

The Blue Beret

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**The Elders
visit Cyprus**



THE BLUE BERET

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Editorial

The year that is coming to a close is one of many anniversaries for the international system. United Nations peacekeeping operations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights both turn 60 in 2008, along with a host of other institutions and legal instruments. Obviously this is no coincidence. Sixty years ago the world was still recovering from a cataclysmic conflict that transformed the state of relations between countries and regions. After it was created in 1945, the United Nations immediately set about giving substance to the new world order of which it was itself a product: it helped build the legal and institutional foundations for future efforts to ensure international peace, security, development and human rights.

For most of these 60 years, UNFICYP has been in Cyprus to help the sides to the conflict on the island reach a comprehensive settlement. It is perhaps fitting that this anniversary year also saw, by coincidence this time, the renewal of the peace process under conditions described by some as the best in a generation. The leaders have met a dozen times and achieved some progress on the first question taken up at the direct talks, namely how a future united Cyprus would be governed and how power would be shared by the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. As the now familiar cautionary phrase goes, much work remains to be done. The issues are complex, and the process is really only in its infancy. But despite some real difficulties the sides are still talking and negotiations could intensify in the new year. As the Secretary-General says in the latest report on the work of UNFICYP and his Special Political Mission (excerpted in this issue), "The nature of the process [...] demands a diligent and patient approach. I am confident that both leaders will remain engaged through regular meetings and committed to seeing the process through".

Acting on that report, the Security Council has just renewed UNFICYP's mandate for another six months, until June 2009. As we look forward to the work ahead, we would also like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours best wishes for the holiday season and a happy and healthy new year.

Secretary-General reviews work of UNFICYP, Good Offices

The Security Council voted unanimously on 12 December to extend the mandate of UNFICYP until June 2009. The Council was acting on the basis of the Secretary-General's latest report on the UN's Cyprus operation (<http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/sgrep08.htm>). In that document, the Secretary-General looks back on the work of the peacekeeping mission and other UN institutions over the last six months.

The Secretary-General points out that since last June, the situation in the buffer zone remained calm and stable. The opposing forces extended in general good cooperation to UNFICYP, he writes, and only minor incidents were recorded. He commended both sides for their decision to cancel their main annual military exercises, in line with the improved political atmosphere on the island. He expresses the hope, however, that the Turkish Forces will "lift their unwarranted restrictions on the movement of UNFICYP".

Noting that steady progress has been achieved in de-mining the buffer zone, the Secretary-General calls on both military forces to agree to the clearance of a small number of outstanding minefields. He hopes that with the continued assistance of the European Union and the cooperation of both sides, the de-mining operation will proceed without interruption. "I consider this process an important example of a confidence-building measure and encourage political and military leaders on both sides to take further steps in that direction", he writes.

The Secretary-General also writes that he is encouraged that the humanitarian work of the Committee on Missing Persons continues unhindered, recalling that a bicomunal team of Cypriot scientists has taken over full operational responsibility for the Committee's anthropological laboratory.

Reviewing the efforts to solve the Cyprus problem, the Secretary-General hails the decision on 3 September 2008 by Demetris Christofias and Mehmet Ali Talat, respectively the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders, to resume formal negotiations towards a comprehensive settlement on the basis of a bi-



Security Council meeting during its consideration of the situation in Cyprus

zonal, bi-communal federation with political equality. The decision, he said, "reflected political courage, vision and commitment, which both leaders clearly share".

The negotiations, he continued, are on the whole moving ahead well, with both parties presenting their respective positions and engaging with each other in a constructive and open manner. "It is not surprising that the parties agree on many aspects, given that the broad outline and the established parameters of the solution are well-known and already articulated by them", he writes. "Nor are they starting from scratch; they have the advantage of a significant body of work to draw upon."

But a diligent and patient approach, the Secretary-General also points out that the issues to be addressed are difficult, and differences along the way will naturally appear. Nonetheless, he adds, "I am confident that both leaders will remain engaged through regular meetings and committed to seeing the process through".

Bearing in mind that any eventual agreement will be put to simultaneous referenda, the Secretary-General says, it is of vital importance that the parties do not neglect the political aspects of the process. It will be necessary for them to actively explain to their respective communities that compromise is indispensable if a solution is to be reached; and to explain and promote the benefits of a win-win solution in the economic,

political, security-related and other fields. Mutual recriminations and negotiating through the media run counter to these objectives, he underlines.

"The support of the United Nations for the process will remain unwavering under the leadership of my Special Adviser", the Secretary-General concludes. "In accompanying the parties along the way, our role is to assist and facilitate this Cypriot-owned process as required; I will spare no effort in this undertaking. I am also fully prepared, at the parties' request, to offer more assistance."

In a dozen meetings so far, the leaders have discussed how power would be shared in a future united Cyprus. The next major issue on the agenda is expected to be property.



SASG Alexander Downer addressing the press following the leaders' meeting on 27 November

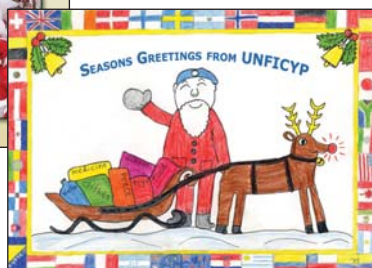
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Seasons Greetings



"Elders" urge courageous young leaders forward in Cyprus peace process

Three members of "The Elders" visited Cyprus between 8-10 October to lend their support to the UN sponsored peace talks, stressing that the two leaders have a rendezvous with history.

During their two-day visit, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, former US president Jimmy Carter and former Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi congratulated Cypriot leaders Demetris Christofias and Mehmet Ali Talat for the political will they have shown in reinvigorating the peace process, and encouraged them to seize the historical moment and help bring about a lasting settlement in Cyprus.

"We have come at what we consider to be a propitious moment

in the history of this island", said Tutu, Chairman of The Elders. Speaking at a news conference before their departure at Ledra Palace Hotel in the UN-patrolled buffer zone area of Nicosia, the Elders said they were convinced that Cyprus was on the verge of a peace agreement.

