

**Water - too precious to waste**



### **Be water-wise**

**Do not waste water by:**

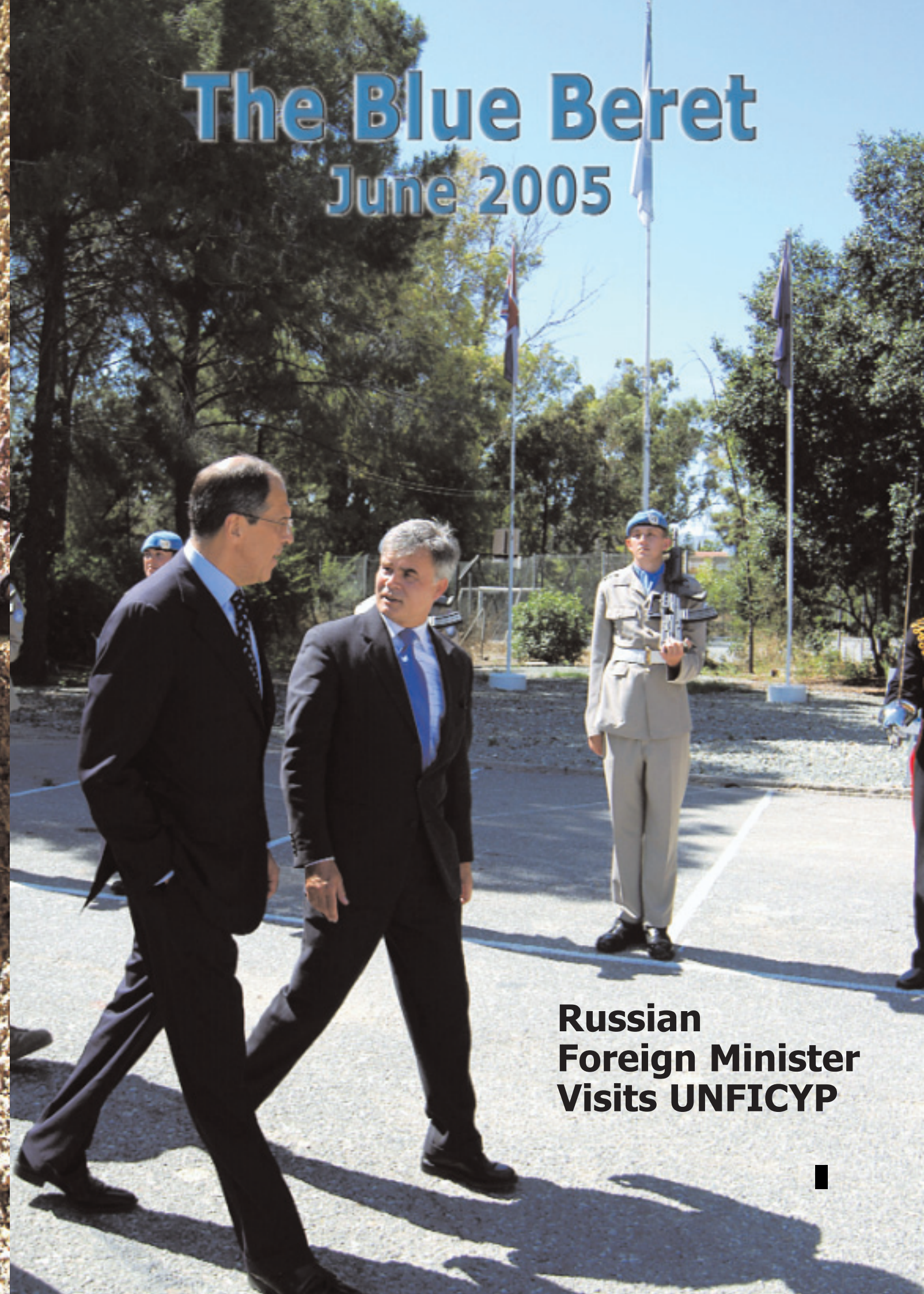
- Over-watering trees, gardens and landscapes;
- Watering between 10:00 am and 6:00 pm;
- Failing to repair leaking taps, hoses and plumbing in general.

