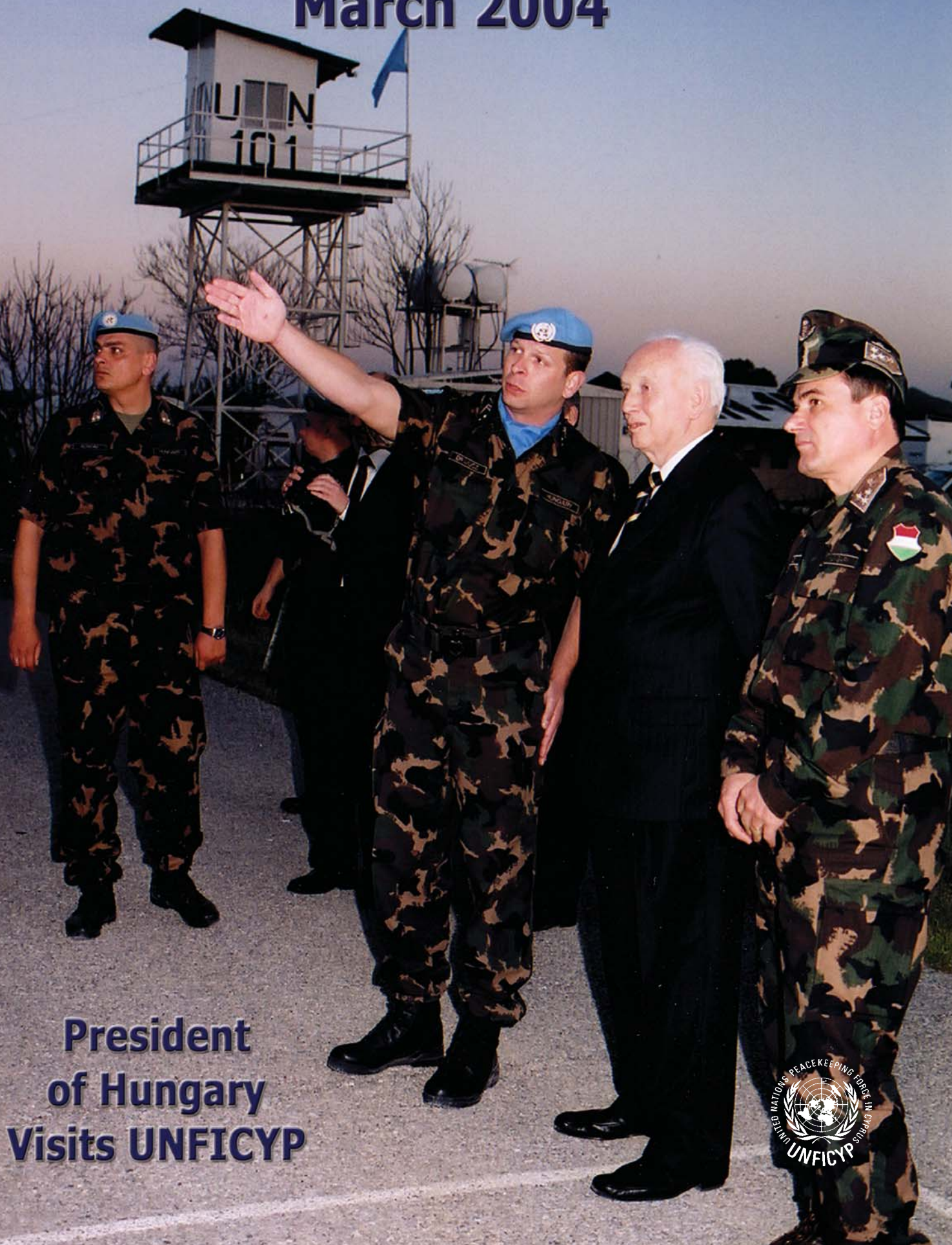


The Blue Beret

March 2004



**President
of Hungary
Visits UNFICYP**



THE BLUE BERET

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READ THE PLAN

On 31 March in Bürgenstock, Switzerland, the Secretary-General presented the leaders with the final version of his plan, "The Comprehensive Settlement of the Cyprus Problem". In doing so, he said that the decision is now up to the people when they go to simultaneous, separate referenda on 24 April.

There is much to deliberate on in the run-up to the referenda at this crucial point in the island's history. Yet, one thing is clear. The plan provides for one opportunity for holding the referenda and one only. Just as the Secretary-General said there is no plan B, so too, there is no referendum B. If not approved on 24 April, the plan will be null and void.

Special Adviser de Soto pointed this out on his return to the island after briefing the Security Council in New York, noting: "We've had four years of negotiations. The product is on the table. The time has come for a definitive decision".

He appealed for a calm assessment of the plan on each side. Above all, he appealed to the people to *read the plan*.

Media reports to the contrary, the plan has been improved at Bürgenstock – for both sides. True, the plan contains some points where the Secretary-General filled in the gaps by invitation of the leaders. Obviously, the plan is a compromise – but, in de Soto's words, it is a principled compromise that meets the most important basic concerns of the two sides.

"We believe the final product is a fair plan, a workable plan, a plan that accommodates the concerns of each side. But the only way the Cypriots can decide this is if they read the plan themselves", he said.

The plan is now available on many websites, including the UN site, www.annanplan.org.

Editorial

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SG Presents Final Text at Bürgenstock

31 March 2004

"The time for negotiation and consultation is over. The time for decision and action has arrived.

I am very glad that, in addition to the leadership of each side – Mr Papadopoulos, Mr. Talat and Mr. Denktash – Prime Minister Karamanlis and Prime Minister Erdogan are with us tonight.

I thank Mr. Günther Verheugen, the European Union Enlargement Commissioner, for being with us, and demonstrating the Union's strong support for this effort to bring about a Cyprus settlement.

Two days ago, when some of us last met here, I submitted to you a revision of my plan to solve the Cyprus problem.

Since then, we have had 48 busy hours. I have met all the leaders, and I have listened to you very carefully.

You now have before you a final text, reviewed and amended overnight and again today.

I have written each of you a letter, outlining the procedure from here, in order for separate simultaneous referenda to be held on both sides in Cyprus on 24 April 2004 – and, I hope, for a reunited Cyprus to accede to the European Union on 1 May 2004.

We have arrived at this point following talks on the island, and now, during this last week, a concentrated effort in Bürgenstock.

The six weeks of negotiations and consultation which conclude tonight were conducted within an unavoidably tight schedule.

There has been intense public interest, and the press has played its part in encouraging a lively debate.

Even in the last two days, there has been much speculation about the revised plan. Many of the positive elements have been lost sight of in the discussion.

The revised plan has a property scheme that is simpler, fairer and more certain.

It has a more workable system of government.

It has better safeguards for the constituent states.

It has transitional arrangements that I am confident can and will work.

