Future Events

JUNE

Kokkytinos — 11 June

The celebration of “The Flood”! A unique and colourful Cyriot Festival associated with the Pentecost, as well as with the games, traditional dan-
cing and singing. Festivities in all the nearby towns take place in late May after Easter Sunday.

Nicosia Festival

July 1, 2020. Theatrical Performance, concerts of modern music and as well as exhibitions of folk art.

Paphos

Performances of Ancient Greek Drama will take place by moonlight at the ancient theatre at Kalavasos Paphos by the High School of Paphos during the months of June and July.

St. Paul’s Feast

On 26th and 29th June

Religious Festivities at Kato Paphos at which the Procession of all the Byzantine Splendour, will official assisted the Cyriot Bishops.

A procession of the icons of St. Paul through the streets of Kato Paphos follows.

July

International Art Festival of Larnaca

Takes place during the first ten days of July in the Municipal Gardens of Larnaca. There are Folk and Classical dances, Concerts of music and songs, exhibitions etc.

Open Tennis Tournament

Held at Troodos during the second fortnight of July.

Curtain Festival

Performances of ancient Greek and Shakespearean drama and concerts by moonlight at the ancient theatre of Curtain near Limassol. The performances are held throughout the summer.

Carneval Festival, Nicosia

Sponsored by the Carneval Brower this is an annual event with some of the most famous and performances by prominent Greek. As well as folkloric groups, churchs, cooperatives and perfor-
ners. There is folkloric dan-
cing and Cypriot food stalls and taverns.

The Blue Beret is the house journal of the United Nations Force in Cyprus and is, as such, intended to provide a source of information on current events within the Force, with all articles taken in general interest and on local travel 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.

This is an official publication prepared under the direction of the Force Commander. The content of the articles is not necessarily conformed with official policy.

The copyright of all material published in this journal is vested in United Nations Publications except where acknowledgment is made to another copyright holder. No article or illustration may be reproduced without the permission of the Editor.

on the cover

An essential element of the work at all OPs is the meticulous recording of all observed events. Here an OP sentry is seen entering an event in his log sheet.

Editing:

First and foremost “Thank you” to those who have put pen to paper and written such interesting articles for the magazine. I hope our readers enjoy them as much as we have. An unexpected bonus was that some of them came illustrated with photographs by the authors — and you can see how effective they are too.

We have already received much interest in this section and one in particular will appeal to all of you who own cameras. The theme of the article is how to take a collection of photographs as you wander around the island that will, long after you have finished your tour here, provide you with a marvellous visual reminder of the many faces of Cyprus and the widely varying facets of Cypriot life. Having seen and admired the author’s large collection it is obvious he knows what he is talking about.

While talking about photographs it is an ideal time to bring up the subject of cover photographs for the magazine. Each month we need a good, striking photograph that ideally portrays the Force at work but the essential requirement is that it is a good photograph showing some facet of the life of the Cyprus Force.

Any article or photograph published in the magazine will be credited to the author — so here is your chance of getting your name into print!
The farming in the Western Company area of Sector 2 provides a perfect example of UNIFIL-CYP's contribution to the restoration of normal conditions on the island. Under the watchful eyes of the UNPs, patrols, and escorts of 3U, farmers are reaping a rich harvest from areas that would otherwise be barren and unproductive.

The essential work of irrigating the groves and clearing the ground amongst the trees goes on under escort.

For the troops to yield their rich harvest they require a considerable amount of fertilizer and this is one of the many tasks performed under escort.

How's the farming, Joe?

Sgt Joe Gahan on his daily rounds visits a farmer with his escort and looks at the fine crop of oranges being harvested.

To keep Sector 4 functioning smoothly there has to be a brain cell backing it up and that is where the people of RHQ come into play. Within the Sector 4 command structure RHQ is the smallest unit. It consists of a command group, an operations section, a reconnaissance troop, a signals troop and other specialist groups. Now a little bit about each! The command group consists of the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Billings, our Deputy Commanding Officer and our Regimental Sergeant Major. The function is obvious and I'll say no more.

