



UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 23

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Impressum

UNGEEN
NEWSLETTER

The *Newsletter of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN Newsletter)* is issued approximately twice a year by the Secretariat of the Group. The Secretariat is established within the Statistical Division (UNSD), Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Secretariat of the United Nations. It publishes contributions/reports from the Experts of the Group, its Linguistic/Geographical Divisions and its Working Groups.

Contributions for the Newsletter can only be considered when they are made available in digital form. They should be sent to the following address:

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and Laaribi@un.org

Preface

Message from the Chairman

Dear UNGEGN Experts:

I was very pleased to receive a copy of the Draft Report of the 20th Session of the UNGEGN, and to read how successful the Session was.

I express my sincere appreciation to Dr Hermann Habermann, Director of the UN Statistics Division, under whom the Group of Experts falls, and to his staff; to Ms Helen Kerfoot, who acted as Chair in terms of Rule 7 (1) of the UNGEGN Rules of Procedure; to Mr Botolv Helleland, the acting Vice-Chair; to the Rapporteurs, Mr Roger L. Payne and Mr Randall E. Flynn; to the Chairpersons and members of the Divisions; to the Convenors and members of the Working Groups; to the interpreters and other support staff of the United Nations, and to all others who helped make the 20th Session of the UNGEGN the success it was. I learnt with appreciation that seven Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors had been submitted to the Session. These Guidelines have often been cited as among the most useful products of the Group of Experts. As you know, resolution 7 of the 6th UN Conference on the Standardization of

Geographical Names recommends the publication in combined volumes of the Guidelines. A number of UNGEGN experts have sent me the Guidelines of their countries for this purpose. However, a resolution was adopted at the 7th Conference advocating web-based or electronic publication of the Guidelines. Electronically published Guidelines are less expensive to maintain, quick to keep updated, and readily accessible. Furthermore, more and more countries are publishing their Guidelines independently. Publishing these Guidelines in combined volumes as well would be a duplication of existing publications. In addition, publishing Guidelines in combined volumes in printed media would be an expensive undertaking, and it is uncertain where such funding would be found. Perhaps a decision on whether to continue with the publication of Guidelines in combined volumes may be considered at the next UNGEGN Session.

The second edition of United Nations Documents on Geographical Names is progressing favourably. This

publication is being expanded to include the fourth version of the Glossary of Toponymic Terminology under the editorship of Mr Naftali Kadmon (Israel); an edited version by Mr Randall E. Flynn (USA) of the report on Toponymic Data Exchange Formats and Standards; the list of Names of Countries, edited by Ms Sylvie Lejeune (France); and a report on Romanization Systems, edited by Mr Peeter Pall (Estonia). With a view to determining the required print run, I would appreciate experts informing me how many copies each would need for his or her country.

I take this opportunity of reminding experts of my current address, namely
Names Research Institute
P.O. 26582 GEZINA
Pretoria 0031 SOUTH AFRICA
My e-mail address is rmoller@mweb.co.za
Telephone: 27-12-332-1518 or 27-12-800-1486
Fax: 27-12-332-4182.

I look forward to meeting you again in Berlin, if not before.

Peter E. Raper
Chairman, UNGEGN

Report from the Vice-Chair

The Twentieth session of UNGEGN is now behind us, and we can look back on the valuable work of Member states presented at this session in New York in January 2000. Clearly we still have work to undertake to encourage and continue the tasks of geographical names standardization, and on behalf of UNGEGN I have taken several steps to start following up various activities of the Twentieth session, hoping this will also move us towards the Eighth Conference in Berlin in August 2002.

(1) Meetings at United Nations Headquarters

In mid-March I spent two days at United Nations Headquarters in New York, meeting with Mr. Hermann Habermann and Mr. Amor Laaribi (Statistics Division). Discussion took place to further progress on the following:

- UN editing, printing and distribution of the report of the twentieth session of UNGEGN (in the six UN languages)
- Producing a brief report from UNGEGN to ECOSOC on the Twentieth session for endorsement of the Twenty-first session
- Initiating and implementing the process for the United Nations to publish:

the UNGEGN glossary of terminology (one publication in six languages) and

the UNGEGN brochure publicizing the work of geographical names (separate brochures in the six UN languages)

- Finding a way to reproduce and distribute the technical documents of the Seventh UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (1998)

- Ensuring UN Secretariat support and action on the development of an UNGEGN website as a focal point to provide information and links to other UNGEGN sites

- Planning for three issues of the UNGEGN Newsletter to be put in place before the 2002 Conference

- Re-iterating the necessity of, and ensuring, UN Secretariat support in UNGEGN activities and in maintenance of “archival” UNGEGN documents

- Considering ways of improving the functioning of UNGEGN technical sessions

- Providing outreach to Member states not yet participating in geographical names standardization programmes

- Continuing cooperation in promoting UNGEGN activities

and planning for the Eighth UN Conference

I also met with Mr. Miklos Pinther, Cartographic Section (Library and Publications Division), the author of WP 71 presented at the Twentieth session of UNGEGN, about the development of the United Nations Geographic Database. Conceptually this provides a very interesting opportunity for each Member state to provide and promote its own correct, up-to-date standardized toponymy for a data base with world-wide coverage. I will keep in touch with the Cartographic Section about the development of this project, and ways in which UNGEGN members can be kept current and can contribute to this UN data base.

The UNGEGN brochure on standardization of geographical names (the English-language version produced through the Working Group on Publicity and Funding, and recently printed by Mr. John Parker in Australia) is now available on the UN Cartography Section web site (refer to <http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/english/html.htm>)

(2) Reference Compendium of Technical Papers

I am in the process of expanding and updating the *Compendium of Technical Papers presented at UN Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names and the Sessions of UNGEGN* (see WP 8, from January 2000). Documents from the Twentieth session of UNGEGN have been added, previous information is being upgraded, and information supplied by UNGEGN members included. **If you have prepared lists of UN documents available in your office, I would**

be happy to add them, before providing the digital file to the UN Secretariat and the UN Map Library.

(3) GeoNames 2000

GeoNames 2000 symposium in Frankfurt am Main, March 29-30, 2000 was most successful and I congratulate Dr. Jörn Sievers and his organizing committee on an interesting and productive meeting. A summary report of this symposium is included in this Newsletter. In Frankfurt there

was also the opportunity to discuss plans being developed for the Eighth UN Conference in Berlin in August 2002.

REQUEST TO DIVISIONS, AND DIVISION CHAIRS

- **Compilation of contact information on authorities responsible for national geographical names standardization**

In the past, the UN Secretariat and UNGEGN working groups endeavoured to compile a contact list of authorities responsible for nationally standardized geographical names for each Member state.

This material is incomplete and now out-of-date. However, it seems a basic tool for UNGEGN and for general information and communication purposes. The UN Secretariat could compile this material, but needs your help in researching it! I request all Divisions to compile the contact names and addresses, e-mail, website, fax and phone numbers, etc. of the national authority (or authorities)

responsible for nationally standardized names within the countries in their Division. Please forward material on this topic to Ms. Jenny Javier at the UN Secretariat as soon as it is available.

Helen Kerfoot
Vice-Chair, UNGEGN
Natural Resources Canada
Ottawa, Canada
hkerfoot@NRCan.gc.ca

News from the Headquarters

From the Secretariat

Dear UNGEGN Experts,

I welcome this opportunity of communicating with you to express my pleasure to be working with you and to be leading the secretariat of UNGEGN. First, allow me to introduce myself: my name is Amor Laaribi, a native of Tunisia where I completed a Bachelor of Science in Physics (1977). I attended the National Polytechnic Institute of Grenoble (France) and received in 1979 a Master's degree in Hydraulics and Land Management and in 1981 an Engineer Diploma in Informatics and Applied Mathematics. In 1994, I earned a PhD in GIS from Laval University in Québec (Canada). I have over 18 years of experience working in the areas of utility service planning, land management, geographic information systems for decision-making, public-sector information planning and evaluation, teaching, and research & development. In the last five years, my particular interests focus on the elaboration of a national policy and strategy for geographic information in Tunisia aimed at building the national spatial data infrastructure (NSDI) and the participation in the promotion of a regional data

infrastructure in Africa - through the ECA Committee on Development Information (CODI) and the FAO project AFRICOVER.

In March 2000, I joined the UN within the Office of the Director, Statistics Division. My tasks are to define and plan the priorities of UN in geographic information area and to contribute in promoting the use of GIS within the Statistics Division; supporting the use of GIS in census mapping, through UNSD projects and initiatives; and also empowering the strategic use of geographic information in developing countries.

I believe that the UN Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names, UNGEGN sessions and the Regional Cartographic Conferences are entering a new era which will capitalize on the new information and communication technologies. In this regard, geographical names information must be managed so that it can be collected, disseminated and used efficiently and effectively. That is why, in order to enhance the

dissemination of the UNGEGN publications, the next step is to develop the UNGEGN Web-Site.

