

REPORT PRESENTED BY NORWAY*

NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

The work on national standardization of geographical names for official use has progressed in accordance with the officially adopted rules for writing Norwegian place-names. The official rules are in near-conformity with resolution 4, "National standardization", adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held at Geneva in 1967.¹

The major work on standardization of geographical names is carried out in conjunction with the national topographic mapping programme on the scale 1:50,000 and the hydrographic charting programme on the Norwegian coast and continental shelf. For the latter programme both hydronymics and names of undersea features are treated, particularly in connexion with the publication of new fishery charts in the North-Sea-Skagerrak area.

Lappish names

The Lapps are an ethnic minority group in the northern regions of the Norden countries. The largest number of Lapps is to be found in Norway, where they today number about 20,000 people. The Lapp population extends as far south as the Trøndelag area, but the majority is settled in the two northernmost provinces of Troms and Finnmark. Their language is of Finno-Ugric origin.

The place names in areas with Lapp settlements may be exclusively Lappish or, in areas with a mixed settlement, a mixture of Lappish and Norwegian. In the boundary areas one also finds composite names containing a Lappish and a Norwegian component. Older topographic maps of the northernmost regions often showed Norwegian translations of Lappish place names in areas where Norwegian names never had been in use. In several cases the translations show

* The original text of this report is contained in document E/CONF.61/L.59.

¹ Vol. 1, *Report of the Conference*, pp. 9-10.

mistakes and misinterpretations. In the present national topographic mapping programme, considerable efforts are being made to delineate the areas for which pure Lappish names only should be shown on the maps. Tape-recorders are being used in the field collection of geographical names in order to register important pronunciation details. This facilitates the identification of the various components of the names, and the generic terms. The names are written in accordance with officially adopted rules for the spelling of the Lappish language.

Dictionary of place-names

The preparation of a dictionary of Norwegian place names has been in progress since 1971. The work is being done by the Nordic Section of the University in Trondheim. Among other details, the dictionary will give a linguistic explanation of the names.

COMMON NORDIC SPELLING OF NAMES

In 1956, the Nordic Linguistic Council initiated action for introducing a common Nordic spelling of Russian (Slavonic) names. Some of the background papers have been published in issues of the periodical *Nordiske språkspørsmål*, Oslo, 1961, 1962 and 1963. In 1970, the Council issued the publication *Russian Names: Common Nordic Spelling and List of Names*. The publication is 96 pages long and contains approximately 2,250 geographical names and names of persons. The Council has also published listings of the names of other countries in common Nordic orthography. Further work is in progress on a common Nordic spelling of names in other parts of the world.

Common Nordic data-processing of names

The Sixth Nordic Onomastic Congress in 1971 organized a Nordic committee for the purpose of co-ordinating Nordic onomastic research. The committee is at present engaged in the drafting of common Nordic rules for the data-processing of names.

REPORT PRESENTED BY FRANCE*

The standardization of geographical names is a matter the importance and necessity of which are becoming more and more evident, both nationally and internationally. This is primarily because of the great growth of opportunities in communications and trade, which since the beginning of the century have helped to develop and expand relations of every kind between the nations of the world.

Throughout French territory, national standardization is tackled at two levels. One level comprises

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the identification of names of municipalities, i.e. the names of the basic administrative districts. Under an order of 2 November 1945, names of municipalities cannot be altered except by a decree issued by the Minister of the Interior at the request of the municipal council after the general council has been consulted about the request and the Council of State has reported on it. A body known as the Commission for the Review of Municipality Names, which is competent to handle both the scientific and the administrative aspects of toponymy, has been set up to advise the Minister of the Interior on the implementation of the order.