The Blue Beret
September 1996

SECOND VISIT OF PROFESSOR HAN SUNG-JOO, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Professor Han Sung-Joo, paid a second visit to Cyprus from 10-15 Sept to further assess the situation on the island. He and the Deputy Special Representative/Chief of Mission, Mr. Gustave Feissel, met twice with both Mr. Clerdes and Mr. Denkbash, the leaders of the two communities and, as before, with the leaders of the main political parties of both sides. In addition, Professor Han met with groups of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot journalists.

From Cyprus, Professor Han and Mr. Feissel travelled to Athens and Ankara where they met with each country’s Foreign Minister. Their final stop was New York where they had consultations with the Secretary-General.

Professor Han briefed the Security Council on his recent visit to Cyprus.

After the briefing, Professor Han told the media that he had pursued three objectives:

"Firstly, to contribute to the lowering of the tension in the aftermath of the incidents there; secondly, to assess the implications of these incidents for our effort to find an overall solution; and thirdly, to continue the efforts of paying the way for successful negotiation and agreement. Even though tension had been heightened, I felt that there was recognition that such incidents should not recur and the recognition that the situation is very dangerous and explosive which underlines the need for finding an early solution to the Cyprus problem."

Professor Han Sung-Joo, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, with the Chief of Mission, Mr. Gustave Feissel

The Blue Beret is the house journal of the United Nations Force in Cyprus and, as such, is intended to provide a source of information on current events within the Force, UN matters of general interest and on local tourist advice.

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

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EDITORIAL

The General Assembly of the United Nations opened its fifty-first session on 17 September at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. It brings together the delegations of all Member States, many of them led by heads of Government or Foreign Ministers, for an examination of a wide range of international issues.

The General Assembly, set up in 1945 under the United Nations Charter, is the United Nations main deliberative organ and provides a forum for multilateral discussion on a full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter. The Assembly comprises all Members of the United Nations, and meets in regular sessions each year from September to December, and thereafter as required.

The provisional agenda of this year's session includes a number of items which no doubt will determine the future of the World Organisation, particularly the appointment of the Secretary-General. Of more immediate interest to UNFICYP are the agenda items concerning the comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects, a review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations and improving the financial situation of the Organisation.

The Blue Beret will follow carefully the main decisions of the session. We'll keep you posted.

CONTENTS

The Buffer Zone/Second Visit of Professor Han 2
Editorial/Contents 3
The Humanitarian Side of UNFICYP 4/5
Cultural Experiences 6
A Brief Encounter with the Cultural Heritage of Cyprus - Part I 7/8
Sector Two’s Volunteer Assistance 10
The UNPA Swimming Pool/New Driver for the FC 11
The UNFICYP Military Pentathlon 12
The IRCON Medal Parade/Goodbye to the 47th, Welcome to the 49th Contingent 13
Gloggi and Schicho are back again/A Visit to the Fast/Sucess Yet Again 14
Report from "The Times" 15
The IRCON Medal Parade 16

FRONT COVER:

SECTOR TWO ON THE HUMANITARIAN RUN
BY SGT BOBBIE LIPSETT

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The UNFICYP Military Pentathlon 12
The IRCON Medal Parade/Goodbye to the 47th, Welcome to the 49th Contingent 13
Gloggi and Schicho are back again/A Visit to the Fast/Sucess Yet Again 14
Report from "The Times" 15
The IRCON Medal Parade 16

FRONT COVER:

SECTOR TWO ON THE HUMANITARIAN RUN
BY SGT BOBBIE LIPSETT
Almost every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday an odd mix of trucks, cooling and other vehicles with United Nations markings assemble at the Ledra checkpoint forming a humanitarian convoy to the north. As varied as the vehicles is their cargo: food, clothing, medicines, fuel, pensions and social welfare payments. When the convoys start their arduous route, they are anxiously awaited by the mostly elderly Greek Cypriots in Rizokarpaso and three other villages in the Karpaz at the north-eastern tip of the island, or by Maronites in Kormakiti and its surroundings. Depending on the destination, members of the Austrian or British contingents collect supplies at Government stores in the south for delivery to the Greek Cypriots and Maronites who decided to stay in the north following the events of 1974. Members of IRICVPOL and the humanitarian branch regularly accompany the convoys to make arrangements for those who want to temporarily or permanently transfer to the south or just visit their families. They also take care of medical evacuations and resolve difficulties at the local level.

