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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL
NAMES ON THE WORK OF ITS FOURTEENTH SESSION

(held at the United Nations Office at Geneva,
17 to 26 May 1989)

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. In pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1314 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968, the Secretary-General invited the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names to convene its fourteenth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 17-26 May 1989.

ATTENDANCE

2. The session was attended by 71 participants from 36 countries, representing 17 of the 19 geographical/linguistic divisions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. In addition, five intergovernmental and international scientific organizations were represented. The list of participants is reproduced in annex I below.

3. The Chief of the Cartography Unit, Natural Resources and Energy Division of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat, served as Secretary of the Group.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

4. The session was opened by the Chairman, Mr. H. Dorion (Canada). He was assisted by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. A. Tazi (Morocco) and the Rapporteur, Mr. P. J. Woodman (United Kingdom).

AGENDA

5. The Group adopted the following agenda:
 1. Opening of the session.
 2. Adoption of the agenda.
 3. Report of the Chairman.
 4. Report of the Secretary.
 5. Reports of the divisions and liaison officers.
 6. Reports of the working groups:
 - (a) Working Group on Toponymic Data Files;
 - (b) Working Group on Courses in Applied Toponymy;
 - (c) Working Group on a Single Romanization System;
 - (d) Ad Hoc Working Group on Evaluation.
 7. United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences.
 8. Implementation programme.
 9. Regional conferences and co-operation.
 10. Newsletter.
 11. Exonyms.
 - (a) Standardization in multilingual areas.
 12. Terminology.
 13. Concise national gazetteers.
 14. Toponymic guidelines.
 15. Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.
 16. Fifteenth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
 17. Other matters.
 18. Adoption of the report.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

6. The Chairman of the Group noted the particular importance of this session, aimed at identifying specific ways of translating into reality the principles, guidelines and methods which the Group had formulated at previous sessions. The Group should consider particularly the problems faced by countries not present at the session. Financial and organizational problems had precluded their attendance, and the Group should identify ways in which the results of its work could be communicated to such countries. It was, indeed, one of the basic elements of the Group's mandate that assistance should be given to developing countries. The Group should actively consider how to resolve the fact that, despite the existence since the 1960s of United Nations structures to promote the cause of standardization of geographical names, many countries were still not applying many of the conference resolutions.

7. The Chairman remarked that interesting progress had been made since the Fifth Conference in 1987. In particular, the Group's newsletter had proved to be a great success. Three had appeared so far, and consideration should perhaps be given to disseminating them more widely. It was pleasing to note that countries such as Gabon and Nigeria were being active in the creation of national toponymic authorities, and that China had recently established new structures to study applied toponymy. Canada, Czechoslovakia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and other countries, as well as the International Hydrographic Bureau, had produced important printed gazetteers since 1987. Similar printed work was currently being undertaken by China, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel and Morocco. Since 1987, toponymic training courses had been held in Canada and Ecuador. More such courses would be desirable, for the direct personal contacts they established were important in assisting organizational contacts later. Other relevant courses, run by cartographic organizations or universities, were available in Canada, Finland, Israel, Norway and the United States of America. As far as the reduction of exonyms was concerned, France, Poland, Romania and Spain were producing revised lists. A multilingual list of country names had been published in Finland, and Czechoslovakia was also preparing a revised list of country names in Czech and Slovak.

8. The Chairman noted that the success of many of these undertakings had depended on co-operation with organizations such as the International Committee on Onomastic Sciences (ICOS) and the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH). Such co-operation, along with the various bilateral and multilateral meetings which had taken place since 1987, played an invaluable role in disseminating knowledge of the Group's activities.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

9. After introducing his new deputy, Mr. Valery Moskalenko, the Secretary informed the session of a decision taken in May 1988 by the Economic and Social Council in which the Council endorsed the recommendation to convene the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1992, requested the implementation of the Fifth Conference resolutions, and approved the statute and rules of procedure of the Group of Experts.

10. The Secretary reported on developments since 1987 in which the United Nations had had a direct involvement. Apart from the Newsletter (see para. 85), a manual entitled "Organization and function of a national geographical names standardization programme" would shortly be published in volume XX of World Cartography. A successful training course in toponymy for French-speaking countries had been held in Quebec (Canada) in August 1988 (see para. 62). In January 1989, the Fourth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas had adopted three resolutions pertaining to geographical names (see para. 74).

REPORTS OF THE DIVISIONS AND LIAISON OFFICERS*

Africa Central Division

11. Mr. Mbika-Mbonguila reported that the Gabonese Council of Ministers had just passed a decree establishing a National Toponymic Commission in Gabon. In part, that welcome development resulted from Gabon's participation in the toponymic training course held in Canada in 1988 (see para. 62). Mr. Mbika-Mbonguila expressed his thanks to all those concerned with the organization of the course. He also undertook to encourage other countries of the geographical/linguistic division to consider seriously the question of national standardization. (See working paper No. 77.)

Africa East Division

12. Mr. Njuki reported that he had disseminated a report of the work and resolutions of the Fifth Conference to the other countries in the division. Of those, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe had replied, expressing an interest in studying and implementing the applicable resolutions of the Conference. Noting resolution 21 of the Conference, Mr. Njuki informed the session that his country, Kenya, would be very interested in being host to a toponymic training course if financial support from the United Nations was forthcoming (see para. 59).

Arabic Division

13. Mr. A. Tazi informed the session that every effort was being made in Morocco to preserve and standardize geographical names, which constituted part of the national patrimony. It was necessary to find means of making people aware of the importance of toponymy. To achieve that, co-operation with universities in Morocco was being encouraged. A geographical/historical dictionary of Moroccan towns was being prepared, and a regional Arabic Centre, to deal with cartography, topography, hydrography and associated subjects, was being established in Jordan. (See working paper No. 82.)

* See annex II for a complete list of the working papers prepared by the Divisions.

14. Mr. Tazi reported that the training course held in Canada (see para. 62) had been of great benefit to those African countries that had participated. He felt that the course had benefited from the experience of previous courses, such as the one held at Rabat in 1985. Partly as a result of the course in Canada, Morocco was now considering the automated processing of names to create a national data base. Furthermore, Morocco and its Maghreb neighbours had co-operated towards achieving a final decision on a uniform romanization system for Arabic (see para. 72). There would be a meeting towards the end of 1989 which would finalize that matter.

Asia East Division (other than China)

15. It was reported that no divisional meetings had taken place since the Fifth Conference.

Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division

16. Mr. Chingchai reported that the parallel political and physical editions of the map of the division at the scale of 1:6,000,000, already published and distributed several years before, remained current. A second toponymic training course in Bandung, Indonesia, was planned for 16-31 October 1989 (see para. 59). Thailand had been host to a meeting of the division in September 1988, at which Australia had become a divisional member. (See working paper No. 75.)

Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic)

17. Mr. Jafarpour reported that a recent divisional meeting had discussed possible modifications to the romanization system for Farsi agreed upon at the First Conference. (See working paper No. 63.) Further divisional consultations would take place, and the results would be reported to the next session of the Group of Experts. Mr. Lewis expressed the hope that the division would not seek any amendment to the previously agreed system. The United Kingdom was willing to co-operate in discussing the matter.

