

**Group of Experts on
Geographical names**

**Twelfth Session
Geneva, 29 September - 7 October 1986**

WORKING PAPER No. 8

18 July 1986

Agenda Item 5

REPORT
OF THE DUTCH AND GERMAN-SPEAKING DIVISION

(Submitted by J. Breu, Division Chairman)

Activities since the 11th Session of the U.N. Group of Experts on Geographical Names, Geneva 1984.

A. Activities of the Division as a whole

From 8 - 10 October 1985 a Divisional Meeting was held in Vienna.

Some important results:

- (1) Working out of a draft for Rules and Procedures for the Division.
- (2) Romanization of non-Roman writing systems:
It was agreed that every conversion system which officially has been introduced in the country of origin should be accepted for application in international cartography. Only if no such official romanization exists, other systems should be considered. Further, it was agreed that for national use romanization systems based on the spelling and reading conventions of the receiver language should be applied. As such popular systems exist already for some non-Roman scripts in the German speaking countries it was convened to endeavour to co-ordinate work on these systems.
- (3) It is planned to hold a "Training Course in Toponymy" in a member country of the Division. It is foreseen to invite as participants 20-30 students of developing countries.

B. National reports

I Austria (prepared by J. Breu)

- (1) The federal co-ordination centre for names standardization "Abteilung für kartographische Ortsnamenkunde der Österreichischen Kartographischen Kommission in der Österreichischen Geographischen Gesellschaft" and the respective provisional bodies for Burgenland, Salzburg, Styria, Tyrol Upper Austria, Vienna, and Vorarlberg have continued their work on national standardization.

- (2) The toponymic revision of the "Österreichische Karte 1:50 000" (Austrian Map 1:50,000) almost has been completed, that means, that beside on one sheet (nr.189) all inhabited place names are identical with those of the official Gazetteer of Austria and all feature names have been standardized in co-operation with the provincial names authorities.
- (3) The "Österreichische Statistische Zentralamt" (Austrian Statistical Central Office) has published the "Ortsverzeichnis Österreich 1981" (Gazetteer of Austria 1981) in 9 volumes, Vienna 1984-1986, comprising the names of all inhabited places of the country.
- (4) The Bundesministerium für Landesverteidigung (Federal Ministry of Defense) has published a "Geographische Raumgliederung Österreich 1:1,5 Mio" (Geographical regionalization of Austria 1:1,500,000), Vienna 1984. Author: R. Mang (Nr. 24/1984 of "Informationen des Militärischen Geo-Dienstes"). This brochure contains beside a map a list of the names of regions, covering the whole area of the country
- (5) The Austrian expert of UNGEGN has acted mainly by correspondence as co-ordinator of the UNGEGN project "Toponymic Guidelines for Map and other Editors".
- (6) The Austrian expert has contributed the articles mentioned below to volume XVIII of World Cartography (1986) dedicated to names standardization:
 - (a) Progress and developments in standardizing geographical names within the framework of the United Nations.
 - (b) Resolutions of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names pertaining to the romanization of geographical names derived from non-Roman writing systems.
 - (c) Social and economic benefits of the standardization of geographical names.
 - (d) Exonyms
 - (e) Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors:
Austria

II Federal Republic of Germany (prepared by R. Böhme)

- (1) The map of the names of regions and mountains of the Federal Republic of Germany by Mr. H. Liedtke has been edited and printed together with a textbook. The title is:
Liedtke, Herbert: Namen und Abgrenzungen von Landschaften in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland gemäß der amtlichen Übersichtskarte 1:500 000 (UK 500) mit farbiger Karte 1:1 000 000. - Forschungen zur deutschen Landeskunde, vol. 222, Trier 1984, 96 pp.
The work has been finalized within the framework of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (Ständiger Ausschuß für geographische Namen, StAGN), the map used as a basis is "Bundesrepublik Deutschland 1:1 000 000" a combined print of sheets of the International Map of the World and edited by the Institute of Applied Geodesy (Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie) in Frankfurt am Main.
- (2) Within the framework of StAGN a list of geographical names given to features in the Antarctic region by expeditions of Germany up to 1945 and of the Federal Republic of Germany after 1945 has been completed by computer. The list containing about 500 entries has been acknowledged by the Scientific Commission on Antarctic Research (SCAR).
- (3) The data file of the Gazetteer Federal Republic of Germany (Geographisches Namenbuch Bundesrepublik Deutschland) is currently updated using data of the Federal Office for Statistics (Statistisches Bundesamt). Updated materials will eventually be published after the 1987 census in the FRG.
- (4) Based on the "Terminology Bulletin" of the United Nations a synopsis of country names as used in German speaking countries (FRG, Austria, Switzerland and GDR) and the translation bureau of the UN is under preparation.
- (5) Initiative to establishing names authorities of the Länder of the Federal Republik of Germany is going on.
- (6) A communication with questions relating to geographical names and addressed to the members of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files (dated 31 May 1985) has been answered.

