The Blue Beret
January 2003

UNFICYP to the rescue
With the New Year barely three weeks old, Mr. Clerides and Mr. Denktash have called on the United Nations to organise an open public competition for a new Cyprus flag and anthem in keeping with the proposal for a comprehensive settlement put to them by Secretary-General Kofi Annan on 10 December 2002. Clearly, emblem and anthem would only be adopted in the event of an agreement by 28 February and “if the entire plan is approved in the separate referenda and a new state of affairs comes into being”. Both parties agreed to the competition as part of parallel arrangements that need to be in place to achieve a 28 February agreement and Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot assent in the separate referenda of 30 March 2003. As stipulated in Article 3 of Appendix B of the SG’s proposals, the competition is only for the “common state” flag and anthem. Details of the competition are to be found on the back cover of this issue. Entries will be reviewed by bilateral committees, chaired by the UN, which, in turn, will give their consensus recommendations to the two leaders. The UN announcement makes clear that the competition “should not be taken as an indication of the state of play in the ongoing negotiations”. After Copenhagen - Looking for a Settlement Statement by Alvaro de Soto at the Ledra Palace, 13 January: A s you know, it was regrettable not to achieve a successful comprehensive settlement before decisions were taken by the EU at Copenhagen on 13 December, though agreement was very close in our estimation. After Copenhagen I returned to New York and briefed the members of the Security Council in the presence of the Secretary-General. They strongly backed his decision to push ahead and try to achieve an agreement by 28 February on the basis of his revised proposal of 10 December. The EU at Copenhagen was looking for a United Cyprus to accede to the EU and looks to both sides to continue efforts to achieve a comprehensive settlement by 28 February. The Secretary-General has suggested to the two leaders, and to Greece and Turkey, that there are three areas of work that must move ahead, in parallel, in order to achieve this goal by the end of this month.

The most important is that the two leaders should come to terms on the basic, politically contentious issues that are dealt with in the Secretary-General’s plan. Second, Greece and Turkey have the responsibility to agree, in a manner fully acceptable to both parties in Cyprus, on common state laws that are to be in force at that time, must be completed by the target date. You will recall that the two leaders agreed on 4 October last year, in the presence of the Secretary-General, to create two ad hoc committees to address these issues. After an unfruitful meeting last week here in Cyprus under UN chairmanship, and they are expected to intensify their important and voluminous work this week.

We are now on a pretty tight timetable. As foreseen in the plan, the agreement of a comprehensive settlement, with all political issues resolved between the two leaders, all security issues between Greece and Turkey resolved, and all technical work completed, by 28 February, would allow just enough time for separate referenda to be prepared and conducted so as to enable the people to take an educated decision on 30 March. If the results of the referenda were positive, a new state of affairs in Cyprus would come into being on 31 March. That would allow just two weeks to put in place certain basic parts of the new institutions of the common state, and allow the EU to revise and approve the terms of the accession treaty to accommodate the new state of affairs in the manner foreseen in the plan, so that a reunited Cyprus could sign the Treaty of Accession on 16 April. So by 16 April, the new state of affairs must be in place and up-and-running. If this is to be achieved, as we see it, an agreement is required by 28 February, since there must be time enough for the separate referenda in between. Therefore we only have about six weeks left to see negotiations through to a successful conclusion by that date.

As you know, in his 11 November plan, the Secretary-General crystalized incoherent trade-offs that were emerging during the ten months of talks between the two leaders, and made bridging proposals where gaps remained. After further intensive consultations, improvements were made and a new plan was suggested to the parties on 10 December last year. The plan as it stands therefore reflects nearly a year of intensive consultations and negotiations, and stands as the result of decades of talks before that. As it stands, this plan represents what the Secretary-General believes is a fair and honourable compromise which addresses the core interests, aims, concerns, and even nightmares of each side. The plan foreshadows a new partnership in Cyprus on the basis of equality, to ensure peace, security and prosperity for both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots in a united island.

The plan has been accepted by both leaders, and by Greece and Turkey, as a basis for negotiation. The plan establishes an overall framework and provides the parameters which need to be respected if it is to serve as the basis for a negotiated settlement.

In these circumstances, it is obvious that further changes to the plan, should any be necessary, to be agreed by the two sides, will only be possible if the overall balance in the plan is preserved. If the overall balance is to be preserved, it will be necessary for both leaders to be very specific, measured and focussed regarding changes they wish to negotiate to the plan, should any be necessary, and to be prepared to give in order to take clearly, unilateral changes only in favour of one side are not likely to be acceptable to the other.

This means that the choice before the leaders and the people on each side is not between this plan and a substantially different one; the choice is between this plan, perhaps with balanced refinements here and there as needed, and no agreement at all.

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Accordingly, the issues at stake are very clear.

Will Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots reunitre as equals, in the European Union, or will a divided Cyprus continue to strain relations between Greece and Turkey in the Eastern Mediterranean?

Will this island, now green from the winter rains, also feel its division closer as a divided Cyprus continues to prevent the people from this island from feeling the benefits of membership?

Will Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots reunite as a global partner to promote the values of women and peace?

Will this island become a beacon of cooperation between Greece and Turkey in the Eastern Mediterranean, maintaining the balance between them and strengthening Turkey’s move towards European Union membership, or will a divided Cyprus continue to strain relations between Greece and Turkey and vis-à-vis Europe?

Will this island, now green from the winter rain, also feel the healing hands of peace and reconciliation, or will it remain divided by an ugly scar and an unresolved conflict totally out of place in modern Europe?

These are the choices that must be made during this month and the next.

From my consultations in Turkey and my recent contacts with Greece, it is very clear that both motherlands strongly support the achievement of a negotiated settlement on the basis of the Secretary-General’s plan, in the timeframe that it lays down.

Therefore, a great and historic responsibility rests on the shoulders of the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots, and on their leaders. Let us all therefore focus on the task at hand.

