

THE BLUE BERET



FEBRUARY 1980



JANUARY IN RETROSPECT

Rotations

None

Medal Parades

10 Canadian Contingent

Visits

7-8 Sir Billy Sneddon, Speaker of the Australian Parliament, to the Australian Civilian Police.

7-11 BGREN P J Mitchell, CD, to the Canadian Contingent, to meet members of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians).

11-18 Lt Col J Foley, Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets, accompanied by four members of his battalion, to the British Contingent as recce party for the Sector 2 battalion designate.

14 Col M J Doyle, MBE, Defence Attaché British High Commission, to Force Reserve.

16-24 Lt Col P R McQueen and MWO J N C Beauchamp, dental personnel, to the Canadian Contingent to inspect dental facilities.

16-24 Lt Col Auchterlonie, Director of Postal Services Canadian Forces accompanied by CWO Schmidt, to Canadian Contingent to conduct an audit of the postal systems.

16-24 Maj Graham and Maj Mintz, to Canadian Contingent to discuss officers' assignments on return to Canada.

18-25 Mr Ray Stokes, journalist from "Bristol Evening Post" and Mr Rhod Mitchell, journalist from the "West Briton", to 1st Battalion The Light Infantry in the British Contingent.

21-22

Gp Capt P L Gray, Station Commander RAF Akrotiri, to the British Contingent to visit 84 Sqn Det (RAF).

21-24

Maj J N Nickolson and WO D Dixon, to the Canadian Contingent, to conduct communications staff liaison visit.

23-24

Principal Officer J Sjoo, Military Assistant, and Principal Officer H Estrom, Head of Postal Unit, to Swedish Contingent, to inspect postal unit.

23-25

Col J D Bastick, MBE, Chief of Staff (designate), to HQ UNFICYP and the British Contingent.

24

Brig R E L Jenkins, Director of Movements (Army) MOD UK, to UNFICYP Transport Squadron and UNFICYP Support Regiment in the British Contingent.

27-31

Col R Martin and Maj C Loubser accompanied by Mr B Arbor, to the Canadian Contingent to brief deputy returning officers regarding the forthcoming Canadian Federal General Election.

28-29

Forty-five members of the Canadian National Defence College, led by Rear Admiral C Ross, to HQ UNFICYP and the Canadian Contingent.

Military and Recreational Competitions

10 UNFICYP Badminton Championships

13-14 UNFICYP Military Skills Competition

18 UNFICYP Cross Country Championships

FUTURE EVENTS

MARCH

Costis Palamas Festival

To be organised in Paphos under the auspices of Physiolatrikos Omilos in early March.

The Procession of Icon of St Lazarus

This will take place in Larnaca on 30 March.

MAY

Cyprus Tennis Championships

To be held in Nicosia at the Field Club Courts during the first fortnight of May. Open to senior Cypriot Nationals and permanent residents only.

Anthestiria Flower Festival

To be organised in Paphos under the auspices of Physiolatrikos Omilos Paphos in early May.

The 5th Cyprus International (State) Fair

To be held in Nicosia from 24 May to 8 June. Many Cypriot exhibitors and foreign countries are participating in their well decorated pavilions. They exhibit their industrial and agricultural products. At the side of the Fair there is an international restaurant with music and folk-dancing.

Kataklysmos 26 May

The celebration of the "Flood". A unique and colourful Cypriot celebration associated with the Pentecost, as well as with sea games, traditional dancing and singing. Festivities in all the seaside towns. It takes place 50 days after Easter Sunday. The festivities start on 25 May.

JUNE

Cyprus National Junior Tennis Championships

To be held in Nicosia at the Field Club Courts during the second fortnight of June. Open to all junior Cypriot Nationals and permanent residents only.

The 5th Nicosia Festival

Takes place in Nicosia the second week of June, with theatrical performances, concerts of popular and classical music as well as

exhibition of folk art.

Paphos Festival

Performances of ancient Greek drama will take place by moonlight at the ancient theatre of Kato Paphos by the Higher Schools of Paphos during the months of June and July.

St Paul's Feast 28 and 29 June

Religious festivities at Kato Paphos at which the Archbishop in all his Byzantine splendour officiates, assisted by all Cypriot Bishops. A procession of the Icon of St Paul through the streets of Kato Paphos follows.

JULY

International Art Festival of Limassol

It takes place during the first fortnight of July in the Municipal Gardens of Limassol. There are folk and classical dances, concerts of music and songs, exhibitions, etc.

Troodos Open Tennis Tournament

An open tennis tournament will be held in Troodos during the second fortnight of July. Open to all without any restrictions including foreigners and professionals.

Curium Festival

Performances of Shakespearean plays (second fortnight of June) and ancient Greek drama and concerts by moonlight at the ancient theatre of Curium near Limassol. The performances take place throughout the summer.

AUGUST

Folk Art Festival (PAMPAPHIA)

Organised in Paphos under the auspices of Laographikos Omilos Paphos during the first fortnight of August.

The Dormition of the Holy Virgin

Celebrations take place at the monasteries of Trooditissa and Kykko on 14 and 15 August. The Abbots, dressed up in their religious gowns, attend the services whilst the churches are full of pilgrims from all over Cyprus and villagers take the opportunity to sell their products.

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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

Member of UNFICYP Military Police Company, the only truly international unit in the Force checking vehicles entering the United Nations Protected Area at Checkpoint Foxtrot.

THE
BLUE BERET

Editorial

Chief Inspector Jack Thurgar to The Rescue Again!

For the assistant editor to be invited by the Editor to "have a go" at the editorial seemed fantastic — an opportunity to air her own ideas rather than processing the ideas and words of other writers! So she sharpened her wits and a couple of pencils and sat down in front of several clean sheets of paper, waiting for the thoughts to flow...

An hour, and several interruptions later, the pages were covered in scrawls and scratched-out phrases of high seriousness — but the editorial remained unwritten! Just as it seemed that the muse had utterly failed, Nora, our long-suffering secretary, brought in the Editor's copy of "The Cyprus Weekly", with a dramatic flourish — and there it was!! "UN Officer decorated. Star of Courage for Minefield Rescue"; and salvation for one harassed brain!

What more can this editorial do, but congratulate Ch. Insp. Jack Thurgar for his more than well deserved award from the Australian Government. He is the epitome of the ideals and work of United Nations, and UNFICYP is proud of him.

So now Nora will see the February edition of The Blue Beret to the press before her retirement!! We all thank her for her work for UNFICYP and wish her every happiness in the future.

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HELICOPTERS



IN

SECTOR 1

As most of the readers of The Blue Beret will know, a major part of the Buffer Zone in the western end of Sector 1 is situated in an extremely mountainous area. The OPs in this area are established on very high points in the mountain chains in order to give them best possible views of the terrain in the Buffer Zone.

