1. The bureau met in Athens, on 13 and 14 December 1982, at the invitation of the Secretariat, as was decided at the meeting of 1 October 1982. The meeting was chaired by His Excellency, Mr. Giovanni Falchi (Italy), and Messrs. M. Ladjouzi (Algeria), vice-chairman, Serge Antoine (France), and J. Naggear (Lebanon), rapporteur were also present. The Secretariat was represented at this meeting by Mr. A. Manos, the Co-ordinator.

The meeting was opened at 10 o'clock on 13 December and ended at 18.00 hours on 14 December. It was divided into two sessions a day.

The Bureau approved its Agenda, attached at Annex I.

2. The Co-ordinator's report of activities between October and December 1982

Mr. Manos provided the Bureau with a concise report of the activities of the Secretariat and the MAP, from the last Bureau meeting on 1 October 1982 to date.

2.1. The installation of the Secretariat in Athens proceeded normally as far as internal matters were concerned.

Relations with the host country are cordial on a personal basis, however, there has been a certain amount of delay and indecision with regard to the signing of official documents related to the installation of the Unit's seat. The Headquarters Agreement has still not been ratified, nor has the lease for the offices of the headquarters yet been signed. The new liaison organ with the Unit has not been officially nominated yet. The contribution in Drachmae for 1982 has been paid, no indication has been given as to the date of the payment of the 1983 contribution.
2.2. The Secretariat took a prominent part in the United Nations Day, which was celebrated with considerable ceremony by the Greek Government on 24 October last.

On this occasion the Unit and the MAP benefited from the broadcasting of favourable comments by the mass media.

2.3. The Secretariat was directly responsible for the organization, or took part in various meetings relative to, the MAP, notably:

- A meeting in Split (Yugoslavia) of the representatives of the PAP focal points. In collaboration with representatives of the member states, this meeting provided an opportunity to re-define the framework of future PAP activities and to select a number of priority actions. These are presented in a document to be used as a basis for proposals which will be submitted at the next meeting of the Parties. The importance of Yugoslavia's efforts on behalf of this programme should be emphasized.

- A Committee meeting for the revision of the Contracting Parties' Rules of procedure. This meeting was held at the Unit's headquarters in Athens. The meeting adopted a report containing proposals to be submitted to the Parties for a decision at their next meeting.

- The Secretariat was represented at a meeting of the Blue Plan in Arles, at a meeting organized in Rome by WHO within the framework of MED-POL, and at a ICSEM meeting in Cannes on pollution in the Mediterranean. In the last-named meeting, the Secretariat contributed to the participation costs of a number of experts who had taken part in MED-POL Phase I.

2.4. Finally, great efforts were required of the Secretariat in the rapid preparation of documents to be submitted at the next ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties, scheduled to take place at the end of February 1983.

Draft documents were being submitted to the Bureau at this meeting, for examination and possible decision.

3. Time and place of the Third Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties

Mr. Manos informed the Bureau that he had just received a verbal communication from the Ambassador of Yugoslavia in Athens to the effect that the Yugoslav Government had definitely confirmed the invitation to hold the next Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (the 3rd meeting) in Dubrovnik at the dates decided on by the meeting in Cannes, i.e. from 28 February to 4 March 1983.

The bureau took note of this communication with satisfaction and asked the Secretariat to study the material aspects of travel by air or land to the meeting by the delegations of the Contracting Parties. An information sheet would be sent to all member states in sufficient time to enable them
to organize the travel itineraries of their delegations. If any special arrangements proved necessary to facilitate travel, the Secretariat was asked to see to them in co-operation with the host country.

4. Provisional Agenda for the Third Meeting of Contracting Parties and commentary

   The relevant documents were examined by the Bureau which made a number of modifications. Following such modifications, the Bureau adopted the texts to be sent to the Parties.

