

UNITED NATIONS

Group of Experts on
Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

Fifteenth Session
Geneva, 16-20 September 1991

Working Paper

No.

45

Agenda item 5
Reports of the Divisions

Report of activities on the standardization of geographical names in the Federal Republic of Germany pursued since the 14th session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in the year 1989

prepared by:

Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie

Frankfurt am Main

Federal Republic of Germany



Report of activities on the standardization of geographical names in the Federal Republic of Germany pursued since the 14th session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in the year 1989

1. The "Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN)" (Permanent Committee on Geographical Names) constitutes the multilateral organization on the standardization of geographical names within the German speaking area. For that reason representatives of Austria, Germany, and Switzerland are regular members of StAGN. Experts from the former GDR have participated in the working sessions since 1990.
During the period under review StAGN hold four sessions under the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. H. Liedtke (two annual meetings). In March 1991 (89th meeting) Prof. Dr. Liedtke left the chairmanship to Dr. Seel after having assumed this task for 9 years.
2. In 1990 the Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie, Frankfurt am Main issued the Gazetteer America ("Wörterbuch geographischer Namen Amerika"), which has also been edited as a special publication within the series "Nachrichten aus dem Karten- und Vermessungswesen" (ISSN 0344-5879). The dictionary not only contains the pronunciation of geographical names referring to America - arranged according to nations - but provides also information on the spelling of geographical names, the location of features and the dimension of populated places, sizes of administrative units, islands, and lakes as well as data on the length of rivers and canals and on the height of elevations in the case of mountains. (This publication will be reported on separately).
3. A list of the spelling of state names and of the derivatives as well as of the capitals, as indicated in the publications of the German Translation Service with the United Nations and of the German speaking nations, which has been compiled and annotated by the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names in Frankfurt am Main has come out in revised form as a 2nd edition as of April 1991. Updating had become a necessity in the wake of the German unification and the subsequent omission of the variants used in the former GDR. For the first time a global map representing the states of the earth has been added to this synoptical states names list as an annex.

4. In the period under review the following publications were issued in the former GDR:
- "Instruktion für die Schreibweise geographischer Namen in kartographischen Erzeugnissen der DDR, Zehnte, überarbeitete Auflage" (instructions on the spelling of geographical names in cartographic products of the GDR, 10th, revised edition), Berlin 1989.
 - "Allgemeine Richtlinien für die Schreibweise geographischer Namen der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik, 4. Auflage" (general guidelines for the spelling of geographical names of the German Democratic Republic, 4th edition), Berlin 1989.
5. The following tasks are presently being dealt with:
- The map "Bundesrepublik Deutschland 1:1 000 000, Landschaften - Namen und Abgrenzungen" (Federal Republic of Germany at 1:1,000,000 scale, landscapes - names and borderlines) is being revised as to its contents and supplemented with regard to the territory of the former GDR.
This work is done under the direction of Prof. Dr. H. Liedtke. (A working paper on this item is presented separately).
 - A supplementary volume to the "Gazetteer Federal Republic of Germany" Frankfurt am Main, 1981, is being prepared. This task is being accomplished by the Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie, Frankfurt am Main.
 - Within the scope of activities attended to by STAGN, a list of the German exonyms is being prepared in cooperation with Austria and Switzerland.
 - As a result of the German unification the necessity will arise to elaborate a second edition of the "Toponymic Guidelines" in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names. Special attention is hereby given to minority languages (Frisian and Sorbian), which appear in this material. The "Toponymic Guidelines" will be handed over at the forthcoming Conference of the United Nations on the Standardization of Geographical Names.
6. Representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany and of the former GDR participated in the meeting of the Dutch-German Speaking Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names held from 9 - 10 August 1990 in Zürich and Rapperswil, Switzerland.