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**UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT AND MANAGEMENT
SERVICES**

**UNITED NATIONS
GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

Newsletter

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NOTE

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

PREFACE

Message from the Chairman

The 18th Session of the UNGEGN will be held in Geneva from 12 to 23 August 1996.

In accordance with relevant resolutions and recommendations, reports should reach the Secretariat by the middle of June 1996.

Please remember that reports and summaries should be relevant to the activities of the UNGEGN. As will be clear from the draft provisional agenda, no provision is made in sessions of the Group for country reports; these are to be incorporated in the Divisional Reports. Experts, Divisional Chairmen and Convenors of Working Groups are reminded to prepare a short summary for oral presentation during the Session.

As you remember, Convenors of Working Groups agreed to submit for publication in the Newsletter the following information regarding each Working Group:

- (a) The names of the Convenors and members of each Working Group;
- (b) The Terms of Reference of each Working Group;
- (c) A programme of intended activities to be accomplished until the following Session of the UNGEGN.

Those Convenors who have not yet made this information available are requested to do so now, so as to expedite the work of the Group at its next session.

Once again I appeal to experts who have not yet prepared Toponymic Guidelines for their respective countries to do so, and to submit them as Working Papers for the forthcoming session of the Group of Experts.

Finally, I would ask you to note my new address, namely:

Names Research Institute
CAUSE Academy
Private Bag X12
LYNN EAST
0039
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
Tel: (012) 842-6121 FAX: (012) 842-6123

I wish you every success in 1996, and look forward to seeing you and co-operating with you in Geneva.

Peter Raper

I. NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

A. The UNGEGN and the future

Peter Raper (UNGEGN Chairman)

I thank all those experts who responded to my request for advice and suggestions on ensuring that the UNGEGN remains relevant and effective, especially in view of the restructuring of various United Nations bodies. On the basis of their responses, the following conclusions are reached and recommendations made:

1. Most original work was done in the earlier years of the Group's existence; most thorny issues were deliberated and solutions to problems found; appropriate procedures were determined for carrying out the activities of the Group; and most relevant resolutions were adopted then.
2. What remains to be done is to carry out the actions necessary to implement resolutions already adopted and decisions already taken; to ascertain what new challenges and opportunities exist for this unique Group; and to streamline the activities and procedures of the Group to ensure a minimum of wastage of time, energy and money.
3. In this regard the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation should be reconstituted.
4. The Convenor of that Working Group should establish, with the co-operation of the Chairman of each Division, and that of the respective Convenors of the other Working Groups:
 - (a) which countries do not yet have national names authorities, bodies or persons;
 - (b) which countries do not yet have standardizing programmes;
 - (c) which countries do not yet have Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors;
 - (d) which countries do not yet have gazetteer series, map series, and other means of dissemination of standardized geographical names;
 - (e) which countries do not yet have lists of exonyms prepared or in preparation;
 - (f) which countries, where relevant, do not yet have romanization keys or transliteration tables;
 - (g) which countries require assistance as regards toponymic training courses; and
 - (h) any other matter which requires attention and rectification.
5. The findings should be tabulated to facilitate speedy perusal and control of progress in rectifying matters.
6. Each country, where relevant and appropriate, should be visited by a small group of experts (for example the Chairman, the Convenor of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation, and one or two other experts in the relevant field) to encourage and assist in establishing a national names authority, arrange a toponymic training course, give guidance in gazetteer and map production, the preparation and production of

Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors, lists of exonyms, romanization keys, etc.

7. The Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation should furthermore continue to review in detail all procedures and activities of the UNGEGN, including its Sessions and the Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names, critically appraise each of these, identify which are relevant, which are in line with United Nations priorities and strategy, and which should be scrapped or amended. Those recommendations already made and decisions taken in this regard should be implemented forthwith.
8. A trust fund should be established as soon as possible to provide funding for such visits; for the funding of toponymic training courses where these are necessary; for the preparation and distribution of documents such as working papers; reports etc. to experts and member countries unable to participate in UNGEGN Sessions and UN Conferences.
9. Mechanisms should be devised to ensure the speedy implementation of recommendations of Sessions of the UNGEGN and resolutions of the Conferences.
10. If the UNGEGN Newsletter is to continue, a programme should be devised to ensure the submission of contributions by Chairmen of Divisions, Convenors of Working Groups, and Experts, perhaps on the basis of a system of rotation.
11. To obviate repetitive discussions of matters settled and agreed to in former years, but unknown to newer experts, etc., a comprehensive document should be compiled containing details of such decisions, including references to working papers in which the pertinent matters were dealt with.
12. A manual should be compiled containing, inter alia, the terms of reference of the UNGEGN, its aims and functions, rules of procedure, resolutions adopted, progress made, and any other information useful to experts, cartographic and other editors, and decision makers, and for promotion of the work of the UNGEGN.

