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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL
NAMES ON THE WORK OF ITS SEVENTEENTH SESSION

(held at United Nations Headquarters,
13 June to 24 June 1994)

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. In pursuance of Economic and Social Council decision 1988/116, the Secretary-General invited the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) to convene its seventeenth session at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 13 to 24 June 1994.

ATTENDANCE

2. The session was attended by 69 participants from 34 countries, representing 17 of the 21 geographical/linguistic divisions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. In addition, four observers from three intergovernmental organizations were present. The summary by the Chairman is contained in annex I. The list of participants is attached in annex II. The list of working papers is contained in annex III.

3. The Chief of the Sustainable Development and Environmental Management Branch, Division for Economic Policy and Social Development, Department for Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Secretariat, served as Secretary of the session.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

4. The Chairman, Mr. Peter E. Raper, opened the session. The Secretary, Ms. Beatrice Labonne, welcomed the Group of Experts. She elaborated on the importance of the work of the Group of Experts and made reference to technical advances that should facilitate geographical names standardization. Challenges that faced the Group included matters of geography, history and cultural heritage, in keeping with General Assembly resolution 48/133, in which the Assembly welcomed the proposal for a gathering of indigenous youth in 1995, to reaffirm the value, *inter alia*, of traditional cultures as effective expressions of respective national identities; and Assembly resolution 48/163, in which the Assembly proclaimed the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, commencing on 10 December 1994.

5. The Secretary noted changes in United Nations administrative structure, and the current relationship of the cartography mandate to sustainable development and environmental management. She emphasized the significance of broader visibility and publicity for the Group's aims and achievements within the United Nations and the general public, for example, in conjunction with the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations in 1995.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Group adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Report of the Chairman.
4. Report of the Secretary.
5. Reports of the Divisions.
6. Reports of the liaison officers, regional meetings and international organizations.
7. Reports of the Working Groups.
8. Meeting of the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy.
9. Meeting of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers.
10. Meeting of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology.
11. Meeting of the Working Group on Romanization Systems.
12. Meeting of the Working Group on Country Names.
13. Meeting of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding.
14. Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors.
15. Exonyms.
16. Standardization in multilingual areas.
17. Implementation of resolutions and the aims and functions of UNGEGN.
18. Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.
19. Eighteenth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
20. Other matters.
21. Adoption of the report.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

7. The Chairman highlighted a number of activities of UNGEGN, including the implementation of resolutions, cooperation with professional institutions, and toponymic training.

8. Implementation of resolutions had been promoted by the publication of articles and presentation of papers, for example at the Eighth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa and the Eighteenth International

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Congress of Onomastic Sciences. It was noted that cooperation had continued with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the International Cartographic Association (ICA), the International Committee of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS), and the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH).

9. The Chairman reported on the United Nations toponymic training course held in Pretoria in September 1993, and mentioned the PAIGH course held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, in October 1993. He encouraged countries to prepare and/or update Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors, and proposed the establishment of a trust fund to help enable members, especially from developing countries, to participate in UNGEGN activities.

10. In conclusion, the Chairman emphasized the importance of the UNGEGN Newsletter and encouraged members to submit contributions to it.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

11. The Secretary reported on the Fifth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, held in New York City in 1992, and on the Thirteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, held in Beijing in 1994. She stressed the importance of cartography for sustainable development and environmental management, and referred to data transfer standards and the importance of technical assistance to developing areas. The importance of geographical names to cartography was emphasized.

REPORTS OF THE DIVISIONS

Africa South Division

12. Mr. Raper, the Divisional Chairman, reported for this new division (Working Paper No. 41, Add.1 and 2). He reported that in Botswana the Place Names Commission assessed all aspects of authenticity before recommending adoption of a name. The difficulty of dealing with more than 30 languages was a challenge; however, the initial work of the Commission was limited to existing map coverage, basically at a scale of 1:50,000. It had addressed names disputes in northern Botswana and published a gazetteer in keeping with the fourth resolution of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 1967.

13. It was noted that in Mozambique, many names of Portuguese origin, especially those of populated places, had been changed. A gazetteer was in preparation, and there were active plans within several government agencies to create a national names authority.

