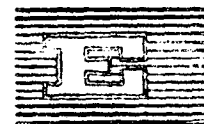


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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION
OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
Geneva, 4-22 September 1967

Dual distribution

DRAFT REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE
Rapporteur: Dr. Guido Gómez de Silva
Chapter I
ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

Terms of Reference

1. The United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names was held from 4 to 22 September 1967, at Geneva, Switzerland, in pursuance of the decision taken by the Economic and Social Council on 16 July 1965, at the 1385th meeting of its thirty-ninth session.

ATTENDANCE

2. The following is the list of representatives and observers of participating countries and observers from international organizations.

A. Governments

ARGENTINA

Representative:

Sr. Osvaldo G. GARCÍA PIÑEIRO
Consejero de Embajada

AUSTRALIA

Representative:

Mr. B.P. LAMBERT ✓
Director of National Mapping
Department of National Development

AUSTRIA

Representative:

Prof. Dr. Josef BREU
Head of Geographical Department of
Austria

BELGIUM

Representative:

M. H.J. VAN DE WIJER
Membre de la Commission Royale de
Toponymie et Dialectologie

Alternate:

M. J.H. HERBILLON
Professeur

BULGARIA

Representative:

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Mr. Eric J. HOLMGREN
Secretary of the Alberta Geographical Board
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Ginebra

VIETNAM, Republic of

Representative:

M. PHAN VAN TRINH
Troisième Secrétaire de la Mission, Genève

Alternate:

M. NGUYEN TU KIEU
Attaché de la Mission, Genève

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Representative:

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Assistant Director General

Alternate:

Mr. Sven BÄCKSTRÖM
Assistant Counsellor
Head of the Information and Documentation
Department of the Union

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION

Representative: Mr. Théodore WETTSTEIN
International Frequency Registration Board

Alternate: Mr. Alf S. WINTER-JENSEN
General Secretariat

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Representative: Dr. Eero KALKKINEN
ECE/FAO Timber Division

C. Inter-governmental Organizations

INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC BUREAU

Capt. Victor Antoine MOITORET ✓
Director

PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

Dr. Meredith F. BURRILL

D. International Scientific Organizations

INTERNATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION

Prof. F.J. ORMELING

INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION

Prof. Hans H. BOESCH
Secretary General

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION

Mrs. Johanna EGGERT

Dr. N.N. CHOPRA

Dr. W.H. RABY

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEODESY AND GEOPHYSICS

Prof. E. ANDERSEN

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTIC RESEARCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC UNIONS

Mr. B.P. LAMBERT

E. United Nations Secretariat

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Mr. Vladimir VELEBIT
(Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission
for Europe)

Mr. Roberto ARCE ✓
(Representative of the Secretary-General)

Department of Economic and Social
Affairs (contd)

Mr. Horacio URETA
(Executive Secretary)

Mr. Chris N. CHRISTOPHER ✓
Cartography Section
Resources and Transport Division
(Deputy Executive Secretary)

Office of Conference Services

Dr. M. Bahy El-Din HEFNY

OFFICIAL ADDRESS

3. Mr. Vladimir Velebit, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe, opened the Conference on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

4. The Conference adopted at its first plenary meeting the same rules of procedure as those of the United Nations Technical Conference on the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale (United Nations publication E/CONF.40/8, pp. 11-14), with amendments in rules 3, 32, 34 and 35, as follows:

"Rule 3. A Credentials Committee shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. It shall consist of five members who shall be appointed by the Conference on the proposal of the President. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report without delay."

"Rule 32. If, when one person or one delegation is to be elected, no candidate obtains the required majority in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken, which shall be restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If, in the second ballot, the votes are equally divided, the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

"In the case of a tie in the first ballot among the candidates obtaining the second largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held for the purpose of reducing the number of candidates to two. In the case of a tie among three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a second ballot shall be held; if a tie results among more than two candidates, the number shall be reduced to two by lot."

"Rule 34. English, French and Spanish shall be the working languages of the Conference."

"Rule 35. Speeches made in any one of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other two working languages. Speeches made in one of the official languages of the United Nations shall be interpreted into the three working languages."

At its seventh plenary meeting the Conference made a further amendment to rule 3 and amended rule 6 to read as follows:

"Rule 3. A Credentials Committee shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. It shall consist of four members who shall be appointed by the Conference on the proposal of the President. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report without delay."

"Rule 6. The Conference shall elect a President, a Vice-President and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of the States participating in the Conference."

OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE

5. The Conference elected the following officers:

President: Dr. Meredith F. Burrill (United States of America)

First Vice-President: Mr. A.N. Baranov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

Rapporteur: Dr. Guido Gómez de Silva (Mexico)

CREDENTIALS

6. The Credentials Committee, composed of four members, namely, Dr. Burrill, Mr. Baranov, Dr. Gómez de Silva and Mr. B. Lambert (Australia), met under the chairmanship of Dr. Burrill and reported that the credentials of all delegates were found in order.

AGENDA

7. The Conference had before it a provisional agenda (E/CONF.53/1) prepared by the United Nations Secretariat, and adopted it as its final agenda. It reads as follows:

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Adoption of the rules of procedure
3. Election of officers
4. Report on credentials
5. Adoption of the agenda
6. Organization of work
7. Reports by Governments on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names

8. Exchange of experience on problems identified in the Group of Experts' Report 1/
9. National standardization
 - (a) Field collection of names
 - (b) Office treatment of names
 - (c) Decisions relating to multilingual areas
 - (d) National gazetteers
 - (e) Administrative structure of national names authorities
 - (f) ADP (automatic data processing)
10. Geographical terms
 - (a) Generic terms
 - (b) Categories
 - (c) Glossaries
 - (d) Symbolization
11. Writing systems
 - (a) Transfer of names from one writing system to another
 - (i) into roman
 - (ii) into other writing systems
 - (b) Writing of names from unwritten languages
12. International co-operation
 - (a) Formation of a United Nations Permanent Commission of Experts on Geographical Names
 - (b) Steps towards international standardization
 - (c) Exchange of information
 - (d) Post-conference regional meetings
 - (e) Technical assistance
 - (f) Treatment of names of features beyond a single sovereignty
 - (g) Bibliography
13. Report of the Conference

1/ See World Cartography, vol. VII (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 62.I.25) pp. 7-18.

PROVISIONAL: FOR PARTICIPANTS ONLY

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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION
OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Monday, 4 September 1967, at 3.5 p.m.

<u>Acting President:</u>	Mr. VELEBIT	Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Europe
<u>President:</u>	Mr. BURRILL	United States of America
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. GOMEZ de SILVA	Mexico
<u>Executive Secretary:</u>	Mr. URETA	

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Adoption of the rules of procedure (provisional agenda item 2)
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Adoption of the agenda (provisional agenda item 5)
Organization of work (agenda item 6)

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OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE (Provisional agenda item 1)

The ACTING PRESIDENT extended, on behalf of the Secretary-General, a welcome to the participants in the Conference.

The question of standardization of geographical names had been before the Economic and Social Council since 1953 and had been studied at Regional Cartographic Conferences for Asia and the Far East and for Africa respectively. In 1958 a draft programme for achieving international uniformity in the writing of geographical names had been circulated to all States Members of the United Nations; most countries had expressed the view that the immediate task of standardization should be performed on the national level. In 1959, under Council resolution 715 A (XXVII), the Secretary-General had been requested to set up a small group of consultants to consider the technical problems of domestic standardization of geographical names. The report of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names established pursuant to that resolution, which was before the Conference in document E/CONF.53/L.2, dealt with four topics: the need for standardization; problems of domestic standardization; recommendations on problems of such standardization; and the question of convening an international conference. As a result of the Group's conclusions on the last-mentioned topic, the Council, by its resolution 929 (XXXV), had requested the Secretary-General to consult with Member States on the desirability of convening such a conference and on the date, place and tentative agenda. In the light of the Secretary-General's consultations, the Council had decided at its thirty-ninth session that a Conference should be held at Geneva in 1967.

The Group of Experts on Geographical Names had been reconvened at a preparatory meeting in March and April 1966; the report on that meeting was before the Conference in document E/CONF.53/L.1. The Group had considered the provisional agenda for the Conference and had reviewed all the comments received on the subject from Governments since 1956. It had been agreed that the rules of procedure for the Conference should

be those used at the United Nations Technical Conference on the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale, held at Bonn in 1962. The Group had also considered it desirable that the Conference should be discussed at the regional level, and items relating to geographical names had been included in the agenda of the second United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa, held at Tunis in September 1966, and of the fifth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East, held at Canberra in March 1967.

The adoption of a uniform standard method of writing geographical names involved two basic questions: standardization of the form of geographical names by the country concerned, and the adoption of standard methods of transliteration or transcription. The first question involved standardization at the national level; the second, adoption of general principles for international standards. The Conference would no doubt provide guidance on international methods of transliteration and on international co-ordination and liaison. He wished the Conference every success in helping to further the purposes of the United Nations.

ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE (Provisional agenda item 2)

The ACTING PRESIDENT drew attention to the proposal in paragraph 5 of the report of the Group of Experts (E/CONF.53/L.1) that the rules of procedure for the Conference should be those of the United Nations Technical Conference on the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale (United Nations publication, sales No: 64.I.4, pp. 11-14), with two minor amendments. Under the first amendment, rule 3 would provide for a Credentials Committee of five instead of seven members. The second amendment, to rule 32, was purely stylistic.

The amendments proposed by the Group of Experts were adopted.

Mr. GOMEZ de SILVA (Mexico) proposed that, in rule 34, Spanish should be added as a working language. He made that proposal, firstly, because Spanish had already been a basic language in the preparatory work for the Conference and was specifically mentioned, in the last sentence of paragraph 12 of the report of the Group of Experts, as one of three languages on which systems for conversion into the Roman alphabet might be based. Secondly, the Conference had been convened by the Economic and Social Council, which had made Spanish a working language by its resolution 481 (XV) of 1 April 1953.

Mr. PEREZ GALINO (Spain) supported that proposal.

The Mexican amendment was adopted.

The rules of procedure, as amended, were adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (provisional agenda item 3)

Mr. GALL (Guatemala) nominated Mr. Burrill (United States of America), for the office of President of the Conference.

Mr. GOMEZ de SILVA (Mexico) seconded that nomination.

Mr. Burrill (United States of America) was elected President by acclamation.

Mr. Burrill (United States of America) took the Chair.

