A part of a visit to a number of peace-keeping missions in the Middle East, Mr Luiz C da Costa, the Chief of the Personnel Management and Support Service, paid a familiarization visit to UNFICYP from 3 to 5 April 1997. The Personnel Management and Support Service is attached to the Field Administration and Logistics Division within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations at New York Headquarters. As the Chief of PMSS/FALD, Mr da Costa is responsible for planning and meeting the staffing requirements of 26 peacekeeping missions and field operations with a cumulative strength of over 10,000 international and local civilian personnel. PMSS/FALD plays a vital role in the successful functioning of field missions by providing the civilian staffing necessary to establish and maintain communications, transport, logistics and general administration in support of United Nations mandated objectives. PMSS is a multifarious operation, tasked with not only the responsibility for anticipating missions' staffing requirements, but for travel, personnel administration, policy review and coordination, training and mission orientation.

During his visit to UNFICYP, Mr da Costa met with senior officials of the Force, as well as with local and international staff committee members and the many civilian staff who keep the mission running. Mr da Costa also toured the Argentinian and British Sectors, and was provided with a brief view of the operational aspects of the mission.

This was Mr da Costa's first visit to Cyprus, and was a valuable opportunity to experience and see, first-hand, the realities and the challenges facing the mission.

The Blue Beret is the 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 historical events. Articles of general interest are invited from all members of the Force. Photographs, together with captions, should accompany the articles.

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FRONT COVER:
SAVE WATER!
Photo by Sgt Bobbie Lipsett

Mr da Costa (left) with Major Crawley on a Green Line tour

FORECE COMMANDER PRESENTS LSGC MEDALS
70 years of exemplary service was rewarded recently when the Force Commander, Major General EA de Vergara, presented two British and two Greek Cypriot Fire Fighters with their Long Service and Good Conduct (LSGC) medals. The recipients, WO2(RQMS) G Maizone RLC and Sstt CR Nelson RF, received their award for 15 years of irreplaceable service with the British Army Sub Officer M Hadjigeorgiou and Fire Fighter T Stylianou were commended for 20 years of irreplaceable service, during which they were employed at first with the SBA Fire Service and then with the United Nations Fire Service. The presentation took place at the WOs' & Ssgts' Mess in the UNPA, Nicosia.

Mr da Costa (centre) with local and international staff

The importance of natural resources, water being one of them, goes without saying. The water problem world-wide was discussed at the First World Water Forum held in Marrakech, Morocco, in March this year. The Conference was addressed by the UN Secretary-General, Mr Kofi Annan. We decided to publish this address in an attempt to emphasize the dimension of the problem on a worldwide scale, and to prove how many of the issues raised by him could actually be spotted in Cyprus.

"Water, water everywhere..." says one of the articles in this edition. In fact, just look around - the beautiful Mediterranean, the green, mountain areas, the well-watered gardens in your neighbourhood, or even just watching your neighbours cleaning their terraces or car - water seems to be everywhere with a constant, unlimited supply. Then one day, you turn on the tap and alas, there is no water! The reality hits you hard - the truth is that this beautiful island of Aphrodite has a very limited water supply. In fact, it is a common denominator in almost the entire region. The Authorities are doing their utmost to supply you with this precious, life-giving resource. Quite often, people do not take the situation seriously enough, and this is a grave mistake.

It is for this reason that we have devoted so much space in the present issue. Read the articles, think about them and set an example. We are guests on this island. In many ways, we contribute to the wellbeing of all Cypriots. Think twice before you turn a blind eye to water flowing down the drain for no reason whatever. The Force Engineer has come up with a lot of valuable advice - follow it, and always remember UNFICYP's Water Policy:

We Aim To Economise Relentlessly!

EDITORIAL

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SECRETARY-GENERAL'S STATEMENT TO THE FIRST WORLD WATER FORUM
MARRAKECH, MOROCCO, 22 MARCH 1997

Solving the problems of water allocation, distribution and sanitation will also require the strengthening of national capabilities in integrated water resources management while striking the right balance among the responsibilities of the public and private sectors, the input of civil society, and environmental protection. Pollution, which is growing at an alarming rate, must be discouraged through preventive measures, such as public campaigns and the identification of potential polluters. Monitoring networks should be established and maintained to provide all necessary information. The importance of flood prediction and protection cannot be over-emphasized.

