

The Blue Beret

September 2001



"The terrorists aimed at one nation -- but wounded an entire world."



Official Transcript of the Press Conference of Mr Alvaro de Soto Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Cyprus Ledra Palace Hotel, Nicosia 5 September 2001

De Soto: As is well-known, consultations have been underway for some time in order to put the talks on Cyprus back on track. As part of these efforts, in which many have contributed, the Secretary-General met last week with H.E. Mr. Rauf Denktash, the Turkish Cypriot leader. During my visit here, which ends today, I have continued consultations with H.E. Mr. Glafcos Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader and with Mr. Denktash.

In concluding my visit, I wish to make the following announcement. "I wish to announce that, on behalf of the Secretary-General, I have conveyed to H.E. Mr. Glafcos Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader, and H.E. Mr. Denktash, the Turkish Cypriot leader, an invitation to resume the search for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem under the Secretary-General's auspices.

It is our hope that a new and re-invigorated phase of the Secretary-General's good offices will begin with separate meetings of the Secretary-General with each of the two leaders on 12 September 2001 in New York."

That is the end of the announcement, which will be distributed to you in written form. Let me add a couple of points before taking your questions. First, it will be seen that there is no date foreseen for adjournment of the talks that we hope would begin on 12 September. What we would hope is that in the days following the meeting with the Secretary-General, the two leaders would hold separate working meetings with me, as they have done in the past, on the substantive issues that must be addressed as part of a comprehensive settlement.

The Secretary-General, and in this he is supported widely, would hope to see an intense period of work in the time ahead as part of a continuous process.

The Secretary-General very much wants to be in a position to report progress on issues of substance before the end of this year. This is without prejudice to the guiding principle that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.

Now with that, I will take your

questions to the extent of my abilities.

Question: Can we consider that the Secretary-General's statement of 12 September 2000 stands as common ground for this new process?

De Soto: Well, the Secretary-General's statement to the two leaders that he made on 12 September last year, and that he subsequently made public, has not been retracted. It still stands. There's no change in its status. As far as we are concerned, that statement marked the end of the stage of preparing the ground and we hope to have meaningful meetings in New York -- and beyond.

Question: I want to ask you -- have you this time noticed any slight changes in the positions of the two sides that would lead to a breakthrough, and to accession to EU, with or without an agreement. And my second question is: if these talks get back on the track, what is the basis? Is it (a) the 1960 Cyprus international agreements; (b) the [High Level Agreements of 1977 and 1979]; or (c) the Ghali paper that we have heard so many times called the "set of ideas"?

De Soto: I don't want to get into an assessment of the situation of whether there is ground for an improvement in talks. Obviously, the Secretary-General would not have taken the step that he has recently taken -- if he did not have hope for the future of talks and for getting them back on track -- he would have not taken the steps that he had done which included his meeting in Salzburg with Mr. Denktash and my coming here.

You have inquired about the basis of the talks. Let me tell you that as far as the Secretary-General is concerned, he has been and continues to be guided by the principles of Security Council Resolution 1250: no preconditions, all issues on the table, a commitment in good faith to continue to negotiate until a settlement is reached, and full consideration of all relevant UN resolutions. The Secretary-General will be guided by the Security Council. As to whether other goals can be achieved in the course of these negotiations, we should leave

that to those negotiations

Question: As you have emphasized, the announcement of the Secretary-General dated 12 September stands there. How about the oral remarks of the Secretary-General on 8 November. Do they stand there as well?

De Soto: The Secretary-General did make some oral remarks to the two leaders, privately, last November. At the time, he made clear what their status was and he also made clear that he did not expect the two leaders to agree with what he was saying or to negotiate his oral remarks as if they were a negotiating text. They were not meant to be a text at all. We don't want to get waylaid in a negotiation of oral remarks. There is no change in their status, therefore. Rather, we would like the parties to negotiate legally text on the whole range of core issues.

Question: Have you already received reactions of the leaders of the two sides? Until when do we have to wait in order to know if they are going to accept the invitation for the meeting with the Secretary-General?

De Soto: What I can say is that we don't yet have a response from both sides. Mr. Clerides has signified his readiness to come to New York. I have not pressed either leader for a response immediately, but obviously one would be needed fairly soon. We are waiting for Mr. Denktash to respond and we hope he will do so in due course.

Question: Mr. de Soto, to what extent have you managed to accommodate the preconditions which Mr Denktash was setting out before embarking on new talks, and to what extent have you managed to allay the concerns of the Greek Cypriot side concerning any substantive changes in the peace process?

De Soto: Well, given the guiding principles I have just referred to laid down by the Security Council, to which the Secretary-General must adhere, I do not think it would be appropriate to discuss preconditions and whether there has been any acceptance at all. There has been quite a bit of public discussion on many points regarding the talks, including what is the basis and

whether that should be changed. I should comment here -- and forgive me for straying -- that I have never been entirely sure about what was meant by the 'basis' of the talks, which would imply, at least intellectually, that there is some agreed platform to which both sides are committed. I think this misses the point. We, of course, expect both sides to be committed to the overall goal of a comprehensive settlement. But it is clear that there is some considerable distance between the publicly stated positions of the two sides.

