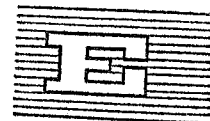


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THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE  
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES  
Athens, Greece  
17 August - 7 September 1977  
Item 16(a) of the provisional agenda

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES  
ON THE WORK OF ITS SIXTH SESSION

(held at United Nations Headquarters from 5-26 March 1975)

ESA/RT/C/GN/4  
17 June 1975

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES  
ON THE WORK OF ITS SIXTH SESSION

(held at United Nations Headquarters from 5-26 March 1975)

Terms of reference

1. The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names was invited by the Secretary-General, in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1314 (XLIV) and the decision of its 1854th meeting in May 1973, to convene at the United Nations in New York from 5 to 26 March 1975.

Attendance

2. The session was attended by 39 experts from 25 countries representing 15 of the 16 geographical/linguistic divisions of the world (see annex VIII). The Chief of the Cartography Section served as the Secretary for the Group.

Opening of the session

3. The session was opened on behalf of the Secretary-General by the Assistant Director of the Transport and Cartography Branch of the Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Chairman of the Group of Experts thanked the United Nations for the services set at its disposal.

4. The Group agreed to follow the same rules of procedure as in the previous sessions; it was agreed that the meetings of the working groups should be held in the plenum of the Group of Experts.

5. The Group adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Review of divisional composition

4. Report by the Chairman on over-all activities of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
5. Report by the Secretary
  - (a) The 1973 Decision of the Economic and Social Council
  - (b) Publication of the list of gazetteers and glossaries
6. Reports by the divisions (divisional meetings, consultations, concerted actions and divisional problems)
7. Reduction of exonyms (reports of progress and problems)
8. Review of aims, functions and modus operandi
9. Reports of activity by the working groups since the fifth session
  - (a) definitions
  - (b) undersea and maritime features
  - (c) extraterrestrial topographic features
  - (d) single romanization systems
  - (e) training courses
  - (f) international gazetteers
  - (g) list of country names in local official languages and in the official languages of the United Nations
10. Working group discussions and further recommendations
11. Provisional agenda for the third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
12. Provisional agenda for the seventh session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
13. Plans of action before the third Conference
14. Adoption of the report

Officers of the session

6. The officers of the session were:

Chairman: Meredith F. Burrill

Vice-Chairman: A. M. Komkov

Rapporteur: D. P. Blok

Secretary: C. N. Christopher

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Review of divisional composition

7. It was agreed that a sixteenth division, consisting of China, should be established, that the Asia, East Division should be renamed Asia, East Division (other than China) and that the Romance Languages Division (other than Latin America) should be renamed Romano-Hellenic Division, comprising, besides the romance language countries other than Latin America, Greece and Cyprus. The expert from the German Democratic Republic joined the Group as a member of the Dutch-German Division. The expert from Greece and the expert of the German Democratic Republic expressed their wish to attend, as observers, the meetings of the East Central and South East Europe Division.

Reports

8. The report of the Chairman on over-all activities of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and on his activities as Chairman of the Group was contained in Working Paper No. 55. 1/

9. The Secretary for the Group reported that the Economic and Social Council at its 1854th meeting (E/5367, p. 21) on 4 May 1973 decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (E/5249) and the recommendations contained therein and endorsed the recommendation that the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Geographical Names should henceforth be called the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. The Council also accepted the invitation of the Government of Greece to hold the third Conference at Athens, Greece, from 17 August to 7 September 1977.

10. The report by Mr. Gall on the activities of the Latin America Division was contained in Working Paper No. 36. 1/ Mr. Gall presented to the United Nations Cartography Section a number of publications on geographical materials regarding the Americas. The report by Mr. Velázquez on the activities in Cuba was contained in Working Paper No. 53. 1/ Mr. Lewis, reporting on the activities of the United Kingdom Division, said that, because of the great distance between the member States, no divisional meeting had taken place. In each country the work continued along the lines previously set. He pointed to the specific difficulties arising from minority languages such as Gaelic. The United Kingdom had been giving assistance to some developing countries in standardizing names and in mapping. Mr. Lewis stated that the aid the United Kingdom offered was for map production and the recipient countries had to procure the exact names to be used on the maps.

11. Mr. Meynen reported on the activities of the Dutch and German-speaking Division; the report was contained in Working Papers 9 and 41. 1/ The report prepared by Mr. Hovda on the activities of the Norden Division was contained in Working Paper No. 5. 1/ Mr. Nédélec, speaking for the Romance Languages Division,

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1/ Copies of the documents may be obtained from the Cartography Section of the United Nations on request.

reported that the activity and co-operation in that Division was increasing; cartographical publications and information were exchanged by France, Monaco, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Switzerland. As yet it had not been possible to obtain the co-operation of Italy.

12. The report by Mr. Radó on the East Central and South East Europe Division was contained in Working Paper No. 20. 1/ Messrs. Al-Robaishy, H. Bulugma and Al-Ayoubi reported on the Arabic Division in Working Papers 16, 50, and 51, 1/ Mr. Ganji reported on the Asia South-West Division in Working Paper No. 42, 1/ and Mr. Kok reported on the Asia South-East Division in Working Paper No. 7. 1/ In reporting for the Africa West Division (Working Paper No. 38), 1/ Mr. Coker stated that, at the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Inter-African Symposium on Manpower Requirements and Development of Cartographic Services in Africa (Cairo, 22-26 July 1974), it had been recommended that geographical names committees should be established in African countries where they do not already exist and that African regional meetings on geographical names should be organized. Mr. Yang Leiguang reported on the China Division in Working Paper No. 43, 1/ and Mr. Setatos, on Greece, in Working Paper No. 39. 1/ Mr. Setatos added that the official Creek romanization key was being simplified. The report prepared by Mr. Komkov on the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Division was contained in Working Paper No. 11. 1/ Mr. Komkov stated that a Commission for Extraterrestrial Names had been created in the USSR. As to the work of the USSR Permanent Joint Commission, Mr. Komkov pointed out that its decisions were in accordance with what the local people wanted. Sometimes that necessitated much discussion and persuasion, he said. Once a decision was made, it was mandatory for all official and scientific institutions. Those decisions were also made mandatory by the Republics and Autonomous Territories.

13. Reports were also presented by Mr. Absaloms of the Africa East Division (Working Paper No. 46) 1/ and by Messrs. Randall and Rayburn of the United States of America-Canada Division (Working Papers No. 48 and 49). 1/ Mr. Ormeling, speaking for the International Cartographic Association, presented the United Nations Cartography Section with a copy of the International Cartographic Association Bibliography compiled by Mr. E. Meynen. 2/ The Secretary mentioned the discussions held during the Seventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East 3/ and the resolutions adopted by the Conference on the work of the Group of Experts and the importance of the standardization of geographical names.

#### Reduction of exonyms

14. The Group discussed the reduction of exonyms on the basis of Working Papers 6, 11, 13, 13/Add.1 and 27 and other proposals. 1/ A proposal by Mr. Sharma to recommend the use of the official names of the countries in preference to or

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2/ International Cartographic Association, E. Meynen, Bibliography 1956-1972 (Enschede, the Netherlands, Institute for Aerial Survey and Earth Sciences (ITC), 1972), presented at the Sixth International Conference on Cartography, Ottawa, Canada, 16-25 August 1972.

3/ Seventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East, vol. I., Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.I.7).

together with the exonyms for country names was discussed at length. In favour of the proposal, it was stated that the reduction of exonyms had to start somewhere and that the country names were the most appropriate. It was pointed out that in the past it had been possible for a country to change its name and have the change accepted all over the world. Against the proposal, it was advanced that the exonyms for a number of ancient country names were the deepest rooted in the languages and the most difficult to eliminate; much opposition against such a recommendation was to be expected.

