

# The Blue Beret

## April 2004



**UNFICYP**  
**on patrol**





## THE BLUE BERET

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This month the people of Cyprus were presented with an historic opportunity to voice their individual judgement on the island's status. They chose to reject the United Nations Plan for the Comprehensive Settlement of the Cyprus Problem, thereby determining that Cyprus would enter the European Union still a divided island. The people, Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot alike, made their views known on 24 April when they voted in separate, simultaneous referenda. A majority "no" vote in the south cancelled out a majority "yes" vote in the north. The net result was that the plan known as the "Annan Plan", so painstakingly negotiated over the last four-and-a-half years to bring about reunification, failed to achieve its goal.

Once the result was known, the Secretary-General acknowledged that the decision on how to vote had been a difficult one for most Cypriots. In making clear that he respected the outcome, the Secretary-General stressed that he remains convinced that the plan offers a fair, viable and balanced compromise that meets the basic needs of all concerned. While clearly the Greek Cypriot electorate had not concurred with this view on the day, he hoped they might arrive at a different conclusion after reviewing their decision "in the fullness of time".

The Secretary-General's Special Adviser Alvaro de Soto regretted the outcome while welcoming the fact that the people had been afforded the chance to make their views known at referenda. In briefing the Security Council, Under-Secretary-General Prendergast also spoke of the UN's disappointment but said time was needed to allow "the dust to settle".

Amidst that settling dust, the status quo of buffer zone and UNFICYP mandate continues to prevail. We in UNFICYP will continue our task in the service of peace, on the instruction of the Security Council and the international community, for the well being of the people of Cyprus.

Editorial

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# Cyprus Settlement Rejected at Referenda

On 24 April the people of Cyprus, north and south, Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots, for the first time ever voted at referenda on a Cyprus settlement. A majority "no" vote in the south and a majority "yes" vote in the north meant rejection of the proposed settlement known as the Annan Plan. In the south, Greek Cypriots voted "no" by a margin of three-to-one (75.83% against to 24.17% for). In the north, Turkish Cypriots voted 64.91% in favour of the plan, with 35.09% opposed.

The Greek Cypriot leader Tassos Papadopoulos stressed that the people had not said "no" to a Cyprus solution, simply "no" to the UN plan. There would be new opportunities ahead for a solution following EU accession, he said. In the north, Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat told Ankara's NTV: "I do not find it right to renegotiate the plan. It has been negotiated more than enough and the conjuncture has also changed."

The Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Cyprus, Alvaro de Soto regretted the outcome but said he was pleased the people of Cyprus "have at last had the opportunity to exercise their judgement".

After the results had been announced, Special Adviser de Soto met with the press in Ledra Palace, Nicosia, and read from the statement issued in New York by the Secretary-General's Spokesman.

"The Secretary-General respects the outcome of the two referenda. He knows that for many Cypriots the decision how to vote was a difficult one. The goal of the effort over the last four and a half years has been to bring about reunification so as to enable a reunited Cyprus to join the European Union. That goal has not been achieved. A unique and historic chance to resolve the Cyprus problem has been missed. The Secretary-General intends to give careful thought to the implications of today's result. Meanwhile, Cyprus will remain divided and militarized as it accedes to the European Union, and the benefits of a settlement will not be realized. The Secretary-General applauds the Turkish Cypriots, who approved the plan notwithstanding the

significant sacrifices that it entailed for many of them. He regrets that the Turkish Cypriots will not equally enjoy the benefits of EU membership as of 1 May 2004, but he hopes that ways will be found to ease the plight in which the people find themselves through no fault of their own. Together with a broad cross-section of the international community, the Secretary-General remains convinced that the settlement plan put to the two sides in today's referenda represents a fair, viable and carefully balanced compromise – one that conforms with the long-agreed parameters for a solution and with the Security Council's vision for a settlement, and meets the minimum requirements of all concerned. Clearly, a large majority of the Greek Cypriot electorate did not share that judgement today. He hopes that they may nevertheless arrive at a different view in the fullness of time, after a profound and sober assessment of today's decision. For a settlement to the long-standing Cyprus problem would benefit the people of Cyprus, as well as the region and the wider international community."

After a round of farewell visits to the island's leadership, Alvaro de Soto departed Cyprus on 28 April. Following a round of similar calls on leadership in Ankara and Athens, de Soto proceeded to New York where he is preparing a report for the Secretary-General, which will be submitted to the Security Council.

In New York, Under-Secretary-General Kieran Prendergast briefed the Security Council on the referenda results and acknowledged that they had been disappointing. He said time was needed "for the dust to settle" so that the outcome and its full implications could become apparent. He noted that the Secretary-General hoped the Greek Cypriot community would arrive at a different view after a profound and sober assessment of their decision and its potential consequences. The Security Council later announced that it shared the Secretary-General's disappointment that efforts since 1999 to reunify the island had failed. The Council reiterated its strong support for an overall political settlement in Cyprus.





# Referendum

Before the 24 April referenda, the Secretary-General addressed the people of the island in a pre-recorded video message, which was distributed to the island's TV stations for broadcast. In his address, the Secretary-General spoke of the "difficult decision" each voter faced in determining "the destiny of your country". He noted that while parts of the plan they called the "Annan Plan" had been put together by the United Nations, its key concepts had emerged from four years of negotiations among the leaders, with most of its 9,000 pages largely drafted by hundreds of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. "Their extraordinary efforts produced one of the most comprehensive peace plans in the history of the United Nations." He conceded the plan did not meet the full demands of either side, that in fact "it is a compromise", but, he insisted, it offered "the only foreseeable route" to the reunification of Cyprus since there was no other plan out there. "There is no magic way of accommodating the maximum demands of one side while at the same time accommodating the maximum demands of the other." "This is it", he said, "a serious plan, designed to provide certainty and security, with guarantees that it will be implemented".

