D.B. The People's Movement of Kosovo.

S.B. at that time it was called the LPRK – The People's Movement for the Republic of Kosovo.

S.B. and with Adnan ASLLANI.

D.B. errr. As... Asllan?

S.B. Adnan ASLLANI

S.B. I was told that.... the conditions were not right for you to operate in kosovo and you must go away, no question about it'.

S.B. which means that in fact I left Kosovo errr ... on the instructions of the LPK and of people who... who were in the organization earlier.

S.B. while I.... heard better and more clearly about the KLA and.... then I even became involved, in Switzerland.

D.B. when did you start to... make contact with people of the LPRK? When did you leave the LDK, that means, when did you cease to be a member of the LDK?

S.B. You must realize... the LDK was a legal organization.

S.B. that is, Serbia knew my position in the LDK, and the authorities of... err... the investigator's office, the security services, know about it.

S.B. ... whereas my position in the underground organization, because the LPRK was an underground organization.

S.B. errr.... contacts were much more difficult and it was much more dangerous...

S.B. and with out,,, without a chance of contacts in my activities, they preferred me, or ordered me to go abroad.

S.B. I will in fact tell you a detail/

S.B. ... I was informed in Switzerland/

S.B. that I had been voted in as a member of the general council of the LPK in Kosovo even while I was in prison.

S.B. which was something I did not even know myself until I went to Switzerland.

D.B. But until you... until you left the country and went to... errr. Switzerland. You continued to be a member, to be an activist of the LDK?

S.B. errr... I do not know how to define it now. It is...

S.B. Until the time when I left Kosovo that is, I was chairman of the youth forum in Lipjan.

D.B. So you went to Switzerland after you left Kosovo?

D.B. Did a long time pass errr... after you went first to Switzerland before you fell into contact and started to get involved with... errr.... the work of the KLA, that is with the organization of the KLA?

S.B. errr... not with the organization of the KLA...

D.B. No, with... with your activities. Let us put it more precisely. Sorry.

S.B. Errr.... yes a long time passed that is because I had to apply to the Swiss authorities to ask for asylum.

S.B. ... and then.... as normal I had to stay in a refugee camp,

S.B. ... and it was impossible, with the resources I had, financially, to move around...

S.B. ... but yes, I began to realize, that is comrades came, my friends who had been in the organization earlier. I began to understand what.... /?what was being done/ in Switzerland and in Kosovo.

S.B. My idea at that time was not to errr.... be involved.... in political organization

D.B. not to be involved...

S.B. not to be involved.

S.B. errr... however, the people I knew, the people I had worked with errr... put me under pretty strong pressure,

S.B. ...because they thought that I could contribute to the organization....

S.B. ... either here, in the political life, that is, of the organization in Switzerland, whether also in helping the people who were.... errr organizing here in Kosovo.

S.B. You must realize that in Switzerland, we worked in the political sense, to give an example,,, but our organizations were mainly errr... registered as cultural-political activities.

S.B. For a time I was involved in organizing the 'Motherland' association.

D.B. The 'Motherland' organization?

S.B. Yes.

S.B. I received an award for this work yesterday,

S.B. It was mainly an organization in that association, cultural, sports, that is, of young people.

S.B. If you are interested in my errr... direct involvement,

S.B. ... it was some time about seven or eight months after I ... errrr. Went to Switzerland.

D.B. Was the 'Motherland' association involved in raising funds or collecting money or financial resources to help the struggle of the KLA?

S.B. No, not at first /inaudible/ like in every country, in Switzerland tooo... crrr....

S.B. .... they took.... the extent of the war directly in Kosovo, that it turned its organization towards fundraising.

S.B. But I wasn't there them.

D.B. What I am trying to understand or to define it when .... when you started directly to contribute or to be involved with... with... with the activities of the KLA in... in.... in Switzerland.

S.B. errr.... when I joined the political organization, or the LPK, it could be understood at giving support to the KLA at that time...

S.B. it was, that is... the LPK was political support errr...

S.B. ... including material support, that was how it was then defined/

D.B. what you are talking about was again the LPRK.

S.B. yes, I said, the name had been changed.

S.B. The R was taken out.

D.B. How important, how big was the LPK in Switzerland?

S.B. /inaudible/ to define it. Errr... there were councils organized in every district, so in every town....

S.B. /inaudible/ people's, as they called it.

S.B. At the time when I went there errr.... there may have been 500 up to... more than 500 members...

S.B. as members, perhaps there were even more supporters.

S.B. however, there was a very large expansion later...

S.B. ... through the organization of the fund 'The Homeland Calls'

S.B. ... and then through the organization of associations

S.B. ... they were in Germany and throughout the diaspora.

D.B. Were you in contact with other groups working for the same purpose in Europe?

S.B. errr... /inaudible/ of the same... the same organization or...?

D.B. errr... the gentleman wants to know about the manner of organization, that is, he says of the same party and was there someone who coordinates this connection, contact, among the errr... different groups in Europe?

S.B. Yes, of course.

S.B. We organized the branch, there was, at diaspora level, that is, in fact, in all the countries of Europe.

S.B. which means that the branches had their subbranches.

S.B. we had them in Switzerland, Germany, in Austria, Sweden,

S.B. ... and in other countries that right now I don't...

S.B. and it expanded later, that is, at that time it had fewer subbranches.

S.B. the branch had its general council,

S.B. in which I was also a member of this general council.

S.B. if I am not mistaken, the managing council had errr.. about 37 members.

S.B. it had its presidency, the presidency of...

S.B. and these were organs... there was the executive organ, the presidency.

D.B. you were a member of the general council, not the presidency?

S.B. not of the presidency.

D.B. not of the presidency.

D.B. During the the meetings, the gatherings that you held as a political organization, did you speak only about errr... political activities and issues, or did you also talk about the KLA as an army, a possible, potential army, to fight against the Serbs?

S.B. yes errr... the organization of gatherings that we as a movement organized started some time in errr... 97, the KLA was then portrayed as a guerrilla... organization, even though at the time of the L.P.K it was not clear to the general council what it really was.

D.B. can you tell us who were errr... who were the main personalities in the LPK in Switzerland at... at the time you mentioned in errr. Your description?

S.B. yes. In the sense of office-holders...

D.B. yes, office-holders, the most important people in the party.

S.B. the chairman of the LPK was Fazli VELIU.

S.B. there was Bardhyl MAHMUTI,

S.B. Emrush XHEMAJLI,

S.B. Adem GRABOVCI,

D.B. /?Drago?...

S.B. Adem, Adem GRABOVCI.

D.B. DRAGOVCI?

S.B. GRABOVCI

D.B. GRABOVCI.

S.B. Hashim THAÇI was also a member, but not an office-holder in the L.P.K, that is, not holding a post.

S.B. he was an unknown person at that time.



S.B. These were roughly the people, while the person most involved in the fund 'The Homeland Calls' is... was errr... Jashar SALIU.

D.B. What position did you have at this time?

S.B. errrr... at that time, that is at the time after the fourth meeting... the fourth general... is is not exact, I do not know whether it is exact,

S.B. ... errr... it seems to me it was the fourth general meeting...

S.B. ...at that assembly I was elected a member of the general council...

S.B. ... among the 37 members.

D.B. so you were one of these members of the general council?

D.B. in one of your... errrr.... earlier statements given to the Tribunal, you described how you returned to Kosovo some time in 98, at the beginning of 98.

D.B. can you describe briefly the reasons that led you to take this decision, that is to return to Kosovo?

S.B. yes.

S.B. errr... of course, I was not one of the errr... members of the managing council of the general council /inaudible/ on the party... of the general council, very eager for us to return to Kosovo and organize something.

S.B. mainly what was /?in mind/ was political organization, because the political organization was very weak, not to say that it did not function at all.

S.B. or the... biggest reason that impelled us was the massacre that took place at Prckaz.

S.B. ... and especially the murder of the legendary commander Adem JASHARI.

S.B. The errr.... biggest reason was that the General Staff had chosen my name to go to Kosovo.

S.B. This was an honour for me.

D.B. are you talking about the General Staff in Kosovo?

S.B. I didn't know about that. I didn't know whether it was in Kosovo or in Albania.

D.B. How did they inform you that you had been appointed or that your name had been mentioned to return to Kosovo?

S.B. Yes Hashim THAÇI was errr... he was in Switzerland and he informed me that I had to leave for Kosovo. I knew him as somebody who had links to the KLA, that is I was only able... to know that he had links /inaudible/.

S.B. and we talked, that is, several. Then Fehmi LJADROVCI and Fatmir LJMAJ were informed...

D.B. were there only a few of you appointed to return to Kosovo, if you remember? A small number, as you have mentioned, or was a large group appointed?

S.B. No, there were about 30 of us.

S.B. that is, there were some from Germany, some from Switzerland,

S.B. there were some from Sweden,

D.B. so you say that the entire group consisted of... the entire group of 30 people consisted of all these people who came from different countries, from Switzerland, Germany, Sweden...

S.B. yes, yes. The entire group of 30.

D.B. yes... but you, how many... errr... how many of you were there from Switzerland that were... errr.... appointed to return, approximately?

S.B. There were about 15 of us who travelled from Switzerland.

S.B. But we did all go.

S.B. that is, 15 of us arrived in Albania from Switzerland, but there we separated again.

S.B. errr... we joined up, that is, with others in Albania and...

S.B. ... about 30 of us... set off for Kosovo

D.B. Was there any kind of organization in Albania, that is, how was your group organized to set off for Kosovo?

S.B. errr... there was a sort of organization in Albania, of errr.... before we arrived, there was an organization that I saw there. When I arrived I saw the organization, and in fact it counted as an organization or logistics for the KLA.

S.B. people were waiting for us there.

S.B. but there was quite a lot of danger from the Albanian state itself at that time.

S.B. so we were spread out among houses in Tirana...

S.B. ... and there were plenty of problems until I... we reached the border.

S.B. we joined together there, the 30 of us met up.

D.B. you.. as you mentioned, errr... Ha... Hashim THAÇI came and talked to you and then told you that 'we will set off for Kosovo'. Was Hashim THAÇI a member of the General Staff or was Hashim THAÇI himself informed in the same way as he informed you?

S.B. errr... the conditions of the organization at that time, especially when we are talking about Switzerland, were such that... it would have been illogical to ask 'are you a member of the general staff?'

S.B. errr... in fact, I knew Hashim THAÇI as a person who had links to the KLA.

S.B. and...

S.B. ... and besides Hashim THAÇI, that is, the people who were appointed to link up with Kosovo, as we called them at that time, were Emrush XHEMAJLI and some others, and Xhavit HALITI, and they told us, 'This is in order, you can set off'.

S.B. because in fact we did not count Hashim THAÇI as someone errr... in any organized hier... hierarchy.

D.B. but from the conversations you had with all these people that you mentioned, you realized, you understood, that the order to... to return came from the KLA?

S.B. yes.

D.B. that is, you either know or don't know.

S.B. I don't know this. In fact Fehmi LLADROVCI... Fehmi LLADROVCI tried to enter Kosovo earlier with another group.

S.B. but there happened, that is a member of the KLA, Luan HARADINAJ, was killed, and they turned back. They encountered resistance from Serbian forces on the border...

S.B. I knew this, that is about Fehmi who...

S.B. ... had tried earlier...

S.B. but I don't know about Fatmir.

S.B. I don't know if Hashim THAÇI told him or someone else.

D.B. So of course you only know the fact that he was told just like you were to... to return to Kosovo.

S.B. of course.

D.B. before you entered Kosovo, during the time you stayed in Tirana, were there errr conveyed to you tasks or orders that you thought you would carry out in Kosovo?

S.B. errr.... yes, Hashim THAÇI, as a person I knew to have ties to the KLA and Fehmi LLADROVCI, when we reached the border, and when we became a group of 30, we talked about how we would get into Kosovo, and how we would make contact, and errr... what work we would do there. In fact, even in Switzerland Hashim THAÇI had said to me, 'you must enter Kosovo because the General Staff, we were always

summoned to the General Staff, and the General Staff, that is, had to errr... have someone who would give information, that is, in the shape of journalism.

D.B. who dealt with the press.

S.B. with the press, yes.

D.B. But who... who allocated, who appointed the tasks, that is?

S.B. There was no definition of what the task was, that is, I talked about this but errr.... in fact several tasks were allocated. A vanguard unit was appointed to accompany the group, and they had the task simply to escort the group to Drenica.

S.B. in fact the group was escorted by people I already knew. It was errr... Hashim, Hashim THAÇI, but there were also some professional officers /inaudible/ who...

D.B. to send you into Albania or Kosovo?

S.B. yes.

D.B. which people accompanied you there?

S.B. The people who accompanied us, that is in fact who went in with our group, were Hashim, and profession people that we, that is, that we knew as 'Abeja' /?they said Abeja there, and we called him Abeja.... that was how we knew him, I don't know his full pseudonym.

D.B. What was the pseudonym?

S.B. 'Abeja'

D.B. 'Abeja' with A?

S.B. yes.

D.B. these people were in the group that you mentioned?

S.B. yes, before /inaudible/.

D.B. before...

D.B. and you are still talking about the group of 30 people that you mentioned before?

D.B. Do you remember the date when... when errr... you entered Kosovo?

S.B. That is difficult but I know it was the month of March.

S.B. I know that it was 7 March, the day errr... that day that is that we arrived in Albania.

S.B. That is, that date was taken as the date for leaving for Kosovo.

D.B. somewhere around... not 7 March?

S.B. 7 March.

D.B. 7 March was the day you set off for Kosovo?

S.B. It was taken as the departure dates, that is in fact the day when we arrived in Albania.

D.B. 7 March was in fact the date... the date of your arrival in Albania?

S.B. yes in Albania.

S.B. but it was taken as the departure date.

D.B. errr... you mentioned in your earlier statement given to the Tribunal that errr... Fatmir LIMAJ was the leader of the unit that... who led the group when.. when you entered Kosovo, is this...

D.B. at that time, were specific duties assigned to him,... particular or specific duties?

S.B. no, no. until we arrived in Drenica there were no specific duties for us, that is for those in the group.

S.B. errr... after we arrived in Drenica,

S.B. then Fatmir LIMAJ was appointed...

S.B. to lead the unit.

S.B. that is, in fact Fatmir LIMAJ led the unit...errr... until we arrived at Kleçka.

S.B. ... and I have always counted him as my first commander on this basis.

D.B. when you arrived in Drenica, were you still together as a group of 30 people until the moment when you arrived in Drenica?

