Friday 3 February saw the UN MP Element hold its first Medal Parade of 1995. The MPs from CARCON, AUSCON, BRTCON and IKCON, all marched together onto the parade "square" (the car park outside the MP HQ) at 1400 hrs to a rousing march played by the band of the Cypriot Police who had graciously agreed to provide the music for the occasion.

Members of the UN MP Elm on parade

Once on parade, the assembled MPs received their well deserved UNIFCYP medals and numerals from the Force Commander, Brig Gen ATP Vartenian, before falling out and then providing the parade guests with a comprehensive display of the roles and duties carried out on a daily basis by the UNIFCYP Military Police.

After the demonstration, participants and guests alike returned to the relaxing surroundings of the MP Lounge for a barbecue lunch, washed down with cold beer. "It's all in a day's work...!"

VISIT BY CHIEF GENERAL STAFF OF THE AUSTRIAN ARMED FORCES, GENERAL MAJCEN

From 3-5 April 1995, the highest ranking Austrian Officer visited UNIFCYP, where he inspected "his" soldiers in Sector Four. The Austrian Photographer was with him almost all the way, and took this opportunity to present a wide range of instructive photographs.

A Guard of Honour in CDL V, commanded by 2Lt Fischl.

Austria, although never having been a great naval power, still holds OP UN-146 by the sea.

The demo team

The Blue Beret is the house journal of the United Nations Force in Cyprus and, as such, is intended to provide a source of information on current events within the Force, on UN matters of general interest and on local tourist advice.

Articles of general interest are invited from all members of the Force. Photographs, together with captions, should accompany the articles. This is an official publication prepared under the direction of the Chief of Mission. The views expressed are, however, those of the author concerned, and do not necessarily conform with official policy.

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FRONT COVER
UNIFCYP CELEBRATES EASTER IN CYPRUS
BY WOLKARL FÜSSELBERGER
HOW EASTER IS CELEBRATED

EASTER IN AUSTRALIA

Easter celebrations "down under" are really no different to the rest of the Christian world insofar as remembering the death of Christ and his resurrection. It is a four-day break away from the hustle and bustle of working life, that allows people to spend time with their families and, if they wish, to reflect on the religious aspects of Easter. This period in the Australian calendar also marks the time when the season begins to change and the endless summer days and stifling heat starts to dissipate.

EASTER IN ARGENTINA

Easter in Argentina is celebrated in much the same way as any other Christian country. There are two important aspects to our Easter, i.e. religion and tradition.

As regards religion, Argentina, being a mainly Roman Catholic country, begins the Easter period with Lent. On Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, ashes are anointed on the foreheads of all those attending Mass, signifying that man comes from the earth and will return to the earth. Also during Lent, meat is not eaten on Fridays to mark the period of abstinence.

Once the fasting period is over, Easter festivities begin with the traditional reunion of families who get together on Easter Sunday to celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

In Argentina, there are many traditional songs at this time of the year, sung both in and outside churches. There are also special delicacies which follow much the same fashion as Europe, such as Easter Eggs, sweets, cakes and so on.

EASTER IN IRELAND

Easter in Ireland is a celebration of breaking the forty days fasting during the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday. It is the custom to abstain from meat and meat products on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and each Friday during Lent. People are also encouraged to reduce food intake each day to just one main meal and two cofeeation, a cation being the light meal. Another source of penance or abstinence practised is to forego the enjoyment of a pint (beer, etc.) and Easter comes as a happy release for these people.

Easter in Ireland is a time for prayer and celebration. Religious ceremonies commence on Holy Thursday and continue until Easter Sunday morning. The Pastoral candle is lit for the first time and is lit thereafter for religious ceremonies during the coming year. This candle is about 15 cm in diameter, 30 cm in height and weighs several kilos. The candle symbolizes the association between the resurrection and the light of Jesus Christ.