He pointed out how the plan:

- Envisaged one independent and sovereign state, the United Cyprus Republic – a bi-communal, bi-zonal federal structure, based on the political equality of the two communities.
- Prohibited partition or secession, domination by one side, or union with any other country.
- Ended the status quo and the division of the country.
- Safeguarded the identity of Cyprus and of each community in it while preserving the integrity of the citizenship of the country.

The Secretary-General also noted how:

- The plan allowed many people to return, and to get all or some of their property back and how others would be paid full and secure compensation.
- Those forced to move because of territorial adjustment would be helped to do so in a dignified and proper manner.
- The UN would station a new and robust operation in Cyprus, to help maintain security and hold all parties to their commitments, including the commitments to withdraw troops and hand back territory.

In concluding, the Secretary-General told Cypriots: "The vision of the plan is simple: reunification and reconciliation, in safety and security, in the European Union. The world is ready to help you turn that vision of the future into reality. But we cannot take that fateful decision for you. We await your call."

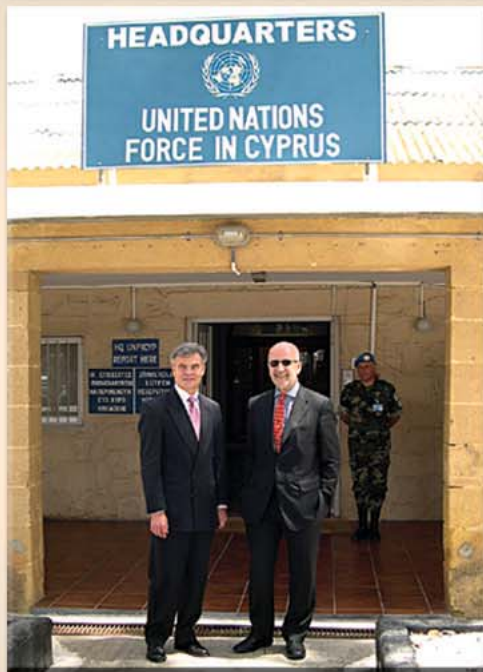
# Good Offices Says Goodbye And Thank You



Members of the UNFICYP translation team with Alvaro de Soto



"The Four Musketeers"



UNFICYP paid tribute to the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Cyprus, Alvaro de Soto, with a guard of honour when he visited mission HQ on 28 April before he departed the island.

Mr. de Soto was welcomed by Chief of Mission Zbigniew Wlosowicz and subsequently met and thanked members of the senior staff for their help and support to the Good Offices.



With the men of EDP/Comms and ISS



Once the outcome of the referenda was known, the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Cyprus Alvaro de Soto announced that he would be departing the island within a matter of days and that the Good Offices would close its office in the UNPA by mid-May. The Special Adviser returned to New York on 1 May, where he is now preparing his report for the Secretary-General. As we go to press, most of the Good Offices staff have dispersed, returning to their UN system parent organisations or, in the case of those who were seconded to the team from outside the UN, rejoining their respective institutions or government services. A small group of Good Offices staff members remain to handle the closedown of the Nicosia office.

On 26 April, Mr. de Soto and his team hosted an informal barbecue at the Good Offices premises in the UNPA as a "thank-you and farewell" gesture for all who had contributed to the all-out effort launched on the team's return to the island on 17 February. In thanking his guests including UNFICYP's Chief of Mission and many staff, military and civilian (administration, comms, translation and UNOPS staff), who had helped sustain the Good Offices team during its final intensive stint in the run-up to the referenda, Special Adviser de Soto remembered how he had returned directly to New York from The Hague in 2003 and had, therefore, been compelled to forego the opportunity to say farewell.

In addition to UN family, Good Offices' guests included the British High Commissioner, the Dutch, German, Irish and US Ambassadors and the Swiss Charge d'Affaires – whose governments provided funding and support to the Good Offices. Speaking of behalf of all the guests, the Head of the Representation of the European Commission to Cyprus, Mr. Adriaan van der Meer, paid tribute to the tireless efforts of the Good Offices team.

The next day, 27 April, Ledra Palace became the venue for the "thank-you's". Mr. de Soto and his team hosted an informal lunch for some 250 Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot members of the various technical committees which had worked through so many late evenings and early mornings to finalise the plan and deliver it to deadline.



With the ladies of "TFP" (Transport, Finance & Personnel)



Seeing "double"!





## 2 Into 1

By 2/Lt. N.H. Faith

which are commanded by a warrant officer. Each sub sector has two lieutenants, one in command and one 2IC, above them the Company 2IC and Company Commander.

The aim of my stay was to get a broad overview of Sector 1.

To this end, I visited all the Company HQs and met many personalities. I also had an overflight of Sector 1, the topography of which is very diverse – from the plains in the east to the mountains in the west. The proximity to the sea made the flight spectacular. I also visited a number of the patrol bases and my visits followed a standard pattern; a tour of the base, followed by “mate”. Mate is South American tea, drunk from a small wooden or metal pot through a pipe. The etiquette is that the pot is finished, refilled and then passed on to the next person.

C Company proved to be excellent hosts. The first night we had an Argentinian barbeque. This involved an initial fire from which the best coals were selected for the barbeque. There was an awesome amount of meat, cooked relatively slowly, as only minimal coals were used and then replenished from the initial fire as necessary. The result was delicious.

One thing that stuck in my mind was the personable and tactile nature of the South Americans. For example, they salute then shake hands – a rather nice gesture, respecting the rank, then the person. The problem is they do this very quickly, so I often found myself

saluting while they had their hand extended to be shaken. There would then be a slightly awkward mistiming of handshake/saluting gestures as we tried to find common ground. At least it provided a good ice-breaker!