14. South Africa indicated that its names authority might be reappraised, given the changing political dispensation in the country, but stressed that the importance of adhering to resolutions of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names would be emphasized. A full account was presented on the nature and success of the second United Nations toponymic

training course, held in Pretoria, which had been attended by 55 students from throughout southern Africa. It was reported that a concise gazetteer of South Africa had been published. A more comprehensive multi-volume gazetteer of South Africa had been published by the Defense Mapping Agency (DMA) in the United States of America.

15. A full report detailing mapping and geographical names activities in Swaziland since 1972 was provided. The 1988 proposal to revive the National Names Committee had not been implemented. The revision of the maps at the 1:50,000 scale required that the mapping organization deal with names, even though there was no official authority. A recent development indicated that the National Place Names Committee might be re-established in the near future, and it was hoped that a gazetteer would later be published.

Arabic Division

16. In working paper No. 82, Morocco reported that there had been much work on map series at various scales, including 1:100,000 and 1:50,000. There was a new large-scale urban series in progress and numerous thematic maps had been published. A programme was in place to digitize all maps in Morocco, and every effort was being made to standardize the geographical names on those maps. A conference would be held in Morocco to discuss the issues of transliteration and the system currently in use in Morocco. Mr. Tazi reported on the dedication of a new mosque of King Hassan II, second in size only to the mosque in Makkah.

17. Working paper No. 74 reported on geographical names in the Sultanate of Oman.

Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division

18. It was reported that the latest meeting had been held in Wellington, New Zealand, in September 1992 (working paper No. 70). Invitations had been extended to Pacific island nations and some interest had been generated. Topics discussed at the meeting had included the donor principle of names, Maori and Aboriginal names, undersea-feature names, and gazetteers. Also discussed had been a proposal to shorten the seemingly too long and cumbersome name of this UNGEGN Division. Australia proposed that a bibliography of works and articles relating to toponymy be prepared. The project was supported in principle.

19. It was noted that a project was under way in New Zealand to produce, on behalf of the Division, a 1:10,000,000-scale map with names provided by all member States. Additionally, a second edition of the Concise Gazetteer and the first Regional Gazetteer would be produced from the digital file of this map. There would likely be a short toponymic training session at the next regional cartographic technical meeting. In referring to the course in Indonesia in 1989, it was noted that another comprehensive course was needed. It was also suggested that an atlas of regional language distribution be published.

20. New Zealand further reported that work continued on the original Maori names project, with funding available to publish a map of Maori place-names extant around 1840.

21. The question of English generic elements' being applied to Maori names was discussed. New Zealand confirmed that this practice had not been problematic, and that the use of the macron in Maori names was now standard procedure and included in automated database records. Use of the macron on upper-case letters could not be confirmed.

22. Approval had been given to establish a generic denomination system for the wine industry and other product industries, in order to protect geographical names or geographical indications used in relation to wine and other products from false or misleading use and to allow New Zealand to meet its obligations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

23. It was reported that Brunei Darussalam had formed a National Geographical Names Committee (working paper No. 25) to be responsible for names standardization policy. A preliminary national gazetteer, based on the 1:50,000-scale map series had been prepared, and an automated names inventory system was in use. The toponymy unit in the national mapping office had collected many additional names to support the new 1:10,000-scale map series.

24. It was not possible to confirm whether Brunei Darussalam had reconsidered implementing the orthography agreed to by Indonesia and Malaysia almost 20 years before.

Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic)

25. The Islamic Republic of Iran indicated (working paper No. 1) that extensive research for the national gazetteer had taken place, including the publication of 12 additional volumes. Also, work had been completed on 139 maps in the 1:250,000-scale series. Geographical names from eight maps at a scale of 1:250,000 had been collected and processed, as had been the names of new and abandoned populated places. The National Geographical Organization had collected exonyms in Farsi for the names of countries, their capitals and their distinctive features. Highlights of additional activities included the publication of various atlases and books.

26. It was noted that Tajikistan and Azerbaijan had joined the Division. In consideration of the number of recent name changes in the region, the fifth regional meeting was scheduled for September 1994.