So it will require flexibility, real work, a spirit of compromise, and political will in order to achieve a mutually acceptable outcome. Such an outcome must be fair, viable and it must be sought on all issues, which is not to say necessarily that we are looking for equidistant solutions -- which is, of course, one of the many words that should not be used in the context of efforts to solve the problem of Cyprus. We do not believe, and I would like to underline this, that it is useful to try to negotiate, either now or during the negotiations, some sort of framework agreement to establish some platform for negotiations. That would only mire us in some inconclusive conceptual discussion involving labels, which we believe are best left to the end. Such an exercise would be time-consuming and would distract us from the task of negotiating final, legally binding texts.

Question: Will the talks be starting from scratch on new ground, or will they start from the non-papers submitted in the previous rounds?

De Soto: I have said a few things that have already addressed this question to a certain extent. I have already said that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed. I don't want to get into a discussion on papers or non papers which may or may not have been handed over in the talks, particularly if as non-papers they have no status or existence. Obviously, certain ideas that we put in the course of last year have not vanished from our minds, but nothing formal has been put forward. We are still in the process of developing ideas and we are open-

minded about them and we hope the parties would be as well, and we are ready to work with them and to continue to consult with them.

Question: If nothing is agreed until everything is agreed, how can you reconcile the diversion of principles emphasised by the two sides between the statement expressed by the Secretary-General on 12 September and that on 8 November?

De Soto: Well, the 12 September statement was not submitted for agreement by the two sides, and its status has not changed. So we do not think there is any clash with the principle that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.

Question: Since President Clerides is to be back in Cyprus on 17 September, when do you plan to finish this round of talks? Secondly, what do you expect can be achieved in such a short round of 5 days?

De Soto: If there is concentrated work and willingness to push ahead you might be surprised at how much can be done. We have, in fact, put forward to the two sides some ideas to accelerate and intensify the process, in order to translate into reality the idea that it should be a new and re-invigorated phase. We would like to continue discussing that.

Question: When do you expect Mr Denktash to give his final answer?

De Soto: As I have already said, I didn't press on Mr. Denktash for a reply on the spot. Obviously, we would hope that he does so in time so as to arrive in New York to participate in the new phase of talks.

Question: Would you say that the new round of talks on 12 September represents a new phase of negotiations or a continuation of the talks interrupted in November?

De Soto: I think that point is covered by defining this as a new and re-invigorated phase of the Secretary-General's good offices.

Question: Last time you were here in January, you said that the two sides were uncomfortably close to the moment of truth. What has changed for you to hope that they will attend talks?

De Soto: Did I say that? Well, I don't think there's any change in that particular situation.

Question: Is there common ground between the two sides, or are you going to New York in order to find a common ground?

De Soto: We hope that the common ground would be developed in the process of negotiating specific legally binding texts. So let us go forward. There has been a lot of work in the past from which we can borrow. However, we have to be open to fresh ideas as well.

Question: What was the response of both sides to the ideas that you have put forward to them to re-invigorate and accelerate the process?

De Soto: I would rather continue to discuss that with them rather than get into that.

Question: We have been waiting for the UN to give us something concrete and solid. All we hear are hopes and wishes. Are you in a position to tell us that there is some ground for hope?

De Soto: I don't think we will be in a position to report something concrete, until there is something agreed in negotiations. And nothing can be considered agreed until all is agreed. That's how we see it.

Question: Having heard the two sides -- federation and confederation -- do you think they agree on parameters for a final settlement?

De Soto: We are not quite there yet.

Question: Are the talks aimed at a new partnership?

De Soto: The Secretary-General said on 12 September that he would hope to see brought about, through negotiations, a comprehensive settlement that would enshrine a new partnership, and he hopes the two sides will join with him in an effort to give it a legal form.

Question: You say all issues are on the table. Do you at least say that international human rights are a basis for talks?

De Soto: We don't want to foreclose the parties' rights to bring forward reasonable proposals and suggestions in the course of negotiations, but we earnestly hope that what we will see brought forward is not so much the publicly stated positions of the sides, but their underlying concerns and aspirations, and even fears. This is what has to be done.

Afghanistan, a Population in Crisis

Heads of Agencies' Joint Statement

The Secretary-General, as you will have read on page 3, has condemned the terrorist attacks which took place on 11 September. In doing so, he expressed solidarity with the people of the United States, and further stated: *"No people, no region and no religion should be condemned, assaulted or targeted because of the unspeakable acts of individuals."*

Nevertheless, a humanitarian crisis of stunning proportions is unfolding in Afghanistan. Twenty years of brutal conflict, three years of severe drought, large-scale human rights abuses and significant population movements spurred most recently by the present geo-political crisis have left more than five million civilians, the vast majority of them women and children, with a fragile grip on survival. The onset of winter will loosen that grip even further.

With the eyes of the world on Afghanistan and the neighbouring countries, we call attention to the following indicators of a broad and disastrous humanitarian crisis:

- More than five million people currently require humanitarian assistance to survive, including more than one million people who have been displaced from their homes.
- Tens of thousands of people are now on the move in search of safety and assistance and UNHCR believes that many more are unable to move.
- Already, 3.8 million Afghans rely on UN food aid to survive. By November 1, WFP estimates that 5.5 million people will depend on its food shipments.
- Nearly 20 per cent of those in need are children under the age of five, according to UNICEF, many of whom are already struggling to survive.

UN agencies and other aid organisations continue to operate camps for displaced people and food delivery with the help of hundreds of devoted Afghan staff who remain at work inside the country. But lack of international humanitarian access is hastening the deterioration of the situation. No additional food supplies can be delivered to Afghanistan at the moment and WFP estimates that food reserves in the country will be exhausted within two to three weeks.

