

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

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New York, 10-20 March 1970

MINUTE N° 8

(Meeting held on Thursday 19 March 1970)

75. The Chairman proposed examination of Working Paper N° 4. After an exchange of views by several experts, the group decided that Working Papers N° 4 and N° 5, Information Paper N° 3 and a new paper by Mr. Komkov, all of which dealt with transliteration, should be circulated for comment after the meeting. Written comments on these documents should be sent to the Cartography Section for distribution.
76. On the question of transliteration systems for specific languages, those for Cambodian and Amharic had already been dealt with (see Minutes N° 5, paragraphs 52 and 53). It was agreed that the proposal of Col. Sharma for Indian languages (Working Paper N° 8) should also now be circulated for comment.
77. Col. Ayoubi reminded the group that in Working Paper N° 21, he had made a certain number of proposals concerning the transliteration of Arabic which he intended to present to the next meeting of the Arab League this autumn. He would be glad, therefore, to receive comments on his proposals in time for this meeting.
78. In accordance with Recommendation N° 9 (Romanization) of the Geneva Conference, it was agreed to set up a special working group charged with making a comparative study of the various systems of transliteration and to analyse their advantages and disadvantages for the international standardization of geographical names. The members of the group would be : Messrs. Brau, Geelan, Gómez de Silva, Komkov, Nédélec, Page and Sharma (1). The Group of Experts was unanimous in recognizing that such a comparative study would have to be extremely detailed, and would have to be done by correspondence, at least in its early stages. Later on, the group will be able to meet when and where necessary. Mr. Komkov stressed that the services of specialists would be indispensable and that the members of the working group should be prepared to play a liaison rôle in this respect.
79. The composition of the work group on overseas features was decided by the Ad-Hoc Group of Experts. This working group will be composed of the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States of America, Canada, Norway, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
80. The composition of the working group on extraterrestrial names was similarly decided : the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

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(1) At the end of the session, Mr. Gómez de Silva was unanimously elected chairman of the working group by the six members present.

81. In these two cases, it was considered preferable to list the countries rather than the experts because of the specificity of the matters under consideration and because of the small number of experts present at the meeting.

82. Item 74 of Minute N° 7 was amended to read:

"The Chairman stated, and the group agreed, that :

- the problem of minority languages is difficult to handle,
- the problem has not always been set down explicitly and
- it presents different aspects from one division to another.

The Chairman then suggested that each expert representing a division undertake to prepare and distribute through the network a detailed account of the situation in his division.