

The Blue Beret



Peace Day Concert

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Public Information Office
United Nations Force in Cyprus
HQ UNFICYP
PO Box 21642
1590 Nicosia
Cyprus

Editorial Team

Netha Kreouzou
Ersin Öztöyçan
Rolando Gomez
MSgt. Gabriel Zelei (Photographer)
Capt. Tomas Daño

Unit Press Officers

Sector 1 Maj. German M. Medici
Sector 2 Maj. Susan L. Aitken
Sector 4 Capt. Ivan Lassut
MFR Maj. Adrian W. Patrick
UNPOL Cmdr. Phil Spence
UN Fit Capt. Nicolas De Natale
FMPU Capt. Jozef Bolecek

Tel: 2261-4553/4416/4408 - Fax: 2261-4461
E-mail: unficy-blue-beret@un.org - blueberetcyprus@hotmail.com
Website: www.unficy.org

Editorial

Millennium Development Goals – Achievable or Not?

Over the past several weeks, much of the world's attention has been focused on the happenings along the East River in New York City where more than XXX world leaders have been congregating at this year's General Assembly, an annual event which provides an opportunity for leaders from around the globe to hobnob in bilateral meetings and make speeches in the marbled halls of the UN. An added attraction to this year's gathering at the world body's headquarters was the highly publicized Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Summit taking place on the eve of the General Assembly.

A major event in itself, the aim of the Summit was to galvanize worldwide attention and to lay down a solid foundation for much needed progress in quest of achieving the eight MDGs by 2015, as set out by world leaders ten years ago. The pre-GA event concluded with a commitment from UN member States of "fresh resources, backed by concrete plans for action and delivery", as affirmed by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The conference witnessed one leader after the other stand up to voice support for Mr. Ban's strategy to achieve the MDGs and in turn to give them a fighting chance. Not only donor countries but also developing countries promised to spend more on the poorest people in their societies. By the end of the two-day event \$40bn (€29bn) was pledged from governments, businesses and aid organizations backing the Secretary-General's plan to reach the Goals on alleviating world poverty and ill-health by 2015.

When the MDGs were adopted in 2000, the sense of urgency was driven by the moral conviction that extreme poverty had become an unacceptable anachronism in our globally connected world. The adoption of the Millennium Declaration ten years ago represented a defining moment in the history of our Organization and of the world. The MDGs are both global and local, tailored by each country to suit specific development needs, and provide a framework for the international community to work towards a common end – making sure that human development reached everyone, everywhere. They are, in fact, the most broadly supported, comprehensive and specific development goals the world has ever agreed upon.

We are now two-thirds to the target date of 2015 for achieving this ambitious target; "Difficult and ambitious, but doable", to quote the Secretary-General. As members of the global community we as individuals have a part to play in not only supporting our leaders' statements but implementing these goals. As members of various groups, communities and nations we should take action now and be part of the realization of these goals. We have seen too often that when the spotlights are switched off and cameras disappear, the world's attention quickly moves to other issues. Poverty is not one single tragic event which regularly makes headlines and evening newscasts; yet it continues to plague half the world's population and affects communities in our own backyards. While we maintain our focus and attention on the events along the East River and others like them, we mustn't forget those whom our words aim to serve. As stated by the Secretary-General, "History will judge us sharply if we fail to live up to these commitments".

Secretary-General meets leaders in New York



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon held separate meetings in New York with the two Cyprus leaders towards the end of September where he encouraged them to redouble their efforts to seek convergences on the issue of property.

The Secretary General met Greek Cypriot leader Demetris Christofias on 21 September 2010 and Turkish Cypriot leader Dervis Eroglu on 25 September.

Ban and the Turkish Cypriot leader Dervis Eroglu discussed the status of the negotiation process to find a comprehensive solution to the long-standing Cyprus problem.

The Secretary-General expressed his appreciation of the commitment of the two leaders –Demetris Christofias and Dervis Eroglu - to work towards a mutually acceptable settlement.

“He commended the leaders for their constructive approach on the property chapter, and encouraged them to redouble their efforts to seek convergences on this complex and key issue.” The Secretary-General reiterated the strong commitment of the United Nations to continuing its support for the Cypriot-led negotiation process.

Talks continued throughout August with the Cyprus leaders, Demetris Christofias and Dervis Eroglu only taking a short two week break in the middle of the month before resuming their discussions in September. A further 3 meetings were held in September, two of which were intensive all day meetings on 7 and 10 September 2010, where they focused on the property issue.