Tutu described Talat and Christofias as "two relatively young leaders, courageous and charismatic," who are determined to find a solution for their people. Recalling crucial moments of the peace process in his own country, South Africa, Tutu saw some parallels. "We had two particularly important actors in that history in Nelson Mandela on the one side and F.W. De Klerk on the other," he said. "Each on his own would not have accomplished what was accomplished. Together they were able to take what turned out to be an epoch-making step."

Similarly, he said for Talat and Christofias, "This is their moment in history. It is a moment that we hope they will be ready to use and that history will judge them graciously."

If they do not take this opportunity, he said their children would turn around and ask them:

"Why didn't you?"

"We come really not as nousey old men – well, I am," joked Tutu. "We have come to encourage. They (the leaders) have the capacity to tell their people: 'It's okay, let's go in faith, stretch out a hand to our sisters and brothers of the other community'. We told them that success in South Africa came not because people grabbed everything and got all they wanted. Success came because the leaders were prepared to make concessions... to make compromises... not to say 'we have a bottom line, it's all or nothing'."

Carter pointed out that, "Even in the time when we are seeing these two young leaders negotiating the

during that country's democratic transition. He said he had witnessed miracles in South Africa "happening every day".

"Those miracles were happening because that moment in history was favourable for that. We have the impression and that is why we came, that a moment like that is on hand for Cyprus."

He said their sense of the situation in Cyprus at present is that the two leaders are determined to make the best of this opportunity, but he said they cannot do it alone. "They need the support of their communities... and they need the support of the rest of the world..."

Brahimi said the collective impression they have is that "there is as much goodwill for Cyprus in the world as there was for South Africa... That is why we came here, because we were excited and inspired by what we heard and we leave even more excited and more inspired by what we have heard."

Responding to questions on a possible "Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Cyprus"

along the lines of the body set up in South Africa in the 1990s, Tutu said one size does not fit all.

"I think it is going to be important at some point when the communities have gelled together... but you really have to be very sensitive about the timing and just how it is going to operate because the truth does not automatically heal. The truth can exacerbate and make worse anguish." Tutu said such a process should be based on restorative not retributive justice and should be used as "a therapeutic healing process".

"Failure is not an option because if it were to happen it would set things back very, very considerably," he said. "I hope they don't disappoint us old men as well. We live in a world where there is a great deal of evil but there is a



The Elders meeting with Greek and Turkish Cypriot political party leaders at the Ledra Palace Hotel

ultimate goals to present to the two communities for a referendum, a lot of things can be done to break down the barriers."

He stressed that in negotiations there had to be compromises among the negotiators and concessions made. But in each case the concession or compromise was much less important than the ultimate goal of peace and accommodation and friendship and common purpose.

The former US President also highlighted the role of the media. "What you interpret, what you emphasise, what your newspaper, radio or television station has in mind as the ultimate goal is very important," he said.

Brahimi referred to his time as Special Representative of the Secretary-General in South Africa



The Elders, formed in 2007 by Nelson Mandela and Graça Machel, are a group of globally respected leaders who offer their collective experience and independent voices to support innovative and cooperative approaches to addressing the global challenges of our time.

For more information please go to www.theelders.org <<http://www.theelders.org/>>

great deal of good as well. Look here. Maybe you could give the world something to smile about. You've got the capacity," he added.

Carter said he didn't see failure ahead. "I would say it's not difficult to solve. I see clearly in mind that we are on the verge of seeing an agreement here with all the people wanting peace, and I think it's quite likely we will have success here," he said. If not, then he didn't see anything worse than a continuation of the status quo.

During the trip, the statesmen also met with dozens of young people from the two communities, members of civil society and representatives of the political parties on the island. They also had talks with the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General, Alexander Downer, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Tayé-Brook Zerihoun.

Tutu, Carter and Brahimi had the opportunity to walk down the recently opened Ledra Street – the main commercial thoroughfare that for 45 years had been a symbol of division and now is a poignant reminder of efforts to reunify the island.

Asked whether The Elders would come back to Cyprus if asked, Carter said the only circumstances under which that would happen was if the leaders considered that they had failed and the UN said they could no longer help the Cypriots.

"If there was a need we would

be happy to," said Tutu. "But we would not want to impose. We didn't come here to tell people we are know-it-alls. We came to say you are doing a splendid job and carry on to the consummation we can see on the horizon."

Netha Kreouzou



The Elders meeting with Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot students at the UNDP offices in the UNPA

UN staff day celebrations 2008

"We are all United Nations. We are UNFICYP. We are a team". With these words, Force Commander Rear Admiral Mario Sanchez Debernardi welcomed participants to the UN Day staff celebrations on 24 October at the UNPA.

Speaking on behalf of Special Representative and Chief of Mission Taye-Brook Zerihoun, Admiral Sanchez recalled why the world remembers the establishment of the United Nations in 1948.

"We observe UN Day because it provides an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the ideals of the United Nations", he said. "The observance of UN Day serves as a reminder that the world is our common home and through dialogue and cooperation among all, our problems could be solved."

The day had kicked off earlier in the morning with play-offs among 14 determined teams vying for the top spot in the UN Day Football Tournament 2008. The winner's cup was eventually lifted at 6.00 p.m. to the appreciative roar of loyal supporters who had stayed to the end.

Meanwhile, the rest of us, attracted by the delicious aroma of the BBQ could do nothing more energetic than form a long and winding queue to sample the delicacies provided by Michael and his team from the International Cafeteria who produced an excellent menu prepared and presented to perfection and deserving of the many compliments received. Once fed there were a variety of attractions and entertainment to keep the crowds amused.

Board game tournaments proved very popular again this year. Winners included Pte. Vladimir Rehak, who prevailed in the chess competition, while Chief Civil Affairs Officer Kiki Shiotani and George Stavrinou took the top prizes for backgammon. Meanwhile, Cpl. Darius Darfas won a hard fought battle in the first-ever darts competition.

The Civil Affairs Branch sold raffle tickets in the week preceding UN Day and on the day itself. They were so successful that we were able to offer five cash prizes instead of three and a donation of €200 has been made to a charity.

