

The Blue Beret

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**Fires rage
in the UN
buffer zone**



THE BLUE BERET

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Editorial

Summer is a time to enjoy going out to the sea or mountains to rest and rejuvenate ourselves. It's the time of year when we all take pleasure in our natural environment, whether it's a picnic in the mountains or a walk on the beach.

However, this idyllic picture is marred by thoughtless behaviour that can have devastating effects on the natural environment.

Leaving behind rubbish, including plastic bags and bottles, is not only an eyesore, but also pollutes beaches and seas and enters into the ecosystem, harming fauna and flora.

But leaving behind rubbish is not just a pollutant. It can have devastating effects, as in the case of fires started by glass bottles left behind in forests, as these can become magnifying glasses when temperatures soar to 40°C and above.

Despite many warnings by the authorities, people are still seen burning stubble in the fields or lighting fires in their back yards. Smokers flick ash or throw cigarette butts out of car windows. Picnickers light barbecues or abandon empty bottles in the forest. After baking in temperatures of 40°C, dry branches and twigs become tinder, and the slightest spark and a gust of wind can fan the flames, spreading it quickly out of control.

Most fires are started in a moment of carelessness by otherwise law-abiding citizens. However, negligence in these circumstances is unforgivable, as its devastation to the fragile environment threatens both human life and puts a further strain on the over-stretched natural habitat.

The buffer zone has become a preserve for the island's ecosystem and is at high risk of grass and bush fires. In the last month, UNFICYP soldiers, police and civilian fire-fighters spent approximately 120 man-hours putting out fires. Whether civilian, soldier or police, all need to be aware and responsible for their actions in these hot, dangerous months.

UNFICYP Assists in Pilgrimages

UNFICYP facilitated two religious pilgrimages in July, one in Dherynia (Sector 4's area of responsibility) and the other in Ayia Marina Skylloura, on the outskirts of Nicosia.

The first pilgrimage was on 17 July to the Agia Marina Orthodox Church located inside the buffer zone close to Dherynia. Sector 4's SCAT, UNPOL and military worked together to assist in the organisation of transport for the safe passage of pilgrims to and from the church.

Working together with the local community, represented by Mr. Andreas Shiapanis, Mayor of Dherynia, the SCAT 4 team based in Pyla organised the logistical arrangements for the large number of pilgrims expected to enter the buffer zone.

UNFICYP supports this annual event, which is significant for the villagers of Agia Marina as it marks the feast day of their saint. Approximately 500 pilgrims, from the very old to the very young, arrived for the event, and were ferried to and from the church throughout the morning by UNFICYP peacekeepers. An UNFICYP medical team was constantly on standby.

Thanks to the support from UNFICYP's combined elements, the pilgrimage was a great success.



A peacekeeper helping one of the elderly pilgrims on her way to Agia Marina

The church and monastery of Prophet Elias was the venue for the second pilgrimage which took place on 22 July.

The church, dating back to 1508, and the monastery, constructed in 1735, played a significant role in the survival of the Maronite minority in Cyprus, both as a spiritual and as an educational centre. Through the centuries, this monastery contributed to the propagation of charity, tolerance, co-existence, co-habitation and peace. In the heart of this establishment, Greeks, Turks and Maronites were traditionally involved in agriculture and lived and prospered together.

The monastery to this day is considered by Maronites as part of their cultural heritage. Celebrating the Prophet Elias feast day (20 July) at the church and monastery is a highlight in their religious calendar. The church service is arranged for the nearest Sunday, and this year it took place on 22 July.

Civil Affairs Branch assisted in obtaining the necessary permission from the authorities in the north to hold the service, and participated in the event, along with around 500 Maronite pilgrims of all ages from both north and south of the island.

Access to the Prophet Elias church was via an old road from Kontemeno in the direction of Morphou, along dirt tracks and cutting across fields.

The original icon of Prophet Elias, that belongs to the church dedicated to the saint, was transported specifically for the ceremony from Kormakitis, where it has been retained since 1974, and is considered an antiquity. Mass was led by the General Superior Elias Khalife, head of the Maronite Monks, who arrived in Cyprus from Lebanon especially for the event. Also in attendance was Lebanese Ambassador Michel El Khoury and the Maronite representative, Antonis Hadjiroussos, from the House of Representatives.

Father Superior Joseph Georgiou of the Cyprus Maronite monastery said the ceremony was an emotional event for those attending, and expressed, on behalf of all Cypriot Maronites, his gratitude for UNFICYP's assistance in making it happen.



Pilgrims inside the historic church of Prophet Elias during the ceremony

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UNFICYP Summer Integrated Medal Parade



The old Nicosia International Airport was once again the venue for the UNFICYP Integrated Medal Parade which took place on 5 July.

UNFICYP soldiers stood to attention in the hot, afternoon sun as Chief of Mission Michael Møller, Force Commander Maj. Gen. Rafael Barni, CO Sector 1 Lt. Col. Justo Francesco Treviranus, British High Commissioner Peter Millett, Slovak Ambassador Ján Varšo and Hungarian Ambassador Csaba Lovró presented medals to 210 peacekeepers.

An estimated 550 guests attended the parade, including Ambassadors, members of the diplomatic corps, staff and sector members, and families and friends of the medal recipients.

