IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

1997 I No.139

Royal Courts of Justice Friday, 10th March 2000

Before:

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND

BETWEEN:

- (1) INDEPENDENT TELEVISION NEWS LTD.
- (2) PENNY MARSHALL
- (3) IAN WILLIAMS

Claimants

- and -

- (1) INFORMINC (LM) LTD.
- (2) MICHAEL HUME
- (3) HELENE GULDBERG

Defendants

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- MR. T. SHIELDS Q.C. and MR. M. BARCA (instructed by Messrs. Biddle) appeared on behalf of the Claimants.
- MR. G. MILLAR and MR. A. HUDSON (instructed by Messrs. Christian Fisher Solicitors) appeared on behalf of the Defendants.

PROCEEDINGS - DAY 9

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Not really but I am sure I will.

Because I was an expert witness on the question

A. I knew from

A. No, he did

Mr. Deichmann, at the conclusion of your evidence yesterday

I will remind you. I asked you how you obtained the rushes.

And I asked you whether you knew that they had been provided

Professor Wladimiroff that he got them from the prosecution

And you knew full well that they had been provided by him for

of media coverage during that case, the media coverage of that case in Germany, and he handed out to me a bundle of tapes

not explain to me anything about these rushes. He did not tell me not to copy them, he just gave me a bundle of tapes,

which primarily had reports about that case broadcast on

German television. Amongst these tapes, which I found out

You knew those tapes had nothing to do whatsoever with your

Yes.

I had been asking you some questions about the rushes.

Α.

Α.

and I assumed that it was the ITN rushes.

the purposes of that tribunal, did you not?

Yes.

by ITN to the War Crimes Tribunal?

Α.

as I have said yesterday.

Α.

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remember that?

You did?

Why?

Do you remember that?

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duties as an expert witness in relation to media coverage of Alic, did you not? A. I knew and I did not use them for that purpose. 35 So why did you copy them?

when I watched these tapes, were the ITN rushes.

- A. Because I found it was quite interesting material. I am an investigative journalist and I thought: "Well, have a look into it and take copies."
- And you did not ask the permission of the prosecutor? A. I had not contact at all with the prosecutor. working for Professor Mischa Wladimiroff, a Dutch advocate, leading company Wladimiroff & Spong in the Hague. post.
- O And you did not ask permission of Professor Wladimiroff either, did you? A. No, I did not. He did not give me any instructions on their tapes.
- And you knew you should not have those tapes, did you not? He had given them to me, so I had them.
- 0 When you handed over your material to Mr. Hume so he could check this article, did you hand over any copies of the

broadcast which had been made by Ms. Marshall and Mr. Williams? A. No, I did not.

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Was that because you had never bothered to see them? A. I saw them. I saw most of the broadcast. broadcast on German television. I saw it the first time in 1992. As we have seen with the ITN broadcast itself, their reports were filed all over the world. So I have seen them in 1992. I saw them also again, I well remember, I think in 1993 or 1994 there was a German film maker called Monika Gras. did very substantial documentaries on the camps in northern Bosnia and she used most if not all of the Channel 3 rushes from ITN, from Penny Marshall's reports, so I saw the Igor bit, I saw the Dr. Merdzanic bit, of course I saw Penny Marshall entering the compound, shaking hands with Fikret Alic, several other shots from the camp. I think they also used parts of the Channel 4 rushes substantially and they even had a long interview with Penny Marshall in this documentary. So I saw a whole lot of that and I reviewed that documentaries while I was doing my investigations from my article.

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What I did as well, when I was investigating that story, I rang up ITN in London, that was in December, the beginning of December 1996 when I had returned from Bosnia, and I asked them to send me kind of detailed transcripts from their department of archive studies, which would summarise very, very detailed -- the various reports that were broadcast. I think it was -- I asked them to send everything they had on the camps on the 6th, 7th and 8th August. So there was a report faxed over of about 35, 40 pages altogether from ITN. So they gave me again a very clear picture how the reports were structured and what these -- all this material told me as well is that the barbed wire image of Fikret Alic was used again and again in various broadcasts and it also told me the impression that was given by these reports.

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Let me get this right. You had bothered to phone up ITN to get copies of the reports, the transcripts, but you did not bother to put to Ms. Marshall or Mr. Williams, or anyone at ITN what you were intending to write about them? No, I did not. I did consider that seriously and I discussed it as well with Mick Hume, as I discussed that matter with all the other European editors. I think it has not been mentioned yet in the proceedings that my article, before it was published in LM, in the February issue, it was already published in very prestigious papers all over Europe without any problem because there is only a libel law in So it was published in the beginning of January in Der Schtandart (?), which is a leading conservative daily in It was published beginning of January in ... which Austria. is the biggest and most influential ---

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MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: I am not certain that any of this evidence is relevant or admissible in this case. A. Well, if it is I can just deal with the question.

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Yes, I will ask you the question again. MR. SHIELDS: very simple question. Why did you not bother to contact Ms. Marshall or Mr. Williams, or anyone at ITN before publishing this article in England, if that helps you? Yes. I think, Mr. Shields, my Lord and members of the jury, I think you have to understand how powerful journalists can operate when they have access to the mass media and I was well aware of that. If journalists who have access to the mass media do not like your story and you contact them in order to stop your story being published -- and I had made that experience previously. I give you an example. A couple of years ago I was working on a very substantial investigative story on a green issue, nothing to do with Bosnia or the It had to do with the Green Party in Frankfurt and I criticised -- well, what I found out that there was some kind of corruption involved in that. At that time I contacted the responsible people and in days, you know, in a period of some days I suddenly found that I found it terribly difficult to get my articles further published, and I also found out very soon why, because the people who had access to the media and they knew well the media, they started defaming me, they started telling lies about me. They told Frankfurt journalists whom I had worked with that I am a far right wing extremist, a complete absurd, you know, allegation. I have been organising in Frankfurt an exhibition in 1995 to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of Second World War in coordination with a city council of history department in cooperation with Holocaust survivors, but these lies were You know, that is the real life in media. If you have two huge organisations, and especially if you are doing investigative journalism and you criticise people, you know, you have to understand the power, you know, which media can And I was fully aware of that.

