AMBASSADOR'S VISIT

On Saturday, 13 May 1967, the Force Commander, Lt General A. E. Martola, (left) received a courtesy visit by His Excellency H. B. Gullet, Australian Ambassador in Athens (right). They are pictured above at UNIFCYP Headquarters.

MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

WITHDRAWAL OF UNEF

U NITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL U THANT FLEW TO CAIRO last Monday, 22 May, for discussions with United Arab Republic leaders on the Middle East situation which he considers more threatening than at any time since the 1956 Suez crisis.

The Secretary-General's trip was announced on Saturday last after he had reported to the Security Council that tension between the Arab nations and Israel was reaching a dangerous pitch at a time when the UN peace-keeping operations along the UAR-Israel lines were coming to an end.

Last Thursday, the UAR requested that the 3,400-man UN Force, which has acted as a buffer between that country and Israel for a decade, be withdrawn.

The Force, set up at the time of the Suez crisis, operated only on UAR-jurisdiction territory, Israel not having granted it access to her soil, and its right to be there, as well as its ability to function, depended on the continuing consent of the UN Government.

U Thant notified the UAR last Thursday evening that the UN Force would be pulled out as promptly as possible. Meanwhile, its patrolling and observation operations have ended.

The wind-up of the peace-keeping operation was reported by the Secretary-General last Friday to the General Assembly, which had authorized it in 1956. (Excerpts from the Secretary-General's report on pages 5/6).

In a subsequent report to the Security Council which surveyed Middle East tensions more generally, U Thant found the situation "extremely maiming", both as to relations between the Arab states and Israel, and among the Arab nations themselves. He did not expect on the latter point.

As of Friday evening, troop movements along the UAR-continued page ten

U THANT'S ITINERARY

U THANT TOOK OFF FROM New York on Monday at 7:50 p.m. New York time and after brief stops at Paris, Zurich and Rome landed in Cairo at 4:45 p.m. local time on Tuesday. His return to New York is scheduled for Friday, 26 May 1967.

A United Nations spokesman said the Secretary-General had no plans for going elsewhere in the Middle East.

U THANT'S DECISION WELCOMED

M R. ARTHUR GOLDBERG, UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO THE UN, issues a statement last week welcoming U Thant's decision to go to the Middle East "in an effort to promote peace."

He said the United States "supports the presence of the United Nations in this area."

Mr. Goldberg added that his country would not want to do anything that would interfere with U Thant's mission to Cairo. But it would, he said, keep in close touch with other Security Council members to follow developments and see what might be required.

BUZZING OF UNEF AIRCRAFT

L AST WEEK UN SECRETARY-GENERAL U THANT HANDED AMBASSADOR GIDEON RAFAEL OF ISRAEL a written demarche strongly protesting an incident in which a plane carrying the UNEF Commander, General Rikhye, from El Arish to Gaza was intercepted and buzzed west of the armistice line by two Israeli military aircraft. The incident took place last Thursday morning.

U Thant took the position that the incident was uncalled for, that it violated the armistice demarcation line, and could only serve to worsen the already threatening situation in the area.

An Israeli spokesman said the UNEF plane was intercepted after it penetrated into Israel without a warning, and that, in view of the tense situation in the area, UNEF had been requested to give notice of all scheduled flights along the border.

A United Nations spokesman subsequently stated that General Rikhye denied that the plane at any time overflew Israeli territory. He also announced that the Chief of Staff of the Israeli Defense Force had sent General Rikhye a cable of regret over the unpleasantness.
DANCON VII HAR OVERTAGET NU


DANCON VII HAR SELVFOLGELIG OGSA SIN FELTPRAEST

Ved gudstjenesten nede dag, hvorfor overtrådende hylde ble tager, overtråd den afkaltede feltprest ved DANCON VI jobbet til B. Danu羌t (Ib.). Til daglig er denne præst ved Tafstjæg-
neriet i København, mens vi i det kommende halve år være feltprest for DANCON VII. Også arbejdet i pastor Dani羌t. Det ser hundrende ad, og jeg afroder mig til at være i arbejdet herude. Det holdes så vidt muligt en ugentlig gudstjeneste i den byggede gamle kirke, St. Georgskirken, der ligger lige vlede C-COY ved byens autlige del. Det er en sværgesten og på sin veg meget skøn kirke, der er stillet til byens rådighed, og man bor snart som danske soldat have været til gudstjenester i denne fremmede kirke.