Celtic Division

18. Since the full text of the divisional report had already appeared in the Group's Newsletter No. 3, Mr. O'Maolfabhail merely noted that Ireland was the principal representative of the Celtic group of languages, but that other countries such as the United Kingdom also contained languages of the group. (See working paper No. 80.) Mr. Lewis replied that, of those languages in the United Kingdom, Cornish and Manx were extinct.

China Division

19. Mr. Wang informed the session that several important developments had taken place in China since the Fifth Conference. (See working paper No. 71.) The secretariat of the China Committee on Geographical Names had been incorporated into the Ministry of Civil Affairs as part of a newly created Department of Administrative Divisions and Geographical Names Management. The general investigation into the standardization of place names was continuing, notably in Tibet, where experts from northern provinces were assisting. It was anticipated that field work and office treatment of Tibetan names would be accomplished by 1990, and that publication of a gazetteer would follow.

20. The China Committee on Geographical Names was conducting experiments to establish a uniform automated place-name information storage and index system. The second volume (Zhejiang Province) of the dictionary of geographical names of China had been published. The China Society of Toponymy had been established in July 1988, divided into five special committees for theoretical toponymy, applied toponymy, place-name textual research, place-name management and foreign place names. Great importance was being attached to toponymic education, and an extensive programme in that field was being established at Nanjing University (see para. 58).

21. Mr. Lewis and the Chairman of the Group both reminded the Group that the activities that Mr. Wang had described constituted an immense amount of work. The pinyin systems were official throughout China, applying to Tibetan, Mongol and Uighur names as well as Chinese names.

Dutch and German-speaking Division

22. Mr. Spiess informed the session that Mr. Sievers would be replacing Mr. Böhme for the Federal Republic of Germany and that Mr. Ormeling, Jr. had replaced Mr. Blok for the Netherlands. Mr. Spiess reported that Switzerland did not possess a national names authority. (See working paper No. 65.) Responsibility for names was distributed among several regional names authorities and six federal ministries. Four national languages were involved. Discussions would be taking place to ascertain whether there was need for a national names authority and, if so, to establish its terms of reference.

23. It had been intended to translate into German Glossary No. 330 (Technical Terminology Employed in the Standardization of Geographical Names). However, it was felt that the glossary required additions, deletions and revisions, so work on its translation had not commenced. The division would study a revised draft (see para. 93).

24. Mr. Raper informed the Group, with reference to working paper No. 6, that the South African National Place Names Committee would be 50 years old in 1990. Changes in orthographical rules relating to several African languages had resulted

in different forms of the same type of name having been approved at different times, and a revised list of approved geographical names was envisaged. Work on the national gazetteer had been suspended until all the names affected by the orthographical changes had been officially revised. Mr. Raper also mentioned South Africa's involvement in training in applied toponymy (see para. 61).

25. Mr. Haack reported that several important publications had been produced in the German Democratic Republic since the Fifth Conference. (See working paper No. 61.) They included Book of City Names of the German Democratic Republic, which dealt with the origin and development of names from a linguistic aspect, and Geographical Names - Short Explanations, which provided the meanings of 500 terms and the names of 4,000 settlements and physical features. Besides work concerning internal standardization, the German Democratic Republic had also published guidelines for the spelling of names in Turkey, Italy and Sweden.

26. It was reported, in connection with working paper No. 72, that the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names of the Federal Republic of Germany was preparing a geographical gazetteer of the Americas for use in the German language area. It had also published a synoptic list of the names of states in German. The Committee had discussed ways of delineating the extent of names applying to regional geographical features. It was keen to improve the distribution of information concerning names standardization to map editors. It was reported that the Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie had published in 1988 Digital Name Data Base - Antarctica and a series of related photomaps. (See working paper No. 56.) The Committee had assisted in the collection and verification of the names contained in the data base.

East, Central and South-East Europe Division

27. Mr. Ficor, addressing working paper No. 69, reported that a divisional meeting had been held in Czechoslovakia in March 1989. Many subjects had been discussed, including the implementation of Conference resolutions and the programme of work for the Group. Important standardization work was taking place in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland. For example, Czechoslovakia had published lists of names for three districts and for the mountains and valleys of the Slovak Socialist Republic. Reduction of exonyms was another topic also being actively pursued (see para. 86).

East Mediterranean Division (other than Arabic)

28. Mr. Kadmon, introducing working paper No. 3, reported on the Geographic Information Systems and the Toponymic Database in Israel (see para. 44), as well as on surveys of historical place names in Israel, and of names of Greek origin in the area. The Vice-Chairman urged that no attempt be made to alter names which had been known for centuries and which were recorded in ancient historical references. Mr. Kadmon assured the Group that every effort was being made to retain original names in their oldest form.

India Division

29. Mr. Lakshman reported that India was continuing its efforts on various activities called for by the Conferences. (See working paper No. 83.) India was a multilingual country with 15 official languages and hundreds of others. The Hunterian system of romanization had worked more or less satisfactorily in the past, but the authorities were now seeking a greater degree of precision. For uniformity of procedure, names in each of the 15 official languages were being transliterated into Hindi, the national language of India, before being romanized. It was important that pronunciation should be reflected in the standardized written form.

30. A national gazetteer of India was in preparation, as were inventories of names on a district or state basis. Names would be provided in the source language, in Hindi and in romanized form, together with a feature description and geographical co-ordinates. The political map of India at the scale of 1:4,000,000 would shortly be published in the regional languages, such as Kannada and Malayalam.

Norden Division

31. Introducing working paper No. 70, Ms. Närhi reported that the division had held a meeting in April 1989. Topics discussed had included problems in the usage of the Lappish orthography when automating names, ways of disseminating information concerning the work and recommendations of the Expert Group, and the status of toponymic data bases in the countries of the division. Efforts at field collection and national standardization of names were continuing in all the countries. Among many other divisional activities, Sweden had added some 450,000 names to the toponymic data base for the topographic map at the scale of 1:50,000. Ms. Närhi informed the session that the next meeting of the International Committee on Onomastic Sciences would be held at Helsinki in 1990.

Romano-Hellenic Division

32. It was reported that no divisional meeting had been held since the Fifth Conference, but that such a meeting would be held soon. Thanks were expressed to those concerned with the organization of the 1988 toponymic training course in Canada.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Division

33. Mr. Dmitrocenkov reported that, since the Fifth Conference, the USSR had published four instructions on the rendering into Russian of various non-Russian geographical names and seven dictionaries of geographical names relating to certain divisions of the USSR and to foreign countries. (See working paper No. 64.) Considerable efforts were being made in the USSR to restore many historical names of settlements and features within them. Mr. Dmitrocenkov announced that, following resolution 18 of the Fifth Conference, the GOST 1983 system was being

used for geographical names in all romanized cartographic publications and timetables in the USSR. However, it was not so well suited to telegraphic usage (see para. 70).

