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Agenda item 5

**REPORT OF UNITED STATES/CANADA DIVISION**

**Submitted by Helen Kerfoot, CPCGN Secretariat, Canada**

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# REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA/CANADA DIVISION

Helen Kerfoot, Canada

Representatives of the US/Canada Division met at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. (USA) in September 1990 to discuss various toponymic issues. This meeting coincided with the centennial celebrations of the United States Board on Geographic Names (USBGN). Attending the meeting were the CPCGN Chairman (who is also UNGEGN Chairman), the Executive Secretaries of the CPCGN and USBGN, the BGN Executive Secretary for Domestic Names and the Chief, Branch of Geographic Names, of the U.S. Geological Survey. A similar meeting was held in Washington on November 13, 1989.

The US/Canada Division is undertaking work on several project to further UNGEGN activities:

- (a) The resolutions from the Fifth Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names are being incorporated into the groupings already established for the first four conferences. The English-language texts are being entered into an Apple Macintosh computer - to facilitate future updating. When this is completed, the French-language texts will be assembled in the same way. in  
Microsoft  
Word
- ✓ (b) Work is still to be completed, in cooperation with the ad hoc - UN Working Group on Evaluation, to review the significance and utility of the existing UN resolutions from the first five conferences.
- ✓ (c) A compilation of names and contact addresses of national names authorities is being prepared. in computer  
form
- (d) A small study is being undertaken to ascertain whether UN recommendations are being followed in various atlases. Sample names will be compared in some 20 atlases published over the past 20-year period.
- ✓ (e) Under the leadership of the UNGEGN Chair, a small collection of documents is being assembled to create a "training kit" for forthcoming English-language UN toponymic training courses.

The United States and Canada continue to cooperate on an ongoing basis on a variety of toponymic subjects of common interest - for example, automated toponymic records, treatment of toponyms outside North America, recognition of Amerindian names, and consistency of application of names for features crossing the US/Canada border.