

Voice memos – Thiam’s iPhone - SM

(Someone is making a phone call. The conversion does not relate to the interview which follows).

Hello, how are you? ... Yes, yes, I'm waiting for my meeting. No, no, it wasn't good... The meeting with the person with the information... It was alright, alright... Oh, that's excellent. The weather's great, it's fantastic. I'm at the Setai... People are on the beach, they're in the water – it's great. Personally I think it's a bit cold for swimming... For most people, it's not a problem... what's new with you? ... (long silence). You're thinking of the open letter... I've not read it yet, but do you think it will have any impact? ... Yes, yes... No... Well, yes... But it's Sarkozy who's going to win from all this, Sarkozy is going to profit from all this, in my opinion. Hollande is destroying himself... That's right, that's what I'm saying, he's destroying himself and all Sarkozy's potential challengers are tearing each other apart. So, well, if he doesn't get too contaminated by this legal business... Could he really get in trouble with this legal thing? ... Ah, that's certain? ... But if the right go to François Dalle, if the Dalle camp starts talking, it will lead all the way back to Chirac. He's (Dalle) dead, but what if the political establishment had forced her to divorce... They gave him the shares that they had put aside during the Cosmay sale and in the deal with Nestlé (?) and once she got them, they took them away from her they left him with something like the equivalent of €60 or 70 million and they took the rest and they got divorced, and she has become persona non grata everywhere. They've even blocked her from the gym club in the Ritz where she used to go. Geneviève Dalle, she's there and she, she's not one to hold back her thoughts. If they find her she might not speak to them, because she's borderline extreme right, but... hmm? No, but she knows about the whole thing. I'm telling you, the networks, etc... the borderline extreme right connections, Nazis etc. Yes, yes, exactly. The political club, how the examining magistrates met up at François Dalle's place, and were told how to rule on such and such a case etc. She could tell all that.

Listen, I think... I've got 11 pages in Word. Once it's formatted and cut down, etc., I guess it will be the equivalent of... three to four pages. Listen... So, if she does a discount from 10,000 to €8,500...

(Talking to a person who has arrived) How are you? No, no, not at all. Even if she does a discount, if she goes from €10,000 to €8,500 per page, it won't be more than four pages... OK, plus the 10, exactly. Listen, I'll call you right back – my meeting's starting here, I'll call you back. OK, thanks.

How are you, Minister? Are you well?

How do you do?

Excuse me, I'm late.

No, it doesn't... It's Sunday...

It's Sunday. I've not been here long and... my daughter...

Where have you come from?

In short...

Your family is here?

My daughter often comes to see me here, because she's in Gabon with her mother, and she makes the trip when she can.

Oh, yes? OK... It's not practical, it's via Paris then.

It's via Paris. Because often we meet in Paris, half way, and as its holidays, and it was the weekend, a long weekend.

How old is she?

Uh, she's nine. A little girl, my only daughter.

She's the same age as my youngest daughter, in fact.

Indeed!

My youngest is nine – I've got one who's 12 and one who's 14.

Oh, congratulations! You're in the lead.

The difficult ages are starting.

Oh, yes, they're the difficult ages... No, well, it's very good. I'm very happy you came, thanks very much indeed, it's very kind...

My pleasure!

It's very kind.

It was a real surprise – I said to myself, well... And such a coincidence – I'm never in Miami, or only rarely.

Indeed, indeed.

And after we spoke, a friend of mine from Kazakhstan called me, and said that he is in Miami and that he wanted to see me too to talk about a matter. I said, "That's perfect!".

Quite! So, you came just at the right time. It's wonderful.

Well, it should have...

No, it was the right time. No, I... the general has been... has had very good things to say about you and, well, it's someone with whom I've always had very good relations

and he said to me: "OK, the time will come." Because I went to see him, I said to him: "I think that the minister has misinformed you about me." He said to me: "No, no, because you are a very calm person, very zen, I've never been worried. Because I said to myself: "It's with them that Samy is going to...". He said: "They must have mislead the minister". Then, I spoke about it with Barrau, who is truly my... my brother, and then, he introduced us very quickly to someone...

Yes...

And then that didn't work out, because we were running around. And unfortunately, when I called you the last time in New York, I was still running around, and there were two or three things for my office in South Africa and, I think, it wasn't the right time yet.

Indeed. They told me a lot of things... Nothing concrete... But...

I can imagine! We are notorious now (*laughs*)!

But yes, one or two times someone said to me, "Look, there is a certain Samy Thiam who is looking for information about you." Then my secretary called me and said, "There is a Mr Samuel Thiam... who has asked me to give him information about you and was going to give you some money."

Unbelievable!

I said to him: "Listen, give him what you've got, I've never tried"

It's incredible!

I said to him: "Given that he has nothing to hide, give him everything."

It's unbelievable. Unbelievable ... It's unbelievable, because the person who I knew, who always told me good things about you, is your former secretary."

Mrs Marc.

Mrs Marc. And we had a very good relationship. There was some confusion on the phone and she called me a short time ago. I said to her: "I need some information about Lamine, in the next few days". And she said to me... On the phone, I can't say "Lamine", I said "about your boss". And she even asked me, "The old boss or the current one?" I said, "No, not the old one, the current one – it's him I have a problem with." And then, unfortunately, there was a mix-up. She called me back... [Oh thank you very much, thanks, thanks, thanks] She called me back and when you told me, we were still on the phone. I said to her discretely: "Have you not made a mistake?" She said to me, "We need to meet. There are lots of things to say." Ok, it's not serious; no, I was... Minister, as you can imagine, I've had a lots of problems with them, and it's Lamine who I'm trying to... I was very angry with Lamine, because I've given them a lot of support, as you can imagine, I've given them a lot of support and, uh... to give you a quick briefing on the background; I knew Alpha during the elections.

OK.

He has been, to me...

Between the two rounds or before?

Before the two rounds. Before the two rounds.

OK. I'm going to interrupt... because I also want to explain to you...

You're also going to give me a bit of background, yes?

Very briefly, very quickly, we met because... Can I please have (unintelligible), please-- there is a buffet.

There is a buffet. Would you like a drink?

Can I get uh, a mojito, I'll have a mojito. Virgin mojito

Iced tea for me, and sweetner, no?

And sweetner

And [unintelligible] on the side

The buffet as well? Yeah?

We'll "brunch" and come back? Very good, OK. Don't forget your phone. OK? I've left mine behind.

(Long silence).

I feel guilty. I'm supposed to be on a diet, but I couldn't resist.

(Laughs). With me, it's the same thing. But today, it's Sunday – it's OK to cheat a bit.

I think I'm going to cheat a bit. Maybe I'll go swimming later to work it off – no problem.

You need to make the most of it.

Anyway, bon appétit.

Thanks. Same to you.

So, it was before... during... before the second round.

I met him before the second round. He approached South African friends of mine in the ANC (African National Congress).

Tokyo, no? Or via?

No, he didn't know Tokyo yet.

Or Ivor and...?

No, he didn't know Ivor either in the beginning. In the beginning, he approached a... a former banker, a former CEO at UBS World Bank in South Africa, who is the nephew of the vice-president of the country, Kgalema Motlanthe, and, as they were people I'd worked with for a long time, they said to me: "OK, listen, Samuel, come with us, we want to "debrief" someone who wants to run in some elections in Africa." And it was there, in Paris, that I met him – he was with his son and Bouba Sampil. So I was there more as an observer, and then he turned up. It made me laugh, by the way, because I said to the South African I was with: "Don't you know this important man?" He came from a long way away – from the US actually, from Warser Horse [sic]; I don't know if you know roughly what period I mean... at one point, he was in Warser House before the first round; he had been staying in the US... [Thanks...do you have chopsticks ?Yeah.. Merci..avec plaisir]

So, he was "debriefed" about his ambitions etc., and then, at the end of the meeting, he asked his son, he said to him: "Listen, I would really like to work with that young boy... He's a French speaker, but I'm interested in him, he seems interesting etc." That made me happy. I said to the "South African": "That man is a historic member of the opposition, he's a major figure in Africa." So, I was very honoured, and that's how we got to know each other ... We really got on well. A good old man, as you see – it's someone who knows how to sweet talk you from the start.

He knows how to charm.

He knows how to charm. So, we started working together and then I, I... He invited me to his place, to eat with his son. We really strengthened our connections. I gave him some bits of advice; he said to me: "OK, listen, this is my position, this is my position; you, you are a younger brother, you've been working with these people a long time, this is my position."

I said to him: "Listen, Mr President, me, I... As far as I know, your opponent... he is very well placed with the French. And so I would advise you to move closer to South Africa, as a counterweight, because otherwise it's hard to see how you are going to do it, given what I'm seeing and hearing." He said to me, "OK, listen, I trust you, but how can I get there?" I said to him, "Me – I'll take you to South Africa." It was as simple as that. We're going to introduce you to some important people, but all the same try to get strong political support because the other one, he's got everything sewn up." He put his faith in me, I took him there, I introduced him to the important people, in particular the vice-president, the Muslim president, etc. and then, from the start, he wanted to bypass me. Three weeks later, he returned on his own with his son without telling me. Of course I was informed by my friends, who said to me: "Listen, do you...?" I'm really annoyed with this man because he is going back and doesn't want to tell me. I said, "OK, in Africa, it's common, it doesn't matter." He came and that's when the whole thing started. He's going to come, he's going to meet the secret services, me, I've been "briefed" and I knew the people very well. They were informed at the highest level that it was necessary to continue to brief me, because it was me who brought the package the first time, and then, bluntly, like

that... It came to the elections. The first round went by: the Waymark affair. Waymark turned up, did his work, and when he got down to business, found that the coffers were more or less empty etc. You know the situation better than I do, apparently. In any case, we weren't on the government side, so we didn't see what he saw, but he let us know that the coffers were empty, that he found empty coffers, a country bled dry etc., that he needed help. We said: "Listen, we all suffered during the campaign. We supported you, we're not going to stop now, half way, we're going to carry on with you." And we continued to support him: logistical support, it was necessary for him to move around and he had no plane, everyone knew – as you know, we helped them; me, I went even further. Often, the Lamines needed to travel, they didn't have money, it was like that, we really helped them, supported them. And he said to me: "Listen, you have experience in the mining sector, that's what did in South Africa for over ten years. Try to give me advice when you can; I'll put you in touch with Lamine, who's going to be my Minister of Mining. He introduced me before he appointed him. So, he appointed Lamine; he's a good Minister of Mining: "I want you to work together". No problem. The adventure begins. And then, just like that he, he gives me my first case... What's it called?... BLGR... There was a little limited committee where we looked with him at the important things. His financial requirements became increasingly large as we went on. And it was then that he asked us for the famous loan of 25 – officially, but can you imagine that it was much, much more. So, in general, I am very open with you - it's much, much more. But it was necessary to put down something official.

It was necessary to disguise it, yes.

It was necessary to disguise it, dress it up. We said to him, "We can help you, but in full accordance with the law, because we don't want to find ourselves caught up tomorrow in a complex situation". And that wasn't a euphemism, what we said to him – we couldn't even imagine what was going to happen – and we said to him, "When we help you with a little logistical issue like that, costs of travelling around, it's nothing. It's very significant, already, but all the same, it's better... We, our aim, is that he doesn't have to act like an amateur; it's better to reinforce the existing structures; because it's necessary to help you to help yourself; you can't stay on an intravenous drip until you go with the PPTE or a [inaudible]. We recommend that you improve Soguiipami's resources. So, it's up to you to create it, because it's your vision." And then he said, "But create it, what with? I have no money" "Yes, but we will help you logistically, we will help you as a partner: as a partner, we have the right to do that." We advised him, we didn't just go and lend him money. And as the sums of money got bigger and bigger, it was necessary to create a legal framework. We said: "Create Soguiipami, we'll give Soguiipami a legal status like a partner. And from then on, as Soguiipami develops, we can work, and the work, in partnership, will develop opportunities for everyone to win. We are business men." He said that he agreed. So we made the loan, we signed the loan to Soguiipami, you know the story, and so, I was authorised to sign and make the transfer. After that, most strangely, he changed. Once he had taken the money, at the second he received the loan, he changed. I told him that President Zuma wanted to see him, two weeks after the loan went into his account. I said to President Zuma: "Listen, so, we gave him something to work with. The money for Soguiipami – you've read the contract, Minister – there are very specific clauses that say "In any case, within 90 days, the funds have to be

paid to Soguijami, because it was such a rush when we created Soguijami on paper...

... It didn't have any accounts.

... It didn't have any accounts, the accounts weren't submitted etc., the managers weren't nominated etc." So, we made the loan anyway to a suspense account, and demanded of him that within 90 days the funds be paid to Soguijami. Two weeks after the transfer, President Zuma said to me: "OK, listen bring him to meet me, because we need to talk – first visit to South Africa – about work." I took him there. He didn't even give me permission to attend the meeting. OK. OK, I understand: President Zuma received me confidentially five minutes before receiving him and said to me: "OK, what's going on? Because you asked to see me." ... I said: "The old man didn't want me to sit in on the meeting; I think it's his son who... who's starting to get aggressive with me, who's getting more and more insecure about my presence and everything I set up, and plenty of people are advising the son to start to push me out." The president said: "OK, listen, there is no problem, stay calm, don't react, just watch. OK, they're going to arrive, you'll see." I left the president's office ten minutes later, the green light was given and the entourage arrived. He was received. When he came out, he said to me, "Samy - *I'm saying my first name* – before you leave – *because I was going to Turkey, I don't know if you remember, I was going to Turkey right afterwards* – while you're in Turkey, I'm staying here, but it's necessary that..." "The loan went through three weeks earlier, now we are working with our friends on the next stages. Now, that's not just the transfer, it's necessary to work now. It's necessary to set up Soguijami. Because for us, that's what interests us – work." He said to me: "No. You need to tell your friends not to come to Conakry. I don't want them to come anymore until you hear otherwise." And he started to... He said to me: "No, I don't want them to come – just because they've done everything it doesn't mean they can impose a timetable on me". I said to him: "There is no timetable, Mr President; there is a project which has been put in place with your... with your administration; there is some follow-up work; the loan was just the first stage in a process."

He didn't want to know anything; he said to me: "Out of the question – it's me who will call them." We still haven't been called to Conakry. So, for a year now, I've been wearing myself out; I came to see him. I said. "But, Mr President, we're not going to look like serious people. And it's my credibility on the line, it's me who pushed, pushed, pushed for us to help. Because it's not good, Mr President; it's not good for your image either. Don't do it." "No, but Samy, they told me that Tokyo is an enemy of Zuma, so..." I said, "But Mr President, it's internal South African politics – don't get mixed up in it – that's my advice to you. Don't get mixed up in South African internal politics." "I asked – me – I asked President Zuma, before the contract, I said to him: "Mr President, this is where the money comes from, and you know it very well. Shall we do it or not?" Because all those who were close to Zuma didn't want to give a loan to Alpha.

So Zuma knew that it was Tokyo making the loan?

Zuma knew; it was me who told him that one-on-one. I said to him: "Mr President, about the people you sent me to – Motsepe and all that lot – it's necessary to be very careful; I'm telling you calmly; we've heard bad things about Alpha, and we aren't lending". I said to him: "Listen, Mr President, they don't want to lend; your friends don't want to lend. The only one who is ready to take the risk is Tokyo. Tokyo, yes, yes, he is, he is." So I said, "He is ready to run the risk and he trusts me". So, Zuma said, "OK...". But I said: "But I want to be careful. Do you authorise us to borrow from Tokyo?" I was with his daughter.

With Zuma's daughter?

Zuma's. He said. "Give it to him." OK. When he said "Give it to him", I said to the others: "It's OK. You can lend." Once Alpha had got it, he politicised it by saying: "It's someone who's probably a political adversary of Zuma; I'm not giving him any work." So he acted a crook. OK. So, for a year I lobbied with him, with everyone, and the son giving me hell all the while, saying: "No, no, Samy, no, you're going to make too much."

"You're going to..." what? Make too much?

"...Make too much." He says: "Papa, you're not a business man. When you signed the agreement - you didn't read it, you didn't read it. We sat at the table for five hours. Around November, we went to South Africa, around June, the loan went through – around May, June – we went to South Africa around June, July – I was so tired after the campaign, etc., around the month of July I said: "Mr President, I'm going to take some time off with my family; I've not seen my daughter since December, because with the campaign I'm always in Conakry with you, but I have to go and recover. I have to see my daughter, so I have to go to Miami and take some time off." It was July 18th, before the assassination attempt. I dined with him the day before; the next morning, I left for Paris, for Paris then Spain, I saw my... my South African partners in Ibiza, Shaik Walter. I said to Walter: "Listen, I've seen the president. Let's give him until... September. I think... Let's not panic. Let's let him set up Soguipami. It's summer, everyone's going to rest. Let's meet again in September, I'll get things moving again. I'm going to go to Miami, I'm going to spend some time with my daughter and we'll meet up again in September." I was in Ibiza. At four in the morning, Sunday night, the phone rang, they told me that his house was under fire. You can imagine the reaction of my partners: "Samy, what are they doing there? They're about to kill him."
I was put off balance.

Lots of people say it was a set-up...

Lots of people say it was faked...

Me, I want to take our company's first plane to get back. He said to me: "No," – I was on the phone – "and you can't even talk to me on the phone where I am, because it's all locked down around me, they're setting up a cordon." "So, go and have a rest." We said goodbye: "In any case, the situation is under control, we'll meet up in September." I left for Miami, he left for China in September, you remember...

Yes, yes.

I was in Miami, my telephone rang, he rang me from his place: "Hello, Samy? It's the president." "Oh, Mr President? How are you?" "Yes, listen. I am in China, it's going very well, we need to meet in the month of ... once I'm back in Conakry." "No problem, Mr President". I went to see him, we talked about it again, but each time, he made me wait. "Tell them I'm going to call them. But first I'll finish my mining law, my due diligence", he said. "I'm going to do my due diligence and you tell them to come after". "OK. Anyway..." To make a long story short [in English in original] – that lasted until December... December, January, February. It didn't stop. And he didn't confirm to us that the money was in the Soguijami account. Because now he had nominated Condé, he had nominated everyone. We said to him, "But Mr President, we have done everything. Send us confirmation that the money has been transferred to Soguijami." He didn't want to give it to us because of that: he couldn't prove it to us. So, around November, I... February, March... The general introduced me to Cissé, Cissé the... officer.

