

The Blue Beret

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Fourth Round Ends

As the fourth round of the direct talks wrapped up, the expectations of the Secretary-General and his Special Adviser, Alvaro de Soto, that the core issues could be resolved by the end of June had not been met. The Secretary-General and Special Adviser Alvaro de Soto were to meet in Vienna on 3 July to review progress before de Soto moves on to New York to brief the Security Council on 9 July. The Special Adviser returns to Cyprus for meetings with the two leaders 15 July and the resumption of talks next day.

Before leaving the island, de Soto said that "more political will and an increased spirit of compromise" would be necessary if an agreement was to be reached. He told reporters, "the framework of the final solution is not ready. We had hoped that by the end of June there would be a basic sense of the main points, the core issues, and we felt that this would have greatly facilitated the legal drafting that remains".

Instead, the talks would continue in July "to see whether it is possible to compensate for the work that has not yet been accomplished". He said the role the negotiating parties play "needs to be enhanced and redoubled," and that it was essential "to go on with the talks and indeed to intensify them".

Earlier, in a TV interview, de Soto said "the time taken has not been wasted, but it would be correct to say that some of the time has been wasted". The cause of concern, he said, "is the pace, the lack of intensity of the negotiations as the opportunity that still exists draws to a close over the second half of the year, and the lingering unwillingness [of the two sides] sometimes to think outside the box in which they have sometimes framed themselves". He said both parties had a tendency "to remain prisoners of their own dialectic, and that is not helpful. We hope to see a change".

Editorial

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UN Flight in action

Alarming Lack of Knowledge About HIV/AIDS Among Young People

On the eve of the XIV International Conference on AIDS in Barcelona (7-12 July 2002), the newly released UN report says that the vast majority of the world's young people have no idea how HIV/AIDS is transmitted or how to protect themselves from the disease. Yet the study also shows that adolescence is the time when the majority of people become sexually active.

"Young People and HIV/AIDS: Opportunity in Crisis", produced by UNICEF, UNAIDS and WHO, is the first comprehensive look at the behaviour and knowledge relating to HIV/AIDS of young people aged 15 to 24. It also includes the latest country-by-country HIV prevalence rates for the age group.

"We have two dovetailing trends here that are, in large part, driving the HIV/AIDS crisis. One is that young people have sex, something the world must acknowledge as a pre-condition to mounting effective prevention programmes," said Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of UNICEF. "The other is that young people actually don't have the proper knowledge to protect themselves. The tragic consequence is that they are disproportionately falling prey to HIV."

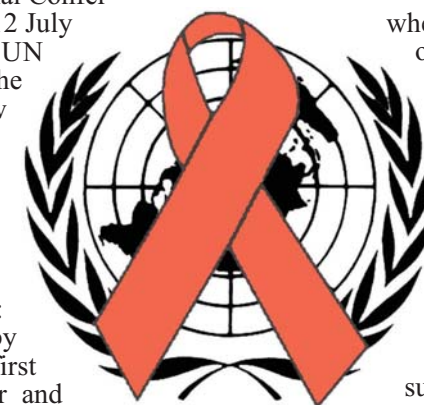
The hardest hit

The report stresses that young people are at the centre of the HIV/AIDS epidemic: they are both the hardest hit by the disease and also the key to overcoming it. Yet despite this, strategies for responding to the epidemic generally disregard young people.

The UN organisations that published the report called for unparalleled political commitment to raise the financial and human resources necessary for the fight against HIV/AIDS. This is an effort that must centre on working with young people to provide them with knowledge about HIV and how to avoid infection.

Overall, surveys from 60 countries indicate that more than 50% of young people aged 15 to 24 harbour serious misconceptions about how HIV/AIDS is transmitted – a strong indicator that young people are not getting access to the right information. In some of the countries most at risk from the virus, the proportion of young people who have correct knowledge to protect themselves is as low as 20%. The result: half of all new infections today are in people between the ages of 15 and 24.

"It is clear that young people do not have the information and means to protect themselves from HIV," said Peter Piot, Executive Director of UNAIDS. "Every day, 6,000 young people get infected with HIV. Each one of these infections can be prevented. Prevention is both cost-effective and feasible. It costs as little as US\$8 annually to protect a young person out of school. In every country where HIV transmission has been reduced, it has been among young people that the most spectacular reductions have occurred."



The report highlights that in countries where the spread of HIV/AIDS is subsiding or declining, such as Thailand and Uganda, it is primarily because young men and women are being given the knowledge, tools and services to adopt safe behaviours. It says there is a strong linkage between what young people know and how they act, and that a safe and protective environment is crucial for them to develop the skills necessary to avoid infection. In addition, it says special efforts are needed to reach especially vulnerable young people, such as injecting drug users and commercial sex workers.

"Young people have unquestionably demonstrated that they are capable of making responsible choices to protect themselves when provided support, and they can educate and motivate others to make safe choices," said Gro Harlem Brundtland, Director-General of WHO.

The report outlines 10 steps that countries should take as part of their prevention efforts:

1. End the silence, stigma and shame.
2. Provide young people with knowledge and information.
3. Equip young people with life skills to turn knowledge into practice.
4. Provide youth-friendly services.
5. Promote voluntary and confidential HIV testing and counselling.
6. Work with young people, promote their participation.
7. Engage young people who are living with HIV/AIDS.
8. Create safe and supportive environments.
9. Reach out to the young most at risk.
10. Strengthen partnerships, monitor progress.

