

The Blue Beret

April 2002



Visit by Slovak
Head of State



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Tel: 22864550/22864416/22864408
Fax: 22864461

E-mail: blueberetcyprus@hotmail.com
Web site: www.unficyp.org

Editorial Team

Brian Kelly
Maj. Dezső Kiss
Miriam Taylor

Photography

MSgt. Michal Zurbola
Contingent Photographers

Unit Press Officers

Sector 1	Capt. Miguel del Castillo
Sector 2	Capt. Lou Burt
Sector 4	Lt. Michal Miškay
UNCIVPOL	Garda Martin Hennigan Supt. Peter Holder
HQ UNFICYP	WO2 Dusty Miller
UN Flt	1/Lt Alejandro Gitlin
MFR	Capt. Pablo Petrocelli
FMPU	Capt. Keith Scott

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Global Ageing Meets the Beatles

Global ageing is not a topic young soldiers might be expected to ponder at the end of a day spent testing their military skills. Yet, the steady increase of older age groups in national populations, in absolute numbers and in relation to the working age population, has direct relevance for us all.

By the year 2050, the number of older persons in the world (those aged 60 and above), will exceed the number of young for the first time in history. This inversion of a hitherto demographic status quo already happened in the world's industrialised or more developed regions back in 1998.

Over the last 50 years, average life expectancy has increased by 20 years to 66. Expect to add another 10 years to that by the middle of this century. In the coming 50 years, the number of older people is likely to increase from around 600 million to almost 2,000 million. Most of this age-growth will happen in the developing countries where the older population is expected to quadruple in size by the year 2050.

The proportions of old to young have been shifting all through the 20th century – 8 per cent in 1950, 10 per cent in 2000 and now projected to reach 21 per cent in 2050. So how does that affect us all?

Think of this: In 1950, there were 12 workers for every older person. That is 12 people with the ability to help support older persons through pension and social security contributions. By 2000, there were nine. By 2050, the number is expected to drop to only four.

The Secretary-General said it best when, opening the Second World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid early this month, he asked: "Will you still need me, will you still feed me, when I'm 64?"

Makes you think, doesn't it?

Editorial

Front Cover: President Rudolf Schuster of the Republic of Slovakia

Photograph by Maj. Dezsó Kiss

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Slovak Head of State Visits UNFICYP

The President of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Rudolf Schuster, visited UNFICYP Headquarters on 23 April in the course of his two-day visit to the island.

He was received by the Chief of Mission, Mr. Zbigniew Wlosowicz, and by the Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang and inspected a Guard of Honour. The President and delegation, including Slovak Republic Ambassador to Cyprus, H.E. Mr. Dusan Rozbora, and the Commander of the General Staff of the Slovak Armed Forces, Lt. Gen. Milan Cerovsky, were then briefed by the Chief of Mission and Chief of Staff, Col. Hamish Fletcher. Afterwards, the Chief of Mission presented President Schuster with a plaque commemorating his visit, while President Schuster gave Mr. Wlosowicz a crystal bowl.

Subsequently, President Schuster met informally over coffee and light refreshments with members of the Slovak Contingent, who assembled at the UNPA under Contingent Commander, Lt. Col. Stefan Faix.

The President's visit to Cyprus was the first by the Slovak Republic's head of state.



CIT Meeting held in Cyprus

This year, the Communications and Information Technology (CIT) Planning Meeting took place in Cyprus. The meeting was attended by senior UN HQ staff and Chief CITs from every peacekeeping mission in the world. It proved, once more, to be a productive and constructive convention, at which global planning, new technology and best practices were shared among all participants.

During the first part of the meeting, Mr. Steve Lieberman, from the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, explained the conceptual and structural changes that the organisation is currently implementing and what additional changes are being planned for the future.

Discussions were held on a number of topics, from the enhanced support provided to the field by FALD's Logistics and Communications Section, and the deve-

lopment and implementation of a new procurement system, to technology developments and new products available on the market.

The second week was dedicated to training. The course, entitled "Disaster Recovery Planning for the Enterprise", aimed at identifying communications and information technology system weaknesses and how to implement appropriate counter-measures to prevent and mitigate failure risks.



Press Conference by Alvaro de Soto, Ledra Palace Hotel - Nicosia, 8 April 2002

Good afternoon,

I haven't seen you for many months and I thought I owe it to you to say a few words as I have just come back from New York after a break in the talks. I just came from what you might describe as a midpoint review by the Secretary-General on the progress in the talks. By midpoint, what the Secretary-General meant is approximately halfway between the date at which the direct meetings began on 16 January and the date of June, which both leaders have spoken of as a goal for conclusion of their task.

We thought it would be a useful time to review where we stand. While I was in New York I met with the Secretary-General – on three separate occasions. He took time out of his extremely busy schedule to examine this matter to which he attributes high priority. I also briefed the members of the Security Council in informal consultations – this was last Thursday. You will, undoubtedly, have seen the statement that was read on behalf of the members of the Security Council by the President of the Council in which they have registered a number of points.

Perhaps I should begin though, before referring to it specifically, with the good and more salient points that were actually discussed with the Security Council and with the Secretary-General by me.

The first, of course, is that they are meeting. The second is that they are meeting in a positive atmosphere. The third is that the talks among themselves are largely lacking in rhetoric. The fourth is that in conformity with one of the rules that have been in place since the proximity talks in the year 2002, they have eschewed labels and they are therefore approaching their task in a constructive spirit. That is from the positive side.

On the negative side, the Security Council has registered its concern that progress is slow, particularly slow if one is mindful of the target that was set. And secondly, that the progress needs to be intensified, that it is very important that the leaders should address with a sense of urgency, political determination and flexibility and in a spirit of give and take, the task at hand. They have

repeated their strong support to the Secretary-General and myself and they also appealed to the two leaders to look to the Secretary-General and to myself in providing to them assistance in their search for progress on the substance. Having said this, you all know what the state of affairs is except, of course, on the substance.

They have had 22 meetings in approximately 10 weeks of talks – they have been meeting on a fairly regular basis – and there are some adjustments as we go along. I continue to believe that there are grounds for optimism that they can indeed complete their task for a comprehensive settlement.

