

NATURE IN FOCUS



Bulletin of the European Information Centre for Nature Conservation

No. 1

Spring
1968

COUNCIL OF
EUROPE

STRASBOURG
FRANCE



**EUROPEAN
INFORMATION
CENTRE
FOR
NATURE
CONSERVATION**

Aesthetic and cultural values apart, the cost in economic and social terms of inadequate conservation of natural resources not only to our own but to future generations, is immeasurable. In the battle against the exhaustion or misuse of natural resources and of our natural environment, the co-operation of a better informed public is essential, since all groups of citizens are in one way or another tapping these resources and using this environment. It is therefore of vital importance to make the public aware of the dangers attendant upon a thoughtless exploitation of these resources and to inculcate in them a better knowledge of what their behaviour towards their natural environment should be.

To this end the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe agreed to set up in 1967, under the auspices of the European Committee for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, a European Information Centre for Nature Conservation.

The Centre is a unit of the Secretariat General working in close collaboration with National Agencies set up in the member States of the Council of Europe. It is guided and supervised by a Steering Committee which reports annually to the European Committee.

The purpose of the Centre is to stimulate and improve publicity on nature conservation by pooling available ideas and materials and promoting co-operation between those bodies, public and private, concerned.

The tree, symbolising nature, surrounded by the circle of twelve stars of the Council of Europe, is the emblem adopted for the Council's Nature Conservation activities.

The design of the emblem was commissioned from Mr. Prosper du Bois-Reymond of Zurich, Switzerland.

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1967-68**

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Cover photo: Scene at Oberbayern, Fed. Rep. of Germany
(Photo: Dr. O. Kraos).

EDITORIAL

This is the first issue of the Bulletin of the European Information Centre for Nature Conservation.

We have decided to call it "Nature in Focus". Our aim is to disseminate ideas on how to publicise nature conservation. The Bulletin is thus oriented to all those who are concerned with explaining the need to conserve nature and natural resources and how to do it. Its contents will be based directly on information supplied by the National Agencies of the Centre.

"Nature in Focus" will be issued twice a year to start with. Each issue will normally contain these sections:

- (i) a case study in depth of a publicity campaign, outlining methods, organisation, results, etc.;
- (ii) articles on major events in nature conservation;
- (iii) short notes on conservation information questions.

In this issue, however, the third section is devoted to explaining the tasks of the Centre.

John C. Robertson

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MESSAGE IN THE SEA

GEORGES TENDRON

Service de Conservation de la Nature
Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris.

Organisations acknowledged to be serving a useful public purpose and other cultural associations of essential importance frequently find difficulty today in making ends meet. Times have changed, and the wealthy patrons who used to assist them are becoming rare. These organisations, in order to carry out the tasks they have set themselves, can no longer appeal exclusively to a small circle, however distinguished; they must both make themselves known to a far wider public and at the same time arouse in them an urgent sense of the need to support and defend worthy causes. The difficulty is greatly increased by the vast quantity of products—often in competition with one another—as well as ideas, in general circulation. The population explosion of modern times, moreover, only serves to multiply the major problems demanding additional forms of patronage. Official and semi-official bodies, national and international organisations equally find themselves frequently hindered by inadequate funds and a lack of organisational structures and flexibility. Even they are not always in a position to make use of new methods for the collection and distribution of information even if these are necessary and proven.

We have no intention here of proposing any authoritative and final answer to this problem, but only of paving the way for the contribution which business firms can make. That the business world can be inspired by a sense of disinterested

purpose and community spirit is borne out by the campaign for nature conservation carried on for the last five years by the Franco-Belgian weekly "Femmes d'Aujourd'hui", to whom credit for "Operation Message in the Sea" is due. The idea underlying this operation was to enlist a large number of its readers¹ in an enterprise of value to mankind.

World Wide Operation

The operation began in 1962 with a seaside game: 1,159 bottles containing messages from Belgian children were dropped into the North Sea. The French Central Hydrographic Service of the Navy speedily found themselves interested in the results, and from that time on gave unqualified support to the organisers. Following this success the organisers proceeded to obtain the aid and backing of official and private scientific and tourist organisations, both Belgian and international, such as the Department of Nature Conservation at the National Museum of Natural History, the Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, the International Committee of Tourism, etc.

In 1964, 150,000 messages were dropped into the North Sea and the Bay of Biscay. The undertaking thus took on European proportions, and the traditional bottles were replaced by plastic envelopes similar to those used by the Navy. These envelopes were dropped from the "Louis Lumière", a ship belonging to the Messageries Maritimes, and His Royal Highness Prince Albert, President of the Belgian Red Cross, was present

¹ Circulation of "Femmes d'Aujourd'hui" between 1,600,000, and 1,800,000 weekly.

at the ceremonies attending its departure. The experiment proved the existence of surface currents which make prohibited zones for the discharge of oil residues meaningless, and revealed the existence of accumulations of oil, often in enormous quantities, waiting for exceptionally high winds to drive them on the coast. It was at this point that the French National Society for Conservation of Nature awarded "Femmes d'Aujourd'hui" its Grand Silver Medal.

The Operation continued to spread, and in 1966 became world wide, when it adopted the name of "World Operation Message in the Sea" and with the support of the International Union of Official Tourist Organisations, was selected as one of the main themes of International Tourist Year (1967), proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly. Heads of State, Ministers, and International celebrities gave their names in support of the Operation.

The list of patrons is as follows:

H. E. Leopold Sedar Senghor, President of the Senegalese Republic.

H.R.H. Rainier III, Sovereign Prince of Monaco, President of the International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea.

H.R.H. Prince Albert of Belgium, President of the Belgian Red Cross.

Mr. Peter Smithers, Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Mr. J. Rouillier, Secretary General of IMCO.

Mr. Raymond Marcellin, Deputy Minister attached to the Cabinet of the Prime Minister, responsible for the Plan and for Town and Country Planning.

Mr. Pierre Messmer, Minister for the Army.