   The main points discussed or amended by the Bureau were:

   - The composition of the Bureau to be elected, which had to be in conformity with the present Rules of procedure. These rules stand until modified by the next Ordinary Meeting;

   - The organization of the work, which will take place in two plenary groups at the proposal of the Secretariat: The Plenary Meeting and the Plenary Committee. This will not exclude traditional meetings, such as the meeting of heads of delegations or of any ad hoc committee set up by the Meeting;

   - The distribution of subjects for discussion between the Plenary Meeting and the Plenary Committee;

   - The working timetable which has been established on the basis of the amount of time available for the Meeting, which is only five days.

   The Bureau also asked that certain additional documents be made available to the Meeting for its information.

5. Programmes for 1984 and 1985 together with their budget estimates

5.1. These programmes are described in the draft report of the Executive Director of the Meeting.

The Bureau examined the drafts from the point of view of both form and content, especially as regards the programmes and their financial implications.

The Executive Director's Report expresses UNEP's point of view and was not intended for a decision by the Bureau. Its study by the latter had the aim of enabling UNEP to assess the probable reactions of Contracting Parties to its proposals, so that pointless discussions and requests for additional information could be avoided during the Meeting. It was in this spirit that the Bureau gave the Co-ordinator its views of the draft texts which had been submitted to it, and suggested some modification, clarifications or additions.

The suggestions refer to the following paragraphs of the draft report which was sent to the Bureau:

5.2 Commentary on the proposed programme

The programme proposed is in accordance with the line of decisions already taken by the Contracting Parties at previous meetings concerning MED POL, the PAP and the Blue Plan, the Malta Centre and the specially protected areas. The contents can only meet with approval, with the insistence once again however on the need to associate states more closely with some of the studies and to urge them to assume full responsibilities in all sectors for the struggle against pollution in their territorial waters. With this in mind some changes in the text have been suggested.

There is still much to be done in the fields of co-operation and training in the ideas for action which might be undertaken by the Contracting Parties, either collectively or bilaterally. A document to this effect has been prepared by the Bureau for submission at the next Meeting.

The Bureau also approved activities aimed at informing the public and making its awareness grow so as to gain its support for the Mediterranean Action Plan.

With regard to the implementation of the framework Convention and its related Protocols, the Bureau took note of the Secretariat's proposals with interest, but believes that at present the most urgent task is to ask the Contracting Parties to ratify the Protocol on pollution from land-based sources quickly and to prepare all necessary proposals for its implementation in conformity with Articles 5, 6 and 7 of the said protocol.

5.3. Commentary on the costs budget

Proposals for budget items have led to the following remarks from the Bureau:

Co-ordination

The amounts requested seem acceptable in view of the fact that the increase does not exceed 10%.

Meetings

The estimates seem to be acceptable. However, an extraordinary restricted meeting will have to be provided for in 1984, and therefore an amount of $23,000 will have to be added to the estimates for 1984.

MED-POL II

The figures requested are stabilized at $1,200,000 per annum. The sum is sufficiently large to require a detailed explanatory document, both for expenses already incurred and for future expenses.

Blue Plan

In view of the activities proposed by the Bureau for 1983, a few
economics might be envisaged during the year. The budgets for 1984 and 1985 are large enough to require a detailed explanation and an in-depth examination.

Malta Centre

Budget increases for 1985 appear to be insufficient (inflation). With regard to the overall figure, it would be appreciated to request the carrying out of a detailed study, estimated on a number of different hypotheses of functions and services to be provided.

P.A.P.

The amounts requested are based on the work of the last Focal Points meeting in Split, whose conclusions have not yet reached the Bureau.

Tunis Centre for specially protected areas

The proposals remain the same as in repeated previous budgets. The Bureau has no observations to make on this question.

Other costs

The Bureau considers the sums requested as acceptable and as not requiring any special comment.

6. Financial statement

Having taken note of the draft programme and budgets for 1984 and 1985, the Bureau examined the general financial situation and the funds of MAP's Secretariat.