And it has been improved from the financial and economic point of view.

Since that revision was presented on Monday, further refinements have been made.

As a result, the plan now before you is very different from the proposal that has been in front of you for the past year.

The process of negotiation is not a football match. It is not a question of keeping score of goals and own goals, of winners and losers.

Rather, we have tried to accommodate the expressed concerns of both sides, so as to create a win-win situation.

I believe that we have succeeded. But the time has come for you, the leaders, and for voters in both communities, to assess what is before them as an overall package in the run-up to the referenda.

As the people of Cyprus, north and south, debate and consider their future over the next three and a half weeks, they will be looking to you, their leaders, for guidance.

You have undertaken the responsibility of organising referenda. You have a responsibility to inform the people about the plan on which they will be asked to say yes or no, so that each voter can make up his or her own mind.



Closing of the Cyprus Talks

This plan is inevitably a compromise. It does not satisfy everyone's demands. But I believe it meets the core interests, and addresses the key concerns, of people on both sides.

Let me be clear. The choice is not between this settlement plan and some other magical or mythical solution. In reality, at this stage, the choice is between this settlement and no settlement.

If the settlement is approved in the referenda next month, Cyprus would reunify, in time to accede to the European Union. After only a short interval, freedom of movement would prevail, without border-like checkpoints.

A new state of affairs would emerge, far better designed than the one of 1960 to manage relations between the two communities.

A substantial number of Greek Cypriots would be able to return to the homes they left behind 30 years ago, and to do so under Greek Cypriot administration. Others would receive full and effective compensation.

Cypriots from both sides could return to their homes in the area administered by the other Constituent State.

Some Turkish Cypriots might have to move, though fewer than is sometimes thought. There would be time for this to be organised properly, and

adequate measures would be taken, with the help of the international community, to ensure that they have adequate alternative housing and opportunities to thrive.

For Turkish Cypriots, the decades of isolation would come to an end, as they come together with Greek Cypriots under the protective European mantle, as equal partners in the new state of affairs.

The United Nations would strengthen its operation in Cyprus, and help the Cypriots implement the settlement.

The European Union would accommodate the settlement and provide important political and financial support for its implementation.

Military forces would be substantially reduced during a transitional phase, and be halved again seven years from now. In time they would reduce to the moderate levels foreseen in the 1960 Treaty of Alliance.

A Federal government would be established, together with two Constituent states, one with a clearly identifiable Greek Cypriot identity, the other distinctly Turkish Cypriot, both largely running their own affairs.

The working of the Federal government would provide mechanisms to encourage people from both sides to work together.

Cyprus would be a full member of the European Union, based upon the rule of law, democracy, and respect for human rights.

No-one says that reunification will be easy.

Yes, there will be plenty of challenges along the way – but the plan gives you a structure that can help you meet them.

Yes, it will cost money – though less than is sometimes thought.

This plan is fair. It is designed to work. And I believe it provides Cypriots with a secure framework for a common future.

At the end of the day, of course, it does not matter what I think. It is what the people think that counts. They decide – and rightly so.

This is a moment of high drama. It is inevitable that there should be tensions and uncertainty. Everyone wants to be sure that this settlement will bring about a better future for Cyprus and for them personally.

No one can be certain of what the future holds. But I am certain that my settlement plan offers the best and fairest chance of peace, prosperity and stability that is ever likely to be on offer.

There have been too many missed opportunities in the past. For the sake of all of you and your people, I urge you not to make the same mistake again.

Let us seize this chance for peace in a United Cyprus Republic."





Special Adviser de Soto briefs Security Council on Cyprus Settlement

For the people of Cyprus, the next month [April] is the most critical in the last 30 years, as they decide whether to reunite their country on the basis of Kofi Annan's settlement plan, Alvaro de Soto told the Security Council just days after the conclusion of

the final negotiations in Bürgenstock, Switzerland.

Achieving a Cyprus settlement is a complex task, legally and politically, he stated. The result would be a bicomunal, bizonal, federal system, a State of Cyprus with a single international legal personality, sovereignty and citizenship, based on the principle of political equality between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

"For the people of Cyprus, the next month [April] is the most crucial in the last 30 years as they decide whether to reunite their country on the basis of Kofi Annan's plan."

concepts and trade-offs that had emerged from a long process of negotiation.

The 9,000-page text containing the basic settlement plan – which calls for a federal government composed of two constituent states – as well as legal formulas and other annexes, will now be voted on by the Greek and Turkish Cypriots in separate, simultaneous referenda on 24 April.

The plan was inevitably a compromise, he said, noting it did not meet all the demands of each side. But the SG believed it was a fair and balanced plan, and hoped that the people on each side would agree.

The SG, he added, would soon place before the Council a full report on the negotiations, including a proposal, as provided for in the plan, for a revised UN operation in Cyprus.

Briefing Summary

In his briefing, de Soto said the finalised plan would be made available to Council members in electronic format and that it could also be found on the United Nations website – www.un.org or directly at www.annanplan.org.

He said that the plan to be placed before the people had been finalised, in the last resort, by the SG, but it was not his invention. The role of the UN had been to put things in writing where it had been hard for the parties to do so. What was now before the people was a plan that embodied the key concepts and trade-offs that had emerged from a long process of negotiation. The improvements made in it, while not agreed, reflected the material put forward in intensive negotiations that resumed on 19 February.

Summarizing the main improvements to the plan, de Soto said that, by far, the most important change related to the question of reinstatement of property to people who had been dispossessed. The revised scheme was fairer, simpler, and more certain. That would increase the amount of land reinstated to dispossessed owners and that would also increase significantly the number of displaced and dispossessed persons who would be reinstated to some of their property. At the same time, it would give more certainty to current users.

He said that certain non-discriminatory restrictions on the acquisition of property in the Turkish Cypriot state would be permissible, but only for a transitional period.

The plan was also revised in the way that it dealt with two issues that were distinct, but related, he said. That referred to the question of residency by persons from one constituent state in the other constituent state, and the question of the establishment of residency by Greek and Turkish nationals in Cyprus.

He said that those transitional limitations had not been designed to divide Cypriots. Those had been designed to prevent either side from being overrun by unrestricted establishment of residence, unrestricted immigration, or unlimited property purchases in a transitional period, and to ensure that the identify of Cyprus and its constituent states was maintained. There were no permanent derogations from the "acquis communautaire".

The workings of the federal government had also been revised in three important respects, he continued. First, the long transitional periods foreseen in the previous plan had been replaced by a much shorter period, with full elections to be held at the federal and constituent state level, along with EU elections, on 13 June. Second, the structure of the Presidential Council had been altered, with nine members rather than six, and with provision for two persons not hailing from the same constituent state to rotate in the office of the President and the Vice-President in three 20-month periods over the 60-month term of the Presidential Council.