The operations staff is divided into three sub-units due to the variety of tasks. Ops A consists of the Operations Officer and the personnel in the Joint Operations Centre (JOC). The JOC provides crisp and precise morning briefings and a weekly briefing of Sector 4 operations. Ops B is our Operations Information Branch, which keeps us abreast of international and local affairs. Most humour in the morning briefing is generated by Ops B. Ops E (E for economics) keep busy doing humanitarian and economic tasks.

RHQ Recce Troop is our utility group. It performs daily vehicle patrols and random track patrols to help augment observation from the line of observation posts. Personnel from Recce Troop also run our laundry service! For ensuring all our clothing is starched, they allow us our gratitude.

The Signals Troop appreciates the problems of using the ancient telephone system here on the island. Besides mning the numerous radio sets the lads offer our calls to loved ones at home.

An equally important part of RHQ is the group of people that can be labelled as Administrative Troop. We have our Regimental Police with us to ensure we behave ourselves! The manager of the Ledra Palace is kept busy with the constant influx of visitors, plus tracking down officers who leave their bathtubs running, causing floods in the Ledra. Our dependable drivers are also found in Adm Troop. They try to drive like the naffers and yet drive carefully. Last but not least, we find our mess and cooking personnel who deserve our praise for their hard work and efforts to keep us well fed and entertained.

This nummerous and varied job that RHQ performs to guide the Regiment along has ensured a lively tour. As our time in Cyprus comes to an end we look back with pride on what has been accomplished and wish everyone the best of luck.
Life on a Mountain OP D13 Varisha

All OPs in Sector 1 have a permanent crew of eight men, divided into two OP crews, and each of them is on duty — or “up” — for 14 days and “down” in the company HQ camp for the next fortnight. This means that the eight men have a special relationship with their OP and therefore do a lot of things to make it more comfortable for themselves.

Although this article will describe some of the off-duty activities at Varisha OP, the work goes on as there is always at least one man on duty in the OP tower. This is what the crew has to say about its activities on a normal day:

“Just before daybreak, you hear cocks crow and a new day will soon start. The 0600—0600 guard is relieved and he starts to prepare the breakfast, normally consisting of coffee, fresh eggs and freshly baked muffins. After breakfast details include washing up, cleaning the accommodation and feeding the chickens and the goldfish. For the rest of the morning the officers carry out repairs to the hut and work in the garden. At present the crew is making a new bathroom and a bigger hut. The afternoon is free then for the crew, but often they continue to work or play sports, for example, weightlifting or a run to the next OP in Varisha Village. In the evening the crew makes itself comfortable and occupies itself playing chess, watching TV, reading, etc.

The Varisha OP has a lot of visitors — every day at least three different parties, and the crew have a little talk with the guests over a cup of coffee and fresh muffins.”

Madsen picks up fresh eggs for breakfast.

Mortensen enjoys the sun and makes sure that the goldfish are all right.

Chibbsen is working hard in the vegetable garden.

Some appointments in the Swedish Battalion are now open to women. So far there are only two jobs for which women can apply but times seem to be changing. For a couple of years now in Sweden there have been several reports for more openings for women in UN jobs; for instance, campen manager, medical personnel, various staff clerk positions, chauffeur, welfare and travel officer — yes, even staff photographer and staff editor — could be positions “ manned” by women.

One problem could be that of accommodation, the critics say. But it is likely in a problem, ask those in favour of these changes? Women who want to do a UN job must, and do, accept the conditions under which they must work.

(Above) The Commanding Officer of Sweden selects two of our women soldiers.

(Left) Mona Johansson, postal clerk, serving in UNFICYP Sector 5.

There is, as yet, no decision on any proposals and it may still take some time before more appointments in the Swedish Battalion are open to women. But it’s not all an unhappy that in future more women will be serving in UNFICYP.

In the previous, as in the present, Battalion women have served as postal clerks — the first UN job opened to women. During this Battalion’s tour the duties have been shared between Laila Andersson and Mona Johansson, who have been more than satisfied with the job — except, that is, for the shoes. They’re too large!