A statistical foundation

The report is based on two fundamental statistical tables. The first shows information from almost every country about infection rates, school attendance, knowledge levels, and sexual behaviour. A second table shows even more detailed information about knowledge and behaviour in 60 countries where HIV prevalence is 1% or higher. The statistics are fairly new, from 1999 or later, so they provide baseline figures for the next 10 years.

The new statistics will allow all those fighting HIV/AIDS to truly measure success in meeting global goals and targets. These were set at the June 2001 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS and reinforced at the May 2002 Special Session on Children. For prevention, the main goals state:

- To reduce by 2005 HIV prevalence among young men and women aged 15-24 in the most affected countries by 25%, and 25% globally by 2010.
- By 2005 ensure that at least 90%, and by 2010 at least 95%, of young men and women aged 15 to 24 have access to the information, education (including peer education and youth-specific HIV education) and services necessary to develop the life skills required to reduce vulnerability to HIV infection.

Guidance materials and leaflets are available in the office of the Force Medical Officer at HQ UNFICYP, or at www.unaids.org.

The Force Medical Officer will be writing on this subject in the next issue.



Outgoing Argentinian Briefs Incoming Brits

For the past five months, soldiers at all levels of UNFICYP's multi-national Mobile Force Reserve unit have focused on creating a cohesive, integrated unit that transcends the individual nations – Argentina, Britain, Hungary and Slovakia – from which the MFR is staffed. From social events to sporting events, and from adventure training to renovating the MFR's recreational facilities, all of the nationalities have been encouraged to work, train and play together, creating a strong sense of unity and family.

As the MFR's British soldiers prepared to hand over to their replacements, it was entirely in keeping with this sentiment that they sent not only British personnel to brief the incoming soldiers, but also one of the MFR's Argentinian officers. The MFR Officer Commanding at the time, Maj. Richard Hayhurst, felt that teaming British with Argentinian personnel for the briefing would clearly show the MFR's integration to the British unit preparing for deployment to UNFICYP.

Lt. Col. Gregg Butt, CO of the incoming unit – 16 Regiment Royal Artillery – agreed, and so Capt. Pablo Petrocelli from Argentina and Sgt. Mel Wood from Britain were able to demonstrate firsthand the team spirit and great cooperation that have been the cornerstones of the MFR's training. They spent four days in Britain, training and briefing 16 Regiment personnel in Crowborough, south of London, covering such topics as crowd control, restriction of movement, shooting incidents, hunters in the buffer zone, and other incident-handling training.

"Here in UNFICYP we are purely defensive, not offensive," says Sgt. Wood. "It's a different kind of training that's required."

UNCIVPOL was there as well to explain its role in relation to UNFICYP as a whole and in terms of its interaction with the MFR in particular. Sgt Shane Robinson and Sgt Mark Lefebvre, both from Australia, were more than happy to exchange Cyprus's Mediterranean warmth for a chance to mingle with "pommies" in the name of good policing!



From the left: Sgt. Shane Robinson, Sgt. Mel Wood, Sgt. Mark Lefebvre and Capt Pablo Petrocelli



Both Sgt. Wood and Capt. Petrocelli were enthusiastic about the welcome they received, with the incoming unit eager to find out how to deal with such issues as patrol duties and different languages and customs.

Capt. Petrocelli explains: "The big problem for the non-English-speaking soldier is not only that the language is different, but that the British way of doing things is also quite different. Everything from the way the rifle is held, the way you salute during a Guard of Honour, the handling of the weapons, the security measures on the ranges. Standard operating procedures have to be easy to understand if everyone is to integrate."

Both Sgt. Wood and Capt. Petrocelli were able to share with the incoming British soldiers various lessons that they've learned in the MFR. "We see an improvement in all our soldiers here," explains Sgt. Wood. "They improve in communication skills and confidence, and speak more than before."

"Now I know how other armies work, I shall take some of their ideas – like how their soldiers react to fighting a fire – back home," notes Capt. Petrocelli. "I shall take some very good ideas back to my country with me to help train future Argentinian soldiers."

UNFICYP Shares in Jubilee Celebrations

May 24th was a special day for the British. And being away from Britain did not mean that troops serving with UNFICYP missed out on Queen Elizabeth II's jubilee celebrations.

Rather the opposite, in fact. An impressive jubilee cake, baked for the occasion by the master chefs in Sector 2, was offered to Headquarters staff following the Friday morning briefing.

A cricket match took place at mid afternoon with HQ BRITCON playing the British High Commission. The match, following some stunning play by WO2 Bown, was won by – guess who? HQ BRITCON!

Later in the afternoon, most of the people walked or drove over to the UNPA swimming pool where the children were fed. Festivities then started with a band concert with music by The Minden Band of the Queen's Division. At one point, Capt. Tim Arnold, the conductor, passed the baton over to some of the children who delighted in leading the band through its paces in a rousing rendition of the theme from "Star Wars".

A delicious buffet was laid on by Sector 2 (32 Regt RA), and the finale was at 9.15 pm when a spectacular fireworks display to the sounds of the 1812 overture lit the skies. The disco, provided by Gillies, continued till the early hours.



The Jubilee cake

From Fax to Internet – It's All A Buzz At The HIVE

By Maj. J. Hunt

Located at the entrance to the British Married Quarters area on the UNPA, the Hive plays a unique role for British service personnel, both single and married, and for visitors and staff of the United Nations at UNFICYP Headquarters.

