The Blue Beret
November/December 2002

Season's Greetings from UNIFICYP
On 13 December Cyprus was invited to join the European Union, preferable but not conditionally, as a united island. The qualification is commentary enough that efforts to secure a settlement had failed in the waning hours of the EU Copenhagen summit despite an all-out diplomatic campaign spearheaded by the Secretary-General’s Special Adviser Alvaro de Soto.

However, in issuing its invitation to join, the European Council welcomed the pledge of the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots to continue negotiations for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem based on the Secretary-General’s revised proposals and to do so by 28 February.

The terms of a settlement will be incorporated in the Treaty of Accession, adapted, where appropriate, to the Turkish Cypriot situation. If there were no settlement, applications of the acquis in the north would be suspended pending further decision.

Speaking in New York, the Secretary-General’s Spokesman said it had not proved possible to achieve a comprehensive settlement in Copenhagen, even though the parties’ positions had never been closer and agreement seemed possible up until the last minute.

The SG’s revised 10 December proposal, he said, remains on the table. While it was “regrettable” that the current opportunity had been missed, both sides had expressed their willingness to continue negotiations. Therefore, there was an opportunity, particularly until 28 February, to resolve this problem and to achieve a comprehensive settlement, allowing a reunited Cyprus to accede to the EU.

Truly a thought to illuminate this holiday season as we extend The Blue Beret’s greetings to our readers, their families and friends and our best wishes in all the coming new year.

Kofi Annan Honoured

Secretary-General Kofi Annan recently received the highest honour granted by Ghana’s Asante people in recognition of his service to humanity.

The Secretary-General was conferred the rare title of Busumuru, or son of the Golden Stool, by King Otumfuo Osei Tutu II at a gathering of tribal leaders in Ghana’s second largest city, Kumasi.

The rank of Ashanti King makes him one of the most senior and powerful traditional rulers in his native Ghana.

“1 and the entire Asante state have decided to add your name to the Busumuru title because of your selflessness and contributions to humanity and promotion of peace throughout the world”, the king said as he placed a symbolic gold necklace around the SG’s neck to the sound of traditional drumming.

The Secretary-General, who is a Ghanaian from the Fante tribe, is the first to be granted the title since the Asante kingdom was founded in 1680.

Accepting the award, he said: “I share this honour with all good people of the world”.

Season’s Greetings from UNIFCYP

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Staff Day Report: How The United Nations Can Act As A Better Employer

We meet at a tense and controversial moment in the world’s affairs, and therefore in the United Nations organisation. The car bombing in Bali – which killed two people, but wounded three “civilians” officers serving in the UN mission and three “civilians” officers serving in the UN mission – led to a sharp rise in UN personnel in the region. We are meeting today to discuss the United Nations’ role in that struggle.

If violence – and the possibility of violence – make up the foreground of this nervous moment, the background consists of the unremitting poverty and injustice that disfigure so many lives, and that is the focus of the lion’s share of our organisation’s day-to-day work.

Staff Day this year must also be, then, a time of contemplation – on our roles and responsibilities, and how we can better respond to perennial and emerging challenges. Any organisation, whether local or multinational, whether focused on a single issue or on a wide range of conditions, must learn to adjust and adapt.

Contrary to popular belief, change is nothing new for the United Nations. Since our very founding, we have been adapting to challenges and adjusting to new realities. Recent years have been no exception, as staff have taken on wide-ranging new responsibilities, often at a moment’s notice, in response to this or that crisis, and have participated creatively in the effort to re-engine the organisation from within. In short, change is our business. And so we must continue – not because we are being forced to do so from outside, but because of our own, internally driven, deep-seated energies to the things that matter most to the world’s people.

That sensibility lies at the heart of the report the Secretary-General submitted to the membership last month, outlining a new agenda for further strengthening the United Nations. I met with many of you during the preparation of that report, and many of your comments and concerns made their way into its structure and substance.

This time, we are looking more closely at how the United Nations can act as a better employer – what it needs to do so that you can put your talents to the best possible use.

The problems, concerns and possible conflicts of field staff will be a priority for Patricia Durrant as she begins her tenure in the newly-created office of United Nations Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman’s Office was created this year to help resolve work-related problems of UN employees outside of the formal conflict-resolution system. In an interview with UN Women, Durrant said one of her main concerns will be the welfare of staff working in the field.