We urge a world wounded by the horrific and deplorable terrorist attacks of 11 September to be mindful of the principles of international humanitarian law and to take all measures to protect the civilian populations, especially the millions of children and women.

We call on the entire international community -- especially the countries in the region -- to help prevent further tragedy by supporting humanitarian relief efforts, by pressing for safe international humanitarian access to all populations in need, by assuring the safety and security of international and national relief personnel, by supporting all measures that lessen the chance of a humanitarian catastrophe in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, and by opening borders to those in need.

We particularly recognise the enormous burden already carried by Pakistan and Iran in hosting 3.5 million Afghans, and join UNHCR in urging more international support for asylum states to ensure that their borders are open to all those who deserve protection and humanitarian assistance.

We thank those donors -- governments, organisations and individuals -- who continue to support humanitarian relief efforts in this region, and urge the international community to increase their support in the face of the growing humanitarian crisis.



Carol Bellamy
Executive Director
UNICEF

Mark Malloch Brown
Administrator

United Nations Development Programme

Catherine Bertini
Executive Director
World Food Programme

Ruud Lubbers
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Kenzo Oshima
Emergency Relief Coordinator
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Mary Robinson
United Nations High
Commissioner for Human Rights

Security Council Resolution 1368 (2001)

The Security Council,

Reaffirming the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations,

Determined to combat by all means threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts,

Recognising the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence in accordance with the Charter,

1. **Unequivocally condemns** in the strongest terms the horrifying terrorist attacks which took place on 11 September 2001 in New York, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania and regards such acts, like any act of international terrorism, as a threat to international peace and security;

2. **Expresses** its deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families and to the people and Government of the United States of America;

3. **Calls on** all States to work together urgently to bring to justice the perpetrators, organisers and sponsors of these terrorist attacks and stresses that those responsible for aiding, supporting or harbouring the perpetrators, organisers and sponsors of these acts will be held accountable;

4. **Calls also** on the international community to redouble their efforts to prevent and suppress terrorist acts including by increased cooperation and full implementation of the relevant international anti-terrorist conventions and Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 1269 (1999) of 19 October 1999;

5. **Expresses** its readiness to take all necessary steps to respond to the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, and to combat all forms of terrorism, in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations;

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



Engineers Tackle the Tough Jobs

By Lt. J.L. Clark

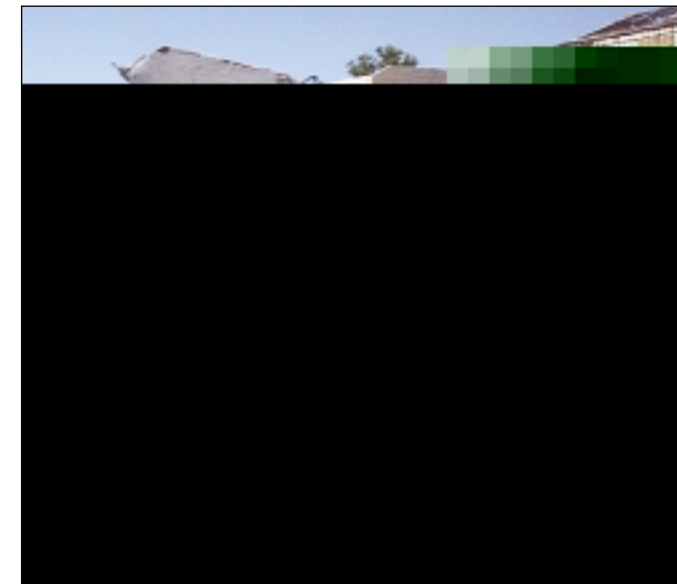
From mine reporting and awareness to protection and sustainment operations, 9 Parachute Squadron RE (currently providing the Royal Engineer Detachment to Sector 2) can be called upon to deal with an astounding range of tasks. It's no wonder that among the Detachment's 13 personnel, you can find expertise in carpentry, bricklaying, plumbing, electrical engineering, building and structural finishing, air-conditioning and refrigeration engineering, and plant operating.

With a mission to provide engineer support in order to protect and sustain Sector 2, the Detachment runs the Mine Reporting Cell, conducts mine awareness training, and can conduct decisive and sustaining operations, as directed by HQ S2.

In short, the Detachment is responsible for the maintenance of living standards in Sector 2. The team also carries out project work to improve infrastructure throughout Sector 2, such as the renovation of a house in the Buffer Zone to provide a new troop location for Irish Bridge Troop (OP 58A).

The Detachment's mine-related tasks are a particularly important job given the extent of minefields within Sector 2, and the proximity of patrol tracks to these minefields. It is vital that soldiers who work in this sort of environment know of the threat from mines and how to react, should a mine-related incident occur.

The Engineer Detachment is provided by 36 Engineer Regiment, based in Maidstone in the UK. The current Detachment is stationed at Aldershot in the UK, with all members having passed the arduous pre-



parachute selection and subsequently qualified as military parachutists.

Away from work, the men of the Detachment are keen sportsmen, boasting a Combined Services boxer, army level athletes and corps representatives in boxing, hockey and fishing. Whilst in Cyprus, the Detachment has reached the quarter final of the All-Island 5-A-Side football competition, and competed with distinction in several of the Cyprus Running Club's series of road races. Several members of the Detachment have undertaken diver training and qualified as PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) Open Water and Advanced Open Water Divers.

