

The Blue Beret

September 2002



Repairing
the track



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Editorial

UN day is celebrated on 24 October, the day when the Charter of the United Nations came into force 57 years ago. The Charter, or the compact amongst member States "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" was signed some four months earlier, on 26 June, in San Francisco by the founding members of the United Nations.

UN day has a special significance here in Cyprus, where we celebrate on the Sunday closest to the actual anniversary date. The reason is simple. We want to make it a special day for all the family, and indeed for all the island's families so that they can cross the buffer zone and come together for a day of fun and enjoyment.

There's food and refreshments for all at the Ledra Palace beginning 11.00 am. For those who seek a reunion with old friends, there's even a shady place to sit and chat over the old times and look to the future.

The UNFICYP family – military, civilian and police – will host the celebrations with the help of the rest of the UN family in Cyprus – UNHCR, UNICEF, UNV, as well as the Bi-communal Development Programme, with funding provided by UNDP and USAID through UNOPS.

The United Nations is an instrument to make the world a better place for humanity. The celebration of the UN's birthday simply reinforces that message. Come join the fun.

Leaders Meet in Paris

The Secretary-General greets Greek Cypriot leader, H.E. Glafcos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader, H.E. Rauf Denktash in Paris on 6 September. Mr. Annan highlighted a number of issues he hoped the leaders would tackle on their return to Nicosia before meeting with him again in New York in early October.

He said he continued to believe that elements of a comprehensive settlement that would meet the basic needs of both sides exist. The gaps between the parties can be bridged, he said. Some "are quite a bit smaller than when these talks began".



Courtesy Call by US Ambassador

United States Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Michael Klosson, paid his first official courtesy call on the Chief of Mission, Mr. Zbigniew Wlosowicz, and UNFICYP on 11 September.

The new Ambassador also met with the Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang and UNFICYP senior staff.

Mr. Klosson was briefed on the mission and its mandate.

Secretary-General's September 11 Anniversary Message

A year has passed since the terrorist attacks on the United States. A year has passed – and yet time cannot separate us from the horror of that day, from our shock, our grief, our compassion for the children, the spouses, the friends and families of those who perished. We feel that shock still.

On 11 September 2001, grief enveloped the globe – not only out of solidarity with the people of the United States, but out of shared loss. More than 20 nations lost sons and daughters of their own – murdered that day, for no other reason than they had chosen to live in the United States. Today, we come together as a world community because we were attacked as a world community.

There have been and will be other occasions to explore the causes of the attacks – and explored they must be. There will be other occasions to debate our response to the attacks – and debated it must be. There will be other occasions to consider how best to maintain the global unity of that day – and considered it must be.

But today is a day for remembrance, for respect. A day to recall the loss of those who died trying to escape the fire, and the sacrifice of those who died rushing into it. A day to recall the lives of citizens from every part of the world who met danger and death without warning, without cause, without a chance. A day to recall the spirit of unity that seized the world that day – from New York to Tehran to Berlin to Beijing – in the face of unimaginable horror.

There could be no greater affront to the spirit and purpose of the United Nations than the terrorist attacks of September 11th. Everything that we work for – peace, development, health, freedom – is damaged by this horror. Everything that we believe in – respect for human life, justice, tolerance, pluralism and democracy – is threatened by it. It must be defeated – by the world acting as one.

May the memory of those who perished on 11 September serve to inspire a better, more just, more peaceful world for all.

Contents

Editorial/Contents	2
Leaders Meet in Paris/Courtesy Call by US Ambassador/SG's September 11 th Message	3
Sustainable Development – Negotiation and Compromise	4
A Bridge Over Troubled Water	5
Queen's Golden Jubilee Ball/ Andreas Rodosthenous Receives Commendation ...	6
Medal Parades: Sectors 2 and 4	7
Living Together in Pyla	8/9
The End of Summer/Caption Competition	10
Two Kisses Are Better Than One/ Floods in Slovakia	11
Cultural Heritage of Cyprus: Part VI – Vouni: A Classical Palace	12/13
The Olympus Challenge	14/15
United Nations Open Day: 20 October 2002	16

Front Cover: Repairing the Track



Sustainable Development - Negotiation and Compromise

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) wrapped up in Johannesburg, South Africa on 4 September. Representatives of 179 national governments attended. All endorsed the basic principles of the Summit. Known as Agenda 21, having been first established a decade earlier at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, they were subsequently defined as the “Millennium Development Goals”, which the member states of the UN pledged to achieve by 2015. The Johannesburg Summit was intended to assess just how far the world has come to achieving these goals.

In his address to the Summit, the Secretary-General identified the central theme as being: “Responsibility for each other... responsibility for our planet... and most of all, responsibility for the future – for our children, and their children”. He called on governments and the governed to end complacency in a system into which “unsustainable practices are woven deeply”, announcing that, though the most could – and should – be done by the richest countries, all governments should lead the way. Civil society groups and the private sector also had key roles to play, he said. “With concerted action in five areas – water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity – progress could be far quicker than is commonly believed.” He closed with the admonition that the world needs to enter a season of change, one of planning for the distant future.

The Summit culminated with a 150-paragraph Plan of Implementation, comprising pledges for action in various areas, including deadlines and, in some cases, statistical targets to aim at:

- Halving the number of people lacking access to basic sanitation by 2015
- Minimising the harmful effects on health and the environment from the production and use of chemicals by 2020
- Halting the decline in fish stocks and restoring them to sustainable levels by 2015
- Reducing the loss of biodiversity by 2010
- Increasing “substantially” the use of renewable energies in global energy consumption
- Setting up a 10-year framework for programmes on sustainable consumption and production

Many organisations – mostly environmental – felt that not only did the Plan not go far enough, but that on several issues, they actually reduced the goals previously set in Agenda 21 under a provision from the Rio Declaration called the Precautionary Principle.

A major sticking point for some concerned policies on trade and energy.