The PRESIDENT thanked the participants in the Conference for the honour they had done him by allowing him to serve as their President. The long preparations for the Conference had been fraught with obstacles and setbacks and, although the Conference had at last been convened, the road to complete success would still be long and difficult. It would be wise to recognize from the outset that there could be no question of solving all outstanding problems during the next three weeks. On the other hand, if all participants realized from the start that they were bound to differ and understood why that was so, great progress would be made, and the Conference could not fail in its purpose if it was conducted in that spirit. Its success depended above all on recognition that all participants wanted to reach international agreement, and on their will to achieve greater uniformity. He was glad to see that many of those present were young men, who could begin to find out about the problems at issue, to get to know others concerned with the subject, to ascertain what had been done and to decide on what could be done.

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Mr. FALLA (United Kingdom) nominated Mr. Baranov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) for the office of First Vice-President.

Mr. SUNTHAN (Cambodia) seconded that nomination.

Mr. Baranov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) was elected First Vice-President by acclamation.

Mr. KHAMUNDARA (Thailand) nominated Mr. Coker (Nigeria) for the office of Second Vice-President.

Mr. LOXTON (Kenya) seconded that nomination.

Mr. Coker (Nigeria) was elected Second Vice-President by acclamation.

Mr. PEARCY (United States of America) nominated Mr. Gomez de Silva (Mexico) for the office of Rapporteur.

Mr. ANDERSON (Denmark) and Mr. CORDERAS DESCARREGA (Spain) seconded that nomination.

Mr. Gomez de Silva (Mexico) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

REPORT ON CREDENTIALS (provisional agenda item 4)

The PRESIDENT said that delegations would be allowed more than twenty-four hours in which to submit their credentials. However, any considerable delay would mean either that the names of the representatives in question would not appear on the official list of delegations or that the publication of the list itself might be delayed.

In accordance with rule 3 of the rules of procedure, the Credentials Committee would consist of five members. He suggested that four of those members should be the officers of the Conference, and the fifth a representative from some geographical area other than those of the officers. He specifically suggested that the fifth member should be Mr. Lambert (Australia).

It was so decided.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (provisional agenda item 5) (E/CONF.53/1)

The PRESIDENT pointed out that the provisional agenda (E/CONF.53/1) was the same as that contained in the report of the Group of Experts (E/CONF.53/L.1, paragraph 8).

Mr. LAMBERT (Australia), supported by Mr. DROLET (Canada), proposed that the provisional agenda should be adopted.

The provisional agenda was adopted unanimously.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (agenda item 6) (E/CONF.53/L.1)

The PRESIDENT pointed out that the Group of Experts had recommended (E/CONF.53/L.1, paragraph 6) the establishment of four principal committees to deal, respectively, with national standardization, geographical terms, writing systems and international co-operation.

The recommendation was adopted.

The PRESIDENT suggested that it would be useful to have a steering committee which would be representative of the different parts of the world. Such a steering committee might consist of the officers of the Conference and the chairmen of the four principal committees.

It was so decided.

In reply to a question from Mr. BREU (Austria), the PRESIDENT said that each of the principal committees would operate as a committee of the whole. After each plenary meeting of the Conference, the President, Vice-Presidents and Rapporteur would take their places at the committee table and would be replaced by the officers of the committee in question.

He expressed the hope that delegations which had submitted papers would comment on them briefly, and not in detail; they should emphasize the salient features of their papers and show how they related to the problem as a whole. Participants should not hesitate to request clarification of anything which they did not understand. The purpose of the Conference would best be served by consistent frankness, with candid acknowledgment of failures as well as of successes.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.

PROVISIONAL: FOR PARTICIPANTS ONLY

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6 September 1967
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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION
OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SECOND MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 5 September 1967, at 10.20 a.m.

<u>President:</u>	Mr. BURRILL	United States of America
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. GOMEZ de SILVA	Mexico
<u>Executive Secretary:</u>	Mr. URETA	

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Election of officers (agenda item 3) (continued)

Reports by Governments on the progress made in the standardization
of geographical names (agenda item 7)

N.B. Participants wishing to have corrections to this provisional summary record incorporated in the final summary record of the meeting are requested to submit them in writing, preferably on a copy of the record itself, to the Secretariat, Room D.509, Palais des Nations, Geneva, within two working days of receiving the provisional record in their working language.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (agenda item 3) (continued)

Mr. KHAMASUNDARA (Thailand) nominated Mr. Lambert (Australia) for the office of Chairman of Committee No. 1 on National Standardization Programmes.

Mr. GLEDITCH (Norway) seconded the nomination.

Mr. Lambert (Australia) was elected Chairman of Committee No. 1 by acclamation.

Mr. MARTY (Cameroon) nominated Mr. Gall (Guatemala) for the office of Chairman of Committee No. 2 on Geographical Terms.

Mr. DROLET (Canada) seconded the nomination.

Mr. Gall (Guatemala) was elected Chairman of Committee No. 2 by acclamation.

Mr. SPIESS (Switzerland) nominated Mr. Lewis (United Kingdom) for the office of Chairman of Committee No. 3 on Writing Systems.

Mr. SUNTHAN (Cambodia) seconded the nomination.

Mr. Lewis (United Kingdom) was elected Chairman of Committee No. 3 by acclamation.

Mr. AMER (United Arab Republic) nominated Mr. Buru (Libya) for the office of Chairman of Committee No. 4 on International Co-operation.

Mr. BURU (Libya) observed that it would be difficult for him, as the sole representative of his country, to serve as Chairman of a Committee. He nominated Mr. Ayoubi (Lebanon).

Mr. LINDQVIST (Sweden) nominated Mr. Fraser (Canada).

Mr. MAHIAR-NAVABI (Iran) seconded the nomination of Mr. Fraser.

Mr. ORMELING (Netherlands) nominated Mr. Spiess (Switzerland)

Mr. SPIESS (Switzerland) stated that, to his regret, he could not accept candidature because acceptance of the office of Chairman would be contrary to his country's policy in international organizations.

The PRESIDENT noted that only one nomination had been seconded. If there were no objections, he would take it that Mr. Fraser (Canada) had been elected Chairman of Committee No. 4.

It was so decided.

REPORTS OF GOVERNMENTS ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES (agenda item 7) (E/CONF.53/L.3, L.6, L.9, L.12, L.13, L.17, L.21, L.22, L.23, L.25, L.35, L.42, L.44, L.46, L.48)

The PRESIDENT invited delegations to report on the progress made by their countries in the standardization of geographical names.

Mr. LAMBERT (Australia) said that a full report on his country's activities appeared in document E/CONF.53/L.23. In recent years the activities of the United Nations had given impetus to action by the Australian State Governments which, with the Territory Administrations, were responsible for place names. Some co-ordination of national efforts had been affected by the National Mapping Council of Australia on which all the Governments and Administrations were represented. Gazetteers were being prepared; the annexures to the report showed the principles of organization applied and the addresses of the various authorities responsible for the work in progress.

One particular problem encountered had been that of unwritten names, which had been used in the past without any definite system. Efforts were being made to rectify that state of affairs. In New Guinea, for instance an attempt was being made to preserve for posterity the names used by the indigenous population.

Mr. BREU (Austria) said that his Government's report appeared in document E/CONF.53/L.12. Austria had to deal with two types of geographical names: those of inhabited places, and others. Names in the first category were fixed either by provincial government law or by communal decree. Every ten years, the names were printed in the official gazetteer published by the Statistical Central Office. Names in the second category were fixed by the Survey Group of the Federal Office of Gauging and Surveying, which was free to make its own decisions and was guided only by local tradition.

The most important achievement of the past five years had been the publication, by the Federal Bureau of Gauging and Surveying, of a 1:50,000 map, in which the names conformed exactly to those officially published by the Statistical Office. A problem still to be solved was that of fixing the names of fields, meadows, mountains, rivers and other features encountered during field work by the surveying staff. The

Federal Bureau urgently needed the help of toponymic committees to produce uniform and scientifically correct work. Only one such committee existed, so far, in Vorarlberg, but others were to be set up in due course.

Mr. MARTY (Cameroon) said that, as would be seen from document E/CONF.53/L.22, several organizations in Cameroon published catalogues of names for different purposes but only the Geographical Service dealt with the whole problem, and it was not officially responsible for the standardization of geographical names. There was therefore no official spelling of names except for those of the principal administrative centres in the regions and districts, the spelling of which had become official by long usage. In East Cameroon where the official language was French, the principles applied in transcribing names were those fixed by the French National Geographical Institute for use in the African countries for which the Institute made maps. In West Cameroon, the principles applied were similar to those of the East, but English rules of spelling and pronunciation were respected, since English was the official language. It was hoped that agreement could be reached in the future on a transcription principle for the whole Federation and that an organization could be established to standardize geographical names, so that an official spelling might be adopted for the greatest possible number of names.

Mr. DROLET (Canada) said that the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names had replaced the Canadian Geographical Commission which had been founded in 1897.

The heritage of Canada's two founder nations - France and Great Britain - was reflected in its toponymy. In addition, many names were derived from the indigenous languages - Indian and Eskimo - and others from the languages of the numerous immigrants.

The federal system of government, consisting of a central national Government and ten Provincial Governments, had influenced the approach to toponymy over the past seventy years. While the need for a centralizing authority was recognized, the Provinces were severally responsible for names falling within their own boundaries; that arrangement was essential in a vast country of such varied physiography and historical development.

At the turn of the century, the need to standardize geographical names in a young nation which was developing administratively and geographically had prompted the preparation of practical rules of nomenclature. A national gazetteer had been produced; it was divided into Provinces, and provided an up-to-date register of all geographical names for the convenience of the official or public user. Current decisions on names were disseminated to the producers of maps and charts, and to agencies responsible for communications and other services, which required up-to-date information. Field investigations, based mainly on local interviews but drawing on all available documentary sources of information, had demonstrated their effectiveness in clarifying local nomenclature.

While its experience on those matters might be of interest to other countries, Canada hoped to learn more at the Conference about modern techniques of name standardization such as methods of using computers.

He expressed his country's interest in the formation of a United Nations permanent commission as suggested by the Group of Experts (E/Conf.53/L.1, para.13), the continued exchange of information following the Conference; and the suggested post-Conference regional meetings, (ibid, para.9).

Mr. SUN Tang-yueh (China) said that the Chinese language differed from other languages in being composed of characters from three different sources - descriptive, phonetic and ideographic. Although there were many and varied dialects in the vast territory of China, the writing system was uniform and, in standardizing geographical names, emphasis was laid on correct pronunciation. The publication in 1928 of a national system of phonetic letters, which was taught from the primary school onwards, had further encouraged the use of the uniform writing system.

His country welcomed the work done by the Group of Experts on the standardization of geographical names and was willing to accept any reasonable recommendations the Group might make.

