Water - too precious to waste

Be water-wise

Do not waste water by:
- Over-watering trees, gardens and landscapes.
- Watering between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- Failing to repair leaking taps, hoses and plumbing in general.

Instead:
- Take a shower, not a bath.
- Encourage and advise children not to mess around or play with water.
- Wash the car with a sponge and a bucket of water.
- Use a broom, not a hose, to clean verandas and pavements.

The Blue Beret
June 2005

Russian Foreign Minister Visits UNFICYP
Security Council extends UNFICYP Mandate

“The Security Council,
“Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 6 June 2005 (S/2005/353) on the United Nations operation in Cyprus,
“Reiterating its call to the parties to assess and address the humanitarian issue of missing persons with due urgency and seriousness, and welcoming in this regard the resumption of the activities of the Committee on Missing Persons since August 2004,
“Welcoming the Secretary-General’s review of the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Cyprus (UNFICYP), pursuant to resolution 1568 (2004) of 22 October 2004,
“Noting that the Government of Cyprus is agreed that in view of the prevailing conditions in the island it is necessary to keep UNFICYP beyond 15 June 2005,
“Taking note of the assessment of the Secretary-General that the security situation on the island continues to be stable and that the situation along the Green Line remains calm, and nonetheless, that there were problems in a few sensitive areas, and welcoming in this context the further decrease in the overall number of incidents involving the two sides,
“Welcoming the Secretary-General’s intention to keep the operations of UNFICYP under close review, continuing to take into account developments on the ground and the views of the parties, and to revert to the Council with recommendations for further adjustments as appropriate to UNFICYP’s mandate, force levels and concept of operation once he judges that sufficient time has passed since the implementation of UNFICYP’s new concept of operations to make this assessment,
“Welcoming the Secretary-General’s report, submitted in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter, on the situation in Cyprus,
“Welcoming the Secretary-General’s report on the UNFICYP mandate review, pursuant to resolution 1251 (1999) of 29 June 1999 and subsequent resolutions;
“Decides to extend the mandate of UNFICYP for a further period ending 15 December 2005;
“Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on implementation of this resolution by 1 December 2005;
“Welcomes the efforts being undertaken by UNFICYP to implement the Secretary-General’s zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Security Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take appropriate preventive action including the conduct of pre-deployment awareness training, and to take disciplinary action and other action to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;
“Decides to remain seized of the matter.”

Visit of USG Prendergast

The USG also met with others of the island’s political leadership and with members of the diplomatic community. He remained on island until 7 June when he travelled on to Athens and Ankara for further consultations before returning to New York, where he responded to the SG and subsequently briefed the Security Council (details next issue).
I. INTRODUCTION

In resolution 1546 (2004) of 22 October 2004, the Security Council, extended the mandate of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) until 15 June 2005, endorsed the new amended concept of operations and force levels of the mission and welcomed my intention to conduct a further review of its operations before the end of its mandate. The present report covers developments from 25 September 2004 to 20 May 2005. A number of activities carried out by UNFICYP pursuant to Security Council resolution 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964 and subsequent resolutions are included in the present report.

II. GENERAL BACKGROUND

1. The overall situation in Cyprus remained stable, although the official contacts between the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot sides, which had ceased since the April 2004 referenda, had not been resumed and there was little sign of improvement in relations. Discussions at the regular monthly meetings between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot political party leaders, held under the aegis of the Embassy of Slovakia at the former Ledra Palace hotel, illustrated the differences on core issues of the Cyprus problem. The Joint Leadership Meetings of the leader of the Turkish Republican Party (CTF, a member of the ruling coalition in the north), with the leader of the Progressive Party of Working People (a member of the ruling coalition in the south), and the leader of the Greek Cypriot Democratic Rally Party (DISY, the main opposition party), produced no tangible progress beyond general declarations of support for a just settlement.

2. Mr. Mehmet Ali Talat emerged from the April 2005 vote in the north as the undisputed leader of the Turkish Cypriot community. The vote provided renewed evidence of the community’s commitment to a peaceful resolution of the Cyprus problem.

3. UNFICYP continues to be led by my Special Representative and Chief of Mission, Mr. Zbigniew Wlosowicz, who assumed the position on 30 October 2004. This has assisted in the peaceful and amicable settlement of the Cyprus problem. The strength of the military component stood at 869 all ranks. The strength of the police component remained unchanged.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE FORCE

A. Prevention of a recurrence of fighting and maintenance of the military status quo

10. The overall military security situation on the island continues to be stable. The two sides have suspended major military exercises and military parades were kept at a low profile. There were no indications of an increase of defensive spending nor acquisition of new major equipment for the defence budget in the south has declined. The rotation of UNFICYP’s 5703 Battalion, and the nature of their equipment thus remain unchanged, and continue to be seen as a threat by the Greek Cypriots.

