

The Blue Beret

August 2006



**Mourning
Augustine
Bielonwu**

THE BLUE BERET

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Editorial

On 29 August, members of the UN Security Council expressed their support for the Secretary-General's continued efforts to help reach a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem. They also urged that work begin quickly to make a reality of the commitments undertaken by the two sides in their 8 July agreement.

Security Council President, the Permanent Representative of Ghana, Nana Effah-Apenteng, told press that the Council welcomed the 8 July agreement, reached by the two sides during USG Ibrahim Gambari's visit outlining further steps in the latest diplomatic drive to forge a settlement of the decades-old Cyprus problem.

He noted that the text was agreed after Mr. Gambari's meetings with the two leaders, H.E. Tassos Papadopoulos and H.E. Mehmet Ali Talat, and that the Set of Principles included commitment to the unification of Cyprus based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation and political equality, as set out in SC resolutions.

The Council President said the members "call for full implementation of the 8 July agreement without further delay, and urge that work begin quickly". He allowed how there had been "a little progress" since the USG's visit, but said "there is still much more to be done". Because there are still some differences as to how to tackle the problem, it was the Council's view "that until we are sure of concrete and tangible progress, it would not be advisable to launch full-scale negotiations", he concluded.

The statement came after closed door consultations during which USG Gambari briefed the Council on his July visit to Cyprus and the wider region, as well as developments on the island since. He emphasized the importance of full implementation of the 8 July agreement, and invited the Council to reinforce that message.

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Front Cover: Mourning Augustine Bielonwu
Back Cover: Resupplying UNIFIL

Augustine Bielonwu, UNIFIL 2006

UNIFIL and UNFICYP staff thronged St. Columba's Church in the UNPA on 31 August for a solemn ceremony mourning UNIFIL civilian staff member Augustine Bielonwu, who was killed during an Israeli rocket attack on 17 July in Tyre, Lebanon.

"His unexpected and tragic passing has shocked us all and filled our hearts with sorrow," USG Jean-Marie Guéhenno told the gathering. In his eulogy, Mr. Guéhenno paid tribute to Mr. Bielonwu, a UN staff member since 1989.

"Augustine was a paragon of courage, industry and unselfish devotion to duty. Those who knew him admired and respected him. He was gentlemanly, scholarly and kindly. He was an international civil servant in the very best sense of the term, and one who verily and truly exemplified the spirit of the United Nations."

Father Kevin Prince officiated at the memorial service, which featured selected readings by a number of UNIFIL staff members, Chief Administrative Officer, Paul Thompson, among them. Group Captain E.K. Boateng attended on behalf of the UNIFIL Force Commander.

UNFICYP staff members, led by SRS Michael Møller and Force Commander Maj. Gen. Rafael Barni, joined their UNIFIL colleagues and staff from UNIIC in paying their respects and in extending their condolences to the Bielonwu family and friends.

Mr. Bielonwu, who is survived by six children, was killed during the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah when an Israeli rocket hit the building where he lived in Tyre.

Four UNTSO military observers deployed in southern Lebanon also died during the conflict. Since 1978, 258 UNIFIL staff members have died while in service with the mission.



USG Guéhenno travelled from Naqoura, Lebanon, to UNFICYP by UN helicopter to attend Augustine Bielonwu's memorial service. The FC met him on arrival.

The USG inspected an honour guard at UNFICYP headquarters before meeting with the Chief of Mission. He was subsequently briefed on mission activities by senior staff.

Baghdad bombing marked "UN's loss of innocence" – SG

Three years after the UN's darkest day in Baghdad [19 August 2003], our hearts remain heavy.

We pause again to recall irreplaceable colleagues and unforgettable friends.

Iraq, which suffered its deadliest period of conflict last month, needed people like Sergio and his team. Others have now bravely taken their place. Because we can best honour the memory of our fallen heroes by carrying forward their legacy, by continuing their work, and by seeking inspiration from their example.

Their death marked the UN's loss of innocence. This Organisation had been attacked before, and it has been targeted since. But the Baghdad attack dealt a fatal blow to the illusion that wearing a blue helmet, or hoisting a UN flag, placed us above the fray. It undermined the belief that international civil servants could assume that their impartiality would be accepted and respected by all parties to a conflict.

Today, more than ever, UN staff confront direct and deadly threats to their safety.

My first responsibility as Secretary-General is to take care that no staff member's life is needlessly or recklessly endangered. Let me therefore assure colleagues here, and all those in the field, that I will continue doing my utmost to ensure that UN staff have the training, protections and policies they need to carry out their vital work in the service of humankind.

Were they with us today, I believe our murdered colleagues would be immensely proud that, despite the dangers, the difficulties, and the near unbearable grief, our work for peace continues, undeterred and undiminished, whether in Lebanon, in Darfur, in Timor-Leste, Haiti or Iraq.

This is our answer to their loss. This is our living tribute to fallen friends. ▮



The UN flag retrieved from the Baghdad bomb site

Lebanon Follow-up and Re-Supply

In our last issue, we detailed some of the effort made in the evacuation of colleagues and others from Lebanon and the resupply support UNFICYP helped laid on.

Here we report more of the on-going effort and the special roles played by UNFICYP Procurement, Supply and Logistics Units.

Procurement was initially involved in securing the ship to carry non-essential UN staff from war-ravaged areas of Lebanon.

The search began on 14 July (before the Crisis Centre

was set up), and the ship contract was signed on 18 July, once terms and conditions of charter had been negotiated. Procurement was also involved in securing the initial re-supply for UNIFIL. M.V. Serenade carried essential commodities such as water, fuel and medical supplies into Tyre. Staff also helped procure supplies for the second re-supply run for UNIFIL that was taken aboard the French-flagged Siroco at a time when UNIFIL was reduced to a few days on rations, water and fuel.

Chief Procurement Officer Hasita Wimalachandra said what procurement ended up doing was no more than its job. Still, staff worked long hours as a single, cohesive unit to get the job done. A modest group. Not wanting to single out any individual, he said the motto of the unit is: "United we stand, divided we fall."

Procurement also helped UNIFIL establish its own contacts here in Cyprus so that UNIFIL's rear office can now handle its own procurement. The office has also helped UNIIIC by co-locating its staff within the UNFICYP procurement unit, helping them with resources, contacts and procedures, giving them a head start. UNFICYP Procurement is still helping UNIIIC procurement colleagues meet their requirements for cars, fuel, furniture and security fencing.