Baltic Division

27. It was observed that numerous changes (working paper No. 47) had taken place in the three member countries of the Division. In Estonia, the standardization of names had not been transferred to any specific authority; therefore, theoretically only Parliament might add or alter names. Estonia had participated in a cooperative programme with Sweden regarding a digital mapping

project. Also an agreement had been signed with the Defense Mapping Agency in the United States on modernizing the content of the current maps of 1:50,000 scale used by DMA on Estonia.

28. It was reported that the Institute of the Estonian Language continued to advise on geographical names matters, and had begun a project to compile historical and variant names. Listings dealing with country names and names in the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) had been completed. Preliminary discussions had taken place among Estonia, Sweden and Finland regarding names on the island of Vormsi (Ormsö).

29. In Latvia, Parliament had made some changes in legislation regarding administrative areas, and maps at various scales had been produced. The Department of Geography at the Latvian University was involved in collecting geographical names for thematic maps and gazetteers. A Committee on Toponymy had been established and experts would review name proposals and standardize names for maps. The issue of minority-language names, including Livonian, Russian and Polish ones, was being addressed. There was a tradition of transcribing all foreign place-names, regardless of the original writing system involved. Furthermore, historical place-names were to be retained and protected.

30. In Lithuania, the draft of a new law indicated that the national Government was responsible for names of populated places, but names of other feature types were the responsibility of local jurisdictions. A committee of the Lithuanian language had acquired the functions of a national names authority. In close cooperation with the Laboratory of Cartography at the University of Vilnius, the national mapping programme had produced maps at various scales. Gazetteers of populated places and hydronyms had been published. Minority names might be used locally and on road and other signs.

31. It was reiterated that every attempt was being made to reduce the use of exonyms in the Baltic area.

Celtic Division

32. The members met in April 1993, and recorded that a regional 1:100,000-scale map had been published on which the toponyms were given in both the French and the Breton forms (working paper No. 64). In Ireland, a new 1:50,000-scale map series was being published with geographical names in both English and Irish. In Northern Ireland, a project at Queen's University was responsible for researching the Irish forms of the names on the 1:50,000-scale maps. Where space permitted - in particular, therefore on large-scale maps - Welsh equivalents of English names were shown. Conventional-signs leaflets in English and Welsh were available for most map series. There was insufficient room in map margins for all such information especially when generic terms were included.

China Division

33. It was reported that the China Committee on Geographical Names had been incorporated into the Ministry of Civil Affairs. Procedures had been developed to provide guidelines for geographical names application within cities and towns, during planning and development stages.

34. A Dictionary of Geographical Names in China containing about 100,000 entries, had been published. A larger version with almost 200,000 entries was being processed. A theoretical work on toponymy had been published, but is available only in Chinese.

35. China continued to support and conduct training courses, with more than 800 individuals trained in eight courses over the past five years. China had hosted an international symposium of minority-language place-names in March 1994, thus promoting exchange and indicating China's interest in this topic.

36. Names in the Tibetan, Mongolian and Uighur (Uygur) languages were transliterated directly from minority languages, but other names were recorded in Chinese and then transliterated because they had no written forms of their own.

37. Mr. Tazi complimented the China Division on its work and asked members if they had encountered any of the Arabic names given to Chinese features by Ibn Batuta during his travels. The experts were not aware of these, but indicated that they would like to collaborate on identifying them.

Dutch and German-speaking Division

38. Mr. Raper reported on divisional activities (working paper No. 42). Austria had published a new edition of its gazetteer, based on the 1991 census. Another project included encoding names of streams and "catchments" into an automated file. Several map series, such as at 1:50,000 and 1:100,000 scales, were being produced showing official names. Street names remained the domain of local authorities. The GEOTABLE Programme currently under way was an automated database of names in central, eastern and south-eastern Europe. The Austrian Academy of Sciences coordinated names projects and studies with UNGEEN and ICOS. The Academy stressed the importance of linguistic elements, as well as historical and etymological factors, in names standardization. The efforts and contributions of Dr. Breu over the years were noted and commended.

