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SEVENTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

New York, 13-22 January 1998

DRAFT REPORT

Note:

The draft report will be issued in four sections:

Plenary meetings: E/CONF.91/L.68
Meetings of Committee I: E/CONF.91/L.68/Add.1
Meetings of Committee II: E/CONF.91/L.68/Add.2
Meetings of Committee III: E/CONF.91/L.68/Add.3

Chapter II

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

A. Plenary meetings

Reports by divisions and governments on the situation in their regions and countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Sixth Conference (item 4)

1. The report of Slovenia (E/CONF.91/L.52) stated that in 1986, the Executive Council of Slovenia appointed a Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names at the suggestion and encouragement of the Surveying and Mapping Authority and the Slovenian Geographical Society. The government of Slovenia re-appointed the Commission in 1995. The Commission will soon publish a gazetteer of official names for communities. The source for standardized names are topographic maps at a scale of 1:25,000; 1:10,000; and 1:5,000. Additionally, there are about 200,000 names from various sources that are not standardized and may be problematic. The Commission will address these issues. Minority names have caused complex problems, but cooperation with local experts has resulted in the appropriate name on the map followed by the secondary Slovenian name. There has been work to use the geographical names database in a Geographic Information System (GIS) application, and the Commission for Geographical Names Standardization has established a web site for information

regarding names standardization.

2. Local experts have been working closely with the Slovenian government and Geographical Names Commission for many years and represent the local jurisdiction in multilingual areas.

3. The issue of transliteration systems used for names in Slovenia that are not in the Roman alphabet is still being researched, but many foreign government and private sources have been utilized. The original form is used as much as possible with the Slovenian translation often appearing in parentheses.

4. Morocco reported (E/CONF.91/CRP.26) that geographical names are of great importance in Morocco, especially relating to cartographic application as well as road signs, cultural heritage, and socio-economic application. Therefore, considerable effort is made to standardize names in accordance with the resolutions and recommendations of the United Nations. Standardization is primarily achieved through the organization responsible for cadastral and cartographic activities. Research conducted at universities has also provided valuable support, and this research has resulted in the publication of books and theses on names standardization. The primary goals are the use of standardized geographical names on standard and special maps; on new maps at a scale of 1:25,000; on revised maps; and on the base map of the country. The National Committee has organized international meetings through universities, and is in contact with the Arab League and the Arabic Language Commission. There has been an official publication of the new administrative

situation, and an official map portraying this structure will soon be released. It was also announced that May 1997 through May 1998 is the official year of Ibn Batouta, and there have been numerous activities in celebration. The airport at Tangiers has been renamed Ibn Batouta International Airport, and a postage stamp commemorating the year of Ibn Batouta has been issued.

5. The delegate of the United Kingdom indicated that there has been some confusion regarding the new administrative situation within Morocco. Specifically, Prefectures and Provinces seem to appear as both first and second order administrative divisions. It was explained that the current structure is standardized, and the order of hierarchy is Region, Prefecture, Sub-prefecture, and Province.

6. With regard to the Amended Beirut System of 1972, the delegate from Morocco explained that this transliteration system is in use it was developed from the Encyclopedia of Islam in the early part of the century, and was then modified in 1972 into the present system. Since the Third Conference in 1977, this system has been accepted for use, except for four characters. All but one character have now been resolved. Only the guttural *zd* remains problematic.

7. The Moroccan delegate confirmed that a system to modify the Amended Beirut System of 1972 would likely be put forward.

8. The delegate of Algeria indicated that there may be a resolution to organize a Conference of Arabic countries to resolve the issue.

9. The report of Croatia (E/CONF.91/CRP.38) stated that there is no national body addressing the standardization of geographical names in Croatia, but some efforts are being made to establish such a body. Presently, Parliament decides on names of administrative divisions, and community names are decided by the Council of Counties. Local jurisdictions decide the names for streets and squares, but the names of physical features are not yet standardized. The mapping agency is at present in a state of re-organization, and is concentrating on the eventual production of topographic maps at a scale of 1:25,000. There is a military mapping agency as well as an office for providing hydrographic charts. Croatian is the official language, but names in minority languages can be used if authorized by local jurisdictions and such names may be found in use in Istria (Italian) and Bjelovar and Daruvar (Czech). While some research on toponymic themes has been done by linguists, geographers, and cartographers, there has as yet been little collaboration with mapmakers. A gazetteer of "settlements" has been published.

