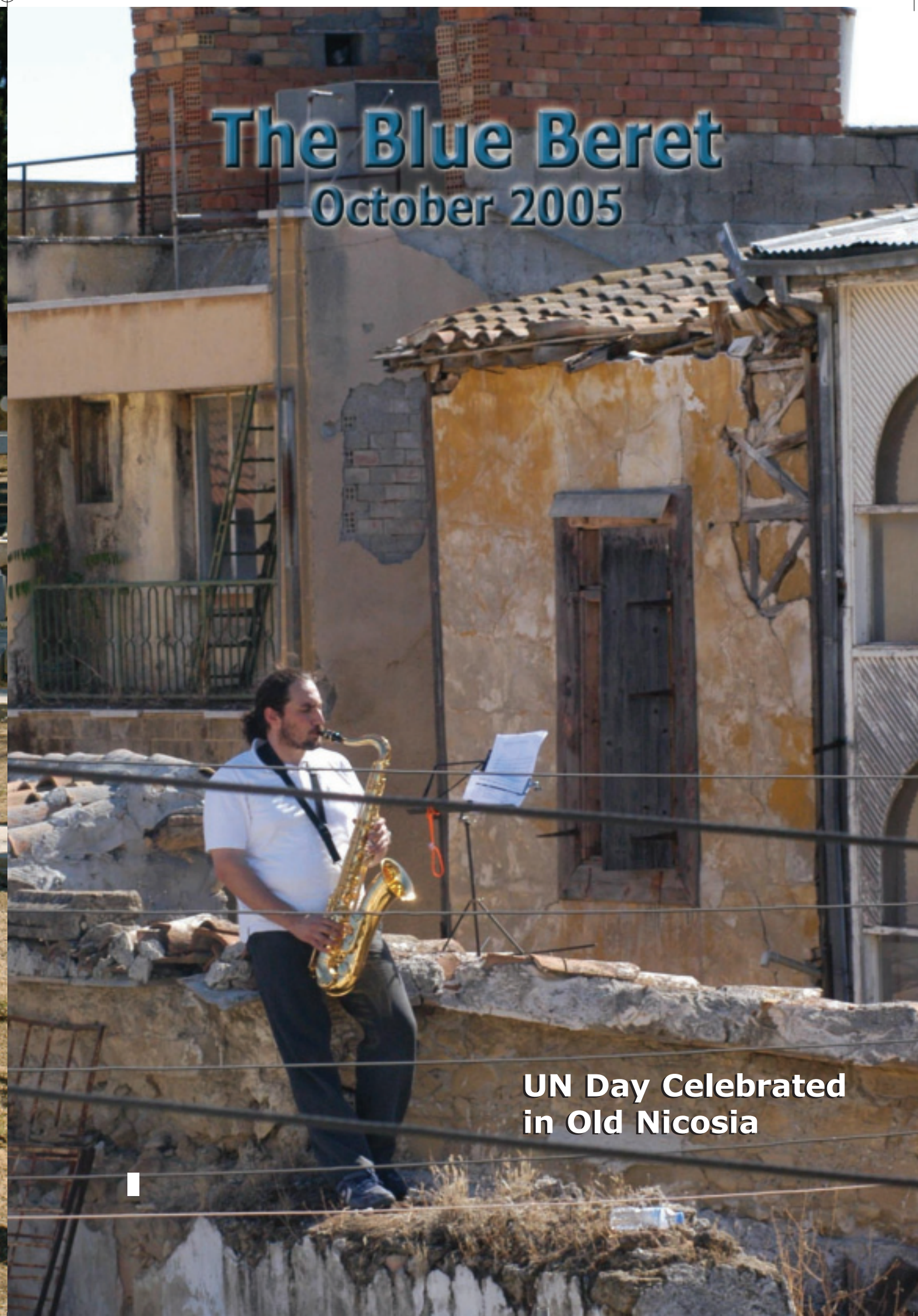


Tree Planting in Armenian Cemetery



The Blue Beret October 2005



UN Day Celebrated in Old Nicosia

THE BLUE BERET

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UN's 60th Anniversary

A year of brickbats and recriminations, of calls for institutional reform and denunciations of scandals may have cast a pall over the UN's 60th birthday celebration but the event still remains a milestone occasion, one that merits pause for stocktaking.

Since its establishment, the UN has helped move some 80 countries to nationhood and independence. It has enabled people in countries as diverse as Cambodia, Namibia, and East Timor to participate in free and fair elections and provided electoral advice and assistance to more than 90 countries.

Through UNIFEM and INSTRAW, it has helped improve women's quality of life and promoted women's rights in over 100 countries.

UNAIDS coordinates global action against an epidemic that affects nearly 40 million people, and it helps provide universal access to HIV prevention and treatment services in more than 130 countries.

The World Food Programme reaches an average of 90 million hungry people in 80 countries every year, including most of the world's refugees and internally displaced people.

In his UN Day message, the Secretary-General points out that the world we live in today is very different from the world that gave birth to the UN. This is why today's UN must reflect our new age and respond to new challenges. That's not an easy task. There is plenty of work for us all – for the UN, for the Secretary-General and for global citizens, young and old alike.

