

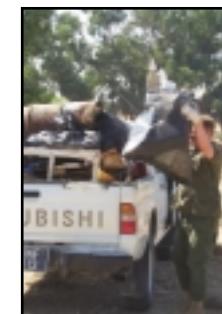
The Blue Beret

November 2001



Armistice
Day





Front Cover: Armistice Day

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editorial

November is a time for reflection and for looking ahead. In a few days, the first meeting in four years takes place between Mr. Glafcos Clerides and Mr. Rauf Denktash.

As you read this, the outcome of the meeting between the two leaders will be known. Hopefully, as living custodians of so much of the island's recent history, they will have reflected not only on the vexing issues they know so well, but will have succeeded in finding a way to move forward. Better to resume the peace process and look to the future than be held captive by the past.

Let us hope that a light of hope, however small, will have been kindled by their historic encounter here in the UNPA, and that this glimmer for Cyprus will become a beacon for peace generally.

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We Will Remember Them

Nestling in the Buffer Zone on the outskirts of Nicosia is "a corner of a field that will be forever England". Wayne's Keep is a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery that has been the resting place for servicemen, dependents and civilians of many different nationalities for more than half a century. In this tranquil spot, on Sunday 11 November, more than 300 people gathered for the British Contingent's Remembrance Service.

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, 22 wreaths were laid by national and association representatives in memory of those who have given their lives. Those laying wreaths included the Chief of Mission, on behalf of all UNFICYP personnel, and the Force Commander, on behalf of the Kingdom of Nepal.

The simple but moving service, which included a two-minute silence at 11 a.m., was led by British Contingent Padre, the Reverend Jim Aitchison. Commander of the British Contingent, Colonel Hamish Fletcher, welcomed all the invited guests, including seven ambassadors and high commissioners, and he read the Act of Commitment. The Regimental Sergeant Major of 12 Regiment Royal Artillery, WO1 J.E. Groves, read the Tryst:

All Saints And All Souls

By Maj. Miloš Krchnavý
Chaplain Sector 4

At the beginning of November in Slovakia, our cemeteries change into cities of light - even though darkness covers our northern hemisphere for most of the day. This is thanks to our custom of visiting and beautifying the graves of our loved ones, whether they have passed away recently or many years ago. The custom is linked with the Christian liturgical calendar, in which we celebrate two distinctive yet mutually connected feasts: 1 November as the Feast of All Saints, and 2 November as the Feast of All Souls.

The Feast of All Saints has a long tradition, with its roots in the very early Christian Church that believed those who followed Christ "with all their heart, with all their soul and all their mind" would be able to bring their lives to perfection and high quality. Thus, the equivalent for saint has always been a person mature in both faith and humanity. Many saints during the long Christian history have proven this by their commitment to life, to serving the poor, and to fighting for a better world with more justice. Let us think about many great men and women, such as Mother Theresa, Martin Luther King, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Maximilian Kolbe -- and many others who were able to look beyond their own needs to be with their brothers and sisters in uneasy situations.



*"They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning
We will remember them"*

The Band of the Army Air Corps provided music to accompany the hymns, and a bugler who sounded "The Last Post" and "Reveille".

The Commander of the British Contingent would like to offer his gratitude to all those who made this memorable event possible.



Their heroic lives mean that the saints in Christian tradition have always been role models for others, which is why we commemorate them, and pause for a moment to be inspired by their actions. As the old song goes: "When the saints go marchin' in.... I want to be in their number."

The Feast of All Souls, meanwhile, is based on our Christian awareness that beyond death we will be living with God. We are also aware that at the moment of death we may not always be the kind of person we could or should have been. On this awareness we base our ancient custom of praying for the deceased.

It is, therefore, a special day when we can visit the graves of our loved ones to light the candles that illuminate our cemeteries, and to remind ourselves that our homeland is with them in God.

Footprints and Milestones: The State of World Population 2001

Human activity is affecting every part of our planet, no matter how remote, and every eco-system, from the simplest to the most complex. As a result, says the State of World Population 2001 report from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the world is facing critical decisions about how to ensure the well-being of growing human populations while still protecting our natural world.

"The State of World Population 2001 report shows how unbalanced consumption harms the environment, and how environmental destruction has a disproportionate impact on the poor," said Thoraya Obaid, executive director of UNFPA, as she released the report at UN HQ in New York early in November. "The report also demonstrates how the scramble to escape from poverty could damage natural resources and local environments, and how rapid urban growth, new industries, and the fight to increase exports could damage long-term development prospects."

The report shows how closely population and the environment are related, and addresses the various links between them, including affluence, consumption, technology, population growth, gender relations, political structures and governance at all levels. Consider, for example, that world population has tripled in the last 70 years, while water use has increased sixfold. In the last century, world population has quadrupled, but carbon dioxide emissions have increased twelvefold.

Clearly, the human population is placing deep footprints on the earth. Signs of environmental stress include destroyed natural habitats, threatened and extinct



UNDP/UNOPS: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Here in Cyprus, UNDP and UNOPS are actively involved with a number of projects that are helping to maintain or improve the quality of our environment. These projects emphasize environmental ideals such as the protection of nature, flora and fauna, animal awareness, water quality/conservation, recycling, environmental awareness/education, pollutant reduction, air quality, integrated pest management and waste management.

These are just a few current projects:

Hit the Beach

- Organising the cleanup of several beaches each year throughout Cyprus.
- Inventorying marine debris found on Cypriot beaches, so that we can determine the sources of marine debris (illegal dumping at sea), and present the information to other NGOs, international organisations and governments.

A Little Learning Goes a Long Way

- Sharing environmental education that's geared towards helping teachers to develop environmental course work for the classroom.
- Developing environmental education for school



Flamingoes at the Larnaca Salt Lake

species of plants and animals, degraded soil, and polluted air and water. The stress of poverty is equally clear: one third of the 4.4 billion people in developing countries are without access to clean water; one quarter lack adequate housing, and one fifth do not have access to modern health services.

But the report also highlights solutions. Key international conferences and agreements over the past decade have discussed many of them, and have recognized the inter-connectedness of slowing population growth, reducing poverty, achieving economic progress, protecting the environment, and reducing unsustainable consumption and production.

