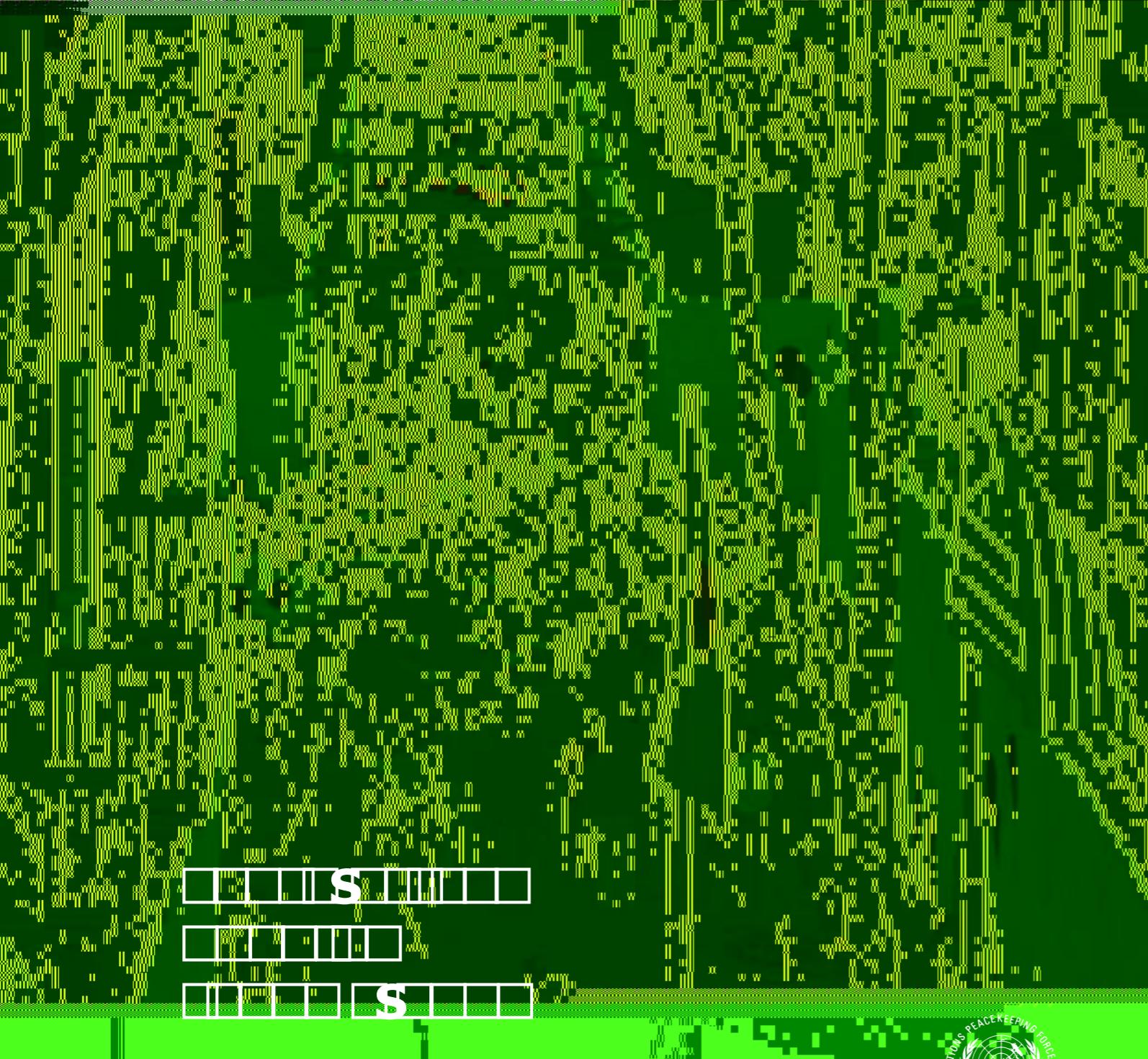


The Blue Beret

April/May 2008





The Working Groups and Technical Committees that aim to pave the way for fully-fledged negotiations on the Cyprus problem began their work in earnest on 22 April in the United Nations Protected Area of Nicosia.



Addressing reporters on Friday 18 April, UNFICYP acting chief Elizabeth Spehar said the panels were evidence of the commitment and determination of the leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities, Demetris Christofias and Mehmet Ali Talat, to reach a comprehensive settlement. She said the United Nations would do all it could to help the two sides in their search for a sustainable and mutually acceptable solution.