On UN Day here in Cyprus, we in the UN family only had to look to the rooftops along the Green Line in the heart of old Nicosia to see global citizens from the two communities reach out to one another musically in a fusion of sounds testifying to peace and tolerance. It was an inspiring and humbling reminder of shared hopes and aspirations, cradled within the old town's Venetian walls, that transcend conflict and division.



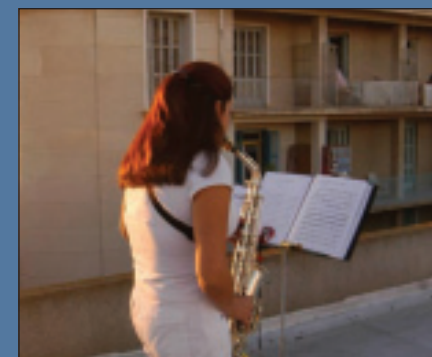
Secretary-General,
Kofi Annan

Nicosia Gives United Nations Day a Special 60th Birthday Call

United Nations Day was celebrated in unique fashion in Cyprus – a rooftop performance of an original work by Dutch composer Merlijn Twaalfhoven deep in the heart of old Nicosia on either side of the buffer zone divide separating north from south in the Ledra Street commercial section. Twaalfhoven's work, "Long Distance Call", was composed to honour the UN's 60th birthday while paying tribute to the spirit and beauty of old Nicosia, nestled within the confines of its honey-coloured Venetian walls, embraced by the promise of the

new Europe. At the end of a day-long recital, performers reassembled in the buffer zone crossing point at Ledra Palace, where they were greeted and thanked by UNFICYP Chief of Mission, SRSG Włosowicz.

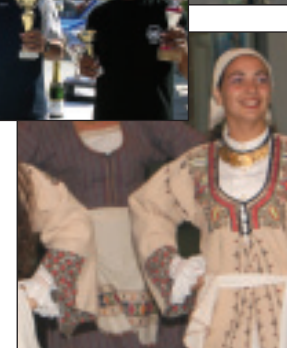
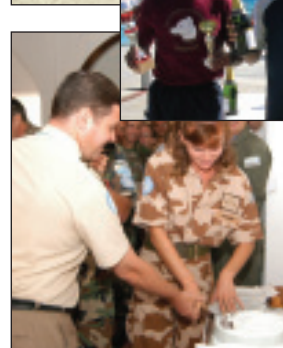
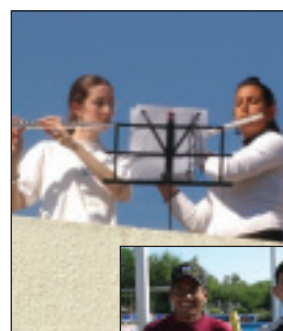
Not only was our UN Day different this year, but it had to be a standout in the annals of UN Day celebrations worldwide as well. Where else did performers take to the streets (and rooftops) of a divided old town for a UN day-long musical recital? Of course, there was a local variant on the day too. For the first time, we marked the day not on a Sunday, as has been customary in years past,



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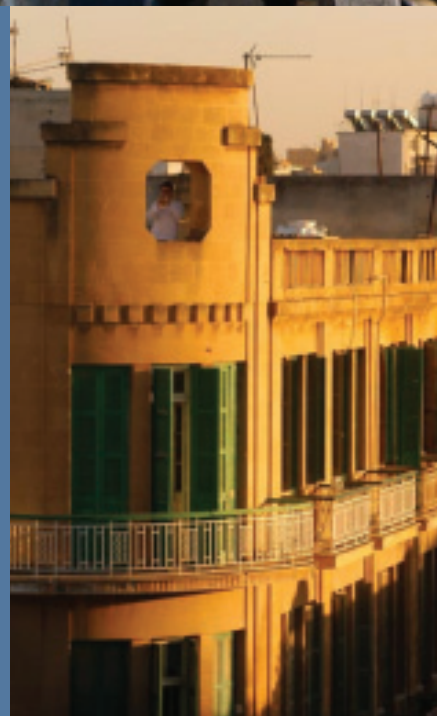
Front Cover: UN Day 2005 in old Nicosia
Back Cover: UNDP plants trees for Armenians





UN day

Solo percussionist above Kalinda Pasari street in the north.



Rooftop trumpet call.

but on the UN's actual birthday, October 24th, which this year happened to fall on a Monday.

Composer Twaalfhoven, inspired by an earlier visit to the city, returned this spring determined to put together "Long Distance Call", a three-dimensional bi-communal musical performance by young musicians, students and children from the two communities. Emphasising the physical unity of the old town, the performers played from rooftops, balconies and street level on either side of the

Green Line in the areas immediately to the north and south of the Ledra Street buffer zone barrier. The composition, based on traditional Cypriot melodies, was scored for wind instruments, percussion and voices. Students and children helped develop much of the musical input in a series of workshops and rehearsals held in the Ledra Palace bi-communal rooms and in other work spaces on both sides of Nicosia in the countdown leading to UN Day.

On the day, the performance

opened with the 8 a.m. morning call by assembled wind players on neighbouring rooftops. The ensembles featured French horns, trumpets, flutes, saxophones and bassoons backed by an array of percussion devices improvised from the best of recycled scrap metal and old UN barrels, all of which resonated with spirit and élan. The same groups returned later to sound out the noon call over the heads of the old town's midday shopping throngs. In mid-afternoon, once school was



Drummers from north and south meet up at the Ledra Palace crossing.



