The full text of resolution 1548 (2004) reads as follows:

"The Security Council,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 26 May 2004 (S/2004/427) on the United Nations operation in Cyprus, and in particular the call to the parties to assess and address the humanitarian issue of missing persons with due urgency and seriousness,

Noting that the Government of Cyprus is agreed that in view of the prevailing conditions in the island, it is necessary to keep the United Nations peacekeeping force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) beyond 15 June 2004,

Welcoming the Secretary-General’s intention to conduct a review, to be completed within three months, on UNFICYP’s mandate, force levels and concept of operation, in view of the 24 April 2004 referendum and taking into account developments on the ground, and the views of the parties,

Welcoming and encouraging efforts by the United Nations to sensitize peacekeeping personnel in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases in all its peacekeeping operations,

1. Reaffirms all its relevant resolutions on Cyprus, in particular resolution 1251 (1999) of 29 June 1999 and subsequent resolutions,

2. Decides to extend the mandate of UNFICYP for a further period ending 15 December 2004 and to consider the recommendations of the Secretary-General in his review of UNFICYP and to act upon them within one month of receiving them;

3. Urges the Turkish Cypriot side and the Turkish forces to rescind without delay all remaining restrictions on UNFICYP’s activities, on the ground, and the views of the parties,

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of this resolution concurrent with the report provided for above;

5. Decides to remain seized of the matter."

Adieu Mirko
22 August 1980 – 8 June 2004

The UNFICYP family gathered at St. Columba’s Church in the UNPA on 13 June to express grief and sorrow over the loss of Sgt. Miroslav Hruska, who tragically died in an accident on 8 June at the young age of 23.

The CO Sector 4, Lt. Col. Martin Bončík, addressed the gathering.

“We are here today to mourn over the loss of this brave Slovak soldier, to share the grief we all feel, and perhaps in that sharing, to find the strength to bear our sorrow and to find the courage to cope with this great loss.”

“Words cannot express the pain and the sorrow that filled our hearts after we learned about this tragic and vain loss of our dear friend and colleague.”

Miroslav was born on 22 August 1980. He was the second child of an army colonel, presently assigned to NATO in Brussels.

“He spent his childhood in the town of Martin in the central region of Slovakia. From a very young age, Miroslav had expressed his desire to follow in his father’s steps and become a professional soldier. General Havel, in his review of UNFICYP in 2001, joined Liptovský Mikuláš Military Academy where he took an one-year course on the Management of the Military Systems. After he had successfully completed this course, he went to work as a commander at the Training Battalion to restore the military status quo which existed there prior to 30 June 2000. From 2003, to 2004, he operated as a Squad Commander at the NCO Liptovský Mikuláš Military Academy, where he also attended and successfully completed the Military Instructor’s course.”

Miroslav joined UNFICYP, realising a long-standing dream.

“Miroslav, this tragic accident happened to you when there was so much more for you to do… You will never be forgotten.”

REST IN PEACE.

“Eternal rest grant unto him, Oh Lord, and let Perpetual Light shine upon him”

Africa Day

On 25 May, Secretary-General Kofi Annan joined the international community in New York to commemorate the 41st anniversary of Africa Day. The Secretary-General recognised “the success of the long struggle for political independence”, and praised the African Union and other home-grown initiatives including the inauguration of the Pan African Parliament and the launch in Addis Ababa of the AU Peace and Security Council. The SG also brought attention to “the importance of gender balance in the election of the Commissioners of the African Union, and a woman as the Pan African Parliament’s first President.”

“Step by step, Africa is constructing an architecture of institutions to promote peace and security on the continent,” he said, and welcomed the Security Council’s decision to establish a long-awaited UN peacekeeping operation in Burundi (UNOBU).

The SG called for an international effort to intensify the search for solutions to ongoing problems. “In welcoming all these positive trends, we cannot close our eyes to the massive scale violation of human rights and consequent suffering in Sudan’s western Darfur region, the continuing tensions in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the current crisis in the Côte d’Ivoire and other areas of tension on the continent. We must make greater progress in fighting HIV/AIDS, which is taking away Africa’s present and its future.”

On 30 June, the SG arrived in Khartoum, his stop in the Sudan, just one in an extended tour that includes Chad, Ethiopia and Kenya as well other non-African countries.
Some like it HOT!

