



Wednesday  
24th December  
1969

# The Blue Beret

Issued by the Public Information Office  
of the United Nations Force in Cyprus.

Volume Seven No. 39

## NEW FORCE COMMANDER

Major-General D. Prem Chand, who has been appointed by Secretary-General U Thant to succeed Lieutenant-General A.E. Martola as Commander UNFICYP when the latter retired on 20 December, arrived at Nicosia airport on 18 December at 20.00 hours.

He was met at the airport by Ministers of the Cypriot Government, Representatives of the Turkish Cypriot Community, members of the Diplomatic Corps, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the UNFICYP Com-

mander General Martola and High Civilian and Military Personnel of UNFICYP.

● Lt Gen A.E. Martola and Maj Gen D. Prem Chand inspecting the Guard of Honour.



Major-General Prem Chand is the fourth Commander of the Force since it came into existence in March 1964.

General Prem Chand was born in 1916 at Muzaffargarh (now West Pakistan). He was commissioned in the Indian Army, in 1937 and served for one year with the First Battalion, the Dorsetshire Regiment, in the North West frontier province. He

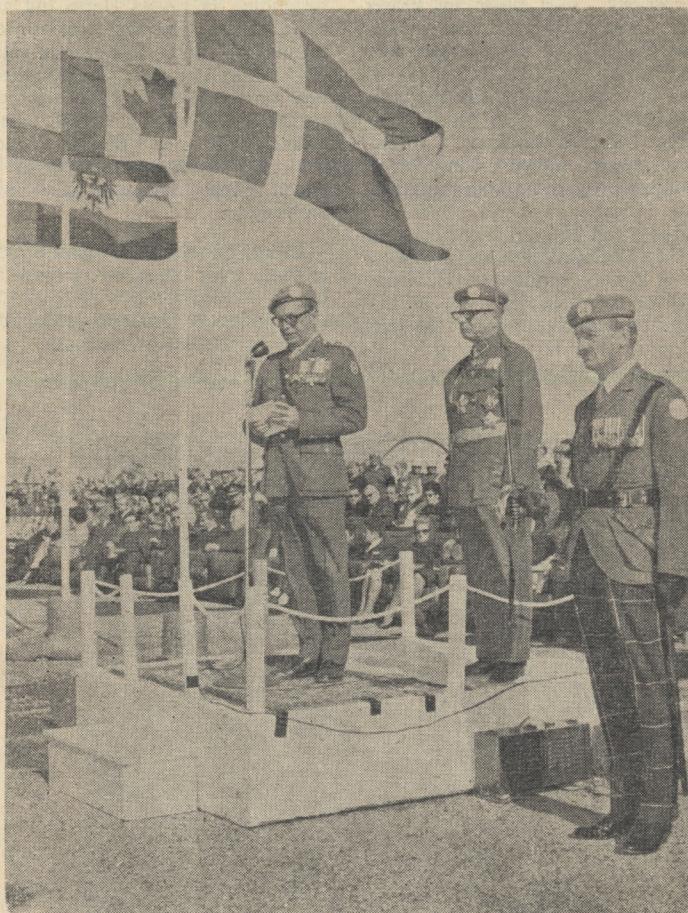
was then posted to the Fifth Battalion of the Baluch Regiment and served in the NWFP and in Malaya during the closing stages of World War II.

After the war he returned to India and, after graduating from the staff college at Quetta, he was posted to the General Staff at Army Headquarters in New Delhi in 1947

Cont. Back Page

## ORDER OF THE DAY

Our picture below Lt Gen A.E. Martola (Force Commander) Brig-Gen E.M.D. Leslie (Chief of Staff) and Col D.B. Riddell-Webster (Deputy Chief of Staff), during the reading of the Order of the Day. (Full text page five).



## FAREWELL PARADE FOR GENERAL A.E. MARTOLA

A farewell ceremonial parade was held at UNFICYP Headquarters on 18 December for Lieutenant-General A.E. Martola who is relinquishing his command of UNFICYP on 20 December, 1969.