S.B. until we arrived in Drenica, yes.

D.B. you were... you were 30 people together?

S.B. yes.

S.B. perhaps in Drenica, in fact in the villages where we saw KLA soldiers... errr... we spread out among the houses.

S.B. errr... we stayed here I don't know several days.

S.B. We were given the order, that is, to leave and to organize in the area as it was then called, that is, Suhareka, Malisheva, Lipjan, Shtima, Prizren, Kaçanik, which is a very large territory.

S.B. Malisheva, Lipjan, Ferizaj, Shtima, Kaçanik, Elez Han, and other places, that is territory totally outside Drenica.

D.B. During the time you stayed in Drenica... were you informed about the organization and about... the administrative division... the organizational division of the KLA?

S.B. Errr... no errr.... we were not able to learn about this. We only.... errr...

S.B. at that time... the KLA operated in a very narrow circle...

S.B. ... but it has also always been part of my nature not to ask questions.

S.B. I was myself in prison and I knew that if you know a lot of people...

D.B. who... who gave the order... who issued the order that you had to go to these other areas?

S.B. We did not know who issued the order, but in fact the order was conveyed /inaudible/ conveyed by Hashim THAÇI.

D.B. errr... did errr... Hashim THAÇI mention to you the fact that Fatmir LIMAJ would be commander of this unit that was to go to... that area?

S.B. No. but we in fact knew Fatmir LIMAJ to be the most competent person because he knew the lie of the land.

S.B. Fatmir LIMAJ was assigned the task of coordinating work with the General Staff,

S.B. while I had to coordinate with Fatmir.

S.B. that is, in fact, how the organization would work, because there had not been any organization for some time, that is any organization of units, and information had to be brought to Fatmir, and then from Fatmir to the General Staff, and then they we could then come back to us with what we had to do next.

D.B. This task that was assigned, that is assigning Fatmir as leader of the unit and appointing you to go to an area... were you given the task of staying there, were you to set up a base, were you to start to organize yourselves... errr... whatever kind of organization that was possible?

S.B. errr... Fatmir LIMAJ was appointed to go and set up in Kleçka, in the village of Kleçka, whereas I informed, that is Hashim once again, that we would set up in the village of Mollapolc near Shtima and...

D.B. excuse me, did Hashim inform you that you would set up in Mollapolc?

S.B. no, no I informed him...

D.B. you asked...

S.B. and in fact... that at that time we were organizing there...



S.B. that is, in fact at that time... they could not order us to 'go here, go there' because they could not know where we could go, but we decided to which houses I could go and where I would be safe and where I could start organizing.

D.B. so, you had a kind of priority in deciding as you judged yourself and then... you would decide where...

S.B. We were independent to decide where to set up, that is in which family, because we could not know all the families.

D.B. because errr... there was a slight... errr... misunderstanding. The group led by Fatmir LIMAJ was assigned to go to Kleçka?

S.B. yes.

D.B. And this group was... assigned an area... of operation, that is, it was appointed to go to Kleçka as a group, and was an area of operation assigned which would generally be the area where you would operate, this is.... because I did not understand at the start when he asked me.

S.B. This is slightly problematic. Errr... In fact we were each assigned to a place where we would go, to which area, that is, to which part. Errr... Agim BAJRAMI...

S.B. ... that is, Agim BAJRAMI had the part at the bottom there... Kaçanik.

S.B. errr... I had to set up that is in the Shtima area where I knew the area well.

S.B. while three of the people in the unit... errr... had to set up in Kleçka.

S.B. that is, speaking about Fatmir.

S.B. whose name at that time I did not know

S.B. I knew him once as ÇELIKU.

S.B. There was KUMANOVA

S.B. and... errr... TOPI /cannon/.

D.B. These assignments that you mentioned, now it means that each person was assigned to a... certain area. These assignments were given out by Hashim THAÇI in Drenica.

S.B. In fact guidelines were not made in the form of orders because there was no /inaudible/ but we were told we were to go, that is we were given an area, but we went because there was no organization.

S.B. That is, we went because we knew... we knew the people, that is, I could not see the people errr... with most authority in /inaudible/

S.B. which means that in fact the organization was set in motion.... organization...

D.B. and then you described to us how you supposed that you would report... would report back to Fatmir about...

D.B. Was some kind of headquarters created in Kleçka at the time you are talking about?

S.B. When I returned, that is, in fact, errr.... in the beginning there wasn't at Kleçka, but three soldiers went, and stopped in another place, while we went ahead with Agim BAJRAMI, which means that we left the Malisheva area one night before,

D.B. Errr... excuse me.

D.B. Errr... excuse me, you took part in the events and are following the events in your mind. I don't know anything and so have to follow them sentence by sentence.

S.B. That's right.

D.B. At first there were no soldiers in Kleçka?

S.B. No, no.

D.B. No you can go on with your account.

S.B. In fact when we arrived in Kleçka, that is there were only two of us.

S.B. there was myself and Agim BAJRAMI,

- S.B. ... and we picked up a person in Kleçka...
- S.B. ... who Çeliku, Fatmir, knew,
- S.B. .... errr... to show us the road how to reach my village.
- S.B. that is it was Sadik errr... SHALA.
- S.B. he is a martyr.
- S.B. while one night later.... I understood, that is I could not know at the time,  
Fatmir arrived one night later, and there we came out at a village called Pagarusha.
- D.B. so at that time you did not know that...
- S.B. no.
- S.B. that is I did not know on what day it would be decided,
- S.B. ... but we had made contacts to pick him up at Kleçka, Fatmir and I.
- S.B. that means, contacts through couriers or...
- S.B. that would be appointed later.
- S.B. because Fatmir knew me by my full name and knew my family too...
- S.B. even though I did not know him.
- S.B. /inaudible/ because of my political involvement, my imprisonment, the  
imprisonment of my brother, that is in fact they knew us as a family.
- S.B. That is, I had to wait for him to send a courier to find out when we would  
make another contact.
- D.B. These events that you are describing, that is this manner of acting, this... errr....  
you are thinking of the period of March or April, during the time...
- S.B. March, March.
- D.B. March.
- S.B. the beginning of...
- D.B. the beginning of March?

S.B. ... of the organization.

D.B. the start of the organization.

D.B. the time by my watch is 1037.

D.B. we are going to take a short break.

D.B. errr... do you take sugar and milk in your coffee?

S.B. yes

D.B. both?

D.B. If you need to go to the bathroom, of course we can show you outside.

S.B. I need a cigarette more.

D.B. of course you can smoke outside.

S.B. thank you.

D.B. the time by my watch is 1056...

D.B. we are going to continue the interview.

D.B. are you satisfied with the way in which the interview has been conducted so far?

S.B. of course.

D.B. please, if you have any concern with... with any worry or if at any thime you feel it's not... errr... with the way it is being done, please tell me.

D.B. this air conditioner is working too.

S.B. the air is hot outside and that helps us.

D.B. as you know Mr. BUJA, we have carried out a lot of investigations into... into this matter and we are concentrating manly on the period between spring 98 and somewhere in August-September 98.

D.B. we have received information, we have received a lot of information from people who have different jobs or positions,

D.B. ... so that we can get a clearer idea about the manner of organization of the KLA at that time.

D.B. now I want us to talk a bit about the period from the end of March and beyond April, about the way.... the time when you went to that area and started, that is, your activities.

D.B. I am going to... going to... show you a map,

D.B. ... so that we can show you some places during the conversation.

D.B. and for the sake of the recording,

D.B. the map has the number U0033372.

D.B. So that during the conversation you are free, if you wish, to make notes on errr... the map.

D.B. Do you recognize that is the appearance of the map?

D.B. .... that is the Prishtina-Peja road.

D.B. you... as far as I know... you had the headquarters set up at Krojmir.

D.B. is that correct?

S>B> errr...

D.B. That you set up the headquarters in for.... in Krojmir?

S.B. the population called it a headquarters.

S.B. ... because our organization was not defined at that time.

D.B. But Krojmir was like a centre.... of errr.... your activities at that time... in that area where... errr... where you started to operate, that is?

S.B. there was a period, that is, errr I established myself in Krojmir in May...

S.B. but the place where I stayed in Krojmir was not defined,

S.B. because I was charged, that is, with coordinating work from Kaçanik.

S.B. that is in fact in Krojmir, when errr.... there were offensives or when there was fighting, I was obliged, that is even if I had not wanted to, to stay in Krojmir.

D.B. Errr... you were obliged to stay in Krojmir...

S.B. yes, yes...

D.B. ... because of the offensives?

S.B. .... the offensives.

D.B. you said that the civilian population called it... called it... referred to it as a headquarters?

S.B. yes.

D.B. Also,, we we want to tell you that we have received information and from... errr... soldiers or members of the KLA,

D.B. including important members of the KLA.

D.B. and they too refer to it or mention this... this place as a headquarters.

D.B. we have also learned about.... also... they have also told us about this... manner of organization or organizational structure.

S.B. Yes... errr in fact, that means the soldiers... errr. Who try to describe the organization of the high level of the KLA at that time, make mistakes like that,

S.B. ... because...

S.B. ... for example, the establishment at errr.... Petreshtica /Pjetërshtica/,

S.B. or Blinajë,

S.B. ... the place where the unit commander stayed,

S.B. ...errr... was called a headquarters.

S.B. in fact, errr.... people did not know, I could have called it a headquarters, me too,

S.B. ... but how can I define it? Whose headquarters?

D.B. We will... later we will put questions to you to explain this story, but... errr... we only wanted to inform you of this fact.

D.B. errr... we will explain to you another reason why we are asking this in connection with the headquarters... we will explain to you now.

D.B. During this time, many men, that is many male persons, started to join up with... to join the KLA.

D.B. and for example, they mentioned the fact that.... in April 1998 they went and reported to the headquarters in Krojmir, to start activities as... as soldiers of the KLA.

D.B. They also mention the fact that they reported, that is at... at the place where Shukri BUJA was... errr.... that means.... they were registered by Shukri BUJA as... how should I put it in Albanian... errr... at that headquarters.

D.B. Is that correct?

S.B. Yes, it is correct but headquarters... errr... people in fact did say 'I'm going to the headquarters'. But... I will take an example so you will understand better.

D.B. They also mention the fact that they reported, that is at... at the place where Shukri BUJA was... errr.... that means.... they were registered by Shukri BUJA as... how should I put it in Albanian... errr... at that headquarters.

D.B. Is that correct?

S.B. Yes, it is correct but headquarters... errr... people in fact did say 'I'm going to the headquarters'. But... I will take an example so you will understand better.

D.B. The whole of Reçak, the village of Reçak, called the house where the soldiers stayed a headquarters.

S.B. and... errr... the problem was that there was no headquarters there,

S.B. because there was no structure that might be called a headquarters

S.B. there was a commander, of the unit,

S.B. ... and a deputy to him.

S.B. there was... we did not deal with a headquarters.

S.B. while... in Krojmir,

S.B. ...errr... you must bear in mind the period when the KLA came out publicly.

S.B. in Krojmir we set up in a house,

S.B. ... somewhere around ten soldiers,

S.B. ... and then we began to expand

S.B. and... errr... just looking at the house that is made people call it the KLA headquarters...

S.B. because in the organizational sense there was no headquarters.

D.B. I understand what you want to say.

D.B. but you... you... you as a person know the military structure quite well.

D.B. errr... I... I... understand and starting off with what you want to say.... errr... I understand and the other thing, that things were starting in the military aspect and were developing...errr.... and were in the process of formation. But in any event the place, that place, that location in Krojmir operated as a headquarters. Is... is that correct?

S.B. it was called a headquarters, but it did not function as a headquarters and this...

S.B. it is true that people came and registered,

S.B. they registered to sign up as KLA soldiers.



S.B. someone was assigned to this work, that is registering.

S.B. and these people were sent to Albania to be armed.

S.B. errr... the period when this kind of thing happened was the period of May and June,

S.B. when the road to Albania was open, at the time... when in Malisheva...

S.B. at that time my job was as a coordinator of activity in the area of Kaçanik, Ferizaj, Shtima,

S.B. which means, my coordination was with Fatmir LIMAJ who was established at Kleçka.

S.B. when the number of KLA soldiers from Krojmir expanded, that is about a dozen at Krojmir, for example, when they grew, that is we set off towards Petreshtica to set up posts. And at that time there was also...

D.B. when did you expand, when did the number grow...?

S.B. when the number grew, when it started to grow, but at the beginning the growth in numbers was so fast, it was very fast, and sometimes it changed in the course of one day...

S.B. and at that time there was yet another change in the organization.

S.B. so there was no strategy... no military strategy, but they were set up and called posts.

S.B. for instance, the post at Llapushnik.

S.B. the post at Fushtica,

S.B. at Petreshtica, and others

S.B. which means that at that time we... errr... there was also a person from the General Staff. We did not know whether he was the person responsible, but he appeared, that is, and we knew him from before, in fact, as a member of the General Staff, and he assigned the posts at Petreshtica.

S.B. that is, in fact this area became an area put under the control of the KLA without any fighting.

S.B. and that is people began to appear very fast and when to arm themselves and it expanded very fast /inaudible/

D.B. and I...errr... according to the information I have, the things that.... the activities you were dealing with at that time were... were... the organization of the digging of trenches,

D.B. but regardless of the question of whether there was fighting or not, I would like to emphasize ... errr ... the moment when there was a kind of structure ... in... in that zone, in that sense I mean.

D.B. I... as far as I know... in April of 98 there were regular weekly meetings at Kleçka.

D.B. Did... did you take part in these regular weekly meetings?

S.B. No, because I was not part of the command of Kleçka.

S.B. there were special occasions on which I did take part.

S.B. for instance, in May,

S.B. for most of May, I was in the Ferizaj-Kaçanik area,

S.B. in order to coordinate work with the commander Agim BAJRAMI because...

S.B. with a special duty on the supply line, of weapons.

D.B. that was your task.

S.B. and at the same time, when I was, that is, in that area, in Krojmir, I helped. At that time you could not... we had not even defined companies or battalions, but only posts. I helped that is to survey positions, trenches, bunkers, and other things.

S.B. and I had, I said, ... errr... support from Fatmir, or the... errr... General Staff, which means that I did not know the members, but I knew... errr... Fatmir. At that time I thought he was a member of the General Staff.

S.B. that means that I was able so say that a person should be established at... for example at Petrehtica, who would command that post, a person who should be set up. Often they did not accept my proposal, but I made the proposals.

