CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I send to you and to all the military and civil personnel of UNFICYP my Christmas greetings and my best wishes for the New Year. I take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for the devotion, efficiency, resourcefulness and courage shown by you, your staff and the con-gression of the Force in performing your important tasks. The excellence of the work by UNFICYP in often difficult and delicate circumstances is particularly appreciated here at Headquarters. It is my current hope that the forthcoming year may bring more peaceful and stable conditions in the Island.

KURT WALDHHEIM
Secretary General

New Force Commander Arrives

Last week, the new Force Commander Major General I.J. Quinn was received by a Guard of Honour when he arrived at HQ UNFICYP to take over command.

After the Carol Service all the padre priests in the Force were pictured together. They are from the left Capt J.A.L. Rhinn, Capt W.R. Murray, Capt F.R. Pettman, Chaplain J. George, Maj S.J. Danielsson, Chaplain R.M. Christiansen, and Chaplain E.J. Janssen.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE FORCE COMMANDER

Christmas is a time of goodwill and also a time when we like to remember our families and friends from whom many of us are separated. Christmas also heralds a New Year when everyone hopes for peace and happiness.

Even though I have only recently come back to the Force I am very impressed with what I have heard and seen. We can all feel great satisfaction in the progress you have made during the past year to bring peace to this Island, and can hope that this progress will continue in the New Year.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for the hard work you have all done to achieve this progress. To you all and your families at home, I wish a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Santa Claus Visits FINCON

...with presents for the children.
LUCIA TAKES THE LEAD IN “DARK” DECEMBER

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The lack of a young girl and the sunshine were the only differences in the way the Lucia tradition was maintained this year in Famagusta. In the picture Lucia has just completed her visit to the Othello Tower OP.

JULESALMEGUDSTJENESTE!
HOLY CROSS CHURCH.

Onsdag den 15 DEC blev den traditionelle UNFICYP julensalme gudstjeneste med deltagelse af alle kontingenter afholdt i Holy Cross Church i Nicosia. På billedet ses L.L. P.O. Darville læser op af bibelen, under det danske indkaldt i højtideligheden.

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SWEDISH TEAM WIN GOLD MEDALS

UNFICYP SKYDEKONKURÆNCE

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THE LAST GUARD FOR GENERAL PREM CHAND

On Wednesday 22nd December, Lieutenant General and Mrs Prem Chand left Cyprus to return to India. Before leaving the Blue Beret Camp for the last time by helicopter, the General inspected a multi-national Guard of Honour of detachments from all seven military contingents in the Force under the command of Commandant J. Harnall. During his inspection of the Guard the General spoke to each officer, and CQMS Mulhern and Commandant Harnall.

The General and Mrs Prem Chand then drove to the VIP helicopter pad, where they said goodbye to the Sector Commanders and senior staff officers. They then got into a Whirlwind helicopter piloted by Flying Lieutenant Tomlinson for their journey to Larnaca Airport.

OLD BUT STILL WORKING

An unusual birthday party took place in the MT lines at St. Davids Camp last week. The drivers of the 1st Battalion the Parachute Regiment had discovered that this old four-tonner had been in service for 17 years, so what more appropriate way could they celebrate this feat than by a little decoration and a party?

In 38 Squadron RCT Cpl Wells and L/Cpl Phillips knew that it is only by constant maintenance that the four-ton fleet keeps going.

MEDALS FOR MP COMPANY

Last week eight NCOs in the Military Police Company received their UN medals from Colonel de Chatellain, the DCOS.

THE CO OF AUSCON LT COL W. FRITZ AND ALL RANKS OF THE AUSTRIAN CONTINGENT WISH YOU

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

and

A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM AUSCON

The Chaplain's Letter

In diesen "stillen Tagen" der Weihnachtszeit werden uns wieder die Ohren klagen, wie läuter "merzy" und "happy".

"Freude" und "Glick" werden uns serviert, sogar gegen bar Mühe, doch vor lauter Jubel, Trieb und Heiterkeit schlägt mancher vergessen zu haben, daß... 

Weihnachten mehr zu bieten hat als "Oh Taimenbaum" in Plastikausführung mit Schneeflocken aus der Sprühdose.

Es ist nämlich schon seit 2000 Jahren kein "top secret" mehr, daß "Freude auf Erden" überall dort möglich ist, wo es einem Menschen gelingt, manchmal von seiner "Mensa" zu werden, daß Gott in ihm transparent werden kann... 

