Tree Planting in Armenian Cemetery

UN Day Celebrated in Old Nicosia
UN’s 60th Anniversary

A year of brokets 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 also brought together one that merits pause for stocktaking. Since its establishment, the UN has helped move some 80 countries to nationhood and independence. It has provided humanitarian aid to victims of conflict and division. It has provided access to emergency relief, including most of the world’s refugees and internally displaced people.

In his UN Day message, the Secretary-General pointed out that the world we live in today is very different from the world that gave birth to the UN. It is a world of 6.1 billion people, 400 million of whom are under 15 years of age. The world has changed and so must the UN, to respond to new challenges. That's not an easy task. There is plenty of work for us all – for the UN, for Governments, for UN partners and, increasingly, for the people themselves. Not only has the UNAIDS coordinates global action against an epidemic that affects nearly 40 million people, and it helps provide universal access to HIV prevention, treatment services in more than 130 countries, and haemophilia. It has moved some 80 countries to nationhood and independence. It has helped move some 80 countries to nationhood and independence. It has helped move some 80 countries to nationhood and independence.

The Blue Beret
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Front Cover: UN Day 2005 in old Nicosia

Back Cover: UNDP plants trees for Armenians

October 2005 - The Blue Beret
On the day, the performance opened with the 8 a.m. morning call by assembled wind players on neighbouring rooftops. The ensemble 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 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 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.

He congratulated the composer and assembled artists for honoring the UN’s 60th birthday. He also acknowledged the help and support extended to the event 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.
The handover from ATF 25 to ATF 26 took place during the last week of September and the first week of October. ATF is manned by personnel from the Argentine Army, Air Force, and Navy, and also includes officers and troops from Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Paraguay.

Prior to its departure from Argentina, ATF elements gathered at La Noria Airbase, to carry out mission-specific training and exercises preparatory to the opening of October. The training and Finalize preparations.

The Headquarters of the 12th Regiment Royal Artillery can be traced back to XV Brigade Royal Field Artillery, which was raised in 1900, and fought at Le Cateau as XV Brigade Royal Field Artillery. In 1920 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, Syria and Italy. In June 1945, the Regiment was appointed Commander-in-Chief, DCO in UNIKOM. Five months later it became 7th Regiment Royal Artillery.

The Regiment was re-titled 12th Anti-Tank Regiment Royal Artillery on 4 April 1947. From 1947-51, the Regiment served in the Mediterranean and North Africa. On moving to Germany (Celle) in November 1951, it became 12th Anti-Aircraft Regiment Royal Artillery. In 1963 the Regiment moved to Malaysia for both anti-aircraft and internal security roles, returning to Northern Ireland apart from 9 Islands Tour. In 1985, the Regiment deployed to the Falkland Islands on Operation CORPORATE, gaining three mentions in dispatches and three Commander’s Commendations. In 1984, the Regiment moved back to Dortmund, and 9 (Fry’s) Battery completed a Falkland Islands tour. In 1995, the Regiment gained a further battery in Pakistan, which took part in Operation AGRICOLA and was 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 an Army Commander’s Commendation.

December 1993, he joined the Honours Company of the Argentinian Army, as their Adjutant. As a staff officer, he worked the MOD before becoming executive officer to the Head of the army’s personnel department. From August 2002 to August 2003, 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 Germany, as a Battery Commander. Lt. Col. Campbell married to Julia and they have two children, Emily and Christopher. As a staff officer, he worked the MOD before becoming executive officer to the Head of the army’s personnel department.

Regimental History - 12 Regt RA

Battalion, the Argentine Army Non-Commissioned Officers’ School, the Argentine Army Armoured Corps, a Tank Battalion, 1st Army Field Artillery School, QIP Brach of the General Staff, Argentine Army.

Lt. Col. Jonathon Campbell, commanding Officer Sector 2, ATF, was promoted to the rank of Lt. Col. Benedicto Sibberos and officers of the staff, who were present, including personnel from UNFICYP’s military, civilian and police activities and friends of Sector 1.