**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.

# **The Blue Beret**

## **June 2005**



**Russian  
Foreign Minister  
Visits UNFICYP**



## THE BLUE BERET

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## Editorial

June 27th marked the 60th anniversary of the UN Charter. As the Secretary-General told the General Assembly, the UN has worked hard to live up to the pledges so memorably spelled out in the preamble to the Charter.

Where we could, we averted the scourge of war and otherwise sought to resolve conflict and build peace. We codified fundamental human rights. We enabled many women to assert their equal rights with men, and saw many small nations take their place in the GA, on equal terms with their former colonial masters. We sought to establish conditions wherein justice and respect for law could flourish and we did our utmost to promote social progress, and better standards of life, in larger freedom.

There have been many successes.

- We have kept the peace in many places.
- We have helped banish smallpox and polio from almost every country.
- We have given millions of children an education their parents could not dream of.
- We are helping with elections in countries from Afghanistan to Zambia.
- We have brought relief to victims of disasters like the Indian Ocean tsunami.

We have also had failures – the worst, perhaps, our collective failure to prevent the genocide in Rwanda.

Today brings new threats and challenges, but also new opportunities. If we are to attain the Charter's hallowed "better standards of life in larger freedom", we must advance on the three fronts of development, security and human rights.

In September, heads of state and government will be called upon to reach those decisions when they gather for the 2005 World Summit.

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**Front Cover: Visit of Russian Foreign  
Minister to UNFICYP**

**Back Cover: Water – too precious to waste**

# 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,

"Taking note with satisfaction of the lifting of restrictions of movement of UNFICYP by the Turkish Cypriot side and the Turkish forces, and taking note in this connection that UNFICYP enjoys good cooperation from both sides,

"Welcoming the fact that over seven million crossings by Greek Cypriots to the north and Turkish Cypriots to the south have taken place, and encouraging the opening of additional crossing points,

"Expressing concern at the increase in crime across the ceasefire line and urging both sides to increase cooperation in order to address this issue,

"Welcoming all efforts to promote bicomunal contacts and events, including, inter alia, on the part of the United Nations, and urging the two sides to promote further bicomunal contacts and to remove any obstacles to such contacts,

"Echoing the Secretary-General's gratitude to the Government of Cyprus and the Government of Greece for their voluntary contributions to the funding of UNFICYP, and his request for further voluntary contributions from other countries and organizations,

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

"1. Re-affirms all its relevant resolutions on Cyprus, in particular resolution 1251 (1999) of 29 June 1999 and subsequent resolutions;

"2. Decides to extend the mandate of UNFICYP for a further period ending 15 December 2005;

"3. Calls on the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkish forces to restore to Strovilia the military status quo which existed there prior to 30 June 2000;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on implementation of this resolution by 1 December 2005;

"5. 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;

"6. Decides to remain seized of the matter."

## Visit of USG Prendergast



USG Sir Kieran Prendergast, on a visit to Cyprus for talks, was met on his arrival at Larnaca Airport on 30 May by UNFICYP Chief of Mission Zbigniew Wlosowicz.

During his stay in Cyprus, Sir Kieran, accompanied by the Chief of Mission, met three times with the leader of the Greek Cypriot community, Mr. Tassos Papadopoulos, and twice with the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mehmet Ali Talat.

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).



# SG's Report on the United Nations Operation in Cyprus

(S/2005/353, 6 June 2005)

## I. INTRODUCTION

In resolution 1568 (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 my recommendations for the amendment of the 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, bringing up to date the record of activities carried out by UNFICYP pursuant to Security Council resolution 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964 and subsequent Council resolutions.