The Glossary of Geographical Names Terminology and the UNGEGN Brochure are in the process of editing and publishing in the six UN official languages. Also, Volume II of the 7th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names will be compiled by UNSD and will include technical papers that had been submitted to the Secretariat before the Conference deadline.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to this Newsletter. I look forward to receiving further contributions from all of you; I need your support and co-operation to continue the work of the UNGEGN Secretariat and Newsletter publications. Comments and suggestions to enhance the "look" of the Newsletter are welcomed.

Amor Laaribi
Secretary, UNGEGN
Statistics Division
United Nations, New York

La Division francophone du GENUNG

Créée par décision du Conseil économique et social des Nations Unies du 23 juillet 1998 (ECOSOC/5789), la Division francophone du groupe d'experts des Nations Unies pour les noms géographiques (GENUNG) a tenu sa première réunion formelle le 20 janvier 2000, à l'occasion de la 20ème session du GENUNG (New York, 17-28 janvier 2000). A l'occasion de cette réunion, les principaux résultats suivants ont été enregistrés :

- M. Pierre PLANQUES, représentant de la France, a été élu président de la division à l'unanimité des membres présents ou représentés. Le Secrétariat de la Commission de toponymie du Canada (anciennement le Comité permanent canadien des noms géographiques) et la Commission de toponymie du Québec ont offert leur soutien logistique aux activités de la division.
- Sont, pour le moment, considérés comme membre de la division les personnes ayant rempli le formulaire distribué dans le Bulletin d'information toponymique n°1 (juillet 1999). Naturellement, cette liste n'est pas close, et toute personne souhaitant participer aux travaux de la division est la bienvenue. Il

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suffit pour cela de contacter Pierre PLANQUES ou Sylvie LEJEUNE de l'Institut Géographique National de France (voir coordonnées ci-après)

- Le site web de la division continue à être hébergé sur le site de la Commission de toponymie du Québec (Canada). Toute l'actualité de la division, les documents de base, la liste des membres, les informations intéressantes, etc... sont (ou seront très prochainement) ainsi accessibles via le site de la division <http://www.toponymie.gouv.qc.ca/divfranco.htm>
- Le Bulletin d'information toponymique est prévu avec une diffusion annuelle. Le bulletin n°1 avait été diffusé en juillet 99, le n°2 sera élaboré et diffusé cette année (2000). Si vous n'êtes pas membre de la division et si vous souhaitez recevoir ce bulletin, merci d'en avertir le président.
- Le plan d'action de la division est en cours d'élaboration et sera finalisé avant la fin du premier semestre. Ce plan d'action prévoit notamment diverses actions liées au démarrage de la division, mais aussi une réflexion et le démarrage d'actions de fond : cours de toponymie,

exonymes de langue française,...

Quelques coordonnées utiles :

- Pierre PLANQUES
IGN, 2 avenue Pasteur
94160 Saint-Mandé
France
tél : (33) 1 43 98 83 47
fax : (33) 1 43 98 84 03
mél : pierre.planques@ign.fr
- Sylvie LEJEUNE
IGN, 2 avenue Pasteur
94160 Saint-Mandé, France
tél : (33) 1 43 98 80 00
fax : (33) 1 43 98 84 48
mél : sylvie.lejeune@ign.fr
- Site de la division francophone :
<http://www.toponymie.gouv.qc.ca/divfranco.htm>
- Bulletin d'information toponymique n°1 :
<http://www.toponymie.gouv.qc.ca/dfbulletin1.htm>
Ce bulletin peut également vous être adressé sur simple demande auprès de P.PLANQUES ou S.LEJEUNE
- Version française du Glossaire de terminologie toponymique, dont la version originale en anglais a été réalisée sous la responsabilité du Professeur KADMON (Israel)

<http://www.toponymie.gouv.qc.ca/kadmon.htm>

ce document peut également vous être adressé sur simple demande auprès de P. PLANQUES ou S. LEJEUNE

Quelques nouvelles francophones

- Au printemps 1999, les autorités toponymiques de la France et du Québec (Canada) ont lancé, à l'occasion du Salon du livre de Paris et du Salon du livre de Québec, un ouvrage, abondamment illustré, qu'elles ont réalisé en commun : **La France et le Québec : des noms de lieux en partage**. On y retrouve une collection précieuse extraite des patrimoines toponymiques français et québécois, soit les noms de lieux qui, au cours de l'histoire, ont migré de la France vers la province du Québec

(Canada) et quelques-uns du Québec vers la France.

- Le 15 novembre 1999, l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies a adopté la résolution A/54/L.25 intitulée **Coopération entre l'Organisation des Nations Unies et l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie**. Ce document important pourra se révéler utile comme instrument de support de la mission de la Division francophone, en particulier par son article 5 :

"[L'Assemblée générale] *Se félicite* de l'implication des pays ayant le français en partage, notamment à travers l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, dans les activités de l'Organisation des Nations

Unies, y compris dans la préparation, le déroulement et le suivi des conférences internationales organisées sous l'égide des Nations Unies;"

- À l'automne 2000, se tiendront des états généraux québécois sur la langue française. Au Canada, particulièrement au Québec, la problématique de la langue française embrasse le dossier du traitement des noms de lieux, étant donné que le mandat de la Commission de toponymie du Québec est inscrit dans la **Charte de la langue française**, l'une des lois fondamentales de la société québécoise.

Pierre Planques

Président

Division francophone du GENUNG

Norden Division

Foreign Names in Norden (Utanlandske namn i Norden)

The proceedings of the conference *Foreign names in Norden* (Utanlandske namn i Norden) have appeared as vol. 68 in the series NORNA-rapporter, ed. by Botolv Helleland & Leif Nilsson, both members of UNGEGN. Uppsala 1999. ISSN 0346-6728, ISBN 91-7276-066-4.

The volume contains 18 papers, dealing with such issues as the standardization and use of foreign place-names in the Nordic

countries, including exonyms and endonyms, and the role played by United Nations in this context, further transliteration, especially Romanization, standards for using place-names on maps and in atlases and dictionaries, place-names in minority languages, names in cultural contact, foreign personal names both past and present, and the Anglo-American influence on names of Norwegian firms and institutions. Three of the articles are written in English, the

rest of them in Scandinavian languages, with summaries in English.

Key-words: conference report, foreign names, proper names, place-names, personal names, family names, exonyms, endonyms, names on maps, names in atlases, names in dictionaries, names in cultural contact.

Botolv Helleland

Oslo, Norway

Working Group on Country Names

Rapport du groupe de travail sur les Noms de Pays du Monde

Lors de la 20e session, et en l'absence de sa coordonnatrice, la présidente du GENUNG a dirigé la réunion du groupe de travail sur les Noms de Pays du Monde. Le document de travail n°33 a été présenté, qui comportait une quarantaine de changements intervenus depuis la dernière session de 1998, en incluant également les corrections effectuées dans le document E/CONF.91/L.65/Add.1 (19/01/1998).

A l'issue de cette session, la présidente a recommandé au groupe le programme de travail suivant :

- continuer de mettre à jour et de compléter les formes officielles locales,
- étendre la liste aux autres langues officielles des Nations Unies ; à noter que les noms en russe ont été proposés par Mme Krauze-Tomczyk, en collaboration avec M. Boginskij, de Moscou, expert du groupe régional pour l'Europe de l'Est, de l'Asie du Nord et l'Asie Centrale du GENUNG,
- comparer les listes existantes, afin de relever les divergences et d'essayer, dans la mesure du possible, de les réduire,
- examiner les moyens de diffuser largement la liste complète ainsi que les mises à jour.

Enfin, les experts présents ont exprimé le souhait que le groupe de travail établisse une nouvelle liste exhaustive, plutôt qu'une simple mise à jour, pour la 8e Conférence à Berlin en 2002. Le groupe de travail remercie vivement les experts pour les informations qu'ils voudront bien lui communiquer concernant le nom de leur pays dans la ou les langues officielles.

Membres du groupe de travail:

- Mme Sylvie Lejeune, coordonnatrice Institut Géographique National SIT/Unité de toponymie 2, avenue Pasteur - 94160 Saint-Mandé, France fax : (33) 1 43 98 84 48, mél : sylvie.lejeune@ign.fr
- Mr Assad Abdo (Arabie Saoudite)
- Mr Christian Bonnelly (Québec, Canada)
- Mrs Caroline Burgess (Royaume-Uni)
- Mr Charlie Heyda (USA)
- Mme Krauze-Tomczyk (Pologne)
- Mr Georgios Makridis (Grèce)
- Mr Peeter Päll (Estonie)
- Mr Juan Quine (Pérou)
- Mme Jocelyne Revie (Canada)
- Mr Sandro Toniolo (Italie)
- Mr Paul Woodman (Royaume-Uni)

La liste des noms de pays est hébergée sur le site web de la Délégation Générale à la Langue Française (DGLF), instance rattachée au Ministère de la Culture ; ce site présente des listes générales des noms de pays regroupés par langues (anglais, espagnol et français), et les tableaux établis par le groupe de travail pour la dernière Conférence de 1998. Ce site peut être consulté à l'adresse suivante :

<http://www.culture.fr/culture/dglf/ressources/pays/pays.htm>

Par ailleurs, la division de cartographie de l'ONU diffuse sur son site web une liste de noms de pays accompagnée d'informations pratiques, à l'adresse suivante :

<http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/english/geoinfo/geoname.pdt>

Enfin, sur l'invitation du PCGN (Royaume-Uni), le groupe de travail a formé le projet de tenir une réunion à Londres, en mai 2001, en vue de préparer une nouvelle édition de la liste pour la Conférence de Berlin, en 2002. Les membres du groupe de travail recevront prochainement les informations pratiques relatives à cette réunion.