11. The situation along the ceasefire lines has also remained calm. Since the implementation of the new concept of operations in February 2005, the overall number of incidents has decreased further, but there was an increase in incidents in a few sensitive locations. The monthly average number of incidents between November 2004 and January 2005 was 85, as compared to a monthly average of 75 from February to April 2005. With two exceptions – the shooting of a Turkish forces soldier by a National Guard frontliner with an air gun, and a small, provocative exercise by Turkish forces/Turkish Cypriot security forces (TFC/MCT) on the ceasefire line in Nicosia – all incidents were minor and did not constitute a security threat. Overall, the opposing forces have shown cooperation and restraint.

12. The majority of incidents occurred in areas where the opposing forces are in close proximity, in particular in the city of Nicosia. In December 2004, UNFICYP made a proposal to the Turkish Cypriot authorities to withdraw from positions within the buffer zone. This proposal was rejected by both sides, but UNFICYP will continue its efforts in this direction.

13. The number of air violations decreased from 67 in the last reporting period to 30; 18 were by Turkish military aircraft, three by National Guard military aircraft, two by Cyprus police helicopters and the remaining seven were of unknown origin.

14. Clearing of National Guard minefields in the buffer zone commenced on 18 November 2004. Since then, over 250,000 square metres were cleared and more than 400 anti-personnel and about 900 anti-tank mines were removed. Mine clearance is a priority activity on the island and is a positive indicator that the reduction in strength and the new force structure is a positive development.

15. On 19 May 2005, the Turkish Cypriot side lifted the restrictions imposed on UNFICYP in July 2000 by the TR/ICP. This will allow UNFICYP to restore its operational capabilities in and around the buffer zone. The violation of the military status quo in Strovolos persisted. In addition, the United Nations continues to hold the Government of Turkey responsible for the maintenance of the status quo.

16. By 7 February 2005, UNFICYP’s military component had completed its reduction in strength and started to implement the amended concept of operations. The force’s situation has thus stood at about 875 military personnel, including some 15 military officers still needed to carry out civil affairs functions which had not yet been handed over to the civilian police component (see para 30 below).

B. Contribution to the restoration of law and order and conditions conducive to confidence building

20. As at 20 May 2005, more than seven million crossings by Greek Cypriots to the north and Turkish Cypriots to the south have taken place, with remarkably few incidents, at the four crossing points opened in the spring of 2003. The opening of additional crossing points at Zodia/Bostanci in the west of Nicosia and Ledra Street in the old town of Nicosia, is being geographically located to cover the areas of landmines and the difficulty in establishing co-operation on practicalities. However, the Zodia/Bostanci crossing has yet to open.

21. While movement of people has been steady, trade across the buffer zone has been limited by technical and logistical constraints. The total value of Greek Cypriot trade with Turkish Cypriots amounted to approximately EUR 0.2 million in 2004. The good performance is in large part due to the Cyprus pound (about 1 US dollar) crossing the line since the EU’s green line regulation came into effect last year. In February 2005, the European Council decided
to raise the ceiling on personal goods to 135 euros and expanding the list of personal items and agricultural goods that could be taken across the line. The Turkish Cypriot side has agreed to the increased ceiling and to the expanded list of personal goods. The Greek Cypriot side permitted buses and taxis registered in the north and supplied with the south’s documentation to pick up tourists destined to the north from the south’s ports of entry; however, rental cars from the north are not allowed to cross into the south.

24. The EU Commission recommendation of a 259 million euro aid package for the north is yet to be acted upon. While the Greek Cypriot side supports the aid package, the Turkish Cypriot side was reluctant both regarding the size of the package and the Commission’s recommendation on direct trade between the north of the island and the EU. The Greek Cypriot side continues to regard humanitarian tasks in support of the 404 Greek Cypriots funded by the EU, was completed in December 2004.

25. UNFICYP’s support of projects designed to maximize the practicalities. In the south, UNFICYP also assisted Turkish Cypriots to obtain identity documents, housing, welfare services, medical care, employment and education.

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27. In March 2005, the Greek Cypriot side committed to UNFICYP to facilitate the above-mentioned projects. Since then, UNFICYP has lent its good offices to the sides to work out the practicalities. In the south, UNFICYP also assisted Turkish Cypriots to obtain identity documents, housing, welfare services, medical care, employment and education.

28. In the absence of a political office in UNFICYP, the civil affairs component continues to assist the Senior Advisor and the Chief of Mission in political and civil affairs negotiations with the sides, as well as in political analysis and reporting.