It is relevant to recall on this occasion the main recommendations of the 1992 United Nations Conference on water and the environment, which gathered in Dublin, Ireland, more than 150 representatives of member states and world water specialists. The management of water resources must reconcile socio-economic development, technical constraints and protection of ecosystems through a combined use of land and water management and analysis of all possible alternatives.

First, the early involvement of users, planners and decision-makers in the planning and management process at the lowest possible level is a prerequisite for ensuring the sustainability of developments affecting water resources.

Third, women should play a central role in the management and protection of water resources.

Fourth, in all its uses, water is an economic good, with significant social value.

I assure you of the full support of the United Nations for these principles. The United Nations system has long been an advocate of sustainable water management practices and water resource protection. Its development projects, focusing on simple solutions, low-cost technologies and community participation have helped millions of people gain access to safe drinking water and sanitation services.

Water issues will be on the agenda of next month's session of the commission on sustainable development and in June at the special session of the General Assembly "Rio Plus Five" being held to review progress in the implementation of Agenda 21. At both these gatherings, member states will be presented with a comprehensive assessment of the freshwater resources of the world, undertaken by the United Nations system in cooperation with the Stockholm Environment Institute. The assessment constitutes a major contribution to our efforts to solve the complex issues surrounding integrated water resources management throughout the world. I urge you to give it your most serious attention.

To all of you here in Marrakech, I offer you my best wishes for a productive and successful outcome to your deliberations. The world's fragile and finite water resources - our common heritage - require our timely action, perseverance and commitment.

WATER IS PRICELESS - SAVE IT
by Major Hans Stor, Force Engineer

"Water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink..." This desperate saying could possibly have come from a shipwrecked sailor, floating on a tiny raft in the endless midst of the ocean. Although the island of Cyprus is little larger than a luffraid, the scenario itself does not seem so far-fetched. Let us have a look at the facts.

Geological Retrospect

Situated in the north eastern part of the Mediterranean Basin between 34 33 and 35 34° latitude and 32 16 and 34 37° longitude, Cyprus comprises a surface of 9,851 square kilometers, and is the third largest island in the Mediterranean, after Sicily and Sardinia.

The island's beginnings can be traced back some 85 million years when the Turoddos massif was formed, the core of which consists of mafic and ultramafic igneous rock, part of the oceanic lithosphere and upper mantle.

It is a dome-shaped and mainly infertile highland, forming the backbone of Cyprus and situated in the central western part of the island. The ancient basaltic dome is surrounded by basaltic pillow lavas and metamorphic rocks, with a high and valuable mineral content which has been mined throughout the ages. It is a region of high relief, rising up to 1,951 metres in Mount Olympus.

Several of the larger rivers that flow from the Troodos mountains have dams situated in strategic locations so as to catch and collect the precious water that would otherwise flow into the sea.

The Kyrenia mountains were formed by plate tectonic movements at about the same time as the Alps. They consist of a succession of mainly sedimentary formations, ranging from Permain to middle Miocenue in age. The oldest part consists of large slices of harder, recrystallized limestones and dolomites (one of which is the St Hilaron formation) which is Permian to Middle Cretaceous in age.
At the time that the Kyrenia range was formed, the sea level rose, hence the Troodos and Kyrenia mountains faced each other as two separate islands for a long period. When the sea level again descended, the drained, flat land between the two mountain ranges, known as the Messara Plain, was formed. This central plain is in the "rain shadow" of the Kyrenia mountains, and has a low relief not exceeding 180 m near Nicosia.

In course of time, rubble, gravel and various sands carried by the rivers from the Troodos and Kyrenia ranges filled the lowest parts of the plain. Hence it contains large quantities of fluvial-type sedimentary layers, which today work not only as a water reservoir, but also as an essential water filter. Excessive industrial exploitation of this natural resource causes an accelerated water flow of sea water into the aquifers under the inner parts of the island, which results in an increased proportion of salt contained within the underground water supply.

