Cyprus Settlement Rejected at Referenda

On 24 April the people of Cyprus, north and south, Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots, for the first time ever voted at referenda on a Cyprus settlement. A majority “no” vote in the south and a majority “yes” vote in the north meant rejection of the proposed settlement known as the Annan Plan. In the south, Greek Cypriots voted “no” by a margin of three-to-one (75.83% against to 24.17% for). In the north, Turkish Cypriots voted 64.91% in favour of the plan, with 35.09% opposed.

The Greek Cypriot leader Tassos Papadopoulos stressed that the people had not said “no” to a Cyprus solution, simply “no” to the UN plan. There would be new opportunities ahead for a solution following EU accession, he said. In the north, Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat told Ankara’s NTV: “I do not find it right to renegotiate the plan. It has been negotiated more than enough and the conjuncture has also changed.”

The Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Cyprus, Alvaro de Soto regretted the outcome but said he was pleased the people of Cyprus “have at last had the opportunity to exercise their judgement”.

After the results had been announced, Special Adviser de Soto met with the press in Ledra Palace, Nicosia, and read from the statement issued in New York by the Secretary-General’s Spokesman.

The Secretary-General respects the outcome of the two referenda. He knows that for many Cypriots the decision how to vote was a difficult one. The goal of the effort over the last four and a half years has been to bring about reunification, failed to achieve its goal.

Once the result was known, the Secretary-General acknowledged that the decision on how to vote had been a difficult one for most Cypriots. In making sure he respected the outcome, the Secretary-General stressed that he remains convinced that the plan offers a fair, viable and balanced compromise that meets the basic needs of all concerned. While clearly the Greek Cypriot electorate did not concur with this view on the day, he hoped they might arrive at a different conclusion after reviewing their decision “in the fullness of time”.

The Secretary-General’s Special Adviser Alvaro de Soto regretted the outcome while welcoming the fact that the people had been afforded the chance to make their views known at referenda. In briefing the Security Council, Under-Secretary-General Prendergast also spoke of the UN’s disappointment but said time was needed to allow “the dust to settle”.

Amidst that settling dust, the status quo of buffer and militarized as it accedes to the European Union, and the benefits of a settlement will not be achieved.

The fullness of time”. 

The Secretary-General intends to give careful thought to the implications of today’s result. He hopes that ways will be found to ease the plight of the people find themselves through no fault of their own. Together with a broad cross-section of the international community, the Secretary-General remains convinced that the settlement plan put to the two sides in today’s referenda represents a fair, viable and carefully balanced compromise – one that conforms with the long-agoed parameters for a solution and with the Security Council’s vision for a settlement, and meets the minimum requirements of all concerned. Clearly, a large majority of the Greek Cypriot electorate did not share that judgement today. He hopes that they may nevertheless arrive at a different view in the fullness of time, after a profound and sober assessment of today’s decision. For a settlement to the long-standing Cyprus problem would benefit the people of Cyprus, as well as the region and the wider international community.

After a round of farewell visits to the island’s leadership, Alvaro de Soto departed Cyprus on 28 April. Following a round of similar calls on leadership in Ankara and Athens, de Soto proceeded to New York where he is preparing a report for the Secretary-General, which will be submitted to the Security Council.

In New York, Under-Secretary-General Kieran Prendergast briefed the Security Council on the referenda results and acknowledged that they had been disappointing. He said time was needed “for the dust to settle” so that the outcome and its full implications could become apparent. He noted that the Secretary-General hoped the Greek Cypriot community would arrive at a different view after a profound and sober assessment of their decision and its potential consequences. The Security Council later announced that it shared the Secretary-General’s disappointment that efforts since 1999 to reunify the island had failed. The Council reiterated its strong support for an overall political settlement in Cyprus.
Before the 24 April referenda, the Secretary-General addressed the people of the island in a pre-recorded video message, which was distributed to the island’s TV stations for broadcast. In his address, the Secretary-General spoke of the “difficult decision” each voter faced in determining “the destiny of your country”. He noted that while parts of the plan they called the “Annan Plan” had been put together by the United Nations, its key concepts had emerged from four years of negotiations among the leaders with most of its 9,000 pages largely drafted by hundreds of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. “Their extraordinary efforts produced one of the most comprehensive peace plans in the history of the United Nations.” He conceded the plan did not meet the full demands of either side, that in fact “it is a compromise”, but, he insisted, it offered “the only foreseeable route” to the reunification of Cyprus since there was no other plan out there. “There is no magic way of accommodating the maximum demands of one side while at the same time accommodating the maximum demands of the other.” “This is it”, he said, “a serious plan, designed to provide certainty and security, with guarantees that it will be implemented”.

