

The Blue Beret

October 2006

**Ireland's
President
McAleese
visits
UNFICYP**



THE BLUE BERET

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Editorial

The United Nations celebrated its 61st anniversary on 24 October. This was Kofi Annan's tenth and last UN Day as Secretary-General. It was also UNFICYP's 42nd UN Day in Cyprus.

In Nicosia, Chief of Mission Møller reminded people of the important role a strong and active civil society could play in helping attain a firm and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem. He spoke of UN system concern about recent negative discussions on past UN funding of bi-communal activities, warning they could poison "the very atmosphere within which we hope a new process can thrive."

In New York, Kofi Annan spoke of how all people should be concerned about the challenges now facing the UN and the global community. He asked that they urge their leaders to work with his successor, and make the UN stronger and more effective.

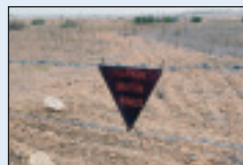
In the same month, farmers in the Kaimakli area of Nicosia sought to test the buffer zone permit system by claiming the right to sow fields adjacent to the northern ceasefire line regardless of risk and in disregard of UNFICYP's appeal for restraint. We can only presume they had no wish to reap the possible consequences of deliberately flouting security norms and peacekeeping concerns.

It is sobering to realize that for some the call of the land can override what constitutes reasonable and responsible behaviour. The photo below shows that some farmers remain foolhardy enough to ride roughshod over sign-posted buffer zone minefield fences in order to add to their crop yield. They do so at their peril. Just two years ago, a farmer who ignored the signs sustained injuries when an anti-tank mine detonated under the front wheel of his tractor.

As with the farmers, so it is with civil society. Very often, making an informed choice requires not just the ability but also the willingness to read the signs.

Clearly, civil society has an important and constructive role to play in supporting the UN and the international community as they come to grips with current global challenges. The same applies to helping resolve the Cyprus problem.

However, as SRSg Møller urged in his UN Day message, rather than looking to the past, Cypriots should turn to the future and think constructively and imaginatively about the shape of things to come.



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Back Cover: Reception at Ledra Palace

Secretary-General-designate - Ban Ki-moon

On 13 October, the General Assembly unanimously appointed Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon of the Republic of Korea as the next Secretary-General. He will succeed SG Kofi Annan on 1 January. Mr. Ban becomes the eighth SG of the UN. Earlier, in the course of his 40-year diplomatic career, Mr. Ban, 62, served in his country's Mission to the United Nations. In 2001, he was Chef de Cabinet to then-Assembly President Han Seung-soo, of the Republic of Korea.

Secretary-General-designate Ban Ki-moon spoke with media at the UN of the enormous challenges ahead. He noted three areas in particular where concerted action is needed:

- First, to rebuild trust among all stakeholders. UN action is premised on the political will of Member States, and political will cannot be forged in an atmosphere of distrust. As SG, he intended investing as much time and energy as possible to bridge the divide in order to win the trust of all delegations through hard work and reaching out for genuine dialogue.
- Second, to stay the course with ongoing reform of the Secretariat management "so that we may build the twenty-first-century Secretariat for a twenty-first-century Organisation."
- Third, to enhance coherence and coordination since the UN is simply too overstretched for the limited resources available. There is room for some realistic steps to reduce overlap and redundancies, to streamline work for greater efficiency and better use of resources and better service delivery.

Applauding Ban Ki-moon as "a man with a truly global mind at the helm of the world's only universal Organisation", SG Kofi Annan told his successor that

"My tenure will be marked by ceaseless efforts to build bridges and close divides. Leadership of harmony not division, by example not instruction has served me well so far. I intend to stay the course as Secretary-General"

– Ban Ki-moon

about to take over the most impossible job on Earth." Said Kofi Annan: "While that may be true, I would add, this is also the best possible job on Earth."

On his appointment, the SG-designate told the General Assembly he was honoured to become the second Asian to lead the UN, following U Thant, the SG of four decades ago.

Today, Asia is dynamic and diverse, and it aspires to take on greater responsibilities for the world, he said. However, it is also a region where modesty is a virtue and that modesty is about demeanour, not about vision and goals. "It does not mean lack of commitment or leadership. Rather, it is quiet determination in action to get things done without so much fanfare. This may be the key to Asia's success, and to the UN's future..."

"The UN is needed now more than ever before. The UN's core mission in the previous century was to keep countries from fighting each other. In the new century, the defining mandate is to strengthen the inter-state system so that humanity may be better served amidst new challenges."

The world's peoples will not be fully served unless peace, development and human rights, the three



pillars of the UN, are advanced together with equal vigour, Mr. Ban said, pledging to work diligently as SG to protect the most vulnerable members of humanity and for the peaceful resolution of threats to international security and regional stability. "We should do our part in meeting the Millennium Development Goals, the expanding peace operations, the threats posed by terrorism, WMD proliferation, HIV/AIDS and other pandemics, environmental degradation, and the imperatives of human rights."

Turning to the reform process, the SG-designate said: "Let us remember that we reform not to please others, but because we value what this Organisation stands for. We reform because we believe in its future. To revitalize our common endeavour is to renew our faith not only in the UN's programmes and purposes but also in each other. We should demand more of ourselves as well as of our Organisation... If we choose wisely, and work together transparently, flexibly and honestly, progress in a few areas will lead to progress in many more. Only the Member States can revitalize this Organisation. But I will always be there to assist and facilitate as needed."