Some 500 soldiers from the Canadian, Danish, Finnish, Irish, Swedish and British contingents and a police detachment from UNCIPOL participated in the parade.

A massed Band consisting of pipes and drums from the Canadian and Irish contingents and Band and drums from the 3rd Battalion of The Royal Anglian Regiment marched passed followed by vehicles of each contingent while helicopters from the Army Air Corps and a detachment of the 72 squadron R.A.F. flew passed.

Among the guests attending the parade were members of the Cyprus Government, the President of the House of Representatives, High Officials of the various Ministries. Also attending were the President of the Turkish Cypriot Communal Chamber, members of the Office of the Vice-President as well as member of the Diplomatic Corps, High Officers from various Armies and members of UNFICYP.

● Our picture below shows General A.E. Martola taking the salute as the Finnish Contingent march past.



## Så har vi altså JUL igen - det la'r sig ikke skjule!

Medens jeg sidder og redigerer siden her, tumler de i resten af velfærdshuset med poser og kasser fyldte med julesager. Det vrimer med JULElys og JULEkager, med JULEnisser og JULEtræspyt og med alt muligt andet, der begynder med JUL.

Det flyder med pakker. Ingen bliver glemt, håber vi da. Hvert kompagni og hvert belægningsområde får sit. Vi skal alle have vortion af alt det, der begynder med JUL, og det skal blive helt spændende at komme rundt og se, hvordan vi hver iser indretter vore JULEstuer og forbereder os på at fejre jul, omgivet af JULEspyt og JULEstads og alt det andet, der begynder med JUL.

### GLÆDELIG JUL



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## DANCON NYT



■ Et blik ud i den nærmeste fremtid. Commanderen kommer på julebesøg hos sine flinke drenge.



■ Sikken en masse juletræer, vi skal bruge. Men bare rolig. Velfærdskontoret og pionerdelingen sørger også for den side af sagen.