My other abiding memory will be that of being totally humbled on the football pitch. The would-be Maradonas versus the rugby back-row forward provided a non-contest, as time and time again, they went one way, with the ball, and I went the other, without it!

All in all, it was an excellent three days. My thanks go to all my hosts who were proud, professional and enormous fun. The experience has provided a catalyst for continued integration for the remainder of our tour.



Sgt. Juan Lorens Medina (Chilean Marines)

## D Battery – Mobile Force Reserve Ready to Deploy

By Capt. M. Monk

D Battery, 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, deployed to Cyprus at the end of 2003 and were tasked as the Mobile Force Reserve (MFR). Our mission was to be prepared to provide the Force Reserve in order to conduct tasks as directed by the Force Commander. This consisted of us re-tasking from a gun battery in a war-fighting role in Basra, Iraq, to an infantry company in a peace-support role.

On arrival in Cyprus, I was presented with my platoon consisting of 15 British, three Slovak, six Argentinian and two Hungarian soldiers. An entertaining few days ensued in trying to communicate, with our lack of any Spanish, Hungarian or Slovakian and their limited English. However, it was noted that the level of English spoken and understood by our new friends degenerated and increased, depending on the task in hand!

Tasks carried out by the MFR are to reinforce Sectors 1, 2 and 4 as required. We assist UNCIVPOL in preventing unauthorised entry into the buffer zone and also provide a trained, equipped and rapidly deployable company-size crowd control force. We must be able to deploy as required and provide the UNPA with military support. In reality, that means we use our three platoons in a 21-day cycle through security, patrols and TAS (Training, Administration, Standby). During the security phase, we provide 24-hour UNPA security with gate guards, a fire piquet, patrols around the UNPA and an immediate Quick Reaction Force (QRF).

During the patrols phase, the platoon must be prepared to deploy to any sector at four hours' notice to move. The MFR also provides a crowd control force for possible deployment to areas of unrest, e.g. whenever a protest is held. Official visits to the UNPA are frequent, and in this regard, the MFR provide an honour guard for each visitor, consisting of eight multi-national soldiers and an SNCO. The troops present arms and the visitors are invited to



inspect the troops. With what time is left, platoon training is carried out including urban and rural crowd control, sport and lifeguard duties. During the negotiations, soldiers continually safe guarded the talks location, providing an additional QRF when required.

The training administration standby phase is used initially to back fill other platoons, which are down in strength due to courses and R&R (rest and recreation). It is during this period we have had the opportunity to go adventure training. Multi-activity courses have been run in Dhekelia with great success for British and international troops. These consisted of three-day courses comprising rock climbing, canoeing, cycling and cliff jumping. These were held to give the soldiers an insight into what courses they would like to pursue later on in the tour and to give them a break from their duties.

It is during this phase that platoon tasks are carried out. The hidden chippies (carpenters), electricians and painter-decorators soon came to light, and their expertise was fully utilised. So far, the MFR have totally refurbished the international bar which is now also used by the soldiers. Work has also been done refurbishing the front of HQ UNFICYP and the trim trail. If a job needs doing involving a lot of person-power, the MFR are usually called upon to do it!

The past 12 months have been full of contrasts, from war fighting to peace support. Initially it was strange getting to grips working in a more peaceful environment, but everyone has settled into it and now we just face the daily challenge of the “UN way of doing things” – an altogether new experience!

## Back in the Swim!

The UNPA Dolphin Swimming Pool opened for business on 8 April, which coincided with the Easter weekend and unusually high temperatures for the time of year. The pool is a great favourite with all UNFICYP members and families alike, and its opening is a sure sign that winter is behind us.

As part of the British Retained Site, the pool is overseen by a six-man committee, under the Chairmanship of Lt. Col. Chris Kilmister, the Chief Personnel & Logistics Officer. Lifeguards are provided by the MFR and are all trained to Royal Lifesaver's Society qualification.

The pool itself is 48 metres long, with a children's pool attached at the shallow end, which has a protective sun awning. The facility has sun loungers galore, its own male and female changing rooms, showers and toilets. The pool stays open from April until November (weather permitting) and, at present, is in the process of having a heating system and thermal cover installed, to raise the pool temperature during the cooler periods of the season.

The pool has a restaurant and bar area which is run by Mr. Christos Fiouris and his staff. It provides an excellent selection of local, Chinese and snack meals, plus a take-



From the left: Gnr D. Terry (Lifeguard), LBdr. C. McDermott (Lifeguard), Maj. N. Ravenhill (Vice Chairman), SSgt. I. Thompson (Pool Manager), Mr. C. Fiouris (Restaurant Manager), Nishantha (Restaurant Assistant)

away service in the evenings around the UNPA. The restaurant area can also be hired for private functions through the Pool Manager, SSgt. Iain Thompson.

All in all, the Dolphin Swimming Pool is a great facility to have on our doorstep, and an ideal place to cool off and relax as the temperature rises.

## Best Book Review

As a result of the book competition organised by the Nicosia Library, BRITCON, UNPA, a small prize-giving ceremony was held in the Library on 24 March. Maj. Peter Wyse, 2IC of HQ BRITCON, presented the first and second prizewinners each with a book token, kindly provided by the Soloneion Bookshop in Nicosia. Maj. Wyse congratulated the prizewinners and runners-up and thanked Mrs. K. Sinclair and Mrs. S. Kilmister for judging the competition.

Anthe, the Assistant Librarian, promised to organise a new competition in the near future with the hope that many more will participate.