Mr. Olivier Guichard, Minister of Industry.

Mr. Pierre Dumas, Secretary of State attached to the Cabinet of the Prime Minister, responsible for Tourism.

Mr. Jean Morin, Secretary General of the Merchant Navy.

Mr. André Gougenheim, Chief Hydrographic Surveyor of the French Navy, Member of the Institute and of the Central Astronomical Office.

The following Belgian Ministers:

Mr. Pierre Wigny, Minister of French Culture.

Mr. C. Heger, Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. R. A. Van Alslande, Minister of Flemish Culture.

Mr. Frans Grootjans, Minister of Education.

Mr. Jan Piers, Minister—Secretary of State for the Civil Service and Tourism.

Mr. Toussaint, Minister—Secretary of State for Education.



Also under the patronage of The Merchant Navy. The International Union of Official Tourist Organisations.

Extent and Scope

La Compagnie Générale Transatlantique and Air France co-operated in the dropping of large numbers of messages. 250,000 were dropped overboard from the "France" on the Havre-New York route, and the American and Canadian Press gave the enterprise an exceptionally friendly reception. A few months later 50,000 messages transported as far as Port-de-France by Air France were dropped overboard in the Caribbean Sea by the S.S. Antilles. The results were received by the French Central Hydrographic Service. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs then commissioned the international department of the French radio and television service to make a twenty-minute film on "World Operation Message in the Sea",

Title picture shows the Liberian tanker "Torrey Canyon" breaking up on the Seven Stones rocks in March 1967. This incident brought the great danger of sea pollution by oil sharply before the attention of the general public. (Photo: Central Office of Information, London.)

Photograph above shows Prince Rainier III of Monaco, President of the International Commission for scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean, expressing the support of the Principality of Monaco for the "Message in the Sea" campaign. (Photo: supplied by the "Museum national d'Histoire naturelle", Paris.)

OPERATION MONDIALE
MESSAGE A LA MER

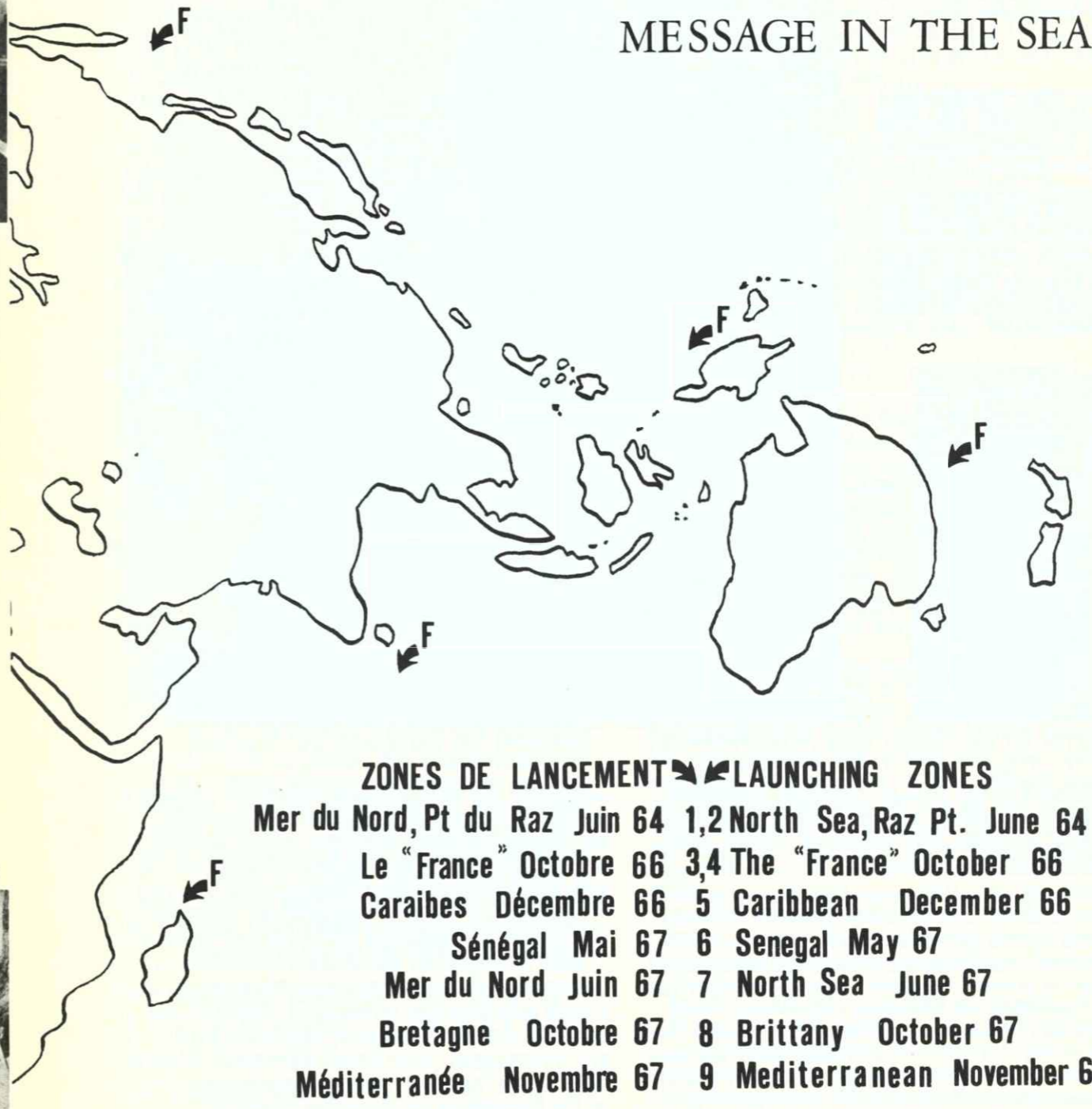


Map drawn by Secretariat based on material supplied by
The National Museum of Natural History, PARIS.