It took note of the developments at the end of 1982, as presented by the Secretariat (annex II).

It also examined the estimated income for 1984 and 1985 as well as the hypotheses on which they were based.

6.1. It notes that on 31.12.82 the available cash was $ 1,016,000 of which $ 900,000 were "earmarked" for budget expenses for 1983, and $ 116,000 were uncommitted.

6.2. It also noted that arrear in contributions would be $ 1,420,000 on 31.12.82.

6.3. Expenditures for 1982, in conformity with budget provisions, were $ 2,732,600 as against the $ 3,412,500 authorized in the budget.

6.4. The income estimated for 1984 and 1985 is respectively $ 3,250,000 and $ 3,740,000, reflecting an average increase in contributions of 15%, which corresponds to a similar increase in costs, explained by a probable annual inflation rate of 10% to 11% and a rate of growth in activities of 4% to 5%. The Bureau finds these hypotheses reasonable and acceptable.
6.5. On the basis of the preceding figures, funds at the disposal of the Secretariat and the MAP for the period 83, 84 and 85 can be estimated on the figures given, granted that arrears in payment of contributions will not exceed $ 400,000 from 1983 onwards. It has also been calculated that the interest on the Mediterranean Trust Fund’s credits will remain constant as a result of the balancing effects of, on the one hand, a decrease in interest, but on the other, an increase in income as a result of the receipt of late contribution payments.

The tables in annex III and IV give the budget figures in terms of receipts and costs, as well as a financial statement at the end of each year, 1983, 1984 and 1985.

6.6. The Bureau supports the Secretariat’s view that there is a need for a roll-over fund at the end of each year, to allow for continuity in financing administration costs and to cover current projects already engaged on for six months. The roll-over fund should be of the order of one million U.S. dollars.

6.7. The Bureau states that at the moment (the end of 1982) the state of funds is satisfactory thanks to the caution in commitments to project costs, which was made necessary as a result of arrears in payment of contributions.

The Bureau renews its recommendation to Contracting Parties to ensure payment of their contributions before the 1st of June of each year, and to urge their governments to adopt permanent and almost automatic procedures to this end.

6.8. The Bureau therefore recommends that the Contracting Parties should approve the Secretariat's proposals regarding expenditures and receipts.


Having reached the end of its term of office, and prior to closing its meeting, which, in the absence of any new developments, would be the last one held before the 3rd Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties, the Bureau considered it right to cast a retrospective glance at the activities and results of the last two years (1981-1982) which have passed between the 2nd and 3rd Ordinary Meetings of the Parties, as well as to briefly review its own activities during this same period.

7.1. Development of the programme established by the 2nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Cannes (2-7 March 1981).

7.1.1. Transfer of the Secretariat’s headquarters to Athens

The transfer took place in August and September 1982. The headquarters’ offices were inaugurated on 1 October 1982 by the Executive Director of UNEP, in the presence of the Minister for the Environment of the Greek Government, and the Bureau of the Contracting Parties. The report of this ceremony is included in the Bureau’s report of 1.10.1982.
The Bureau would like to thank the Greek Government, on behalf of the Contracting Parties, and hopes that it will soon obtain the ratification of the Headquarters Agreement, the signature for the lease of the headquarters offices and the organisation of the liaison between the Secretariat and the Greek Government.

7.1.2. Meetings

These were held according to the provisions of the programme:

- Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties in Geneva (29 March – 1 April 1982).

- Conference of plenipotentiaries for the adoption of the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas (2 – 3 April 1982).


- Meeting of representatives of PAP Focal Points in Split (6 – 8 December 1982).


Reports or minutes were kept of all those meetings and have been sent to the Contracting Parties.

- The extraordinary meeting of the Parties at mid-term decided to readjust budget estimates for 1983 in the light of the financial situation as at 31.12.1981 and after having re-examined the programme's development.