Lt. Col. Jonathon Campbell

sector 1 News

Handover Ceremony in Sector 1

Lt. Col. Claudio Junior Piedra-Buena

New CO

Commanding Officer Sector 2, Lt. Col. Jonathon Campbell, on 6 October when responsibility for operations in Sector 1, was transferred to Lt. Col. Claudio Junior Piedra-Buena, in a ceremony presided over by UNFICYP Chief of Staff, Col. Peter Fraser-Hopewell. Numerous guests were present, including personnel from UNFICYP’s military, civilian and police staff, members of the diplomatic community, Cypriot military author- ities and friends of Sector 1.

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When the Programme began in 1996, it concentrated on three main projects: support to the Nicosia Master Plan, which aimed to upgrade and modernise the infrastructure of the city of Nicosia; the completion of the present phases of the Nicosia Improvement Project; and support for the UN’s latest initiative, the Bi-communal Development Programme (BDP). Between the two communities, while at the same time promoting tolerance and mutual understanding, we hope that such joint projects will support principles of multi-culturalism and Borough in providing 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 2003, with $US57 million of investment into the development and implementation of new projects which supported Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. 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 future.

Between 1996-2005, the BDP worked with over 350 different Cypriot organisations and supported some 250 projects. Two prominent former civic leaders of Nicosia, Lasos Chrysostomou and Mustafa Akin, recently acknowledged that without the different types of UNDP assistance, the Nicosia Metropolitan Area would have never succeeded in bringing together the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots to discuss their problems and propose solutions.

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New Faces

FMFU's second-in-command

Capt. Jozef Sventek was born in 1970 in Čadca, Slovakia. After completing the Technical University in Kosice in 1994, he joined the Slovak Army. At first, he worked for the Internal Security Forces 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 Ethiopia (Ethiopia) as a second-in-command. He gained considerable experience. Now, as 2i/c FMFU, he hopes to put some of this experience into practice.

Andreas O'Connor became the proud father of baby Joseph on 16 September 2005 at 3.02 a.m. Baby Joe's head was well to life in Cyprus and was weighed at 7 lbs 13 ozs.

New Irish Member for UNPOL

It is with great pleasure that the 13th Irish UNPOL Contingent welcomes to its ranks John O'Connor, the youngest of four siblings. John was born in Presov in the eastern part of the country. Five years later, he changed direction and started working as a crime technician in Kosice in 1994, he joined the military police. In 1978/1979, he served with the Civil Affairs Branch in 1999/2000. Prior to being assigned the in-country mission planner for the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) and the new UNPOL Deputy Senior Police Adviser, Comd. Col Speedie from the International Police Training Centre, considered the world’s largest police 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 314 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.

Sophie's Arrival

October 2005 - The Blue Beret

The UNPOL family has a new member. Sophie Joblin, arrived born in Nicosia on 17 October. Proud parents of baby Joseph on 16 September 2005 at 3.02 a.m. Baby Joe's head was well to life in Cyprus and was weighed at 7 lbs 13 ozs.

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 in UNPOL, having served with the Civil Affairs Branch in 1995/2000. Prior to joining the Australian Federal Police, Commander Col Speedie was posted as Chief of Police in the Solomon Islands, Col is pleased to be back in Cyprus after such great experiences on previous tours.
EP President’s Tour

European Parliament President Josep Borrell and his delegation visited Sector 2 in October 2005. The visit took place inside the demarcated area and involved a walking tour led by Lt. Col. Albanesi, who explained the significance of the UNFICYP mandate from Spokesman Brian Barros, including the work carried out by UN flights, and how the work was carried out during previous visits.

Armenians Remember

On 25 September, members of the Armenian community in Cyprus met to plant trees at the Armenian cemetery on Ayios Dometios to commemorate the start of the UNFICYP mandate. This ceremony, which is located in the UN buffer zone, was attended by the Cyprusité, Architectural and Historical Preservation Society of Cyprus, and the Cyprus插座, who explained the significance of the event. The rite of rest 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, these cemeteries, in addition to the restoration of an Armenian cemetery in Cyprus, have become accessible to them over the past years. The project made an integration and reconciliation.

Visits to UNFICYP

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. During the tour, the flight crew was able to observe the most critical phases of the flight, from take-off and landing, which previously had not been possible.