UN Day Is Just Around The Corner

UN Day is just around the corner. Time to remind one and all that this year we celebrate UN Day in Cyprus on Sunday, 21 October, the nearest Sunday to 24 October, the actual day on which the UN elsewhere in the world marks the entry into force of the UN Charter 56 years ago. Here in Cyprus, we continue the UNFICYP tradition of hosting a bicomunal gathering at Ledra Palace. Come one, come all. And bring the family.

We are likely to see 5,000 Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots and others mingling in the palace grounds. The aim is to provide a family day in a non-political, non-threatening and safe environment. From 11:00 am until 7:00 pm, Ledra will be the focus of live entertainment, food, refreshments and lots of exhibits, not to mention people making exhibitions of themselves. There will be clowns and magicians and games and contests for the children (fancy a chocolate-eating competition?).

Day-long entertainment includes parades of musicians starting with the choreographed athletics of a military marching band. In the evening, a classical ensemble featuring internationally renowned pianist Martino Tirimo and French horn player Turgay Hilmi will perform works by Brahms, Mozart and Schumann. For those who prefer their music recorded, there's a BFBS DJ who promises to be a livewire.



HQ Battery Group cleaning up the area

There will be refreshments for all. Many contingents will show displays from home. Other exhibits will be mounted by UN agencies and civilian components of UNFICYP. UN Day involves a lot of work before and on the day. If you are not already involved, come along and pitch in on Sunday 21 October. Help make it a day which contributes to the prospects for the future.

Want to help on the day? Contact Madeline Garlick or Anita Thomas on Ext 4552.

A Moment's Silence Gives Pause to Medal Parade Ceremonies



The Force Commander with Sector 1 band members



Chile's representative in Sector 1



The trumpeteer in Sector 1's band

The Sector 2 UN Medal Parade, held on 12 September, proved a timely opportunity for both soldiers and civilians to pause and remember the victims of the previous day's terrorist attacks in the United States.

Flags flew at half-mast, and Force Commander Maj. Gen. Victory Rana said at the beginning of his speech that: "All of us are shocked almost beyond belief that such an evil and devastating act could be perpetrated on innocent people." He also expressed sympathy and deep condolences to the American people, and to the families and loved ones of those killed and injured, before asking for a few moments of silence.

The United Nations medal was awarded to 105 soldiers from the 12th Regiment Royal Artillery and Headquarters staff. Maj. Gen. Rana commended the British soldiers for their considerable professionalism in the sensitive Green Line area of the Buffer Zone.

At the Sector 1 Medal Parade held the following week on 18 September, a minute's silence was also held to honour those who had lost their lives in the service of peace, and the victims of the terrorist attack. UN medals were presented to 260 soldiers at San Martín



Sector 1 soldiers standing to attention

Camp, with a further 70 soldiers being awarded their medals two days later, at Roca Camp's Medal Parade, in the amphitheatre of the Roman ruins of Soli.

At San Martín Camp, the Force Commander noted Argentina's consistent support to peacekeeping operations, and the outstanding performance of the



A moment's silence in Sector 1



Honouring the Bolivian flag



Army Air Corps band

Military Band, which has recently been cut back by 30%. He also highlighted the coincidence of the date with the independence of Chile, the newest South American country to contribute to the Contingent.

Chile stretches along the western coast of South America, sharing borders with two of its UNFICYP colleagues -- Argentina and Bolivia -- plus Peru. The long, narrow country is marked to the east by the Andes, and its geography varies from the great northern Atacama desert to the central region's Mediterranean-like climate and the south's snowy reaches. Chile celebrates Independence Day annually on 18 September.



Commander British Forces Cyprus, Air Vice Marshal Rimmer, presenting medals

On 6 August the Argentinian Contingent celebrated the 176th anniversary of Bolivian Independence with a parade at San Martín Camp. It was on 6 August 1825, after 15 years of fighting, that the people of the "Alto Peru" province created the new nation of Bolivia, named after the South American hero Simón Bolívar. Located in South America's geographical heartland, Bolivia's landscape is one of high mountain ranges, descending across the plains as far as the Amazonian rainforest. Bolivia contributes to peacekeeping operations around the world, and has served in UNFICYP since 1998.

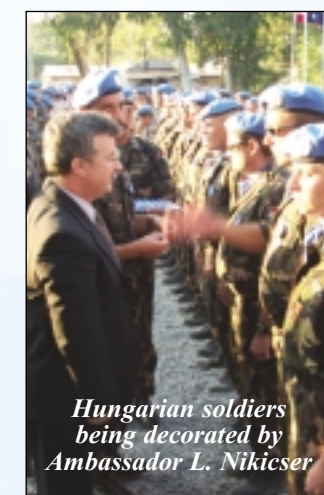
On 21 September, SLOVCON staged their first medal ceremony since their arrival in June 2001 to take charge of Sector 4. Joining them on parade were members of HUNCON. Medals were presented to 273 Slovak and 38 Hungarian soldiers by the Force



12 Regt RA group march past the FC and guests

Commander, the Chief of Staff and the Ambassadors of Slovakia and Hungary.

The Force Commander commended the two contingents for their commitment to peacekeeping principles, and paid particular tribute to the seamless manner in which SLOVCON had taken over from the departing AUSCON.



