

PROJECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY OF GEOGRAPHICAL TERMS USED ON GENERAL GEOGRAPHICAL MAPS*

Report presented by Czechoslovakia

Following the recommendation of the conference on the standardization of geographical names held from 4 to 6 October 1971 in Prague, a project of an international dictionary of geographical names has been worked out. Its publication is planned for 1974.

The Czechoslovak cartographical service submits on behalf of the cartographical services of socialist countries to the participants in the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names a project of the dictionary and has the pleasure of inviting the cartographical services to participate.

GENERAL CONCEPTION OF THE DICTIONARY

The purpose of the dictionary is the international unification of geographical terms used on general geographical maps. Its contents will comprise general parts of geographical names used on maps (such as upland, mountains, basin), and general geographical terms used directly on the map or in the map key (such as crater, dunes, rapids).

The dictionary will be a terminological work with short definitions of geographical terms. It will be published in all the languages of the participating countries, with the terms will be given in all the national languages concerned, and then defined in the language of the keyword only. In the case of the languages using the Cyrillic alphabet, the official transcription into Roman letters will be given in brackets. The definitions will either be unequivocal or — in intricate cases — involve a proposal for the standardization of the term. They will serve the needs of cartography. Complicated definitions will be supplemented with drafts or maps.

The dictionary will include the 800 to 1,000 most important terms.

The dictionary will be edited by the Czechoslovak cartographical service in the English version and by the cartographical service of the USSR in the official Russian version. These versions will be the obligatory bases for the national versions in the languages of the countries involved.

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE COMPILERS

The terms will be arranged in the dictionary according to the main thematic groups:

1. Dry land relief and relief of sea bottoms;
2. Waters;
3. Biogenic formations;
4. Settlements, industrial and engineering structures;
5. Communications;
6. Frontiers and borders;
7. Other groups.

The terms within the thematic groups will be given serial numbers according to their importance.

At the end of the dictionary there will be alphabetic

indexes of all terms in the different languages of the countries involved. Cross-references will be provided where necessary (thus, "field, lava, see also lava field").

As an illustration we present the term "jezero" (English "lake"), in the Czech version, from the terminological dictionary:

jezero — s. jazero; b. ezero (ezero); sch. jezero; m. tó; n. der See; p. jezioro; r. ozero (ozero):

přirozená vodní nádrž, vyskytující se ve sníženinách zemského povrchu; mají tvar plochých van, hlubších pánví nebo velmi hlubokých vpadlin dole. obklopených svahy; jsou úplně odloučeny od moře (a natural water basin occurring in the depressions of the earth's surface; their form is that of flat bathtubs, deeper pans, or very deep hollows surrounded with slopes/hills; they are entirely separated from the sea.

(Remark: s. = Slovak, b. = Bulgarian, sch. = Serbo-Croatian, m. = Hungarian, n. = German, p. = Polish, r. = Russian.)

In languages with a variable accent, the position of the accent will also be marked in the entry.

Forms of terms in languages using non-Latin alphabets will be given in the national script. In the edition in the Roman alphabet the official transliteration of the term will be given according to the mode of transliteration valid in the individual countries concerned.

A bibliography will be attached to the dictionary.

SCHEDULE OF WORK

May 1972 — presentation of the project

31 March 1973 — compilation of the list of entries

31 December 1973 — preparation of entries

31 March 1974 — compilation of the official English and Russian versions

31 December 1974 — handing over of the dictionary to the press.

The project of the dictionary has been sent to all participants in the Prague conference on standardization for amendments. After collecting all the amendments, the Commission on Terminology of the Czech Board of Geodesy and Cartography will work out the final project. On the basis of this all participating countries will present their suggestions for terms which they consider important enough to be included in the dictionary. Czechoslovak experts will then co-ordinate all the suggestions and make the final selection of the terms. These will be sent back to all the participants for amendments and, if need be, for suggestions on the definitions of individual terms.

The final preparation and publication of the International Dictionary of Geographical Terms Used on Maps have been entrusted to Czechoslovakia.

VIEWPOINT

The Czechoslovak delegation, considering the dictionary a valuable contribution to the unification and standardization of geographical names, suggests that it be recommended for implementation, welcoming simultaneously the participation of other countries.

* The original text of this paper was contained in documents E/CONF.61/L.86 and E/CONF.61/L.89.