The Blue Beret
July 2002

A Helping Hand
PARISS BECKONS

The fifth round of the direct talks has wrapped up in Nicosia with an announced pause “for evaluation, reflection and rest”. The talks will resume on 27 August. However, the Secretary-General has invited Mr. Clerides and Mr. Denktash to meet with him in Paris on 6 September “to take stock and see if a course can be charted for the way ahead”. Both have accepted.

Explanation, for the invitation, Special Adviser de Soto said it was obvious to all “that progress is not what it should be and this is a problem that needs to be analyzed and solved”. He pointed out, “doubts have grown about the possibility that the two leaders have of reaching the goal of a comprehensive settlement, in a reasonable time limit, and with the methods they are using at present”.

Back at the beginning of July, the fourth round of the talks wrapped up amidst expressions of concern at the lack of progress and hopes that the parties would show greater political will and an increased spirit of compromise in intensifying their efforts for a settlement.

The Secretary-General will stop over in Paris in order to meet with the two leaders while en route back to New York from the Sustainable Development Summit in Johannesburg. This comes at a very busy time in his schedule since the General Assembly opens in New York the following week. It is yet another indication of the importance he invests in the ongoing effort to arrive at a Cyprus settlement.

World Population Day - “Reducing Poverty, Improving Reproductive Health”

To mark World Population Day on 11 July, the Secretary-General issued this special message:

The theme of this year’s World Population Day, “Reducing Poverty, Improving Reproductive Health”, focuses on the role of families, in particular motherhood and the prevention of HIV/AIDS in the global fight against the squalor and despair that plague so many members of the Saharan Afarica and South Asia, could enjoy all the same benefits by putting in place economic and social policies that call for greater investments in health and education.

Even though global population growth is slowing, there will still be a billion more people in the developing world by 2015. And the most rapid growth is occurring in the world’s least developed countries, where the population is expected to rise over the next 50 years from 658 million to 1.8 billion. Already, these countries are least able to provide basic services and are among the most severely challenged by hunger, HIV/AIDS, water scarcity and environmental degradation.

On this World Population Day, let us recognize reproductive health as one of the key tools in the wider battle against poverty. And let us resolve to mobilize the resources and the political will to work for reproductive health as a means to building a healthier, stronger, more prosperous human family.

You’re Invited........ By Charlotte Mortensen

I love to get invitations... to anything, anywhere, from anyone. But have you ever noticed just how differently invitations are phrased? Yes, here I go again with the various language differences we all experience every day working in UNFICYP. I have touched upon this subject before in this column, but my latest invitation (and on a personal note, I could do with a few more...) made me realize that I haven’t even come close to covering all the areas in which there is apparent misunderstanding. This is because many of us do not have English as our first language - which has come to my attention, even that some of the English native speakers don’t really understand each other either.

On the invitation I mentioned above, someone had printed in the lower right-hand corner: “Planters”. When I read it, the first vision that flashed through my mind was of roasted peanuts (hmm, peanuts, normally served at a cocktail party - how fancy!). Then I realized that I would probably be the only one who knows that canned peanuts in America are called “Planters Blanched”.

So, I thought about it a bit more, and after about two full seconds, I gave up and started my journey around the office to ask my more mature and experienced colleagues. And do you know - no one had a clue, but it wasn’t for lack of guessing. “Dress green like a plant,” “shorts”, “something with short sleeves or it long sleeves?” or maybe “it’s a sit-down party where you will be planted at the tables” - no one knew! (It turns out that the phrase go back to the colonial
Don't Play With The Elements

BASIC FIRE PREVENTION

Dry grass and vegetation are the biggest single fire hazard in UNFICYP at this time. You can help prevent fires by following these simple rules:

DON'T...
- Throw away glass materials, lit cigarettes or matches
- Smoke in areas other than those designated for smoking
- Use plastic bins in smoking areas, even alongside ashtrays
- Park your vehicle near grass or vegetation
- Leave your vehicle engine running
- Have barbecues, except in designated locations
- Leave your barbecue unattended or burning (use water or sand to damp the fire)
- Burn any confidential material (for all burning of sensitive material contact UNFICYP Fire HQ EXT 4453/4 UNPA)
- Start your patrol without at least four fire fighters in your patrol vehicle (also check your 500/700 grams dry powder fire extinguisher and medical kit)

