

The Blue Beret

October 2002



**United Nations Day --
Ledra Palace holds open house**



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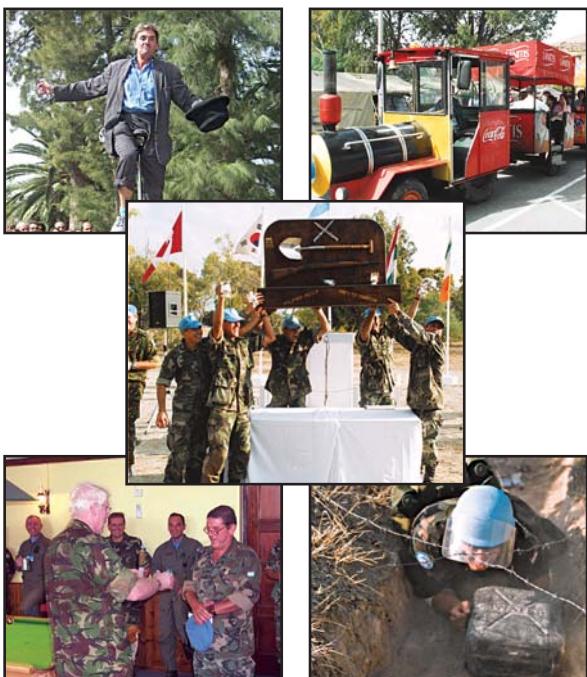
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Editorial

The pace of the search for a settlement is picking up as the year hurtles towards December. The leaders met the Secretary-General in New York at the beginning of October. Afterwards, the Secretary-General said there had been "an encouraging effort to explore ways of bridging differences pragmatically". They had decided to create two advisory ad hoc bilateral technical committees, he added, that would focus "on treaties and future (common state) laws". He said a comprehensive settlement had to be "a complex, integrated, legally binding and self-executing agreement, where the rights and obligations of all concerned are clear, unambiguous, and not subject to further negotiation". Greece and Turkey would have an important role to play.

As everyone knows by now, Mr. Denktash's heart surgery in New York on 6 October has affected the momentum of the peace effort. The Turkish Cypriot leader was not discharged from hospital until 25 October and continues to recuperate at his New York hotel pending medical clearance to travel. The Secretary-General and Special Adviser de Soto were among well-wishers visiting him. UNFICYP and "The Blue Beret" also wish him a speedy and full recovery – *geçmiş olsun*.

Finally, it was disheartening to see so few Greek Cypriots represented among the record 7,500 attendance at this year's UN Day celebrations. UN Day is a prime day in the calendar for people on the island – north and south – to get together. Hard to think that they would not have had lots to discuss in this momentous year.

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Front Cover: UN Day Summit

The Secretary-General's United Nations Day Message

Dear friends all over the world,

I send you all my best wishes, on this United Nations Day – and special greetings, this year, to the peoples of our two newest Member States: Switzerland and Timor-Leste.

More clearly than ever, the United Nations represents the whole human family.

And never has the human family needed the United Nations more than it does today.

There are so few things today that any nation can control, relying purely on its own resources.

And there are so many things that the world's peoples can achieve, if we all work together.

So let us cherish our United Nations.

And let us give every human being a stake in its success.

How can we do that? By working to fulfil the pledges that

our leaders, of all the United Nations gave, two years ago, at the Millennium Summit.

Those pledges were based on fundamental human needs – from reducing poverty, to halting the spread of AIDS, to providing access to safe drinking water.

They came with a target date attached: the year 2015. We call them the Millennium Development Goals.

Sad to say, we are not on track. If we don't do better in the next twelve years than in the last ten, we shall miss most of those Goals.

Every country needs to make greater efforts.

And that will only happen if you, the people of each country, insist that what needs to be done, be done.

It is your United Nations. Please make the most of it.



Times Square salutes the UN

Using Water Wisely – The Secretary-General's World Food Day Message

The theme of this year's World Food Day, "Water: source of food security", recognises water as one of the most pressing development issues of our time. Coming soon after the World Summit on Sustainable Development, this Day is an occasion to highlight the role of water resources in sustainable food production. Addressing that issue is vital if we are to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Today, agriculture uses 70 percent of the world's freshwater resources. We must develop new and innovative approaches in water development and management if we are to feed the more than 800 million hungry people in the world, and ensure safe drinking water for more than 1.1 billion people who have currently no access to it.

