



# MEDWAVES

MAP CO-ORDINATING UNIT • NEWS BULLETIN PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH • ISSUE No 11/IV 1987

## MAP: SIGNS OF INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION



The Mediterranean Action Plan since its creation 12 years ago has been considered as a pioneering organization that brings together countries of different political systems, religious beliefs, level of economic and technological development, in one word "different Worlds".

MAP's contribution to the common goal of the 17 Mediterranean countries, signatories of the Barcelona Convention, has been not only the help to all countries, and especially to the less developed ones, to improve their infrastructure, but also the fact that it provided a "forum" where a wide range of problems are discussed. This eases the tensions between the participants thus promoting regional and international relations and world peace.

For many years now, MAP has attracted the interest of the world's mass media and of national and international organizations. All these, regardless of their criticism, often hard, have recognized the invaluable role MAP has played toward both goals.

Three such organizations have, recently, reviewed MAP's activities and referred to the benefits from its existence and operation.

1 On October 25-26, 1987, the Ministers of the Environment of the 12 member-states of the European Communities (EC) and the 6 member-states of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) met in Noordwijk, in the Netherlands, to review their co-operation and consult each other on the means to strengthen it in the future. Some of the priority issues they discussed were: climatic change, atmospheric pollution, soil and water protection and environmental accidents. According to the

Press Communiqué they issued after the meeting, "support was given to the recommendations in the reports of the World Commission on Environment and Development ("Our common future") and to the possible follow-up to these recommendations. The Conference adopted a Declaration on strengthening the EC/EFTA co-operation".

The Ministers of Belgium, Denmark, Eire, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom (EC), Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland (EFTA), as well as the EC Commissioner on Environmental issues "welcomed the results of the meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, held in Athens (7-11 September 1987) stressing the readiness of all parties to intensify their work with aim of protecting the Mediterranean Sea".

They, also, exchanged information and consultation in preparation of meetings in a wider international context (such as UNEP, ECE, OECD etc). Four of the countries that attended this meeting (France, Greece, Italy and Spain) are parties to MAP.

2 On June 3-4, 1987, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Mediterranean members of the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries met at Brioni, Yugoslavia, to discuss item 42 of the agenda of the forty-second General Assembly of the United Nations, namely "strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean Region". The document adopted at this meeting dedicates a paragraph to the Mediterranean Action Plan:

*"The Ministers supported the co-operation evolving within the Barcelona Plan of Action for the Protection of the Mediterranean Environment and stressed the need for all Mediterranean countries to exert joint efforts aimed at keeping the Mediterranean ecologically clean. The Ministers called upon developed Mediterranean countries to make available to the Mediterranean members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries modern environmental technology protection and having in mind the Barcelona Plan of Action as a model, expressed the need for the elaboration of a similar approach within the sphere of technology as a way of strengthening Mediterranean co-operation in general".*

3 The United Nations' Association of the USA is a very influential private, non-profit, non-partisan national organization dedicated to strengthening the U.N. System and the U.S. role in that system.

UNA-USA carries out its action agenda through a combination of policy analysis, public outreach and international dialogue. Through the Multilateral Project the Economic Policy Council and the Parallel Studies Programmes with the



## MAP: SIGNS OF INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Soviet Union, China and Japan, UNA-USA is producing practical answers to pressing political, economic, peace and security issues.

It is supported by contributions from foundations, corporations, labour unions, individuals, professional associations and other national organizations and by income from its publications, conferences, special events and membership dues.

UNA-USA launched a two year programme (1986-1987) entitled "UN Management and Decision - Making Project" aiming to strengthen the effectiveness of the UN system. Financed by the Ford Foundation its centerpiece is a high level, 23 member international panel that unites individuals with senior political experience and those with outstanding managerial skills. This panel published a final report in September 1987, that sets out a rationale, priorities and feasible agenda for the U.N. for the remainder of the century and proposes the type of changes in structures, procedures and management that are necessary to carry out such an agenda.

