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AP/CAT (89) 29

Open partial agreement on the prevention of,
protection against, and organisation of relief
in major natural and technological disasters

2nd ministerial meeting
Malta, 10-11 October 1989

CONCLUSIONS

The Second ministerial meeting on the Open Partial Agreement on the prevention of, protection against, and organisation of relief in major natural and technological disasters took place at the Foundation for International Studies in Malta on 10 and 11 October 1989 (1).

I. The Ministers took note with interest of the Maltese policy in the field of civil protection and of the programme carried out in the framework of European cooperation

II. The Ministers adopted resolutions concerning the following items:

- a. the request for accession to the Open Partial Agreement by the Principality of Monaco (Resolution 1)
- b. the interest of the Soviet Union in acceding to the Open Partial Agreement (Resolution 2)
- c. the request for participation of Unesco in the Open Partial Agreement (Resolution 3)
- d. activities undertaken in the framework of the Open Partial Agreement (Resolution 4)

The texts of Resolutions 1, 2, 3 and 4 adopted are the following:

RESOLUTION 4

The Ministers of the Open Partial Agreement on the prevention of, protection against, and organisation of relief in major natural and technological disasters of the Council of Europe, convened in Malta on 10 and 11 October 1989:

1. Having noted the Activities Report for 1988 and 1989 and the proposals for programmes and budgets for 1990 of the network of specialised Centres (AP/CAT (89) 16 and AP/CAT (89) 25 rev)
 - European Centre for disaster medicine, San Marino
 - European University Centre for the Cultural Heritage, Ravello (Italy)
 - European training centre for natural disasters, Ankara (Turkey)
 - European Centre on prevention and forecasting of earthquakes, Athens (Greece)
 - European Centre of geodynamics and seismology, Luxemburg
 - Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Marine Contamination Hazards, Valletta (Malta)
 - Euro-Mediterranean seismological Centre, Strasbourg (France)
 - European Centre on Information to the public in the event of disaster situations, Madrid (Spain)
2. Having been informed of the functioning of the European warning system as well as of the initiatives taken during the recent major disasters in Europe, Lisbon, August 1988 and Nîmes, October 1988, wish that concertation and cooperation with the Commission of the European Communities as well as the competent organisms of the United Nations be strengthened and instruct the General Secretariat of the Council of Europe to act consequently
3. Convinced that cooperation undertaken between the Council of Europe through its Open Partial Agreement and the Commission of the European Communities will allow more meaningful levels of efficiency to be reached in the activities carried out within the Open Partial Agreement
4. Support the draft activities and budget programme for 1990 of the Open Partial Agreement as revised during the meeting of the 10 and 11 October 1989 and request the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to pursue the contacts with the Commission of the European Communities to reinforce the harmonised planning and cooperation between the two institutions in the setting up of the activities of the Open Partial Agreement

III. The Ministers approved the draft budget of 1990 given in APPENDIX II.

IV. To ensure that the activities undertaken by the network of the eight European centres of the Open Partial Agreement correspond with its objectives, the Ministers request the Executive Secretary of the Open Partial Agreement:

- i. to foresee at the beginning of 1990 at Ravello a meeting of the Directors of the European Centres of the Open Partial Agreement where interested permanent correspondents or their representatives would be invited. This meeting aims at preparing the draft activities programme of 1991 and subsequent budgetary proposals
- ii. to prepare a draft medium term plan indicating priorities in the objectives of the Open Partial Agreement activities
- iii. to organize in Paris in April 1990 the meeting of the Permanent Correspondents of the Open Partial Agreement, having as specific goal the approval of the draft activities programme of the European centres of the Open Partial Agreement for 1991 based on priorities of the draft medium term plan

V. The Ministers requested the Executive Secretary of the Open Partial Agreement following a proposal from the Greek and Turkish delegations to prepare a file on the research activities dealing with the forecasting of earthquakes based on:

- . the draft project of a joint research programme on forecasting of earthquakes (Soviet Union, Open Partial Agreement)
- . results of contacts taken with the national research institutions working in this area
- . the project of setting up a moratorium concerning dispatching of information to the public, related to the forecasting of earthquakes
- . a project for the creation of a Foundation aiming at supporting research on forecasting of earthquakes

VI. The Ministers instructed the European centre in Malta to transmit their wishes of success for the next meeting in the Mediterranean Plan foreseen in Athens in October

VII. The Ministers took note with interest of the proposal of the Spanish authorities to invite Soviet experts to the Seminar on information to the public in the event of disaster situations organised by the European center of Madrid in November 1989 in Madrid.

VIII. The Ministers welcomed with great interest the proposal of the Turkish authorities to hold the 3rd ministerial meeting of the Open Partial Agreement in Istanbul

IX. The Ministers, expressing their gratitude to the Maltese authorities at the occasion of the Second ministerial meeting of the Open Partial Agreement, adopted Resolution 5 hereunder: