

The Blue Beret

September 2003



Medals at
Salamis



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Tel: 22864550/22864416/22864408
Fax: 22864461
E-mail: unficyp-blue-beret@un.org
blueberetcyprus@hotmail.com
Web site: www.unficyp.org

Editorial Team

Brian Kelly
Maj. Ingrid Tomeková
Miriam Taylor

Photography

SSgt. George Cséfalvay
Contingent Photographers

Unit Press Officers

Sector 1	Maj. German Lozano
Sector 2	Capt. James Southall
Sector 4	1/Lt. Ladislav Regenda 1/Lt. Peter Valastyán MD
UNCIVPOL	Garda Alice Tierney
UN Flt	Lt. Martin Romero Molina
MFR	Sgt. Anthony Bennett
FMPU	Capt. Fiona Smith

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Towards Literacy For All

September 8th marked the first Literacy Day of the United Nations Literacy Decade – the international action campaign launched last February to promote improved literacy rates around the world so that they might grow by 50 per cent by 2015.

Of the 860 million-plus illiterate adults in the world today, two-thirds are women, hence the special initial emphasis on raising women's literacy as a stepping stone to the ultimate goal of literacy for all.

In his special message to mark the first Literacy Day, the Secretary-General points out: "Literacy unlocks the door to learning throughout life, is essential to development and health, and opens the way for democratic participation and active citizenship."

No society can be complacent. No society can claim illiteracy has been fully eradicated. True, the challenge is greatest in developing countries, however many developed countries are experiencing modest but worrying levels of illiteracy. Wherever it exists, "illiteracy is connected to patterns of poverty, social exclusion and inequalities", the SG said.

It cannot be addressed in isolation. Rather, it demands teamwork involving every level of government, civil society, the private sector, community groups, professional educators and, last but not least, family, friends and colleagues of those seeking to develop their literacy skills.

Again, in the Secretary-General's words: "Acquiring literacy is an empowering process, enabling millions to enjoy access to knowledge and information, which broadens horizons, increases opportunities and creates alternatives for building a better life. It is essential to the education of girls and the empowerment of women, the most effective tools we know for development across all society."

Editorial

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SG's Annual Report Urges Post-Iraq Unity and Review of UN Structure

In his latest progress report on goals set in 2000 at the United Nations Millennium Summit, Secretary-General Kofi Annan on 8 September called for renewed world unity on security issues after the Iraq war, increased momentum if global development targets are to be met, and rededication by rich countries to fulfil their pledges to the poor.

The Millennium Development Goals, ranging from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS to providing universal primary education can still be reached by the 2015 deadline if, during the remaining 12 years, "we maintain and increase the momentum of the last three years", the SG told a press conference at UN Headquarters to launch his Report on the Implementation of the Millennium Declaration 2003.

"But it depends on Member States being really determined to act on the commitments they have made", he added.

On peace and security, the SG said: "I am not even sure whether the consensus and the vision that the Millennium Declaration expressed are still intact... We seem no longer to agree on what the main threats are, or on how to deal with them". He added that he felt the UN system was not working as it should, and he has asked world leaders to come to the world body's annual General Assembly session debate armed with good ideas on how to make it work better.

The report begins with a reference to the "major disaster" of the 19 August terrorist attack on the UN's Baghdad headquarters which killed 22 people, including SRSG for Iraq Sergio Vieira de Mello.

The attack was "a direct challenge to the vision of global security, rooted in the United Nations Charter," which inspired the Millennium Declaration adopted by all world leaders at the Millennium Summit exactly three years ago, the SG says. It was the latest in a series of events which make the consensus they then expressed on world peace and security look "less solid than it did three years ago", he adds.

In the chapter on peace and security, the longest in the report, he warns that "the international security architecture... must be able to adapt to the needs of our time", but notes a worrying lack of consensus about what those needs are. While some States focus primarily on terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction, "for many around the globe, poverty, deprivation and civil war remain the highest priority".

The SG says it is "vitally important that the international community not allow the differences of the past months to persist, and that it find unity of purpose around a common security agenda", which, he adds, "can only be achieved if States, in pursuing their national interests, show understanding and respect for global realities, and for the needs of others".

The common security agenda, he continues, "should reflect a global consensus on the major threats to peace and security, be they old or new, and on our common response", and "should not shy away from the need to improve and, where necessary, change the structure and functions of the United Nations and other international institutions".

The Security Council needs to "regain the confidence of States and of world public opinion", he says, and will be better able to do so "if it is perceived to be broadly representative of the international community as a whole and of the geo-political realities of the contemporary world". The SG hopes, therefore, that Member States will redouble their efforts to reach agreement on enlarging the Council's membership.

In the chapter on development, the SG places particular emphasis on the need for developed countries to meet their commitments to the developing world in the areas of trade, debt relief and aid. The success or failure of all the Millennium Development Goals hinges on this, and developed countries should agree on deadlines for fulfilling their pledges, comparable to the 2015 target for outcomes such as halving extreme poverty and hunger.

In the chapter on human rights, democracy and good governance, he says "there is a danger that we may retreat from some of the important gains" made during the 1990s, as human rights come under pressure both from terrorism and from the methods used by countries to fight it.

