

THE BLUE BERET



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The Blue Beret is the house journal of the United Nations Force in Cyprus and, as such, is intended to provide a source of information on current events within the Force, on UN matters of general interest and on local tourist advice.

Articles of general interest are invited from all members of the Force. Descriptions of recent local events or visits to places of interest are welcome.

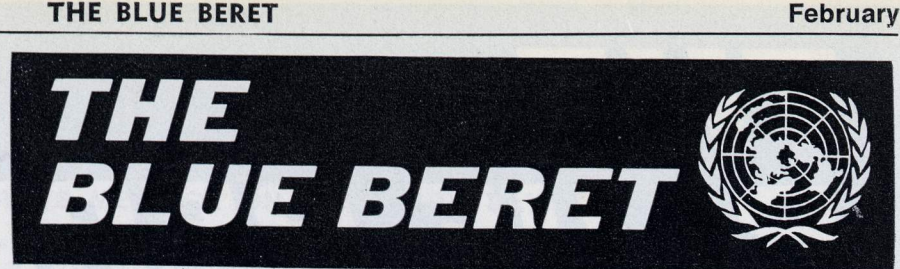
Illustrations are most welcome. Photographs should be in black and white on glossy paper.

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on the cover

This Swedish soldier at his OP personifies the constant surveillance of the Cease Fire Lines necessary to prevent an escalation in defensive works that could lead to an increase in tension between the two sides.



Editorial

More than the sun is warming the editorial office. At long last there has been a response to our appeal for contributions and this month the double page spreads of "Blue Beret Sport" and "Military Skills Competition" have been made up from the work of outside contributors.

To increase the warm glow the editor is experiencing we have now received two unsolicited articles for future editions of "Out and About in Cyprus". The editor wishes to thank the contributors who have responded to his appeal and he hopes that the inclusion of more articles of general interest will make the magazine more attractive to you all.

In the editorial office we are now keeping our fingers crossed and hope that the present trickle of original articles develops into a flood to the extent that our problem becomes one of selection! It would be nice if our readers each time they picked up a new copy of the magazine had no idea what its contents were going to be.

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Pictorial news



The nerve centre of UNFICYP — the staff of the JOC pictured in the room "where it all happens". Back row, left to right: Insp. C. Halloran, Capt. T. Sohlström, Maj. L. Lindsäer, SAC J. Butters, Insp. M. McGuinness, Flt. Lt. G.R. Gibbons, Insp. G. Tiller. Front row: Maj. Bauer, Maj. A.W. Carnell, Maj. E. Banerjee.

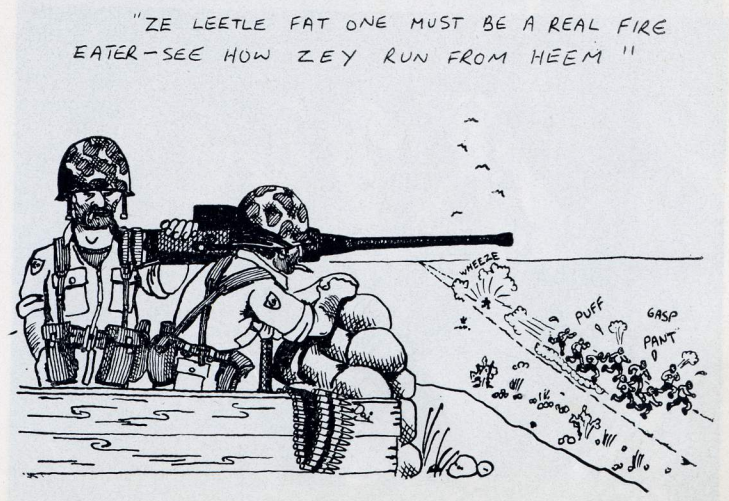
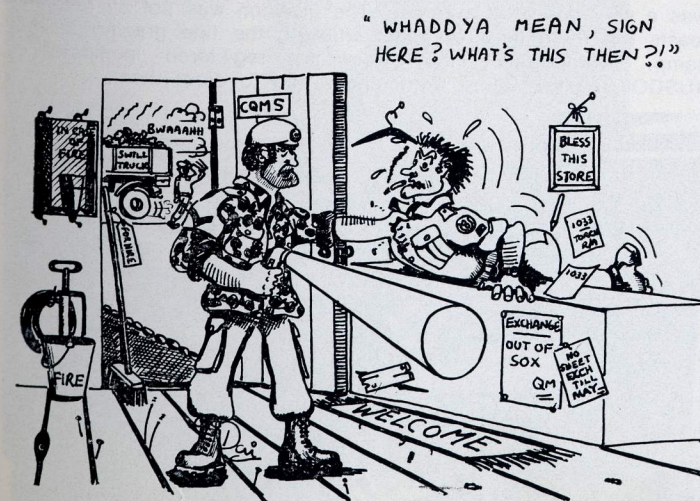


The Chief Medical Officer recently held a seminar at which the main speaker, pictured above, was Dr. A. Pelides the Greek Cypriot Chief Orthopaedic Surgeon. Dr Pelides gave his talk on sports injuries to an audience which included medical officers both from the Force and the British Sovereign Base Areas.



The Canadian Minister of Defence, Mr. B. Danson, visited the Force during January to be updated on the work of the Force and to see the Canadian Contingent. In the picture he is seen inspecting the Danish Section of the International Guard of Honour which was on parade at the start of his visit to HQ UNFICYP on 5 January.

KEEP SMILING



AUSCON



Our Radio Workshop

Doctor of Electronics' Private Practice.

The chain of command is vitally important to any military organisation. It is therefore essential to have good radio equipment in first class working order. Because of the importance of the equipment its repair and maintenance needs a specialist — a "Doctor of Electronics".

Our chief specialist — whose empire includes 15,342 transistors, 4,856 diodes, 47 loudspeakers, about 47 kilometres of wire and a large number of different plugs and switches — is WO1 Johann Kleevein. Due to the importance of the items in his store and the difficulty of getting replacements from Austria he is very loath to pass his "treasures" on to others. Although his reluctance to issue spare parts, or even such things as a simple screwdriver, arises from the very limited budget within which the branch has to operate some people think he takes it too far, which has resulted in his Scottish nickname — Jack McCloverwine.

His many repair tricks have given rise to a humorous story that has now become a bit of

a stale joke. Like most military forces the Austrian Army is often short of money and this is the background of this particular story. Once when the high power radio station which links us with Austria broke down he tried hard to repair it but after an hour had had no success and had run out of ideas. Ner-

vously playing with his tools as he tried to find inspiration he accidentally got the coin box with the coffee money in his hands. As soon as the coins were jangling a clear voice in German came out of the loudspeaker, "Hello Auscon, this is the Austrian Army Broadcasting System"!!!



Farewell Party

With a Turkish Cypriot flavour.