S.B. and just as... errr... I thought that Fatmir was a member of the General Staff, also most people thought that I was a member of the General Staff.

D.B. at the end of... April 98, at the end of April 98, how many soldiers were there at Krojmir?

D.B. approximately.

S.B. errr... April 98.

D.B. we are talking about the end of April 98.

S.B. I do not know if there was a unit, and whether it was the end of April or the beginning of May when soldiers were established at ... errr... at Krojmir. There were around eight or... I do not know.

D.B. in... in...

S.B. yes that was the end of April or the beginning of May.  
D.B. and you were the commander at Krojmir at that time?  
S.B. errr... no, not...  
D.B. or you... you... organized them, or...  
S.B. errr... this must be explained. Errr... I in fact... was at Kaçanik, I do not know, whether it was the beginning of May or the end of April, when I brought the first weapons from... from Kaçanik...  
S.B. ... and when we in fact set up in Krojmir.  
S.B. ... when I found the organization there, that is, the soldiers that had come from abroad,  
S.B. ... there were about three or four soldiers who came from abroad...  
S.B. who also belonged to Krojmir.  
D.B. errr...  
S.B. to Krojmir, the village of Krojmir.  
D.B. to the village  
S.B. and in fact they did the distribution of weapons to the people that they thought would be the best KLA soldiers.  
S.B. and I usually, in contact with Fatmir,  
S.B. that is, I asked where we should set up and what operations we should carry out, since we were in Krojmir.  
D.B. did you... did you tell Fatmir?  
S.B. I asked Fatmir what we should do.  
D.B. who was the person responsible at Krojmir at that time? Was it you?  
S.B. errr.... at that time there were two of us. That is in fact I do not know who was the first.  
D.B. it was you and who else?  
S.B. myself and... errr.... Luan /lion/... Ramiz QERIQI.  
D.B. you were both....errr... so, entrusted with Krojmir?  
S.B. in Krojmir.  
D.B. we are talking about the end of April 98.  
S.B. at the end of April or the beginning of May.  
D.B. so Fatmir LIMAJ at that time either contacted you or contacted Luan, directly?

S.B. yes, with one, that is another... because I was unable to decide for many reasons, and the main reasons were that I did not know people.

D.B. I... I did not ask you about this but I asked you only about the fact that Fatmir LIMAJ was in contact, that is, either contacted you or Luan directly?

S.B. that's right.

D.B. and Fatmir LIMAJ was also the person who had direct links with... with the General Staff, wherever the General Staff was?

S.B. in fact he was the coordinator of this matter.

D.B. so, if we can describe the structure, we have a General Staff that is above everything, and in the middle, there stands Fatmir LIMAJ as a coordinating point, and then the transmission is carried out... errrr... the other point where Fatmir LIMAJ conveys it... is where you and Luan are. Is that correct?

S.B. it is correct, only one thing that /inaudible/ transmitted it that is, I was entrusted with another area and in fact was also coordinator at Kaçanik and as I explained earlier...

D.B. What... what did you describe to me, once again?

D.B. that means there was an elementary structure, if we take structure in its most simplified sense.

D.B. that means that at the very top was the KLA's main staff.

D.B. Fatmir LIMAJ comes at one level further down in...

D.B. ... in Klečka.

D.B. ... and below Fatmir LIMAJ come you and Luan in Krojmir, that is, as you might say, from the hierarchical point of view.

D.B. this is what you wanted to say, that is, that is the way you described this?

S.B. Luan and I were different kinds of character.

D.B. let us repeat the question again.

D.B. I am not interested in knowing... errr... what duties you and Luan had.

D.B. I only want you to confirm.... if, in this period that we are talking about, the end of April 98,

D.B. ... there was a sort of initial structure errr... errr.... an initial structure.

D.B. that is, the Central Staff;

D.B. Fatmir LIMAJ receives instructions from the Central Staff;

D.B. ... and you and Luan in Krojmir receive instructions from Fatmir LIMAJ.

D.B. is this correct?

S.B. that is correct. I wanted to explain something else, but it is correct.

D.B. thank you.

D.B. at... at the time that... we are talking about, was Fatmir LIMAJ established at Klečka?

S.B. at Klečka.

D.B. and was the procedure that you or Luan could... could go and follow those weekly meetings at... at Klečka?

S.B. errr... the weekly meetings... I do not know that weekly meetings were defined,

S.B. but when I had business, that is I went straight to Klečka.

S.B. meaning directly to Fatmir,

S.B. ... without the presence of any command, any headquarters that could decide this matter.

D.B. at the start of May 98,

D.B. errrr... at the start of May 98 as... you referred to these centres as posts, but let us say the so-called headquarters, these posts or headquarters, besides Krojmir...errr...

D.B. were there other posts similar to Krojmir that were under the responsibility of Klečka in... in the area, in the zone?

S.B. Yes, there were /inaudible/ it is a bit difficult to define when there were... errr... when this post was set up, but there was. Which means...

D.B. can you... write... errr...

D.B. can you write 'the Klečka headquarters'?

D.B. some thing like /?organization/ that means a... explain the structure, that is. Here is the post or the headquarters, call it what you will, of Klečka, and a box, that means Klečka, and now tell us who Klečka had under its responsibilities.

D.B. that is and in hierarchical fashion, ... errrr... how did Klečka transmit orders, that is, to these other similar posts that you described, Krojmir and others.

D.B. can you draw, name the posts that took orders from Klečka, that is one level below Klečka in...

S.B. /inaudible/ there were posts, also... there were here... it is a bit of a problem... Maj they say... errr... the KLA expanded and went out towards the villages,

S.B. ... and with the increase of the soldiers.

S.B. ... in fact in May and don't know I don't know whether they spread to Jahur, a village near Kleçka,

D.B. later they spread to Luzhnica too but I don't know, I don't know whether there was one there too in May.

D.B. but this was under... under the responsibility of Kleçka?

S.B. yes, this means that the soldiers of Kleçka had advanced. Then there was...

O.L. /English/ Ok, yeah, yeah.

S.B. Jahur.

D.B. Ja...

S.B. Jahur.

S.B. that means that later they went in the direction of Luzhnuica, and that....

D.B. Are you sure, that it was in May or... in Luzhnica?

S.B. May... I can't... can't be sure.

S.B. ... but later yes.

S.B. Luzhnica, no doubt in May, at the end of May or at the beginning of June.

S.B. then there was Llapushnik. I don't know whether it was in May or June, in May, at the end of May.

S.B. Llapushnik, then comes, there is Krojmir... Krojmior errr.... they expanded, I don't know whether in May or when, in Petreshtica. It might have been the end of May.

S.B. Petrashtica.. errr... these villages before Kleçka I can't remember /inaudible/ she then /?Pushtica/ but later /?Pushtica/.

D.B. what is it called. Tushicë?

S.B. /?Pushticë/, Pushticë.

D.B. Fushticë.

S.B. never mind, there were villages... there are a lot of villages. Nekofc and... errr. Kishnareka... and Kishnareka is another one... another... they were called 'Pllumbat' /doves/, another commander. That means this was approximately the organisation in...

S.B. later we added that is villages in June or July, and Fushtica and... Blinaja were closed down

S.B. and they came out on the other side of the asphalt, the Carraleva road,

S.B. at the village up above... errr... Grejëec,

S.B. and they spread below Klečka in the direction of Malisheva and in fact then Malisheva sometime in June /inaudible/...

S.B. ... in June or July there was Malisheva and its villages.

S.B. At Llapushnik we had, that means... there were established, as far as... on the basis of... unofficial information we had...

S.B. there was the pass that is of Llapushnik where there were the parts of errr... what was called 'Çeliku 3', and another part of errr... Drenica, it seems to me 'Guri 3'.

D.B. errr.... besides Llapushnik... errr....

S.B. they were in two parts...

D.B. it was in two parts?

S.B. yes that means the asphalt...

D.B. this post was divided in two parts?

S.B. in two parts. That means there were parts where 'Çeliku 3' and 'Guri 3' were.

D.B. 'Çeliku 3' and 'Guri 3'?

S.B. yes.

D.B. were they names of places, that were called this?

D.B. the names of posts. Post.

D.B. post.

S.B. they were divided that is behind the line of the asphalt.

D.B. can you... can you draw this with a diagram like you did here...

D.B. these are two posts... subposts of the Llapushniuk post.

S.B. ... here there was 'Çeliku 3' and 'Guri 3'.

S.B. 'Guri 3'.

D.B. so this Prishtina-Peja road divided these two posts, one from another?

S.B. yes.

D.B. that means, which was the position of the posts, that means, on which side of the road was 'Çeliku 3' and on which side 'Guri 3'?

S.B. the part towards Klečka was 'Çeliku 3', while...

S.B. while on the part...errr...

S.B. .... 'Guri 3' was towards Drenica.

D.B. errr... as you mentioned....errr... as time passed, there were more and more posts in the area?

S.B. yes.

D.B. errr... as time passed, as you said.... mentioning that fact that these posts increased in number in the area, did they started to... be transformed or changed into sort of... let us say... battalion commands or battalion headquarters, central posts, and then these other let us say subordinate posts were under... under the central posts?

S.B. errr... these were in fact were transformed here immediately after the first offensive.

D.B. after the first offensive?

S.B. after the first offensive.

S.B. during the time of the offensive,

S.B. ...I was appointed the commander of a subzone by the General Staff. That's what it was called.

D.B. commander of a subzone?

S.B. yes a subzone.

S.B. without defined... without clearly defined territory...

S.B. without defined military structure...

S.B. ... but after the offensive.

S.B. it started to be defined..errr... the organization started to be defined.

D.B. when you talk about after the first offensive, what offensive do you mean?

S.B. the July offensive. June-July.

D.B. let's not... for the moment let's not go so far.

D.B. do you remember... errr.. the names of the people responsible for these posts that were set up?

S.B. errr... that is a problem.... it is a problem because I was unable to /inaudible/ official information/.

S.B. we mainly used pseudonyms and ...

D.B. he says it's all right even with pseudonyms.

S.B.. errr... for instance there was here a... 'Voglushi' /little one/

D.B. was 'Voglushi' for a subpost or a post?

S.B. these people of Llapushnik I don't know whether it was 'Voglushi' or 'Çerçizi'

D.B. for Llapushnik?

S.B. for Llapushnik. That means...



S.B. in fact 'Voglushi' in fact often came to Krojmir.  
S.B. he also helped us during the offensive, which means, he came with support units.  
S.B. at this post here...errr.... there were also soldiers of... errr. of Llapushnik, on the line that its, they went down from Llapushnik to /?Fushticë/.  
D.B. they went to assist or were established here?  
S.B. no, no they were established there.  
S.B. /inaudible/ there was a struggle for people's posts... among the unit commanders. Who could create the most posts!  
S.B. and it was very problematic.  
S.B. that means that the soldiers of one post went down to a post further below than...  
S.B. it got more confused... the matter got confused until the start of the offensive. When the offensives started, each person said, 'no, no, that it not my post'.  
S.B. errr... here at Fushtica I don't remember because...  
S.B. errr.... at Petrashtica there were a lot of changes. Errr... they changed over quite a lot. Here I cannot even know...  
S.B. in Krojmir there was in fact...errr... the soldiers' location, where they gathered, where they came and reported, because Krojmir was in the area that.... they did not... /inaudible/  
S.B. Here there were not in fact units established, besides...  
S.B. .... except that 'Luan' and I stayed there.  
S.B. ... at certain times.  
S.B. the people from Kleçka were also at Luzhnica. 'Kumanova' was also at Kleçka.  
D.B. So 'Kumanova' was for Kleçka?'  
S.B. He was at Kleçka...  
D.B. ah, he was at Kleçka!  
S.B. and here Kumanova was taken more as a... the highest person in the hierarchy at Kleçka.  
D.B. Kumanova stayed at Kleçka?  
S.B. at Kleçka.

- S.B. while... was considered... we understood him to be a person... a person of the highest hierarchy,,, or the person.... the coordinator with the General Staff.
- D.B. Çeliku.... at that time you considered Çeliku to be higher than Kumanova?
- S.B. higher than Kumanova.
- D.B. whereas you considered Kuma... Kumanova to be the highest person for Kleçka? That means the person most...
- S.B. Kumanova...
- D.B. just in case you were making a mistake, that's why.
- S.B. no, no Kumanova...
- D.B. The most responsible person at Kleçka was Kumanova, according to your understanding at that time?
- S.B. yes, that's right... that's what we thought, but there was nothing official.
- D.B. that's exactly what I said.
- S.B. and now....
- S.B. later Kumanova went down to the units, I do not know whether it was May, that, is, that's why I mentioned that, in Luzhnica, with the units...
- S.B. ... Javur.
- S.B. on the other side of the asphalt at Grejçec.
- S.B. everybody tried to reach as far as possible and lay hold of as many powts as possible, and later,,,
- D.B. as I understood it, Kumanova was the person most... as you say... the most... most highest and most responsible for Kleçka, but Çeliku was... in a way higher than Kumanova in...
- D.B. this was at least how I understood it from... from the way you described it.
- S.B. errr.... yes....
- D.B. is that right?
- S.B. right. We considered Çeliku that is in fact above... above our organisation.
- D.B. but Çeliku too stayed in Kleçka?
- S.B. yes yes in Kleçka.
- S.B. but at that period.... but at that period at Kleçka, and at Luzhnica too at that time, that is the period of July or the end of July, there stayed there some other members that we considered to be members of the General Staff.
- D.B. so during those months, May, June, July, Çeliku was there, present in Kleçka?

S.B. Çeliku was there.

D.B. I want to clarify somewhat the position of Kumanova and his role.

D.B. errr... I want only to explain this point: Kumanova, considering that he was responsible... the highest responsible person at Kleçka, was he the person who gave orders to the other posts or was he only the commander for the soldiers of Kleçka?

S.B. errr.... I cannot tell. In fact, I myself, at the meetings that I had, I dealt with Çeliku.

S.B. but Kumanova was also often in Çeliku's presence.

S.B. and it was not in the form of an order, but in the form of a consultation/

S.B. which means, in fact, I... I was consulting about the supply line.

D.B. I'm sorry, I made a mistake.

D.B. it was the supply line, not for weapons, because I said weapons supplies.

D.B. the supply line for what?

S.B. yes, yes for weapons.

S.B. for weapons.

S.B. it was more a consultation. Was this possible or was this possible, that it, we considered it.

