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REPORT PRESENTED BY TURKEY TO THE THIRD CONFERENCE  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Although Turkey has not participated in the Second Conference of the United Nations on the Standardization of Geographical Names held in 1972, she has followed up the resolutions of the Conference and implemented them to the extent possible.

In this report, Turkish views are summarized on basic topics such as the activities carried out in Turkey on the standardization of geographical names, measures to be taken for improvement of these studies and achievement of further progress in international co-operation in this regard.

(a) Activities carried out in Turkey on the Standardization of Geographical Names and its Organization

In Turkey activities started on the standardization of geographical names a long time ago and in the beginning the geodetic and cartographic organizations were conducted by the Ministry of Interior and Geographers. By a Government decree in 1957, the activities were reorganized and a "Commission of Experts" was established within the Ministry of Interior. This Commission consists of representatives of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of National Education, General Staff, concerned faculties of the universities, Turkish National Linguistics Centre and the General Directorate of Mapping. It is the responsibility of this Commission to carry out the activities on the standardization of the names of settlement centres - which make up administrative divisions such as provinces, districts, sub-districts and villages - and of geographical features and regions including seas.

The names and facts collected in the field by the topographers according to certain forms are reviewed and standardized by the Commission of Experts. In the course of this review work, conformity of the geographical names with the spelling

rules and measures to differentiate the names of especially inhabited places in various regions of the country used in duplication must be taken into consideration. In compliance with concerned legislation in this regard, the names reviewed by the Commission are first forwarded to the Governorships for the approval of the Administrative Boards and General Councils of the Provinces, and according to the views expressed by them through the Governorships, they are reviewed again, if deemed necessary and then finalized. The standardization of the names of administrative divisions such as provinces and districts, determined by the Commission can only be finalized under the present legislation, in terms of a new legislation to be adopted to this end. This is why the names of provinces and districts reviewed by the Commission are submitted, through the Ministry of Interior, to the Turkish Grand National Assembly, where they are finalized after being approved of.

The names of the other administrative divisions and the geographical features are submitted to the approval of the Ministry of Interior, upon completion of the standardization process carried out by the Commission of Experts. In case of approval, these names are published in the official gazette for the benefit of all official and private establishments. It is obligatory to use the standardized names published in the official gazette.

Within the framework of the activities carried out in this regard, priority has been given to the settlement centres, out of which the names of 67 provinces, 672 districts and their component divisions covering all of Turkey, are completely standardized and published in a book.

On the other hand, studies on the standardization of the names of natural features such as gulfs, bays, rivers, mountains, lighthouses etc., have progressed much more slowly. One reason for this is the heavy work load involved in this regard and the other is the necessity of carrying out studies to this end along with map production and revision activities.

It is expected to reorganize the present Commission of Experts for promoting and accelerating its activities on the standardization of geographical names, in the light of the developments at the Third Conference and the studies of the other countries in this regard.

(b) Co-operation between map production and standardization of geographical names

Production of maps at various scales and especially at large scales in Turkey as well as in all countries are given due importance, because of its considerable contribution to development efforts of countries. The large scale maps are produced by

means of photogrammetric methods and then edited with names on it, as a result of the activities carried out in the field on the spot. On the other hand, the smaller scale maps are produced by conversion from those of the larger scale through cartographic procedures carried out in the office. Therefore, except for a few exceptional cases, the initial work in the collection of names is carried out by topographers during large scale mapping or their revision in the field. In principle, topographers collect the names by consulting the competent administrative authorities and the elderly citizens resident in the area and attach particular importance to names used by the people. During the course of this process, a name overlay of transparent base material is used for coinciding the names at their exact location on the map. Besides the collected names are also listed in a table.

The names accordingly collected in the field are reviewed and finalized by the above-mentioned Commission of Experts and then printed on maps at suitable spaces and characters, according to the scale of the map. The number and distribution of names on each map are dependant on its scale and defined in instructions.

In the beginning, some gaps have been encountered in the standardization of geographical names because of lack of sufficient co-ordination in their collection. However, action is taken for elimination of these deficiencies during the revision of base maps and application of these corrections to the smaller scale maps when new editions are produced within the framework of production plans.

(c) Sheets of Turkey of 1/1.000.000 scale International World Map

Turkey does not accept the sheets of Turkey of 1/1.000.000 scale International World Map indicated in the United Nations Publications numbered ST/ESA/SER-D-/16 as official map sheets, belonging to Turkey because they are not produced by her. Therefore Turkey has planned to produce eight sheets covering Turkey in conformity with specifications determined for 1/1.000.000 scale International World Map and by applying the same sheet line system. During the production of sheets, preparation of a gazeteer along with it has been considered. For this purpose initially a new gazeteer dependant on 1/500.000 scale map has been prepared solely for national use. The 1/1.000.000 gazeteer shall be produced by taking into consideration the experiences attained in the production of the recently completed gazeteer and by means of implementing the resolutions adopted at the Second United Nations Conference on Geographical Names in this connexion. The name and address of the establishment responsible for the preparation

of the above-mentioned 1/1.000.000 scale map and the gazetteer are as follows:

"Harita Genel Müdürlüğü  
Cebeci, Ankara  
Turkey"

During the course of these activities, it is thought that collaboration shall be made with the neighbouring countries on the spelling of the names which fall outside the territories of Turkey.

The map and gazetteer in question are expected to be completed by the forthcoming Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

(d) Other topics

(1) Training courses

Turkey supports the suggestion for arrangement of training courses on the standardization of geographical names by the United Nations. It would be useful to circulate the course programmes to the nations in time for them to make their own arrangements for distribution of these programmes to the concerned establishments which shall nominate the trainees.

(2) Turkey makes use of the automatic data processing in compilation of gazetteers. It is also considered to improve the automatic data processing in such a way as to cover the other fields of work related to geographical names.