29. The need for UNFICYP’s assistance in incidents on one side involving Cypriots from the other increased. UNFICYP civilian police and civil affairs officers monitored and followed up on more than 60 cases of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots involved in unauthorized crossings, photography, traffic violations, accidents, burglary, assault, illegal possession of firearms and drug trafficking. The Greek Cypriot side conducted criminal proceedings in ten cases involving Turkish Cypriots, while the Turkish Cypriot side brought proceedings against Greek Cypriots in eight cases. UNFICYP civilian police officers visited Turkish Cypriots detained in the south and Greek Cypriots detained in the north as a result of these proceedings and monitored trials and outcomes. During the same period, UNFICYP’s civilian police component facilitated 11 prison visits of the families of Turkish Cypriots detained in the south and 14 medical evacuations from the north to the south.

30. Due to delays in the deployment of additional civilian police officers, the sector civil affairs teams continued to be staffed with military officers. However, to prepare for the smooth transfer of the sector civil affairs teams to the civilian police component, a civilian police officer was attached to the military teams in the sectors to observe and assist in the preparation of the transition. Civilian police officers stationed in the buffer zone have continued to travel the military along the buffer zone. The overall number of patrols has increased from 1,520 between November 2004 and January 2005, to 2,180 between February and April 2005. A civilian police officer has also been attached to the Sector 2 military operations room, which organizes inter-alia activities in relation to the Ledra crossing. Since March 2005, civilian police officers carry out the weekly human rights liaison office in UNFICYP’s liaison office in the Karpasos and the Greek Cypriot elementary and secondary schools at Rickokarpaso.

31. UNFICYP’s support of projects designed to maximize the practicalities. In the south, UNFICYP also assisted Turkish Cypriots to obtain identity documents, housing, welfare services, medical care, employment and education.

32. The review team found that the civilian police and civil affairs tasks have continued to increase in number and complexity, as have the requests from both sides for assistance on matters such as the transfer of persons in illegal possession of firearms and drug trafficking. The UNFICYP’s civilian police will need to patrol the road through the buffer zone, support the police officers in the exercise of their jurisdiction beyond their respective cease-fire lines. In addition, as mentioned earlier (see para. 23 above), there is an increase in crime across the ceasefire line which, while primarily a responsibility of the two sides, will also add to the workload of UNFICYP’s civilian police component.

33. As indicated in my previous report (see S/2004/756, sect. VII), the General Assembly, by its resolution 58/301 of 18 June 2004, approved for UNFICYP the amount of $33.2 million for strengthening the security and safety of the staff and premises of the Force. In this regard, I am grateful for the voluntary contribution of $5.5 million from the Government of Greece and the voluntary contribution of $14.1 million from the Government of the United States. These donations will allow UNFICYP to implement its mandate in an effective and efficient manner. However, delays in the recruitment and deployment of staff have not allowed the new concept of UNFICYP under close review and I will revert to the Council in the event that major changes are warranted.

34. Meanwhile, the UNFICYP civilian police component needs to be brought up to strength urgently and I thank those member states who have made commitments for contributions of additional officers. Until this is done, UNFICYP will need to retain the additional 15 military personnel (in addition to the authorized strength of 860) currently engaged in civil affairs activities.

IV. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

35. As indicated in my previous report (see S/2004/756, sect. VII), the General Assembly, by its resolution 58/301 of 18 June 2004, approved for UNFICYP the amount of $33.2 million for strengthening the security and safety of the staff and premises of the Force. In this regard, I am grateful for the voluntary contribution of $5.5 million from the Government of Greece and the voluntary contribution of $14.1 million from the Government of the United States. These donations will allow UNFICYP to implement its mandate in an effective and efficient manner. However, delays in the recruitment and deployment of staff have not allowed the new concept of UNFICYP under close review and I will revert to the Council in the event that major changes are warranted.

36. I, therefore, recommend that the Council extend the mandate of UNFICYP for a further six-month period, starting on 16 June 2005 and ending 15 December 2005, with the understanding that the annual review of UNFICYP operations. During this time, we will keep the operations of UNFICYP under close review and I will revert to the Council in the event that major changes are warranted.

37. I do not believe that the time is ripe to appoint a full-time person dedicated to my Good Offices. The Chief of Mission of UNFICYP will continue to act as my Special Representative on the ground for contacts at the highest level with the two sides and other key actors on the Cyprus question. However, in the event that a need is felt, I will appoint a full-time person, if needed.