If intervention is requested, Durrant can take a number of actions including discussing the problem with the Mission’s staff, or going to the field office’s main office. Her appointment is at the Assistant Secretary-General level and she has direct access to all UN offices including the Secretary-General’s office, if necessary.

How to Reach the Ombudsman:

E-mail: ombudsman@un.org
Tel.: +(1) 212-963-1234
Fax: +(1) 212-963-4567
Collective office e-mail: Ombudsman@un.org
Confidential telephone: 212-963-7890
Confidential e-mail: Assistant.01@un.org
Confidential Mailing Address: Office of the United Nations Ombudsman
49 East 40th Street
New York, New York 10016
UNEXNET: internat.un.org/ombudsman
WWW: www.un.org/ombudsman

Finally, we need to do more to promote team spirit. In that regard, the situation of General Service staff bears special mention.

The Secretary-General very much regrets that the General Assembly has chosen to limit their possibilities for promotion to the Executive level, by mandating very restrictive annual quotas.

He has urged Member States to remove the restriction so that our top performers have genuine prospects for advancement.

He has suggested that, at a minimum, the annual quota of P-2 posts available for successful General Service examination candidates should be raised to 25 per cent.

We must also continue our efforts for General Service staff first arriving for service with the organisation, and provide more assistance in planning and managing their careers.

That is why, over the next year, we will develop an implementation plan that will encompass mobility, career planning and a comprehensive review of General Service functions, responsibilities and competencies.

Finally, in response to your call, and that of your representatives in particular, and in recognition of the fact that the contribution of all United Nations staff is important, regardless of whether they are General Service or Professional, the Secretary-General has decided that as of 1 January, all employees of the United Nations Secretariat will be referred to as “international civil servants”.

These are just some of the highlights of the report, which in course deals with the full range of our work.

The impact of these changes will be felt in the relationship to the department, and from person to person. But together, they add up to a very different way of doing business. Many jobs will change, many actions will take effect immediately, while others will be implemented over time.

The Secretary-General has asked managers to work closely with staff as this process continues. The next step will be to prepare a budget for the next biennium that will reflect new priorities and eliminate activities that are no longer relevant.

It is roughly one year since it was announced that the United Nations and Secretary-General were the winners of the Nobel Peace Prize. As you know, the prize includes a substantial financial award. The Secretary-General is exploring the possibility of using those funds to establish a “United Nations Peace Fund” for the education of children of staff members who have lost their lives in the line of duty. He is also looking into ways to secure additional monies for that purpose.

Memories of fallen staff are always very near on Staff Day. I hope you will pause today to remember those brave colleagues, and consider what it is to work in this unique organisation and to re-dedicate yourselves to the great project of international cooperation for the common good.
UNFICYP Responds to Blood Drive

Responding to a plea for blood donations by both sides on the island, UNFICYP recently held a drive where personnel both military and civilian donated blood. UNFICYP personnel donated blood in the drive from the end of October to the end of November. The donors included 48 from Slovcon, nine from Huncon, one from the Irish military and one civilian, and 11 locally recruited staff.

Veteran donor Michael Moriarty, Chief, General Services, gave blood for the 112th time while Slovcon’s Pte. Lubomir Bakalik and MSgt. Martin Hocko gave blood for the 87th and 81st times respectively. Recent innoculations restricted a number of contingents from participating in the drive.

The campaign itself was organised in two weekly sessions so that donors had a choice to give blood either in the north where donations tend to decline during the Ramadan fasting period, or the south.

Cyprus is particularly dependent on blood donation because of its number of thalassaemic patients. There are about 790 thalassaemians on the island (63% in the south, 16% in the north) requiring regular blood transfusions.

One in seven Cypriots is a carrier of the thalassaemia trait, an hereditary blood disorder. Where couples are both carriers there is a one-in-four (25%) chance in each pregnancy of having a child with thalassaemia major; a one-in-two (50%) chance of having a child with thalassaemia trait. Chances are also one-in-four (25%) that the child will inherit a normal gene from both parents and so will be completely normal and thalassaemia free. These chances are the same in each pregnancy.

It is possible to test the foetus during pregnancy, to see if it has thalassaemia major through prenatal diagnosis.

According to WHO, the sickle cell diseases and the thalassaemias are the commonest monogenic diseases in the world and are imposing an increasing drain on health resources, particularly as countries go through demographic transition.

A total of 280 blood donations!