(Above) Another woman in Sector 5 is Ulla Wernoe, To be quite frank, we don’t want to see too much of her during her working hours. The reason is that she happens to be our dental nurse — and who likes to sit down in that awful dentist’s chair and face all her terrible instruments.
MEDAL

BRITCO - 20 FEB
Nicosia International Airport

The Parade formed up and awaited arrival of the Force Commander with 3LI in the front and B Sqn, IRCON to the right.

DANCON - 23 FEB
Enville Stadium

The Force Reserve, B Sqn, 3 RTR, driving past in their Ferrars.

IRCON - 17 MAR
Blue Beret Camp, Nicosia

The parade was held on the contingent’s National Day and the Force Commander is shown presenting Sergeant Murphy with his medal.

3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry marching past the Force Commander led by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel J. Halsey.

MP COY - 1 FEB
Blue Beret Camp, Nicosia

The Force Commander inspecting the parade of the only unit in the Force which is truly international.

The Parade

The Colour Party march on parade with the UN and Austrian Colours.

AUSCON - 2 MAR
Camp Duke Leopold V, Famagusta

The Force Commander presents the medal to one of the contingent’s NCOs on parade.

Force Commander inspecting the parade which was held very quietly in view of the tragic death of a member of the contingent.

Force Commander presenting Lieutenant Colonel O.E. Schaurer, Commander DANCON, with his medal.

SWEDCON - 8 MAR
Larnaca Football Stadium

During the parade there was a display of special arms drill.

The Force Commander presented medals to the contingent, accompanied by his ADC, Captain M. Pescher, and Commander SWEDCON, Lieutenant Colonel A. Rolf.
Recruiting and Rotation
From the Austrian Alps to Famagusta Bay

Sector 6 has completed its first rotation of the year which involved about 140 soldiers. In Austria this time winter is still in control; not only the mountains but also the plains are snow-covered and hidden under a brilliant white blanket. For our soldiers the flight from Vienna via Larnaca airport to Famagusta brought about a jump from winter to spring in only a few hours.

Who are these soldiers, now starting their duties in UNIFICYP? Where do they come from in Austria? The Austrian people are well represented because the soldiers of Sector 6 come from all parts of our country. Furthermore, Sector 6 is made up of professional soldiers and reservists as well, illustrating the efficiency of Austria’s militia system.

As for service with UN, the newcomers are in many cases well proven “veterans”; approximately fifty per cent of our soldiers are starting their second or third engagement under the blue flag of the United Nations. They have worn their blue beret in the historical scenery of Paphos district, on the bright shore of Larnaca as well as in the blazing sun in the wilderness of the Egyptian Sinai and the cold storms on encamped Mount Hormon in Syria.

The soldiers of the first rotation are now in the job. Good luck in Cyprus!

The “Hochkogl” is one of the famous mountains in the Austrian Alps, situated in the county of Salzburg.

From Carinthia, a sunny country in the South of Austria — comes Pte Johann Grunwaldner. He was born in 1937 and finished his basic military service in 1976 in a signal unit. His hobbies are mainly skiing and mountain climbing. He is enjoying his first service in Cyprus and therefore his advice to his friends in Austria is: “Do anything you can to get to Cyprus!”

2/StGt Gerhard Witzner, born in 1947 in the country of Niederösterreich, has now started his first UN tour of duty. At home he commands one of the Austrian tank-killers, “Krasailler”, in a regular tank infantry battalion. His job with Sector 6 is OP-Commander in Vaarasch. The reason for his voluntary engagement to UNIFICYP was based on various stories told by his friends, after having finished their missions in Cyprus. 2/StGt Winterer is married with a seven-year-old daughter. In the photograph above he is briefing Pte Grunwaldner on his OP duty.

Major Walter Jandl, born in 1937 in Tyrol, has started his third tour and is Sector 6’s 2IC. He finished his studies at the Austrian War Academy in 1981. An artillery officer, he also has taken specialist training on all Austrian forces do; he has passed the military alpine climbing course, with a special training in snow and ice regions. His former UN engagements include service in 1973-74 in Egypt, during the war in Sinai and Syria.

