

THE BLUE BERET

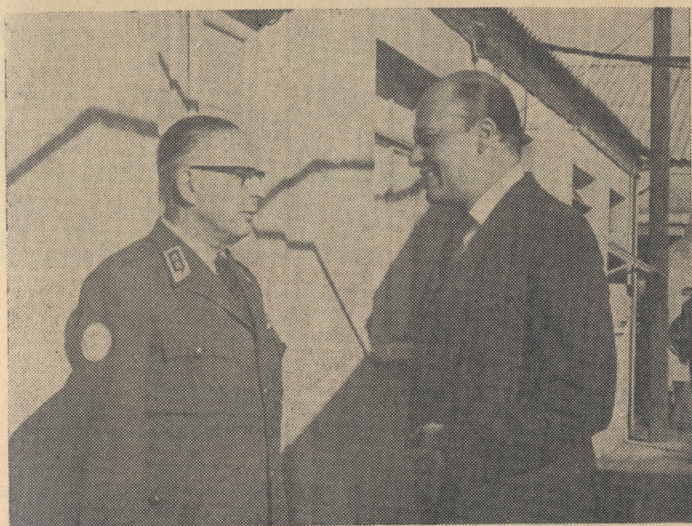
Wednesday, 11th January 1967



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Volume Four

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ABOVE: Mr Carlos A. Bernardes on his last visit to Force Headquarters on Wednesday last when he took his farewell (see right) during the Force Commander's morning briefing. BOTTOM; LEFT AND RIGHT: Mr Bernardes is pictured with Mr Pierre Pasquale Spinelli on his arrival on the evening of the same day at Nicosia International Airport. CENTRE: A final handshake by Mrs Bernardes as she and her husband board the aircraft which took them on the first leg of their journey back to Brazil.



SPINELLI ARRIVES -

BERNARDES RETURNS TO BRAZIL: AIRPORT FAREWELL

MR. PIERRE PASQUALE SPINELLI, UNITED NATIONS UNDER-SECRETARY AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE U.N. Office at Geneva, arrived in Nicosia last Wednesday evening (4 January) to act temporarily as the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Cyprus following the departure of Mr. Carlos A. Bernardes who resigned his post last month, after more than two years on the island.

Mr. Spinelli was greeted at the airport by representatives of the Cyprus Government, members of the foreign diplomatic corps in Cyprus, Mr. Bernardes, Lieutenant-General A.E. Martola, the Force Commander, and other UNFICYP officials.

Speaking briefly to reporters at the airport, Mr. Spinelli stressed the "temporary" aspect of his assignment to Cyprus which, he said, would last only until the Secretary-General appoints a successor to Mr. Bernardes.

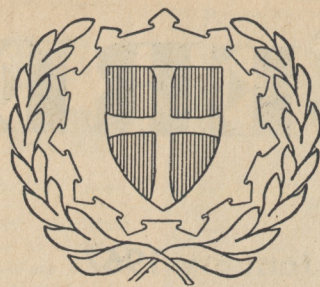
Recalling his initial assignment to Cyprus in the same

capacity, in March 1964 when the United Nations operation was first established in Cyprus, Mr. Spinelli said that he would continue to act within the strict terms of reference of Special Representative of the Secretary-General; he had no new plans or initiatives, he added.

Mr. Bernardes left Nicosia on the following morning (5 January). He was seen off at the airport by representatives of the Cyprus Government, members of the diplomatic corps, Mr. Spinelli, General Martola and other UNFICYP officials, and other friends and colleague in Cyprus. Mr. Bernardes resigned his post for "personal reasons" and will be returning to Brazil, his native country.

TEXT OF SECRETARY-GENERAL'S
LETTER TO MR BERNARDES APPEARS
ON BACK PAGE, COLUMN TWO





DANCON NYT

I denne uge foretages træning med landsætning fra helikopter. De to billeder er fra fortræningen i C-kompagniet og viser, hvorledes man indøver landsætning ved nedfiring i et tov og ved spring, hvor helikopteren under den endelige træning vil svæve ca. 2 m over jorden.



FODBOLDKAMPEN



Lørdag 7 JAN blev der spillet en fodboldkamp i Nicosia mellem et hold fra British Army Cyprus og et udvalgt FN-hold. Til trods for, at der var 5 danskere på det udvalgte hold, blev kampen dog ikke nogen udpræget succes. FN-holdet spillede i første halvleg godt og levende og skabte sig en del gode målchancer, der dog ikke blev udnyttet, og resultatet af halvleg blev 2-0 til det britiske hold, selv om 2-2 nok havde været mere retfærdigt efter spillets fordeling. I anden halvleg var det, som om FN-holdet var gået i stå, og selvom det nu var det britiske hold, der havde det meste af spillet, lykkedes det dog at hindre dem i at score mere end en enkelt gang, således at det endelige resultat blev 3-0 til briterne. På billedet ser man et FN-angreb på det britiske mål, der dog, som ovenfor nævnt, ikke gav resultat.



