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SCANDINAVIAN REGIONAL STANDARDIZATION

Report prepared by the Delegates of Denmark, Sweden and Norway
on regional standardization of the spelling of geographical names

In accordance with the "Draft Programme for Achieving International Uniformity in the Writing of Geographical Names" of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and as a result of a resolution adopted by the Vith International Congress of Onomastic Sciences in Munich, 24-28 August 1958, the Norwegian Delegate to this Congress suggested that representatives of Denmark, Sweden and Norway should meet to discuss standardization of the spelling of geographical names in the Scandinavian region. A meeting was held in Uppsala on 1 October 1958, and there was full agreement on the following points :

- a. The creation of National Authorities responsible for the standardization of the writing of geographical names is essential.

In the Scandinavian countries there exist and have existed for years official bodies responsible for the regulation of the spelling of national names. It is regarded as essential that the internationally adopted writing of place-names should be based on the forms recommended by National Names Authorities.

- b. It will be easier to achieve international uniformity by transcribing written forms than pronunciation.
- c. Special Scandinavian letters and diacritical marks should be accepted in international use.

In accordance with this programme the "Language Councils" of the Scandinavian countries have since 1958 published lists of foreign geographical names in which

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common Scandinavian spellings, based on genuine national forms, are recommended for use in maps and educational material. A special committee of experts from Denmark, Sweden and Norway have agreed on a common Scandinavian transcription of geographical names written in the Cyrillic alphabet. Work is now in progress on similar rules for transcription from other writing systems (e.g. Arabic, Chinese).