From the left: Pte. Lubomir Bakalik, Mr. Michael Moriarty and MSgt. Martin Hocko

The control and management of these disorders is now well established in many developed countries but thousands of children are dying from these conditions in poorer parts of the world, WHO reports.

Cyprus has been a pioneer in implementing a preventative programme and has managed to limit the number of new cases to one or two a year.

The Thalassaemia International Federation (T.I.F.F) estimates that if the programme had not been implemented there would have been 60-70 new cases a year with 1 in 1000 people suffering from thalassaemia major requiring regular blood transfusions and costly drugs for removal of iron that accumulates in multi-transfused individuals.

That figure would have risen dramatically to one in 138 people within 50 years requiring a 300-400% increase in blood requirements and a 600-700% increase in treatment costs.

Cyprus’ success in controlling the disease to manageable levels and at the same time providing a high quality of life for people with thalassaemia is an example for other countries struggling with the disease.

The Thalassaemia International Federation (T.I.F.F) was established in 1987, with headquarters in Nicosia. This international non-governmental organisation coordinates the various issues of thalassaemia associations worldwide. It is recognized by WHO. At present TIF encompasses more than 91 countries, with associations, scientists and individuals as members and maintains close and continuous collaboration with hospitals, scientists, drug companies, equipment suppliers and research centres throughout the world. The Nicosia headquarters houses an information centre consisting of publications, brochures, videos, slides and other information concerning thalassaemia and the Federation’s member organisations.

For further details:
www.thalassaemia.org.cy,
email thalassaemia@cytanet.com.cy

November/December 2002 • The Blue Beret

SG’s Message on World AIDS Day

The worldwide HIV epidemic has created a terrible burden for millions of individuals, families and communities around the world. Relieving it requires improved healthcare, better access to treatments, more vigorous prevention efforts, more effective social outreach, and support for those most vulnerable - particularly orphans.

But there is another terrible burden imposed by AIDS, which every and every one of us has the capacity to relieve: the burden of HIV-related stigma.

The impact of stigma can be as detrimental as the virus itself. The solitude and lack of support it imposes are deeply wounding to those who suffer it. It should also hurt every one of us, for it is an affront to our common humanity.

Some people with AIDS are being denied basic rights such as food or shelter, and dismissed from jobs they are perfectly fit to perform. They may be shunned by their community, or most tragic of all, by their own family.

The fear of stigma leads to silence, and when it comes to fighting AIDS, silence is death. It suppresses public discussion about AIDS, and deters people from finding out whether they are infected. It can cause people – whether a mother breastfeeding her child or a sexual partner – to disclose their HIV status – to risk transmitting HIV rather than attract suspicion that they might be infected.

But while of stigma and silence are weakening, there is evidence of progress on every continent. Leaders are speaking out at the highest level. The rights of people living with HIV/AIDS are being defended through the courts. Standards are being set in the workplace. Schools, the media and youth education programmes are helping create a generation better equipped to live in the world of AIDS.

And last year, at a Special Session of the General Assembly, all the Member States of the United Nations unanimously adopted a Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS which sent a clear message around the world. They pledged to enact or enforce legislation outlawing discrimination against people living with HIV and members of vulnerable groups.

But whatever laws and regulations are adopted, the most powerful weapons against stigma and silence are the voices of the world’s people speaking up about AIDS. By adopting the slogan “Live and Let Live”, this year’s World AIDS Campaign challenges us to ensure that all people, with or without HIV, can realize their human rights and live in dignity. On this World AIDS Day, let us resolve to replace stigma with support, fear with hope, silence with solidarity. Let us act on the understanding that this work begins with each and every one of us.

Kofi A. Annan

Whoopi Goldberg joins Deputy Secretary-General Louise Fréchette, Kumi, the HIV’s mascot from Takealani Sesame, South Africa’s production of Sesame Street and H.E. Mr. Jan Kavan from the Czech Republic, President of the 57th Session of the United Nations General Assembly to mark World AIDS Day at UN Headquarters, 1 December
Lt. Col. Jose Luis Martin graduated as a 2nd Lt. in the infantry in 1978. Following several national postings, Lt. Col. Martin was promoted to the rank of major and sent to Venezuela for further military training. At the rank of Lt. Col., he was posted to Bosnia-Herzegovina where he served in the HQ as a team leader dealing with displaced persons. During 2001-2002, Lt. Col. Martin served as Commanding Officer of the 20th Mechanised Infantry Regiment “Cazadores de los Andes”. Lt. Col. Martin took over the post of CO Sector 1 on 27 August 2002.