Reform is meant to reward, not penalize, he said. "Rewarding hard work and excellence to boost morale, making everyone accountable for his/her own action or inaction, and pushing for greater gender balance, in particular at senior levels, these will be my guide. I will seek excellence with humility. I will lead by example. Promises should be made for the keeping. This has been my motto in life. I intend to stick to it, as I work with all the stakeholders for a UN that delivers on its promises."



UN Day Messages Call for People's Support

talking about their country was an obstacle to progress, Mr. Møller suggested it was high time to turn to the future and think constructively and imaginatively about the shape of things to come.

The 8 July agreement signed by the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders to begin a process involving a bi-communal dialogue with the aim of reaching a comprehensive settlement provides a great opportunity for forward movement in the search for a workable solution to the Cyprus problem, he noted.

"Too many windows of opportunity have been slammed shut in the course of the last three decades. Let us keep this one open, un-shuttered and un-shattered." Mr. Møller urged all Cypriots to do their very best to bring about the long sought solution ending the island's division.

In his remarks, the Chief of Mission noted that the UN's 61st birthday also marked the tenth and last UN Day in office for outgoing Secretary-General Kofi Annan. He read from the SG's last UN Day message.

"Over the past 10 years, we have made some big steps forward in our common struggle for development, security and human rights.

- "Aid and debt relief have increased, making the world economy somewhat fairer.
- "At last, the world is scaling up its response to HIV/AIDS.
- "There are fewer wars between States than there used to be; and many civil wars have ended.
- "More governments are elected by, and accountable to, the people whom they govern.
- "And all states have acknowledged, at least in words, their responsibility to protect people from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

"But, there is so much that still needs doing:

- "The gap between rich and poor

continues to grow.

- "Very few countries are on track to reach all eight of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.
 - "Many people still face atrocities, repression and brutal conflicts.
 - "The nuclear non-proliferation regime requires urgent attention.
 - "Terrorism, and the reaction to it, are spreading fear and suspicion
- "It seems we don't even agree which threats are most important. Those who live in small islands may see global warming as the biggest danger. Those who live in a city that has suffered terrorist attacks – like New York, or Mumbai, or Istanbul – may feel that confronting terrorism is more urgent. Others, again, may cite poverty, disease, or genocide.

"The truth is, these are all global threats. All of us should be concerned about all of them. Otherwise, we may not succeed in dealing with any of them.

"At this time of all times, we cannot afford to be divided. I know that you, the peoples of the world, understand this. Thank you for all the support and encouragement you have given me, throughout these 10 difficult but exciting years.

"Please urge your leaders to work with my successor, and make the United Nations ever stronger and more effective.

"Long live our planet, and its peoples. Long live the United Nations!"

SRSG Møller offered a reminder to his guests that 2006 also marks UNFICYP's 42nd year in Cyprus and that, just as the UN serves to help the peoples of the world find common solutions to common problems, so UNFICYP is here to help the people of Cyprus find a Cypriot solution to a Cypriot problem.

"The UN family's peace-building efforts here serve one over-arching goal – support for the day the island's division ends in a mutually agreed comprehensive settlement."

In a UN Day address to some 200 invited guests at Ledra Palace on 20 October, including the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, Mehmet Ali Talat, SRSG Møller spoke of the UN's pride in its long-standing record of support for the efforts of Cypriot civil society organisations to promote bi-communal cooperation on the island. "A strong and active civil society is crucial if you really want to get to a firm and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem."

Mr. Møller expressed UN system concern about recent negative discussions on past UN funding of bi-communal activities. He warned of the risk this could pose to the commitment and willingness of Cypriots from both communities to strengthen relationships and bi-communal cooperation in Cyprus.

Such developments run counter to ongoing efforts to promote cooperation and trust between the two communities, which are a prerequisite for reaching a sustainable solution in Cyprus, he said. "They risk poisoning the very atmosphere within which we hope a new process can thrive."

Saying that the tendency of many Cypriots to look to the past when

Ireland's President McAleese visits UNFICYP



Ireland's President Mary McAleese and her husband Martin McAleese visited UNFICYP on Sunday 8 October. They were greeted on arrival by the Force Commander Maj. Gen. Rafael José Barni and the Chief of Staff Col. Peter Fraser-Hopewell, who were joined for the occasion by UNPOL Irish Contingent Commander, Supt. Noel Galwey.

After inspecting a Guard of Honour, the President and her party which included Ireland's Minister of State for the Environment, Mr. Bat O'Keefe and his wife Mary as well as Ireland's Ambassador to Cyprus, Mr. Tom Brady, and Mrs. Kathy Brady attended mass at St. Columba's Church. Father Kevin Price officiated, with the multi-talented Dr. Irene Cotter and her daughters Stephanie and Laura providing musical accompaniment during the mass. The attendance included UNFICYP staff and representatives of the Irish community in Cyprus.