On 20 January an important event took place. It was a farewell party for our boys who were leaving the island for Austria a few days later. For the occasion the PMC of the Soldiers' Mess, 1/Cpl Niederhauser, who has become famous for his original ideas during his service with several contingents, prepared a new surprise.

After a meze for about 100 soldiers he invited them to watch a performance by a Turkish Cypriot folk dancing group. The group consisted of ten girls from the Canbulat School in Famagusta and they give performances free in their spare time. This display gave an interesting insight into one of their national customs, which the boys thoroughly enjoyed. 1/Cpl Niederhauser said, "The only problem was that the girls were so very shy in front of so many young men".



Peaceful Invasion

Our camp was invaded one day during January — but it was a very peaceful invasion. The invasion was not by ravaging beasts but by a herd of goats enjoying the fine grazing in the camp. Unfortunately they were not registered members of AUSCON so the Camp Commander had to eject them.



A TIGHT SQUEEZE

Recce Squadron



CANCON

Recce Squadron/8CH has an operational tasking unique within the framework of the United Nations Force in Cyprus. The 117-man squadron is responsible for manning Observation Posts (OPs) along the Buffer Zone within the city of Nicosia. These OPs are located throughout the new and old (which is the walled section) parts of the city between Greek and Turkish forces.

The Greeks and Turks are separated by kilometres throughout most of the island, but in Nicosia both factions are often only separated by less than a few feet. This of course, results in countless problems for Recce Squadron; such as rock-throwing, pointing of weapons, building of defences, and yelling at each other to name only a few. The Greeks and Turks have built up their Ceasefire Lines (CFLs) with roadblocks, bunkers and sandbag emplacements. Each side closely monitors the other for new construction. The sentries, line NCOs and officers of Recce Squadron are constantly involved in preventing an escalation in defensive improvements which could lead to greater tension between the two sides.

Recce Squadron is also responsible for the security of meetings held between Greek and Turkish communities which take place at the Ledra Palace Hotel. The hotel is also the quarters of all Recce Squadron personnel. The Ledra Palace is convenient both for its facilities and for its location in the Buffer Zone. During the Squadron's tour talks have included such



A couple of GUNG-HO soldiers, Tpr Rob Marshall and Tpr Mike McEachern studying every bush and tree. They are tasked with a roving patrol for ground security.

topics as Nicosia Sewerage, which involves the construction of a system linking both sides; International Scouting, where a world-wide jamboree was being organised; and meetings of the Fulbright Commission at which eligible Greek and Turkish students were selected for university scholarships in the United States.

The soldiers of Recce Squadron have probably the best ac-

commodations of any troops on the island. The hotel has over two hundred rooms, and includes excellent messes for troopers, corporals and senior NCOs. There is also a swimming pool, a tennis court, a miniature golf course, a gymnasium and a sports field all within the immediate vicinity for off-duty recreation. Within walking distance one can find a variety of small merchant shops which

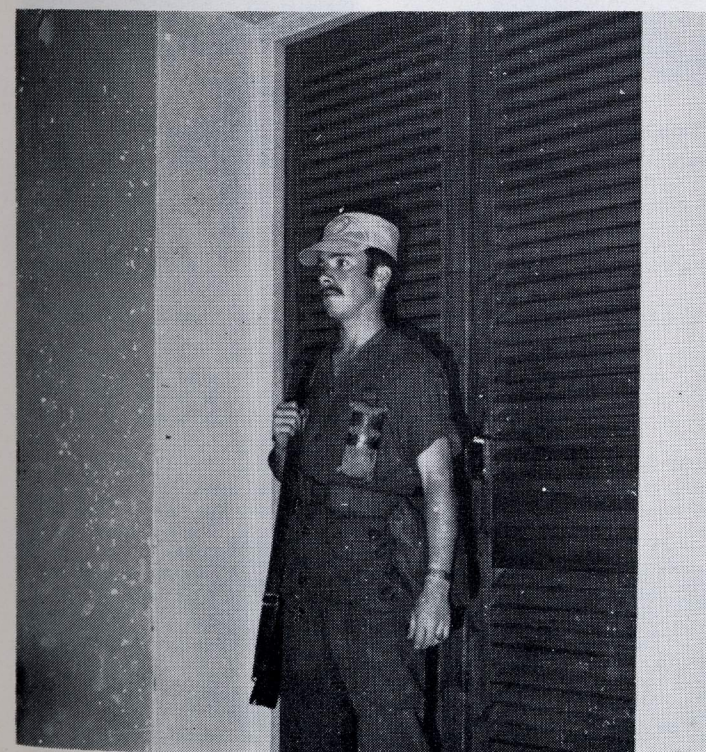
offer something for everyone.

The Squadron is organised with one line troop (there are 30 men per troop) responsible for the western half of the city, and one line troop responsible for the eastern half. One troop is also held in reserve. Each line troop has three OPs which are manned by two soldiers at all times. Each soldier for the most part works eight hours and then has sixteen hours to relax. Each man also receives one "24" and one "48" hour pass each month which allows for some sightseeing of the island. Many of the soldiers take advantage of the leave centres located at Limassol, a southern port city. Two weeks of UN leave during the tour (which can be spent in Germany) provides an enjoyable interlude.

The troopers are finding that their basic armour skills are getting rusty while fulfilling this infantry type tasking. They, therefore, get involved in lectures, range practice and also refresher training; however, their main emphasis is still with the peacekeeping role.

The future for Recce Squadron promises a busy time up to our handover in April. Construction is about to begin on the sewer system with a large proportion of the work taking place in the United Nations Buffer Zone. Escorts for each phase of this project will be supplied by the reserve troop.

The tour has been an exciting and different experience for all. But, nevertheless each passing day adds another stroke to the calendar marking the days until we are home again.



Tpr Steve McGeean, standing guard outside the Ledra conference room during intercommunal sewage talks.



... and here is where it all happens — the room where the delegations meet.

DANCON



Helicopter Training

Helicopter support is available to all Sectors in UNFICYP. However, it is a vitally important facility to Sector One in view of the mountainous terrain in the Sector's area and the restrictions

on freedom of movement that exist. Because of these problems in the Sector Dancon uses a large proportion of the flying hours available to the Force.

In their training in Denmark the Danish soldiers do not learn how to operate from helicopters and as a result they receive instruction on the correct procedure after they have joined the Force. The instruction is followed by practical exercises carried out in Viking Camp, Xeros, using a truck and the Camp water-tower. These exercises probably save one or two broken

legs when it comes to actually operating from helicopters as the soldiers have the chance of becoming expert in climbing down a rope before having to descend from a hovering helicopter. The "live" training with helicopters takes place at Nicosia, where the instruction and supervision is carried out by RAF Loadmasters.

There is no doubt that the soldiers of the Danish Contingent find this training an unusual and exiting element of their UN service, so we will let one of the new-comers tell you of his reactions.