It is not a particularly happy time for children who are encouraged not to eat sweets during Lent, but to store them for a celebration on Easter Sunday morning. Easter eggs in various presentation packs are the highlight for children and indeed adults alike. Happy faces are painted on boiled eggs to start the celebrations, which makes breakfast on Easter Sunday morning a joyous occasion.
THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE

One of the most famous actions involving the British Army is the Charge of the Light Brigade. The Battle of Balaklava (of which the Charge was a part) is one of the three principal battle honours of The Queen’s Royal Lancers, the Sector Two Regiment.

The Battle of Balaklava was part of the 1854 Anglo-French Crimean Campaign against Russia in support of Turkey. The aim was to destroy the Russian Black Sea Fleet and remove the threat to the East Mediterranean. The means to achieve this was intended to be the capture of Sebastopol, the Russian Fleet’s base. After a series of actions, the Anglo-French forces besieged Sebastopol, being supplied by the Royal Navy through the port of Balaklava. The road from this port ran up through a defile and on to the Balaklava Plain before running up on to the high ground around Sebastopol. The British Headquarters was set up on the high ground, giving an excellent view over the whole plain and the forces arranged on the plain to protect the port.

On the morning of 25 October 1854, a large Russian force of Cossacks moved to threaten the British positions and were successfully charged by the British Heavy Cavalry Brigade. Later, this Cossack force moved to capture some British artillery pieces. Raglan, the Commander of the British Forces, had heard that Wellington had never lost a gun in battle (untrue), and so ordered the Light Cavalry Brigade to charge to protect the guns. The message was conveyed to Cardigan, the Light Cavalry Commander, by Capt Lewis Nolan, an impetuous young officer of the 15th Hussars. Unfortunately, the guns that had been so clear to Raglan on the heights were completely obscured to Cardigan on the plain. Cardigan asked Nolan where the guns were, to which the exasperated reply: “There, My Lord, are your guns” was made as the young cavalry officer swept his arm across the battlefield. The only guns visible were the distant Russian battery at the end of a valley with Russian guns on both flanks as well as at the end. So, the scene was set for the Charge. 673 cavalrymen of the Light Brigade charged down the valley, maintaining parade ground formations as the Russian guns cut bloody swathes through the serried ranks.

The front left-hand Regiment was the 17th Lancers, one of The Queen’s Royal Lancers’ constituent Regiments and, in the ensuing action which saw the British Cavalry overrunning the guns before withdrawing, only 34 members were left of the 140 who charged that fateful day. The Light Brigade had suffered 442 casualties in total, and was rendered ineffective by the losses suffered.

The spectacle of this fine force superbly mounted with iron discipline to certain destruction moved the French General present to comment “C’est magnifique, mais ce n’est pas de guerre” - a fitting epitaph for a heroic action.

QRL ALIWA REVUE

To commemorate the Battle of Aliwal (1846), The Queen’s Royal Lancers held a Revue which was watched by the entire Regiment. Members of QRL were chosen to take part in a series of sketches which represented the humorous side of the Regiment’s last year.

The Battle commemorated by the Revue took place in Aliwal, in the Punjab, approximately 200 miles NW of Delhi. The action was part of the first Sikh War and saw the 16th Lancers (one of the Queen’s Royal Lancers’ constituent Regiments) break the Sikh Infantry Triangle in a series of heroic charges. After the Battle, the lance pennants were so soaked with blood that they dried solid and in memory of this, The Queen’s Royal Lancers always crimp their pennants.

QUICK NIGHT AT THE HIB(ERNIA) CLUB

A very enjoyable quiz night was held recently at the Irish Hibernia Club. In all, 16 teams took part in what was a keenly contested competition. The proceeds of the night went to the very deserving UNIFCYP Swimming Pool Fund.

Pictured here are the winning team on the night: From the left: Audrey Maughan, Anne Doyle, Sylvia McCracken and Jim Steele.