Paragraph 125 of the Plan of Implementation states that: “The General Assembly of the United Nations should adopt sustainable development as a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities ... and should give overall political direction to the implementation of Agenda 21 and its review”. It says that states should “take immediate steps to make progress in the formulation and elaboration of national strategies for sustainable development and begin their implementation by 2005”. However, in the view of many, this failed to specify any actual progress or fixed goals, although it was specified that the Commission on Sustainable Development “needs to be strengthened” in order to speed up the implementation of Agenda 21.



Summit Secretary-General Nitin Desai speaks after the flag raising ceremony.

Environmental groups are least happy at the Summit’s outcome. Friends of the Earth Europe claims that “governments missed a historic opportunity”. The World Wildlife Fund questioned the value of a plan of implementation that in terms of natural resources made “no reference to targets, the precautionary principle, and the ecosystem”.

What the Summit came down to was negotiation between nations and compromise between humanitarian and environmentalist ideals, on the one hand, and global Realpolitik on the other. The poorer nations had to balance what they needed with what they could get, while the richer weighed desirable goals against economic and political necessities. Many groups feel that the result of this is that little progress has been made since Rio, while others are upset at the way certain representatives used the Summit as a platform from which to proclaim their views.

While at least some progress seems likely as a result of the WSSD, it will be rather less than was hoped for 10 years ago, not least because many of the goals set then and now are, quite simply, impractical. **W.A.**

The Millennium Development Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

A Bridge Over Troubled Water

The terrain in Sector 1’s area of responsibility is often very hazardous. There are stretches of the patrol track where streams cross, and there is regular flooding in the rainy season when rubble is deposited on the track, making it dangerous and often

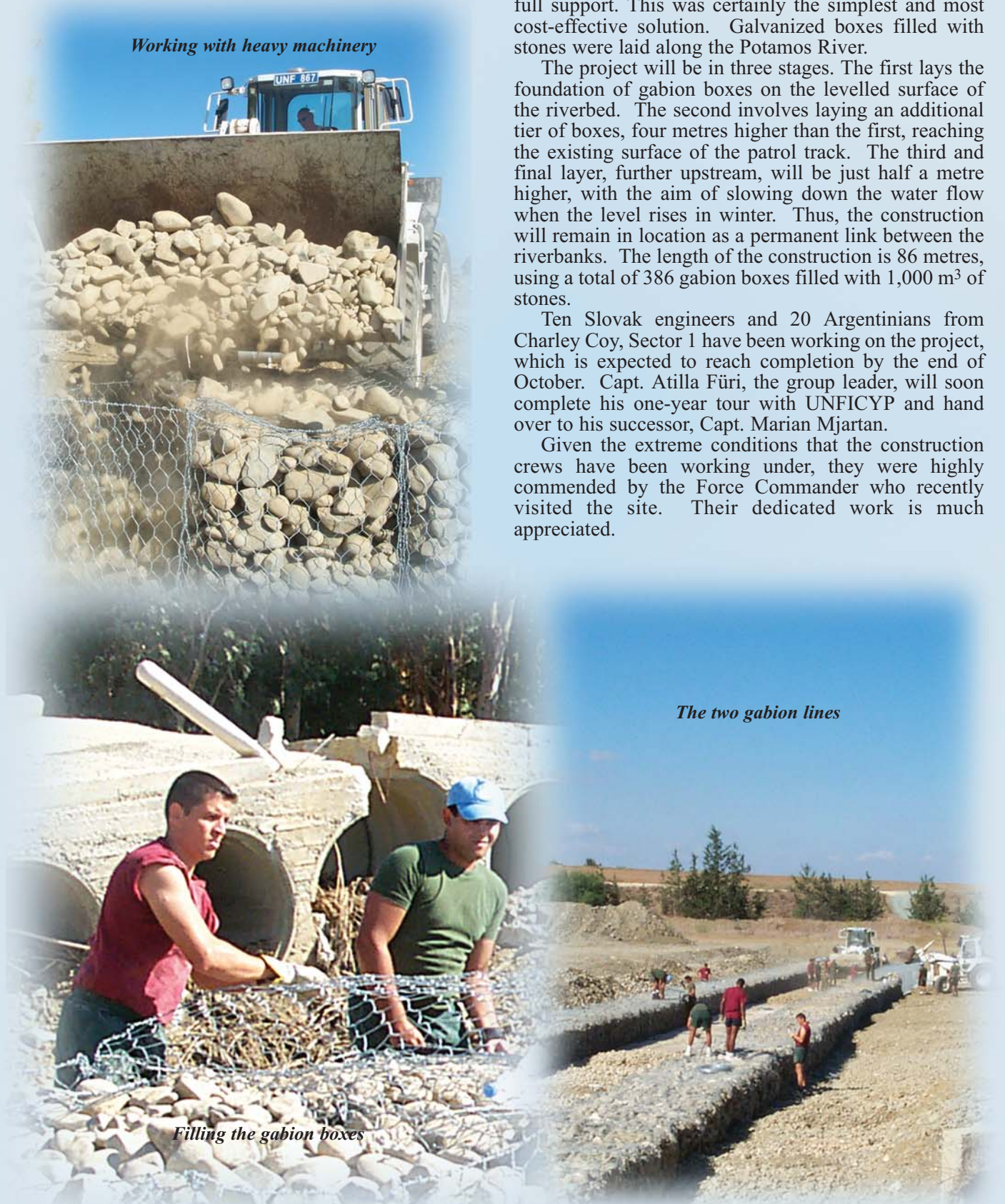
impassable. Fast running water in the riverbeds contribute to further damage, with broken culverts being a major cause of concern.

The Force Engineer, Major Jenő Ladocsi, came up with a practical solution – to use galvanized boxes to stop further deterioration. The Chief Personnel & Logistics Officer and the Chief Engineer gave him their full support. This was certainly the simplest and most cost-effective solution. Galvanized boxes filled with stones were laid along the Potamos River.

The project will be in three stages. The first lays the foundation of gabion boxes on the levelled surface of the riverbed. The second involves laying an additional tier of boxes, four metres higher than the first, reaching the existing surface of the patrol track. The third and final layer, further upstream, will be just half a metre higher, with the aim of slowing down the water flow when the level rises in winter. Thus, the construction will remain in location as a permanent link between the riverbanks. The length of the construction is 86 metres, using a total of 386 gabion boxes filled with 1,000 m³ of stones.