Some walked to the beat of drums...

out, children began filtering into the old town, heralding in song the approaching evening recital, a full, one-hour performance of the complete "Long Distance Call".

After the full performance, as evening fell, celebration and celebrants moved off in the direction of the traditional UN Day site of Ledra Palace. Here again, UN Day 2005 saw a shift from the past, since the designated gathering place was outside the immediate Ledra Palace precincts midway along the buffer zone crossing by Exchange Gate. In short, this

people of both communities with a wider range of options and choices in determining how and where they might celebrate the day.

When the "Long Distance Day" ensembles met as one outside Ledra Palace Hotel, Chief of Mission Wlosowicz welcomed everyone on behalf of the UN family of agencies in Cyprus. He applauded the performers, noting how musicians and singers had come from Ledra Street, "site of what we all hope will be the next crossing point" to reassemble at the location of the island's very first crossing point.



SRSZ Zbigniew Wlosowicz, accompanied by FC Maj. Gen. Hebert Figoli, pays tribute to the UN 60th anniversary musical salute outside Ledra Palace.



Some blew kisses...



And everyone rose to the occasion!

year marked goodbye to the familiar layout of the Ledra parking lot and parade ground where so many people from north and south had mingled down through the years – before the crossing point openings eased restriction of movement and presented

He congratulated the composer and assembled artists for honouring the UN's 60th birthday. He also acknowledged the help and support extended to the event by the Netherlands Embassy, by the United States Embassy's Bi-communal Support Programme,

by the Australian High Commission, the United Nations Development Programme's Action for Cooperation and Trust, by private sector sponsors such as Coca Cola, and by the Dutch non-profit group La Vie Sur Terre.

Sector 1 News

Handover Ceremony in Sector 1



Lt. Col. Sidders (right) hands over the Argentinian flag to the new Sector Commander, Lt. Col. Claudio Javier Piedra-Buena.

The handover from ATF 25 to ATF 26 took place during the last week of September and the first of October. ATF is manned by personnel from the Argentinian Army, Navy and Air Force, and also by officers and troops from Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Peru.

Prior to its departure from Argentina, ATF elements gathered at Caecopaz, the Argentine Joint Peacekeeping Operations Training Centre, to carry out mission-specific training and finalize preparations.

On arrival at Larnaca Airport, ATF 26 was welcomed by CO ATF 25 Lt. Col. Federico Sidders and officers of his staff, who escorted the newcomers to Camp San Martin, where ATF HQ is located.

Handover/takeover activities commenced immediately, culminating

on 6 October when responsibility for operations in Sector 1 were transferred to ATF 26 CO, Lt. Col. Claudio Javier Piedra-Buena, in a ceremony presided over by UNFICYP Chief of Staff, Col. Peter Fraser-Hopewell. Numerous guests were



New recruits arriving at camp San Martin barracks.

New CO

Lt. Col. Claudio Javier Piedra-Buena, Sector 1's new CO, started his military career in 1977, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Armour Branch in 1980.

During his time as a junior officer and then as a field-grade officer, he served in the 4th Mountain Cavalry Battalion, the Argentine Army Non-Commissioned Officers' School, the Argentine Army Armour School, 6th Tank Battalion, Argentine Army Staff Officers' School, 6th Tank School Battalion, Ops Branch of the General Staff, Argentine Army,

601st General Hospital and the 15th Cavalry Battalion.

Lt. Col. Piedra-Buena was appointed DCO of 6th Tank School Battalion (Dec 1998-Dec 2000), ADC of the Director of the 601st General Hospital (Dec 2002-Dec 2003) and CO of 15th Cavalry Battalion (Dec 2003-Sep 2005). Between Sep 2001 and Sep 2002, he served as DCLO in UNIKOM.

He is a qualified instructor in mountain manoeuvres and skiing, and was awarded the Armour and Condor Badges for excellence in these fields.

Lt. Col. Piedra-Buena is married to Maria Alicia Florenza, and they have one son and two daughters.

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Lt. Col. Claudio Javier Piedra-Buena leads Sector 1 troops on parade after the handover ceremony.

present, including personnel from UNFICYP's military, civilian and police staff, members of the diplomatic community, Cypriot military authorities and friends of Sector 1.

To ATF 25, well done and have a well-deserved rest for the tasks performed. To ATF 26, good luck in your mission and keep up the good work that has been going on in Sector 1.



Lt. Col. Claudio Javier Piedra-Buena

Sector 2 News

New CO

Commanding Officer Sector 2, Lt. Col. Jonathon Campbell, joined the British Army in 1984 where he completed officer training at Sandhurst before joining 19 Regiment Royal Artillery (RA) based in Dortmund, Germany.

Lt. Col. Campbell was employed for the next four years as a Forward Observation Officer with 7 Parachute Regt. Royal Horse Artillery. In December 1993, he joined the Honourable Artillery Company as their Adjutant. As a staff officer, he worked at the MOD before becoming executive officer to the head of the

army's personnel department. From August 2000 to August 2002, he commanded 21 Battery, 47 Regt. RA. He was then promoted to the rank of Lt. Col. Later, he worked as a staff officer in matters relating to military doctrine before taking command of 12 Regiment RA, based in Sennelager, Germany in August 2004.

Lt. Col. Campbell has served in Northern Ireland as a Platoon Commander, in Belize as a Second-in-Command and in Afghanistan as a Battery Commander.

