

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL
NAMES ON THE WORK OF ITS TWELFTH SESSION

(held at the United Nations Office at Geneva,
28 September to 7 October 1986)

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ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. In pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1314 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968, the Secretary-General invited the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names to convene its twelfth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 28 September to 7 October 1986.

ATTENDANCE

2. The session was attended by 55 participants from 33 countries, representing 14 of the 17 geographical/linguistic divisions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. In addition, five intergovernmental and international scientific organizations were represented. The list of participants is reproduced in Annex I below.

3. The Chief of the Cartography Unit, Natural Resources and Energy Division of the Department of Technical Co-operation of the United Nations Secretariat, served as Secretary of the Group.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

4. The session was opened by the Chairman, Dr. D. Blok (Netherlands). He was assisted by the Vice Chairman, Mr. Y. Velásquez García (Cuba) and the Rapporteur, Mr. A. Rayburn (Canada).

RULES OF PROCEDURE

5. It was agreed that the rules of procedure to be followed should be those adopted at the previous session.^{1/}

AGENDA

6. The Group adopted the following agenda:

- (a) Opening of the session
- (b) Adoption of the agenda
- (c) Report of the Chairman
- (d) Report of the Secretary
- (e) Report of the divisions, liaison officers and experts
- (f) Reports of activity by the following Working Groups since the eleventh session.

- (1) Ad Hoc Working Group on the Programme of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

- (2) Working Group on a Single Romanization System for each non-Roman Writing System;
 - (3) Working Group on Courses in Toponymy;
 - (4) Working Group on Toponymic Data Files (Gazetteers, Computer Assistance);
 - (5) Working Group on a List of Country Names;
 - (6) Review of aims and functions jointly with the modus operandi and rules of procedure.
7. Review of the Working Groups.
 8. Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors.
 9. Publications in the framework of the work of the Group of Experts (guidelines, World Cartography, Manual).
 10. Relevant resolutions of the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences.
 11. Report on the procedures followed by SCAR in name-giving in Antarctica.
 12. Provisional agenda for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.
 13. Provisional agenda for the Thirteenth Session of the Group of Experts.
 14. (a) Exonyms;
(b) Terminology;
(c) Other business.
 15. Adoption of the Report.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

7. The Chairman of the Group noted several activities since the eleventh session in 1984: 1) new developments in the East-Central and South-East Europe Division, in the Dutch- and German-speaking Division and in the Romano-Hellenic Division; 2) the convening of the first meeting of the Latin America Division in Cuba, with divisional focal points set up in Colombia for South America, in Mexico for Central America and in Spain for the Caribbean, and the holding of a second meeting of the Latin America Division in Mexico; 3) the publication of toponymic guidelines for five countries; 4) the publication of Volume

XVIII of World Cartography devoted to toponymy; and 5) the training course in Morocco. He pointed out that the Working Papers presented to the Group have no official status whatsoever; they are not United Nations documents and accordingly have no official registration number. These papers are not presented by countries, but privately by the experts to give information and to serve their work. He closed his remarks by emphasizing the financial restraints under which the United Nations functions, and recommended that we continue to be prudent in making proposals which have resource implications.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

8. The Secretary welcomed the experts on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Technical Co-operation for Development. He remarked on the numerous achievements made since the eleventh session held in 1984, principally the holding of the very successful training course on toponymy for Arab-speaking countries held in Morocco, the publication of Volume XVIII of World Cartography devoted to toponymy, and the strong participation by names experts in the Third United Nations Regional Cartography Conference for the Americas, held in 1985 in New York, where three resolutions relating to the establishment of a national names authority, to toponymic guidelines and to training were adopted. He noted that a revision of Technical Terminology Employed in the Standardization of Geographical Names (ST/CS/SER.F/330), a glossary in the six official languages of the United Nations had been issued in July 1986 by the Translation Division, Department of Conference Services.

REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND EXPERTS

9. Mr. Böhme enlarged on the report of the Dutch- and German-speaking Division (Working Paper No.8) by referring to the list of Antarctica names forwarded to the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and by noting that the Gazetteer of the Federal Republic of Germany (Geographisches Namenbuch Bundesrepublik Deutschland) is updated continually in a computer file. Consideration is being given to publishing another edition of the gazetteer after the 1987 census.

10. Mr. Jordan drew attention to some highlights of the report submitted by Austria (Working Paper No.8) as part of the Dutch- and German-speaking Division report, noting especially the recent publication of the Gazetteer of Austria 1981 (Ortsverzeichnis Osterreich 1981).

11. Mr. Raper made several additions to his report for South Africa as part of the Dutch- and German-speaking Division report:

- 1) New names for the period 1977 to 1985 have been collated for publication;
- 2) Decisions in the future will be kept up to date in an alphabetical sequence by automated means;
- 3) A gazetteer of Cape Province, based on maps of the 1:250,000 scale, is being produced by automated means;
- 4) a gazetteer of geographical names of South-West Africa-Namibia, based on maps of the 1:1,000,000 scale is being produced; and
- 5) a gazetteer for international use, comprising 2,500 names of South Africa, is now at press.