SECTOR TWO WIN THE UNIFCYP FOOTBALL COMPETITION

The Queen’s Royal Lancers, the UN Sector Two Regiment, have won the UNIFCYP Football Competition. The QRL side played five matches, winning four of them. The results are as follows:

- QRL v ARGCON 1-2
- QRL v ARGCON (playoff) 4-3
- QRL v Force Reserve 5-3
- QRL v IRCON 1-0
- QRL v AUSCON 3-0

QRL footballers practising.

Volleyball: QRL versus National Guard Team

Early in the year, a team from the National Guard challenged The Queen’s Royal Lancers to a game of volleyball.

The intrepid QRL team, who turned up with some of its members having only played once or twice, was surprised to see the Greek Cypriot team wearing a strip actually sponsored by the Opel Car Company. It was at this point that the QRL team realised quite a battle was in store for them...

After three heroic games, victory was conceded to the National Guard at 2:1. All in all, it was a very enjoyable event.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Hello readers! This month, the Blue Beret staff regret to announce that there was no need to use the Editor’s helmet to choose the winner of the Crossword Puzzle, since only one entry was received for Bill No 08. Mr Jagdish Singh is invited to collect his prize from the Speaker’s Office.

This lack of support might be attributed to the hectic Easter celebrations, so we are giving you a rest this month. However, if this trend continues, the Editor may be forced to reconsider the inclusion of the Crossword in future editions.
The Blue Beret: Eating habits, likes and dislikes are often identified with specific nationalities. It is widely known that food consumption expresses the status of individuals according to a whole range of criteria (age, sex, social and economic status, etc.) and unconsciously reveals the underlying structure of societies. The famous French gastronome Brillant-Savarin (1755-1826) in his celebrated works on gastronomy "La physiologie du goût" wrote: "Tell me what you eat and I will tell you what you are." Now, Mr. Kelly, as Manager of UNIFCYP's International Mess, what does all this tell you?

Mike Kelly: I will agree with the notion that a meal is a means of expressing and asserting a national, regional or local identity. However, the missing connection in the process of transforming the various ingredients to a proper meal is the cook. From a personal point of view, I would retort: "Show me a kitchen and I will determine the vintage of the chef".

BB: Eating together in a multi-national force such as UNIFCYP must be different in many ways. Can you elaborate on this issue?

MK: The International Mess is an all-ranks catering facility for UNIFCYP personnel. Eating together as a multi-national force offers a whole lot of different challenges and opportunities. We are called upon to cater for the comforts and needs of all personnel, irrespective of rank and nationality, and create a friendly and warm atmosphere. As you may appreciate, even the most delicious food lacks savour if it is eaten in solitude. Our Mess provides a forum where both military and civilian based personnel can get together and share their meals in a supportive and coordinated environment, and are given the opportunity to create new bonds and strengthen those bonds which already exist.

BB: What sort of organization and meal programme do you have in the UNIFCYP Mess?

MK: As an institution, the function of the UNIFCYP International Mess has changed dramatically since my arrival some five years ago. Being a Yorkshireman with initially an education administration background and latterly in leisure development, I surfaced with pre-conceived concepts of fast food, restaurants, bars, vending and gaming - each adding a certain kind of muscle to the more physical aspects of the leisure industry. The UNIFCYP Officers' Mess, as it then was, catered primarily for the comforts and needs of the unaccompanied officer on tour with the UNIFCYP Mission. There were also numerous regimental dinners, national days, V.I.P. luncheons and very frequently a party just for the sake of having a party.

Kitchens were serviced by British military chefs supported by a handful of locally employed civil servants who primarily provided a UK cuisine which satisfied the needs of the majority.

The demise of Support Regiment some 16 months ago resulted in the birth of the existing UNIFCYP International Mess, an all-ranks catering facility for personnel, both military and civilian, based on the UNPA.

