

# THE BLUE BERET



FEBRUARY 1984



# JANUARY IN RETROSPECT

## ROTATIONS

UNFICYP Force Scout Car Squadron

## MEDAL PARADES

27 The Canadian Contingent

## VISITS

5-6 The Honourable J J Blais, Canadian Minister of National Defence, and party visited the Canadian Contingent

10 Sir George Young BT MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Department of the Environment, visited HQ UNFICYP

10-19 Five entertainers from Sweden entertained members of the Swedish Contingent. They also gave a performance in Sector One.

11-17 Messers U Billberger and I Andersson and Mrs S Carlsen, a Swedish radio team, covered the

performances of the visiting group of musicians in the Swedish Contingent

11 Eight Canadian Members of Parliament visited the Canadian Contingent

13-15 Mr John Walton and Mr Paul Halley from Soldier magazine visited the British Contingent

14 Lieutenant Colonel M Seymour visited Sector Five

17-25 Captain R Paquin and Master Warrant Officer R Fries visited the Canadian Contingent

19 Mr Chris Fairclough, a British author, began a visit to the Force Scout Car Squadron

23-29 The Royal Canadian Regiment Band visited the Canadian Contingent to play at their medal parade

24 Captain S Eyres visited the Canadian Contingent

## UNFICYP COMPETITIONS

20 Shooting Competition

# FUTURE EVENTS

## THE AMERICAN CENTER

22 February at 7.30 p.m.: "Flashdance"

A 1983 film about a dancer who struggles against all odds to gain independence.

23 February - 4 March: LIMASSOL CARNIVAL

Events will take place on 23 February, 26 February, 3 March and end with the Carnival Parade on 4 March. Further details from the Cyprus Tourism Organisation.

## UNFICYP COMMUNITY SPRING FAIR

14 April 1984, starting at 1300 hours - keep this date free. Further details to follow.

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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. Photographs should be in black and white on glossy paper size 160mm by 210mm. 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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## Front cover

By Sergeant Tony Hodgetts

# THE BLUE BERET



## Editorial

This edition will be published just prior to Mrs Angela Singh's departure and return to the United Kingdom. Angela Singh and I started in this business at approximately the same time nearly two years ago. At that time, it was the blind leading the blind; neither of us had had any knowledge of running a magazine, so we had to progressively learn from experience. May I be so bold as to say that we have made changes for the better and, above all, managed to publish it on a regular basis. All this has been possible with Angela's support and dedication which we are all most grateful for. We all wish Angela and her husband 'bon voyage'.

## Contents

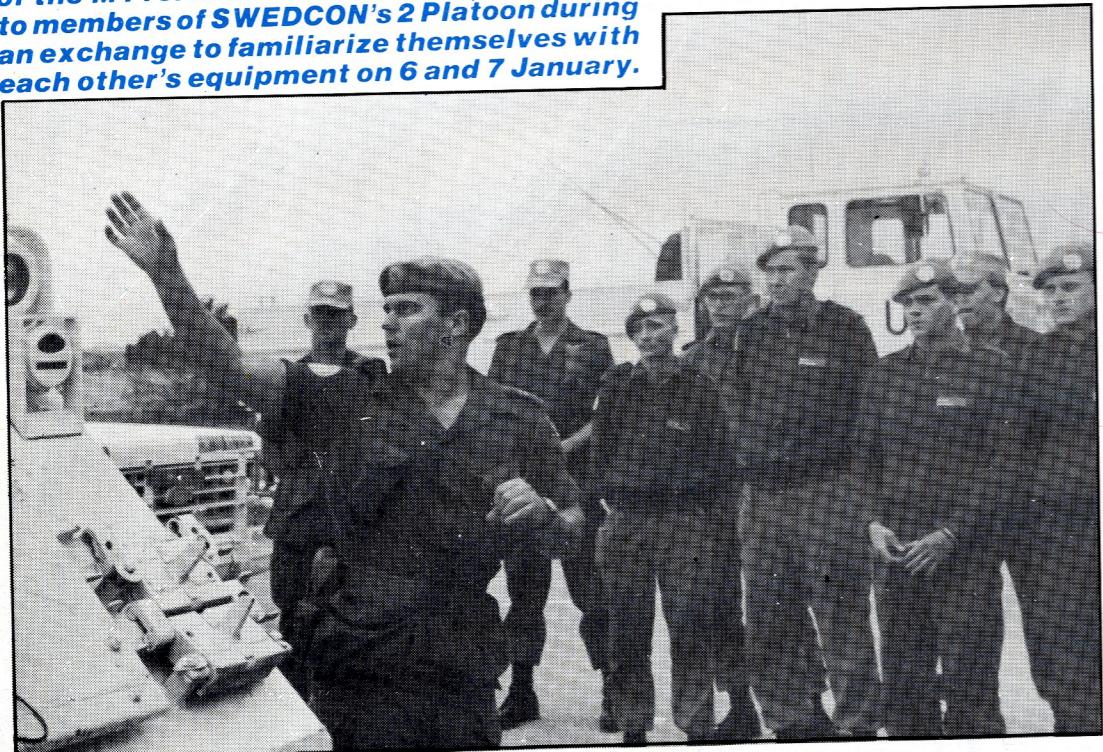
January in Retrospect; Future Events	2
Editorial; Contents	3
PICTORIAL NEWS: Snow at Camp Victoria; CANCON/SWEDCON Exchange; Christmas visit to DANCON OP's; CANCON/FSC Sqn Exchange; VIP visit	4-5
DANCON: The Traditional Christmas Baptism	6
Sector 2: Poachers' Progress	7
UNIT FEATURE: FSC Squadron - The Scarlet Lancers	8-9
CANCON: BHQ Coy - Where the Action is!	10
SWEDCON: OP S65; Swedish Field Artists	11
BLUE BERET SPORT: DANCON Christmas Eve Football; Poachers' Volleyball	12
INTERNATIONAL COOKBOOK: Get a Taste of the Far East	13
UNFICYP Shooting Competition	14
AUSCON: "Swedish Invasion" in AUSCON	15
UN NEWS: New Year's Eve Message from the Secretary General; Mercury and Microbes in the Med	16

PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS

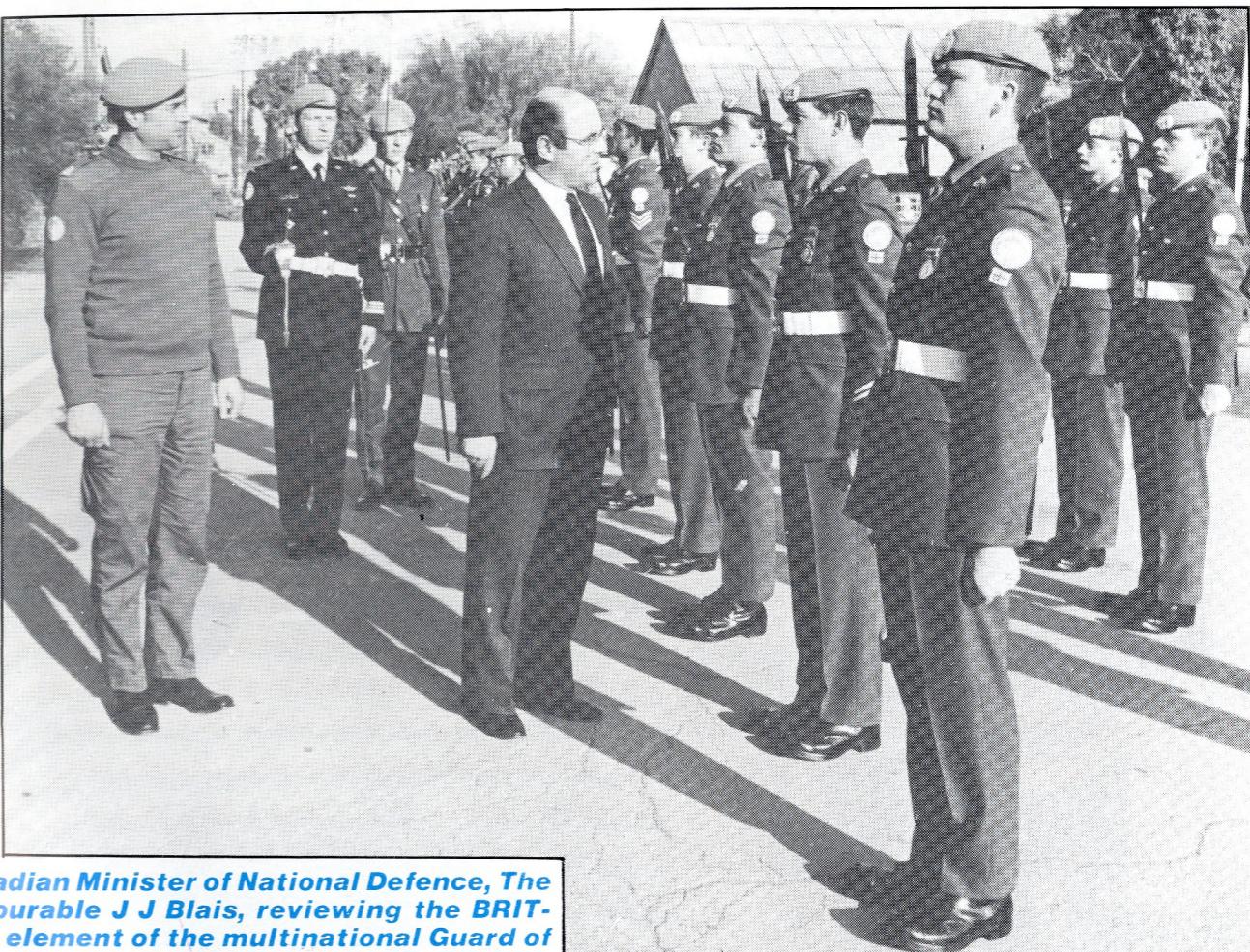


**The men of Recce Platoon 2 RCR participated in an exchange programme with B S RTR, the UN Scout Car Squadron, on 16 December.**

**Lt Pond of 2 Platoon 2 RCR explains features of the M113A1 armoured personnel carrier to members of SWEDCON's 2 Platoon during an exchange to familiarize themselves with each other's equipment on 6 and 7 January.**



**It takes snow to celebrate Christmas, at least, if you are a Swede. So on Christmas Eve you could find a snowdrift at 0 Victoria (taken down by car from Troop**



**Canadian Minister of National Defence, The Honourable J J Blais, reviewing the BRIT-N element of the multinational Guard of Honour at HQ UNFICYP on 5 February 1984.**



**On 24 December, Commander DANCON, Lt Col K L Hansen, and the chaplain visited all the OP's in Sector 1, wishing everybody a merry Christmas. At OP D34 with, from left to right, Maj B E Lauritzen, OC B-Coy, Lt J Bjorn, the chaplain, HH Christiansen, Lt Col Hansen, Pte J Olsen and Pte S Andersen.**

## THE TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS BAPTISM

For a long period it has been a custom and tradition to test the Danish soldiers who live in Viking Camp, to see if they are real vikings.

So DANCON invited King Neptune, together with his wife and a witch-doctor.

King Neptune showed up on December at DANSBORG beach to baptize everyone who had the bravery to come.

Almost everyone was disguised, many of them with a fantasy which only a soldier can produce.

They also transformed their vehicles into fancy cars and the procession left Viking Camp and arrived, with much noise from all kinds of instruments, at the site prepared by King Neptune and his court.

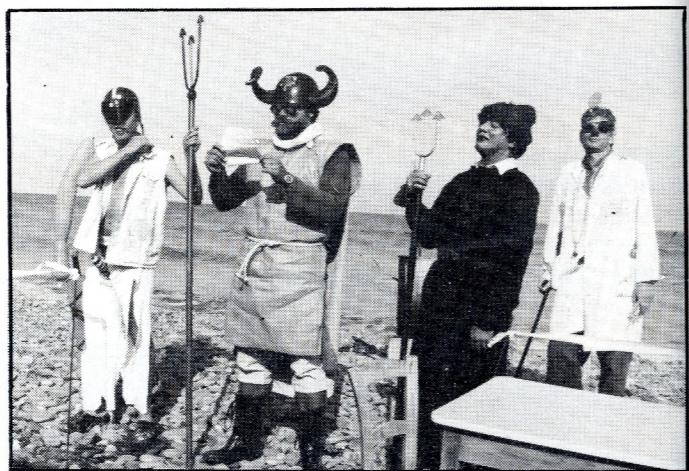
They were baptized by the witch-doctor with a floormop and an evil-smelling liquid.

In order to clean themselves they were forced to go into the sea.