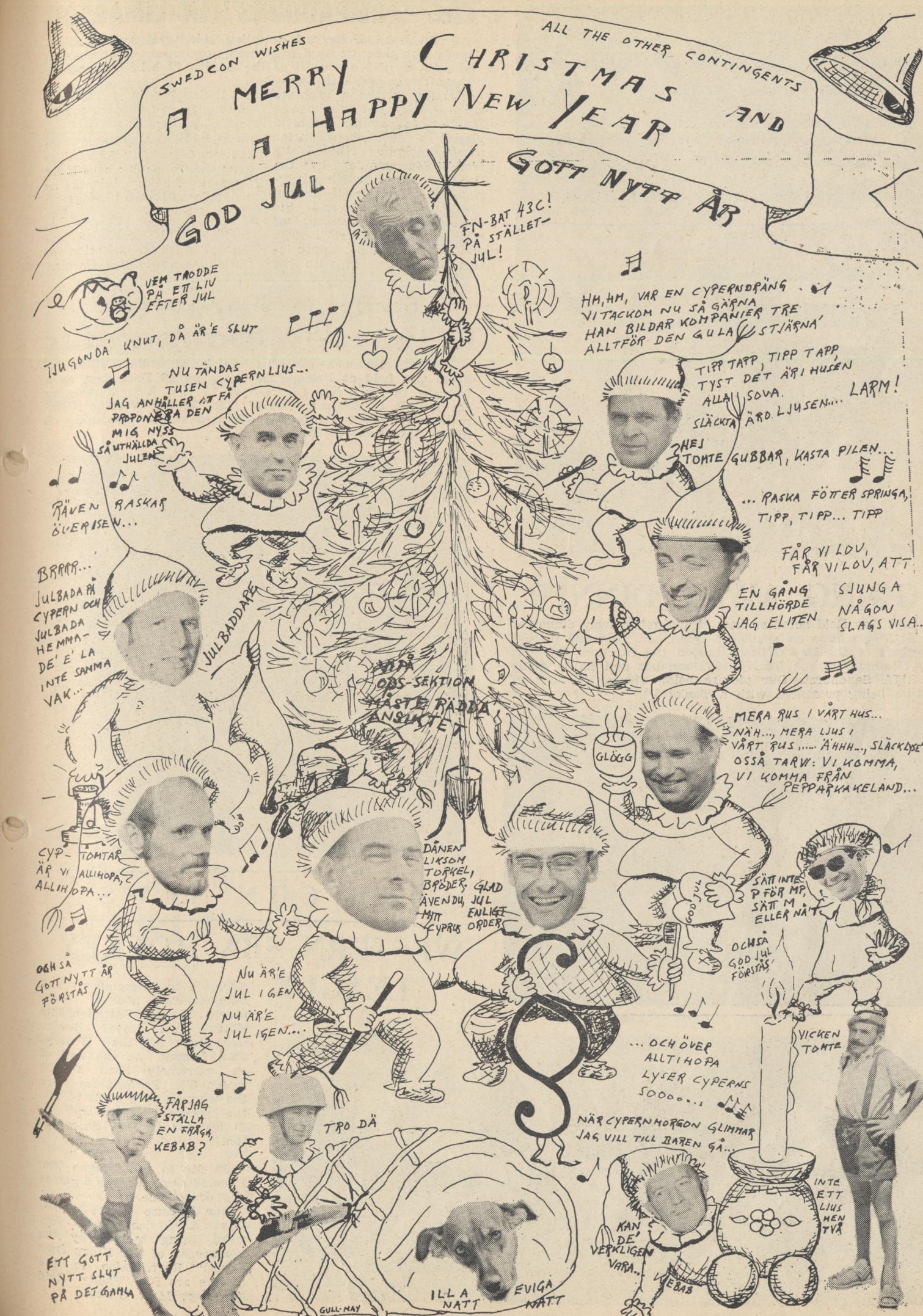
### Afskedsparade

Som vi alle ved, trak generalen sig tilbage fra sin post den 20. december. I den anledning afholdt UNFICYP forrige torsdag en storstillet parade for generalen, hvori alle kontingenter deltog. DANCON var repræsenteret ved ALFA coy, der under MAJ A. Sørensens personlige ledelse gjorde det meget, meget fint.



### Ugens tip!

I anledning af julen har sættersen bedt os om at opfordre alle til at udvise den yderste agtpågivende overfor brandfare. Levende lys, tørt træ, papir og anden juleudsmykning danner - særlig i forbindelse med juleøl og gløgg - en yderst brandfarlig cocktail. Sørg altid for at have en fyldt gulvpand klud og svaber klar. Glædelig jul!





## GOING AWAY DINNER

Sgt Ray Reid acted as host at his going away dinner at the HQ Sgts Mess on Monday 8 December. Past and present members of the Pay Office attended the function. Ray left the Headquarters on Friday 19 December and he is going to RMA Sandhurst. Our picture below shows Ray left of picture being presented with a Tankard.



## BRITCON NEWS

### WESTERN SBA HOCKEY LEAGUE

On 17th December The Pompadours' hockey team played The 1st Battalion The Kings Own Royal Border Regiment in the Western SBA League. At the end of an extremely hard fought match The Pompadours were the winners by 2 goals to nil; the scorers were Capt A. Styles and Lt P.F. Shervington.

So far in the League The Pompadours have won 5 games and drawn one.

Our picture (left) shows Capt A. Styles, centre forward, being tackled by the goalkeeper of the Kings Own Border Regt. Also in the picture are Pte "Paddy" Reid and Ssgt Mick Smith.



## THE "POMPADOURS" IN LIMASSOL

The Band of the 3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment took time off from their busy programme of Ceremonial parades to give a concert at the Garden Club in Limassol on the afternoon of 11th December.

Starting with a fanfare composed by the Bandmaster Mr Bowness Smith, the band played a concert of varied music including the Waltz from "Masquerade" by the Russian Composer Khatchaturian, Ketelby's well known "Persian Market" and the Glen Miller arrangement of "The American Patrol". The audience were most appreciative and joined in with the hand clapping in a selection of country and western music.

