

Report on the work of Committee V

International co-operation (item 16)

78. During the discussion reference was made to:

(a) The reports of the linguistic/geographical divisions (E/CONF.69/L.5, L.7, L.25, L.32, L.75, L.76 and L.108);

(b) The report of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its sixth session, 1975 (ESA/RT/C/GN/4, paras. 16 and 25, and para. 4(b) of annex II);

(c) Resolutions 1, 5, 6 and 7 of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names; 20/

(d) Resolutions 2, 3, 4, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20, 23, 26, 27, 32, 33, 37 and 38 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names; 21/

(e) Documents E/CONF.69/L.36, 66, 70, 71, 89 and 100.

79. The Chairman suggested that the Committee should review actions taken at the First and Second Conferences, and at various meetings of the Group of Experts, in order to see what modifications and/or additions might be required. It would also be necessary to determine whether matters under item 16 which overlapped with other Committees should be referred to those Committees for action or joint action.

80. The Chairman reported that the Group of Experts had made some revisions in the number and composition of its divisions since the Second Conference. Countries attending the Conference for the first time were invited to consider with which division they would like to be associated. After a lengthy discussion of the possibility of the United Nations paying the expenses of experts attending meetings of the Group of Experts held every two years, it was thought that delegations should try, through governmental channels, to bring the matter before a meeting of the Economic and Social Council.

81. The representative of France commented on the list of country names prepared by the Group of Experts. After listening to the remarks of the Chief of the Terminology and Technical Documentation Section, Department of Conference and General Services of the United Nations Office at Geneva, the Committee decided that the Group of Experts should complete that work in collaboration with the Documentation and Terminology Service, Translation Division, Department of Conference Services, United Nations Secretariat. A draft resolution was submitted for the approval of the Conference (E/CONF.69/C.V/L.3).

82. On the matter of reliability statements, there was agreement on the

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20/ United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I ..., pp. 9-12.

21/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I ..., pp. 10-17.

desirability of providing information as to the accuracy of names in names source documents (including maps for example) and on whether the names concerned had been approved by the national names authority, whether they had been field-collected or taken from documentary sources and so on. A resolution drafted in collaboration with Committee II was submitted for the approval of the Conference (E/CONF.69/C.V/L.1).

83. The difficulty of providing information on the pronunciation of geographical names nationally standardized in non-phonetic writing was discussed. A resolution drafted in collaboration with Committee II was submitted for the approval of the Conference (E/CONF.69/C.V/L.4).

84. In the discussion of the scope and development of procedures in exchange of information, it was noted that many aspects were being dealt with by Committee II under item 9 of the agenda (training courses). With reference to resolution 5 of the First Conference and resolution 32 of the Second Conference, concerning dissemination of decisions by national names authorities, and the recommendation in resolution 32 that the United Nations Secretariat should distribute the material it received, it was noted that the United Nations Secretariat would distribute information on such material but not the material itself. The Chairman urged the delegates to establish, upon returning to their countries, channels for receiving United Nations documents relating to names as they are distributed to their countries. With reference to resolution 15 of the Second Conference, E. Meynen announced that his bibliography was expected to be published towards the end of 1977. Copies would be sent gratis to delegates attending the Conference. The desirability of consultation between countries before one produced a gazetteer of another was also stressed.

85. The growing productiveness of divisional and interdivisional meetings and co-operative programmes was noted with satisfaction. A draft resolution encouraging the continuation and expansion of those activities was submitted for the approval of the Conference (E/CONF.69/C.V/L.2).

86. In discussion of the problems of technical assistance, the subject of resolution 6 of the First Conference and resolution 27 of the Second Conference, the Executive Secretary explained that the following forms of technical assistance were possible through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):  
(a) experts or advisers, (b) equipment and (c) fellowships.

87. The representative of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) made a brief statement on that body's relations with the Group of Experts in its maritime nomenclature work, which was being discussed in detail in Committee II. Mr. Randall, representing the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), gave a brief report on the situation there as it affected geographical names and terminology. The Chairman reported that, as instructed by the Group of Experts, he had written to the Universal Postal Union (UPU) expressing interest in co-operation. The reply from UPU was that their structure was such that no possibility of useful co-operation with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names could be foreseen. The Chairman had yet to make contact with the International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IUOTO), as suggested in resolution 38 of the Second Conference.

88. Concerning that part of resolution 26 of the Second Conference relating to the question of international conventions, the Group of Experts had examined

that subject and concluded that it was not desirable to pursue the idea of conventions further.

89. No progress was reported in co-operation with public information media.

90. The following resolutions were recommended for reiteration: resolution 6 of the First Conference, and resolutions 13, 17, 20, 27, 32, 35 and 38 of the Second Conference.

#### Action by the Conference

91. On the recommendation of Committee V, the Conference adopted resolutions concerning a reliability statement on geographical names in documents (resolution 4); divisional activities and meetings (resolution 5); a list of country names (resolution 6); and aids to pronunciation (resolution 7).