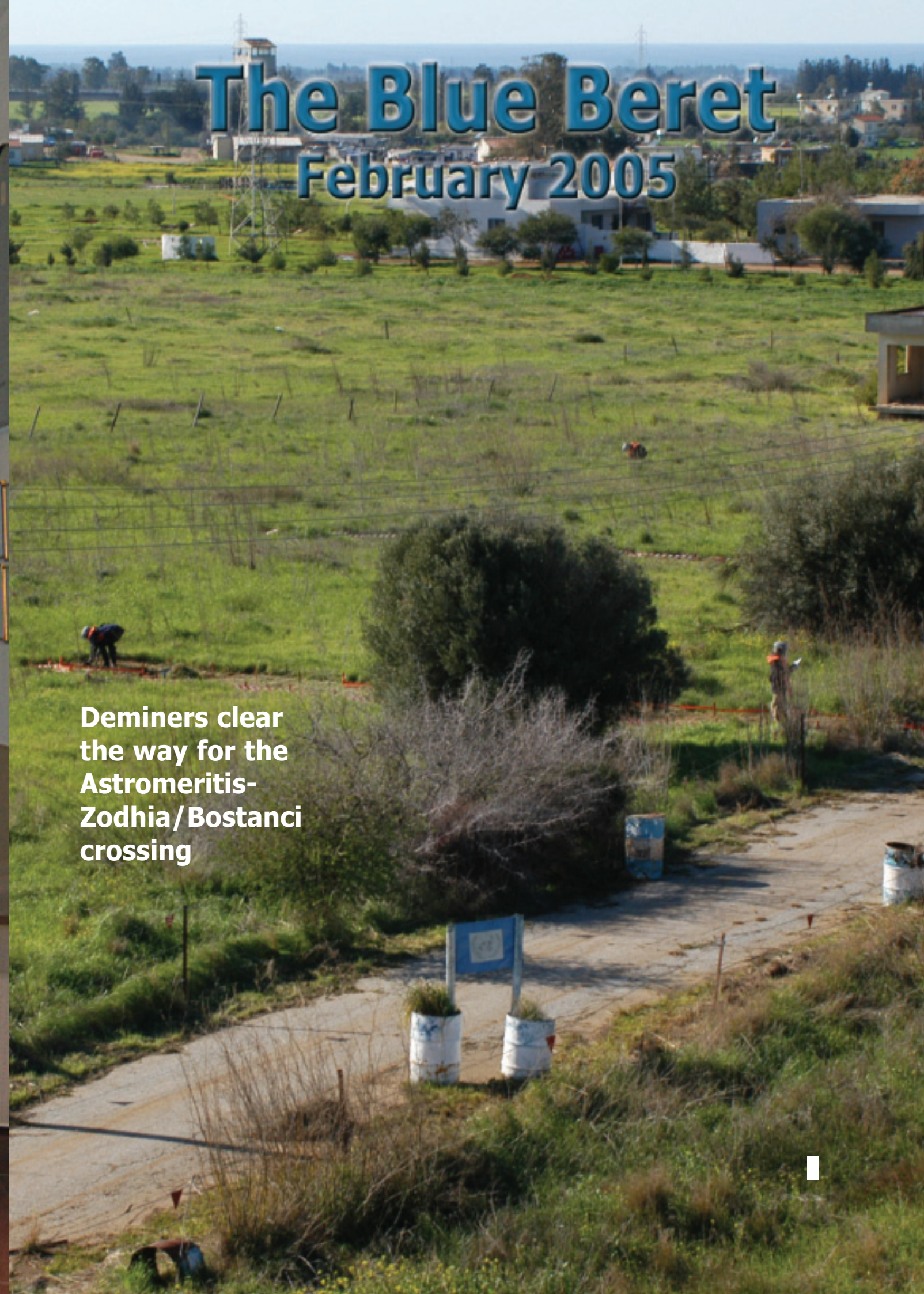




SRSB Zbigniew Wlosowicz receives the European Commission's Leopold Maurer at UNFICYP headquarters in the UNPA.



The Blue Beret

February 2005

Deminers clear
the way for the
Astromeritis-
Zodhia/Bostanci
crossing

THE BLUE BERET

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Editorial

In this issue we feature DPKO USG Guéhenno's report to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. He highlights three aspects of recent peacekeeping operations. Two attest to our capacity to adjust and move forward. One, sadly, casts a shadow over all peacekeepers and demands a drastic overhaul of our system of accountability and behaviour.

Today, DPKO manages 17 peace operations comprising more than 75,000 military, civilian police and civilian personnel, a 35% increase over the 55,000 deployed just one year ago. In 2004, a total of 120,000 military and civilian police personnel drawn from over 100 countries rotated through UN peacekeeping missions.

Despite these successes, there is a need to consolidate lest we become over-stretched. In the first half of 2004 alone, DPKO had to launch three complex missions in quick succession - in Burundi, Haiti and Côte d'Ivoire, having just deployed its largest operation to Liberia at the end of 2003. In addition, there was the expansion and restructuring of MONUC in 2004, the equivalent of launching a new operation.

However, USG Guéhenno reserves his strongest words for the problem of sexual exploitation and abuse arising from allegations related to the behaviour of MONUC personnel. The problem has to be tackled as a matter of highest priority, he warns, since the damage to the image and reputation of UN peacekeeping, and to the UN, could be irreparable.

The SG's October 2003 Bulletin on Special Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, the UN Code of Conduct for Blue Helmets, and MONUC's Code of Conduct are clear, he notes.

Any exchange of money, employment, goods or services for sex is strictly prohibited. Furthermore, any type of sexual activities with persons under the age of 18 years is prohibited. Mistaken belief in the age of a child is not a defence or an excuse.

Where substantiated, these acts warrant summary dismissal in the case of civilian staff, and repatriation and subsequent disciplinary action by Member States for military and civilian police personnel. Where crimes have been committed - whether by civilians or uniformed personnel - it is incumbent upon Member States to ensure that their nationals are brought to justice.

The issue has to be tackled collectively, he says. "We simply cannot abide by the vulnerable being victimized by even one peacekeeper sent to protect them. We need to do the right thing, even if that means exposing further weaknesses in the system in the short-term."

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Front Cover: EU-funded UNDP/PFF Landmine project deminers at work on the Astromeritis - Zodia/Bostanci crossing.
Back Cover: UNFICYP SRSG Zbigniew Włosowicz meets with Mr. Leopold Maurer who heads the Cyprus desk in the Director-Generalship of the EU's Enlargement Commission.