If we are to prevent two-thirds of the world's population from facing serious water shortages in the decades ahead, we must learn to manage our water resources more efficiently, particularly in agriculture – more "crop per drop" – and develop more effective capacities for the regional management of watersheds, especially where they are crucial to more than one country.

That is why the United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2003 the International Year of Freshwater. And next March, the Third World Water Forum will be held in Kyoto, Japan, to tackle the issues of water resources development and management.



The Tamasos Dam

At the World Food Summit in Rome last June, world leaders renewed the commitment they made five years earlier to cut by half the number of hungry people in the world by 2015. There is no time to lose if we are to reach this target – which is also one of the Millennium Development Goals agreed by world leaders in September 2000.

On this World Food Day, let us resolve to keep this promise. Let us rededicate ourselves to using water wisely and responsibly, for the sake of our children and grandchildren.

UN Day 2002

There was another record-defying attendance at this year's UN Day when an estimated 7,500 people from north and south flocked to Ledra Palace on 20 October to celebrate the UN's 57th birthday. We all know the anniversary is actually marked on 24 October, but here in Cyprus, we like to make it a family day and so choose to throw the party on the nearest Sunday.

UNFICYP Chief of Mission Zbigniew Włosowicz welcomed people from across the island. He noted that this year had a special significance in that "the chances for a just and more prosperous future for

the island have not been better". He hoped too that next year, the UN day here will have additional reason to rejoice – a fair and lasting settlement. Before declaring the celebrations officially underway, Mr. Włosowicz thanked all the members of the UN family, sponsors and volunteers for their efforts in making the special day possible.

And special it was with gifts for everyone and a day-long concert featuring song, music and dance. While a magical clown wobbled on a unicycle, others worked their magic using face paints to transform children into a

menagerie of imps and wild animals. Nicosia's much-loved Ledra Street train travelled through the streets of the old town in the early morning in order to be in place at the Ledra Palace "station" in time for all the children who packed its carriages throughout the day. Iacovos the engine driver deserved a special medal for his patience and good humour. There were reunions between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. Some met at the backgammon boards. Others assembled in the seating area in the shade of the trees.

Crowds thronged the tents and displays

mounted by UNFICYP contingents. Stands featuring giveaways, such as those sponsored by McDonalds and UNOPS, were also hugely popular.

A big hit this year was the walkabout by Chief of Mission Włosowicz and Special Adviser de Soto. Their progress was stopped time and again as obviously delighted people shook them by the hand and chatted with them.

This year, it was evident again that more people attended from the north than from the south. Hopefully, people in the south will take note and will be better represented next time.



The Force Commander signs the visitor's book at the Argentinian Sector 1 tent



Everyone stalls at the gift stall



Coming through! Ledra Street train approaching the Paphos Gate en route to UN Day at Ledra Palace



Getting with the programme!



The Force Commander visits the UNCIVPOL tent



Cypriots north and south were fascinated by the lacework on display at the Slovak tent



It's in the bag!



Browsing at the Hungarian display



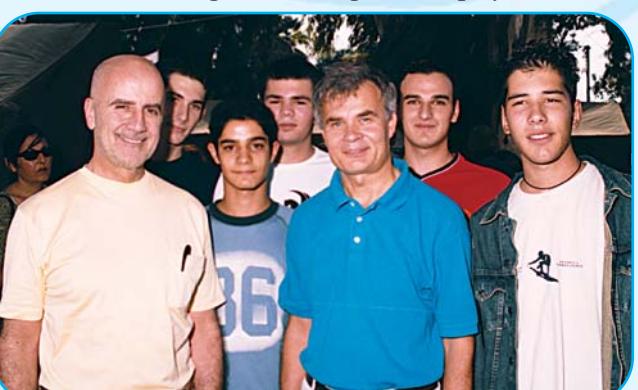
Top gun?



There were friendly faces at the UNHCR stall



Exchanging addresses



Special Adviser Alvaro de Soto and Chief of Mission Zbigniew Włosowicz with a group of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot youths who initially met at a youth camp in Vermont, USA, earlier this year



Visitors from afar! The parents-in-law and children of Civil Affairs Chief Rajarathnam Kannan, principal organiser of UN Day (and therefore too busy to be in the picture)



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UN Day 2002



Picture by Veniduzen

Andy Stewart on the unicycle



Queuing up for the bouncy castle



It was all too much for him!



Getting the knack of the sack!



It's hard to stay on that bucking bronco!



Mike Clarkson helps with the martial arts display



The eyes have it!