15. It was agreed that the principles enunciated in resolutions 28, 29 and 31 <sup>1/</sup> of the London Conference would be reiterated and that the Group would urge the avoidance as far as possible of exonyms for names of new countries and for new names of countries.

#### Aims, functions and modus operandi

16. The Group accepted a new grouping and numbering of the regulations laid down in the report of the second session (see ESA/RT/C/GN/1) and modified in that of the fifth session (see ESA/RT/C/GN/3) as worked out by the expert for Latin America, Mr. Gall. It was agreed that the new setting would be annexed to the report of the sixth session. <sup>4/</sup> Paragraph 3 would be split up into 3a and 3b; the list of Divisions would be arranged in alphabetical order according to the names in English. Paragraph 10 would be rephrased to read: "The Group will meet in accordance with precedents set forth by the Economic and Social Council."

#### Reports of the Working Groups

17. The Working Groups on Definitions, Undersea and Maritime Features, Extraterrestrial Topographic Features, Single Romanization Systems, Training Courses, Gazetteers and the List of Country Names made their Reports (annexes I to VII respectively).

#### Provisional agenda for the third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

18. The following provisional agenda was drawn up for the third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names:

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Adoption of the rules of procedure
3. Election of officers

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<sup>4/</sup> See the appendix to the report.

4. Report on credentials
5. Adoption of the agenda
6. Organization of work
7. 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
8. National standardization
  - (a) Field collection of names
  - (b) Office treatment of names
  - (c) Treatment of names in multilingual areas
  - (d) Administrative structure of national names authorities
9. Training courses
  - (a) Consideration of courses already held
  - (b) Programmes of future courses
  - (c) Prospective developments
10. Gazetteers
  - (a) National gazetteers
  - (b) United Nations series of gazetteers
  - (c) Concise world gazetteer
  - (d) Other publications
11. Automated data processing (ADP)
  - (a) Coding and abbreviation
  - (b) Writing
12. Terminology
13. Exonyms
  - (a) Categories and degree of use of exonyms
  - (b) Determination of principles to be followed in the reduction of exonyms

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14. Policies, procedures and co-operative arrangements for naming of features beyond a single sovereignty
  - (a) Features common to two or more nations
  - (b) Maritime features
  - (c) Undersea features
  - (d) Extraterrestrial features
  
15. Writing systems
  - (a) Conversion of names from one writing system into another
    - (i) Romanization
    - (ii) Conversion into non-Roman writing systems
  - (b) Writing of names from unwritten languages
  
16. International co-operation
  - (a) United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
  - (b) Exchange of information
    - (i) Reliability statement
    - (ii) Aids to pronunciation of names nationally standardized in non-phonetic writing
    - (iii) Scope and development of procedures in exchange of information
  - (c) Divisional and interdivisional meetings and programmes
  - (d) Technical assistance
  - (e) Co-operation with international organizations
  - (f) Co-operation with public information media
  
17. Report of the Conference

Discussion on the provisional agenda

19. The Group agreed that the Conference should use the reports of the fifth (ESA/RT/C/GN/3) and sixth sessions (the present report) of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the annexed reports by its working groups as basic documents in discussing items 10, 12, 14 and 15 of the provisional agenda. The Group further recognized that it would be particularly useful that any modification in the practices of field collection or office treatment of names should be brought to the attention of the Conference.

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20. The Group considered that lists of geographical names not standardized or not in accordance with agreed specifications might also be useful preliminary vehicles for information and ought to be discussed by the Conference (item 10 (d)).

21. The Group thought that, although resolutions 28, 29 and 31 of the second Conference 5/ remain the basic documents on dealing with exonyms, a further consideration as to the nature of exonyms and to reduction in their use was necessary.

22. It was emphasized that sources of information and procedures followed in compiling material in which geographical names are made available, should be made explicit by the publishing authority (item 16 (b) (i)).

23. The Group agreed to recommend the formation of five technical committees at the Conference; the first should deal with agenda items 8, 9 and 12, the second with items 10 and 11, the third with items 13 and 14, the fourth with item 15 and the fifth with item 16. The forming of an editorial committee was also envisaged.

Provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Group of Experts

24. The Group drew up the provisional agenda for the seventh session as follows:

16 August 1977:

1. Reports of working groups
2. Organization of the third Conference

8 September 1977: (resumed seventh session)

3. Election of officers
4. Review of Conference recommendations
5. Programme for the Group of Experts
6. Eighth session of the Group of Experts
7. Other business

Plan of action before the third Conference

25. In implementing resolutions 33 and 38 of the second Conference, 6/ the

5/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.I.2).

6/ Ibid.

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Chairman of the Group of Experts will get in touch with interested international organizations in order to promote co-operation in the field of international names standardization. The Group agreed that the Chairman would write to the Universal Postal Union (UPU) asking for information on the work that is to be done in establishing a new list of post offices and urging close co-operation. An attempt will be made to establish some personal contact with that organization.

26. The convenors of the working groups outlined the action that would be taken by themselves and the members of the groups. Mr. Komkov emphasized the need to establish close co-operation with the Working Group on Planetary System Nomenclature of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and to report on it to the third Conference. Mr. Randall pointed to the plan of action laid down in annex II. Mr. Breu would ask for information on all open questions and, especially, regarding the conversion of Russian Cyrillic, Chinese and Greek scripts. Mr. Lewis would deal with the Board on Geographic Names (BGN) on the question of the provisional United Nations gazetteers and would ask for relevant information from the experts as to the number of names to be included in the concise gazetteer of the world and the production of national gazetteers. Mr. Nédélec would continue, by correspondence, to improve and complete the provisional list of country names and to procure the correct forms of those names in all the official languages of the United Nations. Mr. Ormeling would, in the first place, devote the attention of his working group to the organization of the pilot training course and further plans to make an inventory of the needs for assistance in the field of national names standardization.

#### Diacritical marks

27. The Group recognized the great value of the information contained in Working Papers 10 and 52 7/ and recommended a further study of the subject by the third Conference. A report on the financial implications of using diacritical marks may be expected before the Conference.

#### Pilot training course in toponymy

28. The Group of Experts took note with appreciation of the progress made in the preparation of the pilot training course in toponymy, as recommended in the report of the London Conference 8/ and of the offer of the Government of the Netherlands to finance travel and accommodation of the students. Programme, time-table, participating divisions and students and the co-operation of international lecturers were discussed and, in principle, agreed upon. The pilot training course will be held from 26 April to 22 May 1976 in Enschede, the Netherlands. The Group recommended that the United Nations co-sponsor the pilot training course and finance the travel and accommodation of international lecturers.

7/ Documents available, upon request, from the Cartography Section of the United Nations.

8/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.I.2).

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Annex I

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON DEFINITIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

1. Two meetings of the Working Group on Definitions took place during the sixth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. The Convenor was Mr. Page (United States of America), the Rapporteur was Mr. Velázquez (Cuba), and the following members of the Working Group were present: Mr. Breu (Austria), Mr. Nédélec (France), Mr. Lewis (United Kingdom), Mr. Gall (Guatemala), Mr. Kovda (Norway), Mr. Meynen (Federal Republic of Germany), Mr. Račó (Hungary), Mr. Sharma (India) and Mr. González (Spain, in representation of Mr. Lapesa). Absent were Mr. Dahlstedt (Sweden), Mr. Hakulinen (Finland) and Mr. Földi (Hungary). Various other members of the Group of Experts in attendance at its sixth session were also present and took part in the discussions.