General remarks on UNGEGN

The Group of Experts has been in existence for almost 30 years. In that time numerous subjects have been discussed and a great many decisions taken. When such decisions reached the status of resolutions, they became documented and so were available for the experts to take into cognizance in their work on the standardization of geographical names. However, a certain number of matters were discussed and agreed without there being a need for them to be the subject of resolutions. They, nevertheless, formed part of the working basis of UNGEGN, providing guidance for experts at UNGEGN Sessions and also in the Conferences. Most of those present at those early Sessions are no longer members of UNGEGN. Their successors sometimes remain unaware of what had gone before. As a consequence, issues are raised which had previously been rejected by UNGEGN. Matters are discussed as though for the first time when all relevant questions has been resolved in the past.

It is to be hoped that the remarks which follow will help UNGEGN to avoid spending valuable time and energy unnecessarily and in that way help it to move forward.

In 1967, ISO attended the first Conference in the capacity of an international organization. There were those, in particular J. Breu and the Swiss representatives, who were strongly in favor of our adopting ISO romanization systems. Many reasons were given for not doing so and it was concluded that UNGEGN should devise its own systems for the romanization of geographical names. At intervals after 1967, attempts were still made to persuade UNGEGN to adopt the ISO systems. They were all firmly rejected. The ISO systems are under permanent review and are subject to a five-year change. That alone makes them unsuitable for adoption by UNGEGN.

There is the eternal question of "exonyms". Discussion at the Seventeenth Session ended with open disagreement amongst experts as to which names are exonyms, and so after 27 years of discussion we appear to be still uncertain as to what we mean by "exonym" in spite of having adopted the terms for use by UNGEGN as long ago as 1972.

Every Session reveals how far we, the experts, are from agreeing amongst ourselves on what we mean by standardization. Standardization means the use of standardized names in an everyday context as far as possible. That means using those names on maps, in atlases, gazetteers and lists of names in order to promote their adoption nationally and internationally.

On several occasions at the Seventeenth Session, relationships with ICOS were discussed and there was evident enthusiasms on the part of several experts for closer ties with that body. Yet in 1967 in all the Conferences and UNGEGN Sessions held since then, we have unfailingly agreed that there is little to be gained by closer ties. R.R. Randall and others have reminded experts constantly that "Onomastic is not our business". Neither is it.

In 1967, and more specifically in 1972 but also subsequently, we declared our firm intention to oppose any involvement by UNGEGN in the cultural aspects of names. UNGEGN is in no position to involve itself in such matters and it must therefore refrain from being drawn into discussions involving the cultural aspects of a nation's geographical names.

In session after session, UNGEGN devoted its time to defining its Aims, Functions and Modus Operandi. That great effort was expended to prevent UNGEGN getting lost in the byways and to keep its feet firmly on a clearly marked road. I believe the following principles need to be enunciated:

1. Onomastic and pure toponymy are not subjects with which UNGEGN should concern itself.
2. Consideration of the cultural aspects of names is a national matter. UNGEGN will not be drawn into discussion of the cultural aspects of geographical names.
3. UNGEGN must not be diverted from its goal of achieving international standardization of geographical names. This involves the encouragement of national standardization; the preparation of romanization systems and promoting their application, exchange of information to facilitate the implementation of standardization; urging the preparation of gazetteers, or lists of names where appropriate, as well as the preparation of toponymic guidelines.
4. Standardization means the adoption by the world of a single spelling for each geographical names as far as that is possible. Where two or more names have equal

standing as official names, standardization rules will define the circumstances under which each has precedence.