Question: Do you expect a positive outcome regarding a settlement of the question of lost property of either side and the return of the refugees. Is there something like that in the making? Can this realistically be achieved by 28 February?

de Soto: Oh, very much so. A large portion of the plan is devoted to the issue of lost property and return of refugees. As we see it, it is necessary, among other reasons, to reach a completed settlement by 28 February so that the people will be able to examine in detail the plan and make their own judgement.

Question: Have you secured the cooperation of Turkey on the issue of security, have they started negotiating on that?

de Soto: I think so, yes. Well, negotiations have not begun. As I understand it, we hope they will begin very soon because they are part and parcel of the settlement.

Question: Given the positions of the two sides and all other factors that affect the Cyprus problem, how feasible do you think it is to achieve this goal of an agreement by the end of February? And also, how does the UN intend to go about achieving this goal between now and the end of February?

de Soto: As I said, we are not starting from scratch. There is a lot that has preceded this, but if the two sides respect the overall balance and are focused on the approach that they take in any changes that they might feel necessary to make, and if they are willing to give as well as to take, it would be possible.

Question: How do you see the economic aspect of the problem since there is a deep gap between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot economy? Do you think that the economy will be balanced between the two sides between the two communities?

de Soto: The stated goals of the settlement to bring the two sides to the same level. And that is also the same goal as taken by the European Union.

Question: Should we expect to see detailed conditions in the Secretary-General’s plan regarding this?

de Soto: There are actually quite a few steps – we could go over those separately if you like, to bring these two sides up to speed. I think it is important to reconcile or accession – it is a goal to be pursued after a settlement.

Question: You urge the parties to show respect for what you call the balance of the document. But I am sure that by now, you have discovered what is considered a balanced document or not by either side. Who is going to judge whether the changes that will be suggested by one or the other side is within the balance of the document? You are saying this is taken into or left it.

de Soto: I am not sure that you have reflected accurately what I said. The parties can of course engage amendment, negotiations, procure a balance, so long as they realize that if they want something beyond what is offered to them, they have to be prepared to give and not to get. But even then, it is not take-it-or-leave-it as I see it.

Question: As I understand from your statement, the message is that there are changes in your plan and secondly this plan now becomes take-it-or-leave-it from your sentence here that the choice is between this plan, perhaps with blended refinements...

Question: [inaudible] that the two leaders can reach an agreement?

Question: But will you wait to hear from the leaders. Who knows, perhaps they will surprise me and there will be no major differences; they will accept that indeed the plan will be the same.

Question: Have you determined on the method of negotiations between Mr. Denktash and Mr. Clerides? Are you going to follow the proximity talks method of direct talks?

de Soto: The methods that they have agreed to themselves in December 2002, sorry 2001, was direct talks and because of Mr. Denktash’s health, it was not possible for a period of time to hold direct meetings. I can confirm that with Mr. Denktash.

Question: As you go through the last paragraphs of your statement, it seems that the impression now that you are resuming to base camp can be observed that the two sides do not have a permanent division of the island.

de Soto: Well, I am sorry to have frustrated you. That was not my intention at all. I will have to give you this as I gave the time factor and given the difficulties, that no thing would change as of signature of the European Union, it would have to be a rather serious setback, so I feel that it would be important to seize the opportunity that exists now because the Cypriot leaders are there.

Question: To what extent have your talks in Turkey moved you closer to achieving this goal and having interesting substantive negotiations to reach an agreement?

de Soto: I come away with the impression that Turkey is determined to support you in achieving a completed settlement before the end of February.

Question: Does that impression come from talking to the government or to the generals?

de Soto: As I said, there was a high level of consultations in the Foreign Ministry and I have also met with Mr. Erdogan and there is unanimity, unsurprisingly, as the ... the question is always back on the power struggle going on in Turkey right now between the ...

Question: You say the only changes that we should expect are those that do not fill in the gaps remaining on the number of troops?

de Soto: I have not spoken about a revised plan.

Question: [inaudible] that is in the security chapter, that it is fundamentally the number of troops, equipment, rules of the game in terms of the number of troops, the number of security, but the rest depends on what position the leaders take in the consultations today and in the coming days.

Question: It was published in the press that during the Copenhagen Summit you asked President Clerides to sign by himself your plan without having a signature from the other side. Also, you reportedly missed President Erdogan’s signature. Now, the Turkish Cypriot side was ready to sign the agreement.

de Soto: I think the information you have received has been distorted. I have not signed a draft of the agreement. They now confirm these two points, the answer is no on both counts.

Question: Would you describe the period from now to 28 February as a critical one? If there is no solution, can we continue after 28 February as we did after the June and July consultations? And would you describe this as the decisive period. I am very pleased that the possibility remains open because of the willingness of both sides to continue to negotiate within the frame of the Secretary-General’s plan. But for the reasons that I have tried to walk you through, after 28 February, the possibilities of achieving a settlement that the people can pronounce on dwindle dramatically. This does not mean, of course, the end of the world, as Mr. Denktash puts it, but it does rather sharply diminish the realistic possibilities of an agreement at any time soon there-after.

Question: You said you are going to visit Ankara after Athens.

de Soto: Not necessarily immediately after, but I do expect to go back.

Question: Do you have any reason for visiting Ankara a second time?

de Soto: I expect to see that probably in the coming weeks I will go to back to Athens and Ankara, both, more than once.

Question: You referred to the Secretary-General’s suggestion that there are three areas of work that must move ahead in parallel which you explained that are equally important that must be dealt with between now and the end of February?

de Soto: Yes, there – it’s all the same areas. Then the rest is up to the people.