From the left: Mrs. A. Partelides (first prize), Mrs. A. Griffin (runner-up), Maj. P. Wyse, Mrs. K. Ignatiou (second prize), Mrs. M. Kourea (runner-up) and Mrs. A. Yiannoullou (centre)





# The Cultural Heritage of Cyprus — Part XXII

## Grace and Beauty: Nicosia's Cathedral of Saint Sophia/the Selimiye Cami

*The 13<sup>th</sup>-century Cathedral of Saint Sophia (Holy Wisdom) – the oldest and largest Latin church in Cyprus – was converted into a mosque following the city's fall to the Ottomans in 1570. In 1954, it was renamed the Selimiye Cami (mosque), after Sultan Selim II, whose reign included the Ottoman Empire gaining control of Cyprus.*

*Although constructed later than the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, the building retains the simplicity, nobility and grace of that church's early Gothic style, and is this issue's destination for the Blue Beret's cultural heritage series.*

### History: From Cathedral to Mosque

The Byzantine Empire lost Cyprus in 1191 AD to Richard the Lionheart when he defeated Duke Isaac Comnenos while en route to the Holy Land. Richard initially sold the island to the Knights Templar, but then sold it on to Guy of Lusignan in 1193.

Thus, Cyprus began to experience long periods of western occupation as a Frankish or Lusignan kingdom (1192-1489), and as a dependency of the Venetian Republic (1489-1570/71).

During these periods, the Greek Orthodox religious figures were expelled to the countryside. The Latin church became predominant, with an Archbishop in Nicosia and bishops in Famagusta, Limassol and Paphos. Most western religious orders, including the Benedictines and the Franciscans, established churches and monasteries on the island. Military orders such as the Templars and the Hospitalers also established commanderies.

It is against this background that the construction of the Cathedral of Saint Sophia began, probably as early as 1193, and certainly by 1209 during the reign of the Lusignan King Henry I. The project's financing came via donations from Lusignan royals, noblemen and Latin archbishops. Most of the masons and other technicians were recruited from among the Frenchmen who left the disbanded armies of the Crusades. Built using limestone from the Kyrenia range, the cathedral was under construction for more than a century. In fact, it wasn't yet finished when its consecration took place in 1326, and the bell towers that had been planned as part of the design were never finished.

The cathedral knew days of glory, as it was used as the venue for many important royal events. The Lusignan kings, for example, were crowned here as the heads of Cyprus, before a second coronation in Famagusta designated them kings of Jerusalem.

The cathedral was repaired a number of times, after attacks by the Genoese and the Mamelukes in 1373 and 1426, respectively, and after earthquake damage in 1491 and 1547. The last refurbishment took place just before the arrival of the Ottomans.

The cathedral became a mosque in September 1570, when Nicosia fell to the Ottomans. In keeping with Islam's avoidance of human representations, Christian symbols and furniture were removed, stained-glass windows were altered, and frescoes white-washed. Two minarets were added, one on either side of the west façade above the flanking towers; a mirhap (prayer niche) was set up in the southern arm of the cathedral's transept; and an ablutions fountain in the courtyard was also added.

### What You'll See Today

The cathedral's design included a porch (1), a central nave (2) with lateral aisles of four bays (3 and 4), a transept with salient arms (5), each incorporating a chapel (8 and 9), plus an ambulatory (6) and a choir (7).

The porch covers the entire western façade, and is flanked on either side by a tower, each of which is surmounted by a minaret, added by the Ottomans in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Toward the eastern end of the building, near the ambulatory, a two-storey chapel (10) consisted of the treasury located on the ground floor and the chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas on the upper floor. A fourth chapel (11) was located on the second bay of the southern aisle. The upper parts of the cathedral were accessed by five staircases (12-16). The vaulted (arched) roofs are ribbed.

The cathedral measures 66 by 21 metres, excluding the porch and chapels. On the exterior, the building's structure is reinforced by decorated flying buttresses that also contain gargoyles. A reinforcing plinth with Renaissance decorations was added by the Venetians.

Although never finished, the porch in front of the three western entrances offers an excellent example of the Gothic style that was prevalent in the Lusignan period of Cyprus. Imported directly by the king from his homeland in France, the style was used widely, not only by the Latins, but occasionally by the native Greeks. The porch is covered by three vaulted bays that have double transverse ribs, and is decorated with torus (convex mouldings) and grooves. On the exterior, the three arcades are surmounted by pointed cables decorated with leaves.

The three doorways of the western façade are separated by piers that feature colonettes, upon which rest the springs of the ribs, the arcades and the main arches of the porch's vaults. Shallow twin niches can be seen on either side of the doorways. The arcades and panels on the central doorway's tympanum (the roughly triangular space at the arch's peak) are comparable to those of Rheims Cathedral in France.

Inside, above the central doorway, is a gallery with six open trilobe windows that are surmounted by another six glass trilobe lights, forming the base of an arched window. An arrangement of trefoils fills the space between the arch and the windows.

The walls of the nave are higher than those of the aisles. The nave's twin-pointed windows take up the whole space between its arched roof and the flat roofs of the aisles, and are surmounted by three circles.

The transept has windows on the west and south sides. A stained glass rose window once graced the north side, above a small doorway.

The choir has small lancet windows, while its bay is lit by twin windows of the same type that are found in the apse. The southern apsidal chapel has a small rounded arched window on colonettes, while the northern apsidal chapel has no window. Both chapels have half-dome roofs. The two northern chapels communicated with each other, while the treasury was also connected to the ambulatory by a southern doorway with a pointed arch and a trilobed tympanum. On either side of the door, the jambs were decorated with columns.