The Chinese Ministry of the Interior had set up its own group of experts to study the question. That Group had already held several meetings and, among other recommendations, had stressed the importance of writing national geographical names accurately, of defining E/CONF.53/SR.2

the boundaries of geographical features, of agreeing on a uniform method of writing names drawn from spoken dialects, and of abbreviating the existing geographical names. The last two activities had already begun; a 1:1,000,000 scale map had been published giving all the principal Chinese names, and many geographical names consisting of three characters had been reduced to two; however, much work remained to be done in the latter field. An attempt was being made to standardize the writing and pronunciation of existing geographical names, and the United States Government had recently been requested to assist with their transliteration.

Recent publications included a book on modified readings for Chinese place names, based on the experience gained in standardization, and a national dictionary giving explanations and background information on the historical and other meanings of such names.

Although the Chinese Government placed great emphasis on the uniformity of geographical names, no authorized agency or permanent organization was responsible for securing such uniformity. His Government would be very grateful for any assistance which could be provided by the United Nations in setting up a permanent organization to take sole responsibility for that work at the national level.

Mr. CHRISTODOULOU (Cyprus) said that his country had made a start on the standardization of geographical names by setting up a group of experts to apply the decisions of the Conference.

Mr. ANDERSEN (Denmark) said that a place-names committee had been set up in 1910, composed of representatives of the Danish Government and administration, map-producing agencies, the Geodetic Institute, the Hydrographic Office, the University, and specialists in Nordic philology and history. Some 30,000 place names had now been published for twenty administrative districts, leaving only one district for which the printing of names had not yet been completed. The list for the Faroe Islands was prepared in two languages - Danish and Faroese - but generally the Faroese names were used. A special committee had been set up for Greenland, which would work on the principles already applied to the Faroes, but mapping would take some years. The Scandinavian countries were co-operating in the matter and hoped to submit a joint report at a later stage.

Mr. ASSAYE (Ethiopia) said that the Imperial Ethiopian Mapping and Geographical Institute was continuing to collect and standardize place names, using Amharic, the national language. The language was a phonetic one with an alphabet of about 231 letters, including 33 consonants with 7 vowel forms for each consonant. The simplified system used for transliterating the alphabet into English had been described at the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference held at Nairobi in 1963 and had been published in the report of that Conference. Field parties were collecting and transliterating names according to that system. A start had been made on compiling glossaries of geographical terms and on standardizing names in a number of administrative areas and sub-regions. It was hoped that a gazetteer and glossary could be published in the near future. A committee set up within the Mapping and Geographical Institute was working on the question of standardization at the national level; the information acquired at the present Conference would be extremely useful to that committee.

Mr. MEYNEN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his Government's report appeared in document E/CONF.53/L.9. The spelling of place names was a matter for official decision by the Länder. The names of geographical entities had not, as a rule, been the subject of official decisions, but their inclusion in official maps gave them a certain official character.

The Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, set up in 1959, was responsible for co-ordinating and promulgating the rules for domestic standardization of names and for publishing results. In 1966 it had published the first volume of the official Duden gazetteer, which gave the correct official spellings recommended for domestic use.

Mr. NISSILA (Finland) said that close and regular co-operation was maintained between cartographers and toponymists in his country. The National Board of Survey was responsible for the preparation of Finnish maps, including the field collection of names, the selection of names for the maps, and - since Finland was bilingual - their submission for revision, before printing, to the Finnish Name Archives or the Swedish Society for Literature in Finland. Names were corrected and checked against collections of geographical names, maps and other information available in the Name Archives and guidebooks.

The field collection and office treatment of place names from all over Finland were comprehensive tasks involving most of the problems mentioned in the report of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names. A total of 700,000 names had already been collected for the compilation of basic maps on the scale of 1:20,000. The compilation should be completed in the early 1970's and would include more than 1 million names; it would form the basis for the names on smaller-scale maps.

Particular attention had been paid to the standardization of geographical names in a new 1:1 million scale map now being prepared. The main purpose of the new map was to show the location of the most important place names in Finland, which totalled some 8,000. Maps of that type would undoubtedly be of assistance to cartographic agencies in other countries in constructing their maps of Finland.

The PRESIDENT read out two Press comments that had been brought to his attention. He suggested that representatives should hand any interesting Press comments to the Secretariat, since the Press was a useful medium for educating the public to use standardized geographical names.

Mr. NEDELEC (France) said that, although France had long been studying the problems involved in standardizing geographical names his Government had not submitted a comprehensive report on its activities in recent years. It had, however, communicated with the Secretariat on individual items of the agenda, in particular item 9, sub-items (b), (c), (d) and (f).

Mr. GALL (Guatemala) said that the National Geographical Institute of Guatemala had started work on standardizing geographical names in May 1956. In 1958 work had begun on the Geographical Dictionary. To put an end to confusion in geographical terms a presidential Decree had been issued in 1959 to the effect that only those names appearing in the records of the Geographical Institute should be considered official names.

Following the adoption of the recommendations of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names in July 1960, a Mixed Commission on Geographical Names had been set up in Guatemala. The Geographical Dictionary of Guatemala, published in two volumes in 1960 and 1961, contained the geographical names standardized up to the time of its publication. The standardized names also appeared on the 1:1 million and larger-scale maps.

In 1965 the National Geographical Institute had published his paper entitled "Contribución a los nombres geográficos de Guatemala", which comprised a philological study of the region, the rules guiding the Mixed Commission on Geographical Names, and examples of resolutions on standardization.

The Supplement to the Geographical Dictionary, covering the years 1961 to 1964, had been completed in 1965 and was now being printed in two volumes of over 400 pages each. It contained several hundred new geographical names, cross-references to historical names no longer in use, and new terms and definitions. His delegation wished to express its appreciation to the National Printing House and its director, Mr. Carlos Rodas Cruz, for publishing 2,500 copies of the Supplement free of charge. Work on the next Supplement, covering the years 1964-1967 and based on 1964 census data, was under way and more than 8,700 names were ready for immediate reference.

Several Central American countries had asked for help regarding methods and specifications for use in preparing their own geographical dictionaries. An official of the National Geographical Institute had visited El Salvador and Honduras in 1966 and Costa Rica in 1967, and those countries were now preparing their geographical dictionaries in the light of Guatemala's experience.

Mr. POLSPOEL (Holy See) said that, although the Holy See could not take an active part in the standardization of geographical names, it was following progress with interest. The existing centre for the study of religious topography had recently been given official recognition by the International Geographical Union.

Mr. MAHIAR-NAVABI (Iran) referred to the new measures being taken in his country, in particular the establishment of committees under the Ministry of the Interior, the Geographical Department at Army Headquarters, and the Geographical Institute of the University of Tehran. Three lists of names had already been published by Government bodies and would shortly be revised. A climatological map and atlas were in course of preparation by the Army Geographical Department and the Geographical Institute.

In the process of standardization, attention was being paid to historical documents as well as to geographical names and terminology. In Iran, which was one of the oldest countries in the world and therefore rich in historical material, the standardization of geographical names was of particular importance. In that connexion he had noted that the documents before the Committee contained frequent references to "interested countries" and "uninterested countries". The fact was that the standardization of geographical names would not be achieved until every State realized its importance, and national activity must be encouraged and accelerated by international organizations, in particular the United Nations.

Mr. ALON (Israel) said that a report on the progress made in his country appeared in document E/CONF.53/L.25. Israel was in a comparatively satisfactory situation because it had, in the Bible, an authoritative source for almost all names that were well-known nationally and internationally. The task was simply to locate and identify on the map the names of settlements which had existed in biblical times, and to assign those names to present-day settlements and towns.

The task of reviving biblical names and, in a few cases, of finding Hebrew names had been entrusted to a Names Committee which had achieved considerable progress since its appointment by the Government in 1951. It had compiled gazetteers for the 1:250,000 and 1:100,000 scale maps and had already started to fix names for the objects shown on the 1:20,000 scale maps.

The regulations of the Hebrew Academy were used for transcription. For non-Hebrew names the regulations inherited from the period of the Mandate were used, except in the case of some well-known biblical names, for which different transcriptions were used according to national Bibles.

Mr. LOXTON (Kenya) said that basic mapping and the collection of geographical names had been in progress in Kenya for some twenty years; a basic map on the scale of 1:50,000, covering the whole country, was nearly completed. Some 27,000 names had been collected, and the process of collection would continue as the maps were revised. A few thousand of the 27,000 names had been examined, and it was estimated that 80-90 per cent of the spellings used on existing maps would remain unchanged. The main problem, therefore, was how to deal with the names that were not spelt correctly. The longer they remained on the maps, the harder it would be to change them.

The main obstacle to further progress was a loss of confidence. The Standing Committee on Geographical Names had started with enthusiasm twenty years earlier, had introduced many new spellings, and had then found that people continued to use the old names. He favoured the arrangement described in the report submitted by New Zealand under agenda item 9 (E/CONF.53/L.7), according to which the spellings adopted by the Geographic Board became mandatory in due course; however, there might be legislative difficulties in introducing such an arrangement in some countries. He hoped that the Conference would adopt a strong resolution on the subject, which would help him to persuade his Government to institute at least some measure of compulsion.

Mr. AYOUBI (Lebanon) said that in his country the rules for transliterating Arabic into Latin characters had been applied to the basic 1:20,000 scale map since 1962, on the basis of the French language. The Department of Geographical Affairs was responsible for preparing the basic map and submitted it for correction to the Commission on Toponymy, of which he was Chairman. Exceptions had been made in the case of local names which had come into general use and which had been submitted to the Department of Geographical Affairs for approval, and in the case of historical names, which were included side by side with the current names.

All maps were now published in Latin characters and in French. They were based on the basic map and approved by the Department of Geographical Affairs.

Mr. MASSAQUOI (Liberia) said that, since his Government had established its first Board of Geographical Names in 1955, two gazetteers had been issued. The Board was now engaged, with United States aid, on a re-survey of the whole country in order to produce topographical and geological maps and a geophysical survey.

The first gazetteer had been based on a map scale of 1:1,000,000. Place names were derived from some twenty-eight different linguistic sources. His Government had encountered the same problem as that mentioned by the representative of Kenya in that the people continued to use traditional spellings, and efforts were being made to correct the spelling by providing schools with copies of the 1:100,000 scale map. The establishment of new political boundaries had made it necessary to deal with new names. The Government was currently employing field teams to re-check names, using the official English phonetic alphabet as a basis.