Here, under one roof, are many of the services and resources that help make a posting on the UNPA just a little bit easier. For example, the Hive boasts Internet and fax facilities, and hires out DVDs and videos. Its Loan Store hires out equipment such as car seats, travel cots, toys, golf clubs, radios and 14-inch TV/Videos, and it also sells BFBS merchandise, including polo shirts, rugby shirts, mugs and baseball caps.

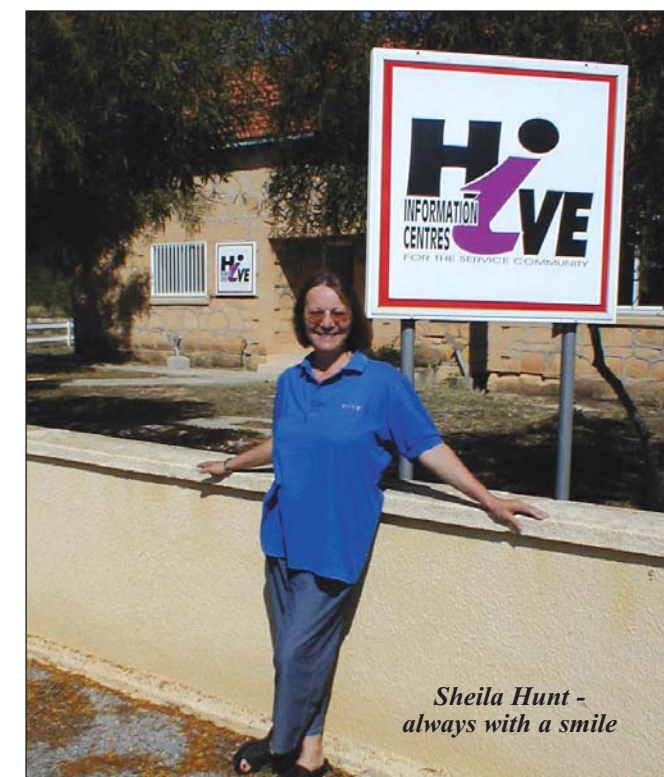
One room is dedicated entirely to tourism here on the island and ideas for holidays off island, with the assurance that if they don't have the information you need, they'll do their best to get it for you! Information packs from many UK agencies, such as Department of Social Services (DSS), Soldiers, Sailors, and Air Force Association (SSAFA) and Army Families Federation (AFF) are also held here, as well as education information for both children and adults.

Also situated within the Hive building are Sandra's Hair Salon, the Thrift Shop, and Niki, a beauty therapist, who visits every three weeks. Just a Second (a second-hand shop) still operates from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

You'll find the Hive at 1-2 Hillcrest on the British Married Quarter Site, UNPA. It's open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. Telephone/fax

number: 22 359316; e-mail: unhive@cytanet.com.cy.

For further information about the Hive and its facilities in Nicosia, call Sheila Hunt on 22 359316.



Sheila Hunt - always with a smile

Korean TV Crew Profiles UNFICYP and Its Force Commander

By Lt. R. Griffiths

Korea's KBS TV visited the mission recently in completing a documentary series on Korean peacekeepers around the world. They profiled the Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang, his country's senior-most peacekeeper. In doing so, the team found itself in all three sectors in the course of one hectic day. They accompanied the Force Commander when he choppered down to Sector 1 where he visited OP 17 before going on to Camp San Martín to inspect a military parade. The Force Commander was received by Sector 1's CO, Lt. Col. José Cimmarusti.



The Force Commander being welcomed by Maj. Rob Ware, OC Sector 2 West

Visit by Canadian Secretary of State

An official Canadian delegation visited Wolseley Barracks on 11 June in order to lay a wreath at the Canadian Cenotaph next to HQ Sector 2. Members of the delegation included the Hon. Gar Knutson, P.C., M.P., the Secretary of State for Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East; H.E. Franco Pillarella, the Canadian High Commissioner; Mr. Jean-Paul Ruszkowski, Assistant to the Secretary of State; Mr. Serge Charbonneau from Foreign Affairs; Ms. Marina Laker, Political Counsellor at the High Commission; and Sgt. Jay Martino, Assistant Defence Adviser.

Once the wreath had been laid, the party was escorted into the briefing room where Capt. Gary Pugh, the Visits Officer, began the Green Line Tour. He pointed out the many sites between the two cease fire lines, particularly those associated with the Canadian Forces who had served with UNFICYP during their deployment along the Green Line from 1974 to 1993.



The FC and Korean TV team overlooking the buffer zone in Sector 4

Next stop was a quick visit to Sector 2's Bengal Troop. After an initial brief by the Troop Commander, he inspected the accommodation before checking the view from atop the permanently manned tower UN OP 45. The FC was able to view the extensive damage caused by the recent fire in the area, and was briefed on the measures the Troop and the Force Engineer took to safeguard the troop location.

After a drop in to check Korea's World Cup progress on the TV screen at the International Bar, the Force Commander and TV team again took advantage of UN Flight to squeeze in a fast trip to patrol base 101 and an inspection of OP 107 above the village of Petrophani in Sector 4.

The Korean TV series is both a tribute to the UN peacekeeping effort and a 50th anniversary commemoration of the Korean War, fought under the UN flag. Interestingly, one objective is to dispel the widespread belief in Korea that peacekeeping operations necessarily entail direct involvement in conflict, an impression prevailing among many Koreans who experienced the conflict in their own country 50 years ago.



Of special interest was Freezenburg house, a former Canadian Troop House, which still features murals by past troops who occupied the building.