S.B. when Çeliku was unable to explain to me, that means in fact that he asked for time to consult with members of the General Staff.

D.B. can you draw something like a...errrr... diagram.... that.... arrow and the central staff, that is, the central staff was above... above Kleçka.

D.B. just to complete the entire diagram of the... errr. The structure

S.B. that means. Here later, I don't know whether it was in June or July, never mind, I'll write General Staff here even though I have given much more... explanation here...

D.B. let's... try to explain the whole diagram once again.

D.B. during all this fighting you talked about... or the offensives, is it correct that the soldiers from all these posts were involved in this way and did not.... stay at the definite posts but helped each other or that...

D.B. which was the commanding unit or centre when,,, when these things happened, that it, when the fighting took place and when it was necessary to... to... to send a unit to the assistance of the other unit, like that. The question is, who organised them?

S.B. Yes. Klegka.

D.B. what was the method of communication at this time?

S.B. by courier.

D.B. by courier?

S.B. on foot or himself /inaudible/

D.B. there was no radio or telephone at that time?

S.B. no, no, this was the initial period, and there cannot have been more than two or three radio links in the whole of that area.

D.B. in that entire area, meaning Kosovo?

No, no, in what we called the area of Lapusha.

D.B. but during the fighting, was Commander Çeliku... was he present at different posts, that is, of this...

SD.B. yes. I saw him, that is, he came to the fighting at Carraleva where I was, he came...

S.B. ... directly, or to the fighting at Fushtica.

D.B. but in the intervals between the fighting, that is when there was no fighting, did he... did he go among the posts, for example, would he come to us at Krojmir to visit you, to see you.

S.B. yes, he used to come.

D.B. why... why are these names that is, these two subposts 'Çeliku 3' and 'Guri 3'?

S.B. errr... in fact the units that were organised at this time were called units.

S.B. and who in fact organised... errr... Fatmir had the pseudonym 'Çeliku'. At the time when he assembled people, he had the duty of organizing them, that is he assembled people and sent them to the posts and it was called... errr... the unit of 'Çeliku 1', of 'Çeliku 2; of 'Çeliku'...

D.B. were these two sub-units if we can call them that or subposts... were they set up by Fatmir LIMAJ?

S.B. Fatmir LIMAJ took part in this fighting, because there were fighters both from Drenica and of Çeliku, that is from Llapusha as we called it... errr... in breaking through the gap of Llapushnik or the capture of the Llapushnik gap. And then they took up positions, but Çeliku was over here while here there were several soldiers established that we had, and there were in fact also problems with...

D.B. what the gentleman wants explained is whether this sub-unit or subpost was called Çeliku because it was formed by Çeliku, it was created by Çeliku personally?

S.B. yes, some people who were established there were Çeliku's.

S.B. so they were established, it was called that because he formed it?

S.B. it was formed, that is they were Çeliku's soldiers.

D.B. this is the reason that is why, Fatmir LIMAJ's soldiers were established at this subpost, it was therefore called the Çeliku 3 unit?

S.B. yes /?that's right/

D.B. I will put, I will put a question about what you mentioned regarding the offensive of... of June-July 98.

D.B. You.... errrr.. were talking about the fighting in Carraleva, this first offensive?

S.B. errrr... the fighting took place at Carraleva and at all the posts.

D.B. errrr, at that time, during the first offensive?

S.B. yes.

D.B. but ay... at....those other places apart from Carraleva, was there fighting?

S.B. But the offensive that is started... at the posts in general: at Zborc. Carraleva, Blinajë, Fushticë, Llapushnik, and Drenica over there and the entire line stretched...

D.B. this is... you are talking about the June-July 98 period?

S.B. yes.

D.B. you, when you mention the offensive, it means you are talking about this entire range of fighting that took place, that happened at these posts?

S.B. yes generally we gave the name offensive to the start of military operations.

S.B. so, when they started with all their hardware, with tanks, with... errr...

S.B. so that, in order to.... to conquer all the posts, it means the general offensive.

S.B. whereas there was intermit... intermittent fighting both before and afterwards,

S.B. especially at the Carraleva gap and the Llapushnik gap.

S.B. these were the two roads that they were trying to open there, because they were blocked.

S.B. we...

D.B. these roads had been blocked by you?

S.B. blocked by us. The KLA.

D.B. I know that there in the Carraleva are, in May and June, there was... errr... fighting along the Shtima-Duhël road.

D.B. that is when the offensive started, the military operations as you considered the start of the offensive. When... when do you consider that they started?

S.B. crrr... I don't know the exact date but... crrr...

D.B. approximately.

S.B. ... some time at the end of June, beginning of July.

D.B. as I said before, when you say the first offensive, was it just one battle or several battles, or how would you delimit it in time, how long did this... this offensive last?

S.B. No, the offensive means... we used the word offensive to define military action at all the posts, that is the spread of all the units /inaudible/

S.B. and general there was that is, errr... all along the line of fighting, whether starting from Carraleva-Duhék and that is continuing to Zborc, Blinajë over there...

S.B. and then including the Drenica area too,

D.B. and then who was it?

S.B. Blinajë, Ilapushnik...

S.B. that is, this was the offensive that we implied, to overcome all the units.

S.B. and it lasted up to one month.

D.B. in connection with the offensive that you said lasted approximately one month.

D.B. during this entire period, you were as you might say at the head of the post ... in... in Krojmir? During the duration of the offensive, of course.

S.B. no. in fact, in a way they bypassed me later...

D.B. during this time?

S.B. ... more for political reasons.

S.B. ... because I began to be accused...

S.B. ... of being someone who withdrew soldiers from the front line.

S.B. there was somebody who left the front line

S.B. and I withdrew from all my other activities. That is I stayed with the General Staff...

D.B. after this attack on you started.

S.B. that's right.

S.B. and I asked either for measures to be taken against me, that is, to be punished as a person...

S.B. who had withdrawn soldiers from the front line...

S.B. or for measures to be taken against those who were spreading....

S.B. and since it was impossible to do these things...crrr... they gave an order for me to leave Kosovo...

S.B. that is, this happened after a lot of consultation I entered into with the General Staff,

S.B. over a pretty long period

S.B. and some time towards the middle of August or the beginning of August, the General Staff ordered me to go to Albania, in order then to consolidate the command, as they said there, of the operational subzone of Nerodime.

D.B. of Nerodime?

D.B. can you describe to me once again the task, that is, ordered by the General Staff, to go to Albania..

S.B. to consolidate... yes...

D.B. to consolidate what?

S.B. the subzone...crrr...the command of the subzone...

S.B. ... and to look at the weapons supply line.

S.B. in fact this period of the first offensive was a period that hurt me pretty hard,

S.B. because my duties were undefined.

S.B. at one time they called me a coordinator

S.B. ... and later they appointed me as a commander of a subzone,

S.B. /inaudible/ meaning of the operational subzone of Nerodime, they... they transferred me to that subzone.

S.B. in the absence of radio links, nobody knew where I was. In fact, I went to fighting... that was going on at the same time in Blinajë, and these people of Zborc were /inaudible/.

D.B. who... who accused you of this ... desertion, or of taking soldiers from...

S.B. mainly the commanders of the posts.

D.B. the other commanders of posts?

S.B. yes. The commanders of posts that were set up...

D.B. and when you said that you went to the main staff to explain this that is, either for measures to be taken against you or against them, you went to Kleçka or to the Central Staff?

S.B. yes in fact at that time there were several members of the General Staff, that is at the end of the offensive it was evident who they were, and we knew roughly who were members of the General Staff...

D.B. so who were they?

S.B. they were at Luzhnica.

D.B. at Luzhnica.

D.B. you said at the end of July, didn't you?

S.B. at the end of July... beginning of August.

S.B. at the end of July...

D.B. did you talk with Çeliku about this matter?

S.B. yes of course I talked with Çeliku too.

D.B. Çeliku...Çeliku assigned you to go to Albania to deal with the task of consolidating... with consolidating the command of the subzone and with...

S.B. no, no. that is, the members of the General Staff. There were members... five members of the General Staff.

S.B. that is, it was a public matter, it was clear to us who it was. It was Jakup KRASNIQI.

S.B. he was that is the person that I informed /?the most responsible/.

D.B. Çeliku, because he was the main person in... in that zone there, what attitude did he take to these... these charges made against you?

S.B. errr... Çeliku... if not Çeliku and the others took them... errrr... not very... not in the serious sense of the weight that they... these rumours...

D.B. they didn't take seriously these...

S.B. they didn't take them seriously...

S.B. ... and when I withdrew to Luzhnica...

S.B. ...and I asked for explanations...

S.B. ... and a defi... definition of my position...

S.B. ... errr... they simply did not reply to me.

S.B. ... err... later other people were hit too...

D.B. ... were hit meaning where accused?

S.B. yes that is, in the same way, rumours and disinformation.

S.B. and they understood that it was just disinformation, however because it was impossible to do anything /?...sent to Albania/.



D.B. but what... what did you actually do in June-July 98? What position did you have?

S.B. i was appointed a commander of a subzone.

D.B. was this... did it cover a specific area, this... this subzone?

S.B. in fact it was the operational subzone of Nerodime.

S.B. in fact I was supposed to go to that area where I was to take command.

S.B. however I stayed during the offensive in this territory.. I remained in this territory.

D.B. in... in which territory?

S.B. in the territory of Kleçka...

S.B. and I did not want to go to carry out my duty in that part...errr... covering the operational subzone of Nerodime, that is Ferizaj, Kaçanik, and so on,

D.B. you did not want to, or could not?

S.B. I did not... I myself did not want to.

D.B. aha, you did not want to.

S.B. precisely because of the lack of an explanation of...

S.B. and I asked for a definition of my position.

S.B. and in fact I took part in fighting,

S.B. ... I helped the commander of the subzone who was appointed at that time...errr...

D.B. of which subzone? Of this...

S.B. the zone of Pashtrik.

S.B. Musç, Musç JASHARI

S.B. I forget sometimes. Errrr. I helped to consolidate the confusion of the soldiers in the subzone of Pashtrik.

D.B. so that they would be better organised?

S.B. meaning to... to gather the soldiers because /inaudible/

S.B. this was a form of help without anyone ordering me.

S.B. later I went to 122, in the territory of Malisheva, over there.

D.B. and what is 122?

S.B. later, Brigade Nr. 122 of Pashtrik.

S.B. And I did the job, that means in fact nobody assigned me.

S.B. But mainly I was in the General Staff.

D.B. Did you stay there in... in the Krojmir region or did you mover... throughout the zone that.... errr... was under the command of Klccka?

S.B. I stayed in Krojmir until the start of the offensive... the June period...

S.B. and at the time when that propaganda began there was a danger that the soldiers themselves would kill me...

S.B. ... so I drew back that is to Luzhnica.

S.B. Luzhnica.

S.B. to Luzhnica and... errrr.... later that is I went with Musa Jashari from

...errr...one place to another, here in one place five or six days... so to say /inaudible/

S.B. and the General Staff that is at the end of July, first, second of August it might have been... errr... informed me that I had to leave for Albania.

S.B. errr the start of the journey, that is, in fact I didn't do it because of the wish of Kumanova too, of commander Kumanova, to come to Albania with me.

D.B. that means, you wanted to....

S.B. No, Kumanova wanted to set off for Albania and he...

S.B. ... we waited for a few days, three or four days more,

S.B. errr... and when later one of my closest friends was killed, Agim Bajrami,

S.B. and I was stopped for a time, from going to Jezerc... that is the order to go to Jezerc from the General Staff.

D.B. you means that the order /?expired/ that is for this reason?

S.B. It didn't /?expire/ but I went for two or three days to Jezerc...

D.B. to Jezerc?

S.B. to Jezerc near Ferizaj.

S.B. and in that I was unable to get through to the other side...

D.B. that is, to Albania?

S.B. ... we set off for Albania.

S.B. No, on the other side, to go to Jezerc.

D.B. Aha.

S.B. I set off for Albania.

D.B. The gentleman wishes to clarify one thing, although I explained, that is, errrr.... you told us that after you were appointed commander of the subzone of Nerodime, you could not go there because of the offensive, or you did not want to go there because of the misunderstandings that...

S.B. not because of the offensive, because it was possible to get through the mountains, but because...

S.B. ... but because of the fact that propaganda against me started...

S.B. precisely because I was appointed commander of... of the subzone.

S.B. ...and in taking part in the fighting in those days, I had just been appointed that is subzone commander, it was undefined, that is, neither...

S.B. I didn't even know myself who I had to command in that zone...

S.B. /inaudible/

D.B. errr... I only want to clarify that is when... when you were appointed to that task?

D.B. was it in June when you were appointed?

S.B. in June. June.

D.B. During this fighting in June and July, can you say that you were under... under the command of Çeliku? That is as... as... as a hierarchy?

S.B. no I was not under the command of Çeliku. That is, in June, in fact, I was

S.B. ...under the orders of the General Staff.

S.B. because then it was it was.... a sort of defined manner, more defined, a more defined command.

D.B. Let us stick to June-July that is.

S.B. yes. Yes it was precisely in June-July that they started to define....

S.B. so that the General Staff

S.B. the people at that time were not known. But Jakup KRASNIQI was known.

S.B. they were... errr... subzones;

S.B. operational subzones.

S.B. that is, we didn't know or at least I did not know... how many subzones there were...

S.B. but the subzone where I was appointed commander was called the operational subzone of Nerodime.

S.B. I was appointed commander of the subzone...

S.B. to organise the staff.

D.B. to organise the staff?

S.B. the staff and the war in the operational subzone of Nerodime.

S.B. that is. The structures were now approximately known, in June-July...

S.B. that is, the General Staff was known, the subzones were known.

S.B. we too had given instructions about how.... errr. How the staff of the zone could be organised, how the units would be organised...

S.B. ... however, when I was appointed subzone commander, the territory was not defined for me.

S.B. it was called the operational subzone of Nerodime,

S.B. nobody knew whether the territory of Kaçanik and Han i Elezit /Gjeneral Janković/ would be in that subzone.

D.B. Ferizaj too?

S.B. Kaçanik... Kaçanik and Han i Elezit, that it.

D.B. Han i Elezit too?

S.B. Hani i Elezit, yes.

D.B. Han i Elezit, yes.

S.B. yes.

S.B. It was known that Shtima and Ferizaj would be in that subzone,,

D.B. Nobody knew which subzone would cover Lipjan.

S.B. this was defined sometime... errr towards the end of October.