2. The Working Group decided to complete the English and Spanish versions of the Glossary of Technical Terminology for Employment in the Standardization of Geographical Names for immediate presentation to the United Nations, which will reproduce the two documents for distribution at the third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, to take place at Athens, Greece in 1977.

The French and Russian language versions of the Glossary may be prepared and distributed within the Working Group for subsequent presentation to the United Nations prior to the third United Nations Conference and a Chinese language version will be prepared for presentation to that Conference.

3. Mr. González presented a list of corrections to Spanish language expressions which appear in the English version of the Glossary. Those will be incorporated in the English version which is to be distributed at the third United Nations Conference.

4. The definitions of terms which were decided at the fifth session of the Group of Experts and were set forth in Working Paper No. 33 a/ of that session and again in Working Paper No. 44 a/ of the sixth session, will also be incorporated in the final English version.

5. The following definitions of terms were adopted in the course of the two meetings of the Working Group on Definitions during the sixth session of the Group of Experts, also for inclusion in the final English version of the Glossary:

- (a) diglossia - a relatively stable language situation in which, in addition to the primary dialect of a language which may include a standard or regional standards,, there is a very divergent, highly codified, often

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a/ Copies of the document may be obtained from the Cartography Section of the United Nations on request.

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grammatically more complex, superposed variety, the vehicle of a large and respected body of written literature, heir of an earlier period or in another speech community, which is learned largely by formal education and may be used for written and formal spoken purposes, but is not used by any sector of the community for ordinary conversation. (after C. Ferguson) b/

- (b) feature, hydrographic - a topographic feature which consists of water and/or of recognizable interfaces between a body of water and one or more of its boundaries.
- (c) form, graphic - written letter(s) or character(s), including any markers and diacritical marks, which represent a linguistic item.
- (d) term, descriptive - a written item which appears on a map, which does not constitute a toponym, but which serves to describe a topographic characteristic in the area where it appears.

6. Mr. Komkov (USSR) proposed inclusion of the following terms in the Glossary: allography, diphthong, ideogram, receiver language, and source language. The following terms and definitions were agreed upon:

- (a) allograph - one of the particular representations of a grapheme. (see grapheme)
- (b) diphthong - a combination of vocalic elements of which only one is the nucleus of a syllable.
- (c) ideogram - (see logogram)
- (d) logogram - a graphic symbol or combination of graphic symbols which consistently represents a given morphological element or elements in a given language.
- (e) language, receiver - a language in terms of which a geographical name may be adopted or converted from its source language. (see language, source)
- (f) language, source - a language in terms of which a geographical name is produced, and on the basis of which it may be adopted or converted for use in the context of another language, a receiver language. (see language, receiver)
- (g) script, receiver - a script in terms of which a geographical name may be converted from its source script. (see script, source)

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b/ R. J. O'Brien, Selected Papers on Linguistics, 1961-1965, Georgetown University Roundtable (Washington, D.C., Georgetown University Press, 1968).

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- (h) script, source - a script in terms of which a geographical name is produced, and on the basis of which it may be converted for use in another script, a receiver script. (see script, receiver)

The definitions will be incorporated in the English version, and Spanish definitions will be sought from Spanish language experts within the Working Group on Definitions, for inclusion in the Spanish version of the Glossary.

7. It was decided that any and all further suggestions and recommendations will have to appear in a second edition of the Glossary at some future time.
8. At Mr. Breu's suggestion, the Greek expert, Mr. Setatos, agreed to prepare a modern Greek version of the Glossary, in spite of difficulties inherent in the fact that a very large proportion of the entries have classical Greek meanings.
9. The German version of the Glossary, distributed by Mr. Breu to the Working Group and presented to the sixth session in Working Paper No. 44, a/ will be distributed at the third United Nations Conference at Athens in 1977.
10. Mr. Radó distributed copies of a combined list of the English, French, and Spanish terms with their definitions, as a basis for giving the equivalents in the Czech and Slovak languages.
11. At Mr. Sharma's suggestion it was agreed that, for purposes of elucidation, a separate document might be prepared for distribution, in conjunction with the Glossary, that document to consist of examples in illustration of various of the technical terms which appear in the Glossary. The Working Group will take under consideration all such examples as may be set before it.
12. All further work preparatory to the third United Nations Conference that is carried out by the Working Group will be communicated to its members, to the Chairman of the Group of Experts, and to the United Nations Secretariat.

Annex II

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON  
UNDERSEA AND MARITIME FEATURES

1. Mr. Randall was appointed the Convenor, by the Chairman of the Group of Experts, to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Delaney. Other members of the Working Group were Mr. Al-Robaishy (Saudi Arabia), Rapporteur; Mr. Burrill (United States of America); Mr. Hovda (Norway); Mr. Komkov (USSR); Mr. Lewis (United Kingdom); Mr. Neynen (Federal Republic of Germany); Mr. Radó (Hungary); and Mr. Sharma (India).

2. The Convenor stated that the agenda of the meeting would consist of the conclusions of the Working Group as cited in the report of the fifth session of the Group of Experts (ESA/RT/C/GN/3, annex II). He also said that in addition to the report, two papers a/ circulated by Hungary (Working Paper No. 23) and by the Federal Republic of Germany (Working Paper No. 35) would serve as meeting documents.

3. In response to a question posed by the Convenor regarding correspondence among members since the last meeting, the Group initiated discussions that covered several points. The important items are summarized below.

(a) Mr. Komkov expressed the view that there was a need to reach agreement concerning terms and definitions of undersea features, concerning the standardization of names of oceans and seas and their component parts, and concerning the standardization of the names of undersea features themselves.

(b) Several members spoke of the experience of standardizing bodies within their own countries or within their divisions. Mr. Radó circulated a gazetteer of undersea features produced by Czechoslovakia and a list of some 800 undersea feature names issued by Hungary. a/ Mr. Hovda spoke of his work involving large-scale undersea features, and suggested that any terms adopted by the Group of Experts should provide for such detail. Mr. Randall stated that the Board on Geographic Names (BGN) was dealing with an ever-increasing number of undersea features, and how that was leading to a need to redefine naming policies.

(c) Mr. Meynen drew attention to the unfulfilled requirement, as stated in resolution 22 of the London Conference, b/ which called for action on the part of the Group of Experts to improve "current nomenclatural practices and procedures". He further pointed out the list of undersea feature terms described and evaluated in the Canadian report on the London Conference. In his view, the Group of Experts should initiate a programme to establish a uniform list of terms in English which each nation could translate for its own use.

a/ Copies of the documents may be obtained from the Cartography Section of the United Nations on request.

b/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.I.2).

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(d) Mr. Gall pointed out that the statement contained in the second paragraph on page 15 of the report of the fifth session of the Group of Experts (ESA/RT/C/GN/3), which referred to "maritime features", remained a valid item for the attention of the Working Group.

4. It was the Group's decision that work on four elements should be initiated so that proposals on those items could be presented to the Conference at Athens. Those elements were:

- (a) Establishment of policies and principles by which undersea and maritime features could be named. (The statement of the BGN "Undersea name policies" printed in the report of the fifth session of the Group of Experts (ESA/RT/C/GN/3) was identified as a possible model.)
- (b) Development of a form by which new names could be proposed. (The BGN form also appearing in the report of the fifth session of the Group of Experts was cited as a model.)
- (c) Preparation of a list of generic terms for undersea features in English. (Lists of terms prepared by BGN, Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (PCGN) and the Canadian PCGN were to form the basic documents.)
- (d) Preparation of a list containing equivalents to the terms of the basic documents in various other languages.

5. It was further agreed that the Working Group should complete its basic work no later than August of 1976 to permit time for further processing in anticipation of the Athens Conference. Several members of the Group agreed to assist in circulating and evaluating information relating to the work of the body.

