In the matter of an arbitration under the Rules of Arbitration of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes Case No. ARB/21/51

The International Dispute Resolution Centre (IDRC) 1 Paternoster Lane LONDON, EC4M 7BQ

Day 3 Hearing on the Merits Saturday, 3rd February 2024

Before:

PROFESSOR GABRIELLE KAUFMANN-KOHLER MR STEPHEN L DRYMER PROFESSOR PHILIPPE SANDS

DISCOVERY GLOBAL LLC

Claimant

-v-

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Respondent

Secretary to the Tribunal: JARA MÍNGUEZ ALMEIDA Assistant to the Tribunal: MAGNUS JESKO LANGER

> Transcript produced by Anne-Marie Stallard and Emma Lovell

# APPEARANCES

FOR CLAIMANT

MARK TUSHINGHAM, Twenty Essex NEIL NEWING, Signature Litigation COLIN GRECH, Signature Litigation PIETRO GRASSI, Signature Litigation BEN PHAROAH, Signature Litigation ALEXANDER FRASER, Party Representative MICHAEL LEWIS, Party Representative

### FOR RESPONDENT

STEPHEN ANWAY, Squire Patton Boggs ROSTISLAV PEKAR, Squire Patton Boggs TATIANA PROKOPOVÁ, Squire Patton Boggs DAVID ALEXANDER, Squire Patton Boggs JAKUB KAMENICKÝ, Squire Patton Boggs DOUGLAS PILAWA, Squire Patton Boggs CHRISTINA LUO, Squire Patton Boggs JULIÁN KUPKA, Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic ZUZANA JEŠKOVÁ, Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic PETRA LEŠOVÁ, Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic CHRIS LONGMAN, SLR Consulting CLAIRE JORDAN, SLR Consulting EWAN WHYTE, SLR Consulting TIAGO DUARTE-SILVA, Charles River Associates RICHARD ACKLAM, Charles River Associates NICOLE SKAF, Charles River Associates

#### INTERPRETERS

KATARINA TOMOVA, English-Slovak interpreter PAVOL SVEDA, English-Slovak interpreter WILL BEHRAN, English-Slovak interpreter

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08:57 1	Saturday, 3 February 2024	09:37 1	first one is we are on a transcript, and therefore
08.57 1	(9.35 am)	09:37 1	I would like to ask you that whenever you answer my
3	THE PRESIDENT: Good morning to everyone, good morning, sir.	3	questions, please do that in an audible manner so that
	MR BARAN: Good morning, madam.		
4	THE PRESIDENT: I hope everyone is doing fine, ready for	4	the court reporter could record your answer.
5		5	A. I will do my best.
6	Day 3. We are starting with the examination of	6	Q. Thank you, sir. And the second thing, I will do my best
7	Mr Baran. Nothing to be raised in advance?	7	also to formulate my questions in the most simplest
8	MR PEKAR: Just one very small matter, Madam President.	8	possible way, and I would invite you to answer in the
9	There is a new face on our side of the table, this is	9	same way so that we can cover a lot of ground this
10	Slovak Republic's Slovak law expert, Mr Fogaš.	10	morning.
11	THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Welcome.	11	A. Please do.
12	PROFESSOR FOGAS: Thank you.	12	Q. So Mr Baran, in paragraph 2 of your witness statement
13	MR VLADIMIR BARAN (called)	13	you say that you graduated from an agricultural school,
14	THE PRESIDENT: For the record, sir, can you please confirm	14	is that correct?
15	to us that you are Vladimir Baran?	15	A. Yes.
16		16	Q. In what year did you graduate from the agricultural
17	THE PRESIDENT: You are the mayor of Smilno and you have	17	school?
18	held this office since 2014?	18	A. 1987? I'm not sure. It's years back.
19	MR BARAN: Yes.	19	Q. Yes. So it was a high school, secondary education;
20	THE PRESIDENT: You have provided us with one written	20	correct?
21	statement that was dated 15 September 2023.	21	A. Yes.
22	MR BARAN: That's correct.	22	Q. And then you did a BC you obtained a BC degree in
23	THE PRESIDENT: And signed the day before.	23	computerisation in public finance; correct?
24	MR BARAN: Yes.	24	A. Yes.
25	THE PRESIDENT: You're heard as a witness. As a witness you	25	Q. Was that a three-year programme, sir?
	Page 1		Page 3
09:36 1	are under a duty to tell us the truth. Can you please	09:39 1	A. Yes.
09:36 1	are under a duty to tell us the truth. Can you please read the witness declaration?	09:39 1 2	<ul><li>A. Yes.</li><li>Q. So you got that degree around 1991, 1992?</li></ul>
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09:40 1	A. Sergeant.	09:43 1	Q. Mr Baran, did Discovery's counsel help you with drafting
2	Q. You state that you then worked for a security company	2	your witness statement?
2	and a mine clearance company; correct?	3	A. Yes.
4	A. Yes.	4	Q. Did you review the draft of your witness statement
5	Q. And you state that was in Sri Lanka and Eritrea;	5	prepared by counsel?
6	correct? A. Correct.	6	A. Actually, it was not Discovery. It was the you know,
7		7	their representatives on the left side. It was not
8	Q. What duties did you have at these companies?	8	if I may correct the my answer.
9	A. I was an instructor at mechanical de-mining, Bozena 4.	9	Q. Yes. Understood.
10	Q. So when you returned to Slovakia in 2014, that was after	10	A. Their lawyers, not Discovery.
11	an extended period spent abroad; correct?	11	Q. Yes. And so did you review their draft prepared by
12	A. Correct.	12	lawyers?
13	Q. Would it be fair to say, sir, that up until the moment	13	A. Yes.
14	you became the mayor of Smilno in 2014, you had not	14	Q. Did you propose any corrections to the draft?
15	received any legal education?	15	A. No.
16	A. I don't agree. I received an education at my college,	16	Q. Mr Baran, are you a member of the municipal council in
17	bachelor degree.	17	Smilno?
18	Q. Please describe the legal education you received at	18	A. No.
19	college?	19	Q. Could we please turn to paragraph 8 of your witness
20	A. A legal basis. You know, it was not like studying law,	20	statement. And there in the fourth line you state:
21	but I got some basics.	21	"Ultimately we"
22	Q. Was it like a one, two, credit course?	22	And then:
23	A. Perhaps.	23	" (being myself and the other council members)
24	Q. When did you do your BC degree?	24	all agreed that it was not a matter that we could decide
25	A. As I said, 2003.	25	on."
	Page 5		Page 7
09:42 1	Q. And where was it?	09:45 1	Can you see that, sir?
2	A. Kosice.	2	A. Being myself as a mayor. As a mayor I cannot be
3	Q. Just for everybody's benefit, Kosice is the major city	3	a council member. It just doesn't work that way.
4	in eastern Slovakia; correct?	4	I meant that me, as a mayor, and the council members.
5	A. I wouldn't call it a major city. Yes, it's the biggest	5	Q. So the word "other" is there in excess?
6	in the east part of Slovakia, yes.	6	A. It's yes.
7	Q. I understand that you are closer to Prešov, so	7	Q. So it was supposed to be "myself and the council
8	A. Yes, Prešov is my	8	members", not "myself and the other council members";
9	Q there may be some rivalry between the two? It's one	9	correct?
10	of the two biggest cities in eastern Slovakia.	10	A. Correct.
	MR DRYMER: It's bigger than Smilno, I suppose.		
11	WIK DK I WIEK. It's bigger than Simmo, I suppose.	11	Q. And then if we look at paragraph 14, we have there
11 12	A. I think, it is.	11 12	Q. And then if we look at paragraph 14, we have there it's a long paragraph, so I would ask you to go to the,
			· · · · · ·
12	<ul><li>A. I think, it is.</li><li>MR PEKAR: Does the municipal office in Smilno have any</li></ul>	12	it's a long paragraph, so I would ask you to go to the, what is it, seventh line from the bottom, which starts:
12 13	A. I think, it is.	12 13 14	it's a long paragraph, so I would ask you to go to the, what is it, seventh line from the bottom, which starts: "Ms Varjanová"
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r		1	
00.46 1	the herefits you remained Cariles could derive from	00.40 1	allocation of the income tax
09:46 1	the benefits you perceived Smilno could derive from	09:49 1	allocation of the income tax.
23	AOG's activities, and there is a text in parenthesis which starts on, is it the sixth line, and it states:	2	So is it your testimony that any part of the income
4	" (for example, more local employment in the	3	tax paid by a resident of Smilno is allocated to the Smilno budget on the basis of the residency of the
4 5	Smilno region for the local residents would boost the	4 5	taxpayer in Smilno? Yes or no?
6	immediate local economy, there would be more taxes		
	collected from salaries that could be invested back into	6 7	A. I think yes. (Pause)
7	the village)."		Q. Thank you. I wish I understood what you were telling me
8	Can you see that, sir?	8	(Pause). My teenage son is not here, otherwise I would
9 10	A. Say again? What is your question?	10	direct all these questions to him.
	Q. My question is whether you can see it, because I read	10	
11 12	a long text to you so I want to make sure that	11	Okay, so just to give you an example, if there is a wealthy businessman which moves to Smilno, becomes the
12	A. No, I can see it clearly, yes.		-
	Q. So when you speak of taxes collected from salaries, you	13 14	resident of Smilno, and the businessman pays, let's say, €1 million in income tax, just a ballpark, how much of
14 15	speak of the income tax paid by Smilno residents	14	that money will end up in Smilno's budget?
15	potentially employed by AOG; correct?	15	A. I have no idea. I can't tell you a precise number.
10	A. Yes.	10	<ul><li>Q. You have no idea or you cannot tell me a precise number?</li></ul>
	Q. And do you know, Mr Baran, what percentage of the income	17	<ul> <li>A. I cannot tell you a precise number. I don't know.</li> </ul>
18 19	tax paid by a Smilno resident is allocated to the budget	18	Q. So it does mean that you have an idea. So what is the
19 20	of the Smilno municipality?	20	idea that you have?
	A. Not exactly. No. I don't know precise percentage. But	20	A. I told you I have no idea that it means this. I don't
21	it would be more than zero.		have an idea. I don't see your point in that idea.
22 23	Q. Would it be like 1%, 10%, 20%?	22 23	Q. Well, I will tell you. My point is that your witness
23 24	A. More than zero.	23	statement was drafted by somebody who has no clue about
	Q. Sir, I would appreciate if you could try to just give us	24	tax allocation in Slovak Republic?
25	Q. Sii, I would appreciate if you could if y to just give us	23	tax anocation in Slovak Republic?
	Page 9		Page 11
09:48 1	the numerical order. 1%, 10%?	09:51 1	A. But if I may say, it's simple. If people are coming to
09:48 1	the numerical order. 1%, 10%? A. I cannot answer you. I don't know the exact percentage.	09:51 1	
			A. But if I may say, it's simple. If people are coming to
2	A. I cannot answer you. I don't know the exact percentage.	2	A. But if I may say, it's simple. If people are coming to the village, they stay there and they pay direct taxes
2 3	<ul> <li>A. I cannot answer you. I don't know the exact percentage.</li> <li>So it's definitely more than zero, and it's plus.</li> </ul>	2 3	A. But if I may say, it's simple. If people are coming to the village, they stay there and they pay direct taxes for, you know, for being in the village. If there is
2 3 4	<ul><li>A. I cannot answer you. I don't know the exact percentage. So it's definitely more than zero, and it's plus.</li><li>Q. Yes.</li></ul>	2 3 4	A. But if I may say, it's simple. If people are coming to the village, they stay there and they pay direct taxes for, you know, for being in the village. If there is a company, they pay taxes for from the land, and also
2 3 4 5	<ul><li>A. I cannot answer you. I don't know the exact percentage. So it's definitely more than zero, and it's plus.</li><li>Q. Yes.</li><li>A. For the village budget.</li></ul>	2 3 4 5	A. But if I may say, it's simple. If people are coming to the village, they stay there and they pay direct taxes for, you know, for being in the village. If there is a company, they pay taxes for from the land, and also taxes, when there are employees, to the government, and
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09:53	1	Q. And you state that there was a vote taken by the	09:57 1	approximately 340 inhabitants of Smilno?
	2	council, and then you say on the second line:	2	A. I didn't count it. The petition says so, is it 300
	3	"I see that only five people voted"	3	Q. That's what the petition says.
	4	And you give the names; four of them voted in	4	A. The petition exact number, I'm not sure, I didn't count
	5	favour, and one voted against it.	5	it.
	6	How many members did the council have at the time?	6	Q. You didn't. In your witness statement, you state, and
	7	A. Seven.	7	that will be again, I will need to count the lines,
	8	Q. So four out of seven is a majority; correct?	8	this is line 8. No, 7. You say on line 7:
	9	A. It is.	9	"I don't believe the Resolution or the Petition
	10	Q. You also state that on, what is it	10	showed that the majority of the local Smilno inhabitants
	11	A. If I may interrupt you?	11	were opposed to AOG's project."
	12	Q. Yes.	12	Can you see that sentence?
	13	A. We voted not for the or the council voted, they took	13	A. Yes.
	14	into consideration that this petition took place and the	14	Q. So you are stating this even though you haven't counted
	15	results. They didn't voted for it or against it. They	15	the number of signatures on the petition to satisfy
	16	voted that such a petition happened and they took it	16	yourself that the petition isn't signed by a majority of
	17	into consideration.	17	Smilno inhabitants?
	18	Q. If I may	18	A. I didn't count the numbers, but I went through the
	19	A. There are two types of voting, that you are voting for	19	petition. There were people who were not inhabitants of
	20	something to happen, like budget wise, and some things	20	Smilno. They did not have a permanent residence in
	21	like this petition, that it was the result. Okay, the	21	Smilno. There were people under 18. And the petition
	22	council I mean we, the council, take it as a fact.	22	in many cases forced people, and the people who ran the
	23	Q. If I may point you, sir, to the fifth line of this	23	petition were troubling people to sign it. They went
	24	paragraph 15, you state:	24	door-to-door, campaign. I was present in one case
	25	" the Resolution states that the Municipal	25	because at the same time we were giving present at an
		- -		D 15
		Page 13		Page 15
09:55	1	Council expresses its agreement with the petition"	09:59 1	anniversary, and they persuaded one older woman, 80,
09:55	1 2	Council expresses its agreement with the petition" Correct?	09:59 1 2	anniversary, and they persuaded one older woman, 80, age her daughter was there, she told her it would be
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10:00	1	how many council members were there?	10:02 1	A. In every case.
	2	A. Seven.	2	PROFESSOR SANDS: So you've got no problem with the vote?
	3	PROFESSOR SANDS: Seven. Right. And so five participated	3	A. Not at all.
	4	in that vote in your paragraph 15.	4	PROFESSOR SANDS: So why does the petition matter if it went
	5	A. Yes. Two must have been on their leave or, you know, on	5	to the council and the council took a democratic and
	6	sick leave. I don't know. I don't remember.	6	a legitimate vote? I don't understand what the issue is
	7	MR DRYMER: And you said a few minutes ago in answer to	7	with the petition.
	8	a question about whether or not the petition showed that	8	THE PRESIDENT: What I understood, just to shorten this,
	9	the majority of the inhabitants were opposed, your	9	I understood Mr Baran to say that the way the
	10	answer was: I may not have counted the number, but	10	petition the signatures were collected was he
	11	I noted that many people were not actually Smilno	11	considered unusual, at least, and people were forced and
	12	residents. Do I recall correctly what you said?	12	there was a door-to-door campaign when this is not usual
	13	A. Yes.	13	for a petition.
	14	MR DRYMER: You went through the petition at the time to see	14	A. Exactly so.
	15	who was a resident and who was not?	15	PROFESSOR SANDS: But even if that was the case, the council
	16	A. No, I just went through, like, last week, because it	16	voted.
	17	was	17	A. Yes, they were asked to take a stand. They voted.
	18	MR DRYMER: I see. Okay, thank you.	18	PROFESSOR SANDS: The members of the council could have
	19	A. I came back to it, because I was now preparing for the	19	expressed a view that they didn't accept the petition,
	20	case, but it was	20	they didn't believe the petition, they thought the
	21	MR DRYMER: Thank you.	21	petition was forged. They didn't do any of those
	22	PROFESSOR SANDS: You say in your paragraph 15:	22	things.
	23	" I see that only five people voted"	23	A. No, they voted as they did.
	24	In the second line of paragraph 15.	24	PROFESSOR SANDS: Was there a debate before the vote?
	25	A. 15.	25	A. There is always a debate, during the session and before
		Page 17		Page 19
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10:05 1	the petition, which is on top. It says:	10:08 1 are under 18.
2	"We, the undersigned residents, disagree with the	2 Q. So then if we look at just the following one, please.
3	activities related to exploration area 'Svidník - Oil	3 Would you agree with me that on this one all of them are
4	and Combustible Natural Gas' that with their	4 from Smilno?
5	consequences have an impact on the environment in	5 A. Yes, they have permanent address in Smilno, they do.
6	municipality Smilno.	6 But I see one that hasn't lived in Smilno for 20 years.
7	We therefore request that the Municipal Council of	7 The second, at least.
8	Smilno and the mayor of Smilno express their disapproval	8 Q. So you dispute the fact that his permanent resident is
9	of exploration area as well as all the geological	9 in Smilno?
10	works in the exploration area and related activities	10 A. It is it was at that time, but he hasn't lived in
	-	10 A. Fris - It was at that time, but he hash t lived in 11 Smilno for many years.
11	that intervene in or have an impact on the environment	
12	in Smilno."	
13	And now I would ask you to show us the Slovak	13 he has the right to vote in Smilno?
14	version, so that we can look briefly at but before	14 A. Yes, he has. That's okay.
15	doing so yes, that would be perfect if we can have	15 PROFESSOR SANDS: Can I just ask, so out of interest, you
16	both at the same time. Excellent.	16 know all of these people, you recognise the names?
17	So this is just one page. What you can see here is	17 A. Yes.
18	in the left column we have the name of the person; in	18 PROFESSOR SANDS: They're legitimate people; and do you hav
19	the middle column we have the primary, it should be	any reason to believe that they did not sign this
20	actually permanent residence, street, street number,	20 petition?
21	municipality, postal code; and then we have the	21 A. No. I had no reason.
22	addresses. And if you look just on this first page, we	22 PROFESSOR SANDS: As far as you're concerned they signed the
23	can see that out of the 15 signatures on this page, if	23 petition?
24	I counted correctly, 13 are from Smilno and 2 are not;	24 A. Yes.
25	correct?	25 PROFESSOR SANDS: Thank you.
	Page 21	Page 23
10:07 1	A. Number 13?	10:09 1 MR PEKAR: Sir, do you recall how many Smilno inhabitants
	<ul><li>A. Number 13?</li><li>O. No, no, in total. So there's two of them which are not</li></ul>	
2	Q. No, no, in total. So there's two of them which are not	2 were over 15 in at the time of the petition,
2 3	Q. No, no, in total. So there's two of them which are not from Smilno I think we can all read "Smilno" even	<ul><li>2 were over 15 in at the time of the petition,</li><li>3 approximately?</li></ul>
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10:11	1	Q. But you see here, "As per house no."?	10:14 1	you should read the whole paragraph, please. (Pause)
10.11	2	A. "As per house no."	2	THE PRESIDENT: You may also want to show the original in
	2	Yes, now I see, yes.	3	Slovak.
	4	Q. And it gives the total number of inhabitants between	4	MR DRYMER: Sure.
	4 5	ages 15 and 100, and then men and women; do you see	4 5	A. No, it's okay. (Pause)
	5 6	that?	6	Okay.
	7	A. Now I see that, yes.	7	MR DRYMER: Okay, if I understood your testimony earlier,
	8	Q. Then if we scroll down to the last page of the document.	8	you said that the coursel was not saying they agreed
	9	We will see the grand total, 613 over the age of 15;	9	with the they agreed with the disagreement of the
	10	correct?	10	citizens expressed in the petition. You said that the
	11	A. Mm-hm, correct.	10	council simply recognised that the petition was taken
	12	Q. So let's assume that we did our math correctly, there is	11	and submitted to the council and the council should take
	12	341 signatures on the petition. You have stated that 23	12	that into consideration.
	13	were not from Smilno, so we take these out. That brings	13	A. Yes.
	14	us to 318.	14	MR DRYMER: These words suggest otherwise. It says, as
	16	Of those, and then you say that some of them were	15	I read it, that the council actually expresses its
	17	under the age of 15, but now we're comparing apples to	10	agreement, not its recognition, if you will, but goes
	18	apples because this list is over the age of 15. So if	17	further.
	19	we take these comparable numbers, if the total of such	10	A. Yes, you're you're right.
	20	inhabitants is 613, then one half of that is 306.5;	20	MR DRYMER: Okay.
	20	correct?	20	A. There are two ways of voting, so this must have been the
	21	A. Correct. If you counted right, correct.	21	second one, yes. You're right. If it says so, it's
	22	Q. So if 318 signed, that actually is an absolute majority;	22	unquestionable, yes.
	23	correct?	23	MR DRYMER: Right, and I'm not debating the words. Does
	24	A. Correct.	24	this accurately does this reflect what you recall was
	25	A. Conce.		tills accurately does tills reflect what you recall was
		Page 25		Page 27
10:13	1	Q. Thank you.	10:16 1	happening at the time? That the council said: we agree?
10:13	1 2	MR DRYMER: Mr Pekar, are you going to take the witness to	10:16 1 2	A. Yes, now I see it's that way. Because normally if
10:13		MR DRYMER: Mr Pekar, are you going to take the witness to the council resolution? Or no? If not, I will have		A. Yes, now I see it's that way. Because normally if they like there are many things like, as I said,
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10:17IQ. But if we scroll down to the second page, on the very last line it state:10:201beam mady before, or the year before, so the heavy equipment, agriculture inotity, wenty you how to different the state word of Stanislav on the Smilho location, different the state word of Stanislav on the Smilho location, different the state word of Stanislav on the Smilho location, different the state word of Stanislav on the Smilho location, different the state word of Stanislav on the Smilho location, different the State Word like to aky you to urn to paragraph 19 space over we pages. In actual the paragraph 19 space over we pages. In actual the different the state words on page form which it is best words of the village uses it is used and you. So the farm negineer must have been call the state words of the village uses it is used and you. So the farm negineer must have been call the state words of the village uses it is used and state of the village uses it is used and which it is to used werey it is used and state of the village uses it is used and the state words of the village uses it is used and which it is used and which it is used and you. it is used and which it is used and you have to devery it is used and you have to the lever, state it is used and you have to a state. it is used and you have to a state, state it way it how and the pay form which it is used and you have to a state way and you have not help the price. it was naged to this place. it was naged to this place to how and the price of the state where AOG was graving it was naged to this place. it was naged to this place to how and the price form of the state where AOG was graving it does it				
<ul> <li>2 last line it states:</li> <li>3 "Photor attacked of Sanishar on the Smithon location,</li> <li>4 with the mayor of Smitho and a farm engineer."</li> <li>5 And then on the following page we have a picture.</li> <li>6 A. Min-Min.</li> <li>7 Q. So, sir, is it you on the picture?</li> <li>10 A. Tran on scare. If - the left systs:</li> <li>9 Q. Who else is on the picture?</li> <li>10 A. Tran on scare. If - the left systs: a farm in engineer. From behind I'm not sure. But it must be the south south on sort hang as the left straight. Thereal right, there was the dispute of the south and to a share it was the dispute of the south and as a share it was not a long as the farm engineer must have been so that suttace. str?</li> <li>14 A. 1 think, if 1 recall right, there was the dispute of the south and so a day back have so for as long as the left are larger than a light work in the south and the south as a due so for as long as the left are south south. So the farm engineer must have been so that suttace. str?</li> <li>15 A. Yes.</li> <li>16 Q. Oaky, thank yop.</li> <li>17 Q. No the most information the middle. So the one in the black T-shirt?</li> <li>2 So when this picture was taken, were you actually standing on the field mack of the ord mad witch leads in the field mack of the right.</li> <li>19:18 1 Q. Oaky, thank yop.</li> <li>10:18 1 Q. Oaky, thank yop.</li> <li>10:20 1 you're saying?</li> <li>2 So when this picture was taken, were you actually</li> <li>3 stated to use it was catch, the track, because?</li> <li>4 M. The binding the direction, but with the matually on a standing on correst?</li> <li>3 whether write south and you are standing</li></ul>	10.17 1	$\Omega$ But if we scroll down to the second page on the very	10.20 1	been muddy before, or the year before, so the heavy
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4with the mayor of Smillo and farm enginer."5And then on the following page we have a picture.6A. Mirshan.7Q. So, sir, is if you on the picture?8A. Yes, it Sin on the left, yss.9Q. Who else is on the picture?10A. Fin no sture. If - the lefter says if's a farm11engineer. From behind Tm not sure. But it must be bin.12A. It hink, if local right, there was the dispute of the called to this place.13Q. Mm-hm?14A. I think, if local right, there was the dispute of the called to this place.15a. And MR Benada on the picture or who is the third if genetmen?16A. Road is and Panada on the picture or who is the third if genetmen?17Q. And Mr. Benada is the one – which of the offer two genetmen?18A. In the middle. yes.20Q. And Mr. Benada is the one – which of the offer two genetmen?21Dielke V res. Benada, in the middle.22So the ore in the black T-shirt?23A. Yes.24Q. Ox on, than the watch Yes you actually standing on the field track or field mark which loads for m the Sniho ovit, there was the yes and have one and yy basis due a second stated to use it lower, and they could mark beam genomical on the second state, yes. tube right.10:181Q. Okay, thank you.10:181Q. Okay, thank you.10:181Q. Okay, thank you.10:181Q. Okay, thank you.10:181Q. Okay, thank you.10:19				
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<ul> <li>17 Q. And is Mr Benada on the picture or who is the third person?</li> <li>19 A. Yes, Benada, in the middle, yes.</li> <li>20 Q. And Mr Benada is the one which of the other two gentlemen? I believe I recognise systel on the picture.</li> <li>21 like I would recognise myself, actually, but, 23 A. In the middle of the picture. I said in the middle.</li> <li>22 A. Yes.</li> <li>23 A. Yes.</li> <li>24 Q. So the one in the black T-shirt?</li> <li>25 A. Yes.</li> <li>26 J. Yes.</li> <li>27 J. Yes.</li> <li>28 So when this picture was taken, were you actually 3 standing on the field track or field road which leads 4 from the Sill on village to the site where AGG was going 5 to drill?</li> <li>25 A. Well, Tim not sure it was exactly the track, because 1 here, at that time and even now, there are like two there, at that time and even now, not to get into 0 mud. So it's definitely the direction, but I' mo to sure 1 was exactly on that road, J mean 12 geographically. But yes, we're on that road, yes, in 13 the direction to that site.</li> <li>21 A. Yes.</li> <li>22 Q. And the wite secold finder down, there is another 19 picture. So that's another picture of the field track; 0 or correct?</li> <li>31 A. Yes.</li> <li>32 Q. And then if we secold firther down, there is another 19 picture. So that's another picture of the field track; 0 a or correct?</li> <li>32 A. Yes.</li> <li>33 A. The meant is geoty from Smilno wanted to go to the 15 site, would due go through the land you are standing 6 on?</li> <li>34 A. Yes.</li> <li>35 Q. And then if we secolf firther down, there is another 19 picture. So that's another picture of the field track; 20 correct?</li> <li>34 A. I think they're - it was measures that the actual road</li> <li>35 or for?</li> <li>34 A. I think they're - it was measures that the actual road</li> </ul>	15		15	
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10:24 1	resemble what is in this photograph?	10:27 1	correct?
2	A. No.	2	A. I don't agree. If there is a one truck or one tractor,
3	PROFESSOR SANDS: Could you describe for us	3	light tractor using the road once a day, it might look
4	A. One-third.	4	as it is on the picture.
5	PROFESSOR SANDS: One-third is?	5	Q. Yes, but in paragraph 28 you don't speak of light
6	A. This way.	6	tractors: you speak of heavy trucks, yes?
7	PROFESSOR SANDS: And what's the other two-thirds?	7	A. Yes, but they don't use heavy tractors all the time.
8	A. The other is like stones and because it has been	8	They might use a light you know, different kind of
9	a road for, as I stated in my statement, for over	9	equipment, and not you know, I said two-thirds, they
10	200 years, as a road to a quarry close by. So another	10	might access to the first field, and at the end it's the
11	part of the road which is I hope there will be	11	leased field, so they use maybe different equipment,
12	a picture of that it's really laid out of stones,	12	I don't know.
13	like these gate heads do you call it this way? So	13	I'm not there. It was like saying they use it on
14	there are parts of the road, really, were reinforced	14	an everyday basis. But I don't stand there, I don't
15	when it went steep.	15	count the vehicles, I don't count the tractors.
16	THE PRESIDENT: Sorry to interrupt, is this what you say in	16	Q. Would you also agree, sir, that given the seasonal
17	paragraph 28 of your witness statement?	17	nature of agriculture in Smilno, a cooperative has no
18	A. Yes.	18	reason actually to drive there every day all year round?
19	PROFESSOR SANDS: Actually, it would be helpful. Is there	19	A. All year round, definitely not. Not in the winter.
20	another photograph in the record of what the rest of	20	Q. Yes.
21	MR TUSHINGHAM: I might take the witness in re-examination	21	MR DRYMER: I have a question, still, on document C-281. If
22	to some pictures, if that would assist.	22	you're going to change documents may I ask that question
23	PROFESSOR SANDS: It would be helpful.	23	now?
24	MR PEKAR: That will not be necessary. I am going to take	24	1
25	the witness there, and just to follow up on the question	25	MR DRYMER: Very good. Yes. Where is it. Down, please.
	Page 33		Page 35
	6		
10:25 1	asked by Madam President, speaking now of the part of	10:28 1	It's at the end of page 2 of the PDF. Yes. The second
10:25 1 2	the road that we had on the picture, and you stated that	10:28 1 2	to last paragraph. Could you highlight that, please:
	the road that we had on the picture, and you stated that one-third of the road was in that condition. So when in		to last paragraph. Could you highlight that, please: "Access road is a public road."
2	the road that we had on the picture, and you stated that one-third of the road was in that condition. So when in paragraph 28 you state, at the very end of 28:	2 3 4	to last paragraph. Could you highlight that, please: "Access road is a public road." Yes. Alright.
2 3	the road that we had on the picture, and you stated that one-third of the road was in that condition. So when in paragraph 28 you state, at the very end of 28: " it is still used to this day by the local	2 3 4 5	to last paragraph. Could you highlight that, please: "Access road is a public road." Yes. Alright. Mr Baran, I realise, as you said earlier, that you
2 3 4 5 6	the road that we had on the picture, and you stated that one-third of the road was in that condition. So when in paragraph 28 you state, at the very end of 28: " it is still used to this day by the local residents and the neighbouring agricultural farm which	2 3 4 5 6	to last paragraph. Could you highlight that, please: "Access road is a public road." Yes. Alright. Mr Baran, I realise, as you said earlier, that you probably haven't seen this document, or you have not
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10:30 1	MR DRYMER: Okay. Alright.	10:33 1	"The same is true of the quartz mine"
2	So do you think this is an accurate statement of	2	So what did you mean?
3	what occurred in respect of the location of the track?	3	A. Which line is it? The same
4	A. I don't think it's accurate. It was not agreement.	4	Q. This is the second line on page 6.
5	They informed me that the track was not there as it	5	A. Okay. (Pause).
6	states in the map.	6	I meant that the road is used like that not just for
7	MR DRYMER: Right.	7	the agriculture, but also for the quartz. Not on
8	A. But no, I didn't sign any agreement.	8	a daily basis, definitely not. The quartz is not
9	MR DRYMER: Or express you didn't or did you purport	9	it's not mined there anymore. Like the mineral.
10	to agree that they could conduct these works?	10	Q. And when
11	A. I couldn't allow them to do the works.	11	A. It used to, like 100 years ago, the Smilno inhabitants,
12	MR DRYMER: You couldn't what, I'm sorry?	12	they had not much to do in the wintertime and they were
13	A. I couldn't allow them to do the works. So they just	13	supplying all Bardejov District with the mineral, you
14	informed me of the situation. They might state it as	14	know, with it's not macadam but it's softer, the
15	an agreement.	15	mineral that was mined there, and that had been used on
16	MR DRYMER: Yes. And you didn't write the document.	16	a daily basis because they were supplying all the
17	I understand that.	17	district of Bardejov to have jobs, you know, and the
18	A. Mm-hm.	18	land was the mines were leased by a person, and also
19	MR DRYMER: The first sentence of that paragraph says:	19	the road was leased to them by a person.
20	"Access road is a public road."	20	Q. So the
21	A. Yes.	21	A. I meant in this paragraph also the history of the
22	MR DRYMER: Do you consider that an accurate statement?	22	quartz.
23	A. Yes.	23	Q. So historically the road was leased to a person or
24	MR DRYMER: Okay. Did you express that to them, to AOG at	24	a corporation which operated a quartz mine there?
25	the time?	25	A. Exactly.
	Page 37		Page 39
10.21 1	A Vos	10.24 1	O. So they were using the read on the basis of the large
10:31 1	A. Yes.	10:34 1	Q. So they were using the road on the basis of the lease they had with the owner of the road; correct?
2	MR DRYMER: I'll leave it there. Thank you.	2	they had with the owner of the road; correct?
2 3	MR DRYMER: I'll leave it there. Thank you. MR PEKAR: Mr Baran, let's go back to paragraph 19 of your	2 3	they had with the owner of the road; correct? A. Correct.
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	• ··· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	10.55	
10:36 1	I will not be asking you with one exception, I will	10:39 1	I would need to leave the part with, you say it's quartz
2	not be asking you questions about the text.	2	
3	Please let's go to PDF page 8.	3	but some grass; correct?
4	So what we see on this picture, actually, is that in	4	A. Yes, but also this picture is not correct because those
5	the left there is an aerial view of the broader Smilno	5	trees, the original road goes above the trees and enters
6	area; do you recognise that?	6	the forest, and people chose to use this road because it
7	A. Yes.	7	was muddy, and it's muddy behind the trees, so they
8	Q. And then the main picture is a picture taken at the	8	carved it more to the like from the middle, down. So
9	place marked by the arrow on the picture; is that	9	where the original road goes above the trees, where it
10	correct?	10	
10	A. Yes.	11	there.
11	Q. And again we can see that this is basically a grassy	11	
12	field; correct?		
		13	
14	A. It is a grassy field, but it's not the road. The road	14	
15	is behind, like, from I see like 100 metres where	15	
16	from where the road ends and enters the forest on the	16	
17	upper right side. That's not the road at all.	17	Q. Obviously we have the pictures we have.
18	Q. And where on this picture do we have the drilling site?	18	
19	A. Like 100 metres straight forward and yes.	19	
20	Q. Okay.	20	
21	So now let's go to page 9. So we this is	21	A. Yes.
22	a picture. So, again, the picture has the same	22	
23	structure. So on the left side there is the aerial view	23	and the picture is taken from the field track; right?
24	with an arrow, and then there is the picture taken	24	A. Yes.
25	there; correct?	25	Q. And so we can see that even in the village, the surface
	Page 41		Page 43
	rage 41		rage 45
			C C
10:38 1	A. No, it's not correct. The arrow should be where	10:41 1	of the road is only hardened. It's not the same layer
10:38 1	<ul> <li>A. No, it's not correct. The arrow should be where the road enters the V-shaped forest.</li> </ul>	10:41 1	
			of the road is only hardened. It's not the same layer
2	the road enters the V-shaped forest.	2	of the road is only hardened. It's not the same layer of asphalt that we can see on the municipal road?
23	the road enters the V-shaped forest. Q. Mm-hm. Okay. So it should be closer to the site than	2 3	of the road is only hardened. It's not the same layer of asphalt that we can see on the municipal road? A. It's not true anymore. On the left side to the middle
2 3 4	<ul><li>the road enters the V-shaped forest.</li><li>Q. Mm-hm. Okay. So it should be closer to the site than where it is; right?</li></ul>	2 3 4	of the road is only hardened. It's not the same layer of asphalt that we can see on the municipal road? A. It's not true anymore. On the left side to the middle of the junction, it had been asphalt road, and we did
2 3 4	<ul><li>the road enters the V-shaped forest.</li><li>Q. Mm-hm. Okay. So it should be closer to the site than where it is; right?</li><li>A. Yes. Yes.</li></ul>	2 3 4 5	of the road is only hardened. It's not the same layer of asphalt that we can see on the municipal road? A. It's not true anymore. On the left side to the middle of the junction, it had been asphalt road, and we did a reconstruction and it's proper asphalt road now. On
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15 (Pages 41 to 44)