USG Guéhenno's Address to UN Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

What were the most important developments in UN peacekeeping in 2004, and what might they imply for the year ahead? For me, three things stand out in particular, as follows:

- **First**, there were many positive developments that may not be on everyone's radar screen. Several missions have met or exceeded expectations, and a few are preparing to actually wind-down, having successfully completed their mandates. A substantial number of the reforms proposed in the Brahimi Report have been implemented and have improved the way we plan and deploy UN peacekeeping and related operations. We continue to get better at what we do. Your investments over the past four years have paid off. They will continue to yield dividends in the years to come.
- **Second**, I am nevertheless concerned about taking on too much and spreading ourselves too thin. Despite the successes and the depth of reform that has taken place, several missions are operating in volatile and precarious environments. They need to be bolstered and supported, in order to achieve their mandated objectives. There are also many reforms that still need to be consolidated. And, there are complex strategic dilemmas about the direction UN peacekeeping should take over the next five to ten years, the implications of which have yet to be fully thought through, let alone reconciled. For these, among other reasons I will explain a bit later, I sincerely hope that the Organisation will not be required to deploy any new complex peacekeeping operations in 2005, beyond what is already on our plate or in the pipeline.
- **Third**, allegations that MONUC personnel have sexually exploited and abused Congolese is cause for serious concern. Just as the catastrophic failure of any one operation could irreparably erode public confidence in UN peacekeeping, so, too, could acts of gross misconduct, if we do not respond to them with the utmost seriousness in 2005. We have a real substantive problem, not just a PR issue that needs to be "spun". We have to deal with it collectively, aggressively and quickly. And, we must prevent it from happening elsewhere. I will elaborate on each of these three points.

Investment/Reform Pay Off

Point 1, the good news is that investments and reforms are paying off. In many respects, 2004 has been a very good year for UN peace operations. Long-term efforts are bearing fruit in a number of locations previously considered irreparable, for example:

- in **Timor-Leste**, the UN is successfully winding down its mandate to assist in creating the sustainable institutions of a viable and independent democratic state;
- in **Sierra Leone**, a democratically elected government, while still consolidating a fragile situation, is in the process of taking over responsibility for security from the UN mission. Prior to the mission's arrival, over five years ago, the country was fractured and engulfed in bloody and vicious warfare;
- the UN mission in **Afghanistan** started the year by successfully supporting the Afghan Constitutional Loya Jirga as it approved a new constitution, and in October, UNAMA

played an instrumental role in helping Afghans - including millions of women - to democratically elect and install Hamid Karzai as their President;

- in **Liberia**, over a decade of war has come to an end and the country, a founding member of the UN, is experiencing a measure of stability that its younger generations have never known;
- and, the UN operation in **Burundi** deployed swiftly and established its credibility from day one as a critical component of promoting peace in the country.

The reforms at Headquarters initiated in 2001 also are paying off in how we generate forces, deploy and sustain them. Today, the 17 UN peace operations managed by DPKO comprise over 75,000 military, civilian police and civilian personnel, compared to 55,000 this time last year. That represents a net increase of over 35%.

In total, 120,000 military and civilian police personnel, drawn from over 100 countries, rotated through our missions in 2004. We generated resources, de-ployed

and sustained them, this time around, in a manner that no other organisation in the world could replicate as efficiently or as cost-effectively. This has entailed making skillful use of 127 systems contracts, aggressively deploying Strategic Deployment Stocks (SDS), negotiating over 300 Memoranda of Understanding with Member States, and conducting in-depth evaluations and inspections. We chartered 319 aircraft and 52 ships, and currently operate an aircraft fleet comprising 57 fixed-wing and 114 rotary-wing aircraft - a 50% increase in 2004. We transported 580,000 passengers and 470,000 metric tonnes of cargo - in over 90,000 flight hours. We currently operate 14 military hospitals and 120 clinics, operate over 4,000 generators with a total capacity of 300 MW, enough to supply power to 200,000 homes. Much of this activity was achieved in areas with little or no infrastructure at all.

New missions deployed with force packages that took into account the recommendations of the Brahimi Report and the painful lessons of the 1990s. They arrived with close air support assets (i.e. attack helicopters), quick response forces and formed police units capable of responding to civil unrest without resorting to lethal force.

The way we plan new operations has also undergone a positive transformation. DPKO planners have been present at key moments in the peace talks on Sudan. In some instances they have been able to advise on the feasibility of security provisions. They have been able to conduct planning on the basis of first hand knowledge of the negotiations. Concurrently, an advance mission was established *in situ*, thereby ensuring that the core of the mission's headquarters would be on the ground once the anticipated full-scale deployment began. And, at Headquarters, our Sudan team in the Office of Operations has guided a truly inclusive planning process along the lines recommended by the Brahimi Report and articulated in the Integrated Mission Planning Process template. These reforms should not be overlooked, even if the tragic developments in Darfur, and the parties' own sensitivities *vis-à-vis* the force composition, have greatly complicated efforts.

As you can see, a great deal has been accomplished in 2004. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the

(continued on next page)



USG Guéhenno's Address

(continued from previous page)

contribution of troops, civilian police, financial assistance and political support from the Member States. In a world in which the commitment to work together for the common good is not always clear, your continued investment in UN peacekeeping represents just that. I can sincerely say that, in many countries recovering from war, that investment has been worth it. Millions of some of the world's most vulnerable populations now have a real chance for a peaceful, prosperous and democratic future.

Consolidating Success

The second point I want to stress is that we should now consolidate the successes and reforms, instead of growing too fast or spreading ourselves to thin.

Despite the good news, there should be no illusions. The road ahead in Afghanistan, Burundi, Liberia, Haiti, the DRC, and Côte d'Ivoire will be perilous. Political processes we are concurrently managing in Kosovo, Eritrea/ Ethiopia, and Georgia remain extremely complex and sensitive. Add to these nine very fluid cases, several other more predictable yet important operations, and the imminent deployment of a complex operation to Sudan, Africa's largest country. We will have our hands full.

Moreover, we are not resourced or structured to keep launching one new mission after another, while keeping the reform effort on track. During the deliberations on the Brahimi Report, we asked you how many new complex operations we should be prepared to launch in any given year. You indicated one. Yet, we had to launch three in quick succession – in Burundi, Haiti, and Côte d'Ivoire – in the first half of 2004 alone, virtually on the heels of deploying our largest operation to Liberia, at the end of 2003. The expansion and restructuring of MONUC in 2004 might be added to the list, insofar as it has been as complicated and labour intensive as establishing a new operation.

The numbers I mentioned earlier are impressive, but they come at a cost. I am certain that there would be more consistency in the quality of people we recruit, if we were not overwhelmed by the sheer quantitative demands. I am also convinced that we would have done demonstrably better in preparing our people to do their jobs, if we had had to launch only one new operation in 2004, rather than three and half.

The *sui generis* nature of each undertaking is a given. That should not, however, mean that each operation should be launched as if it were the first. We have learned a great deal about some practices and procedures that should be standard features of any operation. Yet, this was not fully reflected in the new missions established in 2004.

We are still facing difficulties to put together quickly the right mission leadership teams and to provide them with the type of standardized induction and orientation that they deserve. Quick and transparent recruitment of niche expertise, as opposed to generalists, remains a serious challenge. So, too, is the rewarding of our best performers and the weeding out of the poorer ones. And, there is still a paucity of guidance documents, in the form of updated manuals, SOPs and specific training programmes to help personnel who are new to the UN not only to hit the ground running, but also to ensure they are pointed in the right direction.

