In the matter of an arbitration under the Rules of Arbitration of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes

Case No. ARB/14/22
ICC Hearing Centre
112, avenue Kléber
Paris, 75016
France

Day 1
Monday, 26th March 2018
Hearing on Forensic Expert Evidence
Before:
PROFESSOR GABRIELLE KAUFMANN-KOHLER PROFESSOR ALBERT JAN VAN DEN BERG

PROFESSOR PIERRE MAYER
(1) BSG RESOURCES LIMITED
(2) BSG RESOURCES (GUINEA) LIMITED
(3) BSG RESOURCES (GUINEA) SÀRL

Claimants

- V-

THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA
Respondent

JAMES LIBSON, KAREL DAELE, KATY COLTON, JENNY HINDLEY and MOHAMMED NAZEER, of Mishcon de Reya LLP, and DAVID BARNETT, of Barnea \& Co, appeared on behalf of the Claimants.

MICHAEL OSTROVE, SCOTT HORTON and THÉOBALD NAUD, Of DLA Piper, and LAURENT JAEGER, YANN SCHNELLER and AGNES BIZARD, of Orrick, appeared on behalf of the Respondent.

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Secretary to the Tribunal: BENJAMIN GAREL
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BSG Resources Limited, BSG Resources (Guinea) Limited and BSG Resources (Guinea) SARL v Republic of Guinea Day 1 -- Hearing on Forensic Expert Evidence

ICSID Case No ARB/14/22

09:59 1

## ( 9.59 am )

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning to everyone. I am pleased to open this hearing, and you will excuse us for having kept you waiting while we were discussing the different communications we received overnight.

Let me first proceed with the introductions. For
the record, we have the Tribunal, and you know the
Tribunal: Professor van den Berg on my right,
Professor Mayer on my left. We have the Secretary of the Tribunal on my far right and the Assistant on my far left.

We have many participants in this hearing. To facilitate things, can we simply refer to the list of attendants we have? Is there someone who appears on the list who is not present now? That might be an easier way of proceeding.

Yes, Mr Libson.
MR LIBSON: Mr Peters is not here today --
THE PRESIDENT: Of BDO?
MR LIBSON: -- of BDO, but he will be here tomorrow. And
Mr Cohen is here today but he won't be here tomorrow.
THE PRESIDENT: Good, thank you.
Can we do the same thing on the Respondent's side?
MR OSTROVE: (Interpreted) Yes, on the Respondent's side
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10:04 1

The idea would be to give a short time to the Claimants first -- five minutes would be appropriate, the Tribunal thinks -- and then the same time for the Respondent. The Tribunal will then retire and tell you how we wish to proceed.
MR LIBSON: Thank you, Madam President. I hope five minutes is enough, because we feel as if we have been put under very significant prejudice by the developments of last night.

To illustrate our difficulties, until now, this is the only copy of the material that we got. We received the material on our mobile devices last night and managed to persuade the hotel to print them off for us. As you know, there's over 137 pages of material; we have a single copy between us that we've had to use both for our points this morning and for Mr Radley to consider. And we haven't had a proper consideration of those; we've made some very preliminary points.

We received the email from Mr Garel last night which said it contains only information and data on the record, and this material clearly doesn't. On the briefest of perusals of this material, there are very, very substantial volumes of new material.

If you look at the format of one of the documents, it is in fact a report, it's not a presentation. It is

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Ms Bounfour, Mr Chahid-Nouraï, Mr de Kersauson and Ms Depaolini are not in this room this morning.
THE PRESIDENT: (Interpreted) Perfect, thank you.
(In English) As you know, this hearing is devoted to the authenticity of the disputed documents, and that has been divided into subtopics, if I can say so: the disqualification of the Tribunal experts and the admissibility of their report on the one hand, and the substance of that report on the second. It goes without saying that entering into the second point, which is the substance, does not prejudge the first one, as was set out in PO17. The rules for proceedings are found in PO17 and PO1.

Of course, we do know that we received last night a request from the Claimants to defer this hearing, and we have taken note of the reasons for such request. We have also seen the objection of the Respondent.

What we suggest to do now is to give each party a brief opportunity to expand or otherwise explain its position in this respect. I would first give the floor to the Claimants, if you wish to add anything to your quite detailed request, which was filed on Sunday at 23.27. And when I refer to the Respondent's objection, I refer to the communication sent today at 075 (sic), so we are clear for the record.
a report: it's in a report format, it is written with narrative and with argument in it, and all of the argument, every single word in the argument is new. It is new material, it is rebuttal argument. It is not only information and data on the record. That is new, as is much of the material in the presentations as well.

The presentations contain two sorts of material: they contain argument as well, but they also contain new formulations of the material on the record that we haven't seen before, that is technical in --
THE PRESIDENT: When you speak of the "presentations", you speak of the two PowerPoint presentations?
MR LIBSON: Yes.
THE PRESIDENT: As opposed to what seems to be talking points?
MR LIBSON: I don't think it's talking points; it is actually a report.

So it's not only information and data on the record. The diagrams themselves are not on the record: they are new formulations of the material that we have had.

We are not equipped, nor have we come ready to the hearing to argue our case based on the new material. We have prepared ourselves to deal with the final report. The whole scheme that you have organised was that the final report was the document that we came here to argue

Page 2
Page 4

10:06 1 about.
Everyone had an opportunity to contribute to the final report by submitting questions, and we submitted many questions, for which we were criticised both by the Tribunal-appointed experts and by Guinea's representatives. Every single question -- with the exception of four, I think -- was ignored, and was treated actually with disdain by the Tribunal-appointed experts. Every single one of those questions covers material that the Tribunal-appointed experts have now decided that they need to address. They had the opportunity to do so within the scheme that you had designed, and they failed to do that.

The material requires very, very significant rebuttal. It requires not only rebuttal that we can do on the spot; it requires Mr Radley to go back to his laboratory and his office, to look at the material in laboratory conditions, to be able to look at his academic materials, to be able to respond. It requires a significant amount of time to respond to, if it's to be done fairly.

Let me just give you three examples of some of the new material.

There is a debate in the material, as you will have seen, between differences and variations. We asked in

10:09 1
accepted within the scientific community. Any properly trained and competent forensic document examiner should arrive at the same or similar conclusions, based on the reasons and bases provided, in addition to reviewing the appropriate image files supplied with the [Preliminary Report]. All handwritten examinations were reviewed technically by another ... Examiner for technical accuracy of the methods ... In addition, the Respondent's expert who is another ... Forensic ... Examiner finds the [Preliminary Report] thorough and comprehensive ...", et cetera.

So there is no engagement whatsoever with the issue of variations and differences. In fact, variations aren't even mentioned in the Reply. Yet now we have page after page after page debating the very subject that we asked them about in our preliminary questions. Each of those --
THE PRESIDENT: For the interpreters, you speak too quickly when you read. So next time you read, please remember. MR LIBSON: Okay, sorry.

Each of those differences requires an examination of the difference to determine whether what is characterised as a variation is a difference. It's an entirely new debate that has entered into this experts' exchange just last night, even though we wanted

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10:07 1 our questions exactly on this issue. I'm going to read it to you. We asked:
"Paragraph 7.12.5 of the SWGDOC Standard for Examination of Handwritten Items states that there is a need to 'Evaluate the similarities, differences, and limitations. Determine their significance individually and in combination' ... This suggests that a signature is shown to be genuine not by similarities, but by the lack of ... differences. In line with this, Albert S. Osborn, a leading authority ..."

A name you may recognise now:
"... in document examination, states that 'if the conclusion of identity is reached ... in handwriting, there must not remain significant differences that cannot reasonably be explained'."

And we asked the direct questions:
"Do the Experts accept the Osborn approach? If so, please identify and further detail any differences which have been identified between the signatures on the Disputed Documents and those in the comparator documents ... and the significance placed on such differences."

And the answer was:
"The basis for all the handwriting conclusions in the [Preliminary Report] follow methods, instruments and procedures employed in each analysis that are generally

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to have that debate earlier on. But it requires an examination of each and every one of the differences or the variations that the Tribunal-appointed experts pointed out by Mr Radley.

If you look at the Lev Ran signature that the Tribunal experts have now pointed out, which again we asked about, this is a completely new presentation. This is one of very many; I just wanted to point it out to you. (Pause)

I will hold it up in a second, but it's one of very many examples that we need to return to and we need to analyse properly. It's a new presentation of the signature that we haven't seen before. It relies on measurements that we are now not able to do in order to rebut because Mr Radley needs to look at those in laboratory conditions.

It's this slide (indicating). We don't have a page-numbered version of this. You can see at the bottom here "similar lengths", and we disagree that those are similar lengths, but we can't make the argument in relation to similar lengths without having the ability to measure them.
MR OSTROVE: Excusez-moi -- (In English) sorry, I'll say it in English. Could you just show us the page you're referring to so we can know what you are talking about?

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10:12 1
2 MR LIBSON: "Similar length". It says "R-24" at the top, and C --
MR OSTROVE: We have found it, thank you.
THE PRESIDENT: Could you take a picture of the slide?
Otherwise we don't know what you're -- could you hold it up again so the Secretary can make a picture of this? (Pause)

Thank you. You may continue.
MR LIBSON: This is one example of an analysis that would take several hours, just of this page, for us to be able to rebut. And there is page after page after page of exactly the same sort of presentation of material, presented in an entirely new way on the eve of the hearing. We are not able to deal with it, and it would cause us severe prejudice if this hearing went ahead on the basis that this evidence was on the record.

I can point again to where we asked in our questions on the preliminary report in relation, for example, to the Lev Ran signatures. We asked about the Lev Ran signatures, and the reply was:
"Our findings and conclusions are based on examining all of the handwriting characteristics and their appropriate significance in combination. Therefore, no changes or edits will be incorporated into the Final

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10:15 1
responding to these ad hominem attacks, not in the witness-box on cross-examination, not with no notice, but with having sufficient time to go through all of the material that has now been presented to us at the last minute.
MR DAELE: Can we also show the slide where the picture of the -- (Handed)
THE PRESIDENT: Yes, please. So this would be picture 2, right?
MR LIBSON: Madam President, you mentioned that this third document, not the PowerPoint document, were reading notes.
THE PRESIDENT: Yes.
MR LIBSON: But they're clearly not reading notes, and I just want to take you through the structure of this document.

The document, as you can see, I think, if you've got it in front of you --
THE PRESIDENT: No, we don't, on purpose.
MR LIBSON: The document starts with a one-and-a-half-page introduction in narrative form (indicating). It then goes through a series of arguments illustrated by illustrations. As you can see, if I can just take you through the first four pages, the first topic is --
THE PRESIDENT: I should just say for the record: I said we
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10:13 $1 \quad$ Report based on this query."
If you've read the answers to the questions, which are at appendix $L$ to the final report, you will see appearing as a mantra the phrase "Therefore, no changes or edits will be incorporated into the Final Report based on this query". And now what we have are probably hundreds of changes and edits that are being sought to be incorporated into the final report by the back door on the very eve of this hearing.

A final point I want to just make on the presentations is that in the presentations there is a ad hominem attack on the character and standard of evidence of Mr Radley. Throughout the presentation his arguments are characterised as a "significant mischaracterisation", "significantly misleading statement", and let me just read out one longer quote:
"This reveals that this characteristic is not a difference and that Mr Radley clearly discounted and misinterpreted the significance of the evidence in his evaluation. It appears from his comments that in pursuit of the opposite proposition of these signatures being simulated forgeries by a master forger, it has clouded the judgement regarding the significant characteristics of genuineness."

Mr Radley must have an opportunity properly of
don't have it, and we don't have it on purpose, we have not reviewed it, because we understand that it is being disputed.
MR LIBSON: So I'm not asking you to review it, I'm asking you just to look at it from a distance so you can see its format, so that you can see it's not reading notes. As you can see, it is narrative, illustrated by new materials -- some of them new materials -- and then argument. So what you have here is -- and the format is Mr Radley's paragraph, and then it says "Author's Response", and then you have the author's response.

Much of the new material, in passing, is based on ... (Pause) Yes, so the very first sentence, as Mr Daele just points out, says:
"The following information and images are provided based on statements that Mr ... Radley makes in regard to the handwriting conclusions offered in our report..."

And then you've got the narrative. So it isn't even presented as talking notes.

Much of the new material, by the way, in relation to handwriting is based on the academic research of a man called Mr Osborn: that's the man that we specifically asked in our questions about, and whether they accepted Mr Osborn's approach. Those questions were just rejected. And now, as you will have seen over the

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for several months. We all came here prepared to fight the case that had been prepared in accordance with the directions set by the Tribunal, and we were happy to fight that case.

We cannot go ahead on a basis where we have been ambushed in the way that we have. It's simply unfair. We're not prepared to fight the case; we don't have the resources to do so. Even if we had the same amount of lawyers on this side of the table as is on the other side of the table, we wouldn't have the facility to answer the material within the two-day hearing; Mr Radley wouldn't have the facility and we wouldn't have the facilities to do so. There's vast amounts of new material. None of this was necessary.

Let me just say one other point on prejudice. And we said in our note last night we say it hesitatingly, because it wouldn't be something that we would say without proper inspection of the material in front of us, but we just haven't had an opportunity. We think some of the material that has now been put on the record, some of the diagrams that have now been put on the record, may tend to mislead the Tribunal and may misrepresent the position.

That a hearing should go ahead on this basis, let alone if the material was legitimate, where there is

10:18 1 weekend and on Friday, a lot of material has come in.
2 This is all Mr Osborn's authority; not all, but a lot of
10:21 1 it came from the Tribunal-appointed experts -- and it may very well have, because I anticipate it came in at the last moment -- it is absolutely wrong. We would be interested to know exactly when it did come in, and the chronology of how it then came to the parties.

If I can very quickly -- because I know I've overrun my five minutes significantly -- if I can very quickly turn to the prejudice.

We set out the prejudice in our note to you last night. But this is a key issue in this arbitration. It's an issue that we have canvassed between all of us

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a possibility that material provided in an ambush is misleading, cannot happen. The Tribunal's duty must be to protect the ambushed and not to allow the ambusher to profit from his conduct, especially when some of the material may be suspect and we have not had a chance to scrutinise it properly. The Tribunal's duty is to ensure fair process, and none of what has happened over the last 12 hours is fair. But to allow misleading material on to the record would be an unacceptable double jeopardy.

I must say we are very, very concerned with the developments of the last 12 hours. We're very worried on behalf of our client and the fair process that may or may not happen during the next of the 48 hours.

Those are my submissions.
THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.
(Interpreted) Now I give the floor to the
Respondent.
MR OSTROVE: (Interpreted) Thank you, Madam President. We started last year in May, nearly ten months ago, during the hearings on the substance in this particular case, by saying that it was an extraordinary case, with evidence of corruption that was equally extraordinary. The disputed contracts or documents are one part of this extraordinary evidence, and the report by the

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paragraph 19 of the PO:
"The Experts ... may use demonstrative exhibits (such as charts, tabulations, etc. compiling information which is on record but not presented in such form) ..."

What was presented last night by the experts, in compliance with the Tribunal's PO, is precisely that: pictures of the signatures, which are the exhibits in the proceedings, with arrows or indications that are the presentation of this information in a different form. They are not novel exhibits; they are typically demonstrative. And it's the work of the experts. All of the experts have prepared pictures and documents, with arrows and so forth: this is the substrate that they intend to use when they present their position.

The examples that were quoted a moment ago by my colleague Mr Libson are exactly that. If experts take two examples and say there are similar lengths, it's merely that they took documents that were amongst the submitted exhibits.
I will come back to the need of their experts to go back to their labs to measure all this, et cetera, I will come back to this in a moment, because this type of argument would lead us -- each time an expert during an examination on disputed documents was to say, "You see, this is quite similar", we'd have to stay the

10:29 1

Indeed.
So if there are questions of measurements and so forth that the parties want to launch into in the post-hearing briefs, I imagine with their expert, if BSGR sees that something was misleading during the hearing, they will have ample opportunity to say so.
What is the real [complaint] of BSGR? It is not that there is new information, but new arguments. They are in fact mere answers to items that were raised. That's what you expect from a demonstrative exhibit, and that's what you expect from the presentation of experts this morning; that is, to meet all of the criticisms and explain their points of view. This is why we are here.
There are PowerPoints and there's a PDF. The PDF is presented in a form which, as we see it, is equivalent to slides. It proceeds point by point to follow the presentation that the experts can make this morning: Mr Radley's criticisms, a summary of their answer. Together with the demonstrative exhibits that are integrated, this is just a substrate that helps everyone to follow.
BSGR should feel happy to have received that last night, rather than merely discovering it today, discovering the answers of the experts. In terms of due process, it just helps due process that such a document

Page 19 to their labs and proceed to their measurements. This is totally exaggerated and it goes beyond ridicule.
Next to this, as to the possibility for the parties to comment on these documents within the two days, well, first, experts are precisely experts who are accustomed to this type of exercise. They should be capable, if they've studied the file and looked at all of the elements, they should be able to answer these questions.

And I daresay that the closing statements tomorrow are not supposed to deal with the authenticity of the documents but the questions of challenges. I think there will be post-hearing briefs, if I've understood rightly, and then the parties will have an opportunity to make their comments. This is paragraph 13 of PO17, which invites the parties to deal with the questions of admissibility and challenge, rather than authenticity.
If we are mistaken, I would ask you, Madam President, to correct me, because we didn't intend to plead on authenticity.
THE PRESIDENT: (Interpreted) No, it was implicit that there would be post-hearing briefs on the question of authenticity; to be defined, of course, according to the decision on the disqualification.
MR OSTROVE: (Interpreted) Thank you, Madam President.
should have been submitted last night; it doesn't imperil them.
This is the second item of the email by our adversaries:
"This should have been presented by the expert in a final report. Why did they wait for the hearing?"
Well, this is totally BSGR's fault and the fault of their behaviour that this is the case. BSGR did not play the game according to the rule. The idea was that there would be a preliminary report, they were given two weeks to make comments; at the request of BSGR, they were given three weeks for their comments. If BSGR felt that there were differences, they were to pinpoint these differences that they saw in the signatures, and draw the attention of the Tribunal experts so that they may integrate their answer in their final report.

Did BSGR do that? Not in the least. In their questions to the Tribunal they just asked, on several occasions, and more particularly after question 35 :
(In English) "... please explain in further detail what differences (if any) the Tribunal-appointed Experts identified between the signature of Marc Struik on R-27 and those in the comparator documents and the relevance of each point."
(Interpreted) And the answer of the experts was:

PowerPoints and demonstrative exhibits yesterday evening is totally normal.

So we simply regret that BSGR waited until the very last minute to underline these so-called "differences". Would it have been easier for everybody if it had been right after the preliminary report? Probably so, yes.

I am trying to reach the end of what I have to say here.

Our colleague on the other side highlighted the issue of the experts being impartial. This will be part of the closing tomorrow. Without prejudging your decision regarding these two days, I'm going to mention a few things in that regard.
Mr Radley in his report said that the
Tribunal-appointed experts were misleading by repeating some sentences without including a sentence he would have liked to see.

It's not surprising that the Tribunal-appointed experts answered that they think that some aspects of Mr Radley's presentations are misleading: it's their role. And the Tribunal will decide after hearing both parties during this hearing, and after seeing the post-hearing briefs.

BSGR seems very unhappy because the experts detected some weaknesses in Mr Radley's report, but we will see
(In English) "There is no evidence of any
2 differences that would suggest someone other than 3 Marc Struik signed the document."

10:36 1
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(Interpreted) BSGR were asked if they saw any differences, and they said no. And today what is BSGR saying? That the experts today would have pinpointed differences and tried to explain them. This is not at all what the Tribunal experts did in this document.
They just take stock of variations and they explain why these variations are not differences. This is what is at stake in this exercise.
Why do they do this at this stage? It is because instead of underlining these differences with the support of Mr Radley in the comments on the preliminary report, if there was an ambush, actually it's the Tribunal-appointed experts who were ambushed two weeks ago, with the 158 pages, if I remember correctly, of the report by Mr Radley, who underlines for the very first time the differences underlined by BSGR.

So what did BSGR think that the Tribunal-appointed experts were going to do? Say simply, "Well, I'm sorry, I have no additional report to make, so I'm not going to answer these points"? No. We have this hearing today basically so that the experts can answer this point. And the fact that they provided a presentation as
that those weaknesses are quite obvious; the Republic of Guinea actually detected them too.

It was rather easy for the parties and experts, who know the file well, to read the documents that were provided yesterday evening in just a few hours to assess the various materials. There were no surprises. There should have been no surprises for BSGR if they were well prepared regarding the various materials in the file.

This is simply just another attempt to delay the process. And I'd like here to note what BSGR probably wants here. This whole thing started in 2011, and I would like to note that there were two five-year presidential terms in Guinea, so that after 2020 BSGR could hope to have another president, another government. So basically they are playing the clock. If they manage to make the whole process last more than ten years, then, yes, they could have a go with the next government, which might not defend in the same way the rights of Guinea.

I hope, Madam President and members of the Tribunal, that you are not going to delay this proceeding until another hearing, so that we end up waiting until 2021.

Thank you.
THE PRESIDENT: (Interpreted) Do my colleagues have some questions at this stage? If it's not the case, I'd like

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to thank you for your explanations. The Tribunal is going to discuss what to do next; we need some time for that.
(10.39 am)

## (A short break)

(10.59 am)

THE PRESIDENT: (In English) We are ready to resume. Before I go on, I just note that the Secretary has handed copies of the two PowerPoints, and I understand also of the PDF document, to both parties. This is done as a courtesy, and the Tribunal does not have these documents, so there is clarity about this.

The Tribunal suggests that we proceed in the following manner, having heard your explanations and also read your written communications.

The Tribunal experts would first present their report, without using the PowerPoint presentations and without the PDF document. They would do this in a shorter time than what we had provided, and they would not go into the Claimants' submission that was filed, in the form of Mr Radley's report.

We would then go over to questions, which questions may or may not address matters that are covered in what I will now call the "Radley submission", but it is a Claimants' submission filed in the form of the content

11:01 1
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of Mr Radley's report. In answer to the questions, the Tribunal experts may use one or the other of their slides, to the extent that it is responsive to the question that is being asked.

The Tribunal will make sure that at some point in the hearing the Tribunal experts have an opportunity to comment on the Radley submission. We had provided, in any event, for some time towards the end of the hearing for the concluding remarks by the Tribunal experts.

With respect to the status of the documents that the Tribunal experts have prepared, we consider that the PDF document is not in the record because there was no provision for that type of document. With respect to the two PowerPoint presentations, they are not in the record at this stage, but they may come into the record if, in answer to questions posed to them, the Tribunal experts refer to one or the other slide. (Pause)

Thank you, yes, I should be more precise. It is not the presentation that becomes part of the record; it is the slide that is referred to that becomes part of the record as a demonstrative exhibit, if it is a demonstrative exhibit, or just as a slide if it -yes, as a demonstrative exhibit.

Do my colleagues wish to add anything in addition, to make sure that we have covered every point of the

11:06 1
> it was only addressed to the Tribunal. So this is an example, I think, where at least it suggests the existence of correspondence between the experts and the Tribunal, and we would like to receive it.
> THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely. We will review the record, so that I don't answer like this without having checked. We have been careful, as a general matter of principle, to have the Secretary of the Tribunal dealing with the correspondence with the experts, and the Tribunal itself has not corresponded or had contact with the experts.
> MR DAELE: Then I would ask to see the correspondence -- if you make that distinction between the ICSID Secretary --
> THE PRESIDENT: No, no, I understand your request and we will check, of course, that.

> The other question was the timing. Can I give the floor to the Secretary so you explain the reason for the two-hour delay last night.
> MR GAREL: Yes, so I met with the experts for purposes of them transferring the files to me; they couldn't go through emails because of their size. So I met them at their hotel, and there was some issue with the transfer of documents to my computer and the connection of my computer to the wifi in the hotel, because I'm not in the same hotel, so I couldn't connect. They gave me the files slightly late, after 6.30, around 6.30/6.40. And

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Can we proceed? Are there questions on the
Claimants' side? Mr Daele?
MR DAELE: Yes, thank you, Madam President. We were hoping to receive information as to the timing of the filing of the documents by the experts yesterday, and --
THE PRESIDENT: Yes, we can certainly provide that. And?
MR DAELE: And we would also like to receive the correspondence between the Tribunal and the Tribunal experts. I refer to Article 8.5 (sic) of the IBA Rules on the Taking of Evidence, that provides that parties may examine the correspondence between the Tribunal and Tribunal-appointed experts.
THE PRESIDENT: Yes. There was no correspondence between the Tribunal and the Tribunal experts. The --
MR DAELE: For example, if I just may correct, for example, there is a reference in the final report, in I think it is paragraph 11 , where the experts refer to their email of 11th January in relation to the extension. We haven't seen that email. So I assume there has been -well, at least that paragraph suggests that there has been correspondence between the experts and the Tribunal. It's in the beginning of paragraph 11:
"As noted in our response on 11 January 2018 ..."
I don't think we have seen that response. I assume

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it took time for me to connect to the internet to upload the documents, which were uploaded at 7.45 , and then to write to the parties to check that everything was there. I sent the email at 8.09 and you received it then.

So that's the explanation.
MR DAELE: And may I ask who made the determination that these documents did not include information that was not on the record?
MR GAREL: So that wasn't an assessment, that was just a reference to what PO17 says, and it was based on what the experts told me when I reminded them of that provision in PO17.
THE PRESIDENT: Questions from the Respondent?
MR OSTROVE: (Interpreted) Thank you, Madam President.
Regarding the communication with the experts, of course we will let the Tribunal assess the situation.

I didn't understand the reference to Article 8.5 of the IBA Rules, if you could check --
MR DAELE: It was 6.5 , sorry. If you can double-check.
MR OSTROVE: Okay, thank you for the clarification.
MR DAELE: Sorry for that.
MR OSTROVE: (Interpreted) As for the decision of the Tribunal about how to proceed, some practical questions, if I may.

You indicated that the experts might have less time
for their presentation. I think that it would be almost impossible for them to make this presentation if they cannot refer back to their slides, because to answer the criticisms of BSGR, without prejudging what they are going to say, I imagine they will need to refer back to the demonstrative exhibit. If they simply repeat what they said initially, without answering the questions regarding the differences or variations that were identified, which is really the main topic of their presentation -- there is some visual support, visual material, in their slides. But if their presentation is much shorter, we would like then to have more time to be able to ask them some questions, so that we can have some explanations in their answers to the comments made by the Claimants.
(Pause to resolve a technical problem)
THE PRESIDENT: Let's try, and hope that the microphones will work.

In answer to the Respondent's points, the ruling is that the Tribunal experts should present their report as they have drafted it, the methods they used, conclusions, without reference to the critique by the Claimants; and that can then be addressed, if deemed appropriate, in questions. And if more time is needed, then we will allow more time, as long as we keep within

11:16 1
reasonable bounds and can complete our programme by tomorrow night.

Is this clear, so we have no misunderstandings about what we are doing here? On the Respondent's side?
MR OSTROVE: (Interpreted) I'm not going to express our position on this decision right now, because I think we might have a problem regarding due process, as there is a submission of the Tribunal experts, in their presentation they won't be able to answer the criticisms, they have to review the whole report, whereas really the point today was to hear their answers to these criticisms.

Something else I had forgotten when we had these problems with the microphones actually: the experts' slides, are they going to be part of the file? And I was wondering how we proceed. Usually, when there is someone who hands slides to the material as support material, I imagine it's not part of the proceedings, it's simply submitted.

So I didn't understand the decision of the Tribunal regarding the status of these slides, as they were referenced to by the Tribunal experts. I understand if there are some slides for which there is no reference, it's not part of the file. But if they refer back to slide 5, is it included only for the demonstrative
exhibit, or will the Tribunal and the parties have the right to refer back to these elements?
THE PRESIDENT: (Interpreted) The decision of the Tribunal was that the PDF is not part of the record; that the PowerPoint presentations as such, and for the time being, are not part of the record. If one expert in answer to a question refers to a slide, he can do so, and then that slide is in the record.
MR OSTROVE: (Interpreted) Thank you, Madam President.
THE PRESIDENT: (In English) The experts said that they
needed some time, because now they are actually asked to do something they had not prepared for. So when will they be ready?
MR GAREL: I will check. (Pause)
THE PRESIDENT: The experts say that they will be ready in five minutes. So we have a five-minute break.
(11.18 am)
(A short break)
(11.25 am)

MR GERALD LAPORTE (called) MR TODD WELCH (called)
THE PRESIDENT: Good morning, gentlemen.
MR WELCH: Good morning.
MR LAPORTE: Good morning.
THE PRESIDENT: It's nice to meet you. We are sorry we kept
Page 31
you waiting so long before we could start hearing you.
For the record, Mr Welch, can you please confirm
that you are Todd Welch?
MR WELCH: Yes, I can.
THE PRESIDENT: You are a forensic document examiner?
MR WELCH: Yes, I am.
THE PRESIDENT: Mr LaPorte, you can confirm that you are Gerald LaPorte?
MR LAPORTE: I confirm that I am Gerald LaPorte.
THE PRESIDENT: You are a forensic chemist, a document dating expert?
MR LAPORTE: Yes, madam.
THE PRESIDENT: And you are both with the firm Riley Welch LaPorte; is that right?
MR WELCH: That's correct.
MR LAPORTE: Yes.
THE PRESIDENT: So on the request of the Tribunal, you have established a report that you have submitted to us, dated 12th February 2018?
MR LAPORTE: Correct.
THE PRESIDENT: Who wants to take the lead when I ask questions that are directed to both? It might be easier that just one of you responds.
MR LAPORTE: I'll take the lead.
THE PRESIDENT: Good. You are acting, and have acted so

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BSG Resources Limited, BSG Resources (Guinea) Limited and BSG Resources (Guinea) SARL v Republic of Guinea Day 1 -- Hearing on Forensic Expert Evidence

ICSID Case No ARB/14/22

11:30 $1 \quad$ far, under terms of reference that were dated
2 24th October 2017?
MR LAPORTE: Yes.
THE PRESIDENT: Under these terms, you carried out a document inspection?

## MR LAPORTE: Correct.

THE PRESIDENT: Under a protocol that was sent to the parties on 26th October 2017, and that document inspection took place from 31st October to 3rd November 2017?
MR LAPORTE: Yes, ma'am, that's correct. this arbitration. As an expert witness, you have a duty the table in front of you. Is it there? my sincere beliefs.
THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr Welch? honour and conscience that my statement will be in accordance with my sincere beliefs.