5. Country names constitute as special category of geographical name. They are part of everyday communication in each language. From them are derived adjectives and nouns of nationality which are subject to laws of grammar. International standardization is not, therefore, a realizable goal.
6. Names of features of international extent can only be standardized in each of the world's individual languages.
7. UNGEGN will encourage the provision of technical assistance in the collection, office processing and national standardization of geographical names.

Somehow, the eye of UNGEGN have to be turned back towards its true objective - the standardization of geographical names. That is the path we should be following. The one we are on now is strewn with pitfalls. Let us please try to get back on to a road which has the right destination. If we continue to wander in the way we have been doing, we will certainly end in a technical and ethno-morass. That, I fear, would make the future of UNGEGN uncertain.

The definition of exonym and endonym

During the Seventeenth Session of UNGEGN, widely differing views were expressed on the meaning of the word "exonym". At one stage in the proceedings, discussion was brought to a halt because those differences could not be reconciled. It was suggested by the Secretariat that I contact other parties in order to achieve a common understanding in the use of this word which has become a basic part of the vocabulary of UNGEGN. Having discussed the matter with other experts, I have attempted in this communication to give a brief summary of how the term came to be adopted, with examples of the kind of basic issues over which opinions have varied. I also propose a solution which I hope experts will accept.

The word "exonym" as applied to geographical names was coined by M. Arousseau in the 1950's, at which time he was the Secretary of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for British Official Use. The term appeared in print in a book by Arousseau published in 1957.

In its absolute sense, the word means a "foreign name" or a name "from outside". That meaning cannot be eradicated. It must remain a valid definition of the word. When UNGEGN was in its infancy, J. Breu (Austria) proposed the adoption of "exonyms" as a useful term for what in the English language we had been accustomed to call "conventional names". There is no corresponding term in French. In Russian, the equivalent is "traditional name". UNGEGN therefore, adopted the word "exonym" and it has become a much used word in the period from then till now. A definition was drawn up in 1972. It states:

"A geographical name used in a certain language for a geographical entity situated outside the area where that language has official status and differing in its form from the name used in the official languages of the area where the geographical entity is situated."

That is the definition which exactly fits the English "conventional name". It could be amplified by the addition of words stating that it had become established by usage. Speaking personally, I was opposed to the adoption of "exonym" because exonym had a more general meaning; it is a word of jargon; its adoption would lead to the introduction of "endonym", a word that, to me, made little sense. Nevertheless, the word "exonym" was adopted and defined as above. Inevitably, the word "endonym" was introduced into the working vocabulary of UNGEGN in 1975 to convey the meaning of a "local official name".

We can begin by considering the name of the city where the First Conference was held. Geneva is an exonym, by UN definition, It is an English conventional name. Are Ginevra and Genf exonyms? They surely are not. They are Swiss versions of the name Geneva, which UNGEGN would define as an "endonym". All three are in national languages of Switzerland. They cannot, therefore, be exonyms - foreign names. Likewise, Louvain (Belgium) is not an exonym of an endonym - Leuven. The names are just two forms of the same name in the principal languages of Belgium.

Swansea is in Wales. Its Welsh name is Abertawe. Not everybody in Swansea speaks Welsh. Everybody speaks English. Neither name is an exonym. One is used in an English language context. The other is a Welsh language context.

Bristol is in England. It is not a Welsh-speaking city. The Welsh name for Bristol is Bryste. People in Bristol would not know that Bryste was the Welsh name for their city, unless they happen to be Welsh-speaking. Is Bryste an exonym? It certainly is not a local, official name to the inhabitants of Bristol. Yet like Genf and Ginevra, it is a name in one of the national languages of the United Kingdom. To call it an exonym would be equivalent to calling the Welsh language a foreign language, which it is not. Bryste is only an "endonym" in the Welsh language. Yet it cannot be called an "exonym", since it is a name in one of the UK's national languages and we could, if we wished, add it to official maps if we thought a bilingual name was useful.

There are clearly two issues involved here and those are the issues which appear to cause the divisions of opinion in UNGEGN. There is the question of language and that of territory.