The qualitative challenge is as daunting as the quantitative one. The operations now in existence range from complex transitional administration of territories to small "traditional" observation and monitoring missions. Some are primarily comprised of civilians deployed along a "light footprint" model with regional and bilateral arrangements providing security; others are fairly "heavy deployments", with the UN taking on the full range of military peacekeeping, "police-keeping" and

peace-building responsibilities. It is no wonder that there is some confusion about what distinguishes a "peacekeeping operation" from a "peace operation" or an "assistance mission", or for that matter why DPKO is not called DPO, i.e. "the Department of Peace Operations".

Furthermore, the Department not only manages its own operations, but also provides services and support to an almost equal number of operations and offices managed by others, principally the Department of Political Affairs, including the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq. And now, with Darfur, we are providing some support for an operation run by the African Union. Is this a trend you expect to continue?

More generally, what kind of operations and services, and how many, will the department be called upon to manage over the next five to ten years? The answer to this question will set the strategic direction for the department. It needs to be thought through carefully with you, the Member States, and with our partners in the UN system and in regional organisations, within the broader context of the deliberation on the recommendations of the High Level Panel. As the report before you indicates, getting the relationships right with our partners inside and outside the UN system remains a strategic priority for us this year.

In summary, we need to reflect on the strategic direction of the department, consolidate the reform effort, make Sudan a model deployment, and give proper attention and support to existing operations, at least nine of which are extremely active, operationally challenging and politically complex. That is a fairly tall order for 2005.

Please do not misunderstand me. I am not making a pitch for another 50% increase in resources for DPKO, as was provided through the "Brahimi process". Our current management structure is not designed or equipped to absorb such an increase effectively. We will be seeking less than a 10% increase in the next support account submission, because we believe that is the minimum required to handle the dramatic increase in workload, while ensuring that each post is properly justified and can be put to good use.

In any event, limitless growth is not a smart business model in any field, and especially not in ours where humility should be the rule. Surely, one of lessons of the 1990s is that the UN was asked to take on too many peacekeeping operations, with too few resources, in too many places where they did not necessarily belong. Let's not repeat history.

There comes a point when the demands exceed your ability to get the job done properly, while concurrently putting in place in the reforms necessary to make sure that we do it even better down the road. As we experienced in 2004, as in the early 1990s, it is difficult to run and tie your shoelaces at the same time. But, if you do not tie those laces, there is a danger that you will trip and fall. I want to avoid that. I want us to take care of the loose ends, before we push our luck by taking on additional new complex operations in 2005, beyond Sudan. I would rather use whatever breathing space and time we can steal, to clarify our strategic direction and invest in the reforms needed to improve the performance of missions that may need to be established in 2006 and 2007.

Sexual Exploitation

The third point I want to make is about the allegations of MONUC personnel sexually exploiting and abusing Congolese.

Let me be clear. If we do not tackle this problem as one of our highest priorities in 2005, then the damage to the image and reputation of UN peacekeeping could be irreparable. The

multilateral system is under strain at the moment, and its capacity to absorb bad news is weak.

Scores of MONUC personnel, in all categories, are alleged to have solicited prostitutes. The term "prostitution", incidentally, can mask the exploitative nature of the dynamic. In many cases in the DRC, the so-called sex workers have been paid scraps of food, and have been girls as young as 13 and 14 years of age. And, in several cases, the allegations are of an obvious criminal nature, involving rape, including of children.

Regardless of one's moral or philosophical views on prostitution, the fact is that the Secretary-General's October 2003 Bulletin on Special Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, the United Nations Code of Conduct for Blue Helmets, and MONUC's Code of Conduct are clear on this issue. Any exchange of money, employment, goods or services for sex is strictly prohibited. Furthermore, any type of sexual activities with persons under the age of 18 years is prohibited. Mistaken belief in the age of a child is not a defence or an excuse. Where substantiated, these acts warrant summary dismissal in the case of civilian staff, and repatriation and subsequent disciplinary action by Member States for military and civilian police personnel. Where crimes have been committed – whether by civilians or uniformed personnel – it is incumbent upon Member States to ensure that their nationals are brought to justice. The UN, as you know, has no means or authority to do so.

Never before in the history of the United Nations have we witnessed allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse in this order of magnitude. And, never before has the UN investigated them as intensively as it is now doing.

One civilian staff member is now in jail in his home country facing charges. Another is no longer in the employ of the Organisation. Twenty detailed reports involving allegations against military personnel have been transmitted to the Member States concerned for action, as a result of OIOS investigations in Bunia. More reports from elsewhere will follow. ASG Angela Kane is leading a special team now in the DRC to conduct investigations into all outstanding allegations. ASG Jane Holl Lute is leading a Task Force here at Headquarters to ensure a coordinated intra- and inter-departmental response to this crisis.

"Any exchange of money, employment, goods or services for sex is strictly prohibited"

And, HRH Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid al-Hussein, the Permanent Representative of Jordan, graciously accepted to serve as the Secretary-General's Adviser on this issue. As you know, Prince Zeid has been helping us to ensure that the concerns of the membership, the Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) in particular, factor into all facets of our response, as we develop a plan of action to prevent the reoccurrence of these despicable acts. We do not know how many cases are going unreported, whether in MONUC or elsewhere. In all likelihood, peacekeepers have committed acts of sexual exploitation and abuse in other missions throughout the past decade, but the vast majority has not been formally reported to Headquarters. It is now apparent that neither you nor we have been aggressive enough to search for and expose these cases. That new allegations came to light in DRC, even after the OIOS investigation was launched, makes it patently obvious that some peacekeepers even still have not gotten the message.

We need your help to send the right message to them, by taking swift action where clearly warranted, while respecting due process and the presumption of innocence before guilt is proven. We need your help to address obvious shortcomings in our investigative capacities. Proving sex crimes is one of the most difficult prosecutorial challenges for even the most sophisticated criminal justice systems let alone for peacekeeping operations, which, at present, are woefully ill-equipped to investigate them. And, we need

your help to make significant improvements in prevention measures.

The public relations dimensions of this problem are secondary. The most important priority is for us to collectively tackle this issue, substantively. We simply cannot abide by the vulnerable being victimized by even one peacekeeper sent to protect them. We need to do the right thing, even if that means exposing further weaknesses in the system in the short-term.

That is why we have taken several measures that are described in the report before you. It is also why we are pro-posing in our next Support Account submission to establish a dedicated unit, in my office, headed at the D-1 level to deal with all forms of personnel misconduct including sexual exploitation and abuse.

But these measures will not be enough. A drastic overhaul of the system is required. In the report before you, the Secretary-General indicates that he would be willing to put bold, imaginative and creative ideas on the table for you to consider, very quickly, building on the excellent work of Prince Zeid. I sincerely hope that you will take him up on the offer. The Secretariat cannot solve this problem on its own. We need your support and full cooperation.

Fallen Peacekeepers

I have spoken at length on this subject because it greatly pains me to know that it is an ugly stain on a remarkable record of achievement in 2004.

Thousands of peacekeepers risked their lives, braved violent and desperate conditions, put their personal obligations to family and friends on hold, in order to bring peace to war-torn countries. It is ultimately thanks to their professionalism, bravery and sacrifice that the successes I mentioned earlier could be achieved. That includes the ultimate sacrifice that over 100 of our fallen peacekeepers made in 2004.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to their memory and to reiterate the debt of gratitude the international community owes to them and to the Member States from which they come. Member States contributing the largest numbers of troops and civilian police, in particular, deserve to be thanked rather than have their national honour impugned by the gross misconduct of a minority, whether from within or outside their ranks. The vast majority of them perform their duties with great distinction. It is and should be a source of pride for all of us.