THE PRESIDENT: You are both heard as expert witnesses in to make only such statements that are in accordance with your sincere belief. Can you please, each of you, read into the record the expert declaration that should be on

MR LAPORTE: Okay. I solemnly declare upon my honour and conscience that my statement will be in accordance with

MR WELCH: Yes, Todd Welch. I solemnly declare upon my

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Now, you have your laptops in
11:33 1

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not in the record either.
Later on we will proceed to the questions. I assume that you will allocate the answer to one of you according to the topic and your specific expertise; otherwise one of you will take the lead. But we should make sure that there is one person answering one question, and not two answers for every question. Is that an acceptable way forward?
MR LAPORTE: Yes, ma'am, it is. THE PRESIDENT: Is it to you too, Mr Welch?
MR WELCH: Yes, it does.
THE PRESIDENT: Good. Fine.
So then we can proceed with your presentation. To whom do I give the floor first, or will there just be one person speaking?
MR LAPORTE: I'm going to take the floor first.
THE PRESIDENT: Good. So, Mr LaPorte, you have the floor.
(10.34 am)

Presentation by Mr LaPorte and Mr Welch
MR LAPORTE: Alright. Thank you, Madam [President]. Good morning to everyone. I apologise for the delay on our part as well.

So my intention here is to basically do what you just summarised, which is to summarise our report and to bring everybody here through our process and then to

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MR LAPORTE: Yes, that's correct.
THE PRESIDENT: Fine. We would assume that you continue looking at your report, and not at other documents.

You know that what we would like to ask you now, as the Secretary explained to you a moment ago, is not the presentations that you had prepared but a general presentation of your report, of your methodology, of your conclusion, about how you went about looking at these documents, how you conducted the inspection. That can be shorter than what we had provided before.

We will then go over to the questions, and in the questions you may then refer, if the question calls for it, to one or the other slides that you had specifically prepared. Your slides as such at present are not in the record, but they would become part of the record if they are used in answer to a question. Your PDF document, that may have been speaking notes or something else, is

Page 34
help everyone understand sort of the way we do our analysis and the way we do our evaluation.

So there were multiple exams that were conducted in this particular matter with these specific documents. Mr Welch and I sort of divided up some of the work. So like you said, there may be questions later on about a specific examination type, and what we'll do is we'll just defer to the individual that was the primary examiner, and for the record we'll just note who's speaking at the time as well too.

The two things I think that are going to be sort of very clear are that anything that has to do with the chemical analysis of the inks and the paper, the hand stamps, anything else, the printing processes, that will come to me, so I'm the only one that has that expertise; and then anything that has something to do with handwriting will go to Mr Welch. So I'm not a handwriting examiner, I don't have an expertise in that.

I will say that all of the work that we did was administratively and technically reviewed by an associate in our company, Ms Jennifer Naso. Ms Naso is certified by the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners and she trained at the United States Secret Service, so she has relevant training and so forth.

11:40 $\quad 1$ mandate was to conduct a comprehensive examination of the disputed documents that are described later in this report. There were nine original documents, two PDFs, and then there were also three additional documents that we just labelled as "DOC A", "DOC B" and "DOC C". When we received the items of evidence from the FBI, those three documents, as we'll discuss later, sort of mesh up with some of these other documents, but they weren't discussed specifically or they weren't accounted for specifically in the terms of reference.
If we had to summarise this, we did approximately eight to ten different tests per document, and I'm going to discuss that testing so that everyone understands the limitations of the testing and what can be concluded from those types of tests. But basically, when I say eight to ten tests, I'm talking about things that can immediately show a document is fraudulent.
So, as an example, if we have a document that's dated 2005 and we have a piece of paper that it's been created on, and that piece of paper has a watermark wasn't available until 2010, that would automatically show that the document wasn't created on its purported date. So many of the examinations that we conducted are
have concluded is, based on all of those examinations that we performed, that:
"There is no evidence of page substitution, text alteration, text addition, or other irregularities to indicate that any of the Disputed Documents were fraudulently produced."
This is a very straightforward, unambiguous statement. It's truthful, it means what it means, the words have no other meanings. We conducted examinations; we didn't identify any fraudulent activity with respect to the documents.
One of the reasons that we don't make a conclusion about true genuineness of a document is because there may be other facts that we're not privy to. The Tribunal may have other information that a document examiner is not privy to, that may lend to the genuineness.
What we feel that our position is, is we're giving you the information about the paper documents themselves and whether or not there's any evidence of fraudulent activity. Once again, that's based on -- you know, I'm trying to quantitate that, in a sense -- all of these tests that we conduct.
Based on the statements that we have received from both of the parties -- so we had comments from BSGR that

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11:38 $\quad 1 \quad$ designed that way, to actually show fraud.
It's actually very, very, very difficult to show that a document is truly genuine, so that an expert could say, "Yes, absolutely, that document is genuine". And when I talk about these kinds of cases, I'm talking about cases like in this matter, where we have documents that are purported to have been created on a specific date and signed by specific people. So unless you have a video recording of somebody signing a document on a specific date, it's really, really difficult to truly and definitively say that a document is genuine.
So our job as forensic document examiners, like the mandate says, is we're here to assist you. So what we've done is we've conducted this extensive examination on roughly twelve original documents and two electronic files, using about eight to ten tests. So we're talking about 120 mutually exclusive tests to show that a document is fraudulent. In this particular case, not a single one of those 120 mutually exclusive tests showed that the documents were fraudulent. Therefore, that would lean in the direction that the document is genuine.

We've never said in our report that the document is truly genuine. What we have stated was that -- I'll go to the conclusions on page 9 of the report. What we

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said that our examinations were very thorough and our
examinations were extensive. So there doesn't seem to
be any dispute by the Claimants in this particular case
that our examinations were thorough and [extensive].
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: When you refer to the comments of
    the parties, the comments on your preliminary report?
MR LAPORTE: The comments from the final report. So there
    were attachments to the final report.
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Yes, I understand that. But the
    comments were made in relation to the preliminary
    report?
MR LAPORTE: No, I guess those comments -- I don't
    specifically recall whether or not those comments
    were --
THE PRESIDENT: So we would prefer that at this stage you do
    not refer to the comments made on your final report --
MR LAPORTE: Very good.
THE PRESIDENT: -- but you comment on your report itself.
MR LAPORTE: Okay. So can I make comments on the
    preliminary report, or can I cite the comments on the
    preliminary report?
THE PRESIDENT: Yes, absolutely.
MR LAPORTE: Okay. Well, in that case, the comments from
    the Republic of New (sic) Guinea said that our
    examinations were thorough and comprehensive, and that
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11:42 1 the methodologies that we conducted were approved.
11:45 1
Now, I will say that during the examination process, while we were in New York, neither party objected to the examinations that we conducted. There were no issues that were brought up with respect to whether or not we were being thorough. So there was nothing brought up at the time during the examination.
The other conclusion that we did come to, which is highlighted, and it's the second bullet in our report on page 9 , that was page 2 of R-32.
So when we received R-32, when we first examined it, we had noticed that there were some characteristics to indicate that the two pages didn't belong together. So what we ended up doing was when we examined document B and document C , we then realised that document B was originally fastened to page 1 from $\mathrm{R}-32$, and then page 2 of R-32 was originally fastened to document A.
So this finding, it doesn't seem like it's a big deal. However, had we not been able to associate document $A$ and document $B$ with R-32, that would have been evidence that that document could have potentially been fraudulent.
So one of the things that you will find when you do the test is: when you eliminate the idea of something being fraudulent, some people would interpret that as

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not being important. The fact is though it's because, as we say, hindsight is $20 / 20$. Once we make a conclusion, and it's like, "Oh, well, that's not that big of a deal, that would have been expected", that's not necessarily true.

I'm going to talk about the examinations that we performed. And I can tell you in my experience that all of the examinations that I'm going to discuss, at some point in my career those examinations have resulted in me making a conclusion that a document is fraudulent. So these are tests that are genuinely accepted, that are used all the time.

So just to bring you through the process of when we do an examination, the first thing that we do when we receive the documents is we do a visual examination, as we like to describe it. So we're looking at the gross characteristics of the paper. We look at the staple holes: if a document is a multiple-page document, whether the staple holes are consistent with each other, or if there has been a potential insertion of a new page.

I've had many cases where somebody has tried to reinsert a page which has different meaning: they remove a page and reinsert a new page. We call that a page substitution. So sometimes what will happen is either
the staple holes will be different, it could be a different piece of paper, the machine printing could be different on the substituted page. So there's a whole host of things that we look for to determine whether there's a page substitution.

Now, in some cases the page substitution may not have been with a fraudulent intent. So as a document examiner, we have to determine whether somebody may have signed a multiple-page document, but then after it was signed, somebody realised, "There's something wrong with something here, let's correct that", or somebody loses a page, or whatever that might be. So we have to consider that. And I can say in every single examination that we perform, we consider alternatives, we look for explanations.

What we do not do and what we will not do is we will never speculate. Speculation is something that we don't do at all. And I'll give some examples as I go through some of the examinations on what "speculation" means.

So I think to begin with, I'm going to talk about -we've talked about visual examinations. Now we determine how the document was printed. And I'm sorry, I should actually have prefaced that I'm going to talk about the document authentication part, not including the handwriting portion. So I'm just talking about all

Page 43
of the physical and chemical tests that would be conducted.

So we'd do an examination to determine how the document was printed. That can be of critical importance in cases. Once again, if we have a page substitution situation, and one page is printed with toner, which comes from copy machines and laser printers, but then another page is printed with inkjet, that might indicate that one of the pages was printed with a different machine printer, and then inserted.
Also too, in some cases when documents are printed on photocopy machines and laser printers, and they're printed in colour, there's a security code pattern that's in many machines around the world. I know this because I worked for the US Secret Service for many years, and that's a counterfeit protection security code, as we call it, a CPS code, but it's an anti-counterfeiting feature. And it was really put in a lot of colour copy machines when the quality of those colour copy machines became so good that it would be easy to take a $€ 100$ [note] or a US $\$ 100$ [note] and make a photocopy of it. So that's what it was designed for.

I can tell you in this case -- it's one of the first things that I look for. I've identified CPS codes on

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thousands of documents in my career: I've seen it on counterfeit money, I've seen it on counterfeit materials, I've seen it on threatening letters to the President of the United States. So I've seen it in a gamut of cases. There were no documents that were printed with colour toner in this particular case, and no CPS codes were present.
We've provided colour images to both parties, high-resolution images, and anyone that's trained in this area would be able to identify CPS codes by just looking at the images; you don't need to see the originals.
Then one of the things too -- and actually I'm going to move here to page 40 -- well, before I do that -actually I'm going to move to page 41 of my report, and this is table 1 .
So one of the first things that we try to do when we get documents is we sort of try to sort them out on how they were produced, the types of inks, the type of paper that was used. One of the things that this can help us do is determine whether -- in this particular case we had multiple documents that were purported to have been created on multiple dates. So one of the things that you want to try and look for is whether there was contemporaneous preparation, as opposed to the documents

11:51 1

Once again, I just want to be cautious in my statements and I'm trying to bring you through my process, because at the end of all of this is when we make our decision. We don't make our decisions as we go through the process. This is no different than the Tribunal listening to cases: you don't make decisions early on or midway through; you wait until you have all of the evidence, and then you make an assessment on all of the evidence. And that's one of the important things that I just want to continue to and I'll probably repeatedly say, is that it's the cumulative value of all of the evidence that's critical for the evaluation part.
We also conducted a number of tests on the stamps. So we had noticed that many of the documents were stamped, there were stamps on many of the documents, and there were different types of stamps. One of the things that you can do with stamps is possibly use it to show whether somebody was stamping documents all at the same time, when they were purportedly created in different time periods.
Stamps do have variations, they have pressure variations: it could be the person that's applying the stamp stamps it in a different way, they hold the stamper differently, the paper could move when you're stamping it; there's all kinds of variations. But what

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11:52 $1 \quad$ we're looking for when we're doing this examination 2 really is to see if there's consistency in the stamps, in the characteristics, that would indicate that the documents were stamped at the same time. That's really what we're looking for, at the end of the day.
So when stamps have different characteristics, so stamps from different documents have different characteristics, it doesn't necessarily mean that they were stamped at a different time; like I said, there could be differences in the application of those stamps. So really what we're doing is we're trying to focus on whether there was fraud or not, and whether they were stamped consistently at the same time.
We also look for interlineations in documents. I've had many cases, Mr Welch has had many cases where individuals will either insert handwritten interlineations and then say that they were done at a specific time, or text interlineations, and that would be adding text into a document to either change the meaning of that or imply something else. We've seen that in many cases. It's not totally uncommon. It depends on the kind of cases that you see over the course of your life or the course of your career. But interlineations are something that's important.
Mr Welch actually conducted most of those

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documents with indentations that don't necessarily make sense.
If you have a later dated document, so if I have a 2009 document dated in a 2005 document, there might be an explanation for that, and that is -- and this happens quite often in business cases, where I have a 2009 document, but I still have my 2005 document that may be part of my file, and I want to reference back to my 2005 document before I sign my 2009 document. So now I pull out the 2005 document from my file, I'm looking at it, and now I take my 2009 document and then I sign it. That's not necessarily evidence in and of itself that there is something fraudulent going on. So there's an explanation for those types of things.
In this particular case, we did not find any documents where the earlier-dated document was impressed into a later-dated document. So we had no conclusions -- there's no indication of fraud based on those impression examinations.
Also I think things that get overlooked sometimes is when we do an ESDA examination for indentations, there maybe be information that we recover that could be helpful; it means nothing to us as a forensic document examiner, but it may mean something to either party or something to the Tribunal, and it may be some written

11:57 1
indentations, with respect to inconsistency of when things are prepared.
Also ESDA can be used to see if things were -- once again, taking documents that have been purported to have been prepared in different time periods, and now someone contemporaneously puts those documents, they could potentially stack them all up and start writing on top of each other, and then now you have a whole stack of
notation that wouldn't be consistent with being on that particular document. So we report the results of those impressions and we just say, "We found such-and-such that's been written on the document".

We didn't have much of that in this case; we had signatures and other things that were indented on to the documents, but no specific notes that sort of didn't mean anything to us. But it does happen quite often; I see it, you know, in a lot of different cases.

Also we looked for evidence, once again, of documents being produced contemporaneously when they shouldn't have been produced contemporaneously. One of the things that you can do is you can look -- when a document comes off of a printer, or it's freshly stamped, and then you put another document on top of it, then the ink will transfer.

We have to be careful with ink transfer though, because it depends on how the documents were stored, it depends on the type of ink that was used. If documents are stored together for a long time, and even though they were stamped at completely different times, some of the stamping still may transfer, some of the printing ink still may transfer as well, too.

So once again, when we have those types of ink transfers happening, we have to evaluate all of the

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Page 50
evidence as a whole. So you'll notice a lot of the things that I'm talking about, the results from these examinations in and of themselves might not prove fraud; but when you put them all together, then that might suggest strong evidence of fraud.
So it really is important to understand -- and this is very, very well understood by leading authorities: we have textbooks that talk about how to be cautious with these types of examinations. And when I say "be cautious", that means be cautious in rendering opinions about genuineness, and be cautious about rendering opinions about things being fraudulent as well, too. This takes the results from a lot of different exams, and then you have to look at it altogether to finally make that type of evaluation.
The other thing I wanted to talk about was the adhesive stamps in this particular case, because this is a little bit of a -- the adhesive stamps are the timbre fiscal stamps. They were a little different, because they had serial numbers on them.
I'm going to go to page 49 in our report.
When I worked with the Secret Service, I had a lot of information and knowledge about, as we call them, authorised documents. And documents could be these timbre fiscal stamps, if you will; it could be

12:00 $\quad 1 \quad$ a document, if you will. I think for the layperson we 2 will just call them "stamps", and we won't call them
"documents".

But when these authorised stamps -- these are authorised by the government; they have serial numbers that are attached to them. We are not privy to how the serial numbers are issued and how they are administered on these timbre fiscal stamps. Once the serial numbers are put on the stamps, we have no idea how the stamps are distributed. So you could have a serial number from 1 to 100 and a serial number from 101 to 200. And they come out of the factory, then they're issued, and then the stamps go off in different directions. We have no idea how those stamps are distributed.

And then also, once again -- and I will qualify this statement: it's my understanding, so I don't know this for sure, but it's my understanding that companies would buy these timbre fiscal stamps, and we don't know how the company buys them and then stores them, and they could be put off in different places and they could be used over different times. So there's just a lot of information that we did not have about the timbre fiscal stamps.

We stated specifically in our report that if we were privy to certain information, and these stamps had

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12:03 $\quad 1 \quad$ of the disputed documents.
We qualified this in our report, and we were very specific that we just don't have certain information. Now, other people -- the Tribunal may get information, or one of the parties may have information. This is one of the reasons why we don't conclude that the document is genuine. So in essence -- and I'll be cautious on how I qualify this -- in essence, it's an incomplete examination, in the sense that we just don't have all of the information.

Now, if you have information or somebody else has information about these timbre fiscal stamps and the serial numbers, and the serial numbers were not available when the documents were purportedly produced, then that information should be used. But it's not information that we're privy to. We're very clear in our report and we're very transparent throughout our entire report about what we know and what we don't know, and what we're going to say and what we won't say.

However, what we won't do is we won't speculate about the sequencing and so forth, because of all the reasons that I have talked about: that we don't know how these were distributed, there's too many variables for us not to understand. And it would be irresponsible for us to make any conclusions otherwise about the

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12:01 $\quad 1 \quad$ serial numbers that were not available on the purported
2 date, that would certainly be evidence that -- maybe not that the whole document is not authentic, but that the stamps were being not applied when they were purported to have been applied.
We did find a known stamp in the comparator documents. We noticed that the one on K20 had a prefix of "BB", and that was stamped on December 16th 2009. All of the stamps that we identified on the disputed documents had a prefix of "BA". So we are making the assumption that "BA" comes before "BB", but I don't know that for sure. Common sense and logic would tell me that, but we don't know that.

What we did find certainly is that the adhesive stamps with respect to the documents -- I'm going to go to page 50 .

So these are the stamps that were on R-24. What we are seeing here is that these are characteristics that would be -- the adhesive stamps -- these would be -- the serial numbers, the last two digits end in 26 and 27, they appear to be consecutive stamps, and they were applied on that document. There's no indication that they were applied, that one page was substituted and another stamp was used. There were no inconsistencies with respect to the sequence of the stamps within each

12:06 $\quad 1$
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explanation has too many variables associated with it, where there's too many unknowns at that point in time.

One of the reasons in the report -- and you will notice that we use the terminology "no evidence to indicate", and we use that throughout our report, and we use that quite extensively. The reason that we did that is because we performed an examination on -- for all practical purposes, we did fourteen documents, and our intent was -- so we had nine originals, two PDFs, and then the three -- DOC A, DOC B, and DOC C.
So when we did those examinations, what we wanted to do and intended to do was bring you through our process for each document. So we examined each individual document, we did a series of tests, and then we made a summary statement after that. I think it would have been irresponsible of us had we not made that summary statement at all. And at the end of doing all of these examinations, we say in our conclusion, "There's no evidence to indicate".
So the whole idea is to sort of bring you through each one step by step, saying, "Okay, we examined this document, we did this particular test, we did test X , test Y and test Z , and none of them show fraudulence". So then that's a summary statement.

Now, if one of those documents -- and once again,
Page 57

12:09 1
watermarks, it could be serial numbers on forms or whatever: there's some identifying feature that could help you use the paper to help identify when the paper was first used or first commercially available.

I guess what I did not discuss either is the chemical examinations, and I apologise for that. That's the one I shouldn't miss, but I did.

So one of the things that we do do, or we can do, is we can look at whether the inks were available on a purported date. We did that in this particular case; I did not find any instances where a particular writing ink was not available on its purported date. There were some inks that I just could not identify, and I was very clear in my report on what those were. But ultimately I did not find any inks that were manufactured after the date of when the document was said to have been produced.

The other thing I just wanted to talk about too is when we talk about the blue stamps as well too -- so this is the examination I talked about earlier with respect to looking at the physical attributes. So these blue stamps were found in -- sorry, let me go back to...

So this was intended to be a comparison of the blue stamps that were used on R-24 R-25, R-26 and R-27. These are representative images. And we did do a very

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12:07 $1 \quad$ this is where our hindsight is $20 / 20$ when we look back.
2 We didn't know when we were doing these examinations
whether the evidence was going to indicate whether or not they were fraudulent. One of these documents may have had evidence of fraudulence. So as we go through each one, if we would have found evidence of fraud, then it would have been for that specific document. And then we would have started trying to figure out: well, is that document associated with anything else?

So although we're looking at the cumulative value of all of the evidence, we're still examining each individual document and we're coming up with a conclusion for each document.

I think finally, the only other thing that I wanted to sort of finish with is -- and I'll make sure I have this in my notes ...
THE PRESIDENT: Have you covered all the tests that you have conducted? I have counted eight in your presentation so far, but maybe ...
MR LAPORTE: Yes, so I think one of the things that -- the test that maybe we didn't discuss is the example of looking for a watermark in paper.

So we do a paper examination, we look for a watermark. In this particular case we didn't find any watermarks on the paper. And sometimes it's not just

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thorough examination of each of the defects. We didn't put that in the report, because that can get quite extensive and quite long, so we offered examples. One of the things though that I think can be important is certainly looking at the purported dates.

So this particular stamp here was purported to have been applied to the document on 02/03/06, and then this one was 21/07/06, so it's four months apart. And what we see are some differences; certainly they could have been pressure differences. But one of the things, you know, that we did find in this particular stamp here is there's a little defect right there on the inner circle, that's above the E in Guinea, and we have other stamps that show that defect even much better --
MR LIBSON: Excuse me, Madam President. This is not in Mr Welch's report.
MR LAPORTE: This is my report that I'm working from.
MR LIBSON: No, but it expressly says it's not in the report, and you've now expressly said on the record that you didn't put it in the report because it can be "quite extensive and quite long". But it is expressed in the materials we received overnight.
MR OSTROVE: It's on page 100 of his report.
THE PRESIDENT: Can you just refer to the page, if it is in your report.

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12:12 1 MR LAPORTE: Yes, it's page 100 of my report. This is the images right from my report.
THE PRESIDENT: What did you say before was not in your report?
MR LAPORTE: Oh, I said we have other images, many other images. We had --
THE PRESIDENT: In respect of the blue stamps?
MR LAPORTE: Yes. So we're using this --
THE PRESIDENT: And you made a selection for your report; is that what you're saying?
MR LAPORTE: Correct. But I'll use these images from here.
MR LIBSON: Sorry, that's not what was said on the record. Maybe it was a mistake. But what was said (page 59, line 23 , to page 50 , line 1 ) was that:
"These are representative images. And we did do a very thorough examination of each of the defects. We didn't put that in the report, because that can be quite extensive and quite long ..."

But it is in the material that came overnight.
THE PRESIDENT: Maybe we just ask Mr LaPorte to re-explain.
What type of test did you do with respect to the blue stamps? What did you put in your report and what did you not put in your report?
MR LAPORTE: That's fair enough.
So what we did put in our report was: there was no
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12:15 1
particular case is: "Well, let me look at the other stamps: is that a pressure difference? It seems to be occurring on multiple documents that are consistent with being produced at different times, but we're not seeing it in another document". So those are the kinds of alternative explanations that I was discussing earlier.

With respect to our terminology -- and I'm just going to conclude with this. So with respect to our terminology, and just to be clear, when we say there's no evidence to indicate fraud, this would be no different than a criminal trial when somebody is found not guilty, right? So they're presumed innocent, but we don't know for sure that they're innocent; they're just found not guilty, and it's based on the evidence that you've evaluated.

We do something similar to that in this case, where there's no evidence to indicate that the documents were fraudulently produced. We don't know for sure, 100\%, Mr Welch and I can't sit up here and tell you with $100 \%$ certainty that they're genuine documents. We kind of explained some other reasons why --
THE PRESIDENT: I think you've already explained this when you started, so that is well understood.

I'm looking at my watch, and I start being a little concerned. Have you completed your presentation?

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12:16 1 MR LAPORTE: I have, yes.
THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Can I turn to Mr Welch.
MR WELCH: Yes, thank you.
As Gerry indicated, I'm going to handle the handwriting examination portion with respect to our report.

We concluded that Avraham Lev Ran -- and this is regarding the handwriting results, which are in the summary if we go to page 9 :
"It has been concluded that Avraham Lev Ran wrote the disputed Avraham Lev Ran signatures on R-24, R-25, and R-26.
"There are indications that Avraham Lev Ran may have written the disputed A.L. initials on R-26.
"It has been concluded that Marc Struik wrote the disputed Marc Struik signature on R-27.
"It has been concluded that Avidan Asher wrote the disputed Avidan Asher signatures on R-28 and R-29.
"There are indications that the Lansana Tinkiano ... signatures on R-25, R-26, and R-27 may have all been written by the same person.
"There are indications that the Mamadie Touré signatures on R-24, R-27 through R-32, R-269, R-346.2, DOC B, and DOC C may have all been written by the same

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## person."

And finally:
"Although no known comparison samples were submitted for comparison with the remaining disputed signatures, no evidence or characteristics currently associated with traced or simulated forgeries were observed [in the handwriting examinations conducted in this matter]."

So in a handwriting comparison, handwriting is identifiable with an individual. A number of factors contribute to that. This individuality reflected in our handwriting is characterised by the fact of the letter forms and the handwriting systems that we're taught in early childhood development, in elementary school, the size of our hands, the size of our fingers, our skeletal and muscular makeup, how we hold the writing instrument, in addition to how we visually picture our writing to look. All combined are what make handwriting individual and unique to each and every person.

The theory of handwriting is that no two people write the same way. No one person, because we're not machines, writes exactly the same way twice. Each person has a level of variation in their handwriting, and each individual has a skill level, an acquired skill level.
In handwriting identification, and how the
beginning and ending of certain strokes.
Additionally, when we're looking at line quality for genuineness, we're looking for smooth, even lines that don't represent or don't have characteristics of shakiness, or what we typically call "tremor". So we're looking for smooth, even lines. We're looking for variation: looking for variation in the width and changes of lines as it exhibits pen pressure variation, and movement and change, depending upon direction of the stroke.

So in the evaluation process the first thing, like
I said, is we look at the questioned writing to determine whether there's evidence of genuineness or forgery.
Now, when we talk about characteristics of forgery, we're talking about slow, deliberate writing. If somebody is attempting to trace -- I think we all know what a tracing is -- or simulate, where somebody basically freehand draws somebody else's signature onto a particular document, the characteristics again, because of that drawn appearance, the line quality is going to look very slow, it's going to look deliberate; because it's slow, you're going to see evidence of tremor or shakiness in the line, because a forger can't duplicate the speed at which the original person signs

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12:21 $1 \quad$ examination and the methodology compare to the processes conducted, is you evaluate the questioned material or the questioned writing for individual handwriting characteristics. These handwriting characteristics can include line quality, letter formations, height relations, proportions, size, slant, position to baseline, pen pressure and pen pressure variation, diacritics: your "i" dots, your "t" crosses and their relative positions.

Those are just some of the handwriting characteristics that a forensic document examiner is going to look at and evaluate in the examination process. That is done in both a questioned body of writing and a known body of writing. But the important thing in this process first is to look at the questioned or disputed writing in any given matter to see if there is evidence of fluency and naturalness in the writing which would suggest that it is genuine.

There are characteristics that tell us if a writing exhibits those qualities of genuineness: flying starts and flying finishes, where the hand, arm and wrist movement is moving as the pen touches the paper. We look at hooks -- and those flying starts and finishes again can be observed at the beginning and ending of strokes. In addition to that, we look at hooks at the

Page 66
their particular name, or writes a particular body of writing. We're going to see pen stops, pen lifts, hesitation, possible retouching where they come back and they try and touch up a particular area of the signature.
Again, when we think about the unconscious act, especially as it relates to our signatures, when we sign our name we essentially give very little, if any, conscious decision-making process on each and every element of our signature. When we sign our name, for the most part it's an unconscious act: we put the pen to the paper and without thought we sign our name to a particular document. Again, because a forger has to try and get all of the elements of the writing so that it looks similar, they have to think about every element of the person's signature that they're trying to copy or imitate.

Once I've evaluated the genuineness or the quality of genuineness or forgery in the questioned writing, I then do a comparative analysis and similar observations with respect to the known writing. Is there evidence in the known writing that would suggest that somebody is trying to deliberately disguise or distort the writing? Is there distortion based on natural causes, which could be due to age, elderly,
where we would see some natural tremor in the line quality of the writing?

So once I've determined that, I then evaluate the individual and unique handwriting characteristics that I previously mentioned, in both the questioned body of writing and the known body of writing. Then I conduct a collative examination, or a side-by-side examination, evaluating both the significant individual and identifiable handwriting characteristics in both the questioned material and the known material.

These evaluations encompass both similar handwriting characteristics and dissimilar handwriting characteristics. It also looks to evaluate characteristics and a determination for variation. Do the characteristics fall within the variation of a particular writer, or is there some type of evidence that may indicate that a certain feature within a body of writing could be an accidental or an unexplained feature or a stroke?

So in this particular case, after I evaluated each and every signature -- we can go to page 53 of our report, and I have that up -- I looked at the two signatures. The Mamadie Touré signatures, there was a signature on page 1 and page 2 of that document. There was also a signature of Mr Avraham Lev Ran on

12:30 $\quad 1$
which is where my pointer is at, if you can see it on the screen.
Also the line quality is nice and smooth, the edges are smooth throughout the signature. There's variations in line widths, which you can see here where my pointer is in this upstroke; and where my pointer is now, this downstroke right to the left of it. There's also pressure variation in the signature.
After evaluating this for genuineness, that there's no evidence of forgery, I then evaluated the known signatures and charted both the questioned and the known, examining the individual unique handwriting characteristics, and put a chart together. And we can go to page 56 for that.