Initially, the organizational and administrative changes created upheaval. Kitchens and dining rooms were renovated by Support Services and a more sophisticated range of equipment was installed. Establishment was increased to meet demands. More recently, Michael Muller has taken up the reins as Rations Officer and overall administrator of the International Mess, and has implemented the UN Ration Scale of issue providing a greater variety of menu.

A system of portioning at servers, frowned upon initially, has provided fairer portions and administratively a method of monitoring realistically the allocation of the 'scale of issue'.

Gradually the culture of the Mess has changed to accommodate the new realities within UNIFCYP. Today, every attempt is made to satisfy the varying ethnic tastes and eating habits of a galleon of nationalities.

BB: What situation or events have offered you the biggest challenges?

MK: National days, which frequently give us the opportunity of serving ethnic menus (long live Krampus and St. Patrick's Day), are always popular. It is true that a few years ago, many of the contingents regarded the Mess as somewhat barbaric outpost in the world of gastronomy. This was partly due to the dictates of the menu range, but efforts to include ethnic menus on such occasions have proved to be a resounding success. These will always be both memorable and happy times.

BB: In what way do you think the International Mess is different to other local catering establishments?

MK: The International Mess provides much more than your downtown restaurant. It is an all-in family, and no hidden extras!
CAMP DUKE LEOPOLD V

It is traditional within UNIFCYP for the camps in the Sectors to be named after certain celebrities, and Sector Four is no exception. The camps named after Lt. Izyi, killed during the 1974 troubles, and Marie Therese are well known, but very few know much about Duke Leopold V, who gave his name to the Battalion Headquarters in Famagusta.

The feudal house of the Babenberger originated from the hills close to the shores of the Danube and gradually expanded eastwards along the natural course of the river. Vienna was first mentioned in the year 881 as the scene of battle between the "Franks" and the "Magyars". However, the city became a key political and economic centre after the Babenberg Henry Jasomirgott established his ducal residence at Vienna's "Am Hof". By 1137, Vienna was already chronicled as a fortified city. The reign of Henry Jasomirgott is a milestone in Austrian history. It was under him that, in 1156, Austria was raised to a duchy, granted juridical autonomy and endowed with rights of succession through both male and female lines. It gave Austria a special privileged position within the Holy Roman Empire, which led to her establishment as an independent state.

On 13 January 1177, Duke Henry Jasomirgott died. He was succeeded by his 20-year-old son, who was invested as Duke Leopold V of the Duchy of Austria by the German King and Roman Emperor, Frederik Barbarossa, in a military camp at Candelore near Persono.

The Babenberger were clever rulers and, though active in crusades to the Holy Lands, managed to consolidate their authority in their own domain. Relations between Leopold and the Emperor were very good from the beginning, and friendly relationships were also developed with Bohemia, following the appointment of one of Leopold's relatives as the Duke of Bohemia. Furthermore, following the declaration of peace at Eger, a new frontier was established in the region, roughly identical to the border between Austria and the Czech Republic of today. Similarly, peaceful relations with neighbouring Hungary were consolidated - how could it be otherwise - with the marriage of Leopold V to Ilona, the sister of King Stephen III of Hungary.

The involvement of Leopold in the crusades coincided with the rise of the Sultan Saladin, who crushed the Christian army and conquered Jerusalem on 3 October 1187. Saladin's victories stirred the Christian spirits, and the Abyssinian Crusade, under the leadership of the Ethiopian King, was launched.

It is perhaps the best known of all the crusades, because its leaders were so famous and included the Emperor Frederik Barbarossa of Germany, Philip II of France and Richard I of England.

The Emperor, who had considerable experience in war expeditions and crusades, called up and selected all those who were trained in combat, and in addition, those who were wealthy enough to finance themselves for a two-year period were allowed to accompany the crusade.

Duke Leopold joined the forces of Emperor Frederik who took his army overland through Europe and Byzantium, entering Asia Minor in 1190. Here, disaster struck when Frederik was drowned. The alliance of the Christian kings was shaken and eventually, the third crusade failed to accomplish its mission.