The intensive talks were held at the newly refurbished official residence of the UNFICYP Chief of Mission in the United Nations Protected Area.

At the first of the intensive talks the two leaders continued discussions on the property issue following the exchange papers by both sides containing a list of their proposals on the property question and how to resolve this issue.

Speaking at the end of the first intensive meeting, Alexander Downer, the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Cyprus, noted the importance of full-day meetings and recalled the “good work” achieved by the leaders the last time they met under such circumstances, saying that “it’s very helpful every so often to have this intensification at the talks”.

At the second of the intensive talks the leaders maintained their focus on the property issue, one of the six chapters being addressed at the United Nations-backed talks. Greek Cypriot leader Demetris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Dervis Eroglu met for most part of today at the UNFICYP Chief of Mission’s residence in the UN Protected Area where they continued to deliberate on their papers exchanged earlier containing their proposals on the “complex” property question.

Following the meeting, Alexander Downer, the Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Cyprus, told journalists the meeting provided the leaders and their teams with a “good opportunity for them to have a continuation of the discussion about the property issue”. He also announced that the leaders agreed that their Representatives would continue these discussions on 16 and 17 September.



SASG Alexander Downer addresses the media during the intensive talks



Conference room where the talks are held in the official residence of the SRSG.



Special translation booths were set up for the talks.



Peacekeepers from the mobile Force Reserve set up tents for the media.



Members of the media.

"Community media can build bridges"



By sharing more stories, more positive stories with the local media civil society in Cyprus has the chance to make a contribution to greater awareness and understanding between the communities via the media, Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus, Lisa Buttenheim has said.

Buttenheim made these statements in an address to the "Media Mix 2010" event organized by the Cyprus Community Media Centre (CCMC) on 4 October 2010.

The event was attended by members of the media and representatives of civil society organizations.

"By working together, you have an opportunity to connect, share, and bring the communities closer together," Buttenheim said.

She pointed out that "the media plays a huge role in our societies" as "it provides information to educate and inform its audiences, and has helped to foster understanding between communities" adding that the same can be said of civil society as "NGOs and other civil society actors also perform valuable community functions".

"They are catalysts for the development of opinions and ideas that are vital for building strong and vibrant communities," she added.

Buttenheim noted that with the support of the Cyprus Community Media Centre, civil society organizations are able in Cyprus to develop their capacity to make their own media.

"This is not only important to enable them to promote their own work, but it is also important for media literacy," she added.

The event included a DVD presentation of activities supported by CCMC.

The Cyprus Community Media Centre opened its doors in late 2009, aiming to encourage community media in Cyprus and support local organisations in communicating their message to the public. The Centre does this through training, productions and tailored support. CCMC is located in Nicosia's buffer zone and it launched Cyprus' first intercommunal community media website on 1 September 2010.

The CCMC works in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT) in Cyprus.

Local Women's Group discuss issues of Women, Peace and Security

In observance of the 10th anniversary of the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General for Cyprus, Alexander Downer, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus and head of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), Lisa Buttenheim, met on 29 September 2010 with an expert group of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot women to listen to ways in which gender issues can be better integrated into the ongoing peace process on the island.

The gathering, held at the Ledra Palace Hotel, builds on activities being carried out by the UN and its partners around the globe in support of resolution 1325, adopted in October 2000, and seeks to promote women's empowerment and gender equality in peace processes. The meeting also provided an opportunity for the UN's two top representatives in Cyprus to hear local women's voices on these issues. Additionally, newly appointed gender focal points in the team of the Cyprus leaders also took part in the meeting.

In paying tribute to the GAT for their work, Mr. Downer said there was "a great deal of food for thought in their proposals which aim to benefit all Cypriots, who are trying right now in the peace process to build a common future". He added: "What is most pleasing is the fact that the broad range of ideas clearly reveals that much reflection and discussion have gone into these ideas. Naturally, more is needed, not just at the negotiations table, but with the participation of the wider civil society."

In discussing power sharing between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities the Gender Advisory Team, or the GAT, noted that successive leaders failed to address issues of power imbalances between men and women on the island. "It is time that women's voices are heard. The peace process is an excellent opportunity to integrate fundamental principles of gender equality within the settlement," the GAT said.