Carte dessinée par le Secretariat sur la base d'informations
communiquées par le Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle
PARIS.

BARTHOLOMEW'S 'NORDIC' PROJECTION

WORLD OPERATION
MESSAGE IN THE SEA



ZONES DE LANCEMENT LAUNCHING ZONES

Mer du Nord, Pt du Raz	Jun 64	1,2	North Sea, Raz Pt.	June 64
Le "France"	Octobre 66	3,4	The "France"	October 66
Caraibes	Décembre 66	5	Caribbean	December 66
Sénégal	Mai 67	6	Senegal	May 67
Mer du Nord	Jun 67	7	North Sea	June 67
Bretagne	Octobre 67	8	Brittany	October 67
Méditerranée	Novembre 67	9	Mediterranean	November 67
Avenir		F	Future	

The Seven Isles, an archipelago situated to the north of Perros Guirec, acts as a refuge of many sea birds. Unfortunately, the oil which invaded the region did not spare the islands and many of the birds there were victims of the viscous sludge. (Photo: right—A sea Parrot taken from the sea of oil at the Seven Isles—French Press Agency.)

Below: A «Message in the Sea» lamp, symbolising the fight against oil pollution, presented to H.E. President Senghor of Senegal on 28th May 1967.

This oil-burning lamp comes from a tanker. Its flame, lit by the President himself during the presentation, will burn until the fight is won, i.e. until the jettisoning of oil in the sea is totally forbidden by law. (Photo: Jean Cassefières.)



and pollution of the oceans. This film, translated into seven languages, will be seen by television audiences of some 200 million in Africa, Asia and North and South America.

The documentary film was distributed at the beginning of 1967. In the same year the African continent joined the "operation". Mr. Senghor, President of the Senegalese Republic, personally took part in events organised by the "Operation". 50,000 messages were dropped into the sea along the Senegalese coast. Air Africa, the air company set up by the Common Afro-Malagasy Organisation, gave it unqualified support. In a ceremony commemorative of the first 50,000 messages dropped in the North Sea, H.R.H. Princess Paola of Belgium dropped the 500,001st message, written by President Senghor, overboard. This was countersigned by Mr. Haman Diiori, President of Nigher and the Common Afro-Malagasy Organisation, pledging 15 African countries to unconditional support. A few weeks later, during proceedings

organised by the "World Operation Message in the Sea" at Lorient, where Mr. Raymond Marcelin, Deputy Minister attached to the Cabinet of the Prime Minister and responsible for the Plan and Town and Country Planning, took the chair, Mr. Forfana, Senegalese Minister for Information and Tourism, brought the Breton fishermen friendly greetings from the fishermen of Senegal.

In November 1967 Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Monaco presided over a meeting of the "Operation" which took place in the Principality, and messages were dropped into the sea from the Cousteau floating laboratory of the Delegation for Scientific Research.

Furthermore one of the countries of East Europe, Rumania, has officially made known its desire to take part in the organisation, and the Far East is already awaiting the first dropping of messages, which will shortly take place from a ship outward bound from Bombay.

It is already possible to make out a list of successes achieved by "World Operation Message in the Sea". All those responsible for nature conservation, whether on a national or international level, whether they have pledged support or not, can only rejoice over the proportions achieved by this campaign for conservation of the ocean. All the more so since the establishment of a central body and the development of the different operations were made under conditions that none of them would have been in a position to assure, let alone even imagine. Those of them who have played a close or remote part in "Operation" have succeeded in reaching a wider public often little aware of their activities. The propaganda and publicity achieved in various categories of the Press is proof enough. As an essential counter part "World Operation Message in the Sea" has provided serious subject-matter for the specialised press, which has devoted considerable space to it. This information, always available in principle, has been made widely available to the public in practice by the fact that organisations and individuals, frequently very different, have worked together in close proximity. This has created a form of "amplifier" which might never have come into existence without the "Operation" to provide a focus. The contacts which have been made, moreover, will in future undoubtedly play a part in the professional work of all who participated.

Scientific Results

This "amplifier" formed the basis of a veritable "brains trust" against ocean pollution. Discoveries were made with its assistance. The colour blue, which Professor Capart claimed was invisible to seabirds, was employed in the manufacture of the messages after an experiment undertaken in the roadsteads of Brest with the Central Hydrographic Service of the Navy, which had employed orange for such purposes. The results were very convincing and blue was thenceforward adopted by the Navy for its investigations into Marine Dynamics. The UBC-Sidac laboratories perfected a special material on which the messages were printed, a form of plastic paper, impervious to decay and water-repellent, which in the near future may perhaps revolutionise marine cartography. And finally, above all, the information on surface currents collected through the hundreds of thousands of messages which have been dropped into the sea throughout the world has proved a contribution of incalculable scientific value to the Central Hydrographic Service.

The Human Factor

Apart from the organisations for the conservation of nature, other bodies, including firms which supported the Operation, such as the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, Air France, Air Africa, have found themselves in the limelight and have gained prestige in many countries. Human contacts have been established from

nation to nation, as shown in the friendly greetings of the Senegalese to the Breton fishermen transmitted by M. Forfana, the Senegalese Minister, who attended the Breton Message to the Sea Day expressly for this purpose. The International Union of Official Tourist Organisations found the "Operation" a theme of great interest for International Tourist Year. In view of the value of the information and help it provided the Council of IMCO (Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation) decided to urge all member States to enter into contact with it.