Lt. Col. Campbell is married to Julia and they have two children, Emily and Christian. His interests include Nordic skiing, tennis and fly-fishing.



Lt. Col. Jonathon Campbell

Regimental History - 12 Regt RA

Twelfth Regiment Royal Artillery (The Lancashire and Cumbrian Gunners) - Regimental History.

The headquarters of 12th Regiment Royal Artillery can be traced back to XLV Brigade Royal Field Artillery, which was raised in 1900, and fought at Le Cateau as XV Brigade Royal Field Artillery. In 1926 XV Brigade Royal Field Artillery sailed to India for 12 years on garrison duties. It was retained in India from 1938-1941 and became 15th Field Regiment Royal Artillery. During the Second World War, the Regiment served in Iraq, Persia, Syria and Italy. In June 1946, the Regiment was retitled 15th Anti-Tank Regiment. Five months later it became 7th Regiment Royal Horse Artillery. It was re-titled 12th Anti-Tank Regiment Royal Artillery on 1 April 1947. From 1947-51, the Regiment served in the Mediterranean and North Africa. On moving to Germany (Celle) in 1951, it became 12th Anti-Aircraft Regiment Royal Artillery. In 1963 the Regiment moved to Malaya in both anti-aircraft and internal security roles, returning to the British Army of the Rhine in 1966 for a further four years.

The Regiment converted to Rapier in 1972 and deployed twice to Northern Ireland, earning in its first tour: a Distinguished Service Order, two Military Crosses, a Military Medal, two mentions in dispatches and three General Officer Commanding Com-

mandations. In 1975, the Regiment moved to Dortmund and deployed to Northern Ireland in 1977 and 1979. In May 1981 it moved to Kirton in Lindsey in the United Kingdom and in 1982 two batteries T Battery (Shah Sujah's Troop) and 9 (Plassey) Battery) deployed to the Falkland Islands on Operation CORPORATE, gaining three mentions in dispatches and three Commander Task Force commendations. In 1984, the Regiment moved back to Dortmund, and 58 (Eyre's) Battery completed a Falkland Islands tour. In 1985, the Regiment gained a further battery when 12 (Minden) Battery was reformed. In September 1988, the Regiment deployed to Northern Ireland apart from 9 (Plassey) Battery, which deployed to Cyprus in December 1988 with 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery.

In 1991, the Regiment deployed to the Gulf on Operation GRANBY. The Regiment saw service in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait. On returning from the Gulf, HQ Battery was re-titled T Headquarters Battery (Shah Sujah's Troop). In September 1995, the Regiment moved from Dortmund to Sennelager, and in November 1995 deployed to Cyprus on a UN tour.

In 1998, the Regiment deployed to Northern Ireland and was on a shadow tour from October 1999 to April 2000. Concurrently, T Headquarters

Battery (Shah Sujah's Troop) deployed a composite battery to Kosovo on Operation AGRICOLA 1. In 2001, the Regiment completed its second UN tour in Cyprus, less 58 (Eyre's) Battery, which took part in Exercise SAIF SAREEA, in the Oman. In 2002 the Regiment formed J Troop, equipped with the Lightweight Multiple Launcher (LML) HVM, as part of T Headquarters Battery (Shah Sujah's Troop).

In 2003 the Regiment deployed to the Gulf on Operation TELIC 1. The Regiment saw service in Iraq and Kuwait, gaining a Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service and a Joint Force Commander's Commendation. In November 2003 58 (Eyre's) Battery deployed on its eighth tour of Northern Ireland. The Regiment is now currently on a UN tour in Cyprus.



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UNDP launches Action for Cooperation and Trust programme



UNDP-ACT Programme Manager Andrew Russell encourages summer camp participants to become young ambassadors for peace.

On Saturday 15 October some 500 Cypriots acted for cooperation and trust, by attending a major bi-communal event in the UNPA. Young and old Cypriots alike were joined in their support for the UN's latest initiative to support peace-building projects between the two communities. By the end of the evening the word had gone out to the four corners of the island that Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots have another opportunity to build bridges of co-operation with the support of the international community. The new three-year programme will assist

Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to work together on issues of common concern. Dubbed Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT), the programme will receive funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations Development

**The best resource for peace
in Cypriot society is
Cypriots themselves**

Programme (UNDP), and will be managed directly by UNDP.

According to UNDP's Andrew Russell, "Action for Cooperation and

Trust is a bi-communal initiative with a mandate to create opportunities for both communities to work together on concrete projects which will benefit all people on the island, while at the same time promoting tolerance and mutual understanding. We hope that such joint projects will support principles of multi-culturalism and European values and provide Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots the resources and opportunities to jointly build the foundations for a sustainable solution to the Cyprus problem".

ACT replaces the Bi-communal Development Programme (BDP), which completed its activities after seven years of work and almost \$US67 million of investment into the development and implementation of projects which supported Greek Cypriot-Turkish Cypriot cooperation. The legacy of the BDP will resonate strongly through the new UNDP initiative, and many of its successes will be used as the springboard for the new programme.

Between 1998-2005, the BDP worked with over 300 different Cypriot organisations and supported some 220 projects. Two prominent former civic leaders of Nicosia, Lellos Demetriades and Mustafa Akinci, recently acknowledged that without the different types of UN assistance, including the BDP, "we would have never succeeded in bringing together the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots to discuss their problems and propose solutions".