The panel's composition is as follows:

### **INTERNATIONAL PANEL**

#### **U.N. Management and Decision-Making Project**

**ELLIOT L. RICHARDSON** (chairman)  
*Chairman, UNA-USA*

*Former Secretary of Commerce  
Former Attorney General of the United States  
Former Secretary of Defense  
Former Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare*

**ANDRES AGUILAR MAWDSLEY**  
*Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations  
Former Ambassador of Venezuela to the United States*

**OTTO BORCH**  
*Danish Ambassador to NATO  
Former Ambassador of Denmark to the United States  
Former Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations*

**ANDREW F. BRIMMER**  
*President, Brimmer & Company, USA  
Former Governor, Federal Reserve System*

**ENRIQUE V. IGLESIAS**  
*Minister of Foreign Affairs, Uruguay*

**NANCY L. KASSEBAUM**  
*U.S. Senator*

**PRINCE SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN**  
*Former U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees*

**T.T.B. KOH**  
*Singapore Ambassador to the United States  
Former Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations*

**K.B. LALL**  
*Chairman, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations  
Former Indian Ambassador to the Economic Community, Brussels and Luxembourg  
Former Permanent Representative of India to UNCTAD and GATT*

**JACQUES LEPRETTE**  
*Former Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations  
Former French Ambassador to the EEC*

**ROBERT S. MCNAMARA**  
*Former President of the World Bank  
Former Secretary of Defense, USA*

**FREDERIC V. MALEK**  
*President, Marriott Hotels and Resorts  
Former Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget, USA*

**OLUSEGUN OBASANJO**  
(Major-General)  
*Former President of Nigeria*

**PHILIP A. ODEEN**  
*Regional Managing Partner, Management Consulting Services  
Coopers & Lybrand  
Former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, USA*

**SADAKO OGATA**  
*Professor, Sophia University (Tokyo)  
Former Minister, Mission of Japan to the United Nations*

**PAUL H. O'NEILL**  
*Chairman and CEO, ALOOA  
Former Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget, USA*

**OLARA A. OTUNNU**  
*Former Foreign Minister, Uganda  
Former Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations*

**MOHAMED SAHNOUN**  
*Algerian Ambassador to the United States  
Former Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations  
Former Algerian Ambassador to France and Germany*

**SALIM A. SALIM**  
*Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and National Service, United Republic of Tanzania  
Former Permanent Representative of Tanzania to the United Nations  
Former President of the United Nations General Assembly*

**HELMUT SCHMIDT**  
*Former Chancellor, Federal Republic of Germany*

**BRIAN URQUHART**  
*Scholar-in-Residence, The Ford Foundation, USA  
Former U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs*

**CYRUS R. VANCE**  
*Senior Partner, Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett  
Former U.S. Secretary of State*

Members of this panel served in their individual capacities. The conclusions and recommendations set forth in their Report and other publications of the project do not necessarily reflect the official views or negotiating positions of any country or group of countries.

Part of the Report reviews the various United Nations Organizations' and programmes' efficiency. This is what it has to say about the Mediterranean Action Plan (or MED Plan as it calls it):

### **THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME AND THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (MED PLAN)**

"The United Nations Environment Programme's coordination of the effort to halt pollution in the Mediterranean Sea (Med Plan) is a rather dramatic example of regional co-operation "mid-wived" by U.N. action.

First, by targeting only those countries that border the Mediterranean and thus were most affected by the sea's pollution, UNEP established a limited scope for its task from the outset.

Second, UNEP's objective - cleaning up the Mediterranean - was both specific and feasible within the context of its resources.

Third, UNEP-supplied reliable evidence of the degree of pollution in the Mediterranean (e.g., widespread oil clusters, the disappearance of shore life, outbreaks of typhoid, etc.) was sufficiently compelling to persuade the affected countries that failure to remedy the situation would undermine national as well as global interests.

Fourth, UNEP coordinated the process in stages and was able to measure progress against a series of milestones over several years. Up to 1974, Mediterranean states and international organizations had focused on controlling oil pollution (the primary concern since the late 1960s).

Fifth, from 1974 to 1980, UNEP officials designed an agenda that represented the interests of all the affected countries and provided incentives for participation (equipment, control over a project of interest to a given country, etc.).

After 1980, as a result of skillful negotiation and mounting evidence of the seriousness of the problem, the countries involved supported a protocol calling for national controls over industrial and municipal waste emissions. Moreover, they committed themselves to measures that went beyond the concessions they had made during the bargaining process.

Because of the Med Plan, governments of countries bordering the Mediterranean have become more effective environmental managers. Oil spills and marine accidents have declined in size and frequency, and most states have adopted procedures for dealing with such occurrences. The quality of recreational waters has also improved.