Mr. BURU (Libya) said that national standardization of geographical names was vital to his country because of the confusion which had arisen as a result of the writing of names in Arabic, English, French and Italian. The first step towards standardization had been taken during the Italian occupation of Libya. After the Second World War, the British had first followed the Italian system and then adopted a different system of writing Libyan place names. In 1962 a topographical map on the scale of 1:2,000,000 had been prepared by the United States Geological Survey; the geographical names on that map were based on the information available in that year and, in general, followed the transliteration system of the United States Board of Geographic Names and the United Kingdom Permanent Committee on Geographical Names. As a result of the current economic boom in Libya, little-known place names were appearing on maps, and it had become the practice to write them according to the local pronunciation. It was hoped that an official list of place names would soon be published by the Ministry of Planning and Development.

Mr. ANDRIAMIHAJA (Madagascar) said that Malagasy was an agglutinative language belonging to the Malayo-Polynesian family. The Malagasy nation was composed of some twenty tribes, each of which had its own dialect, and the dialect of the centre of the country had become the official language. It had been transcribed in Latin characters at the beginning of the nineteenth century. The problem of toponymy was being studied by the Malagasy Academy. In general it had been agreed that well-known places such as the capital, Tananarive, should retain their present names. Attempts were being made to eliminate confusion between

identical names by the addition of prefixes or suffixes, and certain names consisting of Malagasy words with a French prefix were being entirely transliterated into Malagasy. The preparation of an etymological dictionary was under consideration.

Mr. GOMEZ DE SILVA (Mexico) said that what his country had done so far was to identify the problems of standardization of geographical names. One such problem was the name of the country itself; again, various geographical names, such as that of the highest mountain in Mexico, appeared in a number of forms. Another problem was the use of foreign names in Mexico "Kuwait" and "Madagascar", for example, were encountered in many different forms. There were some sixty indigenous languages in Mexico, and the intention was to investigate the etymology of indigenous place names. Another subject for standardization consisted of the generic names used to describe such geographical features as bays or mountains.

Mr. ORMELING (Netherlands) said that his delegation had submitted document E/CONF.53/L.6 summarizing the work already carried out and that in progress on the national standardization of geographical names. The Netherlands being a very small country with close international economic relationships, many Dutch variants of foreign names had come into use, and a Permanent Board on Foreign Geographical Names had recently been set up to standardize them.

Mr. DAHLBERG (Netherlands), speaking as a representative of Surinam on the Netherlands delegation, said that the problems confronting Surinam with regard to the standardization of geographical names were much more complex than those faced by the Netherlands. Surinam had a multi-national population and a corresponding variety of geographical names. In 1960 the Government had appointed a Commission on Geographical Names to standardize rules for such names. A Commission on the Spelling of the Creole Language had also been set up and had standardized all geographical names of Afro-American origin.

Mr. GLEDITSCH (Norway) said that since the 1890's the Royal Ministry of Education, assisted by an officially appointed Board of Advisers, had been responsible for the standardization of geographical names in Norway and in the Norwegian Arctic and Antarctic territories. It was the task of the Board of Advisers to advise all Government offices and institutions on the spelling of geographical names. In 1913 special instructions had been issued to the effect that all Norwegian place names should be written in accordance with an orthographic system suitable for the standardization of genuine Norwegian dialect material. All later rules were derived from those instructions, and the latest instructions, issued in 1933 and 1957, dealt with specific details of standardization. The Board's work had been based on a twenty-volume compilation of Norwegian farm names. Since 1940 all names on new topographical maps had been written down in phonetic script and checked by specialists, and standardization of the written forms on the maps was based on that material. There was a special Government adviser on Lapp place names, for in northern Norway there were many places with two different names, one Lapp and one Norwegian. Plans had been worked out for a national gazetteer based on 1:250,000 maps. The Norwegian Polar Institute applied the official rules for the standardization of place names in the Arctic and Antarctic areas. Names of special features originally given by explorers of other nationalities were seldom changed. The National names authority was the Board of Advisers on Place Names, and the executive authority was the Royal Ministry of Education. The Norwegian Place Names Archives was responsible for the collection of place-name material, and directed research work in that field. The Scandinavian countries maintained close collaboration in the standardization of geographical names.

Mr. MARTINS (Portugal) said that no great difficulties had arisen in Portugal with regard to the standardization of geographical names, since the competent cartographic departments maintained close collaboration with one another. He hoped that a national authority would soon be established to ensure standardization.

Mr. ROSU (Romania) said that the standardization of geographical names had been receiving attention in Romania for some considerable time. At the end of the nineteenth century the Romanian Geographical Society had drawn up a geographical dictionary for the country. Serious attention had recently been given to the subject, and detailed studies had been carried out by geographers and cartographers. An administrative organ had been set up in 1952 to collaborate with the specialists in work on place names, and an official gazetteer of such names had appeared in 1956. The national organization now dealing with the subject was the National Geographical Committee, which included a sub-committee on geographical names. Many maps on different scales had recently been published, as well as linguistic atlases, an encyclopaedic dictionary and a preliminary glossary of generic names. The practical task of standardization could now be considered almost complete; it remained only to unify certain generic geographical names, to verify the names of certain topographical details, to draw up a bibliography on the subject and to put the glossary of generic names in final form.

Mr. PEREZ GALINO (Spain) said that the national body responsible for the study of toponymy was the Superior Geographical Council, under which the Commission on Geographical Names carried out its work on the basis of the recommendations of the United Nations Group of Experts. The problems involved were relatively simple and concerned mainly the cartographic aspect of the subject. All geographical names on the standard map of the country were currently being revised, and a special Commission had been established to revise cartographic symbols.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOURTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Wednesday, 6 September 1967, at 10.20 a.m.

<u>President:</u>	Mr. BARANOV, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. GOMEZ de SILVA, Mexico
<u>Executive Secretary:</u>	Mr. URETA
<u>Deputy Executive Secretary:</u>	Mr. CHRISTOPHER

CONTENTS:

Exchange of experience on problems identified in the report of the
Group of Experts (agenda item 8) (continued)

N.B. Participants wishing to have corrections to this provisional summary record incorporated in the final summary record of the meeting are requested to submit them in writing, preferably on a copy of the record itself, to the Secretariat, Room D.509, Palais des Nations, Geneva, within two working days of receiving the provisional record in their working language.

E/CONF.53/SR.4
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EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE ON PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED IN THE REPORT OF THE GROUP
OF EXPERTS (agenda item 8) (E/CONF.53/L.2, L.4, L.8, L.11, L.38, L.41) (continued)

The PRESIDENT invited comments on problem (e).

Mr. BURRILL (Pan American Institute on Geography and History), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that the problem was complex and would have to be discussed at some length. He proposed that it should be examined in Committee No.3.

Mr. GALL (Guatemala) supported that proposal.

The proposal was adopted.

The PRESIDENT invited comments on problem (f).

Mr. BURRILL (Pan American Institute on Geography and History), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that, in some of the replies transmitted to the Secretariat, countries had stated that the problem did not arise in their case. From such replies it was evident that the problem had not been stated with sufficient clarity, because in reality it was universal. However, it was more likely to arise in the exchange of material between countries than within a given country.

Mr. PEARCY (United States of America) said that, if countries which used languages subject to syntactical and grammatical variations were to decide on one syntactical or grammatical form for each geographical name, all difficulties with regard to international standardization would disappear.

The PRESIDENT invited comments on problem (g).

Mr. MEYNEN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that the optional variations in question should be eliminated. In the example given, the official spelling should be "Rothenburg ob der Tauber".

Mr. BREU (Austria) said that in his country the names of certain communes included a specifying term to distinguish them from those of other communes. The so-called optional part was not really optional but formed part of the official name and must therefore be printed in full on official maps.

Mr. FRASER (Canada) strongly supported the view expressed by the last two speakers. It was the policy in Canada to discourage the use of optional elements in the names of populated places.

Mr. BURRILL (Pan American Institute on Geography and History), speaking at the invitation of the President, said it appeared that the problem which had existed had been solved by countries such as the Federal Republic of Germany, Austria and Canada.

The PRESIDENT invited comments on problem (h).

Mr. MOITORET (International Hydrographic Bureau), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that the problem had been discussed at the Ninth International Hydrographic Conference. A proposal had been submitted to the effect that national hydrographic offices, when issuing maps of their own coastlines, should not change existing names which appeared in the national language; where such a change was unavoidable, the historical name should appear in brackets on the chart. The proposal had been discussed at considerable length and had finally been rejected, firstly because it was substantially covered by other resolutions adopted by the Hydrographic Conference, and secondly in the expectation that a decision might be reached by the present Conference.

He thought that it would be of interest to mention some of the points which had been raised during the discussion. The representative of Burma had opposed the proposal on the grounds that, in many cases, the names now appearing on charts were not names recognized by the local inhabitants and it would therefore be desirable to change them. The Chilean representative, on the other hand, had pointed out that in many cases surveys of coastal areas had been made by nationals of other countries and the names used had been given by them. Cape Horne and Graves Island, for example, were called after explorers. The same representative had also pointed out that in some cases geographical names were employed in the scientific denomination of certain species of marine life, so that it would complicate matters for biologists and other scientists if those names were changed. The Yugoslav representative had said that in many cases coastal names had been given by foreign Powers, so that there was a natural desire to replace them by national names.

Mr. LOXTON (Kenya) suggested, as one criterion for application to the problem, the extent to which a particular name was established. It would obviously give rise to all sorts of difficulties if a well-established name was changed. In his country, the conclusion had been reached that any name appearing in official publications had become established and therefore should not be changed. In the case of names of topographical features in remote areas, the criterion applied was whether they appeared on the 1:1,000,000 scale maps. In many cases, the changing of names might cause greater difficulties than retention of the existing names. One solution might be to give alternative names in brackets.

Mr. SUN (China) said that Chinese geographical names had been in use for a very long time and were therefore difficult to change. His Government had adopted the system of using alternative names if necessary, while the local people continued to use the old name.

Mr. de BLOK (Netherlands) said that the representative of the International Hydrographic Bureau had given some useful information on the difficulties involved; however, that representative had been referring to international nautical charts, whereas the Conference was discussing domestic standardization of names. It was generally agreed that international standardization of names must be based on domestic standardization. So far as the latter was concerned, there was a golden rule that established names should not be changed. The only possible reason for changing such names was the political motive, and that could not be considered sound.

Mr. BURRELL (Pan American Institute on Geography and History), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that, when the Conference took up problem (j), it might find that some changes of name were in the national interest. As the representative of Kenya had suggested, it was necessary to lay down criteria to decide what were established names. In the desire to establish a single standardized form, it was possible that insufficient consideration had been given to the point made by the Chinese representative : namely, that an additional form might have to be used in certain cases. Further consideration might be given to the circumstances in which it was desirable to have more than one form.

Mr. KOMKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, as the Netherlands representative had pointed out, the frequent changing of names was undesirable in principle. However, the fact was that geographical names in most countries had changed from time to time, and it was therefore necessary to lay down criteria for such changes. The problem was of particular significance in developing countries where the initial mapping had been carried out by other nations. In such cases there was a good reason for changing names which were neither known nor used by the local people.