"Successful population and development policy starts with simple interventions, such as universal education and primary health care, including high-quality reproductive services," emphasized Ms. Obaid. "Such interventions also include greater visibility for the roles of women in respect to the environment, and specific actions to empower women and move towards gender equality." UNFPA also advocates action to improve clean and efficient technologies and make them available to developing countries, plus balanced and integrated population policies.

UNFPA will continue working towards global action on these issues, reviewing progress towards sustainable development and international equity at a major conference in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002 -- the 10th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, "Earth Summit".



children, the general public and hunters on various aspects of environmental protection and awareness.

Cans for Kids

- Recycling through funding the Greek Cypriot Community NGO "Cans for Kids" and the soon-to-commence Turkish Cypriot Community complementary project.

The Air That We Breathe

- Assessing ambient air quality in Cyprus to aid our understanding of air quality and what directions should be taken to improve or maintain air quality.

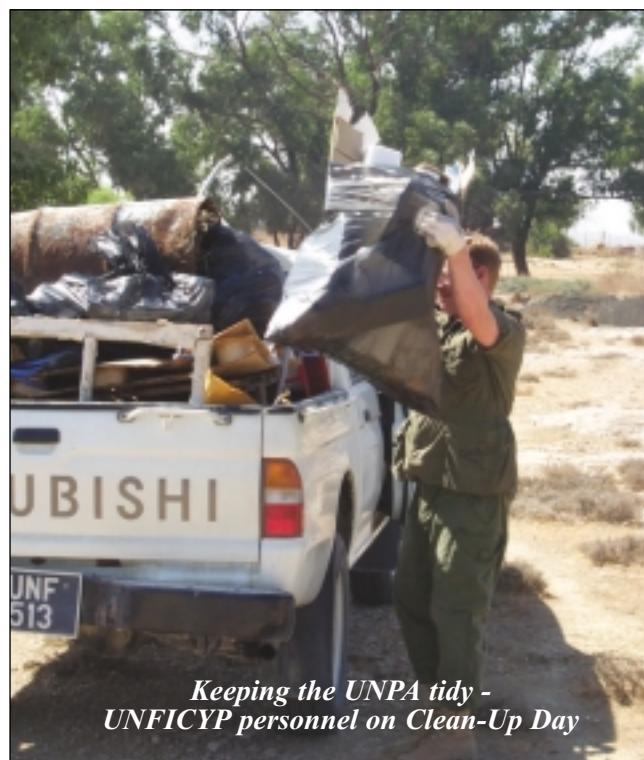
Water, Water, Everywhere

- Developing a system to quickly identify and troubleshoot the effluents from wastewater treatment facilities. This study is being conducted at the Nicosia Sewerage Treatment Facility.
- Operating and maintaining the Nicosia Sewerage Treatment Facility for Nicosia (for both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities).
- Establishing a bird sanctuary at the Nicosia Sewerage Treatment Facility, which has included planting local trees and shrubs to provide refuge for local and migratory birds.

How **YOU** Can Make a Difference

Balancing the needs of the world's population and our environment starts with each of us:

- Reduce; reuse; recycle! Reducing consumption of goods, especially highly packaged items is always the best answer. Where you can't reduce, try to reuse items; if reusing isn't possible, recycle.
- Buy groceries in bulk or in concentrated form, to reduce packaging. If you only buy a couple of items at the supermarket, say, "No bag, thanks." Or better yet: bring your own bags!



Keeping the UNPA tidy - UNFICYP personnel on Clean-Up Day

- Edit papers, reports, letters, etc., on the computer screen before printing, and use both sides of the paper whenever possible.
- Use mechanical pencils, refillable pens, and refillable tape dispensers.
- Ask to be removed from unwanted mailing lists; this saves paper and stops annoying junk mail.
- Stop those leaky taps, and you'll save up to 20,000 gallons of water a year!
- Conserve energy: shut off electric lights when there's no one in the room, and use natural light whenever possible.
- Cover your pot when boiling water -- it heats up faster and saves energy.
- Close your windows and draw the curtains in the winter, especially on cloudy days: about 20% of the energy used to heat your room goes to heating incoming cold air.



Collection point at the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics

- Did you know that recycling points are available in the Nicosia area, particularly in Agios Dometios? Generally located near schools (including one opposite the race track), they accept clear and coloured glass, plastic (e.g. water bottles), newspaper and fine papers, and aluminium (e.g. tins). There's also a box at UNFICYP HQ for disposing of batteries, which can leak hazardous chemicals into landfills if they're thrown out with your regular rubbish.
- Use native plants in your gardens and balcony containers, rather than imported varieties that need lots of water. Native plants also tend to attract native wildlife, such as birds and butterflies whose habitats are under stress.
- Carpool whenever possible, and keep your vehicle's maintenance up to date: both actions help to reduce harmful emissions.

*Sources include:
Columbia University (New York)
and The Earthworks Group*



Collection point at Kyriakou Matis Street, Agios Dometios

WINTER SAFETY

By Chief Civilian Fire Officer Nadeem P. Qadir

Summer is gone, so the threat of grass/forest/buffer zone fires is now being replaced by the danger of domestic fires, due to risks resulting from greater electricity and heater use, and electrical faults caused by rain. **FIRE** is possibly one of the most frightening alarm calls you could experience, especially if you are deep in the arms of Morpheus and dreaming of the winter nights. The best way to ensure that you only hear this word during a drill is, of course, **PREVENTION**.