Third, voting for the Senate would be on the basis of mother tongue, rather than on the basis of internal citizenship status, to ensure that political equality could not be undermined over time. A number of improvements had been made regarding the economic and financial aspects of the plan, largely based on the agreed recommendations of experts from each side in the technical committees.

The map in the plan had not changed, he continued. But an important new element had been introduced, which would be of direct interest to the Security Council. It was envisaged that, in the last months of each phased hand-over of territory, the supervision by the UN of the activities relating to the transfer of areas subject to territorial adjustment shall be enhanced in the relevant areas. New details of measures to assist in relocation of persons who must move as a result of territorial adjustment had been introduced into the plan.

Important refinements had been made regarding security, he said, in at least three respects. First, the provisions relating to troop withdrawal had been altered. Under the previous plan, 6,000 Greek and Turkish troops were permitted to remain in Cyprus, on the proviso that all would leave should Turkey accede to the EU. The revised plan

provided for 6,000 to drop to 3,000 in 2011. It further provided for the 3,000 to drop in 2018, or upon Turkey's EU accession, whichever was earlier, to the 950 Greek troops and 650 Turkish troops permitted under the 1960 Treaty of Alliance, and for three yearly reviews of troop levels thereafter with a view to total withdrawal by mutual consent.

Second, the role of the Monitoring Committee envisaged under the plan had been strengthened, with the parties undertaking to act on its recommendations. Third, the mandate of the UN operation had been strengthened, not only to provide for the assumption of territorial responsibility for agreed areas and time periods prior to transfer of territory, without prejudice to local administrations of the population, but also to provide for the UN to monitor political developments and provide advice and good offices as required.

During April, a number of steps had to be taken, he said. The parties needed to work together to finalise plans for federal buildings, property and personnel. They must each hand over to the SG lists of persons who would be citizens of the United Cyprus Republic upon entry into force, in accordance with the plan. And they must provide for mechanisms to identify the members of the transitional government to take office for two months after entry into force.

The guarantor powers must confirm to the SG and each other in writing, no later than 7 April 2004, that they agreed to the Foundation Agreement being submitted to separate simultaneous referenda, and that upon its approval and completion of their internal ratification procedures, they would sign, no later than 29 April, the treaty provided for in the plan. The SG would, in accordance with the plan, submit to the Council a detailed proposal for a revised UN operation in Cyprus, with the hope that the Council would act prior to the referenda, conditional upon their approval.

Finally, the EU was organising a preparatory meeting on 15 April for a donor's conference that would take place after reunification. The UN urged donors to participate in that conference and be prepared to commit the resources necessary to give Cypriots the confidence that the implementation of the plan would receive strong international support.

Should the plan be approved on 24 April on each side, it would not enter into force until 29 April, and only after Greece, Turkey and the United Kingdom, as guarantors, had completed all internal procedures necessary to sign into force on 29 April the treaty provided in the plan. That revised mode of entry into force of the settlement was designed to ensure that the guarantors were legally committed to their obligations under it.

The EU would also have to act quickly to accommodate the terms of the settlement and make way for a united Cyprus to accede to the EU two days later, on 1 May. The European Commissioner for Enlargement, who was at Bürgenstock, had confirmed that the European Commission was committed to submitting the Act of Adaptation of the terms of accession of the United Cyprus Republic to the EU, which was provided for in the plan, for consideration by the Council of the EU prior to 24 April, and for its adoption after the successful outcome of the separate simultaneous referenda before

1 May. Furthermore, the Commission was also committed to bringing about a final outcome, without delay, which would result in the adaptation of primary law and ensure legal certainty and security within the EU legal system for all concerned.

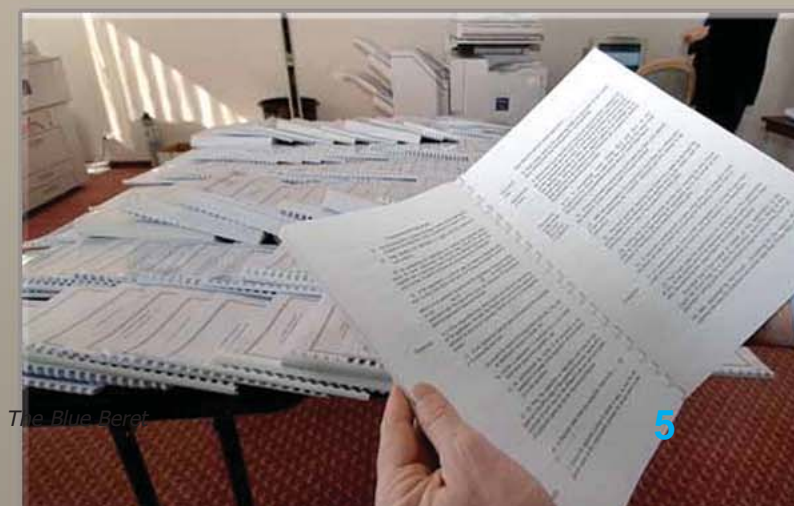
"As is obvious, achieving a Cyprus settlement is a complex task – legally and politically", he stated. But there were certain points that should not be lost sight of. First, the process had been conducted in full conformity with the mandate provided to the SG by the Security Council. The product of the work was a bicomunal, bizonal, federal system, a State of Cyprus with a single international legal personality, sovereignty and citizenship. It was based on the principle of political equality between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

Second, he continued, the plan was based on respect for international law and individual human rights. In that regard, a majority of Greek Cypriots who were displaced would be able to return to their homes and have their properties reinstated under Greek Cypriot administration. All others would either receive reinstatement of their property, or full and effective compensation, or a combination of both.