39. It was noted that highlights of activities in Germany (working paper No. 37) included work and research on exonyms; country names; terminology; names in the former Soviet Union; a German gazetteer; a 1:1,000,000-scale map; and toponymic guidelines. Research by the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (StAGN) had resulted in lists of exonyms and country names. Translation of the new version of the Dictionary of Toponymic Terminology into German was in preparation and research under way on names in the former Soviet Union. The German gazetteer contained relevant names based on the map series at the scale of 1:500,000. An enhancement of the gazetteer, based on the scale of 1:250,000,

was in preparation. Toponymic guidelines had been completed in 1992, including information on minority languages. Draft international toponymic guidelines for Antarctica had been prepared.

40. It was reported that the Netherlands (working paper No. 24) now had available a data file of 44,000 names based upon the map series at the 1:50,000 scale. A list of country names had been published and research regarding exonyms was under way. In a number of Frisian-speaking municipalities, minority names (Frisian) were being given special attention, and would be restored as the official names. Mr. Ormeling had contributed to the presentation of the second toponymic training course held in South Africa.

41. A report from Switzerland (working paper No. 77) was presented. Most of the work there had concentrated on digital names files based on maps at the scales of 1:100,000 and 1:250,000. A concise gazetteer with about 14,000 names would be completed in 1994. Much work had been done to reduce the use of exonyms, especially in school atlases.

East Central and South-East Europe Division

42. Highlights of activities of each member State were presented (working paper No. 6). Mr. Pokoly, Chairman of the Division, reported on the twelfth meeting of the Division, which had been convened in Budapest in September 1993. He elaborated on work in multilingual areas and on the new toponymic guidelines for map and other editors for Hungary. Work had also been done on the UNGEGN Dictionary of Toponymic Terminology and the automated toponymic database of Hungary.

43. Albania had been represented for the first time at the divisional meeting. The Geographical Names Commission had existed since 1973 and was working with the Academy of Science to prepare an Albanian etymological dictionary.

44. Mr. Pokoly indicated that Bulgaria had established a new council responsible for orthography and transcription of geographical names.

45. The Geographical Names Commission at the Czech Office for surveying, mapping and cadastre remained the advisory body for standardization. Digital names database work had been temporarily suspended, but would be resumed later.

46. Both foreign and domestic names commissions of Poland were active, and a guide for maps and publications had been drafted in 1993. An automated toponymic database was planned.

47. The Ministry of the Interior of Slovakia was responsible for names of administrative entities; other names were processed by the Office of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre. Guidelines for map and other editors were published in 1993, and nine volumes of Slovakian district gazetteers had been completed.

48. Much attention was paid to names in linguistically mixed areas of Slovenia. Work had begun in 1992 to establish an automated toponymic database.

49. Names standardization in Ukraine was accomplished by a department under the Main Administration of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre.

50. The Division addressed the issue of large numbers of name changes, and members were encouraged to send changes to the United Nations Secretariat for inclusion in the UNEGN Newsletter.

51. The Cyprus report included background information on cartographic and toponymic activities, including the presentation and publication of both concise and complete gazetteers. The use of the ELOT 743 romanization system had been required for all documents, including maps, since 1989.

Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division

52. It was reported that there had been much work regarding Russian names over the past few years because of the political changes (working paper No. 71). In particular, the process of restoring former names had continued from the mid-1980s. Attention was being given to adopting a law on geographical names and to establishing the new Russian Committee on Geographical Names. Considerable effort was being made to update and redefine methodology relating to the standardization of geographical names, and to publishing geographical names dictionaries, especially thematic volumes referring to hydrography, undersea features and orography. Production of regional dictionaries of geographical names was also in process.

East Mediterranean Division (other than Arabic)

53. Highlights of the report presented by Mr. Kadmon (working paper No. 2) included discussion of the National Toponymic Database of Israel, transliteration, the official gazetteer of Israel, toponymic training, and interdivisional cooperation. Toponymic files were maintained for several digital map series: the new topographic map series at 1:40,000 scale, using only names ratified by the Government Names Commission; digital town maps and plans; and thematic maps. There had been some minor changes in the transliteration method from Arabic to Hebrew, but the romanization system was not affected.