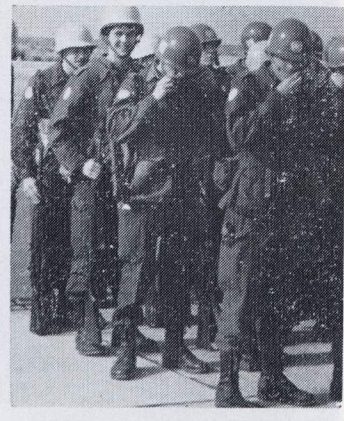
"Take your seats, please".

One Soldier's Reaction

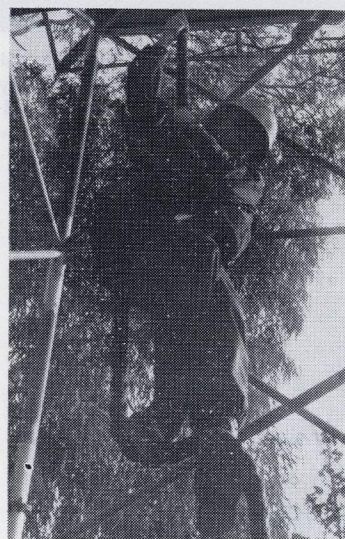
When asked for his reactions to helicopter training Pte Poul Brengendal, a 21 year-old soldier who served with a Signal Regiment in Denmark said: "During my four and a half years service I have never before made a helicopter flight and therefore have never tried "the roping". It was a strange and exiting experience to fly in a helicopter, especially as I was placed just opposite the open door — I was grateful for my seatbelt. The only time that I had butterflies in my stomach was when I actually sat in the open door, waiting for the rope; but once in action I had no problems in descending. Altogether, I am sure that I have received very good instruction from the RAF Loadmaster, and I did not see any of the "jumping apple" exercise by the helicopter pilot as recounted by my older companions".



And then down we go.



Pte Brengendal in the middle of the picture with a big smile, waiting for the training.



"Roping" from the water tower in Viking Camp.



Be careful now.



Thank you and goodbye.

Water...

There has indeed been some rain this winter in Cyprus and all sectors have had various troubles due to the water.

In Sector Five there was troop training in the fire trenches around Camp Victoria. Trouble was, some of the trenches were completely water filled after heavy raining.

But if you are a UN soldier and have to do a job, you do it. Even if it means you have to do it with frog man equipment.

SWEDCON



More water...

(Left) Jan-Erik Båverud and Tauno Haikara had some problems in their accommodation. The roof couldn't stand the heavy rain and there were some bad leaks. So what to do? Join the navy of course!

(Bottom) But bad weather couldn't stop these crazy Swedes from taking their traditional swim in the Mediterranean on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. "Wet, but not too cold," the report says.



Even more...

Raining or not, Mario Maric drives his water lorry all around Sector Five. Water we need, no matter how much it is raining this wet winter. So the water lorry is always welcome, even in a heavy rain fall.





The Secretary-General arriving at Nicosia having been flown by the Detachment from Larnaca.



Troop training on deplanement procedures.



The Detachment's helicopters pictured at their Nicosia base.

UNIT FEATURE



84 SQN (UN

The permanent United Nations Detachment of 84 Squadron Royal Air Force, which has its Headquarters at RAF Akrotiri, is based at Nicosia. The Detachment is equipped with 4 Whirlwind MK 10 helicopters and is staffed by 6 officers, 32 NCOs and airmen and 17 locally employed civilians.

The main function of the Detachment is the provision of aircraft daily for UN tasking. In order to achieve this objective the Unit has 4 aircraft. One of these aircraft is generally on major servicing at Akrotiri, and from the 3 based at Nicosia the Detachment's engineering staff endeavours to produce 2 serviceable Whirlwinds each day for training and operational flying.

The Detachment aircraft provide the United Nations Force in Cyprus with a troop, supply and passenger-carrying capability. The Unit also maintains an Air Safety Watch and a Crash Rescue Service for the Royal Air Force and Army helicopters which operate from Nicosia. Additionally, the Detachment provides a 24-hour fire-fighting standby for any domestic fires which may occur within the United Nations Protected Area.

The Detachment's most regular flying task consists of the resupply of the more inaccessible Observation Posts in Sector 1. Three times a week, a Whirlwind helicopter delivers rations, water and other commodities to the Danish personnel who man these OPs. The flying tasks of the Detachment also include the carriage of VIPs and service passengers and the training of UN troops in the various helicopter deplanement techniques that they may have to use operationally.

In order to maintain their proficiency and operating standards at a high level, the pilots

BRITCON



DET) RAF

and crewmen of the Detachment complete certain flying and ground training exercises every month. For the pilots, these exercises include instrument and night flying, rescue procedures, navigation training and engine-off landing practices. The exercises for the crewmen include navigation training and practice in load-lifting and rescue techniques.

The majority of the married personnel on the strength of the Detachment serve for 3 years in Cyprus. Single personnel normally complete 2½ year tours on the island. All personnel and their families are quartered in the British Retained Site, and play their part in the activities of the community.

In addition to its routine tasks, the Detachment maintains an aircraft and crew at 30 minutes readiness during working hours and one hours readiness at all other times, for any emergency tasks that may arise. These tasks may range from the medical evacuation of sick or injured servicemen and civilians to the nearest hospital, through to the rescue of persons in distress. The Detachment's most noteworthy event in recent times was when 2 of its aircraft, along with 2 more from the parent unit at Akrotiri, rescued 117 civilians and servicemen from the vessel "Erturk I" which was in danger of breaking up in high seas off Kyrenia. This is believed to be the largest helicopter rescue ever recorded in the annals of aviation.

The personnel of 84 Squadron Detachment are proud to belong to the sole Royal Air Force Unit in Nicosia and consider it a privilege to be able to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations Force in Cyprus.



A Whirlwind being loaded at Limnitis for the resupply of the inaccessible Sector 1 OPs.



OP D12 is a good example of how inaccessible some of the Sector 1 OPs are.



One of the many mercy missions the Detachment has carried out for the local population during the last year. Patients in remote areas thankfully find Nicosia hospitals are more accessible than they had ever hoped.

MILITARY SKILLS

FORCE RESERVE



Weighing In.



Gently! Gently!



Teamwork and Faith.

First Background

"The purpose of the Military Skills Competition is to encourage Sectors and Units to maintain and develop basic military skills while serving with UNFICYP" says the good book, UNFICYP Standing Operating Procedures. That statement translates into a lot of hard work and practice for the teams from each of the Sectors, Force Reserve and Support Regiment.

Skills tested are many. During the competition each team must make a forced march of 15 kilometres, participate in a night observation exercise, plus complete both night and day navigation exercises. These exercises consist of several stands and at each stand further basic military skills such as obstacle crossing, grenade throwing and first-aid are tested. Oh, by the way, each team is composed of an officer, an NCO and two privates. Needless to say, it takes teamwork to win!