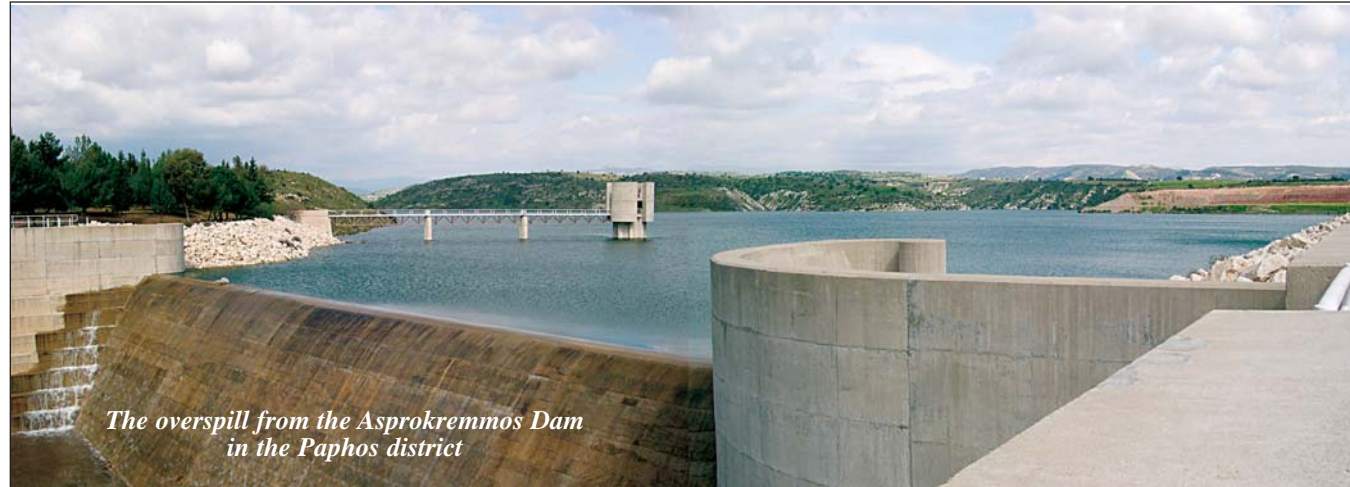
Third, the long-term objective of the plan was the demilitarization of Cyprus, he said. In that regard, all troops in excess of those permitted by the 1960 Treaty of Alliance would withdraw from Cyprus over time and, thereafter, the small number of troops remaining would be subject to regular review with a view to total withdrawal by mutual consent.

The plan was inevitably a compromise, he stated. It did not meet all the demands of each side. But the SG believed it was a fair and balanced plan, and he hoped that, as they considered it, the people on each side would agree. The UN would be doing its best to make available to the public in Cyprus information about the plan.

For the people of Cyprus, the next month was the most critical in the last 30 years, he said. They would have the democratic right to decide whether to reunite their country on the basis that had been suggested. The UN was proud to have been able to work with their leaders to give them that opportunity. "We hope they appreciate what a unique opportunity this is, and that they will seize the chance for a just and lasting peace in Cyprus."



Wettest Winter on Record



The overspill from the Asprokremmos Dam in the Paphos district

The wettest winter on record in Cyprus has proved beneficial for the island's water reserves with most dams overflowing by February and the largest, the Kourris dam in Limassol, overflowing on 4 March for the first time since it was built in 1988.

With the dams at 98% of capacity, they can supply the irrigation needs of the areas they serve for the next two to three years.

The Kourris dam, 550 m wide and 110 m high and with a lake surface of 3.6 sq.km, holds as much water as all the rest put together. Fed by the Kourris, Kyros and Limnitis rivers, it has a total capacity of 115 m tons of water. It also receives some water from a diversion on the Arminou reservoir, 14.5 km away to the west, via an underground pipe. The rains broke more than records this winter, however. UNFICYP engineers and building maintenance were hard at work throughout the winter months, repairing flood damage to buildings and other installations.

However, as Cyprus regularly experiences extended periods of drought, the increased water intake in the dams does not mean that we should forget water conservation measures especially now that the hot summer months are approaching.



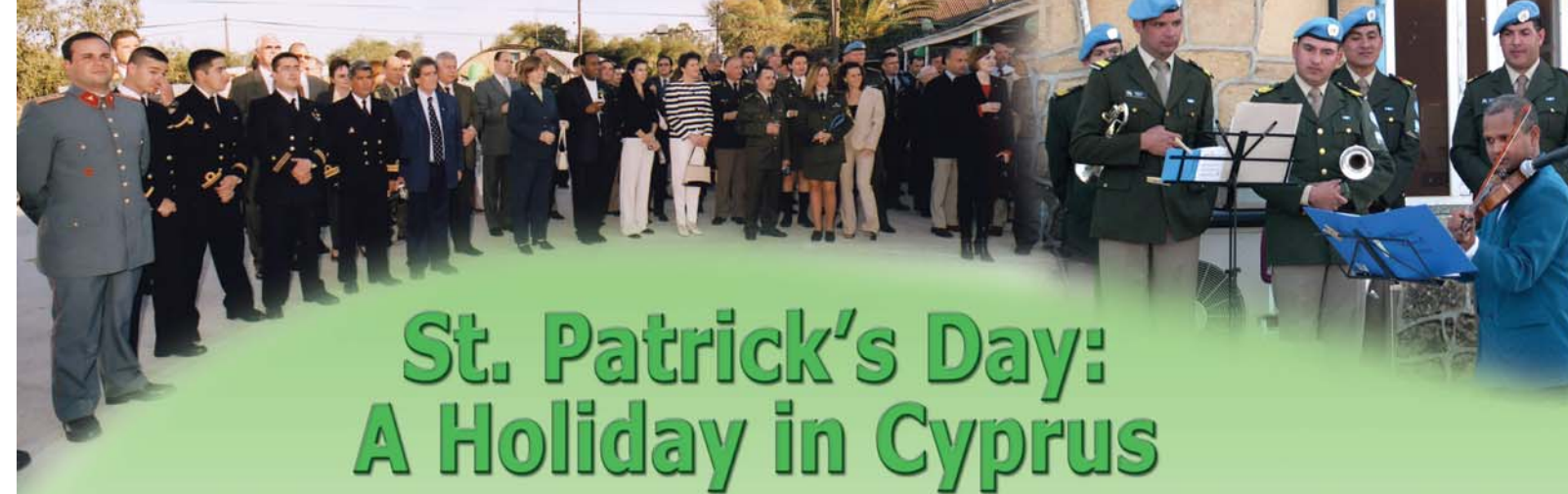
Winds and rain cause damage to the patrol tracks in Sector 1

By following a number of water saving measures, which require little time and money to implement, not just during drought conditions but year-round, significant amounts of water can be saved.

- Check the plumbing installation for leaks.
- Check taps for drips and make repairs promptly.
- Install plastic water bags in the toilet flush tanks.
- Take a shower instead of a bath and avoid having to run the water until it's hot. Turn off shower water while you apply soap to body.
- Encourage and advise children not to mess around with water in the bath, garden or anywhere else.
- Turn off water while you shave and/or brush teeth.
- Wash only full loads in the washing and dish washing machines.
- Water the garden with a watering can early in the morning or in the evening when evaporation is limited.
- Wash the car with a sponge and a bucket, instead of a hosepipe.
- Use a broom, not a hose, to clean verandas and pavements.



OP in Sector 4 damaged by weather conditions



St. Patrick's Day: A Holiday in Cyprus

The 17th of March, Saint Patrick's Day, is Ireland's national holiday. Because the Irish, through emigration and missionary work, have set up communities all over the world, Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated around the globe.

Saint Patrick came to Ireland on a slave ship in the

year 432 AD while still a boy. It is believed that his country of origin was either England or France.

Later, St. Patrick left Ireland for Rome where he studied and was ordained as a priest. He returned to Ireland to preach the gospel. Ireland at the time was a pagan country.

