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THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE  
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES  
Athens, 17 August-7 September 1977  
Item 7 of the provisional agenda.

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 Second United Nations  
Conference on the Standardization of  
Geographical Names

REPORT ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN NORWAY  
SINCE THE CONFERENCE HELD IN LONDON, 1972

Paper presented by Norway

1. Since the London Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names the work on national standardization of geographical names for official use has progressed in accordance with the rules adopted for the writing of Norwegian and Laponian names. The major work on standardization of geographical names is carried out in conjunction with the national topographic programme at the scale 1:50,000 and the hydrographic charting programme on the coast. Only small areas in the south-west of southern Norway remain in the topographic programme, and the same is true of northern Norway, where Finnmark f.i. is nearly completed, and in the large areas inside the coast most of the maps will contain only Lapp names.

New maps of Dronning Maud's Land (Antarctic) and of Svalbard (Arctic) are also being drawn up. The official road-mapping programme (scale 1:250,000) carried out by the Norwegian Road Direction has been completed and all the names of the roads have been given.

2. After the London Conference the Nordic group held a symposium in 1972 on terminology in place-name research and in 1973 a symposium for the purpose of co-ordinating common rules for data processing of names in Norden. After several meetings of the group the common rules so far obtained have been published in Norna Rapporten (Uppsala, 1974).

3. Norsk Stadnamarkiv (The Norwegian Place-Names Archives) in co-operation with the Government's name advisers is still at work preparing a list of definitions of Norwegian undersea feature terms compared with the GEBCO nomenclature. A glossary of designatory terms (with definition and meaning) and a glossary of generic terms in use in official Norwegian maps and charts are still in preparation. Lack of time impeded the co-ordination of the different lists included, the presentation is therefore postponed to next year.

4. A special committee appointed by the Norwegian Language Council has been at work during the past few years preparing a proposal for new rules for domestic standardization of Norwegian and Laponian geographical names and a special authority law for place names. So far only small changes will be made in the writing system of place names.

5. After the Athens Conference (to be held this year in the last days of September) the Nordic group will hold a symposium in Helsinki (Finland/Suomi) dealing inter alia with domestic writing systems on standardization of geographical names in Norden.

6. We wish to draw attention to the Norsk Stadnamleksikon (Norwegian Place-names Dictionary, Oslo, 1976) containing in alphabetic order the best known Norwegian place names. In addition to pronunciation each name is given an etymological explanation; unfortunately there are no map references and neither latitude nor longitude. Nevertheless the Dictionary will be of great interest to people dealing with and interested in Norwegian place names.

7. The Nordic Language Committee presented in 1961 a list giving Nordic spelling forms of states, colonies, inhabitant names and connected adjectives. Changes in sovereignty required comprehensive modifications and extensions to be made in the list. A new list was therefore presented in 1973 including Danish, Norwegian, Swedish and Finnish spelling. The list covers autonomous States only according to the United Nations Terminology Bulletin, and with Southern Rhodesia and Namibia added (printed in *Språk i Norden* 1973, 73-107, and as offprint Lund (Sweden) 1973, 1-35). In the same publication is a list containing the same names adopted by Iceland and the Faroe Islands (1974, 81-113).