Ten Slovak engineers and 20 Argentinians from Charley Coy, Sector 1 have been working on the project, which is expected to reach completion by the end of October. Capt. Atilla Füri, the group leader, will soon complete his one-year tour with UNFICYP and hand over to his successor, Capt. Marian Mjartan.

Given the extreme conditions that the construction crews have been working under, they were highly commended by the Force Commander who recently visited the site. Their dedicated work is much appreciated.



The Queen's Golden Jubilee Ball

On 21 September, the UNPA was host to a spectacular evening of music, fireworks and dancing in celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's 50 years on the throne of Britain.

A committee from the British High Commission and BRITCON converted the sunburned grass and gravel of the British retained site in the UNPA into the venue for one of the biggest celebrations of the jubilee year. Five hundred ball goers, members of the UN and British community in Nicosia, were entertained as they dined picnic-style to music by the Cyprus State Orchestra and the band of the Corps of Royal Engineers.

The Cyprus State Orchestra reproduced the Last Night of the Proms with an audience sing-along to Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance, complete with waving Union Flags. The UN members who attended the



Flying the flag



The Cyprus State Orchestra

ball were overcome with the exuberance. Austrians sang along, and even a contingent from the French Embassy was seen to flutter a flag.

The finale by the Orchestra was the 1812 Overture, accompanied by a magnificent display of fireworks.

As the evening progressed, there was dancing to live music of a Rock and Blues band, a Jazz Trio and a singer who wowed young and old with his 50s classics. For those with the energy, a fairground with bumper cars and a gyroscope provided a diversion from the dancing. For those who liked a flutter, there was a casino, which raised money for charity.

A great evening was had by everyone, and to top the night, over £3,500 was raised for charity.

Special thanks must go to the Cyprus Minister for Education and Culture for kindly permitting the Cyprus State Orchestra to perform. They made it a night to remember.

Andreas Rodosthenous Receives Commendation

Andreas Rodosthenous has been employed by the British Ministry of Defence continuously in Cyprus for over 36 years, 33 of which were spent in Nicosia at the time when the International Airport was operational. Thereafter he worked for the British on the UNPA.

Andreas is currently employed as Mechanical & Electrical Supervisor Grade 2 for the Dhekelia Works Unit (Nicosia Detachment) in the Property Management Office. He works with both HQ BRITCON and the UN. His responsibilities are to provide and maintain the essential services i.e. electrical distribution, the sewage plant and the provision of the water supply for all users on the UNPA site. During his time with the Ministry of Defence, he has qualified as an Authorised Person in Electrical, POL, LPG and Boiler and Pressure Systems.

Andreas has earned the respect, trust and admiration of the workforce and numerous clients, contractors, military and civilian staff of both BRITCON and UN, whom he deals with on a daily basis.

For his dedication to duty, loyalty, extreme hard work and acceptance of responsibility, he has been awarded the Commander British Forces Commendation.



Andreas, next to his wife Aphrodite, CBF Air Vice Marshall T. W. Rimmer CB OBE RAF, his brother-in-law Andreas Georgiou and the UNFICYP Force Commander, Lt. Gen. J. H. Hwang



One of the ways the UN recognises its soldiers – the peacekeepers all over the world – is the award of the UN medal after 90 days of active service. The medal presentation to the Hungarian and Slovenian soldiers of Sector 4 fell on 2 September.

At 5.00 pm in Camp General Stefanik, the ceremony was opened by the Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang. In the presence of UNFICYP personnel, members of the Hungarian and Slovak embassies, friends and relatives, 117 Hungarians and 46 Slovaks were awarded the UN medal. Making the presentations were the Force Commander, H.E. Mr. Rozbora, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic, H.E. Mr. Nikics, Ambassador of the Hungarian Republic, and the Chief of Staff, Col. Hamish Fletcher.

Following the parade, CO Sector 4 invited all guests to a reception in the Officers' Club. Traditional Hungarian and Slovak delicacies, as well as a number of Cypriot dishes, were offered.

A second parade was organised for those members of Sector 4 who were on duty during the first ceremony. The venue this time was Camp Triglav. CO Sector 4, Lt. Col. Stefan Faix, presented medals to 46 peacekeepers, expressing his appreciation for their hard work and praising their devotion to duty.



The 26 September saw 16th Regiment Royal Artillery on display at the Sector 2 medal parade. Distinguished guests included the Chief of Mission, Mr. Zbigniew Wlosowicz, the Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang, and from the UK, the Mayor of Greenwich. The Regiment put on a superlative performance both on the drill square of LPH car park and after with their "Party by the Pool" a la Top Gun.

So how was this achieved? In less than a week, soldiers from both Sector 2 and some of MFR's British Contingent grafted to improve their drill. Those on parade were seen carrying out rehearsals at their respective troop locations. The only difficulty was the logistical

nightmare of getting all those involved to LPH in time for the rehearsals. The true style of the performance was enhanced further by the band from the Corps of Royal Engineers, who kept everyone on their toes with the Austin Powers theme tune.

The after parade party was certainly spectacular. Even the OPFORs joined in when volleys of fireworks were let off into the night. Yet again, the Regiment saw the opportunity to "air" their Morris Men who gave arguably their best performance yet. In addition, two members of King's Troop RHA had been flown out to give The Post Horn Gallop.

This was all topped off with a superb curry.

Living Together in Pyla



*Flying the flags in the Pyla UNCIVPOL station
From the left: Sgt. Bruce Nankervis,
Sgt. Nicole Goodwin and Supt. Sean Corcoran*

Life in Pyla carries on as in other villages in the buffer zone, the only difference being that Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots live and work side by side.

The UNCIVPOL police station is situated in the centre, just off the village square. Downstairs are the offices. The upper floor provides accommodation for the Pyla police force – three from Australia and six from Ireland, headed by Superintendent Sean Corcoran from Ireland's Garda Síochána.