He pointed out how the plan:

- Envisaged one independent and sovereign state, the United Cyprus Republic – a bi-communal, bi-zonal federal structure, based on the political equality of the two communities.
- Prohibited partition or secession, domination by one side, or union with any other country.
- Ended the status quo and the division of the country.
- Safeguarded the identity of Cyprus and of each community in it while preserving the integrity of the citizenship of the country.
- The Secretary-General also noted how:

  - The plan allowed many people to return, to get all or some of their property back and how others would be paid full and secure compensation.
  - Those forced to move because of territorial adjustment would be helped to do so in a dignified and proper manner.
  - The UN would station a new and robust operation in Cyprus, to help maintain security and hold all parties to their commitments, including the commitments to withdraw troops and hand back territory.
  - In concluding, the Secretary-General told Cypriots: “The vision of the plan is simple: reunification and reconciliation, in safety and security, in the European Union. The world is ready to help you turn that vision of the future into reality. But we cannot take that fateful decision for you. We await your call.”

O
nce the outcome of the referenda was known, the Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Cyprus Alvaro de Soto announced that he would be departing the island within a matter of days and that the Good Offices would close its office in the UNPA by mid-May. The Special Adviser returned to New York on 1 May, where he is now preparing his report for the Secretary-General. As we go to press, most of the Good Offices staff have dispersed, returning to their UN system parent organisations or, in the case of those who were seconded to the team from outside the UN, rejoining their respective institutions or government services. A small group of Good Offices staff members remain to handle the closedown of the Nicosia office.

On 26 April, Mr. de Soto and his team hosted an informal barbecue at the Good Offices premises in the UNPA as a “thank-you and farewell” gesture for all who had contributed to the all-out effort launched on the team’s return to the island on 17 February. In thanking his guests including UNFICYP’s Chief of Mission and many staff, military and civilians (administration, comms, translation and UNOPS staff), who had helped sustain the Good Offices team during its final intensive stint in the run-up to the referenda, Special Adviser de Soto remembered how he had returned directly to New York from The Hague in 2003 and had, therefore, been compelled to forego the opportunity to say farewell.

In addition to UN family, Good Offices’ guests included the British High Commissioner, the Dutch, German, Irish and Turkish Cypriot members of the various technical committees which had worked through so many late evenings and early mornings to finalise the plan and deliver it to deadline.
From our arrival on island, it was widely acknowledged that CO Lt. Col. Nick Ashmore, and the British contingent of UNFICYP was much in favour of cross-boundary integration during our tour with UNFICYP. Lt. Col. Chris Kilmister was the setting for my three-day excursion into ARGCON. Section 1’s organisation differs significantly from ours. It comprises a multi-national South American Contingent of Argentinian Army, Argentinian Marines, plus military from Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

The sector is split between A Company, B Company and C Company. A Company, in the far west, is commanded from Rocca Camp and provides both line troops and the logistic support HQ for the whole Sector. B Company is central and shares its HQ with HQ Sector 1 at Camp San Martin. C Company, where I was based, is the most easterly in the sector and runs from Camp Admiral Brown. Within C Company, there are two sub-sector boundaries, 60 area and 70 area, each of which contain a number of patrol bases. These patrol bases are manned by five-man sections which rotate on a seven-day basis, and which are commanded by a warrant officer. Each sub sector has two lieutenants, one in command and one 2IC above them the Company 2IC and Company Commander.