12. Mr. Konstantinidis provided some information on recent developments in Cyprus (Working Paper No.54). He noted that a complete gazetteer of Cyprus will be produced in 1987, comprising three parts: names listed by district, names listed in alphabetical order, and an alphabetical list of geographical terms used in Cyprus. He noted that there are about 100,000 names in Cyprus, of which 60,000 have been incorporated in the gazetteer.
13. Mr. Mohamed highlighted aspects of the report of the Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division, noting the publication by Malaysia of the fifth edition of a map of South-East Asia, which reflects spelling agreed by the division (Working Paper No.51).
14. Mr. Lewis supplemented his report by drawing attention to the usefulness of the Gazetteer of Great Britain on microfiche which is being updated at frequent intervals at much lower cost than would be possible with bound volumes (Working Paper No.35).
15. Mr. Velásquez made an extensive report on toponymic developments in Cuba and in the Latin America Division. He made special mention of the two divisional meetings held in Cuba and in Mexico, and stated that plans are being made to convene two more meetings (Working Papers Nos. 63, 64 and 66).
16. Mr. Erinc noted some difficulties in putting together a report for the Asia South-West (other than Arabic) Division, and stated that a report would be made available at the thirteenth session in Montreal.
17. Mr. Tazi elaborated on the report of the Arabic Division, noting especially the very active work being undertaken in the Arabic countries, and the impressive participation in the training course held in Rabat, Morocco in December 1985 (Working Paper No.33).
18. Mr. Absaloms noted that little activity had taken place in the Africa East Division due to more urgent priorities in the countries of the division. He mentioned a number of developments in Kenya, including the collection of new names and name corrections for new 1:50,000 mapping, the identification of Kenyan administrative units for a 1989 population census, and a cooperative project with Tanzania on names of features crossing their mutual border (Working Paper No.46).
19. Mr. Du presented the report for the China Division, noting a regulation promulgated in January, 1986, which provides a legal basis for the standardization of geographical names in China (Working Paper No.17).
20. Reports were also presented on behalf of the following countries:
 - 1) German Democratic Republic (Working Paper No. 27)
 - 2) Iran (Islamic Republic of) (Working Paper No. 55)
 - 3) Israel (Working Paper No. 58)
 - 4) Malaysia (Working Paper No. 49)

- 5) Thailand (Working Paper No. 48)
- 6) Turkey (Working Paper No. 30)
- 7) USSR (Working Paper No. 62)
- 8) United States (Working Paper No. 44)

AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE DURATION AND PROGRAMME
OF THE FIFTH CONFERENCE

21. It was agreed that the Fifth Conference should begin in Montreal on Tuesday, 18 August, 1987, and should have its closing session at Monday noon, 31 August. The 13th session of UNGEGN will be held on Monday, 17 August, and will complete its programme on Monday afternoon, 31 August.

22. It was decided that the work of the Fifth Conference should be handled by three committees:

Committee I: National Programmes

1. National Standards/Guidelines
2. Exonyms
3. Pronunciation
4. Education (National)

Committee II: Technical Programmes

1. Data Files (ADP/Gazetteers)
2. Terminology/Definitions

Committee III: International Programmes

1. Writing Systems
2. Beyond a Single Sovereignty
3. International Cooperation
4. Training Courses

23. The suggestion that chairmen, rapporteurs and a chief editor for the Fifth Conference be identified at the 12th session of UNGEGN was considered both impractical and inappropriate.

24. The proposed agenda of the Fifth Conference, as contained in Working Paper No.23, was adopted, with the omission of Item 8: List of Country Names. In its place, the following was added: Measures taken and proposed to implement the United Nations resolutions on the standardization of Geographical Names.

25. The proposal by Mr. Rayburn that the conference adjourn earlier on Friday afternoon, 21 August in order to transport the delegates to Quebec City for the 16th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences was accepted. Mr. Dorion pointed out that scholars and onomasticians from several countries will

be meeting at Université Laval from August 17 to 22. The delegates will be invited to join with the ICOS participants in a reception and a banquet, in a series of academic sessions on naming problems, and in an organized toponymic excursion. The experts were informed that the government of Canada, together with the Québec authorities will arrange for the return trip to Québec City to be at no additional expense to the delegates; the return to Montréal will be on Sunday, 23 August.

WORKING GROUP ON A SINGLE ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR EACH
NON-ROMAN WRITING SYSTEM

26. Mr. Blok said that he had written twice to Mr. Földi to ascertain if he planned to continue as the Convenor, but no reply was received.

27. In the absence of the Convenor, Mr. Földi and of the ad hoc Convenor, Mr. Breu, Mr. Blok invited Mr. Quinting to act as the ad hoc Convenor.

Korean

28. Mr. Randall noted that the new Ministry of Education system was being implemented by the Republic of Korea; he believed that a few technical matters have still to be worked out with the Republic of Korea. Mr. Haack stated that a different system was being used in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Greek

29. Mr. Kofos stated that the new romanization system had been adopted by Greece and Cyprus in 1983, but little progress has been made in implementing it. It will be presented to the Fifth Conference in 1987 as a proposal for adoption as the standard for the romanization of Greek. It is the intention of the Hellenic Geographical Service to use it on forthcoming maps. However, a new 6-volume gazetteer containing the names on maps as large as 1:5,000, published in 1985 by the Hellenic Geographical Service, uses the old system. The intention is to convert the gazetteer to the new system, but it is realized it will take time to do so. Mr. Konstantinidis noted that the gazetteer and maps of Cyprus are based on the new romanization system.