"I welcome today's discussion which is addressing a subject that is a top priority for the United Nations. As a woman who's been involved in peace operations for over two decades, and now head of a peace operation, I am especially dedicated to what resolution 1325 aims to achieve," stated Ms Buttenheim ahead of the meeting. She added: "The resolution was a milestone in the Security Council's approach to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, and I am pleased to see that important work is being done here in support of this". This discussion is one of many events which have taken place in countries with UN peace operations. The outcome of this dialogue will be directly communicated to the UN Security Council in time for the tenth anniversary of resolution 1325 on 31 October, which carries the theme "Women Count for Peace" and will provide an opportunity for the world body to take stock of achievements made

around the globe in support of this landmark decision. The GAT was formed in response to women's concerns about the inclusion of gender issues in the peace process and overall peace building efforts in Cyprus. The GAT consists of civil society activists and scholars from across the island who have been meeting since October 2009 to develop gender-focused recommendations related to the main areas under discussion in the UN-backed peace talks to be taken into consideration by the leaders of the two communities.

What is Security Council Resolution 1325?

Security Council resolution 1325, adopted on 31 October 2000, reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.



Resolution 1325 urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all UN peace and security efforts. It also calls on all parties to conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence,

particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, in situations of armed conflict. The resolution provides a number of important operational mandates, with implications for Member States and the entities of the UN system.

Specifically, the resolution calls on the Secretary-General to "progress on gender mainstreaming throughout peacekeeping missions and all other aspects related to women and girls." Subsequent Security Council resolutions outlined more comprehensive methods for calling on peacekeeping missions to protect women and girls from sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict zones, including increasing the number of women peacekeepers.

Establishment of "UN Women"

Since the adoption of this landmark resolution ten years ago, the UN has been looking more critically at its own work, and how it address gender perspectives. A direct result of these efforts is the establishment in July this year of "UN Women", a new department within the world body which merges four of its agencies and offices: UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues, and the UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW). Set to become operational in January 2011, UN Women will drive the Organization's efforts to promote women's rights.

International Day of Peace Concert



The International Day of Peace was celebrated by UNFICYP on 16 September through music and images with the old Nicosia Airport serving as the backdrop for an inspiring concert put on the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra to mark this year's observance.

Speaking at the beginning of the event, UNFICYP Chief of Mission Lisa M. Buttenheim, said the setting of the concert served as a "sad reminder of a situation whose resolution is long overdue". Recalling that the last passenger jets took off from the airport in 1974, she added: "Thirty-six years later the airport remains frozen in time, yet tonight it comes alive with sounds and harmonies".

"Music indeed is a universal language; a language which truly knows no boundaries. However, this evening's event is more than just music. It is an opportunity for all Cypriots and the UN community to join as one and reaffirm our commitment to peace," Mrs Buttenheim added.

The event was attended by United Nations staff, diplomats and invited Greek and Turkish Cypriot guests. Peace Day, observed each year on 21 September, is a global call for ceasefire and non-violence. Each year, the Secretary-General, his Messengers of Peace, the entire United Nations system and many individuals, groups and organizations around

the world rely on this Day of Peace to engage in activities that contribute to ceasefires, end conflict, bridge cultural divides and create tolerance.

The classical music performance, the first of its kind to be held at the old airport, was complimented by an impressive light and images display projected in front of the abandoned terminal building. The orchestra, led by Maestro Yiannis Hadjiloizou, featuring a cast of musicians from Cyprus and a dozen other countries performed pieces by Mozart, Brahms, Beethoven and Tchaikovsky, among other notable composers.

About the International Day of Peace

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by resolution 36/67 of the United Nations General Assembly to coincide with its opening session, which was held annually on the third Tuesday of September. The first Peace Day was observed in September 1982. In 2001, the General Assembly by unanimous vote adopted resolution 55/282, which established 21 September as an annual day of non-violence and cease-fire. The United Nations invites all nations and people to honor a cessation of hostilities during the Day, and to otherwise commemorate the Day through education and public awareness on issues related to peace.



Photos by Harun Uçar

Journalists visit terminal building of old Nicosia Airport

UNFICYP offered a rare opportunity to Cypriot and locally based international journalists to enter the abandoned terminal building of old Nicosia Airport on 14 September 2010 ahead of the Cyprus Peace Concert, which took place two days later.