Welcoming all guests to the sixth integrated medal parade, SRSg Møller praised UNFICYP's soldiers for their vigilance and dedication. As the Chief of Mission stated, "Sometimes you have to work in trying and difficult circumstances. Civilians who defy security considerations to promote their property rights and interests in sensitive buffer zone areas without due thought for the impact on safety and stability don't make your peacekeeping task any easier."

He added that UNFICYP, as stated in the Secretary-General's recent report, will continue to support civilian activities in the buffer zone in keeping with ownership rights, but not at the expense of stability and security. "It is you, the peacekeepers, the mainstay of the international presence on this island, who help provide stability and calm along the ceasefire lines as you go about your business in a sustained demonstration of fairness, impartiality, tolerance, patience, co-operation, tact and diplomacy."

The SRSg said that it was a matter of great pride for him to award the United Nations Peacekeeping Medal in the name of the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. "The medal honours your contribution, both individually and collectively, as peacekeepers. It has been well earned. You richly deserve it."

A reception followed the ceremony with national delicacies offered by Sectors 1, 2 and 4. Thanks must also go to the MFR and Slovak Engineers for their assistance in the preparations for the event.

SG on World Population Day – 11 July

The theme of this year's World Population Day – men as partners for maternal health – focuses attention on the fundamental role of men in supporting women's rights, including their right to sexual and reproductive health.

Today, more than half a million women die each year during pregnancy and childbirth, 99% of them in developing countries. Many more suffer serious complications that can have a severe impact on the quality of life for women and their families. Almost all of this death and suffering is preventable.

As partners for maternal health, men can save lives. They play a decisive role in many respects. Husbands often make decisions about family planning and the use of household resources that influence the well-being and prospect of the whole family. The support of an informed husband improves pregnancy and childbirth outcomes and can mean the difference between life and death in cases of complications, when women need immediate medical care. And supportive fathers can play an important role in the love, care and nurturance of their children.

Far too many women die during pregnancy and childbirth because their right to sexual and reproductive health is denied. The alarming spread of HIV among women is a tragic reminder that in many places,

women do not have the power to protect their own health. When a woman can plan her family, she can plan the rest of her life. When she is healthy, she can be more productive. And when her reproductive rights are promoted and protected, she has freedom to participate fully and equally in society.

Several countries have succeeded in significantly reducing maternal death rates in the space of a decade, when women gained access to family planning, midwives and backup emergency obstetric care. However, much more needs to be done to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of improving maternal health around the world by 2015. Partnering with men is an important strategy for advancing reproductive health and rights. And gender equality, another Millennium Development Goal, is most likely to be achieved when men recognize that the lives of men and women are interdependent and that the empowerment of women benefits everyone.

On this World Population Day, let us all encourage men to become partners and agents for change, supporting human rights and safe motherhood in every way possible, thus contributing to creating a world of greater health and opportunity for all.



Paraguayan National Day

On 15 May, the 14 Paraguayan soldiers of Sector 1 celebrated the 195th anniversary of their independence from Spain. On that day, a parade took place in Roca Camp to honour the occasion.

At 8.00 a.m., the parade began with a salute by Sector 1 CO Lt. Col. Justo Francisco Treviranus. All Paraguayans, accompanied by their Argentinian and Chilean fellow peacekeepers, stood to attention for the national anthem and the raising of the Paraguayan flag.

1/Lt. Gilberto Romero addressed the parade, giving a short account of his country's history and the significance of this date. He also emphasized the importance Paraguay attaches to its peacekeeping duties.

At the end of the event, ARGCON's padre, Father Fernando Visconti, blessed the parade.



Argentinian Independence Day



Argentina celebrates Independence Day on 9 July, the day in which the proclamation declaring independence from Spain, was signed in 1816 in Tucumán, one of the country's oldest cities.

Argentinian peacekeepers celebrated their Independence Day with a parade at San Martin Camp. The event opened with a presentation by Brig.Gen. H.C. Trisano, Chief Operations Argentinian Armed Forces HQ, who was in Cyprus to inspect peacekeeping operations in Sector 1.

Force Commander Maj. Gen. Rafael José Barni took the parade salute which was then followed by an address by Lt. Col. Justo Francisco Treviranus who outlined the significance of the day. After the national anthem, ARGCON priest Father Fernando Visconti blessed the ceremony and a reception followed.

From a male soldier's point of view....

Capt. Tomas Pavlik (Slovak Air Force) is currently the Military Public Information Officer at HQ UNFICYP. He is married to Lenka, and they have two children, Nina (four) and Alexander (one).

Before the children were born, Lenka had a high-powered post as an Economist in Slovakia. She resigned to become a full-time mother, but intends to return to the workforce as soon as possible. To do this, she will undoubtedly need the assistance of Tomas.

Tomas says, "Lenka gave up her career temporarily for our family. However, she has left me in no doubt that she wishes to return to the world of economics as soon as she can. I



will then have to deal with balancing my own career with hers, and I will do everything I can to help her.

"So far, she has taken care of the basic family requirements, but I can see the day coming when I shall have to do my 'fair share' of the household chores, etc. This will not be hard when based in Slovakia, however there are times when the armed forces are deployed in missions abroad. That is when I can foresee problems. However, where there's a will, there's a way!

"Globally, more and more women are joining the regular work force and Slovakia is no exception. With both partners working, the quality of life improves. We have to move with the times!"

From a female soldier's point of view....

