UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1994/1407
12 December 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN CYPRUS

(For the period from 1 June to 12 December 1994)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report on the United Nations operation in Cyprus covers developments from 1 June to 15 December 1994 and brings up to date the record of activities of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and the Secretary-General's mission of good offices pursuant to Security Council resolution 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964 and subsequent Council resolutions, most recently resolution 927 (1994) of 15 June 1994.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2. As at December 1994, the composition of UNFICYP was as follows:

Military personnel

Argentina	UNFICYP headquarters	6	
	Infantry battalion	364	
	Military police element	6	
	Helicopter flight	16	
			392
Austria	UNFICYP headquarters	6	
	Infantry battalion	332	
	Military police element	8	
			346
Canada	UNFICYP headquarters	10	
			10
Finland	UNFICYP headquarters	2	
			2

Ireland	UNFICYP headquarters	5	
	Camp Command Unit	18	
	Military police element	2	
			25
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	UNFICYP headquarters	9	
	Infantry battalion	383	
	Military police element	4	
			396
Total, military personnel			1 171

Civilian police personnel

Australia	20	
Ireland	15	
Total, civilian police personnel		35
Total, UNFICYP		1 206

In addition to the above, UNFICYP had 359 civilian staff, 41 of whom were internationally and 318 locally recruited. The deployment of the Force is shown on the map attached to the present report.

3. During the period under review, a number of changes took place that affected the composition of UNFICYP. The helicopter flight from the United Kingdom handed over to an Argentine unit and the functions of the United Kingdom's military supply detachment were taken over by civilian personnel. The 12 military observers provided by Austria, Hungary and Ireland were not replaced by their Governments when their tours of duty ended, as it had become apparent that their functions could be performed by personnel of the infantry units. Denmark did not replace its remaining staff officer and thus ceased to be a contributor to the Force. Canada will not replace 8 of the 10 headquarters staff it provides when their tour of duty ends in mid-December; replacements are being sought from other contributors.

4. Mr. Joe Clark continued as my Special Representative for Cyprus and Mr. Gustave Feissel as the Deputy Special Representative, resident in Cyprus. Major-General Michael F. Minehane (Ireland) relinquished command of the Force on 31 July 1994. Brigadier-General Ahti T. P. Vartiainen (Finland) succeeded him on 30 August 1994. In connection with the change of command, Mr. Clark became the Chief of Mission; in his absence, Mr. Feissel assumes this responsibility (see S/1994/971 and 972).

Financial aspects

5. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNFICYP for a further period of six months, until 30 June 1995, the full cost of maintaining

the Force for the period is estimated at $22.1 million, as detailed in my report to the General Assembly on the financing of UNFICYP (A/49/590).

6. With effect from 16 June 1993, the financing of the Force consists of voluntary contributions of $6.5 million annually from the Government of Greece and of one third of its cost from the Government of Cyprus. On that basis, the amount to be assessed on Member States for the six-month period ending on 30 June 1995 would be approximately $11.5 million.

7. On 30 November 1994, the total outstanding assessed contributions to the UNFICYP Special Account amounted to $11.9 million. The outstanding assessed contributions for all peace-keeping operations totalled $1.5 billion.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE FORCE

8. In its resolution 186 (1964), the Security Council defined the mandate of UNFICYP as follows:

> "In the interest of preserving international peace and security, to use its best efforts to prevent a recurrence of fighting and, as necessary, to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order and a return to normal conditions."

The Council has repeatedly reaffirmed that mandate, most recently in its resolution 927 (1994).

A. Relations with the parties

9. In carrying out its tasks, UNFICYP maintained close liaison and cooperation with the military and civilian authorities on both sides. Difficulties continued in that respect with the Turkish Forces, who refused to treat with UNFICYP on a number of issues, referring the Force instead to the Turkish Cypriot authorities. That position affected, in particular, the maintenance of the status quo in the fenced area of Varosha and the implementation of certain provisions of Security Council resolution 927 (1994) (see paras. 18 and 19). 1/ For its part, the United Nations has maintained that, as far as the Turkish/Turkish Cypriot side is concerned, the Turkish Forces are the party to the cease-fire established in 1974 and cannot abrogate their responsibility in that regard.

B. Maintenance of the cease-fire and the military status quo

10. The cease-fire lines extend approximately 180 kilometres, roughly from east to west across the island. The area between the lines is known as the United Nations buffer zone. Its width varies from 20 metres to 7 kilometres, and it covers about 3 per cent of the island (see the attached map). The United Nations buffer zone contains some of the most fertile land in the island, as well as a number of villages. Except for the mixed village of Pyla, the inhabitants of the buffer zone are Greek Cypriots.

11. UNFICYP keeps the United Nations buffer zone under constant surveillance from 20 permanent observation posts, daylight hour surveillance from 4 posts and periodic daily surveillance from 19. UNFICYP also maintains less frequent periodic surveillance of the remainder of the buffer zone from a further 108 observation posts, carries out vehicle, foot and air patrols, and maintains surveillance of the seaward extension of the cease-fire lines.

