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REPORTS OF THE DIVISIONS

Report of the United States of America/Canada Division

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REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA/CANADA DIVISION

Roger L. Payne (USA) and Helen Kerfoot (Canada)

Since the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1992, representatives of the USA/Canada Division have met four times informally in association with other geographical names activities. Several areas of divisional cooperation since 1992 may be mentioned. Naming authorities in both the United States and Canada have continued to cooperate closely by exchanging documentation and making recommendations in accordance with the bilateral agreement signed between the international names authorities in 1988 regarding transboundary names. There has also been discussion and informal exchange of ideas and documentation regarding names automation, especially regarding the modernization effort of the National Geographic Names Database in the United States, and dissemination of digital data electronically or on compact disk.

The collection, use, and application of aboriginal/native geographical names continues to be of prime interest and concern in both Canada and the United States. Specifically, in Canada, the provisional edition of the "Guide to the Collection of Native Geographical Names" has been published in both English and French editions; and "Native Canadian Geographical Names: An Annotated Bibliography" is also now available (in English/French format).

In the United States, the Domestic Names Committee of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names has formed a subcommittee to examine and evaluate all aspects of the collection, recording, and application of names of Native American origin and names within Native American areas. The Domestic Names Committee and the U.S. Board on Geographic Names have approved a policy for treatment of Native American names.