Several of the younger members of the audience were not shy in coming forward to give the band the benefit of their conducting talents as can be seen in the photograph (left).

The Band concluded its concert with a selection of Christmas music and Carols.

## British Farewell To Force Commander

A farewell lunch party attended by all senior British Officers was held at Polemedhia Camp on 13 December, as a farewell to the Force Commander Lt Gen A.E. Martola by the British Contingent. Colonel D.B. Riddell-Webster Commander British Contingent is pictured below presenting a Silver Rose Bowl to the General.



## BRITCON NEWS

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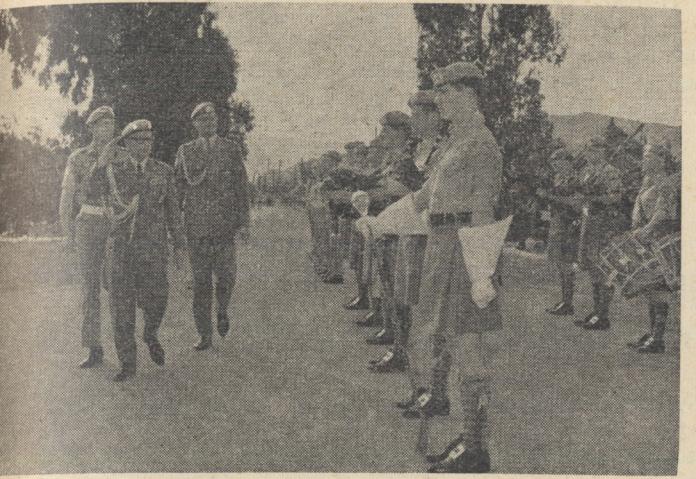
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## FAREWELL TO IRCON

On Saturday 1 December 1969 the Force Commander Lt Gen A.E. MARTOLA payed a farewell visit to IRCON.



• The Force Commander inspects the Guard and Pipe Band 13th Inf Gp.

## FEILE NA NOLLAIG

Preparations are well under way this week in the Group for the Christmas festivities. All messes and canteens are being decorated and plans are afoot to make this a memorable Christmas even though all are away from home and families.

On Monday 22 Dec 69 the Group choir will sing the hymn 'NOLLAIG' at the Inter Denominational Services to be held at St Georges Garrison Church, DHEKELIA.

Christmas Day will commence with Mass being celebrated at XEROS, LEFKA and LIMNITIS Camps. A Christmas Day swim has been arranged for Blue Beach and a large number are expected to take the plunge. Traditional dinner of turkey, ham and

pudding will be served to all ranks and Officers and NCOs will, as is the custom on this great festival, serve on the men at table.

Those on OP duty will not be forgotten and visits have been arranged to them by the Group and Coy Comrds on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

"NOLLAIG FE SHEAN IS FE MHAISE AGUS ATH BLIAN FE SHONAS DHIBH GO LEIR".

## IRCON NEWS

### SPORTS RESULTS

CROSS-COUNTRY:

The eighth and final League Race of the Cross country season took place at AKRO-TIRI RAF Cross-country Course over a testing and blustery 6½ miles on Wednesday, 17 December 69.

The welcome return of Sergeant Sean O' Sullivan (although still shaky after his recent illness) seemed to inspire the rest of the IRCON team to run with great spirit and team work, and so secure second place of 9 teams.

This result enabled IRCON to finish leading UN team and also ensured them of 3rd placing in the Cyprus Cross-country league of 12 teams.

**SOCCER:**  
Interest in the inter Compa-

ny soccer league reached fever pitch last week with the playing of the all important A V B Coy match at LEFKA stadium. B Coy wanted to win to force a play off and from early in this most interesting and intense game it was evident they had every intention of gaining full points. However, after a most gallant effort by all eleven players they were finally beaten by three goals to two.