Lt. Col. Martin has been decorated with the “General San Martin” and “Star of Carabobo” of the Venezuelan Army, and has received the NATO medal for services in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Lt. Col. Martin is a military parachutist. He and his wife, Mrs. Dolu Maria Mariotti, have two daughters, Maria Cecilia and Ana Ines.

Lt. Col. Hirka entered the Slovak Army as a student of the Military Academy in Liptovsky Mikulas. Following his graduation, he held various military appointments in the service of his country, ranging from Signals Platoon Leader to Chief of Staff of the Signals Regiment. In 1998, Lt. Col. Hirka attended the Orientation Course for Staff Officers in the Netherlands and in 2001, he participated in the Information and Communication Systems’ Management course. He works as the Deputy Commanding Officer of a Signals Regiment.

Lt. Col. Hirka and his wife Olga have two children, a son Martin and a daughter Martina.

His hobbies include gardening, swimming, cross-country running and surfing the web.

Chief Medical Officer
Lt. Col. Pavel Babjak

The new doctor in the Medical Centre is Maj. Sonia Edith Bogosevich. Born in Cordova, central Argentina, Sonia qualified as a doctor in 1981 and specialised in internal medicine, haematology and biochemistry. Sonia joined the Argentinian navy in 1982, and was based in Buenos Aires. Her first peacekeeping mission was in El Salvador from 1991 to 1992. This is her second tour with UNFICYP, the first being with Sector 1 in 1996/1997.

Sonia loves travelling. Her hobbies include running, and she enjoys dancing, especially Argentina’s national dance, the tango.

Asked why she joined the navy, she replied, “For me, it offers security and also gives me the chance to travel. The navy has many bases around the country, and I like to work in difference environments. I much prefer this than to practise medicine privately.”

What do you think of UNFICYP? “I think it’s a great organisation, competing for maintaining peace in the region and a wonderful experience for me in my profession.”

We Will Remember Them

Wayne’s Keep Cemetery is a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery that has been the resting place for servicemen, dependants and civilians of many different nationalities for more than half a century. In this tranquil spot on Sunday 10 November, just over 300 people of mixed nationalities attended the British Contingent’s Service of Remembrance.

The event is held every year to mark Armistice Day, and to commemorate all those who have fallen in battle since the First World War. During the service, national and association representatives laid 20 wreaths in memory of those who have given their lives. Those laying wreaths included H.E. Mr. Lyn Parker on behalf of the United Kingdom, Mr. Jan Johansson on behalf of all UNFICYP personnel, and Lt. Gen. Jin Hwaong, on behalf of the Republic of Korea.

The simple but moving service, which included a two-minute silence at 11.00 a.m. (the first minute is a time for thanksgiving for those who survived, the second minute is to remember the fallen), was conducted by the Reverend K.J. Pillar CF. The Commander of the British Contingent, Col. Hamish Fletcher CBE, welcomed all invited guests to the Remembrance Service.

The Tryst was read by the RSM of 16th Regiment Royal Artillery WO1 A.J. Simpson. The lesson was read by the Commanding Officer 16th Regiment Royal Artillery Lt. Col. D.J. Scouller and the Act of Commitment was given by the Commander of the British Contingent, Col. Hamish Fletcher CBE.

The Band of the Royal Enginners provided the music to accompany the hymns, and the bugler who sounded “The Last Post” and “Revelle”. The Piper, WO2 S. McCasker, was provided by 16th Regiment Royal Artillery.

Finnish Independence Day Celebrated

The Finnish Contingent celebrated the 85th anniversary of Finland’s Independence on 6 December 2002.

The ceremonies started at 8.00 a.m. with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Kykko monument, UNPA, which commemorates the over 10,000 Finnish peacekeepers who have served with UNFICYP between 1964 and 1977.

The more festive celebrations were held at the Hilton Hotel in Nicosia amidst distinguished guests and friends. Approximately 150 visitors had arrived to celebrate the occasion, and were introduced to such Finnish delicacies, such as reindeer meat, cold smoked salmon and Karelian rice pies. They were present when one-third of the contingent, namely Capt. Pekka Riekko (Camp Commander), was presented with the UN medal by the Chief of Mission.
The Cultural Heritage of Cyprus: Part VIII

Kyrenia Castle and the Kyrenia Shipwreck

Although the first time that we hear of Kyrenia Castle is 1191, in the days of Richard the Lionheart, the castle likely has its origins as the site of a Roman fort. Excavations, however, have discovered a mound of some 80 amphorae. In the storm, however, he forgot to take bearings, and he made more than 1,000 dives before he found the site again in 1967.