United Kingdom Division

34. Mr. Lewis, introducing working paper No. 66, reported on the increasing significance of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) in the countries of the division. He outlined large-scale GIS work currently being undertaken by the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain, and announced that a revised edition of that organization's gazetteer, based on the 1:50,000 scale map series, was to be published shortly. The Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland was also active in large-scale GIS work, and had recently published a cultural map in bilingual (English and Irish) form, with a bilingual legend and gazetteer. For those names on the map relating to places and features outside Northern Ireland, the assistance of the Ordnance Survey in Dublin had been sought and provided.

35. Mr. Lewis informed the session that, although the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names did not have the resources to provide training courses in toponymy, other organizations, such as the Directorate of Military Survey, the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain and the Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland, did offer training in cartography and allied subjects. National standardization was implemented through the official map series. Local usage determined the precise form of each name.

United States of America/Canada Division

36. Mr. Randall informed the session that the two countries of the division had reached agreement on principles and procedures on the common treatment of transboundary names. The agreement would help to eliminate several existing discrepancies. (See working papers Nos. 27 and 49.) The United States Board on Geographic Names had collaborated in training programmes with Thailand, Indonesia and the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (see para. 38). Eleven gazetteers of foreign areas had been published since the Fifth Conference, and the domestic state gazetteer programme continued to proceed very actively (see para. 48).

37. Recalling resolution 27 of the Fifth Conference, Ms. Kerfoot noted the increasing importance of indigenous place names. The Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names was currently drafting a manual for the field recording of Inuit and Canadian Indian toponyms. The United States and Canada were co-operating in an increasing exchange of data base information - for example, in a programme to produce an international circumpolar map at the scale of 1:10,000,000.

Pan-American Institute of Geography and History

38. Mr. Randall introduced working paper No. 25, which outlined the activities of the Institute since the Fifth Conference. Two important toponymic training courses had been held, in Panama in 1987 and in Ecuador in 1989. The Chairman of the Group of Experts, Mr. Randall and Mr. Payne had been among the instructors. Taken together, almost 30 students from 15 Latin American countries had attended. The basic elements of the courses had included the structure of national names authorities, field collection and office treatment of names, automation of names, and consideration of gazetteer specifications and automated treatment of laws. An important aspect of the courses was the degree of flexibility built into the teaching schedules (see para. 60). The Chairman noted that such courses offered a valuable mechanism for involving in toponymy people from countries that found it difficult to attend meetings of the Group of Experts.

International Hydrographic Organization

39. As liaison officer for the Group of Experts with the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), Mr. Randall reminded the session of the guidelines adopted for the naming of undersea features. He introduced working paper No. 45, which reported on the publication by the organization of a gazetteer of undersea features shown on the General Bathymetric Chart of the Ocean (1:10,000,000 scale) and the IHO small-scale international chart series. Several countries had contributed to them by submitting names to IHO for approval. The gazetteer gave the name of the feature (including both specific and generic term), the geographical co-ordinates, chart reference, and additional remarks, where appropriate. About 2,000 names were included. It was agreed that the Group's liaison with IHO constituted a most useful collaboration with another international organization. Mr. Randall agreed to take to the IHO headquarters in Monaco a number of undersea names which had been submitted previously by Greece but apparently not yet considered by the organization. He also asked to be provided with names of national agencies interested in collaborating with the IHO programme on undersea feature names.

Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

40. Mr. Almoman reported that the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ALECSO) attached great importance to its relationship with the Group of Experts and to the implementation of its recommendations. Training courses and the application of modern technology in the Arab countries were undertaken with the Group's recommendations in mind. Geographical names were very important, and Mr. Almoman recommended that the United Nations Secretariat should seek ways of financing symposia to draw attention to that fact. Following an ALECSO objection to working paper No. 3, the Chairman reminded the session of rule 35 of the Group's rules of procedure.

WORKING GROUP ON TOPONYMIC DATA FILES

41. Mr. Lewis, convenor of the Working Group, introduced his report (working paper No. 33) by emphasizing the recent widespread expansion of Geographical Information Systems (GIS). A toponymic data base was an indispensable part of such systems. Yet they were unfortunately beyond the reach of many countries, which had to devote resources to more fundamental concerns.

42. Mr. Lewis felt that toponymic guidelines and the newsletters of the Group of Experts would provide much of the information called for in resolution 12 of the Fifth Conference.

43. Mr. Payne introduced working papers Nos. 36 and 34. The first paper described the role that microcomputers could play in providing a relatively substantial toponymic data base at relatively low cost. It was often ideally suited to the provincial or regional scale and frequently the national scale as well. The second paper provided updated information on the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) at the United States Geological Survey. There were now over 2 million entries, divided into state files for ease of management. There were index cards for only 3 per cent of domestic names, so usually the digital file was the only record. Currently, a link was being envisaged between GNIS and the digital cartographic data base. It was anticipated that the number of entries would increase to about 5 million by the end of the century.

44. Mr. Kadmon reported on the first results of computerized placement of curved names on maps (working paper No. 5). He also stressed that updating and output became a relatively straightforward task when the information was stored in an automated form. It was reported that the data bases in Canada and Israel were independent of scale and that methods of selection for the various scales were required. Mr. Payne pointed out the problem of positioning each name as the map scale changed. Mr. Lewis informed the Group that the Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland was experimenting with ways of automatically generating information required at 1:10,000 scale from information stored in the large-scale data base. Mr. Böhme and Ms. Mattisson felt there was necessarily a qualitative element of judgement required in selection and generalization. Ms. Mattisson reported that since 1980 Sweden had developed two data bases, keyed to 1:250,000 scale and 1:50,000 scale, respectively. Every name in each data base possessed a code enabling it to be selected for smaller scales, as appropriate.

45. The Vice-Chairman felt that those topics were of direct interest to developing countries. Morocco was endeavouring to establish a data base in collaboration with the Quebec Commission of Toponymy, and the Working Group should look at ways of disseminating pertinent information.

46. Introducing working papers Nos. 37 and 38, Ms. Kerfoot reported on the National Toponymic Data Base (NTDB) of Canada. It contained almost 500,000 names, entered mainly from card records. Sometimes the records were old, in which case the geographical co-ordinate information might be less accurate. The data base, which was organized on a provincial/territorial basis, would provide support to the National Atlas Information System, and efforts were being made to match data with

the smaller data base of cultural toponyms recorded by Statistics Canada for census purposes. Ms. Karamitsanis reported on the Alberta provincial data base of 17,000 names. (See working paper No. 60.) The Group stressed the importance of incorporating standardized toponyms in data bases meant for administrative, census and related uses, as well as cartography and gazetteers. Mr. Kadmon reported that in Israel the place names in the census were indeed totally integrated into the toponymic data base.

47. Turning to the subject of gazetteers, Ms. Kerfoot introduced working paper No. 32, concerning volumes of the gazetteers of Canada. They were produced from the National Toponymic Data Base and were laser-printed. It was hoped that administrative division information and improved generic and cross-reference information would be included in the next volume (New Brunswick). Particular mention was also made of Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names and Répertoire Toponymique du Québec.