By Maj. Zsolt Kiss, MD

The most popular season on Aphrodite’s island is summer, due to pleasant weather, causing short-term heat conditions and long-term health impairment. To protect ourselves, we should be alert and aware.

Heat and sun are the main environmental risk factors we face during the long, hot Cypriot summer. First off, we should remember that it is essential to maintain a proper body temperature. Exceeding the normal vital range, between 36.1°C and 37.2°C, causes cell malfunction. At 42°C, body temperature, the central nervous system breaks down and 44°C is fatal. Our life functions are constantly threatened with heat. With heavy physical exercise, the heat is three to five times greater than during rest.

Secondly, the importance of water should never be underestimated since when it comes to heat regulation, water plays a key role as the solvent of blood, i.e. as heat carrier and then by evaporation. Dehydration contributes to heat-related health hazards because the tool for thermo-regulation is missing.

Do not believe that a heat injury happens only because of excessive training in extreme heat! Not recognising dehydration can easily cause a heat injury. This can happen even with a lower workload, when humidity is high and when temperatures are lower. Thus, in the Cypriot winter, when humidity can be double that of summer, we should use extra precautions such as avoiding being outside during midday hours.

Due to Ultra Violet (UV) radiation, summer sunshine carries many more hazards for our skin and eyes than during rest.

Thirst is not an accurate indicator of your hydration state. You cannot replace water intake by drinking beer. Tanned skin does not provide a sufficient protection against sun/UV radiation. You are exposed to UV radiation in shade and water too. Do not apply petroleum jelly, ointment or butter to a sunburn – it does harm.

- Keep fit and healthy helps you cope with summer heat conditions. But acclimatize before increasing your exercise work rate.
- Take plenty of exercise rest cycles.
- Check your hydration levels regularly and drink proper amounts of water.
- Plan physical exercise for mornings or evenings – it’s cooler.

Dehydration

**Dizziness, weakness, fainting, nausea, vomiting, dark yellow urine**

Gastrointestinal infections

**Fever, vomiting, diarrhea**

Skin infections

**Red itchy skin or painful scratching**

Swarms

**Red, tender, warm skin, pox/ulcers by blisters**

Solar urticaria

**Ichy inflamed spots on the skin**

Photo allergic dermatitis

**Redness, itchiness, inflammation**

Drop-induced photosensitivity

**Sunburn symptoms**

Premature skin ageing

**Skin becomes drier and more wrinkled, spots and growths appear**

Skin cancer

1. A new growth on the skin.
2. A change in an existing skin growth.
3. A sore that does not heal.

Inflammatory eye diseases

**Red, painful eye**

Degenerative eye alterations

**Visual problems**

Cataract

**Cloudy vision; double vision; sensitivity to bright lights**

Eye cancers

**Painless loss of vision**

**Symptoms**

**Cause**

**First Aid**

**Prevention**

**Heat exhaustion**

Dizziness, weakness, fainting, nausea, vomiting, dark yellow urine

The inability of the cardiovascular system to fulfill thermoregulation, muscular and cerebral blood flow due to heavy sweating and heat

Move to shade; loosen clothing by down; elevate legs; take signs of water; request a MEDEVAC

Sufficient water intake, proper work-rest cycle

**Heat cramps**

Painful spontaneous contractions of body muscles

Excessive physical training in a hot, humid environment

Move to shade; loosen clothing by down; elevate legs; take signs of water; request a MEDEVAC

**Heat stroke**

Hot body, confusion, vomiting, convulsions, unconsciousness

The body’s cooling by malfunction due to prolonged exposure to high temperature and radiation

Move to shade; loosen clothing by down; elevate legs; take signs of water; request a MEDEVAC

Sufficient water intake, proper work-rest cycle

**Heat rash**

Red itchy skin after excessive sweating

Unclean skin and excessive sweating in a hot environment

Cool the skin with water; do not wash with soap or any cosmetic; visit your MD

Take a shower before and after exercise

**Dehydration**

Dizziness, weakness, fainting, dark yellow urine

Insufficient water intake

Move to shade; loosen clothing by down; elevate legs; take signs of water; request a MEDEVAC