A Coy are to be congratulated on their most consistent performances throughout the league. Each match must have been like a cup tie for them for from early on it was evident they were the team to beat. However, they rose to the occasion each time and were deserving Champions at the end.

Medals were presented to the winners at the end of the game by Mrs Carroll wife of the Commanding Officer Lt Col Carroll.

## Order of the day of the Force Commander

LT. GEN. A. E. MARTOLA

Officers, non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers of the United Nations Force in Cyprus:

You all know that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, U Thant, acceding to my request has released me from my post as Commander of UNFICYP, effective 20 December, 1969. The moment has therefore come for me to leave you, after three and half years of close collaboration. Taking into account the Contingents which served in Cyprus during that time, I have had under my command a total of some 28,000 UNFICYP soldiers.

It has been a great privilege for me to be your Commander because from wherever you have come, from Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, New Zealand, Sweden or the United Kingdom, you have all been moved by the same desire to fulfil with a sense of responsibility and to the best of your ability the mission entrusted to you by the United Nations.

Thanks to the perfect understanding between the different national contingents forming UNFICYP, we have been able to unite our efforts for the success of that task.

Our peace-keeping and peace-making mission in Cyprus is complex and delicate, requiring firmness and tact in its execution. You have all admirably understood the specific character of our mandate. In his recent report to the Security Council, Secretary-General U Thant says that UNFICYP has played a vital role in the great improvement of the situation in Cyprus and praises the members of UNFICYP for the exemplary manner in which they are carrying out their important and difficult tasks. Of the thanks so expressed, every man who has served in the Force is entitled to his share.

Although it has as yet not been possible to find a final solution to the Cyprus problem, we all hope that this goal will soon be reached. The friendly and industrious inhabitants of Cyprus deserve to see peace restored to their land so that they can devote their energies to the full development of the rich economic possibilities of this beautiful Island and achieve lasting happiness in full harmony with each other.

All of us have come to love this Island and its citizens. Our working relations with the Cyprus Government and the Turkish Cypriot leadership have been excellent, as without the good co-operation of the interested parties the successful completion of our mandate would not be possible.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the Secre-

etary-General.

It is sad to leave you all but personal ties will continue to unite us in the future. The strongest tie will be the recollection of the many years and months we have worked with determination for the ideals of the United Nations to which I, and I am confident, all those who have served under me, will remain dedicated.

## Order of the day by Maj-Gen. D. Prem Chand, PVSM

Upon assuming his command of UNFICYP on 20 December 1969, Major-General Prem Chand issued the following Order of the Day:

I consider it an honour indeed to have taken over command of the splendid UNFICYP that has been for so long most ably commanded by my predecessor, Lieutenant-General A.E. Martola, and I do so with mixed feelings of humility and pride. Under his distinguished command the



## CHRISTMAS PREPARATION

Master Warrant Officer Don Steward (standing) and Sgt. Jim Steed put the finishing touches on the Christmas tree at RCEME workshops Camp Maple Leaf. Mechanical flavour is added by "gifts" under the tree. (picture right).

## LAST MINUTE SHOPPER

Corporal Chester Critch of the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada, does some last minute gift buying before Christmas. (Picture left)