LADIES HOCKEY “Nicosia Nobblers” First Season

The “Nicosia Nobblers” began playing in October last year, when a couple of keen lady hockey players decided to try to form a team for the “Styx Six-a-Side Tournament”. The less said about the result of that tournament the better, but at least a ladies team from Nicosia did enter.

Although all the ladies were very enthusiastic, our results during the early part of the season were not very good. However, in December Angale Lawry attended our Wednesday morning practices and with his expert coaching our hockey greatly improved.

The highlight of 1978 was the Charity Hockey Match on 29 December. With the wives in pinafores, husbands in noggins and the umpires in dressing gowns, we managed not only to raise £23 for “Wireless for the Blind” but also beat the husbands!

So far this year, we have played very well and beaten the “Styx Ladies” and “Acropolis Ladies” at home and away. Now we are having extra “Fitness training” for the “Seasons Six-a-Side Tournament” on 29 April, at which we hope to do very well.

NEW RECORD ON GREEN LINE RUN
RHO’s Record Breaking Attempt

The green Line Run is a ten-man relay race by road from Trikomo to the Mercury Club in Jubilee Camp. The total distance is 42.5 miles and each man must complete at least 4 miles. All the team join the last runner for the final 1.2 miles from the Morphou Police check point. Only the men may take part. Entries should be addressed to 254 (UNIFICYP) Big Sig.

Three teams have held the record — 254 (UNIFICYP) Big Sig, the originators of the run, with a time of 4 hrs 35 mins 15 secs; 254 (UNIFICYP) Wksp REME, with a time of 4 hrs 15 mins 38 secs, and 254 (UNIFICYP) Sp REGI, with a time of 4 hrs 13 mins 11 secs.

The team has to consist of ten men, including one officer, two WCO/SI/COS and seven junior ranks. The total age of the team must equal or be greater than 250 years.

On 21 February 1979 a team from RHO, including two clerks from RHO UNIFICYP, with whom permission was granted to run by the originators, attempted to break the 254 (UNIFICYP) Big Sig REME’s record. It was tough going as the picture suggests; here Glem Rockstille is seen handing over to L/Cpl Walker at the start of the final leg. However, as the result was finally announced the RHO team had knocked 2 mins 25 secs off the record.

Mike Brooke
CASTLES
KOLOSI

The first reference to Kolossi was in AD 1192 when Isaac Comninus and his forces camped there before they unsuccessfully opposed the invasion of Richard Coeur de Lion. It is likely that the first castle on the site was built in AD 1210 when the property was granted to the Knights of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, also known as the Knights Hospitaller, but nothing remains of this building.

When Acro cast to the Saracens in AD 1291 the headquarters of the Order of St John of Jerusalem was transferred from Limassol and Kolossi became the centre of the Conventional Life of the Hospitallers. Kolossi was the principal fort of the Order's briefer period of occupation by the Knights Templar, until AD 1312, when the Hospitallers transferred their headquarters to Rhodes. Kolossi was then retained as a Commandery which became known as the finest overseas possession the Order, its wealth being derived from the production of its many vineyards (whose best wine became known as Commandaria) and sugar plantations.

The keep of Kolossi is situated on level ground and must be envisaged as an administrative centre of a large property and as typical of a class of fort not designed primarily to resist major siege operations, though offering effective defence against sporadic revolts and raids.

The present great square keep, erected c. AD 1450, is attributed to Louis de Maganac, Grand Commander of Cyprus AD 1449—54. Its walls are on a marble plinth in the west wall sur-

mounted by the royal arms of Cyprus which are flanked by storks (Jean de Lestrac and Jacques de Mill). The keep consists of three storeys with walls 6 ft thick, with a machicolation under the ramparts immediately above the drawbridge and entrance on the south side. This overhanging defensive device was provided with openings from which stone could be dropped on the castle's besiegers.