Page 56 is a chart. Submitted for comparison were 47 known, original comparison samples. As you can see in the chart, not all 47 samples are in the chart, but all 47 were used in my examination process. And for the illustration for court, I put 9 , and charted 9 out.
And what we can see here, if I enlarge this -- and I'm going to simply go through -- I'm not going to do this for each and every signature, otherwise we will be here for three days. I'm going to point out some of the similar handwriting characteristics that were the individual and unique identifiable handwriting

In the observations with respect to Mamadie Touré, I didn't see any evidence of tracing or simulation which would be in the characteristics commonly associated with a traced or simulated forgery. You can see at the top of the second vertical stroke there's a nice flying start coming into the stroke, which exhibits or is characteristic of speed and movement, and you can see that the strokes taper nicely. Each and every stroke within both of those signatures have nice smooth edges: you can see pen pressure and pen pressure variation throughout that signature.
After evaluating that, there was no comparative samples for which to conduct an examination.
So if we go to -- this is actually R-24's signature, Avraham Lev Ran. Again, in looking at this particular signature, is there evidence of genuineness, or is there evidence of forgery? There's obvious evidence of genuineness with this particular signature. You can see at the top of the vertical stroke a nice long flying start or drag stroke up to the top of that document where it proceeds down. It has a hook down to the bottom left of that vertical, which is another flying ending stroke, that hand or pen movement as the pen is coming off the paper and moving in to the next stroke,

2 Avraham Lev Ran signature and the known comparative
characteristics, both between the questioned R-24 writings of Mr Lev Ran.
So just to point out some of the features, this bottom arrow is showing the relationship. And I should state, as I know that in appearance one may think in looking at this that I'm showing direction of stroke, that's not the case in this particular regard. These arrows aren't reflecting stroke; they're basically pointing out certain relational proportions.
So this bottom arrow that slants down and to the right is a relationship of the bottom of these two strokes.
The next arrow, just to the right, pointing up to the 9 o'clock region, is this loop size, which is consistent with Mr Lev Ran's habit.
The next arrow is this nice fine terminal stroke. It tapers out, which is telling me once again that there's speed and movement as that stroke is coming to completion and lifting off the paper. Also the relationship and where that ending stroke is, in relationship to this bottom extended movement and the bottom of the vertical movement.

The next arrow, just above the one that we were looking at with the terminal stroke, where I'm pointing

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is moving, it's collecting ink, and as it makes a turn
2 in that direction, it deposits the ink. So the
to this hook that comes out at the bottom of the vertical stroke, which has again speed and movement, a flying finish, is consistent with the habits of Mr Lev Ran.

Next, the arrow where my pointer is pointing. After the pen movement, after the downstroke is completed and comes back up, the next stroke begins where my pointer is right here, and it begins to travel up and to the right, towards the 3 o'clock region, and then retraces back, down and to the left of the page.
THE PRESIDENT: Can I just ask you a question here. MR WELCH: Yes.
THE PRESIDENT: How do you know that after the end of the stroke at the bottom, then the signature continues above, at the next arrow that you showed us?
MR WELCH: Yes, if we can go back to ...
THE PRESIDENT: Yes.
MR WELCH: Yes. So the direction in this particular signature and in another Avraham Lev Ran signature, you'll see this little ink movement here. So the evidence supports, and the characteristics of this writing -- because we have some gooping coming out on the back side, the left side of this. You can see this ink.

So as the ink in the ball of the writing instrument

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12:39 $\quad 1$
> if there was evidence of genuineness or there was evidence of forgery.

> As you can see, there's nice smooth lines. We see the narrowing and thickening of lines that goes along with the pen pressure variation. A great example of that is this particular stroke, if you follow my cursor up: how nice and thin that line is coming up, it starts to get heavy going into the top, and gets heavier even coming down with the downstroke. So we're seeing variations in the pen widths.
> We can also see -- better with the microscopic image -- but there's pen movement as this stroke starts, there's some ink deposit here as this stroke starts and then comes back to the left. You can also see pressure variation here. And this is what I would expect to see in a genuine document. What I'd expect to see in a forged, traced or simulated [signature] is something very slow, heavy and deliberate all the way through the signature, that would be dark, like this portion of the signature here. It would be heavy throughout, have a drawn appearance.
> PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: May I ask a question, Mr Welch. MR WELCH: Sure.

> PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Are you familiar with the device autopen?

12:40 1 MR WELCH: What's that?
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Are you familiar with the device autopen?
MR WELCH: I'm familiar with it.
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Could an autopen be programmed in
such a way that you have differences in pressure?
MR WELCH: It may.
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Maybe you should first explain to
everybody what an autopen is. I understand that the
President of the United States signs with autopen all
his fan mail --
MR WELCH: Yes.
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: -- when he responds to his fan
mail. (Pause)
MR WELCH: Yes. So there are mechanical devices that can create from a machine a signature that looks like an individual's particular signature. This is what you're talking about. And there are some machines and mechanisms in these autopens that can give you some evidence of this. But you're going to typically see, for the most part, some blunt beginning and ending strokes. You're not going to see variation from one signature to another when you're talking about an autopen, unless they're changing up the signature. They can do that.

But in this particular case, an autopen can't pick up the fine and subtle detail in the writing. The pen drags, where the pen is very lightly coming off the paper. The same thing with hooks: that particular mechanical device cannot duplicate that to the extent of what you would see in an individual signing their signature normally and naturally.
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Okay. So an autopen would be speculation in this case, or an alternative?
MR WELCH: You could say that that could be an alternative approach. But in my opinion an autopen was not used in any of these signatures.
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Okay, thank you.
THE PRESIDENT: Can I just ask another question.
You tell us that the forger would sign slowly, deliberately, consciously. But if I'm a gifted forger and a diligent forger, I train a lot, because I'm diligent, and I do it well, because I'm gifted. Now, could I not, especially for simple signatures, like the Mamadie Touré signature, also reproduce these characteristics that you assign to genuine signatures?
MR WELCH: In a simplistic signature, yes, they may be able to practise that enough to get that with some fluency, and you might see some of those characteristics. In my opinion, in a signature like the Avraham Lev Ran, it's

12:45 $\quad 1$
can see once again all of the characteristics that I've talked about: good line quality, smooth, even lines, pen pressure, pen pressure variation. In this particular case you can see this nice downstroke, and actually at the top of that character is a very slight flying start into that, that you can't see very well in this PDF image of our report, where it comes up to the top, comes down, and you see this nice pen drag, beautiful pen drag or flying finish coming out of that stroke, going into the next stroke. And this is again, when we talk about the signature in R-24, the direction, we can see that this movement is similar throughout these signatures.

Also the pen pressure variation, you can see this stroke here. This stroke coming up is nice and light coming up, and heavy coming down as it turns. It finishes out, you see a nice tapered stroke. So there is no evidence of or characteristics commonly associated with traced or simulated forgeries.

Let's go in order of my conclusions in the report. I'm going to go to page 81 of our report, the Avraham Lev Ran initials.

So again, in looking at these particular initials, C0330.7, C0330.8 and C0330.9 were evaluated and used in the examination process. We can see this nice hook, indicating movement coming into that stroke, at the

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complex. There's a lot of movement: there's nine different movements, ten if you include the terminal stroke.

So I would say: yes, in a signature like
Mamadie Touré; in my opinion, no, with a signature like with respect to Avraham Lev Ran. They're not going to get all of the handwriting, they're not going to be able to produce the fine and subtle details in the writing characteristics, with the flying pen starts, the flying pen finishes, the pen drags, the pen pressure variation.

Again, when we look at pen pressure variation, all of us let on and off with pressure throughout our signature. We don't think about it, it's an unconscious thing, but it can be very repetitive for that particular person. Well, that's another thing that the forger can't get. They can't hold the writing instrument exactly the same way that -- a forger can't hold it the same way as the original person whose writing they're trying to duplicate. They don't have the same muscular, they don't have the same skeletal makeup, they don't have the same arm and wrist movement to replicate that same pen pressure and pen pressure variation.
THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.
MR WELCH: Yes.
So we're going to go to [page] 79. Here at 79 we
these are not differences, or they are differences but they don't matter.
If you look at the top of the "A", for instance, it's written very differently between the first, the second, the second and the third are about the same, and the fourth is very different. Does that not matter?
MR WELCH: With respect to the " A " on page 1 , it's much larger, and that form is absolutely dissimilar with the known handwriting samples. But there is a similar form in one of the printed names on one of these documents, but the size is not as large, so it's dissimilar, and I noted that.
THE PRESIDENT: I didn't even think of the size. I thought the top of the "A", which is round in the left, and is completely pointu ...
MR WELCH: Yes, if I could have a moment I can show you. (Pause)

You can see here in C0084.7 this similar beginning stroke, where it starts here, it comes down, and then you see this flat area at the top of the "A", which, if you were to put them side by side -- give me one second ...
THE PRESIDENT: I think it's fine, we're seeing it.
So from the fact that in another document, which is a known document --

12:55 1

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12:54 1 MR WELCH: This is a known document, correct.
THE PRESIDENT: -- you find the same shape, that is actually a different shape --
MR WELCH: Correct, it's not nearly the same in size. But again --
THE PRESIDENT: No, no, I'm still not speaking of size; I'm speaking of form. And the form at the top of the "A" which I find in the first sample on page 83 is similar to that which you have shown in the known document.
MR WELCH: Yes, I would say that it's a similar movement.
THE PRESIDENT: That is what you're saying?
MR WELCH: Yes.
THE PRESIDENT: And therefore you're not concerned by it?
MR WELCH: I can't resolve the "A" feature. When I put a single arrow there, I'm saying there's dissimilarity in that character: the size of it, the placement of the bottom stroke, cross-stroke at the bottom of it, the relationship and position of that particular stroke.

I didn't put a bunch of arrows in this particular case because in a handwriting examination like this, because I'm only dealing with literally two characters, the opinion and indications opinion according to SWGDOC guidelines is a very weak opinion.

So there are limitations definitely associated with an evaluation like this. But there are some handwriting
habits that are in agreement between the four initials of Mr Avraham Lev Ran and the known initials of his from C0330.7 through C0330.9.
THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.
MR WELCH: You're welcome.
THE PRESIDENT: Now I stop interrupting you, although
I would have other questions on the similarities, just from reading your report. But I think we can come back to these questions later on if they are not covered by the parties in their questions.

I look at my watch, and I ask the Secretary: we have now spent 1 hour 17, deducting the interruptions by questions of the Tribunal. We had said an hour, now we are already over it. I will not cut you off of course, but try to limit your further explanations. We are still at Lev Ran, so I know that there is a number of other signatures to come.
MR WELCH: Yes, ma'am.
THE PRESIDENT: How do you want to do this?
MR WELCH: I can go through the evaluation of those, and the characteristics as far as genuineness, rather quickly --
THE PRESIDENT: Fine. So please do that, yes.
MR WELCH: Okay, let's go to 102.
On page 102, this is the questioned signature on R-27 of Mr Marc Struik. As you can see, again all the

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an inter-comparison between the three questioned signatures, evaluating individual identifiable handwriting characteristics, and here are the blue arrows representing some of the similarities that were noted.

Then we can go to page 193. These are the
Mamadie Touré signatures that I compared, pointing out some of the similar handwriting characteristics in all of these questioned signatures. Mind you, for the Lansana Tinkiano and the Touré signatures, I didn't have any known comparator signatures to compare them with. And again I've rendered an indication: may have been written by the same person, for each of these signatures.

That essentially concludes the results of the handwriting examinations.
THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.
MR WELCH: You're welcome.
THE PRESIDENT: So that concludes your initial presentation.
We would now take the lunch break, and then we would resume at 2 o'clock, if that's fine with everyone, and would then give the Claimants time for their questions to the experts. We have provided for 75 minutes: is that what you anticipate to need?
MR LIBSON: We've planned to try and keep within that, but
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13:53

MR DAELE: Thank you very much, Madam President. Examination on behalf of Claimants
MR DAELE: This morning before you entered the room, we heard from the Secretary of the Tribunal that you met each other yesterday, in the late afternoon, to hand over the documents that we then received last night. Can you confirm that Mr Garel yesterday, when you met, reminded you of the provisions of PO17, so that the documents that you were going to file were not allowed to include information that was not on the record?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Can I consult with Mr Welch? (The experts confer) Yes, can you just be more specific?
Q. Did Mr Garel remind you of paragraphs 19 and 20 of PO17,
that provide that the documents that we or the
Tribunal-appointed experts were going to file should not include information that was not already on the record?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes, I didn't recall -- Mr Garel, he didn't see our presentation, so I don't know if he knew what was in it. But no, I did not --
Q. My question was whether he reminded you of that provision.
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, I don't recall that. That's why I was -- I guess I can respond for me in this case --
Q. Mr Welch, do you remember?
A. (Mr Welch) I don't recall specifically. He may have;

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MR LIBSON: We are. We're looking forward to it!
THE PRESIDENT: That I can promise you, that's the only
thing!
Should we start at 1.45 , having heard that? Maybe
that's more cautious, yes. Let's start again at 1.45.
I should tell you, gentlemen, that while you are on
the witness stand, you should please not speak to anyone
about -- I mean, between the two of you, of course, but
not to anyone else about your testimony or your
evidence. Thank you.
Have a good lunch, everyone.
$(1.04 \mathrm{pm})$
(Adjourned until 1.45 pm )
( 1.53 pm )
THE PRESIDENT: So now we are ready to resume, and I give the floor to the Claimants for their questions. Mr Daele.

I just don't recall.
Q. Did you tell him, did you confirm that the documents did not include new information, or information that was not yet on the record?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Once again, I'll speak for myself, just based on what I recall.

No, we presented -- gave him the information, but I don't think Mr Garel knew what was -- all the information that we were turning over.

## Q. And Mr Welch?

A. (Mr Welch) Yes, I'm not really clear on what specifically you're asking about.
Q. My question is: did you tell Mr Garel that the documents you were handing over did not include information that was not yet on the record? It's a clear question.
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, I did not, no.
Q. You did not, okay. Are you of the opinion that the documents that you provided, do these documents include information that was not yet on the record?
A. (Mr LaPorte) So we are referencing -- just so we're clear for the record, you're referencing the PowerPoint presentations that we turned over to --
Q. Yes, and the other documents. So there are two PowerPoint presentations, and then there was a third document.

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A. (Mr LaPorte) So when you say "not on the record",
everything in the presentation was -- as far as we -- so I don't know what was on the record. But as far as I know, what I received was -- for example, I received a report from Mr Radley in response to our final report. So to me, that was on the record.
Q. So Mr Radley's report was on the record. Was your response to Mr Radley's report on the record?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Well, we --
Q. Yes or no?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Well, no, it wasn't at the time. That's -we were providing it to Mr Garel to be on the record.
Q. So by providing these documents -- because these documents do include your response to Mr Radley's report?
A. (Mr LaPorte) That's correct, yes.
Q. But that information was not on the record yet?
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, it was not on the record yet, yes.
Q. But paragraphs 19 and 20 provide that these documents should not include information that was not on the record yet.
A. (Mr LaPorte) So that's where I think we're confused, because the information was already on the record. That's my --
Q. So your response, your views on Mr Radley's report, can

13:57 $\quad 1 \quad$ you identify where it was on the record?
A. (Mr LaPorte) It was on the record because it was turned over to us.
Q. No, no, that's Mr Radley's report.
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes.
Q. Your response to Mr Radley's report, where was that on the record?
MR OSTROVE: (In English) With respect, I have to object to this line of questioning, which is highly misleading.
There has been a misstatement of what PO17 states in paragraphs 19 and 20.

As we've already seen, paragraphs 19 and 20 refer to on the one hand demonstrative exhibits, which have to be material that is on the record, and paragraph 20 refers to PowerPoints or slides accompanying presentations. So to mix the two, and to claim that an argument that was going to be in the presentation had to itself have already been in the record is highly misleading, it's highly prejudicial, it's going to create confusion, and I strongly object to that line of questions.
A. (Mr Welch) Can I clarify my response to your question also? Yes, he did bring this issue up, and --
MR DAELE: Now you remember?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, specifically. And when he brought this up to us, both Gerry and myself told him that any
rit
information that we're providing is information that was already in the record: it was already in the annexes, it was already images from our report. All that information was already in the record.
Q. Your response, again, to Mr Radley's report, was that on the record? And if so, please identify why --
THE PRESIDENT: I think he has already answered this question. Obviously the response to Mr Radley's comments was not in the record; how could it have been?
MR DAELE: That's my question.
A. (Mr Welch) The images that we used, and the information, was in the record.
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: To make it abundantly clear, if I may, what did the Secretary of the Tribunal, Mr Garel, exactly tell you yesterday, at what time?
A. (Mr Welch) He said, "Any information that you provide must already have been in the record". And we had this discussion: we said, "Everything in my PowerPoint -everything in our PowerPoints, all the images are information that was already in the report and the annexes".
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: He reminded you about PO17?
A. (Mr LaPorte) He didn't cite those numbers.

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Okay, thank you.
THE PRESIDENT: I think we can carry on. This seems

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answered.
MR DAELE: Can I use this document (indicating)? It's one of the PowerPoint presentations.
THE PRESIDENT: Well, somehow you will have to make choices.
You asked us not to consider it, and now you want us to consider it, so I'm a little -- I'm not clear about what you wish to do.
MR DAELE: I wish to demonstrate that one of the statements
that was just made, that the information was already in the report, so I want to show one particular image and ask the experts to show me where that image was in the final report.
THE PRESIDENT: Fine, so we note that you wish to rely on the PowerPoint, and you would have to identify --
MR DAELE: Well, I want to rely on that one particular page; not on the entire PowerPoint presentation, but on this one particular page.
THE PRESIDENT: As we said this morning, if we refer to certain pages, then they will become part of the record. But you may go ahead of course, with this specification.
MR DAELE: In the documents that you provided to Mr Garel,
was there, for example, an image of an analysis of the
movement or the formation of Mr Lev Ran's signature?
A. (Mr Welch) No, there was not an image of -- what

I provided in the PowerPoint, there was not an image of
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2
the movement in the report. But it was based -- or essentially, the observations that I'd made [were] based on evidence that were in the records when I did my examination.
Q. But is there an image in the final report?
A. (Mr Welch) No.
Q. No. But there is such an image in the documents that you filed yesterday?
A. (Mr Welch) Absolutely.
A. (Mr LaPorte) If I can just add to that, that image that we used was part of the annexes that we originally -were part of our final reports. This is not a new image that we made up.
Q. Okay. Let me move on to the final report then. In paragraph 9 you take the position that BSGR has engaged in expert shopping. Can you explain on the basis of what evidence you took that position?
A. (Mr LaPorte) I'm sorry, I'm just going to refer to paragraph 9 .
Q. It's in the first line. You make the suggestion that

BSGR engaged in shopping for an expert. Can you tell us on what basis you came --
A. (Mr LaPorte) First of all, our statement says, "it appears", so we don't make an affirmative allegation. We say, based on our 50 years of experience, that when

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> a stronger wording, because what you're describing here is again this practice of expert shopping, and here you said, "It seems obvious".
> A. (Mr LaPorte) "It seems"; not "It is". It seems pretty obvious, because of the circumstances where there was no request -- at least when we received the request for the extension or we were asked if we were okay with the extension, it was at the very last minute: it was just prior to the deadline.
> Q. But then in the last line of that paragraph, you say:
> "In [your] opinion, BSGR did not, in good faith, disclose their reasoning ..."

> This is affirmative, no? It says:
> "In [your] opinion, BSGR did not ..."
> This is an affirmative statement, disclosed in good faith?
> A. (Mr LaPorte) It's in our opinion, that's what we're saying. Once again, we're trying to be transparent. And based on our duties to the Tribunal, it's to notify that we have a genuine concern that there was something that was going on.

> Once again, we didn't have all the facts, we didn't know all the facts, we weren't making any of those -those were things that we were notifying the Tribunal of, for them to just take note of.

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14:07 1 Q. Did you ask for the facts? Did you ask BSGR?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Then that becomes a legal -- because we don't know all the procedural -- we're just here as the experts --
Q. But you are aware, under paragraph 8 of the terms of reference: if you wanted information from the parties, you were entitled to ask for information. Were you aware of that provision?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes, but I believe that pertains to information related to the examination of the documents; at least that was our interpretation.
Q. What are, let's say, the key components of shopping for an expert?
A. (Mr LaPorte) So I think the first thing -- and Mr Welch can add if I miss [anything] -- the first thing is there were two experts that were retained by BSGR that attended a four-day inspection in New York City. Those two individuals were there for the entire inspections, both of them were there, they observed everything that was going on. Then there was this last-minute request to extend the deadline. And then there were no comments about the preliminary report from the originally-hired experts.

But suddenly Mr Radley then came into the picture, who -- and just by the way, I know Mr Radley, we're
colleagues. He's a great guy, he's a professional; I have nothing against Mr Radley at all. So this has nothing -- this is not a personal -- anything personal attack or professional attack on Mr Radley. He's well -- I think he's been doing forensic document examination for many, many years, and he is well respected. I have tremendous respect for Dr Radley. So this is nothing about Dr Radley -- or Mr Radley.

So now a new expert comes in who wasn't at the inspection at all. So we spent four days doing these intensive examinations, with people staring at us for the whole time. Mr Radley wasn't there, but now suddenly Mr Radley comes into the picture. There was no explanation of why he was there.

And then the questions that we received from Mr Radley -- which are fair and appropriate -- there was no background information with the questions. The questions were just kind of open-ended, which then leaves the reader to sort of -- could lead the reader to misunderstand the outcomes --
Q. We'll come to that later. But you haven't really answered my question. My question was: what are the key components of the practice of expert shopping?
THE PRESIDENT: I think the answer goes to this: if I understand it correctly, you were listing the

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proposition or the parties' proposition.
Q. Yes, and that is why they are selected?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes, but it's done -- once again, you're asking me about what's legally allowable. As an expert --
Q. No, I'm asking you what you write about in your report.

You describe the concept of "expert shopping", and I'm trying to test what you mean, or what in the industry is meant by "expert shopping". And here in your expert report you say:
"That is, parties are known to seek out an expert to advocate on their behalf."

A little bit further in the same paragraph, you assume that the original experts:
"... have not issued any comments of findings with respect to their observations of the extensive testing that took place during the inspection phase and presumably reviewing the materials we provided. In some cases, when an expert provides conclusions to a party that do not significantly deviate from an opposing expert and do not support the position of their client then the party may seek out another expert that will support their position."
A. (Mr LaPorte) Right.
Q. So I am saying that this paragraph here -- and we can go

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components, and the last one was that questions came in that had no background based on the inspection. Is that right?
A. (Mr LaPorte) That's correct.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there another component?
A. The last component would simply be that we received no comments, queries or questions from the original --
THE PRESIDENT: Which you originally noted, yes.
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes.

MR DAELE: In paragraph 9 of your statement you say:
"... we commonly refer to in our industry as
'shopping for an expert'."
So there is something in the industry -- you refer to it -- that is known [by] all practitioners, known as "shopping for an expert". These are your words. And then I think you try to define it, because you then add:
"That is, parties are known to seek out an expert to advocate on their behalf."

So it is not neutral, it's not just replacing experts; it is replacing one expert by another who will advocate on behalf -- these are the words in your statement. Do you stand by these words?
A. (Mr LaPorte) So when we say "advocate", that would mean that they have the position -- or they will render an opinion or have a position that supports your
back to 11 as well, where you have the same kind of idea. You say we made the request:
"... because the 'original experts' did not dispute the testing we performed or our final conclusions, and then [we] likely began [to] search for the 'new expert'."

So this is not a neutral exercise. You assume first of all that the original experts were basically agreeing with your analysis, and that is why we changed the experts. Is that the concept of "expert shopping"?
A. (Mr LaPorte) That's part of the concept, yes.
Q. So you assume here that this is what happened?
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, once again, we didn't assume. We didn't assume anything. We didn't make this allegation. We advised the Tribunal that this is a common practice. I've been the expert who has been shopped upon, and I've been on the other side, where multiple experts come in afterwards, when the first expert agrees with my findings. I've personally experienced this numerous times in my career.

And all we're saying -- this has no bearing on our conclusions. We issued our conclusions in our preliminary report. It's not a biased statement in any way. It's just saying that we find this practice a little unusual, especially when two board-certified

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examiners attended the inspection over a course of at least 40 hours in New York City, and then they're not heard from at all.
Q. You place a lot of emphasis on the fact that they were there in New York. But in New York you did not share any of your findings, did you?
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, but they had a wonderful opportunity to watch everything that was going on, and then they had the opportunity to ask us questions.
Q. But you did not share any findings, conclusions. It was basically collecting evidence, where we and the party-appointed experts were sitting, you know, 1 metre away from the table where you were doing your exercises, and you even put papers on the table to make sure that we wouldn't actually see what was happening?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes. In all fairness --
Q. So that's what you describe as "a wonderful opportunity"?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Well, if you didn't think it was a wonderful opportunity, then you wouldn't have sent people there, right? I mean, it's a wonderful opportunity. If I'm another expert on the opposing side, I would be counselling or advising my client that it would be a really good idea for me to attend the inspection, and then also have the opportunity to ask

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14:15 $1 \quad$ questions at the end of each session.
But in all fairness to your point, we did not have any findings or results during the time in New York. We collected information, we made our observations. And when I say "findings", that's more of a results-type thing. We didn't form any conclusions at the time.
Q. Are you aware that one of the original experts disagrees with your suggestion of expert shopping, Mr Dennis Ryan?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes, I don't -- I'm not sure I would interpret that the same as you.
Q. Well, if I read -- it's under tab 38. But if I read, he says -- and it's on page --
A. (Mr Welch) I'm sorry, can it be brought up?
Q. Tab 38 (C-376). It's on the second page.
A. (Mr Welch) Can you give us a moment so we can find it? We don't have a monitor. (Pause)
Q. Halfway down the page, just before you see in the middle "Extension of time", underlined, just before that:
"We therefore find the allegation of expert shopping entirely unjustified."
A. (Mr LaPorte) So one of my first issues with this is that Dennis Ryan is saying "we", right, and yet he is only signing from himself. I don't see an independent statement from Laura. So I do have a concern when one person issues a statement about two people.

But that aside, yes, I see what he says.
Q. So does that in any way affect your assumptions?
A. (Mr LaPorte) No. First of all, we didn't --
Q. But you assume that the reason for changing expert is because the original expert does not agree with its party, okay?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes, once again, we were advising the Tribunal --
Q. And --
A. (Mr LaPorte) I'm sorry to interrupt. We did not make an assertion that that's what was happening. We just said: these are common characteristics that occur when another party seeks out another expert.
A. (Mr Welch) This is a common practice.
Q. So why do you say, "In our opinion, BSGR did not, in good faith, disclose their reasoning for an extension"?
A. (Mr LaPorte) We never heard the reason for the extension. We never received any information about it.
A. (Mr Welch) And it certainly wasn't disclosed to us at the time what the reasons were.
Q. Is it common practice to accuse parties of bad faith?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Well, we --
Q. Or failing to act in good faith?
A. (Mr LaPorte) So normally we wouldn't do that, because -well, first of all, yes, when I worked for the

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government, when I worked for the US Secret Service and I thought there was something that might have been in bad faith, I would have notified the US attorney and said, "I think that there's something inappropriate here", and they can look into that. And in those cases, those criminal cases, I'm a neutral expert, and I'm allowed to convey that as a neutral expert.
Q. In the same paragraph 9, you state that a number of BSGR comments "would not have been necessary had the '... expert' been present". You see that?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes.
Q. Yes. How many queries fall under this category?
A. (Mr LaPorte) I didn't count and quantify the queries. But there was probably -- if Mr Radley did attend the inspection in New York City, I'm sure he would have had follow-up questions that would have mitigated or at least reduced the number of queries.
Q. There were 65 queries. Can you give us some indication? Is it like $5,10,20,30,40$ ?
A. (Mr LaPorte) I don't want to guess on the number. But there were a number of them that, when we went through them, we were like, "Well if Mr Radley was present, he probably wouldn't have asked this question".
Q. If I tell you that in your responses in Annex L, there were only 2 responses out of the 65 that referred to
what took place in New York, does that sound reasonable to you?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Well, that's because maybe that was direct information. But like I said, I think -- I believe that if Mr Radley was present at the inspection, he would have been able to ask more questions that would have alleviated --
Q. But the nature of the questions that the parties were allowed to ask in New York was limited, wasn't it? The nature?
A. (Mr LaPorte) The nature?
Q. Yes.
A. (Mr LaPorte) I don't ...
Q. Was there in the ...
A. (Mr LaPorte) I don't recall them being too limited.

I mean, they got to -- limited in the sense they were allowed to ask questions about the examinations that took place that day.
Q. Only technical questions about what exactly you were doing; is that correct?
A. (Mr LaPorte) That's correct.
Q. Okay, thank you.

Now, in paragraph 12 you say that there is another set of questions that were:
"... unnecessary if the [Preliminary Report] and the
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document examiner should arrive at the same or similar conclusions based on the reasons and bases provided, in addition to reviewing the appropriate image files supplied with the [Preliminary Report]."

So any properly trained and competent expert would come to the conclusions that you came to. Clearly Mr Radley did not come to the conclusions that you came to. So is it your position that therefore Mr Radley is not a properly trained and competent expert?
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, no, of course not. Dr Radley is a professional colleague and he's well trained and he's well versed in this area. So I can only --
Q. Is he competent?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Of course he's competent, yes. We were not making that allegation. What I'll say for the document authentication part is that I don't believe Mr Radley and us differ too much in our opinion about the ultimate conclusions with respect to the document authentication.

The handwriting opinions, I'll turn over to Mr Welch.
Q. Would you qualify Dr Radley as an advocate for the party --
MR OSTROVE: I'm sorry, is it possible to let Mr Welch answer the question before moving on to the next one?
MR DAELE: Absolutely.
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14:22 11 supporting data were reviewed thoroughly."
So is it your position here that BSGR and its expert did not thoroughly review the data?
A. (Mr LaPorte) I'm sure that the data has been thoroughly reviewed by now. But prior to the final report, there were a lot of questions where if someone would have went in and looked at all of the images, they may have been able to answer those questions.

