

The Blue Beret

January 2007



A New Year,
A New Secretary-General



THE BLUE BERET

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Editorial

2007 – the year beckons – the question is, will it be a year of reckoning?

For the United Nations, we enter the New Year with hopes raised, led by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, a man committed to developing a new spirit of trust in the UN since taking over the helm on 1 January.

Here in Cyprus, we begin the year with similar high hopes, newly resolved to build on the foundations laid and expectations raised when the two leaders agreed last July to a process aimed at promoting a resumption of negotiations for a comprehensive settlement.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has stressed his determination to bridge the gap and span the divide of mistrust that for too long, in his view, has plagued relations between Member States and Secretariat. A key to achieving this organisational overhaul and one of the SG's stated aims is a reinvigorated staff and a Secretariat that is accountable.

In Nicosia, the New Year began auspiciously when the Turkish Cypriot authorities opted to remove the controversial bridge that for a year had stymied efforts to get agreement between the two sides on opening a crossing point at Ledra Street in the heart of the old town.

Now, with the bridge dismantled, perhaps we can look forward to Nicosia having its own passageway of trust linking Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot aspirations in a practical and symbolical way.

A positive new year wish would be that the two sides resolve freely of themselves to step across the dividing line and put past grievances and recriminations firmly behind them in a resolute move forward towards that elusive ideal – a comprehensive settlement.

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Ban Ki-Moon Shapes His Team



In one of his first assignments, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced he was appointing Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro of the United Republic of Tanzania as his Deputy Secretary-General. The new SG said that he intends "to delegate much of the management and administrative work of the Secretariat, as well as socio-economic affairs and development issues, under a clear line of authority to ensure that the Secretariat will function in a more effective and efficient manner."

Dr. Migiro, Tanzania's Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, is the first woman to hold that position.

Dr. Migiro was previously the Minister for Community Development, Gender and Children. She has also served as a member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). She holds law degrees from the University of Dar-es-Salaam and the University of Konstanz.

In forming his new team, the SG requested most ASGs and USGs to offer their resignations voluntarily from their current appointments so that he could review and determine the line-up to assist him in the discharge of his responsibilities.

On his first day at work after assuming office, the new SG said his first priority would be to meet his staff. "During the transition period, I have been very much impressed by the high level of professionalism, exemplary professionalism and dedication of my Secretariat staff. At the same time, I am determined to help my staff



Tanzania's Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Asha-Rose Mtengeti Migiro

to serve even more and better for the international organisation, by persevering in our efforts to change the United Nations, this Organisation, and by building a staff equipped to address all the challenges in the 21st century, and also by trying to bridge the gap

and divide and mistrust which have been plaguing too much the United Nations."

On 11 January, at his first formal news conference since assuming office, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed he would strive to restore trust, both between Member States and the Secretariat, and between senior management and staff, strengthen institutional capacity, and change the working culture of the United Nations. "My goal will be to build a staff which is truly mobile and multi-functional, through greater emphasis on career development, training, accountability, and recognition of work performed at all levels," he declared.



What's In A Name?

Not long after Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon took office, his Spokesperson Michelle Montas offered members of the UN press corps some help with Korean names by clarifying how the new Secretary-General should be addressed. "Korean names formally begin with the family name, followed by the given name, so his name should be stated as Ban Ki-moon. His surname is 'Ban', spelled b-a-n and pronounced 'bahn'. His given name is 'Ki-moon' with a capital 'K', small 'i', hyphen and small 'm-o-o-n'. The accurate pronunciation of that would be 'gee-moon'."

Not surprisingly, since she was dealing with the press, Ms. Montas's comments elicited a further series of questions as indicated by the following exchange:

Question: A lot of people, even here at the UN, are saying Ban Ki, but you are telling us it's Ban Gi?

Spokesperson: It's Ban "gee-moon". He joked during the meeting with staff. He said he does not want to be called "Mr. Ban", because he is not planning to ban anything. He is not going to ban any constructive dialogue with the staff – definitely not. So it's "bahn gee-moon".

Question: I just wanted to triple confirm on the pronunciation – maybe you can spell out: "g-i" you are saying – not "k-i"?

Spokesperson: Yes, it is just the way I was told – it's 'bahn gee-moon'.

Question: We should use a "g" then?

Spokesperson: It's pronounced "g".

2006 – UNFICYP's Year in Review

The year 2006, marked by changes at the top including the arrival of new SRSG Michael Møller in January and new Force Commander Maj. Gen. Rafael José Barni of Argentina in early March, saw much progress achieved in making the mission a more coherent and integrated tool at the service of its ultimate objective: a peaceful and unified Cyprus. The Lebanon crisis underscored the way all components of the mission pulled together and in a time of need were able to deliver in a very complex emergency situation.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan met President Papadopoulos in Paris in February, and the Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat in Geneva on 20 November to review progress on the Cyprus problem.

In between, Under-Secretary-General Gambari's visit to the island was the catalyst for the 8 July agreement, a two-track process to launch bi-communal discussions on everyday technical issues plus an exchange of lists of substantive issues for review by working groups from the two sides and subsequent approval by the two leaders. Later in the year, USG Gambari wrote to the leaders urging that they keep their commitment and resolve. At year's end, their principal aides remained engaged in discussions in SRSG Møller's offices about how to move the process forward in order to resume negotiation towards a comprehensive settlement.

