

**Group of Experts on
Geographical names**

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Agenda Item 5

**REPORT ON PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION
OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC SINCE THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL
NAMES IN 1984**

Since the Eleventh Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Geneva, 1984) the following work has been carried out for a further standardization of the spelling of geographical names in the German Democratic Republic:

1. The basic document, the "Instruction on the Spelling of Geographical Names in Cartographical Products of the German Democratic Republic" (hereinafter referred to as "Instruction") was published in 1986 in its ninth revised edition. The permanent up-dating of the Instruction ensures that new findings and experience in the standardization of geographical names will become known in a generalized form to a broad circle of users. Since this Instruction comprises, inter alia, a list of the names of states and another one containing the spelling of the names of dependencies, it is particularly to be underlined that the material of the eleventh session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names has been used as a source for supplementations and modifications.
2. In order to further standardize the spelling of names of geographical features located outside the national territory of the German Democratic Republic, the work on the series "General Directions for the Spelling of Geographical Names of Individual Countries", which was started in 1967, have been systematically continued.

In the period under review such General Directions were published for the following states: Republic of Cuba, Mongolian People's Republic and Republic of Cyprus. The second revised edition of the General Directions for the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Portuguese Republic was published. The General Directions for the Republic of Turkey are under preparation and those for the Kingdom of Denmark and the Italian Republic are being revised.

The "Toponymic guidelines" published by individual states are of particular value for the elaboration and/or revision of the General Directions.

3. A great deal of work has been done for the examination of the exonyms (double names). In 1986 it was possible to complete and publish a "List of Exonyms" in realization of resolution 20 of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (Geneva, 1982). A separate report of experience on this work will be submitted.

4. Referring to item 11 of the provisional agenda it is to be mentioned that scientists of the GDR who participated in Soviet Antarctic expeditions have given the following names to geographical features in the Antarctica:

- "Berge der Deutsch-Sowjetischer Freundschaft" (Mountains of German-Soviet Friendship) in the Enderby-Land and
- "Bubnoff-Nunatakker" in the Shackleton-Range.

Soviet research scientists gave the following German-language names to geographical features in the Antarctica:

- Otto-Grotewohl-Berge (Otto-Grotewohl-Mountains)
- Wilhelm-Pieck-Rücken (Wilhelm-Pieck-Ridge)
- Karl-Liebknecht-Rücken (Karl-Liebknecht-Ridge)
- Rosa-Luxemburg-Rücken (Rosa-Luxemburg-Ridge)
- Thälmannberge (Thaelmann Mountains)

5. In accordance with resolution 24 of the Geneva Conference (1982) the German Democratic Republic participated in the period under review in the consultations of the Dutch-German-Speaking group of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, held in October, 1985, in Vienna, Republic of Austria.

6. On national level the "Fourth Congress of Geographers of the German Democratic Republic", organized as a central function of the Academy of Sciences of the GDR, was held in August, 1985, in Gotha under the theme "Geography-Map-Society". This Congress was seized to explain a broad circle of users the aims pursued by the United Nations with the standardization of geographical names.

Another activity in this connection took place on the occasion of a colloquium at the honour of the 200th anniversary of today's publishing house VEB Hermann Haack Geographisch-Kartographische Anstalt Gotha in September 1985, in the town of Gotha.

Altogether it may be said that important resolutions of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (Geneva, 1982) have been materialized in the period under review in the German Democratic Republic. This refers particularly to resolutions 2, 4, 5, 7, 20 and 24. Respective work will be carried on systematically and continuously in the future, too.