The report concludes with a chapter on "reinforcing multilateral institutions" in which the SG calls for "a hard look" at the existing architecture of international institutions and, in particular, a review of the principal organs of the UN itself – not only the Security Council but also the General Assembly, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and perhaps even the Trusteeship Council.

Aftermath of the Baghdad bombing





SG Shares Shock and Sorrow at UN HQ Memorial Ceremony for Baghdad Victims

19 September 2003

Dear friends,

Let me start by thanking the families and friends who made the journey to be with us today, and by sending my prayers to those who could not be here. Spouses, mothers, fathers, children, siblings and others who have lost their loved ones – our hearts go out to all of you.

I probably speak for most of us in saying that the past month has been among the longest and blackest in our lifetimes.

Today, we share our shock and sorrow at the loss of people we loved. We meet to bring their families together with our United Nations family. We pray for those who were wounded in this tragedy, for their strength and their recovery. We pray for those who survived, but who have to endure a trauma the rest of us cannot imagine.

We meet to express together what cannot be endured alone. Even for those of us who have experience in dealing with human loss and suffering on a large scale, this tragedy is different, because it is our own.

When we learned the names of those we had lost on 19th August 2003, the very nature of loss became suddenly and acutely personal.

So many of us knew closely one or more of those who died. Even if we ourselves did not, we knew someone else who did. We felt as if we knew them all.

That is why, a month on, we feel that a deeper meaning has been given to the expression “United Nations family”.

And if people need an example of our United Nations family at its best and its brightest, at its most committed and most courageous, they have only to look at the men and women who perished in the Canal Hotel.

Many of them were at the height of their careers. Others were just beginning, and had yet to make their full mark when they volunteered for their assignment in Iraq. All of them were in the prime of life. All of them leave a huge void.

They form a roll call of heroes that would be the envy of any nation.

By no measure of the human imagination can I speak for those who shared their lives. That unwritten history can be informed only by the love of family, friends and close comrades. It forms the most eloquent history of all.

I can speak simply as one who shares in the groundswell of grief, affection and respect that follows their passing. In that spirit, let me try to speak to every one of them today.

- First, to our national staff – Raid, Leen, Ihssan, Emaad and

Basim – I say: you were not only invaluable to our work in Iraq, and dear members of our UN team there. You formed a precious human bridge between us and the Iraqi people. Many of you had worked for the UN for many years, under difficult circumstances, including at times when we were unable to keep an international presence in Iraq. We can never repay you for your courage.

- To our international colleagues, I will speak one by one:

- Reham, you were so young, yet had already achieved so much. There would have been no limits to what you could have done with your life. You chose to work for the United Nations because you wanted to do something for others. You went to Iraq to make a contribution to the lives of your Arab brothers and sisters. It is their loss as much as ours that you were denied the chance to do that.

- Ranilo, you were quiet, diligent, considerate, and ready to work all the hours God gave you. You showed generosity to everyone around you. And you were such a devoted son and sibling to your family back home. You never let the distance to your homeland, or the years spent away, stand between you and your loved ones.

- Rick, as a passionate Arabist, you were driven by an equally passionate commitment to peace, justice and human rights. You dazzled people with your brilliance and scholarship, but you also made friends for life through kindness and wisdom beyond your years. You devoted most of your career – and most of the waking hours in many of your days – to searching for ways to help people in the Middle East and the Arab world. And now you have lost your life while on a mission to the region you loved so dearly. Its people have lost a singularly gifted champion; we have lost a deeply beloved friend.

- Reza, in your dedicated work to ease the plight of refugees, you never shied away from challenges or difficult assignments. Nor did you ever fail to win people’s affection through your warmth, your good humour and your gift for cooking good food. Your heart was as big as your smile – and that was bigger than most.

- Jean-Selim, wherever you went, you waged your war against indifference with a powerful weapon: a determination to translate your ideas into action, to seek practical ways to help others. A true citizen of the world, you were living proof of what it means to come from a UN family. We grieve with your wife, Laura, who is also our colleague. We send our prayers to your baby son, Mattia-Selim.

UN Nobel Peace Prize Memorial Fund

Staff members and other persons working for the UN, wishing to commemorate colleagues killed in the attack on the UN compound in Baghdad on 19 August 2003, are encouraged to make donations to the United Nations Nobel Peace Prize Memorial Fund. Donations may be made by cheques payable to “UN Nobel Peace Prize Memorial Fund”. Cheques should be sent to the Treasurer, Secretariat Building, Room 2770A, United Nations, New York, NY 10017.

The Fund was established effective 29 May 2003, to create a living memorial to UN civilian personnel who have been killed in the line of duty in the service of peace, and to provide a practical way of helping their families by making a grant to assist in the education of surviving children.

- Christopher, you energized our work for children wherever you went, from Ethiopia to Kosovo to Iraq. Still young yourself, you were such a gifted advocate of young people’s right to health, education and a better future. You were a steadfast source of strength and support for your staff. You leave the finest legacy possible – a legacy of hope in the hearts of children you served.

- Martha, you combined deeply held humanitarian ideals with healthy realism. Professional, never pretentious, humorous and hardworking, you were the best kind of colleague anyone could wish for, in any UN mission to fight hunger and hardship. Your leadership qualities helped build team unity in the hardest of circumstances. You were good at what you did because you believed in it so fervently.