The coastlands of Cyprus can be seen as an appendix to the three geological main zones as described above. The soils are alluvial and most suitable for agriculture. The intense Mediterranean climate of the island (hot, dry summers from June to September and rainy, changeable winters from November to March) creates large seasonal and daily differences in the coastal and inland temperatures. In addition, the considerable focal thermic winds dry out the intensively used coastlands and plains. They undoubtedly play a key role in the island's water balance.

### The Cyprus Climate

The average annual total rainfall increases from less than 450 millimetres in the south west, some 1,100 millimetres in central Troodos. There is a steady decrease in rainfall from the north to the east to between 300 and 400 millimetres in the Mesara plain and the flat, south eastern parts of the island.

The Kyrenia range, which extends some 100 miles from west to east, contributes a minor source with a rainfall of slightly less than 600 millimetres along its ridge at about 1,000 metres above sea level. Occasional rainfall in the warm period do not contribute significantly to the water resources of the island. The water then is rapidly absorbed by the heated soil, and soon evaporates in conditions of high temperatures and low humidity.

Considering the given facts, Cyprus depends largely on precipitation and, to a very minor extent, on underground waters. The yearly amount of "surface water" available from dams is variable, and oscillates between 182 million cubic metres (minimum of 1972/1973), and 739 million cubic metres (maximum of 1968/1969). The average annual rainfall for Cyprus is about 450 millimetres. Snow, that only falls regularly in the Troodos area, is a most valuable water source, since its melting process during a longer period guarantees a constant water flow to the reservoirs.

### The Cyprus Water Policy

Within the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, it is the responsibility of the Water Development Department to plan, design and carry out "water projects". Despite the fact that governments come and go, the vital importance of development, exploration and safeguarding of the island's water resources has always been a major concern.

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A BRIEF ENCOUNTER WITH THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF CYPRUS - Part VIII

PAPHOS, on the westernmost coast of the island, has a great wealth of historical sites, legends and traditions. It is known for its historical landscapes and its varied flora and fauna. Its cultural treasures are almost unique, while its archaeological sites and historic monuments have been included in the World Cultural Heritage List of UNESCO since 1980.

Paphos was the name given to two distinct ancient cities, built at an interval of approximately one thousand years and at a distance of 16 km from each other.

- Paphos, also called Old Paphos, is the original city, named Paphos (Greek: Παφος) by the ancient Greeks. It was first mentioned in the works of Homer, who referred to it as Κουκουλοκάρτιας.

- The current city of Paphos, also called New Paphos, was founded by the Romans in 100 BC. It was later destroyed by an earthquake in 82 AD, and it was not until the early 20th century that it was rediscovered and excavated. It is now the most popular tourist destination on the island.

The old city of Paphos has always been closely connected with the worship of Aphrodite, who is said to have been born on its shores. The city was also the site of the ancient sanctuary of Aphrodite, which was built in honor of the goddess. The sanctuary was famous for its beautiful temples and statues, which were later destroyed by the Ottoman Turks.

The old city of Paphos was surrounded by walls and had a large walled courtyard, which was used for religious ceremonies and gatherings. The temple of Aphrodite was a prominent feature of the city, and it was said to have been the site of many important religious festivals and ceremonies.

The ruins of the Temple of Aphrodite at Paphos are still visible today, and they are a popular tourist attraction. The temple was dedicated to the goddess Aphrodite and was one of the most important religious sites in ancient Cyprus.

OLD PAFOS (PALAEPHAOS)

Old Pafos was famous for its Sanctuary of Aphrodite which attracted many pilgrims from Cyprus and abroad, since it was the most important shrine in ancient times. Homer, himself, quotes the Goddess as Phalan. A likely founder of the Sanctuary seems to be the king of Phalan kings who traced his ancestry to him. He was also mentioned in Homer’s Iliad as a king of Cyprus at the time of the Trojan War.

The old city of Pafos is situated on a rocky plateau about 16 km from Paphos (Ktima) on the Pafos-Limassol road. Old Pafos was inhabited from the 11th century BC until the end of the Middle Ages. During the Minoan and later the Mycenaean periods, the city was occupied by various peoples.

