

UN chief sees big benefits in Cyprus role

The United Nations Secretary — General, Mr Perez de Cuellar, has made it clear he well appreciates the role of Australian police on Cyprus, and is grateful that a police contingent is still part of the peacekeeping arrangement there.

These sentiments the Secretary-General expressed to former Victo-

WA members end busy 6-month tour

Inspector Richard Maughan and Senior Sergeant John Streeter, have returned to Western Region after completing a six-month tour with the United Nations Force in Cyprus.

The tour started in June with a briefing session in Canberra, followed by a flight, via Athens, to the island where the party was greeted by departing members of the 20th Contingent.

Senior Sergeant Streeter said they arrived to a long hot summer which was responsible for a series of grass fires in the agricultural areas of the buffer zone. These had to be attended to and investigated by the AFP members, with the Military.

"During August, the Communist Party ADLEK staged a march along the buffer zone in protest against the continued occupation of the north of the island by the Turks," he said. "About 50 members of the party were involved."

"They were kept under surveillance by our members for the four days that it took to complete the march. Some good natured friendship was fostered in the process," Senior Sergeant Streeter said.

An explosion caused by gelignite planted in a car parked outside the Israel Embassy in Nicosia by Arab extremists, was one incident that shook the island.

"Damage was done to the building but fortunately nobody was hurt," he said.

A Melbourne Cup Day organised by Senior Sergeant Crombie from the ACT, was a resounding success. Many members from the various Contingents on the island gathered at the AUSTCIVPOL HQ to take part in a Cup draw and raffles, and for a champagne and chicken lunch.

A substantial sum of money was donated to needy organisations, both in the north and south of the island.

A memorial service was held in November at the site where Sergeant Ian Ward was killed when his Land Rover ran over a landmine in 1974. AUSTCIVPOL members and a bugler from a Royal Marine Commando Unit attended. Wreaths were laid, including one from a representative of the Turkish Forces on the island.

rian police officer, Barry Barker, in Canberra recently.

Mr Barker presented Mr de Cuellar with a copy of the 20-year history of Australian and New Zealand police forces' involvement on the island, titled 'Police as Peacekeepers'. Mr Barker was one of the book's three writers.

Mr Perez de Cuellar said that he had served as the United Nations special representative in Cyprus from November 1975 until the end of 1977.

"Every day I was briefed by a representative of the Contingent," the Secretary-General said.

He said Australian police officers had been extremely popular with the local people and they related well to both Turks and Greeks. They had often been the difference between peace and violence.

Mr Barker said the \$72,000 cost of producing the book had now been covered.

But copies were still available to police officers for \$20. Requests could be sent to Inspector Gavin Brown, c/o Victoria Police.

"It's been an incredible exercise, but a worthwhile one," he said. "Almost every officer who has ever served on Cyprus is willing to go back."

More than 220 members attended the 20th anniversary re-union in Melbourne and they came from all over Australia.

"That says it all," Mr Barker said.

"New South Wales is now hoping to hold the next re-union, on the 25th anniversary in 1989."



• Mr Barker presents a copy of the book to the UN Secretary-General, Mr Perez de Cuellar, at Canberra's Lakeside Hotel.

TURKS PAY A TRIBUTE

Station Sergeant Frank Harlovitch, who also recently returned from Cyprus, said the memory of Australian Police who had died on the island was kept fresh.

He said that at the memorial service to Sergeant Ward, a wreath was laid on behalf of the Turkish Military Forces serving on the island.

The wreath had been handed to the Australian Commander

It takes a Bandit to beat the bombers



There aren't many Australian Federal Police officers who have a 'bandit' as their best friend, but First Constable Michael Rak does.

Mike's bandit friend, though, is a little unusual. He's Queensland AFP's Explosives Detection Dog, with the appropriate name of 'Bandit'.

Explosives detection dogs, or 'bomb dogs' for short, are a rare breed and Bandit is no exception. He is five-and-a-half years old and is a black and brown German Shepherd, with the classical heavy black markings of the breed.

He was trained by the Australian Regular Army in Sydney and, in fact, was in Brisbane for the X11 Commonwealth Games with the Military Dog Wing.

Bandit has been on duty in Brisbane with Mike since May, 1983. Mike had spent January to May in Sydney learning the handling of bomb dogs, a highly specialised talent.

Mike and Bandit work from Brisbane Airport and do regular training runs at the Cargo Terminals, the fuel depots and other spots. They also participate occasionally in searches with members of the

• Police dog 'Bandit' checks through a storage depot for signs of explosives.

Queensland Police who have two bomb dogs.

Bomb dogs such as Bandit are trained to smell explosives through the utilisation of two basic qualities; they must be instinctive retrievers and have an aggressively possessive nature.

When Bandit is put into a search for explosives or for a firearm, he wears a harness, which helps to signify the difference between times of play and times of work.

While harnessed and working, use is made of his possessiveness and he is given to believe that he actually owns the 'bomb'. Because of this he is easily motivated and is always keen to work.

When he indicates to Mike that he has found some explosives, he is called off and rewarded with his favourite item, an aluminium tube packed with cordite.

Just how acute is Bandit's sense of smell was amply illustrated when I accompanied Mike on a recent search. Mike had previously planted some plastic explosive at one of the fuel depots and a firearm in one of the cargo areas.

Bandit was harnessed for the search and showed an uncanny ability to search every nook and cranny to find the hidden objects.

Mike and Bandit are almost inseparable companions. And that is how it has to be, Mike states.

Bandit has a kennel at Brisbane Airport and also one at Mike's home.

"We have to understand each other, trust each other and work together, so it is important that I have Bandit kennelled at my home with me when I am off duty," Mike says.

Mike has been with the AFP for six and a half years, joining in Brisbane and spending 18 months at the Cairns Airport Station between stints in Brisbane at Regional Headquarters and the Airport Station.

"Dogs are like humans, they have their off days," says Mike.

"We look to dogs to have at least an 80% success rate. They are not perfect, they are not machines that can be switched on and off, they are simply the quickest and certainly one of the most efficient means of detecting any hidden explosives.

"The ideal situation would be to have two dogs. That would mean that any given time we would always have at least one dog with which to respond when the need arises," he said.

No matter which way one looks at it, though, a bomb dog is top insurance. — Brian Grace.