

resolution 2372 (XXII) of 12 June 1968, in which the name of Namibia was officially recognized by the United Nations as replacing the name of South West Africa. He urged those who were engaged in the standardization of geographical names implement that resolution.

23. The Conference recognized the importance of holding a fourth conference and, after considering the invitation made by the Government of Iran, adopted a resolution to that effect (see resolution 1).

24. The Conference endorsed the decisions taken by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at its sixth session regarding the information of linguistic/geographic divisions and recommended that a division covering Africa, Central should be added to the list published in the appendix to the report of that session (see resolution 26).

#### Report on the work of Committee I

#### National standardization (item 8)

25. Contributions from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, the German Democratic Republic, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Hungary, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Romania, the Sudan, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America revealed a number of new problems in national standardization which required discussion and solution. It was noted that the problems of field collection varied considerably from region to region. Nigeria and the Sudan drew attention to the need for a comprehensive guide to the methodology of field collection in multilingual areas.

26. It was felt that the responsibilities and functions of various administrative levels involved in the collection, verification, approval and application of names required clarification. Bulgaria referred to the three levels distinguished in its approach to names: national, regional and local. That led to discussion of the place of microtoponymy (names of small features) in national standardization. Cyprus took the view that all names on the ground should be collected while the officer was in the field, providing a basis from which appropriate selection for mapping could be made at later stages, as required.

27. The United States of America stressed the importance and value of names authorities providing inquiry and information services as well as opportunities for organizations and individuals to make and comment on names proposals.

28. The importance of national standardization as a basis for international standardization was generally reiterated.

29. There was considerable discussion of the role of maps in achieving national standardization, some suggesting that only those names published on maps comprised the official toponymy, others pointing out that maps were only one means of reflecting decisions made by names authorities. However, there was general agreement that, where possible, all editions of maps should be subject to toponymic verification prior to publication.

30. A draft resolution submitted by Guatemala and co-sponsored by Greece, entitled "National standardization", was adopted by the Committee and subsequently adopted by the Conference (resolution 16). The Turkish delegation expressed a reservation concerning the Guatemala resolution, taking the view that the "legally constituted entity" referred to in the above-mentioned resolution cannot be conceived as valid and applicable for Cyprus until such time as a legal and constitutional federal Government recognized by the two communities living in the island is established at the conclusion of the bicomunal talks between the two partners of the bicomunal State of Cyprus. The Turkish reservation is consistent with recommendation A, subparagraph (b) (i) of resolution 4, adopted at the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. The present national names authority in Cyprus is not consistent with the bicomunal governmental structure of the country referred to in resolution 4. The delegation of Guatemala emphasized that resolution 16 concerned geographical and technical questions and contained nothing political.

31. The delegation of Cyprus, as agreed by the Conference, registered the following reservation:

"(a) The Government of the Republic of Cyprus is recognized by the United Nations as the legal Government of Cyprus and hence the 'legally constituted entity' referred to in the resolution;

"(b) The Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names is an Official Organ of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus as recognized by the United Nations and not as may arbitrarily be interpreted by Turkey alone;

"(c) At the Conference, the Credentials Committee recognized the Credentials of the Cyprus delegation, two of the members of which are members of the Cyprus Names Authority, an official organ of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. The functions and work of the Cyprus Names Authority are described in documents E/CONF.69/L.80 and L.82."

By Conference concurrence the Government of Turkey submitted its right of reply as follows, "Notwithstanding the views expressed above by Guatemala and Greek Cypriot administration, the Turkish Government still maintains and reaffirms its reservation contained in paragraph 30 above".

#### Training courses (item 9)

32. It was reported that the Netherlands might be able to proceed with a training course in toponymy, possibly in a form differing slightly from that proposed at the sixth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. The Executive Secretary suggested that the United Nations might possibly provide fellowships for students to attend a workshop in toponymy but would be unable to consider the provision of additional financial assistance.