I think I should also mention on the positive side that, by and large, there has been little leakage of what goes on inside the talks – or what leakage there has been has not yet come to the point where it could actually endanger the talks. I have not gone in to the substance in these introductory words and that, as you know, is perfectly deliberate. It is how things should be. It is not desirable that what is actually being discussed in the talks on a day-to-day basis gets debated in public, especially as the rule that is frequently applicable to negotiations such as these is that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed. Therefore, if bits and pieces of what is being discussed are to come out, it is misleading because the readers, the public at large, and the viewers in the case of TV and listeners in the case of radio, will not know how to interpret these bits and pieces because they will be seeing them or hearing them and reading them out of context.

Having said this and within these tight confines, I will be happy to take your questions.

Question: Are you ready to present plans, informal papers?

de Soto: We are prepared to assist the parties in whatever way is required. Whether it is substantial or procedural. I will leave it at that.

Question: Are you ready to give ideas in respect of intensifying the talks?

de Soto: I think I just answered that question.

Question: Did you ask the opinion

of the two leaders on whether they want you to provide help/assistance?

de Soto: I don't feel the need to ask that question of them, because that was put to them by the members of the Security Council.

Question: Do you want to change your position at the negotiating table?

de Soto: I think I already, to some extent, addressed that point: the two leaders agreed to hold direct meetings. This is what they have agreed to do. They also agreed that this should be at the invitation of the Secretary-General, who acts within the framework of his good offices mandate. Let's keep it fluid and flexible. I frequently meet separately with the two leaders, and I can assure you that there is a free flow of substance in both directions.

Question: You say there's grounds for optimism on completing the task by June, but the negatives override the positive points of what you quoted just now. What grounds are you basing your optimism upon?

de Soto: I will try to answer that question. The grounds are, first of all, a careful reading of the interests of all concerned which leads me to believe that they should want a solution. Secondly, I am convinced that solutions are available to all of the problems that are at issue. The third is my reliance on the wisdom of the two leaders, who are actually conducting the process. I think they both realize that this window of opportunity must be seized, and that they would have a lot to answer for if they did not succeed. These are my reasons for optimism.

Question: According to the Turkish newspaper, *Hurriyet*, Ankara will announce measures regarding Cyprus. How will such a move affect your efforts?

de Soto: Well, obviously, there is plenty to do and there is room for movement on all sides in this negotiation that is likely to take still quite some time. All that I can say is that I have gone over many times with each of the two leaders the problems involved and I am not, of course, the philosophical stone, but I think that I have been able to suggest some areas in which movement by one or the other side would propel us forward.

I have gone over much of the same

ground in wide-ranging substantive discussions that I have had in both Ankara and Athens. I cannot give you any specifics about these talks; I can only hope that indeed, in the course of the talks, starting tomorrow, 9 April, that there will be movement such as will take us in the direction of a comprehensive settlement.

Question: If the two leaders do not reach a solution by June, do you see Cyprus entering the EU?

de Soto: Well, Cyprus' accession to the EU is really outside my purview. But let me say this that June is not a deadline – in the sense that a guillotine will fall or that everything will fail if no solution is found. Mr. Denktash was the first to speak about June as the date for completion of negotiations and Mr. Clerides shared that objective with him in separate statements that he made. I think that the Members of the Security Council have taken this in all fairness as a target. They have both mentioned the possibility of a reunified Cyprus acceding to the EU. Obviously, the sooner the issues that have a bearing for the accession to the EU are addressed, the better. It will be highly desirable for those purposes among others, that an agreement should occur if possible in June. If it happens in early July, it will still be good. But I repeat that we are not talking about a deadline, but a target.

Question: The UN Security Council statement refers to solution begin within the framework of UN resolutions. What makes you say that they will stick to this framework?

de Soto: Well, actually the Security Council refers to various things – it refers to the agreement that was reached between the two leaders to start this series of direct meetings on 4 December 2001, and it refers to the Secretary-General's mandate of good offices under Resolution 1250, and, in this last statement, to the need for a comprehensive settlement taking full consideration of relevant United Nations resolutions and treaties, which happens to be the language of Resolution 1250.

Question: In reference to presenting informal papers or ideas, do you mean you will present these in separate meetings and not at the

negotiating table?

de Soto: I really don't think, if you forgive me for editorializing – I am not sure it's terribly important what the UN does in all of this – because the agreement has to be reached between the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots – I don't want to say or do anything that in any way blurs the ownership of, or responsibility for, negotiating the settlement, which falls upon the two leaders. That's why I am a little bit vague on this subject.

Question: What will be the pattern of meetings?

de Soto: As of now there is no variation to the pattern they have agreed on in the last round, of Friday mornings and Tuesday afternoons – when there is one, we will let you know.

Question: Will there be a break? Mr. Denktash has said that he would be away later this month.

de Soto: Well, I think your question contains its own answer – I understand he will only be away for a few days at that time.

Question: Listening to the other two persons in the talks, they seem terribly pessimistic; you seem optimistic. Can you enlighten us on what your grounds for optimism are? It is very perplexing.

de Soto: Yes, it is indeed, and I am not sure whether I can enlighten you – the short answer is no, I cannot enlighten you. However, as an answer to the previous question, my optimism reflects the underlying grounds for optimism that I have, but this has to be tempered with the concerns that exist because of the difficulty that has arisen with the capacity of the leaders in coming together and actually making the kind of progress on substance that is needed, if they are to conclude their efforts within the window of opportunity

that is now open.

Question: How can you force them to make the negotiations go well? We need progress!

de Soto: I agree entirely with you that progress is needed, but unfortunately the capacity that I have to force – which is your word – is nil, none, I cannot force them in any way, but having regard to my intimate conviction that their interests, as well as others concerned, lies in achieving a settlement and having regard to the opportunity that exists now, the sense of urgency as impressed upon them by the members of the Security Council, should simply be a matter of consequence and logic and I hope that all will draw the right conclusions.

Question: The Greek press says that you criticized Mr. Denktash in your briefing to the Security Council. Is this true?

de Soto: I have criticized no-one.

Thank you all very much.



UN Flight Tech Squad's Proud Record



Today's excellent flight safety records are in part due to the tough quality controls that regulate aircraft factory processes, including design, assembly, and certification flights. Once this stage has finished, however, operating an aircraft safely throughout its life relies on maintenance.

