

followed for the national standardization of geographical names, more than 120,000 of which have now been studied with a view to their inclusion in the second edition of the Geographical Dictionary.

In addition to the national standardization of geographical names, 19 of the major native languages of Guatemala, or rather of those of their alphabets which have so far been officially approved, are being standardized with the help of advice from the National Indian Institute and assistance from the Instituto Lingüístico de Verano (Summer Linguistic Institute). The officially approved alphabets will appear in an appendix to the Geographical Dictionary. The appendix will contain a general introduction to the Mayan scripts, a general explanation of Mayan graphic signs (vowels and consonants), and the Caribe alphabet. The appendix will also be published apart, as separates, for each alphabet as follows:

1. Achi;
2. Aguacateco;
3. Cakchiquel;
4. Caribe;
5. Chuj;
6. Ixil;
7. Jacalteco;
8. Kanjobal (two dialects);
9. Kekchí;
10. Mam;
11. Mopán Maya;
12. Pocomchí;
13. Pocoman;
14. Quiché (four dialects);
15. Rabinal Achi;
16. Tzutujil;
17. Chortí;
18. Itzá;
19. Uspanteco.

Terms and definitions are under consideration. A paper entitled "Some geographical terms and definitions used in Guatemala" has been submitted to the Conference as a separate document. These terms and definitions will appear in the second edition of the Geographical Dictionary.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE GEOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF GUATEMALA

In 1968, Guatemala published the *Suplemento del Diccionario Geográfico de Guatemala*, consisting of two volumes, 288 and 279 pages long. A copy of this work

has been provided at the present Conference for information purposes.

GEOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF GUATEMALA

A considerable demand exists for a new edition of the two-volume geographical dictionary of Guatemala, the first volume of which, containing 499 pages, was published in 1961 and the second, containing 450 pages, in 1962. That edition ran to 2,700 copies and is out of print. The material for the second edition of the *Diccionario Geográfico de Guatemala* is now in the final stages of collection.

The new edition, with accompanying maps, will consist of six volumes and will contain all the geographical names, numbering more than 120,000, which have so far been standardized, together with information drawn from the broad area of human geography.

To facilitate consultation, the dictionary will be cross-referenced to give both present and past names. Examples of the latter are Santa María Magdalena del Patulul, now Patulul, in the department of Suchitepéquez; Tecpán Atitán or Tecpán Atitlán, now the town of Sololá, capital of the department of the same name; San Sebastián del Texar, now the municipal capital of El Tejar, in the department of Chimaltenango; Thequaco, now San Juan Tecuaco, a municipal capital in the department of Santa Rosa; Trapiche de los Reyes, now the village of Lo de Reyes in the municipality of El Chol, department of Baja Verapaz.

It should be noted that the dictionary will not merely contain references to the principal chroniclers and historians from the middle of the sixteenth century onwards, but will also give quotations from their writings. This will provide the most accurate picture possible of populated places, their inhabitants at various periods, their principal industries, former routes of communication, traditions, and so on. Much of the information included will of course come from the General Archives of Central America, and use will also be made of a very rich collection of private records. Mention has been made elsewhere in the present report to other material which this important work will contain.

The questions of technical assistance to foreign countries and other aspects of standardization are dealt with in a separate report by the United Nations expert on geographical names for Latin America.

REPORT BY THE EXPERT FOR LATIN AMERICA OF THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES*

A brief account of activities which have taken place since the Geneva Conference of September 1967 is given below. It is expected that the Chairman of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and representatives of countries participating in the Second

Conference will provide additional information on national activities.

FIRST SESSION OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON GEOGRAPHY AND CARTOGRAPHY, SAN SALVADOR

The first session of the Central American Conference on Geography and Cartography, convened by the

* The original text of this report, prepared by F. Gall, submitted in Spanish, was contained in document E/CONF.61/L.73.