Man skal jo ved siden af alt, der skal passas, også benyttet flestigheden til at stifte bekendtskab med landsby kultur, og den anses je. For.

Ved gudstjenести afgjort først, er det fortsat en ugentlig gudstjeneste til de fleste, som kommer til forsømme. Den bedst i arbejdet her, er at være i arbejdet herude. Det holdes så vidt muligt en ugentlig gudstjeneste i den byggede gamle kirke, der ligger lige vlede C-COY ved byens autlige del. Det er en sværgesten og på sin veg meget skøn kirke, der er stillet til byens rådighed, og man bor snart som danske soldat have været til gudstjenester i denne fremmede kirke.

STAFF OF THE BLUE BERET

Editor: Lt. Col. J. H. PAKKED, MC, RA
Sub Editors: D. McKeown, Sgt. A. Mon
Tel. (in New) 77614 Ext. 118
Correspondents: British Correspondent
Capt. T. J. MCDONALD
Tel. Nimmo 74291 Ext. 327
Canadian Correspondent
Lt. Col. S. J. MCKINNEY
Tel. Nimmo 74204

Dansk Correspondent
Head, J.C.J. HOLGA
Tel. 3101 Ext. 310

Filnish Correspondent
Capt. P. Kariinshel
Tel. Nimmo 74291 Ext. 233
Irish Correspondent
Capt T.M. McCUNPH
Tel. Nimmo 74291 Ext. 237

Swedish Correspondent
Capt. L. HALLBERG
Tel. Nimmo 74291 Ext. 244

Facts om Cyprus

BBC (Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation) stammer fra 1953 (TV-dag fra 1957). Stationen liggende fem kilometer fra innovative, med en steder på 284m og 420m. BFBS (British Forces Broadcast-
ing Service) startet uddannelsen i 1948 som BFBS ( Forces Broadcasting Service). Stationen ligger først i sogn for Norsia, men flyttede senere til Dhekelia near Lar-
na. Det er en meget moderne sted, beregnet for engelske sol-
led på Cyper. 

BFBS sendes på MB 208 og 377 m: på FM på 99, 60 og 52, ikke

IN VACKER SAGOG MED MÅNGA FASCINERANDE MIN-
NESMARKEN, hetta det. Det måste förstås medanska, och det
stod heller inte längre på förstes resauns i b 1884 gått av på sin första utgång, någonting siksiga de 14 maj, då turen gjorde till Kyrenia på Cyperns norra sida. Vi, de, det faktiska inte i Egypten. Det finns några kultar också på Cyper, vilket den svenska FN-soldaten på kamelrytters sanna gårna inyss. Ett mer omfattande av Klingendraken, raser The Blue Beret. (Bilden th.)

Kondoljerat blev premiär sighting for Cypernskar
Mr. Boyden meets a member from his constituency, Pte Tony Wilson from Bishop Auckland.

BRITISH CONTINGENT

VISIT OF UNDER-SECRETARY

ON Monday the 15th May, Mr J. Boyden, MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Ministry of Defence (Army), paid a visit to Headquarters UNIFCY and later visited elements of British at Zeyt, Mari and Raphia.

Mr. Boyden, accompanied by his Private Secretary, Mr Morris, was met at HQ UNIFCY by the Chief of Staff, Brigadier M.N. Harbottle, OBE, and later flew by helicopter to the "Britain" Zone. Mr Boyden met members of the 1st and 2nd Troops of "A" Sqn, 5 INNS DG at Zeyt and later was delighted to meet several men from his own constituency when he talked to the detachment from the "Dukes" at Mari and Raphia.

REME AT WORK

ON the 4th May, the UNIFCY Commanding General visited the REME at Abu Said, and met with the REME Commanding Officer from Nicosia to Camp Gascoigne" of the REME. The generator weighs approximately 20 tons and is in position fighting for the Commanding General was put to the Scammel and the lorry carrying the generator, had to cross several bridgeworks unfortunately no hitch occurred.

Mr. Boyden chats to Sgt George P

Negotiating a tricky bend on the road.