6. By unanimous action of the Working Group, Mr. Randall was elected Convenor.

Annex III

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON EXTRATERRESTRIAL FEATURES

Terms of Reference

1. The competence of the Group of Experts to participate in the field of extraterrestrial names was established at its second session in 1970. The Working Group was charged with the examination of such toponyms without qualification as to scope or method (ESA/RT/C/GN/1 of 29 April 1970). Members of the Working Group present at the 14 March 1975 meetings were: Mr. A. M. Komkov (Convenor), Mr. H. A. G. Lewis (Rapporteur), Mr. M. F. Burrill, Mr. S. Rađó and Mr. D. N. Sharma. New members joining the Group were Mr. R. R. Randall, Mr. Vayacacos and Mr. B. Hovda. Mr. P. Millman, Chairman of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) Working Group on Planetary System Nomenclature, attended the meetings. Most of the members of the Group of Experts participated.

Background documents

2. Report of the London Conference; a/ report of the Group of Experts, fifth session (ESA/RT/C/GN/3, annex III); Working Papers 14 and 21 b/ of the sixth session of the Group of Experts.
3. Large-scale mapping of the kind now in existence or in the course of preparation for the Moon would be extended to other planets. As many as 30 planets and their satellites might require names for topographic features.
4. Mapping of the moon at 1:250,000 scale would result in 2,304 map sheets, of which well over 2,000 still required names for sheet titles.
5. Mariner photography of Mercury had revealed several thousand craters for which names were required.
6. The International Astronomical Union (IAU) had yet to achieve full co-ordination among the various scientific disciplines but intended its nomenclature to be based on simple, clear and unambiguous names.
7. The IAU had prepared a draft scheme of nomenclature which involved the use of different categories of names for each planet. Apart from the names of famous people in the world of science, the categories selected utilized the names of artists, musicians, sculptors, writers and poets; the names of animals; birds; cities; first names of men and women; minerals; mountains, rivers and villages. A variety of other categories which might provide names for several hundred features was also to be considered.

a/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.I.2), para. 68.

b/ Documents may be obtained from the Cartography Section of the United Nations on request.

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8. The IAU believed that duplication of names should be avoided.
9. Close co-operation between the Group of Experts and the IAU Working Group on Planetary System Nomenclature was welcomed and approved.
10. Since names would need to be transposed from one writing system to another, the work of the Group of Experts must be taken into account if conformity with practice on earth and standardization was to be achieved.
11. Considerable discussion centred on the use of Latin but no final decision was reached. The number of Latin generic terms had increased with the mapping of the moon in greater topographic detail. Whether that practice should be continued or curtailed had yet to be resolved. Whilst Latin could be regarded as a neutral language, there were disadvantages in bringing Latin terms into everyday usage, particularly in textbooks for use in schools and in popular literature. The formation of Latin plurals was an additional problem.
12. Opinion was unanimous that Latin should be confined to the nominative singular and plural. The genitive of the specific element of feature names should not be used.
13. Every care should be taken to achieve the best names possible for extraterrestrial features since, once allocated, the names would tend to permanent.
14. Consideration should be given to a nomenclature based on a co-ordinate system. Already, reasonably reliable co-ordinate systems existed for Mars and Mercury. When radar photography of Venus was available, a satisfactory system of co-ordinates might become available for that planet also.
15. It was suggested that names selected from the English language should be of a form easily convertible into other writing systems.
16. A meeting of the IAU Working Group on Planetary System Nomenclature was to be held at Moscow in July 1975. The findings of various IAU task groups, each charged with producing name proposals for the solar system, would then be considered.
17. Members of the Working Group of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names were requested to send to the Convenor, Mr. Komkov, their suggestions for a general system of planetary nomenclature and their particular suggestions for individual planets and satellites, for consideration at the Moscow meeting.
18. In view of the proximity of the Moscow meeting, copies of letters to the Convenor should be sent to individual members of the Working Group.
19. A standard proposal form was required to allow names to be put forward for consideration in the over-all nomenclature when a general system had been worked out.

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20. In order to avoid legal problems and resolve other aspects of planetary nomenclature, toponymists, astronomers and other scientists must work together.

21. The Working Group regarded as a primary task, co-operation with the IAU Working Group on Planetary System Nomenclature in working out, along the general lines laid down by IAU, a system of nomenclature which would define the kind of names to be applied to each particular type of feature on each planet.

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Annex IV

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON A SINGLE ROMANIZATION  
SYSTEM FOR EACH NON-ROMAN WRITING SYSTEM

1. Three meetings of the Working Group took place during the sixth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. The Convenor was Mr. Breu (Austria), the Rapporteur was Mr. Page (USA), and the following members of the Working Group were present: Mr. Aycubi (Lebanon), Mr. Geelan (UK), Mr. Komkov (USSR), Mr. González (Spain, in representation of Mr. Lapesa), Mr. Nédélec (France), Mr. Radó (Hungary), Mr. Sharma (India). Absent were: Mr. Dahlstedt (Sweden), Mr. Földi (Hungary) and Mr. Kattan (Saudi Arabia).
2. The Convenor cited the following pertinent documents:
  - (i) Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, London, 1972; a/
  - (ii) Report of the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Geneva, 1967; b/
  - (iii) Report of the fifth session of the Group of Experts, New York, 1973 (ESA/RT/C/GN/3); and
  - (iv) The following working papers c/ of the sixth session of the Group of Experts: 12, 16, 24, 25, 26, 28, 32, 39 and 43.
3. The list of alphabets and scripts for which each member of the Working Group had been responsible was as follows:

Mr. Ayoubi	Arabic (together with Mr. Nédélec in the Maghreb area)
Mr. Breu	Amharic, Greek
Mr. Dahlstedt	Somali
Mr. Földi/Mr. Radó	Bulgarian, Chinese, Mongolian (together with Mr. Nédélec), Korean in North Korea
Mr. Geelan	Burmese, Maldivian (both together with Mr. Sharma)
Mr. Kattan	Arabic
Mr. Komkov	Non-Roman alphabets of the USSR
Mr. Lapesa	Hebrew
Mr. Nédélec	Arabic in the Maghreb area (together with Mr. Ayoubi) Mongolian (together with Mr. Földi/Mr. Radó), Cyrillic alphabet of Yugoslavia

a/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.I.2).

b/ United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.68.I.9).

c/ Copies of the documents may be obtained, upon request, from the Cartography Section of the United Nations.

Mr. Page	Japanese, Khmer, Korean in South Korea, Laotian, Persian, Thai
Mr. Sharma	Writing systems of the Indian Division, Pashtu, Burmese, and Maldivian (the last two together with Mr. Geelan)

4. The following resulted from the Working Group's review of the status of the non-Roman script writing systems of the world, which were considered in alphabetical order:

Amharic

Inasmuch as no reply had been received from the Convenor's letter to Ethiopian authorities, it was presumed that no change had occurred.

Arabic

The Arabic Division announced that a meeting similar to that which has taken place at Beirut in 1971 was being sought under the auspices of the Arab League, and that the Arab countries were giving consideration to adoption of the Modified Beirut 1971 System for the Romanization of Arabic Writing.

Mr. Nédélec asked that the official romanization systems of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Mauritania, placed before the Working Group by him in 1972, be adopted.

Mr. Page presented a Comparative Table for seven romanization systems for Arabic.

Bulgarian

In the discussion Mr. Radó indicated that his statement about the use of the alternative group of characters in the romanization of Bulgarian in telecommunications referred to use within and by Bulgaria.

