

The Blue Beret

May 2002



The
Secretary-General
in Cyprus



Published monthly by the Public Information Office of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, HQ UNFICYP, PO Box 21642, Nicosia 1590, Cyprus.

Tel: 22864550/22864416/22864408

Fax: 22864461

E-mail: blueberetcyprus@hotmail.com

Web site: www.unficy.org

Editorial Team

Brian Kelly

Maj. Dezső Kiss

Miriam Taylor

Photography

Contingent Photographers

Unit Press Officers

Sector 1 Capt. Miguel del Castillo

Sector 2 Lt. Clare Charman

Sector 4 Lt. Michal Miškay

UNCIVPOL Garda Martin Hennigan

Supt. Peter Williams

HQ UNFICYP Maj. John Hunt

UN Flt 1/Lt. Alejandro Gitlin

MFR Capt. Marcello Orquera

FMPU Capt. Keith Scott

The Blue Beret is the in-house journal of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. The views expressed are those of the authors concerned, and do not necessarily conform with official policy.

Articles of general interest are invited from all members of the Force. Photographs, together with captions, should accompany the articles.

The copyright of all material in this journal is vested in United Nations Publications. Any article or illustration may be reproduced with the written permission of the Editor.

The Secretary-General's visit was indeed an historic occasion – the first visit to Cyprus by a United Nations Secretary-General since May 1979. As pointedly noted, it was a “working visit”, with the specific intention of encouraging the two leaders to move their direct talks discussions forward with a “shared sense of urgency and a willingness to compromise in earnest”.

At the conclusion of his visit, the Secretary-General told the press he was leaving “sobered by the challenge at hand”, yet more convinced than ever “that this is the time to press on” and that “an historic opportunity exists now to reach a comprehensive settlement.” Both leaders had given him their commitment “to go about this effort in a genuine spirit of give and take”, he said. He was “convinced” that they could resolve all core issues (governance security territory and property) “between now and the end of June”.

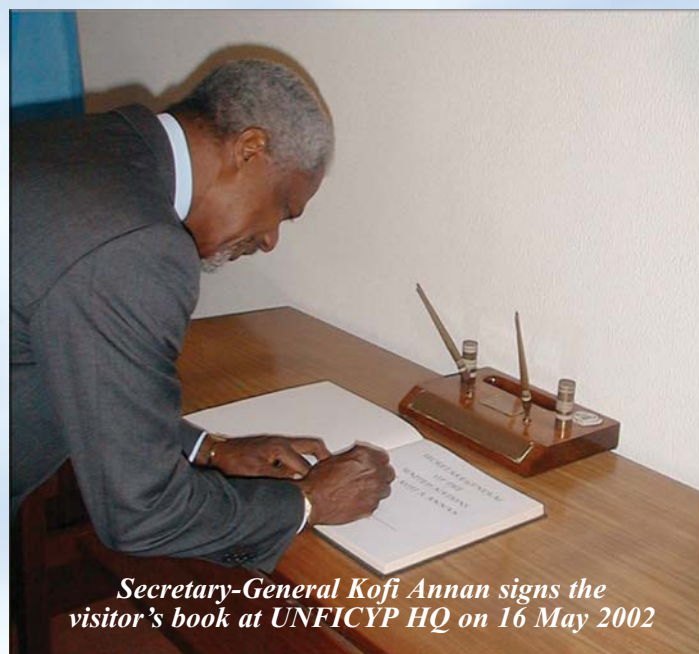
The UN, he said, is here to help the leaders – not impose ideas or conclusions on them. He was leaving with a sense of satisfaction. Nonetheless, he cautioned, “I am not saying that by June they should have a signed and sealed agreement, but at least they should have been able to resolve the core issues”.

Editorial

Front Cover:
The Secretary-General with the
two leaders on the steps of the
Chief of Mission's residence

Contents

Editorial/Contents	2
An Historic Visit	3
Meeting the Two Leaders	4
Table for Five	5
Secretary-General Welcomed to UNFICYP	6
Secretary-General Meets the Staff	7
A Walk-About Tour from Nicosia to the Green Line	8/9
Secretary-General's Press Conference ..	10/11
ANZAC Day/NAAFI	12
Medal Parades - Sector 2 and UNCIVPOL	13
Sector 1 Handover/ New Faces in Sector 1	14
Sport	15
ANZAC Day	16



Secretary-General Kofi Annan signs the visitor's book at UNFICYP HQ on 16 May 2002



An Historic Visit

Secretary-General Kofi Annan arrived at Larnaca Airport on 14 May to begin a working visit to Cyprus. He was met on arrival by Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Alvaro de Soto, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus, and by Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Chief of Mission, Mr. Zbigniew Wlosowicz, as well as UNFICYP Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang.