Work began in 1968 to research and raise the wreck under the auspices of the Cyprus Department of Antiquities. American marine archaeologist M. K. Seifried led a team of experts and students from 12 countries, using a raft anchored over the marine site.

The team first cleaned up a thick layer of seaweed using a multi-holed pipe through which pressurized air was pumped to loosen the mud and make uprooting the roots easier. Then, a large 30-metre-long plastic pipe vacuumped up the loose mud and deposited it elsewhere.

Following two years of careful digging, 70 per cent of the ship's hull appeared on the seabed, 22 centuries after it was buried. Because the ship could not be raised as a whole, five tanks of seaweed were lifted and washed free of sand and silt. The keel, stempost, planking, frames, lead sheathing and other parts of the ship were also recovered, providing important insights into the life of the Phocian merchant ship. Every piece of wood was numbered and catalogued (photographed, measured and drawn).

Chemical analyses revealed, following, that the responsibility of Mrs. Frenz, Tallbot, Vasiliasious. The wood and other perishables were submerged into a sea-like compound called polyethylene glycol. Next, all treated material was sealed in with early Byzantine build-up or by freezing, too quickly and thus breaking. This process lasted from six to 24 months depending on its size, and restored the ship and strength of the wood and the cast iron. The ship was then removed from the work site, revealing wood grain and surface markings. Once the wood was restored, the ship was reassembled, a task undertaken by Professor J. Richard Seifried, special UNESCO expert at the Department of Antiquities.

Lalandia, originally stored aboard the ship in tanks and later deposited in the amphitheater by octopuses, were likewise treated. An American lab in Philadelphia carbon-dated the almonds to 288 BC, while several samples of the wood was found to be 100 years older and partly replaced in antiquity.

The shipwreck finds included 404 amphorae, some marked with Greek letters — pottery from Palestine, 29 millimetres used as ballast, and remnants of foodstuffs. These included 10,000 shelled almonds, 14,760 fig seeds, 50 large olives and 20 olive stones. Pieces of lead, tools, seven copper coins from 346 to 294 BC, personal crockery for four people (the ship's captain and three crew) and a marble basin for sacrificial were also found.

The ship and its cargo are now displayed in the Kyrenia Castle, while a replica of the ship, the Kyrenia II, was constructed in Greece and later sailed from Cyprus and Paphos in the Aegean islands in April 1987 to help research the way a 4th-century BC Greek ship would have worked.

The shipwreck's excavation was sponsored by the University Museum of Philadelphia, the conservation of the hull by theon College at Ohio, and the final restoration and study by the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, Texas A&M University.
UNCIVPOL Medal Parade

On 6 November, UNCIVPOL held their medal presentation at the International Mess, UNPA with 20 medal recipients and three numeral recipients—made up of six members of the 71st Australian Contingent, eight members of the 72nd Australian Contingent and eight members of the 10th Irish Contingent.

Commander Bob Heggie from the Australian Contingent together with Deputy Commander Basil Walsh from the Irish Contingent presided over the occasion. The presentation was attended by Assistant Commissioner of An Garda Siochana, Patrick O’Toole, and his wife. The medals were presented by Chief of Mission Zbigniew Wlosowicz and the Force Commander Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang.


After the presentation the festivities began with food and drink galore, served at the International Mess by the Master Chef from Ledra and his team who had prepared a sumptuous meal. Music was provided by the Argentinian Band who gave great renditions of both Irish and Australian tunes.

Everyone then retired to the Civic Club where they were entertained by Maj. D.J. John Hunt and a great night was had by all.

Cyber Surfing Down By The Pool

Worldwide Telephone Connection Rates

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The Chief of Mission shaking hands with Supt. Peter Williams

The Chief of Mission congratulating Sgt. Caroline Alde

The Melbourne Cup

A s in previous years, UNCIVPOL once again celebrated the Melbourne Cup in style on the first Tuesday in November. The event started at 6.00 p.m. with champagne, followed by the sweepstakes on the Melbourne Cup. The race was watched in a slightly delayed telecast on the big screen in the International Bar, and this was followed by a hearty breakfast and the distribution of prizes to the successful punters and the best dressed woman and man – just the right way to start off the day!