When I said earlier that 2004 has been a very good year for peacekeeping, I sincerely meant it. In order for 2005 to even better, we have to attend to unfinished business. Prudence and bitter experience dictates that we should get the jobs done and invest in the future, before we take on more responsibilities. It will be up to the Security Council, of course, to determine if, in 2005, prudence is a luxury we can or cannot afford.

UN peacekeeping is not always the right solution for a post-conflict situation. But, in order for UN peacekeeping to be a viable option among a variety of tools, it requires constant reform, retooling and investment. That is what the report before you is ultimately about. The senior management team in DPKO looks forward to fleshing out these proposals with you during this session, and throughout 2005.

[In concluding, Mr. Guéhenno paid tribute to his senior management team, thanking Kiran Bedi of India for her contributions as DPKO Police Adviser and noting that the civilian police division had had to generate and deploy 14,000 civilian police officers to 15 missions during her two-year term.

He also thanked Major-General Patrick Cammaert of the Netherlands who had headed the military division for two years and who now serves as Division Commander of UN forces in the eastern DRC.

The USG welcomed new Military Adviser, Major-General Randhir Kumar Mehta of India, and new Police Adviser, Mark Kroeker of the United States.

In addition, Mr. Guéhenno noted the pending departure of UNMAS head, Martin Barber.]

A Wood by any Other Name Smells Twice as Sweet!

On 12 February, soldiers from Sector 2 assisted the local community and Cyprus Forestry Commission in planting approximately 200 trees in the buffer zone. The area chosen for the planting has long been known by the soldiers of Sector 2 as “Stinky Woods” because of the contamination by industrial waste. Saturday’s events heralded the completion of a rejuvenation programme designed to rid the soil of the waste.

Over 10 years ago, the Forest Department planted eucalyptus trees in the area to dry and purify the soil. These sturdy trees have served their purpose. The land was recently declared fit to replant with a mixed woodland habitat consistent with the remainder of the forest. With the eucalyptus trees cleared, Forest Department’s Garden Director Glafkos Kyriakou requested permission through Sector 2 SCAT to carry out the work.

On a cold Saturday morning, soldiers from Sector 2 and UNCIVPOL met and escorted Mayor Andreas Petrou of Aglantzia, representatives from the Forestry Department and a



group of local schoolchildren into the buffer zone.

Once assembled at “Stinky Woods”, the Mayor addressed the group, outlining the history of the forest. An explanation of the Athalassa Forest propagation scheme followed. The schoolchildren went on to describe the qualities of woodland species being planted including pines, cypresses, acacias and casuarinas. Then came a solo rendition of a local song depicting the importance of protecting nature.

Then, armed with spades, the group set to the task in hand, planting the trees in pre-prepared holes. With the weather closing in, there was just enough time to finish with a drink and a Cyprus pastry before the group exited from the buffer zone.

The event was an excellent opportunity for members of Sector 2 to meet the local community and contribute to the forestry programme. It, however, leaves one issue unresolved – what now to call “Stinky Woods”?



Tribute to Sam Kariuki

On 15 February, a memorial service was held at Saint Columbas Church in the UNPA for a dear friend and colleague. At the start of the ceremony, 55 bells tolled in memory of Sam Kinyanjui Kariuki’s 55 years on this earth. Sam passed away on 28 January in a London hospital after a long and painful battle against cancer.

Sam was born in Njiku village, Soloman Islands, in 1949. After graduating in law, he began his working life in 1973 as a civil servant. He joined the United Nations on 1 December 1992, and served in Somalia, Angola, Kuwait and finally Cyprus, where he held the post of Chief Procurement Officer.

A much loved colleague, Sam bore his illness with a quiet dignity and set an example to us all. He was an international civil servant in the very best sense of the term.

Sam is survived by his wife Emily, three sons Duncan, Christopher, and Peter and daughter Priscah.



Civilian Police “Soldier On”!

Much has been heard and read about the downsizing of the military component of UNFICYP, with almost 400 soldiers being repatriated and not replaced in the Mission.

That is not the case with UNCIVPOL. They continue to “soldier on” and provide 45 Civilian Police to this mission. Hopefully, they will increase their numbers to 55 police in the near future to allow UNCIVPOL to take over Sector Civil Affairs Tasks (SCAT) from the military.

During February, 18 new officers joined UNFICYP on rotation. Nine from Australia and two from India arrived in mission on 5 February. Seven arrived from Ireland on 14 February. For most of these officers, this is their first UN posting, although Stn. Sgt. Graham Leary (Austcivpol, Pyla) served for nine months in UNFICYP during 2000/2001.

The latest induction course from 14 to 18 February, introducing the 18 new police officers to the demands and subtleties of duty in UNFICYP. The Chief of Mission, the Force Commander and other HQ senior officers briefed the group.

The programme covered a wide range of subjects, including explanations about Civil Affairs duties, the PIO’s office, operational requirements, the role of the Mobile Force Reserve and the MPs, FMPU medical and hygiene requirements in the mission, communications, security issues, administrative matters within UNFICYP and the use



New UNCIVPOL members pictured after their briefing, with Force Commander Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli and Anne Bursey (centre, standing), our new Public Information Office member who also attended

of our interpreters. Sessions on gender and cultural sensitivities were also included. The new Civpol were introduced to the MOLO concept and their possible interaction with them. After last year’s tragic helicopter accident, special care was taken to include helicopter safety issues in the programme.

After the completion of the course, the new members took up their postings, spread across all seven UNCIVPOL stations, from Linou in the west to Dherenia in the east. They are all looking forward to the challenges presented in Cyprus “in the service of peace”.

Ahmet’s Retirement



A farewell party was held on 18 February to bid farewell to a long-serving Turkish Cypriot colleague, Ahmet Niyazi.

Ahmet joined the United Nations as a driver in July 1995, and continued in the mission’s service until February 2003 when he was involved in a serious car accident in Sector 1. Health problems following the accident obliged Ahmet to retire early, and so his colleagues decided to send him off in style.

The CM, CAO, CISS and all transport staff members attended an excellent buffet lunch where Transport Unit Chief Andy Alleyne commended Ahmet for his excellent service with the mission before presenting him with a clock from his friends in Transport. In his response, Ahmet did not forget to pay tribute to our late colleague, Andreas Demetriou, who was also involved in the accident.

The CM reflected the CTU’s words and also personally thanked Ahmet for his support during the time he worked as the CM’s driver.

Ahmet is married to Celia, and they have two daughters, Lerzan Ellen and Sara Ayse.

Happy retirement Ahmet!