There are those who would argue that since Welsh is not the language of Bristol, the Welsh name is an "exonym". There are other persons, including myself, who maintain that names in any of the national languages cannot be exonyms. This is also the point of view put forward on various occasions by the experts from Hungary. They also appear to maintain that there are as many endonyms as there are languages used in a given country. This is especially true where more than one language is currently used in a particular place. Exonyms, therefore, are names from outside the national territory. Geneva is one example. Rome is another.

For the purposes of international standardization, the preferred name of several alternatives is a matter which can only be determined by the official national authorities. In the case of the United Kingdom, the decision as to whether official maps should contain the names Bristol and Bryste is a national matter. The classification of names into "endonyms" or "exonyms" is, likewise, a question for UK authorities alone, since the names belong to the national territory.

I still retain my original opinion that the words "exonym" and "endonym" should never have been adopted because it is so easy to argue that a place can be an exonym and, at the same time, an endonym. Since, however, there appears to be a desire to retain them, the present definitions need to be replaced.

I believe the 1972 definition, suitably modified, is better for our purposes. I propose, therefore, the following definitions:

- Exonym:**
1. A foreign name. A name from outside the national territory.
 2. For the purposes of international standardization, an exonym is regarded as being a geographical name used in a certain language for a geographical entity situated outside the area where that language has official status and differing in its form from the name used in the official languages of the area where the geographical entity is situated.

- Endonym:**
1. A name of a geographical entity as written in one of the officially recognized national languages.
 2. When two or more names in a sovereign State are officially recognized by that State, responsibility for determining the precedence of one name over another rests with the national authorities of the State in which the entity is situated.

The definition of "conventional name" will be identical with the second part of the definition for "exonym" without the words "for the purposes of international standardization, an exonym is regarded as being.....".

II. NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

A. Note from the Secretariat

Symposium on Geographical Names

On 10 and 11 October 1996, the Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN, permanent committee on geographical names) together with the Austrian Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kartographische Ortsnamenkunde (AKO, working committee on cartographic toponymy), will organize a symposium on geographical names. The symposium, which will be held in the year of Austria's millennium, will be arranged on the occasion of the 100th meeting of StAGN and will take place at the Bundesamt für Eich-und Vermessungswesen in Vienna, Schiffamtsgasse 1-3. An excursion to a multilingual region of the Burgenland is planned for 11 October.

The great socio-economic importance of geographical names, which is often underestimated, finds its expression among others in the fact that under the aegis of the United Nations a Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names is organized at five-year-intervals.

The subjects of the symposium cover the whole spectrum of geographical toponymy. The contributions deal with the standardization of geographical names in developing countries, in multilingual areas, in international waters and in Antarctica as well as with historical aspects, exonyms, transcription systems of non-Roman alphabets, dialects und practical application of standardization, e.g. in the toponymic editing of map series and atlases.

Further information from Dr.H. Desoye, Osterr. Stat. Zentralamt, Hintere Zollamtsstr. 2b, A-1033 Wien, +43-1-71128-7393 (-7088 Fax), or Dr. J Sievers, IfAG, Richard-Strauss-Allee 11, D-60598 Frankfurt am Main, +49-69-6333-313 (-441 Fax), email: sievers @ ifag.de.

III. NEWS FROM THE DIVISIONS

A. Africa South Division

Peter Raper, (South Africa)

The Africa South Division, established in pursuance of Resolution 1 of the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, comprises experts from Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

No divisional meeting was held during the period under review, but contact was maintained by correspondence.

No report has been received from Botswana, Lesotho and Malawi.

Namibia

Digitisation and Updating of Topographic Maps. The map revision programme of the Division of Survey and Mapping took off in August of 1995 with the digitizing of the topographical maps covering the Okavango region in the northern part of the country. Plans are already at an advanced stage to fly the area for the production of 1/80000 aerial photography and subsequently orthophoto maps which would then be used for the updating of the digitized maps. This project is being co-financed by Luxembourg of Luxembourg.

Namibian Land Information System. The feasibility study for the establishment of Namibian Land Information System is presently in progress and is being carried out by six experts from Australia with funding provided by Australian Agency for International Development. Ultimately, the project is expected to come up with a variety of digital products including surveyed land parcels information system with attributes from the Deeds registry.

Namibian Geodetic System. The feasibility study for the establishment of Namibian Land Information System is presently in progress and is being carried out by six experts from Australia with funding provided by Australian Agency for International Development. Ultimately, the project is expected to come up with a variety of digital products including surveyed land parcels information system with attributes from the Deeds registry.