Chief of Mission Zbigniew Wlosowicz, Force Commander Lt. Gen. Jun Ha Hwang, the Australian High Commissioner, H.E. Mr Frank Ingruber, and the British Defence Adviser, Col. James Anderson, were among those enjoying the typically Australian hospitality.

Bonfire Extravaganza

The annual Bonfire Extravaganza, organised by the UNPA Welfare Committee, took place this year on Tuesday 5 November. Originally organised to celebrate the British “Guy Fawkes” night, the event now includes Halloween celebrations.

The evening opened at 6.00 p.m. with food and drinks. For the younger visitors, the “HIVE hovel” was opened. Many wide-eyed children approached the “cave”, set up by the Help and Information Voluntary Exchange, with entertainment including “bobbing the apple” and the lucky dip. The fancy dress competition was won by Sean Crawford.

Later in the evening, the Argentinian Contingent organised the BBQ which included tasty beef rolls. The Hungarians provided goulash, and the British supplied the drinks including “gluewein”, a traditional Austrian Christmas speciality. Several other delicacies were also on offer.

At 7.35 p.m., the bonfire was lit by Mrs. Bo Whang, followed shortly by a spectacular fireworks display. This was followed by dancing to the disco sounds from “Johm the Prom”.

The Committee would like to thank everyone who supported the event and made it such a success.


First Peruvians in UNICYP

Special Adviser Alvaro de Soto should feel a little more at home with two of his countrymen now posted to UNICYP’s Sector 1. Peru has sent two peacekeepers to join UNICYP. They are Capt. Carlos del Camp, and WO2 Alex Carrasco.

Peru borders on five other South American countries, Ecuador and Venezuela to the north, Brazil and Bolivia to the south, and Chile and the Pacific Ocean to the west.
Don't Drink And Drive
By WO2 S.J. Brown

There is no failsafe guide on how much you can drink and stay under the current limit. The amount and type of alcoholic drinks, and your weight, sex, age and metabolism will all play their part.

The quantity of alcohol in a half pint of beer is approximately the same as in a pub measure spirit or a pub measure of port/sherry or a small glass of wine. It's important to note that:

- Many beers and wines are stronger than average.
- Drinks poured at home are usually more generous than pub measures.
- Cocktails are especially potent; their high alcoholic content is often masked by the taste of fruit juice.

AFTER DRINKING A HALF PINT OF ORDINARY STRAIGHT BEER

10 minutes: After just 10 minutes, 50% of the alcohol consumed will have been absorbed into the bloodstream.

60 minutes: After one hour, all the alcohol will have been absorbed. Absorption is accelerated still further when drinking on an empty stomach; long drinks made with mixers have a faster effect as they enter the bloodstream.

GETTING RID OF ALCOHOL

Midnight: At midnight, after an evening's drinking, there may be 200 mg/100 ml of alcohol in the bloodstream.

7.30 a.m.: On getting up, there are still 90 mg/100 ml of alcohol in your blood. You are still over the current limit and unfit to drive.

Midday: By lunchtime, elimination has continued to around 20 mg/100 ml of alcohol in your bloodstream, and your driving may still be impaired.

Santa’s Little Helpers...

TEN
Santa’s little helpers, driving along the line: one had a heavy foot, and then there were nine SPEED LIMITS ARE SET FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY

NINE
Santa’s helpers, the hour was getting late: one dozed a moment, then there were eight A TIRED DRIVER IS A DANGEROUS DRIVER

EIGHT
Santa’s helpers, and the evening seemed like heaven: one showed his driving skills, and then there were seven DRIVE SENSIBLY AND SAFELY AT ALL TIMES - A CAR IS NO PLACE FOR A CLOWN

SEVEN
Santa’s helpers, their lives full of kicks: one bought a bottle, and then there were six PETROL AND ALCOHOL ARE A DEADLY MIX - DON’T DRINK AND DRIVE

SIX
Santa’s helpers, impatient to arrive: one jumped the traffic lights and then there were five CAREFUL DRIVING DEMANDS ALERTNESS AT ALL TIMES

FIVE
Santa’s helper’s happy as could be: one overtook upon a hill and then there were three DON’T GAMBLE YEARS OF YOUR LIFE - TO SAVE A FEW SECONDS

FOUR
Santa’s helpers happy as could be: one overtook upon a hill and then there were three NEVER OVERTAKE ANOTHER VEHICLE - WHEN YOUR VISION IS OBSCURED

THREE
Santa’s helpers were busy; it is true: one neglected car repairs, and then there were two FOR SAFETY’S SAKE - ALWAYS KEEP YOUR CAR IN TOP CONDITION

TWO
Santa’s helpers and the day was nearly done: one didn’t dim his lights and then there was one SLOW DOWN FOR DUSK AND DAWN - ADJUST YOUR DRIVING TO EXISTING CONDITIONS

ONE
Santa’s little helper is still alive today: by following the SAFETY RULES he hopes to stay that way.

