

# THE BLUE BERET



DECEMBER 1981



# NOVEMBER IN RETROSPECT

## ROTATIONS

1—5 SWEDISH Contingent  
SWEDCIVPOL  
5—15 UNFICYP Transport Squadron  
15—25 DANISH Contingent  
20—30 BRITISH Battalion

## MEDAL PARADES

None

## VISITS

3 The Venerable Archdeacon W F Johnston, Chaplain General to the British Army, visited the British Contingent.  
4 Air Marshall D Atkinson, Director General of the British Royal Air Force Medical Services, accompanied by Gp Capt R C Davie and Mrs J E Puckering visited HQ UNFICYP, 84 Sqn Det RAF and Sector 6.  
4 Col Bateman and Maj Taylor from the Royal Army Medical Corps rehabilitation centre visited the British Contingent.  
5 Maj I F Stewart, GS03 Training and Liaison visited the British Contingent.  
8—11 Lt Col R ffrench-Blake, Commanding Officer of 13/18 Royal Hussars (QMO) accompanied by WO Smith, visited HQ UNFICYP and the Force Scout Car Sqn.  
8—18 MCpl Seguin visited the Canadian Contingent on administrative duties.  
11—17 Maj Ellis, MWO Parent, Sgt Hicks and Sgt Leblanc visited the Canadian Contingent on an Admin Staff Liaison visit.  
11—18 Maj Rogers and Capt Villiers visited the FSC Sqn on a recce.

12—14 Mr Kari Harkonen and a party of five visited the Finnish Contingent on a study for the government Committee on Peacekeeping.  
12—14 Flt Lt Graham visited 84 Sqn Det RAF.  
13—14 Wg Cdr T Potesta and WO R Buller visited 84 Sqn Det RAF.  
16 Wg Cdr Glen, Flt Lt Barnard and Flt Sgt Gates visited 84 Sqn Det RAF.  
16—18 Col M Farmer, OIC RAC Manning and Records, visited the British Contingent.  
16—19 Col Wellsman, Col Reid, Lt Col Edwards, Maj Elliott and Maj Sliwinski, DMPC/D LOG OPS, visited the Canadian Contingent.  
18—26 Mr G Bell and Mr M Buckstein from the Royal Canadian Military Institute visited the Canadian Contingent.  
23—24 Ms Eva Nylander, Mr B Martinelle, Mr T Jonsson and Mr A Carpelin, an entertainment group, visited the Swedish Contingent.  
23—26 Dr Julius Hanak, Austrian Army Chaplain visited the Austrian Contingent.  
24 Mr Wilson, Head of Southern Europe Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, visited the British Contingent.  
25 Lt Col S Grundy, WO1 G Farmer and WO2 D McKinnon, External Training and Advisory Team on Road Safety, visited HQ UNFICYP and the UNFICYP Tpt Sqn.  
29—11 Dec Lt Col C Levesque, Editor of the R22eR Regimental Magazine, to the Canadian Contingent.  
30—6 Dec Mr Goran Akander, 1st Secretary from Swedish Embassy in Tel Aviv visited the Swedish Contingent.

## MILITARY AND RECREATIONAL COMPETITIONS

9—10 UNFICYP BADMINTON COMPETITION

# FUTURE EVENTS

## CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME

School Hall UNPA Nicosia  
17 & 18 December

The UNFICYP Players present, for your entertainment, a light hearted Pantomime "Cinderella". All star cast; an evening for the whole family. Tickets on sale at the Y.M.C.A. UNPA Nicosia, £0.500 for adults £0.250 for children. Get your tickets early to avoid disappointment. This could well be the cultural experience of the year!

## AT THE BRITISH COUNCIL

3, Museum St, Nicosia

Wed 16 Dec at 7.30 p.m.

## CHRISTMAS CHORAL MUSIC

The Nicosia Singers, conducted by Lawrence Denholm in a programme of music and poetry for Christmas. This will include as its centre piece the Fantasia on Christmas Carols by Ralph Vaughan Williams. The accompanist is Carole Economou, the cellist Hayrabet Torossian. Michael Downing sings baritone solo in the Fantasia, while there are other solos from the members of the Choir and from the well-known Cypriot soprano Elpida Georgiou. Please come, with your family, and have a drink in the interval.

## AT THE BRITISH COUNCIL READING ROOM,

25 Mehmet Akif Avenue, Nicosia

Friday 11 Dec:

Feature Film THE MERCHANT OF VENICE from the BBC series "The Complete Dramatic Works of William Shakespeare". A play about judgement, atonement and mercy — beginning with revenge, hatred and illicit love, ending with understanding, compatibility and perfect love.

Friday 18 Dec., 7.30 pm: Films on Natural History.

GIANTS OF THE VERMILION SEA. Krov and Ann Menhin explore the land and waters of the Baja California in Mexico. Excellent underwater photography reveals glimpses of the Californian Grey Whale, the Blue Whale, Basking and Whale Sharks and many smaller animals. A brief jaunt over a few islands in the Gulf of California is included.

ST KILDA — THE LONELY ISLANDS. The group of three islands and four stacks lies 110 miles west of the Scottish mainland. Their distinguishing feature is the precipitous nature of their cliffs. The film is a record of the unique birds and animal life of these spectacular islands which swarm with sea-fowl — fulmars, puffins, guillemots, razorbills and gannets — and which possess three species of wild life peculiar to St Kilda, the small brown Soay sheep, which may have been introduced by the Vikings, the St Kilda fieldmouse, bigger and tamer than the mainland mouse, and the St Kilda wren, which to protect itself from the prevailing gales has become a troglodyte. St Kilda is now owned by the National Trust of Scotland.

## AT THE AMERICAN CENTRE,

Nicosia

Friday 11 Dec. at 6 p.m.

The Excavation of a Phoenician Warship in Sicily: A talk at the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute, 41 King Paul Street, Nicosia. Guest speaker Honor Frost is one of the first scholars to take underwater archaeology seriously, and her book Under the Mediterranean, published in the early 1960's, did much to internationalize a discipline previously dominated by the French. She has excavated in France, Malta, Turkey and Sicily where the third-century warship she recovered offers many excellent parallels with the Kyrenia Ship of Cyprus. Miss Frost's current visit to the island is in pursuance of her research on ancient stone anchors.