The first raffle prize of €250 went to George

Stavrinou (who was obviously having a good day); second prize of €150 went to Ops Branch's SSgt. Alejandro Bejarano while three prizes of €100 each were won by three third-placed winners.

The Force Commander's personal assistant, Snjezana Charlton, arranged for the bouncy castle for dozens of UNFICYP children painted as spidermen, tigers and butterflies who were running around tirelessly and having a great time. The UNFICYP children were also entertained by a clown, and had a choice of different toys, games and activities to tempt them for a day full of fun.

Transport Unit brought the UN crane truck to the event and Paul Cartwright, the resident gadget fanatic, guided many eager participants to move a full barrel of water from the truck to a palette by remote control. Those willing to let their hair down agreed to participate in the potted games organised by Stacey and Athena and could be seen jumping in sacks, balancing eggs on spoons and enjoying being silly as much as being part of the entertainment for others!

Again, the day would not have been complete without some fine music selected by our own Shane Smith. We were treated to some fantastic karaoke performances from a few brave closet pop stars and some extraordinary entertainment from the Force Commander who taught an all-girl fan club how to the "macarena" and the steps to the "ketchup song" from the podium.

Acknowledgments

Of course, we should recognise that the success of UN Day would not have been achieved without the amazing dedication and hard work of the committee and special thanks go to our coordinator and deputy Thalia Constantinou and Maria Wilkins. They were supported by an all-female team who worked very hard setting up the area, moving chairs, tables and equipment, fetching and carrying and sent out on various missions to make the day a success. That same band of women were there to clear up after the fun and games were over, stacking up furniture and loading up the trucks to return everything to the warehouse.

Christine Iacovou



Football – the name of the game

From the first match kick-off at 10:45 a.m. until the UN Day champions lifted the trophy at around 6.00 p.m. that evening, there was plenty of action and memorable moments as 14 teams battled hard during the first and second knock-out stages with some very closely scored matches. Eventually, the four teams who fought the hardest and qualified to reach the final stages were Shankley's Boys (HQ), Force Command 6 (HQ), ARGCON B and UN Flight.

Force Command 6 came close to qualifying for the final but lost out on goal difference.

Shankley's Boys tried their best and could have improved their chances to reach the final had it not been for some near misses on goal from their star Jonathan Vatikiotis and strike partner Rob Whalley, who together caused quite a few headaches for the opposition.

For the first time in the history of the tournament, two teams from the same nation, namely Argentina, qualified for a dramatic final of pure talent, flair and skill. And the ARGCON and UN Flight squads did not disappoint. From the first whistle it was a clash of footballing titans. With an abundance of skill and tactics from both sides, there was not much to separate the two teams in the first half.

The game got off to a flying start with a few nervous ball back passes to safety from shaky defenders, but with both teams on guard for a possible counter attack, they were able to capitalize on some unconvincing defensive clearances. Generally it was pretty much a stalemate on the pitch, that is until ARGCON B was caught out on a quick "siesta break mode". Six minutes into the game, UN Flight made no mistake in converting some quick tactical play resulting in



ARGCON B (Rocca) and UN Flight team members, together with referee Rick Demetriou (in red shirt!)

a "Gran Asado" of a goal! A powerful right strike, deep and low to the bottom left, almost breaking away the newly repaired chicken wire goal net leaving the goalkeeper wondering if it was all a bad dream.

The second half saw a cautious UN Flight playing a more defensive role to avoid any counter attack

Passion, determination, cooperation, enthusiasm and fair play: the ingredients for a great sporting recipe at the UN Day Football Tournament 2008

from ARGCON B who were now playing like gladiators. Every possible attack from ARGCON B was handled with a cool nerve by UN Flight, with the Chopper Bell/Hughes lads even taking a crack at the goal too.

Despite the state of play, ARGCON B were not about to give up and continued to pile on the pressure until, with three minutes to go, almost down and out and having tried everything in the book to break through, had only one thing left to do: to score a "Super Empanada Goal" which flew off the ground into the top right hand corner of the net. ARGCON B scored the equalizer they had been fighting for since the start of the second half, and were really fired up to dismantle the opposition team's play.

With just over a minute left on the clock, UN Flight were looking deflated as ARGCON B pushed for the winner but they managed to

lock all defensive doors at the back making sure to hold out for the draw. Some nervous passing ended the game and both sides were now psychologically preparing for the dreaded penalty shoot out.

UN Flight players seemed to look at each other wondering how they had allowed their opponents back into the game after starting out in the strong offensive position.

UN Flight won the right to shoot first but did not get off to a good start and missed the first strike. ARGCON B made sure of their penalties by commanding superior psychology during the spot kicks. It seemed ARGCON B had the extra mental strength and belief and certainly seemed more composed and relaxed, possibly due to their comeback early on in the game.

ARGCON B edged out as eventual penalty winners with an incredible comeback which captivated everyone on and off the field. Ecstatic and overjoyed players went crazy, crashing into each other in celebration after the last penalty kick and the final whistle.

The exuberant celebrations continued with both teams congratulating each other, still united and still friends after such an intense match. They were both winners on the day and I believe for those who were present the memory will last for some time to come.

Congratulations and thanks go to all the players for their participation and enthusiasm, which made for a successful 17-match tournament. Our appreciation also goes to Rob Whalley for some early refereeing, and to Fanos Karaolis for accurately updating the scoreboard. And many thanks to the PROM Office for professionally marking out the pitch.

Rick Demetriou

UNFICYP fireworks night

Fireworks Night on the British Retained Site in Nicosia has been a spectacular event on the UNFICYP calendar for many years and is always eagerly awaited by adults and children alike.

To ensure the event was as good as it possibly could be for the community, the planning started in early July. The night attracts a large audience from all sectors of the community, and the United Nations Contingents play a big part in the organising and execution of this event. Each nation involved in the peacekeeping mission produces its own national dish, and over the years has proved to be very popular. The Argentinian Contingent produce the BBQ and dancing, the Hungarian and Slovakian Contingents produce a wonderful goulash and the British Contingent produce our national dish, a curry (what else?). The Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess of HQ BRITCON provided the all-important bar and a wonderful children's disco.

