



TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

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U.N. IN ACTION

NICOSIA LANDMINE FREE THANKS TO UN-EU PROJECT

VIDEO

GREGORIO WALKS

SOLON GREGORIO, FARMER, ON
CAMERA

SOLON WITH FARM WORKERS

UN PEACEKEEPER WITH SOLON
/ UN PERMITS

AUDIO

NARRATION:

Solon Gregorio, a Cypriot farmer, is very fond of his beans, coriander, peppers and, especially, potatoes... (7")

SOLON GREGORIO: (ENGLISH)

"Every single potato, every single plant you can see. This is my child. This is another child. I talk to them, they talk to me. They love me!" (10")

NARRATION:

Solon has not been planting here for long. This area is located within a buffer zone that divides Cyprus' Turkish occupied north and Greek Cypriot south and it covers three percent of the island's territory cutting across urban and rural areas. The entire buffer zone is under the control of the UN Mission in Cyprus. (20")

Recently the UN granted permission for Solon to farm here. But before putting the land into good use, the UN made sure that there weren't any explosives left here. The region is peppered with

landmine fields. (13,5”)

LANDMINE SIGNS / LANDMINE
FIELD

These devices are a deadly legacy of the inter-communal violence that plagued the island over 30 years ago. In spite of all these years, the landmines’ potential to kill and maim remains. (12,5”)

JAMES O’KEEFE ON UN VEHICLE

James O’Keefe from Ireland is a member of the UN team in charge of patrolling this part of the buffer zone. (6,5”)

JAMES O’KEEFE, UN MISSION IN
CYPRUS, ON CAMERA

JAMES O’KEEFE: (ENGLISH)

“That is the main reason why it was such a great achievement for us to get that area cleared. As you can see the depth of the minefield is quite large and barriers were set up to protect farmers from entering these areas. And they can only farm this side. On this side they are in extreme danger.” (18”)

FIELD BEING DEMINED

NARRATION:

For the past two years the European Union and the United Nations have funded and managed a major demining project aimed at ridding Nicosia, Cyprus’ divided capital, of landmines. The demining programme has also helped to reduce tensions and remove barriers between Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities. (20”)

DEMINERS

Experienced Mozambican and Zimbabwean deminers were brought here to remove the deadly

explosives. Close to three thousand anti-tank and anti-personnel mines were unearthed and destroyed. (12,5”)

EXPLOSIONS

Detonation montage – No narration

VIPS SITTING DOWN / MICHAEL MOELLER ADDRESSING GUESTS

International and local guests witness a historic event. The last landmine found in Nicosia is about to be destroyed. For UN Mission Chief in Cyprus Michael Moeller, this is a clear sign of progress. (14”)

MICHAEL MOELLER, CHIEF, UN MISSION IN CYPRUS, ON CAMERA

MICHAEL MOELLER: (ENGLISH)

“It helps create a better atmosphere within which we are trying to kick-start a new political process that hopefully will end in a final settlement for the Cyprus problem.” (11”)

COUNTDOWN TO DETONATION / EXPLOSION

Detonation – No narration

FARMER AND SHEEP IN FIELD

NARRATION:

Much more remains to be done. Within the buffer zone itself there are still 28 minefields and many more throughout the island. But removing this savage silent killer is a step in the right direction. It will hopefully encourage further dialogue between the still divided Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities. (21”)

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Chaim Litewski for the United Nations.