Mme Sylvie Lejeune (France)
*Coordonnatrice,
Groupe de travail sur les Noms de Pays
du Monde*

Working Group on Gazetteers and Toponymic Data Files

Working Group Membership

The following experts are members of the Working Group:

Mr. Milan Orožen ADAMIË, Slovenia
Mrs. Caroline BURGESS, United Kingdom
Mr. Traian CONSTANTINESCU, Romania
Mr. Randall FLYNN, United States (convenor)
Ms. Mária KOVÁĚOVÁ, Slovakia
Mr. Teemu LESKINEN, Finland
Mr. Hamid MALMIRIAN, Iran
Mr. Roger MARSDEN, United Kingdom
Mr. Jorma MARTTINEN, Finland
Ms. Kathleen O'BRIEN, Canada
Mr. Peeter PÄLL, Estonia
Mr. Juan QUIÑE Vigil, Peru
Mr. Jörn SIEVERS, Germany
Ms. Vita STRAUTNIECE, Latvia
Mr. Lou YOST, United States

Background and Terms of Reference

Separate working groups on gazetteers and automated data processing had existed under the auspices of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) since the 1970's. The two topics – toponymic information processing and the formatting of toponymic information in publishable form – were so intertwined that the fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSSGN) in 1982 recommended in Resolution IV/18 that they be

treated in concert in subsequent UN proceedings:

The Conference ... recommends that future United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names and sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should consider both subjects under the single agenda item "Toponymic data files, (a) creation, (b) maintenance and (c) output, including gazetteer production".

UNGEGN established the Working Group on Gazetteers and Toponymic Data Files in its present form during its nineteenth session in 1998, when the existing Working Group of that name combined with the Working Group on Toponymic Data Exchange Formats and Standards, the latter having been created at the eighteenth session of UNGEGN in 1996 in order to investigate issues relating to the encoding of characters encountered in geographical names.

The Working Group endeavors to promote and further the aims of UNGEGN relating to the collection and dissemination of geographic names information as stated in the first report of the Group of Experts in 1960:

It is recommended that names authorities publish standardized names in gazetteer

form as well as on maps since much information necessary for the proper understanding and interpretation of names cannot be included readily on maps.

This seminal recommendation has been underscored and amplified in numerous resolutions of the subsequent United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names. Resolution 4 of the first UNCSSGN defined the recommended content of nationally produced authoritative gazetteers and toponymic data files:

It is recommended that each names authority produce, and continually revise, appropriate gazetteers of all its standardized geographical names.

It is further recommended that, in addition to the standardized names, each gazetteer include, as a minimum, such information as is necessary for the proper location and identification of the named features.

In particular, it is recommended that the following be included:

(a) The kind of feature to which the name applies;

(b) Precise description of the location and the extent, including a point position reference if possible, of each named feature;

(c) Provision for the parts of natural features to be additionally defined by

reference to the whole and for the names of extended features to be defined as necessary by reference to their constituent parts;

(d) Such information on administrative or regional areas as is considered necessary and, if possible, reference to a map or chart within which the features lie;

(e) All officially standardized names for a feature, if there are more than one; and provision for cross-references to be made to names previously used for the same feature ...

The UNCISG has similarly recognized the importance of automated data processing in programs of national standardization and in Resolution I/3 (1967) urged experts to share lessons and experience gained in applying information technology to toponymic data management:

The Conference ... Recommends that all Member States already engaged in programmes of automatic data processing or which have been involved in discussions on automatic name data processing be requested to exchange information, for which purpose it would be useful to submit the reports in the official languages of the United Nations ...

Work Plan

At the 19th session of UNISG in New York, January 1998, the Working Group established the following outline of objectives:

1. Establish a Working Group newsletter to document and distribute news of events and developments relating to gazetteers and toponymic information exchange.
2. Maintain and revise the information contained in *Report*

of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Exchange Formats and Standards to the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

3. Establish liaison with the Unicode Consortium to represent the needs of the geographic information community for digital text encoding in the context of geographic names.

4. Establish contact with relevant activities under the auspices of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to influence the development of international standards for the exchange of toponymic information.

5. Promote the implementation of practical programs of toponymic data exchange.

6. Promote and conduct toponymic data exchange workshops to address issues associated with data exchange

The Working Group reported progress against the work plan at the 20th session of UNISG in Working Paper No. 46 *Report of the Working Group on Gazetteers and Toponymic Data Files for the Period 1998-1999.*

Working Group News

• Meetings

The Working Group held an informal meeting on January 25, 2000, during the 20th session of UNISG. It was agreed that the Group's newsletter should be issued by e-mail and fax, and should include items of interest pertaining to software, fonts, and availability of gazetteers and data

files. The Group also discussed the possibility of holding a meeting some time before the 8th UNISG in August 2002. Such a meeting would be used to coordinate and exchange information on toponymic databases, data exchange standards, recommendations for digital gazetteers, and the development of a simple package of software tools for toponymic data file maintenance that could be used in developing areas to begin projects of toponymic standardization. Preliminary plans are being made to hold such a meeting in Slovenia in the spring of 2001.

• Workshops and Symposia

Several Working Group members participated in the GeoNames 2000 symposium in Frankfurt am Main sponsored by the German Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN) and the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie, March 28 – 30, 2000. Mr. SIEVERS was primarily responsible for organizing the symposium, for which the Working Group expresses its great appreciation. Mr. LESKINEN presented a paper on the National Geographic Names Register of Finland. Mr. ADAMIÈ spoke on the treatment of geographical names in multilingual areas and the use of foreign names in Slovenia. Mr. PÄLL presented views regarding the relationship of romanized place name spellings to exonyms. Mr. FLYNN moderated the symposium session on Concepts of Names Databases. There was

general agreement among the symposium's participants that StAGN had organized an outstanding meeting that complemented the recently held UNGEGN session. The hope was expressed that future symposia could be organized to assist in exchange of views and information that sometimes cannot occur in the more constrained context of United Nations activities.

The organizers of the Digital Gazetteer Information Exchange Workshop held in Washington, October 13 –14, 1999, have issued a formal press release covering the results of the workshop. It can be found on the Internet at: http://www.alexandria.ucsb.edu/gazetteer/dgie/DGIE_website/DGIE_pressrelease.htm

The Workshop's home page is at: http://www.alexandria.ucsb.edu/gazetteer/dgie/DGIE_website/DGIE_homepage.htm

- *Working Group Web Site*

Mr. ADAMIË is developing a web site for the Working Group at the Geografski Inštitut Antona Melika (Anton Melik Institute of Geography). The address for the web site will be published and distributed to UN experts when the site nears completion.

- *Software and Fonts*

The Unicode Consortium has published Version 3.0 of the Unicode Standard, the official source of information regarding the content and implementation of the ISO/IEC 10646-1 standard (second edition) for the digital encoding of text characters.

Information about the publication may be found at:

<http://www.unicode.org/unicode/uni2book/u2.html>

Information about Unicode-enabled products may be found at:

<http://www.unicode.org/unicode/standard/UnicodeEnabledProducts.html>

Agfa Monotype recently announced that the company has updated its Arial font to include glyphs found in the Unicode 2.1 standard. The font now contains representations of over 51,000 separate characters covering most of the world's major scripts. The font is shipping with Microsoft's Office 2000.

The Working Group noted in its meeting in January that a key task in the promotion of the use of toponymic data files would be the development of a simple means to create and maintain such files digitally, using commonly available software. The foreign names staff of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names is experimenting with a potentially promising approach toward achieving this task. The approach ties a geographic names file managed in commonly available spreadsheet software to scanned and registered topographic maps managed using the freely available ArcExplorer software. The result is a freely distributable compact disk containing a names file, scanned maps, and software for use on personal computers. Further details about the project will be published in the Working Group's first newsletter, scheduled for publication this summer.

- **Availability of Gazetteers**

Mr. MALMIRIAN reports:

"IN THE NAME OF GOD

Since its inception, one of the main objectives of the National Geographical Organization (NGO) has been setting up the proper conditions for rapid access to the geographical information of the country in proportion to the latest scientific and technological advances. In order to realize this objective, NGO, in addition to producing maps in different scales, compiled and published a collection of gazetteers in the national levels of the country. In recent years, by setting up geographic information systems (GIS), NGO has improved easy and rapid access to the precise information for users. In pursuing our objective in the field of gazetteers, NGO has the honor to announce its latest work "The Gazetteer of Mountains in the Islamic Republic of Iran" in four volumes. As nearly 55% of the country is covered by mountains, the study of these regions for physical, human, and economic geography is going to be a prerequisite. This collection contains more than 16,000 entries for mountains, consisting of definitions of ranges, names, locations, heights, distances and other information separately in alphabetical order, as well as providing interesting pictures."