Sufficient water intake

**Overhydration/ water intoxication**

Headache, confusion, nausea, vomiting, profuse colostrous urine

Extravolume water intake after excessive sweating

Stop fluid intake and request a MEDEVAC

Proper water intake

**Renal atrosclerosis, Recurrent urinary infections, Constipation and dry skin**

Diagnosis-related symptoms

Chronic mild dehydration

Increase your water intake; visit your MD

Sufficient water intake

**Gastrointestinal infections**

Fever, vomiting, diarrhea

Viral and bacterial infections

Sufficient water intake, visit your MD

Proper personal hygiene and community hygiene

**Sunburn**

Red, tender, warm skin, pox/ulcers by blisters

Short-term over-exposure due to UV radiation

Keep yourself hydrated; cool the skin with water; find shade; if large blisters develop, visit your MD do not burst blisters

Avoid direct/stong sunshine; apply sunscreen

**Solar urticaria**

Ichy inflamed spots on the skin

Short-term over-exposure due to UV radiation

Keep yourself hydrated; cool the skin with water; find shade; if large blisters develop, visit your MD do not burst blisters

Avoid direct/stong sunshine; apply sunscreen

**Photo allergic dermatitis**

Redness, itchiness, inflammation

Short-term UV radiation changes the chemical structure of the topical applied substance (after-shave, perfumes, etc.); may become allergic

Remove the substance/dirt with clean water (avoid using anything other than water). If the infected area is large, visit your MD

Clean your skin and do not apply substances other than sunscreen before any outdoor activity

**Drop-induced photosensitivity**

Sunburn symptoms

Medication sometimes makes the skin sensitive to short-term over-exposure to UV radiation

Keep yourself hydrated; cool the skin with water; find shade; if large blisters develop, visit your MD do not burst blisters

Avoid direct/stong sunshine; apply sunscreen

**Premature skin ageing**

Skin becomes drier and more wrinkled, spots and growths appear

Long-term over-exposure to UV radiation

Irreversible

Long-term outdoor skin protection (clothes, shade, sunscreen)

**Skin cancer**

1. A new growth on the skin.
2. A change in an existing growth.
3. A sore that does not heal

Long-term over-exposure to UV radiation

Visit your MD

Long-term outdoor skin protection (clothes, shade, sunscreen)

**Inflammatory eye diseases**

Red, painful eye

Long-term over-exposure to UV radiation

Visit your MD

Wear quality sunglasses

**Degenerative eye alterations**

Visual problems

Long-term over-exposure to UV radiation

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**Cataract**

Cloudy vision; double vision; sensitivity to bright lights

Long-term over-exposure to UV radiation

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**Eye cancers**

Painless loss of vision

Long-term over-exposure to UV radiation

Visit your MD

Wear quality sunglasses

**Misconceptions:**

- Thirst is not an accurate indicator of your hydration state.
- You cannot replace water intake by drinking beer.
- Tanned skin does not provide a sufficient protection against sun/UV radiation.
- You are exposed to UV radiation in shade and water too.
- Do not apply petroleum jelly, ointment or butter to a sunburn – it does harm.
- You are exposed to UV radiation in shade and water too.
- Do not apply petroleum jelly, ointment or butter to a sunburn – it does harm.
- Do not start physical exercise when dehydrated.
- If you are on medications, ask your doctor whether it is okay to exercise.
- Substances like alcohol and caffeine dehydrate your body.
- Do not drink large quantities of water immediately after exercising (e.g. one litre within an hour of a workout).
- Avoid direct sunshine between 1000 and 1600 hours – find shade.
- Apply sunscreen (at least SPF 15+), making sure to cover face, nose and ears when exposed to direct or indirect sunshine outdoors during summer.
- Do not start physical exercise when dehydrated.
- Do not drink large quantities of water immediately after exercising (e.g. one litre within an hour of a workout).
- Avoid direct sunshine between 1000 and 1600 hours – find shade.
- Apply sunscreen (at least SPF 15+), making sure to cover face, nose and ears when exposed to direct or indirect sunshine outdoors during summer.
- You can find more information on Sun/UV-related medical problems in the INTERSUN, the Global UV project bulletin issued by WHO (available in the Force Medical Officer’s folder on the K Drive).
40th Regiment Royal Artillery (The Lowland Gunners)

The 40th Regiment Royal Artillery was first formed in Germany in 1947, although the histories of its individual batteries can be dated back to the 18th century. The Batteries of the Regiment deployed on Op TOsca are 38 (Seringapatam) Battery as the MFR, 137 (Java) Battery Sector 2 East, 129 (Dragon) Battery Sector 2 West and 49 (Inkerman) Headquarters Battery.

