

The Blue Beret

January 2005



Duty
Done

THE BLUE BERET

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Force 860 Reporting

UNFICYP's military force continues to draw down from 1230 to 860 troops. Despite the downsizing, the move to a more mobile and flexible concept of operations with the attendant rationalization of infrastructure and command and control, force configuration retains its familiar shape – three Sectors plus a force headquarters and force troops.

True, there will be more emphasis on liaison, observation and mediation rather than interposition of forces to prevent the recurrence of fighting. More efficient use of resources will enable UNFICYP to still maintain the same level of mandate implementation.

Already, the force has adjusted its concept of observation and surveillance, conducting more mobile monitoring with less reliance on static observation posts. While permanent static observation posts will continue to be appropriate in certain areas despite being staff-intensive, a more mobile concept of operations is now more appropriate in many areas of the buffer zone.

Patrols, better use of technology (such as closed circuit TV) and more helicopter observation will enhance our monitoring capability. By concentrating our peacekeepers in fewer sector camps and patrol bases, we centralize our personnel, streamline command and control of the force and make logistic resupply easier.

Playing a key role in all of this will be the new Military Observer and Liaison Officers (MOLOs) tasked with providing the force with an enhanced liaison and monitoring capability in relation to Opposing Force Regiments.

Cutting Back and Going Home



Peacekeeping force rotations from Cyprus on 31 January saw UNFICYP's military strength fall from 1,230 to just below the 900 mark as part of the Security Council mandated 30% downsizing called for on recommendation of the Secretary-General following last September's force review. The aim is to reach the 860 level by the end of March or in early April.

Since the beginning of January, more than 320 military personnel serving with UNFICYP from the Argentinian, British, Hungarian and Slovak Contingents have left the island.



Some 66 Slovak and 42 Hungarian peacekeepers departed for home from Larnaca Airport on the evening of 31 January. Earlier in the day, 99 members of the Argentinian Contingent rotated out, ending their tour of duty.

Five of the mission's 12 camps have been closed as part of the infrastructural rationalization. The last of the individual sectoral medal parades has been held. But, as can be seen from the ensuing articles, overall it is peacekeeping business as usual, with a newly invigorated concept of operations known as "concentration with mobility". Read on!

Force 860 – Concentration with Mobility

The United Nations Force in Cyprus has seen changes in recent months. While the mandate remains the same, the way of doing things – the concept of operations – has changed. The force continues to perform its primary function of preventing a recurrence of fighting. To this end, it maintains constant surveillance of the buffer zone and cease fire lines, using a combination of static observation posts and mobile patrols, in vehicles, on foot and by helicopter. It also investigates and acts upon violations of the ceasefire to defuse cases of tension. Additionally, regular liaison and communications are maintained with the command level of the military forces on both sides.

The new concept of operations, described as "concentration with mobility", maintains the same level of mandate implementation with more efficient use of resources. As part of the process of concentrating forces, a number of bases have closed. Without being tied to static guard tasks at bases it is now possible to redirect troops to mobile patrolling tasks in the buffer zone. This is reflected in the significant increase in the number of patrols deployed in the buffer zone. This new approach has resulted in some troops being freed up from the mission. These troops are now available for re-tasking with other UN missions around the world. The new force will number 860 troops.

The UNFICYP military component will continue to carry out the whole range of tasks entrusted to it, but with greater emphasis on liaison, observation and mediation. There is also more coordination with other mission components. The UN Civilian Police (UNCIVPOL) component is, for example, expanding in order to take



on greater patrolling and community liaison duties in cooperation with military peacekeepers.

The realigned UNFICYP military component includes a new capability – the MOLO or Military Observer and Liaison Officer. MOLOs are deployed in the buffer zone with the role of liaising with military forces from both sides and solving problems through mediation and negotiation. The first MOLOs have completed their training and are now fully integrated into the existing chain of command (*see article next page*).

The changes that have taken place in UNFICYP in recent months have not affected the mandate but are already delivering a more flexible and effective ground presence, with greater mobility, and improved liaison and mediation. UNFICYP's military component remains a well-balanced and capable force.

Maj. Neil Wright

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Front Cover: Duty Done

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MOLO Plays Key Role

Given the island's increasingly stable environment, UNFICYP was directed on 15 June 2004 to review its current manning levels, the Concept of Operations and its profile with a view to introducing reductions. The review was completed in September, and the SG's subsequent recommendations were endorsed by the Security Council in October. The ensuing new concept of operations included the introduction of Military Observer Liaison Officers (MOLOs) to serve as the liaison point of contact with OPFOR regiments along the cease fire line, in addition to reinforcing routine UNFICYP patrol efforts.

Sector Commanders were requested to nominate candidates from among their staff with the necessary qualities and skills to handle the new responsibilities. The nominees were then interviewed by the Chief of Staff, who produced a short list of those with the requisite qualities.

At the same time, the UNFICYP Training Officer and his team devised a MOLO course, drawing on DPKO training guidelines and the MOLO tasks and duties as spelled out in the UNFICYP Force 860 Review. The resultant generic training programme was designed to provide training and guidance not just for those currently in the mission, but for future candidates.



Having first secured a suitable location and acquired enough officers to act as role players, as well as sufficient resources in terms of transport, feeding, and such marginal accessories as loo rolls and light bulbs to ensure that the course ran smoothly, the Training Officer and team launched the course on 9 January on an unsuspecting intake of 13 participating "students". Perhaps they should have taken note that the paperwork associated with the preparations ran to three volumes. Anyway, they assembled at St Michael's School for a briefing before being shown to their new, "luxurious" accommodation. The latter was the subject of much derogatory comment in the post-course assessments.