54. The new gazetteer of Israel was now available as a publication, as well as in digital form. It included some variant names. Courses in toponymy continued at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a session was devoted to toponymy at the annual meeting of the Israeli Cartographic Society. Interdivisional cooperation focused on participation in the toponymic training courses for the Africa South Division held in Pretoria, and on the translation into German of the Dictionary of Toponymic Terminology, part I, by the Dutch and German-speaking Division. Translation of the Dictionary into Chinese by the China Division was also in progress.

Latin American Division

55. Ms. Terron reported (working paper No. 23) that in Brazil a commission for standardizing geographical names had been established. Much effort had been made to develop an automated database to assist in standardization; however, fiscal restraint had delayed its development. The PAIGH geographical names course held in Brazil in 1992 had provided a useful base for establishing this programme. Ms. Terron explained how geographical coordinates were determined, and how the algorithm had been developed to minimize cost, while maintaining acceptable precision.

Norden Division

56. It was reported that each of the members had participated in programmes (working paper No. 35) of standardization; field collection; office treatment; gazetteers and data files; and names in multilingual areas. Each member had a central authority to which matters of names standardization should be referred. Active projects for collecting names were under way in the Faeroe Islands and in Finland. Each member had an automated names database, with Iceland having most recently acquired an automated system. There was continued collaboration to establish the Nordic Toponymic Database, with an initial file of about 20,000 names from Denmark (including the Faeroe Islands and Greenland), Finland, Iceland, Norway (including Jan Mayen and Svalbard Islands), and Sweden.

57. It was noted that names in multilingual areas, particularly Sami names, were of interest. Sami names might be official in Norway but features could also have official Norwegian and Finnish names. In Finland, such multiple official names were also possible.

58. Greenland, as of 1993, had complete responsibility for its geographical names. By 1996, names of European origin would be replaced by Greenlandic names, if such names existed historically. The Division supported the work of the authorities in Greenland and would encourage them to disseminate their standardized toponyms.

59. There were several regional and local meetings held in the Division; those in Norway included training sessions. There was also active participation in the 1993 ICOS meeting, forging closer ties between UNGEGN and ICOS.

Romano-Hellenic Division

60. Ms. Lejeune presented the Division report and work programme (working paper Nos. 59 and 60). At a meeting held in Paris in April 1994, the Division had projected toponymic guidelines and concise gazetteers. A bulletin would disseminate information through the Division, especially to those who might not be able to attend meetings.

61. There had been considerable cooperation among French-speaking countries. In 1994, after several meetings, France and Quebec (Canada) had signed a

protocol for formal exchange of documents and a joint programme regarding toponymy.

62. It was noted that Cyprus and Greece had legislation regarding the transliteration system ELOT 743.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Division

63. The Chairman of the Division noted (working paper No. 52) that the dissolution of the Soviet Union and events in the former Yugoslavia had resulted in additional activity in international standardization. Fortunately, the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (PCGN) and the United States Board on Geographical Names (USBGN) had previously established systems of romanization of writing in the recently established States within the territory of the former Soviet Union.

64. The last of the very-large-scale maps published by the Ordnance Survey would be available in digital form by late 1995. Geographical names records in the database included coordinates for the beginning of each name. This prompted a considerable discussion of cartography- and feature-based names databases. It was explained that other attributes defined feature extent, and therefore feature-related coordinates were not needed.

65. It was noted that where space permitted on larger-scale maps, Welsh equivalents would be shown. Leaflets were available for generic terms in English and Welsh for most map series because margin space was insufficient for legends in both English and Welsh.

66. It was noted that various training courses were available to overseas students at the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain. They included the BTEC (Business and Technician Education Council) National Certificate in Geographic Information Systems.

67. The design of the Northern Ireland Geographic Information System had progressed well. Its operation was closely allied to the progress of the digital topographic database.

United States of America/Canada Division

68. The Division reported (working paper No. 22) that cooperation continued through established programmes and informal meetings. Specifically, there was an exchange of information on the modernization of automated names databases. Of particular importance was the work in both countries on names of aboriginal/native origin. Much of the work on databases, romanization and training was detailed in other working papers.

REPORTS OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS, REGIONAL MEETINGS AND
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

69. Mr. Sievers, liaison officer with the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), presented his report (working paper No. 38). There were more than 40 signatory countries to the Antarctic Treaty, and there were numerous gazetteers and listings of geographical names for Antarctica. There were no international guidelines and there was some degree of ambiguity and confusion regarding names in Antarctica. In 1992, SCAR established a working group to facilitate the correct and unambiguous identification of features and to develop guidelines on submitting names to a national names authority as well as on using already existing place-names. The SCAR working group would also address use of roman script; adherence to resolutions of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names; and collection and consolidation of extant listings and gazetteers.

70. Mr. Payne presented working paper No. 15 detailing the new version of the Gazetteer of the Antarctic published in the United States. In addition to location attributes, text detailing the origin of and reason for naming, and feature descriptions were included. The Gazetteer included over 13,000 entries, of which about 1,000 had never been published previously.

71. Mr. Payne, liaison officer for PAIGH, reported that the most recent training course had been held in October and November 1993 in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. There had been 22 participants from eight countries. (See working paper No. 17 under agenda item 8.)

72. Mr. Helleland, the liaison officer for ICOS, reported that at the 1993 conference, the entire structure of ICOS had been changed to create a dues-paying organization with a Board of Managers. The Membership Committee received and evaluated membership requests which required sponsorship from two current members. A debate ensued regarding effective liaison with an organization whose member scholars did not necessarily subscribe to the resolutions of UNGEGN.

73. Mr. Raper indicated that individuals in many related organizations might be unaware of all of the resolutions of UNGEGN. It was noted that while UNGEGN generally dealt with applied toponymy, it was necessary to utilize scholarly advice in matters relating to research in toponymy. The liaison officer was given the responsibility of circulating a copy of UNGEGN resolutions to the ICOS Board of Managers.

74. It was noted that the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) did not send observers to UNGEGN meetings, but did send them to the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names. Mr. Kadmon expressed concern that an ISO group appeared to be dealing with the standardization of geographical names to an extent over and above that entailed by its role in establishing country codes. Mr. Lewis added that ISO had been involved in romanization, primarily for bibliographic reference purposes and library use, since before 1967. The systems were reviewed for modification at five-year intervals.

75. Mr. Ormeling, the liaison officer for UNGEGN meetings in Europe, reported on behalf of Mr. Morrison, liaison officer for UNGEGN meetings in the Americas. He indicated the close cooperation that subsisted between ICA and UNGEGN, especially at regional conferences. He further indicated that ICA supported and endorsed the geographical names training courses, and that the ICA Standing Committee for Education had included a chapter on toponymy in the third volume of Basic Cartography scheduled for publication.

REPORTS OF THE WORKING GROUPS

Terminology

76. Mr. Kadmon, the Convenor, reported (working paper No. 3) that during the editing of the resolutions of the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, the word "dictionary" had been changed to "glossary" in resolution 11. After reporting that the document had been used at the training courses in South Africa, he indicated that it should be translated into the five other official United Nations languages as soon as possible, and, after publication, updated as necessary.

Romanization systems

77. Mr. Quinting, the Convenor, reported in four basic areas (working paper No. 20). The status of negotiations for a single system for Korean, devised jointly by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea, was unknown. Every attempt would be made to determine the status of implementation of the GOST 1983 system for Russian, thus far apparent on only two small-scale maps. However, the status of the romanized version of the atlas mira (world atlas) was unknown. The proposed transcription system for Thai was in the final stages of preparation. Meanwhile, the system adopted at the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1967 was still being used. Five of the successor countries of the former Soviet Union had met in 1993 and indicated their intention to replace Cyrillic with roman script. They were currently at various stages of this transition.

Country names

78. Ms. Lejeune, the Convenor, reported on the status of the list of country names (working paper No. 26). The list would recognize independent States and would include the official long form as well as the abbreviated or conventional forms. Non-roman forms were transcribed according to the official system, but in the absence of such a system, the United States Board on Geographic Names/Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (USBGN/PCGN) system was utilized.

Training courses in toponymy

79. Mr. Ormeling, the Convenor, reported that there had been two courses held recently, specifically a United Nations toponymic training course in South Africa and a United Nations-sanctioned course under the auspices of PAIGH in Honduras. He indicated that the details would be delivered during the working group meeting. He further indicated that the courses were becoming very well defined, and training manuals and texts were available or forthcoming.