Supply: The Integrated Support Services (ISS) Supply Unit was charged with handling onward distribution of needed supplies to the supply vessel Kiriaki and to the Siroco on 10 August.

Prior to loading the re-supply vessels, Maj. Stan Stanton and WO1 Pete Hall were heavily involved in the reconnaissance of the ports to ensure an effective loading plan produced in consultation with port authorities and associates. Special mention should go

to all in ISS Supply Unit who willingly put in long hours to support the re-supply to Lebanon, in addition to providing a sustained service to UNFICYP.

ISS sends special thanks for the support received from UNFICYP, including the ISS Transport Section/Sector 2 for the long hours supporting road movements between UNFICYP and the port; to the MFR and Sector 4 for their continued support to the Supply Unit for the reconfiguration and loading of stores onto the Siroco; and finally to the Supply Warrant Officers, who ensured that all commodities were accounted for, prior to any issuance.

The total tonnage re-supplied to UNIFIL was almost 597 tons between the vessels Kiriaki and Siroco. The commodities shipped included diesel, water, fragmentation jackets and helmets, medical equipment and

communication equipment. Everyone involved in this heavy lifting has reason to feel proud.

Logistics: Chief Personnel and Logistics Officer Lt. Col. Alex Boyd and his team are tasked with ensuring that personnel, equipment and supplies get from A to B by various means for whatever reason. This meant that they were involved in the Lebanon evacuation and re-supply from the outset.

UNFICYP is a small mission without a lot of resources. With one person per job, when fatigue sets in there is no fallback for rest. "My people were trying to keep both UNFICYP running, while at the same time providing vital assistance to UNIFIL. This meant there was very little sleep during those critical 14 days," Boyd said. In fact, they were multi-tasked, working around the clock for the safe evacuation and relocation of UN staff from Lebanon, the re-supply of UNIFIL and establishment of UNIIIC and UNIFIL offices in UNFICYP.

The initial re-supply for UNIFIL involved getting 300 pallets of water, rations, medical supplies and communications equipment as well as diesel fuel onto the Siroco within 48 hours of receiving the call for assistance. Not only did they manage to do this, but an extra 100 pallets were loaded onto the Siroco following skillful negotiation by Lt. Col. Boyd with the ship's captain. Medical supplies including blood, communications equipment and rations were being flown into Larnaca Airport for on-shipping to Lebanon. Diesel fuel, including means to transport it, were procured locally. The Supply Unit was heavily involved in palletizing the various supplies being flown into Larnaca Airport. Then they were transported to the port by drivers and vehicles called in from all the UNFICYP sectors.

Boyd notes that DPKO Air transport Section advised UNFICYP on 25 July that they intended to send two Mi-8 helicopters to Cyprus to support UNIFIL. The first Mi-8 arrived from UNMIK Kosovo on 28 July, the second a few days later, on 2 August, from UNMIS Sudan. After week-long efforts, clearance was finally received from the Israeli authorities (IDF) for the two helicopters to fly urgently needed medical supplies including blood plasma as well as personnel to Naqoura. In addition, they continued to receive medical supplies and surgical equipment as well as body armour for UNIFIL's 650-strong Ghanian contingent. The helicopters are now based at Larnaca Airport and continue to provide support for UNIFIL.

At UNFICYP, offices had to be found and prepared to establish rear offices for UNIIIC and UNIFIL. Computer equipment was flown in from Brindisi. Engineers worked on transforming the buildings into offices within a space of 10 days. A hangar was also secured from BRITCON for the Mi-8 helicopters, and offices refurbished within this period.

Boyd says what impressed him most was the truly integrated support shown throughout the operation with all personnel military and civilian working hand-in-glove to make it happen.

Reflecting on the work achieved, Boyd says, "It was a very intense period where impossible tasks were called for and we managed to make the impossible possible in very tight time frames. Knowing that another mission is relying on you makes you go the extra mile to make things happen," he said.

Netha Kreouzos

The Story behind "United Nations 024"

UN Flight was requested to transport the Lebanese Prime Minister, Fuad Siniora, to Cyprus on 25 July from Beirut so that he could enplane at Larnaca for the Crisis Conference in Rome, called to help achieve a ceasefire in Lebanon. Covering a distance of 205 km, a journey of 1 hour 40 minutes and at an estimated speed of 90 knots, the Larnaca-Beirut-Larnaca round trip seemed an easy enough task.



Lt.Col. Simo (left), Capt. Longo (centre) and FC Maj. Gen. Barni discussing flight routes

Not so. The Bell 212, used for the task, could not travel there and back on one tank-full of fuel. And there were no refuelling options in Beirut at that time. However, in Argentina, transport tanks carrying 200 litres of petrol are regularly used when fuel resupply is not available at the destination. This idea was put forward and accepted. The route was planned. At 12.05 p.m., the helicopter with crew members Lt. Col. Simo, Capt. Longo and WOII Rivarola, took off from the UN Flight helipad in the UNPA flying via Larnaca Airport (for administrative reasons) and then on to Beirut Port. No problem. However, half an hour after take-off, the Israeli Defence Forces contacted UN Flight imposing a restriction on the designated flight path. The crew was ordered to re-route along new coordinates. This meant that distance, time and fuel had to be recalculated. When the pilot reached the holding point, he made contact with the Israeli Defence Forces and was authorised to proceed as directed to Beirut Port.

At 4.10 p.m. the Bell 212 landed. Immediately, the crew off-loaded the tanks and started refuelling, only

to find themselves caught up in an attack launched on Beirut. Explosions rocked the Port, encouraging the crew to refuel as quickly as possible. Prime Minister Siniora arrived and climbed on board and the Bell 212 took off for Larnaca following the same route. During their brief stay in Beirut, the crew had no communication with Nicosia. The team on the ground were very happy to hear the message "Nicosia – this is United Nations 024 calling in!"

In 50 minutes, the helicopter landed at Larnaca Airport and at 8.30 p.m., it was back in the UNPA.

