

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services  
Office of Public Information  
United Nations, N.Y.

(FOR USE OF INFORMATION MEDIA -- NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD)

Press Release SG/A/31  
CYP/381

6 May 1966

SECRETARY-GENERAL APPOINTS MAJOR-GENERAL I.A.E. MARTOLA  
AS COMMANDER OF UNFICYP

(This release is being issued simultaneously at Headquarters, London and Nicosia.)

The Secretary-General, U Thant, has announced the appointment of Major-General Ilmari Armas Eino Martola (retired) of Finland as Commander of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). He will be the third Commander of the Force since it came into existence in March 1964.

Major-General Martola succeeds the late General K.S. Thimayya. Since General Thimayya's death on 18 December 1965, the Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander of UNFICYP, Brigadier A.J. Wilson of the United Kingdom, has served as Acting Force Commander at the request of the Secretary-General. General Martola is expected to arrive in New York for briefing within a few days and will then proceed directly to Nicosia to take up his command.

Born in Raahe, Finland, on 12 May 1896, General Martola has held military, governmental and industrial positions in Finland. He attended the National War College in Paris from 1919 to 1921, and served in various assignments as a commissioned officer in the Finnish Army and National Guard. He was a member of the Defence Revision Committee from 1923 to 1924 and a member of the Disarmament Commission at Geneva from 1926 to 1934. He also served as Finnish Military Attaché in Paris from 1928 to 1931.

General Martola was Commanding Officer of an Army division on active service in the Karelian Isthmus in 1939-1940 and from 1941 to 1944, and became Commander of an Army Corps. In 1944 he became Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and later served as Governor of Uusimaa Province until 1946. General Martola is

(more)

6 May 1966

President of the Finnish Red Cross and Vice-Chairman of the Association for the Welfare of War Widows. He has also been Managing Director of the Paper Office of the Finnish Paper Millst Association.

In November 1956 the Secretary-General appointed General Martola as his Personal Adviser on Military matters relating to UNEF, a post in which he served with distinction until August 1957.

General Martola is married and has four children.

\* \* \*

The Secretary-General takes this opportunity to pay tribute to the outstanding service rendered to the United Nations by Brigadier A.J. Wilson during the four and a half months that he has acted as Commander of UNFICYP. During that time he has shown the highest qualities of leadership and diplomacy and has carried on in an exemplary manner the work of his illustrious predecessors.

\* \*\*\* \*