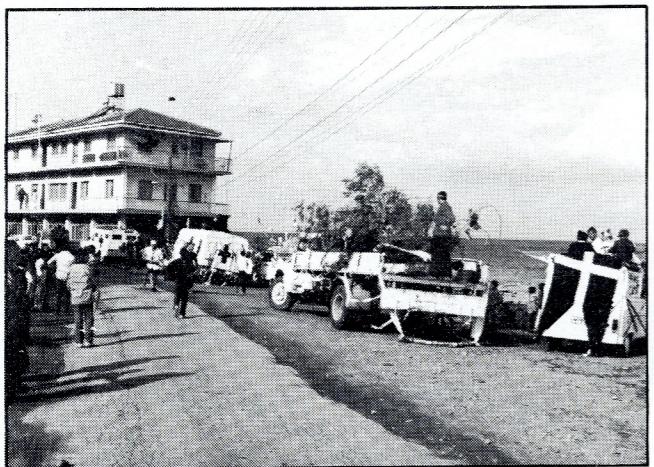


Commander DANCON, Lt Col K L Hansen was the first to be baptised.

**By Major H O Sietam**



King Neptune, his wife and the witch-doctor.



The procession arrives at DANSBORG.



King Neptune, his wife and all the soldiers in the sea.

## POACHERS' PROGRESS

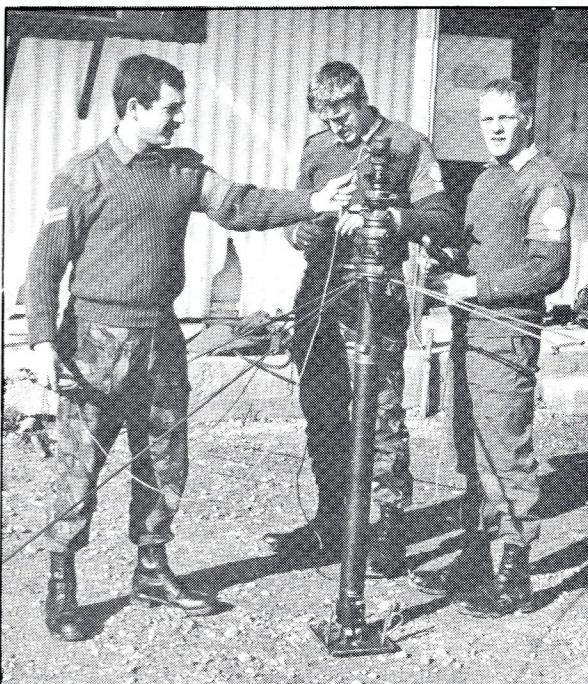
By Captain R J Edmondson - Jones

Photographs by Corporal Easey

The Poachers are now well settled into Sector 2 and look forward to maintaining the contacts that they have already made amongst the other contingents. A number of people have now been to visit the Sector. Of these visitors the most notable were the Force Commander, Commander BRITCON and the Captain of HMS Fearless.

The arrival of HMS Fearless in Cypriot waters led to a short, hectic and most enjoyable series of visits and sporting events. An exchange visit for a day between twenty Poachers and twenty sailors was a great success.

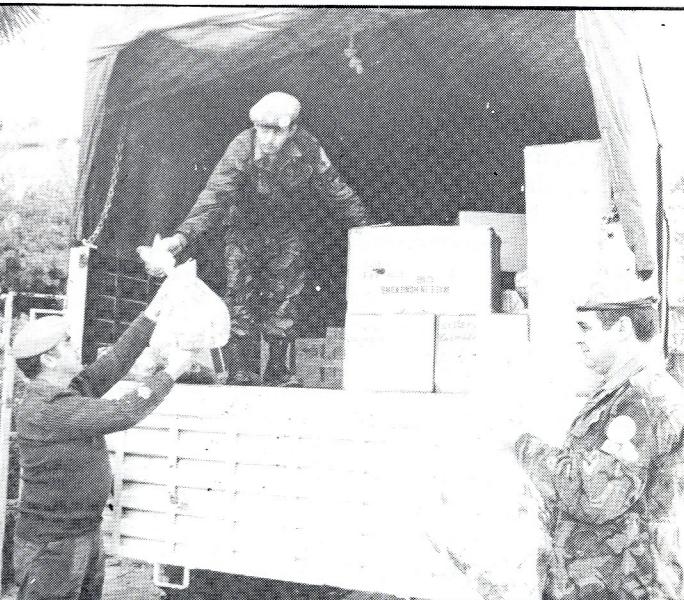
On the sporting side several football matches have been played at Company level against local sides. Most of the results remain a closely guarded secret! Internally a most successful Sector sports day was held at the Box Factory. Those on the skiing courses at Troodos can be seen examining the sky anxiously, but most remain quite content to enjoy the sun.



Cpl Wood, LCpl Twigg and Pte Boyce looking confused.



Comd BRITCON, Col Hugh Pye with, from left to right, WO2 O'Driscoll (CSM B Coy), Maj P Barnes (outgoing OC B Coy), Maj T Domelsen (new OC B Coy), Sgt York (4 Pl) and Comd Sector 2, Col Brown.



WO2 Jones, A/SHO, assisted by WO2 (SQMS) Floyd checking supplies prior to a Northwind Patrol.

The REME at work.... too many hands....!

In January 'B' Squadron 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers removed their dark berets and donned the light blue beret of the United Nations, taking over the role of Scout Car Squadron from their Tidworth neighbours, the 4th Royal Tank Regiment. The Lancers are no strangers to Cyprus for during the 1974 emergency, no less than three of their Squadrons were involved, B Squadron themselves joining the United Nations Force for three months. It's contribution earned the Regiment a Queen's Commendation for Bravery and Gallantry as well as eleven Commander British Forces Near East Commendations. A number of senior ranks and Lieutenant Bill Cook, the Administrative Officer, served with the Squadron at this time and have many a tale to tell.

The Regiment is the result of an amalgamation of two famous cavalry Regiments, the 16th The Queen's Lancers and the 5th Royal Irish Lancers.

The 16th The Queen's Lancers were raised in 1759 as the 16th Light Dragoons by Lieutenant Colonel (later General) John Burgoyne. From their formation until 1815 the Regiment fought in all the major wars, including the American War of Independence and the Napoleonic Wars. In 1816 the 16th was armed and equipped as a Lancer Regiment and at the siege of Bhurtpore (1822) they became the first British Regiment to use the lance in action. In 1832 the Regiment's uniform was changed from blue to red, and they became the only Lancer Regiment to wear this colour, hence the nickname "The Scarlet Lancers". On the 28th January 1846 the 16th Lancers took part in the Battle of Aliwal where they executed a series of successful charges against heavy odds. The Regiment suffered heavy casualties and on completion of their task their lance pennons were so encrusted with blood that they appeared to be crimped and so today not only is the battle commemorated with a Regimental holiday but also their lance pennons are always crimped.