"Beispiel: Jesus Christus! Wir werden damit echte Freude und echtes Glück erleben können, wenn uns in ähnlicher Weise unsere eigene "Menschenwerdung" ge- lingt. Denn dann wird durch uns dieser "Freude auf Erden" Wirklichkeit, der letzten Endes die Gurrenheit dafür sein kann, daß wir überhaupt richten "merzy" und "happy" sein können, wie es unsere Kameraden auf dem Foto demonstrieren.


J. GROBRUCK, Mehrk. Ch. AUSCON

GOOD BYE 1976

WELCOME 1977
RCR CELEBRATE 93RD BIRTHDAY

We are now in the festive season, celebrating both Christmas and the start of the New Year. As if this were not enough to celebrate, most of us are members of the Royal Canadian Regiment, which on 21 Dec celebrated its Ninetieth Birthday. Obviously, this called for a birthday cake and a day of sports and relaxation.

Another yearly event is the Senior NCO's Pace Stick Competition. Because we could not compete with other units this year, 3 RCR held its own Competition. The competitor must march in quick and slow time and must display good personal drill as well as flawless handling of the Pace Stick. Congratulations to Sgt. Hunter of Q Coy for winning the event.

December also was the month for Sector 4 to host the meeting of the Sector Commanders. Besides receiving a briefing on the Sector, the Commanders joined the line and had lunch together in the Officer's Mess.

THE PACE STICK COMPETITION

Sgt. Morton of R Company going through his pace while CSM Bonerud judges his performance.

THE "JUNTA" MET IN SECTOR FOUR

Last week the Sector Commanders met in Wolseley Barracks, and toured a part of the Buffer Zone in the old city. They are from the left Lt Col Birley, Lt Col Ellis, Maj Knox, Lt Col Lopresti, Lt Col Fritz, Lt Col Baehnlein, and Lt Col Kroen.

PUTOILEVIA
LEVYJÄ JA
TIERNAPÖIKIA

Joulun on ainakin lehdän ilmestyminen ja talonsFINE ja mutta omena on kyllä jännitys. Täälläkin
Perillisenä tapaan järjestettiin fulling plate — (putovaara levy) kilpailu Dhrkellin Jussilassa 11.12. Vaahana tapaan kilpailu
läpi puremussaista putovaaraa
— kp- ja kvävärinnossa. As-
rinnossa aamupäivänä käytty
kova kilpailu minun petosi tuokski-
taan seuraavana päivänä: petosti 1
Swedon, 2 Fincon, 3 MP Coy.
Kp 1 Fincon, 2 Swedon, 3 Fincon,
Kp 1 Fincon, 2 Swedon, 3 Fincon.
Onnistumme voittaessa. Täällä
Fincon on kyllä tavallisesti
väestöä vähemmän markalla
sampo-mukaiseen, alkuvaraan
Canoin voimattoman kilpailukokoon vastaan.

Vanhakas joululaulun tunni
mitäkin Finconissa. Parin
ässä kellonkelloa kuningas
Herodes kaikkikuvassa
hevostilaa ja ratsuillaan. Säte
hevos

ENGLISH SUMMARY

The falling plate competition was arranged traditionally by Fincon on 11th December in Dhrkellia. After several close rounds the result of the final heats were as follows: Pistol: 1 Swedon, 2 Fincon, 3 MP Coy. SMG: 1 Fincon, 2 Dancon, 3 Britcon. Rifle: 1 Cancon, 2 Dancon, 3 Fincon. In the picture above the Finish SMG team were seen running to the firing point and victory.

"Tiernapöijä", star-boys or tart-bearers, is a very old traditional Finish Christmas play. It was originally played by poor students who used it as a means to finance their studies. Since then it has been a tradition in the whole of Finland. "Tiernapöijä" is a story of the birth of Jesus Christ and the happenings connected with it. In the picture in the centre, King Herod is seen declaring the death sentence to the new-born King of Judah. Many familiar faces from HQ UNFICYP and the Finnish Battalion were seen in the play, which was performed at Fincon's pre-Christmas gatherings.
TO ALL MILITARY AND CIVILIAN MEMBERS OF
THE UNITED NATIONS FORCE IN CYPRUS