Remember that with a few commonsense precautions, **ALL FIRES CAN BE PREVENTED**:

- Gas heaters should not be used inside sleeping accommodations.
- Make sure the room is well ventilated, especially when you are using a gas heater.
- Never leave your heater/electric equipment unattended.
- Never use electric heaters with bars or rods.
- Never dry your clothes near or over the heater.
- Never move a heater when it is on.
- Keep your heater at least 1.25 metres away from any combustible materials.
- Empty or full gas cylinders should not be stored within the building. Put them in storage areas. The only gas cylinder that should be inside the building is the one in use in your gas heater.
- Be sure that your heater has been checked by support services workshop (ext 4680): see the checklist sticker for current year 2001-2002.
- Do not overload your electric wall socket. Extension leads should never be on the floor: secure them along the wall or on wood (e.g. a wooden table).
- Do not use a two-pin unearthed plug in a three-pin wall socket: get an adapter.
- Smoking should be allowed only in designated areas.
- All electric appliances and fixtures should be checked monthly and reported immediately for any fault. Simple work service, changes to lights and their covers, and repairs to cracked sockets can prevent fires and save lives and money.
- Fire/smoke alarms in all accommodation should be fitted to the ceiling with a cover to obtain 100%

Dial Right!

The Cyprus Telecommunications Authority is changing the national telephone numbering system, to cater for the ever-increasing demand for both fixed and mobile telephone numbers. These changes will also bring Cyprus into line with international developments in the field of telephone numbers.

The changes begin officially on 1 December, with a transition period of parallel operation where both numbers, old and new, will be acceptable (this period ends 1 June 2002).

National and Local Calls

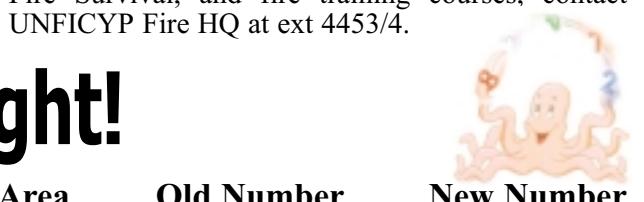
All calls placed within the Republic of Cyprus -- including local calls -- will now use an eight-digit number. For fixed telephones, the regional number will replace "0" and add "2"; for mobile telephones, the "0" is replaced by "9", as shown below:

In the event of fire:

1. Cut off the main electric/gas supply switch (if safe to do so).
2. Call the fire crew:
 - (UNPA 02-864777)
 - (Sector 1 02-864764/5)
 - (Sector 2 02-864760/1)
 - (Sector 4 02-864757/8)
3. If it is safe, fight the fire with carbon dioxide (CO₂), or dry powder fire extinguisher (for electric fires).
4. Never use water or foam fire extinguishers on live electric fires (conductible/shock hazard).
5. If fuel is leaking, cover the area with foam/fire blanket/sand/soil (care should be taken when electricity is involved: see 1 above).

Your Fire Crew is always
here to help you
(24 hours a day/365-6 days a year).
We wish you a
safe and happy year 2002.

- efficiency. The working power of the sensors of fire/smoke alarms that are fitted (vertically) on walls, behind ceiling fans or without covers can be reduced by up to 50%.
- Fire and earthquake drills are carried out monthly. Check your emergency alarms weekly to be sure that they are serviceable. Winter and earthquake safety instruction along with "OP Fire Survival" have been sent to each sector, section and unit. Read them carefully.
- In case of a fire, never move the equipment involved in the fire unless it is very necessary for safety reasons. Always wait for the investigation to be completed.
- For new fire/smoke alarms and batteries, copies of the winter and earthquake safety instructions and OP Fire Survival, and fire training courses, contact UNFICYP Fire HQ at ext 4453/4.



Area	Old Number	New Number
Nicosia	(02)XXXXXX	22XXXXXX
Famagusta	(03)XXXXXX	23XXXXXX
Larnaca	(04)XXXXXX	24XXXXXX
Limassol	(05)XXXXXX	25XXXXXX
Paphos	(06)XXXXXX	26XXXXXX
Mobile	(09)XXXXXX	99XXXXXX

Another interesting development is that in parallel with the numbering system, there will be a single charge for calls throughout the Republic of Cyprus.

Incoming International Calls

Telephone callers from abroad will continue to use the digits "357" in front of the new, eight-digit number: e.g. telephone numbers destined for Nicosia will be:

357-22-XXXXXX

Halloween: Behind the Costumes

Of course, the traditions of Halloween extend far beyond costumes and treats: Halloween is actually the modern version of one of the Western world's oldest holidays. While its roots are in the ancient Celtic New Year's festival, Samhain, the festivities also include elements of Christian and ancient Roman traditions.

In pre-Christian Ireland, the Celts believed that on October 31st the spirits of the dead returned to earth. So each year on that night, the Celtic priests, or Druids, would build bonfires and offer sacrifices of crops and animals. The people dressed in costumes to disguise themselves from the spirits, which was probably how the custom of dressing up for Halloween originated.

In the eighth century A.D., the Pope declared November 1st to be All Saints Day in the Christian world. In English, this holiday was also called All Hallows Day, which later became Halloween. Christianity had recently spread to the Celtic countries, so elements of the old festival of Samhain were incorporated into the celebrations of All Hallows (or All Saints) Day and the following day, All Souls Day.

On All Souls Day, people gave treats called "soul cakes" to beggars and poor people at their doors, who promised to pray for the family's dead. Children eventually became the ones to beg for these treats, and this led to the "treat" part of trick-or-treating.

Irish immigrants fleeing their country's famine and political situation popularized Halloween in the US in the 19th century. They brought with them the jack-o'-lantern, which symbolized a mythical ghost doomed to walk the earth forever because he had angered both God and the Devil. The Americans found that pumpkins made even better jack-o'-lanterns than the traditional turnips used in Ireland.

And so on 31 October each year, one of the oldest holidays or festivals is now widely celebrated with all sorts of bonfires, fireworks, trick-or-treats, games, foods and costumes. But don't ever forget the Spirits, because they are still out there!!

International Fireworks and Halloween Party

Spirits in the form of ghosts and goblins gathered happily on Monday, 5 November at the Nicosia Airport in the UNPA, for the International Fireworks and Halloween Party. This is the largest event that the United Nations Community Team organises, welcoming UN staff and the diplomatic and local communities with an international flair.

The Argentinians of UN Flight, for example, prepared their famous Asado "Barbecue", and the Hun-

garian Contingent offered delicious goulash for everyone to enjoy. The British Contingent Warrant Officers and Sergeant's Mess provided the liquid refreshments.