In fact, without maintenance, a well-designed aircraft has no value at all. That's something that the team responsible for UN Flight ARGAIR maintenance duties – the Technical Squadron (Tech Squad) – understands very well.

With 14 members, the Squad includes one aeronautical engineer, a senior Bell helicopter mechanic, a senior Hughes helicopter mechanic, eight mechanics and three avionics technicians. Together, the team has vast experience, since service in Argentina means participating in a variety of missions in every kind of climate.

Each summer, for example, Argentina supports the scientists who work in Antarctica. Two B-212 helicopters (the same kind that operates here in Cyprus) have to be disassembled and shipped to Antarctica in a C-130 Hercules cargo plane. Once there, they are re-assembled, and fly about 200 hours to supply the scientific camps. In March, the maintenance team must once again disassemble the "helos", for the return to their base in Buenos Aires.

This experience was drawn on here in Cyprus in 1998, when UNFICYP replaced a Hughes 500 helicopter with a

Bell 212 helicopter sent from Argentina via a C-130. The plane landed at Larnaca Airport at 10:30 pm; by 8:30 am, the Tech Squad had the helicopter ready for its test flight.

Other environments for the Tech Squad include Argentina's Patagonia region, where they provide support to fire fighting. Because of the great amount of airborne dust and ash, the technicians have to pay particular attention to engine functions. In Argentina's Mesopotamia region, meanwhile, most of the flights are made over water because of floods, once again providing tough working conditions.

Since 1994, the proud record of the Tech Squad in Cyprus has been its support for more than 7,750 flight hours without any incidents or accidents. During this time, the team has handled almost 80 scheduled inspections, including 20 300-hour inspections of the Hughes 500 helicopter, and one 1,000-hour inspection of the Bell 212. The squad has also performed several unscheduled tasks, such as engine and transmission replacement, and change of rotors.

So, the next time you fly in a UN Flight ARGAIR helicopter, leave your fears on the ground. Our pilots and the Technical Squad will give you a pleasant and safe flight: that's our mission!

South American Culture

Coca - A Sacred Leaf

Coca was one of the first cultivated crops in the Americas. The indigenous peoples of the Andes believe that coca is a gift from the Sun God. Since early times it has embodied many values, from gift-giving to elaborate rituals. Today, millions of Andean people continue to chew coca and drink coca tea. Andean farmers, workers, students and truck drivers use coca to ward off sleep, hunger and thirst, similar to the use of coffee as a mild stimulant in the US and elsewhere. The leaf is also used in special ceremonies and communal rites, as an important medium for social integration and human solidarity.

It is important to distinguish between coca and cocaine. Coca, whose domestication dates back four to six thousand years, is the sacred leaf of the Andean people. Cocaine is a European invention of 130 years ago, and is a harmful drug that causes serious problems throughout the world.

Coca has acted as a medicine for the indigenous peoples of the Andes for centuries. Dysentery, ulcers, and

indigestion are among the many ills that coca cures or alleviates. Coca is indeed a godsend among the harsh and high environments of the Andes, as it relieves altitude sickness and gives a sense of increased energy and strength.

Unlike corn or rice, the main crops of the South American tropics, coca easily grows on the steep slopes and poor soils typical of some countries there, and yields three to four harvests per year. The coca plant is very hardy and requires no chemicals such as pesticides or herbicides. It is lightweight, very transportable, and most importantly, it is easy to sell: there is always a market for the leaf.

The coca leaf has been industrialized into more than 30 different products, from shampoo and toothpaste to a variety of medicines. Unfortunately, it is prohibited to export these products to external markets due to the criminalization of the coca leaf. Ironically, the only legal importer of coca is the Stephan Co. of the United States. They import 175,000 kilos of leaves annually to manufacture in anaesthetics and flavourings for Coca Cola.



Three Kids And A Goat - Life in the MFR

Have you ever wondered how the soldiers of the Mobile Force Reserve spend their days? How about helping a goat give birth to triplets, and rescuing building contents from imminent floods? There's also marking the patrol track, saving the UNPA asparagus supply from destruction and, of course, our key tasks of security, patrols and refurbishment.

Whatever the task, it's all in a day's work for the "MFR".

Many readers of *The Blue Beret* will be familiar with the MFR personnel on duty at the gates into the UNPA, but the unit actually has responsibility for assisting all three sectors throughout the Buffer Zone.

This is also reflected in our personnel: soldiers from Britain, Arg-



course, in regular security duties, such as the UNPA access gates. The soldiers on gate duty appreciate that many of the HQ staff often stop for a chat, especially over the holiday

for their support and helpfulness.

A major MFR project was the considerable effort put into refurbishing the International Bar. Bdr. Glen Fulcher was instrumental in the transformation. The Bar now boasts new lights, a new floor, pictures, signed sports shirts, a superb stock of food and drink, film nights (in several languages), rugby afternoons, live bands, and many other improvements. It is a bar for all and, judging by the attendance, everyone enjoys spending time there.

It will soon be time for the MFR to say goodbye to some of the soldiers from Argentina, Hungary and Slovakia. They will be missed, but they take with them best wishes from their friends in the MFR, as well as many invitations to "give me a call if you are ever in ..."

The MFR looks forward to welcoming their replacements. They too will find that the aims of integration, of a busy and varied tour of duty, and of time spent in the mission making a difference, are the MFR's driving force.



entina, Slovakia and Hungary work side by side in the company. Each country's soldiers arrive at and depart from the mission at different times, wear different uniforms and celebrate different traditions, but they share a common goal of working as a professional unit to achieve our mission.

The period since December 2001 has seen the MFR deploy on a wide variety of tasks. Because the MFR can be called upon to patrol in every sector, each soldier in the company has relished the opportunities to see the whole Buffer Zone, via road, foot and helicopter. The Armoured Personnel Carrier platoon has proven the route from the UNPA to Kokkina by Tactica (the Argentinian patrol vehicle), a trip that is not for the faint-hearted. Soldiers also participated in crowd control training, the preparation of the Conference Centre used in the talks, and, of

period. Thanks also to all the platoon and troop locations that have made the MFR patrols feel at home with their genuine hospitality. And a tip of the hat to everyone at the Headquarters and all three Sectors





Sgt. S. Taylor (centre) parading the Battle Axe



The parade drummers

Battle Axe Day Traditions Upheld in Cyprus

For 32 Regt RA, 24 February is known as Battle Axe Day. On this day in 1809, on the Caribbean island of Martinique, 74 Battery won the honorary title of “The Battle Axe Company” when the French force presented the Battery with a Pioneer’s Battle Axe as a trophy of war. The Battle Axe has been paraded every year since 1809 on the anniversary of the battle to mark the winning of the battle honour – a tradition even maintained during both World Wars.