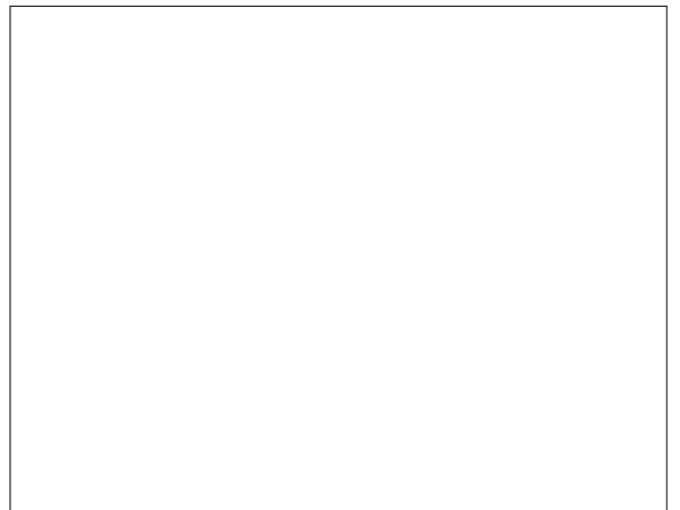
George Iacovou, representative of the Greek Cypriot leader, said he felt a sense of elation as the six Working Groups and seven Technical Committees prepared to kick off their meetings. •Your work could be, and indeed we hope will be, the real beginning of a solution to the Cyprus problem, he said. •The two leaders expect you

to develop ideas on which they can base their direct negotiations under the auspices of the U.N. Secretary-General.

Ozdil Nami, representative of Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat, said establishing the panels was •the easy part. •Our new challenge is much more ambitious, he continued. •Together we have to achieve what could not be achieved in 44 years and reach a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus issue. To achieve this ambitious goal, we will have to change our ways. We will have to start thinking as a team and not as rivals.

The decision to form the Working Groups and Technical Committees came out of the 21 March meeting of the leaders. The Working Groups will deal with substantive issues of the Cyprus problem, including power-sharing, territory and security, while the Technical Committees will tackle such issues as criminal matters, health and the environment.

The kick-off of the Working Groups and Technical Committees was one of the highlights of the acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General's tenure.



Spehar was in Cyprus from 27 March to 7 May, following the departure of Michael Möller.

She joined the Department of Political Affairs of the UN Secretariat in September 2007 as Director for the Americas and Europe Division (AED). Prior to this appointment, she was a senior official with the Organisation of American States (OAS) for over 12 years.

From 1995 to 2004, Ms. Spehar served as the Executive Coordinator of the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD) at OAS Headquarters in Washington, DC. During 2005 and early 2006, she headed the OAS Electoral Support Programme in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. In February 2006, Ms. Spehar returned to OAS Headquarters in Washington as Director of the Department for the Promotion of Democracy in the newly-created Secretariat for Political Affairs.

Prior to her initial appointment to the OAS, Ms. Spehar had served as the Head of the Americas Programme of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development (ICHRDD) in Montreal, Quebec, Canada (1990-1994).



Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Chief of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), arrived in the country on 13 May.

Mr. Zerihoun comes to Cyprus from the Sudan, where he served as the Secretary-General's Principal Deputy Special Representative in the United Nations Mission in that country (UNMIS). Since joining the United Nations in March 1981, Mr. Zerihoun has worked on special political questions in different capacities and areas, including decolonization, trusteeship, conflict prevention and resolution, peacemaking and peacebuilding.

Between 1995 and 2003, he served initially as Deputy and then Director of Africa I Division in the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), with responsibility for the countries of the Horn of Africa, the Great Lakes and Southern Africa regions as well as regional organisations. He was then appointed Chairman of the Inter-departmental Task Force for Sudan (ITF) and served in that capacity until becoming Principal Deputy Special Representative with UNMIS.

Mr. Zerihoun is married and is the father of four children.



Tayé-Brook Zerihoun



UNFICYP Mandate

"To use its best efforts to prevent a recurrence of fighting and, as necessary, to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order and a return to normal conditions."

[Learn more about UNFICYP >](#)

Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Briefs Media

B. Lynn Pascoe, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, has voiced optimism about the ongoing preparations for full-fledged talks and expressed his belief that the Cypriot leaders will decide shortly on a starting date for direct negotiations.



Pascoe's comments to reporters on 18 May followed one day of talks with the Cypriot leaders - Greek Cypriot leader Demetris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat - and the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the Security Council, among others involved in the search for a solution to the Cyprus conflict.

His visit came on the heels of the Security Council's decision to extend UNFICYP's mandate for another six months.

[Transcript of News Conference by USG for Political Affairs B. Lynn Pascoe >](#)

[Security Council Resolution 1818 \(2008\)](#)

Latest News Releases

- [Transcript of News Conference by Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs B. Lynn Pascoe \(18 June 2008\)](#)
- [Chief of Mission/SRG Zerihoun Meets with the Media \(29 May 2008\)](#)
- [Cypriot Leaders Reaffirm Commitment to Bi-zonal, Bi-communal Federation, Agree to Meet Again in June \(23 May 2008\)](#)
- [CMP Launches Greek and Turkish Website Versions \(20 May 2008\)](#)
- [Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNFICYP Arrives in Cyprus \(13 May 2008\)](#)



Some of you may have noticed that the UNFICYP website has undergone a significant makeover. Indeed, the transformation is ongoing, as we continue working to make the site as useful, accessible and attractive as possible.

We plan to have a formal launch of the new website very shortly. In the meantime, keep visiting us at www.unficyp.org.



International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers is observed every year on 29 May. This year, the Day coincided with the 60th anniversary of peacekeeping. Marking the Day at a meeting with the media, UNFICYP head Zerihoun paid tribute to the thousands of UN peacekeepers who have served in Cyprus over the last four decades. •While history will be the ultimate judge of UNFICYP's success, I believe the work of our colleagues in helping to create conditions that would allow the political process to move forward has been commendable.Ž he said.