10:43 1	the road is 700, 800 metres, if I recall. Here it	10:46 1	Mr Benada, who is Czech?
2	states 1.3. So which of the two is correct?	2	A. Yes.
3	A. I think it's 700 metres. 7-800 metres, max.	3	Q. So you did not authorise the modification of the road at
4	Q. From the village?	4	that time. Did you authorise any modification of
5	A. From the junction. But then	5	the road at any other time?
6	MR DRYMER: From where to where?	6	A. No. Not that I remember of.
7	A. Then from the road towards the site it was another	7	Q. Well, we can look at the document R-61. This is
8	100 metres. So I can't say I didn't measure it.	8	an answer that you provided in the name of the Smilno
9	MR PEKAR: And here Discovery actually states that one half	9	municipality to a question which was asked by the
10	of the road requires some modifications. And I believe	10	district police directorate, with respect to the field
11	actually you answered that question already in response	11	track. And there you state so, first of all, are you
12	to Mr Drymer's questions.	12	familiar with this document, sir?
13	You did not approve any modifications of the road,	13	A. I haven't seen it since 2016, so
14	did you?	14	Q. But if we scroll a bit down?
15	A. No, I couldn't. You know, it's not the village	15	A. I signed it, so
16	property.	16	Q. You did, yes.
17	Q. Mm-hm. So if we look at document C-280.	17	A. Yes.
18	Are you familiar with this document, sir?	18	Q. So you state:
19	A. Let me see. (Pause)	19	"The access road located on plot of land E 2721/780
20	Q. We can also show maybe the original version on the split	20	has not been assigned any functional class or category
21	screen, sir.	21	pursuant to STN 6110.
22	A. Yes. That might refer to the photograph with me,	22	2. The Smilno Municipality possesses no zoning
23	Mr Benada and the agricultural engineer, where the	23	decision in respect of the creation of the road
24	sticks were.	24	3. The Smilno Municipality possesses no building
25	Q. Yes, and so the document states:	25	permit in respect of the plot of land
	Page 45		Page 47
	rage +J		rage +1
10:45 1	"Local investigation took place on 21.7.2015 in the	10:48 1	4. The Smilno Municipality possesses no occupancy
10:45 1	"Local investigation took place on 21.7.2015 in the area of the future construction of a working area for	10:48 1 2	4. The Smilno Municipality possesses no occupancy decision
2	area of the future construction of a working area for	2	decision
2 3	area of the future construction of a working area for the implementation of exploration works of Alpine Oil	2 3	decision 5. The Smilno Municipality possesses no technical
2 3 4 5 6	area of the future construction of a working area for the implementation of exploration works of Alpine Oil and Gas in the cadastral area of Smilno. The subject of the investigation was the location of the access road on Parcel Type C, Serial No. 945	2 3 4 5 6	<ul> <li>decision</li> <li>5. The Smilno Municipality possesses no technical documentation that would confirm the realization of construction in respect of the land plot</li> <li>6. As the road was constructed absent of any issued</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7	area of the future construction of a working area for the implementation of exploration works of Alpine Oil and Gas in the cadastral area of Smilno. The subject of the investigation was the location of the access road on Parcel Type C, Serial No. 945 (unrecorded ownership sheet - built-up area (road)).	2 3 4 5 6 7	<ul> <li>decision</li> <li>5. The Smilno Municipality possesses no technical documentation that would confirm the realization of construction in respect of the land plot</li> <li>6. As the road was constructed absent of any issued occupancy decision, the Smilno municipality possesses no</li> </ul>
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10:49 1	statement, sir. And you state there:	10:52 1	the pictures, C-418 and C-419, is information from 2019.
2	"I have also been shown pictures of the Smilno	2	Does that refresh your memory as to the year when you
3	village and Road which I understand have been taken from	3	were shown the pictures C-418 and C-419?
4	the website of Slovakia's Office of Cartography The	4	A. Not really. It doesn't refresh my memory, no. I'm not
5	first image simply shows the Road as it is and as it	5	sure when.
6	should be. Here, you can clearly see the Road leading	6	MR DRYMER: Mr Baran, when I read a statement like this in
7	away from the village and arching down towards the	7	a witness statement such as this
8	bottom right of the image. In the second image the Road	8	A. Mm-hm.
9	is clearly identified as a 'road' in the icon tabs on	9	MR DRYMER: "I have been shown a picture", it suggests to
10	the left-hand side of the image, and it is also	10	me, at least, that you have been shown this by counsel
11	identified by the GPS points as a 'local, purpose built	11	at the time of your signing of the witness statement.
12	communication'. This is consistent with my	12	I'm not saying that's what it means. I'm asking you, is
13	understanding of the Road's status and historical use,	13	that what it means?
14	and is also consistent with what I have said in this	14	A. Yes.
15	statement and what I had told AOG about the Road".	15	MR DRYMER: Alright.
16	Can you see that, sir?	16	But to the best again, not what the words say.
17	A. Yes.	17	To your recollection, were you you would have am
18	Q. When were these pictures shown to you?	18	I correct to understand that you would have been shown
19	A. Which pictures?	19	these two maps at the time you were asked to approve and
20	Q. The pictures you referred to in paragraph 20, and if you	20	sign your witness statement? Or sometime earlier, or by
21	want to see, you referred to them in the footnotes, so	21	somebody else?
22	it's Exhibit C-420 and	22	A. I repeat, I don't remember exactly.
23	MR DRYMER: Exhibit C-418 and C-419.	23	MR DRYMER: Okay.
24	MR PEKAR: Yes, thank you. It's C-418 and C-419.	24	A. No.
25	So this is the one where I yes, so that's it.	25	MR DRYMER: I just want to say honestly how I understand the
	D 40		D 51
	Page 49		Page 51
10:51	A. And can you repeat your question?	10:54 1	words, to give you a chance to address them.
10:51	<ul><li>A. And can you repeat your question?</li><li>O. Yes. My question is: when were these pictures shown to</li></ul>	10:54 1 2	words, to give you a chance to address them. A. Mm-hm. Because it's a map so you can find on the
2	Q. Yes. My question is: when were these pictures shown to	2	A. Mm-hm. Because it's a map so you can find on the
2	Q. Yes. My question is: when were these pictures shown to you?	2 3	A. Mm-hm. Because it's a map so you can find on the internet at any time. And I don't recall when exactly
2	<ul><li>Q. Yes. My question is: when were these pictures shown to you?</li><li>A. These pictures are official, you know, internet</li></ul>	2 3 4	<ul> <li>Mm-hm. Because it's a map so you can find on the internet at any time. And I don't recall when exactly I was shown them.</li> </ul>
2 3 2	<ul><li>Q. Yes. My question is: when were these pictures shown to you?</li><li>A. These pictures are official, you know, internet I don't know the abbreviation MAPI?</li></ul>	2 3	A. Mm-hm. Because it's a map so you can find on the internet at any time. And I don't recall when exactly
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		1	
10:56	A. Yes.	10:59 1	MR DRYMER: Are you through with the maps? Because I have
10.50		10:59 1	a couple of questions on maps in a moment. You tell me.
	-	3	MR PEKAR: Please go.
			MR DRYMER: Right answer!
4		4	-
-		5	Some counsel, well, excellent counsel always listen
6		6	to the judge or arbitrators. Really excellent counsel
		7	can read their minds. And I love maps and I was going
8		8	to take you to C-418 and C-419 as well before Mr Pekar
ç		9	did.
10		10	Could we look, please, at C-418 again. And here you
1	1	11	say you pointed out a moment ago on the other map
12		12	where the drilling site is, approximately. Sir, are you
1.		13	able to put your magic red dot on this figure? Alright.
14		14	Is that the correct location of the site, approximately?
1:	L .	15	A. Yes, I think it corresponds with the previous picture.
10		16	MR DRYMER: Very good. The first thing I always look for on
1'		17	a map is the legend. It seems to me that that sort of
18	components, you know, which of these more specific	18	rectangle with an image in it, which was close to where
19	categories apply to this C-945 object?	19	the red dot is, is called a "material dump". I'm not
20	A. No, I can't tell which exactly.	20	making evidence: is that correct? Are you able to
2	THE PRESIDENT: While we are on this map, can I just ask you	21	scroll down and take a look? Do you see the rectangle?
22	2 a question?	22	A. No.
2.	When you speak of the road being 7-800 metres, where	23	MR DRYMER: Sir, could you put the red dot back on the map?
24	does this where does your measurement start and where	24	A. No, no, it was, like, the site that was prepared for
25	does it end?	25	drilling.
	D 52		D 55
	Page 53		Page 55
10:58	A. It stops somewhere in the middle. I can't show it.	11:01 1	MR DRYMER: Ah, okay.
10:58	-	11:01 1	MR DRYMER: Ah, okay. But as I scroll down sir, could you scroll down
	THE PRESIDENT: Yes, it's difficult, but can you describe it		•
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11:03 1	this rectangle? Is that what it's showing me?	11:05 1	A. Yes.
2	A. Yes.	2	MR DRYMER: Okay. And I just note, for the record, that the
3	MR DRYMER: Okay. Thank you.	3	same rectangle, or a similar rectangle, seems to appear
4	Sir, could you pull up C-419 for one quick minute?	4	on that map as well. And includes what seems to be the
5	A. If I might there have been a road connecting	5	access between the forest track or road and the
6	the road, if we refer to the road, from Smilno village	6	rectangle.
7	to the V-shaped forest?	7	One last question. You spoke earlier, sir, about
8	MR DRYMER: Yes.	8	and we saw pictures. I think you said the current state
9	A. And the junction towards the drilling site which was	9	of the road is not exactly as on these maps. Here we
10	created by the company, the connection between	10	see the road continues into the forest.
10	the road	10	A. Mm-hm.
11		11	MR DRYMER: But the pictures we saw were below the point in
		12	the V, and that's where you said the road has been
13 14	<ul><li>A and the drilling site.</li><li>MR DRYMER: But you don't know whether this represents the</li></ul>	13	I would ask you to repeat that modified by users in
14	drilling site or some other geographical feature?	14	recent years, or something like that? Just, I want to
15		15	understand what you're saying.
10	MR DRYMER: And	10	THE PRESIDENT: Let me just summarise what I understood,
		17	because I see the time flying and I'm a little
18 19	THE PRESIDENT: Just so that we're clear, I understood you to say this is the drilling site	18	concerned.
	to say this is the drilling site.	19 20	I understood you to say that the original road goes
20 21	A. Yes, because	20 21	into the forest, and continues in the forest.
21 22	MR DRYMER: Well, in the area of the drilling site, but not	21	A. Yes.
22	necessarily or are you saying that's what the map purports to represent?		THE PRESIDENT: But people have also used a track that was
	A. The drilling site was actually there, where	23 24	outside of the forest, along the forest?
24			_
25	MR DRYMER: That's my point. Okay. Okay.	25	A. Exactly so, yes, when it was too muddy in the one-third
	Page 57		Page 59
11:04 1			
	Can you clarify?	11:06 1	that I told you. Because if you, please, where the
2	MR PEKAR: Some questions?	2	junction is on the right side, there's a junction like
2 3	MR PEKAR: Some questions? MR DRYMER: Without giving evidence?	2 3	junction is on the right side, there's a junction like towards the right of the up, up, up. Yes. And there
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		1	
11:08 1	were shown with Mr Benada and someone from the	11:10 1	Can you see that, sir?
2	cooperative?	2	A. Yes.
3	A. Yes.	3	Q. So this is actually the same legend that I showed you on
4	Q. And we established that in that picture you were	4	the map which is included in document C-315, and which
5	standing on the field track as it was at the time, and	5	we know was sent by AOG's lawyer to the police in
6	then there were also the white sticks which were showing	6	Bardejov in 2016; correct?
7	where the road was supposed to be put; correct?	7	A. Yes, sir. It's correct what it says here.
8	If we use this map, and the magic red dot, could you	8	Q. Yes. And again, if I look at this official document
9	please show us where approximately on this map you were	9	from the land cadaster, which is publicly accessible,
10	standing at the time?	10	I cannot tell from the document if it is a road, if it's
11	A. Somewhere there. Somewhere there	11	a local road, if it's a special purpose road, if it's
12	Q. There?	12	forest road, field road, sidewalk, or uncovered parking
13	A stop. A little bit up. Somewhere there. Somewhere	13	lot and parts thereof; correct?
14	there.	14	A. Correct. Must be one of those.
15	Q. So just to be clear, what we saw on C-281 refers to what	15	Q. And only one of those; right?
16	is in yellow on this map somewhere between the drilling	16	A. I don't say only. Maybe two of those.
17	site and the village; correct?	17	Q. Does the extract from the Land Registry tell you who
18	A. Yes.	18	owns the field track?
19	Q. Thank you.	19	A. No, I can't see it now.
20	THE PRESIDENT: On the third of the track that is less used?	20	Q. No, because it's not a title deed. So we will pull up
21	A. Exactly.	21	the title deed, which is C-140. So if we zoom in, this
22	THE PRESIDENT: Because it is after the junction with	22	is an extract from the Land Registry, extract from title
23	Mikulášová.	23	deed number 1367. We can see that the date of execution
24	A. Mikulášová, yes, the neighbouring village, yes. The	24	is 20 June 2016.
25	agricultural guys use it when they have a beer or two,	25	So, sir, do you agree that this is the title deed
	Page 61		Page 63
	1 450 01		1 420 05
11:09 1	so they don't use the main road. They rather cross	11:12 1	for the field track, or field road?
11:09 1 2	so they don't use the main road. They rather cross through the fields.	11:12 1	for the field track, or field road? A. Yes.
2	through the fields.	2	A. Yes.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	<ul> <li>through the fields.</li> <li>MR PEKAR: And that would be because of Mr Stefansky, right?</li> <li>A. Sorry?</li> <li>Q. That would be because of Mr Stefansky, the police director who lives in the village?</li> <li>A. No, not in that village. He lives in a different village.</li> <li>Q. But he might see them on the state road, right?</li> <li>A. Not him. He was a director. He never stopped vehicles.</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And then if we just scroll down, we can see that there's hundreds of co-owners, if I am not mistaken, on the last page or actually it's not the last page of the document, but there are 209 co-owners there. Yes. So we can see that the last one was Mrs Klimovicová is the 209th co-owner at the time. Is it consistent with your recollection that the road had approximately 200 co-owners?</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	<ul> <li>through the fields.</li> <li>MR PEKAR: And that would be because of Mr Stefansky, right?</li> <li>A. Sorry?</li> <li>Q. That would be because of Mr Stefansky, the police director who lives in the village?</li> <li>A. No, not in that village. He lives in a different village.</li> <li>Q. But he might see them on the state road, right?</li> <li>A. Not him. He was a director. He never stopped vehicles. It was his subordinance, I suppose.</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And then if we just scroll down, we can see that there's hundreds of co-owners, if I am not mistaken, on the last page or actually it's not the last page of the document, but there are 209 co-owners there. Yes. So we can see that the last one was Mrs Klimovicová is the 209th co-owner at the time. Is it consistent with your recollection that the road had approximately 200 co-owners?</li> <li>A. Yes.</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	<ul> <li>through the fields.</li> <li>MR PEKAR: And that would be because of Mr Stefansky, right?</li> <li>A. Sorry?</li> <li>Q. That would be because of Mr Stefansky, the police director who lives in the village?</li> <li>A. No, not in that village. He lives in a different village.</li> <li>Q. But he might see them on the state road, right?</li> <li>A. Not him. He was a director. He never stopped vehicles. It was his subordinance, I suppose.</li> <li>Q. So now going back to how the road is described in</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And then if we just scroll down, we can see that there's hundreds of co-owners, if I am not mistaken, on the last page or actually it's not the last page of the document, but there are 209 co-owners there. Yes. So we can see that the last one was Mrs Klimovicová is the 209th co-owner at the time. Is it consistent with your recollection that the road had approximately 200 co-owners?</li> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And this information is again publicly available in the</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	<ul> <li>through the fields.</li> <li>MR PEKAR: And that would be because of Mr Stefansky, right?</li> <li>A. Sorry?</li> <li>Q. That would be because of Mr Stefansky, the police director who lives in the village?</li> <li>A. No, not in that village. He lives in a different village.</li> <li>Q. But he might see them on the state road, right?</li> <li>A. Not him. He was a director. He never stopped vehicles. It was his subordinance, I suppose.</li> <li>Q. So now going back to how the road is described in official documents, now in official documents. Let's</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And then if we just scroll down, we can see that there's hundreds of co-owners, if I am not mistaken, on the last page or actually it's not the last page of the document, but there are 209 co-owners there. Yes. So we can see that the last one was Mrs Klimovicová is the 209th co-owner at the time. Is it consistent with your recollection that the road had approximately 200 co-owners?</li> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And this information is again publicly available in the Land Registry, right?</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	<ul> <li>through the fields.</li> <li>MR PEKAR: And that would be because of Mr Stefansky, right?</li> <li>A. Sorry?</li> <li>Q. That would be because of Mr Stefansky, the police director who lives in the village?</li> <li>A. No, not in that village. He lives in a different village.</li> <li>Q. But he might see them on the state road, right?</li> <li>A. Not him. He was a director. He never stopped vehicles. It was his subordinance, I suppose.</li> <li>Q. So now going back to how the road is described in official documents, now in official documents. Let's look at document C-139.</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And then if we just scroll down, we can see that there's hundreds of co-owners, if I am not mistaken, on the last page or actually it's not the last page of the document, but there are 209 co-owners there. Yes. So we can see that the last one was Mrs Klimovicová is the 209th co-owner at the time. Is it consistent with your recollection that the road had approximately 200 co-owners?</li> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And this information is again publicly available in the Land Registry, right?</li> <li>A. Yes, it must insert the time that the road I think it</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	<ul> <li>through the fields.</li> <li>MR PEKAR: And that would be because of Mr Stefansky, right?</li> <li>A. Sorry?</li> <li>Q. That would be because of Mr Stefansky, the police director who lives in the village?</li> <li>A. No, not in that village. He lives in a different village.</li> <li>Q. But he might see them on the state road, right?</li> <li>A. Not him. He was a director. He never stopped vehicles. It was his subordinance, I suppose.</li> <li>Q. So now going back to how the road is described in official documents, now in official documents. Let's look at document C-139. So this is the extract from the Land Registry for</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And then if we just scroll down, we can see that there's hundreds of co-owners, if I am not mistaken, on the last page or actually it's not the last page of the document, but there are 209 co-owners there. Yes. So we can see that the last one was Mrs Klimovicová is the 209th co-owner at the time. Is it consistent with your recollection that the road had approximately 200 co-owners?</li> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And this information is again publicly available in the Land Registry, right?</li> <li>A. Yes, it must insert the time that the road I think it was in the year 2000, when there was this overall registration of land conducted in Smilno and other neighbouring villages. And it must have been changed</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	<ul> <li>through the fields.</li> <li>MR PEKAR: And that would be because of Mr Stefansky, right?</li> <li>A. Sorry?</li> <li>Q. That would be because of Mr Stefansky, the police director who lives in the village?</li> <li>A. No, not in that village. He lives in a different village.</li> <li>Q. But he might see them on the state road, right?</li> <li>A. Not him. He was a director. He never stopped vehicles. It was his subordinance, I suppose.</li> <li>Q. So now going back to how the road is described in official documents, now in official documents. Let's look at document C-139. So this is the extract from the Land Registry for the same plot, C-945, that we have been discussing all the time; correct?</li> <li>A. Yes.</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And then if we just scroll down, we can see that there's hundreds of co-owners, if I am not mistaken, on the last page or actually it's not the last page of the document, but there are 209 co-owners there. Yes. So we can see that the last one was Mrs Klimovicová is the 209th co-owner at the time. Is it consistent with your recollection that the road had approximately 200 co-owners?</li> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And this information is again publicly available in the Land Registry, right?</li> <li>A. Yes, it must insert the time that the road I think it was in the year 2000, when there was this overall registration of land conducted in Smilno and other</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	<ul> <li>through the fields.</li> <li>MR PEKAR: And that would be because of Mr Stefansky, right?</li> <li>A. Sorry?</li> <li>Q. That would be because of Mr Stefansky, the police director who lives in the village?</li> <li>A. No, not in that village. He lives in a different village.</li> <li>Q. But he might see them on the state road, right?</li> <li>A. Not him. He was a director. He never stopped vehicles. It was his subordinance, I suppose.</li> <li>Q. So now going back to how the road is described in official documents, now in official documents. Let's look at document C-139. So this is the extract from the Land Registry for the same plot, C-945, that we have been discussing all the time; correct?</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And then if we just scroll down, we can see that there's hundreds of co-owners, if I am not mistaken, on the last page or actually it's not the last page of the document, but there are 209 co-owners there. Yes. So we can see that the last one was Mrs Klimovicová is the 209th co-owner at the time. Is it consistent with your recollection that the road had approximately 200 co-owners?</li> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And this information is again publicly available in the Land Registry, right?</li> <li>A. Yes, it must insert the time that the road I think it was in the year 2000, when there was this overall registration of land conducted in Smilno and other neighbouring villages. And it must have been changed</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	<ul> <li>through the fields.</li> <li>MR PEKAR: And that would be because of Mr Stefansky, right?</li> <li>A. Sorry?</li> <li>Q. That would be because of Mr Stefansky, the police director who lives in the village?</li> <li>A. No, not in that village. He lives in a different village.</li> <li>Q. But he might see them on the state road, right?</li> <li>A. Not him. He was a director. He never stopped vehicles. It was his subordinance, I suppose.</li> <li>Q. So now going back to how the road is described in official documents, now in official documents. Let's look at document C-139. So this is the extract from the Land Registry for the same plot, C-945, that we have been discussing all the time; correct?</li> <li>A. Yes.</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And then if we just scroll down, we can see that there's hundreds of co-owners, if I am not mistaken, on the last page or actually it's not the last page of the document, but there are 209 co-owners there. Yes. So we can see that the last one was Mrs Klimovicová is the 209th co-owner at the time. Is it consistent with your recollection that the road had approximately 200 co-owners?</li> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And this information is again publicly available in the Land Registry, right?</li> <li>A. Yes, it must insert the time that the road I think it was in the year 2000, when there was this overall registration of land conducted in Smilno and other neighbouring villages. And it must have been changed from the roads to a field with those owners. And I'm one of those.</li> <li>Q. So in May 2016 you got a written request for information</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	<ul> <li>through the fields.</li> <li>MR PEKAR: And that would be because of Mr Stefansky, right?</li> <li>A. Sorry?</li> <li>Q. That would be because of Mr Stefansky, the police director who lives in the village?</li> <li>A. No, not in that village. He lives in a different village.</li> <li>Q. But he might see them on the state road, right?</li> <li>A. Not him. He was a director. He never stopped vehicles. It was his subordinance, I suppose.</li> <li>Q. So now going back to how the road is described in official documents, now in official documents. Let's look at document C-139. So this is the extract from the Land Registry for the same plot, C-945, that we have been discussing all the time; correct?</li> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And then when we read the legend, "Way of using the plot". It says:</li> </ul>	$ \begin{array}{c} 2\\3\\4\\5\\6\\7\\8\\9\\10\\11\\12\\13\\14\\15\\16\\17\\18\\19\\20\\21\end{array} $	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And then if we just scroll down, we can see that there's hundreds of co-owners, if I am not mistaken, on the last page or actually it's not the last page of the document, but there are 209 co-owners there. Yes. So we can see that the last one was Mrs Klimovicová is the 209th co-owner at the time. Is it consistent with your recollection that the road had approximately 200 co-owners?</li> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And this information is again publicly available in the Land Registry, right?</li> <li>A. Yes, it must insert the time that the road I think it was in the year 2000, when there was this overall registration of land conducted in Smilno and other neighbouring villages. And it must have been changed from the roads to a field with those owners. And I'm one of those.</li> <li>Q. So in May 2016 you got a written request for information from AOG's attorney. It's document R-155A. So this is</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	<ul> <li>through the fields.</li> <li>MR PEKAR: And that would be because of Mr Stefansky, right?</li> <li>A. Sorry?</li> <li>Q. That would be because of Mr Stefansky, the police director who lives in the village?</li> <li>A. No, not in that village. He lives in a different village.</li> <li>Q. But he might see them on the state road, right?</li> <li>A. Not him. He was a director. He never stopped vehicles. It was his subordinance, I suppose.</li> <li>Q. So now going back to how the road is described in official documents, now in official documents. Let's look at document C-139. So this is the extract from the Land Registry for the same plot, C-945, that we have been discussing all the time; correct?</li> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And then when we read the legend, "Way of using the plot". It says: "22 - Land, on which an engineering structure is</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And then if we just scroll down, we can see that there's hundreds of co-owners, if I am not mistaken, on the last page or actually it's not the last page of the document, but there are 209 co-owners there. Yes. So we can see that the last one was Mrs Klimovicová is the 209th co-owner at the time. Is it consistent with your recollection that the road had approximately 200 co-owners?</li> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And this information is again publicly available in the Land Registry, right?</li> <li>A. Yes, it must insert the time that the road I think it was in the year 2000, when there was this overall registration of land conducted in Smilno and other neighbouring villages. And it must have been changed from the roads to a field with those owners. And I'm one of those.</li> <li>Q. So in May 2016 you got a written request for information from AOG's attorney. It's document R-155A. So this is an email which is so, first of all, this Smilno2001,</li> </ul>
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	<ul> <li>through the fields.</li> <li>MR PEKAR: And that would be because of Mr Stefansky, right?</li> <li>A. Sorry?</li> <li>Q. That would be because of Mr Stefansky, the police director who lives in the village?</li> <li>A. No, not in that village. He lives in a different village.</li> <li>Q. But he might see them on the state road, right?</li> <li>A. Not him. He was a director. He never stopped vehicles. It was his subordinance, I suppose.</li> <li>Q. So now going back to how the road is described in official documents, now in official documents. Let's look at document C-139. So this is the extract from the Land Registry for the same plot, C-945, that we have been discussing all the time; correct?</li> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And then when we read the legend, "Way of using the plot". It says: "22 - Land, on which an engineering structure is built - road, local and special-purpose road, forest</li> </ul>	$\begin{array}{c} 2\\ 3\\ 4\\ 5\\ 6\\ 7\\ 8\\ 9\\ 10\\ 11\\ 12\\ 13\\ 14\\ 15\\ 16\\ 17\\ 18\\ 19\\ 20\\ 21\\ 22\\ 23\end{array}$	<ul> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And then if we just scroll down, we can see that there's hundreds of co-owners, if I am not mistaken, on the last page or actually it's not the last page of the document, but there are 209 co-owners there. Yes. So we can see that the last one was Mrs Klimovicová is the 209th co-owner at the time. Is it consistent with your recollection that the road had approximately 200 co-owners?</li> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. And this information is again publicly available in the Land Registry, right?</li> <li>A. Yes, it must insert the time that the road I think it was in the year 2000, when there was this overall registration of land conducted in Smilno and other neighbouring villages. And it must have been changed from the roads to a field with those owners. And I'm one of those.</li> <li>Q. So in May 2016 you got a written request for information from AOG's attorney. It's document R-155A. So this is an email which is so, first of all, this Smilno2001, is that your address, sir?</li> </ul>
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1			
11:14 1	A. It's my private address.	11:17 1	"The field road located on the land parcel [and so
2	Q. And the email was sent on 17 May 2016; right?	2	on] is a public special purpose road."
3	A. It says so.	3	And the suggested answer to the second question is:
4	Q. It states:	4	"The Town of Smilno is not the owner of the
5	"As a follow-up to our phone call, I would like to	5	above-mentioned special purpose road."
6	ask you for information on the nature of the road,	6	And the suggested answer to the third question is:
7	specified in the attachment to this e-mail. We would	7	"The Town of Smilno does not have knowledge of who
8	like to express our opinion that the road in question is	8	conducts the management and maintenance of this utility
9	a public special purpose road and, according to our	9	road."
10	information, it has been used by citizens, as well as by	10	Sir, do you recall receiving the document at the
11	a local farmers' cooperative, for decades without any	11	time?
12	restrictions."	12	A. No, I don't recall receiving that. I might have.
13	And then if we scroll down, we can see the	13	I don't recall receiving it.
14	attachments. So the first attachment is a request for	14	Q. Mm-hm.
15	-	15	But you do recall receiving the email; right?
16	And it states it relates to the land plot, and where	16	A. No. No, I don't.
17	the road is. The title deed, 1367, which we just saw.	17	Q. Not even that?
18	•	18	A. I said before, no, I don't recall it. I might have, but
19		19	I don't recall.
20		20	Q. So if we go back to the email, the email says:
21	So you are not given much a choice there, it's	21	"As a follow-up to our phone call"
22	either public or non-public, but in any event special	22	Do you have an idea which phone call it may refer
23	purpose road.	23	to?
24		24	A. No, I don't.
25	above-mentioned special purpose road?	25	Q. So you don't recall having a phone call with Mr Sýkora
	Page 65		Page 67
11:16 1	(iii) Who conducts the management and maintenance of	11:19 1	in mid-May 2016?
2			
	this special purpose road?	2	-
3	this special purpose road? We kindly request the response to this request to be	2 3	A. Not exactly. I know that he called me, the lawyer,
3	We kindly request the response to this request to be		<ul> <li>A. Not exactly. I know that he called me, the lawyer,</li> <li>Mr Sýkora, but I don't know exactly whether that call</li> </ul>
4		3	A. Not exactly. I know that he called me, the lawyer, Mr Sýkora, but I don't know exactly whether that call refers to the letter or so. I don't remember it.
	We kindly request the response to this request to be sent to the following address: Alpine Oil and Gas Bratislava."	3 4	<ul><li>A. Not exactly. I know that he called me, the lawyer, Mr Sýkora, but I don't know exactly whether that call refers to the letter or so. I don't remember it.</li><li>Q. Mm-hm. And so if we go back to the third page, we see</li></ul>
4 5	We kindly request the response to this request to be sent to the following address: Alpine Oil and Gas Bratislava." Do you recall receiving this document at the time?	3 4 5	<ul> <li>A. Not exactly. I know that he called me, the lawyer, Mr Sýkora, but I don't know exactly whether that call refers to the letter or so. I don't remember it.</li> <li>Q. Mm-hm. And so if we go back to the third page, we see some you know, the suggested answers that I read out</li> </ul>
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4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	<ul> <li>We kindly request the response to this request to be sent to the following address: Alpine Oil and Gas Bratislava."</li> <li>Do you recall receiving this document at the time?</li> <li>A. Not exactly, but I must have received it, yes. I don't recall receiving, yes.</li> <li>Q. You don't recall or you must have received it or you do not</li> <li>A. I don't recall. I don't remember when I received it, but if depends. If I answered to that letter I must have received it. But I'm not sure. I don't remember whether I received this particular letter. It's been years. What date it says? 2016.</li> <li>Q. It was presented by counsel to Discovery as attachment to the email, which is on the first page of this document, which dates 17 May 2016.</li> <li>A. Okay. I must have received it.</li> <li>Q. And then there is another page of the same attachment, or a second attachment, which is actually a draft response. So it's a draft response sent by the town of Smilno to Alpine Oil &amp; Gas, which provides the following suggested answers to the questions. So question (i),</li> </ul>	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	<ul> <li>A. Not exactly. I know that he called me, the lawyer, Mr Sýkora, but I don't know exactly whether that call refers to the letter or so. I don't remember it.</li> <li>Q. Mm-hm. And so if we go back to the third page, we see some you know, the suggested answers that I read out loud to you. Is it your recollection that you know, could it be that these answers summarised the advice that you gave to Mr Sýkora by phone?</li> <li>A. No, I don't recall that. No.</li> <li>Q. Thank you. So let's look now at document MR DRYMER: If I may. Had you met any representatives of AOG by this point?</li> <li>A. You mean in this</li> <li>MR DRYMER: By this date, 15/16 May?</li> <li>A. I don't recall exactly. No, I cannot say for sure.</li> <li>MR DRYMER: Okay.</li> <li>A. I met them, but I don't know exactly whether at this date or that date. It's years back, I don't remember.</li> <li>MR DRYMER: I appreciate that. I don't know if this is helpful or not, but at paragraph 6 of your witness statement you say you initially met with representatives of AOG on or around 18 May 2015.</li> <li>THE PRESIDENT: This is 2016.</li> </ul>