After discussion concerning the status of the alternative group of characters the Convenor summed up by stating that the resolution appeared to be subject to differing interpretations, one being that the alternative group was in a subsidiary status, the other that it had equal status. He stated further that the resolution remained unchanged for the present, as no proposal for alteration had been made.

Burmese

Mr. Geelan reported that very little recent information had become available concerning Burmese place names but that, by and large, older Survey of India spelling was still valid, to judge by the names used by the UPU and ITU.

Mr. Sharma stated that Burmese officials considered almost all the romanized names appearing now on Burmese maps incorrect, that the Government of Burma was publishing maps only in Burmese script and that they were not contemplating a romanization system for Burmese in the near future.

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### China

The Convenor opened discussion with reference to Working Papers Nos. 26 and 43, c/ and to two items presented to the sixth session by China, a map lettered in terms of the Chinese phonetic alphabet (also known as Hanyu Pinyin or HP) and an accompanying gazetteer.

Mr. Qiao Feng described the development and establishment of the romanization system, described the "usual system" in relation to it, and cited numerous aspects of the two systems in detail. He stated that HP, which was being taught in elementary schools, was employed in maps and appeared in dictionaries for Chinese-French and Chinese-German and in a Chinese-English dictionary in preparation. He further stated that HP was used in post and telegraph and in weather offices in China, that it had been submitted to the International Telecommunication Union and that it was in use on charts for shipping use. Names at railroad stations in China appeared in both traditional Chinese characters and in HP. The system was used in other fields and it was expected that its use would continue to expand.

At the suggestion of Mr. Radó, the expert for China, Mr. Qiao Feng, was asked to become a member of the Working Group and to take responsibility for the romanization of Chinese. Mr. Qiao Feng accepted.

An extensive period of discussion was summed up by the Convenor, who offered the suggestion that the China expert might prepare, as a necessary aid during a transitional period, comprehensive lists of names containing side by side conventional Roman script forms of names together with the appropriate HP spellings.

The Convenor presented a motion: "The Working Group shall work on and prepare a resolution for presentation to the Seventh United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at Athens in 1977." The motion was adopted unanimously by the Group of Experts.

### Greek

Mr. Breu described the Greek romanization system set forth in Working Paper No. 13 c/ of the fifth session of the Group of Experts and asked the expert from Greece for a report.

Mr. Setatos cited a meeting which had included representatives of both Greece and Cyprus, and described in detail a number of changes to the system set forth in Working Paper No. 13, which had been agreed at that meeting.

Mr. Nédélec noted that an incongruity had been introduced into the new system by the transliteration of "kappa" by "K" and of "Khi" by "ch".

Mr. Geelan stressed not only the need for acceptance of a romanization system by both Greek and Cypriot authorities, but the need for its implementation by those authorities.

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Hebrew

Mr. Breu stated that no new information was to be noted in regard to the romanization of Hebrew in toponymy.

Alphabets of the Indian Division

Mr. Sharma stated that the Government of India was likely to introduce in the near future the tables he himself had presented to the London Conference d/ and that this had resulted to a large degree from the work carried out by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. Some minor modifications to the tables were inevitable. He had great need for more copies of the tables, he said, and Mr. Christopher replied that they would appear in volume II of the Report of the London Conference. e/ Mr. Sharma had contacted authorities in Sri Lanka concerning the romanization of Sinhala, but had received no reply.

Japanese

The two principal romanization systems in use for Japanese were cited, and it was noted that no change had occurred since the London Conference.

Khmer

It was noted that no change had occurred since the London Conference.

Korean

It was noted that three romanization systems were in use in North and South Korea, and that the situation was both fluid and uncertain. Mr. Radó and Mr. Page would collaborate in monitoring the situation for the Working Group.

Laotian

It was noted that no change had occurred since the London Conference.

Maldivian

It was noted that no change had occurred since the London Conference.

Mongolian

Mr. Radó stated that there was nothing new to report concerning Mongolian, that he had regular correspondence with the Mongolian Academy of Sciences and thus was able to monitor the situation.

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d/ Document E/CONF.61/5 may be obtained, upon request, from the Cartography Section of the United Nations.

e/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. II, Technical Papers, (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.I.4)

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Pashtu

Mr. Sharma stated that Afghanistan had introduced a comprehensive romanization system in a map which might be procured for the information of the Working Group.

At suggestion of Mr. Sharma, Mr. Ganji became a member of the Working Group and stated that an approaching conference, to include representatives from Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, would make a final decision in the matter of Pashtu, as well as of Urdu. The romanization of Persian would necessarily come under consideration but no change was contemplated.

Somali

Mr. Geelan reported that a new Roman script writing system had come into use in Somali books, newspapers and other documents, but that the spelling of geographical names in terms of that system was frequently uncertain.

Information on the new writing system would be distributed by Mr. Radó and Mr. Komkov.

Thai

It was noted that no change had occurred since the London Conference.

USSR

Working Paper No. 12 c/ of the sixth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and United Nations document E/CONF.61/L.75, c/ on the Romanization Systems for Russian Place Names of the London Conference, both presented by the USSR, were considered. Mr. Komkov described the history and status of romanization systems for Russian Cyrillic writing both in the USSR and elsewhere in the world. He described the use of English language forms in names used in English context, French forms used in French context and others. He described the two systems set forth in Working Paper No. 12, c/ saying that the first shared characteristics with the BGN/PCGN system and that the second shared characteristics with the writing systems of Czech, Bulgarian and other Slavic languages. He drew attention to atlases published in Roman script countries which employ the system of the USSR Academy of Sciences in toponymy and stated that the USSR had decided, once and for all, that all cartography and related documents were to employ that system.

The Convenor asked for comments, especially regarding the proposal set forth in Working Paper No. 12, c/ paragraph 2, which states: "The time has come to recommend the Romanization system applied on the Soviet maps as an international one so as to uniform the lettering of place-names of our country in all the cartographic works published abroad."

The discussion dealt with two aspects:

- (i) Linguistic evaluation of the Academy of Sciences romanization. Here Mr. Lewis felt that there were disadvantages in the treatment of the Russian letter ë.
- (ii) The donor principle. The Convenor asked the members of the Working Group who were present to address the question.

After a lengthy discussion of that matter of principle which comprised many points, such as usage on the basis of resolutions adopted by United Nations Conferences, names material available, existing romanization practices, etc., the majority of the members of the Working Group declared themselves in favour of the donor principle.

The opponents stated that they saw in the unavailability of an ample body of names a grave obstacle to acceptance of that principle, whereas the supporters took the view that the acceptability of a romanization system should be independent of the names material available.

Mr. Geelan suggested, as a counter proposal to the proposal contained in Working Paper No. 12 (see above), postponement of a decision in, and further consideration of the matter.

#### Yugoslavia

Mr. Breu described the matter of romanization in Yugoslavia as stable and unchanged.

5. The Convenor summed up by stating: (a) that the majority of the members of the Working Group was in favour of the donor principle; (b) that that would not relieve the Working Group of its duty to analyse systems presented by individual countries and make proposals for improvements to the countries concerned before approval by a United Nations Conference; (c) that inasmuch as the Third United Nations Conference at Athens was the body which must pass on resolutions in the matter rather than the United Nations Group of Experts, it seemed best to refer drafting recommendations to further consideration by the Working Group. He invited all the members of the Group of Experts to contribute to reaching a solution in the time intervening before the Third Conference.

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Annex V

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON  
TRAINING COURSES ON TOPONYMY

1. The Chairman of the Working Group, Dr. Ormeling, reviewed the progress which had been made since 1971 when the course had first been proposed. He presented Working Paper No. 8 a/ which outlined the current stage of progress. The Working Paper was the outcome of two years' negotiations between the Dutch delegation, on behalf of the Working Group, and the Government of the Netherlands.