Although containing soldiers from all over the UK and Commonwealth, the Regiment recruits predominantly from the lowlands of Scotland. It maintains strong links with the region, and is proud to bear the title of The Lowland Gunners.

Since their formation, The Lowland Gunners have seen active service in Suez, Cyprus, Borneo, the Falkland Islands, Northern Ireland, the first Gulf War, Bosnia, Kosovo, and have most recently returned from a highly successful tour of Iraq. During its time in Iraq, the Regiment undertook the initial peacekeeping phase, although several members of 129 Battery also deployed on war fighting operations attached to other regiments.

The Regiment is currently equipped with the AS90 Self Propelled Howitzer, capable of delivering three 90lb shells to a range of 24km in less than 10 seconds.

In 1998, the Regiment returned from Germany to its current home at Alanbrooke Barracks, North Yorkshire. The Lowland Gunners enjoy a strong reputation as a sporting regiment, and have excellent tug-of-war, football, rugby, biathlon and snowboarding teams.

New CO Sector 2, Lt. Col. Richard Nugee

Lt. Col. Nugee was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1986. He served in 32 Heavy Regiment Royal Artillery, at the time equipped with the 177mm Self Propelled M107, in Dortmund, Germany, as a Forward Observation Officer. During his time, the Regiment re-equipped from the 105mm Self Propelled Abbot to the 155mm Field Howitzer 70 and arms plotted to Topcliffe, North Yorkshire. He also was a Battery Captain and then Adjutant and completed a further two tours of Northern Ireland.

In 1994, he was posted to 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery in Paderborn, Germany, as a Forward Observation Officer. During his time, the Regiment re-equipped from the 105mm Self Propelled Abbot to the 155mm Field Howitzer 70 and arms plotted to Topcliffe, North Yorkshire. He also was a Battery Captain and then Adjutant and completed a further two tours of Northern Ireland.

the UNPA Officers’ Club recently presented the Cyprus Muscular Dystrophy Association, through the Cyprus Institute of Neurology & Genetics, with a cheque for €500, the proceeds from a Grand Charity Raffle held during the UNPA Officers’ Club Spring Ball on 26 March 2004.

The money went towards purchasing an electric scooter for Unsal Dijes, a young member of the Cyprus Muscular Dystrophy Association, who suffers from “Duchenne” neuromuscular disorder. The rest of the funding was raised by Unsal’s parents and the MDA.

Charitable Donation from Spring Ball Proceeds

O nce again, UNFICYP supported an island-wide blood drive by medical associations seeking donors. As ever, the mission responded with alacrity. Eight members in Sector 1, 32 in Sector 2, 44 in Sector 4 and 21 in the UNPA rolled up their sleeves and bled for a good cause.

Well done everyone!

Blood Donations in UNFICYP

Chilean Army CO visits UNFICYP

M aj. Gen. Juan Emilio Cheyre Espinoza, Commanding Officer of the Chilean Army, visited UNFICYP on 19 June, inspecting an honour guard at UNFICYP HQ before calling on the Force Commander with whom he exchanged gifts.

After attending an UNFICYP briefing, Maj. Gen. Cheyre flew by helicopter to San Martin Camp where he visited the soldiers of Sector 1 and met with the 32 Chilean personnel serving in Alpha Coy.
The Cultural Heritage of Cyprus Part XXIV

Büyük Han: The Great Inn

Situated in northern Nicosia, the Büyük Han, or “great inn”, is typical of the inner-city commercial inns that could be found during mediaeval times in the Ottoman region of Anatolia.

Also known as “karavan saray”, these inns would provide overnight shelter and protection from banditry for traders and other travellers, and their horses or camels. The Büyük Han, the largest of these inns in Nicosia, is now one of the most important monuments of the Ottoman period that remain on the island.

Muzaffer Pasha, the first Ottoman Governor of Cyprus, built the Büyük Han in 1572, making it one of the first priorities after the Ottomans took control of Cyprus in 1571. Located on the southwest side of Asma-altı Square in Nicosia, it occupied an important position, close to the pazar (market) so that it would be convenient for the traders.