Journalists were able to view the preparations for the concert to be staged on the abandoned airstrip in front of the terminal building where for the first time the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra was to perform a concert of popular classics to mark International Day of Peace.

The preview tour of the old terminal building was welcomed by the journalists, many of whom had tried on numerous occasions to visit in the past. A number of journalists recounted that as young children their parents would take them to the airport cafeteria for an ice-cream and an opportunity to view the planes taking off and landing from the terrace that overlooks the 1,5km apron where the aircraft were loaded and unloaded.

One journalist noted that it was the Makarios Avenue (the trendy shopping street where the popular cafeterias of Nicosia are found) of the time. It was an impressive construction that cost £ 1.1 million and was completed in 1968 and at the time was the most modern airport in the region. Designed by the German firm Arch Dorsch-Gehram and built by a consortium of Cybarco and GCC with overall supervision by the Cyprus government's public works department, it was a very modern design with a number of innovative facilities including skylights that gave a light and airy impression which despite the passage of time and decay still draw comments of admiration. One of its most impressive features at the time was the automatic opening glass doors which operated through pressure sensors in mats in front of the doors. Several Cypriot journalists note that seeing this as children was a thrilling experience for them at the time.

However the reality of the abandoned airport that for decades has remained under lock and key as a stark symbol of the conflict in Cyprus is noted by the journalists and AP reporter Menelaos Hadjicostis says in his report that, "The din of passenger traffic has long been supplanted by the flutter of pigeons in the cavernous atrium of Nicosia's abandoned airport. Shards of glass from shattered skylights and window panes litter the floors while a blanket of dust smothers departure lounge seats and passport control booths. Cafes, gift shops and offices stand empty."

The last stop for the journalists accompanied by members of the Public information Office and the Mobile Force Reserve was to view the destroyed Cyprus Airways Trident passenger jet that was abandoned outside the maintenance hangar. It has remained there for the last 36 years bearing the scars of war and time, riddled with bullet holes, its tyres flat and interior stripped as its engines and all serviceable parts were taken out to be used to help another Trident passenger jet. Two days later the journalists were able to experience the airstrip coming back to life through the sounds of children's laughter in an animated light and image display screened on the terminal building façade together with the sounds of classical music. A children's drawing came to life with an airplane flying across the terminal building as the music intensified together with the spirits of the audience who all joined as one to celebrate peace.



International Day of Peace candle ceremony



UNFICYP marked the International Day of Peace on 21 September through a solemn candlelight ceremony held in front of Ledra Palace in the Buffer Zone in honour of the 24 Greek and Turkish Cypriot war veterans in attendance who fought together during the Second World War.

In her remarks to the gathering, UNFICYP Chief of Mission Lisa Buttenheim urged all the people of the island to work for peace. "We have a part to play in waging peace; the elderly and the young alike. We must join forces in activities that contribute to resolution of conflicts, bringing cultural divides and fostering tolerance," she said.

Among those in attendance were UN staff, diplomats, representatives of civil society and members of a bi-communal youth group who delivered their own messages of peace in observance of the Day in tune with this year's Peace Day theme – Youth for Peace and Development.

A speaker for the group, the UNDP-supported Cyprus Network for Youth Development, noted that they had been active in promoting peace across the island as well as in various parts of the world. "We are the future of the island, and we choose peace", she added.

Representing the Cyprus World War II Veteran's Association, Loizos Demetriou, the Association President, recalled that Peace Day, first celebrated in

1981, was "dedicated to Peace, or specifically the absence of war". The Association comprise of former members of the Cyprus Regiment who fought under the British flag during the Second World War. They served in France, Ethiopia and Italy carrying equipment to areas inaccessible to vehicles.

Referring to the former soldiers, Mrs Buttenheim said: "Cyprus World War II Veterans exemplify how Greek and Turkish Cypriots can unite for the greater good".

"Although the word 'peace' is part of our everyday language, the reality of peace is sadly absent from the lives of far too many", she said. "As we gather at this crossroad linking the island's two communities, we join millions of people, echoing their calls for ceasefire, to end conflicts and to build bridges between peoples. Peace equals hope. By raising our voices for peace, we in turn give hope to millions around the world" she added.

Speaking of the peace process, the Chief of Mission expressed the belief of the UN that solution was within reach. "On this Peace Day, let us renew our commitment to the reunification of the island," she concluded.