2. It also contains the findings of the review of UNFICYP, carried out by a joint UNFICYP-Headquarters review team headed respectively by my Special Representative, Mr. Zbigniew Wlosowicz and by the Acting Director of the Europe and Latin America Division, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Wolfgang Weisbrod-Weber. The joint team assessed the restructuring of UNFICYP and the implementation of its new concept of operations as well as developments on the ground and the operational environment of the force. On the island, between 6 and 11 May, the joint team sought and took into account the views of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot sides, consulted with representatives of the diplomatic community and the UN family, and held discussions with the Representative of the European Commission.

3. UNFICYP continues to be led by my Special Representative and Chief of Mission, Mr. Zbigniew Wlosowicz, assisted by the Force Commander Major General Hebert Figoli (Uruguay). The strength of the military component stood at 869 all ranks. The strength of the police component stood at 52.

## II. GENERAL BACKGROUND

4. 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, have not been resumed and there is 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. Separate meetings of the leader of the Turkish Republican Party (CTP, a member of the ruling coalition in the north), with the leader of the Progressive Party of Working People (AKEL, 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.

5. 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 issue.

6. In the reporting period, there was no substantive change in the position of the sides on my mission of good offices. The Turkish Cypriot leadership and the Government of Turkey have called for a resumption of talks and a solution based on "The Comprehensive Settlement of the Cyprus Problem", approved by the Turkish Cypriot side but rejected by the Greek Cypriot side in the April 2004 referenda. On 9 May, in Moscow, I had the opportunity for informal consultations with President Papadopoulos and the

Prime Minister of Turkey. Following these contacts, a Greek Cypriot delegation arrived in New York on 16 May for preliminary discussions to explore the possibility of resuming negotiations. Consultations were in progress at the time of finalizing this report.



*The review team*

7. On 17 December 2004, the European Union (EU) offered Turkey the date of 3 October 2005 to start accession talks. This offer implied an obligation for Turkey to extend the customs union agreement to the ten new EU member States, including Cyprus.

8. On the island, the benefits of Cyprus' EU membership are becoming manifest. However, in the area of property, it has opened up new fronts of litigation and acrimony. Already, hundreds of Greek Cypriot claims against Turkey for the loss of property rights in the north are pending before the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Additionally, in 2005, Greek Cypriots approached courts in the south for EU arrest warrants against foreigners buying or selling Greek Cypriot property in the north. In this regard, Turkish Cypriot authorities have warned that they would arrest and detain those attempting to serve court summons. The prospect of an increase of litigations in property cases on either side poses a serious threat to people-to-people relationships and to the reconciliation process. Property rights continue to be an extremely sensitive issue on both sides and it is widely believed that only a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem can bring closure to the property issue.

9. The work of the Committee on the Missing Persons (CMP), which resumed on 31 August 2004, is continuing. During three missions of the "Inforce Foundation" (a UK-based forensic agency) in October 2004, January and May 2005 the modalities of an exhumation and identification programme were discussed. At the request of the CMP, the "Inforce Foundation" conducted a site assessment between 5 and 12 January 2005. However, critical provisions pertaining to the 1981 Terms of Reference of the Committee and the 31 July 1997 agreement have remained unimplemented.

## 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 continued to be stable. The two sides refrained from major military exercises, and military parades were kept at a low profile. There were no indications of an increase of defence spending nor acquisition of new major equipment; the defence budget in the south has declined. The rotation of Turkish troops and their equipment did not imply a reinforcement. The number of Turkish troops 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 soldier with an air gun, and a small but provocative exercise by Turkish forces/Turkish Cypriot security forces (TF/TCSF) 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 National Guard and the Turkish forces to withdraw from selected positions in close proximity. This proposal was rejected by both sides, but UNFICYP will continue its efforts in this direction.



*MOLOs in action*

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 Cypriot 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 and destroyed at a demolition site in the United Nations Protected Area. There has been progress in UNFICYP's negotiations on the arrangements for the clearing of Turkish forces minefields, but full agreement has not been reached yet.