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I considered, of course I seriously considered getting in touch with them but I dropped the idea and I discussed it with Mick Hume, as I said, and not Mick Hume and no other publisher in the European papers considered contacting ITN. They fully understood what I was talking about. So, you know, just to add to explain that fully, I think what has been said as well here, I think twice, that it is a first rule or a golden rule to contact people you criticise. To put it like that, when you talk about investigative journalism it is nonsense. It is absolute nonsense. I will tell you that at least half of the best stories we had last century, investigative stories like Watergate, whatever, they would never become published in the first place if journalists would have contacted the people they criticise before. That is reality in media and that is, I think, what you have to understand. I was fully aware of, having made that previous experience, that this was happening. And, you know, I think

it was a wise decision. It was a very wise decision not to get in touch with the ITN staff before it was published in Britain.

You knew you were making very serious allegations against A. I knew I was criticising them and I expected them, you know, to not like my story, yes. It was a very, very -- a very, you know, important story for ITN. It was a very important story for the ITN reporters and, you know, there was a lot of discussion in recent years, since 1992, about these images from Trnopolie and I was fully aware of and I would have been absolutely stupid to not expect a hostile response from them. They would not have said to me: maybe you're right. We were in an enclosure. I'm sorry. Let's discuss it." And, you know, as we have seen, I do not think my article is a personal attack on anybody. That is not why I published that article. It is a media issue. I am dealing with a media issue here and having seen their response, not even having read my article but just responding like that to a press release which was circulated I must say was a very good decision and I do not regret it at all.

Prior to publishing this article you had not spoken to one single person who was an inmate at Trnopolje in August 1992, had you? A. That is not right. I told you yesterday that while I was in the Prijedor area in December 1996 I spoke to several - to some of them - which asked me and urged me not to be interviewed, no photos to be taken and not mentioned in any way because, as I said, it was still a difficulty situation in this area, which was still dominated by the Serbs. Also, there was already peace there after the Dayton Agreement and the people feared to be identified. There were still some really ugly people around and they are probably still now around in this area.

Q You knew that --- A. And if you want I can explain to you exactly what people I met and where I met them and what these people told me.

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Q You knew that Ms. Marshall and Mr. Williams and the other members of the ITN crews had been at the camp on that day, did you not? A. Well, that is fairly obvious, yes.

Notwithstanding that, you could not be bothered or you did not dare to put to them the allegations you were going to make about their conduct on that day? A. You want me to repeat now what I just explained, Mr. Shields? You know, I think I have outlined why I did not do that. Yes, I did not do it for very obvious reason, and I do not regret it. I think it was a wise decision not to do it. And everybody in the media, you know, who knows how the media operate, you know, would support that point if you ask them. It is nonsense, as I said, to suggest ---

- 1 Q Well, let us look back at the article you wrote, tab 6. If we go to the page I was asking you about yesterday, the interview with Pero Curguz. Do you remember that one? It is paragraph 24. A. Yes.
 - Q I reminded you what Mr. Curguz had said. Do you remember that? A. Yes.
 - Q At the end of paragraph 24:

"Curguz stressed that this was no internment or prisoner camp. it was a collecting camp for exiled Muslims. Everybody I spoke to confirmed that the refugees could leave the camp area at almost any time."

I asked you, did you still stand by that statement in the light of the evidence you have heard? A. Yes, I do. At almost any time, yes.

- Q So it is your case, is it I want to get it absolutely clear that Mr. Fikret Alic and the other people we see on this film could have left that camp at any time if they wanted? A. You mean when they were filmed there?
- Yes. A. No, that is not my case. When I described that, that is a general description of the situation in the camp, which has been confirmed to me by various other sources including the International Red Cross in Geneva. Concerning Fikret Alic, what I write in my article, that these people had been transferred I even use the word "transferred" from other camps, the same day when Penny Marshall and Ian Williams arrived there, I also could have said "released" as other people have put it, including the International Red Cross -- released from other detention centres to this refugee centre, and I say that they are standing in this area which I marked on my side plan and they waited to be registered and to be told where to go. That is the state of the people, how they are filmed in that field.

I do not say that they at the time were able to leave and there were -- you know, there were fences, there were guards, which we have seen here, armed guards, but to explain that fully, Mr. Shields, the existence of guards in a camp does not mean that a camp is a prison; there is a difference. An armed guard is not necessarily a prison guard. There are several refugee camps have been operating during that war. I have covered that war since 1993. I have been to the war zones and I myself have seen several refugee camps which were fenced in with makeshift fences, which had armed guards, but we would not call these camps prisons. People were not allowed to leave these camps, especially in Croatia, which I think we have seen the same camps during the Kosovo crisis again, and people were not allowed to get in easily. Even I was not allowed to get in without permission. But we would

not call these camps a prison. And of course in the middle of a war zone it is even more complicated, it is more difficult; you would have more armed quards at such camps, especially on a day when you expect several hundred former prisoners being released from Omarska and Kereterm. You would have, of course, guards there to make sure that no chaos is there, that you do not know what is going to happen when all these people get there. So you watch them carefully and you try to keep control over the situation. You want to avoid chaos. But at the same time these camps are in the middle of a war zone and the guards at Trnopolje would protect these people from outside attacks, and there is evidence which has been presented that these camps were attacked. They were attacked by Serbian extremists several times and the Serb guards did their best to protect these people. And they were also attacked by Muslim extremists because the Muslim militia, they tried to get into that camp and to bring people out of there, young people, and recruit them into their own files. That was also one of the reasons which I indicate in my plan why especially young people were quite happy to be at that place, because they feared to be recruited into the war. not want to have to do anything with the war.