The Cultural Heritage of Cyprus - Part XXIX

The Venetian Walled City of Nicosia

When the flag of Saint Mark was hoisted on Famagusta Castle on 13 March 1489, it marked the official transfer of power in Cyprus to Venice from the departing Queen Caterina Cornaro for Italy. She was the widow of James II (1460-1473), the last of the Lusignan royal family who reigned on the island from 1192. The Queen was herself a daughter of the Republic of Venice. On the death of James III (1473-4), their infant son, the Venetian influence in the royal court had become so pronounced that Cyprus had long become a Venetian protectorate before Caterina's abdication in 1489 in favour of her mother country.

The Venetian presence on the island was long established. Venice's resident merchants enjoyed special commercial privileges during the Lusignan period and even earlier when her ships were granted permission by the Byzantine emperors to use the island's ports. Zealous to protect her various possessions in the Mediterranean from the Ottomans, Venice embarked on an immense programme of defensive constructions. The rapidly expanding Ottoman empire of the 16th century already reached beyond the Eastern Mediterranean to North Africa, the Balkans and other European countries. Others, like Lithuania-Poland, Austria and France paid protective tribute.

An outstanding example of the many impressive monuments reminiscent of Venice's grandeur, military power and engineering ingenuity are the defensive walls of Nicosia, designed by the merchant state's ablest military engineer, Giulio Savorgnano. On visiting Nicosia, he determined to demolish the old Frankish walls since they had been rendered obsolete by the advent of artillery. So big were they that they required a huge garrison force. Moreover, their proximity to the hills on the south-easterly side made the walls vulnerable to enemy cannon fire, as eventually proved to be the case.

In designing the Nicosia walls, Savorgnano had aimed to keep the enemy as far as possible from the town and protect against a close-up full-scale assault. He tried to do so using the "fronte bastionato" to mount artillery designed to repel any would-be assailants who came within firing range of the bastion battery. In effect, he set out to transform Nicosia from a walled city to a Venetian fortress.

A schematic vertical section of the fortifications helps in better understanding Savorgnano's engineering (Figure 3). The dotted horizontal line indicates the level of the fields round Nicosia before they were dug up for construction of the moat (ditch). The removed soil was used together with adobe to construct the earthwork of the walls. These were buttressed with stones while their upper surface remained uncovered to better withstand enemy artillery salvoes, as Savorgnano explained in a letter to the Duke of Parma.

So the old walls were pulled down along with a collection of monasteries, churches and houses, thus rendering the area of Nicosia 40% smaller. Beginning in 1567, the stones were recycled and used for construction of the new Venetian walls under Savorgnano's direction. He was recalled to Venice eight months before Nicosia was besieged in the summer of 1570.

His work was continued by his assistant, Leonardo Roncone. It had not been completed when the Ottomans laid siege to the capital. Indeed, it was the Ottomans who eventually completed the walls after their conquest of the city on 9 September 1570. However, it remains an unanswered question whether the Venetian failure in the defence of Nicosia was due to the unfinished walls, or to the military incompetence of Niccolò Dandolo, the man responsible for the city's defence.

The area contained within the circular walls (excluding the bastions) is 1.41km² with a diameter of 1,402m, a circumference of 3,200m and a height of 12m. The total area including the bastion is 1.63 km². The moat (ditch) which surrounds the walls is 100m wide.

Each heart-shaped bastion has a perimeter of 347.45m with a 9,9972m² average area as the bastions are not identical. The curtain wall that separates the bastion has a length of 275m. The distance from tip to tip of opposite bastions is 1,600 m, while the ramparts have a width of 5.60m.

The bastions were named after the Venetian families who helped finance their construction and were later renamed by the Ottomans. With their corresponding Turkish names in brackets, starting clockwise from Porta Giuliana (see Figure 2):

"Porta Giuliana", named after Giulio Savorgnano, was considered the most important gate since it led to Famagusta, Larnaca and Limassol. It has an arched passage, 45m long and 4m wide, the centre of which is a spherical dome 11m in diameter. The passage at both ends of the Gateway measures 3.12m wide and 5.34m high. Two latch windows on either side of the entrance embellish the façade of the inner side of the Porta Giuliana which now serves as a cultural centre of the Municipality of Nicosia.

The Italian fortified city of Palmanova, built in 1593, may be Giulio Savorgnano's masterpiece, but Nicosia's unfinished walls served him as a prototype for a bastioned fortification. What is more, they remained in use until the early 19th century (Figure 1).

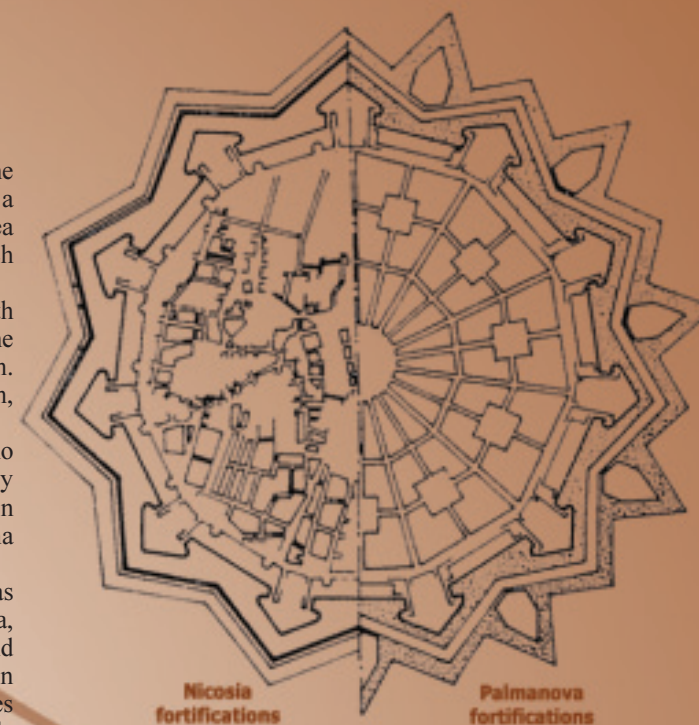


Figure 1

Explanations to Figure 2

A: Porta Giuliana – Giulio's Gate, in the east, now Famagusta Gate; 1: Podocataro (Sazli); 2: Costanzo (Bayraktar) Note: Here is the Bayraktar mosque which, in 1769, replaced a monument to the bayraktar (ensign) who first planted the Turkish flag here on 9 September 1570; 3: D'Avila (Kara Ismail); 4: Tripoli (Degirmen); B: Porta di San Domenico – Saint Dominic's Gate, in the south-west, now Paphos Gate; 5: Roccas (Kaitraz); 6: Mula (Zahra); 7: Quirini (Jeb Khane); C: Porta del Proveditore – Gate of the Military Governor, in the north, now Kyrenia Gate; 8: Barbaro (Mussalla); 9: Loredano (Dervish); 10: Flatro (Seghulti) and 11: Caraffa (Altun).

Explanations to Figure 3

1: External fields, 2: Protective wall to the side opposite the fortification wall; 3: Dry moat (external ring); 4: Moat with water; 5: Protective earth-work; 6: Dry moat (wallside part of the moat); 7: Fire range; 8: Lower patrol passage; 9: Upper protective earthwork; 10: Service passage for repairs; 11: Top of the fortification; 12: Upper patrol passage; 13: Covered internal safety passage; 14: Internal part of upper earthwork; 15: Town's road level, same as that of external fields; 16: Tunnel for explosives.