Then it was on to the fireworks, which held everyone's attention for 15 minutes with a wonderful display of colour and creativity. Following the fireworks, the bonfire was lit and kept everyone toasty warm for the rest of the night, accompanied by music played by John the Prom.

UNCIVPOL's Halloween Diary

October 31st saw CIVPOL House celebrating Halloween in fine style, thanks to members entering into the spirit of a fancy dress party.

Fantastic costumes and characters appeared, including Dracula Kennefick, King O'Connor, Princess Fergie, Patricia the Gypsie, Ali G. Callan, Boozo the Clown Allen, Woody Sheedy, Admiral Morrissey, Bryant the cowgirl, Sandy the Belly Dancer, several young action figures and a busy bee, wild

Special thanks go to the Kennefick family for transforming the club into a dark and dingy haven for the undead (eh, no more jokes).



Funds Available to Help the UNPA Community

The United Nations Community Team was founded in April 2000, to contribute to maintaining and improving the UNPA Community's quality of life. The Team's funds consist of non-public funds raised from events profits and donations. When applications are made to the Community Team for funding to help better the UNPA

Community, the Chairman consults with Team members and decides whether to approve the request.

The Team currently has funds, and is now accepting requests from teams, clubs and organisations within the UNPA Community. If you would like to apply, please contact Lt. Col. G.M. McNamara on 4530, or Angela Milne on 4505.

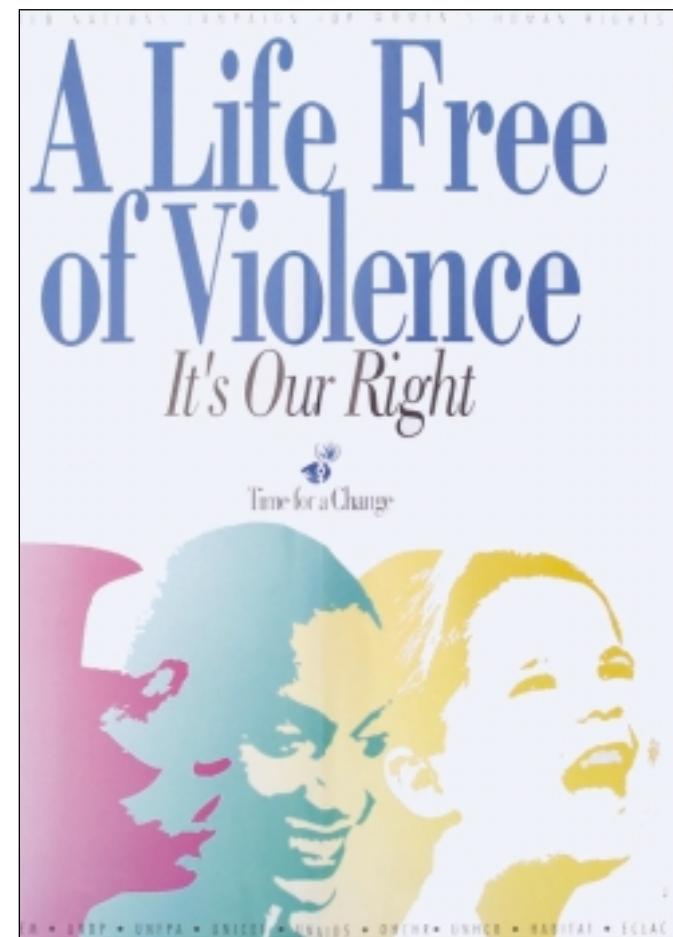
A Life Full of Tolerance -- A Life Free of Violence

16 November 2001:
International Day Of Tolerance

Since the horrific attacks of 11 September, the world has found itself united as never before. Millions of people across many societies and cultures have reaffirmed their understanding that we all belong to the same human family. They have expressed, in their grief and solidarity, the shared values that make up our common humanity.

One of those values is tolerance. This keystone of human rights, pluralism and democracy stands for openness, dialogue, understanding and respect for others. It is a value that makes peace possible. And without peace, there can be neither progress nor development.

Tolerance also means that all people should benefit from economic and social opportunities without discrimination. Exclusion and marginalization can lead to hostility and fanaticism, and are likely to generate further intolerance in turn. The promotion of tolerance is thus an important part of the fight we are conducting against terrorism. It lies at the heart of our objective to create a



25 November 2001:
International Day For The Elimination Of Violence Against Women

As we observe the second International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, we are more aware than ever that violence against women remains a global phenomenon against which no country, no society and no community is immune.

Recent events have made the issue come alive even

global community built on the shared values of solidarity, social justice and respect for human rights.

In our globalizing world, tolerance is more essential than ever. Dialogue must prevail over violence, understanding over indifference, knowledge of others over ignorance and prejudice. Those must be the goals of the United Nations as we work to bridge the divide among peoples and cultures. We have already taken important steps in that direction. In proclaiming 2001 the United Nations Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations, the General Assembly helped to heighten public awareness of the need to search for understanding and harmony among peoples.

More than ever, the work for tolerance requires a renewed engagement from every one of us. On this International Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to tolerance, dialogue and solidarity, among ourselves, in our families and our communities, as well as in our relations with other nations and peoples of the world. In the face of rising intolerance, the risks posed by indifference are far too great.

more acutely. The treatment of women and girls in Afghanistan in the past several years has been an affront to all standards of dignity, equality and humanity. As we face a momentous political, humanitarian and human rights challenge in Afghanistan, addressing the plight of women will be a major priority for any future United Nations role in that country.

Just over a year ago, the world's leaders reaffirmed in their Millennium Declaration that "men and women have the right to live their lives and raise their children in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression or injustice". Also last year, the Security Council addressed, for the first time, the situation of women in armed conflict and adopted resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. This groundbreaking document called on all parties to armed conflict to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and sexual abuse, and emphasized the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity for those responsible for crimes against humanity and war crimes, including sexual and other violence against women and girls. In the same year, our Member States gathered for signature of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its protocols, one of which aims to eliminate trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

These commitments must be our lodestar in our mission to free women from violence, wherever they may live. Violence against women is not a "women's issue", but one that concerns us all -- especially men. Indeed, men must work to confront what should be described as men's violence against women, and recognize and respect the equal role and rights of women. When it comes to violence against women, there are no grounds for tolerance and no tolerable excuses.