Organization of Central American States (OCAS), was held at San Salvador in February 1968. The Conference, on the proposal of the writer, adopted various important resolutions based on resolution 6, "Technical assistance", and resolution 7, "Regional meetings", of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

FIRST REGIONAL MEETING ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

The First Regional Meeting on the Standardization of Geographical Names, which was sponsored by the secretariat of the Organization of Central American States (OCAS), was held at Guatemala City from 7 to 11 October 1968. This important gathering was organized in response to resolution 7 of the first session of the Central American Conference on Geography and Cartography. The Meeting was attended by official delegations from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. Meredith F. Burrill, Chairman of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, was among the international officials present.

In due course, the expert for Latin America of the United Nations Group of Experts transmitted copies of the report of the First Regional Meeting to the United Nations; he also made copies of it available when the Group met. It may nevertheless be of interest to the Conference to note the following subjects of resolutions adopted at the Regional Meeting:

2. Transmission of copies of pertinent official material through the national sections of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH).
3. Creation of the Central American Committee on Geographical Names.
4. Establishment of standardization procedures.
5. Adoption of the 20 resolutions passed by the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.
6. Integration of national geographical names authorities.
7. Technical assistance by the United Nations Group of Experts.
8. Official standardization principles.
9. Forms used in connexion with domestic geographical names.
10. Sizes of lettering used on maps to indicate populated places.
11. Spelling of names derived from aboriginal languages.
12. Participation in the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.
13. Transmission of resolutions to the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History and to the United Nations.
14. Alphabets of majority aboriginal languages of the region.
15. The Instituto Indigenista Nacional (National Indian Institute) and the Seminario de Integración Social (Social Integration Bureau) of Guatemala.
16. 1970 censuses.
17. Definition of the term "standardization".
18. Place of next meeting.

SECOND REGIONAL MEETING ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

In connexion with resolution 18 of the First Regional Meeting, the Government of Panama offered to act as host to the Second Regional Meeting.

At the First National Historical Congress, held at Panama City on 15 August 1969 to commemorate the

450th anniversary of the foundation of Panama City, the Guatemalan delegation, led by Francis Gall, submitted a draft resolution, which was adopted by acclamation, indicating to the Government of Panama that the Second Regional Meeting on the Standardization of Geographical Names should take place as soon as possible and requesting that the Panamanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs should issue the necessary invitations.

In August 1970, with the agreement with the Panamanian Government, the Organization of Central American States (OCAS) sent out invitations to the Second Regional Meeting, which was held from 19 to 23 October 1970.

For the third session of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York in February 1971, the expert for Latin America made available an original copy of the report on the Second Regional Meeting, signed by the officers of the Meeting and the heads of delegations. As indicated in the report of the Group on its third session, Meredith F. Burrill, who had been present at the Second Regional Meeting, amplified the statement made at that session by the Expert for Latin America. A list of the subjects of the principal resolutions adopted by the Second Regional Meeting is reproduced below for the information of the Conference:

2. The first South American subregional meeting on the standardization of geographical names.
3. Toponymy in Panamanian text-books and the establishment of chairs of toponymy and toponymic studies at universities in American countries.
4. Establishment of chairs of geography.
5. Preparation of theses on glossaries of geographical terms at universities in American countries.
6. Up-dating of census cartography and use of official geographical names.
7. Repetition of toponyms in the names of populated places in Panama.
8. Publication of guides to officially approved alphabets of minority languages.
9. Geographical names and current methods of writing.
11. Participation in the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.
13. Place of next meeting.
14. Geographical dictionaries.
15. The Central American Committee on Geographical Names.
17. The Inter-American Geodesic Service.
21. Establishment of standardization procedures.
22. Technical assistance by the Expert for Latin America of the United Nations *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
23. Adoption of the 20 resolutions passed by the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

At the third session of the Group of Experts, it was agreed that resolutions 21, 22 and 23 in particular would be translated into English and circulated to the Group. In addition, the Chairman of the Group reported on the results of the visits he had made to various Latin America countries since the Second Regional Meeting.

