



Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CONF.74/L.79
25 August 1982

ENGLISH ONLY

Fourth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names
Geneva, 24 August to 14 September 1982
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR
REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Report by Cyprus

Paper presented by Cyprus

* E/CONF.74/1.

1. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The history of the Cartography of Cyprus covers a period of more than 2000 years. In his monumental work under the title "Geographiki Ifigisi" dating back to 160 A.D. Claudius Ptolemaeus of Alexandria, mentioned that he mapped Cyprus. This monumental work, which later became known to the West as Ptolemy's Geographia, was ignored by the Romans and remained dormant for several centuries. However, Ptolemy's map of Cyprus was in use until replaced by western marine cartographers. Consequently the geographical names of Cyprus have an old history from a cartographic as well as a cultural point of view. The geographical names of Cyprus reflect, as research students and scholars can witness, the historical and social conditions which prevailed in the long history of the island.

- 1.2. A milestone in the history of the cartography of Cyprus is Lord Kitchener's mapping of the island in 1878-1882. The map which was at a scale of one inch to one mile, covered the island in 15 sheets. As the language of the administration in the island was at the time English, the map was produced in English.

- 1.3. Since its independence, Cyprus is being mapped in Greek and Turkish, the two official languages of the island, as well as English. It goes without saying that for the three editions of the map of Cyprus the geographical names adopted are in the language of publication. In this context falls the name of the island of Cyprus, those of the towns, villages, mountains, plains, rivers, capes, gulfs and all locality or place names which appear on the maps.

2. PROGRESS MADE IN STANDARDIZATION

- 2.1. The Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names has continued its work in the parts of the island which are under Government control on the same lines as described in the previous report. The main task was undertaken by the same two services viz. the Department of Lands and Surveys and the Cyprus Research Center.
- 2.2. During the period 1977-1982, a total of approximately 650 square miles have been mapped at scale 1/5000 and some 9000 geographical names have been collected. The total area mapped so far in Cyprus is 2169 square miles and represents about 61% of the total area of Cyprus. Standardization and transliteration of the geographical names collected is nearing completion.
- 2.3. In addition to the systematic mapping at scale 1/5,000, three new editions of maps, all in English, have been produced since the last progress report. These are:-
 - (a) The Cyprus Touring Map at scale 1/250,000.
 - (b) Mediterranean Sea. Cyprus Nautical Chart at scale 1/250,000.
 - (c) The Cyprus State Forests Map at scale 1/250,000.

3. LINGUISTIC DIVISION

- 3.1. Cyprus is a member of three Linguistic Divisions as follows:-
 - (a) The Romano-Hellenic Division.
 - (b) The East/Central and South-East Europe Division.
 - (c) The Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic Division).
- 3.2. Cyprus has agreed with Greece on a common system of transcription from Greek to the Roman alphabet.

4. FUTURE PROGRAM

- 4.1. Under item 7(a) of the provisional agenda Cyprus is submitting a Concise Gazetteer of geographical names. When the mapping and collection of names is completed,

hopefully by the next Conference, a Gazetteer containing some 60,000 geographical names will be produced, covering all the toponyms of Cyprus.

- 4.2. As stated in the introductory note in the Gazetteer, the geographical names are given in either Greek or Turkish as the case may be and only the Greek names have been transliterated into the Roman script.