- Fiona, your talent took you from your native Scotland to the Balkans, from New York to Baghdad. Throughout that journey, you were guided by your exceptionally clear head, steadfast principles, and infallible instinct for the right way forward. Your no-nonsense approach was matched by an equal measure of warmth and compassion. When you were taken from us, your young shoulders had already borne a great deal of responsibility. Invariably, they did so with strength, balance and poise.

- Nadia, your wit, irreverence and laughter kept our spirits high. There was never anything affected about you; honesty was your defining characteristic. You set the standard in rising above the fray through confidence and humour. In more than 30 years with the UN, you inspired several generations of young women – and men – by showing that there are no limits to what a person with talent and courage could achieve. And you inspired all of us, regardless of age, by showing us that one can be principled without being pompous. Nadia, whenever we get needlessly overwrought, we will remember your voice telling us to “get a grip”; and whenever we are tempted to take ourselves too seriously, we will remember the sound of your laughter.

- Finally, Sergio, my dear friend: since you were taken from us, there has been an outpouring of tributes to your achievements, accomplishments and talents. But lest we forget: you were a human being first and foremost. A human being who was exceptionally caring; with an exceptionally strong sense of right and wrong; driven by an exceptional need to go out and right the wrongs of this world.

- Sergio, if you showed great confidence at all times, it was because you had so much to be confident about. Why did you

never seem tired, even while working 18-hour days? Why did you never look crumpled, even after an 18-hour flight? Why were you never sick? Why were you never grumpy? And you were the only top official in the UN system known to everyone by their first name. Even to those who didn’t know you personally, you were always just “Sergio”.

- Now that you are no longer with us, my dear friend, we must make do with your memory and your legacy. They shine bright, and they always will. Like you, they will never grow tired, or crumpled, or weary. Thank you, Sergio, for illuminating our lives.

Friends,

Today, we also pay tribute to non-UN members of our dedicated and extended family – Saad, Omar and Khidir, all Iraqi nationals; Manuel, who sought to coordinate the work of the Coalition Provisional Authority with that of UN agencies; Gillian, who worked tirelessly for the protection of children in crisis; Arthur, who devoted his life to championing the rights of the forcibly displaced; and Alya, who used to serve as one of our most dedicated and experienced translators in Baghdad.

Dear friends,

The work of our United Nations colleagues in Iraq was driven solely by a desire to help the Iraqi people build a better future.

When we lost them, our Organization also suffered another loss, of a different kind: a loss of innocence for the United Nations.

We, who had assumed that our mission to help others served as its own and ultimate form of protection, now find ourselves threatened and exposed.

We, who have tried from the beginning to serve those targeted by violence and destruction, have become a target ourselves.

That means we will need to adapt the way we work to our new environment. We will have to learn to balance our mission on behalf of other people with the need to protect our own.

But our commitment – our pledge in the name of “we the peoples” – must never change. Today, let us renew that commitment in the name of our irreplaceable, inimitable, unforgettable friends. Let us work to heal these unhealable wounds, by working every day to live up to the standard they set us.

I now ask you to rise and join me in a minute of silence.

Thank you very much.

International Day of Peace – 21 September

There is special poignancy and purpose in this year’s observance of the International Day of Peace. The troubling events of the last year – the conflicts, violence and hatred, the bomb attack on the United Nations itself in Baghdad, the deep divisions among states – have raised fundamental questions about the efforts of the international community to promote peace and well-being for all the world’s people.

The International Day of Peace has been designated by the United Nations General Assembly as “a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, an invitation to all nations and

peoples to honour a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the day”. It is meant to still the guns for some very practical reasons: so that humanitarian assistance can be delivered more easily; so that civilians can gain safe passage away from besieged areas; so that crops can be planted, or shelter erected, free from the threat of instant destruction; so that refugees and displaced persons can have at least some respite from the hostilities that have routed them from their homes.

But of course, the Day of Peace should also be a pause for reflection by the wider international community on the

threats and challenges we face. In some parts of the world, the dominant threats to peace and security are seen as new and potentially more virulent forms of terrorism, the proliferation of non-conventional weapons, the spread of transnational criminal networks and the ways in which all these things maybe coming together to reinforce one another. But for many others around the globe, poverty, disease, deprivation and civil war remain the highest priorities.

Our challenge is to ensure we have the rules, instruments and institutions to deal with all these threats – not according

to some hierarchy of “first order” and “second order” issues, but as a linked set of global, cross-border challenges that affect, and should concern, all people. The divisions of the past year have raised doubts about the adequacy and effectiveness of those rules and tools.

On the International Day of Peace, let us use these 24 hours – this brief period of what we hope will be relative quiet – to begin a peaceful dialogue, one that should continue in the General Assembly, to promote a global consensus on the dominant threats to peace and security in our time – and most of all, what to do about them.



Salamis Revisited

Sector 4's return to Salamis for the first time since the Austrians departed in 2001 saw the combined Slovak and Hungarian Contingents put on a sparkling display. Every move was carefully choreographed against the stunning backdrop of soaring amphitheatre, all paced to a medley of beautiful music.

