

# Reunion for the peace-keepers

## Calling all Cyprus veterans!

The largest Australian reunion of former members of police peace-keeping contingents on the Mediterranean island will be held in Melbourne between May 25-27 this year.

The reunion is timed almost to the day to mark the 20th anniversary of the arrival of the first Australian Police contingent on Cyprus as members of the UN Peace Keeping Force.

The contingents played a significant role in preserving peace and order after bitter and bloody conflict on the island.

The organisers and hosts for the 20th anniversary reunion and remembrance are the UNCIVPOL Club of Victoria which has about 120 members. They have invited more than 660 ex-members of the UN Peace Keeping Force in Cyprus, from throughout Australia and New Zealand, as well as some members of Police forces from Austria and Denmark who also served there.

The first contingent was followed by 12 others each comprising members of the former Commonwealth Police Force and each of the State and Territory Police forces.

The Australian contingents were reduced in size from 1976 and now only a small group of Australian Federal Police is still serving on Cyprus.

Reunion co-ordinator, Sgt. Barry Barker said the 20th anniversary would be suitably marked by a reunion and wreath-laying ceremony.

"We would also like to make it a family occasion, so wives and children will be most welcome too," he said.

Barry has made a plea through Platypus to the estimated 165 Australian Federal Police who have been in Cyprus to respond to the invitation.

"We think we can reach most members—at least those presently serving with the A.F.P. But we are having trouble finding some, especially Cyprus veterans who have left the force through resignation or retirement," he said.

He said anyone who knew a former member of the Commonwealth Police or AFP could pass the name and address to UNCIVPOL so they could be added to the invitation list.

Barry said that although reunions of Cyprus veterans had been fairly common in the past, they were usually State affairs and not nearly on the scale of the 20th anniversary reunion and remembrance being organised for Melbourne.

He said the committee was at present negotiating to bring a distinguished guest speaker for the reunion dinner which would be held in the Great Hall of the Victorian Arts Centre.

Other highlights of the anniversary planned by Barry's committee are:

- 25 May: registration at the Victoria Hotel in Melbourne followed by a welcome function.
- 26 May: the reunion dinner.
- 27 May: AM—march from Melbourne's City Square to the Shrine of Remembrance for a wreath-laying and remembrance service, PM—a barbecue (transport provided) at the home of well known members of Melbourne's Cyprian community, Mr Tony and Mrs Frances Tombourou in the Melbourne suburb of Templestowe.



UNITED NATIONS FORCE IN CYPRUS



**UNCIVPOL**

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

MAY 25th-27th, 1984  
MELBOURNE

"Frances and Tony have kindly made available their large property for lamb on the spit and other delicacies. Marquees will be set up and all food, beer, wine and soft drinks provided," Barry said.

To coincide with the 20th anniversary, a top-quality 'book, running to about 180

pages with colour photographs outlining the history and present of Australian and New Zealand police officers on Cyprus, is being prepared for publication.

AFP Commander, Southern Region, Chief Superintendent Alan Morley, centre, discusses plans for the 20th anniversary reunion of the Cyprus forces with Inspector Gavin Brown, left, and Sergeant Barry Barker, right, of the Victoria Police. Inspector Brown and Sergeant Barker are principal organisers of the reunion which is expected to attract up to 600 former Police peace-keepers on Cyprus to Melbourne in May this year. Sergeant Barker is wearing the light blue beret issued to members of the UN peace-keeping contingents on Cyprus.

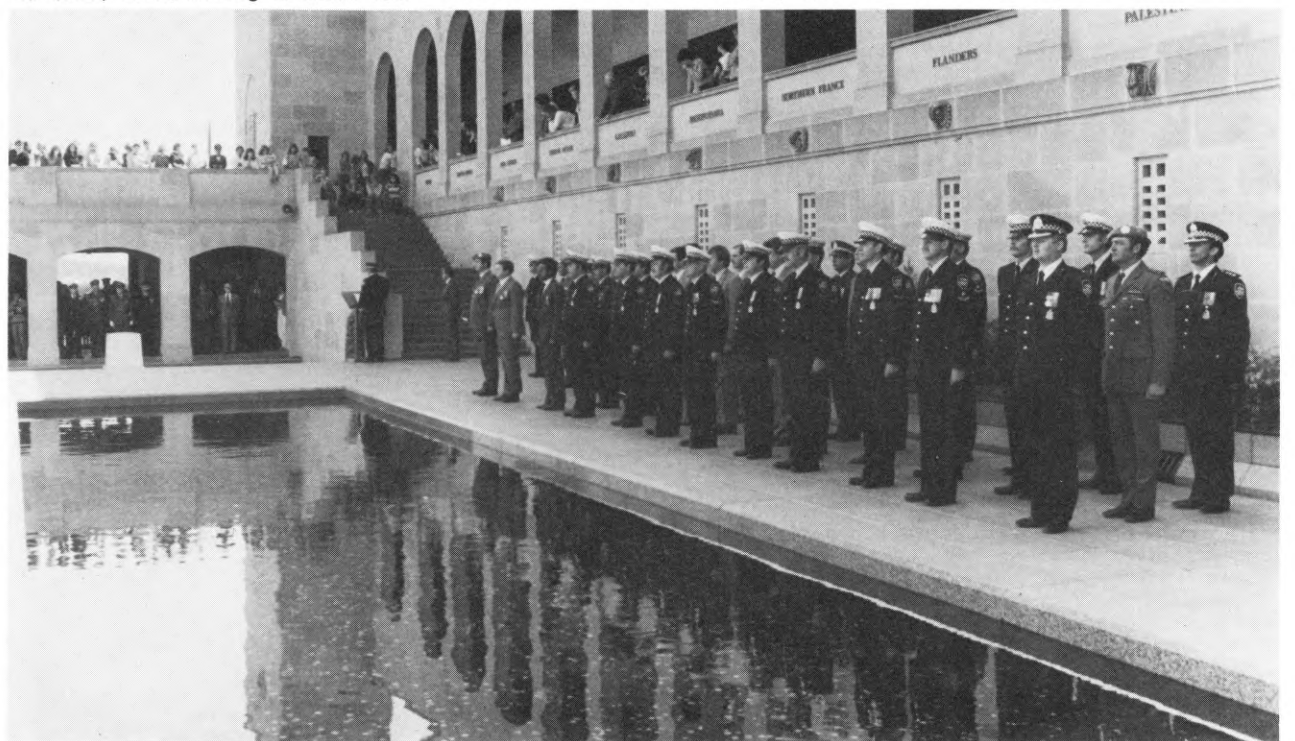
outline the service of that particular contingent," he added. Printed credits would be published.

Copies of the book would be available at the reunion for about \$20.

Barry said very attractive accommodation rates had been negotiated with Melbourne's Victoria Hotel for interstate travellers. Already a number of New Zealanders—there could be up to 80 coming—have made arrangements to attend.

If any AFP member wishes further particulars and has the addresses of returned or resigned members who served in Cyprus, or wishes to supply material for the commemorative book, please contact:

Inspector Gavin Brown, Management Services Bureau, Police Headquarters, Box 2763Y, GPO, Melbourne 3001 Tel. (bus.) (03) 651 1708 (priv.) (03) 878 4781 or Sergeant Barry Barker, Reunion Co-ordinator, 10 Bellara Drive, Mooroolbark, Vic. 3138 Tel. (03) 726 6940.



A quiet moment at the Australian War Memorial where Police and Services representatives paid their respects to colleagues who have lost their lives on United Nations service.