However, there were a lot of images that we took in this particular instance. The report was very lengthy. There was some information that I believe that we provided in the descriptive section of our report, where I thought some of the questions were -- if someone read the front part of the report, and not just the results, there would have been a lot of information that could have been ascertained that way.
Q. Can you identify the number of questions that fall under this category?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Once again, we didn't take our time to tabulate all the questions --
Q. But you do know it's the majority, because you say it's the majority. So that means more than 30 ?
A. (Mr LaPorte) There were many.
Q. In response to 13 of BSGR's questions, you say that:
"Any properly trained and competent forensic

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say it is "inevitable" that BSGR has "tainted and
biased" its expert.
So is it your position now that Mr Radley is tainted and biased?
A. (Mr LaPorte) No. So am I allowed to answer your question by going to the PowerPoint presentation that I prepared? Because I had a couple of slides that respond to that.
THE PRESIDENT: As we have said this morning, you can refer to your specific slides if they do respond to a specific question. The difficulty that we will have doing this is that the slides are not numbered. And of course the Tribunal should be able to look at the slide as well. We will see on the screen. (Pause)

The actual presentation has numbers, so we can identify the page by that. Can the person showing the slide again show it with the --
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes, it's right up there. So it'll say --
oh, it says here -- it's slide 27.
THE PRESIDENT: No, it says --
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes, it doesn't say on there. It says on here for me. But it's slide 27.
THE PRESIDENT: Can we see it again, where on the left-hand side we have the different slides with the numbers? If it's not full screen, we will necessarily see it. You

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says, if we go right to the bottom of this stuff, it says, "but it can have an influence and should be guarded against".

So it doesn't mean Mr Radley has been tainted. We're not making that assertion in any way. Mr Radley asked about a document -- or two documents that we had no idea existed. They were not part of the disputed documents and they were not in the comparator documents, and they weren't referenced in our report in any way. So we were taken aback when we heard about these documents that were marked "forged" on them. And then Dr Radley -- or Mr Radley had a series of questions that followed that, about: did we see those, did we look at those, what was our opinion of them, and so forth. But we had not seen those documents.
MR DAELE: But you say now that an expert can be biased, but here in your statement you say it is "inevitable".
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, I'm saying that it's possible for someone to be biased. When you retain -- and I'm not talking about "you" in general. But when a party in general retains an expert and says, "Here are some documents and they say 'forged' all over them, but they're not part of the documents that are supposed to be examined", you've now provided information to just Mr Radley, but that information --

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14:27 1 have to go out of full screen.
A. (Mr LaPorte) I think I can do it this way.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, absolutely.
A. (Mr LaPorte) So slide 27.

THE PRESIDENT: We will proceed in that way when you need to
refer to a slide.
A. (Mr LaPorte) We can do it in that form? Yes, that's fine.

So to answer your question now, this is a very common -- it's an area of immense interest in the forensic sciences now. This is called "context bias". This is what we call the tendency -- so by definition -so there's a document that has been issued by the Forensic Science Regulator in the United Kingdom, and in the United States we are kind of following this similar type of guidance. But in that document -- which we provided as well too -- is a definition of what's called "contextual bias", and that's the tendency for consideration to be influenced by background information.

So when you give a forensic examiner -- not just a forensic document examiner -- information that's not necessarily pertinent to the investigation or to the analysis, then you can taint the expert. However, there is a statement that's put out by the regulator, and it
Q. Would you be biased if you received from a party that kind of document?
A. (Mr LaPorte) And what I'm saying is I'm not saying -Q. No, I'm asking --
A. (Mr LaPorte) -- or alleging that people get biased; I'm just saying there's a possibility. So I've taken training in this area; that doesn't mean that I can't be biased in any way. All humans can be biased to a certain extent. Certainly I know how to look out for it, and when I speak with clients I tell them that I don't need to know any other extraneous information.
MR OSTROVE: For the record, we have moved to slide 28, which follows slide 27.
A. (Mr LaPorte) Sorry.

MR DAELE: I still have a number of questions. But in light of the time, and the fact that we still have a follow-up session, I'm going to hand over to my colleague Mr Libson to continue with a series of questions.
THE PRESIDENT: The follow-up session comes after the questions from the Tribunal. It is meant to be a follow-up session on the questions of the Tribunal. So if the Tribunal asks no question about this -- and I have no idea whether it will or not -- there's a good argument to say that you should not be able to follow up on something that was never asked.

That's a long explanation to say: if you have more questions on this topic, you should please ask them now. And we are aware of the time, and we hope we will manage the best we can.
MR LIBSON: I will go through my questions, and then hopefully we will have some time at the end for Mr Daele to come back to his questions. Thank you.
Mr LaPorte, can we turn to Annex 1 of the terms of reference. It should be tab 2 in your bundle in front of you. Have you got it?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes.
Q. Thank you. If you look at page 8 and read your response to question 1. I'll read it for the record. The response says:
"As background, to determine the authenticity of a document (was it created and executed on its purported date?), there are physical, optical, and chemical tests that can be performed as part of the forensic document examination."
So according to this answer, whether a document is authentic is whether it was created and executed on its purported date; is that right?
A. (Mr Welch) Correct.
Q. And your role as Tribunal-appointed experts was to assist the Tribunal in ascertaining the authenticity of

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is irrelevant to a forensic examination because part of the examination may be to establish whether or not the documents were, in fact, created on their purported dates."

Yes, you've got that?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes.
Q. So what techniques exist to determine in fact that a document was created on a particular date?
A. (Mr LaPorte) So that's very difficult, as I outlined this morning. Generally speaking, when I talked this morning about having the security code, the CPS code on a document, that can tell us the date when it was printed. That only happens on certain -- from certain manufacturers. So that would be one. But generally, to try and determine the exact date when something is signed from a forensic standpoint is very difficult.
Q. Okay. I want to point you to your conclusions in your report on two documents, and if you take it from me that the answers are in identical form. They are paragraphs 160 and 177 of your report. If we go to paragraph 160. It's at tab 1 ?
A. (Mr Welch) What page number is it?
Q. Page 110.
A. (Mr Welch) 110, thank you.
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes, if you could use the page number, that

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14:38 1 would be good.
Q. Okay. So that paragraph reads:
" $\mathrm{R}-28$ is a one page document purportedly prepared on
27 February 2008. Although this document is dated
27 February 2008, which is indicated in the machine printed text ..."

You mean the typed text, I think, there:
"... there is no definitive date for when the document was executed with the signatures since there is no written date or legalization date. Therefore, our conclusions with respect to R-28 are based on the assumption that R-28 was prepared and signed on or around 27 February 2008."
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes.
Q. And then you make the same assumption for R-29.
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes, so I think there might be a misunderstanding here. What we're saying here is that the document has a machine-printed date of 27th February 2008. What we're doing is we're using that as the earliest date the document would have been produced.
So we're -- maybe -- I apologise, because maybe the "assumption" term that we used has been taken out of context. What we're saying is: you know what, if somebody prints a document and it's dated February 27th

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2008, we're using that as the default date of the document.
Q. Why would that be the earliest date the document would have been produced, based on what you say gives rise to the assumption?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Okay, so there was supposed to be a signature; there was no signature or date assigned with the signature on that date. There was no date assigned or written on the document. So what we're saying is: if you're going to produce -- you print a document February 27th 2008; it could be signed a month later. We don't know that.
Q. Sorry, but I don't understand why that is the earliest date it could be produced. I could create a document today that is dated February 27th 2008.
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes, what we're saying: is if someone has a document that's dated February 27th 2008, we're just -- remember, we're neutral experts, we're right in the middle, and we have to make the assumption that the date that's being purported is the date that we have to work with.
Q. Why do you have to make an assumption at all?
A. (Mr LaPorte) We're not making an assumption. We're just saying that that's the date that we're using as our reference, right? I can't say, "Oh, well, it was

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27 February 2008 ..."
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes, so I believe -- and this might -I believe we have a little miscommunication here. So we are using February 27th 2008 as a default date on the document, and what we're saying is: based on all of the evidence, there was no evidence to indicate that it was created and produced at any other time than February 27th 2008. There was no evidence to suggest it was done otherwise.
Q. But that is not what you say. You do not say, "There is no evidence to suggest it was created on another date". You say in the report -- and we gave you the opportunity to change the report -- that the assumption was that it was created on that date. Don't look at the answer now. I'm talking about -- the answers to the questions --
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes.
Q. -- were to give you the ability to change your conclusion in the final report.
THE PRESIDENT: I think in fairness to the expert, he can read his answer to refresh his recollection.
MR LIBSON: Of course. I thought he had read his answer. No, of course I accept that. But ...
A. (Mr LaPorte) So what we did was we repeated -- and we still stand by this opinion -- at the end, where we say:
'... there is no evidence to indicate that R-28 was
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produced in 2014 and then somebody backdated the document". What we're saying is: that was the date on the document.
Q. You're not saying that. You say the assumption is it was created on that [date]. You're not saying that that is the date that's on the document.
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, and I think this is where we're getting confused. I'm not making a definitive conclusion that it was created and dated on February 27th 2008. We're only using that as a reference point.
Q. Well, it doesn't read like that.
A. (Mr LaPorte) And that's why I apologise that it shouldn't read like that. All we're saying is that that's our reference date that we're using. That's it.
Q. We turn to this point -- and we'll come back to this quite a lot -- we turn to this point in question 38 of our questions to you in Annex L, and we ask you to set out the evidence that gave rise to the assumption. That is in tab 21, page 22.
A. (Mr LaPorte) What paragraph?
Q. Question 38, and it's page 22 of tab 21 . We ask the question:
"Please set out with full particularity the
scientific basis on which the [Preliminary Report] concludes that R-28 was prepared and signed on ...

3 A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes, it does.
4 Q. No, it doesn't.
5 A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes, it's the final conclusion that R-28 is 6 part of the disputed documents. This is not a -- first of all, this is not a separate conclusion. We would never make a conclusion in the middle of the report.
Q. We asked you to set out the entirety.
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, but ...
Q. You say you wouldn't make a conclusion in the middle of the report, but in paragraph 160 this is the language:
"Therefore, our conclusions with respect to R-28 are based on the assumption that it was prepared on or around 27 February 2008."
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, what we're saying is: the conclusions that we're going to make later on will be based on a purported date of 27th February 2008. That was our default. This is no different than if somebody signs a document and dates it today, and then we get it in five years from now, my assumption is that's when it was signed and dated to begin with.

What we're saying -- and question 38, I think this would have been better worded had Mr Radley outlined and said, "Based on your report", you know, our preliminary

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report, "what do you mean by this?" But R-28 falls into all of the other documents.
Q. Is this not a good example of cognitive bias?
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, this is not cognitive bias at all.

What we're saying is: we have to accept -- we have to use a date for what it's being purported as. That's the date that we're working with. That's the only date that we have on the document.
Q. Why did you use the phrase "disputed signatures" throughout your report?
A. (Mr Welch) Because they're coming to us as being documents that are in dispute, they're questionable. Are they questionable, are they genuine or are they fraudulently produced? They're disputed somehow.
Q. No, the documents are disputed, and in the terms of reference there is a reference to "Disputed Documents". But there is nowhere -- you can take it from me -- in the terms of reference any reference to "disputed signatures", yet you use that phrase throughout your report.
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, because their genuineness, or whether or not they're genuine, or whether or not they're fraudulently produced, is not determined. Because I state that doesn't mean that we're one side or the other. We are neutral, as my partner has said. We're

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explaining how you approached the stamps.
Am I right in saying that in relation to K20 --
A. (Mr Welch) Can you give us a page number?
Q. Sorry, I'm going to tab 1, page 49 in your report.
(Pause to locate the document)
This deals with K20 and the serial numbers beginning "BB0667".
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes.
Q. You say that:
"Since the 'BB' prefix on K20 is expected to follow the 'BA' prefix, which was used for the Adhesive Stamps on R-24, then the sequencing of the Adhesive Stamps on $\mathrm{R}-24$ is consistent with them being applied before December 2009."
A. (Mr LaPorte) Actually, maybe "being applied" would have been -- the "applied" word probably shouldn't have been used. We should have said "manufactured".
Q. Okay. The --
A. (Mr LaPorte) Because I can't -- for all fairness, just to make sure that everybody understands, so we can't tell you exactly when the stamps were applied, nor would we make that kind of assertion. So that was a poor word, and we should have used just "manufactured before".
Q. But why does the same logic not apply to the serial

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14:45 1 neutral experts. We start there. So --
Q. So because you state that they're disputed, we shouldn't understand that they're disputed?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Well, we were not instructed in any way that certain signatures were genuine or not disputed. Nobody told us that.
Q. So why do you just not refer to them as "the signatures on the Disputed Documents"?
A. (Mr LaPorte) That sounds like a semantic statement. I mean, they're still -- if you're asking us, if you're making a request for us to do an examination of those signatures, then they're disputed.

And the irony is we don't know, we have no idea whose signature belongs to who on what side. So we did a full examination of all of the signatures. I believe some of those signatures may have belonged to the Respondent in some way; I don't know that. I still don't know all of those signatures and who those people are associated with. We had no idea. I mean, certainly there's some signatures that the person has "BSGR" under them, so I assume they're with BSGR. But that doesn't matter to us.
Q. Just turning to another assumption that I think you've made in the report, and this relates to the serial numbers on stamps. You mentioned this when you were
words. It should have been "manufactured", not "applied". "Applied" means it was stuck to. And no, we can't make a conclusion about when the stamp was stuck on the document.
Q. Okay. It makes the stamp evidence slightly confusing, if actually the evidence that you've given in relation to stamps is all about its application, but actually you meant to say "manufactured".
A. (Mr LaPorte) It was manufactured. Actually, it doesn't change any of our conclusions. There's no evidence to suggest that the stamps were manufactured after the date of the document and then reapplied. That's all we're saying. That doesn't affect our conclusion in any way whatsoever. But yes, I do agree that it should have been "manufactured", not "adhered to" or "stuck to".
Q. I'm going to move on to the debate about the alternative considerations, which we've touched upon already this morning.

In layman's language -- and I'm using a phrase that Mr Radley uses in his report -- the alternative propositions is about:
"... considering all issues on 'both sides of the coin' [and then] assessing the likelihood of one proposition over another."

Is that right?

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A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes, that's what he says.
Q. Sorry, do you agree with that?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Absolutely not.
Q. Why?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Because you can't assess the likelihood of certain situations without doing that based on having statistics. So I agree in concept with what Mr Radley says, but I don't agree with the use of "likelihood".

First of all, "likelihood" is a statistical term that implies that you have some sort of numerical and quantitative value. So for somebody to say you can assess the likelihood that something was printed on a toner machine versus an inkjet machine, I would say: how do you assess that likelihood? There's no likelihood of that. We don't have any research to back that up.
Q. Your entire conclusions -- and this is non-signature;

I'm not dealing with the signatures at the moment.
A. (Mr LaPorte) Correct.
Q. But your entire conclusions are based on one side of the coin, as I put it, i.e. that there's no evidence of page substitution, text alteration, text addition or other irregularities, and then the documents are not fraudulent; is that correct?
A. (Mr LaPorte) First of all, I never said that -- we said

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there is no evidence to indicate that the documents are fraudulent. As I explained this morning, we didn't make a conclusion that they're genuine. Based on all of the evidence that we looked at, there's no evidence to indicate that they're fraudulent.
Q. But did you consider the alternative propositions?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Absolutely. We always consider the alternative propositions.
Q. So why in the report is there no consideration of the alternative propositions?
A. (Mr LaPorte) This report would have been 5,000 pages -and I'm not exaggerating -- if every one of our thoughts went into all of this verbiage. What we've outlined at the beginning, which we haven't covered, is we do describe the testing that we do and the possible outcomes of them.
Q. I understand that, and I understand that you may not want to set out all of the alternative propositions. But there's not a single alternative proposition put in the report.
A. (Mr LaPorte) There's always an alternative proposition.
Q. Can you point me to the alternative propositions?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Such as, for example, we pointed out the alternative propositions for -- there's an alternative proposition for everything. So when we talk about

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indentation examinations, and I talked this morning about having an earlier-dated document on a later-dated document, the other proposition is that someone truly did backdate a document, but they didn't do it on top of another piece of paper, so there are no impressions. That's the alternative.
Q. But there is an alternative --
A. (Mr LaPorte) There's an alternative proposition to everything.
Q. Yes.
A. (Mr LaPorte) To everything.
Q. But none of the alternative propositions are identified in your report?
A. (Mr LaPorte) No. We discussed -- we stated about indentation examinations. We said: when we can find an earlier-dated document found on a later-dated document, we can make a conclusion that it was not executed on its purported date, if we find that evidence.
Q. So one alternative proposition is that there is no alternative authenticity; that's correct?
A. (Mr LaPorte) As we talked before -- once again, can I go back to my slides at this point in time?
THE PRESIDENT: Yes, you always can if it helps you respond to a question.

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A. (Mr LaPorte) Okay. (Pause)

First of all, this is slide 7. So this is from a recognised authority in the area of forensic document examination, Ordway Hilton. This is an article. But what Hilton describes in here, which we agree with, is that genuineness is really about something that hasn't been altered. It's only proven by showing that there has been no alteration, or, more specifically, that no fraudulent act has been committed. So that's what Ordway Hilton says.
(Slide 8) And then there's another book that's been written as well, by Jan Seaman Kelly and Brian Lindblom. So this is Kelly and Lindblom. They talk about this exact concept in here:
"Proving that a paper is unaltered is a challenging problem."

We've admitted to that. And by "paper" they mean a questioned document. And as they say here:
"It is the cumulative evidence that establishes that the document is unaltered."
(Slide 9) They go on to say, if we look right at the underlying portion:
"When the combined results reveal no change, it can be stated that there is no evidence to support that this document was altered."

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20 Q. You just said "fraudulent" meant "altered".
A. (Mr LaPorte) Altered for fraudulent purposes.
Q. Okay. So the issue of considering alternative propositions is something that is important in guarding against cognitive bias, isn't it?
A. (Mr LaPorte) I wouldn't say that it guards -- cognitive

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Which is the language that we used, which is the language that's been used by hundreds of examiners over the years, and I see it actually quite often.

So this is written in textbooks about what this means, and it goes all to the fact that proving a document is genuine is -- I don't want to say "impossible", but I'll say is nearly impossible.
MR LIBSON: But this isn't the language that you use.
A. (Mr LaPorte) We said that there's no evidence to support that the document was fraudulent. "Altered" would mean that it was fraudulent.
MR OSTROVE: For the record, we have added slides 8 and 9 , I think.
MR LIBSON: "Fraudulent" does not mean "altered". A document can be altered for legitimate purposes presumably?
A. (Mr LaPorte) It can, yes.
Q. Exactly, so it's not the same.
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes.
bias is when somebody gives you information that they
shouldn't be giving you.
Q. Can we refer to the same document that you referred us to, the Forensic Science Regulator report. I don't know which tab that's in. It was sent last night. (Pause to locate the document)
THE PRESIDENT: We should describe this for the record, for the transcript.
MR LIBSON: It's the guidance from the Forensic Science
Regulator, "Cognitive Bias Effects". It was just referred to earlier, on a previous slide (28).

I am looking at page 24 of 96 , paragraph 5.3.
(Pause to locate the document)
A. (Mr LaPorte) Can you read it into the record?
Q. It says at paragraph 5.3, in the subheading, "The role of a forensic expert". And the paragraph reads:
"The role of the forensic science expert is to evaluate scientific findings and the results of analytical tests in the context of the relevant case circumstances. An expert opinion should meet the following criteria -- that it is balanced, robust, logical and transparent."

Do you agree with that?
A. (Mr LaPorte) I totally agree with that, and I think that's exactly what we did.

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Q. And then it breaks down the four criteria: "Balanced", "Robust", "Logical", "Transparent".
THE PRESIDENT: I'm sorry, but the Tribunal is a little lost here. Can we just make sure that we look at the right document. It is also for the transcript later on.
MR OSTROVE: We also don't have that page. We only have through page 23.
MR GAREL: The pages we printed were only the pages that Mr LaPorte was going to refer to in his presentation, when we still thought he was going to do a presentation. So I didn't print the entire report, just for ecological purposes. I sent the full report by email, and I printed the relevant pages in paper.

So you have it. In the Box folder of the case, we have the full report. I only printed the relevant --
THE PRESIDENT: When you speak of "the full report" -MR GAREL: The full document, sorry.
THE PRESIDENT: The document entitled "Cognitive Bias Effects" of the Forensic Science Regulator, it says "Overseeing Quality". And we have all the pages that were submitted last night, but we don't have the relevant pages now. That's not a problem, as long as we are clear what we are talking about and that it is in the record.

So would you mind repeating the question and the
"... the expert has considered alternative propositions. At the simplest level it may be match or no match, but in other cases it may require both the prosecution and defence propositions are constructed and/or considered in the evaluation."

Do you agree with that?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Absolutely.

15:02 $\quad 1 \quad$ Q. So wouldn't it have helped us to see your consideration of alternative propositions in your report?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Like I said, I think we explained this in the early part of our report. When we talk about -like when we do an ESDA indentation examination, we talked about what the findings could indicate. We talked about the stamps this morning, like I talked about, and I said: okay -- and we say this in our report -- if there are physical characteristics and there's some consistency with somebody stamping a document -- two documents that have been dated in an entirely different time period but they've been stamped contemporaneously, we would issue those kinds of findings. We did not find those. So I can't just make up things because we don't have any findings. The findings are the findings.
Q. We did ask lots of questions about alternative propositions and you just didn't want to deal with them.
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, because they're -- first of all, alternative propositions, we do that all the time. I mean, we're always looking for explanations, whatever that may be.
Q. I thought you said this morning you wouldn't do it because it was speculation?
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, I said some alternative -- first of

## word.

Q. Okay. Mr Radley in his report refers to the proposition that it's equally likely that a fraudster would reprint a document if an error was made as would occur for a genuine document, and he calls that an "equally likely proposition". Do you accept that?
A. (Mr LaPorte) I totally disagree with that. How would he know that it's equally likely that a fraudster would reprint something with an error? How do we know that the fraudster observed their own error? I've seen many documents before, fraudulent documents, where an error is committed because somebody misses the error.
So once again, this is a likelihood thing. There's no statistics, there's no research and there's no -there's nothing to back up a statement like that. Certainly that's a proposition for us to think about, I understand that. But now to sort of weigh that out on a scale and balance it, without having some sort of numerical value? I don't know how I would do that.
Q. Have you still got the Patel transcript open there?
A. Yes.
Q. Can you go to pages 157 and 158 in there.
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes.
Q. If you go to line 24 on page 157 to line 9 on page 158 . This is you being asked questions.
A. (Mr LaPorte) Okay.
Q. So could you perhaps, because it was your voice, just read this out.
A. (Mr LaPorte) I'm sorry, what line starting?
Q. Line 24:
"Also, too, in my experience ..."
A. (Mr LaPorte) Okay. Well, can I read the whole answer, so I have context?
Q. Of course.
A. (Mr LaPorte) Okay:
"It is not an alteration of the text, the wording in the document. I think I was clear in my report that I agree that the document was cut down. Also, too, in my experience, when people do things fraudulently with a document, they become very careful with the document. They don't do things to it like cut it down, because then it becomes too detectable."
Q. Yes, carry on.
A. (Mr LaPorte) "Most people, when they do things that are fraudulent with a document, they actually become hypersensitive. They handle it in a real special way. It doesn't become bent. It is treated almost with care because they know they have created something fraudulent. That is just based on my experience." Yes, that's a -- and what I was saying was:

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and I don't want to confuse the court, is we can use
'highly probable' or 'a definitive conclusion', which I think would be the same as -- sorry, I don't want to mischaracterise what Mr Radley says. But our scale is 'definitive' [number one], 'highly probable', 'probable', 'indications' and 'inconclusive' or 'indeterminate'."

Yes?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes.
Q. Why didn't you use that terminology in this case? Not in the Patel case, in this case.
A. (Mr LaPorte) But in the Patel case I used the same terminology that I used in this case.
Q. I know. But why did you not use --
A. (Mr LaPorte) These are generally for handwriting opinions. They can be used and I have used that terminology in, I'll say, less complex cases. I use the terminology all the time when I do ink dating in some respects.

These cases where the material is just -- there's a lot of different tests that are going on, there's many, many results to go to, and then there's a whole bunch of documents -- in this case we have like thirteen documents. In this case there was only one document, there was some ink testing that was done, but I still

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physically, if somebody -- in this particular case, and nobody has the context of this, the document was cut, somebody cut the top edge of the document. What I'm saying is: if it was a fraudulent document, it doesn't seem likely that you would create a fraudulent document and then you would cut it. I mean, there could be a reason for cutting it, yes.
Q. So that is an alternative proposition?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes, absolutely.
Q. Okay, thank you.
A. (Mr LaPorte) And I said that in my report. I mean, I agreed that it was cut. But I do go on later on, I think I said somewhere in my testimony that we begin speculating about why it was cut. Me as a forensic document examiner, I can't say why it was particularly cut.
Q. Let's stay in Patel, because "no evidence" was the conclusion that you adopted in Patel case as well, wasn't it?
A. (Mr LaPorte) That's correct.
Q. Okay. So while you're there, if you go to page 186 of that same transcript.
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes.
Q. Okay. At line 2 you say: "... so the terminology we use in the United States,
didn't use this terminology.
Q. But if I was to apply "no evidence" and translate it into the other terminology, would you agree with me that "no evidence" is the same as "indeterminate"?
A. (Mr LaPorte) I would say that "no evidence to indicate fraud", based on this -- so this is where you could weigh things out -- but essentially it is indeterminate. We're not saying that it's a genuine document; we've never said that was a genuine document. What we're saying is there's no evidence to support that it's a fraudulent document, but the evidence seems to weigh in proportion or point towards genuineness.
Q. Point towards genuineness?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Point towards.
Q. But in the Patel case you accepted that "no evidence" was the same as indeterminate?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes, I agree that it's indeterminate.
Q. So how can "indeterminate" mean the same as: point towards either one of the outcomes?
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, this was a single document. I think what I outlined this morning was that in combination with all of the tests that were done on all of the documents, we're talking about 100 mutually exclusive tests, none of which showed fraudulence. In the Patel case I examined one document and I looked at two

15:10 1 different things.
Q. How can a formulation of words such as "no evidence" be of any value to anyone, if in one case it means something, and in this case you're saying it means something else?
A. (Mr LaPorte) I've never said that it means something else. "No evidence" to me means there's no evidence. I don't know how else to say it.
Q. Well, in Patel you accepted -- shall we go to the transcript?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes.
Q. Okay. If you go to page 188.

MR OSTROVE: (In English) With respect, Madam President, I believe the witness has already answered the question about the difference between the circumstances of the Patel case and this case, and why he could use different language. I would also respectfully note that the Claimants have already gone beyond the time they had indicated. So I would just ask if this line of questioning is really relevant to what we're trying to accomplish here today.
THE PRESIDENT: Far beyond? I'm not certain how much time --
MR GAREL: (No microphone)
THE PRESIDENT: So it's not far beyond.

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from your negative that there was not evidence that the signatures were written in the past two years, that there was evidence that the signatures were written in the past two years?"

And you answer:
"No, I mean, I apologise if there was confusion, because I generally like to make sure that this is very well understood in my report. So my conclusion is that I'm indeterminate. I can't make a decision one way or another."

And "indeterminate" is taken from the phraseology --
A. (Mr LaPorte) Correct. And if you look at line 19 on page 188 , ultimately what I said is:
"'I cannot conclude when the 2005 will was printed and signed.'"

And I would say the very same thing in this particular case: I cannot conclude when the documents were printed and signed for sure, with that definitive opinion.
Q. Okay.
A. (Mr LaPorte) But this is a completely different document examination. I didn't do a full document examination, and there were no handwritten -- I didn't do any handwriting in this particular case. It was a one-page document.

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## THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR OSTROVE: I stand corrected

MR LIBSON: So can I go to the end of the -- sorry.
THE PRESIDENT: No, just about the time. How much more time do you think you will need?
MR LIBSON: I have to deal with handwriting as well. I will finish with Patel and then I'll go on to handwriting.
THE PRESIDENT: I can understand that, but that doesn't really answer my question.
MR LIBSON: I will be shorter on handwriting. I will be, hopefully, 15 minutes on handwriting, and 5 for Mr Daele at the end. So 20 more minutes, if we may.
THE PRESIDENT: 20 more minutes, yes, I think we can allow that. We will give you more time if you need it.

Somehow tomorrow night we are all leaving here, right, and we will have to have our work completed. We are all in this, so we all need to cooperate so that we get this done. And I'm grateful to the experts also for their patience.

Maybe I shouldn't waste time speaking too much.
MR LIBSON: Okay.
So I'm at line 25 , which is the end of page 187 , and it's a question:
"Do you not agree that someone reading your conclusion, the way you have phrased it, might infer
Q. I just want to ask you one last question on phraseology. The phraseology "it is [my] expert opinion that there is every indication that the Disputed Documents are genuine", is that meaningful to you, in terms of the phrases that either your bodies recommend or that you use in your evidence?
A. (Mr LaPorte) I'm sorry, repeat that?
Q. "... it is [my] expert opinion that there is every indication that the Disputed Documents are genuine". And the phrase I am particularly interested in is "every indication", because I've seen the word "indications" used in the SWGDOC terminology, but I haven't seen -and I'm obviously an amateur compared to you -- but I haven't seen anywhere in the literature the phrase "every indication that" as a helpful phrase.
A. (Mr LaPorte) Where was that statement from?
Q. The statement is in the comments of the Republic of Guinea on the final report of the Tribunal-appointed experts. It's at tab 29.
A. (Mr LaPorte) We didn't even know that you were referring to that. (Pause to locate the document)
Q. Paragraph 6 at tab 29, page 2 of the report, just that first sentence at the top of the page.
A. (Mr LaPorte) My response would be: I didn't make this statement.

15:16
Q. No, I'm not suggesting you did. I'm asking you: do you find that a helpful phrase, "every indication"? Can you point to anywhere in the literature where it comes from? Paragraph 6 at the top of page 2.
A. (Mr LaPorte) I don't have a comment about that. I mean, that's not a statement that I use. I think that's --
Q. Have you seen it made anywhere else?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Gosh, I've seen a lot of cases. I don't know if I have or I have not seen that.
THE PRESIDENT: In the Patel transcript, 186, in the terminology that you referred to there is one that says "indications". Is that what you meant there, or do you mean something else?
A. (Mr LaPorte) So "indications" -- and this can be confusing. So the term "indications", as defined in the SWGDOC standard, has a specific meaning. So Mr Welch can explain that a little more clearly, but that has a specific definition. So it depends on how the terminology is used in the report.
So there are things when you're going through a report that you can use the word "indicate", which means there's indicia of. But when you use the term "indications", if somebody is using that terminology, they should probably footnote the definition of it. I mean, that's what I've done in the past.

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15:17 1 PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: In the scale, "indication" is between "probable" and "inconclusive".
A. (Mr LaPorte) In the scale, yes, correct.