Mission "Bandidos 1" accomplished! Two days later, UN Flight was requested to carry Prime Minister Siniora back to Beirut. Same route, same clearances but change of crew – this time it was Capt. Ortiz, Capt. Longo and Sgt. Heredia. Another change was the refuelling technique – with the Prime Minister and senior officials on board, there was no additional room for the fuel tanks, so the Lebanese Forces provided fuel for us on arrival in Beirut. Prime Minister safely delivered, and tanks refilled, the helicopter took off for the return journey, arriving at 4.50 p.m. in the UNPA.

Operation Bandidos 2 successful!

Lt. Sebastian Llobet



Giving the Prime Minister a helping hand

Down in Larnaca, the World Food Programme-led UN Joint Logistics Cluster (UNJLC) has been helping coordinate incoming and ongoing airlifts plus shipments of humanitarian aid to Lebanon since late July. By 24 August, the Logistics Cluster had helped move some 100,000 metric tonnes of vital relief supplies including medicines and fuel, from Larnaca and Limassol ports to Beirut and for onward delivery throughout Lebanon where possible. At its peak, the UNJLC embraced UN agencies and bodies such as WFP, OCHA, UNICEF, WHO and UNHCR, working alongside and with a range of some 20-30 international relief NGOs and agencies.

Before moving on to his next assignment, WFP's Philippe Martou, who set up the UNJLC at the San Remo Hotel in Larnaca, made a special point of thanking both UNFICYP and the Cyprus Ministry of Foreign Affairs for all the support and assistance they had extended him and his colleagues in driving the humanitarian relief effort. Martou singled out Mr. Pericles Stivaros of the MFA for special mention, noting how much he had helped expedite and facilitate the UNJLC's work with his contacts and knowledge of the local scene.

UN Joint Logistics Cluster





UNFICYP support for buffer zone ceremonies

UNPOL and SCAT personnel, transported the pilgrims in UN vehicles to the chapel and then back that afternoon. They not only provided transport for the event, but also security and medical assistance.

One of the drivers, MSgt. Láslo Bernatsky, transferred more than 62 pilgrims during this tiring but very rewarding day. He said the best present he received in return for his efforts were the smiles and words of acknowledgement from the pilgrims, most of them aged and with little knowledge of English. However, a smile requires no translation.

The ceremony was organised in collaboration with the Dheryneia municipality. It ended at 12.30 p.m., after which the Mayor of Dheryneia expressed his gratitude to all UNFICYP soldiers who assisted on the day.



Sector 4 officers who were present were invited for lunch by the Mayor of Dheryneia and representatives of the local municipality.

One of life's most pleasurable rewards is to be able to help your neighbour. The soldiers of Sector 4 had this opportunity on 17 July, when they escorted just over 750 pilgrims to the chapel of Ayia Marina in the buffer zone near the town of Dheryneia.

Ayia Marina

Organisation of this annual church service in honour of Saint Marina is handled by Sector 4,

which coordinated the event on behalf of the residents of Dheryneia and surrounding villages.

As the first rays of sun touched the ground at 6.30 a.m., pilgrims started arriving at the checkpoint. The 28 soldiers of Sector 4, together with

For the last four years, UNFICYP has been facilitating the visit of Turkish Cypriots wishing to visit the village of Kokkina on 8 August. On this date, a commemoration service is held, honouring those who fell during the troubles in 1964.

More than 450 people arrived on the day at the Amadhies crossing point (OP 08) from Nicosia, Famagusta, Kyrenia and Morphou. Travelling in a convoy of 22 buses, they were escorted by Sector 1 personnel through the buffer zone to the village of Kato Pyrgos, and then again across the buffer zone to the deserted village of Kokkina, arriving at approximately 10.00 a.m.

Kokkina

People crowded into the mosque, kept in prime condition, to listen to speeches by a number of dignitaries, led by the Turkish Cypriot leader H.E. Mr. Mehmet Ali Talat. Once the speeches were over, the crowd moved on through the abandoned houses to the cemetery, about 500 metres away, to honour the dead.

Sector 1, accompanied by SCAT, coordinated the event which was carried out without incident. The whole operation took seven hours, and was considered a complete success.



Cypriot Maronites celebrated Mass in the church of the Holy Monastery of the Prophet Elias on Sunday 23 July – the first time in 33 years.

Weeks before the event, Father Joseph Michaelides, Father Superior of the Holy Monastery of Prophet Elias, contacted UNFICYP's Civil Affairs Branch for its

St. Elias Monastery

help in organising one of the most important feast days in the Maronite Church's calendar. Following the events of 1974, the icon of Prophet Elias, belonging to the monastery, had been moved to St. George's Church in Kormakiti. The Maronites wished to transfer the icon to its rightful place for this special occasion.



Arrangements were made, and word spread quickly within the Maronite community. By 8.30 a.m. on the day, an estimated 600 pilgrims from all over the island had arrived at the monastery. By then, the icon had started its journey from St. George's Church, arriving at the Monastery at 9.30 a.m., where it was received by Father Joseph Michaelides. Joining senior Maronite officials among the pilgrims was the General Superior of the Lebanese Maronite Order, Elias Khalife. He travelled to Cyprus specifically for this event.



The small Church inside the Monastery, built in 1508, could only hold about 100 worshippers. As many as possible crammed into the limited space. The remaining crowds stayed outside, happy to share in the ritual, even if it was from outside the church. It was a hot, humid day. Ambulances were on standby, provided by the authorities in the north, just in case.

After a very emotional service, the icon was carefully removed and escorted back to Kormakiti.

Local papers from both north and south covered the occasion.

The Maronite community thanked UNFICYP for its support on the day, and noted how it continued to help the minority community with cultural, religious and humanitarian events on the island.

MT



CMP Launches Exhumation Project

Following months of intensive preparation, the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus (CMP) announced on 24 August that it is ready to launch its Project on the Exhumation, Identification and Return of Remains.

The same day, the CMP met with the recently arrived Argentinian Forensic Anthropology Team (EAAF), which will be responsible for leading an island-wide programme of exhumations, working in conjunction with a team of Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot archaeologists and anthropologists.

Exhumed remains will be transferred to the new anthropological laboratory, built by the CMP in the UNPA, close to the old Nicosia Airport. Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot anthropologists will work there under the guidance of the EAAF team.

The project will last for a period of two months. If funding permits, it will continue until all known burial sites have been explored.