S.B. that means then, when it was defined, it means that I came back to Kosovo.

D.B. i am sorry for referring you back again.

S.B. No, never mind, go back as many times as you like

D.B. So it was in June that you were appointed commander of the operational subzone of Nerodime?

D.B. Yes... for the reasons that we... you mentioned earlier, you refused to take on the duty and stayed in that... in that zone that you described where you stayed.

D.B. that means that you did not.... did not take orders from Çeliku, who was the commander of that zone there.

S.B. No. I received orders only at times when... not from Çeliku, but when I was in the unit. If I was in the fighting for example at Blinajë, I received orders that is in Blinajë. When I was then involved in the units, in these units, I took orders from those who were there.

D.B. again you were obliged in a way to follow... errr.. to pass on.... to implement that structure of orders that came, let us say, from Kleçka to the command post and the commander of the command post then would pass on these orders so that...

S.B. yes, yes, absolutely. If I was on the territory of errr.... of those units, I had to carry out the instructions.

S.B. If I was in the territory of Malisheva over there, that means in fact that I had to carry out the instructions of...errr... of Pashtrik.

S.B. In fact I was not defined. This happened from... that is June, when it was agreed...

S.B. I was appointed a subzone commander and somebody tried to....

S.B. there was somebody who simply was not pleased, was not pleased that I was appointed.

S.B. Until that moment I may have also had... authority... authority over the soldiers.

D.B. When you went and took part by chance in this fighting at... at... at different points, did someone appoint you to go or did you go yourself because you wanted to?

S.B. errr... no, usually we went before. If fighting broke out in the Carraleva pass and we heard fighting, we went to their aid, that is, without any particular order. If a point had a... we had a war strategy, if that is what it can be called now, because then we called it...errr... we went to help each other. If fighting broke out at one point, we went, regardless.

D.B. when you say... when you say we.... who do you mean?

S.B. we, I mean myself, the soldiers who were there, that is, when fighting broke out, there were three or four or five soldiers. The members of the General Staff also came.

S.B. I know... I know that you find these things very hard to understand,

S.B. Because at that time I could not /inaudible/ either

D.B. It is 1215

D.B. we will take a short break and will... sit outside for a while.

D.B. according to my watch the time is 1250...

D.B. ...and we will continue with the interview.

D.B. do you agree... do you agree to our continuing the interview?

S.B. of course.

D.B. at this point, do you have any questions?

S.B. no.

D.B. before ... errr we started the break we were talking about...errrr... the period of June-July 98.

D.B. ... that was under... under the command of Kleccka.

D.B. you described this period of time as... errrr.... the first offensive.

D.B. before or during this offensive, you described for us, you mentioned the case that...errr.... there were accusations against you at the time when you were appointed commander of the subzone of Nerodime.

D.B. you explained to us the reasons, more or less, for this....errr....matter and there is no...errr...I don't see any reason for us to continue to go into details of this matter.

D.B. I want...

D.B. I want to show you a map that bears the number U0033371.

D.B. this is a...errr... and you see it is a map with...with...with...with the boundaries of the so-called....the so-called operational subzones of the KLA.

D.B. do you recognize this as a map? Do you recognize the appearance of... the.... map?

D.B. can you define the time, that is, when this organizational division into... into subzones took place?

S.B. this, into subzones, it was errr.... let me have a look. That is, in fact here at the end of October when we changed to zones. In fact there were no longer subzones, with an order...

D.B. the change into subzones was made at the end of October?

S.B. at the end of October, the beginning of November, that is an order was issued to us.... was issued to us as... errr.... a command, to be like a command of the zone and then the boundaries were defined.

D.B. uh huh. During the time when you were appointed commander of the subzone of Nerodime, was this part of a continual process of dividing Kosovo into subzones or later into oper... operational zones?

S.B. that's right... errr, I see it that way from today, from today I see it like that.

D.B. errr...was it active, that is, did the operational zone of Nerodime exist at the time when you were appointed its commander?

S.B. errr... no, the October-November period...

D.B. or. If we can put it into Albanian better, was it formed during the time when you... were appointed its commander?

S.B. no, in the period of November, the whole of November, and at the start of December, this was the period of consolidating the staff of the zone... of the zone command.

D.B. but in June 98 when you were appointed, was it an operational zone?

S.B. no, it was a subzone, subzone.

S.B. ...it was defined but...errr... not organised.

S.B. in fact it had units.

S.B. at Rancë,

S.B. Jezerc,

S.B. ... and in Kaçanik, but had still not come out in public, without a position, but there were... people were known.

S.B. in fact it was July when they started to establish the first people in errrr... that area

D.B. when they started to have their posts, eh?

S.B. yes.

S.B. errr.... that is, I was ordered to move to that area, to coordinate the work and to create the staff of the subzone.

S.B. however, a lot of things were undefined.

D.B. once again I wasnt us to go back to the period of June-July 98.

D.B. and this...errr.... area too was ... under the command of Kleçka.

D.B. This...errr...diagram, that we have drawn, was it effective, was it practical in reality at the time that you call the first offensive? That means as... as you described in the drawing?

S.B. yes, yes, the posts were set up.

D.B. This was approximately the organization under... under the authority or under the command of Kleçka?

S.B. that's right...

D.B. we are talking...

S.B. ...we took it as understood

D.B. ... what happened next, this is, how... how...errr... that is...errr... how was the process of dev...development, of transformation, when this this division into zones start, and errr... the definition of boundaries? What happened with this... with this errr... small-scale organisation here?

S.B. errr... this organisation was in fact immediately after the first offensive...errr. the soldiers were very disoriented.

S.B.... and there were a lot of inhabitants ... in.... in that part and...errr... they gathered in Klečka, the organisation

D.B. meaning the civilian population, who had fled the war, is that what you mean?

S.B. yes, yes.

S.B. ... and a kind of reorganisation into units was ordered.

S.B. at hat time, that is, when you said before, they started to define errr... what we would do, what kind of structure.

S.B. that is, it was at the beginning of August...

S.B. when all the posts... the people of all the posts, gathered together and err.... formed the 121<sup>st</sup> Brigade.

D.B. 121<sup>st</sup>?

S.B. 121<sup>st</sup>

S.B. that is because,,, at that time that is we had Musa JASHARI as commander of the subzone.

D.B. that covered this... Klečka?

S.B. that covered the whole... the whole of Pashtrik.

D.B. errr. Was he appointed brigade commander or...?

S.B. no, commander of the errrr... operational subzone of Pashtrik.

S.B. and these were brought in.... that is became the 121<sup>st</sup> Brigade.

D.B. the people from these posts formed...

S.B. from these posts formed the 121st brigade.

D.B. then you....errrr. you mean that this... this... errr ... from this organization here.... errrr... emerged what was called the 121<sup>st</sup> Brigade?

S.B. errr.... yes. This is, all these posts, there were other posts that later were /inaudible/



- S.B. ...an they gathered, that is...errrr.... all the soldiers into the 121<sup>st</sup> Brigade/  
D.B. for...for the sake of clarity in the recording,  
D.B. Mr. Buja...errrr... is referring to.... is pointing out the first diagram he drew for us.  
D.B. ... which will be marked with the number diagram one.  
D.B. this 121<sup>st</sup> Brigade was part of the...errrr...subzone of Pashtrik, is that right?  
S.B. yes.  
D.B. but before ... before this, that is, before the formation of the 121<sup>st</sup> Brigade,...errrr... the subzone of Pashtrik was in existence... existed... that is operated?  
S.B. errrr... no. that is, it was at the same period, errrr.... June or July,  
S.B. it first only the commanders of the subzones were appointed,  
S.B. ... then during the offensive they did not have time to deal with this matter,  
S.B. ... and immediately after the offensive  
S.B. errrr... it started that is work...errrr... Musa JASHARI, who was commander of the ...errrr...subzone /inaudible/ of Pashtrik, appointed in June.  
S.B. ... and it was stated by the General Staff that is, that brigades must be organised.  
S.B. in fact the subzone of Pashtrik had several brigades.  
S.B. if you remember when I talked about the assistance that I gave to the commander of the operational subzone of Pashtrik, Musa JASHARI,  
S.B. in fact it was help given to this organization.  
S.B. it also meant gaining experience of how to organize errrr... these units.  
D.B. what do you think? In your opinion, are... are the borders defining the zone of Pashtrik correct?  
S.B. errrr... but look, they more or less followed the roads.  
S.B. errrr... this is in fact the road...errrr... the road connecting Prishtina with... with errrr... Peja.  
S.B. it was the road that divided the zone of Drenica from...errrr... the zone of Pashtrik.  
S.B. this part that is, is more or less...errrr... in order.  
S.B. I can talk about...errrr... my zone later.  
S.B. In fact, the zone was defined like this like... like it is here.  
S.B. ... with exceptions....

S.B. because we had a lot of confusion, the 121<sup>st</sup> Brigade with the 161<sup>st</sup>.

S.B. ...because part of the 121<sup>st</sup> Brigade was on the territory of the municipality of Lipjan,

S.B. err.... and the 161<sup>st</sup> Brigade also had responsibility for a part of Lipjan.

S.B. that means that again it was /inaudible/ always left without clear definition.

S.B. however this did not bother me much...

S.B. ...because the control of the units, or of the 161<sup>st</sup> and 162<sup>nd</sup> brigades was pretty clear, that is of the territory that we controlled, there were no towns like Lipjan, Shtima and Ferizaj...

D.B. the 161<sup>st</sup> Brigade?

S.B. 61<sup>st</sup>

S.B. 161<sup>st</sup> and 162<sup>nd</sup>.

S.B. and in fact this was a later period.

D.B. when... when you were appointed commander of the subzone of Nerodime in... in June,

D.B. you think it was.. do you think the division was planned at the time when you were appointed commander of the subzone? The division with boundaries like this...

S.B. errr... I don't... I don't think so, because I too asked for explanations at that time. They were not given to me that is...

S.B. the division too... the division that is here means that there are... there are mistakes.

D.B. At that time when you were appointed, did anyone know... if anybody was appointed as subzone commander for Pashtrik?

S.B. at that time that is, Musa JASHARI was appointed as subzone commander.

D.B. in June?

S.B. in June.

D.B. this was the first structure that...

D.B. this was later turned into the 121<sup>st</sup> Brigade.

S.B. yes, after,,,

D.B. meaning it was transformed into the 121<sup>st</sup> Brigade,

S.B. yes.

D.B. also in the first original statement that you gave to the Office of the Prosecutor you said that the 121<sup>st</sup> Brigade was formed during the Serbs' offensive of July 98. is that correct?

S.B. It might also be reckoned as the end of the offensive. In fact it was... I don't know the period exactly with dates and with...

S.B. when... when the offensive ended.

S.B. but in fact it was the period of the end of the offensive.

D.B. The staff of the 121<sup>st</sup> was also at Klečka?

S.B. it was at Klečka.

D.B. so that this... this staff that we described in diagram 1 of the military structure, later became the staff of the 121<sup>st</sup> Brigade?

D.B. and Fatmir Limaj continued to be commander, that is...

S.B. yes, as far as... as far as I know.

S.B. that means, in fact, at that....

S.B. period I had just set off in the direction of Albania.

S.B. he was appointed brigade commander.

S.B. it was a surprise for me,

S.B. ... because I had taken Fatmir LIMAJ to be a member of the General Staff

S.B. and, for him to be a brigade commander, was incomprehensible to me.

D.B. but in a sense this was the course.... the normal and natural course of things, that this structure...errr... evolved into a brigade?

S.B. into a brigade, yes.

S.B. as was made clear in our interview today,

D.B. the period of time in which we are most interested is ...errr...June-July, that is the spring of 1998.

D.B. we have carried out a lot of investigations and have talked to a lot of people.

D.B. There has been testimony... in... in the capacity of witness or suspect or expert and... others.

D.B. there are people who do not want very much to talk to us for one reason or another,

D.B. ...whereas there are others who talk... more openly... more...sincerely with us.

D.B. we have gathered all this information with the aim of creating a fuller picture in connection with the entire...errr... period of time about which we are talking.

D.B. we...errr... as we understand from the conversation the war was going on and in... in time of war things are generally.... complicated, confused.

D.B. and of course you were waging a war against the Serbs for... for people's freedom and for the freedom of your country.

D.B. but, the fact is that some things happened in that time... in the area... that we not justifiable simply... from the viewpoint that it was wartime.

D.B. I want to give you some examples.

D.B. for example

D.B. ... people who were considered collaborators of the Serbs were arrest... were arrested by the KLA.

D.B. in... of course in wartime this is.... this a natural thing.

D.B. but these arrests and these kidnappings then led to other things that were no longer justifiable.

D.B. during these incidents connected to these things I mentioned, your name too came out.

D.B. can I...

D.B. can you tell us if you were involved in the arrest of people who were considered the Serbs' collaborators?

S.B. directly no!

S.B. I might argue to you that I took part in... taking weapons.

D.B. in taking weapons in what sense?

S.B. in taking weapons. That is, those people about whom we had information that they had weapons...

S.B. ... for example, the case in Magura...

S.B. when we took a rifle and a revolver.

S.B. and also cases when errr... in the Carraleva pass,

S.B. I took, I mention the case, I took a...errr... a car with the person who was driving it.

S.B. he belonged to emergency aid.

S.B. ...but he, even though he was afraid, even though he thought he had been arrested, errr...

S.B. was in fact released the same day because the purpose was not the person but the car.

S.B. or the other case when I took a seventeen-year-old boy.  
S.B. ... a Serb  
S.B. ... and errr... he was released later.  
S.B. today he is a policeman in errr... Lipjan.  
S.B. errr... but cases of arrests  
S.B. ... did happen  
S.B. ... and indeed the most serious time...  
S.B. errr... was precisely June-July.  
S.B. errr... because there were... there were cases that I cannot describe with first and last names,  
S.B. because I do not know them.  
S.B. but I can say that there was also personal revenge  
S.B. and there was also...  
S.B. there was plenty of scope for acts of this kind.  
S.B. ...errr... because, that is errr... the operations of the units were very scattered.  
S.B. but I did not agree to make a prison or any place of detention,  
D.B. errr.... in what sense to make? To create?  
S.B. to.. make... to fix on a location and say here,,  
S.B. because I did not feel that was able  
S.B. nor a person with any information.  
S.B. ... and when I happened to be at an an arrest...  
S.B. ... and when I was asked 'what... what should I do?'  
S.B. I simply said, 'send him to Klcčka, or', meaning in fact sending him to Klcčka because I did not know of anywhere else.  
S.B. also because I wasn't that is a person who had been assigned responsibility for... the matter,  
D.B. we will stop the recording because the videocassette is finished and we will change it.  
D.B. and by my watch the time is 1317.