Wednesday 16 Dec. at 7.30 pm

Doctor Zhivago: David Lean's epic treatment of the Boris Pasternak novel was an immense popular success and won five Oscars, despite some criticism for superficiality. Omar Sharif plays the idealistic Russian doctor-poet who is sympathetic with the ideals of the Revolution but is unable to adjust to the new society when the Revolution finally occurs. The story hinges on Zhivago's doomed romance with his mistress Lara (Julie Christie). The all-star cast includes Alec Guinness. Audiences still love the period settings and Maurice Jarre's musical score.

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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, on UN matters of general interest and on local tourist advice.

Articles of general interest are invited from all members of the Force. Descriptions of recent local events or of visits to places of interest are welcome. Illustrations are most welcome. Photographs should be in black and white on glossy paper. This is an official publication prepared under the direction of the Force Commander. The views expressed are, however, those of the author concerned and do not necessarily conform with official policy.

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## on the cover

The front door of the Troodos Signals Detachment

# THE BLUE BERET



## THE FORCE COMMANDER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO ALL MILITARY AND CIVILIAN MEMBERS OF THE FORCE

Again UNFICYP has had a successful year in carrying out its mission in Cyprus. The success of your efforts, and those of your colleagues in the past, together with the steady, balanced and impartial manner in which you have tackled a difficult and delicate situation, has been well and appropriately reflected in the Secretary General's report.

The discipline of the Force and the conduct of its members when off-duty has been excellent. I am pleased to say that this year strict



*Maj Gen Mehmet Akif*

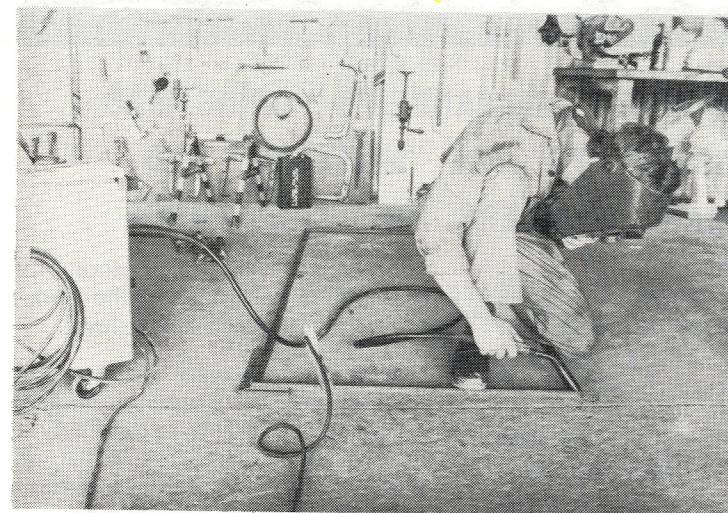
The festive season is upon us once more and I am taking this opportunity to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

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# KEEPING THE BATTALION ON WHEELS

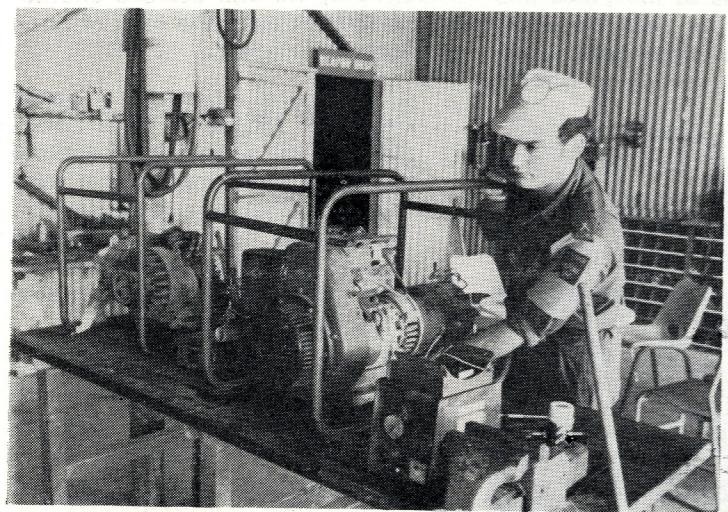
By Lt Åke Edwardson



If you don't have a car to kick life into, there is always something you can weld...



Here it is — you can't miss it!



An everyday sight in the heart of Swedcon's Workshops: engines, engines, engines...



A tough case — better call in all units!

 **SWEDCON**

They spend their days with battery containers, fuel pumps, brake contacts and drive shafts up to their ears. From early morning until late in the afternoon they use their tools like a doctor uses his instruments.

It's the SWEDCON Workshop at work, maintenance all day long. The vehicles can hardly make it to the workshop, but when the guys here have taken care of everything, the cars, landrovers and buses feel like early spring and hardly need a driver...

You need all your fingers and toes and a lot more to count all the vehicles in SWEDCON. And they all come to the Zone isn't like cruising around on a Saturday workshop sooner or later. Either for a day night in the home town!



Mr Landrover helps SWEDCON to keep the landrovers on the tracks.

If you come down here you can't miss our Mr Landrover. He's the one who's taking care of all the — landrovers. His name is Jim Griffiths, he's a Sgt from BRITCON and he knows everything worth knowing about these carlike tractors. Or is it tractorlike cars? Mr Landrover is going to stay with us for the next six months, while the Contingent is here, and he will have more than a close look at all his babies during that time.

It isn't just vehicles at the workshops. This is the place for petrol and oil, this is the place for putting together everything that needs to be put together. The sparks and flashes from welding can be seen everywhere and there is always someone going out to fix a generator.

The SWEDCON Workshop is keeping the battalion on its wheels — and more.



Cpl Wolf-Dieter Flechsig looking apprehensive after arrival at the main gate.



Sometimes you are completely on your own...

## NEWCOMER

By Capt F Lugert

The word 'newcomer' is in some ways slightly ambiguous since it implies the lack of experience. AUSCON's system of rotation tries to reduce this problem by changing approximately 50% of its troops every three months. But still, the Austrian soldier coming to Cyprus as a newcomer faces a wide range of previously unknown demands and impressions.

One of AUSCON's newcomers is Capt Reinhard ROEHL, MD, 28, who comes from Vienna where he started his medical career, graduating in 1978 and working in one of Vienna's largest hospitals and later with the Vienna City Ambulance, which made him an experienced doctor despite his age.

Reinhard started to taste life in Cyprus on the very first day, by eating moussaka and haloumi cheese. His recreation plans for the future will not only concentrate on sports, but also on historical sights and he promised to drive safely visiting the many outstanding remains of the various cultures on the island.