2. The membership of the Working Group was reviewed and Messrs. Coker, Gall and Kok became members at their request while Messrs. Rayourn and Ganji replaced Messrs. Delaney and Vadiie respectively.

3. The discussions of the Working Group were based on the following points: the time and duration of the course, the programme of the course, the participating countries, the selection of students, the international lecturers and the follow-up courses.

1. Time and duration of the course

4. The Government of the Netherlands had suggested that the course be held in the autumn of 1975 but later accepted Dr. Ormeling's suggestion that it should be held between 26 April and 22 May 1976, as the amount of work necessary to organize the course would require more time. The group also recognized the need for more time and approved Dr. Ormeling's suggestion.

2. Programme of the training course

5. The general outline of the programme of work as presented in the report of the Fifth Session (ESA/RT/C/GN/3, annex V, para. 4) was reviewed. It was agreed that the field collection and office treatment of names should form the main part of the course and the Chairman intimated that the organizers intended to allot to the two items one half of the total course time.

After some discussion it was agreed that the whole programme should have three parts only, so as to bring out the importance of field collection and office treatment of names. The programme would then consist of the following:

Part I (one week)

- (i) General introduction - global view of distribution of languages and scripts;

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a/ Copies of the document may be obtained, on request, from the Cartography Section of the United Nations.

- (ii) Toponymy terminology;
- (iii) Functions of geographical names - philosophical view;
- (iv) United Nations activities on standardization of geographical names;
- (v) General problems of national names authority;
- (vi) Writing systems - conversion and non-written languages.

Part II (two weeks)

- (i) Field collection of names - general problems and specific problems as encountered in the Africa, East and West; Asia, South-East and South-West; Arabic; Latin America; USSR; and USA-Canada divisions.
- (ii) Office treatment of names - general problems, specific examples and automatic data processing.

Part III (one week)

- (i) Exonyms;
- (ii) Generics and glossaries;
- (iii) National gazetteers.

The outline of the programme was then accepted. The group further recommended that the detailed programme should be prepared to include:

- (i) Exercises in practical field collection;
- (ii) Seminars and discussions amongst the students under the guidance of the lecturers;
- (iii) Exhibitions of gazetteers, various maps and literature;
- (iv) Excursions to libraries and cartographic institutions;
- (v) Lectures which should be held preferably in the mornings and the seminars, discussions, practical work and excursions in the afternoons;
- (vi) Critical appraisal of the course to be made by both the students and the lecturers.

A certificate of attendance signed by the United Nations and the host country directors would be issued at the end of the course.

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3. The participating countries

The Chairman referred to the decision of the Government of the Netherlands in November 1974 to finance travel and accommodation costs of 25-30 students from developing countries which fit into their development aid programmes, such as Bangladesh, Kenya, Malawi, Sri Lanka, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, and possibly Laos. He further stated that the travel and accommodation costs of the international lecturers would have to be met by other bodies, preferably the United Nations.

After some discussion during which Messrs. Coker and Kok appealed for participation by members of their divisions which had not been listed by the Government of the Netherlands, the group agreed that the course should be thrown open to all English-speaking countries.

The Government of the Netherlands, after consultation, accepted the opinion of the Working Group and advised that invitations would be sent to all English-speaking countries of Africa, East and West; Asia, South-East and India Divisions. The invitations would be sent out in two phases; first, a general circular to all the countries to establish their interest and secondly, an invitation to register and select students for the course. The Government of the Netherlands would then offer fellowships to those countries which fit into their development aid programme.

4. Selection of students

The group agreed that the students should be of university entrance level and have linguistic and field experience in the subject of geographical names. Several experts indicated that they would send senior officers who would be able to train and supervise junior officers in the countries after having completed the course.

5. The international lecturers

The Working Group recommended that a lecturer be invited from each division including the new China Division. Preference should be given, however, to members of the Group of Experts.

The lecturers should be able to communicate in English fluently and be equipped with maps, visual and audio-visual aids to support their lectures. The success of the course would depend on free communication between the lecturers and students. The selected lecturers should submit a summary, of not less than 800 words, of their lectures to the organizers in the Netherlands by 31 January 1976 for distribution to fellow lecturers and to students.

The Group recommended that the United Nations co-sponsor the Pilot Training Course, including allocation of funds.

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6. Follow-up courses

Mr. Rayburn of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names endorsed the proposed course to be hosted by Canada in both English and French, on the understanding that further courses were to follow. Although the financial implications had not been considered, he confirmed that it was a commitment that a follow-up course would be held in Canada, in about 1978.

Mr. Ganji referred the Group to paragraph 9 of annex V of the Report of the Fifth Session (ESA/RT/C/GN/3) and stated that, after the experience gained during the pilot course, he saw no reason why simultaneous courses could not be held in various divisions. He proposed to organize one in his division.

It was noted that Dr. Gall had also held courses on a smaller scale within his Latin America Division.

Mr. Kok noted that a divisional course might be held in the Asia South-East Division if some of the senior officers of the division attended the pilot course and thanked the Government of the Netherlands for their offer to host the pilot course.

The Chairman expressed the hope that the initiative might lead, in the future, to the establishment of a permanent toponymical training centre somewhere in the developing world.

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Annex VI

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON GAZETTEERS

1. The Working Group, with open membership and Mr. Lewis as Convenor, was established by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at its fifth session held in New York, 5-16 March 1973, with tasks as outlined in annex VI of the Report of the Fifth Session (ESA/RT/C/GN/3, para. 2).
2. Three meetings were held. The whole Group of Experts participated. Reference documents were: Working Papers 19, 29 and 34; a/ resolutions 17, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 35 of the London Conference, b/ all of which bear directly on one or another of the three types of gazetteers under discussion:
  - (a) National gazetteers;
  - (b) Provisional United Nations gazetteers of the world;
  - (c) A concise United Nations gazetteer of the world in one or two volumes.
3. Dr. Breu gave a detailed account of the abridged Gazetteer of Austria mentioned in Working Paper 19. a/ The Gazetteer, containing about 5,800 names, had been prepared since the previous meeting of the Group of Experts. Discussion of format and content of national gazetteers confirmed the specifications set out in resolution 4 of the Geneva Conference. c/ Further discussion centred around the addition of a phonetic representation of place names in gazetteers, both from the point of view of the national and the non-national user and also in connexion with the conversion into other writing systems of names given in gazetteers.
4. It was confirmed once more that BGN gazetteers, if and when revised and published jointly with and by the country covered in the gazetteer, could constitute a provisional United Nations gazetteer after national approval by that country had been granted, on the lines agreed by the Group of Experts in 1973 (see ESA/RT/C/GN/3, annex VI, paras. 8-10). Kenya and the United States Board on Geographical Names were continuing to work jointly on the production of a new Gazetteer of Kenya. No further progress had been made on the proposal for joint gazetteers of Underseas Features. Guatemala had been selected as the Latin American country for which a gazetteer would be produced jointly with the United States Board on Geographical Names. As stated in previous meetings of the Working Group, the provisional series of gazetteers based on the BGN gazetteers was to

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a/ Copies of the documents are available, on request, from the Cartography Section of the United Nations.

b/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.I.2).

c/ United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.68.I.9).

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help in the preparation of a series of world gazetteers in the absence of such gazetteers prepared by the national authorities concerned.

5. Working Paper No. 29/Rev.1 a/ submitted by Mr. Radó was noted as reflecting the views of the East Central, South-East Europe and Soviet Union Divisions. The third paragraph of the working paper was generally accepted as the basis of the format of the title page for national gazetteers.