D.B. The time by my watch is 13:18.

D.B. We have changed the videocassette and we are now going to continue the interview.

D.B. I understood from... from your description of... of... your limited or slight involvement in all these... these events.

D.B. and here I am talking about these... about the kidnappings.

D.B. but you were aware of the fact that many people, that is, Albanians and Serbs were... were being kidnapped at that time...

D.B. even if.... even if you yourself did not take part in these kidnappings....

D.B. and you were also aware of the fact that Serbs too were being kidnapped?

S.B. /inaudible/ I can describe my case. I cannot...

S.B. I cannot talk about the kidnapping of Serbian civilians, but wherever... whenever I myself saw, I intervened.

D.B. but you heard of cases of Serbs being abducted even though you yourself were not present... and were.... and were not present and did not experience or take part in these things? That is, you only heard about them, despite the fact that you were not...

S.B. usually it was /?a measure /inaudible/ captures, meaning military, or people from the intelligence service.

S.B. but civilian was never said.

D.B. you also mentioned that whenever someone asked you about these cases, that you referred this person to Klečka, you would then direct him to Klečka.

D.B. was... did Klečka act as a gathering point during those months, June-July, for these people who were arrested?

S.B. no... I do not know where they were sent, but I simply /?pointed/ them there because the most.... errr... I thought that the people most responsible for these matters were at Klečka.

D.B. simply because Klečka was errr... how would you put it, a command post for you?

S.B. but in fact I received instructions there from commander Çeliku.

D.B. do you know any of the locations where people who were arrested were then.... sent?

D.B. after they were taken away from Klečka, after they were...

S.B. these things were talked about by all the soldiers, who knew... even the population knew...

D.B. and Llapushnik was one of these locations, is that right?

S.B. yes, Llapushnik.... Llapushnik was always mentioned as being a place...errr.... people were detained. Detained and released. I also on occasion escorted people who were released from Llapushnik...

D.B. you escorted people home?

S.B. I escorted people home.

D.B. People let out... released from Llapushnik?

S.B. Yes. Who were detained, questioned, and released...

D.B. so there was a camp... a camp existed at Llapushnik where Albanians and Serbs were held that is...

S.B. I cannot define it as a camp because...

D.B. but errr... a .... a location then?

S.B. errr... a location generally, at least as they described it to me or as far as I could gather, errr... these people stayed in the same place, in the same yard.

S.B. just as I am sitting here, the others stayed in a different place and there could not have been either a camp or... or...

S.B. because it was a very... small territory

S.B. /inaudible/ they stayed in the same place as where the soldiers stayed, but in different houses...

D.B. in Llapushnik?

S.B. in Llapushnik. At least that is how it was explained to me.

S.B. I cannot define it either as a camp or a prison, i do not know...how to define it.

D.B. let us say a place.

S.B. /inaudible/

D.B. I have sealed the videocassette and...

D.B. please sign it on this white part.

S.B. here?

D.B. on this white part.

D.B. errr.... Mr. BUJA, we know that you visited this... this errr.... farm they call it, that is this yard or area, what can we call it in Albanian, which served as a detention centre.

D.B. during this period, June-July 98.

D.B. Can you describe the circumstances of your visit to... to this place?

S.B. yes.

S.B. in fact I went for a visit to Llapushnik, to the command of Llapushnik, to the post at Llapushnik.

S.B. and when I spoke, in the same courtyard there were also...

S.B. those who were... in both places, they were in the same yard, and I was unable to determine whether...

S.B. there were two places in the same yard?

S.B. in the same yard, two houses

S.B. and I went to... to the commander, that, is, there

S.B. /?and/ to Vogëlushi

S.B. I went for a reason

S.B. because the father of someone who had been arrested came to me,

S.B. ..crrr... who was someone I knew

S.B. and, I explained that this person crrr... in fact could not be a collaborator

S.B. in fact his father came, who was very worried

D.B. his father came to you?

S.B. his father, yes.

S.B. /?who/ I respected.

S.B. and, if it can be taken in this sense, I went in the capacity of witness to release this person.

S.B. because I did not know if they were interrogated, a crrr... how they were interrogated, whether they were mistreated or not

S.B. and it was pretty dangerous, but still... I still went.

D.B. even... dangerous even for you?

S.B. however, they asked him questions and then released him, because they released him...

S.B. and he told me at least that they did not mistreat him

S.B. and I took him to his father

S.B. and he was released. He is alive and well today.



S.B. in fact...errr.... to explain these matters or cases, which I cannot remember even in order, but there are many many more, but this perhaps had an influence on me being...

D.B. on you exerting an influence on these matters, these cases, or...?

S.B. yes, in the cases that I knew.

S.B. and often put me in a difficult position,

S.B. at least I informed them that 'this person cannot be like this or like that'.

S.B. there was also an... another reason

D.B. /English/ There was another reason I want to mention.

S.B. I too, that is, in fact it was very difficult for me to... to get to know people in Lipjan municipality or other municipalities.

S.B. because I went to prison when I was very young.

S.B. I stayed a very short time in Kosovo when I was released, I stayed in Kosovo...

S.B. I stayed in Switzerland for a time,

S.B. and when I came back, in fact it was difficult for me to get to know people

S.B. but my description of all this is that I saw two houses, and also the other one that was like a shed err... where the soldiers ate...

S.B. I stayed in the com... command there /inaudible/ and this person who had been detained came to the command

D.B. who was this ... errr... young lad that you helped to... to get released from prison?

S.B. He was not all that young. He was about 35 or 40.

S.B. He was from near our village. We say, near the inn /te Hani/.

S.B. Haxha's son, I always called him because that was how we knew him, Haxha's son, because I cannot remember his exact first name.

D.B. so you called him uncle's /axha/ son.

S.B. no, Haxha's son. His father is called Haxha.

S.B. Haxha

S.B. Haxha, not with an O, Haxha

D.B. Hoxha

S.B. Haxha with an A

D.B. do you remember his first name?

S.B. errr... it is difficult to remember now. Perhaps I can remember but it is a little...

S.B. I think there are three or four brothers. They live there. They have their houses errr...

D.B. but the family name... what is their surname?

S.B. they are... I can't remember but I could bring it another day, his first name and surname /inaudible/ have escaped my mind.

D.B. you don't remember his first name?

S.B. no, no, so I can't remember now because... in fact two or three days ago.... I

S.B. ... met him, just like that, I saw him.

S.B. if I remember in the meantime, I will tell you.

D.B. why did he come... why did his father come to you.... to ask about this business of his release, that is, what was the reason that led him to come to you?

S.B. fortunately we were close by and we knew each other as families

S.B. and the village of Buja with their houses are very near, separated only by the asphalt.

S.B. and the reason why I went, and put myself in danger, was that he said to me, 'if my son is a collaborator with Serbia, I will kill him myself'.

S.B. he also said to me /inaudible/ you know us as a family and that we are not collaborators with Serbia.

S.B. so this was one more reason, because I know the father, he knew...

D.B. so the errr... the person being held was not a collaborator with the Serbs.

S.B. no, no.

D.B. so there were cases in which the KLA arrested people who were no collaborators with the Serbs?

S.B. look, this person provoked them a little to arrest him.

S.B. in fact there were some addresses of Serbs...

S.B. ...and they suspected.

S.B. that is, I went and I checked that he was a good person and from a good family, that is, there was no need to question him

D.B. but this... this example shows that the KLA... there were cases in which the KLA arrested people who were not collaborators with... with...

S.B. but if they suspected... if they suspected someone, they would arrest someone, take him, check him,

S.B. and then they could... if he was not errrr... a collaborator, they arrested him. U had cases in which I waited and escorted people /?this isn't/...

D.B. I do not know about which case you are... you are talking about, that is, the one in which you helped in the release or another one, but during the time when you were there in... in the camp, was commander Çeliku also present?

S.B. no, no.

S.B. No. I was there errr... with two soldiers I think, two soldiers

D.B. two soldiers of yours or two soldiers that you found there?

S.B. no, no two of my soldiers

S.B. and commander Çeliku was not there.

S.B. that is, I went to Llapushnik, I met Vogëlushi, Çerçizi, two or three other soldiers that I knew later...

S.B. simply, I never ever went to Llapushnik with Çeliku, with Fatmir.

D.B. no, I did not say that, but he was... was present at the time when you...when you went there, when you were there.

S.B. No, no. He was not at Llapushnik.

D.B. Are you sure of this fact?

S.B. I am sure, sure. He was not there.

D.B. how... how many times did you go to Llapushnik, as far as errr... you remember?

S.B. errr.... in Llapushnik....in Llapushnik as a village, he was there as... I could have gone to the other part...

S.B. /inaudible/... to the command.

D.B. you can answer questions if you like, Llapushnik as a village and then Llapushnik as the place we are talking about

S.B. to...to Llapushnik to the command post, in fact I went there. Also, if.... if I haven't... if I am not making a mistake, I was somewhere for about 15 minutes. for KLA symbols, because I was passing through there

D.B. so you only went once to the command?

S.B. on that occasion I went to the command and another time about symbols, to take some symbols that /?the girls/ would sew on.

D.B. about these symbols, at the command or somewhere else?

S.B. crrr... the command was not there. In fact it was another house. It might also have been the command but in fact I went to the other house and I... I...took /inaudible/

S.B. while in... now whether it was Llapushnik or another nearby village... I went there, I met soldiers, because I went around in a jeep, when I was...

S.B. when I met my brother.

D.B. you were there... were the soldiers in that place?

S.B. there were soldiers...

S.B. where I met my brother

S.B. the elder one, who had come to visit Jakup KRASNIQI

S.B. but I do not know whether it was called Llapushnik or not that... that house, or another village.

D.B. we are talking about Llapushnik, about the place where the prisoners were kept.

D.B. you said that in the same location there were also KLA soldiers

S.B. /inaudible/

D.B. You also said before that as part of the organization there was one of those subunits or subposts called Çeliku 3.

D.B. and this Çeliku... the Çeliku unit as it was called there was set up... was stationed at... at that location to which... you are referring

S.B. which means, it was divided as I described at the area... crrr it was the road, that is Peja-Prishtina. Çeliku 3 was in the part this side of Klcëka and...

S.B. while in the other part where Guri 3 was, in fact I had .... to have a special permit to go there...

S.B. because they could have arrested me.

D.B. what Mr. Cayley wanted to ask you was, we are calling it the headquarters, you call it a post, this is not important, but it means that crrr... the base or post of unit three ... of Çeliku 3 was at that place, at that location where we are saying people were held.

S.B. it must have been, but I did not go. They were there. I am talking about what I saw and I cannot crrr...

S.B. I cannot say that the command was there.

S.B. I in fact went there and I saw the people who were there, Vogëlushi, Çerçizi...

S.B. and in fact I errr... to speak realistically, I can't say that it was a command. I could put myself in a bad position, not knowing this.

D.B. no he says errr... did you think or did you have the idea that this was let us say the command or command site for... for the Çeliku 3 Unit or for the Çeliku 3 subpoint?

S.B. yes, because I went and looked for that is the command of Çeliku 3.

S.B. and the soldiers took me there. Now, to what extent it was...

D.B. this is the same location that we are talking about, where the prisoners were kept?

S.B. Çeliku 3.

D.B. let us call it a place or a camp as you like, that is not important, how often did you visit it?

D.B. these occasions of your visits were... errr.... during the period of the first offensive, that is June-July 98?

S.B. I would say June, because in July and afterwards, even if we had wanted to we would not have gone.

D.B. here?

D.B. who was errr... who was responsible, who was responsible for that place, that is... for this place?

S.B. it was always dual /inaudible/ some said Vogëlushi,

S.B. ...others Çerçizi.

S.B. in fact, I had most contact with Voglushi.

S.B. because of the strong ties between Çerçizi and Luan

D.B. because of the ties...?

S.B. Çerçizi and Luan...

D.B. ...errr...they had strong ties with... with... with..

S.B. between themselves.

D.B. with each other?

S.B. with each other.

D.B. so you were more in contact with Vogëlushi

S.B. with Vogëlushi, because of my problems... with... with

S.B. ...with Luani and Çerçizi.

D.B. when errr... when you mention the name Çerçizi, which person do you mean?

S.B. Çerçizi that is I am talking about the person whom I later had in the operational zone of Nerodimc.

S.B. it is Isak MUSLIU

S.B. and I learned his name after the war.

D.B. but do you remember the real name of Vogëlushi?

S.B. yes.

D.B. do you know? Because it was... the question was do you know it.

S.B. I know it, I know

S.B. because in fact he died with his entire cannon at the Llapushnik post

S.B. .... I.... I learned after the war that he was a martyr.

S.B. he was very tall /inaudible/, Vogëlushi.

D.B. for the same of the recording, can you mention his name?

S.B. of Vogëlushi? Ymer ALUSHANI.

D.B. that means the idea... or you had the impression or the idea that Vogëlushi and Çerçizi were like the two people responsible for the Çeliku 3 post?

S.B. errr... I rather had the impression that errr... Vogëlushi was, because he was more responsible, more in authority in fact.

S.B. because in fact Vogëlushi released the person I was looking for.

D.B. when... when you went to this place, did you encounter the guards at that place, which we will for the moment call the prison?

S.B. errr....

D.B. did you come across the guards?

S.B. the guards of the soldiers, that is, were normal, like everywhere. If you went errr... that in among the posts, soldiers stopped you.

D.B. the soldiers guarded that is the place or post, by the gate there? were they soldiers who did... did guard duty?

S.B. yes.

D.B. ... on guard duty?

D.B. did you know any of the guards?

S.B. errr... I cannot, how many guards there were...

S.B. because they also changed. You couldn't...

S.B. for the sake of the recording...

D.B. for the sake of the recording I am showing you a photograph with the number U0332456.

D.B. and I would ask you, Mr. BUJA, whether you errr...recognize this place.

S.B. It has changed a lot since the time...at that time there was not... errr/?how can I put it/ the house where I was did not have two storeys.

D.B. but can you state that this was the yard, that is, of that farm?

S.B. no, it was more... sort of more in the woods, there is the wood over here...

D.B. I can't also because of the field...

D.B. this is the road and the gate to enter the main yard is here.