This means that quite a number of the OPs are installed in areas where neither mains water nor electricity exist — nor can possibly be made available and where roads are very narrow, bumpy tracks on high ground that involve long detours through the hills or are difficult going for most vehicles, especially in winter; in some cases the direct roads to OPs cross the cease fire line and have been mined, so cannot be used. These features have led the Danish Contingent in Sector 1 to utilize the Helicopter service of UNFICYP to a great extent. The author of this article has no actual figures on hand but usually well informed sources indicate that about 50% of the helicopter flying hours spent by UNFICYP is used by Sector One.

Both the Whirlwinds from RAF and the Alouettes from the UNFICYP Flt AAC are employed in the Sector. The former are used mainly on routine tasks, such as the three supply trips per week to six OPs that are particularly difficult to reach by road; crew-rotation flights every two weeks to the same six OPs; the very important pay-run every month to all seventeen manned OPs in the Sector and the two Company-Headquarters as well as the Kokkina Camp; two workshops runs every second week to all the OPs; the more occasional hygiene inspection tours, to all OPs; and, of course, the medical evacuations, and personnel transport on request. The Alouettes are used in a more traditional tactical role for communication and recce purposes and for personnel transport on a smaller scale but are by no means used less than the Whirlwinds.

It goes without saying that this extensive use of this sophisticated means of transport demands that the ground personnel using

He seems to be a little happier than the spectators!
Careful listeners to "Mr. Okay" standing inside the helicopter.



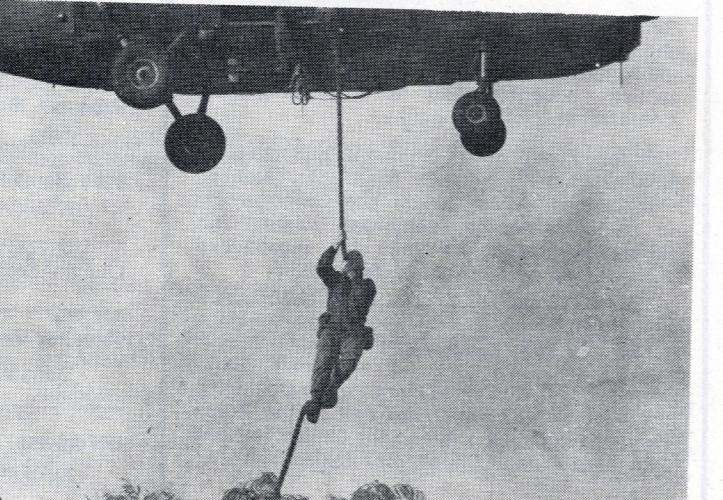
Did he lose somebody?

them, whether as passengers, loaders or receivers of supplies, or as the fire-inspectors on the heli-pads, must receive comprehensive training in order to work with the aircraft.

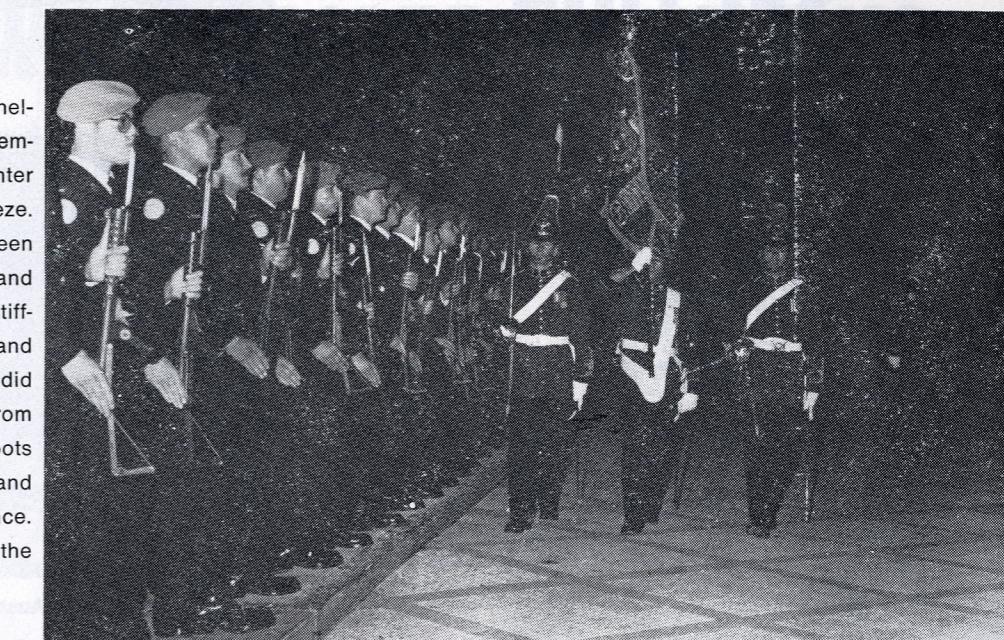
This training is begun in Denmark during the basic training for UN soldiering but, unfortunately, most of that training is not on 'live' aircraft. Therefore, as soon as a new contingent — or part thereof — arrives in Cyprus a training schedule is introduced. This trains every soldier who will work in helicopter-transport in the different areas and finishes with a live loading/unloading exercise and a live transportation exercise in which the soldiers will try to leave the Whirlwind by rope from approximately 20—30 feet.

To emphasise the importance placed on this training by this contingent I can tell you that the Commander and the Chaplain, during the latest exercise, had to do the "Rope-escape" also, because they were to use the Whirlwind for their combined Christmas-sermon and Santa Claus tour on 23rd and 24th December to all the seventeen OPs and their controlling headquarters.

The pictures illustrating the article are all from this latest training exercise and in one of them the Chaplain is hanging between "Heaven and Earth". Of course, that gave rise to many a good joke. You can think of one yourself!



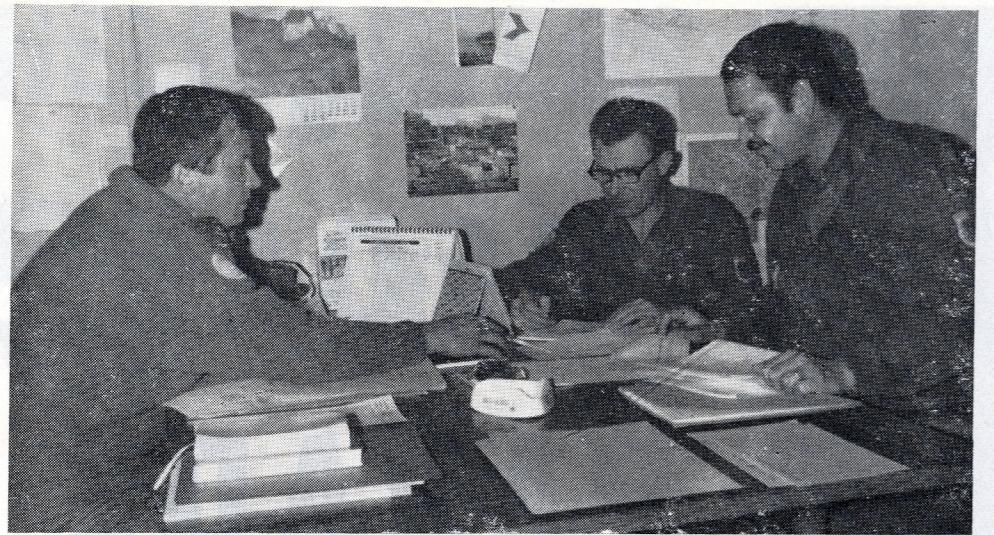
What a beautiful style of roping!