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VI KOERER STADIG IKKE FORSIGTIGT NOK

DER SKER ALT FOR MANGE FAERSELSUHELD PÅ CYPERN, HVORI DANSKE KØRETØJER ER IMPLICERET. Nok har Cyprioterne ikke det, vi forstår ved færdselskultur, men deres måde at færdes på kræver så meget desto mere forsigtighed fra vør side. Siden 15 NOV 1966 er der sket 11 færdselsulykker og -uheld, som danske køretøjer har været impliceret i. De fleste ha heldigvis ikke været af alvorligere karakter, men dog er en dansker og en cypriot blevet alvorligt kvæstet, medens en cypriot er lettere kvæstet.

Der har alt ialt inden for de sidste 12 måneder været behandlet 179 færdselssager, hvoraf en meget stor del har været overskridelse af hastighedsbestemmelserne. Det er tal, der maner til forsigtighed, og enhver, der sidder ved rattet i et motor-køretøj, bør gøre alt, hvad han kan, for at han og eventuelle passagerer ikke i næste måned er reduceret til kun at være statistik.

Det sidste alvorlige uheld, hvori danske køretøjer var impliceret, skete kort efter at det nye år var født, idet en dansk betjent fra UN-CIVPOL i Kyreniabjergene kørte galt og blev alvorligt såret, uden at

der dog længere er fare for hans liv. Jeep'en, han kørte i, havde un kørt ca. 1000 km siden den sidst var indblandet i et færdselsuheld, og på billedet ser man DANCON's værkstedleder, PRLT (S) A. Jensen, stående ved siden af ulykkesvognen.

I anledning af de mange uheld udtaler vor motorsagkyndige, MAJ E. Hansen: der er visse regler, som vi ikke er vant til hjemmefra, som vi særligt må tage os i agt for her-nede. Ved lysregulerede kryds og ved rundkørsler skal der udvises skærpet agtpågivenhed, idet man skal huske på, at man ved indkørsel i rundkørsel har ubetinget vigepligt for de køretøjer, der befinder sig i rundkørslen. Ved lysregulerede kryds sker det ofte, at den tværgående færdsel fortsætter med at køre frem, til trods for gult eller rødt lys og ligegyldigt hvor megen ret, man har i henhold til færdselsloven, må man huske på, at der altid er cypriotiske vidner, som vil aflægge ed på, at det er FN-soldaten, der har overtrådt færdselsreglerne.

Derfor er det på sin plads nu, inden det bliver alt for sent, at løfte en manende pegefinger: VÆR AGTPÅGIVENDE OG KØR FOR-SIGTIGT.

NY SVENSK LÖPASEGER ÖVER ENGELSMÄNNEN

I EN TERRÄNGLÖPNING LÖRDAGEN DEN 7 JANUARI FÖRSVARADE DE SVENSKA CYPERSOLDATERNA sitt rykte som goda löpare och slog de arrangerande engelsmännen med bred marginal. Tävlingen gick av stapeln vid Four Mile Point och banans längd uppgavs vara cirka 5,5 kilometer. Trots vissa brister i snitslingen lyckades svenskarna leta sig runt banan så

snabbt att de belade de främsta platserna.

Nedan: starten vid Four Mile Point. Th: Segraren öfu Torsten Stålnacke, Svappavaara, går i mål efter en, som vanligt, utmärkt löpning. Den fysikstarke kongo- och cyperveteranen är idrottschef på 2 komp - vilket också brukar märkas i kompaniets resultatslistor.



TRETTONDAGSFEST MED SVENSKA OCH CYPRIOTISKA BARN



Festligt värre var det på Carl Gustaf Camp under Trettondagen. Vid ett Childrens Party i filmsalen roade sig barn till civilanställda cyprioter tillsammans med söner och döttrar till svensk FN-personal. Övan ett rafflande avsnitt av den bejublade säcklöpningen.



FILM OM FRITID VID BAT 36 C



Rondy Carlsson, Kristianstad (t v) och Tom Söderby, Stockholm, visar upp sina bollkonster för TV-fotografen Christer Hansson och redaktör Åke Brolin. Nickduellen blir ett av de många inslag från fritidsverksamheten inom bataljonen som TV-teamet kommer att redovisa i ett program den 10 februari. Innan de båda TV-representanterna i dag återvände till Sverige lovade de skicka bataljonen en kopia av sin film, vilken vi alltså så småningom kan räkna med att få se som förspel vid några av de ordinarie filmvisningarna.