Paying tribute to the 178 peacekeepers who have died in Cyprus in the line of duty, the UNFICYP Chief of Mission quoted Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon: •Today,



Taye-Brook Zerihoun, flanked by Force Commander Rear Admiral Mario Sanchez Debernardi, addresses media on Peacekeepers Day

- S □□□
- € Established in March 1964, UNFICYP is the longest-running UN peacekeeping mission with troops on the ground (two older missions ... UNTSO in the Middle East and UNMOGIP in India and Pakistan ... have only military observers).
- € Approximately 860 military personnel from more than a dozen countries are deployed along the buffer zone in Cyprus to help maintain peace and stability.
- € UNFICYP peacekeeping and humanitarian support operations also involve a small civilian police contingent, plus approximately 150 civilian personnel from some 30 different countries.
- € The buffer zone stretches 180 kilometres across the

we recommit ourselves to ensuring that their sacrifices are never forgotten, and the vital work of the blue helmets continues as long as they are needed.Ž

The thousands of men and women who have given their time, energy and commitment in the service of peace in Cyprus under the UN flag can be proud of their contribution, Zerihoun said.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in his message to mark the International Day of UN Peacekeepers, said that in the six decades since the Security Council established the first peacekeeping mission, it has developed into a flagship enterprise of the Organisation.

•Today, we have more than 110,000 men and women deployed in conflict zones around the world. They come from nearly 120 countries ... an all-time high, reflecting confidence in United Nations peacekeeping.Ž he said.

The Secretary-General noted that this anniversary is an occasion to celebrate, but also to mourn the more than two thousand and four hundred men and women who have died serving the cause of peace. Just last year alone, we lost 87 brave individuals.

•Each one is a hero.Ž he said.



Taye-Brook Zerihoun, flanked by Force Commander Rear Admiral Mario Sanchez Debernardi, addresses media on Peacekeepers Day

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- island, and varies in width from less than four metres in Nicosia to some seven kilometres near Athienou.
- € Some 8,000 people reside in six villages inside the buffer zone. Among these villages is the mixed Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot community of Pyla.
- € The buffer zone includes the United Nations Protected Area, which was declared in 1974 and encompasses the old Nicosia International Airport site and UNFICYP Headquarters, located on the western outskirts of Nicosia.
- € More than 150,000 soldiers have served in UNFICYP since it was established.



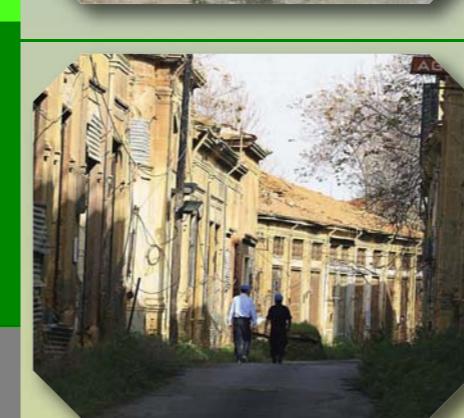
Prior to the opening of the Ledra Street crossing point, a mine action team conducts a sweep for unexploded ordnance. The team is part of UNDP's "Partnership for the Future ... Mine Action Centre". It works with UNFICYP's support across the island in an effort to free Cyprus of landmines.



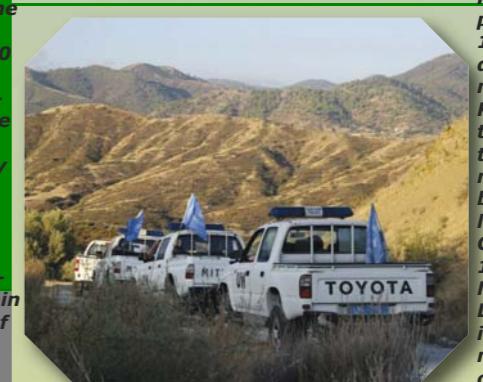
A Civil Affairs team visits a Turkish Cypriot home in the Turkish Cypriot quarter of Limassol. UNFICYP teams make such visits to Turkish Cypriot minority communities in Limassol and Paphos. They provide language assistance to help individuals get medical care and address housing needs, among other things.



During a weekly welfare visit, an UNFICYP Civil Affairs Liaison Officer is welcomed by one of the Maronite women of Asomatos Village in the Kyrenia district.



The Buffer Zone with "The Green Line" drawn across the city on 30 December 1963, when the communities agreed to create a neutral zone between the areas they occupied in Nicosia. This sector reflects the more intensive personnel needed for observation and patrol within the built-up areas of the old city, where the buffer zone is sometimes only as wide as four metres.



Peacekeepers patrolling in Sector 1, which covers a distance of approximately 90 km from Kokkina Village on the western coast to the village of Mamari. The Sector has been the responsibility of an Argentinian Contingent since 16 October 1993. Military Observer Liaison Officers are in daily contact with military counterparts on the two sides within this region.



Villagers in the Maronite village of Kormakitis unload supplies from a UN truck.