Another 'newcomer' is Chief Warrant Officer Dieter GUCKLER, 41, who comes from the wonderful "Mozart City" of Salzburg. Dieter is a professional soldier in a signal battalion with extensive military knowledge. His UN appointment is deputy platoon leader in the engineer platoon. Dieter is the type of newcomer often found in AUSCON, who should actually be called an 'oldtimer', since he is here in Cyprus for the third time. It can be imagined how easily he took over from his predecessor and how fast he felt 'back home' on the island. Not only

problems of getting orientated in the

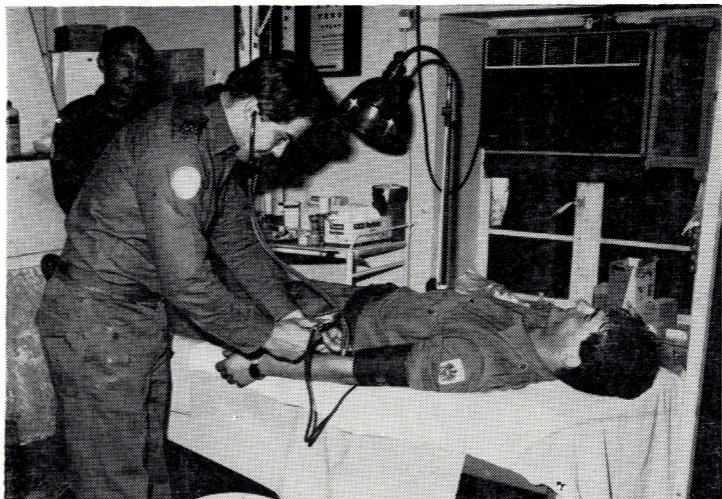
fellow soldiers whom he knew from the last tours.

Dieter is an expert mountain hiker and swimmer and will try to 'perform' at least the latter, even in winter time. Despite his previous tours with UNFICYP he still has many things to see on the island and his next plan is to study the archeological treasures of the old city of Salamis.

Corporal Wolf-Dieter FLECHSIG is another example of a newcomer, who comes from Krems, a beautiful town in the province of Lower Austria. Wolf-Dieter is 19 and will be part of the COMCEN crew. Having been quite impressed with Austrian Airlines efficient military airlift to Larnaca, his first thought on arrival was that he was some 3,000 km away from home, in a new country which gave him the impression of a desert compared to the green hills of his region along the Danube river.

Wolf-Dieter volunteered for UN duties out of adventurous motivations, money and curiosity to see a different part of the world, meet different people, see cultural and religious differences and to experience his own personality in a completely new surrounding for his 6-month stay. After the typical and usual first-day

basic things, he has now established a good contact with his COMCEN friends and the Signal officer.



Capt Reinhard Roehle checks a patient's blood pressure. Capt Josef Tschernernjak is in the background.



CWO Dieter Guckler giving some friendly instruction.

# DANISH CHRISTMAS

By Maj Bent Agger

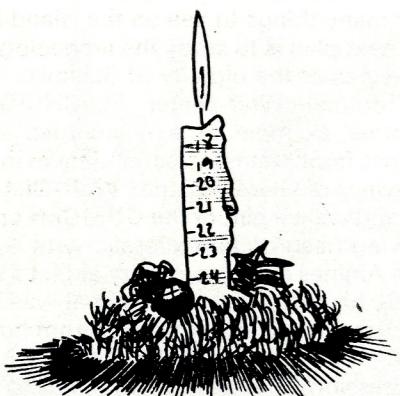


Like all other nations, Denmark has a number of customs and traditions as far as celebrating Christmas is concerned. I hope this will give you an impression of what we do in Denmark.

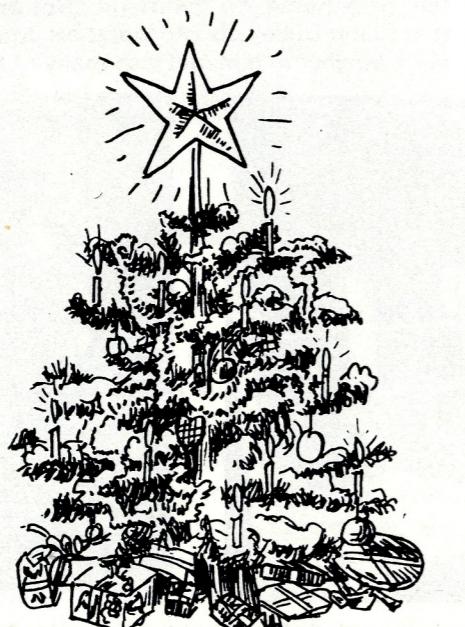
**Preparations.** In the middle of November the shops start their Christmas campaign, and you get the feeling that this is starting earlier and earlier. In the good old days, the preparations started on December 1st on the dot, but as is happening everywhere, commercialisation has taken over. The only calendar to be used for Christmas was one with 24 windows covering the days from the 1st to 24th December, the big day being the 24th. Every day you opened one of the

start to prepare yourself for church. You absolutely hated that, partly because it was normally looked on as a waste of time and partly due to the fact that you had to change into clean clothes and underwear, and finally due to the fact that it extended the time until the dancing around the Christmas Tree and your gifts.

Eventually, however, the service was over and you were heading back home, where you find out that you have to sit through the Christmas dinner before getting any further. Here you are in something of an ambivalent situation; the dinner is something special, you have a delicious duck, goose or roast veal and in the sweet rice porridge there is an almond nut and whoever gets the nut will receive a small prize, which could be a marzipan pig or something like that.



windows, and were often told a story connected to what was shown on the picture in the window. Then on the 24th, it would normally be a Christmas Tree with lit candles and a bright star on top, in order to whet your appetite for the approaching evening. You could also have a "Calendar Candle" separated into 24 sections. You would burn off one 24th of the candle each day.



The last days before Christmas could be counted as the-day-before, the-day-before-the-day-before, the-day-before-the-day-before-the-day-before, and so on. During these days preparations were made. You were cutting and sticking flags, paper hearts, small bags, and festoons, all the while eating sweets, and you would work hard accompanied by the soft voice of your mother reading the Christmas stories. You also practised the Christmas songs.

**The 24th Afternoon.** Despite the fact that this is very close to the shortest day of the year, you feel that it is in fact the longest! You keep on asking what time it is, only to learn that a mere two minutes have passed since you last asked. At a snail's pace it eventually becomes 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and you can

Illustrations by Sgt Holm

on small holders are fastened to the tree and the room is locked, but naturally you have tried to peep through the key hole!