The course programme was divided into two: Part One dealt with UNFICYP, its role and responsibilities and amounted to little more than revision for many of the students. However, a number of presentations were new and most students found them interesting, informative and even at times humorous.

OPFOR observers attended the course on alternate

days at the invitation of the Force Commander. Their presence enhanced the instruction while providing an invaluable opportunity for the graduate MOLOs to develop relations with those they would soon be liaising with. It also gave the class an insight into the OPFOR perspective.

The students received instruction on negotiation techniques – how to manage successful meetings, use interpreters, develop cultural awareness, and deal with the media. Many may have thought that they knew what they were doing and what was expected of them, but, from the instructor's viewpoint, it was clear that many did not know as much as they thought. However, the COS's introductory briefing left participants in no doubt about the role and importance of the MOLO function.

In Part Two of the course, students got down to some serious role-playing using a set of scenarios involving a fictitious country called Lotti (*far removed from the Cyprus situation*). Students were given background information, which they had to absorb quickly before embarking on three very testing days. From personal experience, the Chief Instructor knew that getting the best out of participants means putting them under pressure. The best way to do this? Limit the time allotted for a task, and ensure that the time constraints resulted in sleep deprivation.

The exercise ran 24 hours a day, each serial taking about four hours to complete, with heavy emphasis on meetings and negotiations. Officers from HQ UNFICYP and the MFR acted as role players. Meetings continued late into the night. Immediately afterwards, students had to deploy on patrol – by foot, vehicle or helicopter. The training dividend was immense, not just for the students but also for UN Flight.

At the end of each serial, students were required to produce minutes of meetings, letters of agreement and/or, depending on the task, reports supported by sketches. As the exercise proceeded at a sustained level of intensity, students became more and more tired. Still, it was plain to see that the information was getting across.

On the second night, after a full day of meetings and patrols, the weather played its part when, almost on cue, the heavens opened as patrols deployed into the wet and cold to deal with an "incident", another valuable if trying lesson for those under test.

The exercise culminated after an "all nighter" with students preparing for a 7.00 am meeting with a local commander. Two hours later, as the meeting wrapped up, it was apparent to role players and instructors alike that the students had made real progress and that their technique had improved immeasurably over the three days. The exercise concluded with the students giving a briefing and analysis of the situation to their respective Sector Commanders. The COS presented the students with certificates and wished them well. Then an extremely tired group dispersed to return wearily to their Sectors.

All the students who participated passed but completion of the MOLO course only marks the onset of this venture. The new MOLOs now have to build on skills acquired and identified in training and put them into practice in the service of Force 860.

We wish them good luck and every success!

Maj. Chris Frazer

Adios Camp Brown

As a result of the Force 860 concept, there have been a number of discernable changes throughout the mission. In the case of Sector 1, the downsizing exercise has meant the closure of Camp Brown, one of three camps in the Sector.

Housed in the old Pano Zodia's "Box Factory" in the easternmost reaches of Sector 1's buffer zone area, the camp was named after Admiral William Brown, founder of the Argentinian Navy. The camp served as base for the Argentinian Marine Corps Company "Charlie Coy", representing almost one third of the Sector's troops. Twenty-four task forces have passed through the camp in the 11 years since the Marines took over the premises from the Danish Contingent back in October 1993.

Those who served in Camp Brown down the years will have many memories. One outstanding event more recently was the visit in 2002 of a delegation from Foxford, County Mayo, Ireland, birth place of Admiral Brown. To honour their native son, the Irish visitors donated a bust of the Argentinian hero. It now graces the Camp courtyard, and is a fine testament to the strong bonds between the two countries.



Since mid-November last, Camp Brown has served as a Sector 1 patrol base and now houses just ten peacekeepers. Still, the place is redolent with the spirit and legacy of the many who called it "home" during their tours of duty. For this reason alone, Camp Brown will remain an inspiration and a landmark for those who continue the good work from Camps San Martin and Roca.

Capt. Diego Sánchez

Last Medals

With implementation of the Force 860 downsizing just days away, Sector 4 held a medal parade on 19 January to bid farewell to 28 peacekeepers (17 Hungarians, 11 Slovaks), who returned to their home countries at the end of the month, and will not be replaced.

Winter weather conditions meant that the medal parade moved indoors to the Sergeants' Mess. Capt. Jaroslava Blažeková, Personnel Officer Sector 4, led medal recipients and audience through the parade programme. He began with a brief history of the Hungarians, Slovaks and Croats who have served in Sector 4 since the departure of Austrian and Slovenian troops in 2001.

In his address, UNFICYP Force Commander Lt. Gen. Hebert Figoli paid tribute to the medal recipients, praising the dedication and pride they have brought to their daily duties and their success in rising to the challenges of peacekeeping.

Afterwards, soldiers and guests adjourned to the Mess where they shared a traditional meal, nicely rounding off a memorable and enjoyable occasion.

Capt. Jaroslava Blažeková



Year 2004 - In Review



SG and leaders in New York



Hungarian President meets the troops



SG at the Baghdad anniversary memorial service in Geneva



Chief of Mission Włodzimierz Włosowicz, ASG Annabi and Cyprus Foreign Minister Iacovou

While the negotiation process moved back into high gear early in the year, the big push for a political settlement before Cyprus's entry into the EU failed when one side rejected the Secretary-General's plan at the April referendum.

The process was revived in **January** when the SG met with Turkey's Prime Minister Erdogan in Davos, Switzerland, on the 24th and, five days later with Greek Cypriot leader Tassos Papadopoulos in Brussels.

January also saw the arrival of New Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Hebert Figoli, a veteran of four previous UN assignments, as successor to Maj. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang.