Putting on the peace



Who's for backgammon?



Ice hockey without ice



"Re-UN-ions"

UN Day is a day of special reunions. In March 2000, appeals were made – north and south – for potential bone marrow donors. The collection of blood samples from Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot donors was organised at Ledra Palace. At the time, the urgent need was to find a “match” for a desperately ill young Turkish Cypriot boy. Sadly, no match was found and he died. Some time later, in processing donated blood samples, doctors from the Karaiskakion Foundation in the south did find a match for a young Greek Cypriot girl in need. The potential donor, a Turkish Cypriot man from north Nicosia, was informed of the match and agreed to give bone marrow in a procedure that was carried out in Istanbul. The young Greek Cypriot girl, meanwhile, was transferred to the United States, where, thanks to the non-profit health and humanitarian relief organisation “Doctors of the World”, the bone marrow infusion was performed successfully. This UN Day, donor Ugur Yalcin and recipient Andria Gregoriou and their families met the Chief of Mission at the Ledra Palace.



UN Day 2002

Which came first? The music or the dance? Hard to tell, but on UN Day, there was lots of both. The bicultural dance troupe (as opposed to troupe, a group which performs the military two-step) made up of Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots, set feet tapping and hands clapping with a virtuosic display of deft footwork. They were accompanied by a band of traditional musicians. Equally flamboyant was the COO, Lt. Col. Hans Tomaschitz,

who became Fred Astaire for a day and showed off some very interesting military manoeuvres on the parade square.

Other dancers of note were the kukri-wielding Gurkhas and, of course, the stalwart, stick-banging Morris dancers of Sector 2.

On the musical front, it remained true that everyone loves a parade! The Band of the Royal Engineers from Episkopi enthralled the crowds with the precision of their marching

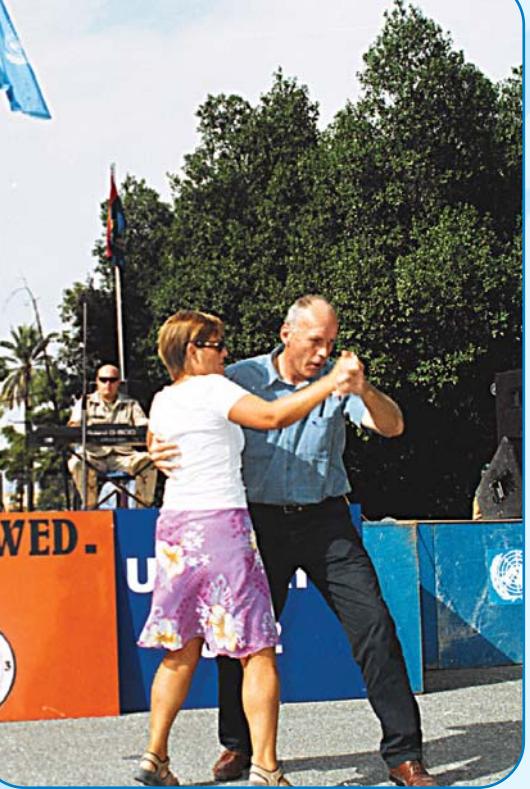
and the percussion of their marches. So much so, in fact, that brass player in the Austrian traditional trio, who also performed, gave a metaphorical tip of his Tyrolean cap to the sonorous tones of the British instrumentalists.

The bicultural choir proved as big a hit as ever, although they gave Master of Ceremonies, Maj. Iain Boardman, an anxious moment or two when they assembled in full chorus on the concert platform.

Their renditions of traditional songs from the island virtually became sing-alongs.

Irene Cotter, Ireland's answer to Bob Dylan, sent everyone home in style to the lilt of her accordian.

However, the musical honours for the day belonged to eight-year-old Denisa Lipovska, daughter of the Slovak Ambassador's Secretary. She won everyone's heart with her unaccompanied recital of haunting songs from her homeland.



Swing your partner!



Chorus line



Lords of the dance!



Knife-edge performance



Would you like to join in?



Getting stuck in!



Crowd favourite, eight-year-old Denisa Lipovska



Some sang lullabies



Tropical lederhosen



Reflections in a golden tuba bell



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Waiting for the bicultural choir



Nosotros Somos Los Campeones!

Good luck!

Swimming pool rally



Carry on...!



Policemen getting directions



Marksmanship

Military Skills Competition

On Tuesday 8 October, eight teams of six; one from MFR, two from each sector and, for the second time since April, a team from UNCIVPOL, fought hard for almost 10 hours, over 11 events for a chance to win the Military Skills Competition Trophy.

