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THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
Athens, Greece
17 August - 7 September 1977
Item 7 of the provisional agenda.

REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES ON THE GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
STANDARDIZATION IN POLAND FOR THE PERIOD 1972-1977

Paper presented by Poland

ATH.77-178

According to the recommendations accepted by the second United Nations Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names held in London 1972, and by the second meeting of the seventh and eighth United Nations Regional Subdivisions, held in Budapest 1975, the following topics have been worked out:

1. The list of the names of countries-United Nations members as adopted to the Polish language forms. The list consists of the following items: (a) Polish and national short name; (b) Polish and national full official name; (c) adjective as derived from the country's name; (d) name of the country's inhabitant; (e) Polish and national name of the capital; (f) adjective as derived from the capital name; (g) name of the capital inhabitant.

Each of the mentioned names has been complemented by the form of both the genitive and locative.

The list has been published in the "Official Gazette" of the Ministry of Science, Higher Education and Technology, and as that it is obligatory for use in official documents, radio, television, press, literature and other mass media of transmission.

2. The large discussion on the definition of exonym formulated in the United Nations document ESA/RT/C/GN/3, March 1973, was undertaken from the point of view of the specificity of Polish language rules. In result the definition has been enlarged. The Polish proposal will be presented at the third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Athens 1977.

3. We have started with the preparation of a full list of Polish exonyms. The list will be based on the improved definition of exonym, and consist of the settlement names as well as of the names of other geographical features. The exonyms for the following countries have been already worked out: Estonian SSR, Latvian SSR, Lithuanian SSR, Kaliningrad district of the Russian SFSR, German Democratic Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, and Czechoslovakia. Other exonyms are in preparation.

4. The list of 60 outstanding Poles and of 10 geographical features in Poland as suggested for naming the extraterrestrial objects was submitted to Professor Konkov, the member of the United Nations Group of Experts for the Standardization of Geographical Names. The list of outstanding Poles who had a considerable share in the development of world science and culture has been prepared in close co-operation with the numerous Polish national scientific societies.

5. We began the preparation of a Polish gazetteer. Hitherto existing "The list of settlements in Polish People's Republic" published by the Ministry of Transport and Communication in 1967 is now out of date as a result of the administrative reorganization made in 1975. The preliminary materials for the new gazetteer are nearly completed.

Two official bodies are engaged in the standardization of geographical names in Poland.

(a) The geographical names of extra-Poland territories, terminology, exonyms, naming of features beyond a single sovereignty, and writing systems are the research problems of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names of the World created

by the Minister of Science, Higher Education and Technology in 1973. The Commission closely collaborates with both the Main Board of Geodesy and Cartography and the Commission of Polish Language Culture of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Resolutions of the Commission on S.G.N.W. are ratified by the Minister of Science, Higher Education and Technology, and then published in the "Official Gazette" of the Ministry.

(b) The Ministry of the Administration, Territorial Economy and Environment Protection is responsible for the whole problem concerning the geographical names in respect to the territory of Polish sovereignty.