At the close of the ceremony, participants lit candles and observed a moment of silence in the name of peace and in remembrance of the victims of war.



UNFICYP Chief of Mission Lisa Buttenheim leads the ceremony in a minutes silence in the name of peace.



Representatives of the UNDP-supported Cyprus Network for Youth Development



Cyprus World War II Veterans President Loizos Demetriou lights his candle to mark Peace Day.



UNFICYP Chief of Mission Lisa Buttenheim addresses the veterans and invited guests.



UNFICYP Chief of Mission Lisa Buttenheim with Cyprus World War II Veterans and members of the Cyprus Network for Youth Development.

New bi-communal 'Joint Communications Room' launched



In support of efforts to combat crime across Cyprus, the United Nations-backed Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters (TCCCM) on 29 July 2010 launched the 'Joint Communications Room' (JCR, a bi-communal initiative set up to exchange information between the island's two communities on crimes and crime-related matters.

The JCR, a round-the-clock-operation run by Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot law enforcement experts, along with UNFICYP police officers, aims to support information sharing between the police forces in both communities on matters related to thefts, murders, drug offences and human trafficking, among others.

Delivering remarks at the launch, Alexander Downer, the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Cyprus, said the JCR was "a very good example of the two communities in Cyprus successfully working together... Exchanges of information, in particular, on crime and criminal matters, are of enormous value...to the authorities. That's what this Joint Communications Room is really all about".

Previously situated in the UN Protected Area in Nicosia, the JCR became operational in May 2009. Since then, it has dealt with a total of 89 cases on various issues passed from one side to the other, most of which have been successfully completed. "In particular, 56 cases

were passed from the Greek Cypriot side to the Turkish Cypriot side, and another 33 cases have been submitted by the Turkish Cypriot side to the Greek Cypriot side", affirmed Andreas Christofides, Greek Cypriot member of the TCCCM speaking on behalf of the Committee.

"We believe that irrespective of the number of successes, the fact that after several decades of separation of the two communities, four persons, two from each side, are sitting one next to the other working in good faith trying to solve and overcome certain problems and difficulties, we believe is equally important, or even more important than the actual number of successes", stated Mr Christofides.

The opening of the new permanent location for the JCR, in what was a former UN Observation Post located in the western section of the Nicosia buffer zone, was made possible with the support provided to the TCCCM and the JCR by the UN Development Programme-Action for Cooperation and Trust (UNDP-ACT) and the donor countries who support their efforts. Both the TCCCM and the JCR are seen as examples of how both sides can work together at previously unheard of levels and has thus far been a highly effective means of communication between the island's two communities.

Speaking on behalf Turkish Cypriot leader Dervis Eroglu, his Representative in the ongoing peace talks, Kudret Ozersay, expressed his hope that "the cooperation between the two sides will at one point turn into cooperation between the police forces of two future constituent States in a federal Cyprus".

For his part, George Iacovou, the Representative of Greek Cypriot leader Demetris Christofias, said he hoped people wouldn't leave today's event in doubt that the two sides were "pursuing a common vision" of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation that was being pursued at all levels, from the leaders right through to the technical committees. "I think we can build on that and have a settlement as soon as possible", he added.

Speaking for the United States, the main financial sponsor to the project, Frank C. Urbancic Jr., the U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus, said his country was "very proud to be associated with the JCR" and pledged the support of the United States to the two leaders as they moved forward in the peace process.

In closing the event, UNFICYP Deputy Senior Policing Adviser, and Facilitator of the Committee, Phil Spence, noted that "when law enforcement people get together, there is always a common purpose, and that is to ensure that criminals don't win. We believe that law enforcement should always win, and here is a pretty good example of this".



George Iacovou, the Representative of Greek Cypriot leader Demetris Christofias addresses the ceremony.



Kudret Ozersay, the Representative of Turkish Cypriot leader Dervis Eroglu addresses the ceremony.

Background on the TCCCM

The TCCCM is one of seven specialized committees formed as a confidence building measure between the two communities with support of the United Nations. The Technical Committee, a direct result of an agreement reached between the two Cypriot leaders on 21 March 2008 through which they set out to resume full-fledged negotiations, is a mechanism for information sharing and joint initiatives on legal and criminal matters on the island.