In 1905 His Majesty King Alfonso of Spain was appointed Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment and to this day the Spanish National Anthem is played at dinner nights. By 1909 the 16th had been awarded 18 battle honours, more than any other cavalry Regiment in the army. With the outbreak of the First World War the 16th were sent to France and Flanders where they served throughout.

The 5th Royal Lancers were raised in 1689 in Enniskilling as Wynne's Regiment of Enniskilling Dragoons and first saw action in Ireland at the Battle of the Boyne. In 1694 the Regiment took part in the Flanders campaign, but saw little action and so returned to Ireland in 1968.

In 1704 their title was changed to the Royal Dragoons of Ireland and in the same year the Regiment moved back to Europe with Marlborough's Army for the War of Spanish Succession. They took part in all the major battles including Blenheim, Ramilles Oudenarde and Malplaquet. On return from Europe the Regiment was stationed continuously in Ireland where it was disbanded in 1799.

In 1858 the Regiment was re-raised as the 5th Royal Irish Lancers and saw service in England, Egypt and India before going to South Africa, distinguishing themselves particularly at the Battle of Elandslaagte and at the relief of Ladysmith.

# THE SCAR LANCERS

By Captain Mark Ridley



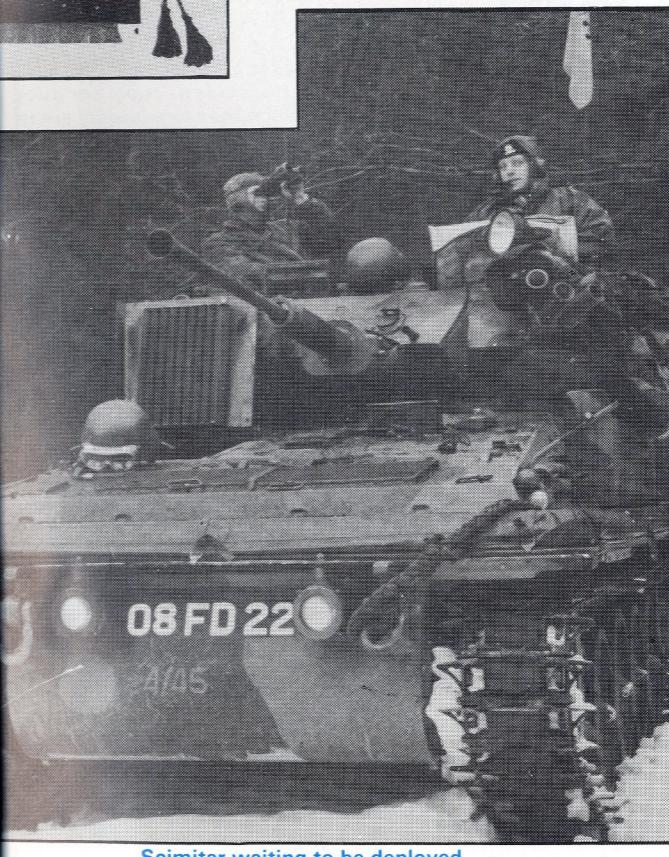
The guidon.



The Queen's badge.



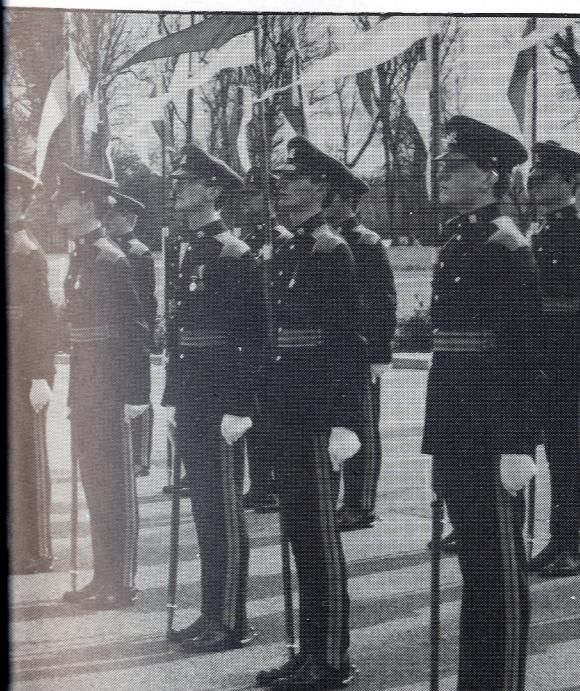
Major Tony Durie on exercise.



Scimitar waiting to be deployed.



HRH the Sultan of Oman inspects a guard from B Squadron.



In 1922 the 16th and the 5th Lancers were amalgamated to become the 16th/5th Lancers. The newly formed Regiment served in Egypt, India and Scotland between the wars. In 1939, with the outbreak of the Second World War, the Regiment was mechanised and in the Autumn of 1942 the 16th/5th Lancers took part in the Tunisian Campaign as part of the 6th Armoured Division. The Regiment then moved to Italy and participated in both battles for Cassino and during the 1944/45 winter fought as infantry in the Apennines.

In June 1947, Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth (now Queen) was appointed Colonel-in-Chief of the 16th/5th Lancers and in 1954 she commanded that the Regiment become the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers. The renamed Regiment then went on to serve in many parts of the world until moving back to England in 1980.

At present the Regiment is based at Tidworth in Hampshire, where its role is that of the United Kingdom Mobile Force Reconnaissance Regiment. Two medium recce squadrons are dedicated to this task (A and B) as is the newly formed guided weapons squadron (D), while the remaining squadron (C), is committed in an independent role as the ACE Mobile Force (Land) Reconnaissance Squadron. Although the Regiment's home is in England, the squadrons spend much of their time away and at the moment, as well as B Squadron here in Cyprus, A Squadron is in Beirut, C Squadron is training in Norway, and D Squadron has sent two troops on exercise to the United States.

1983 was, as ever, a very busy year for the Squadron and exercises took place not only in England but also in Denmark and Germany. Despite these frequent and challenging exercises, the most memorable occasion of the year was the presentation of a new Guidon by the Regiment's Colonel-in-Chief Her Majesty the Queen, at Tidworth in July. The whole Regiment paraded for the occasion with two squadrons mounted in their vehicles while B Squadron had the honour of parading dismounted with Lancers.

In November the Squadron stood down and reformed in its new UNFICYP Scout Car Squadron format. New faces appeared, including a 14th/20th King's Hussar as a troop leader, although all the key characters remained unchanged. Major Tony Durie is the Squadron Leader and WO2 (SSM) Rick Varadinek is the Squadron Sergeant Major. The Squadron Leader is a keen nautical man and was delighted to be able to squeeze his yacht into a container bound for Cyprus, a delight not shared by those who had to load and unload it! While the Squadron Leader intends to spend much of his time patrolling the coast, the Squadron Sergeant Major hopes to pursue his keen interest in parachuting.