UNFICYP peacekeepers transport government welfare assistance in the form of food items and pension cheques to elderly Greek Cypriots and Maronite minority communities in the Karpas and Kormakitis regions in the north.



Hundreds of Cypriots flocked to Ledra Street on 3 April to celebrate the momentous occasion of its opening and together step through the buffer zone towards reuniting their capital.

As a UN peacekeeper but also as a Cypriot, it was a major moment in my career. I shared the satisfaction of my colleagues at achieving this opening, but as a Cypriot, I felt a small candle had been lit to light the way on the road towards peace for our island.

Standing among the crowds waiting for the ceremony to begin, I heard a group of Greek Cypriots who own shops along Ledra Street and its side streets that had been left derelict for over four decades.

say they had even brought their shop keys with them although they knew they could not use them just yet. It was more a symbolic act and an expression of hope for the future.

Officials, diplomats and media jostled for space in the narrow street while the crowds waited patiently for the official ceremony to end and mark the beginning of a new era where the road that had been closed for 44 years would finally re-open.

The excitement rose to a crescendo with the Turkish Cypriot crowds chanting pro-peace slogans to the sounds of drum beats and the zurna, even before the ceremony ended.

- Peace cannot be obstructed in Cyprus, the people cried and the mood of the ever-swelling crowds rose as 50 multi-coloured balloons were released into the air and scenes of celebration unfolded as Cypriots were allowed to cross through the buffer zone to the other side

One group of Greek Cypriots popped a bottle of champagne as the balloons were released and they walked down the street, toasting their compatriots.

Ambrosia, 44, with her glass of champagne in hand, told journalists that this was the first time she was crossing over. She felt this was not only a commercial move to revive Ledra Street, but possibly the beginning of some sort of a solution.

Many elderly Cypriots who had grown up along Ledra Street and its alleyways, said they had come to walk the streets of their childhood and see if they could find any of their old friends.

Mehmet, 63, originally from Paphos, said it had been over 40 years since he had last walked this road. •It's no solution, but it's a first step, he said.

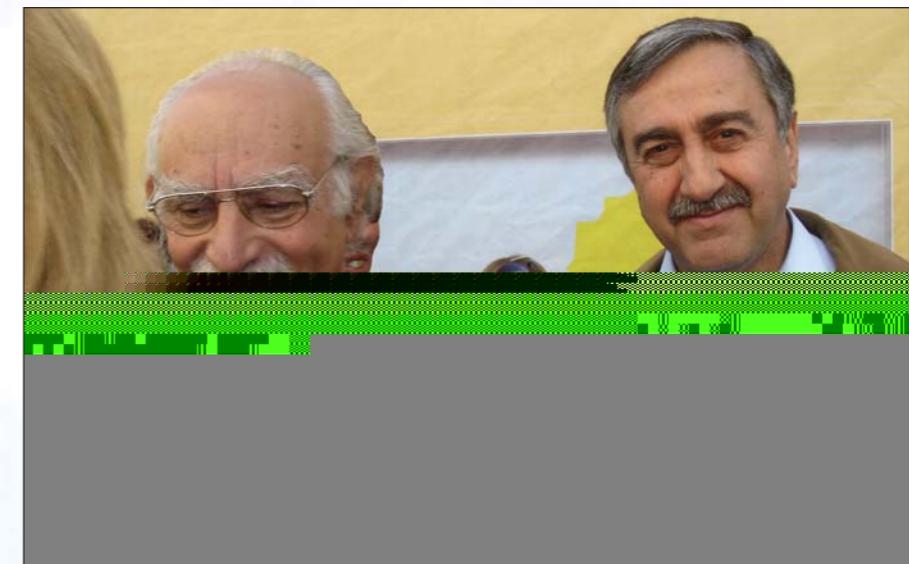
Two teenage Cypriot girls ... one Turkish Cypriot and one Greek Cypriot ... had arranged to cross as soon as the checkpoints opened and meet in the middle of Ledra Street. Exclaims of jubilation, hugs and kisses filled the air as they came together in no-man's land but demonstrated they were truly on their own soil.

The two former Mayors, Lellos Demetriades and Mustafa Akinci, whose vision it was to reconnect their city, could be seen walking up and down the street, arm in arm, their wives behind them, talking to journalists and ordinary citizens and expressing their sense of joy and satisfaction at the opening.

Demetriades said: •We fought for this moment, and now that it has arrived, we are all very happy and satisfied. We have a long road ahead but that doesn't mean we have to sit and mope like old women. You cannot solve problems by sitting in the office and thinking all about the negatives. You have to think the positive things too.Ž

- And the fact that the heart of the city, the real heart of the city, now can communicate, that's a very great thing. Of course, this whole problem has not been solved. Of course, the wall is there, but there are cracks and if you have enough cracks, then you have no wall.Ž

Nodding to his counterpart Mustafa Akinci, Demetriades recalled how he had been threatened and under attack for cooperating on the Nicosia master plan project connecting the sewage system of the capital.



Former mayors Lellos Demetriades and Mustafa Akinci talk to crowds of their joy at opening

to create their own internal dynamics to solve the Cyprus problem.Ž

In the two months since Ledra Street or Lokmaci Crossing has opened, over 80,000 people have walked the 80-metre stretch through the buffer zone that has been lined with flower pots of sapling olive trees, past the crumbling buildings that had been covered by sheets with colourful figures and balloons, to the other side.