Languages of India

30. No changes were reported.

Cyrillic

31. Mr. Toniolo mentioned that the new system with some variants, of the Council on Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) was reflected on a map at the scale of 1:8,000,000 issued recently (1986). He observed that the new system is considered to be the standard that will be used for all time in cartography. Mr. Randall noted that three maps (English, French, German) were sent to the United States Board on Geographic Names by the Soviet Academy of

Sciences in July 1986. He welcomed this sign of willingness to pursue international cooperation. Mr. Randall stated that there had not yet been sufficient time to provide observations to the Academy. He also said some of the aspects of the romanization system require further discussion.

Mongolian

32. No changes were reported.

Japanese

33. No new developments have taken place.

Arabic

34. Mr. Tazi expressed the hope that by the time of the Fifth Conference in 1987 he would be able to report that the modified Beirut System and the Islamic Encyclopedia System could be reconciled so that a unified system could be promoted in the Arabic Countries. He said that there is a trend towards accepting the modified Beirut System.

Hebrew

35. No changes had been introduced.

Burmese

36. No changes were reported.

Chinese

37. Mr. Du reported that no changes had been introduced. The Pinyin system is now in use for all romanized maps and gazetteers of China. For some tourist maps for foreigners, Pinyin is used for the specific elements of geographical names, whereas the generic elements are translated according to their meaning.

Pashtu and Dari

38. No changes were reported.

Thai

39. Col. Thongnut reported that the Royal Institute System has been used for 46 years. He stated, however, that some modifications to it are necessary. It is hoped that a revision will be available at the Fifth Conference in 1987 (Working Paper No.48).

40. In addressing the issues raised by Mr. Rostvik in Working Paper No.4, On Conversion of Names into Roman Alphabet from Other Writing Systems, Mr. Randall identified several issues that required further discussion. He said

the major issue is that, contrary to a conclusion in the paper, collaboration between donor and receiver countries in the development of romanization systems is necessary. He also said that a romanization system based on a combination of languages has never been proposed. The object had been to convert non-Roman writing systems into one or other of the three working languages of the United Nations. Mr. Lewis drew attention to a number of misinterpretations and misrepresentations in Working Paper No.4. The inability of the United States and the United Kingdom to adopt Pinyin for geographical names was a technical matter, there being inadequate sources (dictionaries, etc.) to give Pinyin readings. To illustrate the size of the problem, he estimated the total stock of Chinese names to number 2.2 million for which even today only some 30,000 could be put into Pinyin. The system of Arabic agreed at the 1972 London Conference had been drawn up as the result of many years discussion between Arabic-speaking and other countries. It was an example of donor-receiver cooperation. All the early systems had been drawn up in a similarly cooperative way. Mr. Kofos mentioned the needs of donor countries themselves to have a single transcription system and the need to reconcile conflicting domestic interests. He noted the importance of consultation to achieve the requirements of receiver countries. Failing, however, to achieve consensus, Mr. Kofos stated that the donor principle should be upheld. Mr. Absaloms stated that most East African countries did not exclusively use English. Kenya's names are based on Kivahili. Mr. Jordan expressed the opinion that the resolutions on romanization passed at the four conferences had their practical basis on the donor principle. Abandoning this principle might necessitate revising the previous principles, thus leading to confusion. Mr. Lewis stated that this interpretation of the resolutions of the previous conferences was incorrect, noting that all the early systems adopted were the result of collaboration between donors and receivers. Mr. O'Maolfabhair recommended providing pronunciation guides as an addition to romanized forms, but Mr. Randall, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Tazi and Mr. Jordan observed that pronunciation guides can result in a number of problems in transliteration. Mr. Rostvik stated that his aim was to illustrate some of the difficulties when linguistic and onomastic principles were neglected in converting from a donor language to a receiver language. It was agreed that the words "scientific principles" in resolution 9 of the First Conference (1967) needed clarification. Mr. Blok concluded the discussion by emphasizing the need to undertake romanization through mutual cooperation and agreement, and added to his remarks by stating that particular recommended systems will only achieve widespread use when they are deemed acceptable and practical by user organizations.

WORKING GROUP ON TOPONYMIC DATA FILES
(GAZETTEERS, COMPUTER ASSISTANCE)

41. Mr. Lewis, the Convenor, noted the highlights of his report (Working Paper No.39) and added that additional information had been provided by Mr. Randall and Mr. Rayburn. Mr. Kadmon commented on the many practical uses of automated names lists in providing consistent names data for tourist maps, statistical publications and other public documents. Mr. Tazi commented on

the advantages of providing Arabic geographical names by computer, and Mr. Lewis added that the computer made it very much easier to handle Pinyin names. Mr. Du drew attention to some developments in China (Working Paper No.18). Mr. Rayburn circulated a few copies of the journal *Canoma*, Volume 12, Number 1, July 1986, comprising the papers and results of the Second Symposium on the Automation of Geographical Names, held in Canada in 1985.