January saw the arrival of new SRSG Michael Møller as successor to Zbigniew Wlosowicz. Welcoming the challenge ahead, Møller told the **Blue Beret**: "A good job is one in which firstly one can apply some things learnt in the past, secondly learn something new, and thirdly have a feeling you are doing something useful." UNFICYP Force Commander Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli's tour of duty came to an end on 5 January and he returned home to Uruguay. Also in January, two suspect cases of avian influenza on the island tested positive for H5N1. Promptly, the authorities implemented a range of measures from flock culling to the introduction of decontamination procedures and random testing in suspect and vulnerable areas. Both sides worked closely with under UN auspices WHO, FAO and EU officials. Later in the month, the new Chief of Mission made his first visit to Pyla, an event highlighted by the attendance of some 70 children from the mixed village's two schools at a stirring show-and-tell performance by the Merlin Marching band of the Royal Fusiliers in the local square.

The Secretary-General and President Papadopoulos met in Paris on 28 February to review the Cyprus situation and to look for ways to move the process forward. They agreed that the resumption of the negotiation 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 bi-communal, technical-level discussions on a range of issues. Less than a month into his assignment, the Chief of Mission invited all staff from HQ UNFICYP – national and international

civilians, military and police – to a "meet and greet" reception at Ledra Palace. The CM returned to Ledra Palace several days later to say hello to representatives of the island's media.

Ledra Palace was again the location when UNFICYP hosted an 8 March International Women's Day panel of three Turkish Cypriot and three Greek Cypriot women in a discussion on the trafficking of women and girls in Cyprus and how to combat it. Sally Anne Corcoran, UNFICYP's Gender Focal Point, moderated. Force Commander Maj. Gen. Rafael Barni arrived in Cyprus on 5 March to take up his duties. SRSG Møller met with Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat at his residence in Kyrenia on 27 March to brief him about the SG's Paris meeting with Mr. Papadopoulos. Mr. Talat was recuperating from recent heart by-pass surgery. On 29 March, the improved Astromeritis-Zodhia/Bostanci crossing re-opened for business, enhanced by EU-funded road upgrades including fencing and lighting. The project was executed by UNDP/PFF.

UNFICYP marked the first International Day for Mine Awareness on 4 April with a special demonstration of de-mining techniques inside the buffer zone, just across from Ledra Palace. Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot political parties, the diplomatic community and media heard the CM address the global message of the day – "landmines have no place in any civilized society." He hoped the event would help spur an even more determined effort on the part of both communities to rid the island completely of its lethal landmine heritage. "Each mine cleared brings us one step closer to building the conditions for lasting and productive peace," he said. The first UNFICYP Town Hall meeting was held on 6 April when the CM briefed staff on the mission's latest initiatives and explained the SG's reform proposals.

SRSG Møller made a familiarisation tour of the Karpas on 18 May, including stop-offs in the villages of Leonariso, Ayia Triada and Rizokarpasso. Lt.Gen. R.K. Mehta, Military Adviser to the SG, arrived in Cyprus on 24 May from New York for a four-day routine working visit.

In June, the Cyprus office of UNHCR marked World Refugee Day with the launch of a fashion T-shirt in an effort to raise awareness of the global refugee problem as well as raise funds to benefit asylum seekers and refugees in

Cyprus. To mark World Environment day, UNDP's Action for Cooperation and Trust organised a three-day Eco Forum (5-7 June). Some 140 participants from both communities discussed potential solutions to the problems of desertification in Cyprus.

July proved to be an intensive and demanding month for all in UNFICYP. As noted, the two leaders Tassos Papadopoulos and Mehmet Ali Talat agreed on 8 July to a process for the launch of bi-communal discussions for everyday issues, and the swap of substantive lists of issues for review by working groups and approval by the leaders. USG Gambari helped broker the agreement at a meeting in the SRSG official residence in the UNPA. Mr. Gambari spent three days on the island following visits to Ankara and Athens. The two leaders met three times in the space of a week, breaking a hiatus of more than two years. The first meeting was on 3 July when the two came together as promised to mark the entry on duty of Christophe Girod, the new Third Member of the Committee on Missing Persons (CMP).

In the second half of July, UNFICYP geared up almost overnight to support and help colleagues and many others trapped in the devastating developments in neighbouring Lebanon. UNFICYP helped bring 1,222 evacuees to safety in Cyprus from Beirut and ports in southern Lebanon. Those evacuated aboard a UN-chartered Cypriot vessel included 392 UN staff or dependents. The mission also helped re-supply UNIFIL colleagues. Twice UNFICYP's UN Flight Bell 212 helicopter flew to Beirut carrying the Lebanese Prime Minister and senior officials to and from Larnaca Airport in Cyprus for transit en route to the 26 July summit in Rome and back.

Assistance to UNIFIL continued throughout August, a month when, sadly, the remains of UNIFIL civilian staff member Augustine Bielonwu, killed during an Israeli rocket attack on 17 July in Tyre, were brought to Nicosia. USG Jean-Marie Guehenno attended a memorial service at UNFICYP HQ. August also saw the announcement by the CMP of plans to launch its project on the exhumation, identification and return of remains.

UNFICYP helped celebrate International Day of Peace on 21 September in Cyprus with a special peace candle vigil ceremony hosted by SRSG Møller in the Ledra Palace buffer zone crossing area. Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot members of the Cyprus World War II Veterans' Association including former President Clerides attended.