Although 74 Battery “The Battle Axe Company” Royal Artillery found itself on Buffer Zone peacekeeping duties in Sector 2 West on 24 February 2002, tradition was once again upheld. The Battle Axe Company paraded 30 soldiers and the Battle

Axe party, commanded by Sgt. MarkSim and including Gnr. Michelle Field, the Battle Axe party’s first female soldier.

The largest man in the battery traditionally carries the Battle Axe, and is permitted to wear whiskers as a sign of this honour. Sgt. Taylor paraded the Battle Axe for the members of the battery this year, as he has done for the four previous anniversaries.

Capt. Tom Foss-Smith commanded the parade, during which LBdr. Alan Keenleyside piped the tune of the Highland Cathedral from his vantage point high on the roof of UN Building 51 while the Battle Axe was being paraded. Following the solemn ceremony, participants and invited guests enjoyed an all-ranks lunch.

74 Battery “The Battle Axe Company” Royal Artillery would like to thank all those who helped in the organisation and success of the parade.

Sky of Hope Youth Festival

UNDER THE SAME SKY OF HOPE, was held at Ledra Palace Hotel on Saturday 13th April 2002. The festival is primarily a youth concert organised by a number of political parties from both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities.

Just under 5,000 people turned up to watch the afternoon’s entertainment that included a bi-communal choir, folk dancing from both north and south of the Buffer Zone, a Turkish Cypriot rock band and Greek rock band Magic De Spell. There were also speeches from the political parties that organised the event.

The festival is very popular with both communities and has now turned into an annual event at the Ledra Palace Hotel.



Sector 2 Civil Affairs team helped organise the event, with much cooperation from Sector 2 East, MFR and UNCIVPOL who provided 20 policemen and women to deal with the security at the gates to the venue.

After nearly six hours on our feet in the Cyprus sun, the festival ended at 1930 hrs, just as a slight drizzle was in the air. The concert was deemed a great success, both bicommunally and operationally.

Service of Commemoration for Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother



On the evening of 9 April, a Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving for the life and service of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother was held in St. Columba’s Church within the UNPA. Over 130 people of different nationalities, including the Chief of Mission, the Force Commander and the Chief of Staff, were present at the service.

The attendance of so many people clearly showed how much the Queen Mother was respected and admired. Prayers were offered for the royal family.

Rev. James Aitchison

Dinos Leaves UN After 38 Years of Service

Sector 2 bade a fond farewell to Mr. Panayiotou Dionysios on 28 February 2002. Known to all as Dinos, Mr. Dionysios was a popular and well-known figure within the Ledra Palace Hotel complex, thanks to his 38 years of unbroken and loyal service with the British Forces Cyprus and later with BRITCON UNFICYP.

At a conservative estimate, Dinos has served 78 different regiments, which equates to roughly 39,000 soldiers – a fair percentage of British forces!

Dinos commenced his long association with British Forces and the UN in 1964 as a sprightly 24-year-old, first working for the Life Guards in a barracks near Limassol. He continued in this post for 11 years, then moved to St David’s Camp near Nicosia, where he worked with British regiments for the next 20 years.

In 1993, the British Contingent replaced the Canadian Forces in Sector 2. Dinos followed the British once again, becoming the assistant to the Administrative Officer in the Ledra Palace Hotel, where he worked closely with the Quartermaster’s office. He remained there until his retirement on 28 February 2002.

Lt. Col. C.J. Brundle, Commanding Officer 32nd Regt RA Gp, presented Dinos with two retirement gifts: a framed Regimental Print from the officers and soldiers of the Regiment, and an inscribed silver salver.



All within the UN and Sector 2 would like to thank Dinos for his years of service. We also wish him the very best of luck in his retirement, which we believe will be spent tending and pruning the vines in his vineyard, and hopefully not worrying about the Ledra Palace hot water system.

UNFICYP Welcomes New CO Sector 4

At a change of command ceremony held on 26 March at Camp General Stefanik in Famagusta, Lt. Col. Stefan Faix of the Slovak Republic formally assumed command of Sector 4, taking over from his colleague Lt. Col. Milan Kovac.

Lt. Col. Faix entered the army in 1978, and has held various military appointments in the service of his country, ranging from Tank Platoon Leader to Deputy of Chief of Staff of the Motor Rifle Regiment in Karlovy Vary.

From 1990 to 1993, Lt. Col. Faix attended the Military Academy in Brno. Then he served as a Senior Lead Officer, then Deputy Chief of the Combat Training Department, HQ Land Forces in the city of Trencin. He studied at the Joint Services Command Staff College in Bracknell, England, from 1999 to 2000, and is currently the commander of the Immediate Reaction Battalion in the city of Martin.

Born in 1959, Lt. Col. Faix is married to Janka. They have one son and one daughter.



Military Skills Competition

By Maj. Graham Ratcliffe

Some shouldered the burden....

On Thursday 11 April, eight six-man teams, one from MFR, two from each of the sectors and, for the first time in many years, a team from UNCIVPOL, fought hard for almost 10 hours, competing in 10 events for a chance to win the Military Skills Competition Trophy. It was a warm and sunny day, which was fortunate since all the teams began with an early morning dip in the swimming pool!

In addition to the swim and forced march, there were eight stands, which covered driving skills, map reading, ops info skills, weapon assembly, first aid, fire fighting, observation and reporting, pistol shooting and ended with the obstacle course.

One special feature was the enthusiastic group of spectators who attended and

supported their teams. While the Force Commander and Chief of Mission were prominent among the onlookers, none were more enthusiastic than the wives and children of the UNCIVPOL team who deserved a special prize for their energetic participation.

Throughout the day, it was apparent that Sector 1 had prepared well with two highly competitive teams going at it neck and neck. In the end, it came down to the wire with the MFR edging out Sector 1 by a mere two points. Congratulations to the winning team from MFR, and to all who took part including competitors, stand and team controllers and umpires as well as the admin staff from MFR for a thoroughly worthwhile, well organised and close-run day.