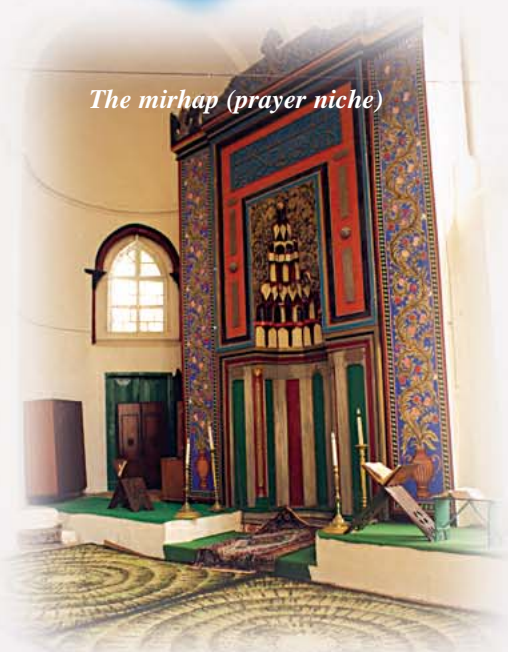
The cathedral's columns have octagonal carved capitals, except for two in the ambulatory that have relief carvings in the early French Gothic style. It is possible that some of the columns in the apse originated in the ruins of Salamis. The vaulted ceiling once featured key-stones, which were covered with plaster by the Ottomans, and also depicted a scene of blue sky and golden stars, now whitewashed.

The mirhap in the south transept that was added when the cathedral became a mosque indicates the direction of Mecca, and replaced the Lady Chapel that King Hugh III created in 1270. The mimber, or pulpit, is also located nearby. Above the north transept, meanwhile, the Ottomans added a women's gallery.

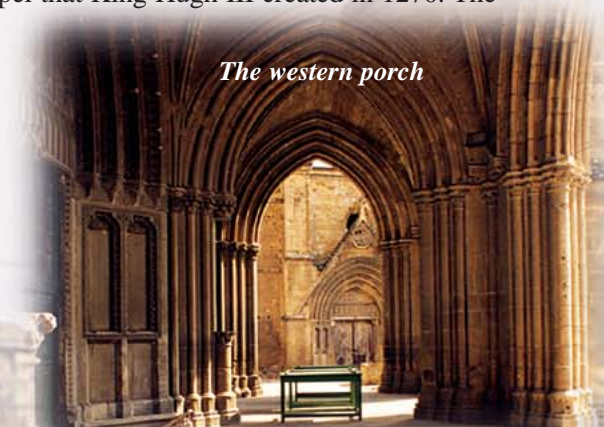
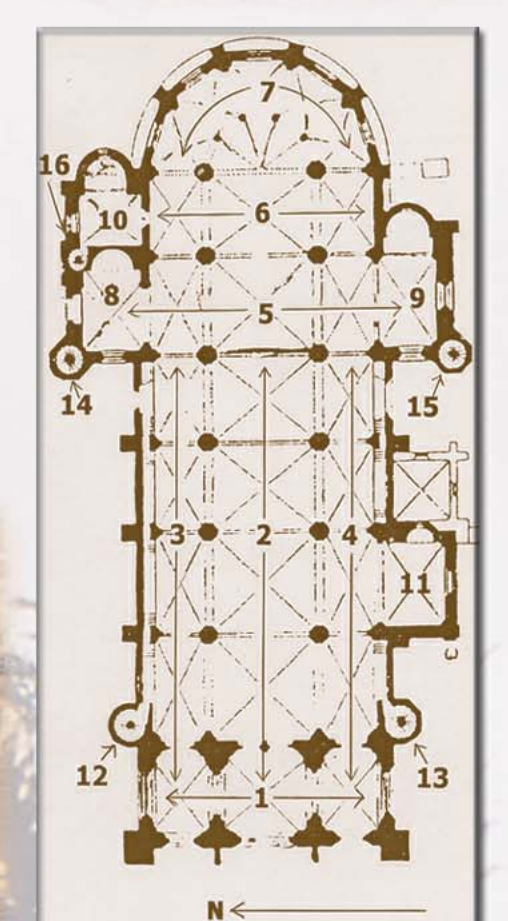
Despite the passage of time, the building's soaring ceilings and graceful architecture still evoke the atmosphere and grandeur of its 13<sup>th</sup>-century French design.



Nicosia



The mirhap (prayer niche)



The western porch



The front entrance





## Roundabout Corridor Road

By MSgt. Roland Kolesár

duty (standby radio-operator, patrolling, monitoring the area of responsibility (AOR), observing and reporting) but with a few added tasks, the most important of which is deployment to the liaison post at the village of Strovilia. Duty at this post is both demanding and challenging because the UN peacekeeper serves alongside a Turkish soldier in this remote village where Greek Cypriots reside. As a result of the easing of freedom of movement in April 2003, this small village became a new crossing point between the north and the south. Since then, we have added responsibility within our

unit, monitoring the movement of civilians and vehicles. available, and nobody has cause to complain. There is a gym in the camp which is open daily, a concrete pitch for football or tennis enthusiasts, a small park for hobby gardeners, a tiny workshop for budding gadgeteers, as well as TV/video/satellite/play-station facilities. It is a pity that, with the excellent cycling conditions in the area, we only have a limited number of bikes.

Whoever decides to leave the camp is free to plan a trip to the destination of his choice. Sun, sea, shopping, historical sites or walks – here on this island there are many places of interest.