10. The report of Nigeria (E/CONF.91/CRP.42) stated that a National Committee for Standardization of Geographical Names was established in the early 1970s, and three editions of a National Gazetteer were published. After a period of inactivity, the Committee was established by a Decree in 1989. The Committee has been formulating and establishing principles, policies, and procedures as well as toponymic guidelines. Also, the requirements of the Geographic Information System (GIS)

environment have re-vitalized the work of the names committee. Almost the entire country is covered by maps at a scale of 1:50,000 and these maps are the basis for the third edition of the National Gazetteer. Much field work is now necessary because of major internal administrative changes. Once this field work is complete, the fourth edition of the National Gazetteer is expected later in 1998. This fourth edition will form the basis for establishing an automated database, although names from a variety of additional sources will be added. The delegate emphasized the importance of preliminary and continuous training and cited valuable training received in the staff offices of the United States Board on Geographic Names in 1980.

11. Romania reported (E/CONF.91/CPR.44) that toponymic field activity has continued to collect names for use on the base map series at a scale of 1:25,000. Also, the Historical Geographical Atlas of Romania was published in 1996 and first two volumes of the Geographical Encyclopedia of Romania were published in 1996 and 1997. For the one hundredth anniversary of the publication of the Great Geographical Dictionary of Romania, the Geographical Society of Romania is preparing a new edition. A gazetteer of Romania is in preparation by the Geographical Institute of Romania, and the version of the UNGEGN Glossary of Toponymic Terminology in Romanian is underway. There have been toponymic courses in support of field work, and the National Office for Cadastre, Geodesy, and Cartography established in 1996 is examining the possibility of becoming the national toponymic

authority.

12. The linguistic realities of minority language forms are reflected on maps and in the gazetteer.

13. The report of Peru (E/CONF.91/CRP.45) stated that the standardization of geographical names in Peru has been affected by various historical aspects. Many names were translated from indigenous languages and their dialects, and there were also elements of language introduced from Africa. The National Geographical Institute has been responsible for national cartography since 1921, and has evolved into the "de facto" authority from geographical names because the names on these cartographic products are used by all organizations. Interviews conducted during field work and supported by verification from other sources form the basis for the standardized toponymy. Special problems exist and must be overcome because of the various dialects of the indigenous languages as well as idiomatic references in these languages. Another problem that is being addressed is resolution of the occurrence of numerous duplicate names, especially those of streets. The toponymy of Peru is highly varied and complex and requires special attention in achieving the goal of standardization. The delegate emphasized the importance of training and cited the positive results of the course in applied toponymy held on Lima in 1995 and offered under the auspices of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History.

14. It was stated that there is evidence of names of Arabic

origin in Peru, but additional research is required for more definitive information.

Commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the First
United Nations Conference on the Standardization
of Geographical Names (item 9)

15. The President drew attention to the fact that one of the delegates from Cyprus participated since the First Conference. The President further cited and emphasized the achievements and accomplishments, technical and otherwise, made by the Member States and the work of the Committees over the past thirty years.

16. The delegate of Iran presented a paper (E/CONF.91/L.59) highlighting the accomplishments and contributions of two noted scholars, geographer and toponymist, Nasser-Khasrow who published an account of his travels, discoveries, and observations in 444 A.H. He made highly valuable contributions to the geographical knowledge of the time and especially to early toponymy by recording and describing more than 750 geographical names. Istakhri also travelled widely and established himself as a great geographer and toponymist. He made sharp and relevant observations, and was cited by numerous geographical scholars who followed. His books gave full account of his accurate observations which included the name and location of each feature in his accounts.

17. The delegate from the United Kingdom applauded the paper, and noted its usefulness and relevance. He asked about the reference to Darya-ye-Khazar (Caspian Sea). It was explained

that Darya-ye-Qazrin was used historically, but now Darya-ye-Khazar is used within Iran, and Darya-ye-Mazandaran is used by Iran for international cartography.

18. The delegate of Israel presented a summary of a comprehensive paper (E/CONF.91/L.14) on Ptolemy. Ptolemy's work is of major importance and involved the use of geography, history, cartography, linguistics, toponymy, and more. He described physical and cultural conditions as well as phonetics and the change of names from one language to another. His cartographic applications utilized coordinates and elevation, depicting three dimensional space, to which he added order of precedence or history thereby adding the fourth dimension of change through the time. His greatest work is the Geographica or Cosmographica which was published in eight books. The first focused on methodology and books two through seven listed and described more than 8,000 geographical names. Book eight was an atlas of maps directly referencing the earth's surface and using for the first time a gridded system of coordinates.