Namibian Geodetic System. Discussions are on to replace the currently used topocentric datum of Bessel ellipsoid with a geocentric datum of international standard such as WGS84. This will involve reobservation and re-adjustment of the Namibian geodetic network.

The Government of Namibia has enlisted the assistance of the UNGEGN in establishing a national geographical names authority.

South Africa

National names authority. The National Place Names Committee, South Africa's national geographical names authority, has function as an advisory body since its establishment in 1939. After the election in April 1994 of a Government of National Unity, the number of official languages was increased from two to eleven. This development may well have implications for the standardization of geographical names. The orthographic rules for African languages, formerly regulated by language boards for the individual languages, will henceforth be the responsibility of the newly-established Pan South African Language Board.

A memorandum has been submitted to Parliament recommending the establishment of a South African Permanent Geographical Names Commission with powers and responsibilities expanded as recommended by UN resolutions on the standardization of geographical names.

Advisory committees. Two committees were appointed to advise Government, one on the names of State water schemes, and one on the names of international airports. In both cases names were depoliticized; entities named after politicians were renamed; where possible the original name was restored (e.g. Kouga Dam), or the entity was named after the nearest important city or town (Johannesburg International Airport).

Education and Training. From 31 July to 11 August 1995, an advanced United Nations training course on geographical names was held in Pretoria. Co-presented by Mr. Roger L. Payne, Rapporteur of the UNGEGN and Executive Secretary of the USBGN, the course focussed on the establishment of a national geographical names authority, including field collection and office treatment of names, and computer processing of names. Participants in the course were from Mozambique, Namibia, the Sultanate of Oman, South Africa and Swaziland.

In pursuance of resolutions recommending education and training, the CAUSE Academy has established a Names Research Institute to initiate, stimulate, facilitate and undertake research into geographical names to published and promote the work of the UNGEGN and the implementation of United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names; to provide education and training on geographical names; to provide guidelines on the standardization of geographical names; and to publish research findings and other documents.

Implementation of the United Nations Resolutions. In accordance with recommendations of the 17th Session of the UNGEGN, the publication "United Nations Documents on Geographical Names" was prepared. Within two months of its appearance it had been purchased in eighteen countries. Thanks are expressed to the UNGEGN Secretariat, Professor N. Kadmon (Israel), Mr. Randall E. Flynn (USA), and the Foreign Names Committee staff of the U.S. Board on Geographical Names, for providing relevant documentation/assistance.

- * An article on the UNGEGN was published in Names Studies: An International Handbook of Onomastics, Vol. 1 (Walter de Gruyter, Berlin, New York, 1995).
- * A Concise Gazetteer of South Africa was published (HSRC, Pretoria, 1995).

- * A report on the 17th Session of the UNGEGN was published in *Nomina Africana*, journal of the Names Society of Southern Africa, as well as in the Ehrensperger Report of the American Name Society.
- * Criteria for Proposed Names Changes, a report to the advisory committees of State departments, provincial legislatures, transitional local councils, municipalities, and other authorities concerned with naming, was prepared by Dr. L.A. Möller, based on United Nations resolutions and recommendations.

Swaziland. A special session of the First World Congress on African Linguistics (University of Swaziland, 18 to 22 July 1994) was devoted to geographical names.

B. Book Review

Lucie Möller (South Africa)

United Nations Documents on Geographical Names.

Prepared by the Chairman of the UNGEGN, Dr. Peter E. Raper

Published by the Names Research Institute, CAUSE Academy, Pretoria, South Africa

Specifications: 184 p., A-4 format, soft cover, Price: US\$30.00

This book is essential for experts participating in UNGEGN sessions, and for delegates to UN Conferences on the standardization of geographical names. It provides all necessary guidance and information to ensure confident and effective participation, including:

- the statutes and rules of procedure of the UNGEGN
- rules of procedure of the UN conferences on the standardization of geographical names
- all UN resolutions on geographical names, arranged alphabetically by subject;
- guidelines for the preparation and submission of reports and working papers
- glossary of geographical names terminology
- eight transliteration tables adopted by the United Nations

This is the first time that these documents are available in one volume, making them accessible to:

- government, State and other officers
- geographical names authorities
- cartographers and map editors
- geographers
- regional and town planners
- land surveyors
- journalists, authors, educationists
- researchers and students
- all decision-makers and users of geographical names.