UN Ombudsman Patricia Durrant introduced herself and the work of her office to all staff at a Town Hall meeting in early October. Addressing some 200 guests at Ledra Palace on UN Day, among them the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community Mehmet Ali Talat, SRSG Møller spoke of the UN's pride in its long-standing record of support for the efforts of Cypriot civil society organisations to promote bicomunal cooperation on the island. "A strong and active civil society is crucial if you really want to get a firm and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem", he said.

Outgoing SG Annan met Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat in Geneva on 20 November. On 22 November, two landmines were detonated in the buffer zone in a joint EU/UN ceremony to signify that Nicosia had become mine-free. UNFICYP Chief of Mission Møller praised the EU for its support, noting that the de-mining effort had removed 2,810 mines from 25 minefields and had cleared 1.8 million square metres of land in the buffer zone since its launch in November 2004.

The same month, the Head of DPKO's Gender Advisory Team, Ms. Comfort Lamprey, briefed UNFICYP staff on progress to date on implementation of SC resolution 1325 – Women, Peace and Security. This provides an important mandate for addressing gender issues including requested incorporation of a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations. Meanwhile, SRSG Møller opened a UNDPACT/USAID environmental awareness poster campaign. He and US Ambassador Ronald Schlicher inaugurated the Ledra Palace crossing area's new "gallery" display of posters highlighting the unique asset the BZ is to the island.

Distinguished visitors to the mission during the year included Denmark's Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen in September, Ireland's President Mary McAleese in October, and Hungary's President László Sólyom in December.

Netha Kreouzou



Second Mediterranean Model UN Session

On 12 January, Chief of Mission Michael Møller was the keynote speaker at Nicosia's English School, which organised the 2nd Mediterranean Model UN session.

The Chief of Mission said he was pleased to participate and to open the Model United Nations session. He hoped it would become "a yearly tradition expanded to include students from many other Mediterranean countries and especially also students from Turkish Cypriot schools".

He listed the goals and benefits for the participants – the promotion of diversity, belief in human rights, eradication of racism, the elimination of antagonisms, improved understanding of current international affairs, unity, peace and security, and the respect of international law and justice. These are all fundamental cornerstones on which every individual should build his or her profile as an active participant in the life of the societies they live in, he said. This is, of course, particularly true if you intend to make a career in public service. And it is even more true for the citizens of this wonderful, but divided, country that we live in.



Andromachi Sofocleous, Secretary-General of the Mediterranean Model UN, thanked the SRSG for attending, saying his contribution added a great deal to the integrity and status of the conference.

The event was covered by several local TV stations.

CM meets with Nicosia Mayor

On 15 January, SRSG Møller met with the newly elected Mayor of Nicosia Eleni Mavrou at the Mayor's Office in central Nicosia.

They exchanged views on working relations between the two communities of Nicosia regarding the Nicosia Master Plan including the city's sewerage system. They also discussed how to improve communication within the framework of these programmes.

Mayor Mavrou asked for Mr. Møller's support regarding the proposed cleaning up of the buffer zone, and the maintenance of dangerous buildings in the area.



Bridge Demolished



Ledra Street's controversial bridge, erected on the north side of the buffer zone over a year ago on 27 November 2005, was finally dismantled on 11 January 2007 after much media excitement over the holidays. The bridge had been installed to facilitate the passage of pedestrians through what was hoped would be the opening of the sixth and most significant of crossing points between the sides.

The actual opening of a crossing point at Ledra Street awaits agreement between the two sides on a range of issues including possible demilitarisation of the area.

Also, UNFICYP stands ready to move ahead with an EU-funded UNDP/PFF project to shore up buildings in the immediate vicinity of the proposed works in addition to ensuring safety of the area.



Using the Power of Film to Promote Reconciliation

Young people are the future of Cyprus. Yet recent studies show that it's precisely this current generation of young Cypriots that seem to be losing interest in co-existence with their peers from the other community. This trend highlights the need for increased opportunities for young people from across the island to meet each other and work together. Increased contact can assist in breaking down stereotypes, prejudices and pre-conceived notions of "the other".

The peace builders on the island recognise that it's the youth who must carry forward the mantle of reconciliation. And this is why UNDP's programme Action for Cooperation and Trust has invested heavily in projects which focus on bringing young Cypriots together from all communities through youth camps, educational forums and sports activities.

The latest avenue for youth involvement in the reconciliation process is the launch in January of the "Young Film Makers project". The project seeks to tackle indifference and promote civic engagement amongst Cypriot youth, by giving them a unique opportunity to develop an idea for a short film and then make it happen. UNDP has teamed up with the TV and Radio Unit of Intercollege, which will provide high class technical

support, training, mentoring, plus digital cameras and top-of-the-range editing equipment.

The youth of Cyprus has been invited to submit ideas for short films of between five-to-ten minutes, through an island-wide competition. The winning ideas will be taken forward by the project and finalists will be awarded a "scholarship" providing training, support and access to the tools needed to make their film. Open to 18-30 year olds, competition ideas can be about anything that is important to young people and can include individual or social issues, from the protection of the environment to inter-generational dialogue.

Entries will be judged by a selection panel made up of film critics, youth representatives and educators. Competition entries can come in the form of video clips produced by mobile phones, digital cameras or home videos. The competition is open to anyone, from the dedicated film student, the gifted novice or the young person who may have never picked up a camera in their life. At the end of the day, UNDP is looking for the power of an idea which can capture the spirit of the generation, and which has the potential to send out a strong message about co-existence and cooperation between Cypriots.