His aide-de-camp?

President Condé's: Dubréka. The one who married the ex-wife of President Condé: Mamadi. He married Mamadi. After, they had a baby not long ago.

OK.

He introduced me to Condé, he introduced me to Cissé, and he said to me, "OK, with all the problems you've got with the old man, make connections with him, that can help you." "Oh, General..." "He said to me, "No, trust me, it can help you." I got in touch with Cissé, Cissé was in Jacksonville, I went to see him, he came to see me at home, really, he's a little brother, he's younger than me.

Mamadi, that's the one who was Condé's fourth or fifth wife, no?

Exactly.

OK.

And now, she is with his bodyguard – former bodyguard – they're together. They live in Jacksonville. I said, "What a coincidence!". I invited them to Miami, she came to see me, he opened up a bit to me about BSGR (Benny Steinmetz Resources Group). OK. Then, when he came here, I treated him well, he's my little brother, I let him drive the cars, he came to the house, he enjoyed himself, he did as he pleased. And then one morning, he came to me, he opened up to me. He said: "Listen, Sam, really, you are a nice brother, and everything, OK... I've got some thing that could interest you, I've got a file on BSGR; perhaps it could help you, you never know. We talked, and in the end he gave me a copy of the file, and I think that those who are behind BSGR found out and got worried – got worried that Cissé had given me a copy of the file. And my partner – who is like my brother, Walter – I gave a copy of the file to him too. I said to him: "Walter, here's a copy of the file, perhaps it could be leverage, you never know, one day, but we won't publish it. We're not going to get caught up in their business. Keep it as insurance, you never know. He kept it and he met Asher two or three times.

Who? Walter?

Walter. He met Asher, they talked, they talked about how to find a strategy to get out of this dead end. Because we too are at a dead end. In the end, they didn't get along and BSGR sent me a delegation to Miami with a certain Frédéric, who came to see me in Miami. "Listen, Samy, we know that you have some very interesting things that could help us, because we know that Condé is making life hard for you too, and let's try to put what we have together to fight back. But he was very clumsy. Instead of telling me in a diplomatic way, he started by bad mouthing my partner – he started by attacking Walter with insults, saying: "Look, he came to see Asher..."

This Frédéric, is he French?

Yes. He's French – one of their emissaries apparently.

OK.

He came with Cissé. Me, I said: "No, you want to talk to me. Me, I started the conversation. The proof, it's that, in Miami, we're talking. You can't start by attacking my partner. Me, I don't work like that. My friends, they're my friends." So, it ended badly – we didn't even discuss at all what we wanted to discuss. I said: "Listen, me, I don't talk to people who attack my friends. So, it's better that we stop here. So that was that.

Was he really sent by DSGR [sic] ?Because..

No idea.

Because I've asked the question – the whole episode with Mamadi etc., it was two years before I arrived in Guinea.

Okay.

So, when I arrived, when Rio approached me about the file, they mentioned Condé's third, fourth, fifth wife etc., and so in the investigation that I've carried out to find out exactly what happened, we went through all that.

Yes.

And the explanation that BSGR gave us is that there is a group which was there before them. It's to them that they sold on the deal or the permit or whatever.

Pentler.

And... that's Frédéric, that one?

No idea.

Because they say that Frédéric belonged to a group...

From before.

... who they bought out, basically.

OK.

And that, well, *they have nothing else to do with him* [in English in original]. So, it interests me to know if it's them who sent him. Because if that is the case, it means that the connections are still there, contrary to what they say.

Yes. Because – you see, it's very interesting – I've never had time to carry out due diligence on Frédéric. We've got two or three files on him now, but at that time, I had nothing at all and we trusted Cissé who led me to him. And he proposed forming an alliance with me in relation to that which I might have against the president, to save them, and then told me how such a service could be paid back. I've never met Asher or anyone else. But Walter has met Asher. And when Walter met Asher, I never took part in the meetings. We were compartmentalised like that, Walter and me. When he saw Asher I didn't go, and when they opened the door to Frédéric, he said to me, "You, you go." So, if you like, I... But they were coordinated.

Who and who? Frédéric and...

...Asher.

OK.

They always knew what Walter had said to...

To Frédéric?

To Asher. Frédéric knew everything we had said to Asher in London in our offices. So I understood that they were connected and that the company – in my opinion, as far as I can tell – is called Pentler: Pentler Holdings Limited. It's the company that started to... to negotiate with... with Mamadi.

OK.

And then afterwards, Mamadi thought it was better to negotiate directly with BSGR. And they signed contracts directly with Pentler. They signed a lease with BSGR. They were very clumsy.

They signed with Pentler and BSGR.

... and BSGR, which are the documents that I have – that we have; so, it's very clumsy, I think, because, now, it's... it's... the document has made the rounds.

Sorry?

Because the document is now making the rounds. That is to say, Mamadi, as you can imagine, is not an organised business woman.

And what was her deal? They used her as a lobbyist, they paid her, do they have a previous dispute between them and Mamadi?

In my opinion, and according to the documents I have, Mamadi acted as a lobbyist for them...

OK.

... with President Condé. She was successful – Prime Minister Piaté left. Two days after, they signed. And they had commitments to her.

OK.

Because it's written in black and white.

OK.

They didn't respect the commitments and when Dadis came to power, they really treated the woman, really...

They pushed her aside?

They really... They treated that woman badly, they pushed her aside, they signed with... with Vale, they didn't worry about her, so, it's very clumsy, because that would have been the minimum.

OK.

They did the strict minimum for her, that is, she was living in Jacksonville, I assumed that's where they set her up, but compared to the contribution... her contribution, she felt very cheated. She felt cheated.

Asher tells me he has never seen Mamadi.

Well, that's very possible.[No thank you, I'm good with water, thanks] It's very possible, but what she says is that when Dadis arrived, she fled to Sierra Leone with Cissé's help and his aide-de-camp. And, once in Sierra Leone, they came to ask her for a kind of diktat to sign a sort of contract renouncing all the agreements. I've got that document too. OK, she refused to sign and, in my opinion, contrary to what she says, she tells me that her relationship with Asher deteriorated a lot at that point, because it was Asher who put the pressure on by saying – she had 5% of the deal, of everything that happened under the conditions she provided; it's written in black and

white, it's signed by Asher himself incidentally. And they didn't agree, she didn't want to renounce, and then, in the end, distressed as she was, she ended up giving in. She signed a sort of agreement that was completely ridiculous, because it was too extreme, in which she renounced everything. They told her, by the way, that if there are any legal proceedings, she agrees to take the blame for them – a document which is unusable – she renounces, and then, it's hazy and she's in the United States. And there is a kind of advance that they are meant to pay her every two years, when she should get \$5 million. So now she's in the US but even there, I think the machine is still working against her.

If it's him, it's worse – he is even more frustrated because, all in all, according to him, he has only received \$5000 and a second-hand pickup truck. I think they were very clumsy at that point.

They had a deal with him too.

They had a deal with him too, because he was the middle man between her and them. Later, he told me that he brought his uncle into the circle – who I'm sure you know, is a candidate for president.

Kassory Fofana?

Fofana, exactly.

So, it's Kassory. It's Cissé who... Kassory, he's a very good friend. I can check that with him: he's a very close friend.

That's what I've been told.

So, with him, I can easily... But anyway, all that, for me, it's minor.

It's minor, yes.

It's the BSGR business.

It's the BSGR business, but it's important all the same. I want to tell you, today, is that my actual work – but you will find this out – it's in the background, talking about us, or, in any case, talking about me.

I've worked in South Africa for 12 years. My father is a former prime minister, I didn't want to choose that path at all. I've always wanted to make my own way, it's my nature. I was brought up by a cop who was too strict and I think something was broken inside. And I had lots of opportunities in South Africa; I made my whole career in the mining, oil sector and my role was to introduce South African companies to central Africa, west Africa. It went well – we had luck in some places, less in others, but all in all it went well. We made a bit of money, that's the point, and networks too, good relations. And in the end, in the 12 years of my career, there were never any leaks. We worked for the bosses, we knew how to work for the bosses, we never disappointed anyone. Silvain Noutindaye, who you know well, your old Central African counterpart, in the majority of mining ministries (Chad, Niger), really, they're

my big brothers. I contributed there, I helped out, they helped us too in return, and there were never – never – any problems. The real problem, it's in Conakry, because we have never not kept our word with anyone. Unfortunately, Alpha – well, you could say it's a big swindle.

He did that to everyone.

He did that to everyone, we learnt that later. He did it with the Arabs, he did everywhere. We've understood, but the problem is that, as you know, companies like ours always have political impact. We were talking about Tokyo just now – Tokyo, for me, is more than a father, he's the person who gave me my first chance when I was in Gabon and who said to me: "Listen, you are young, you have potential, come and work for me." And he launched me. And he said to me, "If you don't work for me, you're close to me." And we stayed very close. Today, he was ordered to the Presidency, as you know, five years ago, he's still there this year. Motlanthe, I've known him since he was secretary-general of the ANC. Today, he's more or less...

Motlanthe, that's the father of Saadi.

I don't know his children at all.

He has a daughter who used to go out with Patrice Motsepe.

Okay!

In any case, he fell madly in love with her, and, the idiot, she broke off her medical studies to be Patrice's mistress.

Well! Patrice's! Well, well, well!

I've never understood it. A very pretty girl, by the way... Anyway...

OK. I don't know his children.

He's an old doctor.

But he's the interim president, who is the current vice-president. The current vice-president of the Republic.

Indeed. He is old.

No, Motlanthe? Fifty, sixty. He was after Mbeki. It was him who took on the vice-presidency for a year. He's the former secretary-general of the ANC. I knew him when he was secretary-general and now, he's... After being the interim president, Zuma kept him as vice-president.

OK.

And now, he's the main challenger for the next presidential election – presidential – for the ANC for 16 to 20.

Zuma isn't running.

Zuma is running. It's very... it's very close.

But they are going to try anyway?

They are the vice-presidents of Challenge. So, it's something... it's something very very complicated, but it's all going to have consequences. .

But Tokyo is running too.

Tokyo is running too, but Tokyo wants to try a sort of alliance, you see.. he wants to try to form an alliance against Zuma; that's what they call the "forces of change". So, the change, in South Africa, goes via Tokyo and Motlanthe, and Machoussossa presumably should reach Mahawo Phosa - Irani too, the treasurer of the ANC.

Machoussossa [see note above], the friend of Ivor.

So, if you like, it's possible that things are changing in South Africa. It will have dramatic consequences for the situation in Conkary, as I told the president a year ago. I said: "Don't put all your eggs in one basket, because if Zuma is not reelected, with all the scandals, they are going to make life very hard for you, I know them. So, don't get mixed up in internal politics." He didn't listen to me, that's his problem. Now, today, he has a total lack of respect for the vice-president, because, as a matter of interest, when I took him to South Africa, I took him to see Vice-President Motlanthe, who gave him the honour of receiving him at home with his son. It's five in the afternoon, the very day he arrived, and the vice-president said to him: "There's no problem, Samy told us that you're one of our brothers, like the others who came before you." We're trying to see how we can talk to him. And then we left for his hotel and he said to me, "OK, Samy, I... I've used another contact to meet the president". I said to him: "But we'll never get any higher than the vice-president of the Republic. It's not worth it." And he said: "No, but as it's already 19:00, I doubt we'll see Zuma this evening. I said to him, "But we're in South Africa, Mr President. We're not in a country like ours! Here, to see the president of the Republic, it's not..."

There is a protocol.

There is a protocol, and then, attention: "We're in South Africa. If you see him tomorrow, they'll be doing you a great honour!" And he said to me, "No, I've called Samy Maroun in Beirut. And Samy Maroun, via his friend, had really good relations with Boris Ivanov - from Gazprom, you remember? - the friend of Mamoun. Boris Ivanov is going to find a way for me to see Zuma this evening. I said: "Mr President, this is a mistake! Because even if you see President Zuma this evening, you're going to annoy the vice-president. It's so amateurish! I said, "Mr President, it's not like that... you should have told me; you should have talked to me about it; I am very embarrassed, because the vice-president - I'm really being unfair on him". He said to me, "No, don't worry. Anyway, the person who's coming to get us is coming in 20 minutes." And his son, who was with me the whole day - well, not the whole day; the whole evening after the vice-president - who hadn't said anything to me, of course,

was very embarrassed because he hadn't said anything to me, and it was the father who, in the end, went around him by giving me the information he had, apparently, decided not to give to me. He said to me: "The person is arriving in 20 minutes". "So, in that case I'm going home because my duties are completed – I'm going." He said to me: "No, no, no! You're not going, you're coming with me!" I said to him, "OK, listen, I don't know." He said, "No, no, no! Really, I insist; Samy, you are coming with me, we're going to see Zuma together." That was how he took me to Zuma. I made sure, nevertheless, to warn my friends, saying: "OK, he told me to go with him, but that's what's happening." He said to me, "No, Samy, go with him; go, so we can keep a foot in the... in the machine. Go there and don't show any feeling. Don't show that you're annoyed, don't say anything at all; leave it like that." And that's how... To explain to you... From the start, he bypassed Motlanthe. He cheated Tokyo with the \$25 million thing... So, there, you can imagine what they thought of him. And by chance – God does things well – these two who he bypassed have joined together for the presidency. But between you and me, Minister, even if Zuma is reelected, he will be in tatters. And things won't stop there. OK. He'll be obliged, as you can imagine, to compromise with this "task force."

So, to get back to the information I wanted to pass on to you, contrary to what a lot of people think, Alpha didn't know the Tokyo group before the election. In fact, he didn't know them until around February.

After being elected.

After being elected. It was a one-man show. It was Samy Mesbiens who was in contact with him. And I tried to put him in touch with my friends, my network. But until February, March 2011, he didn't know any of them, none of them... Until we went to Ndaba, where we met. It was from Ndaba on that I brought my friends back into the game. You could say that... I've explained this, by the way, to Seloud Alain, I said: "All consequences resulting from you saying, thinking that it was repayments of election debts... it's got nothing to do with it – really, I'm telling you sincerely - absolutely nothing to do with it." Alpha had very complicated campaign financing, very difficult – you know better than I do.

Yes, I helped him to raise a lot of money.

You helped him to raise a lot of money. He said in my presence: "Your friend and brother Kassory helped."

Incidentally, that created some strain between Kassory and me, because, if it hadn't been for Kassory's insistence, I would never have shaken Alpha's hand in a crowd. I was in Burkina when, in 1998, when he convinced Blaise to finance his coup in 1998 to remove Condé, I was there when Salif Diallo organised all that, and I was there when they decided at the last minute to withdraw their support because:

1. He talks too much,
2. He betrays everyone who's helped him.

He betrays systematically.

The French got them to listen to the tapes where he tells everyone the plan, on the tapes and he names the officers from the French services, the Burkinabes, the Sierra Leoneans, the Liberians etc., and the Guineans... He named everyone.

Very clumsy.

And the French said to the Burkinabes: "Let's drop him."

Finished.

He's not reliable [in English in original]. And I was there when they... It was where he was arrested, because they went back to Guinea, thinking that the machine was in place. But the machine had been dismantled by the Burkinabes. He arrived, he tried to make two or three contacts, he didn't get any response; he said to himself, "This isn't working." He tried to cross the border; they caught him. So, when Condé had him arrested in 1998, it was no laughing matter. Condé knew, but couldn't prove, that he had had a coup in place and that the coup had failed. It didn't fail because... really, it was just cancelled.

It was subdued, yes.

So, since then, I've known him. And for me, shaking his hand, it wasn't... And it's Kassory who forced me to... to shake his hand the first time, during the campaign or between the two rounds in Conakry. Then, it was Kassory who convinced me to support him financially, and for me, in my mind, it's not him I supported. I said to myself, "My friend has agreed to be in a coalition with him; in my view, it's my friend who I am providing protection to." Beyond my contribution of my own funds which I had transferred to him, I had exactly the same amount deposited between the two rounds, when it was from my own pocket, but later, when everyone (the General, Touré, all the soldiers) came to see me to say to me: "OK, for reasons of the stability of the army, we are going to support him", I provided my support. And it was at a time when it really wasn't working for me anymore— and that's thanks to that idiot Lamine, by the way — that I had \$2.3 million paid to him on two occasions.. No, \$3 or \$4 million a time.

Quite, I knew about it. I knew because, through the General, through Fofana, who... and also Ansouman.... General Fofana Ansouman.

The one with white hair.

With the white hair. Who, by the way, said some very nice things about you to me, because I remember, at the time, I think it was to do with arranging a meeting for me with the professor. For you, it was a question of reconciliation and making your contribution as an advisor. And it's true, the Fofanas encouraged that by saying: "It's essential that Thiam be on the team." And finally, he said to them: "Yes, yes, yes, yes...".

Fofana is a hypocrite, and I'll tell you why. Fofana... Alpha didn't want to make him a minister.

OK. Not Fofana the minister then?

The other Fofana.

... Ansuman, who spoke to me about your being made an advisor etc.

It's me who went to see him. I saw Alpha between the two rounds. I saw him in top secret, around 1 o'clock in the morning in one of the most scummy neighbourhoods of Conakry. It was awfull Even between the two rounds, in the house of one of his friends etc. And we spoke, and he asked me if I wanted to stay. I said to him: "I can't". I had promised my family to stay 6 months, 12 months maximum; I'd done 24 months, I wanted to leave. I said: "I'm ready to advise you from a distance, but I can't go back into your cabinet: I can't remain your advisor as an official advisor." But I said "However, Fofana, who's here" – and Fofana was in the next room, he was letting me speak, he had been with us and he left to let me speak – "is up to date with all the files I've worked on while being Minister of Mining. I've involved him, he's up to date – I suggest you take him an Minister of Mining." And his response was: "I don't accept recommendations for ministerial posts, but this time I will make an exception." He promised me he would take him, and I told Fofana.