16th Regiment Royal Artillery - Regimental and Battery History

16th Regiment Royal Artillery has been based in Woolwich, South East London since 1995 when it moved back from Dortmund, Germany. The Regiment is equipped with Rapier Field Standard C (FSC), the world's most advanced short-range air defence system.

16th Regiment was reformed in 1947 as part of the post-war organisation of the Royal Artillery. It was equipped first with the 3.7" heavy anti-aircraft gun and then with the Bofors 40/70 gun. In 1967 the Regiment began converting to the Rapier system and in 1997 brought Rapier FSC into service.

On 15 September 1956, 16th Regiment Royal Artillery deployed to Cyprus to defend airfields being used for the Suez operation. The guns remained deployed until 9 December 1956 and an anti-aircraft stand down was ordered on 22 December 1956. The Regiment remained in theatre and trained for an internal security role, not returning to the United Kingdom until 10 October 1957. During the Borneo campaign, the regiment saw active service in what was then Malaya, and in Singapore, it deployed to Malaya in March 1965, returning to the UK the following year. Away from active service, the Regiment has been based in the United Kingdom and Germany.

Since 1992 the Batteries of the Regiment have been 11 (Sphinx) Battery, 32 (Minden) Battery, 30 Battery (Roger's Company) and 14 (Cole's Kop) Battery. 32 (Minden) Battery was formed in 1756, the honour title "Minden" commemorates the famous victory of 1 August 1759 during the Seven Years' War. 30 Battery

(Roger's Company) has had an eventful record of service all over the world. From early service in the West Indies the Battery won its major honour in repulsing the Imperial Guard at Waterloo on 18 June 1815, and was renamed Roger's Company after its then Battery Commander. 14 (Cole's Kop) Battery was awarded the honour title "Cole's Kop" during the Boer War when they deployed a 15-pound gun on the summit of Cole's Kop Mountain and ambushed the enemy at first light. 11 (Sphinx) HQ Battery provides personnel for administrative, medical, transport, and quartermaster duties. In 1755 the Battery was formed in India as No.2 Company Bombay Artillery. Its honour title was awarded in 1801 to commemorate service in an expedition against the French in Egypt. The Sphinx was given as a personal distinction to all those who took part in the expedition and the Sphinx emblem was worn in the cockade of the hat. The Regiment



ment also combines many individuals from associated Corps into a large family of 565 with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Workshop being the largest contingent. The Royal Signals, the Royal Army Chaplain's Department, the Royal Logistics Corps, the Royal Army Medical Corps, the Adjutant General's Corps and the Army Physical Training Corps, also play an important role in the functioning of the Regiment.

The Regiment last served with the UN in Cyprus from June to December 2000.

Lt. Col. G.L. Butt MBE RA Commanding Officer, 16th Regiment Royal Artillery

Gregory Lovering Butt was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1979 and was posted to 12 Air Defence Regiment where he commanded a Rapier troop in T (Shah Sujah's Troop) Battery.

From 12 AD Regt, he was selected for loan service to the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment where he helped establish the Batteri Pertahanan Udara (Air Defence Battery). Following two and a half years in Brunei, he returned to Dortmund firstly as Battery Command Post Officer and latterly as Battery Captain in Northern Ireland with 22 Air Defence Regiment RA.

He was posted to 2nd Field Regiment Royal Artillery in 1987 as a Forward Observation Officer in O Battery (The Rocket Troop). He was also the Humanitarian Officer in Cyprus during an UNFICYP tour in

1990. In 1991 he became the SO3 G2/G3 at HQ 2nd Infantry Brigade in Shorncliffe and from there attended the Malaysian Staff College. From Kuala Lumpur he was posted as an exchange officer to the Defence Intelligence Organisation in Canberra. He deployed to Phnom Penn during his tenure and was awarded the Chief of the Australian Defence Force Commendation.

From Australia he deployed to Belfast at the time of the breakdown of the first ceasefire (1996) in command of 10 (Assaye) Battery of 47th Regiment RA. Following battery command he moved to HQ Director Royal Artillery in 1998. He was awarded the MBE in the 1999 New Year's Honours List. Then in December 2000, Lt. Col. Butt took command of 16th Regiment Royal Artillery in Woolwich.



Lt. Col. Butt is married to Nicola and they have three children. He is an ardent West Ham supporter, who enjoys cricket, rugby and oriental cooking, and has a passion for music.

Civil Affairs: The Humanitarian Mission

From the very beginning of the United Nations' presence in Cyprus, humanitarian assistance has been a focal point of the mission, covering such issues as the welfare of the displaced and the encouragement of good relationships between the two communities on the island.

In view of the growing multi-dimensional nature of UNFICYP's humanitarian efforts, the mission was re-structured in 1998, creating the Civil Affairs Branch. In fact, the Branch is very much a microcosm of UNFICYP in its structure and work, says Chief Civil Affairs Officer Rajarathinam Kannan.

"All of the different aspects of UNFICYP personnel and tasks are represented within the Branch's 20 staff," he explains. "Civilian, military, civilian police and support personnel work together to provide humanitarian or other assistance to Cypriots."

Many of their tasks involve working with both commu-

nities and with other members of UNFICYP, including the peacekeeping contingents, to help achieve the mission's aim of returning the island to normal conditions.

Civil Affairs personnel, for example, provide humanitarian services and other assistance to the Greek Cypriots and the Maronite communities in the north. They monitor the welfare of the Greek Cypriots and Maronites in the north and the Turkish Cypriots in the south. They facilitate bicomunal contacts, and assist in resolving economic and legal issues between the two sides, including the civilian use of the buffer zone.