Following the mass, the Force Commander and Chief of Staff escorted President McAleese and delegation on a quick tour of the old Nicosia Airport. Then she and her husband spent almost an hour at the UNPOL Garda Club, where they mingled with UNFICYP staff and their families including the Garda Contingent.

President McAleese was welcomed by Deputy Commander UNPOL, Comdr. Col Speedie and by Supt. Noel Galwey. She was also presented with bouquets by Aueven O'Neill and Caoimhe Crowley, daughters of Sgt. Conor O'Neill (SCAT Pyla) and Garda John Crowley (Pyla). UNFICYP CAO Frank Clancy and his wife Anne gave President McAleese and her husband an Irish perspective on the mission.

The President paid tribute to the role Irish peacekeepers have played in UNFICYP and saluted the police contingent for their commendable record of service with the mission.

Subsequently, President McAleese was driven to Ledra Palace via the buffer zone enabling her and her party to see first-hand the island's division. Like many VIPs before, she exclaimed how seeing the buffer zone made a reality of the Cyprus problem, providing an insight and an understanding beyond the printed word.





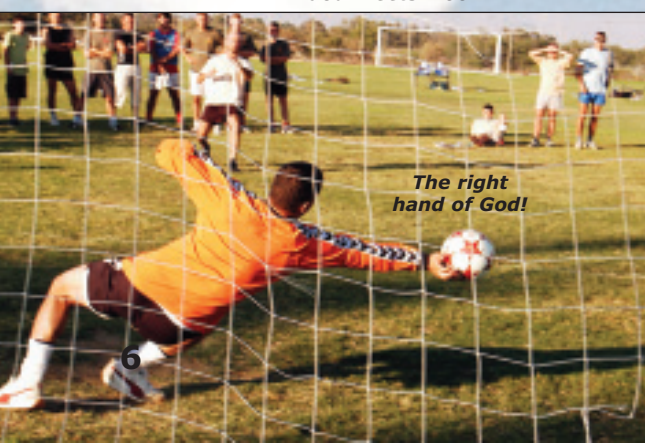
Please, Sir, can I have more?



I'm not sure the mauve suits me...



Miaou meets woof!



The right hand of God!

UN Staff Day – An Innovative Celebration

In a new departure from past UN Day practices, UNFICYP celebrated UN Staff Day on 26 October, devoting an afternoon to recreational activities, otherwise known as fun and games.

Leading the festivities was Chief of Mission Michael Møller. As the man responsible for bringing this new initiative to the mission, he thought it only appropriate that staff in Cyprus should have the same opportunity to get together and let their hair down, as do colleagues in UN Headquarters New York at this time of year.

UNFICYP staff, national and international, uniformed and civilian, rallied to the recreational cause. They were spurred on by the organisational skills of Hala Barbar and her stalwart team of assistants including Maria Wilkins, Christine Botejue-Kyle, Ersin Oztoycan, Anne Bursey, Rick Demetriou, Stacey Worthington, Anastasia Neocleous and countless more.

Staff members brought prepared food from home for an UNFICYP family al fresco lunch at the UNPOL club. The culinary array on display was mouth-watering and enticing. Between mouthfuls, appreciative staff members sang out the praises of individual dishes. (Incidentally, the **Blue Beret** would very much like to have the recipe for the potatoes au gratin that someone prepared!)

Sated but mobile, staff adjourned to the nearby playing field to test their skills at Pictionary, backgammon, tug-o-war, volleyball, and five-a-side football. The competition was fierce but good-humoured against a background of foot-stomping music, laid on by DJ Erjon Latifi.

For the less competitively inclined, there were the distractions of face-painting, karaoke singing (or croaking, depending on your point of view), and the opportunity to get up nice and close to a reptile (in this case, a lithe and live whip snake). The children were especially fascinated by "Snake George's" collection. Not so some of the pets staff brought along with them!

Rick refereed 16 games of soccer before the "Slovakstars" emerged as winners, beating MFR's Team A on penalties. Stacey Worthington kept an eye on the volleyball proceedings, won by MFR's C Team. Ersin ran a raucous Pictionary tent with Derya, Kyriakos, Michelle and Hasan victorious, while Anne Bursey hosted an afternoon of backgammon where many staff had the chance to test the Chief of Mission's board game skills, with George Stavrinou coming out as winner and Yiannos Kamertas as runner up.

The day was blessed with good weather. Everyone agreed it had been a delight and all look forward to it becoming a regular feature in the UNFICYP calendar.



CM at backgammon shootout



Referee Rick with MFR and Slovakstars!



Raffle transparency



Snake George and the viper!



Snakes alive!



Airborne!



Man – woman – Pictionary!



Groovy moves



Biceps on parade!

Ombudsman

Conflict resolution via diplomacy

The Office of the United Nations Ombudsman was established in October 2002 to make available services of an impartial, independent person who would address the employment-related problems of staff members, as an alternative form of dispute resolution to the existing formal process.

Patricia Durrant, a seasoned diplomat with an intimate knowledge of the workings of the United Nations Organisation, having served her country, Jamaica, at the UN for some 15 years, both as Deputy (1983-1987) and as Permanent Representative (1995-2002), was approached by the Secretary-General to undertake the role of Ombudsman.

"An Advocate for Fairness"

people become familiar with our office and the services we offer to complement the formal system, the number of requests for assistance increases," she says. There is now an average of 42 cases per month.