On this International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, let us recall the words of a member of an Afghan women's group, one of the many unsung heroines of our time: "Society is like a bird. It has two wings. And a bird cannot fly if one wing is broken." Let us resolve to ensure that all societies fly with both wings, of equal strength and with equal dignity.

World AIDS Day: 1 December Secretary-General Kofi Annan on HIV/AIDS

Every day, more than 8,000 people die of AIDS. Every hour, almost 600 people become infected. Every minute, a child dies of the virus. Just as life -- and death -- goes on after 11 September, so must we continue our fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Before the terrorist attacks two months ago, tremendous momentum had been achieved in that fight. To lose that momentum now would be to compound one tragedy with another.

HIV/AIDS is a disaster of global proportions. New figures, released in advance of World AIDS Day on 1 December, show that more than 40 million people are now living with the virus. The vast majority of them are in sub-Saharan Africa, where the devastation is so acute that it has become one of the main obstacles to development, further impoverishing entire countries and limiting their ability to recover. But parts of the Caribbean and Asia are not far behind, and the pandemic is spreading at an alarming rate in eastern Europe, too.

For too long, global progress in facing up to AIDS was painfully slow, and nowhere near commensurate with the challenge. But in the past year, for much of the international community, the magnitude of the crisis has finally begun to sink in. Never, in the two long decades that the world has faced this growing catastrophe, has there been such a sense of common resolve and collective possibility.

Public opinion has been mobilized, by the media, NGOs and activists, by doctors and economists, and by people living with the disease. Pharmaceutical companies have made their AIDS drugs more affordable in poor countries, and a growing number of corporations have created programmes to provide both prevention and treatment for employees and the wider community.

Foundations are making increasingly imaginative and generous contributions, both financial and intellectual -- in prevention, in reducing mother-to-child transmission, in the search for a vaccine. In a growing number of countries, effective prevention campaigns have been launched, taking into account the local cultural context. There has been a growing recognition, among both donors and the most affected countries, of the inextricable link between prevention and treatment. There has also been a new understanding of the particular toll that AIDS is taking on women -- and of the key role that women have in fighting the disease.

The entire United Nations family is fully engaged on

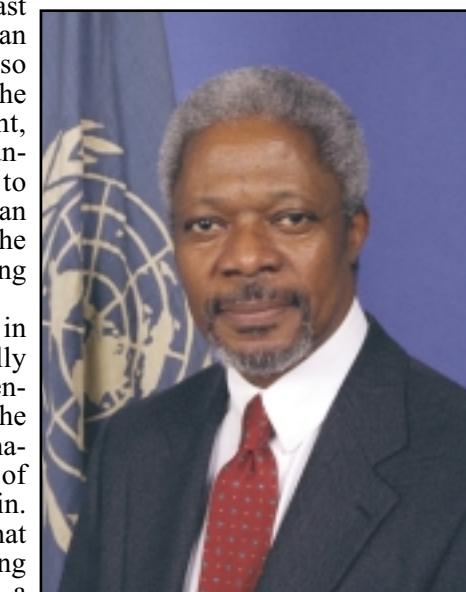
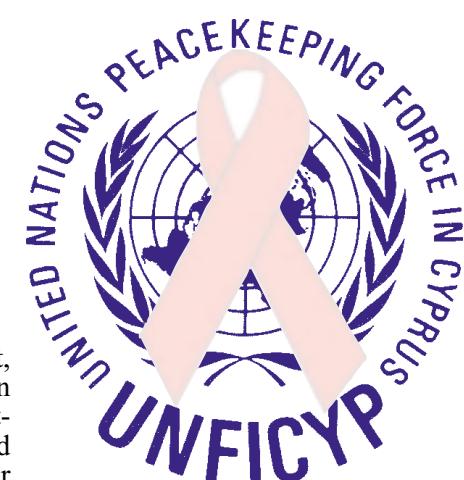
the front lines of this fight, working to a common strategic plan and supporting country, regional and global efforts through our joint programme, UNAIDS. Perhaps most important of all, a new awareness and commitment has taken hold among Governments -- most notably in Africa -- as more and more leaders are speaking out about AIDS in their own country.

Last June, the membership of the United Nations met in a Special Session of the General Assembly to devise a comprehensive and coordinated global response to the AIDS crisis. They adopted a powerful declaration of commitments, calling for a fundamental shift in our response to HIV/AIDS as a global economic, social and development challenge of the highest priority that must be addressed on all those fronts. They reaffirmed the pledge, made by world leaders in their Millennium Declaration, to halt, and begin to reverse the spread of AIDS, by 2015. And they set out a number of further ambitious but realistic time-bound targets and goals. Among them were commitments to reach, by 2005, an overall target of annual expenditure on AIDS of \$7-10 billion each year in low and middle-income countries; to ensure, by 2005, that a wide range of prevention programmes are available in all countries; and to support the establishment, on an urgent basis, of a Fund to help finance an urgent and expanded response to the epidemic.

Only seven months after I proposed this new international facility to support the global fight against AIDS and other infectious diseases, pledges to the Fund stand at more than \$1.5 billion. The fund cannot be the only channel of resources for a full-scale global response to AIDS. But what is most heartening is the range of pledges that have been made: from the world's wealthiest nations -- starting with the founding contribution from the United States last May -- but also from some of its poorest; as well as from foundations, corporations and private individuals.

At the end of this eventful year, it is clear that we have the roadmap, the tools and the knowledge to fight AIDS. What we must sustain now is the political will. If anything, our task is more, not less, urgent than before. Life after 11 September has made us all think more deeply about the kind of world we want for our children. It is the same world we wanted on 10 September -- a world in which a child does not die of AIDS every minute. That is why we must not compound one tragedy with another.

This op ed by the Secretary-General was published in the Washington Post on 30 November 2001.



UNFICYP Comings and Goings

As is often the case at UNFICYP, the months of October and November saw several distinguished visitors learning more about the mission, as well as UNFICYP personnel returning home after a tour well done.