Mr. FRASER (Canada) said that in Canada an addition to the guiding principles had recently been approved, to the effect that established names which had proved acceptable and satisfactory should not be changed. In some cases, however, it was desirable to change a name, either in order to avoid duplication or because changing customs had made the old name unacceptable. Nevertheless, he agreed with the representative of the International Hydrographic Bureau that the changing of geographical names might result in confusion among scientists attempting to identify specimens.

Mr. ORMELING (Netherlands) asked the Conference to consider what the term "efficient" meant from the cartographic point of view. In cartography, short single names were the most practical, since on small-scale maps, which were those most used by the public, long names often obscured important features or other names.

Mr. GALL (Guatemala) said that the problem was causing grave concern in his country where, as in many other Latin American countries, geographical names could be changed by presidential decision. When that was done, for instance in the case of names established during the colonial era, it led to grave international difficulties, since it involved changing the international hydrographic charts.

Mr. LEWIS (United Kingdom), explaining the sense in which the word "efficient" had been used by the Group of Experts, said that an established name which had been widely used for many years might often be more effective than a new name because it was known by a greater number of people. On the other hand, if the original name could lead to confusion, for instance, through duplication with other place names, it might be more efficient to give the place a new name.

Mr. BURU (Libya) observed that, in African countries, many place names had been imposed by an occupying Power and, although given on international maps, were not those generally used by the inhabitants or by the present Government. In his country the name Tripoli, given by the Italians, had been replaced by the local name in Arabic spelling.

Mr. ORMELING (Netherlands) noted that the problem was not so much one of finding a new name to replace an established name as one of making a choice between two established names, that shown on the charts and that used by the local inhabitants.

Mr. LEWIS (United Kingdom) said that name-changing should not be done too abruptly. Some names took longer to disappear from current use than others and, while a name should be adopted as both a national and an international standard name if the country concerned so desired, the old name should be phased out until it was no longer so valid as the new one. The governing principle should be that the country concerned had a valid reason for making a change. It should be free to retain even an apparently meaningless name if it felt that that name validly represented the feature in question.

Mr. KHAMASUNDARA (Thailand) said that names to be changed could be divided into two categories: those known to foreigners, which were often based on misunderstanding of the local language and were thus illogical; and local names which, although applicable at the time they were given, had been made inappropriate by changing conditions.

Mr. BURRILL (Pan American Institute on Geography and History), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that the problem was one of the most complex studied by the Group of Experts, for it had many emotional and political implications. He thought, therefore, that it might be useful to amplify the relevant paragraph of the experts' report so as to reflect the points made during discussion.

Mr. KOMKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) endorsed the Guatemalan representative's comment concerning the difficulties caused by the changing of established names in international waters, with consequent modification of the navigational charts of all countries. Particular attention should be paid to the international implications of any such changes contemplated.

Mr. LEWIS (United Kingdom) suggested that the problem should be discussed in greater detail in Committees Nos. 1 and 4.

Mr. PEREZ GALINO (Spain) thought that those Committees should be given some guidelines. His country's report under agenda item 7 (E/CONF.53/L.35 and Add.1) did not go into all aspects of the problem, but it mentioned many cases in which two names existed for the same place. Detailed studies had been made of the causes and origins of such duplication and it was thought that, as communications improved, such duplication might tend to disappear. Some causes of duplication were purely grammatical, whereas others stemmed from the vernacular usage of the country. He thought that names representing an authentic description of a site or feature should not be altered; he suggested that, when the relevant paragraph was modified, it should recommend retaining names which were either internationally accepted or truly descriptive.

The PRESIDENT said that more detailed discussion on the subject would take place in Committees Nos. 1 and 4.

He invited comments on problem (i).

Mr. FRASER (Canada) said that one of the principles of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names was, firstly, that personal names should not be used unless it was in the public interest to honour a person by applying his name to a geographical feature, and secondly that, in any case, that should be done during the person's lifetime only in very exceptional circumstances. That was a guiding rather than a mandatory principle; its aim was to discourage the naming of features for political reasons. Each case of such naming would establish a precedent and increase the difficulty of rejecting similar requests in the future. However, in some cases it had been considered a gracious gesture to commemorate the names of worthy pioneer families and, especially in the northern parts of Canada, the practice had been to commemorate the names of servicemen who had died for their country in the Second World War.

Mr. ORMELING (Netherlands) fully supported the principle stated by the Canadian representative. In that connexion he thought that the Conference should discuss only the names of places and of major features, and not minor names such as those of streets and farms, which came under the jurisdiction of local rather than central authorities.

Mr. LEWIS (United Kingdom) cited, as an excellent example of the correct use of commemorative names, the USSR practice of naming lunar features after famous people. Even so, that practice might create problems for the makers of international charts, who would have to decide whether a name should be spelt as in the original language or should be directly transliterated from the Russian. Such commemorative use of historical names for newly discovered and nameless regions should be encouraged, but not the use of names of less eminent persons who were still alive.

Mr. LOXTON (Kenya) agreed with the Netherlands representative that, in general, street names did not fall under the category of geographical names. However, they might do so in the case of very long highways. The principle applied in Kenya was that, if the road was large enough to appear on the 1:50,000 scale map and had been given a name by the local council, its name should be treated as a geographical name even though the local authority was solely responsible for the choice of the name.

Mr. BURRILL (Pan American Institute on Geography and History), speaking at the invitation of the President, drew attention to another aspect of the problem: that of personal names which had been assigned to features at some time in the past, and for a reason since forgotten. In Alaska, for example, places were named after people who had gone there during the gold rush, and it was not known whether they were still alive. Hence he thought it unwise to impose an outright ban on the use of people's names during their lifetime, for much time could be wasted in inquiries.

Mr. LAMBERT (Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that in the Antarctic there was a deliberate policy of honouring explorers, even during their lifetime, by giving their names to geographical features.

Mr. BURRILL (Pan American Institute on Geography and History), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that the same was done for undersea features. The names of famous people were suitable for such use because they presented no problems of domestic standardization.

Mr. BREU (Austria) said that there were two distinct groups of countries: firstly, countries like Australia, Canada and the United States, that contained vast areas which were either unpopulated or had been settled only recently, and where commemorative naming was perfectly acceptable; and secondly, smaller, more densely populated countries like those in Western Europe, where commemorative naming was unusual and should be discouraged. In his own country no geographical entity had been named after a person, either living or dead, since 1830, when a small village destroyed by flooding had been rebuilt and named after the Emperor Francis I, who had been largely responsible for its reconstruction.

The PRESIDENT invited comments on problem (j).

Mr. BREU (Austria) said that in Austria, a Federation of länder, duplication in the names of communes within each land was prohibited. The names of all communes in a given land had to be registered and, in cases of duplication, explanatory notes

had to be added to the names concerned. At the Federal level every effort was made to avoid giving the same name to communes in different länder, but the legal responsibility remained with the land Governments.

Where two geographical features were found to have the same name and the name was widely known, some wording was added to the name in order to distinguish between the two features: for example, two rivers formerly having the same name were now called Warme Fische and Kalte Fische respectively. No attempt was made to avoid duplication in the case of small hills or mountains known only locally.

Mr. MASSAQUOI (Liberia) said that there was considerable duplication of names in parts of West Africa. In Liberia names of towns were duplicated in several countries, but that presented no problem provided that the name of the county was mentioned along with that of the town. The same applied to rivers, streams, hills and other geographical features. Alteration of long-standing names would involve, among other difficulties, political problems beyond the competence of the Board of Geographical Names, and would be resented by travellers.

Mr. KHAMASUNDARA (Thailand) said that his country was in a similar position to that of Liberia with regard to duplication of geographical names: Thailand, like Liberia, found that the problems of duplication could easily be solved by mentioning the administrative division, such as the village, town or city, after a duplicate name.

Mr. LEWIS (United Kingdom) observed that there were many areas in the world where simple methods of identification of the kind suggested by the two previous speakers would not be possible. In a part of west Africa near Nigeria, for example, there were numerous places with the same name in one district. One remedy would be to avoid using names with meanings, such as "Red Hill", "Mud Lake" or "the House of ...", since they were the ones that tended to be duplicated and to cause ambiguity later on.

Mr. KOMKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republic) said that there were two aspects of the problem. The first, already covered under problem (c), was the case of geographical entities with two or more different names, where a choice had to be made between them. The second was the case of entities in different regions having the same name. It was desirable that each entity should have a different name, but in practice that was no more feasible than, for example, in the case of family surnames. The only solution, therefore, was to recommend some way of differentiating between entities, for example by adding to their names words describing their characteristics.

Mr. MARTY (Cameroon) said that his country had a problem which was probably commoner in African countries than elsewhere: that of people moving out of a small village and setting up a new one with the same name. In Cameroon the difficulty was overcome by numbering such villages with Roman numerals.

In reply to a question put by Mr. BURRILL (Pan American Institute on Geography and History), Mr. MARTY (Cameroon) said that no explanation of the Roman numerals was given in the map margin. The villages were numbered in chronological order of their establishment.

Mr. MAHIAR-NAVABI (Iran) said that, in his country, the descriptive name of a geographical feature - such as the Black Mountain - could not be changed even if it duplicated another. Where there was duplication in the names of villages or small towns, on the other hand, one of the names had to be changed. New names were proposed by the local council for approval by a commission of the Ministry of the Interior.

The PRESIDENT said that, since there was no comments on problem (k) it would be referred to the appropriate committee for discussion.

He invited comments on problem (l).

Mr. BURRILL (Pan American Institute on Geography and History), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that the problem was closely linked to problem (f), so that the comments made on the one problem would in essentials, apply to the other. Problem (l) did not, as a rule, arise within one country; it was only when names were exchanged between countries that the printing form began to present difficulties.

Mr. LEWIS (United Kingdom) endorsed the PAIGH representative's comments.

Mr. MEYNEN (Federal Republic of Germany) also agreed with the PAIGH representative. He suggested that, where deviations in printing form occurred, the Conference should recommend their abolition.

Mr. BREU (Austria) said that in his country there were two categories of geographical names. The first was that of place names in the strict sense of the term: i.e., the names of inhabited places. Such names were often written in historical forms that had been decided upon officially; in such cases the accepted rules of standard German were not applicable and the standard printing form was not used. The second category was that of names given in strict conformity with standard German, which appeared in the latest editions of the official map of Austria.

The PRESIDENT invited comments on problem (m).

Mr. ORMELING (Netherlands) asked if a member of the Group of Experts could explain the implications of paragraph (m).