Maj. Gen. Jozef Blizman, Deputy Chief of the Slovak General Staff, joined the Chief of Mission, the Force Commander, H.E. Mr. János Kisfalvi, the Hungarian Ambassador, and H.E. Dr. Ján Varso, the Slovak Ambassador, in presenting medals to the peacekeepers of Sector 4.

In his speech, the Chief of Mission commended the return to the amphitheatre, or the ancient city kingdom of Salamis.

"Truly we are in one of history's archaeological cradles. Look around and we see ruins more than 2,000 years old. Yet, as we gather here to commend and celebrate our own peacekeepers for their dedication and service, we cannot help but look to other ruins, sadly so much nearer us in time, and think about our colleagues who paid the supreme sacrifice in Baghdad on 19 August.

"Our commendations to those honoured here today are heartfelt and sincere, but they surely understand that – as one diplomat said – "today our smiles are a bit forced".

"While earlier UNFICYP peacekeepers found themselves in harm's way, those of us here today know ourselves to be more fortunate. Still, we would do well to consider the special significance and poignancy of the UN medal we award here today as we contemplate the sacrifice of those who died or were injured in Baghdad, and of those peacekeepers who over the years have given their lives in the service of peace here on this island.

"This UN medal represents an honorable tradition of high standards and sacrifice. It bears testimony to each recipient giving of his or her very best, to the demanding complexities of service as a peacekeeper.

"I salute each of you for the fairness, impartiality and dedication that you have brought to your exacting work. In rising to the hallmark standards of peacekeeping, you have laid the basis for our success here."



The Flair of Sector 1

Everybody knows that Sector 1 always brings a special flair to its celebrations. So it was on 12 September when the Sector's peacekeepers from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay paraded to receive their UN medal at Camp Saint Martin.

Family and friends, UNFICYP colleagues and members of other contingents, all turned out in strength to witness the presentation of the medals by the Chief of Mission, the Force Commander and the Chief of Staff among others.

The parade was under the command of the CO Sector 1, Lt. Col. Giro Martín. Musical honours were rendered by the Argentinian military band, under the baton of WO1 Rual Cardoso.

Later that evening, an ensemble of musical tradition, both vocal and instrumental, from the participating nations was presented to the delight of the visiting guests, and included such numbers as El Condor Pasa (Peru), Way Ay Ay (Bolivia) and Zamba De Mi Esperanza (Argentina).

In the ensuing revelry, everyone watched a sultry Argentinian duo hover in a sensuous tango, and wished they too could tango, while all marvelled at the replica of Cyprus floating in the pool that had been constructed by the staff in Charlie Coy. The reception held by the poolside included traditional South American delicacies mixed with traditional Cyprus kebab.



The Cultural Heritage of Cyprus: Part XIV

Buffavento Castle - Defying The Winds



Buffavento Castle gained its name from the Italian buffare, meaning to blow, and vento, meaning wind. Over its long history, it has also been known as Buffevent, Castello de Regina, Castle of Leonde, Castle of the Lion, The Hundred Chambers of the Queen, and The Hundred and One Chambers.

Indeed, traditional stories tell of the castle having 101 rooms, the 101st of which housed the treasures of the Regina, or the Queen (this mythical queen seems to have replaced the legends of Aphrodite in mediaeval times).

Only a few rooms remain in the castle today, but it still lives up to its name, defying the winds of the Kyrenia mountains. It's also the destination for this issue of the Blue Beret's continuing series on the cultural heritage of Cyprus.

Buffavento Castle stands at 954 metres above sea level, on the second-highest peak in the Kyrenia mountains, and records show that the castle has existed since at least Byzantine times. In its original form, in the 10th century, it was likely a Byzantine watchtower. From its summit, sentries could monitor the coastline, watching for approaching ships. When any danger was perceived, beacon signals could be sent to Nicosia or to the castles of Kyrenia, Kantara and St. Hilarion by the lighting of fires at Buffavento.

Both chroniclers and travellers have pointed out that a lot of effort must have been made to build a fortress at such a height and on such dangerous terrain. Detailed descriptions of the castle underline the fact that nature has done everything needed for defence, and the aim seems to have been to build an inaccessible stronghold, rather than a proper fortress.

Another chapter in the castle's history opened when King Richard the Lionheart captured the island in 1191. It is said that the King of England, hearing that the daughter of Emperor Isaac Comnenos was in a very strong castle, took his army here. On his arrival, she came to meet him, and put herself and the castle at his mercy, whereupon he captured it, and all nearby towns and fortresses of the Byzantine Empire were surrounded.

Because of its inaccessible location, Buffavento was used as a political prison in times of peace and a sure refuge for the Lusignan kings in wartime. The first definite information about Buffavento in Lusignan times states that in 1232 Eschive Montbeliard, the wife of Balian d'Ibelin, took refuge in the fortress. In 1312, King Henry II, on his return from exile, imprisoned his brother there. In 1368, still under Lusignan rule, Peter I transferred the unfortunate John Visconti, who had informed the King about the adultery of his wife, Queen Eleanor, to Buffavento, where Visconti was accused of slander and left to starve to death.

As with the other Kyrenia mountain castles, Buffavento was largely abandoned when the Venetians (who controlled the island from 1489 to 1571 and used it mainly as a military outpost) concentrated their forces in Nicosia and the seaport towns. The Venetians destroyed the staircase that linked the two halves of the castle. Today, only one or two partly ruined rooms are preserved in their entirety.