Question: How is the work of the technical committees going? Do you see it as possible? I know it hasn’t happened yet either but perhaps you can see if there is the time, what do you think of the outlook?

de Soto: They are working very hard. And, it’s...
Life in the Mobile Force Reserve

By Capt. Garrett O’Leary

T
he recent festivities have brought more than a change of year to Section 2. The return of 109th Regt RA to the UK has allowed 47th Regt RA to assume control of Sector 2. Commensurate with this change, the duties of leading the multinational Mobile Force Reserve (MFR) have been taken up by 21 (Gibraltar 1779-83) Air Assault Bty. The new MFR Commander, Maj. Steven Rosier RA, commands a force of 106 personnel, drawn from Argentina, Hungary, Slovakia and the United Kingdom. The MFR is, of course, the Force Commander’s reserve, for him to allocate to any mission he feels is vital for the UN mission. Our duties are wide and varied and I ensure that we are kept busy.

It has been a busy year for 21 Battery prior to its arrival here in Cyprus. This year last year elements of the Bty were preparing to deploy as part of the International Stabilisation and Assistance Force into Afghanistan, in the role of liaison teams as part of Britain’s contribution in the war against terror. Therefore the Bty has been heavily committed to supporting its parent Brigade, 16 Air Assault Brigade, on exercise throughout the year.

The Bty has considerable range of experience within its ranks. There are numerous Cypruss “old hands” from previous tours and a number of new gunners who are on their first tour with the Bty. Gnr Bradby, 18, has just joined the Bty from training. For Gnr Bradby, it is more than a chance to integrate into his new unit. “The weather is much better than the UK and I hope it will be helping me feel part of the Bty now. I am also learning better people skills when dealing with soldiers from different countries. I want to get experience quickly.”

According to LtBrdr Ahmed, married to Zahida and father of four, “I have been looking forward to gaining experience in the peacekeeping role as opposed to my usual role of air defence and I am really looking forward to the opportunity of working with other nations”. On the aspect of training, LtBrdr Ahmed, a Regina, says: “The training opportunities are excellent and I am going to use them to regain my fitness level after the busy exercise period we have had just left. However, this experience comes with a price and that is spending time away from my young family.”

The Battery is keen to promote integration of all nationals as its main focus during its training period. Apart from creating friendships, this will also allow it to fulfill its mission to a greater degree through greater cohesion. Maj. Rosier sees integration as “the key to a successful deployment by the force, by building trust and respect between the soldiers and their commander, and this was the greatest challenge facing the Platoon Commanders. Master Corporal Barad from the Hungarian Contingent, recognises the change; “In the nine months I have been in the MFR, this is the best team I have seen. The leadership is very good, the officers and sergeants include us in everything, listen to other ideas and try them out. This gives us a good feeling. Because they are paratroopers, they do a lot of fitness training. Most importantly, the MFR needs to be in top condition and you can feel the difference from the last battery. The soldiers are very quick to learn and training is more fun. It is a team which puts its soldiers first”.

So far, the results have been impressive and they were displayed during a demonstration for the Commanding Officer of Sector 2, L’T’ Col. Weighill RA, and Regimental Sergeant Major Reilly on 20 December. This demonstration, illustrating all elements of our role, passed off very successfully and allowed Col. Weighill to observe how our training and preparations were progressing.

The first five weeks of our deployment have been busy. The new company has formed all of its sections, and completed a training programme which included fire-fighting, Contingency Operations Plans, and rural and urban control training. The training was hard and in depth, but was maintained in conjunction with mounting “anti-hunting” patrols in sectors 1 and 4 and regular physical training. Yet our efforts all paid off as on 27 December, the MFR passed the UNFICYP Chief of Staff, Col. Hamish Fletcher. On that day, the MFR deployed in a professional, confident and relaxed manner and proved its ability to meet all of its operational requirements and was passed as operationally effective as UNFICYP’s MFR.

Now, in the first week of January and fully established in our routine, we are looking towards the future. This allows us to undertake more varied and challenging training programmes, this time focused on MEDEVC and skills and procedures in the event of a helicopter crash. We are also preparing demonstrations of our crowd and riot control capabilities for the Force Commander and all Sector Commanders.

Life in the Mobile Force Reserve

Christmas In The Camps

At Famagusta’s General Stefanik Camp, around 230 Slovaks celebrated Christmas Eve with a traditional meal to the sounds of popular Christmas folk songs. “This was my first Christmas in the peacekeeping mission, but it was not that different to what I had experienced in the past at the units back home in the Slovak Republic”, the Contingent Commander Lt Col. Ivan Hircka said. “Only this weather here reminds me of the Easter holidays, rather than Christmas”, he added. Perhaps the eastern part of the island, where Sector 4’s camp is situated, could arrange a nice snowfall next year to remind the Slovak soldiers of the Christmas holiday season.

Dinner is served!

For New Year, the Slovak soldiers entertained the contingent with the sounds of popular rock and folk music. Partygoers enjoyed a dinner of traditional cabbage soup with sour cream, followed by potato salad and stew and homemade Slovak cakes.

Another celebration took place on 25 December when the officers and senior NCOs of Headquarters UNFICYP served the more junior ranks to a full Christmas meal in the NCOs’ Mess. As can be seen in the photo above, the Force Commander was on duty! This long-standing British custom, which originated when officers and NCOs decided to repay their soldiers for services offered during the year, was well received by UNFICYP members previously unfamiliar with the tradition.

Christmas Eve in Roca Camp

After the stroke of midnight, Santa Claus arrived at San Martín Camp this time in a four wheel drive vehicle, with his sack of gifts and letters from the soldiers’ families that he distributed. Musicians from each camp encouraged the soldiers to join in the fun as they played folkloric songs as well as international music. Due to the five-hour time difference, some soldiers stayed up until 5 am (midnight for the Argentines) to exchange greetings with their families back home.

New Year was celebrated with a special dinner and the belated arrival of Santa at Roca Camp. He apologised for not appearing on Christmas Eve, blaming difficulties he had reaching the north checkpoint before it closed, and also “not being able to find his ID in his bag of gifts…”.
Year 2002 - In Review

Greek Cypriot leader, H.E. Glafcos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader, H.E. Rauf Denktaş got the new year off to a auspicious start with direct talks on 16 January when they met for 90 minutes in the Nicosia Conference Centre, a refurbished wing of the UNDP/UNOPS complex in the UNPA.

