

# Travel notes: Cyprus - a day with the UN

by M.Greenfield

June 1975 - As one of the few tourists around Nicosia this summer I was determined to see the sights. Unfortunately, a great part of the city was under Turkish rule

and as one coming into Cyprus from Greece I was denied access to many of the great resort areas of Cyprus. Listening to the talk in the hotel I somehow got the naive idea that a UN pass would be a key that would cut through many, if not most of the restrictions. After a half day of dealing with the UN I rid myself of that idea along with a few others.

The walk to the UN headquarters at the Lydra Palace Hotel was disquieting. As you walked close to the confrontation line traffic noise faded and the quiet was broken only by your own footsteps and the furling of the Greek and Turkish flags as they faced each other in the wind. Surrounding the Lydra Palace was a barbed wire fence, and sandbags had been stuffed in all the entrances and lower windows. A row of blue and white trashcans and a red stop sign signalled the main gate.

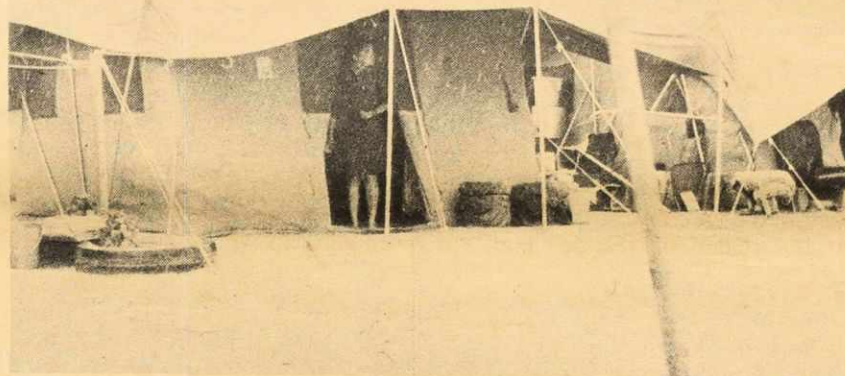
Knowing that the UN unit in charge of the Nicosia area was Canadian I was prepared to greet my fellow countryman warmly. The guard didn't speak a word of English. Not speaking any French I waited for someone who did. Finally, someone who did speak English came to the gate; I told him that I wanted a pass.

"Come with me", he said. I thought I was getting somewhere. He took me to an officer who asked me why I wanted a pass. "I want to see whatever a pass allows me to see." He asked me for ID. I showed him my Gazette press card, my student ID, drivers license, MSI card, and library card. Finally he told a guard to take me to another officer. The next officer repeated the previous routing. After a few minutes he said, "We don't give out passes here, you'll have to go to the main UN headquarters at the airport." I had received my first insight into what dealing with the UN can be like.

The many neat rows of building at the main UN headquarter on Cyprus, adjacent to the now Turkish held Nicosia airport, impressed me in a military sort of way. I somehow expected to find neat rows of soldiers inside, ready to pop out at a moment's notice to protect the peace. I did find neat rows of soldiers, but their methods of peacekeeping surprised me. Instead of being ready for action with their firearms, they were all busy hunched over their typewriters. It appeared that the UN Cyprus forces were quickly churning out enough paperwork to make the Graham Commission Report look like a primer. I figured they were probably working on the



**Greek-Cypriot refugees langour in camps. A situation that could last awhile.**



theory that all of it would keep both sides so occupied with reading the stuff they would be too confused by all the gibberish to fight.

After getting some more run-around, talking to a few people, and finding out that I could not get a UN pass without permission from New York (which probably wouldn't be true if I was a reporter for the New York Times!), I took a taxi (they have Mercedes taxis) back to the Hilton ( five stars and they still charge for the pool chairs!).

I spent another day and a half in Nicosia. I managed to find out that

you could walk around a little on the Turkish side and did so. I saw a Nicosia that was struggling toward normalcy, struggling under a unwanted conflict, but one it seemed unable to prevent. And every time I saw one of the many UN vehicles around, saw UN soldiers with their blue berets, saw their wives shopping around or spending time at the pool I wondered if the UN forces really served any purpose on Cyprus. One wonders why the UN has risked and lost Canadian lives in a conflict that it lacks the scope to cope with.

## Petition for more student aid

OTTAWA (CUP) ---- Students across Canada this fall are being asked to sign a petition demanding "student participation" in student aid decision-making, aid eligibility criterion which are "flexible and realistic", and removal of "financial barriers to education ---- no more student debt."

The launching of the National Student Aid Petition Campaign was announced August 29 by the National Union of Students (NUS), the three year old organization which represents students nationally.

But whether students in all provinces will get an opportunity to sign the petition, and whether the national campaign will succeed at all, depends to a large extent on the response of local and provincial student unions to the NUS proposal.

Just what that response will be is not certain at this time. The Atlantic

Federation of Students (AFS) has given its unqualified support to the campaign according to NUS executive secretary, Dan O'Connor.

The Ontario Federation of Students (OFS), the largest provincial student organization in the country, has supported the petition "in principle" but has refused to commit staff or resources to the campaign.

And the British Columbia Student Federation (BCSF) has said they will support the petition and work on it, but only after other priority issues such as housing are dealt with early in the fall.

Individual student unions at Memorial in Newfoundland, Calgary, the University of Alberta, Winnipeg, Brandon and Kersey Institute in Saskatoon have already responded favourably to the campaign. Since the materials explaining the campaign have only recently been released, O'Connor expresses

optimism that more will soon be responding favourably.

## \$1500

A \$1500 grand prize will be awarded in the current Poetry Competition sponsored by the World of Poetry, a monthly newsletter for poets.

Poems of all styles and on any subject are eligible to compete for the grand prize or for 49 other cash or merchandise awards. Second place is \$500.

According to contest director, Joseph Mellon, "We are encouraging poetic talent of every kind, and expect our contest to produce exciting discoveries."

Rules and official entry forms are available by writing to: World of Poetry, 801 Portola Dr., Dept. 211, San Francisco CA 94127.

Contest closes November 30, 1975.

## STUDY SKILLS PROGRAM

SEVEN SESSIONS

OUTLINING

TECHNIQUES FOR:

ORGANIZATION

CONCENTRATION

LECTURE NOTETAKING

READING

ESSAY WRITING

TAKING EXAMS

STUDENT COUNSELLING CENTRE

4th. FLOOR S.U.B.

424-2081

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

OCTOBER 1

## VARSIITY HOCKEY MEETING

MONDAY SEPT. 22, 1975

8:00p.m.

PHYS. ED.

BUILDING

ROOM 7

IF INTERESTED

DROP IN!

## VARSIITY SWIMMING AND DIVING MEETING

SEPT. 24/75

5:00P.M.

ROOM 7

ALL INTERESTED WELCOME