

**Agenda Item 7**

**REPORT ON EXONYMS AND OTHER GEOGRAPHICAL  
NAMES IN GERMAN LANGUAGE FOR CARTOGRAPHICAL  
PRODUCTS OF THE GDR**

In materializing resolutions of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names, in particular resolutions 28, 29 and 31 of the Second United Nations Conference (London, 1972), resolutions 4, 17, 18, 19 and 20 of the Third Conference (Athens, 1977) and resolution 20 of the Fourth Conference (Geneva, 1982), the problems and tasks in the reduction of exonyms as well as in their standardized spelling were examined. Basic remarks by BREU and BACK (both from Austria) and by ORMELING (Netherlands) on the exonyms were involved in the examinations.

In the result of these works it was possible in 1986 to publish a document entitled "List of Exonyms and Other Geographical Names in German Language for Cartographical Products of the GDR".

Hereinafter some of the principles and rules contained in this document are represented in a generalized form:

1. Starting from the remarks and definitions on the term "exonyms" and necessary reductions contained in the above-mentioned resolutions it is defined that exonyms are a matter of designations for geographical features, the forms of name of which differ in other languages from the one in the language of the state and/or area where the respective feature is located. Exonyms can be divided, on principle, into two groups. One group comprises political-geographical names. This group includes the designations of states, administrative units, capitals, the remaining localities (towns, communities, dwelling-places, detached farms etc.) as

well as other man-made features (plants, traffic facilities, enterprises etc.). The second group comprises physical-geographical names. Among them there are, inter alia, the names of mountain-ranges, mountains, plateaus, valleys, landscapes, peninsulas, islands, capes, oceans, branches of the sea, bights, lakes, rivers, glaciers, submarine forms of relief, woods, forests, moorlands, deserts etc.

2. The exonyms of political-geographical names are determined in the GDR for some time. They are included in the "Instruction on the Spelling of Geographical Names in Cartographical Products of the German Democratic Republic" in the form of lists, the ninth revised edition of which was published in 1986. This concerns also the names of islands, such as Madagascar, New Caledonia, New Zealand and Cyprus, which are at the same time names of states or other political units. In accordance with that the following names of towns can be added to the national proper name in German language in brackets and be used in special cartographical products even instead of the national names:

#### Europe

Belgium	:	Brügge, Brüssel, Lüttich
Denmark	:	Kopenhagen
France	:	Dünkirchen, Nizza
Greece	:	Athen, Piräus, Saloniki
Italy	:	Bozon, Brixen, Florenz, Genua, Mailand, Mantua, Meran, Neapel, Padua, Rom, Tarent, Triest, Turin, Venedig
Yugoslavia	:	Belgrad
Netherlands	:	Den Haag
Pöland	:	Krakau, Warschau
Portugal	:	Lissabon
Romania	:	Bukarest
Switzerland	:	Genf
Soviet Union	:	Moskau
Czechoslovakia	:	Brünn, Budweis, Pilsen, Prag

#### Non-European Continents

Egypt	:	Alexandria, Assuan, Gisch, Kairo, Port Said, Suez
Algeria	:	Algier, Constantine, Oran
Ethiopia	:	Massaua
China	:	Kanton, Peking, Tientsin
Israel/Jordan	:	Jerusalem

Japan	:	Tokio
Qatar	:	Doha
Cuba	:	Havanna
Libya	:	Tripolis
Morocco	:	Casablanca, Rabat, Tanger
Mexico	:	Mexiko or Mexiko-Stadt
Mongolian PR	:	Ulan-Rator
Oman	:	Maskat
Republic of South Africa	:	Kapstadt
Saudi Arabia	:	Er-riad, Medina, Mekka
Somalia	:	Mogadischu
Sudan	:	Khartum, Port Sudan
Syria	:	Damaskus
Tanzania	:	Daressalem
Thailand	:	Bangkok
Viet Nam	:	Haiphong, Hanoi, Ho-Chi-Minh-Stadt

3. "Foreign-Language Geographical Names and Their German Equivalents" are placed in front of the actual list of exonyms. These are generic terms and other geographical terms which appear frequently in other languages and maps. This list has the following structure:

1. geographical name in the foreign language, e.g. - Järvi
2. language(s) - Finnish
- 3 German equivalent - Lake

Common geographical names from non-Roman scripts, in particular from the Arabic-speaking area, have been transcribed according to the transcription systems to be applied in various ways; multilingual names are listed to a very large extent, e.g.