19. The report of Morocco (E/CONF.91/CRP.35) noted the importance of the Conferences, and made reference to numerous accomplishments over the past 30 years. He also cited the names of the President of each conference.

First Conference Mr. Meridith "Pete" Burrill (United States)

Second Conference	Mr. H.A.G. Lewis (United Kingdom)
Third Conference	Mr. L. Mavridis (Greece)
Fourth Conference	Mr. D.P. Blok (Netherlands)
Fifth Conference	Mr. Jean-Paul Drolet (Canada)
Sixth Conference	Mr. Abdelhadi Tazi (Morocco)
Seventh Conference	Mr. Peter E. Raper (South Africa)

20. The delegate from Morocco presented a paper summarizing the exploits and great contributions of the accomplished, respected, and revered scholar and geographer, Ibn Batouta. He travelled extensively from Tangiers throughout North Africa, the Middle East, India, and China, then returning to Morocco. He wrote eloquently of his travels and observations. His written accounts are lucid and reflect keen observations establishing him as an extraordinary geographer and toponymist. His important observations and analyses have been shared among the world's major cultures, and his work has been rendered into more than 20 languages. He was the first to properly transcribe many geographical names, and cited more than 1,000 names. His work is noted for its high degree of credibility.

21. The President then asked Mr. Randall, observer from the United States, to comment on a paper presented by Mr. Burrill at the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1992. Mr. Burrill was one of the founders of the UNGEGN and responsible for the formulation of many topics considered by UNGEGN. The paper highlighted aspects of UNGEGN including its relevance and evolution. The paper will be

published in the next UNGEGN Newsletter.

Arrangements for the Eighth Conference (item 19)

22. The President introduced the proposed provisional agenda for the Eighth Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. There was an explanation of how the agenda was determined and a discussion of the items then followed.

23. The Conference decided that the item "Education and practice" should not be split into two agenda items. At a later date it could be decided which Committee would address this issue.

24. The item on web sites was discussed, and it was decided that this should remain as a separate agenda item, which could be included under the work of Committee II or Committee III.

25. The inclusion and separation of Division and Government reports was discussed, and they were retained as separate items, with the reference to meetings of divisions also included in a separate agenda item.

26. The presentations of country reports in summary form was emphasized. The Rapporteur indicated that written summaries would assist the reporting of the most salient items from country reports.

27. Elimination of "Conversion into non-roman writing systems" was discussed. At this time it is still retained as an agenda item.

28. The emphasis on the work of Committees and the practical considerations of the limited time for report writing for Committee III were mentioned as considerations in establishing

the final agenda.

29. The discussion turned to a date for the Eighth Conference. The Executive Secretary indicated that ECOSOC is reviewing all conferences and this review may have an effect. It was suggested that the Eighth Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be scheduled for the second half of the year 2002.

30. As the Seventh Conference was held later than originally scheduled, the question of holding one or two UNGEGN Sessions before the Eight Conference was raised.

B. Committee I: national programmes

National standardization (item 5)

Field collection of names (item 5 (a))

65. The report of Canada (E/CONF.91/L.38) highlighted the status of field collection of geographical names information and steps taken to develop a data base to track work conducted in this area. A map included in the report reflected information in the data base showing graphically those areas where systematic surveys, partial surveys, and independent data collection efforts are complete or underway. It was emphasized that respect of local usage was the paramount consideration in the standardization programme in Canada as a matter of policy, for which Canada was commended by several representatives in the conference. The high cost of systematic field collection was recognized as a difficulty to be overcome, and a contributing factor in the low number of researchers actively engaged in the field. The employment of telephone surveys was noted as an adjunct means of collecting data, but could not be considered a substitute for rigorous field collection. The pace of community-based field collection of toponymic data in northern Canada was expected to increase with the imminent emergence of Nunavut as a new administrative division.