In resolution 2, which deals with first South American subregional meeting on the standardization of geographical names, the Second Regional Meeting recommended that the South American meeting should be

held between October 1971 and April 1972 in Venezuela or Peru, both of which had offered to act as host to the meeting. It proved impossible, however, for the meeting to be held in either of those countries.

The representative of Panama is able to provide full information on the action taken to comply with the resolutions which relate expressly to his country.

Although a decision had been taken at the First Regional Meeting, in resolution 12, on the question of participation in the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, the matter was taken up again in Panama, on the initiative of Meredith F. Burrill. It forms the subject of resolution 12 of the Second Meeting, which urged Latin American Governments to accredit delegations to the Conference in response to the official invitation and preferably to choose their representatives from among national technical experts on geographical names. In addition, at the request of the United Nations, the Expert for Latin America contacted the Directors-General concerned in each of the Latin American countries at the end of 1971 and sent them a copy of the official invitation from the Secretary-General of the United Nations to participate in the London Conference.

In resolution 13, concerning the place of the Third Central American Regional Meeting, the Second Regional Meeting accepted the Salvadorian offer to act as host to the Meeting at San Salvador. The Panamanian representative, José A. Sáenz G., will report on this point in his capacity as Chairman of the Second Regional Meeting.

In resolution 15, the Second Meeting established the Central American Committee on Geographical Names and elected the following officers to serve on it: Francis Gall (Guatemala), Chairman; José A. Sáenz G. (Panama), Vice-Chairman; Roberto López Meyez (El Salvador), Co-ordinator. It was agreed that the Secretary would be appointed by the Organization of Central American States (OCAS).

The other resolutions of the Second Regional Meeting are self-explanatory. It may be mentioned that the working papers submitted to the Second Meeting include a document by the writer dealing with toponymy in the teaching of geography and history and in cartography and literary history, and related anthropological topics. The text of this paper has been communicated to the secretariat of the Second Conference and representatives desiring a copy of it in the original language (Spanish) can obtain one on application.

FIRST SOUTH AMERICAN REGIONAL MEETING ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Since the South American meeting could not be held in either Venezuela or Peru, the Expert for Latin America has approached the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil, which has offered to act as host to this important gathering, the first of its kind in South America, at Brasilia. The meeting will take place in October 1972 in the auditorium of the Palácio Itamaraty of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The above information has been passed on to the United Nations and the Chairman of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. Both will be notified of any further developments.

SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

At the request of the United Nations, the Expert for Latin America contacted the various Latin American geographical and cartographic institutions. His purpose was to follow up the invitation from the United Nations Secretary-General, a copy of which he forwarded to those institutions, to participate, either directly or through the individuals responsible for matters of geographical nomenclature, in the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

The Expert for Latin America, with permission, also approached the Director of the Inter-American Geodesic Service at Fort Clayton, Canal Zone, Panama, with a request that his Service should retransmit the Secretary-General's invitation to those Latin American countries in which the Service maintained accredited consultants.

On the occasion of his visit to Guatemala, the Chairman of the Mexican National Section of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History, who by virtue of his position has connexions with the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has his attention drawn to his country's invitation to participate in the Second United Nations Conference.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND PROGRESS TO DATE

Some details have already been given on this subject. Further information will doubtless be furnished at the Second Conference, by the Chairman of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and national representatives, on the national activities of the various countries within the writer's area of responsibility. Particular attention is directed to the work in the following countries.

Brazil

In addition to the information given in paragraph 4 above, it should be noted that the National Committee on Planning and Standards for Geography and Cartography, set up in 1957 as part of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), is responsible for deciding questions connected with geographical names.

The Brazilian Technical Standards Association undertakes the co-ordination of activities by various bodies in the field of geographical terminology and has established a committee to study geographical and urban planning terminology.