I would just like to get this right. Do you or do you not accept the evidence that Dr. Merdzanic gave in this court?

A. I do. I cannot remember -- I do not know what you are now referring to especially, but the situation, how he described the camp, I fully agree and I made no -- you know, I am not saying, I have never said that this camp was, as you put it, I think not fairly, you know, a good summary of my article, "a safe refuge". I have never said that. Trnopolje was an awful place, but surely we can distinguish between an awful place, which I describe when I made reference to rapes and beatings at that camp, between such a place and on the other hand, you know, a place like Auschwitz and Belsen where mass extermination is taking place, you know. And the bottom point of my article is that if journalism loose sight of this distinction it is misleading journalism, it is false journalism.

Q Just turn back then to the page before, to how you describe the camp in paragraph 21. It is opposite your diagram and I will ask you a question or two about that in a minute.

"Yet an important element of that 'key image' had been produced by camera angles and editing. The other pictures, which were not broadcast, show clearly that the large area on which the refugees were standing was not fenced-in with barbed wire. You can see that the people are free to move on the road and on the open area, and have already erected a few protective tents. Within the compound next door that is surrounded with barbed wire, you can see about 15 people, including women and children, sitting under the shade of a tree. Penny Marshall's team were able to walk in and out of

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this compound to get their film, and the refugees could do the same as they searched for some shelter from the August sun."

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A. Uh-huh.

Are you seriously suggesting that the image which you convey in that paragraph stands with the evidence given by Dr. Merdzanic in this court? A. Well, Dr. Merdzanic did not deal with any kind of area of barbed wire issues in the court.

I asked you whether the impression given by that paragraph, which is the impression of a fairly carefree place where people can come and go as they please, is it not?

A. Well, that is not the impression that is given. That is not what I say. If we can break down this part, sentence by sentence if you want, and I will explain to you exactly what I mean with every single word and sentence in this paragraph, if you wish to do that.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Would not the ordinary reader be misled by that paragraph as to what the true conditions in the camp were? A. No, I do not think so and, you know, you cannot take -- I also think, my Lord, that you have to read the full article and you cannot just take, as Mr. Shields, you know, suggests that you take out "apparently imprisoned" and leave away "behind barbed wire", so you cannot take out a paragraph of an article, which is fairly long, in order to get, you know, a full picture. And I do not think that even that paragraph is misleading. It is a fair, very fair, proper description.

 MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: I have had a note from you, members of the jury. In my view, it is really a matter of argument and a matter you may wish to discuss between you when you retire rather than for the witness. Do you want to see the note?

MR. SHIELDS: Should we see it?

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MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: You can certainly see it, Mr. Shields; and so can you, Mr. Millar. (Same handed) If you wish to ask questions about it, do so. Yes, Mr. Shields?

MR. SHIELDS: What your scene suggests in this article, does it not, Mr. Deichmann, is that Fikret Alic was not imprisoned at that camp? A. Again, can you repeat the question.

Q What you are seeking to suggest in this article is that Fikret Alic was not imprisoned at this camp? A. No, I do not. I explain fairly accurate what his position was when he arrived there, and we have seen that in the rushes. Nobody knew what is going to happen to them. They have just been transferred from other camps. They have been released from there. That is how, as I said, the International Red Cross

has put it, and they wait -- they wait to be registered. That is also information from the International Red Cross, they waited to be registered, or there was a registration kind of procedure operating at that time, and then told where to go.

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Q Mr. Deichmann, you know full well that the International Red Cross had not been allowed into the camp at that time?
A. They had not been -- started their official mission yet, but ---

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They had not been allowed into that camp, had they? Q A. Representatives of the International Red Cross had been there already. I have spoken to them in Geneva. International Red Cross had stopped their mission in July because one of their senior staff was shot by a sniper in Sarajevo. So they actually withdrew most of their staff from A few people left but they did not operate. But at Bosnia. this stage or at this time it did not mean that people did not So Bia Schweitzer(?), who was in seek, you know, contact. charge of the ICRC mission in that area, he frequently went to Trnopolje and seek contact with Pero Curguz. So when the official mission of the International Red Cross started, I think it was about 12th August, about a week after Penny Marshall and Ian Williams had been there, that does not happen like that. There is a lot of negotiation already happening before. So Bia Schweitzer has been to that camp and I have spoken to the spokesperson in Geneva. He had contact with Bia Schweitzer, who is now somewhere else operating for the ICRC. He had talked to him and asked him about it and he confirmed that. And he also confirmed the kind of description that I gave in my article about Trnopolje camp. The ICRC in Geneva was not at all unhappy about my article. They were not at all critical about it.

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Did you try and get a statement from them then after these proceedings --- A. No, I did not, because I know - and I respect, fully respect that the International Red Cross does not want to get involved in any kind of political or legal activities. They want to keep their neutrality in order to do the utmost best that they can for people who suffer in wars.