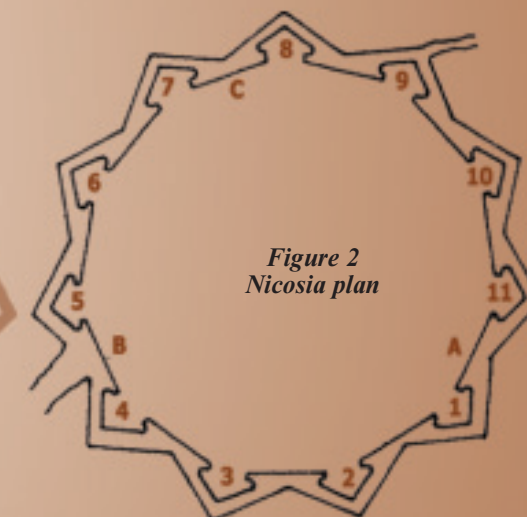


Figure 2
Nicosia plan

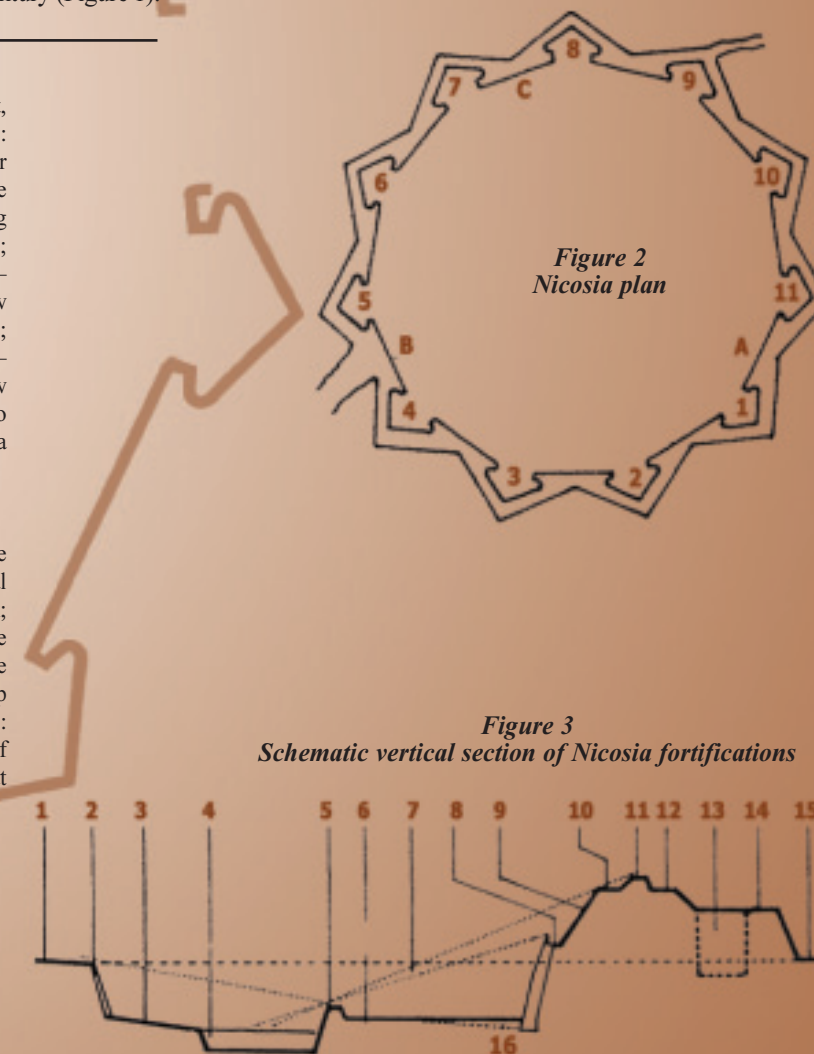


Figure 3
Schematic vertical section of Nicosia fortifications



Porta del Proveditore (Kyrenia Gate)



Porta di San Domenico (Paphos Gate)



Bayraktar Mosque



Porta Giuliana (Famagusta Gate)

Demining by the Numbers



Mine Detection: Dog Team Training



Manual Deminer Training



Located: One Anti-Tank Mine



Preparing Demolition Charge

On 18 November last, UNFICYP Chief of Mission, SRSZ Zbigniew Wlosowicz joined head of EU Representation in Cyprus Ambassador Adriaan van der Meer in the buffer zone area adjacent to the UNPA to officially launch the EU-funded UNDP/PFF Landmine and Ordnance Clearance in Cyprus project. By the end of January this year, a combination of three manual clearance and two mine detection dog teams contracted by the project had cleared just over 75,000 square metres of suspect minefields inside the buffer zone. Some 400 anti-personnel mine and 874 anti-tank mines had been removed and destroyed in that time. There are 101 minefields in Cyprus, 48 of which are located inside the buffer zone.



Charged and ready to fire



Connecting Firing Circuit



3-2-1 Boom!

Australian High Commissioner visits Pyla

Australian High Commissioner Garth Hunt visited Pyla on 28 January and met with the two village leaders and other local officials. UNCIVPOL members Garda Chris Brosnan, Sgt. Luke Banwell, Sgt. Ann McKenna and I escorted the High Commissioner on a walking tour around the village. Unfortunately, the Turkish Cypriot primary school was closed for the winter break. However, Mr. Hunt did drop by the Greek Cypriot primary school where he was received by the Principal and spoke with the students. The party also visited the Pyla Cultural Museum, Pyla Mosque, Pyla Tower and Pyla Square. Supt. Eamon Lynch, Sgt. Phil Maree and Garda Brosnan subsequently joined the High Commissioner and his party for lunch at a local restaurant.

Stn. Sgt. Justine Adamek



Mr. Hunt (second from right) being introduced to schoolchildren in Pyla

CO Sector 2's Trophy



The stretcher run

The third CO's challenge for Sector 2 took place close to home this time, a proper endurance run testing everyone's physical ability. A five-mile route was set out through the buffer zone. Starting from the FMPU station in the UNPA, the course ran along the patrol tracks to Ledra Palace Hotel. Five teams of 20 from S2 and the MFR battled it out to see who was the fittest in a test requiring them to tackle a Bergen rucksack run, a log run and a stretcher run. On 13 February, after milling around weighing Bergens at the FMPU station, the teams set off one by one. They were all accompanied by a Physical Training Instructor to make sure nobody was slacking or cheating. The conditions in the morning were perfect, and everyone got stuck in, some more than others. Not being the sort of people to miss a physical challenge, both the CO and the RSM put their Bergens on and joined each team for a section of the route. At the end of the event, the MFR team was declared the fastest team and they were awarded a fantastic trophy.

Friday 18 February was the date set for a fancy dress cocktail party held at the Hungarian bar in the UNPA. Traditional Hungarian hospitality meant there was good food to get everyone going. Using a well-stoked fire, pots of steaming, spicy gulyás was served up by SSgt. Sándor Juhász. A tasty meal to get everyone through the night. Also on offer was a free drink to anyone who turned up in fancy dress. The MFR did not intend to let their side down. There was a huge selection of costumes with a lot of variety. Some skimpy outfits left little to the imagination! MCpl. Zsolt Nádasdi from the MFR, the DJ for the evening, got most people grooving by mixing good party tunes, including some crazy break dancing. The fun was helped along with superb cocktails, shaken (not stirred) by MSgt. Tamás Kajdi. The party lasted well into the early hours of the morning.