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

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 strength at that time 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). In

accordance with the amended concept of operations, UNFICYP has reduced the number of operational sites from 12 to 4 camps, from 17 to 2 permanent observation posts, and from 21 to 9 patrol bases. The force increased the frequency of patrols and extended their duration to prevent operational gaps stemming from the closure of static observation posts. The average number of patrols prior to February 2005 was approximately 50 per day; this number rose to approximately 200 per day between February and April 2005.

17. While the overall reduction of the number of incidents is a positive indicator that the reduction in strength and the amendment of the concept of operations have not led to a deterioration of the security situation, there are indications of anxiety on the part of some of the civilian inhabitants of the buffer zone as well as expressions of concern by both sides about the thinning out of static positions in some specific locations. UNFICYP is taking these indications seriously and will address them to the extent possible within the new force structure. UNFICYP is also planning to increase its air patrolling and to make more efficient use of technology for surveillance.

18. Both opposing forces responded positively to the introduction of a military observer and liaison group within the force. Twelve officers were trained and deployed in January 2005 and have started to be involved in liaison at the regimental level and the mediation of incidents. A second group of 16 officers has been trained and full operating capability will soon be reached. The experience with this new type of officer is positive and they have already added value to the mission by improving the flow of information and the resolution of incidents. However, the concept and modus operandi is still new and more time will be required for it to reach its full potential.

19. The review team found that the amended, more mobile concept of operations allows UNFICYP to maintain the same level of mandate implementation with the present reduced troop strength. The introduction of a military observer and liaison group has started to adequately address and contribute to an increased emphasis on liaison, observation and mediation rather than the interposition of forces, for which UNFICYP still retains some capability. The review team also considered whether further reductions in force strength would be possible at this stage, but concluded that the new concept is still in its early stages and more time and experience will be needed to assess its full impact before taking decisions in this regard.

### B. Contribution to the restoration of law and order and a return to normal conditions

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, have been delayed because of the need to clear the areas of landmines and the difficulty in establishing co-operation on practicalities. However, the Zodia/Bostanci crossing is expected to open soon.

21. While movement of people has been steady, trade across the buffer zone has been limited by technical and political hurdles, with goods worth less than half a million Cyprus pounds (about 1 million US dollars) crossing the line since the EU's green line regulation came into effect last year. In February 2005, the European Council decided



# SG's Report on the United Nations Operation in Cyprus

(S/2005/353, 6 June 2005)

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 reciprocated the measure with regard to personal goods. The Greek Cypriot side has permitted buses and taxis registered in the north and supplied with the south's documents 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.

22. 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 agrees to accept it only together with the Commission's recommendation on direct trade between the north of the island and the EU. The Greek Cypriot side continues to oppose such direct trade.

23. Official contact between the sides is hampered by a high degree of mistrust. On 15 January 2005, three members of a Turkish Cypriot family living in the south were killed on the Larnaca Highway in the south. Eight suspects were arrested in the north while all evidence remained in the south. UNFICYP's efforts to assist the sides to bring the suspects to justice proved unsuccessful, and all suspects were released in the north. This case is an illustration of the growing number of crimes across the cease-fire line, such as smuggling, drug trafficking, illegal immigration and human trafficking. These problems are implicit in the expanding inter-communal contacts, which though positive, have also the potential for adverse consequences if the present lack of cooperation between the sides persists.

24. The continuing absence of official contacts between the sides has accentuated UNFICYP's role in promoting bicomunal contacts. Though people from either side can meet freely since the opening of the crossings in 2003, the impartiality of the Ledra Palace venue and the United Nations umbrella are considered indispensable for sensitive humanitarian and other meetings, including those of political parties from the north and the south. It is hoped that UNFICYP's auspices would lead to contacts between the sides, without prejudice to their political positions, on humanitarian and related issues generating a climate of trust and easing tensions. During the reporting period, UNFICYP provided facilities for 57 bicomunal events, including those implemented by the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Office for Project Services, bringing together 2,500 Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