The TCCCM has been successful in promoting a number of law and order and social issues in recent times including the establishment of the Joint Communications Room (JCR) in May of 2009 to facilitate the

timely exchange of information in relation to crime and criminal matters. The JCR organizes meetings with representatives from both communities on a daily basis with the aim of providing a united approach to dealing with the issues of crime and criminals.

The TCCCM also facilitated a seminar on 'Children at Risk' in January 2010 where speakers from both communities addressed the issues surrounding youth crime and anti-social behavior and mechanisms for dealing with these situations. The seminar was attended by teachers and councilors from both communities and was considered a great success.



Pilgrimage to Kokkina



UNFICYP's military, police and civilian personnel, worked together to facilitate the visit to the cemetery in Kokkina where Turkish Cypriots carry out their annual pilgrimage to honour their fallen. On 8 August, UNFICYP personnel from Sector 1, UN-FLIGHT, MFR, UNPOL and Civil Affairs facilitated the passage of 99 buses and mini-buses carrying approximately 2000 Turkish Cypriots through the buffer zone and on to Kokkina. The peacekeepers started their duties in preparation for the pilgrims at 4:30am. They met the pilgrims at Kato Pyrgos and escorted them to OP08, approximately 7km east of the

village. The convoy of vehicles began its 30 minute journey at 6:30am through the buffer zone in groups of 30 vehicles to OP03, approximately 1km east of Kokkina. They then continued on towards the deserted village of Kokkina where the ceremony was held. This was followed by a picnic and a walk through the deserted village where many of the Turkish Cypriots were born. Turkish Cypriot leader Dervis Eroglu also attended the ceremony. The whole event ended without incident and by early afternoon all the Turkish Cypriots had made the return journey back escorted by UNFICYP personnel through the buffer zone.

Change-over in sector one



Above: The hand-over take-over ceremony in Sector one. Right: Outgoing Lt Col Carlos Maria Michel (right) briefs incoming Lt Col Marcelo Adrian Calvo

The last members of ARGCON 35 boarded the fourth and final plane at Larnaca Airport carrying the outgoing members of Sector 1 on 9 September, together with their commanding officer Lt Col Carlos Maria Michel. After a successful mission the soldiers from the Argentinean Army, Air Force, Navy, Paraguayan Army, Chilean Marines and Brazilian Army, were headed back home. Many had been away from their families for six months while others for a year – all were looking forward to the reunion with their loved ones. However before departing they warmly welcomed the new rotation, ARGCON 36 in San Martin Camp, with an traditional dinner of empanadas and asado to make them feel at home. The troops received a professional hand-over and take-over are now already operational in Sector 1. Welcome to ARGCON 36 and Lt Col Marcelo Adrian Calvo who leads them in their mission.



MFR bids farewell

The MFR (Mobile Force Reserve) comprises of British, Argentinean, Hungarian and Slovakian personnel. We have worked, learned and laughed together since arriving in March/April 2010. It has been a uniquely rewarding experience. We have faced many challenges over the past 6 months but by working together as a united force we have completed each and every task. Working in a multi lingual environment did not come without it problems. Thank goodness for Google translator! One thing is for certain; our charades skills are all much improved thanks to this tour! It is safe to say that each individual Nation brought something unique to the MFR. Friendships have been formed and respect for each other's culture is evident. We wear one another's flag on t-shirts or hats, given or swapped, with pride. As the time draws ever closer to the breakup of this MFR, we will long remember the good times had by

all. Op TOSCA was for many a once in a lifetime experience, we are sad it is coming to an end, but thankful of the opportunity to have served as a United Nations Soldier. The MFR would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to everyone working within the UNPA for making our time here so memorable. To our friends here at the UNPA, and in sectors 1 and 4, many thanks for the warm welcome and your friendship, cheers, or as we say slainte! As we return to our countries we hope we have succeeded in our mission and played our role in the wider operation here in Cyprus. It has been a life changing experience and an honour to serve with such a fine caliber of individuals. We leave as better people for the friendship we have made and the experiences we have had. Thank you and good luck to you all.

New Faces

Chief Procurement Officer



Balakrishnan Amirthalingam was appointed as the new Chief Procurement Officer of UNFICYP on 15 July 2010. He is an Indian national and graduated as a Mechanical Engineer from Madurai Kamaraj University in India. He has a Master's degree (Master of Technology) in Management and Systems from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi.