The recruiting area for the 16th/5th Lancers is Staffordshire; however, many of the Squadron's members are from other areas as many join the Regiment due to family rather than geographical ties. As a result, most areas of Britain are represented.

B Squadron has looked forward to renewing its ties with UNFICYP for a long time and intends to make a full contribution to the Force both militarily and recreationally.

Photography by Unit Photographers

# BHQ COY - WHERE THE ACTION IS!

By Captain CAM Carbert

The sun has only begun to paint the eastern sky an orange hue, but already the hard-working members of the 2nd Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment's Headquarters Company are warming up for a three mile run. Morning PT seems to be the perfect prescription to cure those early morning blues.

However, some members of the company have been at work since midnight. In the Communications Centre, a signaller has been answering radio checks, manning the switchboard and typing messages throughout the wee hours of the morning. Also, the Sector Four Duty Officer has been occupying his place of duty.

At 0800 hrs, things really get going. All section heads attend the morning Operations briefing and listen to the Duty Officer's summary of the last 24 hours' events. After this, all head for their own



The men of Recce Platoon conduct a foot patrol along the 'Green Line' in Nicosia.

particular corners of the Wolseley Barracks complex.

Meanwhile, the Command Group is arriving to work. This group comprises the Sector Four Commander, the Deputy Commanding Officer, the Roman Catholic Chaplain, the Adjutant, the Regimental Sergeant Major, and their respective drivers. By the way, in Sector Four you know when the commander is arriving at work, because the duty piper winds up his bagpipes to warn all around to look busy.

The largest portion of the company is



The JOC alternate command post vehicle, nicknamed 'Bigfoot' tours the streets of the city during a practice deployment to the UNPA.



The second-in-command of the RCR MP section, M/Cpl Neal, entering the Ledra Palace on one of his patrols.

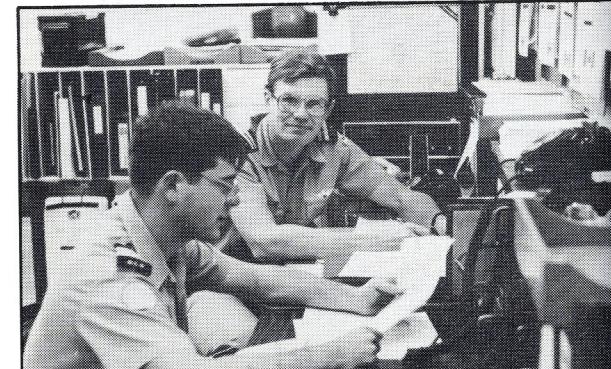
checking their vehicles for another day of UNBZ patrolling. The Reconnaissance Platoon patrols and reacts to a number of special tasks each day. When these duties and maintenance of their thirteen vehicles have been completed, they spend their time honing their musical skills, as they form the major portion of the 2 RCR Pipes and Drums.

While all this activity is taking place, the smallest and reputably the busiest section of BHQ is running errands on the Turkish side of Nicosia. The Humanitarian Section provides the link between North and South in such important areas as medical oxygen transfer, telegram and mail delivery, passport processing, and delivery of critical machine parts. This group also coordinates civilian work in the UNBZ and looks after 160 UN controlled buildings.

As the critical denominator of any headquarters is paperwork, the JOC Orderly Staff, who are ready 24 hours a day to type, file, duplicate, run errands, and search through files, must be mentioned. They are a dedicated group of paper pushers.

The Ops Information Section provides both operational and public information. For the former, they monitor company operations, make regular tours, and keep in touch with the HQ UNFICYP Info Cell. The latter is provided through the unit newspaper 'The Royal Canadian', 'Blue Beret' articles, and Cyprus news bulletins. This section also produces the weekly CANCON radio show heard Monday evenings on the CBC.

Throughout the day, Signals Platoon is busy keeping everyone communicating.



Capt Haynes and Capt Carbert man the nerve centre of Sector 4 the Joint Operations Centre.

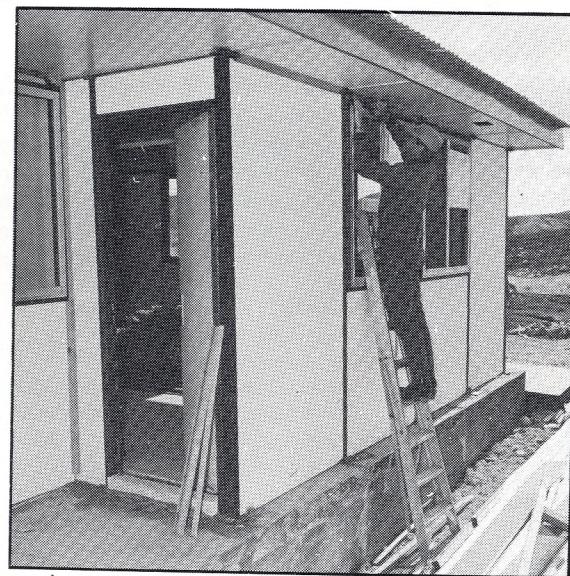
# OP S65

By Lieutenant Bosse Andersson

relieved and go back to the camp.

But the days of this OP are counted. A hundred yards away a house is being built and that will soon be manned by a whole group which will stay there permanently.

When the house is ready it will be one of the most comfortable OP's in Sector Five. And the line tour will lose one of its highlights. The old car has become something all visitors to that part of the Sector want to see.



The new house built a hundred yards from the car will be the most comfortable OP in Sector Five when it's ready.

# SWEDISH FIELD ARTISTS

By Lieutenant Bosse Andersson

Five Swedish rock 'n' roll artists in uniform - that's not a very impressive sight. But on stage in their own clothes - that's something else!

In the middle of January a group of "field artists" from Sweden came to Sector Five and the success was, of course, guaranteed beforehand.

It was the leader of the group, Christian Paulin, who picked the artists from different groups in Sweden and he made a good choice, if you judge from the applause the group received. The artists spent a week in Cyprus and made five performances, one of them in DANCON.

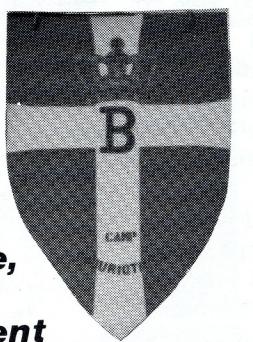


The applause would never end.



