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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	

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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.