- The Bureau meetings with the Secretariat were marked by fruitful exchanges of view on the programme's development given the available funds which were dangerously low in 1981. The reports of the Bureau meetings, sent to all the Parties, enabled the latter to keep abreast of the Secretariat's activities and of the main events or problems which occurred.

- The Conference of Plenipotentiaries of 2 and 3 April 1982 decided to adopt a Protocol on specially protected areas. Fifteen countries took part in this conference and eight countries signed the Protocol immediately after the end of the conference.

- The meeting of the Working Group on Scientific and Technical Co-operation for MED POL adopted the necessary recommendations for the implementation of MED POL Phase II in its two aspects of monitoring and research. The aim of the adopted guidelines is to make monitoring procedures more uniform in order to make the results comparable and coherent.
The aim of the PAP meetings was to follow up the recommendations of the Cannes meeting in a more concrete way.

Finally, the Meeting of Experts on the revision of the Rules of Procedure produced a report which will serve as a basis for the work of the next ordinary meeting of the Parties.

7.1.3. Blue Plan

In spite of the difficulties, both financially and as regards co-ordination, which have arisen in 1981, for which those responsible for the activity are in no way to blame, the Blue Plan has made good progress, especially in 1982. In fact 12 evaluations, five of which are complete and 7 still to be completed by mid-1983, are a decisive exploratory achievement for the 2nd phase. Twelve end-of-evaluation seminars have been held to discuss the content and conclusions of each evaluation.

States expressed their co-operation by the decision by some of them to host these seminars and to bear part of the costs. (Tunisia, Greece, Yugoslavia, Spain, France).

The Bureau, together with those responsible for the Blue Plan, believes that at the present stage and before going on to Phase II, it is necessary to invite all member states to reflect on and discuss the results obtained so far. It is proposed that part of 1983 should be set aside for this purpose, subject to the proposals which will be made by the next meeting of Blue Plan Focal Points planned to be held at the end of January 1983.

It was also noted that the system of collecting and processing data, relative to the Mediterranean basin, produced better results than had been expected.

7.1.4. Priority Actions

This part of the Mediterranean Action Plan suffered from a lack of financial support by UNDP. The Cannes meeting had in fact recommended a re-orientation of this programme in order to take into account the lack of funds in relation to the ambitions of the initial projects.

The years 1981 and 1982 were devoted to this painful but necessary reconversion. The last Focal Points meeting in Split appears to have established this re-orientation for which the funds requested for 1983-1984 and 1985 have been recalculated.

The necessary liaison between this programme and the Blue Plan has been studied and appropriate measures have been put forward. Special mention should be made of the Yugoslav Government's constant and considerable support of this programme, the housing and permanent costs of which it has covered.
7.1.5. MED-POL

In 1981 the Cannes meeting decided to close MED POL I and to implement a programme on MED POL II which would be more general and binding than the previous one, in conformity with the guidelines of annex V of the report of the above-mentioned meeting.

The programme comprised two parts: monitoring of pollution, and research.

Two types of problems arose in the execution of the programme during the two years 1981 and 1982. First there was a lack of funds in 1981 and the States were not able to implement monitoring in good time, because of a lack of infrastructure and funds in most of these countries.

Indecision regarding co-operation between the Co-ordinating Unit and competent national bodies also caused delays.

The Bureau studied the various aspects of the problem and concluded that the recommendations of the Working Group on Scientific and Technical Co-operation for MED POL covered technical and scientific matters, but neglected the structural aspect for which the group did not accept competence. This structural aspect should have been submitted for the Contracting Parties decision, at the extraordinary meeting in Geneva, held in March 1982.

In order to improve the situation and in view of the procedural difficulties which may occur in the formalisation of an agreement between the member States and UNEP, the Bureau proposes that the adhesion by each of the Contracting Parties to a specific form of presentation for a monitoring programme in its own territorial waters should be communicated by letter to the Secretariat, who would take note and express its approval in an answering letter to the one it will have received from each state.