1 st	MFR Team	- 66 points
2 nd	Sector 1 A Team	- 64 points
3 rd	Sector 1 B Team	- 57 points

Down in the trenches....

Some carried the can....

Sector 1 celebrates a close-run finish

Lifting the prize

Taking a brake.....!

Sleeping policeman....? (Certainly horizontal!)

MFR assembly line

UNCIVPOL makes its mark

Pool shark?

UNOPS Restoring Cultural and Religious Sites in Cyprus

In January 2000, an agreement was reached to allow UNOPS, with funding from UNDP and USAID, to work on the restoration of two of Cyprus' most important cultural and religious sites: Apostolos Andreas Monastery and Hala Sultan Tekke. In implementing the project, UNDP/UNOPS is coordinating with the Church of Cyprus and the Foundation for Trusts and for Religious Buildings (EVKAF), as well as with the relevant authorities on both sides.

The restoration work at both sites is multi-faceted, and includes the full-scale restoration of the religious buildings, and the renovation and repair of their ancillary buildings, as well as their grounds. Under the guidance of world renowned experts, measured drawings have been made of the sites, including landscaping designs. Structural monitoring and testing has been carried out. Works are now fully underway.

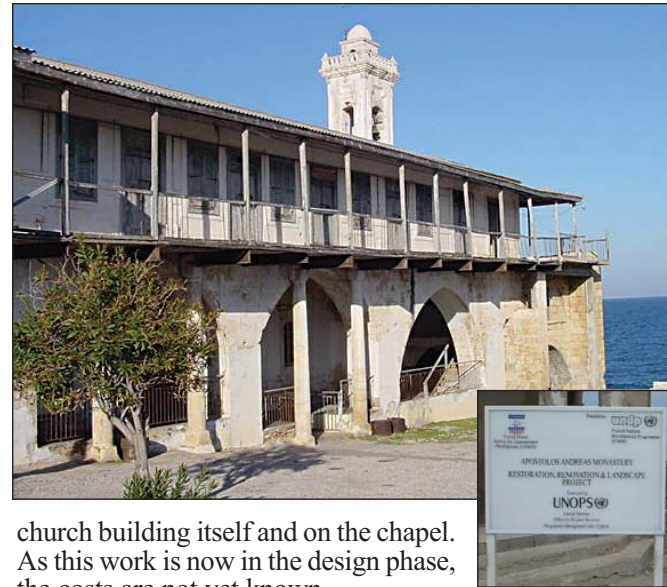
Apostolos Andreas

The site of Apostolos Andreas presents several challenges because of its location and complicated evolution. The project is composed of three parts.

The first phase of the project focused on the landscaping of the grounds, which needed to be fenced and cleaned of large amounts of refuse. Over 8,000 seedlings and saplings were replanted in the areas surrounding the monastery grounds, which were once dense with indigenous vegetation. General landscaping plans were drawn up, roads and botanical gardens re-established, walls repaired, and the orchard restored and replanted with fruit trees. This work was completed in March 2002. The building of the car park area, and final aesthetic repairs to the walls and pathways are scheduled for later this year and are due for completion in March 2003. Further landscaping works will focus on the internal areas, those close to the monastery and to its ancillary buildings. The cost of the landscaping works will amount to approximately \$600,000.

The second phase of the project involves the repair and renovation of five ancillary buildings that framed the original monastic cloister and which are now used as living quarters by the priest and resident nuns. These works, amounting to approximately \$660,000, started in November 2001 and are due for completion in May 2002.

Lastly, works will concentrate on the restoration of the



church building itself and on the chapel. As this work is now in the design phase, the costs are not yet known.

The world-renowned expert in restoration, Dr. Giorgio Croci, has been appointed to work with UNOPS on this project. Dr. Croci has worked on many important restoration projects in the past, including assignments in Angkor Wat in Cambodia, Petra in Jordan, Agia Sophia in Istanbul, Turkey, and the Pisa Tower in Italy.

Hala Sultan Tekke



UNDP/UNOPS is also working on the restoration of the religious historical site of the Hala Sultan Tekke (tekke meaning "refuge") near Larnaca, a holy site in Islam and the most important for Cypriot Muslims. Works on this rare religious monument – an important place of

pilgrimage – are being carried out in parallel with the restoration works at Apostolos Andreas Monastery.

Hala Sultan Tekke was built in a series of stages by the Ottomans in the late 18th and early 19th centuries at the burial site of Umm Haram, a close follower of the Prophet Mohammed. Located in a copse of trees by a salt lake, the buildings and richly inscribed walls of the Tekke have suffered over the years from humidity, lack of maintenance and disuse. Major preparatory work to rehabilitate the Tekke complex began in 2000 with the participation of experts who carried out geological, geo-technical, structural and mineralogical tests at the site. These tests were followed by the installation of equipment to monitor the structural behaviour of the buildings for a year.

Hala Sultan Tekke is composed of a mosque, a mausoleum, a minaret, and living quarters for men and women. Works amounting to \$900,000 are currently underway for the renovation of the living quarters, whilst restoration designs are being prepared by local and international experts for the rest of the buildings.

UNDP/UNOPS has appointed Professor Saleh Lamei Mostafa, a world-renowned specialist in Islamic architecture, to assist with the design and supervision of the restoration works at the site. The designs should be ready in May 2002.

"Late, Live and Local"

If you've listened to the British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS FM 89.7 in Nicosia) on Tuesday evenings at 10 p.m., you'll have heard the inimitable Major John Hunt on "Late, Live and Local".

If not - make a radio date with John, better known as "John the PROM", thanks to his job as Property Manager for HQ BRITCON. (He's responsible for the



management and maintenance of the British Retained Site located within the UNPA).

In his spare time, however, John is a volunteer presenter (DJ) for BFBS, and his Tuesday evening programme goes out live across the island, bringing the British Forces local information and events in their areas. The one-hour programme also features the latest chart releases, along with classics from the 80s, 90s and today. One popular feature is "Haven't Heard This in Ages", where listeners can choose two tunes that they haven't heard for a while.

John has been a volunteer radio presenter for BFBS since 1993, and has presented radio programmes in Brunei, Hong Kong, the Falkland Islands and Cyprus. Although his forte is country music, he also feels at home playing today's popular music.