UNDP launched the new ACT programme with children on 15 October. Snacks and gifts were offered to those who came to learn about upcoming projects.

When the Programme began in 1998, it concentrated on three main projects: support to the Nicosia Master Plan, which aimed to upgrade the urban fabric of Nicosia, restoration of the Venetian walls which encircle the old city of Nicosia and the improvement of Nicosia's sewage system. The BDP's activities soon expanded to support a varied range of initiatives with projects spread widely across the island. During this time the Programme worked with Cypriots to protect their shared environment and restore buildings of important cultural significance for both communities. At the same time, there was a strong focus on supporting educational and cultural



CM Wlosowicz speaks with Mrs. Stella Souliotis, Honorary President of the Cyprus Red Cross Society, while Nicosia's Deputy Mayor Mrs. Lya Tserioutou looks on.

exchanges and youth projects, and empowering NGOs so that they can play a more active role in promoting dialogue in Cypriot society. Finally, the BDP successfully created avenues and networks for cooperation between Cypriot experts and professionals in areas such as organic farming and the control of animal disease.

Many ordinary Cypriots have been affected by the BDP's initiatives, and this has helped many people across the island to put aside previously held entrenched views, helping them instead to embrace a multi-cultural and tolerant view of how both communities can work together. For example, Maria, who helped organise a bi-communal summer camp in 2005, said that the children at the camp "left behind all things that [usually] separated them from each other and built those things that united them". Sukran, who has worked with bi-communal farming projects, says that the industry has benefitted from "drawing upon the individual



Guests included the Australian High Commissioner, Mr. Garth Hunt, the Danish Ambassador, Mr. Svend Waever, the U.S. Political Officer, Mr. Matthew Palmer, Mrs. Olga Demetriades and the Swiss Chargée d'Affaires, Mrs. Marianne Engler.

expertise and talents of people, regardless of status, gender or race".

Throughout the world, UNDP has learned that beyond political agreements, the resolution to conflict and the building of strong institutions, which can effectively manage societal tensions, are based on principles of democratic governance, the protection of human rights and human freedoms, the rule of law, diversity, widely shared knowledge and information and channels of communication.

This is why UNDP's new peace-building programme in Cyprus will combine communication with concrete action to forge partnerships based on trust and mutual respect. The approach will place most emphasis on concrete actions taken by Cypriots themselves, while the international community will continue to support and help facilitate these relationships. Thus ACT will work with Cypriots and the international donor community to support efforts to:

- Improve opportunities for formal and informal education which promote learning to build a multi-cultural society based on justice, tolerance and mutual respect;
- Strengthen the role of civil society as a key actor in deepening citizen dialogue and participation in decisions affecting the country's future; and
- Help to build a platform for corporate social responsibility wherein Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot business communities can work together with other organisations in civil society to protect the island's environmental assets and resources.



"Steps for Peace", a bi-communal dance troop, performs a folkloric dance for guests.

It's true that only 500 people welcomed the launch of the new programme on Action for Cooperation and Trust on 15 October, but many of us at UNDP firmly subscribe to the famous saying by the American Anthropologist, Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has". As the UN commemorates 60 years of conflict management and peace building work worldwide, we must hope that Cypriots from all walks of life will grasp the new challenge of building a prosperous future for all those who call this small island "home".

Christopher Louise

New Faces

FMPU's second-in-command

Capt. Jozef Sventek was born in 1970 in Cadca, Slovakia. After completing the Technical University in Kosice in 1994, he joined the Slovak Army.

At first, he worked for the military police as a crime technician in Presov in the eastern part of the country. Five years later, he changed direction and started working as an investigator for the military police.

From December 2001 to December 2002, Jozef was posted

to UNMEE in Eritrea (Ethiopia) as a Contingent MP Officer, where he gained considerable experience. Now, as 2i/c FMPU, he hopes to put some of this experience into practice!

Jozef is married to Anita, and they have a daughter Anita (6) and a son Dominik (3). His hobbies include tennis, table tennis, skiing, fishing and hiking – although he admits that he prefers spending most of his free time with family and friends.



Capt. Jozef Sventek - SLOVCON

New Irish Member for UNPOL

It is with great pleasure that the 13th Irish UNPOL Contingent announces the much anticipated arrival of its latest member, Joseph Andreas O'Connor. John and Gillian O'Connor became the proud parents of baby Joseph on 16 September 2005 at 3.02 a.m. Baby Joe weighed in at 7 lbs 13 ozs.

Sgt. John O'Connor took up UN duty in Cyprus on 14 August, stationed in Pyla Village. John and Gillian, natives of Cork City in Ireland, also have a four-year-old daughter Eve. Eve has adjusted

well to life in Cyprus and was delighted to have her brother join her.

Gillian had nothing but high praise for the care and attention received in the clinic of Dr. Saviddes in Larnaca.

Young Joe was baptised in the Terra Santa Church, Larnaca, on 29 October. In keeping with the best of Irish traditions, there is little doubt that baby Joe's head was well and truly "wet" when fellow members of the 13th Irish UNPOL Contingent toasted his arrival.



Eve O'Connor with her brother Joseph

Sophie's Arrival



Lily Joblin brings her new sister Sophie home from the hospital.