COMPETITION

THE WINNERS

Next Results

The final stages of the UNFICYP Military Skills Competition held on 11 and 12 January provided a story-book finish with the scoreboard on Pyla Range surrounded by competitors and supporters anxious to check the markers' arithmetic.

It had been obvious from the early stages of the competition on the previous day that the contest would be very closely fought and that winning would be no easy task.

The first event, the 13 Km march gave an indication of what the final result might be with Force Reserve completing the course in 91 mins, 29 secs, the Swedish team in 92 mins, 10 secs and the Austrians not much slower in 96 mins, 45 secs. The order was repeated in the Night Navigation course and first light on 1 January saw these three teams well ahead of the remainder.

The Night Observation test held between two and three o'clock in the morning resulted in some good scores for all teams, with the Austrians just pipping the rest. One sobering thought is that not one observation post saw a three man foot patrol which walked across the front just two hundred metres away on quite a brightly moonlit night.

The morning of the second day saw all contingents, except the eventual winners come first in at least one event:

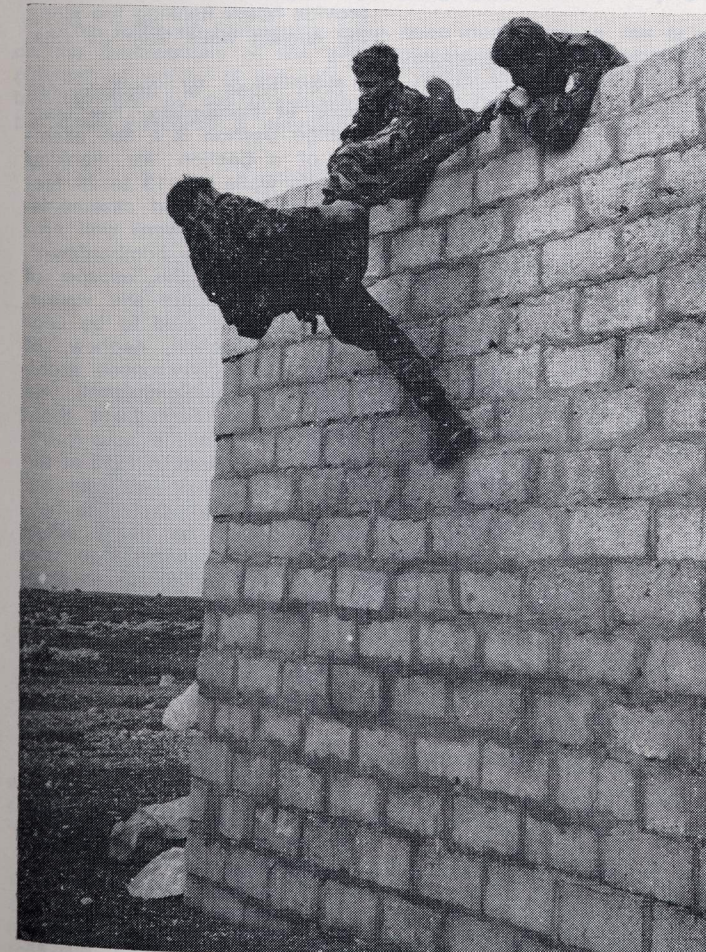
Sector 1 won the OP stand.
Sector 2 the Estimation of Distances.
Sector 4 the Shooting.
Sector 5 the First Aid.
Sector 6 the Grenade Throwing.

Special mention must be made of the Swedish Team from Sector 5 with an almost unbelievable time of 4 mins, 2 sec, for the obstacle course.

After all the nail biting and cross checking the Force Commander presented the prizes to the following:

1st Force Reserve	1,222 points
2nd Sector 5	1,216 points
3rd Sector 6	1,214 points

The prizegiving ceremony completed, competitors, umpires, staff and supporters alike enjoyed a welcome beer and lunch to the music of the Band The 3rd Battalion The Light Infantry.



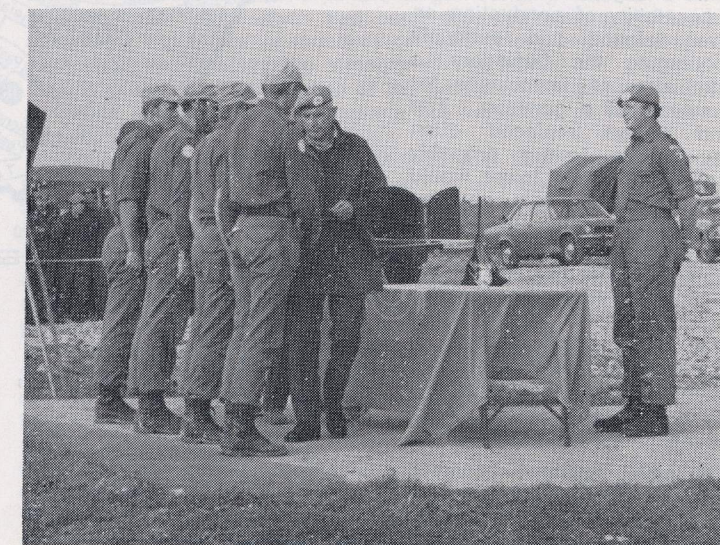
Why couldn't we just walk around....?



Dig In!



O-o-o-uch!



Force Commander presents awards.

GREEK ORTHODOX EASTER

The Greek Orthodox Easter is one of several church festivals in Cyprus that causes confusion to the visitor as the Orthodox calendar differs from that of the Catholic and Protestant churches. For instance this year the Orthodox Easter Sunday falls on 22 April.

The local preparations for Easter start 10 days before the 50 day Lenten period, when even the very poor provide themselves with as much food as they can afford because during Lent they have to abstain from eating meat, eggs and cheese. This period is usually a carnival time, the derivation of which has long since been forgotten. Limassol has become the centre for this carnival, which until 1974 used to culminate in a Grand Parade with decorated floats on the last Sunday before Lent. Since 1974 the Grand Parade has been considered inappropriate and only the children's Fancy Dress Parade on the previous Sunday has taken place.

The first day of Lent, known as "Deftera tis Katharas" or "Clean Monday" (or "Green Monday" by non Greeks), which this year falls on 5 March, is the day on which all Greek Cypriots picnic in the fields and eat bread, olives and as many different vegetables as possible. Lent is taken very seriously with church services being held every night, with especially long ones on Fridays. On Pa'm Sunday olive branches are taken to church and carried in procession round the church. They are left there during the week before Easter, Holy Week, after which they are taken home and regarded as having miraculous powers. Naturally the fasting still continues but is even more stringent during Holy Week, when only lentils, beans and vegetables are eaten.