Three or four weeks later, like he always does, he decided to break his word. He abandoned Fofana. His deal with Kassory was that Kassory would help him win. And that either Kassory would take on the main role or that Kassory would appoint the prime minister. And here again he committed a betrayal. When Kassory raised his voice, he was worried about losing all of Lower Guinea, he asked Kassory, two of his advisors (Fofana, and I don't know who the other was), to sit down, to choose a prime minister, and he would accept it. And I took part in that meeting, in the same package that Kassory recommended to current prime minister, they insist that, they speak up on behalf of Fofana. That's how I saved Fofana.

I see. You continued to support Fofana's candidacy.

And when he was elected, and when he appointed his government, he was slow to nominate my replacement. And I learnt later that all that was to keep me.

Hmm. Okay!

One day, I went to see him to say to him: "Listen, you're delaying. Let me hand over – I'm going." Fofana was there with two of his advisors, and he said to me, jokingly: "Oh, I never told you to be a minister; it's your problem; now, you're staying – wait." And he laughed. And we sat down, read the paper, and it was that evening that he appointed Fofana. When that was done, he laughed, everyone got up to congratulate Fofana. He said to Fofana: "Listen, you two – no nepotism." Fofana, who turned out to – excuse my language – no balls whatsoever, Fofana took that as a threat.

Clearly.

And I felt in Fofana's body language that he was withdrawing from me.

From hearing that phrase, he was very scared.

He was very scared. And, while we carried on talking about different issues, Alpha launched into a completely incoherent project. And I said to myself: "Well, it's up to his new Minister of Mining to react."

Of course.

And I saw Fofana agree totally.

Already, he was starting to...

I said, "we're screwed" The day of the handover between Fofana and me, I went with Fofana into his office. He said: "Listen, if you have any advice for me, give it, but after, I'd prefer us to keep our distance because people have told the president a lot of things against you and against me: it would be better for us not to be seen together. I said: "Listen, Fofana, I recommended you as minister, because I think that you have kept on top of all the issues. I deliberately involved you, so you know exactly what's going on; I don't have any advice for you. You know what needs to be done." That was the last time I spoke to Fofana.

Unbelievable... I remember that period very well. There was indeed a gap, because, at the last minute, people thought that Fofana wasn't going to be appointed; I remember that period very well.

Kassory and I lobbied intensively to have Fofana reinstated. But in the end, what you need to remember about this chap is that what he did to you, he did to everyone.

Yes.

All those who helped him, the people who fed him when he had nothing. Blaise Campaoré...

Yes, I've heard that

Other heads of state, businessmen, all those who supported him – he stabbed them all in the back. I don't know whether it's his communist past or his nature, but it's as if it's to show that he doesn't owe anything to anyone. And he behaves worse to those who have helped him than to those who haven't done anything for him.

That's what we've learnt, at our expense – that's what you can't understand afterwards.

And you mustn't expect him to see the light and come round.

No, no, no... That is, it's two years on... It's because one doesn't want to get into a fight with an African head of state. One needs to take a different approach: it's me who advises the group I'm working with. I said: "Let's not get into a fight with an African head of state. We've lost money, we've lost a lot of time, because we should have done it differently. I've met President Issoufou, who told me: "But Samy, come to me, we can work... ". OK, I said: "Now, we're caught up in this mess; I can't

involve the group any more. In another project, it's the first time this has happened to us."

It needs to be dealt with.

The first thing is to deal with it. They won't want to take action elsewhere.

And it can be dealt with.

It can be dealt with. Me, the things I've seen... I'm telling you very clearly, I've not told the group about my visiting you – it's totally on a personal level, and it's on the advice of the General, and I see him as he's told you. Because that's how I work with them, too. You know, our "white brothers" don't always understand our internal dealings; they understand later, but they don't have our culture; so, they don't understand, when they have an idea about us, they can be really stubborn. Because they have an idea... For them, Thaim, he's a block, and for now, it's not moving. Alpha – he's a block, and for now, it's not moving. But in our African culture, there are a lot of subtleties. During the period of the elections, for example, as I told you, Alpha asked the South African intelligence services not to involve me in the implementation part of Waymark. Incidentally, he saved my life by doing that, without knowing it. He and his son betrayed me; in fact, what they did – you will understand the closeness to Sampil better – it was Sampil who, after I introduced them in South Africa, took them to South Africa three weeks later, via a friend of his from Sable, their company.

Sable Mining, there.

Yes, exactly, or... with his English friends there.

With a Guinean friend or an English friend?

With an English friend called Hine and, you could say, Hine, he's a former officer in the South African intelligence services – who I know well – we've never got on particularly well, by the way – and Hine presented him to the boss of the South African secret service, who's called Moe Shaik, the brother of Schabir Shaik who almost got Zuma sent to prison the first time. It's an important detail, because history repeated itself. He got in contact with Moe Shalik, the head of the service, they met in Pretoria. It was the trip when he went to see Blaise Compaoré. He went down with Dalein and they met at Blaise's place to say: "Good, everyone has to accept those who are..." And what Alpha didn't know was that I went with him to the airport that day, with his friend Bourgi. I know he's going to South Africa and who he's going to meet there. He didn't know I knew. I was informed directly by the headquarters. And I said to him, "Mr President, do you know?" He said, "Yes, I've got meetings with certain people who have something to do with security." "You know, Mr President, in South Africa, there aren't two security services, there's only one." He said, "Oh yes, Samy, but OK, you know, I... you are... since I saw President Zuma, I've asked him about certain things in your presence, and it hasn't gone anywhere since then. So, I've been using some different contacts, but OK..." I said to him: "OK, listen, there's no problem, but the advice I'm giving you is that there are not two security services." So, he listens to me, he listens to me without listening to me, but I already sense his son is very opposed, doesn't want me to be at the meeting. I knew why later – it was

because, now, the Bouba network had been put in place. I said to him: "There is no problem; if you want, I will wait for you, and if you want, I can meet you in South Africa." He said: "No, but meet me all the same, even if you don't attend my meetings with friends who have invited me; be around, we might need you, you never know." I said to him, "No problem." The next morning, I take the Air France flight, and he says to me: "Call me on my son Mohammed's phone." I call his son, who no longer answers the phone. I understood that they had tried to get rid of me. And the office calls me; they say to me: "Have you managed to talk to him?" I said to them, "Yes, he asked me to follow him, but since they landed in Burkina, they've got a special plane that's going to take them to South Africa, at such and such a time tomorrow and the meeting is happening in such and such a place in Pretoria with the big boss of the secret services. So, you need to be there. We've made a decision: we're going to show him that this is not how we work. It was you who brought in the Guinea case and we're going to show him that we are very tight. So you will be at the table where we're going to say: "No, really, don't do this again." OK. We've got this little surprise for him. I take Air France, I arrive there; from the time I land – it's a Saturday morning – I make contact with my office; they say to me, "Go straight to Pretoria, to such and such a place; the meeting's happening there." That's what I did, and I arrive in front of the building where the meeting's being held. Alpha is already inside with his son and everyone else. And I wait to be given the signal to go in. And my phone rings; they say to me, "No, actually, take the driver again; you're going to Jo'burg and you'll stay there on stand-by. No problem, I leave. And the next day, Alpha calls me – it was a Sunday – and he says to me: "Listen, my meetings have gone very well with all my friends, I've seen a lot of people and everything, lets meet in Mol. I'm going to go shopping, you come and find me and also call Nandi, Zuma's niece, who was introduced the first time. So, I go to find him, he doesn't talk about anything, we talk about everything and nothing, except what he's done. Us to, we don't ask any questions, and then, in the evening, he takes his flight, he goes to Mossé, but he and his son sensed that I was very cold – I was deliberately cold to them - and he said to me, "Yes, but it's you who has coordinated badly with your brother Alpha, with "Papa"; really, get yourselves organised." He "threw out the baby" : he "passed the buck" just like that. I say: "No, Mr President, there's no problem." (*They order coffees in English from the waiter; the latter interrupts the conversation.* (Tu veux un cafe, quelquechose ? Oui je prends le (unintelligible) vanilla ice cream, I'll get a vanilla ice cream. Vanilla ice cream, Ok Vanilla ice cream can you get that ? Let me check that yes yes, (laughs) and you ? An espresso for me, single.) So, he starts letting it all out about his son: "Oh, no, you're badly organised." I said to him: "Mr President, there is no problem. You shouldn't have sent me to Paris, for example. I played the game." He said: "No, but..." So, what happened is that they had this meeting, which was the meeting where Waymark was introduced, and everything has been put in place now. Me, I was briefed, but I was no longer operational, I was there more in a personal capacity. So, the machine was set in motion, the agents were sent to Conakry, they did what they did, and then a friend called me very clearly afterward from the service in charge to say to me, "Samy, he's lost." I was shocked. Really, I was shocked, because I knew that Dalein was strong, but all the same, I said to myself, "The rainbow coalition, all of this was behind him, and..."

We lobbied to make him win. I lost.

I was shocked. He lost and my friends called me to say, "We've got the true results, he lost, we've been obliged to... We've touched it up, that's all, that's it." So, that's it, the thing is over, that's it. It was me who went to get President Zuma at his request for the inauguration He sent me, he said to me: "Go and beg for mercy from Zuma, tell him to come here." I was operational again. And in particular from the start of the campaign until that famous month of June, when the loan... I was the only person who was an intermediary between Zuma and him. He didn't even want his son to know what was being said there. And then, he said to me for the inauguration "Go and find President Zuma; tell him that I really want him to be there." It's an interesting anecdote, no? I go to find President Zuma. (Waiter : mojitos ? No I'm fine, I'll keep it, I'll keep my mojito, thank you.) I say to him, "OK, Mr President, he wants you to come." He said to me, "No, I can't go there, I'm very busy, but anyway tell him that the mission has been accomplished. So, we'll meet in a few months. We'll organise a visit here or at his place."

I left President Zuma's place. It must have been about 11pm. I took him back to go to Jo'burg. He called me, because my phone was off during the meeting, of course. He said, "Samy, but what happened?" I said to him, "He can't come." He went into a rage: "He can't come? But why not? etc. "No, he can't come, he's got Dos Santos arriving." "No, no, no, go back there." I said to him, "But Mr President, you can't go back again like that to President Zuma! No way – it's 11 at night!" He said to me: "No, no, go back. You have to come." I swear to you, I dug into my own pockets, I said to Zuma's niece, who's called Nandi: "Nandi, what can we do? You were there and saw it for yourself, you're with me in the car." She said, "Samy, there is only one person who can help you – his private secretary, but in the office, not at home" – because I've never seen Zuma in the office, always at home. She said: "His office's private secretary is very powerful. She's called Sydney Cotta. "You get on well with her?" "She can change the schedule – at least, his schedule – she can find a way. But she is very, very expensive. I said to her, "Listen, if it's too much – *and I know why he wants to do it – because of France, because of lots of people – I paid \$5000 out of my own pocket. Honestly, I've never claimed it back and I've never told him this story – I'm telling you...* the next morning, at 9 o'clock, she called me, she said: "She says it's OK; the old man's coming to the inauguration." That's how Zuma came to the inauguration. I've never told him this, I've never claimed the money back. It's to explain to you that I really tried to help out. And he's never found out about the Waymark business either. And then, we said, in our strategy, "We're not going to attack, we're going to ask him to resolve the problem amicably." "Look, Mr President, we don't need a lot of money. The 25, it's..."

There is no "amicable". You should know that: there is no "amicable".

We only understand that now, only today, you see, Minister.

One question – in parentheses – for the 25, there is at least an official record... on that. Because he claims to have repaid the 25.

He paid them back.

OK. But how are you planning to get the rest back?

I can't get it back. That is, I mean, that's when it will... that's why I'm talking to you about your background in central Africa. Me, I'm a bit too cautious for our South African friends. I'm credible and I try my best to find a deal. As I told you, in 12 years we've never had a boss betray us. You know our bosses? They are proud people. The majority of them are people with pride. And our African countries are so rich – you know better than anyone: you've been deep underground – there is always some way to find the money, always. But I do not understand Alpha. Guinea is so rich!

One mustn't... one mustn't use logic. It's his nature: he is by nature stingy, vindictive and he betrays people: it's his nature.

That's what we took a long time to understand.

1. If you don't understand that, you can't deal with him.
2. He does not respond to reason.

He is not rational at all.

He needs to be cornered.

Quite. That's right.

He's a coward. Confront him...

He's a big mouth.

He made a mistake... One day, he went on national TV – it's a long time ago, now – and he lost his temper and he said that I made the wrong decision about the railway, civil, passenger and light goods, and he asked me if I loved my country. The next day, I heard and I called him. I said to him, "Apparently you went on national TV and questioned my patriotism." He said, "No, I never said that." It was national TV: the whole country heard him.

It was public.

He said, "I never said that." I said to him, "But..." He said, "No, I've never even spoken on TV." I said, "OK, listen, you and I, we've got a disagreement about a technical decision, about a project. I think that my present choice is better than yours. It's you, the president, who decided not to go with my choice. We have a technical disagreement. The next time that you question my patriotism or my ethics, I will tell you in public, I will respond in public." He said, "No, no, no, I didn't do that; I even told you at the start that I didn't have any problem with you, etc.; so, we'll leave it at that." He's a coward.

He's a big mouth, he really is!

And that's how you have to deal with him.

That is, I agree with you Minister, I've tried to delay the confrontation as long as possible. I said to myself, "OK, we're going to try everything." I've seen the General... Regarding the General, I understood very quickly that his leverage with Alpha was...

...weak?

Zero. Nowadays, it's zero. I promise you, zero. I tried myself to put a strategy in place to re-establish the General and they stopped me dead, in the most violent manner – it's one of the major problems I have with Alpha. When he arrived, I saw that, with the General, there were some quarrels. I quickly understood that he had some dodgy business, broken promises, things like that. Ansouman took me to see the General in Paris. The General said to me, "Samy, look where I live, look where I am. I am in a place. Do you think it's normal for me to live in a hotel like this after what I've done?". He opened up to me, he spoke to me and it made me so sad – I still had Alpha's ear – I said to him, "OK, listen, I'm going to go and see the President, General: we'll get this dealt with immediately." If he doesn't want to do it, we can deal with the problem." I saw Alpha and I said to the General, who was really very cheered up "General, I think there is only one person who can help you – Zuma." Because he idolised Zuma... it was very early on, around February, two months after he'd won. "You have to go and see Zuma and the problem can be dealt with... around twenty million, later, you, a bit more or a bit less, the problem can be dealt with." He started to give, but he gave sparingly; I'm a witness, after all.

That's deliberate.

To keep him in check, to neutralise him, as you know.

Exactly.

I said, "What he's doing is classic. He doesn't want you to be independent, he wants to keep hold of you, but that has to be dealt with. So, if you will permit me, I will talk about it to President Zuma, and then he can mediate between the two, because it's not good to have you in this mood." He said to me, "Honestly, I'm counting on you, do what you can." I said to him, "If Zuma calls you to go and meet him, will you come?" He said to me, "No problem." "Have you ever met him?" "He said to me, "Never, we don't know each other at all." OK. I start the operation, I talk to Zuma. Zuma says to me, "Samy, there's a problem that needs to be dealt with straight away because it's a serious problem. Because this man, he's not just anyone. I know he has friends in high places, especially in the United States. Look, he's really... It's someone to look after, to keep in reserve – he needs to be cared for." "OK." So, I leave and I say to Alpha that I would like to see the General and that it is important that he resolve his problem with the General... It was brotherly advice I have him. I go to see Alpha, I talk to him about it. He goes into a rage. With his son it was even worse. "No, Samy, you are crazy."

They don't want the contact to be made.

They don't. I'll tell you now: he's never seen him.

The General's never seen Zuma?

Never. They stopped me dead. The son said to me: "Samy, you are crazy. How could you say that to Zuma?" These two wanted, moreover, to bring about a break between Zuma and me. I was never to speak to him again in their name etc.: "You should not have said to him..." I said to him: "But it's not a matter of saying something to him or not saying something; it's him who sent me to tell the General; it's a favour that I'm doing you by discussing it with you. Because Zuma wants me to talk to you too" "Anyway, OK, but you shouldn't have, you shouldn't have". "OK". And Zuma had already put logistics in place for us; they'd even sent a plane. Look – I spent \$800,000 OK? for a plane that the General was meant to take and in the end had to cancel, but it was already paid. Alpha said, "No way, cancel everything." "Too bad for you, OK. I'll cancel everything." So you can see. They blocked it. I saw the problem very clearly already. And then, to get back to what I was telling you, I said to the General, "General, we're going to try to sort it out amicably." He said to me, "If you like. Do as you wish." The whole time, despite, the Palladino scandal - incidentally, who let all that slip, the Palladino scandal? It was BSGR – that's what I talked to you about that at the start.

I've spoken to the BSGR people about this Palladino scandal, and myself.

I don't know who, over there...

Myself, in the Palladino scandal, I've reached the conclusion, regarding Alpha:

1. That the country will continue in poverty as long as he is in power – that's clear;

That's clear.

2. Or that he will end up by re-establishing a dictatorship like that of Sékou Touré or by creating a civil war for us.

I have no doubt on this issue – I've seen three heads of state, who have told me that he has asked them for arms and men in preparation for a civil war. He sent Soros to the Emir of Abu Dhabi and among the things Soros asked for on his behalf, he asked him for arms saying that there's an opposition party from a different ethnic group – and this is Soros speaking - who control at least 45 to 50 percent of the population, and that if these people get the upper hand there will be a civil war. So, he's preparing for a civil war.

It's unbelievable!

He is preparing to destabilise the Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone and Senegal. That's part of his ambitions and if it goes badly for him. So I'm convinced that this man has to be got rid of. And, when the Palladino scandal came out, I was one of those saying that it's the way to fight back, we need to...