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Would you look at your diagram, which is beside the paragraph I read to you. Just looking at that diagram, where you have the enclosure, tell us why is there no reference to the gap at the southern part of the enclosure? A. Well, I have explained that yesterday already. This is a schematical plan so it does not show any windows in the buildings, it does not show any doors or entrances in the building. It is a schematical plan which, you know, you would do to illustrate, to give an idea of a location. That is why I did not do it, but I explained that fairly accurate in my article, that there was this gap where the journalists entered; and I also mentioned that this barbed wire fencing was -- I do not know where it is now, I could find it if you want -- was torn apart

in several places. So this is a schematical plan and the reason, just to make that again, that has probably come from my civil engineering background. If you have got -- you know, if you want to highlight or if you want to show that there was some different material being used like here for the fences, you would use another dot and comma, whatever sign, to make that easier for the reader to follow your argument. So this is, you know, just to help the reader to read through that article, which is, I know, a very, very long piece and not -- some people complained about it being too long, but it is just -- I just did that to help people, you know, to get an idea of what the situation was like.

Q Would it not have helped people to show there was a gap there? A. No, I do not think so. It would not have made sense to show a gap there in such a plan, but you would have to have done a different plan, or a different photo, or whatever, to show that gap. But that is completely irrelevant.

Q Would it have helped people to show it was a broken down fence, as you tell us? A. Mr. Shields, I have explained that in my article.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Yes, you explain it in paragraph 18.

A. I do not have any numbers here, I am sorry, my Lord.

When Marshall, Williams and Vulliamy entered the compound next to the camp, the barbed wire was already torn in several places."

A. That is right, yes.

Q "They did not use the open gate, but entered from the south through a gap in the fence."

A. Yes.

MR. SHIELDS: It is right you have explained it. Is it your case they could not have left that area by going from the barbed wire fence where Fikret Alic was to the west side without going out of the enclosure, as you call it? A. Well, as we have seen here in the proceedings, it looks very unlikely without knowing that you either step over a wire mesh fence or you lean under two strands of barbed wire. They may have somehow, you know, get their way through. There was, you know, high grass as well. But I did not comment on that, where they get out; I just say where they get in. I say the entered through the gap next to the electricity transformer, that is the point I make, and I do not make any comment at all where they get out of it.

Q Did you come over to England for the launch of the magazine? A. Sorry?

- Q Did you come over to England for the launch of this particular magazine? A. Not for the launch of the magazine. I did not know that the magazine was re-launched until I had -- actually, I did not realise it when I saw the copy, when it was out, but it was told me -- I do not know when, when I was over. I come over fairly quickly when you issued the writ, or ITN issued the writ against LM.
- You made yourself available for interview though, did you not? A. It is not that -- I made myself available?
 Yes, I did make it available but the request came from the other side. The day I think when the ITN writ was issued I was lecturing at Cologne University to media students and in the morning I got a phone call.

10.45 a.m.

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Q Is this the writ? A. Yes. This live writ for legal action was being taken and media people are contacting us. So I flew from Cologne after I was lecturing, to London and already in Cologne the German editor of the Times arranged to meet me at the airport and he flew with me to London to discuss the case. So the interest was not coming from me. The interest came from their side. The same with the BBC which has been mentioned here.

Q Would you look at Tab 4, please? That is the press release, is it not? A. Yes.

Q Did you know about that before it went out? A. I am sure I did because there is a quote from me in it.

Q There is a quote from you in it. Will you look at the bottom? It says,

"Thomas Deichmann and Mick Hume are available for interview. Photographs on request".

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So you were available for interview when the press release was issued. A. Yes, of course. As I said, when this was becoming a case I was asked to come over and I said yes, I will take a couple of days and come over.

Q Because you knew this press release and your article would attract a lot of media attention, did you not? A. I think that is the purpose of a press release, yes.

That is right. And the purpose is to get as much publicity as you can for yourself, Mr. Hume and for the magazine. A. At this time I was not thinking about publicity for myself. I am a German journalist and I must say sometimes I tried but I found it very difficult to get published in There is a very close media over here and I did not think a second about being, you know, how you described for myself. But of course it was an important issue for LM and it was my article and I felt also, you know, I have to be there. If the journalists ask questions, I want to be there. I want to show my rushes. I want to show my photos. I want to show my evidence. I want to show that the article is correct.

So you want to show all those things. But prior to issuing the press release you had made no attempt to find any evidence which might contradict what you were alleging in that article. A. I did a week's research to investigate that story and not only, you don't investigate stories, as it has been put here, selectively choose what you like. You do proper research and you especially look out for stuff which may contradict your suspicions and I think I did a fairly good investigative job here with that piece which other senior media people have affirmed to me and I came up with a very good article, with a very good product at the end.

Q A very good product. A week's research in Bosnia where you interviewed Bosnian Serbians and took photographs of the camp in December 1996. A. I did a lot of other research which I indicated yesterday. A lot of reading, a lot of Internet research, a lot of phone calls, interviews with Wladimiroff; watching his tapes; watching his photos. I was working day and night, to put it like that, in that period.

 But not a single piece of research which appears to involve interviewing anyone who had first hand experience of being in No, I did not. that camp on 5th August 1992. Α. I explained it just a couple of minutes ago. The ITN reporters they had time, four and a half years, to explain about that, so I think that was also for me a point of consideration, not the main point but a minor point to consider, not to contact them. The main point was that I did not expect any help but a lot of problems and hostility and I think to put it to you now, if I would have contacted them, probably this article would never have been published in It would never have reached the public here. As I say, I do not regret not having contacted them.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Mr. Deichmann, in your article, where do you refer to interrogations in the Medical Centre, beatings of people being interrogated, deaths and rapes in Trnopolje? Where do you refer to that in your article? A. There is a chapter. This is a page just after the diagram which we discussed. It starts,

"Without doubt most of the refugees in Trnopolje were undernourished",

so I do not doubt that people had a hard time there in terms of food. There is a lot to say about that as well,

"Civilians were harassed in the camps".