John also promotes island events, and invites UN departments and agencies to contact him if they would like events advertised on radio. (A minimum of two weeks notice is required.) To let John know about an event, or to take part in the programme on Tuesday evenings and choose tunes for the feature, give him a call on 22-864412 or 99-638892, or e-mail him at: johnh@bfbs.com.

Painting the UN ... Red?

Members of the UN community demonstrated a great deal of artistic talent at their art exhibition, held 15 March at St. Michael's School on the UNPA. Instructor Marian Lagruber takes pride in helping her students unlock their hidden talents, so whether you're a beginner or a budding Picasso, you're invited to give her a call to find out about lessons. Classes are open to everyone at all levels of skill for a small fee. You can contact Marian at 22-780194 or 99-841212.



Irish Youth Group's Visit



The group being briefed by RSM John O'Connor

On 14 March, 15 young men aged between 14 and 17 years arrived in Cyprus from Ireland to play football. Five adults who were involved in coaching and supervision supported them. There were three matches planned against the Turkish Cypriot youths' team in Pyla, and the Greek Cypriot youths of Pyla and Troulli. The players who took part were selected from the Garda Special Projects in Dublin and sponsored by the Irish Department of Justice. The aim of the visit was to promote inter-community relations between Irish and Cypriot youths.

The Irish team came out tops drawing 2-2 with the Greek Cypriot youths from Pyla, and winning the Turkish Cypriot teams from Troulli and Pyla 3-2 and 5-1 respectively. Not bad for a team that only assembled before the trip!

On St. Patrick's Day, the team and their supervisors visited Nicosia and were taken around the International Airport. The whole event was a great success and enjoyed by all who participated.

We're Getting Older!!

No, it's not just your creaking knees telling you that you're getting older. Humankind itself is ageing. At this very moment, our global population is already older than ever before in human history. As the 21st century began, world population included approximately 600 million older persons – triple the number recorded just 50 years earlier.

There's no doubt that we're living longer. Since 1950, average life expectancy at birth has increased by 20 years, to 66, and is expected to grow by another 10 years by mid-century. This demographic triumph means that the number of older people will increase from about 600 million in 2000 to almost 2,000 million by 2050. The increase will be most marked in developing countries, where the older population is expected to quadruple during the next 50 years. Such a global demographic transformation has profound consequences for every aspect of individual, community, national and international life. Every facet of humanity will evolve: social, economic, political, cultural, psychological and spiritual.

The Older Generations, By the Numbers

- By 2050, the number of older persons in the world will exceed the number of young for the first time in history. In fact, by 1998 this historic reversal in relative proportions of young and old had already taken place in the world's more developed regions.
- During the 20th century, the proportion of older persons continued to rise, and this trend is expected to continue into the 21st century. For example, the proportion of older persons was 8 per cent in 1950 and 10 per cent in 2000, and is projected to reach 21 per cent in 2050.
- The majority of older persons are women, as female life expectancy is higher than that for men. In 2000, there were 63 million more women than men aged 60 or older. Indeed, there are two to five times as many

women as men in the oldest age categories.

- Today the median age for the world is 26 years. The country with the youngest population is Yemen, with a median age of 15 years, and the oldest is Japan, with a median age of 41 years. By 2050, the world median age is expected to have increased by ten years, to 36 years.
- The older population is itself ageing. The fastest growing age group in the world are those aged 80 years or older. They are currently increasing at 3.8 per cent per year and comprise more than one-tenth of the total number of older persons. By 2050, one-fifth of older persons will be 80 years or older.

How Will an Ageing Population Affect You?

Population ageing is a global phenomenon affecting every man, woman and child. The steady increase of older age groups in national populations, both in absolute numbers and in relation to the working-age population, can affect all generations. Clearly, the fall in the number of potential workers supporting the older population can severely affect social security schemes, particularly traditional systems in which current workers pay for the benefits of current retirees.

In 1950, there were 12 potential workers (those who can support older persons through measures such as pension and social security contributions from their pay cheques) for every older person. By 2000, there were nine. By 2050, there are expected to be only four.

In the economic area, population ageing will have an impact on economic growth, savings, investment and consumption, labour markets, pensions, taxation and intergenerational transfers. In the social sphere, population ageing affects health and health care, family composition and living arrangements, housing and migration. In the political arena, population ageing can influence voting patterns and representation.

Greater strains on health care, family members increasingly being called on to care for older members of the family, and the need for age-friendly housing are just a few of the issues that we are facing.

There are, however, opportunities for our society to benefit from an aging population. Older persons often play crucial roles in families and in the community. They make many valuable contributions that are not measured in economic terms: caring for family members, household maintenance and volunteering, for example. Moreover, these roles contribute to the preparation of the future labour force, by handing down knowledge from one generation to another.

What You Can Do to Help!

- Develop multi-generational activities for your family, youth groups and community endeavours. Don't just include older persons in the life of the community, but draw on their life experiences for inspiration and knowledge.
- Be aware of the age discrimination issue: ensure that no-one is unfairly treated at your workplace because of their age.
- Include the needs and concerns of older persons in decision-making processes at all levels of your community.
- Welcome older persons in volunteer programmes at your local community centres and other groups.
- Spend some time with your children, acknowledging and encouraging the contribution of older persons to your family and to society as a whole.

The UN: Building a Society for All Ages

Secretary-General Kofi Annan, marking his own birthday, put it succinctly when he opened the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held 8 to 10 April in Madrid, Spain, by asking: "Will you still need me, will you still feed me, when I'm 64?" The Assembly was held to help governments and

societies plan policies that will ensure that older persons can continue to contribute to society in a meaningful way to the best of their ability. This includes policies that contribute the following themes:

- The achievement of secure ageing, which includes reaffirming the goal of eradicating poverty in old age and building on the United Nations Principles for Older Persons.
- Empowerment of older persons to fully and effectively participate in the social, economic and political lives of their societies, including through income-generating and voluntary work.
- Provision of opportunities for individual development, self-fulfilment and well-being throughout life as well as in late life, through, for example, access to life-long learning.
- Guaranteeing the economic, social and cultural rights of older persons as well as their civil and political rights, including the elimination of all forms of discrimination on the basis of age.
- Commitment to gender equality in older persons through elimination of gender-based discrimination, as well as all other forms of discrimination.
- Recognition of the crucial importance of inter-generational interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development.
- Provision of health care and support for older people, as needed.
- Facilitating partnership between all levels of government, civil society, the private sector and older persons themselves in translating international strategies on ageing into practical action.
- Harnessing scientific research and expertise to focus on the individual, social and health implications of ageing, in particular within developing countries.