Even more significant is the fact that Med Plan evolved from the status of a U.N.-based, -staffed and -funded operation to a fully autonomous one financed by the participating countries. In 1979, states approved a Mediterranean Trust Fund, supported by donations from participants in amounts that are proportional to their overall U.N. schedules. At the same time, they created a small Med Plan secretariat, which, while independent, reports to UNEP's Regional Seas Program. In 1981, Med Plan headquarters was transferred from Geneva to Athens, completing the transition to self-sufficiency.

In summary, the Med Plan succeeded because UNEP, under exemplary leadership, responded to a need expressed at the regional level, used the information available to bring about international co-operation, and ultimately allocated responsibility for the plan to the participants in the bargaining process."





## THE GLOBAL 500 THE MEDITERRANEAN RECIPIENTS

In 1987 UNEP decided to award 500 personalities and organizations for their outstanding contribution to the protection and the improvement of the World's Environment. Eight out of these 500 are nationals of Mediterranean Countries, member states of MAP. We might have been tempted to use the headline "our own people" if we didn't happen to believe that all 500 (and hundreds more) ARE our people, regardless of where they come from. We present the Mediterranean 8 so that our readers, mostly Mediterraneans, come to know their (our) compatriots better:

### ALON AZARIA

*Founder of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel and active in creating nature reserves and other protected areas. Mr. Alon was awarded the Israel Environment Prize in 1978.*

### ARAB OFFICE FOR YOUTH AND ENVIRONMENT (AOYE) Egypt

*AOYE is the leading non-governmental organization of its kind in the Arab world. Formed in 1978, it holds environmental seminars, workshops and training courses for young people and is involved in tree-planting campaigns. It publishes a bi-monthly bulletin and magazine, and translates proceedings of major environmental conferences into Arabic.*

### DALAN BERRETTIN

*As Mayor of Istanbul, Mr. Dalan has transformed the Golden Horn, a polluted industrial and residential area by*

*tree-planting, landscaping and creating parks. His achievement is a model for many cities.*

### JOVANOVIĆ PETAR

*A Yugoslav physician and researcher on environment-linked diseases. Dr. Jovanovic devised an action plan for combatting diseases linked to desertification and improved the method of their diagnosis.*

### KASSAS MOHAMED

*A prominent Egyptian ecologist, Prof. Kassas has served in several regional and international environmental organisations. As President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (1978-84) he led the initiative to formulate a World Conservation Strategy and a World Charter for Nature.*

### LIVANOS GEORGE

*The creator in 1982 of the Hellenic Marine*

*Environment Protection Association, this prominent Greek shipping owner is the leader of campaigns to reduce ship-generated marine pollution.*

### YEROULANOS MARINOS

*Mr. Yeroulanos initiated environmental legislation and the first environment ministry of the Greek government. He promoted national and regional environmental planning and introduced these considerations into government decision-making.*

### VENIZELOS LILY

*Mrs. Venizelos is an active campaigner to protect the breeding ground of the Caretta Marine Turtles in her native Greece. Through the media and petitions she has drawn the attention of national and international authorities to the plight of this endangered species. Her campaign has led to protective measures being taken.*

## MEDEXPOL 87

29 experts from 15 countries participated at the bilingual (French-English) course on the use of dispersants for marine oil pollution combatting that was organized in Marseille, France, on October 13-20, 1987, by the Regional Oil Combatting Centre of Malta.

ROCC has been organizing practical training courses on specialized issues for several years. The theoretical sessions of this course took place at the premises of the Port Autonome de Marseille, while demonstrations of equipment and products as well as spraying demonstrations by sea vessels and air craft were held in the open sea. Technical and scientific aspects, ecological considerations as well as national and international regulations regarding the use of dispersants were extensively covered.

ROCC sponsored the attendance of 15 officials and the EEC of another 14.



## ITALIAN MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT BRIEFED ABOUT MAP

On November 9, 1987, the Italian Minister of the Environment Mr. G. Ruffolo was briefed by Mr. Manos. The possibility of a public presentation of the Italian Scenario 2025, together with the Blue Plan scenario, in order to stimulate a national debate, was discussed. The need to accelerate payment to the Mediterranean Trust Fund was also mentioned.

The following day, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, various MAP activities were reviewed. They included the status of the Italian MED POL monitoring programme, the jelly fish centre (CIMAM), at Trieste, the regional centre on seismic risk reduction, being set up in Genoa, the proposed centre on remote sensing in Sicily, the proposed unit on carcinogens in the marine environment and the proposed study on Mediterranean migrations in the framework of the Action Plan, an activity that has the support of the Italian Ministry of Labour.