42. Mr. Lewis summarized correspondence over the past two years on the subject of alphabetization and sequencing and put forward the suggestion that the creation of data-bases for geographical names for national topographic map series may force countries to produce only indexes to names on map series rather than gazetteers of the normal book type. The names would thus appear as given on the map. Mr. Dorion stated that that would result in some 45,000 names beginning with "lac" in Québec being listed together, and thus negating the usefulness of indexing geographical names. Mr. Lewis said that would be the inevitable consequence. The problems of alphabetizing geographical names beginning with or containing Arabic and other numerals were raised. Mr. Randall stated that the United States Board has just completed a document providing for alphabetic sequencing of geographical names.

43. Mr. Ramondou commented on the occurrence of obscure coastal generic terms, on the great variety of terms on large scale mapping, and on terms used in dialects, and stated that there must be a more extensive explanation of them. Mr. Randall noted the value of having a feature column in gazetteers so that obscure generics and geographical names lacking generics may be readily understood.

44. Mr. Kadmon briefly reported on the publication of the Times Atlas of the World in Hebrew, noting how translation was done by computer, based on transfer tables established by toponymists and linguists (Working Paper No.57). Automatic toponymic transliteration can henceforth be undertaken in Israel. The gazetteer in the atlas has 225,000 names. Mr. Kadmon strongly urged the use of the dot matrix printer/plotter, which can handle all kinds of graphic forms.

45. Mr. Du reported that the new Gazetteer of China will have about 50,000 names and is being computerized in terms of both Pinyin romanization and Han characters, (Working Papers No.17 and 18). He said the alphabetical arrangement will be by phonetic order, and also the Han characters by radical and stroke, using the modern simplified characters.

46. Mr. Orth reported extensively on the Geographical Names Information System (GNIS), used for the production of gazetteers in the United States (Working Paper No.44). He noted that most names in the state gazetteers are considered official, although in some instances, such as the entries for churches and cemeteries, the deliberate omission of religious denomination as a matter of mapping policy means that such names must be considered as unofficial. Mr. Orth mentioned the importance of advertising the availability of gazetteers, and added that automatic deposits are made in selected libraries and federal government offices.

47. Mr. Clark reported that the new Gazetteer of Great Britain, issued in microfiche form, has been well received by librarians, and has achieved wider sales than expected. The great advantage of such a format is that the gazetteer can be updated frequently at a fraction of the cost of successive hard copy editions. Mr. Lewis announced that the grid references in the gazetteer are often given to the location of the actual type for each name, rather than the specific feature the type identifies, and that a name appearing on three map sheets have three entries in the gazetteer (Working Paper No.35).

48. Mr. Dorion raised the question of the definition of "gazetteer" in terms of both its content and format, and its relationship to data banks, other names files and statistical lists. He suggested that it would be useful to gather several examples of computer output formats for gazetteer publication and of planned or used gazetteer layouts, and put these examples at the disposal of the participants at the next conference.

49. Ms. Mattisson reported that a new automated system for gazetteer production has just recently been started in Malaysia (Working Paper No.50). He requested advice from the English speaking countries in order to ensure that the most effective and practical system is installed, and Mr. Lewis handed Mr. Mohamed copies of two United Kingdom papers on the subject.

50. Ms. Mattisson reported on the current production of name lists in Sweden, and noted that the typesetting of names for 1:250,000 scale maps is derived from a digitized base. This base permits the production of special lists (e.g., all settlements, all lakes) as required. Sweden is digitizing the 500,000 names for the 1:50,000 and the 1:100,000 scale maps, and this work will be finished within the next year. There are also plans to publish a gazetteer based on the 1:250,000 scale maps.

WORKING GROUP ON THE LIST OF COUNTRY NAMES

51. The Convenor, Mr. Ramondou presented the new document, Names of Countries, dated October 1986. He reported on a number of changes, particularly in the Arabic form of country names. Note was made of the request by Côte d'Ivoire that this be the official form of the name of that country and not "Ivory Coast" and other translated forms. Mr. Absoloms reported that the long title of Kenya in Kiswahili should be acknowledged: Jamhuri ya Kenya. Mr. Ramondou stated, however, that the country names are provided in the official languages only, even if there are other national languages. Mr. Lewis pointed out that, although the official full name was Burkina Faso, the short form should be Burkina. Mr. Johannes observed the omission of the Russian form of the name of the Federal Republic of Germany, and noted that the form "Federativnaya Respublika Germaniya" is recognized officially by the United Nations, and should be included in the list. Mr. Boginsky noted that the position of the USSR is stated in Working Paper No. 60. Mr. Johannes further observed that he cannot agree with the abbreviation and the translation of the Federal Republic of Germany as presented in Working

Paper No. 60. In response to a question by Mr. Haack , Mr. Gonzalez Aboín reported that "Kingdom of Spain" as an official title had been set aside about 10 years ago, but it has recently been used in the official document respecting Spain's entry into the European Economic Community. At the present time he is not certain if the name "Kingdom of Spain" has been officially restored.

52. Mr. Ramondou was complimented for his excellent compilation of Names of Countries in the six languages of the United Nations. Mr. Blok reported that the responsibility for the maintenance of the document would be turned over to the Terminology Section of the United Nations. As the objectives of the Working Group on the List of Country Names have now been achieved, the working group is now disbanded.

TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES FOR MAP
AND OTHER EDITORS

53. Mr. Kadmon recommended adding "for international use" to the title, and it was agreed it should be used to clarify the purpose of the guidelines.

54. Some minor corrections were provided to the guidelines for the Netherlands, submitted by Mr. Ormeling, Jr. Mr. Raper agreed to add the name "Republic of South Africa" to the title of the guidelines submitted for that country. Mr. Raper stated that these new guidelines for South Africa reflect new toponymic references and gazetteers, changes in administrative divisions and revisions to the orthography of some African languages.

55. It was suggested that toponymic information on topographical maps should be clearly differentiated from descriptive information, either by type-face (e.g., upright, italic) or by type-style (e.g. initial capitals for names, and strictly lower-case for descriptive words). It was recommended by Mr. Lewis and Mr. Clark that if such a differentiation is made on maps, that the toponymic guidelines should indicate the method used to achieve it. Mr. Kadmon proposed that UNGEEN assume as one of its future tasks the development of typographic guidelines for geographical names and other terminology on maps.

56. The guidelines for France, Austria, Suriname, United States of America and Canada were presented at the Third United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference of the Americas, and five more will be presented at the 11th Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific in 1987 in Bangkok.

57. It was strongly recommended that the toponymic guidelines should be published in one or more volumes of World Cartography.

REPORT OF THE LIAISON OFFICER TO THE
INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC BUREAU

58. Mr. Randall drew attention to Working Paper No.24, in which he reported on his work as UNGEEN Liaison to the International Hydrographic Bureau since

the 11th Session. He described the accomplishments of a group of marine scientists meeting at IHB Headquarters in Monaco in 1985 to accept a number of undersea feature names for application to the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans. He said he believed IHB was demonstrating its ability to coordinate the standardization of undersea names. He also said he had suggested that IHB combine two publications concerning names for better user acceptability. As to maritime features, Mr. Randall had not proposed that IHB consider taking responsibility for this effort.

59. Mr. Randall commented briefly on his report of the activities of the International Hydrographic Organization (Working Paper No.47), and mentioned especially the proposed revision of IHO Special Publication 23: Limits of Oceans and Seas.

REPORT ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAME ACTIVITIES OF THE PAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

60. Mr. Randall reported on the establishment by PAIGH of a Working Group on Gazetteers and Geographical Names (Working Paper 68). Guidelines, programmes and objectives for the Group have been endorsed. He urged the formation of an active liaison between PAIGH and the Latin America Division of UNGEGN.

MANUAL ON THE FUNCTION AND ORGANIZATION OF A NATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL NAME STANDARDIZATION PROGRAMME

61. Mr. Orth presented an outline of the proposed manual for the setting-up of a national name standardization programme. He noted that the draft document, of approximately 100 typed pages in length, has been examined by only a small number of experts.

62. More expert advice will be needed to enlarge the section in chapter II on conversion systems. The section on decision factors in chapter VII is to include material on toponymic policies. A section on computer files needs to be added in chapter VIII. In chapter IX an expanded text on the field collecting of geographical names is required. An outline of an extended training course, similar to the one described in Working Paper No. 43, is to be added as an appendix. Another appendix will provide definitions of toponymic words and expressions used in the manual.

63. A strong recommendation was made that the manual be made ready for circulation at the Fifth Conference in 1987.

WORKING GROUP ON COURSES IN TOPONYMY

64. Mr. Ormeling, Sr., and Mr. Tazi enlarged on Working Paper No.34, describing on the training course held in Rabat in December 1985 and pointed out that the outline of the course followed the programme endorsed by UNGEGN. The Secretary stated that the papers would be published in the languages in which they were presented.

65. The holding of additional training courses was urged. It was emphasized that they be held in the divisions where they will be most useful, that relevant field work be undertaken, and that competent local lecturers be recruited. Two kinds of courses were proposed: 1) introductory courses held in one of the divisions based on the curriculum of previous UN courses; 2) advanced courses of a longer duration for a small number of students. In addition lecturers should preferably be internationally recruited experts. Mr. Randall recommended the compilation of a syllabus for such courses.

66. Mr. Absoloms and Mr. Wainaina proposed the holding of the next course at the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing (RCSSMRS) in Nairobi, Kenya, in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Africa. It was recommended that the Secretary should contact the ECA on this proposal. The Secretary pointed out that the 6th UN Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa would take place in November 1986 and that it would be easier for Mr. Absoloms to entrust the Kenyan delegation to this Conference with this mandate.

67. Mr. Dorion agreed to succeed Mr. Ormeling, Sr., as the Convenor of the Working Group on Courses in Toponymy. Mr. Ormeling was complimented on the excellent work he had done, especially in the coordinating of the two courses in Indonesia and in Morocco.

68. Mr. Kadmon proposed that, in view of the increasing mobility of students and the inter-institutional accreditation of studies, the Working Group prepare a list of courses in toponymy at both basic and advanced levels. It was also recommended that concerted efforts should be made to have the subject promoted at the university level.

THE WORK OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTIC RESEARCH

69. As noted in Working Paper No.37, the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) is not itself involved in the approval of names. As national procedures already exist for deciding on names in Antarctica, as collaboration already exists among some nations for this activity, and because of certain political circumstances, the setting-up of another group involved in naming in Antarctica is not to be encouraged.