To increase awareness of the Ombudsman's role, Ms. Durrant has been visiting UN missions across the globe, explaining that her office is available to provide assistance on work-related problems to all staff regardless of location, category or type of contract. Ms. Durrant visited UNFICYP from 1 to 5 October where she had the opportunity to introduce herself and the work of her Office to all staff at a Town Hall meeting held at the International Cafeteria. Staff were also able to meet her in person and discuss any issues they may have.

At the Town Hall gathering, Ms. Durrant stressed that her Office provides a service that is "impartial, objective, neutral, independent and fully confidential. It does not reveal the identity of anyone who visits it, and does not keep records for the United Nations or any other party. Therefore, all communications with the Ombudsman's Office are absolutely confidential."

In the four years since the office was established, some 1,800 staff members have sought the services of Ms. Durrant and her colleagues. "As more



Any kind of complaint, no matter how big or small, is appropriate, she said. "The Office of the Ombudsman specializes in interpersonal conflicts, misunderstandings, and issues of civility and ethics – problems that fall in grey areas not covered by rules or procedures."

In an interview with the *Blue Beret*, Ms. Durrant reiterated her key message to UNFICYP staff: "Our office is a zero-barrier office and staff can approach us on any issue at any time. We are there to help staff to resolve workplace related problems. Whatever we can do to help them at whatever level they are at in the organisation they have the exact same access to our office," she said.

"We are always available and we have been able to make very good use of the time difference. If someone is in Europe, for example, we can deal with them when they go home in the evenings while we are still at the office. Also, that gives us extra hours. So someone who is at home in the evening who says please call me at home, we can call while we are still at work and he or she is

comfortable at home." It is also possible to ask to see the Ombudsman outside of the office.

Ms. Durrant says she found people here were very interested in the Office and many sought appointments. Also, a random sampling from the staff list ensured that a broad spectrum of views from a wide cross-section of staff was heard. "For us, that kind of interaction cannot be done at long distance. It is good for us to get a good understanding of the work environment. The concerns that are peculiar to different categories of staff are not the same. Therefore, if we are able to talk, as we do, to staff representatives as well as management – in addition to the individuals we see at the end of the day, we get a very good picture of the situation in the mission."

The success of the office did not go unnoticed when the redesign panel on the administration of justice system submitted its recommendations to the Secretary-General and subsequently to the General Assembly. "That panel conducted a comprehensive review of our Office. They looked at our role, at our functions and our activities. Out of that came recommendations, many of which we fully support, about expanding the outreach of the office. Right now, that is probably the most critical area that we have to deal with, ensuring that every staff member has equitable access to our office. The best way of doing this is by having regional offices where staff members in the major duty stations have someone they can contact easily and in the major peacekeeping missions."

Ms. Durrant notes that her office's services have expanded to include more mediation than in the past. "Also, where a whole office is involved, we can intervene in a structured way to help improve the relationship at the workplace and identify the systemic issues that have arisen during the course of our intervention. Then you make recommendations to all concerned as to how to move forward."



"Our mandate is to resolve cases at the lowest possible level and, if possible, avoid those cases going into the formal system. There are some cases that are not amenable to informal resolution. But we monitor the cases that have gone into the formal system to see whether there was anything that we could have done if the matter had come to us at an early stage. It also gives us feedback on the types of issues going into the formal system. Are they the same kind of issues that we are dealing with and, if so, is there a different approach we could take in helping staff as a whole to resolve some of these problems? So it's important for us to get a bird's eye view across the system from the informal to the formal to see whether interacting with persons at any point in the system could bring about resolution."

"Because we are charged with resolution, we are not charged with bringing about a judgement. That is the difference between our office and the formal system. The formal system is going to adjudicate, to hand down a judgement. There will be someone who may be described as the person who wins a case or the person who loses a case. Our mandate is to find a solution and that is what we try to focus on."

A career diplomat, Ms. Durrant concedes that initially, when appointed to the position, it appeared very different to what she had done up until then. However, she soon came to realise that the major feature of the Ombudsman's office is diplomacy. "We are trying to resolve problems informally, as we do in diplomacy. We use all the elements reflected in the Charter, whether it is shuttle diplomacy, negotiating skills, or tactfully approaching people. All of those skills are very important to the functions of the Ombudsman's Office. So in a sense, although I changed careers from representing my country and dealing with governments, now I am dealing with people within an organisation. But I am actually bringing to bear some of the same skills. I am trying to ensure that I bring my diplomatic training and background to help resolve conflicts within the United Nations," she said.

The term of office of the United Nations Ombudsman is five years and is non-renewable. Ms. Durrant's tenure is approaching its end. Her warm smile and articulate approach to issues have set a high standard for her successor. Her future plans are to return home to Jamaica.

"At the end of this I will return to Jamaica. I don't want to make any hasty plans. After five years in this post, and having served as Jamaica's Permanent Representative from 1995-2002, I think it is time to return home and enjoy the qualities and pleasures of living on a small island."

Netha Kreouzios

Nobel Peace Prize – Yunus and his Grameen Bank



Bangladeshi economist Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen Bank he founded have won the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize on Friday. This grass-roots effort to lift millions out of poverty has earned Yunus the nickname "banker to the poor".