In connection with the proposed centre on remote sensing, Mr. Manos visited, on November 11, Telespazio, a state owned company formed in 1961 that operates receiving stations at Fucino and Como.



## RECENT MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

### Ad-Hoc Meeting on Persistent Synthetic Materials

*Athens 14-16 October 1987*

Attention has focused recently on the increasing amounts of litter found on beaches in various parts of the world, on floating debris, on the biological effects of discarded fishing gear, plastic strappings, plastic six-package strappings. Studies in many parts of the world on the theme of persistent synthetic materials in the marine and coastal environments (drifting and on beaches) concerning amounts and the associated effects on fauna and aesthetics, show that a global pollution problem has arisen requiring assessment on a regional basis together with identification of alternative control and protection measures. Plastic litter has affected many marine animals. Victims include birds, mammals, fish and turtles.

The sources of the material are several: shipping, fishing, human recreation, land-based sources. It has been estimated that of the order of 7 million cans, 0.5 million bottles, 0.6 million pieces of plastics are discarded daily on a global basis from ships. The total litter generation by shipping and oil drilling within Mediterranean areas estimated at  $325 \times 10^6$  kg/year.

The most abundant plastic litter in near-surface waters is polyethylene sheeting, derelict gillnets, trawl-net fragments, strapping and packing bands and plastic bags, which entangle and trap animals, in particular seals, but also birds. Raw plastic pellets have been found in intestines of birds causing death. Plastic debris has a long lifespan and an assumption made on the basis of observations is that, generally, floating commercial derelict fishing gear comes ashore about two years after being discarded. Stranded litter on beaches persists but often becomes buried,

Plastic litter has affected many marine animals. Victims include birds, mammals, fish and turtles.

and it is difficult to estimate the real quantities of debris and its fate.

In the Mediterranean all species of Cetaceans and the Monk seal are potentially entangled in a variety of gear but little information is available as to quantities. Bottlenose, striped and common dolphins are most frequently caught in the high density of nets occurring in the western Mediterranean, and sperm and minke whales are

entangled in driftnet fishing. Sea turtles have been reported to drown in a variety of gear. Plastic bags have been found in digestive tracts of four of seven species of sea turtles, including leather-backs in French coastal waters.

Persistent synthetic materials which may float, sink or remain in suspension and which may interfere with any legitimate use of the sea is one category of substances listed in Annex I of the LBS Protocol.

The meeting was expected to review the presently available information, decide on the possible specific actions to be undertaken and recommend a programme of action which would include among other things:

- a) proposals for further research and monitoring work, possibly leading to
- b) proposals for undertaking of control measures.

The meeting took place in Athens on 14-16 October 1987 at the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan. It was attended by representatives from IOC, FAO, UNEP and consultants.

The meeting came to the conclusion that it is imperative that as many Mediterranean laboratories as possible should participate in the study to ensure proper presentation of the litter conditions in the Mediterranean and reliability of the results. The meeting designed a pilot study lasting for a full year with monthly samplings. This will ensure detecting any seasonal changes in the litter quantity and composition (if any).

The methods-of course- should be uniform for all the laboratories to ensure comparability of results.

Towards the end of the project, a meeting of all the participants should take place so that the data and the ideas of the scientists taking part in the project can be analysed and discussed.

The analysis of the data should lead to the following information: a) assessment of the quantity of persistent garbage which litter the Mediterranean, b) geographical distribution of the litter, c) seasonal effects on distribution, d) sources of litter and e) rates of litter accumulation.

### Workshop on the impact of carcinogenic, mutagenic and teratogenic marine pollutants in human health and the environment (WHO/UNEP joint project, MED POL Phase II)

*Athens, 9-11 November 1987.*

The Long-term Programme of Pollution Monitoring and Research in the Mediterranean Sea (MED POL Phase II) includes studies on the carcinogenicity and mutagenicity of selected substances in its

research component. This is intended to provide a scientific input towards the eventual development of programmes and measures to control such substances in terms of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources.

The main objectives of the Workshop, which was convened jointly by WHO and UNEP within the framework of MED POL Phase II in collaboration with the Department of Programming and Organization of Public Health Services of La Sapienza University of Rome, and held at the High Institute of Public Health, Rome, were:

- a) to review on-going work on carcinogenic, mutagenic and teratogenic marine pollutants at international level;
- b) to formulate a preliminary outline of relevant preventive and control measures applicable to the Mediterranean, taking into account similar action outside the region.