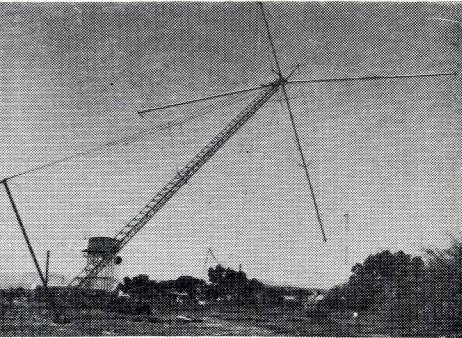
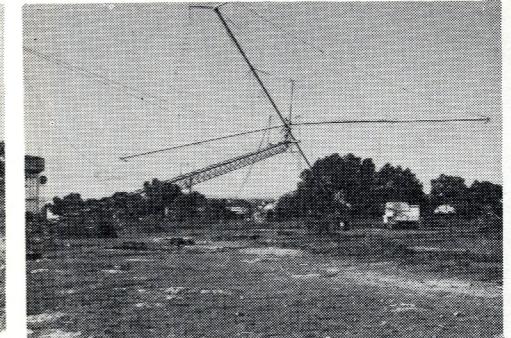
**The 24th Evening.** After Christmas dinner your father will enter the room with the Tree, but he will shut the door after him. You patiently wait for another five minutes, although it feels like hours, and then it happens. Your father opens the door and there it is: the Christmas Tree, with the candles alight but, more important, there are parcels piled up under the tree. Your family forms a ring around the tree and hand-in-hand you walk slowly round, like a human garland, singing the well-known Christmas hymns and songs that you have been practising for a long time.



After a few songs, your father will take down the heavy family bible and read the Christmas gospel and you will sing another hymn, then you all start exchanging gifts. You only collect; you are not allowed to open them yet, but with your eyes you measure the size and shape of your parcels and with your fingers you feel whether the parcel is soft or hard.

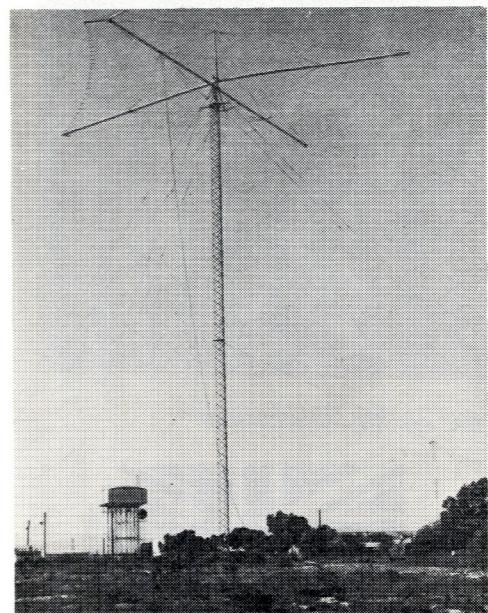
Eventually when everybody has received their parcels, you may open yours. The youngest starts, and all the others look on with interest as he unpacks his gifts and then in age sequence from the youngest up, you have all eventually got your parcels unwrapped and can start to enjoy them.

On 25th December in the morning not much happens; maybe you will go to a church service and maybe you will have a good lunch, but as a matter of fact, in Denmark it is the evening of 24th December that counts - Christmas Eve.



The Canadian Arctic is nothing but bare rocks covered by snow - as far as the eye can see. Despite these extremely harsh conditions, we have established sophisticated and highly successful communications systems which reach different units spread over thousands of miles where the Polar Bear and the Inuit live together in harmony.

This Canadian expertise was also utilized by our specialists to study the characteristics of the rocky and arid soil common in the meridional regions of the world in order to find some agronomical similarities with our arctic tundra.



## CANADIANS ARE GROWING ANTENNAE

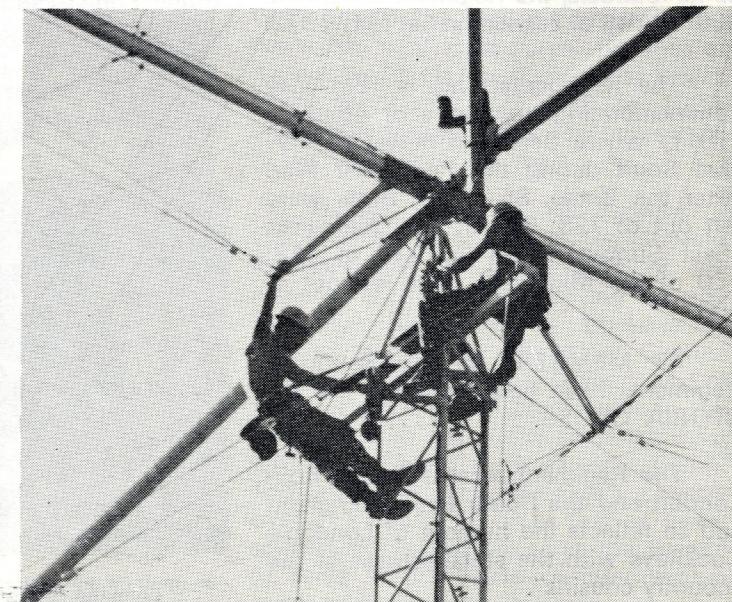
By Capt Bernard St-Laurent and Capt Vince Muolo



The end results were above our expectations. All you have to do is look up. Waaaay up! You will notice that our metallic trees, commonly referred to as antennae, have by far outgrown the local scraggly olive trees.

The agricultural methods are quite elementary. First you sow a patch of ground with some cement during the dry season and all you do is add water. You must ensure that the cement is kept humid so no cracks form at the outset. Then you simply expose it to oven-like temperatures - yes, like the summer heat in Cyprus.