UNDP aims to select 10 people from each community, and take their ideas to the film-making phase. This will take place between May and June 2007, following six to eight weeks of training. Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots who have similar ideas will be encouraged to support each other in making their respective films. However, if two finalists from different communities choose to work together on a single film, this will also be endorsed and supported. As a whole, all finalists will be urged to share ideas and support each other.

Finalists will be encouraged to use their native language. Films made by Turkish Cypriots will have Greek subtitles and films made by Greek Cypriots will have Turkish subtitles.

The films will be shown at a Film Festival at the end of 2007 where a judging panel, made up of renowned commentators in the world of the arts and journalism, will choose winners for various categories. Some of the films may also be considered for international competitions, and UNDP-ACT will also look at how the films can be widely shown across Cyprus in cinemas and at schools or universities.

"This project seeks to combine youthful energy with the profound power of the film medium," said Jaco Cilliers, UNDP-ACT Programme Manager. "It will aim to stimulate an innovative social commentary on the issues which affect modern Cypriot youth and society at large. It aims to give Cypriot youth a voice and empower them to express themselves through film".

The deadline for entries for the Young Film Makers Competition is 22 February 2007. For more information, please contact Christopher Louise at +357 22 874777 or look at www.undp-act.org

Young Filmmakers Competition
Shooting Reality!

Do you have a great idea for a short film? Here is your chance to make it!

Information Workshop
Monday 22 January from 5-7 pm
@ The Falbright Centre.
See you there!

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES:
22 February 2007 at 5.00pm

The successful applicants (finalists) will be provided with training, equipment and technical support to make their film. About 6 to 10 finalists will be selected from each community and finalists will work together in teams.

For enquiries please call Perle Mestesh on:
(+357) 22 874 777 or (0992) 801 4778

UNDP-ACT invites Cypriots aged 18-30 from all parts of the island to submit their ideas for short films – as long as the idea is about an issue that is important to YOU, we want to hear about it!

So if you want to enter the competition, all you have to do is:
• Complete the application form (downloadable from www.undp-act.org)
• Email your idea, along with your application form to communications-act.cy@undp.org or post it to:

Perle Mestesh
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Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus

CMP Profile

I. History

"The Committee shall look only into cases of persons reported missing in the intercommunal fighting as well as in the events of July 1974 and afterwards." (Article 7, Terms of Reference of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus).

As a result of the violence generated during those unstable times, a total of 502 Turkish Cypriots and 1493 Greek Cypriots were officially reported as missing by both communities to the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus (CMP). Following a number of recent identifications, the total number of missing Greek Cypriots currently stands at 1468.

II. Origins

From 1975-1977, a number of inter-communal meetings on the problem of the missing persons were held but made no significant progress. Between 1977 and 1981, negotiations took place in Nicosia, Geneva and New York for the establishment of a Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus (CMP).

Between 1975 and 1979 the UN General Assembly (GA) adopted three different resolutions on the missing persons in Cyprus, calling for the establishment of an investigatory body to tackle this humanitarian problem. Subsequently, the GA adopted two additional resolutions in 1981 and 1982, respectively, welcoming the establishment of the CMP and urging the CMP to proceed without delay in carrying out its mandate.



Members of the CMP team



CMP Lab

The CMP was established in April 1981 by agreement between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities under the auspices of the United Nations. It is the only institutionalized, bi-communal committee in Cyprus.

III. Structure and Mandate

The CMP is composed of a Member appointed by each of the two communities and a Third Member, selected by the International Committee of the Red Cross and appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. CMP decisions are taken by consensus. The chair is rotated monthly.

Terms of Reference of the CMP call upon the Committee to look into the cases of persons reported missing in the inter-communal fighting as well as the events of July 1974 and their aftermath. The mandate of the CMP is purely humanitarian: establish the fate of missing persons. The Committee does not attempt to establish the cause of death or attribute responsibility for the death of missing persons (Article 11, CMP Terms of Reference).

The 31 July 1997 Agreement between the leaders of both communities provides for the exchange of information regarding known burial sites and the return of remains of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot missing persons.

IV. Resumption of work

On 30 August 2004, the CMP agreed to consider how to expand the Committee's scope of activity and responsibility, in accordance with the proposals formulated by the

Secretary-General in his two letters to the two leaders of December 2003 and August 2004, calling for the resumption of the work of the CMP, namely:

a. To conclude the remaining investigative work on both sides on the basis of an agreed, comprehensive timetable.

b. To agree on the modalities for the implementation of the 31 July 1997 Agreement, in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the CMP of April 1981.

V. Project on the Exhumation, Identification and Return of Remains of Missing Persons

The principal objective of this project is, within the framework of the CMP, to exhume, identify and return remains of people listed as missing as a consequence of the tragic events of 1963-1964 and 1974. This will enable relatives of the victims to recover the remains of their loved ones, arrange for a proper burial and close a long period of anguish and uncertainty. It is hoped that the healing of old wounds will in turn favour the overall process of reconciliation between both communities. The latter will be further encouraged by the bi-communal nature of the project, which involves the important participation of bi-communal scientific teams at all stages of the process.

This project reflects the positive spirit which exists within the CMP since it resumed its activities in 2004, as well as its determination to investigate and establish the fate of some 2,000 missing persons – using various scientific disciplines – by locating, exhuming and finally identifying their remains.