MR LIBSON: Thank you. I just want to have one last question before I get to the signatures. I want to look at one example of where a variety of different factors are identified in your report on a document that you don't seem to have weighed in the balance in your conclusion.

So I would like to go to R-26, your general conclusions on R-26, tab 1, page 75. I want to put to you the general propositions in relation to this document that you have identified. They are not all in one place in the document, but you'll disagree with me if I get it wrong.

So in your report in relation to R-26 you note five separate things: (1) that the impressions of the later document, R-29, were found on R-26; (2) that you can't reach a conclusive opinion on whether the initials "A.L." are those of Mr Lev Ran; (3) that in reaching a determination, you disregarded a set of apparently rogue comparator initials; (4) that the ink or toner was found on the front of page 1 and the back of pages 3 and 4 , but you could not determine the source of that transfer, that's paragraph 138 of your report; and (5)

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that different font sizes are used for page 1 of R-26 compared with pages 2 and 4.

Do all of those comments ring a bell to you?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes.
A. (Mr Welch) Yes.
Q. They do. And then you conclude:
"There is no evidence of page substitution, text alteration, text addition or other irregularities to indicate that R26 was fraudulently produced."

## Correct?

A. (Mr LaPorte) Correct.
A. (Mr Welch) Correct.
Q. So none of those five factors were considered in the totality of the evidence?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Of course they were considered.
A. (Mr Welch) They were considered.
A. (Mr LaPorte) Because somebody uses a different size font in their document, that doesn't mean it's been altered. That almost seems like common sense; I'm sure we've all used different fonts in our documents.
Q. So the cumulative effect of five different factors did not give rise to any comment in relation to the overall assessment? Because there's no argument in relation to this; there's just identification of those five factors in the report, but nothing where you set out why they

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don't give rise to any other conclusions.
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, many of those are actually very simply and logically explained. If we made a conclusion that that document was fraudulent based on that, we would get kicked out of our professional organisations, if we ever made a statement that a document was fraudulent based on that.
Q. No, I'm not suggesting that you ought to have made that conclusion. I'm wondering why there was an utter rejection of any other -- and just in relation to this document, because we could go through many of the documents and apply this formula, but there was a rejection of any other irregularities as something to note in relation to the final conclusion.
A. (Mr Welch) What irregularities were rejected?
Q. The five that I have mentioned.
A. (Mr Welch) So I can address the rogue initials, if I could bring up a document. (Pause to locate the document)

The reason why these particular initials were rejected were for two reasons. Essentially, the first -- this is page 1 -- page 1 has two sets of "A.L." initials in black ink. Page 2 has one set of initials, "A.L.".

The reason why it was rejected: if you look at the
signature, it's a blue ballpoint pen ink. If you look at the initials for that page, "A.L." allegedly representing "Avraham Lev Ran". So it's suggested or indicated that these were initialled at different times.
Secondly, there was an entry that you could see, and if you adjusted the contrast you could see this entry right above the first "A.L." initial on page 1 of R-26, where there's an " X " marked, and it appears to say "Michael" or "Michel", or possibly "M-I-C-H-A-L".
THE PRESIDENT: I would read "initial".
A. (Mr Welch) Okay, "initial", alright.

THE PRESIDENT: That would make sense, because --
A. (Mr Welch) "Initial", okay. Sorry.

So that's essentially -- as soon as I saw (1) that the ink was a different colour, and (2) that the characteristics in those initials, they appeared to be distorted, I didn't know and feel it appropriate to use these as known initial standards of Mr Avraham Lev Ran.
MR DAELE: That's not my point. My point is that these look to me, as a layman, irregularities on the document, yet they were completely discounted in your conclusions in relation to this document. This is one of five things that we say are irregularities that you've identified that say that there are no irregularities.

My point is not about the different times of the

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15:27 1 A. (Mr Welch) 65 and 66.
THE PRESIDENT: Good, thank you.
A. (Mr Welch) 65 represented C-0084.6 and 66 represented .7.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.
A. (Mr Welch) You're welcome.

THE PRESIDENT: Mr Libson, you can continue.
MR LIBSON: Thank you. So I'm turning now to the signatures.

So in relation to the documents, if we accept the proposition that it is difficult to conclude, that they're indeterminate one way or another in relation to the genuineness or there are no indications of them being fraudulent, then the issue of whether the signatures are forged or not becomes the determinative factor, and the stamps as well. We've dealt with the stamps, but I'm now turning to the signatures. That's correct as a proposition, isn't it?
A. (Mr Welch) Well, you can have an authentic signature, a genuine signature on a document that's fraudulent.
Q. Yes, of course. Of course.

We've discussed the SWGDOC guidelines. You've said that the SWGDOC guidelines Mr LaPorte hasn't applied to his analysis but, Mr Welch, you've applied them to your analysis, haven't you?

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15:25 1 affixing of the signatures or the different inks; it's about the irregularities, which is what you say about this document.
A. (Mr LaPorte) No other irregularities to indicate fraud.

That's what that statement is: no irregularities to indicate fraud. And a change in a font, and then having an ink toner transfer that we could not source, that doesn't constitute fraud.
Q. I'm going to now, as I said, move on to the handwriting.

MR OSTROVE: I'm sorry, just for the record, the documents
that were just put up on the screen, were those
additional slides from the PowerPoints?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Correct.

MR OSTROVE: Would it be possible for us to get
an indication of which slides were referred to, maybe at the break?
THE PRESIDENT: It would be helpful, yes.
A. (Mr LaPorte) Do you want the number now for the record?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, okay.

THE PRESIDENT: The document was C-0084.6 that you showed to us?
A. (Mr Welch) C-0084.7. I'm sorry, . 6 and .7.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.
A. (Mr Welch) The slide numbers were 65 and 66.

THE PRESIDENT: So these were taken from your slides 64 ...
A. (Mr Welch) Correct.
Q. They're at paragraph 38 of your report. The actual standard is at tab 19, Annex C. It's paragraph 7.12.5.
A. (Mr Welch) I'm sorry, one second. (Pause) Okay. I'm sorry, what section?
Q. Paragraph 7.12.5 of the Standard for Examination of Handwritten Items. It's page 3, the bottom of page 3 in tab 19.
A. (Mr Welch) Okay.
Q. You've got it?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes.
Q. It says that an examiner must:
"Evaluate the similarities, differences, and limitations." And: "Determine their significance individually and in combination."
A. (Mr Welch) That's correct.
Q. But you haven't -- sorry, and in your final report you also state in relation to handwriting that:
"Writing is identifiable when there is agreement in the combination of individual and class characteristics, while lacking any fundamental differences."

That's --
A. (Mr Welch) Correct.
Q. So when we look at handwriting, differences are as important as similarities; is that right?
A. (Mr Welch) Correct.
Q. But you don't identify a single difference in the handwriting between the disputed documents and those of the comparator documents in your report, do you?
A. (Mr Welch) No, that's correct.
Q. So why, when you are talking generally about handwriting, do you refer to the need to identify differences, but when looking at the specific documents, you don't?
A. (Mr Welch) Because I didn't see any differences of significance in the comparison evaluation.
Q. Did you see differences?
A. (Mr Welch) No, I did not see any fundamental differences.
Q. Okay. We asked you to identify differences in our comments to the preliminary report, and that's at paragraph 19 of our comments, which is Annex L, which is tab 21. If you go to page 17 .
A. (Mr Welch) I'm there.
Q. Okay. Question 21:
"Do the Experts accept that the signatures and/or initials of Marc Struik, Michael Noy, Avraham Lev Ran, Abdoulaye Cisse and Mamadie Touré are not difficult to

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15:32 1 Q. Let's go back to it. In your answer this morning,

Madam President asked you about the differences in relation to the formation of the "A"s in the Lev Ran initials, and you said (page 81, line 10):
"... I noted that."
Where?
A. (Mr Welch) It's in the report.
Q. The differences?
A. (Mr Welch) That's correct. There's a red arrow in that particular chart in that report, and the initial.
Q. There was no clue in the report as to what the red arrow actually meant. Until this morning, I didn't understand what the red arrow actually meant.
A. (Mr Welch) Okay, if you go to ... This is the report. This is going to be page 116. If you look at figure [38], it says:
"The blue arrows in the chart represent similar handwriting habits and red arrows represent dissimilar handwriting habits between the disputed signature and the known comparison signatures of Avidan Asher."
Q. Okay. I missed that when I read through the report. But it's not referred in the same rubric for Mr Lev Ran.

In any case, this morning you also said (page 65, lines 19 to 20):
"Each [signature] has a level of variation ..."
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15:31 $1 \quad$ copy for someone with good penmanship ability, i.e. without recourse to tracing and without labouring of the pen to cause a distortion?"

Do you want to read your answer to that?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes:
"The signatures and initials referenced in this query were considered and properly evaluated as part of the forensic examination. Therefore, no changes or edits will be incorporated into the Final Report based on this query."
Q. And that's essentially the same answer that you gave to all our questions, isn't it?
A. (Mr Welch) That's correct.
Q. But it's not really an answer to the question, is it?
A. (Mr Welch) No, it is an answer to the question. If there were any differences, fundamental differences, I would not have rendered a positive conclusion and identification.
Q. It was the same question that Madam President asked you this morning, wasn't it?
A. (Mr Welch) I'm sorry?
Q. It was the same question that Madam President asked you this morning, it occurred to her as well, and you gave a different answer?
A. (Mr Welch) I don't think I did.

And you referred to the fact that you looked at dissimilar characteristics. Where in the report do you address that?
A. (Mr Welch) I'm sorry?
Q. When you were giving evidence this morning in answer to a question about the signatures, you said:
"Each [signature] ..."
And I think you mean generally, from the way in which you introduced, the way in which people form their signatures:
"... has a level of variation ..."
A. (Mr Welch) Correct.
Q. But we looked at dissimilar characteristics, and my question to you is: where in the report do you address the dissimilar characteristics?
A. (Mr Welch) There are -- again --

THE PRESIDENT: To accelerate matters, maybe we could look at page 83 , figure 24 . I think that is the one about which I asked you questions this morning.
A. (Mr Welch) That is correct.

And again, this is an indications opinion. And according to the SWGDOC standard, I accounted for the limitations and the limited amount of questioned writing with respect to the "A.L." initials. And if you read the standard terminology for "indications":
"... a body of writing has few features which are of significance for handwriting comparison purposes, but those features are in agreement with another body of writing."

So the signatures that you're talking about, the signatures of Avraham Lev Ran, Marc Struik and Avidan Asher I identified. There were no differences, fundamental differences, and I would have obviously expressed those if there were, and my conclusion would have exemplified that, if there were in fact any fundamental differences.
MR LIBSON: I need to apologise to you, because I put the question wrongly originally. The red arrows are indicated in the rubric there as well. So I apologise.
A. (Mr Welch) That's okay.
Q. I'm going to ask one final question on the [handwriting] --
A. (Mr Welch) Sure.
Q. -- and then pass over to Mr Daele for five minutes.

I want to turn to tab 21 again (Annex L) at page 18. Sorry, it's in question 25 and it's on page 18.
A. (Mr Welch) Okay.
Q. Part of the criticism that's been made of the questions that we put to you was that they weren't specific, and we didn't give the material to you in order for you to

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15:39 1 handwriting habits that I've got.
And then in the evaluation in the end, I evaluated
the fact that it's limited in the amount of the writing.
It's two letters: it's a capital "A" and a capital "L".
I considered that in my evaluation. And therefore that's why it's a very, very, very weak opinion; indications, according to the standard, and the standard is very clear on that.
Q. But I don't know why you didn't engage with the questions when we asked them. It is part of the SWGDOC recommendations to engage with the differences as well as the similarities. We asked the question about differences and you just refused to answer. And that's the same in relation to practically every single question in that appendix, both in relation to handwriting and in relation to other matters.
A. (Mr Welch) Sure, fair enough. But everything that was asked was considered in the examination process. And again, another properly trained, competent forensic document examiner I would expect to come to the same or similar conclusion, and I fully expected Dr Radley would render a similar conclusion to me.
Q. Well, he didn't --
A. (Mr Welch) Or that I did.
Q. -- and we're going to hear from him tomorrow.

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answer the questions; in other words, the questions that we raised were too generic.

But here is a very, very specific question where we put to you the six differences in the known writings of Mr Lev Ran, and even then -- if you want to read your response, "Response (a \& b)" -- you refused to engage. Do you want to read that out?
A. (Mr Welch) Sure. You want me to read that response? Q. Yes.
A. (Mr Welch) "Our findings and conclusions are based on examining all of the handwriting characteristics and their appropriate significance in combination.
Therefore, no changes or edits will be incorporated into the Final Report based on this query."

Yes, if I could address that further.
With respect to that "A" form, it's dissimilar. The fact that Mr Radley went through and pointed out six characteristics, I could have gone -- we could have done the same thing and pointed out the same number of similar handwriting characteristics with the rest of the samples, with the periods and with the "L", the height relations and their proportions. So the fact that you're mentioning that there are six dissimilarities in one "A", it's dissimilar, I agree with that. But the similarities far outweigh the number of dissimilar

15:40 1
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, he didn't, you're correct.

MR LIBSON: Thank you.
MR DAELE: Thank you. I have just three short questions. In paragraph 11 of the final report you state that:
"... BSGR did not, in good faith, disclose their reasoning for [applying for] an extension."

Do you remember what reasoning BSGR did disclose?
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, we never received a reason. I don't believe we did. I'm going to say for accuracy purposes I don't recall receiving an explanation.
A. (Mr Welch) No, we did not.
A. (Mr LaPorte) It was just BSGR wanted some extra time to do that. And we said that's -- you know, it's up to the Tribunal.
Q. But you have seen in the meantime the documents that we filed with the disqualification request?
A. (Mr LaPorte) I haven't read the explanation thoroughly.

Based on what I've seen, it doesn't seem to make --
Q. Can we go to tab 36. (Pause) Have you seen this document before?
A. (Mr LaPorte) This tab 36?
Q. Yes.
A. (Mr Welch) It's an email?
Q. Yes.
A. (Mr LaPorte) So I don't recall receiving this email.

15:42 1

There's a possibility it could have been forwarded and then I didn't read the text below it, but I don't recall seeing this. I could certainly check --
Q. Because in the beginning of paragraph 11 you say:
"We are also concerned that BSGR has not been forthright and did not act in good faith with respect to their request for an extension to respond to the PR on 11 January ..."

So there maybe you got the date wrong, but here --
A. (Mr Welch) What page? Where are we at?
Q. Paragraph 11 of your report.
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes, this is our report.
A. (Mr Welch) Yes.
A. (Mr LaPorte) I recall us saying that.
Q. So you do recall to have seen it?
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, I recall we made that statement.

I don't recall the explanation why. I don't believe we received any information or explanation.
Q. Let's go to tab 36, so the email we've sent, the reasoning that we did disclose in support of our request for an extension. In the second paragraph you see:
"However, the PR ..."
So the preliminary report:
"... was much longer than anticipated, running to almost 200 pages, supported by ..."

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15:45 1
remember that snowstorm?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes, it didn't shut down New York. It was for two days, and they could have read the report for two days.
A. (Mr Welch) Absolutely.
Q. Do you consider that a valid reason?
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, not at all. We were in the snowstorm too.
Q. Yes, but you had done your work. They hadn't done their work.
A. (Mr LaPorte) I was doing work during the snowstorm. You use a computer. All you need is a computer and to be able to read everything.
Q. So when the original experts said that they had no access because they were working from home and they couldn't access the data because of the volume, do you think that's not a proper reason?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Actually, I don't understand that, because you don't need to go to your office to receive it through Dropbox or -- you know, I don't know if their -once again, I don't want to make assumptions. But if their power was out, or something like that, I understand that, if your power is out for a couple of days. And my power was out for 48 hours.

So I don't -- you know, they can just access the
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2 A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes.
Q. So that is the first reason we disclosed. Would you consider that a valid reason to ask for an extension?
A. (Mr LaPorte) When was our PR turned over? When did we issue our PR?
Q. On the 3 rd .
A. (Mr LaPorte) This is January 25th? Why wouldn't you ask for that on January 3rd?
Q. No, that's 10th January.
A. (Mr LaPorte) Oh, 10th January? Why wouldn't you ask for that on January 3rd, when we turned it over?
Q. But you don't reply to my question. Would you consider the fact that your provisional report runs into 200 pages, and is supported by I think in your report you say 10 gigabytes of supporting data, would you consider that a valid reason to ask for an extension?
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, I don't consider that a valid reason. We are the ones that wrote the report and put all that data together. Todd and I worked til 3 or $4 \mathrm{o}^{\prime}$ clock in the morning a number of times. We worked through Christmas, we worked through the holidays. So I think, no, I guess that's not acceptable, in my terms.
Q. Then the second reason we gave in the same paragraph was that our experts were caught in a snowstorm. Do you

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files from the internet. All you need is an internet connection.
A. (Mr Welch) The report was a PDF file.
Q. And what about the supporting data?
A. (Mr Welch) You can pore over the 200 pages without going over there. And then once the storm -- or two days later, you could start going over those files.
Q. But 10 giga of supporting data, how much time would you need to go through 10 giga of supporting files? I think you say in your report there's like 1,100 electronic files of information.
A. (Mr Welch) Yes.
Q. How long do you think it takes to go through 1,100 electronic files?
A. (Mr LaPorte) I don't know. Mr Radley seemed to get it done. I don't quite understand. Mr Radley got it done, but Mr Ryan couldn't? That doesn't make any sense.
Q. I think you did criticise in your report that we did not properly review the data, or that the majority of the questions would have been unnecessary if we had reviewed properly the data. So did we do it or we didn't do it?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Certainly there was a lot of data in there. For example, I think Mr Radley brought up the idea of the CPS codes, and he asked us the question. It's like, just look at the digital images: you can tell if there's

15:47 $\quad 1 \quad$ a CPS code in a digital image. also, and he seemed to get the work done. period, and that BSGR obtained an extension? that we'll talk about in the future. deadline is the deadline. ask for an extension as well if you needed one?
Q. But you didn't seem -- that was not necessary? deadline.

We didn't seem to get those kinds of queries from the Respondent's side. They were able to assess the evidence. And one of their people lives in New York
Q. Is it correct that you were, let's say, irritated by the fact that you had to work throughout the Christmas
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, it's actually been a pleasure working on this case. I can't control the results of the case. But no, we enjoyed working on the case, it was a case

So, no, we worked hard because somebody gave us a deadline, that's why. Nobody likes deadlines. The
Q. You also know that the terms of reference allowed you to
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes, but it was my understanding that --
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, because we discussed this. We were doing a lot of work. You know what? I'm a manager, I manage a staff of people, and when I tell people we have a deadline, then I expect them to make the
Q. One last question. In the first line of paragraph 12

15:50 $\quad 1$

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you say:
"Also, per paragraph 21 and 22 of the [terms of reference], both Parties were to provide comment ..."

And you put that in italic.
"... however, BSGR instead has provided sixty-five (65) queries ..."

And then in the last [sentence] of the same paragraph, you say:
"Although BSGR's response does not provide comments, and instead is designed like a cross examination ..."

Is it your position then that the comments that BSGR made were not in line with paragraphs 21 and 22 ?

16:08 1
A. (Mr LaPorte) To me they weren't comments, simply because they lacked background. They were just sort of -- when you ask a question without providing any kind of background, then a layperson could interpret that in a different way.
Q. So they were not in line with 21 and 22 ?
A. (Mr LaPorte) At least I didn't see them as being like a constructive comment even offering us to make a change.
Q. Did that affect the way you dealt with them?
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, absolutely not. We had -- we certainly -- we read through -- like I said, we have respect for Mr Radley, and we read through his comments
and we considered them. Like I said, Mr Radley is
a well-respected forensic document examiner, so of
course we looked at them and we considered everything that he said.
MR DAELE: I have no further questions, thank you. Thank you very much.
THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. So that concludes this part of your examination. Now we will take a ten-minute break and resume at 4 o'clock, and then we give the floor to the Respondent for their questions. You are still under the same admonition not to speak, please.
( 3.51 pm )

## (A short break)

( 4.07 pm )
THE PRESIDENT: Just on the question of the extension for the comments on the preliminary report, the Secretary has just sent everyone the Secretary's email of 11th January 2018 to the experts and the response. And in case you wish to ask further questions having seen the exchange, you may do so, maybe in the follow-up questions.
MR DAELE: Thank you.
THE PRESIDENT: Good. Let's give the Respondent the floor now. Maître Ostrove.
MR OSTROVE: (Interpreted) Merci, Madame Presidente.
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(In English) For ease of avoiding interpretation, we will ask questions of the experts in English, if that's alright. (Pause)
( 4.09 pm )
Examination on behalf of Respondent
MR OSTROVE: Messrs LaPorte and Welch, good afternoon. My
name is Michael Ostrove. I'm counsel for the Republic of Guinea. I will have a few questions following up on various points that have been discussed with you so far, and some other questions we have regarding your report and certain criticisms of it by Claimants.

We do not have a bundle of documents. We expect to limit ourselves primarily to your final report,
Mr Radley's report and certain demonstrative exhibits,
or items that we consider to be demonstrative exhibits,
and some of the slides that you've provided, and we will ask you for your views.

First, just considering some of the questions that
Mr Daele asked you regarding the extension for time and the change of experts by Claimants.

When you learned that an extension was being
granted, did you understand at that time whether
Claimants were going to be changing experts?
A. (Mr LaPorte) We did not, no.
Q. Do you have any knowledge if Mr Ryan and Ms Mancebo
assisted with the preparation of the comments or
questions presented by Claimants?
A. (Mr LaPorte) We do not.
Q. Do you know whether Claimants are still, to this day, relying in any way on Mr Ryan and Ms Mancebo in the background?
A. (Mr LaPorte) We do not.
Q. To the extent it was your opinion that there may have been expert shopping going on, why did you consider that important to raise to the Tribunal?
A. (Mr LaPorte) So I think it was the nature of the questions. So I keep coming back to this, the 65 questions without any context to them. We thought that they were questions that when a layperson or -- not to say anything demeaning to the Tribunal, but I'll say "non-forensic document experts".
THE PRESIDENT: We are completely aware of our laymen and laywoman status, so there's no offence!
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes. So if they read the questions too, they might get taken aback by the questions, once again without having context. So we sort of wanted to lay this out in a more transparent way to the Tribunal. That really is the ultimate reasoning for what we did. We believed that it was our duty to put some context into the questions as well too.

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16:13
Q. Okay. In retrospect, having looked at the concerns raised by BSGR, do you think that you were biased in any way in the opinions you rendered?
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, I don't believe we're -- we were not biased in any way whatsoever. In retrospect, you know, maybe we could have sent an email to the Secretary to convey to the Tribunal, and then left it at that. We still would have been doing our duty to notify the Tribunal. In retrospect, maybe -- because we've spent a lot of time talking about this issue, and not really the substance of all of the work that we did.
Q. Now, you have had the experience -- I don't want to say that you're adverse to Mr Radley here, because you're the Tribunal-appointed experts and each party has a party-appointed expert. In the case of Patel v Patel, would you consider that you were adverse to Mr Radley?
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, not really. I believe -- I'm trying to recall the case. It's a year and a half/two years old. So I did some ink work, and that wasn't Mr Radley's expertise. There were some other things that were going on with the document. I don't believe we really differed in our examination results.
Q. But is it fair to say that you were engaged by opposite sides in the case?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes.

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16:12 $1 \quad$ Q. With respect to your analysis of the questioned documents, how, if at all, did the change of experts affect your approach to your work?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Oh, in no way whatsoever. I mean, our duty is to the Tribunal ultimately, that's who it's to. And if other information became available that swayed our opinion in some way, then so be it. We are completely neutral experts here.

Once again, when Mr Welch and I examined the documents, we didn't even know -- I don't even know who the documents -- like why they're even important, for that matter. Obviously they're important documents, but we don't know why. We don't know, like, the people who signed them, who they belong to. I still don't know any of the -- I have no context to what any of that means. I mean, we just did a forensic document examination.

And we both -- you know, we have 50 years of combined experience. We've been cross-examined, we've had really difficult questions. So none of this bothers us. It doesn't bother us in any way whatsoever.

16:15 1
Q. I believe you mentioned on questioning by opposing counsel that you had looked at the motion, the request to recuse you?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes. Yes, we each read it. I mean, I read it once.
Q. Okay. Were any of the other experts involved in this proceeding engaged on the opposite side in that case?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes.
Q. And who would that be?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Dr Aginsky.
Q. Okay. So was Dr Aginsky's line of work directly relating to your work?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes.
Q. And would it be fair to say that you had opposing views in that case?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes.
Q. Do you believe that Dr Aginsky's presence as an expert working with the Republic of Guinea in this case has impacted your views or affected your impartiality with respect to our positions?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Absolutely not.

MR OSTROVE: Co-counsel Mr Jaeger has some questions for you.
MR JAEGER: (In English) Laurent Jaeger. A follow-up question on this issue of the opinion you made that there might be some expert shopping.

If you had observed the same conduct from
Respondent, if you had seen Respondent change expert in the course of the expert examination in similar circumstances, would you have come to the same
conclusion?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes, so I do think, just to put it in context, it wasn't just the changing of the expert, it was all of the other circumstances that surrounded it. So it wasn't just one thing, but the request for the deadline, the questions that Mr Radley posed that we believed could be taken out of context to a certain extent, and then sort of the change in the expert altogether. So it's all of those circumstances, not just a single one.

But to answer your question, yes, we would have -if the Respondent had the same circumstances, we would have notified the Tribunal of our concern.
Q. So is it fair to say that you reacted to the situation that was unfolding in front of you, rather than expressing a judgment on a party.
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes, I think that's a fair way to put it.
Q. Now, does it go to your conception of the ethics of the conduct of a party in the course of an expert investigation? Was the opinion you expressed in your report triggered by your own understanding of how a party should behave in expert proceedings in general?
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, our opinion was based on the evidence and how we evaluated it, which was done before -I mean, we issued our preliminary report, which

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16:20 1
you created additionally after the submission of your final report?
A. (Mr Welch) That was an image created after the submission of my report.
Q. This addition of arrows, is that typically what you do for a demonstrative exhibit when you testify?
A. (Mr Welch) That's correct.
Q. How would you define, in your understanding, a demonstrative exhibit?
A. (Mr Welch) One that is clear to the trier of fact; that is illustrative; that's clear and concise. And I've provided that with arrows showing the directions of the strokes, based on my examinations, and I find it clear and concise.
Q. Could you just walk us through or walk the Tribunal through the construction of Mr Lev Ran's signature and how you came to the conclusions of the directions of the strokes?
A. (Mr Welch) Sure.
Q. Would you rather show the slide from your own computer to allow an arrow to point, or are you okay?
A. (Mr Welch) It might be better if I could point to some things, so I can use mine. (Pause)

Okay. So based upon my examinations, a full and detailed examination of the questioned signature, at

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MR JAEGER: Thank you.
MR OSTROVE: I expect that most of our following questions are going to be more directed to Mr Welch as they relate primarily to signature analysis, and I'd like to start with the signature of Mr Lev Ran.

Is it correct that you undertook an examination of what is purportedly Mr Lev Ran's signature in Exhibits R-24, R-25 and R-26?
A. (Mr Welch) That is correct.
Q. Would you characterise that signature as either a simple signature or a complex signature?
A. (Mr Welch) I would consider it a complex signature.
Q. Have you endeavoured to indicate the various pen strokes involved in creating that signature?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, I have.
Q. Did you prepare any demonstrative exhibit to indicate the direction of those pen strokes?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, I did.
Q. Is that in the PowerPoint slides?
A. (Mr Welch) It is. Let me bring it up.
Q. Would it be this slide here, slide 9 ?
A. (Mr Welch) That is correct.
Q. The image that's used in this slide, is that an image
that was already in the record or is that an image that
point 1 is the beginning stroke. It's a light feathered or flying start into the vertical downstroke. This flying start suggests that the hand is in movement or in motion holding the pen when the pen hits the paper, and you see that fine, subtle stroke coming into the very top of the downstroke.
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Mr Welch, may I ask you here a discrete question, while you're going through the numbers. How do you know this was the first stroke?
A. (Mr Welch) Because the evidence supports that. If you look at the bottom of the stroke at point 3 , typically your ballpoint pen, when it's changing direction, that ink builds up on the housing, and as it moves direction it deposits what we call in our profession "gooping". And I can see that that is on the left side of that stroke, indicating that that is in fact the movement of this particular stroke.
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: I still ask the question: is this the first stroke? Because I see a lot of strokes on the signature.
A. (Mr Welch) So what I'm showing is, number 1, the pen drag into the first initial downstroke. So I'm showing the --
THE PRESIDENT: I think we understand well why 1 is the first one in $1,2,3$. The question here is: why is 1
the first one, and for instance 4 is not the first one?
MR OSTROVE: Could I recommend we turn to the next slide, slide 10 ?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, maybe -- I mean, the expert can explain it.
MR OSTROVE: I withdraw my suggestion.
THE PRESIDENT: Mr Welch.
A. (Mr Welch) Yes. So we could see that the stroke at 3, the hook coming out, slightly begins to move back to the 4 position. We also see an ink spot here (indicating), which appears to be the movement as the pen comes into 4 , sets the pen down, hits the paper, and then proceeds up to 5 , retraces back down to 6 , retraces back up to 7 , 7 comes back down and across that stroke, 8 comes up -actually, 8 crosses 7 , goes straight up to the top, retraces and comes down to the left of 7, intersecting both 5, 8 and 9 . And we have another characteristic: this nice feather terminal stroke at the end.

So the evidence to me clearly shows that it starts up at the top, comes down to 3 , up and around to 4 , and that's the movement.
We can see this movement in ... (Pause)
MR LIBSON: While there's a gap, have we got a reference number for this?

MR OSTROVE: That was slide 9 that we were looking at.

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A. (Mr Welch) I have it. I just wanted to make sure that I wasn't showing ... (Pause)
THE PRESIDENT: What are you trying to show us? Is it the movement from 3 to 4 , which you have already explained to me this morning, or is it something else? Because that is something you have already explained.
A. (Mr Welch) The movement in 25 and 26.

THE PRESIDENT: Do you have a slide for this?
A. (Mr Welch) I do.

THE PRESIDENT: If you do, then you should show it to us.
Otherwise we have to move on, and Professor Mayer had a question with respect to --
A. (Mr Welch) No, I don't have a slide for that.