In awarding a prize more traditionally given to those who forge treaties and fight for human rights, the five-member Norwegian Nobel Committee said that eliminating poverty was a path to peace and democracy. "Lasting peace cannot be achieved unless large population groups find ways

in which to break out of poverty. Microcredit is one such means. Development from below also serves to advance democracy and human rights", the Committee added.

Yunus's achievements had already won wide recognition. "Everyone is talking about microcredit. It was started by Yunus, one man in Bangladesh", UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in a 2002 interview.

On 13 October, the SG expressed his delight at the news that Yunus had received the Nobel Peace Prize.

IIIC says thank you UNFICYP

When the security situation in Beirut made it inevitable for us to leave Lebanon, UNFICYP offered us immediate assistance. The kindness which we have received from UNFICYP over the past months played a significant role in relieving the pressures we faced in resuming our work once we arrived in Nicosia. That could not have been possible without your support.

The spirit of professionalism, the prompt support and the warm friendship I witnessed here is an example for the rest of the UN. No words of appreciation or expression of thanks can match the services rendered to us by the dedicated men and women of this mission at all levels.

I would therefore like to tell you all, on behalf of my team, thank you UNFICYP. It was a pleasure, indeed.

Serge Brammertz, Commissioner IIIC

Safety Note for Runners

With the onset of winter and the closing-in of evenings, the Force Military Police Unit have secured a number of reflective items to enhance your visibility when moving around within the UNPA on foot.

The items include reflective badges, key rings and snap sticks. For the more active, there is a limited amount of reflective "fashionable" items available for runners. These can be collected free of charge from the FMPU.

For further information, please contact Sgt. Ben Thomson on Extension 4666.

Gordon Highlanders Visit Wayne's Keep

You don't have to be a Scot to feel a shiver run up your spine when the pipes play that saddest of laments "Flowers O' The Forest". So it was on 16 October when veterans of the Gordon Highlanders who served in Cyprus during the EOKA campaign of 1955-56 gathered for a 50th commemoration ceremony.

Over 30 veterans had assembled to mark the occasion and, together with families and friends, made their way from St. Colomba's Church to Wayne's Keep British Military Cemetery. There, together with members of UNFICYP and representatives from the British Sovereign Base Areas on Cyprus, the veterans carried out a simple ceremony of remembrance to their fallen comrades.

It could have been seen as a Scottish or even British event, but the commemoration of fallen comrades is a thing common to military men of all nations. It is the link that joins soldiers of this generation with those who went before, and it is an opportunity for us all to think of, and acknowledge, the sacrifice of all



soldiers who have given their lives in the service of their nations and of peace.

The wind ruffled the ribbons on the distinctive tartan-banded Glengarries of the veterans and the standards lowered in salute, the lonely skirl of the pipes faded over the dry and dusty ground and we asked, as Siegfried Sassoon asked, "Have you forgotten yet? Look up, and swear by the green of the spring that you'll never forget." Never, is the answer. Never will or could we forget.

Maj. Simon King



UNFICYP Chief of Staff, Col. Peter Fraser-Hopewell's residence was the venue for the "Big Brew" on 5 October, when catering staff from the British Contingent based in the Ledra Palace laid on a delicious selection of delicacies, together with tea, coffee and cold drinks throughout the morning.

The event was in aid of SSAFA, the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association, the leading national charity committed

"Big Brew"



to helping and supporting those who serve in the British Armed Forces, including those who used to serve and their families.

Many of the staff from UNFICYP HQ dropped in for a break, and mothers and toddlers attending a regular Thursday morning music group also joined in.

Everyone donated generously and a total of just over £200 was raised, thanks to the support and generosity of all who took part.

Roald Dahl Book Competition

A small, prize-winning ceremony was held at the Nicosia Library located in the Married Quarters on the UNPA on 14 September 2006 for the lucky winners of the Roald Dahl quiz for children aged 12 and under.

Mrs. Clare Fraser-Hopewell, who organised the quiz and compiled the questions, was delighted to present the first and second prize-winners with a book token each, courtesy of the Soloneion Bookshop in Nicosia.

Judging by the happy faces present, the prizes and numerous goodies kindly provided by our generous hostess, Anthe Yiannoulou, were much appreciated by all.

From the left: Anthe (librarian) with Abbey Potter (second prize), Maisie Moon (first prize), Mrs. Fraser-Hopewell and Iona her daughter. In the foreground and cheering her sister, younger Miss Potter!



Ayias Trias Wedding

Ayias Trias, located in the Karpas area, welcomed a large gathering at its church, Ayia Triada, on 10 September for the wedding of Kyriakos Christodoulou Frangou and Christina Philippou Fokas.

Kyriakos was born in 1937 in Ayias Trias. After the troubles in 1974, he and his family moved to the village of Oroklini in the Larnaca area. Approximately five years ago, his wife died.

Christina, born in 1940 in Ayias Trias, has always lived there. She has never married, but lived with her family. Her sister died about a year ago, and her mother not long before that.