48. Mr. Payne provided updated information on the state gazetteers of the United States of America (working paper No. 47). Compilation work had begun in 1976. Phase I, completed by 1981, had involved the inclusion of all names from the approximately 55,000 sheets of the 1:24,000 and 1:25,000 scale topographic map series. Phase II, currently in progress, involved the integration of names from other sources. So far, 5 state gazetteers had been published and 11 others were in preparation. Geographical co-ordinates were provided to degrees, minutes and seconds; the topographic map reference and the first-order civil division were provided; and the type of feature and (in most cases) its elevation noted.

49. Mr. Randall reported that the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) had devised a common specification for gazetteers, with minor national variations, based principally on the names found on the 1:250,000 scale map series being produced by the Institute. The specification included an abbreviation of the feature type, geographical co-ordinates to degrees and minutes, an administrative division code and a reference to the relevant map sheet. So far, Venezuela had produced a list of names on the reverse of each map sheet.

50. Mr. Bacchus reported that France had a considerable amount of toponymic data stored in automated form. Demand for the information was great. Positionally, the data included kilometric co-ordinates, which could be converted to geographical or grid co-ordinates as required. Mr. Randall commented on the gazetteer of undersea features published by the International Hydrographic Organization (see para. 39).

51. With reference to working paper No. 6, Mr. Raper reported on progress in the automation of toponymic data in South Africa. Orthographical rules for some African languages had been changed, and that had put a temporary halt to the gazetteer programme; in the interim, recourse may be made to the second edition of Dictionary of Southern African Place Names, which contains some 4,000 names, with the latest approved names indicated by an asterisk. Geographical co-ordinates in the envisaged gazetteer could mainly be provided for physical features only. It was possible that the United States Board on Geographic Names might co-operate in the provision of co-ordinates for cultural features.

52. Mr. Wang reported that the new multivolume gazetteer of China, of which the volumes for Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces had already been published, contained a wealth of textual information. Standardized names, local variants and former names were included, with locations indicated by geographical co-ordinates for administrative centres and by directional information from the county seat for other places. Also included was information on the origin and evolution of the names, plus the name-changes which had occurred through time.

53. Several experts called for the standardization of feature designation codes, which would facilitate map compilation internationally. Mr. Kadmon recommended the use of numerical codes which could be translated into any language required.

54. Many views were expressed on the degree of accuracy to which positional information should be provided in gazetteers or stored in data bases. China and some Latin American countries preferred a directional reference in relation to the nearest administrative centre. The session agreed that, whatever additional information might be provided, geographical co-ordinates should be included, at the very least. Often, the accuracy of the co-ordinates depended on the scale and reliability of the sources used to determine them. It was important that users be given an indication of the accuracy of positional references. Mr. Kadmon pointed out that automated conversion from one grid to another might reduce positional accuracy. In gazetteers designed specifically for use with gridded maps, the inclusion of grid co-ordinates was clearly desirable, as in the Netherlands gazetteer based on the 1:50,000 map series M.733, presented by Mr. Ormeling, Jr.

55. The Group also recommended use of a feature designation in a gazetteer. Mr. Lewis felt that if they were to be coded, there should not be too many of them, although several experts had considered that a substantial number was necessary. Mr. Payne reported that over 1,700 different kinds of features, grouped into 63 broad categories, had been identified in United States domestic names, though they were not coded. Ms. Kerfoot reported that in Canada at first there were approximately 1,500 designations, which were grouped into about 30 broad categories on the National Toponymic Data Base. Mr. Böhme reported that the gazetteer of the Federal Republic of Germany, keyed to the 1:500,000 scale map series, contained about 20 codes, which Mr. Randall reported was also roughly the quantity anticipated for the PAIGH gazetteers (see para. 49). Mr. Kadmon mentioned that the gazetteer of Israel had 15 designations. Administrative information and a remarks column were also felt to be desirable elements of a gazetteer. Mr. Raper reminded the session of resolution 4 E of the First Conference, which specified the content of gazetteers and mentioned feature designations. Mr. Lewis added that the recommendation also included a guide to pronunciation and stated that, because in practice the content of gazetteers varied greatly, it was essential to define those elements which were obligatory in a gazetteer and identify those which were less so.

56. Mr. Sievers reported that a first supplement to the first edition of Digital Name Database Antarctic had been edited. (See working paper No. 52.) The Federal Republic of Germany data base contained 675 German language place names in the Antarctic. The names had all been approved by the country's Permanent Committee on Geographical Names and by the national committee of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Romanization (SCAR). Mr. Randall said

that the United States Board on Geographic Names was to issue the fourth edition of its gazetteer, Geographical Names in Antarctica. It would contain nearly 12,000 entries and was being digitized. The Board was also publishing a new edition of Gazetteer of Undersea Features, containing about 2,000 entries.

WORKING GROUP ON COURSES IN APPLIED TOPONYMY

57. Mr. Dorion, convenor of the Working Group, emphasized the importance of training courses in the Expert Group's programme and outlined the aspects associated with the preparation for, and evaluation of, such courses. He identified a complementary inventory of resources and needs. Communication with various universities had produced a limited response, but it was proposed that the American Name Society contribute to the task of identifying further courses available world wide. Mr. Dorion spoke too of the necessity of having a flexible syllabus in order to adapt to the needs of the region in which the course was held. The Working Group would deal with the drawing up of such a syllabus and would provide practical help for future courses.

58. Mr. Randall mentioned the idea of a mobile training team and reminded the Group that the issue of names standardization was paramount, an opinion endorsed by Mr. Lewis. Several experts advocated a balance between applied toponymy and cultural aspects, and Mr. Lapierre drew attention to working paper No. 41. Mr. Wang spoke of a training course which would take place in China later in the year, which would include such aspects as the romanization of names and the standardization of names in Chinese and minority areas. He also spoke of the establishment of a toponymy course in Nanjing University which would cover, among other topics, the contemporary history of China and the world, the study of the history of names and automated data processing.

59. Mr. Ormeling, Sr. reminded the session of the involvement of the Dutch and German-speaking Division in organizing training courses in Indonesia and Morocco in the past, and that Division's role in the organization of a further course to be held in October 1989 at Bandung, Indonesia.

60. Mr. Dorion confirmed that the United Nations would indeed send a letter to countries of the Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division as a way of introducing the forthcoming course and that a diploma approved by the Group would be offered to students on completion of the course. Mr. Ormeling, Sr. reported that his division was willing to help organize other such courses anywhere in the world, as requested by and with the assistance of the United Nations. Mr. Njuki repeated his country's willingness to be host to a training course, depending on United Nations financial assistance, and asked if a date for such a course could be decided upon.