The talks resumed in **February** – the outcome of a marathon three-day **10-13 February** session with the SG and his advisers in New York. The leaders acceded to a three-step approach proposed by the SG aimed at resolving the Cyprus problem in time for a reunited island to enter the EU on 1 May. Both sides agreed the talks would revert to Nicosia, where they would continue with the SG's Good Offices team led by Special Adviser de Soto from **19 February** to **22 March**. If at that point, there were still outstanding issues, Turkey and Greece would join the two sides for a further week to try and resolve them. Only in the continuing absence of agreement would the SG then step in to finalise the plan. This text would be put to separate simultaneous referenda in the north and south on **20 April**.

Special Adviser de Soto arrived back on the island on **17 February**, and on **19 February**, UNFICYP Chief of Mission Zbigniew Włodzimierz Włosowicz joined him in welcoming the leaders back to the conference centre in the UNPA for the start of the resumed talks.

On **19 March**, the President of Hungary, Dr. Ferenc Mádl, made an official visit to UNFICYP. He called on the Chief of Mission and then visited Athienou Camp where he met with members of the Hungarian Contingent.

On **31 March**, still lacking a settlement, all parties convened in Bürgenstock, Switzerland, where the SG presented the leaders with the final version of his plan, "The Comprehensive Settlement of the Cyprus Problem". The time had arrived "for decision and action", he said, noting that inevitably the proffered plan represented a compromise. He believed it met "the core interests" and addressed "the key concerns" of people on both sides. "Let me be clear. The choice is not between this settlement plan and some other magical or mythical solution. In reality at this stage, the choice is between this settlement and no settlement."

On **24 April**, the people of Cyprus, Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots, for the first time ever, voted at referenda on a Cyprus settlement. A majority "no" vote in the south cancelled out a majority "yes" vote in the north, effectively rejecting the plan known as the "Annan Plan". Acknowledging the result, the SG said the decision on how to vote had been a difficult one for most Cypriots. While respecting the outcome, the SG stressed his conviction that the plan offers a fair, viable and balanced compromise that meets the basic needs of all concerned. While clearly

the Greek Cypriot electorate had not concurred with this view on the day, he hoped they might arrive at a different conclusion after reviewing their decision "in the fullness of time".

On **1 May**, Cyprus celebrated its accession to the EU along with nine other countries.

On **26 May**, the Security Council adopted resolution 1548 welcoming the SG's intention to conduct a review of UNFICYP's mandate, force levels and concept of operation.

During the month, the UNPA premises of the Good Offices closed down.

On **8 June**, UNFICYP lost a member of the Slovak contingent when Sgt. Miroslav Hruška, 23, was killed in a tragic helicopter accident.

The bombing deaths of 22 colleagues at UN Baghdad headquarters a year previously was commemorated at a simple ceremony presided over by Chief of Mission, SRSW Włodzimierz Włosowicz, on **19 August**. UNFICYP mission staff and UN family colleagues from UNDP/UNOPS, UNHCR, UNV, as well as representatives from UNMOVIC attended.

From **30 August** to **5 September**, a team from DPKO HQ, New York, visited Cyprus to carry out the review of the UNFICYP peacekeeping operation in conjunction with the mission's senior management team. This became the basis of the SG's **24 September** report to the Security Council.

The opening of the Greek Cypriot secondary school in Rizokarpasso on **13 September** enabled children graduating from the primary school to continue their studies in their home village and saw the return of 11 pupils from the south.

The Croatian flag was hoisted on **4 October** in Camp General Štefanić to mark the start of the Croatian contribution to Sector 4. Two Croatian officers arrived to serve as medical and duty officers with the SLOVHUN contingent.

On **22 October**, the Security Council adopted resolution 1568, endorsing the SG's Force Review recommendations including a 30% downsizing of the force level. The Council also extended UNFICYP's mandate to **15 June 2005**.

UNFICYP and the UN family led by the Chief of Mission celebrated UN Day on **24 October**, when more than 500 people attended the UN Day concert at Ledra Palace.

DPKO Deputy Head, ASG Hedi Annabi visited UNFICYP from **11-16 November**. The Chief of Mission hosted a number of events at his residence enabling Mr. Annabi to meet with senior officials from both sides including Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat and Cyprus Foreign Minister George Iacovou.

At the official launch of buffer zone demining on **18 November**, SRSW Włodzimierz Włosowicz thanked the EU for its generous support of the UNDP/PFF Mine Action Cell project responsible for the mine clearance and acknowledged the role of the Government of Cyprus and the National Guard in advancing the process. The Chief of Mission noted that every mine removed "is one less obstacle to crossing points, every mine destroyed is a step forward on the road to normalcy".

NK



Demining launched in the buffer zone



The de Soto team's farewell



Welcome to the EU!



Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat with ASG Annabi

The Cultural Heritage of Cyprus: Part XXVIII

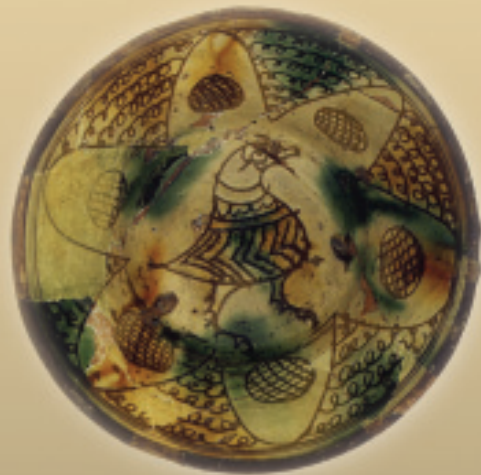
Treasures of a City Kingdom — The Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia

Within the walls of Nicosia – in the heart of the Laiki Ytonia area at 17 (H)ippocrates Street – is a three-storeyed mansion of the late 19th century: the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia.