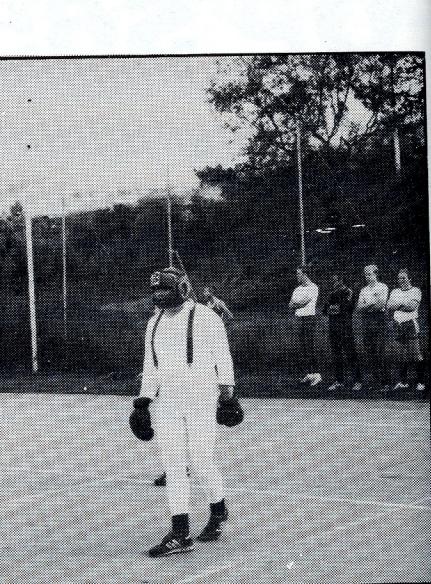
Mia Lindgren and the baseplayer, Christian Paulin in action.

# Blue Beret SPORT



**At 0900 hours on Christmas Eve, 24 December, everybody in B Company, DANCON was present at the football ground.**

**Nine teams were fighting to win the final which, after a hard struggle, was won by the HQ Platoon and the Ferret Troop were second.**



Sgt Jan Nielsen dressed for the match. By the way, he was watching the goal most of the time!

**By Private Johnny Berg**



Our cook, Sgt Tommy Galskint presenting his new hat while serving glog and Danish pastry after the football game.



1Lt Helge Jakobsen heading for a goal while Maj Bjorn Lauritzen watches.



Volleyball - during the Poachers' sports day on 6th January at the Box Factory.



# INTERNATIONAL COOKBOOK



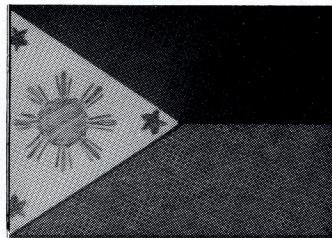
## GET A TASTE OF THE FAR EAST

**These recipes were supplied by Mrs Angelita I Sarangay, whose husband is a radio officer with UNFICYP. They are an example of Philippino cuisine - and so long as you can find dried banana blossoms, you should have no problem trying them out!**

### PAKSIW NA PATA

1 large pata or pig's feet (about 1 kilo)  
 1/2 c. vinegar  
 1/2 c. water  
 1/2 head garlic, crushed  
 1/2 c. brown sugar  
 1/2 c. dried banana blossoms, soaked in water (optional)  
 1 laurel or bay leaf  
 1/4 c. soy sauce  
 4 saba bananas, fried (optional)  
 Clean pig's feet and boil in vinegar, water and garlic. Lower heat, simmer until pig's feet are tender. Add more water as needed. Put in remaining ingredients, simmer 5 minutes more. Serve hot.

with the salt, freshly ground black pepper and bay leaf. Let stand for 20 minutes. Heat the oil in a pan and saute the chicken and pork for 3-4 minutes until brown on all sides, then pour in marinade and chicken stock, and liver. Bring to the boil and simmer uncovered, until liver is cooked. Remove the liver and chop. Return chopped liver to saucepan, adjust seasonings to taste, pour in rest of soya sauce and cover the pan. Lower the heat and simmer until meat is tender and sauce thickens. Serve immediately with plain rice or allow to cool and serve with a salad.

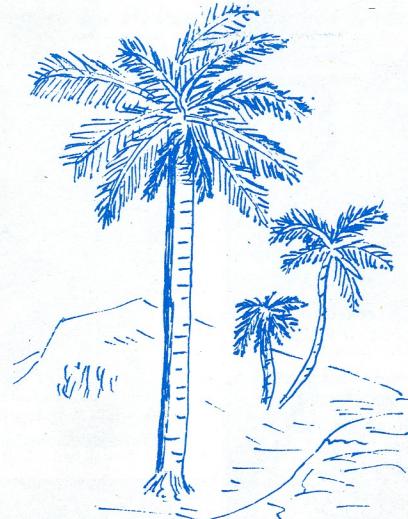


Scald the evaporated milk in double-boiler for fifteen minutes. Beat egg yolks. Add the sugar and flavoring. Pour into 1 quart mould. Place this in large pan filled with water. Steam or bake for about 1 hour or until mixture becomes firm. Cool before removing from mould. If desired, line mould with the caramel syrup before pouring in mixture for steaming or baking.

### CHICKEN AND PORK ADOBO

1 chicken, about 800 g.  
 600 g. pork  
 100 g. pork liver  
 150 ml vinegar  
 25 ml light soya sauce  
 4 cloves garlic  
 25 g. rock salt  
 freshly ground black pepper  
 1 bay leaf  
 100 ml vegetable oil  
 250 ml chicken stock

Clean and prepare chicken and cut into bite size pieces. Cut the pork into 1" x 2" pieces and cut the liver into thin slices. Place the chicken, pork and liver into saucepan and pour in the vinegar and half of the soya sauce. Crush the garlic and add to the pan together



### LECHE FLAN

2 c. Carnation evaporated milk  
 8 egg yolks  
 1 tsp. lemon rind or vanilla  
 1 c. sugar  
 1/2 c. caramel syrup\* or Lyle's Golden Syrup

### CARAMEL SYRUP\*

1 c. sugar  
 1/2 c. hot water

Melt sugar in heavy metal container. As soon as sugar is golden brown, add 1/2 cup hot water to dissolve caramelized sugar and form syrup. May be stored in covered bottle.

## UNFICYP SHOOTING COMPETITION

The UNFICYP Shooting Competition took place on 20 January 1984 at Dhekelia ranges and was won by Sector 2. The results were as follows:

Final results:		Individual results:			Pistol match:	
1st Sector 2	1044 pts	1st Cpl Scarboro	Sector 2	113 pts	1st UN MP Coy	251 pts
2nd SWEDCON	890 pts	2nd Sgt Anderson	Sector 2	113 pts	2nd SWEDCON	235 pts
3rd CANCON	851 pts	3rd Pte Tee	Sector 2	104 pts	3rd DANCON	221 pts
4th DANCON	833 pts	SMG match:			Individual results:	
5th UN MP Coy	811 pts	1st Sector 2		405 pts	1st Maj Hansen	HQ UNFICYP 69 pts
6th UN Sp Regt	785 pts	2nd SWEDCON		370 pts	2nd WO2 Boden	SWEDCON 68 pts
7th AUSCON	735 pts	3rd AUSCON		311 pts	3rd Sgt Soerensen	UN MP Coy 67 pts
8th FSC Sqn	547 pts	Individual results:			Falling plate competition:	
9th AUSTCIVPOL	437 pts	1st Pte Melville	Sector 2	108 pts	1st AUSCON 1	
10th HQ UNFICYP	207 pts	2nd Cpl Kilby	Sector 2	108 pts	2nd CANCON	
11th SWEDCIVPOL	193 pts	3rd Pte Filipsson	SWEDCON	100 pts	3rd Sector 2 1	
Rifle match:						
1st Sector 2	425 pts					
2nd CANCON	373 pts					
3rd DANCON	302 pts					