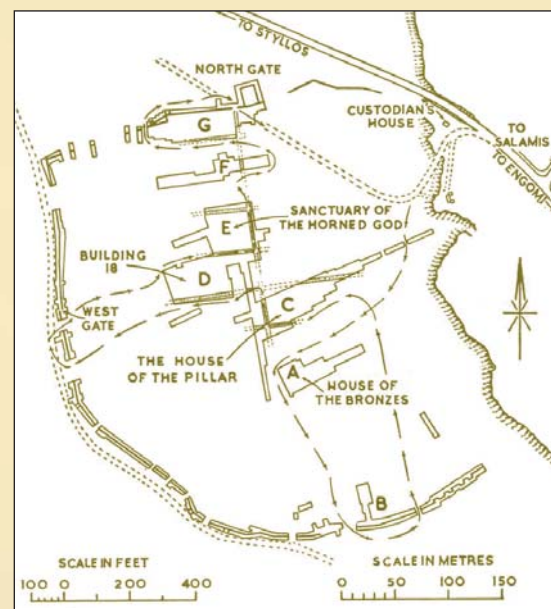
Source: Population Division, DESA, United Nations

<http://www.unfpa.org/news/2002/pressroom/ageing.htm>

The Cultural Heritage of Cyprus: Part II

Spanning the Copper and Bronze Ages: The Port City of Enkomi

In our third article on the cultural heritage of the island, we travel to Enkomi (near Famagusta), which grew from a humble farming community into a thriving port city. By 1200 BC, it boasted some 15,000 inhabitants, and formed a major centre for commerce and culture in the eastern Mediterranean. Although little can be seen at the site today except foundations – of interest to dedicated amateur archaeologists, perhaps – several of Enkomi’s wonderful finds can be seen in Nicosia’s Cyprus Museum.



If you stand at the edge of the archaeological site of Enkomi, you could be forgiven for thinking that it doesn’t provide too many obvious clues to its original glory. Located near the village of the same name and once known as Alasia, Enkomi was laid out on a grid pattern near the sea. Today, little remains of its low houses, and even the water has receded: the estuary silted up millennia ago.

This is, however, one of the most important archaeological sites in Cyprus. Not only is it one of the richest cemeteries of the late Bronze Age in Cyprus, but Enkomi was also active during a period when dramatic outside influences changed the character of the island, moving it from Oriental influences towards the culture of the Aegean.

Enkomi’s story begins with the original farming community here, in the last years of the Middle Bronze Age (around 1700 BC). This coincided with a troubled period in the eastern Mediterranean, as the Hyksos (raiders from Syria and Palestine who invaded Egypt) probably also affected the eastern shores of Cyprus. Fortresses were constructed and destroyed here during the 16th century BC, and it’s the floor of one such fortification, excavated near Enkomi’s North Gate, that reveals the city’s importance. Traces of copper smelting found here confirm that Enkomi was a copper trading centre, where copper ores from the island’s mines were refined and exported as ingots. (Records from this time, of Egyptian Pharaoh Thutmosis III, list copper among the booty and tribute coming from Cyprus.)

The expulsion of the Hyksos from Egypt in around 1550 BC resulted in a prosperous period for Enkomi, which developed a vigorous trade with its eastern and western neighbours. The Mycenaeans, who mastered the Aegean area around 1400 BC, eventually established themselves in the island’s south and east, which was an important trading post between the Aegean and the coast of Syria. Enkomi’s tombs reflect the prosperity of the time: they are rich with Mycenaean works of art, including pottery, and gifts such as gold, ivory and scarabs (beetle-shaped gems) imported from Egypt, the Levant and the Aegean.

Close to the end of the 13th century BC, Enkomi received new settlers from the Peloponnese (the southern part of Greece). The Achaeans brought with them their religion and language, they contributed to the development of metallurgy and engraving, and they fortified the towns with walls, ramparts and gates.

Although the raids of the “Sea Peoples” (plunderers who came from the west) in the 12th century BC prompted the decline of Enkomi, the city remained an important site in island affairs (such as religion and commerce) until around 1075 BC: at that time, an earthquake and the loss of the port finally forced Enkomi’s inhabitants to abandon the city.

What You’ll See Today

The Wall and the Gates: The Achaeans surrounded Enkomi with a “cyclopean” wall, meaning that the wall is constructed of massive irregular blocks. At its base lay two parallel rows of large stone slabs, with rubble filling the space between them; the upper portion was built of mud bricks. Fortified gates sat to the north, south, east and west, with a tower near the North Gate.

The Town Plan: Twelve straight streets run from east to west, crossed by one street running from north to south. A paved “public square” sits in the city centre.

Building 18: Lying in the 5th street, this building is the largest of the Achaean architectural style and is considered a “megaron”, or palace, of one of their chieftains. It was built of ashlar (rectangular cut) blocks, and was probably of eastern origin.

The Shrine of the “Pillar”: This shrine is located south of the 5th street on the southeast of Building 18. Built of ashlar blocks, it consists of a porched main shrine that contains the base of a pedestal next to a well. Both the pillar and the water were important to the religion of the Aegean area.

The Sanctuary of the “Horned God”: On the west side of the north-south street that lies between the 3rd and 4th streets, archaeologists found a bronze statuette of a young man or god with horned headgear. The statuette (which stands 61 cm high, and is considered a fine example of Mycenaean art) is now in the Cyprus Museum. The shrine itself was a large rectangular hall built of finely dressed ashlar masonry, divided by two large rectangular pillars and surrounded by smaller rooms.

Tombs: East of the “Horned God” Sanctuary are three of Enkomi’s many tombs, cut into the bedrock. Two are rectangular with a stairway leading to the mouth of the tomb. The third – dated to 1300 BC and unique in Cyprus – is oval, with a lower part of roughly shaped stones and an upper part of furnace-fired bricks.