We were honoured, for example, on 25 October when Kurt Waldheim, former Secretary-General of the United Nations and former President of Austria, visited and met with the Chief of Mission and the Force Commander.



Mr. Kurt Waldheim with the Chief of Mission

The Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Cyprus, Mr. Alvaro de Soto, paid a flying visit to Cyprus on 2-3 November, during which he met with Mr. Glafcos Clerides and Mr. Rauf Denktash.



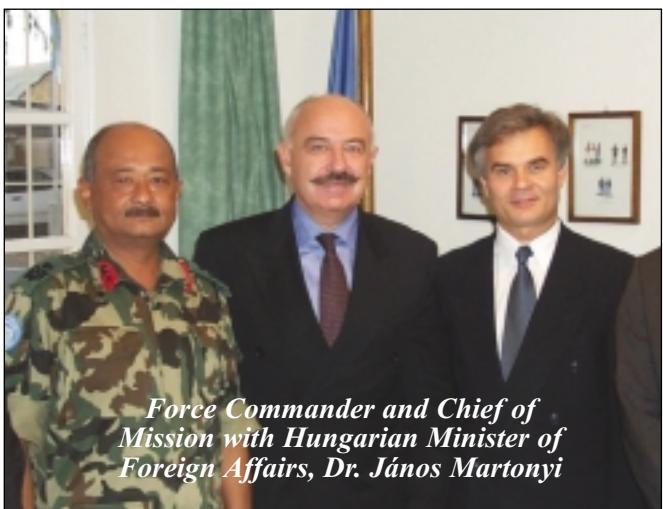
Mr. de Soto meets the press on arrival at Larnaca Airport

On his 12 November visit, Maj. Gen. R. V. Brims met with the Chief of Mission, the Force Commander and the Chief of Staff, before touring the MFR and Sector 2.



Maj. Gen. R.V. Brims inspects honour guard

November visits also included Dr. János Martonyi, Minister for Foreign Affairs for the Republic of Hungary, on 22 November. The Minister paid office calls to the Chief of Mission and the Force Commander, and received a HQ UNFICYP briefing from Acting Chief of Staff Lt. Col. Brandtner. Dr. Martonyi then took an airport tour with the Chief of Mission, and concluded his visit by meeting Hungarian personnel serving with UNFICYP.



Force Commander and Chief of Mission with Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. János Martonyi

Heading Home



Luis (left) with Francisco

In this issue of *The Blue Beret*, we bid farewell to Maj. Luis Estrella, who during his time with UNFICYP was Air Traffic Safety Officer at HQ. His training as a helicopter pilot and combat pilot meant that his extensive experience was well suited to his task in HQ.

In his career, Luis has investigated some 45 civilian aircraft accidents, among them the British South-American Airways Avro Lancaster, lost in the Andes in 1947 and found in January 2000.

Luis will be best remembered for his charm, and for his ability to communicate with all ranks and civilian personnel in HQ. He will be especially remembered by *The Blue Beret* magazine, to which he offered his talents as an artist on many occasions. We wish him well, as he is reunited with his wife Liliana, and their children Hijos Constanza, Luis Francisco and Fatima. In his place, UNFICYP welcomes the new Air Traffic Safety Officer, Maj. Francisco Meglia.

Blackpool Belles

12 Regiment Royal Artillery Group have recently had the pleasure of hosting Miss Blackpool on a visit to the troops in Cyprus. The visit lasted a week, during which three beautiful young ladies visited each Battery serving within Sector 2. The ladies included Natalie James (Miss Blackpool 2000), Heidi Cliff (Face of the Blackpool Gazette) and Karen Cookson (Miss Blackpool 1995 and presently running a modelling agency).

The Regimental Group worked hard to make their trip a busy one. The three ladies went gliding with the Regiment's adventure training team based in Dhekelia, cooked with the chefs, laid bricks with the engineers, and saw first aid demonstrations by the doctor. They also participated in cycle tours with Liri Troop, a Halloween BBQ, and judged a Mr.



From the left: Natalie, Heidi and Karen

Corunna Competition (along the lines of a Mr. Universe Competition, but with participants from Sector 2 West).

All three ladies had a fantastic week, and pass on their thanks to everyone involved in making it so enjoyable and such a success.

"Col's House"

A new Observation Post, on the roof of Frezenberg House in City Coy's area of responsibility, has been named Col's House to honour Spr. Ian Collins. The OP was designed and built by the Royal Engineer Detachment from 9 Parachute Squadron RE, who were serving in Cyprus on 27 August 2001, when Spr. Collins, a member of the Squadron, was killed on operations in Macedonia. The Detachment named the OP in Spr. Collins' memory.

Col's House was officially opened on 12 November 2001 by the General Officer Commanding 1 (UK) Armoured Division, Maj. Gen. R. V. Brims CBE.



Gunner Wedding on the Island of Love

On the afternoon of Tuesday 6 November, 12 Regiment celebrated the wedding of SSgt. Philip Stephen Scrannage and Gnr. Amanda Claire Hodgkin. The wedding took place at St Columbus' Church in the United Nations Protected Area. Padre Jim Aitchison led the ceremony, and informed the congregation that the bride and groom had met whilst on duty.... Amanda was undergoing a period of restrictions of privileges whilst Philip was on extra duties. The Padre was quick to inform the congregation how apt their meeting had been, in that by committing themselves to each other, they would be undoubtedly be restricted of certain privileges and acquire numerous extra duties!

The reception was a superb affair held at Ledra Palace Hotel, where the Regiment tucked into a delicious barbecue and the traditional Cypriot brandy sours and champers. It was a memorable day, thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.



The New Argentinian Task Force

By Capt. M. Del Castillo and Tte. Gutierrez

On 2 November, ATF-18 finally took over from ATF-17: what a great thing!! ATF-17 is now on its way back home, with ATF-18 taking full control of Sector 1. During a ceremony held at Camp San Martin, the new Sector Commander, Lt. Col. José Antonio Cimmarusti, received command from Lt. Col. Osvaldo Daniel Garcia, who thus ended his one-year tour of duty.