On Maundy Thursday evening the crucifixion is enacted in the churches with wooden images and as soon as this ceremony is over all ikons and other church ornaments are shrouded in



black. The churches remain in this state until midnight on Easter Saturday when, after a service lasting three hours, the covers are removed and the congregations come out shouting "Christ is risen" and fireworks are set off.

Normal eating now begins and on Easter Sunday the traditional roast lamb is served, together with all the trimmings. There are also cheese pies and cream cakes, baked specially the day before. Eggs are in plentiful supply; these are hard boiled and coloured brightly with dyes, originally obtained from different roots but now bought in packets. It is considered lucky to crack your egg against a friend's before eating it.

Easter is the most important festival of the Greek Orthodox Church and is taken very seriously in the villages.

CASTLES

THE FORTIFIED CITY OF FAMAGUSTA

We know that Famagusta had a castle and that the city was fortified during the Lusignan period and during the Genoese occupation, but the defences were completely rebuilt by the Venetians, not only to resist the novel artillery of the day, but also to provide for artillery positions. Only parts of the Citadel and the Land Gate antedates the Genoese occupation.

Famagusta is surrounded by walls. It is more or less a square. One of the walls faces the sea and harbour; the other three overlook the plain. Round these landward walls runs a fosse. Projecting round towers are set at regular intervals in the curtain wall. This is an old invention in military architecture. The reason for these towers is mainly to provide flanking fire and give to the besieged the possibility of conducting an active defence and seriously discouraging the besiegers, a matter also of importance for the morale of a garrison. The round towers replaced often older square towers probably because the round tower would better resist the ram and the mangon and at the same time gave the besieged a better field of fire. Towards the end of the Lusignan period architects tended to prefer the round tower set at rather small intervals in the wall and with a bold projection so that it would be more correct to speak about towers of a horseshoe-shape.

The novel artillery, however, called for something different. The old towers were inconvenient if not impossible to use as gun positions, and the greater range of the new weapons



made it unnecessary to have positions at short intervals. Two new types of bastions were developed. The large circular (or semicircular) bastion, less vulnerable to bombardment and with a wide angle for fire; and the arrow-head-shaped bastion which placed at a corner could provide heavy flanking fire along the curtain walls from its slits.

Both types of bastions are found at Famagusta. The Martinengo Bastion is a fine example of a bastion for flanking fire. Its walls are 13 to 20 feet thick. In its vaulted casements, where the guns were well protected against bombardment, the holes for the escape of powder smoke are still visible. The builder is said to be Giovanni Sammicheli, nephew, of the celebrated Veronese architect, Michele Sammicheli. He was sent to Famagusta about 1550 to design the new fortification, died there in 1559 at the age of forty-five and was buried in the Cathedral. The bastion receives its name either from Hieronimo Martinengo, who was chosen by Venice to command the troops in Cyprus in 1570, but on his way fell ill and died in Corfu, or from Alvise Martinengo, one of Famagusta's defenders in 1571.

How, it may well be asked, was such a formidable fortress ever captured or forced to capitulate? The fall of Famagusta was brought about by a number of factors, of which the most important were: Venice did not send a relieving force; famine; heavy bombardments and mining under towers followed by assaults.

Mediaeval Famagusta is one of the most remarkable ruins in the world

"In the Steps of St Paul" — H V Morton

On entering the old City of Famagusta the first impression is one of gloom created by the broken and ruined Venetian walls, the decayed Gothic cathedral and churches together with the ruined palaces scattered among the palm trees. The feeling is of being in one of the most exciting and picturesque graveyards of an ancient culture.

The early history of the town is obscure and it did not become of note until it was populated by the refugees from neighbouring Salamis in AD 648 when that city was finally abandoned after a long period of Saracen raids and a devastating earthquake. After the fall of Acre in AD 1291 King Henry II of Cyprus offered it as an asylum to the many refugees of that city and Famagusta rapidly became one of the richest and most important cities in the Levant. The great trading organisations of Italy and France set up business houses in the city; all the great religious orders built convents there; and the many religions of the Near East built their places of worship. Famagusta soon became the principal business centre of the Eastern Mediterranean into which flowed an ever increasing stream of wealth. The nobility of the city became the richest in the world and even they were outvied by the rich merchants. It is said of one of the merchant princes, a Nestorian Christian called Sir Francis Lakhas, that when he invited the King to dinner he ordered a great dish to be brought in, carried by four men, which was loaded with rough pearls and stones beyond price, and in the middle were four huge carbuncles. To show his scorn for the riches he had the treasure tipped into a corner of the hall as if it had been nothing more valuable than corn. At the end of the meal, instead of presenting his guests with sweetmeats as presents he gave them each a bowl of pearls. At the height of its affluence the city boasted 365 churches, few of which remain today.

The golden age of the city continued until AD 1372 when the continuing rivalry between the Genoese and Venetians flared into open fighting as a result of a quarrel over precedence at the coronation of King Peter II. When the Venetians finally took over the island in AD 1489 they moved the capital from Nicosia to Famagusta, which was then converted into the fortified city that can be seen today.

Several earthquakes and the war between the Venetians and the Turks culminating in the seizure of AD 1571 left Famagusta in a desolate state. The desolation was compounded when the ruins of the city were later used as a source of building material for the construction of the Suez Canal in the 19th Century.

Places of Interest

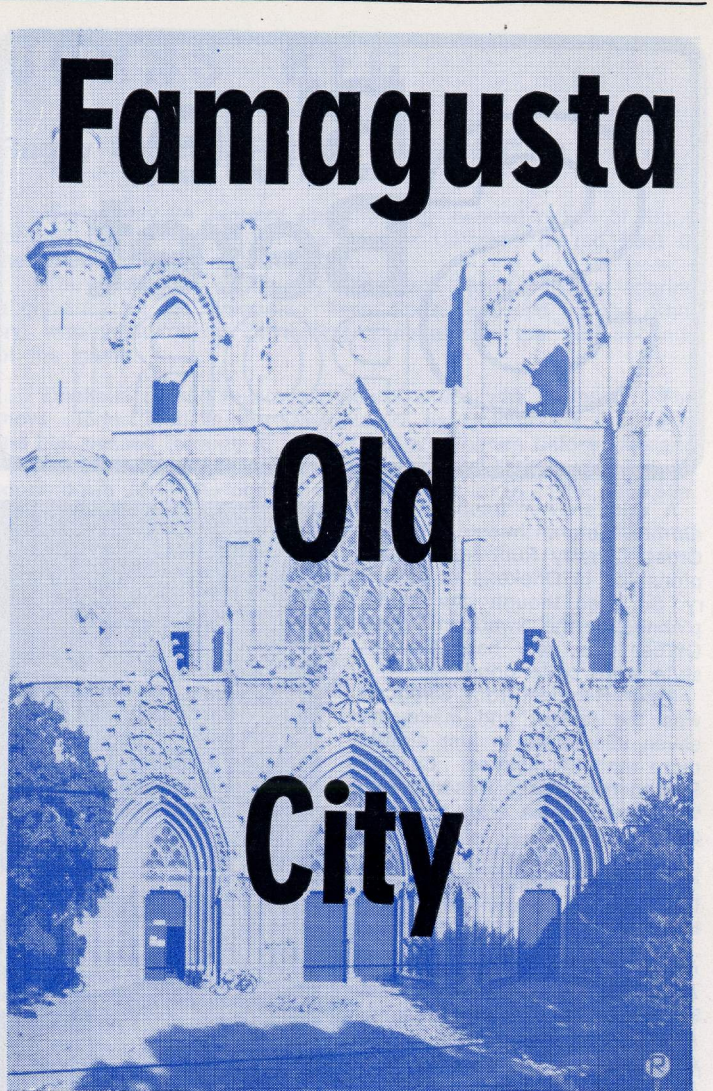
The Walls of Famagusta have been dealt with in the article on the fortifications of the city, however, the **Tower of Othello (Citadel)** is worthy of separate note. It is a square 14th Century building built by the Lusignans but later remodelled in AD 1492 by Nicolo Foscari, a Venetian. His name appears alongside the