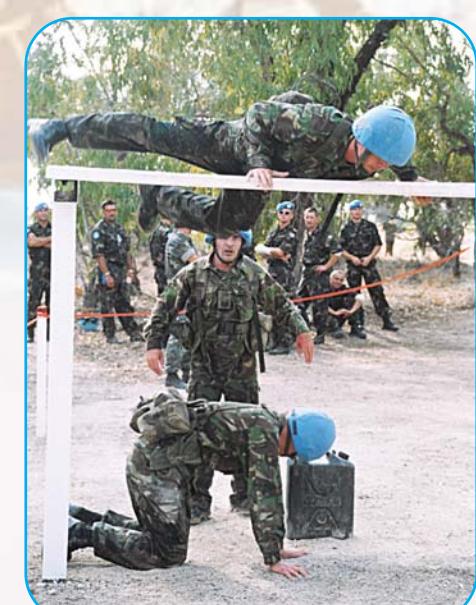
As the day progressed it was noticeable that Sector 1 had prepared well and hoped to win. In addition to the inspection, swim and forced march there were eight stands, which covered driving skills, map reading,

ops info skills, weapon assembly, first aid, fire fighting, observation and reporting, pistol shooting and ended with the obstacle course.

Congratulations to the winning team from Sector 1, including all those who took part; competitors, stand and team controllers and umpires as well as the admin staff from MFR for a thoroughly worthwhile, well organised and close run day.

1 st Sector 1 A Team	-	70 points
2 nd MFR Team	-	69 points
3 rd Sector 1 B Team	-	64 points

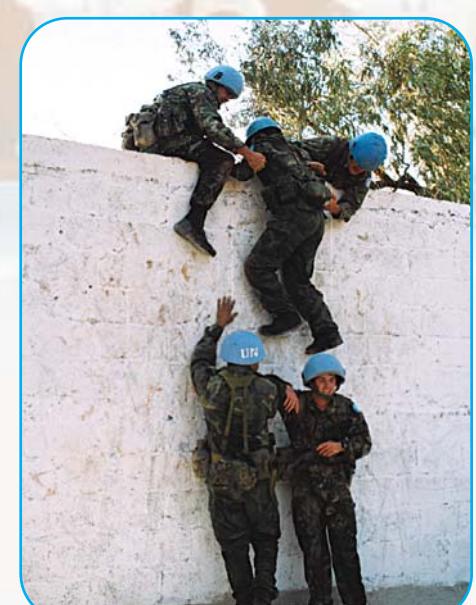
Crawl track



Teamwork



First aid emergency test



.... counts

Helping hands!



We did it!



Well done!



The Cultural Heritage of Cyprus: Part VII

Kourion - Spanning the Greek and Roman Eras

Welcome to The Blue Beret's seventh article in our series exploring the island's cultural heritage, as we highlight the primarily Roman ruins of Kourion.

Ancient Kourion sits atop a coastal bluff 16 kilometres west of Limassol, overlooking the bay of Episkopi. Although its ruins are spread over several kilometres, its most spectacular site is that of the theatre, with beautiful views of a long stretch of sandy beach, dramatic limestone cliffs and, of course, the sea.

Excavations have shown that the area around Kourion (Curium in Latin) was the site of a Late Bronze Age settlement, beginning in the 16th century BC. In subsequent centuries, Achaean Greeks were moving eastwards and establishing trading centres on Crete, Rhodes, Cyprus and the Asian and African coasts. According to Greek legends recorded by Herodotus (a Greek historian born around 426 BC), Kourion was founded by Achaean Greek immigrants from Argos in the Peloponnese in 1200 BC. Indeed, archaeological finds support this, as it appears that Achaean settlers in the late 13th and 12th centuries may have expanded on the earlier Bronze Age settlement.

During Assyrian rule (8th century BC), Kourion became one of the principal city kingdoms of Cyprus. Gradually, together with other kingdoms, it gained autonomy, and around the 6th century BC, it was issuing its own coinage.

The last king of Kourion supported Alexander the Great by leading his fleet in the siege of Tyre in 332 BC. This also marked the end of Persian rule, as Cyprus became part of Alexander's empire. After Alexander's death and the empire's division, Cyprus came under the rule of the Ptolemies of Egypt. Under the Ptolemies and the Roman rule that followed, the city became a centre of commerce and culture, prospering during a relatively stable, war-free period. By the 2nd century AD, the population of Kourion may have grown to 20,000, with the city covering four square miles.