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: There were reports. A. There were reports of some rapes and murders.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: That is a balanced view, you say? A. Yes.

MR. SHIELDS: That is,

"There were reports of some rapes and murders yet the irony is that if this collection centre for refugees had not existed under the supervision of Bosnian Serb soldiers, a far greater number of Muslim civilians might have lost their lives".

A. Yes.

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> There are other quotes from this article I have read. impression that is given is that the Bosnian Muslims were I do not say that lucky to be in that camp, is it not? Α. with a single word, that they were lucky. I have just said that it was an awful place and the people in there would have liked to be somewhere else, safe in western Europe as a refugee or whatever. I have made that clear. I also want to comment on that. My article is a media issue, it deals with a media issue. It deals with how it came about that reporters from a western media organisation shot these images and how it came about that these images, and why, from my reading, fooled the world by giving the impression that what they had found was reminiscent to extermination camps of the Nazis, to the death camps. By suggesting that they had found a prison which was surrounded by barbed wire, that is the issue of my article, you know. I think that is also the case in these proceedings.

MR. MILLAR: I have no re-examination, my Lord.

(The witness withdrew)

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Is that your case, Mr. Millar?

MR. MILLAR: It is.

 MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Members of the jury, so far as you are concerned, you can have the rest of the day off and have a restful weekend because your hard work begins next week. Do not forget any of the evidence but put it to the back of your minds and remember, do not discuss the case with anyone at all. We will see you at quarter past 10 on Monday.

(The jury retired from the Court)

 MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Mr. Shields, thinking about the real issues in this case overnight, I really wondered whether "fair comment" and "malice" were really otiose here. If the defendants justify either the defamatory meaning pleaded by

you or their pleaded meaning, is that not the end of the case? If they do not justify it, the claimants must win, subject to the question of whether it is defamatory of ITN. Is that not the reality?

MR. SHIELDS: If your Lordship recalls how I opened this case, I said that comment is free, but facts are sacred and they rely on the very self-same facts as call for comment. If those facts fall apart, there is no comment they could be making.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Yes. If Mr. Millar's clients do not establish justification in regard to 8A and 8B, that is the end of the defendant's case, is it not? Is that not right, Mr. Millar?

MR. MILLAR: My Lord, yes.

I am grateful for that. Cluttering the jury MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: up with long directions in law about fair comment and malice, I would have thought would merely be confusing in this case. It would be far better, and the jury would grasp the nettle, to have the defendants established on the balance of probabilities, the truth in substance and in fact of the defamatory meaning, whatever the defamatory meaning is. Whether it is your defamatory meaning or their defamatory In a sense -- again this is theoretical -- if they justify their defamatory meaning, your defamatory meaning is a little worse, but in reality if they establish their defamatory meaning the amount of damages would be derisory, or So would it not be far better for the jury to concentrate on the real issue in this case: whether there was a deliberate misleading report sent out by Mr. Williams and Ms. Marshall? That is the real issue in this case, is it not?

MR. SHIELDS: At the end of the day that is the real issue, though obviously in relation to damages I would not be seeking to rely upon the motivation of the articles and that which could hurt the feelings of the claimants.

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MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: You will rely on the matters you have pleaded, which I have looked at again this morning.

MR. SHIELDS: In fact I have done a very short note.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Is there a copy for me?

MR. SHIELDS: That was on malice. But I adopt those for the purpose of aggravation which we have done in reply. Paragraph 5 of the reply, page 61.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: It is pages 61 and 62, paragraph 5.

MR. SHIELDS: We amended that reply.

- 1 MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Have I got a copy of the amendment?
- MR. SHIELDS: If your Lordship does not have one I will find you one. I stand by exactly what I said in my opening.
 - MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Yes. I do not see how paragraph 4.7 could aggravate the injury to the feelings of the claimants.
- 9 MR. SHIELDS: What can aggravate the injury is this. If you sense that somebody is selling your reputation for their own profit because, for example, they are having a press release which attracts maximum publicity and then they have an article on a relaunch, then you can justifiably be upset.
 - MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: It might increase your upset, yes.
- 17 MR. SHIELDS: That is how I put it. It increases your upset.
 18 There are two elements of the reply which plainly can go to
 19 the hurt feelings. First, the fact that no one bothered to
 20 contact you.
- MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Let us go through these various paragraphs.
 I have got the reply in front of me at the moment.
- 25 MR. SHIELDS: I can probably help your Lordship by summarising it. 26
- MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Let me look at the paragraphs first, rather than summarising it.
- MR. SHIELDS: It is about the articles, that is the point. There
 were a lot of articles published by the defendant which we say
 throw insight into their motivation for publishing it.
 I cannot rely upon them unless they were known.
- MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: What was the evidence of Ms. Marshall or
 Mr. Williams that their feelings were more upset and they were
 more outraged because this article appeared in a relaunch?
 I do not think there was any such evidence, was there?
 I mean, the press conference was clearly a matter that upset
 them. The fact that it was put on the wire.
- MR. SHIELDS: The press release. The way the press release was handled. Secondly, the fact that they had never been contacted.
- 46 MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: The press conference. 47
- 48 MR. SHIELDS: Particularly with Ms. Marshall, subsequent conduct 49 which we say, by inference at least, should be attributed to 50 the defendants or at least the publication of the article 51 complained of. That goes to aggravation of course. think I can seriously, if your Lordship is taking malice away, 52 53 pray in aid malice by way of aggravational damages on the fact that he has adopted a stance against the western media, 54 55 because unless they knew about that at the time it could not

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So that would go with the malice. That would have hurt them. leave us only therefore on that ground, the fact that there was a relaunch, whether that caused them any upset.