This year in Cyprus, the Irish UNCIVPOL and Irish Army Contingents co-hosted the celebration in honour of their patron saint. The festivities commenced with a Catholic mass, followed by an interdenominational service at Saint Columba's Church, UNPA. The co-celebrants were Father Jason Donohoe, who travelled from island to island from Enniscorthy, County Wexford, and Padre Lee Gandiya, who, of course, is based here with UNFICYP's British Contingent.

Afterwards the receptions began at the Irish Ambassador's residence, hosted by H.E. Mr. John Swift and his wife Jean. The celebration continued at the International Mess in the UNPA, where a large gathering enjoyed excellent food, wine, Irish coffees and,

of course, Irish music, singing and dancing.

The Argentinian band also performed, thanks to Lt. Col. G. Motta, Commanding Officer of Sector One. And, of course, that well-known traditional fiddler, Insp. Krishnabalan, was there, playing a medley of Indian jigs and reels!

Ambassador Swift addressed the distinguished gathering on behalf of the Irish Government. Among those present were former Irish Prime Minister Dr. Garret Fitzgerald, as well as the Chief of Mission and the Force Commander. The party later continued into the night at the CIVPOL Club.

UNFICYP's hosts thank all who honoured them with their company and attendance, and for making Saint Patrick's Day 2004 one to remember.



Above: Former Irish Prime Minister, Dr. Garret Fitzgerald (left), enjoying himself with families of serving UNFICYP Irish personnel

Left: IRCIVPOL and IRCON members of UNFICYP with Father Jason Donohoe (left) and Padre Lee Gandiya (right)

The Cultural Heritage of Cyprus – Part XXI

A Record of the Ages: The Cyprus Museum



Room I



Room II



Room III



Room V



Room IV



Room VI



Room VII



Room VIII



Room XII



Room XIII

Located in central Nicosia at No. 1 Museum Avenue, the Cyprus Museum is a neo-classical limestone building that was constructed, beginning in 1908, in memory of Britain's Queen Victoria. The museum, which is the latest destination for the Blue Beret's series on the cultural heritage of Cyprus, has been renovated and enlarged several times, and now houses Cypriot antiquities from the Neolithic period to the beginning of the Middle Ages.

Room I contains items from the Neolithic (7000 to 3000 BC) and Chalcolithic (3000 to 2300 BC) civilizations. These include stone and ceramic implements, votive offerings, home utensils, industrial and farming tools, jewellery and statuettes. Of special interest are stone utensils from Khirokitia, Neolithic pottery from Sotira and Khirokitia, and a display case with cruciform idols of picrolite.

Room II contains red-slip pottery from the Early Bronze Age (2300 to 1850 BC) from the necropoleis of Vounous and Denia. Some examples of this pottery have incised or raised decorations, while others take the shape of animals or birds. Of special interest are complex vases with many spouts, and a clay model of a sanctuary from Vounous.

Room III covers a wide variety of pottery from the Middle Bronze Age to the end of the Roman period (1850 BC to 395 AD). Here, pottery is grouped by period and style. There are beautiful Middle Bronze Age geometric jugs, Cypro-Mycenaean masterpieces with exquisite designs, vases from the Cypro-Geometric period (1050 to 750 BC), and a series of jugs decorated with concentric circles. This room also displays bi-chrome (two-colour) vases from the Cypro-Achaic period (750 to 450 BC). Imported pottery from Greece (red figures on a black background or black figures on a red background) is also on exhibit here, as well as Cypro-Roman "terra sigillata" (relief) jugs.

Room IV is mostly dedicated to clay votive offerings from the Ayia Irini sanctuary (approximately 1200 BC) that was excavated in 1929 by the Swedish Cyprus Expedition. They comprise human figures, centaurs, horsemen, chariots, horses and bulls. The Egyptian influence is very clear.

Room V shows the development of sculpture from the Cypro-Achaic through the Roman periods. These include statues of gods and goddesses, young men and girls, priests and priestesses, and sphinxes and lions. Of special interest are the female stone head (No. XLI) from the sanctuary of Aphrodite at Arsos village, as well as the famous Aphrodite of Soli.

Room VI is dedicated to Roman sculptures in stone, marble and bronze. Some of the statues are of outstanding quality, such as the large bronze statue of the Roman Emperor Septimus Severus (119 to 211 AD) from Kythrea and the small marble statue of the sleeping Eros (Cupid) from Pafos.

Room VII has a variety of items: bronze arms, utensils, statuettes, elaborate stands, coins, cylinder seals, gold and silver jewellery, lamps, glassware, items in alabaster and ivory, mosaics, and a replica of the entrance of a royal tomb at Tamassos. They date from the Cypro-Mycenaean period to early Christian times. The very finely worked

jewellery, including a unique gold and agate necklace from Arsos, is outstanding. Also on exhibit here are the famous Horned God and Ingot God from Enkomi, as well as two excellent compositions: two lions devouring a cow; and the bronze statue of a bull from Vouni.

Room VIII is the basement, where there are six tomb reconstructions. Number One dates from the Chalcolithic period, and shows a tomb outside the wall of a hut. Number Two is an Early Bronze Age rock-cut tomb with a passage, showing burial gifts near the skeleton. Number Three is a Middle Bronze Age rock-cut tomb with a side-chamber containing offerings. Number Four is a Late Bronze Age tomb with two distinct burial layers, dating from the 13th century BC. Number Five is an Early Iron Age rock-cut tomb with a long passage and a square side-chamber containing geometric vases. The skeleton in the passage belonged to an attendant. Number Six dates to the 5th century BC. It is a rock-cut tomb and consists of a passage with many steps and a square chamber. Facing these tombs is a replica of the entrance of the funeral chamber of a royal tomb at Pyla (5th century BC).

Room IX contains stone and terracotta sarcophagi, funerary urns and steles. The stele of the Greek soldier, armed with a javelin and a dagger, and another of a seated female (Aristila from Salamis) found at Marion (middle 5th century BC) are quite outstanding.

Room X is dedicated to the development of the Cypriot scripts, starting from the as-yet undeciphered Cypro-Minoan syllabary dating from the 15th to the 11th centuries BC, the Cypriot syllabary from the 11th to the 3rd centuries BC, and the Greek and Phoenician alphabets that are inscribed on various ceramic, bronze or stone items. Of particular note is a copy of a bronze tablet from Idalion in the Cypriot syllabary, which is the first recorded medical contract in Cyprus. It was taken out between King

Stassikypros (and the city of Idalion) and the medical doctor Onasilos (and his brothers) for the free treatment of the wounded during the Persian siege of Idalion (5th century BC). The original is kept at the Bibliotheque Nationale de Paris. **Room XI** features the royal tombs of the necropolis at Salamis, and includes a wooden bed and throne encrusted with ivory, a metal throne, and unbaked clay portraits of the family of King Nicocreon of Salamis, in the style of the famous sculptor Lysippos. This room also contains a large bronze cauldron with heads of sphinxes and griffins. In addition, there are bronze trimmings from a chariot and ivory plaquettes from the wooden bed.