Front row: Jennifer Wright (Assistant to the CMP 3rd Member), Oran Finegan (Forensic Anthropologist), Xenophon Kallis (Assistant to the Greek Cypriot Member of CMP), Dr. Mercedes Salado Puerto (Forensic Anthropologist), Hugh Tuller (Forensic Archaeologist)
Back row: Elias Georgiades (Greek Cypriot Member) and Ahmet Erdengiz (Assistant to the Turkish Cypriot Member), Christophe Girod (3rd Member) and Luis Fondebrider (Argentinian team leader and Forensic Anthropologist)

Town Hall Meeting

Chief of Mission SRSG Michael Møller hosted his second town hall meeting on 3 August to brief staff on the developments in Lebanon, the impact on UNFICYP, as well as progress made on the Cyprus problem.



The Chief of Mission pointed out how, with UNFICYP's help, a total of 1,200 people were extracted from Lebanon, 350 being staff members and their dependants, while over half of the evacuees were women and children.

"I will start by saying how proud I am of you. Of the way all sections pulled together to help our colleagues who were in trouble and needed to be evacuated. I can tell you that everything I hear from both headquarters and our colleagues on the ground is nothing but praise for the way UNFICYP helped."

Using boats and other means of transport, UNFICYP helped bring over 50 different nationalities to Cyprus, he said. "However what is important for me is not so much the numbers, but that the whole mission pulled together and showed that in a time of need, we can deliver in a very complex emergency situation. That is always good to know because unfortunately, I am sure it will happen again. It also shows that our attempts at making sure the mission works as coherently as possible and as one unit are bearing fruit."

A number of UNIFIL and other staff from Lebanon will be based at UNFICYP, he said. "I know for some of you it is an imposition on your daily work. You have many other things to do that are UNFICYP-related, but the fact is that our colleagues need help and we are able to give it to them, so I hope that you all will continue providing that assistance in the splendid spirit that you have done until now."

Members of the IIIC investigation team also relocated for the time being to offices in the UNPA. "They want to go back as soon as possible, that is where the job is and where they need to be operating from, but in the meantime, we will be providing them with assistance here," the CM said.

Chief Administrative Officer Frank Clancy also thanked staff for the work done on the Lebanon crisis, particularly his own staff during his absence on leave. He recounted what a former ASG at OMS used to say when it came to evaluations. "I evaluate you not on how you perform when you are in the mission, but how the mission performs when you are away" – in that case, I am doing very well," the CAO said.

Mr. Clancy said UNIFIL CAO Paul Thompson had asked that he specifically convey to all components of the mission his deepest gratitude for the assistance rendered. Without UNFICYP's effort, UNIFIL would certainly not have survived. He noted that UNIFIL had asked to set up a rear headquarters in the UNPA for about 23 to 25 staff.

Turning to the main order of business, SRSG Møller noted that things had changed considerably on the issue of Cyprus problem talks. "Last time I spoke to you, we were still trying to figure out a way to kick-start the process and come up with suggestions that

would recreate the kind of trust and atmosphere needed in which these discussions would start."

He noted that USG Gambari had brokered an agreement with the leaders to move ahead with the launch of technical committees, changing the framework for progress. The key to all this was when the two leaders got together for the installation of the CMP 3rd Member. All told, they met three times that week, finally signing the agreement in USG Gambari's presence that changed the working framework.

"There is now a clear formal commitment on both sides to start a process. So we are no longer looking for mechanisms to start a process because it is there. What we are looking for now is how to get on with it. There is an explicit agreement by both leaders that they are ready to discuss everything that needs to be discussed in order to prepare for the signing of a comprehensive agreement. The question now is not so much how to start preparing, but what kind of issues will we start discussing, how many committees are we going to start creating, how will they exponentially grow, etc."

Mr. Møller said it is very important that Mr. Talat and Mr. Papadopoulos create a personal relationship and rebuild the trust that quite clearly was lost in the aftermath of the referendum. "It's clear from my contacts with both sides and certain public and private announcements by both leaders that they want the process and that they realize that time is against us all. I think time is against Cyprus if there is to be a solution that will end in the reunification of the island."

The CM conceded that there is a certain amount of cynicism about the prospects of this process moving forward. "We've been through this before over the past four decades. Many attempts have been made but they have floundered. I am not necessarily unhappy about that because the lower the expectations there are, the better chance we have of quietly working away and moving the process in an organic and quiet way without too much limelight and high expectations that make it more difficult to satisfy public opinion. So that is exactly what we are going to be doing and what we have been doing, working quietly away – we are not going to be making too many public announcements on the process, but rather when there is something really positive and tangible to announce to do so."

Field Security Officer Ross Wickware then gave an update on current security threats and the responsibilities of staff in the event of a major incident, explaining where staff would concentrate for relocation.

Chief Civilian Personnel Officer Christine Botejue-Kyle gave a detailed outline on the current PMSS restructuring and how this affects professional and field service staff.

Netha Kreouzou

UNFICYP and UNDP Staff Brush Up on their Negotiation Skills

On 10 August, staff members from UNDP/ACT invited UNFICYP staff members from UNPOL, Sectoral Civilian Affairs, Military Liaison and Civil Affairs to join them on a training session on negotiation and mediation skills facilitated by Jaco Cilliers, UNDP's Peace and Development Adviser. The training took place at ACT's Vet Conference lab.

It was a well-balanced day full of learning and interaction, as participants from all divisions shared their own experiences with negotiation and mediation in various situations. The goals of the training were to provide an overview of techniques and procedures; explore communication and conflict handling styles; discuss tactics and strategies for successful negotiation and mediation; practice and receive feedback on negotiation and mediation skills; and, explore cultural and ethical elements of negotiation and mediation.

Participants were given the chance to express their interest in exploring various aspects of negotiation and mediation while putting their skills into practice through role play exercises. Members of the group learned from each other by later sharing their different conflict management styles and cultural approaches to conflict. It was particularly valuable to examine the military and police perspectives alongside the development perspective, and to consider how these approaches can be combined.

The training provided a valuable opportunity for ACT and UNFICYP to learn from each other about approaches for promoting understanding and further developing the skills needed for successfully addressing conflict situations. Future workshops are already in the pipeline, with a training planned on October 26 for an Introduction to Peacebuilding and Conflict Management Skills.