Having the event on 31 October gave the opportunity to celebrate Halloween on the same night, and there was a great deal of costume-judging and apple-dunking going on throughout the event. All this, along with a wonderful fireworks display and huge bonfire, added to the overall enjoyment for the many people who attended.

With the great effort of all those involved, the event was a huge success. Well over 1,000 adults and children attended, raising over €3,000 for charity.



FMPU in Troulli

The village square of Troulli was brimming with activity on 2 November where a fund-raising event took place in aid of the pre-primary school, which badly needed a roof to adjoin two buildings, particularly ahead of the wet, winter months.

Troulli, which is one of six inhabited villages within the buffer zone, is located in Sector 4's area of responsibility in the east of the island.

Between 10.30 a.m. and 3 p.m., residents and friends gathered to eat the delicacies on sale and watch the programme of singing and dancing put on by the children of the village.

One of the residents, Thalia Constantinou, is a staff member working in UNFICYP's Personnel Section. She contacted the Force Military Police Unit and requested a small display of vehicles used within the mission for this special occasion. Three vehicles arrived to entertain the children, whilst also introducing the parents to the tasks, duties and responsibilities of the unit. The warning devices were the centre of attention for the children. On the day, the shift commander Sgt. Grant Harvey arrived with Sgt. Radoslav Cheben, MSgt.

Karoly Egervari and Sgt. Sergio Chocobar in two FMPU patrol cars, and the Crime Scene Investigation Truck.

The peacekeepers, who interact frequently with the community, were happy to oblige in such a symbolic way and were well received and generously hosted throughout.



FMPU peacekeepers display their vehicles in Troulli village square

UNFICYP Military Skills Competition

The UNFICYP Military Skills Competition (MSC), entitled Exercise Unifying Challenge, is held bi-annually in the spring and autumn. The latest was held on 26 November in the UNPA.

The day of the competition is always an early start and this competition was no different. All teams (two from Sector 1, two from Sector 2, two from Sector 4, FMPU, MFR, UNPOL and HQ) gathered in the Exercise Control (EXCON) area at 5.00 a.m. to complete registration and to meet up with their Team Controllers. Each team member had to carry at least 12 kg in their equipment (excluding their weapon, helmet and water). Once they had been weighed in and given a day's rations, the teams made their way to the first stand - the Endurance March which started at 6.00 a.m.



Endurance March

The endurance march is contested by all the teams at the same time. It is started by the Force Commander and all teams rush off carrying their weight, weapons and hopes for an early finish. After about 1.5km each team has to push a 4x4 truck over a distance of about 150m, once completed they then carry on along the marked route. About 3km later each team comes across a log - unfortunately the log needs carrying for the last 1km of the race. Each team must finish as a formed body of six. This year the winners of the Endurance March were Sector 2 Team A in a very good time of 26 mins 3 secs.



Command Tasks

For this stand, each team has to complete two command problems they are presented with. This is often done blindfolded. There is always much hilarity on this stand as Team Captains despair at their levels of communication whilst watching their (blindfolded) team disappear over the horizon. The winning team on this stand this year was the FMPU.



Map Reading

This stand is run by the resident Force Cartographer. It combines both compass work and a written paper testing the teams' knowledge on UN map symbols and also conventional symbols that can be found on the maps used within the mission. The test is very demanding and some teams struggle with the time limits imposed upon them. The overall winner this year on this stand was S1 Team B.



Cross Country Driving

This stand involves each team negotiating certain driving tasks on the cross country driving area. These include some servicing tasks and knowledge of the CARLOG system. The stand is run by the Master Driver whose talent at making this stand as challenging as possible seems to know no limit. As an added problem, each team started the course with a 40-gallon drum filled with water. At the end of the course the water was dipped, and the amount lost determined the extra penalty points deducted. The overall conservers of water and therefore the winner was S4 Team A.



Ranges

This stand combines each team's abilities to shoot their own weapon and their skill in stripping and assembling the other contingent weapons found in the mission. The shooting phase is conducted after the team has completed a small obstacle course. This gets the breathing going and makes for a more "interesting shoot". The strip and assemble phase sees the re-appearance of the ubiquitous blindfold. Some of the weapons are much more complicated than others and getting the right piece in the right place whilst working against the clock can be very tricky. The overall winner will have the best overall time in the strip and assemble phase coupled with the best shoot. This year the honour went to S1 Team A.



Incident Reaction

This stand tests the teams' reactions to an incident in the buffer zone and their skills with first aid. In this year's scenario, the Team Captain was unexpectedly replaced by a "rogue" team member who was inadvertently shot by a hunter whilst patrolling the BZ. To complicate matters, there were additional casualties who required treatment in order of priority. Add to this mix a minefield and a belligerent OPFOR, contestants had a lot on their plate and a lot to think about. The team with the clearest head this year was S2 Team A.

Patrol Observation



This stand is run by the Ops Info cell and tests the team's powers of observation and knowledge of OPFOR weapons, vehicles, uniforms and insignia. The first part of the stand reflects the mission's increasing use of CCTV to monitor sensitive areas in the AOR. Teams were shown CCTV images (using HQ UNFICYP thespians). They were then asked questions on what they had seen and other aspects regarding the uniforms worn and weapons carried. The second part of the stand was a questionnaire where certain items of equipment commonly used by the OPFOR needed to be

catalogued. This year's eagle eyes belonged to the MFR.

Assault Course

This is always the last stand for each team, and in



recent years has always been the stand that decided the overall winners of the competition. It consists of a course approximately 600m long which has walls, bunkers, wire crawls and all sorts of other unpleasant obstacles that must be overcome by the teams. In addition, each team has to carry around a full water can and a large ammunition container filled with gravel. The winners of this year's assault course, and indeed the overall competition winners were S1 Team A.

At the end of the day, 10 very weary teams were addressed by the Force Commander and prizes were awarded to the first three teams. There then followed a meal provided by S2 chefs and a well-earned beer, courtesy of the MFR. This year's competition was a complete success and the organising team looks forward to the next one in May 2009.