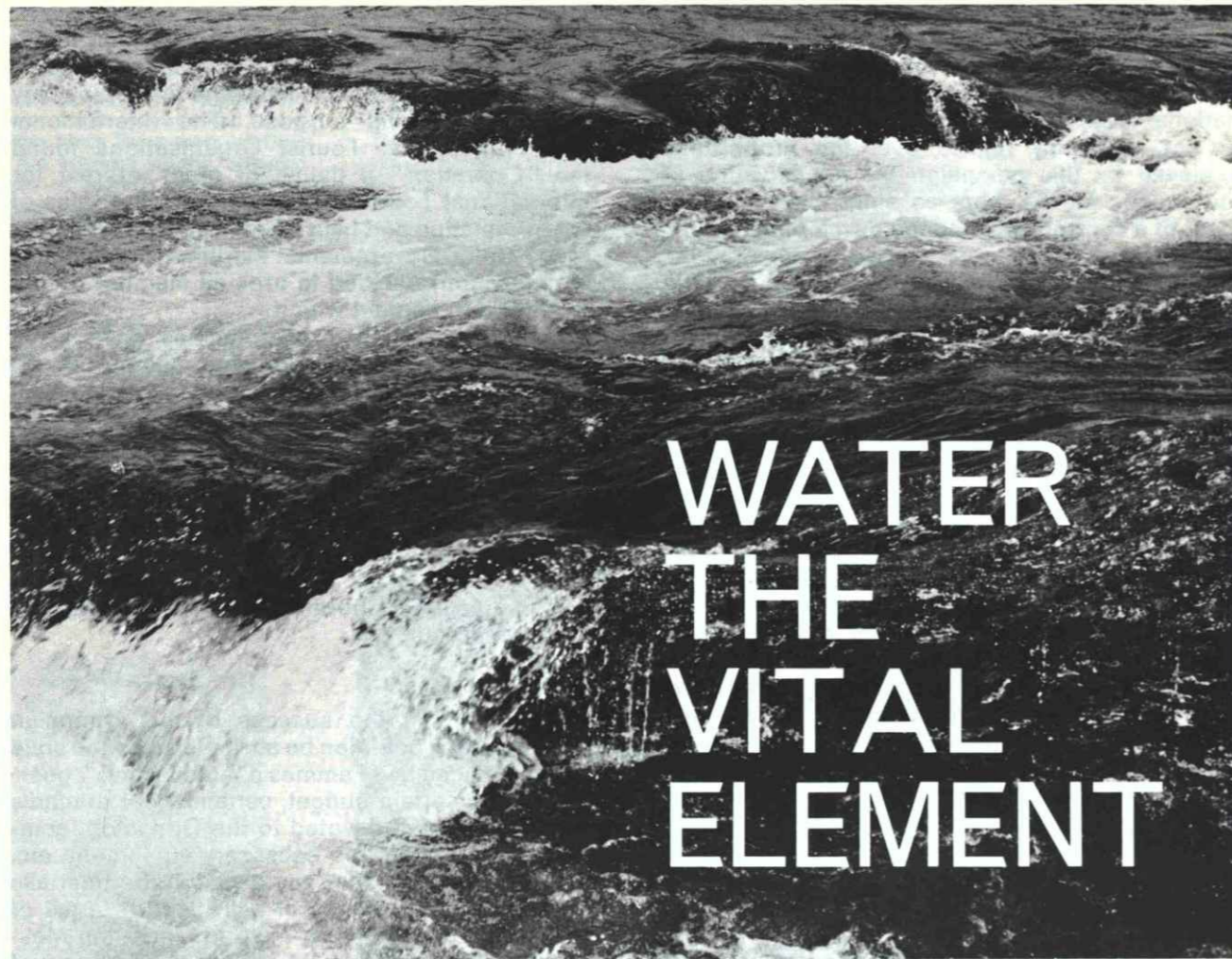
Many distinguished personalities have given their support to the campaign against ocean pollution, signing their names—sometimes with the addition of a message or comment—in the "Golden Book" of the World Operation Message to the Sea. Among these names figure those of President Senghor, Princess Paola, Prince Albert, Prince Rainier of Monaco, and the Duke of Windsor, and others well-known in the sciences and the arts, such as Jean Rostand, Gougenheim, Capert, Maurice Chevalier, Alain Bombard, and André Maurois.

Conclusions

To what can the success of this campaign against ocean pollution be attributed? To the solid basis provided by "Femmes d'Aujourd'hui", guaranteeing a certain budget, certainly, but primarily to a trained staff devoted to the Operation, complete with offices, the necessary equipment, etc. To this must be added the decision to undertake an uninterrupted series of activities. In terms of technique and activities, "World Operation Message in the Sea" has introduced a new form of patronage.

Useful and attractive however as this new form of patronage may be, it demands considerable caution. Only activities undertaken by sound organisations of good repute can be accepted for consideration before they are given advice, assistance and support. It is a difficult choice; the proposals put forward may be very tempting. Yet a campaign for the protection of ladybirds, for instance, organised by a manufacturer of chemical products, would be out of the question. Partners in such an operation as the World Operation Message to the Sea must have no ulterior motives. Double-dealing would gravely damage the character of the cause and the institutions concerned.

Since patronage in the form of support for techniques and activities is a new formula, at least in Western Europe, it has to prove its worth. We therefore send our best wishes for the successful conclusion of "World Operation Message in the Sea" and warmly welcome the new project of "Femmes d'Aujourd'hui", which is organising a European and what may prove to be a world campaign for the protection of wild animals. France will shortly be the first to follow in the footsteps of Belgium, where "Operation Noah's Ark" has begun.



WATER THE VITAL ELEMENT

Senator Housiaux (Belgium)

Chairman of the Organising Committee for the Launching Ceremony for the Water Charter and the Water Conservation Campaign of the Council of Europe.

In 1963, proposals emanating from four of its committees—Cultural, Social, Agriculture and Local Authorities—were laid before the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe. Each of these Committees, representing its own interest, brought before the Consultative Assembly the problem of water pollution.

An ad hoc Working Party was set up and finally, at its October session in 1965, the Assembly adopted twelve basic principles relating to water pollution and, inevitably, water resources.

At the same time, the question was being raised at the Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (Geneva) which, in a different form, adopted principles identical to those recognised by the Council of Europe, leaving aside only the question of international waters, as this would have required prior negotiations with governments.