BORDTENNIS I OLD CITY

Svenskar och turkcyprioter kämpade mot varann i en bordtennis-match i Old City, Famagusta, på Trettondagen. Här vinner Anders Edgren, Örebro, vid bortre sidan av bordet över sin turkiske motståndare

AROUND FORCE HEADQUARTERS THIS WEEK



The Ops (Air) Staff pictured plotting a flight plan for one of the helicopters of the Force. From left to right they are Flying Officer Geoff Danielli, Cpl Derek Danney and SAC Mick Hennessy. Derek and Mick are due to leave UNFICYP tomorrow (Thursday).

BRITCON
NEWS

On his departure from the Force, RQMS Percy Miles (right) hands over "Sandy", the QM Guard-dog, to relief RQMS Harry Southall. "Sandy" is on the official ration-strength of the Force. Percy Miles is returning to 15 ABOD (BAOR), the unit that provided his relief.



BQMS Jim Dominick (left) checks his stores (pictured is a 26 ltr container of propane gas) with his relief, BQMS "Buck" Buckthorpe, prior to leaving the Force for 2 Regt RA (BAOR). "Buck" is from 20 Regt RA (BAOR).

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER HANDS OVER

Last Thursday Colonel P.G.L. Cole, MBE, assumed the duties of Chief Medical Officer of the Force on the departure of Colonel F.G. Neild. Colonel Cole is shown (left) chatting to his predecessor at a demonstration of the Stokes Litter, used for the evacuation of casualties. In the background is a Sioux helicopter of UNFICYP Flight AAC, which would carry the litter (foreground) when necessary.



Sgt George McAllister and Gnr Carr at work on new Mess building at L.

KUWAIT TRIP FOR RUGBY MEN

• Captains Claude Cornu and Lieuts Freddie Swords and Tager on their selection as members of an Invitation Team to play Kuwait rugby team in Kuwait.

PHILATELIC CORNER

UN D STAMP OUT THIS MONTH

A HAPPY NEW YEAR to UNFICYP philatelists! For those members of UNFICYP who are interested in stamps, they may be interested to know that complete sets of United Nations stamps for the years 1964, 1965 and 1966 are available at the UNFICYP office in the Force Headquarters, Main Hangar, Nicosia.

Also available are some first-class UNPA stamps, such as the one in December, commencing the work of the United Nations Children's Fund.

UN Post Administration plans for the year include an issue of a new stamp on 23 January to commemorate

the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) — see photo insert with this column.

The UN Development Programme, which is conducting



the world's largest programme of multi-lateral technical aid to developing countries, combines the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance estab-

GROUP REACH MID-TOUR POINT

SGT LEAHY GOES FOR SECOND 'THIRTY'

NOW, WITH THREE MONTHS SERVICE WITH UNFICYP, the 7th Inf Grp have qualified for their UN Service medals. Some have already received the UN Cyprus Medal, having served here with previous units. Of these, one veteran, Sgt M. Leahy 'B' Coy, here for the third time, has another claim to distinction — namely 30 years National Service in the Irish Army. Remembering the words of the song "Old soldiers never die" may we express the hope that the fading away phase may see him through another 30 at least!

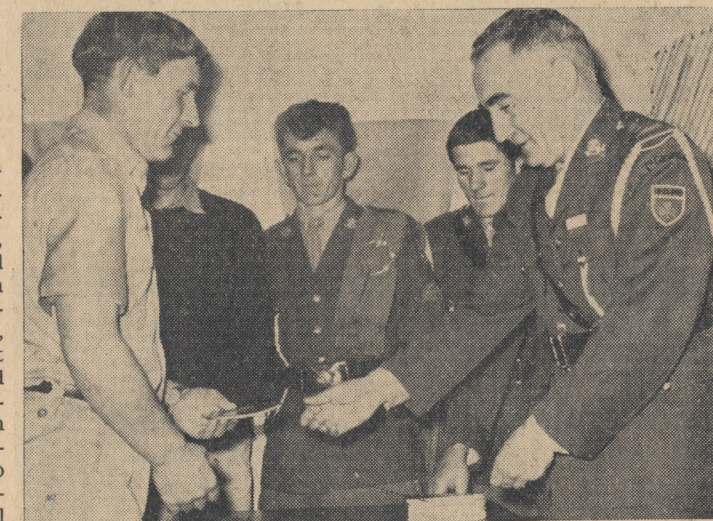
• Interested in building a chalet in sunny Cyprus? If so, apply to the Officers Commanding Lefka, Limnitis or Kato Pyrgos who, under the supervision of the Unit Engineer Officer, Comdt Mick Ryan, are engaged in the real estate business. These units are building new Messes with a labour force of enthusiastic amateurs. No trade union difficulties!