The first team of ATF-18 had landed in Larnaca on 27 October, and the entire rotation was finished by 5 November. As is usual, the newcomers were deployed as soon as possible to their posts.

ATF-18 consists of Argentinian military personnel from the different services of the Armed Forces (Army, Air Force and Navy). Along with them are officers and NCOs from neighbouring countries such as Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, making ATF-18 a great South American integrated force.



Since our arrival, we have worked hard, with everybody involved in duties such as briefings, ground and aerial recce's, and OP manning. Of course, this has kept us busy, and has made our time in the mission area pass very quickly.

ATF-18 wishes ATF-17 a safe trip back home, and thanks them all for their cooperation.

New Commanding Officer, Sector 1 Lt. Col. José Antonio Cimmarusti

Lt. Col. José Antonio Cimmarusti, who took over command of Sector 1 in November, joined the Argentinian Army as a cadet in the "Colegio Militar de la Nación" Military Academy on 9 February 1972, graduating as a 2/Lt. in the Engineer Branch on 7 December 1976.

As a junior officer, he served in several engineer military units, as platoon commander, company commander, and ADC. In 1987/9 he attended the Staff Officer Course.

WO1 Alberto Martin Rodriguez

As the senior non-commissioned officer with 18 Argentinian Task Force (UNFICYP), WO1 Alberto Martin Rodriguez is also personal assistant to the Commanding Officer.

WO1 Rodriguez was born in Buenos Aires in January 1950, and joined the Army in March 1968. After two years he became a Signals Corporal. He has attended numerous Signals training courses on the operation and maintenance of radio equipment, and has also graduated from Basic, Interme-

diate and Advanced NCO training courses.

WO1 Rodriguez has experience in key positions including Platoon First Sergeant and Instructor at the NCO school, in the Intelligence and Operations branches, and as Adjutant of Staff and RSM. His UN experience includes UNPROFOR, in Croatia. In 1998, he attended the Sergeant Major Course at the US Army's Sergeant Major Academy. In 1999, he was appointed to First Armoured Brigade as a Brigade



Iraq). In 1994, he was Military Adviser to the Argentinian delegation, attending the Inspection Conference of the Convention on antipersonnel mines, held in Geneva.

Lt. Col. Cimmarusti is married to Ms. Maria Fernanda Mendez, and they have three children.



Command Sergeant Major.

WO1 Rodriguez is married to Ms. Maria Isabel Marino. They have two children: Maria Laura and Martin Miguel.

8th November – The Best So Far

By Sgt. M Hennigan

The "Best Medal Parade" yet was the common consensus of guests and organisers alike on 8 November, at the UNCIVPOL medal parade.

The 21 medal and two numeral recipients were turned out like new recruits, groomed like we have never seen. The ceremony went as planned and, to the delight of the guests, was timed perfectly. Both Commander Fred Donovan and Asst.

Commander Liam Quinn were eloquent, informative and humorous in their summoning up of the recipients. The ceremony took 45 minutes to the delight of the crowd (in excess of 300).

The medal recipients were: Comd. Fred Donovan, Asst. Comd. Liam Quinn, Supt. Michael McAuley, Insp. Frank Kennefick, Supt. Dave Moore, Sgt. Dave Sheedy, Stn. Sgt. Sandy Allen, SSgt. Dean Crowe, Sgt. John Lewis, Supt. Romi Gyergyak, Sgt. Rod Isles, Sgt. Mark Laing, Sgt. Patricia Costa, Sgt. Ian Smith, Sgt. John Collins, Sgt. Hamish Smith, Sgt. Shona Bryant, Sgt. Christian Thomas, Sgt. John McGonigle, Sgt. Mick



Callan, Gd. Michael Galvin, Gd. Barry Walsh, and Gd. Declan Horan. Congrats to all.

After the parade, it was down to the CIVPOL Clubhouse, where the festivities began. Food and drink were to be had in abundance, with scrumptious delicacies prepared by our own master chef of UNPA fame. Music was supplied by the Argentinian band and later, Gd. Joe Hodges provided additional entertainment by singing along with the band. Both were in fine tune. Everyone enjoyed the night, and it was a credit to all who helped in any way to make this event run as smoothly as it did.

The Melbourne Cup



On 6 November 2001, the Australian Civilian Police Contingent hosted a champagne breakfast to celebrate the 140th running of Australia's greatest horse race: the Melbourne Cup. Ninety-five people attended the Officers' Club at 0600 hours and participated in the festivities, which included sweepstakes, lucky door prizes, and prizes for the best-dressed lady and gentleman.

Following the televised running of the race at 0715 hours, guests adjourned to the International Mess for breakfast. Everyone entered into the spirit of the occasion, and a great time was had by all. Irene Brandtner won the prize for the best-dressed lady, while Col. John Gagnon was judged the best-dressed male. Fred Donovan was the most successful sweepstakes taker, walking away with two first prizes.

Sgt. Bill McGeachie Retires

By Sgt. M Hennigan

Out in the bush between Sydney and Melbourne, somewhere in a little town named Galong, a rare individual joined the Australian Police Force. A man of several talents and qualifications, Bill McGeachie quickly grew in stature to become one of the greatest characters ever to wear a policeman's uniform and then to represent his country.

A qualified wool judge who rears kangaroos (45 at last count), Bill put in 34 years and 71 days in the police force. Besides his ever-popular laugh and good humour, Bill made it to President of the UN Tennis Club in the UNPA, and featured in the

UNFICYP Golf Championships, scoring a fantastic round of having a handicap of 28. (Bill often found it to be his only handicap.)

Sgt. Bill McGeachie's mug-out was held at the CIVPOL house on 19 October. There, in front of many guests, he was made an "Honorary Irishman", a title given to a very select few, like say Bill Clinton (well, Bill was presented with a lucky Leprechaun, anyway).

Bill, if you're reading this article, Dave Sheedy is still winning golf prizes, and your partner in crime, Frank Kennefick, still says that you can never take an Aussie for a drink!