However, thanks to the courage of Duke Leopold V from Austria, the Crusaders did manage to conquer the town of Acre (Ptolemais). Leopold, heading a group of 500 archers, climbed the walls of Acre and, being the first Duke to enter the city, planted his banner on the walls. In the course of making his way to the top of the castle, he fought his way ferociously and, in doing so, his white cloak was covered with blood from the fighting. The only part left white was around the waist because of his belt. According to legend, the colours of-the Austrian flag, red-white-red, are attributed to this event. Following his return to Austria, the Duke fulfilled the vow he had taken during the attack of Acre and donated his blood-stained service coat, his sword and his lance to the Virgin Mary at Maria Lanzendorf in Lower Austria.

The gate at Camp Duke Leopold V in Famagusta

Coming back to AUSCON stationed in Cyprus, in the spring of 1973, the newly built camp at Paphos was named Camp Duke Leopold V in honour of the Duke. With the change of the operational area of the Austrian Battalion to Larnaca and later to Famagusta, the name of the camp was retained so that everyone remembers the Duke who was the first established Austrian soldier in the Middle East - an example of military courage.

The FC with Maj Hufler

Therefore, in cooperation with the Cyprus Skiing Club, to whom all the installations belong, it was decided to hold a Skiing Day as compensation. This was fixed for 28 Feb, and after all the trials and tribulations, it was undoubtedly a tremendous success.

The too-good-to-be-true sunshine welcomed numerous guests. Attending were the FC, Brig Gen Vartilainen, his MA, the Branch Heads of Operations, Humanitarian and Personnel & Logistics, the COs of ARCON and AUSCON from Germany, many lovers of sport from Sectors One and Four (guess who were missing...?).

Traditional Austrian dishes such as Gulasch, Apfelstrudel and Gluhwein appeared on the scene, these items being well-known to most UNIFCYP members. In addition, several trays of Faschingskrapfen (carnival doughnuts) did not survive the day. Coincidentally, this was the day preceding Ash Wednesday. In Austria it is called "Faschendienstag", which marks the end of the carnival period and has to be funny.

Getting back to the Skiing Day, this started with a flag run performed by our ski artists with the chief organizer, Maj Hufler, in front, to insiders known as DCS Sector Four. The front cover of the March edition of the Blue Beret depicts the opening run. The central event was a WISBI run for everybody (WISBI = "wie schneller bin ich", or, in English, "how fast am I"), which was won by Col Waldner from Germany, and showed that skiing talents can be found all over the world - from Finland to Argentina. The FC in particular did very well, using cross-country skis on the soft snow, not suitable in the first line for downhill.

Demonstrations by skilled AUSCON skiers rounded off the programme. The main contribution to the Skiing Day's great success came from all who participated and brought with them such necessary items as good humour and high spirits.
ARGENTINA'S NEW CONTINGENT ARRIVES IN CYPRUS

by Lt (Navy) A von Wernich

Following the departure of the third Argentinean Contingent, 125 members of ARGCON No 4 arrived in Cyprus on 16 Jan 95, followed by 117 men on 20 Jan and the remainder on 26 Jan.

Handover/overactivities began with the arrival of the first flight. On 24 Feb, the official handover ceremony took place, when Lt Col Fernando Istruz handed over command of the Argentine Contingent to Lt Col Hernan Garay.

Sector One's command is in good hands though, with many professional soldiers who have actively taken part in other conflict regions around the world.

THE NEW CO ARGCON - LIEUTENANT COLONEL HERNAN GARAY

by Lt (Navy) A von Wernich

Lt Col Garay was born in 1948 and joined the Military Academy in 1965, being commissioned as a 2/Lt (Infantry) in 1969 and appointed as a Platoon Leader with the Infantry Mountain Regiment No 20. As a junior officer, he was also appointed to other Intelligence Units and the NCO's school and Military Army Academy.