Randall Flynn

Convenor,

Working Group on Gazetteers and Toponymic Data File

Working Group on Toponymic Terminology

Glossary of Toponymic Terminology

The Working Group on Toponymic Terminology was established by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at its 15th session in 1991, and formally recognized by the 5th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1992. It has been discussing the Glossary at all meetings of UNGEGN and at all Conferences since then. From Version 1, in English, presented by the convenor of the Working Group as editor, the Glossary progressed to Version 4 and was

finalized at the 7th Conference in 1998. The main outstanding problem was the translation of the English text into the other five official languages of the United Nations. This was performed over the years by volunteers from among the experts of UNGEGN, but required updating to Version 4. Publication was postponed several times. Now, due to the efforts of Mr. Hermann Habermann, Chief of the Statistics Division of the United Nations, who acted as Executive Secretary of UNGEGN until the appointment of Mr. Laaribi to this

post, and the untiring work of Ms. Jennifer Javier who serves as an efficient "clearing house", the text is now undergoing editing by the U.N. Editing Service so as to bring it in line with U.N. terminology and spelling-- English first, and then the other five U.N. languages, before final publication. Readers of the Newsletter will be notified of further progress at the proper time.

Naftali Kadmon

*Convenor,
Working Group on Toponymic
Terminology*

Working Group on Publicity and Funding

The Working Group on Publicity and Funding was set up following the 1992 UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. Its aim is to work with other Place Name Experts and with the UN Secretariat in making the activities of UNGEGN more visible and, where appropriate, to seek funds to support the production of relevant publications and promotional material.

At the 20th session of UNGEGN in January 2000, Working Group Convenor John Parker presented Experts with the newly published English version of an UNGEGN brochure entitled "Consistent Use of Place Names". This was printed with generous support from the Australian Intergovernmental Committee on Survey and Mapping.

The brochure is accessible on the internet for downloading as a pdf file at: www.vicnames.vic.gov.au (the last entry of section 4 on the HomePage), and printed copies

can be obtained from John Parker (E-mail: park106@attglobal.net).

It is hoped that Experts will distribute "Consistent Use of Place Names" and include it on their website, but please note that if copies are made for translation into another language, a disclaimer should be added stating that the UN is not responsible for the translation.

A priority in the near future is the development of an UNGEGN website that will provide a focal point for disseminating news, information and publications and a network of web links with Working Groups, Divisions and a wide range of Toponymic Databases.

Dr. David Munro, Chairman of the UK Division, was appointed Convenor of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding at the 20th session of UNGEGN and the following experts volunteered to join the Group: Ass'ad S. Abdo (Saudi Arabia), Milan Adamic (Slovenia),

Braham Atoui (Algeria), Randall Flynn (USA), Bonnie Gallahan (USA), Isolde Hausner (Austria), Botolv Helleland (Norway), Helen Kerfoot (Canada), Ki-Suk Lee (Korea), Donall MacGiolla Easpaig (Ireland), Lucie M`ller (South Africa), Sirkka Paikkala (Finland), John Parker (Australia), Richard Randall (USA), Hans Ringstam (Sweden), J`rn Sievers (Germany).

Promoting the benefits of consistent naming and the work of the UNGEGN is a responsibility shared by all members of the Group of Experts. The Working Group on Publicity and Funding welcomes suggestions that will help it develop a strategy that can be put into action for the benefit of the whole Group as well as local, national and international communities engaged in a wide range of activities where Place Names play an important part.

David Munro
Chairman,
United Kingdom Division

Working Group on Romanization Systems

Dear UNGEGN Experts,
It is my pleasure to inform you that the UNGEGN Working Group on Romanization Systems has opened a website at the address <http://www.eki.ee/wgrs/>. The website contains an updated version of Working Paper 34 (United Nations Romanization Systems for Geographical Names. Preliminary Report on Their

Current Status) distributed at the 20th Session of UNGEGN in New York. Experts are kindly invited to study the content of the website and inform of any possible errors and new information that might be displayed there. This message is being sent to all experts whose e-mail addresses were listed in the Information Paper No. 6/Rev. of

the 20th Session of UNGEGN (January 2000, New York), with some additions.

Peeter Päll

*Convenor,
UNEGN Working Group on
Romanization Systems
E-mail: peeter@eki.ee*

Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy

The toponymy Courses Site has a new url:

<http://toponymycourses.geog.uu.nl>

This site has been set up by the Convenor of the UNGEGN Working Group on Toponymy Courses, and due to a restructuring of Utrecht University's server, the site's address had to be changed. Contents of the site are: information on

- Future toponymy courses

- Past toponymy courses
 - Teaching material available, used for past toponymy courses
 - Other relevant teaching material
 - UNGEGN Working Group on Toponymy Courses
- The convenor urges organisers of toponymy courses to send him information on dates, venues, costs and contact persons. Organisers of courses that have been held are requested to send in references

to proceedings or other publications produced for these courses.

Convenor

*Working Group on Training Courses in
Toponymy*

E-mail address convenor:

toponymy@geog.uu.nl;

*postal address: Faculty of Geographical
Sciences, P.O. Box 80115, 3508 TC
Utrecht, the Netherlands*

From the Countries

Canada

News from the Geographical Names Board of Canada

As of March 2, 2000, the **Geographical Names Board of Canada/Commission de toponymie du Canada** became the official name for the former Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names through Order in Council. This name change process commenced during our Centennial in 1997 because of a critique from a journalist who stated that the Committee could use a more resonant name reflecting the work of a national naming authority. The Board members believed it was necessary to say who they were and what they did in a less cumbersome way. The new name is not so lengthy as the former, and is easier to remember.

Two former members of the Board, Mr. Henri Dorion and Dr. William Wonders have been honoured by the country for their lifetime achievements. Mr. Henri Dorion and Dr. William Wonders were both recognized with the Order of Canada. Mr. Dorion served as the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Toponymy Research from 1975 to 1978. Then from May 1990 to December 1991 he was the Chair of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical

Names. Dr. Wonders served as Chair of the Advisory Committee on Toponymy Research from 1978 to 1994.

Ms. Gisèle Jacob was appointed as the new Chair of the Geographic Names Board of Canada in June 1999. Ms. Jacob had the opportunity to chair her first annual meeting in September 1999 in Charlottetown, P.E.I. The plenary sessions as well as the advisory committees were well attended with renewed participation from Indian Affairs and representation from the Assembly of First Nations. Attendees also included the Executive Secretary and the Chairman of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, and the Executive Secretary of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities.

The Hamlet of Pelly Bay was changed to Kugaaruk December 3, 1999.

New Publications

Gazetteer of Canada: Manitoba 1999 (CD-ROM version)

A digital version (CD-ROM) of the *Gazetteer of Canada: Manitoba* (1999) has been produced by the Manitoba Geographical Names Program staff and is now available at a cost of \$19.95 plus applicable

shipping/handling fees and taxes. This is the same price as the hard-copy gazetteer, both available from the Manitoba Map Sales office and at <http://www.canadamapsales.com>. The CD version has its own search engine for a) Introductory Material, b) Alphabetical Listing, c) Geographical Names Search, d) Search by Map Sheet, and e) Maps (Manitoba and related map index). *Geographical Names of Manitoba* – a forthcoming publication

This publication project aims to produce a comprehensive volume of Manitoba place names with narrative and geographic descriptions of their location and historical background on the origin of the names where such is known. This listing will include more than 4000 features named after Manitoba's fatal war casualties under the Commemorative Names Project. The volume will be accompanied by a number of black and white and colour photographs. It is anticipated that it will be available for distribution in the fall of 2000.

La toponymie des Algonquins (1999) : Commission de toponymie du Québec. Dossiers toponymiques, 26. Un état des inventaires toponymiques de la

toponymie algonquaine au Québec. Disponible auprès de la Commission de toponymie du Québec.

Noms de rues de Québec au XVIIe siècle (2000) : Jean Poirier. Dossiers toponymiques, 27. Origine ancienne de certains noms de rues de la ville de Québec. Disponible auprès de la Commission de toponymie du Québec.

La Commission de toponymie du Québec collabore à un projet d'atlas électronique, *l'Atlas national du Québec et des ses régions*, dont le Département de géographie de l'Université du Québec à Montréal est le maître d'oeuvre. La Commission valide le contenu toponymique de l'ouvrage pour s'assurer de sa conformité à la nomenclature géographique officielle du Québec.

The following publications *Guide to the field collection of native geographical names* and *Principles and Procedures for geographical naming* are now available on the GeoNames website

<http://geonames.NRCan.gc.ca> in a downloadable format.

New Prices

In its effort to make toponymic data more accessible to users, the Geographical Names Section has revised the prices of standard digital toponymic files; the most popular file being **Populated places and administrative areas**, is now \$100 (from \$280). The list of prices for standard files can be found on the GeoNames web site.