The UNCIVPOL station deals on a regular basis with a variety of visitors, mainly national and international media and tourists. Most media visits are processed through the Public Information Office at HQ UNFICYP. Once this is done, they make a beeline from the Pyla police station for advice and guidance and a general update on the village scene. Most are interested in interviewing the people of the village, and this is done by chatting with the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots in their individual coffee shops.

Today, Sgt. Nicole Goodwin from Australia is on duty. This is her first tour with UNFICYP and she has been on the island for six weeks. "There is a steady stream of visitors and so far, there have not been any problems", says Nicole. "Visitors come and go and the Pyla residents are quite happy to have their photographs taken. It's the military outposts we have to be careful of."

The station is open seven days a week from 7.30 am to 3.30 pm, and there is always someone on call during off duty hours. Opposite the station on the other side of the village square is the Slovak OP 129. There is daily liaison between the two offices since all mail arrives for the OP at the UNCIVPOL station. Nicole says: "We get on really well, although there is a slight problem with the language barrier, which makes communication a little difficult at times! But, they are lovely lads over there and we get on very well. Sometimes we cook and invite them to join us for a meal, or we may even go out to dinner on the odd occasion".

Regular patrols are made on foot, by bicycle and in

vehicles on a daily basis. Jogging/walking patrols taken place every evening. Sgt. Bruce Nankervis from Australia says: "Pyla residents greet us as we go on our way – it's one way of getting to know the locals, to establish communication and for them to realise that we are around. We change route every now and then, but we are always greeted with welcoming smiles. After all, it's part of our mandate to get to know the people of the village."

"Generally speaking, life is quiet in the village and people get on with their own business."

"Bicycle patrols also take place on a daily basis. We take turns to cycle around the village and greet the villagers on our way. They always seem happy to see us. And mobile patrols are along the patrol tracks – once a day too."

"When we stop for a chat, people from both communities usually talk about the same thing – their families. Many have spent years in England and have come back to retire."



Swedish visitors in Pyla

Supt. Sean Corcoran, the Pyla police chief, says: "We do our best to keep in regular touch with everyone – civilians and police alike. Apart from our patrols through the village and on the tracks, we monitor the buffer zone very carefully and keep close liaison with CYPOL and the Turkish Cypriot police as well as the police in the Sovereign Base Areas."

As we start walking towards the village square, Supt. Corcoran see two tourists smiling and walking towards him. The popular Kerryman holds out his hand and introduces himself. His smile broadens when he discovers that the Swedish tourist is, in fact, a former commander of Camp Carl Phillip – the name of the camp in 1985 when the Swedish Contingent were responsible for Sector 4. The Swedish visitor served in Cyprus from 23 March to 3 October 1985, and had returned for a sentimental visit. "It hasn't changed much", he says. "There are a few more houses, and some improvements have been made, but basically, Pyla looks more or less like it did when I left."

However, plans are afoot for further improvements with the help of UNDP/UNOPS. A complete redesign of Pyla square is currently in the pipeline, and international funding will also contribute to this project. Also on the cards is a renovation of Pyla's Venetian Castle,

located just to the right of the Turkish Cypriot coffee shop.

The Pyla Platoon, just up the hill to the north-west of the UNCIVPOL station, consists of 35 Slovak soldiers, most of whom are on a one-year tour. The platoon from Sector 4 also carries out regular patrols in and around the village. Any problems encountered are immediately passed along to UNCIVPOL.

The Slovaks enjoy their work. Sgt. Jan Hodor is wrapping up his first tour in Cyprus, having spent it in the communications centre in the Pyla Platoon. He is about to return home to his job as a signalsman. Jan says: "I've had a great time in Cyprus. I've had a good working relationship with my fellow Slovaks, with the UNCIVPOL police and with the village people". Having spent 15 months in Pyla, he has already decided that he will apply to return for another tour. "I already know what I shall miss – the challenging job and the lure of the sun! So yes, if I can, I shall come back."



*Sgt. Jan Hodor on duty
in the Pyla Platoon*

Meeting the Pyla Chief



*Supt. Sean Corcoran,
pointing out his home county in Ireland,
Co. Kerry*

exciting life. He started his career with the Garda Síochána in 1965 and first served in Dublin. Following his promotion to Sergeant in 1975, he was transferred to Co. Tipperary.

In 1981, he moved to Clare where three years later, he was involved in the successful hunt for Ireland's most wanted man at the time, the notorious INLA leader Dominic McGlinchey.

In 1991, he was promoted to Detective Inspector, which brought him to Limerick City. Promoted to Superintendent in 1993, he transferred to Kildare, Co. Clare where he was posted at the time he joined UNFICYP.

Sean says he has enjoyed his 37 years with the Garda Síochána, and is grateful for the opportunity of serving in Cyprus. This is Sean's first posting abroad and his first impressions of Pyla were "a very quiet village". He finds the policing of Pyla far different from Ireland. "Here we police by negotiation and persuasion and trying our best to maintain harmonious and peaceful relationships between both communities."

Sean is currently accompanied on his tour by his wife Louise. They have four children, two sons (one in the USA and one in Australia), and two daughters back in Ireland.

Asked what was his nicest experience in Cyprus so far, Sean answers: "Meeting the Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan when he arrived on the island for the talks with the two Cypriot leaders last May. It was a pleasure and privilege to meet him."

Heading the Pyla Platoon is Superintendent Sean Corcoran, a native of Fossa in Killarney, County Kerry. It's true to say that Supt. Corcoran has lead an

The End of Summer

By Charlotte Mortensen

Summer's coming to an end, so what does this mean to you? For me, it means no more bikinis, no more beach trips, no more swimming, no more barbecues – and with all these “no more’s”, one wonders what there’s left to do in Cyprus when summer is undeniably over.

Cyprus being such a total summer/sun/beach island, one might come to the conclusion that everything effectively closes down over winter – if it’s too cold to go to the beach, then there’s nothing else to do, right?