The aim of my stay was to get a broad overview of Sector 1. To this end, I visited all the Company Sector HQs and met many personalities. I also had an oversight of Sector 1, the topography of which is very diverse from the plains in the east to the mountains in the west. The proximity to the sea made the flight spectacular. I also visited a number of the patrol bases and my visits followed a standard pattern; a tour of the base, followed by ‘mate’. Mate is South American tea, drunk from a small wooden or metal pot through a pipe. The etiquette is that the pot is finished, refilled and then passed on to the next person.

C Company proved to be excellent hosts. The first night we had an Argentinian barbeque. This involved an initial fire from which the best coals were selected for the barbeque. There was an awesome amount of meat, which cooked relatively slowly, as only minimal coals were used and then replenished from the initial fire as necessary. The result was delicious.

One thing that stuck in my mind was the remarkable and tactful support of the South Americans. For example, they sautéed then shake hands – a rather nice gesture, respecting the next person. The problem is they do this very quickly, so I often found myself

The monitoring administration standby phase is used initially to back fill other platoons, which are down in strength due to courses and R&R (rest and recreation). It is during this period we have had the opportunity to go adventuring. Multi-activity courses have been run in Dhekelia with great success for British and international troops. These consisted of three-day courses comprising rock climbing, canoeing, cycling and cliff jumping. These were held to give the soldiers an insight into what courses they would like to pursue later on in the tour and to give them a break from their duties.

It is during this phase that platoon tasks are carried out. The hidden chippies (carpenters), electricians and painter-decorators soon came to light, and their expertise was fully utilised. So far, the MFR have totally refurnished the international bar which is now also used by the soldiers. Work has also been done refurbishing the front of HQ UNFICYP and the trim trail. If a job needs doing involving a lot of person-power, the MFR are usually called upon to do it!

The past 12 months have been full of contrasts, from war fighting to peacekeeping duties, and getting to grips working in a more peaceful environment, but everyone has settled into it and now we just face the daily challenges of the “UN way of doing things” – an altogether new experience.

Back in the Swim!

The UNPA Dolphin Swimming Pool opened for business on 8 April, which coincided with the Easter weekend and unusually high temperatures for the time of year. The pool is a great favourite with all UNFICYP members and families alike, and its opening is a sure sign that winter is behind us.

As part of the British Retained Site, the pool is over-seen by a six-man committee, under the Chairmanship of Lt. Col. Chris Kilminster, the Chief Personnel & Logistics Officer. Lifeguards are provided by the MFR and are all trained to Royal Lifesaver’s Society qualification.

The pool itself is 48 metres long, with a children’s pool attached at the shallow end, which has a protective handrail and, at present, is in the process of having a heating system and thermal cover installed, to raise the pool temperature during the cooler periods of the season.

The pool has a restaurant and bar area which is run by Mr. Christos Fiosiris and his staff. It provides an excellent selection of local, Chinese and snack meals, plus a take-away service in the evenings around the UNPA. The restaurant area can also be hired for private functions through the UNPA restaurant assistant.

All in all, the Dolphin Swimming Pool is a great facility to have on our doorstep, and an ideal place to cool off and relax as the temperature rises.

By 2Lt. N.H. Faith

D Battery – Mobile Force Reserve Ready to Deploy

Battery, 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, deployed to Cyprus at the end of 2003 and were tasked as the Mobile Force Reserve (MFR). Our mission was to be prepared to provide the Force Reserve in order to conduct SxS as directed by the Force Commander. This consisted of us re-tasking from a gun battery in a war-fighting role in Basra, Iraq, to an infantry company in a peace-support role.

On arrival in Cyprus, I was presented with my platoon consisting of 15 British, three Slovak, six Argentinian and two Hungarian soldiers. An entertaining few days ensued in trying to communicate, with our lack of any Spanish, Hungarian or Slovakian and their limited English. However, it was noted that the level of English spoken and understood by our new friends degenerated and increased, depending on the task in hand!