Lt Col Garay is a Military Parachutist, and has taken part in the South Atlantic Conflict (1982) as a Company Commander, following which he was presented with the "Congress Medal" as a South Atlantic Conflict Vet.

He took command of the "Support Aerial Parachutist Company (1988-90) and the 14th Infantry Regiment Airborne (1992-93). During the present year, he has been attached to the Operations Branch at the 4th Brigade Airborne.

Lt Col Garay is married to Rachel, and has five daughters and two sons, aged between 1 and 19 years.

THE FORCE COMMANDER VISITS SECTOR ONE

by Lt (Navy) A von Wernich

On 7 and 8 March, the Force Commander, Brig Gen A Vartiainen, visited Sector One. He began at OP-12, where he was received by Sector One CO, Lt Col Hernan Garay, and all the Staff Officers. He was then briefed on the most relevant matters concerning Sector One in the areas of Alpha and Bravo Coys. He then went on line tours in both Coys and was briefed on recent incidents which have taken place in these areas. In addition, he took part in a shooting activity arranged for his visit.

The Force Commander enjoyed his visit to our Sector, and most importantly, had the opportunity of talking to the soldiers on the line.

IRELAND - THE COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE

by Insp John Daly, IRCVPOL

LOCATION

The Emerald Isle, the world's 20th largest island, situated on the Atlantic coast of Europe, has 3,000 miles of coastline, which encompasses such natural wonders as the Cliffs of Moher, the tranquil Lakes of Killarney, the spectacular hexagonal basalt columns of the Giant's Causeway and the green pastures of the Curragh, where horse-racing and breeding are world renowned. Ancient Ireland was divided into four provinces, the principal cities of which lie: Dublin to the east in Leinster, Cork to the south in Munster, Galway to the west in Connaught and Belfast to the north in Ulster.

PEOPLE

The hospitable people of Ireland, of Celtic origin, are an affable English speakers with "the gift of the gab" and are witty and articulate conversationals. The native Irish language is principally spoken in the Gaeltacht region to the west, where a genuine "Cead Mile Fáilte - a hundred thousand welcome" is extended to all visitor.

Two-thirds of the 4.5 million inhabitants live in the Republic's 26 counties, the majority of whom are Catholic, while the six north-east counties of Northern Ireland, with a predominantly Protestant population, remain as part of the United Kingdom. When Ireland was partitioned in December 1921, 25 years of sectarian violence have cost 3,000 lives, but since 1 Sep 94, the "troubles" have ceased while a settlement is being negotiated.

CLIMATE

The climate of Ireland is dominated by the moderating effects of the surrounding seas. As a result, snow is rare in most winters except in the mountains. Average temperatures in January and February, the coldest months, is between 4°-7°C. July and August, the two warmest months, have average temperatures between 16°-20°C. Average annual rainfall lies between 800 and 1700 mm over most of the country.

LAW AND ORDER

Ireland is a parliamentary democracy. Its law is based on common law and legislation enacted by Parliament under the Constitution. The Garda Síochana (paid police force) has its headquarters in Dublin. The 26-county republic is policed by the Garda Síochana, independent of the British police force. The 9-county Northern Ireland is divided between the two policing units: the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) and the Civil Guard.

ENTERTAINMENT

In its numerous hotels and pubs, the traditional fare includes a substantial portion of fresh meat, fish, butter, eggs or potatoes. Stout - rich creamy black Guinness, lovingly drawn from the keg - is Ireland's national beverage of choice and is accompanied by a thirst-quenching lager. Irish Coffee - a hot coffee laced with whiskey and sugar, with a tablespoon of thick cream floating on top and served in a stemmed glass - is slowly sipped to savour its texture. The friendly and relaxed pub atmosphere, the programme of entertainment ranges from ballads to the spectacularly rushing of pipes and harps and for the squeezing of bagpipes and accordions, while jigs, laments and hornpipes are danced until one o'clock in the small hours called an end to the merriment.

