

The Blue Beret

December 2006



**Thank You
and
Good Luck!**

THE BLUE BERET

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Dear colleagues and friends,

Almost a year has passed since I joined you in this great mission. First and foremost, I wish to thank each and every one of you for the dedication, hard work, and positive spirit with which you have carried out your tasks. It has been an eventful, inspiring, and interesting year. I hope you can all say the same as you look back on what has happened over the past 12 months.



I am happy at the progress we have achieved together in making UNFICYP a more coherent and integrated tool at the service of our ultimate objective: a peaceful and unified Cyprus. I am also happy that, with our encouragement and assistance, the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots have started a dialogue aimed at resuming negotiation towards a comprehensive settlement. I sincerely hope that the hard work we have carried out together over this past year has laid a solid foundation for substantial and rapid progress in 2007.

As we end the year, we say goodbye to Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan, with gratitude for his inspiring leadership and his steadfast support to our work. His ten years at the helm of our Organisation brought profound changes in the way we carry out our business both conceptually and operationally. I know that I speak for all of us in wishing him and his wife the very best as they move on to the next chapter of their lives.

As we start the coming year, we welcome Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, with high hopes and expectations for his tenure as our next leader. Again, I speak on behalf of all of us in wishing him every success as he takes on the world's most impossible job and assure him of our full and unconditional support as we, together, make our individual contributions to making this world a better place.

I wish you and your families the very best for the holiday season and for the New Year and look forward with anticipation to another exciting and successful year in your company.

Michael Möller
*Special Representative of the Secretary-General
and Chief of Mission*

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Thank You and Good Luck

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Hungarian President visits UNFICYP
(13 December)



SG Kofi Annan and his wife Nane with incoming SG Ban Ki-Moon and his wife Yoo (Ban) Soon-taek

Yule Tidings

With Rudolph and the other reindeer resting up for their big Christmas Eve sleigh ride, Father Christmas approached UNFICYP for help to enable him keep a 22 December gift-delivery appointment with children from Pyla's Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot primary schools.

UN Flight was happy to come to the rescue and give the old man a ride on the patrol chopper going Pyla-way that day. Father Christmas was tickled red when he learned that the UN Flight Argentine pilots knew something about polar conditions, since so many of them have trained and worked in the Antarctic! Santa knew all about the children in Pyla, thanks to Sally Anne Corcoran of Civil Affairs.



UN Flight safety briefing for Santa!



PIO rockers singing for charity

UNFICYP began the countdown to the holiday season with the annual Christmas Carol Service hosted by Chief of Staff Col. Peter Fraser-Hopewell at St. Columba's Church in the UNPA on 13 December. The Church was packed with a representative turnout of UNFICYP's uniformed and civilian personnel, as well as a distinguished array of diplomatic guests.

Padres from the three sectors presided during the service, which featured readings by CAO Frank Clancy, the Chief of Staff, SPA Carla van Maris, CCAO Kyoko Shiotani and Spokesman Brian Kelly. Highlights of the carol service included a rock-n-roll Jingle Bells (in Hungarian) by a talented quartet of HUNCON singers accompanied by an accordionist and a guitarist. Not to be outdone, ARGCON (augmented by several children) sang songs from home with guitar and drums backup. Choirs from SLOVCON and BRITCON gave equally good value.

This year, a number of UNFICYP units and departments opted to invite colleagues to join them for a festive breakfast coffee and cake. PIO went one step further with a staff talent show to entertain its breakfast guests (see photo), in the process raising £170 for local children's charities north and south.



Annual carol service (clockwise from top right): Members of the Hungarian Contingent, the Slovak choir, SPA van Maris and CCAO Shiotani with BritChoir in the background and the Argentinian chorale



December 2006 – The Blue Beret



Family Album – SG and Wife Nane look back

In recent weeks, Kofi Annan has been taking stock of his experiences, as he approaches the end of his second and final term as Secretary-General. In an op ed published this month, he wrote of five lessons he had learned in his ten years as SG that he wished to pass along to the international community as it confronts the changes of the 21st century.

These are:

- That we are all responsible for each other's security.
- That we are also responsible for one another's welfare.
- That both security and prosperity depend on respect for human rights and the code of law.
- That governments must be accountable for their actions in the international as well as the domestic arenas and that this accountability is only achievable through multi-lateral institutions.
- That multilateral institutions must, therefore, be organised in a fair and democratic way, giving the poor and weak some influence over the activities of the rich and strong, which, when it comes to the privilege and responsibility of SC members, means acknowledging that the SC is not a stage for acting out national interests but rather the management committee of our fledgling global security system.

Then, reminding us yet again that the essence of the United Nations continues to be "We, the Peoples", the SG said it is up to the people of the world to see to it that the world's leaders are up to this responsibility.

In New York earlier this month, the SG and his wife Nane reminisced with members of the Women's International Forum about their lives together, of how they met, of his election as SG and some of the highlights since.

Mrs. Annan spoke of her first encounter with her husband, of his calmness, wisdom and compassion, of how even then she had been struck by his inner strength. Even

early in his career, he had showed himself as a man "who went his own way", forsaking the more obvious comforts of WHO postings in Geneva and Copenhagen, despite agency objections, to pursue his career in Africa where he worked in Addis for six years.

She recalled how she was sitting in a small cafe in Manhattan's West Side when word came that her husband had been elected SG and how, rather than take a cab, she walked to the UN, changing her sneakers for more presentable shoes only as she approached the building on the East River.

Her own abiding interest in development issues, but especially her concern for the plight of women and children, was reinforced on their first official visit to Africa, especially by an encounter with 80 war orphans in a school in Luanda, victims of Angola's decades-long civil war.

The school was just rooms without roofs. There were no desks or chairs, only concrete blocks for the children to sit on and there were hardly any pencils, papers or textbooks. The children gathered to sing a song:

"We are children; we need a father who takes care of us... What can you do about that?"

We are children; we need a mother who hugs us... What can you do about that?"

We are children; we need an education... What can you do about that?"

We are children; we need a childhood... What can you do about that?"

Such was the inspiration for many of her subsequent activities during her husband's service.

As for the SG, he recalled how, on joining the UN in 1962 in his twenties, he felt it was something he would do for two years and move on.

"Forty-four years later, here I am, still in the Organisation and talking about it!"

When he was elected SG 34 years later [it was Friday, 13 December 1996], he had two weeks to prepare to take over. While he was lucky, being familiar with the Organisation, he felt compelled to persuade Member States that his successor should be appointed earlier in order that he would have a decent transition period.

"When I became Secretary-General, I realized that there were quite a few things that needed to be done. I felt the Organisation needed to be reformed and brought in line with today's requirements, and so I embarked on a very early reform, trying to improve the management, administrative and financial processes of the Organisation. I put forward the first package, and I believe six weeks after I announced the package, someone engineered an article in one of the major newspapers complaining that I had not reformed the UN yet."

At his monthly lunch with the Security Council, he apologised to the Members for his failure to reform the entire UN in six weeks flat. One of the P5 "piped up and said, 'Mr. Secretary-General, what are you complaining about? You have had more time than God.' So I responded, 'You are right, but God started with one great advantage – with a clean canvas, and without a Security Council and a General Assembly.' And I rested my case, and of course indicated that reform was not an event, but a process. And that is how it began.

"I also realize that, as an Organisation, even though we are an organisation of Member States, the ideals and principles we exist to protect belong to the people, and that we should put the individual, the human being, at the centre of everything that we did."



2005 World Summit: Group photo of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the Sixtieth Session of the General Assembly, the largest gathering of world leaders in history, held from 14 to 16 September 2005.

This had driven him through a very eventful decade in which the UN tackled globalisation, terrorism, and Iraq.

"I think as Secretary-General, there have been more wars on my watch than in any other decade, from Kosovo, to Afghanistan, to Iraq, Darfur, Lebanon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and some other minor ones.

"But we have also ended some wars – from Sierra Leone to Liberia, Burundi, Angola, East Timor, and we can say that there is some progress, because today, objectively, there are fewer civil wars and fewer wars today than a decade ago. And yet the world seems really, really messy. And this is what has kept me, and the UN, extremely busy.

