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Fourth United Nations Conference on the
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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 the Ukrainian SSR

Paper presented by the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic^{1/}

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FOURTH UN CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Geneva, August 24 - September 14, 1982
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NATIONAL REPORT OF THE UKRAINIAN
SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

Submitted by the Government of the
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic

In the past five years the intensive work on standardization of geographical names continued in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. It included practically all the directions, determined by the III UN Conference in Athens. As before the organizing centres of this work were the Presidium of Supreme Soviet of the Republic, local Soviets of working peoples' deputies, Institute of Linguistics of the Academy of Science of Ukrainian SSR, Main Editorial Board of Ukrainian Soviet Encyclopaedia, Geographical Departments of universities. The results of work on standardization of geographical names are extremely versatile. Only some of them will be discussed here.

Official registration and recording of all current changes in geographical names is a very important task to be solved on the highest level of standardization. The settlements and administrative-territorial units (32,5 thousands according to the 1970 census) were fully standardized by the present time. Information on changes is continually published in the "Records of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic". It includes the data on changes of the status, boundaries, formation, unification, abolition, naming, renaming, simplification and clarification of geographical names. 1585 such names were recorded and officially registered during 1977-1981.

The problem of standardization of hydronyms is being successfully solved for the territory of the Republic. "Dictionary of Ukrainian Hydronyms" was published in 1979 by the Institute of Linguistics of the Academy of Science of Ukrainian SSR. This is the first and comparatively full description of names of rivers and other water-ways, compiled in accordance with literary, historical, linguistic, geographical and local characteristics. It includes more than 20 000 main names and 24 000 variant names. It is aimed to concentrate, describe and regulate the spelling of names of water objects in the Republic. This unique work is the result of many years of labour of a large group of scientists and public in dialect-toponymic expeditions, as well as etymological, grammatic studies and hydronym functioning investigations.

Growth and economic, social and cultural development of cities and towns require close attention to the problem of standardization of geographical names inside a town. Publication of "Streets of Kiev" reference-book for the Capital of the Ukrainian SSR, which celebrates this year its 1500 anniversary, is a good example. The reference book contains standard names of all the squares, boulevards, avenues, streets, lanes and residential districts of the city (2179 names), as well as their code, geographical local characteristics, names' history, list of renamed and abolished names during the city reconstruction. The same work is done in other Republican cities and towns.

The work of correct transliteration of non-Ukrainian geographical names into Ukrainian language and Ukrainian geographical names into other languages, especially Russian, went on. A new development in this field - Second publication of Ukrainian Soviet Encyclopaedia (12 volumes in all, 7 were published since 1977). The Encyclopaedia is published in Ukrainian and Russian. There will be 8180 special articles on the subject of geographical names and 1800 maps in 12 volumes. Total number of standard geographical names used in the Encyclopaedia will be about 300 000. Encyclopaedias are extremely popular in Ukrainian SSR and they are published in large numbers (50 000 copies of the second edition of Ukrainian Soviet Encyclopaedia are published in Ukrainian SSR). It is difficult to overestimate the great importance of the Encyclopaedia for introduction of the standard geographical names not to a narrow circle of specialists, but to everyday life of all the people.

School atlases are very useful for wide popularization of standard geographical names. They are published separately for each of 25 Ukrainian provinces and prepared by Geographical Department of State Kiev University. The first atlas of these series - "Atlas of Kiev Province" was published in 1980 in 20 000 copies. Historical - Geographical Atlas of Republic's Capital - Kiev - is being prepared for publication.

The work on standardization of geographical names in Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic is carried out in close contact with the other Republics of the USSR, Formation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, with Her 60th anniversary being celebrated this year, provided legal and actual equality of all the nations and peoples included therein, greatly stimulated economic and spiritual development of the Soviet society, benefited all sides of life of each Republic. Such a specific problem as geographical names' standardization can be viewed as a good example. Using Russian as an intermediary language, which in multinational Soviet Socialist State had been chosen by all the peoples of the USSR as a language for contact and cooperation, the Republics, including Ukrainian SSR have a possibility together use the dictionaries on transliteration of geographical names on maps as well as reference dictionaries for different territories of the USSR or abroad. Such problems of geographical names' standardization as national standardization, computerized

processing of data, traditional names, systems of writing and others are solved jointly.

The delegation of Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic hopes that the positive solution of problems included into the agenda of the 4th UN Conference in the spirit of international cooperation and respect of national sovereignty will promote further achievements in the field of standardization of geographical names both on national and international levels.