Wednesday, 24th May 1967

THE BLUE DERBY

U thant acts on UNEF withdrawal

T HE MANNING OF OBSERVATION POSTS AND BUILDING LANG by the United Nations Emergency Force in Gaza Strip and Sinai stopped at 1500 hours GMT on Thursday, 18 May 1967, and an evacuation sched- ule drawn up by General Choi, the Secretary-General was presented by the UNEF Commander. It is now known just how long the withdrawal will take. In a letter to the United Arab Republic's Foreign M i n i s t e r , Mr. Mahmoud Raad, the Secretary-General explained that he was acting in the light of a formal request for the withdrawal of the Force addressed to him by the Foreign Minister through the UAR Ambassador to the United Nations.

He noted that he had already informed the Ambassador that it was the opinion of the Force that Egyptian territory in November 1966 with the consent of the Government of the UAR, it could be in full control then only "as long as that consent continues". At the same time, the Secretary-General told the UAR Foreign Minister that irrespective of the reasons for the action you have taken, in all frankness, may I advise you that the UAR have conflicting arguments about it? It is stated that in the past annual reports to the General Assembly he had stated his belief that the Force had been an important factor in maintaining a relative quiet and that its withdrawal "may have grave implications for peace."

The Secretary-General also informed the UAR Foreign Minister that a full report covering events which led to the order for withdrawal of the Force was to be transmitted promptly to the Secretary-General, who was asked, "Isn't it necessary to report that there is no indication whether the Secretary-General is aware of some of the situations in the area?"

The Secretary-General has been unable to exchange communications with the Foreign Minister in his report to the General Assembly and submitted on 19 May. He states that on Monday, 16 May 1966, General Rikhye, Commanding General, received a letter from General Rawson, Commander, stating that UAR forces had been deployed against the UAR forces. It was then that he concluded that the UAR forces had been deployed against the UAR forces, saying it may be that the action was taken against the UAR forces. For the sake of the security of the area, the Secretary-General requested that the General

Rikhye to order the withdrawal of his troops and report back on the fulfillment of that request.

The Secretary-General said General Rikhye had quite clearly pointed out that he had no authority to withdraw in any way re-deploy UNEF troops except on instructions from the Secretary-General, to whom he had immediately reported the incident.

I Thant asked for an immediate meeting with the UAR Ambassador and told him the letter addressed to the UNEF Commander was not right procedurally since General Rikhye could not take orders from other than the Secretary-General.

He also asked for a clarification of the UAR's demand. If it meant temporary withdrawal of UNEF troops from the time or parts of it, he said, it would be unacceptably because the purpose of UNEF was to prevent a recurrence of fighting. It could not therefore stand aseas in order to enable the sides to resume fighting.

If, on the other hand, it meant a general withdrawal of UNEF, the request should have been addressed to the Secretary-General, not to the Commander of UNEF.

At the same time, he informed the UAR that the request for a temporary withdrawal of UNEF from the Armistice Demarcation Line would be considered tantamount to request for complete withdrawal and it would reduce UNEF to ineffectiveness.

The Chief of Staff points out into at Mari. Left to Right is Mr. Maclen and Lie. Col. D. Isles.

Rufieda briefing Major D. Vukotic (right) and his Yugoslav officers and men at Canadian bocce camp, "For Sounders", Giza Strip, is the troop commander, Lt. M. E. Loo. (GAZA, 1966)

EXCERPTS FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT ON UNEF

THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S SPECIAL REPORT ON UNEF (Document A-6695), distributed at United Nations Headquarters at 1700 hours GMT on 19 May 1967:

On 18 May 1967, at 1200 noon, I received through the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Republic the following message from Mr. Mahmoud Raad, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the UAR:

"The Government of the United Arab Republic has the honour to inform Your Excellency that it has decided to terminate the presence of UNEF on the territory of the UAR and to withdraw the Force immediately.

Therefore, I request that the next session of the United Nations Emergency Force on 1 February 1966.

I am confident that this decision will be maintained and that the Force will continue to work for peace."

Instructions relating to the withdrawal of UNEF were cabled by me to the Force Commander in the evening of 18 May.

