

Ad-Hoc Group of Experts on
the Standardization of
Geographical Names

New York, 10-20 March 1970

MINUTE N° 5

Meeting held on Monday 16 March 1970

51. In Minute N° 2, paragraph 5, line 2, it was agreed that the words "be officially appointed as" should read "act as".
52. The group decided that the recommendation of the representative of Cambodia on the romanization of Cambodian geographical names made at Geneva (see Report p. 6, col.2 and Romanization Guide page 16) should be proposed for adoption at the next full conference.
53. With a view to obtaining official confirmation of the adoption by the Ethiopian national names authority of the Amharic to Roman alphabet transliteration system, the group requested the United Nations Cartographic Office to make contact with the ECA in Addis-Abeba in order that they might, by such methods as they consider useful, obtain this confirmation.
54. It was agreed that the question of extraterrestrial names should be put on the agenda for the second conference. In the meantime, a statement suggesting principles, guide lines and procedures for the naming of lunar features should be prepared, in close co-operation with the International Astronomical Union.
55. It was agreed that the following amendments should be made to the report of the sub-group on Underseas Nomenclature :
- last line of paragraph 4 to read : "IAPO and in the works on geographical names issued by national agencies"
 - point 1 to read: "the suggestion of guide lines governing the appropriateness of names for application to undersea features and the provision of the rationale of the proposed guide lines"
 - page 2, last line, to read : "currently available to the United Nations".
56. Following Prof. Tsao's exposition of his working paper relating to Recommendation 15 of the Geneva Conference, Mr. Komkov drew attention to Hungary's proposed adoption of Pinyin at that time. The Chairman talked of making a comparative study of the two systems in accordance with Recommendation 15 itself included the possibility of comparative study, but he felt that in view of the extreme difficulty of the problem it should be left in abeyance for the time being. Prof. Tsao said that a comparative study was in fact now being made in Taiwan but that the results of this might not be available for perhaps two years. Mr. Lewis spoke of the cartographic, and Mr. Geelan of the linguistic difficulties concerning Pinyin, and supported the idea of leaving the matter in abeyance. After further discussion, the Chairman proposed that each country concerned should, following this meeting of the group, prepare a statement setting out its position on the transcription of Chinese, together with the rationale behind it, and that at the same time, China should be asked to expedite the results of its study. This was agreed.