Not so – Cyprus is a fantastic year-round island. I know because I have been here through all four seasons now and as much as I love the beaches, the pools and the tanning (!), I think winter is almost better. You can do so much without sweating all over the place, and hey, the shops are back to being open almost all the time. What a relief that is! Cyprus has everything; the beaches, the mountains, the cultural sites (of which we have already covered a few in previous editions of *The Blue Beret*) and, of course, all the outdoor activities that one can enjoy – if you are up to it – like cycling, hiking, running, riding – you know, all the stuff that makes you feel very energetic, but ohhhh soooooo tired.

Just having returned from an almost empty UNPA pool, I realize that one thing that determines when summer is over, or coming to an end more than anything else, is when all the children return to school. That’s clearly how the children themselves distinguish whether summer is over or is still happening... But it’s not always so clear for the adults. I asked around – yes, doing one of the Public Information Office’s very thorough and statistical surveys – to find out when summer is really considered OVER:



Too late to take the plunge

“When you don’t need the air conditions anymore..” (It just so happens that I know this person has had the a/c on since March !!!!!).

“You can use blankets at night-time again...” (What have they been using instead??)

“We all look pale and tired again...” (Speak for yourself!) and my personal favourite:

“You don’t have to worry about your figure so much anymore...” (hmmmm!)

“When summer is over, then I can’t possibly be in Cyprus any more – because here it’s summer 12 months a year.” (OK, it sounds like we have an Eskimo among us, used to somewhat colder climes!)

AND:

“All the parties and social activities pick up again, especially getting nearer to the holidays...” (Here I am, back to one of my previous subjects in *The Blue Beret* – WHERE are my invitations, I wonder?)

Oh yeah, summer being nearly over is definitely NOT a bad thing. I hope you all have a fantastic autumn!

Caption Competition



- I can never get that UN blue right...
- Smile, reptile, smile!
- What contingent does that camouflage come from?
- Love your contact lenses!

Captions to be submitted to the Public Information Office by:

25 October 2002

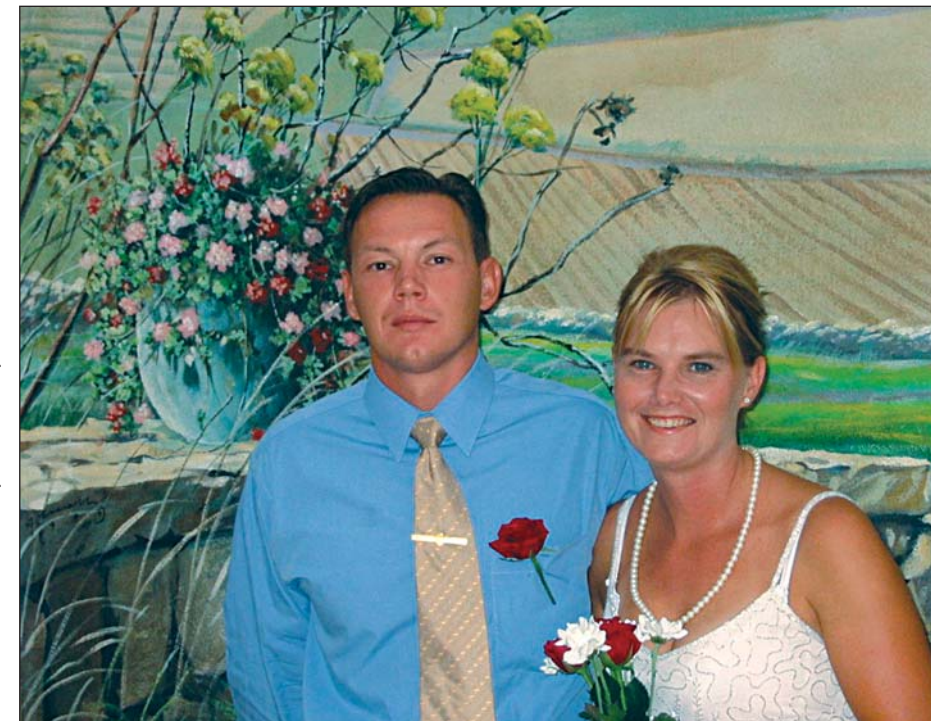


Two Kisses Are Better Than One

When Angela Milne moved from Canada to Cyprus to become Personal Assistant to the Chief of Staff, she knew it was a serious commitment. Roland Kiss, a Military Police Officer from Hungary, even took a vow of obligation. But neither of them expected that, before their contracts were over, they would find themselves in Malta replying, “I do” in answer to a question completely unrelated to speeding vehicles or diplomatic meeting schedules.

Nonetheless, on 23 August 2002, just minutes before the sun went down behind the ancient hills of the capital Valetta, the two wed in an intimate ceremony at a hotel overlooking the sea.

Proving that the UN in Cyprus can widen your horizons in unexpected ways, Angela is currently



Angela Milne and Roland Kiss abandon one Mediterranean island to wed in another

studying the Hungarian language, tripping over its consonant clusters and vacillating vowels in preparation to join Roland in Hungary next November. The two will live in Székesfehérvár, a town whose name Angela can now confidently pronounce to anyone willing to listen.

Floods in Slovakia

Almost all Europe watched carefully last August as central Europe was hit by some of the worst flooding in modern history. Apart from the Slovak Republic, Austria, Germany, the Czech Republic, Hungary and the Ukraine were badly affected. Water reached the top and spilled out of the Danube, Vltava and Morava rivers, seriously affecting the population in flood-afflicted areas.

The average level of the River Danube in the Slovak Republic is approximately three metres, and during this period, it reached just over nine metres. Records show that the last time floods of this scale occurred was 120 years ago. Thousands were evacuated from their homes, with floods damaging houses and possessions and even jeopardizing lives.

The Slovak army was on hand to provide help in emergency areas. Here in UNFICYP, a collection was made by the Slovak soldiers of Sector 4. The money was handed over to the outgoing commander, Lt. Col.



Stefan Faix, who will present the donation to the children’s home in the city of Sturovo.

This was a heartfelt gesture of support from the Slovak peacekeepers who are thinking of their families, friends and neighbours back home.

The Cultural Heritage of Cyprus: Part VI

Vouni - A Classical Palace

In this sixth instalment of The Blue Beret's series on the cultural heritage of Cyprus, we visit the well-appointed palace of Vouni. Hot and cold water and sauna baths were among this classical palace's amenities before it was destroyed by fire around 380 BC, but perhaps the palace's finest feature would have been its location, which combined beauty with defensibility.