The Secretary-General said he had come to the island to discuss with the two leaders how they could move the talks process forward more effectively. To this end, he met separately with H.E. Mr. Glafcos Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader and H.E. Mr. Rauf Denkash, the Turkish Cypriot leader on 15 May before hosting a working dinner for the two leaders that evening at the Chief of Mission's residence.

Next morning, the Secretary-General and his wife Nane, who arrived on the island the previous evening, visited UNFICYP headquarters. They met with local and international staff, including personnel from UNDP/UNOPS, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNV, as well as members of the military and UN civilian police.

After a tour of the UNPA, including a stop-off to inspect the old Nicosia Airport, the Secretary-General and his wife were conducted on a walking tour of a Green Line section of the buffer zone by the Chief of Mission, the Force Commander and the CO Sector 2.

Before leaving the island on the afternoon of 16 May en route to the East Timor independence celebrations, the Secretary-General addressed a press conference at Larnaca Airport.

The visit, Mr. Annan's first to Cyprus, was the first by a UN Secretary-General since May 1979 when the then Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim spent two days on the island.



On arriving at Larnaca Airport, the Secretary-General said he was happy to be in Cyprus to convey his best wishes to all Cypriots.

In a statement to the media, the Secretary-General expressed both his and the Security Council's concern at the slow progress of the direct talks.

“The start of these talks raised hopes greatly, not only in Cyprus, but in the region and beyond. The two leaders, without any prompting from outside, set their sights on June, to achieve their goal. This target date, endorsed by the Security Council, is wholly

appropriate if the chance which is now open is to be seized,” he said.

The Secretary-General told the press he had come to the island “to urge” the two leaders “to forge ahead with a shared sense of urgency and a willingness to compromise in earnest.” He said he wanted “to discuss with them how they can move forward more effectively so as to resolve the main issues by the end of June.”

“This is an historic opportunity, and I am convinced that these two particular leaders, uniquely steeped in the history of this island, can rise to the occasion.”



Meeting the Two Leaders



Secretary-General Kofi Annan, accompanied by Mr. Alvaro de Soto, met with H.E. Mr. Glafcos Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader, on the morning of 15 May. That afternoon, he visited H.E. Mr. Rauf Denktash, the Turkish Cypriot leader.

Media from the north travelled south to cover the meeting with Mr. Clerides, while media from the south went north when Mr. Annan called on Mr. Denktash. The media may have been in a state of high excitement, but clearly Mr. Denktash's dog (see photo left) remained singularly unimpressed by all the fuss!

The Secretary-General's convoy made a brief tour of north Nicosia when returning from the meeting with Mr. Denktash. Afterwards, the Secretary-General took advantage of a brief break in his schedule to take a short stroll in the neighbourhood of the Hilton Hotel where he was staying.

Table For Five



Night at the round table



On the evening of 15 May, the Secretary-General hosted a working dinner for the two leaders at the Chief of Mission's residence. It was attended by both Mr. de Soto and Mr. Wlosowicz.

Dinner was prepared by Mrs. Elzbieta Wlosowicz, the Chief of Mission's mother, who was visiting with him at the time.

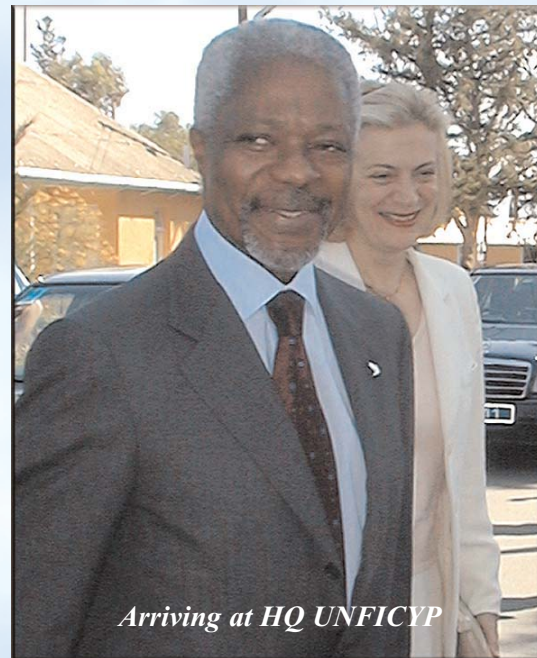


The media were everywhere - outside the CM's residence



Mrs. Wlosowicz meets with the two leaders

Secretary-General Welcomed to UNFICYP



Arriving at HQ UNFICYP



The Secretary-General and his wife Nane visited UNFICYP headquarters on the morning of 16 May. They were received by the Chief of Mission and the Force Commander.