CONCLUSION

Ireland, because of its westward location, its beautiful and breathtaking scenery, the renowned hospitality of its easy-going people, the many lakes and rivers (ask Jack Charlton) and the entertainment and craic (Irish for fun), is the place where the few drops of rain that might dampen the spirits - or the pint of Guinness, known locally as a 'pint of Arthur' (Arthur Guinness).
The establishment of the United Nations in 1945 marked a new beginning in the affairs of the global community. In signing its Charter on June 26 and instituting a working system of international cooperation, the 51 original members of the United Nations reaffirmed their faith in the rule of law and in the basic principles of peace and security, the fundamental human rights and the promotion of economic and social development.

The Charter of the UN declares that membership of the United Nations is open to all peace-loving nations which subscribe to the purposes and principles of the Charter and agree to carry out their obligations. Apart from the original 51 member states, new members are admitted by a decision of the General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the Security Council. At present, there are 193 member states. The Charter also provides for the suspension or expulsion of members for violation of the principles of the Charter, but no such action has ever been taken.

The six principal organs of the United Nations are the:

- General Assembly
- Economic and Social Council
- Trusteeship Council
- International Court of Justice and International Tribunal
- International Secretariat

The General Assembly meets in regular annual sessions. The Assembly President is elected in a personal capacity by the General Assembly. A general debate at the opening of each annual session provides all members with the opportunity to raise issues of general interest. At the request of the Assembly or at the request of the majority of members agree to a special session. Within the framework of the Assembly's annual agenda, the Assembly relays heavily on committees to manage the workload.

Security Council

The members of the United Nations, under the Charter, confer upon the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. In this, the Council acts on behalf of the member states.

Member states, in adhering to the Charter, agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Council in accordance with the Charter. The Council is a 15-member body consisting of five permanent members (China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States) and ten non-permanent members elected by the General Assembly for a two-year term. In selecting non-permanent members, the Assembly strives for an equitable geographical representation from all continents. The presidency rotates each month in English alphabetical order among the members.

Decisions on substantive matters require nine votes including those of the permanent members. If any member has the right to "veto" a decision, an abstention by a permanent member does not constitute a veto. The Council is so organized as to operate continuously. It may establish subsidiary organs, such as the International Tribunals. It has a Secretariat and a Staff.

In Chapter IV, the Charter provides for extensive functions, including those of the Security Council, in the Pacific Settlement of Disputes, and in Chapter V, the Charter provides for the Trusteeship Council, the decolonization of Trust Territories, and the Peace and Arms of Aggression. The term Peace-keeping is the term used in the Charter, and the body of Peace-keeping that has grown from the 1950s is sometimes known as "Chapter 6a's."

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

The Charter included among the very purposes of the United Nations, "to achieve higher standards of living for all, all the people of the United Nations, co-operate in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all members of the human family..." This inspired the inclusion of ECOSOC among the principal organs of the United Nations. Its 54 members are elected by the Assembly for three-year terms with the possibility of re-election.

ECOSOC has normally met at least twice a year, the first time in April at UN Headquarters and the second in September at ECOSOC. ECOSOC is authorized to make or initiate studies, reports and recommendations on socioeconomic, educational, health and related matters; to promote respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all members of the human family... It has the power to recommend measures for the settlement of disputes by negotiation and other peaceful means; to promote international co-operation in the field of education, science and culture; to promote international co-operation in the field of economic development; and to promote international co-operation in the field of technical assistance and cooperation. It has also the power to make recommendations to the General Assembly and to call international conferences.

The Council is assisted in its work by commissions organized by the General Assembly on functional commissions, including an economic, a social, a human rights, a women's status and a narcotics drug matters. They carry out studies in their fields and, through the Secretariat, also assist the Council in the performance of its duties. In general, these subsidiary bodies formulate resolutions recommending measures, declarations and international conventions on which the Council and General Assembly act.