From its hilltop position in Cyprus's northwest, Vouni overlooks the rumpled foothills of the Troodos Mountains as they meet the Mediterranean, the wide arc of Morphou Bay, and the Kyrenia Mountains further north.

Today, the fully excavated foundations of the palace still share the stunning views.

The name by which we know Vouni is highly appropriate: it means hill, or mountain. Its construction appears to coincide with the unsuccessful Cypriot revolt of 499/8 BC against the Persians, in which almost all the Greek Cypriot kings, along with the Phoenician ruler of Kition (the site of modern-day Larnaca), participated. After the uprising, the pro-Greek city of Soli was given to the pro-Persian king of the city of Marion (which would have been near Polis). To control Soli, he then built a fortified garrison palace on a nearby hill: Vouni.

Some 50 years later, the Athenian general Kimon seized the city of Marion and replaced its king – and perhaps also the ruler of Vouni – with a pro-Greek dynasty. The new owner of Vouni remodelled the palace along the lines of a megaron (the main hall of a Greek palace), including the addition of a second storey built of mud bricks. Another key construction around this time was the temple of Athena, situated at the hill's highest point.

Vouni first came to light in modern times when Cesnola, the consul in Cyprus of the USA and Russia, discovered its ruins in 1876. More thorough excavations by the Swedish Cyprus Expedition in the late 1920s uncovered its historical record more accurately, and also revealed the treasure of Vouni: a fire-damaged pot (possibly buried when the inhabitants of Soli burned the palace in 380 BC) that contained Persian items such as jewellery, bowls, and coins from Marion, Kition, Lapithos and Pafos. Archaeologists have also found Greek-influenced bronze statues of great charm and grace – reflecting the importance and refined lifestyle of a Cypriot king in the classical period.

What You'll See Today

The diagram of the architectural remains of the Palace, the Temple of Athena and the adjoining shrines, shows four different phases of construction.

The Palace

During the first period, the entrance to the palace faced southwest, and led to the state apartment rooms, which were arranged in the Cypriot tripartite style: the central area consisted of the entrance hall (1) leading to the main room (2) and another hall (3). Leading off this central area on either side was another set of three rooms grouped together (4, 5, 6 and 7, 8, 9).

During the third period of construction, the entrance was blocked, and the central area was transformed into a megaron, or grand hall, that opened onto a large court (10), similar to the Mycenaean palaces of Greece. From the hall, seven wide steps descended to the courtyard, which had an open central area with three sides that were colonnaded and roofed. The court also covered a cistern that collected winter rainwater. The cisterns at Vouni were essential, because the rocky hill had neither springs nor wells. The single upright stone standing in the courtyard was likely brought here from another site, and was probably designed to sit over a cistern, with a winding mechanism set into its centre.

Private apartments (11-21) were concentrated around the court. The bath rooms are located northeast of the private apartments: a caldarium (hot water bath – 22); a frigidarium (cold water bath – 23); and later a sudatorium (sauna bath – 24, 25) and a new furnace (26).

In the second period of construction, three storerooms (27-29) and two latrines (30) were added. Rooms 31-37 were storerooms built in the second and third periods. The doorway of room 32 was blocked in the third period, and the room was entered via a ladder from the upper storey. A vestibule (38) linked storeroom 37 to the service court (39) by a bottle-shaped cistern.

The kitchen quarters originally consisted of six small rooms (40-45) flanked by a kitchen court (46). In the second period, a staircase leading to the state apartments from the kitchen court was rearranged, while the court itself was divided by a wall into two halves (46-47). In the third period, a wooden staircase leading to the upper storeys of the palace was added. The famous treasure of Vouni was found in this part of the palace.

New rooms (49-52) and a new kitchen court (53) were subsequently added. The kitchen building was completed in the fourth period (54-56), of which room 55 was a washing room with floors that sloped west to an outlet where a drainage channel in the rock bed carried the water away from the palace.

A corridor (57) linked the kitchen court to the southwest wing of the palace. This wing consisted of a central part (58-60), a passage (61) and an open ramp (62-63). It is unlikely that these were roofed, due to the cisterns and open conduits found here. Several storerooms (64-68) were entered by doorways in rooms 64 and 68. On the rock floor of rooms 65 and 66 are rows of conical holes, which formed the supports for holding jars with a pointed base (amphorae). In the first building period, the upper storey of the palace covered only these storerooms.

Rooms 69-71 had cement floors and walls, and were used as bath rooms. Rooms 72-75 were living quarters, linked to the central part of the palace by staircases. Vestibule 76 led to the north corner of the Palace. In the third period, a larger corner vestibule (78) was constructed, which – along with a ramp (77) – formed the main gate of the palace, leading to room 15. Three small rectangular enclosures outside the entrance (79-81) probably contained altars.

Adjoining Shrines and Temenos (Sacred Enclosure)

The architectural remains of four shrines and a sanctuary lie close to the palace. Shrine A is rooms 82-85; the Temenos or sacred enclosure comprises rooms 86-94; Shrine B lies in rooms 95 and 96; Shrine C in rooms 97 and 98; while Shrine D is room 107.