Netha Kreuzos



Two mayors and their colleagues enjoy a cup of Cypriot coffee after the opening of Ledra Street

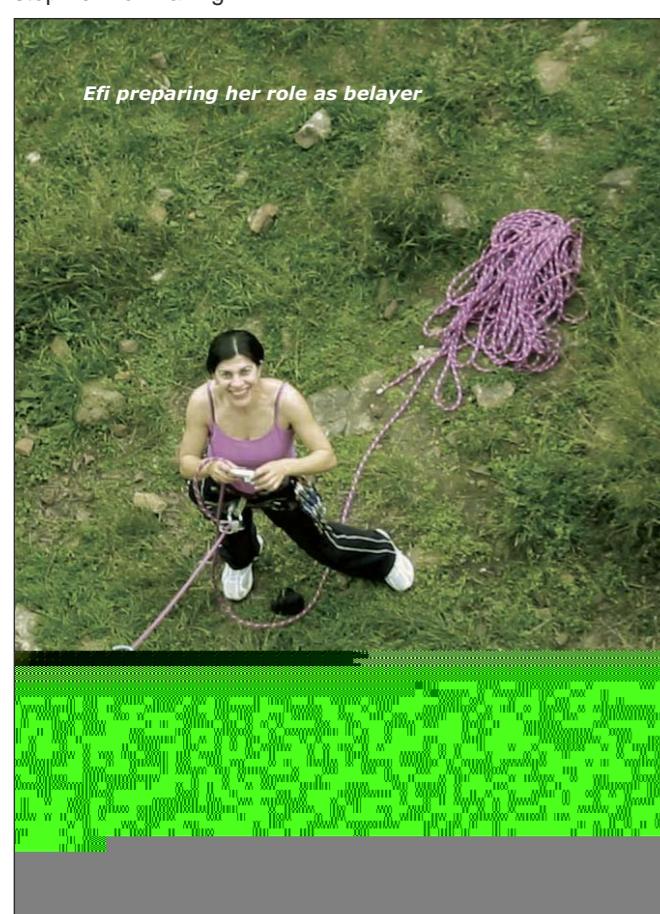
Efi Angelis made history as the first female driver to join the UNFICYP Transport Unit in September 2006. She is mainly involved with VIP driving duties and has done her fair share of airport runs for UN officials and visitors. Her quiet confidence, professionalism and cheerful outlook have endeared her to all in the Transport Unit and in Headquarters. Dispatch will often be asked, •Can Efi drive us, please?• For a time, she was also a favoured driver for our previous Chief of Mission Michael Möller.

But even as she was driving the Chief of Mission, Efi was already eyeing the trucks lined up in the car park. It wasn't long before she passed her Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) licence and is now a regular driver on the Long and Short North Wind Patrols, the former taking Government supplies to the Greek Cypriots in the northern part of the island, and the latter taking supplies to the Maronite community in Kormakiti.

It is not surprising then that when she got talking to some rock climbers a couple of years ago, she found herself immediately interested in this risky pursuit, despite the fact that she is terrified of heights.

•To overcome your fears, you have to challenge them,• she says.

Efi decided to enlist on the 1st Stage Course in Rock Climbing involving theory and preparation for an 18-metre climb up the side of a small mountain with only a rope, a helmet and some metal bits and pieces to stop her from falling.



Efi preparing her role as belayer

Her first climb was an exercise in automated terror. •I didn't look up and I didn't look down and kept my nose in the rock. Halfway through I wanted to give up and get down, but my trainer pushed me to carry on until I completed the climb.•

The next day she somehow found the courage to climb again but this time, something clicked. She saw views that took on a different perspective from high up on the side of a steep rock, and with a bit of a rush, knew that this was going to be her passion.

Since this revelation, rock climbing and mountaineering have become a major part of her life. No need to ask Efi what she is doing this weekend, because we know it invariably involves hanging off the side of a sheer rockface with the aid of a piece of string!

It is generally accepted in Transport that her choice of hobby clearly indicates the woman is crazy, but what about her two sons? Are they proud of her or do they think she is simply mad?

•Both, I think. They are very proud of me but neither of them is tempted to join me on a climb. My partner James is also very supportive, but he has to be because he's always out kite surfing.•

Her mother crosses herself and sighs •Panayia mou.•

(Oh my goodness!) To be a rock climber you have to be physically fit, so Efi is always training and perfecting her technique to progress through the different grades. Weekends are often taken up climbing difficult routes as part of her development.

Climbers always work in pairs. One climbs and the other takes the role of •belayer,• controlling the rope attached to the climber, thereby preventing him from falling to the ground.

There are only so many rocks in Cyprus, so Efi often travels. Her favourite trip was the Kalimnos climb during the 2006 Petzl Rock Fest, an international competition. •I watched world class climbers who encouraged us and gave really informative talks in the evenings. It was a good experience to try different climbs and routes in a new environment.•

But climbing has become more than just a relaxing pastime for Efi: she has become a member of the Cyprus Search and Rescue Team and the Greek Mountaineering Association. Though these are volunteer organisations, in the event of a disaster, she could be called up to take part in a rescue operation at any time. Last year, she was on standby during the fires that raged in Greece.