The Workshop was attended by 54 participants from four Mediterranean and five non-Mediterranean countries, two representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), two representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and one staff member of WHO Regional Office for Europe. Partici-

The levels of dioxin in marine organisms, together with its possible detrimental effects on them and on human health, should be investigated.

pants were mainly biochemists, chemists, biologists and toxicologists, engaged in research on the effects of carcinogenic, mutagenic and/or teratogenic marine pollutants on human health or on marine organisms and ecosystems.

According to the conclusions and recommendations of the Workshop:

The present considerable efforts in monitoring human intake of potentially carcinogenic, mutagenic and teratogenic chemicals from seafood should be continued. In particular, the levels of dioxin in marine organisms, together with its possible detrimental effects on them and on human health, should be investigated;

Most current work is directed towards the detection of health hazards, but seawater and marine organisms may possess protective mechanisms. Further research is required to validate this hypothesis, including the deve-



## RECENT MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

lopment of appropriate methodology;

As much data as possible should be collected on the background incidence of disease in fish, molluscs and other marine organisms, in order to obtain a better appreciation of increase in the incidence of tumours and other biological markers such as reproductive performance, mutagenicity, teratogenicity, due to marine pollutants.

A survey should be carried out on organotin concentrations in selected areas of the Mediterranean.

### Ad-Hoc Meeting on Organotin compounds (FAO/UNEP/IAEA/WHO) *Athens October 5-7, 1987*

Concern over the effects of TBT (Tributyltin) first arose in France where several problems were encountered in commercial oyster fisheries in areas where there was intense boating activity and relatively poor water exchange. The French Government, in 1982, was the first to take action against the use of organotin compounds in antifouling paints (MEDWAVES No 6). Studies in the UK has led the Government to take similar action. It is likely that the European Commission will propose similar measures for the EEC countries.

Organotin compounds and substances which may form such compounds in the marine environment are listed in Annex I of the LBS Protocol. The Contracting Parties are, therefore, committed to eliminate pollution by these substances. The meeting was expected to review the presently available information and recommend a programme of action which would include among other things:

- a) proposals for immediate undertaking of control measures,
- b) proposals for further research and monitoring work.

The meeting took place in Athens on 5-7 October 1987 at the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan. It was attended by six participants from five countries together with representatives from FAO, UNEP and IAEA.

The Meeting recommended the following actions (among others):

● The assessment should be confined to tributyltin and triphenyltin, their derivatives and their breakdown products.

● A survey should be carried out on organotin concentrations in selected areas of the Mediterranean.

● Research should be focused on analytical techniques, physicochemical properties and ecotoxicity for triorganotin compounds, their derivatives and their breakdown products.

● The control of triorganotin compounds in the marine environment could be accomplished by:

- a) a ban on the use of antifouling paints containing triorganotin;
- b) the issue of a code of practice to minimize the contamination of the marine environment in the vicinity of boat yards, dry docks etc. where ships are cleaned of old antifouling paint and subsequently repainted;
- c) the development of alternative, environmentally acceptable, antifouling paints and coatings.

### Ad-Hoc Meeting on Organophosphorus compounds (FAO/UNEP/IAEA/WHO) *Athens, 18-20 November 1987*

Organophosphorus compounds are used in large quantities in the Mediterranean region, usually for pest control but also for other purposes, and eventually they may reach the marine environment. Most of these compounds are highly toxic and some of them are relatively persistent and bioaccumulative.

Organophosphorus compounds and substances which may form such compounds in the marine environment are listed in Annex I to the LBS Protocol.

The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention agreed that this Protocol should be implemented progressively, through a step-by-step process, according to a long-term workplan and timetable. They also decided that an assessment of the state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea should be prepared for each of the group of substances listed in Annex I to the Protocol. On the basis of such assessments control measures would be recommended. One of the objectives of the present meeting was to prepare an annotated outline for this assessment document and propose further research and monitoring work.

The meeting took place at the premises of the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan in Athens, from 18-20 November 1987. It was attended by five participants from five countries and by representatives of FAO, UNEP, WHO and IAEA.

The meeting reached the following recommendations (among others):

The assessment should be confined to those organophosphorus compounds which are known to be very toxic and used to a large extent in Mediterranean countries and on which information is immediately available. The assessment should at least deal with the following 6 compounds:

<b>Pesticides:</b>	Parathion Methyl-parathion Fenithrothion Malathion
<b>Non-pesticides:</b>	Tributyl phosphate Tris-2-chloroethyl Phosphate

A pilot monitoring programme should be carried out for at least the 6 compounds given above in selected areas of the Mediterranean.