Three months later, a monumental metallic structure towers over crown-



ed by an antler-like array of rods enabling us to communicate with all corners of Aphrodite's birth place and even to more distant horizons))

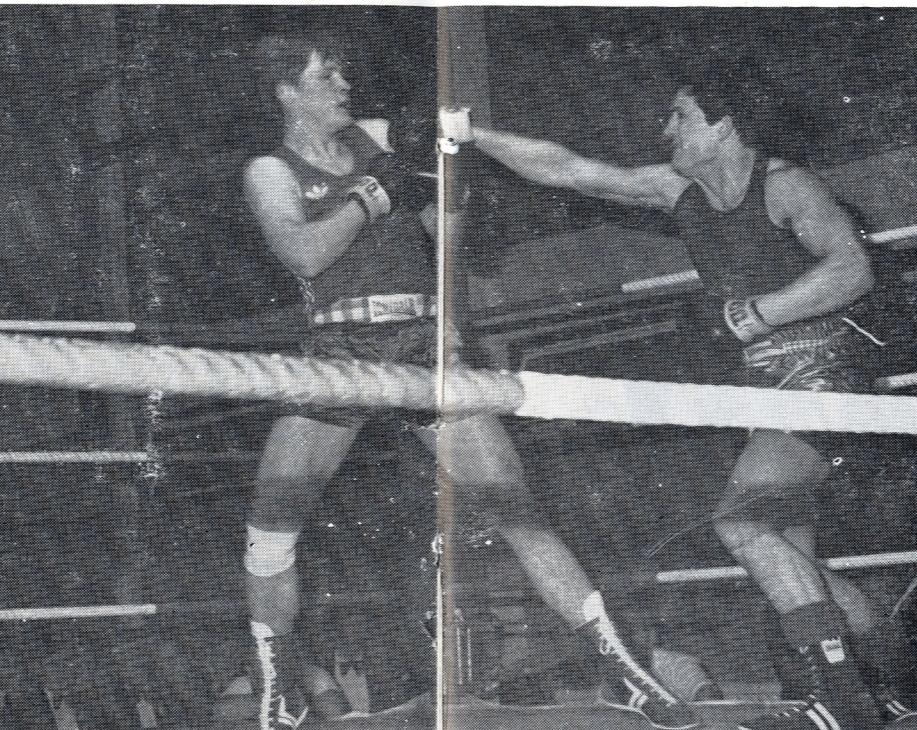
It's also common knowledge that the forbear of these great structures is the mythological figure called Hermes. Long before Bell Canada introduced the "Long Distance Feeling", Hermes (the figure representing all signals elements in the Canadian Forces) had established it by commuting regularly to see his beloved Aphrodite.

Some of Hermes' disciples and our champions in the field of antenna erection (. . growing ?) and maintenance are the "boys" from 1 Line Tp based in Kingston, Canada. They were in Cyprus in November for their annual inspection and maintenance projects.

Their job was one of the most impressive things the eye could see. You had to watch that long spar stretching slowly above the horizon . . . the sky is the limit.



A MILAN anti-tank weapon team dressed in their NBC equipment.



Boxing — one of the major sports in the battalion. Cpl Simon Johnson of C Coy launching an attack against his taller Irish Guards opponent.



The Battalion's Milan anti-tank weapons fire at night.

England's senior infantry Regiment is back. However this time it is not the 3rd Battalion which served with the UN at Polemedhia during the winter of 1972/3, but the 2nd Battalion The Queen's Regiment.

The Queen's Regiment came into being on the last day of 1966. The main ceremony took place at Howe Barracks, Canterbury, where the Headquarters and Depot were formed from those of the Home Counties Brigade. By similar acts of nominal conversion, the First Battalion (Queen's Surreys) came into being at Munster, the Second Battalion (Royal Sussex) at Lemgo and the Fourth Battalion (Middlesex) at Holywood. The Regiment has two Territorial Army battalions the Fifth and Sixth/Seventh Battalion.

Being vested with the tradition of all its founders, the Regiment completed 400 YEARS of service on 1st May 1972.

The Regimental Day is 16th May commemorating the Battle of Albuhera (1811) where Beresford defeated Marshal Soult during the Peninsular War. After the Battle, 85 of the Buffs were left out of 728; 263 of the Thirty First (East Surreys) were left out of 418; 160 of the Middlesex were left out of 600.

43 MEMBERS of the Founding Regiments have been awarded the VICTORIA CROSS.

The Regiment recruits mainly from London and the South East of England and so reflects the humour of London's Cockneys with the steadfastness of the "country cousins".



## 2nd BATTALION THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT



The Queen's Regiment's motto is UNCONQUERED I SERVE. Historical associations have led to the Regiment having two allied Colonels-in-Chief, Her Majesty QUEEN MARGRETHE II of Denmark and Her Royal Highness PRINCESS JULIANA of the Netherlands.

The Regiment has alliances with several other national armies. Among them are Regiments of the Canadian Armed Forces, and the Australian Military Forces.

The Regiment is proud of its sporting achievements, and 2 QUEENS at



Enjoying the thrills of canoeing!

### UNIT FEATURE

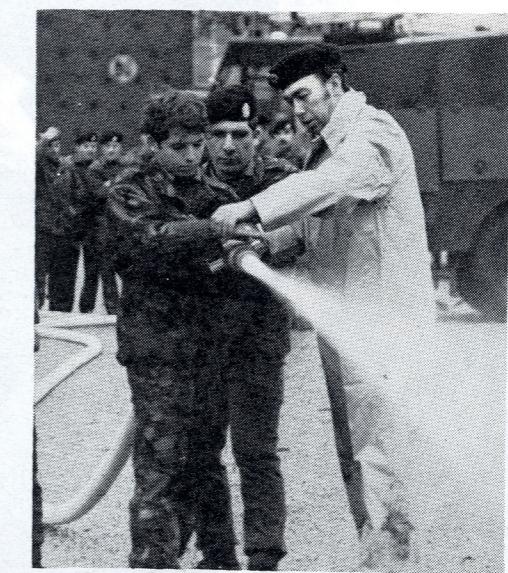


present has a strong boxing team. The battalion also holds the nucleus of a good hockey side. The soldiers are keen footballers, but as yet have to achieve the success that their enthusiasm merits.

During the last 10 years the battalion has seen service in many parts of the world, including Germany, Belize, 1704.



Rock climbing on Cornwall's rocky coastline.



Soldiers learn how to operate fire engines in preparation for a strike by British firemen.

Gibraltar and several short but active tours in Northern Ireland.

In Germany 2 QUEENS was part of the British 4th Division in the mechanised infantry role. It formed part of NATO's defence of Western Europe.

After five years in Germany the Battalion moved to England at the end of 1975. There it returned to its non-mechanised role, and as such spent six months in Belize in Central America helping that nation towards its recently achieved independence. While in Belize the Unit was able to practice jungle training; a skill rapidly being lost by the majority of British soldiers.