"Monkey Business" in UNFICYP – Not what you're thinking!

Monkey business is the term CITS technicians and riggers around the missions use when working on the communications towers that we install radio links on. We climb up the inside, the outside and sometimes on the fitted ladders. Monkey business!

UNFICYP has played host to yet another training course organised by the United Nations Logistics Base and conducted here in Cyprus because of the facilities and support we can offer civilian instructors and UN staff who travel from all around the globe to attend.

"The training areas were perfect, the towers were in good condition, the weather was perfect for working outside, and the training room, transportation and accommodation were excellent," said MONUC's Alpha Sesay, one of those attending the course.

It was fantastic to see people from seven different missions participate. It gave everyone an excellent opportunity to update on what CITS is doing in the field, the security situations, mobility and logistics and the difficulties some missions face.

On a personal level, there was the chance to exchange news on friends not seen for a few years and to find out how they are doing. The UN is big, but small at the same time.

Zulmai Musher of UNMIS appreciated the excellent training and the very good help from UNFICYP's CITS staff. "If I had to add one thing, it would be that we spend some time doing tower construction."

Thanks are due to several people in UNFICYP, most notable CCITS Bob Walker for all the behind-the-scenes work that he put into the administration of the course. Others on the list include the FSO, Capt.

Matias Maloberti for arranging a flight, and General Services' travel unit for arranging accommodation, etc.

Then there are our colleagues at UNHQ and in UNLB who play such an important role in putting together courses for CITS mission personnel.

As noted, Cyprus is well situated geographically for UN missions to send people for training. To try to keep up with demand, additional rigging courses are planned for later this year and also in 2007.

We had a great team of guys here for this course, and a member of our own comms team also qualified. Well done to all concerned.

Bruce Larsen



From the left: Richard Qyarshie (UNOGBIS), Simon (Instructor), Serjo Kobaizze (UNOMIG), Alan (Instructor), Arouna Sanfo (ONUCI), Alpha Sesay (MONUC), Bob Walker (CCITS), Zulmai Muhsher (UNMIS), Arto Haroutunian (UNFICYP), Antonio Giugno UNLB. Front: Riyadh AL Nagaar, UNMEE

Summer Youth Camps and International Youth Day

This has been a month and more of youthful activities, starting with the worldwide celebration on 12 August of International Youth Day, a day, as can be seen from the SG's message below, dedicated to the theme of young people and the eradication of poverty.

Here on the island, UNDP Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT) was busy all month long (and in July!) helping organise a series of youth camps, and one island-to-island sailing expedition. More than 300 young Greek and Turkish Cypriots, plus a number of Greeks and Turks, have participated in the UNDP/ACTivities!

In his message, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan highlighted the need to support young people and use their potential to the benefit of society. His message for International Youth Day is "Tackling poverty together: young people and the eradication of poverty".

Numbering more than one billion, the world's young people are a major human resource for development, and can be key agents of innovation and positive social change. Yet the scale of youth poverty robs the world of that potential. In a world of great riches, nearly one in five people between the ages of 15-24 must eke out an existence on less than one dollar per day, and almost half live on less than two dollars per day.

Youth make up one fourth of the world's labour force, yet they account for one half of its unemployed. Labour markets face difficulty providing stable occupations with good prospects for young people, except for the highly trained.

Without decent work, young people are left susceptible to poverty, which in turn complicates access to education and basic health services, further impeding employability. Over the long term, disadvantaged youths will confront steeper obstacles along the path to progress, and may not accrue the assets that commonly come through steady and long-term employment, such as access to assets and resources, strong social networks and decision-making status in the family or community.

"Our challenge is clear: we must pay more attention to education, and in particular to the transition from education to employment. And the ability of youth to find full and productive employment must be a central objective of national development strategies, including poverty reduction policies.

The international community has recognized what experts are now calling the juvenilization of poverty, and made it a priority area in the 1995 World Programme of Action for Youth. The Programme has approached young people as equal partners in the global effort to eradicate poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Government commitment to the development agenda was renewed and reinforced by the 2005 World Summit, which has opened up a fresh opportunity to engage youth in action on the issues that affect them. "On this International Youth Day, let us seize that opportunity, and redouble our efforts to support young people and free up their enormous potential, for the benefit of us all".

Fair play, team work and building strong relationships are major elements in developing a healthy

society, and these were the values at the heart of the Doves Olympic Movement, a Cypriot youth camp which finished its activities on 12 August.

UNDP/ACT helped bring 113 young people, aged 12 to 16 from all communities across the island to explore intercommunal cooperation on environmental issues. The village of Agros was the venue for nine days of sporting and educational activities, which enhanced multicultural interaction, global citizenship, communication and problem-solving skills. Campers were able to play soccer, basketball, volleyball and learn martial arts, as well as engage in discussions on human rights, environmental awareness, technology, health and well-being and conflict management. According to one 15-year-old camper, "The future belongs to the teenagers, and the Olympic Doves Camp is an incredible step for future peace and cooperation in Cyprus. It has enabled the Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots to come together through sports and fun, and become friends, realizing that they have fewer differences to worry about and more things in common."

The Doves Olympic Movement is just one of a number of youth camps this summer. Between 2-9 July, the Peace Centre ran a camp in Larnaca, attended by 20 Cypriot teenagers aged 16-18 years. They learnt about peace education and conflict resolution in collaboration with WINPEACE (Women's Initiative for Peace) and 20 young people from Greece and Turkey, who also participated.

The Environmental Studies Centre held two separate camps in the village of Kritou Terra, in the beautiful Akamas region between 7-13 July and 16-22 July. Together, the two camps attracted over 50 young Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, who explored opportunities for intercommunal cooperation on protecting Cyprus' unique and rich environmental heritage.

The 2006 Youth Camps programme continued in August with the European Voyage of Understanding, where 12 young Cypriots from both communities spent 10 days as crew members on a square-rigged ship, sailing from Gibraltar to Minorca. The Frederick Institute of Technology ran a three-day Camping, Fitness and Education camp in the Karpas area for 40 young Cypriots aged 18-35. The aim was to promote mutual respect and tolerance among Cypriots through a "healthy mind in a healthy body".