Her training for this work involved a rigorous eight-day course in the Austrian Alps last year where she gained her certificate in mountain rescue techniques to search and locate victims and get them to paramedics for medical treatment.

•The views were beautiful and we stayed in Alpine huts, but the worst thing was the shower we had to have in ice cold glacial water every morning.•

And, as a way of relaxation, she told us all about the basic •canyoning.•

she indulged in, also known as gorge walking. And •rappelling.•

... when you throw yourself down a bottomless gorge for excitement.

Her best and worst moments were one and the same time. She was testing herself to move up a grade, and half way up the crag, she slipped and swung out over an overhanging rock. She fell eight metres and was left swinging from the rope, upside down. The only thing that stopped her from falling any further down was her climbing partner, who held onto the rope while our fearless and angry Efi forced her way back up the rock and successfully completed the climb.

In progressing up a grade, she suffered her worst fall and was black and blue for the next two months. At the same time, she describes the experience as pure exhilaration!

And what about future challenges?

•I hope to walk the 750 km trail of Camino de Santiago.•

Efi, whatever rings your bell!

Christine Iacovou

NB The Camino de Santiago is an ancient pilgrimage trail in northern Spain.



Training to rescue an injured climber



Training in mountain rescue in Austria



“SIS SIS SIS”

In an effort to support UNFICYP staff, Marfin Popular Bank (Laiki Bank) are pleased to announce the installation of an ATM machine located at their premises in the UNPA.

UNFICYP staff now have continued access to their banking requirements on a 24-hour-a-day basis. Services include cash withdrawals, bill payments, outward transfers, mini statements, request for cheque books, etc.

The ATM machine has been fully operational since 30 May 2008.

Chief Finance Officer Husein Moussa with Koulla Themistocleous, Supervisor with the Marfin Popular Bank Branch at UNFICYP Headquarters

S S S S S

Nicolas von Ruben was appointed UNFICYP's Chief of Mission Support on 4 May 2008.

He has served in peacekeeping since 1994 when he started as an engineer in UNPROFOR. From there, he moved to the UN mission in Haiti, followed by two tours with UNIFIL, first as the Chief Engineer and later as the Chief of Integrated Support Services. In between, he had a 15-month tour with UNLB. Prior to taking up the post of Chief Engineer for peacekeeping at UN headquarters in 2003, he undertook a four-month assignment in MONUC. In 2006 he was assigned as the Chief Integrated



Support Services to the mission in Sudan, during which he supported the logistics effort in establishing the mission in Darfur. He returned to UNHQ in December to act as the Special Assistant to the Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Field Support until taking up his current appointment.

A qualified Civil Engineer, Mr. von Ruben spent 20 years, after his national military service, in the private sector in his native South Africa and in England.

Mr. von Ruben is married to Adriana and they have two daughters: Sophie (seven) and Amy (five).

S S S S S

Maj. Johann Zach arrived in Cyprus on 11 March to take over the post of Civil Affairs Military Liaison Officer.

Born in Langschwarza in Lower Austria in 1956, Maj. Zach joined the Austrian Armed Forces in 1975. He has had several postings as NCO in Artillery Battalion 3. He graduated as an artillery officer in 1989. He has been a platoon leader, company commander and an Information Officer in the HQ of the military training area of Allentsteig in Austria.



This is Maj. Zach's third tour with UNFICYP having served in 1981 as a Liaison Post leader in the Karpas area; in 1985 as an Observation Post leader in Dherinia; and in 1994-1995 as a Deputy Commander and then Commander 1st Coy in Athienou, Sector 4. In 1997, he served with the OSCE as a Polling station supervisor by the elections in Bosnia. In 2000 he took up the post of DCO/COO in the Austrian Contingent in UNDOF for one year.

Maj. Zach is married to Renate. His hobbies include photography and travelling.

S S S S S

Maj. Michael Hunt MBE BSc (Hons) was born on 25 October 1959 in Wisbech near Cambridge. He joined the British Army in 1976 where he trained as a professional chef. He spent his early years in Northern Ireland and Germany where he met his wife Helen, a German linguist.

Having ascended through the ranks of the British Army and in his spare time gaining teaching qualifications, he spent time as an Instructor at the Army School of Catering in Aldershot. There, Michael gained several national and international awards for cooking. Whilst in Germany



during 1997 he was awarded an MBE for work carried out in Poland. After a short period, he was commissioned and posted back to the UK to undertake employment in the specialist field of contracts and procurement.

At 40, Michael attended a two-year course at the University of Surrey in Corporate Hospitality and Catering Business Management. He was then posted to the British MOD for six years.

Michael is accompanied by his wife Helen, daughter Annika and grandson Charlie (11 months).

S S S S S

Lt. Col. Béla Berena took over the post of Deputy Commander Sector 4 on 12 March 2008.

Lt. Col. Berena comes from Székesfehérvár, western Hungary, and joined the Air Force in 1975. He trained in the Killián György Air Force College of Technology (Szolnok) as a pilot/air controller, and served in various home postings of the Hungarian Defence Forces. He currently holds the post of head of the HDF Standardisation and Doctrinal Department.