Buffavento Castle Today

Buffavento is the least accessible of the three castles that sit atop peaks in the Kyrenia range, and it is also the least well-preserved. It is, however, very well camouflaged, as it blends almost indistinguishably into the cliffs from which it rises, offering outstanding views. It's approached from just west of Pendadactylos Peak, along a six-kilometre road that winds along the cliffs. A path cut into the mountain-side forms a 25-minute walk up to the castle itself.

The castle is divided into two distinct groups of buildings, all of which have been designed to fit the terrain on which they are built. An arched gatehouse, which is part of the fortification wall that protects the lower part of the castle, is built almost into the hillside. Through the gatehouse, a path leads to the lower section buildings that appear to have been dormitory-style barrack rooms and storerooms.

A staircase cut into the rock leads to the upper section, in the redoubt, which consisted of three groups of vaulted buildings. The buildings at this level would have been residences and a church, with cisterns to hold rainwater. In one case, the top of a flat rock supports an isolated rectangular building, inside which there are traces of plaster and painting. It could have been a chapel, but also might have been the so-called Queen's Chamber.

Some of the castle's gates and rooms, particularly in the upper level, still show the red brickwork that dates to Byzantine times, and which is similar in style to some that can be found at St. Hilarion Castle, to the west.

At the castle's highest point, a terrace is likely the spot where the signal fires that linked Buffavento with the other castles and with Nicosia would have been lit.

The remains of two churches also stand in the Buffavento area, one dedicated to St. Chrysostomos, an Archbishop of Constantinople, and an older church, said to have been built for St. Helena after her visit to the Holy Land. The former church is believed to have been built as part of a monastery: shortly after Richard the Lionheart took control of the island, he sold it to the Knights Templar, who held it for approximately two years. The story goes that during this time, a Byzantine princess discovered that a spring near the castle held water that was healing her dog's skin, and that also subsequently healed her. To give thanks, she founded the monastery.

Memorial

A stone memorial has been built on the path leading up to Buffavento Castle, inscribed in three languages, to commemorate the victims of an airplane that crashed nearby in 1988. The spot is also the site of an old olive tree, carefully ringed by a low stone wall.



FMPU Investigate

Hidden within the depths of the FMPU offices is a dedicated team of three investigators who are employed in the Special Investigation Section. Presently, the team consists of two Staff Sergeants from the British Military Police and a Master Sergeant from the Slovak Army.

The role of the Section is to provide both technical and forensic support to the investigation of all criminal matters and incidents involving members of the UNFICYP. To ensure the necessary levels of competency and experience are readily available, each individual within the Section has completed Military Police Detectives courses and related crime scene examination and management courses their in respective countries.

Following the reporting of any crime, there is always a potential crime scene. This may be the location of an assault, a vehicle which has been broken into or an individual and his or her clothing (both the victim and suspect). **Locard's Exchange Principle** states that whenever two objects (regardless of the material) come into contact, there is always an exchange of material from each to the other. Therefore, those items recovered from a scene are used to create a link in a chain of evidence, which could assist in corroborating or refuting a suspect's story.

This is why it is of the utmost importance that immediately following the discovery of an incident or reporting of a crime, the area is secured and the matter reported to the FMPU. This prevents loss or alteration of evidence, whilst ensuring additional material is not added to the scene, which would cause unnecessary contamination.

Each crime scene examiner deploys with a standard set of tools and equipment. The kit includes a 35 mm Nikon camera and ancillaries ranging from a forensic box containing various packaging materials and tools such as screwdrivers, a hacksaw and power drill, to a fingerprint box containing several different fingerprint powders and brushes required for the enhancement of latent fingerprint marks on a variety of surfaces.

On arrival at any scene, the crime scene examiner first conducts a visual examination and makes written notes and a sketch plan detailing those items considered to be of potential evidential value in relation to the enquiry. Each room or area is broken down into segments and searched in a methodical manner to ensure that evidence is not lost or overlooked. This often includes making a video recording of the scene for later use to brief the Senior Investigating Officer and members of the enquiry team.

Before anything is recovered or moved, the area is then photographed. Any object, mark or stain believed to be related to the offence

is photographed *in situ* before being recovered and packaged ready for formal forensic examination by a scientist, should this be necessary.

To sum up, as Hercule Poirot might put it in an Agatha Christie who-done-it, the crime scene examiner does not conduct the investigation or solve the crime, but merely ensures that the necessary evidence left at a crime scene is correctly recovered, allowing it to be presented as best evidence to link a suspect to a scene and an alleged offence. From the moment of discovery of a crime, everything hinges on the actions taken by those on the scene.

So remember to best help the crime scene examiner secure the scene, thereby preventing loss, alteration or contamination of vital evidence.



New CO UN Flight



Lt. Col. Juan José Lambezat has a wealth of experience, both as a military pilot and commanding officer, to share with UNFICYP. He took over command of UN Flt from Lt. Col. Hector Fercher on 14 August 2003.

Born in Buenos Aires on 17 November 1959, he 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 attended and passed the helicopter pilot's course. He has flown in different types of helicopters, but admits he has a soft spot for the Chinook. He also diversified into various tasks such as search and rescue, special operations, fire fighting, Antarctic scientific tours and community support in flooded areas.