The Temple of Athena

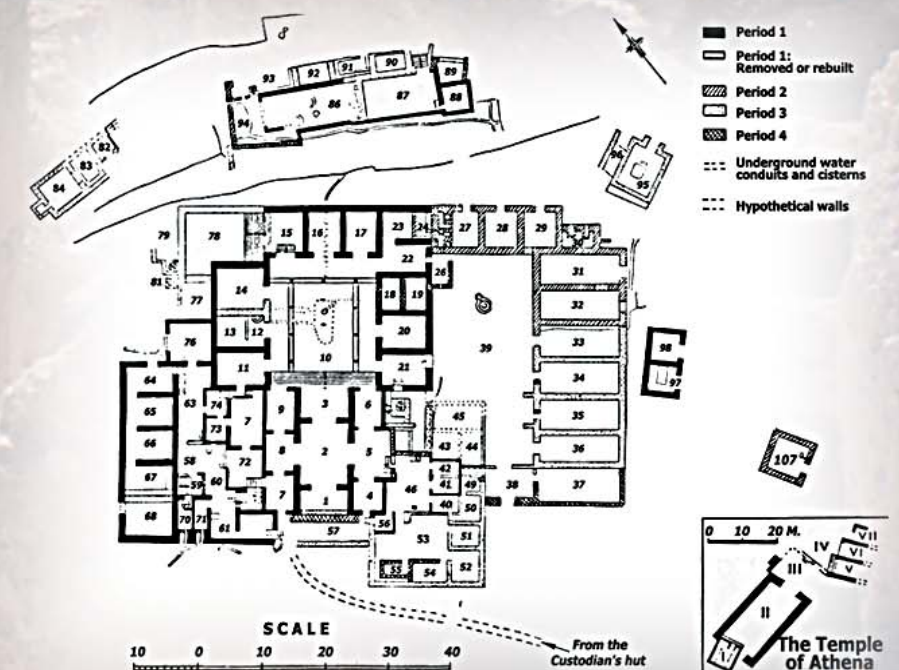
The temple dedicated to the goddess Athena is found at the very top of the hill, towards the southern end of the plateau. It consists of a first court (IV) and a second court (III), which was a forecourt to the large rectangular enclosure (II). The holes in the rock surface of this forecourt served as bases for securing statues.

Outside the eastern entrance to the enclosure was a semi-circular altar to the goddess. Later, a communicating three-part room (I) was added. On the floor of this room, archaeologists discovered several fine bronzes, including the small statue of a cow and a statue of two lions devouring a bull. Rooms V-VII are treasuries, where offerings to the goddess would have been deposited.

Vouni

Evidence of a two-storey building

Seven steps led down from the megaron to the courtyard



The Olympus Challenge

On 13 and 14 September 2002, Sector One hosted the inaugural Olympus Challenge Competition – a two-day, long-distance orienteering event, designed for teams of three persons.

The event started from Camp San Martín to the top of Mount Olympus on Day One, and back down again on Day Two. The aim was for a “Cyprus Walkabout” style event, providing a challenging test of physical endurance, mental stamina and team spirit over routes designed to test map reading and route selection skills.

Thirteen teams from across the island assembled on Thursday afternoon for the registration and a race brief in the pleasant surroundings of the swimming pool area at Camp San Martín. Accommodation for all teams and checkpoint officials was under canvas, and an adjacent area had been set aside as a dining area. 2/Lt. Silva and his catering staff worked hard over the three days to keep the competitors’ carbohydrate intake up by providing ample amounts of pasta dishes at meal times.

At the check-in before the start, each team was inspected for appropriate clothing and had to produce the basic survival equipment items such as water bottles, whistles, waterproofs, torch, first aid kit, and compass – all mandatory items to be carried throughout the event. The teams started at three-minute intervals and at 6.30 a.m., the first team crossed the start line for the map table to copy the location of the five checkpoints they had to pass through along the way. The checkpoint locations had been carefully recced and chosen by two experienced orienteers – Capt. M Paixao, (the Brazilian Officer in Sector One) and Diana Bridger (PA to Comd UNCIVPOL), to provide a combination of testing route choice for participants whilst at the same time maintaining safety vehicle access to competitors most of the time.

The route for day one headed south up the Soleas valley, passing through some of the villages and skirting others before the gradient began to increase dramatically. By Checkpoint 4, exhaustion and injuries began to set in with some teams regrettably suffering retirements. By now it was obvious not only which teams had been training for the competition, but also which teams had pushed their members too hard too early on. One team also became geographically disorientated and were later picked up, much to their embarrassment, by CO Sector 1 in UNF100! (Thank goodness for mobile phones!)

The scoreboard that evening showed the current leaders were the CSSU Team from RAF Akrotiri, comfortably ahead by some 37 minutes. Lying second was the team from C Company the 2nd Battalion Light Infantry in Dhekelia, aptly named “Can You See The Light”, separated by 10 minutes from the “Everest Himalayan Boys” from the Ghurka Engineers in Sector Two. The veteran team, “Moths on Mopeds”, also from 2LI, lay in fourth place and the mixed team “Certa Cito”, with their leading lady Claire Rutter from JSSU in Ayios Nikolaos, was fifth so far.

Following check-in on the second day, teams were transported to the summit to begin the descent back to Camp San Martín. Once at the map table, they discovered to their disappointment that the route was not going to be downhill all the way! In an attempt to catch the lead team, the Ghurkas made a bold and courageous move by heading straight down the side of the mountain on a compass bearing to the first checkpoint! In doing so they moved up

one position, but other teams were more cautious and followed the tracks. The day’s route tested the competitors’ endurance and stamina and progressed along a prominent spur, following some fire-tracks into a pine lined re-entrant. From there it was a matter of finding the main road and making for the Camp, where an enthusiastic reception awaited each team as they crossed the finish line.

Despite their valiant attempt, the Ghurkas were unable to catch CSSU (there was only a nine-second time difference for Day 2 though!), however they managed to clinch second place overall. The only casualty of the day was the MFR mixed team. The “Abominable Ortonians”, Capt. Howell and Capt. Good, would have finished fourth overall but completed the event “hors concours” as a pair, as did Caldron and Martinez from the “Las Pampas” team from Sector One. Otherwise, the results remained much unchanged from Day One. The veteran “Alpha Boys” from Sector One, who walked practically the whole way round, finished in excellent order and were greeted at the finish by the Force Commander who happened to be visiting at the time. The final teams across the line were “Last but Not Least” from 2LI and Los Piratas from Sector One.

Lt. Col. José Cimmarusti and Sector One were most generous hosts and orchestrated an excellent prize-giving ceremony including the ARGCON band. Commemorative certificates and T-shirts were presented to all involved, as well as the participants themselves. The hard work put in by Maj. Hector Perrotta and his efficient organising team, together with the volunteer checkpoint crews supplied by competing units and Sector One, was much appreciated.

The Olympus Challenge will hopefully become an annual event in the UNFICYP sporting calendar.