Final Results

1st: Sector 1 Team A

2nd: Sector 2 Team A

3rd: Sector 1 Team B

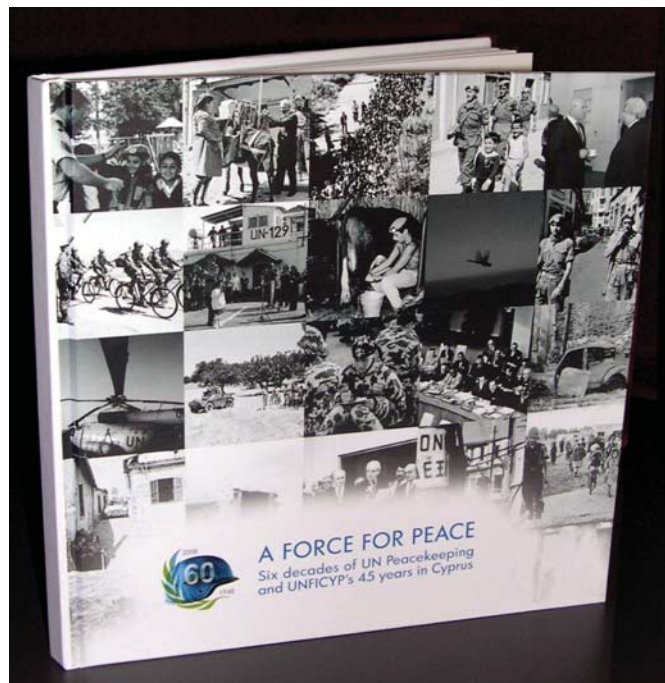
Outline of the General Rules

There are eight stands with a maximum number of points that each team can achieve. When the last team has completed a particular stand, this provides the Stand Director with the information on how the teams have fared. The first placed team on every stand will be awarded 100 points, the second placed will get 90 and then each team receives 80, 70, 60, etc in descending order. The last placed team on each stand will receive 10 points. In the event of a joint placing on any stand, both teams will be awarded the same number of points.

The team which reaches the best accumulative score after completing all eight stands will be declared the winner.

In the case of a draw, the competition winners will be the team which has completed the Assault Course in the quickest time.

To help ensure that the competition is as fair as possible, there are a number of control measures in place. Each stand has an independent Stand Director to ensure that the stand is conducted and run in accordance with the rules. In the same vein, each team has a Team Controller who accompanies the team at all times throughout the competition. The Team Controller is always from a different sector and ensures that the team complies with the rules of the competition.

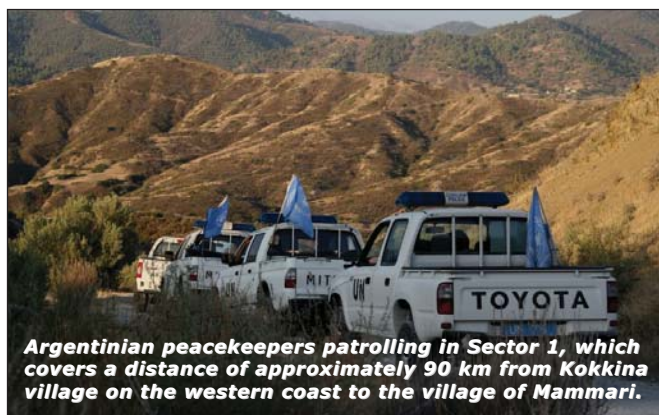


60 ways the United Nations makes a difference

These are some of the things the UN does for peace, development and fundamental freedoms



UNFICYP peacekeeper 2/Lt. Jen Jones helps passengers disembark after being evacuated from Lebanon on 20 July 2006



Argentinian peacekeepers patrolling in Sector 1, which covers a distance of approximately 90 km from Kokkina village on the western coast to the village of Mammari.

A Force for Peace

UNFICYP has released a commemorative book to mark the 60th anniversary of peacekeeping, including the over four decades of UN work in Cyprus. The photographs in this volume provide a small window on the daily work of UNFICYP's peacekeepers – men and women, soldiers, police and civilians from around the world – with the people of Cyprus. This book is a tribute to them and to the many peacekeepers who have lost their lives in the service of peace on the island and around the world.

The Chief of Mission wrote the introduction to the book which was produced by the UNFICYP Public Information Office:

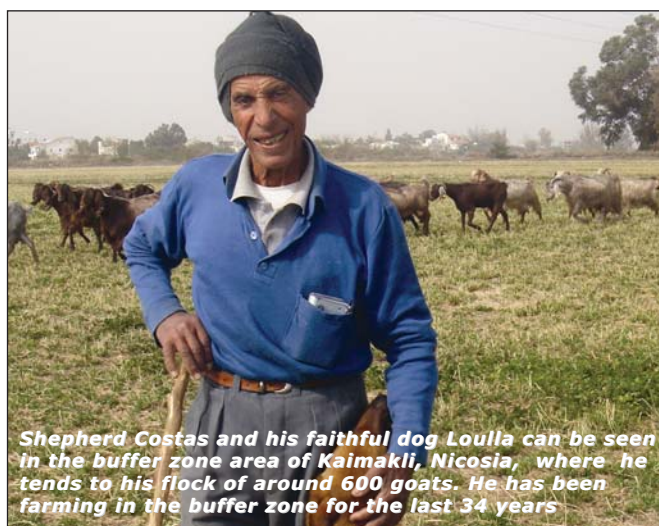
This year marks the sixtieth anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping, an occasion that holds special meaning for UNFICYP. This mission has been in operation for nearly as long as the UN has been engaged in peacekeeping.

For almost 45 years, UNFICYP has been contributing to efforts to prevent a recurrence of fighting and, as necessary, to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order and a return to normal conditions. UNFICYP has also been active helping the parties in their search for a comprehensive peace settlement. The thousands of men and women who have given their time, energy and commitment in the service of peace in this country under the UN flag can be rightly proud of their contribution.