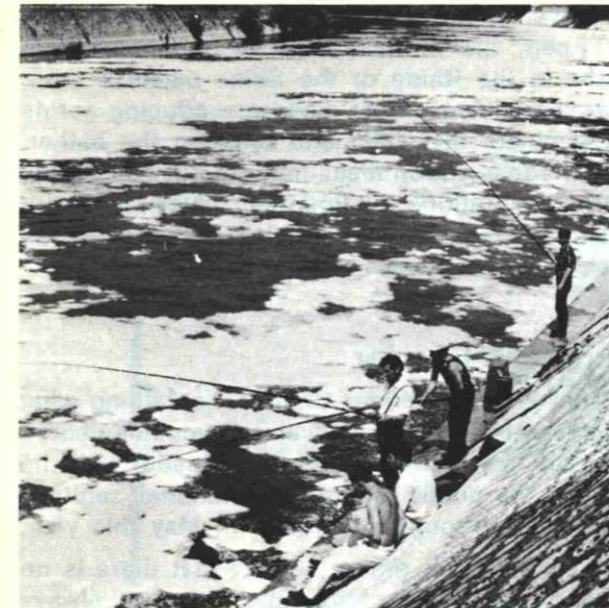
Thus, not only the representatives of eighteen European States, but also governmental experts from all the European member States of the United Nations, adopted an identical line of conduct. This event, full of promise for the future, is worth stressing.

For water, the source of life, is rare and precious and as industry develops and men become more numerous, so its rarity augments and its purity is threatened.

Legal Measures

No-one today would deny this fact. It has thus become essential to give legal and statutory force to those lines of action laid down in the principles on which agreement has been reached. One encouraging circumstance favours the solution of the problem: most Western European States—France, Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom (to mention only the largest)—have during the past eight years

Title Photo: Ragner Frislid.



Detergent on the Seine at Paris. (Photo: UNESCO.)

adopted new legislative measures providing more or less similar solutions. Despite the diverse origins of their respective legal systems, the texts they have drawn up agree in their essentials.

Such a circumstance will facilitate any international agreement which might be envisaged, and this fact is now engrossing the attention of a Working Group of the Council of Europe.

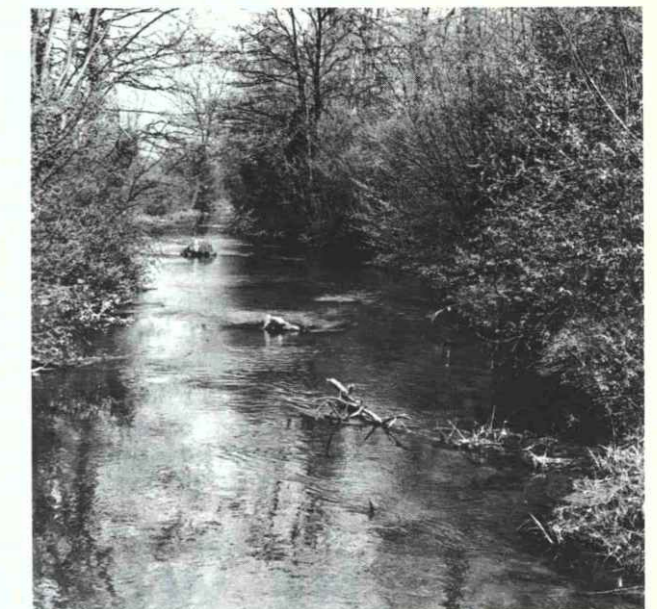
At first sight, such an agreement should deal with international waters—those which form the boundary between one State and another or those which flow from one into another. In fact, this question does arise. Does national sovereignty include the right to pollute "ad lib" waters which are shared with a neighbour or to cause, in States downstream, damage so great that it might even



result in the water received being unfit for any sort of use? To admit the evidence for a negative reply to these questions, is at the same time to recognise the difficulty of finding satisfactory solutions. Nevertheless, the problem is still being limited by the fact that only international waters are under consideration.

Industrial usage

Industries remain the largest users of water. Might not an intolerable financial burden, reflected in the selling price of goods produced, be imposed on an industry obtaining its water supply from a pure source, yet obliged to return it to the river in the same state of purity which it had originally possessed? But can a user further downstream legitimately be to pay large sums for the purifying of already polluted water, thus inflicting another kind of burden on the price of his products?



This is a problem already being encountered in each of our countries, but it becomes increasingly acute when met at international level. It is only too easy for a given user to bring pressure on his government, by showing that his foreign competitor is not faced with the same purificatory obligations... or even if he is, to say that the law is not applied equally rigorously in his neighbour's country as in his own.

Shared Resources

A further complication arises from the necessity to compensate for the lack of water, if only

Photograph above shows water contributing to the beauty of a scene. (Photo: Council of Europe.)

Photograph (left) shows industrial and transportation use of water. Scene at Basin de Maashaven, Rotterdam. (Photo: K.M. Aerocarto m.v.)

for limited domestic uses, in one catchment area, by borrowing in ever increasing amounts from another.

If national legislation has tried to solve the problems arising within its own borders, international law must intervene to achieve uniformity, in the different countries, of measures taken to maintain and conserve the quality and quantity of available water. This step is essential, because one of the elements affecting human life itself is as stake.

But to conserve water resources, to carry out unavoidable cleansing which self-purification is powerless to perform, to prevent elements which cannot be decomposed by biological means being discharged into the water—all this implies a large outlay, for the public authorities as well as for private individuals.

Implementation

Thus it is not surprising that when one moves from legislation, which all have approved, to its implementation, there is an outcry. At this very time, the enforcement of French law is arousing violent protests in the Artois and in the North, and these are extending to the Rhine-Meuse basin, uniting Alsace and Lorraine...

That is why the Council of Europe believes that, if practical results are to be reached without too much difficulty, measures must be taken to make the public conscious of the dangers involved in the disappearance and pollution of water resources; the man-in-the-street must be told, over

and over again, that his domestic water supply is in peril; that in many places it is impossible to bathe in the Rhine or the Seine because more than a million types of disease producing germs contaminate the water and threaten the bather; that if conservation measures are not taken now, future generations will find themselves faced with a situation so grave that their health, as well as their pleasures, will be grievously affected.