The mansion was bought and restored by the A.G Leventis Foundation, which offered it to the Municipality of Nicosia as the capital's museum. Inaugurated in April 1989, it earned the prestigious European Museum of the Year Award for 1991 just two years later.

For the past 15 years, the museum has offered visitors a journey into time spanning 6,000 years with numerous exhibits arranged according to the latest museological rules. In addition, the Frankish, Venetian, Ottoman and British sections have models dressed in period clothes representing their eras.

The ground floor is dedicated to Ancient Nicosia from 3,900 BC to the end of antiquity in the 4th century AD. The first floor covers the last years of Byzantine rule in Cyprus, the Frankish, the Venetian and the Ottoman periods, whilst the second floor focuses on British Rule and the Republic of Cyprus to the present day.



Glazed brown and green sgraffito bowl
15th century



Silver spoon
15th century

Ancient Nicosia

The museum opens on the ground floor with the Orientation Gallery's replica of the walled city of Nicosia. Taped information on the various monuments of the city is available in Greek and English, and includes the construction of the Venetian walls of Nicosia, which served as a prototype of European Renaissance military architecture.

The next room has a glazed floor that reveals mediaeval finds lying in place in the basement. The walls of this ground room are decorated with cut-out coloured paintings of the "People of Nicosia" through the ages.

The Nicosia Gallery has a vast range of exhibits, from petrified pine-cones, wood and crustacea found in the Greater Nicosia area and dating back more than one million years, to archaeological finds, mostly ceramics, from small excavated sites and tombs of the capital and its surroundings. These finds indicate that Nicosia was inhabited from the Chalcolithic period (3,900-2,500 BC). The exhibits in this room represent all ancient periods: Chalcolithic, Bronze (2,500-1,050) [with the arrival of the Greeks in the 14th century BC], Geometric (1,050-750), Archaic (750-475), Classical (475-323), Hellenistic (323-30) and Roman (30 BC to 330 AD).

In the first millennium BC, Cyprus had a number of city-kingdoms, one of which was Ledra or Lidir, identified as the predecessor of Nicosia. Unlike the coastal kingdoms of Salamis, Kition, Amathus and Paphos, Ledra was not an important kingdom. Renamed Lefkothea (Leucothea) in the Hellenistic period (323-30 BC), and Lefkousia or Ledri in the 4th century AD, it remained an obscure small town until the Arab raids against Cyprus during the 7th to 9th centuries AD. This brought an influx of people to Nicosia from the coast. Gradually, the city gained in prominence over the rest of Cyprus. By the 10th century, it had become the administrative centre of the island and the seat of the Byzantine governor. In fact, it became the capital. When Cyprus came under the Frankish kings in 1192, the capital was given the French name of Nicosie, and later the Venetians named it Nicosia, which is its current international name. The Greek name is Lefkosia and the Turkish name is Lefkosha.

The third room on this floor is the chronology room, which relates Cypriot monuments to those of countries around the world through a display of 36 colour photographs.

Byzantines to Ottomans

On the first floor, one room is dedicated to collections of photographs and several illustrated books on Cyprus. The next room is the Frankish Gallery with exhibits from the time the Frankish royal house of the Lusignans ruled Cyprus (1192-1489). It was during the third crusade that Richard the Lionheart fought and defeated the Byzantine Governor of Cyprus for having misbehaved towards Richard's fiancée in 1191. Richard sold Cyprus to the Knights Templar and, when they returned to him the following year, he gave it to his companion-in-arms, Guy de Lusignan. For 300 years, the island was under the Franks, thus becoming the longest-ever French colony in history. The Lusignans introduced Catholicism and a feudal system comparable to that which flourished many centuries previously in the court of King Arthur.

The collection in this first floor gallery includes coins of the Lusignan kings and of Byzantine Emperors of the 9th to the 11th centuries, belt buckles of suits of armour, swords, copies of seals, crosses, and a collection of bowls, chalices, goblets and plates of glazed brown and green sgraffito.

The next room is dedicated to Caterina Cornaro, the last queen of the Lusignans. She was a ward of the Venetian Republic, who had married King James II Lusignan. Soon after his death, Venice forced Caterina to abdicate and leave Cyprus, surrendering the island to the Venetian Republic in 1489. Venetian rule lasted until defeat by the Ottomans in 1570. Turkish Cypriots are the descendants of these Ottomans. Numerous portraits of Caterina, many made well after she had passed away, showed this cultured lady to have been appreciated and celebrated by artists of renown, like Tiziano and Tintoretto. Donizetti was among the composers she inspired. His homonymous opera was performed in the walls of Nicosia – the very area she had lived – for the first time in Cyprus last summer.

The Venetian Gallery displays nine old plans of the walls of Nicosia and a map of Cyprus, plus a list of Venice's ruling Dogi during their period of ascendancy over the island. It also features a cabinet display of silver plates and bowls and a treasury of German coins of the 15th and 16th century.

The Ottoman Gallery (1570-1878) is rich in silver pieces, jewellery, swords, knives, daggers and buckles of exquisite craftsmanship in filigree or encrusted with semi-precious stones, mother-of-pearl or in enamel. Pieces of woven silk cloths are scattered in a corner. The production of Cypriot silk, famous for its quality, expanded in the Venetian period. Two mannequins are dressed as the Dragoman (Greek high official of the Ottomans) and his wife, while another pair are dressed in less important apparel. Two hand-written books, a Koran and the "Life of the Dragoman", are intricately decorated. Outside this Gallery is a cabinet displaying coins of the sultans. Elsewhere, printed Italian books refer to the Ottoman conquests of the period and include that of Cyprus.

From the British to the Republic of Cyprus

The second floor's British Gallery features the world of the British Rule (1878-1960) and the Republic of Cyprus.