Tasks carried out by the MFR are to reinforce Sectors 1, 2 and 4 as required. We assist UNCTIPOL in preventing unauthorised entry into the buffer zone and also provide a trained, equipped and rapidly deployable company-size crowd control force. We must be able to deploy as required and provide the UNPA with military support. In reality, that means we use our three platoons in a 21-day cycle through security, patrols and TAS (Training, Administration, Standby). During the security phase, we provide the UNPA security with gate guards, a fire piquet, patrols around the UNPA and an immediate Quick Reaction Force (QRF).

In order to deploy the platoon must be prepared to deploy to any sector at four hours’ notice to move. The MFR also provides a crowd control force for possible deployment to, e.g., whenever a protest is held. Official visits to the UNPA are frequent, and in this regard, the MFR provide an honour guard for each visitor, consisting of 15 British, six Argentinian, three Slovak, two Hungarian or Slovakian and an SNCO.

The troops present arms and the visitors are invited to inspect the troops. With what time is left, platoon training is carried out including urban and rural crowd control, spot and lifeguard duties. During the negotiations soldiers continually safe guarded the talks location, provi- ding an additional QRF when required.

The training administration standby phase is used initially to back fill other platoons, which are down in strength due to courses and R&R (rest and recreation). It is during this period we have had the opportunity to go adventuring. Multi-activity courses have been run in Dhekelia with great success for British and international troops. These consisted of three-day courses comprising rock climbing, canoeing, cycling and cliff jumping. These were held to give the soldiers an insight into what courses they would like to pursue later on in the tour and to give them a break from their duties.

It is during this phase that platoon tasks are carried out. The hidden chippies (carpenters), electricians and painter-decorators soon came to light, and their expertise was fully utilised. So far, the MFR have totally refurnished the international bar which is now also used by the soldiers. Work has also been done refurbishing the front of HQ UNFICYP and the trim trail. If a job needs doing involving a lot of person-power, the MFR are usually called upon to do it!

The past 12 months have been full of contrasts, from war fighting to peacekeeping duties, and getting to grips working in a more peaceful environment, but everyone has settled into it and now we just face the daily challenges of the “UN way of doing things” – an altogether new experience.

Best Book Review

As a result of the book competition organised by the Nicosia Library, BRITCON, UNPA, a small prize-giving ceremony was held in the Library on 23 March. Maj. Peter Wyse, 2IC of HQ BRITCON, presented the first and second prizewinners each with a book token, kindly provided by the Soloneion Bookshop in Nicosia. Maj. Wyse congratulated the prizewinners and runners-up and thanked Mrs. K. Sinclair and Mrs. S. Ignatiou, Mrs. M. Kourea (runner-up) and Mrs. A. Yiannoullou (centre).
The 13th-century Cathedral of Saint Sophia (Holy Wisdom) — the oldest and largest Latin church in Cyprus — was converted into a mosque following the city’s fall to the Ottomans in 1570. In 1954, it was renamed the Selimiye Cami (mosque), after Sultan Selim II, whose reign included the Ottoman Empire gaining control of Cyprus. Although constructed later than the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, the building retains the simplicity, nobility and grace of that church’s early Gothic style, and is this issue’s destination for the Blue Beret’s cultural heritage series.

**History: From Cathedral to Mosque**

The Byzantine Empire lost Cyprus in 1191 AD to Richard the Lionheart when he defeated Duke Isaac Comnenos while en route to the Holy Land. Richard initially sold the island to the Knights Templar, but then sold it on to Guy I of Lusignan in 1198.

Thus, Cyprus began to experience long periods of western occupation as a Frankish or Lusignan kingdom (1192-1489), and as a dependency of the Venetian Republic (1489-1570/71). During these periods, the Greek Orthodox religious figures were expelled to the countryside. The Latin church became predominant, with an Archbishop in Nicosia and bishops in Famagusta, Limassol and Paphos. Most western religious orders, including the Benedictines and the Franciscans, established churches and monasteries on the island. Military orders such as the Templars and the Hospitallers also established communities.