The two leaders met in the presence of the Secretary General’s Special Adviser Alexio de Soto, who had been invited on arrival by UNFICYP Chief of mission, Zbigniew Wlosowicz.

In statements afterwards to some 150 Turkish and Greek Cypriot press and TV reporters as well as foreign correspondents, Mr. de Soto described the meeting as “a very encouraging start” and pointed out that the two leaders had “engaged immediately on the substance.”


February saw the breakthrough in negotiations for the start of a road safety project within the buffer zone mixed village of Pyla. Funding for the project to construct road safety measures in front of the two village primary schools was granted by UNDP/UNOPS, and a joint team of local, Greek and Turkish Cypriot workers were soon hard at work.

International Women’s Day on 8 March was celebrated by UNFICYP and women from the two communities at a bimonthly gathering at Ledra Palace. Featured speakers included Madeline Garlick (Civil Affairs Political Officer) who highlighted the pernicious abuses of the trafficking of women, while Laura Vaccari from the Good Offices Mission stressed that IWD is a “celebration of women’s solidarity, and the creativity, resilience, strength and beauty of women around the world.”

Alvaro de Soto held a press conference at Ledra Palace on 8 April, noting the Security Council has registered its concept at the slow progress in the talks in view of the targets set. “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,” he said.

The President of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Rudolf Schuster visited UNFICYP headquarters on 23 April in the course of his two-day visit to Cyprus. The SG said he had come to the island to discuss with the two leaders how they could move the talks process forward more effectively. He met separately with Mr. Clerides and Mr. Denktaş on 15 May before hosting a working dinner for the two leaders at Chief of Mission Wlosowicz’s residence.

At the end of his visit, the SG told the press that he was leaving “sobered by the challenge at hand,” yet more convinced than ever that this is the time to press ahead and that “an historic opportunity exists now to reach a comprehensive settlement”. Both leaders had even their commitment to go about this effort in a genuine spirit of give and take, he noted. He was convinced that they could solve the core issues (governance, security, territory and property) between now and the end of June”.

The UN he said, is here to help the leaders – not impose ideas or conclusions on them.

The SG visited UNPA and met with UNFICYP staff, uniformed, un-uniformed local and international. He and his wife Nane inspected old Nicosia airport and went on a walking tour of the Green Line. It was the first visit to Cyprus by a UN Secretary-General since May 1979 when Kurt Waldheim spent two days on the island.

As the fourth round of talks wrapped up in June, the hopes of the SG that the core issues were “resolved” were not met. Before leaving for Vienna where he was to meet the SG, Alvaro de Soto said: “more political will and an increased spirit of compromise” would be necessary if an agreement was to be reached. The talks would continue into July “to see whether it is possible to compensate for the work that has not been accomplished”.

Meanwhile, Chief of staff Wlosowicz and Force Commander Hwang took a break from the peacekeeping scene to watch “the clash” between Poland and Korea’s football teams during the 2002 World Cup.

The fifth round of talks ended in July with an announced pause “for evaluation, reflection and rest”. A date for talks to resume was set for 27 August. However, the SG invited the two leaders to meet him in Paris on 6 September “to take stock and see if a course can be charted for the way ahead”.

Both accepted the invitation. Explaining the invitation, de Soto pointed out that “doubts have grown about the possibility that the two leaders have of reaching the goal of a comprehensive settlement in a reasonable time limit and with the methods they are using at present”.

While everyone seemed to take a vacation in August, the UNFICYP force Engineer and his Slovak team began excavation and preparation work to renovate and upgrade Foxtrot Gate. As usual, peacekeepers continued to lend a helping hand to the local population.

The SG met the two leaders in Paris on 6 September and highlighted issues he hoped they would tackle on their return to Nicosia and before their next meeting with him in New York in early October.

The gaps between the parties can be bridged, he said adding that, “some are quite a bit smaller than when these talks began.”

At the meeting in New York at the beginning of October, it was decided to create two advisory ad hoc bilateral technical committees to focus on treaties and future common state laws. The SG said a comprehensive settlement had to be “a complex, integrated, legally binding and self-executing agreement where the rights and obligations of all concerned are clear, unambiguous and not subject to further negotiation. Greece and Turkey would have an important role to play. Mr. Denktaş’s heart surgery on 6 October subsequently affected the momentum of the peace effort.

UN day was celebrated on 20 October at Ledra Palace with a record attendance of some 7,500 people from north and south.

In November the SG submitted a proposal for a comprehensive settlement to the two sides and the SG of the UN.

In December, Cyprus was invited to join the European Union preferentially, but not conditionally as a united island. Efforts to secure a settlement had failed to take off, he said. The Copenhagen summit despite all-out diplomatic campaign spearheaded by Alvaro de Soto.

However in issuing its invitation to join, the European Council welcomed the commitment of the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots for a comprehensive settlement on the basis of the SG’s revised proposals and to do so by 28 February.
The Hwang Household

the supermarket to my dance classes. Every week I go to the Deaf School in Nicosia with some Cypriot ladies and diplomatic wives, and we learn traditional dances. Bo is also very artistic. Whilst in the States, she took a course in paper craft and many of her creations can be seen as soon as you enter her home, as the photos accompanying this article show. She is now planning to take art classes run by the Australian High Commissioner’s wife, Marion Ingruber.

Bo is a keen keep-fit enthusiast. She has joined the gym here in the UNPA and power walks most mornings in and around the married quarters, sometimes perusing friends and neighbours to join her. She is such a keen walker that almost every Saturday, she and her husband drive to the Troodos mountains where they follow the mountain trails “because they remind us of the ranges in Korea”. When she has some spare time, Bo likes listening to music and reading.