The project includes an Archaeological Phase (Phase I), related to the exhumation of the remains of missing persons, an Anthropological Phase (Phase II), related to the analyses of the recovered remains in the CMP's anthropological laboratory, and a Genetic Phase (Phase III), related to the comparison of blood samples collected from the victims' families with samples from the remains, in order to identify them. It also provides for the Return of Remains (Phase IV), aiming at helping families of both communities cope with the difficult task of coming to terms with their loss.

VI. Progress report

Collecting blood from relatives of missing persons

The Turkish Cypriot laboratory (Dr. Burhan Nalbantoğlu Hospital) involved in DNA extraction continues to collect blood samples from relatives of the Turkish Cypriot missing persons for later identification purposes.

The DNA profiles of the relatives of the Greek Cypriot missing persons were established a few years ago.

Exhumation

To date, the remains of some 207 individuals have been exhumed from different burial sites located all over the island.

CMP Anthropological Laboratory

The building and equipping of the CMP anthropological laboratory within the United Nations Protected Area (Old Nicosia Airport) was finalised by the end of August 2006, when it started to be operational.

Since then, the anthropological laboratory has analysed the remains of some 106 individuals in an attempt to obtain tentative identification before bone samples are sent to the DNA laboratory.

DNA analysis

DNA extracted from the skeletal remains will be compared with the DNA of the relatives of the missing persons. The DNA identification process will be carried out by a bi-communal team of scientists in the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics in Nicosia.

Identification process

When the DNA identification process is conclusive and corroborated by the anthropological analysis, formal identification is reached.



Elena Stylianou (left) and Gizem Yenmez

Return of Remains

It is hoped that the first positive identification will be obtained soon and that therefore the first remains of identified individuals will be returned to families of missing persons in 2007.

Bi-communal Teams

The entire project is carried out by bi-communal teams of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot scientists who are playing an important role throughout the project.

International archaeologists and anthropologists from Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team (EAAF) are coordinating and training the bi-communal teams of Cypriot scientists involved in the exhumation and anthropological work. Ten Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots are carrying out exhumations on both sides of the Green Line while four others are working at the CMP anthropological laboratory in the UNPA.

Another team of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot scientists is going to carry out the DNA identification process at the Laboratory of Forensic Genetics at the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics in Nicosia.



A Corner of Friendship in Cyprus

Marios and Maria Kattou live in the small village of Evrychou, situated on the road leading to Troodos. They are the owners of the "Marios Tavern". But for Argentinian Contingent, Marios and Maria are the owners of the "Corner of Friendship", a place where many Argentinians have found sincere warmth and affection since first arriving on the island in 1993.

Marios and Maria have been married for 45 years. They have five children and nine grandchildren. Marina, their youngest daughter, lives with them and is also part of this story.



Marios, Marina and Maria

Marios has been working in Skouriotissa, Sector 1, since 1963 when the camp accommodated the workers of a copper mine. In 1974, the camp buildings were taken over by the Danish Contingent. They stayed there until 1993 when the Argentinian Contingent took over, renaming it San Martín Camp.

Marios has been present during all these changes, first with the copper mine, then as a cook with the Danes and now as the head cook with the Argentinians. Marina is a kitchen assistant, and Maria also works in Sector 1 in various assignments around the camp.

After their daily duties in Sector 1, Marios, Maria and Marina run their tavern in the evenings. Since 1993, hundreds of Argentinians have made their way there in off-duty hours. The family has a way of making any visitor feel very welcome and comfortable.

Through the years, many celebrations have taken place in the tavern, including private parties, farewell dinners and even medal parade receptions!

Maria and Marina say they love receiving Argentinian peacekeepers in their house, located next door to the tavern. They feel there is a mutual spirit there, a very similar mentality. Often, Sector 1 personnel who have got to know the family just pop in for a visit, maybe even a cup of tea. "We feel very comfortable with Argentinians – they are respectful of our family and our customs," says Maria. Marina adds: "It is very easy to make friends with them, particularly the



Mi casa, tu casa, thanks to the three "Ms"

younger soldiers, who seem to enjoy a house like ours to come to while they're so far away from home".

After almost 14 years, more than 5,000 Argentinian men and women have passed through Cyprus and many of them still remember the three "Ms". During the recent festive season, more than 20 former peacekeepers telephoned them from Argentina, which clearly shows the friendship that exists. The family, too, remembers many who have visited them in the past, including the present Force Commander Maj. Gen. Barni and his family back in 1997.

Marios, Maria and Marina have received many invitations to visit their friends in Argentina, but as yet, they have not quite made it. However they have so many offers of accommodation from one end to the other of this immense country that once they arrive, they will never need to search for a roof over their heads!

The friendship shown by the Kattou family to the Argentinian Contingent is a very clear sign of the generosity and kindness of the local population.

Sector 1 has no hesitation in recommending Marios Tavern to all colleagues! If you would like to try the speciality of the house, "kleftiko", you will need to book ahead, so call 22-932 357 for a meal to remember!

Capt. Mauricio Silvestre



Marios in his kitchen

COP Woodpecker

An exercise took place on 25 January in Sector One's buffer zone area near OPT 22, more specifically beside Agios Nicolaos village ruins.

More than 80 UNFICYP soldiers from Sector 1, UNPOL 1 (Linou), SCAT 1 (Mammari), MFR (HQ UNFICYP), UN Flight and the FMPU took part in the exercise, along with MFR's Tacticas. The objective was to execute and practise integration between the three pillars.