UNIFCYP’s humanitarian activities flow from the “normalization” element of the Force’s original mandate and were recognized by the Security Council in resolution 350 (1974) of 15 August 1974. In the wake of the events of the summer of 1974, UNIFCYP was heavily engaged in delivering much needed relief supplies, including food, fuel and seeds, to displaced and other persons. In September 1974, less than a month after the cease-fire declared on 16 August 1974, there were an estimated 20,000 Greek Cypriots located in the northern part of the island. By June 1975, this number had diminished to some 10,500. Similarly, in September 1974 some 34,000 Turkish Cypriots were located outside the area under Turkish Forces’ control. Less than a year later, this number had reduced to some 10,700 people. The Vienna Three Agreement concluded between Merssas, Clerides and Denktaş on 2 August 1995 inter alia provided that Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots would be allowed, if they wanted to do so, to move to their respective sides under an organized programme with the assistance of UNIFCYP. Moreover, Greek Cypriots present in the north would be free to stay and be given every help to lead a normal life, including facilities for education and for the practice of their religion, as well as medical care by their own doctors and freedom of movement in the north. These provisions by inference also include the Maronites and, according to the agreement, UNIFCYP was to be given free and normal access to the villages and habitations of the Greek Cypriots and Maronites concerned. Since then, the numbers of Greek Cypriots and Maronites living in the north have diminished significantly. A detailed survey conducted in spring 1996 indicated that these communities numbered 487 and 191 respectively. During the same period, some 360 Turkish Cypriots living in the south made themselves known to UNIFCYP.

In May 1995, UNIFCYP conducted a comprehensive humanitarian review of the situation of the Greek Cypriots, Turkish Cypriots and Maronites living on the respective other side of the Buffer Zone. It revealed that their living conditions were a far cry from the promise of a “normal life” of the Vienna Three Agreement. With the endorsement of the Security Council, UNIFCYP has established a catalogue of essential improvements ranging from the lifting of restrictions on freedom of movement to the establishment of telephone lines. Since then, any improvements - or the lack thereof - are reported to the Security Council twice a year.

UNIFCYP’s humanitarian branch constantly feels the pulse of the social situation in the villages and other locations in the north, many of them far from one another. Patrols to the Turkish Cypriot communities scattered throughout the south, in particular in the Limassol and Paphos areas, require the humanitarian teams to remain overnight in some very isolated parts of the island. The UNIFCYP has to insist on certain criteria and conditions before authorizing anybody to proceed with the economic activity concerned. 1576 landowners are farming in the Buffer Zone and there also exists a significant number of commercial, industrial and property developments.

As there has been no official contact between the Turkish and Greek Cypriot authorities since 1974, UNIFCYP also acts as facilitator between the parties with regard to essential electricity and water services on the island to ensure that supplies are distributed as equitably as possible.

The humanitarian staff at Headquarters and in the Sectors present the human face of UNIFCYP. They are constantly facing challenges which go far beyond normal military routine, but the smile on the face of an old lady thrice their age is an instant gratification and a reminder of what peace-keeping is all about: to bring people together.
The work carried out by members of the Australian Civilian Police is very varied and involves a lot of contact with both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. For this reason, it is of vital significance that they have a good rapport with members of the two communities on the island and develop the best possible relations. One way of achieving this is by being exposed to the cultural backgrounds of the two communities, and in recent months, members of AUSTRICPOL were delighted to accept invitations to two weddings, one on each side of the Buffer Zone.

Popi, who has been a good friend to AUSTRICPOL for many years, celebrated the marriage of her son at the Ayios Dometios Church, followed by a reception attended by no less than 3,000 guests. AUSTRICPOL members were not sure what to expect when they arrived at the reception area and found a double bed placed in the middle of the street!

They were later treated to a traditional village ceremony, which involved the women dancing around the bed with a basket of linen. They used this linen to make the bed and then raised the bed above their heads and danced around it again. The men at the reception then took over this role, and it culminated with the bed being placed back in its original position. Members of the community then joined in the dancing, placing ten and twenty pound notes on each corner of the bed.

AUSTRICPOL also had the pleasure of attending Cem and Engin Yalcin’s wedding at Bellapais in the north of Cyprus.

During the reception, money was pinned on the dress of the bride, as is tradition. The bride and groom later made a toast “to a large family”, using a bottle of Australian wine which had been presented to them by contingent members.

Cem is a radio announcer at Radio 2 and many of his work colleagues attended the event. Finally, AUSTRICPOL members were able to put faces to the voices.

Both weddings gave AUSTRICPOL a chance to experience Cypriot generosity and hospitality across the island.