Bo admits that she wished she could speak better English, but – according to her children, who obviously adore her – her English is much better than when she first arrived! For Bo it was never much of a problem, but where she did find difficulties to begin with was on the roads. This was the first time she had to face with driving on the left, “but, like everything else, I have now got used to it”. Another problem was cooking traditional Korean food for the family. “In the States, it was easy to get the basic ingredients for our special dishes. But here in Cyprus it is not so easy to find what I need. However, having lived in both places, it’s not so hard eating the Western way. It makes us look forward to Korean food even more when we go home.”

Asked about their father, Sung Ho said: “He is very faithful to his work, and is a great provider for the family that he is faithful to his work, and is a great provider for the family as well as to his profession. Even when he is really busy at work, he will always find time to organise some family activity”. These take place when the kids are home from university. Last summer, they all visited Italy. Then at the beginning of this month, the family went on a tour of Egypt.

This is a family which has lived away from home and experienced much. They love their stay in Cyprus, and look forward to the many adventures awaiting them on the island.

A Happy Ending...

It was New Year’s Eve. Two Slovak soldiers, Sgt. Lubomir (Lubo) Mahut and Sgt. Juraj (Jimmy) Tomekova, were driving back to the UNPA having escorted heavy equipment to a UN location close to OP 124 in the mixed village of Pyla. Suddenly, Lubo was hailed to the side of the road in a cry for help. Selim Ergant, a four-year-old Turkish Cypriot boy, had been hurt in a hit-and-run accident. He was bleeding profusely from the head and was in urgent need of medical attention.

The Slovaks took the boy, together with his father and mother, straight to the emergency ward at Larnaca General Hospital where the boy was examined. He had sustained two head wounds, which happily turned out to be minor. Nevertheless it was decided to transfer Selim to the Nicosia General Hospital where a CT scan was carried out to ensure that there were no internal injuries. He was kept in hospital for observation, and was discharged on 3 January.

New Military Public Information Officer

Newly appointed Military Public Information Officer, Maj. Ingrid Tomekova, arrived at HQ UNFICYP HQ at the beginning of December 2002. She arrived from Bratislava, capital of the Slovak Republic, where she recently served as Special Forces Section Member at the General Staff.

Maj. Tomekova joined the Slovak Armed Forces in 1989. In 1995 she attended Peacekeeping Terminology Course in Budapest, Hungary. Later she served as a translator for the Slovak Armed Forces. From 1995 to 1996, she served in the UNTAES mission in the HQ Registry Office. She later served as an interpreter and visit coordinator in the Department of International Relations in the Slovak MOD. She subsequently took part in different PFP International Exercises and Conferences. At the same time, she attended postgraduate studies in International Relations and Diplomacy.

Prior to her appointment, Ingrid was attached to the Public Information Division of the Slovak Ministry of Defence. Currently she is continuing her doctorate studies in the field of diplomacy.

Face Lift for Sector 4 Medical Centre

The Medical Centre in Sector 4 took on a new appearance recently, when repairs of a major scale were implemented. The Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang, inaugurated the centre on 10 December during a ceremony attended by the Chief of Staff, Force Medical Officer, Force Hydro Officer, Force Engineer and CO and DCO Sector 4. The Medical Centre, named Isak House after an Austrian soldier who was killed in the 1974 troubles, was repaired in the record time of three weeks by Slovak engineers. The new Centre provides in- and out-patient treatment, first aid, medical evacuations (MEDÉVACs and CASEVACs), hygiene checkins (food products, storage conditions, etc), cooperation with the local medical authorities and basic medical training for troops stationed with Sector 4.

As Sector 4 Medical Officer Dr. Valastyan said: “These are marvellous moments for us, because our staff’s mood and the service we offer depend largely on their working conditions. The renovation of the Medical Centre has made it so much easier for us to provide a better service”.

W

walk into the Hwang household and the first feeling is of peace. Bo Hwang greets me with a warm smile that would make any stranger feel welcome. Behind her are her three children, all in Cyprus on holiday from their studies in the United States.

Bo is married to Lieutenant General Jin Ha Hwang, the UNFICYP Force Commander. It was, in fact, her mother who introduced her to her future husband. “My mother and mother-in-law met at work and became friends, so it was natural that their children should meet.”

And meet they did. In 1977 they married, and five years later, theirs was a family of five. Kyn Ho (23) is currently studying electrical engineering in Texas, while Sung Ho (22) is in Virginia, doing a course in political sciences. Mee Kyung (20) is also in Virginia, studying to become a systems integration engineer.

Bo did not come from an army family, and neither did her husband. So marrying into the military world was a move into the unknown. At first, Bo found it a little strange. It is customary to move around Korea but where she did find difficulties to begin with was on the roads. This was the first time she had to face with driving on the left, “but, like everything else, I have now got used to it”. Another problem was cooking traditional Korean food for the family. “In the States, it was easy to get the basic ingredients for our special dishes. But here in Cyprus it is not so easy to find what I need. However, having lived in both places, it’s not so hard eating the Western way. It makes us look forward to Korean food even more when we go home.”

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This is a family which has lived away from home and experienced much. They love their stay in Cyprus, and look forward to the many adventures awaiting them on the island.

Just before Selim left the Nicosia General Hospital, Lubo and Jimmy visited him. Selim’s parents expressed their deep gratitude to the peacekeepers who acted so quickly, and also to the hospital authorities who treated their son in such an efficient and professional manner.

Says Lubo, “We were so glad to see Selim on the road to recovery. It is our job to help the people in the ‘cypriot community’”. And, as Jimmy added, “this is a very happy ending to what could have been a sad story".
The Cultural Heritage of Cyprus: Part IX

Nea Pafos - Island Capital

Nea Pafos is located on the island’s southwest coast, looking out over the Mediterranean, and is this month’s destination for The Blue Beret’s continuing series on the cultural heritage of Cyprus. Many of the monuments of Nea Pafos are a living reminder of its importance during Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine and Crusader times on the island, and in fact UNESCO recognised this in 1980, when it included Nea Pafos on its list of World Cultural Heritage sites.