The UNFICYP family has a new member. Sophie Joblin arrived here in Nicosia on 17 October. Proud Dad is Roy Joblin, UNFICYP's Chief Communications Officer and Mum is Daphne Joblin, from DPKO Personnel in NYHQ. Sophie joins brother Scott and sister Lily (the bemused young lady in accompanying photo). Roy says "we owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Marios Eleftheriou and the nursing staff of Evangelistria Clinic who took great care of us." Sophie's hobbies include eating and taking short naps between eating. She will soon visit UNFICYP to get her new ID card when she can be expected to scream hello to everyone!

Daphne's father made the trek from NY to welcome his latest granddaughter to the world. Daphne plans to stay home for a short while, taking a break to enjoy her two daughters, yet looks forward to getting back to the UN soon.

UNPOL News

New Deputy SPA

The new UNPOL Deputy Senior Police Adviser is Commander Col Speedie from the International Deployment Group of the Australian Federal Police. This will be Col's second tour with UNFICYP, having served with the Civil Affairs Branch in 1999/2000. Prior to joining the Australian Federal Police, Commander Speedie spent nine years with the Royal Australian Air Force and completed tours in the UK, Malaysia and New Zealand. His 18-year service with the AFP kept him rather busy with frequent overseas trips as a member of the Australian Prime Minister's Protection Team, the Australian Governor General's Protection Team along with other operational missions.

Some of Col's career accomplishments include a tour in the Solomon Islands in 2003, where he was initially assigned the in-country mission planner for the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) and later as the Chief Superintendent of Security and Guarding. He returned to Australia at the end of his eight months to implement review recommendations for Witness Protection. Following a second tour in the Solomon Islands, Col's previous deployment before Cyprus was as



UNFICYP Deputy Senior Police Adviser, Comd. Col Speedie

Chief of Staff for the Jordan International Police Training Centre, considered the world's largest police residential training facility. Col developed new management and training policies for the centre which housed 3,000 cadets and managed a staff of up to 2,000. The instructional staff included 316 police trainers from 16 different police services around the world. Col is pleased to be back in Cyprus after such great experiences on previous tours.

Denis Hilliard

Denis Hilliard just arrived from Ireland to join the 13th Irish Contingent of UNFICYP's UNPOL. Denis assumes the role of UNPOL Sector Commander, Sector 1, responsible for Dhenia, Linou, Astromeritis, Mammari and SCAT 1.

Back in Ireland, Denis held the rank of Inspector in his national police force (An Garda Siochana, Irish for Guardians of the Peace).

Denis has 32 years of service with the Irish police, including two years served in Jerusalem with UNTSO (the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation, 1978/1979).

He is married to Siobhan, and they have four children, Carol, Deborah, Lynne and Darren.

Denis is a veteran of community policing in Ireland,



UNPOL Sector Commander, Sector 1, Insp. Denis Hilliard.

and it is his wish to bring his work experience and spirit to both communities here in Cyprus.

UNPOL Takes Over SCAT Duties

On 10 September, an UNPOL celebration took place at the HQ with the short announcement by Senior Police Adviser Carla Van Maris of UNPOL's takeover of SCAT (Sector Civil Affairs Teams) duties. Cake and refreshments were offered to everyone involved in the handover from UNFICYP's military contingents. A delicious *gateau* was shared to mark this special occasion.

UNPOL SCAT was up and running on 1 September with a team in each sector and a liaison post in Leonarissio village. Services extend to communities between the Long North Wind patrols and the Maronite villages and in the Karpas region where UNFICYP conducts resupply deliveries to the Greek Cypriots living there. Weekly visits are also made to Limassol and Paphos to assist the Civil Affairs Branch and Turkish Cypriot communities with humanitarian and economic issues.



New SCAT Coordinator Capt. Sergio Oitana with former SCAT Officer, Sector 4, Capt. Jarka Blažkova, cut the cake.

Visits to UNFICYP



Chief of Mission Wlosowicz discusses the Green Line in Old Nicosia with EP President Mr. Josef Borrell (right).



COS Col. Peter Fraser-Hopewell (centre) and Mr. Borrell greet Sector 2's new CO, Lt. Col. Jonathon Campbell.

EP President's Tour

European Parliament President Josep Borrell and delegation visited Sector 2 on 5 October. They were received and briefed at Ledra Palace by Chief of Mission SRSO Wlosowicz and by Chief of Staff Col. Peter Fraser-Hopewell. The visit coincided with the official handover of Sector 2. Thus, the EP President's visit and ensuing brief tour of the Green Line took place under the auspices of outgoing Sector 2 CO, Lt. Col. Neil Marshall, ending just moments before Lt. Col. Jonathon Campbell assumed his duties as the Sector's new CO.

Mr. Borrell and party subsequently moved on to Sector 4. There, along with the Chief of Mission and the Chief of Staff, plus EP and UNFICYP officials, the EP President was escorted through the fenced off area of Varosha by Sector 4 CO, Lt. Col. Martin Bačko.



CO Sect 4, Lt. Col. Bačko, hosts EP President Borell along with the CM and the COS at OP 149 in Varosha.

Armenians Remember

On 25 September, members of the Armenian community in Cyprus met to plant trees at the Armenian cemetery at Ayios Dhometios to commemorate the site's restoration. The cemetery, which is located in the UN buffer zone, was restored by the Cypress Tree Project – an initiative of the UNDP/USAID-funded Bi-communal Development Programme (BDP).

