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SECRETARY-GENERAL DESIGNATES SAKARI S. TUOMIOJA  
OF FINLAND, AS MEDIATOR IN CYPRUS

The following statement by the Secretary-General was issued today, 25 March, at noon local time, Geneva:

"Having received the agreement of the Governments of Cyprus, Greece, Turkey and the United Kingdom, I have designated today Mr. Sakari S. Tuomioja as Mediator in Cyprus. Mr. Tuomioja, who is at present Ambassador of Finland in Sweden, will travel to New York next weekend for consultations with me and will proceed thereafter to his assignment. It is expected that Mr. Tuomioja will proceed to Cyprus by the middle of next week. I want to take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to the Government of Finland, which has kindly consented to grant Mr. Tuomioja leave of absence during the period of his assignment as Mediator. During my present visit to the European Office of the United Nations in Geneva, I had occasion to meet with General Gyani, the Commander Designate of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), and to review with him several matters concerning the Force.

"General Gyani departed from Geneva yesterday and has arrived in Nicosia today. It is expected that he will assume command of the Force within the next few days. The period of three months prescribed by the resolution of the Security Council will begin as of the date when General Gyani assumes command and the Force has become operational. Mr. Pier Spinelli, whom I had appointed as my Personal Representative in Cyprus during General Gyani's leave, returned yesterday to Geneva. He has reported to me concerning the situation in Cyprus and I have benefitted from his views and observations. General Carlos Paiva Chaves (Brazil), Commander of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), is about to return to Gaza after having replaced with distinction General Gyani

(more)

as Commander Designate of the UNFICYP during the latter's absence. My original purpose in coming to Geneva was to open officially the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, on which the hopes and future well-being of so many peoples depend. During my brief stay in Geneva I was impressed by the seriousness with which participants are approaching their difficult but historic task, and this reaffirms my belief that the emphasis I gave in my opening remarks on the need for this to be an 'action conference' will not have been an exaggeration, and that a new trade policy for development will emerge. I also had occasion to have informal discussions with some members of the Disarmament Conference which is currently in session."

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