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$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	<ul> <li>A. I don't remember.</li> <li>MR DRYMER: Okay.</li> <li>THE PRESIDENT: Should we not let counsel proceed with his examination, because we are disrupting, I am afraid.</li> <li>MR DRYMER: Very good. Very good.</li> <li>MR PEKAR: So you actually did provide an answer. It is document R-156. So this is an answer sent to Cesty Smilno on 6 June 2016. So that would be approximately three weeks after the document I just showed you, R-155A.</li> <li>A. Mm-hm.</li> <li>Q. And here you state:     <ul> <li>"The Smilno Municipality received your request for information pursuant to Act [on public access to information] concerning free access [regarding the land plot on the] Title Deed No. 1367 in the Real Estate Registration Area of Smilno"</li> <li>So could it be that this is your answer to the email 155A and its attachments? Do you recall?</li> <li>A. It could be, but I'm not sure.</li> <li>Q. Okay. But you are sure that this is your answer; right?</li> <li>A. The answer in my statement. Yes. I'm sure about that.</li> <li>Q. So this is a document you sent?</li> <li>A. Have I signed that?</li> <li>Q. We can show you the Slovak original with the signature.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		<ul> <li>A. Mm-hm. Yes.</li> <li>Q. So from these options which are available here, you pick the field road, the option which is listed last on the first line; correct?</li> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. You did not pick "local and special-purpose road"; correct?</li> <li>A. That is obviously so, yes.</li> <li>MR PEKAR: Thank you. That concludes my cross-examination.</li> <li>PROFESSOR SANDS: Could I just ask on that, the request for information pursuant to Act No. 211/2000 is dated about three weeks earlier. So there's three weeks between the request and the response.</li> <li>This response, if we could bring back the original of R-156, please, on the screen the original and the English would be great. And if you could put the original just so that Mr Baran can have his original text next to it, that would be fantastic. Thank you so much.</li> <li>So three weeks pass, about, between the request and the response, which is perfectly reasonable. You've signed this document. Did you carry out the research to prepare the response, or did someone else in the council prepare a draft for you?</li> <li>A. No, I did myself.</li> </ul>
	Page 69		Page 71
11.00 1			
11:22 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	<ul> <li>A. The last paragraph:</li> <li>"The Village of Smilno is not the owner of the" I don't remember exactly, because it's many I might and that on the right, I remember, yes.</li> <li>Q. And so in the answer that you provide, actually you answer first:</li> <li>"the field track" And in Slovak it's "polná cesta", so this could also translate as "field road":</li> <li>" situated on parcel of land" Et cetera, and then you describe the historical use of the road; yes?</li> <li>A. Yes.</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	<ul> <li>PROFESSOR SANDS: So you carried out the assessment of how to characterise the field road or the track or the path or the road, or whatever it is?</li> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>PROFESSOR SANDS: So you're explicitly asked, with the draft response, to characterise it as a special purpose road, that characterisation, and you don't do that. So you've gone through an intellectual exercise of your own, and you appear to have rejected that characterisation, and used a different characterisation.</li> <li>Could you explain to us your thinking on why you did not follow the suggestion that was put in the draft, and instead characterised it as a field track? What was</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	"The Village of Smilno is not the owner of the" I don't remember exactly, because it's many I might and that on the right, I remember, yes. Q. And so in the answer that you provide, actually you answer first: "the field track" And in Slovak it's "polná cesta", so this could also translate as "field road": " situated on parcel of land" Et cetera, and then you describe the historical use of the road; yes?	$\begin{array}{c} 2\\ 3\\ 4\\ 5\\ 6\\ 7\\ 8\\ 9\\ 10\\ 11\\ 12\\ 13\\ 14\\ 15\\ 16\\ 17\\ 18\\ 19\\ 20\\ 21\\ 22\\ 23\\ 24\\ \end{array}$	to characterise the field road or the track or the path or the road, or whatever it is? A. Yes. PROFESSOR SANDS: So you're explicitly asked, with the draft response, to characterise it as a special purpose road, that characterisation, and you don't do that. So you've gone through an intellectual exercise of your own, and you appear to have rejected that characterisation, and used a different characterisation. Could you explain to us your thinking on why you did not follow the suggestion that was put in the draft, and

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11:27 1	your letter expressed on 6 June 2016, R-156, is that	11:46 1	THE PRESIDENT: And you have your witness statements there,
2	this thing is not a special purpose road?	2	I see.
3	A. I stick to what I said. It's polná cesta. It's a road,	3	DR SLOSARCIKOVA: Yes, correct.
4	but a field road, yes.	4	THE PRESIDENT: You're heard as a witness, and you're under
5	PROFESSOR SANDS: Okay, thank you.	5	an obligation to tell us the truth. Can you please read
6	THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.	6	into the record the witness declaration.
7	I think out of respect for the court reporter, we	7	DR SLOSARCIKOVA: I solemnly declare on my conscience and
8	should now really take a break, and then you can come	8	mind that I will speak the truth and nothing but the
9	back with re-direct questions if you have any, and the	9	truth.
10	Tribunal may add a few questions if you have any, and the	10	THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. So I first turn to Respondent's
11	questions left.	10	counsel, and then you will have questions from Claimant.
12		12	(11.47 am)
13	I have no re-examination. I have no re-examination.	12	Direct examination by MR KAMENICKY
13		13	Q. Thank you, Madam President. Good morning,
15	questions?	14	Dr Slosarcikova.
16	Then you surprise me! I'm not ready. Let me just	15	Have you had a chance to review your two submitted
17	check whether I have questions left here, if you will	10	witness statements recently?
17	bear with me. (Pause)	17	A. Yes, I had.
19		10	Q. And do you have anything to change or modify in either
20	because Professor Sands just put the questions that	20	of your two witness statements?
20	I would have put to the witness. (Pause)	20 21	A. No.
21	THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that was one of my questions too, but	21	Q. Thank you. No further questions.
22	it is answered.	22	THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.
23 24	No, I have no questions left either. So, Mr Baran,	23 24	Mr Tushingham.
24	thank you very much for your assistance.	24 25	(11.47 am)
25	ulank you very much for your assistance.	25	(11.47 all)
	Page 73		Page 75
11:29 1	MD RADAN. Thank you madam	11.47 1	Cross austing by MD TURIUNCUAM
_	MR BARAN: Thank you, madam. THE PRESIDENT: And this ends your examination.	11:47 1	Cross-examination by MR TUSHINGHAM
23	MR BARAN: Thank you.	2	Q. Thank you very much, Madam President.
4	THE PRESIDENT: Let us take 15 minutes now, and resume at	3	Dr Slosarcikova, I am counsel for Discovery, the
4	11.45.	4	Claimant, and I will be asking you some questions this
		5	morning. If you do not understand the question that
6 7	(A short break)	0	I ask, please tell me, and I will try and rephrase it;
	(11.45 am)	7	is that clear? A. I understand.
8	DR JUDr VLADISLAVA SLOSARCIKOVA (called)	8	
9 10		9	Q. You have served as a prosecutor in the Bardejov District
10	(Evidence interpreted) THE PRESIDENT: Good morning, madam. Do you hear the Slovak	10	Prosecution Office for about 20 years; is that right? A. Yes, that is correct.
11	translation when I speak?	11	
12	-	12	
13	DR SLOSARCIKOVA: Yes, I can hear well.	13	•
14	THE PRESIDENT: Excellent. Welcome here, thank you for	14	
15	being with us. You are Vladislava Slosarcikova?	15	
16		16	ç .
17	THE PRESIDENT: If I have pronounced it correctly.	17	· · · · ·
18	DR SLOSARCIKOVA: Absolutely correct. Thank you.	18	
19	THE PRESIDENT: You are the prosecutor of the District	19	
20	Prosecution Office Bardejov?	20	
21	DR SLOSARCIKOVA: Yes, I am.	21	say that you currently reside in Bardejov; do you see
22	THE PRESIDENT: You provided two written statements, the	22	
23	first one was dated 24 March 2023, and the second one	23	
24	11 December 2023; is that correct?	24	Q. Where did you live in 2016?
25	DR SLOSARCIKOVA: Yes, that is correct.	25	A. In Bardejov.