The Shrine of the “Ingot God”: Between the 4th and 5th streets, east of the paved public square, this shrine has a rectangular central hall lined with benches to receive offerings. A 35-cm bronze statuette of a man standing on an ingot base (the “Ingot God”) was discovered here, and is now in the Cyprus Museum.

Cypro-Minoan Script: In 1896, the British Museum Expedition began archaeological excavations here that were later continued by many foreign missions, including Britain, Sweden, France and Cyprus’s own Department of Antiquities. However, some of Enkomi’s secrets remain to be uncovered: among the rich finds were many clay tablets and other small objects dating back to 1500 BC that bear the characters of a Cypro-Minoan script, or language. Its name comes from its similarity to the Creto-Minoan script. Both languages are as yet tantalizingly undeciphered.



Cypro-Minoan script



The “Horned God”

Ledra Palace Hotel: Into the Swim of Things

Tireless work from Sector 2's REME detachment and other dedicated personnel was celebrated 2 March with the re-opening of the Ledra Palace Hotel swimming pool.

Upon arrival at Ledra Palace in December, the detachment was tasked with the repair and restoration of the swimming pool, which – due to a pump system failure – featured murky, stagnant water and waist-high weeds.

Cleaning efforts began immediately. All the borders surrounding the pool were weeded and flattened prior to laying down a plastic membrane to prevent weeds from resurfacing. Stone was then added to keep maintenance down to a minimum. Most of the buildings were repainted inside and out, along with the entrance to the pool complex. Plumbing and electricity has either been restored or replaced and external lighting renewed, all by the detachment, whose help was certainly appreciated. The pool itself features new pumps, filters and piping, which should – with the new civilian contract in place – take care of itself.

All LPH personnel attended the pool's re-opening, although the only person who braved a dip in the very cold temperatures was OC SCAT – in his wet suit!

The REME detachment's efforts have ensured that the facility will be available for the warmer weather, and they have achieved this without neglecting their operational responsibilities. Thanks must go to them, and to those who in their spare time just picked up a paintbrush to lend a hand. The swimming pool is a fantastic facility, and Sector 2 will certainly benefit from it.



Before.....



..... and after

Caption Competition



- *Saturday night lever.*
- *I'm stuck on me!*
- *Twist and pout!*
- *Unassisted headlock!*
- *Hairobics*
- *Biceps are a boy's best friend*
- *Trust me – this won't hurt...*

Captions to be submitted to the Public Information Office by:

22 May



Climb Every Mountain - 200 Km The Hard Way

By Capt. C.H.W. Moffat

What do you get when you put together 200 kilometres of Buffer Zone, six cyclists, two support vehicles and one Argentinian ambulance? A Buffer Zone cycle ride that benefits charities in the UK and in the north and south of Cyprus... along with two days that none of the participants will forget!

I had previously cycled the area from Camp San Martin to UN OP 17, so I had a fair idea of what to expect, but the terrain unfolding west beyond OP 17 was causing me to question the sanity of the plan to cycle the length of the Buffer Zone. As we rose and descended sharply time after time en route to our start point, I could imagine what the other cyclists were starting to think – what had we volunteered ourselves for?

After an overnight stay, courtesy of the Argentinian soldiers manning UN OP 09, we set off at dawn, eastwards into the abyss: Capt. Burt RA (46 Bty), WO Lopez (Charlie Coy Sector 1), LBdr. Spriggs (18 Bty), LBdr. Nettleton (K Bty), Gnr. Icely (74 Bty) and myself. The hills claimed their first victim on the very first descent when Gnr Icely went sprawling, causing minor damage to his left knee and his pride. We reached the ridge at UN OP 18 within four hours and had broken the back of Day One, with just rolling countryside ahead of us – or so we thought!

We arrived at Camp San Martin well ahead of schedule and repaired all the bikes and bodies that were in need. After 90 minutes of rest and a light lunch, we set off again in good spirits, heading east towards Nicosia. After resigning ourselves to the fact there were still more hills to climb, our next enemy was the sun. The temperature started to climb and one team member succumbed to its glare, completing the journey in the L200 support vehicle with a mild case of heat exhaustion. The severe terrain abated and eventually we were traversing rolling hills. A second team member



started to show signs of heat exhaustion, and he also spent some time in the support vehicles to ensure his participation on Day Two. After completing 110 kilometres, we arrived at Ledra Palace at 1630 hours. Once the bikes had been washed down and oiled, and we'd had a well-earned bath and BBQ, we were ready to set off for our overnight accommodation in Dhekelia.

We started Day Two of the ride, from Famagusta to Nicosia, at 0615 hours. The terrain in Sector 4 from Dherinia to Pyla was, to our relief, flat and we made good time in reaching the outskirts of Pyla within two hours. The activity of Day One was starting to tell, however, and the hills, although nothing in comparison to Sector 1, began to take their toll, with every small slope becoming a mountain. The sun again played its part as under its hot gaze, one team member wobbled to a halt after he had doggedly completed 80 kilometres. The remaining riders (Capt. Burt, WO Lopez, LBdr. Spriggs and myself) continued on apace, and we arrived back at Ledra Palace around 1400 hours, to a reception of smiling faces and clapping hands.

Over the two days we had completed a total of 210 kilometres and covered some of Cyprus's roughest terrain in the searing heat. The money collected amounted to just under £900, which was donated to the "Cheshire Homes" charity in the north, and to "Cans for Kids" in the south.

It was an endurance test and an adventure that the entire party will remember for a long time. The idea to complete the journey in a day has been mentioned, so watch this space!

Sector 4 Plays TCSF in Famagusta

Spectators were treated to excellent football 24 March, when the Sector 4 team met the 4th Regt. (Turkish Cypriot Security Forces) team in Famagusta. Plenty of opportunities to score and an intensive tempo kept the game interesting, but two complete forward lines, an excellent goalkeeper and good tactics helped the Sector 4 team to a final score of 11 to 2.

Footballers from both sides welcomed the post-game invitation of the CO Sector 4 to the Officers' Club at Camp General Stefanik.



Sport

A photograph taken from inside a large, circular concrete pipe. The pipe's interior is dark, with light coming from the far end where a person is visible. The person is in a crawling position, wearing a dark shirt and pants. The floor of the pipe is covered with a layer of small, light-colored gravel. The concrete walls of the pipe are visible, showing some texture and wear.

Military Skills Competition