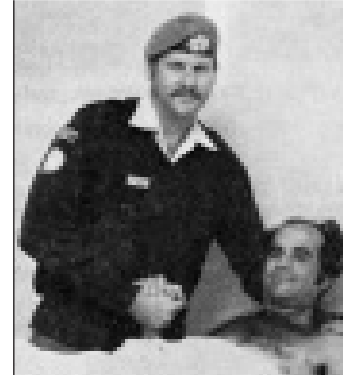
The final Summer Camp – "Together Anything is Possible" – was organised by the KAYAD Community Centre. It took place in Kyrenia between 21-31 August, and stressed community service. Over 25 young Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots aged 17-22 were encouraged to build common future projects and foster volunteerism all around the island.

Most camps will have follow-up meetings throughout the year to strengthen the relations between the participants and encourage further dialogue and a sharing of knowledge and experiences.

UNDP/ACT's support for this year's camps follows on last year's USAID and UNDP-funded BDP camps, which were attended by more than 600 young Cypriots from all over the island.



Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot youths who attended the KAYAD camp in Kyrenia



Blue Tractor Memories

Just before midday on 9 October 1979, a UN patrol escorting a farmer ploughing his land in the buffer zone near Omorphita saw another farmer on a tractor unexpectedly drive towards a suspected minefield. Suddenly there was a loud explosion and the farmer and bits of his tractor were thrown about 30 feet into the air. It was later found that the tractor's rear left wheel had run over one of the mines which had been laid in 1974.

Ch. Insp. Jack Thurgar, married with two children, was awarded the Star of Courage by the Australian Government in February 1980, and was commended in 1997 for his act of bravery.

Ch. Insp. Jack Thurgar immediately stopped his vehicle and ordered his companion to prevent anybody else from approaching the scene of the explosion. He then entered the minefield to rescue the injured farmer, Chrysos Seas. Jack well understood the dangers involved, as he had himself

been injured by a mine when serving with the Australian Army in Vietnam in 1970.

He carefully made his way through the minefield, gently lifted Chrysos onto his shoulders, and carried him out of the minefield. Fifteen minutes after the explosion, a UN helicopter landed at the scene and flew Jack with the patient to Wolseley Barracks, and from there to the Nicosia General Hospital where he was admitted – less than 30 minutes after the explosion.

The last time Jack saw Chrysos was back in 1980 when the unfortunate farmer was still recuperating from his injuries. Contact had been maintained through an exchange of Christmas cards. Then Jack, who is now a tour operator, heard that Chrysos was ill. He tried to contact him many times by letter and by telephone but without luck.

On 14 July this year, UNFICYP and the Mine Action Centre (MAC) returned the famous "blue tractor" to its owner, 27 years after it triggered a mine explosion in the Kaimakli area of Nicosia.

In 1979, Mr. Chrysostomos Seas was ploughing a field in Kaimakli when his tractor drove over and accidentally detonated an antitank mine. UN Police rescued Mr. Seas who was then evacuated to the nearest hospital where, unfortunately, his right leg could not be saved. Since then, the area has been referred to by the UN as the "blue tractor minefield".

In July 2005, the Mine Action Centre (MAC) completed mine clearance operations in this area, releasing 117,000m² of land. For the first time in 27 years, a crop of barley was harvested in June 2006.

At Mr. Seas' request, UNFICYP, in close collaboration with the MAC, removed the tractor from the now safe area near Kaimakli where it had laid since 1979. The tractor has since been transported to Mr. Seas' home in Strovolos.

MAC has cleared 23 minefields totalling 1.431.135 square metres of land, while destroying 2,318 mines since November 2004.

The de-mining project is funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under the umbrella of the Partnership for the Future (PFF) programme.



Until recently, Jack had avoided a reunion with Chrysos, as the memories of their first encounter have still not disappeared. However, fearing that Chrysos may have been terminally ill, he made moves to visit Cyprus.

He got in touch with the Australian Police Commander in Cyprus, Col Speedie, and was greatly relieved to learn that Col had managed to contact Chrysos through the Cyprus Police.

On 22 May came the long-awaited reunion. Over a coffee and in broken English, Chrysos showed Jack how his wounds had healed and that, thanks to advanced prosthetic limb technology, he could now cross his legs! Jack's wife Hedonna and Chrysos' wife Toula also managed, in broken English and with the help of sign language, to communicate. With tears in her eyes, Toula expressed to Hedonna that, had Chrysos not survived, it would have been "kaput" for her – "big problem, babies no food" without a husband and a father.

In a message passed through UNPOL's Deputy Commander Col Speedie, Chrysos said the reunion brought back vivid memories for him too. "I took Jack out to see the minefield he rescued me from and we were both in tears. Jack is one of the community's better individuals, and I will never forget the fact that, although Jack has children and a family of his own, he still risked his life to enter the minefield to rescue me. I hope Jack will come back soon and spend more time here next time."





Gardai Mug Out

before being presented with his own "mug" by the Senior Police Adviser Commissioner Carla Van Maris who spoke glowingly of the departing gardai. She even read a poem she had written, which was very touching and well received. Supt. John O'Connor spoke on behalf of the departing members.

Newly appointed Irish Ambassador, H.E. John Brady, attended and spoke of the gratitude and pride the Irish Government takes in the excellent performance of the Irish on UN missions.

A Powerpoint presentation made sure that none of the departing group left without all being given a chance to see photos of some of their "exploits". The display was put together by Insp. Antonello De Chiara of the Carabinieri, friend of the group. Deputy Senior Police Adviser Commander Col Speedie, CAO Mr. Frank Clancy and Spokesperson Mr. Brian Kelly were among the large attendance, as were representatives from all Sectors. Many thanks are due to Garda Aileen Magner who organised and arranged this very successful function.

The entertainment went on into the wee hours ending a most enjoyable night. There was an air of sadness felt by the group, and yet a desire to return to their native soil. Job done with UNFICYP – now back home to work on more familiar ground!

On 14 August, 11 members of the Irish Contingent completed their 12-month UNPOL tour of duty with UNFICYP. To mark the occasion, their "mug out" was held in the UNPOL Club on 11 August. From 7.30 p.m., there was a full house, the attendance including UNPOL, military, Civil Affairs personnel as well as friends from the community.