This is by far the best documented period. Artifacts include official documents, books, engravings, maps, pieces of furniture, uniforms, coins, stamps, newspapers, private letters, proclamations, house replicas, photographs, pieces of jewellery, silver plates, and coronation and jubilee porcelain pieces relating to the British royal family. In addition, a mechanized policeman keeps watch while two ladies sip tea, adding to period flavour.

A series of well-organised units detail how Cyprus became a British colony and how it was administered. Ample information is also available on everyday life as it was at home and in the market place, as well as an account of political and military events during the 82 years of British rule in the island and the Cyprus Republic.

The next room is the "Temporary Exhibitions Gallery".

The museum also features on the ground floor a shop with Leventis Foundation publications and merchandise.



Plan of the walled city of Nicosia
from a book by Etienne de Lusignan
16th century



Portrait of Caterina Cornaro
17th century



Silver filigree buckle
18th-19th century

United Nations Coordinates International Response to Tsunami

"The past 11 days have been among the darkest in our lifetime. But they have also allowed us to see a new kind of light. We have seen the world coming together. We have seen a response based not on our differences, but on what unites us." – Secretary-General, Jakarta, January 6

In response to the widespread destruction caused by the massive earthquake and resulting tsunamis that hit large areas of Southeast Asia on 26 December 2004, the UN has taken the leading role in coordinating an unprecedented international relief effort involving a broad coalition of UN agencies, governments, and aid organisations. Initial UN efforts out of a new coordination centre in Indonesia included:



Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Mrs. Nane Annan survey the destruction in Aceh

- Emergency aid distribution within the first 48 hours of the disaster and continued relief operations by UN agencies such as UNICEF, WHO and UNDP, all of which had existing operations on the ground in the nations impacted by the tsunami;
- Coordination of air and logistics operations for the transport of relief goods and personnel by the UN Joint Logistics Centre (UNJLC), using transport assets provided by the militaries of the US, Australia, India, Malaysia, and Singapore;
- Ground assessments of damage by UN country teams and the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination division (UNDAC).

Geneva Pledging Conference

On January 11, ministers from over 70 countries gathered in Geneva for a pledging conference to determine priorities for the \$977 million flash appeal launched on 6 January by the Secretary-General. So far, commitments (not just pledges) total \$756 million. This money is critical to addressing health needs, establishing a disease surveillance system and providing for the reconstruction efforts over the next six months.

One month after the tsunami, the top UN emergency official drew up a positive balance sheet of a "remarkably, singularly effective, swift and muscular" international response that, he said, had saved tens of thousands of lives against tremendous odds.

With a death toll exceeding 200,000, UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland told a news briefing in New York on 26 January that the UN-coordinated

international aid operation had succeeded in avoiding a second wave of deaths from disease, achieving in one month a response process that would normally take three months or more.

"In spite of monumental obstacles, no roads, few air strips, no ports, and torrential rains, bad weather throughout, we believe we succeeded in abating this second wave of deaths and that we have saved a lot of lives," he said, stressing that the global community must now vigorously confront the even bigger task of rehabilitation.

Taking stock "on the one month day," Egeland praised "first and foremost" the local communities and national governments for a "uniquely effective" response, followed by an "enormously effective" international aid effort by the UN, the Red Cross and hundreds of NGOs. He said the donor response to the UN flash appeal for \$997 had been unprecedented.

He also highlighted a "bigger and more effective partnership with military forces than I can ever recall," both national and foreign, who lent their aircraft, helicopters, naval vessels, search and rescue teams, logistical support, air traffic and ground handling teams.

Mr. Egeland said there were still pockets in Aceh in Indonesia, the worst-hit region, and in Somalia where enormous access problems persists and where there may be individuals who have still not been reached. "But we believe that we can now with some confidence say that there is no major group, no major community of affected people that has not received life-saving assistance," he added.



The Secretary-General also surveyed the devastation in the Maldives

Remarkably, assessments in Aceh and Sumatra showed no significant rise in the malnutrition rate nor any significant outbreak of disease. He said 1.2 million people were already receiving food, a number that could rise to 2 million, while 500,000 people were being provided with clean water. Children were already going back to school, with 60,000 starting "very symbolically, today" in Aceh and Sumatra and hundreds of thousands set to return next month.

[For more details, please go to www.reliefweb.int, the website for the UN's Office of Humanitarian Relief Coordination (UNOCHA)]

Helping Hands as Staff Rally to the Cause

The day after the earthquake triggered the devastating tsunami, the Staff Relief Committee for Victims of the Indian Ocean Tsunami was set up. Since then, staff worldwide have responded generously, individually and collectively, to raise funds to assist those affected by the tsunami. Here in UNFICYP, staff contributed a total of \$11,908. This was sent to New York earlier this month. At last count, staff worldwide had raised more than \$82,000. Collections continue until 31 March 2005.

Overseas staff may send individual contributions by wire transfer (using ABA No. 226078609) to:

United Nations Federal Credit Union

Account Number: 764340

(UN Staff Committee for Tsunami Victims)

Contributions may also be made by cheque payable to the UN Staff Relief Committee for Tsunami Victims and sent to:

UN Staff Relief Committee for Victims of the Indian Ocean Tsunami

Room DC-21814B

Attention: Ms. Mui Lang Low, Treasurer, UN HQ, NY

Ted Turner, Founder and Chairman of the United Nations Foundation is offering to match UN staff contributions to the UN's tsunami relief efforts, as part of a Foundation \$5 million commitment to tsunami relief. The grant will match on a one-to-one basis staff contributions, up to \$500.

Here in Nicosia, within days of the disaster, UNFICYP was asked at very short notice to help load a

container with humanitarian relief supplies for the victims in Sri Lanka.