"Apart from trying to help defuse some of these conflicts and tensions, we also had to be active in the area of infectious diseases – whether it is HIV/AIDS, or containing the avian flu. Also, we had to argue that globalization must benefit all people, and globalization must have a human face." This had led him to propose the Global Compact, encouraging multinational corporations to embrace basic principles in areas of human rights, core labour standards, the environment and their determination to fight corruption, and encouraging them to work in partnership with the UN at the country level and at the international level, and many have responded. Today, over 3,000 corporations around the world are engaged in the Global Compact.

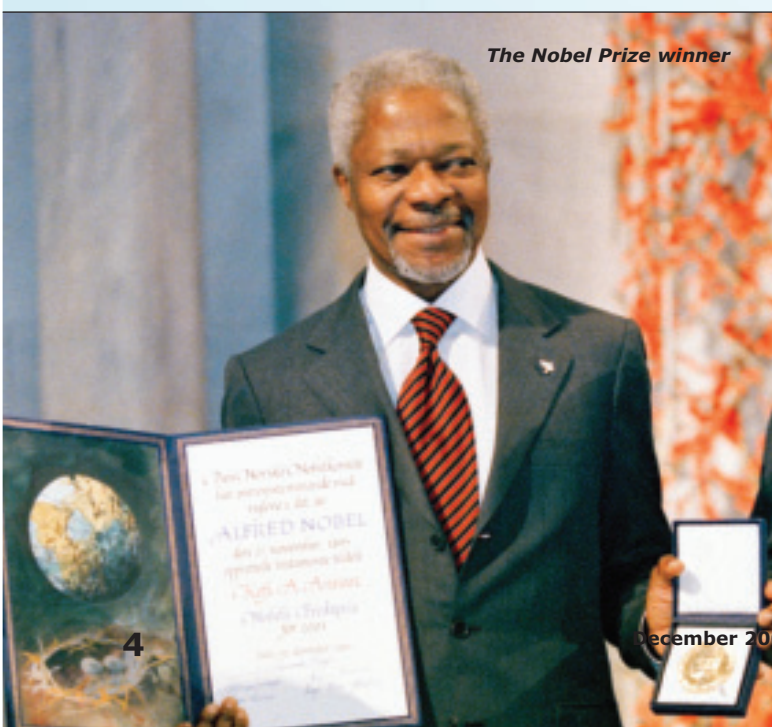
"I also felt that if you are going to help people, we needed to focus on inequality – inequality within states and between states, and that we had to really come together to fight abject poverty, and that's what led to my report 'We the Peoples' and the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals by the heads of state in the General Assembly in the year 2000.

"We also came up with the idea of the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. So, as you can see, in quite a lot of the areas that I got involved in, I really was focussing on the individual, and I am very happy that as I leave the Organisation I have got the Member States to accept that the UN's work rests on three major pillars. First – peace and security. Second – economic and social development. And third – human rights and the rule of law. And that is one of the reasons why I have pushed for the establishment of the Human Rights Council, to complement the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, and today we have the Human Rights Council, which I hope in time will become as powerful as the other two.

"And I think the Member States understand today that you cannot have development without security, and you

cannot have security without development. And honestly, you cannot enjoy either for long if you do not have it rooted in respect for the rule of law and human rights. So whatever we have done is to put the individual at the centre, his or her human dignity, and try and work for that."

The SG noted he had been particularly pleased that the Member States accepted the concept of the Responsibility to Protect. When he first raised it in the General Assembly in 1999, arguing that Governments should not be allowed to use sovereignty as a shield behind which they hide to brutalize their own people, and systematically abuse their human rights, and commit crimes against humanity, there was consternation in the building. "I just posed the question, indicating that we failed in Rwanda, but that if tomorrow there were to be another Rwanda or Kosovo, do we sit back or what do we do? And do we condemn the coalition of the willing that goes in, or do we embrace it? And what was the responsibility of the international community as represented by the Security Council?" Some of the smaller countries felt the concept could be used as an excuse to interfere in their internal affairs. His view was that these were the nations that needed it more than anybody. "Because it was in the third world, it was in the developing countries in the south, where we were more likely to confront this situation." A commission set up in Canada issued a report titled "The Responsibility to Protect". "They brought it to me and said, 'What do we do, how do we get it accepted by the Member States? How do we push this forward?' And I said, 'Well, it is going to require patience. Distribute it. Give a copy to each delegation. Make sure all the governments have it, and let them digest it, and give it time, and at the appropriate time we will push it.' It became part of my recommendations in my report 'In Larger Freedom,' and last year the Member States accepted 'The Responsibility to Protect' and voted for it at the heads of state level, which basically means that, if a government fails to protect its people because it does not have the capacity or it is actually the one brutalizing its own population, the world community, through the Security Council has to intervene, and as a last resort may even recommend the use of force. And to have this adopted by heads of state is a major breakthrough for us, and in terms of international law for sovereign states to accept this, when they guard their sovereignty so jealously, is a major, major breakthrough. It may not be implemented today or tomorrow, but at least we have a peg on which people can hang, and demand governments to take action – demand that they redeem the solemn pledge they made in the General Assembly, and of course now, everybody is looking at how we handle Darfur."



The Nobel Prize winner

Family Album – SG and Wife Nane look back

Since the UN was operating on almost bare bones budgets and needed to find ways of increasing capacity, the SG decided the best way to do that was to really make the UN a true UN of ‘We the Peoples’, and reach out and work in partnership with civil society organisations, with the private sector, with the universities and with foundations, to expand capacity, and to recognize that these problems cannot be solved by governments alone, or by international organisations alone.

Individual government could not have taken on the issue of HIV/AIDS, the avian flu, infectious diseases, the fight against environmental degradation. Indeed, he had been pleased Member States accepted the new definition of threats proposed by the high level panel he had put together.

“The challenge I gave them was to look at the threats, challenges and change in the twenty-first century – they defined threats to include poverty, environmental degradation, internationally organised crime, infectious diseases, weapons of mass destruction and terrorism.

“But of course, depending upon where you live, your perception of threat is quite different from someone living in another region. If at the time of the fifth anniversary of 9/11 I had asked any New Yorker, ‘What is your biggest threat?’, I probably would have heard, ‘Terrorism.’ But if I had gone to southern Africa and posed the same question, the answer could be HIV/AIDS. I go further still to somewhere in Bangladesh or some area, and they would tell me poverty. Or if you go to Maldives, which Nane and I did, after the tsunami. Maldivians would have described their biggest fear as ‘environmental degradation, global warming and rising sea levels, because literally it is washing our livelihoods and our nations and our states away.’ But all of these threats have to be tackled. And if you want people to be concerned about your threat, you have to be concerned about theirs. And so, as an international community we needed to find ways of dealing with this, and the only way I could think of is that we needed to work in partnership with all the stakeholders – civil society, governments, international organisations, private sector and foundations, and so I can say that today the UN has become a partnership organisation, reaching out and working with others.”

But the approach wasn’t easily accepted, especially when the SG decided to bring in the private sector. “I had ambassadors asking the question, ‘Who gave the Secretary-General the authority to pull in the private sector?’ My answer was simple, ‘Our Charter begins with ‘We the Peoples.’ The peoples are out there, not in this building. And we need to reach out to them. And I am going to continue doing that.’”

In the SG’s view, the argument was half way settled when Ted Turner made his fantastic offer of one billion dollars to the UN, even though some sceptical ambassadors felt Turner would want to interfere with the decisions by the Security Council and the General Assembly. The SG maintained this would not be the case and indeed, Turner proceeded to operate outside the system, funding UN-associated projects.

“Anyway, it shows what an individual will do. Since then we have other billionaires coming forward, doing good

things with their resources – from Bill and Melinda Gates – in addition to the traditional foundations of Ford, Rockefeller and MacArthur – when you have individuals like Gates who has given well over a billion to UN causes from vaccination to the others, and of course with the injection of Warren Buffett’s money and the foundation with about sixty-two billion dollars, it is going to even be able to do more, which also helps us to really help people around the world. And it doesn’t matter whether it is done through the UN or somebody else, the main thing is that we do reach out and help.”

The SG took a number of questions from the Women’s International Forum audience. Agreeing with a questioner that more needs to be done in telling the UN’s story, the SG noted that in today’s world, it is not enough to do the job and do it well. You have to also let the world know what you are doing, how you are doing it, and what you are doing well.