History will be the ultimate judge of the success of this mission. But I believe that the work of our colleagues in helping to create conditions that would allow the political process to move forward has been essential. It is instances of this work that you see captured in these pages, from the seemingly trivial to the significant. We hope that this commemorative book can play even a small part in honouring that work, as well as the memory of all the peacekeepers who have died in Cyprus in the line of duty.

Tayé-Brook Zerihoun
Special Representative of the Secretary-General

1. Maintaining peace and security
2. Making peace
3. Preventing nuclear proliferation
4. Promoting development
5. Focusing on African development
6. Seeking a global solution to climate change
7. Helping countries to cope with climate change
8. Protecting the environment
9. Promoting human rights
10. Fostering democracy
11. Promoting women's rights
12. Prosecuting war criminals
13. Ending apartheid in South Africa
14. Promoting self-determination and independence
15. Strengthening international law
16. Providing humanitarian aid to refugees
17. Aiding Palestine refugees



Shepherd Costas and his faithful dog Loulla can be seen in the buffer zone area of Kaimakli, Nicosia, where he tends to his flock of around 600 goats. He has been farming in the buffer zone for the last 34 years

18. Alleviating rural poverty in developing countries
19. Promoting women's well-being
20. Promoting reproductive and maternal health
21. Providing safe drinking water
22. Responding to HIV/AIDS
23. Eradicating smallpox
24. Wiping out polio
25. Fighting neglected tropical diseases
26. Halting the spread of epidemics
27. Pressing for universal immunization
28. Reducing child mortality



Prior to the opening of the Ledra Street crossing point, a mine action team conducts a sweep for unexploded ordnance. The team is part of UNDP's "Partnership for the Future - Mine Action Centre". It works with UNFICYP's support across the island in an effort to free Cyprus of landmines.

29. Laying the groundwork for business
30. Supporting industry in developing countries
31. Helping disaster victims
32. Reducing the effects of natural disasters
33. Providing tsunami relief
34. Protecting the ozone layer
35. Clearing landmines
36. Providing food to the neediest
37. Fighting hunger
38. Tackling fish stock depletion
39. Banning toxic chemicals
40. Protecting consumers' health
41. Combating terrorism
42. Handing down judgments in major international disputes
43. Improving global trade relations
44. Promoting economic reform
45. Promoting stability and order in the world's oceans
46. Improving aviation and shipping

47. Combating international crime
48. Containing the world drug problem
49. Promoting decent work
50. Improving literacy and education in developing countries
51. Generating worldwide commitment in support of children
52. Preserving historic, cultural, architectural and natural sites
53. Facilitating academic and cultural exchanges
54. Encouraging creativity and innovation
55. Promoting press freedom and freedom of expression



Elderly Maronite woman of Karpasha village in the Kyrenia District takes home her government welfare supplies with the help of British peacekeepers

56. Improving housing and city management
57. Providing local access to a global network
58. Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities
59. Improving global telecommunications
60. Improving the plight of indigenous people



Archbishop of Nova Justiniana and All Cyprus Chrysostomos II, and Ahmet Yonuler, Turkish Cypriot Director of Religious Affairs, met for the first time on 21 February 2000, at the Ledra Palace Hotel under the auspices of the resident of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, René van der Linden

A profile of 32 Signal Regiment Group

For the first time in UNFICYP's history, Sector 2, which is the responsibility of the British Contingent, is being manned by the Territorial Army.

32 Signal Regiment Group is the section of the Territorial Army now serving in Cyprus on OP Tosca, the UK's military contribution to the UN operation in Cyprus, with an ORBAT of 254 personnel. This Unit is composed of military personnel from Scotland (74), England (170), Wales (two), Ireland (seven) and Australia (one). The female component stands at 15% which is higher than most units on operations.

Although TA personnel have supported and supplemented the Regular Army in other theatres of conflict or peacekeeping, this is the first time in the hundred years since its establishment that the TA has provided the entire complement of officers and soldiers to a peace-keeping mission.

For a TA soldier to be deployed on operations, his or her employer has to be supportive. The soldier is guaranteed to return to his employment at the end of the nine-month mobilization without detriment to his or her position. The employer also receives support if the temporary loss of an employee would affect the smooth running of his business. 30% of those in 32 SRG have already served in Kosovo, Bosnia, Iraq or Afghanistan. Cyprus is considered by many to be a non-confrontational operation, nevertheless the skills of diplomacy and tact are required for a more community-driven peacekeeping mission.



Sector 2 participating in the Military Skills competition

32 SRG's tour of duty to the ongoing UN peacekeeping mission in Cyprus has now reached the half-way mark and all personnel are successfully drawing on their skills from their civilian employment in combination with their military expertise to further the aims and objectives of UNFICYP.

In addition to the patrolling of the buffer zone, Sector 2 operates the North Wind Patrol which delivers humanitarian aid to the Maronites and Greek Cypriot communities living in the north of Cyprus. The building where the officers and soldiers of 32 SRG are accommodated, the Ledra Palace Hotel, also hosts many bi-communal events and visits. One of the most high profile and publicized was the recent visit



Sector 2 peacekeepers delivering supplies on the North Wind patrol

of The Elders in October this year. The soldiers keep their fitness level and military skills honed while they are deployed and this can be demonstrated through their participation in the Military Skills Competitions, 10K and half marathons and triathlons.

Their CO, Lt. Col. Huw Jenkins, said, "The Regiment has been undertaking day-to-day observation and patrols tasking along the 20-mile Nicosia Sector of the buffer zone that, after 34 years, still divides the island in two. Although Cyprus is viewed as a relatively



The Territorial Army (TA) is the principal and Volunteer reserve force of the British Army, the land armed forces branch of the United Kingdom, and composed mostly of part-time soldiers paid at a similar rate, while engaged on military activities, as their Regular equivalents. This is in contrast to the Regular Army Reserve, which currently comprises people who have a mobilization obligation for six years after their former full-time service in the regular army. The TA forms about a quarter of the overall manpower strength of the Army.



benign environment, it is the UN patrols that provide ongoing assurance and keep the buffer zone stable. The mission requires all the traditional strengths of the British Army as well as a healthy dose of tact, diplomacy and patience. The Territorial Army officers and soldiers have demonstrated a fantastic will to succeed and are carrying out their tasks to the best of their abilities. 32 SRG's training conducted in the UK before its deployment has allowed them to seamlessly take over from their regular army predecessors, 7th Regiment RLC."