Room XII is dedicated to copper mining and hosts special archaeological exhibitions.

Room XIII contains marble statues discovered in the Roman gymnasium of Salamis. They all date to the 2nd century AD, and are copies of earlier periods. Most of them are headless as a result of Christians fighting paganism, or of Arab raids. The statues include Apollo (the lyre player), Artemis, a hermaphrodite, Dionysus, two headless Aphrodites (one with a dolphin), a reclining river god, a seated Zeus, his wife Hera, Asklepios (god of medicine), Hygeia (goddess of health), Nemesis, the upper part of Heracles, Isis, and Meleager.

Room XIV is dedicated to terracotta figurines. These include a series of plank-shaped female idols of the Early Bronze age, the goddess of fertility with a child in her arms of the Cypro-Mycenaean period, horsemen, warriors with round shields of the Cypro-Geometric and Archaic periods, and Tanagra-type young women of the Cypro-Classical period. The room also contains terracottas representing people at work, such as bakers, fishermen and women in labour.



Room IX



Room X



Room XI



Sector 4 Peacekeepers Decorated

On 27 February, Sector 4 once again held a ceremony to decorate 141 members of the Hungarian and Slovak Contingents with their United Nations peacekeeping medals.

Held in Athienou, the programme started with an honour guard and standard march on before the general salute to greet UNFICYP Force Commander Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli.

The Force Commander inspected the parade. Then, in the presence of all guests, the peacekeepers were presented with their medal by the Force Commander, the Chief of Staff, Col. Ian Sinclair, CO Sector 1, Lt. Col. Gustavo Motta, the Hungarian Ambassador, H.E. János Kisfalvi, and the Slovak Ambassador, H.E. Dr. Ján Varšo.

The Force Commander then addressed the medal recipients and guests, praising the work of the Hungarian and Slovak soldiers of Sector 4 and their unstinting devotion to duty.

All present were then invited to a splendid array of typical dishes from Hungary and the Republic of Slovakia.



Sector 1 Peacekeepers Decorated

Sector 1's medal parade was held 2 March at Camp San Martín. The ceremony was attended by Chief of Mission, Mr. Zbigniew Wlosowicz and Force Commander, Maj. General Hebert Figoli. In addition to the Ambassadors of Cuba and Spain, official representatives from Chile, France, Germany, Russia, UK, and US also attended.

The ceremony began with a military parade. Medals were presented to the personnel of Argentine Work Force 22. Afterwards, a parade of forces paid tribute to the dignitaries.

Once the medal ceremony was finished, the guests and members of Sector 1 enjoyed themselves with folkloric Argentine music, tango and empanadas.

The medal parade for Sector 1's staff in Camp Roca, took place on 19 March. Friends of Sector 1 from the north side of the island were invited.

In keeping with the Argentine tradition of hospitality, there was a festive reception afterwards.





Of Dolmans and Frogmen: RHA Full Dress Uniform

with spurs attached would be worn with mounted ceremonial dress.

The short tailored jacket is known as a dolman, with the gold braided frogging mirroring that of the Hungarian Hussars, a style which was very much in fashion at this time. Ball buttons were used, as they were easier to manipulate to fasten up the gold braiding at the front of the jacket. In dire emergencies, the buttons could be used in place of musket balls to engage the enemy. In severe conditions, soldiers were expected to ensure the comfort of their horses before themselves, and as such the jacket could be taken off and used as a blanket over the horses' loins. The gold lines on the jacket were used to secure the hat to the rider to ensure that were it to be knocked off whilst in the charge it would not be lost and could be easily retrieved. Lines could also be used as improvised reins, should the situation demand.

Officers' jackets were traditionally lined with silver, in order to provide some degree of protection from sword blows sustained in action. At the end of an officers' career, it was traditional for him to instruct his tailor to remove the silver from his jacket, whereupon it would be melted down and recast to form the basis of the officer's leaving presentation to the Officers' Mess.

The hat is known as a busby and was designed to have several prac-

tical applications. Firstly, as the inside is lined with leather, it is waterproof and could be used as a water bucket to water the horses when at rest. The plume could be used as a shaving brush in order to ensure that a soldier was always smartly turned out even under field conditions and the ring on the plume comes from the tradition of soldiers keeping their wedding ring here. This was generally perceived to be a safe place and prevented the loss of the ring, should a soldier's fingers or hand be cut off when in contact with the enemy. The red flap on the side of the busby, known as a busby bag, was used to store letters from loved ones when deployed away from home.

Officers would wear a gold cross-belt with a pouch on the back for the carriage of important battlefield dispatches. Should an officer be killed in the course of delivering a dispatch, the pouch could be snatched away from the crossbelt by an independent rough rider, who would ensure that the dispatch would reach its intended destination. Additional items such as materials for writing dispatches and maps could be carried in a bag known as a sabretash.

Finally, the gold knot attached to both the sword and the soldier's wrist worked on the same principle as the gold lines, and prevented the sword from being lost, should it be struck from the soldier's grasp during fighting.

Since the arrival of the 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery in Cyprus last November, many readers of the **Blue Beret** will have no doubt noticed their distinctive ceremonial full dress uniform, epitomising the traditional "dash and panache" of the Royal Horse Artillery.

The uniform itself originates from the 18th century, when the Royal Horse Artillery was formed as a rapidly deployable unit to support British mounted cavalry units. The tight overall trousers are specifically designed for riding, in the style of riding britches. Although the soldier pictured wears the shorter boots associated with dismounted dress, more substantial leather riding boots



Tribute to Lois

UNFICYP was stunned by the sudden death on 8 March of Lois Smart Hadjinestoros, the manageress of CESSAC in the UNPA.

Born in Australia in 1946, Lois married Nestoros in 1973. She first joined UNFICYP in the mid-1970s when she worked in Operations Branch and then later in Personnel & Logistics for a brief period before the birth of her first son. She resigned to take up the full-time position of mother to Michael and then later to Paul.

Lois took over as manageress of

CESSAC a couple of years ago. She was known to everyone – soldiers and civilians – for her vibrant, cheerful personality and her friendliness.

Lois was a devoted supporter of the "Alkionides" charity in Nicosia, taking part in the quilting group and assisting at bazaars. Such was her contribution that a new physiotherapy apparatus at the children's ward of the Makarios Hospital in Nicosia will be decorated with a plaque in memory of Lois.

Lois loved life. She will be very much missed.

The Indians Arrive in UNFICYP

By Insp. T.P. Krishnabalan

When eight Indian Police Officers landed at Larnaca Airport on 3 December 2003, they were the first Indian Civil Police deployed in the history of UNFICYP.