In 1990, as an Exchange Officer,

he worked in the Sea King Squadron of the Argentinian Navy. In 1996 and 1997, he attended the Command and Staff Course at the Air War School.

The following year, he was appointed Officer Commanding of 2 Squadron, VII Air Brigade. He received flight training in the USA, Canada and Italy, and he planned Combined Search and Rescue Exercises, Andes I, II and III with the Chilean Air Force and Millennium I with UK Forces. Since 1999, he has been working at the Air Force General Staff in the Air Operation Command and he flies the presidential helicopters VIP Bell 212, VIP S-70 Black Hawk and S-76 Spirit.

Married to Anahí Veronica Gonzalez, they have two children Santiago (7) and Lucas Jesus (3).

Lambezat enjoys his free time with his family and outdoor sports like trekking, cycling and tennis.

In Praise of Police Departing Mugs Out at UNCIVPOL

Nearly everything you always wanted to know about mugs (in-out), but were afraid to ask



*Where and when can I use this mug?
Be advised: if you drink, don't drive – don't even putt!*

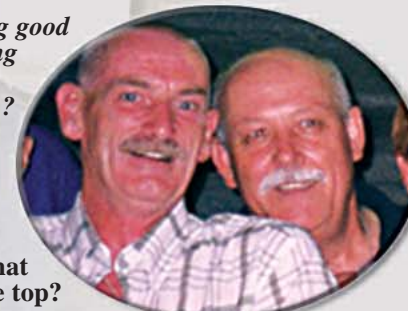
The UNFICYP tradition of awarding silver mugs to departing colleagues while "roasting" them with irreverent speeches more noted for their humour than their diplomatic language was upheld in September when many familiar faces from the police line-up of UNCIVPOL – Australian and Irish – rotated on their way.

What makes these mugs different from other mugs? They're multi-purpose – can be used for drinking, or as a shaving mug!



With respect to the mug handle, I would have preferred it on the other side... With hands like that, who needs handles?

Is my mug good for keeping my loose change in? I've got a brilliant head for money – have you noticed that slot in the top?



Can I have my favourite song words printed on my mug so I can sing along whilst in use? Yes, but remember two verses of "twinkle, twinkle little star" is all that will fit – or you may end up swinging on a star



Is this a heat-activated thermal sensitive mug, and if not, how am I expected to keep my beer cool in this weather? Doesn't it look cool in a silver mug?!



Will we still need these mugs when we're old and grey? Heck, my granny is over 80 and still doesn't need glasses!

CCC

All the mugs at the Mug Out with their very proud owners



Limassol Liaison Office

UNFICYP has reopened its Liaison Office in Limassol after four years to handle a resurgence of demand among Turkish Cypriots for assistance in the area since the opening of the crossing points last April.

Today, Limassol houses an estimated 700 Turkish Cypriots, of whom some 70 are original residents who opted to remain in the town after the events of 1974. Limassol appears to be a favourite destination for Turkish Cypriot newcomers arriving from the north. Since many claim they have difficulties in obtaining Cyprus identity cards, a prerequisite for welfare, accommodation and health care benefits, the Limassol office is now in the process of working to assist Turkish Cypriots in their dealings with the responsible authorities in the south.

During its first two months of operation, the UN office was open only once a week. Demand for its services have been so great that the need is clear for more resources to enable it to open more frequently. Currently, it has a caseload of five to ten client requests per office day, which are dealt with by Joana Alexandru, Civil Affairs Liaison Assistant, and Ersin Oztoycan, our Turkish Cypriot colleague who has recently joined the Civil Affairs team to staff the office.

Most of the families approaching the office for help are facing serious humanitarian difficulties. A case in point is that of a woman from the north, six months pregnant, married to a Turkish Cypriot with a Cyprus ID card. Because her parents come from Turkey, she has been unable to obtain her own Cyprus ID. Lack of ID means the authorities do not recognize her entitlement to health care. Now, thanks to UNFICYP's humanitarian intervention, the authorities have promised to



reconsider her situation so that she may have access to medical care.

Another case concerns a Turkish Cypriot family of six living for the last seven months in one room in a house ruled unfit for habitation, while continuing to seek official assisted housing in the Limassol area. The Limassol district office has been unable to help because of lack of available housing.

Another recurring concern is the issue of education for Turkish Cypriot children in the south. Some children of Turkish Cypriot families have experienced difficulties in schooling because of their inability to speak Greek, and some parents have declined to send their children to school in the absence of the availability of Turkish-language medium schooling. UNFICYP is pursuing the issue with the Limassol District Officer.

The UNFICYP liaison office in Limassol has evoked high expectations amongst the Turkish Cypriots living in the south. However, much will depend on the readiness and ability of the authorities in the south to co-operate with UNFICYP in solving these problems.

Three Senators on the Green Line



A high-level US delegation, led by US senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham, visited the Green Line on 25 August. The delegation stopped off in Cyprus after a fact-finding visit to Iraq.

Before setting off on their walk-about, the Senators, plus Congressmen James Kolby and Dan Twining, US Assistant Secretary of Defence for Legislative Affairs Powell Moore, and the US Ambassador to Cyprus, Michael Klosson, were briefed by the Chief of Mission.