MEDAL PARADE

10 JANUARY 1980

Such was the scene in the courtyard of the Ledra Palace hotel on the evening of 10 January. Proud Canadian soldiers from the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), U Battery 3 RCHA, and augmentees from bases and units throughout Canada, all members of Sector Four, were on parade to receive their Cyprus medal, symbolic of three months of dedication to duty "In the Service of Peace". Supported by the band of the First Battalion Light Infantry, the parade was a colourful and meaningful event for all those involved. The reception and casino night held afterwards served to cement the close social bonds that have developed between our guests and ourselves. For those of us who had the good fortune to be there it was an event that will not soon be forgotten.



Capt Erhart, in charge of the Logistic Section, during a briefing with the team. In the centre is WO1 B Pribyl, "The father of Logistic Section's paper work".

LOGISTICS SECTION



IN SECTOR 6

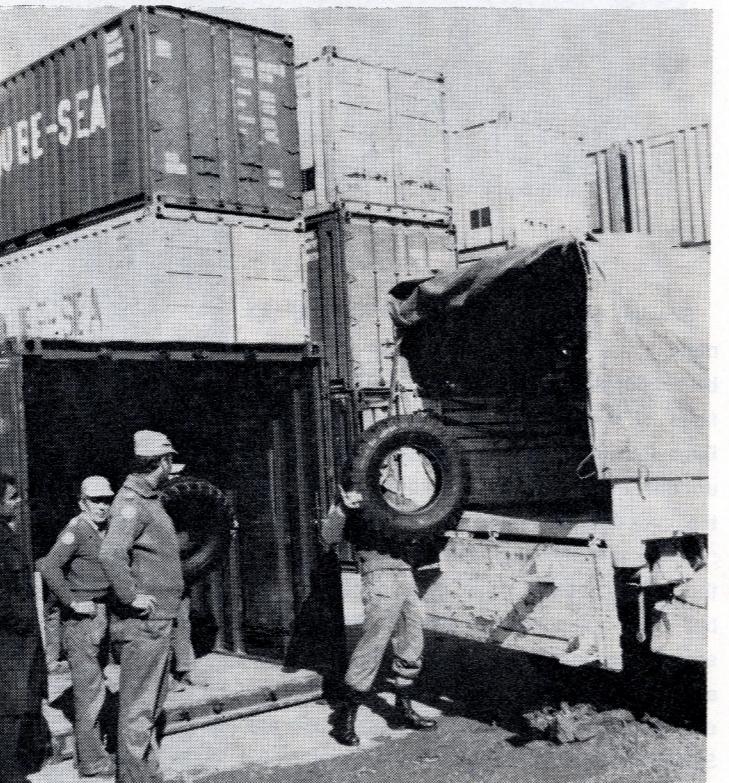
Loading a consignment for Austria.



A container from Austria being unloaded on a Cyprus dock.

equipment causes a lot of problems. The main problem is the distance from Austria to Cyprus. Therefore most things can be brought into Cyprus only every three months in the course of the Austrian rotation. Big items are transported by train and ship to the island. It is difficult to imagine how the crew solve all those problems, but they do. On each rotation the plane is completely filled with cargo. Eight hands have enough to do to load and unload about 10,000 kg. of supplies. On the last rotation WO1 W Skalnik and his soldiers needed only 48 minutes for loading and unloading, in order to clear the plane for take off. To get all logistic equipment at the right time, an effective administration is necessary. WO1 G Pribyl is the "father of all paper work"

The armoured-artificer of our battalion is WO1 K Kornfield, who is responsible not only for our armament but also for fire-prevention as well. We call him "general servant", as he does everything!



A container from Austria being unloaded on a Cyprus dock.

One of the most important elements of our contingent is the Logistics Section. A crew of only four is kept busy continually getting all necessary supplies for the battalion. Mainly thanks to the efforts of the Section the logistic situation in our Battalion is very good.

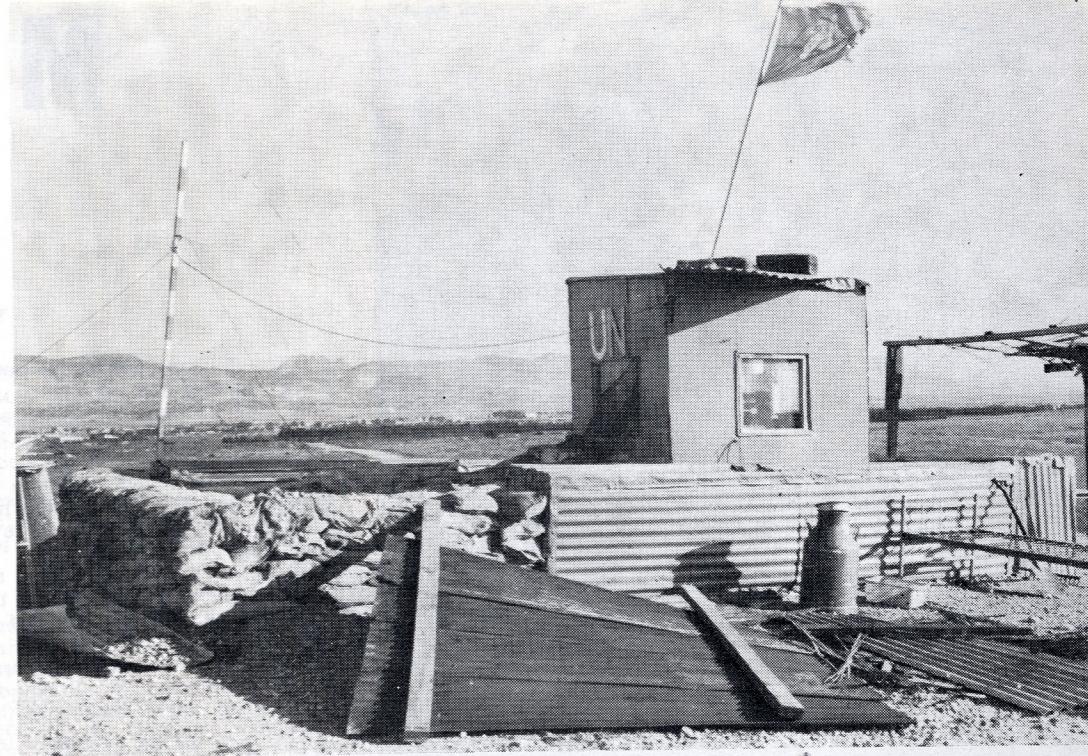
The significant difference between a Logistic Section working in Austria and in Cyprus lies in the various types of logistic equipment and stores we have to deal with in UNFICYP.

