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**MATERIALS FOR DISCUSSION ON EXONYMS**

Paper presented by the Polish People's Republic

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The definition of an exonym has already twice been discussed within international co-operation: at the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, London 1972, and at the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names meeting in 1973.

As a result we are granted with two informations:

1. According to the United Nations document No. E/Conf.61/L./Rev., May 1972

Exonym: 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 language or languages of the area where the geographical entity is situated.

2. According to the United Nations document ESA/RT/C/GN/3, March 1973

An exonym is a written form of a geographical name used in a certain language for a geographical entity situated outside the area where the language has official status and differing in its form from the name used in the official language or languages of the area where the geographical entity is situated.

A conventional name is an exonym which is widely and currently used.

A traditional name is an exonym which is long established as well as being presently in use.

Both these definitions, however, do not account for the existence of various types of languages (isolating, agglutinative, inflexional, alternating) among which foreign geographical names are adopted. Especially inflexional languages, among them also Slavonic languages with particularly rich inflexion (except Bulgarian and Macedonian) and derivational capacities, enforce formation of a greater number of exonyms than in other language groups.

The point is less obvious in cartographic publications (maps, globes, etc.) in which a geographical name is a written sign which is not necessarily pronounced. In a text, however, whether it is scientific, popular or literary one, in press or other mass media, geographical names have to conform to the rules of a native language, i.e. they must undergo declension, serve as a base of adjective formation, etc.

Let us consider several examples from Polish:

French Le Havre takes the form Hawr and is declined Gen. Hawru, Loc. w Hawrze.

German Braunschweig - Polish Brunszwik, Gen. Brunszwiku, Loc. w Brunszwiku, adjective brunswicki.

Dutch Den Haag - Polish Haga, Gen. Hagi, Loc. w Hadze, adjective haski.

The proper name Liverpool in Polish is not an exonym, since this form is subject to declension: Gen. Liverpoolu, but the official name Liverpool Bay has to be changed into an exonym Zatoka Liverpoolska.

If one of the elements in a compound name is an exonym, then the second must also become an exonym. Let us consider Zillertaler Alpen; since there exist various names for mountains (Alpen, Alpes, Alpi) an exonym Alpy is justified in Polish. Thus, although the name Zillertal is not an exonym, this part of the Alps has been named with an exonym: Alpy Zillertalskie.

An additional number of exonyms is set up when geographical names are transcribed from non-latin alphabets. Even if international principles of romanization of these alphabets are agreed upon, the official Polish orthography, binding since 1936, has some codified methods of their representation by means of letters from Polish alphabet, and radical changes in such representation seem impossible to be introduced.

Other difficulties are posed by these cases where both languages in question use latin alphabet, but they differ in the use of diacritical marks. Omission of diacritical marks, their substitution by letters or sequences of letters leads, from the formal point of view, to the formation of exonyms. However, we are of the opinion that such operations do not form exonyms and e.g. Polish Calarasi instead of Romanian Călarăși or La Montania instead of Spanish La Montana are not exonyms. Also Lodz, which is formed by omission of diacritical marks in Polish proper name Łódź is not an exonym.

The two types of exonyms differentiated in 1973 (conventional and traditional name) are worth being complemented by the third one: historical name - for exonyms used in the past and indispensable in historical maps and texts concerning history.

Here we should quote the cases like former Polish Królewiec - exonym to German Königsberg, presently Kaliningrad in USSR, or former Polish Raguza from Italian Ragusa - presently Dubrovnik in Yugoslavia.

Historical exonyms should be distinguished from historical names which were not exonyms in other languages, such as Sredec or Serdika - former names of present Bulgarian Sofia.

To sum up the argument we claim that the number of exonyms on maps can be reduced, but in texts they are unavoidable and their reduction must be a long and gradual process. Such duality, however, entails certain inconveniences, e.g. the form of names used in geographical textbooks and in encyclopaedias would differ from these on maps.