And, when helping to fight a fire in the buffer zone, DON'T:
- Use water if electricity poles are involved in the fire (especially near UNFICYP Ops; use fire beaters or green tree branches)
- Risk your life to fight a fire; safety always comes first
- Fight fires alone; always attack the fire in groups
- Fight open-air fires up or down wind; always attack from a crosswind direction
- Forget when fighting fires that mines are present in the buffer zone
- Spread fire with your boots; wash them as you leave the area

And, above all, remember the fire/emergency telephone number: 22-36-4777
(for radio callsigns, check with the Senior Fire Officer)

Although the importance of water preservation is a worldwide preoccupation, it is especially so in Cyprus, which has suffered severe periods of drought over the past few years. A fairly dry country, almost all of the island's rain falls in the winter months. Lately, there has been rather less precipitation than would be desirable.

Even with the modern dam systems - which have increased water storage capacity by more than 40 times in the last 40 years - the fact remains that this island of over 9,000 square kilometres has only 10 square kilometres of standing water. This means supplies are often short, hence the ongoing campaign to save water.

Water conservation is a fairly simple business involving common sense and cooperation by everyone with access to the system. The rule is not to waste water in any way. This is best done by:
- making sure taps are turned off (a tap dripping once every second wastes three gallons of water every day)
- using waste water from the kitchen or the bath when watering the garden (do keep in mind, though, that water poured on the garden in the noontday heat is likely to evaporate before it can do the plants any good)
The Cultural Heritage of Cyprus: Part IV
Salamis - City Kingdom and Capital

In our fourth article describing the cultural heritage sites of Cyprus, we visit Salamis, one of the richest archaeological sites on the island. It's also one of the most visually rewarding, with its Roman columns, baths and restored theatre. The site's history stretches back to the 11th century BC, with the city playing a leading role for centuries as a major trading centre and as the island's capital.

Today, its ruins - located about nine km north of Famagusta - are spread over a large forested area, and include a major necropolis from the 8th and 7th centuries BC, plus numerous structures from the later Roman and Byzantine periods, including a gymnasium, stadium, theatre, agora and basilicas.

Salamis owes much of its historical prominence to its location on the northeastern coast of Cyprus, where - backed by the fertile Mesaoria Plain, it was close to major eastern Mediterranean trading centres. The city's rather mythological beginnings centre on Telkros (also known as Teseos), the son of King Telamon of the Greek island of Salamis. Banished from Salamis for failing to protect his half-brother, Ajax, in the Trojan War, Telkros is said to have come to Cyprus around 1120 BC, establishing a settlement and giving it the name of his island home. His arrival would have reinforced the Mycenaean culture (the late Bronze Age civilisation in Greece that Homer described in his poems), which Greek merchants had already brought to the island.

It is perhaps more certain that the site of the 1075 BC earthquake that led to the abandonment of nearby Inkomi, Salamis developed as one of the great city-kings and trading centres of Cyprus. Its prosperity in the 8th and 7th centuries BC is reflected in the Royal Tombs necropolis, where archaeologists have found grave goods that demonstrate the Mycenaean belief in the afterlife. In doing so, the artefacts also confirmed Homer's description, centuries earlier, of late Bronze Age funeral rites, which survived here in Cyprus for centuries after the Mycenaean culture faded.

After a period of Assyrian and Egyptian rule, of Persian domination and of the empire of Alexander the Great, Cyprus passed into the hands of the Ptolemies (the Greco-Egyptian dynasty) in 294 BC. The Ptolemies abolished the island's city-kings and appointed a viceroy who governed the island from Salamis until Piraeus became the island's capital in the 2nd century BC.

Many of the ruins that can be seen today date from the Roman period, which began after Rome annexed the island in 58 BC, and from the Byzantine period, which began in 330 AD and saw Salamis once again become the island's capital.

Unfortunately, earthquakes in 332 AD and 342 AD devastated the city: tidal waves blanket the entire area with sand, and although it was rebuilt on a smaller scale as Constantia, the city was finally abandoned after Arab raids in the 7th century AD. After that, it effectively became a quarry for local builders: many medieval buildings in Famagusta still carry stones from ancient Salamis.