Sgt M. Leahy 'B' Coy being given a presentation by his Platoon Commander, Lieut Fred Swords, to mark the completion of 30 years service in the National Army. Comdt T. Carroll, (Company Commander) looks on.

lished in 1950, and the UN Special Fund founded in 1959. Current project commitments amount to well over 1,000 million US dollars.

The new stamp will be printed in photogravure by Courvoisier SA (Switzerland) in denominations of 5-cents (yellow, purple, green and orange) and 11-cents (blue, green, brown and orange). Due to an overrun in printing quantities, 2,380,000 stamps of the 5-cent denominations will be issued and 2,170,000 of the 11-cent denomination, rather than 2,200,000 and 2,000,000 as originally announced. The stamp was designed by Olav S. Mattiesen (Denmark) and will measure 34mm horizontally x 26 mm vertically, perforation to perforation.



Lt-Col Hanley (COMIRCON) presents trophies to the winning team, in the Unit Darts Competition.

LIFE HAS PRIORITY

DESPITE A RECENT IMPROVEMENT IN THE ACCIDENT FIGURES FOR FORCE VEHICLES, SAFETY EXPERTS AT FORCE HEADQUARTERS FEEL THAT THE ACCIDENT RATE IS STILL FAR TOO HIGH. During the following weeks, The BLUE BERET will be carrying a series of features designed to remind drivers of some obvious but easily forgotten rules of driving — rules they followed when they began driving, but have allowed to lapse through familiarity or perhaps carelessness. Any machine depends on the person who runs it, and this applies specially to the motor car. The most important part of a car is the driver. There is no such thing as a fool-

proof or crash-proof car, there is even no such thing as an automatic car. Safety can be designed into a vehicle up to a certain point — the rest depends on the driver. This is the point the UNFICYP Safety Committee want to make. Intelligent use of vehicles can cut the number of accidents.

Few drivers will ever admit that they were the cause of an accident they were involved in — it is always 'the other fellow's fault.' When a man gets into a car his whole physiological make-up seems to change. Given an almost unlimited source of power he often becomes careless to the point of stupidity and completely thoughtless of other peoples' safety.

A NEW ROAD SAFETY SERIES

Once in a while, changes in the cause of accidents often far outstrip your constant slowing down. You can't see over hills. You can't see round corners. You become impatient — then you are halfway to an accident. Given a mind — and you can't read some things — and suddenly you join the ever rising road accidents.

You can happen in front stops a child runs into the road prepared for

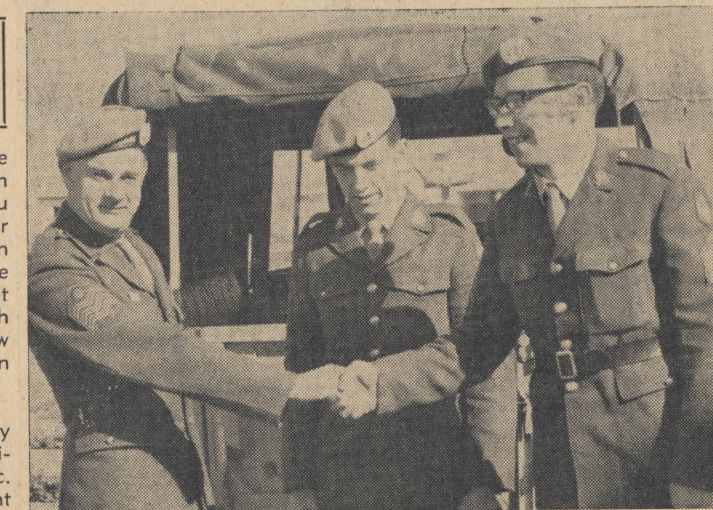
PART I DEFENSIVE DRIVING

them. This is sometimes called 'Defensive Driving'. All this implies is alertness, a reasonable amount of courtesy, and most important, a safety margin — a reserve of space and time. SPACE is the minor problem, it is fairly easy to leave a reasonable space between yourself and any vehicles in front, but TIME is more important. Time depends on two factors, thinking time and acting time — the time between you seeing an incident that requires you to stop or take other action and the time that you actually complete that action.

The time margin must depend on your own speed. Travel too fast and you may not

have time to stop, but on the other hand, too sudden action may result in cars behind you not being able to stop. The faster you travel the greater the margin of space and therefore time should be. A safe margin is at least one car's length for each ten miles per hour, but allow more space for high speeds, on slippery roads, or in darkness.