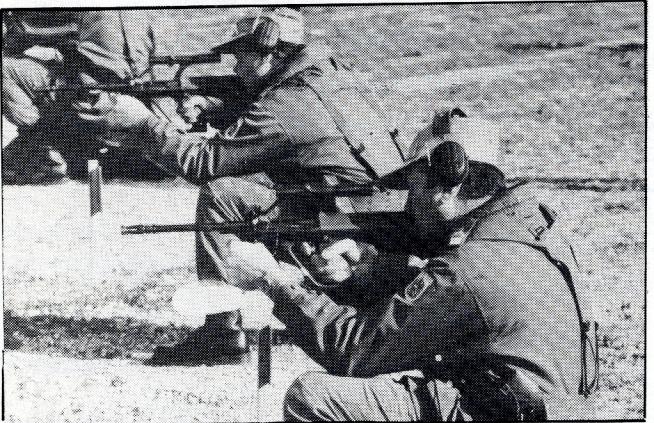


Sgt Mullen of the UN MP Coy in the rifle match.

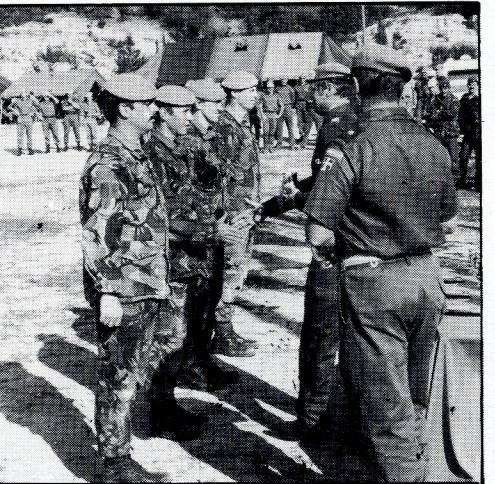


The CANCON team are led to the ranges by Piper Duguid and Cpl B Smith (with drum).

Photographs by Cpl Murray Doucet (CANCON) and Pte Robert Denscherz (AUSCON).



From left to right, 1/Sgt Horvath and WO1 Panis of AUSCON during the rifle match.



From left to right, Sgt Anderson, Pte Tee, LCpl Scarboro and Ma Domelson, winners of the rifle match, receive their prizes from the Force Commander.



The Force Commander presents the winners of the falling plate competition with their prizes. From left to right, WO1 Koller (team leader), WO1 Pichler, LCpl Jochinger, LCpl Primetzhofer.



Members of the SWEDCON team ringing for last minute advice.

Prizes were presented at the end of the competition by the Force Commander, Major General G G Greindl.

## THE "SWEDISH INVASION" IN AUSCON

By Captain Rainer Epple and Major Peter Mulacz

Swedes and Austrians have several things in common: both come from smaller, neutral states and they are also neighbours - not in Europe but with UNFICYP. The long partnership and friendship between the two contingents is the basis on which the personnel exchange programme between each battalion is carried out now and then.

What is the purpose of carrying out these programmes? No, it's not to escape from the "Oh, so strict" Platoon leader or Company commander; the aim is much higher:

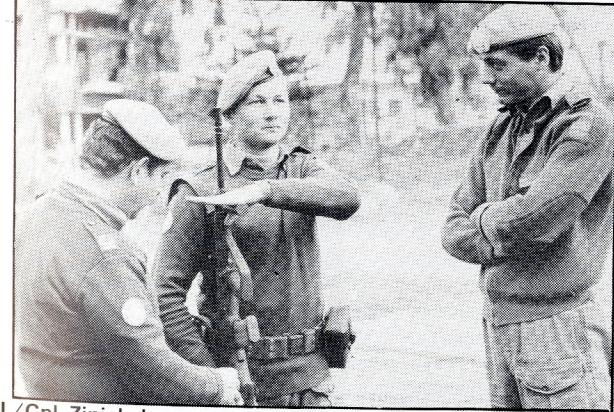
- both Swedish and Austrian soldiers of all ranks get the chance to become acquainted with their "opposite numbers"
- they experience the duties of another sector on an individual level
- they become familiar with a larger sector and another terrain
- they get a close view of the respective other army
- and - last but not least - opinions and stories are told and heard, a new song is learnt in the messes here and there ("Helangar", for example), new dishes are tried.... the horizon widens....

These are the reasons why, once again, an exchange took place between soldiers from both 1st and 2nd Rifle Company of each contingent during the period 9-18 January.

Four of our Swedish friends (they really became such!) came from SWEDCON's 2nd Company and eleven from its 1st, including three officers. Thus our 1st Company had the honour of being commanded by Major Norberg who "took over" from Captain Hruza for some days. You can't imagine what an enormous wave of relief sounded through all ranks when our beloved but too strict OC 1st Company handed over command... Anyhow, Captain Hruza didn't move to Sector Five, so this exchange was not a genuine one.

A more typical case is the one of Private Andersson - don't mix him up with Lieutenant Anderson, who was with us, too. Or Private

### Photographs by Private Robert Denscherz



L/Cpl Zinzel demonstrating Austrian Rifle drill, while 1/Sgt Fuka improves the attitude of the weapon and Pte Svenson watches with interest.

Swedish chef, WO2 Bjerken (left) with Austrian assistant cook, L/Cpl Wilhelm in the main kitchen in Camp Duke Leopold V.



OC 1st Company (AUSCON), Captain Hruza (left) meets OC 1st Company (SWEDCON), Major Norberg.



1/Sgt Fuka explains details of Austrian regulations to Pte Svenson, in the guard room.

Svenson who served with the guard platoon (we Austrians felt extremely secure!) - unfortunately, he didn't bring his rifle with him and was therefore not able to demonstrate the famous Swedish rifle drill, but he was very keen on learning our one. Private Appelbom who is usually on camp guard in Athienou was transferred to OP A17. "In our sector we usually have only one cooked meal a day; the other ones consist of sandwiches or similar food", he emphasised what appeared to him as a main difference in everyday life.