In addition, explains Kannan, the Branch provides the mission with advice on civil affairs issues, and serves as an independent, fair and impartial interface between the two communities.

Affairs Military Liaison Officer in 2001, providing a liaison point between humanitarian/economic functions and military functions such as operational and security issues. He liaises with officials of the Cyprus Government and the authorities in the north, such as water and electricity departments, in order to promote co-operation between the two communities and to facilitate authorised works and projects in the buffer zone. He also maintains the master records of economic agreements and records of utilities crossing the buffer zone.

Inspector Chris Gordon Civilian Affairs Police Liaison Officer

Chris calls Dublin, Ireland his home. He joined the Garda Síochána in 1980 and has served in Dublin, the Garda Training College and Garda Headquarters, attaining the rank of inspector in 1997. For the four years before he joined UNFICYP, he worked on a strategic review of the Garda organisation, examining organisation structures and issues such as human resource management, training strategy and promotion methods. Chris holds a primary degree in business administration and a post-graduate qualification in economics.

As the Civilian Affairs Police Liaison Officer, Chris's job is to liaise on humanitarian issues with officials from from both communities. His tasks include visiting prisoners detained on either side, supervising the transfer of deceased persons through the buffer zone for burial north or south, and attending to bicomunal matters. Chris is married with two children.

Working with the two sides

Recent Civil Affairs activities include:

- facilitating a bicomunal youth festival that drew 3,000 and 4,300 participants in 2001 and 2002 respectively;
- facilitating the clearing of vegetation from the Orthodox, Latin and Maronite and Armenian cemeteries in the old airport area which had not been maintained for over a decade;
- helping to organise services at the Latin and Maronite cemetery, the first since 1974;
- helping Greek Cypriot worshippers visit an Orthodox Church in Varisha and Ayia Marina in the buffer zone;
- organising the annual UN day at Ledra, which has been the largest bicomunal occasion in

recent years;

- facilitating the extension of the Klimos river wall to prevent flooding; and
- designating sections of the buffer zone as civil use areas: in Paralimni, for a hospital facility; and in the west of Nicosia, for a cemetery and for housing.

The Branch also led the effort, with UNDP/UNOPS, to construct traffic control measures near elementary schools in the mixed buffer zone village of Pyla, this past spring. In addition, the Branch is aiming to achieve the renovation of the Venetian Tower and the village square with help from UNOPS.

Civil Affairs also coordinated the re-laying of pipelines in the Lefka Kafizes dam, which will ensure a more even flow of water from the dam in the south to the users in the north.

Rajarathinam Kannan Chief Civil Affairs Officer

Kannan joined UNFICYP as Chief Civil Affairs Officer in 2001, bringing with him a strong background in international law and diplomacy. He studied Law at both the University of Madras, India and the University of Georgia, USA, proceeding to the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, USA, where he graduated with a PhD in International Relations. He has served as a faculty and is currently on the Guest Faculty at the University of Madras where he teaches "International Institutions" to graduate law students.

Before arriving at UNFICYP, Kannan was an advocate, practicing law at the Madras High Court. His other experience includes civil affairs positions with the United Nations operations in the former Yugoslavia in Zagreb, Skopje and Sarajevo between 1993-2000. In the 1980s, he was a script writer, translator and news announcer for All India Radio. Between 1995 and 1997, Kannan was also a senator at Madurai Kamaraj University in India, and briefly served as special editor for a daily. He is married and has a daughter and a son.

Madeline Garlick Civil Affairs Political Officer

Madeline hails from Melbourne, Australia, where she trained and worked as a lawyer before moving to the UK for postgraduate studies, and legal reform and policy work. From 1997 to 1999, she was stationed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and then in Kosovo, working on displaced persons and property-legal issues. She joined the UN and came to UNFICYP in Cyprus at the end of 1999. Within the Branch, Madeline holds the post of Civil Affairs Political Officer. She has worked on cases as varied as disputes over children, electricity, water, communications, farming, intercommunal marriage, electoral rights, crime and jurisdiction across the buffer zone, animal diseases and environmental issues. She is chiefly responsible within Civil Affairs for bicomunal activities and Pyla matters. She also works as part of Mr. de Soto's team on the talks between Mr. Clerides and Mr. Denktash within the Good Offices Mission. Madeline is married.

Major Walter Absmann Civil Affairs Military Liaison Officer

Walter hails from Salzburg, Austria, and joined the Austrian army in 1976, after graduating from technical college. He has served with an engineer battalion, an army maintenance unit and an air defence regiment. This is his third tour with UNFICYP, having worked in Sector 4 on his two previous tours, in 1994/95 and in 1998. He began his tour as Civil



WO1 Bernie Theissel Civil Affairs Chief Clerk

Bernie comes to UNFICYP from Austria, having joined the Austrian army in 1972. His experience includes army service as a car mechanic, skiing and mountain climbing instructor, sniper instructor and anti-tank platoon leader. He has considerable experience with the United Nations, including six tours in Cyprus, four in the Middle East, and one in Albania. His duties in the Civil Affairs Branch include organising and coordinating re-supply and monthly payment runs to the Karpas and Kyrenia areas, maintaining records of the population figures of both minorities in the north, reporting permanent and temporary transfers of minorities to the Committee of the Red Cross, and liaising with govern-

ment offices in both communities and with UNCIVPOL and sector Civil Affairs teams. Bernie is married and has one son.