As mentioned earlier, the Palaephasos area was continuously inhabited from the 15th century BC until the end of the Middle Ages.

This fact was proven quite recently. Whilst the land was being levelled for agricultural purposes, a large number of subjects was excavated. A massage was conducted and the results were amazing. Tomb gifts when unearthed dating from the 11th century BC including pottery, bronze and iron weapons and vessels, gold ornaments and a bronze scraper with an inscription in the Cypriot syllabary - the earliest Greek inscription so far known in Cyprus. The rich remains are a very good indication of the wealth and prosperity of the city. However, apart from the tombs, not many architectural remains dating from that period have been found.

Pausanias, a 2nd century AD Greek writer, who made a compilation of the topography, history, legends, monuments, etc. of Cyprus, claims that King Agame- nor of Tegea in Arcadia, who was returning home from the Trojan War, was driven by bad weather to the island, where he built the city of the shrine of Aphrodite at Pafos.

The representations of the Temple of Aphrodite at Old Pafos are also important. The temple was dedicated to the goddess Aphrodite and was one of the most important religious sites in ancient Cyprus. The temple was built in honor of the goddess and was associated with many important religious festivals and ceremonies.

During the mediaeval period, the site of Old Pafos came to be known as the Royal Domain of the Lusignans. The Lusignans established their sugar refinery here. Part of it covered the temple site during the 15th and 16th centuries AD. An aqueduct carried water to this area and down to the coastal plain to the sugar mills.

Here they built an imposing manor house. They called it the Château de Louvois, or the Royal Manor of Palaephasos.

Photographs by courtesy of the Department of Antiquities

Royal Covode. During the Turkish rule, the place became a Gufik (farm) of considerable size, and the manor house was used for storage, houses, etc. All that survives of the original Frankish structure is the stately Gothic hall in the east wing, with four bays distinguished by the walls of French-style arches.

The manor is now a museum, the prize display of which is the fertility stone of Aphrodite. Besides this, there are objects found in the area, including terracotta figurines, weapons, jewellery and an epigraphical collection with fragments engraved in the still undeciphered Cypro-Minoan syllabic script. It also has two baths and a number of mosaics.
The UNPA SWIMMING POOL

by Capt Ronan McHugh

The UNPA Swimming Pool is the main physical training resource and welfare facility available to UNFICYP personnel and their families. The pool is especially popular between June and September when temperatures can reach 40 degrees Celsius. Jogging and other forms of training are not really practical or, indeed, advisable in this heat.

In 1995, the Swimming Pool was relaunched by the Chief of Mission, Mr Gustave Feissel, under a new management arrangement. Since then, it has been run by a committee chaired by the Chief Personnel & Logistics Officer, Lt Col Horatczuk. The committee is made up of representatives from units in the UNPA, the Essential Service Group (British Related Site management), UNFICYP HQ specialist staff and civilian members representing staff and family interests.

The Swimming Pool committee oversees:
- Fund raising.
- Issue of membership cards and collection of subscriptions.
- Safety management, training and rostering of lifeguards.
- Maintenance of pool and poolside amenities.
- Procurement of pool accessories.

The list of priorities for pool use are as follows:
- Physical training (military and civilian staff members).
- Welfare (recreational own time use).
- Social (members and guests).

These priorities reflect the military requirements to provide facilities to ensure the physical fitness of personnel and maintain troop welfare and morale.

CENTRE OF TRAINING

Swimming and water training have featured prominently in the UNFICYP training calendar. In the past, the following are some of the activities/events which have been held in the pool:
- Supervised daily morning training sessions.
- Swimming competitions run by AUSCON.
- Military skills competition (swimming events) run by Camp Command.
- Military pentathlon (obstacle swim).
- Water polo.
- Sub aqua training.
- Life saving courses.
- Water safety classes.
- Dinghy survival training (helicopter crash procedure for UN Flight).

In addition to these training uses, UNFICYP members have organised:
- Swim schools for children (and adults).
- Charity sponsored swims.