Reverend Varoujan, Archbishop of the Armenian Church in Cyprus, explained the significance of the event. "The repair and restoration of the walls of our cemetery is particularly important for us because our church believes that cemeteries, where the remains of our ancestors are buried, constitute a living part of our life. And as such they deserve all our attention and care. We have special days in the year which are earmarked for the remembrance of the dead. On such days, special ceremonies are carried out in their memory at churches and

relatives visit cemeteries to have special blessing ceremonies for their loved ones. So it is very important for us that our cemeteries are preserved under the best possible conditions."

Since 1931, over 1,500 members of the Armenian community have been buried in this cemetery, but access to the site became difficult after 1974 and the cemetery fell into disrepair. Armenians from all over the world still visit the cemetery to pay respects to loved ones.

BDP's Programme Manager, Andrew Russell also spoke. "We believe that the planting of trees at these special sites is also a way of supporting the healing process which is still taking place on the island. This particular project joins others where we have seen cooperation between Cyprus' communities to restore religious and cultural sites of important significance."

The Cypress Tree Project is an initiative aimed at assisting Greek



An Armenian community member prepares the ground for a tree.

Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to rehabilitate cemeteries, which have been inaccessible to them over the years. The project made an assessment of the condition of all known cemeteries on the island and has rehabilitated two Greek Cypriot cemeteries and two Turkish Cypriot cemeteries, in addition to the restoration of an Armenian cemetery in the buffer zone."

Christopher Louise

New Tower at UN Flight

During the visit of Ms. Leslie Harrison (Department of Air Safety, HQ UN NY) in April this year, UN Flight conducted her on a tour of their area of responsibility.

On her departure, Ms. Harrison commended the work carried out by UN Flight. However she suggested to CO UN Flt, Lt. Col. Osvaldo Albanesi, that following the Force 860 reduction and the subsequent increase in helicopter flying hours on observation duties, it would be prudent and practical for the flight followers, the personnel who monitor all helicopter flights from start to finish, to have access to a tower. Thus, they would be able to observe the most critical phases of the flight, i.e. the take-off and landing, which previously had not been possible.

Thanks to the energetic efforts of Lt. Col. Albanesi, who tirelessly negotiated the acquisition of a movable tower, a six-metre construction now stands just behind UN Flight's offices. Since 3 September, this tower provides visual accessibility and accommodates all the

equipment used by the three flight followers, 1/Lt. Fernando Barroso, WO3 Oscar Aza and Sgt. Carlos Barros, one of which is always present during the flights of either the Hughes 500 or the Bell 212.

Thanks must also go to the Headquarters Engineers, Communications and Workshops, all of whom assisted in the erection and operation of the tower, and RAF Akrotiri, who donated specialized instruments including wind and pressure measures.



WO3 Oscar Aza logs flight details in control room.



New UN Flight control tower

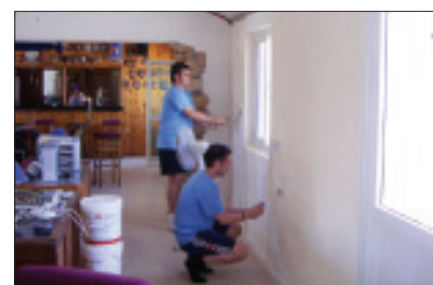
Students Tour UNFICYP



Irish students receive a guided tour of old Nicosia airport.

On 3 October, 18 Irish students from the International School for Peace Studies (ISPS) based in Belgium came by the UNPA for a scheduled tour. The school is funded by the International Fund for Ireland and the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation. It was created to exploit the potential for mutual understanding and respect for differences. During this visit to Cyprus, the two communities from Ireland were brought together through a youth-oriented work experience project promoting integration and reconciliation. Accompanied by Pyla's Turkish Cypriot Deputy Mukhtar, Nedjat

Armetal, and the Greek Cypriot town clerk, Mr. Stavros Stavrou, the students arrived at HQ UNFICYP to visit UNPOL's Irish Contingent and to receive a briefing about UNFICYP and its mandate from Spokesman Brian



Sprucing-up the UNPOL club.

October 2005 - The Blue Beret

Kelly. The group consisted of young adults between 16 and 26 years of age. They arrived in Cyprus on 29 September for a month-long stay. They have been familiarising themselves with the island's beauty spots. They also spent considerable time and artistic effort in Pyla where they painted a mural on the exterior wall of the UNPOL station. A small group also took on an artistic assignment with a difference in the UNPA where they painted the interior of the UNPOL club.

The International Peace School brings students to all corners of the globe including Canada and the U.S. Next year, it will return to Cyprus, again in the autumn, with a new group of students.

Air Cadets at Airport



On 19 and 20 October, two groups of Air Cadets from schools in the north of England visit UNFICYP headquarters. They were escorted on a tour of the old airport by MPIO Capt. Stefan Zemanovic.

Slovak Medal Parade

On 7 October, Slovak soldiers from HQ and the Engineering Detachment were awarded the Slovak Minister of Defence medal by CO Sector 4, Lt. Col. Martin Bačko. This medal is presented to all Slovaks who spend more than six months overseas in the service of peace. Number 2 and 3 numerals are awarded to men and women who are on second and third tours with over 12 months of service.