Since the opening of the checkpoints on 23 April 2003, Kyriakos has been spending more and more time in the village of his birth, while Christina visited her brother who



Bride and groom on the tractor which took the bride to the church!

also happened to be a neighbour of Kyriakos in the village of Oroklini more frequently. The two families had always maintained close ties over the years.

Kyriakos was friendly with Yiannakis, Christina's brother, and knew that Christina was still single. He decided to take the plunge and ask Yiannakis for his sister's hand in marriage. Yiannakis replied that it was the decision of his sister, but that he would very happy to have Kyriakos as a brother-in-law!

And so it was. The two decided to "tie the knot" in the first wedding held in Ayias Trias in the last 21 years – and only the fourth wedding since 1974.

There are approximately 85 Greek Cypriots living in Ayias Trias, the overwhelming majority of whom are over 60 years old. There are only two Greek Cypriot children of school-going age. Nevertheless, around 700 people attended the ceremony, including 60 Turkish Cypriots. Many relatives and friends of the couple travelled up from the south of the island. It was a magnificent affair, culminating in a grand reception held at "Yiannakis" taverna at Ayios Therisos along the sea front.

Kyriakos is now living in Ayias Trias with his bride. UN police and Civil Affairs personnel joined in the wedding celebrations.

MT

Sending Back the Usual Suspects!



Sending back the usual suspects: UNFICYP lost six familiar faces from its routine line-up with the departure of (left to right): Maj. Róbert Magyar, 1/Lt. Ján Hučala, Maj. István Kisborsó, Lt.Col. Guillermo Vignolo, Capt. Jozef Sventek and Lt. Col. Tibor Krajcsi. All were "mugged out" on 21 September.

The Welsh Gunners arrive



Now that 39 Regiment Royal Artillery has arrived, they will be bringing a distinctly Welsh flavour to the proceedings since its recruiting ground is now amongst the green valleys of Wales. This will balance the Regiment's existing population of hardened soldiers from the North-East of England.

The whole Regiment will be adopting Welsh customs and looks forward to displaying its loyalty on the feast day of Saint David, the patron saint of Wales. This falls on 1 March, the day he died in the year 589 AD. Daffodils are worn, leeks are eaten and sweet Welsh brewed beer is drunk to celebrate this saint.

Alongside is the UN logo rendered with a Gunner flavour.

The Battle Axe Parade of the Ledra Palace Hotel

74 Battery (the Battle Axe Company) Royal Artillery of 39 Regiment took over the duties as the United Nations Forces in Cyprus Sector 2 Operations Battery from 4th Regiment's 88 (Arakan) Battery on 4 October this year. The Battery, now six officers and 115 other ranks-strong, is fully bedded in at the Ledra Palace hotel which will serve as its home for the next six months.

In order to achieve this deployment level, the Battery had to be reinforced not only from within 39 Regiment, but with additions from 101 Regiment (V) and 30 Regiment Royal Signals. All were gratefully received and are now fully integrated into the Line Troops. The ranks also include five members of the Battery who, just returned from OP TELIC with 35 Battery in April this year, volunteered to join the Battery for a further six months away from families and friends.

When moving location, the Battery troops its Battle Axe, a tradition dating back 196 years to when the Battery gained the Axe trophy at the Battle of Martinique in 1809. The custom is documented as having been established by the time the Company returned to Britain's shores in 1822.

The Battery will be celebrating the capture of Martinique and the granting of its honour title on 24 February 2007 at the Ledra Palace Hotel in Nicosia. We hope that some of our veterans and friends will be able to join us.



Lt. Col. T.N.J. Wordsworth (left) takes command of Sector 2 for the Welsh Gunners

Meantime, on a glorious Cyprus morning of no wind, no rain and no snow – a vastly different weather system from Northumberland, the usual site of our Battle Axe Parade – the battery marched on to the "make-shift" Ledra Palace parade square in true 74 fashion (smart as hell). Once halted, it was clear that the battery had grown, and that it would be a tight fit on the square.



Bdr. Pritchard carries the axe

Parade Commander Capt. Adrian Sartain requested permission from the Battery Commander Maj. Sean Grant for the citation to be read and the Battle Axe to be trooped. Permission was granted and the parade continued.

The Battle Axe was trooped through seemingly endless ranks of fine Axe Persons. Then, once the Battle Axe party was front and centre, the citation was read with rhythm and vigour by the Battery Commander. Afterwards, the parade commander, given leave to march off the Battle Axe parade, did so with pride.

All in all, it was a well taken parade and, for some new and borrowed personnel, an opportunity to get a feel for the "spirit of the Battle Axe Company". It was also an excellent way of marking the start of the Battle Axe Company's tour of duty in Cyprus.

Sgt. Bryn Pugh

Fundamental change needed to recruit and retain good staff – SG

Highlighting the staff of the United Nations as its "principal asset," Secretary-General Kofi Annan called for more resources from Member States to improve recruiting practices and streamline contracts so as to attract good candidates and keep them with the organisation.

In what was billed as possibly his last address to the Fifth Committee, the SG said on 30 October that his latest call for action to improve staffing conditions – "Investing in People" – builds on recommendations from his overall reform package, "Investing in the United Nations".