12. Both sides generally respected the cease-fire and the military status quo. UNFICYP intervened in numerous minor incidents to correct violations and to prevent any escalation. The firing of weapons was reported on numerous occasions but most cases were accounted for as accidental weapons discharges by soldiers on both sides, unannounced range practices or firing by hunters.

13. UNFICYP monitored closely all maintenance and construction work along the cease-fire lines in order to ensure that there was no violation of the military status quo. Both sides continued to strengthen their military positions, or to add new ones, along and behind their respective cease-fire lines. In particular, in late October the National Guard dug more than 20 excavations, some of considerable size. Some of them encroached upon the buffer zone and were filled in after representations by UNFICYP. Both sides were often slow in cooperating in UNFICYP's investigations into such activities and reluctant to allow inspections of their positions or to return to the military status quo.

14. The number of air violations of the buffer zone was consistent with previous reporting periods. On both sides, most violations appear to have been the result of errors in navigation or, in the case of Tymbou (Erçan) Airport, of deviations from the landing/take-off flight patterns. All the violations were protested by UNFICYP. The Government of Cyprus protested about Turkish fighter aircraft entering Cyprus airspace in June and October 1994. The Turkish Cypriot authorities protested about a change in the military status quo in the form of Greek military aircraft flying over the southern coast of Cyprus in connection with a military exercise of the National Guard.

15. On several occasions, Greek Cypriot demonstrators entered the buffer zone. In some cases, the demonstrations were violent, causing injury to United Nations personnel, to Turkish personnel on the cease-fire line and to Greek Cypriot demonstrators.

16. On three occasions, Greek Cypriot hunters who had entered the buffer zone fired in the direction of approaching UNFICYP patrols. In one case, an UNFICYP soldier was hit by a shotgun blast; fortunately he was not injured because he was wearing a flak jacket. The incident was strongly protested to the authorities concerned, who stepped up measures to prevent hunters from entering the buffer zone.

17. In connection with Turkish Cypriot demonstrations following a ruling by the European Court of Justice pertaining to the importation of goods from the northern part of Cyprus into States members of the European Union, the Turkish Cypriot authorities on 11 July 1994 closed the crossing points between north and south. That measure was protested by the United Nations. The crossing points were gradually reopened by 15 July 1994.

C. Implementation of paragraphs 4 to 6 of resolution 927 (1994)

18. In its resolution 927 (1994), the Security Council urged all concerned to commit themselves to a significant reduction in the number of foreign troops and the reduction of defence spending in the Republic of Cyprus; called upon the military authorities on both sides to begin discussions with UNFICYP without further delay with a view to entering into mutual commitments to prohibit along the cease-fire line live ammunition or weapons other than those which were hand-held and to prohibit also the firing of weapons within sight or hearing of the buffer zone; and to cooperate with UNFICYP in extending the 1989 unmanning agreement to cover all areas of the buffer zone where the two sides are in close proximity to each other.

19. I regret to report that no progress has been made towards the implementation of these provisions of resolution 927 (1994). Indeed, the armament of the Turkish Forces was upgraded and their strength is estimated at well in excess of 30,000, equipped with more than 300 tanks. The Government of Cyprus, with the cooperation of Greece, continued its programme of strengthening the organization and equipment of the National Guard.

D. Restoration of normal conditions and humanitarian functions

20. As part of its efforts to promote a return to normal conditions, the United Nations continued to work with authorities and agencies on both sides to facilitate inter-communal contacts and activities. The Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees in Cyprus promoted bi-communal cooperation in a variety of areas. Similarly, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), together with the specialized agencies, supported planning for bi-communal projects, including work undertaken in the context of the Nicosia Master Plan.

21. In recent months, owing apparently to technical difficulties, there have been serious shortfalls in the supply of electricity from the southern part of the island to the northern part. This has resulted in extensive blackouts, which have seriously affected all aspects of private and commercial life on the Turkish Cypriot side. UNFICYP has been actively involved on both sides in trying to alleviate the situation.

22. UNFICYP continued to discharge humanitarian functions for the Greek Cypriots and Maronites living in the northern part of the island. Their number now stands at 527 and 234, respectively. UNFICYP delivered to them food and other supplies provided by the Government of Cyprus, assisted in facilitating visits and contacts across the cease-fire lines and ensured that any permanent moves to the south were voluntary (as it did in the case of moves by Turkish Cypriots in the other direction).

23. UNFICYP visited from time to time the Turkish Cypriots living in the southern part of the island and assisted them by arranging, on United Nations premises in Nicosia, meetings with their relatives living in the north. Those family meetings were interrupted by the Turkish Cypriot authorities after the ruling of the European Court of Justice in July (see para. 18) and have so far not resumed.