The Secretary-General inspected a Guard of Honour before he and his wife were presented with bouquets by staff children Caroline Mortensen and Charlie Beckett. After a briefing by the Chief of Mission and the Chief of Staff, Col. Hamish Fletcher, the Secretary-General met with military peacekeepers and UNCIVPOL.



Guard of Honour



Walk-About



Briefing

Secretary-General Meets and Mingles with the Staff



Subsequently, he and his wife met with local and international UNFICYP and UN agency staff. Mr. Annan was welcomed by Mr. Kyriakos Michaelides on behalf of the local staff and presented with a gift by Ms. Derya Bicer, while Mrs. Annan was presented with a gift by Ms. Maria Trimithiotou.



Mingling



Meeting



A Walk-About Tour from Nicosia to the Green Line

The Chief of Mission and Force Commander escorted the Secretary-General's party on a quick tour of the UNPA. Mr. and Mrs. Annan stopped briefly to inspect the site of the old Airport.



Mrs. Annan Visits The Old City

During her visit to Cyprus on 15-16 May 2002, Mrs. Annan made a tour of the old Walled City of Nicosia. The tour, which was organised by the UNOPS Programme Management Unit, gave Mrs. Annan the opportunity to see some historical sites in the city, as well as to visit some key UNDP/UNOPS projects and meet with project staff.

Mrs. Annan visited the Venetian Walls of Nicosia and witnessed the hard work being carried out to repair the collapsed section on the wall at the Roccas Bastion, where Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot labourers are working side-by-side under a UNOPS project. Mrs. Annan also made a tour of the Arab



Mrs. Annan at the Folk Art Association



Mrs. Annan at Roccas Bastion

Ahmet neighbourhood of northern Nicosia, where she saw the beautifully restored traditional buildings and also met with workers and a number of key members of the NGO community, all of whom are involved in ongoing UNOPS project work.

Mrs. Annan's visit ended with a brief stop at the Turkish Cypriot Folk Art Centre, where she spoke with different craftsmen and artists about their work and saw some of the beautiful traditional handicrafts produced at the Folk Art Centre.



To complete their visit with UNFICYP, the Secretary-General and Mrs. Annan were taken on a walking tour of a Green Line section of the buffer zone in old Nicosia. The tour was conducted by the Commanding Officer Sector 2, Lt. Col. Colin Brundle, with the able assistance of Capt. Louise Burt, the Sector MPIO. The Secretary-General was accompanied by the Chief of Mission, the Force Commander, the Chief of Staff, and members of UNFICYP's senior staff. At one point, the party took the opportunity to inspect an UNFICYP OP. They ended their tour with refreshments at Maple House.



Secretary-General's Press Conference Larnaca Airport - 16 May 2002

Statement of the Secretary-General before departing Cyprus

16 May 2002

Yesterday I called on H.E. Mr Glafkos Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader, and H.E. Mr Rauf Denktash, the Turkish Cypriot leader. The three of us met last night and I had the pleasure of hosting them for dinner.

Altogether, I have had several hours of discussions on both the substance and the procedure.

I am concluding my visit sobered by the challenge at hand, but even more deeply convinced that this is the time to press on and rise to that challenge.

As I said on my arrival two days ago, an historic opportunity exists now to reach a comprehensive settlement. There is no doubt in my mind that this would be in the interest of both sides and the region. This opportunity must be seized.

I have reminded both leaders of the responsibility they shoulder, and of my willingness to help them reach the goal they set out to achieve at the end of last year.

The two leaders have stated to me their readiness to intensify their effort. I come away from Cyprus with the commitment of both leaders to go about this effort in a genuine spirit of give and take.