Sgt. Dawn Cairns, SSA Chief Clark in Sector 2, is married with three children: Michael 26, Yan 22 and Shay 17. Her husband, Gary, is also in the military and serves in the British Territorial Army.

Dawn first enlisted in September 1979 and is now attached to 8 Transport Unit at Ledra Palace. Over the years, she has been posted to various branches of the military, including 13 years in the Territorial Army.

She says her husband, who is in the British Territorial Army, understands the requirements of the job and has been supportive, not only of



her career, but of her being a working wife and mother. This has allowed her to continue her career and be posted on a mission in Cyprus.

Dawn says what has made her marriage work is their appreciation of each other, respecting each other's views and aspirations. "It's a partnership of give and take, allowing each other to work and develop careers while at the same time sharing family responsibilities."

The scale, however, does tend to lean more heavily on women when it comes to being flexible and arranging changes in lifestyle, she concedes.

Organic Farming

Farmers from all over the island took part in a workshop on methods and processes in organic farming, organised by the Cyprus Organics Advisory Group throughout July, with support from UNDP-Action for Cooperation and Trust.

COAG is a network of experts in organic farming whose aim is to share knowledge and practical solutions across the island, in order to encourage more farmers to switch to more environmentally sustainable methods of farming. COAG workshops operate on the premise that theoretical knowledge must be complemented by practical, hands-on experience, which is why the first day of the workshop consisted of a field trip to an organic vineyard in the village of Pissouri near Limassol. Participants also



had the opportunity to see organic practices in olive groves.

On the second day, participants learned about new methods in sustainable farming, and were able to discuss its environmental and economic benefits.

The workshop is one of six thematic events planned by COAG to increase awareness of the benefits of organic farming for environmental preservation and waste management. It is also aiming to stimulate dialogue between the two Cypriot communities through the exchange of techniques and ideas related to organic farming.





FIRE!

Soaring temperatures of over 40°C and strong winds increase the risk of fires during the Cyprus summer.

This was the case on 29 June when one of the worst blazes the island has seen in decades destroyed 11.8 square kilometres in the Saitas area of the Troodos mountain range, of which 5.7 kilometres was state forest land. Around 370,000 trees were turned to ash in the blaze that also scorched 15 homes.

UN Flight received a request from CYPOL's Deputy Police Chief, Mr. Michael Papageorgiou, to fly over the fire zone in the Troodos mountains to assess the course of the blaze and determine the best strategy for extinguishing the flames.

A Hughes 500 helicopter, piloted by Lt. Pablo Lopez and Lt. José Pio Cabrera, took off at 6.00 p.m. from the old Nicosia International Airport. They flew to the fire zone and reached a height of 2,300 metres, much higher than the normal air patrol. Flying above the fire, radio coordinates were used in conjunction with other aircraft in the area. Patterns of observation were conducted in order to identify possible access routes to battle the flames. After an exhaustive flight, the helicopter returned to Nicosia at sunset. Mr. Papageorgiou thanked UN Flight for their assistance in this arduous mission.

The island's Fire Services report that although the number of fires has not increased in comparison to previous years, the area of land burnt is greater. On average, around 25 fires break out every day during July, many of which were in remote and hard-to-access locations.

According to UNFICYP Senior Fire Officer Paul Qadir, the same trend can be seen in the UN controlled buffer zone area where there have been 36 reported fires since January 2007. Fourteen were recorded between 14 June and 14

July alone, destroying approximately 10 square kilometres of trees and vegetation. Eighty-two soldiers spent approximately 132 hours fighting these fires, while three UN trucks and 43 civilian fire trucks assisted in extinguishing the blazes.

Seven fires broke out in Sector 2 (Nicosia area), six in Sector 1 (Mammari, Astromeritis) and one in Sector 4 (Athienou area). The fire in Athienou on 9 July which started in the evening at around 8.20 p.m. was the biggest one so far with fire fighters working through the night to bring the blaze under control. The fire destroyed approximately 7 km of grass and bush land within the BZ, as well as a wooden sentry box at OP 115. According to reports, fire-fighters had difficulty bringing the blaze under control, due to the strong winds fanning the flames as it spread to minefields, resulting in explosions of landmines.

In all incidents, the cause of the fires is unknown.



UN Flight assist CYPOL by providing a flight over the fire in the Troodos mountain range

Basic Precautions against Grass or Forest Fires

The greatest fire hazard within the buffer zone at this time of the year is dry grass and vegetation. Attention to a few details can prevent fires, thereby saving lives and property.

Everyone should remember the following:

1. Place cigarettes/matches in ashtrays or proper containers – never throw them out of a window;
2. Avoid using plastic bins to put out cigarettes;
3. Don't leave glass materials such as empty bottles or broken mirrors in dry grass areas, as they could act as magnifying glasses in high temperatures;
4. Never park your car near any dry grass or vegetation – a hot vehicle engine can cause a disaster;
5. Always switch your vehicle engine off – never leave it running;
6. Always carry a fire extinguisher in your car;
7. Use only designated areas for barbecues – never anywhere else;
8. Never leave your barbecue unattended;
9. Never forget, when finished, to use water or sand/soil to damp down the fire.

Fire-fighting training courses are available for all UN personnel. To sign up, contact the Engineering Section/Fire HQ (Ext. 4453/4).

Are you ready?