6. The Concise Gazetteer would be compiled according to the specifications of the national gazetteers as defined at London. b/ It was agreed that the Concise Gazetteer should be based on existing national or co-operative provisional gazetteers or on interim lists of geographical names compiled in accordance with resolution 35 of the London Conference. b/ Two principles of selection were discussed: first, to base the work on map material at a uniform scale; secondly, to apply a more complex method, taking account of the relative importance of different areas of the countries concerned. The second basis of selection was preferred by a majority. It was foreseen that the project would require an editor and an editorial staff, one of whose tasks would be to determine in general terms the size of each country's contribution.

Annex VII

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON  
THE LIST OF COUNTRY NAMES

1. The Working Group was established at the fifth session of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names held in New York, 5-16 March 1973. The Convenor of the Working Group was Mr. Nédélec (France), the Rapporteur was Mr. Breu (Austria), and the following members of the working group were present: Mr. Coker (Nigeria), Mr. Lewis (United Kingdom), Mr. Page (United States of America), Mr. Radó (Hungary). Mr. Vadiie (Iran), also a member of the Group, was absent.
2. Since the fifth session of the Group of Experts, the Working Group had worked only by correspondence and its tasks had been divided among its members on the basis of geographical or linguistic consideration.
3. The activity of the Working Group called for the collection of complete and accurate data. This was greatly affected by two types of exchange of correspondence:
  - (a) the exchange of correspondence between the members of the Working Group and the experts representing the divisions; and
  - (b) the exchange of correspondence between the experts representing the divisions and the national experts.
4. Owing to the various tasks of the experts, that correspondence had worked more or less well in the interval between the previous session of the Group of Experts and the current one. As a result, Working Paper No. 42 a/ which constituted a first list of the country names, was neither complete nor up to date.
5. The attention of the experts was drawn to the important contributions made by Mr. Breu (Austria) and Mr. Gall (Guatemala); the former, both as a member of the Working Group and as an expert representing a division, the latter, as an expert of a division. The contribution of Mr. Breu was presented in Working Paper No. 17. a/
6. Mr. Coker indicated that there had been slow progress in obtaining the necessary data, as only a very small number of African countries had replied to his circular letter.
7. Working Paper No. 42 did not include information given by Messrs. Page and Radó, which, unfortunately, had reached the Convenor too late. The contribution of Mr. Radó was contained in Working Paper No. 40. a/ The data given by Messrs. Page and Radó would be incorporated by the Convenor of the Working Group

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a/ The document is available, upon request, from the Cartography Section of the United Nations.

after the current session. All other data given directly to the Convenor of the Working Group during the current session would also be processed in the same way. That included, inter alia, data from Messrs. Ayoubi (Lebanon), Gall (Guatemala), González (Spain), Banlung (Thailand), Sharma (India) and Velázquez (Cuba). The remarks made by Mr. Ayoubi and Mr. Sharma appeared respectively in Working Papers No. 50, No. 45 and No. 45/Add.1. a/ At that point the permanent task of the activities of the Working Group was recognized by the Group of Experts as the continuous updating of the list of country names which had been shown to be necessary.

8. The experts of the China Division and of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Division would provide the Convenor of the Working Group with the names in Chinese characters and in Cyrillic characters, as used at the United Nations, for all the countries of the world. They would also provide corresponding transliterated or transcribed versions of names in Latin characters in accordance with the adopted systems currently in use in China and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

9. It was generally agreed that for all countries not using Latin characters, the local names contained in the list would be those resulting from the application of a transcription or transliteration system recommended by a resolution of a United Nations conference on geographical names or, if not available, from a system officially adopted and used in the country concerned.

10. It was also agreed that, in addition to the short traditional form, abbreviations officially and commonly used should also be placed on the list of the countries of the world.

11. In order to define better the tasks of the Working Group, it was decided that, in countries where several languages are used, the Group would limit its research to the only languages which could be considered as official at the national level.

12. In addition to the experts listed at the beginning of the report, the Working Group will include in the future, Messrs. Gall (Guatemala), González (Spain), Komkov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and Qiao Feng (China).



Annex VIII

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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State Bureau of Surveying and  
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Annex IX

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

- Working Paper No. 1 and Rev.1 - Provisional Agenda
- Working Paper No. 2 - Bibliography of Gazetteers and Glossaries of Geographical Names: World, Countries and Territories 1945-1973, compiled by Emil Meynen
- Working Paper No. 3 - Aims, Functions and Modus Operandi of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (F. Gall, Guatemala)
- Working Paper No. 4 - Bibliography of documents on Geographical Names presented to various United Nations Conferences (Secretariat)
- Working Paper No. 5 - Report on the standardization of geographical names in Norway since the meeting in 1973 (Norway)
- Working Paper No. 6 - Exónimos (J. González and F. Vázquez, Spain)
- Working Paper No. 7 - Report of the Asia, South-East Division (S. T. Kok, Malaysia)
- Working Paper No. 8 - Training Courses in Toponymy (D. P. Blok and F. J. Ormeling, Netherlands)
- Working Paper No. 9 - Progress report on the standardization of geographical names in the Netherlands (Netherlands)
- Working Paper No. 10 - Some consequences of an integral use of diacritical signs in the spelling of geographical names (delegation of the Netherlands)
- Working Paper No. 11 - On the standardization of geographical names in the Soviet Union in 1972-1974 (A. M. Komkov, USSR)
- Working Paper No. 12 - On the Romanization system for place-names of the USSR (A. M. Komkov, USSR)
- Working Paper No. 13 - On the compilation of the Gazetteer of Russian Conventional Names for Geographical Entities in Foreign Countries (A. M. Komkov, USSR)

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| Working Paper No. 14           | - Informative Report (A. M. Komkov, USSR)  |
| Working Paper No. 15           | - Names of the USSR Republics in their local spellings and in their United Nations official forms (A. M. Komkov, USSR) |
| Working Paper No. 16           | - Rapport sur la normalisation des noms géographiques - Rapport d'Activité (delegation of Lebanon)                     |
| Working Paper No. 17           | - List of Country Names (J. Breu, Austria)   |
| Working Paper No. 18           | - Withdrawn  |
| Working Paper No. 19           | - Gazetteer of Austria (J. Breu, Austria)  |
| Working Paper No. 20.          | - Report on the East Central and South-East Europe-Soviet Union Divisional meeting (Hungary)                           |
| Working Paper No. 21           | - Extraterrestrial topographic features (Hungary)  |
| Working Paper No. 22           | - Definitions of terms used in geographical names standardization (Hungary)  |
| Working Paper No. 23           | - Undersea and Maritime Features (Hungary)   |
| Working Paper No. 24           | - Romanization of Korean geographical names in the People's Democratic Republic of Korea (Hungary)                     |
| Working Paper No. 25           | - Comparative table of Korean Romanization systems (Hungary)   |
| Working Paper No. 26           | - Romanization of Chinese geographical names (Hungary)   |
| Working Paper No. 27           | - Reduction of exonyms (Hungary)   |
| Working Paper No. 28           | - Romanization of Bulgarian, Russian and Mongolian geographical names (Hungary)  |
| Working Paper No. 29 and Rev.1 | - International gazetteers (Hungary)   |
| Working Paper No. 30           | - List of Country Names (Hungary)  |
| Working Paper No. 31           | - Seventh session of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Hungary)  |