Between the 4th and 7th centuries AD, however, Kourion suffered a series of earthquakes and Arab raids, and was eventually deserted, with some inhabitants relocating to the nearby village of what is today known as Episkopi.

What You'll See Today

The three principal areas of Kourion are the Acropolis, the Stadium and the Temple of Apollo. Although the ruins date from the Hellenistic through to the Roman and Byzantine eras, most of them reflect the Roman period.

The Acropolis

The hill on which the main sites of Kourion are located shows vertically cut sides that would have provided the Acropolis – a fortified hilltop, often the citadel of a city – with the same security as fortification would have. The hilltop here reveals some of Kourion's most important remains, including the theatre, the annexe of Eustolius and the baths.

The theatre was probably built in the 2nd century BC, when spectators likely could have watched plays by Sophocles and Aristophanes. It was expanded and remodelled in the 2nd century AD, boasting a capacity of about 3,500 spectators. It was destroyed by earthquake and abandoned in the 4th century AD, but has been reconstructed in modern times, and is used for theatrical performances and other cultural events.

Higher on the slope, just to the southeast of the theatre, lie the remains of the House of Eustolius, consisting of 30 rooms. Once a private Roman villa, built on the site of an earlier Hellenistic building (one pebble mosaic dates to the 2nd century BC), it was rebuilt after the disastrous earthquake of the late 4th century AD, and later became a public bath complex. The floors of the porticoes are paved with beautiful mosaics, depicting fish and birds, with a Greek inscription reflecting these as symbols of Christianity. Other inscriptions welcome visitors to the house, and a particularly fine mosaic depicts Ktisis, the spirit of Creation, holding a ruler that measured a Roman foot.

To the northwest of the theatre area lies one of the most spacious of the early Christian basilicas in Cyprus, dating from the 5th century AD. It served as the cathedral of the first bishops of the town, and retains its granite columns, narthex (vestibule at the western end of a church), hexagonal pond, and baptistry in the shape of a cross. It was probably destroyed during the Arab raids of the 7th century AD.

Near the basilica lies the Roman Forum, with what was likely a roofed colonnade, where the citizens used to meet. Other nearby buildings include a nymphaeum (fountain dedicated to the nymphs, semi-divine maidens of the sea or woods), the water works and the main reservoir. Further northwest is the House of Gladiators, named for its mosaic representing gladiators fighting in pairs.

Still further northwest lies the House of the Mosaic of Achilles. This building consists of an open courtyard with rooms on two sides and a portico (with the Achilles mosaic) at the northeast end. Dating back to the 4th century AD, the building has other mosaic floors, and was probably used to receive official visitors.

The Stadium

As the road leaves the Acropolis area and heads west, it passes the stadium, located approximately two kilometres from Kourion. The stadium has a U-shaped boundary with three entrances, and was built in the 2nd century AD, in the Roman era. Only a few of the original seven rows of stone seats remain: once, some 6,000 spectators could have sat here. The dimensions of the stadium – 217 metres by 17 meters – correspond to the normal dimensions of almost all Greco-Roman stadiums.

The Sanctuary of Apollo

About one kilometre west of the stadium is the site of the Temple of Apollo Hylates (the God of Woodlands). Apparently, in the forests that covered most of the area in ancient and medieval times, wild animals including deer used to live here. According to archaeological findings, the Sanctuary of Apollo was the religious and political centre of Kourion from the Archaic period (7th century BC).

The entire sanctuary area was surrounded by an enclosure wall with two main entrance gates (Kourion and Paphos Gates). From the western, or Paphos, entrance, broad steps lead to two narrow, elongated chambers on the left, while on the right, five chambers separated by corridors are clearly visible. These rooms were probably used for visitors and for the display of offerings.

At the end of the five rooms, a narrow paved street leads to the Temple of Apollo. The temple consisted of a portico with four columns and a main sanctuary of small size, because the ceremonies took place in the open air, where the altar (the place of sacrifice) stood. It is said that anyone daring to touch Apollo's holy altar would be hurled into the sea from the white cliffs of Kourion.

To the east lie the House of the Priest, the Treasury, and the archaic temenos (sacred precinct). Outside the enclosure wall of the temenos are the palaestra (an open courtyard that would have been surrounded by columns) and the baths used by worshippers and visitors.