These documents represent the results of the collective work and deliberations of top United Nations experts at seventeen sessions and six conferences, over a period of more than thirty years. All aspects relevant to the standardization of geographical names and related subjects are covered.

Countries wishing to embark on name standardization programmes, or to establish national geographical names authorities, are provided with the guidelines to do so, including detailed recommendations on:

- composition, functions and procedures of such an authority
- collection of geographical names
- office treatment of geographical names
- distribution and dissemination of geographical names.

Detailed guidelines are also provided for the preparation of national gazetteers, including which entries and types of information it should contain.

Countries wishing to prepare toponymic guidelines for map and other editors, too, are provided with detailed recommendations regarding format and content.

Other subjects covered include:

- automated data processing
- country names
- education and training
- exonyms (traditional or conventional names)
- maritime and undersea feature names
- names from unwritten languages
- national standardization of geographical names
- romanization

All names practitioners, researchers, scholars, and students, indeed everyone who is interested in or uses geographical names, will find this publication indispensable.

It may be ordered from:

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IV. NEWS FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

A. Toponymic Guidelines For Map and Other Editors

Eva Narhi (Finland)

LIST OF TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES

AFRICA

COUNTRY	YEAR	SOURCE
South Africa	1984	11th UNGEGN, Geneva WP 19
	1986	12th UNGEGN, Geneva WP 6
	1987	5th UN, Montreal Conf. 79/35
	1991 3rd ed.	15th UNGEGN, Geneva WP 4
	1992	6th UN, New York Conf. 85/23

ASIA

China	1982	4th UN, Geneva Conf. 74/48
	1992	6th UN, New York Conf. 85/1
Japan	1987	5th UN, Montreal Conf. 79/INF/11
	1994	17th UNGEGN, New York WP 43
Korea, the Dem. People's Rep.	1994	17th UNGEGN, New York WP 58
Turkey	1982	4th UN, Geneva Conf. 74/7

AUSTRALIA

Australia	1992	6th UN, New York Conf. 85/64
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EUROPE

Austria	1975	prel. Geogr. Namenbuch Österreich
	1979	8th UNGEGN
	1982	4th UN, Geneva Conf. 74/2
	1986	World Cartography, Vol. XVIII
	1991 rev.	5th UNGEGN, Geneva WP 10
	1992	6th UN, New York Conf. 85/14
	1992 add.	6th UN, New York Conf. 85/WP 41
1994 add.	17th UNGEGN, New York WP 67	
Czechoslovakia	1987	5th UN, Montreal Conf. 79/62
Czech Republic	1994	17th UNGEGN, New York WP 28 P.3

EUROPE (cont.)

COUNTRY	YEAR	SOURCE
Denmark	1982	4th UN, Geneva Conf. 77/14
Estonia	1992	6th UN, New York Conf. 85/76
Finland	1981 1982 1994 rev.	Prel. 9th UNGEGN, New York WP.37 4th UN Geneva Conf. 74/41 17th UNGEGN, New York WP.63
France	1982 1985 1989	4th UN, Geneva Conf. 74/21 3rd UN Americas, New York, Conf. 77/CRP.1 14th UNGEGN, Geneva, WP.44
Germ. Dem. Rep.	1981	9th UNGEGN, New York WP 60
Feder. Rep. Germany	1981 1982 1992	prel. 9th UNGEGN, New York 1981 WP 11 4th UN, Geneva Conf. 74/9 6th UN, New York Conf. 85/93, 2nd Ed.
Germany		
Great Britain	1982	4th UN, Geneva Conf. 74/57
Greece	1981	9th UNGEGN, New York WP 28
Hungary	1981 1994	9th UNGEGN, New York WP 35 17th UNGEGN, New York WP 10
Iceland	1982	4th UN, Geneva Conf. 74/15
Ireland	1992	6th UN, New York Conf. 85/WP.3, 17th UNGEGN, New York, WP.65
Italy	1987	5th UN, Montreal Conf. 79/30
Netherlands	1986 1987 1992	12th UNGEGN, Geneva WP 5 5th UN, Montreal Conf. 79/6 6th UN, New York Conf. 85/2
Norway	1982	4th UN, Geneva Conf. 74/16
Poland	1994	17th UNGEGN, New York INF. (ISBN 83-900969-2-7; Warsaw 1993)
Romania	1991 1994	15th UNGEGN, Geneva WP 20 17th UNGEGN, New York WP 79

EUROPE (cont.)