Senior UNOPS officials responsible for the Nicosia Master Plan, including Miran Rechtor, Programme Manager of the Bicomunal Development Programme, were also present.

Travelling Down Memory Lane

Former Finnish peacekeeper Esko Heikkinen, who served in Cyprus over three decades ago, paid a visit to the Public Information Office of the UNFICYP Headquarters on 3 September. Esko had a particular reason for visiting this office - he was the Military Public Information Officer from December 1967 for a 17-month tour.

Esko graduated in journalism from Tampere University in Helsinki in 1967 and immediately joined UNFICYP. "It was a hard task to take on the MPIO job as I was young and inexperienced, but it was a wonderful opportunity for me to travel so soon after graduating. We Scandinavians are wellknown sun worshippers!"

"Being back in the UNPA was a very nostalgic experience. I searched for my old accommodation block and was sorry to discover it had been burned down in the recent summer fires. But I was pleased to see the dancing area in the Officers' Club is still intact, which brought back many happy memories of my tour here."

Following Esko's tour with UNFICYP, he returned to Finland and worked as a journalist with several well-known local magazines and newspapers. Nowadays he is retired but still works from home as a free-lance journalist. His fact-finding trip to UNFICYP was because he is currently working on a number of articles



Esko Heikkinen with the Blue Beret's own Miriam Taylor

for the Finnish *Blue Beret* magazine. This is a monthly publication for the UN Soldiers' Association which keeps past peacekeepers up-to-date with the UN and current events in missions they once served in. Esko's UNFICYP visit was to do just that for some of the more than 10,000 Finnish soldiers who have served as peacekeepers here in Cyprus since 1964.

In 2004, it will be the 40-year celebration of FINCON's arrival in Cyprus, and there are plans ahead for more than 100 retired Finnish soldiers, headed by General Ahti Vartiainen, the UNFICYP Force Commander from 1996 to 1999, to visit the island next spring.

Back on the Beat

Two retired Australian police officers who served with UNCIVPOL over 35 years ago revisited the island with their wives earlier this month.

On 4 September, Mr. Peter Vaughan, with his wife Patricia, and Mr. Bob van der Wolf, with his wife Lynn, paid a visit to UNFICYP UNCIVPOL. Both Peter and Bob are retired members of Australian Police Services who were part of the 4th AUSTCIVPOL Contingent who served in Cyprus between May 1967 and May 1968. After a short meeting with the Force Commander, they were taken on a driven Green Line tour before spending a social evening with currently serving CIVPOL members.

The exchange of stories between the two eras was very interesting. While the UN Buffer Zone did not exist during their time, both veterans clearly remember the Green Line in Nicosia and smaller "Green Lines" in other parts of Cyprus. They also told of the requirement to escort convoys from both communities through areas that were under the control of the other.



From the left: Bob van der Wolf, Lt. Gen. Hwang, Peter Vaughan and Comdr. Geoff Hazel

Both veterans commented on the significant changes in Cyprus, including the greatly increased development in all areas, the shift from village to city living, and a greater level of tolerance between the two communities.

Visitors to UNFICYP HQ

UNFICYP soldiers were at their smartest for the visits of two Major Generals to the UNPA.

Maj. Gen. Josef Blizman, Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Slovak Armed Forces, visited on 27 August, and Commander British Forces, British Forces Cyprus, Maj. Gen. P.T. Pearson, CBE, on 2 September.

Both inspected an honour guard, met with the Chief of Mission, Force Commander and Chief of Staff.

Both Generals visited their respective contingents and met with their troops.



ARGCON's 10 Years in Cyprus

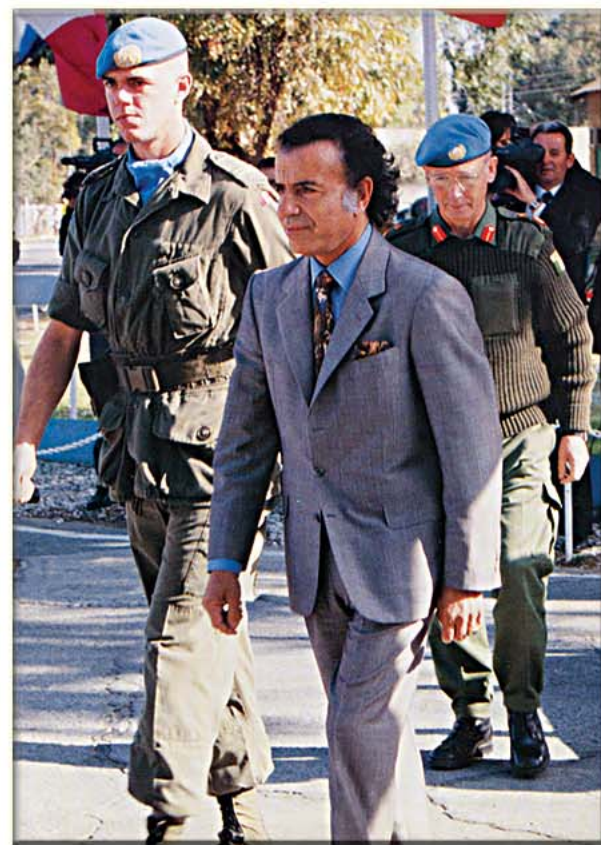


This year marks ten years since the first Argentinian troops were deployed in Cyprus as part of UNFICYP. The Argentinian Contingent, ARGCON, took over Sector 1 from the Danish Contingent on 25 September 1993.