Fire is the most powerful destructive natural force. In the worst scenario, it can result in loss of life or disfigurement. This fact should serve as a reminder to all UNFICYP personnel about the dangers, as it is so easy for a fire to start.

The operational efficiency of sections, units and offices can be seriously affected, not only by the destruction of property and equipment, but by the time required to replace such losses and make good the damage involved.

UNFICYP's Engineering Section/Fire HQ is responsible for the mission's fire safety. In this regard, anticipation of where the dangers lie plays a lead role. Prevention is of the essence, therefore the following actions are taken:

- Prevention inspections;
- Checking/testing/maintenance of fire equipment;
- Fire training;
- Fire drills/exercises;
- Regular up-dating of policies and Standing Orders.

During 2006, the Engineering Section/Fire HQ received 135 fire calls, 75 of which potentially threatened life or property.

A total of 685 UN personnel received fire training at different levels, ranging from Fire Safety briefings, Basic and Fire NCO courses.

Between 19 and 23 April, the Engineering Section/Fire HQ ran the Fire Basic and Fire NCO courses as part of the Engineering Section/Fire HQ Integrated Fire Training Programme. Participants were not only from UNFICYP military and civilian personnel, but also from UNCMP and UNHCR.

UNPA fire/emergency contact number:

2261-4777

Call signs: **9-india/9-xray/9-zulu on channel 14;**

Civilian fire emergency telephone numbers:

South – 112/199

North – 199

Safety measures for UN personnel and civilians working in the buffer zone:

1. Use designated smoking areas – NOT offices and accommodation buildings;
2. Always use dry powder/CO2 fire extinguishers, fire beaters or green tree branches if electricity poles are involved in a fire – never use water;
3. UN patrol vehicles are required to carry at least four fire beaters, a minimum of 500 grams in the dry powder fire extinguisher and a medical kit;
4. Always attack any fire in groups – never fight buffer zone grass or forest fires alone;
5. Be mindful never to fight buffer zone grass fires up- or down-wind but always from a cross-wind direction, being mindful of smoke and radiation heat;
6. When fighting fires, watch out for the fenced off minefields that remain in the buffer zone;
7. Wash your boots when you leave a fire area – otherwise you could easily help it spread;
8. Your life comes first – never risk your life to fight a fire. Take all safety measures possible, and contact the fire crew immediately.



Chief of the Cyprus Fire Services, Andreas Nicolaou (centre), and his Deputy, Charalambos Charalambous, met with UNFICYP's fire-fighting team on 25 July to discuss cooperation on fire fighting, prevention and safety as well as sharing information and resources in investigations on causes of fires

Keeping the home safe

Always:

- Clear all dry weeds from gardens;
- Cut branches of trees which are in contact with the house;
- Keep lighters/matches out of the reach of children;
- Remember that smokers should place water or sand in their ashtrays;
- Remember never to smoke in the bedroom;
- Keep in mind that pressurised canisters should not be in directly exposed to the sun;
- Avoid using multi-plug adaptors for electrical appliances;
- Make sure all electrical appliances not in use are switched off;
- Close all doors and windows if you plan to be away from home for long periods, as in the event of fire, this will help to stop it from spreading.

Why the United Nations Matters Today – and Tomorrow

The Secretary-General addressed the Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House, London on 11 July 2007 where he outlined the significant role the international organisation has to play in world affairs. Excerpts from his speech follow.

Today, when people look back on the early years of the United Nations, they think of the promise the Organisation held. They think of the idealism and unity that inspired the San Francisco Conference, and the signing of the Charter. They think of the creation of landmark documents, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They think of the courageous pioneers who joined and shaped the Organisation in its fledgling years.

In my country, too, those early years were associated with a steadfast sense of faith in the UN. As I was growing up in a war-torn and destitute Korea, the United Nations stood by my people in our darkest hour. The UN gave us hope and sustenance. Its flag was a beacon of better days to come. And in the course of my own lifetime, with the assistance of the UN, the Re-public of Korea was able to rebuild itself from a country torn apart by war, with a non-existent economy, into a regional economic power and major contributor to the Organisation. That support helped me make the journey to this podium today. For that, I am deeply thankful.

Since then, the UN – and the world as a whole – have come to appear much complicated. So have the challenges confronting our Organisation. The perception of us is no longer so black and white, and tends now to be drawn in various shades of grey.

But if you are an optimist, as I am, you will paint the UN in brighter colours. You will know that our world of complex and global challenges is exactly the environment in which our United Nations should thrive – because these are challenges that no country can

resolve on its own. It is a world in which the UN can, and must, grow and take on new roles, develop and deliver on new fronts.

Allow me to outline a few of the most pressing priorities facing us today. They

are huge challenges – and every bit as defining and historic as those which confronted our founders.

Consider our agenda in peace and security:

First, we must step up action to confront the tragedy of Darfur. The human toll of the ongoing crisis is devastating, and the world can no longer accept further delays in the peace process. The tragic cycle of violence as been allowed to continue for far too long.

The African Union deserves enormous credit for stepping in when no one else would. Its mission in the Sudan has had a significant impact on the ground. But it lacks the capacity to protect civilians and build stability. I am encouraged that the Government of Sudan has accepted a joint operation, or hybrid, bringing together forces from the African Union and the United Nations. Once deployed, this challenging operation will be an unprecedented effort.