THE PRESIDENT: Fine. I think Professor Mayer had a question on 25 .
PROFESSOR MAYER: Yes. Can it be put easily on the screen again, what we were just shown?
THE PRESIDENT: Slide 9.
PROFESSOR MAYER: Slide 9. Arrow 3, we see that there's an upward movement.
A. (Mr Welch) Correct.

PROFESSOR MAYER: Very short because the pen is lifted then,
I understand. It's to the left.
A. (Mr Welch) Correct.

PROFESSOR MAYER: Could it be to the right, up but to the

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4 THE PRESIDENT: If Mr Welch has no other example he wants to show us with respect to the movement, we should move on. things along?
THE PRESIDENT: No, I think if we stick to the rule: it's the expert who determines which slides may be responsive to a question. They must know their slides.
MR DAELE: This is not the way it happened just before. If I go to 15:23:40 (page 176, line 19), it was Mr Ostrove who said:
"Could I recommend we turn to the next slide ...?"
THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and my reaction to this was that the expert is the one who has to respond.
MR DAELE: Apologies. (Pause)
A. (Mr Welch) You asked -- what was your next question?
Q. I believe you were in the middle of saying:
"So the evidence to me clearly shows that it starts up at the top, comes down to 3 , up and around to 4 , and that's the movement."

And you started to say:
"We can see this movement in ..."
And I believe you were looking for an example, and I was going to suggest an example where I believe we see that movement, but I believe we will ask you to find that first.

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right, the same person signing?
A. (Mr Welch) Could the same person have made a hook on the right side of the downstroke?
PROFESSOR MAYER: Exactly.
A. (Mr Welch) They could have. Everybody is unique. What's the handwriting habits? What are the characteristics? Do they typically -- does an individual, the range of variation, show a movement down, up and to the left, or down and up and to the right? It depends upon the individual. But this particular characteristic comes down and up and to the left.
PROFESSOR MAYER: It seems to me that at page 79 of your report we see an example, R-26.4, in which -- unless I don't read correctly -- it seems to go to the right.
A. (Mr Welch) What page number?

PROFESSOR MAYER: Page 79 of the report.
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, this particular signature on page 79 comes down and tapers down to the right -- I'm sorry, I was talking about the terminal stroke.

Yes, the initial vertical stroke comes down and immediately moves to the right. In the right, you will see a nice pen drag in that direction. So what we saw in slide 9 is that downstroke comes down, up and to the left, and then moves back into the 4 position. So the
habit or the movement is the same: it comes up, down, up, and then comes over to the 4 position. And I show you here (indicating).
MR OSTROVE: For the record, that's slide 10.
A. (Mr Welch) It's slide 10.

PROFESSOR MAYER: Okay, thanks.
THE PRESIDENT: If I compare at least the picture that results from the movement on page 53 and on page 79, that is on R-25.2 and on --
A. (Mr Welch) 53?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. And then compare that with page 79.
A. (Mr Welch) Okay, yes.

THE PRESIDENT: The initial stroke is very different in terms of placement and movement, in the sense of the continuation. How do you explain this?
A. (Mr Welch) So everybody has a range of variation in their writing, and again, this is what we talk about when we talk about variation. Not everybody signs their name the same way twice.
THE PRESIDENT: We understand all that. But still --
A. (Mr Welch) So this movement is essentially -- it's very similar in the fact that this comes in -- on page 53 it comes up and then moves back and to the right, and on page 79 it comes down and immediately moves to the right. That's just variation.
variation in the individual's writing.
So I can show a very good example of that in one of my slides which I think will help everybody understand the significance of variation. (Pause)

These are four known signatures of Marc Struik.
This is slide 33 of 66 . Here's a perfect example of variation in an individual's writing. If you look at K1.2, K10.3, K17.13 and K18.2, if we look at this "S" formation or " S "-shaped formation, where the arrow is -let's look at 1.2. You see it comes out of that tall loop, arcs up to the top, retraces down, moves over to the left, and then actually comes down and loops back up, arches back up into the next loop.

If we look at K10.3 --
Q. I'm sorry, could I suggest you go out of presentation mode, so that we can actually see your cursor.
A. I'm sorry. (Pause)

So here we see the stroke comes up, retraces down, comes back over, arches back down, and up into the next stroke.

If we look at the next undisputed and known writing sample of Mr Struik, we see the same stroke, the same form comes up, retraces down, comes down to the bottom, loops back up, crosses back over, down, and back into the next stroke; completely different than K1.2.

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16:35 1 THE PRESIDENT: But that movement from 3 to 4 looks quite different in 53 and 79, for a layperson.
A. (Mr Welch) Correct, for a layperson, it will.

THE PRESIDENT: Either it goes like this or like this (indicating).
A. (Mr Welch) But we see this in the handwriting habits of Mr Avraham Lev Ran. I can show you examples where he does this.
THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. You may carry on.
MR OSTROVE: Thank you, Madam President.
In fact, that goes directly to one of the points I wanted to raise with you, which is: could you explain in the professional parlance the difference, if any, between differences and variations?
A. (Mr Welch) Sure, absolutely. A difference in handwriting examination is fundamental, and it's indicative of another writer.

So we have similarities, when you see in my report I talk about similar handwriting characteristics and dissimilar handwriting characteristics. And again, the evaluation of variation, because one single stroke might be a little bit longer than another, than we see in a known standard, because it's dissimilar, and it's slightly dissimilar in its length, doesn't mean that somebody else wrote it. It's easily attributed to

But again, these are known signatures of Mr Struik, which is well within -- this is showing variation in everybody's writing. We all have this.
Q. If I ask you: is that a difference between the first two, in a professional term? Do you consider that a difference?
A. (Mr Welch) I would consider it a dissimilarity until I could put it in its rightful place. Is it fundamentally different, meaning it's evidence of somebody else writing that, or is it a variation of a stroke, or is it even an accidental stroke, an extra movement that he makes by accident? Everybody, when they sign their name over their lifetime, makes accidental strokes in their signatures.
THE PRESIDENT: We understand that. I'm just not sure, when you say "dissimilar", is that synonymous to "different", and then you have a higher degree of difference which is a "fundamental difference", or how is exactly the terminology that you use?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, the terminology: when we talk about a "fundamental difference", it is fundamentally different and indicative of a different writer.
THE PRESIDENT: That is clear. Now, when you speak of a "difference" -- or is this not something that --
A. (Mr Welch) That's what I'm saying. If it's
difference -

2 THE PRESIDENT: When you say "difference", it means fundamental difference?
A. (Mr Welch) Indicative of a different writer, that's correct.
THE PRESIDENT: When you say "dissimilar", what does it mean?
A. (Mr Welch) It's means it's dissimilar, but I can't place the significance on it. I can't say it's indicative of another writer or it's attributed to his range of variation.
THE PRESIDENT: When you say "variation", it necessarily implies that it is the same writer?
A. (Mr Welch) It just depends. Is this movement exhibited in -- if I had these two signatures to look at, and I had all these similarities and agreement, but I had this form that was dissimilar between each other, right, I don't know -- I can't put it in its rightful place with respect to its significance unless I had additional writing samples, right? All I could say is: it's dissimilar. I can't say it's necessarily indicative of a person, of another writer; I just don't know.
THE PRESIDENT: When you use the word "variation", as you did here, it necessarily means that it is the same person writing; it's just --

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16:43 1 Q. If we go back to Mr Lev Ran as one example, at paragraph 252 of Mr Radley's report he discusses the vertical strokes, which is I believe what you described as the first, second and third movements of the ...
A. (Mr Welch) One second. What page of Mr Radley's report?
Q. Sorry, page 54.
A. (Mr Welch) 54, okay.
Q. It's in section 10, which starts on page 53, "Radley opinion concerning the authenticity of the Avraham Lev Ran signature on R24 -- R26".
A. (Mr Welch) Correct.
Q. So putting this in context, in paragraph 248 he says: "The very important feature that I note with respect to these three signatures is that they all have irregularities in one stroke not found within the 47 comparison signatures presented."
A. (Mr Welch) Correct.
Q. Then he goes on, and in paragraph 251 he notes: '... a 'star' shape ... [with] unusual ... protrusion either side of the main line from point 2 to point 3 illustrated at ' B ' and ' C '."
A. (Mr Welch) Correct.
Q. The at paragraph 252 he says:
"One can also note that these vertical strokes in R24 and R25 are disproportionately long relative to the

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16:42 $1 \quad$ A. (Mr Welch) Correct. It's exhibited in their handwriting habits.
THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.
A. (Mr Welch) So the reason why I wanted to illustrate this for you is so that you can see that each person does have variation in their writing and how they may write their signature. And if you look at that " S " form in 17.13, you can see that form is a little bit different or dissimilar than 1.2 and 10.3, and then even 18.2 is different than all of them. But the four represent a range of variation for how he makes that character.
MR OSTROVE: So going back then to the questions that were presented to you in the form of comments on your preliminary report.

When, for example, in question 35 you were asked, "please explain in further detail what differences (if any) the Tribunal-appointed Experts identified between the signature of Marc Struik on R-27 and those in the comparator documents and the relevance of each point", could you explain the portion of your answer when you say, "There is no evidence of any difference that would suggest someone other than Marc Struik signed the document"?
A. (Mr Welch) Correct, I did not find any differences that would be indicative of another writer.
stroke that determines the width of these signatures, i.e. the stroke from point 2 to point 3 (the lengths of these strokes are denoted by the red dotted lines)."

Which are at the bottom of page 53 of his report.
A. (Mr Welch) Correct.
Q. "On measuring the same, these vertical strokes are significantly longer in relative terms than the corresponding ratio of lengths seen in all the comparison material."

Just focusing on that last difference, do you have any reaction to what Mr Radley appears to be stating -I don't want to put words in his mouth; I'm not sure that he actually calls them a difference. But do you agree with him that the strokes are "significantly longer in relative terms than the corresponding ratio of lengths seen in all the comparison materials"?
A. In 24 and 25, no -- I'm sorry, in 24 and 26, no. But in 25 the downstroke is slightly, minimally longer, and I attribute that to variation.

You know, the relationship in that particular section of the report that you point to where he points to the proportion of point $B$ and point $C$, $I$ see that all over in the known handwriting standards of Avraham Lev Ran. I mean, it's a consistent habit, that proportion spacing, and I have an image of that that
Q. Sorry, the --
A. (Mr Welch) It's in my PowerPoint.
Q. Did you use for the PowerPoint a photograph of
a document that was not in the record or did you create
a demonstrative exhibit from it?
A. (Mr Welch) I created a demonstrative exhibit.
Q. Could you show us that demonstrative exhibit, please?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes. (Pause) Here we go, slide 16.
THE PRESIDENT: Just to understand what you have done here,
these are all photographs that are either in your
report, reproduced in your report or contained in the
annexes to your report?
A. (Mr Welch) No. All the images are, yes, absolutely.
These are in the annexes.
THE PRESIDENT: What you have added are the arrows and other
marks?
A. (Mr Welch) That's correct.

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variation.
Q. When you say "an image of that that [you] can show", is
that an image that's taken from a document in the record
or is it an additional new image?
A. (Mr Welch) No, it would be an additional new image.
Q. I'm sorry?
Q. Sorry, the --
A. (Mr Welch) It's in my PowerPoint.
Q. Did you use for the PowerPoint a photograph of a document that was not in the record or did you create a demonstrative exhibit from it?
A. (Mr Welch) I created a demonstrative exhibit.
Q. Could you show us that demonstrative exhibit, please?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes. (Pause) Here we go, slide 16.

THE PRESIDENT: Just to understand what you have done here, these are all photographs that are either in your report, reproduced in your report or contained in the annexes to your report?
A. (Mr Welch) No. All the images are, yes, absolutely.

These are in the annexes.
THE PRESIDENT: What you have added are the arrows and other A. (Mr Welch) That's correct.

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was purported to be a signature of Mr Avidan in

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was purported to be a signature of Mr Avidan in
Exhibits R-28 and R-29?
Exhibits R-28 and R-29?
A. (Mr Welch) Correct.
A. (Mr Welch) Correct.
Q. Do you consider Mr Avidan's signature to be a simple or
Q. Do you consider Mr Avidan's signature to be a simple or
a complex signature?
a complex signature?
A. (Mr Welch) A complex signature.
A. (Mr Welch) A complex signature.
Q. Did you prepare any demonstrative exhibit in order to
Q. Did you prepare any demonstrative exhibit in order to
indicate the strokes that appear in Mr Avidan's
indicate the strokes that appear in Mr Avidan's
signature?
signature?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, I did.
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, I did.
Q. Would you mind showing that to us, please, and
Q. Would you mind showing that to us, please, and
explaining it to us?
explaining it to us?
A. (Mr Welch) Sure.
A. (Mr Welch) Sure.
MR DAELE:Apologies, Madam President, but this is now again
MR DAELE:Apologies, Madam President, but this is now again
another example where it is Mr Ostrove who invites the
another example where it is Mr Ostrove who invites the
expert to produce one of these slides.
expert to produce one of these slides.
MR OSTROVE: I am simply asking him if he has --
MR OSTROVE: I am simply asking him if he has --
THE PRESIDENT: Yes --
THE PRESIDENT: Yes --
MR DAELE: Do you mind showing to us, please?
MR DAELE: Do you mind showing to us, please?
MR OSTROVE: I asked him after I asked him if he had
MR OSTROVE: I asked him after I asked him if he had
a slide.
a slide.
THE PRESIDENT: The question is, and it is certainly of
THE PRESIDENT: The question is, and it is certainly of
interest to us: is it a complex signature? Yes, it is.
interest to us: is it a complex signature? Yes, it is.
That's what you have answered.

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That's what you have answered.

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A. (Mr Welch) Yes.

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16:49 1 THE PRESIDENT: Yes. But the images are those that are in 2 your annexes; is that right?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, ma'am.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.
A. (Mr Welch) So this shows the relationship in C-0271-287.8, .12, . 19 and .33 . You can see that relationship from the top of the stroke $B$, that relationship is narrower than the same relationship from the bottom of the stroke to that central stroke in C. You can see these in each of them. So the B is narrower, that proportion is narrower, and wider in C . And you can see that throughout, there's even more samples of this. So that proportion is with the handwriting variation of Mr Avraham Lev Ran.
MR OSTROVE: So do you agree or disagree with Mr Radley's conclusion that this feature could be a difference that --
A. (Mr Welch) Absolutely disagree. It's contained -- you can see it. These are known signature samples of Mr Avraham Lev Ran.
Q. Thank you. I would like to move on to the signatures of Mr Asher Avidan.
A. (Mr Welch) Okay.
Q. Is it correct that you undertook an examination of what

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THE PRESIDENT: How does the movement run? And now you could explain it, and say, "By the way, I have
a demonstrative".
Q. (Mr Welch) Sure, yes.

THE PRESIDENT: That may be the better way of asking the question.
A. (Mr Welch) Sure. I do have a demonstrative to illustrate the complexity of these two particular signatures.
THE PRESIDENT: That is slide 41?
A. (Mr Welch) That will be slide 41 of 66 .

MR OSTROVE: So what do we learn from -- could you explain your analysis of his signature?
A. (Mr Welch) Sure.

Based upon my examinations, microscopic examinations, if we look at R-28, we can see the 1 moves up and around; 2 -- and we can just follow the numbers, and for the sake of time I'm not going to go through them all. But there's essentially 19 different movements within this particular signature, and I consider this a very complex signature.

We could see the same in R-29, only there's approximately 21 different movements in this particular signature.
Q. In your experience, is it easy or difficult for

16:54 1
2
3

Page 193 of this type?
A. (Mr Welch) Absolutely.
Q. Sorry, is it easy or difficult? Mr Avidan Asher. compared to his known documents?
A. (Mr Welch) No, I did not. on, can we just ask a question. Is it within variations that are observable? strokes.
a forger, or a determined forger, to forge a signature
A. (Mr Welch) Oh, I'm sorry. Absolutely, it is more difficult, and I would say it couldn't be done with all the fine and subtle details that are contained within the signatures that fit within the range of variation of
Q. If I could ask you then to turn to -- I'm sorry. Did you find any significant differences between the signatures of Mr Avidan on the questioned documents as

THE PRESIDENT: While we're on this slide, before we move

Does it occur, in your experience, that there's a difference in number of movements in the signature?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, that's a great question. It all goes to variation with respect to the individual and the

And then some of the movements sometimes, if you have a long pen drag going into a movement, you know, that's obviously going to be -- when I'm doing my
A. (Mr Welch) Never saw that document.

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: You have never seen the document?
I see. There is a similar one for $\mathrm{R}-29$, which is $\mathrm{C}-0113$. You haven't seen that either?
A. (Mr Welch) None of the documents marked "forged". PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: An interesting point there is that the signature of Ms Touré is in a different place and has an additional stamp. Maybe it can be shown later on, but we should ask the question on our time.
MR OSTROVE: I don't mind whether you take your time now or later. Of course, I was just going to point out that I don't believe the experts have seen that document, so they haven't had a chance to study. But perhaps we could provide it to them later.
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Maybe it can be shown later.
MR OSTROVE: Thank you.
Mr Welch, Mr Radley, starting at the bottom of page 61 of his report, addresses the signatures in the name of Asher Avidan in R-28 and R-29.
A. (Mr Welch) One second. (Pause) Okay, I'm sorry, what page?
Q. The bottom of page 61 and going on to page 62 in his report.
A. (Mr Welch) Okay.
Q. He criticises your position that:

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PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Whilst we are on this document, you
also stated you had not seen before, but then after your
preliminary report came the Exhibit C-0112, with the
label "forged" on it?
microscopic examination and making my notes, that's going to be something that I mark as the first movement. If it's a blunt start, where the pen just is simply placed down and then a vertical line drawn down, that would be my number 1 . So if there's a flying start or a flying finish, that may add a couple of extra numbers.

So you can't look at -- when you're looking at formation, you can't look necessarily at the numbers and say: oh, well, if there's two more extra movements, it means it must be a different writer. No, that's not the case. It all goes to variation, you're absolutely correct.
THE PRESIDENT: Does it just mean that you're just marking it differently, or is there really a different movement of the hand?
A. (Mr Welch) The movement is the same; it's just the fine, subtle features that I'm picking up that may add to it. So let me give you an example --
THE PRESIDENT: We can see it, for instance, here in 1,2 , 3 , and compare the 2 . The 3 is --
A. (Mr Welch) Exactly, that's a perfect example.

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"... there is no 'evidence of differences that would suggest someone other than Asher Avidan signed the document' ..."
That's in paragraph 289. Then in paragraph 290 he goes on to say:
"On comparing the questioned signatures in the name of Mr Avidan ... with the comparison documents presented, there again, appear to be a number of differences, as follows."

And then he has a diagram indicating -- it looks like it should be indicating four differences; only three are numbered. And then in paragraphs 291 through 294, he lists what he considers four differences.
Have you a chance to consider these paragraphs?
A. (Mr Welch) Absolutely.
Q. Do you have any response?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, I have some -- actually I completely disagree with this, these statements here, and I do have some images to illustrate.
Q. As you discussed, if you could take what Mr Radley presented as differences one by one, so we can follow, that would be helpful.
A. (Mr Welch) Sure.

The first dissimilarity that he talks about the relationship of this "S"-shaped form in ... (Pause)
Q. If you told me the slide, I could put it up from my computer.
A. (Mr Welch) It's going to be 44 of 66 .

In this particular image you can see that Mr Radley addresses the vertical dotted line. The upper and lower arched movements in that particular signature are in line with that dotted line. And we can see in the similar handwriting habits within the range of variation of Mr Avidan Asher, you can see this in K13.2 and K22, where again the top and bottom arched movements of that "S"-shaped form in K13.2 touch, and then the top nearly touches, and the bottom does in fact touch in K22. So that is absolutely within Mr Avidan Asher's range of variation.
Q. Okay. That's with respect to paragraph 291, Mr Radley's first purported difference?
A. (Mr Welch) That's correct.
Q. Could you address his second purported difference? He says:
"From the end of the bottom 'S' shape in R28, there is a long horizontal stroke that then bends and forms a curved dome in an anticlockwise direction. The way in which the horizontal transforms into the arc of the dome is very rounded with a relatively large radius curvature. Generally, the change of direction is fairly

17:04 1
whatsoever. This absence of a loop, merely a sideways
' V ' shape, is not seen in any of the known signatures."
Do you agree with that statement?
A. (Mr Welch) I agree in part and disagree in parts. The movement is similar; it does not have the same size loop in all of the other signatures. And I've put together an illustration to show that.
Q. Where is that illustration?
A. (Mr Welch) Let me bring it up. That's going to be slide 48 of 66.
Q. Could I ask you to explain this demonstrative, please?
A. (Mr Welch) Sure.

So this particular -- R-28 -- I've got each of the signatures, R-28, the known two exemplars that I'm showing, K22 and K20.61, to show that Mr Avidan in K22 and K20.61 has a vast range of variation in how he makes that particular movement. You look at the size, how small and upright K22 is, and in K20.61 you see how wide and how a particular loop moves up and to the left, to the 10 o'clock position.

The fact that in R-28 we've got a similar movement where it comes up and around, it's nearly a retrace. There almost appears to be a small loop; you can't see it, I'm sorry. But the movement is similar, very similar; you just don't have the size of the loop.

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17:03 $1 \quad$ sharp in the known writings."
A. (Mr Welch) Correct.
Q. Do you agree that that's a difference with the known writings?
A. (Mr Welch) Absolutely not. It is well within Mr Avidan's range of variation, and I completely disagree with that.

I have an image of that, to illustrate it: that would be slide 46 of 66 . In the red-boxed area is the particular feature or element that Mr Radley was addressing, at the very end where it's curved. What I did was I made enlargements of that same element for R-28 down below, I enlarged them so everybody could see it clearly, and then we see that K20.59, K20.58 and K20.61 have that same curved end to it, which is very similar and well within Mr Avidan's range of variation. It is not a difference whatsoever.
Q. Thank you.

Moving on to Mr Radley's third point of difference, where he says in paragraph 293:
"Beneath the main portion of the signature, the known signatures show a clockwise looped pen movement with an extended downward tail similar to the shape of a crossed ' 9 '. Whilst there is a form of reproduction of that form in R28, there is no significant loop

But I don't attribute this as a difference indicating a different writer, and I would attribute this to variation.
Q. Moving on to the final purported difference identified by Mr Radley at paragraph 294 of his report. He says:
"The element (short 'L' shaped line) towards the top right hand corner of the signature in R28 ..."

I believe it's this little element that I'm indicating with my mouse that he's talking about here:
"... towards the top right hand corner of the signature in R28 appears to show the pen hitting the paper, moving slightly downwards before turning at near right angles. To make such a turn, the pen has to virtually stop and then turn ... In the known writings, this element is shown in various forms but generally, the marking on the paper is the result of an introductory stroke as the pen is still moving to the commencement of the horizontal stroke, not a right angled introductory stroke as seen in the questioned signature. It is acknowledged that this is quite a variable structure in the known writings and I attribute little significance to this observation albeit there is no example in the comparisons in this form."

So again, I'm not sure that Mr Radley -- who can

17:08 1
2
clarify tomorrow -- considers this to be a difference.
But in your view, is there any significance to this?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, I would absolutely disagree and say it's not a difference. There's a good example in this that fits within the range of variation of Mr Avidan Asher.

I've put together a display or an image to illustrate this. You can see in slide 50 of 66 , if you look at the first image, R-28, I'm showing the entire signature itself, with the arrow, and then I'm showing the particular stroke that Mr Radley is addressing, directly to the right of the R-28 signature. You can see that the movement slightly comes down, and then begins to curve and go out to the right, where it feathers.

You can see the same movement in K23.3. I showed an image of the signature itself, and then an enlargement of the same similar type of "L" stroke, where it starts up, comes down, and moves out to the right and tapers into a nice fine stroke. That is exhibited in his known comparison standards and representative within his range of variation.
Q. Thank you.

Mr Radley makes some similar criticisms regarding your analysis of the purported signature of Mr Asher Avidan in R-29, and it's points that are at

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different movements in that; it's not smooth. And we can see even another odd-shaped movement in that particular form with respect to 13.2 .

So I don't want to attribute that at all to being characteristic of a simulation. There are far too many individual, unique, very subtle and fine details in the signature to ever call this or suggest that this would be a forgery by way of simulation.
Q. Thank you.

Looking at Mr Radley's second purported difference with respect to the signature in $\mathrm{R}-29$, he notes at paragraph 298 of his report:
"Through the looped '9' shaped element beneath the left hand side ..."

Which I believe, if I can get my cursor, is this little element here that I'm indicating on the screen, on the bottom left.
A. (Mr Welch) Correct.
Q. "... there is a reproduction of what should be the rapidly written horizontal dash (often with a hook into the beginning of it on the left in the comparison signatures). In the known writings, it is clearly very rapidly executed with smooth movement of the pen and tapering on the right-hand side as the pen speeds in the rightward direction flying from the paper. R29 can be

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paragraphs 297, 298 and 300. There are three points of his report.

The first criticism he makes is that:
"The supposedly smooth curving stroke representing the 'diagonal' of the ' S ' shape has an irregular clockwise bend in it ... not seen in any of the known writings. This ... somewhat awkward stroke is out of keeping with the mode of execution of the known writings but is the type of feature sometimes observed in simulations."

Do you agree with Mr Radley?
A. (Mr Welch) No, I do not.
Q. Could you explain why, please?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes. We can see other evidence within

Mr Asher's known comparison standards where he has this variation exhibited in the downstroke, in this odd-shaped -- what[ever] his terminology was.
Q. "Awkward stroke".
A. (Mr Welch) "Awkward stroke". We see this. We see this in this particular stroke.

And if you go to -- I prepared a slide, slide 53 of 66. We see that this similar type of odd stroke, it's not exactly the same, but you can see it in this "S" form in K22 and in K13.2. If you look at K22, you can see the odd-shaped movements. There appear to be three

17:14 1 Mr Asher where this same subtle movement going into the
2 "9" is seen in CWS-10.5 where the red arrow is, and
3 K13.2 where the red arrow is, and K13.4 where the red arrow is. But you see that similar movement in 10.5 ,
13.2 and 13.4 , which is very similar with his
handwriting habit.
When you look at the cross-stroke itself, you can
see it's very, very similar with K13.4: it's an upward movement, and out and to the right. And you can see that same up and out to the right movement in K20.59.
MR DAELE: Excuse me, Madam President. May I intervene for a second?

I think for the last 25 minutes Mr Ostrove has been taking the expert through his own presentation. So basically there's a comment of Mr Ostrove, he says "Mr Radley so-and-so", and this is on one particular slide, and then we see immediately the expert then saying, "Oh, yes", and then coming on to the following slide of the presentation.

So basically for already half an hour we are going through this presentation that is basically not on the record. Each slide follows --
THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I've noted the same. Actually I have
the same questions for the experts, because obviously
I have reviewed what Mr Radley has said and it is

17:18 18 order.

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important to understand what these experts have to say on this criticism, as it is important to hear Mr Radley tomorrow and see how he responds to the answers that we hear today. I'm afraid that if we don't go into this exercise, we are not making progress.
MR DAELE: But he --
THE PRESIDENT: That is why we let it go like this.
MR DAELE: But in practice we are bringing this on the record.
THE PRESIDENT: But this is just --
MR DAELE: It's already for half an hour, slide after slide. If you would look at the questions and you look at the response, they're actually reading the other report that is not on the record and should not be on the record.
MR OSTROVE: If I may, the other report is not on the record. I honestly don't understand the objection, because essentially what my colleagues are asking is that we not ask the Tribunal experts their comments on Mr Radley's criticisms. If we did it without any demonstrative exhibits, they would have to take us step by step, pulling out the known documents and the comparison documents. It happens that -- and this is obviously an issue that was discussed with the Tribunal this morning -- they prepared demonstrative exhibits, we believe perfectly in conformity with the procedural
"After the 'S' shape, the ... terminal loop."
Which I believe is this part of the signature that I'm indicating on the screen. He says it "proceeds as illustrated by the arrow on the photograph above", which is in his report on page 64. Let me just quickly read it into the record:
"The loop proceeds as illustrated ... and bends rather angularly ..."

He indicates going in his report 1,2 and then 3:
"... almost vertically, [then] descends. It then bends once again, towards ' 5 o'clock' [at the end] i.e. this loop is made up of a long stroke, a following bend and yet a further bend [emphasised]. The pen is not flying off the paper at the terminal position. The known writings do not show this pen lifting motion and are quite different. They show the pen to loop around and terminate with the pen rapidly flying off the paper either without a significant bend or, if there is a bend, there is only one bend.
"The angular bending of this questioned signal terminal therefore appears 'drawn' at this point with the fingers forcing the pen threw a tight angular curve, the pen lifting off the paper towards ' 5 o'clock'."

Do you agree with Mr Radley that this presents a significant difference from the known writings of

17:24 1
Q. Could you explain why?
A. (Mr Welch) Absolutely. I've put together an illustration to show this. The characteristic is well within the handwriting habits and variation of Mr Asher.

If you look at slide 57 of 66 , I've provided an illustration. This is an illustration of the similarity in the terminal loop. If we look at R-29, which is the first image, I have an arrow pointing to the loop, and then directly to the right of that, I have an enlargement of that particular element. And we can see, as it comes across all the way to the end of the stroke, it begins to move up, it comes up, and then comes down where the second arrow is.

You see that this particular formation is very similar with K20.59. I've got the signature of K20.59 with the arrow to the loop, and then I have an enlargement. Very similar.
There is no evidence -- there is no drawn appearance whatsoever in this particular loop. It's very fluently and very naturally written. You can see the tapered stroke. These are very similar, and these are very
could please comment on these.
But if you could start, I would like to have your view as to whether Mr Struik's signature is a simple or a complex signature.
A. (Mr Welch) This is a complex signature also.
Q. Do you have a sense of how many strokes there are in this signature?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, there are approximately 20 movements or points of reference in the formation of this particular structure.
Q. One of the first differences that Mr Radley purports to find is "a very thin initial loop"; that's in paragraph 273 of his report. He says:
"... there being only one other [thin initial loop] (K3.1) in the twenty six comparison signatures showing this to the same degree."

He considers this "obviously [a] rare occurrence".
Do you have any reaction?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes. I completely disagree, in the sense that although it's rare, he's right, in K3, it is within his range of variation, it's exhibited in his range of variation.