11:49	1	Q. Do you know anybody who lives in the village of Smilno?	11:53 1	left-hand corner if we scroll up, of the Bardejov
	2	A. No.	2	District Police Department, dated 15 February 2016; do
	3	Q. Before you arrived in Smilno, on 18 June 2016, were you	3	you see that?
	4	aware that AOG was carrying out an oil and gas	4	A. Yes, I can see them.
	5	exploration project in the region?	5	Q. I think the witness's screen has a dialogue box which is
	6	A. No, I was not.	6	obscuring the view of much of what is on the page.
	7	Q. Had you heard about any company in the region that was	7	I wonder if we could pause for a moment while we sort
	8	exploring for oil and gas prior to your arrival in	8	that.
	9	Smilno in June 2016?	9	Yes, Dr Slosarcikova, on your right there's another
	10	A. No.	10	screen that you could look at, if that's acceptable.
	11	Q. Had you heard about a protest that had taken place in	11	So, do you see at the top of the page a document dated
	12	the city of Prešov in January 2016 about an oil and gas	12	15 February 2016 from the Bardejov District Police
	13	exploration project?	13	Department?
	14	A. No.	14	A. Yes, I can see that.
	15	Q. The office that you work in has a close working	15	Q. And I will represent to you that this is a resolution
	16	relationship with the Bardejov District Police Force; is	16	relating to a criminal complaint which AOG filed against
	17	that right?	17	Ms Marianna Varjanová.
	18	A. I don't understand the question correctly.	18	Do you see the stamp at the top of the page?
	19	Q. Forgive me. The Bardejov District Police Force is	19	A. Yes, I can see that.
	20	another office that is responsible for enforcing the law	20	Q. And that's the stamp of your office, isn't it?
	21	in the town that you are based in; correct?	21	A. Yes, it is.
	22	A. Yes, we could use those words as well.	22	Q. Do you recognise the signature?
	23	Q. And if the police noticed criminal activity taking	23	A. This would be one of the administrative clerks at the
	24	place, then it would be likely that your office would be	24	office.
	25	informed about that; correct?	25	Q. And once the administrative clerk has accepted the
		Page 77		Page 79
11:51	1	A. Yes, indeed.	11:55 1	document, would it then make its way up the chain to
11:51	1 2	Q. And so you would presumably know many of the police	11:55 1 2	your office, to the attention of you or your colleagues?
11:51		Q. And so you would presumably know many of the police officers who worked in the Bardejov Police Force in		your office, to the attention of you or your colleagues? A. Well, it goes to the district prosecutor.
11:51	2	Q. And so you would presumably know many of the police	2	<ul><li>your office, to the attention of you or your colleagues?</li><li>A. Well, it goes to the district prosecutor.</li><li>Q. And who is that person?</li></ul>
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11:57 1	Is it your evidence today that you have no	12:00 1	where she was a participant in the proceeding. What was
2	recollection of any I'll withdraw that question.	2	the nature of that proceeding?
3	I'll start again.	3	A. Well, I was not interrogating any single party to the
4	Is it likely that this document would have been	4	proceeding. This was not the case.
5	received by Dr Tuleja that you referred to earlier?	5	Q. What was the task that you were given involving
6	A. It is quite certain, because all such documents go	6	Ms Marianna Varjanová?
7	directly to the desk of the district prosecutor. There	7	A. I was allocated a file which started with a similar
8	is not a single case which would be delivered to the	8	criminal complaint, with a similar resolution. My task
9	district prosecution service of Bardejov, which wouldn't	9	was to read through, to investigate the resolution, to
10	be seen by the head district prosecutor, so it must have	10	look into the different proofs and different files, and
11	been on the desk of the district prosecutor. At that	11	I was to assess whether the criminal complaint and
12	time this was still Dr Tuleja.	12	resolution was in line with the penal code and with the
13	Q. And do you recall having any discussions with Dr Tuleja	13	criminal code.
14	in or about early 2016 about complaints involving	14	Q. And what do you recall about the nature of the
15	Ms Marianna Varjanová?	15	resolution which you were asked to look into?
16	A. No.	16	A. One item was related to the damages to a motor vehicle,
17	Q. Do you recall having any discussions with anyone else in	17	motorised vehicle. I'm not quite certain, it might be
18	your office about criminal complaints in early 2016	18	one of the files which I discussed also here. I came to
19	involving Ms Marianna Varjanová?	19	the conclusion that this is not a criminal offence, but
20	A. No. No.	20	this was a civil dispute for payment of damages. And
21	Q. Your office has six other you have six other	21	therefore the resolution was not quashed(?).
22	colleagues in your office. We established that earlier;	22	Q. So you were aware of events in Smilno at some point in
23	correct?	23	2016 before June involving Ms Marianna Varjanová?
24	A. Yes.	24	A. No. I was looking into the damages on a motor vehicle.
25	Q. And one of those six people is Dr Tuleja; correct?	25	No protests and no other activities which were carried
	Page 81		Page 83
	C		c
11:58 1	A. He's the seventh.	12:02 1	out in the municipality of Smilno, these were not
11:58 1 2	<ul><li>A. He's the seventh.</li><li>Q. He's the seventh. And I'm going to put it to you that</li></ul>	12:02 1	out in the municipality of Smilno, these were not discussed in the file.
2	Q. He's the seventh. And I'm going to put it to you that	2	discussed in the file.
2 3	Q. He's the seventh. And I'm going to put it to you that it's likely that you would have heard about a criminal	2 3	discussed in the file. Q. But you'd read her name, at least?
2 3 4	Q. He's the seventh. And I'm going to put it to you that it's likely that you would have heard about a criminal complaint involving Ms Marianna Varjanová in early 2016?	2 3 4	<ul><li>discussed in the file.</li><li>Q. But you'd read her name, at least?</li><li>A. The prosecutor is given approximately 500 files every</li></ul>
2 3 4 5	<ul><li>Q. He's the seventh. And I'm going to put it to you that it's likely that you would have heard about a criminal complaint involving Ms Marianna Varjanová in early 2016?</li><li>A. At the beginning of 2016 I was not aware about any</li></ul>	2 3 4 5	<ul><li>discussed in the file.</li><li>Q. But you'd read her name, at least?</li><li>A. The prosecutor is given approximately 500 files every year. These are not immediately closed down. So I can</li></ul>
2 3 4 5 6	<ul><li>Q. He's the seventh. And I'm going to put it to you that it's likely that you would have heard about a criminal complaint involving Ms Marianna Varjanová in early 2016?</li><li>A. At the beginning of 2016 I was not aware about any criminal complaint by Madame Varjanová. Every single</li></ul>	2 3 4 5 6	<ul><li>discussed in the file.</li><li>Q. But you'd read her name, at least?</li><li>A. The prosecutor is given approximately 500 files every year. These are not immediately closed down. So I can have 700 or 800 living cases on my desk. I might have</li></ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7	<ul> <li>Q. He's the seventh. And I'm going to put it to you that it's likely that you would have heard about a criminal complaint involving Ms Marianna Varjanová in early 2016?</li> <li>A. At the beginning of 2016 I was not aware about any criminal complaint by Madame Varjanová. Every single one is an independent acting prosecutor. I am not aware of the cases proceeded or processed by other colleagues. I was not given any tasks submitted by Madame Varjanová</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7	<ul><li>discussed in the file.</li><li>Q. But you'd read her name, at least?</li><li>A. The prosecutor is given approximately 500 files every year. These are not immediately closed down. So I can have 700 or 800 living cases on my desk. I might have read the name, but it was a name as any other in the numerous cases I was. I had no reason to specifically remember this particular name.</li></ul>
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12:04 1		12.09 1	
12:04 1	Q. And do you see in the next paragraph it begins:	12:08 1	A. I have it right here in front of me.
2	"We are frustrated by the presence of the foreign	2	Q. Yes. And at paragraph 5 of your second statement you
3	[oil] company Alpine"	3	say in the second line:
4	Do you see that?	4	" I was on emergency service duty on
5	A. Yes.	5	18 June when I was sent to the scene"
6	Q. And then over the page, please, at page 4, do you see in	6	Do you see that?
7	the final paragraph it says:	7	A. Yes.
8	"As citizens we have used all legal possibilities,	8	Q. But then, later down, you say:
9	we have addressed the prosecutor's office"	9	" I decided to go to Smilno."
10	Do you see that?	10	So which one was it: were you sent to the scene by
11	A. Yes, I can see that.	11	your superiors, or did you decide to go there of your
12	Q. And it's signed by Mr Noga of AROPANE?	12	own volition?
13	A. Yes.	13	A. I was first contacted by the Police Force. I was given
14	Q. Have you ever heard of Mr Noga?	14	an explanation, they explained that they are afraid
15	A. This is the first time I hear that.	15	a crime might be committed on-site. So as the
16	Q. Have you ever heard of AROPANE?	16	prosecutor on duty, they would welcome my presence
17	A. This is the first time.	17	there.
18	Q. Could you turn to your first witness statement, please,	18	In the meantime, I was also called by the district
19	at paragraph 12. And if we could have open on the	19	prosecutor, so I received a phone call from the district
20	right-hand side the English version.	20	prosecutor. He was contacted by the regional
21	Sorry, I think on the right-hand side we need the	21	prosecutor, because the Police Force also needed
22	English version. (Pause)	22	guidance on how to proceed, and they called their
23	Do you see in the second sentence on the final line	23	superiors. And on the level of regional police director
24	it says:	24	and the regional prosecutor, they've communicated, and
25	" the police called the prosecutor [and then over	25	again they contacted me on the service phone and I was
	Page 85		Page 87
12:06 1	the page] on duty"	12:09 1	contacted by the district prosecutor in that case.
2	Do you see that? Sorry, we need to go over to	2	Q. But you don't refer to any discussions with the district
2 3	Do you see that? Sorry, we need to go over to page 5. Sorry, on the English we need to go over to	2 3	Q. But you don't refer to any discussions with the district prosecutor or the regional prosecutor in your first
2 3 4	Do you see that? Sorry, we need to go over to page 5. Sorry, on the English we need to go over to page 5, I think.	2 3 4	Q. But you don't refer to any discussions with the district prosecutor or the regional prosecutor in your first witness statement. So it's likely that you were sent
2 3	Do you see that? Sorry, we need to go over to page 5. Sorry, on the English we need to go over to page 5, I think. Yes, and you were the prosecutor on duty that day;	2 3	Q. But you don't refer to any discussions with the district prosecutor or the regional prosecutor in your first witness statement. So it's likely that you were sent there by your superiors, isn't that right?
2 3 4 5 6	Do you see that? Sorry, we need to go over to page 5. Sorry, on the English we need to go over to page 5, I think. Yes, and you were the prosecutor on duty that day; is that correct?	2 3 4 5 6	<ul><li>Q. But you don't refer to any discussions with the district prosecutor or the regional prosecutor in your first witness statement. So it's likely that you were sent there by your superiors, isn't that right?</li><li>A. No. I was not sent there. I was not given an order, or</li></ul>
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12:11	1 A. I was transported by a police unit from Bardejov.	12:15 1 what happened that day on 18 June 2016?
	2 Q. And who was that police unit from Bardejov?	2 A. No.
	3 A. This was the service on duty, the police officers on	3 Q. And it's therefore difficult for you to recall the
	4 duty.	4 precise details of what you saw, what you said, and what
	5 Q. Is it usual that you would be transported by a police	5 you did that day; correct?
	6 unit to the scene of a protest?	6 A. I remember very well. Such events do not happen in the
	7 A. Well, a place where a protest is being held, no, this is	7 city of Bardejov very frequently, so it really got stuck
	8 the first time. But a place of crime, or the site of	8 in my memory.
	9 crime, definitely, yes, this is quite normally the case.	9 Q. Could you please be shown Exhibit C-332. Do you see
	0 Q. But all you were told in the phone call was that the	10 this is an email dated 28 July 2016 from Mr Jackiewicz?
	1 police were concerned that crime could happen, not that	11 Do you see that?
	2 crime was happening.	12 A. I only see the English version.
	3 A. They said that there is a risk that a crime might be	13 Q. Apologies, well, I will represent to you that this is
	4 committed.	14 an email dated 28 July 2016 entitled "State Attorney at
	5 Q. Did you ask for permission from anyone before you	15 Smilno". The last line of the email says:
	6 entered onto the road that you were driven down by the	16 "I attach a few images which I made during that
	7 police unit?	17 situation."
	8 A. No.	18 Could you then be shown, please, page 2, which we
	9 Q. Did you have any reason to believe that this land that	19 may need to zoom in to. And does this picture show what
	20 you were being driven on was private land?	20 you saw when you arrived at the scene on 18 June 2016?
	A. This was a field road.	21 A. No.
	Q. Exactly. And if it was private land, you would have	22 Q. Could you be shown page 3, please. Is that you on the
	needed to execute a search warrant in order to access	right-hand side with the white trousers and the hat?
	that land; is that right?	24 A. Yes.
	5 MR KAMENICKY: We object to this question.	25 Q. And police officers are standing next to you in green
	Page 89	Page 91
	Tage 69	i age 91
12:13	MR TUSHINGHAM: On what grounds?	12:17 1 shirts; do you see that?
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Anne-Marie Stallard for Trevor McGowan

14	they the ones who drove you to the scene?	14	said she was given documents and it may have been
15	A. No.	15	MR TUSHINGHAM: Yes.
16	Q. So who are those police officers, and where are they?	16	THE PRESIDENT: the preliminary injunction.
17	Where were they on that day?	17	MR TUSHINGHAM: Forgive me.
18	A. These police officers, it's an intercept unit. It goes	18	You accept that you read a copy of the interim
19	under the jurisdiction of the original Police Force	19	injunction when you were in Smilno that day; correct?
20	headquarters. I am in no contact whatsoever with them.	20	A. Dr Vargaeštok gave it to me, into my hands, and he let
21	It's a completely different unit of the police. We do	21	me read it, so I had the opportunity in time to read the
22		22	
23	Q. So the regional Police Force is based in Prešov; is that	23	-
24	· -	24	
25	A. Yes.	25	-
	Page 93		Page 95
12:20 1	Q. So in order for police officers in the larger city of	12:24 1	A. I don't remember this.
2	Prešov to drive you to the scene, it must have been	2	MR TUSHINGHAM: I have no further questions in
3	a fairly important matter to them, mustn't it?	3	cross-examination.
4	THE PRESIDENT: I understood the witness to say that the	4	THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.
5	policemen in black were not those who drove her.	5	Any questions in re-direct?
6	MR TUSHINGHAM: I'm sorry, I misunderstood the answer. Yes.	6	(Pause)
7	Could you now be shown Exhibit C-321. And the	7	MR KAMENICKY: We have no questions, thank you.
8	original Slovak on the right, please. (Pause)	8	THE PRESIDENT: Do my colleagues have questions?
9	THE PRESIDENT: Can you read it?	9	MR DRYMER: Not here, thank you.
10	MR TUSHINGHAM: Maybe to the right of your if you look at	10	THE PRESIDENT: I don't have any questions either.
11	the monitor on the right it might be easier. Yes, could	11	So this concludes your examination, Dr Slosarcikova.
12	we zoom in please on the text in particular.	12	Thank you very much for your assistance.
13	Yes, that should be fine.	13	DR SLOSARCIKOVA: Thank you.
14	Dr Slosarcikova, have you seen this document before?	14	THE PRESIDENT: The next witness is Mr Sólymos. Should we
15	A. No.	15	hear him? How long let me just see what the
16	Q. Could you open your witness statement, we don't need to	16	estimate is.
17	bring it up on the screen, but could you just look at	17	Yes, I think he is over in an hour so we might not
18	your second witness statement on paragraph 7,	18	be able to complete the cross before lunch, but we could
19	footnote 5.	19	as well start.
20	A. Yes, okay.	20	MR TUSHINGHAM: We had scheduled two hours for Mr Sólymos i
21	Q. That's the same document you referred to in your witness	21	total, so it breaks before lunch and after.
22	statement.	22	THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Oh yes, sorry, it carries on.
23	A Okay	23	MR TUSHINGHAM: The only question I had was whether we

10 A. I did not speak with any woman there at that time. 11 Q. Did you speak to the man dressed in the beige T-shirt?

A. Definitely not. I don't remember. It's been

Q. And that was Ms Marianna Varjanová; correct?

what person that is on the picture.

when you were there that day?

A. I'm not sure. You're the one claiming it. I don't know

8 Q. Do you remember talking to a woman on the road in that

Q. Well, do you remember seeing someone in a green T-shirt

12 A. No.

eight years.

location on that day?

Day 3 -- Hearing on the Merits

12:18 1

2 3

4

5 6

7

9

- 13 Q. And the police officers in black in this picture, were

- 23 A. Okay.
- Q. This is a post dated 19 June 2016 by Ms Marianna 24
- Varjanová. Can you please just read the text to 25

Page 94

12:22 1 yourself, and let me know once you've read that 2 yourself. Don't read it out loud: just to yourself. 3 (Pause) 4 A. I've read that. 5 Q. And this document, which was published by Ms Marianna 6 Varjanová the day after the events in question, is 7 an accurate summary of what you told AOG's attorney on 8 that day, isn't it? 9 A. No. 10 Q. You accept that you were holding a copy of the interim 11 injunction in the image that we looked at earlier; 12 correct? 13 THE PRESIDENT: No, that's not exactly what she said. She of

- s in
- 23 MR TUSHINGHAM: The only question I had was whether we
- wanted to take a lunch break now and start, or --24
- 25 THE PRESIDENT: No, because I understand that lunch is not