A work party was organised by OC MFR. In the true spirit of a rapid reaction unit, 25 Argentinian, British, Hungarian and Slovak peacekeepers quickly reported to the loading site in Engomi, Nicosia, the evening of 7 January.

There, amidst much good humour and brimful of energy, the volunteer team swiftly and ably helped load a 60-foot container with supplies for delivery to Limassol port for shipment to Colombo, Sri Lanka, a sea voyage of some 23 days duration. MFR had no problem in finding a second batch of willing volunteers when the call came for further help, this time to load a 40-foot container. UNFICYP stands ready and able to lend a helping hand should there be additional requests.



UNFICYP peacekeepers joined volunteers in loading relief supplies bound for Sri Lanka



Special Envoy Clinton

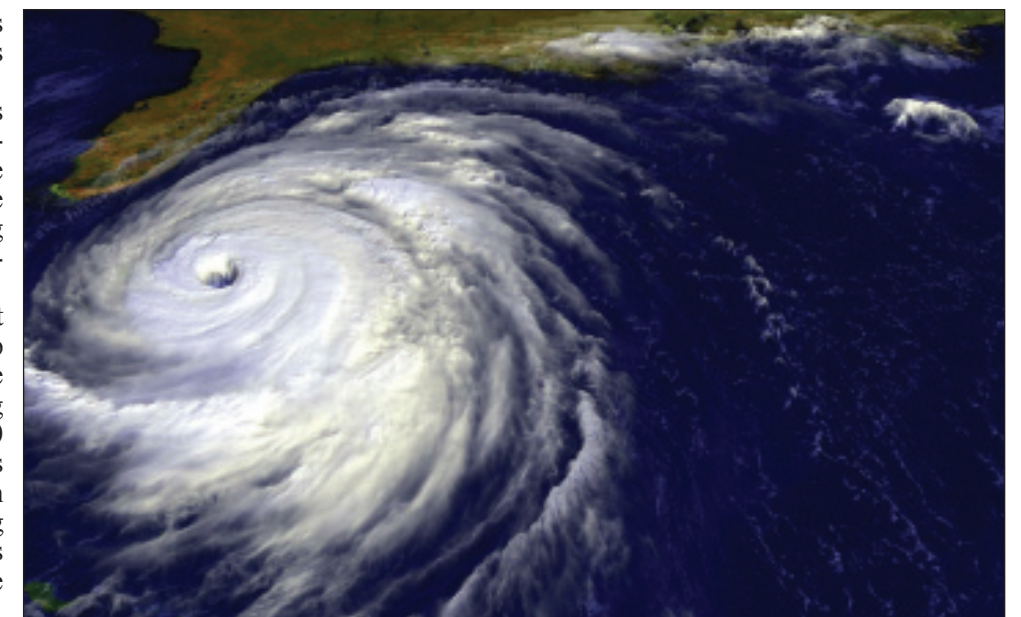
In late January, the SG offered former U.S. President Bill Clinton the position of his Special Envoy for Tsunami-affected Countries and President Clinton accepted. The SG indicated no one could possibly be better qualified for this task. Clinton is expected to take up his new assignment in the near future.

What is a Tsunami?

Tsunamis are ocean waves produced by earthquakes or underwater landslides.

The word "tsunami" is Japanese and means "harbour wave" because of the devastating effects these waves have had on low-lying Japanese coastal communities.

Such waves can travel at speeds averaging 450 (and up to 600) miles per hour in the open ocean, some reaching heights of as much as 100 feet-plus. However, waves that are 10-20 feet high can be hugely destructive causing many deaths and/or injuries plus damage to infrastructure and fresh water sources.



How Were Your Holidays?

Choirs in Good Voice

The annual UNFICYP carol service was held on 17 December 2004 in St. Columbas Church in the UNPA. As is customary, each major contingent organised a choir, and there were readings in English, Hungarian, Slovakian and Spanish, read to the congregation by key personalities at HQ UNFICYP. The service was led by Padre Lee Gandiya.

The choirs were superb, bringing some real colour to the service and demonstrating some serious musical talent within the mission. Following the service, Sectors 1, 2 and 4 provided refreshments and snacks which were very welcome, especially due to the cold spell that week. Soon after, everyone headed home, full of the joys of the festive season.



Mikuláš visits Famagusta



"Mikuláš" (or Santa Claus as he is known to others) made an appearance at Camp General Štefánik early in the holiday season. The celebration of Mikuláš is entirely different from the celebration of the birth of Christ. However the most important celebration of the holiday season is still Christmas Eve, just as in Sweden, Portugal, Finland, and indeed other

countries in Europe and many other parts of the world.

The Slovakian Minister of Defence wanted our peacekeepers to remain true to our traditions by remembering Saint Nicholas on 6 December as is done in Slovakia. Mikuláš went around the camp in Famagusta handing out packages of Christmas sweets.

Combining Christmas holiday tradition with military tradition, the Hungarian Minister of Defence arranged for his peacekeeping nationals to be additionally presented with hunting knives.

On Christmas Eve, Slovaks and Hungarians gathered at Famagusta camp in the NCOs' Mess for a traditional Christmas dinner: rich cabbage soup or Hungarian "Halaszle", followed by fish with delicious potato salad or stuffed cabbage. Gifts were presented straight after dinner, it still being Christmas Eve. At midnight, we

packed the church at the camp. Our Greco-Catholic Padre celebrated a most impressive mass. He reminded us that the best way to appreciate the significance and beauty represented by the newborn Christ is to look at the joy reflected in children's eyes during Christmas.