While the UN is "on the right track, we still face important obstacles," and recruitment practices remain "reactive and slow," he added. "Change needs to begin with the way we recruit people to serve the Organisation, the conditions of service we offer them, and how we develop their skills... We aim to speed up recruitment, with targeted steps to find the people we need rather than waiting for them to find us." He also noted that targets for gender and geographical diversity had yet to be reached.

"We need to have one kind of contract rather than the complex arrangements that prevail at present. Even this seemingly modest change will do much to restore equity

"Change needs to begin with the way we recruit people... the conditions of service we offer them, and how we develop their skills."

Kofi Annan

and to improve transparency, mobility and flexibility," he said. The SG noted that proposals in the "Investing in People" package built not only on experience but also on discussions with more than 5,000 staff worldwide, who had shown "great support" for the ideas. "During my tenure, we have launched a new human resources framework, and given our managers new authority to select and develop staff. We have streamlined rules and procedures, and strengthened our ability to staff peace operations. We have overhauled our staff security set-up, and begun to break down the institutional walls that hinder staff mobility and development. As a result, the Organisation is more efficient and effective than it was ten years ago. We deliver more than ever. And our cost-effectiveness rivals or surpasses other organisations engaged in similar activities. This progress would not have been possible without the backing of Member States, and I thank you for the support you have given me through successive rounds of reform."

"At last year's World Summit, your leaders asked me to tell them what a Secretary-General needs to carry out his or her managerial responsibilities, and how to ensure that the United Nations has the right policies, regulations and rules, especially in the area of human resources. 'Investing in the United Nations' was my initial response, in which I articulated a vision of a United Nations civil service known for its excellence and agility, and for its high standards of ethics and accountability. Now, with "Investing in People", the report I am presenting today, I am providing the details for achieving that goal.

"The United Nations at its founding, and even as recently as 15 years ago, was a stable, mostly static Secretariat, whose main function was to set norms and to service conferences and meetings, and whose staff

worked mainly at Headquarters. That vital service continues, and will always be a primary part of our core identity. But the United Nations of today is much more multi-dimensional. More than half of our 30,000 staff now serve in field locations. The majority of these are in peacekeeping. But our people are also carrying out tsunami relief and criminal justice investigations. They are providing electoral assistance and post-conflict assessments of environmental damage. Our human rights presence extends to many more countries than just a few years ago.

"This dramatic expansion is reflected in our budget, a large proportion of which is for the field. But it is not sufficiently reflected in the rules and regulations that govern our staff, which have been adapted only partially to these new realities. Our systems are fragmented and excessively complex, and therefore difficult to administer and understand. This leads, in turn, to an absence of trust among staff, and diffuse accountability. And our antiquated technology is ill adapted for managing a global work-force.

"The result is an unacceptably high level of managerial risk. Our missions are handicapped by high vacancy rates – typically from 22 to 26 percent – and from destabilizing levels of staff turnover. Moreover, more than 50 percent of field staff have been with the Organisation for two years or less. And across the Organisation, it is difficult to apply policies and standards consistently.

"The starting point of my proposals is the recognition that the Secretariat has one global workforce, which has to be managed transparently and fairly if we are to provide the services the world asks of us, and if we are to become an employer of choice for the world's best professionals.

"Harmonized conditions of service for field staff will help us to attract and retain high-quality people who have gained valuable experience. The designation of 2,500 career positions in peace operations will ensure that this core function of the Secretariat gains the continuity and expertise that it needs. Managers and leaders in particular will be more rigorously selected and better trained.

"It should go without saying that these proposals will only work if sufficient financial resources are put behind them. To date, training, and other efforts to strengthen both the staff themselves and the structures and systems underpinning their work, have suffered from a chronic shortage of funding. This new package is called 'Investing in People' for a reason. If we make investments now, we will reap greater dividends tomorrow and also realize cost savings. I trust you will keep this in mind as you consider the financial implications.

"Some of you may hesitate to give these proposals full consideration, because they come on the eve of a new administration. But let me stress that this package is based on a careful diagnosis of our current human resources situation. It reflects the views of staff and managers. And it is based on my own experience – more than 40 years of immensely gratifying, yet at times frustrating, service. Anyone else who does a similarly thorough analysis of UN human resources today will find the same problems, and is bound to seek the same or very similar remedies. You have devoted a significant amount of attention and political energy to the question of human resources over the years, with results that are bearing fruit. I hope you will maintain that level of engagement as we make this new and latest push for change. We all stand to gain."

New Faces



COO, Lt. Col. Carlos Quinteros

Born in Tucumán, Argentina in 1961, Lt. Col. Carlos Quinteros graduated from the Argentinian Military Academy in 1985.

From 1993 to 1998, he served in different Infantry Regiments. In December 2000, as a captain, he graduated as Staff Officer in the Command and General Staff College in Buenos Aires. As a major, he was the Ops Officer in the 4th Mechanized Infantry Regiment from 2001 to 2002, and in 2003, he served as an instructor in the Infantry School. He was then posted as the DCO in the 20th Mechanized Infantry Regiment from 2004 to 2005. Before joining this mission, he served at the Argentine Army General Staff.

This is his second mission with UNFICYP, the first being in 1997 as Coy Commander in Sector 1.

He holds a university degree in strategy and organisation from the Command and General Staff College.

