

## 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.<sup>1</sup>

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

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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

On the other level is the identification of names other than those of municipalities. The authority responsible for toponymy in this field is the National Geographical Institute, which is represented on the advisory body mentioned above. In 1942, immediately after the establishment of the Institute — the successor to the Army Geographical Service — the Toponymy Commission was set up as part of the Institute to deal with problems arising in the collection of place names in metropolitan France and the fixing of the spellings to be used for those names. The National Geographical Institute was able to draw on the results of previous cartographic work and on the experience of government services such as the Cadastral Survey and the national education authorities. This enabled it to elaborate a method of work and general and special instructions which its operating staff could use in constructing, from numerous and often conflicting items of information, the best and most correct form of identification for each geographical feature in the light of the local context and national requirements.

The National Geographical Institute has not confined its toponymic activities to metropolitan France and has sought to contribute as far as it can to the standardization of overseas toponyms as well. The Institute has continued this work since the granting of independence to the overseas countries, either under general agreements for co-operation on cartography with particular Governments or under agreements for special services concluded with national technical authorities.

As far as the transcription and transliteration of toponyms are concerned, agreements were concluded in the period before the 1967 session of the Conference at Geneva with the competent authorities of the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, Gabon, the Ivory Coast, Lebanon, Morocco and the Upper Volta.

Since that session of the Conference, the French Government has been represented at all sessions of the *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts on Geographical Names, but has not participated in any regional activities of the division representing the Romance-language area except for Latin America, having received no information on their organization. The present Conference should provide an opportunity for remedying that situation for the future. However, since the toponymic authorities of foreign countries — in any of the divisions — are represented on national cartographic bodies, agreements for exchanging publications between these bodies and

the National Geographical Institute help in the circulation of the practical results of national standardization activities to foreign countries.

Also between 1967 and 1971, the National Geographical Institute participated, because of its interest in national standardization, in the verifications undertaken in connexion with the preparation of the Official Geographical Code published in 1971 by the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Research. The Official Geographical Code gives the names of all French municipalities. The main activities of the National Geographical Institute have been the field collection of toponyms for use on the maps published by the Institute and the standardization of their spellings. This work covers an area of some 76,720 square kilometres, mapped on the 1:25,000 scale, and relates to the basic map, from which the smaller-scale maps are derived. A number of sheets containing standardized toponymic spellings have been published on the 1:20,000, 1:50,000 and 1:100,000 scales for the New Hebrides, French Polynesia and the French Southern and Antarctic Territories.

Outside French territory, the work of collecting toponyms and standardizing their spellings has been carried out by the National Geographical Institute under aid or co-operation programmes relating to map series on the 1:200,000 scale for Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, Dahomey, Gabon, the Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Senegal, Togo and the Upper Volta. These activities cover a total of 115 sheets on the 1:200,000 scale in the sheet format of the International Map of the World. Similar work has been undertaken with a view to the publication of maps on the 1:50,000 scale for Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Dahomey, Gabon, the Ivory Coast, the Niger and Togo, either at the request of the State concerned or under aid or co-operation programmes. This involves 98 sheets on the 1:50,000 scale.

Lastly, under cartographic co-operation agreements concluded with the official authorities of Algeria, the National Geographical Institute has collected and standardized the names used on the 1:25,000 map series (which covers an area represented by 97 sheets) and on the 1:50,000 and 1:200,000 series (which each cover an area represented by 15 sheets). All three series are sets of basic maps appropriate for areas with well-defined characteristics, but only in the case of the 1:25,000 and 1:50,000 maps has there been any recent field work on name-collection.

#### REPORT PRESENTED BY BRAZIL\*

At the national level, responsibility for decisions on matters involving geographical names lies with the National Committee on Planning and Standards for Geography and Cartography (CONPLANGE), a body set up as part of the I.B.G.E. Foundation (which comprises the Brazilian Institute of Geography and the

Brazilian Institute of Statistics) by Legislative Decree No. 161 of 13 February 1967, and consisting of representatives of various federal and state authorities.

At its plenary meeting in July 1971, the National Committee on Planning and Standards discussed and adopted modifications to the nomenclature appearing on the sheets of the *International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale* which cover Brazilian territory.

\* The original text of this report was contained in document E/CONF.61/L.69.