New Year celebrations were individual in the separate officers/NCOs' clubs. Each had its own entertainment programme for the entire night, whether it was listening to music, getting together with friends, or watching New Year's fireworks on TV. To top off the celebrations, there were homemade cookies and champagne on every table.

Maj. Ingrid Tomeková



Sector 1, Ahoy!

Vice Admiral Rodolfo Codina Díaz, Navy Operations Commanding Officer of the Chilean Navy, spent New Year's Eve on the island when he visited Sector 1 from 29 December to 2 January.

Accompanied by his Military Assistant, Lt. Col. Luis Angulo, the Vice Admiral flew by helicopter to San Martín Camp, where he visited the troops under the command of Lt. Col. Federico Sidders. He also met with Chilean officers, NCOs and soldiers serving with Sector 1.

Vice Admiral Codina arrived for a courtesy visit to HQ UNFICYP on 30 December and met with Force Commander Lt. Gen. Hebert Figoli and members of UN Flight.



Visiting Vicar

Sector 1 was honoured to receive Vicar Monsignor Luis Pedro Candia, Assistant Chaplain General, during the festive season. Between 22 and 26 December, Monsignor Candia travelled throughout the Sector, meeting the personnel on and off duty.

Monsignor Candia conducted several masses at various locations during his stay, as well as presenting religious gifts. On 23 December, he dined with ARGCON personnel where he met with Bishop Neophytos of Morphou and the delegate of the Holy See, Father Umberto Barato.

During his stay, Monsignor Candia also travelled to the UNPA and conducted a mass at Saint Barnabas Chapel for the Argentinian personnel of UN Flight, MFR and FMPU.

On Christmas Day, Monsignor attended a festive lunch with Force Commander Lt. Gen. Figoli, Commander Sector 1, Lt. Col. Sidders and the officers of San Martin Camp.



Santa's Little Helpers

On 31 December, SSgt. Justine Adamek, Garda Eugene O'Leary and Sgt. Ann McKenna of UNCIVPOL, Pyla, visited the Pyla Turkish Primary School, following a coordinated arrangement made between Garda O'Leary and the SBA Community Liaison Officer.

Much to the surprise and delight of the children, "Santa" climbed out of an L200 just before school ended on New Year's Eve, sack on his back! Each of the (approximately 50) children – who had ALL been good – received a gift. This is all thanks to the British Bases, who not only provided the gifts, but also three SBA police officers to assist in the effort, including the undercover Santa.

UNCIVPOL and SBA personnel got together with the primary school teachers for refreshments later.



SSgt. Adamek, Sgt. McKenna and Santa

Service with a Smile

For members of the MFR, Christmas was made as "normal" as possible for those who were unable to go home or have their families join them for the festive period.

Following a great party on Christmas Eve, lunch was served in the International Cafeteria. As is customary, soldiers were waited on by the officers of the MFR and UNFICYP headquarters. The cafeteria was decorated and the tables set with crackers and party poppers, a first for some of the non-British soldiers. The catering manager, Michael Charalambous, put on a huge spread with all the customary Christmas fare, including turkey and the traditional Brussel sprouts. The serving staff were given a break when Col. Ian Sinclair, the Chief of Staff, took his turn behind the counter to dish up to the guys.

Despite a few people still suffering the after-effects of the night before, the lunch was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Many thanks to all the staff in the International Cafeteria, who worked so hard to put on such a good meal.



LBdr. Wood and Gnr. Ruines enjoying the festive feast

Serious Training

The Regimental football team arrived in Cyprus intent on establishing a side able to compete against the island's better sides. The longer term plan was for a team up to competing in tournaments in Germany and Britain.

To allow WO2 (TSM) "Paul" Colbourne and SSgt. "Spanner" Spencer an opportunity to look at the football talent available to them for Op TOSCA, an inter-troop football tournament was held by Ortona Troop. Try-outs were held on a difficult playing surface of shingle concrete. Some players were identified as possibles for the regimental squad. Training would take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and everyone was always welcome.

To start the ball rolling, "Spanner" Spencer managed to organise a fixture against the Cyprus branch of the Olympiakos U21's. The senior Olympiakos side had just beaten Liverpool in the Champion's League. The best U21 players in Cyprus would be playing against a team that, at that point, had yet to play together.

Fresh from the OSG football competition three months previously, the U21 team was looking forward to having another run out. And a good run out it was too. The young men of Olympiakos were soon putting their quicker feet, fitness and ability to good use. The game was close for the first 15 minutes, but then came a flood of goals by the Olympiakos U21's. The score line of 8-0 did not quite reflect the commitment put in by the two centre halves, SSgt. "Richie" Holloway and Sgt. "Jock" Campbell, who by the end had received a good work out.

Several training sessions followed, allowing the squad to get to know each other. For some, it was the first proper coaching they had ever had. "Spanner" Spencer was always be on hand to give words of encouragement. Press-up penalties encourage improvement, I have been told!

"Spanner" Spencer's room in Ledra Palace was a prime venue to "scout" a small six-a-side pitch in north Nicosia. Following a mutual getting-to-know-you kick-around that lasted into the early hours, a fixture was agreed for a proper 11-a-side game. This game proved to be a good exercise, as some of the skills and tactics that had been worked on in training began to emerge.



Gnr. Thornton soon had the team 1-0 up, and this was how it stayed until half time. 26 Regt FC then applied the pressure, and with two goals apiece from Lt. "Ginge" Grimsdell and "Richie" Holloway, it became an open game. Our opponents did not give up and the game ended on a knife edge with the score 5-4 to 26 Regt FC at the finish.

After the victory against the Turks, the Argentinians of the MFR were next. This game proved easier than expected. Gnr. "Mak" Makanza made light work of the Argentinian defence to score first half hat trick. With Bdr. "Dogg" Rampling making a surprise appearance in goal, the Argentine attack did not have to worry too much about placing the ball into the goal – anywhere on target was sure to beat "Dogg" Rampling! With a second half strike from SSgt. "Marty" Baker, the game ended 5-3 to 26 Regt FC.