FAMILY MEETING PLACE

Of course, the social side should not be forgotten. UNFICYP has always been a model of international integration. As part of this ethos, families of personnel (civilian and military) are encouraged to mix socially. The pool has always been the favourite centre for meeting during the hot summer months. Poolside parties and pool carnivals have been a great success over the years.

For most people on the UNPA, the pool opening symbolises the start of summer. To celebrate this and encourage everyone to support the pool, a Grand Pool Opening Party took place on 16 April.

MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY

There is, of course, a lot more to opening the pool than simply organising a party. A lot of background work goes on during the winter months and in the weeks preceding the opening. Besides annual maintenance, there is an environmental clean-up and repainting of facilities.

Camp Command is the co-ordinating unit responsible for training lifeguards and poolside supervisors. Over the years, all units have cooperated in the task of ensuring everyone’s safe enjoyment by providing volunteer water safety supervisors at the pool.

FINANCE

UNFICYP is very fortunate to have this excellent resource available in the UNPA. It is run on a voluntary basis for the good and enjoyment of all.

The water used to fill the pool is 100% recycled. Waste water arising from the emptying of high level water storage tanks for scheduled cleaning and maintenance is filtered and run off into the UNPA pool. To remain economically viable, everything depends on your support and subscriptions. We hope to see you there soon.

VISIT OF ARGENTINIAN MINISTER OF DEFENCE

On 24 and 25 March 1997, ARGCON was visited by Mr Jorge Dominguez, the Argentinian Minister of Defence. On his first visit to Cyprus, Mr Dominguez’ intention was to meet and share some time with the Argentinian forces deployed with UNFICYP. He was accompanied by Major General Brinzi, the Chief Operations Officer in the Argentinian Army General Staff responsible for peacekeeping operations.

On 24 March, Mr Dominguez and General Brinzi were received by a Guard of Honour at HQ UNFICYP, and were met by the Force Commander, Major General EA de Vergara and the CO Sector One, Lt Col RJ Barni. After meeting Argentinian officers stationed in HQ UNFICYP, Mr Dominguez visited the Chief of Mission, following which he received a briefing by the Chief of Staff. He then visited UN Flight, and at 1000 hrs, he was taken by helicopter to San Martin Camp. There he inspected a guard of honour, and also visited all three camps under Sector One’s area of responsibility, including Bravo and Charlie Coy and a number of important OPs. On his return to Nicosia, the Minister was taken on a Green Line Tour, escorted by CO Sector Two, Lt Col RNK Eggar, and a number of British officers. Prior to his appointment as Minister of Defence, Mr Dominguez held the post of Mayor of Buenos Aires city.

TALKING ABOUT WATER...

The water shortage is a well known issue on the island of Cyprus. Water supply is one of the greatest problems in the western part of Sector One, and on several occasions, tanks of water have to be towed from Boca Camp to different OPs along the track.

On 15 February at 1030 hours, a serious problem arose. A truck towing a trailer carrying a water tank was on its way to OP 17 when the rain began. The rainwater affected the terrain so badly that the vehicles became firmly entrenched in the mud and then slowly, they started moving backwards. In order to avoid the worst, the driver applied the brakes and engaged the gears, and his co-driver quickly unhooked and released the trailer, which inevitably slipped over the side of the mountain, approximately 20 m down.

When the rain stopped, Support Coy organised a patrol in an attempt to recover the trailer and water tank. With a 70% incline, this was not an easy job, however after persevering for four hours, and using strategy more than force, they succeeded.

Sector One personnel hauling the trailer and water tank back up the mountain side by pulley.

This just goes to show that whatever the nationality of a soldier may be, he must be accustomed to hard work and be able to deal with any situation as it arises.

Sector One continues to supply water to the western OPs in their area of responsibility.
32 Regiment Royal Artillery, Sector Two Rowathon in Aid of the Bi-Communal Fund

by Bdr Ian Griffin

Early in January 1997, Bdr Gary Keens and I were in the gym in the Ledra Palace Hotel. We are both regular users of the Concept Two rowing machines, and we decided to initiate a charity event using this equipment.