There is no excuse for anyone to drink and drive.

Alcohol can have a devastating effect on your driving ability. It is the biggest single factor in road deaths. One in six people killed on the roads worldwide die in drink-drive-related accidents. Alcohol adversely affects decision-making, self-criticism, balance, co-ordination, sight, touch, hearing and judgement.

Please be aware of the following alcohol limits whilst driving in Cyprus:

- UN Vehicles: Nil Alcohol
- Civilian Vehicles: 39 mg
- Sovereign Base Areas: 37 mg
- Northern Cyprus: 24 mg

IF YOU DRINK, DON’T DRIVE
IF YOU DRIVE, DON’T DRINK
IT’S THAT SIMPLE.
A Peacekeeper's Best Friend

By Sgt. Maj. Miguel Angel Gonzales

Pets on the line are the best friend and permanent companion of the peacekeepers. This article aims at honouring all the noble dogs that keep the peacekeepers company 24 hours a day at various Observation Posts and Patrol Bases, along the buffer zone.

Here we have chosen a few of these noble animals fondly known to be “man’s best friend”. They may not be pedigree, but they are worth their weight in gold.

These pets’ first steps on the line start in their early months of life, when soldiers adopt them, give them a name, feed and teach them the various tasks including ground patrol (on foot and by vehicle), observation, gym, play and rest.

During the day the dogs accompany the men patrolling their designated areas, on foot or by vehicle. Alert at all times they give early warning when there is imminent danger, for example if they detect the presence of the dangerous snake “Libetina”. Their vigil continues throughout the night warning soldiers when something strange is afoot or someone is approaching the Observation Post or Patrol Base.

Chavo on observation duties

Sometimes Carucha falls in love and disappears for days. We can tell this because after his love affair, Carucha returns thin and tired! He does funny things too, like when we took him on a vehicle patrol to OP 40 and forgot him there. Carucha walked all the way back to OP 42 and as he arrived, we were just about to go jogging. So he came too, and when we started exercising on our return, Carucha lay in on the ground with his feet in the air making us all laugh. He is so cute.

Then there is “Chavo”, also a senior peacekeeper’s pet from OP 40. He has been serving with this OP for about four years. Chavo is a very special dog, much loved because he accompanies us on any task, day or night. He is a 24-hour-a-day friend. He knows the foot patrol inside out and shows us the way. When we were newly arrived he helped us to follow the correct path. One day we understood that we were going the wrong way because Chavo stopped and stared at us refusing to continue.

What’s more, he has warned us about a dangerous Libetina snake lurking in the undergrowth.

Chavo does funny things too. He only shakes hands with people he knows, and when he is thirsty, he limps along like he is in pain – and he recovers as soon as he gets his water! Chavo also likes riding at the back of the truck.

And when he needs to do what a dog needs to do, he knocks on the back of the windows with his paws.

The Chief of Mission thanks the volunteers help and dedication

Thank-You Party

Sixty volunteers of the UN Day converged for a drink and a bite of pizza on 8 November at the UNPA Officers’ Mess. The volunteers included both those from the north like former UNFICYP staffer Beraat and those who had no association with UNFICYP from both sides of the Green Line.

There were volunteers from the north and volunteers from the south. Former UNFICYP staffer Beraat Mustafa was a welcome sight, as were the beautifully clad group of Indian mothers who contributed so much on the day and graced the party in a rainbow of saris. Organisers noticed an overwhelming majority preferring diet Pepsi, even as the party hardened folks went for beers! All seemed to relish the pizzas which had even veggie toppings, thoughtfully for the vegetarians!

In a brief speech the Chief of Mission thanked all for making UN Day 2002 a record event.

New Military Adviser at DPKO

Newly appointed Lt. Gen. Patrick Cammaert comes to UN Headquarters in New York as the new Military Adviser at DPKO. He arrives from Ethiopia and Eritrea where he recently served as Force Commander of UNMEE.