A similar event took place in Camp General Štefánik, Famagusta, on 3 October for personnel in Sector 4.



Double Medal Presentation

One interesting point which was inadvertently omitted from the UNPOL Medal Parade article (September 2005, page 11) was that Sgts. Carolyn and Craig McPherson of the 82nd Australian Contingent were the first married couple to serve together within UNPOL since 1964.

Some of the "older heads" within UNFICYP surmised this was likely to also have been a first for UNFICYP.

New Stars on the Horizon!

During the first week of October, a group of children – three Greek Cypriots and three Turkish Cypriots – arrived at HQ UNFICYP for a short visit. They had been chosen to take part in a bi-communal film called "The Airport" directed by Cypriot, Simon Farmakas. The film is about a group of children who sneak into the airport area and play together around the airport terminal.

Once their three-day location shoot was complete, the "movie stars" were offered a tour of UNFICYP's MFR and UN Flight. They nearly burst with enthusiasm when they examined a Tactica at close range for the first time. A stopover at UN Flight gave the children a chance to sit inside one of UNFICYP's two helicopters, wearing helmets and to pose for cameras. Thanks to the assistance and goodwill of the MFR and UN Flight, the "actors" were made to feel most welcome and it's certain



they left the UNPA with a very strong memory of their day at the old Nicosia Airport.

Compassionate Journey

Relatives of the only Finnish peacekeeper to die in action during the service of the Finnish Contingent with UNFICYP, Pte. Juhani Matikainen, arrived at HQ UNFICYP on 11 October to visit the monument erected by FINCON in his honour.

Anna-Liisa and Walter Nienstedt explained that only Pte. Matikainen's 86-year-old mother is still alive but, because of ill health, she is unable to visit Cyprus herself. They had flown here on her behalf and would be taking photographs back to show her.

The Nienstadts also visited the sauna left behind by the Finns, following their departure from UNFICYP on 16 September 2005.



UNFICYP Triathlon

Last month, on 11 September, 34 keen and courageous athletes showed up at the Dolphin swimming pool, UNPA, for a go at the annual UNFICYP Triathlon Competition. Keen because facing a triathlon is no mean feat, and courageous because the start time was 8:00 a.m. and the water temperature that morning was about 15°C!

The race is a three-part event starting with a 500-metre swim followed by a 16.8 km cycle and ending with a 5 km run. Temperatures hovered at about 18°C as participants arrived at sunrise. Most were shuffling around to keep warm in shorts and T-shirts, setting up their cycling and running equipment at the one transition point in the parking lot outside the pool area. Five teams signed up for the event, numbers varied for each, including MFR, Sec 2, Sec 4, ARGCON and HQ. First four in the pool started off at 7:00 a.m. To avoid overcrowding of the pool, two racers were trickled into each of two lanes at two-minute intervals. The swim is the most difficult part for most triathletes. Some were slicing the water in a confident freestyle stroke, while some of us made our way one lap at a time, occasionally taking a small break. By the time we rolled ourselves out of the pool, it was clear that energy levels were depleted.

Nevertheless, off to the car park we shuffled to change into cycling shoes and shorts to tackle two loops around Concession Road. The last stage, a 5 km run, was a huge chore, particularly when our legs felt



ARGCON's fit and winning team, from left, Sgt. Benjamin Gimenez, Sgt. Willy Garcia and 1/Cpl. Ariel Parraga.

like rubber after getting off the bike! One by one, everyone staggered across the finish cheered on by team mates and competitors alike.

Team race results were calculated on the best time average for each team's top three results. The winning time of 0:55:69 was awarded to ARGCON. Team members included Sgt. Benjamin Gimenez, Sgt. Willy Garcia and 1/Cpl. Ariel Parraga. Amanda Wright (HQ) won fastest time in the women's category at 1:01:34 while Sgt. Willy Garcia (ARGCON) won the men's section in 00:56:22. Second and third place teams were HQ at 00:61:08 and MFR at 00:64:23 respectively.

Breakfast was served to the hungry crowd to wrap things up by 8:30 a.m. Nothing like taking in a little triathlon before breakfast!

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MFR Complete the Agros Run



On Sunday, 16 October, members of the Mobile Force Reserve travelled south-west to Agros. A 5.5 km course awaited them, and it was certainly a course for keen runners only.

The terrain was undulating throughout, but conditions were very good for the runners. The organisers had made a special effort to facilitate all age groups and there were plenty of prizes up for grabs of which the MFR brought home the following:

1st (35+)	-	Lt. Ogu
1st (19-)	-	Gnr. Atkinson
1st (34-)	-	Bdr. Harper
1st (34-)	-	Bdr. McCallen
10th Overall	-	Pte. Ortuste

FIFA Reports

A football match, organised by Argentinian and British soldiers of the MFR, took place on 7 October at the UNPA football field.

It so happened that an Argentinian reporter from a FIFA football magazine was visiting Sector 1 at the time. He was invited up to Nicosia to follow the game and interviewed several of the Argentinian players (in Spanish, of course!).

The Argentinians won, 5:1!



From left: Lt. Mujica (APC Pln Comd), Sgt. Walker (JOC Sgt), LBdr. Archer (Pln 2ic) and Capt. Filippi (MFR Ops Offr)