It is against this background that the construction of the Cathedral of Saint Sophia began, probably as early as 1193, and certainly by 1209 during the reign of the Lusignan King Henry I. The project’s financing came via donations from Lusignan royals, noblemen and Latin archbishops. Most of the masons and other technicians were recruited from among the Freschmen who left the disbanded armies of the Crusades. Built using limestone from the Kyrenia range, the cathedral was under construction for more than a century. In fact, it wasn’t yet finished when its consecration took place in 1326, and the bell towers that had been planned as part of the design were never finished.

The cathedral knew days of glory, as it was used as the venue for many important royal events. The Lusignan kings, for example, were crowned here as the heads of Cyprus, before a second coronation in Famagusta designated them kings of Jerusalem.

The cathedral was repaired a number of times, after attacks by the Genoese and the Mamelukes in 1373 and 1426, respectively, and after earthquake damage in 1491 and 1547. The last refurbishment took place just before the arrival of the Ottomans.

The cathedral became a mosque in September 1570, when Nicosia fell to the Ottomans. In keeping with Islam’s avoidance of human representations, Christian symbols and furniture were removed, stained-glass windows were altered, and frescoes were whitewashed. Two mihrabs were added, one on either side of the west façade above the flat roof (prayer niche) that was set up in the southern arm of the cathedral’s transept; and an ablutions fountain in the courtyard was also added.

**What You’ll See Today**

The cathedral’s design included a porch (1), a central nave (2) with lateral aisles of four bays (3 and 4), a transept with salient arms (5), each incorporating a chapel (8 and 9), plus an ambulatory (6) and a choir (7). The porch covers the entire western façade, and is flanked on either side by a tower, each of which is surmounted by a minaret, added by the Ottomans in the 16th century. Toward the eastern end of the building, near the ambulatory, a two-story chapel (10) consisted of the treasury located on the ground floor and the chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas on the upper floor. A fourth chapel (11) was located on the second bay of the southern aisle. The upper parts of the cathedral were accessed by five staircases (12-16). The vaulted (arched) roofs are ribbed.

The cathedral measures 66 by 21 metres, excluding the porch and chapels. On the exterior, the building’s structure is reinforced by decorated flying buttresses that also contain gargoyles. Reinforcing plinth with Renaissance decorations was added by the Venetians.

Although never finished, the porch in front of the three western entrances offers an excellent example of the Gothic style that was prevalent in the Lusignan period of Cyprus. Imported directly by the king from his homeland in France, the style was used widely, not only by the Latins, but occasionally by the native Greeks. The porch is covered by three vaulted bays that have double transverse ribs, and is decorated with torus (convex mouldings) and grooves. On the exterior, the three arcades are surmounted by pointed arches decorated with leaves.

The three doorways of the western façade are separated by piers that feature colonnetes, upon which rest the springs of the ribs, the arcades and the main arches of the porch’s vaults. Shallow twin niches can be seen on either side of the doorways. The arcades and panels on the central doorway’s tympanum (the roughly triangular space at the arch’s peak) are comparable to those of Rheims Cathedral in France.

Inside, above the central doorway, is a gallery with six open triple windows that are surmounted by another six glass trilobe lights, forming the base of an arched window. An arrangement of trefoils fills the space between the arch and the windows.

The walls of the nave are higher than those of the aisles. The nave’s twin-pointed windows take up the whole space between its arched roof and the flat roofs of the aisles, and are surmounted by three circles.

The transept has windows on the west and south sides. A stained glass rose window once graced the north side, above a small doorway.

The choir has small lancet windows, while its bay is lit by twin windows of the same type that are found in the apse. The southern apsidal chapel has a small rounded arched window on colonnettes, while the northern apsidal chapel has no window. Both chapels have half-dome roofs. The two northern chapels communicated with each other, while the treasury was also connected to the ambulatory by a southern doorway with a pointed arch and a trilobed tympanum. On either side of the door, the jambs were decorated with columns.

The cathedral’s columns have octagonal carved capitals, except for two in the ambulatory that have relief carvings in the early French Gothic style. It is possible that some of the columns in the nave originated in the ruins of Salamin. The vaulted ceiling once featured key-stones, which were covered with plaster by the Ottomans, and also depicted a scene of blue sky and golden stars, now whitewashed.