Today, a large archaeological park near the harbour provides access to many of the sites, while others are scattered throughout the town.

Throughout the centuries, New Pafos has been known by various names, including Erythrae, Augusta Claudia Flavia (during the Roman Flavian period) and Kima. It gained its current name of New, or Nea, Pafos to avoid confusion with Old Pafos (Palaepafos), some 16 kilometres to the southeast where the oldest parts of the town lies. It is also called Kato, or lower, Paphos, to distinguish it from present-day Kima, three kilometres to the northeast.

New Pafos was founded towards the end of the 4th century BC by Nikokles, the last king of the Pafian kingdom, to serve as the kingdom’s political and commercial capital. The city gradually grew in importance under the Ptolemies in the Hellenistic period, and by the beginning of the 2nd century BC, it had replaced Salamis as the island’s capital. With its harbour and nearby forests (a ready source of lumber), it was a natural choice for both the seat of government and a shipbuilding centre.

Under the Ptolemies, Cyprus was organised as a military command, though Pafos, like the other cities, enjoyed certain forms of liberty: a boule (council), a demos (popular assembly) and a grammatheus (city secretary).

The importance of Pafos was such that, along with Salamis and Kition, it preserved the right to issue coins throughout the Ptolemaic period. In fact, the Pafian mint was the most important on the island, and it was the only one still issuing coins in Roman times. A joint organisation called the Koiron Kyprion (the Union of the Cyprites), already functioning under the Ptolemies, continued during the Roman period: its chief functions seem to have been the maintenance of the imperial cult and control of the coinage.

Based on the evidence of inscriptions, it appears that Aphrodite, Zeus, Apollo, Artemis and Eros were worshipped in Nea Pafos, though of these, only the sanctuaries of Apollo and probably Artemis are known.

The town was defended during Roman times (58 BC to 395 AD). The status of New Pafos as the capital – a position that it retained until the 4th century AD – is confirmed in the Acts of the Apostles, which describe the visit of St. Paul to Phafus and St. Barnabas to Phafos, the seat of the Roman pro-consul Sergius Paulus, whom they converted to Christianity (Acts 13: 6-12).

At some time in the 4th century AD, Pafos ceased to be the metropolis of Cyprus, yielding its place to Salamis. This may have been the result of the earthquakes of 332 and 342, when both Pafos and Salamis were badly hit. Salamis was soon rebuilt under the name of Constantia, but Pafos remained in ruins for some time. When it was eventually rebuilt, it never regained its old glory, even though it was the seat of a bishop.

Pafos survived throughout Byzantine and medieval times but only as a provincial town. During the Crusades, many pilgrims rested here before proceeding to the Holy Land. It was one of these visits, in 1103, that King Eriq the Good of Denmark died in Pafos. He was buried at the cathedral near the present church of Ayia Kyriake (Chyropolisitissa).

What You’ll See Today

The Tombs of the Kings

The area of the tombs lies at the northernmost end of the northern necropolis of Pafos. The tombs likely belonged to local aristocracy or officials, not royalty, and owe their name to their impressive character. They consist of an open peristyle (colonnade) court in the centre, with burial chambers all around. This construction is entirely cut into the rock below ground level, and is entered by a flight of steps, also cut into the rock. The peristyle is Doric in design: each side of the open court is decorated as a temple façade with large groups of alternating rectangular panels and vertical grooves (metopes and triglyphs). Three of the tombs are preserved in good condition, and probably belong to the 4th century BC.

The Mosaics

The multi-coloured mosaics that originated during the Hellenistic period became very popular during the Roman period in Cyprus. A number of houses northwest of the harbour have been excavated over the past several decades, and have revealed some of the finest mosaics in the eastern Mediterranean. The houses have been named based on the primarily mythological themes depicted in their mosaics – the houses of Aion, Orpheus, Dionysos and Theseus, for example – although some are based on scenes from mythology, that form the mosaic patterns also depict animal scenes and intricate geometric patterns. The house of Theseus is notable for its palatial dimensions, and contains elements characteristic of the late Roman Empire’s official residences.

The Odeon and the Lighthouse

The odeon in the ancient city was a roofed, semi-circular theatre having the usual auditorium, orchestra and stage building. The Pafos odeon is built entirely of stone. Originally, it had 25 rows that could accommodate an estimated 3,000 spectators. The odeon faces east towards the agora (market place) near the lighthouse, and dates from the 2nd century AD.

Saranda Kolones

Several sources indicate that Saranda Kolones, the Castle of the Forty Columns, was first a Byzantine castle overlooking the harbour, probably built in the third quarter of the 7th century AD to protect the port against Arab raiders. If this is correct, the castle must have stood unoccupied during the long period when Cyprus was demilitarised by agreement between the Arabs and the Byzantines, and would have been reconditioned after the Byzantines recovered full control of the island in 963. Other sources describe the castle’s first construction as Lusignan, towards the end of the 12th century.

Regardless of its beginnings, the castle was most certainly named for the numerous broken giant columns that were formerly the site’s most prominent feature. (The columns were likely brought from the nearby Roman agora.) Saranda Kolones was one of the castles surrendered to Richard the Lionheart in 1191, and survived in Lusignan times until the earthquakes of 1222 AD destroyed it.

The Mediaeval Castle

This small mediaeval building is located at the base of the western ancient breakwater. It is one of the two “kastella” or castles that protected the port from the sea, and was built by the Lusignans in the 13th century to replace the Byzantine castle of Saranda Kolones. The nucleus of the fort is a Lusignan tower with a walled yard around it. The Venetians dismantled it in 1570, but the Ottomans restored and strengthened it between 1580 and 1592, after they captured the island.

St. Paul’s Pillar

The traditional pillar of St. Paul can be seen at a short distance west of the 13th century church of Ayia Kyriake (Chryopolitissa). St. Paul visited Nea Pafos in 46 AD. According to legend, he was bound to this pillar and given 39 lashes as punishment for preaching Christianity. The ruins of a 4th century AD, seven-aisled basilica can also be seen here, including green and white marble columns and traces of mosaics.