Town Hall Meetings

The Chief of Mission, Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, called his first Town Hall meeting with UNFICYP civilian, military and UNPOL staff on 7 November 2008.

Town Hall and information meetings were also held in November on a survey of national staff and to brief colleagues on changes in the medical insurance plan.



7 November: SRSZ Zerihoun addressing his first Town Hall meeting (above)

21 October: ULESO committee addressing members on the national staff survey (above right)

26 November: The CMS briefing national staff on the change in the Medical Insurance Plan [MIP] (right)



Greening the UN

In line with the Secretary-General's goal of "Greening the UN", UNFICYP now has recycling facilities within the UNPA at the following locations:

- International Cafeteria – glass, paper, plastic and cans
- Opposite the UN Gym – glass, plastic and cans
- PIO Office – paper

All colleagues are requested to use the facilities now being provided to dispose of items that can be recycled.



Boxing competition in UNPA

Members of three contingents took part in a heated boxing competition held on 7 November in the Hungarian Bar in the UNPA. Gyula Zabo, a Mobile Force Reserve (MFR) member of HUNCON and a professional boxer, organised the competition, which was open to all members of UNFICYP.

Before the match, Zabo put on a demonstration of boxing techniques. Zabo is also a boxing instructor, and currently runs regular training sessions for UNFICYP members at the UNPA gym.

Gábor Szvetnyik, also with the MFR, was the DJ for the evening, playing, of course, the "Eye of the Tiger".

Three British, one Hungarian and one Argentinian soldier entered the competition, cheered on by over 100 UNFICYP colleagues. The two finalists were Zabo and Daniel Fosker, also from the MFR. The match ended in a tie.

The boxing wrapped up around 10 p.m., but the party that followed didn't end until the early hours of the following day. The grand prize? Two helpings of some excellent goulash.



New Faces

CO Sector 1

Lt. Col. Raul Rodolfo Faijoo, Commanding Officer Sector 1, arrived in Cyprus on 25 September. He was born in Mendoza, Argentina, on 18 March 1961.

He joined the Argentinian Military Academy in 1983 as a Second Lieutenant in the Engineering Branch. In 1998, he became a Staff Officer after gaining a degree in Strategy and Organisation. During his career, he has held diverse positions in the

Engineering Branch units.

Lt. Col. Faijoo is a ski instructor and a mountaineer, heading the 8th Mountain Engineer Battalion in 2006 and 2007. In 2008, he served in the General Inspectorate of the Argentinian Army until his arrival in Cyprus.

Lt. Col. Faijoo is married to Viviana Patricia and they have two children, Agustín (14) and Mauricio (12).



CO Sector 2

Lt. Col. Huw Jenkins was commissioned into the Royal Corps of Signals in 1985 and first deployed to Northern Ireland with 1 Royal Anglian. He later returned to the UK and studied for an MA in Engineering Science.

Postings followed to Hong Kong, Germany and back to the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst. He then spent a year with 2 Sig Regt before being promoted to Major and deploying to the Falkland Islands.

This period was followed by two years at Joint Staff College. He has an MSc in Defence Technology and an MA



in Defence and International Affairs.

After being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in June 2005, he was posted to Afghanistan. He assumed command of 32 Sig Regt in December 2006.

Lt. Col. Jenkins is married and has a 13-year-old daughter and an 11-year-old son. He is a sports and adventure training enthusiast, as well as a qualified ski instructor and Alpine race coach. He loves long-distance mountain and marathon running, and has completed over 45 marathons and ultra-marathons worldwide.

CO Sector 4

Sector 4's incoming Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Jaroslav Schönvický arrived in UNFICYP on 23 October. He was born on 24 January 1968 in Krompachy, Slovakia.

Lt. Col. Schönvický attended the Military Faculty of the Žilina University from 1987 to 1992. Since graduation, he has served in positions dealing mainly with search and rescue operations. From 1994 to 1996, Lt. Col. Schönvický gained peacekeeping exper-



ience in the former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) as an Engineering Company DCO.

Lt. Col. Schönvický is not a newcomer to UNFICYP, having served from March 2003 to September 2004 as Sector 4's Engineer Officer and May 2006 to January 2008 as CO Sector 4. With these experiences, he returned to Slovakia as Commander of the Slovak Republic's General Staff in the UN Training Centre, Martin, northern Slovakia.

OC Mobile Force Reserve

Major Simon Smith joined the Territorial Army in 1992, and was commissioned into the Royal Corps of Signals in 1994. He has served at Regimental Duty with 34th (Northern) Signal Regiment throughout his career, including Operational tours in Bosnia and Afghanistan. Before deploying to Cyprus, he was Officer Commanding 50th (Northumbrian) Signal Squadron. On

his return to the UK he will take up an SO1 appointment in Headquarters 49 (East) Brigade on promotion.

Maj. Smith lives in Leeds with his partner Nicola. His interests include travelling and most outdoor pursuits, particularly scuba diving, mountaineering, mountain biking and skiing, along with motorbikes and computers.



Air Safety Officer

Lt. Col. Wilfredo Francisco Edelmann took over the post of Air Safety Officer on 22 September. He was born on 15 August 1963 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

He graduated in 1985 from the "Escuela de Aviación Militar" (Argentinian Air Academy). In 1986 he attended the Military Aviator's course and then served in VII Air Brigade, after which he took the helicopter pilot's course and many other aviation-related courses including Air Accidents Investigation and Prevention. He has a degree in

political science from the University of Buenos Aires. Wilfredo's last duty was Chief of the Education Department in CAECOPAZ, the Argentinian Joint Peace Operation Training Centre in Buenos Aires. He served in UNFICYP (UN Flight) in 1998 and twice in MINUSTAH (Haiti) in 2004 and 2006.