He also noted how people confuse the Secretariat with the Member States. “When people talk of the UN, what is the UN? There are two UNs – the UN that is of Member States who sit in the Security Council and the General Assembly and give mandates to the Secretariat – the Secretary-General and the Secretariat. And there is a Secretariat which carries out these mandates. But the way the media covers it if anything goes wrong, ‘It’s the UN’. They talk and write about the UN as if it’s some satellite out there which their governments and others have nothing to do with. But the UN is their government and mine. Sometimes I hear a president or head of state say, ‘The UN must act on Darfur.’ And the press are there, they write it down. They don’t ask, ‘Mr. Prime Minister or Mr. President, how many battalions are you going to give to make this UN act and work?’”

To another questioner, the SG acknowledged that there are things he wished he had done differently, where, perhaps, the results would have been different. Cyprus was a case in point.

“One issue that we devoted quite a lot of time to, but in the end did not succeed, was Cyprus. I am saying this because it has become very topical, and it is also complicating life for the European Union. When we finally put together a package and went to a referendum, in fact the first time we worked until 5 a.m. in The Hague, and we didn’t get agreement. We pushed it, and then finally went to Bürgenstock and put a proposal to a referendum which the Turkish Cypriots voted ‘yes’ and the Greek Cypriots voted ‘no’, and of course that meant the referendum failed. Then there was a question of whether the EU should accept a divided Cyprus into the EU or wait for unification. We had tried very hard to succeed with the unification so that a united Cyprus would go in. That didn’t happen and of course now we have a divided Cyprus admitted to the European Union, which is also complicating the negotiations with Turkey. All of us who were involved in that, each time you go to the region, that comes up. But perhaps, if we had postponed the referendum a little bit and worked a bit harder we may have been able to resolve that. I am not entirely sure.

“The other area where I think we perhaps should have started sooner was the issue of HIV/AIDS, but the timing wasn’t right. It has done so much havoc on many continents, particularly in Africa. But at least we were able to set up the Global Fund which has raised about \$8 billion up ‘til today. But I think we should have started that much, much sooner, and probably from day one when I took over.”

Asked was achievement of the Millennium Development Goals on track, the SG pointed out that global statistics showed that great gains are being made. “But that is mainly because of what has happened in China and India, where millions have been lifted out of poverty. Lots of countries cannot meet their goals at the current rate, unless something drastic is done, both on their side and on

the side of the donor community in terms of supporting them with these efforts. This is one of the reasons why we have encouraged each country to come up with a poverty alleviation strategy, work out the details, and with a good plan we will try and see if we can get the donor communities to work with them.

“Most of the countries that are having difficulty keeping up are in Africa and the least developed countries. Some are doing better than others on some issues, like education – we are doing better, and it’s because more girls are enrolling in school. What is important is that, having accepted the MDGs as a common framework for development, and it is a framework that everyone understands – a man in the street or a woman in Calcutta – so they can put pressure on their governments about ‘when do I get clean water? When do we get a school nearby so that my daughter can go to school? How can we get food on the table for the children when they are in school?’ So there is lots of momentum and energy behind this, but we need to do much more to achieve the results that we want.”

And finally, asked what comes next, Kofi Annan replied simply:

“First, a long, long holiday – a vacation.

“And then we will try to devise a life that will give us a balance between action and reflection. We will be spending our time between Africa and Europe. In Africa I would want to work, and Nane is also very interested in this, with the African governments and others, to improve food productivity. Africa is the only continent that cannot feed itself. It is the only continent that did not go through a green revolution, and as we speak millions of Africans are being fed by food aid and other donations. This cannot go on, and particularly as we are entering an era where bio-fuel is also becoming very popular. So things like soy bean and corn can be sold for human consumption and for fuel. So the prices will either go up, or there will not be surpluses for one to try to give up, so we will have to learn to improve agricultural productivity and look after the people, and really ensure food security. We would of course also do other things in addition – probably write a

bit, give some lectures, or maybe offer advice if people want my advice.

“But what I can tell you is that we are not retiring. I think it was George Burns who said, ‘Retire means tired twice.’ Look at us. I don’t think we look like those who are tired twice. So we will continue.



With former United States President Bill Clinton, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Tsunami Recovery, at UN HQ New York on 8 December 2006

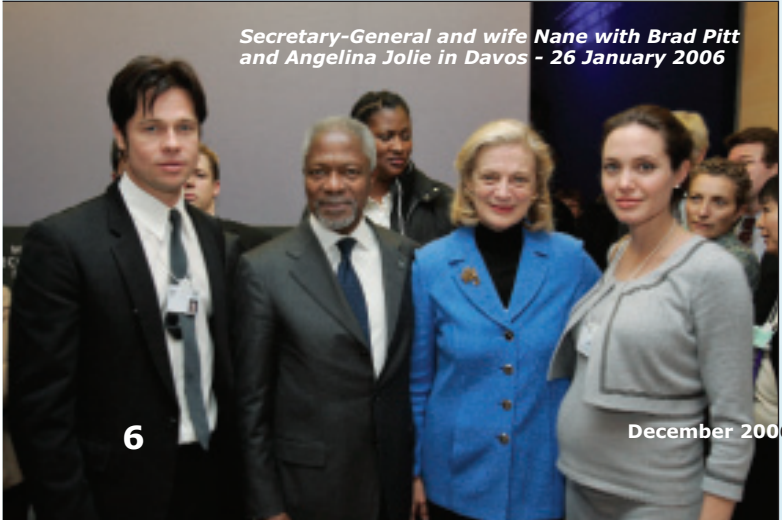


Secretary-General Kofi Annan flanked by his wife Nane and Bill Gates at the Live 8 Concert in London's Hyde Park on 2 July 2005, organised to focus world attention on poverty in Africa.]



With Ted Turner, UN Foundation Board Chairman. The Foundation was set up thanks to a one billion dollar donation by Turner

Launch of the United Nations Global Media HIV/AIDS Initiative on 15 January 2004 at UN Headquarters



Secretary-General and wife Nane with Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie in Davos - 26 January 2006

Cyprus –

The Annan Years

Secretary-General Kofi Annan worked assiduously throughout his ten years in office to help bring about a UN-brokered settlement of the Cyprus problem. As recently as 20 November last he met with the Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat in Geneva.

Soon after his appointment in 1996, Secretary-General Annan decided to reactivate efforts on the Cyprus problem, which had been more or less dormant since the 1992 Ghali “Set of Ideas” of his predecessor.

Having invited the Greek Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides and the Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash to hold face-to-face talks, SG Annan appointed Diego Cordovez his Special Adviser on Cyprus in April 1997. The SG opened the first round of talks in Troutbeck, Dutchess County, New York, from 9-12 July. Perhaps portentously, he said previous UN efforts should not be dismissed since they had yielded elements necessary to working out an eventual settlement. The continuing search for peace in Cyprus demanded some new approaches, and he urged the two leaders to set about building a framework within which the two communities could forge a new partnership.

The two leaders drafted an outline of settlement objectives and how to proceed, which they took back home with them from Troutbeck. They agreed to reconvene in August for further discussions. Meantime, they met in Nicosia, where they concluded an agreement on missing persons.

At the opening of the second round of talks (Glion-sur-Montreux, Switzerland, 11-15 September), Mr. Denktash informed the Special Adviser that the EU Agenda 2000 document references to the accession of Cyprus and Turkey hampered his ability to pursue the discussions. Eventually, the talks ended inconclusively.

Following the November 1999 appointment of Alvaro de Soto as the SG’s new Special Adviser, proximity talks began in New York with the two leaders. These continued throughout 2000 with sessions in February in Geneva, in July in Geneva and in September in New York. There, the SG announced that after almost a year of talks the time had now come to move ahead. In order to expedite negotiations “in good faith and without preconditions”, he had also concluded that, “the equal status of the parties must and should be recognized explicitly in the comprehensive settlement”.

A fifth session of proximity talks was held in Geneva in November where Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash declined to participate further.

The next meeting between Rauf Denktash and the SG took place on 28 August 2001 in Salzburg. Then, on 5 September, the SG invited the two leaders to a new reinvigorated phase of talks: Mr Clerides accepted but Mr. Denktash declined. However, a November exchange of letters between Mr. Clerides and Mr. Denktash paved the way for a face-to-face meeting on 4 December in the UNPA, Nicosia, where, in the presence of Special Adviser de Soto, they agreed to begin direct talks.

On 14 January 2002, the office of the Special Adviser opened in Cyprus and direct talks were launched on 16 January in the UNPA.