A fish-eye view of the entrance to Othello Tower.

winged lion of Venice above the main entrance. The tower is considered by many to be the setting of Shakespeare's tragedy "Othello".

The **Lala Mustafa Mosque (Cathedral of St Nicholas)** is a magnificent Latin cathedral, consecrated in AD 1326. Thanks to its later conversion to use as a mosque, the building has not only remained standing where many minor churches have been allowed to fall into decay, but it has escaped many of the architectural modifications which have been made to contemporary European



Lala Mustafa Mosque (Cathedral of St Nicholas).

cathedrals. It thus remains as an outstanding example of original Gothic architecture.

Opposite the cathedral and across the square is the facade of the **Venetian Palace or Palazzo del Proveditorro**. Nothing now remains of the Royal Palace of the Lusignans, in which the Kings of Cyprus, until the reign of Peter II in AD 1369, lodged. This Venetian facade is a magnificent piece of architecture and consists of three arches supported by four grand columns brought from Salamis. Over the central arch are the arms of Giovanni Renier, Captain of Cyprus AD 1552.

The **Church of St. George of the Greeks**, which was the Greek Orthodox cathedral, combines an original Byzantine structure with a later vast Gothic one added to its northern side to emulate the late Latin cathedral. Both the Byzantine and the Gothic structures suffered tremendous damage in the bombardment during the Turkish siege of AD 1571. It has, however, been suggested that some of the damage done to the larger building was as a result of weak outer walls which had been provided with a great many spaces for the tombs of founders or benefactors and these spaces may well have affected the strength of the fabric.

The **Church of St. George of the Latins** is the earliest example of Gothic architecture in Famagusta but very little of the structure remains.

The **Church of St Peter and St Paul** is a 14th Century building originally dedicated to St Catherine. It is thought to have been built by a rich merchant, Simon Nestrano, from the proceeds of a single transaction during a business trip to Syria. The fabric of the building has escaped damage as it was converted into a mosque. The north doorway, decorated with coats of arms which are partially erased has a fine 13th Century door which was most probably brought from an earlier church.

Extensive **Underground Chambers** were discovered in AD 1936 which are reached from the road running parallel to the wall connecting the Martinengo and Mozzo bastions. The two huge chambers roughly at right angles to each other and carved out of the natural rock with pillars of stone left as supports are estimated to be able to accommodate 2,000 people, ventilating shafts ensure constant temperature and a dry atmosphere. Signs of domestic fires, recesses for storage and mangers for horses as well as seating for some occupants suggest that this was a place of refuge during the siege of AD 1571 but its construction may well go back to a period BC.

S Blue Beret SPORT



Cross - Country

A rain shower freshened the air just before the start of the Cross Country Running Championships in Dhekelia in January. So even though the route, planned by the Swedcon Sports Officer was very hard the results were quite good.

Peter Renman from Swedcon was the fastest and made the seven kilometres in just a little more than 24 minutes. Captain Buxton from Force Reserve won the Senior Class after a run of 27 minutes.

"But it was hard," competitors said. Steep slopes and a final long run on a concrete pavement.

(Right) In the front row: 159 Bäverud — Swedcon, 117 Madson — Dancon, 110 Peterson — Dancon and 170 Härberg — MP Coy, working their way up a steep slope.

(Below) Sgt Woodward on the final run and he ends as No. 9 in Class II. Pte Munroe from Support Regiment is just behind.



(Below) Insp Halloran, Cpl Dandie, Cpl Bledale and Cpl Bell on the final.



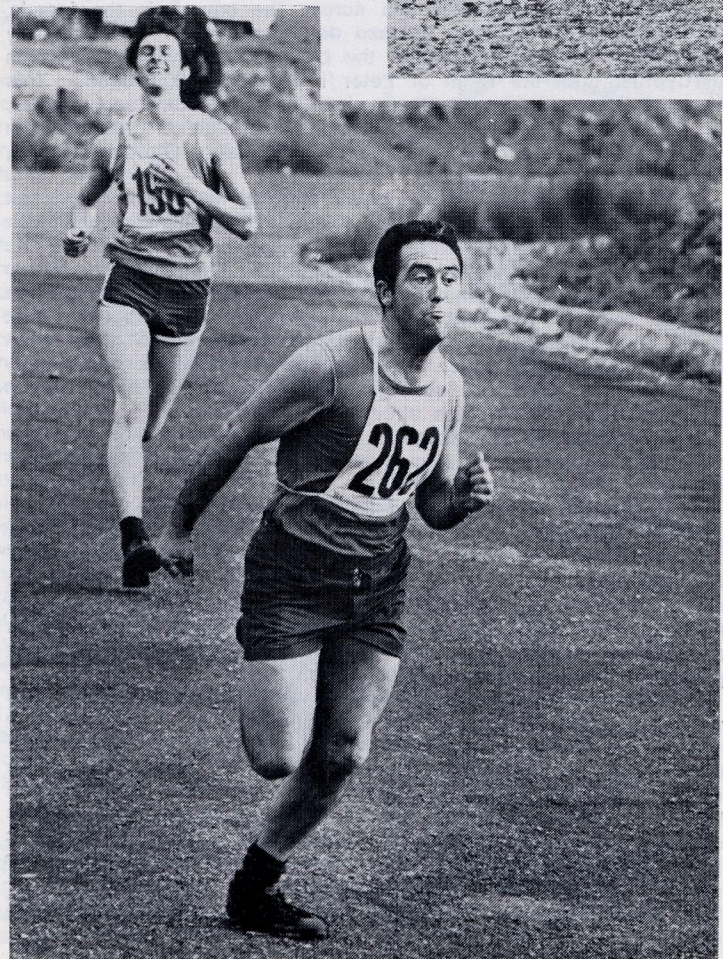
Results:

Class I:

1. Pte Renman, Swedcon.
2. Pte Trezese, Britcon.
3. Pte Ivarsson, Swedcon.
4. Sgt Dolan, Support Regt.
5. WO1 Sell, Swedcon.
6. Sgt Harrysson, Swedcon.
7. Sgt Bisgård, Dancon.
8. WO2 Härberg, MP Coy.
9. Lt Petersen, Dancon.
10. Pte Garberg, Dancon.