Yanna Tsangara Records Clerk

Yanna was born in the village of Kormakitis in north Cyprus. Until the age of 12 she lived in the north with her parents and after that she moved to south Nicosia where she continued her secondary studies. Since September 1988 she has been working for the UN, first as the secretary to the Commanding Officer Sector 2 (1988-1999), and then in the Civil Affairs Branch, HQ UNFICYP, as the Greek Interpreter and Records Clerk. Yanna is married and has one daughter, Martha, who is a year old.

Anita Thomas Liaison Assistant

Anita was born in Basel, Switzerland. She pursued her education at various UK universities, earning a B.A. in Natural Science. She has worked with UNFICYP since 1995. As assistant to the liaison officer, Anita provides interpreter services for and participates in patrols and convoys, court and prison visits, and public gatherings. She conducts visits to Greek Cypriots and Maronites in the north and to Turkish Cypriots in the south to carry out enquiries and provide support to the local communities. She also assists or coordinates various bicomunal activities and events.

Derya Bicer Turkish Translator

Derya is the Civil Affairs Branch Turkish Translator/Information Assistant. Her key duties involve reading the local Turkish newspapers and translating relevant articles into English. She also supplies interpreting services for meetings, discussions and telephone conversations when required, and deals with various Turkish/English translations from other departments. Derya says: "I feel privileged to be working in a multi-national/cultural environment like UNFICYP. The local and international staff members are like a small, intimate community, and I am lucky to be a part of it." Derya is also a member of ULESO, the local staff committee.

Neofytos Evdokiou Greek Translator

Neofytos (or Neo, as he is known to English-speaking colleagues) is the Civil Affairs Branch's Greek Translator/Information Assistant. His main task is reading the Greek Cypriot newspapers and monitoring the radio each day, in order to provide English-language summaries of stories relevant to the UN and UNFICYP. He also provides occasional interpreter support for UNFICYP visits to Greek Cypriots and Maronites living in the north. His interests outside work include reading, and trying to improve his so-far atrocious bouzouki and piano playing. Neofytos is also a member of the Bicomunal Choir for Peace in Cyprus.

Maida Megerditchian Secretary, Civil Affairs Branch

Maida was born in Nicosia. After attending Secretarial College, she started working with UNFICYP in April 1975, spending almost 19 years with the Canadian Contingent. After the Canadians pulled their major peacekeeping unit out of Cyprus, she worked with the Irish Contingent for almost five years. As secretary, she keeps the Chief Civil Affairs Officer's diary up-to-date, and keeps the office work operating smoothly and effectively.

Shoring Up History Aqueduct

The antiquities department approached UNFICYP for urgent repairs to the 500-year-old Avlona Aqueduct which had been damaged by heavy rains last winter. The 200-metres aqueduct is located along a track amid a farming area south of UN 38. It used to feed a mill which is just a ruin now. Despite its age, the aqueduct is functional and farmers in the area use it partly for irrigation, so it was important that the aqueduct was repaired both for historical and practical reasons.

Following UNFICYP's liaison, five workers belonging to the antiquities department began the 12-week work project. As Sector 1 stood guard, workers removed wild vegetation from the base of the aqueduct's arches, consolidating and restoring damaged structure and some parts of the walls and the channel.

UNFICYP's assistance prevented history from being watered down!



Xeros River



UNFICYP learnt last spring that Lefka (a village in the north) has problems receiving water for irrigation from the Kafizes dam. Investigations by the water authority and UNFICYP revealed that the water pipeline was broken in some places and was in poor condition.

One 500-metre stretch of pipeline was missing. UNFICYP facilitated the relaying of 600 metres of pipeline in the buffer zone. The water authority had to relay 3 kms of pipeline in all, but impending rains made it a matter of urgency.

Thus, the last bit of the pipeline was completed within a month along the edge of the river bed. Works ended in mid-May and cost £30,000 in all. The results will be in the pipeline!

Varisha

For the third year in a row, Orthodox Christian worshippers sought UNFICYP's permission and help to organise a church service at the Agios Georgios church in the abandoned village of Varisha near UN 12. Three years ago, UNFICYP broke new ground when it facilitated a church service in the church for the first time since 1974. A week prior to the service, the faithful cleaned the church and its surroundings and fixed the bell.

On 6 May some 300 people were taken by bus in groups of 30 through the buffer zone for 1.5 kms to the church. UNFICYP escorted the buses both ways. Members of the congregation attended local celebrations after the service.



Visit from DPKO

The Senior Military Adviser to UN HQ New York (DPKO), Maj. Gen. Timothy Ford, was coincidentally in Cyprus at the same time as Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Gen. Ford was completing a tour of peacekeeping missions in the region.

Gen. Ford was received at HQ UNFICYP by the Force Commander and briefed by the Chief of Staff, and later met with several other senior staff members.

During the course of his stay in Cyprus, Gen. Ford visited all three sectors and had extensive briefings and line tours throughout, gaining an in-depth knowledge of both the mission and its personnel.



Rotations - A Way of Life



Rotations are a way of life within UNFICYP, but 27 May was a special day in Sector 4 when 38 Slovaks bade farewell to their friends and colleagues remaining on-island. These departing peacekeepers were the first Slovaks to arrive in Cyprus and serve with UNFICYP following the withdrawal of the Austrian Contingent in June 2001. They had built up a strong sense of togetherness and established valuable friendships during their historic tour of duty. So, while glad to return to their families and friends, it was with heavy hearts that they said goodbye to Sector 4.