We have UN-owned equipment such as water-tanks, fire extinguishers and kitchen fittings; landrovers and firefighting equipment are British-owned; from Austria we have Army-vehicles, armaments, radio sets and power generators.

In the case of UN-owned and British hired equipment we have no problems about quick repairs or exchanges, because all necessary installations are on the island but Austrian

GALE HITS OP S61

In the evening when the first gale hit us, an AIRREP came from OP S61. A blue flying object was reported moving towards the National Guard Cease-Fire Line. This object was later identified as OP S61's "Jalla-house" (toilet)! Shortly after that, the roof of the guard-house was blown off. Next day, a work party had to fix both the "Jalla-house" and the guard-house roof.



Gale damage at OP S61

GUESS WHO RAISED A STINK?

One of Swedcon's section leaders, WO2 Sjöström in Gold Fish Camp succeeded in acquiring a few tins of "surströmming" (rotten herring) on the SCACYP flight from Sweden.

We had an exchange of sol-

diers with Cancon, so we decided to invite the Canadians to a party and to serve them this delicacy. The Canadians were a bit shocked by the smells of rotten fish when the tins were opened, and thought they had better

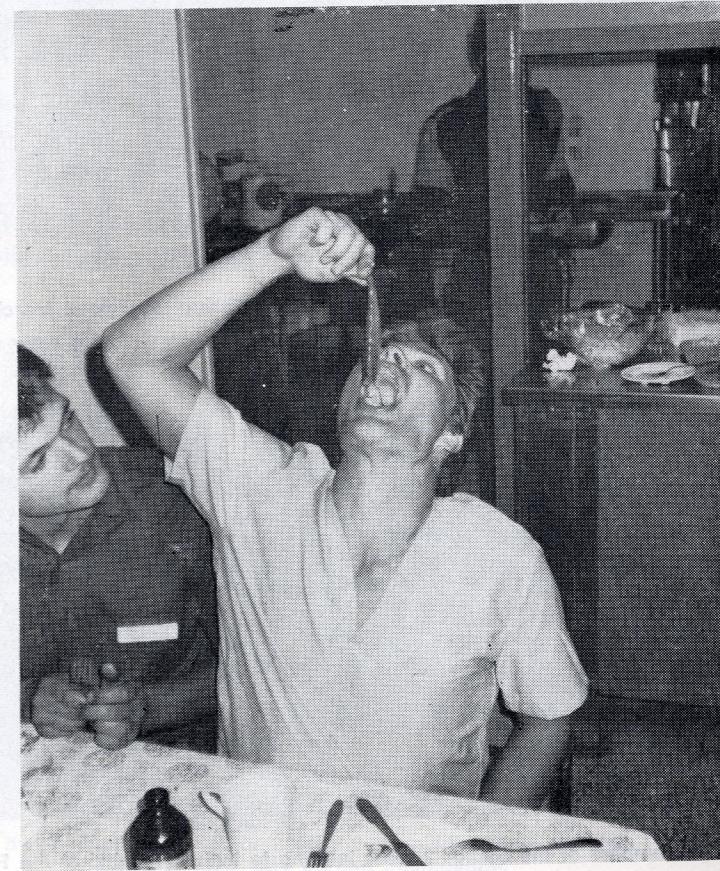
leave the party. However, we persuaded them to taste a bit, together with thin crisp-bread, potatoes and onion. The verdict was that it tasted, if possible, more awful than it smelt.



First catch your fish....



...but do you REALLY want to eat it?





One of the Sector 4 team weighs in before the Speed March.



The Sector 4 team moving well during the Speed March.



Two members of the Sector 2 team tending to their 'casualty' at the First Aid stand.

MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

WON BY LdSH (RCIN) SECTOR 4

The Military Skills Competition, organised by Sector 2, took place between 1000 hours 13 January and 1300 hours 14 January 1980 in and around the PYLA range area. Eight teams participated; one from each Sector, Force Reserve, Support Regiment and HQ UNFICYP. Each team consisted of four members: one officer, one NCO and two soldiers. Three supervising officers were appointed by HQ UNFICYP, who worked just as hard as the teams, and each team had an appointed umpire of a different nationality to follow them through the competition.

On 13 January the teams assembled for the Forced March of 15 km. Some very creditable times were returned, the best being Sector 4 with 73 minutes and closely followed by Sector 2 with 78 minutes.

Penalties for team members being injured and having to drop out were average. A high standard of skill and fitness was reached by all teams before the competition.

Throughout the afternoon teams worked on their OPs and rest areas. A great deal of skill and team leadership was seen by the three supervising officers. The types of OP produced were varied, each with its own advantages and disadvantages bringing out the factors on which all were to be marked: Protection from Fire, Efficiency of Observation and Concealment.

Work continued until the team leaders were withdrawn for a brief on the Night Navex of 4 legs covering 5.2 km. Each team had an ideal time of 104 minutes in which to complete the course. Once again there were high standards and very good times, the best being Sector 4 with a time of 71 minutes and second Sector 2 with a time of 78 minutes, third Sector 1 with a time of 81 minutes.

The next phase of the Skills Competition was the Observation Sounds Exercise which was realistic and difficult. Team leaders were allowed to write the Logs in their national language which gave a little more work for the supervising officers at 0430 hours in the morning.

After spending a long and cold night team leaders were briefed the next phase of the competition which was the basic Military Skills at each of seven stands, and a distance of approximately 12 km to be covered in this section.

Teams set off at 20 minute intervals and at that stage although Sector 4 were some 43 points in the lead, the competition was far from over and, in fact, when scores started to come into control tent it was seen the Sector 2 were closing the gap.

The obstacle course and shooting stands being the most popular and interesting ones made them the testing point of the competition. After completing the obstacle course the teams had only 15 minutes to run to the shooting stand and start shooting and for some the distance looked, and felt, like many miles away.

Overall the competition was very closely fought, so much so that everything depended on the performance of the last team in the last event. At the end the winners were Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) closely followed by 1st Battalion The Light Infantry.

The Force Commander, Maj Gen J J Quinn, presented the winning teams with their prizes, and after a field lunch teams thankfully returned to their vehicles to rest their aching bodies.