Hungarian soldiers being decorated by Ambassador L. Nikieser



Slovak soldiers being decorated by Ambassador D. Rosbora

Following the parade, guests were wined and dined with warmth and great hospitality by their Slovak and Hungarian hosts.



Sector 4 medal recipients

Keeping Morale High

By Chaplain Dominguez and Maj. A. Alvarez

ARGCON has an important obligation to keep troop morale high, and to aid in the performance of its duties: the religious service.

The service's mission includes advising on religious and moral matters, coordinating religious activities and providing consecrated vessels required for worshipping. In peacekeeping operations, a priest is appointed to contingents up to task force level.

ARGCON's religious service representative in Cyprus, Father Daniel Dominguez, was born in Buenos Aires. In 1999, he was designated 6th Mountain Brigade's military Chaplain, and set his home with the 10th Infantry Regiment in Covunco, an isolated valley surrounded by deserted landscapes in Argentina's southwest.

"I give spiritual support to those in need," Chaplain Dominguez explains. "My aim is to reach every corner where there is a member of ARGCON. Although as a Chaplain, I bring the word of the Lord, the spiritual support is given to everyone regardless of his/her religion."

Through the week, he visits all of ARGCON: San Martin Camp, with the HQ and Commando and Bravo companies; the UNPA and UN Flight; Roca Camp; Brown



Camp with Charlie company, and Alfa company. Chaplain Dominguez also prepares a Thursday afternoon radio programme. Of course, Sunday is a day of worship, and includes four Mass celebrations in the UNPA (which some Slovaks and Cypriots also attend) and the three camps.

"In my line tours I have always found a positive openness towards religious matters," says Chaplain Dominguez. "So it is easier to bring the message people need to listen to. In simple words, I seek to spread the word of the Lord to the heart of believers and all men of goodwill."

Argentinian Commander visits ARGCON

During a recent visit to ARGCON, Argentinian Brigadier General Adolfo Cabrera addressed the troops on several occasions, each time pointing out that he was particularly impressed by the high level of professionalism he saw in the troops' daily tasks.

Brig. Gen. Cabrera is the 6th Mountain Brigade Commander, and

his July 23 to 24 visit was part of a broader military official visit programme to Argentinian peacekeeping forces. After paying courtesy calls on Force Commander Maj. Gen. Victory Rana and Chief of Staff Col. Hamish Fletcher, Brig. Gen. Cabrera met with MFR and UN Flight, and was welcomed at San Martin, Roca and Brown Camps.



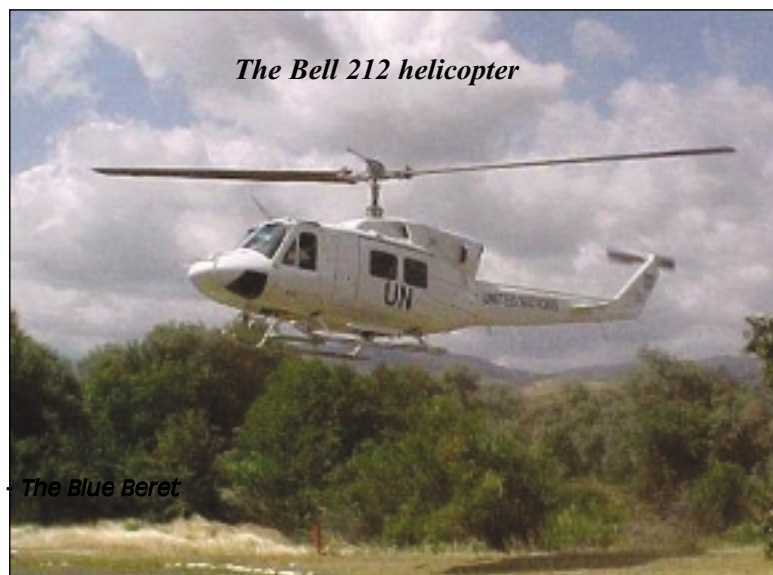
UN-Sung Heroes

by Maj. J. Dos Santos

Ever tried to land over the top of a hill -- say, OP 08 or 09 -- in a gusty wind? Not only tricky, but very risky too. UN Flight crews often do it when patrolling Sector 1... and much more. Pilots, loadmasters and mechanics have previous experience in doing some amazing -- and sometimes scary -- air jobs in our beloved Argentina: fighting huge fires in the forests, search and rescue over flooded areas, and "deep freeze" operations in Antarctica, among others.

Flying over the Buffer Zone is no exception. Due to the hilly nature of some areas -- especially western Cyprus -- there's little room for error while executing takeoff and landing procedures (let alone emergencies caused by an engine flameout or a collapsed tail rotor). Nevertheless, every day they help observers from all sectors accomplish their surveillance mission, and they do it with great enthusiasm. Unlike other more "glamorous" guys in uniform throughout the world -- fighter pilots or elite commando troops, to name a few -- helicopter crews never receive the attention and recognition they deserve.

They keep their pride and "esprit de corps" intact, however. I remember the last words of an Argentinian helo pilot during a solo flight ceremony at the 7th Air Brigade, about 10 years ago: "Do you know why God doesn't fly choppers?...because not everyone can qualify as a helicopter pilot."



The Bell 212 helicopter



Hungarians prepare to depart

Hungarians Depart

On 25 September, 57 Hungarian soldiers left UNFICYP after completing one year with the Force. Most were from Sector 4's area of responsibility, but some also served with the MFR and FMPU in Nicosia.