Lt. Col. Stefan Faix, Commander Sector 4, offered his thanks to the outgoing personnel, wishing them a safe journey home. He then welcomed the newly arrived blue berets, wishing them every success in their new posting.

For the soldiers of Sector 4's 2 Coy who arrived on-island during the last rotation in March, the intense six-week basic training period is now over. Under the watchful eyes of their supervisors and fellow peacekeepers, the newly arrived personnel were required to familiarize themselves with their area of responsibility, as well as undertaking training in radio communications, the reporting system and the handling of weapons.

CO Sector 4 expressed his satisfaction at the successful results of the training course. It was tough and challenging for the 62 soldiers who participated, but they all passed with flying colours.

The newcomers have adapted well to the Cyprus environment and UNFICYP living conditions. They are now well settled into their new role as peacekeepers, and are operationally deployed, ready and eager for the Force Commander's inspection.

Basic Training for the Newcomers



The Cultural Heritage of Cyprus: Part III

Palaepafos - Old Pafos and The Sanctuary of Aphrodite

Continuing our series on the cultural heritage of the island, we move to Cyprus's southwest, near the modern village of Kouklia. It's here that the old city of Pafos flourished, from the 15th century BC through to the end of the Middle Ages.

It's also here, just north of her legendary birthplace in the sea foam near Petra tou Romiou, that Aphrodite was worshipped from antiquity, prompting Homer to immortalise the relationship between the goddess and the island:

"...laughter-loving Aphrodite came to Cyprus to Pafos, where is her precinct and fragrant altar..."

(from Homer's Odyssey)



*Aphrodite's Rock -
where Aphrodite reputedly came ashore*

Pafos (Paphos) was the name given to two distinct ancient cities, built approximately 1,000 years and 16 kilometres apart. Our modern Pafos is the western-most and youngest of the two, located on the coastline. Aphrodite's Pafos – called Palae, or Old Pafos – lies on a rocky plateau now partly covered by the village of Kouklia.

The legends surrounding the founding of Old Pafos invoke some of the best-known names in Greek and Roman literature. According to a 2nd century AD traveller named Pausanias, who compiled a record of the history and legends of his time, King Agapenor of Arcadia (part of ancient Greece) founded Pafos when bad weather drove his ships to Cyprus as he was returning home from the Trojan War. Another likely founder is mentioned in Homer's Iliad as a king of Cyprus at the time of the Trojan War: Kinyras, son of Adonis, developed religious rites surrounding the worship of Aphrodite. He was the first of a line of king-priests of Pafos, and Pafian kings would later trace their ancestry to him.

As for the name Pafos itself, a legend that appears in Ovid's Metamorphoses tells us that Pygmalion created a statue of a woman so beautiful that he fell in love with her. When Aphrodite took pity on him and gave the statue life, Pygmalion was able to marry the woman. He named their daughter Pafos, and shared her name with the town as well.

Legends aside, what we know for certain is that the Sanctuary of Aphrodite in Old Pafos was her most important shrine in ancient times, drawing many pilgrims from Cyprus and abroad to worship the goddess of love and fertility.

Archaeology, however, adds science to the legends. The site's earliest inhabitants lived here during the Chalcolithic Age, from about 3900 BC to 2500 BC, but we also know that Old Pafos was inhabited continuously from the 15th century BC until the end of the Middle Ages. A burial site just east of the village of Kouklia supports the settlement here of Achaean Greeks in the 12th century BC, revealing tomb gifts such as pottery, bronze and iron weapons and vessels, gold ornaments and a bronze skewer with an inscription in the Cypriot syllabary, or language – the earliest known Greek inscription in Cyprus.

The Romans annexed Cyprus in 58 BC, and it is from their coins and seal stones that we see how the Sanctuary of Aphrodite would have looked upon their arrival. Constructed of fine ashlar (rectangular-cut) blocks, the sanctuary would have resembled a large walled courtyard that held a room-sized altar, with benches for pilgrims' offerings. The altar's central entrance was flanked by large pillars, with an emblem on top that looked like a lotus flower.

The Romans, of course, would have made some changes. Archaeological excavations of the Roman ruins have revealed that a series of rooms ran along the east side of the courtyard, with the centre room forming the courtyard's main entrance. Arcades ran along the north and south sides of the courtyard, and the altar itself probably lay on the west side.

Over the next 1500 years, Old Pafos saw the arrival of Christianity, devastating earthquakes, equally devastating raids from neighbouring countries and the Crusades. During the medieval period, it flourished as the centre of the Lusignan sugar industry. A sugar refinery was established partially on the temple site, and an imposing manor house was built nearby, which was called the Château de Couvucle, or Royal Covocle. Today, the stately Gothic Hall in the manor house's east wing survives, its four bays distinguished by dramatic 13th century French-style arches.

It is to this house that we may also owe the village name of Kouklia. The Greek word "kouvouklia" basically means a covered sleeping area or enclosure: the sleeping quarters of the Byzantine emperors were known by this name, and their bodyguards were referred to as "kouvikoularioi". The bodyguards' services were often repaid in land or a country house, which also took their name, thus lingering in the language through to the Lusignan period and beyond.

The rest of the manor house that we see today – the north wing and gate tower, the west wing and half of the east wing – dates from the Ottoman period that began in the 16th century, when the site became a farm, or "çiftlik", of considerable size, and the manor house was used for living quarters and stores.

Today, the manor house is a museum that is well worth visiting, not only for its good collection of objects found in the area (terracotta figurines, weapons, jewellery and script), but for its display of the fertility stone of Aphrodite. The large, rather pyramid-like stone would have sat within the sanctuary altar, representing the goddess, who was believed to be too beautiful to be represented in human form.