70. Mr. Böhme explained Working Paper No. 10, and made available a map of Antarctica.

71. It was recommended that naming in the Antarctica will not be a separate item on the agenda of the Fifth United Nations Conference. Each country involved in this activity may, however, report on what is being done as part of its own national programme.

REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS OF UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

72. The Secretary was complimented for distributing the resolutions arranged by subject of the four conferences on the standardization of geographical

names (Working Paper No.7). Mr. Randall suggested that each resolution should be reviewed at the 13th session to determine which ones are obsolete or have been superseded. Mr. Dorion added that more should be done to indicate how countries have implemented the various resolutions. He cited, as an example, how the Commission de Toponymie in Quebec reviews atlases for use in schools to ensure that names of places outside Quebec meet the United Nations recommendations relating to the use of exonyms. Mrs. Shaw suggested that a comprehensive key-word index would add to the value of the resolutions, and Mr. Rayburn offered to undertake the task of preparing the index. Mr. Blok recommended that copies of working paper No. 7 be distributed with invitations sent to delegates to the Fifth United Nations Conference in Montréal.

EXONYMS

73. Mr. Haack introduced Working Paper No.26 by stating that the German Democratic Republic had worked out principles for the reduction of exonyms. Mr. Erinc noted two errors relating to Turkish names listed as being in Bulgaria.
74. Mr. Jordan noted that it would be hardly feasible to make an exhaustive list of exonyms for Austria, mainly because such names evolve at the lexical level, and changes may occur, not only between generations, but also from region to region. He noted that German names in the Italian province of Bolzano have equality of status with the corresponding Italian names.
75. Mr. Blok pointed out that the main thrust is the reduction of exonyms for national use on cartographic products. Otherwise, there is no interference in the free use of conventional forms of names. Mr. Kadmon observed how recent English language maps point in the right direction: the local official name has precedence, with the exonym (where deemed necessary) added in brackets.
76. Mr. Lewis cautioned against publicizing a list of exonyms, as the intended purpose may be negated by having the use of names like Leghorn (for Livorno) unnecessarily prolonged. Various errors were noted in Working Paper No.16, in which lists of exonyms in various languages were printed with their Spanish equivalents.
77. Mr. Dorion noted that resolution 19 of the Third Conference excluded three categories of exonyms from the lists of exonyms that countries were urged to prepare: 1) those differing only by the omission of accents; 2) those differing by declension; 3) those of physical and cultural features where the generic term is rendered in various languages. He suggested adding two more kinds: 4) those stemming from transliteration; and, 5) those differing in spelling along borders (e.g. Meuse/Maas).
78. Mr. Erinc commented on Working Paper No.29, in which a number of Turkish exonyms for islands in the Aegean was listed. He observed that the exercise was purely cultural and historical. Mr. Kofos suggested that the purpose of the work of the Group of Experts was to identify exonyms that would no longer

be used, rather than just providing lists of exonyms. Mr. Kofos further stated that the presentation of Working Paper 29 at the UNGEGN could be viewed as serving a purpose not compatible with the aims of international standardization of geographical names. Mr. Blok suggested that there was merit in lists such as those compiled by Mr. Erinc, but urged the experts to restrict themselves to the subject of reducing exonyms.

WORKING GROUP ON DEFINITIONS

79. The Secretary distributed copies of the revised glossary (July 1986) entitled Technical Terminology Employed in the Standardization of Geographical Names (ST/CS/SER.F/330/Rev.1), drawing attention to the fact that terms are defined in the six languages of the United Nations.

80. Mr. Ramondou stated that the additional terms proposed in Working Paper No.14 were in keeping with many linguistic and historical terms listed in the published glossary. Mr. Lewis, Mr. Kadmon, Mr. Velásquez and Mr. Blok, among others, urged the limitation of the glossary to terms relevant to the standardization of geographical names. Mr. Lewis invited the experts to review the new glossary and to send corrections, amendments and new terms to him for consideration in the next revision, as well as the amendments proposed by Mr. Ramondou. Mr. Boginsky asked also the experts to consider the terms noted in Working Paper No.15.

81. Mr. Jordan proposed including the counterpart of "exonym": i.e. "endonym", which means "internal name". He proposed the following definition: "A geographical name used in a certain language for a geographical feature situated in the area where the language has official status." Mr. Lewis invited comments from the experts on this term and its definition.

82. Discussion of the varying meanings of "toponymy" led to a proposal by Mr. Orth that a definition of "applied toponymy" be included in the list. Mr. Lewis asked the experts to submit a suitable definition to him.

THE USE OF MINORITY LANGUAGE TOPONYMS

83. In introducing Working Paper No.19, Mr. Ormeling, Jr. stressed that it only referred to officially recognized minority languages and their toponyms. Rather than infringing upon any national jurisdiction, Mr. Ormeling, Jr. wished only to demonstrate the consequences of representing majority language versions of minority language names in terms of cartographic presentation.

84. Mr. Lewis emphasized the fact that any decisions relating to the treatment of minority language names must rest with the sovereign state concerned. In addition, in adopting the names of minority languages in other countries, Mr. Lewis observed that the appropriate national authorities must be consulted. The Group of Experts reaffirmed the principle that international standardization must be based on national standardization.

