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STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
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Item 9 of the provisional agenda

WORK IN PROGRESS IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN POLAND
SINCE THE FIRST UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE (GENEVA, 1967)

Prepared by the Government of Poland

This report has been compiled in accordance with the problems listed in point 9, paragraph 17, concerning the provisional agenda for the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (document ESA/RT/C/CN/2, 11 March 1971).

The only omission is that of subpoint (c): "Treatment of names in multilingual areas", as Poland is a one-language nation and only the Latin alphabet is used. Thus the graphic forms of geographical names occurring on the territory of Poland follow the principles of spelling established in 1936 and supplemented after the Second World War in 1955 by an appropriate commission of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Komisja Polskiej Akademii Nauk).

In Poland, standardization refers to two fields of toponymy:

- (a) national toponymy, i.e. names occurring within the State boundaries,
- (b) world toponymy, i.e. the adaptation of names from throughout the world to the specific features of the Polish language.

In each of these fields different methods are employed.

(a) Geographical names on the territory of Poland are at present established by the Commission for Establishing Names of Localities and Physiographical Objects (Komisja Ustalania Nazw Miejscowości i Obiektów Fizjograficznych) attached to the office of the Prime Minister. This Commission continues the work of a corresponding body from the period between the two world wars and of the Commission for Establishing Local Names (Komisja Ustalania Nazw Miejscowych) called to the existence by the Ministry of Public Administration in 1946. The present Commission

is composed mainly of linguists working in co-operation with historians and geographers. Within the Commission there are two local Subcommissions (Podkomisje terenowe) from Cracow and Poznań and teams from Chairs of Polish Language (Katedry Języka Polskiego) of all Polish universities.

The names of localities and physiographical objects collected on the spot and preliminarily prepared by working teams are submitted to linguistic corrections at the sessions of the Commission with a view to establishing their proper forms and spelling so as to make them fit for publishing.

Below a survey of the still valid publications is given.

Official names of localities, that is cities and towns, settlements and villages, city quarters, integral parts of villages etc., as well as physiographical names, that is mountains, rivers, artificial water reservoirs, lakes, channels, forests etc. for western and northern Poland established by a Commission of the Ministry of Public Administration till 1950 were published in Monitor Polski (Dziennik Urzędowy Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej) (the Official Gazette of the Polish Republic).

All the materials published in the Monitor Polski were collected and arranged in alphabetical order by Stanislaw Rospond in the two-volume "Słownik nazw geograficznych Polski Zachodniej i Północnej" (Dictionary of geographic names of Western and Northern Poland) published by the Polish Geographical Society (Polski Towarzystwo Geograficzne) in 1951. The dictionary, which includes more than 30,000 entries, consists of two parts: Polish-German and German-Polish. The Polish names are followed by their respective genitives and by indications of the character of each object.

The geographical names for central and southern Poland established by the present Commission attached to the Prime Minister are periodically published by the Council of Ministers Office Bureau for the Presidia of the People's Councils (Urząd Rady Ministrów Biuro do Spraw Prezydiów Rad Narodowych) in the form of fascicles devoted to the individual poviats of each voivodship. The publication bears the title "Urzędowe nazwy miejscowości i obiektów fizjograficznych" and is destined for use in office work. Thus far complete materials have been published for six voivodships: Kielce, Cracow, Lublin, Poznań, Rzeszów and Warsaw. The preparation and printing of the materials for the remaining voivodships of central and southern Poland is well advanced: the publication is expected to be complete by 1972.

To illustrate the arrangement of material in the publication here are examples of data for the gromada (the smallest administrative unit in Poland) Glinojock in the powiat Ciechanów in the voivodships of Warsaw:

Names of village - town, the genitive case, the adjectival form	Names of parts of village - town, the genitive case	Names of physiographical objects, character of the object, the genitive case
Glinojeck, -ka glinojecki	Baraki, -ków Poświętne, -nego Stegna, -ny Zawoda, -dy	Góry, Gór - field Przydatki, -ków - field Słupie, -pia - meadows Wkra, Wkry - river
Juliszewo, -wa juliszewski		Duży Bór, -żego Boru - forest Nowiny, -win - field Włoki, Włók - field Zędowy, -wego - forest
Luszewo, -wa luszewski		Dąbrówki, -wek - field Działkowizna, -ny - field Kowalowa, -wej - mountain
Wkra, Wkry wkrowski	Kolonia, -nii	Koło, -ła - meadow Nadziały, -łów - field Narty, Nart - pasture Pólka, -lek - field Tobołki, -ków - pasture

It must be observed that within poviats the names are given in alphabetical order of the gromadas.