But at the same time, we must also seek to resolve the causes of the conflict. We are stepping up the political process, and hope to begin a new and conclusive round of negotiations as soon as possible. This should

be supplemented by a serious development effort in the region, including ensuring access to water resources. And for Sudan as a whole, we need to take forward the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the north and the south.

Second, we need to make serious efforts for progress in the Middle East. That entails work on several broad fronts.

Throughout the region, and around the world, the Arab-Israeli conflict, with the question of Palestine at its core, remains an issue of deep concern. Yet I draw hope from some recent developments. The Quartet has demonstrated its commitment to find a way forward. The Arab League has underlined its commitment to peace with Israel, by stressing the continued relevance of the Arab Peace Initiative, whereby Egyptian and Jordanian envoys will visit Israel. I will continue to encourage movement towards the shared goal of all parties for a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.

On the ground, in Gaza, the UN has broad humanitarian responsibilities. The UN Relief and Works Agency remains the largest employer and provider of humanitarian relief, after the Palestinian authority. My priority now is to secure a permanent and reliable reopening of Gaza crossings, so as to allow in more commercial and humanitarian supplies.

In Lebanon, the UN is working to support the country in everything from its physical reconstruction, to its quest for a peaceful, democratic and fully independent future. Today, almost 14,000 UN peacekeepers serve as a buffer in southern Lebanon. It is a robust, effective and balanced force, which has already helped to achieve a number of key objectives. But they cannot stay there indefinitely. As the recent and deadly attack on our peacekeepers reminds us, the only hope for enduring stability lies in the path of reconciliation between the various communities inside the country.

In addition to a national unity government, Lebanon needs to see the successful establishment of a Special Tribunal to try the perpetrators of the Hariri assassination and other related crimes. We must put an end to impunity for such acts. In accordance with Security Council resolution 1757, I am taking the measures necessary for the Tribunal to be established.

Iraq is the whole world's problem. The UN can assist in building an inclusive political process to promote national reconciliation. It can help cultivate a regional environment that supports a transition to stability. And it can pursue reconstruction and development through the International Compact – the initiative which the Iraqi Prime Minister and I co-chaired together, for a new partnership with the international community. I intend to keep pressing for real follow-up and implementation. Equally, the UN is helping to coordinate humanitarian efforts for the growing number of Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons.

Third, we need to invigorate disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. On North Korea, I will try my best to facilitate the smooth process of the Six-Party process, and to encourage the work for a de-nuclearisation of the

Korean Peninsula. On the specific challenges of North Korea and Iran, the Security Council has acted by adopting important resolutions. Let us see the same commitment from Member States at the global level. We must mobilize more concerted efforts to overcome the current stalemate in non-proliferation and disarmament.

We face an equal challenge in terrorism – one of acute concern to this country at this time. How do we work to prevent the global scourge of terrorism from posing an existential threat to humankind? Last September, the UN General Assembly took a historic step forward, by adopting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

For the first time, Member States universally resolved to take concrete political, operational, and legal measures to combat terrorism in a coordinated manner. They pledged to strengthen the capacity of States and of the UN to do so. They agreed that we must address conditions that can be conducive to the spread of terrorism. And, of fundamental importance, they agreed that protecting human rights and the rule of law is central to the fight against terrorism. Now our challenge is to implement this landmark document – both in letter and in spirit.

These issues in peace and security are daunting. But they must not be allowed to overwhelm the enormous challenges we face in other areas.

Our agenda for development is equally pressing.

This year marks the halfway point for the time we have given ourselves to reach the Millennium Development Goals – agreed by all the world's Governments as a roadmap to a better world by 2015. Let us keep the promise. To meet the target date, we have to take concerted action now.

And we have to make real progress on an issue I believe defines our collective future, more than any other: climate change. Friends, I am convinced that this

We have to make real progress on an issue I believe defines our collective future, more than any other: climate change. Friends, I am convinced that this challenge, and what we do about it, will define us, our era, and ultimately, our global legacy.

challenge, and what we do about it, will define us, our era, and ultimately, our global legacy. It is time for new thinking. Leaders need to accept their historical responsibilities – but look less at their historical responsibility to their ancestors, and more to their historical responsibility to their grandchildren.

Will succeeding generations have to ask why we failed to do the right thing, and left them to suffer the consequences?

I will ensure that the UN plays its role to the full. The Group of Eight agreed last month that the UN climate process is the appropriate forum for negotiating future global action. To build on the current momentum, I am convening a high-level meeting on climate change in New York in September, at the start of the General Assembly. I hope the leaders there will send the following message, loud and clear, as they look ahead to the negotiations on the UN Framework Convention in December: business as usual is no longer an option; we must reach concrete agreements.

Security and development are two pillars of the UN's work. We must make human rights our third pillar – not only on the drawing board, but in reality, on the ground. This will require dedicated attention to the Human Rights Council, to ensure that it delivers on its promise, and

shines a spotlight on the darkest places in the world. And it will require moving the Responsibility to Protect from word to deed. We must build consensus among Member States about how we can make this concept operational, when a population is threatened with genocide, ethnic cleansing, or crimes against humanity, and national authorities fail to take appropriate action. I will appoint a Special Advisor to move that process forward. I have already appointed full-time Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities.

If we are to meet the challenges before us, we must put our own house in order. I am taking a range of measures to strengthen our capacity, and change our working culture.