True, the Indian Army had contributed some of its most distinguished soldiers to UNFICYP from the very outset of this mission. The Secretary-General appointed Lt. Gen. P. S. Gyani on 17 January 1964 as his personal representative to Cyprus. He was charged with reporting back to the SG how UN observers could function and be most effective in fulfilling the task as outlined in the request made by the Government of Cyprus and agreed to by the Governments of Greece, Turkey and United Kingdom.

Thereafter, until his untimely death on the island in 1965, Gen. K.S. Thimmaiah was the UNFICYP Force Commander.

Later, Lt. Gen. Prem Chand served as FC for seven years until 1976.

Policing the buffer zone, however, has given uniformed Indians a new profile in Cyprus. All Indian UNCIVPOL members here are veterans of previous UN missions such as Cambodia, Bosnia and Kosovo. It is, nevertheless, always a thrill to work with the UN and this time, it again proved to be the case.

Inevitably, there have been some adjustments. For example, with five of our eight-man contingent pure vegetarians, the International Mess's continental menu presented some concern at the beginning of our tour. Perhaps the term "vegetarian dish" is interpreted a little differently here than at home. I cannot forget the day when the chef

affectionately put egg and fish on my plate, telling me he had specially prepared it for "the vegetarians". Since then, however, the initiative taken by the Mess staff to serve at least one vegetarian curry with every meal has really been appreciated.

After four months with UNFICYP, an introductory note on the Indian Contingent may seem untimely. But if I don't do it here, the purpose of writing this article will be defeated. Let me introduce (from the left) the members of our team in the photo below:

Insp. T.P. Krishnabalan, Sub. Insp. Bimaljit Uppal, Insp. Satwinder Singh Lally, Sub. Insp. Sachin Rane, Ch. Supt. Geoff Hazel (Australia), Insp. K.V. Premjeet, Insp. Magan Singh, Insp. Deepak Dhole and Insp. Sunny Chacko



All's Well That Ends Well

It was noon on 7 February 2004 when an ambulance arrived at the south Ledra Checkpoint with a seven-month-old baby named Oguzhan Giftci from north Cyprus. The baby was suffering from acute kidney failure and septicaemia.

The parents of the baby were Turkish and treatment in the north was not available. With the help of UNCIVPOL, the situation was explained to the authorities in the south and, assisted by the Cyprus Police (CYPOL), the baby was immediately escorted and admitted to the Makarios Hospital in Nicosia.

The baby's condition was extremely serious. It is to the credit of the doctors and nurses of the Makarios Hospital, who made an all-out effort on behalf of the child, that Oguzhan survived. Some of the nurses even brought clothes from their homes to help. The child had narrow yet miraculous escape.

For the Indians of UNCIVPOL, it was a noble task. We helped facilitate the visits of the parents, and also assisted with the liaison between the family and the hospital staff regarding the settlement of hospital charges.

On 2 March, the child was pronounced fit and discharged – a memorable moment for everyone. The humanitarian effort made by all was acknowledged when the Cypriot media broadcast the news island-wide. A sure step to proving that those on both sides of the divide are together in times of need.

Insp. T.P. Krishnabalan with Oguzhan and his parents



Lt. Col. Carlos Norberto Ferro, CO UN Flt

Lt. Col. Carlos Norberto Ferro joined UNFICYP on 27 January when he took over as CO UN Flight.

Born in Córdoba, Argentina, on 27 May 1960, Lt. Col. Ferro completed his high school studies in 1977. Four years later he graduated from the Argentinian Air Force Academy and, as a military pilot, was commissioned into the VII Air Brigade.

In 1982, he passed the helicopters pilot's course, and in 1987 he completed a three-year course in computer systems. Two years later, he received a B.Sc. degree in computer engineering. In 1996 and 1997 he attended the Command and Staff course at the Air War School, and in 1998 he attended an International War Rights course. In 1999, he graduated in Aeronautical Systems.

During these years, Lt. Col. Ferro took part in various tasks such as medical evacuations, community support in flooded areas and several Antarctic campaigns. In 1998, he was in charge of the Presidential Squadron's helicopter maintenance. During this time, he was part of the Presidential pilots' team, flying the VIP S-70A Black



Hawk and the S-76 Sikorsky Spirit. In addition, he completed several flight training courses in the USA.

Lt. Col. Ferro is married to Andrea Zulema Nuñez, and they have a nine-month-old daughter, Carola Nicole.

Lt. Col. Paul Quirke, LO NG

Lt. Col. Paul Quirke took over as UNFICYP's Liaison Officer to the National Guard and Commander Irish Contingent on 24 February.

Lt. Col. Quirke was commissioned into the Irish Defence Forces in 1964. He completed the Standard Infantry Officers' Course in 1970 and the Command and Staff Course in 1977.

In 1974, he received a Batchelor of Civil Law Degree (BCL) and in 1976 a Barrister at Law (BL). In 1996, he attended the Law and Armed Conflict Course in San Remo, Italy, and in 1998 he attended the Prosecution of War Crimes course in Geneva. He was promoted to the rank of Lt. Col in 1998.

Lt. Col. Quirke's first tour of duty overseas was in 1966 as a Platoon Commander with the 8th Infantry Group in UNFICYP, returning to Cyprus in 1972 as Ops/Int Offr with the 23rd Infantry Group. He also served five tours of duty as a Legal Officer with UNIFIL.

Lt. Col. Quirke is married to Noreen and they have three children, Lynda, Alan and Siobhan. He maintains



a keen interest in sport and has represented the Army in Gaelic football, soccer, rugby and golf, winning a total of nine All Army medals.

Farewell to Mike Kelly

Michael (Mike) Kelly, who retired at the end of December 2003, first joined UNFICYP, in 1989, as Manager of the UNPA Officers' Mess and then, in 1996, of the International Cafeteria when all the messes in the UNPA were amalgamated.