(b) The standardization of non-Polish geographical names is in Poland a responsibility of the Commission for Geographical Names (Komisja Nazw Geograficznych) called to life by the Polish Geographical Society (Polskie Towarzystwo Geograficzne) in 1951, which since 1953 has been working within the Institute of Geography of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Instytut Geografii Polskiej Akademii Nauk) under the name of the Commission for Establishing Geographical Names of the Institute of Geography of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Komisja Ustalania Nazw Geograficznych IG PAN). Headed by Assistant Professor L. Ratajski, the Commission has as its members predominantly geographers, with Professor P. Zwoliński as a permanent member from among linguists. The geographical names established by this Commission are submitted for evaluation to specialists in different world languages, primarily to university professors, and only afterwards approved for publication at the sessions of the Commission.

The material for world toponymy is collected exclusively from cartographic sources and running publications of appropriate contents. It is in virtue of these sources that individual names are identified as having become Polonized: the earliest sources come from the 16th century, exceptionally even from the Middle Ages. Names that have no tradition in the Polish language retain their

pronunciation and their original spelling if they come from countries using the Latin alphabet. Names from countries using other alphabets are given in transliteration or transcription, of which, unfortunately, there are several competitive systems.

The first attempt at the provision of standardized geographical names outside of Poland was the publication "Polskie nazewnictwo geograficzne świata" (Polish Forms of World Geographical Names) prepared by the members of the Commission for Establishing Geographical Names of the Institute of Geography of the Polish Academy of Sciences L. Ratajski, J. Szewczyk and P. Zwoliński and published by the Institute of Geography in 1959. It includes about 20,000 names of localities, administrative units, physiographical objects and names of nations and tribal groups of the world. The fundamental unit of division in the book is the continent. Within continents, the names are given in the alphabetical order country after country. Within each country in turn all names are given alphabetically in 22 groups corresponding to the fundamental concepts of geographical terminology.

The book "Polskie nazewnictwo geograficzne świata" was taken as the foundation for preparing the geographical names in the entries of Wielka Encyklopedia Powszechna (Great Universal Encyclopedia) (13 volumes, 1962-1970). Currently the second amended and much extended edition of the book is being prepared for publication: it is planned to appear in 1974.

As to a national gazeteer, no such work has thus far been prepared. The function of a gazeteer is partly fulfilled by the "Spis miejscowości Polskiej Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej" (List of localities of the Polish People's Republic) published by the Publishing House for Transports and Communications (Wydawnictwa Komunikacji i Łączności) in April 1967 and destined for a wide public. This 1383-page folio index of all localities in Poland lists 105,000 items. It also provides information concerning the character of the respective locality, its administrative appurtenance, post office, registrar's office as well as indications of the nearest railway station or railway stop. Irrespective of the kind of the named locality, the index is arranged in alphabetical order. It is only by the type face that towns and urban settlements can be distinguished from localities situated in rural areas, that is from villages, hamlets, colonies etc. This publication has been prepared by working teams of the Commission for Establishing Names of Localities and Physiographical Objects, of the Ministry of Communications, the Ministry of Transports, and the Registrar's Offices.

As to the administrative structure of national names authorities in Poland, the lack of some definite legal act prevented the final solution of this problem. Since the results of work of the Commission for Establishing Names of Localities and Physiographical Objects are published by the Prime Minister's Office, at the moment of publication they acquire the status of official authority. The official character of standardization of names from beyond the Polish territory is at present a subject of discussion between the institutions interested in the problem. It is to be expected that the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names will accelerate the final decisions on this problem.