While driving to Ayia Napa, UNFICYP staff and family members should consider taking a break and detouring at Xylotymbou and Paralimni. The straight and quiet roads are the divide between the two communities in this part of the island. Yes, it will take more time before you reach your destination, but meeting the Slovak peacekeepers of 2<sup>nd</sup> Company's 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon will surely be an unexpected pleasure, both for you and for them, especially after you realize that you are the reason for their broad smiles. They are happy to see anybody who visits them and will greet you with warm Slovak hospitality.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, also known as the "Athna Platoon", is responsible mainly for the "Corridor Road", the United Nations Buffer Zone patrol track which borders on the British Base Areas of Dhekelia and Ayios Nikolaos. The village of Athna is situated just two kilometres to the north of Corridor Road. A short distance along the track you will find a unique roundabout – where no one has the right of way. This blocked-off roundabout is the location of UN Observation Post (OP) 135.

The Athna Platoon patrols the Corridor Road 24 hours a day. This track is flanked by many military positions on both sides of the divide. As you continue eastwards along this arid road, an unexpected patch of greenery suddenly comes into view. The Athna camp is hidden just behind this small forest, strategically placed between UN OPs 138 and 139.

The platoon mission here is similar to that of any other guard



unit, monitoring the movement of civilians and vehicles. The duty schedule varies due to the constant changes that shape the daily life of the Athna Platoon. You will not find standard Monday to Friday working hours here, due to the diverse nature of duties. One of the most common questions among our soldiers is: "Excuse me, but what day is it today?" We have become accustomed to the routine, but basically it is a rather tedious lifestyle. However, we have eight days a month for rest and relaxation.

So, what can we do in our free time? There are many facilities

Relations between platoon members are relatively good, despite living together under the same roof for 12 months. Any minor misunderstandings are cleared up immediately, because in the framework of our demanding job and important mission here, there is simply no room for internal disputes.



From the left (standing): Sgt. Šmajda, Sgt. Radačovský, SSgt. Jonáš, Sgt. Zámbořský, MSgt. Kolesár, SSgt. Gajan. (Sitting): Capt. Macoška, Capt. Janech

## Former Finnish Peacekeepers Return

A group of 188 former Finnish peacekeepers visited Cyprus between 21-28 April, exactly 40 years after the first Finns arrived on the island in 1964 as part of UNFICYP.

During their visit, group members visited old positions and areas where they had served on both sides of the island. They also visited the UNPA where they were briefed by Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli, the present Force Commander, and Col. Ian Sinclair, the Chief of Staff. The Finnish Contingent then invited them to the sauna located in the UNPA.

Maj. Gen. Ahti Vartiainen, the group leader, served as the UNFICYP Force Commander from 1994 to 1997. On 24 April, he and his group laid a wreath at the Finnish Memorial in the area of the former Kykko Camp.

Asked what changes he had noticed since he left the island, Maj. Gen. Vartiainen said: "During my service with the force, I remember well the huge bicomunal events at the Ledra Palace arranged by UNFICYP and the participation of many Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots – at that time, it was their only opportunity to meet up and have fun together. That was UNFICYP's



Maj. Gen. Ahti Vartiainen (right) with former UNFICYP Finnish peacekeepers

big success. Today, with the opening of the crossing points, they are free to come and go as they wish.

"I have also noticed the enormous amount of building which has taken place, particularly in the north. The island is definitely developing."

## A Run for your Money

### Pedal with the Padre



The core team which cycled the full 180 km length of the BZ

A team of eight brave mountain bikers from 3 Regiment RHA and BRITCON set out at first light on 7 April to cycle the length of the Buffer Zone. The charity event, attempting to cover a distance of 180 kilometres in two days, was over rough terrain and through the foothills of the Troodos mountain range.

Padre Lee Gandiya was "the brains behind the saddle" and he, together with the hard core of his team, all completed the gruelling ride taking a total of 23 hours in temperatures of around 25°C degrees.

More than £1,100 was collected and presented to two local charities (Cans for Kids [north] and Alkionides [south]) and five international charities (Christian Aid, Tear Fund, Children's Society, World Vision and USPG).

All team members were saddle-sore but jubilant at having completed the ride successfully – definitely an achievement and a conquest.

### Leap Year's Day Run

The UNPA was the location for the half marathon organised by Sector 2 West, C Battery's OIC, Maj. Phil Curtis. On 29 February, over 100 runners took part, with Capt. "Mopsy" Monk of the MFR coming in as the first female, and Capt. Jon Cresswell, Adjutant 3 RHA, as the first male.

A very creditable £375 (sterling) was raised for the British Army Benevolent Fund.



OC MFR with some of his unit's runners.



# Ultra Lyte but potent up to 1,200 metres!

By Capt. Robert Litavec

A common, and sometimes unpopular, sight in UNFICYP is a member of the FMPU monitoring traffic speed with an Ultra Lyte Speed Meter. Some observations have been raised regarding the accuracy and calibration requirements of the speed meter. The aim of this article is to clarify some of the "Old Wive's Tales" surrounding this type of speed meter.

The Ultra Lyte is a hand-held laser speed detection and ranging device. It is manufactured in the USA by Laser Technology Inc, and is one of the most successful devices of its type, being used by hundreds of police forces throughout the world.

The Ultra Lyte is calibrated every time the shift changes, and if any defect (or suspicion of a defect) is found, the meter is not used.

The Ultra Lyte can acquire a reading in less than half a second, up to a maximum of 1,200 metres away, but in practice, readings are only obtained at between 100 and 450 metres. The meter is accurate to +/-2 kph. A laser is aimed at the front (or rear) of a target vehicle. This laser is then reflected back to the meter from the vehicle. The meter then calculates the time taken for the laser to hit the target and return to the meter, which then produces a speed-reading. The strength of the laser is insufficient to harm or discomfort (let alone "blind") the driver, even if it is accidentally aimed at the driver's eyes.