INTRODUCTION
At the Eastern corner of the Mediterranean where East meets West lies the small but fascinating island of Cyprus. Its long and turbulent history, dating back to neolithic times (7,500 BC), is one of the oldest recorded in the world. For over 8,000 years, civilisations from Europe, Asia and Africa met and left their traces on the surface of the island. Men, myths, ideas, religions, customs, music, dancing, plants, food and wine have developed over the centuries and have all become an intrinsic part of the island’s unique identity and role in the history of the Eastern Mediterranean and beyond.

From the mists of time, Cyprus has been connected with mythology. Legend has it that, as the birthplace of the Goddess of Love and Beauty, there is a symbolic realisation to the island’s natural beauties.

Map of Cyprus showing some of the ancient sites which The Blue Beret will be describing during forthcoming articles

1. KYRENIA
2. Lapithos
3. Bellapais
4. St Hilarion
5. Buffavento
6. Kytherea
7. Kantara
8. Ayia Irini
9. Petra tou Limmu
10. Soli
11. Marion
12. Kykkos
13. NICORIA
14. Dhali
15. Athienou
16. Engomi
17. Salamis
18. FAMAGUSTA
19. Ayia Napa
20. Stavrovouni
21. Lemba
22. PAPHOS
23. Palea Paphos (Kouklia)
24. LARNACA (Kuilim)
25. Hala Sultan Tekke
26. Khirokitia
27. Kalavassos
28. Sotira
29. Episkopi
30. Kourio
31. Kolossi
32. Amathus
33. LIMASSOL
### MAIN PERIODS IN THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF CYPRUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classified Period</th>
<th>Main Events of the Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Early Years</strong></td>
<td>Stone Age; Neolithic settlements at Khir Kokita, Trouli, Erini, Kantou, Kalavassos, Sofi, Limni and Ledra (Nicosia).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7,000-3,900 BC</strong></td>
<td>The discovery of rich copper reserves enabled the island to become an important trading centre for the Near East and the Aegean.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The Bronze and Copper Age</strong></td>
<td>Large settlement of Phoenicians at Ayia Paraskevi (Nicosia), Kissonerga, Pano Arodes, Episkopi, Sofi, Kalavassos, Paphos and Kitium.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3,900-1,650 BC</strong></td>
<td>Arrival of the Myceneans Greeks and Achaeans. City Kingdoms were established throughout Cyprus at Kythrea, Ialido (Dhali), Kourio, Golgi (Athienou), Salamin, Kyrenia, Laphithos, Paphos, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Late Bronze and Iron Age</strong></td>
<td>Phoenician tradesmen settling at Kition and Amathus. Art: geometric shaped pottery. Establishment of Greek Cypriot kingdom of Salamis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2,500-1,050 BC</strong></td>
<td>Important monuments of this period: royal tombs at Salamis'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Cypriot Geometric Period</strong></td>
<td>The island’s strategic position, together with its natural wealth of copper and timber, attracted a number of invaders. Cyprus was conquered successively by the: Assyrians (673-669 BC), Egyptians (560-545 BC), Persians (545-332 BC). Birth of Stasinos the Cypriot epic poet. The Athenian statesman Solon visited Cyprus and the city of Soli was named after him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1,050-750 BC</strong></td>
<td>Attempts by Athenians to liberate Cyprus from Persians. Great Cypriot Kings: Evagoras of Salamis and Onesios managed to unite the Cypriots. Alexander the Great freed the island from the Persians (332) and Cyprus became part of his Empire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Classical Period</strong></td>
<td>Antigonus of Asia Minor and Ptolemy of Egypt fought over Cyprus with Ptolemy finally winning. Paphos becomes the capital of Cyprus. Tombs of the Kings and the Kourio theatre are examples of cultural activities. Philosopher: Zenon of Kition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>475-325 BC</strong></td>
<td>Following the Turkish-Russian war and the Treaty of Berlin which was signed in 1878, Britain assumed the administration of Cyprus. In 1914, the island was declared a British possession, following Turkey's alliance with Germany in WWI. In March 1925, Cyprus was declared a Crown Colony and remained as such until 1960.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Hellenistic Period</strong></td>
<td>Cyprus gained independence from the British under the London-Zürich agreement between Britain, Greece, Turkey, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. A Treaty of Guarantee was signed by the UK, Greece and Turkey in order to guarantee the independence of the UK, Greece and Turkey.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>325-30 BC</strong></td>
<td>Cyprus became part of the Roman Empire. Anthony presented Cyprus to Cleopatra. Disastrous earthquakes at Kourio. Visit by Apostles Paul and Barnabas. Spread of Christianity. The Jewish revolt resulted in the destruction of Salamis.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECTOR TWO'S VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE

Last August, a team of five volunteers from 57 Bhopore Battery RA, 39 Regiment Royal Artillery, the current UN Roulement Regiment in Nicosia, went down to Limassol to assist in the redecoration of the patients’ living area at the Theotokos Foundation.