“Los Alpha Boys” fly the flag for Sector 1



Veteran team winners “Moths on Mopeds” from 2LI



Mixed team winners “Certa Cito” from JSSU (AN)



Overall runners-up “The Everest Himalayan Boys” team from Sector 2 at a checkpoint



Lt. Col. J. Cimmarusti presents CSSU team with the overall winners’ trophy



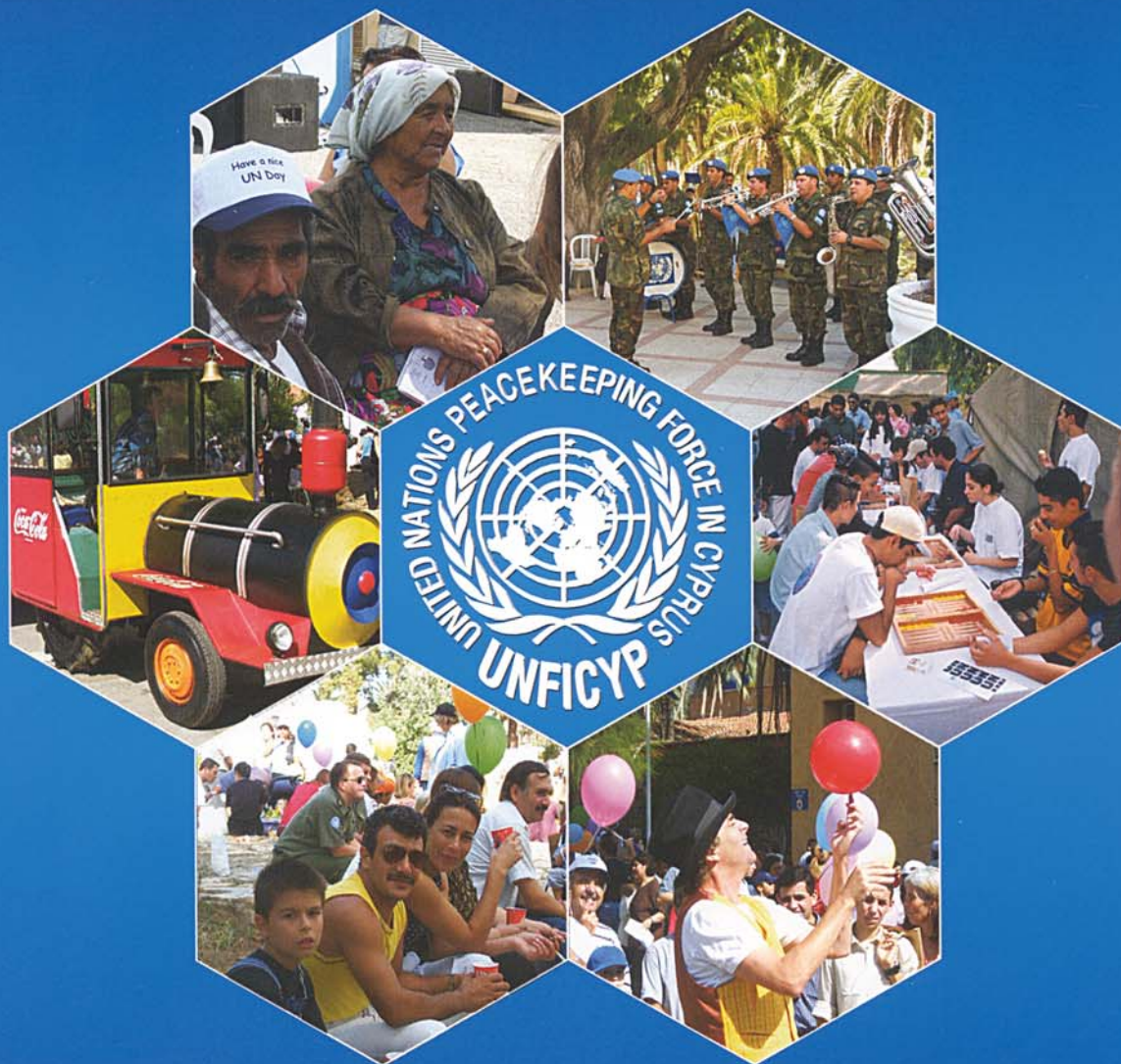
The event controller, Maj. H. Perrotta (4th left), with his organisers and officials

Overall Results of the Teams that completed the Olympus Challenge Competition 2002

Position	Team	Competitors	Unit	Category	Overall Time
1	CSSU	Tomkinson, Hutcheon, Plant	CSSU	General	8:32:01
2	Everest Himalayan Boys	Thapa, Gurung, Rana	Sector 2	General	9:09:29
3	Can You See The Light	Potten, Stanley, Beverley	2LI	General	9:14:11
4	Moths On Mopeds	Sweatman, Cameron, Averiu	2LI	Veteran	10:14:48
5	Certa Cito	Rutter, Stokoe, Murney	JSSU (AN)	Mixed	11:56:26
6	The Alpha Boys	Ilari, Gonzales, Vega	Sector 1	Veteran	16:37:44
7	Last But Not Least	Cockburn, Billing, Creech	2LI	General	17:31:29
8	Los Piratas	Ilesca, Morales, Benitez	Sector 1	General	18:21:35
HC	Abominable Ortonians	Howell, Good	Sector 2	General	10:14:37
HC	Los Pampas	Calderon, Martinez	Sector 1	General	12:15:45

UN Day at the Ledra Palace

UNFICYP invites you and your family to join us on
Sunday 20 October - 11:00 to 18:00 hours



Ημέρα των Ηνωμένων Εθνών στο Λήδρα Πάλας

Η ΟΥΝΦΙΚΥΠ σας περιμένει
με την οικογένειά σας
την Κυριακή 20 Οκτωβρίου
μεταξύ 11.00 - 18.00

Ledra Palas'ta Birleşmiş Milletler Günü

Sizleri ve ailenizi
20 Ekim, Pazar günü
11.00 - 18.00 saatler arası
bekliyoruz - UNFICYP