Standard methodologies should be worked out for sampling and storage of water, while an intercalibration exercise should be conducted on reference samples of marine waters.

A pilot monitoring programme should be carried out for at least 6 compounds in selected areas of the Mediterranean.

Information should be collected from each Mediterranean country on the production and use of organophosphorus compounds currently used.

Although specific control measures for organophosphorus compounds in the Mediterranean could not be recommended by the Group, the following measures are proposed for consideration:

- a) The adoption of common Mediterranean water quality objectives and emission standards;
- b) Governmental control on the emission standards for both production and treatment plants in coastal areas of the Mediterranean;
- c) Governmental control of the purchase and spraying quotas for specific organophosphorus pesticides in areas from which Mediterranean waters can be contaminated directly or indirectly.



## European Environmental Review

### GREEK SHIPOWNERS PLEDGE TO CLEAN UP THEIR WASTES

The European Community has been a very active participant in the Mediterranean action plan, and sponsored a workshop on the shipping industry and the marine environment in Athens that was organized by the Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMEPA).

"When we set out to interest shipowners, captains and crews in protecting the sea from pollution, I was very skeptical", admitted Dimitris Mitsatsos, Director General of HELMEPA. "Well, in only four years we have enlisted 400 ships, over 3,000 officers and sailors and most Greek shipowners. We have succeeded in very slowly changing the mentality of thousands of seafarers and getting through to their conscience. Its a measure of our success that the Athens workshop last month, under EC auspices and with the participation of Ms Beate Weber, the chairwoman of the Environment Committee of the European Parliament, urged "the general adoption and extension of HELMEPA's approach to merchant marines on a worldwide basis."

Raul Evan Ress,  
"European Environmental Review",  
Vol I, No 4, September 1987

## The Daily Telegraph

### THE DIRTY WAR TO SAVE THE MED

The countries of the Mediterranean Action Plan are being asked to provide full sewage treatment plants for every coastal city of 100,000 inhabitants, with at least some form of filtration for those of 10,000 and more.

But this touches on the critical human factor underlying the current ecological and

sociological imbalance in the area: most of the countries are poor but have populations increasing at more than three per cent a year. Neither the funds nor local expertise are available to build such treatment systems virtually from scratch.

Today more than 100 million people live on the Mediterranean shores, and by the year 2000 the number will have doubled. Possibly the most important document to come out of this week's Athens conference will be the sociological projection of what the Mediterranean world will be like in the year 2025, 50 years after the launch of the Blue Plan. It will predict a combined population of more than 500 million, with an additional annual influx of up to 200 million tourists.

The implication of such developments is already evident. A dozen of the hundred wildlife species unique to the region are threatened with extinction, including the Italian honey buzzard, the monk seal, the Dalmatian pelican and the peregrine falcon. Loggerhead turtles, which roamed the earth at the time of the dinosaurs, have been driven off breeding grounds on the Turkish coast at Dalyan and on the Greek island of Zakynthos to make way for hotels. Within 40 years over nine-tenths of the coast will be developed for tourists, generating nearly a million tons of rubbish each year on the beaches.

Some industrialists and financiers say much more radical measures are needed than those being proposed by the various UN programmes and the pressure groups now climbing on the Mediterranean bandwagon, such as Greenpeace. The new President of the World Bank Barber B. Conable, has nominated the Mediterranean as one of three major environmental projects to be undertaken by the bank.

Signor Franco Reviglio, the head of Italy's state energy company ENI, argued in the Milan daily "Corriere della Sera" for a Marshall Plan for the Mediterranean with a budget of at least \$30 billion. The EEC is to tailor some of its Integrated Mediterranean Programmes (IMPs) to the improvement of coastal areas in Greece and southern Italy.

Much emphasis has been laid on the need for international co-operation, particularly between the rich and poor nations of the area. In this the noises from Athens have not been too encouraging, with Turkey refu-

sing to sit on committees unless the delegation from Cyprus was declared to represent only part of that island. Syria, unsurprisingly, refused to countenance Israel's presence on any regulatory body.

In this there is little new, for men and nations have always fought round and across the sea seeking its natural resources — resources now endangered by the same competitive selfishness.