Despite their differences on substance and on the time frame, I am still convinced – for my part – that between now and the end of June, they can resolve all the core issues – provided they go about their task decisively and with the necessary political will. The core issues I have asked them to focus on are governance, security, territory and property. Of course the two leaders agreed last December that all issues are on the table.

I appeal to the two leaders to rise to the challenge and I am looking to the motherlands – Greece and Turkey – for sustained and constructive support.

The Secretary-General and Mrs. Annan preparing to depart Cyprus from Larnaca Airport

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen,

Question: Mr. Secretary-General, you had this commitment from both sides in the past. What makes you sure that this time they will respond to this commitment, and that they can overcome the difficulties that exist in this procedure so that they can come up with some sort of result by the end of June?

SG: Well, as you know I had separate discussions with them and then we came together yesterday evening, and I know that as I have indicated in my statement, there are some differences on the substance and on timing, but having spoken to both sides and analyzed it for myself, I believe that it can be done if there is will. And I know that Mr. Denktash has indicated that he felt that June might be too soon. But I think it can be done if the will is there, and I hope they will find the inspiration to do it. I think with [a] will and inspiration, we have been working on that, and I hope it will be there and I think in the discussions I had, my sense is that the two men can do it if they find the will and the timetable of June, in my judgement, can be met, if they focus on the core issues now in a spirit of give-and-take. And from the discussions I had with them and the encouragement I have given them, I hope they will move ahead in that spirit.

Question: Mr. Secretary-General, you had the chance of visiting both sides, you had even a tour of both sides, so I am sure you have a kind of sharp image of the kind of contrast between the two sides. What kind of feeling is that for a UN Secretary-General to observe by himself, by his eyes, the direct effect of an embargo towards the people going on for about 30 years?

SG: Apart from what I saw on the ground and I also visited the line this morning, noticing the waste and assets that could be put to good use if one were to come to peace. I also had written messages from people and I saw in the eyes of people that they would want to see peace on this island. It was interesting. I had come to encourage them, but wherever I went they were encouraging me and praying for peace and hoping that I can convince the leaders to find the inspiration to bring peace to them. My message to the leaders was that I hope they will find the inspiration and as I said, this is an historic occasion and we have to really try and do it this year and I think it can be done. And the core issues and these

issues we've discussed for a long time, and I think if both sides were to move away from the entrenched positions and proceed on a genuinely determined basis, and on a give-and-take basis, we will make progress. But I feel for the people. I felt their desire for peace, and I can assure them that on my side, as UN Secretary-General, I and the organization are going to work with the two leaders to bring peace as soon as we can and I think this is the moment. That is why I am here to encourage the leaders to move forward.

Question: Mr. Secretary-General, without playing with words, can we safely report that you have succeeded in getting the two leaders to work out a break-through so that there will be a draft agreement before the end of this year?

SG: When I left New York, I was asked that question and I said that one should not expect miracles from such a short trip. What is important is perhaps the message I leave with the leaders and as I said, having spoken to them, I still believe we can make substantial progress by the end of June despite the doubts on the part of Mr. Denktash and I would urge him and everyone concerned to really focus on the core issues so that we can move forward. I genuinely believe that if they focus on the core issues and put the interests of the people first and are determined to make peace, it can be done and it can be done this year.

Question: Are you prepared, apart from the inspiration, to put some concrete ideas on the table to help the two leaders find a solution by June?

SG: I have indicated to them that I am prepared to help them, to assist them and to facilitate the talks. My representative here, Mr. Alvaro de Soto, who is on the ground, will help them in the coming months as we move ahead, and I myself will stay close to the process from New York.

Question: Are you going to call Mr. Denktash and Mr. Clerides to New York for intensive negotiations?

SG: The main thing is that they have intensive negotiations and they can take place here on the island or elsewhere. If they do it on the island and we get results, they don't have to come to New York to do it. What I told them is that if they succeed, I will join them here so that we can all lift a glass of champagne and celebrate.

Question: Sir, as the representative of the UN, will you take a stand on the core issues of twin recognition of sovereignty for both sides. Is this on or off?

SG: As I said, the issues are on the table being discussed by the two leaders and I have defined the core issues I want them to focus on and they have indicated all issues are on the table. And therefore these issues are under discussion between them and I hope at the end of it they will have a solution they can both live with and we can all live with.

Question: What about you, sir – do you have an opinion on this?