Students Tour UNFICYP

On 3 October, 18 Irish students from the International Schools in the north of Cyprus, including the U.S. Next year, it will return to Cyprus, and the students will be able to observe a range of UN activities and gain insight into the work of the UNFICYP.

Air Cadets at Airport

On 19 and 20 October, two groups of Air Cadets from schools in the north of Cyprus visited UNFICYP headquarters. The students arrived at HQ UNFICYP to visit UNPOL’s Irish Contingent and to receive a briefing about UNFICYP and its role in the stability and accommodation of all the equipment used by the three flight followers, U/S Fernando Barros, WO3 Oscar Aza and Sgt. Carlos Barros, one of which is always present during the Flights of other sectors.

New Tower at UN Flight

WO3 Oscar Aza logs flight details in the new UN Flight control tower.

Sprucing-up the UNPOL club.

Thanks must also go to the Headquarters Engineers, Communications and Workshops, all of whom assisted in the erection and operation of the tower, and SAP Armitou, who donated specialized electronic equipment and pressure measures.
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 Bačík. 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 second and third tours with over 12 months of service.

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

UNFICYP Triathlon

Last month, on 11 September, 34 keen and courageous athletes displayed their skills at the UNFICYP swimming pool, UNPA, for a spin at the annual UNFICYP Triathlon. Competition among nations is keen because facing a triathlon is no mean feat, and courage, because the start time was 8:00 a.m. and the water temperature that morning was about 18°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 the runners set off to keep warm in shorts and T-shirts, putting up their cycling and running equipment at the changeover point in the parking lot outside the pool area. Five teams signed up for the event, numbers varied for each, including MFR, Sec. 3, Sec 4, ARCON and HQ. First four in the pool part came in at 7:30 a.m. to avoid overcrowding of the pool; two racers were tricked into each of two lanes at last minute realization. The swim is the most physically demanding part of the race, with the current against the water in a confined freestyle stroke, while some of us made our way two laps at a time, occasionally taking a small break. By the time we rolled ourselves out of the pool, the water temperature and energy levels were depleted.

Nevertheless, off to the car park we shuffled to change into cycling shorts 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 like rubber after getting off the bike! One by one everyone staggered across the finish painted 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 team of 0:51:69 was awarded to ARCON. Team members included Sgt. Benjamin Giminez, Sgt. Willy Garcia, Lt. Col. (HQ) won fastest time in the women’s category at 1:01:24 while Sgt. Willy Garcia (ARCON) was the men’s section in 1:00:52. Second and third place teams were HQ at 1:01:34 and MFR at 1:04:23 respectively.

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

New Stars on the Horizon!

During the first week of October, a group of eight – three Greek Cypriots and five 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 terminal

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

UNFICYP Presentation

One interesting point which was inadvertently omitted from the UNPOL Medal Parade article was that Lt. Col. Craig McPherson of the 6th Australian Contingent wore the first military medal to serve together with UNFICYP since 1994.

Compassionate Journey

Relatives of the only Finnish peacekeeper to die in 2005 during the service of the Finnish Contingent with UNFICYP, Pvt. Juhaari Matharainen, arrived at HQ UNFICYP on 11 October to visit the monument erected in his honour. 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 like her to get off the label! One by one everyone staggered across the finish painted on by team mates and competitors alike.

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On Sunday, 16 October members of the Mobile Force Reserve travelled south-west to Agros. A 5 km course awaited them, and it was certainly a course for keen runners.

The terrain was undulating throughout, but the runners were determined to meet the challenge.

The runners were divided into two teams, the slopes were good at 18°C at the start, while the water in the pool started off at 7:00 a.m. to avoid overcrowding of the pool. Two racers were tricked into each of two lanes at last minute realization. The first four in the pool part came in at 7:30 a.m. to avoid overcrowding of the pool.

Nevertheless, off to the car park we shuffled to change into cycling shorts 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 like rubber after getting off the bike! One by one everyone staggered across the finish painted on by team mates and competitors alike.

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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 football magazine was visiting Sector 1 at the time and was keen to see the game and interviewed several of the Argentinian players (in Spanish of course). The Argentinians won, 5:1!