

Ninth Session
New York, 17-27 February 1981
Agenda Item No. 6

Activities concerning the Standardization
of Geographical Names in the USSR (1979-1980)

(submitted by Mr. A. Zemtsev, USSR Division)

Since the conclusion of the eighth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, active work in the field of national standardization of names for geographic features in the Soviet Union has been in progress. Special attention was given to activities relating to naming new settlements and other aspects related to the intensive socialist build-up. In this connection, besides the Joint Permanent Commission on Geographical Names which is of All-Union (All-State) importance, corresponding commissions in all the Union Republics of the USSR were established. These commissions consider and decide on suggestions concerning naming and renaming settlements and physico-geographic features, submitted to them by different organizations. Once sanctioned by the Commissions, the suggestions are approved in accordance with the legislative procedure.

Activities related to the drafting of instructions containing the rules for the Russian transliteration of geographical names of the Soviet Union Autonomous Republics and Foreign countries, as well as dictionaries of geographical names and other reference publications were also in progress.

In the period from 1979 to 1980 the following works were published:

1. Instructions on the Russian Transliteration of Geographical Names of the Buryat ASSR, Moscow, 1979.
2. Instructions on the Russian Transliteration of Geographical Names of the Mari ASSR, Moscow, 1979.
3. Dictionary of Geographical Names of the Udmurt ASSR, Moscow, 1980.
4. Instructions on the Russian Transliteration of Geographical Names of Iran, Moscow, 1979.
5. Instructions on the Russian Transliteration of Geographical Names of Turkey, Moscow, 1980.
6. Instructions on the Russian Transliteration of Geographical Names of Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Moscow, 1980.
7. Gazetteer of Names for Countries and Territories of the World, 1979.
8. Information Bulletin: Names of Physico-geographical Features of the Antarctic Discovered by the Soviet Antarctic Expeditions in 1971-1974, Moscow, 1980.

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Work related to the drafting of instructions is generally under completion and at present our efforts are concentrated on compiling dictionaries of geographical names, a great number of which are being printed and will be published in 1981-1982.

Activities in the field of the automated data processing of geographical names are in progress.

More detailed information about all the activities in this field will be contained in the report prepared for the UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.