S.B. /inaudible/ because in fact I didn't follow the road. I did not happen to follow the road, because I left the jeep by errr.... these brambles and went somewhere else entirely, that is, of course

S.B. I went a pretty long way on foot, about five or ten minutes /?perhaps they were/.

D.B. this...this photo was taken after the war, this photograph

D.B. so there may have been changes in... in the appearance of the houses and...

S.B. this might have happened because... because I can say I more or less know the terrain and the landscape...

S.B. once when I was there, that first time, errr... it was a different house

S.B. where I fetched the symbols it was a completely different house

S.B. however, the place of the command errr... I do not think it looked like this.

S.B. that is, it wasn't this house. It was a two-storeyed house, it was a... another house in fact that they showed me, they said, 'those gentlemen are over here.' That is exactly what they said

S.B. and they told me, 'this is where the soldiers eat'. That is, it was a yard, there were not separated.

D.B. about what place did they say, 'the soldiers eat here'? at this... at this two-storeyed house?

S.B. no, no, one-storey. The three were single-storey.

D.B. there were two single-storey houses?

S.B. that is, the house I went into was one-storey,

D.B. it was one storey?

S.B. the kitchen was also a single storey,

D.B. the kitchen was separate?

S.B. the kitchen was separate, separate, but it wasn't a house. In fact, as far as I remember...

S.B. it might... it might have been some... some... modified shed or... I don't know what to call it. In fact I... I as far as I remember, that is, now the single-storey house you went into, the kitchen, two...

S.B. the single-storey house, the kitchen, and another house where they said 'those gentlemen are here'

S.B. all this was in one yard.

D.B. I will show you... now I will show you the same photo of this yard.

D.B. a different photo of this yard.

D.B. and in this photo too, that is, the gate is here and also the two-storey house that you saw opposite in the first photo, it is here, it is situated here.

S.B. this one looks closer.

S.B. it looks closer to me.

S.B. and you must bear in mind that I am not saying 'it is this one'

S.B. because I was in Llapushnik for the first time in my life when I went that day.

S.B. and I was not able to...

S.B. yes, this one is closer.

D.B. for the sake of the recording...

D.B. for the sake of the recording, the number of the photo... of the photo is U0032457.

D.B. it is a picture of the same yard but from a... from a different position.

D.B. you said that the visits you paid to this place were in June 98.

S.B. June. I cannot say exactly when.

D.B. and in... in July you did not visit this place?

S.B. just, I do not know whether it was... because after this visit I went to fetch those... symbols, but in fact it was and night and now... I can't pin anything down.

D.B. you told us before that you either... either personally helped people to get released from Llapushnik, or encountered, came across... people who were released from Llapushnik.

D.B. were there other cases, that is that you are aware of... except for the case of your neighbour that you helped to get... to get released?



S.B. yes there were other cases.  
D.B. you know of other cases, yes.  
S.B. that I know but which came in the end by.. not by name but  
D.B. cases, that is, because I asked, cases that you know of yourself or simply were involved, in the sense that you helped or something...  
S.B. that I saw, that is, they came in the direction of Krojmir, I met with them, from where, or in fact...  
S.B. or if you had to... to... if you met with a civilian... you had to know who he was.  
S.B. and errr... in that contact I could not remember who it was, to take all the personal details and keep them in my head. I heard 'from Llapushnik', I was... I was arrested /inaudible/  
S.B. and I was released as innocent.  
S.B. in fact I cannot... I cannot remember those names. I can now tell you, 'it is so-and-so who I know... is alive and well today', but I cannot remember if it was one person or another.  
D.B. were there several cases in which you met with people coming from there?  
S.B. yes, there were two or three cases.  
S.B. this case was a special one, when I went to fetch them myself.  
D.B. do you remember, are you able to recall any of the names of these people that you met on the road or came across on the road?  
S.B. no-o-o, because it is impossible... it is impossible for me to remember them.  
S.B. also, to be frank with you, at that time, we looked on them, and I did to, as dubious people /inaudible/  
D.B. on 25 and 26 July there was a... an offensive, a major assault on Llapushnik.  
D.B. and in fact the Serbian forces conquered the area, meaning that zone there.  
D.B. and the whole place, meaning there, was empty, was totally emptied and some prisoners were freed.  
D.B. is it correct to say that you met, that you came across people, a large group of people, who were coming to... you came across them in Krojmir as they were being transported or were travelling on a tractor?  
S.B. yes, I saw them.  
D.B. can you describe this situation a little?

S.B. errr... I don't remember very well, but I know that I... I met them, that is, at the time when the civilian population was being withdrawn

S.B. ... and there was very great confusion

S.B. ... and errr.... to tell the truth, when I came across that tractor

S.B. I rather thought they were of the civilian population.

S.B. and it struck me, why are they all men.

S.B. I stopped the tractor.

S.B. and I asked 'where are you from?'

S.B. errr... they said to me that 'we are from errr... Llapushnik'

S.B. from the Llapushnik prison, that's how they put it

S.B. and I...at that moment I stopped, and did not know what to do!

S.B. I told them to wait,

S.B. ...and I returned errr... to let them understand that I was going to get information about how to deal with them.

S.B. in fact I tried...errr... to get a connection by phone.

S.B. and to my good fortune... it was my good luck that I had two people from Klečka,

D.B. there were people from Klečka there?

S.B. two

S.B. they had...

D.B. at... at Krojmir?

S.B. at Krojmir.

S.B. there had come some... fled from Llapushnik.

S.B. and people said that the detainees had been freed.

S.B. in fact, I do not know how long passed, the time between what I wanted... to... consult

S.B. but I know I went back

S.B. ... and I told them "You are free to go".

S.B. ... and I warned them.

S.B. "that there is an offensive and if you go towards Lipjan..."

S.B. ... in fact you will fall into the Serbs' hands.

S.B. these were the words and I could not explain because there was great confusion, in fact my family too was there, and I did not know how they were getting on, but I knew one thing...

S.B. in fact I knew that if they left there and they fell into the hands of the Serbian forces, they would kill them.

S.B. there might be some details that I don't remember but sort of... sort off, in was always like in a fog and I remember that case because it was very... very...

S.B. so there was this meeting with them and...

S.B. later I asked, because it always...

S.B. it always worried me, that is, that I might have made a mistake...

D.B. did you make a mistake, personally?

S.B. in case I made a mistake.

S.B. errr... in fact they said to me, "no, no, this is all right. You did the right thing"

S.B. when I heard this, I took as a confidence, because everybody was steering clear of me... they steered clear of me!

D.B. do you... do you remember the fact that they had documents with them, documents that proved that is their release from prison?

S.B. I don't know. A didn't even ask for any documents!

S.B. I don't... I don't think... that I even asked for them because I did not think that... a document could be issued /inaudible/ during that offensive.

D.B. from whom did you receive confirmation or information that these people had been released?

S.B. in fact, there was talk among the people, because official confirmation... I was very scared that they would take /inaudible/

D.B. what were you very afraid of?

S.B. I was scared because I did not have official confirmation that it was... that these people had been released, that is.

S.B. Also, I released them without any official confirmation.

D.B. but you said that when you tried to gather information about these people, you tried to speak on the phone. With who...errr.... did you try to talk?

S.B. mainly with... with Klečka.

D.B. but you could not....errr.... make contact with Klečka?

S.B. I was unable to contact them and I also had many reasons that led me to /inaudible/. In fact, I was errr... like a free person because of those earlier problems that I mentioned.

D.B. later too, you said that you took an interest later on and made sure that you had done what you shout, that is, so that you did not suffer any consequences from this matter.

S.B. yes, yes.

D.B. but who confirmed this to you?

S.B. Jakup KRASNIQI, that is... in fact he told me "you did the right thing", because at that time...

S.B. errr.... at the beginning that is, I took it as something provocative,

D.B. you received a provocation from whom?

S.B. he received it.

D.B. did he take it provocatively from you?

S.B. yes.

S.B. I asked for their opinion, because I had just acted in this way. I asked their opinion about... when I was already at the general staff, although even greater suspicions arose.

S.B. these errr... and these helped a lot. A lot of disinformation that /inaudible/

D.B. and did you speak... did you speak on any occasion with Çeliku about... about this event?

S.B. yes, yes /inaudible/

S.B. in fact, in my situation, I was trying to errr... to explain... the matter to everyone

S.B. and Çeliku too... in fact, I do not no whether with reservations or without reservations, but everyone... there was nobody who told me 'you did the wrong thing'

D.B. when... when did you take to Çeliku about... about this?

S.B. this was much later.

S.B. of course.... of course I say errr... after.... after errr,,, the organization or errr... after the population were put in the valley.

S.B. so, we couldn't even talk, or anything, because there was confusion for three or four days, during the offensive, very great.

D.B. Do you think that you spoke to him after a matter of days or weeks?

S.B. a matter of... a matter of days because it was not a matter... matter of weeks but a matter of days. Three or four days, five days maybe passed.

D.B. did you talk like this in... in each other's presence or did you talk on the phone?

S.B. in each other's presence.

D.B. where did you meet when you talked with him?

S.B. yes... with Çeliku, I do not know where... where we talked about this matter exactly, but I know that I talked... I met him in Luzhnica, I met him at Klečka.

S.B. ....perhaps we did... maybe we talked while we were travelling from Luzhnica to Klečka by jccp, because I was at Luzhnica /inaudible/

D.B. and what did he say errr... what did he say to you about this case?

S.B. very briefly, very guardedly he said, "all right, that is OK", and....

S.B. that is, we did not, he did not enter into... nor did I later on, even though I explained at greater length, but he just said to me 'it is all right, Ok. There's no...'

D.B. and you told him the fact that you had seen or met these people on the tractor coming from Llapushnik?

D.B. and you also told him the fact that you had allowed them to go on?

S.B. yes, yes. In fact, I explained it because I was in a difficult position.

S.B. "I am sort of, I released them, did I do something wrong?" then he said "that's all right" /inaudible/

D.B. did you know any of the people on the tractor, any of... of them?

S.B. I can't... I can't totally remember any of them.

D.B. but sort of approximately, how many people might have been on the tractor?

D.B. more... more than ten, less than thirty, we use...

S.B. no, it was not more than ten. It can't have been.

D.B. it can't have been more than ten?

S.B. It can't have been. In fact, the tractor had a trailer.

S.B. what was their condition as it were? In what kind of... what kind of state were they?

D.B. he means of course physically.

D.B. and sort of to look at how... how did they look?

S.B. to look at... in fact, I only saw that they were men and I... I had suspicions because all the men /inaudible/

S.B. because I did not suspect anything else.

S.B. and it was a matter... a very brief moment.

S.B. because we had the offensive. I did not have time to stay and to...  
to.../inaudible/

S.B. I didn't look at them one by one!

S.B. ... but I took the driver. I said to him, "Who are you, where are you coming from?"

S.B. ... and I walked on and after a bit I turned back and said, "go on, but be careful" that's all, it was not possible...

S.B. Now, I can't say... their state, they were sitting that is on the tractor. Whether it was... whether they /inaudible/

S.B. that's how it was.

D.B. I want to talk now a bit about the prison and about... about.... about the people who were thought to be collaborators with the Serbs who were held there.

D.B. for example, you told us about the case in which you yourself knew, that is were aware, that that person who had been held or detained, was not a Serbian collaborator, and you intervened personally to release this person.

D.B. do you know anything about the fact that these people were detained under... under this suspicion of being collaborators with the Serbs... were any investigations conducted about them to... to clarify their position.... their position, whether or not they were collaborators with the Serbs? That is, do you know as a fact... do you know as a fact whether investigations were carried out to clarify their position as individuals?

S.B. I can't errr... I can't say anything exactly in fact because errrr....

S.B. ...it is also part of my nature not to ask

S.B. It was not... it was not my business errr... in this sense. Where it was my business, I tried to make things precise.

S.B. I can say what other people say, but it is not fair because....

D.B. what did you think about the fact that you encountered...that you came across people who you asked, and..... who came from Llapushnik and had been detained there and had then been errr..... released that is. That is, according to this errr.... reasoning, who were not collaborators with the Serbs.

S.B. Yes errrr.... if I can give my opinion, that is something else.

S.B. Thais, my opinion at that time was, and of course still is, that they were not collaborators, that is they were released precisely because they were not collaborators.

S.B. that is, that was my opinion then and now, when someone is released, he is released as innocent!

D.B. we will... we will take.... we will have a short break. There is not.... there is not much left. Are you satisfied, or.... do you agree that we can go on a little further?

S.B. yes, why not. Yes.

S.B. Yes errr.... I have been very stressed... very stressed, all day and....

D.B. But we want to finish this completely today so that there will be no.... no need for... for other interviews.

S.B. all right, that's all right. You must remember that I spend five years in prison.

S.B. I stayed all day indoors, that is, it's very hard.

D.B. hah hah you will... you will get out today, he says.

S.B. The time is 1417.

D.B. ...and we are going to take a short break.

(BREAK)

S.B. so I'll take the ballpoint.

D.B. summer is coming... is coming, he says.

S.B. very hot /?today/

D.B. the time by my watch is 1440...

D.B. and we will continue the interview with Mr. BUJA.

D.B. before we took the break, we were talking about what we, to make things more... more.... easier to discuss, we were talking about what we called the prison at Llapushnik.

D.B. and when I say prison, I am thinking of the place where... where people were held at Llapushnik.

D.B. you said that you realized or were made aware of the fact that there were people released from... from that place, from the prison.

D.B. did you receive information or... or did you come across information of.... of the kind that.... about the circumstances how people were treated at this place where they were held?

S.B. no errr.... not... those that I asked, that is, that person that I released. That is who I intervened to have released, he said, either out of fear or because it was correct,

I don't know, at least he said that he was not...errr... mistreated. Whereas others, I cannot say anything.... I cannot say anything because...errr... I wasn't in the loop about this.

D.B. about other people, I am talking about those who were not released from the prison, did you hear about these people as... as having disappeared?

S.B. errr.... no, I heard after the war.

D.B. can you... can you tell us what you heard, that is, after the war?

S.B. yes. After the war, that is, it was said that "this person was taken, that person has gone"

S.B. and even though I have now read the names in the indictment, I absolutely cannot remember the names.

D.B. we are talking again about the people who... who were released and you saw coming by tractor, who were coming from errr... who you saw at Krojmir.

D.B. errr.... because earlier that day, or on the day before, they were divided... they were separated from another group of people,

D.B. this other group, that is, those who were not released. Were killed.