### CANCON NEWS

Canadian Forces Photos

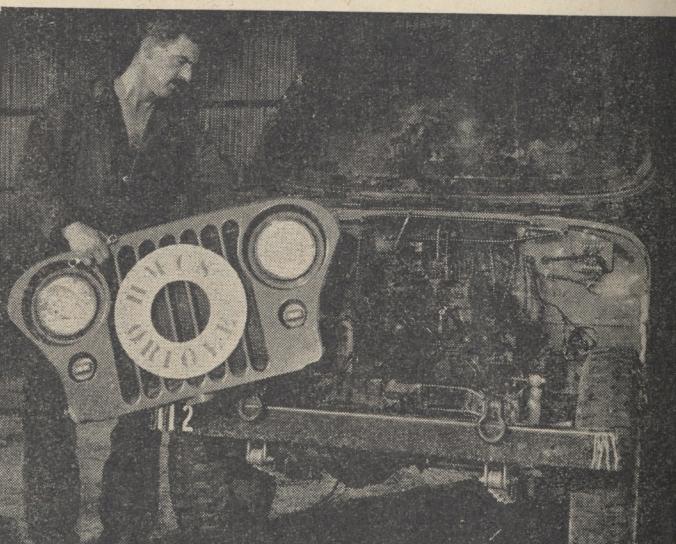


## SO LONG UNTIL NEXT TIME

The CBC Tommy Hunter Show finished up a week of Cyprus performances and headed home to Canada. The Allan Sisters sang "So Long Until The Next Time" during the finale of the show. (Picture left).

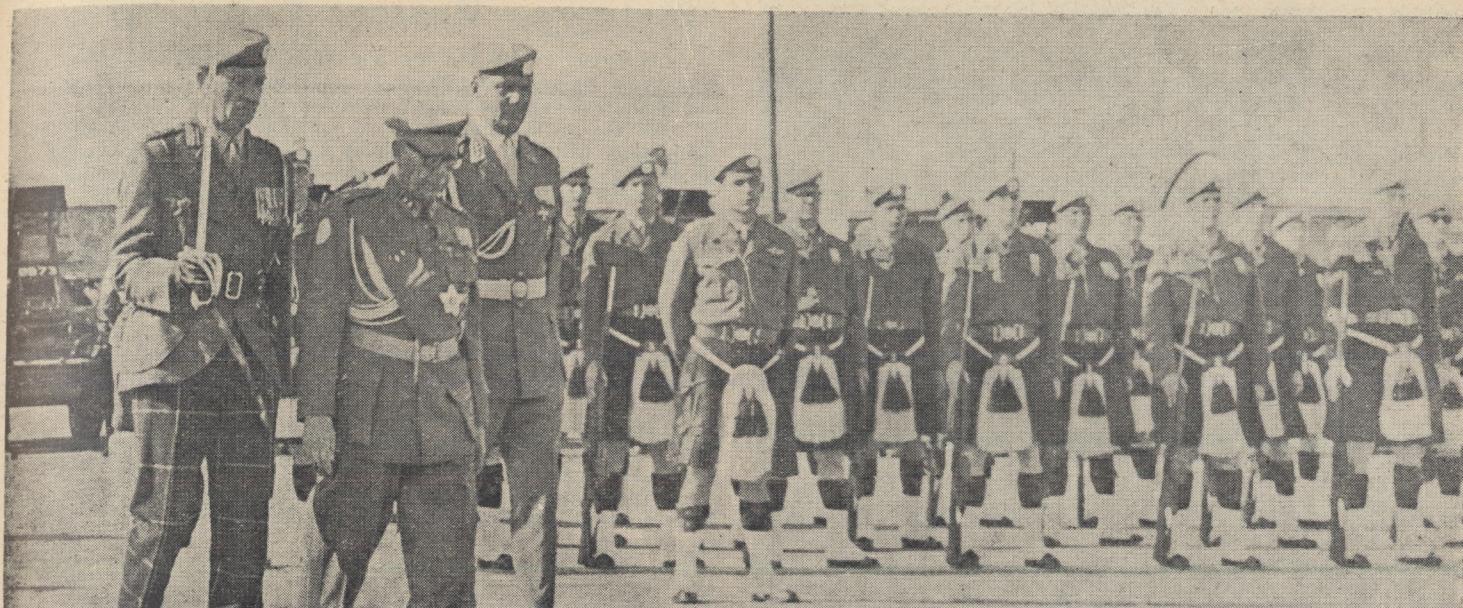
## SINGING IN THE HILLS

CBC Cyprus Showtime star Tommy Hunter entertains members of Pacquins Hill observation outpost in the Kyrenia mountains. (Picture below)



## HMCS ORIOLE

"Ship" In Refit — The Canadian Contingent Public Information Office jeep, named HMCS Oriole by its navy driver Petty Officer Ed Kochanuk, undergoes an overhaul at the RCEME workshops in Camp Maple Leaf. Taking the front end off is Master corporal Earl Falconer. (picture above).