III German Democratic Republic (GDR) (prepared by E. Haack)

Since the 11th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts for Geographical Names (UNGEGN), Geneva 1984, the following work has been done in the field of the standardization of geographical names within the GDR.

- (1) In 1986 the fundamental document, the "Instruktion für die Schreibweise geographischer Namen in den kartographischen Erzeugnissen der DDR" (Instructions for the spelling of geographical names in maps and charts of the GDR) has been edited in its 9th (improved) edition. The continual actualization of the "Instruktionen" safeguards the promulgation in a generalized form of the newest findings and experiences in names standardization to a broad circle of users. As these "Instruktionen" contain amongst others a list of country names and of the spelling of dependent territories it may especially be emphasized, that the papers of the 11th Session of the UNGEGN have been used as a source for additions and alterations.
- (2) For the benefit of a further standardization of the names of geographical objects outside the GDR the work on the series "Allgemeine Richtlinien für die Schreibweise geographischer Namen einzelner Staaten" (General instructions for the spelling of names of individual countries), the first volume of which has been published in 1967, was continued as planned.

In the period under review the following fascicles of the "Allgemeine Richtlinien" have been edited:

- (a) 1st edition: Cuba, Mongolia, Cyprus
- (b) 2nd edition: Netherlands, Portugal

Further work on the "Allgemeine Richtlinien":

- (a) in preparation: Turkey
- (b) under revision: Denmark, Italy

The "Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors" have been of special value for the elaboration and revision of the "Allgemeine Richtlinien".

- (3) Much work was done in revising exonyms. In 1986 a "Verzeichnis der Exonyme" (List of exonyms) was finished and edited, thus realizing Resolution 20 of the 4th U.N. Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (Geneva 1982). A report on this work will be submitted separately.
- (4) Referring to item 11 of the Provisional Agenda it may be mentioned that scientists of the GDR having taken part in Soviet expeditions to the Antarctic region have given the following names to Antarctic geographical objects:

"Berge der Deutsch-Sowjetischen Freundschaft" in Enderby Land

"Bubnoff-Nunatak" in the Shackleton Range

The following German-language names have been given by Soviet scientists to Antarctic geographical objects:

Otto-Grotewohl-Berge
Wilhelm-Pieck-Rücken
Karl-Liebknecht-Rücken
Rosa-Luxemburg-Rücken
Thälmannberge

- (5) According to the Resolution 24 of the Geneva Conference (1982) the GDR has taken part in the deliberations of the Dutch and German Speaking Division of the UNGEGN during its session in October 1985 in Vienna, Austria.
- (6) Within the GDR two scientific events gave opportunity to make acquainted a greater audience with the concerns of the U.N. on the standardization of geographical names:
 - (a) IV. Geographenkongreß der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik, Gotha August 1985 under the heading "Geographie-Karte-Gesellschaft" (Geography-Map-Society).
 - (b) Colloquium to the 200th anniversary of the foundation of the present publishing house "VEB Herman Haack Geographisch-Kartographische Anstalt Gotha" in September 1985.

Finally it may be stated that in the period under review the GDR has realized important resolutions of the 4th U.N. Conference for the Standardization of Geographical Names (Geneva 1982) especially concerning Resolutions 2, 4, 5, 7, 20, and 24. The work on names standardization will be continued as planned in the future.

IV Netherlands (prepared by F. Ormeling and F.J. Ormeling)

- (1) The Netherlands have completed the brochure "Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors - Netherlands."
- (2) A school map of the country in Frisian language showing the Frisian geographical names has been published.
- (3) A list of Dutch exonyms is in preparation. Presumably, it will be available in 1987.
- (4) Mr. F.J. Ormeling has taken part as a lecturer in the 2nd Training Course in Toponymy which was held under the auspices of the U.N. in Rabat, Morocco, 2-7 December 1985.
- (5) Mr. F.J. Ormeling has written for the festschrift M.F. Burrell (=Nr. 4, vol 32, Dec. 1984, of "Names-Journal of the American Name Society") the contribution "The Pilot Training Course in Toponymy in Indonesia", Reprint in World Cartography, vol. XVIII (1986), pp. 46-48.