Lt. Col. Bela Berena, the former Contingent Commander, handed over to Lt. Col. Zoltan Horvath (left) when the new contingent took over on 24 September. Speaking on behalf of his departing comrades, Lt. Col. Berena wished a successful and enjoyable tour to their Slovak colleagues in Sector 4, and to the newly arrived Hungarians with UNFICYP.

Life Saving Operations

Do you know what you would do if you fell down a cliff off a patrol track and hurt yourself badly? Are you sure you know the right number to call to get medical help as soon as possible?

Soldiers from the MFR recently practised a staged scenario in which an UNFICYP soldier fell and badly injured his head and leg while on patrol. His colleague managed to get him back to his OP, but he was then found to be in a state of shock. His colleagues requested a CASEVAC (casualty evacuation) and within four to five minutes, a Bell 212 helicopter was on the scene, tending the wounded peacekeeper. During that time, the other soldiers from the MFR prepared the casualty for lifting, having already administered first aid. He was then loaded onto the chopper, which flew him immediately to the



UNPA Medical Centre where a doctor was standing by. The hardest time for the soldiers involved in this exercise was following the CASEVAC when the BFBS team, who were covering the whole event, asked many questions regarding the exercise!

Renaming Ceremony in Famagusta

It is traditional within UNFICYP that when the leading nation in a Sector changes, the name of the main camp is also changed. In keeping with this tradition, the name of Sector 4's main camp in Famagusta was changed on the arrival of the Slovak Contingent, from Camp Duke Leopold V. to Camp General Stefanik.

The 31 August ceremony renaming the camp took on additional meaning, however, as it also celebrated Slovakia's National Day: the Constitution Day of the Slovak Republic (usually celebrated on 1 September), which commemorates the Slovak Parliament's ratification of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic in 1992.

To mark the camp's renaming, the visiting Slovak Minister of Defence, Mr. Jozef Stank, presented a bust of General Milan Rastislav Stefanik to Sector 4 Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Milan Kovac. Force Commander Maj. Gen. Victory Rana later unveiled the camp's new symbol.

The celebrations were completed with an evening performance by the national ensemble, Janosik, with Slovak song and dance. Their programme celebrated the variety of Slovak culture with songs and dances from

Slovakia's different regions. Since these included dialects with Polish and Hungarian influences, it wasn't only the Slovaks who felt at home during the performance!



Slovakia's Defence Minister Jozef Stank in dance floor formation

Chief Procurement Officer Sam Kariuki

After working for the Kenyan Civil Service for 18 years, Samuel (Sam) Kariuki joined the Office of the UN Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia in Nairobi in early 1992. He was subsequently assigned to UNOSOM as Liaison Officer in Nairobi, and later went to UNOSOM II in Mogadishu, initially as an Administrative Officer and later as Procurement Officer.

In June 1995, Mr. Kariuki was reassigned to UNAVEM III in Luanda, Angola as a Procurement Contract Management Officer, and was subsequently made Officer-in-Charge of the Purchasing Unit, remaining there until November 1997 when he was reassigned as Procurement Officer, UNIKOM, in Iraq/Kuwait. He was promoted to Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) UNIKOM in July 1998, and was appointed Chief Procurement Officer UNFICYP in

June 2001.

A Kenyan national, and a graduate in Law from the University of Dar Es Salaam, Mr. Kariuki has also attended management courses at home in Kenya, as well as several other countries including Japan, the Netherlands and Germany.

His family is based in Kenya, with two sons currently studying at American universities, and a son and daughter at UK universities.



Chief Civilian Personnel Officer Charles V.S. Mix

Charles Mix joined UNFICYP as the new CCPO on 18 June 2001. Prior to this mission, his UN experience includes one year as Personnel Officer with the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET).

The balance of Mr. Mix's career prior to the UN has been in

the field of human resources within the private sector, mainly on engineering and military projects in Iran (Isfahan, Tabriz, Teheran), Saudi Arabia (Riyadh, Hafar Al-Batin, Yanbu al-Sinaiyah, Udhailiyah, Hawiyah, Al-Khobar), and Kuwait (Ahmedi).

His home away from Cyprus is Tucson, Arizona.



Commanding Officer UN Flight Lt. Col. Miguel Angel Lucero

Lt. Col. Miguel Angel Lucero was born in 1956 in Córdoba, Argentina. After graduating from Monserrat National College, he joined the Air Force in 1975.

Lt. Col. Lucero has clocked up approximately 5,200 total flying hours in various airplanes and helicopters, including the B-45 Mentor, MS-760 Morán, AC-500U Aero Commander, Cessna 182, H-500 Hughes, Bell UH-1H Huey, Bell 212, S-70A Blackhawk and S-76B Sikorsky.

He served in the Falklands/

Malvinas as a Bell 212 pilot in 1982, and was the recipient of two medals, the "Combat Valor" and "Combatants", presented by the Argentinian National Parliament. In 1993, when he finished the Air Force War School, he was promoted to the rank of major and completed the Staff Officer course. He has participated in nine Antarctic Summer Campaigns, and in 1994 he edited the book *Antarctic Air Operations*.

Lt. Col. Lucero is now responsible for the presidential helicop-



ters, an office which he joined 10 years ago.

He is married to Edith del Carmen, and they have three children: Hernán Federico, Vanesa Maricel and Martín Sebastián.