The temple of Apollo Hylates in the sanctuary of Apollo



Bon Voyage

On 17 October, members of the Officers' Mess gathered to say farewell to Lt. Col. McNamara, Lt. Col. Ambrosetto, Maj. Meglia, Capt. Orquera, 2/Lt Rovere and Angela Milne.

It was obvious that Col. Fletcher and Lt. Col. McNamara had put on detective hats for their speeches. Col. Fletcher had those in attendance on the floor laughing when he pointed out some of the Hungarian words that Angela (newly married to a Hungarian) was learning. Lt. Col. Ambrosetto was a little worried when he thought he might have to get an injection himself (see photo right) – but when he found out that the syringe contained 12-year-old Scotch, he was more than happy to comply, while Max McNamara, betraying his Scottish heritage, was offering flu "shots" all around!

The members who were mugged out want to thank the Mess for everything, and wish their successors all the best!



We Love You Madley, Tony Hadley

For two consecutive nights, an 80's legend, three dancing girls and a bloke with blue hair kept the Sector 2 audience (and friends) enthralled with their talent. The arrival of the Tony Hadley Band came as a breath of fresh air to the Regiment as the monotony of four months of line duties began to set in.

The compere and comedian, Mark Walker, did an extremely funny set with the MFR to ensure they got a taste of what the UN mission is all about. The second day they were taken to Dhekelia. But in the evenings, the show went on and was a great success. Many thanks must go to those who made it all possible.



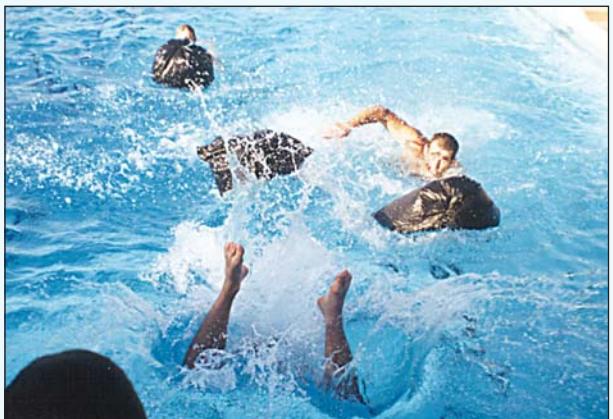
In our last issue, we went into time warp and said the Sector 4 Medal Parade featured Slovenian soldiers. Apologies to our friends in Sector 4. Of course they were

Slovak peacekeepers! What's more, 117 of them and 47 Hungarians received medals and not the other way round as we incorrectly stated.

Caption Competition

Captions to be submitted to the Public Information Office by:

25 November 2002



- That's no mermaid!
- Foot stroke
- Doing the hand spring
- Garbage disposal unit
- Definitely not a Finn!



Mr. Adriaan van der Meer



The Finnish delegation with the Chief of Mission

During October, Headquarters UNFICYP welcomed a number of visitors.

Among those received by UNFICYP Chief of Mission Zbigniew Włosowicz and the Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Jin Ha Hwang, was the Ambassador and Head of the EU Delegation, Mr. Adriaan van der Meer (top left), who arrived at the Headquarters on 10 October.

A Finnish delegation (top right), led by Ambassador Pasi Patokallio, visited UNFICYP on 16 October. They were met by the Chief of Mission, Force Commander and 2i/c Sector 2 at the Ledra Palace, following which the members were given briefing and conducted on a Green Line tour.

On 18 October, the President of the Austrian Parliament, Dr. Heinz Fischer (left), visited UNFICYP. Following a guard of honour, he met with the Chief of Mission and Force Commander.

The Hungarian military attaché, Ms. Lt. Col. Marietta Tihanyi (left), visited UNFICYP on 22 October. She met with the Chief of Mission and Force Commander, and was then given an UNFICYP brief by the Chief of Staff, Col. Hamish Fletcher.

A delegation from Bavaria (below) visited UNFICYP on 28 October. They arrived at the Ledra Palace, where they were greeted by the Chief of Mission and 2i/c Sector 2. The delegation was then given a briefing and conducted on a Green Line tour. (The Bavarian United Nations Association also visited at the beginning of the month.)

On 29 October, H.E. Mr. Martin Vávra (below left), Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Cyprus, visited UNFICYP. Following a guard of honour, Mr. Vávra paid an office call to the Chief of Mission and Force Commander.



Dr. Heinz Fischer



Ms. Lt. Col. Tihanyi with the Force Commander



H.E. Mr. Vávra with the Chief of Mission



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