The building was never intended to be entered through the ground floor, which has three large vaulted rooms that were used for stores, with cisterns beneath, the sole communication with the upper floors originally being through a trap-Door. The main entrance, which was defended by the drawbridge and machicolations, leads into the main hall at the second-floor level, where there was a second room containing a large fireplace, which was probably the kitchen. Both these rooms have painted vaults. On the right of the entrance there is a large mural painting of the Crucifixion, below which the arms of Louis de Maganac appear again. A spiral staircase of good proportions in the south-east corner leads to the third storey, which again consists of two large vaulted rooms, set at right-angles to the two above, which were the apartments of the Grand Commanders. Each room has four windows with slits in the thickness of the walls, as well as a magnificent fireplace reminiscent of contemporaneous French design and decoration, and also incorporating the arms of the Knights Hospitaller. There is also a pivoting. The battlements are reached by a continuation of the spiral staircase. This portion of the castle, as well as the entrance, was largely rebuilt in the course of restoration in 1953. It has been suggested that the height of each of the four main rooms was divided by wooden flooring carried on beams, thus providing the extra accommodation which is noticeably lacking in the present interior.

Remains of outbuildings below the drawbridge were probably stables and stores. These were accessible through a postern leading off the east court.

A ruined factory used for the processing of raw sugar is situated to the west of the castle, and though repaired under Turkish occupation in the late sixteenth century — probably necessitated by earthquake damage — part of its structure is believed to antedate any of the remains of the castle itself with the possible exception of the well-head to the south of the main entrance. The medieval aqueduct running north of the sugar factory is still used for irrigation. The factory was finally put out of business as a result of competition from the West Indian sugar plantations.

Cedric Mercer

ARCHAEOLOGY — EXCAVATIONS IN 1978

Palace of the Roman Proconsul of Cyprus — Kato Paphos

The Ministry of Communications & Works, Department of Antiquities announced that the Polish Archaeological Mission under the direction of Dr A. V. D. Zanzorski excavated on the site of Malekambala at Kato Paphos (the ancient capital of Cy-

prus — Nea Papho) from 12 October till 10 November. Work concentrated upon further un-

covering of a very large Roman building which, during previous season of research, had been identified as an official resi-
dence of the proconsul of Cy-

prus. Several rooms and an in-

ner courtyard have been cleaned

debis from the east wing of the

structure. In two of these rooms remains of many storage jars, amphorae, jug and activity, and the first floor, in front of the door leading to one of the side chambers, a fine bronze vessel of large size was found next to a bronz


with geome

tic decoration. It is the first im-

portant find of bronze objects on this site which as yet yielded many marble sculptures, pottery vessels, terracottas and mosaics. The above mentioned rooms have a household character and were probably used as stores for food products destined for the inhabitants of the building.

Excavations were also carried out in the West wing of the palace. A number of small

compartments was found as well as traces of water basins and of three water cisterns. Two of these reservoirs surprisingly be


nes could be dropped on the castle's besiegers.

The building was never intended to be entered through the ground floor, which has three large vaulted rooms that were used for stores, with cisterns beneath, the sole communication with the upper floors originally being through a trap-Door. The main entrance, which was defended by the drawbridge and machicolations, leads into the main hall at the second-floor level, where there was a second room containing a large fireplace, which was probably the kitchen. Both these rooms have painted vaults. On the right of the entrance there is a large mural painting of the Crucifixion, below which the arms of Louis de Maganac appear again. A spiral staircase of good proportions in the south-east corner leads to the third storey, which again consists of two large vaulted rooms, set at right-angles to the two above, which were the apartments of the Grand Commanders. Each room has four windows with slits in the thickness of the walls, as well as a magnificent fireplace reminiscent of contemporaneous French design and decoration, and also incorporating the arms of the Knights Hospitaller. There is also a pivoting. The battlements are reached by a continuation of the spiral staircase. This portion of the castle, as well as the entrance, was largely rebuilt in the course of restoration in 1953. It has been suggested that the height of each of the four main rooms was divided by wooden flooring carried on beams, thus providing the extra accommodation which is noticeably lacking in the present interior.

Remains of outbuildings below the drawbridge were probably stables and stores. These were accessible through a postern leading off the east court.

A ruined factory used for the processing of raw sugar is situated to the west of the castle, and though repaired under Turkish occupation in the late sixteenth century — probably necessitated by earthquake damage — part of its structure is believed to antedate any of the remains of the castle itself with the possible exception of the well-head to the south of the main entrance. The medieval aqueduct running north of the sugar factory is still used for irrigation. The factory was finally put out of business as a result of competition from the West Indian sugar plantations.

