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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES  
OF THE REGIONAL OIL COMBATING CENTRE  
IN 1983



IMO

REGIONAL OIL-COMBATING CENTRE  
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEACENTRE REGIONAL MEDITERRANEEN  
DE LUTTE CONTRE LA POLLUTION  
PAR LES HYDROCARBURESUNEP/IG.49/INF.8  
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REGIONAL OIL COMBATING CENTRE IN 1983

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1. Following the programme proposed for 1983 in the summary report prepared for the Meeting of the Contracting Parties at Dubrovnik, the Centre developed a number of new actions in addition to its usual activities. The most important ones are listed below. Detailed information and reports are available on request.
  - 1.1 Workshop on assistance in oil pollution combating in the Mediterranean "MEDAS 83", organized between 27 and 30 June 1983 was held on the premises of ROCC in Malta. Representatives (normally ROCC Focal Points) from twelve coastal States, EEC, IMO and Helsinki Commission, participated. The assistance offered by the Centre during the past six years and new initiatives were discussed. It resulted in the proposal of a work programme for 1984-1985-1986 (see Report).
  - 1.2 Following the recommendations of MEDAS 83, MEDIPOL 83 training course was organized in Marseille, France, between 07 and 18 November 1983. Eighteen participants from eleven coastal States attended the course. Thirty six lectures, two visits, a field exercise and a case study were included in the programme covering all the aspects of marine oil pollution with particular emphasis on contingency planning (10 lectures).
  - 1.3 A video-cassette on ROCC training programme (MEDIPOL) was prepared in collaboration with the Port Autonome de Marseille.

- 1.4 Compared to 1982, this year twice as many fellowships were given to the Mediterranean coastal States. In addition, a new course on training of trainers organized in the region was offered for the first time. Twelve participants from eight Mediterranean coastal States attended the following courses:
- . Training of trainers (Marseille, France, June 1983):  
2 from Egypt.
  - . IP/WSL Oil Pollution Control Course (Ipswich, U.K., May 1983): 5 from Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon and Libya.
  - . INFOPOL 83: (France, June 1983): 5 from Malta, Morocco and Syria.
- 1.5 A National Seminar on marine pollution prevention, control and response was organized for the first time in the region. This was jointly organized by the Government of Cyprus, IMO and ROCC in Cyprus between 19 and 23 September 1983. Forty Cypriot officials attended the Seminar which included 21 lectures, a visit, a demonstration of equipment and a spill exercise.
- 1.6 Assistance for the revision of the National Contingency Plan of Cyprus was given through the mission of ROCC Technical Consultant in September, following a request expressed by the Cypriot Focal Point at MEDAS Workshop.
- 1.7 A First Alert Exercise, aimed at testing the Standard Alert Format (disseminated in 1982) was held in March 1983. Fifteen coastal States took part in this exercise. The correct use of the Format in most of the replies proved its usefulness.
- 1.8 List of Alerts and Accidents was regularly updated according to the information received from the Mediterranean coastal States and other sources.
- 1.9 Assistance to MEMAC (part of ROPME) was offered (consultancy mission) on the occasion of the Nowruz oil spillage in March and April. This was done following a request received from UNEP.

- 1.10 The revised issue of "Inventory of Experts in Oil Pollution Combating in the Mediterranean Region" was compiled and finalized for dissemination in December, as recommended at MEDAS 83.
- 1.11 The revised issue of "Directory of Organizations Offering Services in Case of Emergency in the Mediterranean" was compiled and finalized for dissemination in December.
- 1.12 The new Questionnaire for the planned "Catalogue of Commercialized Equipment and Products for Oil Pollution Combating" was prepared in June and made ready for dissemination.
- 1.13 Two issues of ROCC NEWS were published in English and French during 1983 (No. 10 - Spring and No. 11 - Autumn).
- 1.14 Survey of ROCC NEWS readership / subscription was done in May.
- 1.15 Official visits were paid to Yugoslavia (April), Cyprus (September), and France (November), in order to follow-up and strengthen co-operation between ROCC and said coastal States.
- 1.16 Lectures were given by the Director of the Centre at the following training courses: INFOPOL (France) in June (1); SOGESTA (Italy) in September (1); National Seminar (Cyprus) in September (1) and MEDIPOL (France) in November (5). The Technical Consultant presented 6 lectures at MEDIPOL in November.
- 1.17 On the request of Tunisia, an expert of the region was sent by the Centre to provide a lecture on oil pollution response at the occasion of the First National Week of Civil Protection, in May.
- 1.18 Following the invitation of the French Institute of Petroleum, the Technical Consultant attended PROTECMAR 5 dispersants' trail held off Brittany, France, in October.
- 1.19 Lega Navale Italiana awarded the silver plate of "Uomini del Mare" to the Director of the Centre, in June 1983, for his achievements in developing co-operation in the Mediterranean in the field of marine oil pollution control. The Director was invited to give a

lecture on this topic and on the role of ROCC on the occasion of the International Seminar "Mare e Territorio" which was organized in Agrigento (Italy) in December 1983.

- 1.20 At the invitation of the Mediterranean Co-ordinating Unit, the Director of the Centre participated to a Meeting of co-ordination between Directors of Regional Projects within the Mediterranean Action Plan, to the first day of the Bureau Meeting and to the Second Meeting of Working Group for Scientific and Technical Co-operation for MED-POL in November 1983, Athens.
- 1.21 The Director of the Centre participated to the Ad Hoc Working Group on development of Regional anti-pollution arrangements at MEPC 19 in December, London.

## 2. CONCLUSIONS

The actions listed above are only those which were started and finalized in 1983. They clearly indicate the development of activities and improvement of cost efficiency of the Centre which in 1983 benefitted of an increased budget compared to 1982 with the same staff. Taking into account the active participation of Lebanon in 1983, the present programme of the Centre is now offering full assistance to all the Mediterranean coastal States preparing a National Contingency Plan. A number of other actions in the fields of assistance, contingency planning, information and communication have been drafted, initiated or already prepared for 1984/86 period, as recommended by the representatives of the Mediterranean coastal States during MEDAS Meeting. It was understood that budgetary limitations may consequently limit the planned activities of the Centre, but, in our opinion, the programme for 1984, as proposed in the Final Report of MEDAS (see Annex), can be achieved within the frame of allocated funds provided that the present organization and the personnel of ROCC are not changed.