Before that, he served as Commander of the multinational United Nations Standby Forces High Readiness Brigade (SHIRBRIG) based in Copenhagen, a post which he held since December 1999.


He later served as Commander of the Forward Headquarters on Mount Igram of the multinational Brigade of the Rapid Reaction Forces of the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1995.

Prior to his appointment to SHIRBRIG, Lt. Gen. Cammaert, who is married with one son and a daughter, served as Chief of Staff of the RNLMC.

The Karpas Run

Slowcon members hand out the supplies

The weekly convoy of four white UN trucks, loaded with food, medical supplies and equipment, water and gas cylinders, sets out every Wednesday from Nicosia heading north east to the Karpas peninsula. The convoy’s task is to deliver humanitarian aid to the Greek Cypriots living in the peninsula’s seven mixed villages.

The troops with Slowcon crews come from Camp General Stefanik in Famagusta and the liaison post in Leomarisso. They work closely with the Sector’s Civil Affairs Teams. The Weekly run makes for a fun and tiring day. But for the Slowcon soldiers, the reward that refreshes is the friendly smile and the wave of the hand that greats them each time.
Visitors to UNFICYP

A number of special guests were received at UNFICYP headquarters during November/December. Chief of Mission Zbigniew Włosowicz and the Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang, welcomed US Assistant Secretary of State Beth Jones accompanied by US Ambassador Michael Klosson on 4 November. Jones was briefed by the Chief of Mission and then taken on a tour of the Green Line.

On 20 November, the Chief of Staff British Forces Cyprus, Brig. D.E. Radcliffe OBE, arrived and was met by Commander British Contingent Col. Hamish Fletcher. After inspecting a guard of honour, he met with the Chief of Mission.

A Korean delegation, led by the Special Envoy of the Korean President Dr. Chang-hyun Cho, arrived on 21 November. They were greeted by the Force Commander and, after inspecting a guard of honour, met with the Chief of Mission.

Caption Competition

Captions to be submitted to the Public Information Office by:
20 January 2003

- When the s.t hits the fan!
- Flying Huggis!
- Bird’s Nest Swoop!
- A bird never flew on one fan

Anyone for Golf?

Sunday 27 October saw the Ladies Open take place in Nicosia. The Ladies Open, hosted by the United Nations Golf Club, was sponsored for the third year running by Scottish Widows International.

Forty-eight ladies entered the competition representing golf clubs from Episkopi, Akrotiri, the Princess Mary’s Hospital Dhekelia, and the UN. It was a glorious day with the first competitors teeing off at 7.30 am and the last at 12.30 p.m.

The men helped out throughout the day, manning the “halfway house” where competitors could purchase refreshments. They also acted as caddies and spotters for those ladies who hit their balls into the rough ground.

The last ladies arrived at the 19th hole (the water hole) at around 5.15 p.m. The score cards were then scrutinised and the results announced, with prizes for the best gross score and the best net score.

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<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Club</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>R. Steele</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>Dhekelia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>V. Simpson</td>
<td>83</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>J. Leigh</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>Dhekelia</td>
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</tbody>
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In-Line Hockey

On 13 December, two teams of Slovak soldiers based in Camp General Stefani, Famagusta, challenged each other to what turned out to be a very exciting and entertaining hockey match.

The event attracted young men and women from all over Famagusta, mostly from the Eastern Mediterranean University. Although it was a friendly game, what mattered most were – of course – the goals. The team members all played like champions, but the stars of the day were Vagno, Terasky and Spacek. The final score was 9-9.

The event was such a success that the M.E.U. students have challenged Sector 4 to an international match which will probably take place towards the end of this year. Everyone is invited.

Aphrodite “Half Marathon”

On Sunday 24 November, 30 runners from Sector 1 participated in the traditional Cyprus Aphrodite Half Marathon. This event is organised once a year by the Cyprus health runners’ club, and is supported by the Cyprus Sports Organisation.

Runners from Germany, Greece, Hungary and Jordan as well as from Cyprus participated in this 21-km event. There was also a Fun Run of 5 kmms without any age or time limit. During both races, refreshments were offered at four different stations.

At the end of both races, runners and spectators gathered together for a drink and a chat and enjoyed some traditional Cypriot music and dance.

All runners received T-shirts, medals and certificates.
Fireworks Display at the UNPA