### Day 3 -- Hearing on the Merits

12:26 1	ready before 12.45.	12:31 1	A. Good afternoon.
2	MR TUSHINGHAM: Understood.	2	Q. Mr Sólymos, you submitted two witness statements in this
3	THE PRESIDENT: Yes, so we had better carry on and take the	3	arbitration; is that correct?
4	break afterwards.	4	A. Yes, it is correct.
5	Can you call him in, please.	5	Q. Have you had a chance to review these witness statements
6	(12.28 pm)	6	recently?
7	MR LÁSZLÓ SÓLYMOS (called)	7	A. Yes, I did have the opportunity.
8	(Evidence interpreted)	8	Q. Is there anything you would like to change in your
9	THE PRESIDENT: Good morning.	9	witness statements?
10	MR SÓLYMOS: Good morning. THE PRESIDENT: We are waiting because we lack part of the	10	A. No. There is nothing. It's been put down as I've
11 12	counsel.	11 12	witnessed.
12	MS PROKOPOVÁ: Madam President, we probably lost Rostislav	12	MR PEKAR: Thank you. We have no further questions on direct.
13	on the way so I'm going to call him. Apologies.	13	THE PRESIDENT: Good. Thank you.
14	THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.	14	Mr Tushingham.
16	(Pause)	16	(12.32 pm)
10	Fine, I think we're ready to start now.	10	Cross-examination by MR TUSHINGHAM
18	Good morning, sir. Thank you for being with us. Do	18	Q. Thank you, Madam President.
19	you hear the Slovak translation when I speak?	10	Mr Sólymos, I'm counsel for Discovery and I will be
20	MR SÓLYMOS: Yes.	20	asking you some questions this morning. If you don't
21	THE PRESIDENT: You were the Minister of Environment of the	20	understand any question I have, please ask me to
22	Slovak Republic from March 2016 to January 2020; is that	22	rephrase it, and I will do my best to do so.
23	right?	23	A. Thank you.
24	MR SÓLYMOS: That's correct.	24	Q. You were appointed as the Minister of Environment after
25	THE PRESIDENT: What is your current occupation?	25	a parliamentary election had taken place in Slovakia
	Page 97		Page 99
12:20 1	MD SÓI VMOS. At the memory line done with relities and going	12.22 1	in March of 2016, in the sink of
12:29 1	MR SÓLYMOS: At the moment I'm done with politics and going back to the business life, slowly	12:32 1	in March of 2016; is that right?
2	back to the business life, slowly.	2	A. Yes, that is correct.
2 3	back to the business life, slowly. THE PRESIDENT: Good.	2 3	<ul><li>A. Yes, that is correct.</li><li>Q. And prior to that election, you had served as a member</li></ul>
2 3 4	back to the business life, slowly. THE PRESIDENT: Good. You have provided us with two written statements,	2 3 4	<ul><li>A. Yes, that is correct.</li><li>Q. And prior to that election, you had served as a member of the Slovak National Council, the legislature, since</li></ul>
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	ty is the Slovak nationalist party; is that	12.57 1	
3 right?		- 3	
4 A. Yes.		4	Q. Was that information provided to you by Ms Mat'ová?
	S party were given the opportunity to make	5	A. Usually as the Minister I would keep in touch,
_	to the Ministry of Agriculture; is that	6	•
7 correct?		7	-
8 A. Yes.		8	-
9 Q. In 2016 do y	ou recall that AOG was carrying out oil and	9	•
	on in eastern Slovakia under licences	10	-
	e Ministry of Environment?	11	
12 A. Yes.		12	might assist the line of questioning.
13 Q. And as you s	say in your second witness statement at	13	So at the top of the Ministry you have the
14 paragraph 6, a	as a minister you were:	14	Minister's office; is that right?
15 " aware o	f their problems with activists."	15	A. Yes.
16 Do you see	that?	16	
17 A. Yes. I see it		17	officials in your office; is that right?
	were opposed to AOG's project, weren't	18	
19 they?		19	
	jected. You could put it that way.	20	
	recall having any meetings with any of the	21	6
22 activists?		22	
-	k meetings with activists at the Ministry, or	23	
	e from the Ministry? I misunderstood your	24	× 5
25 question.		25	Q. And then you have a number of different departments
	Page 101		Page 103
12:35 1 Q. Forgive me. Any	y type of meetings that you were	12:39 1	within the Ministry; is that right?
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			1	
12:40	1	through a chain of command, as it were, would report to	12:44 1	Q. So he was a very junior official, was he?
12.40	2	me, of course, at the end, ultimately.		A. There were 3-400 people only at the Ministry proper. Of
	2 3	Q. And in the weekly meetings that you referred to earlier,	23	course I did not meet every one of them in person.
	4	would she be attending those meetings?	4	Q. If you had had discussions with any particular
		A. If I remember correctly, she would only attend when		officials, would those discussions have taken place by
	5		5	
	6	madam director general was unable to attend. So she	6	email?
	7	would be replacing from her director general. So from	7	A. No, I would not customarily speak with my staff through
	8	time to time Madame Viera Mat'ová would attend in place	8	email. Whenever I would try and resolve something, it
	9	of the director general missing.	9	would go through the hierarchy, through DGs or through
	10	Q. And is the director general Ms Vlasta Jánová?	10	state secretaries.
	11	A. Yes, the DG was Vlasta Jánová, correct. The geology DG.	11	Q. But if you had had a discussion with the DGs or the
	12	Q. And would the Ministry take minutes of those weekly	12	state secretaries, there's likely to be some documentary
	13	meetings that you referred to?	13	evidence of that, isn't there, in the Ministry's files?
	14	A. I think it yes. I think minutes were made.	14	A. Not always. Sometimes we would just discuss in person
	15	Q. And you attended these meetings?	15	about issues. We would stop the discussion and move on,
	16	A. Usually I would. When I was unable to attend it would	16	meaning that I think that minutes were only made
	17	be led the meeting would be led by one of the two	17	whenever an official important meeting were to be held.
	18	state secretaries, or head of the office, or chief of	18	With regular daily business, not.
	19	staff.	19	Q. Could you look at paragraph 12 of your second witness
	20	Q. But if an important matter was happening within the	20	statement, please.
	21	Ministry that had reached your desk, it's likely that	21	You say here:
	22	you would have attended those meetings; is that right?	22	" it was standard practice that officers [of] the
	23	A. I would always attend when I was able to. Well, let's	23	Ministry informed me about important matters that
	24	say I would be travelling, or away at another site, away	24	were happening at the Ministry. This, of course, became
	25	from the Ministry, I would not be able to attend.	25	an important matter"
		D 107		D 107
		Page 105		Page 107
12.42	1	O And the minutes of these meetings that we established	12:46 1	De unu ere darf?
12:42	1	Q. And the minutes of those meetings that we established	12:46 1	Do you see that?
12:42	2	were taken, would they be held somewhere within the	2	A. Yes, I see it.
12:42	2 3	were taken, would they be held somewhere within the Ministry's internal files as a written document?	2 3	<ul><li>A. Yes, I see it.</li><li>Q. And the important matter that you are referring there to</li></ul>
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12:48 1	You understand that?	12:52 1	you were a minister, that in order for Lesy to enter
12.40 1	A. Yes, I see it.	12.52 1	into a lease over this state-owned land, it needed to
3	Q. And the paragraph goes on to say:	3	obtain the approval of the Ministry of Agriculture?
4	"Discovery infers that this instruction was issued	4	A. I became familiar with the issue when I was required to
5	in response to the Information for Minister dated	5	act on it, when the problem emerged regarding the lease.
6	13 February 2017"	6	But I do not personally, I'm not familiar with relations
7	Do you see that?	7	at other ministries, what they were.
8	A. Yes, I see it.	8	Q. Now, your first witness statement in this arbitration
9	Q. And then on to paragraph 12, you say:	9	was signed in March of 2023; is that right? You can see
10	"Although I do not recall the specific Information	10	
11	for Minister dated 13 February it was standard	11	A. Yes, but I'm not sure which part are you referring to.
12	practice that officers at the Ministry informed me	12	Q. I'm just establishing the date of your first witness
13	about important matters This, of course, became	13	statement.
14	an important matter"	14	And your second witness statement was signed
15	Do you see that?	15	in December of 2023. Do you see that?
16	A. Yes, I see it.	16	A. The second one, yes. Yes.
17	Q. So the important matter that you're referring to is	17	Q. In your first witness statement, you made no reference
18	AOG's application under Article 29 of the Geology Act.	18	to AOG's application under Article 29 of the Geology Act
19	That's what you're referring to there?	19	concerning the land at Krivá Ol'ka; do you agree with
20	A. Yes. What I'm speaking about is that the whole case,	20	
21	what I had in mind during my previous statements, the	21	A. Yes.
22	entire case as such was an important one as an event for	22	Q. Could you please be shown Discovery's Memorial, which
23	a Ministry, even for myself.	23	can be found in pleadings, Claimant document number 2.
23	Q. And given that it was an important event for the	23	
24 25	Ministry, there are likely to have been internal	24	2, Claimant's Memorial.
23	winnsuy, there are fixely to have been internal	2.5	2, Claimant 8 Memorial.
	Page 109		Page 111
12:50 1	discussions about that event; do you agree?	12:55 1	Do you see that this document is dated
12:50 1 2	discussions about that event; do you agree? A. Of course, we've discussed that, as we have had to	12:55 1 2	-
			30 September 2022, in the middle of the page?
2	A. Of course, we've discussed that, as we have had to	2	30 September 2022, in the middle of the page? A. Yes.
2 3	A. Of course, we've discussed that, as we have had to address the problem somehow. So it has been	23	<ul><li>30 September 2022, in the middle of the page?</li><li>A. Yes.</li><li>Q. And so that's before you signed your first witness</li></ul>
2 3 4	A. Of course, we've discussed that, as we have had to address the problem somehow. So it has been an important matter to us. It was important also	2 3 4	<ul><li>30 September 2022, in the middle of the page?</li><li>A. Yes.</li><li>Q. And so that's before you signed your first witness statement in March 2023; correct?</li></ul>
2 3 4 5	<ul> <li>A. Of course, we've discussed that, as we have had to address the problem somehow. So it has been an important matter to us. It was important also because we knew, or we were given information from AOG</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5	<ul><li>30 September 2022, in the middle of the page?</li><li>A. Yes.</li><li>Q. And so that's before you signed your first witness statement in March 2023; correct?</li></ul>
2 3 4 5 6	A. Of course, we've discussed that, as we have had to address the problem somehow. So it has been an important matter to us. It was important also because we knew, or we were given information from AOG that when their investment will be marred or somehow thwarted, they will be requesting compensation from the	2 3 4 5 6	<ul><li>30 September 2022, in the middle of the page?</li><li>A. Yes.</li><li>Q. And so that's before you signed your first witness statement in March 2023; correct?</li><li>A. Yes.</li><li>Q. Could you please be shown page 64 of that document?</li></ul>
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12:57	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	<ul> <li>A. I don't remember that. With the first testimony, that we would actually discuss this specific issue.</li> <li>Q. So if I can just clarify, you don't recall having any discussion about this issue before you signed your first witness statement; is that correct?</li> <li>A. This problem has been addressed by me in my second testimony witness statement. So I probably did not address this in my first statement.</li> <li>Q. And all I'm trying to establish is whether that is because you weren't told about it, or whether you made a decision not to address it in your witness statement?</li> <li>A. No. I was not informed to speak on this issue.</li> <li>Q. Now, before you signed your second witness statement, were you shown any internal Ministry documents about AOG's application under Article 29?</li> <li>A. Before I signed the second which document are you referring to?</li> <li>Q. I'm asking generally were you shown any internal documents of the Ministry about AOG's application under Article 29?</li> <li>A. No, I don't think so. I was I did not see any document. I did not have any such document. I only had information that I remember.</li> </ul>	13:02 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	<ul> <li>seen this document, to be honest with you.</li> <li>Q. And the document about delays in proceedings, was that an internal Ministry document?</li> <li>A. No, this was the decision. I think it was a filing by AOG to resolve the original filing. I think this has been also made this was no internal document of the Ministry. Participants of the proceedings were put in copy.</li> <li>Q. So your testimony in paragraph 12 is based, number one, on your own attempt to remember what happened over seven years ago, and number two, from the documents that you're referring to in footnotes 8 through 13; have</li> </ul>
	24 25	And afterwards I was given the documents, an opportunity to read them, to refresh my memory, how	24 25	A. Yes. I was refreshing the information that were in 2017 and 2018, which I no longer remembered. So I had
		Page 113		Page 115
12:59	1	the events unfolded during 2016 and 2017.	13:04 1	consulted this with the people who were there at that
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13:07 1	" further to the application filed by [AOG]	13:11 1 AOG's Article 29 application?
13.07 1	[on] 30 August 2016"	2 A. I don't remember that I would discuss this with
3	A. I can see the dates, yes.	3 Mr Hrvol.
4	Q. And over the page, do you see the letter is signed by	4 Q. You would need to look back through the Ministry's
5	Ms Mat'ová, the head of department?	<ul> <li>four would need to look oack through the Ministry's</li> <li>internal records in order to refresh your memory about</li> </ul>
	A. Yes.	6 these events; is that right?
6		7 A. If such records exist.
7	Q. And so it is likely that Ms Mat'ová and Mr Hrvol would have been involved in internal discussions at the	
8		• •
9	Ministry about AOG's application; is that right?	9 [draft] transcript. There is a significant mistake.
10	A. Yes.	10 A "not" is missing.
11	Q. And the Ministry is likely to have some documentary	11 MR TUSHINGHAM: Sorry, in which line?
12	record of those internal discussions, isn't it?	12 MR PEKAR: That was about
13	A. I don't know. Maybe yes.	13 MR TUSHINGHAM: Yes, 13.10.41 (page 118, lines 21-22) "I did
14	Q. We would need to ask Ms Mat'ová or Mr Hrvol directly,	14 not enter those proceedings".
15	would we?	15 But it appears from this email, Mr Sólymos, that
16	A. I don't know how they communicated and what records they	16 you, as the Minister, the highest authority in the
17	have about this.	17 Ministry, had the power "not [to] allow the decision to
18	Q. Could you now be shown, please, Exhibit C-337 and	18 be taken". And that's right, isn't it, because you were
19	page 2. There's only the English version, I am afraid.	19 the highest person in the Ministry?
20	I will represent to you that this is an email from AOG's	20 A. I did not want have or did not want to, and nor did
21	attorney, Mr Baran, dated 17 October 2016, subject,	21 I do, such decision, and when an appeal had been filed
22	"[section] 29 Krivá Ol'ka", and I will just read you	22 by AOG against the Geological Administration's decision,
23	a few sentences from this email and it will be	23 Mr Hrvol, Ms Mat'ová, I've sustained that appeal, and
24	translated for you, in the first paragraph:	returning the case for further proceedings. So me, as
25	"we were able to get in touch with Mr Hrvol."	a body that was an appellate body, I never entered
	Page 117	Page 119
		- "26
13:09 1	Next paragraph:	13:13 1 proceedings of lower level bodies.
13:09 1 2	Next paragraph: "He was fairly communicative. He told us that	<ul><li>13:13 1 proceedings of lower level bodies.</li><li>2 Q. We'll come to the appeal in a moment, but I'm just</li></ul>
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2	"He was fairly communicative. He told us that	2 Q. We'll come to the appeal in a moment, but I'm just
2 3	"He was fairly communicative. He told us that during his time at the Ministry, they decided	<ul> <li>Q. We'll come to the appeal in a moment, but I'm just</li> <li>interested in one last sentence in this email, and I'll</li> </ul>
2 3 4	"He was fairly communicative. He told us that during his time at the Ministry, they decided approximately 10 section 29 cases It typically took	<ul> <li>Q. We'll come to the appeal in a moment, but I'm just</li> <li>interested in one last sentence in this email, and I'll</li> <li>ask you a few questions and then that may be</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5	"He was fairly communicative. He told us that during his time at the Ministry, they decided approximately 10 section 29 cases It typically took 2 to 4 months	<ul> <li>Q. We'll come to the appeal in a moment, but I'm just</li> <li>interested in one last sentence in this email, and I'll</li> <li>ask you a few questions and then that may be</li> <li>a convenient moment to break, if that would be</li> </ul>
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2 3 4 5 6 7	<ul> <li>"He was fairly communicative. He told us that during his time at the Ministry, they decided approximately 10 section 29 cases It typically took 2 to 4 months</li> <li>We enquired more about the Krivá Ol'ka proceeding. He informed us that based on the request we submitted,</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Q. We'll come to the appeal in a moment, but I'm just</li> <li>interested in one last sentence in this email, and I'll</li> <li>ask you a few questions and then that may be</li> <li>a convenient moment to break, if that would be</li> <li>acceptable.</li> <li>Reading on a bit more in this email, the email says:</li> </ul>
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13:14 1	A. I think that would be an ideal world. There's no such	14:00	1	Q. And that was the email where Mr Hrvol was expressing
13.14 1	thing in the world that any government consisting of two		2	concern that you might cause a problem for AOG's
3	or three partners, that there would be no disagreements.		2	application; do you remember that, the contents of the
4	I'm not at least aware myself of such country. But it		3 4	email?
5	would be fine.			A. Yes.
			5	
6	MR TUSHINGHAM: Thank you.		6	Q. Could you now be shown, please, tab 14 of bundle 1, 01,
7	Would that be a convenient moment?		7	and scroll to page 5, please.
8	THE PRESIDENT: That would be a perfect moment to break for		8	Now, I'm not going to ask you any questions about
9	the lunch.		9	the contents of any of these documents, which were
10			10	identified in the Slovak Republic's privilege log. But
11	I would ask you not to communicate with anyone. So you		11	I just want to ask you some other questions.
12	will have you will, of course, have lunch, but you		12	Before you signed your second witness statement,
13	will have a somewhat lonely lunch, and the counsel will		13	were you shown a copy of this entry recording a document
14			14	dated 17 October 2016?
15	nevertheless, a good lunch.		15	A. I do not know what document this is concerning.
16			16	Q. Neither do we. But my question is simple: have you seen
17	MR SÓLYMOS: Thank you very much.		17	a copy of this page before?
18	THE PRESIDENT: Sure.		18	A. I couldn't have seen it then.
19	Would you wish to resume at 2.00?		19	Q. But my question is, were you shown this page before you
20	I.		20	signed your second witness statement?
21	THE PRESIDENT: Maybe I think that would be good, because we		21	A. I don't remember. Maybe I did.
22	still have quite some progress to make this afternoon.		22	Q. Do you see that in the first box there is a document
23	2.00.		23	described as:
24	5		24	"Draft of the information for Minister.
25	THE PRESIDENT: Yes.	2	25	Author: [Mr] Hrvol.
	Page 121			Page 123
13:15 1	MR TUSHINGHAM: We are sort of slightly behind and we're	14:02	1	Recipient: Minister of Environment.
13:15 1			1 2	Dated: 17 October 2016."
	concerned there is a risk that Mr Leško, we may not get			-
2	concerned there is a risk that Mr Leško, we may not get to him today.		2	Dated: 17 October 2016."
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14.04 1	Equipoperant and when it was	14:07 1	the Minister has the save he descript remember but has
14:04 1	Environment, and when it was.		the Minister has he says he doesn't remember, but has
2	Essentially this is what it is. So that you	2	he received such an information, or has he not?
3	understand, this is a document prepared for the	3	MR TUSHINGHAM: Yes.
4	arbitration, but that refers to documents that were not	4	THE PRESIDENT: Is there an allegation that he has received
5	produced because they were protected. Is it clear now?	5	it?
6	A. I understand. Yes.	6	MR DRYMER: Was he the actual recipient or the intended
7	THE PRESIDENT: Good.	7	recipient?
8	MR TUSHINGHAM: Thank you, and can I focus your attention on	8	MR TUSHINGHAM: Well, we don't know the answer to that
9	one other entry in this table entitled "Subject matter":	9	question. But I would, with the Tribunal's
10	"The document contains"	10	permission
11	And this is in the first table, so if we just scroll	11	THE PRESIDENT: Well, the Respondent prepared the privilege
12	up a bit on the page. No, no, the table this one,	12	log, so would you be able to help us on this or not?
13	"Subject matter", the other subject matter.	13	MR PEKAR: Yes. Yes, the draft was prepared, but it was not
14	"The document contains an assessment of potential	14	delivered to the Minister.
15	implications of denying AOG's request under Article 29	15	THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.
16	of the Geology Act to the Ministry of Environment."	16	No, so we understand that you did not receive this
17	Do you see that?	17	memorandum entitled "information", because it was in
18	A. Yes.	18	draft, at a draft stage?
19	Q. I'm going to suggest to you, Mr Sólymos, that in or	19	A. I'll tell you honestly, I do not remember at all ever
20	about October 2016 you were considering whether to deny	20	receiving such document. I don't remember. So I likely
21	AOG's Article 29 application; do you agree?	21	have not received it.
22	A. I don't remember me actually addressing, even	22	THE PRESIDENT: That's what we understand, yes.
23	considering, some kind of a request or application,	23	MR DRYMER: Right.
24	because that has also been addressed at other level than	24	MR TUSHINGHAM: Could you please be shown Exhibit C-348.
25	mine, as Minister.	25	And on the right-hand side if we could pull up the
	,		
	Page 125		Page 127
14:05 1	Q. When you were the Minister, would you ordinarily receive	14:09 1	Slovak original version, please.
2	documents entitled "Information for the Minister"?	2	Mr Sólymos, this is an article that you wrote on
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14:10 1	Denník N?	14:16 1	MD DEKAD. In the Slovek language yes
		14:16 1 2	MR PEKAR: In the Slovak language, yes. It's the third one from in Slovak it's:
2	A. I did not remember that. I remember her writing		
3	an article back then, regarding the Ministry of	3	"Ministerstvo na základe odborného posudzovania"
4	Environment.	4	MR TUSHINGHAM: That's the paragraph I'm looking for. Do
5	Q. Yes, and in her article she had issued a public call for	5	you see that, Mr Sólymos?
6	your resignation as the Minister, isn't that right?	6	A. Yes, I can see that.
7	A. I don't remember that, I'll tell you honest, what she	7	Q. Yes, and so do you recall that in July 2016 AOG's
8	wrote in that article.	8	exploration licences had been extended for a period of
9	Q. Well, you said earlier on you remember writing the	9	five years by the decision of the Ministry; do you
10	article; is that your position?	10	recall that?
11	A. I do remember my article. But the article of Madame	11	A. I know that happened.
12	Radicova, I do not remember what all she wrote therein.	12	Q. And in this paragraph, you are taking personal
13	I would have to read it again.	13	responsibility for that particular decision, aren't you?
14		14	A. As a minister I had to assume the responsibility. Even
15	don't you, just to be fair, read the article yourself so	15	though I was not the one making the decision, it was
16	you can refresh your memory. And the Tribunal can read	16	a department in charge of that, but me as the Minister