The scenario created was the intrusion of "civilians" who wanted to farm inside the buffer zone. A Sector 1 patrol detected the intrusion. They approached the area and requested the "civilians" to show their permission to farm. Not only was this request refused, but a very aggressive attitude against the UN was adopted.

Sector 1 then called UNPOL and SCAT in order to set up an ICP (Incident Control Point) in the problem area. Between themselves, the three pillars decided on their course of action, which was to block the "farmers" with UN vehicles.

However more "civilians" then entered the buffer zone in order to support the "farmers", causing an escalation of the situation. Therefore, Sector 1's reserve was called to the scene and the MFR element was warned that it may be called upon very soon, if the situation worsened.

Meanwhile, the "civilians" continued with their aggressive and violent attitude. Sector 1 applied crowd control procedures, but the trouble escalated even further, so then MFR presence was finally requested. They arrived about 30 minutes later and reinforced Sector 1 soldiers with protective equipment including helmets, vests and shields and, of course, the Tacticas.

The MOLO team, in the meantime, had contacted the Sector Liaison Officer and was attempting to negotiate a stop to the hostilities.

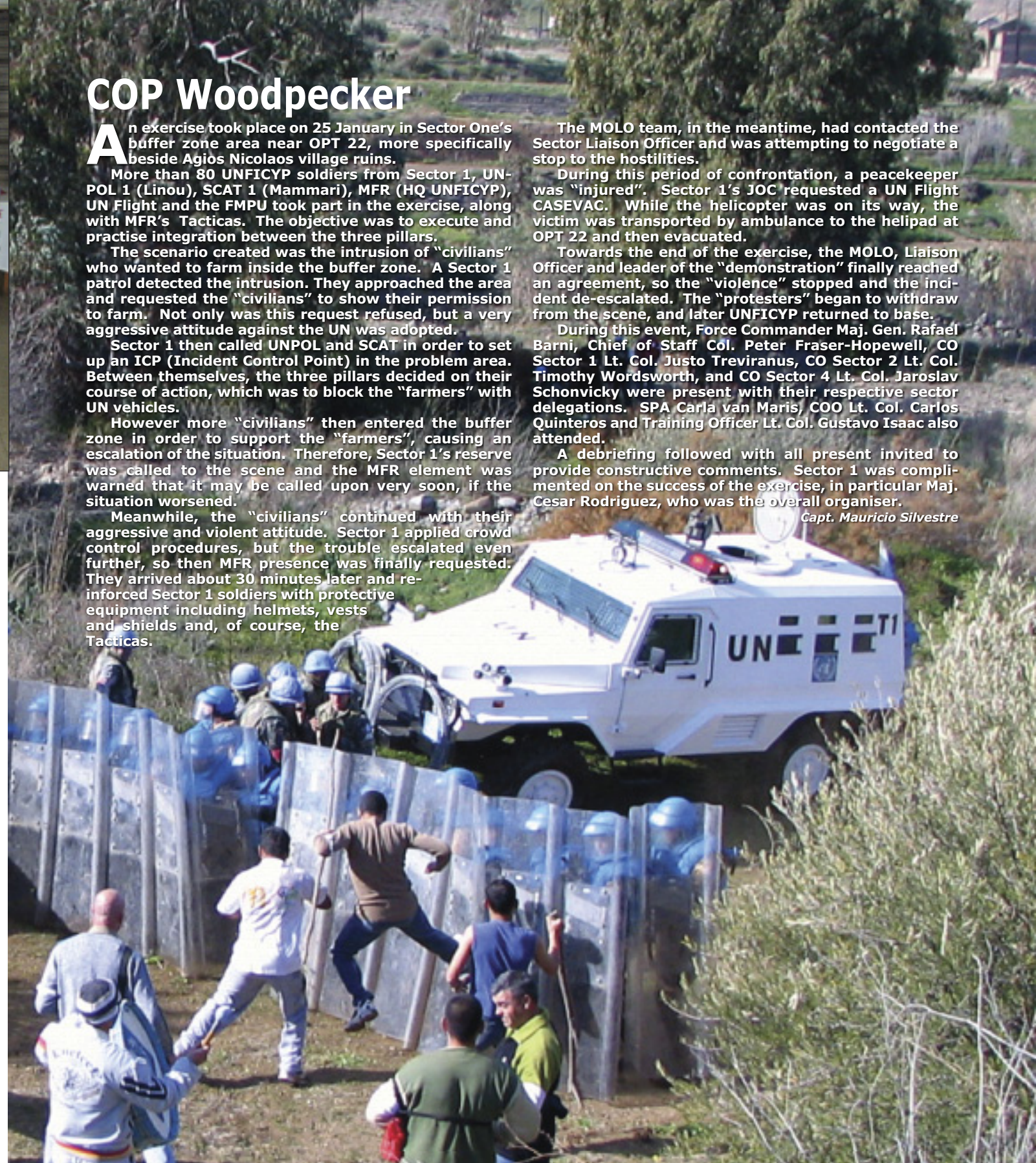
During this period of confrontation, a peacekeeper was "injured". Sector 1's JOC requested a UN Flight CASEVAC. While the helicopter was on its way, the victim was transported by ambulance to the helipad at OPT 22 and then evacuated.

Towards the end of the exercise, the MOLO, Liaison Officer and leader of the "demonstration" finally reached an agreement, so the "violence" stopped and the incident de-escalated. The "protesters" began to withdraw from the scene, and later UNFICYP returned to base.