SCOREBOARD

Teams	Speed March	OP	Night March	Night Ops	General	Signals	Judging Distance	Map Reading	First Aid	Obstacle Course	Shooting	Final Placing	Grand Total
Sector 1/Dancon	254	40	146	62	27	135	75	40	85	91	48	3	1003
Sector 2/Bricon	284	51	152	43	21	150	76	50	98	93	64	2	1082
Sector 4/Cancon	294	78	166	66	22	130	54	35	88	100	64	1	1097
Sector 5/Swedcon	261	40	130	41	21	145	58	30	97	80	72	4	975
Sector 6/Auscon	247	44	50	38	13	130	92	25	83	91	24	5	837
UNFICYP Sp Regt	244	34	67	31	13	95	36	20	87	83	48	7	749
Force Reserve	244	53	0	44	7	145	70	40	92	87	8	6	790
HQ UNFICYP	212	38	65	42	11	90	36	50	60	38	0	8	642



On the Obstacle Course the Sector 5 team prepare to crawl under the barbed wire.



The 12 foot wall on the Obstacle Course being negotiated by the Sector 4 team.



The Sector 2 team carrying their 'casualty' over the 75 metre course.



Sector 4 the winners, with Sector 2 behind them who came second, enjoying their well earned champagne.

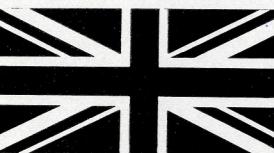
Part of the Sector Two Economic and Humanitarian programme is devoted to the welfare of Turkish Cypriots living in the part of Sector Two area which is south of the Buffer Zone. Most of these Turkish Cypriots live in the Limassol area. The Sector Economics Officer (SEO) normally visits these people two or three times a month depending on their needs and other demands on his time.

Since the Turkish Cypriots living in the Limassol District are all entitled to social assistance from the various welfare agencies in the Republic of Cyprus there is little that the United Nations need do to assist them materially. The SEO's work could be better described as pastoral; his main function is to visit and talk to Turkish Cypriots. Most of the problems in the SEO's case book concern families who have lost contact with a son or daughter living in another part of the island.

The Southwind patrol begins with a telephone call to Limassol Central Police Station in order to arrange timings with Sgt Louizos, the officer who accompanies the SEO on his tour. The state of our telephone system is well known so it will come as no surprise to learn that a considerable time, sometimes days, can be spent on this ordeal!!

After the two hour drive to Limassol a "metrio" with Inspector Michaelides, Sgt Louizos's superior, revives the SEO sufficiently to continue the rest of the day.

Generally the first calls are to people in whose cases the SEO is mainly concerned. A regular visit is paid to an old lady who



SOUTHWIND PATROL BY SECTOR 2



The SEO at The Cyprus Red Cross Society where cases are discussed.

fears that her daughter, resident in the north, is frequently beaten by her son in-law. In such cases the SEO tries to staunch the flood of tears before trying to provide more practical help by arranging a meeting between mother and daughter. Another case involves an elderly couple whose son works in Kyrenia. Since the husband is Turkish and his wife Greek, they fear that any meeting arranged by the UN might result in prejudice against their son, possibly resulting in him losing his job. In this case the SEO acts as a bringer of news, assuring them that their son is in good health, that he has a good job and that their daughter-in-law, whom they have never met, has just given birth to a baby boy.

Sometimes the SEO carries out enquiries on behalf of other SEOs. A few weeks ago a question from Capt George Grondiger, the AUSCON SEO, led to an interview with a Turk Cypriot worker in a Limassol brandy factory who wished to know if his parents were still alive. Capt Foyer-Ackland got in touch with Capt Ebbe Horsted SEO, DANCON, who was able to reply a few days later with the welcome news that both parents were alive and well. Needless to say they were delighted that their son wanted to get in touch with them.

Some of the older Turkish Cypriots have found that most of their friends have died or left the area. They are often glad to talk with someone, so the SEO spends much of his time drinking Turkish



The SEO, Capt Foyer-Ackland, with Sgt Louizos at Limassol, before setting out on a visit.



Talking about absent friends.

UNFICYP Cross - Country Championships

On 18 January, Swedcon arranged the UNFICYP Cross-Country Championships for 1980. Colonel Alexander, Commander Dhekelia Garrison, kindly let us use the facilities of Dhekelia Gymnasium and the nearby cross-country courses.

At 1000 hours the approximately 40 nervous competitors started their warm up in the Start/Finish area, which was located at the rugby pitch just below the gymnasium. It was obvious that for many of the competitors this was the climax for their training.

As soon as the runners had started the 5-mile long course, the

RESULTS

1. 116 Jeffries	Sector 4	27.21
2. 166 Clark	Support Regiment	28.41
3. 112 Burke	Sector 2	28.43
4. 162 Eastly	Sector 2	30.32
5. 135 Bergman	Sector 5	30.51
6. 168 Hague	Sector 2	31.09
7. 164 Webster	Support Regiment	31.15
8. 152 Macfarlane	Force Reserve	31.17
9. 161 Ferry	Sector 2	31.21
10. 132 Eriksson	Sector 5	31.31

question was whether Major Jeffries, Cancon, would stand the pressure of being the favourite.

The answer came after 27.21 minutes, and it was what most of us expected; Major Jeffries came in a supreme lead, 1.20 minutes in front of Pte Clark, Support Regiment.

In sunny weather and with two trumpeters from Light Infantry to provide the fanfares the Force Commander, Major General J J Quinn, presented the prizes to the three best individuals and the three best teams.

Some of the runners negotiating one of the rough tracks that was typical of the country through which the course ran.



KEEP SMILING

A VIKING SAGA



ANCIENT SALAMIS

Part 1

Article and Pictures by Cedric Mercer

Out & About in Cyprus

SHORT HISTORY

The foundation of Salamis occurred during the migrations at the close of the Bronze Age, by settlers from Anatolia together with Achaeans from Greece who had joined them in Cilicia. The traditional founder was Teucer son of the king of the Greek island of Salamis and one of the heroes of the Trojan war.

The king of Salamis is among those recorded as submitting to the Assyrians in 707 B.C. Euelthon, whose reign began ca. 560 B.C., claimed on some of his coins (the earliest known from Cyprus) to be ruler of the whole island, which proves the early pre-eminence of Salamis among the cities of the island. During the fifth century B.C. the Teucrid dynasty was replaced by Phoenician rulers loyal to Persia. A period of repression followed, commerce suffered and the harbour was neglected.

In 411 B.C. Euagoras, a young member of the Teucrid family, seized the throne of his ancestors. He strengthened the fortifications, built a fleet, restored the city's prosperity and established close relations with Athens. By 391 he had become master of practically the whole Island. In 387, with the help of an Athenian fleet, pro-Persian Kition was subdued. Then at the height of his power, Euagoras obtained possession of Tyre and other Phoenician cities and detached Cilicia from allegiance to Persia. The inevitable

Persian reaction followed: a strong force was despatched to Cyprus and, after initial reverses, obliged Euagoras to retire to Salamis, which was then besieged. In 380 B.C. he accepted terms confirming his rule to Salamis alone and imposing a tribute, but this he was to pay as a king to a king. Euagoras successors observed the terms he had accepted (but for a revolt in 351, following which Salamis was again besieged) until the time of Alexander.