The road that runs from the theatre to the cistern passes through a crossroads just south of the Roman villa. To the east lies the Kampanopetra basilica, built in the 8th century AD, overlooking the Mediterranean. One of the rooms to the rear of the basilica still shows a beautiful mosaic, perhaps the best Salamis offers; constructed in light and dark triangles. A ramble down to the Mediterranean reveals lines of man-made stone in the clear water: the remains of the breakwater that protected the ancient port.

The Royal Tombs
Located inland and west of the main Salamis archaeological complex, the nine Royal Tombs are centuries earlier than the Roman ruins, dating from the 9th and 7th centuries BC. They tell us a great deal about how Salamis - and its older Mycenaean culture - buried its dead. Most of the tombs are cut into the earth, with a downward sloping road approaching the tomb from the east. Corridors lined with ashlar (finely cut) stone blocks lead to an anteroom and finally a burial chamber roofed with a huge stone, or monolith. Since the Mycenaeans believed in life after death, they included grave goods such as pottery and weapons in the tombs.

Ritual sacrifices played a role in the funeral proceedings: on the approach to several tombs, archaeologists have uncovered (and left on display) the skeletons of the horses that would have pulled the chariot that bore the deceased to his final resting place. The dead man's spear, shield and sword would have been buried next to the chariots.

Although called "royal", the tombs were likely used by the settlement's wealthy and nobles. Commoners were buried with rather less fanfare nearby in what's now the "cellar". A small museum at the entrance to the site provides a good overview of the funeral rites and construction of the tombs.
**Cocktails Survive Downpour**

By Capt. G. Pugh

The social event of the month was on 12 July when a cocktail party hosted by Sector 2 took place at the Ledra Palace Hotel. It was a little touch-and-go an hour or so before the event, when the skies opened and sent a torrent of rain pouring down onto Nicosia, but thankfully, it lasted only a short while. This wasn’t going to prevent a night of socialising and entertainment from going ahead. Visitors began arriving at 6.30 pm and were hosted by the Officers and Warrant Officers of 16 Regiment RA.

With a plentiful supply of drink and food being passed around, it was time for the entertainment to start. Firstly the Gurkha Engineers performed a Khukuri dance for the guests. The next piece of entertainment surprised the hosts and guests alike. Capt. Merry Stubbins and seven members of the WOs’ and Slgs’ Mess performed three numbers as Morris Dancers. The costumes were superb and the movements were faultless. The “troupe” had only been practising for three days, having been coached by Mr. Tony Pouller from England, who also played the accompanying “squeeze box” music. The performances were excellent and ensured the evening was a great success.

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**Delete Irish Bridge, Insert Rorke’s Drift**

As of 10.00 am on 3 June, the troop house known as Irish Bridge ceased to exist as UN 58 Sector Two West. It was replaced by Rorke’s Drift, an all-singing, all-dancing, purpose-built troop house.

The Rorke’s Drift project has taken many years and a lot of hard work to bring to fruition. Territorial Army engineers linked up with the last rotation to do the bulk of the work, and the current Gurkha Royal Engineers’ Detachment have done much to make our move into the location possible. The house comfortably accommodates all 18 soldiers under one roof. This is a big improvement from the split location of Irish Bridge and Orchard House and greatly facilitates command and control.

We took over what was effectively an empty shell, and in a rapid six-day turn around, we knitted the house out with enough furniture to comfortably accommodate the soldiers arriving on the main body flights. The soldiers worked incredibly hard in 40 degrees of heat, getting to grips most importantly with the operational situation, and subsequently with the weeds and rubble. The ensuing two-week period up to the first inspection saw a massive change in the real estate surrounding the house - from a building site to a garden complete with barbeque and Hawaiian bar!

Teething problems are still very much the order of the day and work continues to go on around us. We are currently renovating a derelict building next door so that we can have a gym on site. Additional projects focus on landscaping the front and back gardens so that we can enjoy them.

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**The Long North Wind Patrol**

By Maj. O. Cromwell

Once every two weeks, the Sector Two Civil Affairs Team (SCAT) is involved in organising the distribution of humanitarian aid to the Maronite communities in the north. These ageing population groups are to be found in the villages of Asomatos, Karpassa, and Kormakiti. Delivery of these supplies is by a convoy, normally consisting of three trucks manned by volunteers from Sector 2 (usually off-duty soldiers), an UNCIOPOL car with an UNCIOPOL officer and an interpreter from the Civil Affairs Branch, and two members of SCAT in their trusty, but not air-conditioned Landrover, Discovery.