The function started with a tasty buffet in the Club, followed by the customary presentation of mugs. Sgt. Jim McAllister acted as M.C. Irish Contingent Commander Supt. Noel Galwey introduced and gave a brief run down on each of the departing contingent members

Irish Veteran's Association visit Wayne's Keep

On 14 August 2006, 30 members of the Irish United Nations Veterans Association paid a visit to Wayne's Keep cemetery to hold a memorial service for fallen comrades.

Amongst the visitors were Mr. Liam Murray, National Chairman for IUNVA, and Mr. Dave Dooley who departed UNFICYP in 1993.

Irish UN Battalions served in Cyprus between 1964 and 2003. Some 10,000 peacekeepers served with the mission during that time. They were spread all across the island. Mr. Murray and his comrades remembered in particular Kato Pyrgos with fondness!

The memorial service was also attended by the contingent of Irish Police currently serving with UNPOL. They provided a welcome escort for the day. At the ceremony, sombre words were said and wreaths were laid, followed by a minute's silence.

The group then left the cemetery and headed for the BRITCON Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess for light refreshment. This gave everyone the chance to sit down and recall some of the old stories, several of which would put modern day tales to shame!



The IUNVA then presented the Sergeants' Mess and UNPOL with small gifts before moving on to their next destination of Famagusta.

Global Compact Reception

On 27 July, the UN Global Compact Network for the Turkish Cypriot business community was officially launched in Nicosia in the presence of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Chief of Mission for Cyprus, Mr. Michael Møller, and other officials.

In his remarks, SRSG Møller noted that more than 3,000 companies worldwide participate in a voluntary corporate social responsibility initiative, first proposed by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in January 1999 when he addressed the World Economic Forum in Davos.

"The Compact is based on the idea that the business community does have power and responsibility in reinforcing human rights, ensuring fair working conditions and maintaining the earth in as a good a shape for future generations, as we found it for ourselves."

Mr. Møller pointed out that the network being launched in Cyprus would join more than 50 existing networks that today recognize the importance of corporate social responsibility and of taking supportive actions.



Sector 1's "Magnificent Seven"

In most countries, the presence of women in the armed forces is no longer a rarity. Particularly in the 21st century, it is common to see military women working alongside men. This integration has become even more prevalent in the Argentinian Armed Forces over the last five to six years.

Military women joined the ranks of UNFICYP's peacekeepers in 2001. Since then, more than 120 Argentinian women have proudly worn the United Nations blue beret, most of them attached to Army, but some from the Air Force and Navy.

At present, the Argentinian Contingent has seven women on its roster. They all come from the Argentinian Army and work in a wide variety of posts, including doctors, nurses, ordnance officers, drivers, clerks, cooks and mechanics. All arrived on the island with great personal and professional expectations, motivated by the importance of UNFICYP'S mission.

Since their arrival, they have performed all kind of duties showing a high degree of professionalism and skill. Seen right is a photograph taken just before the "Magnificent Seven" set out for Cyprus. In carrying out their duties and functions, all have gained the respect of their military colleagues serving alongside them.

Of course, they also know that Argentine society as a whole supports and admires their accomplishments as well.

Maj. Carlos Alberto Figueroa



Standing (from the left): Cpl. Belen de Zan (driver), 1/Cpl. Romina Galvan (cook), Cpl. Celina Perez (driver), Cpl. Maria Valdebenito (driver)
Kneeling (from the left): 1/Lt. Gloria Menendez (doctor), Lt. Gloria Mansilla (ordnance), Cpl. Soledad Celayes (clerk)



Lt. Gloria Mansilla (left), Ordnance Officer of the Argentinian Contingent in the last Military Skills Competition. She graduated as an Officer in 2002.

Cpl. María Belén de Zan (right) during training for the Military Skills Competition. She is married to an Army Sergeant (driver)



Argentinian Air Force Day

On 10 August, UN Flight's hangar marked the location for the celebration of Argentinian Air Force Day, commemorating the establishment of the unit in 1912 by the then President of Argentina, Dr. Roque Sáenz Peña of the Military Aviation School at El Palomar City in the province of Buenos Aires. This was Argentina's first ever military air unit.

The ceremony in the UNPA was presided over by Force Commander Maj. Gen. Rafael José Barni, and attended by military, ecclesiastical and special guests.

(Mostly) New Faces

The new Force Provost Marshal and Officer Commanding the Force Military Police Unit, **Maj. Iain Watt**, UK military, arrived in UNFICYP on 10 July, replacing Maj. John Watson.

Force Provost Marshal

Born on 28 January 1971 in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Maj. Watt enlisted in the British Army in 1990, serving as an NCO within the Royal Military Police prior to attendance at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1994. Since commissioning, Maj. Watt has served in numerous specialist appointments in Northern Ireland, with the RMP Special Investigations Branch in Britain

and at the UK Permanent Joint HQ as one of the planners for offensive operations in Iraq. Most recently, he was an MP Company Commander with the British Forces at the Joint HQ, Rheindahlen, Germany.

Maj. Watt's previous operational experience includes; Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and NATO support to the African Union Mission in the Sudan. His qualifications include a Graduateship in Leadership and Management and a Certificate in Risk and Safety Management. Additionally, he has attended the General Staff Course at the Baltic Defence College, Estonia and the Russian UNMO Course at the Vystrell Academy, Moscow.



WOI Reinhard Zeller took over the post of Force Data Base Manager in Ops Branch from WO2 Werner Bartsch on 28 August.

Reinie, as he is known within the HQ, is not new to UNFICYP. He is what you could describe as a professional peacekeeper! So far, Reinie has clocked up 12 tours with UNFICYP with positions ranging from Sector 4 (when it was the Austrian Contingent) to a number of departments in the HQ. Although a reservist in the Austrian army, he has spent the last 13 years

serving in peacekeeping missions in the Middle East and the Balkans, both as a soldier and as a civilian.

Reinie is married to Kawai, whom he met in Cyprus in 1994.

Reinie's hobbies include motorcycling (he brought his Honda CB 750 over from Austria), travelling, swimming and hiking. Having spent so much time in Cyprus, he has made many friends, so now he is catching up on news with them.