...put pressure on him.

All weapons need to be used.

I understand, I understand very well... It's very clear.

And then, as for this Palladino scandal – I don't know how Tokyo etc. have taken it – the strategy, it was the pilot? It was necessary to render him unacceptable or unapproachable to all his allies. It was necessary for Tokyo to reject him...

For the investors.

... It was necessary for Soros to reject him, it was necessary for Blair to reject him, it was necessary to drag them into the scandal.

I understand very, very well.

(Seeing a woman he recognises).

That's Rula Jebreal, no?

You've just told me, but I don't know who it is.

It's a young woman who's of Palestinian origin. There's even a film about her. She's a major journalist, now, on Italian TV.

Right.

She's very much an activist.

Right, OK.

So, the point...

That's it, the strategy.

... Anyway, in my opinion, Waymark was a tool.

I understand.

Now, if the truth about Waymark comes out, he will fall; there are in fact two Waymark files:

- there is the presidential elections file
- there is the current file.

That's a good point. It's easy to take the Palladino name out of the equation, honestly. For me, Palladino is a victim.

Yes, you've understood that today, of course.

He made promises... No, but I know him...

There are hundreds of Palladinos.

Yes, exactly. At the same time that he was making promises to Palladino, he was making them to everyone.

To everyone.

The assets and what he gave to Palladino...

He did it with Sassou, he did it with Angola... He promised 1 to 2% of Sogupami to everyone, that's the strategy. And then the assets in Sogupami, he promised them to the Chinese.

Exactly.

He promised them to the AIOG (African Iron Ore Group Limited) group. He promised them at the same time to Abu Dhabi.

Saying, "Give me advances, I'll put you in". He took advances from everyone.

And me, if I was Tokyo, etc., honestly my strategy would be that everybody who has an interest in getting rid of this guy join forces. The Palladino-Sogupami deal was set up in a hurry. Otherwise, there was nothing wrong with what is, in essence ... Concerning the Sougipami deal, in fact, why did he think of Sougipami, in fact? Because Lamine and the others told him that my first strategy, when I arrived, was to create something like Sougipami. I would never have called it Sougipami, because the name is unsellable. A national natural resources company.

Of course – a national natural resources company.

I was in Qatar. The deputy prime minister of Qatar, who was at the time the Minister of Industry, and I had an agreement. I structured the thing, I put the maximum amount of assets into it...

... into it...

... into it, and they gave \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion for 15 to 20% of the company.

... of the holding.

I left Doha , it was September 28th 2009 – the Park incidents.

Yes.

And that's what broke the negotiations between Qatar and us. So, the intentions were good. And it's easy to restart. If the amount committed by Palladino was about \$25 million, it's easy to set up a consortium today where the people behind Palladino – I won't use Palladino as.... – take back the share they wanted to have in it.

I understand very well, of course.

It's logical. I'll tell you something good: whoever comes to power after Alpha will have enormous influence over him, I will personally have enormous influence over him. Among the groups today who want to get rid of him, whether democratically or by force, there isn't one who isn't trying to get my support.

I understand.

So... And they feel at ease with me: I have no political ambition.

I understand very well.

Moreover, I will die before I set foot in Guinea again and take part in a government. So, he doesn't feel threatened, and on the other hand, he thinks he needs my help. I don't know why, but he thinks he needs it.

That's very good...

So, as I've said before, I've nothing against Tokyo. On the contrary, he's someone I admire. I've never even met him...

I understand.

... I've nothing against him, but it might as well be him as Blair, or Soros, if it's necessary to put a name into the mix to get rid of Alpha – all's fair in love and war. And now, it's war. Me, I write a paper almost every two to three weeks that I publish there and, each time, they almost have a heart attack. And the next one I publish is going to kill him. And all that, it's to push him, to expose him, to make him completely unacceptable.

We need to... we need to push him. You've read the situation very well. Today, the most effective case against Alpha is Waymark, because, from a distance, it puts into question his whole legitimacy. It's something we've kept under wraps a long time, you understand, simply because in my strategy, I've favoured dialogue, and we've come to understand that with him no dialogue is possible; he's someone who, like many others, only understands pressure.

Exactly

And so, it's really to get onto the same page as you. Today, I've made the decision, I've told the group by saying, "I'm moving up a gear. We no longer have a choice. Because there's no question for us of going into 2013 with this issue. In December, it will have been two years; for us, it's no longer acceptable."

And I'll tell you something else, Samy: between you and me, by the end of the year, he could be gone.

It could be that he's no longer there, hmm...

If this issue isn't dealt with with the help of the group before he falls, the group won't have anyone to talk to.

It's clear – it gives the impression that he's been protected right to the end.

Exactly.

I'm definitely going to introduce you to someone; it's someone who could play a role. He's really my right-hand man. He's been a friend of the family for 35 years and, in fact, at some point, I may need you to send some information, and it's the only person I would use: I really want to introduce you to him. I've put him on stand by and he'll call me, here, just to know if he can meet us.

I'm going to the toilet...

Please...

(The Minister retires, among other things to make a phone call)

End of meeting

The speaker finishes one telephone conversation and re-joins the person with whom he is meeting.

So, I think that we are now ready and I see things in a certain way, that is to say the Waymark file, I think this is the file we should run with now.

(The conversation is interrupted by a telephone call).

IT'S OK, it doesn't matter

It's the file we should run with and

The Waymark file, I, if, I had it to hand it could be explosive. In the meantime, the French parliament wants to launch a parliamentary inquiry. The French law wants to use the relationship between Hollande and Alpha...

(Another telephone call in English by someone called Farouk interrupts the conversation, and then another which concerns the second speaker)

(Second speaker's telephone call) Uncle- the sound of your voice- tell me you have news... with whom? Listen, I'm just finishing a meeting, I'll call you back. OK, speak to you later, thanks.

No, there's no news. You were saying you have the necessary contacts

I said that:

1. The French parliament is waiting. The examining magistrate is on the case of the goods wrongfully acquired in France... who is waiting for certain things. The British parliament is waiting. Certain *congressmen* and American senators are waiting. Everyone is waiting, because they think that the promises, the hope they put into Alpha, in putting him through as the first president truly elected democratically in Guinea etc., was betrayed by Alpha, and that he's in the process of wasting all of the resources they put into this. So, with a file like Waymark, they will bring him down.

That's for certain; it's explosive.

2. The opposition will use it to get him out.

To get him out, yes. They're going to rally in the streets. Here, they have the tool they were missing.

Exactly. So, for me, with the Waymark file in my hands, it's the end of the man, that's for sure.

I'm sure, I'm sure. That's why I'm being really careful; how we can imagine this file since... forever; I'm going to be very very clear. If I asked what you have just told me up until now, it's because I'm prepared to talk about this information with you, but I want you to help me too.

OK.

In other words I'll get the file to you, I'll introduce you to someone, it's really my man ... He's been a friend of my father's for 35 years, he's always helped us here, he works for my father here. And seeing as my father is old- he's 80 years old today- he's someone who stayed working with me, he's an old friend of the family, for 40 years.

OK.

And I'll get the file to you through this person.

OK.

In the file you will have -- it's very precise - dates of the meetings, the places meetings were held with the Intelligence Service, and the icing on the cake, you will also have the names of the South Africans who took part. It's explosive, because, as you can imagine, it will have double the repercussions, because Zuma will also take a big hit. I'll tell you straight away: our relationship with Zuma has deteriorated significantly because he betrayed us as well. He betrayed us because he gave the green light for helping Alpha, we helped him, and as soon as we had done so he used us to neutralise Tokyo and the others. Now, today, he is in a situation that is very, very, very complicated in South Africa, and is fighting us as well so that he doesn't get through, very clearly. And even if he did get through, by some miracle, he has, he also has files which his enemies will...

... put into action...

... publish by saying, even with a miracle, he gets through, he's cheating everywhere, and he did this while in power. Like when he was vice-president: there's such compelling stuff against him that

It will destabilise him.

Oh no! He has to compromise with the others

I don't know if you have been following a little bit the writing of South African journalist [David Lisson].

Yes, euh...where he says that Zuma is...

David is a *serial attacker*.

OK.

For the moment, he thinks that, with Palladino, he can besmirch Tokyo.

OK.

It's easy to redirect him towards Zuma.

... to redirect him... But that's a great thing! He's a friend of yours.

He's not a friend, but we're using him.

You know each other. Good, I understand.

He uses me, I use him...

Very well...

We have a mutual friend; we've never met, but...

You have a mutual friend and you are able to work together...

And so I said to him: "Listen you're wasting your time with Palladino, Tokyo etc., it's like one single drop of water in the ocean; this is the source of the problem." And I can tell you that, between now and the elections, each week, he'll put out something about Zuma for you.

It's very important.

If Tokyo wants to weaken Zuma, we can put the *business D* machine...

... also in place...

... in place, it'll be non-stop Zuma.

That's to say that this is very important because, effectively, the strategy rests on all of the communication. If you already have the connections, we also have connections in Africa.

The *Financial Times*, Tom Burgies]... There too...

The *Financial Times*... OK. It can... That's to say that the *Financial Times*, I put out feelers a bit to sound them out, by saying that, if ever we had to put out a case like this or like that... "Yes, but we have... We must have the sources." I didn't insist too much. I didn't want to make myself too obvious, but they wanted to have sources, they wanted to have... I didn't give them everything. I didn't give them the agents' names, for example; that's very, very serious. Because, as you well know, the case could be published saying: "this is what happened."

Yes, but they wouldn't publish it like that. .

They wouldn't publish it like that. If you publish the affair by saying "There was a meeting on such and such a date, in such and such a place... this person was there..." That is explosive... Because, in particular, we're quoting the head of the service: Moe, his agents, Zuma's niece who was an intermediary, and then that were two meetings around which everything is focussed:

- The first with Zuma, with witnesses— four eye-witnesses- i.e. his niece, me, his father and his son. His father? He would never kill his father. And his niece, I spoke to her yesterday on the phone, she's also very worked up like Zuma, because they let her go, as it were...

- during the meeting, the famous [Hine?], who was a friend of Bouba Sampli: they also let him go.

So, he is also worked up.

He also came to Walter and I and, in the documents I have, he even gave a statement to Walter, off the record, where he said "There you have it... it's such a faux pas affair; Waymark, in fact, is a 'phony' thing. No money has even been paid to Waymark; the 14 million were paid to the Intelligence Service. As for Zuma, the South Africans are going to love the side... the story, because his problems started with Schabir Shaik and they'll end with Moe Shaik.

... who is the brother or the son.

... who's the brother: it's his actual brother. So you see it's a perfect scenario! It's the younger brother who's doing time so that Zuma doesn't have to go to prison himself, and in the end it's the older brother who finishes off by receiving the 14 million. And I'll go further: we went to South Africa to meet the Waymark directors. And then we said "Listen, we have everything... Here..." And they went as far as offering us, saying "Listen, use us. Make Alpha believe that for legal reasons they have us. In fact, we'll put through your men" "We can't do this anymore" That tells you how far they're caught up.

Wait... I think that perhaps it could be difficult to obtain, but there is a document... The raw data from the election that shows he hadn't won.

You know these machines, everything is negotiable, and in reality, we have another approach. In other words we don't say what we're going to ask them: "Give us this give us that." It's the impact, the sharp intake of breath that comes after the bomb has been detonated. This is what will happen so that the law becomes interested... Everything comes out, since we have everything. But without the things we have we are very aware of the fact that no one can launch the file. Because as soon as you put it in the papers, especially the South-African press- where the election will be held in a few weeks- you're saying that there is 14 M\$ still in commercial strategy by including the names of Blair, [Sow House?], the advisors at [Alpha Condé?]; it will sell! 14 M\$ were paid to the South-African government who repaid Waymark. And this money, the Guinean Minister for the Interior made a statement with the date- I have it exactly- by saying "The kits were free." A lot of people knew it. Alpha himself took it up. So, why, during the presidential campaign isn't alpha a candidate himself? He's encouraging his country to remove the Sadema. Allegedly that South Africa is giving free kits to the sum of 14 M\$, and today, he is president. Five months later, a transfer from Guinea is made to the Intelligence Service for 14 M\$. What's going on? Where did the money go? As soon as we say, this your connections in the South African press, and the world over and ours are going to explode saying 'We want to know exactly where the money went' Minister, you understand my positions as well ;

as soon as this box is opened, its over: they both fall... Because, as soon as we inspect the computers, you will find all of the conversations between Papa and the agents, the meetings- there will be investigations – the South African opposition will demand there to be an investigation. Agents will be interrogated, since we have their names, even the son of the president, perhaps cited in South Africa, he will have to come to South Africa to explain, because at Waymark, they only have one representative, it's Mohamed Condé: he's the only one, I can tell you!

Even Bouba Sampil didn't [come?]...

But Bouba never intervened. That's because the father and son restricted this file so much! They used Bouba to present it...

... to the point where people in Guinea even thought, you know, that Mohamed Condé worked for Waymark.

Yes, they're completely mistaken! I read that a lot. He never worked for Waymark. They used Bouba to present them to Moe Shaik, because [Hine?] knew both of them, but as soon as he had played his part, they restricted, and Bouba was... No Papa Mohamed was the only intermediary between one of the agents, who, in fact, was passing on reports to me, and the two of them were in permanent contact. So if you do... If the Law opens the file, inspects the computers it's over. You make – Hine?] talk, the secret services agent who took part in the meeting and who has, now, stood up against them and confided to us: "Listen Samy, if tomorrow morning they come to see me – the law forces- to ask me "What happened?" I don't have a choice; I have to tell them everything!

... I'll give everything away.

He was the only person at the meeting who can bear witness. And today we have a complete file. AS soon as it is out there, the Law will be interested in it. I said to [Dalein?]: 'At a given time, you must ask the South African government for the accounts' He was a little bit scared.

Dalein, that's not... You must know how to use it. Dalein doesn't have the... courage.

He doesn't have the courage. I saw him afterwards. Yes...

He's not aggressive enough. Me, I would know how to push Dalein: you need to be behind him and make him do it. And so, you need to put things into place, and then tell him "Listen, if you don't put yourself at the front of all this, you'll be beaten to it".

He hasn't really made any mistakes; just that he got a bit caught up in everything by going to see Zuma. Zuma is a seducer; he's very very strong, as you can imagine, otherwise he wouldn't be where he is today. He went to see Zuma; Zuma is very cunning. Zuma gave him a little something saying "I will give you some information; I never gave the kits away for free. Now, have fun with that." He arrived in Conakry; he set that up everywhere...

But he can't...

But he can't prove it" Fortunately, he gave a little something knowing that he cannot go any further with it. But Zuma is also very cunning. He too, by doing this, he's tainted Alpha a bit; he has given a piece of the puzzle. Do, if you like, our strategy relies on this. It's the impact it is going to have when it comes out, and the fact that the opposition and civil society, Guinean leaders, have the right to demand South Africa, immediately after this, for the accounts saying: "We have a candidate in the presidential election who is going to meet the South African secret services with his son, in a meeting that is recorded nowhere." We have pulled a few strings with the Intelligence service in England, we have a communication company which is a bit *Polisario*-like who have verified everything – by the way it's an eight month job, Minister. You can't imagine the ground work; it's a monstrous task we've done. Everything had to be checked: no public comment on Alpha's meeting, understandably. So, as soon as you ask and you say rightly; "We just want to bring this out into the open." What was said during this meeting? Agents are talking of 'fraud', they're demanding for an Inquiry to be opened into the South African government. Our position as the South Africans we are; Mottanthe and the Others (Julius Malema...), we are going to pull everything up by saying; "we want a thorough investigation! Interrogate the agents! We'll interrogate everyone; make Waymark talk; let's interrogate Waymark." So, there you have some of our strategies, Minister, we, in return, we would like- when I say 'we' I mean me- to talk as closely as possible with BSGR. I'm relying on you to put the right things in place, but I would also like to talk myself as closely as possible to the top of BSGR, because- I will tell you clearly why- I think they too can help.

OK.

Because as soon as we launch this, we must be able to, in my opinion, benefit from this as well, because as regards BSGR, as soon as we launch this, we're saving their skins too. Because here is a corrupt government which says that investors are corrupt, that the former Minister for Mining is corrupt etc. As soon as we launch the BSGR file, Alpha is no longer credible, he's no longer legitimate and, from that moment on, Benny's strategy is to say: " I'm going to play the victim- we see clearly what he's trying to do- by saying 'How can someone who is corrupt in Guinea (Palladino etc.) call me corrupt too?'".

.... Can call me a corrupter...

So, we are going to relieve Benny by 80% already too.
But, I think that this also, it needs to be appreciated for its true value. And so he too can relay it.

Listen, I'm going to tell you something.

There are many combinations.

I've spoken with Benny; I've not spoken to him for about 12 to 14 months. We've created this distance on purpose, because everyone wanted... I said" OK, leave them, I don't communicate with him; let them prove what they can prove."
Of course

I read recently- I don't know if you saw in the *Financial Times* the two latest articles which have come out...

I read your [redacted] as well

That was triggered by a letter that, allegedly, a review committee for mining convention, that Alpha put into place, had written to BSGR. And before, when you look... The *Financial Times* contacted me to ask me questions. I said: "I don't know what it's about." They sent me a copy of the letter. The date on which the *Financial Times* sent me the letter precedes the date on the letter by two weeks and the date on which BSGR, to whom the letter was addressed, received it. This means that he is putting the committee into place that he's [redacted]. I saw the names of the committee members- people who he is controlling; they write a letter to BSGR, allegedly confidential, etc., to demand explanations. Even before sending it to BSGR, they send it to the *Financial Times* via Tony Blair's office to cause a scandal. I saw the letter, I called Benny. I said "Listen, I've had enough of this business." In the letter, firstly, there are these events like this business with Mamadi etc. and Cillins —the Frederick, there, and all these people here. The first time I heard the name 'Frederick Cillins' it was in this letter. But as regards the events which happened one, two or even three years ago before y arrival in Guinea, the letter created a grey area as if it were my doing.