25. UNFICYP's support of projects designed to maximize opportunities for civil use of the buffer zone continued. UNFICYP facilitated projects in the infrastructure, farming and ecological areas including the construction of a gas bottle storage facility in the buffer zone in Sector 2, the building of a garage and store near Dherynia, the extension of stables on the Pyla plateau, the maintenance of a road between Mammari and Dhenia, the cleaning of the Klimos river bed as well as land consolidation schemes and the drilling of water wells, among others. The restoration of the 14th century Venetian castle in the mixed buffer zone village of Pyla, which was facilitated by UNFICYP and funded by the EU, was completed in December 2004. UNFICYP sought and obtained agreement from the village's football associations to revive the mixed youth football team, disbanded in 1968.

26. UNFICYP continued to carry out its mandated humanitarian tasks in support of the 404 Greek Cypriots and 149 Maronites living in the northern part of the island.

At the end of November 2004, UNFICYP arranged for an icon to be brought from the south for the service at Apostolos Andreas monastery. Additionally, through UNFICYP's mediation, permission was granted for a second priest to be installed in the Karpas. In spring 2005, UNFICYP obtained permission from the Turkish Cypriot side for the remainder of the full complement of teachers for the Greek Cypriot elementary and secondary schools at Rizokarpaso.

27. In March 2005, the Greek Cypriot side committed to UNFICYP to open a Turkish secondary school in the south. 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.



Opening the Pyla castle

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 instituted 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 have also started coordinating patrols with 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 humanitarian visits to UNFICYP's liaison office in Limassol, in keeping with the practice of civilian police officers accompanying UNFICYP's humanitarian patrols and welfare visits to the Greek Cypriots in the Karpas and the Maronite villages in the north and to the Turkish Cypriot quarter in Paphos in the south. The UNFICYP liaison post at the Greek Cypriot village of Leonarissio in the Karpas continues to be manned by military staff, but civilian police officers are expected to take over in September 2005, providing an opportunity to strengthen relations with their counterparts there.

31. Civilian police tasks are expected to rise with the expected opening of additional crossing points, in particular the Zodia/Bostanci crossing, where UNFICYP's civilian police will need to patrol the road through the buffer zone, since neither side exercises jurisdiction beyond their respective cease-fire lines. In addition, as mentioned earlier (see para. 23 above), there is an increase in crime across the cease-fire line which, while primarily a responsibility of the two sides, will also add to the workload of UNFICYP's civilian police component.

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. It is therefore important that member states make available the additional officers needed to bring the actual strength of UNFICYP's civilian police component up to the authorized strength of 69.

## IV. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

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, appropriated for UNFICYP the amount of \$51.9 million, inclusive of \$2.2 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 one third of the cost of the Force, equivalent to \$16.4 million, from the Government of Cyprus and the voluntary contribution of \$6.5 million from the Government of Greece. Other countries and organizations might wish to do likewise, in order to lower the portion of the cost of UNFICYP covered by assessed contributions.

34. My proposed budget for the maintenance of UNFICYP for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006, which amounts to some \$44.3 million, is currently under consideration by the General Assembly, with its action thereon expected shortly.

35. As at 30 April 2005, the total outstanding assessed contributions to the special account for UNFICYP for the period from 16 June 1993 to 15 June 2005 amounted to \$14.1 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at the same date amounted to \$2,218.8 million.

## OBSERVATIONS

36. The situation in Cyprus has been calm but, in the absence of a viable political process, the distrust between the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot side has persisted, as has the military posture and the concomitant perception of threat. In this situation, I continue to believe that the presence of UNFICYP on the island remains necessary for the maintenance of the ceasefire and to foster conditions conducive to a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem. The review conducted in pursuance

of resolution 1568 (2004) found that this view is shared by both sides on the island, as well as by the guarantor powers and other interested parties.

37. UNFICYP enjoys good cooperation from both sides and, in this connection, I note with satisfaction the lifting of restrictions of movement of UNFICYP by the Turkish Cypriot side.