UNFICYP Shines At Dhekelia Dash 2001

Over 40 teams from across the island, including three from UNFICYP, recently participated in the 2001 Dhekelia Dash. This 30 km charity relay race, now in its 35th year, features teams of 15 runners, each of whom run two kilometres round a course in Dhekelia Garrison. UNFICYP teams included a Sector 4 Slovakian/Hungarian team; a Sector 2 HQ Bty 12 Regt team (boosted by



some very good Para Engineers); and a Ladies team of both civilian and military personnel.

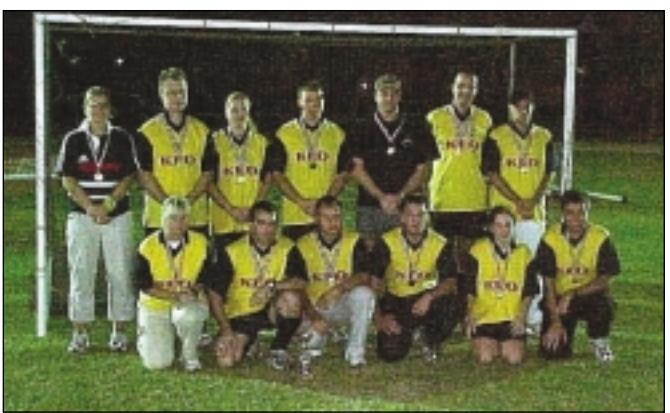
The race provides exciting spectator value, with stiff competition. The UNFICYP Ladies played a tactical card, waiting to pull away from their closest rivals until halfway through the race. As their last runner stormed down the hill to the finish line, the UNFICYP Ladies were a comfortable eight minutes ahead of the next ladies' team.

The Sector 2 Men's team also clinched the Military category trophy in a closely fought race, with a time of 1 hour 52 minutes.

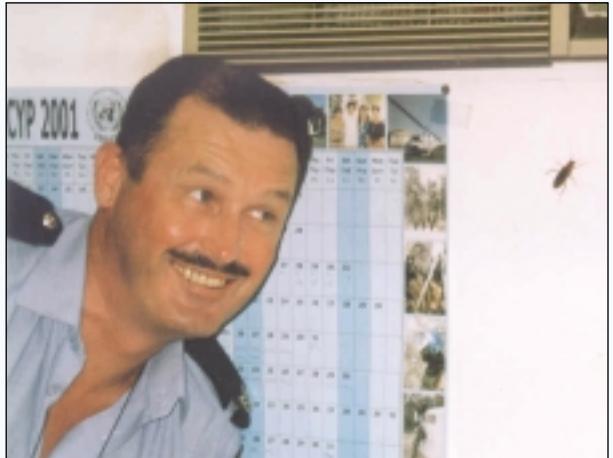
UN Grabs Trophy

Sunday 25 November saw the first of this year's Island Hockey tournaments, with mixed 8-a-side teams each fielding a minimum of three female players. Appropriately, the UN team represented many contingents, including English, Irish, Canadian, Australian and Argentinian. The teams were split into two groups, with the top two teams going through to the major finals, and the others contesting in the Plate finals.

The UN team played through in style to the Plate finals, winning the semi-final convincingly 2-0, and giving a spectacular performance to win the final 1-0. The UN's overall performance was only one goal conceded in six matches, and the Plate Trophy is now shining brightly at HQ UNFICYP.



Caption Competition



- Look at that: it's a male. It's got nine legs!
- Jeez, I just hope the rest of my moustache stays put.
- The UNCIVPOL bugging device.
- Opposites attract!
- Metamorphosis... UNFICYP style.
- You see, the trick is to outwit them (Olga - come and collect your prize!)**
- Office politics...
- And then there was one....



The best caption for the above photograph will receive a prize. All entries should be submitted to the Public Information Office by:

13 December 2001

"The Round of Larnaca", Fifth Edition

By Capt. M. Miceli



Football Match against 9 Regiment, National Guard

On 14 November, Sector 2 challenged 9NG to a football match. The game was exciting and hard fought, with the UN leading at one stage 3-1, with LBdr. Glazier scoring all three UN goals.

Unfortunately they were not able to hold the score, and the National Guard team came back to win 4-3.



A Brave Fight



A new edition of the International Annual Running Competition "The Round of Larnaca", which is dedicated to Saint Lazaros Foundation and the Larnaca Leper's Hospital Saint Charalambos, took place on Saturday 10 November, 2001. As usual, the turnout was highly satisfactory, with 32 runners from ARGCON (including representatives of the Uruguayan and Bolivian Armies) going in for the challenge. The race started at 4 p.m., and the athletes ran 6 km through the streets of Larnaca.

At the end, event organisers congratulated the Argentinian Contingent on the sporting conduct shown by its runners, and presented them with a plaque as a reminder of the event. Good showings in the overall standings included:

- 3rd Pte. La Ferrara (overall category)
- 4th WO2 Moyano (30-35 category)
- 5th WO3 Ceruzze (35-40 category)
- 6th WO2 Caraballo (45-50 category)

Congratulations to all participants, and keep in mind the motto: "Run and give yourself a longer life!"

Soccer Match Challenge

The UNPA WOs' & Sgts' Mess played host to visitors HMS Roebuck on 12 November, in a soccer match challenge. The visitors took the lead after 10 minutes, and continued to put the home team under pressure, as could be seen by their 4-2 advantage within 20 minutes. The home team put up a brave response, but overall the visitors were the stronger team, winning 7-5.

Congratulations to both teams for a sporting game of football.



Sport

Sunday 4 November was the UN Hockey Team's toughest game yet against ESOBGA (the English School's Old Boys' and Girls' Association): the longest established team in the League. However, the UN Hockey Club was not to be overshadowed or outdone.

It was during the first half that ESOBGA received a shock. With a deft flick into the top of the net, we scored: the first and only team to score a goal this season against ESOBGA. Although ESOBGA won 7-1 over the UN, all that seems to be missing from the UN side is an established striker in front of the goal. Hopefully this will soon be put right as the squad increases in size, and more and more players see the enjoyment, fitness, commitment and benefits from playing field hockey with the UN Hockey Club.