Mr. BURRILL (Pan American Institute on Geography and History), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that complete avoidance of subjectivity in deciding names was impossible. However, if the process of deciding names could be based on general principles, clearly stated and demonstrably in the public interest, it would not be necessary to rely on subjective judgments to the same degree. The more the process could be reduced to the application of principles and of widely known procedure, the fewer would be the occasions when a choice must be made between subjective evaluations of criteria that might have a bearing on the selection of names.

Mr. FRASER (Canada) said that he had been wondering whether the problem related to the selection of new names by automatic data processing or computerization - the method used in choosing names for new commercial products or companies. He agreed with the PAIGH representative that subjectivity in the selection of new names was unavoidable; all names except truly descriptive ones were more or less artificially contrived.

The PRESIDENT invited comments on problem (n).

Mr. LAMBERT (Australia) drew attention to his Government's report under agenda item 7 (E/CONF.53/L.23) and in particular to principle (f) and the last paragraph in the section on guiding principles for the Nomenclature Board of Tasmania (page 8).

The PRESIDENT, speaking as the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, said that the problem could easily be solved if the basis for a standardized name was local. If such a name was unknown locally, it would take some time to become widely known. A new name could be made mandatory on paper but it would not necessarily be accepted by the inhabitants. For example when streets were renamed, people often went on calling them by the old names. Consequently, in standardizing geographical names, preference should be given to local names.

The PRESIDENT invited comments on problem (o).

Mr. BURRILL (Pan American Institute on Geography and History), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that the point of the comment made on that problem by the Group of Experts was that, if geographical entities could not be located by co-ordinates of latitude and longitude, they would have to be located by some other means. The problem then was to decide what kind of locational device should be used.

Mr. LAMBERT (Australia) asked whether representatives had any preference as between latitude and longitude, on the one hand, and grid co-ordinates on the other.

Mr. LEWIS (United Kingdom) said that he thought both methods should be used. If a location could be expressed in geographical co-ordinates, it should be so expressed; but that did not remove the need to express it in the grid co-ordinates used in the maps, on the appropriate scale, of the country concerned.

Mr. GOMEZ de SILVA (Mexico) asked for comments on the appropriate degree of precision for co-ordinates: i.e., on whether degrees, minutes or seconds should be used.

Mr. LEWIS (United Kingdom) said that it would not be practical to require co-ordinates to be expressed in seconds. They should not, however, be defined with less accuracy than the nearest minute, or much of the value of the gazetteer would be lost. Sometimes it might not be feasible to distinguish between places which had the same name by means of the numerical system referred to by the Cameroonian representative. To avoid ambiguity, therefore, such places should be located to at least the nearest minute, and the nearest half-minute would be even better.

Mr. ORMELING (Netherlands) said that no Dutchman had ever discovered where the Sierra Madre Mountains began or ended. In that case, location to the nearest degree would be sufficient.

Mr. BURRILL (Pan American Institute of Geography and History), speaking at the invitation of the President, endorsed the Netherlands representative's comment. Precision in location would depend on size and other closely related factors. No purpose would be served by attempting to locate geographical features more precisely than the available information permitted. The fineness of reading chosen should be roughly proportionate to the size and numbers of such features.

Mr. LEWIS (United Kingdom) said that he still considered that any unit greater than a minute would not supply, in the language of problem (o), "a precision necessary for all needs". The Netherlands representative's point concerning the Sierra Madre Mountains was more relevant to problem (p).

To revert to the Australian representative's inquiry, the choice between grid references and geographical co-ordinates depended on the degree of accuracy required. For example, in dealing with positions on 1:50,000 scale maps or positions related to maps on that scale, it would be less satisfactory for many purposes to have places defined even to one minute than to one-tenth of grid square. The latter was a far better system of reference in such cases.

Mr. FRASER (Canada) agreed with the United Kingdom representative that geographical entities should so far as possible be located to the nearest minute. That was done in the Gazetteer of Canada series, and there was rarely any need for greater precision. For the volume on British Columbia, however, the grid system had been used. That provided reasonable accuracy, but it was not possible to determine the exact position without referring to one of the best maps. Moreover, in the preparation of a gazetteer, the use of the grid system meant including a longer locational description in the text than was necessary when the geographical co-ordinates were used.

Mr. LEWIS (United Kingdom) said that, in discussing problem (o), the Conference should bear in mind future requirements. The trend was towards automation of cartography and indexing - including the indexing of names - and towards the use of names indexed by some method of data processing. He therefore considered that places should be recorded nationally to a very high degree of accuracy in order to allow for automatic name-placement in mapping and for other elements of automation which would facilitate and simplify the cartographer's task.

Mr. LOXTON (Kenya) suggested that the discussions in the principal committees might reveal that some reference system other than geographical latitude and longitude would better serve the purpose of location: for example, the universal transverse Mercator projection with its kilometric grid, providing references to the nearest kilometre.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.

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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION
OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Monday, 11 September 1967, at 10.30 a.m.

<u>President:</u>	Mr. BURRILL	United States of America
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. GOMEZ de SILVA	Mexico
<u>Executive Secretary:</u>	Mr. URETA	
<u>Deputy Executive Secretary:</u>	Mr. CHRISTOPHER	

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geographical names (agenda item 7) (continued)

N.B. Participants wishing to have corrections to this provisional summary
record incorporated in the final summary record of the meeting are
requested to submit them in writing, preferably on a copy of the record
itself, to the Official Records Editing Section, United Nations
Secretariat, Room 443, Palais des Nations, Geneva, within two working
days of receiving the provisional record in their working language.

E/CONF.53/SR.6
GE.67-18433

ADDRESS BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Mr. ARCE (Representative of the Secretary-General) said that the work of the Conference was of vital importance for the future; it should be judged in the context of present-day technological development. The present age was an outstanding one in world history because of the remarkable technological progress made in the past fifty years; it could be described as a technological Renaissance. Technical advances were increasing the interdependence of nations; the world was becoming smaller in the jet age; natural resources were no longer the heritage of individual countries, but belonged to the whole world.

Cartography, too, had improved its technical methods. The plane table and the theodolite had given way to aerial photography and the use of lasers in topographical surveying. It was astonishing that, in a period of such enormous technical progress all over the world, geographical names had remained in a state of utter confusion. The Conference had been convened to remedy the situation. The importance that Governments attached to it was evident from the quality of the participants.

The outcome of the Conference would be a landmark in the progress of universal geography and an important step forward in standardizing the maps produced in different parts of the world. It would also be of invaluable assistance in statistical and census work.

The United Nations hoped that, as one of the results of the Conference, countries which had not yet appointed special authorities to be responsible for fixing geographical names would do so as soon as possible. The Conference would suggest guidelines for the work of national authorities and would indicate the rules to be followed in standardizing geographical names.

The work of Committee No. 4, on international co-operation, was particularly important as a contribution to the constant efforts of the United Nations to promote such co-operation. The Cartography Section would act as a centre for the interchange of geographical names and for the supply of information on the rules established for their standardization.

On behalf of the Secretary-General, he thanked the Group of Experts on Geographical Names for its valuable preparatory work and wished the Conference every success.

The PRESIDENT said that the Secretary-General's representative had given a useful reminder that the Conference was meeting, not as a gathering of people from different countries, but as an international group seeking ways of co-operating

internationally; the representative had drawn attention to the wider implications of international co-operation on the standardization of geographical names.

The Secretary-General's representative had also stressed the significance of the Conference's work in the context of the present remarkable advance in technological development. The technological "explosion" would have an increasing bearing on the practical measures discussed, adopted, tried out and modified. New tools were available; names would have to be handled in unprecedented numbers; and new methods would have to be devised to cope with them. One of the difficulties was that changes occurred so rapidly that past experience was no longer an adequate preparation for dealing with future problems. However, countries where there had not been much teaching on the standardization of geographical names might usefully bear in mind the value of teaching as a means of learning. Those who had had experience in teaching were well aware how much they learned in the process of preparing material for their students.

He welcomed the presence of the Secretary-General's representative, whose position in the United Nations and long-standing interest in the subject of the Conference would enable him to view its work in the right perspective. That would be extremely helpful, since experts often tended to overlook the wider implications of their particular problems.

REPORTS OF GOVERNMENTS ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES (agenda item 7) (E/CONF.53/L.3, L.6, L.9, L.12, L.13, L.17, L.21, L.22, L.23, L.25, L.35, L.40, L.42, L.44, L.45, L.46, L.65) (continued)

Mr. FÖLDI (Hungary) said that in his country, as stated in the Government's report (E/CONF.53/L.13), the official forms of administrative names were given in a gazetteer published regularly by the Central Statistical Office; the official forms of names other than administrative names were established by the Committee on Geographical Names of the National Office of Lands and Mapping. The Committee dealt with geographical names in Hungary, and the progress made was described in the last paragraph of the report. It also dealt with the Hungarian forms of foreign geographical names. A list of the names of foreign countries in the forms to be used in Hungarian would be published, shortly, and the Committee intended to publish later on a similar list of the names of the most important foreign geographical features.

Important progress had recently been made in the standardization of place names through the exclusive use of the orthography established by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

With regard to names other than administrative names, a collection of about 800 such names was being compiled as reported in the fourth paragraph of his Government's report.

Mr. KABENGELE (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that his country did not yet possess a national organization responsible for standardizing geographical names. It therefore welcomed the opportunity to benefit from the experience of other countries, especially on the subjects covered by items 7 and 8 of the agenda.

With regard to item 9 of the agenda, concerning national standardization, the collection of names in his country was based on information provided by the local administrative authorities; the official spelling reproduced the sound of each name as pronounced by the local inhabitants, in accordance with the rules on the spelling of geographical names given in the annex to his Government's report (E/CONF.53/L.42). The generic term of geographical features was always given in French, the principal language of the country.

The four main vernacular languages were Kikongo, Lingala, Tshiluba and Kiswaheli. Geographical names were recorded in the language mainly used by the local inhabitants.

The Congolese Geographical Institute intended to set up field teams to carry out research on geographical names, in collaboration with administrative authorities and local inhabitants, according to the rules already mentioned. On receipt of information from the teams, the Geographical Institute would merely verify that the rules of spelling had been correctly applied to the written word.

A provisional national gazetteer had been produced, based on the 1:200,000 scale maps which were the only ones to cover the whole country. The place names were listed by districts and their positions given to the nearest 15 minutes. However, when the Geographical Institute's new map production programme had been completed, it should be possible to produce a more accurate national gazetteer.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.

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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION
OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SEVENTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Monday, 18 September 1967, at 10.20 a.m.