Class II:

1. Capt Buxton, Force Reserve.
2. Capt Söderberg, Swedcon.
3. Sgt Stein, Transport Sqn.
4. WO1 Dahlberg, MP Coy.
5. Jon Stiger, Dancon.
6. WO2 Pettersson, Swedcon.
7. SQMS Barras, Force Reserve
8. Sgt Rose, Britcon.
9. Sgt Woodward, Force Reserve.
10. Insp Halloran, Civpol.



NICOSIA UNICORNS RFC

Rugby Football Returns to UNFICYP



Wednesday 24 January saw the long awaited return of rugby football to UNFICYP when the Nicosia Unicorns played host to the Dhekelia Rugby Football Club.

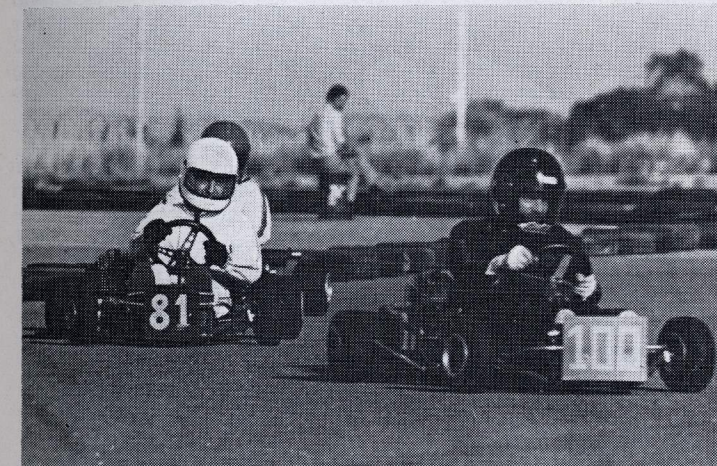
The game got under way with back Norman Siggs scoring a good try for the Unicorns. Terry Spring crossed for the other try, with young Kelly converting a penalty in the last seconds of the game.

Dhekelia scored four tries, one of which was a classic. The move started well in the Dhekelia 22 by Holden the full back; the ball passed through at least 10 pairs of hands before Blaxland with the Unicorns full back to beat, gave MacMillan the ball to touch down under the posts. Final score was 20 to 11 for Dhekelia.

The Unicorns are looking for more games. Jerry Crossland at Nicosia 7101 is waiting for other clubs to arrange fixtures with the Unicorns.

NICOSIA KART CLUB

Opening Meet



Akrotiri and Episkopi Clubs, be governed by RAC regulations.

All members of UNFICYP and their families (minimum age 16 years) are eligible to join the Club. Racing members are required to pay an entrance fee of C£5.000 and a racing fee of C£4.500 per month. The fees for social members are — joining fee C£1.000, yearly fee C£2.000. A family membership would cost C£3.000. Racing fees will be used to defray the cost of spares for the karts. The running costs of a particular kart, (petrol, oil, spark plug etc.) will be shared by those members who use that kart. It is hoped that as the Club's financial position improves more karts will be bought and the number of racing members will increase.

A Kart Club has recently been founded by the members of 84 Squadron (Detachment) RAF. The Club's premises are situated close to the Detachment's Air Traffic Control tower and a track has been laid on the unit's alternative aircraft servicing platform, which is the paved area which lies behind the Nicosia Scout and Guide Headquarters.

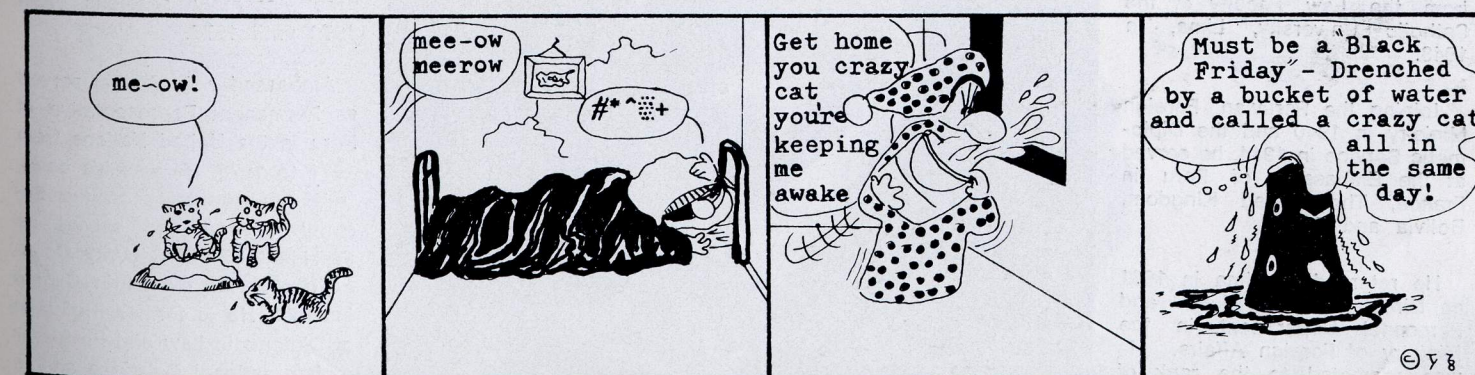
The founder members of the Club already have one racing

kart in use and a second one under construction. These two karts (and any others that are subsequently purchased by the club) will be used in the competitions that are regularly held on the karting circuits on the island. A "Fun Kart" has also been built for use by the junior element of the Club.

The Kart Club will be run under the auspices of the Cyprus Motor Sports Association and will, in common with the

total of 11 karts to the Meet and the Nicosia Club entered its first kart, 8 races were held — 2 International Class races (the lightweights), 2 National Class races (the heavyweights) and 4 Novice Class races (Novice A and Novice B). The International Class was won by Vince Phillips from Episkopi; Campbell Smith of Akrotiri, driving the Nicosia kart came second. The National Class was won by Brian Banks of Episkopi; The Nicosia kart, this time driven by Bernie Kane of Akrotiri, gained second place. Trevor Wright from Nicosia won the Novice A Class. Miss Jackie Pilling from Episkopi won the Novice B Class, with Jamie Hus-sain from Nicosia achieving a joint second place. A crowd of approximately 200 people viewed the day's events, which culminated in the presentation of prizes by Mrs Ann Gray, wife of the Station Commander RAF Akrotiri.