The mimbar (prayer niche) was added when the cathedral became a mosque indicates the direction of Mecca, and replaced the Lady Chapel that King Hugh III created in 1270. The minbar, or pulpit, is also located nearby. Above the north transept, meanwhile, the Ottomans added a women’s gallery.

Despite the passage of time, the building’s soaring ceilings and graceful architecture still evoke the atmosphere and grandeur of its 13th-century French design.
Roundabout Corridor Road

By MSgt. Roland Kolesár

W hile driving to Ayia Napa, UNFICYP staff and family members should consider taking a break and detouring at Xyloymbou and Paralimni. The straight and quiet roads are the divide between the two communities in this part of the island. Yes, it will take more time before you reach your destination, but meeting the Slovak peacekeepers of 2nd Company’s 3rd Platoon will surely be an unexpected pleasure, both for you and for them, especially after you realize that you are the reason for their broad smiles. They are happy to see anybody who visits them and will greet you with warm Slovak hospitality.

The 3rd Platoon, also known as the “Athna Platoon”, is responsible mainly for the “Corridor Road”, the United Nations Buffer Zone patrol track which borders on the British Base Areas of Dhekelia and Ayios Nikolaos. The village of Athna is situated just two kilometres to the north of Corridor Road. A short distance along the track you will find a unique roundabout – where no one has the right of way. This blocked-off roundabout is the location of UN Observation Post (OP) 135.

The Athna Platoon patrols the Corridor Road 24 hours a day. This track is flanked by many military positions on both sides of the divide. As you continue eastwards along this arid road, an unexpected patch of greenery suddenly comes into view. The Athna camp is hidden just behind this small forest, strategically placed between UN OPs 138 and 139.

The platoon mission here is similar to that of any other guard duty (standby radio-operator, patrolling, monitoring the area of responsibility (AOR), observing and reporting) but with a few added tasks, the most important of which is deployment to the liaison post at the village of Strovilia. Duty at this post is both demanding and challenging because the UN peacekeeper serves alongside a Turkish soldier in this remote village where Greek Cypriots reside. As a result of the easing of freedom of movement in April 2004, this small village became a new crossing point between the north and the south. Since then, we have added responsibility within our unit, monitoring the movement of civilians and vehicles.

The duty schedule varies due to the constant changes that shape the daily life of the Athna Platoon. You will not find standard Monday to Friday working hours here, due to the diverse nature of duties. One of the most common questions among our soldiers is: “Excuse me, but what day is it today?” We have become accustomed to the routine, but basically it is a rather tedious lifestyle. However, we have eight days a month for rest and relaxation.

So, what can we do in our free time? There are many facilities available, and nobody has cause to complain. There is a gym in the camp which is open daily, a concrete pitch for football or tennis enthusiasts, a small park for hobby gardeners, a tiny workshop for budding gadgeteers, as well as TV/video/satellite/play-station facilities. It is a pity that, with the excellent cycling conditions in the area, we only have a limited number of bikes.

Whoever decides to leave the camp is free to plan a trip to the destination of his choice. Sun, sea, shopping, historical sites or walks – here on this island there are many places of interest.

Relations between platoon members are relatively good, despite living together under the same roof for 12 months. Any minor misunderstandings are cleared up immediately, because in the framework of our demanding job and important mission here, there is simply no room for internal disputes.

A team of eight brave mountain bikers from 3 Regiment RHA and BRITCON set out at first light on 7 April to cycle the length of the Buffer Zone. The charity event, attempting to cover a distance of 180 kilometres in two days, was over rough terrain and through the foothills of the Troodos mountain range.

Pedal with the Padre

The core team which cycled the full 180 km length of the BZ

A Run for your Money

The team members were saddle-sore but jubilant at having completed the ride successfully – definitely an achievement and a conquest.

Former Finnish Peacekeepers Return

A group of 188 former Finnish peacekeepers visited Cyprus between 21-28 April, exactly 40 years after the first Finns arrived on the island in 1964 as part of UNFICYP.