<u>President:</u>	Mr. BURRILL	United States of America
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. GOMEZ DE SILVA	Mexico
<u>Executive Secretary:</u>	Mr. URETA	
<u>Deputy Executive Secretary:</u>	Mr. CHRISTOPHER	

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Report on credentials (agenda item 4)

Reports by Governments on the progress made in the standardization of
geographical names (agenda item 7) (continued)

N.B. Participants wishing to have corrections to this provisional summary record incorporated in the final summary record of the meeting are requested to submit them in writing, preferably on a copy of the record itself, to the Official Records Editing Section, United Nations Secretariat, Room 443, Palais des Nations, Geneva, within two working days of receiving the provisional record in their working language.

E/CONF.53/SR.7

GE.67-18951

REPORT ON CREDENTIALS

The PRESIDENT said that, since Mr. Coker (Nigeria), who had been elected Second Vice-President (E/CONF.53/SR.1, page 5), had not been able to attend the Conference, the Credentials Committee had only four members instead of the five prescribed by rule 3 of the rules of procedure (ibid., pp. 3 - 4). The simplest course of action open to the Conference would be to amend rules 6 and 3 of the rules of procedures relating respectively to the election of Vice-Presidents and the composition of the Credentials Committee.

Mr. LEWIS (United Kingdom), supported by Mr. GALL (Guatemala), proposed that rule 3 should be amended to provide for a Credentials Committee of four instead of five members, and rule 6 to provide for one Vice-President instead of two.

The proposal was adopted unanimously.

The PRESIDENT announced that, except in one case, the Credentials Committee had examined the credentials of all the representatives and had found them in order. He understood that the credentials of the representative of Senegal, who had just arrived, had been submitted but not yet examined. When they had been examined, the representative's name would be added to the official list of representatives.

REPORTS BY GOVERNMENTS ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES (agenda item 7) (E/CONF.53/L.3, L.6, L.9, L.12, L.13, L.17, L.21, L.22, L.23, L.25, L.35, L.40, L.42, L.44, L.45, L.46, L.65, L.68, L.70, L.71, L.74) (continued)

Mr. COHEN (Bulgaria) said that in his country geographical names were the concern, under the Academy of Sciences, of the Bulgarian Language Institute and the Directorate of Geodesy and Cartography. The Institute had for some years been engaged in a thorough study of Bulgarian toponymy and the problems involved in transcribing foreign geographical names. The Directorate of Geodesy and Cartography had for many years been preparing maps of Bulgaria and transcribing foreign geographical names, mainly for small-scale maps. The Bulgarian Council for Orthography and Transcription of Geographical Names, established in 1964, was responsible to the Directorate of Geodesy and Cartography, whose decisions were binding on all Bulgarian institutions. To ensure that standard forms were used by communication media, the Council issued lists of transcribed foreign geographical names and correct spellings of Bulgarian names. Its transcriptions were based, to the extent that Bulgarian grammar and pronunciation permitted, on accurate phonetic representation of the pronunciation officially recognized and most widely used in the country concerned. In the past two-and-a-half years the Council had published E/CONF.53/SR.7

eleven lists of transcribed European and American geographical names. It had clarified the principles of transcription and dealt with a wide range of subjects, including transcription from languages belonging to different linguistic families.

Accurate transcription of foreign geographical names required constant contact between countries, in the form of exchanges of information on national toponymy and exchanges of experience at symposia; it also required a critical appraisal of transcription in other countries, and the publication of periodicals dealing with the theoretical problems involved. He fully supported the view of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names that regional conferences on the subject should be convened from time to time (E/CONF.53/L.1, para. 9). United Nations action could be of great assistance to national bodies concerned with the standardization of geographical names.

Mr. APONTE (Venezuela) said that - as pointed out in his Government's report (E/CONF.53/L.45) - Venezuela by reason of its geographical position, had a varied toponymy derived from the many different tribes and peoples who had settled in its territory or on its borders. The standardization of geographical names required research by linguists and historians.

A cartographic programme was being carried out in Venezuela, and in conjunction with it a list of geographical names was being compiled. Maps on the scale of 1:25,000, covering 5 minutes latitude by 7.5 minutes longitude, were being prepared and were being scaled down to 1:100,000 sheets covering 20 minutes latitude by 30 minutes longitude. The competent Section of the Directorate of National Cartography had since 1960 converted 4,800 aerial photographs to maps on the scale of 1:60,000, 1:50,000 or 1:25,000 and had also prepared maps of forty-five urban areas using standard symbols provided for in cartographic manuals. The more important urban areas had been selected for special study. In rural areas information was being obtained from local inhabitants, who accompanied official teams in the field. A new Section on Geographical Names had been established and was preparing toponymic maps, gazeteers and glossaries.

Mr. GALLES (Luxembourg) said that for the past fifteen years the Toponymy Board (Commission de Toponymie) had been working on the standardization of geographical names for a series of 1:25,000 scale maps of Luxembourg. The Board tried to observe the principles of the spoken language but also sought to avoid changing name-forms already adopted in other countries. Place-name spellings were based on forms appearing in historical documents in French, while the names of topographical features were transcribed into a form which corresponded as closely as possible to local pronunciation. The phonetic writing system used, though ideal for linguistic purposes, was ill suited to cartographic needs.

Mr. TARAJSKI (Poland) said that since the war a great deal of work had been done on the restoration of former Polish geographical names, especially in the western and northern parts of the country. The results of that work were contained in a two-volume publication recently issued by a special commission of leading linguists and geographers established for that purpose. The geographical names proposed had subsequently been officially approved for general use. A detailed study by Professor Kondracki on the division of the country into physical geographical regions included a list of proposed regional names; most had been adopted, although some were still under discussion. Another recent work, by Professor Zwolinski, dealt with the hydronymy of the Vistula basin, which covered three-quarters of the country. Most of the work on geographical names was done by field teams under the auspices of the Directorate of Geodesy and Cartography. Large-scale maps had been prepared for the entire country, and the names of nearly all places had been approved in an official form. General geographical gazetteers were drawn up by a special administrative department.

The Commission on Geographical Names, established in the Geographical Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences in 1952, had worked out some general principles for the transcription of foreign geographical names. The gazetteer published by the Commission contained nearly 20,000 names giving Polish spellings alongside officially recognized forms, an indication of the system used for transcribing geographical names from languages with non-Roman writing systems, and a glossary of common geographical terms. Work was in progress on a world atlas.

Mr. ROUBIK (Czechoslovakia) said that cartographers and geographers had been working on the standardization of geographical names in his country for some decades and that a gazetteer had recently been issued giving the geographically and philologically correct forms of all names of inhabited localities in Czechoslovakia. Any name changes were decided by the competent authorities jointly with a special commission of cartographical, geographical and philological experts. A Terminology Commission, established under the Directorate of Geodesy and Cartography and composed of representatives from Government departments and academic institutions together with specialists in history, geography and philology, dealt with any problems arising in connexion with geographical names in Czechoslovakia and with the transcription of foreign geographical names. Each administrative area had its own terminology commission. The work of the area commissions was supervised by the central Terminology Commission, which had issued an instruction manual on the subject. The Commission's gazetteers, when approved by the Directorate of Geodesy and Cartography, were used for the preparation of maps in the Czech and Slovak languages.

The PRESIDENT, recalling what he had said at the first meeting about the long and difficult task confronting the Conference (E/CONF.53/SR.1, page 4), said that, in his opinion, a considerable amount of progress had been made in identifying and understanding the problems involved in the standardization of geographical names. The discussions in progress were showing participants where differences of opinion still existed and - he hoped - the reasons why they existed. It would be unrealistic to expect solutions to be found for all those problems before the end of the Conference, but it might be possible to determine what action should be taken in the future to solve those still outstanding.

The real aim of the Conference was to achieve universal co-operation on the standardization of geographical names. It had no power to force any country to do anything; its only strength lay in reasonableness and in persuasion. It was natural, when choosing between alternatives, that every participant should consider what would best meet the interests of the country he represented, but the good of the whole world community should also be borne in mind. It was for each participant to decide whether to adopt a national or an international position on any matter; a participant's reasons for taking a particular position might remain unknown to others, but it should be assumed that his motives were good. In that connexion he

had been gratified to note that at previous meetings all participants, even when putting forward conflicting views, had endeavoured to make a constructive contribution.

Since, as he had said, not all the problems could be covered during the Conference, attention should now be focussed on those points upon which agreement could be reached. If the Conference made recommendations which could not be implemented, co-operation would not be advanced. He suggested that the Conference might agree not to adopt any resolution which would have the effect of trying to make any country do what it was unable or unprepared to do.

It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.

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25 September 1967

Original: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION
OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE EIGHTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 21 September 1967, at 4.20 p.m.

<u>President:</u>	Mr. BURRILL	United States of America
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. GOMEZ DE SILVA	Mexico
<u>Executive Secretary:</u>	Mr. URETA	
<u>Deputy Executive Secretary:</u>	Mr. CHRISTOPHER	

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International co-operation (agenda item 12):

(b) Steps towards international standardization

(a) Formation of a United Nations Permanent Commission of Experts on
Geographical Names

Report of the Conference (agenda item 13)

N.B. Participants wishing to have corrections to this provisional summary record incorporated in the final summary record of the meeting are requested to submit them in writing, preferably on a copy of the record itself, to the Official Records Editing Section, United Nations Secretariat, Room 443, Palais des Nations, Geneva, within two working days of receiving the provisional record in their working language.

E/CONF.53/SR.8
GE.67-19401

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION (agenda item 12) (E/CONF.53/L.15, L.26 and Add.1, L.51, L.67, L.83):

(b) STEPS TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

Mr. GLEDITSCH (Norway) drew attention to a report submitted by the delegations of Denmark, Sweden and Norway on regional standardization of geographical names (E/CONF.53/L.67), which gave a short account of the action taken jointly by their Governments under a resolution adopted by the VIth International Congress of Onomastic Sciences, held at Munich in 1958. He had chosen to introduce the report under item 12(b) because he believed that co-operation within groups of countries of similar language was the first step towards international standardization. It was obvious that an international agreement on transliteration could not be arrived at immediately, but he was convinced that it would be reached in time. To attain that goal, every effort should be made by groups of countries of similar language to obtain as wide a measure of compromise as was possible. In the experience of the Scandinavian countries, changes in the spelling of geographical names were accepted with surprising speed despite the almost universal view that spellings should not be changed.

Having completed the first step towards regional standardization, the Scandinavian countries were ready to take the second step. If other groups of countries of similar language did what those countries had done, he believed that international agreement on standardization could be reached in ten years.

(a) FORMATION OF A UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT COMMISSION OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

The PRESIDENT observed that, according to a view repeatedly expressed, the most important action the Conference could take was to set up machinery to ensure that the co-operation achieved during the session did not lose momentum. Although the proposed Permanent Commission might take some time to establish, there appeared to be no reason why unofficial action should not be taken in the meantime.