38. I share the view of the review team that the restructuring of UNFICYP and the amended concept of operations 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 to reach its full potential yet. With the strengthening of the civil affairs and civilian police components in UNFICYP, the increase in mobility in the military component, and the inclusion of a military observation and liaison group, the mission is moving in the right direction. However, more time will be required to assess the full impact of the present changes and the need for any further adjustments. 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.



Briefing the Security Council

39. 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 present authorized strength and concept of 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.

40. 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, I intend to dispatch on an ad hoc basis a senior official from the Secretariat to visit Cyprus, Greece and Turkey to assess the situation on the ground in light of recent political developments.

41. In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation to Mr. Zbigniew Wlosowicz, my Special Representative and Chief of Mission in Cyprus, the Force Commander, Major-General Figoli, and to the men and women serving in UNFICYP for the efficiency and dedication with which they have discharged the responsibilities entrusted to them by the Security Council.



Exercise

Unifying Challenge

24 May 2005

Military Skills Competition

**Competition** dynamics changed a little this year to take into account the reduction in UNFICYP’s force. The number of teams remained unchanged at eight for the May 2005 challenge and as is customary, each sector was represented along with teams from UNCIVPOL and MFR. A new team was formed called Force Troops which included members from the FMPU, Engineering and UN Flight.

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.

**Location 1**  
**March - 5.4km-run**  
with minimum 15.9kg kit  
Team: ARGCON  
March fastest tme, Sgt. Luis Atalaya, Peru

**Location 3**  
**Equipment Recognition**

**Location 4**  
**Reaction to Incident**  
Team: SLOVCON

**Reaction to Incident, Simulated Casualty (left)**  
Team: UNCIVPOL

**Location 3**  
**Gun Run LUV Push**  
Team: Force Troops

**UNPA**

**Location 1**  
**Assault Course**  
Team: HUNCON

**Location 3**  
**Marksmanship /Checking targets**  
Team: MFR

**Location 6**  
**Marksmanship /Check Zero & Snap Shoot Stand**  
Team: MFR

**Location 1**  
**Assault Course**  
Team: BRITCON

**Location 5**  
**Navigation**  
Team: Force Troops

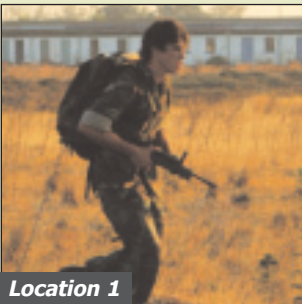
**Message from the Competition Author**

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!

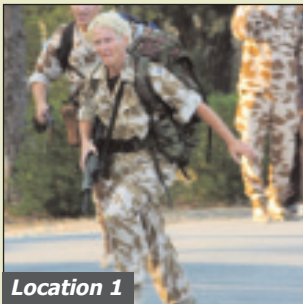
*Maj. Chris Frazer*

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.



**Location 1**  
**March - 5.4km**  
Team: HQ UNFICYP

**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.



**Location 1**  
**March - 5.4km**  
Team: HQ UNFICYP

**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.



**Location 3**  
**Equipment Recognition**  
Team: UNCIVPOL

**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.



**Location 3**  
**Equipment Recognition**  
Team: UNCIVPOL

**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

Team	Rank	March	UN Tick Test	Gun Run	OBS	NAV	Marks-manship	Incident Reaction	Assault Course	Points
MFR	1	9	10	8	7	7	9 & 10	10	9	79
BRITCON	2	10	5	10	9	8	8 & 7	10	10	77
HQ UNFICYP	3	8	9	6	8	10	5 & 9	8	8	71
ARGCON	4	7	4	7	10	6	10 & 8	5	4	61
SLOVCON	5	6	8	9	7	3	5 & 6	6	7	57
UNCIVPOL	6	5	7	4	7	9	7 & 5	7	5	56
HUNCON	7	4	6	5	3	5	3 & 3	3	6	38
Force Troops	8	3	3	3	4	4	6 & 4	4	3	34



# "Chill Out" ... This Summer with These Tips

**S**ummer brings new challenges, whether on duty or at leisure. On or off duty, we know that Cyprus is blessed with plenty of sunshine, sandy beaches, refreshing mountain scenery, picturesque villages and historic monuments.