38. In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation to Mr. Zbigniew Wiloszowisc, my Special Representative and Chief of Mission in Athens, and to Mr. John Chappelow, my representative on the ground in Cyprus, as well as to Mr. Andrew Dineen, my Head of Mission, Mr. Fabrizio Carabba, my Security Coordinator, and my civilian police officers and civilian staff. In particular, I wish to express my appreciation to Mr. Zbigniew Wiloszowisc, my Special Representative and Chief of Mission in Athens, and to Mr. John Chappelow, my representative on the ground in Cyprus, as well as to Mr. Andrew Dineen, my Head of Mission, Mr. Fabrizio Carabba, my Security Coordinator, and my civilian police officers and civilian staff. In particular, I wish to express my appreciation to Mr. Zbigniew Wiloszowisc, my Special Representative and Chief of Mission in Athens, and to Mr. John Chappelow, my representative on the ground in Cyprus, as well as to Mr. Andrew Dineen, my Head of Mission, Mr. Fabrizio Carabba, my Security Coordinator, and my civilian police officers and civilian staff. In particular, I wish to express my appreciation to Mr. Zbigniew Wiloszowisc, my Special Representative and Chief of Mission in Athens, and to Mr. John Chappelow, my representative on the ground in Cyprus, as well as to Mr. Andrew Dineen, my Head of Mission, Mr. Fabrizio Carabba, my Security Coordinator, and my civilian police officers and civilian staff. In particular, I wish to express my appreciation to Mr. Zbigniew Wiloszowisc, my Special Representative and Chief of Mission in Athens, and to Mr. John Chappelow, my representative on the ground in Cyprus, as well as to Mr. Andrew Dineen, my Head of Mission, Mr. Fabrizio Carabba, my Security Coordinator, and my civilian police officers and civilian staff. In particular, I wish to express my appreciation to Mr. Zbigniew Wiloszowisc, my Special Representative and Chief of Mission in Athens, and to Mr. John Chappelow, my representative on the ground in Cyprus, as well as to Mr. Andrew Dineen, my Head of Mission, Mr. Fabrizio Carabba, my Security Coordinator, and my civilian police officers and civilian staff.
The day began at the break of dawn with a briefing and the weigh-in. At 06:00hrs, individuals shuffled along a 5.4km course with 15.9kg kit, at the end of which they had to sit a “Tick Test” on the fundamentals of a peacekeeping mission and other UN general knowledge. The teams then separated and began individual events including, once again, the dreaded “Gun Run”; navigation, marksmanship, patrolling, equipment recognition and incident reaction, ending with the infamous obstacle course – and yes, the jerrycan remained included!

Two aspects made the competition very special: the interaction between the teams who applauded and cheered the efforts of fellow competitors and showed a true sense of esprit de corps through competitive adversity; and second the support of our glorious spectators, without whom the day would not have been such a great success. The event ended with a celebration in the International Cafeteria where FC Maj. Gen. Figoli presented awards. First place MFR team members each received a snazzy heart rate monitor and runners-up BRITCON members each received a head torch.

All teams produced impressive displays of courage and determination. Every competitor deserves recognition and mention in these pages, four of whom are highlighted here for a special effort made.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location 1</th>
<th>March - 5.4km Run</th>
<th>Team: HQ UNFICYP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location 2</td>
<td>March - 5.4km Run</td>
<td>Team: HQ UNFICYP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location 3</td>
<td>Equipment Recognition</td>
<td>Team: UNFICYP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location 3</td>
<td>Equipment Recognition</td>
<td>Team: UNFICYP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location 4</td>
<td>Reaction to Incident</td>
<td>Team: SLOVCON</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location 5</td>
<td>Navigation</td>
<td>Team: Force Troops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location 6</td>
<td>Equipment Recognition</td>
<td>Team: UNCIVPOL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Message from the Competition Author

To all the competitors including those involved in the preparation and running of the event and to the cheering crowds, I wish to thank you for your involvement and having made my term as Competition Author so very rewarding over the last year.

Next MSC planning and supervision for November 2005 and May 2006 has been handed over to the competent care of Lt. Col. Victor Nuñez, ARGCON. Good luck Victor, I am sure you will carry on with this UNFICYP competitive tradition in great style!

Maj. Chris Frazer

Paulo Vignolo (17) - The youngest competitor for May’s event, Vignolo produced an inspiring display for HQ UNFICYP and is soon to follow in his father’s footsteps when he joins the Argentine Officers Academy.

Sarah Staples (29, again) - For the second appearance in 12 months, Sarah graced the competition with her dazzling smile and energy. Sarah has publicly announced that she intends to compete for her third consecutive MSC in November 2005, alongside a new female recruit, Amanda Wright.

Peter Duineveld (49) - Peter’s large frame and his distinguished hair colour immediately draws attention. It was Peter’s performance however and high level of fitness that are deserving of recognition in this forum.

John van der Linde (43) - John delayed his repatriation to Holland this month with some annual leave he cashed in so that he could remain in Cyprus to participate in the competition. Hard to beat that for commitment!!