Office treatment of names (item 5 (b))

66. The report of Estonia (E/CONF,91/L.2) outlined the process undertaken to develop and realize the Estonian Law on Place Names of 1996. The Place Names Act of Norway, adopted in 1991, provided a useful model for the Estonian legislation. The Law on Place

Names was considered a requirement as the development of the Estonian juridical system following the re-establishment of independence led to certain lacunae in the legal code with respect to processes governing the official treatment of geographical names. The Law on Place Names contained three main provisions dealing with the procedures for the standardization of place names (including the specification of the national bodies possessing the authority to change place names), the requirements (or policies) to be imposed on the standardization process, and the application and use of place names. The law formalized the existence of the Place Names Board, established policies governing minority language names provided recommendatory guidance on the use of parallel names, and provided for the establishment and maintenance of a National Place Names Register.

67. The representative of Canada noted that the general principles reflected in United Nations conference resolutions should form the basis for the development of sound selection criteria for the choice of geographical names (E/CONF.91/L.35). A project could be envisaged whereby a codification of advantageous practices for name selection emerging from the several conferences could be catalogued.

68. The representative of Austria reported on the orthographic reform of the German language which was concluded among German-speaking nations in 1996 (E/CONF.91/L.62). Implementation of the reform would have certain implications for place names in Austria. The reform could be applied to the names of physiographic features,

but not to features where a legal act was required to effect a name change. The Conference noted that the reform had not been finalized in Austria, and that an expert group was engaged in reviewing its stipulations. The Austrian Court of Laws will consider the reform in the first half of 1998.

69. China submitted a report (E/CONF.91/INF.24) covering the mechanism for geographical names standardization, and elaborated upon the procedures for assigning and changing geographical names, the problems encountered in the standardization of geographical names terminology, and the criteria employed for the uniform spelling of Chinese and minority language geographical names. Special consideration was given by the Conference regarding the place names of Hong Kong, which had reverted to full Chinese sovereignty on 1 July 1997. The representative of China reported that the traditional characters and traditional names of features would continue to be used in this special administrative region.

70. The representative of the United States reported on the recently published booklet covering the principles, policies, and procedures for domestic geographical names standardization (E/CONF.91/INF.10). Revisions to the previous edition included the addition of a policy on Native American names, an extension from one year to five years following the decease of an individual, as a criterion in the commemorative naming policy, and an amendment to the policy for the use of diacritical marks. It was emphasized that predominant local usage played the most significant role in the determination of the application of diacritical marks. An

additional report from the United States (E/CONF.91/INF/13) provided further details on the requirements to be fulfilled in proposing a commemorative geographical name.

71. The conference recognized the progress made in toponymic data collection in the United States (E/CONF.91.INF/11). The twenty-five year place name compilation programme begun in 1976 was moving toward completion, with comprehensive data collection complete or underway in all but four States. The effort had been a collaborative one among various federal agencies and universities. The programme included provisions for the collection of variant and historical names. The principal sources employed had been mainly documentary, as prohibitive cost made field collection impossible.

72. The representative of Austria reported on the conversion of Austrian military mapping to conform to specifications promulgated by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (E/CONF.91/INF/19). The geographical names on the converted 1:50,000 scale maps would be identical to those used in civilian mapping, and those contained in GEONAM, the official Austrian place names register.

73. The report of the Russian Federation (E/CONF.91/CRP.21) described the main points of the federal law adopted in 1997 entitled "On Naming Geographical Features". The law was intended to establish the legal basis for naming and renaming geographical objects in the territory of the Russian Federation. It included, inter alia, provisions for the establishment of policies and procedures for the standardization of geographical names, for the establishment of a federal body to oversee the federal geographical

names programme, for the creation and maintenance of a National Catalogue of geographical names, and established the basis for international cooperation in toponymy. It was noted that much work remained to be done in elaborating the provisions of the new law, and the representative of the Russian Federation stated that the United Nations Group of Experts would be kept informed of future progress, as the practical aspects of the law are implemented.

Treatment of name in multilingual areas (item 5(c))

74. The representative of Finland reported on the choice of place name spellings to be used by translators and editors (E/CONF.91/L.16). Prior to 1997 the choice of place name spelling was not always entirely clear given that Finland is officially a bilingual country. The Finnish Constitution and official language act had provided the legal basis for languages in Finland. The Toponymic Guidelines contained descriptive information regarding the languages and dialects encountered in Finnish place names. In 1997 the Finnish and Swedish Language Boards issued recommendations on choice of place name spelling in cases where the legal provisions and the Toponymic Guidelines were not sufficiently clear.