Geographical Names Web Sites

Natural Resources Canada continues to maintain a web site on which names for places and geographical features approved by the Geographical Names Board of Canada stored in the Canadian Geographical Names Data Base (CGNDB) can be freely accessed at: <http://geonames.NRCan.gc.ca> In addition, this GeoNames web site includes recent name changes in Canada, information about gazetteers and publications, Canadian data available for sale, links to other toponymic sites, information about activities of the United Nations. Access our SchoolNet site at: <http://geonames.NRCan.gc.ca/english/schoolnet> where one can find selected origins of Canadian geographical names, student modules and information for teachers.

Several provincial/territorial jurisdictions have established their own web sites providing public access to their data bases:

http://www.gov.mb.ca/natres/lid/geo_names/index.html Manitoba Geographical Names

http://www.gov.ns.ca/homa/land/toponymy/topo_1.htm Nova Scotia Geographical Names

<http://pwnhc.learnnet.nt.ca/progr/ams/geodb.htm> NWT Geographic Names Program

<http://www.gdbc.gov.bc.ca/bcnames> British Columbia Geographical Names

<http://www.tgx.com/geogname> Friends of Geographical Names of Alberta Society

<http://www.toponymie.gouv.qc.ca> Commission de toponymie du Québec

<http://npc.nunavut.ca> Nunavut Planning Commission

Projects

A project was undertaken this past year to reengineer the Canadian Geographical Names Data Base (CGNDB) which included the analysis and revision of the existing data model, the upgrade of the version of ORACLE server (to 8.0.4) used to manage the CGNDB, and the redevelopment of the User Interface (i.e. data entry, query and reporting facilities for the data base.

The Centre for Topographic Information Ottawa received its ISO 9001 Accreditation in March 2000. Some of the services offered by the Geographical Names Section were included in this accreditation.

Manitoba Commemorative Names Project: In addition to naming geographical features after our 4181 World War II and 37 Korean War fatal casualties, the project has expanded to include 16 Manitobans who died serving as Merchant Marines during World War II.

Workshops/Training

ICA 1999

The 19th International Cartographic Association Conference (ICA'99) was held in Ottawa from August 16 to 21, attracting some 15,440 attendees from 79 nations. The Geographical Names Section ran a workshop entitled, "Developing

and Maintaining a National Geographical Names Data Base.” The workshop was aimed at those involved with geographical names, mapping, charting, and GIS. The topics addressed were as follows: an overview of names collection activities in Canada, the impact of linguistic and cultural diversity on geographical names, the design and development of the Canadian Geographical Names Data Base (CGNDB), and the effect of social, political and technical issues on the CGNDB.

Digital Gazetteer Information Exchange Workshop

A workshop and information exchange on digital gazetteers was held 12 – 14 October 1999, in Washington, D.C. The workshop was convened under the direction of Linda L. Hill, from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Participants came mostly from the United States, including government, academia, and the business community. Also taking part were representatives of various international governments – Canada, Australia, and the United Kingdom. The workshop had two goals: one being to develop an understanding of indirect spatial referencing by use of geographical names; and the second was to identify research and policy issues related to developing an exchange of digital gazetteer information. Government gazetteer producers

and geographical names authorities stressed the use of official names.

Un représentant de la Commission de toponymie du Québec (Canada), en collaboration avec un toponymiste du Québec, se rendra au Pays Basque espagnol, en juin 2000, pour y animer un stage de formation à la gestion de la toponymie d’une durée d’une semaine.

En collaboration avec le Département de géographie de l’Université du Québec à Montréal, la Commission de toponymie du Québec (Canada) élabore un programme de découverte des noms de lieux à l’intention des élèves du niveau primaire. Le programme repose sur une série d’étapes: À la découverte des noms de lieux; Les noms de lieux sont des noms propres; Pourquoi donne-t-on des noms aux lieux?; Les noms de lieux portent des messages et plusieurs racontent des histoires; Construire des noms et des mots avec des noms de lieux; etc.

Autres nouvelles du Québec

À la faveur d’une mission québécoise effectuée à Cuba, dans le cadre des célébrations du 480^e anniversaire de la ville de La Havane, des certificats de désignations toponymiques commémoratives ont été remis aux autorités cubaines. Ces désignations sont le *Mont José-Marti*, d’après le poète national

cubain, de même que le *Mont Hatuey* et le *Mont Anadabijou*, qui rappellent des chefs autochtones de Cuba et du Québec (Canada) respectivement. La Commission de toponymie du Québec a voulu, par l’officialisation de ces toponymes, remercier en quelque sorte les autorités cubaines de l’attention particulière qu’elles accordent à un héros de l’histoire du Québec inhumé à La Havane, Pierre Le Moyne d’Iberville, et souligner une communauté de vues quant à la contribution positive des autochtones à l’histoire nationale de Cuba et de la province du Québec (Canada).

Une délégation du Pays Basque espagnol pilotée par la sous-ministre à la Politique linguistique a visité la Commission de toponymie du Québec (Canada), en novembre 1999. En février 2000, la Commission a reçu trois représentants de la Délégation générale de la politique linguistique de Catalogne (Espagne). Ces visites ont permis d’approfondir la compréhension du traitement des noms de lieux dans le contexte linguistique particulier et complexe des situations basque, catalane et québécoise.

Barbara Bowler

Project Manager

*Centre for Topographic Information
(Geographic Names Board of Canada)*

Latvia

Toponymic Investigation of Latvian Geographers (1970 - 2000)

Card Index of Physiogeographical Place Names of Latvia.

Latvian geographers are engaged in systematic toponymic research work since 1970. In accordance with the decision of the government the formation of the Card Index of Physiogeographical Place Names of Latvia was started at the Department of Geography, University of Latvia. The main aim of the Card Index was to ensure, that every named natural feature should be designated with a place name in a precise written form. The decision of the government was a recall to the activities of UNGEGN in national and international standardization of place names in 1960ies.

The first known attempts to survey and publish Latvian place names were in the XVII century, when several clergymen published Latvian place names in their German-Latvian and Latvian-German dictionaries. The first scientific dictionary of the place names of Latvia "Latvijas vietu vārdi" /Place Names of Latvia/ was published in 1922 - 1925. It has been compiled by one of the most outstanding Latvian philologists J.Endzelīns. In the period from 1922 till 1970 nine dictionaries of

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the place names of Latvia have been published. Six of them have been compiled by philologists. The Card Index of Place Names has been formed at the Institute of Latvian Language¹. Until 1970 the main investigation in the toponymy of Latvia has been made by philologists. One can find more detailed information about it in the article "Latvijas ģeogrāfisko nosaukumu vārdnīcas, to sastādīšanas principi, saturs un uzbūve" /Dictionaries of the Place Names of Latvia, the Principles of Compiling them, Contents and Structure/ (Goba Z. 1997).

The main imperfection of the toponymic investigation of philologists is the loss of the interconnection *geographical feature - place name*, especially for physiogeographical objects. In many cases it is impossible to state toponymic synonyms referring to one and the same geographical object and to select the preferred name without additional investigation, but using toponymic dictionaries, published in 1922 - 1970 or the Card Index of Place

¹ At the University of Latvia, from 1946 till 1998 - in the Academy of Sciences of Latvia.

Names at the Institute of Latvian Language. It explains the necessity of the formation of the Card Index of Physiogeographical Place Names of Latvia at the Department of Geography,² University of Latvia.

The guiding principles for compiling the Card Index of Physiogeographical Place Names of Latvia have been worked out by researcher R.Avotiņa, who almost ten first years alone compiled the Card Index.

The guiding principles for compiling the Card Index are the following:

1. The maintenance of the interconnection: *geographical feature - place name*

Every place name applies to a certain geographical feature. The connection *geographical feature - place name* has been fixed when collecting and mapping place names and has been maintained in the Card Index of Physiogeographical Place Names of Latvia and in toponymic dictionaries based on the Card Index. Cartographic method and

² Since 1995 the Scientific Laboratory of Regional Geography and Toponymy at the Faculty of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of Latvia.

a detailed description of the location of geographical feature have been applied to ensure it.

2. Geographical object bearing one or more place names is the basic unit in the Card Index and in toponymic dictionaries, based on it.

3. Surveying of all known allonyms concerning one and the same geographical object and including them in the Card Index and in dictionaries.

4. Selection of the preferred name for a geographical object. Methods applied when choosing the preferred names are discussed in the article "Latvijas PSR fiziski ģeogrāfisko nosaukumu kartotēkas sastādīšanas principi" /The Principles of Compiling the Card Index of Physiogeographical Names of Latvia/ (Avotiņa R. 1977). The final decision in selecting each preferred name has been made by Toponymic Committee at the Society of Geography of Latvia in 1975 - 1989.

The Card Index of Physiogeographical Place Names comprises the names of hydronyms (water bodies, flowing water features) of the whole territory of Latvia and names of relief forms, forests and groves, bogs and meadows etc. of separate districts of Latvia. The number of designated natural features is about 20 000, but the number of place names is approximately twice larger in it. The information about every designated object and its name is the following:

- 1) feature class;
- 2) preferred name;
- 3) allonyms;

4) location of an object :

- a) administrative district,
- b) civil parish;

2) more detailed description of the location;

3) characteristics of an object and its name;

4) near by situated objects of other feature classes with the same name;

5) references to allonyms got from literature and cartographic sources;

6) references to allonyms surveyed during field work, etc.