After providing the background on UNEF, the Secretary-General reproduced the aide-memoire of 17 May which he handed to the Permanent Representative on that date with the following considerations that the Secretary-General was in mind and the sequence of events leading to the present situation: the text of the aide-memoire, dated 17 May, handed to the Secretary-General by the UAR Permanent Representative, is also reproduced in the Report.

continued page six
UNEF JANUARY, 1966 — On arriving in Gaza, General Rikhts (left centre, background) inspects an honour guard, accompanied by General Sarmonte (to his left), his predecessor, and the Commander of the guard, Indian 3 Punjaban Battalion's Major H.S. Dholak (foreground).

EXCERPTS FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT

On 17 May the Secretary-General informed the representatives of the countries providing contingents to UNEF of the situation as then known. The Report referred to the developments referred to by the Commander of UNEF.

The Report adds: 'The exchange of notes between the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the UAR and the Secretary-General quoted at the beginning of this Report, explains the position which I have found myself compelled to take up as a result of considerations under the resolutions of the General Assembly and the agreements reached between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Egyptian authorities as the basis for the entry of UNEF into the territory of Upper Egypt on 9 October 1966, and its subsequent deployment in Gaza and Sinai in 1967.

I have taken this position for the following main reasons:

(a) The UNEF was introduced into the territory of the UAR on the basis of an agreement reached in Cairo between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of Egypt, and it therefore has ceased to be clear to me that since the UAR consent was withdrawn it was incumbent on the Secretary-General to give orders for the withdrawal of the Force. The consent of the host country is a basic principle which has applied to all United Nations Peacekeeping Operations.

(b) In practical fact, UNEF cannot remain or function without the continuing consent and co-operation of the host country.

(c) I have been influenced by my deep concern to avoid any action which would either compromise or endanger the contingents which make up the Force. The UNEF is, after all, a peace-keeping and not an enforcement operation.

(d) In the face of the request for the withdrawal of the Force, those concerned must take no alternative course of action which could be taken by the Secretary-General without putting in question the sovereign authority of the Government of the UAR within its own territory.

I conclude this Report without expressing the deepest concern as to the possible implications of the latest developments for peace in the area. For more than ten years UNEF, acting as a buffer between the opposing forces of Israel and the UAR on the Armistice Demarcation Line in Gaza and the International Frontier in Sinai, has been the principal means of maintaining quiet in the area. Its removal inevitably raises the armed confrontation of the UAR and Israel and removes the stabilizing influence of an international force operating along the whole length of the frontier between the two nations. Such as I regret this development, I have no option but to respect and acquiesce in the resolution of the Government of the UAR. I can only express the hope that both sides will now exercise the utmost care and restraint in this new situation, which otherwise will be fraught with danger.

Finally, I express the highest appreciation to the Governments of all the members of the United Nations which have supported UNEF and especially to those which have provided the military contingents which make up the Force. The appreciation of the United Nations is shared by the many thousands of soldiers and men who have served so loyally and with such distinction in UNEF. At its inception was a particular innovation in the efforts of the world community to find improved methods of maintaining peace. For more than ten years it has furthered its functions with a far greater degree of success than could have been hoped for. It is, in fact, the model upon which many hopes for the future effectiveness of the United Nations in peacekeeping have been based. Its termination at this particular time raises serious anxiety as to the maintenance of peace in the area in which it is operating. In this anxious time, therefore, I feel it my duty to appeal not only to the parties directly affected by the withdrawal of UNEF to do all in their power to keep the peace, but also to all the members of the United Nations to intensify their efforts both for the maintenance of peace in this particular situation and for the improvement of the capacity of the organization to maintain peace. It goes without saying that this has been vital established to do all within my power towards the attainment of both these objectives.'
Tänään kauva on Mylous kasviruokaa. Yläravaksi kennen tuonut kouluun siirtyneen Niikinen. Mihin Khoopatra kulki?

SUNNUNTAIN KOULUSSA TIEKIRJAN VOITTO

HUOLTOKOMPANIAILLE


Kuinka tärkeää on tietysti enemmän. Muutakin tärkeää on myös tärkeää, mutta on aina tärkeää muistaa, että tärkeimmät asiat ovat tärkeimmät. 

Perjantaina iltaan tuli viihtyä. Se oli odotettua itselleen. 

SAUNAVIERAITA

Jaantaja, yllätestattu Viskari neuvoi tekeänsä tässä sihteriseksi, kersantti Sopin kanssa joutui pitelemaan ongelmaa.