Peacekeeping is bearing the brunt of the escalating demands. The UN is engaged, in some form, in 18 peacekeeping operations in the most difficult places in the world. We now have a historic high of almost 100,000 personnel in the field. And we are faced with a bigger UN role in other places – including and especially Darfur. I am heartened that the General Assembly has now approved my proposals to restructure the Secretariat, so as to strengthen our capacity to manage and sustain peace operations.

We are also striving to perform better in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment. We are following up on the far-reaching recommendations of the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence, of which Gordon Brown was a key member, while he was Chancellor of the Exchequer. I hope we can build consensus among Member States to implement many of the proposals. This is especially true of the recommendation to strengthen our gender architecture, so that we can better empower and protect the rights of women around the world.

In our humanitarian work, we are already working overtime to anticipate natural and man-made disasters, so we can act before an emerging concern erupts into a full-blown crisis. We are ensuring sufficient and predictable funding, and building up humanitarian leadership in the field. Sir John Holmes of the UK, as our new Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, is providing dynamic leadership in moving forward on all these fronts.

Throughout the Organisation, it is not enough to strengthen capacity alone. There is also a need to change the working culture itself. That means building a staff that is truly mobile, multi-functional and accountable, with more emphasis on career development and training. And it means holding all UN employees to the highest standards of integrity and ethical behaviour, both at headquarters and in the field.

Despite its universal outreach, the United Nations cannot be in all places, nor provide a solution to every challenge. But we can, and should, serve as a forum to set a global agenda and consensus. We can, and should – given the necessary political resolve – implement the clearly defined will of the international community. We can, and should, be visionary and pro-active.

In this, we need dialogue and patience, resources and reform – empowering us to serve the common good, equipping us to do what we do best, from peacekeeping to development, from humanitarian work to human rights. ”

The UN is engaged, in some form, in 18 peacekeeping operations in the most difficult places in the world. We now have a historic high of almost 100,000 personnel in the field.

Pyla Football

Aspis Pyla Football Club was founded in 1957, and this year, they celebrated their 50th anniversary by securing promotion to the senior divisions of the Cypriot League. To mark the occasion, an open-air function was held in the village square on 22 June where a presentation of the cup and medals was held. In the true spirit of community policing, local UNPOL members were invited, and the majority attended together with their families.

While membership of the club is predominantly Greek Cypriot, the bicomunal nature of village life is reflected in the first team, which includes several Turkish Cypriots. The attendance on the night included members of both communities living in Pyla.

When the awards were being presented, special reference was made to "Aspis's No. 1 supporter, Sgt. Phil van Dissel," an Australian UNPOL member based in Pyla. Phil, together with his wife Viv, attended many of the team's home and away games this season. Phil and Viv were presented by the club with special mementos of the occasion.



Phil (right) with "Aspis" team members and UNPOL supporters

Phil's two sons, Daniel and Jack, play with Pyla's schoolboy team and also received medals on the night.

Phil's contribution to the community in Pyla was significant, and as he leaves the mission this month, it is hoped that the good work he started in community relations will continue.

FMPU Supports Training in Hungary

July 2007 saw Maj. Iain Watt, Provost Marshal and Officer Commanding of the Force Military Police Unit (FMPU), together with the Sgt. Maj. FMPU, WO2 Mark Bent, provide training support to the Hungarian Peace Support Training Centre (PSTC), Szolnok, Hungary.

PSTC delivers the bulk of Hungary's training for overseas missions in a modern, well equipped facility. Maj. Watt and WO2 Bent were hosted extremely well by the PSTC training staff. In particular, Capt. Róbert Nagy and Capt. Gábor Balogh, both veterans of UNFICYP, ensured all necessary technical facilities and resources were provided.

At present, the Hungarian military does not have a professional cadre of military police from which to draw. This presents a significant training burden on UNFICYP when new personnel are posted to FMPU. The purpose of the visit was to conduct a "Train the Trainer" package, designed to give police-related training to Hungarian soldiers destined for employment with the FMPU prior to their arrival in Cyprus. Covering a range of topics from basic evidence awareness, jurisdiction and initial actions at a scene, the package was designed to supplement the existing training undertaken by all those deploying to UNFICYP. The training staff at PSTC were left a series of lesson plans to assist in the delivery of future police-related training. Additionally, Maj. Watt gave a central presentation to the 70 personnel currently undergoing training for UNFICYP on general discipline and differing roles of UNPOL and FMPU.

The three days of intense training were rewarding as well as extremely useful for students and trainers alike. The schedule was demanding, and the teaching was delivered in English with a view to lesson plans being translated into Hungarian at a later

date. Whilst the technical policing knowledge of the students was understandably limited, the enthusiasm and receptiveness to policing subjects was encouraging. The training package culminated in a Major Incident Plan (MIP) exercise involving Crime Scene cordon and control and forensic evidence awareness. Whilst the exercise was aimed at a police response, the MIP procedures should be common practice to all military and UNPOL within the mission.

Training evaluation was conducted by the Commandant PSTC, Col. Zoltán Mátyus, Maj. Watt and a number of PSTC staff. All concluded the training was of great value and highlighted the need for such training at PSTC to continue. This evaluation also identified some minor additional training needs, most notably a requirement to conduct future policing training during the PSTC final exercise phase. This would involve delivering MIP and Major Crime Scene management, not only to the intended FMPU assets, but to all Hungarian peacekeepers destined for UNFICYP.