The Catacombs

The catacombs of Ayia Salomoni on the east side of the main Pafos road and Ayios Lamprigios on the west side consist of a complex of underground chambers opening onto an open court in imitation of the Tombs of the Kings. The catacomb of Ayia Salomoni underwent further alterations in Byzantine times, when one of its chambers was transformed into a chapel. This was decorated at the beginning of the 12th century AD with interesting fresco paintings; however, these have been badly damaged by rainwater and visitors. Indeed, some of the names scratched onto the walls date back to the 13th century, and include Crusaders.

The tombs of the Kings

The Mosaics

The Odeon and the Lighthouse

Saranda Kolones

The Mediaeval Castle

St. Paul’s Pillar

The Catacombs
So... What's Your New Year Resolution?

By Charlotte Mortensen

The same thing happens exactly the same time every single year – memberships at health clubs boom in early January and you don’t have to look any further than the Undorphor or the UNPA for proof. As an avid exerciser myself, more often than not, I find my name at the only one having visited the gym on any given day, except in January and February when I suddenly notice other names appearing on the sign-in list. Then it slows down in March – and by July I am all alone again.

I think we all know what is happening here – it’s the same old new year resolutions of “getting into better shape” or wanting “to lose those extra 5 kg” kicking in. As said, there are the old serial familiars, figuring as prominently as ever. Like “this year I WILL stop smoking!” (I never hear anyone saying “this year I will stop drinking”). What is that all about? Aren’t we talking about unhealthy habits? No, I won’t get started on that one, but I am intrigued as to whether people go further and deeper in their more or less sincere New Year Resolutions.

So, soooo, I opted for one of my usual very thorough statistical surveys and took a walk around the UNPA. The first two people I met were women and both of them wanted to lose a bit of weight. OK, so I get that classic one out of the way and decided next time to point out that I was not interested in weight loss or exercise routines.

A female colleague of mine told me that this year, she would “try not to eat till tomorrow things that could be done today”. That’s a good one we could all learn from.

Then I saw a cute, young-looking soldier and ran over to him. After getting my breath back, I asked him about his New Year Resolution. He looked at me for a very long time, in silence, then pointed to his left ring finger and said: “I’m married”. Did he think I was flirting with him, or was he signifying a belief that the married don’t make New Year Resolutions? I don’t know.

Things were going pretty well, I thought. Answers on weight loss and exercise hopes were out. Young men were a no-no, so what was I to do? Ah, solution was coming my way – a woman I know was walking towards me. Would I not be able to get some honest responses out of her? “Hey, did you make any New Year Resolutions this year? I asked without really getting her know that it was more than just a friendly question (I wonder if she would have been just as honest had she known I was collecting information for a scientific public statistic) because man, oh man, had she thought this one over! We are talking resolutions enough to cover the whole year from liposuction to spider vein removals (ouch!) to permanent colouring of eyelashes (I thought Michael Jackson was the only one doing permanent make-up these days), better diet, eating out less, listening more to her children AND getting her husband in better shape……

I was exhausted. She probably didn’t even have time to celebrate New Year’s Eve. She must have been sitting with a note pad in front of her writing and writing and writing.

Exhausted as I was, I managed to crawl back to my office, throw myself in to my chair, feeling like I had just done a whole day’s work.

Regardless of what sort of resolution you make (if you even bother) I personally feel that there is always room for some sort of reflection on your life – maybe in your mind during a few goals or dreams you have for yourself.

It doesn’t have to be a major change; it doesn’t even have to be on New Year’s Eve. But it can never hurt to stop for a minute and focus on where you are in life, what you do and what you would like to do better.

I do it every year. However, I find my birthday a more profound start of a new year than the actual turnover of the calendar. But whatever works for you – it’s your life – it’s your resolution. Give it a thought and maybe decide that 2005 is going to be the best year yet.

Good luck and have a fabulous New Year!

Change of Command in Sector 2

Sector 2’s command was handed over to 47 Regiment Royal Artillery by 16 Regiment Royal Artillery on 5 December. Pictured right are the two Commanding Officers at the flag ceremony in Wolseley Barracks on 5 December.

The new CO Sector 2 is Lt. Col. Rob Weighill. Educated at Sandhurst, his first posting was in 1982 to 2nd Field Regiment in Munster. He then joined 2nd Regt., which included a tour to Northern Ireland and deployments to BATUS, Canada. Following postings in Aldershot, Shritvenham, Camberley, and Hong Kong, came a posting to a Rapier Battery, during which he was deployed to the USA on Exercise Purple Star.

In 1997, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and was posted to the HQ AAAD Rapid Reaction Command Germany for three years, a tour which included an operational deployment to Macedonia and subsequently Kosovo with HQ KFOR.

Lt. Col. Rob Weighill assumed command of 47 Regt in December 2000. He is married to Caroline and they have three children, Louisa, Oliver and Sophia.

His hobbies include skiing, orienteering, shooting and paying school fees.

Visitors to UNFICYP

UNFICYP received a number of visitors over the holidays.

The Right Honourable Adam Ingram JP MP visited 47th Regiment RA in Sector 2 on 19 December. He was taken on a Green Line tour, where he met soldiers and officers on duty in the buffer zone.

He also called on the UNFICYP Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang. The whistle-stop tour also included visiting the British Bases in the south of the island.

Then on 20 December, the Hungarian Minister of Defence, Mr. Imre Frics with a visit to UNFICYP. He was greeted by the Force Commander and then inspected a Guard of Honour. The Minister also paid a courtesy visit to Chief of Mission Zbigniew Wisolnowski.

On 8 January, the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, H.E. Mr. Walter Schwimmer, visited UNFICYP following a Guard of Honour inspection, he paid an office call on the Chief of Mission.