The aid consists of basic essential foods, medicines, water and gas. The Maronites welcome the patrol as they essential lifeline connecting them to the Civil Affairs Branch.

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**Dinner in the Buffer Zone**

By Capt. G. Pugh

The sun was fading in the sky and the breeze had lifted to cool the air. A pleasant evening was in store for 16 Regt RA and its distinguished guests at UN OP 46. The Buffer Zone Dinner, as it was to be called, took place during the Force Commander’s inspection of Sector 2 on 3 July.

The evening began with the Force Commander and Commanding Officer arriving to the bagpipes of Tpr. Kelly. Then Maj. Rob Ware, OC Sector 2 West, gave a ground brief to the diners, followed by an attempt at a humorous grace by Capt. Gary Pugh.

We sat down to begin our starter as the sun disappeared behind the hills. Master Chef WO2 Dave Barrow and his chefs planned and executed a fantastic meal under field cooking conditions. The sound of the bagpipes throughout the evening made the event all the more stylish. Guests and hosts thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

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**Fund Raising Activities in Sector 2**

Sector 2 recently donated the sum of £552 and a supply of clothes and shoes to the Cancer Patients’ Support Association in north Cyprus. A group, led by Maj. Ollie Cromwell of Sector 2 Civil Affairs, made the presentation to the Chairperson, Ms. Razie Kocasmail.

Maj. Cromwell spoke a little about his unit, and said that Sector 2 would continue to carry out various activities aimed at raising funds for charities on both sides of the island. In her thanks, Razie said the monies raised by UNFICYP would help the Association to continue extending support to cancer sufferers.

A cheque will be presented to the Makarios Hospital, Larnaca in the near future.

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**The Queen’s Jubilee Medal Parade**

By LCPD. Dewan Rai

We had been working almost a month in Cyprus with 16 Regt RA on OP TOSCA and we were getting to know each other very well. Work was intense but equally enjoyable, only interrupted by the inspections that had to be undertaken for UNFICYP. Three members of the RE Det, who are husband Batterly 1 (Sphinx) Battery, were selected to receive the Queen’s Jubilee Medal. These were presented by the Force Commander outside our accommodation at the Ledra Palace Hotel.

LCPDs Sushil, Dewan and Birendra, the three youngest and all very recently promoted, were those chosen to represent the Queen’s Gurkha Engineers on this prestigious occasion. An air of expectation was apparent on the parade as the General made his way along the line, chatting to each individual before finally shaking hands and presenting the Queen’s Jubilee Medal.

It was a very proud moment for us, and something that will stay in our memories forever.
**New Faces around HQ UNFICYP**

**2i/c UNICVIPOL**

The new 2i/c UNICVIPOL is Chief Superintendent Basil Walsh who comes from County Mayo in the west of Ireland.

Ch. Supt. Walsh has spent all his police service in Dublin. He has 38 years of service to his name with an Garda Síochána, and has spent 20 years working with the C.I.D.

For the last 12 years, he has been attached to the Counter Terrorism Unit, serving for the last four years as head of the C.T.U.

Ch. Supt. Walsh’s duties have included the investigation of all subversive crime in the 26 counties, and he was responsible for the protection of all visiting dignitaries and V.I.Ps, including the visit to Ireland by President Bill Clinton and Prince Charles.

Ch. Supt. Walsh and his team have also been credited with saving scores of lives by anti-terror organisations in America, Britain and Northern Ireland.

He is married to Maureen, and they have two daughters, Niamh and Deirdre.

Ch. Supt. Walsh replaces Supt. Bob Heggie, who now takes over the post of Commander UNICVIPOL from Ch. Supt. Liam Quinn.

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**MA to the FC**

The post of Military Assistant to the Force Commander, a rotating post between Britain and Ireland, has now been filled by Maj. Simon Powell.

Maj. Powell enlisted in the British Army as a private and was first posted to the 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment. He was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1992 and posted to Germany where he served as a Command Post Officer and as a Forward Observation Officer in 40 Regt RA.