Cocktails and Gulyás



Back to the Future

Information Technology & Communications

Robert Walker (Scotland)

Robert Walker returns for his fourth assignment with UNFICYP. This time around he is the new Chief ITC Section. UNFICYP was Bob's first UN assignment after an induction at UNTSO in Jerusalem, when he joined the organisation in 1975. This time he is accompanied by his wife Lola. They met while he was serving with UNOMIG in Georgia.



"I actually started my UN career in Cyprus in 1975 and it would be nice to finish it in Cyprus in 2007", says Bob. He would retire after 32 years with DPKO. "My dream is that I shall see a final solution to the Cyprus problem by the time I leave," says Bob.

He also worked in missions and agencies in Kenya, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Cambodia, Angola, Georgia, Pakistan, and New York.

UN Flight

Lt. Col. Osvaldo Albanesi (Argentina)

Lt. Col. Albanesi was born in Mendoza, Argentina, on 31 January 1957. After completing high school, he entered the Argentinian Air Force Academy. Four years later, he graduated as a military pilot and was commissioned into the VII Air Brigade.

In 1982, Osvaldo attended and passed the helicopter pilot's course. Since then, he has flown helicopters and airplanes.

In 1985, he was commissioned into the IV Air Brigade to fly with the Search and Rescue Squadron in the high mountains, with the "Cordillera de los Andes" on the border to



Chile. He took part in many search and rescues tasks, flying approximately 2,600 hours with the squadron. His highest altitude landing was at 18,700 feet. During this period, he was appointed pilot instructor inspector and also served as chief of the squadron for six years. He served as UNFICYP's Air Safety Officer from October 2002 to October 2003.

Osvaldo is married to Myriam Sabatini, and they have three children, Federico Agustín (20), Maria Pia (17) and Martín Exequiel (14). Osvaldo enjoys his free time with his family and friends.

New Babies



Alexander is Bojana Kosovac's (Finance) little hero.

He was born in Cyprus and is now 2½ years old. The picture left was taken over the Christmas holidays in Sarajevo, where Alexander was already learning to ski.



Adorable **Alex** is Michelle Kourea's son. (Integrated Services)

Alex was born in Cyprus and will one year old on 16 April. Big sister Eleonora is six. Left, baby Alex is pictured with his Christmas presents.



Jurgen Leitner's (Integrated Services) bouncing baby boy, **Niklas**, will celebrate his first birthday on 15 April 2005.

Niklas was born in Austria, and will be visiting Cyprus for the first time in March.

Kathleen was born on 25 September, two days before her mother's birthday. Sally Anne Corcoran (Civil Affairs) gave birth to her daughter in Geneva.

Kathleen spends most of her time smiling with her "angel" or pondering the universe.



New Faces

Public Information

Anne Bursey (Canada)

Before joining the UN in 2002, Anne enjoyed a 15-year career in advertising. She managed major retail, food and beverage accounts in Toronto and Montreal.

More recently, from 2002 to 2004, Anne served at UNMIK's DPI in Kosovo. Her husband Scott is currently in Afghanistan with UNAMA. Between the PIO and getting established in Cyprus, Anne has been quite busy. She might not have time to miss Canada quite yet; but if asked, she is sure to reply that what



she misses most (after Scott) is her dog Juma. He arrives from home next month to keep her company. "I will also miss living in our century-old farm house just outside the capital of Canada, Ottawa," says Anne, "and yet, I am quite happy to be leaving behind those sub-zero temps and long winters we get at home."

Just a few of her many interests include running, reading, painting, and designing jewelry.

As UNFICYP Information Officer, Anne will be supporting the Spokesperson in media monitoring, press services and media relations.

Electronic Services

Charalambos Charalambous (Cyprus)

After four months as an Individual contractor, Charalambos "Bob" Charalambous is now an official UNFICYP staff member in Electronic Services. Bob is an Electrical Engineer with a Masters in Communications and Signal Processing.

When asked what is involved in the daily work of a Radio Technician, Bob explains "anything and everything that has



to do with telecommunications: Telephone, Data, Radio..."

Bob also has previous mission experience. While working at UNMIK, he was in charge of the Satellite Unit. In UNMEE he served as a Senior Radio Technician in charge of all communications projects. Before joining the UN, Bob worked for Lucent Technologies in the US. Now Bob lives in Limassol.

Procurement

Stacey Worthington (United Kingdom)

Limassol resident, Stacey Worthington, joins UNFICYP as Procurement Assistant. Stacey is originally from Newcastle, England, but has resided in Cyprus for the last 12 years. "I moved to Cyprus with my family in 1992, direct from Newcastle. My parents had visited Cyprus previously and really liked the country. Since my father is in the merchant navy, it was not really necessary to live in England. They thought moving to



Cyprus would be an interesting change for the family, which it was, as we are all still here and enjoying it", says Stacey.

Previously, Stacey worked as sales executive for Demophorus Ltd., a medical products manufacturer. In 2000, Stacey spent six months on a working holiday in New Zealand. In her spare time, she enjoys playing tennis, cycling, and going to the health club. "I also like live musical or theatrical events," she adds with enthusiasm.

Finance

Maria Savvidou (Cyprus)

Nicosia native Maria Savvidou joins the mission as a Finance Assistant in the ISS Unit. Having obtained her BA in Accounting and Finance at Manchester Metropolitan University, she returned to Cyprus for her ACCA professional qualification. Maria is also a member of the Institute of Certified Accountants in Cyprus. Before joining UNFICYP, she worked as an industry



accountant for two years and then, over a period of five years, as a senior auditor for various firms.

Maria will be monitoring, reviewing and auditing budgetary activity within ISS for the supply, engineering, transport, and CITS cost units. Outside of work, Maria is particularly interested in photography and seems to keep quite busy. "At the moment I attend classes for photography. I have also attended music classes for nine years" says Maria.

Transport

Sam Al-Debyani (Lebanon)

Mr. Khalid "Sam" Al-Debyani is our latest locally-recruited staff member. Mr. Al-Debyani says "I'm looking for someone to introduce me to all UNFICYP staff members and show me around the island."

Sam is actually everyone's best friend and we would all like to congratulate him on his new contract. After nine years with UNFICYP as an individual contract (SSA) driver and as



a mission-replacement driver, Sam received a regular post. Sam knows his way around better than most and has met just about everyone. He even worked with the SG when he visited the island.

Sam arrived from Lebanon 20 years ago. He married Valentina and has two sons; Joseph 9 and Elias 12. His new contract began on Valentine's Day so he had to work and was not able to take Valentina out as he had planned. Congratulations Sam!

Hockey Hunks!