European Charter

That is why a Water Charter, containing what might be termed "The Twelve Commandments" of water conservation, will be diffused, with the help of the public authorities—national, regional and local—throughout Europe in May this year.

Everyone must grasp the fact that there is no longer enough water for all; that water will always be the source of life; that without vegetation there is no water and without water, no vegetation; that water is needed to make bread as well as to make steel and that water resources must be properly managed; that our generation is accountable to future generations for this heritage and that to solve the immense problem before us today, action must be taken on a European scale.

Such an acceptance of the facts is indispensable if man is to be asked to make sacrifices.

All those concerned with the great problems of human ecology must make this struggle their own and continue until their aims are finally achieved.

THE WATER CHARTER

Prepared by the European Committee for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources on a proposal from the Consultative Assembly, the European Water Charter was unanimously adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, on behalf of the eighteen member Governments.

The Charter contains a preamble and twelve articles, each consisting of a principle accompanied by a commentary. The twelve principles are set out below. A booklet containing the complete text of the Charter is available on request.

There is no life without water. It is a treasure indispensable to all human activity.

Fresh water resources are not inexhaustible. It is essential to conserve, control, and wherever possible, to increase them.

To pollute water is to harm man and other living creatures which are dependent on water.

The quality of water must be maintained at levels suitable for the use to be made of it and, in particular, must meet appropriate public health standards.

When used water is returned to a common source, it must not impair the further uses, both public and private, to which the common source will be put.

The maintenance of an adequate vegetation cover, preferably forest land, is imperative for the conservation of water resources.

Water resources must be assessed.

The wise husbandry of water

resources must be planned by the appropriate authorities.

Conservation of water calls for intensified scientific research, training of specialists and public information services.

Water is a common heritage, the value of which must be recognised by all. Everyone has the duty to use water carefully and economically.

The management of water resources should be based on their natural basins rather than on political and administrative boundaries.

Water knows no frontiers; as a common resource it demands international co-operation.

1970 EUROPEAN CONSERVATION YEAR

EUROPEAN CONSERVATION YEAR 1970

European Conservation Year (ECY) seeks to focus public attention on the need for a fresh approach to the effects on the country side of technological progress, demographic pressures and the attitudes of a changing society. Nature knows no political frontiers; these issues can no longer be dealt with at national level alone. They concern every European citizen, whose personal responsibility it is to work for an environment fit for human habitation and enjoyment.

ECY should demonstrate the co-operative efforts of many nations to improve man's environment. It will open formally early in 1970 with a conference in Strasbourg not only of representatives of the 18 member countries of the Council, but also of many other nations, of international organisations, and of the major interests concerned with the environment. They will seek agreement on the philosophy and principles essential to maintaining and improving the environment, and their codification in a European Conservation Declaration.

For the success of ECY three main types of national activity appear essential, although these are not intended to limit the range scale of national effort.

- 1. Exhibitions and related measures, central and local, to interest people more widely in environmental issues.*
- 2. Conferences, general and specialist, to show leaders at all levels how their work and responsibilities affect the environment and how they can help to enhance it.*
- 3. Personal involvement through specific conservation projects at national and local level.*

Reports on the outcome of national and European activities in ECY and proposals for joint action will be presented in 1971 to the European Committee for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and to governments.

R. E. Boote (United Kingdom)
Chairman
Preparatory Group for
European Conservation Year.

1970 WHY?

1.



Examples of the Danger

1. AIR POLLUTION

2. LITTER

3. SOIL EROSION

2.



3.

To promote a wider understanding of:

- the importance of Europe's natural resources;
- the character, extent and effect of human impact on these resources;
- the limited capacity of Europe's natural resources to sustain the demands upon them.

To create an awareness of:

- Man's propensity to destroy his environment;
- man's capacity to reshape the environment—land, air, water, wild life and countryside—to his highest aspirations;
- the urgent need for positive and soundly based measures for the long-term planning, management and development of the European environment;
- the contribution of the philosophy, principles and practices of conservation towards creating a healthy environment and its potential unifying influence in Europe.

To stimulate:

- A sense of personal and social trusteeship for their heritage (of natural resources) in the peoples of Europe;
- action in each member country on the dominant problems peculiar to its environment;
- co-operation between the member countries in bringing their knowledge and skills to bear on the solution of common and specific problems in the conservation of natural resources;
- the development of new objectives and methods for the detection, guidance and where necessary, control of future trends of human activities bearing on the quality of the environment.

Within these aims, more specific themes may be adopted to suit the geographical regions of Europe i.e. Alpine, Scandinavian Atlantic and Mediterranean. This should stimulate even greater

1970 WHY?

interest and allow more concentrated action on such matters as:

- water policies;
- the effect on the environment of an urban and industrial civilisation;
- the effects of leisure on the countryside.

Individual countries may thus adopt specific themes of national importance and possibly select a common theme with one or more countries, e.g. the creation of a nature reserve astride a frontier.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Bearing in mind the *aims* of European Conservation Year, and consideration of the European Conservation Manifesto, it is suggested that specific aims for national symposia and conferences should be:

To acquaint all the appropriate national interests with the basic aim of conservation. This is the wise long-term planning, management and development of resources of land, air, water and wildlife for all purposes. These include amenity research, education and recreation;

To secure the agreement of all organizations for the need to achieve this aim;

To obtain from each organisation a clear expression of its specific interest in, or demands on, the countryside.

To identify those aspects:

- on which immediate action can be taken within the national, legal and financial framework;
- which require further legal and financial provisions in order that suitable action can be taken;
- on which further research, survey and study are necessary before specific plans can be made.

To consider:

- the main national demands and their trends on the countryside;
- the conditions necessary for long-term co-operation in formulating and implementing policies for the countryside;
- the consultative machinery required to achieve co-operation.