61. Mr. Kadmon, supported by Mr. Lewis, reminded the Group of the expertise available in smaller countries for training courses, while the Vice-Chairman suggested contacting ALECSO, as an organization which might offer relevant advice and experience. Mr. Randall spoke of the syllabus used at the PAIGH training courses and reiterated the need to retain flexibility and practicality. (See

working paper No. 25.) Mr. de Henseler confirmed that the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development had funded and does fund training courses. Mr. Mbika-Mbonguila requested that the United Nations Secretariat study ways and means in which courses in applied toponymy, such as had been held in other divisions, might also be organized by the Africa Central Division and, if possible, be extended to the countries of the Africa West Division.

62. Two aspects of toponymic training were identified by Mr. Raper: the training courses held in various countries, and the encouragement of tertiary-level training in such countries. Mr. Raper stated that at the Christian Academy for Tertiary and Secondary Education in South Africa applied toponymy would feature in the curriculum. Mr. Kadmon reminded the Group that resolution 30 of the Fifth Conference had specifically recommended the furthering of academic education in toponymy.

63. The question of the cultural role of geographical names was discussed. Mr. Vallières spoke of the training course in Canada and of his belief that the cultural aspect encouraged interest in names. Mr. Randall, supported by Mr. Lewis, believed that resolution 6 of the Fifth Conference emphasized standardization and practical aspects of geographical names and that that line of emphasis should be adhered to.

WORKING GROUP ON A SINGLE ROMANIZATION SYSTEM

64. The convenor of the Working Group, Mr. Quinting, introduced his report (working paper No. 35). Two new romanization systems had been adopted at the Fifth Conference (for Russian, resolution 18; for Greek, resolution 19), and a further resolution (20) concerned Korean. It was important to know the extent of implementation of the Greek and Russian systems within the donor countries themselves and also whether receiver countries had encountered any difficulties in their implementation.

65. There was general discussion on the relevance of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). It was agreed that IPA was a useful guide to pronunciation, but that as an alphabet specifically designed to reflect the spoken form of words, it fell outside the scope of the Working Group, whose concern was with romanization systems for the written forms of names. Written forms of names could be standardized, whereas their pronunciation could not. Mr. Quinting pointed out that there would be a convention later in 1989 which would consider a possible revision of IPA.

Greek

66. Mr. Kofos reported that application of the ELOT 743 system in Greece was proceeding satisfactorily. Hydrographic charts used the system, and the Government had recently instructed that it be used on all new road signs. The publication of new 1:50,000 scale map sheets using ELOT 743 was currently pending, awaiting the establishment of a committee of experts to turn Katharevousa forms of names into

dimotiki. That work was currently the responsibility of local authorities and a parliamentary act was required to transfer the responsibility to the committee. It was hoped that the required act would be passed later in 1989, whereupon the determination of dimotiki forms would be expedited.

67. For Cyprus, Mr. Kotsonis reported that the Fifth Conference resolution concerning ELOT 743 had been implemented on all official maps and charts as well as in Concise Gazetteer of Cyprus and Complete Gazetteer of Cyprus. Several projects were under way in Cyprus, including the compilation of a glossary of 820 generic terms in dimotiki form and a collection of street names in ELOT 743 romanization for use by the postal service.

Korean

68. Mr. Quinting pointed out that three systems for the romanization of Korean currently existed. They were the McCune-Reischauer system, devised in 1939 and widely used, the revised Ministry of Education (MOE) system, favoured by the Republic of Korea, and a new system, proposed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the current session (working papers Nos. 2 and 40).

69. Mr. Jong informed the session that the new system proposed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was based on transliteration rather than transcription and reflected the structure and characteristics of the Korean language. It was an appropriate and logical system for geographical names.

70. Mr. Lewis noted that the new system and the MOE system were based on different concepts. He appreciated the advantages of reversibility and letter-for-letter reading in the system proposed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea but felt that it was difficult to ignore the question of pronunciation. He hoped it might prove possible for the two countries to collaborate in devising one agreed system for Korean and suggested that the Group of Experts might be involved in any such discussions. Mr. Jong felt that to be a useful and constructive proposal, and expressed his disappointment at not being able to begin discussions immediately because of the absence of experts from the Republic of Korea. Mr. Park expressed his pleasure at the proposal and said that the Government of the Republic of Korea would be ready, if necessary, to arrange a meeting between the two countries on the subject as soon as possible. Mr. Jong requested the earliest possible commencement of discussions between experts from the two countries on a single romanization system for Korean geographical names, with the possible additional involvement of other experts from the Group. It was generally agreed that a uniform romanization system would be of benefit to all concerned.

Russian

71. Mr. Dmitrocenkov reported that the GOST 1983 romanization system had been used for geographical names in all USSR cartographic publications in Roman script since the Fifth Conference in 1987. It was also being used in the compilation of a new edition of the world atlas, Atlas Mira, in which both the atlas plates and the

index would show GOST 1983 romanizations. The system was used for all Russian geographical names, including those outside the USSR - for example, in Antarctica, where 60 maps at the scale of 1:200,000 had been produced. Mr. Dmitrocenkov reported the possibility that the GOST 1983 system might eventually have an application wider than the field of geographical names but that at the moment other systems were in use in other contexts. Mr. Haack reported that the first five sheets of the second edition of World Map/Karta Mira at the scale of 1:2,500,000, published by the German Democratic Republic and covering parts of the USSR, also used the GOST 1983 system. Mr. Randall pointed out that geographical names for telecommunications purposes were not currently romanized according to the GOST 1983 system.

Languages of the India Division

72. It was reported that a revised version of the Hunterian system to render Urdu names in Pakistan would be presented to the next session. Mr. Lewis expressed the hope that any modifications would not result in different romanizations of Urdu names from those arrived at in India. For India, Mr. Lakshman explained the complexity of India's situation faced with 15 official languages (see para. 29).

Arabic

73. The Vice-Chairman informed the session of the progress made in recent years in the countries of the Arabic Division towards agreement on a single romanization system. It had been decided to adopt, throughout the Division, the amended Beirut system which was approved by resolution 8 of the Second Conference. The romanization of one letter in that system, however, remained a problem, and an alternative romanization for it was being considered. The session warmly welcomed that decision of the Arabic Division.

Thai

74. Mr. Chingchai reported that application of resolution 14 of the First Conference, calling for the adoption of the modified general system of the Royal Institute of Thailand, had caused certain increasing problems. (See working paper No. 78.) Although widely used on maps, the romanization system was not well suited to computer technology and needed improvement and revision. In 1985, a committee was established to undertake a revision. A new version on romanized transliteration had been submitted to the 1987 Conference of the International Standardization Organization (ISO) but had been rejected by that body because it was not fully reversible. Since then, further modifications had been made and would be resubmitted at the next ISO conference. The new romanized transcription version, submitted to the Fifth Conference, was distributed to users for consideration and comment. It would be concluded and submitted to the next session of the Expert Group, where it was hoped experts would make comments.

UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC CONFERENCES

75. Mr. Randall reported that most of the 22 countries that had replied to the questionnaire prepared by the working group on evaluation had advocated closer co-operation with regional cartographic conferences. He drew attention to the fact that previous regional conferences for the Americas had adopted resolutions calling on nations to strengthen their programmes to standardize names. Mr. Sievers expressed his belief that greater co-operation was necessary in view of the increase in geographical information systems. That view was endorsed by Mr. Kadmon, who referred to resolution 11 of the Fifth Conference and stressed the desirability of co-operation between cartographers and toponymists in the area of toponymic text on mapping.