The Brazilian Institute of Geography gives rulings on the spelling of geographical names and on toponymic matters. In 1970, it set up a committee to examine disputed spellings of names of Brazilian towns and villages. An index to the toponyms appearing on the map of Brazil on the millionth scale was prepared by the University of São Paulo and published in 1968. The

Brazilian Institute of Geography republished this index in 1971 on the basis of the Bonn discussions.

The writer is glad to be able to make available to the Second Conference the *Índice dos Topônimos contidos na Carta do Brasil a: 1 000 000 do IBGE* and the *Índice dos Topônimos da Carta do Brasil ao milionésimo*.

Costa Rica

The Costa Rican representative will present a detailed report on the subject-matter of this section. In addition, technical advice has been supplied to the National Geographical Institute, San José, and information on national standardization in Costa Rica has been transmitted to the United Nations by the writer and is reproduced in document E/CONF.61/L.13. Moreover, the writer has forwarded to the Chairman of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names a communication from the Director of the National Geographical Institute of Costa Rica enclosing a copy of the proposed regulations on the organization and functioning of the Costa Rican Committee on Nomenclature. The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports will submit these proposals to the Executive Authority for consideration.

The writer has been informed that Costa Rica continues to make progress in toponymic matters and that the first volume of the publication on geographical names, dealing with the coastal and island names of Costa Rica and containing more than 1,000 toponyms, is in the final stages of printing and will be made available to the Conference.

El Salvador

The writer has the honour, at the request of the Director-General of the National Geographical Institute, San Salvador, to inform the Conference that Salvadorian activities have included a study for the establishment of a geographical names authority.

In addition, the writer, in response to a request, has furnished technical advice to the National Geographical Institute, San Salvador. In 1971, the Institute published particulars and maps of the departments of Ahuachapán, Santa Ana and Sonsonate as the first volume of the Geographical Dictionary of El Salvador, a work dedicated to the memory of the Institute's former Director, Pablo Arnoldo Guzmán. As requested, this volume was forwarded to the United Nations and to the Chairman of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

Honduras

The Director-General of the National Geographical Institute of Honduras was present at the First Central American Congress of History and Geography, held in Guatemala in December 1971 and organized by the writer. He was able on that occasion to obtain the information which he required on the standardization of geographical names. The Director-General, who is a personal friend of the writer, is attending the Conference

and will doubtless report on activities in Honduras connected with the standardization of geographical names.

Nicaragua

The Director of the National Geographical Institute, Managua, asked the writer to represent Nicaragua at the Second Conference and sent him the necessary papers. The writer had to decline, however, since United Nations practice does not allow a representative of one country to represent another country at the same time. It was suggested that the diplomatic representative of Nicaragua in the United Kingdom should be accredited to the Conference and he will no doubt report on the considerable progress achieved by Nicaragua on standardized geographical names, especially in connexion with the National Cadastre.

In September 1971, the National Geographical Institute, Managua, published the first volume of the *Índice Geográfico de Nicaragua*, dealing with the country's rivers, lakes and coasts. The second volume will comprise the geographical nomenclature of Nicaragua's orographic features, and the third will deal with its human communities and the areas covered by its political divisions, provinces, cantons, municipalities and departments.

The first volume contains marine, inland water and coastal features; it consists of an introduction, numerous photographs, 231 pages of text and, as appendices, an index of the 1:50,000 topographical maps published before September 1971 and a hydrographic map on the scale 1:1,000,000.

The information ultimately embodied in the three volumes described will be incorporated in the future *Diccionario Geográfico de Nicaragua*, an important work of reference for which a great need already exists.

The writer has pleasure in making available to the Conference a copy of the first volume of the *Índice Geográfico de Nicaragua*.

Panama

Information on Panama is given above in connexion with the Second Central American Regional Meeting on the Standardization of Geographical Names, which was held there. Particulars on national activities will be given by the director of the Tommy Guardia National Geographical Institute. In addition, in March 1972, the Department of Geography of the Faculty of Philosophy, Letters and Education of the University of Panama published Volume I of the Geographical Dictionary of Panama, together with the accompanying maps: this consists of 329 pages and covers the letters A to Ch.

