

Ninth Session  
New York, 17-27 February 1981  
Agenda item No. 4

Report by the Chairman of the United Nations  
Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Submitted by J. Breu, Chairman (Austria)



## REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN

Activities related to overall work and interests of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) 1979 - 1981.

1. During the period between the 8th and 9th sessions of the UNGEGN, I have followed the activities of the divisions, working groups and individual experts as these have been reported directly or indirectly, and have commented on suggested actions as seemed appropriate in 9 Circular Letters distributed to the members of the UNGEGN.

Continual contact has been maintained with the Cartography Section on all the varied matters requiring actions and decisions. I was assisted in my work to a very high degree by the Rapporteur of the UNGEGN, Mr. Rayburn, Canada.

2. As Morocco and Iran have withdrawn their declaration of interest to host the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names I tried to find a host country for this Conference. For this purpose I negotiated with my Government and corresponded with the national experts of many countries, but without coming to a result. Some countries grudge the cost of hosting an International Conference of this kind, others deplore the lack of a trained cadre necessary to organize such a conference.

The United Nations Organization has offered to hold the Conference at its headquarters in New York if no country will volunteer to accept this task.

3. In the period between the two sessions I have compiled contributions to the planned Information Bulletin to be issued by the United Nations Cartography Section.
4. I met for personal consultation of the current problems Mr. F.J. Ormeling, Convener of the Working Group on Training Courses and Chairman of the Dutch and German-speaking Division; Mr. E. Földi, Convener of the Working Group on a Single Romanization System for Each non-Roman Writing System; Mr. R. Böhme, Convener of the Working Group on Automated Data Processing; Mr. E. Meynen, Convener of the special Working Group (within the Working Group on Gazetteers) on a United Nations Concise Gazetteer of the World, and Mr. M. Szymczak, Chairman of the Central and South-East Europe Division.

5. On the request of the President of the International Cartographic Association (ICA), Mr. F.J. Ormeling, I have written a paper "The Standardization of Geographical Names within the Framework of the United Nations" which is intended to serve the special practical needs of cartography.
6. Also in this period I have contacted some international Agencies concerned with geographical names, i.e. the Union Postale Universelle (UPU), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Universal Federation of Travel Agent's Associations (UFTAA), World Tourism Organization (WTO), the International Committee of Onomastic Sciences and the International Standards Organization, whereas the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the International Astronomical Union (IAU) have been contacted by the Conveners of the Working Groups concerned. All these organizations are interested in our work and are considering to make use as far as appropriate of the results of our meetings and conferences. Only the Union Postale Universelle (UPU) can in no way be guided by our decisions as it confines itself to taking over unaltered the names presented by the member countries. It is worth mentioning that the next gazetteer of the UPU("Nomenclature") and the new lists of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) will receive from the member country China Pinyin names only.
7. Finally, I should like to thank all experts and staff members of the United Nations Cartographic Section, who have assisted me in my work, for their valuable contributions.



Josef Breu

Recognizing that such a map is valuable and necessary to reflect the success of an idea initiated and supported by the participants of this Conference,

Recommends to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names that it consider the compilation and publication of such a map.