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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 THIRD UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Report by the Africa West Division of the United Nations
Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

Paper presented by the Africa West Division of the
United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

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** Prepared by Mr. O. Adebekun, Division Chairman, Federal Survey Department,
P.M.B. 12596, Lagos, Nigeria

Between 1977 when the last Regional Conference on the Standardisation of Geographical Names was held, and now, there had been practically very little or no activities at the Divisional level. All efforts made to have a meeting of the countries of the Division ended in failure. Consequently, the activities of the Division were conducted through correspondences.

In all there were about 4 correspondences with all the countries of the Division, and it was anticipated that there would be reactions to these correspondences. Only the Republic of Ghana replied to one of them. In the case of that country, there is no local body officially constituted for the standardisation of Geographical Names. Until 1970, the subject was handled by the National Atlas Project under the Council for Scientific and industrial Research with the Survey Department and the Geography Department of the University of Ghana Legon assisting. The personalities interested in the subject had all left the scene, and since then a vacuum has been created. Ghana considers the subject as of immense importance and would like to cover it if time and funds were available. At the moment however, the situation was bleak. It was then suggested that the Commission for Geodesy in Africa, or the African Association of Cartography or the E.C.A. Regional Cartography Conference in Africa should include the subject in their studies and conferences.

The next E.C.A. Regional Cartography Conference in Africa is proposed for Cairo in the first week of February 1983 and it is hoped that many countries in Africa will be represented at the Conference. It will then be possible to have a meeting of the representatives of Africa (West Division).

All the correspondences from the Chief of Cartography Section, Cartography and Information Services Branch, Natural Resources and Energy Division, Department of Technical Cooperation for Development as well as those correspondences from the Chairman of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) were circulated to all the Survey Departments of the countries in Africa (West Division).