The idea of rowing around the coast of Cyprus in 24 hours sprung to mind - approximately 780 km. Obviously we couldn't cover the whole distance on our own, so it was necessary to enlist the help of others - but who? Surprisingly, 18 people volunteered in one way or another, and the CO, QM and Adjutant agreed to start off the rowing.

The whole event gradually began to take shape. Sponsorship forms were handed out and stag lists (rosters) were made. In addition, a letter was sent to Gatorade, a sports rehydration drinks company, in a (successful) attempt to obtain sponsorship for the proceedings.

Following a number of setbacks, the day finally arrived and an hour or so was spent setting everything up. Our fears of not having a sufficient number of rowers were quickly dispelled. At 0945 hrs, we were ready to go, and at 1000 hrs, the CO, QM and Adjutant sat off on the first 30 minute stag. A blistering pace was set up, with 20 km being clocked up between the three of them.

The halfway point was reached at 2000 hrs. By this time, there were quite a few tired people around - and there was a hard day's night ahead of us! The target of 780 km was reached at 0511 hrs - a time of 19 hrs 11 mins, but instead of stopping, we decided we would go for the 1,000 km mark, which would mean a lot of hard work until the end.

The Rowathon finished with 967.818 km completed, just short of the 1,000 km mark. Despite this, it was a resounding success with 14 ladies and 44 men taking part. I think that everyone enjoyed themselves, even though a few have vowed never to get on a rowing machine again.

Nearly Î£250 have been raised for the bi-communal fund.

The Blue Beret

April 1997

A Word from Austcipvpol

AUSTCIVPOL is the Australian Civilian Police Contingent deployed on the island as part of the United Nations Force in Cyprus. AUSTCIVPOL is comprised of 20 members, who are currently serving Police Officers within the Australian Federal Police Service (AFP).

With a workforce of 2,800 personnel, the AFP is the primary law enforcement agency through which the Commonwealth of Australia pursues its law enforcement interests. It is unique in Australian law enforcement in that its functions relate both to community policing and to investigations of offences against Commonwealth law which involve law enforcement in Australia and overseas and to the protection of high office holders, the safeguarding of witnesses and the provision of policing expertise to meet the Commonwealth's UN commitments and international law enforcement obligations.

The AFP has a head office in Canberra and regional offices in every Australian state and territory, including a community policing structure which serves the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) under an arrangement with the ACT Government. It has liaison posts in 15 cities in 13 countries, a representative attached to Interpol in Lyons and provides members for the United Nations Peace-keeping Operation in Cyprus. Police services are also supplied for Commonwealth territories of Christmas Island, Cocos Islands, Norfolk Island and Jervis Bay.

The function of AUSTCIVPOL in Cyprus is to provide the UN Force Commander with a non-military option to be used in fulfilling the UNFICYP mission. AUSTCIVPOL is responsible for all reported or detected incidents involving citizens or their property in the UN Buffer Zone, Sectors One and Two and to provide an independent and neutral liaison point between the Cypriot Police and Turkish Cypriot Police Element in those matters which cross community borders.

The level of policing experience within the current AUSTCIVPOL contingent ranges from 10 to 40 years with individual members having served with UN contingents in Somalia, Cambodia, Mozambique and Haiti.

While in Cyprus, AUSTCIVPOL members are unarmed and devoid of a power of arrest. This in itself is a major adjustment from the policing role in Australia, where all operational police are armed.

Instead, emphasis on policing the Buffer Zone in Cyprus is centred on negotiation and liaison. A recent incident within Sector One highlighted the capabilities of AUSTCIVPOL and the benefit of utilizing negotiation skills to avoid conflict. The incident started as a civilian breach of the Buffer Zone, which escalated into military involvement. However, the negotiations between AUSTCIVPOL, civilians and military personnel ensured a peaceful resolution to the situation. Who says the Aussies don't have a smooth tongue?!

Although only one of the members is fluent in a second language, genuine attempts at communicating result in some interesting and comical conversations. Some AUSTCIVPOL members are starting Spanish lessons with members of ARCON to further enhance a good working relationship.