This is Lt. Col. Berena's second tour of UNFICYP, as he was appointed DCO Sector 4 between 2000-2001.



Lt. Col. Berena is a member of the international treaty for controlling team of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) and the Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBM); a member of the NATO Land Operational Working Group, Unmanned Arial Vehicle Working Group; and is Head Editor of the Joint Forces Command of the Hungarian Defence Forces.

His hobbies include military and civilian aeronautics, pedagogy and psychology.

He is married to Erzsébet and they have two children, Bettina and Balázs.

Apologies go to Lt. Comd. (Maj.) Alberto Cohen who was referred to as the Air Safety Officer instead of the Force Signals Officer in the last edition of the Blue Beret.

S S S S S

Lt. Col. Eduardo Carreras was born in Buenos Aires in May 1961. He took over the post of CMTC on 30 March.

He joined the Army in 1979 and served in the 16th, 11th and 26th Mountaineer Infantry Regiments and later in the Army General Staff and the Infantry School. He has participated in many military courses, most importantly the Logistics Specialization and Military Joint Planning.



This is Eduardo's third tour of duty with UNFICYP (the first two were as S4/Sector 1). He also served as a Military Observer with UNIKOM from 1999-2000.

Eduardo is married to Carolina and they have four children: Santiago (20), Eduardo (19), Carolina (17) and Gonzalo (eight). His interests include rugby, football, skiing, snorkelling, playing guitar and piano.

S S S S S

Lt. Col. Lucilo Bernabe Lopez Mayer joined Sector 1 on 26 March 2008.

Born on 22 November 1964 in Entre Ríos, Argentina, he graduated from the Argentinian Army Officers' Academy in 1985 as a Second Lieutenant in Combat Engineering.

In 1995, he took up a one-year post as the Argentinian Military Liaison Officer in UNTAES. Since then, his overseas postings have included Argentinian Engineers DCO in UNIKOM (2001) and Staff Officer at the



KFOR HQ NATO as Theatre Mines & EOD Officer (2005).

Lt. Col. Lopez Meyer attended the War College in Buenos Aires (1999-2000), has a university degree in Strategy and Organisations, and during 2007, he completed his MA in Strategy and Geopolitics.

He is married to Gabriela and they have three sons, Lucilo (14), Facundo Galo (12) and Estanialao (four). His interests include skydiving, scuba diving, sailing, polo and golf.

S S S S S

Lt. Col. Capps joined the British Army in 1985 and was commissioned into the Royal Corps of Transport (RCT) in December 1986.

His initial tour was with 1 Sqn, which included his first (six-month) tour with UNFICYP. He was then posted to Germany. Additional postings included Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Australia and the UK, including a tour as instructor at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst and also leading land planning and



execution in support of the disaster relief operation following the Tsunami December 2004.

Lt. Col. Capps married Robyn in 2000 and they have two daughters aged four and three.

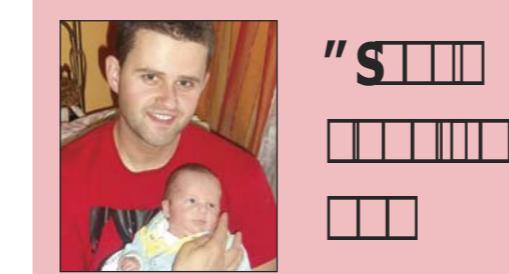
He was a member of the Great Britain marathon canoe racing team from 1993... 2001 and is part of the crew that holds the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Challenge record. He enjoys outdoor activities and all forms of fitness training.

S S S S S

Maj. Daniel (Dan) McNeil is a Canadian Officer who is currently serving on a three-year exchange with the British Army in Germany. Maj. McNeil is OC of 62 Material Squadron, within 6 Supply Regiment RLC stationed in Gütersloh, Germany. Maj. McNeil, his wife Audra, daughter Jordan and son Conor all reside in Gütersloh with their dog Molly, and have very much enjoyed the British hospitality and European experience.



Maj. McNeil is a major (pardon the pun) sports fan and enjoys playing and watching ice hockey, football (European and American), basketball and boxing. He also enjoys beer (pretty much all beer), travelling and music. He is a huge supporter of Chelsea Football Club who he predicts will win the treble (Champions League, Premiership and FA Cup) within the next three years.



1/Lt. Miroslav Šlep was a very special day for 1/Lt. Miroslav Šlep, Adjutant Sector 4. His wife Slavka delivered their first child. Miroslav had intended to be present at the birth, but Slavka had other plans. She was born one month prematurely, weighing 2.46 kg.

Miroslav flew to Slovakia and met up with his wife and daughter after Slavka had spent two weeks in an incubator. The happy father announced, 'I am now well aware of the pleasant obligation to change my CV at the end of my tour with UNFICYP.'