76. Mr. Njuki suggested that the Group of Experts should consider co-operation with surveying and mapping bodies in Africa and, in particular, the African Association of Cartography and Remote Sensing, in order to promote the inclusion of names on the agendas of their regional meetings.

77. The question of co-operation with the International Cartographical Association (ICA) was discussed. Mr. Randall, Mr. Kadmon and Mr. Lewis felt that past difficulties experienced in attempting to encourage inclusion of toponymy in the Association's agenda should not prohibit the Group from further seeking such co-operation. Mr. Randall suggested that the session should prepare some form of communication, expressing such a view, for submission to the regional cartographic conference staff and to the ICA.

AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON EVALUATION: IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

78. Mr. Randall, as convener of the ad hoc working group, introduced the subject by referring to resolution 4 of the Fifth Conference, which had recommended its establishment. He stated that the standardization of geographical names had taken place under United Nations auspices for 22 years and that a need had been felt to evaluate the effectiveness of the work. A questionnaire had been drawn up and distributed and had generated 22 responses as of 1 May 1989.

79. The Chairman stated his belief that the questionnaire had been a subjective survey and that a further, objective, survey was needed to provide an inventory of facts. The Vice-Chairman congratulated the working group on the progress made so far and stressed the general opinion that there was an urgent need to inform the public of, and increase awareness in, geographical names.

80. Mr. Randall drew attention to working paper No. 31 and put forward the following recommendations for action:

(a) Restructuring of the Group. Mr. Randall believed that the structure of divisions should be adhered to but should be more flexible. He suggested that divisions should arrange to meet as soon as possible to determine their own structure and to develop, as desired, collaboration with other divisions and organizations. He stated that resolution 5 of the Fifth Conference encouraged such

work. Mr. Dmitrocenkov felt that the aim of standardization of geographical names dictated that the Group be divided into the existing geographical divisions;

(b) Co-ordination with other technical and professional groups, such as the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, the United Nations regional cartographic conferences, the International Cartographic Association, and the World Bank. Mr. Raper and Mr. Mbika-Mbonguila offered to study possible co-ordination with other groups, and Ms. Närhi stated that she was willing to aid co-ordination with the International Committee on Onomastic Sciences. Mr. Raper recommended that the ICA observer, Mr. Ormeling, Jr., be asked to be convenor. Mr. Sievers agreed to discuss that with Mr. Ormeling and report the results to the convenor as soon as possible;

(c) Redefining the objectives of the Group. Mr. Randall stated that a factual assessment of the success of the Group's work would be a major part of the work. The assessment should primarily ask about the extent to which countries were implementing resolutions. Other topics would be whether the Group was a meeting of experts or country representatives and whether the Group's work was becoming too sophisticated for some countries in certain areas. Mr. Dmitrocenkov agreed with the need for more statistical information and reminded the Group that it should not lose sight of the aim of standardization of names. Ms. Mattisson agreed to study the factual assessment of the Group's achievements with Mr. Dorion. The ad hoc working group would deal with other questions;

(d) Investigation of possible sources of funding. Mr. Njuki drew attention to the effects of lack of finance on the attendance of African countries: low attendance was not due to apathy but to lack of resources. Mr. Randall suggested that all participants could help in identifying sources of funding, and Mr. Dorion felt that contact with international regional organizations might help. Mr. Mbika-Mbonguila offered to investigate possible funding mechanisms for his division;

(e) Publicity and promotion of the Group's work. Several experts spoke of possible means of publicizing and disseminating information. Ms. Karamitsanis reported on methods of promoting names in Alberta, Canada, through radio, bulletins of public interest, and a board game for young children. Mr. Yaguchi suggested the usefulness of a table showing, specifically for each division and country, the main problems and difficulties, the priority and degree of urgency of the problems, and the kind of contribution requested from the United Nations or member countries. Mr. Tazi, Mr. Mbika-Mbonguila and Mr. O'Maolfabhail all expressed support for the idea of a United Nations Geographical Names Day as a means of promoting the Group's work and making the public aware of geographical names. Mr. Raper believed that the best way of achieving publicity was by approaching national authorities, by publishing relevant United Nations resolutions (or paraphrases or excerpts thereof) in books and other documents, and by the production of maps and atlases. Mr. Lewis agreed that the practical application of United Nations resolutions was the most effective means of achieving publicity. Mr. Randall referred to two catalogues of United Nations publications and recommended that efforts be made to publish a book on geographical names, designed to appeal to a broad audience. Mr. Dorion agreed that a short book on the subject would help. Mr. Payne suggested the sale and distribution of names data to the public. Digital data could be tailored to the

individual needs of the other user, and it had the added advantage of providing "user feedback", the identification of errors and an idea of market needs. It was proposed that the Group newsletter be used as a vehicle for eliciting further ideas on the subject of publicity. Mr. Park agreed to assist in that programme;

(f) Study of resolutions. Mr. Randall drew attention to annex C of working paper No. 31 in which the resolutions of the first four conferences had been grouped into the following categories: those which were no longer relevant; those which needed revision, combination or clarification; and those which were still currently operational. Mr. Dmitrocnkov felt that the assessment of resolutions in great detail was not necessary. It was agreed that the ad hoc working group would further study the subject of resolutions. Ms. Kerfoot offered her assistance in that regard.

81. It was felt that redefinition of strategy was important to the progress of the Group of Experts and that training played a major role. Mr. Dorion suggested that the ad hoc working group on evaluation concern itself with that topic, with the help of several experts who were members of the working group on training.

82. It was generally agreed that the efforts made so far in evaluating the work of the Group were highly commendable and that further work was necessary. Persons and convenors of working groups responsible for the action items were requested to report to Mr. Randall by 1 December 1989 on progress achieved by that date. Further action might be required to ensure accomplishment of goals.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES AND CO-OPERATION

83. Mr. Payne reported that the latest conference of the American Congress of Surveying and Mapping, held in September 1988 in Virginia, United States of America, had devoted its entire session to the discussion of geographical names. A further session on names was planned for the next regional meeting on surveying and mapping. Mr. Lewis stated that computer management of geographical names and demonstrations of the application of toponymic data bases had featured in the recent GIS Conference at Ottawa, Canada. Ms. Kerfoot urged experts to participate in the second GIS Conference, scheduled to be held at Ottawa in March 1990.

84. Mr. Raper mentioned several meetings at which discussion of geographical names had taken place, or was planned: the Conferences of the Names Society of Southern Africa in 1987 and 1989; the joint session of the ICOS Congress and the Fifth United Nations Conference at Quebec, Canada, in 1987; and the proposed ICOS meeting at Helsinki, Finland, in August 1990. Mr. Vallières reported on bilateral co-operation between Quebec (Canada) and Morocco, and Mr. Dorion expressed his belief that bilateral co-operation was an effective way of exchanging knowledge on the technology associated with geographical names.