The Büyük Han was built of dressed stone in the form of an open rectangle, so that the four outside walls of the building created a fort-like façade, and the four inside walls surrounded an interior courtyard. There were just two entrances into the Han: the main gate was on the east side – marked with a door made from marble that was excavated from sites on the island – with a second entrance on the west.

The Büyük Han retains its Anatolian characteristics, which, interestingly, are similar to the hans found in Bursa, Turkey that date to between 1489 and 1491.

The Büyük Han Today

Today, the Han’s entrance remains on its eastern side, providing passage into the interior courtyard. The courtyard is surrounded on all four sides by two storeys of cross-vaulted arcades (porticos) or pavilions that lead into the rooms, each of which features a barrel vault. The upper and lower arches facing the courtyard have cylindrical columns, connected by double centred-point arches.

The courtyard’s eastern side contains 10 shops, many of which have returned to their original use, selling such items as textiles and coffee. The shops also open to the exterior of the Han, which would have allowed the shopkeepers to offer their goods to more than just those staying within the Han’s walls.

Because the rooms at ground level were not used as guest rooms, they originally had windows only overlooking the courtyard; the windows on the outer walls that can be seen today were later additions.

Two flights of 21 steps, at the northwest and southeast corners, lead to the upper storey. The rooms here, leading from the arcaded pavilions, have segmental arched doorways, and their windows, which look outward onto the streets below, are rectangular with relieving arches above. The guestroom windows were placed high, possibly to avoid robberies.

Note that the room above the main gate is bigger than the others.

The Han’s stone chimneys, which are found on its northern side, each stand 1.5 metres high, with hexagonal bases and cone-shaped tops.

The Büyük Han Today

The Han’s stone chimneys, which are found on its northern side, each stand 1.5 metres high, with hexagonal bases and cone-shaped tops.

The octagonal-shaped mescid, or small mosque, in the centre of the courtyard was built in the form of a kiosk set on marble columns, surrounding a fountain that contains a central jet. In 1820, water taps were placed around the fountain to allow for the ritual ablutions. The columns are connected with Turkish-type arches, similar to the ones found in mihrabs (the niche inside a mosque that indicates the direction of prayer towards Mecca). An external stairway at the side of the mosque leads to the mosque entrance. The interior of the mosque consists of a small room, with a relatively big dome and large windows on all eight sides.

The Bünyük Han's architectural history

Illustrating the Han's architectural history

The small central “mescid” (mosque) which is now unused

Busy arcades

Sewing silkworm cocoons

The Han, now used for commercial purposes, features a market place with demonstrations of traditional crafts including weaving, woodwork, pottery and ceramics, painting, needle- and tapestry-work, etc.

People from all walks of life drop in to pass the time of day, often staying to have a coffee or a bite to eat.

There is a thriving restaurant serving traditional Turkish Cypriot delicacies. Live music adds to the ambience on Tuesday and Friday nights.

Sewing silkworm cocoons

Baking traditional pastry

The small central “mescid” (mosque) which is now unused

Busy arcades

Illustrating the Han’s architectural history

The Blue Beret

June 2004

8

June 2004 - The Blue Beret

9
In 1976, his hour of glory finally came. He was selected to represent Ireland in the Montreal Olympics in the Senior Coxless 4. At that time, there was no financial backing, or the opportunity to take time off work or a career break, so all training had to take place after working hours and on rest days. No problem for Andy – he was still single at that time!

“It was a great honour to be chosen to row at the Olympics for my country. The preparations – the journey there – the settling into the Olympic Village and on into the Olympic experience was something none of us will ever forget.”

Following Montreal, he continued rowing in the Garda Siochana’s boat club and was again selected for the 1980 Olympics, which this time was held in Moscow. Unfortunately, due to a back injury, he was unable to regain his position in the Coxless 4, but he travelled to Moscow as a reserve for the Irish rowing team.

Now that the Olympic Games are drawing near again, Andy would like to go to Greece to get the old “feel for the place”, particularly since Athens is where it all started. Due to family commitments, he is not able to go to the Games themselves, but he hopes to pay a flying visit a few days before it all starts.