I have an illustration to show this point, in addition to another feature. If you go to slide 28 of 66 , you can see that K3 is a narrow form. And not only

Page 211 Mr Avidan Asher.
Q. So, having reviewed all of Mr Radley's suggested differences, do you have any changes that you would like to make to your opinion regarding the authenticity of Mr Avidan's signature?
A. (Mr Welch) Absolutely not. I stand by my opinion 100\%, all of them.
Q. Thank you.

I would like to turn to Mr Radley's comments on your analysis of the signature of Marc Struik. His analysis is in section 11 of his report on page 57, beginning at paragraph 266.

He points out in paragraph 268 that in Annex L, question 35 asked whether you'd found any differences between the signature of Mr Struik in R-27 and the comparison writings. Do you find any differences?
A. (Mr Welch) No, I found no differences that would be indicative of another writer at all.
Q. If you turn over the page to page 59 of Mr Radley's reports, he has a demonstrative exhibit inserted in his report that illustrates nine alleged differences. In the interests of time, I'm not sure I'll be able to take you through all of them, but I was wondering if you
size, overall loop size is very similar.
So again, this particular feature falls within
Mr [Struik]'s range of variation and it's consistent with his handwriting habits. (Pause)
Q. The third purported difference noted by Mr Radley is in paragraph 275 of his report, if I could direct your attention to that. He says:
"The second loop of the questioned signature is similarly thin and whilst isolated examples of a thin second loop do appear in the known writings, the combination of a very thin first loop and second loop does not ..."

He references K17.3 as "probably the nearest in comparable structures", and:
"The combined widths of the loops in the questioned signature is slightly less than the combined width of the loops in K17.13."

Would you agree that this is a difference between the signature in R-27 and the known signatures of Mr Struik?
A. (Mr Welch) No, absolutely not. It's not a difference.
Q. Could you explain why, please?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, I can -- if you could pull up the image.

I've created an image, can you pull up an image? Slide 31 of 66.
$17: 32 \quad 1$

This near retracing of the element and the subsequent retrace of the joining loop is not seen in combination within the twenty six known writings. A similar pen movement is seen in K10.3 but this is not such a thin loop to the same extent as seen in the questioned signature."

Do you believe that that is a difference between the signature in R-27 and the known writings?
A. (Mr Welch) It is absolutely not a difference.
Q. Could you explain?
A. (Mr Welch) It's variation. Yes, and I'm sorry, that's the illustration here.
Q. Which is slide 31 ?
A. (Mr Welch) Slide 31 of 66.

Mr Radley is correct in the assessment that that loop formation is not as wide, but it's definitely the same movement, and absolutely is attributed to variation and not a difference. So I completely disagree. I mean, the examples K10.3 and 12.1 illustrate that similar movement.
In fact, if you look at K12.1, if you look at the relationship and where that stroke coming out of -- the arched stroke that comes out of that initial first tall stroke, you can see how it cuts through nearly the middle of that loop, you see that in R-27.

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in R-27, starting at the bottom, comes up, retraces down, comes back up into that upward stroke, then comes down, and then curves or arches back up, and retraces down into the next element.
Q. I'm sorry, how does that demonstrate the second loop and the thinness between --
A. (Mr Welch) Oh, I'm sorry.
Q. If you could look at Mr Radley's report, paragraph 275,
he says that the first and second loop are very narrow. He says:
"K17.13 is probably the nearest ... The combined width of the loops in the questioned signature is slightly less than the combined width ... in K17.13." Page 59 of his report. (Pause)
In the interests of time, if you want time to consider that, maybe we could come back to that later.
A. (Mr Welch) Yes.
Q. If we could move to the fourth purported difference. Mr Radley says:
"In the questioned signature, following the three initial looped elements, the pen rises so as to touch the preceding loop, descends whereupon it virtually retraces itself before moving downwards into the next element. Only a very [emphasised] thin loop is formed.

That's part of his handwriting habit, individual and unique, and goes towards, again, his handwriting habit.
Q. Mr Radley continues, regarding the joining stroke from the element just described and the curvature of it, saying:
"... [it] descends and then bends upwards into the following vertical element [and] has a tighter curvature than seen in any of the twenty six known writings."

Do you agree with him that that could be a difference?
A. (Mr Welch) No, I do not agree that it is a difference. He is correct in the assessment that that arch is narrower, but again it goes towards variation; it is not a difference.
Q. Have you seen that variation in any of the known writings of Mr Struik?
A. (Mr Welch) Not as narrow as that particular feature in $\mathrm{R}-27$. But again, it goes along with his handwriting habits.

I've got an illustration of that. If you look at slide 32 of 66 , you see R-27, and I've highlighted just underneath that connecting stroke going into that last up-and-down element in red. You can see very similar in how they cut through that loop into that last upward-down movement. There's just slight variation in

17:35 1
2
the distance, in the width of that arc or that
connecting stroke.
It definitely is not a difference which would be suggestive or indicative of another writer.
Q. Mr Radley goes on and says that:
"The small kink that follows this downstroke ..."
This is in paragraph 279:
"... is quite pronounced and there are only two comparison signatures that show anything near the depth and same curvature, namely K7.3 and K14.2. This is therefore a rare feature but not a true difference."

Could you give us your reaction to that sentence about that being "a rare feature but not a true difference"?
A. (Mr Welch) It's not a difference, it's absolutely within his range of variation. I can't understand why he would note that it's a rare feature when it's obviously exhibited in his known handwriting samples.

If you look at -- I prepared an image in slide 34 of 66. You can see this pronounced kink similarity in these two signatures. If you look at K7.3 and K14.2, you can see the red arrow. And very similar in size and distance relationship, which is also consistent with the handwriting from Mr Struik.
Q. In his penultimate paragraph, paragraph 282, Mr Radley

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combines both what he sees as differences and rarities in one analysis. He says, "All of these features may be regarded as differences not found in the twenty six comparison signatures or rarities rarely found", and then criticises your report for having apparently disregarded these.

Leaving aside the fact that you have disagreed with differences that he has found, do you believe it is appropriate to include rarities, as opposed to differences, in the analysis?
A. (Mr Welch) Rarities are handwriting habits that are found within the variation of a writer. It doesn't matter how many times they do it; if it shows up one time, it's within that individual's range of variation.

So the fact of the matter is in my evaluation, in my very detailed examinations conducted, there are substantial, significant individual handwriting characteristics between all three of the individuals that I've identified with their known comparison samples.
Q. Excuse me for just a moment please. (Pause)

A more theoretical question about your profession. You're given a certain number of known signatures. How can you determine whether something is rare or not rare in someone's overall writing?

17:40 1 I don't see that as a difference.
Q. Then in paragraph 280 Mr Radley goes to another perceived difference. He says:
"Following the anticlockwise dome of the terminal loop, the pen then curves to the right with a fairly lengthy curving stroke which shows a relatively angular bend as illustrated with red arrows on the illustration."

Which is the red arrows at point 8 in his illustration on the top of page 59.
"However, the angularity of this stroke is, in [Mr Radley's] opinion, significantly different than seen in the known writings with one possible exception: K19.18 that does show a short small angular kink."

You can read the rest of his paragraph. Do you agree with him that this should be considered "significantly different"?
A. (Mr Welch) No, it is not significantly different.
Q. Would you --
A. (Mr Welch) If you look at K19 -- and I've got an image of that that I prepared: that would be slide 35 of 66 -you can see that dome-shaped terminal movement is very similar in its form, size and construction between R-27, and is well within Mr Struik's range of variation.
Q. The final point of difference that Mr Radley notes,

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17:42 1
which he says is "partially related to issues previously raised" is in paragraph 281 of his report, where he says:
'... if one looks at the relative proportions of the height to width of the first five elements ..."

Which he has surrounded with turquoise dotted lines in his image on the top of page 59:
"... the questioned signature fits into a far taller rectangle than any of the twenty six comparison documents. This illustrates not only the fact that the loops are narrow but also the joining strokes on the baseline between the loops are narrower than seen in the comparison documents."

Do you agree with his conclusion there?
A. (Mr Welch) No.
Q. Could you explain why?
A. (Mr Welch) That was paragraph 281?
Q. Yes.
A. (Mr Welch) Yes. This relative proportion that he talks about, height and width, in the illustration that he has in his report, you absolutely see this in one of the handwriting signatures of Mr Struik in K14.2. I put together an image to illustrate this: slide 37 of 66.

So we can look at the relative proportions of all five of these elements fitting within the turquoise box

17:45 1

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brings us.
    Gentlemen, you are still under the same warning not
    to speak.
        So let's take 10 minutes, but really 10 minutes, not
    15.
(5.46 pm)
        (A short break)
        5.59 pm)
        Questions from THE TRIBUNAL
THE PRESIDENT: Thank you for your patience. We know it is
    a long day. We still have a few questions. Obviously
    most of the questions have been dealt with by counsel.
        When I read your report the first time, before
        reading Mr Radley's comments, it did strike me that your
        conclusions with respect to the signatures -- and that's
        a question for you, Mr Welch -- were relatively
        assertive.
            You have quoted today from your page 9 -- we could
        take it there or we could take it later in your
        report -- but for Lev Ran, Marc Struik and Asher Avidan,
        you have concluded that these individuals wrote the
        disputed signature on the relevant documents.
            I have seen a number of forensic expert reports, and
        I must say that I have never come across such a positive
        affirmative conclusion. I always read things that are
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17:44 1 in R-27 that Mr Radley speaks about. We can see the
same thing in 14.2, where these five elements fit within that same-size box.

It absolutely goes to variation and not a difference
or suggestive of another writer.
Q. In light of the totality of what Mr Radley has identified as purported differences, would you want to change your opinion in any way regarding the authenticity of Mr Struik's signature?
A. (Mr Welch) Absolutely not. I stand on my examinations and my conclusions.
MR OSTROVE: Thank you, Mr Welch. Thank you, Mr LaPorte. Respondent does not have any other questions at this time.

## THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Now we are at the end of this further step. The next step is for the Tribunal to ask questions. I suggest that we take a short break, but really a short break, especially to allow the interpreters and the court reporters to rest, because they are bearing with us and they are ready to continue some time after 6.00, and we are grateful to them, because it will have been a very long day. But we will see how much time the Tribunal questions take, and then you will give us an estimate for your follow-up and we'll see where that
more in line with some of the terminology that we have heard about today. And I was asking myself how come you made these very assertive conclusions in respect of the signatures.
A. (Mr Welch) Yes. Based upon the examinations of the evidence, the significant fine and subtle detail that a forger can't reproduce -- is just not able to reproduce the speed and execution that somebody can sign their own name, it's not possible. So with all the subtle, individual, unique characteristics, in addition to all the handwriting characteristics that I found in common between the questioned signatures that I identified and the known writings of the individuals that I compared those signatures to, the individual identifiable handwriting characteristics are substantial. And there's no reservation, there's no question in my mind that each of those individuals signed the signatures on those particular documents.
THE PRESIDENT: In respect of the comparator documents, I'm not certain I understand the approach. Does it matter how many comparator documents you have?
A. (Mr Welch) It just depends upon the individual. So to give you an example, somebody who has a very narrow range of variation, like myself, I may be able to resolve all the handwriting characteristics of my

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> signature with just five samples, because my range of variation is so narrow, I'm very consistent with my signature. However, somebody who's got a very wide range of variation, I may need 30 samples to resolve all the handwriting characteristics. So it's just dependent upon each individual and the range of variation.

THE PRESIDENT: So for Mr Lev Ran you had 47, if my memory serves me right.
A. (Mr Welch) Correct.

THE PRESIDENT: Does he have a broad range of variation,
would you say?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, he has, I would say, a fairly wide -moderate, average, leaning towards the wide side of variation, yes.
THE PRESIDENT: For the other two, you had significantly fewer samples; is that right? I would have to go back to where I have the notes. Yes, Struik, 25; Avidan, 14. But among the 14 , there's a number that are sourced from the same signature, if I'm not mistaken, so actually it is less: there must be something like 11.

Mr Avidan has quite a complex signature. We have seen a number of dissimilarities or variations. I am not saying they are fundamental or not, I'm just trying to express with my words. Is the number of comparators sufficient for you to conclude in such a positive way?

18:05
A. (Mr Welch) Correct.

THE PRESIDENT: And actually relatively easy to copy, is it not? I mean, I've tried. I have to train more; it's not yet very good. But it's starts here, and then you have to do something like this (indicating), and that's it.

So how can you say this is all the same person?
A. (Mr Welch) I said that there are indications that they may have been written by -- I did not identify them as all being written by the same person. And you're right, the limited nature of that particular signature, and the amount of writing and the simplicity of it, you know, that's correct, that's a limitation. And I took that into account when I examined and did the inter-comparisons.

So just for clarification -- and I'll read the terminology according to the SWGDOC standard for indication conclusion:
"... a body of writing has few features which are of significance for handwriting comparison purposes, but those features are in agreement with another body of writing ... There is evidence which indicates (or suggests) that John Doe of the known material may have written the questioned material but the evidence falls far short of that necessary to support a definite

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fould have rendered a less than conclusive opinion. The evidence in the handwriting characteristics, the individual unique characteristics are, in my opinion, overwhelming.
THE PRESIDENT: And that applies to Mr Struik as well, I suppose?
A. (Mr Welch) Each person that I identified. If there was any question in my mind, again, I would not have positively identified them as writing the signatures.
THE PRESIDENT: So you are not thinking in terms of probability, or "more likely than not" or something like that; you are giving a firm conclusion --
A. (Mr Welch) That's correct, I'm giving you a firm conclusion --
THE PRESIDENT: -- that this is what happened?
A. (Mr Welch) -- based on our SWGDOC standards, yes.

THE PRESIDENT: You reached different conclusions with respect to Lansana Tinkiano and Mamadie Touré. We have not spoken of Mamadie Touré's signature so far, and you have simply said they may have all been written by the same person. That is because you had no comparator documents; is that right?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, ma'am, that's correct.

THE PRESIDENT: That signature strikes me as basic; I think you have said it.

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[identification]."
    And that's the conclusion I rendered for these
    particular individuals.
    THE PRESIDENT: For Mamadie Touré and also for
        Lansana Tinkiano?
    A. (Mr Welch) Yes, ma'am.
    THE PRESIDENT:Thank you. Maybe I'll give the floor to my
        colleagues and I'll check whether my other questions
        have been dealt with so far.
    PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Mr Welch, could you please go to
        your report at page 113. And show it on the screen.
        There you see the signature of Mr Avidan.
        Can you put it on the screen please? (Pause)
    A. (Mr Welch) If I could start my computer and restart it;
        is that a problem?
    PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: If you look at the signature, R-28
        at the bottom. Do you see that?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes.
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: And you see -- and that's the
    reason why I would like to have it on the screen. I'm
    going to show you what I mean. (Pause)
        If you look with me, Mr Welch -- I have to do it on
    this screen, although I can point to this screen, but
    you can't see it. Look at this. So here what strikes
    me: he has these dots under the signature. On the
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signatures on the known documents, R-28 and R-29, you
see these dots. If you go to the comparator documents at page 116, you see that a number of those, at least to my eye, don't have those dots.
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, so ...

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Is that a difference or a variation, or in the range of variation, as you call it?
A. (Mr Welch) You're talking about the four dots?

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Yes --
A. (Mr Welch) If you look at K23.3 ...

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: You see the four dots.
A. (Mr Welch) ... you see the four dots. And then if you go to 29.1 ...
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: You see them there again.
A. (Mr Welch) ... you see them there. But what's interesting, and if we zoom in ...
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Is it one of the 20 movements he has to make? The dot is one movement?
A. (Mr Welch) Those are part of the movements, yes, that I talked about.
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: One dot is one movement?
A. (Mr Welch) One dot is one movement, correct.

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: He has it here, R-28. This is R-28, where just you got.

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18:13 1
signature of Ms Touré, also R-28. We have not discussed very much today Ms Touré's signature; at least I didn't hear questions from either side.
Am I correct -- but I see that I have learnt my lesson today -- the sequence is, how she signs according to this one, she starts here, she goes here, she ends here, lifts up, and then puts two of these strokes here (indicating); is that correct? Is my understanding correct? Or is it just first she puts the two strokes and then starts here?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, I'm not sure about that. I could not determine that

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: The last question I have is as well a question I asked you, but I was stopped because it was outside the sequence of questioning by counsel.

Could you please be shown C-0112 and C-0113. If you go to your report, Annex L, and you go to paragraphs 12 and 13.
A. (Mr Welch) Do you have a page number?

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: No, unfortunately you don't have page numbers on this one. Paragraphs 12 and 13, and Annex L is where you answer the questions.
A. (Mr Welch) Okay, one second.

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: But we have to go further, because
these are only the questions, but now we want the

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But look at this one below -- if you can move up a little bit the screen so we see what the number is. It's K20.58.
A. (Mr Welch) Okay.

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: It's very little, only one.
A. (Mr Welch) That's part of his variation. Sometimes he does one, sometimes he does four.

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: I see. So you don't consider that a difference?
A. (Mr Welch) No, because we see it.

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Yes, I see what you mean. Alright.
A. (Mr Welch) We see it in the other ones that I spoke
about. In fact, if you look at K23.3, if you draw a line from the first dot down to the second dot, that relationship, and then if you draw a line from the second dot up to the fourth dot, you're going to see that move up, in the upwards direction, that's part of his handwriting habit. That's unique, and that's what a forger can't duplicate.
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Thank you for showing me that the comparator documents amongst themselves have already differences -- or, sorry, variations.
A. (Mr Welch) Variations, yes.

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Could you please go back to where we were at page 113 , and can you blow up, please, the

## answers. (Pause)

Basically you give the same answer. Do you see that? So:
"C-0112 is a different version of R-28 ..."
That's the question. And then the question goes on:
"... which was received by BSGR and subsequently marked 'Forged'."
"... subsequently marked 'Forged'", it says. Pause
there, and keep this in mind, because I have also a question on that one.
"What difference do the Experts identify between the two documents? What weight, if any, do the Experts place on the differences which exist between C-0112 and
R-28? If the Experts do not consider the differences (if any) to be relevant to their conclusions, please explain why."

That's the question. Now, you answer, "We didn't receive a document like this". I understood from you earlier today that you haven't seen the document at all. Or have you seen it?
A. (Mr LaPorte) That's correct: we have not. PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: You have not seen it. Let me then de-mystify you and show you the document.

Can somebody show the document on the screen? At the same time maybe you are able to put the two

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together, R-28 on the left and C-0112 on the right, so
you are able to make the comparison. Or is that asking
too much? (Pause)

First of all, this is C-0112. Do you see this
"Forged"? To my layman's eye -- and please correct me
if I'm wrong -- this is a sticker, isn't it? I say this because you see here these lines. So it's not simply stamped on it; it's --
A. (Mr Welch) It could be stamped.

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: It could be stamped? No, but why -- if you look at these lines, you see this here. And C-0113, if you show that one, then you can see it even clearer, in my view. Can C-113 be shown? Alright. You see here, again ...

Can we go to C-112, please, and can we go to the bottom. What you see here is purportedly the signature of Ms Touré. Note two things: it's below the name and there's a stamp.
Now, can you compare -- do you have R-28 in front of you?
A. (Mr LaPorte) I have R-28, yes.

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Please compare it with R-28.
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes, there's no -- it doesn't appear to be a stamp on R-28.
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: And what else do you note? (Pause)
be a different one on the top, which ends under the " E ".
A. (Mr Welch) Can you enlarge it a little bit larger?

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: So I'm talking about this. Look at this area and compare it with this area (indicating).
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, I mean, you can tell the signature -you know, there's differences between the two signatures.
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Yes, right. And then we stay here, and if you look to the stamp, look to the "ASHER", and the " $R$ "ends in the " $B$ ", and here the " $R$ " and the " $B$ " is slightly in a different spot. This is only a visual inspection by a layperson.
A. (Mr Welch) Sure.

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: So what would be your conclusion if you see these two documents or compare these two documents?
A. (Mr Welch) Well, the one thing that I would want to do is I would want to overlay these documents and take a look at them and see what in fact is different and if there is anything that is in fact similar. Is there evidence of a cut-and-paste of the signature into that area?

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: I have to tell you one thing.
Can you make it a bit smaller, the thing come back to normal? Right, okay.

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18:19 $1 \quad$ It's a simple thing. You see here the signature in R-28 appears above the name, and here the signature purports to be below the name, beneath the name?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes, that's a difference. I don't know if it's a significant difference, but it's a difference.
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Yes. Can it be that if you look to the stamp here and the signature, on the basis of your visual inspection as experts, is there a difference between the signature of Mr Avidan here and here?
A. (Mr Welch) I can't tell from here.

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: If I tell you that the stamp --
okay, first let's see the signatures. Can you blow up the signatures?

If I tell you with my layman's eye that here, you
see this thing here, below that is not under the " E ", and here it's under the " E ", visually it would be
a different signature, isn't it?
Do you see this one? Here. Look at this thing here. Under the " B ", it ends, right?
MR OSTROVE: I'm sorry, Professor van den Berg, I don't understand. When you say it's "under the 'B'", are you talking about the "B" in "société BSG" --
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: You see the signature? The top of the signature, you see this move, and the end of it is, if you line it up, under the " B "; but here it seems to

Here you see "Fait en double exemplaire": it means "Made in twofold". So there may actually be two versions of the same document. That may be one of the reasons.
Can we take it any further than this, on the basis of your visual inspection?
A. (Mr Welch) No. We would need to do a physical examination, have time to evaluate this.
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Would it be possible that do you see that tonight, but on the basis that you have limited resources with you, and report back to us tomorrow?
A. (Mr Welch) Is that what the Tribunal wants us to do? PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: How far can you get, as an expert?
A. (Mr Welch) I don't know. It could take quite a lot of time; it could take more than the time that we have for this hearing.
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Right. It is not really necessary, but it was simply a question of why these documents are in the record. Questions were asked by the Claimants about this document.
A. (Mr Welch) Did they have Mr Radley examine that?

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Ah, you want to serve it over the fence!
A. (Mr Welch) I said, "Did they have Mr Radley examine that?"

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PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: I know. What I suggest is you have
    a look and see how far you get tonight. But it's not
    an essential question.
PROFESSOR MAYER: I would like to come back to this position
    that you can say that this has been signed by the person
    who is supposed to have signed it.
    For instance, a complex signature like Mr Avidan's,
    very complex, many strokes, there are many comparatives,
    with a big range -- it seems to me that the range is
    rather big -- and it falls within the range.
        Now, to be able to say that it's Mr Avidan who has
    signed this, I suppose that it's based on the fact that,
    first, it's very complex; second, it's fluid and it
    doesn't tremble; and maybe other -- and I'd like to know
    more about that. Because the result, the conclusion,
    the positive conclusion is surprising to a layman
    because you would think, if you are not an expert, that
    a genius can imitate any signature.
        So in fact, more precisely, what allows you to say
        really it is humanly impossible that someone else made
        that signature? Is it based only on your experience, or
        are there studies? Can you elaborate?
    A. (Mr Welch) Sure.
        Yes, it's based on my 3 years of training and my
        over 25 years of experience in law enforcement with the
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18:28 1
and on the other there's something else, the similarities that you may find, but that you then consider as not fundamental and therefore within the range of variations.

Are these two different aspects or is it all the same? What is the weight of one or the other when you reach your conclusions?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, that's -- you have to properly reason and evaluate what is significant in the known writing and what is significant in the questioned writing, and you have to evaluate that significance in combination, together.

Again, individuals are not machines, right? We just don't write exactly the same way every single time. But every person is going to have that fine and subtle detail in their writing that's going to reveal itself as either being genuine or characteristics of a forgery.
THE PRESIDENT: Yes. And if I'm very tired or I'm ill, and I sign with some difficulty, you would still recognise that this is my signature; it would not look like a forger's signature?
A. (Mr Welch) Great question. I mean, there may be things, there can be outside factors that influence our writing where we may not be able to resolve, if you're ill or you're on medication or you have a broken arm or some

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18:26 11 Michigan State Police doing handwriting examinations,
thousands of comparisons, inter-comparisons. And based upon my testimony and everything that I've shown you today, there's no question in my mind that all of those signatures have the complexity, they have the individual, unique and subtle handwriting habits, in my opinion, that a forger could not duplicate.
PROFESSOR MAYER: Okay. So based on your vast experience?
A. (Mr Welch) That's correct.

PROFESSOR MAYER: Thank you.
THE PRESIDENT: Just following up on this point.
Is it sufficient, but not necessary, to find the
same variation at least once in a comparator document?
Do you need to find the variation in a comparator document or not?
A. (Mr Welch) No, you can have an absent character, absolutely, and the signature be identified. It goes to the substantial number and significance of the individual, unique handwriting habits. Again, a forger can get the basic form down, but they can't get the intricate, slight pen movements, the little fine and subtle details. They can't do that.
THE PRESIDENT: I see two aspects, but you will correct me if I misunderstand you. On the one hand there's a question of "Is there distortion or slow writing?";
type of medical condition, Parkinson's, something like that, where you may not be able to positively identify that individual.
THE PRESIDENT: There were a few more things, but not many, I can reassure you.

You have chosen this terminology -- and now it is for Mr LaPorte, because it goes to the document of authenticity -- "no evidence", and you have explained why you say "no evidence of fraud".

Mr Radley has criticised this extensively. He has, in particular, said that it is unclear why you have chosen this terminology because it is not used in the SWGDOC standard.

Is that correct, that it is not the terminology of the standard?
A. (Mr LaPorte) So I was -- actually I've been part of the -- I was part of the writing for the SWGDOC standard, and we're working on a new standard. So I know I can't get too far ahead of that.

But there's been a lot of discussion on -- the language in the SWGDOC standard was primarily developed for handwriting. And if you notice, I think it's section 3.7 or something in there, 3-point-something in the SWGDOC standard, that just says, "Oh, and this can be applied to other examinations". So it's almost like

18:32 $1 \quad$ it was an afterthought.

Now, the examination that we did with respect to document authentication is far more comprehensive. So it's a completely different type of examination.

So in my view the SWGDOC standard in its current status doesn't necessarily work for this type of examination. I have used the conclusionary language in the SWGDOC standard for other examinations, and I would say most of the time I use that terminology.

In this particular case though, because we can't prove something is authentic or genuine, it's very difficult to do, it almost voids out the scale that we use. Because the scale says that you can say "Absolutely yes" or "Absolutely no", and then there's kind of this in between.

But really the evidence is actually -- it's much easier to prove fraud than it is to prove genuineness. It's way more easier to prove that a document is fraudulent than it is to prove that it's truly genuine. So the scale is almost already tilted in the fraudulent direction, if you will, because all we need in an exam is to show one thing, whether it's a watermark that wasn't available, whatever that is, just one test, and you show something is fraudulent.

So the language that we've used in this case is
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I shouldn't say "can't", but it's very, very, very difficult.

The only time in my experience when we have determined whether documents are genuine or counterfeit -- and I've actually written a chapter on this in a textbook -- is we can do this for authorised documents, like government-issued documents, like money, like currency, drivers' licences, passports. And the reason we can do that is because we know what a genuine should have, all the security features of it, and if it doesn't have those security features, then we can say that it's fraudulent. So that's really the only type of exam where you can truly say something is genuine or authentic.
PROFESSOR MAYER: If I understand correctly, the situation is different for the two experts. I mean, when it's chemical or physical, either you find that there's fraud or you don't know, because you have not found it, but you don't know the truth.

I understand that it's completely different for signatures: because you can compare things, it's a completely different exercise?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes.

PROFESSOR MAYER: Am I right?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Absolutely. So I'm a chemist. When we're

Page 243 likelihood that we had earlier today.
A. (Mr LaPorte) Correct. And you can't prove genuineness.
standard just doesn't really encompass this. Now, hopefully in years to come, maybe in the next one year or, you know, next year and a half, the standard now has kind of developed that language to address these kinds of issues.
THE PRESIDENT: Mr Radley has suggested some terminology, if
you look at paragraph 51 of his report to paragraph 54
on page 12. Do you have his report there? (Pause)
That's when he discusses the alternative possibilities. But he speaks of "the evidence conclusively demonstrates", "there is very strong evidence", "strong evidence", "moderate evidence".
A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes, so once again this goes back to what I was saying: you could never say that it conclusively demonstrates genuineness. So that's why this kind of scale doesn't work: what it does is it starts to bias the scale.

If we are going to use a symmetrical scale that's equal on all sides, then we have to have an equal -- and I'll use Mr Radley's language: we have to kind of have an equal likelihood to prove both propositions.
talking about chemistry, it's very easy for me to prove things that are conclusively true or conclusively wrong or not true. So, yes, that's a difference.

I think, with all due respect to Mr Radley, I don't believe that we have a significant difference. So Mr Radley has stated that while he -- I think while the documents may not have evidence, it doesn't mean they are genuine. I don't disagree with that. I don't disagree with that philosophy. But I don't put it in an equal likelihood in this particular case, based on the fact that we've done so many examinations on so many documents.

We talk about this whole master forger theory. We would have to have a master forger who would have to do all of these signatures, and then that master forger has to exhibit the same variation for each signature that Mr Welch has found in the knowns. It almost sounds like a theory that just doesn't work out, and can never work out.

I mean, I can't imagine -- and I worked for the Secret Service, and I used to work intelligence cases, I worked in the intelligence community for years, and we had really good forgers, I worked with really good forgers. But I could not imagine a forger doing this kind of thing over and over for multiple signatures,

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using different pens, doing it on different documents
with different paper, not stacking them on top of each other, using different printing processes.

What we've been saying throughout our report is when you look at the cumulative value of the entire report, it makes these things much less likely, if you will.
THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.
Mr Welch, you would have no difficulty using one of the terms that Mr Radley proposes in these paragraphs 51
to 54 . Which one would you use?
A. (Mr Welch) "The evidence conclusively demonstrates".

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: That is the equivalent to your conclusion with respect to the three signatures of Lev Ran, Avidan and Struik?
A. (Mr Welch) If that's the strongest. Again, we don't use this scale.
THE PRESIDENT: No, I know --
A. (Mr Welch) But if that's the strongest, "the evidence conclusively demonstrates" would be what I would use, correct.
THE PRESIDENT: What would you use for Mamadie Touré and Lansana Tinkiano?
A. "There is moderate evidence to support".