17	the English at the same time. If we scroll back	17	had to assume responsibility for that politically.
18	THE PRESIDENT: That's the second page?	18	Q. And Mrs Radicova was not from your party, the Most
19	MR TUSHINGHAM: No, just go back to the first please, and	19	party, was she?
20	the same on the left-hand side. Thank you. (Pause).	20	A. No. But when we were in government together, we were
21	Can we move to the second page, please, if that's	21	coalition partners.
22	convenient? And on the left-hand side, if we can just	22	Q. But she is issuing criticism about your decision to
23	scroll up slightly. That's fine.	23	extend the exploration licences or, should I say, the
24	And if we turn to look at the last page on the	24	Ministry's decision to extend the term of the
25	English.	25	exploration licences; correct?
	Page 129		Page 131
	1450125		1450 151
	1 480 127		1 420 131
14.15 1		14.18 1	-
14:15 1	(Pause)	14:18 1	A. Yes.
2	(Pause) I'm just waiting in case the Tribunal needs any more	2	<ul><li>A. Yes.</li><li>Q. Now, it's clear that by the date of this article</li></ul>
2 3	(Pause) I'm just waiting in case the Tribunal needs any more time.	2 3	<ul><li>A. Yes.</li><li>Q. Now, it's clear that by the date of this article in December 2016, you were coming under some</li></ul>
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14:20 1	A. Definitely not. We would, and I myself, would stay	14:23 1	Q. And do you recall that you discussed AOG's Article 29
2	within the limits of the law, and we had had to do so	2	application at Krivá Ol'ka at this meeting?
3	whether it was popular or not. Regardless of that.	3	A. I do not remember that.
4	Q. But if the Ministry had made a decision in favour of AOG	4	Q. Can you please be shown Exhibit C-160. And if we could
5	in its Article 29 application at Krivá Ol'ka, that would	5	get up the Slovak original as well, please.
6	have generated a significant amount of negative	6	Do you see that this is a letter addressed to you,
7	publicity in the media, wouldn't it?	7	and for the Tribunal I will note at this point that the
8	A. I don't know what the reactions would be. Of course	8	English translation appears to have a date error,
9	there would be some negative reactions, because there	9	13 December, whereas the original Slovak is dated the
10	were people in favour or against such activities,	10	14th. But I understand that the translation is
11	interfering with the environment, not only in this case	11	consistent. But my friends will pick me up if that's
12	but in many other cases.	12	incorrect.
13	But in August we have extended by a further	13	Minister, do you see in this is a letter
14	five years the application for exploration. So the	14	addressed to you entitled "Exploration for oil and gas
15	Ministry did not act based on any moods of society, but	15	in north-eastern Slovakia".
16	based on what we deemed right and lawful.	16	A. Mm-hm.
10	Q. But it's possible that there were other people high up	10	Q. And could you read item number 2 to yourself, please?
18	in the Ministry who would be concerned about negative	18	A. Yes, I can see that.
10	publicity and drilling at Krivá Ol'ka on state-owned	10	Q. So one of the points that Mr Lewis, the CEO of AOG and
20	land. That's possible; do you accept that?	20	Discovery wanted to discuss with you at this meeting,
20	A. I have to say no, because at the Ministry, people	20	was the status of AOG's application under Article 29 of
	working there, they had been in the field, each on their	21	
22			the Geology Act.
23	field, for instance, geology. And they would not be in	23	A. Yes.
24	favour of any exploration companies be operating in Slovakia.	24	Q. Could you now please be shown Exhibit R-213.
25	Slovakia.	25	Now, you were not copied into this email, but this
	Page 133		Page 135
			ruge ree
			- ngo - 100
14:22 1	THE INTERPRETER: Correction by the interpreter: they were	14:25 1	is an email dated 15 December 2016, entitled "How did
14:22 1 2		14:25 1 2	
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			14.00	
14:27	1	A. To me, it did not shine a bad light because we simply	14:30 1	"It was done by the office. It was the [director]
	2	have proceeded, as I said before, according to the	2	general for geology"
	3	interests of the state and laws. So it's there are	3	Is that Ms Jánová?
	4	always people who disagree and they make it known. If	4	A. It was geology directorate general, or DG. Or it was
	5	you are in such position you have to learn to live with	5	either that department of the Ministry or the I can't
	6	that, but you will be criticised always by someone on	6	remember the name of the office it's an authority
	7	one hand.	7	exactly what it's called.
	8	You need not become subjugated by such criticism.	8	Madame Mat'ová was the head of that. I'm not sure
	9	Q. But what was going on at this time, Mr Sólymos, is that	9	which one was the one which department or office was
	10	you were prepared to help AOG, but only if you were able	10	in jurisdiction to make the decision on behalf of the
	11	to get some positive PR in return. That's what was	11	Ministry. I think it was the geological office, rather.
	12	going on, wasn't it?	12	Q. So you say you're not sure
	13	A. No. Not at all. It was not about that.	13	MR PEKAR: If I may interrupt, there was one slightly
	14	Q. Well, can you point to	14	incorrect translation or transcript, because in the
	15	A. I do not remember this ever in this case, to be worried	15	previous answer it refers to the director general, but
	16	about any PR. Instead we were interested in resolving	16	the answer was the directorate, the institution, not the
	17	the issue.	17	person.
	18	Q. Well, could you point to any document in the record	18	MR TUSHINGHAM: Sorry, are you referring to which line in
	19	which contains the Ministry's minutes of that meeting?	19	the [draft] transcript? At 14.29.59?
	20	Have you seen any minutes of this meeting on	20	MR PEKAR: So in 14.30.55, for example, it says:
	21	15 December 2016?	21	"It was geology [director] general"
	22	A. I don't know whether such minutes exist. Whether	22	And it was "directorate", not "director".
	23	a minutes has been made out or whether it exists,	23	MR TUSHINGHAM: Yes, but are you quarrelling with the
	24	I don't know.	24	interpretation at [draft transcript] 14.29.59?
	25	Q. I will state for the record that we are not aware of any	25	"No it was done by the office, it was a [director]
		Page 137		Page 139
				8
14:29		minutes of that meeting. Our only understanding of what	14:32 1	general for geology."
14:29	2	happened was set out in this email.	2	MR PEKAR: The same issue.
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14:34 1	section, was that person a political appointee or	14:37 1	A. No, I did not.
2	a civil servant who remained in place as governments	2	Q. Do you recall being informed about this meeting by any
3	changed?	3	official after the meeting had taken place?
4	A. Of course the Minister would always have the authority	4	A. No. Such hearing and meetings at the Ministry, at the
5	or opportunity to choose their most immediate	5	variety of departments, there were dozens or more
6	colleagues. But this was a professional civil servant	6	a month. Annually there would be a great number. So
7	position. The DGs, we have about eight to ten of them,	7	they did not inform me. They would usually only brief
8	water, geology, air, and so on, these would be highly	8	me on the results thereof.
9	expert positions, expert individuals serving as civil	9	Q. Could you please be shown document C-366, and page 2.
10	servants, director generals, covering for each	10	If you could scroll down slightly, please. Again, you
10	respective directorate general.	10	are not copied into this email, but this is an email
11	MR DRYMER: Thank you.	11	from AOG's attorney dated 17 February concerning the
12	MR TUSHINGHAM: So just to be clear who we're talking about	12	hearing under Article 29, and the minutes that we looked
13	here. So it's Ms Jánová in the directorate; is that	13	at earlier established that Mr Baran was present at that
14	correct?	14	meeting on behalf of AOG. I'll represent that to you.
15		15	And do you see in the third paragraph, the email
10	directorate, and Madame Mat'ová was her deputy, and she	10	
17	was the head of the geological administration office, if	17	says:
18	I remember correctly.		"The hearing ended with no specific conclusion whatsoever, with Mrs Mat'ová saying that they have
		19	
20	Q. Yes.	20 21	not moved anywhere. I think they wanted to persuade the
21	Now, in order to work out what went on internally within the Ministry in connection with AOG's Article 29		Ministry of Agriculture to grant their approval to the
22	-	22	lease agreement, as the Ministry of Environment does not
23	application, we would need to look at the documents that	23	want to be the one that will have to decide. However,
24 25	were being exchanged between Ms Jánová and Ms Maťová;	24	the Ministry of Agriculture did not want to grant the
25	isn't that right?	25	approval and they refused to state anything else on the
	Page 141		Page 143
14:35 1	A. Of course they have communicated together. I'm not	14:39 1	hearing besides saying that they are not the
14:35 1 2	sure.	14:39 1 2	participant"
	sure. Q. And you haven't looked through those internal documents		participant" Were you aware of any discussions taking place at
2	sure.	2	participant" Were you aware of any discussions taking place at the time about this, the events discussed in this email?
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14:41 1	MR DRYMER: It might matter.	14:44 1	discussing. Which decision?
2	MR TUSHINGHAM: Well, I will ask this question then.	2	Q. I think I've concluded my questions on this document, so
3	Mr Sólymos, are you aware that in late 2016 the	3	Mr Drymer, if you would like to
4	Ministry itself accepted in correspondence that no	4	MR DRYMER: No, that's quite alright. I think you've
5	agreement had been reached between Lesy and AOG	5	covered the points I might have discussed with the
6	concerning access to Krivá Ol'ka land?	6	witness. Thank you.
7	A. No, I did not notice that, this problem. As the	7	MR TUSHINGHAM: This is an email dated 7 February. Could
8	Minister.	8	you now be shown bundle 1, tab 14, the privilege log
9	Q. And so if no agreement had been reached between the	9	again, page 5. And I'm now interested in the second
10	manager of the forestry land and AOG, then it fell to	10	table, and again, this is a document dated 13 February,
11	the Ministry to make a decision under Article 29.	11	a draft that has been prepared by Mr Hrvol, intended for
12	That's the correct position, correct?	12	you, as I understand the position, and do you see the
13	A. Well, Ministry or not Ministry, but the geological	13	subject matter says:
14	administration office did make some decision. They	14	"The document contains an assessment of potential
15	would address this issue and they would address the	15	implications of positive and negative decisions on AOG's
16	procedure. It was their jurisdiction.	16	request under Article 29 of the Geology Act to the
17	MR DRYMER: I have one question	17	Ministry of Environment, as well as a description of the
18	A. In the first instance, first steps.	18	proceedings to date."
19	MR TUSHINGHAM: Please. Please.	19	Do you see that?
20	MR DRYMER: No, no, if you're going to leave the document?	20	A. Yes.
21	MR TUSHINGHAM: I'm not, I'm just going to ask a few more	21	Q. And were you shown this entry from the Slovak Republic's
22	questions.	22	privilege log before you signed your second witness
23	MR DRYMER: Then I shall wait.	23	statement?
24	MR TUSHINGHAM: Thank you, Mr Drymer.	24	A. I was informed that I was supposed to receive some
25	Now, if the Ministry of Environment could find a way	25	information from Mr Hrvol. But I don't remember that
	Page 145		Page 147
	1420110		1450117
14:43 1	of passing the decision back to the Ministry of	14:47 1	information at all. I don't even remember ever
14:43 1 2	of passing the decision back to the Ministry of Agriculture, then you as the Minister, or the Ministry	14:47 1 2	information at all. I don't even remember ever receiving it. I have no recollection of that.
2	Agriculture, then you as the Minister, or the Ministry	2	receiving it. I have no recollection of that.
2 3	Agriculture, then you as the Minister, or the Ministry itself, wouldn't receive any negative press attention in	2 3	receiving it. I have no recollection of that. Q. You were informed by whom?
2 3 4	Agriculture, then you as the Minister, or the Ministry itself, wouldn't receive any negative press attention in the media by making an order in favour of AOG. That's	2 3 4	receiving it. I have no recollection of that. Q. You were informed by whom? A. The law firm. Q. Right, and that's the point
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-	see that? s, I do not remember. I don't remember that	14:52 1 2	THE PRESIDENT: So are you saying that whenever you were the appellate body you would not enter you say you would
	on I was supposed to have received regarding	3	not interfere, or "become involved" may be better in
	II. I'm not even sure I was involved in that.	4	the first instance proceedings?
	you agree that your recollection of events	5	A. Yes, because then I would have no free hands to make
-	rs earlier may be different if you had been	6	a decision in the second instance.
	e that document?	7	THE PRESIDENT: So your services were making the sorry.
	finitely. I don't remember everything from	8	Your services were making the first instance
		9	decision without reporting to you, without asking
-	rs ago. I would be reading hundreds of	10	questions about how the decision should go?
	s back then. Had I seen something later on,		
	would have remembered. It's quite logical.	11	A. Usually yes.
12 Q. Exactly.		12	THE PRESIDENT: "Usually" means there were exceptions? A. I did not interfere in those decisions.
	out having looked back at that document, or	13	
	internal documents of the Ministry, you cannot	14	MR TUSHINGHAM: Mr Sólymos, do you remember we looked at the
	ou never gave an instruction to deny AOG's	15	letter that AOG sent to you on 14 December; one of the
	application?	16	points that was being discussed at the meeting on
	ave such instruction to refuse, based on	17	15 December was AOG's application under Article 29.
	, to AOG.	18	That's the position, isn't it?
-	mos, in answer to my earlier question, you	19	A. Yes. It was in that letter.
	I that your recollection of events may be	20	Q. And you attended the meeting on 15 December where the
	f you had been able to refresh your memory by	21	application was discussed?
	to the contemporaneous documents, and that's		
23 true, isn't		23	Q. So you did enter proceedings at first instance
24 A. Of cours		24	concerning this application?
25 Q. So, with	out having looked at the contemporaneous	25	A. I did not interfere into the process of the
	Page 149		Page 151
14:50 1 documents, y	you can't deny, from your own recollection,	14:54 1	decision-making of the geological administration.
2 that you gave	e an instruction?	14:54 1 2	If I remember correctly it occurred, in my memory,
<ul><li>2 that you gave</li><li>3 MR DRYMER</li></ul>	e an instruction? : You're asking him whether or not he did not give		If I remember correctly it occurred, in my memory, eight years later now, that from the meeting, that the
<ul><li>2 that you gave</li><li>3 MR DRYMER</li><li>4 an instruction</li></ul>	e an instruction? : You're asking him whether or not he did not give n.	2 3 4	If I remember correctly it occurred, in my memory, eight years later now, that from the meeting, that the entire meeting, entirely almost, was discussed the issue
2 that you gave 3 MR DRYMER 4 an instructio 5 MR TUSHING	e an instruction? : You're asking him whether or not he did not give n. HAM: It's a double negative.	2 3 4 5	If I remember correctly it occurred, in my memory, eight years later now, that from the meeting, that the entire meeting, entirely almost, was discussed the issue of Smilno. That is why I say I don't really remember
<ul> <li>2 that you gave</li> <li>3 MR DRYMER</li> <li>4 an instruction</li> <li>5 MR TUSHING</li> <li>6 THE PRESIDE</li> </ul>	e an instruction? : You're asking him whether or not he did not give n. HAM: It's a double negative. ENT: Mr Sólymos, I think what we would need to be	2 3 4 5 6	If I remember correctly it occurred, in my memory, eight years later now, that from the meeting, that the entire meeting, entirely almost, was discussed the issue of Smilno. That is why I say I don't really remember much of this issue of Krivá Ol'ka being discussed.
<ul> <li>2 that you gave</li> <li>3 MR DRYMER</li> <li>4 an instruction</li> <li>5 MR TUSHING</li> <li>6 THE PRESIDE</li> <li>7 explained is,</li> </ul>	e an instruction? : You're asking him whether or not he did not give n. HAM: It's a double negative. ENT: Mr Sólymos, I think what we would need to be on the one hand, you say that without	2 3 4 5 6 7	If I remember correctly it occurred, in my memory, eight years later now, that from the meeting, that the entire meeting, entirely almost, was discussed the issue of Smilno. That is why I say I don't really remember much of this issue of Krivá Ol'ka being discussed. In that December, everything almost everything
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14:56 1	that meeting, or even that there would be any serious	15:00 1	to companies conducting survey work within Slovakia.
2	debate on that meeting about this issue. I rather	2	We would rather try and help them in order for them
3	remember everything being about Smilno and the problems	3	to be able to proceed.
4	there.	4	Q. So you're accepting here that a decision adverse to AOG
5	MR DRYMER: I thought you had covered everything but now	5	in March of 2017 is an obstacle that you would be
6	we've circled back, let me ask this question.	6	placing in the way of AOG's ability to carry out its
7	Do you recall whether or not at the meeting on	7	exploration; that's your position?
8	15 December 2016 you gave AOG's representatives any	8	A. How the geological administration decided? Well, they
9	assurance regarding whether or not the application would	9	decide based on some legal arguments in a certain way.
10	be approved or rejected?	10	I don't want to hold it against them. And then
11	A. Definitely neither nor, because it was still pending at	11	Ministry, or myself as Minister, had decided
12	that time, at the geology administration. And I was not	12	differently. But this has not been an obstacle,
13	that involved in that.	13	definitely.
14	MR DRYMER: Thank you.	14	Q. So they've bent the rules, have they, to make a decision
15	MR TUSHINGHAM: Could you please be shown now Exhibit C-370.	15	against AOG; is that what you're saying? They had made
16	Now, again, I will read this into the record so it can	16	some legal arguments, but really what they were doing
17	be interpreted for you, but this is an email from AOG's	17	was finding a way to come up with a decision against
18	attorney dated 9 March 2017, addressed to Mr Fraser, and	18	AOG?
19	it says:	19	MR PEKAR: Objection. The witness didn't say anything about
20	"Hi Alex,	20	bending the rules or finding a way.
21	We have a bad news, we talked to Mr Hrvol regarding	21	MR TUSHINGHAM: The Minister said:
22	the decision under section 29 proceeding. He informed	22	"Well, they decide based on some legal arguments in
23	us that the decision has been issued and sent to AOG,	23	a certain way."
24	but that it will be negative. It should be delivered	24	Are you saying that those are the correct legal
25	today or tomorrow. He said [and that's Mr Hrvol] they	25	arguments, or
	Page 153		Page 155
14:58 1	were finalizing the wording in favour of AOG, when they	15:02 1	THE PRESIDENT: If you decide according to legal arguments
14:58 1 2	were finalizing the wording in favour of AOG, when they received instruction from the high levels of the	15:02 1	THE PRESIDENT: If you decide according to legal arguments that should not be bending the rules, no?
2	received instruction from the high levels of the	2	that should not be bending the rules, no?
2 3	received instruction from the high levels of the Ministry, to decide negatively."	23	that should not be bending the rules, no? I don't understood this in this fashion.
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15:04 1	that they are refusing to grant access to the land for	15:07 1	A. Yes.
2	this purpose, Ministry through this Article 29 grants	2	Q. Is that when you were the Minister, did the Ministry
3	such access to those companies.	3	have a filing system that was sort of broadly consistent
4	So it is a very sensitive issue, and that is how	4	with that description?
5	they would have approached. The Ministry of Environment	5	A. I guess so. I don't know. I think this is the way it's
6	have approached the issue accordingly, including	6	been kept, yes.
7	geological administration, when they have decided as	7	Q. So when an application is made by a contractor under the
8	they did. Based on certain legal aspects they have made	8	Geology Act, a file is opened in the Ministry; is that
9	such decision. It was their decision to make.	9	right?
10	MR DRYMER: May I just state, I'm not sure whether or not	10	A. I tell you honestly, I don't know which departments,
11	it's established that Mr Hrvol actually made the	10	how, would address these processes. Then, likely, if
12	statements that he says were made by him in a letter	12	a file or something was opened, they would put it on
12	written by somebody else.	12	record and issue that file a number, some ID number. It
13	THE PRESIDENT: Yes.	13	could be that way.
15	MR DRYMER: So, not only can the Minister not know why	15	Q. And is that file likely to contain internal documents
16	Mr Hrvol may or may not have said certain things, we	16	about the application on the part of the Ministry?
10	don't know even whether he in fact said them, as you	10	A. I don't know. Honestly, I don't know. I have not seen
18	have put it to him. At least we haven't determined that	18	that file.
10	yet.	10	Q. So prior to coming here to give evidence today, you
20	MR TUSHINGHAM: That's understood, Mr Drymer.	20	didn't look through that file.
20	But just going back to your answer, Mr Sólymos. You	20	A. You mean this decision specifically? I don't know how
21	mentioned that it was a very sensitive issue, this	21	many pages it has. Five, is it?
22	decision; is that right?	22	Q. No, my question was slightly different. This is the
23	A. Yes, sensitive.	23	decision that you're discussing in your witness
24	Q. And you referred to the fact that:	24	statement; correct?
25	Q. And you referred to the fact that.	25	sutement, concer.
	D 157		
	Page 157		Page 159
	Page 157		Page 159
	Page 157		Page 159
15:05 1	"we are going into constitutional rights of	15:09 1	Page 159 A. Yes.
15:05 1 2	"we are going into constitutional rights of owners with that particular act"	15:09 1 2	<ul><li>A. Yes.</li><li>Q. And at the top right-hand side it records a file number.</li></ul>
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15:11	1	Geology Act, are those decisions normally drafted in the	15:15 1	legal regulation". That is how they decided. I don't
	2	first instance by officials? Is that consistent with	2	know about any other reason why that body would why
	3	your recollection during the time you were a minister?	3	that body had decided that way.
	4	A. I guess it did. The file has a person responsible	4	Q. Can we now move forward to document C-174.
	5	assigned to it, and then the body empowered, having	5	Now, do you see that this is a decision issued by
	6	jurisdiction, would issue a decision about this, and it	6	you on 13 June 2017?
	7	was the State Geological Administration having	7	A. Yes.
	8	jurisdiction over making such decision.	8	Q. And you annulled the decision that we just looked at on
	9	Q. And you said the file has a person responsible assigned	9	6 March, dated 6 March 2017; is that right?
	10	to it. Do you remember we looked earlier at Mr Hrvol	10	A. Yes.
	11	being the contact person identified in the	11	Q. And you did that on the proposal of a special commission
	12	correspondence with State Forestry in late 2016? Do you	12	that was appointed by you; is that correct?
	13	remember that letter that we looked at before lunch?	13	A. Yes.
	14	A. Yes. And the question is?	14	Q. And who formed part of that special commission?
	15	Q. My question is, is it likely in your based on your	15	A. This commission is so-called appeal or appellate
	16	own time at the Ministry that if Mr Hrvol was identified	16	commission of the Minister, which consists of about
	17	as the contact person in a Ministry letter, that he	17	12-13 members. From various staffed by various
	18	would be the person responsible for that file?	18	experts from independent institutions, including