One note of caution: The safety margin can be overdone, particularly in slow, heavy traffic. Leaving too much space in front of you is simply an invitation for other drivers to pass in circumstances which may not be safe for them to do so. Play it safe, but don't overdo it.



Company Sergeant Tom Dillon of UNFICYP HQ soon to return home after his tour of duty, welcomes his replacement CQMS Sean Conlon on his arrival at Nicosia Airport. Another arrival, Pte Brendan Buggy, is in centre.



Esikuntakomppanian paallikön vaihtuessa järjestettiin Nyrkin nautoksenluonteinen harjoitus, josta tämä tilannekuva on otettu. Tienristeystä silmä ja kasi tarkkana varmistavat miehet ovat jaakari Sukuvaara (vas) ja jaakari Pöytäkangas (oik).



Salamapalloharjoitukset ovat käynnissä esikunnan edustalla. "Salama" Mäki-Kuutti (etualalla tummassa verryttelypuvussa) esittää syötön tekniikkaa laiskan näköisille oppilailleen, jotka...



...sentaan saivat vauhtia paastyään itse palloon kasiksi. Tässä majuri Hatakka polttaa kaikkien taiteen saantojen mukaan pakoon pallon kanssa pyrkivän postimestarin.

KENRAALI MARTOLA SEURASI HARJOITUSTA

Rauhanturvajoukkojen komentaja kenraaliluutnantti A.E. Martola kävi Kyproksella lyhyellä vierailulla olleen tunnetun sanomalehtimiehen ja kirjailijan, Suomen Kuvalehden toimituspäällikkö Heikki Brotheruksen seurassa katselemassa salamapalloharjoitusta ensimmäisen komppanian alueella sijait

sevalla Trakonaksen kentällä. Voimistelunopettaja Mäki-Kuutti selvitti vie raille salamapallon sääntöjä ja perusajatuksia ja sai heidätkin innostumaan heittotekniikan harjoitteluun. Ennen kentälle tuloaan kenraali Martola ja toimituspäällikkö Brotherus olivat ajaneet tavanomaisen Vihreän linjan kierroksen.



Vieraat seuraavat uuden pelin harjoittelua. Kuvassa vasemmalta majuri Riikonen, kapteeni Palosaari, rauhanturvajoukkojen komentaja kenraaliluutnantti Martola, toimituspäällikkö Brotherus, evl Lehtovirta sekä kontingentin komentaja eversti Nuutilainen.

SUOMEN PATALJOONASSA PELATAAN SALAMAPALLOA

SALAMAPALLO, RUGBYN SUOMALAINEN VERSIO, JOKA SEROAA ESIKUVASTAAN LÄHINNÄ SIKÄLI ETTÄ RAJUT TAKLAUKSET on korvattu polttokosketuksella, mikä vähentää loukkaantumisen vaaraa kovalla kenttäpinnalla on pääsemässä käyttöön pataljoonassa. Pelin on Kyprokselle tuonut ja miehilleme opettanut Suomen salamapalloliiton varapuheenjohtaja Tarmo Mäki-Kuutti, joka nyt siirtyy muutamaksi päiväksi Famagustaan viemään suippoa palloaan ruotsalaistenkin paikkittavaksi. Alustavasti on jo suunniteltu maaottelun järjestämistä kontingenttien kesken.

Kolmen jääkärikomppanian välillä käydyssä salamapallo-ottelujen harjoitussarjassa saavutti toinen komppania ylivoimaisen voiton kilpailukumppaneistaan näiden tarjoamasta kovasta vastuksesta huolimatta. 2.K:n joukkue kukisti ykkösen 5-3 ja kolmannen komppanian peräti 7-0. Parhaaksi pelaajaksi komppanian joukkueessa ja kenties koko pataljoonassa mainittiin näissä peleissä jääkäri Lehtoa, joskin kersantti Katajaisen ja jääkäri Mannin suoritukset kohosivat lähes samalle tasolle. Nimien esiin vetäminen tuskin kuitenkaan antaa joukkueesta oikeaa kuvaa, sillä "Salama" Mäki-Kuutti sanoi toisen komppanian joukkueen menestyksen perustuneen ennen kaik-

kea erinomaiseen taktiikkaan ja yhteispeliin.

Voimistelunopettaja Mäki-Kuutti sanoi, että vaikka Suomessa on hyviä pelejä varsin suuri valikoima jo nykyisellään, meiltä on tähän asti puuttunut nimenomaan tällainen rugby-tyyppinen juoksupeli. On todennäköistä, että tämän tällaisella pelillä on suuri merkitys huippujuoksijoiden kasvattajana. Tärkeämpää kuin huippu-urheilu on kuitenkin kunnan laajempi kehittäminen, ja salamapallo on erinomainen nimenomaan kuntopelinä, "Salama" lausui. Pelihäirei vaadi muita välineitä kuin pallon ja keutän, jolla on tila juosta tuu vallisesti.