Visits Coordinator, WO1 (RSM) John O'Connor



John (left) with Noel

Noel O'Flynn, the outgoing Visits Coordinator, was honoured recently in the WOs' & Sgts' Mess for his loyal and dedicated service to UNFICYP. Noel, who was accompanied by his wife Fiona and three children, was well-known for his good humour and wit. He leaves the mission with fond memories and many friends.

His successor is WO1 (RSM) John O'Connor, whose appointment at

home is WO1 (RSM) Military Hospital in Dublin. John is making a return visit to UNFICYP, having served here for six months in 1971. He has also completed four tours of duty with UNIFIL South Lebanon, and served with ECMM based in Zagreb in 1996 and 1997.

John is looking forward to his new position as Visits Coordinator, and to working with the staff in the Public Information Office.

Another Page Closes

Another page in UNFICYP's history has closed. The lowering of the Slovenian flag on 24 September 2001 marked the end of Slovenia's participation with the Force.

The Chief of Mission, Force Commander and other guests stood solemnly by when at 3:30 pm, the flag located in HQ UNFICYP was slowly lowered and the honour guard, as well as all military present, saluted. The flag was then handed to the Force Commander who in turn handed it over to Capt. Tanja Pecnik, the last remaining Slovenian soldier on the island.

Tanja, a professional soldier who hails from Slovenj Gradec in the north-eastern part of Slovenia, works in Ljubljana in the 10th Motorised Battalion as an Operations Officer. This is Tanja's second tour with UNFICYP, the first being in Sector 4 in 1998 where she worked as a Duty Officer. All Slovenian soldiers are volunteers, so Tanja re-applied for many reasons -- travel abroad, experience working in an international environment, and her love of Cyprus, to name a few!

What were the highlights of her tour? "Working with so many different nationalities, to see their way of thinking and behaviour, speaking in English, this was what I really enjoyed. The work was pretty easy for me, since I had previous experience, yet there was always something new to learn. A Duty Officer in the JOC at HQ UNFICYP differs very much from that in a Sector. There's a much broader range of responsibilities because you have to cooperate with different sectors and units, plus all the civilian staff.

"Then when I became Contingent Commander last March, I found myself consulting with sections such as transport and finance - sooner or later, I needed them all.



UNFICYP salutes as the Slovenian flag is lowered

The amazing thing is how easily problems can be solved here in UNFICYP and how helpful my colleagues were. As a newcomer -- one who had no idea how the system worked -- everyone was so keen to explain how to do what and when. Somehow I find it easy to start a job and complete it. People are very helpful here!"

And what will Tanja do once she goes back to Slovenia? "First of all I shall return to my Battalion -- although my Commanding Officer has indicated that I may receive one or two offers to work in a brigade. This I will consider when I get home, because I still have 50 days of leave, part of which I hope to spend in the United States. I graduated from the National Defence University, so the likelihood is that I will spend the rest of my working life in the army. But I wouldn't say no if I were ever offered a post in another international environment."



CM's Clean-Up Day Thank You

I would like to thank you all for participating in the World Clean Up Day activities in UNPA and the sectors on 21 September last. The turn out was good and the effort commendable.

Thanks to your efforts, we can all take pride in cleaner, tidier and more pleasing surroundings.

For example, in the UNPA alone, the rubbish haul amounted to four truckloads of garbage and litter. That's a lot of litter!



Litter hunter at work

If there is a worthwhile lesson to be learned from Friday's exercise, it is that we all benefit when we pay more attention on a daily basis to the problem of waste and litter in our working and leisure environment.

Let us hope, therefore, that when we repeat this exercise in a year's time, we will require fewer plastic bags and fewer trucks to carry away our harvest of waste.

Zbigniew Wlosowicz



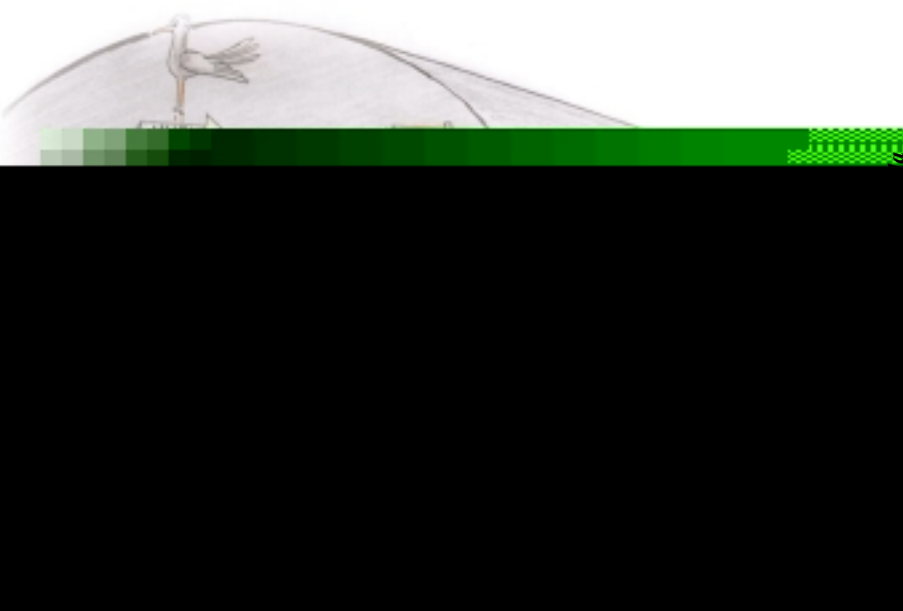
Cleaning up near Foxtrot Gate

DWUEO??*

By Charlotte Mortensen

BSM, QM, FFPU, CCPLO and so on and so on -- what does this mean to non-military people? Nothing, absolutely nothing.... and I'm not saying it's the military's "fault", it just makes me look a bit blank, when I'm being confronted with questions or inquiries like: Where's the CCPLO's office? "What?", is my usual "brilliant" answer, and it doesn't get any better when I'm the one asking the question and am being directed to go to the FMR/BSM's office. Now, what's that all about?