V South Africa (prepared by P.E. Raper)

(1) Background

The highest authority on the standardization of geographical names in South Africa is the National Place Names Committee (NPNC). Established in 1939, it comprises experts in Afrikaans, English, Khoekhoen, and the various Bantu languages, as well as representatives of the English Academy of South Africa, the Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns, the Office of Surveys and Mapping, the State Language Services, the State Departments of Education and Training, Posts and Telecommunications, Transport Services, and the Head of the Onomastic Research Centre of the Human Sciences Research Council.

Within the terms of reference of the NPNC fall names of cities, towns, townships, post offices, railway stations, sidings and stopping-places, airports, and the like, as well as names of geographical features, the latter specifically with a view to cartography.

The functions of the NPNC are to consider the spelling and styling of official place-names and to advise the Minister of National Education accordingly; to consider all cases where a change of name or the restoration of an old name is desired, and gradually to correct the spelling of all geographical names in the Republic of South Africa not yet dealt with by it.

The work of the NPNC resulted in the publications *Official Place Names in the Union and South West Africa* (1951), containing place names approved to the end of 1948, and *Official Place Names in the Republic of South Africa and in South-West Africa* (1978), containing names approved to 1 April 1977. The introductions to both of these publications are devoted inter alia to principles and guide-lines for prospective namers. To make these guidelines more readily available, the NPNC instructed three of its members, Dr. P.E. Raper, Prof. G.S. Nienaber and Mr. J.S.B. Marais, to compile an abbreviated manual. This was published in 1979 under the title *Manual for the Giving of Place Names*.

One of the tasks of the NPNC was to be the compilation of a list of geographical names in South Africa. For a number of reasons, i.e. the lack of a permanent secretariat, this task was never undertaken. Since the Onomastic Research Centre has the necessary expertise and technical facilities, the NPNC requested it to compile not a list of geographical proper names, but a dictionary which will include situation, designation and, where possible, the derivation of the name.

(2) Activities since the Eleventh Session of the UNGEGN

(a) Domestic Names

- (1) The customary meetings of the National Place Names Committee took place in April and September, and geographical names submitted were dealt with.

Mindful of the requirements of the UNGEGN, it was proposed that decisions of the NPNC should be disseminated more rapidly and more effectively.

The standardization of names from the various Bantu languages continued to be problematical. No final guidelines have yet been drawn up by the NPNC sub-committee entrusted with this task.

- (ii) Cognizance has been taken of the resolutions and recommendations of the UNGEGN. Following the example set by Professor J. Breyer in his *Geographisches Namenbuch Österreichs* (Vienna, 1975), the Onomastic Research Centre is compiling its Dictionary of Geographical Names in accordance with these resolutions and recommendations. In addition to this national gazetteer for national use, a start has now been made with the compilation of a national gazetteer for international use (type D as classified in Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. 1, p. 11). The primary difference between these two concerns is the choice of populated places, natural and man-made features of which the names are included. Names of minor features are included in the former but excluded from the latter.

Since these gazetteers are being compiled in accordance with the resolutions and recommendations of the UNGEGN, the following data are included where possible:

1. Standardized name;
2. Description of the location of the entity in terms of latitude and longitude, administrative area, and/or distance and direction from administrative centre;
3. Language from which the name is derived, if other than English;
4. Origin and etymology of the name;
5. Variant spellings and stylings of the name;
6. Source of information

To date some 10 000 entries have been written. In addition, a comprehensive introduction is envisaged in which attention will be given to relevant linguistic and other matters.

(b) Foreign Names

At the request of the Language Commission of the S.A. Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns and the Names Society of Southern Africa, the terms of reference of the NPNC have been extended by Ministerial approval to include the standardization in Afrikaans of foreign (i.e., non-South African) geographical names. The NPNC has requested the Onomastic Research Centre to undertake this task.

C. Activities of the "Ständiger Ausschuß für geographische Namen" (Permanent Committee on Geographical Names).

These committee functions as a co-ordinating body for names standardization in the following German speaking countries: Austria, Federal Republic of Germany, Switzerland.

- (1) Within the period under review 3 meetings have been held in Frankfurt am Main.
- (2) The Committee has prepared the volume "America" of the "Wörterbuch geographischer Namen" which is a gazetteer of the world conceived for users in the German speaking countries.
- (3) For further work see the national report of the Federal Republic of Germany within this summary report of the Division, items (1), (2), and (4).