Saina tekee jatkuvasti mainosta uomaa ja diplomitekstit. Hän on kasvon oikean, joka liittyy pyynnön mukaan. Tällöin kerta on selvästi hyvä ottaa mukaan siihen, mitä se on oikeastaan.
Israel line had not seemed to have reached alarming proportions, he said, and despite the shooting incident there was no indication of any important offensive move.

But unless there was very great restraint on both sides of the line, he said, local clashes might readily break out and lead to a heavy conflict.

U Thant said he hoped that the 1949 truce machinery could be reactivated immediately by the two parties. He said that if the parties, especially Israel, would resume participation in the Israeli-Arab armistice, the question of armistice, one of four set up to supervise the 1949 armistice between Israel and her Arab neighbors, could be taken up at an appropriate time by the Committee on Disarmament.

The Secretary-General said that the UN Force, with its deterrent and restraining influence, had “allowed us for ten years to ignore some of the hard realities of the underlying conflict. The Governments concerned, and the United Nations, are now confronted with a brutally realistic and dangerous situation.”

Two particularly sensitive areas as to Israel-UAR relations, he said, were the Gaza Strip and the Straits of Tiran. The Strip on the Mediterranean, and under UAR control containing over 300,000 Palestinian refugees as well as substantial units of what is known as the Palestine Liberation Army, is often mentioned.

The Straits, also controlled by the UAR, are Israel’s only access to the Red Sea and the oceans eastward.

Surveying the situation between Israel and her other Arab neighbors, U Thant again urged the full use of the Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission to redress the existing barrier tension between these two countries.

He again deplored both terrorist “incursions” to Israel and acts of military reprisals emanating from some Israeli leaders. U Thant noted that Syria as well as Jordan and Egypt officially disclaimed any responsibility for the terrorist activities. He said he was not in a position to say whether any or all of the three Governments had done all they could to prevent them.

But the fact that they recurred with disturbing regularity, and that some recent incidents indicated a new level of organization and training, he added that the Israeli Government had assured him it would take no action unless the Syrians did so first.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Bilbao F. Osorio-Tafall, attended a Sauna initiation last week hosted by the Commander of the Finnish Contingent, Colonel Nuutilainen. The picture shows Mr. Orsio-Tafall receiving his diploma from Colonel Nuutilainen, having previously gone through the ordeal of a Sauna, with a temperature in excess of 100 degrees centigrade. In the background is Lieutenant Colonel Kuosa, second-in-command of the Finnish Contingent, and Lieutenant Keel Dwyer of the Irish Contingent.

The General Assembly, at its last week decided that the Elevation of South Africa's administration from a UN Trust Territory to South Africa and bring it swiftly to independence.

By a vote of 83 in favor, 30 abstaining and two against, it adopted a resolution outlining direct UN takeover of the large territory entrusted to South Africa shortly after World War One under the League of Nations mandate.

The resolution was a compromise between the African, Asian and Latin American groups and received the virtually unanimous support of those three continents.

The abstainers were almost all Western and Eastern European states — prompting by different reasons. A number of the abstainers noted that The Assembly’s decision would require the support of the major powers holding permanent Security Council seats — support which was lacking.

Among the abstainers, the Soviet Union argued that the UN administration could not be turned against the population and said it would not be held responsible for contributing to any expenses. It urged a crackdown by the West on South Africa to get her out of the territory. Similar views were voiced by other East European members.

The United States, while reaffirming support for last autumn’s Assembly resolution declaring South Africa’s mandate ended, said further progress required discussions with the South African Government, which remained in physical control of the territory.

Other Western nations, notably Britain, also argued that UN involvement was in any case very limited and that what the UN could do immediately and that they should be recognized.

The two negative votes came from South Africa and Portugal, whose rule of other territories in the southern part of the African continent has been censured by the United Nations.

South Africa regarded the 1966 Assembly decision as illegal and politically unjustified, and did not part in the debate of the current Special Assembly session. She said the UN attempt at a takeover will be rebuffed.

The resolution includes provision for talks with South Africa on takeover procedures and hopes independence will come not later than June next year.

The General Assembly is expected to wind up the special session next Tuesday, after dealing with a second issue — peace-keeping operations and their financing.