Yes, of course. That has always been his strategy; it was to put this on you, of course.

And then, everything that has happened since I've been there- but 'hearsay' and rumours of nonsense- they write them. So, I decided, I called Benny, I said "Listen, I don't know what your strategy is; but for me they're not going to sully my name; I am going to respond publicly." And so I prepared an open letter where, truly, I respond point by point. Really, I don't mess it up. And I say to Benny: "I suggest you do the same thing. You need to attack." So, he got his lawyers etc. I think that they are preparing to be aggressive too.

They are preparing themselves; of course.

So, it would help his cause now to work hand in hand with you.

I think it is in his interest.

I will call Asher and I will say to him: "Listen, I don't know when Benny will be in London next, or in Paris. Organise it between yourselves; see Samy, discuss, see how you can work together." For me, everything that happened from the moment I arrived in Guinea on ... The *State Department*, here, the *Treasury Justice Department* will investigate. .

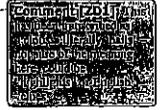
Yes, of course.

[redacted] spent 2 M\$ on investigators on me.

I'm well aware of that, it's sure, it's confirmed.
If there was...

... anything...

... a dollar – how do you call it? – ~~or hands~~ that I received from someone, believe me I'm American, FCPA (*Foreign Corrupt Practices Act*).



You are an American FCPA.

... I would be in all of the problems of the world today.

I can assure you, I admire your caution and your professionalism, because I'm going to tell you very clearly: the first time I heard about you was through Papa...

OK!... who doesn't know me, anyway, who has never seen me.

... who doesn't know you at all. And it was a week after the inauguration.

OK.

And he said to me: "You know Sammy, we talked with the Chinese, with Papa, and the Chinese said to us: 'You must put everything on Thiam ...'"

You must put everything on ...?

I'm telling you, I've never forgotten it...

But which Chinese?

He didn't specifically. He said "We spoke with the Chinese, we made it, there's nothing else, everything must be put on Thiam, he's the ideal victim." In fact, it's coming back to me because we knew no one when we arrived, But already, I even remember... and yet I had said to the General: "Their strategy is very simple: we must corner Minister Thiam." And when you tell me that you are putting the connections in place so that the [minister?] can remain Alpha's advisor, I'm telling you that this will never work, because, in his head, Thiam must...

... takes the blame...

... takes the blame. And he talks about it a bit. He says that it's the others who are telling him, but in fact it's more accurately him telling the others.

It's him, but it's bad timing!

Yes, and he did the same thing with... with Kassory. Kassory told me clearly: 'The BSGR file, Sammy, if you give it to me... — which is for me all of the [files ?] of the world to give him the files that I have on Benny- I'll not only knock over the two units by recuperating them, but will also make Kassory fall.

I said to him: 'President, I understand nothing of the internal Guinean politics, but the last thing I want is to put myself at risk and to antagonise the brothers of this country, because, that is not my role.'

I'm going to interrupt you for a second: you know, Kassory wouldn't hide it from you or from anyone that he was involved in the BSGR file. When Kassory became involved, it was already eight or ten years since he had left the government as Finance Minister. He returned to Guinea after ten years of exile...

OK.

Condé, in these past few days has approached him. I think he came across- according to what has been explained to me- a conversation by accident- he was next to Condé — about the BSGR file.

OK.

He followed, he said to Condé: "These people are right; we must leave them to it"

We must ... we must make them work.

And I think that, after that- I don't know who from BSGR was in the meeting, I think it was maybe Asher- when Asher heard this, he said to himself 'This is someone we should use; he seems to understand and has influence over Condé. And I think that, in this meeting, Condé, from what people have told me, gave orders to his Minister of Mining at the time who was, Souaré, I think- no Souaré was the prime minister, I don't know... or Nabé, I don't know- to sign.

OK.

Nabé tried to make them go round in circles. Kassory called Nabé and said, because Nabé was one of Kassory's advisors when he was Finance Minister: "Listen, the President has given you an order. I would advise you not to play with that." And it's then that Nabé signed the BSGR document. And BSGR can say to you: 'Yes, we used Kassory as a 'lobbyist' to help us' and Kassory does not keep this fact a secret.

He never kept it a secret.

He was private. He wasn't in the government, he wasn't Condé's advisor. He found himself there by chance, he heard a conversation and he advised Condé to do it.

He had an opportunity...

So, if Alpha thinks that he can bring down Kassory with this file, he's mistaken.

He's sure of it. For him, BSGR, it's a chance to bring down Kassory. It's incredible!

It's because he's counting... He knows nothing. Listen, he arrived; the guys made him believe that the way in which I managed the BSGR file and various other files was so opposite to the code and the law, that in one month he could legally prove that it was illegal and bring down everything.

Ah, he is... very, very naive about that!

Listen, guinea has been a mining company for the past 40 to 50 years. I've looked at the story- the historical data- for the mining concessions and conventions, and the mining permits that have been given. If you take the two years of transition, when I was in the mining [ministry?], these were the two years when everything was done to the max, followed the mining code to the letter. Because I had a very simple objective; when I arrived I was a bit of an idealist. I said to myself: "the deal with Qatar etc., I want to do something big."

Something good, yes, clearly

I understood straightaway that **Radis** didn't want anything big— he wanted to stay in power—, and that he wasn't going to let me do something. Straight away I revised my strategy...

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... to lower it.

I said: 'Here are four or five projects which are fairly advanced. And if we get them over the initial hurdles, it will transform the Guinean economy.' And I said 'It's these five that I'm going to push'. And I said "Any that I can put into development in the two years I'll do it" but nothing happened 'Any that I cannot put into development in the two years, I will make them irreversible in two years.' The first step to make them irreversible is to make them legally watertight. So, for the Rio Tinto/BSGR file, it was very simple : first, I had to make sure of the fact that the way in which BSGR did the retrocession, was legal and conformed with the code: it did. If they had used *lobbying* or things like that and that even, perhaps, they gave cash to this lady, it didn't concern me because:

1. 'Nobody had been wronged in the process,
2. There was no violation of the regulations that the code indicates as the procedure to follow in order to obtain an exploration permit.

Once this had been established, they had to be approved, but by following what the code prescribes to the letter. Everything I did aimed to accelerate the process so that, by 10 000 \$ there... or 20 000 \$ here...

... we can find little things like that...

... Ministers block the thing.

... block the thing.

That's all! So, for me making them legally irreversible was crucial .

Indeed.

So, really, I said to Alpha and one of his advisors the last time: "Listen, here I have 1 M\$ to give immediately to the first person in Guinea who can prove that..."

... Legally...

"... I violated the code in doing what I did or that I benefitted from 1 \$ of money for corruption."

I can assure you that they checked everything; it's not legally possible to show that BSGR... That's why they haven't held back on this legal part and they're looking for the party...

... exactly, violation...

... violation, etc. Legally, the permits are not at all, not at all open to attack ; you know it's set in stone, this.

And even, because, beyond the legal stuff, Rio Tinto got its concession illegally- its concession is not legal now- we decided to turn a blind eye on this on the condition that they accept the retrocession to be final. During my time, they would have got this by writing me a letter. They didn't do this. On leaving, I put into Alpha's hands, an instrument with which he successfully paid himself 750 M\$ in exchange for the same thing that they could have got for free.

It's incredible!

So, the question to ask above and beyond what is legal, is the following: Is the fact that these two companies are developing this mountain in parallel at the same time in Guinea's interest or not? The answer to this question is also 'Yes', it's not illegal and it's in Guinea's interest.

... Guinea's interest..

What's he looking for?

I helped... I saw your publication on the *Rio Tinto* files and also the Rusal file to do like this, quickly a passage and we're very complimentary, because you have the root of the problem upstream, and me downstream, I know how he managed, how he undid certain things or attempted to undo them. .

For the Rusal file, I'll give you a very simple example: he offered us Dian-Dian to Palladino. OK. He said to us in front of Lamine who said to me each time he saw me: 'Ah Samy, you should have taken Dian-Dian when we gave him to you. I said to him: 'No, because we don't work like that. We're not on the lookout for money for the sake of money. And also, Guinea isn't our only concern, we are business men, we're global. So, they're not problems for the sake of problems. Rusa is a big operator, but only you're the case. Your predecessor left good reference points. We don't want to take Dian-Dian for two reasons:

We are friends with the Russians; **Tokyo** has longstanding relationships with the Russians. So, we can't attack Deripaska head on. Behind him there are other people; **Deripaska** is a leader but behind him there are others. So, instead we suggested the following to Alpha: 'Don't give us Dian-Dian. Let's legally say to him: "the Alex Stewart report clearly says that it's legal". Now, that's how we cornered him. Yes, but he didn't want to see it. We say 'it's not our problem, this. It's an independent report that was requested by your government. It's not your current government, but the government, it's continuity.' So, it's from this angle that we need to attack. Finally, after, he agreed.

Comment [14]: 22/05/2015
Not sure spelling is correct

Comment [14]: 22/05/2015
Not sure spelling is correct

"Good, what shall we do?" "Don't give us Dian-Dian. Let us go see Deripaska with Lamine and corner him on this point." Lamine played the game for the first time. And on my side, with Walter I organised a meeting with Deripaska in Paris in his private mansion. Papa, Lamine, Walter and I were there. Deripaska was with his general staff. Over breakfast, we talk. Straight away Lamine gets stuck in, and he plays his role, for once "No question for us to move on this one ; either you recognise the Alex Stewart report and pay us what you owe us or else you will leave and you will lose Dian-Dian." He wanted to intimidate him by saying 'No, you know, Lamine if I leave Guinea, you'll see no one!' Lamine said: 'Go on, I dare you!' 'We already have people. Go on, I dare you!' he calmed down.

Finally, Walter found himself in a room with him. We played the game: 'Listen, calm down.' We found common ground. Deripaska said: "For me it's Alex Stewart who's bothering me; we need another independent report." "That's no problem. The same causes will create the same results. Let's get another independent agency and you'll see they'll get the same results."

It would be more...

It could be even worse! I can assure you minister, that we came back to Conakry and we gave the report to the President. One month later Papa took it on himself to 'cut off my head'. They did not speak of Alex Stewart report again. And I know something, because it's Deripaska who has taken over. Bouba has become Rusal's man...

Alpha took Deripaska as his best friend...

He took Deripaska thanks to Papa. Bouba succeeded in convincing Papa by saying... because when we left the meeting in Paris, they called Papa to one side and they demonised us (Lamine, Walter and me) by saying: "we're calling Papa to one side", they spoke him saying: "Truly, we can do a lot of things with you, but don't listen to these people here." So, they took Papa and from this day, Deripaska is in this advantageous situation without a parachute, this superb screen that is Papa and Bouba. He's showering them, [they do anything you can imagine for him?].

For all of the official trips Alpha took during this period it was Deripaska who took the plane.

It's Deripaska via Bouba. A passport, this passport. You'll see all the stamps on Bouba's passport, meetings in Moscow, all, all. When Bouba picked up Deripaska. He said to him: 'We're going to save you'. And they completely forgot about the business with Alex Stewart. Moreover, they don't talk about it anymore. It's done!

Alpha called me during this period saying: "You misled me. Deripaska tells me that the Alex Stewart report, it's the Chinese that sponsored it, because you wanted to take it from him to give it to the Chinese" I said "You know very well that this isn't the case. The papers are here. I paid for it with help from the Chinese, I borrowed 3.5 M\$ from the Chinese."

Clearly, you say it, also in your publications. You say it.

Exactly! I borrowed from them to pay for it.

It's clear!

Secondly, my strategy has always been to keep Rusal here. Why?:

1. You know? Rusal-Friguia is impossible to sell. This we don't talk about but there is an environmental debt of over 2 billion \$. 860 M\$, that's nothing! There's a 2 billion \$ environmental debt that no one wants to take over. Rusal has to stay and Rusal has to clean up.
2. Everyone knows that, at the time Rusal was on the verge of bankruptcy and didn't have the means to pay the 860 M\$ that they owed.

You explain it well too in your...

Make an agreement. Pay us 300 M\$.

That's what was said to them, exactly! ...

But **Deripaska** has always maintained that there is a problem in Africa, particularly in Guinea that 20 M\$ cannot solve.

Yes, that's it. He's someone who is extremely... complicated- arrogant and very complicated. And we had the same approach as you did and I can tell you one thing, it's that Alpha Condé was determined from the beginning that Deripaska would pay. That, I can tell you Alpha was very determined. When we left for Paris he took us aside, Walter and I, and he said, 'Careful! Lamine is very fickle. And so, when you get there keep an eye on him, because I don't want the others to drag him into the money. But we have to stay on the Alex Stewart report. They owe us money. Either they pay it or I give it to you, to South Africa and now it's up to you to find me Chinese partners, no matter what people will be working.' This was Alpha's *deal*.

So, this is to say that, careful – I'm not going to give a parachute to the old, but I am honest, it must be known that at the start he had this good idea to finish your report- the influence that Papa and Bouba have on him is unimaginable!

That surprises me because I thought he was manipulating them ,

Oh no, careful, careful! I can tell you very clearly. I lived with them in Sékoutoureira from the inauguration up to June. We lived together even though I preferred to go to the Novotel, because I was a little guy from Gabon and I said to myself 'They don't really like me in there. They're Bill Gates, all these people, there...'

Straight away there are these silly jealousies in the house.

Silly jealousies in the house. I said "for my safety I'm going back to the Novotel." But I know these people intimately and how they prepared everything. So, Bouba was on the side-lines for the first four months, that is from January- January, February, March- until we went to **Ndaba**. You'll remember that he wasn't even in the delegation with us. He was on the side-lines. I took him... into the Guinean delegation when we went to **Ndaba**. I said: 'Ok, come with us. But the problem they



had with the president at this time, it was that the President was so completely obsessed with money that he commissioned three teams:

- mine,
- Bouba,
- Mamadi... Condé, young and bright... **Mamadou Kaba**

Comment U2: [Redacted]

Mamadi **Kaba**, is well built. It's his link with Sami Maroun: **light skinned**

Comment U8: [Redacted]

Yes, that's him, light skinned, who works with the Russians also.

Very fickle that man.

Right. Mamadi. So, he took the young ones saying: "Raise the money for me". He didn't want to talk about it with his friends. And Bouba completely failed by saying "I have money in Dubai, I must have 2 million over there, through my networks (**Sabel** etc.) but I don't want to transport it." I said to him "take my plane; you will bring it to him". I lent him my plane. The plane spent three days on the ground, he brought nothing. The president heard about it through his son, he discredited Bouba. The only one who brought him any money was me; I regularly brought him cash, always in cash. So, this evidently made me many enemies in the place. And Bouba, the president naturally dismissed me by saying: "He cannot help me straight away, he can't. "

Comment U9: [Redacted]

Later maybe.

No, no, straight away, without any qualms, he dismissed me saying that I would bring it later. Bouba took this badly; he started to put his strategy into place, to demonise us via his son. The influence they have today over the father is unimaginable! I can say without a doubt that the one who is leading your country...

... Is a child without experience...

... It's the son, who is 42, who has never worked in his life, and it's him leading Guinea today. If the President was to sit with you and me today and was to make a decision, Alpha is a player, but when he's stuck he's cooperative. But even when Alpha is stuck, Papa comes from behind with Bouba saying: "Alpha, we know you're stuck, but we have an alternative. We're going to go to Brazil- *you understand what we're saying*- we're going to go here and here..." And then the President falls once again into this thing. This is the heart of the problem in Guinea: Guinea is led by a young boy who has never even managed an SME in his life and who thinks he's a genius. Papa is convinced he's a genius. I knew Papa during the campaign. No, but seriously, we must be serious. Papa has never worked in his life; President Kouyaté told me clearly that his first stint was in music. I didn't know that at all. So, here is the real issue that we have today, and to come back to the Waymark file it's that, even if tomorrow, Alpha- as we often say, we must always be careful- doesn't fall, he'll be so ripe you can do with him what you like. And with his son, we have a chance, because he was the one who led 'operation Waymark' —, to demand purely and simply the son's departure. Because, what is the secret? It's that if you remove

Alpha Condé, Mohamed Condé is destabilised. All of his secrets and his strategy rely on his son. It's truly...

It's his Achilles' heel!

It's his Achilles' heel!

The arranged **donation** about which I was talking earlier about the ill-gotten goods. Bourdon, the French examining magistrate, is particularly interested in Mohamed. Because he's also reckless. They have records of the transfers. That's to say he has accounts in his name or in company names...



... which easily lead back to him.

... which easily lead back to him. They have records of transfers in Monaco.

That's Papa, that is.

... Now in Dubai... and it's Alpha's Achilles heel.

It's the Achilles heel! That's what I told you! But easily, huh... It's Alpha's Achilles heel, and here you have a trigger where — it's nothing less- the South African government owes you accounts! I said to a friend "Do you realise that the election of Mrs Zuma will complicate your situation? You are now obliged to represent the African continent to the highest level; you've moved heaven and earth so that this gets through to the detriment of the French speaking countries that held the position. Now you are there. And when you are there, the first thing you did was to contribute to falsifying the results...

In an election in a French speaking country.

... in an election in a French speaking country. The day this is widely known, you will have problems.

Now, who is going to replace him internally, the Home Affairs?

He put in someone else, another woman ...

One of his assistants...

A woman who is close to him, but, if you like we're heading towards coalition, at a minimum. It should have been a collation, because I am always carefully: If Zuma survives what is coming

... he's forced to make a deal with the guys.

He doesn't have a choice, because they have so many files!... I'll give you an example Minister; just on the Waymark file. There are problems, because it's not really Waymark for the election part, it's the money part which will interest the South

African legal system, because all the same, 14 M\$ have been transferred to South Africa. And if tomorrow...

And that's come from Guinea — from the Central Bank?