In 1995, Maj. Powell was posted to 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery in the UK as a Battery Captain. In 1997, he transferred to the Royal Army Medical Corps as a Medical Support Officer.

Maj. Powell has spent two and a half years in Northern Ireland, and has also completed two tours of Bosnia.

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**Caption Competition**

**Captions to be submitted to the Public Information Office by: 22 August 2002**

- The long arm of the law
- Flatfoot uplift
- One blue bottle, sitting on the wall...
- Don’t worry, I’m coming
- Please don’t jump...

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**THE NINTH HOLE**

By Cpl. Gopal Rai

Working with the 16 Regt RA for the first time is an experience. While slowly adapting to their lifestyle and work ethic, we came across an organized competition where each troop and department was given a hole from the craggy golf course to renovate and improve. Fortunately for us we were given the hole with the largest area, which meant we could use our imagination to the full.

We observed the area and planned what we were going to do. Finally, we came up with the idea of decorating the area using a Nepalese cultural theme, with the additional extra of our regimental colours. With lots of skill and hard work from the boys, we managed to build a model of a typical Nepalese village and some famous landmarks, all set in the surroundings of beautiful mountains. To give more impact, we decorated the remaining area with patterns of white and grey stones.

The main part was painted in red and blue and emblazoned with The Queen’s Gurkha Engineers’ crest. On the course touch, the Nepalese flag was stood proud in the ninth hole.

On 2 July, the CO of 16 Regt RA visited the golf course and after a look at all the different golf holes, he announced the winner of the competition. It appeared that all our hard work had paid off as we were awarded the first place. The first of the Regiment had seen our work prior to the announcement of the results, and they were generous with their praise for our hardwork. This was a far greater prize than coming first.

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**THE BIG MATCH**

(Your Commentator is Sgt. J. Catton)

Friday 5 July - “The Big Match”.

The game eagerly awaited with more hype than Brazil vs Germany. Yes! The challenge Warrant Officers’ & Sergeants’ Mess BRITCON vs the Warrant Officers’ & Sergeants’ Mess 16 Regt Royal Artillery, The Regimental Officers meet to get changed, the dressing room awash with anticipation and expectation, only broken by the joviality of SGT “where are my boots, shin pads, bucket and sponge” Berry.

Finally changed, the team are piped onto the field of dreams by Gnr. O Grady, BRITCON trembled at the spectacle. A brief warm up and the match is underway. First blood goes to the Regt. Coxy, to the flying winger Greg Dingle. A precision cross and Chucky Berry bundles it in from two inches. Can the advantage be pressed home? Yes, a headed clearance finds the flying winger. This time the recipient is the RSM, who guides the cross into the net to double the advantage.

The game moves on. Jim Catton looks up, sees the keeper off his line, and launches the ball skywards. Shouts of derision: “Pass it, don’t just hoof it...”. One bounce “what a goal”, three nil. The advantage well and truly pressed home.

Yet was there more? Again the dancing feet of the RSM proved the lethal weapon. Picking the ball up in midfield the predator moved forward to unleash a stunning 25-yard shot into the back of the net. Then disaster - a dodgy penalty! “Is this Old Trafford?”, screamed the crowd. Up stepped BRITCON’s finest; could Marky “The Cat” Spencer save the day? No need, the ball sailed over the bar. Half time; 16 RA lead 4-0.

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Sven wasn’t happy; on came Tel “Desert Head” Gaunt, Dave “The Terminator” Aiton and Phil “Drag Back” Yee. To no avail, the lead could not be extended. This, despite the efforts of Twinkle Toes Yee dancing down the line, Sid “You must be joking I am not offside again” Fuller and Dave “Is this Judo” Aiton.

Then disaster. Spanner is beaten from 22 metres; a rocket of a shot crashes into the net. BRITCON have scored. Stung into action, 16 RA pressed forward. The score remained - the final whistle and it’s victory by four goals to one.

The Gladators of 16 RA retired to the BRITCON Mess the victors and vanquished to be wined and dined. What a BBQ! Cheeky “six burgers” Berry and Dave “I’ve broken a chair” Whitter are testimony to the great feast laid on by our hosts. Once more, young O’Grady piled into his supper. Never has the Flower of Scotland been clapped and cheered by so many Englishmen.