Wilfredo is married to Virginia and they have two children, Agustín (18) and Victoria (15). His hobbies include playing football, reading and listening to rock music. He is also a big fan of "Boca Juniors".



In memoriam

Alexander Šimkovič, a peacekeeper serving with UNFICYP's Sector 4, was tragically killed in a diving accident on 5 October 2008 near Protaras in the west of the island. He was hit by a police patrol boat on a routine patrol and sustained severe injuries which he succumbed to whilst being taken ashore for treatment.

Alexander was born on 13 September 1978 in Prešov, Slovakia. He finished primary school in Prešov and continued his studies at the secondary industrial school where he graduated in 1997.

Alexander was a conscript soldier from 1 October 1998 to 23 September 1999. During his service he passed the NCO course and applied to serve as a professional soldier. On 15 August 2002 he received his first professional military appointment, serving on the air force base in Prešov as a rifleman in the guard platoon. He then became the section leader of the guard platoon and subsequently a driver specialist.

Alexander first served in UNFICYP from 21 March 2006 to 27 March 2007, and his second tour started on 23 May 2008. He was awarded military medals for his service in Cyprus.

Alexander leaves behind his wife Erika, and their two sons, nine-year-old Erik and four-year-old Filip.



Capt. Gustavo Quintana

Every month during his year-long tour of duty with UNFICYP has been memorable for UNPOL's Logistics Officer Gustavo Quintana, especially so in October 2008. Gustavo had the great pleasure of announcing his promotion from 1st Lieutenant to Captain. He was especially delighted as it was back-dated to December 2007.

Whilst the citation was read out in "Spanglish" during an informal ceremony held at HQ UNPOL on 17 October, the Senior Police Adviser, Commissioner Carla van Maris and the Argentine Gendamerie Contingent Commander, Lt. Col. Daniel Perrone, removed Gustavo's old rank epaulets and exchanged them for his new "three star" status.

A few days later on 26 October, the flamboyant character, who had been training very hard for several weeks, won the BFBS "Big Salute" triathlon event at RAF Akrotiri and trounced the mainly British opposition.

By the time this article is published, Gustavo will sadly have departed for his new post back in tango capital, Buenos Aires. All fan mail from his numerous admirers will, of course, be forwarded to Argentina.



Farewell Mario

Mario Kattou began his working life in 1963 as a chef for the employees of the copper mine located in Skouriotissa. In 1975, he started his employment with the United Nations when the camp came under the authority of the Danish Contingent.

In 1993, the Argentinian Contingent took over responsibility for Sector 1, renaming the camp General San Martín, and Mario continued in his post as chef. Through the years, Mario has made many friends with the Argentinian soldiers, offering his house as a refuge for those far away from their family and friends.

Now 65, Mario is retiring to concentrate on his tavern, located on the Troodos road. He will also have time to enjoy his nine grandchildren!

Thank you very much, Mario, for your services to the United Nations. We shall miss you.



Visitors

UNFICYP extended the usual courtesies when the Chief of Mission, Force Commander and Chief of Staff received the following visitors during October and November:



Ambassador of Finland H.E. Ms. Riitta Resch – 14 Oct



Ambassador of Brazil H.E. Mr. Pedro Motta Pinto Coelho – 16 Oct



Deputy Director-General for European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan, Mr. Noriteru Fukushima – 7 Oct



International students – 4 Nov



Australian Foreign Minister The Honorary Stephen Smith – 27 Oct



Force Commander UNDOF Maj.Gen. Wolfgang Jilke – 6 Oct



Dutch visit to UNPOL – 19 Nov



US Assistant Secretary of State Mr. Brian H. Hook – 23 Oct



Australian High Commissioner H.E. Mr. Evan Williams – 20 Oct



Head of Representation of the EU Commission Ms. Androulla Kaminara – 24 Nov

Visit of Slovak Minister of Defence, Mr. Jaroslav Baška



All Slovak military were on standby between 31 October and 1 November for one of the most important visitors to their Sector – the Minister of Defence, Mr. Jaroslav Baška. Accompanying him were Chief of General Staff Gen. Ľubomír Bulík and six members of the Slovak Parliament who arrived to inspect Slovak personnel serving with UNFICYP.

The visit started with a call on Chief of Mission Tayé-Brook Zerihoun and Force Commander Rear Admiral Mario Sanchez. The Slovak delegation was later briefed on UNFICYP's role by Chief of Staff Col. Gerard Hughes. The delegation then moved on to the Slovak Engineers' Camp Tatry, where Mr. Baška expressed his satisfaction with the results of the inspection.

After lunch, the delegation travelled to Camp Gen Štefánik in Famagusta where they met the rest of the Slovak Contingent, and were briefed by CO Sector 4 Lt. Col. Jaroslav Schönvický on its role and responsibilities. At the end of his visit to Camp Gen Štefánik, Minister Baška and his delegation attended a remembrance service for the Slovak soldiers who have died whilst serving with the mission.

The following day, Lt. Col. Schönvický escorted the Minister and his delegation on a quick tour of the buffer zone enabling them to visit OP-129 and PB-126. Like many VIPs before, CO Sector 4 affirmed that seeing the buffer zone first-hand brought home the reality of the Cyprus problem.

UNPOL medal parade



UNPOL held its medal parade on 19 November at the UN police club, UNPA.

A total of 46 members of UNPOL were decorated with the peacekeeping medal – six from Australia, three from Croatia, one from El Salvador, seven from India, 19 from Ireland, four from Italy and six from the Netherlands.

The master of ceremonies was the Deputy Senior Police Adviser, Ch. Supt. John Farrelly. This was one of his last official functions, and Senior Police Adviser Carla Van Maris acknowledged his contribution to UNFICYP over the past year.

Rear Admiral Mario Sanchez Debernardi addressed those present, as did the SPA. Recipients were then decorated by members of the diplomatic corps representing the seven nations.

The Cyprus Police Band, conducted by Insp. George Adamou, played during the medal presentation and also during the reception that followed.



**Competing in the UNFICYP
Military Skills Competition**