That's from the Central Bank; it had been transferred to a company close to the South African security services. And it's this company that is repaying Waymark. So, if the South African legal system and the opposition- the police is divided in South Africa, because the country is also divided- are interested in this, they're going to search the computers, they're going to make the men talk. Inevitably, we will find out who the final beneficiaries were of these transfers. We already know the answer. But we must let the legal system do its job! So, it is done, it is really done. They can't show anything on the contrary. Like I was telling you, we saw Waymark's owner who is already on his knees saying: "But, if you want I can work for you!" And the opposition is saying "No! We don't want to involve ourselves with you! You're in a real mess! If, tomorrow morning, the police search your Waymark computers, the whole world will understand Alpha Condé was not elected, and that for Zuma and him it was a money affair." 14 million had to be cleaned, by giving a little to Waymark and then we take and share the rest with ~~Sarane~~ etc.

Comment [11]:
The spelling is wrong.

~~At the~~

No, ~~file~~, he was the one who introduced them, but he's no longer an active agent. It's a former agent of the Intelligence Services who is very close to Moe Shaik.

Oh yes, okay.

But, What Zuma did... he 'fired' Moe Shaik. Moe Shaik also, potentially...

... could turn against him.

Of course! Moe Shaik 'fired' the two agents who were present in the room. The one who was my friend, who was one of the people close to us, with Tokyo, and the young one called Tabisso who, in fact, continued with the file afterwards, and who was Papa's no.1 contact. He's now working - guess who for- for Ivor. So, that also leaves traces. I'm telling you, I am going to give you the complete file anyway. I'm not going to give you But it's to tell you that, now, everyone who participated in the operation are in different places and want also want to bring Zuma down. So, as I was telling you...

Comment [11]:
The spelling is wrong.

Okay, no problem. The file interests me, we have the same strategy.

We are agreed!

Getting Benny and Asher together, I'll take care of that, they'll listen to me.

Very well.

When we have sorted all of this out, if, as I'm hoping Tokyo takes the thing, there is a file which interests me...

Okay.

There's a deal I want to do, but it's Home Affairs who make the decision...

... who make the decision...

In Zuma's time, Zuma wanted to do it also, but he said that, if his ex-wife at Home Affairs wasn't in agreement, he wouldn't touch it.

Ah yes, yes, she's very tough!

And as she was very difficult, I never got access to her.

She's very tough! I understand.

But after that, I'm doing some business here; I'll talk to you about it after.

Okay, good, very well.

... That I would like... it could be very, very profitable.

Very profitable.

I would like us to do it together.

Because there will be a gap that we can use possibly- we must say things clearly: Motlanthe, if anyone [is going to] leave, it's him- obviously **Tokye** and... **Maheta** are in competition for the position of Vice-President. Those two are oldest friends, but you know, power is power but the...the horse is definitely Motlanthe. I have a chance because in the two parties I still have an intermediary: these are the two parties that sponsored me. I can see Motlanthe when I want, I'm introducing everyone, it was me who said to President Bongo at the time: "President, the Secretary General for ANC, since you're asking me who it is going to be after Mbeki, I have told you that I would introduce you to people." At the time, President Bongo gave me two people, he gave me someone you will most certainly know, he's an oil executive from Gabon, called [Roger Sickout?]; does that mean anything to you?

Comment [113]: 46
G
Not sure

Yes, that rings a bell...

He is very competent. Roger, is one of our...

When I was at **Merrill** or UBS, I must have dealt with... Was he not in finance at some point? I remember....

Comment [114]: 46
G
Not sure

No. Perhaps you are talking about Ndumba.

Ndumba, I worked with him, **very well**.

Comment [115]: 46
G
Not sure

No, Roger was at Shell for a very long time, or Total...

I dealt with Sickout.

Sickout, he's the current oil advisor also – mines and oil as well.

Ah!

After the father, Ali kept him. And it's my oldest sister's husband, Jean Couvi, who was also the special advisor- because, before, Ali, you know how it is structured: there were special oil advisors etc.; after they removed them for just cause, Jean Couvi being with Sickout. Because it was them who brought SHP Bilton...

Comments (11) | No more replies

Comments (5) | No more replies

Comments (1) | No more replies

Ah, OK, right.

... to start negotiating. Jean Couvi and Sickout. Sickout, if you like, I have a better relationship with him than with my own brother-in-law.

OK. Sickout is still there?

Sickout, he is still there. So it is easy for you.

There's nothing to do over there. As long as Mexant is there, nothing can be done...

Comments (1) | No more replies

You've understood, Minister. I'm happy that you have said it.

I've stopped going there, huh..

I'm happy that you said it because, myself... We are in tune... that's to say...

I've stopped going there.

I heard that they gave you etc.

I only went there twice.

But you can do nothing with Ali as long as Mexant is still there.

Exactly. And I knew that and I...

You understood and you eased off.

Completely.

Ali called me after the presidential election. I was in a very unique situation. I was between André and him. When I left South Africa in 2007, they said to me: "Samy, come back!" they said to me: "Really, come back, we need your networks etc." I went back to the two of them after the election was over. André, he's my sister's husband, also – he married one of my sisters- so, it's difficult for me. And Ali, he's a childhood friend, because our fathers worked together. So, the first thing I tried to do was to bring them back together. This was an impossible mission because of the election. I

got myself out of it. But I said to the two of them: 'If you need me during the campaign, ask for a plane, some thing- really I will get it with pleasure,' Ali never called me; André said to me: "Samy, I need a plane to make a decent campaign." I sent him a plane, he said they had blocked the helicopter and he worked with me in the plane for two months. Ali knows my character very well, and, after the campaign, despite everything said to him, [Samy?] crossed over to the other side, he's our enemy.

Ah, Mexant! Because even Mexant wanted to use him...

... for us.

... against you with Ali.

You saw?... I don't doubt it! It's his style.

Because, when I asked him the question when I heard your name for the first time: "But you know this Samy?" he said to me "Ah he's my enemy!"

That's not possible! (*Laughs*).

In my office, Mexant said that to me.

He's funny! He's the living dead eh ...

That's been said for a long time.

No! That's to say that... How can I say it?... Libreville, I don't want to touch it; in other words I've refused to touch Libreville because, with Ali in particular, the relationship is quite complicated. If I attack, I will really attack. And with my father, I've got some heavy stuff, I saw him being born, we know where he comes from, we know everything. But I can't attack Ali because he is still a brother to me. I would prefer it if they fight amongst themselves, and that I don't know about the root of the problem. However, Mexant, I'll tell you how he sees me. It's André who went to find Mexant. Mexant, was André's brother-in-law. André had a girlfriend — a mixed race girl, very pretty and charming girl from Benin- who left the house one morning- or one evening- with two billion ; she disappeared . And he made the mistake of telling her that there was two billion in the house in a certain location, she took the money and she left.

Was she not called Diane? .

I think so: a mixed race girl, very pretty, a bit forthright...

Diane... it's coming back to me. It can only be her because she even spent time in prison, that girl. She's notorious; she's living in South Africa or something like that, now.

I don't know where she is any more.

She's a ~~corrupt~~ ~~artist~~



No, but that's exactly it in fact! It's being...

It must be her: Diane [redacted] I think.

I didn't want to get in too deep with André, but it was her, it was her who brought Mexant, who was my brother. So, André, takes to him like a [good/big?] brother; Mexant, he's given a place to stay, he had a studio, for which André sent us — the little nephews — to pay the rent. You can sense the atmosphere somewhat. Mexant, when he sees us, he sees people...

He sees his past.

He sees his past. So, when Ali gets into power, on 30th August, September, in November, Ali will go by my dad- who he calls 'Dad'- and says "Call Samy, because Samy is not a bad person, but I know that Samy was in a difficult situation. So, call Samy to make him realise he's still my little brother."

My father calls me in Paris, and seeing as my Dad never calls me- if he does call me then it is about something very, very, very serious- I come running to Libreville, thinking he's sick and he says "No, it's your brother who wants to see you." I say to him 'Him? But I've not had any news from him since the campaign, and then with the role I played with André...' He said, 'No, he definitely wants to see you.'

The following day, in my presence, we go to see Ali: we stayed there for four and a half hours: from 6pm to 10.30pm. He received me in the small living room, just like that, friendly and he says "we're not in the big room because we're amongst family here; we must talk amongst the family." I said to him "to Samy. We'll talk like we talk at home Mr Ali." He said: "What's the matter? What's up with André? Come and work with me, Samy, because André isn't your family. Your first family is me. Because everything you do in life today, and everything I do it's because our two fathers came into power together. So, family, it's me first of all. But I know you have been misled." And he said to me: 'Are you still working for the South Africans?' I said: 'Yes. Of course. I can't leave there.' But he said to me: "Because, I want you by my side, you wouldn't be anything less than Mexant." Mexant was working not far from him— you know how Ali's office is — he turns round at some point, Ali called Mexant. And he said to him: "Mexant, instead of turning round come and sit." And he said to my father: "Because, even Dad doesn't know what Mexant means to me compared to Samy." Indeed, the 12 months prior to this, I had been with Ali and André, morning, noon and night. And they helped me to bring my Dad into the business. You understand, it was me who helped them to free the French prisoners who were prisoners and sentenced to death in Niger under Tandja.

President Bongo had said: 'I want to help Sarkozy; we must get the guys out of there.' And Ali had said: "Samy, the Tandjas are like that." Samy has invested a lot in the Niger, namely in uranium, so we must send Charly to work Tandja's wife; we got out the maps. And President Bongo said to me: "Tell me, I'll give you everything you want." I told him: "President, I have a little bit of money, I don't want to be Bill Gates. The little I have in Africa, it's a lot. So, I am very happy with that! And I'm still of an age where..."

'... I can still earn', exactly.

"I would like to enjoy myself, but I'm looking after my mother and my daughter, that is enough for me. However, there's one thing which bothers me, it's that I'm here because of my father. So, since I've been in South Africa I've seen my dad rotting away on a chair; it upsets me! That I'm here with you in the morning, and my father is your enemy. How can we fix this problem?" The president was very touched. I said "I don't want money, but I want to resolve this problem with my father." This really affected him; he said to me "OK, ask your father which post he would like." In short my father said "I don't want a post. All I want to do is business. I want to go into the chamber of commerce." That's what I said to the president 30 years ago: 'The day when I am no longer Prime Minister I want to go into the chamber of commerce.' The president said: 'Tell the old man he's the president of the chamber of commerce'. And it was Ali who helped me do it, with André. I said "I'm in an awkward situation: we've saved the old guy- *the old guy was sitting down, I was talking in front of him-* you can't ask me now to let go of André, it was partly André who has brought me to you. So, I am very embarrassed. However, the day when you and André decide to sit down and talk, you know that you have a little brother on whom you can really rely. When I said that, I saw Mexant's face... It's like I'd stabbed him with a knife. Ali was receptive; Papa was opposite. We can't bluff here. I said "If you want an intermediary, or [that] we sort the problem out in one evening, there will be tears, there will be everything... like how we did for the two fathers, that's to say we took them both, we put them in a room together, there were tears, there was shouting, there was everything and then it was sorted out. I'm proposing that we do the same thing, because André is very clever; he's got a hold on you and you have a hold on him; it's never going to stop." He said to me: "OK, I need to think... When are you leaving?' I told him "I'm leaving tomorrow, as soon as I leave I'm taking the plane, I have work ." He told me: "OK, go on! I don't have a cell phone like I did back then, I'm president, but if you want to reach me, you know well that the closest person is Mexant. So, I'm saying this in front of Mexant, when you want to see me you tell me, even concerning Zuma etc." I swear to you Mr. Thiam, I called Mexant maybe 10 times, I came back to South Africa, I did the report for Zuma, and Zuma said to me: "We need to bring them back together. Now that you've sorted things out with Ali, at his request as well, we can move along. Phone him and I'll call André in." Zuma said to me: "Bring me André." We brought André to Zuma. Zuma stunned him by saying: 'A man of the State is also a man who can challenge himself. You must not be a prisoner to your ego...' In short, André was ready, that's to say we only had to deliver him to Libreville and make peace. I called Mexant 10 times. He takes my calls and he says 'We'll call you back'. And then one morning he calls me after two months and he says to me: "Actually, Sammy, the President says he wants to see you, because you're annoying us, you say you want to see him, you want to see him." "I said to him "Two months ago, two months ago, drop it." In the meantime André said: "It's not worth it! He too has got back in the saddle." This is just so you know that, in reality, Mexant is a real problem.

The problem they're going to have in Libreville it's not André, it's France. Ali has played this very badly. Ali played things very badly in Paris and Hollande made an easy target of him; he didn't know how to take it. It was me who dropped off André when he went to see Héléne Le Gall before seeing Hollande, just before Ali arrived,

three weeks before, they saw André. It was me who dropped him off at the Élysée palace. They said to him clearly "We won't remove Ali. Don't even rely on this." It was me who took him. And they said to him "We won't remove Ali. All that we can do is arrange it so that there is a dialogue with civil society, with the opposition." When Ali came, they gave him again the memorandum for exiting the crisis. He didn't want to apply it; on the contrary, it's his hard-liner. He decided to insult the Cooperation Minister. Ah yes, a terrible letter eh... A letter that they published in the local Gabonese news, Mgaya, etc. They insulted Kanta, like a child... They've insulted again recently ... A terrible letter. The young people in the Socialist Party who were insulting Cambadelis, even Borlood.

... I know that, the Socialists now are saying to themselves that they can't rely on him anymore. Him getting closer to the English, to the Turkish and – worse- with the Rwandans, and lately as regards the French language saying he's going to replace it with English ... In going to meet with Kadama, he could simply have told him, and not gone there ; it's different again, as you know. Bongo was making declarations like everyone. But the fact that he went there and when there treating the French like idiots by saying that they are idiots because I can do what I want. I think that a lot of people in Paris are annoyed with Ali.

Comment [824]
01/01/03

Comment [123]
01/01/03

Comment [126]
01/01/03

Comment [127]
01/01/03

But Pascaline is also playing at that. She's stirring, no?

Pascaline is stirring, but she's also been caught in a trap here because, they don't just want to bring down Ali; they want to recuperate all of the family's assets. So I think they're going to investigate her, I think you know about this.

No, I didn't know.

For the first time they have decided that she must be listened to, but with tis they're opening Pandora's Box.

Ali, I don't know, but I think that when you speak to him he is someone who is clever and open.

Well of course!

He's young, and is flexible in spirit etc. And I don't understand why he's letting himself be imprisoned like this by Mexant.

No, the problem with Ali, Minister, is very simple: Ali feels strongly about esotericism...

That's business for... ~~100%~~ that...



This is how Mexant has him. You could say what you like to Ali if you give him a candle and a book of the occult then you have him.

Mexant, he arrived a bit like Dossou. As for Dossou at the time I asked my dad the question: "In your universe - *me I'm young, only 19 years old*- who wants to be president the most?" He said "Well it's Dossou, my little one."

That's the Beninese voodoo gods, etc.

That's it! Because he said to me: "but my brother really believes in it! We have brilliant guys in Gabon; we have executives who can work in oil. But the president believes so much in these kinds of occult things that he's been led into, and his son his worse!" This means that now, Mexant and Ali, what we really want, the only difference is that we want to be extremely discreet- extremely! I'm telling you, 9 out of 10 Gabonese cannot put a face to Dossou. That's the reality! But Mexant, for me, he's a zombie! Why? Listen, we're in a country where Ali is not everlasting, whatever happens. And the day Ali falls...

... Mexant falls.

No, the one that comes after. Even Ali is a local boy! But whatever is said about his origins, he's still a local boy. But Mexant, whoever comes, he has hurt the Gabonese people.

Right. This is where I don't understand the opposition, when you take the young ~~100%~~ Gabon, or you take Mexant, Ali is firstly surrounded by strangers...



... strangers.

Next, when you look around him, I don't know if I'm the only one to have noticed this, but all the people who have direct access are mixed race.

Yes, they're very [hung up?].

But it's not only him; it's their family that are like that. That means for Pascaline it's the same. In Pascaline's entourage it's ~~100%~~... They're mixed race, again, adopted girls. You'll find, this is a good example; you'll find this with the father Bongo too- not the father the mother, sorry: with Patience. All the girls she raised are adopted; all the little pretty mixed race girls. Their ethnicity is close to the pygmy ethnicity, there has always been this complex to be close...

... physical...

... to be mixed race. You see Ping, they're mixed race mixed-race children are being raised. So, there has always been this complex, and then there are all the rumours, so it's a shame... My father advised me not to get involved in the fight. He said to me: "You're too close to the two camps and Mexant is very dangerous, in the sense that his influence over Ali tremendous".

Comment (B30)
010730 Netaxe

Yes, it's not natural.

... which is not natural. So, the fact that tomorrow you will have a meeting with Ali... He spoke for 4 hours before me saying: "Samy, you are a business man. That is good. You are a business man and we are going to finish the projects that we started together when the nephew was president. You and me we've fought, you said to us 'We're going to take uranium here...Ali come with me, we're going to get some business from every direction... Now I'm here. We'll do it together'".

You won't do it as long as Mexant is there...

I told him: 'President, I'm not safe in your entourage, it's impossible! What are these... ?

Comment (B31)
010730 Netaxe

I will tell you; when did Mexant start to block my access? Twice when I met with Ali, for the last 5 to 10 minutes we spoke one-to-one. Mexant couldn't deal with this. Ali came to Abu Dhabi, I was over there, he met with me along with partners from the region, and then again we had a private conversation, we were talking about files which were not publicly known. Mexant decided to block my access. Me, I'm not the kind of person to insist on seeing a Head of State.

No, no, no... I understand...

You said to me: 'Go via Mexant, and I'll call Mexant.' And if he doesn't do it, I quit. My sons... my 'returner' advisor, I told them: 'This is my standing feet'. I went over there, Mexant said: "Listen, we don't have money. Take half and then we can work on the results." I said: "no problem". This 'half' he mentions, I worked for 12 months without seeing any of it. I stopped working on date and I wasn't paid.