Final Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>UN Tick Test</th>
<th>Gun Run</th>
<th>OBS</th>
<th>NAV</th>
<th>Marksman-ship</th>
<th>Incident Reaction</th>
<th>Assault Course</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>MFR</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9.10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>BRITCON</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>5.9</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8 &amp; 8</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLOVCON</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5 &amp; 6</td>
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<td>75</td>
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<tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7 &amp; 5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>HUNCON</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6 &amp; 3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Force Troops</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6 &amp; 4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>34</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Sun Safety

Exposure to sun generally makes us feel better and provides us with Vitamin D. However, sunlight can be harmful. Protection from sun exposure is important all year round, but during the summer, especially when outdoor activities are planned for long periods of time, it is essential. The sun’s ultraviolet (UV) rays can cause skin damage during the hot season. The amount of exposure you get from UV radiation depends on several factors, such as the time of day, sky condition, cloud cover, reflection surface (e.g. water, sand).

Penetration of UV rays to the skin’s inner layer produces melanin, which becomes visible as a suntan. Some physicians consider tanning a response to cell surface (e.g. water, sand).

Some radiation is not blocked by the ozone layer and can cause sunburn and heatstroke, vision problems (cataracts) and skin cancer, attributed to over-exposure to UV radiation, particularly during the first 18 years of our life. Penetration of UV rays and damage to the skin's inner layer produces melanin, which becomes visible as a suntan. Melanoma is the most serious form of skin cancer, attributed to over-exposure to UV radiation, particularly during the first 18 years of our life.

Many civilians and military personnel work and exercise in the sun, often without protection against risks to skin and eyes from over-exposure to UV radiation. Other problems associated with overly excessive sunburn include heatstroke, vision problems (cataracts) and premature wrinkling.

When it comes to sun safety, remember: Prevention is better than cure.

To protect yourself from the sun:
- Wear hats with 10 cm brims that cover neck, ears, eyes and scalp. A tightly woven fabric such as canvas works best to protect your against UV rays. Generally, avoid straw hats with holes.
- Wear sunglasses with UV protection to reduce the risk of cataracts.
- Wear loose-fitting long-sleeved shirts and long pants, or wearing lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing in hot weather. Avoid alcoholic beverages in extreme heat because alcohol can cause dehydration.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing in hot weather so that your skin can cool through evaporation.
- Use sunscreen to help protect your skin while you are in the sun (SPF 15 or higher, depending on your skin type) – don’t forget to apply sunscreen at least 30 minutes before going into the sun (and re-apply every two to three hours while in the sun);
- Avoid direct exposure between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm.
- Do not get sunburned, then:
- Take a cool shower or bath or place wet, cool, wet wash rags on the burn;
- If blisters are present, dry bandages may help prevent infection;
- Avoid products that contain petroleum (e.g. Vaseline), benzocaine and lidocaine;
- If there are no blisters, moistened with anti-bacterial soap or gentle cream may be applied to relieve discomfort. While baby oil is a good moisturizer, it should not be used on the sun; Use cool, cotton clothes on sunburned areas.
- Prevention from sunburn is simple. Avoid too much sun.
- Be Water-Wise
  - Do not waste water by:
    - Taking a shower, not a bath;
    - Encourage and advise children not to mess around or play with water;
    - Taking a shower between 10.00 am and 6.00 pm;
    - Failing to repair leaking taps, hoses and plumbing in hot weather so that your skin can cool through evaporation.
- Save Energy
  - When temperatures soar, insects, especially mosquitoes, charge into action and can genuinely spoil your time outdoors and your sleep. Among the many ways of protecting yourself, try these:
    - Avoid using scented soaps, lotions, shampoos and deodorants (they attract insects);
    - Cover your skin as completely as possible when outdoors;
    - Avoid brightly coloured clothing – mosquitoes like blue;
    - Take frequent showers/baths;
    - Avoid flowers, dense vegetation and fields;
    - Check your home for insect nests and destroy them;
    - Use insect repellent, especially at night.

When treating bites, make sure you seek medical advice if anyone is allergic to bites or stings. If you are allergic, always carry an emergency kit with you and remember:

- Keep the area clean and dry;
- Do not scratch the bite and avoid infection;
- Leave the area/spot exposed to the air;
- Gently squeeze the spot with anti-bacterial soap or alcohol to extract the fluid;
- Apply calamine lotion or a baking soda paste on the bite or sting frequency until symptoms subside;
- Do not take any other pain medication unless prescribed by a doctor.

