

Ad Hoc Group of Experts on
the Standardization of
Geographical Names

New York, 10-20 March 1970

MINUTE N° 2 / Rev. 1

Meeting held on Wednesday, 11 March 1970

Gen. Sadeghian made the final national report on behalf of Iran. He also proposed an amendment to the "Transliteration of Farsi Geographical Names into the Roman Alphabet" agreed at Geneva:

- the digraphs ch, kh, sh and zh to be romanized ch, kh, sh and zh respectively to avoid mispronunciation as k h etc. He also proposed a note be added to the effect that ç, ç and ç are pronounced identically as are s e z and ç.

Col. Ayoubi observed that the Arabic group was in practice divided into francophone and anglophone interests, which might best be met by the formation of two corresponding regional groups instead of the present one. He reported that there was to be an Arab League meeting in Cairo, later this year, to consider problems of transliteration.

Mr. Komkov's view was that in the absence of a permanent staff available to the Group, not all the tasks foreseen as necessary could be accomplished. Those to which priority action should be accorded were:

- a) Principles and procedures, and the treatment of international features
- b) Transliteration and transcription
- c) Collection and dissemination of information

He thought that action should be begun by study in working groups between meetings of the Ad Hoc Group. The reports of the working groups would be approved by the Ad Hoc Group and subsequently by the Conference as a whole. Such a programme would require the services of the Cartographic Section and, ideally, of a permanent geolinguist to work full time on names.

It was agreed that all possible effort should be made to provide for a geolinguist. In the interim, Dr. Burrill would act as consultant to the Cartography Section.

With regard to the clearing-house functions of the Cartographic Section, and the exchange of information in general, it was agreed that semi-annual reports, studies and other pertinent documents should be circulated between regional groups and/or interested countries and parties directly, with a copy to the Cartographic Section giving details of the distribution made.

It would then be the responsibility of the Cartographic Section to disseminate such information as they considered important in such manner as might be appropriate.

It was agreed that a complete list of business and personal addresses of the experts would be prepared and circulated.

With regard to the internal composition and working of the Regional Groups the meeting confirmed the pertinent parts of the Geneva Report (p.7, col.2, item 10 and p. 12, col. 1, item 7(b)).

The meeting was closed after preliminary discussion of Dr. Meynen's proposal in working paper n° 3.