REVIEW OF THE AIMS AND FUNCTIONS AND
MODUS OPERANDI

85. An ad hoc working group comprising Mr. Blok, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Boginsky and Mr. Randall reviewed the proposals in Working Papers No.28 and No.59, and submitted to the Group a composite of the two papers defining the aims and functions and modus operandi of the Group of Experts. After reviewing a number of modifications, amendments and corrections, the Group of Experts accepted the text contained in the document entitled "Statute of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names" as set out in Annex III.

86. Mr. Blok recommended leaving the review of the rules of procedure until the next session of the Group of Experts.

87. With reference to Working Paper No. 12, the Secretary agreed to Mr. Blok's proposal, that the calling of Divisional Meetings by the Divisional Chairman will be distributed by his office.

REVIEW OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE
GEOGRAPHICAL/LINGUISTIC DIVISIONS

88. As to the composition of the division, it was agreed to recommend to the Fifth Conference to divide the present geographical/linguistic division Asia South-West (other than Arabic) into two separate divisions based on the geographical/linguistic distinctions made by Mr. Erinc, namely the Asia South-West Division and the Hebrew Division. On the recommendation of the Expert from Ireland, whose divisional membership is not yet decided, it was agreed to propose the establishment of a Celtic Division.

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE
THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF
EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

89. The Group of Experts agreed upon the following provisional agenda for its thirteenth session:

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Reports of the Working Groups
4. Organization of the Fifth Conference
5. Review of Rules of Procedure of the UNGEGN
6. Review of the Statute of the UNGEGN
7. Election of officers

8. Review of the Conference recommendations
9. Programme for the Group of Experts
10. Review of the Working Groups
11. Eleventh session of Group Experts
12. Other business

OTHER BUSINESS

90. In reference to Working Paper No.24, Mr. Ramondou deplored the introduction of divisive political matters into the technical discussions of the Group of Experts. Mr. Ramondou, further stated, that the title of the agreement of 3 September 1971 was not accurately quoted and that the author of this working paper was not qualified to make any interpretation as he was not part of the signatory powers to the agreement. Mr. Johannes concurred with this view and asked the Chairman to close any further consideration on the matters raised in the working paper.

91. Mr. Böhme made available a map of the Federal Republic of Germany at the scale of 1:100,000. He pointed out that the names listed in Working Paper No.56 were all the approved physical landscape feature names in the Federal Republic, and noted that the map portrayed the extent of each feature to which each name applied. Working Paper No.56 replaces Working Paper No.24 of the 11th Session of UNEGN.

92. In reference to Working Paper No.56, Mr. Boginsky recommended adding in the report of the 12th session that the footnote on page 3 should read as follows: " the interests of Berlin (West) are represented by the Federal Republic of Germany in the United Nations and its specialized agencies, in accordance with the Quadripartite Agreement, September 3, 1971".

NOTES

- 1/ See "Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the work of its Tenth Session " (ESA/RT/C/GN/8), Annex III.

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c/ Also part of the Romano-Hellenic Division.
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3	Generic Terms in Toponymic Data Files (Submitted by N. Kadmon, Israel)	6(d)
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International Cartographic Association) 6(c)

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(Submitted by R. Randall, Liaison Officer, prepared for the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) 14(c)

53. Bibliography for the Automated Data Processing for the Preparation of Gazetteers and Names Lists
(Submitted by the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files (Gazetteers, Computer Assistance) 6(c)
54. Standardization of Geographical Names in Cyprus
(Submitted by M. Konstantinidis, Cyprus) 5
55. Report on activities in the Islamic Republic of Iran
(Submitted by Col. Rassol Sarbazy, Islamic Republic of Iran) 5
56. Geographical Names in the Federal Republic of Germany according to the Official General Map (Übersichtskarte) 1:500,000. World Map Serie 14D4
(Submitted by R. Bohme, Federal Republic of Germany) 14(c)
57. An Automated Toponymic Transliteration/Transcription/ Translation System for World Atlases
(Submitted by N. Kadmon, Israel) 6(d)
58. The Toponymy Courses at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem
(Submitted by N. Kadmon, Israel) 5
59. Statute of the UNGEGN
(Submitted by V. Boginsky, USSR) 6(f)
60. Names of Countries
(Submitted by V. Boginsky, USSR) 6(e)
61. Status of the USSR activities in naming Antarctic geographical entities
(Submitted by V. Boginsky, USSR) 11
62. Geographical Names Standardization in the USSR in 1984-86
(Submitted by V. Boginsky, USSR) 5
63. Provisional Report on the Second Meeting of the Latin America Division
(Submitted by Y. Velasquez Garcia, Chairman of the Division) 5
64. Report on activities in Cuba
(Submitted by Y. Velasquez Garcia, Cuba) 5
65. Official Glossary of Cuba
(Submitted by Y. Velasquez Garcia, Cuba) 14(b)

66. Report on the First Meeting of the Latin
America Division
(Submitted by Y. Velasquez Garcia, Chairman
of the Division, Cuba) 5
67. Methodologie des investaires toponymiques
(Submitted by H. Dorion, Canada)
68. Report of the Working Group on Gazetteers
and Geographic Names of the Pan American
Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH)
(Submitted by R. Randall, Liaison Officer,
UNGEEN-PAIGH)
69. Report of the Chairman
70. Report of the Secretary
71. The importance of a geographical names
authority in supporting a mapping and charting
(submitted by Mr. A. Rayburn, Canada)

B. United Nations Publications and Documents

STATUTE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS
ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES*

The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names was established in pursuance of the Economic and Social Council resolution 715A (XXVII) of 23 April 1959, 1314 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968 and 1854 (XXII) of 4 May 1973 to further the standardization of geographical names of both the national and the international levels.