Forest Fire Prevention

Summer is the season of forest fires. Cyprus, once so rich in forests, is still considered to have some of the best woodlands in the eastern Mediterranean area. However, the combination of the island’s long, hot summers, its relatively high winds and the sloping terrain and wild vegetation expose the Troodos and Kyrenia mountain ranges to the danger of fires at this time of the year. One area is the buffer zone, where the slightest carelessness with a match, a cigarette or unregulated seasonal burn-off can trigger combustion in the tinderbox-dry vegetation resulting in the destruction of large areas of valuable afforestation.

It is worth mentioning that 93% of the forest fires over the last decade have been contributed to/caused by human error, with 7% due to malevolent arson.

People start fires and people can prevent them. If visiting a forested area, these tips can protect you, the forest and even your car and/or property:
- Obed local instructions and light fires only in permitted areas, such as camping sites;
- Keep all flammable objects away from fire/sunlight;
- Carefully dispose of hot charcoal;
- Do not take aspirin or other pain medication unless prescribed by a doctor;
- Do not take any other pain medication unless prescribed by a doctor.

If you do get sunburn, then:
- Take a cool shower or bath or place wet, cool, wash rags on the burn;
- If blisters are present, dry bandages may help prevent infection;
- Avoid products that contain petroleum (e.g. Vaseline), benzocaine and lidocaine;
- If there are no blisters, moistened with anti-bacterial soap or gentle cream may be applied to relieve discomfort. While baby oil is a good moisturizer, it should not be used on the sun; Use cool, cotton clothes on sunburned areas.
- Prevention from sunburn is simple. Avoid too much sun.
- Be Water-Wise
  - Do not waste water by:
    - Over-watering turf, gardens and landscapes;
    - Watering between 10:00 am and 6.00 pm;
    - Failing to repair leaking taps, hoses and plumbing in general.
- Instead:
  - Take a shower, not a bath;
  - Encourage and advise children not to mess around or play with water;
  - Wash the car with a sponge and a bucket of water;
  - Use a broom, not a hose, to clean verandas and pavements.
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  - When temperatures soar, insects, especially mosquitoes, charge into action and can genuinely spoil your time outdoors and your sleep. Among the many ways of protecting yourself, try these:
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    - Check your home for insect nests and destroy them;
    - Use insect repellent, especially at night.

When treating bites, make sure you seek medical advice if anyone is allergic to bites or stings. If you are allergic, always carry an emergency kit with you and remember:

- Keep the area clean and dry;
- Do not scratch the bite and avoid infection;
- Leave the area/spot exposed to the air;
- Gently squeeze the spot with anti-bacterial soap or alcohol to extract the fluid;
- Apply calamine lotion or a baking soda paste on the bite or sting frequency until symptoms subside;
- Do not take any other pain medication unless prescribed by a doctor.

Protection Against Insect Bites

When temperatures soar, insects, especially mosquitoes, charge into action and can genuinely spoil your time outdoors and your sleep. Among the many ways of protecting yourself, try these:
- Avoid using scented soaps, lotions, shampoos and deodorants (they attract insects);
- Cover your skin as completely as possible when outdoors;
- Avoid brightly coloured clothing – mosquitoes like blue;
- Take frequent showers/baths;
- Avoid flowers, dense vegetation and fields;
- Check your home for insect nests and destroy them;
- Use insect repellent, especially at night.

When treating bites, make sure you seek medical advice if anyone is allergic to bites or stings. If you are allergic, always carry an emergency kit with you and remember:

- Keep the area clean and dry;
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- Do not take any other pain medication unless prescribed by a doctor.

Forest Fire Prevention

Summer is the season of forest fires. Cyprus, once so rich in forests, is still considered to have some of the best woodlands in the eastern Mediterranean area. However, the combination of the island’s long, hot summers, its relatively high winds and the sloping terrain and wild vegetation expose the Troodos and Kyrenia mountain ranges to the danger of fires at this time of the year. One area is the buffer zone, where the slightest carelessness with a match, a cigarette or unregulated seasonal burn-off can trigger combustion in the tinderbox-dry vegetation resulting in the destruction of large areas of valuable afforestation. It is worth mentioning that 93% of the forest fires over the last decade have been contributed to/caused by human error, with 7% due to malevolent arson.

People start fires and people can prevent them. If visiting a forested area, these tips can protect you, the forest and even your car and/or property:
- Obed local instructions and light fires only in permitted areas, such as camping sites;
- Keep all flammable objects away from fire/sunlight;
- Carefully dispose of hot charcoal;
- Do not take aspirin or other pain medication unless prescribed by a doctor.
UNFICYP Finns prepare to leave

One of the mission’s longest-standing calendar events ended on 6 June when the Finnish Contingent hosted its final reception, bringing to a close a tradition of hospitality and graciousness dating from March 1964, when Finnish peacekeepers first came to Cyprus to join the mission ranks. Back then there were 1,200 soldiers in FINCON. Now, as the contingent enters its final months of peacekeeping service on the island, the number of serving peacekeepers is two. This figure is soon to be halved with the departure on 1 July of Lt. Col. Jouko Hongisto, UNFICYP HQ Liaison Officer. Last man out will be Capt. Juha Markus, Camp Commandant, who heads home to Finland on 17 September 2005.