He has been serving in United Nations Peacekeeping Missions as Chief Procurement Officer for nine years. Before coming to UNFICYP, he served as Chief Procurement Officer of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and worked in Port-au-Prince for over five years. After the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti in January 2010, he was assigned to the Regional Service Center of MINUSTAH in Santo Domingo. He also worked as Chief Procurement Officer of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in Syria from November 2001 until June 2005.

Before joining the UN Peacekeeping services, he worked as the Chief of the Contracts Unit in United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (UN-ICTY) in The Hague from 1998 to 2001. He also served as Associate Procurement Officer in United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG) for two years. He started his UN career in the United Nations Development Programme, Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office (IAPSO) as Junior Professional Officer and served in Copenhagen from 1992 until 1995.

Before joining the United Nations, he worked in National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), a Public Sector Enterprise of the Government of India from 1986 and was functioning as Joint Director in New Delhi Headquarters. He is married and has one son and one daughter both studying in schools in India.

Air safety Officer



Maj. Patricio Hernán Pelourson took over the post of Air Safety Officer HQ UNFICYP on 20 September 2010. He was born on 29 August 1969 in Pergamino City located 200 Km north of Buenos Aires.

He joined the Argentinean Air Force when he was 14 years old. He graduated from the Military Aeronautical High School in 1987 and after a further four years he graduated from the Argentinean Air Force Academy in 1991, where he attended the Military Aviator Course.

He was then appointed to the VII Air Brigade, where he became a helicopter pilot. He has flown helicopters such as the Hughes 500, Bell UH-1H and BELL 212. He has had several tours of duty in Cyprus the first in 1996, followed by 2002 and 2004. Also he served in MINUSTAH last year, as Helicopters Air Squadron Leader. He also served as a Military Instructor at the Argentinean Air Force Academy.

He has experience flying helicopters in different regions including Antarctica, the Brazilian Amazonia region, UK, UN Missions and throughout Argentina. He has also accomplished several tasks as a helicopter instructor, military training, search and rescue, VIP transport and forest firefighting missions. His interests include playing tennis, volleyball and cars racers.

Force Hygiene Officer



Maj. Sándor Szabó took up the post of Force Hygiene Officer in September 2010. He was born in Hungary in 1966 and studied Public Health and Sociology.

He joined the Hungarian Defence Forces in 1985, and has served in various units and assignments as a Health Supply Officer, Health Inspector of HDF and Health Promoter. This is Maj. Szabó's third tour of duty with UNFICYP as Force Hygiene Officer, the first being in 2001-2002, and the second in 2007-2008.

Maj. Szabó is married to Edit, and they have a 12-year-old son, Bence.

Maj. Szabó's hobbies are painting and reading.

Commanding Officer Sector 1

Lt Col Marcelo Adrián Calvo arrived in UNFICYP on 29 August 2010 and took over the post of Commanding Officer Sector 1.

He was born in Cordoba, Argentina, on 12 September 1963. He graduated from the Argentine Military College in 1985 and during his career he has served in a number of appointments: 161 Artillery Group (Battalion) as Battery Platoon Leader, Forward Observation Officer and Fire Direction Control Center Officer; 11 Artillery Group as a Fire Direction Control Center Officer and Battery CO; Argentine Military College as a Cadets Instructor Officer, Argentine Army Artillery School as an Instructor in Officer's and NCO's Courses; Argentine Staff College as student, Deputy Military Attaché in PERU, Student and Professor in the Peruvian Army Staff College, Artillery School as a Course's and Doctrine's Divisions Chief, 3rd Artillery Group (Battalion) Commanding Officer up to December 2009. In 1997 and 1998 he served as a Military Observer in UNIKOM (Iraq - Kuwait UN Mission) as Deputy Logistic Officer and Military Personnel Officer, both in Southern Sector HQ.

He is a Staff Officer graduate both in the Argentine and Peruvian Army and he also has a University degree in Strategy and Organization. He is married to Analía Bortoloso and they have three daughters, Paula Andrea (23), Bettina (21) y Julieta (20). His interests include running, cycling and trekking.