Administrative structure of national names authorities

(item 5(d))

75. The representative of Canada presented two brief reports. The first (E/CONF.91/L.39) contained a digest of the strategic plan of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names. The complete plan, first developed in 1989 and updated several times

since, is being revised and will be made available in English and French versions. The second report (E/CONF.91/L.40) contained a useful index to articles related to geographical names standardization appearing in the issues of "Canoma," a periodical devoted to topics of Canadian toponymy, published by the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names.

76. The report of Australia (E/CONF.91/L.60) described the significant restructuring of the assignment of responsibility within the administrative hierarchy of Victoria, for the development, maintenance, and standardization of geographic information, including geographical names. Before 1995, the paradigm of centralized authority at the state level was in place. In that year, the state of Victoria undertook a complete review of the allocation of authority in the area of land information. Through devolution, centralized authority for all aspects of geographical names work would largely be passed to local municipal authorities. Less emphasis would be placed on coordination and centralization, with local municipalities playing a greater role in all aspects of land information. The duties of the newly established position of registrar of geographical names were explained.

77. The representative of the Republic of Korea described the organization and purview of the Central Committee of Geographical Names at the ministerial level, the provincial and special urban committees at the next lower level, and the committees at the city, district and county level (see E/CONF.91/CRP.7). Membership

requirements for the Central Committee were noted.

Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors (item 5 (e))

78. Finland presented its revised set of toponymic guidelines, now in its third edition (E/CONF.91/L.17). Among the changes from the second edition were the addition of notes on Sámi orthography, a revised list of generic terms, the addition of a list of abbreviations, changes to the administrative structure of Finland, and a reworked listing of municipalities.

79. Germany contributed the third edition of its toponymic guidelines (E/CONF.91/L.26), the update of which was necessitated by the administrative reform in the five new Länder. Additional details on the linguistic characteristics of place names in Germany were also included in the new edition.

80. The representative of Sweden presented the third revised version of the toponymic guidelines for that country (E/CONF.91/L.46). The guidelines followed the format recommended by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, with provision for description of linguistic features, names authorities, glossaries, and administrative structures. It was noted that the orthographies of North Sami and Lule Sami were not homogeneous, and that the orthographies were under the jurisdiction of the Sami groups themselves.

81. The Chairman of the Committee noted the three distinct spellings: Sami, Sámi, and Saami. Consultation with the Norden Saami Council was considered necessary to resolve this discrepancy.

82. The report of Estonia (E/CONF.91/INF.16) highlighted changes to the toponymic guidelines necessitated by the alteration of the legal apparatus governing place names in Estonia. The principal components of the guidelines were noted, including the description of Estonian as the national language, with accompanying characterizations of the minority languages and dialects (such as Võru) encountered in Estonia. The representative of Estonia remarked that the present second edition of toponymic guidelines was already partly out of date: the quantity of official maps published had increased and the list of villages and settlements now required revision. The Estonian toponymic guidelines had been made available on the Internet.

83. The representative of Austria reported that the toponymic guidelines for her country had been completely revised, with inclusion of all addenda and corrigenda (see E/CONF.91/INF.21). The guidelines would be published in the collected volumes of toponymic guidelines, and had not been made available to date on the Internet.

84. The representative of Norway introduced the revised toponymic guidelines for Norway. They were reworded to account for the provisions of the Place Name Law enacted in 1991 (see E/CONF.91/CRP.16). The role of Finnish and Sami as minority languages was described in the context of standardization based on orthographic rules and preponderant local usage. It was noted that most place names in Norwegian would have either a definite

or indefinite form, though occasionally even Norwegians find the distinction problematical. With respect to the Bokmål and Nynorsk forms of writing, the representative of Norway noted that in accordance with the Place Name Law, geographical names are standardized first by establishing the name's pronunciation, and then deriving a spelling based on the orthographic conventions conforming to the Nynorsk form of writing. A correction was noted to the table of the South Sami alphabet on page 6 of the report where Ø should be replaced with Ö.

85. The representative of the Czech Republic presented a report on the newly issued first edition of the toponymic guidelines for that country (see E/CONF.91/CRP17). The report represented the finalization of guidelines presented in provisional form to the 18th session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in 1996. The content of the six sections of the guidelines were briefly described as were the general characteristics of the Czech language and its four principal dialects. With respect to the administrative structure of the country, it was reported that a new law adopted in 1997 would significantly alter the country's administrative make-up, with a consolidation of divisions into four first-order divisions (called *kraj*) to occur by the year 2000. The full form of the names of the current principal divisions was reported to be the generic term *okres* followed by the uninflected specific term. The alphabet table included two columns with information to facilitate the pronunciation of each Czech letter.