SG: It is not my opinion that counts. It is the outcome of the negotiations which we are pressing them to do, because they have to come up with an agreement and a mutually acceptable solution that they can work with and we are here to help them, steer them to reach that conclusion, not to impose any ideas or conclusions on them.

Question: It has been said that the prospect of entering and membership of the EU will serve as a catalyst for a solution. Can it bring a more balanced solution?

SG: I think that when the two leaders came together in December, one of their hopes was that they would conclude negotiations for a reunited Cyprus to enter the European Union with the next wave. If that were to happen, it would be in the interests of the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots. It would be in the interests of this island and it would be in the interests of the region, and this is why I would want all of us to work towards that goal and I have also urged the neighbouring countries to sustain and support this effort.

Question: Certain press reported today that you are going back empty-handed. Do you agree with that?

SG: Well, the press seems to know more than I do. They seem to know more than I do because I think if they had listened to what I said on arrival and what I said before I left New York and the objective with which I came here, that kind of statement would seem to be inappropriate. I came as I said to press and encourage the leaders to intensify their efforts so that we can make good progress in the coming period and to offer to help them to do that, and this is what I came to do and I think I am going away satisfied. I am satisfied.

Question: Will Mr. de Soto remain the facilitator of these talks or will he be able to play a much more energetic and productive role by producing ideas, papers, non-papers or whatever?

SG: Mr. de Soto will stay on the island as long as it takes, and I think for the moment he's going to stay here until the end of June, which is the target date at which point we will make an assessment to see how far we have cracked the core issues and then look ahead. And of course, it is not just Mr. de Soto. I, myself, in the spirit of my Good Offices, will be helping the process along, so both of us will assist the parties as we move forward.

Question: What does "assist the parties" mean? Are you just facilitating or are you going to produce papers and help the parties overcome the difficulties?

SG: I think the negotiations have their own rhythms that you follow. And there are times when one does much more and there are times when one does less, and we will do whatever it takes to help the parties get to the successful conclusion.

Question: Mr. Annan, on the issue of equality and sovereignty, what can you do to satisfy the Turkish people?

SG: The question of structures and powers which I have indicated when I talk of governance, all this is part of the discussions that the two leaders are having and I think it would be inappropriate for me to tell you what I think they should do.

Question: From the positions the two leaders expressed during your meetings, would you say that you leave Cyprus more confident than you were before you came here? And that a settlement can be reached by June?

SG: I think a resolution can be reached, and I think I answered that question already – that when you talk of a resolution being reached by June I don't know how you define that, but what I have said is that we should focus on the core issues and be able to resolve the core issues. And if you resolve the core issues by June and begin to put them in writing, you know you're beginning to see the end of the tunnel and you're making progress. I am not saying that by June they should have a signed and sealed agreement, but at least they should be able to have resolved the core issues.

Thank you very much.



ANZAC Day: The Birth of A Nation

By Supt. P. Holder

As the sun rose on 25 April, 2002, members of the UNCIVPOL community in Cyprus assisted the Australian Contingent in the commemoration of one of Australia's most important days. ANZAC Day commemorates Australia's birth as a nation as a result of the Gallipoli landing in the First World War. It is a day commemorated in every city and town across Australia.

More than 200 guests attended the solemn dawn ceremony, following which they were entertained to a traditional gunfire breakfast. For the uninitiated, this is quite an ordinary breakfast - except that it starts off with rum (instead of orange juice). Later that evening, a traditional Australian "knees-up" was organised for all UNCIVPOL members and their guests, which consisted of a meal, drinks and a live band to entertain guests and friends.

All members were appointed to various roles to make the day a success, and particular recognition should go to Sgt. Lance Holzberger for the effort he contributed by coordinating the function. Members of the Irish Garda also provided a valuable contribution to the event by supporting their Australian counterparts in UNCIVPOL, ensuring that all refreshments were provided continuously.



Change at NAAFI - UNPA

By Maj J. Hunt

The NAAFI Shop situated on the UNPA in Nicosia is under new management with effect from Monday 29 April 2002.

The new manageress is 22-year-old Louisa Venizelou (see inset), a Greek Cypriot from Tembria village near Kakopetria, who replaces Omer Hussain, a Turkish Cypriot who held the post of shop manager for the past four years. Louisa, who has been employed by the NAAFI for three years, was formerly a supervisor in the accounts office at the Nicosia shop.

Louisa says that she is very pleased to have been chosen for the position of manageress, and will do her very best to ensure both good public relations and customer satisfaction.

