

# United Nations

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## Press Release

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MAJOR-GENERAL ERKKI RAINER KAIRA OF FINLAND  
TO BE APPOINTED CHIEF OF STAFF OF UNTSO

Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim announced today the appointment of Major-General Erkki Rainer Kaira, of Finland, as Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine (UNTSO) with effect from 1 February 1980.

When the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was established by the Security Council in March 1978, the Secretary-General appointed Major-General E.A. Erskine, the then Chief of Staff of UNTSO, as Commander of the Force. Since that time, the post of Chief of Staff of UNTSO has remained vacant and Colonel William Callaghan of Ireland until June 1979, and Colonel Olof Forsgren of Sweden since then, have been officers in charge of UNTSO.

The Secretary-General takes this opportunity to pay tribute to the outstanding services which Colonel (now Brigadier-General) Callaghan and Colonel Forsgren rendered while in charge of UNTSO. They have fulfilled their important responsibilities with great distinction.

General Kaira was in 1956-1957 Deputy Commander of the Finnish company with the first United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF I). In 1958 he served as a military observer with the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon (UNOGIL).

After studying at the War College in Helsinki from 1959 to 1961, he served as an operations officer in the III Division Headquarters in Finland from 1961 to 1963.

In 1964-1965 he served as the Deputy Commander of the Finnish battalion with the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

From 1965 until 1975, he served in various capacities with the Finnish Defence Forces in Finland. In 1975 he was appointed Defence and Armed Forces Attaché of Finland in Washington, D.C., a position he held until 1978.

Since 1978 he has served as Chief of the Helsinki Military District in Finland.

General Kaira was born on 5 June 1926.

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