And it's not like I'm not used to acronyms. After all, acronymia is also a chronic UN disease -- they are just of a different kind. No matter which profession you work in or which group you belong to in this world, you are bound to use insider acronyms. United Nations Headquarters in N.Y. is infamous for title abbreviations and forget about ever learning all the different peace-keeping missions' short names. UNFICYP is easy, of course, but many of them are complicated. Try MIPONU (UN Civilian Police in Haiti), or how about UNMOGIP (UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan)? There are currently 15



peacekeeping missions around the world.

I realize that for newcomers to UN Headquarters in New York, it must all be total confusion when asked to attend meetings with the PA for ASGs/USGs, or to write reports for the use of NGOs dealing with issues of LDCs (least developed countries) and/or IDPs (internally displaced people). How would you feel if you knew that your entire career path depended on decisions of the ACABQ, probably the UN's most all-powerful body. (Well, maybe the Security Council and the General Assembly outrank it!).

I know it took me a while to learn them all and now (to my horror) I juggle them so expertly that I could be a star act in the Circus of Alphabet Soup. Come to think of it, I think I might just try a new approach next time I'm in a situation where military terms are being used. Example: "Have you spoken to the FRMPUTS (or something) today". My answer: "No, I haven't had a chance yet, but I did mention it to the CHRZW of UN CIVREPW - is that OK?" Now let's see who looks blank!

** Do We Understand Each Other?*

Caption Competition

Simon Butt's got it again! Aren't there any other wits out there with caption notions? Anyway, well done Simon - you keep us smiling.



The description of the suspect was a little vague...



The best caption for the above photograph will receive a prize -- to be decided.... All entries should be submitted to the Public Information Office by:

25 October 2001

Tour de BZ

By 2/Lt M. Leeming

From UN OP8, the most western OP in the main part of the Buffer Zone, east to the border between Sectors 2 and 4 -- this was the challenge accepted by four mountain bikers: Maj. Marcus Tivey, OC MFR; Capt. Mason, Sector 2; Lt. Juan Ferrero, Tactica Platoon Commander, and myself, 2/Lt. Mark Leeming, MFR Platoon Commander.

The first few hours after our early-morning departure saw us almost constantly climbing. The terrain near UN OP8 is difficult enough for the patrol vehicles: by mountain bike, we were forced to dismount and push in places. The upside to the mountains, however, were some awesome downhill sections, increasing adrenaline levels in our bloodstream considerably. There were no major mishaps, and the only fall was cushioned by a very thorny bush. For the rider concerned, being pulled out was considerably more painful than the entry!

Around the Sector 1 headquarters of Camp San Martin, we were relieved to see the ground start to level out. But temperatures were soaring to 40°C and



above, so by the time we arrived at Camp Brown, Marcus and Tim were the only two striving to get back to the UNPA. Arrive they did, recording a temperature of 44°C passing through Bengal Troop, before successfully pushing on to the border of Sectors 2 and 4.

Maybe as the weather cools, an attempt on the whole BZ will be mounted. I think it will depend on how well memories of an exceedingly tough challenge remain, and whether another great idea is conceived in the bar!

Friendly Football Match

The UNPA football grounds set the scene on 24 August for a hard-fought match between the Argentinian Officers' team and the British Officers' team. Although the Argentinians took an early lead, the British battled for everything: the final score of 7-0 in ARGCON's favour was rather a good indication of the ARGCON members' skills, and not a reflection of the determination and ability of the British team.

After the match, both teams met at the Officers' Club for a "Pizza and Beer" party, where all lessons learned were discussed in depth. For sure, we will



soon see BRITCON coming for a second chance. ARGCON: be prepared!

Aspavas Biathlon

The beautiful coast of Morphou bay was the scenery for the annual edition of the "Aspavas Beach" Biathlon, organised by the local community of Lefka on 15 September.

The challenging competition included 1 km of open sea swimming and 5 km of running.

Sector 1 presented a total of 16 competitors in the different categories, and after a hard fought race, one Uruguayan and two Argentinians finished in the top three in their respective age groups: WO Juan Sosa arrived second and Capt. Carlos Arregui third in the male age group up to 35; and Pte. Queupo was third in the age group up to 18.



All Island Volleyball

September 1st and the All-Island Volleyball Competition proved to be a glorious day in the idyllic setting of the Beach Club in RAF Akrotiri, with sun, sand and sea all thrown in for good measure.

Approximately 24 teams were entered, including UN teams from Ledra Palace, Sector 2 East and the MFR. All three teams showed an ability to fend off other quality teams, proceeding through to the quarter finals. Those games saw Ledra Palace and S2E (the latter playing MFR) being forced to retire to the sidelines, ending all hopes of a UN victory.



Sport