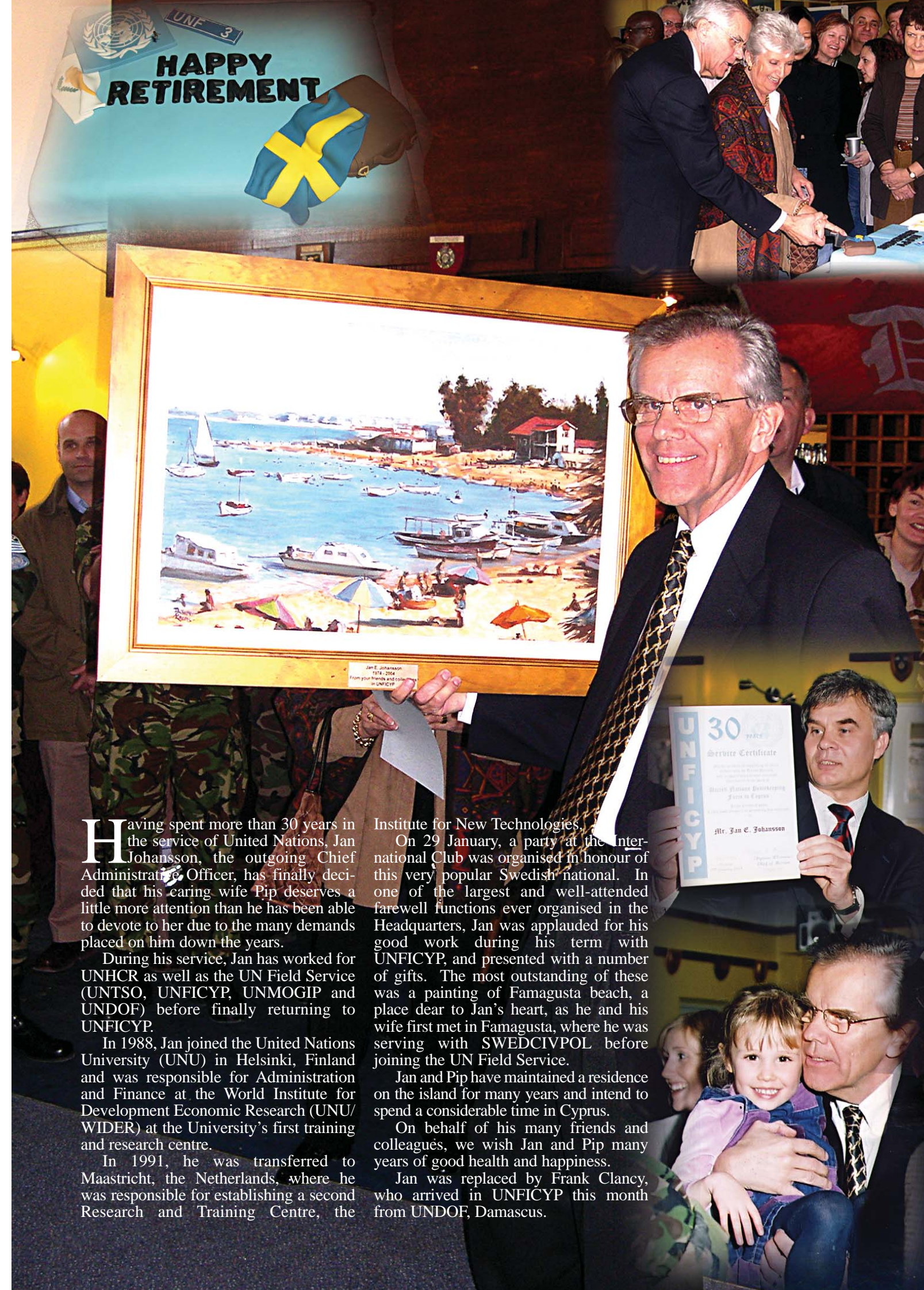
When United Nations Headquarters decided that catering services in the UNPA should be outsourced to a contractor Mike was eventually reassigned as ISS Warehouse Supervisor in charge of ordering and issuing rations to the UNPA and Sectors. He was also responsible for the supervision of all the local staff within the unit in their daily duties.

Mike's dedication to his work, efficiency, and loyalty to the Organisation would be hard to match. His cheerfulness, sense of humour and willingness to help at all times, will be missed around the UNPA.

Enjoy your retirement, Mike, and don't fall off the ladder while painting and decorating your house!! SK



Mike with his wife Glafki (left) and daughter Emma



Having spent more than 30 years in the service of United Nations, Jan Johansson, the outgoing Chief Administrative Officer, has finally decided that his caring wife Pip deserves a little more attention than he has been able to devote to her due to the many demands placed on him down the years.

During his service, Jan has worked for UNHCR as well as the UN Field Service (UNTSO, UNFICYP, UNMOGIP and UNDOF) before finally returning to UNFICYP.

In 1988, Jan joined the United Nations University (UNU) in Helsinki, Finland and was responsible for Administration and Finance at the World Institute for Development Economic Research (UNU/WIDER) at the University's first training and research centre.

In 1991, he was transferred to Maastricht, the Netherlands, where he was responsible for establishing a second Research and Training Centre, the

Institute for New Technologies.

On 29 January, a party at the International Club was organised in honour of this very popular Swedish national. In one of the largest and well-attended farewell functions ever organised in the Headquarters, Jan was applauded for his good work during his term with UNFICYP, and presented with a number of gifts. The most outstanding of these was a painting of Famagusta beach, a place dear to Jan's heart, as he and his wife first met in Famagusta, where he was serving with SWEDCIVPOL before joining the UN Field Service.

Jan and Pip have maintained a residence on the island for many years and intend to spend a considerable time in Cyprus.

On behalf of his many friends and colleagues, we wish Jan and Pip many years of good health and happiness.

Jan was replaced by Frank Clancy, who arrived in UNFICYP this month from UNDOF, Damascus.

THE COMMON POEM OF CYPRIOT POETS YES: WHAT A JOYFUL WORD!

*Yes, to a bird with open wings
To the open sky, to the open sea
Yes, to lips open to a smile
To a wish, to hope
Magical words
The revenge of silenced hearts against history
While kissing the wind of love
To share the same flame
Sing the same song
Be drunk with the same passion
Make love under the same moon
Let my heart my body be light
So that I can speak
What is Greek what is Turkish
Are they two houses exchanging each other
Are they two lives filled to the brim
Emptying themselves
into sand bags
Yes, I said as though drawing a beautiful bird
Nearing extinction
I am handing it over to you
So that you can add yet another colour
A bird hidden for so long in my heart
A YES bird; so close to bursting my heart open
Take this joy
Attach it to the bird's wing
As though planting new saplings
In a beautiful forest
I sit, sweating, breathless
So as to send a wave from deep inside me
Look there, at the abyss of my heart
That thing amongst the flames is "Yes"
Life will fall, like a star
And we will also change
Yes, a palm open to the other
To the different, to the unknown
I passed through the border amongst
The rumble of thousands of migrating butterflies
I know this day of May will be the day
Oh wall
Your stones
We will bury
In the foundations of our common house
The whole universe
Fits into a single word!
Yes: What a joyful word!
To sing the song of heavenly love
Say Yes! To your good neighbours in exile
Open the doors ajar with your hands
Say yes! Let's come out onto the doorsteps
Clean out our wounds
Kiss by kiss*

(Nese Yasin, Filiz Naldöven, Lily Michailidou, Fikret Demirag, Elli Peonidou, Zeki Ali,
Takis Hadjigeorgiou, Tamer Öncül, Feriha Altok, Neriman Cahit, M. Kansu,
Stephanos Stephanides, Gür Genç, Jenan Selçuk, Michalis Papadopoulos, Aydin Mehmet Ali)