By lunchtime, five of the rooms had been completed, beds had been remade and the occupants were well into their afternoon siesta. This was no mean feat when you consider the size of the volunteer force.

Another meeting was arranged for a later date in August to complete the task. The author would like to take this opportunity to thank Sgts Keith Field and Mark Wiseman, LBrdr Charlie Charlesworth and Gnr Tracey Barron for making the effort and taking the time out to help those less fortunate than themselves. Your assistance in this project is greatly appreciated.

PlaygroUNd Improvements

The UN came to the rescue yet again recently when 10 young lads serving with the REME attached to 39 Regt Royal Artillery, together with personnel from the Regiment’s Humanitarian Team, finished off a job left by 12 Regt RA. The playground of a residential rehabilitation school for the mentally handicapped, situated near Kyrenia, is now in shipshape condition with a new seesaw, metal gates and renovated swings.

The new Hum Team comprises Maj Andy Lukes, Sgts Mark Wiseman, “Titch” Brookwell and Keith Field, plus WO2 Peter Highfield.

THE UNPA SWIMMING POOL

September is in, and the old pool committee is nearly out. The water temperature may have dropped a little, but we’re still looking forward to another six weeks or so of sun, swimming and fun.

The UNPA swimming pool was originally built in the 1950s by the men of RAF Nicosia. Today, the pool is still maintained by the British by their Essential Services Group (ESG) BRITCON.

The management of the pool is now delegated to a committee drawn from HQ UNFICYP, BRITCON and Camp Command, who took over this duty from the British. The committee is chaired by the CPLO, and looks after the following:

- The raising of funds to ensure the adequate maintenance of the pool.
- The control and issue of membership cards.
- The training of lifeguards and organization of their duty rosters.
- The purchase of pool accessories.
- The cleaning and upkeep of poolside amenities.
- The UNPA pool is one of the largest in Cyprus. Its water capacity is approximately 500,000 litres. The water is tested twice daily by the attendant and monthly by personnel from The Princess Mary Hospital, Akrotiri. It is circulated by two 10k Worthington water pumps, and uses four filters to maintain its clarity. Only liquid chlorine is used.

The pool is run on a voluntary basis for the good and enjoyment of all. These days, its funding is provided by membership subscription, UN welfare, grants from the British retained sites and the families welfare committee.

Our lifeguards are raised and trained from among the soldiers, police and civilians who work in the UNPA, and they provide their services to the pool free of charge. Their only reward is a lifeguard T-shirt.

So, next time you are enjoying yourself at the poolside, spare a thought for your unpaid lifeguard and all those who kept the pool going.

HAPPY SWIMMING!

The pool will be closing down in late autumn, and hopefully it will be as successful a venture next year as it was during 1996.

On behalf of everyone, the Blue Beret would like to thank Camp Command for their sterling work.

NEW DRIVER FOR THE FORCE COMMANDER

After a successful two-year tour as driver/assistant to the Force Commander, WOI Henry Pertulsa left the island on 8 September 1996. His successor is WOI Pasi Raikkonen, who has taken this post over for an initial six-month tour. Pasi comes from Oulu in central Finland, and has just arrived from a one-year tour in the former Yugoslavia, where he served as a chef.

As a matter of fact, Pasi informs us that he has been in the restaurant business for over 20 years. It may therefore be interesting to note that Pasi is single - and available!
THE UNIFICYP MILITARY PENTATHLON

When, at a midsummer Training Officers Conference, Camp Command were asked to organise a Force sporting event, the 2/c Camp Command, Capt Neil McDonnell, wondered if it might be possible to organise a more ambitious event than usual. After the Conference, he consulted the Camp Recreation NCO, Sgt Nigel Cadogan, and asked him whether the holding of a Military Pentathlon within the UNPA was feasible. Following an examination of the available facilities, Sgt Cadogan (himself a former pentathlete at international level) felt such an event was “on”, and planning and organisation commenced to hold the pentathlon on 10/11 September 1996.

The pentathlon was based as closely as possible on the real international competition. It consisted of a 50 m obstacle swim; a slow and rapid fire shoot; a grenade throw; an obstacle course; and an 8 km cross-country run. Competitors’ times or scores were “converted”, using a special table which gave “below optimum” performances (a score below 1,000) and very good performances (a score above 1,000) for each of the five events.

RESULTS

There were 20 teams with a total of 80 competitors.