From
Lieutenant General D Prem Chand PVSM

I hand over command of UNFICYP today, the 10th December 1978, after a long and eventful tenure of seven years with the United Nations in Cyprus. During this period, in addition to secrecy and incidents from time to time, there have unfortunately been grave and tragic developments, which have been brought to light. In spite of this, UNFICYP has at all times striven, on occasions under the most difficult conditions, to carry out its role and functions to prevent intercommunal conflict and destruction of life and property, to the best of its ability. An essential requirement in recent years has been the stabilization and consolidation of the situation in the Buffer Zone after the operations in the summer of 1974. The success of your efforts, and those of our colleagues in the past, together with the steady, balanced and impartial manner in which you have tackled many a difficult and delicate situation has been well and appropriately reflected in the Secretary-General's reports covering each mandate. I should like to say today that I consider myself greatly privileged and honoured at having been given this unique opportunity of commanding such a splendid team of multinational peacekeepers, who have contributed much to the cause of peace in such a dedicated, devoted and effective manner.

We are the good fortune of having seven military and three police contingents from Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Sweden and the United Kingdom in UNFICYP and, perhaps, the most encouraging feature of our functioning has been how well they have integrated to form a well-balanced, hard-working, effective and happy team. I thank you and all the distinguished countries most warmly for all you have done for UNFICYP, and I should like you to know that I am proud of having served with you.

We have been singularly fortunate in having the fullest support, assistance and guidance from the Secretary-General, Mr. U Thant, and his Under-Secretaries-General, Dr. T. Gustad, and Mr. D. A. D. N. Draper, as well as their staff and colleagues at UN Headquarters, which made our task so much easier. This was all the more needed during the season of 1978, and we are deeply grateful for the extent to which we have been supported in so full a measure all along.

I wish to pay a special personal tribute also to the Secretary-General and his Under-Secretary General who were there when I joined UNFICYP, the late Dr. E. G. Field and the late Dr. J. Ruzi Bennet, with my deepest gratitude for their most generous support.

The peace-makers and peacekeepers in UNFICYP have always worked closely together and indeed they complement each other. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador J. Perez de Cuellar, and the Senior Political Advisor, Dr. B. G. Gore, on two separate assignments, have made every effort to assist us in our peacekeeping efforts, and we have relied much on their advice, assistance and support, and I should like to thank them and their predecessors, Mr. L. W. Atwood-Munro and Mr. R. O. Oosterhoff, the previous Special Representatives, and Mr. M. Milt, the previous Senior Political Advisor, for their valuable contribution and assistance. We owe much to the Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. G. Dunn, and the members of the UN Secretariat for looking after the administrative and logistic needs of the Force, and the willing and cheerful manner in which all our requirements have been met has made all the difference. I am most obliged to him and his predecessors, Mr. V. Mills, Mr. G. Ryder, Mr. R. S. Dharman and Mr. B. Roome.

I am deeply indebted to my immediate assistants on the staff, Brigadier M. Tiltoton, the Chief of Staff, Colonel J. O. Chalute, the Deputy Chief of Staff, and the Police Adviser, Assistant Commissioner J. Hamilton, together with their officers, NCOs and men working under them, for their excellent contribution in running such a happy and effective team, and for their advice and assistance. I also recall with gratitude the contribution of our predecessors, Brigadier General C. Beattie, Brigadier F. Henn and Brigadier General E. Laxton as the Chiefs of Staff, Colonel P. Chivers, Colonel Thomson and Colonel Ribot/Weber as the Deputy Chiefs of Staff and Dr. H. Wagner, Superintendent Davidson and Superintendent McAulay as the Police Advisers. I have owed them all much over the years.

Major-General J. Quinn takes over from me and in welcoming him to Cyprus I should like to wish him every success in achieving the tasks which lie ahead. I am confident that you will give him the same loyalty, trust and confidence which you extended to me in so generous a measure in carrying out the mandate of the Security Council and the directives of the Secretary-General towards the peace and prosperity of Cyprus and the good people, who have been given us much with their confidence, consideration, utmost kindness and generous hospitality.

We are close to the festive season, and in taking my leave, may I take this opportunity of wishing you and your families from my wife and myself, a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

CANADIANS WIN AGAIN

The Biafra Shooting competition took place ten days ago at Diecheng. This event was, as usual, very well organized and run by the Finnish Contingent.

The Canadians won the Rifle Falling Plate competition again, the Finns won the SMG and the Swedes — the Pistol.

At the end of the competition, Brigadier Tildeson presented the medals and prizes. He is seen above giving the Canadians their prizes.

TRAFFIC STATISTICS

Week ending 24 December

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<th>Item</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tr>
<td>Same period last year</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total for the year</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total for the same period last year</td>
<td>296</td>
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LESSON OF THE MONTH
DONT DRINK AND DRIVE