Work on the Dictionary began in 1939 under Professor Angel Rubio; he was convinced of the need, importance and usefulness of the Geographical Dictionary and regarded it as the most effective way of providing information on the richly varied toponymy of Panama.

Guatemala

Particulars of activities in Guatemala are contained in

the report of the Government of Guatemala and in the information papers submitted to the Conference by the writer.

It should be noted that the geographical names of Central American countries which appear on the 1:2,000,000 map of Central America published by the National Geographical Institute of Guatemala, a copy

of which has been made available to the Conference, were taken from the revised official maps of the various cartographic agencies of the Central American region, in accordance with the decision taken at Geneva in December 1967.

The writer will be glad to give any further information that may be required.

REPORT PRESENTED BY EGYPT*

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, in particular since the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held at Geneva in 1967, the problem of rendering geographical names from one language into another has become of great interest to Arabic-speaking countries.

The importance of the accumulation and recording of geographic names is realized and the activity on the national level is encouraged and accelerated by the activities of international organizations. It is clear that the nation-wide standardization of geographical names is of relevance to international cartographic work.

BASIC MAPS AND THE COLLECTION OF NAMES

Adequate coverage by maps and charts on different scales is the basic condition for careful and systematic work on geographical names. They enable geographic co-ordinates to be determined and the suitability of generic terms to be assessed.

The map scale which is suitable for displaying all named features in desert areas ranges between 1:100,000 and 1:500,000, while in populated areas the suitable scale varies between 1:50,000 and 1:25,000. The maps on the scale 1:2,500 are used in cultivated areas and for property registers. A large number of toponyms appear in maps of these kinds.

The collection of names recorded on a map is made by a surveyor, with the help of a guide in the desert areas or a representative of the local authorities in towns and villages. The help of the inhabitants is indispensable. Then the first edition of an up-to-date map on a convenient scale becomes a most useful work of reference. The inclusion of names in such a map gives it a certain official character.

In Egypt and other Arab countries most of the place names are a part of the countries' cultural heritage, and constitute valuable historical material.

A thorough study of geographical entities included in official maps leads us to classify them as follows:

- (a) Hydrographic entities;
- (b) Relief features;
- (c) Political, administrative and cultural divisions, tribal concentrations, towns and villages;

* The original text of this report was contained in document E/CONF.61/L.77.

- (d) Single buildings;
- (e) Roads, railways, airports etc.

PERSONNEL CONCERNED

In Egypt the question of geographical names is the concern of the National Geographical Society through its committees on geographical nomenclature. These committees are composed of geographers, cartographers, historians, toponymists, linguists and archaeologists. The establishment of close co-operation between these experts is essential.

The following bureaux, among others, are concerned with the problem of geographical names:

1. Central Statistical Department;
2. Survey of Egypt;
3. Land and Property Register survey;
4. Hydrographic Survey;
5. Toponymists' Committee.

EXTENSION OF THE ARAB WORLD

It is a known fact that the Arabic-speaking countries occupy a vast area extending between longitudes 10° west and 60° east and between parallels 4° and 37° north. They thus cover about one sixth of the circumference of the globe from east to west and about one tenth of its circumference through the poles.

This area includes several different countries where different dialects of the classical language are spoken.

Two different romanization systems are employed in the transliteration of geographical names for official use. It is found that the use of two different systems — one based on French orthography and the other on English — proves to be practicable.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES

It is believed that regional conferences have to be held at appropriate intervals under Arab League auspices at which Arab countries are represented, in order to discuss common problems connected with the standardization of geographical names. There should be a uniform system for all Arab countries based on classical Arabic. It would probably be helpful for observers from countries with other writing systems to attend such conferences. The standardization of geographical terms and names depends on international co-operation between all countries.