In a bid to move the talks process forward, SG Annan made a working visit to the island between 14-16 May 2002. He met separately with Mr. Clerides and Mr. Denktash on 15 May, then hosted a dinner for the two leaders. Later, the SG told the press he was leaving the island more convinced than ever “that this is the time to press on” and that “an historic opportunity exists now to reach a comprehensive settlement.” Both leaders had given him their commitment “to go about this effort in a genuine spirit of give and take”. He stressed that the UN was here to help – not impose ideas or conclusions on the leaders.

Kofi Annan’s was the first visit to Cyprus by an SG since Kurt Waldheim’s two-day stopover in May 1979. SG Annan

met with UNFICYP staff, and, joined by his wife Nane, inspected old Nicosia airport and took a walking tour of the Green Line.

The fourth round of talks wrapped up in June, but the SG’s hopes that the core issues would be resolved were not met, with Alvaro de Soto noting the need for “more political will and an increased spirit of compromise”. The talks continued into a fifth round in July, followed by a break to allow “for evaluation, reflection and rest”. With talks due to resume on 27 August, the SG invited the two leaders to meet him in Paris “to take stock and see if a course can be charted for the way ahead.”

In Paris on 6 September, the SG highlighted issues he hoped the two leaders would tackle on their return to Nicosia and before he and they next met in New York in early October. Some of the gaps between the parties “are quite a bit smaller than when these talks began”, he said.

At the October New York meeting, it was decided to create two advisory ad hoc bilateral technical committees to focus on treaties and future (common state) laws. The SG said a comprehensive settlement had to be “a complex integrated legally binding and self-executing agreement where the rights and obligations of all concerned are clear, unambiguous and not subject to further negotiation.” Greece and Turkey would have an important role to play. Mr. Denktash’s subsequent heart surgery on 6 October affected the momentum of the peace effort.

In November, the SG submitted a proposal for a comprehensive settlement to the two sides and a revised version on 10 December. In December, Cyprus was invited to join the EU preferably, but not conditionally, as a united island. Efforts to secure a settlement failed in the dying hours of the EU Copenhagen summit. The European Council welcomed the commitment of the Greek and Turkish Cypriots to seek a comprehensive settlement on the basis of the SG’s revised proposals by 28 February.

Three weeks into 2003, Mr. Clerides and Mr. Denktash called on the UN to organise an open public competition for a new Cyprus flag and anthem.

Earlier, at a Ledra Palace press conference, Special Adviser de Soto warned there was little time to arrive at an agreement and to hold a referendum before Cyprus signed the EU Accession Treaty. The choices facing the leaders and the people on each side, he said, “is not between this plan and a substantially different one – the choice is between this plan, perhaps with balanced refinements here and there as needed, and no agreement at all.”

On 15 January, direct talks resumed. However, by February, Tassos Papadopoulos had succeeded Glafcos Clerides as President and as the Greek Cypriot negotiator.

Soon afterwards, the SG visited the island once more, this time to present a third version of his proposals for a solution, asking that the leaders give him their response on 10 March at The Hague.

The crucial 10 March meeting in The Hague ended with the SG announcing the collapse of the talks after 20 hours of negotiations with the two sides and the guarantor powers. Rauf Denktash had refused to put the plan to a referendum in the north.

“We have reached the end of the road,” the SG said, but his plan remained on the table “ready for the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots to pick up and carry it forward to a solution, if they summon the will to do so.”

Come April, the SG’s good offices premises in Nicosia closed, the same day (16 April) that Cyprus signed the EU accession treaty in Athens securing its membership. On 23 April 2003, the Turkish Cypriot side announced the easing of movement restrictions, leading to the opening of check-points, enabling Greek and Turkish Cypriots to cross over the Green Line for the first time since 1974.

In 2004 the negotiations started anew after the SG met with Turkey’s PM Erdogan in Davos, Switzerland, on 24 January and, five days later, with Greek Cypriot leader Tassos Papadopoulos in Brussels. The talks resumed back in Cyprus after a marathon three-day (10-13 February) session with the SG and his advisers in New York.

The leaders acceded to a three-step approach proposed by the SG aimed at resolving the Cyprus problem in time for

a reunited island to enter the EU on 1 May. Both sides agreed the talks should revert to Nicosia, where they would continue with the SG’s Good Offices team led by Special Adviser de Soto from 19 February to 22 March. If at that point there were still outstanding issues, Turkey and Greece would join the two sides for a further week to try and resolve them. Only in the continuing absence of agreement would the SG then step in to finalise the plan. This text would be put to separate simultaneous referenda, north and south, on 24 April.

On 31 March, still lacking a settlement, all parties (including Mr. Talat) convened in Burgenstock, Switzerland, where the SG presented the leaders with the final version of his plan “The Comprehensive Settlement of the Cyprus Problem”. The time had arrived “for decision and action”, he said, noting that, inevitably, the proffered plan represented a compromise. He believed it met “the core interests” and addressed “the key concerns” of people on both sides. “Let me be clear. The choice is not between this settlement plan and some other magical or mythical solution. In reality at this stage, the choice is between this settlement and no settlement.”

On 24 April, the people of Cyprus, for the first time ever, voted at referenda on a Cyprus settlement. A majority “no” vote in the south cancelled out a majority “yes” vote in the north, effectively rejecting the plan known as the “Annan Plan”. Acknowledging the result, the SG said the decision on how to vote had been a difficult one for most Cypriots. While respecting the outcome, the SG stressed his conviction that the plan offers a fair, viable and balanced compromise that meets the basic needs of all concerned. Clearly the Greek Cypriot electorate had not concurred with this view on the day, but he hoped they might arrive at a different conclusion after reviewing their decision “in the fullness of time”.

On 1 May, Cyprus celebrated its accession to the EU along with nine other countries. On 26 May the Security Council adopted resolution 1548 welcoming the SG’s intention to conduct a review of UNFICYP’s mandate, force levels and concept of operation. The UNPA premises of the Good Offices also closed down.

On 22 October, the Security Council adopted resolution 1568, endorsing the SG’s Force Review recommendations including a 30% downsizing of the force level.

On 28 February 2006, the SG and President Papadopoulos met in Paris to review the Cyprus situation and look for ways to move the process forward. They agreed that resumption of the negotiating process within the Good Offices framework should be both timely and carefully prepared. The SG welcomed the fact that the leaders of both communities had agreed to bicommunal, technical level discussions on a range of issues. He and President Papadopoulos were hopeful that these would help “restore trust” between the two communities and serve as a first step in preparing the way towards a comprehensive settlement. The SG noted that the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mehmet Ali Talat, had assured him that he too shared this aspiration. The SG and Mr Papadopoulos also agreed that all concerned would benefit and the prospects for further talks would be improved “if progress could be achieved on further disengagement of forces and demilitarization on the island, complete de-mining of Cyprus and on the issue of Famagusta.”

The SG sent USG for Political Affairs Ibrahim Gambari to Cyprus from 6-9 July 2006 where he managed to broker an agreement between the two leaders to launch a process for bi-communal discussions on everyday issues as well as allowing the two sides to swap lists of substantive issues for review by bi-communal working groups and for approval by the leaders. Agreement was reached on 8 July at the third meeting of the two leaders in the space of a week, breaking a hiatus of more than two years

The SG met with Turkish Cypriot leader Talat in Geneva on 20 November, their last meeting. “We went over the status of the progress of the talks. We discussed the measures that both parties are to take with my representative Michael Møller, on the island to ensure that the parties prepare effectively, not only as confidence building measures but also as a step towards full resumption of negotiations aimed at settling the Cyprus issue.”

The SG stressed that he wanted “to see action from both sides that narrows the gap between words and action and that indicates to me and my successor that the parties are ready to resume and move ahead in earnest.”

Throughout his tenure as Secretary-General, Kofi Annan showed an unstinting determination to move the process on Cyprus forward. His Comprehensive Settlement Plan, which came to be known as the “Annan Plan”, was widely acknowledged as one of the most intensive efforts to resolve the Cyprus problem.

By Netha Kreouzou



Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus

I. Introduction

1. The present report on the United Nations operation in Cyprus covers developments from 18 May to 27 November 2006 and brings up to date the record of activities carried out by the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) pursuant to Security Council resolution 186 (1964) and subsequent Council resolutions, most recently resolution 1687 (2006).
2. As at 15 November, the strength of the military component stood at 853 all ranks and the strength of the police component stood at 60 (see annex).