In 1977 2 QUEENS went to Gibraltar for two years to garrison the Rock which has had a British presence since 1704.

In 1979 the Battalion returned to Colchester in the east of England to become part of 7 Field Force. Because of its war role it took part in the 1st British Corps Exercise CRUSADER in 1980, one of the largest British exercises held in Germany in recent years.

During the next six months 2 QUEENS will be serving in two different locations on the Island. Half of the soldiers are presently serving in the Sovereign Base Area at Dhekelia as part of the British Forces in Cyprus, while the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Peter Packham is commanding the battalion from BRITCON at Sector Two UNFICYP based at St David's Camp. The four rifle companies will change over in February in order that as many soldiers as possible are given the chance to serve in the cause of international peace with the United Nations.



## BADMINTON COMPETITION

MCpl Ernest Arseneau 11-15, 15-10, 15-13.

The Chief of Staff, Brigadier Bastick, presented the prizes and congratulated the players on their high standard of skill and sportsmanship.

### RESULTS

#### Singles:

1. MCpl ARBOUR	CANCON
2. MCpl ARSENEAU	CANCON

#### Doubles:

1. CANCON	
2. SWEDCON	



MCpl Arseneau with his eye on the shuttlecock.

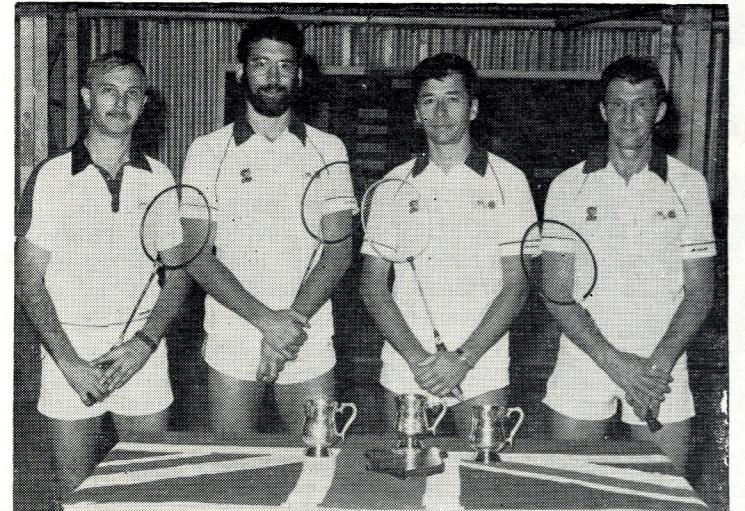
### Team Results:

1. CANCON	10 points
2. HQ UNFICYP	3 points
3. DANCON	)
SWEDCON	2 points
SP REGT	)
FSC SQN	)
7. BRITCON	1 points
8. 84 Sqn Det RAF	0 points

On Tuesday 10 November, UNFICYP Support Regiment hosted the finals of the UNFICYP Badminton Competition. The competition was dominated throughout by CANCON who took all the honours.

The doubles final was a contest between CANCON and SWEDCON, with the CANCON pair winning in two straight games, 15-10, 15-3.

The all-CANCON singles final was a tense, exciting and hard fought match in which their B rated player, MCpl Bob Arbour, defeated the A-string player



CANCON Champions (from left to right) MCpl Ernest Arseneau (runner-up Singles), Lt Pierre Linteau and Capt Denis Ruest (Doubles Winners), MCpl Bob Arbour (Singles Winner).



The doubles victors in action.

## UNICORNS RUGBY CLUB

By Keith Acton

Are you aware that within the United Nations Force in Cyprus there is a rugby club open to all UN members? The UNICORNS club is based in the UNPA and is open to anyone who is athletically minded and wishes to play rugby but who cannot find a team or a game to play in. Under the guidance of Jeff Thornton of 13/18 Hussars, a dedicated group of enthusiasts apply their minds and bodies — in some cases quite considerable — to the arts of rugby.

With plenty of enthusiasm, and aided by a fair degree of skill, the Club has had an active and moderately successful start to the season. They entered the KEO Cup at Ayios Nikolaos and, after playing four hard games, lost in the final to the 3LI 'A' Team.

Since that initial competitive start the Club has played a variety of teams from the Sovereign Bases with a degree of success, in fact winning five games out of six played.

Thanks to an active recruiting drive carried out ruthlessly by John Wallace, the Club now has a growing squad of players which, if training is anything to go by, will develop into a first rate rugby team.

If you are interested in playing, or even watching, rugby, then turn up at any of the games — you'll be most welcome. Training sessions are held on Mondays and Thursdays at 3.30 p.m. at the BBC Sports Field, so if you fancy a run, come and try it out.



UNICORNS get the ball back from a line out.



### Results

#### KEO CUP

1st Round	Unicorns v Griffons	Won	4-3
2nd Round	Unicorns v Akrotiri Flamingoes	Lost	0-16

#### KEO PLATE

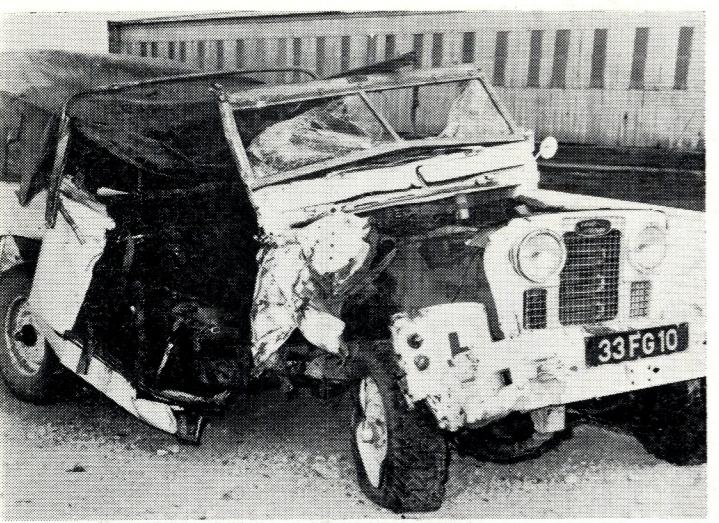
Semi-Final	Unicorns v 9 Sigs 'B'	Won	6-0
Final	Unicorns v 3LI 'A'	Lost	6-18

### Matches

Unicorns v Dhekelia Garrison	Won	24-14
Unicorns v RAF Akrotiri	Lost	0-42
Unicorns v Griffons	Won	18-14
Unicorns v 62 Sqn RE	Won	6-0
Unicorns v Episkopi 'B'	Won	24-13
Unicorns v 254 (UNFICYP) SIG SQN	Won	54-4



UNICORNS three quarter backs in action.