COUNTRY	YEAR	SOURCE
Russia (see USSR)		
Spain	1982	4th UN, Geneva Conf. 74/86
Sweden	1981 1982	prel. 9th UNGEGN, New York WP 38 4th UN, Geneva Conf. 74/17
Switzerland	1982	4th UN, Geneva Conf. 74/67
Turkey (see Asia)		
United Kingdom (see Great Britain)		
USSR	1984 1987	prel. 11th UNGEGN, Geneva WP 39 5th UN, Montreal Conf. 79/53

NORTH AMERICA

Canada	1981 1985 1989 rev. 1992 rev.	9th UNGEGN, New York WP 16 3rd UN Americas, New York Conf. 77/CRP 7 14th UNGEGN, Geneva WP 48 6th UN, New York Conf. 85/47
United States	1982 1985 1987 1989	4th UN, Geneva Conf. 74/102 3rd UN Americas, New York Conf. 77/CRP 4 5th UN Montreal Conf. 79/19 14th UNGEGN, Geneva WP 28

SOUTH AMERICA

Guatemala	1981	9th UNGEGN, New York
Suriname	1981 1985	9th UNGEGN, New York WP 12 3rd UN Americas, New York Conf. 77/CRP 2

The reference of the type "Italy 1987 5th UN, Montreal Conf. 79/30" means, that the document has been presented to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names at Montreal, 18 to 31 August 1987, with the number E/CONF.79/L.30.

The reference of the type "Ireland 1994 17th UNGEGN, New York WP 65" means, that the document has been presented to the Seventeenth Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at New York, 13 to 24 June 1994, with the number of the Working Paper 65.

A few reference of other types are - I hope - clear enough for understanding such as they are.

B. Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers

Peter Raper (South Africa)

In the closing stages of the Seventeenth Session of UNGEGN, I prepared a list of matters which the Working Group should consider in the period up to the next session. Unfortunately, the list was mislaid and attempts to recover it have not been successful. I give below a modified version of it.

Four years ago, a questionnaire was sent out to UNGEGN members requesting the status of gazetteers and, in considerable detail, the particulars of equipment and methods employed in the handling of geographical names. In the case of the UK, it took six weeks to prepare answers to the questions, gathering information from the various agencies. No matter how carefully such questions are prepared, the circumstances of the recipient rarely allow positive and clear answers to be given. Furthermore, the various official agencies use different equipment and procedures. Within two years, almost all the information provided by the UK was no longer valid. Such is the rate of development in the computer world that a further two years has seen even more changes in United Kingdom equipment and procedures.

Nevertheless, I considered, in New York, that there may be some merit in re-examining all the information provided by way of answers to the questionnaire. However, I have not yet been able to obtain copies of the completed questionnaires. In view of the continuing advances in computer systems, there may not be much to be gained by a re-examination of the results of the questionnaire.

In the past decade there have been remarkable advances in the hardware and software available for the handling and processing of geographical names and there are numerous vendors offering their equipment and services. Technology applicable to geographical names exists and it must be presumed is available to all.

The most promising development at present time is the Geographical Names Processing System (GNPS), described by US experts during the Seventeenth Session of UNGEGN. The United Kingdom has not yet acquired this system because of further developments which are proceeding. The system is a major step forward in the integration of names databases and map production. Developments of the system will be watched with great interest.

During the Seventeenth Session, I referred to the development of computer-generated characters of script for use in mapping. There are numerous alphabets and other scripts available on the market. They are almost all designed for word processing and desk-top publishing. Of them, few are suitable for high quality topographic maps. In mapping we require legibility; economy of space; a range of sizes and a certain variety of styles. Legibility, especially in small type sizes is not easily achieved on a highly colored map background and the other requirements are similarly not easy to satisfy. Although this is

basically a cartographic problem, the close association of names databases and maps in this age makes the subject relevant to UNGEGN.