II. Mission of good offices and other developments

3. On 15 June, the Security Council adopted resolution 1687 (2006), in which, inter alia, it expressed regret that the gap between words and deeds remained too great for me to resume fully my mission of good offices and urged progress towards the resumption of negotiations for a comprehensive settlement.
4. Since my last report, dated 23 May 2006 (S/2006/315), my Special Representative in Cyprus, Michael Möller, has continued to engage with the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders and their representatives. His efforts have focused on assisting them to re-engage in the implementation of their agreements and undertakings aimed at the resumption of negotiations leading to a comprehensive settlement.
5. Early in July, at my request, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Ibrahim Gambari, undertook an over-view mission to the region. In Turkey and Greece, he met with the respective Foreign Ministers and senior Foreign Ministry officials. In Cyprus, the Greek Cypriot leader, Tassos Papadopoulos and the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mehmet Ali Talat met, for the first time, just prior to Mr. Gambari's visit, on the occasion of the installation of the third member of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus.
6. On 8 July, the Greek Cypriot leader and the Turkish Cypriot leader met in the presence of the Under-Secretary-General, where they agreed on and signed a set of principles and decisions. In the course of that meeting, I had an opportunity to talk to both of them and to encourage them to live up to the expectations of the international community. By their agreement, they recognized that the status quo was unacceptable and that a comprehensive settlement was both desirable and possible. They agreed to begin immediately a two-track process involving discussion by technical committees of issues affecting the day-to-day life of the people and, concurrently, consideration by working groups of substantive issues, both of which would contribute to a comprehensive settlement. They also committed themselves to ensuring that the right atmosphere prevailed for this process to be successful, including by ending mutual recriminations (see S/2006/572, annexes I and II).
7. On 29 August, the Security Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General on the outcome of his mission. Following the briefing, the President of the Security Council read a statement to the press, in which the members of the Council expressed support for my continued efforts aimed at reaching a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem, welcomed the 8 July agreement reached during the Under-Secretary-General's mission to the region and called for full implementation of the 8 July agreement without further delay.
8. Since then, my Special Representative has been engaged in intensive discussions with both sides aimed at implementing the 8 July agreement. On 19 September, I met with Mr. Papadopoulos in New York and discussed the Cyprus problem, including issues relating to the implementation of the 8 July agreement. In the light of the differences that emerged between the two sides regarding the implementation of the

- agreement, the Under-Secretary-General wrote to the two leaders on 15 November suggesting a way forward.
9. Both leaders replied on 18 November, formally accepting the Under-Secretary-General's suggestions. The stage is therefore now set for positive forward movement, and I urge both sides to show the necessary goodwill and determination to overcome their apparent deep mutual distrust and suspicion of each other's true motives. I also hope that a stop will be put to the so-called blame game that has been carried out relentlessly and unhelpfully by officials and the press of both sides, contravening the letter and the spirit of the 8 July agreement.
10. On 20 November, I met with Mr. Talat in Geneva. He reiterated the commitment of the Turkish Cypriot side to a comprehensive settlement under the auspices of the United Nations. I welcomed his positive response to the Under-Secretary-General's suggestions and urged him to move forward without delay on the implementation of the 8 July agreement. Mr. Talat promised to do his utmost in that connection. He also reiterated the need to end the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots. I responded that I continued to stand by my report of 28 May 2004 to the Security Council (S/2004/437), in which I indicated that the isolation of the north must be lifted.
11. Under the terms of the 8 July agreement, the two leaders have recognized that the status quo is unacceptable and that a comprehensive settlement is both desirable and possible. Their commitment to achieving such a settlement now needs to be demonstrated. I have made it clear to both of them that what is important is not a declaration of intent but action and indicate to me and my successor that they are ready to resume and move ahead in earnest with talks aimed at settling the Cyprus issue. This will require compromise and political will. I encourage the two leaders to move ahead on the implementation of the 8 July agreement now that they have agreed to the suggestions put forward by the Under-Secretary-General.
12. Other efforts undertaken by the international community in the course of the reporting period include an initiative of the Finnish Presidency of the European Union which, however, was not successful. Insofar as such initiatives are acceptable to all concerned and contribute to the overall goal of a comprehensive settlement, they may have a catalytic effect and efforts in this regard should be welcomed.
13. During the reporting period, there has been a disturbing trend that impinges on the ability of organizations and individuals to carry out activities and projects designed to contribute to bi-communal contacts and cooperation throughout the island. As a result, the United Nations, in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has been hampered in its ability to support and implement projects that benefit both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots in areas of common concern. This is a regrettable development. Without a strong contribution from civic organisations and individuals, it is hard to imagine a genuine reconciliation in Cyprus. Their efforts need to be nurtured and obstacles to them removed.

III. Activities of the Force

- A. Prevention of a recurrence of fighting and maintenance of the military status quo**
14. The military and security situation along the ceasefire lines remained generally stable. Overall, the opposing forces showed cooperation and exercised restraint. The number of violations and other incidents decreased by 30 per cent from the same period in 2005, from 468 to 330. Those violations, which were mostly minor in nature, included lack of discipline, stone-throwing and verbal abuse, improvements to observation posts, filming of the buffer zone, cocking of weapons and pointing them at United Nations forces and

- incursions into the buffer zone. The reduction in violations and incidents could be attributed to the effectiveness of the mobile concept of operations in UNFICYP.
15. Despite the overall reduction of incidents, the mandate of UNFICYP continued to be challenged by both opposing forces. Significant violations by the National Guard included over-manning of an observation post and conducting a military exercise at platoon strength with mortars behind one of their observation posts. In addition, 82 members of the National Guard, including an armed element, attended a funeral inside the buffer zone, and seven uniformed National Guard personnel attended a church service in the buffer zone. The Turkish Forces/Turkish Cypriot Security Forces manned the Ledra Street bridge. A Turkish Cypriot police element continued to man an unauthorised checkpoint, and the Turkish Forces continued to patrol the vicinity of the Laroujina pocket. The nearby Turkish Forces observation post is regularly over-manned despite frequent protests by UNFICYP. Attempts to restore the status quo in the area have not progressed any further. In response, UNFICYP employed standing patrols and, on occasion, reoccupied some of its static observation towers. Such operations, which call for large numbers of personnel, are sustainable in the short term with the current force and confirm the requirement to maintain flexibility and the existing force levels for the foreseeable future.
16. As in 2005, the National Guard held its annual military exercise, "Nikiforos", from 10 to 15 October with the participation of the General Staffs from Greece. The Turkish Forces/Turkish Cypriot Security Forces held their military exercise, "Toros II", from 7 to 9 November. I should like to reiterate my appeal to both sides to refrain from holding those exercises.
17. The violation by the Turkish Forces of the military status quo in Strovilia persisted, with an increased number of soldiers manning that position. There has been no change in control by Turkish Forces over limited access of UNFICYP to and freedom of its movement within the fenced area of Varosha. The United Nations continues to hold the Government of Turkey responsible for the status quo in Varosha.
18. The impasse continued over the dismantling of a National Guard observation post in the vicinity of Dherinia and of a corresponding construction by the Turkish Forces referred to in my report of May 2006 (S/2006/315, para. 11). The National Guard informed UNFICYP it would dismantle its position provided that work began simultaneously to remove the position that the Turkish Forces had constructed in response. The Turkish Forces stated in turn that they would remove their position once the dismantling of the National Guard position had been completed. The issue is the subject of ongoing discussions between UNFICYP and the opposing forces.
19. The efforts of UNFICYP to achieve demilitarization of the ceasefire lines have stalled. In June, UNFICYP invited the National Guard and the Turkish Forces/Turkish Cypriot Security Forces to submit proposals for unmanning/deconfrontation measures. Throughout the summer, the opposing forces expressed support for the suggestion of UNFICYP and agreed to submit a list of deconfrontation measures, but so far no proposals have been received. UNFICYP will continue its efforts on that issue.
20. At the onset of the crisis in Lebanon, UNFICYP assisted in moving United Nations personnel and their dependants from Lebanon and supported United Nations humanitarian and other activities in the region. In total, the evacuation operations brought nearly 2,000 people to Cyprus. UNFICYP initially dispatched 30 days worth of supplies to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and coordinated the regular resupply of fuel, water and medical supplies. A rear headquarters and additional aviation resources for UNIFIL were located in the United Nations Protected Area in Nicosia. Helicopter operations to Lebanon were mounted from Nicosia throughout August and continued from Larnaca until early October. Office facilities and secure storage facilities were provided to personnel of the International Independent Investigation Commission (established pursuant

