



UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS

PRESS RELEASE

29 January 2003

17.40 hrs

Following this morning's incident at the Good Offices office in the UNPA, Nicosia, where a piece of mail from overseas was revealed to contain suspicious white powder, tests have been carried out on samples of the powder by state laboratory technicians. As a result of these tests, anthrax has been ruled out. However, further tests are being conducted, the outcome of which will be known tomorrow.

Meanwhile, some 50 people, comprising Good Offices and UNFICYP staff, as well as members of the technical committees, who had been meeting at the Nicosia Conference Centre at the time of the incident, underwent precautionary decontamination procedures before departing the scene.

As a further precautionary measure, tonight's meeting of the leaders has been switched to the Ledra Palace and will take place at 18.00 hours.

04/03