Those who have had experience of selecting type-faces for mapping will know that of the great number type-faces in the Roman alphabet, very few are found to be wholly suitable. For non-Roman alphabet characters, that is still more true. In those circumstances, in the absence of a ready-made type-face suitable for the purpose, it is often necessary to create one's own type-faces. The disadvantage in doing so is that others associated with the same mapping will lack the identical type-faces. For this reason, it is important that we keep abreast of the development of the kind of high quality digital characters which can be applied to mapping.

The hard-backed gazetteer is a desirable object but it is a costly publication and it suffers from the added disadvantage that it is not easily updated. Amendment leaflets are not very satisfactory and production of a revised edition is also costly.

Digital cartography affords the facility of extracting names, co-ordinates of location and also some degree of names classification by type of feature to which the name refers. Names extracted in this way from all the map sheets which make up a given map series furnish us with an index of the names appearing on that series. Though such an output cannot be altogether expected to conform to the specifications set down at the First Conference (Geneva, 1967), it, nonetheless, merits the name "gazetteer".

The advantages of producing a gazetteer from a digital map series are the ability to produce a new gazetteer at frequent intervals, the possibility of providing it in hard copy, disk or tape, or through any of the digital communication channels, while at the same time guaranteeing that the date is up-to-date.

Should the need arise, gazetteers of this type can be issued for, say, 1/250,000 series or 1/50,000 series or any other scales for which the digital map data is available.

For those of us who try to maintain databases of names, there are two constant needs:

1. We need to be informed off name changes.
2. We need to have up-to-date administrative data, together with the means of plotting it, at the largest possible scale.

Ideally, the name changes should include the former name but, most importantly, as precise a location as possible and not less accurately than one minute of latitude and longitude.

Some countries have provided information on name changes and that has been distributed by the Secretariat, but there is a need for the practice to continue and for information from more countries in view of the number of name changes occurring throughout the world nowadays.

With regard to administrative information, this is a useful element in the preparation of gazetteers and also in confirming the location of places. Information of this kind is available from various sources but, generally, at only a very small scale. What is required is information at the largest possible scale but not less than 1/1M.

In view of the remarks made earlier in this communication, I hope experts will agree that the issue of a further questionnaire is not desirable. At the same time, information is required on how best any help can be provided where it is needed. It is therefore requested that experts themselves state where in their Divisions procedures or equipment are felt to be deficient. The following aspects of names collection and processing are applicable, but further items can be added as required by individual experts.

1. Field collection of names, including methods of recording and transmission.
2. Names processing in the office.
3. Questions involving names databases:
 - (i) Archival
 - (ii) Map production
 - (iii) Gazetteer production
 - (iv) Questions involving feature designation in databases and gazetteers
 - (v) Storage and integration of administrative data
 - (vi) Other outputs from names databases.

Members of UNGEGN are asked to give their views.

C. Working Group on Toponymic Terminology

Naftali Kadmon (Israel)

Convenor Naftali Kadmon, Israel

Members as on 23 June 1994:

Ms. Kerfoot (Canada)
Mrs. Lejeune (France)
Ms. Närhi (Finland)
Mr. Abdo (Saudi Arabia)
Mr. Cruz (Spain)
Mr. Dorion (Canada)
Mr. Hornansky (Czechia)
Mr. Kotsonis (Cyprus)
Mr. Payne (United States of America)
Mr. Pokoly (Hungary)
Mr. Quinting (United States of America)
Mr. Raper (South Africa)
Mr. Sievers (Federal Republic of Germany)

3. Finally, the new system is referred to the next U.N. Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in form of a resolution which, in turn, is voted on by the Conference. When the resolution is adopted, the subject romanization system becomes the United Nations standard.

Program of the Working Group (1994-1996)

Monitor the situation concerning the single romanization system for Korean which is being devised jointly by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea. Submission of comments is solicited once the new system becomes available.

Likewise, monitor the situation regarding a new transcription system for Thai, devised by the Royal Thai Institute. Submission of comments is solicited once the system becomes available.

Continued focusing on developments regarding national language policies and ascertainment of various script adoptions in the successor countries of the former Soviet Union.