Cedric Mercer

ARCHAEOLOGY — EXCAVATIONS IN 1978

Palace of the Roman Proconsul of Cyprus — Kato Paphos

The Ministry of Communications & Works, Department of Antiquities announced that the Polish Archaeological Mission under the direction of Dr A. V. D. Zanzorski excavated on the site of Malekambala at Kato Paphos (the ancient capital of Cy-

prus — Nea Papho) from 12 October till 10 November. Work concentrated upon further un-

covering of a very large Roman building which, during previous season of research, had been identified as an official resi-
dence of the proconsul of Cy-

prus. Several rooms and an in-

ner courtyard have been cleaned

debis from the east wing of the

structure. In two of these rooms remains of many storage jars, amphorae, jug and activity, and the first floor, in front of the door leading to one of the side chambers, a fine bronze vessel of large size was found next to a bronz


with geome

tic decoration. It is the first im-

portant find of bronze objects on this site which as yet yielded many marble sculptures, pottery vessels, terracottas and mosaics. The above mentioned rooms have a household character and were probably used as stores for food products destined for the inhabitants of the building.

Excavations were also carried out in the West wing of the palace. A number of small

compartments was found as well as traces of water basins and of three water cisterns. Two of these reservoirs surprisingly be


nes could be dropped on the castle's besiegers.

The building was never intended to be entered through the ground floor, which has three large vaulted rooms that were used for stores, with cisterns beneath, the sole communication with the upper floors originally being through a trap-Door. The main entrance, which was defended by the drawbridge and machicolations, leads into the main hall at the second-floor level, where there was a second room containing a large fireplace, which was probably the kitchen. Both these rooms have painted vaults. On the right of the entrance there is a large mural painting of the Crucifixion, below which the arms of Louis de Maganac appear again. A spiral staircase of good proportions in the south-east corner leads to the third storey, which again consists of two large vaulted rooms, set at right-angles to the two above, which were the apartments of the Grand Commanders. Each room has four windows with slits in the thickness of the walls, as well as a magnificent fireplace reminiscent of contemporaneous French design and decoration, and also incorporating the arms of the Knights Hospitaller. There is also a pivoting. The battlements are reached by a continuation of the spiral staircase. This portion of the castle, as well as the entrance, was largely rebuilt in the course of restoration in 1953. It has been suggested that the height of each of the four main rooms was divided by wooden flooring carried on beams, thus providing the extra accommodation which is noticeably lacking in the present interior.

Remains of outbuildings below the drawbridge were probably stables and stores. These were accessible through a postern leading off the east court.

A ruined factory used for the processing of raw sugar is situated to the west of the castle, and though repaired under Turkish occupation in the late sixteenth century — probably necessitated by earthquake damage — part of its structure is believed to antedate any of the remains of the castle itself with the possible exception of the well-head to the south of the main entrance. The medieval aqueduct running north of the sugar factory is still used for irrigation. The factory was finally put out of business as a result of competition from the West Indian sugar plantations.

Cedric Mercer
Commander British Forces
Cyprus Visits Sector 6

At about 6 o'clock on the evening of 6 March the Force received a request to evacuate by air from Kantara Plain to Nicosia a National Guard soldier suffering from appendicitis. The task was undertaken by one of our RAF helicopters and as a result the patient was admitted to Nicosia General Hospital by 9 o'clock that evening.

BRITISH ARMY CHAPLAIN GENERAL VISITS FORGE

The Venerable Archdeacon P Mallett, CB, QHSC, AKC, visited UNFICYP on 13—14 February. In the picture on the left he is seen talking to the Force Commander during his visit to the Headquarters and in the one on the right is seen walking with the Chaplain of the British Contingent, Reverend R Keast, during his visit to 3Lt in Sector 2, followed by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col J Hemissly.

Swedish Entertainers

Eight Swedish artists visited Cyprus from 7 to 22 February. They gave shows at all Swedish Camps and at most of the Swedish OPs as well as giving a show at Xeros for the Danish Contingent. The artists are shown above during their concert for the Swedish Contingent at the Rex Cinema in Limassol.