Lt. Col. Quinteros is married to Analia and they have one son, Carlos, and two daughters, Maria Jimena and Maria de Lourdes.



CPLO, Lt. Col. Paul Warwick

Lt. Col. Paul Warwick hails from the north east of England. He was born in 1956 and commissioned into the Royal Corps of Transport in 1975.

From 1988 to 1990, he commanded 35 Transport Squadron supporting 6 Armoured Brigade before moving to Bielefeld as Deputy Chief of Staff Bielefeld Garrison and SO2 Personnel and Logistics for HQ RCT for the period of the first Gulf War. In 1998, after postings to the US and South Cerney, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, assuming command of 157 (Wales & Midland) Transport Regiment RLC (Volunteers) in Cardiff. In 2001/2, he was appointed Chief Logistic Support. In 2003, he was SO1 G1/G4 Adviser to Kuwait Land Forces, a time during which he also supported UK and USA forces in Iraq.

Paul's wife Pamela is a nurse by profession but has completed a university course in complementary therapies in 2002 and is actively pursuing her new vocation. They have two children, Michelle (25) and Jonnathan (20).

Paul's interests include rugby, golf, sailing, music and reading, but he is always happy to "turn his hand" to anything.



CO Sector 1, Lt. Col. Justo Francisco Treviranus

Lt. Col. Justo Treviranus was born in 1961 in Corrientes, Argentina. He graduated from the National Military College in April 1982.

He has served with several combat units including Engineer's Battalion No. 121 and Special Forces Company. He also served as Director of Constructions, Argentine Army General Staff, and headed Education and Doctrine and Army War College. He served in the Antarctica in 1994 for a year.

Lt. Col. Treviranus has previously served with UNFICYP HQ (1999 and 2000). He then went to Patagonia as 2IC, Engineer's Battalion No 9, later transferring to Salta (northern Argentina), as CO Engineer's Battalion No. 5.

His holds degrees in Strategy and Organisation, and in Education. He also has a Master's in Strategy. Lt. Col. Treviranus, an experienced paratrooper, army diver, Special Forces member (Commando), is the holder of numerous merit awards.

Lt. Col. Treviranus is married to María Fernanda. They have three children, Soledad, Rodrigo and Juan Manuel. His hobbies include golf.



CO Sector 2, Lt. Col. T.N.J. Wordsworth

Tim Wordsworth enlisted in the Army in 1980 at the age of 16 and, after graduation from Sandhurst, joined 39 Heavy Regiment Royal Artillery in 1983.

In 1986, he spent two years as the Gun Position Officer. In 1988, he assumed command of the RA Display Troop in Woolwich.

In 1995, he joined 26 Regiment RA as the Adjutant, and deployed for six months with NATO's IFOR in Bosnia. In 1999, he assumed command of 9 (Plassey) Battery, equipped with the Self-Propelled High Velocity Missile (HVM) system, and subsequently spent six months "on the line" with UNFICYP.

In 2004, he assumed the post of SO1 Army Organic Air Defence & Air Space Management in HQ ARRC, prior to taking command of 39 Regiment RA in July 2005. He took over as UNFICYP Sector 2 Commanding Officer on 2 October.

Tim is married to Ginny. They have two children, Joshua (13) and Harriet (10). A keen sportsman, he has wide-ranging interests and remains active in skiing, sailing and field sports.

October 2006 – The Blue Beret

Visitors to UNFICYP

UNFICYP extended the usual courtesies when the Chief of Mission greeted an array of distinguished visitors in the course of the month.

Slovak Minister of Defence

On 20 October, all Slovak military were on standby for one of the most important visitors to their Sector – the Minister of Defence, Mr. František Kašický. Accompanying him were Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Ľubomír Bulík and three generals who arrived to inspect Slovak personnel serving with UNFICYP.

The visit started with a call on Chief of Mission Michael Møller. The Slovak delegation was later briefed on UNFICYP's role by Force Commander Maj. Gen. Rafael Barni and Chief of Staff Col. Peter Fraser-Hopewell. The delegation then moved on to the Slovak Engineers' Camp Tetry, where Mr. Kašický expressed his satisfaction with the results of the inspection.

After lunch, the delegation travelled to Camp Gen Štefánik in Famagusta where they met the rest of the Slovak Contingent, and were briefed by CO Sector 4 Lt. Col. Jaroslav Schönvický on its role and responsibilities.

At the end of his visit to Camp Gen Štefánik, Minister Kašický and the four generals played football against Sector's 4 team, as has become the tradition of the Slovak Minister during his visits of Slovak personnel abroad.

Mr. Kašický and some of his delegation ended their day at the Chief of Mission's UN Day reception at LPH, where they had the opportunity to meet local political representatives.



Lt. Gen. M. Marekovic (Croatia) on 18 October



Canadian High Commissioner, Mrs. Marta Moczczenska on 2 October



Fifty British Air Cadets, aged between 13 and 18 years, visited the UNPA on 6 October. The two groups, one from Liverpool/Greater Manchester and the other from Hertfordshire, were accompanied by 12 adult instructors. They were taken on a tour of the UNPA, including a stopover at the old airport, by MPIO Capt. Štefan Zemanovič.

October 2006 – The Blue Beret

**UN Day
Reception at
Ledra Palace**