Comment (U32)
010707 Netaxe

Comment (B33)
010730 Netaxe

I believe what you are saying, because this is someone who plays the game on a very personal level, who is not professional at all, it's really not his field, first of all he doesn't know the work. I remember once at the *Maison du caviar*, with Ali, we were waiting for to meet with Tokyo; I took Ali and I said to him: "you need to know these people, tomorrow they could help you." He took me to the *Maison du caviar*, we were waiting for President Bongo to receive us with Tokyo and Ali and André. We eat, and since I already had a few uranium concessions in the Niger.

Comment (B34)
010806 and 011112
English and also of the
interviews

I would like to propose that you go and meet the person, if that doesn't worry you?

Ok, no problem.

I would really like to introduce you to this person; I'll send him to you.

Right. Okay. Where can I find this person?

Just next door, I brought him again discreetly.

OK.

I brought him discreetly.

Okay.

Seeing as he is American as well...

Is he based here?

He's based here in Miami. He's somewhat in charge of my affairs, when I'm not here etc.

But the elections, they're in two months.

Exactly, since I was going to go into the details... In reality... the latest being in 10 days we must be **Business Day**, absolutely.

Comment (136)
01/12/2013 14:00
sandtrojan@protonmail.com

As for the others, here too I know that Asher is spending a lot of time in London: I even wonder if he doesn't live there.

Yes, because we've seen him in London often.

He's based in London, but I think he is often in Paris. Benny is **8**.

Comment (136)
01/13/2013 14:00
sandtrojan@protonmail.com

Yes that rings a bell... Because I think they are still holding some cards against her. Anyway, we can catch up with this together. In other words, they have played it badly anyway. Now, she is on the verge of ruin, and she **8**. I think that they need to resolve the situation because, if not, Alpha will do it instead. I know what I'm talking about here. He's sent quite a few envoys to her and for the time being she's very... towards me. Already the fact that she has given me documents she's given nobody else, you can imagine. But they're working her. I understand their problem. They too have kept their distance from her because all the police in the world, all of the services in the world are keeping a close eye on this. There are always means to do this. I think that if they don't take this business seriously, she will quickly give in. I think that we have some cards to play. We can make them take back the originals because everything rests on them. You know ...

Comment (137)
01/13/2013 14:00
sandtrojan@protonmail.com

I definitely think that if she really wants to... just with me... support- there is no... And so, I think that if... can make the introduction...

I understand very, very, very well.

... there will be less of a bother.

And moreover, I understand better because, in hearing you talk, I even understand a lot of Gabonese, because I thought that even at your level and at Kassory's level, clearly, he told you his internal goings on. But I realise that's not the case.

When I came into the business, I complained. I didn't know it generally. So, I was told they don't have the financial or technical means, they are this, they are that... Benny Steiner is a...

"... an adventurer", all that.

Comment (U.S. 507) 01/23/20 Not understood

"...an adventurer", he took back his French passport, etc. All of the big banks for whom I'm worked etc. each time I was brought a charge, I questioned them and I said "If I am satisfied, I am satisfied, If I'm not satisfied, I..." That's the first part ... after, during my second year in the government, when apparently the lady blackmailed them through the General's name, who was close to his authorities, victim of blackmail etc.

Comment (U.S. 507) 01/23/20 Not understood

Comment (U.S. 507) 01/23/20 Not understood

Comment (U.S. 507) 01/23/20 Not understood

Incredible!

Someone they barely know etc. but who perhaps had business with [redacted] that they bought and so, talking to this officer to stop him from going to the General and saying stupid things. And he said: "Yes ... indeed, the lady ... she and them had an agreement etc. that's what the General [redacted]"

Comment (U.S. 507) 01/23/20 Not understood

Comment (U.S. 507) 01/23/20 Not understood

Apart from for the production [redacted] For me, thinking that he had given you the flip side of the file, and in fact ...

Comment (U.S. 507) 01/23/20 Not understood

Comment (U.S. 507) 01/23/20 Not understood

I think [redacted] this Waymark affair. However, in exchange I want to get in contact with someone, with Samy, but in a direct contact, no intermediaries.

Comment (U.S. 507) 01/23/20 Not understood

Comment (U.S. 507) 01/23/20 Not understood

A direct contact. In relation to you or Walter, it's a direct contact because the Waymark file is so complicated that, seeing as I gave Walter the Palladino file, the Waymark file, it's my war chest! It's my parachute! And we have problems with the South Africans; in other words, they are so convinced that it's Benny who has developed and organised everything in the Palladino affair, that it's them who are cashing in at this stage... [redacted] he.

Comment (U.S. 507) 01/23/20 Not understood

That has nothing to do with it.

That has nothing to do with him.

That's me and Walter.

That's why I am going to split everything up. Even with you I preferred not to tell them anything; I want to talk with him directly. I said to them: 'The General [redacted] We talked about it in New York, I never had the chance, because I was busy, I was busy. But I prefer to split everything up with them because I'm telling you, it's better that we meet again in 15 minutes at the end saying "Everything has been manipulated; now we have solved the problem. But at this stage there are too many little things, there are lots of advisors [redacted] I'm splitting.' [redacted] meet up in front.

Comment (U.S. 507) 01/23/20 Not understood

Comment (U.S. 507) 01/23/20 Not understood

Comment (U.S. 507) 01/23/20 Not understood

Oh yes?

That's to say I saw Porsches...

Oh yes? With the roads they have there?

I saw Porsches! But I was surprised anyway! I saw Porsche Caymans etc., in Conakry, but I said: "It's not possible!"

Ow, Ow...

But it's true that, for the post you were in you couldn't do any more.

I felt free, eh... You know, I got there; I took an apartment out of my own money. I bought my cars with my own money.

Okay, okay... that's good!

I paid for all of my trips with my money. I supported my office with my money.

That's good...

So, I felt free...

Really free...

... to do what I wanted.

Okay.

I wanted to bring over my Lamborghini, I brought it over, but I defy anyone to talk [about it]. Not only have I bought my own vehicles – I bought five vehicles – at the time I offered them to Sékouba, Dadis: to the five heads at CNDD, etc.

... to the five CNDD heads... You have a very good approach. For me it's Marc-Fatou, my secretary, who said to me: "Samy, you know, if you had been here under my old boss, you would have got on very well." She said that to me often, she said to me: "Lamine isn't how you think he is." Because at the start, Lamine and I started working together, we started to have a good relationship, and she said to me: "Ah Samy, you'll see one day what I'm telling you. Lamine isn't how you think he is. You'll see..." And the poor girl, they made her leave right in the middle... They made her leave right in the middle like that. We always had a good relationship, a very, very good relationship with Marc.

She's a very earnest lady.

Ah yes, really, she's good.

It was my predecessor's secretary. So, the tradition is that you get there and you get rid of everyone. But for me, I got there, I didn't know anyone, I didn't have any reason to get rid of anyone, I kept everyone on, and so in the end they stayed loyal to me.

In any case, she likes you a lot and she always said to me: 'It's a shame that you didn't know the Lamine's predecessor, because you would have got on very well. I see how you are, how he was; you would have got on very well.' I'm telling you, this was the first three months of alpha's presidency.

Alpha had planted the...

No, it was... Really it is a disappointment.

But Soros was the one he manipulated the most. He manipulated Soros like a child!

But Soros is naive! Because he's going to realise that he's protecting someone who...

A criminal.

A criminal...who is unlawful...

Exactly.

And when you tell him this — I drew his attention to this once through one of this advisors, because they wanted to hassle me a little when I started to... when they dismissed me with our business, I said: 'Don't do too much I 'm very respectful of my elders, but really, tell the President not to go too far. Because, even face to face with me, he cannot call his other colleagues and say that Samy is someone who is not serious.' No, I said: 'he's blocking our money; he's doing all of this. OK! It's his strategy, I hope for him that's it pays out in the long term, but he can't...' But, as you say as regards your patriotism, it's the same thing.

It's ethics.

I said: "No, I only have this, it's my ... I can't be criticised for my..."

Of course. He's not even intelligent. He meets people for the first time, with people with whom you have been working for five, ten, fifteen years, who you know well, who know you well, and so who trust you, and he tells them never to speak to you again. Yes! So, for me, he did this with two or three people I introduced him to in Guinea, today he sees these people and he thinks that they have burned their bridges with me. But his problem is that these people tell me everything he asks them.

Yes, it's clear. It's really... It's awful that someone can be so clumsy. I don't know if you know Pierre Fakhoury...

By name.

The architect Fakhoury who is often in Abidjan. It was a very good friend of my Uncle's who introduced him to me. Thanks to Pierre, we also raised funds for Alpha during his campaign, and he was very straight with me. He said: "Listen to me, Dalein is my friend. But truly, as it is André who is asking me, he told me that you are his nephew and that he definitely wants to help Alpha, etc., I will give [a little] something." And then he said: "I'll give, but I don't want to be friends with this man, because it's Dalein who is my friend." He helped Alpha during the campaign and then Alpha becomes president, finally, he says: "No, really Fakhoury only gave me peanuts. He gave me peanuts, peanuts..." He sends an envoy to see Fakhoury and he says to Fakhoury: "Really, you must have been told some rubbish that I criticised you, but in fact it's because I want to work with you directly without André Mba Obame. His nephew, no problem, but not Mba Obame, because Ali and I, we're in the process of making up etc. Even though it was Andrew who, with me, took him to the **Nambiar** president during the campaign, the last two weeks, with one of our planes, or else we gave some money; on the homestretch he needed it. He forgot all of this of course, and he said to Fakhory: "We must be in direct contact, don't tell them." Fakhory said: "Tell the President that not only do I want to call André and Samy straight away, but tell him that I will never work in Guinea as long as he is President of the Republic. I will never work there." He's very inept!

Comment: [PG] 01/03/2012

He understood, then.

He is... very inept. But his son doesn't help him. His son could have helped him. He could have really, really, really helped him. Papa could have helped him a lot because he has a strong influence over him.

His son, is it Bouba Sampil who is manipulating him or is it simply himself?

No! Like real life, Papa is exactly like his father. Papa is a 'mini-Condé' right! He's really an only child. He's truly the 'mini-me'. It's the same person, only younger, in other words, not at all honest. He came to see me with Mother during the campaign. That affected me. He said to me "you know..." I said to him 'Papa, you need to go and say thank you to Fofana Ansuman. It was him who introduced your father to Sékouba and who had to fight, to fight against the Tibous - the others they are also my brothers, but at the time they had their own battles: Tibou for Dalein and Fofana Ansuman for Alpha.

For Alpha.

So, at least go and say thank you to them. If your father asked me to train you, to teach you some business manners, go and thank him. You know, for you it's nothing, but for these old guys, it's a lot. He said to me. 'You know Samy, I'm going to tell you something; you don't know Papa and you don't know how things work with him. In truth, none of these people are important, because even if you are convinced that Fofana was the one to help him most in becoming president, that is not important to us. They are just pawns. Tomorrow morning, they won't matter as much as you think they will.' I was shocked. He said to me: "Perhaps in other countries the one that helps the most is the most rewarded. "

Here, that's not the case.

But here, that will never be the case. There were other friends who were treasured more, yet they did nothing. It's like that, that's all. That was the first person who had told me, I was shocked. He said to me: "I will go if you want, so as to not put you in a position..." I said to him "Listen, you already initiated lunch... Warwick in Paris, we went there, we ate..." I knew when I was eating that, really, he was...

That he wasn't being sincere...

He wasn't being sincere! That was the first thing.

The second thing was with Walter: after everything I had asked my friends to do for them, one day the son said to me: 'you know Samy, you have a chance here to allow you... *what was the term he used?* - a bit like a slave - to emancipate yourself." He told me "you can emancipate yourself here, the South Africans have become a little like your..."

... your masters...

... your masters, yes." I said "Well, you really have not understood anything" The South Africans are not my masters.

Loyalty doesn't exist with them, you know that?

Well it's that in fact that I want to show you, Mr Thiam, in other words the concept of honesty, for them, doesn't exist. He said to me: "You don't understand what Papa wants to do for you, Samy. Papa understood that you were a prisoner of the South Africans and he is giving you a chance to emancipate yourself, or you can choose yourself in the future who you want to give opportunities to, and to more than one single group."

I said: "But Papa, you've not understood; I have had propositions a thousand times more interesting, but it's for loyalty. That's to say I am grateful for what they have done for me, I'm not stuck, I left for Gabon in 2007. I worked with my brothers in Gabon (Ali and André); they never stopped me, but it's loyalty! It's loyalty that makes a man, Papa!"

He said to me: "In any case, you do what you want, but everything I've said to you is 'be careful' It's because they're in the process of losing everything they're doing, tomorrow they won't be in pole position. There are plenty of people who help us. It's difficult to elaborate with people like that. It's complicated. They don't have a sense of loyalty, there is no honour. They don't care."

This is so that it will take them, because I will tell you: 'The army was at the heart of Alpha's victory, because the game that was played is only one part of the money that was raised during the two rounds, he used it to buy officers.'

Okay.



And these officers did some work with Sékouba, with people like me and others to tell us: "Listen, we think that because of the rainbow coalition he's put in place, Alpha controls a larger number of ethnic groups. The other one could have more of a voice, but he the voice of only one and a half ethnic groups.

I understand. In regards to stability.

So... in relation to stability, the army must support Alpha. Right?

That's true.

So, these officers, notably all from his ethnic group, put him into power. Now he is eliminating them one by one and he has nearly finished eliminating them.

That's clear.

And those he's leaving around him are the ones who have the least influence with the troops.

Okay.

And so, he has officers from other ethnic groups who are watching out for him, he has officers from his own ethnic group who are watching out for him and he has the former Sékouba supporters who are watching out for him. So, what he is doing in business on the international scene, he's also doing internally.

I understand. It's really a vice. In fact, in wanting so much to betray those who put him into power, he's sawing away at the branch on which he's sitting and he'll make himself fall.

He'll make himself fall. That's clear. He's digging his own grave.

It's a shame... really, it's a waste because what a waste of time, what a waste of time. Really!

And listen; there is a lack of extraordinary intelligence. I watch... We were talking about BSGR earlier. There isn't just BSGR, there is ~~CAF~~ Bellzone, etc., but if you only take BSGR, before the end of his first term, if he had let it go ahead, the Conakry-Kankán railway had been done, he could have said: "Here's my report" BSGR had started to export to Zogata before the end of this year. He could have said "During my time, Guinea exported its first tonne of iron." Before the end of his first term, Simandou was exporting. This means that he could have unleashed a dynamic where, in a year and a half, he would have started to add the equivalent of the current GNP to the Guinean treasury.

That's true.

He would have been re-elected. Before the end of his second term, it was with two billion per year that BSGR was singly contributing to the Guinean treasury. But he's made a place for himself in the history books...

He missed the boat.

Comment [106] de [106]
Group: Anonymous Client(s)

I don't understand his logic.

He invested in the others... what were they called? Reluctantly, anyway.

Rio?

No, no... Bellzone...

Even Bellzone, it's been two months since he released them, but otherwise, he had blocked them.

He blocked them... No, Rio, I worked on it with him, he dismissed my lawyers the day of signing. No, there are so many things Mr Thiam, there are so many things we would need so much time to talk about them. But that's not the objective, we need to advance. For Rio, at the time they put me with Lamine. We had said to him 'They're on their knees'. The boss at Rio came on two or three occasions, he saw Alpha's temperament, and he said to himself 'He's a crazy person!' And this is someone who could stop everything tomorrow. But equally he was in a position to stop everything. So really they were on their knees. I suggested our lawyers firm to Alpha. He started to work with them, and he was told 'Do not sign anything from now on without a lawyer present.' And most importantly, the amount that was offered at the start was 400 million — it was ridiculously low, he could have taken a lot more. There is an office in China - our biggest office by the way, we used a few of our Chinese friends, in particular our friends at Sinosud, in order to explain to him that he could have had a lot more with that. He said: 'Right, OK' In the end what did he do? We were at the Hilton, since Lamine likes to go to the Hilton in Paris, in Courcelles. I was with him and the Rio Tinto delegation was due to arrive and find us directly in Conakry. We took Lamine from Paris to Conakry to finalise everything. Lamine said to me: 'Samy, I've just spoken with the President, you are to stay in Paris, you're not to come to Conakry, because the President is sending you to Russia - a diversion.' I said: 'OK, but why?' He told me 'No. No.' and anyway the lawyer must be told it's not worth him coming.

Comment [67]
15/09/2015 15:22:22

He changes all the time. It's like the Americans. Myself, I'm always afraid of the American police. These people are unpredictable... And so, he said to me 'You're not coming. You're staying here. And it's not worth for the lawyer to come to find me.' I told him 'But, Minister, without the lawyer how are you going to talk in front of them?' He said: 'No, no, no... It's not worth him coming, and I'm even quite cross with the lawyer, I'll tell you about it later.' But I said to him: 'Minister, not with only 3 hours until signing the most important document!'

Comment [68]
15/09/2015 15:22:22

But he negotiated his part.

He negotiated his part. He didn't want; there are these famous amendments that they don't want anyone looking at Rio Tinto. They don't want to publish them. So, excuse me, Minister, I'm just going to get my keys - he said to me: 'No, there is no question about it, my lawyers must not come.' I said, 'But, what is this all about?' I was shocked. Well... finally I called the office and said 'the lawyers will not be at the

negotiation.' They signed the document just the three of them: the president and him became the lawyers. Even the lawyers from... What was he called?

From Rio?

No, no, no. The one that the other person sent, the American...

Soros?

Soros! Even the lawyers that Soros had sent, they were dismissed. So he dismissed our lawyers, Soros' lawyers, and Soros was very annoyed with him because he had dismissed all the lawyers. And finally he said: 'This is the great professor, he will do the document.' And he started to brag saying: 'You've seen Samy, everyone is saying I've signed the best contract!' We were at the table and I said: 'President, this contract is a catastrophe.

A catastrophe!

Three months later he said to me: 'Samy, really, you were right.'

"... you were right."

"... I was told in the end that it wasn't good, Lamine had betrayed me."

You don't say... You don't say ...