An inter-Op TOSCA game followed with A Sqn The Queen's Royal Hussars (QRH) challenging 26 Regt FC. Some of the better players in the Regimental squad come from A Sqn, so the team knew it would be difficult. Again, Gnr. Thornton got the team off to a good start with an early strike, followed in quick succession by "Mak" Makanza's two goals. The goal of the match was a delightfully curled free kick into the top corner from 25 yards by "Paul" Colbourne. The final score was 4-0.

The Regimental side has now won three games in a row and with many more fixtures in the future the team is in a promising position. Capt. O'Rourke looks to be building a team strong enough to consider going on tour in the UK in search of more victories.

Lt. Ginge Grimsdell

Dogathon

Several members from UNFICYP took part in the annual charity "DOGATHON" in Nicosia on 4 December to raise money for the Nicosia Dog Shelter.

For a small fee, you could either compete in a 5 km race, with or without a dog; or partake in a more leisurely 2.5 km walk with your pooch. Maj. Szilard Várvolgyi from Ops Branch won the race part. Diana Bridger and "Bonzo" won prizes for 3rd lady, 2nd dog and "smiliest pair". LBdr. Simon Tomkinson with "Lucky" from MFR won their group and also the prize for "dog most like owner". 1/Lt. Karina Ugo, Capt. Fraquelli and LBdr. Wilson also won prizes for their categories. UNFICYP Security Officer Ross Wickware and his wife Patricia and their gorgeous golden retriever "Bailey" were joined by Travel Officer Raul Farfan and his family in the walk.



The prizewinning UNFICYP runners with "Bonzo" and "Lucky"

Colenso Celebration Celebrities

On 15 December 2004, 159 (Colenso) Battery celebrated its 151st anniversary. The Battery was formed in 1854 but received the Battle Honour of Colenso in 1957 in honour of the Battle of Colenso on the 15 December 1899, in which numerous gallantry medals were awarded in the defence of the guns.

The day was celebrated in some style, and started with a visit from Holly Macguire and Leah Newman (*Page 3 Girls*), and Jason Leonard, the former England and British Lions rugby player. Several events and competitions had been organised for the visit with the aim of choosing a "Miss Colenso" (Jason never really stood a chance) for the year.

After a briefing by the Battery Commander, Maj. Nick Andrew, Jason, Holly and Leah were put through a drill session by SSgt. Holloway. The trio then moved on to various challenges involving driving, go-karting and fighting fires before Holly and Leah were escorted to the International Bar while Jason joined the Regimental rugby squad for a game of touch rugby. Afterwards, he autographed a few England Fijian rugby shirts.

Back at the International Bar, the competition for the highly coveted title of Miss Colenso was really hotting up. The title was eventually decided by a game of "Twister". Leah Newman was crowned with the somewhat dubious honour of being Miss Colenso. Jason, Holly and Leah were great sports and really joined in with the morning's activities, as well as talking to just about every soldier in the Battery and signing countless autographs on photographs, shirts and one or two slightly more unusual places.

After our celebrity guests had departed, the Battery held an inter-platoon volleyball competition. Again the competition was fierce. The Argentinian APC platoon finally won the title after a nail-biting final with 1 Platoon. To say the level of skill was high would not just be an overstatement – it would be tantamount to lying. But the will was there and the referee's decisions were subjected to some scrutiny by players and supporters alike, more than



Regimental rugby squad with England's Jason Leonard (centre)

once. I would like to say that the best team won but as 1 Platoon's commander, I have to put on record that we were robbed, that ball was not out and the referee must have been blind. That said, I admit they probably were better than us, even though it pains me to say so!

A church service followed where the Battery history and the Colenso battle honour were read out by Gnrs. Buchan, Forrester, Haslam and Ladkin, the youngest members of the Battery. The service was a sobering and timely reminder of the sacrifices that had been made by members of the Battery before us. It was also very educational for the newer members of the Battery. Mince pies were served in the vestry for members of the Battery and guests before the final event of the day, a party in the International Bar.

The party was a huge success, with guests from Sector 2, UNCIVPOL and HQ UNFICYP joining us in the bar for a buffet. Karaoke was enjoyed by all – well, perhaps, more by those who sang than those who listened, since the leader singer was none other than the Battery Commander himself.

Thanks must go to Sector 2 who covered the Battery's commitments for the evening allowing all deployed members of the Battery to attend. The party rounded off what had been a most enjoyable and memorable Colenso Day.

Capt. B.P. Hallatt

Hungarian Handball

Having never been to a handball match and, to be honest, not even being familiar with the game, I was quite surprised to find myself at an international match between Cyprus and Hungary on 13 January. I had been invited by Capt. Katona of the MFR, and we were joined by a happy crowd of Hungarians from UNFICYP and Sector 4 at the MP bar on UNPA before heading to the stadium.

I think that the home side were quite surprised to be faced by an entire stand of green Hungarian tracksuits when they started their warm-up. The chief cheerleader was WO1 János Bokor, the PIO Visits Coordinator. He choreographed the Mexican waves and led the cheers and chants with great enthusiasm and generally contributed to a wonderful atmosphere.

Despite being outnumbered by the home fans, the Hungarian support never faltered and did its best to drown out the locals from start to finish. The game eventually finished 46-19 to Hungary in this preliminary



The happy team and supporters

round of the European Cup. I am now a convert to handball and, until the game takes off in England, I have decided to become a Hungary supporter.

Capt. B.P. Hallatt

Relief Supplies for Sri Lanka