ACTIVITIES

1970

ECY

Edgar Kesteloot (Belgium)

Co-ordinator European Conservation Year

1970 is to be European Conservation Year. All the Council of Europe member countries will be taking part, as well as Spain and Portugal, which have expressed a wish to be associated with the Year. Unofficial contacts are now being made with Finland and some East European countries.

The main lines of the European programme have already been laid down. The chief event will be the European Conference in Strasbourg early in the year, which it is hoped will provide specific guidance for the general policy to be followed in the conservation and enhancement of the European environment.

National Activities

The range of activities will undoubtedly be greatest at national level, although not all countries will participate to the same degree. The national programmes of some countries are at the moment (early 1968) still at the initial stages of preparation, but plans are beginning to take shape. However, the general lines of almost all countries' programmes have already been settled and can therefore be described in brief.

The question receiving the most attention seems to be the wide one of informing and educating the public. All means of communication and information, particularly television and radio, will be called into service. In each country the authorities concerned will send out messages to their fellow-citizens; addresses and appeals of all kinds will go out over the air. Conference, exhibitions and film shows are to be held in almost every country. Several countries have had the excellent idea of issuing one or more special stamps. An idea which is probably more original is that of running a campaign on a specific theme, such as "Trees" or "Open Spaces", so that the educational work can, on a nation-wide basis, be combined with practical action such as tree-planting, the development of open spaces, or the maintenance of nature reserves. Most countries are to give

special attention to the prevention of damage to natural objects through, for example, erosion and fires (particularly common in the Mediterranean area) and the various forms of pollution which everywhere accompany industrialisation.

Scientific Projects

In this connection, basic studies and a programme of scientific research are to be undertaken. Fresh-water conservation, soil protection and, in particular, the prevention of erosion seem to be arousing the greatest interest. While education and information are important, town and country planning is very often the practical answer to the other conservation problems. Many countries have been giving a good deal of attention to the protection of coasts, the preservation of wild flora and fauna or the maintenance of wetlands through the establishment of nature parks or reserves. One country, for example, has included the establishment of a large national park in its programme. Thus the objective of European Conservation Year 1970 will be twofold: first, to make each of us more aware of nature conservation problems and induce us to adopt a new attitude towards nature and, second, to initiate a wide range of practical projects.

Two examples of nature conservation used as a theme for postage stamps



1970

ECY

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

Proposals by the Preparatory Group

Aims

The European Conference is designed to create a new awareness in Europe not only of the protection but also of the development and enhancement of the natural resources of the continent—land, water, air and wildlife—with a view to the wise use of the environment. It must present a dynamic image of conservation theory and practice. This must take full account of a wide range of aesthetic, ethical, economic and social values which must be reflected in the management of all natural resources. The Conference will consider not only the situation as it is today, but also future needs in the light of technical progress, population growth and social evolution. It will highlight new techniques through the pooling of experience, demonstrate the need for international cooperation and point the way to a Europe-wide conservation policy.

Coming in early Spring of European Conservation Year, the Conference will set the tone of activities on the national level. The Manifesto to which it should give rise outlining a Conservation Policy for Europe, should be discussed in all countries participating in the Year and prepare the ground for a European Conservation Convention. The Conference will take place in the Assembly Hall and Committee rooms of the headquarters of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France.

National and general reports

The Conference will debate policy and practice, not merely exchange information of a general character. To achieve this end, a series of basic documents will be prepared by Rapporteurs from national reports drawn up by participating countries and possibly, in certain cases, international organisations.

A draft Manifesto will be prepared for adoption by the Conference and subsequent use as an instrument of publicity in national activities within the framework of European Conservation Year.

Special Commissions

A Commission will be set up on each of the main themes of the Conference. Participation will be

by invitation with the exception of national delegations, which shall have the right to nominate one or two delegates to each commission within the limits of the total membership of their delegations.

The special commissions will examine general reports and proposals (including appropriate sections of the draft Manifesto) as are referred to them by the opening plenary session or by the Conference Committee, and will report thereon to the final plenary session, submitting appropriate texts for adoption.

CONFERENCE THEMES

Land Administration

Conservation of the coastline, including of lake shores and marine areas.

The farmer and the Forester in Relation to Nature conservation;

Leisure and Tourism in the Countryside

Problems of the second residence;
Traffic, outdoor recreation and sport and their impact on the countryside;

Technology

Industry and the countryside;
Reclamation of eroded, including derelict, land.

Education, Training and Information

Training and qualifications of planners and other land-linked professions;
Citizen participation in care of the countryside.

Research and Surveys

Research in the natural and social sciences on human impact on the natural environment;
Conservation economics.

The foregoing text is based on the recommendations being submitted to the European Committee for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in the coming months by the Preparatory Group for European Conservation Year. Details are therefore subject to change.

TASKS OF THE EUROPEAN INFORMATION CENTRE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

The two main functions of the Centre are as follows:

- to promote joint projects between interested bodies in the field of nature conservation information and education.
- to provide a clearing house service for information, education and publicity material which would be made available to interested bodies.

The task of the Centre is primarily to further the exchange of information relating to methods, techniques and materials used in disseminating knowledge about and giving publicity to nature conservation, i.e.

- promotion of the production of material;
- promotion of information and education projects (poster campaigns, exhibitions, lectures etc.);
- production of bibliographies, abstracts, lists of experts and specialized bodies, catalogues, answering requests for information.

The Centre will also record model achievements and undertakings in nature conservation which might serve as examples to be followed by those planning similar activities.

Documents should normally be supplied to the Centre in at least one of the official languages of the Council of Europe, English and French. Official texts made available in another language should be accompanied by a commentary in one of the official languages.

Information will generally be distributed by the Centre in the official languages.

Material

What the Centre wants to know is:

How does the message of Nature Conservation reach the public?

Therefore, information is required in connection with:

1. Campaigns (Press, Advertising, etc.)
2. Education courses
3. Television and Radio
4. Films
5. Publications

6. Exhibitions
7. Posters
8. Organisations.

where these media are utilised in transmitting the message to the man in the street.