On OP A14 we met Private Finke who is based in the village of Pyla. Since he speaks very good German (much better than English, he said) he had applied for the temporary exchange and was very happy that he had been picked out. With the Austrian food (chow), he was quite satisfied, "Splendid, as good as in our contingent!".

Let's stick to the food to portray another one of our new Swedish friends, WO2 Bjerken who provided the soldiers living in Camp Duke Leopold V with excellent Jassons Trestelse - a dish consisting of matie herring, French fries, onions and some other ingredients which remained secret! One of our kitchen chefs was heard to growl, "And I thought only the Austrians can cook!".

What else did the Swedish soldiers experience in Sector Six apart from daily duty routine? Briefings on our units and OP's, marching in the buffer zone (what a sweat!), shooting exercises with the Austrian Assault Rifle 77 ("That new gun of yours is great and it's not even heavy", declared one of our Swedish friends, although he couldn't have read last month's Blue Beret since it hadn't been issued at that time).

The Swedish soldiers enjoyed their time in our Sector very much - at least, they said so when asked by the press officer. "In general, the duties in each battalion are very similar" was their collective opinion, and "the exchange of personnel was a great idea indeed".

Now we are curious about what the Austrian soldiers transferred to Sector Five will report on their return. We are sure - because of previous experiences - that they had a good time over there too. And we look forward to the next "Swedish invasion" in Sector Six in some three months' time...



# UN NEWS

## MERCURY AND MICROBES IN THE MED

(extract from "The Siren", December 1983)

The hazards to human health posed by sewage pollution and by levels of mercury in fish in the Mediterranean Sea have been assessed in two reports just published by UNEP. The reports, prepared in close collaboration with the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, give the Mediterranean shellfish industry some cause for concern, although tourists may be relieved to hear that bathing waters are largely safe.

These assessments emerge from research and monitoring carried out through the 1976-1981 pilot phase of MED POL. More than 200 scientific groups from 84 institutions participated. MED POL is one of the three major components of the Mediterranean Action Plan.

Over a period of five years, 2,500 samples were taken from 700 stations in coastal recreational waters of 14 Mediterranean States. The findings were encouraging: 75 to 80 per cent of the stations were found in compliance with the interim criteria for safe bathing waters proposed by UNEP and WHO.

However, the results for shellfish-growing areas were rather more disturbing. Samples of water and shellfish taken from 50 stations in four

Mediterranean countries revealed that shellfish from only 3-4% of these stations are suitable for direct human consumption, according to criteria proposed by UNEP and WHO.

Now that these hard facts are on the table, UNEB is proposing the adoption of uniform quality criteria for bathing waters, shellfish-growing waters and shellfish, which could and should be applied throughout the Mediterranean. If adopted and enforced by the Governments, these criteria will provide reasonable protection for those who would like to swim and eat oysters next year. This would be an important step, especially since most of the sewage still pouring into the Mediterranean is untreated.

Mercury levels in Mediterranean sea food were also reported to be a potential health hazard, particularly to those who prefer tuna and swordfish over beefsteak. Therefore, through MED POL, more than 2,700 fish samples, 700 mollusc samples and 600 crustacean samples were analysed from various parts of the Mediterranean. Although relatively high levels of mercury were found in certain of the species which were monitored, there seems to be no present hazard to the general public. Consequently, there is no immediate need to impose a legal upper

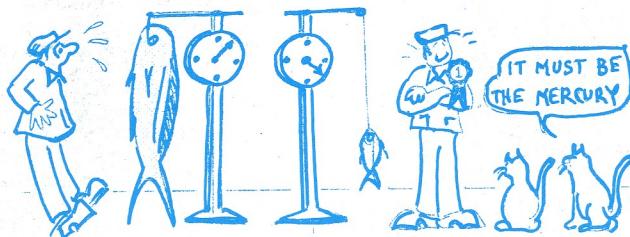
limit to mercury levels in seafood.

Nevertheless, the report warns that pregnant women should refrain from eating too much tuna, and that in some relatively small contaminated regions fishing may have to be prohibited.

The relatively high levels of mercury in the Mediterranean seem to be a natural phenomenon. The soils around the sea are rich in mercury, which is constantly washed to the sea by rain. Mining and some coastal industries add their share. A large part of the mercury comes from far away, through air transport, and is deposited into the sea by rain.

So, assessment of the mercury problem in the Mediterranean is complicated by the fact that we have only a rough idea about who contributes how much. One thing is certain: humans contribute only a small part, and even this is limited to the vicinity of certain factories and rivers. The concentration of mercury in open waters of the Mediterranean is not measurably higher than those found in other oceans.

The message of these reports is clear: there is no immediate danger to bathers and gourmets (except those who love oysters), but Governments should do something to improve the present quality of the Mediterranean.



## THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE

1983 has been a very testing and difficult year for international relations. It has witnessed severe strain, conflict and disorder in the political sphere. The economic situation has been a cause of acute uncertainty and, for the world's majority, of considerable hardship and suffering.

This points to a state of grave disequilibrium which is reflected at the United Nations by a lack of cohesion in its members' efforts to avert threats to international peace and to prevent setbacks to social and economic developments. Nevertheless, through all the frustrations resulting from the world's current political climate, my colleagues in the Secretariat, at Headquarters and at other duty stations throughout the world, have maintained a high level of morale and motivation in their work. This is a matter of great personal satisfaction to me and I am deeply grateful for their commitment to the aims of the Charter and for the assistance which they have given me throughout the year. In thinking of my colleagues, I cannot forget those staff members in many countries who have been deprived of their liberty and other human rights. I remain very concerned for their safety and shall continue to take whatever useful action is open to me to promote their interests.

We cannot afford ever to lose sight of the precise nature of our responsibilities. Solutions of humanity's problems require the agreement of those who exercise power over the affairs of nations. Their agreement is difficult to achieve in a general atmosphere of distrust. However, if anything, this heightens the importance of our mandate. It is our task to strengthen and maintain the efficiency of the working instrument of international co-operation through which solutions of contentious international issues can be implemented and be effective. This is an indispensable component of a just and peaceful international order and in no situation must we be found to be unequal to the challenge.

We can derive encouragement from the many expressions of support which the United Nations continues to receive from individuals and organizations throughout the world. Moreover, while it may appear paradoxical, it is a fact that, even in the present state of international affairs, leaders throughout the world continue to express the fervent desire to see the United Nations function in the manner envisaged in the Charter.

I would ask all my colleagues to approach the New Year with a resolute and hopeful spirit and with that faith in rationality which the Charter presupposes and humanity's present predicament so clearly demands. May I extend to each of you and your families my very warm greetings and best wishes for happiness and success in the coming year.