The Bureau therefore proposes that the third ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties adopts a resolution which could be formulated as follows:

"The Meeting, having taken note of the Bureau Report concerning the implementation of monitoring of territorial waters in the framework of MED POL II, asks each one of the Contracting Parties to define the national bodies in charge of monitoring in their territorial waters, and to set up a monitoring project which will be sent to the Co-ordinating Unit of MED POL at the Secretariat. This monitoring project must be in conformity with the guidelines issued by the Working Group on Scientific and Technical Co-operation for MED POL, so as to ensure the uniformity of the data collected throughout the Mediterranean basin. Part of the document must be based on a uniform model, whereas another part could vary according to the particular conditions in each country."

Furthermore, to ensure maximum co-operation, Contracting Parties should receive periodic, at least half yearly information, on the activities of the Co-ordinating Unit, the use of funds allocated for MED POL monitoring and research, especially those concerning laboratory equipment and current research projects.
Finally it should be noted that a very praiseworthy effort has been made to draw conclusion from the results of MED POL I and to liquidate the first stage without interrupting continuity with the second phase.

7.1.6. Specially Protected Areas

At the Secretariat’s initiative an experts’ report has been produced concerning the establishment of a centre in Tunisia. Up to the present time there has been no concrete proposal for action in this field.

7.2. Other activities

The Secretariat has informed the Parties of a report on off-shore exploration and of another on the Interstate Guarantee Fund. Letters have been sent to the Contracting Parties asking them to ratify the Protocols on pollution from land-based sources and on specially protected areas. These ratifications have not been obtained, with the exception of the ratification of the first Protocol by Tunisia and France.

7.3. Financial matters

The Secretariat and the Bureau have been constantly preoccupied with problems caused by the late payment of contributions. The financial situation throughout 1981 was often critical and led to delays in the development of activities. The situation improved in 1982. For further details please refer to the relative paragraphs on the financial situation and to the statements attached to the reports of the Bureau and the Extraordinary Meeting in Geneva in 1981.

The question of revising the basis of calculating member States’ contributions has remained in suspense.

7.4. United Nations Fund for the Mediterranean and alternative solutions

By virtue of the Cannes meeting’s mandate given to the Bureau to study alternative solutions for the management of funds allocated for MAP activities, the Bureau has studied the documents prepared by the Secretariat and has proposed a system of management the principles of which are described in the report of the Bureau meeting of February 1982.

A document has been produced which the Bureau will distribute to the Parties for their information. The project was not accepted by UNEP because of United Nations regulations.

A reversal of U.N. policies is possible, however, making consideration and discussion of the project useful in case of a future follow-up.

It is equally desirable that the Secretariat should take decisions in various fields which are of interest to the MAP in agreement with the Bureau, and that authorization by Nairobi should not always be a necessary prior condition.
7.5. **Co-operation, training and information**

The Bureau has studied various aspects of these actions and has produced a document which will be distributed to the Contracting Parties at their next Ordinary Meeting.

7.6. **Conclusions**

7.6.1. The Bureau believes that on the whole, during this period considerable progress has been made in Mediterranean co-operation and in the management of action programmes, as is demonstrated by the following facts:

- All Mediterranean countries, with the exception of Albania, are at present Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and to one of its Protocols. Albania has shown some interest in our Action Plan and has asked for information on contractual instruments and on actions taken.

- Two additional protocols were adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries and are about to be ratified.

- The cohesion between the Contracting Parties has never failed and appears to be re-inforced by each successive meeting which enables them to evaluate their previous efforts and those still required in order to achieve their common aim which is the protection of the marine environment against pollution.

- The Secretariat and the Co-ordinating Unit are established in Athens, in one of the Mediterranean countries which is a Contracting Party.

- Several countries (Greece, Spain, Tunisia, Yugoslavia, France) have hosted Blue Plan confrontation seminars and have contributed to the costs of these meetings.