85. Mr. Hornansky told the Group that seven documents had been submitted to a conference on onomastics, held in Czechoslovakia two years previously, while Mr. Lewis spoke of the presentation of working papers on the subject at the most recent ICA conference, at Morelia, Mexico. Mr. Kadmon reported that he had

presented to that conference a paper specifically calling for the ICA to co-operate more closely with the Group of Experts.

NEWSLETTER

86. The Chairman of the Group expressed his opinion that resolution 24 of the Fifth Conference, recommending the distribution by the United Nations Secretariat of a semi-annual information bulletin containing toponymic information received from the Group's divisions, had been a positive and valuable step. He clarified that there was no need for every division to contribute to every edition; an annual contribution would be sufficient. Mr. O'Maolfabhail commented that a semi-annual and varied newsletter was a more effective stimulus than an annual one, and that it assisted continuity of information. The session agreed that a newsletter would be a most valuable source of information and also a useful instrument for publicizing the work of the Group.

EXONYMS

87. Recalling resolutions 29 of the Second Conference and 13 of the Fifth Conference, Mr. Raper referred to the complexity of the various types of exonym which had been identified. Both he and Mr. Lakshman stressed that it was not possible to eliminate exonyms in all instances, and Mr. Lewis noted the value and necessity of using exonyms in elementary education, a view shared by Mr. Kadmon. Mr. Hornansky, introducing working paper No. 58, felt there was a need for multilateral intergovernmental agreement to enforce the recommendations of resolution 29 of the Second Conference. Ms. Kerfoot reported that Canadian guidelines were to avoid the use of exonyms except for international features, and Mr. Randall noted that the policy of the United States Board on Geographic Names was to reduce the number of approved conventional names. Mr. Lewis considered that "conventional name" was a more appropriate term than exonym for the subject under discussion. He felt that "exonym" had a wider meaning. Mrs. Caldeira drew the attention of the session to a recently published list of Portuguese exonyms in Europe and Latin America. The Vice-Chairman reported that his country endeavoured to eliminate exonyms if they were foreign to Morocco's customs and traditions but retained them if they represented a significant historical event.

STANDARDIZATION IN MULTILINGUAL AREAS

88. Introducing working paper No. 26, Ms. Kerfoot informed the session of discussions on possible categories of "parallel", or "alternate", names in Canada. Mr. Smart reported on Ontario's new policy for the treatment of alternate French language names on official maps, road signs and statutes (see working paper No. 30), consistent with the French Language Services Act of 1986. Mr. Vallières reported that the procedures and criteria for deciding upon names in Quebec were based to a significant extent on the recommendations of the Group and the conferences, of which one important component was local usage. Ms. Kerfoot commented that each Canadian province or territory had the authority to determine

its own standardized names. English and French were official languages at the national level, with equality of status, but the position in the provinces and territories varied.

89. Mr. Freeman announced that the Northwest Territories were actively pursuing a policy of approving Amerindian and Inuit names as official names (see working paper No. 43). That was important since most of the current official names were not recognized by the local people. Modified Roman alphabets were being devised for the various Amerindian languages, while Inuit could be written either in Roman or in syllabic script; both would be approved. Efforts would be made to automate the new official names. The orthographies drew comments from several experts. Mr. Lewis felt that a pronunciation guide on each sheet would be required if such spellings were ever to be used on official maps. He felt that the proposed Amerindian orthographies would prove a barrier to communications in Canada as a whole. The Chairman of the Group noted that resolution 10 of the First Conference, recommending the retention of diacritical marks, referred to existing alphabets only. He foresaw practical difficulties in maps and gazetteers if the proposed orthographies were adopted. Mr. Hornansky noted that the use of diacritical signs was obligatory and essential in all maps and publications using any of the Roman-alphabet languages of the East, Central and South-East Europe Division.

90. Ms. Närhi informed the session that Finnish and Swedish were both official languages in Finland. Along the coasts lived some 300,000 Swedish-speaking inhabitants, and the minority name (whether Swedish or Finnish) was official if the minority population constituted over 8 per cent of the people, or 3,000, in a settlement. Maps and road signs would then carry both names, with the name in the majority language in primary position. Lappish did not have official status in Finland, but names in the new North Lappish orthography did appear on maps. Mr. O'Maolfabhail reported that Ireland had an official bilingual policy: usually the name was the same in Irish and English, but the orthographical conversions differed markedly between the two. Mr. Payne drew attention to working paper No. 29, which included a draft policy for treating names of native American origin.

91. Brief mention was made of Antarctica as being a multilingual area through scientific exploration, despite the lack of any indigenous population. Mr. Sievers drew attention to three Antarctic maps at scales of 1:2,000,000, 1:1,000,000 and 1:250,000, published by the Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie of the Federal Republic of Germany. Naming on those maps followed the principle of one name for one feature, and the language of the first given name had priority. Experts from several countries reported that they were active in the collection of names in Antarctica.

92. Mr. Wang reminded the session of the 56 different nations which lived in China. Many of them had their own written languages; others used Chinese characters. For all languages except Tibetan, Uighur and Mongol, however, standardization was based on Chinese characters.

93. Mr. Zemcev informed the session that the USSR was also a multilingual nation, with over 100 ethnic groups and languages. Russian was the official language of communication, but school education was conducted in the appropriate national

language. As far as standardization was concerned, each of the 15 republics had its own national names council. Dealing with them was an all-union standing commission, which would send prepared dictionaries of geographical names to the republics and autonomous republics. Once names had been approved at the republic level, they then became official.

TERMINOLOGY

94. The Chairman of the Group noted that several experts felt there was a need to consider again Glossary No. 330, "Technical terminology employed in the standardization of geographical names". Mr. Spiess had already commented on it (see para. 23), and both Mr. Kadmon (working paper No. 4) and the East, Central and South-East Europe Division (working paper No. 57) had submitted written suggestions. The common feeling among those experts was that some terms included in the Glossary were redundant and that others needed revision. Also, the Glossary would benefit from the addition of certain terms not currently included. After some discussion, it was agreed to reconstitute the Working Group on Terminology, with Mr. Kadmon as Convenor. Members would be Ms. Närhi, Ms. Kerfoot, and Messrs. Ficor, González, Hornansky, Lapierre, Lewis, Payne, Raper and Sievers. Mr. Kadmon reported that the working group, which had already held its first session, would assess the content, extent and degree of uniformity of the Glossary, working at first on the English-language version only.

CONCISE NATIONAL GAZETTEERS

95. Mr. Sievers commented on working paper No. 51, which presented a proposed method of producing a concise national gazetteer of the Federal Republic of Germany, using selected information from the more comprehensive gazetteer based on the 1:500,000 scale maps. Extraction of the features to be included in the concise gazetteer could be handled by the toponymic data base.