An ad hoc group of experts had held its first meeting the previous day and had elected the following officers:

Chairman:	Mr. Burrill (United States of America)
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Komkov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Nédélec (France)
Co-ordinating Secretary:	Mr. Christopher (United Nations Secretariat).

The ad hoc group would meet again next day, after the closure of the session, and attempt to ascertain what action the Conference had left incomplete and what arrangements could be made for work pending the establishment of the proposed Permanent Commission. The members of the proposed Commission would be appointed by the United Nations, probably after the spring session of the Economic and Social Council in 1968.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE (agenda item 13) (E/CONF.53/2 and Add.1, 2 and 5; E/CONF.53/C.1/1 and Add.1; E/CONF.53/C.4/1)

The PRESIDENT invited the Conference to examine the draft reports of Committees I and IV which, after adoption, would be treated as addenda to the report of the Conference.

Draft report of Committee I (E/CONF.53/C.1/1 and Add.

The draft report of Committee I was adopted.

Draft report of Committee IV (E/CONF.53/C.4/1)

Mr. LOXTON (Kenya) suggested that the term "Body of Experts" used in paragraphs 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12 of the draft report should be replaced by the term "Group of Experts".

It was so agreed.

Mr. BREU (Austria), supported by Mr. MEYNEN (Federal Republic of Germany), suggested that the term "German-Dutch", which was used in paragraph 9 to describe a linguistic/geographic group, should be replaced by the expression "German and Dutch speaking countries".

It was so agreed.

The draft report of Committee IV, as amended, was adopted.

The PRESIDENT invited the Conference to examine the successive chapters of its draft report.

Chapter 1 (E/CONF.53/2)

Mr. GOMEZ DE SILVA (Mexico), Rapporteur, invited delegations to submit to him, in writing, any corrections to the names and designations of their members.

Mr. COHEN (Bulgaria) suggested that the addresses of participants might be included in the report.

The PRESIDENT said it was not United Nations practice to include such information in the reports of meetings. Such addresses as appeared in the draft report had been provided by participants on their official registration forms.

E/CONF.53/SR.8

In reply to questions put by Mr. LAMBERT (Australia) and Mr. FRASER (Canada), Mr. GOMEZ DE SILVA (Mexico), Rapporteur, explained that there was a historical reason why paragraph 4 included two texts for rule 3 of the rules of procedure. At its first meeting the Conference had decided that the Credentials Committee should consist of five members (E/CONF.53/SR.1, page 3); at its seventh meeting it had revised that decision and decided that the Credentials Committee should consist of four members (E/CONF.53/SR.7, page 2).

The PRESIDENT suggested that the Conference should adopt chapter I subject to possible corrections to the list of names and designations of participants.

Chapter I of the draft report of the Conference (E/CONF.53/2) was so adopted.

Chapter II (E/CONF.53/2/Add.1, 2 and 5)

Mr. ASSAYE (Ethiopia) suggested that the word "Geographical" should be inserted before "Names" in the title of recommendation A (E/CONF.53/2/Add.1, page 4).

It was so agreed.

The part of Chapter II set forth in document E/CONF.53/2/Add.1, as amended, was adopted.

The parts of Chapter II set forth in documents E/CONF.53/2/Add.2 and 5 were adopted.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.

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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION
OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE NINTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Friday, 22 September 1967, at 9.50 a.m.

<u>President:</u>	Mr. BURRILL	United States of America
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. GOMEZ DE SILVA	Mexico
<u>Executive Secretary:</u>	Mr. URETA	
<u>Deputy Executive Secretary:</u>	Mr. CHRISTOPHER	

CONTENTS:

Report of the Conference (agenda item 13) (continued)

Closure of the Conference

N.B. Participants wishing to have corrections to this provisional summary record incorporated in the final summary record of the meeting are requested to submit them in writing, preferably on a copy of the record itself, to the Official Records Editing Section, United Nations Secretariat, Room 443, Palais des Nations, Geneva, within two working days of receiving the provisional record in their working language.

E/CONF.53/SR.9
GE.67-19430

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE (agenda item 13) (E/CONF.53/2 and Add.1-5; E/CONF.53/C.1/1 and Add.1, E/CONF.53/C.2/1, E/CONF.53/C.3/1, E/CONF.53/C.4/1) (continued)

The PRESIDENT invited the Conference to examine the draft report of Committee III (E/CONF.53/C.3/1) which, after adoption, would be treated as an addendum to the report of the Conference.

Mr. KOMKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed that the word "Germany" in the fourth line from the bottom on page 2 and in the twelfth line from the bottom on page 9 should be replaced by the words "the Federal Republic of Germany". He further proposed that the words "White Russian" in the third paragraph on page 11 should be changed to "Russian"; there was no such language as "White Russian".

It was so agreed.

Mr. MARTY (Cameroon) proposed that the words "from a practical point of view" should be inserted after the words "The delegate of Cameroon thought it desirable" in the second paragraph on page 4.

It was so agreed.

The draft report of Committee III, as amended, was adopted.

The PRESIDENT invited the Conference to resume the examination of chapter II of its draft report.

The part of chapter II set forth in document E/CONF.53/2/Add.3 was adopted.

Resolution 19 and recommendations A, B, C and D (E/CONF.53/2/Add.4) were adopted.

The PRESIDENT pointed out that recommendation E in document E/CONF.53/2/Add.4 consisted of a series of amendments to the language of recommendation VII in the first report of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names (E/CONF.53/L.2, page 13).

In reply to a question put by Mr. ORMELING (Netherlands), Mr. GOMEZ DE SILVA (Mexico), Rapporteur, stated that, although the Conference had not adopted any resolution endorsing the recommendations of the Group of Experts, recommendation VII of the Group had been approved, with certain amendments, in Committee II and was now before the plenary meeting of the Conference. The text of that recommendation, as revised by recommendation E, would be reproduced as an official document of the Conference, just as the Group's recommendations had been reproduced in document E/CONF.53/L.2

Mr. SIMPSON (Ghana) said that, in his view, the Conference was not competent to amend a recommendation which had been adopted by the Group of Experts. The Conference should simply state its views concerning recommendation VII, without attempting to analyse it in detail. It was clearly the view of the Conference that the fourth paragraph of the recommendation was inappropriate.

The Conference should include in its own recommendation only those parts of recommendation VII which it considered satisfactory.

Mr. BARANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that his delegation had been represented in the working group of Committee II which had dealt with the paragraph in question. The Working Group had considered that paragraph most carefully and had recommended that it should be deleted because its adoption would result in the addition of a number of new diacritical marks and letters to the inscriptions on existing maps. He felt that the Conference could safely agree to the deletion of that paragraph.

Mr. GEELAN (United Kingdom) endorsed the Soviet representative's comments. There were three possibilities open to the Conference. First, it might leave recommendation VII as it stood, but that would imply that the recommendation had not been discussed. Secondly, it might delete the fourth paragraph and adopt a revised version of recommendation VII; that would be a rather drastic solution. Thirdly, it might accept a minor revision of the recommendation and refer the whole question to the proposed United Nations Permanent Commission of Experts on Geographical Names. In his opinion, the last was the most practical course of action.

The PRESIDENT suggested the following procedure: the Conference would state in its report that, after considering recommendation VII of the Group of Experts as set forth in document E/CONF.53/L.2, it had taken the view that that recommendation might be better worded. It would then quote the entire recommendation, as amended, in the form of a resolution, which would become resolution 20. In conclusion, it would say: "The Conference further suggests that the proposed United Nations Permanent Commission of Experts on Geographical Names should consider this matter further".

It was so agreed.

The part of chapter II set forth in document E/CONF.53/2/Add.4 as a whole, as amended, was adopted.

The PRESIDENT invited the Conference to examine the draft report of Committee II (E/CONF.53/C.2/1) which, after adoption, would be treated as an addendum to the report of the Conference.

Mr. MEYNEN (Federal Republic of Germany) suggested that, on the cover page, the title should be amended to read "Geographical Terms".

It was so agreed.

Mr. ORMELING (Netherlands) suggested that in the fifth paragraph on page 5, the last sentence should be replaced by the following:

"Several delegates proposed some amendments to the text. Finland proposed a new text which was then approved."

It was so agreed.

The draft report of Committee II, as amended, was adopted.

The PRESIDENT said that annex 5 to the report of the Conference would contain a final list of the Conference documents.

Mr. BARANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that, according to a letter from four delegations circulated as a Conference document (E/CONF.53/L.85), the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany was authorized to speak for the whole of Germany. The fact was that Germany was at present composed of two sovereign States, the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic. His delegation had drafted a document on the subject and requested that it should be circulated as a Conference document.

The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, the Soviet request would be granted.

It was so agreed.

Mr. PEREZ GALINO (Spain) said that the text of the various parts of the Conference report was not always consistent from one language to another. He suggested that the language specialists among the members of the ad hoc group of experts might revise the texts or add explanatory foot-notes where necessary.

Mr. GALL (Guatemala), supported by Mr. KABENGELE (Democratic Republic of the Congo) suggested that the Conference should adopt a resolution addressing a vote of thanks to the United Nations Secretariat.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that the resolution in question would be numbered 21. He suggested that the Conference should adopt it in principle, leaving the text to be drafted by the Rapporteur.

It was so agreed.

The report of the Conference as a whole, as amended, was adopted subject to editing by the United Nations Secretariat.

CLOSURE OF THE CONFERENCE

The PRESIDENT expressed his appreciation to all concerned for their collaboration in a very successful Conference. All participants had learned a great deal from contact and discussion with their colleagues from other countries, and he was sure that the work and collaboration thus begun would be continued and intensified in the future. The proposed Permanent Commission would constitute a useful central nucleus, but all concerned should realize what part they would have to play in future efforts to standardize geographical names. He hoped it would be possible to work out a practical procedure whereby all those who had participated in the Conference could be invited to submit their comments on any action recommended by the ad hoc group of experts.

Mr. ARCE (Representative of the Secretary-General) said that he had followed with interest the fruitful work of the Conference. The large number of participants and of countries, specialized agencies and international bodies represented showed what keen interest the first Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names had aroused throughout the world. It had not been able to solve all the problems involved in such standardization, but it had worked out basic principles which would be of great use in all future work on the subject and had recommended establishment of the machinery needed to continue that work. The Permanent Commission could not be set up without the approval of the Economic and Social Council, but the work would be carried on in the meantime by an ad hoc group of experts. It was to be hoped that the experts would be able to encourage all countries to create national committees on the standardization of geographical names and to advance the process of international co-operation and understanding begun at the Conference.

After the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the Conference closed.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.