THE PRESIDENT: To support what?
A. (Mr Welch) The indication that the same individual may

18:42 1
A. (Mr Welch) I know that Mr LaPorte testified to this earlier today, but it's not uncommon when you are dealing with different documents to pull them from a file to look at or review for supportive purposes. So that could have happened in this particular case.
THE PRESIDENT: So this was the explanation that we heard already.
A. (Mr LaPorte) They could have been stored together.

THE PRESIDENT: You already said that.
A. (Mr Welch) Or copies of them.
A. (Mr LaPorte) That's the other thing: we don't know that it came directly from that document. It was the same text. So there may have been another copy of that document too.
THE PRESIDENT: Mr Radley also insists on the fact that the dates of production of the documents cannot be established. And I was wondering whether there are techniques -- other than the ink-dating, which here doesn't apply because of the age of the document -- to determine the age of a document; and, if so, did you use these techniques?
A. (Mr LaPorte) That's an excellent question, and I do agree with Mr Radley: we can't establish the date of when they were actually printed. But other than doing the ink-dating testing that we had talked about early

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THE PRESIDENT: The proposition that the same individual has signed, not these individuals?
A. (Mr Welch) Correct.

THE PRESIDENT: Fine.
There's another smaller point, but I'd like to cover it. In paragraph 134 of Mr Radley's comments there is this discussion -- and that's a question for you, Mr LaPorte. Maybe you read the entire paragraph. But the question that is being asked is: why were $\mathrm{R}-24$ and R-28 together at one point in time, which seems to be your explanation, when they are dated two years apart, between two different parties, and they are different types of documents?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Is that the one with the impressions?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think it is. It refers to your paragraph 176. If you go back to your report, paragraph 176 would be page 119. (Pause)
A. (Mr LaPorte) Mr Welch worked on this part of the examination.
A. (Mr Welch) Yes. And your question?

THE PRESIDENT: My question is: what do you say to the criticism of Mr Radley, who says that these documents are two years apart and between different parties, so how could they have been together at some point?

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Guinea, who took the Tribunal, for example, to all these
slides that are now part of the record. So I do have
a number of questions arising out of the examination
both by you -- I mean, some of those questions were
asked by the Tribunal; some of the questions were raised
by Mr Ostrove.
THE PRESIDENT: We will of course hear the parties' experts
    tomorrow, and we will hear Mr Radley in particular on
    these issues.
        What follow-up questions does the Respondent have?
MR OSTROVE: Personally I am considering maybe two follow-up
    questions on the Tribunal's points. They could lead to
    further questions about really the nature of this
    exercise, so it could take a few minutes.
THE PRESIDENT: Do you have a time assessment?
MR DAELE: It depends how prompt the answers come, but ...
THE PRESIDENT: At this time of the day, it becomes
    important.
MR DAELE: For me, probably }15\mathrm{ minutes.
MR LIBSON: I have 5 minutes.
    (The members of the Tribunal confer)
THE PRESIDENT:We will let you ask questions also that
    arise out of the questions from Respondent's counsel,
    and especially in respect of the slides that are now
    newly in the record.
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18:50 $\quad 1$
document on a later-dated document, somebody created that document at a later date or they backdated it. I wouldn't use the term "fraudulent" in my report.
Q. You did though, and you keep on slipping into that term.
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, actually we have never determined that anything is fraudulent. We've said that there is no evidence to indicate fraudulence. So we're using that in a different -- in my report, if we did find that kind of evidence, we would not have said that it was fraudulent; we would have said that it was altered.
Q. So it was wrong to say, "One test and you can show something is fraudulent"? You should have said, "One test and you can show it's altered"?
A. (Mr LaPorte) I'll be careful on that, because there may be a test that shows that something is truly --
Q. There may be. I understand that. I understand.
A. (Mr LaPorte) It's been backdated; I don't know why it's been backdated, I guess.
Q. Then you also said that a master forger would have to do all of the signatures that we've been examining on the record for the signatures to be -- they all have to come together; in other words, all three of the signatures that we've been talking about would have to be performed by a master forger?
A. (Mr LaPorte) And they would have had to create those

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At the same time, I must say that it's 6.50. We have interpreters and court reporters -- we have no problem, we can stay here for very long and we are at your disposal, but we have other people who are supporting us who already have had a very long day and it may start being difficult for them to follow everything. So out of respect for them, we should try and keep it as short as it can be. But then I am not limiting you if you think you have questions that you need to ask now.
MR LIBSON: Thank you. I am going to ask some questions that arise out of the Tribunal's questions.
( 6.49 pm )
Further examination on behalf of Claimants
Q. You were asked about being able to show whether a document is genuine, and you said that's very difficult. We established that earlier today. And at one point in your answers this afternoon, you said: one test, and you can show something is fraudulent.

I thought that you and I had established this morning that one test and you can establish that something is altered, rather than fraudulent?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Correct. So "alteration" is the word that I should be using. But certainly if you do an indentation examination and you have an earlier-dated
documents without leaving any evidence of alterations.
Q. Why would one person --
A. (Mr LaPorte) So it's all of that together.
Q. Sorry. Why would there have to be one person who created all of the documents?
A. (Mr LaPorte) I guess you could get three master forgers, I don't know.
Q. Why do all the documents have to be forged?
A. (Mr LaPorte) Well, I'm not saying -- I'm saying: if they were forged, or all of them were forged or ... Anyway, our conclusion is based on looking at all of the evidence as a whole. We didn't find anything with respect to any individual document.
Q. You were asked to look at each of the documents separately, and you have no idea which of the documents is said to be a forgery?
A. (Mr LaPorte) I have no idea what the importance of those documents is, individually or together.
Q. So what's the relevance of saying that a master forger would have to have done all of the signatures for this Tribunal, in them determining the issues that are before them?
A. (Mr LaPorte) No, what I'm saying is there were a whole bunch of things that would have had to work out, right? They would have had to create the document --
Q. From where do you get that? In relation to each individual document. You are talking about all of the documents in question.
A. (Mr LaPorte) I was talking as a whole.
Q. But where do you get that from?
A. (Mr LaPorte) I was saying that if a document is fraudulent and somebody forges it --
Q. But why do all of the documents have to be fraudulent.
A. (Mr LaPorte) I was saying as a whole.
Q. They don't, thank you.

This is as much for the Tribunal as it is for Mr LaPorte. The documents that Professor van den Berg has put on the screen were in fact available in the universe of documents that were available to you. I don't say that you've seen them, because I understand you haven't. But on 18th September the parties were invited to identify the documents on the record containing the signatures in question, and actually Guinea identified these document as being on the record. Then under paragraph 9 of the terms of reference, you had access to the best available copies of all of the documents. I'm not saying that you've seen the documents, but that is the regime that was --
MR OSTROVE: I'm sorry, it seems like we're going into pleading rather than questioning. Is there a question

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A. I do.
Q. Is the top diagram supposed to be a reproduction of what
    Mr Radley had produced?
A. (Mr Welch) That's correct, yes.
Q. Okay. Can I ask you to keep that open -- could we have
    that on screen? -- and also have open Mr Radley's report
at page 59.
    To my eye, this is not a reproduction of this
    diagram. If I can explain that -- sorry.
A. (Mr LaPorte) We can't get it from his computer ...
    (Pause)
MR OSTROVE: While we're going there, if the point being
    made is that it's not a photocopy but rather
    a reconstruction, we would certainly concede the point
    that it's a new demonstrative, not a copy.
MR LIBSON: Mr Ostrove, how can you concede the point? It's
    not your demonstrative.
MR OSTROVE: I'm looking at it, and it's obviously not.
MR LIBSON: I'm asking the questions of Mr Welch, thank you.
    Mr Welch said it was a reproduction.
MR OSTROVE: And I would say it is a reproduction, yes.
MR LIBSON: So it's not a copy; you have reproduced it
        yourself?
A. (Mr Welch) That is correct.
Q. And it's not the same, is it?
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## about what the --

MR LIBSON: It goes to questions that Mr Daele was asking
before, but also to Professor van den Berg's questions,
which is that these weren't hidden from anyone; they
were available.
But you don't recall seeing them at all?
A. (Mr LaPorte) All I can say is I've never seen them. So
they may have been made available, but we've never seen
them. They weren't turned over to us.
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Mr Libson, on those two documents,
it struck me, because I had noticed that earlier, your
question 12 says that your client received them, and
subsequently was added the word "Forged".
MR LIBSON: Yes, they did.
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Right. So the word "Forged", the provenance is from the Claimants' side?

MR LIBSON: Exactly. Well, it goes to the factual pleading,
and we'll come to that.
My last question to Mr Welch. At slide 37 that you
produced today, responding to page 59 of Mr Radley's
report --
A. (Mr Welch) Slide what number, I'm sorry?
Q. 37.
A. (Mr Welch) Yes.
Q. Have you got that in front of you?
A. (Mr Welch) Hold on, let me see. (Pause)
Q. Shall we just look at one thing? I haven't looked at this closely, but if you would just look at one thing.
In the rectangle, the right-hand line that goes up on the right, goes just to the right, it touches the "U" in "Resources" in Mr Radley's report, and in your slide it goes almost to the -- sorry, in Mr Radley's report it's on the left of the "U", and in your reproduction it's on the right of the "U", for example.
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, that's correct.
Q. So it's not the same?
A. (Mr Welch) No. I did my best to overlay them in some imaging shot or software, to make sure it was absolutely the same size, and just the slight placement of it obviously is just a little bit off, correct.
Q. Well, it's quite a lot off, isn't it? Isn't the point of these things precision?
A. (Mr Welch) The point of this is: this same -- this blue turquoise box and this red turquoise box are the exact same size in my display, and you can see that the handwriting characteristics of the first five elements fit within that or very closely to that, to the questioned signature and to the known signature. So it's relative. It's relative. And that's going off Mr Radley's description.

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19:00 $1 \quad$ Q. But it's not a reproduction of Mr Radley's material, is it? It's not a good reproduction?
A. (Mr Welch) I think it's pretty close.
Q. And it's not Mr Radley's description either, is it?

Where is it in Mr Radley's description?
A. (Mr Welch) Paragraph 281:
"As a general point and one which is particularly related to issues previously raised, if one looks at the relative proportions of the height to width of the first five elements (as illustrated with the dotted turquoise lines) ..."
Q. Yes, as illustrated in his material, not in your box here?
A. (Mr Welch) That's correct. I created an illustration to illustrate what Mr Radley was saying from the documents in the annex, and you can clearly see that those five characters fit in that same amount of space relationally and proportionally.
MR LIBSON: Okay, thank you.
MR DAELE: Thank you. Can we go to your slide 9, please. We discussed for a while about the movement. I think you said that this was a new image.
A. (Mr Welch) I'm sorry, what kind of image?
Q. This is a new image that you created for this presentation?

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19:03 1 A. (Mr Welch) You will not find this image with the arrows and numbers in my report.
Q. Where will we find other analysis of the movement of the signature at R-24?
A. (Mr Welch) Will we find what?
Q. An analysis of the movement of R-24?
A. (Mr Welch) In the report?
Q. Yes, a narrative analysis of the movement of R-24.
A. (Mr Welch) You won't find an illustration, but it was in fact part of my examination --
Q. Where will we find narrative?
A. (Mr Welch) -- my examination process. You're not going to find a narrative in the report, no.
Q. So there's no information in the [final] report on the movement of the signature?
A. (Mr Welch) I'm sorry, maybe I'm misunderstanding. Are you asking me if I analysed the movement?
Q. I asked you: where in the record do we find the information on which this image is based, so the movement? In your final report, where do we find on the record information in relation to the movement of this particular signature?
A. (Mr Welch) You won't find the textual information spelt out in my report, but it absolutely was part of my examination process. And in that regard, in my opinion,

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19:02 1 A. (Mr Welch) Correct.
Q. So this image was not in your final report?
A. (Mr Welch) It was not in my final report, no.
Q. These flèches at the 9 and the 7 and the 3 and the 8 and so forth, indicating the movement, was that work in your final report?
A. (Mr Welch) It was part of my observations, absolutely, in the preparation of the final report.
Q. So can you show us in the final report where we will find this?
A. (Mr Welch) No, I did not put this illustration together in the report.
Q. And the work with the flèches, again the movement, where do we find in your final report your analysis of the movement?
A. (Mr Welch) It was part of my consideration in the examinations. There are a lot of things that I considered --
Q. Can you show us? Because under paragraph 19 again of the PO17 it was explicitly indicated that it should not contain information not in the record. So I'm asking for this -- and please don't interrupt.
MR OSTROVE: Please don't argue with the witness.
MR DAELE: Where on the record will we find the information that these flèches and the numbers indicate?
it's part of the report. And this particular image is from the annexes.
Q. Is it part of the record?

THE PRESIDENT: I think, Mr Daele, you got the answers to the questions. It is then for later if you wish to argue that it was not in the record; that's a different question. These gentlemen do not know everything that is in the record. They have told you what they have done.
MR DAELE: Can you tell us when this was done, when you analysed the movement?
A. (Mr Welch) Oh, I analysed the movement as soon as I looked at the signature.
Q. So why is it then not in your final report?
A. (Mr Welch) Again, I didn't -- every single minutia of detail is not in that report. In fact, that's probably the most exhaustive report insofar as information that's provided. This particular information didn't --
Q. Can you explain: it was not important enough to put in your final report, but it's important enough to put in a presentation to the Tribunal?
A. (Mr Welch) Okay, great question, fair question.

The Tribunal -- we're here today to communicate to them and show them clearly the substantial significance of the evidence. In that particular case, I put this
illustration together to show so that they can see the movement, the creation of the signature, the evidence that supports it, along with the fine detail in each one of these signatures for the individuals that I've identified.

So for the purposes of clarifying and presenting this before this honourable Tribunal today, I wanted to make sure that they were clear and understood everything.
Q. If we go to paragraph 88 of the final report, where you analyse the signature, you talk about:
'... the characteristics observed include height relations, proportions, spacial relations, hooks, tapered strokes, and retraces."
(Pause to locate the document)
You do not talk about movement; is that correct?
A. (Mr Welch) It's absolutely part of my examination process, is the movement.
Q. But you've not included it in your final report. Okay.
A. (Mr Welch) That's not true.
Q. Can you show it to me?
A. (Mr Welch) Every aspect of this relates to the movement: the height relations, the proportions, the spacial relations, the hooks, the tapered strokes, the retraces. I've gone over that today.

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19:09
A. (Mr Welch) No.

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Because I understand your answer to
paragraph 88 of your report, that you have the various elements for it. But what you don't see is the
sequencing of the formation, so where you start with 1
and you end up with $8--$ or 9 , actually. So what was
the reason that you then put it forward here in that
way, which we indeed do not see in paragraph 88 ?
A. (Mr Welch) Because I wanted to make sure that the

Tribunal clearly understood the significance of the formation of these particular signatures, along with the detail that it provides.
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Okay, thank you.
MR DAELE: Can we go to slide 16, please. This is a slide in which you analyse, if I'm correct, the length of the vertical strokes?
A. (Mr Welch) Correct, the proportion.
Q. Was that work that's included in the final report?
A. (Mr Welch) That was work that was conducted during the course of my examinations.
Q. Is it in the final report?
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, in the conclusions. It's based and embedded in the conclusions.
Q. Can you show me where we find it in the final report?
A. (Mr Welch) You're not going to find that wording in the

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Q. Yes, we spent ten minutes to analyse the movement of the signature. Where do we find this in your report? Why are you sure that 1 is 1 and 3 is 3 ?
THE PRESIDENT: I'm sorry, the expert has just answered that height relations, proportions, spacial relations, hooks, tapered strokes and retraces all are dealing with movement. You may disagree with that, but that is the answer which I have noted down.
MR DAELE: Your slide here talks about "formation of
signature". Where do we find your analysis of
formation?
A. (Mr Welch) I just expressed that in my last response.

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: May I ask the question differently,
Mr Daele, if you allow me?
MR DAELE: Of course.
PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: This is slide 9 you see on the screen, on which Mr Daele is asking you questions.
A. (Mr Welch) Correct.

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: In response to what did you prepare this slide?
A. (Mr Welch) In preparation for this hearing.

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: Yes, but was it in response to the Radley report?
A. (Mr Welch) No.

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: To something that you read?
report.
Q. We're not going to find that wording and we're not going to find that image. The red lines, the work that you have done here, we're not going to find it in the final report.
MR OSTROVE: Excuse me, Madam President. I have to say, first of all, Mr Daele had an opportunity at the beginning to object to -- and he started off by asking about aspects of the report that he considered were not on the record and were therefore a violation, under his interpretation, of paragraphs 19 and 20 of the [procedural order]. We questioned Mr Welch, and he introduced these slides into the record.

But now Mr Daele is going back on a different point. He's not asking follow-up questions about the analysis presented by Mr Welch; he's entering into a forensic test of trying to argue his point about whether or not these documents comply with paragraphs 19 and 20 of Procedural Order No. 17, which is something that can be done, I submit, in argument or in post-hearing briefs, and does not require going back to Mr Welch, reopening questions that were not discussed during our examination, but simply goes to a philosophical question about the nature of a demonstrative --
MR DAELE: It's not philosophical; it's based on what has

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19:12 1 been presented to the Tribunal. These red arrows
indicate work.
MR OSTROVE: If you listened to the end of my comment instead of interrupting me, you would have heard that I said: a philosophical question about what it means to have a demonstrative exhibit.

So Mr Welch has already testified that this was put
in the record in response to Mr Radley, and this is
a demonstrative exhibit. To start questioning him about
whether that was previously in the record, the arrows,
I think is a harassment of the witness for a forensic
point about your argument on paragraphs 19 and 20. And with respect, I don't think it's appropriate.
MR DAELE: I want to test, as 19 sets out, whether this is work, whether this is information that was on the record or not. So for each of the slides, I want to test whether this information was on the record or not. And we will see for each of these slides that the answer will be negative.
MR OSTROVE: And with respect, that can be argued, the information about --
MR DAELE: No, I want to hear it with evidence from the experts, now they are here.
THE PRESIDENT: I think I understood this to have been drawn up in response to Mr Radley's comments.

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19:15 1
there should be a trace in the report.
THE PRESIDENT: I understand when you say it was "considered in the report" that it was considered in the formation of your examination process, but you have not written down anything about it. If I misunderstand you, of course you will correct me.
A. (Mr Welch) Yes, so we go again to a similar comment on
the Asher Avidan, where I state:
"... reveal[s] ... fluency with good line quality,
pen pressure variation, hooks, and tapered strokes."
Again, I consider this part of my examination process in the report.
MR DAELE: Do you talk about formation in what you just read?
A. (Mr Welch) No.
Q. Okay, thank you.
A. (Mr Welch) But --
Q. So the same goes for the signature R-29?
A. (Mr Welch) Again, I'm just going to restate for the record that formation is absolutely part of the examination process and that is embedded into our report.
THE PRESIDENT: Excuse me. Is this slide responsive to Mr Radley's comments?
A. (Mr Welch) No.

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19:14 1 MR DAELE: We just heard about the previous slides: the answer was no.
THE PRESIDENT: No, I'm speaking about slide 16 now. I understood slide 9 to be different. We can argue about that one.
MR DAELE: Mm-hm.
THE PRESIDENT: So this was in response to Mr Radley's criticism.

We can do the same exercise with the other slides --
MR DAELE: Can we go to slide 41 then, please. This contains information about the formation of the signature on R-28, and I remember you said there are 19 movements. Is this information that was on the record?
A. (Mr Welch) This is part of my report and the examination process, yes.
Q. Was it on the record? Will we find narrative in your final report about the 19 movements of the signature?
A. (Mr Welch) You will not find the narrative, but it is absolutely part of my examination and considered in the report.
Q. Can you show us where it is considered?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the expert already said there is no narrative.
MR DAELE: But he said it's "considered in the report", so
slide 9 ?
A. (Mr Welch) Correct, to illustrate for the Tribunal.

MR DAELE: Can we go to slide 44, please. Do we find information on the record where you analyse the vertical similarity of signature R-28?
A. (Mr Welch) Again, this was evaluated in my examination process and is embedded into the report, and was considered during the examination process.

This particular image was put together after reading
Mr Radley's report to show that these characteristics
are similar with those habits of Mr Asher, or
Avidan Asher.
Q. Slide 46, the "Rounded Arc End Similarity"?
A. (Mr Welch) Same response.
Q. No, 46. (Pause) Is this also a slide that was prepared in response to Mr Radley?
A. (Mr Welch) Again, this would be the same response as my last.
Q. Slide 48, "Variations in Loop Sizes"?
A. (Mr Welch) Again, the response would be the same as the last.
Q. Slide 50, "L-Shaped element similarity"?
A. (Mr Welch) Response would be the same as the last.

PROFESSOR VAN DEN BERG: When you say the "Response would be

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## Mr Radley's --

A. (Mr Welch) Yes, sir, that's correct.

MR DAELE: Slide 53, the "Variation Exh[i]bited in Downstroke"?
A. (Mr Welch) The response would be the same as the last.
Q. Slide 55?
A. (Mr Welch) That response would also be the same as the last.
Q. Slide 57?
A. (Mr Welch) That response would be the same as the last also.
Q. Slide 28?
A. (Mr Welch) That response would be the same as the last.
Q. And 30?
A. (Mr Welch) That response would be the same as the last.
Q. 31?
A. (Mr Welch) That response would be the same as the last.
Q. 32 ?
A. (Mr Welch) That response would also be the same as the last.
Q. 35 ?
A. (Mr Welch) And that response would be the same as the last.
Q. And 37 we've already seen.

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admonition not to speak to anyone about your evidence as long as you're not released from testimony.
MR LAPORTE: And that includes each other too, correct? I'm just thinking if we're going to put together a summary statement -- I just want to understand the rules.
THE PRESIDENT: No, I understand the rule -- unless anyone has different views and wants to put them forward -- to be that you can speak among yourselves. What you cannot do is speak with third persons, whoever they are.
MR LAPORTE: Sure, okay.
MR WELCH: Yes.
THE PRESIDENT: About the case. You can order dinner, of course!

Tomorrow we will start with the Claimants' expert,
Mr Radley -- we have the timing here; I hope we can stick to that -- and then we hear the Respondent's experts. Thereafter, we may have concluding remarks from the experts. You will have listened to what the party experts will put forward tomorrow. We will see whether we have any additional final questions for you. And then we will have the closing statements, for which we also have a time indicated.

Is there any issue that we should address now?
I understand there's something on the Claimants' side.
MR LIBSON: As we come to the end of a very long day, for
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19:20 $1 \quad$ A. (Mr Welch) You've already done that.
MR DAELE: Okay, thank you very much. I have no further questions.
MR WELCH: You're welcome.
THE PRESIDENT: Would you just remind me what the answer was about 37 ?
A. (Mr Welch) That was in preparation after Mr Radley's report.
THE PRESIDENT: In response to Mr Radley?
A. (Mr Welch) Correct.

THE PRESIDENT: No further question, Mr Daele?
MR DAELE: No. Unless you insist!
THE PRESIDENT: Can I turn to Respondent. (Pause) Mr Ostrove, you have the floor.
MR OSTROVE: I might have some good news, which is: we have no further questions.
THE PRESIDENT: Good. So that leads us to the end of this. Any afterthoughts?
MR LIBSON: We do have an afterthought, which is not an afterthought, it's an issue about our preparations for tomorrow. Sorry, is that --
THE PRESIDENT: Yes, we're about to address this, absolutely.
So the experts remain available for their concluding remarks, which means that you're still under the
which we thank the Tribunal and everyone else for sitting late, we face exactly the issue that we identified in our email last night, which is that we are facing very significant prejudice by virtue of the introduction of new material, not only last night but during the course of today, as we just looked at. Some of that new material, as I mentioned this morning, comprises diagrams that we've looked at that we don't accept are properly presented.

Tomorrow Mr Radley has to give his presentation, based on material that he glanced at last night and heard live during the course of today, and he hasn't come prepared to do that. The presentation that he had prepared for tomorrow, which was addressed towards the final report in its entirety, now has to be radically reconsidered, based on the material that has come forward today.

So we have a problem about the way in which we are able to present Mr Radley tomorrow; certainly his written presentation that he wanted to make available overnight. I think, if he may, Mr Radley would like to just talk to you about what he is able to do in the limited time that is available.
THE PRESIDENT: Mr Radley?
MR RADLEY: Madam President, it's now very late in the

19:26 1 evening. As James said, I came prepared with 2 a presentation which is not appropriate now, in light of

19:30 $\quad 1$
what was presented last night. I haven't had the opportunity of collecting material that I could have done. I have able to get some material via the telephone with my office.

To be quite frank, to prepare a new presentation, especially bearing in mind the huge amount of new information that's been presented, I would normally ask for a day or two. It's now 7.30. There are going to be significant problems in me getting something down.

The only thing that I can think of is that -PowerPoint is lovely, you can do very pretty diagrams, but it is very time-consuming when you're looking at these diagrams and what have you. What I can possibly do is take the illustrations and hand-annotate them, and presumably we can get them copied.

Again, there are some references, there's one or two particular references which I have obtained this afternoon that again really would be better as a handout, I feel. It's not the sort of thing that I'm going to get on to a PowerPoint in any sort of time. And that is the only way that I feel I can really contribute. As I say, I am unable, obviously, to access my library. There's various quotations and what have
you put forward from a number of books. I am not in a position to extract from my library the quotations that I would like to, which obviously support my case.
From that point of view, as I say, I'm going to be very limited in what I can do tomorrow, and the only way that I can see it is by hand-annotation and hopefully getting enough copies, if we can organise copies to be taken.
THE PRESIDENT: There's no magic about PowerPoints. It's one technique; there are other techniques. So if you want to do annotations and hand them in, that's fine.
You have come here after having filed a report, and we are just interested, having now heard the Tribunal's experts comment on your report, in your reactions. That's what we want to hear. So I'm sure you can handle this very well.
MR RADLEY: Yes. There is nothing like an illustration: a picture speaks a thousand words. That I'm not going to able to do. I can obviously annotate copies, and if we can get those handed round and we can actually look at pieces of paper, that's the best way forward, I think, in the long run.
(The members of the Tribunal confer)
THE PRESIDENT: Maybe I should clarify one point, because you spoke of materials being introduced. What has been
introduced into the record are the slides that were referred to by the experts in answer to questions; all the others are not. The Secretary will circulate a list with the slides in a moment.

It also struck me, hearing your answers to the Claimants' counsel, that there are two slides that you prepared not in response to Mr Radley but just to better explain your train of thought in the report, but that are not in the report, and these are slides 9 and 41 . The Tribunal thinks that since they are not responsive and they were not contained in your report earlier on, we should not accept those into the record.

So, having said this, the Secretary will make a list of the slides that are effectively in the record. And I should also mention that the PDF presentation is not in the record. Of course the transcript is in the record, but that is not additional documentation. So we are clear on what the basis is, and what is in and what is out.
MR LIBSON: I mean, just in terms of timing, we're not going to have anything, realistically, until we turn up tomorrow.
THE PRESIDENT: That is a different question. I was just saying what we consider now from the PowerPoint slides of the Tribunal-appointed experts to be in the record,

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> and that is much less material than the full slide presentation.

Now, the rule was that you can give your presentation when you start speaking, unless it has demonstratives, which then should be given earlier; that is, the night before. But now we are already past the deadline. The same applies actually for the Respondent's experts.

When do you think you can exchange this between counsel?
MR LIBSON: Just tomorrow morning.
MR OSTROVE: I don't know if we're on the record or off the record for this.
THE PRESIDENT: We can do this off the record.
(7.33 pm)
(A discussion took place off the record)
( 7.37 pm )
THE PRESIDENT: So with respect to documents to be exchanged
before the hearing tomorrow, do we have an agreement?
And, if so, what is it?
MR LIBSON: The agreement from our side is that we will
bring whatever we are going to rely upon to this
building at 7.45 tomorrow to have it copied, and then we will distribute it thereafter.
THE PRESIDENT: Before the hearing?
19:37 1 MR LIBSON: Yes.

## THE PRESIDENT: Fine.

Have you heard what Mr Libson said?
MR OSTROVE: Yes, that's fine. We would of course like, if possible, if we have someone here at that time, to receive the copies right away at 7.45 , so we have some advance time to be prepared. The copies will be commencing at 7.45? That's fine.
THE PRESIDENT: You get the first copy, let's put it that way.
Fine. Is there anything else we should deal with now?
MR OSTROVE: We just wanted to put on the record an objection to the refusal to accept the demonstratives and presentations created by the experts, which we believe complied with Articles 19 and 20 of Procedural Order 17. We believe it's unfortunate for the Tribunal not to have the benefit of the full demonstrative exhibits.
THE PRESIDENT: Fine. Noted.
So I thank everyone for their cooperation. It was a very long day, but we did achieve what we had to achieve today. So now we can go to work and get some rest as well, to continue tomorrow.
Mr Welch, Mr LaPorte, thank you very much for your
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sense that we did not want the parties to be deprived [of] saying something else if they feel that they need to say something orally tomorrow to us. But the most pressing issue is certainly the one of the disqualification. And on all other matters there will be post-hearing briefs, a topic that we will have to discuss tomorrow at the end of the hearing.
Is it clear enough like this? So our main interest is disqualification, but if you think you need to speak about something else during these 45 minutes, then of course you are not barred from doing it. MR OSTROVE: Merci.

19:40 1
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THE PRESIDENT: Je vous en prie.
        Good evening to everyone.
(7.40 pm)
    (The hearing adjourned until 9.00 am the following day)
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As amended


[^0]:    A. (Mr Welch) Yes. Okay, in your question, regarding your last comment ...
    MR DAELE: Do you qualify Mr Radley as an expert who advocates for the party that has appointed him?
    A. (Mr Welch) No, the --

    THE PRESIDENT: Mr Welch has not answered the previous question in connection with handwriting.
    A. (Mr Welch) Yes. A properly trained and competent examiner? Yes, absolutely. Based on the thoroughness of our examination, all of the images, the high-resolution images that we provide, yes, absolutely, in my opinion a properly trained and competent forensic document examiner should come to the same or similar conclusion in this case.

    Dr Radley obviously, as you indicated, did not. Do I question his training and his competence? Absolutely not. But we stand by the statement that it's our feeling that a properly trained and competent examiner should have arrived at the same or a similar conclusion.
    MR DAELE: In paragraph 10 you raise what you call a "major concern", and that is that BSGR would inevitably have tainted its expert by providing three documents that had a mark on it saying "forged".
    A. (Mr LaPorte) Yes, we stand --
    Q. And you qualify that as "highly inappropriate", and you