Did they survive?

# ROAD CONCERN



## By the UNFICYP ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Festive season is here and you are driving along the by-pass in Nicosia to do some Christmas shopping, or returning to your unit from a social event, or driving to the Troodos to strap on those new skis. Life is treating you well, occasionally your thoughts drift to places far away but you wouldn't swap your UNFICYP tour for anything . . . CRASH, THUD, BOUNCE, BREAKING GLASS, SMELL OF PETROL, PAIN . . .

Accidents happen when you least expect them. They can happen to the officer, the soldier, the civilian, the family, the professional driver on duty and the hire-car driver on leave. At best an accident will cause you to miss your appointment, probably be expensive, perhaps involve you in punishment and almost certainly result in a lot of paperwork and possibly a difficult insurance claim. At worst an accident can mean grief and bereavement and an accident can happen to YOU.

### ROAD SAFETY CONCERN US ALL

UNFICYP drivers cover millions of miles a year in pursuit of their duties and we need not be ashamed of our driving record. Nevertheless an analysis of accidents reveals that



Safety doesn't increase with the size of vehicle.



Did they survive?



far too high a proportion could have been prevented by showing greater care; by driving on the defensive. What is a defensive driver in Cyprus? He or she is a skilled and good driver and a slower one than you would find in Canada or Continental Europe because the conditions demand it. The defensive driver's powers of concentration and observation enable him or her to ensure that no action, or lack of action, on his or her part will contribute to any degree to the development of an accident situation.

Listed below are some of the special hazards to watch for when driving in Cyprus and the remedies to be taken to avoid accidents.

#### SPECIAL HAZARDS. Watch for:

- Doors opening in your path
- Unexpected stopping
- Turning without signalling
- Reversing without looking
- Driving in the middle of the road, even on bends
- Excessive speeding
- Pedestrians lingering in your path
- Cyclists riding unlit cycles at night.
- Sheep or goats on the road
- Dazzle at night

**THE ANSWER** is care, patience, courtesy. We can avoid accidents by:

- Allowing more time for journeys
- Refusing to be irritated by the faults of others
- Using your horn whenever necessary
- Checking and double-checking for danger
- Staying well behind the vehicle in front
- Expecting surprises
- Slowing right down whenever there might be danger
- Using the rough verges if the tarmac is narrow

# SAFETY US ALL



#### — NEVER DRINKING AND DRIVING

The temptation to break the golden rule of never drinking and driving is at its greatest at Christmas time. We all know that it is wrong and can be avoided without appearing ungracious when faced with the hospitality we shall all be offered. We can take it in turns to stick to soft drinks when driving our friends; we can use the recreational transport programmes run by units; we can make use of the inexpensive Cyprus taxi services. Beware the confident guest who remarks "I know my own limit"—he may not live to learn that he didn't.

Unfortunately some accidents will be inevitable, however careful we are. Seat belts have proved to be such savers of life and limb that, progressively, countries are making their wear mandatory. Wherever military men are gathered together however, arguments rage as to their use. Let us explode three of the myths:

#### I'D BE SAFER THROWN CLEAR!

Most unlikely. The risk of terrible injuries as you fly through the windscreen, or when you hit the road surface (not to mention the danger of being run over by another vehicle) far outweighs the possibility that you will land comfortably on a soft verge. Collision forces can be so great as to fling an ejected person as far as 150 feet. You can also be badly injured by striking many parts of the inside of your own vehicle—particularly military vehicles with their specialist fittings.

#### MY BELT COULD TRAP ME IN A BURNING OR SUBMERGED VEHICLE.

Again most unlikely. Without a belt you are far more likely to be knocked unconscious in the crash before the fire or submersion occurs. This very much reduces the chance of getting out alive if you are not alert and uninjured. Less than 1% of all injury-producing accidents involve fire or submersion.

#### I WEAR A BELT ON LONG JOURNEYS BUT NOT AROUND TOWN AT LOW SPEEDS.

Anyone who has the misfortune to walk into a post in the dark doesn't need reminding of the violence of the colli-



Never relax on the Nicosia By-Pass.

sion at only 2 or 3 MPH. When two cars collide head-on at 30 MPH they are stopped in about 2 feet. The occupants, if unrestrained by seat belts, will carry on unchecked striking the interior of the car with a violence roughly equivalent to falling face down to the ground from the roof of a house. More than half of all accidents involving death occur within 10 miles of home. The answer is obvious; **WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT AT ALL TIMES.**

Let us all make a Christmas resolution to wear our seat belts but never to require their use in anger. As snow falls on the mountains and the roads are wet on the plains, as Christmas hospitality reaches a peak, as the nights draw in to the shortest day, our resolution will be tested every time we take to the roads. To leave Cyprus after an accident-free tour is an aim worth pursuing by all of us, so let's begin it this Christmas.

Accidents reflect on the countries we represent and, most importantly, on the reputation of the United Nations Force in Cyprus. They cost the organisation a lot of money, lower our operational efficiency and can cause pain and grief. They can be avoided by us all—**DRIVE DEFENSIVELY.**

### ROAD SAFETY CONCERN US ALL



NEVER DRINKING AND DRIVING.

# Pictorial news

## NEWLY ARRIVED UNFICYP TRANSPORT SQUADRON

### 1 SQUADRON ROYAL CORPS OF TRANSPORT

By Capt John Wallace



Newly arrived as the UNFICYP Transport Squadron are 1 Sqn RCT, whose permanent base is in Colchester, South East England, an old Roman town and the oldest garrison town in England. This is by no means the first time that 1 Sqn have supported the UN troops in Cyprus, as the Squadron has had five previous tours: Jan-Jul 67, Jan-July 1971, May-Nov 1975, Nov 77-May 78 and Nov 79-May 1980.

Although the most recent tour only ended in May of last year, the members of the Squadron who were on that tour number only 28 of the present Squadron, and none of the officers on the current tour were on the last one.