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MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: I don't think there was any evidence of that.

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MR. SHIELDS: There was no evidence of that, but they are entitled to complain of the fact that on its face it was suggested that they were selling their reputation for their own benefit, because that inference could be drawn from three matters, or at least two. The first is the way the press release was handled, i.e. without notice done to maximise hurt. Secondly, the failure to contact them. They could be legitimately hurt that someone takes no steps, in pursuance of their benefit and profit, at the expense of your reputation.

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MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: What is the evidence of that from either of them?

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MR. SHIELDS: There is a legitimate inference from their evidence. I shall have to comb it again but I would not run it, colloquially, unless I could find answers or any evidence to support it. I was not prepared to deal with this today because obviously your Lordship had said that I could not arque that in relation to aggravation of damages unless I had something particular that I could support it with when I came There would be no point in my doing that. to make my speech. I would not think about doing that.

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MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: No. I mean, I want to know before speeches what are the limits for the claim for aggravated damages.

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MR. SHIELDS: Unless I can persuade your Lordship --

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MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: We are not dealing here with an obscure magazine that wanted to remain obscure, or an obscure article where the author and publisher wanted it to remain obscure.

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MR. SHIELDS: No, the reverse.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND:

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The absolute reverse, and they wanted maximum publicity and the evidence is that -- we had it from Mr. Deichmann -- the BBC were in contact with him; various other journalists. There was the press conference and of course there is evidence from Mr. Purvis that he was rung up by the BBC.

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MR. SHIELDS: CNN and so on. It is quite clear from the press. release that photographs and interviews were available; that they were going to exploit this for all it was worth. That goes to something that hurts one's feelings. It reinforces my earlier submission that it shows that they are selling their reputations for their own benefit. You can be hurt at that.

- MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: I think it is the effect and what actually they did rather than the motive of Mr. Hume that matters. It is the fact that it was given maximum publicity by the defendants.
- MR. SHIELDS: I am very happy to focus in my speech on consequence rather than motive. If your Lordship withdraws fair comment and malice it would be wrong for me to start running malice in the same way. I do not intend to. I will focus on what I say are the simple issues in this case.
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 12 MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Right. Now what else have you handed up to me?
- 15 MR. SHIELDS: That is all relating to malice.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: A bit in John, is it?

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 19 MR. SHIELDS: It all relates to failure to how you can infer
 20 recklessness from the failure.
- MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: There is a bit in <u>John</u> you said about compensation.
- 25 MR. SHIELDS: I have not handed that up. Your Lordship will
 26 recall there are some telling remarks from the Master of the
 27 Rolls about allegations which go to the core of personalities.
 28 I have not actually handed that up.
- 30 MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: If you could, before we rise today, give me 31 the reference. I am familiar with it. I have got <u>John</u> here, 32 but where it is in <u>John</u>.
- 34 MR. MILLAR: It is actually in my skeleton page 607 I think. 35
- MR. SHIELDS: That sets out the principles where a substantial award of damages is in contemplation. That is why that is so important because it distinguishes from what might be called the run of the mill libel by a limited publication allegations which are serious but not damaging by their very nature.
 - 42 MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: No. This is an attack, if not justified, on 43 the professional integrity of both Ms. Marshall and 44 Mr. Williams and, if it is defamatory of ITN, that they were 45 in effect permitting the peddling of misleading information 46 and news.
 - MR. SHIELDS: Set them up to do it is how I am going to do it because if you look at those paragraphs, I say they are absolutely that.
 - MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Right. If there is nothing you want to say, Mr. Millar, what do you say about fair comment and malice?

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- 1 MR. MILLAR: The plea of fair comment in respect of the meaning of 8(c) is one of those libel pleadings at the end of a long trial like this when you get to the real issues and it does start to look a bit technical.
 - MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: From the defendant's point of view, the defendant must justify (a) and (b) before we get to (c). If he justifies (a) and (b) that is the end of the claimant's case.
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 11 MR. MILLAR: I am very content for the case to be put to the jury on that basis.
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 14 MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Right. Anything else you want to say about damages?
- MR. MILLAR: I do not know if your Lordship has had a chance to glance at the outline submissions?
- 20 MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: I have read them, yes.
- MR. MILLAR: I am sure you will have an opportunity to do so in any more detail that you require.
- MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Clearly, so far as ITN is concerned, it is compensation for damage for its trading reputation and goodwill, its trading reputation as a news provider, really.
- 29 MR. MILLAR: Yes. Point 10 is non-contentious. The only point I wanted to emphasise is at 11 and that is the activities of 30 others point that Mr. Shields floated yesterday, leafleting, 31 It seems to us that damages may only be 32 heckling, golden gag. awarded in respect of injury to feelings caused by the 33 publication by the defendant of the words complained of. 34 35 is the basic principle. That is the tort. We say that if 36 there is some evidence in the case that others, after the event, did things that caused offence and caused injury to 37 feelings, that is not sufficient, if that is where the 38 evidence stands, for a claimant to bring those activities in, 39 ± 0 in a claim under this head against the defendant who 41 published, without some evidence to turn it into aggravation.
 - MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: The press conference.
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 45 MR. MILLAR: I am not including that. Activities by third
 46 parties.
 - MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: The Golden Gag award, for example. There is no evidence as to, I mean, merely because somebody may be a sympathiser of Mr. Hume, does not make Mr. Hume responsible for the activities of the sympathiser. Unless of course it could be said that he had sort of whipped up a campaign and said, "All and sundry join in". If there was evidence of that, I doubt whether the evidence goes that far.