- to Security Council resolution 1595 (2005)), which relocated to Cyprus.
- B. Demining activity in the buffer zone**
21. The Mine Action Centre has to date cleared 1,617,462 square metres of land and disposed of 2,364 landmines from the buffer zone since the start of the programme in November 2004. During the reporting period 12 of the 13 Turkish Forces minefields were cleared, and it is expected that the last will be completed by the end of November 2006. The Mine Action Project has been supported by funds from the European Union.
22. Since February, UNFICYP had been conducting negotiations with the Turkish Forces/Turkish Cypriot Security Forces to allow for the clearance of additional minefields. In August 2006, both Forces made a commitment in writing to enter into negotiations to extend existing demining guidelines to include all remaining minefields in the buffer zone laid by the Turkish Forces. Discussions to make progress on this important issue continued between UNFICYP and the Turkish Forces/Turkish Cypriot Security Forces.
- C. Restoration of normal conditions and humanitarian functions**
23. UNFICYP continued to work with its United Nations partners and local actors to facilitate projects of common benefit for Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots in and outside the buffer zone and to promote confidence-building measures between them.
24. Cypriots on both sides of the buffer zone continued to use the crossing points for various activities, including trade, religious and bi-communal events, without major incidents. UNFICYP has recorded approximately 12 million crossings since the opening of the crossing points in April 2003. That figure does not include crossings in Pergamos since 1 September, when the Turkish Cypriot side discontinued sharing statistics on the movement of people at that crossing. UNFICYP is following up this matter with the Turkish Cypriot authorities. Goods worth approximately £C958,000 (about \$2 million) crossed the Green Line from the north to the south of the buffer zone, and goods worth approximately £C358,000 (about \$700,000) crossed from south to north. Although there has been a relatively steady flow of persons and goods since the opening of the crossing points and the entry into force of the Green Line Regulation, the potential of those interactions and trade among the people as a catalytic element towards the reunification of the island has yet to be seized.
25. Since the amendment of the Green Line Regulation in August 2005 to include the provision of three additional crossing points, agreement has not been reached on the modalities of opening them. Consultations regarding the opening of the Ledra Street crossing point in Nicosia remain pending.
26. UNFICYP facilitated 10 bi-communal events with the participation of approximately 500 people from both sides. Those events were held in the buffer zone, at the Ledra Palace Hotel, which continues to be viewed by both sides as an essential, neutral venue for hosting bi-communal activities. It is noteworthy that since the opening of the crossing points in 2003, there has been a decrease in the number of events at the Ledra Palace as other venues have become available. Regular monthly meetings between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot political party leaders continued to be held at the Ledra Palace Hotel under the auspices of the Embassy of Slovakia.
27. UNFICYP continued its discussions with the Greek Cypriot side, initiated in March 2005, regarding the establishment of a Turkish language primary school in Limassol, which is not yet operational. At their request, UNFICYP met with the Turkish Cypriot Teachers' Trade Union on that subject and other issues related to the education of Turkish Cypriot schoolchildren in the south, including curricula and textbooks.

The formal proceedings of the lawsuit filed by the Turkish Cypriot Teachers' Trade Union with the Supreme Court to guarantee Turkish Cypriots the right to an education in their mother tongue, mentioned in my previous report (S/2006/315, para. 20), began on 5 May and have been adjourned several times, most recently on 10 November. A new trial date has been set for 6 February 2007. UNFICYP continued to follow up developments on that issue with the Greek Cypriot side, pending the outcome of the judicial proceedings. UNFICYP facilitated the assignment of four additional teachers for the Greek Cypriot secondary school in Rizokarpaso in the north for the school year beginning in September 2006.

28. During the reporting period, UNFICYP conducted 62 humanitarian convoys and humanitarian visits in support of the 389 Greek Cypriots and 145 Maronites living in the north. UNFICYP continued to assist Turkish Cypriots living in the south in obtaining identity documents, housing, welfare services, medical care, employment and education. UNFICYP also assisted in arranging six visits by Greek Cypriots and Maronites and a commemorative event by Turkish Cypriots inside and outside the buffer zone. On 10 and 11 June, in the northern part of the island, 800 Greek Cypriots attended services at Saint Barnabas Church near Famagusta, and on 23 July, for the first time since 1974, 300 Maronites visited the Prophet Elias Monastery in the village of Saint Marina. On 1 and 2 September, 900 Greek Cypriots attended the annual religious services at Saint Mamas Church in Morphou. On 8 August, 429 Turkish Cypriots travelled for an annual visit to Kokkina in the western part of the island. In the buffer zone, 773 Greek Cypriots visited Saint Marina Church in Dherynia on 17 July, and approximately 70 Greek Cypriots attended services at Ayios Neophytos Church in Troulli on 27 September.

29. Since the lifting in 2003 of the restrictions on movement across the ceasefire lines, there has been an increasing number of civilians farming and/or an increase in the construction of buildings in the buffer zone, which is in contravention of the procedures established by UNFICYP to safeguard the stability of and security within the buffer zone. A significant part of the resources and energy of UNFICYP operations are currently geared towards addressing that development. Continuing challenges in the buffer zone have the potential to destabilize a still delicate security situation.

30. During the reporting period, UNFICYP authorized 13 civilian construction projects in the buffer zone, including two by a Turkish Cypriot family on the Pyla plateau, and the sinking of a well to supply water to both communities in the villages of Astromeritis/Bostanci and Peristerona/Cengizkoy. UNFICYP also engaged both sides in an anti-dumping campaign in conjunction with local authorities and UNDP in response to an increase in the number of illegal waste dumping sites in the buffer zone. However, the trend described in my previous report (S/2006/315) of construction of unauthorised buildings for personal and commercial use and the utilisation of land outside the areas designated for civilian use in the buffer zone continued.

31. Of particular note during the reporting period have been farming activities, mainly in the area around Nicosia, by farmers wishing to cultivate land beyond the farming security line established by UNFICYP to prevent tension arising from such activities in the buffer zone. On 3 and 11 October, tension rose as result of disputes on farming and land ownership involving Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot farmers in the buffer zone in the area of Kaimakli, north-east of Nicosia. In response to media reports that Greek Cypriot farmers intended to work beyond the farming security line, the Turkish Forces/Turkish Cypriot Security Forces overmanned their nearest position in the area. The situation was further aggravated when Greek Cypriot farmers entered the buffer zone and demanded access to the north of the farming security line. After intensive discussions held by UNFICYP with both sides, the situation was defused. Two press statements warning farmers against crossing the

farming security line were issued by UNFICYP on 4 and 10 October. On 26 November, Turkish Cypriot farmers in the area of Avlona/Gayretkoy entered the buffer zone without authorisation from UNFICYP to cultivate land owned by Greek Cypriots without their permission. When UNFICYP police and military personnel requested them to cease their activities and leave the area until permits were obtained, the farmers attacked the United Nations patrol, damaging six vehicles. UNFICYP strongly protested the incident. In the light of those incidents, UNFICYP tightened its procedures for issuing farming permits in order to safeguard property rights and maintain security in both areas.

32. UNFICYP continued liaising with the two sides, in particular on law enforcement and issues related to crossings. Ten medical evacuations were facilitated from the north, and the remains of four Greek Cypriots were returned for burial in their villages in the northern part of the island. Prison visits and interviews with inmates and relevant officials of detention facilities continued. There are currently 22 Turkish Cypriots detained in the south and one Greek Cypriot under custody in the north.

33. During the reporting period, UNFICYP facilitated the exchange of information on criminal matters between the two communities. UNFICYP established closer cooperation with the communities and local municipalities, which has generated a better flow of information and improved the handling of criminal and domestic matters. On two occasions, UNFICYP facilitated the handing over of persons wanted for serious crimes from one side to the other and also enabled a Turkish Cypriot man to provide testimony in a case being investigated in the south. Nevertheless, there is a pressing need to deal with a growing phenomenon of unpunished crimes, some serious, that result from the lack of cooperation between law enforcement agencies on both sides. A rising trend of criminal activity in the buffer zone, in particular human trafficking activities, continued to be reported by both sides. According to information provided by the two sides, fewer persons have been crossing the buffer zone as illegal immigrants, while the number of arrests for human trafficking has increased.

