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PRESENTATIONS

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Exonyms

Exonyms are the problems to which member states of the Tenth United Nations linguistic/geographical division have a different opinion mainly from the point of view of the resolutions recommending gradual reduction of exonyms.

There is deep-rooted tradition in the use of domestic forms of foreign geographical names /exonyms/ in Poland and Hungary. The participants of the Ninth session of the Tenth United Nations linguistic/geographical division /Bratislava, March 1989/ declared that the supporters of this trend are national academies of sciences in these states, which vindicate their norms of orthography, transliteration and transcription. There exist several levels of the use of exonyms: schoolbooks /maximum of exonyms/; popularizing literature, cartographical works for inland market and mass media; scientific publications, cartographical works for foreign countries and official documents /minimum of exonyms/. At this session Hungary reported on the list of Hungarian exonyms which is not published yet. Poland has started to elaborate the list of Polish exonyms in 1988. The base for the selection of Polish exonyms into prepared list is extent excetration of textual and cartographic publications. The list will contain town names arranged according to the states; orographical, hydrographic, regional, and historical names are put in alphabetical order.

In line with the resolutions of the United Nations conferences Bulgaria adopted the decision that prepared list will be consisted only of the names of states of the world,
their capitals and the most extended and verified names of
cographic and hydrographic objects and regions. The base of
transliteration into Bulgarian language for other names will
be official forms of foreign names.

From 1974 Czechoslovakia have published the lists of
Slovak and Czech exonyms. The extent of the use of every exo
nym had been evaluated already at the compilation. Exonyms
of sporadic use had been re-evaluated on historical names.
These lists serve the public and they contribute to the sta-
bilization of the number of exonyms used in the schools, in
literature and mass media. There exist no efforts to hinder
the trend of systematic reduction of exonyms in Czechoslovak-
ian which is supported by geodetic and cartographic service
by means of the production of cartographical works. In the
latest publications of maps and atlases exonyms are reduced
to inevitable extent. Their number is lower than in publi-
shed lists of exonyms.

New exonyms, which will originate under the influence
of adopted systems of transliteration of Russian and Greek
alphabets or other systems not introduced till this time,
will intervene unfavourably in this process. E.g. hitherto
form of Russian name "Charkov" in Czech and Slovak will chan-
ge into "Harkov". So there will be necessary the re-evalu-
ation of hitherto official form "Charkov" on exonym. This
problem has not been discussed nor within linguistic/geogra-
phical division either within Czechoslovakia.

Member states of the Tenth United Nations linguistic/
geographical division are of a different opinion also on the
presentation of original official names together with exo-
yyms /resolution 29/II/. We suppose that desired unification
in the sphere of cartographical works and later in other
spheres can be reached by the adoption of multilateral inter
governmental agreement in which the signatories will under-
take to use this resolution or its more strict formulation
in cartographic practice of own country.