Force Data Base Manager

John Nash left Aberdeen in 1988 and joined the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) as a vehicle mechanic. His career as a vehicle mechanic was short-lived, however, as his Coy 21C – although happy to support his forthcoming marriage to Julie – was adamant that he would not be accommodated with his family at

WO-COORD/ Visits Coordinator

Bordon whilst completing 12 to 18 months of trade training. Unhappy with this option, he elected to change trade to the shortest course run by REME, that of REME Clerk. Following a mere four weeks training at Worthy Down, he was posted to Minden, Germany and was soon joined by wife Julie and two children Richard (now 22) and Samantha (now 20). With the arrival of their third child Danielle (now 17), they enjoyed a further five postings within Germany and single postings to England, Northern Ireland and the Netherlands.

During John's time in the Army, Julie has maintained an infectious zest for life, learned to drive and completed a parachute course, Richard hopes to join up soon despite

a heart murmur, Samantha is now happily married to an ex-signaller who saw the light and has since transferred to the medics, Danielle is studying for her A-Levels, and John has survived the past 18 years relatively intact, completed a number of operational tours, boxed until the tender age of 33 and is one promotion short of his original ambition.

John enjoys most sports, particularly boxing and rugby, but is no longer involved competitively. He now enjoys coaching and hopes to run boxercise lessons for various groups in the near future.



Maj. Nick Loader joined the British Army in September 1980 as a Junior Leader in the Royal Corps of Transport. After 18 months of initial training, he was selected to train as a Movement Controller and served in that role in Germany, Canada, USA, Cyprus and Northern Ireland.

The highlights of his career thus far have been his tours on the exchange programme with the US Army at Fort Eustis, Virginia, in the 1990s and, of course, his time in Cyprus, having previously served as OC of the Joint Service Port Unit at Limassol New Port until August 2005.

Nick was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2000 for work in support of the operational deployment to Kosovo the previous year and was commissioned from the ranks in the same year.

Nick completed a three-year posting to Northern Ireland followed by his posting to Cyprus in the rank of Captain. He comes to UNFICYP on a four-month operational tour, after having served for one year at HQ Land Command in Salisbury, England.

Nick enjoys all sports (if there is a ball involved), reading and travelling.

SO 2 Ops Info



Maj. Matt Walker, the new MA to the FC, replaced Maj. Neil Wright on 11 July. He has just arrived from staff college where he completed nine months' staff training.

Matt joined the British Army in September 1995. He went to Sandhurst for 12 months and then was posted to 1st Battalion The King's Own Royal Border Regiment in Catterick, North Yorkshire. Since then, he has served in Northern

Ireland, Bosnia, briefly in Afghanistan and Iraq.

This is Matt's first UN appointment. However he is not new to the island, having spent 18 months in Episkopi Garrison as his Regiment's Training Officer.

His hobbies include triathlon, sub aqua diving, skiing and mountaineering.

Military Assistant to the Force Commander

Allen Clough was born in Fort Huachuca, Arizona, USA. He grew up in a military family and lived in Georgia (USA), Germany and the Republic of Korea. His family finally returned to the U.S. to settle in New Jersey.

Security Officer

Allen served in the US Army from 1993 until 1998 as a military policeman. He joined the UN in 1999 as Security Officer and carried out duties as the Desk Officer, Security Control Centre, the Adjunct Firearms Instruc-

tor in the Strategic Planning Unit, Investigative Officer in the Special Services Unit, Security Trainer/Firearms Instructor in the Emergency Response Team (as a result of September 11, 2001), Senior Security Officer, Capital Master Plan Unit and Senior Security Officer in the Strategic Planning Unit.

His hobbies include motorcycling, travel, music, cooking, computers and reading Tom Clancy books.

Allen is married to Juana, and they have one son, Jalen.



Sgt. Al Carter enlisted into The Royal Corps of Transport in December 1988. During his military career, Al has served four tours in Northern Ireland, one in Bosnia, one in Iraq and also carried out exercises in Oman and Canada. This is Al's first peacekeeping mission.

During his 18 years in the military, Al has spent six years away from home. This two-year tour with UNFICYP is therefore a bonus for him and his family. Al's wife Tracey and son Thomas (six) are

with him in Cyprus. So too is the fourth member of the Carter family, expected to arrive in January.

Al enjoys swimming, golf, mountain biking and motor cycling. He and Tracey also enjoy an active social life. Here in sunny Cyprus, he should be able to pursue his interests without any problem!

Force Commander's Driver

Jonathan Vatikiotis arrived in Cyprus from Liverpool in March this year.

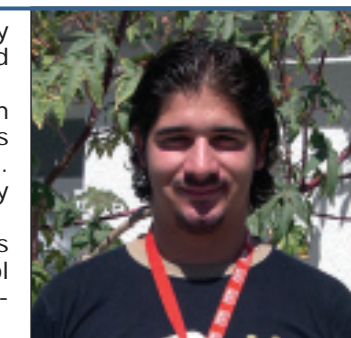
Inventory and Supply Assistant

After leaving school, Jonathan (22) studied music in Manchester for four years with the intention of becoming a professional musician. During his studies, he earned his way as a restaurant manager – qualities required for the position he

now holds as Inventory and Supply Assistant in the HQ Camp Command Unit, which he took over on 1 June.

Jonathan's father comes from Athens and his mother's family hails from Achna in the Famagusta area. Jonathan is engaged to Niki, and they hope to marry in a couple of years.

His hobbies include his guitar, sports of all categories (he's an avid Liverpool supporter), computers, history, travelling and the cinema.



Maj. Simon King has replaced Maj. Mark Grieveson at HQ BRITCON. Its very much a "one for one" exchange as, like Mark, Simon is a logistician.

His service has covered some 30 years and has ranged from Norway in the North, to the South Atlantic and from the USA in the West, to Hong Kong in the East and most places in between. This is Simon's first tour of duty with the UN although he has had extensive coalition and multi-national experience with – amongst others – NATO, ISAF and EUFOR.

Simon is accompanied by his wife

Sarah, a former civil servant, who is presently retraining as a gardener in the UK, and is threatened with visits by his two adult sons. Home for the Kings is a small village in the county of Dorset in the south west of Eng-land. It is here that their horse, dog, cats and sundry other animals remain.

This is Simon's third visit to Cyprus. The other two involved short exercise periods, and the longer stay with UNFICYP will allow him to indulge his innate curiosity for other cultures, history and art.

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