34. A serious incident occurred on 22 November at a private English language school in Nicosia, in which a group of Turkish Cypriot students attending the school were attacked by a group of Greek Cypriot students from outside the school, reportedly wearing partial face masks. A number of the Turkish Cypriot students were injured in the attack. Three persons have been taken into custody over the incident so far, and the Cyprus police are continuing their investigation. The incident was strongly condemned by President Papadopoulos and other leading authorities on both sides of the divide.

35. UNFICYP continued to liaise with both sides on the preservation and restoration of cultural and religious sites on the island. UNFICYP was requested by both communities to facilitate the resolution of issues regarding the desecration and deterioration of sites with cultural and religious significance.

36. UNFICYP continued to coordinate gender-related activities on the island. UNFICYP facilitated separate meetings of the bi-communal Cypriot Women's Policy Group, which consists of three high-level women representatives from each of the sides, and the bi-communal Anti-Trafficking Group to discuss and address gender issues in Cyprus.

IV. Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus

37. In July, the new member of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus Christophe Girod, officially took up his duties on the island. Following the Committee meeting of 3 July, which was attended by the leaders of both communities, favourable political will has been demonstrated by all concerned with regard to the issue of missing persons in Cyprus.

38. The Committee launched its project on the exhumation, identification and return of the remains of missing persons

late in August. Intrinsic to the project is its bi-communal structure. Supported by a small team of international experts, both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot scientists are participating in exhumations and the identification process in the Committee's anthropological laboratory located in the United Nations Protected Area in Nicosia. The final DNA identification phase, due to begin before the end of the year, will be carried out at a local forensic laboratory by another bi-communal team of scientists.

39. The project is currently financed by voluntary contributions from Cypriot and other sources, including Member States. The Committee is continuing its fundraising efforts.

V. Financial and administrative aspects

40. The General Assembly, by its resolution 60/270 of 30 June 2006, appropriated for the maintenance of UNFICYP for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 the amount of \$44.8 million gross (\$43.0 million net). In this regard, I am grateful for the voluntary contribution of one third of the cost of the Force, equivalent to \$14.9 million, by the Government of Cyprus, and the voluntary contribution of \$6.5 million by the Government of Greece. Other countries and organisations might wish to do likewise, with a view to reducing the portion of the cost of UNFICYP covered by assessed contributions.

41. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNFICYP for a further period of six months, the cost of maintaining the Force would be limited to the amount approved by the General Assembly.

42. As at 30 September 2006, the total outstanding assessed contributions to the special account for UNFICYP for the period from 16 June 1993 to 15 December 2006 amounted to \$23.5 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at the same date amounted to \$2,080.2 million.

43. As at 31 October 2006, amounts owed to troop contributors totalled \$6.2 million. As a result of the delay in the receipt of assessed contributions, reimbursement of troop and contingent-owned equipment costs has been made only for the period up to 30 April 2006 and 31 March 2006, respectively.

44. I am concerned at the slow pace of the refurbishment of the troop accommodation at the Ledra Palace Hotel and Camp San Martin, and in this connection I wish to stress the urgency and importance of speeding up the required repairs in the interest of the health and safety of the mission's troops.

VI. Observations

45. During the reporting period, the situation in Cyprus remained calm and stable with no major violations of the ceasefire lines. Although both opposing forces continued to challenge the existing delineation of the ceasefire lines, the overall cooperation with UNFICYP resulted in a lack of any serious incidents in the buffer zone. I continue to believe that full acceptance by the opposing forces of the 1989 aide-memoire of the United Nations concerning activities in the buffer zone would further improve the situation, and I call on the sides to consider this without delay. In the same spirit, I would encourage a reflection on the various military and other confidence-building measures that have been proposed over the past 18 years, including the withdrawal of troops from the ceasefire lines.

46. In the absence of a comprehensive settlement, the presence of UNFICYP remains necessary in maintaining the ceasefire. In this context, I am concerned about the increasing pressure from the civilian population, particularly the Greek Cypriots, to undertake and expand construction projects in the buffer zone, a trend that could undermine security conditions. I must stress that civilian activities in the area between the ceasefire lines, including farming, cannot take place at the expense of stability and security,

for which UNFICYP is responsible. At the same time, the trend towards increased construction on the Turkish Cypriot side is a cause of concern, as it may undermine the achievement of a comprehensive settlement.

47. The steady progress in the clearing of minefields located in the buffer zone is a welcome development. More than 50 per cent of mines have been cleared and destroyed, while the rest should be removed within two years. The success of this operation is due to the good cooperation of the opposing forces with the United Nations and the generous funding from the European Union.

48. Significant progress has been achieved during the reporting period on the issue of missing persons. With the assistance of the new third member of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, both sides have managed to advance in the exhumation and identification process in the newly established anthropological laboratory. This is an example of a commendable effort by Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot scientists, with the support of international donors. I applaud both sides for their constructive approach to this humanitarian issue and urge them to make progress in the same spirit in other areas of common interest.

49. I must express my concern at the continuing implementation — and in some cases strengthening — of policies that are against the spirit and the letter of the 8 July agreement, by which both sides made a commitment to ensure that the right atmosphere prevails on the island. I also note with concern the criticism and hampering of the United Nations, and particularly of UNDP activities intended to reduce the socio-economic disparities between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot communities. The obstruction of development and bi-communal activities undermines and marginalizes segments of society and makes it difficult for groups and individuals to contribute to the peace process and the building of trust across divisions. The nurturing of a culture of prejudice and the ensuing lack of trust hampers any constructive efforts towards reaching a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem.

50. Having dealt with the Cyprus issue for 10 years, I cannot but regret the continued stalemate in the political process and the missed opportunities. Despite a decade of almost continuous efforts by the United Nations, an agreement on a comprehensive settlement has not proved possible.

51. At this juncture, it is important, as indicated by the Security Council, that the implementation of the 8 July agreement begin without further delay. The process should lead to a resumption of full-fledged political talks within the framework of the mission of good offices. In this connection, it should be noted that only if progress is achieved will my successor or I be in a position to appoint a special adviser on Cyprus.

52. The continued active involvement of the international community in Cyprus, through the presence of UNFICYP, should not be taken for granted. In this context, both leaders may wish to refocus and redouble their efforts. It should be emphasized, as indicated in my report of May 2004, that the responsibility lies primarily with the Cypriots themselves. The United Nations remains committed to lending a helping hand, but it is no substitute for genuine political will on the part of all concerned to reach a comprehensive settlement.

53. In the absence of a comprehensive settlement, I believe that UNFICYP continues to play a vital role, and I therefore recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of the Force by a further period of six months, until 15 June 2007.

54. In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to my Special Representative and Chief of Mission, Michael Møller, the Force Commander, Major General Rafael Barni, and the men and women serving in UNFICYP, for the efficiency and dedication with which they have discharged the responsibilities entrusted to them by the Security Council.



HIV/AIDS mission update

In 2000, heads of state made a promise to halt and begin to reverse the spread of AIDS by 2015. New reports by UNAIDS and the World Health Organisation (WHO) indicate that, as of 2006, the epidemic continues to spread in every region of the world. By now more than 65 million people have been infected with HIV and well over

25 million people have died of AIDS since 1981, 2.9 million in 2006 alone. At this rate, the WHO predicts that in the next 25 years another 117 million people will die, making AIDS the third leading cause of death worldwide. With "accountability" the theme of this year's World AIDS Day (1 December), campaigners across the globe called leaders to account not just for good intentions, but for action to make those promises a reality.

UNFICYP military and civilian personnel will soon receive information about the HIV/AIDS pandemic through an enhanced mission-wide campaign, which will be launched in January. Of the three methods of HIV transmission (sex, intravenous drug use and contaminated blood), unprotected sex remains the greatest threat for transmission

of the virus. Condom use has proven to be one of the most effective methods of preventing the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. Up until now, condoms have been available free of charge to all UNFICYP personnel at the medical clinics. This year, they will be distributed in more discrete and accessible locations, starting with the installation of new condom dispensers in selected toilets and club houses across the mission. A series of informative messages will also be disseminated via Lotus notes bulletin board on clinical locations available in Cyprus for obtaining Volunteer Confidential Counselling and Testing and information on the availability of Post-exposure Prophylaxis treatment in the case of accidental exposure to the virus through blood or sexual assault.