*Let's not forget that this idyllic season*

## 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 outdoors for long periods of time, it is essential. The sun's ultra-violet rays (UV) 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, season, altitude, 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 injury. 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 you 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 made from tightly woven fabrics. A wet T-shirt offers much less UV protection than a dry one;
- 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.

### 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, moisturizing cream may be applied to relieve discomfort. While baby oil is a good moisturizer, it shouldn't be used in the sun;
- Use cool, cotton clothes on sunburned areas.

**Prevention from sunburn is simple.  
Avoid too much sun.**

*also brings with it a number of potentially harmful effects. Even in this time of relaxation and unwinding, we should be wary of the hazards of the holiday season.*

*Hopefully, these tips will help you cope with the challenges of patrol and other duties in the summer months and add to leisuretime benefits.*

## Rehydrate – Don't Dehydrate!

- Drink, drink, drink water! Kidney stones are more common during the summer months because warmer weather causes dehydration and increases the concentration of substances in the urine.
- Watch out for rising temperatures which may cause heat stroke. Non-specific symptoms of heatstroke can include dizziness, weakness, nausea, headache, irritability and a sensation of fever.
- Avoid strenuous work or over-exercise in hot weather. If you do exercise, take regular breaks so your body has a chance to cool down.
- Avoid alcoholic beverages in extreme heat because alcohol can cause dehydration.
- Wear lightweight, light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing in hot weather so that your skin can cool through evaporation.



## Be Water-Wise

Do not waste water by:

- Over-watering trees, 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.

## Save Energy

Peak summer months put the electrical infrastructure at all UNFICYP Camps under tremendous strain. To avoid system overload and failure:

- A/Cs in accommodation buildings **must be turned OFF** during normal working hours. Duty shift workers' accommodation shall be the only exception.
- A/Cs in working areas and offices **must be turned OFF** outside of normal working hours.
- The A/C temperature should not be set lower than 24 degrees (Celsius);
- When the A/C is in use, maximise by keeping all windows and external doors closed and, where possible, internal doors as well;
- For window unit "box type" A/Cs: **DO NOT** turn the temperature knob to "maximum" or select "re-circulating out air" mode;
- For split unit A/Cs: **DO NOT** select "Turbo" running mode (if applicable), and select "Auto" running mode (if applicable).

Remember, unauthorized connection/installation of electrical equipment including A/Cs may cause unacceptable overloading of the electrical network.

## Protection Against Insect Bites

When temperatures soar, insects, especially mosquitos, 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 – mosquitos like blue;
- Take frequent showers/baths;
- Avoid flowers, dense woods 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 scrub the bite and avoid irritation;
- Leave the area/spot exposed to the air;
- Gently squeeze the spot with anti-bacterial soap or disinfectant;
- To reduce pain and/or swelling, apply ice or a cold pack;
- Apply calamine lotion or a baking soda paste on the bite or sting frequently until symptoms subside;
- Do not take aspirin or other pain medication unless prescribed by a doctor.

## Forest Fire Prevention

Summer is the season of forest fires. Cyprus, once 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:

- Obey 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
- Drown all fires;
- Carefully extinguish smoking materials;
- When possible, have firefighting tools nearby;
- Attend the fire until it is completely out
- Don't burn material if there is a wind;
- Clear the area around the burn pile;
- Do not smoke while traversing forest land.

## Emergency firefighting telephone numbers:

<b>South:</b>	<b>Forest Fire Report:</b>	<b>1407</b>
	<b>Fire Brigade</b>	<b>199</b>
<b>North:</b>	<b>Forest Fire Report:</b>	<b>177</b>
	<b>Fire Brigade</b>	<b>199</b>



## 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 Force Commander Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli all paid tribute to FINCON's distinguished record.