During this event, Force Commander Maj. Gen. Rafael Barni, Chief of Staff Col. Peter Fraser-Hopewell, CO Sector 1 Lt. Col. Justo Treviranus, CO Sector 2 Lt. Col. Timothy Wordsworth, and CO Sector 4 Lt. Col. Jaroslav Schonvicky were present with their respective sector delegations. SPA Carla van Maris, COO Lt. Col. Carlos Quinteros and Training Officer Lt. Col. Gustavo Isaac also attended.

A debriefing followed with all present invited to provide constructive comments. Sector 1 was complimented on the success of the exercise, in particular Maj. Cesar Rodriguez, who was the overall organiser.

Capt. Mauricio Silvestre



Preparing for a CASEVAC



Sector 1, SCAT and UNPOL negotiating with the "farmers"



UN Flight Medal Parade

One very good reason to feel proud is to have the work you do on a daily basis recognised and appreciated. Even more so if you have been working for a good cause.

Such were the sentiments of 28 UN Flight members at their Medal Parade on 11 January. At a ceremony held in the helicopter hangar, three officers and three NCOs were awarded their UN medals and 22 were presented with numerals. Chief of Mission Michael Møller and Force Commander Maj. Gen. Rafael Barni made the presentations.

The ceremony was conducted by OC UN Flight Lt. Col. Fernando Simo who noted that more than 500 Argentinian Air Force personnel have served with UNFICYP since September 1994. "We have completed more than 14,000 flight hours and transported over 37,000 passengers with one of the best safety records in UN aviation history," he said.

C.M. Møller recognised UN Flight's vital role in providing UNFICYP with air advantage and excellent medical evacuation capabilities. "The quick response in carrying out flights during the Lebanon crisis was the most outstanding example of Argentina and UN Flight's readiness to help where needed".

Following the ceremony, a reception was held in the hangar. OC UN Flight expressed his appreciation to all those who attended and shared their time with the proud medalists.

UN Flight Volleyball Championship

On 13 December, a Volleyball Championship was played in the UN Flight hangar. Teams from HQ, Sector 1, Sector 2, Sector 4, MFR and UN Flight took part.

The day-long tournament ended at 5:30 p.m. OC UN Flight Lt. Col. Fernando Simo presented trophies to the winning team, Sector 1, second place Sector 4 and UN Flight, which took third place.



UN Fit versus Sector 1

Farewell

Time passes very quickly in Cyprus. Only a short while ago, Ross Wickware first stepped into his office at UNFICYP as the new Security Officer back in October 2004. Two years and three months on, he has handed in his Laisser Passer and traded in his white UN Corolla for a season's ski pass at Sunshine Village, only 15 minutes from the condo Ross and his wife Patricia own in Canmore, Alberta. Aside from seeking the good life, the time was ripe for Ross to head back to Canada and try his hand at a joint business venture in the world of Information Technology.

When I first met Ross, only six months into his term with UNFICYP, I assumed he had been around for years. He already had his hand in a number of impressive projects and was a source of wisdom on issues ranging from UN policy to where to locate the best "meze" on the island. Ross managed to out-do his job description early on to the point of accepting tasks that, simply put, no one else wanted. Among his many accomplishments are the design of a new security

plan for the mission; being the driving force behind a 2.2 million dollar security facilities enhancement project; assuming the roles of SEA and Conduct and Discipline focal points; and playing a key role in the evacuation of last year's UNIFIL staff from Lebanon.

Ross's dedication and high standards did not go unappreciated. He will be dearly missed by CAO Frank Clancy, by his motor cycling mates and by his deep sea diving buddies. Doubtless, he and Patricia will be entertaining a long list of visitors from Cyprus in the years ahead. Many thanks for deciding to make a stop-over in Cyprus Ross!

AB

Capt. Mark Honeybunn, 39 Regiment RA, was posted to the MFR in September 2006 as a Platoon Commander, engaged in the training and deployment of his platoon across the island. A talented rugby player, Mark organised and ran the UNFICYP Rugby 7s Tournament this month, and has been heavily engaged in captaining and leading the Nicosia Barbarians Rugby Team.



New Faces

Human Resources Assistant Ms. Temnit Fitsum has recently joined UNFICYP. She succeeds Ms. Maria Wilkins who has become Senior Administrative Officer/Contracts Management Officer.

Temnit worked for the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for more than nine years, working in the area of Human Resources Management, mainly in administration of staff benefits and entitlements. She also has extensive experience in recruitment of staff and training. Temnit has a Diploma in Management and a Degree in Civil Engineering from Addis Ababa University.

Temnit is married to Mulugeta and they have two children, Rakeb (2) and Nathan (4).



Kent Harrington has a Masters Degree from Western Illinois University in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration. He is a graduate of the United States Army Command and General Staff Officers Course from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He has completed work towards a second Masters Degree at Texas A & M University Corpus Christi in Secondary Education and is currently working towards Certified Protection Professional certification with the American Society for Industrialized Security.

Kent enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1977 as a Military Policeman and was commissioned as a Military Police Officer in 1984. His assignments included Military Police Platoon Leader, Company Commander, Operations and Training Officer, Military Observer for the United Nations in Cambodia, Adjutant, and Executive Officer. He retired at the rank of Captain in 1995.