## RAUHAMIES KOTIUTUU — kenrl I. A. E. MARTOLA

Kenrl A.E. Martolan, Force Commanderin, lähtiäisparaati pidettiin HQ UNFICYP'ssa 18.12.1969 alkaen klo 12.00. Tilaisuus oli mieliin-painuva ja sotilaalliset läksiäispuitteet juhlistivat tapahtuman huippuunsa muidenkin kuin suomalaisen osalta.

Kenraali Martola on syntynyt Raaheissa 12.5.1896. Hän liittyi Suomen armeijaan vuonna 1915. Hän omaksui sotilaallista koulutusta Saksassa vuodesta 1915 vuoteen 1918 ja taisteli sen jälkeen Suo-vapaussodassä v. 1918. Hän jatkoi sotilaskoulutustaan Pariisissa n. kahden vuoden ajan. Mainitakoon, että hän oli Aseistariisuntakomitean jäsen Genevessä vv. 1926 - 1934. Hän palveli myös Suomen sotilasasiamehenä Pariisissa vv. 1928 - 1931. Toisen maailmansodan aikana hän oli divisioonan komentajana Karjalan kan-

naksella. Vv. 1944 - 46 hän toimi mm. ulkoasiainministerinä ja Uudenmaan maaherrana, jonka jälkeen hän työskenteli lähiinä liike-elämän hyväksi aina Helsingin Olympialaisiin saakka, joiden johdajä hän oli. Erittäin merkittävää hänestä uransa aikana on ollut työ, jonka ääni on tehnyt Punaisen Ristin sekä sotaleskien hyväksi. Hän tuli UNFICYP:n johtoon toukokuussa 1966 ja nyt erotessaan toivotavat hänen parhainta menestystä suomalaisien lisäksi kaikki kontingentit.



## JOULU ON TAAS . . .

Oudolta tuntuu joulun vietto suomalaisesta täällä kaukana Kyproksella, -kaukana kotimaasta. Lumen kaipuu on suuri, vaikka kotopuussa sitä väliin manaaankin. Kaikesta huolimatta joulu rauhanturvaamisesta on mieliinpainuva kokemus. Ja sen täytyy olla. Kaiken materialistisen ja fyysisen

itsekehityksen lisäksi täytyy jäädä sunne inhimillisestä lapsena olemisesta. Sytyt joulun viettoon varsinakin Kyproksella on paljon. Rauhaa sielulle ja sydämille. Sitä me kaipaamme kaikki - tunnustimme sen tahi emme. Kuvassa yllä pataljoonan kuoro valmistautumassa joulutunnelmiin reilellä.



## FINCON NEWS

KUVIEN KERTOMAA

## TOIMITUS TIEDOTTA:

Hapantuneen nuhdesitruunan annamme näin julkisesti jokaiselle yksikölle, joka ei ole täytänyt rauhanturvaamisvelvollisuuttaan purkautumisen merkeissä. Palkautumista tarvitaan ja eräs keino siihen on tuoda asiansa julkii ME -lehden tahi Blue-Beret'in palstoilla. Kyllä toimitus sensurei ja stilisoi. Pastorin ja lomaupseerin kiitokset välittääkön täten tiedotusvälineitse runsasta osanotosta kummanakin altavastaajan "keikkoihin". Toimitus puolestaan toivoo miljoonia kirjoituksia eri aiheista. Henkilökohtaisestikin voidaan juttua tallentaa-aikavaraukset numerosta Fincon 37.



## FORCE COMMANDER LUNCHES WITH THE PRESIDENT . . .

Lieutenant General A.E. Martola had a valedictory luncheon with the President of the Republic of Cyprus. His Beatitude Archbishop Makarios on Wednesday 17 December. Also attending the luncheon were members of the Cyprus Government, National Guard Leaders and senior members of UNFICYP. (Picture above).

