WORLD CARTOGRAPHY, VOLUME ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES *

At the 10th session of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names, the writer agreed to serve as editor of a special volume of the UN series, World Cartography, which would concentrate on geographical names. Subsequently, he received several papers from various quarters and began to organize them for the stated purpose. During this process, he found that certain topics made difficult any effort to develop a logical theme. Additionally, it was evident that most of the papers had appeared as working papers for United Nations meetings. The writer conferred with Mr. De Henseler and proposed that the project be approached in a different manner.

In order to present the most effective picture of the field of geographical names to readers, some of whom might not be aware of the field, the writer recommended that first, an outline of the publication be prepared, complete with possible chapter headings and desired subject coverage, and that second, names experts be invited to prepare the individual chapters. Mr. De Henseler supported the concept and agreed to reschedule the publication at a later date. The writer also agreed to draft an outline and to act as editor.

Attached to this paper is a provisional outline which can be reviewed by the experts at the 11th UNGEGN and changed as required. An estimate is given of the percentage of space each chapter could have. The writer would be pleased to receive names of prospective authors of specified chapters or sections during the 11th UNGEGN session.

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* Submitted by Dr. Richard R. Randall, Executive Secretary, US Board on Geographical Names.

PROVISIONAL OUTLINE FOR VOLUME ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS
SERIES <u>WORLD CARTOGRAPHY</u>

<u>Percentage</u>
<u>f Total</u>

Introduction: A brief overview of the development, accomplishments, and future
tasks of the field of geographical names.

1. What is a geographical name? This section could deal with first recorded
names, problems of misunderstood names in early literature or exploration,
mythical names, early geographers, and other historical factors. It could also
deal with definition and function of names.

2. Sources of names. A treatment of how features and places are named, because
of similarity of features to other natural objects, physical conditions of
places, of events or happenings at places, reference to mythical characters or
places, commemoration of well-known persons, local names as heard through ears of
"foreign" names.

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3. National and international efforts to treat geographical names systematically.
One part could deal with early meetings of International Geographical Union
(Paris 1888?), with emphasis on transliteration. Another part could treat early
national names agencies.

3

4. Cooperation between the nations. This chapter could cover efforts involving
two or more countries to develop standard methods for dealing with names within
their countries or in other countries. Function of International Postal Union.

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5. Work of the United Nations. This section should deal with individuals who
helped establish UN programs, while also discussing the nature of the programs.
Detailed treatment on major conferences and their results (i.e., resolutions)
should be featured. Areas of real progress and challenges that have arisen.
Advances to national developmental programs, training courses.

5

6. Increasing appreciation of geographical names as essential elements of
cartography and otehr areas. Understanding of practical goals of programs to
standardize names. Frank description of problems of standardization.

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7. National Names Authorities. This would feature a special appendix with
identification of national agencies, including date of founding and charter,
nature of organization, participating bodies, publications, and other useful
information, including address and office for use in commmunicating about names
issues.

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