Trainers and students

A Close Shave!

As a result of seeing posters in the Ledra Palace, Sen. Insp. Vito Durec and Garda Siobhan Campbell noticed that raffle tickets were on sale to raise funds for twin girls, born to LCpl. Craig Hudson of the British military based in Sector 2. The girls, Katie and Sophie, were born with "soft skull syndrome" and require specialised treatment with helmets to assist in the formation of their bones.

Siobhan had in mind organising a charity event. She also noticed Vito had excess hair. The idea was formed between the two to organise a charity night where we would find volunteers to participate in various hair-raising activities! This included having chest, bikini line, underarm and hair removal – on a man! One guy, Garda Paddy Guinan, agreed to a hair dye. Insp. Mick Cowley also consented to the removal of his moustache – something he has not done for 30 years. In fact, his wife has never seen him clean-shaven!

They decided to adopt Craig's appeal for help as the charity for the night on 17 July. Close to 100 turned up for the event which was held at the UNPOL club house in the UNPA. The event kicked off at 8.00 p.m. with the appearance of Briana (Garda Brian Crummey), Brenda (Sgt. Brendan Burke), Martha (Insp. Marco Ciampini and Jezabel (Sgt. Jason MacArthur). The "girls" grand entrance generated a great response from the audience, putting all in the mood to part with their pennies, bidding on the scheduled activities.

Briana, the compare for the evening, started the proceedings with Paddy Guinan getting his hair dyed a mellow yellow (should have been a blond). This was followed by Alex Cuoghi, who volunteered to have his underarms (painfully) waxed by beauticians from the Nicosia Ministry of Beauty salon, who offered their services free of charge. Then came Siobhan, who sat quietly while Craig himself shaved away the first of her golden locks. Goran Juric, during the head shave, paid £20, the highest bid, to shave away the last shred of dignity. Once it was over, Siobhan said: "It was a small sacrifice for the cause. I'm glad it's growing back thick and fast!"



Siobhan losing her locks!

Marco got his bikini line waxed – an experience he wouldn't want to go through again! As Marco said, "I shall never expect my wife to do this again!" Mick got his moustache shaved off – and it shaved about five years off him! Vito was last, but never least! Auctioning took place for the first and second wax strip here – Anne Byrne went first and paid £20 for the pleasure of standing above Vito in victory (photo). Paddy Guinan paid £15 for the second strip, but had a number of warnings, almost gaining the red card, for attempting to "drag out the pain!"

Lastly, a number of bottles from a kind donor were auctioned off to the unsuspecting public, all in a good cause!

The UNPOL bar donated half their earnings that night, which brought the total money raised to £C1,400. A cheque for the amount was handed over to Craig by Mick Cowley on 20 July at the UNPOL club house.

Other events are taking place to continue raising money for the twin girls' treatment, including a raffle by Sector 2, a pool party at Ledra Palace and a parachute jump by one of Craig's colleagues. Anyone wishing to donate to this worthy cause should contact UNPOL's Garda Siobhan Campbell on 99239362.

Visitors to UNFICYP



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

- 6 July: Assistant Commissioner, Australian Federal Police, Mr. Paul Jevtovic (top right)
- 6 July: ETON College Military cadets (left)
- 9 July: Chief Operations Argentinian Armed Forces HQ, Brig. Gen. H.C. Trisano (top left)
- 12 July: Deputy Director General of DG Enlargement of the European Commission, Mr. Jan Truszczynski (top centre)

New Faces



Alan Craven arrived in UNFICYP on 21 June 2007 to take up the position of **Chief Communications and Information Technology** Section, replacing Mr. Robert Walker.

Alan has worked with UNMOGIP and UNTSO in the capacity of Chief CITS prior to joining UNFICYP. He joined the UN in 1989 and has served in special missions including Namibia, Afghanistan, Somalia and Haiti.

Alan is British and previously served with UNFICYP many, many years ago (late 70's/early 80's) as a Blue Beret in the now defunct 254 Signals

Squadron. He now works 50 meters from where he did 27 years ago – he's come a long way!

He is accompanied by his wife, Eija, from Finland. They met in Kabul, Afghanistan in the early 90's where Eija was serving as a Red Cross nurse. They have two children, James (five) and Ella (three).

Alan's hobbies include squash and, more recently, golf. He is looking forward to the challenges of the job in UNFICYP, and the family hopes to take full advantage of the opportunities of living in Cyprus.



Musa Hadzimehmedi arrived in UNFICYP on 1 July 2007 to take up the position of **Information Management Assistant in CITS**.

Musa, who was born in Djakovica, Kosovo, comes from Belgrade. He studied Civil Engineering at Pristina University, but switched to IT in 1994.

Musa joined the United Nations in 1999 and has so far worked with

UNMIK, UNTAET, ICTR and ONUCI, prior to joining UNFICYP.

Musa is married to Claudia Marcela Macias from Argentina. Claudia is coming to join Musa in August for a brief visit. She will be relocating to the island in December. Claudia is currently working as a UNV in ONUCI's Legal Office.

Musa's hobbies include travelling, music and playing the guitar, which he hopes to find time for in Cyprus!



Capt. Michael Solonynko is from Calgary, Alberta, Canada. A graduate of Alberta University, he gained a B.A. in Psychology in 1988, and a Human Resource Management Certificate in 1995.