D.B. some of them, that is those who are thought to have been killed, survived, escaped, but many of them were killed.

D.B. we have found bodies and some bodies... and the bodies have been identified.

D.B. and one person has been identified, and one of the guards of this so-called prison, as we are calling it, has been identified, because one of the guards was one of... one of those who killed these people.

D.B. as you yourself mentioned, you have read the indictment about this matter...

D.B. have you any idea or opinion about why these people were killed, why these people might have been killed?

S.B. it is errr... it is difficult to give an opinion errr... because I do not errr... I do not know who these people were.

S.B. in fact, if I were in the loop about who was taken and why.

S.B. ... that is, I would be able to... to give an opinion.

S.B. however, simply, those names that I read.

S.B. in fact, after the war there was a lot of talk,

S.B. about them being collaborators with Serbia.

S.B. ... but in fact I cannot call them one thing or another.



D.B. but before... before the indictment, was the fact or information or knowledge that these people were killed sort of, that is, spread around among the people? Before we come to ... to the indictment officially.

S.B. errr... there was talk that is errr.... in fact about a lot of names

S.B. errr... the KLA also took it upon itself with communiques.

D.B. which means...

S.B. and now the question errr...

D.B. claimed responsibility for...

S.B. responsibility, yes.

D.B. as collaborators with the Serbs?

S.B. as collaborators with the Serbs.

S.B. .... and it was a normal thing that, the talk that these people, as collaborators with Serbia, that is, had been killed by the KLA.

S.B. however. There were also extreme cases errr.... I don't believe. I may be making a big mistake, but that the KLA killed. Extreme cases that is

D.B. extreme cases that may have been interpreted wrongly?

S.B. extreme, that might.... might be... ascribed to the KLA that I cannot believe.

D.B. excuse me Shukri for bothering you, but I want to... pin down your statement clearly so that I can interpret it clearly.

S.B. /inaudible/ that is, it is a matter of some extreme case that I cannot believe because...

D.B. that the KLA did this thing?

S.B. that person... that person that I knew, I knew him for example, and I cannot believe that the KLA killed him. In fact, after the war there was a lot of disinformation.

S.B. errr... I will give some examples

S.B. we are accused, the KLA in general, of having killed our own commanders.

S.B. that is, starting from this basis, that it is difficult for me to believe everything that is spread around.

S.B. errr....and so I say that I can't.... I can't talk about errr... about those people about whom I have no information because it is a very great danger.

D.B. please.... that is, just understand one fact that errr... our investigation is conducted on the basis of facts.

D.B. and these rumours or this talk among people can only lead us to the person with whom we should talk or to whom we must errr... with whom we should talk.

D.B. I will give you an example.

D.B. it is not necessary to go through case by case .... that list of those people we mentioned, who were held in the camp and then killed

D.B. one of the people killed was called Emin EMINI among errr... among the people killed.

D.B. do you... do you remember it as a name?

S.B. no.

S.B. errr.... I may remember the name if it is in the indictment that is, but just like that I do not remember it.

D.B. his brother was a soldier with the KLA...

D.B. ... and his brother reported to Krojmir in May 98 that is to join the KLA.

D.B. his house, his father's, in Carraleva was used many time by KLA soldiers.

D.B. and I would be surprised if you did not.... did not know about.... about.... Idriz Muharremi's house/

D.B. Do you know... do you know Idriz Muharremi?

S.B. errr.... I may remember him has a face but I don't.... I don't remember the name.

D.B. this is... this is one case, that I mentioned as... as an example that, while being a supporter of the KLA. That is, his brother was a KLA soldier and his other brother was... was killed.

D.B. and his brother, that is, the brother of this KLA soldier, they took him to Llapushnik and during his... during his errr detention, during his arrest there he was badly beaten.

D.B. and in the end of course.... in the end they killed him.

D.B. and no reason was given... for.... for.... killing him.

S.B. errr.... exactly this... I was thinking of that too. For me it is not logical... not logical when one brother is in the KLA. The other brother is killed by the KLA! Errr...

S.B. and so I can't... I can't talk about these cases

S.B. also in fact errr... I would want, and the population too of course, not to take on the responsibility of talking in the name of the population, for these cases really to be explained

S.B. and I cannot imagine the motives.  
S.B. perhaps in such a way I too might have /?failed/  
D.B. in... in... what way.  
S.B. that is, in such a way, after a lot of disinformation and accusations that were made, they might have killed me one day and said I was a collaborator...  
S.B. However, my destiny is one thing and the fate of someone else is different.  
S.B. about that, I can't... I can't...  
D.B. I want to put some questions to you about another matter, another topic.  
D.B. we are still talking about the period of time of May June July 98.  
D.B. what do you know about the military police at the time when you were active in... in your zone. That is, in the zone... excuse me, that were active in the zone were you were... were you were situated?  
S.B. in fact, at that time... we... we didn't know anything about the military police  
S.B. some time around June  
S.B. ...errr... I saw, in fact on that territory, two military policemen.  
S.B. later, some time in July or... I cannot explain the time well, they started to organize the military police.  
S.B. but August was for sure the period when the clear organization of the military police began  
D.B. How did you recognize that they belonged to the military police when you saw these two people in June?  
S.B. yes errr... usually, the military police at the start, they, as they did later too, but at the start it was just written "military police"  
D.B. did they have special uniforms?  
S.B. errr... not a special uniform, because they also used military uniforms. And they also sometimes had black uniforms.  
S.B. indeed after July, that is August, September, and later, they started to define the uniform of the military police.  
D.B. what... what kind of uniform was established for them?  
S.B. it was mainly black/  
D.B. when you saw these two... members of the military police, military police officers, did you know what kind of duties they in fact performed?

S.B. errr.... at the start I was told that the military police would deal with...  
errr...errr... with the soldiers, that is. In fact soldiers could run away from the front  
line and...

D.B. to watch the behaviour of soldiers, eh?

S.B. the behaviour of soldiers.

S.B. however, they did not have define responsibilities at that time.

S.B. they were defined later.

D.B. we are... we are again talking about the summer of 98. Can you... can you say  
that they were under the authority of the Kleçka command?

S.B. now they... the two policemen who were... in that area where we were active,  
in Shala, Krojmir, Pjetërshtica, these two people usually came, and consulted there,  
either with Luani or with me, if they went to Kleçka, that is, that was simply errr..  
their business... without being fully defined.

S.B. they didn't even know themselves what they were doing.

D.B. but if we put the matter... put the matter... at this point, when they had  
something to report, they would.... would report to Çeliku or would they report to you  
as a post commander for example?

S.B. err no, we didn't receive any report. Errr.... usually they went to Kleçka.  
Whether he reported at Kleçka to Çeliku or whether he reported to Kumanova, where  
he reported, in fact, we did not know.

D.B. but where you were, at your post...

S.B. he might have come to us, to consult about something, and...

S.B. .... not a report, just not a report.

D.B. when you say to us, that is at Krojmir?

S.B. to us at Krojmir, or at Pjetërshtica, it depends on where I was, where I

D.B. which err...?

S.B. Kumanova

S.B. because I did not know what they had to do.

D.B. errr.... during the meetings, that is at this... in any event during this May-June  
period, at the meetings that you may... may have had with Çeliku at the time when  
orders or instructions were being given, or consultations were being held, errr .... was  
this.... was this military police force mentioned as military police during... during the  
meetings?

S.B. errr... I don't know that we talked about any special field, that is as a military police force, but I know about a problem that happened to me directly involving the police.... the military police was.... errr... in fact they thought, those at Krojmir. That area, the clan that /inaudible/ errr... because I appointed a military policeman from my village/

S.B. an I... at that time I know that I explained to Çeliku that I had absolutely no idea about what the military police... police was.

S.B. and I know that it was explained there that military policemen would be appointed. Two... two would be appointed, two military policemen in that area.

S.B. in fact, I did not even have much right to get involved in this.

D.B. err... when you mentioned to us errr... that case, cases in which people were arrested and errr... they came to you to ask an opinion on how to act, then you directed them to Klečka.

D.B. and I am trying to explain if... if the military police had any... any role or task in arresting them, that is in arresting people, when arrests were carried out.

S.B. No, not at that time.

S.B. in fact there were two policemen.

D.B. so that, there were no clear orders for you about how to... how to act with the military police?

D.B. so that, there were no clear orders for you about how to... how to act with the military police?

S.B. no

D.B. we have... we have almost... reached the end of the interview.

D.B. we have... we have asked... we have asked all those questions....

D.B. ...all these questions about the period we are talking about, spring-summer 98.

D.B. in connection with this area

D.B. ... in connection with I.Lapu... I.Lapushnik/

D.B. you have... you have talked about the things that you know and of course about things that you do not know.

D.B. is there any... something, anything that you think is important in connection with... of course with all these things that we talked about, anything that was not... was not... was not mentioned in the questions and answers?

D.B. or have we... have we covered all the points that errr... errr... are connected with this issue?

S.B. errr... I think that the majority of issues have been covered, even though....

S.B. ... even though it is very difficult to understand this period.

S.B. ... the form of organization, the confusion at that time. It is very difficult, but I think that errr... some /inaudible/ have been clarified.

S.B. I think that... in general, that is, they have been.... have been clarified, if you can understand these things.

S.B. if there is anything that errr.. has not been explained, that is, I am ready when you tell me to come and explain to the extent that... that /?I can/.

D.B. this.... this in fact leads on to another question that I have for you.

D.B. if... if the need arose or if it were the case that you were summoned... were summoned as a witness to The Hague, would you be ready, would you wish to tell the court all those things that you... you told us today?

S.B. but the position of a witness is rather difficult.

S.B. errr.... however, what I stated here.

S.B. errr.... that is, I am stating openly and, without any /inaudible/

S.B. however errr.... you must understand also one.... one other thing, so that /?I am not put/ in a bad position

S.B. the mere capacity of witness against errrr... people with whom I have fought is a position that puts me in a very bad position.

S.B. however, I am ready, at any time,

S.B. errr.... because I have decided to be very frank and open

S.B. errr.... also, I believe that it will not prevent me from going there too

S.B. .... and testifying as I have testified now.

S.B. .... and I said only for one reason, that is simply, that I should not be put in a bad position.

S.B. /inaudible/

D.B. this is the reason why you want to come to The Hague?

S.B. no, that...

D.B. why you do not want to?

S.B. you must... you must be careful, because...

S.B. I spoke before about the Albanian mentality,

S.B. ... and regardless of how you present yourself in The Hague,

S.B. ... the very capacity of witness in the trial against errr.... /inaudible/

S.B. regardless of what... what is said /inaudible/

S.B. ... because I am not going into further analysis,

S.B. ... simply, it damages me a lot.

S.B. however, I...

S.B. ... I ask you to give me as much as possible, and at the time when it is absolutely necessary... that is, I will be ready.

D.B. I understand you completely... what you are trying to say.

D.B. that is that you are... you are ready to do it but it would be better if it were not... if it were not necessary for you to be called.

D.B. also, as you said, you advised us to use it only as a last resort in the event that there is no other possibility.

D.B. I understand this.

D.B. this may not ... or may have something to do with... with the incidents that we talked about before...

D.B. but I want... I want to show you some photographs.

D.B. for... for the sake of the recording, this photograph is numbered U00332

D.B. 39.

D.B. errr... do you remember errr... where this photograph... was taken... was taken?

S.B. now, I can't remember. It might be... I can't remember but this photograph was taken either at the general staff or at the visit that they made errr... as members of the general staff to my zone.

S.B. in fact, the beard I had, I did not have it as a zone commander.

D.B. you are here?

S.B. I do not know whether I had the beard /yes/ but I had it in the first period of fighting.

D.B. do you think that this photograph might have been taken at Krojmir, might have been taken at Krojmir?

S.B. No, this can't be at Krojmir. It can't be at Krojmir, no.

S.B. it might be from the period after November.

D.B. 98?

S.B. 98.

S.B. or it is from the period, that is, when I arrived from... from Albania, coming back.

D.B. for the sake of the recording, formally can you tell us which people you identify in this photograph?

S.B. yes, of course. I am here.

S.B. ... with the spectacles, it's Fatmir Limaj.

S.B. ... in the middle is Hashim Thaçi.

S.B. these two others I don't...

D.B. what position do you think Fatmir Limaj had at this time? The time of the photograph, that is.

S.B. I think that he was a member of the general staff.

S.B. some time it's /November/...

S.B. the period of November.

D.B. but the position of Hashim Thaçi at that time, at the same time?

S.B. errr... at that time he was errr... no doubt in the political directorate.

D.B. but do you remember the place where the photo was taken?

S.B. No, I don't.

D.B. for the sake of the recording errr... the number of the photograph is

D.B. U0033250.



D.B. do you recognize this soldier in the photograph?

S.B. no, I don't know who it is.

D.B. I will show you another photograph.

D.B. you certainly recognize some of the people there, but can you remember where... where this photograph might have been taken?

S.B. errr.... it may have been taken at Krojmir. It may have been but I am not certain.

S.B. It is more probable that it was taken at Klečka.

O.L. /English/ OK you... you... you don't remember the occasion when this picture was taken?

D.B. you don't remember on... on... what... on what occasion this photograph was taken or in what circumstances?

S.B. no, I can't

D.B. and, as a period in time, when do you think that it might have been taken?

S.B. errr... I can't remember. That is, it's impossible because.... from the positions here, that is... of the house or /inaudible/ it looks like in Klečka.

S.B. however, the time, I can't

D.B. for the sake of the recording, we showed you an unnumbered photograph.

D.B. ... but this will not be documentary evidence

D.B. because errr... Mr. Buja does not know details about the photograph.

D.B. can you write the date and sign both these...?

S.B. what is today's date?

D.B. 28 April

S.B. Zero

D.B. zero four

S.B. four...

O.L. /English/ and sign, please. Yeah, and... and that one.

S.B. this one too.

D.B. yes.

D.B. 28.

S.B. 28... I wrote my date of birth, zero four, two thousand and two. In fact I wrote my date of birth.

S.B. I'm sorry for limiting it

D.B. two formal questions before we... before we conclude the interview.

D.B. Mr. Buja, have you answered all the questions today of... of your own free will?

S.B. yes.

D.B. has anybody threatened you or promised you anything if you answer these questions?

S.B. of course not.

D.B. thank you for coming. Thank you very much.

D.B. the time by my watch is 1517.

D.B. after this we will close the envelope... we will put the videocassette in an envelope.

D.B. he is now ending the interview and stopping the recording.