That's Alpha! So, when he said there were no lawyers for Rio Tinto, it was the biggest lie!

Listen, you know, that's well known. The Rio lawyers were laughing and making fun.

(Entering an apartment) It's all my savings.

That's what it should go into.

I've put all of my savings into this, I was very lucky. I bought it when Condé was in, in other words two and a half years ago, it was a divorce, a couple was divorcing, I really had a good opportunity, and so they let me have this, between you and me, for about 12 million, whereas it's worth about twice as much. It was a great opportunity.

Wow, what a great deal! Ah savings, that's what they're there for...

And they sold it fully furnished, so I was very lucky as well. They sold it with everything in it.

Farouk! The Minister, that's like my father [REDACTED]

Truly, I was very lucky and I brought my family here... I've not been yet, but I must go sometime. I must go there, because he is going to increase the pressure, and all of



the misfortunes I've had clash often. Ah my life... The travels, the travels.... Do what you like, really make yourself at home...

I have a lot of friends who are looking for husbands eh... If you like I could introduce you.

Oh really? I'm open to that.

It depends on your criteria.

I've always been unlucky in my life; I've always fallen in love with Muslim women...

...who want you to convert?

...who want me to convert. But, my grandfather was a pastor and my mother is a believer and the ultimate regular churchgoer; so I'm trying to manage her, she is starting to say to me: 'Listen, Samy...

"... it doesn't matter..."

"... I think that I am going to accept it because you are a lost cause."

I know Christians as well. You'll tell me what your criteria are?

That's really...

I have an army of young protégées who want to get married.

Is that right?

They're former models who are looking to... really, they can't find a husband.

That's great! I think that I'll be at your disposal. So, that's good.

Farouk is... My parents had bought a house here a long time ago, at the time they bought near *Bay Road*, it's closer to the centre.

OK.

Miami Beach. And it was Farouk who helped us to buy 30 years ago... ..

Yes, the prices exploded|

It was one of the neighbours, here, who, each time the market booms pfff... he was the one who built ... everything there is on Miami Beach|

In fact, the lady who comes regularly isn't here, so I asked for someone to be found quickly for my visit. No, there are some great opportunities here Minister, great opportunities|

Incredible, incredible|

Comment [870]
English
01/06/2010 01:46:14

Comment [871]
English
01/06/2010 01:46:14

Comment [872]
English
01/06/2010 01:46:14

Comment [873]
English
01/06/2010 01:46:14

Comment [874]
English
01/06/2010 01:46:14

When I was about 10 or 11, we went to *Lincoln Road*. To you, Minister.

Thank you.

And so, *Lincoln Road* see all the old people on *Lincoln Road*, and they were walking, it was with their [beings?]. Nowadays *Lincoln road* is really the Art Deco road. It's the main Art Deco road with all the shops, and all that... art galleries etc. They chased out all the old people.

Comment (875)
English
01-07-2010 08:01:21

It was incredible. And also, for the first time, they brought in gaming licences to Miami, the casino licences which had up until then been blocked in order to protect the town. Now they have to let it happen.

Comment (876)
English
01-07-2010 08:02:11

Comment (877)
English
01-07-2010 08:02:11

Do you play Minister? You don't play? No? That's not really in our culture.

Comment (878)
English
01-07-2010 08:03:01

No.

Comment (879)
English
01-07-2010 08:03:01

... Minister, are you alright?

Comment (880)
English
01-07-2010 08:03:01

Thanks, thanks.

Comment (881)
English
01-07-2010 08:03:01

Farouk is the property manager. There is no protocol, Minister, but... ..

Comment (882)
English
01-07-2010 08:03:01

When are you leaving for ?

Comment (883)
English
01-07-2010 08:03:01

Later.

Later?

Yes, yes I'm leaving. I have a friend who is... in Saint-Martin, he's going to pick me up on is return and I'll leave with him. So I need to be at Setai soon, because they're going to send someone for me over there.

OK, and you'll continue? We'll go there, we'll go there. That's why I was thinking of that..

Comment (884)
English
01-07-2010 08:03:01

I will give it to you with your permission.

Comment (885)
English
01-07-2010 08:03:01

There is a charitable organisation and I had accounts in South Africa where.

Comment (886)
English
01-07-2010 08:03:01

It's really a very nice person.

Comment (887)
English
01-07-2010 08:03:01

Did you consider the Mulsanne before this one?

In fact, I'm really waiting for the new one... ..

Comment (888)
English
01-07-2010 08:03:01

You're waiting for the new what?

I'm waiting for the new series of the *Phantome family*. They have redone all of the *Phantome* series.

But the *Phantome* is too big no?

They've done a coupé which is fantastic.

Oh really?

Fantastic! Even if you saw it, you will...

I always have my ~~*Phantome*~~ *Mulsanne*. Even here. The reason I haven't yet taken it is because ~~it's~~ And this one, it's the first time that I have a Rolls... and it's quite ...

Comments (119)
02/01/18 10:59

Comments (89)
02/01/18 10:59

It's on a human scale. In fact, that's it.

Right. But the Mulsanne ~~is~~. Well, it's a V8, I like V12s.

Comments (81)
02/01/18 10:59

Okay.

So, that's why I asked if you'd looked at the Mulsanne.

I saw the Mulsanne, because I have a Bentley in Paris, but I'm more of a GT person.

OK.

I have the.... In Paris, I had the old GT. I had it taken back and I got the new GT, but I was never interested in Mulsanne in Paris, because I spend little time in Paris, and in my opinion my children don't like to stay in Paris, they want to come here. So, here I get things in which we can be together as a ...

... as a family, yes.

As a family, exactly. But the...

But I've been on the lookout for this one for a while...

Comments (1092)
12/04/20 15:54

It's a... It's a very good car. And they've put in a system which is quite funny, so that when you drive it— I don't know if you can see it from where you are, I don't think so—you have on the...

It projects onto the dashboard.

It projects the speed, it projects certain information. At the beginning we overlooked... but they're just little details that, after...

... make all the difference.

Oh yes! which make the difference. It's a good car, a very good V12, a very, very good V12 in fact. Me too I wasn't a fan at the start, I was more of a fan of the *ghost*, because with my nephews...

The *Phantome* shape, rather.

More *Phantome*, sorry... with my nephews, there is more space for them, we laugh more. And in the end it easier to manoeuvre, it's much easier to manoeuvre.

In fact, big car and sports car at the same time.

Right, right, it's really easy to manoeuvre and a very, very good car... And Farouk is someone who is very, very good, very, very loyal.

Does he already have the documents to hand or ...?

No, no, no... I will make them available to him. As you were saying as for the... the schedule... the objective is to move very quickly, because if we can... in two weeks, in other words not the coming week, but the week after, start to launch... When I'm telling you this I want to reassure you that whatever happens, and I am insisting on this, I will give you the documents... But you understand it's crucial for me to see... Benny, whatever the outcome of the meeting, I will give you the documents, but we must absolutely...

It will be done. It would be silly to not want to meet you; it makes sense. At the end of the day the objectives are the same.

Yes, absolutely.

He has a big project that has been blocked, he needs to use all possible weapons, and he's tried everything, I know it. He's spoken to Alpha's close friends, the [Bollorés ?] everyone got involved, and seeing as Alpha had an agenda, Alpha blocked everyone and all of Alpha's friends have now come to the conclusion that Alpha is not acting in a bona fide way in this business. He has an objective. He's not looking to... Listen, today, Alpha could achieve a financial and political victory. Rio has given him 750 M\$ on the basis of a letter which I had written to Rio myself before leaving. That's all. If I hadn't have sent this injunction to Rio for them to give me their retrocession plan for February 2011, he wouldn't have had this opportunity.

He wouldn't have had this opportunity.

Before leaving I gave him a copy of the letter, I said to him: "You must continue." I said: 'Listen, I'm not even going to ask for their retrocession like you, I'm going to cancel their licence.' In fact, it was a negotiation strategy for him.

Of course, it was a negotiation strategy.

And after, he sabotaged all of that by signing this 'compromise agreement' where Rio is committed to doing nothing.

That is one of the biggest scandals: anyway, I always said that the real scandal was Rio's negotiation. He sold it to Rio for practically nothing...

... for nothing.

... for nothing!

And this 'freeze' is now practically legal. It's incredible! The only chance that Guinea has to make this 'freeze' not permanent is if a National Assembly arrives and invalidates the agreement.

I was thinking of this, Minister. Incidentally I was thinking of this. Certainly, you're the specialist but I said to myself: "The only chance is that if tomorrow the Assembly ask to reopen the case."

Yes, the Assembly can invalidate.

... can invalidate.

We can put CNT's ability into question. A National Assembly can invalidate this.

... can invalidate and postpone the negotiations.

Exactly.

Not to cancel their...

Exactly. This is the only chance we have because otherwise...

And... what did I want to say?... If his agenda wasn't... dishonest he could have negotiated... excuse me *(the conversation is interrupted by a telephone call)*



No, don't mention it.

I will be in Cape Town on Thursday. In fact, I am going to quickly go and see the teams one last time before we enter into the election period. And in fact, I'll be inclined to see him anywhere, in Europe, whether it's in London, or not in London, in Paris, Benny, and immediately, I will send Farouk to meet you regardless of the outcome of the meeting. I will send Farouk to meet you with the understanding that we can publish the following week, the time for you to put your contacts into place, I will prepare the others...

Once I have this, I'd say between five and seven days, I can...

Between five and seven days, the guys will also prepare their ...

Exactly, they will want to...

But of course, and then also do their...

Always their cross checking and asking for their assessments, give a chance to others to respond etc.

Of course, of course, like they do, they will call you first etc. of course

Exactly.

No problem, because it will fall...

About ten days before the elections.

Yes.

What date are the elections?

From the 16th to the 20th...

... December.

... December.

It's perfect.

The timing is perfect; it's now.

It will fall four to five days before the elections.

Exactly; in other words we need to do it now, because then it will fall a few days before the elections... But it's the impact of the thing, because even afterwards when people are voting, psychologically this will be in the air...

And this will even give Tokyo perhaps two or three days and his partner to sit with Zuma also...

... with Zuma, to discuss, exactly. No, I know that he's desperate; I know that he called him, that he called around, he called Benny from London saying that he was even ready to sign a pact with the devil, because he felt that Alpha was going to pull-out in a unilateral fashion and he felt that, the other one wasn't playing rationally. Alpha is going to pull out. If we don't prevent him from doing it, we're not forcing him. He will say: "I don't have much on them, but I'm going to pull-out; we'll see before..." Because he is like that; I heard that he lost the trial with Sanfillo a few days ago.

Who's that? Alpha?

Yes.

Ah, there was a trial with that? I didn't even know.

Yes, when they took the city from him...

The railways...

...railways... for which 800 M\$ have been paid.

Who? Alpha?

Yes, yes.

(Laughs).

I got the information a few days ago; he's been ordered to pay ... him no, but I think it's the government who pulled out; the Guinean government who are pulling out. They have been ordered to pay him 800 M\$. So you see again how he is putting Guinea in a bad... position.

Santillo is not faint-hearted. Santillo is going to freeze Guinea's assets throughout the world.

Oh yes! They're set for some terrible headaches! He's going to start freezing anything that moves. I've even been told he wanted to start with the embassies etc.

No, there wouldn't be much; there's nothing in the embassies.

There's not much eh...

And so what he's going to do is going to make these civil servants feel uneasy, who wouldn't be able to pay their rent, things like that, and Alpha has no impact on him. He doesn't care like...

Ah, he doesn't care; as long as he's not affected himself...

Exactly.

And the others can wait.

For example, it's the part of the 750 million that he's not yet spent, it's things like that they should freeze. The payments CBG and other mining companies are making to Guinea for royalties etc.

It's on that, that they must...

Exactly. He needs to be smothered in fact. In any case he declared war against me... It will end with the end of one of us; *I will not stop.*

He targeted you like an ideal scape-goat, from the beginning, even before, I'm telling you, he sat on the chair.

He chose the wrong victim.

That's true.

He chose the wrong victim, but I don't have a victim's mentality. When I go to war, I go to war. There is no... And Derpaska could have told him, because there is nothing that

Deripaska had done — whether it was death threats or offers of money - that he could have done that he could have stopped.

It's here that we see your worth for this [REDACTED] When we see how you have managed - I don't know the previous files very well, but this file I saw the methods they have; I honestly said: "You could have got rid of these by saying "I am going to leave the Russians to do the work, I'll leave them anything".

Comment [894]
02/11/93 not understood

I slept with a fire arm or even two fire arms for 18 months. I even went to the toilet with two pistols. It's not...

They're not angels.

It's not someone like Alpha who is going to stop me, I'm sorry.

You put your country first, before everything. We have said to him clearly: "You don't know who you're messing with, but you need to do it legally. You can't take them... They must be taken legally. They must be told that there is a report." The report is independent: they owe money, which is irrefutable. They can't make any noise, they can't... They can't do anything to you. It's legal. But he preferred to do a deal with the devil. Careful...

That's too bad for him. And even messing with Benny ...

Is very dangerous, it also not... Careful!

The world is full of Mossad's former agents who work for money. He puts these people to work, with the transfers from his son's accounts, that's the first thing that will come out.

Of course. They're not very careful. Truly, it's amateur because...

Between him and Bouba Sampil, the small amounts they send each other etc... that will come out in only a few minutes.

It will come out straight away; it will come out straight away. They're not careful at all... And the son has one big fault, in that he wants always to be put first. You see he's not someone who likes to stay in the shadows. Papa doesn't know how to stay in the shadows. The second you tell him he needs to stay in the shadows, you become his worst enemy...

Comment [895]
02/11/93 not understood

He gets angry, yes.

Yes, that's the problem! I said to him: "But you're the president's son? I've known a few, Papa; some are in prison now! Forgive me!"

Exactly.

But that's [REDACTED] he doesn't like what I give him! I say to him: "You know, the most recent is the son of the Niger's President Tandja."

Comment [896]
02/11/93 not understood

Ah, he's in prison?

Papa Tandja is currently in prison! I said to him "he's called Papa, like you" He's Papa Tandja, you are Papa ~~Diouf~~. But I said: "Papa in prison, he was my friend, my brother!" So you see...

Comment (UR) 10/27/10

And look how Karim ~~Diouf~~ is being bothered!

Take Karim ~~Diouf~~ Minister, that's the best example. I said: "Papa, these affairs end badly. I'm honestly telling you, trust me; I know what I'm talking about. The first thing I did as soon as I had the choice was to meddle in the State's political affairs, because my dad had already been there and so I was no longer credible."

Comment (UR) 10/27/10

Exactly.

I said to him: "This is a case of common sense." You are a victim; you're dead even before getting there. Everything you do will be monitored. That's clear.

No, but all he needs to do is look at Abdou Diouf's children and how they are respected nowadays. And nobody is talking about Pape Diouf. Abdou Diouf lives in Dakar, he lives his life, and nobody bothers him. He knows how to behave

There's also a revengeful side like I was saying to you, there is a revengeful side... "It's our turn" In politics, it's... these are ideas that shouldn't be brought up. You can't be revengeful, you can't be emotional there. You need to be aloof and then...

Too bad for them. He had his chance, he had... He had fought all his life for one thing, we give it to him and he wastes it.

He wastes it... he wastes it like that. I talked with the French, the first time was in May 2012, just before Alpha's visit to Paris, they had started to ask questions about Waymark, but they were really trivialising it... They were convinced that, well, it was only a Waymark thing, it was a story like that, etc. And I said to them: "Be careful, because President Hollande is going to meet President Condé, so really be careful. Embrace him but not too much, because if this business comes out tomorrow, I would say your President will be quite embarrassed, eh..."

No, here, it's that the right... there is an internal war, at the moment with the UMP have delayed the thing, but...

They had started to prepare this.

They were preparing an outing to the parliament, were launching a parliamentary inquiry, and denouncing the letter of congratulations Hollande had sent to Alpha by saying: "How can you Embrace such an individual in public and bring up these things?"

Bring them up like that? Right. Working on them.

And so, it's a question of time. When they finish sorting out their personal affairs, they will turn against Hollande, and Alpha is a perfect weapon for this.

Yes, because also he's not... he's not a gracious winner. He started to attack Sarkozy saying: "I can sleep better now that he's not here."

Exactly.

What is it?... He's not winning anything by doing that. He's the President of the Republic, eh...

You know, Bolloré had started to introduce Alpha to Sarkozy. When he started to talk to Sarkozy, Sarkozy said to Bolloré: "Alpha already has someone in Guinea who has said good things about him here, and Guéant has given me positive reports." This was when I became convinced that he had to be supported.

... that we must get behind him, okay...

And Bolloré said to him: "Apparently Minister Thiam has already worked on an introduction for you. So, Alpha called me."

He was surprised, I imagine.

He was surprised and he called me. I said: "Indeed". He said "Good, listen, before the inauguration ceremony I would like to have at least one personal conversation with Guéant, in this way there will be a personal relationship before I officially become president." I said: "No problem." I went to see Guéant...

And there he appointed you to...

Yes, yes I was with Guéant, we called Guéant and he didn't answer. I went out; Gueant said to me: "Give him my mobile number, that way he can call me as soon as he..." Alpha calls me back when I leave Guéant's and... I say to him: "Here is Guéant's number, call him, he's waiting for your call, but it's for an informal conversation etc. before you officially become president." He says: "No, no, I'm the President now, it's up to him to call me, I won't call him."

That is so Alpha!

I said: "OK, leave it."

That's how you stopped everything. Minister, I'm going down.

Stop calling me 'Minister'; it's never been a title I adopted, and it's been a pleasure.

That's kind... I'm the happy one!

I am counting on the information and in 24 to 48 hours I will have seen Benny.

Good! Okay. So we understand each other; I will wait for the confirmation, I want to see where he's going (to London or Paris this week), I have a meeting with him. As soon as we wrap this up, I will send Farouk to see you so that seven to ten days

after everything with take-off automatically. Ok we're off then! Thank you and bon voyage!

Thank you... Goodbye.