Commanding Officer Sector 4

LtColonel Vladimír Voštiar was born in Banská Štiavnica, Slovakia in October 1969. After his education in civil engineering and site management he began his military career at the Military Academy in Brno (former Czechoslovakia) from which he graduated in 1993, in major construction engineering and was assigned as a platoon leader and later as a company commander at the Engineer Battalion in Nitra (Slovakia). In 1996 he was appointed to the post of Staff Officer at the Office to the Chief of the General Staff of the Slovak Army where he remained until 2000 where he was assigned to the Land Forces Commander at the Slovak Land Forces Command where he held a number of positions including: Assistant to the Commander, Deputy Chief of Commander's Personal Staff, Spokesman to the Commander, Chief of the Commander's Office and his last assignment was Chief of the Material Management Centre of the Slovak Land Forces. In 2001 he graduated from the Institute for Forensic Research of the University of Transport and Communication in Žilina (Slovakia). LtCol Voštiar graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, USA in 2010. Throughout his military career he has pursued a number of courses including the NATO Staff Officers Orientation Course in Germany, PFP Communication Course in Switzerland, NATO Public Information Course in Germany, the Civil-military Cooperation Course in Holland. This is his second tour of duty in Cyprus having served with UNFICYP in 2002. LtCol Voštiar's hobbies include skiing and dog agility training. LtCol Voštiar is married to Viola and they have two sons Vladimír and Martin.



Officer in Command Mobile Force Reserve

Maj Mel Bowler took over the post of OC Mobile Force Reserve (MFR) on 29 September 2010. She was born on 30 April 1973 in Reading, England. She commissioned from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1998 as a 2Lt in the Royal Logistic Corps. Maj Bowler has mainly served overseas, as a Troop Commander and Squadron Capt in Germany, a staff officer in the HQ British Army Training Unit Suffield, Canada and in Glasgow, Scotland and as an Adjutant in UK. She has deployed on exercises and operations in USA, Poland, Croatia, Kosovo, Oman and Iraq.

In August 2009, Maj Bowler took command of 9 Fuel Squadron, 7 Regiment RLC and many of the soldiers from this Squadron make up part of the MFR now. This is her first tour of duty as a UN peacekeeper. Maj Bowler enjoys alpine skiing (instructing, coaching, racing and recreational), running and horse riding. Her other pastimes include driving her 'vintage' Porsche, world travel, wine tasting and cooking.



Visits

UNFICYP extended the usual courtesies when the Acting Chief of Mission, Force Commander Rear Admiral Rear Admiral Mario Sánchez Debernardi, and Chief of Staff, Colonel Gerard Hughes received the following guests during August September 2010.



Mr. Masahisa Sato, Member of the House of Councillors, Director, National Defence Division (Liberal Democratic Party of Japan) visited UNFICYP on 19 August 2010 where he was welcomed by Force Commander Mario Sanchez Debernardi.



Belgian Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Steven Vanackere visited UNFICYP on 26 August 2010 where he was welcomed by Force Commander - Rear Admiral Mario Sánchez.



UK Defence Attache Designate Colonel Bertie Polley inspects an MFR Honour Guard during his visit of UNFICYP on 19 August 2010 where he also met the Force Commander and Chief of Staff.



British High Commissioner H.E. Mr John William Christopher Kidd with Chief of Staff, Colonel Gerard Hughes inspecting the photo exhibition in UNFICYP headquarters during his visit on 23 August 2010.



Brigadier General Janos Huszar, Chief of land Force in Hungary presents Force Commander Rear Admiral Mario Sánchez Debernardi with a gift during his official visit to UNFICYP on 23 September 2010.



General Normando Costantino, the Argentinian Air Force Chief of Staff visited HQ UNFICYP on 24 September 2010 where he met Force Commander Mario Sanchez Debernardi.

National Days Celebrated



Members of UN Flight celebrated Argentinian National Air Force Day on 10 August 2010.



Force Mario Sanchez Debernardi cuts the cake marking Hungarian National Day on 20 August 2010.

Sport - Sector 4 running club

UNFICYP peacekeepers have a long tradition of sporting friendships with the local communities in Cyprus and are frequently invited to participate in local sporting events. A new example of this friendship can be seen in the members of the Slovak and Hungarian contingents in Sector 4 participating in local running club events. In recognition of this strong friendship and mutual respect, major Zoltan Lako, financial officer of the Hungarian contingent and leader of the UN running team was requested to present the trophies to the winners of several categories in the street running competition in Agios Ioannis Pitsilias. President of the well-known "Pericles Demetriou" Cyprus Runners Club presented a plaque to the UN team which Major Lako received on behalf of UNFICYP. A number of peacekeepers came away with medals for their efforts in the competition.



Candle Vigil for Peace

