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REPORTS OF THE DIVISIONS

Report of the Czech Republic

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Institutional News on Bodies of Standardization of Geographic Names

During the years 1993 - 1995 a number of very important legal acts concerning the standardization of geographical names were adopted in the Czech Republic. The national standardization of non-settlement names is carried out by the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre as the central body of the state administration in the field of geodesy, cartography and cadastre in accordance with the Act No. 359/1992 Coll., on Surveying Mapping and Cadastral Bodies as amended by following legislation. The national standardization of the settlement names, i.e. the names of municipalities and or their parts is carried out by the ministry of interior of the Czech Republic. The Act No. 200/1994 Coll., on Surveying and Mapping came into effect on the date of 1st January 1995. It is thereby declared by the said Act that the standardization of the names of non-settlement geographical objects on the territory of the Czech Republic and the names of settlement and non-settlement geographical objects on the other territories as well as the administration of the respective information systems are the surveying and mapping activities carried out in the public interest. The process of standardization of geographical names is detaily regulated by the Decree No. 31 of the Czech Office for Surveying Mapping and Cadastre from 1st February 1995 which applies out the Act No. 200/1994 Coll. The subjects of standardization regulated by the cited Decree are as follows : non-settlement names on the territory of the Czech Republic in the scale of the state map series 1 : 10 000, Czech equivalents of the names on the other territories and historical variants of these names. The Czech Office for Surveying Mapping and Cadastre carries out the standardization as one of its basic functions. The proposals for standardization are being passed to the Commission for Geographic Names which acts as an advisory body of the said office. Each proposal shall contain the following : the proposed name, the short description of the object, its localization in the topographical base, the local administrative body's approval and the name and address of the proposer which is most regularly the locally competent Cadastral Office. The proposed names are being standardized on the basis of literally language with regard to the locally used variant. The authorised names obligatory used in the Czech cartography are the result of this process.

The names of objects out of the Czech territory are supposed to be standardized by the relevant foreign state authorities. The way of romanization of non-Roman scripts is regulated by the recommendations of UN conferences for geographical names. Using of the Czech exonyms is regulated similarly.

Standardized names from the Czech territory are given in the Basic map of the Czech Republic in the scale 1:10 000. Moreover the selected names are published in collection of geographic names publications named "UNO Gazetteers of Geographical Names". Following to the new legislation from the years 1993-1995 the new statute of the Commission for Geographic Names are now being prepared.

Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers

Geographical names of the objects on the territory of the Czech Republic were standardized by the Ministry of Interior (settlement names) and by the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre and its predecessors (non-settlement names). The Statistic List of Municipalities, the Central Bulletin and the Basic Map of the Czech Republic continue to indicate the actual state of geographical names in our country. Czech Basic Maps are published in the scale of 1:10 000, 1:25 000, 1:50 000, 1:100 000, 1:200 000. The Basic Map in the scale 1:10 000 is the most detailed of our topographic maps and consists of 4 573 sheets from which the number of 4 470 were published in the years 1981 - 1995. 33 sheets of this map displaying the Czech-Slovak borderland the administration thereof was entrusted to the Slovak Office for Geodesy and Cartography in the former Czechoslovak Federation were published in 1994.

It is supposed that within the year 2000 the analogue form of the Basic Map will be transformed into the so called Basic Data Base of the Geographic data (ZABAGED/1), which is created as a part of the state informational system. Within the present time the digital cartographic raster-data base of the Czech Republic including the standardized geographical names - so called ZABAGED/2 has been finished. The project of table data base of map lettering attributes is working out at present. At the same time we are going on editing of geographic gazetteers for home and/or foreign recipients interested in the Czech toponymy. In order to meet the needs of the

standardization of names of the objects which cover a large area and are described in topographical maps of middle scale only partially the publication "Major Geomorphological Units of the Czech Republic" has been compiled recently in 1995 and published in the beginning of 1996. It contains the names of units with their highest points of elevation filed according to the taxonomical system including the attached map in the scale of 1:500 000 with the demarcation. Further on the gazetteer gives the basic principles for using these names in foreign texts and appurtenant English, French, German, Russian and Spanish exonyms provided they are existing.

As above, since 1994 the content of the toponymic data bank outcoming from the process of standardization of geographical names has become a part of new Concept of the Basic Data Base of the Geographical Data (abbr. ZABAGED). On the basis of the governmental resolution the Concept has been worked out and after the inter-branch negotiation approved by the president of the Czech Office for Surveying Mapping and Cadastre on 1st November 1994. ZABAGED has been made as a part of the state information system (SIS) which use the technology of the geographical information system (GIS). The aim of ZABAGED as a combination of space and description data is to create a common geodetic basis of land-related information systems. Space data in ZABAGED are stated in the national coordinate reference grid, called S-JTSK in the scope relating to the scale of 1:10 000.

Chronologically the ZABAGED has been worked out in two etaps. In the beginning of 1995 the cartographic raster-data base named ZABAGED/2 has been finished. By the end of the year 2000 we schedule to have finished the topologic vector-data base model named ZABAGED/1. Owing to the used coordinate system and the scale therein the connection between geographical data and future digital real estate register could be attained. In the future ZABAGED may serve as information base for the production of basic and thematic state maps of middle and small scales.

Geographical names of the Basic Map 1:10 000 are included in ZABAGED as well. For the present time we have finished the digitizing of 4555 sheets of this map in the frame of ZABAGED/2. Subsequent raster-data are vectorized by automatic or halfautomatic programmes in the environment of Intergraph MGE. The relevant attributes are formed in tables of relational database ORACLE.

Customers shall receive the space data in the vector format DGN or DXF, the description data in the table form of ASCII files. After adopting of European standards for geographic information the ZABAGED/1 data will be transformed accordingly. In accordance with the legal entrustment the responsibility to administer the ZABAGED belonging to the Land Survey Office.