The NAAFI shop in Nicosia currently employs staff from both the north and south of Cyprus. Ramadan Murat, a Turkish Cypriot, has been a shop assistant working for NAAFI for three years (centre of picture). Loulla Nacouzi, supervisor (left of picture), a Maronite living in Nicosia, has worked for NAAFI for 44 years, as has shop assistant Joanna Kirmizi (not pictured), also a Maronite.



All of the NAAFI Nicosia staff invite you to drop by to say hello: they're happy to welcome you. Shop hours are:

Monday to Saturday: 8.00 am to 7.00 pm
Sunday: 9.00 am to 2.00 pm.

The 32nd Regiment RA Group Medal Parade "An Insider's View"

By Gnr. Mewett

The medal parade for 32nd Regiment Royal Artillery Group was held at 1800 hrs on 1 May 2002 at the Ledra Palace Hotel, home to Sector 2 and myself for the last five months. Those present on the parade were a selection from the different troops and attached personnel from 5th Regiment Royal Artillery and the full time reserve soldiers. On the stands watching our every move were many and varied VIPs and dignitaries, including the Chief of Mission, the UNFICYP Force Commander, the British High Commissioner and the Commander of the British Forces Cyprus.

The parade was performed to the accompaniment of music by the Minden Band of the Queen's Division. The BSMs were the first on to the parade ground and were smartly followed by the Guards and then the Officers. I think I can safely say that any rumours about the Officers' drill being awful are completely unfounded, except for a certain Troop Commander whose name I won't mention... but it's all right, I don't think anyone noticed sir. After we were put in the open order, there was much coming to attention and standing at ease whilst the VIPs arrived, then the Force Commander did a walk past of the front rank, and at this point I have to say that the drill performed by the two stick orderlies, Sgt. Brennan and



Sgt. Wilson, was immaculate. This was followed by the presentation of the medals. I personally received mine from the Commander of the British Forces Cyprus, Air Vice Marshal Rimmer OBE.

After admiring my first medal as a new Gunner and rubbing some life back into stiff leg muscles, we all moved on to the recently refurbished Ledra swimming pool for the reception. It was an opportunity for the soldiers to socialise and meet the VIPs and guests, a rare opportunity for the junior elements and one that everyone appreciated. During the reception, the Minden band Quintet provided us with live music and LBdr. Keenlyside (FTRS 101 Regt RA(V)), accompanied by Gnr. Williams (FTRS 103 Regt RA(V)) on the drum, treated us to the bagpipes.

By the end of the evening, after my mandatory two cans of beer and some outstanding food, I made my exit. The evening had certainly been a success and to finish the article on a serious note, the RSM told us the day before the parade that people only remember you for the last thing you did. The last thing that 32nd Regiment Royal Artillery Group did was to put on an impressive medal parade supported with a great reception afterwards. The day made me feel exceptionally proud to be a British soldier serving within Sector 2.

UNCIVPOL Personnel Receive their Cyprus Medals

By Supt. P. Holder

UNFICYP recognised the efforts of UNCIVPOL personnel with a Medal Parade held Friday 10 May. All sections of UNFICYP, military and civilian, were in attendance, as was Deputy Commissioner Conroy of the Irish Garda.

At the Parade, Chief of Mission Mr. Zbigniew Wlosowicz awarded 11 members of the Irish Garda and 12 members of the Australian Federal Police their peace-keeping medals. Receiving numerals were Comd. Liam Quinn, Commander UNCIVPOL, Comd. Bob Heggie, 21/C UNCIVPOL, and Stn. Sgt. Sandy Allan.

Additionally, four UNCIVPOL members were awarded the Australian Government Police Overseas Service medal, and two received the Cyprus clasp to their previously awarded medals. In the evening, UNCIVPOL hosted a function at the CIVPOL house, where celebrations continued until the early morning.



Sector 1 Hands Over on St. George's Day

By Capt. M. Del Castillo and Lt. L. Cabrera

For Sector 1's Argentinian Task Force, 23 April was an auspicious day, marking the successful completion of Task Force 18's mission in Cyprus, the beginning of Task Force 19's mandate, and their commemoration of St. George's Day.

Since St. George is the patron saint of the cavalry in many armies around the world, including the Argentinian Army, the handover ceremony at San Martin Camp in Sector 1 asked the Saint's protection for ATF 18's journey home, and his guidance in ATF 19's new task.