Andy says: “I know some of the representatives on the Irish Olympic Council, and I’ve heard that some of the Irish competitors are coming to Cyprus two weeks before the start to train and acclimatize themselves. I hope to get to meet some of them. And I am pinning my hopes on Ireland’s participation in the Lightweight Double Scull (World Sculling Champion Sam Lynch and Gearoid Towey), and also the Lightweight Coxless 4 (including Niall O’Toole, the Lightweight Sculling Champion 1994).”

Andy is a well-travelled man. Born in Massachusetts of Irish parents, he lived in the U.S. until the age of seven. On his father’s retirement from the Boston Police Force, the family returned to Galway in Ireland. Andy attended St. Joseph’s College where he took up rowing as a sport. Known on the web as the “Bish Rowing Club” (after the Bishop of Galway who helped found the club), Andy thrived in the sport, winning two schoolboy championships.

On finishing secondary school, Andy joined the Garda Siochana and continued with his rowing activities. In 1974, he won the Senior 4’s and Senior 8’s in the Irish national championships. In 1975, he represented Ireland in the world championships in the Senior Coxless 4 in Nottingham, and also the Thames Cup in the Senior 8’s at the Henley Royal Regatta.
Finnish Defence Forces Flag Day

On 4 June, the Finnish Contingent in Cyprus invited members of UNFICYP and the island’s Turkish Cypriot policemen who complete the team. We then go to the local police station to pick up the Turkish Cypriot policemen who complete the team.

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SCAT 4 on a welfare visit

The first stop of our duty tour is right in Leonissos, where one lady waits for us in her home. An older woman inquires as to why she has received less money than the previous month. She is immediately informed that last month she received an Easter bonus. Within a few minutes the welfare visits are successfully completed – the community in Leonissos is very small.

The second stop is the village of Ayios Andronikos. A married couple is delighted to meet us and receive their monthly monetary supplement, which will help towards finishing the construction of the second floor of their family house.

Aya Trias village is the third stop of the “money run”. Everything goes as smoothly as planned. Capt. Vartman, MSgt. Kovac and I assist Chris and Paul in the distribution process.

On the way to Rizokarpaso, we stop at Ayios Thysosos. Chris surprises us by telling us that he likes to listen to people speaking in Slovak. As we travel along, we continue to discuss languages. Capt. Vartman explains the origin of his mother tongue, Hungarian – he has a very extensive knowledge of its history. As we approach our last destination, George finishes his educational lecture by pointing out the similarity of words used in Hungarian and Turkish. The policemen accompanying us are amazed. We find that Hungarian word for “pocket” is “zseb” and “cep” in Turkish. Similarly, “apple” is “alma” and “elma” respectively.

The fifth and final stop is the small town of Rizokarpaso where Greek Cypriots are gathered at a local coffee shop. They see us coming and wave. Respecting the village custom, women are seated separately from the men in the restaurant. This is an unusual picture for a young European peacekeeper.

Allowances are collected in an orderly fashion as we call one person at a time. Chris, Paul and George are careful to obtain a signature from each recipient of these valuable envelopes. Ivan, Peter and Patrik assist as much as possible. Everything is performed by UN personnel and police with the highest respect for the communities.

Once the social allowances are paid, it is time to return to the Karpas Line. Nothing less than a “four star hotel lunch” is waiting for us. We enjoy the delicious late afternoon meal. Cook Cpl. Lubo Trebitczyk is glad that he has also contributed to the day’s success.

Being back at Camp General Stefanik in Famagusta does not mean that we are done. Capt. Vartman analyzes the developments of the day and jots down a few notes in his notebook for the Weekly Report. As soon as the office work has been completed, he shakes our hands and thanks us for a job well done. We all leave the office happy and satisfied with our peacekeeping duties.

30 Years with the Finn!

To mark 30 years of service as a Field Service Officer with peacekeeping operations, Mike Moriarty, UNFICYP’s Chief General Services and tattop tango devotee of the tephcshuran arts, was presented with a certificate of appreciation by Frank Clancy, the Chief Administrative Officer, on 2 April.

As all who have benefited from his wisdom know, Mike’s long service with the organisation enriches his continuing contribution to the work of UNFICYP.

From the left: Charles Mix (CCPO), Mike Moriarty, Frank Clancy and Stella-Maria Doumitriou (Admin Axt to CGS)
Hats off for the Blue Beret Blues!