I. AIMS

The basic aims of the Group of Experts are:

- the consideration of principles and methods for solving the problems of national and international standardization of geographical names;
- the collection and dissemination of information on work of national and international bodies on the standardization of geographical names to the United Nations Member States;
- the sharing of experience of national bodies on the standardization of geographical names;
- encouraging the supply of scientific and technical help to developing countries in national standardization of their geographical names.

II. PRINCIPLES

1. The Group of Experts acts as a collegiate, consultative body, accordingly agreement of non-procedural matters will be achieved by consensus and not by voting.
2. The decisions of the Group are of a recommendatory character.
3. Questions involving national sovereignty will not be discussed by the Group of Experts.

* As approved by the Group of Experts at its twelfth session held at the United Nations office at Geneva, from 28 September - 7 October 1986 (see paragraph 85 of the present report.

4. The Group of Experts in its activity adheres to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and proceeds from the following provisions:

- the standardization of geographical names must be based on the achievements of science in relation to both language treatment and the technical means of processing and generating toponymic data.
- international standardization of geographical names must be carried out on the basis of national standardization.

III. FUNCTIONS

To further the stated aims, it is essential that the Group of Experts on Geographical Names exercise the following functions:

1. Provide liaison between countries in their work on geographical names.
2. Co-ordinate between countries their efforts on the standardization of geographical names.
3. Undertake the preparatory work for periodic international conferences on geographical names.
4. Provide continuity of action between conferences.
5. Assist in implementing resolutions adopted at conferences.
6. Consider the formation of linguistic/geographical divisions as rational bases for furthering work at national levels.
7. Co-ordinate the activities of divisions.
8. Maintain liaison with other international organizations dealing with related subjects.
9. Encourage the divisions and countries to take a more active role in standardization programmes. To this end, divisions should formulate their own working procedures and should co-ordinate them with the Group of Experts for the sake of assuring uniform content and principles.

10. Encourage divisions, wherever feasible, to participate in United Nations Regional or other cartographic conferences. By having a divisional meeting in conjunction with a conference, the divisions could also take advantage of the conference facilities.

IV. COMPOSITION

1. Linguistic/geographical divisions

1.1 The United Nations Group of Experts is composed of experts from linguistic/geographical divisions designated by the Governments of the United Nations Member States. The Group of Experts is headed by elected officers who guide activities of the Group during and between the sessions.

The Group of Experts in its activities is supported by the linguistic/geographical divisions.

- Africa Central Division
- Africa East Division
- Africa West Division
- Arabic Division
- Asia East Division (other than China)
- Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division
- Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic)
- China Division
- Dutch and German speaking Division
- East Central and South-East Europe Division
- India Division
- Latin America Division
- Norden Division
- Romano-Hellenic Division
- Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Division
- United Kingdom Division
- United States of America/Canada Division

1.2 The number of linguistic/geographical divisions and their composition may be revised, if necessary.

1.3 A country decides for itself to which division it wishes to belong. A country may be a member of another division provided the nature of its participation is not such as to change the linguistic/geographical character of the division(s) concerned. An expert may be invited to attend meetings of other divisions in the capacity of observer/consultant.

1.4 Each division, if composed of more than one sovereign State, will select, by methods of its own choosing, an expert to represent the division as a whole at the meetings of the Group of Experts.

1.5 In order to guarantee the continuity of the work, each division having more than one sovereign State should select an alternative representative; the divisional representative will act in close contact with his alternate.

1.6 The divisional representative stimulates activities on the standardization of geographical names within his division by all appropriate means (correspondence with national bodies on the standardization of geographical names and with national surveying and mapping agencies, arrangement of meetings of the divisional experts).

1.7 The divisional representative will be responsible for ensuring that the work of the Group of Experts and its potential for technical assistance are brought to the attention of the individual countries within his division and for reporting to the United Nations any special problems within his division.

1.8 To discuss technical and procedural matters a division may organize regional meetings during United Nations conferences on geographical names and meetings of the Group of Experts or at any other convenient time.

2. Officer

2.1 The Group of Experts will elect the following officers: a Chairman, a Vice Chairman and a Rapporteur.

2.2 All provisions regarding their election and functioning are given below in the Rules of Procedure.

Working Groups

3.1 Working groups are formed of the members of the Group of Experts to study particular topics concerning the standardization of geographical names. When it is necessary a working group may include specialists invited to take part in the sessions of the Group of Experts.

3.2 Working groups are disbanded upon completion of their appointed tasks. Expediency of prolongation of their term of activities is considered at the sessions of the Group of Experts. If necessary, new working groups may be appointed and their tasks determined.

3.3 The Convenor and the Co-convenor of a working group are elected at the meetings of the working group by methods of its own choosing.