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- Working Paper No. 32 - Report by the Imperial Government of Iran on transliteration of geographical names (Iran)
- Working Paper No. 33 - On the names of maritime features and undersea features (Federal Republic of Germany)
- Working Paper No. 34 - United Nations Gazetteer of the World, under the auspices of the United Nations; Volume: Federal Republic of Germany (Federal Republic of Germany)
- Working Paper No. 35 - Relaciones de Países (J. Corderas D., Spain)
- Working Paper No. 36 - Report by the Expert for Latin America (Francis Gall, Guatemala)
- Working Paper No. 37 - Glossaire de la terminologie employée dans la normalisation des noms géographiques (F. Nédélec, France)
- Working Paper No. 38 - Report of the Africa West Division (R. O. Coker, Nigeria)
- Working Paper No. 39 - Report for the sixth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Experts from Greece)
- Working Paper No. 40 - List of Country Names (Working Group on the List of Countries) (Hungary)
- Working Paper No. 41 - Report of the Dutch and German-speaking Division (E. Spiess, Switzerland)
- Working Paper No. 42 - Groupe de travail pour la liste des pays du monde (F. Nédélec, France)
- Working Paper No. 43 - Speech by Yang Leiguang, Head of the Group of Geographical Names Experts, State Bureau of Surveying and Cartography of the People's Republic of China, at the sixth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
- Working Paper No. 44 - Report of the Working Group on Definitions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
- Working Paper No. 45 and Add.1 - List of Country Names (D. N. Sharma, India)

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- Working Paper No. 46 - Report of the Africa East Division  
(W. J. Absaloms, Kenya)
- Working Paper No. 47 - List of submarine names (S. Radó, Hungary)
- Working Paper No. 48 - Report of activities since the fifth session  
(USA-Canada Division)
- Working Paper No. 49 - Report by Canada (USA-Canada Division)
- Working Paper No. 50 - Liste des pays du monde (M. Ayoubi, Lebanon)
- Working Paper No. 51 - Tableau des aménagements acceptables pour  
la translittération de l'Arabe (M. Ayoubi,  
Lebanon, and F. Nédélec, France)
- Working Paper No. 52 - The use of diacritics in an automated  
typesetting process at the United States  
Library of Congress (R. Randall, USA)
- Working Paper No. 53 - Informe de Actividades (Y. Velázquez García,  
Cuba)
- Working Paper No. 54 - Statement by the Chairman of the Group of  
Experts on Geographical Names introducing  
programme suggestions related to the third  
Conference agenda (M. Burrill, USA)
- Working Paper No. 55 and Corr.1 - Report of the Chairman - Activities related  
to over-all work and interests of the Group  
of Experts 1973-1975 (M. Burrill, USA)
- Working Paper No. 56 - Report on Standardization of Geographical  
Names (Arabic Division)
- Working Paper No. 57 - Summary record of the Working Group on  
Extraterrestrial Features
- Information Paper No. 1 - Provisional list of participants
- Information Paper No. 2 - German translation of the English document  
E/CONF.61/L.1/Rev.2, June 1972, entitled:  
"A glossary of technical terminology for  
employment in the standardization of  
geographical names"
- Information Paper No. 3 - Press Release EC/2597 and Corr.1
- Information Paper No. 4 - Provisional List of Documents

Information Paper No. 5

- Comments on the US BGN gazetteers (USA)

Information Paper No. 6

- Ibn Bīḥid as a contributor to the study of geographical names of Saudi Arabia (A. S. Abdo, Saudi Arabia)

Appendix

AIMS, FUNCTIONS AND MODUS OPERANDI

1. By Economic and Social Council resolution 1314 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968 and later ones, the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names has been charged with providing for continuous co-ordination and liaison among countries to further the standardization of geographical names and to encourage the formation and the work of linguistic/geographical divisions.

2. In order to carry out its work and achieve the results required, on both the national and the international levels, as specified in the resolutions adopted at United Nations conferences, the linguistic/geographical divisions listed below were formed:

Africa East Division  
Africa West Division  
Arabic Division  
Asia, East Division (other than China)  
Asia, South-East Division  
Asia, South-West Division (other than Arabic)  
China Division  
Dutch and German-speaking Division  
East Central and South-East Europe Division  
India Division  
Latin America Division  
Norden Division  
Romano-Hellenic Division  
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Division  
United Kingdom Division  
United States of America-Canada Division

3. Membership of Divisions

(a) A country not already a member of a division will decide for itself to which division it wishes to belong.

(b) A country may also participate in the activities of divisions other than its own, provided the total number of countries and the nature of their participation are not such as to change the linguistic/geographical character of the division.

4. The Group of Experts is composed of one representative from each division. Countries within each division will select, by methods of their own choosing, an expert to represent the division at meetings of the Group of Experts and to speak when required to do so, on behalf of the division as a whole at United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names. As an interim measure, the officers of the present Group of Experts will continue to function until replaced by election.

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5. The appointed expert will be responsible for ensuring that the work of the Group of Experts and its potential for technical assistance are brought to the attention of the individual nations within his division and for reporting to the United Nations any special problems within his division.

6. Governments may appoint national experts to attend meetings of the Group of Experts on the understanding that the said national experts will have the right of voice and that their attendance will be co-ordinated with the expert who represents the division in question and who will vote on behalf of the division. The Group of Experts would welcome participation by countries that have not yet participated in conferences or Group of Experts sessions, especially when their language or script is to be taken under consideration.

7. The Group of Experts will elect the following officers: a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur.

8. The elections mentioned under item 7 will be held at the termination of the respective United Nations conference on the standardization of geographical names. The officers will serve until their successors are elected at the next conference. The Cartography Section of the United Nations will provide the secretariat for the Group.

9. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman will assume the office of Chairman. In the absence of the Vice-Chairman or the Rapporteur, the Chairman will appoint persons to complete the unexpired portion of their terms of office.

10. The Group of Experts will meet in accordance with the precedents set by the Economic and Social Council.

11. Persons with special knowledge of particular aspects of the standardization of geographical names may be invited to place before the Group of Experts their specialized knowledge.

12. During the meetings of the Group of Experts, special working groups may be appointed to deal with particular issues. Upon completion of the appointed task, the working group will be automatically disbanded unless especially directed to remain in being.

13. Working groups of specialists may be formed under the chairmanship of one of the national experts referred to in paragraph 6 to study particular problems between meetings of the Group of Experts. Such groups will only be formed with the approval of the Group of Experts before submission to the United Nations conference on the standardization of geographical names for final acceptance.

14. The working languages of the United Nations selected for the conduct of business during the meetings of the Group of Experts will depend upon the nature of the representation and the facilities available at the time.

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15. The Group of Experts will maintain communication among themselves and will render a report of their main activities semi-annually to the Cartography Section of the United Nations and to the members and officers of the Group.

16. Apart from communication through formal channels, experts representing divisions and also national representatives will be notified by informal means of the transactions, programmes and requirements of the Group of Experts.

17. The Group of Experts will encourage countries to supply information to other nations within or outside their respective divisions and also to the United Nations Cartography Section.

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ESA/RT/C/GN/4  
17 June 1975

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES  
ON THE WORK OF ITS SIXTH SESSION

(held at United Nations Headquarters from 5-26 March 1975)

Terms of reference

1. The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names was invited by the Secretary-General, in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1314 (XLIV) and the decision of its 1854th meeting in May 1973, to convene at the United Nations in New York from 5 to 26 March 1975.

Attendance

2. The session was attended by 39 experts from 25 countries representing 15 of the 16 geographical/linguistic divisions of the world (see annex VIII). The Chief of the Cartography Section served as the Secretary for the Group.

Opening of the session

3. The session was opened on behalf of the Secretary-General by the Assistant Director of the Transport and Cartography Branch of the Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Chairman of the Group of Experts thanked the United Nations for the services set at its disposal.

4. The Group agreed to follow the same rules of procedure as in the previous sessions; it was agreed that the meetings of the working groups should be held in the plenum of the Group of Experts.

5. The Group adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Review of divisional composition