UNFICYP Families' Club

As a new venture a families' club has been formed for UNFICYP families of all nationalities living in Nicosia. The club is open to all UNFICYP families living in Nicosia including, of course, Secertariat families. The club was set up to increase community entertainment and to organise educational classes and hobbies clubs. Entertainments such as barbecues will be held in the Community Centre and trips organised to places of interest such as picturesque and leafland factories. The variety of classes and hobbies clubs should increase now and new classes have started for the children there are now ballet and roller skating classes and for the adults a macrame class has been started because of interest shown at the Open House. Many people said that they wanted to start a drama group and have held a meeting, so watch out for Nicosia Drama Club productions.

The first major activity of the Families' Club will be an "Easter Fair" to raise money for UNICEF. This will be held on Saturday 7th April and is our contribution towards "The International Year of the Child". There will be a Grand Draw, with a first prize of a return ticket to London as well as many other prizes, also there will be a wide variety of stalls and side-shows.

Until recently the Scout and Guide groups provided the only activities here for young people, but now a Youth Club is being formed. When the Youth Club is fully operational there will be many more interests for the young people.

The Families' Club is still a new venture, but we hope that it will soon make this a place where something is always happening. Look out for the monthly newsletter to tell you what is going on.

Jean Kaye
REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 435 AND 439 ON THE QUESTION OF NAMIBIA

Published below are excerpts from the Report of the Secretary-General released on 26 February 1978 at UN Headquarters in New York.

"My Special Representative has now reported to me on his discussions with South African authorities, SWAPO and Government representatives above. SWAPO and Governments mentioned above (reference to Tanzania, Mozambique, Angola, Namibia, South Africa, Botswana, Angola, Nigeria). He informed me of willingness of both South Africa and SWAPO to cooperate in implementation of Security Council Resolution 435. However, during meetings between my Special Representative and representatives of South Africa and SWAPO, it became apparent that the two parties concerned had differing interpretations and perceptions regarding implementation of certain provisions of the settlement proposal. With a view to resolving these differences, I considered it necessary to consult further with the five western powers, which had worked out the proposals with South Africa and SWAPO, as well as with front line states.

In the light of all the information I have been able to obtain and after hearing the views of the parties directly concerned, I have concluded that, in the prevailing circumstances and as a practical matter, outstanding issues referred to in the paragraph below would be resolved along the following lines:

a. Return of Namibians

In order to facilitate the peaceful return of Namibians to their territory, provisions have been made by UNHCR for the establishment of entry points and facilities to assist those returning Namibians. In accordance with normal UNHCR practice, reception centres will provide transit facilities for those returning Namibians who want them. These centres will be operated under close supervision of UNHCR to ensure that all returning Namibians will have access to the areas they wish to inhabit, any other arrangements would be contrary to guarantee of full freedom of movement in paragraph 6 of the settlement proposal.

The provision made in Paragraph 8 of the settlement proposal that SWAPO personnel outside of the territory to return peacefully to Namibia through designated entry points to participate in the political process means that such return should take place without arms or other military equipment. Should any personnel seek to return bearing arms or equipment, such actions would be considered a violation of the political process arrangements.

b. Restriction to Base

According to the settlement proposal, coincident with the cessation of all hostilities, South African Defence Forces and SWAPO armed forces will be restricted to base. This will involve withdrawal of bases of all South African Defence Forces within Namibia and their subsequent phased withdrawal as outlined in the proposal. Any SWAPO armed forces in Namibia at the time of the cease-fire will likewise be restricted to base at designated locations inside Namibia to be specified by the Special Representative after necessary consultation. The movement of SWAPO armed forces to this base cannot be considered as a tactical move in terms of the cease-fire.