The combined balance of professionalism, genuine friendship and humour all contribute to the successful policing role of AUSTCIVPOL in Cyprus.

Cyprus Road Race Series

Between 12 Feb and 26 Mar 97, 32 Regt RA entered teams into the Cyprus Road Race series, a 5-race series running over distances varying from 5 to 15 miles. It is a hard fought and physically demanding set of races with competitors from all Sectors of the UN and SBA's taking part. Sector Two teams (one male and one female) were made up from all elements of 32 Regt.

The men's team (pictured right) came first in the first race, covering a distance of over 8 miles in Dhekelia, and then managed to come second in the subsequent races. The ladies' team came a creditable third place over the whole series of races, achieving two team 2nd places and a 5th. A good result for all team members taking part.
Lt Col Luis Longar was born in 1953 in the province of San Luis, central Argentina. He joined the Air Force in 1973 and attended the Military Aviation School (EAM). He graduated four years later, gaining the rank of 2/Lt. In December 1977, he completed the Military Pilot's course, obtaining his "wings".

The following year, he was assigned to the 711th Air Brigade where he took the Helicopter Pilot's Course (HPC). As a Lt, he worked as an HPC instructor and he also completed his first tour in the Antarctic.

In 1982, he participated in the South Atlantic Conflict and carried out search and rescue missions, being the first to rescue a pilot during one of the night operations. He is also the Argentinian Air Force's pilot who completed most combat missions during the Conflict, 28 in total.

In 1987, he was promoted to the rank of Captain and was commissioned into the Retirement Air Force where he flew the Russian helicopter MI 25 HIND. In the same year, he became Chief of the 2nd Tactical Squadron.

In 1991, he was posted to the Armed Forces Antarctic Joint Staff as Chief of the Air Force Component. From 1994 to 1996, he was assigned to the Air Force HQ where he worked as chief of the International Agreement Division and Adviser in helicopter operations.

Lt Col Longar is married to Maria Cristina, and they have four daughters, Maria Cecilia (5), Maria Sofia (9), Maria Guadalupe (11) and Maria Lucila (14).

However, in his UN family, he has 13 sons - the members of UN FLIGHT VI.

**Visit of Dr Henry Berger**

On 13 March 1997, AUSCON was paid a short courtesy visit by Dr Henry Berger. Dr Berger was Adviser to the SRSG in Cyprus from 1978 to 1981. Then a citizen of the former German Democratic Republic, he was appointed for two reasons - first, his academic qualifications (economics and philosophy) and second, the former GDR had just become a member of the UN and was starting to participate in UN missions.

Although this was a personal visit to the island, Dr Berger met a number of the officers serving in Sector Four, since he had close ties with AUSCON during his tour of duty with UNFICYP.

Dr Berger briefed Sector Four personnel on the experience he gained whilst on the island, and expressed the sincere hope that a solution to the Cyprus problem will soon be found.

**UNFICYP Mini Rugby**

For the past 12 months, mini rugby has been played and enjoyed by young boys who are dependants of members of UNFICYP. Within the last two months, the squad featured right has been depleted due to families returning to their home countries.

Nevertheless, sessions are held every Thursday at 15.30 hrs on the sports pitches in the UNPA. All are most welcome - open to any budding Will Carling between the ages of 9 and 16 years. Interested parties should register their boys with PROM on Ext 359412.

**The Austrian Field Post Office**

The average time of delivery is two to three days to Austria, and four to five days to European countries. Of course, a great deal depends on the flight schedules of Austrian Airlines, the Austrian national carrier.

The service is vital for soldiers to keep in communication with home. From September to December 1996, 5,000 kg of mail was handled and stamps totalling C55,500 were sold.

In 1989, when the Nobel Peace prize was awarded to United Nations personnel serving around the world, the Austrian postal authorities issued a commemorative stamp depicting this event.

L-R: Mark O'Neill, Santiago and Manuel Rogas-Garay, Edward Rees, Killian Whelan, Adam O'Neill and Fernando Marin
UN OBSERVATION POST IN THE AUSTRIAN SECTOR

Photograph by Sgt Bobbie Lipsett