	19	A. As far as I can recall, Mr Hrvol was the employee, the	19	academia, academic bodies, that were dealing with the
	20	civil servant at the State Geological Administration.	20	issues the Ministry was also dealing with. It included
	21	So likely he would work on that decision, or on that	21	legal experts. It included experts from the Ministry of
	22	issue, but what specific position and task he had,	22	Interior or Ministry of Environment, from various areas.
	23	I don't really know.	23	The reason for it being that, for them to be able to
	24	Q. Could we now move forward, please, to page 5 of the	24	prepare for the Minister in such cases when it involves
	25	decision. And I am interested in the words in bold.	25	some appellate proceedings, prepare some kind of
		D 1/1		D 1/2
		Page 161		Page 163
15:13	1	Could you read those to yourself, please.	15:17 1	an expert and legal paper or opinion how the minister
15:13	1 2	Could you read those to yourself, please. A. What's in bold?	15:17 1 2	an expert and legal paper or opinion how the minister should approach the issue at hand, because a minister is
15:13		A. What's in bold?		should approach the issue at hand, because a minister is
15:13	2	<ul><li>A. What's in bold?</li><li>Q. Yes, just read those words in bold to yourself, "Due to</li></ul>	2	
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15:19 1 an additional question	15:23 1 AOG against the decision of the State Geological
2 MR TUSHINGHAM: It was an additional question, yes.	2 Administration.
3 THE PRESIDENT: saying: well, to remember, you would need	3 Q. Yes. And during
4 to go to the records of the Ministry; is this right?	4 A. And I've returned. So I disagreed with the decision of
5 A. I don't know whether I have discussed this with anyone,	5 the State Geological Administration, returned the case
6 whether any such record exists, I don't think so.	6 back to further proceedings for them to decide in favour
7 MR TUSHINGHAM: Could you turn to page 9, please. That's	7 of AOG; that they are able to decide in favour of AOG.
8 your signature on the document, isn't it? Just scroll	8 I was not able to make that decision.
9 down slightly?	9 THE PRESIDENT: Can I just ask for a clarification?
10 A. Yes.	10 Many appellate bodies have a choice between
11 Q. And did you draft the entirety of this decision	11 annulling and remanding to the first instance, or
12 yourself, or was a draft prepared for you by officials?	
	<ul><li>12 amending a decision, annulling and granting the</li><li>13 application. Did you have this choice, or not?</li></ul>
14 Q. And if we go back to the first page if we scroll	14 A. I'll tell you honestly, I don't know whether I had such
15 down, please, to the bottom you returned the matter	15 power. We would always proceed in this way. The body
16 to the Ministry, specifically the Department of State	16 is supposed to decide, and if we viewed the first
17 Geological Administration, for a new discussion and	17 instance decision, or me as Minister, as incorrect, we
18 decision; do you see that?	18 would return it back to the body overruling the initial
19 A. Yes.	19 decision for the procedure proceedings, rather.
20 Q. So at the time of this decision you were the highest	20 I'm not sure. This is how it worked.
21 representative of the Ministry; correct?	21 THE PRESIDENT: You have rendered a number of these
22 A. Yes.	22 appellate decisions, I suppose, during your four years
23 Q. And as the highest representative of the Ministry, you	at the Ministry?
24 would have had authority to amend the decision under	A. Yes. We did have such appeals where we would have to
appeal and grant an order in favour of AOG under	address them.
	2 1/2
Page 165	Page 167
15.21 1 Art 1. 20 - City Contains Arter and (2	15-25 1 THE DECIDENT: And would use always follow this greating of
15:21 1 Article 29 of the Geology Act; correct?	15:25 1 THE PRESIDENT: And would you always follow this practice of
2 A. I don't know whether I as Minister was able to do	2 either confirming or annulling, and if you annulled you
3 anything like that. It was in the jurisdiction of the	3 would return to the first instance, whatever it was? Or
4 State Geological Administration to issue a final	4 did you sometimes amend the decision yourself?
5 decision.	5 A. I myself have never approved. So I don't remember
6 Q. But I'm talking about the position before you returned	6 making such approval.
7 it back to the Department of State Geological	7 But we simply, when we disagreed with the first
8 Administration. Do you accept that as the Minister, the	8 instance body, we would overrule the first decision,
9 highest representative of the Ministry, you could have	9 giving the case back to them proposing what they should
10 granted an order in favour of AOG, rather than returning	10 further do what they should further to in order to
11 it back to the Department of State Geological	11 decide again. So they could complete the proceedings.
12 Administration?	<ol> <li>decide again. So they could complete the proceedings.</li> <li>MR DRYMER: Minister, if you take a look at the very first</li> </ol>
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15.07 1	1 111 / 1 / 1 / 6/	15.00 1	
15:27 1	always would lean towards the opinion of those experts	15:30 1	Can we now look, please, at Exhibit R-075. And do
2	that have addressed the problem. In legal cases, it was	2	you see, this is a decision dated 27 June 2017, the same
3	a legal department.	3	file reference number that we saw earlier, suspending
4	MR DRYMER: Okay, so when you say you would have relied on	4	the proceedings; do you see that?
5	the view of the experts, you don't mean the special	5	A. Yes.
6	commission: you mean lawyers within the Ministry?	6	Q. And that's signed by Ms Mat'ová.
7	I'm trying to understand. Or both?	7	A. Yes.
8	A. Both. In this case it means if in that appellate	8	Q. So this is on remand, the Ministry, the Department of
9	commission, that would give opinions on appeals. Within	9	State Geological Administration, suspending the
10	the commission it included highly regarded lawyers as	10	proceedings:
11	well. So the legal opinion would come up from	11	" pending the resolution of the preliminary
12	the commission both expert and legal opinions would	12	
13	come out of that commission as a recommendation to the	13	1
14	Minister. That appellate commission would give it.	13	6 6
15	MR DRYMER: Okay, and just to be clear, it's clear from the	15	non-conclusion of an agreement on the use of the real
16	decision, and it's near the bottom of page 9, that the	15	6
10	special commission recommended that the case be remanded		
	-	17	Do you see that?
18	back.	18	Do you see that, Mr Sólymos?
19	The question is whether you were required to follow	19	A. I do, but this is the first time I see this.
20	that advice, or whether you had authority to say: no,	20	Q. And is it likely that you would have discussed this
21	I take that into consideration, but I'm deciding not to	21	decision before it was issued in the name of the
22	remand it; I'm deciding to change it.	22	Ministry?
23	And if I understood your answer, you're saying you	23	A. This is the first time I see this decision. I don't
24	don't you never exercised your authority in that way?	24	even know what it's about. It was not issued by the
25	A. I have to my best recollection, I was able either to	25	Ministry; it was issued by the State Geological
	Page 169		Page 171
15:29 1	accept the decision of the State Geological	15:32 1	Administration department. And I don't know what it is
2	Administration, that I agree with their interpretation	2	concerning.
2 3	Administration, that I agree with their interpretation based on which they have rejected an application, or	2 3	concerning. Q. This came 14 days, two weeks after your quashing
2	Administration, that I agree with their interpretation	2	<ul><li>concerning.</li><li>Q. This came 14 days, two weeks after your quashing decision earlier in June.</li></ul>
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15:34	1	paragraph 8 of your second statement you refer here to	15:38 1	A. Only single time I have recommended to AOG
	2	your meeting with AOG on 16 December 2016. Do you see	2	representatives this thing, it was at the December 2016
	3	that?	3	meeting when the Act was not yet in force. So no one
	4	A. Yes.	4	pursuing back then geological survey were obliged to
	5	Q. And you say that at this meeting you made a "proposal"	5	undergo EIA in order to go ahead with geological
	6	to AOG:	6	drilling. I have suggested that to them. Once or twice
	7	" I proposed to AOG to voluntarily agree to	7	I mentioned that to the media as well when I was asked
	8	undergo a Preliminary EIA for their drills."	8	about that.
	9	Do you see that?	9	Q. Yes. And when you mentioned it in the media, you would
	10	A. Yes.	10	have known that AOG would be listening to what you were
	11	Q. Sorry, if we could get up yes, perfect.	10	saying; that's right, isn't it?
	12	And I want to focus on the word "voluntarily" in the	12	A. Well, of course. When they read the paper, it gets to
	13	sentence:	13	them, it was one possible solution in order for removing
	14	"Therefore, on the background of this legislative	14	the existing obstacles in the problem in Smilno, when we
	15	change, I proposed to AOG to voluntarily agree"	15	discussed in this case the Smilno site, and those
	16	Do you see that?	16	obstacles occurred there.
	17	A. Yes, since the Act on environmental impact assessment	17	So that was the suggestion I made in order to
	18	did not require with these back then, with these	18	address and resolve this problem.
	19	activities of drilling, exploration drilling, the	19	Q. Could you turn, please, or be shown the Exhibit R-144.
	20	so-called small EIA, environmental impact assessment.	20	Now, this is an interview that Ms Marianna Varjanová
	21	But a new Act was already promulgated, which was about	21	gave to a newspaper on 22 November 2016; do you see
	22	to enter force, 1 January 2017, which Act already was	22	that?
	23	going to require such so-called small EIA. That's why,	23	A. Yes. Yes.
	24	in order for me to address the situation, I've made such	24	Q. Could you turn on to page 5, please. She was asked:
	25	proposal for them as a suggestion. It was merely	25	"What would be the impact of the drills on nature?"
				-
		Page 173		Page 175
15:36	1	a suggestion to try and release the tensions in Smilno	15:40 1	And she responded by saving, according to this
15:36	1 2	a suggestion to try and release the tensions in Smilno present at that time.	15:40 1 2	And she responded by saying, according to this article:
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15:36	2	present at that time.	2	article:
15:36	2 3	present at that time. Q. So do you accept that AOG had no legal obligation to	2 3	article: "I don't dare to assess that, I'm not
15:36	2 3 4	<ul><li>present at that time.</li><li>Q. So do you accept that AOG had no legal obligation to perform an EIA for its exploratory wells when you</li></ul>	2 3 4	article: "I don't dare to assess that, I'm not a professional, that's why I'm asking the minister to
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15:42 1	occasions but I don't know exactly whether about this	15:46 1	a preliminary EIA, were you, in this press release?
13.42 1	issue specifically I would meet with someone. I do not	15.40 1	A. No. That was not done, of course. In this particular
3	exclude that I might have spoken about this with	3	case the reason why I have done so, because there was
4	someone, but I do not remember that lady.	4	a serious dispute and I wanted to release the pressure,
	Q. Is the gentleman from VLK that you've referred to, VLK,		so to say, the extra pressure which was between the
5		5	activists and the drillers, for the drillers to be able
6	is his name Mr Ferko; does that ring a bell?	6	
7	A. I don't know. I don't know if it was Mr Ferko, whether	7	to go ahead, and for people to live there in peace,
8	it was him or someone else. But I don't know.	8	knowing nothing is threatening them and nothing serious
9	I don't remember debating Smilno at the meeting	9	is threatening their nature, and the nature where they
10	specifically with some activists.	10	live.
11	Q. Could you turn, please, to Exhibit C-157. This is	11	So it was and I felt that the solution to that
12	a press release dated 29 November 2016, which is seven	12	problem is such, when we make a compromise, that either
13	days after Ms Varjanová's article was published on	13	one or the other side, ideally both sides, make
14	22 November; correct?	14	a compromise to be able to move forward from the
15	A. Yes.	15	stalemate situation. That was a mere suggestion.
16	Q. And the press release quoted you directly, as we see in	16	Q. Could you just be shown, please, Exhibit R-162. Do you
17	the italicised quotes; do you see that?	17	see, this is an email dated 29 November 2016, and you
18	A. Yes.	18	obviously won't have seen this email before, but it's
19	Q. And you had held a press conference where you had made	19	reporting on a conversation that has taken place with
20	certain remarks in the presence of certain journalists,	20	a spokesman of you. Who was that spokesman? Who was
21	I assume. Is that right?	21	your spokesman at the time of this email?
22	A. I don't know whether this was a press conference, only	22	A. Excuse me, the name Tomáš
23	a press release, to be honest with you.	23	Q. Don't worry if you don't remember. I'll just ask you
24	Q. But it's quoting you saying:	24	this.
25	"With the licence"	25	Do you see in the next sentence it says:
	Page 177		Page 179
	Tage 177		1 age 179
15:44 1	Or the press release says:	15:48 1	"She said she didn't expect [this] kind of solution
2	"With the licence holder - Alpine he plans to	2	from him but that he was under big pressure from media
	"With the licence holder - Alpine he plans to agree a compromise step"		from him but that he was under big pressure from media and activists."
2 3 4	"With the licence holder - Alpine he plans to agree a compromise step" That's a reference to you, isn't it?	2 3 4	from him but that he was under big pressure from media and activists." Do you see that?
2 3	<ul><li>"With the licence holder - Alpine he plans to agree a compromise step"</li><li>That's a reference to you, isn't it?</li><li>A. Of course, when we would issue press releases, they</li></ul>	2 3	from him but that he was under big pressure from media and activists." Do you see that? A. Excuse me, back then I had also a spokesperson. And
2 3 4 5 6	<ul><li>"With the licence holder - Alpine he plans to agree a compromise step"</li><li>That's a reference to you, isn't it?</li><li>A. Of course, when we would issue press releases, they would always be a couple of sentences as a quotation</li></ul>	2 3 4 5 6	<ul><li>from him but that he was under big pressure from media and activists."</li><li>Do you see that?</li><li>A. Excuse me, back then I had also a spokesperson. And I can see the sentence in English, but I'm not sure what</li></ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7	<ul><li>"With the licence holder - Alpine he plans to agree a compromise step" That's a reference to you, isn't it?</li><li>A. Of course, when we would issue press releases, they would always be a couple of sentences as a quotation when describing a problem. But it did not necessarily</li></ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7	<ul><li>from him but that he was under big pressure from media and activists."</li><li>Do you see that?</li><li>A. Excuse me, back then I had also a spokesperson. And I can see the sentence in English, but I'm not sure what it's supposed to be about.</li></ul>
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15.50			15.54 1	
15:50	1	Q. Yes, thank you, Madam President.	15:54 1	lease to AOG.
	2	Just with respect to one document. Please could we	2	In order for us to proceed with Article 29 of the
	3	look again at Exhibit R-75, that's the decision on	3	Geology Act, we simply had to have a definite
	4	suspension. And again, please, if we could have both	4	position/statement. That was a decision of that
	5	language versions on the screen. Perfect.	5	appellate commission. That is why I have returned the
	6	So, Minister Sólymos, do you recall answering	6	case back to further proceedings, because according to
	7	questions about this document?	7	oral meetings that were held, under the appellate
	8	A. That was the second document that I had not seen, right?	8	commission, our co-workers had come to an impression or
	9	Or which one is it?	9	an opinion that it is not definite that the Lesy company
	10	Q. No; do you recall this document was shown to you, like	10	would not sign a lease extension because there was some
	11	30 minutes ago?	11	kind of a communication problem between the forest
	12	A. Yes, I guess this is the one.	12	administration and the Ministry of Agriculture, in order
	13	Q. At the moment there is only one page. I would ask you	13	for us to apply Article 29 of the Geology Act.
	14	to take your time and read the Slovak version of the	14	So in order for us to be able to grant AOG access,
	15	document.	15	despite the owner will not grant so, we would overrule
	16	A. Okay.	16	the owner's approval, we needed a definite
	17	Q. So now please focus on the one paragraph which follows	17	position/statement by the Lesy that they would not
	18	the title "Reasoning". It states:	18	extend the lease.
	19	"On the basis of the Ministry's call, record	19	Now, when I'm re-reading it now, understanding this
	20	number dated 27 June 2017, the party to the	20	paragraph, it's the fact that the state geology
	21	proceedings Alpine Oil and Gas sro, Bratislava,	21	administration put requests upon AOG to deliver some
	22	represented by [Mr] Benada has been requested to	22	kind of decision, whether they do have a lease agreement
	23	submit the results of negotiations with the party to the	23	or they do not, from the Lesy, in order for them to
	24	proceedings Lesy Slovenskej republiky state	24	continue proceeding. And that's when the geology
	25	enterprise on the conclusion or non-conclusion of	25	department had suspended proceedings.
		Dec. 101		<b>D</b> <sub>1</sub> = - , 192
		Page 181		Page 183
15:52	1	an agreement on the use of the real estate concerned,	15:56 1	Q. Wasn't there also a third possibility, which is that
15:52	1 2	an agreement on the use of the real estate concerned, which are specified in the operative part of this	15:56 1 2	Q. Wasn't there also a third possibility, which is that they write to Lesy, but Lesy don't respond?
15:52		-		
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15:58 1	You say in paragraph 15 that the press release	16:02	1	assessment.
2	from January 2017 meant:		2	PROFESSOR SANDS: So if I've understood it correctly, if AOG
3	" the Environmental Impact Assessment Act has		3	had put a drill in the ground on 30 December 2016, is it
4	been in effect since the beginning of this year to		4	the case that they would not have required this new EIA?
5	which new exploratory drills are subject to		5	A. They needed not to request an EIA. That's why I asked
6	an environmental impact process. However, this does		6	for a voluntary one. That's the information I was
7	not apply to explorations that have already been		7	given. Because they already began drilling at that
8	approved. This press release thus confirms that the EIA		8	stage based on the then-applicable law before
9	is tied to new drills, not to decisions determining		9	1 January 2017, when they had the well in such state
10	-		10	they did not need EIA.
11	Now, I know this turns on matters of legal		11	If someone after 1 January started drilling, in
12	-		12	order to start drilling they would need to have this
13			13	so-called preliminary EIA. It was the European Union
14			14	condition we had had to meet by 1 January 2017.
15			15	PROFESSOR SANDS: Sorry, just because the translation was
16		1	16	slightly odd there. My understanding was that at Smilno
17		1	17	there had been no drill that had entered the ground by
18		1	18	1 January 2017, and that in accordance therefore with
19	A. Yes, this is a well, to be explained.	1	19	this law, an EIA was required; is that correct?
20	MR PEKAR: I apologise, there was a mistake in the Slovak	2	20	MR TUSHINGHAM: Sorry, is it appropriate for me to
21	translation. Instead of "drilling" we had	2	21	PROFESSOR SANDS: Please. We're just trying to work out
22	"exploitation", which here obviously is very different	2	22	what's going on here.
23	in this context.	2	23	MR TUSHINGHAM: So Mr Lewis' evidence, and he refers
24	So Arbitrator Sands, I'm really sorry I interrupted,	2	24	I can give you the exact paragraph after the break, but
25	but maybe you will repeat your question so that it can	2	25	do you recall that they did manage to drill the
	D 195			D 197
	Page 185			Page 187
16:00 1	be translated properly.	16:04	1	conductor hole on the site, but because of the blockade
16:00 1 2	be translated properly. PROFESSOR SANDS: Okay. You've added to the confusion.		1 2	conductor hole on the site, but because of the blockade on the road they weren't able to bring the drilling rig
2	PROFESSOR SANDS: Okay. You've added to the confusion.		2	on the road they weren't able to bring the drilling rig
2 3	PROFESSOR SANDS: Okay. You've added to the confusion. I'm just trying to work out		2 3	on the road they weren't able to bring the drilling rig to drill further beyond the conductor hole. The
2 3 4	PROFESSOR SANDS: Okay. You've added to the confusion. I'm just trying to work out (Pause)		2 3 4	on the road they weren't able to bring the drilling rig to drill further beyond the conductor hole. The conductor hole was the first stage of the well being
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		1	
16.05		16.00 1	
16:05		16:09 1	" the conductor rig [was] able to drill
	I thought I had understood your evidence to be that if	2	the conductor hole down to a depth of 21 metres"
	drilling has happened, no EIA is required. So	3	Query whether that constitutes drilling for the
	I'm slightly confused as to why, after 1 January 2017,	4	purposes of exploration. I'm not expressing any view on
	it's being said they required an EIA as a matter of law	5	that; I have no idea.
	rather than voluntarily, when drilling had already	6	But your testimony then, Minister, is that having
,	happened.	7	voluntarily assumed the obligation to engage in an EIA,
	A. I think we misunderstood each other. I never said they	8	your belief was that an EIA would now be required as
9	had to, or they were obliged to do an EIA in Smilno.	9	a matter of your Ministry's practice going forward? Is
1	) What I said was as a forthcoming step, in order for	10	that correct?
1	appease the activists, for them to be able to complete	11	A. I have suggested it due to the for them to resolve
1	2 the drill they could undergo a voluntarily EIA. And as	12	the problem with the activists and Smilno inhabitants.
1	said to me on many occasions, this is not required by	13	By law, after they have met everything, they did not
1	law because they already began that's the information	14	need an EIA in order to continue drilling. If they only
1	5 I had they already began before January 1, 2017,	15	wanted to drill up to 600 metres, they needed no EIA.
1	5 meaning that Act could not have been retroactive.	16	I had no knowledge to what extent they were going to
1	7 THE PRESIDENT: So are you saying that even in 2017 the	17	explore the area. But the rules were such, if they
1	3 small EIA would have been voluntary?	18	wanted to drill up to 400 metres they could have gone
1	9 A. No.	19	ahead, but they were unable to access the land. That
2	) THE PRESIDENT: I understand it was mandatory under the law,	20	was the problem.
2	but those who had started drilling before January 1,	21	Now, in order to remove that problem, to gain access
2	2 2017 were not under this	22	to the land, to agree with the locals, we have proposed
2	B A. Exactly.	23	EIA, small voluntary EIA.
2		24	PROFESSOR SANDS: And can I understand, was your thinking
2	AOG had started drilling in 2016, then they would not be	25	about this proposal no, let me put the question
	Page 189		Page 191
16.07	subject to the obligation	16.11 1	a different way
16:07	5 6	16:11 1	a different way.
	2 A. No.	2	To what extent if at all was your thinking about
	P. A. No. B. THE PRESIDENT: in 2017.	2 3	To what extent if at all was your thinking about this voluntary EIA proposal influenced by the
	<ul> <li>A. No.</li> <li>THE PRESIDENT: in 2017.</li> <li>A. No, they did not. They were not under this obligation.</li> </ul>	2 3 4	To what extent if at all was your thinking about this voluntary EIA proposal influenced by the proceedings brought by the European Commission in
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52 (Pages 189 to 192)