Meanwhile, if you have any questions about the virus, treatment or UN policy on HIV/AIDS, please contact Anne Bursey, UNFICYP's HIV/AIDS focal point at extension 4546 or via email at bursey@un.org.



Advocates for a stronger global response to HIV and AIDS march in Toronto in advance to the International AIDS Conference, August 2006

Secretary-General's World AIDS Day Message (1 December)

In his annual World AIDS Day message, the SG points out that the virus has become the world's leading cause of death among both women and men aged 15 to 59. It has inflicted the single greatest reversal in the history of human development, and has become the greatest challenge of our generation.

He notes that the world was in denial for too long, but that over the past 10 years, attitudes have changed, with the world starting to take the fight against AIDS as seriously as it deserves.

"Financial resources are being committed like never before, people have access to antiretroviral treatment like never before, and several countries are managing to fight the spread like never before. Now, as the number of infections continues unabated, we need to mobilise political will like never before."

The creation of UNAIDS a decade ago, bringing together the strengths and resources of many different parts of the UN family, was a milestone in transforming the way the world responds to AIDS. Five years ago, all UN Member States reached a new milestone by adopting the Declaration of Commitment – containing a number of specific, far-reaching and time-bound targets for fighting the epidemic.

That same year, the SG made HIV/AIDS a personal priority in his work and called for the creation of a "war-chest" of an additional seven to ten billion dollars a year. Today, the

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria has channelled almost three billion dollars to programmes across the globe, with recent significant additional funding from bilateral donors, national treasuries, civil society and other sources. "Annual investments in the response to AIDS in low- and middle-income countries now stand at more than eight billion dollars. Of course, much more is needed; by 2010 total needs for a comprehensive AIDS response will exceed 20 billion dollars a year. But we have at least made a start on getting the resources and strategies in place."

The stakes are higher now than ever before. "The challenge now is to deliver on all the promises that have been made – including the Millennium Development Goal, agreed by all the world's Governments, of halting and beginning to reverse the spread of HIV by 2015. Leaders at every level must recognise that halting the spread of AIDS is also a prerequisite for reaching most of the other Goals, which together form the international community's agreed blueprint for building a better world in the 21st century. Leaders must hold themselves accountable – and be held accountable by all of us."

"Accountability – the theme of this World AIDS Day – requires every President and Prime Minister, every parliamentarian and politician, to decide and declare that 'AIDS stops with me'. It requires them to strengthen protection for all vulnerable

groups – whether people living with HIV, young people, sex workers, injecting drug users, or men who have sex with men. It requires them to work hand in hand with civil society groups, who are so crucial to the struggle. It requires them to work for real, positive change that will give more power and confidence to women and girls, and transform relations between women and men at all levels of society.

"But accountability applies not only to those who hold positions of power. It also applies to all of us. It requires business leaders to work for HIV prevention in the workplace and in the wider community, and to care for affected workers and their families. It requires health workers, community leaders and faith-based groups to listen and care, without passing judgement. It requires fathers, husbands, sons and brothers to support and affirm the rights of women. It requires teachers to nurture the dreams and aspirations of girls. It requires men to help ensure that other men assume their responsibility – and understand that real manhood means protecting others from risk. And it requires every one of us help bring AIDS out of the shadows, and spread the message that silence is death."



Cyprus International Four-Day Challenge 2006

On the morning of 30 November, seven members of the Mobile Force Reserve (MFR) departed for Paphos not knowing how difficult the next four days were actually going to be.

Day one of the challenge was a 6 km time trial with each individual setting off with a 15 second interval between runners. Even though it was the end of November, the weather was still very hot. As it was just 6 km and a time trial, the run quickly turned into a sprint. For legs not used to sprinting 6 kms, this came as a bit of a shock. All MFR runners did exceptionally well, especially LBdr. Stuart who was positioned 16th at the end of the first day. The MFR, however, had to return to Nicosia, unlike the Sector 2 team who were fortunate enough to be staying in a hotel for the duration of the challenge. Mac, the driver, took the return journey in his stride. We decided to spend the cash and stay in Paphos ourselves for the next two nights.

Day two was an 11 km hill climb, which might not sound much, but believe me when I say it turned out to be highly emotional. The first 3 km were pretty much on flat ground – and then the first hill hit us! As soon as I saw what I was going to be running up, I felt like being sick. It was that bad that I didn't even notice the blisters on my feet, as I was running/walking up the hills. To top it off, men and women, two, perhaps three times my age, kept passing me out saying "come on youngster keep going"! Even though the uphill bit was "only" a 500-metre climb over 8 km, the road just kept on going. There was nowhere to hide, and no shade. Each drink station was gratefully reached, and sponges to cool down gratefully taken. Finally the finish really was "just around that corner" and we could stop running, cool down and ease our aching legs and lungs. On completion, every member of the team was absolute baggage, especially the BQMS. He thought it would be a good idea to carry a camel pack, the only problem being that he forgot to drink out of it!

Day three was the half marathon, and of the four days, this was by far the worst. It was another hot day – about 23 degrees, and sunny. We arrived at the start point bright and early, our legs still hanging out from the previous two days and no one was looking forward to it. This was to be a trail half marathon, run over walking trails not roads along the Akamas peninsula. Beautiful countryside, if you're walking in it, but we weren't going to be taking in the views.

It was a long drive to the small village of Neo Chorio where we were to start at the church. All the runners filled the square, nervously getting ready. Before long we were running again, the first 10 km were again uphill, but not as bad as the previous day. Once at the 10 km point, most runners were relieved as the next 10 km was downhill. Having climbed up the hill, we were now sprinting downhill



to the sea. Unfortunately, LBdr. Stuart had to be taken off the run because of dehydration and he physically could not run any more. Once at the bottom, there was a flat straight for the final 2 km. This was a soul-destroying, long, hot, sandy road. At this point, it didn't seem to matter how fast I ran, the finish felt as if it just wasn't getting any closer. I was gutted as we ran past the 20 km marker to find that a half marathon is 21 kms, not the 20 km that I thought. Once finished, every member of the team was exhausted, but pleased with what they had just achieved. LBdr. Stuart was taking it easy in the ambulance and we all had massive ice creams to cool down. For the majority of the team, that run was the furthest they had ran and all had a wonderful sense of achievement. There were some great times, and even the slowest runner overall came in at 2½ hrs – and he'd fallen and knocked himself out on the way down!

The fourth and final day saw us take on a 10 km road run through Paphos. This started at Paphos Castle in the harbour and was open to other runners too, so there was a large field at the start. All competitors set off a little gingerly, even LBdr. Stuart who was back and fit again. We could really tell that we'd been running for three days before – our legs just didn't have any strength in them. There was just enough for a sprint finish in at the end, and then a huge sense of achievement and relief. With legs aching and feet blistered, everyone finally finished the challenge.

The organiser thanked everyone for taking part, and presented us with our medals for finishing. There was then a photo of all the 120 runners who'd started the challenge, and the 90 who actually finished all four days. Afterwards, we returned to the hotel for breakfast and spent the rest of the day relaxing by the pool before the gala dinner.

Each race had been different, and was hard in a different way. It was testing, especially because we were getting progressively more tired. Even though running each day hurt a bit, it was a hugely worth while event. The Four-Day Challenge was not an enjoyable experience at the time, but on reflection, all competitors felt a huge sense of achievement.

Bdr. D.R. Aitken

Car Treasure Hunt in Aid of Charity

On 3 December, the UN Police hosted a Car Treasure Hunt in aid of the local charity "Cans For Kids". Thirty people in nine teams entered and although there was only one winning team, everyone agreed that they had great fun and that a similar event should be organised again soon.

On registration, the teams received a sealed envelope with the route directions and specific questions to answer and find along the way. As the cars headed off one by one, it soon became apparent to the participants that a little local knowledge might just be an advantage.

Two teams finished on equal points, so apart from the questions, the overall time taken and the total kilometres driven were also taken into consideration. The winning team was "Emma's Army" who collected half the entry fees as their prize. A close second were "The Wizards", with "The Urban Ninjas" in third place.

Senior Police Adviser Carla van Maris kindly agreed to present the prizes and also made the presentation of the money raised to Mrs Rosie Charalambous of "Cans For Kids".

Diana Bridger





**Hungarian President
Visits UNFICYP**