Bearing all this in mind, the 6 June reception in Nicosia held a special and poignant significance for those attending. Some guests noted that Finland’s National Flag Day had been celebrated just two days earlier, on 4 June. Others were heard to observe, wryly no doubt, that, given the spirit and reputation of Finnish hospitality, it is perhaps a good thing for the wellbeing of guests in general that Finland’s National Day celebration takes place a good six months later, on 6 December.

The Finnish Ambassador to Cyprus, Mr. Risto Piipponen, the Chief of Mission, SRSG Zbigniew Wlosowicz, and the Chief of Mission, SRSG Cyprus, Mr. Risto Piipponen, all paid tribute to Zbigniew Wlosowicz, and the Chief of Mission, SRSG Cyprus, Mr. Risto Piipponen, and the Chief of Mission paid tribute to the memory of the one Finnish peacekeeper who died in action while on peacekeeping service on the island. He also noted how Finland had provided UNFICYP with two Force Commanders – Lt. Gen. I.A.E. Martola (May 1966–December 1969) and Brig. Gen. Ahti Vartiainen (August 1994–February 1997). The last Finnish battalion withdrew from the mission in 1977 and the Finnish engineers had packed up their equipment in June 2001, he said.

Mr. Wlosowicz thanked Lt. Col. Hongisto and Capt. Markus, the two remaining members of the contingent, for maintaining the professional standards and exemplary service associated with FINCON. He also thanked Col. Kangasmäki for having travelled from Helsinki to grace the occasion. The Chief of Mission asked the officers convey back to Finland the mission’s “warm appreciation and gratitude” for the support given to UNFICYP and the UN down all these years. The mission has been a richer place because of you. It will be a poorer place without you”, he concluded.

UNCIVPOL Salutes its ...

... departing Indians

Insp. T.P. Krishnabalan, Insp. Premjit Kotsnani and Sub Insp. Bimal Uppal of the first Indian Contingent to join UNFICYP have come to the end of their 19-month mission in Cyprus. After a number of farewell parties, their final mug-out took place on 17 June at the CIVPOL club. Bimal Uppal, Staff Officer to SPA, made a touching speech on his memorable experiences during his tour and the support he received from all levels. The popularity of Premjit Kotsnani, a national basketball player from the Indian Police, was obvious when the Mukhtar of Dherinia presented him with a T-shirt for his outstanding relationship with the local authorities. But Balan, the violinist, stole the show when he played the national anthems of the five UNCIVPOL participating nations as a tribute to all colleagues and their fellow citizens.

Carla Van Maris, SPA, and Insp. Satwinder Singh Lally paid tribute to their departing Indian colleagues and presented them with their mugs.

Indian Contingent Commander Dilip Dudhane and seven INDICIVPOL members will continue their work with UNFICYP.

... infamous Aussie Five

At the same mug-out on 17 June, UNCIVPOL also bade farewell to five Australian colleagues who made up part of the 81st Contingent. Bob (CAPLO and then Dhenia), Graeme (Famagusta), Ann (Pyla), Bruce (Ledra) and Charlie (also Ledra) were all renowned for their excellent working relationships with all contingents, and their wonderful Australian sense of humour will be sorely missed.

Their Contingent Commander, Sen. Sgt. Graham Leary, spoke eloquently on each member and their achievements. The SPA, Carla van Maris, then presented the Aussies with their mugs.

They all departed from UNFICYP on 26 June, apart from Bruce and his wife Debbie who will tour Europe before returning to Australia.

... and its Dutch “Twins”

On 27 May, UNCIVPOL organised a BBQ and mug-out to say goodbye to two Dutch members, Senior Sergeant Peter Duineveld and Constable 1e class Andre van der Kolk.

Peter was assigned as station commander of the Linou UNCIVPOL, police station in Linou Sector 1, a position he held for six months and a job he took very seriously. Peter was regarded as a “policeman to the bone”, a man anyone could rely on.

Andre van der Kolk was assigned as a track patrol officer at Ledra, Sector 2. Like Peter, Andre was also serious about his work. Being a traffic man in the Dutch police force, Andre often wondered how Cyprus traffic worked, and during his stay on this island, he never quite figured it out. His sense of humour and good mood made it a pleasure to have him around.

Andre and Peter, from those who served with you, good-bye and thank you for being here.