Robert Fox,  
"The Daily Telegraph", 12 September 1987

## THE BALTIMORE SUN

### THE MEDITERRANEAN'S COMEBACK

When an Italian Adriatic resort mayor goes to a Berlin tourism fair and boasts not about its proximity to Venice and Ravenna but rather of how he spent a million dollars a kilometer to clean up his beaches and bathing waters, then something in the supposedly unchangeable Mediterranean mentality has changed.

When the Mayor of Istanbul proudly says he is spending \$2 billion to clean up the once-glorious Golden Horn with a 16-foot-diameter collector pipe that circles the city to make the waters "as blue as my eyes", again something in the "immutable Mediterranean mentality" has really changed.

Marseille is inaugurating its innovative underground sewage treatment plant, with the French government, the United Nations Environment Program and the World Bank invited to the "Cleaner Mediterranean" party.

The World Bank is changing, too. Its new president, Barber Conable, announced last summer that it would consider the environmental dimension before granting loans. The newly created environmental division has selected the Mediterranean, along with tropical forests and desertification, as its priorities.

Meanwhile, the European Investment Bank has allocated \$5 billion to clean up the Po River in Italy. Since much of Italy's highly industrialized north empties its waste into the Po, which flows into the Mediterranean, this is yet another encouraging development.

Tankers will soon have three more ports with floating facilities to dump their oily wastes. The European Community is funding their construction and this year they will be opened at Patras in Greece. Rijeka in Yugoslavia and Port Said in Egypt where 20,000 ships pass on their way through the Suez Canal.

Raul Evan Ress,  
The Baltimore Sun, 29 September 1987

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## PAP ACTIVITIES

The Priority Actions Programme has been very busy lately.

Four Meetings were organized by the Activity Center, three in Split, Yugoslavia and one in Malta.

### Meeting on the Ground Water Flow Modelling of the island of Malta, October 20-21, 1987, Malta

Preparing its 1988-1992 programme PAP/RAC recommended among others a project of direct co-operation between the Centre and individual countries. The government of Malta proposed the Island of Malta as a pilot area for one of the country pilot projects:

The subject of this project could be the development of technology for the creation of mathematical models relative to water resources management. Exchange of information between the two parties shows that:

- the problem of water supply is of utmost importance for the future development of the island;

- there is a threat of sea penetration into the aquifer because of exaggerated utilization of ground waters;

- ground waters are increasingly threatened by surface activities, particularly by agriculture;

- preparation of mathematical models would significantly improve the management of available resources.

The Maltese proposal includes all the basic phases of water movements: rainfall, surface outflow, filtration, groundwater, and water supply system. The project could last for four years and the Maltese government would invest considerable sums of money, sufficient to cover practically all the expenses regarding the work in Malta.

The first phase of the project ("Ground Water Flow Modelling") was scheduled for the biennium 88-89. It is technologically and organizationally independent. On October 20-21, 1987, a meeting was held in Malta between PAP/RAC experts and the island's relevant authorities. The Maltese delegation was headed by the Minister for Water and Energy and the Minister for Education and the Environment.

The Meeting accepted the project as developed by PAP/RAC and included it in the bilateral programme with the EEC. Funds will be secured as follows: \$1m from the EEC, \$0.5m from the Government of Malta, \$0.1m by PAP, MED POL, WHO and others.

PAP's technical contribution will be the preparation of a general groundwater flow model for Mediterranean islands (a pilot for other Mediterranean countries), training and participation in co-ordination and control. It was decided that the Maltese Focal Point will invite WHO and MED POL to join

the project on relevant sectorial programmes. The Maltese Government will establish a national team of experts to start immediately collecting and evaluating the available data. The project's output will be used by PAP/RAC as a pilot for the training and implementation in other Mediterranean countries.

### Seminar on the Development of the Mediterranean Sea - Tourism Harmonized with the Environment. Split, 28-30 October, 1987

In this meeting participants from 11 countries and the Blue Plan reviewed national reports and case studies as well as their synthesis in order to formulate recommendations and suggest follow-up actions.

### Meeting for the review of the Draft Code of Practice for liquid waste management in Mediterranean Coastal Zones Split, 19-20 November 1987.

Experts from Greece, Israel, Turkey and Yugoslavia participated to this Ad-Hoc meeting in order to propose amendments to the document prepared by the Centre and decide on the final text.

### Workshop on wastewater re-use Split, 25-27 November, 1987

Participants from 11 Mediterranean countries, WHO, FAO and other agencies met at PAP/RAC's headquarters. Commissioned papers covering several aspects of the re-use of waste waters were presented. The objective of the meeting was the formulation of a proposal for comprehensive environmental approach to the problem.