UNFICYP DEFEAT BRITISH AT RUGBY

LAST Thursday a representative rugby team from UNFICYP played an Army Cyprus XV in Dhekelia. The UNFICYP team consisted of players from the British, Canadian, Irish and New Zealand police contingents, and had not played as a team previously.

The weather was fine, the ground in good condition, and a good open game expected. Army kicked off and within two minutes play was back in their half, given a penalty which Lt Paul Quirk converted.

The Army returned to the attack and scored a good try on the right wing which was converted. Although their forwards' greater weight and

height gave the Army the majority of the ball, fierce tackling by the UN backs prevented any further score, but foolish infringements gave UN two more penalty kicks, from one of which Lt Quirk converted for UN to lead 6-5 at half time.

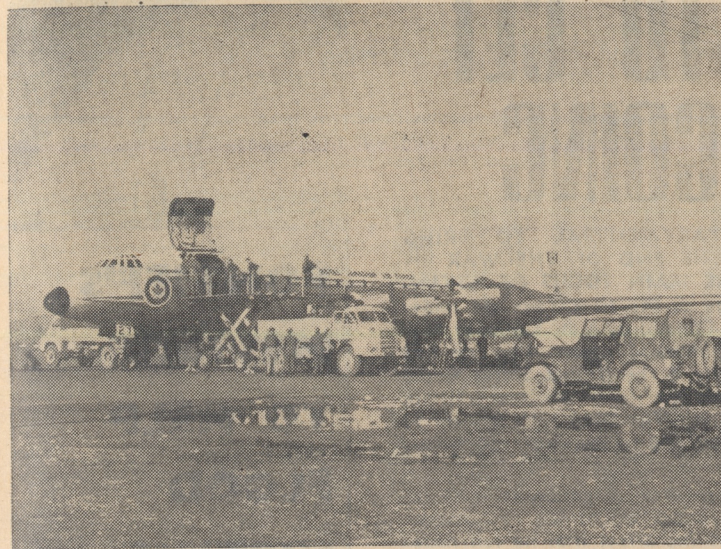
Early in the second half the Army took the lead with a penalty goal, but soon lost it when Lt Quirk kicked another penalty.

The Army pack was now tiring and a fine demonstration of New Zealand style play by Ron Renz and Ron Burgess gave Cfn Mike Hughes the opportunity for a good break from which Lt Frank McKeivitt scored a try, to seal the game 12-8 for UNFICYP.

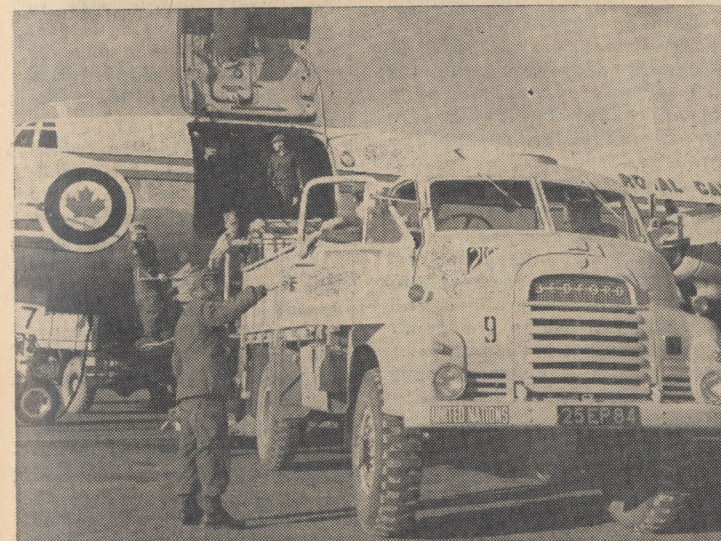
CANADIAN CONTINGENT NEWS

SEVEN THOUSAND MILE LINK

WEEKLY YUKON FLIGHT KEEPS CANCON OPERATING



BIG DAY FOR CANCON — No less than fifteen vehicles from Camp Maple Leaf swarm onto Nicosia airport to take much needed freight and mail from the weekly Yukon flight from Canada. The ten 3-ton Bedfords involved make two trips before everything is off-loaded. And the twenty-strong loading party has everything transferred or put away well within the two-hour turn-around period.



AN UMBILICAL CORD SOME SEVEN THOUSAND MILES LONG CONNECTS THE 900-MAN CANADIAN CONTINGENT OF THE UN PEACE-KEEPING FORCES HERE WITH THEIR HOMELAND. It's the weekly flight of a giant Yukon transport from Trenton, Ontario, to Nicosia. And it's a vital connection.

