

Agenda item 5

REPORT BY THE EAST CENTRAL AND SOUTH-EAST EUROPE DIVISION ON ACTIVITIES  
IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN THE PERIOD 1987-88

East Central and South-East Europe Division

Fourteenth Session of the United Nations  
Group of Experts on Geographical Names  
Geneva, from 17 to 26 May 1989

Item 5

R e p o r t by the East Central and South-East Europe Division  
on activities in the standardization of geographical names in the  
period 1987-88

Czechoslovakia took over the guidance and the co-ordination of the activity of the Tenth linguistic/geographical division in accordance with the decisions of the Eith session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division.

The Ninth session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division was held at Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, from 13 to 17 March 1989. The session was attended by the representatives from Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia. From member states only Albany cleared of absence in the session. The representatives of German Democratic Republic participated as observers.

The aim of the session was the deliberation a state of the implementation of the decisions adopted at the previous session and the preparation of common positions of the linguistic/geographical division on the items of the program of the Fourteenth Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. Also the participation of member states at the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names /Montreal, August 1987/ and the problems connected with it were discussed. The session noted the impelementation of the issue of the list of states of the world in every state. The session also drew attention to terminological problems, to the issue of toponymic guidelines and to the implementation of the transcriptions of non-Roman characters into Latin characters. The participants will answer on the questionnaire of the Group of Experts which serves to the implementation of its activity and of effectiveness of the resolutions

adopted at the conferences. The session noted also the unfavourable state at the international exchange.

The reports on the activities in the period 1987-88 showed that member states of the Tenth United Nations linguistic/geographical division draw attention to the standardization of geographical names in spite of complicated economic/political changes in these states.

In Bulgaria the Council for transcription and orthography at the Head Office of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre relating to the standardization published in 1988 "Obšča instrukcija za transkripcija i pravopis na geografskite imena". Under this instruction all hitherto published lists of geographical names from various states of the world will be updated /54 lists published until 1988/. By the end of 1988 extent works on the standardization of Bulgarian toponyms of state and local importance have started. The issue of normative documents in 1989 will precede this work.

In Hungary noted temporary damping of publication activity caused by the financial resources. In spite of that Geodetic and Map Office at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries secures the standardization of geographical names, the preparation of new law about standardization activity in Hungary. The bill is prepared at the deliberation by state bodies of Hungary.

In Poland were re-established two competent authorities on geographical names:

- Commission on the determination of residential names and names of physical/geographical objects from the territory of Poland at the Cabinet;
- Commission on the standardization of geographical names out of the territory of Poland at the Ministry of Education.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Development co-operates with these bodies. Geodetic and cartographic service belongs to this Ministry. The Commission at the Cabinet considered all lists of residential names and names of physical/geographical regions elaborated as a part of national gazetteer. The Commission at the Ministry of Education after the study of the decisions of the Fifth United Nations Conference agreed with the elaboration and with the publication of a list of Polish exonyms.

In 1988 according to the resolution 15 of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic on geodetic and cartographic service initiative has started with complex solution of general obli-  
tion of geographical names. The fact of this solution is a proposal to charge central bodies of geodesy and cartography of the Czech Socialist Republic and the Slovak Socialist Republic with the standardization of the names of non-residential geographical objects from the territory of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and of all geographical names out of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic /standardization of exonyms, their reduction, standardized transcription from non-Roman systems into Czech and Slovak alphabets/. The proposal had been adopted by a majority of central bodies. The solution of this problem follows in 1989. Parallel standardization and the publication of the changes of residential names was secured by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Life Environment of the Czech Socialist Republic and the Slovak Socialist Republic. In the period 1987-88 within a five-plan-program of standardization activity of the resorts of geodesy and cartography had been published these lists:

- Names of Mounts and Valleys of the Slovak Socialist Republic,
- Geographical Names of District of Banská Bystrica,
- Geographical Names of District of Poprad,
- Geographical Names of District of Nitra,
- The List of State Names and their Territorial Parts /2nd edition/.