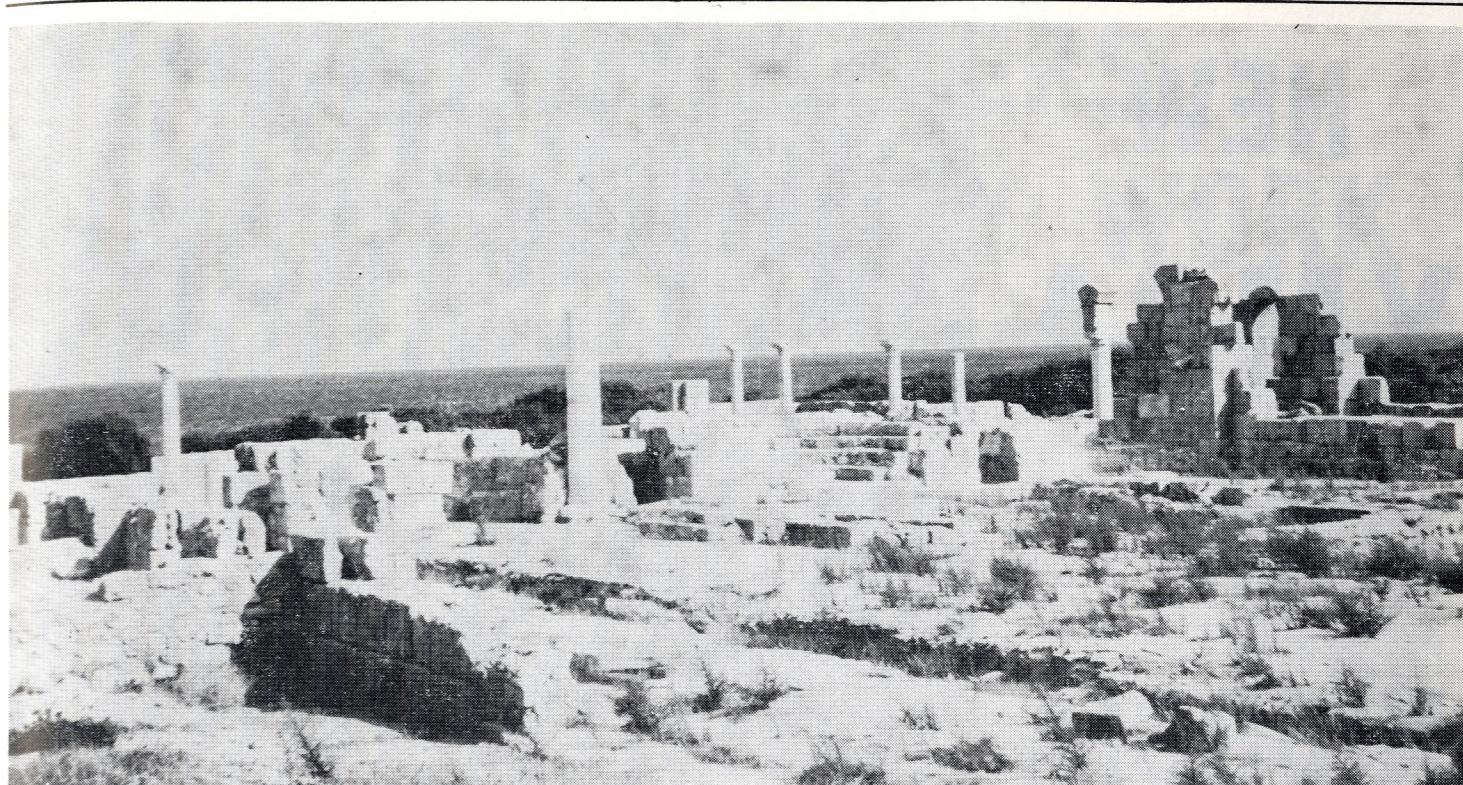
Nicocreon of Salamis who sided with Ptolemy after the death of Alexander, received the four cities which did not do so, after their reduction, and was made strategos of the whole island.

During the relatively peaceful period of Ptolemaic rule Salamis ceded to Paphos its place as leading city in the island, which it did not recover until the fourth century A.D.

In A.D. 58 Cyprus was proclaimed a Roman colony and a programme of major rebuilding began at Salamis. Salamis was the home of the Apostle Barnabas who accompanied St. Paul when he visited the city on his first missionary journey in A.D. 45. In A.D. 76 or 77, during the reign of Vespasian, the city was devastated by an earthquake. Salamis suffered severely in the revolt of the Jews in A.D. 116.



Looking across the better known section of the city from the top of the Roman Theatre towards the Gymnasium with the re-erected columns of the Palaestra showing clearly in the background.

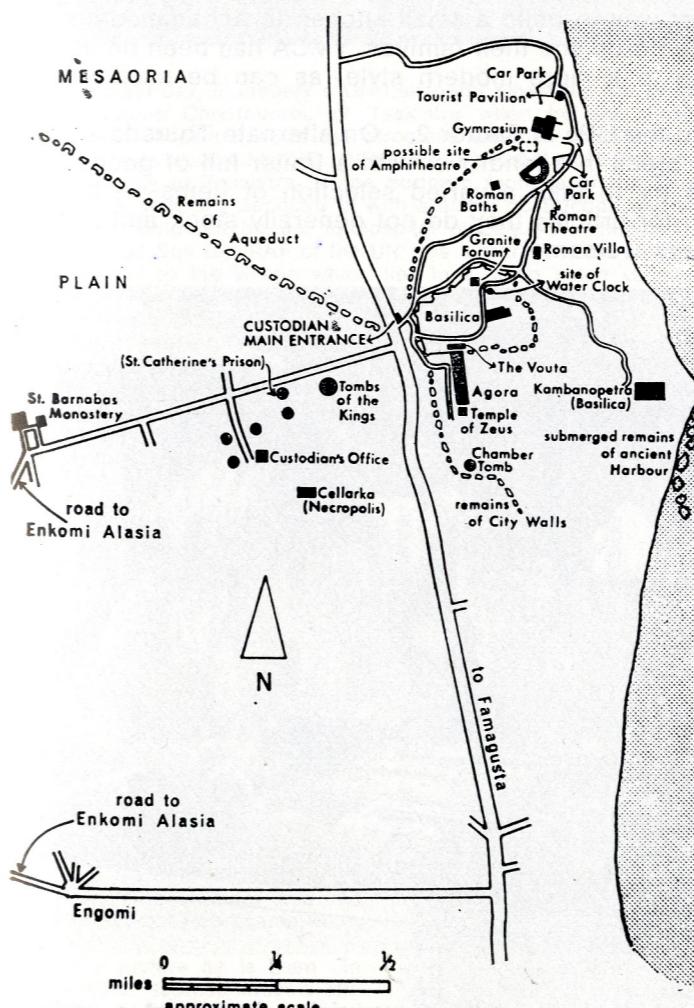


Looking seaward across the nave of the early Christian Basilica excavated at the site known as Kambanopetra. The building bears a striking resemblance to the Church of St Sepulchre which was built by Constantine the Great at Jerusalem.