It is a common misconception that the Ultra Lyte operator hides in bushes in full combats and camouflage, waiting to jump out at some unsuspecting motorist. In fact, all FMPU operators wear high visibility vests, which are clearly detectable from over 500 metres away.

The Ultra Lyte can measure speed by one of two methods:

- It can be aimed directly at a vehicle that is suspected of speeding. This will give a reading of the speed at the moment the laser strikes the vehicle. This is the most common method of speed monitoring.
- The meter can also record an average speed between two fixed locations.

The drivers of some vehicles have been known to slow down as they pass the operator, and then speed up, apparently in the belief that the meter does not work when moving away from the operator. This is not the case. Readings are still +/-2 kph in accuracy when a vehicle is moving away from the operator. The display reading shows "a-" to indicate that the vehicle was moving away, not approaching.

In addition to being able to measure speed, the meter can also be used to accurately measure distances. This is especially useful when producing accurate sketch plans at the scene of a traffic accident, where it may be dangerous or impractical for the military policeman at the scene to use a measuring tape. Using the speed meter as a measuring device means that measurements can be recorded from the safety of the roadside.



It has been asked if anything can be done to detect or stop the meter. Commercially available "jamming" devices are available (the legality of ownership and use is still undecided in many countries). These devices will affect the laser signal, and prevent a reading, however the Ultra Lyte has circuitry that detects when the laser signal is being jammed, sounding an alarm which will alert the operator, who will then stop the targeted vehicle. Some manufacturers produce speed meter detection devices, most of which are a waste of money. The ones that do work are also of limited use, as they will only warn you that a hand-held speed meter is being used against your vehicle, and by then it is too late!

So enjoy your driving, but stay legal!

## On the Set at UN Headquarters

American director Sydney Pollack has been given permission to film parts of a movie starring Nicole Kidman and Sean Penn at the United Nations. The film will be shot in the UN Security Council and General Assembly, said UN Spokeswoman Marie Okabe. She added that Secretary-General Kofi Annan also gave the go-ahead, provided the film respects "UN values".

Shashi Tharoor, Under-Secretary-General for Public Information, said it was the first time in recent memory the world body, including Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the Presidents of the

Security Council and the General Assembly, had allowed a feature film to be made in the building. "It is a way of making the United Nations accessible to people who would not ordinarily think of the UN", stated Tharoor, instrumental in getting approval for the film. "We certainly expect to reach far more people than any public affairs initiative we could have undertaken", he said, adding: "Our consistent effort under Kofi Annan is to demystify the organisation and give people a sense of what the UN is all about, how it looks and how it matters".



# Saving Private Ryan

By Sgt. Jennifer Graham

On a cold windy Saturday afternoon in late February, UNCIV-POL Sgts. Peter Weedon and Michael Arena thought they were seeing things when they drove towards a horse that was standing in Minefield 2266 between Route Merlin and Buzzard, just a few hundred metres from Concession Road in the UNPA.

The roan, part-Arab mare, fondly known as "Private Ryan", was found to be Turkish Cypriot-owned and had wandered into the field. Peter and Michael assumed it would just be a matter of time before the horse stepped on a mine and took out who or whatever was in the vicinity.

And so started a vigil by members to try to release Private Ryan from the minefields. Fences on the UN side were laid down or unwired where she was seen in an effort to encourage her to come out. Staff member Diana Bridger provided feed and water buckets to coax the little mare out of her predicament.

Six days later, Peter Weedon was successful in encouraging Private Ryan to cross the fence, after the boys



from Ypenberg Troop left water out for her beside the fence. Peter was able to rope Private Ryan into a cul-de-sac directly in front of OP 50. After having done this, Peter then felt completely out of his depth. He had no previous experience with horses and needed help.

Thank goodness for mobile phones. Peter rang for help and was joined by a mixture of Australian, Irish and Cypriot UN employees with horse experience that eventually caught Private Ryan and led her to Diana Bridger's stables where she was cared for overnight and returned to her Turkish Cypriot owner the next day.

## UN System Loses Two Old Friends

### Sir Peter Ustinov



Sir Peter Ustinov, "the man who should make anyone laugh", died on 29 March in Switzerland at the age of 82.

"He was one of UNICEF's most effective and beloved partners, a man who exemplified the idea that one person can make a world of difference", said UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy.

Born in London in 1921 to Russian, German, French and Italian ancestry, Sir Peter said he had "automatic loyalty to something like the United Nations".

Though he achieved international

acclaim as an actor, producer, playwright, novelist and raconteur, Sir Peter will be remembered as much for his work on behalf of children as his contribution to the arts. Among countless awards and honours, he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in recognition of his artistic and humanitarian achievements in 1990.

The Secretary-General was deeply saddened to learn of Ustinov's death and extended his condolences to Sir Peter's wife and family. He paid tribute to incurable optimist, remarkable world citizen, and steadfast friend of the United Nations.

### Alistair Cooke



The Secretary-General was saddened by the death of long-time BBC contributor, the journalist Alistair Cooke, on 30 March. The Secretary-General was a great admirer of Mr. Cooke's renowned "Letter from America".

But Mr. Cooke also had a special place in the history of the United Nations. In 1945, as a journalist for the *Manchester Guardian*, he covered the San Francisco conference at which the United Nations was founded. And

from 1961 to 1967, he was the producer and on-camera presenter for "International Zone", a globally distributed programme on world affairs produced by the UN Department of Public Information.

The Secretary-General paid tribute to Mr. Cooke's lifelong efforts to increase mutual understanding between peoples, and extended condolences to Mr. Cooke's family and all others touched by his death.