Since then he has served in the Department of Law Enforcement at Western Illinois University; the Kwajalein Police Department in the Marshall Islands; the United Nations in Kosovo; the Illinois Police Corps; and the Texas Police Corps. His last assignment was with the United Nations in Afghanistan.

Osman Suliman arrived in UNFICYP on 8 January to take over the position of Associate Procurement Officer, replacing Muhammad Hunar who was assigned to MINURSO in the Western Sahara.

Osman comes from Sudan and graduated from the University of Khartoum in Business Administration in 1976. He first joined the United Nations as a UNV in 1995 in UNPROFOR (the former Yugoslavia). He then served in UNTAS (Croatia) until 1997. In December 1997, he was appointed as a Procurement Assistant in MINURSO and stayed there until October 2000 when he was re-assigned to UNOHCI (Baghdad). In November 2003, he joined UNAMI (Kuwait), and in July 2005, he moved to UNOMIG (Georgia) until his present assignment.

Osman is married to Nuzha Adlan, and they have three children, Muhammed (25), Mohammed (23) and Muram (20).



Maj. Martin Birch, the new SO2 Ops Info, replaced Maj. Nick Loader in January 2007. He joined the British Army in September 1979 as a Junior Leader in the Royal Artillery.

Martin has held a number of multi-national appointments; with NATO in Sarajevo (FRY), Croatia (Zagreb), SHAPE (Belgium) with the Combined Joint Planning Staff, HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (Germany), AFNORTHWEST (England) and HQ AFCEM (Germany). He also deployed with the UN to Bosnia in 1995. Included in his military service is over 10 years stationed in a number of British Garrisons in Germany. Although no stranger to the UN, this is his first time in Cyprus.

Martin is married to Karen and they have two sons, Darren (22) and Lee (20). They all threaten to visit him during his time in Cyprus!

His interests centre on sport (football, squash and golf) and travelling.

Visitors to UNFICYP

House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee

Members of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, led by Sir John Stanley MP, were welcomed to the Ledra Palace by Chief of Mission Michael Moller and Force Commander Maj. Gen. Rafael Barni on 18 January.

The party was then taken on a buffer zone tour of Sector 2's area of responsibility by Chief of Staff Col. Peter Fraser-Hopewell and CO Sector 2 Lt. Col. Tim Wordsworth.



Visitors to UNFICYP HQ who were afforded the usual honours by the Chief of Mission and/or the Force Commander included:



Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Royal Norwegian Embassy, H.E. Mr. Sverre Stub, 17 January



New Zealand High Commissioner H.E. Ms. Julie Mackenzie, 22 January



Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Hungary HE, Mr Csaba Lovro, 23 January



High Commissioner of India, H.E. Ms. Lavanya Prasad, 23 January

Flying Santa drops in on Pyla's Children

On 22 December, UNFICYP gave Santa Claus and one of his elves a lift via a patrolling helicopter to visit the schoolchildren of Pyla.

Hundreds of excited Turkish and Greek Cypriot kids greeted his landing and waited patiently to receive their presents. Afterwards, both Muhktars, Parent-Teacher Association Heads, Principals, parents and the UN had coffee and cake while all the children played together at the Greek Cypriot School. The joyous event celebrated the true spirit of the holidays in a bonding display of goodwill, sharing and friendship. Civil Affairs Political Officer Sally Anne Corcoran hopes to have more activities of this nature in 2007, with the aim of bringing all the Cypriot children together in an atmosphere of camaraderie and trust.

The children of Cyprus are its future, and we are helping to lay a good foundation when we invest in them and bring the two communities together.

SAC



Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot primary school principals of Pyla flanking Santa (Capt. Ian Corr, Sector 2) and his elf (Ersin Oztoycan, Turkish interpreter, UNFICYP PIO)

Christmas at HQ

It was Christmas Day at HQ UNFICYP. Early in the morning, officers of the MFR toured their soldiers accommodation blocks with the start to the day – "gunfire" tea (tea with whiskey) and Irish coffee, accompanied by bacon rolls and sausage baps or rolls. This British Army tradition caused some initial confusion among MFR's Argentinian, Hungarian and Slovak soldiers. When they were woken up by a banging on their doors, some thought it was another exercise, cruelly timed. Instead, they found their OC standing outside, ready to serve them breakfast!

After the "gunfire", MFR's British soldiers organised a trip to their fellow Brits at the Ledra Palace for a carol-singing session in the car park. The padre, Capt. Neil Allison, handed out several different versions of the song sheets, resulting in assorted versions of the same carol being sung at once!



The next British tradition was at lunchtime when HQ UNFICYP and MFR soldiers entered the International Cafeteria to find all the tables rearranged in banquet style with festive table cloths decorating them and the officers waiting to serve them the first course – soup. For the main course, Chief of Staff Col. Peter Fraser-Hopewell and Maj. Stan Stanton served meat carved on the hotplate.

Following lunch, the Argentinians in particular were baffled even further by the Christmas crackers which adorned the table. Once explained exactly what to do with them, they joined in the fun and a good time was had by all.

Later in the afternoon, films were shown in the bar, followed by tea and a quiz in the evening. Much was done to make the soldiers feel as comfortable as possible at this special time of year.

During the PIO Christmas breakfast, where members of the department entertained their guests with carols suitably adapted for the occasion, £170.00 was collected.

The money will be donated this month to the Kemal Saraçoğlu Leukaemia Trust for Children in the north and the Cyprus Association for Autistic Persons in the south.

**Mi Casa,
Tu Casa!**