24. In my last report I mentioned that UNFICYP's civilian police had investigated allegations of maltreatment and forcible expulsion of 22 Turkish Cypriots by the Cyprus Police and transmitted to the Government of Cyprus the information collected during the investigation, having concluded that prima facie there was adequate material to support the plausibility of the allegations (see S/1994/680, para. 39). The Government has now informed UNFICYP that, in the light of the evidence submitted by UNFICYP, the allegations could not be conclusively substantiated.

25. The Government of Cyprus protested to me about reported plans by the Turkish Cypriot authorities to transfer to Turkish Cypriots and to persons from the Republic of Turkey some 17,000 titles of immovable property belonging to Greek Cypriots and located in the northern part of the island. It will be recalled that the property of Greek Cypriots in the north and of Turkish Cypriots in the south has been one of the key issues in the inter-communal negotiations. The matter has been taken up with the Turkish Cypriot authorities.

26. The Turkish Cypriot authorities complained several times to UNFICYP that radio signals were being emitted from the south to interfere with the radio traffic at Tymbou (Erçan) Airport, thereby creating a hazard to aviation. UNFICYP raised the matter several times with the authorities concerned but, except for a brief interruption, the emissions have continued.

27. The Cyprus Police checkpoint at the southern entrance to the mixed village of Pyla was lifted at the beginning of December, and the Government of Cyprus has undertaken to facilitate visits by tourists. This is a welcome development, which is expected to bring substantial benefit to both communities in Pyla.

IV. COMMITTEE ON MISSING PERSONS

28. During the period under review, the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus held no formal meetings. However, bilateral meetings of the Third Member and his assistants with each side continued on a regular basis in an effort to bridge the differences described in previous reports (see S/1994/680, paras. 47 and 48). Both sides were urged to submit all their cases without further delay and to come to a consensus on the criteria to be applied for concluding an investigation. The members representing the two sides also had direct contacts in the Committee's offices. Progress was made on a draft of the criteria but several issues are still unresolved. Agreement was reached on procedural guidelines for the investigations. The submission of cases continued.

29. I have requested the Third Member to report to me at the end of December on the progress made by that date. In the light of his report, I shall consider the question of continued United Nations support for the Committee.

V. GOOD OFFICES OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

30. In my report of 29 October 1994 (S/1994/1229), submitted in pursuance of Security Council resolution 939 (1994) of 29 July 1994, I informed the Security Council why I did not then consider it appropriate to attempt to submit a definitive report on efforts to make progress on the substance of the Cyprus question and on the implementation of the confidence-building measures. In taking note of that report, the President of the Security Council stated that the Council's members were looking forward to receiving my definitive report at an appropriate time (S/1994/1256). Following my recent separate meetings with the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities, I have instructed Mr. Feissel, the Deputy Special Representative, to continue his contacts with the two leaders and to make every effort to find a basis for a resumption of direct talks.

VI. OBSERVATIONS

31. During the last six months, UNFICYP continued to carry out its functions in Cyprus effectively, with the cooperation of both sides, and the situation remained generally quiet.

32. The continuing quiet should not obscure the fact that there is only a cease-fire in Cyprus, not peace. In the absence of progress towards a settlement between the two sides, the overall situation remains subject to sudden tensions, generated by events outside the island as well as within. The relations between Greece and Turkey are, of course, particularly important in that connection.

33. The excessive level of armaments and forces in Cyprus and the rate at which they are being strengthened are a cause of serious concern. It is to be deplored that the Security Council's call to all concerned to commit themselves to a significant reduction in the number of foreign troops and a reduction of defence spending in the Republic of Cyprus has not been heeded. Similarly, it has not so far been possible to make progress on the modest measures, repeatedly called for by the Council, aimed at reducing the confrontation between the two sides along the cease-fire lines.

34. In the prevailing circumstances, I believe that UNFICYP's presence on the island remains indispensable to achieving the objectives set by the Security Council. Therefore, I recommend that the Council extend the mandate of the Force for a further six-month period, until 30 June 1995. In accordance with established practice, I am consulting the parties concerned on the matter and shall report to the Council as soon as those consultations have been completed.

35. I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Governments contributing troops and civilian police to UNFICYP for the steadfast support they have given to this peace-keeping operation of the United Nations. I also wish to thank the Governments that have made voluntary contributions towards the financing of the Force.

36. In conclusion, I wish to pay tribute to my Special Representative, Mr. Joe Clark, to the Deputy Special Representative, Mr. Gustave Feissel, to the Force Commander, Brigadier-General Ahti Vartiainen, to his predecessor, Major-General Michael Minehane, and to the military and civilian personnel of UNFICYP. They have discharged with efficiency and dedication the important responsibilities entrusted to them by the Security Council.

Notes

1/ See my report of 7 June 1994 (S/1994/680, paras. 19-23 and 56).