Information about every object and its name(s) is primarily based on field work, and supplemented by the data, got from literature and maps.

The main imperfection of the Card Index, as well as of the Card Index of Place Names at the Institute of Latvian Language is that they are on cards, not in digital form. It makes the process of compiling toponymic dictionaries based on those card indexes rather complicated.

State and regional toponymic dictionaries.

The first toponymic dictionaries based on the information stored in the Card Index of Physiogeographical Place Names of Latvia were published in 1980ies. They were the dictionaries of the hydronyms of Latvia: "Latvijas PSR ūdenstilpju nosaukumi" /Names of Water Bodies of the Latvian SSR/ (Avotiņa R. 1984) and "Latvijas PSR ūdensteču nosaukumi" /Names of Flowing Water Features of the

Latvian SSR/ (Avotiņa R., Goba Z. 1986).

In both dictionaries place names are arranged in alphabetical order. There are two types of headwords: primary headwords and cross references in the dictionaries. All the information about an object and its name(s) could be found in primary headwords. Preferred names are the main elements of primary headwords. The preferred name of an object is followed by all the allonyms. Then comes information about the location of an object and short characteristics of it.

Dictionaries of the hydronyms of Latvia soon became bibliographic rarities, and there was a necessity for new issues of them. A new issue of the names of the largest lakes of Latvia was published in 1988 (Avotiņa R. 1988). This index comprises the names of lakes with an area more than 20 ha. A new issue of the names of flowing water features "Latvijas upes. Nosaukumi un ģeogrāfiskais izvietojums" /Rivers of Latvia. Names and Geographical Location/ was published in 1994 (Avotiņa R., Goba Z. 1994).

In the period from 1980 till 1991 other researchers: Z.Goba, V.Strautniece, S.Pliuna, J.Kavacs, O.Kovai evska, T.Lapsa and R.Zvejnieks joined toponymic research work at the Department of Geography, University of Latvia. Since the second part of 1980ies a lot of toponymic fieldwork has been done. Civil parishes (with an area ~ 40 – 560 km² each) are the basic units for

toponymic research work in Latvia. An administrative district (with an area ~1620 - 3600 km² each) consisting of 18-28 civil parishes has been chosen as the basic area for summing up and publishing toponymic information since the end of 1980ies. Nevertheless toponymic dictionaries of seven civil parishes have been compiled at the Department of Geography with financial support of the Fund of Culture of Latvia, but not published yet.

As the result of toponymic fieldwork all the place names including those found in literature or on maps have been checked. The first regional toponymic dictionary, compiled at the Department of Geography, was about Rīga district: "Rīgas rajona fiziski ģeogrāfisko objektu nosaukumu raksturojums" /Description of the Names of Physiogeographical Objects, Rīga District/. It was compiled by R. Avotiņa and Z. Goba and issued in 1989 with a cartographic supplement. One can find the history of toponymic investigation, physiogeographical characteristics, the analyses of peculiarities of geographical terminology of Rīga district in the introductory part of the dictionary. The physiogeographical names of Rīga district are arranged according to the feature classes of geographical objects. The names of flowing water features, water bodies, bogs and meadows, hills and valleys make separate chapters in the dictionary.

This publication was followed by the dictionaries of four other

administrative districts of Latvia: Valka (Kavacs J. 1993), Kuldīga (Goba Z. 1994), Krāslava (Kovaičevska O. 1997) and Madona (Avotiņa R. 1999) districts. The dictionaries of Krāslava and Madona districts have been compiled and published in collaboration with the Laboratory of Toponymy at the Board of Cartography, State Land Service. At present there are 26 administrative districts in Latvia. Partly toponymic fieldwork has been done in all of them.

Students research work in toponymy.

Annually since 1975 students of the Faculty of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of Latvia, are doing their research work in toponymy. The idea about a course of lectures in toponymy has been expressed already in 1960ies. The lectures course in toponymy is being delivered at the Faculty of Geography and Earth Sciences since 1989. The program in toponymy for teachers has been worked out, too. Articles about toponymy are being published in several scientific and popular journals and article collections, but still there is a lack of toponymic literature in Latvia, especially for students, teachers and school children. A book comprising a lectures course in toponymy is very necessary, too.

Several students of the Faculty of Geography and Earth Sciences being engaged in toponymy, have attended courses of lectures, for example, introduction in Baltic philology, Lithuanian language, Latvian dialectology, etc. at the

Faculty of Philology, University of Latvia. Several students papers in toponymy have received prizes and have been published. The Card Index of Physiogeographical Place Names of Latvia is being supplemented with the names surveyed by students, too.

Satellite Map of Latvia.

Toponymy and cartography developed separately in Latvia during its independence (1918-1940), and especially in the years of Soviet power. Relationship between toponymy and cartography changed in Latvia in 1994, when the Toponymic Section was formed as a part of Cartographic Division, State Land Service. The Toponymic Section was established on the basis of the Department of Geography, University of Latvia.

The Satellite Map of Latvia, scale 1:50 000, is one of the first state cartographic projects, covering all the territory of Latvia, after the renewal of its independence. Necessity to make the Coverage of Place Names for the Satellite Map determined the establishment of Toponymic Section at the Cartographic Division (since 1999 the Laboratory of Toponymy, Board of Cartography), State Land Service. Ten chief specialists geographers are engaged in the Laboratory of Toponymy. The Coverage of Place Names for the Satellite Map of Latvia has been compiled from 1994 till 1999. The publication of the map started in 1998 and has been finished in 2000.

Place names of almost all feature classes, including the names of populated places (cities, towns, villages, farms etc.), natural features, as well as the names of separate, remarkable social, cultural and economical objects can be found on the Satellite Map of Latvia. There are official lists only of a few types of geographical features in Latvia. For example, the names of cities, towns, railway stations, airports etc. are official. It made the task to compile the Coverage of Place Names rather complicated. Specialists of the Laboratory of Toponymy have to select the preferred names for all the other geographical features, such as villages, hamlets, natural features, etc. The names of farms can be obtained only in local governments. The guiding principles for the selection of the preferred names of physiogeographical features have been worked out (Goba Z. 1999). When selecting the preferred names more attention has been paid to the local dialectal forms of place names in comparison with toponymic investigation in the period from 1970 till 1990.

A lot of fieldwork has been done to survey and check the names of natural features, farms, villages etc. for the map. Specialists of the Laboratory of Toponymy have made expeditions to every city, town and civil parish of Latvia. Besides that literature and maps have been looked through, too. We made use of the Card Index of Physiogeographical Place Names

of Latvia and of the Card Index of Place Names at the Institute of Latvian Language. All the place names, put on the Satellite Map, have been checked by a philologist.

The Satellite Map, scale 1:50 000, is the first largescale map of Latvia in Latvian. It comprises approximately 20 - 1300 place names per sheet, depending on the territory and the area of the land on every sheet of map. The total number of map sheets is 131.

Geographical Names Database of Latvia.

The Satellite Map of Latvia is in digital form. Its Coverage of Place Names is being used as the basis for the Geographical Names Database (GNDB) of Latvia, being formed in the Laboratory of Toponymy, State Land Service. The theory and methodology of the Database are being worked out since 1998. Data fields of the Database are similar to the fields of information in the Card Index of Physiogeographical Place Names of Latvia. The basic data tables are *features*, *names* and *sources*. GNDB in its first stage will include all names shown on the Satellite Map of Latvia supplemented with additional information about object and its name(s). Later GNDB will be supplemented with place names surveyed during toponymic field work and geographical names got from various sources of literature, toponymic card indexes and maps. Geographical Names Database of Latvia will serve as the main source of place names for new map editions, gazetteers,

toponymic dictionaries, Internet services and toponymic research.

Gazetteers and dictionaries based on Geographical Names Database of Latvia.

There is no an official list of villages in Latvia at present. Specialists of the Laboratory of Toponymy, State Land Service, are preparing a list of villages based on the Satellite Map of Latvia. The data about village names which have been imported from the Satellite Map of Latvia in the Geographical Names Database are being supplemented by additional information and will be printed out as a list of place names. It will be the first index of place names produced from the Geographical Names Database (GNDB) of Latvia.

Another project is compiling and publishing of a local toponymic dictionary of Sčļpils civil parish (R.Avotiņa). All the information should be put in GNDB of Latvia and printed out in the format of a toponymic dictionary. The dictionary will include the names of cultural and natural features of Sčļpils civil parish.

Joining international toponymic activities.

Since 1992 Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania have the possibility to join international activities in toponymy. The Baltic Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) was established in 1992. The 1st meeting of the Baltic Division was organized in Tallinn, Estonia, in 1995. The 2nd meeting of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN and the International

Training Courses in Toponymy took place in Rīga 22-25 April, 1997. They were organized by State Land Service, University of Latvia and State Language Board. United Nations and the standardization of geographical names; national names authorities; national standardization; geographical names databases; national gazetteers; standardization of dialectal place names were the topics of the agenda in the courses. Lectures were delivered by the UNGEGN experts from several countries: Helen Kerfoot (Canada), Sirkka Paikkala, Eeva Maria Närhi (Finland), Botolv Helleland (Norway), Hans Ringstam (Sweden) and Randall E.Flynn (USA). A lot of questions and discussions followed the lectures about geographical names databases and standardization of dialectal place names. These themes are the most actual for Latvian toponymists at present.

