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SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE  
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES  
New York, 25 August-3 September 1992  
Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda\*

REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR  
REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE  
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE FIFTH CONFERENCE

A Symposium: "The Board-Yesterday, Today  
and Tomorrow

Submitted by United States of America\*\*/

\* E/CONF.85/1 Rev. 1

\*\*/ Prepared by Dr. Richard R. Randall, Executive Secretary, US  
Board on Geographic Names

**A SYMPOSIUM "THE BOARD--YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW"**

The attached program of a symposium held during the Centennial Celebration of the US Board on Geographic Names shows the extent of participation by former and present members of the Board and its staff and by other individuals as well. It is estimated that since its founding 100 years ago, approximately 600 individuals have been officially involved with the work of standardizing geographic names for US purposes. Included have been heads of federal departments, principal officers of offices within departments, and other Federal employees with outstanding credentials in geography, cartography, linguistics, and other fields.

As noted, the purpose of the symposium was to provide perspectives about the past, present, and future contributions of the Board. All involved with the event agreed the occasion was a fitting tribute to the many accomplishments of the Board.

The US national report provides more information.

THE BOARD: YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

A Symposium on the Occasion of the Centennial of the  
United States Board on Geographic Names: 1890-1990

Library of Congress, James Madison Memorial Building Mumford Room, 5th  
floor 101 Independence Avenue SE, Washington, D.C.

PROGRAM

Thursday, September 6, 1990

8:30 AM Registration. Outside Mumford Room

9:00 AM Opening.

John A. Wolter  
Chief, Geography and Map Division, Library of  
Congress and Chairman, BGN Centennial Committee

9:10 AM Introduction.

Rupert B. Southard  
Immediate past Chairman of the Board,  
US Geological Survey (ret.)

9:20 AM Keynote Address.

Dr. Kelsie B. Harder  
Distinguished Teaching Professor,  
Potsdam College of the State University  
of New York

10:00 AM The Board is Created.

Donald J. Orth,  
BGN Executive Secretary for Domestic Geographic  
Names, US Geological Survey

10:45 AM Break

11:15 AM The Board and International Programs.

Richard R. Randall  
BGN Executive Secretary, Defense Mapping Agency

12:00 Noon Break

2:00 PM Voices from the Past. Former BGN Members, Staff and Others  
Burton J. Adkinson, (former member from Library of Congress)  
Cyril Barsky, (former staff member of Foreign Names  
Committee and member from Department of Defense)  
Ernie Berringer, (current staff member of Domestic Names Committee)  
Lester Dingman (former BGN Executive Secretary for Domestic Names)  
Lewis G. Glover (former deputy member from Department of  
Agriculture)

Theodore J. Liard (former chief of names staff for Foreign Names  
Committee)

Walter Ristow (former member from Library of Congress)  
Charles D. Rouse, (former staff member of Foreign Names  
Committee, chairman of BGN Advisory Committee on Undersea  
Features, and deputy member from Department of Defense)

3:30 PM The Wonderful World of Geographic Names: Things Learned  
and Things Yet to be Learned.

Meredith F. Burrill  
BGN Executive Secretary Emeritus

4:00 PM Conclusion. Rupert B. Southard

Immediate past Chairman of the Board,  
U.S Geological Survey (ret.)

6:00 PM Exhibition opening and reception at the Library of Congress

Friday, September 7, 1990

8:55 AM Introduction. Ralph E. Ehrenberg  
Chairman of the Board, Assistant Chief,  
Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress

9:00 AM Panel: How the Board Works with Foreign and US Agencies.  
Moderator: Sandra H. Shaw, Department of State

H.A.G. Lewis, Chairman, United Kingdom Permanent  
Committee on Geographical Names

Henri Dorion, Chairman, Canadian Permanent  
Committee on Geographical Names

Jay Haymond, President, Western States Geographical Names Council

10:00 AM Panel: Names and Automated Data Processing

Moderator: Donald J. Orth, BGN Executive Secretary for  
Domestic Geographic Names,  
U.S. Geological Survey

Roger Payne, Chief, Names Branch, U.S. Geological  
Survey

Clare Durand, Computer Systems Analyst, Scientific Data  
Department, Hydrographic/Topographic Center,  
Defense Mapping Agency

10:30 AM Break

11:00 AM Panel: What do Federal Agencies Require of the Board?

Moderator: Donald D. Loff

Director of Engineering, Rocky Mountain Region,  
U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture

Mapping Agencies

Richard A. Berg

Chief, Scientific Data Department  
Hydrographic/Topographic Center, Defense Mapping  
Agency, Department of Defense

Mark Flannery

Cartographer, Pacific Northwest Region,  
U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture

Tracy A. Fortmann

Program Analyst, Office of Policy  
National Park Service, Department of Interior

Charles E. Harrington

Geographer, National Ocean Service, National  
Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,  
Department of Commerce

Rupert B Southard

Immediate past Chairman of the Board,  
US Geological Survey (ret.),

Standardizing Agencies

Robert C. McArtor

Chairman, GPO Style Board, Government Printing Office

Henry Tom

Computer Specialist, National Institute of  
Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce

Robert M. Hiatt

Assistant to the Director, Office of the Director  
for Cataloging, Library of Congress

Foreign Policy Agency

Bradford L. Thomas

Geographer, Office of the Geographer, Bureau of  
Intelligence and Research, Department of State

12:30 PM Noon Break

2:00 PM Panel: What do State, Professional, Commercial and  
 Institutional Organizations Require of the Board?  
 Moderator: Richard R. Randall, BGN Executive Secretary,  
 Defense Mapping Agency

State Organizations

Grant Smith  
 Director, United States Place Names Survey,  
 Eastern Washington University

Professional Organizations

Meredith F. Burrill  
 Former President, Association of American  
 Geographers

John Snyder  
 President, American Cartographic Association,  
 American Congress on Surveying and Mapping

Mary Lynn Bird  
 Director, American Geographical Society

Commercial Organizations

Patrick Healy  
 Cartographic Manager, Rand McNally and Company

Institutional Organizations

John B. Garver, Jr.  
 Senior Assistant Editor and Chief Cartographer,  
 National Geographic Society

3:00 PM Round Table Discussion; The Board Meets Requirements of  
 Federal, State, and Other Organizations"

Moderator: Sterling J. Wilcox,  
 Vice Chairman of the Board  
 Director of Engineering, U.S. Forest Service  
 Department of Agriculture

Richard L. Forstall  
 Chief, Population Distribution Branch,  
 Population Division, Bureau of the Census  
 Commerce Department

Tracy A. Fortmann  
 Program Analyst, Office of Policy, National Park  
 Service, Department of Interior

Carl Nelius  
 Cartographer, Hydrographic/Topographic Center,  
 Defense Mapping Agency, Department of Defense

Donald J. Orth  
 BGN Executive Secretary for Domestic Geographic Names,  
 US Geological Survey

Richard R. Randall  
 BGN Executive Secretary, Defense Mapping Agency

Lewis L. McArthur  
 Chairman of the Interim Committee of the Oregon  
 Geographic Names Board

3:45 PM Audience Questions and Comments

4:00 PM Formal Closing Ceremony: Thanks to Past Members and Staffs.  
 Ralph E. Ehrenberg, Chairman of the Board