The Inaugural Meet of the Nicosia Kart Club was held on Sunday 14th January 1979. Members of the Akrotiri and Episkopi Kart Clubs brought a



Woolly Blue & Cancon



UN NEWS



UNIFIL MANDATE EXTENDED

The Security Council on 19 January approved a five month extension of the UNIFIL Mandate. In extending the Mandate the Security Council stressed that free and unhampered movement for UNIFIL was essential for the fulfilment of its Mandate. If obstruction continued, the Council said, it would examine practical ways in accordance with the Charter to see that its decisions were carried out.

Another provision in the resolution adopted that day urged all member states in a position to do so to use their influence on those concerned so that UNIFIL might fully carry out its task.

The resolution expressed satisfaction with the declared policy of the Government of Lebanon and the steps already taken to deploy the Lebanese army in the south. To hasten this process it invited Lebanon to draw up, in consultation with the Secretary-General, a phased programme of activities to be carried out over the next three months.

The Council is to meet again within three months to assess the situation.

In a statement made on behalf on the Council following the

adoption of the resolution its President, Donald Mills of Jamaica, took note of the Lebanese Government's efforts to establish a presence in the southern part of the country and expressed hope that expansion of such activities would be encouraged to promote restoration of its authority.

Secretary-General, Kurt Waldheim, stressed that the Co-operation of the parties concerned was essential to UNIFIL's effectiveness, appealed to those concerned to modify their attitude, and urged Council members in a position to do so to exert their influence to this end.

The five month extension of the UNIFIL Mandate was a compromise between the six months recommended by the Secretary-General and the four month term favoured by France to underscore the temporary nature of the UN undertaking.

The resolution emerged from intensive private consultations and was approved by a vote of twelve in favour to none against, with the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia abstaining and China not participating.

CONSULTATIONS ON NAMIBIA

The Secretary-General held extensive discussions on the evening of 19 January with Martti Ahtisaari, his Special Representative in Namibia, following the latter's return from ten days of talks with officials in Windhoek in Cape Town. Mr Ahtisaari had been discussing steps for launching the UN civilian and military operation that is to prepare for and oversee independence elections in Namibia. The following day the Secretary-General met with the South African Charge d'Affaires, Adriaan Eksteen, to discuss final details of the transitional assistance operation which was expected to start at the end of January with elections taking place in September.

Mr. Ahtisaari subsequently visited the African front line states and also met with representatives of SWAPO. On 23 January he met with President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania whilst in Dar-Es-Salaam and also met members of the liberation community of the organisation of African Unity.

SECRETARY-GENERAL POSTPONES VISIT TO SOUTH-EAST ASIA.

It was announced on 31 January that the Secretary-General had decided to postpone his trip to south-east Asia to a later date. He considered that his presence was required at UN HQ New York in the immediate future in connection with the on-going consultations concerning Namibia and the possibility of the resumption of inter-communal talks on Cyprus.

It had been announced last month that the Secretary-General planned to pay official visits to seven Asian countries between the end of January and mid February; his itinerary including Democratic Kampuchea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Laos.

SECRETARY-GENERAL APPOINTS AMBASSADOR PEREZ DE CUELLAR — HIS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN CYPRUS 1975 - 77 — AS UNDER-SECRETARY FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

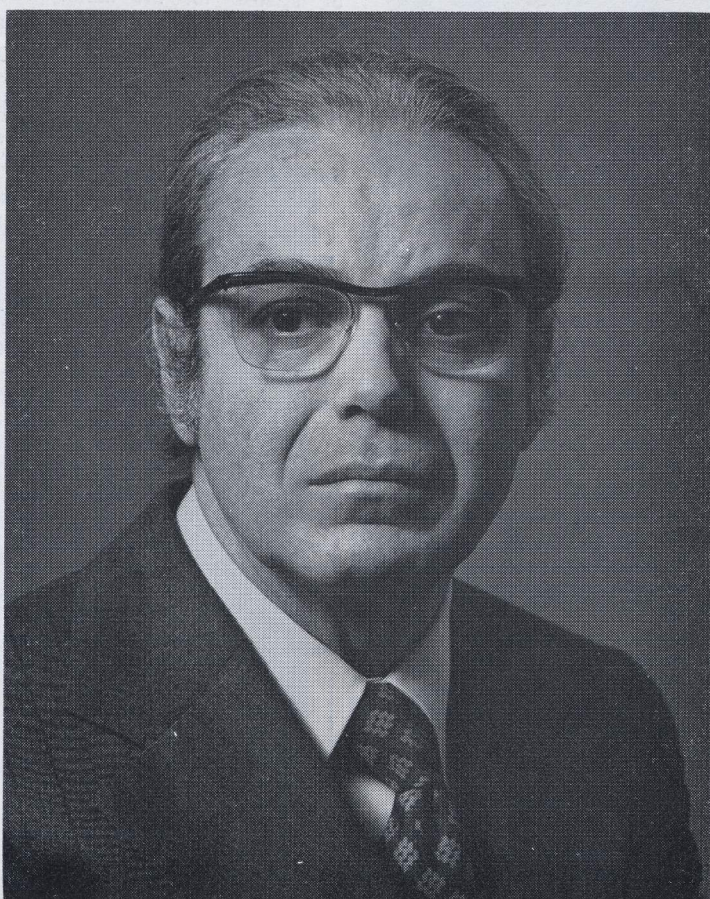
The Secretary-General recently announced the appointment of Ambassador Javier Perez de Cuellar as Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs. The Ambassador served from November 1975 to December 1977 as the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Cyprus. He succeeds Mr. Roberto E. Guyer and is expected to take over his duties soon.

Since he left Cyprus, Mr. Perez de Cuellar has been Peru's Ambassador to Venezuela.

Mr. de Cuellar was born in Lima in 1920 and graduated from the Law Faculty of the Catholic University, Lima, in 1943.

Joining the Peruvian Foreign Ministry in 1940 and the Diplomatic Service in 1944, he served at the Embassies of Peru in France, The United Kingdom, Bolivia and Brazil.

He returned to Lima in 1961 as Director of the Legal and Personnel Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was promoted to the rank of Ambassador the following year, serving successively as the Director of Administration, Proto-



col and Political Affairs in the Peruvian Foreign Ministry.

From 1964 to 1966 Mr de Cuellar served as Ambassador to Switzerland. He then became the Vice Minister of the Foreign Ministry. He served as the Ambassador of Peru to the Soviet Union from 1969 to 1971, accredited simultaneously as Ambassador to Poland.

He was a member of the Peruvian Delegation to the first session of the U.N. General Assembly in 1946 and of his country's delegations to the General Assembly sessions from 1970 until 1975.

Ambassador de Cuellar served as Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations from 1971 to 1975. He was his country's Representative on the Security Council and served as President of the Security Council during the events in Cyprus in 1974. He is former Professor of Diplomatic Law and Professor of International Relations and is author of "Manual of International Law".