The 7th Conference of the UN on the Standardization of

Geographical Names was the first one where the delegates from Latvia participated with several reports. Toponymists of Latvia have taken part in 19th and 20th Sessions of UNGEGN and in the Second International Symposium on Geographical Names "GeoNames 2000". Since joining the international activities toponymists of Latvia have got acquainted with the experience of UNGEGN in national and international standardization and with toponymic investigation in many countries. It favours the development of toponymy in Latvia.

Future plans.

In the nearest future the theory and methodology of the Geographical Names Database of Latvia should be completed. The Data Base should enclose the information from the Card Index of Physiogeographical Place Names of Latvia and partly from the Card Index of Place Names.

Compiling and publishing dictionaries of the place names (state, regional and local) should be based mainly on the Geographical Names Database of Latvia.

Several theoretical, methodical and practical problems concerning the spelling of place names and revealing the pronunciation of them should be solved, too. More attention should be paid to the generic elements of place names, and their spelling.

There is a necessity of normative dictionaries and indexes of the place names of Latvia. Legislation, concerning place names of Latvia has been worked out by a group of experts in toponymy, but not set up yet.

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Slovakia

Toponymic Guidelines

The Resolution No 4 of the 4th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names has called countries to support the editing and updating of the Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors, which would enable cartographers from other countries to resolve reliably the problem of cartographical toponymy from the territories of those countries which had published the Guidelines; they will assist all users in map interpretation.

In 1987 the Slovak Republic elaborated and edited the first Toponymic Guidelines as part of Czecho-Slovak Toponymic Guidelines. The first Slovak edition was carried out in 1993, the second in 1996.

When the Slovak Republic was created in 1996, the legislative changes required further updating of the Toponymic Guidelines. The third edition of the Slovak Toponymic Guidelines was published in 1999. It has been elaborated according to the Recommendations No 4 of the 4th UN Conference, No. 14 of the 5th UN Conference and No. 7 of the 6th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

Toponymic Guidelines are divided into four parts. In the first part is given the characterization of the Slovak language as an official language on the territory of the Slovak Republic and of other languages used on the territory of the Slovak Republic.

In the second part are summarized geographical names authorities functioning in the Slovak Republic, the terms of reference of which are related to the standardization of geographical names.

The third part gives the list of source material, out of which standardized geographical names may be obtained. They are state map series and gazetteers, edited by the Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the Slovak Republic.

In the final part is given the glossary of the words frequently occurring in geographical names, type designations of geographical objects in Slovakia, list of abbreviations used in state map series and current administrative division of the Slovak Republic.

Toponymic guidelines contain Slovak and English versions simultaneously. It is published also by means of Internet at the

address:

<http://www.geodesy.gov.sk/sgn/typonym/Slov/typoframe.htm>.

The list of the names of triangulation points

In 1999 was finished the standardization process of the names of triangulation points from the Slovak Republic's territory, which lasted several years; its result is the List of the Names of the Triangulation Points of the Slovak Republic's territory. The list contains approximately 16 000 standardized names of triangulation points. Moreover the standardized names of triangulation points are given also in the triangulation points data of control station name, number, description and coordinates, which are used by the general public, both non-commercial and commercial. The list of the standardized names of triangulation points will be published also in book form in the year 2000 and will be available on the Internet.

Radomíra Smyèková

Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the Slovak Republic

SUDAN

Toponymic Survey in the Republic of the Sudan

In April 2000 the Survey of Nubian Place-names investigated the island of Arduán (19°56' N/30°22'E) in the region of the Third Cataract of the Nile. Investigators aimed not only to make an accurate record of the names, but also to gather evidence related to questions of orthographic standardization. What was the best way for the Arabic writing system to represent the Nubian language [Nobiin]? How could this Nubian survey contribute to achieving a set of guidelines on a standard Arabic orthography for geographical names from African languages in the Sudan?

The issue of an Arabic orthography for African geographical names is particularly acute in the Sudan. Arabic is the

official language, and yet representations of African place-names in the Arabic writing system often lead to distorted pronunciations.

Each geographical name was recorded in the field notes of the Nubian survey in three ways: (1) in Arabic script, (2) in the International Phonetic Alphabet and (3) in the mediaeval Nubian alphabet in line with the renaissance of interest which many Nubians are demonstrating for their own traditional culture.

In a region where there is extensive bilingualism in Nubian and Arabic, it was interesting to note that geographical names occasionally differed according to the language being spoken. A historic village just north of the Third Cataract (20°01'N/30°35'E)

would be called Kókka in Arabic and Kókke in Nubian by the same individual depending on the language he/she was speaking.

The investigation was conducted in the context of the Mahas Project of the Department of Archaeology of the University of Khartoum. Participants in the toponymic survey were Muhammad Jalal Hashim and Asmaa Muhammad Ibrahim of the University of Khartoum and Herman Bell, technical consultant to the Sudan National Committee for Geographical Names.

Herman Bell
Consultant

United States of America

The Domestic Names Committee (DNC) of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names meets monthly, and has rendered decisions on 143 newly proposed names and adjudicated 220 controversial names and issues since our last report. The DNC participated in the 1999 Annual Conference of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA) hosted by the Washington State Geographic Names Board, and held in Spokane, Washington. The conference was a success and was well attended with approximately 100 registrants. Attendees included representatives of the Geographical Names Board of Canada, and an informal meeting of the U.S./Canada Division was held. The first two days of the conference were televised on the State Government cable television channel. The conference included an array of papers on various toponymic themes and the regular event known as the State/Federal Roundtable where issues of policy and procedures are addressed by officials from local and State governments, and the Federal Government. The host State Board held its regular meeting, as did the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. The next annual conference of COGNA will be held September 26 – 30, 2000 in

St. Louis, Missouri. A representative of the US Board participated in the Annual Meeting of the Geographical Names Board of Canada in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island where another informal meeting of the US/Canada Division was held. On June 1, 2000, the Board's Domestic Names Committee will meet to discuss and re-evaluate its policies and procedures. This exercise is required because the Board has formed a committee to evaluate the existing policies of the two standing committees and the two advisory committees, and to the extent possible, make these policies uniform. The two standing committees address domestic names and foreign names, and the two advisory committees process names of undersea features and names in Antarctica. The Geographic Names Office, during the past year, has awarded a contract to compile geographic names data in the northern portion of the State of Texas, and a contract to compile names in the remainder of the State will be awarded by the end of 2000.

We are pleased to announce that since the last newsletter, one State and one Territory have established geographic names authorities bringing the total of such organizations to 45 States and two

Territories. As previously reported, the publication of conventional gazetteers (paper copy) was suspended last year, and this decision is still in place. The use of the website has seemingly contributed to a marked decrease in requests for such publications. Presently, the website query page receives an average of more than 20,000 accesses per day, and users are downloading more than 100 gazetteers per day.

The website address is: <<http://mapping.usgs.gov/www/gnis>> where the U.S. Antarctica Geographic Names Database may also be accessed. Users of the website have always been able to view the location of the feature represented by the retrieved database entry, and now the user has the added option of viewing that location on the appropriate digital version of the large scale topographic map known as a Digital Raster Graphic (DRG). The Geographic Names Office has completed testing of new software to be used in the Geographic Names Information System Maintenance Program. This web-based software allows Federal (and eventually State) agencies to participate in maintenance of the database. Agencies using this new maintenance software to submit changes and new data are the U.S.

Geological Survey (for the National Mapping Program), U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and the Office of Coast Survey. The Bureau of Land Management is scheduled to begin participation later this year. Information submitted is verified and available online within a few days. The maintenance and data compilation program continues with more than 200,000 new entries added to the database in the past year.

The Board's members and staff participated in the Twentieth Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names held in January, 2000 in New York, which included active participation in

discussion and development of resolutions, as well as participation in the Working Groups on Training, Automation, and Terminology. Members of the staff also presented papers on the topics of database design and Romanization at the GeoNames 2000 Symposium held in Frankfurt am Main, Germany March 28 –30, 2000.

Since the last newsletter, the Eleventh Course on geographic names (applied toponomy) offered under the auspices of the Pan American Institute of Geography & History (PAIGH) was held in Guatemala City, Guatemala in July 1999. The course was very successful, providing 35 students from Guatemala, Bolivia,

Ecuador, Panama, and the Dominican Republic with an introduction to toponomy, and the need for establishing a national program of standardization for geographic names. The course includes lectures on establishing principles, policies, and procedures for standardizing geographic names as well as an extensive field exercise; and a workshop in developing, designing, and implementing an automated geographic names database.