- Djabal, Djibāl or Jabal
- Arabic
- mountain, or
- Zaliv
- Bulgarian/Russian/Serbo-Croatian
- bight

4. In the list "Foreign-Language Geographical Names and Their German Equivalents" the national names are written and/or transcribed in Roman characters and registered in alphabetical order. Thus in case of applying national source materials the corresponding German exonym can be found quickly. The list has the following structure:

1. national form of name, e.g. - Meuse
- 2 state(s)/area - France/Belgium

- |                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| 3. language(s)           | - French |
| 4. German form of name   | - Maas   |
| 5. geographical category | - river  |

The names of important features located outside the national sovereignty are listed, as far as known, in Russian and English. In these cases the German form of name (column 4) is no actual exonym.

5. The list "Exonyms and Their Foreign-Language Equivalents" is arranged alphabetically in accordance with the German form of names. Thus, the national form of name can be easily ascertained from the German exonym, if required. The list has the following structure:

- |                              |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. German form of name, e.g. | - Dalmatien  |
| 2. national form(s) of name  | -- Dalmacija |
| 3. state(s)/area             | - Yugoslavia |
| 4. geographical category     | - landscape  |

Those names not being actual exonyms, but in most cases German forms of names for features in extraterritorial areas, were marked in this list by a cross. Mostly the overriding area of the sea was added to these names (names of oceans, parts of oceans, bays etc.), e.g.

Finnischer Meerbusen = Ostsee

6. In the list there were included the spellings common and permissible in the German language, as well as transcribed and/or transliterated names from non-Roman scripts of important physical-geographical features, e.g.

- |                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. German form of name   | - Thrakisches Becken |
| 2. national form of name | - trakijska nizina   |
| 3. state                 | - Bulgaria           |
| 4. geographical category | - landscape          |

Such names, which differ from the German form in the primary word, were involved, too, e.g.

Great Australian Bight	= Grobe Australische Bucht
Malé Karpaty	= Kleine Karpaten
South Georgia	= Südgeorgien

Further those names are considered exonyms, which differ from the national form in the primary word, e.g.

Cabo de Hornes	=	Kap Hoorn
Fyn	=	Fünen
Lorraine	=	Lothringen

Also those names of important geographical features extending over the area of several states, having several names and with a German exonym in existence, were included, e.g.

Hèvros (Greek)		
Marica (Bulgarian)	=	Mariza
Meric nehri (Turkish)		

Karknosze (Polish)		
Krkonose (Czech)	=	Riesengebirge

Liqeni i Ohrit (Albanian)		
Ohridsko jezero (Serbo-Croatian)	=	Oridsee

In the spelling of exonyms the generic words appearing in some languages can be dropped in cartographical products, e.g.

Islas Baleares	=	Balearen
Liao Ho	=	Liao
Ohio River	=	Ohio

7. Those German geographical names, which differ from the national forms only by adjectival supplements, such as GroB- or Klein- of the direction, were not included in the list, e.g.

Little Minch	=	Kleiner Minch
Groot Karas	=	GroBer Karas
Oostpolder	=	Ostpolder

Such adjectival supplements for names are being translated into German, as a rule, without difficulties.

If only the generic word of a geographical name is translated into German, but the actual name remains as it is, the respective name was not included in the list, e.g.

Abashiri Wan	=	Abashiribucht
Golfo de Cádiz	=	Golf von Gadiz

Punta de Maisi

= Kap Maisi

As far as the proper name is not an adjective, as shown by the examples Punta Gorda, Laguna Grande, Monts Green, these foreign language generic words are replaced by German names.

With the elaboration of the "List of Exonyms and Other Geographical Names in German Language..." the tasks are not completed. A first inventory is made. It represents a contribution to both the national and international standardization of geographical names. In future it is important to plan an updating on the foundation of practical experience, conditioned by the continual intensification of international communication.