It has recently come to the attention of the Blue Beret Office that the wearing of the blue beret, the legitimate headwear of United Nations serving military and police personnel, can sometimes be something of a “headache”. A representative cross-section of military and police personnel in UNFICYP shared their views on the subject of headgear with us.

Says Ingrid Steuer from the Netherlands: “I respect the symbol of the UN and I recognise its value, but it is my considered opinion that this beret was definitely not designed with a woman’s head in mind. It is generally accepted that most women like to take care of their appearance, and in this respect, hair plays an important role. Not five minutes after I wear my beret, my hairdo is completely flattened.

Blue beret

“A having worked with the UN for a while now, I find it a friendly and modern organisation. However, I would have hoped that a little more thought could have been given towards women. In Slovakia, our headgear is much more hair-friendly – this blue beret just ruins any success I might have with my hair. In Slovakia, our headgear is much more hair-friendly for women.”

A frank-speaking Australian policewoman says forthrightly: “I can’t stand these berets! I only wear mine when I have to, but I always have it with me (usually in my trouser pocket). In Australia, we wear broad-brimmed hats, which are designed to protect us from the sun, due to the high skin cancer rate back home. It is much more comfortable, and I would have thought more appropriate for a country such as Cyprus. All this beret does is flatten my hairdo and make me sweat more!”

Says our own Ingrid Tomokevá from Slovakia: “I find that wearing the blue beret can be uncomfortable. Of course I’m proud to wear the insignia of a peacekeeper, but surely there must be a practical alternative to the beret. I try hard to take a pride in my appearance, but this blue beret just ruins any success I might have with my hair. In Slovakia, our headgear is much more hair-friendly for women.”

Maybe, just maybe, our male peacekeeper fraternity is equally “dis-tressed”?

After all, whoever thought wearing a pure wool beret on your head in 40 degrees plus looked “cool”?

Seriously though, hair-raising issues apart, the fact that broad-brimmed hats provide more effective shading on your head in 40 degrees plus looked “cool”?

The winner will receive a prize from the PIO. Just call in with the right answer on: Extension: 4550 or 4409

Takings by the FC!

Following the national anthem, Sector 1’s chaplain said a prayer and blessed the UN medals which were later presented to six members of the UN Flight.

Then Lt. Col. Gustavo Motta gave a short speech to honour the day, stressing the fact that the revolution of May 1810 was not an isolated or spontaneous event, but a crucial one in the history of Argentina and a result of both internal and external factors that have marked and created a new nation.

After the Argentinian National Flag was marched off, and in order to add a touch of festivity to the celebration, guests were invited to watch a brief tango and folkloric dance.

The ceremony was concluded by a traditional break-fast served at the Officers’ Mess, where everyone enjoyed typical Argentinian delicacies.

Hints

1. The Brit lives in the red house.
2. The Swede has a dog.
3. The Dane drinks tea.
4. The green house is on the left of the white house.
5. The owner of the green house drinks coffee.
6. The person who smokes Pall Mall has blond hair.
7. The owner of the yellow house smokes Dunhills.
8. The man living in the centre house drinks milk.
10. The man who smokes Blends lives next to the one who has cats.
11. The man who has horses lives next to the man who smokes Dunhills.
12. The man who smokes Blue Master drinks beer.
13. The German smokes Prince.
14. The Norwegian lives next to the blue house.
15. The man who smokes Blends has a neighbour who drinks water.

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15. The man who smokes Blends has a neighbour who drinks water.

By WO2 J. Moss

O n 25 May, the National Day of Argentina was celebrated at Camp San Martin. Back in 1810, this day marked the first step that would lead to the full independence of the South American country from Spain, finally achieved years later. This day was commemorated with a ceremony, presided over by UNFICYP Chief of Mission Zbigniew Wlosowicz and many officials including the Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli, the Senator Adviser, Wlodzek Cibor, the Chief of Staff, Col. Ian Sinclair, the Ambassadors of Cuba, Ireland, Spain, Switzerland and the British High Commissioner.

The ceremony, held at the camp’s pool area, began with the Parade Commander, Lt. Col. Gustavo Carlos Cattaneo, presenting the troops to the Force Commander who, accompanied by the Chief of Mission and the Argentine Contingent Commander, saluted them. The winner will receive a prize from the PIO. Just call in with the right answer on: Extension: 4550 or, better still, write us so we can share your views with our readers.