The city benefited from Diocletian's reorganisation of the empire which placed the island under the Prefect of Antioch, since Salamis was the first port of call for vessels from Syria. The city was badly hit by an earthquake in A.D. 332 and by another ten years later, which was accompanied by tidal waves. The survivors had their taxes remitted for four years by the Emperor Constantius II

who rebuilt the city, though on a smaller scale, and renamed it Constantia. By the time of St. Epiphanius, bishop of Salamis-Constantia (A.D. 368-403), the city had superseded Paphos as Metropolis of the island.

Salamis was exposed to the full brunt of the Arab raids which were launched against the island intermittently from about A.D. 647. In the first expedition under Muawiya Salamis was besieged, captured and sacked, and the population massacred. The city was rebuilt and its central part refortified though this did not prevent further sufferings at the hands of later Arab raiders. These, and natural catastrophes, such as earthquakes and the silting-up of the harbour, led to the final abandonment of the site and the emergence of Famagusta as the major town of eastern Cyprus.



Salamis and Neighbouring Sites

DESCRIPTION OF SITE

Because the remains of the city are scattered, it is inadvisable for any attempt to be made to look at them in chronological order, since this would involve a great deal of retracing steps. All features of interest in the area are accessible to motorists, though the distances are quite manageable for average walkers unless the weather is excessively hot. Incidentally, a long beach of shallow water stretches in both directions. Fragments of ancient pottery and marble discarded by the excavators litter the shore. The remains of the ancient harbour will be of interest to underwater swimmers with an eye for treasure seeking, though collecting is not permitted.

After passing through the main entrance, it will be possible to recognise the Walls and Fortifications of the city to the left and right. These are of a late period in its history. They continue roughly north-east to the left of the present track.

Remains of Roman Baths are to the left, a short distance off the tarred motor road after it passes through trees, diverging from the line of the walls, and before a similar road comes in on the right. This site has not as yet been excavated.

Farther on, immediately after the road junction, and plainly identifiable on the left, is the Roman Theatre. Excavations which began in 1960 revealed this to be one of the largest of its kind in the Middle East. It dates back to the early imperial period, probably to the reign of Augustus Caesar. Earthquakes in the fourth century A.D. destroyed the Roman Theatre, at the time when great damage was done to the city.

To be continued....

NEW YMCA IN NICOSIA

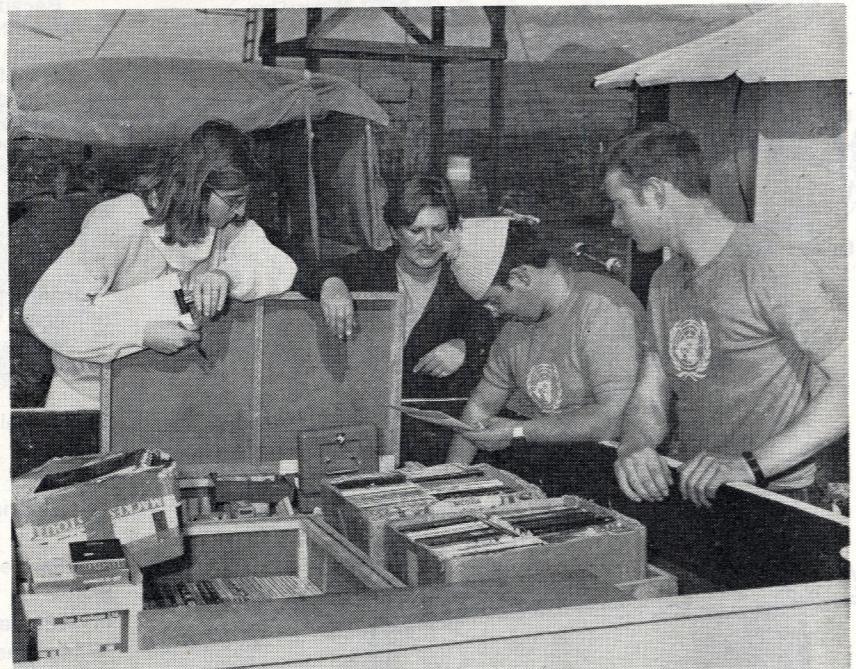


After the opening of the new premises, the staff celebrate with COMDBRITCON, Brig PFB Hargrave.

The YMCA in the UNPA in Nicosia moved into new premises, next to the NAAFI shop, and was opened by COMDBRITCON, Brig P F B Hargrave, on 14 January 1980. This move was only possible with the help of people such as Lt Col R Osborne and Maj G S Thomas, Support Regiment, and Mr. R Fear, Property Services Agency representative in Nicosia.

The old shop was housed in a married quarter and as such was rather confined for space. Now, in our new building we hope to extend such services as the canteen, which not only serves teas and coffee, but also rolls and meat pies. Much work has yet to be done but plans are under way to build a small kitchen to accommodate the necessary facilities. The shop is open to all members of the Force and their families. YMCA has been on the island for many years and has been gradually changing its image to a more modern style, as can be seen in the spacious, well stocked lay-out of this new shop.

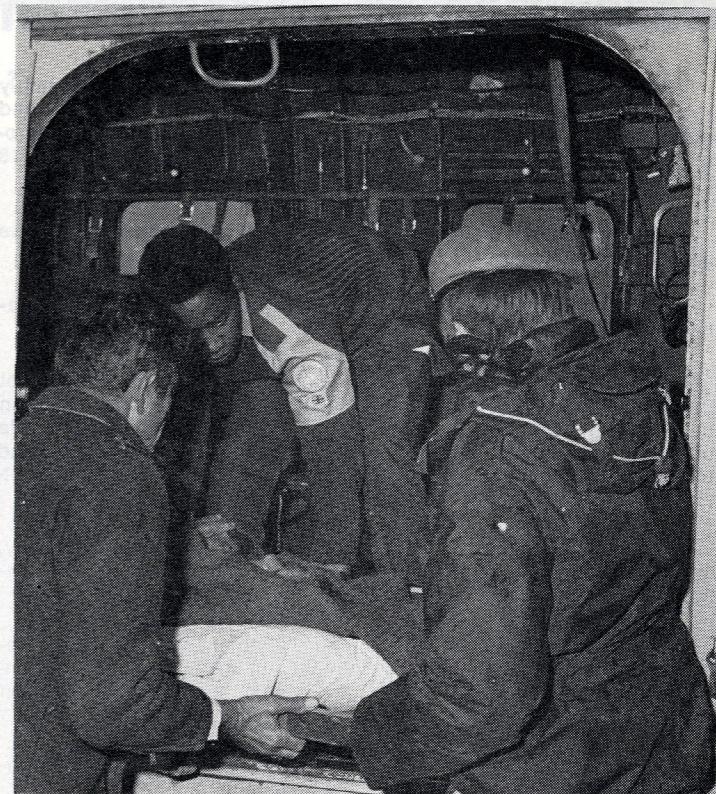
As well as running the shop, the staff pay regular visits to the OPs in Sector 2. On alternate Thursdays they can be seen trekking off to the eastern and western company areas in a landrover with a trailer full of goods, the transport being provided and manned by Sector 2. The girls try to take a varied selection of items — books, magazines, board games, pens, stationery; orders can be taken for articles they do not generally stock and orders for the Interflora service are also taken. Their visits are always welcome!



