
United Nations
Group of Experts on
Geographical Names

Working Paper
No. 64

Seventeenth Session
New York, 13-24 June 1994

Item 5
of the Provisional Agenda

REPORTS OF THE DIVISIONS

Report of the Celtic Division

submitted by Ireland

The 17th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, New York, 13 - 24 June 1994.

The Report of the Celtic Division

A meeting of experts representing France and Ireland which constitute the Celtic Division took place at the office of Institut Géographique National, Paris in April 1993.

On the part of France it was recorded that a map entitled Parc an Arvorig / Parc Naturel d'Armorique on the scale 1 : 100 000 and on which the toponyms are given in both French and Breton forms had been published in 1991. The informative text on this map is mainly in four languages - French, Breton, English and German

It was noted that since the year 1884 there is only one legal form of the name of each of the communes of France. The commune is the basic administrative unit of territory and population in France. The total number of communes is about 37,000 which vary greatly in size and in population.

For Ireland it was recorded that priority was currently being accorded to a new series of maps at scale 1 : 50 000 on which toponyms are given in both their official English and their official Irish forms. The forms of the toponyms used by the Ordnance Survey, which is the state mapping agency, are regarded as the official forms. The informative text relating to the map is given in four languages - English, Irish, French and German.

For the part of Ireland outside the jurisdiction of the state it was reported that an official research project formed in 1987 under the direction of Queen's University, Belfast was engaged in establishing the Irish forms of the toponyms which occur on the 1 : 50 000 map series.