As ATF 18 headed back to Argentina, it wished ATF 19 much success. In return, ATF 19 acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the soldiers they were replacing. Both units extend their congratulations and best wishes to cavalry units serving as peacekeepers around the world.



Lt. Col. Gustavo Alberto Curti

Lt. Col. Curti took over as second in command of Sector 1 in April 2002.

Having joined the Argentinian Army as a Military Academy cadet, Lt. Col. Curti graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant in November 1980. His career has taken him to several military mountain units, including the Mountain School Regiment in San Carlos de Bariloche. As a result, he is qualified as a skiing and mountaineering instructor, and in Mountain Special Troops as well, with some of his mountaineering courses taking place in Italy. After graduating as a Staff Officer, he was posted to a Mountain Brigade as an Operations Officer.

Lt. Col. Curti is married to Alejandra Viviana Nery, and they have five children.



WO I Norberto Eulogio Piño

WO I Piño was assigned in April 2002 to the 19th Argentinian Task Force (UNFICYP) as RSM.

WO I Piño joined the Argentinian Army in March 1970, attending the NCO Army School and earning a place as a Corporal in the Engineering Branch. His training includes numerous courses involving EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) equipment, mountain skills and NCO training. His experience covers such key positions as Platoon First Sergeant, Instructor at the NCO School, Recruiting Office, Personnel Branch, Unit Adjutant Staff and BSM. As a member of the 16th Argentinian Engineer Company, WO I Piño also participated in UNIKOM, the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Kuwait.

WO I Piño is married to Margarita Antequera.

UNFICYP welcomes Lt. Col. Curti and WO I Piño to the mission.



Blind Man's Buff Challenge

By WO2 Lucas

Just when several members of Sector 2 were looking for a new charity event to organise, we discovered that Bdr. Micallef's four-year-old daughter had been blind since birth, and that his family had been helped by the Eyeless Trust, a charity that offers counselling, support and advice to the children involved and to their families. We didn't have to look any further: to recognise the difficulties that blind children encounter, and to raise funds for the Trust, we chose a "Blind Man's Buff" challenge, in which runners would wear a blindfold and be guided by a partner.

The group of 16 runners started at Liri Troop's location, and ran through sections of the 30-km route to Ortona's location, Ledra Palace Hotel and Ypenburg. The runners were slightly apprehensive about wearing the blindfold, but the run went so well that the planned celebratory BBQ became a Brunch.



The day's efforts raised approximately £700 for the Eyeless Trust, with Bdr. Micallef's daughter receiving the cheque from STEPS on 17 May (they are her favourite pop group). We would like to thank all members of the regiment for their assistance in planning and holding this event.

Charity Open Day

By LBdr. S. Christie

For 10 soldiers from UNRRATT (the United Nations Rest & Recouperation & Adventure Training Team), their latest – and perhaps most daring – adventure took place on 6 April: a charity open day at their local go-karting centre in Oroklini. The day was generously supported by local businesses who donated prizes for the events, which included go-karting, donkey derby, bouncy castle, trade stalls, bingo, a car boot sale and a raffle.

Children and adults alike appeared to thoroughly enjoy themselves, whether they were running the soldier ragged on the go-karts (many of the participants thought they were grand prix drivers), knocking them into the dunk tank, or enjoying their performances as bingo callers and microphone announcers extraordinaire.

In all, the highly successful day raised £803, half of which will go to the local children's ward back



home at Salisbury District Hospital, and the other half of which was split equally between "Cans for Kids" (which raises money for children in need), and the Leonard Cheshire Home for Children and Young Adults in Kyrenia.

Sector 4 Pool Championship

The Officers' Club at Sector 4's Camp General Stefanik in Famagusta recently hosted a pool championship between 12 pairs of competitors from Slovakia and Hungary. Armed with skill, self-confidence and nicknames like Rookies, Chaozz, Winners or Champs, the pairs played each other for three winning games, after which the winners proceeded to the next round.

The Champs, MiG-21 and Hungarian Unicum, earned places in the final trio of pairs, which played the championship round on 21 April. The Champs emerged victorious, and received the Touring Cup from the CO of Sector 4 on 26 April.



The tournament was such a success that it will likely be repeated within the next three months, with the participation of Slovak personnel from the next rotation. Good luck to future tournament participants!



**ANZAC Day
in Cyprus**