During their visit, group members visited old positions and areas where they had served on both sides of the island. They also visited the UNPA where they were briefed by Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli, the present Force Commander, and Col. Ian Sinclair, the Chief of Staff. The Finnish Contingent then invited them to the sauna located in the UNPA.

Maj. Gen. Ahti Värttäinen, the group leader, served as the UNFICYP Force Commander from 1994 to 1997. On 24 April, he and his group laid a wreath at the Finnish Memorial in the area of the former Kykkos Camp.

Asked what changes he had noticed since he left the island, Maj. Gen. Värttäinen said: “During my service with the force, I remember well the huge bicomunal events at the Ledra Palace arranged by UNFICYP and the participation of many Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots – at that time, it was their only opportunity to meet up and have fun together. That was UNFICYP’s big success. Today, with the opening of the crossing points, they are free to come and go as they wish.

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A common, and sometimes unpopular, sight in UNFICYP is a member of the FMPU monitoring traffic speed with an Ultra Lyte Speed Meter. Some observatories have been raised regarding the accuracy and calibration requirements of the speed meter. The aim of this article is to clarify some of the “Old Wive’s Tales” surrounding this type of speed meter.

The Ultra Lyte is a hand-held laser speed detection and ranging device. It is manufactured in the USA by Laser Technology Inc. and is one of the most successful devices of its type, being used by hundreds of police forces throughout the world.

The Ultra Lyte is calibrated every time the shift changes, and if any defect (or suspicion of a defect) is found, the meter is not used.

The Ultra Lyte can acquire a reading in less than half a second, up to a maximum of 1,200 metres away, but in practice, readings are only obtained at between 100 and 450 metres. The meter is accurate to +/-2 kph. A laser is aimed at the front (or rear) of a target vehicle. This laser is then reflected back to the meter from the vehicle. The meter then calculates the time taken for the laser to hit the target and return to the meter, which then produces a speed-reading.

The strength of the laser is insufficient to harm or discomfit (let alone “blind”) the driver, even if it is accidentally aimed at the driver’s eyes.

It is a common misconception that the Ultra Lyte operator hides in bushes in full combat and camouflage, aimed at the driver’s eyes. In fact, the Ultra Lyte is a measuring device means that measurements can be recorded from the safety of the roadside.

On the Set at UN Headquarters

Sir Peter Ustinov

Sir Peter Ustinov, “the man who could make anyone laugh”, died on 29 March in Switzerland at the age of 82.

“He was one of UNICEF’s most effective and beloved partners, a man who exemplified the idea that one person can make a world of difference”, said UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy.

Born in London in 1921 to Russian, German, French and Italian ancestry, Sir Peter said he had “automatic loyalty to something like the United Nations”. Though he achieved international acclaim as an actor, producer, playwright, novelist and raconteur, Sir Peter will be remembered as much for his work on behalf of children as his contribution to the arts. Among countless awards and honours, he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in recognition of his artistic and humanitarian achievements in 1990.

The Secretary-General was deeply saddened to learn of Ustinov’s death and extended his condolences to Sir Peter’s wife and family. He paid tribute to inurable optimist, remarkable world citizen, and steadfast friend of the United Nations.
Frank Clancy,  
Chief Administrative Officer  
UNFICYP and was transferred thereafter to UNMOGIP as the CFO until 1992. He was sent on TDY to UNPROFOR in the former Yugoslavia from 1992 through 1995, where as Budget Chief he managed a budget of more than $2 billion. From April 1995 to September 1996, he served as the Unit Chief for Europe and Latin America, Finance Management and Support Service, FALD/DPKO, with responsibility for 10 peacekeeping missions with total annual expenditure of $1 billion plus. In September 1996, he took up the post of CFO in UNFICYP.

From May 1999 to February 2002, Mr. Clancy served as the CAO in UNMOGIP, introducing a much-needed facelift of the infrastructure, upgrade of communications and information technology systems.

Mr. Clancy was appointed CO in UNDOF in March 2002, at the outset of a modernisation programme during which he helped promote civilian/military cooperation and the evolution of integrated support services.