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1 MR. MILLAR: No, it does not.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: But certainly the way in which the press release was handled, the nature of the press release saying, "We are available for comment".

MR. MILLAR: That is all standard stuff on damages. I am sure that would go to damages, and similarly the press conference after the event, returning to issues raised by the article.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Yes.

MR. MILLAR: But we are at pains to emphasise that actions by
third parties is where the evidence lies on this basis.

Mr. Hume says in the box, "I did not have anything to do with
that". He is not challenged on that and there is no further
evidence on that.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Other than foreseeable repetition.

MR. MILLAR: Exactly.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: I mean, foreseeable repetition, for example, putting it on the Press Association wire so that it would be recopied all over the world and picked up by editors and so forth, that must be a matter that goes to aggravation, must it not?

MR. MILLAR: Yes, and that is also fairly standard.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: And of course, would sound in damages probably on the question of publication too, would it not? We are not dealing with publication to 10,000 people here.

 MR. MILLAR: Yes. I would have to go back to the transcript to see where the evidence lies on that. I mean, it certainly has not been gone into in any great detail. Was it on the web? Was it on the Internet? How many hits were there? All that sort of stuff. We have not gone into that. But that fact would be, again if one is being technical about it --

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MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Would be later publication.

MR. MILLAR: Yes, is a further tort. It would be a certain act of publication, although defamation lawyers argue endlessly about this and about the issues that are raised on this point. I do not know to what extent we can focus on it in this case. It may be limited.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: What I would probably say is that the
evidence you may think indicates that it was the wish and
intention of Mr. Hume that the article should be given maximum
publicity as evidenced by the press conference and evidenced
by the fact that it was put on the Press Association wire and
you have heard evidence that in fact the BBC and other

newspapers picket it up. You heard evidence from Ms. Marshall that people in the journalist profession spoke to her about it.

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MR. MILLAR: The only point I would make about that is that that description could obviously be applied to the press release and it may be your Lordship thinks the press conference is not as straight forward as saying it is just an attempt to give maximum publicity to the article. It is sometime later than the press release and after the issues, if I can put it that way, have blown up surrounding Biddle letter and freedom of speech.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: The fact that after the Biddle letter you hold a press conference in effect saying there is no question of an apology, a retraction or qualification to what we have published.

MR. MILLAR: Yes. The point I was going to make is that it is not so much the article that is being puffed there, it is the issues raised by the article and the truth of the article that is being raised at the press conference.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Surely that sounds in damages for injury to feeling.

MR. MILLAR: Yes, I am not denying that. I am just saying it has a slightly different and wider purpose at that stage if one looks at it closely than the pre-publication press release, because things have moved on a bit by then. But it may not be a distinction that commends itself in any detail to the jury.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Damages for aggravation have to arise after the date of publication.

MR. MILLAR: Yes.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Anything else you want to say, Mr. Millar?

.0 MR. MILLAR: The only other matter was 12, but I think we have touched on that. The case of malice is limited as opened and to the extent that it is sought to rely on that case.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Yes, Mr. Shields?

MR. SHIELDS: Two matters. First dealing with damages, can I refer your Lordship to <u>Jacklin</u>, paragraph 32 of the Court of Appeal, page 822. That is dealing with the extent of publication being very relevant to damages. Then one goes over to 32.45 injury to reputation. Defendants to call evidence to the effect of defamation of reputation. unlikely that direct evidence from a witness in whose estimation the plaintiff's reputation had been diminished would be available, but evidence from the plaintiff being called names as a result of libel is being permitted.

I would say that one asks oneself to look at the It can only be a direct consequence of the publication of this article and it reflects the extent of the publication of the article. It may not have been authorised by the defendant, but one of the consequences of shooting that arrow in the air is you do not know who it will hit.

11.45 a.m.

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> MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: What were the facts in Garbett v. Hazel Is that an unfair question? Watson?

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I thought your Lordship might ask me that one! MR. SHIELDS:

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MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: It is a long time ago, anyway. It is nearly 60 years ago.

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What I submit, my Lord, is that at least it is MR. SHIELDS: Yes. something that the jury can consider. They may choose to reject it.

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The other point I wanted to make on aggravation, if I could - and I know your Lordship will have it well in mind is the persistence in the plea of justification obviously.

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MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Oh, yes. I have a recollection that I do not think Miss Marshall but Mr. Williams was actually accused of lying, was he not, at one stage?

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MR. SHIELDS: Well, in terms, I think so.

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MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: I am sorry?

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So that your Lordship knows, I submit that they have all, by implication, if not expressly, been accused of lying. It has to be, it is the nature of the case. The case, and the way my learned friend opened to the jury, is that they knew full well that they were in an enclosure when they left it and, if they did not know, they certainly knew it after they had viewed the rushes.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Yes.

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44 MR. SHIELDS: You cannot really have it both ways.

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MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: No.

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48 It has to be the suggestion that they have not been 49 truthful to this jury, that the lies have gone on and on. They knew at the time, they have kept quiet about it since and 50 51 they have now lied in this court.

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MR. JUSTICE MORLAND:

- MR. SHIELDS: You cannot escape that. That has to be their case 1 2 otherwise the defence of justification, we say, would have to That is the last thing I want to address you 3 be withdrawn. 4 on, my Lord, the plea of justification. I am sure your 5 Lordship will make it clear to the jury, Mr. Hume gave no evidence at all as to the plea of justification. The only 6 evidence he had was given in rebuttal of an allegation of 7 8 malice against him as to his motive in publishing. As regards Mr. Deichmann, the only evidence Mr. Deichmann gives as to the 9 plea of justification, besides the tapes of course, on which 10 they were cross-examined -- Mr. Deichmann gave evidence as to 11 his return visit in December 1996. Because you will recall at 12 the pre-trial review I sought to strike that out. 13 Lordship's view was that he could give that evidence because 14 some inference might be drawn from the photographs he took. 15 Secondly, your Lordship will recall that Mr. Deichmann gave evidence in the witness box of certain conversations and 16 17 18 certain statements which had been made to him by a number of people who are referred to the article. 19
 - MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Yes.