The YMCA mobile shop doing brisk trade at a Sector 2 OP.

Spoilt for choice! It really is surprising just what a variety of stock that trailer can carry.

UN HELICOPTERS CONTINUE MERCY WORK



On Saturday, 5 January a UN helicopter saved the life of month old Polyvios Christodou of Tsakistra when he was flown to hospital in Nicosia despite the atrocious weather conditions.

A call was received by HQ UNFICYP at 8 pm that night that a month old baby boy at Tsakistra, in the northern foothills of the Troodos Mountains, was very seriously ill with a bowel obstruction and would die if he could not be got to hospital quickly. A Whirlwind helicopter of 84 Sqn Det RAF of the UN was airborne within 45 minutes flying direct to the village which lies in a steep sided valley at a height of 2400 feet with the valley sides towering up a further 1000 feet on either side.

Whilst the aircraft was on its way to the village the weather deteriorated and by the time the foothills were reached it was flying through heavy snow. The heavy snow reduced visibility to such an extent that the landing site could not be located and the aircraft had to divert to Xeros. The aircraft made two sorties from Xeros into the atrocious weather before it was finally able to

land at the village just after 10 pm. The baby was soon aboard and the aircraft on its way to Nicosia where it landed just 15 minutes after being picked up.

The picture on the left above shows the father handing the baby out of the helicopter after landing at Nicosia.

The next emergency call was at 12.15 pm on Thursday, 17 January. A Greek Cypriot man living near Kato Pyrgos was suffering from a heart condition and HQ UNFICYP was asked if he could be evacuated by air from Kato Pyrgos to hospital in Nicosia.

A Whirlwind helicopter was airborne within 30 minutes, flew direct to Kato Pyrgos, picked up the patient and returned to Nicosia where the patient was transferred to an ambulance. The patient was admitted to hospital at 1.38 pm, only just over an hour and a quarter after the call for help had first been received.

The picture on the right above shows the patient, Pripides Favva, about to be transferred from the helicopter to an ambulance after landing at Nicosia.

CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER VISITS

The Canadian High Commissioner to Cyprus, Mr J S Stanford, made one of his routine diplomatic visits to the island from 3 to 10 February. Whilst on the island he took the opportunity to visit the Force and members of the Canadian Contingent. On Wednesday, 6 February he visited HQ UNFICYP and had talks with the Special Representative, the Force Commander and the Deputy Special Representative.

In the picture he is seen in the Special Representative's office with Mr R Galindo Pohl on the right and Maj Gen J J Quinn on the left.





UN NEWS



UN General Assembly Resolution on Afghanistan

Meeting in Emergency Special Session, the General Assembly strongly deplored the recent armed intervention in Afghanistan, and called for the immediate, unconditional and total withdrawal of foreign troops from that country. The vote was 104 in favour to 18 against, with 18 abstentions.

The Assembly vote on the situation in Afghanistan came at the end of days of debate in Emergency Special Session.

The resolution that was adopted was co-sponsored by 24 nonaligned and third world nations.

Similar in its main provisions to a draft vetoed by the Soviet Union in the Security Council the previous week, the resolution called for the total withdrawal of foreign troops to enable the people of Afghanistan to determine their own form of Government and choose their economic, political and social systems free from outside intervention.

It also appealed to all countries to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, and nonaligned character of Afghanistan.

The resolution also called for humanitarian assistance to alleviate the hardship of Afghan refugees and urged all parties concerned to help bring about conditions for their voluntary return to their homes.

Another provision called upon the Security Council to consider ways of helping to follow-up the resolution.

The Secretary-General was asked to keep member states and the Council informed.

The vote was 104 to 18 with abstentions. Opposing votes were cast by the Soviet Union and Afghanistan, along with Angola, Bulgaria, Byelorussia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, Grenada, Hungary, Laos, Mongolia, Mozambique, Poland, Ukraine, and Vietnam. The countries who abstained were: Algeria, Benin, Burundi, Congo, Cyprus, Equatorial Guinea, Finland, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Madagascar, Mali, Nicaragua, Sao Tome and Principe, Syria, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia.

In introducing the 24-nation resolution, Niaz Naik of Pakistan spoke of the concern of nonaligned states about a massive military intervention which violated the sovereignty of a country which was a founder member of the nonaligned movement.

Oleg Troyanovsky of the Soviet Union and Foreign Minister Shah Mohammed Dost of the new government in Afghanistan argued that the Soviet Union sent limited military contingents at the request of Afghanistan to help thwart foreign intervention and armed attacks from abroad, that it was a bi-lateral issue between two sovereign states, and that the UN had no right to intervene.

UN Extends its sphere of Influence?

The possibility of energy for the benefit of mankind being generated in space is one of the topics before the scientific and technical sub-committee of the United Nations committee on the peaceful uses of outer space which began a three-week session in New York on 28 January.

The Chairman, John Carver of Australia, said space science and technology had reached a point where they were making a major input on the daily lives of more and more people throughout the world. The international community, he added, had left behind those early days when the space 'spectaculars' excited extraordinary popular interest, and we were now in a period of "increasing technological application and broadly-based scientific investigation".



Gen Prem Chand to Head UN Mission in Namibia

Lt Gen D. Prem Chand, PVSM of India, has been appointed to lead the military component of the UN transitional operation provided for in the World Organisation's independence plan for Namibia. After meeting with the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Namibia, Martti Ahtisaari, and with the Under-Secretary General, Brian Urquahart, Lt. Gen Prem Chand is to head a UN team which will go to Angola, Zambia, Namibia and South Africa for discussion of technical matters relating to a demilitarized zone on Namibia's borders.

Lt Gen Prem Chand commanded the United Nations Force in Cyprus for seven years up to December 1976, when he handed over to Maj Gen J J Quinn.

Mr Carver said future possibilities of energy generation and the processing of materials in space were beginning to be assessed, and new systems under development for space transportation held the promise of exploiting the potential of space in ways that would have seemed unrealisable only a few years ago.

The sub-committee agreed on the agenda for its new session. The topics include the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and the safety problems involved, questions relating to the 'remote sensing' of the earth by satellites, co-ordinating the role of the United Nations in the use of space science and technology, especially in developing countries, and preparations for the second United Nations Conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space to be held in the second half of 1982.