"If we didn't have it, we sure as heck couldn't operate the way we've been doing," said Captain Peter Vetra, who has handled Contingent movement control for the past five months.

The four-fan Yukon of the Royal Canadian Air Force arrives Mondays in Nicosia loaded with roughly 20,000 pounds of freight and thirty-three passengers for Cyprus and for the UN Emergency Force's Canadian Contingent in the Middle East. More important is the 2,000 pounds or so of mail it brings.

So far, this Canadian link has carried something like two and a quarter million pounds of freight, a few thousand people rotating here and in UNEF on a man-for-man basis, and a quarter-million pounds of mail. This is based on statistics going back to September, 1964, when the UNFICYP mandate was renewed for the first time.

In Cyprus alone, the current Contingent brings to 6,000 the total number of servicemen Canada has contributed on six-month tours. Canadians (1st Bn, R 22e R) in fact were the first troops to arrive when the Force formed in the Spring of 1964. It took thirty RCAF flights and a sea lift by the Royal Canadian Navy's aircraft carrier Bonaventure to establish them.

Since then, the various battalions have been rotated in an operation separate from the weekly service flight.

The bulk of Contingent needs are met through arrangements with the British SBAs, but some material and welfare requirements

are peculiar to Canada. There are something like 150 Canadian military vehicles maintained by flying out spare parts and sometimes whole sections. As the vehicles age, the requirement ups. It's the same with radio equipment. And, as well as the need for mail from home, the Canadian soldier gets important little extras to the basic British ration system.

"People count time left on tour by how many aircraft departures to go before their turn," said Captain Vetra, and it would really take something extraordinary to detract from the arrival of the weekly Yukon flight.

The Yukon can carry 37,000 pounds of freight, but because of bulk items for Cyprus, the figure is rarely higher than 34,000 pounds. The aircraft takes off from Trenton on a Sunday afternoon for the RCAF Station at Marville, France, where those destined for Canada's NATO forces disembark. Then it becomes a UN flight for the remaining sixteen hours to Nicosia.

Factors crop up which at times one flight per week can't handle — material piles up at Trenton which the Contingent needs — then Canada's Air Transport Command steps in with a special air freighter service.

Since HMCS Bonaventure came in March 1964, only a few tons of freight annually comes by sea through the port of Famagusta. Captain Vetra and his staff are responsible for this too.

Sergeant Len Savidant looks after the passenger side of the air/sea operation, and Corporal Ray Mountain, RCAF, is the transportation technician who plans loading and off-loading of the aircraft and associated paperwork.

There's quite a lot of work involved in this aspect since the RCAF has UN flights to and from El Arish, but that's another story.

BUSY MONDAY — Movement control personnel of the Canadian Contingent earn their salt Mondays with arrival of a Yukon with equipment and people from Canada and a connecting RCAF UN flight from El Arish. Sorting out passenger/freight problems by the Yukon are, left to right, Cpl Bill Bellefontaine, 31, of West Chezzetcook, Nova Scotia, flight steward; Sgt Len Savidant, 35, of Summerside, P.E.I., and Cpl Ray Mountain, 35, Calgary and Edmonton, both in movement control for the Cyprus end. Meanwhile, the Caribou connection for El Arish is discussed by the pilot, left, F/O Allan Petryk, 22 of Cranberry Portage, Man, and Capt Peter Vetra, 30, Toronto and Halifax, movement control officer for Canadians in Cyprus.





U THANT: "Stop bombing without conditions..."

VIET-NAM

U THANT CONTINUES EFFORTS TO GET TALKS GOING

THE EFFORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO BRING ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE END OF THE WAR IN VIET-NAM CONTINUED TO BE THE MAIN FOCUS OF ATTENTION at United Nations Headquarters as the New Year got under way. A spokesman for the Secretary-General said on Thursday that he could neither deny nor confirm published reports that he had "hard facts" to support his hope that, if the United States would end the bombing of Viet-Nam without any prior conditions, there would be a positive response from North Viet-Nam with a view to the general de-escalation of the fighting and to starting negotiations between all parties to the conflict.

At the same time, the spokesman drew attention to a statement made by U Thant in a letter addressed to US Ambassador Arthur Goldberg on New Year's eve to the effect that he felt hopeful that favourable developments might follow if the Americans halted the bombing without prior conditions, and if the brief New Year cease-fire could be extended.

U Thant's letter to Ambassador Goldberg was sent in reply to a request made by the United States on December 19 that the Secretary-General take whatever steps he considered necessary to bring about discussions leading to a cease-fire.