Winning Teams
1st: ARGC0N
2nd: ARGC0N
3rd: AUSCON

Winning Individuals
1st: CPIM Duarte: 4450
(ARGC0N)
2nd: WOI Louise: 4323
(AUSCON)
3rd: SSIM Fasines: 4240
(ARGC0N)

Congratulations to the winners, commiserations to the losers, and thanks to the personnel of Camp Command who ran and umpired the competition and consolidated the results.

The IRCON Medal Parade

The IRCON Medal Parade took place on Friday 9 August with 15 personnel receiving medals. The two veterans, RSM Paddy Guerin and BOMS Mick O’Shea, received numerals 4 and 3 respectively.

Mr G Feisal, Chief of Mission, and the Force Commander, Brig Gen ATP Vartiainen, escorted by Lt Col O’Callaghan, received a general salute, sounded by the Argentinian band.

The Force Commander then presented Comdt Ray King with his medal. Comdt King is the current ADC to the Force Commander, who has waited 23 long years to receive his UN medal! This honour was cut short after only two weeks of Comdt King’s first tour with UNIFICYP, when he was posted to the Sinai. Comdt King then introduced each medal recipient to the FC, a very proud moment for every serving soldier.

The Force Commander spoke and thanked the recipients and their families for their continuing support to the United Nations. In addition, he welcomed ex servicemen Tom Frain and Tony Hutchinson who also served in Cyprus in the early years of UNIFICYP.

The military part of the parade came to a close with Helen King. Comdt King’s wife, singing the Irish national anthem in Gaelic. The medal recipients were marched off, and the VIPs and guests were entertained by traditional Irish music and song performed by Irene Cotter, Dearbhail and Grainne O’Callaghan, Grainne King and Jeanie Kellegher. The highlight of the event was the singing of Cheryl Thompson, Fergal O’Callaghan, Jenny Tolan, Paul and Aoife Conneely, Alwin and Kilian Whelan, all children of serving soldiers, giving the parade a real family atmosphere.

A buffet, prepared and served by the staff of the International Mess, was a breathtaking display of excellent food. The final touch was the Irish coffee, prepared and served by the medal recipients, to round off an excellent meal.

GOODBYE TO THE 47TH, WELCOME TO THE 49TH CONTINGENT

CHIEF Inspector Antonis Theocarous of the Cyprus Police recently hosted a dinner for the departure of the 47th Contingent and the arrival of the 49th Contingent.

The venue was the Agapitos Restaurant, located on the old Troodos Road, and this provided ample opportunity for liaison between the two forces. Each member of the 47th Contingent was presented with a Cyprus Police plaque, which was accepted with appreciation.

AUSTCIVPOL have been in Cyprus since 1964 and have benefited over the years from good relations between the two police forces. In many areas, they have been able to work in unison with the Cyprus Police to achieve the goals set for them by the United Nations.
GLOGGI AND SCHICHO ARE BACK AGAIN!

Last month, the Styrian cabaret duo known as "Gloggi and Schicho" were hosted by the Austrians in Sector Four. This is their third tour to Cyprus, and they have also been guests of the UN Battalion in the Golan Heights on three occasions.

Gloggi Vollmann and Fritz Schicho have been working together for the last 15 years, and have therefore gained a great deal of experience, particularly in political satire, both on radio and TV. They are well known all over Austria, and have also performed in Zurich, Bologna, Vienna and Nuremberg.

Due to their highly successful visit last year, they were once again invited to entertain the members of Sector Four, where they performed in Camp Duke Leopold V, Camp Izay and Camp Pyla.

A VISIT INTO THE PAST

On Thursday 26 September 1996, two visitors from Sweden were invited to Camp Duke Leopold V. On the occasion of his 50th birthday, Mr. Claes Andersson returned to the place where he served as a 20-year-old signals corporal in the former "Camp Carl Gustav" some 30 years ago. Mr. Andersson was accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Eva Jansson, who arranged this trip as a birthday surprise for her husband.

After being welcomed by the DCO of the Austrian Battalion, Maj. Hammerschmid, the visitors enjoyed typical Austrian food, and were then shown around the camp. Mr. Andersson remembered most of the buildings, and even found the accommodation where he lived for more than one year. After a visit to Famagusta, our Swedish guests left the camp with very fond memories of their visit into the past.

SUCCESS YET AGAIN!

In late August, a Marathon was held over a distance of 7 km in the village of Agros, situated in the Troodos mountain range. An invitation was extended to the Argentinian Contingent, who sent a large number of participants to the event, joining the 150 local and international athletes. The Argentinian runners were proud to receive seven of the 15 awards, as follows:

- Men's Event (20-30 years): 2nd: Sgt M Sanchez

Over 50s: 1st: WO R Orihuela

Congratulations to all of them.
THE IRCON MEDAL PARADE