33. Malaysia urged that preference be given to candidates from those countries or divisions planning to hold courses of their own, so that they might provide instruction on returning home. Guatemala offered the view that senior officials should be instructed first; they in turn would train junior personnel who could

themselves subsequently be sent to attend courses. It was the opinion of Bulgaria that each country could best train its own officers in the collection and processing of names. Nigeria endorsed that view and went further to state that experts could be sent from other countries to give training. It was proposed that those countries with large numbers of students studying related courses in geography, geodesy and cartography could offer supplementary lectures in toponymy.

34. Morocco stated that lectures on field collection and office treatment were offered in its technical courses for the training of topographical engineers, and that it would welcome the enrolment of foreign students in such courses. Norway reported that training in toponymy was given in the Norden countries and that Norway would welcome a limited number of English-speaking students from other countries to its practical training and university courses held every year. It was reported that Indonesia might be offering a toponymic course in the near future specifically for the benefit of the members of the Asia, South-East division.

35. Canada reconfirmed that it would consider presenting courses in both English and French consequent upon the successful completion of the workshop in the Netherlands; however, no financial commitment had so far been made by Canada.

36. Morocco, Nigeria, Norway and the United States of America proposed that toponymic experts, both domestic and foreign, should be invited to give lectures on a short-term basis in those countries requesting assistance. Canada offered such assistance. The United States of America observed that it would be very useful if each country having a course syllabus on the techniques of field collection and office treatment would send details to the United Nations Secretariat.

37. Spain proposed recommending the establishment, where possible, of training courses, or similar courses modified to suit the circumstances of the country in question, taking as a basis the programme set out at the sixth session of the Group of Experts.

#### Terminology (item 12)

38. The Chairman commented on the necessary distinction between purely scientific linguistic terminology, on the one hand, and technical terminology with specific application to geographical names standardization work, on the other, emphasizing that the Conference should restrict its concern to the latter.

39. There was general discussion of recent studies of terminology made by Canada, Czechoslovakia and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Delegates were asked to put such detailed comments as they might wish to make directly to the authors of the studies.

40. The three-language glossary (English, French and Spanish) circulated in the spring of 1977 and distributed at the Third Conference as document E/CONF.69/L.1 was considered by Cuba, Guatemala and Spain to be inaccurate in its Spanish rendering. Those countries suggested that the Spanish-speaking nations should jointly consider the terms and definitions given in Spanish with a view to their improvement. It was thought that some of the terms themselves might not apply in all three languages, though it was considered essential that at least the

definitions should be given in each. Afghanistan, Austria, Canada, India and Suriname also felt that among the terms and definitions given in the glossary there were several that required modification.

#### Action by the Conference

41. In connexion with the work of Committee I, the Conference adopted resolutions on the glossary of technical terminology (resolution 14); training courses (resolution 15); and national standardization (resolution 16).

#### Report on the work of Committee II

42. The Chairman opened the first meeting by pointing out that Committee II had to deal with two items:

(a) Gazetteers (item 10)

(b) Automated data processing (ADP) (item 11)

He referred to recommendation E (national gazetteers) of resolution 4 of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names 5/ and to resolutions 17 and 35 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names 6/ also on the subject of gazetteers. He also directed attention to a paper presented by Hungary at the sixth session of the Group of Experts which would form the basis of a draft resolution on the format of international gazetteers (see E/CONF.69/C.II/L.1).

43. After much discussion of the various types of gazetteers that came within the scope of both national and international aspects of the problem, the following classification was prepared of the types of gazetteers already in existence or which could be envisaged.

#### A. National gazetteers for national use

Examples: All the gazetteers of the provinces and territories of Canada; the gazetteer of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic

These list the names of populated places and natural and man-made features. Recommendation E of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names is directed towards this type of gazetteer. 7/

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5/ United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publications, Sales No. E.68.I.9), pp. 10-11.

6/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publications, Sales No. E.74.I.2), pp. 13 and 16.

7/ United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I ... p. 11.