He first joined the Canadian Infantry in 1982, but left the military in 1998 to work as a Certified Human Resources professional in Canada's petroleum industry.

In 2002, Michael returned to the

Army. He completed a tour in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 2003, and was the G2 for Land Force Western Area. Most recently, Michael graduated from the Canadian Land Force Command and Staff College before being posted to Operations Branch at HQ UNFICYP.

Michael is joined by his wife Lisa, and 12-year-old son Ryan. His hobbies include cross-country skiing, so look out for him on his roller skis on the airstrip runway!

Jonathan's New Command!

Camp Command assistant Jonathan Vatikiotis married his childhood sweetheart Niki Wilkinson at the Ayios Stylianos Orthodox church in Nicosia on 15 July.

Approximately 300 people attended the church ceremony, and 1,000 family, friends and colleagues arrived for the cocktail reception later in the evening. Many of the guests flew in from the UK, as well as Greece, Italy and Lebanon.

Recounting his "big day", Jonathan says, "Everything was running according to plan, up until the time I was to leave for the church. Suddenly, I realised I couldn't find the marriage licence required for the ceremony to take place." No amount of searching led to any result, so an emergency call to the Archbishop explaining the situation and a sympathetic ear on the other end solved the problem – Niki and Jonathan received special licence to marry on the day, provided they submitted the licence within 24 hours. A day after the wedding party, Jonathan woke up and said: "I



Congratulations, Jonathan and Niki!

bet it's in the basement!" Sure enough, it was. Strangely enough, it was Niki's parents who put it there in the clean-up before the wedding.

Once the legalities had been sorted, the happy couple flew off to Prague for their honeymoon.

The proud father-in-law, Chris Wilkinson, is a former UNFICYP staff member and is currently posted to UNIFIL, Lebanon.

Sport



UNdiplomatic Victory!

A five-a-side football tournament took place with teams from the UNDP, the British High Commission, the Cyprus Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Presidential Palace. The location was the football pitch located behind Cyprus College in Nicosia.

Local TV stations covered the first two matches played on 22 June, as well as the final which was contested the next day between UNDP and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs teams.

The match was won by UNDP, who were awarded a trophy and medals for their efforts. All participants and spectators thoroughly enjoyed the competition, during which friendly sportmanship was demonstrated throughout.

From the Pampas to the Patagonia

Early on the morning of 16 June, 84 runners from Sectors 1, 2 and 4, the MFR, UN Flight and HQ UNFICYP met for the start of a buffer zone cross-country running competition organised by Sector 1.

The relay race, which commenced at 6.30 a.m., started at Patrol Base 32, located near Astromeritis Village, and ended in San Martín Camp. Designed to test the stamina and determination of all competitors, the competition was run as a team event over a stretch of 27 km divided into three legs, each a distance of approximately 9 km. There were two categories, one open and the other for "veterans" (+35 years old). Results are as follows:

Veterans (+ 35)

1st Place: Team 2C (Sector 2) 2 hrs 10 min 08 sec
2nd Place: Team 6B (HQ UNFICYP) 2 hrs 13 min 47 sec
3rd Place: Team 1A (Sector 1) 2 hrs 20 min 25 sec

Open

1st Place: Team 1B (Sector 1) 1 hr 56 min 12 sec
2nd Place: Team 2A (Sector 2) 2 hrs 01 min 23 sec
3rd Place: Team 2B (Sector 2) 2 hrs 01 min 36 sec

The event was planned, organised and supported by Argentinian Contingent members, who provided medical assistance, water stations and air coverage along the entire route.

Congratulations to all teams – every competitor reached the finish line!



Medical assistance along the route

24-Hour Charity Swimathon

Eight soldiers from Sector 2 participated in a 24-hour swim in the Ledra Palace pool on 30 July. Cpl. Paul King and his team from 2 Section, West Troop, 8 Transport Regiment swam for a continuous 24 hours completing an impressive 2,207 lengths – the equivalent of 35.7 miles. In doing so, they raised approximately £500 for the Lindsey Lodge Hospice in the UK.

As Cpl. King explained: "When my grandfather was ill, he was cared for at the Lindsey Lodge, as is the case for terminally ill patients such as those with motor neurone disease and multiple sclerosis. They rely on donations of approximately £1.5 a year, so we thought that anything we could do to help would be worthwhile."

The 24-hour swimathon was not the immediate choice for the boys of 2 Section. Cpl. King said: "We have one lad who can barely swim, although he is learning, so he tied a buoyancy aid around his waist like a sumo wrestler's underpants and paddled himself along!"

All eight soldiers managed to get through the night, with a little support from the Regiment's CO, Lt. Col. Keith Robinson, and the RSM WO1 Andy Simpson

One of the team, Pte. Rokotovitovi said: "The hardest

point was staying awake at around 4.00 a.m. when we were watching the person in the water for safety's sake.

The team hopes to present a cheque to the charity on return to the UK in October, together with a photo of team members as follows: Cpl. Paul King, LCpl. David Walker, Pte. Semi Rokotovitovi, Pte. Peter Coulson, Pte. Fred Hirst, Pte. Jay Hammond, Pte. Alan Reid and Pte. Michael Ryan.



2 Section, West Troop, about to begin



**UNFICYP
assists in
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