- Countries which have accepted MAP Activity Centres (France, Malta, Yugoslavia) continue to support them and to contribute to their costs.

- Joint projects of technical assistance to Mediterranean countries on the study of deballasting installations for ships have been set up by Contracting Parties (EBC, Italy) together with international organizations.

7.6.2. **Co-operation between the Secretariat and the Bureau** has developed in an atmosphere of understanding and mutual help. It has made possible a continuous development of programmes and a concerted effort in the transfer of the headquarters from Geneva to Athens and in the choice of some of the equipment for the new headquarters. Unfortunately the Bureau was not aware of some of the choices and decisions, such as the one on data processing equipment or the opening of a recruitment campaign. These matters were dealt with directly by Nairobi where decisions are taken. It is important that such decisions would be made in Athens in future, in consultation with the Contracting Parties, represented by the Bureau, or during their Ordinary Meetings.
It would be desirable in future for the Bureau to hold at least two meetings a year, and for reports of these meetings to be made available to the Contracting Parties in sufficient detail to provide them with continuous information on current activities.

7.6.3. The Bureau noted with satisfaction that national, regional and international groups have expressed a wish to co-operate in the activities of MAP, among them, the Mediterranean Conference of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Association of Greek Shipowners, the Intermunicipal Secretariat for the Protection of the Mediterranean, and ALECSO.

8. **Adoption of the minutes of the meeting**

    Having completed the examination of the items of the Agenda, the Bureau discussed the minutes of the meeting and adopted them.

9. **Closure of the Bureau Meeting**

    The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman of the Bureau at 18.00 hours on 14 December 1982.
LIST OF ANNEXES

I. Agenda of the Meeting of the Bureau
II. Financial Statement by the Secretariat on the 31st December
III. Budgets for 1983-1984-1985
IV. Fund estimates for the end of 82 - 83 - 84 - 85
V. Draft for the management of MAP funds
VI. Drafts for co-operative actions
ANNEX I

Meeting of the Bureau of Contracting Parties
Athens, 13 - 14th December 1982

AGENDA

1. Co-ordinator's report of activities from October - December 1982
2. Place and date of the 3rd Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties.
3. Provisional Agenda for the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties and commentary. (Annex I)
7. Any other questions.
8. Approval of the minutes of the meeting.
9. Closure of the meeting.
## ANNEX II
### Budget 1982

### SECTION I

<table>
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<th>Chapter</th>
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### SECTION II

| Chapter 1| Blue Plan          | 540,800       | 551,000         | --              |
| Chapter 2| PAP                | 320,000       | 24,000          | --              |
| Chapter 3| Protected areas    | 125,000       | --              | --              |

**TOTAL**

|          | 3,412,500          | 2,732,600     | 900,000         |
## ANNEX III

**Budgets for 1983 - 1984 - 1985**

### Expenses

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### Section II

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<td>b) Med. Data</td>
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### Receipts

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<td></td>
<td>3,924</td>
<td>4,497</td>
<td>4,845</td>
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1.1 Fund's existing facilities:
- committed for 1983: $900,000
- not committed: $116,000
\[ \text{Total: } 1,016,000 \]

1.2 Unpaid Contributions:
- Before 1982: $505,096
- From 1982: $915,302
\[ \text{Total: } 1,420,398 \]

- Contributions paid in advance for 1983, to be deducted: $10,567
\[ \text{Total assets: } 1,409,831 \]
\[ \text{Total: } 2,425,831 \]

2. Deficits of 1983, 1984 and 1985 to be deducted from the above assets:
- 1983: $260,000
- 1984: $397,000
- 1985: $245,000

3. Late Payments; to be estimated normally after 1983:
- $400,000

4. Probable state of disposable assets in the funds at the end of 1983, 84 and 85:
- 1983: $2,425,831 - $400,000 - $260,000 = $1,765,831
- 1984: $1,765,831 - $397,000 = $1,368,831
- 1985: $1,368,831 - $245,000 = $1,123,831