The Hungarian-Cypriot community on European Day □ 11 May



Danish Veterans □ 20 May



Austrian Veterans □ 21 May



Military Police Advisers Community □ 22 May



US Congressional staffers □ 26 May



Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation H.E. Mr. Vladimir Titov □ 18 April

As UNFICYP prepared to mark International Day of UN Peacekeeping in May, it received some very special visitors: former peacekeepers who had returned to Cyprus to reminisce about a unique experience in their lives and to get up to speed on the fast-moving political situation on the island. The former soldiers from Austria and Denmark proudly donned their blue berets as they toured UNFICYP HQ and the old Nicosia Airport. Their visits served to underline the significant role UNFICYP has played in Cyprus for almost half a century, as well as the remarkable history of UN peacekeeping, which this year marks its sixtieth anniversary.

Other visitors to UNFICYP included the Austrian Defence Attaché Col. Nikolaus Egger on 11 April, the deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation H.E. Mr. Vladimir Titov on 18 April, the Hungarian Cypriot community on 21 May (European Day), the Military Police Advisers Community on 22 May, and US Congressional staffers on 26 May.



Austrian Defence Attaché Col. Nikolaus Egger □ 11 April



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Never has a football match been played at the UN football pitch with such passion and colours as the one between the ARGCON and UNPA teams on 28 May.

The match, played to the delightful rhythms of beating drums by the visiting ARGCON supporters who travelled in several coaches from Sector 1, San Martin Camp with passion and determination to perform and support, was a fine spectacle of talent and flair.

Kick-off was at 5.30 p.m. and for the first 10 minutes or so, the game started rather shakily with some nervous play from both sides. ARGCON found their feet first and were able to manoeuvre around the pitch with their slick and fast passing, putting the UNFICYP team under pressure at times.

UNFICYP then began to play on a few uncovered weaknesses from ARGCON, and was able to break the deadlock with a goal after mounted pressure from a quick taken corner.

Constant pressure and tactical play from both sides continued with increasing attacking formations from

ARGCON, who were eventually rewarded with a great through ball, cutting the UNFICYP defence like a hot knife through butter, finishing off with a fantastic low strike to the bottom left corner, leaving the hosts rather stunned as the first half ended 1-1 with not much separating the two.

The second half was a continuation of the same strategy and

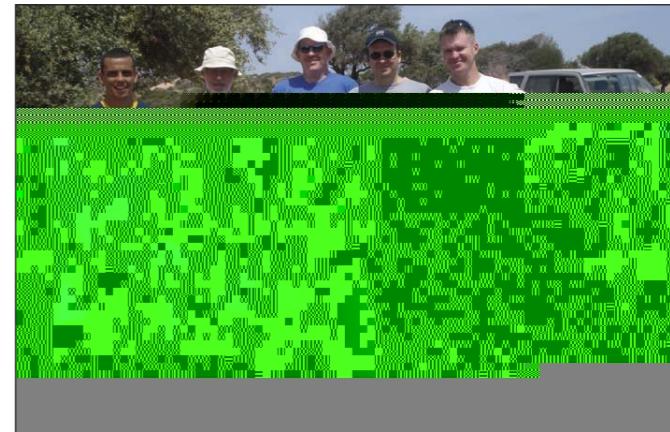
determination from both sides. The final goal came from the UNFICYP team with a finely executed penalty shot into the bottom far left corner as the goalkeeper dived desperately, but to no avail.

Despite ARGCON making fast tactical changes to boost the strike force for the equalizer, the final score was 2-1 to UNFICYP.

Rick Demetrou



UNFICYP's UNPA team on the left, and ARGCON's team on the right



Back Row: Capt. Richard Murray, Mr. Lennart Gustavsson, Maj. Nigel Stanton, Mr. Kyriakos Michaelides, MSgt. Tamas Tomoskozy. Front Row: Ms. Diana Bridger, Mrs. Kirs Mantovani and Maj. Kathryn Heppinstall

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The UNFICYP team ran their hearts out at the recent Cyprus Services Orienteering Championships held over two days at Melanda on 10-11 April 2008.

The Individual Events were held on day one and UNFICYP managed to secure not only 1st and 2nd place on the 7km A Course but 1st, 2nd and 3rd places on the 5km B Course.

MSgt. Tamas Tomoskozy, a top Hungarian orienteer with the Mobile Force Reserve and Capt. Richard Murray, the Brazilian Ops Officer with Sector 1 were the heroes in the Men's Class. Diana Bridger from HQ UNPOL won the shorter B Course, with guest runners Mrs. Kirs Mantovani from Finland second and Mr. Lennart Gustavsson from Sweden third.

The Harris Relay Events were held on day two and the UNFICYP mixed team of Maj. Kathryn Heppinstall from HQ Ops Info, Mr. Kyriakos Michaelides from IT Section, Mrs. Kirs Mantovani and Ms. Diana Bridger managed to win the runners-up trophy.

Diana Bridger

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A friendly game of football was played between Slovakian peacekeepers and Czechs living in Cyprus on 28 April 2008 as part of efforts to retain good relations between the two nations and their Cypriot partners.

The game, organised by the Slovak Embassy, was played in Limassol and was won 4-1 by the Slovaks. Ambassador H.E. Anna Tureniová presented the Victory Cup to the captain of the Slovak team, Maj. Kamil Bilek, Force Engineer, UNFICYP.

1/Lt. Miroslav Šelep



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