1 Sqn's history dates back to 1870 when 1 Coy RASC were formed in Woolwich as a horse-drawn transport unit. They then moved to Aldershot from 1883 to the outbreak of the First World War. After the great war they were disbanded until 1939 when they reformed in Aldershot, this time as a Motor Transport (MT) unit. During the Second World War the Coy served in Belgium and France until the Dunkirk evacuation, when they moved to Northern Ireland for air raid

duties in Belfast during 1941/42. In 1944 they moved to France again on MT and railhead duties and 1945 and 46 saw them serving as an Army Tpt GT Coy in Germany.

During the 1950s 1 Coy served in Benghazi (Libya) and El Kersh (Egypt) as an Armoured Brigade Transport Coy and in 1960 they moved to their present base in Colchester. When the Royal Army Service Corps disbanded on 15 July 1965 the Coy was retitled 1 Squadron Royal Corps of Transport, and the Squadron celebrated its centenary in 1970 with a parade through the centre of Colchester led by horse-drawn wagons. Since then the Squadron has exercised in Singapore and the Caribbean and has had several tours of duty in Northern Ireland, as well as the UNFICYP tours mentioned above.

1 Sqn RCT claims to be the senior transport squadron in the British Army and we are pleased to be fulfilling one of our priority tasks — that of supporting a United Nations Peacekeeping Force. We look forward to this current tour and hope to provide you with the best possible service with all the resources available to us.



S/Sgt Beattie (BRITCON) cuts one of the legs whilst Maj Greig looks on.



Sig J Munroe (CANCON) cuts one of the supporting cables.



Down' she falls — "Timber"!

## ANTENNA FELLED

This month the old antenna outside the 254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn Detachment's hut on Troodos was "taken down". A new antenna was erected beforehand!

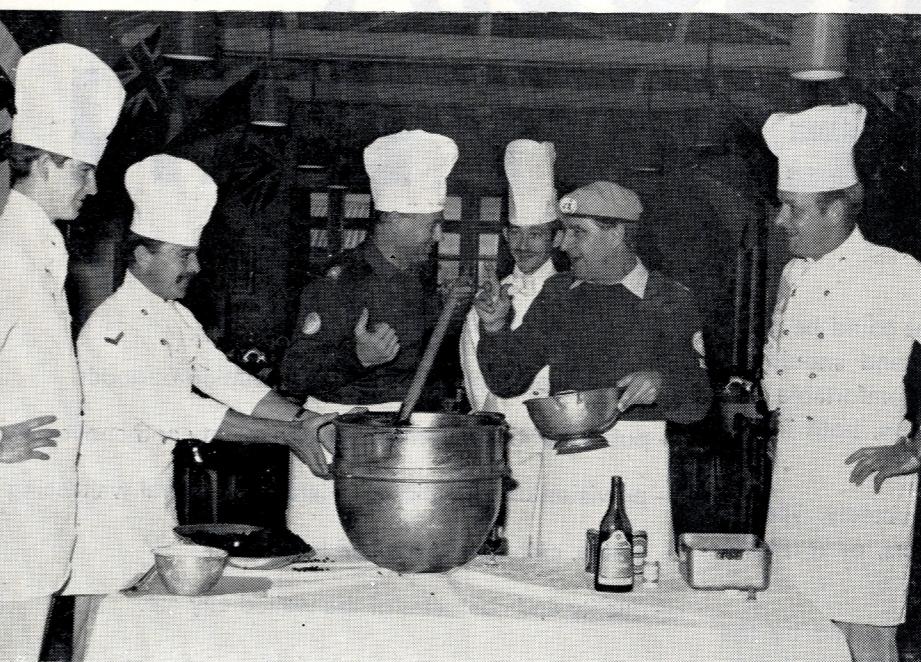
The picture to the right:

Standing (from left to right) Sgt Lobdell (CANCON), Sig Vanderhayden (CANCON), Sig Hardy (BRITCON), Sig Davey (BRITCON), S/Sgt Beattie (BRITCON), Cpl Robinson (CANCON).

Leaning on the antenna, Sig Munroe (CANCON) and in the foreground, Sig Jevons (BRITCON).



## FORCE COMMANDER STIRS THE CHRISTMAS PUDDING



On 20 Nov Maj Gen Gunther Greindl stirred the Christmas Pudding at Jubilee Camp Cookhouse. Sharing a joke in the picture from left to right are: Pte Howes, Cpl Wakeley, Force Commander, Cpl McKay, Lt Col Gill, Sgt Strawn.

## SENIOR RANKS GATHER

Recently WO1 Glenn, RSM of UNFICYP Sp Regt gathered together all the RSMs or unit equivalents for a conference and lunch at Jubilee Camp WOs/Sgts Mess.

In the picture (L to R):

WO1 Sleha (AUSCON), S/Sgt Muller (AUSCON), WO1 Katschning (AUSCON), MWO Parker (CANCON), WO1 (RSM) Glenn, Sp Regt, SSgt Iversen (DANCON), Coy Sgt Brace (IRCON), WO1 (ASM) Knight (REME Wksp), SSM Davis (FSC Sqn), SSM Davison (1 Sqn RCT), WO2 (AQMS) Burch (REME Wksp), PMC WO/Sgts Mess).





# UN NEWS



# NICOSIA MASTER PLAN

By Lt Col Gunnar Postrup

Photos Bob Fousert

Is Nicosia a nice place to live in? What could be done to improve today's situation? What could and should be done to make it a suitable, attractive and comfortable city in the near future and for the next generation, both for its citizens and for visitors?

Difficult and complex questions, undoubtedly. Well—in about 15 months we will have the answers, or at least a fairly good try at answering the questions.

The Nicosia Master Plan is a project assisted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and executed by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlement (UNCHS—also called HABITAT) with the main object of "improving the present and future habitat and human settlement conditions of all the inhabitants of Nicosia."

After agreement between representatives of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities of Nicosia in late 1979, the planning process started in December 1980 and will be finalised in the beginning of 1983.

Almost all aspects of development will be taken into consideration, for example:

- use of land
- housing conditions

- industries and commercial factories
- movement of people and transportation of goods
- public utilities in terms of health, safety and conveniences
- provision of education, welfare and general well-being
- sports, culture and general leisure
- quality and character of the walled city etc.

About twenty people, including international experts and representatives of the two communities, are working full time on this project. The planning is continuously reviewed and discussed between the project team and representatives of the two communities. At those meetings UNDP and UNFICYP (represented by Economics Branch) are also present.

In addition to the planning itself and the outcome from a practical and technical point of view, it is important to point out that the project also has particular significance in providing an opportunity for bringing together representatives of both sides to discuss their mutual problems connected with town planning.