Trusteeship Council

The Trusteeship Council, acting under the authority of the General Assembly, was established to supervise the administration of trust territories by the administering states. Major goals of the Trusteeship system were to prepare for the advancement of the inhabitants of Trust Territories and their progressive development towards self-government or independence.

The Council comprises the United States, China, France, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom. Voting in the Trusteeship Council is by a majority of states present, each of which has one vote. The Council meets in annual sessions.

International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the UN, and its statute is an integral part of the Charter. The Court consists of 15 judges elected by the General Assembly and the Security Council. Judges are elected for nine-year terms and are eligible for re-election. No two judges may be nationals of the same state. The seat of the Court is at The Hague, Netherlands.

Only states may be parties in cases before the Court. The jurisdiction of the Court covers all questions which the parties refer to it, and all matters specifically provided for in the Charter. In 1945, 31 states established conventions in force. States may recognize as compulsory the Court's jurisdiction in all legal disputes concerning:

- the interpretation of a treaty,
- any question of international law,
- the existence of any fact which, if established, would constitute a breach of an international obligation, and
- the nature or extent of the reparation to be made in respect of a breach of an international obligation.

The Court's function is to decide, in accordance with international law, such disputes as are submitted to it. Though the volume of cases has been small, the Court has rendered important judgements in disputes relating to territorial questions, the law of the sea, commercial interests and property rights.

International Secretariat

Unlike under the League of Nations, the Secretariat of the United Nations is a principal organ of the Organization. The Secretary General comprises the Secretary General and such staff as the Organization may require. The Secretary General is appointed by the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Security Council. He is the Chief Administrative Officer of the entire Organization. Also unlike the League of Nations, the UN Secretary General has important political functions and a power of initiative. He makes an annual report to the General Assembly on the work of the Organization and, under Article 92 of the Charter, he may bring to the attention of the Security Council "any matter which, in his opinion, may affect the maintenance of international peace and security. In the early decades of the United Nations, when deadlock was so much a feature of the inter-governmental organs, it is the UN Secretary General painstakingly built up the political, diplomatic and humanitarian functions and strength of the Office to the stage where the incumbent has become chief spokesperson of the Organization and, indeed, of the United Nations. The present Secretary General has led the debate on renewal and restructuring the United Nations through his Agenda for Reform, for Development and a myriad of other declarations as the Organization prepares for a second half century.

As the administrative arm of the UN, the Secretariat employs a vast number of people across 195 countries. These individuals serve as clerks, translators, technologists, project directors, negotiators, diplomats, lawyers and more, and are often made up of the diverse range of geographic distribution and the size of national contributions to the UN. As well as on merit, many are selected on the basis of experience and qualifications. A number of them serve with their national government or outside authorities.

The first Secretary General of the UN was Trygve Lie from 1945 to 1953. Trygve was an economist and a diplomat. He was born in Stockholm, Sweden, on 13 December 1896. He was succeeded by Trygve Lie and then by Dag Hammarskjöld, of Sweden, served from 1953 until his death in a plane crash in 1961. After that, the United Nations was led by his personal Secretary General, and serving through to 1992.

On January 1, 1992, the Secretary General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali of Egypt, who was elected in 1991, took office. He retired in 1997 and was succeeded by Kofi A. Annan of Ghana, who served until 2006.

NB: This article deals with the United Nations, which is at the core of the United Nations system or "family." It does not cover the agencies and programmes such as UNESCO, FAO, etc., which will be covered in a separate issue.
On 19 February 1995, whilst skiing in the Troodos mountain range, a young Cypriot girl hit a rock and was thrown approximately 25 feet down a bank, hitting a tree. On examination, Sgt Ford found that the girl was not breathing. He applied mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and first aid, and then accompanied her to the Nicosia General Hospital, where she is currently making a recovery.

For saving the girl's life, Sgt Ford was awarded a Commendation from Commander British Forces Cyprus, Air Vice Marshal P Millar.