## .... AND DINES WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT

On the evening of Monday 15 December Lt Gen A.E. Martola dined at the residence of the Vice-President, His Excellency Dr Fazil Kuchuk. Gen Martola bid his goodbyes to the leaders of the Turkish Cypriot Community who were also in attendance. (Picture below).



## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY GENERAL U THANT

Mr B.F. Osorio Tafall/Maj Gen Prem Chand.

I send to you and to all personnel of UNFICYP, both Military and Civilian, Christmas greetings and warm good wishes for the coming year.

The continuing improvement in the situation in Cyprus gives all members of UNFICYP good cause to be proud of their work in the past year.

My congratulations go to all of you for your splendid service. I join you all in hoping that the forthcoming year will see further progress towards the objectives which we all wish to see fulfilled in the island of Cyprus.

## Christmas Message to Sec-General

On behalf of all Military and Civilian personnel and in our own name we wish to express to you our deep gratitude for you Christmas greetings and good wishes for 1970.

We are highly appreciative of the unfailing support you have continuously extended to us enabling us to maintain the atmosphere of calm and mutual restraint which augurs well for the future.

Signed Mr. B.F. Osorio Tafall/Maj Gen Prem Chand.

## Force Commanders Christmas Message

At this time of good will when we are separated from our dear ones and friends, I send to all you my best wishes for a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

We can all find great satisfaction in the progress that has been made here in Cyprus over the course of the year that is ending and we can justifiably hope that this progress will continue in the New Year so that our good friends in Cyprus will achieve the peace and happiness which they so earnestly desire. To you, fellow soldiers of UNFICYP, who have contributed so much to the progress that has been made, I convey my deepest thanks, secure in the knowledge that your work will continue into the New Year. To you and to your families at home I wish a very happy



Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

## Secretary General's Farewell Message

"On the occasion of this farewell parade for General Martola I wish to express, as Secretary-General of the United Nations, my deep appreciation for the distinguished and devoted service which General Martola has rendered to United Nations peace-keeping and to the island of Cyprus in his three and a half years as Commander of the United Nations peace-keeping force in Cyprus.

To a distinguished and gallant career in the Armed Forces of his own country, General Martola has added two highly successful tours of duty with the United Nations in

the service of world peace, first as military adviser to my predecessor, Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold, during the Suez crisis of 1956-1957 and now as Commander of UNFICYP. While I regret General Martola's departure, I fully understand his reasons for requesting that he be relieved of his heavy duty with UNFICYP.

All of us at United Nations Headquarters in New York and, I am sure, his colleagues in Cyprus as well will miss him greatly. I send to him and to Mrs. Martola my warm wishes for the future".

## General Prem Chand

Cont. from Page One and was later appointed Military Assistant to the Chief of the Army Staff. After transferring to the first Gurkha Rifles he was given command of the Regimental Centre at Dharamsala. For about two years he was an instructor at the Defence Services Staff College at Wellington. Upon returning to New Delhi, he held the appointments of Deputy Director of Military Training, Director of Selection of Personnel, Director of Personnel Services, Director of Military Intelligence at Army Headquarters during the fifties. He then commanded an infantry brigade in Jammu and Kashmir for two years.

In 1959 General Prem Chand was appointed Brigadier General Staff at Headquarters Western Command, Simla, and was promoted to Chief of Staff in 1961, in the rank of Major-General. He

was given command of an infantry division, and was then seconded to the United Nations Operation in the Congo as General Officer Commanding the Katanga Area, where he served from April 1962 until March 1963. He was awarded the PVSM (Distinguished Service Medal Class 1) for his services with the United Nations Operation in the Congo.

On returning to India he was given command of a mountain division on the Eastern Frontier and was later appointed to Chief of Staff at Headquarters Eastern Command, Calcutta. He was thereafter posted to the Ministry of Defence as Director-General, National Cadet Corps, and retired from the army in 1967, after 30 years of service. Since his retirement General Prem Chand has held an appointment as Chief Administrative Officer in the private sector in Central India.