On 18 January, a group of graduate students from George Mason University, Virginia, USA, stopped in at UNFICYP as part of their visit to Cyprus. They were given a Green Line tour in Sector 2, and

Lt. Col. Rob Weighill (left) taking command from Lt. Col. David Scouller.

H.E. Mr. Imre Frics with the Chief of Mission.

H.E. Mr. Walter Schwimmer inspecting the Guard of Honour.

H.E. Mr. Imre Frics with the Chief of Mission.

George Mason University students
ANNOUNCEMENT OF FLAG AND ANTHEM COMPETITIONS

H.E. Mr. Glafcos Clerides, and H.E. Mr. Rauf Denktash, have together asked the United Nations to seek submissions through open public competition for the design of a flag and the composition of an anthem for Cyprus. It is envisaged that the flag and anthem would be part of a comprehensive settlement to be submitted to separate referenda.

The two competitions are open to all people without age restrictions. Joint entries from Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots are particularly welcome. Entrants are encouraged to bear in mind that both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, as equal partners in a new state of affairs, should be able to identify with their flag and anthem. Accordingly, the flag and anthem should reflect a commitment to a common future in a spirit of mutual respect, tolerance and reconciliation in an independent and united Cyprus.

FLAG COMPETITION

Flag entries will be accepted provided they arrive within and not beyond the deadline set in this announcement and that they fully comply with the regulations contained within this announcement.

The following guidelines apply:

- The flag design should be striking, easily recognisable, pleasing to the eye, and simple enough for a child to draw.
- The flag should be rectangular and of the proportions of 2:3.
- Lettering should be avoided.

The following regulations apply:

- Competition entries must be submitted in a sealed envelope as follows:
  - flag design(s) in full colour on an A4 sheet of paper (only one design per sheet). Name and contact details must not be written on the sheet containing the submitted flag design.
  - a separate A4 sheet of paper containing the following information: first and last names, address(es), telephone number(s), date(s) and place(s) of birth of the entrant(s), as well as a reduced copy of the submitted flag design(s) on the same sheet.
  - either an indication of the origin of the design(s) or, in the case of an original design(s), a declaration by the entrant(s) for each such design as follows:
    - "This is my/our own work. I/we authorise the selection committee to publish or display the design both during and after the competition. If my/our design is selected, I/we authorise its use as the flag of Cyprus without restrictions of time or form, and without claims for royalties or other remuneration."

- If more than one design is submitted, each individual design must be shown on a separate A4 sheet. The designer(s)'s name(s) and contact details must be clearly marked on one or more additional A4 sheets together with reductions of all the designs submitted.
- Flag designs may be accompanied by a brief description (no more than 150 words) of the rationale behind the concept, written on a separate sheet of paper in English, or in Greek or Turkish (with an English translation).
- Once an entry has been submitted, the entrant(s) may not publish, show or use the design in any public display until after the competition has been finalised and a flag selected. Failure to comply with this regulation may result in immediate disqualification.

ANTEHMM COMPETITION

This competition is chiefly for music, and not for lyrics. However, lyrics may be included in the entry, preferably in both Greek and Turkish. If an anthem with lyrics is selected, its official version will be in both Greek and Turkish. Accordingly, the flag and anthem should reflect a commitment to a common future in a spirit of mutual respect, tolerance and reconciliation in an independent and united Cyprus.

The following guidelines apply:

- The composition should be easily recognisable.
- The length of the composition should be not less than 30 seconds and not more than 60 seconds.

The following regulations apply:

- Competition entries must be submitted in a sealed envelope as follows:
  - a legible copy of the full score, as well as a copy of the piano score
  - a recorded version of the composition (tape, CD or similar)
  - a document containing the following information: first and last names, address(es), telephone number(s), date(s) and place(s) of birth of the entrant(s)
  - either an indication of the origin of the composition(s) or, in the case of an original composition(s), a declaration by the entrant(s) for each such composition as follows:
    - "This is my/our own work. I/we authorise the selection committee to publish or perform the composition both during and after the competition. If my/our composition is selected, I/we authorise its use as the anthem of Cyprus without restrictions of time or form, and without claims for royalties or other remuneration."
    - "I/we also forego the right to perform or use my/our submitted score(s) in any way whatsoever for 3 months from the day immediately after the announcement of the selected composition."

- Any lyrics must be provided in either Greek or Turkish, preferably both. An English translation must also be provided.
- Anthem compositions may be accompanied by a brief description (no more than 150 words) of the inspiration behind the composition, written on a separate sheet of paper in English, or in Greek or Turkish (with an English translation).
- Once an entry has been submitted, the entrant(s) may not perform or use the composition in any public way until 3 months after the competition has been finalised and an anthem selected. Failure to comply with this regulation may result in immediate disqualification.

Entries for both competitions must be received no later than 5.00 p.m. (Nicosia time) on 17 February 2003.

Competition entries may be posted in a plain envelope clearly marked as follows:

Flag and Anthem Competition
P.O. Box 27684, 2432 Nicosia

Alternatively, competition entries may be submitted in person, Monday to Friday between 27 January and 17 February from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. (Nicosia time), at the following address:
4b Korytsas St., Ayios Andreas 1107 Nicosia, Tel: 22 773 972

Participation in the competitions implies the full acceptance of these regulations. Failure to observe these regulations may result in the disqualification of an entry. Bilateral committees comprising an equal number of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots and chaired by the United Nations will examine the flag designs and anthem scores entered in accordance with the provisions and terms of this announcement. They will make recommendations by consensus to the two leaders for their consideration from among the entries received.

Entrants whose flag design or anthem composition are ultimately selected for inclusion in the comprehensive settlement will be advised by registered letter. They will not receive recognition through public announcement, but they will not receive any financial remuneration from the competition organisers.

Questions pertaining to either competition can be addressed by electronic mail to: info@flagandanthem.com

The competition organisers will not accept responsibility or liability for any legal action arising from the submission of plagiarised materials, or otherwise arising from the conduct of the competition.