On 22 January, a hockey tournament took place in Camp General Štefánik, thanks mainly to the efforts of MSgt. Michal Pjecha and MSgt. Anton Štafa. The morning was a little cold, but players and specta-tors alike were full of hope for their team. Referee MSgt. Rastislav Ochotnický and CO Sector 4 Lt. Col. Martin Bačko got the first match underway at 0900 hours. The court surface was a little slippery, but the presence of Dr. (Capt.) Ivana Lakotová was very reassuring.

The teams were made up of warrant officers, officers and men. Team names drew their inspiration from a number of sources. For example, who was to know that E-55 derived its name from a highway known to service more than motor cars! Other names included the Eagles Fama, the Old Devils (a nice way to address officers!), and HUNCON's Colorado team.

While some scoped out the talent of their rivals, it soon became apparent that hockey is the national Slovak game. They showed little mercy in despatching their Sector 4 HUNCON colleagues! First place went to team E-55, with Eagle Fama second and Old Devils in third place. Colorado took last place, but their struggle was great. CO Sector 4, Lt. Col. Martin Bačko and his deputy, Lt. Col. Csaba Csorba also took part.



Winners were presented with bottles of red and white wine. The CO awarded the prizes in the officers' club. The tournament was held in very a friendly atmosphere with no serious accidents, other than one sprained knee.

Sector 1, Ahoy!

Accustomed to plunging along waving decks and gray bulkheads amidst air loaded with sea salt, it is quite a change to find oneself dressed in camou-flage, crossing terra firma in a bouncing pick-up, and sharing one's daily working hours with comrades from the armies of Argentina and other South American countries.

This is the case of Captain (in the Navy "Lieutenant", as he usually clarifies) Diego Sanchez, Sector 1's Public Information Officer.

Although troops of the Marine Corps (a Force that is part of the Navy) constitute one third of the Argentine Contingent, he is only the second "Surface Officer" ever appointed to this peacekeeping mission



since the Argentinians took over the Sector from Danish hands in 1993.

Whenever he explains his particular situation to any interested party, he proudly shows his brevet, which, in a warship's silhouette, is clearly discernable, surrounded by an Argentinian roundel.

"You may always miss the sea," he says, "but even in the Navy, one can also be assigned to a post on land. Besides, I enjoy my current work very much. Moreover, this experience enriches me professionally as well as personally. I have made lots of new friends, from Argentina and many other countries, and am sure that in the future, having been part of UNFICYP will be one of my most valued memories".

Common Sense Practices

As in any part of the world, it is always advisable to take sensible and rational precautions when out of a familiar environment. Now that the Cyprus winter is almost over and the good weather will soon be with us, it is perhaps time to reflect on how recreation time will be spent on this beautiful island in the Mediterranean.

The following points are therefore put forward in order to avoid misunderstandings and to safeguard against any misconduct:

- If withdrawing money from a cash point machine, ensure that the slot for inserting your cash card is always flush (level) with the face of the machine. If possible, use a dispensing machine inside a bank. If you are unsure, check with the bank staff.
- If hiring equipment or renting holiday homes, ensure you have a written contract that you can understand, setting out clearly the terms and conditions, including cancellation

penalties. Always obtain a receipt for any monies paid and pay the minimum deposit only.

- Do not lend money to strangers.
- Ask the taxi driver to confirm the fare to your destination before hopping in.
- Your person identification cards should remain with you and not shared with strangers.
- Do not accept any offer of credit. Make it a rule to pay as you go.
- Keep in mind that clubs are a lucrative source of income. Remeber that one a drink is ordered, you are legally bound to pay.

If you are in need of advice, please contact the FMPU on 22-864628/4668 (22-864666 out of working hours) who will do their best to assist.

It takes two, plus more, to Tango!

Adriano Ferrari is the man at the front of the scene! Not only is he a qualified pilot and 2i/c of UN Flight, but also an excellent tango/salsa instructor!

Adriano holds lessons once a week on the UN Flight's Bandido Club premises where, usually on Thursdays from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm onwards, approximately 25 UN and embassy personnel are led through the basic tango and salsa steps.

WO Zsuzsanna Rácz, a Hungarian colleague from Sector 4, is Adriano's able assistant. Together, they combine to get the best out of the attendees.

The evening starts off with the tango lessons. After about an hour, there is a short break, when light refreshments are offered to participants by kind invitation of UN Flight Commander Lt. Col. Osvaldo Alvanesi. Then come the salsa steps.

Adrian is very professional in his approach and is proving very successful in getting everyone to pick up the difficult and intricate steps. As he says, 'The woman has the more dramatic role to play - she has to learn to follow the man, look into his eyes and show the beauty of the dance'.

Although from the photo it appears there are only men present, in fact, ladies presently outnumber the men. Indeed, this is the ideal opportunity for those who have always wanted to tango or salsa to participate and avail of some excellent teaching in a very pleasant atmosphere. All UNFICYP personnel, civilian, military and police, with or



Adriano, leading the dancing lessons

without partners, are invited to give it a try. Call 22864610 for details.

This is Adriano's fourth tour with UNFICYP. During his second in 2000/1, he also conducted lessons at UN Flight, and it was then that he met Ramona and whisked her back to Argentina as his wife. She accompanies him on this tour, and they are expecting their first child in September.

Carrot Cake Cooks!

Traditionally, the Hungarian Army has only taken part in military operations with the essential support of trained cooks. Even today, Sector 4 ensures the culinary delights of such cuisine are not lost on the many visitors and military residents of Camp Berger. Such magic is not attributed to the camp's cooks alone.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of one of the camp's kitchen hands, many visitors have enjoyed more than a mere sample of the tantali-zing, and justly famous, carrot cake. Affectionately referred to by Hun-garian soldiers as "Papa", Jusef Toz started work in the kitchen back in 1987. Jusef's cheerful

demeanour and enthusiasm toward his vocation is evident when he surprises the camp's residents with the presentation of his delicious carrot cake, a recipe he was shrewd enough to file away in his recipe book from a Canadian soldier as far back as 1988.

Jusuf's apparent sixth sense has left him with the uncanny ability of putting a spark into the sometimes repetitive existence of some very grateful soldiers. In addition to his carrot cakes, Papa's many varied contributions are far from lost on the Hungarian soldiers. Thanks Papa!

1/Lt. Csaba Hüse



Gölgén and Yusuf, Sector 4 cooks, with one of their masterpieces

Canadian Carrot Cake Creation

Method

1. 4 eggs
2. 2 glasses sugar
3. 1 glass cooking oil
4. 3 carrots (medium size, grated)
5. 2 glasses ground almonds
6. 1 glass sultanas (optional)
7. 1 glass yoghurt
8. 3 glasses flour
9. 2 teaspoons baking powder
10. 2 packets vanilla sugar
11. ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
12. ½ teaspoon ground cloves (optional)

1. Whisk 1 and 2 together until light and fluffy. Then stir in 3, 4, 5, and 6 until thoroughly mixed. Sieve 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 together, stir in 7, and fold into mixture.
2. Pour into a greased and floured baking cake tin and cook in a medium oven for 1¼-1½ hours until a knife comes out clean.
3. Decorate according to taste. Options:
 - a. Plain icing sugar sprinkled on top
 - b. Chocolate coating
 - c. Cream cheese mixed with butter and icing sugar