Const. Jack van der Berg
Russian FM’s Visit

On 8 June, the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, Mr. Sergey Lavrov, met with SRSG Zbigniew Wlosowicz at the Ledra Palace Hotel. Afterwards, the Chief of Mission escorted FM Lavrov, Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Vladimir A. Chizhov, and Russia’s Ambassador to Cyprus, Mr. Andrey Nesterenko, on a short tour of the Green Line.

Mountain to Sea Bike Challenge

When the OC of the Sector 2 Ops Bty, Maj Wilkinson, asked if anyone wanted to compete in a charity bike race, Lt. Gray and Lt. Waddell volunteered immediately. Surely an event that led from the top of the mountain to the sea would provide some great downhill mountain biking and some stunning views? After some recruiting, two additional three-man teams were raised from Sector 2 and two from MFR. On the day of the race, we met up with the 120 other competitors high up in the Troodos Mountains. This year’s Mountain to Sea (M2S) Challenge began in a friendly, but competitive spirit. The initial stage was a pure adrenalin rush as we raced at speed over the loose stone surface on a narrow track, bordered by a rock wall on one side and a sheer drop on the other! We made good time and passed five teams on the descent. However, then came a testing uphill section that had us wondering where the “downhill” had gone! The main section of the race took us into Mandria village where some local prankster switched the race signs prior to our arrival, thus testing our navigation.

Undeterred, we pedalled on, alternating challenging downhill sections with seemingly endless uphill slogs. Some of these were so steep they had to be walked by all but the most accomplished cyclists. Having repaired a double puncture, a gorge crossing followed, requiring competitors to carry their bikes several hundred metres over rocky obstacles and across a river. With another uphill section completed and the end finally in sight, the team suffered two more punctures that cost us valuable time.

Repairs made, thanks to our now very slick drills, we crossed the final tarmac stretch to the beach where a 40-metre swim awaited us. The Med felt cool and refreshing, and we soon collapsed on the beach having covered the 55km distance in just over five hours. One of our other S2 teams matched our time, whilst the third S2 team completed the race in 4:49 – a truly impressive achievement.

Not only was it a great experience and one of the hardest events we have ever taken part in, but over £1,000 was raised to buy fishing nets to replace those lost by fishermen in the Asian Tsunami.

Lt. Richard Waddell

Lt. Alex Gray

Sector 2 CO Awarded OBE

Lt. Col. Neil Marshall, Commander Sector 2, was presented with the OBE at Buckingham Palace on 27 May for services rendered in Iraq (Operation TELIC), in addition to his outstanding contributions to land capability in nine other operations worldwide.

In June 2004, Lt. Col. Marshall deployed as Deputy C3 Information Operations to the Multi-National Force Headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, before assuming command of 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery in November 2004 and subsequently deploying to Cyprus as CO Sector 2 in April this year.

UN System - Changes at the Top

Kemal Dervis, the former Turkish Finance Minister and World Bank veteran, has become the new head of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Mr. Dervis is the first person from a recipient country to become UNDP Administrator. He succeeds Mark Malloch Brown, who was appointed Chief of Staff to the SG in January 2005.

UNICEF, the former Secretary of the US Department of Agriculture, will succeed Mark Malloch Brown as the new Director-General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Antonio Guterres, former Portuguese Prime Minister and High Commissioner for Refugees, succeeds Mr. Ruud Lubbers of the Netherlands, Mr. Guterres having been in the post since 2002.

Ibrahim Gambari, who served as the head of the UN Secretariat on Peace Support Operations (DPA) from 2003 to 2004, will succeed Mr. Michel Koenig as Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, an position he has held since 2003.

The atmosphere was lively and buoyant with a music and dance performance before the main event. Despite the heat, everyone was raring to go. 1 RHA had a mix of competitors with several runners in the hunt for prizes and other members of the regiment running as individuals or in troops dressed in boots, combats and blue UN T-Shirts. It was a splendid sight to see so many UN competitors.

The race set off at a rapid pace. Very quickly a gap opened up between the front runners and the rest of the field. With so many experienced competitors, this was no surprise. Several runners from Sector 2 were in the lead group, ably led by Sgt. Andrews and the CO, Lt. Col. Marshall.

As every kilometre passed, the pace quickened. Punicos Stylianou crossed the line first in the very fast time of 16 minutes 30 seconds. Sector 2 performed splendidly, winning four of the ages categories. Sgt. Andrews finished fourth overall and Lt. Bdr. Fosten, L.Bdr. Bullock and Gne. Barr all won prizes.

The sight of a troop crossing the line in perfect step, all smartly dressed in UN blue, was memorable and a shining example of the quality of the soldiers who represent the United Nations in Cyprus.

Well done to all who took part – not everyone won a trophy, but nevertheless all competitors should be proud.