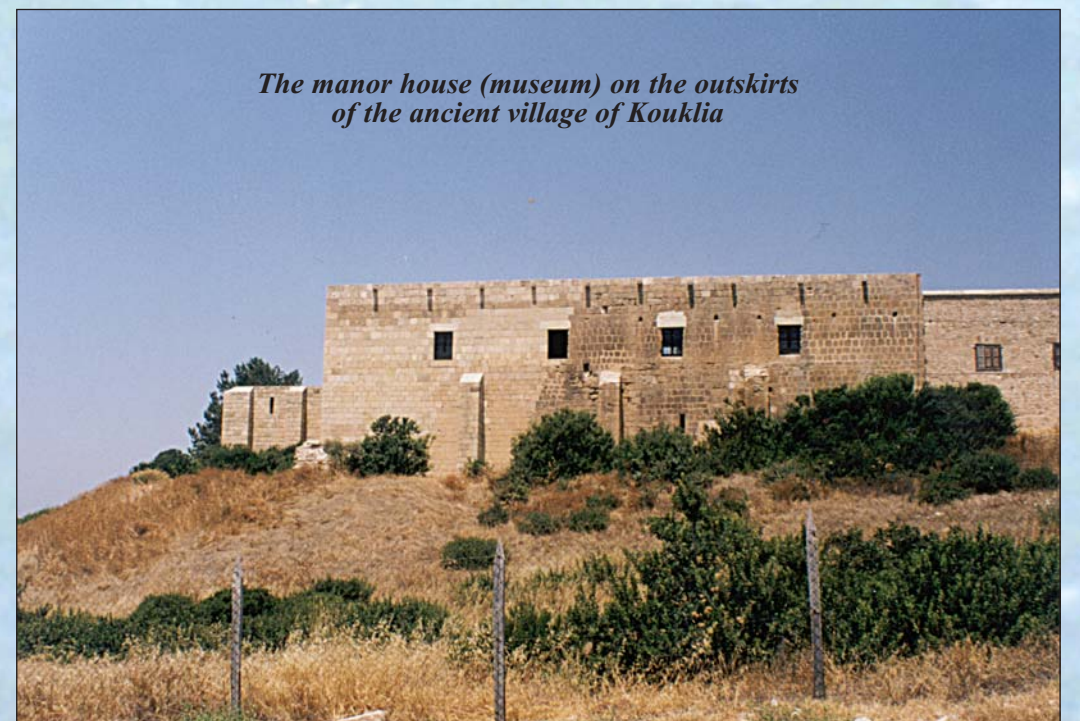
Near the manor house, you can see the many layers of Old Pafos's history on the ground around you: finely cut ashlar blocks were probably part of the sanctuary itself (you'll also see them re-used in local buildings), while mosaics and foundations date back to Roman times, and sugar milling equipment from the Middle Ages.

In fact, the ground looks rather like several different jigsaw puzzles that have been tossed together, but there's no doubt that the pieces add up to a remarkable story – that of Aphrodite herself.



Pafos

*Statue of
Aphrodite*



*The manor house (museum) on the outskirts
of the ancient village of Kouklia*

16 Regt RA Running in the Heat

16 Regiment RA, the resident OP TOSCA UNFICYP Roulement Regiment, competed in their first running event on 15 June, as 62 members of Sector 2 participated in the 13th International Olympic Day Fun Run.

The runners massed at Eleftheria Square for registration. The Olympic torch was lit in an opening ceremony and at 7.00 pm, the 6.6 km race started. The route took the runners on two laps east along the outside of the old city towards Pegasus gate, up on to the city walls and back west towards the square. Most of the regiment's runners had only just acclimatised to the heat on the island, so the 30 degrees Celsius was still stifling.

The event was enjoyed by all. It was very well organised, with all the runners receiving a free T-shirt

and certificate. A reception and prize giving followed the run and 2Lt. Jennings and Gnr. Shilling collected prizes for 2nd and 3rd in the women's (20-29 years) and men's (12-19 years) categories.



AUSCON News

Master Corporal Dietrich Mueller and Warrant Officer Second Class Guenther Sakoparnik, both currently serving with AUSCON at HQ UNFICYP's Operations Branch, have been awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal Class 3 and Class 1 respectively.

MCpl Mueller (left) has served multiple tours with UNDOF (Silver Numeral No. 7) in Bosnia and UNFICYP (No. 9).

WOII Sakoparnik has served multiple tours with UNDOF (Silver Numeral No. 19) and UNFICYP (No. 15).



Caption Competition

Captions to be submitted to the Public Information Office by:

20 July 2002



- Twisted Sister
- Beak Peek
- Necking is such fun...!
- Preen Queen



World Cup UNFICYP



Even a hermit living in the Troodos mountains must have known that June was the month of the World Cup finals jointly hosted by Japan and the Republic of Korea.

UNFICYP nationalities were well represented with some 16 countries contesting the finals. The clashes were mighty – none more so than the Argentina-England game. When Poland met Korea, the Force Commander and Chief of Mission watched together in friendly rivalry. Upsets and outsiders were the order of the day, culminating in the remarkable performance by co-host Korea and Turkey.

Congratulations must go to UNFICYP's Brasileiros, Capt. Junior Moises da Paixao, and SSgt. Paulo Cesar Martiniano, in Sector 1 for their country's magnificent victory in World Cup 2002.

Sport