Mr. Clancy was born on 8 April 1950 in Ireland. He is married to Anne, who is accompanying him in the mission area. Their daughter, Rachel, is now pursuing post-graduate studies in the United Kingdom.

Lt. Col. Martin Baèko  
CO Sector 4


He completed post-graduate studies in law in 1985. In 1987, Lt. Col. Baèko was assigned to the High State Government District in Košice where he headed the Personnel Section. From 1996 until 2001, he was Head of the Department of Scientific and Technical Information at the Slovak Military Air Force Institute of Research and Experimentation.

Lt. Col. Baèko served with UNFICYP as Adjunct to Commander Sector 4 in 2001. He later worked at the Slovak Ministry of Defence, Operation Management and UN Missions Department, until his present posting. Born in Košice on 8 November, 1956, Lt Col. Baèko is married to Eva and they have two children, Martin (18) and Eva (12). Over the last 15 years, he has developed a keen interest in martial arts. He has an extensive library on this subject, and is also interested in Eastern medicine and philosophy.

40 Years with the NAAFI

A presentation buffet lunch took place on 23 April in the Warrant Officers’ & Sergeants’ Mess, BRITCON, to say farewell to Mrs Loulla Nacouzi on her retirement after 40 years service with the NAAFI.

Loulla started with NAAFI in Nicosia in 1958, and has spent 36 years of her 40-year service in the Families Shop on the UNPA. Andy Leonard, the NAAFI Operations Manager for Cyprus, and Louisa Venizelos, the Nicosia Shop Manageress, made the retirement presentations on behalf of NAAFI, followed by Amma Renvhill presenting a bouquet of flowers on behalf of all staff from the Property Management Department. A final presentation was made by Colonel Ian Sinclair CBE, Commander BRITCON, of a “Certificate of Gratitude for Exemplary Service to the British Contingent UNFICYP” in recognition and gratitude for 40 years exemplary service.

Our sincere best wishes go to Loulla for a very happy and well-deserved retirement.

New Faces

New clerks, Anastasia Neoeleous and Alexandra Owen, started working at UNFICYP in March and are very proud to be part of the UN system. Anastasia holds court at the Supply Unit. She enjoys her morning drive from Larnaca to the UNPA. However, she doesn’t even want to think about her afternoon return during the summer. Alexandra comes to us from much closer here in Nicosia. After three years with the U.S. Embassy, she now works with UNFICYP’s Force Military Police Unit.

Department of Australian High Commissioner

Mr. Frank Ingruber, the outgoing Australian High Commissioner, paid a farewell call to Head-quarters UNFICYP on 3 April. Mr. Ingruber leaves Cyprus on 28 April after just over four years on the island.

The diplomat was met by UNFICYP Chief of Mission Zbigniew Wlosowicz, and after inspecting a guard of honour, he had an informal meeting in the Chief of Mission’s office with UNFICYP senior staff whom he had regular contact with during his time in Cyprus.

Mr. Ingruber’s wife Marion was also a well-known figure up in Headquarters. She was a regular visitor to the coffee mornings held by and for the wives of UNFICYP serving personnel and diplomats. She also ran a series of art classes and exhibited much of her work during her stay on the island.

UNFICYP wishes Frank and Marion Ingruber a very happy future.

Sally Retires

It is with much regret that UNFICYP bade farewell to Sally Kyriakides, the Budget Assistant in IBS, who took early retirement at the end of March after almost 35 years of service with UNFICYP.

Sally joined the mission in June 1969 when a number of clerical posts opened. Asked where she would like to work, she said: “Anywhere except where figures and money are involved”. She ended up in the Finance Section.

Through the years, Sally changed position but always remained connected with figures. Upon retirement, she held the post of Budget Assistant for Integrated Support Services and handled the Logistic Support Account. Her expertise in this area will be sorely missed.

Sally was held in the highest regard by all she came into contact with, a very competent and efficient member of staff who worked harmoniously with all her colleagues.

Sadly, Sally was obliged to retire five months early due to ill health. We all wish her well.
Good Offices Departure