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- MR. SHIELDS: Very limited statements. Your Lordship will recall those are the statements, the only statements, relied upon under the hearsay rule. The only statements, and not any signed statements. No statements served under the Civil Evidence Act, no witnesses called to give direct evidence.
- MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Essentially, what the jury have to decide, putting it in the right way, whether they are satisfied that Miss Marshall and Mr. Williams have not told the truth. It is their state of mind.
- MR. SHIELDS: Yes, and the burden is on the defendants to establish that.
- 37 MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Yes.
- -39 MR. SHIELDS: And they have to be reminded of the basis upon which _0 they establish it. It is not whether Mr. Deichmann has a 41 suspicion about them or Mr. Hume has a suspicion about them. 42 The basis is on the cross-examination, answers in crossexamination and the very limited evidence called, which really 43 44 boils down to some photographs from Mr. Deichmann, and not the 45 statements in the article. That is the point I am seeking to 46 They do not even rely on those statements. 47 rely upon -- and perhaps my learned friend will give you a 48 copy of that, you may have it already. The hearsay statements 49 he relies upon are very narrow hearsay statements. 50 Lordship will recall that the effect of one of them, Curquz, 51 is different from the one which appears in the article. 52
 - MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: It is totally irrelevant that Mr. Hume and Mr. Deichmann may honestly believe that Mr. Williams and Miss Marshall are not telling the truth. That is not admissible.

MR. SHIELDS: No.

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MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: It is totally irrelevant.

MR. SHIELDS: 95% of the evidence they give, in the light of your Lordship's effective ruling today, is irrelevant, and the 5% is, at best, marginal. The reason I am drawing this to your Lordship's attention now, it is probably important your Lordship has it - there were, as I say, some hearsay statements which were introduced through Mr. Deichmann yesterday of a very marginal nature both in number and in substance.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Yes. Well, they do not go to the state of mind.

MR. SHIELDS: Well, they go to the Serbian Red Cross man saying, for example, that there was no fence there, or something like that. Your Lordship will remember that yesterday.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Yes.

MR. SHIELDS: Which was palpably untrue, what he says in the article.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Yes. Thank you very much. Anything more from either of you?

MR. MILLAR: My Lord, only this. I have no comment about or objection to the way my learned friend put it just now when he said I cannot have it both ways and by implication there was a suggestion they were lying.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Yes.

MR. MILLAR: Which was to do with the central issue of knowing about the barbed wire fence. If that is as far as it goes, I have no problem with that. There are other issues in the case where he may be tempted to suggest that I have put it to witnesses that they are lying, and I have not done, and I want to go back to the transcript and look at that. What I did put to a number of witnesses was that certain things were normal practice in relation to the use of a monitor and the use of playback facility on a camera. But I did not put to any witness that they were lying about that.

MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Well, you may wish to spend a lot of time with the jury on playbacks and monitors.

50 MR. MILLAR: I do not.

52 MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: I had not intended to mention it to the jury 53 in my final speech.

- MR. MILLAR: I know, but I suspect that my learned friend is going to. That is why I raise it now.
- 4 MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: He may think it is a good point. He can 5 raise it, and you can raise it, but I very much doubt whether 6 I will mention it at all.
 - MR. SHIELDS: I will make some passing remark to the fact that a lot of ----
 - MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: What I may say is that, according to the evidence of Mr. Williams and Miss Marshall, they did not see the rushes until they got to Budapest. I am not going into whether there was a monitor in Belgrade and Mr. Nicholas did not buy one because it would have cost £1,000, and so forth.
 - MR. MILLAR: My Lord, I am not going to go into that, but it looks like we will both make some passing reference to it.
 - MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Well, do so.
- MR. MILLAR: I want to make sure that if I am accused of putting
 it to people that they are lying, if it extends to some of
 that cross-examination, I would invite my learned friend to
 look closely at the transcript.
- MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Well, I am sure he will, because the danger is that he might be interrupted by you.
 - MR. MILLAR: Yes.

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- MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: But he can say perfectly properly the necessary implication is that they have been dishonest, have lied on oath and have persisted in denying the truth from the moment the Biddle letter was written. That must be the case,
- MR. MILLAR: Oh, yes. But if he is going to put the word "liar" in my mouth as a word that was used ----
- MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Yes, well, he will not put the word "liar" in your mouth unless it appears on the transcript.
 - MR. MILLAR: I am grateful.
- 45 MR. JUSTICE MORLAND: Right. Thank you both very much indeed.

I think my own view is that two speeches in one day
and a summing-up on the same day are not really a very good
idea, and I will sum up on Tuesday. So we will just have
speeches on Monday. My summing-up, I hope, will be succinct
and will be on Tuesday morning. I do not expect either you
will be more than a maximum of two hours each, will you?

MR. SHIELDS: An hour.

1	MR.	JUSTICE MORLAND: Fair enough.
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3	MR.	SHIELDS: Probably.
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5	MR.	JUSTICE MORLAND: Yes. How long do you expect to be,
6		Mr. Millar?
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8	MR.	MILLAR: Certainly less than two hours. Whether I can get it
9		within an hour, I am not quite sure about that.
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11	MR.	JUSTICE MORLAND: Yes. Thank you very much.
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13		(Adjourned until 10.15 a.m. on Monday, 13th March 2000)