When the order to prepare troops for a peacekeeping mission in Cyprus was first received in September of that year all the officers and soldiers felt slightly awestruck since this was a new kind of mission for them. "We will keep the peace so far away from here, from our land", was the thought that crossed their minds.

So far, more than 7,500 soldiers have served with ARGCON. In October 1993, when the first contingent was established and the Argentinian Forces were still taking their first tentative steps in Cyprus, the then President of Argentina, Carlos Saul Menem, visited the newly arrived troops on the island. On that occasion, apart from the significance that a head of state's visit has, it was a clear indication to the troops of his support for the tasks that the military personnel had undertaken. Dr Menem said: "I return to our country so deeply impressed, that I promise to return before the end of my term as President of Argentina". And he did just that, returning in 1997 for his second official visit with the Minister of the Defence, Jorge Dominguez.

"It is with great pride that today, as President of Argentina, as an Argentinian citizen and as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, I see members of the Argentinian Army as representatives of the United Nations peacekeeping forces", Menem told his troops on his promised return visit to Sector 1.



During the course of its peacekeeping duties, ARGCON has had to deal with numerous incidents. The most significant occurred in August 1996, when two Greek Cypriot demonstrators were killed and several peacekeepers were wounded. The incidents – the most violent recorded on the island since 1974 – made headlines around the world including the front page of *The Times*.

ARGCON is a "Joint and Combined Contingent". Active duty personnel come from the Argentinian Army, Marine Corps and Air Force. Since 1993, the contingent has also incorporated soldiers from other South American countries including a platoon from Chile (32), a platoon from Paraguay (30) and officers from Brazil, Bolivia, Peru and Uruguay.

Medal parades are always memorable. Typical Argentinian hospitality includes displays of military disciplines, and traditional dances with the tango always taking top billing. And no Argentinian celebration would be complete unless it features the traditional delicacies, empanadas and mate.

Jumping for Joy?

By Gnr. K. Gardner

Some people say that parachuting is a dangerous and stupid sport and that they wouldn't jump from a perfectly good plane (they would if they saw the one I jumped from), but that's what attracted me to it, whilst on a previous tour of Northern Ireland with another regiment a few years ago.

So when my team commander on that tour asked if anybody wanted to do a static line jump, I couldn't have jumped any higher. When I actually got in the door, I was very apprehensive about jumping. As any person with vertigo will tell you, they hate heights, but when I left the plane on the descent, it was calm and relaxing.

So now, out here on a Cyprus tour, I wanted to follow up this early step. When my Battery Commander and Battery Sergeant Major asked the lads in the troops if any of them wanted to jump out at 3,500 ft, they had no takers so I was told and volunteered to do it.

On 20 July, I was on the transport down to Dhekelia Garrison where the course was being run, ready for the Monday morning start.

The first day was the boring – but essential – ground training. Without it, none of us would have been permitted to jump.

The actual training consisted of learning about the actual parachute – types of malfunctions, exiting the plane, canopy control, etc. Most important of all were the "Reserve Drills", which we practised day after day until we got it right.

By the end of the jump, only one of the original 12 to start the course had fallen by the wayside. LCpl. Billingham looked as if he

had seen a ghost when he exited the plane, and 2/Lt. Bennett was far from pale, wearing one of her many war faces.

Apart from a few "cream-ins" and some very bumpy landings, we all jumped time and time again. The most time-consuming part was the tedious job of packing our own chutes. I found this to be the worst part of the course. The others thought it was funny that when I actually started to fold the chute and put it back in the bag, I began to talk about such things as "chicken kebab and chips with gravy" or "an extra large pizza with extra mushrooms and sweetcorn..."

That aside, and of course it is a key to parachuting safety discipline, the whole course was great. We did a total of 11 jumps. I would recommend it to anyone, even if you do scare yourself silly. When you're floating to the ground, it is relaxing and calm.



Senior Staff on Green Line Tour

UNFICYP senior staff were given a custom-tailored Green Line tour, courtesy of the CO Sector 2, Lt. Col. Bob Caldwell and his line officers on 11 September.



Those participating included the Chief of Mission, Force Commander, Chief of Staff, Senior Adviser, UNCIVPOL Commander, Chief Administrative Officer, Chief of Civil Affairs, Spokesman and the FC's MA.

UN Day 2003

**This year, we celebrate UN Day in Cyprus
on Sunday 19 October.**

**As always, it is a day for the family.
So join us at the Ledra Palace to help
celebrate this very special birthday.**

**This year, the festivities begin at 3:00 pm
and feature a concert, celebrating the island's
diversity and its traditions.**

Featured artists will include:

***Hadjimike
Ioannis Savvides
Soner Ersen
Tanner Sah
and the
Ross Daly Ensemble.***

**There will be the usual games
for children, backgammon for the grown-ups,
and a full array of UNFICYP
contingent and UN agency displays.**

Refreshments will be on sale.

**Mark the date in your calendar:
19 October 2003!**