National Agencies

A National Agency has been appointed by each Member government to serve as the Centre's main correspondent in member countries. Its chief aim is to channel documentation and information relating to national nature conservation information, publicity and education activities to the Centre, and conversely, to disseminate information received from the Centre to the competent quarters in the country concerned. These functions will make the National Agency a central institution for the coordination and preparation of such activities at national level. The National Agency may accredit other bodies carrying out activities in the field to the Centre.

As will be seen in the list of National Agencies appearing on the Back Cover they are usually closely attached to the national body responsible for that country's cooperation with the European Committee for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

The role of non-governmental organisations

With respect to the role of non-governmental organizations within the Centre, a distinction shall be made between national and international organisations. Normally, only international organisations shall have direct access to the Centre.

Private organisations usually have the closest contact with the general public. In many countries, nature conservation is carried out as much by private bodies as by the State. Hence the activities of all non-governmental organisations likely to serve European cooperation will have to be catalogued. These organisations are requested to send the Centre copies of their programmes, publications, documentary films and other educational or publicity material, in return for a regular information service, new ideas and facilities for cooperation and exchange.

THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Established in Strasbourg (France) in 1949 as the first institution for overall European co-operation, the Council of Europe today groups 18 countries. It strives for greater unity among its members to safeguard and realise their common ideals and principles and to facilitate their economic and social progress.

The Council of Europe contains two main organs. The first is the 147-member Consultative Assembly, selected from national parliaments. The second is the Committee of Ministers, which is the executive body, composed of Ministers of Foreign Affairs or their Deputies.

Apart from contributing to the harmonisation of political attitudes among member countries, both in European affairs and towards the rest of the world, the Council runs a wide programme of inter-governmental co-operation. The harmonisation of laws and improvement of social welfare, educational research and teacher training, promotion of exhibitions, films and cultural television, the defence of human rights through a Commission of Enquiry and an international court—these few examples serve to illustrate the wide range of the Council's activities, which have given rise to over fifty international conventions.

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The European Committee for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources is one of the specialist bodies which assist the Committee of Ministers in this work.

In 1963, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe decided to set up a committee, composed of national experts, to advise it and propose action on all matters concerned with nature conservation. The institution of permanent inter-governmental machinery for this purpose implies a recognition of the fact that conservation problems have a European dimension and require inter-State co-operation if they are to be dealt with effectively.

The European Committee meets annually in Strasbourg. A number of international governmental and non-governmental organisations are invited to its meetings. Spain and Portugal, which are not members of the Council of Europe, are also invited to send observers. The Committee has set up several Working Parties and expert study groups to undertake preparatory work on the various questions it is dealing with.

The European Committee's aim is "investigation into and adoption of planned action to ensure that Europe's natural resources are properly managed and are not misused or destroyed so that Europeans may enjoy a balanced and wholesome physical environment".

The conclusions of the European Committee usually take the form of recommendations to the Committee of Ministers, but the Committee is also competent to draft agreements and international conventions. In general the role of the Committee may be said to be to cause action to be taken by governments and local authorities at national and European level with a view to improved conservation of nature, of natural resources, and of the landscape in Member countries.

NORWAY

The Administration for outdoor life and nature conservation. Ministry of Labour and Municipal Affairs. Kommunal-departmentbat. OSLO Dep.

ICELAND

Mr. B. KJARAN, Chairman of the Icelandic National Council for the Protection of Nature. Hafnarstraeti 5, REYKJAVIK.

SWEDEN

The National Nature Conservancy Board. Centralvägen 28, Box 1104, SOLNA 1.

UNITED KINGDOM

The National Parks Commission. 1 Cambridge Gate, Regent's Park, LONDON N.W.1.

BELGIUM

Service des réserves naturelles domaniales et de la conservation de la Nature auprès de l'Administration des Eaux et Forêts, Ministère de l'Agriculture. 32, boulevard Bischoffsheim, BRUXELLES 1.

IRELAND

Forestry Division. Department of Lands. 22 Upper Merrion St. DUBLIN 2.

LUXEMBOURG

Conseil supérieur de la nature. Direction des Eaux et Forêts. 26, rue Philippe II, LUXEMBOURG.

FRANCE

M. COUTROT, ing. chef génie rural des Eaux et Forêts. Chef Department de Protection de la Nature C.E.R.A.F.E.R. Ministère de l'Agriculture, B.P. 114. Saint Martin d'Heres 38.

FED. REP. OF GERMANY

Professeur Dr OLSCHOWY, Direktor. Bundesanstalt für Vegetationskunde Naturschutz und Landschaftspflege. Heerstrasse 110, 532 BAD GODESBERG.

SWITZERLAND

Ligue suisse pour la protection de la nature. Wartenbergstrasse 22, 4052 BÄLE.

AUSTRIA

Wirkl. Hofrat Dr. Phil. Nat. H. HANSELY, Chef der Abteilung Landesplanung und Naturschutz. KLAGENFURT.

ITALY

Professeur G. U. PAPI, chef du Bureau des Rapports Internationaux auprès du Cabinet du Ministère italien.

DENMARK

Statens naturfrednings- og landskabskonsulent. Nyropsgade 22, COPENHAGEN V.

NETHERLANDS

Het Instituut voor Natuurbeschermingseducatie. Herengracht 540, AMSTERDAM.

CYPRUS

Director of the Department of Forests, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. NICOSIA.

TURKEY

Mr. Z. BAYER, Head of National Parks Department. Turkish Forest Service. Tarım Bakanlığı, Orman Genel Müdürlüğü, ANKARA.

GREECE

M. P. MARGAROPOULOS, Directeur de la Division des Reboisements et d'Aménagement des bassins versants. 9, rue Kratinou, ATHÈNES 112.

MALTA

Director of Agriculture. Department of Agriculture. 93, Archbishop Street, VALLETTA.

National Agencies of the European Information Centre for Nature Conservation