86. The representative of Italy described the revised Italian toponymic guidelines (E/CONF.91/CRP.20), the first revision since the guidelines were presented by Mr. Toniolo in the 1980's. The new version contained additional source material listings, a revised list of abbreviations, an update to the administrative division list to reflect the province (*provincia*) structure. The representative expressed appreciation for the efforts of Mr. Toniolo, who continued, in his retirement, to contribute to the toponymy of Italy.

87. Greece presented its revised toponymic guidelines (E/CONF.91/CRP.22), the product of a working group established in 1997 to review Greek toponymic policy and procedure. The guidelines superseded those issued at the 9th session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. The content and format of the new guidelines adhered to the recommendations of earlier United Nations conference resolutions. Special mention was made of the co-existence in contemporary Greek toponymy of place name spellings representing both the "dimotiki" and the "katharevousa" (i.e., simple and official administrative forms). Geographical names, in this environment, remain the same except for their endings and the accentuation system.

88. The Conference noted with satisfaction that nine countries had submitted up-to-date toponymic guidelines to the seventh Conference. The representative of South Africa, as coordinator of toponymic guidelines on behalf of the United Nations Group Of

Experts on Geographical Names, remarked that the toponymic guidelines were one of the most useful products to emerge from the Group of Experts and the standardization conferences. The Conference then considered the desirability (and feasibility) of the projected publication of assembled toponymic guidelines in combined volumes. The representative of South Africa expressed the concern that guidelines fall out of date for a variety of reasons, impelling a potentially costly programme of publication and republication. The use of the Internet as a medium for making accessible the toponymic guidelines was suggested as a less expensive approach. The representative of Algeria, among others, remarked that the Internet did indeed offer the promise of ease of accessibility, but this promise had yet to be fulfilled in many countries of the world. The conclusion reached by the Conference supported the issuance of toponymic guidelines in the various media available to the country involved, with the widest possible dissemination of the guidelines as the primary objective. The Executive Secretary introduced several remarks on behalf of the United Nations, offering the possibility of the publication of guidelines in the Newsletter of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, and in the *World Cartographic Bulletin*. A second important point raised by the Executive Secretary was the exploration of cooperative arrangements with the private sector to assist not only in the publication of guidelines, but in furthering other aims of the Group of Experts. The exploration of such arrangements could be

conducted by the Working Group on Publicity and Funding.

Exonyms: Categories and degree of use of exonyms

(Item 10 (a))

89. The representative of Israel presented a report on an unconventional approach to exonyms being studied in Israel (see E/CONF.91/L.10), which had also been mentioned in a paper presented at the 6th Conference in 1992. The report noted that at a certain level exonyms are ineradicable, and in areas where there are large influxes of tourists from foreign areas, it may be helpful, in support of the tourist infrastructure, to establish recommended exonymic spellings on a donor basis. Included in the report was a list of examples where donor English language exonyms had been established for use in tourist publications and on road signs. Some difficulties in this approach were noted by other representatives at the conference. The principal problem was that exonyms were usually understood as emanating from the linguistic and cultural tradition of a foreign people, leading to some skepticism that a donor principle could be applied. An additional difficulty was the problem of determining donor exonyms in the many languages that would be encountered in a tourist environment. Nonetheless, the prospect of mutual communication in the determination of exonyms on a bilateral level was an interesting one, and should be considered further. The representative of Israel emphasized that the crux of the report was the identification of a limited number of geographical features for which exonyms were deemed necessary,

and to separate these categorically from those features where only endonyms would be applied.

Exonyms: Principles in reducing the use of exonyms

(item 10 (b))

90. No papers were presented for item 10 (b).

Exonyms: Provisional lists of exonyms (Item 10 (c))

91. The representative of Poland reported on the recently published *Polish Geographical Names of the World*, issued by the Commission on the Standardization of Geographical Names Outside Poland (see E/CONF.91/L.56). The entries have been arranged alphabetically, by country and by local administrative region. The Polish exonyms were given along with the equivalent local forms. The four constituent parts of the publication cover Europe (exclusive of Eastern Europe), Eastern Europe, the rest of the world's landmass, and oceans and seas.