Roger L. Payne

Executive Secretary

U.S. Board on Geographic Names

GeoNames 2000

Frankfurt am Main, Germany, 28-30 March 2000

The Second 1/ International Symposium on Geographical Names, "GeoNames 2000", organized by the Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN), was held in Frankfurt am Main in late March. The three-day symposium was hosted by the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG) and supported by the Dutch- and German-speaking Division of UNGEGN, as well as by six German, Austrian, and Dutch agencies and private companies. 2/

Dr. Jörn Sievers and his organizing committee had developed the aspects of the symposium to endorse and support the United Nations' promotion of standardization of geographical names and to provide a stepping stone towards the work of the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names to be held in Berlin, August 26 - September 5, 2000. In association with the symposium, an evening reception was offered to registrants and the Dutch- and German-speaking Division (DGSD) held a divisional meeting. At GeoNames 2000, 77 participants from 23 countries registered and 25 presentations

were made. Papers from the symposium will be refereed and edited for publication in German or English in the technical series *Mitteilungen des Bundesamtes für Kartographie und Geodäsie*.

In particular, the symposium addressed aspects of work in national standardization and names data bases, romanization systems, and exonyms, as well as the orthographic reform of the German language and the pronunciation data base developed for German broadcasting stations. Topics were covered from a variety of viewpoints and indicated the research and practical developments that are in hand in different parts of the world to address systematically geographical names issues from a linguistic, cartographic and technical perspective. Differing views provided an opportunity for participants to appreciate and to learn from the work of others, particularly in dealing with the complexities of the treatment of multiple languages and multiple writing systems.

GEONAMES 2000 PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 28 March 2000

OPENING AND WELCOME

D. Grünreich (DE), President, Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG)

F. Ormeling (NL), Secretary General, International Cartographic Association (ICA), Chairman, Dutch- and German-speaking Division (DGSD), and Representative of the Nederlandse Taalunie

H. Desoye (AT), Representative of the Austrian Board on Geographical Names (AKO)

M. Gurtner (CH), Representative of Swiss names authorities

J. Sievers (DE), Chairman, Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN)

B.E. Beinstein (DE), Secretary, Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN)

STATUS OF NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

Chairperson: E. Spiess (CH)

J. Golaski (PL): Method and result of toponyms collection for cartographic purposes by means of local authorities

A. Danielski (PL): Historical, folkloric and geographical names as toponymic objects of Geo-Info Land Information System

A. Eremia, Z. Cameneva (MD): Toponymic researches and elaborations of the standardization of geographical names

Z. Goba, Z. Čekula (LV): Gazetteers and database of the place names of Latvia

Discussion and résumé

CONCEPTS OF NAMES DATABASES

Chairperson: R.E. Flynn (US)

R. Payne (US): The Geographic Names Information System of the United States - design, development, and implementation

J. Mlinar, E. Pogorelcnik (SI): Register of geographical names in Slovenia
A. Illert (DE): The authoritative German topographic-cartographic information system (ATKIS)
B. Liu (CN): The establishment of Chinese technological standardization system of geographical names
T. Leskinen (FI): National place names register integrated with cartographic names register for various scales and products
Discussion and résumé

BRIEF INFORMATION ITEMS

H. Kerfoot (CA), Vice-chairperson
UNGEKN: Update on UNGEKN activities
A. Ermert (DE): Country codes by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
K. Wilson (DE): Demonstration of the CD-ROM "Small-scale map series" of BKG

GERMAN ORTHOGRAPHIC REFORM

Chairperson: O. Back (AT)
M. Wermke (DE): Zur Schreibung geographischer Namen im Deutschen
Discussion

Wednesday, 29 March 2000

ROMANIZATION SYSTEMS

Chairperson: F. Ormeling (NL)
G. Quinting (US): Romanization systems: development and application
M. Nanova (BG): Variations in romanization systems applied in transliteration of the Bulgarian geographical names into the Roman alphabet
H. Zikmund (DE): Deutsche Allonyme geographischer Namen des Baltikums und der GUS/CIS
N. Kadmon (IL): Standardization and de-standardization of Roman transcription systems
Discussion and résumé

EXONYMS

Chairperson: I. Hausner (AT)
I. Hausner (AT): Introduction to exonyms
P. Päll (EE): Do conventional romanization systems create exonyms?

P. Boháč (CZ): Exonym - one problem of its definition
H. Kerfoot (CA): Selection of geographical names for cartographic products
F.-D. Grimm (DE): Zum Gebrauch deutscher Exonyme für den Raum östlich von Oder und Neisse

Chairperson: P. Woodman (GB)
I. Hornansky (SK): Theory and practice of the standardization of exonyms and the policy of their usage
M.O. Adamic (SI): Treatment of geographical names in multilingual areas and the use of foreign names in Slovenia
P. Jordan (AT): The importance of using exonyms - plea for a politically sensible use
R. Stani-Fertl (AT): Globalisation, print mass media and exonyms
Discussion and résumé

Closing remarks of the first two days of the Symposium:
J. Sievers (DE)

Meeting of the Dutch- and German-speaking Division (DGSD) of UNGEKN

Thursday, 30 March 2000

Halfday excursion to visit the German broadcasting station, Hessischer Rundfunk

Guided tour through the broadcasting station
M. Mangold (DE): The pronunciation of geographical names
R. Heinemann (DE): The pronunciation database of the association of German broadcasting stations (ARD)
J. Sievers (DE): Demonstration of the STAGN list of selected German exonyms and their pronunciation on the Internet

1/ STAGN organized its first international symposium in Wien (Vienna) in 1996.

2/ Support from the following institutions was appreciated:

Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Vermessungsverwaltungen der Länder der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (AdV); Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kartographie (DGfK);
Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kartographische Ortsnamenkunde (AKO);
Nederlandse Taalunie;
Hessischer Rundfunk; and
Dudenredaktion.

The symposium successfully underlined important aspects of advancements and also of work still to be done in applied toponymy, in particular: changes in the German language and its links to broadcasting; progress in toponymic data bases and their integration with cartographic systems; developing and implementing romanization systems; and creation of sensitive approaches to reduce exonyms now in use and to prevent new exonyms from proliferating. UNGEKN can show leadership in these fields and must endeavour to make its goals, expressed through UN Conference resolutions, more widely known to the public users of geographical names.

GeoNames 2000 has a presence on the web at:
http://www.ifag.de/Kartographie/Stagn/GeoNames2000_E.htm

Helen Kerfoot
Vice-Chair, UNGEKN

"Ptolemy — the first UNGEGN Toponymist"

Participants of the seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held in New York in January 1998 may remember the special session commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Conferences. On that occasion a shortened version of a full-length paper with the above title was read by Naftali Kadmon, Israel. The paper enumerated the properties required of a good UNGEGN expert on geographical names. According to the definition by the author, he or she should have a sound geographical knowledge; be well-versed in linguistics and phonetics; have a sense of history;

an understanding of cartography and a grasp of basic geodesy. The 2nd century important Greek savant Klaudios Ptolemaios, known in English as Ptolemy, fulfilled all these requirements. Besides his treatises on Astronomy and mathematics, Ptolemy's great work "Guide to describing the Earth" (usually called "Ptolemy's Geography") is detailed.

The paper deals with the three aspects of Ptolemy's work as described in the "Geography", namely the geographical, the cartographic and the toponymic. The major part of the "Geography" is composed of a list

of some 8100 place names with their coordinates. Ptolemy thus was the author of the first-ever true gazetteer. Finally, the acronym UNGEGN is expanded into "Un-Nationalistic Greek Expert on Geographical Names".

Now the editors of ONOMA, the organ of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS), have decided to print the full version of this paper in Volume 35 of ONOMA, due to be published next year.

Naftali Kadmon
Israel

15th UN Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific

The 15th UN Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 11 to 14 April 2000, in conjunction with the meeting of the Permanent Committee on Geographic Information for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP). The work of the Conference was organized around five technical committees

established to deal with a range of specific issues pertinent to cartography, surveying, mapping, land management, GIS technology and spatial data infrastructure in support of sustainable development. Among these technical committees, Committee V, on geographical names, was chaired by Mr. John Parker (Australia) the Immediate Past

Chairman of the Asia South-East, Pacific South-West Division of the United Nations Group of Expert on Geographical Names. The major achievements of the Conference include the adoption of eight resolutions on Fundamental Data; Institutional Strengthening, Education and Training; Regional Geodetic Infrastructure; Bathurst

Declaration on Land Administration for Sustainable Development; The establishment of a Working Group on the Cadastre; Economic aspects of modern surveying, mapping, geo-spatial data infrastructure and land administration programmes;

Promotion of National and Regional Geographical Names Standardization Programmes; and Cooperation with the United Nations Geographic Database Initiative. The report on the 15th UNRCC-AP is being prepared and

will be made available in the next few months.

Amor Laaribi

*UNSD, Office of the Director
Representative of the UN Secretariat
for the 15th UNRCC-AP*

Forthcoming Meeting:

The 7th UN Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas will be held in New York at the United Nations Headquarters from 22 to 26 January 2001. The Letter of Invitation "Note Verbale" for this Conference was sent to all Permanent Missions to the United

Nations on 15 May 2000. The Provisional Agenda and the Note on Documentation were enclosed.

For further information, you can contact Ms Jennifer Javier or Mr Amor Laaribi at the following address:

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