SWAPO armed forces in neighboring countries will, on commencement of the cease-fire, be restricted to base in those countries, while the proposal makes no specific provision for monitoring by UNTAG of SWAPO bases in neighboring countries; neither paragraph 15 of the proposal states that "neighboring countries shall be requested to ensure that the best of their abilities that the provisions of the transitional arrangement, and the outcome of the election, are respected. They shall also be requested to afford its necessary facilities to the United Nations Special Representative and all United Nations personnel to carry out their assigned functions and to facilitate such measures as may be desirable for ensuring tranquility in the border areas." The provision implies that the Special Representative may assign specific tasks to neighboring countries, but it leaves the details of these tasks to the discretion of the Special Representative. This provision, however, does not provide for the establishment of UNTAG offices in neighboring countries to control and supervise the implementation of the relevant provisions of the proposal.

c. Cease-fire arrangements

The settlement proposal calls for: "A comprehensive cessation of all hostilities." As previously indicated by me it is my intention to propose the procedure for the commencement of the cease-fire. Therefore, various steps indicated in the proposal for the settlement, as reflected in resolution 435 (1978), would take place. I intend to send identical letters to South Africa and SWAPO proposing the specific hour and date for the cease-fire to begin. In that letter, I would also request both parties to inform me, in writing, of their agreement to abide by the terms of the cease-fire. I would require that they advise me of their agreement by a specific date, which would be ten days before the beginning of the cease-fire. This period is necessary for both parties to have adequate time to inform their troops of the exact date and time for the commencement of the cease-fire and for UNTAG to deploy.

d. Composition of the military component

Aside from the outstanding issues concerning the implementation of the settlement proposal mentioned above, the question of the composition of the military component of UNTAG remains to be finalised. In the course of my consultations with the parties, I have communicated to them a list of possible troop contributing countries which, in the circumstances, I consider can best meet the requirements of UNTAG. Before commencement of United Nations operations in Namibia, I will submit to the Security Council, in accordance with the established practice, the proposed composition of the military component.

e. Agreement on the Status of UNTAG

The draft agreement on the status of UNTAG was first presented to the South African authorities in August 1978. Agreement has now been reached with those authorities in respect of most of its provisions.

Concluding remarks.

The settlement proposal requires that all its provisions be completed to the satisfaction of the Special Representative. In order to agree to the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 435, parties have agreed to abide by those provisions. United Nations has the responsibility of assessing the implementation of the various military provisions of the proposal. Similarly, the Special Representative is to be satisfied about the various provisions regarding the creation of conditions for and the conduct of elections. There is no basis for unilateral determinations or unilateral actions by any party. At the same time, it is recognised that effective implementation of the proposal is dependent upon the continued co-operation of the parties. Should implementation of the proposal be jeopardised as a result of failure of any party to carry out its provisions, I would bring the matter immediately to the attention of the Security Council. I have already communicated to the Government of South Africa and SWAPO the basic elements of the proposals contained in this report. In the light of the above proposals, if co-operation of the parties concerned is forthcoming, I intend to designate the date of 15 March 1979 for the commencement of the deployment of UNTAG and the entry into force of the cease-fire. A letter on the cease-fire will be transmitted accordingly. In the interim, I appeal to all parties to exercise restraint and to refrain from actions which might jeopardise a settlement. I should also like to draw attention to paragraph 18 of my Report of 29 August 1978 in which I stated that: "It is expected that the duration of UNTAG would be for one year, depending on the date of independence to be decided by the constituent assembly."

SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS ON NAMIBIA

Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim announced on 26 February that Ghana, Bangladesh, Romania, Finland and Panama had agreed to provide military contingents for the proposed UN operation in Namibia known as UNTAG — the UN Transition Assistance Group — the military and civilian teams of which are to prepare for and conduct elections in that country. Dr. Waldheim also made known that logistic elements would be made available by Australia, Denmark, The Federal Republic of Germany, Sweden and Britain.

He is continuing his consultations to secure military contingents from two additional countries, one from Africa and one from another region, as well as logistic elements from an African country. These developments took place against the background of the report to the Security Council earlier that week in which Dr. Waldheim proposed 15 March as the date for a cease-fire in Namibia and the beginning of the UNTAG operation. The Secretary-General said he was asking both the South African Government and SWAPO, the South West Africa People's Organisation, to indicate their acceptance of the cease-fire in writing no later than 5 March.