## Frank Clancy, Chief Administrative Officer

UNFICYP and was transferred thereafter to UNMOGIP as the CFO until 1992. He was sent on TDY to UNPROFOR in the former Yugoslavia from 1992 through 1995, where as Budget Chief he managed a budget of more than \$2 billion. From April 1995 to September 1996, he served as the Unit Chief for Europe and Latin America, Finance Management and Support Service, FALD/DPKO, with responsibility for 10 peacekeeping missions with total annual expenditure of \$1 billion plus. In September 1996, he took up the post of CFO in UNFICYP.

From May 1999 to February 2002, Mr. Clancy served as the CAO in UNMOGIP, introducing a much-needed facelift of the infrastructure, upgrade of communications and information technology systems.

Mr. Clancy was appointed CAO in UNDOF in March 2002, at the outset of a modernisation programme during which he helped promote civilian/military cooperation and the evolution of integrated support services.

Mr. Clancy was born on 8 April 1950 in Ireland. He is married to Anne, who is accompanying him in the mission area. Their daughter, Rachel, is now pursuing post-graduate studies in the United Kingdom.

Frank Joseph Clancy joined the UN in 1975 and has over 28 years of field experience in the UN system in the areas of finance, budget, logistics and general administration.

Up to 1986, he held various administrative support functions in the fields of security, finance, travel/traffic and procurement in UNTSO, UNMOGIP and UNFICYP. From 1986 to 1989, he served as the Deputy CFO in

## Lt. Col. Martin Bačko CO Sector 4

Lt. Col. Martin Bačko took over on 23 March as Commanding Officer of Sector 4. After studying engineering, he enlisted in the Slovak Air Force in 1981, graduating from the Military Air Force Command. He completed post-graduate studies in law in 1985.

In 1987, Lt. Col. Bačko was assigned to the High State Government District in Košice where he headed the Personnel Section. From 1996 until 2001, he was Head of the Department of Scientific and Technical Information at the Slovak Military Air Force Institute of Research and Experimentation.

Lt. Col. Bačko served with UNFICYP as Adjutant to Commander Sector 4 in 2001. He later worked at the Slovak Ministry of Defence, Operation Management and UN Missions Department, until his present posting.

Born in Košice on 8 November, 1956, Lt Col. Bačko is married to Eva and they have two children, Martin



(18) and Eva (12). Over the last 15 years, he has developed a keen interest in martial arts. He has an extensive library on this subject, and is also interested in Eastern medicine and philosophy.

## New Faces



Anastasia



Alexandra



Elizabeth

New clerks, Anastasia Neocleous and Alexandra Owen, started working at UNFICYP in March and are very proud to be part of the UN system. Anastasia holds court at the Supply Unit. She enjoys her morning drive from Larnaca to the UNPA. However, she doesn't even want to think about her afternoon return during the summer. Alexandria comes to us from much closer here in Nicosia. After three years with the U.S. Embassy, she now works with UNFICYP's Force Military Police Unit.

Elizabeth Lontok is the Force Commander's new Personal Assistant. A seasoned UN staff member, Elizabeth started her UN career at New York Headquarters in 1983. Her adventures with the Organisation have taken her to Angola in 1992, back to New York with DPKO in 1997, then to Syria in 2000, and now Cyprus!! When asked, Elizabeth confidently describes mission life as "rewarding and challenging".

## Departure of Australian High Commissioner



Mr. Frank Ingruber, the outgoing Australian High Commissioner, paid a farewell call to Headquarters UNFICYP on 8 April. Mr. Ingruber leaves Cyprus on 28 April after just over four years on the island.

The diplomat was met by UNFICYP Chief of Mission Zbigniew Wlosowicz, and after inspecting a guard of honour, he had an informal meeting in the Chief of Mission's office with UNFICYP senior staff whom he had regular contact with during his time in Cyprus.

Mr. Ingruber's wife Marion was also a well-known figure up in Headquarters. She was a regular visitor to the coffee mornings held by and for the wives of UNFICYP serving personnel and diplomats. She also ran a series of art classes and exhibited much of her work during her stay on the island.

UNFICYP wishes Frank and Marion Ingruber a very happy future.

## 40 Years with the NAAFI

A presentation buffet lunch took place on 23 April in the Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess, BRITCON, to say farewell to Mrs Loulla Nacouzi on her retirement after 40 years service with the NAAFI.

Loulla started with NAAFI in Nicosia in 1958, and has spent 36 years of her 40-year service in the Families Shop on the UNPA.

Andy Leonard, the NAAFI Operations Manager for Cyprus, and Louisa Venizelos, the Nicosia Shop Manageress, made the retirement

presentations on behalf of NAAFI, followed by Amina Ravenhill presenting a bouquet of flowers on behalf of all staff from the Property Management Department. A final presentation was made by Colonel Ian Sinclair CBE, Commander BRITCON, of a "Certificate of Gratitude for Exemplary Service to the British Contingent UNFICYP" in recognition and gratitude for 40 years exemplary service.

Our sincere best wishes go to Loulla for a very happy and well-deserved retirement.



## Sally Retires

It is with much regret that UNFICYP bade farewell to Sally Kyriakides, the Budget Assistant in ISS, who took early retirement at the end of March after almost 35 years of service with UNFICYP.

Sally joined the mission in June 1969 when a number of clerical posts opened. Asked where she would like to work, she said: "Anywhere except where figures and money are involved". She ended up in the Finance Section!

Through the years, Sally changed

position but always remained connected with figures. Upon retirement, she held the post of Budget Assistant for Integrated Support Services and handled the Logistic Support Account. Her expertise in this area will be sorely missed.

Sally was held in the highest regard by all she came into contact with, a very competent and efficient member of staff who worked harmoniously with all her colleagues.

Sadly, Sally was obliged to retire five months early due to ill health. We all wish her well.



# Good Offices Departure