16.12 1	that made a commitment to remove this shortcoming by the	16.16 1	DECEESSOD SANDS. There is you show much for your organizer
16:12 1	that made a commitment to remove this shortcoming by the	16:16 1	PROFESSOR SANDS: Thank you very much for your answers.
2	end of 2016, by the Slovak Republic. That is why we	2	(Pause)
3	adopted this Act by 1 January 2017, having removed this	3	MR DRYMER: Sir, in certain countries a former minister is
4	shortcoming held against us by the Commission, due to	4	still referred to as "Minister"; is that the case in
5	which we have had infringement. That should have	5	Slovakia? Should I refer to you as Mr Sólymos or
6	happened a long time ago.	6	Minister Sólymos?
7	PROFESSOR SANDS: And final question: are you aware of any	7	A. Thank you very much, but please go ahead.
8	other projects in Slovakia in which issues of this kind	8	MR DRYMER: Alright, should I refer to you as Minister
9	arose, with these transitional provisions and changes	9	Sólymos or Mr? I'll ask the question.
10	and projects that were crossing over a particular time	10	Two questions. One is a very picky question about
11	period; and if there were other projects, how were they	11	a word you used, but you know lawyers; they will split
12	treated? Were they treated in the same way as this	12	words any hundreds of ways, and I'd like to close off
13	project, or differently from this project?	13	any possible debate about this now.
14	A. Do you mean that if there was any other company having	14	At 15.38.08 of the transcript, Mr Tushingham asked
15	the same problems with a similar drill like AOG, whether	15	you it's in the transcript, it's not in your
16	there was other such problem?	16	report whether you mentioned your proposals regarding
17	PROFESSOR SANDS: I'm thinking slightly more broadly in	10	a voluntarily, little EIA on various occasions. Your
17	terms of other projects that were caught, or possibly		answer was: (Page 174, line 21)
		18	_
19	caught, by the change of law that was going to take	19	"[That is the] only single time I have recommended
20	place on 1 January 2017, and whether the Ministry had	20	to AOG [that they conduct a voluntary, little EIA]."
21	a general policy on how to deal with these cases, or	21	So I just want to ask you, at any time did you
22	whether this case was unique, or was treated specially?	22	recommend to AOG that they do that, or were, in your
23	A. Definitely this has impacted every single company who	23	view, your suggestions mere suggestions or proposals,
24	after 1 January 2017 wanted to conduct such kind of an	24	which was the question that you were asked?
25	exploratory drill deeper than 600 metres, because they	25	Do you see the difference between a proposal and
	Page 193		Page 195
16:14 1	had to undergo additional responsibility before	16:19 1	a recommendation?
16:14 1 2	commencing drilling. So every single company conducting	16:19 1 2	A. I'm no lawyer, so
2	commencing drilling. So every single company conducting	2	A. I'm no lawyer, so
2 3	commencing drilling. So every single company conducting exploratory work in Slovakia. But this could have	2 3	A. I'm no lawyer, so MR DRYMER: Right.
2 3 4	commencing drilling. So every single company conducting exploratory work in Slovakia. But this could have included the government, the state. They also do	2 3 4	<ul><li>A. I'm no lawyer, so</li><li>MR DRYMER: Right.</li><li>A. I don't even know the distinction, in this case.</li></ul>
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16:21	1 1	Ministry was sympathetic to their concerns with the	16:25	1	other companies.
10.21		activists, and that the Ministry seemed to believe that	10.20	2	THE PRESIDENT: Was it the other exploitation was of oil
		it was all political, tied to the upcoming election in		2 3	and gas, or of other minerals?
		which you joined Cabinet, and that once the election was		3 4	A. These were other. There was uranium, gold, other
		over these problems would disappear.		4 5	A. These were other. There was uranium, gold, other minerals, other commodities.
	6	My question is: did you ever see any records, either		6 7	THE PRESIDENT: Are there other is there other drill
		when you assumed the function of Minister, or later on		7 °	exploration and production, exploitation in Slovakia of
		when you became involved in the issues with AOG,		8	oil and gas? Because we understand there is quite
		referring to those meetings under the predecessor		9	a good a strong exploitation in Poland; but in
	-	government, and any representations that may have been		10	Slovakia?
		made to AOG by the Ministry in that predecessor		11	A. Yes, indeed, it exists, there are companies conducting
		government?		12	both exploration, others who also both do exploitation
		I did not see anything. No such document that would		13	of oil and gas. But we are not such a large
	-	previously be addressing the AOG issue.		14	exploitation in such large quantities in Slovakia as
		R DRYMER: Very good. That answers my question.		15	they do, for instance, in Poland.
	16 17	But just for counsel's sake, I refer, among other		16	THE PRESIDENT: And where there is exploitation, is it some
		things, to Mr Fraser's witness statement at		17	wells that have been established for a number of years,
		paragraph 43, if you're wondering where I pulled that		18	or in the same period?
		from.		19 20	A. Well, I know that even now there is exploration
	20 21 TU	Those were my questions, madam, sir.		20	underway, some exploratory drills, and companies have
		IE PRESIDENT: Mr Sólymos, I understood you to say that if		21	tackled the EIA requirement for drills. When they go
		the if AOG had started drilling in 2016 they were		22	ahead with exploitation, by law, a large EIA is required
		under no obligation to do a small EIA. You said,		23	automatically, in order for them to receive
		however, they committed to the activists in March 2017 to do a small EIA.		24 25	an exploration licence.
	25 t	to do a small EIA.		25	THE INTERPRETER: Excuse me, interpreter correction:
		Page 197			Page 199
16.02	1		16.07	1	
16:23	1	Does that mean, in your view, that they had	16:27	1	exploitation licence.
16:23	2 a	an obligation now? Because this was an agreement with	16:27	2	THE PRESIDENT: Fine. Thank you. I have no further
16:23	2 a 3 t	an obligation now? Because this was an agreement with he activists; this was not a commitment towards the	16:27	2 3	THE PRESIDENT: Fine. Thank you. I have no further questions, so that completes your examination,
16:23	2 a 3 t 4 s	an obligation now? Because this was an agreement with he activists; this was not a commitment towards the state. How did you see the situation after they agreed	16:27	2 3 4	THE PRESIDENT: Fine. Thank you. I have no further questions, so that completes your examination, Mr Sólymos. Thank you very much for your help.
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16:46	8	16:49 1	The answer is either yes or no.
2		2	A. Yes, I can see the line.
3		3	Q. Yes. And that black line, to your knowledge, is that
4		4	a public road?
-		5	A. No.
(	1 I	6	Q. That's the road that AOG needed to use to access its
		7	drilling site; that's right, isn't it?
8		8	A. Well, it can be it can be a land lot, which is on
(		9	a similar site, as is the site where the AOG was trying
10		10	e
1		11	
12	· · ·	12	
1.		13	that's right, isn't it?
14		14	
1:	5	15	Q. And in December 2015, there was no injunction in place
10	<b>y 1 y</b>	16	
1'	<b>1</b>	17	there?
1		18	A. Yes.
19	5	19	Q. Is it correct that in about 2015, December 2015, you
20	1	20	started a Facebook page entitled "Oil in Smilno"?
2		21	A. Yes.
2		22	Q. And you gained quite a lot of followers of that page,
23		23	didn't you?
24		24	A. It's difficult to estimate what is a high number of
2:	Direct examination by MR PEKAR	25	followers.
	Page 201		Page 203
16:47 1	Q. Thank you, Madam President.	16:52 1	Q. Are we talking the couple of thousands? (Pause)
16:47 1 2		16:52 1 2	Q. Are we talking the couple of thousands? (Pause) Is that about a ballpark figure?
	Good afternoon, Ms Varjanová. A. Good afternoon to you as well.		
2	Good afternoon, Ms Varjanová. A. Good afternoon to you as well.	2	Is that about a ballpark figure? A. It is possible. Q. Could you please be shown Exhibit C-286. And the Slovak
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16:55 1	2016 on that page, and your name at the top?	17:00 1 Q. Now, this Facebook post suggests, on my reading of it,
2	A. Yes, I can see that, but this is not a blog in terms of	2 that the people of Smilno used the road quite
3	a continuous publishing of information. This is	3 frequently; is that right?
4	a single event. The four articles are a finite number	4 A. I cannot assess what the term "quite often" means.
5	of articles.	5 Q. Well, you're apologising in this post, as I read it, for
6	Q. I understand. But in the description of this collection	6 the inconvenience that you are causing them by having
7	of articles you say:	7 your car standing on the access road. Isn't that what's
8	"In my free time, I block road and give statements	8 happening in this post?
9	to the police."	9 A. Yes, that sentence has been read correctly.
10	Do you see that?	10 Q. Now, if the road was a private road, you wouldn't have
	A. Yes, I can see that.	
11		
12	Q. So one of the roads that you blocked during your free	
13	time was the curved black line we saw on the map we	13 A. Could you please repeat the question?
14	looked at earlier, and that's correct, isn't it?	14 Q. Of course. If the road was a private road, you would
15	A. Yes.	15 not have needed to apologise to the people of Smilno for
16	Q. Could you please be shown Exhibit C-325. And the	16 how annoying it was for them to bypass your car that was
17	Slovak, please, as well. Do you see this as a post on	17 on the access road?
18	your Facebook page dated 23 June 2016; do you see that?	18 A. It's a hypothesis.
19	A. Yes, I can see that.	19 Q. You then go on to say, a few sentences forward:
20	Q. And do you see the sentence beginning:	20 "We towed the car and the road is clear. Anyone
21	"Until morning, my car was standing on the access	21 except miners can use it."
22	road. In particular, I want to say to the people of	22 Do you see that?
23	Smilno that I know very well how annoying it is to	23 A. No.
24	bypass it and I want to thank them for their patience."	24 (Pause)
25	Do you see that?	25 THE PRESIDENT: You can carry on.
	D 207	D 007
	Page 205	Page 207
16.59 1	A Yes Lean see that	17:04 1 MP TUSHINGHAM: Ves of course Thank you Madam President
16:58 1	A. Yes, I can see that.	17:04 1 MR TUSHINGHAM: Yes, of course. Thank you, Madam President.
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2 3	Q. And at this time in 2016, Smilno had a population of about 600 people; is that right? 600 to 700?	<ol> <li>Just reading on a few sentences in that Facebook</li> <li>post, Madame Varjanová, it's the passage that's been</li> </ol>
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17:07 1	Do you see that?	17:11 1	A. I cannot confirm that these were plans.
2	A. Yes, I can see the text.	2	Q. Could you please be shown C-286. We looked at this
3	Q. And the road you're referring to is the road we saw on	3	document just before, but do you see the photographs
4	the map, isn't it?	4	there of the town hall meeting, which is referred to as
5	A. Yes.	5	having taken place on 17 June 2016?
6	Q. Could you please turn to your first witness statement at	6	Sorry, the Facebook post is dated 23 December, but
7	paragraph 14, which you may have in paper copy in front	7	I think you're referring to the meeting that took place
8	of you. And you say in the second sentence:	8	in June of that year; do you see that? (Pause)
9	"In fact, we came to believe that AOG was	9	Does this refresh your memory about what happened on
10	intentionally pursuing a policy of sharing as little	10	that day at that meeting?
11	information as possible."	11	A. Well, the picture is not from the from 2 June 2016.
12	Do you see that?	12	Q. If you just read on a few sentences, you say:
13	A. Yes, I can see the text.	13	"So it happened and we all met at the Municipal
14	Q. Do you accept that AOG held a town hall meeting on	14	Office on June 17. Anyone who wanted to hear
15	16 June 2015 where its project to drill an exploration	15	information directly from the main actors and ask them
16	well in Smilno was explained to the local community?	16	questions could do so."
17	If you don't recall, please tell me and I can show	17	Do you see that?
18	you a document, if that would assist.	18	A. Everyone who came to the municipal office during the
19	A. Could you please repeat the question again?	19	time of the town hall meeting could raise questions,
20	Q. Maybe I'll just show you a document instead. If you	20	yes. What I am describing in the Facebook post refers
20	could please be shown Exhibit R-17. And the Slovak,	21	to 2 June, but this public meeting did not take place in
22	please, as well.	22	Smilno.
23	This was an invitation to an all-day public meeting	23	Q. Okay. Could you please be shown now Exhibit C-287.
23	to be held on 16 June 2015 in the municipal office in	23	This is another post from your Facebook page dated
25	Smilno; do you see that?	25	24 December 2015, but you're reporting on a pamphlet
25			
	Page 209		Page 211
			·
17:09 1	A. Yes, I can see that.	17:14 1	
17:09 1	<ul><li>A. Yes, I can see that.</li><li>Q. And do you see that in the second or that in the box</li></ul>	17:14 1	that you appear to have received, or that reached you, on around 22 June 2015; do you see that?
			that you appear to have received, or that reached you,
2	Q. And do you see that in the second or that in the box	2	that you appear to have received, or that reached you, on around 22 June 2015; do you see that?
2 3	Q. And do you see that in the second or that in the box it says:	2 3	<ul><li>that you appear to have received, or that reached you, on around 22 June 2015; do you see that?</li><li>A. I can see my post where I refer to the written document that we have been given.</li></ul>
2 3 4	<ul><li>Q. And do you see that in the second or that in the box it says:</li><li>"The meeting is convened due to Alpine planning</li></ul>	2 3 4	<ul><li>that you appear to have received, or that reached you, on around 22 June 2015; do you see that?</li><li>A. I can see my post where I refer to the written document</li></ul>
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17:16 1	A. Yes.	17:20 1	l	that?
2	Q. And so by the time you had organised your petition, you	2	2	A. Could you please enlarge it? (Pause)
3	and other residents had already attended the town hall	3	3	Q. And do you see, in the penultimate paragraph of the
4	meeting and it's likely that you and other residents	4	1	letter, the Ministry says to you this is a letter
5	would have received this document; do you agree?	5	5	addressed to you:
6	A. I did receive it. I cannot confirm whether other	6	5	"Since there is no illegality in the procedure or
7	citizens had received it as well.	7	7	the decision-making activity of the Ministry in the
8	Q. And do you agree that a significant number of the	8	3	given matter, and since all decisions regarding the
9	residents of Smilno actually supported AOG's project?	9	)	Svidník licence exploration area are final and for this
10	A. I have no such information.	10	)	reason they are presumed to be factually correct and
11	Q. Could you please be shown Exhibit C-348. This is	11	1	legal, and in the given matter there is also no
12	an article published by the Minister of Environment,	12		contradiction with the public or other general interest,
13	Mr Sólymos, on 3 December 2016, and in the penultimate	13		the petition submitted by the residents of the
14	paragraph of his article, on the third page in English,	14		village cannot be granted."
15	and the second page I think in Slovak at the bottom,	15	5	Do you see that?
16	there is a sentence where he says:	16		A. I cannot see the whole of the paragraph.
17	"At the same time, however"	17		Q. Do you see it on the right-hand side of the image, where
18	And he is talking about the village of Smilno:	18		you see the stamp, the paragraph that begins please
19	" I want to say that there is also a significant	19		forgive me my pronunciation:
20	part of the residents of this village"	20		"Nakol"ko"
21	Sorry, I think we've gone to the wrong page on the	21		Do you recall receiving this letter from the
22	English. It's page 3 on the English.	22		Ministry in August 2015?
23	Yes, so you say Minister Sólymos says in his	23		A. I cannot recall very well.
24	article here, he's talking about Smilno:	24		Q. But do you recall in general terms the Ministry of
25	"At the same time, however, I want to say that there	25	5	Environment telling you in August of 2015: we do not
	Page 213			Page 215
17:18 1	is also a significant part of the residents of this	17:23 1	1	think there is one "contradiction with the multiple
2	village that supports the company's geological surveys,	17.23		think there is any "contradiction with the public or other general interest"?
3	so the whole matter cannot be viewed in black and	3		A. This is a document which I don't fully recall. This has
4	white."	4		been quite a substantial period of time that has lapsed.
5	Do you see that?	5		Q. I understand.
6	A. Yes, I can see that.	6		Now, Denník N and Denník SME are two of the major
7	Q. And what the Minister said here is true, isn't it?	7	7	national media outlets in Slovakia; is that correct?
8	A. It's his opinion.	8	3	A. They belong to the are leading dailies, yes.
9	Q. You then attended a further town hall meeting in Smilno	9	)	Q. And you were formerly an editor of Denník SME; is that
10	on 23 July 2015; is that right?	10	0	right?
11	A. I cannot really confirm the date, but there was a second	11	1	A. Yes.
11	The function reality communication of the function was a second		1	
11	meeting at the municipal office.	12		Q. And is it fair to say that you had quite a number of
			2	Q. And is it fair to say that you had quite a number of contacts in media outlets throughout Slovakia as
12	meeting at the municipal office.	12	2 3	
12 13	meeting at the municipal office. Q. Yes. And at that meeting you requested the Smilno	12 13	2 3 4	contacts in media outlets throughout Slovakia as
12 13 14	<ul><li>meeting at the municipal office.</li><li>Q. Yes. And at that meeting you requested the Smilno council to express its support for your petition. Is that correct?</li><li>A. In the description of the petition is a call to the</li></ul>	12 13 14	2 3 4 5 5	<ul><li>contacts in media outlets throughout Slovakia as a result of your association with Denník SME?</li><li>A. Well, a part of my work has never been a contact with other media.</li></ul>
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1				
17:25	1	Q. Well, do you agree that in about July 2015 there were	17:30 1	witness statement and he has only given it in English,
17.25	2	various media stories published, or broadcast on TV	2	but
	3	channels, about AOG's plan to carry out drilling in	3	THE PRESIDENT: Can you ask the question without reference?
	4	Smilno?	4	Because otherwise you really have to translate it to
	5	A. Yes, this was an issue that has been present in the	5	her. It is not fair otherwise.
	6	media.	6	MR TUSHINGHAM: Please forgive me.
	7	Q. And do you recall a protest taking place in Prešov	7	Could you please explain, is TV JOJ a national news
	8	in January of 2016 about AOG's project?	8	broadcasting outlet?
	8 9	A. Yes.	8 9	A. This is a question that should be addressed to TV JOJ.
			10	I have no idea what the coverage of TV JOJ is.
	10	Q. And that protest was covered quite extensively in the		-
	11	regional media in around that time, early 2016; is that	11	Q. Have you watched TV JOJ ever in your life?
	12	right?	12	A. Very seldomly.
	13	A. I don't recall whether it was covered by the regional	13	Q. Is it based in Bratislava, to your knowledge?
	14	media outlets.	14	A. According to my information, it is based in Bratislava.
	15	Q. Could we look, please, at Exhibit R-016. Do you see	15	Q. And your coverage about AOG's project also extended onto
	16	this is an article published by the media outlet Korzár	16	the radiowaves; is that right?
	17	Prešov dated 12 January 2016?	17	A. This wouldn't be a correct interpretation.
	18	A. Yes, I can see it.	18	Q. Could you please be shown Exhibit C-304. Now, this is
	19	Q. And if you go over to the next page, do you see	19	an email, of course, that you won't have seen, but
	20	references to protesters, together with conservationists	20	I'm going to just read into the record some words from
	21	and members of the National Council marching down to the	21	the email and they will be interpreted to you in Slovak,
	22	office of the governor of Smer; Do you see that?	22	and then I will ask you a question.
	23	A. Yes, I can see that.	23	This is an email dated 6 April 2016, subject line
	24	Q. Do you recall attending this protest in Prešov	24	"Radio Regina (Slovak radio) today", and the email
	25	in January of 2016?	25	reads:
		Page 217		Page 219
		C		c
17:28	1	A. I did take part.	17:32 1	"Ms Varjanová arguments:
17:28	1 2	<ul><li>A. I did take part.</li><li>Q. Do you agree that in about January of 2016 you turned up</li></ul>	17:32 1 2	"Ms Varjanová arguments: - The company does not communicate with landowners.
17:28		-		
17:28	2	Q. Do you agree that in about January of 2016 you turned up	2	- The company does not communicate with landowners.
17:28	2 3	Q. Do you agree that in about January of 2016 you turned up at the Smilno site, together with a camera crew from	2 3	<ul><li>The company does not communicate with landowners.</li><li>AOG is for people unreliable form - literally she</li></ul>
17:28	2 3 4	Q. Do you agree that in about January of 2016 you turned up at the Smilno site, together with a camera crew from a TV station called TV JOJ?	2 3 4	<ul> <li>The company does not communicate with landowners.</li> <li>AOG is for people unreliable form - literally she says that there is nothing to convince her to cooperate</li> </ul>
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17:33 1	wells in Moravia in the Czech Republic?	17:38 1 A. I have no such information.
2	A. It is possible that such invitation was given.	2 Q. Can I now ask you some questions about the interim
3	Q. But you declined that invitation; is that correct?	3 injunction. Could you turn to your first witness
4	A. No.	4 statement at paragraph 27. Do you have that?
5	Q. But you visited Moravia on your own; is that my	5 A. Yes, I have the paragraph 27 in front of me.
6	understanding of your testimony from your witness	6 Q. And you say that you refer here to the court
7	statement? (Pause)	7 proceedings that you filed on 21 January 2016; do you
8	THE PRESIDENT: I'm not sure, did we get an answer to the	8 see that?
9	question. No?	9 A. Yes.
10	You said you did not decline the invitation to visit	10 Q. And you refer to Ms Rajtáková as your lawyer; is that
11	the sites AOG's invitation to visit the sites in	11 correct?
12	Moravia. Did you get an invitation?	12 A. Yes, Madame Rajtáková is indeed mentioned in
13	A. I don't remember saying no to an invitation during	13 paragraph 27.
14	an interview for a radio.	14 Q. And did you know her before you instructed her
15	THE PRESIDENT: Did you remember receiving an invitation?	15 in January 2016?
16	A. It is possible that during the interview with Mr Benada	16 A. I did not know her.
17	there was an invitation given, but I don't remember	17 Q. But she had previously acted for VLK; is that correct?
18	refusing it.	18 A. I have no such information.
19	THE PRESIDENT: But you did not go to this site visit in	19 Q. Were you aware, if you go to the next paragraph,
20	Moravia?	20 paragraph 28, you say here:
21	A. Not with Mr Benada.	21 "I do not remember all the details of the court
22	THE PRESIDENT: You went on your own; is that right?	22 cases and all the legal technicalities. My lawyer
23	A. Yes. I visited it privately.	handled these for me"
24	MR TUSHINGHAM: And do you recall, Ms Varjanová,	24 You would have been aware though of the details of
25	in November 2016 you gave an interview with the	25 your claim for an interim injunction against AOG,
	Page 221	Page 223
17.26 1	D. 4 N9	
17:36 1	newspaper Denník N?	17:40 1 wouldn't you?
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17:43 1	Slovak? Do you see it says "Request for an Interim	17:47 1	A. I feel like a citizen. Not like an activist.
2	Injunction"; do you see that?	2	MR DRYMER: Very good.
3	A. Yes. I can see the request for an interim injunction.	3	Can you, sir, turn up C-418, please. It's a map.
4	Q. And my only question is: are you aware of any other	4	Of course!
5	documents that you submitted to the court in support of	5	Do you see that, Madame Varjanová?
6	your application for an interim injunction, apart from	6	A. Yes, I can see the map.
7	this document here?	7	MR DRYMER: We've heard, again, a lot about the ski resort
8	A. Well, this would fall under the responsibility of my	8	and the ski hill where you worked. Are you able to
9	legal counsel. I was submitting all these issues in her	9	describe where that is on this map? I'm not sure how,
10	name. She was representing me. So this was not	10	but in relation to the drilling site are you able to
11	an activity that I would be personally involved with.	11	describe, left, right, up, down, where the ski hill is?
12	MR TUSHINGHAM: Thank you very much. I have no further	12	Is it on this map somewhere?
13	questions.	13	A. It cannot be located on this map.
14	THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.	14	MR DRYMER: Ah, okay. Okay, that's good. Alright, it's
15	MR PEKAR: No questions, Madam President.	15	nowhere in the very good. These are the only maps,
16	THE PRESIDENT: No questions in re-direct.	16	or some of the only maps we have.
17	Do my colleagues have questions?	17	Have you participated in campaigns related to other
18	(5.44 pm)	18	oil and gas activities in the Slovak Republic, or
19	Questions from THE TRIBUNAL	19	neighbouring countries?
20	MR DRYMER: Hello, Madame Varjanová. It's a pleasure to see	20	A. No.
21	you since your name has appeared in so many of the	21	MR DRYMER: Thank you. Those are my questions, madam.
22	writings. I'm very pleased, I think we're pleased to	22	THE PRESIDENT: Ms Varjanová, we heard a lot about your
23	see you here in person. Thank you.	23	actions and what is striking is that you were very
24	Please take it from me that even if you haven't seen	24	determined and carried on in a quite consistent manner
25	it, it's been suggested to us during this hearing that	25	over quite some time. And I was asking myself what your
	Page 225		Page 227
	8		
17:45 1	you were completely unwilling to discuss your	17:49 1	motivation was. You said just before, you're a citizen,
17:45 1 2	you were completely unwilling to discuss your environmental concerns with the company, and that no	17:49 1 2	motivation was. You said just before, you're a citizen, you're not an activist. What is your main reason for
2	environmental concerns with the company, and that no matter what they said, you wouldn't listen, you simply wanted them to go home and go away. That's what we've	2	you're not an activist. What is your main reason for being so engaged? There are other people in Smilno who may be worried, but no one really made this commitment
2 3	environmental concerns with the company, and that no matter what they said, you wouldn't listen, you simply	2 3	you're not an activist. What is your main reason for being so engaged? There are other people in Smilno who may be worried, but no one really made this commitment that you had, or showed this commitment that you had all
2 3 4	environmental concerns with the company, and that no matter what they said, you wouldn't listen, you simply wanted them to go home and go away. That's what we've heard, and it remains for us to decide what to do with that. But I'd like to ask you how you respond to that?	2 3 4	you're not an activist. What is your main reason for being so engaged? There are other people in Smilno who may be worried, but no one really made this commitment that you had, or showed this commitment that you had all through several years. What's your motivation?
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17:51 1	the most easiest to approach because I was an owner of	17:55 1	MR TUSHINGHAM: Yes.
2	the land lot, and therefore that was the one that was on	2	THE PRESIDENT: So we're not pressing you to cut down if you
3	top, in terms of accessibility.	3	feel you have to ask these questions. If you can cut it
4	THE PRESIDENT: And you mentioned just before that, you work	4	down having considered this, then of course it's fine.
5	in tourism and that this was also a motivation. How did	5	MR TUSHINGHAM: I think I would prefer, if it would be
6	this play in your determination?	6	acceptable to the Tribunal, if we could sort of
7	A. It plays an important role because I work for a company	7	I will be 10 minutes, I think, at most, and would that
8	which is a natural swimming pool. Its whole value is	8	be sufficient to sort of so we can wrap up his
9	based on a natural, clean, pristine environment.	9	testimony today?
10	Therefore its protection of the environment is	10	THE PRESIDENT: You would prefer to do it now, is that what
11	a priority for me.	11	you're saying?
12	THE PRESIDENT: How far away is it from Smilno, from the	12	MR TUSHINGHAM: I think I would, if that's alright.
13	village or from the drilling site?	13	THE PRESIDENT: What is it on the other side?
14	A. By bird's flight, approximately 3 kilometres, less than	14	MR PEKAR: That's the same; we would prefer to do it today.
15	that.	15	THE PRESIDENT: Yes, then we have to obey.
16	THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Is this also where there is a ski	16	MR TUSHINGHAM: We are very grateful for your indulgence.
17	resort?	17	THE PRESIDENT: Let's bring Mr Leško in, then.
18	A. Yes.	18	
19	THE PRESIDENT: Is there a lot of skiing? Because it	19	MR L'UBOŠ LEŠKO (called)
20	doesn't seem very high up. So is there a lot of snow,	20	
21	even with climate change, or how is it? I'm just trying	21	
22	to visualise things.	22	
23	MR DRYMER: The three of us are skiers, by the way.	23	
24	A. Very nice, I'm very pleased to hear that. Yes, you can	24	5
25	have fantastic skiing holidays there. Obviously, given	25	L'uboš Leško?
	Page 229		Page 231
	8		
17:53 1	the fact that we are in Slovakia, in lower mountains,	17:58 1	MR LEŠKO: Yes, I am L'uboš Leško.
17:53 1	the fact that we are in Slovakia, in lower mountains, but in Slovak conditions, it's exceptional.	17:58 1 2	MR LEŠKO: Yes, I am L'uboš Leško. THE PRESIDENT: You provide accounting and economic advisory
2	but in Slovak conditions, it's exceptional.	2	THE PRESIDENT: You provide accounting and economic advisory
2 3	but in Slovak conditions, it's exceptional. THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. I have no further questions, so	2 3	THE PRESIDENT: You provide accounting and economic advisory services as a consultant; is that right?
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17:59 1		18:03 1	2015, 2016 and 2017; is that right?
2		2	A. Yes.
3	5 1 5	3	Q. And do you see in this document that one myth that AOG
4	your first witness statement, please, at paragraph 20.	4	was reporting on was the suggestion that:
5	Now, in this paragraph you are describing in general	5	"Shale gas and oil will be extracted in the area."
6	terms the concerns that you and others had about AOG's	6	Number 1; do you see that?
7	project; have I got that right?	7	A. Yes.
8	A. Yes.	8	Q. And AOG says:
9	Q. And in the sentence beginning:	9	"Fact: not true. The anticipated oil or gas
10	· · · ·	10	deposits in the study area are of the conventional type.
11		11	These are not shale gas deposits."
12	-	12	Do you see that?
13	· ·	13	A. Yes.
14		14	Q. And do you accept that AOG was not trying to explore for
15		15	shale gas in Smilno?
10		16	A. That is okay at the beginning, or very early. The
17	-	17	information arrived quite late. So at the beginning the
18		18	information did not have precise information about what
19		10	is going to happen.
20		20	Q. But as at the date of this document, which is
21		20	November 2016, you knew that that was not going to be
22		21 22	undertaken by AOG, didn't you?
		22	A. I cannot confirm whether I knew it at that particular
23	•	23 24	-
24			point in time.
25	5 A. I think yes, it was also mentioned in some newspaper	25	Q. Okay. Do you see the second myth that's being referred
	Page 233		Page 235
18.01 1	orticlos	18:05 1	to them:
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18:07 1	VLK, were raising issues concerned with hexavalent	18:10 1 Slovak, at item number 17:
		·
2	chromium, potential contamination of groundwater, and	2 "[VLK] requests that the proposed activity be
3	potential use of shale gas exploration?	3 further assessed on the grounds that it poses a high
4	A. Yes, I can concur to that extent that it was, to	4 risk of deterioration of the environment, with
5	a certain degree, possible or somehow possible that	5 an emphasis on water bodies and, in particular, the
6	these methods will also be used and that these risks	6 wetland water body, which will be destroyed by the
7	will also arise. However, it was never claimed in terms	7 activity proposed."
8	of this being a fact.	8 Do you see that?
9	Q. Now, do you recall that in 2017 AOG submitted	9 A. Yes.
10	preliminary environmental impact assessment applications	10 Q. And so VLK's concern was, in that regard though, not
		· · · · ·
11	for its three exploration wells to the districts	11 supported by any evidence, was it? VLK didn't refer to
12	officers?	12 any evidence in this passage?
13	A. Yes.	13 A. Well, VLK basically used the opportunity to make sure
14		14 that this activity would be assessed in terms of its
15	paragraph 27, you say here that:	15 environmental impact.
16	"When the screening procedure commenced"	16 But I still don't understand what's your point,
17	And as I understand it, that is after AOG has filed	17 where you're heading.
18	its preliminary EIA applications:	18 Q. Well, my question is this. In the myths and facts
19	" AROPANE (another activist organisation), other	19 document that we looked at earlier, one of the myths
20	activists, and numerous local citizens exercised their	20 that activist groups were spreading was a concern about
21	right and filed official comments within the	21 groundwater contamination; do you remember that?
22	proceeding."	22 A. I remember the document that I have seen, but this
22		
	Do you see that?	
24	A. Yes.	24 Q. Were you involved in VLK's submission to the
25	Q. And in addition, VLK also submitted comments and these	25 Medzilaborce district office?
	Page 237	Page 239
	1 460 257	1 420 237
10.00 1		
18:08 1	were submitted to the district offices during the EIA	18:12 1 A. Not me in person.
2	process; do you recall that?	2 MR TUSHINGHAM: I have no further questions, then, to ask
2 3	process; do you recall that? A. Yes.	<ul><li>2 MR TUSHINGHAM: I have no further questions, then, to ask</li><li>about this.</li></ul>
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18:14 1	A. Well, I wouldn't attribute this solely to VLK. Simply	18:18 1	impact assessment, but I suppose that this would mean
18.14 1	there were other factors which basically forced AOG to	2	that the assessment of individual negative impacts will
3	voluntarily undergo the environmental impact assessment	3	need to be carried out. Those that would stem from the
4	procedure.	4	technical implementation of the project. And this
- 5	PROFESSOR SANDS: And you then say in paragraph 27 of your	5	basically is also something that the public would
6	first witness statement that on the basis of that	6	accept, where independent experts would be able to
0 7	initial voluntary screening, you say:	0 7	assess and to give a final verdict, whether it is okay
8	" the environmental authorities ordered mandatory	8	or not okay in terms of possible damages to the
8 9	assessment of the exploration drills."	8	environment.
10	So that took you to the next stage; is that right?	10 11	PROFESSOR SANDS: So from the perspective of VLK, would your
11	<ul><li>A. What next stage, you mean?</li><li>PROFESSOR SANDS: A full environmental impact assessment.</li></ul>	11	organisation's assessment be, this is an example of the law working as it should: you as an organisation raised
12	A. Yes. Yes. Indeed. The initial assessments came to the	12	
13		13	certain concerns, others raised concerns, the project
14	conclusion that further assessment is necessary, and		developer expressed its views, and other state
15	therefore a full EIA needs to be launched. PROFESSOR SANDS: And if we turn to the document that	15 16	authorities expressed views, and the decision-maker then said: we want a further assessment?
16			
17	counsel raised, C-186, if you go this time to page 3 of		A. Well, yes, this is how I envisaged it. This is how it
18	C-186 in the English, we see halfway down, in the	18	should work, and this is what we've missed. People
19	context of the participation in this full environmental	19	simply did not believe the declaration of the AOG
20	impact assessment:	20	company because they heard only one side. They needed
21	"A total of 17 statements of state administration	21	to have the other side as well and they needed to be
22	bodies and the municipalities concerned were received	22	assured that it is okay, and yes, as you described it,
23	[and] a total of 174 statements from the public	23	this is how it should work and this is what the
24	concerned"	24	procedure should look like.
25	Is that a significant number, or is that roughly	25	PROFESSOR SANDS: And what was your reaction when you then
	Page 241		Page 243
	C		C
18:16 1	what you would have expected, or was it less than what	18:20 1	heard that AOG was not going to proceed to the next
18:16 1 2	what you would have expected, or was it less than what you expected? Can you give us a sense of how	18:20 1 2	heard that AOG was not going to proceed to the next stage? Were you surprised?
2	you expected? Can you give us a sense of how	2	stage? Were you surprised?
2 3	you expected? Can you give us a sense of how significant was that interest, and what were the state	2 3	stage? Were you surprised? A. Yes.
2 3 4	you expected? Can you give us a sense of how significant was that interest, and what were the state administration bodies involved?	2 3 4	stage? Were you surprised? A. Yes. PROFESSOR SANDS: Thank you very much.
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10.00.1		
18:22 1	we're not pressed as we get to the end, like on	
2	Wednesday or so; we should make sure that we have	
3	sufficient time.	
4	Having said that, I assume that you will get some	
5	rest, but you will also prepare for next week, and we	
6	thought that we should let you know we had discussions	
7	within the Tribunal over these last days, and we would	
8	appreciate if, in respect of the quantum experts, you	
9	could focus your examination questions on the methods	
10	other than income-based methods. That is on costs and	
11	market-based methods. That really goes to Mr Howard and	
12	Mr Duarte-Silva.	
13	Are there any questions, comments, that you'd like	
14	to raise before we close for the day? On the Claimant's	
15	side?	
16	-	
17	MR PEKAR: Nothing for the Respondent.	
18	THE PRESIDENT: No. Then I wish everyone a good Sunday,	
19	some rest, and we'll see each other at 9.30 on Monday.	
20	Goodbye, everyone.	
21	-	
22	(6.23 pm)	
23	(The hearing adjourned until 9.30 am on Monday,	
24	5 February 2024)	
25		
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### Discovery Global LLC -v- Slovak Republic ICSID Case No. ARB/21/51

Saturday, 3 February 2024

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Re-amended by the parties

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