96. Mr. Payne reported that the concise national gazetteer of the United States had been completed except for the introductory text (see working paper No. 47). It included 45,000 entries, of which 28,000 related to populated places, 10,000 to physical features, and 7,000 to administrative and miscellaneous names. Alongside the official name would appear the type of feature, first- and second-order administrative division, geographical co-ordinates to degrees, minutes and seconds, and usually the elevation of the feature. Mr. O'Maolfabhail announced that a concise gazetteer of Ireland, containing the names of 3,000 settlements and 500 features, was with the printers. Mr. Njuki reported that the fourth edition of National Atlas of Kenya, to be published within the next year, would include a concise gazetteer of 4,000 names.

97. Mr. Hornansky informed the session that a concise gazetteer of 28,000 names of Poland would soon be published. Also, Czechoslovakia would publish in 1990 a concise gazetteer of 6,000 names taken from the 1:750,000 scale map series (see working paper No. 56). Mr. Haack reported that the German Democratic Republic had documented a standardized list of inland waters relating to the 1:100,000 scale map

series (see working paper No. 50). Further, a revised and expanded edition of General Guidelines for the Spelling of Geographical Names in the German Democratic Republic, which was considered a concise gazetteer, would be published later in 1989.

TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES

98. The Secretary to the Group regretted that toponymic guidelines could not all be published together in a single volume. Funds would not allow it. However, he reminded the Group that those guidelines distributed at Conferences would be included in volume II of the report. New or revised guidelines were reported on by Mr. Vallières for Quebec (working paper No. 13), Mr. Payne for the United States (working paper No. 28), Mme Lejeune for France (working paper No. 44), Ms. Kerfoot for Canada (working paper No. 48) and Mr. Hornansky for Czechoslovakia (working paper No. 59). The document for France drew particular attention from the Group, especially with regard to the various regional languages of the country. In discussion Mme Lejeune confirmed that the département rather than the region constituted the first-order administrative division of France. It was also reported that Morocco was compiling a list of provinces, prefectures and 2,400 communes, which would include a historical/geographical glossary of settlement names.

SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

99. The Secretary reminded the Group that the Sixth Conference would be held in the second half of 1992 (see para. 9). Mr. Kotsonis announced that the Government of Cyprus had offered to be host. Proceedings to secure the mandate were under way. Mr. Lewis suggested, and the Group agreed, that the Group should recommend acceptance of the kind invitation.

FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

100. The Secretary announced that the fifteenth session of the Group of Experts would be convened at Geneva in September/October 1991. The draft provisional agenda is given in Annex III.

OTHER MATTERS

101. Mr. Meyrand introduced working papers Nos. 8, 9, 10, and 11, which were designed to promote awareness of the cultural aspects of toponymy. For example, it was important to instil an interest in toponymy in young children. It was pointed out that working paper No. 10 related to activities in the elaboration of a dictionary comprising some 7,000 names in Quebec. Ms. Kerfoot, in connection with

working paper No. 39, outlined the mandate, composition, role and activities of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names.

102. Mme Lejeune reported on working paper No. 46, which listed certain discrepancies in the French-language forms of certain country names and State titles between the 1986 document produced by the Group and the 1985 United Nations Terminology Bulletin No. 333.

103. Mr. Sievers drew the attention of the Group to working papers Nos. 53 and 54. The first document illustrated the means by which toponymic and non-toponymic text were differentiated on the national topographic map series of the Federal Republic of Germany. The second document showed the format of data records on the magnetic tape of the national toponymic data base. Mr. Hornansky commented that working paper No. 59 also contained information concerning the distinction between toponymic and non-toponymic text.

104. Mr. Zhou commented on the fact that, throughout the nations of the world there were many frequent changes in the names of administrative divisions. They were difficult to monitor outside the country concerned, and he hoped that national authorities might be encouraged to collect them for dissemination to interested authorities in other countries. It was pointed out that, to some extent, the Hungarian publication Cartactual already provided information along those lines. Mr. Lewis pointed out the value of accompanying map information in any publication dealing with administrative divisions.

105. At the closing session, the Chairman, on behalf of all the members of the Group, expressed his gratitude and congratulations to Dr. De Henseler, Secretary of the Group, who was about to retire after 30 years of service in the United Nations, for the exceptionally efficient and personally agreeable way in which he had supported the Group.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Africa Central Division

(Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Zaire)

Mr. J. Baptiste CHIL MBIKA-MBONGUILA (Gabon)	Chargé de Missions Institut National de Cartographie Ministère des domaines, du cadastre et du droit de la mer Libreville
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Africa East Division

(Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Swaziland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe)

Division Chairman:

Mr. Alexandrino KIAMATI NJUKI (Kenya)	Deputy Director of Surveys Survey of Kenya Nairobi
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Africa West Division

(Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo)

Absent

Arabic Division

(Algeria, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Kuwait, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan)

Division Chairman:

Mr. Abdelhadi TAZI (Morocco) Vice-Chairman, United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names	Président Commission nationale des noms géographiques
Mme YAHIA-CHERIF HARIBA (Algeria)	Conseiller Mission permanente de la République algérienne auprès des Nations Unies Genève
Mr. Ahmed GARTAA (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)	Chef de delegation Technical Adviser Survey Department of Libya

Mr. Mohamed Wafa
(Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

Membre de delegation
Chief of Cartographic Division
Survey Department of Libya

Mr. Aguede LAHOSSINE
(Morocco)

Chef de service de la topographie
générale
Rabat

Mr. Abdelatif BELBACHIR
(Morocco)

Directeur de la CFTT
Rabat

Mr. Abderrahim BENDAÛD
(Morocco)

Premier Secrétaire
Mission permanente du Royaume du Maroc
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies
à Genève

H.E. Mr. Soleman S. AL-ROBAISHY
(Saudi Arabia)

Deputy Minister of Petroleum
for Aerial Surveys
Riyadh

H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz BAISSA
(Yemen)

Ambassador, Permanent
Representative of the People's
Democratic Republic of Yemen
Geneva

Mr. Saeed Taleb MOKBIL
(Yemen)

Counsellor, Permanent Mission
of the People's Democratic
Republic of Yemen
Geneva

Asia East Division (other than China)

(Japan, Republic of Korea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

Mr. Ho Han JONG
(Democratic People's Republic
of Korea)

Director of Map Publishing
House of the Democratic People's
Republic of Korea

Mr. Lim Jong GAG
(Democratic People's Republic
of Korea)

Expert, Geodesic Department
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- E/CONF.81/L.22 Joint Program of the Defense Mapping Agency Inter-American Geodetic Survey (DMAIGS) and the Pan-American Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH) on gazetteers and geographic names (USA)
- E/CONF.81/L.30 Geographic Names Information System: a toponymic research tool (USA)
- E/CONF.81/INF/28 Organization and plan of work on standardization of geographical names in the USSR (USSR)
- E/CONF.79/INF/68 Report on the standardization of geographical names and romanization in Korea
- E/CONF.79/5 Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. Vol. I: Report of the Conference
- E/CONF.74/3 Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. Vol. I: Report of the Conference
- E/CONF.74/3/Add.1 Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. Vol. II: Technical Papers
- ESA/RT/C/GN/10 Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the work of its Thirteenth Session

Annex III

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED
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