## BOOKS AND DOCUMENTS



\*We remind our readers that the **MAP BROCHURE** is now available in 9 languages: Arabic, English, French, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Serbo-Croatian, Spanish and Turkish.

\*New titles in the **MAP TECHNICAL SERIES**:

- Water resources development of small Mediterranean islands and isolated coastal areas: Documents produced in the first stage of the Priority Action (1984-1985) MAP Technical Reports Series No 12;

- Specific topics related to water resources development on large Mediterranean islands: Documents produced in the second phase of the Priority Action (1985-1986), MAP Technical Reports Series No 13;

- Assessment of the state of pollution on the Mediterranean Sea by Mercury and mercury compounds (in co-operation with WHO), MAP Technical Series Reports No 18.

For technical reasons No 18 appeared before Nos 14-17 which are expected in the next two months.

## THE MAP CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

### 1987

Consultation Meeting on monitoring of land-based sources of marine pollution in the Mediterranean	1-5 Dec. Split
Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Blue Plan	8-9 Dec. Sophia
Experts meeting to review results of ongoing research projects on work of transport of pollutants by sedimentation	9-12 Dec. Villefranche

### 1988

Inter-Agency Advisory Committee for MED POL (IAAC - XXI)	13-15 Jan. Athens
Consultative meeting on conservation of Mediterranean Monk Seal	11-12 Jan. Athens
Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Bureau 31)	March Athens
Intercalibration Meeting on the analysis of organotin	March Monaco
Ad hoc Consultation Meeting on monitoring	April Athens
Consultation Meeting on carcinogenic substances	May Athens
Training course on treatment and interpretation of biological effects data	May Piran
Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee	23-27 May Athens
Meeting of the Task Team on implications of climatic changes in the Mediterranean	30 May- 3 June Bellagio, Italy





# A FEW BASIC FACTS

The Mediterranean Action Plan is exclusively financed by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

It has no other source of finding, no reserves, and by UN regulations it is not allowed to borrow.

Contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund are unanimously approved by representatives of the Contracting Parties, in several cases by cabinet Ministers.

Contributions for 1988 and 1989 were adopted in Athens, in September 1987.

Contributions for 1986 and 1987 were adopted in Genoa in September 1985.

Contributions for 1984 and 1985 were adopted in Dubrovnik in 1983.

As of January 1988 the following contributions have not yet been paid:

For 1984	one country	_____	\$	2,365
For 1985	five countries	_____	\$	206,986
For 1986	nine countries	_____	\$	922,991
For 1987	twelve countries	_____	\$	1,106,836

IF CONTRIBUTIONS PLEDGED ARE NOT PAID URGENTLY  
MAP WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE ITS WORK.

## MEDITERRANEAN CITIES

# MARSEILLE REDUCES THE POLLUTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT BY 75%

The inauguration on November 5, 1987, of the sewage treatment plant in Marseille was a major event for the international media.

The plant is the biggest subterranean one in the world: it can process 260,000 cubic metres of effluents per day, which amounts to 95 million per year. The treatment's efficiency is 100% for sand and grease, 80% for floating material and less (but still very substantial) for heavy metals and organophosphorus compounds. This represents a reduction of the pollution by approximately 75%. The total cost came to 1,070 million French francs (50% of which was spent for water treatment, 30% for mud treatment and 20% for collectors).

The project was financed by the city of Marseille (36%), the State (20%) and others (44%, of which 15% by the regional authorities).

Mr Aldo Manos, co-ordinator of MAP, in his address to the 1,000 people invited to the inauguration ceremony pointed out that "quite often important investments are proven to be ineffective because of lack of the personnel's technical competence". He proposed to attach to it a permanent centre of training, dedicated to the management and operation of such installations.

This centre could facilitate the dialogue between the countries interested in such projects and the financing organizations such as the World Bank, whose Environmental

Division's head, Mr David Turnham, was present at the inauguration. The World Bank, he said, can help local authorities to realize such projects, and is actually involved in several programmes.

The inauguration of the treatment plant was a good occasion to organize an international symposium on the "Protection of the marine environment - the battle against the urban pollution". Representatives of 36 cities (of which quite a few were mayors) coming from 13 countries participated in the symposium. The subjects varied and extended from scientific reports to ecological discussions and from technical aspects of the process of construction to financing and training.