The Secretary-General urged the United States to take the initiative in the quest for peace in Viet-Nam and show "an enlightened and humanitarian spirit" by stopping the bombing of North Viet-Nam "even without conditions". He also urged an extension of the cease-fire period. He said cessation of the bombing should be followed by the next two points in his three point programme for getting peace talks started — a scaling down of all military activities by all sides, and an expression of willingness to talk with all those fighting, including the Viet-Cong.

In the subsequent reply, sent the same day, Ambassador Goldberg reiterated the previous American statement that she was prepared to order "a prior end" to all bombing of the North "the moment there is an assurance, private or otherwise, that there would be a reciprocal response towards peace from North Viet-Nam".

He added the hope that U Thant would use every means at his disposal to determine what tangible response there would be from the North to the cessation of bombing. At the same time, the US Ambassador expressed his Government's conviction that the goal of peace in Viet-Nam could not be attained "by either appeals for, or exercise of, restraint by only one side".

Ambassador Goldberg said the United States welcomed the idea of an extended cease-fire which, he noted, would involve the cessation of bombing of the North and an end to all hostilities and organized violence in the South — but could not but regret "that other parties concerned have shown no interest so far in such a cease-fire".

Over last week-end it was reported that North Viet-Nam and the Viet-Cong had proposed a limited extension of the truce arranged to cover the Viet-Name New Year of February eighth to twelfth, from four to seven days. US Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, told the press that American agreement to this proposal would call for prior consultation with its allies, and in particular, the South Viet-Name government.

SECRETARY GENERAL'S LETTER

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A LETTER DATED 27 December 1966 sent by the Secretary-General, U Thant, to his Special Representative in Cyprus, Mr. Carlos A. Bernardes.

"Now that by your own volition you are about to leave your post as my Special Representative in Cyprus, I would like to repeat how greatly I have appreciated your service in the United Nations over the past two years.

"The very successful operation of UNFICYP and the maintenance of peaceful conditions, if not a

return to normality, in Cyprus have been due in no small measure to your tireless and skilful work. That you have managed to maintain excellent working relations with all parties involved and at the same time to secure solutions and effective compromises in a number of delicate situations is the finest tribute to your diplomatic ingenuity, firmness of purpose and, if I may say so, to your personal qualities. Your understanding and experience of the working of the United Nations and of the possibilities as well as

of the limitations of the Organization have also been an invaluable asset.

"I need hardly tell you how sorry I am that you must now leave the Service of the Organization, although I understand well your reasons for doing so. In thanking you for your loyal and distinguished service in Cyprus, may I also express to you and to Mrs Bernardes my warmest good wishes for the future and my hope that you may at some later time serve the United Nations again."

HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERTS COMMITTEE OPENS SESSION

WAYS AND MEANS OF PREVENTING DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTING MINORITIES are being examined in detail by a unit of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights which opened a new session at UN Headquarters last week.

The sub-commission of experts, recently enlarged to eighteen members, makes recommendations to its parent body seeking to do away with discrimination of any kind affecting human rights, and to protect racial, national, religious and linguistic minorities.

Since its establishment in 1947, the group has initiated a series of world-wide studies on various forms of discrimination, among them discrimination in matters of education, employment, political rights and religious rights and practices. In 1964 it approved the draft text of the International Convention against all forms of racial discrimination which was subsequently adopted by the General Assembly. In 1965 the sub-commission drew up a draft convention seeking the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance.

As the new session opened, the sub-commission re-elected Mr W. Ketrzynski of Poland as its chairman. Welcoming members on behalf of the Secretary-General, Marc Schreiber, Director of UN's Human Rights Division, noted the successful contributions already made by the group to the international effort to secure fundamental freedoms. He stressed the great importance attached by the world Organization to eliminating problems of discrimination.

PONTIFF'S MESSAGE TO HELP FLOOD VICTIMS

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL, U THANT, LAST WEEK SIGNED FOUR HUNDRED copies of a special folio commemorating Pope Paul's historic visit to the United Nations in October of 1965 and his plea of "Never Again War" issued from the rostrum of the General Assembly.

The limited edition, which includes the text of His Holiness' message, will be turned over the United States Committee for the Relief of Florence, headed by Mrs Jacqueline Kennedy, for sale to collectors at about 350 US dollars (£120 sterling) a copy, the proceeds to be used for assistance to the flood devastated city.

In an introduction to the special edition, the Secretary-General said that he had had many occasions to reflect on the enduring importance of the message issued by Pope Paul VI to the United Nations. The text of the Pope's message, to be issued in the original French, will also be preceded by an introduction by the Pope, to be signed by His Holiness.