Col. Vesa Kangasmaki, Commandant of the Finnish Forces International Centre, who travelled specially to Cyprus for the occasion, spoke from the perspective of Finland's commitment to UN peacekeeping in

Col. V. Kangasmaki (second from right) with the COO, UN LO (NG), CM and FC



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Guests gather for the Finn's final reception

general and as someone who had served with UNFICYP in the past.

In his remarks, 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 that 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.

HUNCON's Maj. Szilard Varyölygi with wife Timea and daughter Dorka at the reception



## UNCIVPOL Salutes its ... ... departing Indians

Insp. T.P. Krishnabalan, Insp. Premjit Kotnani and Sub. Insp. Bimal Jit 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 Jit 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 Kotnani, 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 INDCIVPOL members will continue their work with UNFICYP.



From the left: Insp. Premjit, Insp. Balan and Insp. Bimal

*The Blue Beret* apologises for an error in the last edition of the magazine. As we all know, Dilip Dudhane of INDCIVPOL is a Superintendent, and not an Inspector, as printed.

## ... 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.



Sgt. Bob Tait, Sgt. Graeme McCauley, Sgt. Ann McKenna, Sgt. Bruce Nankervis and Sgt. Charlie Kacsan

## ... 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.



Heads Up! Peter (left) and Andre

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

Const. Jack van der Berg





*Lt. Col. Neil Marshall OBE RHA, with his wife Trudi and two sons Harry (12), right, and Tristan (11), left*

## Sector 2 CO Awarded OBE

**L**t. 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.

## Russian FM's Visit

**O**n 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.



## UN System - Changes at the Top



**Kemal Dervis, Administrator**  
**UNDP**  
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.

1999, Mr. Gambari served as the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the UN.



**António Guterres, High Commissioner**

**UNHCR**  
Former Portuguese Prime Minister, António Guterres, was elected by the General Assembly as the High Commissioner for Refugees.

Succeeding Mr. Ruud Lubbers of the Netherlands, Mr. Guterres heads one of the world's principal humanitarian agencies, providing protection to over 17 million refugees in more than 115 countries.

UNICEF, she served as Secretary for the US Department of Agriculture. A lawyer with an MA in Public Policy, Ms. Veneman has focused her career on child nutrition, public health, and fighting malnutrition around the world.



**Pascal Lamy, Director-General**

**WTO**  
Pascal Lamy of France, the new Director-General of the World Trade Organisation, is a former Commissioner for Trade at the European Commission in Brussels. He has also served as an Associate Professor at L'Institut d'Études Politiques in Paris.



**Ibrahim Gambari, USG Political Affairs**  
**DPA**  
Professor Ibrahim Gambari, appointed the new Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, will succeed Sir Kieran Prendergast in July. Mr. Gambari's current position is Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa to the United Nations. A former Minister of External Affairs of Nigeria, before joining the Secretariat in



**Ann Veneman, Executive Director**

**UNICEF**  
Ann Veneman became the Executive Director of UNICEF in May, responsible for a budget of over \$2 billion to help children in 157 countries. Prior to



## Mountain to Sea Bike Challenge

**W**hen 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 a 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 adrenaline 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 raced 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*

## Lots of Blue in Race Along Old Nicosia Green Line

**O**ne hundred and eighty-nine competitors, ranging from 12 to 90 years old, met at Eleftherias Square on 7 May to race the streets of Nicosia.

The Municipality of Nicosia had organised the event in conjunction with local running clubs who contributed a number of high quality athletes. The largest contingent was from 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery (1 RHA) at Sector 2, with 65 soldiers taking part from the CO Sector 2 down to the youngest soldiers.

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. Panicos Stylianou crossed the line first in the very fast time of 16 minutes 30 seconds. Sector 2 performed splendidly, winning four of the age categories. Sgt. Andrews finished fourth overall and LBdr. Foster, LBdr. Bullock and Gnr. 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.

*Lt. Alex Gray*