Toponymic data files and gazetteers

80. The Convenor, Mr. Lewis, emphasized the rapid pace of technological advancements even since the last session (working paper No. 53). He also reported on the effects of the political changes that had occurred over the recent past and their effects on maps, gazetteers and toponymic files and the need for new standardized names. The last two years had seen an advance in the provision of computer-based scripts. With regard to publicity for UNGEGN, he referred to a video for Mexican television that he had recently made and a video for Arabic television on the subject of Islamic mapping.

Publicity and funding

81. In the absence of Mr. Randall, the Convenor, Ms. Kerfoot, the Vice-Chair, gave the report (working paper No. 56). The brochure publicizing the work of UNGEGN, originally prepared by Mr. Ormeling, had been edited by Mr. Randall and attached to the report. It was emphasized that publicity was key to the higher visibility of UNGEGN. Increased activity through UNGEGN liaison officers and the establishment of new contacts with international organizations should be given high priority. All avenues of public and private funding should be explored, and a systematic plan should be developed.

MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRAINING COURSES IN TOPONYMY

82. The Convenor, Mr. Ormeling, recognized those present who were actively engaged in developing and offering toponymic training courses. He reiterated that the aim of the Working Group was to provide proper assistance, in any suitable form, to help train personnel to achieve the goals of UNGEGN.

83. Mr. Payne presented working paper No. 17 summarizing the PAIGH course on geographical names and detailing the content of each module. He elaborated on the day-by-day activities of the course and presented in outline form the course syllabus. He specifically highlighted lectures on national standardization, the extensive field exercise, and a workshop in automated data processing. The next course was scheduled for the second and third weeks of October 1994, in Lima, Peru.

84. Mr. Helleland indicated that the linguistic aspect of standardization should not be overlooked. Mr. Payne responded by indicating that the course was

introductory and dealt with applied toponymy. Nevertheless, he indicated that historical and linguistic aspects were addressed by invited guest lecturers. The field manual prepared by Mr. Orth at the request of the experts was valuable background material for training courses.

85. Ms. Terron expressed thanks for the course held in Brazil in 1992. It had provided the basis for integration of names activity among agencies, and that would likely lead to the establishment of a national names authority.

86. Mr. Dorion and Ms. Kerfoot indicated that a video addressing names collection, and a publication addressing principles and procedures, were available in Spanish.

87. Mr. Wang indicated the importance of training, and further stated that training was essential for achieving the goals of UNGEGN. He also stated that much training material existed in his country, but it was in Chinese only.

88. Numerous experts expressed an interest in receiving training material from the Secretariat. Mr. Ormeling suggested that the experts contact the responsible individuals in South Africa, the United States and Canada. Each instructor was asked to bring his or her material as an information package to UNGEGN at its next session.

89. Mr. Dorion suggested that a bibliography of available course materials should be prepared and published in the UNGEGN Newsletter. Mr. Ormeling and Ms. Kerfoot would coordinate this work. The pressing need for exchange of materials between divisions was emphasized by Mr. Du. Mr. Abdo referred to the importance of the publication and distribution of the materials given in previous United Nations toponymic training courses. Mr. Abdo said that UNGEGN should give more attention to this matter for the benefit of countries that needed these publications.

90. Several experts expressed a concern to the effect that aspects of coordinates and reference systems should be addressed in the courses. Mr. Payne assured the experts that the PAIGH course addressed that issue, and Mr. Kadmon confirmed that the South Africa courses did so as well.

91. There was a discussion regarding logistics and student participation. The various instructors indicated that there was a wide range of expertise among the students. Mr. Payne indicated that the PAIGH course was application-oriented and usually made up of students from government agencies engaged in names standardization or collection. The South Africa courses also included students from the private sector. Mr. Flynn further elaborated that hotel arrangements, computer availability, and local collaboration were necessary when planning courses. It was felt from experience at PAIGH courses that two students per computer was an optimum arrangement, but that three was acceptable.

92. Mr. Raper indicated that the South Africa course allowed students to attend some, but not necessarily all, modules, whereas the students at the PAIGH courses generally attended the complete course. The South Africa courses had awarded a certificate of participation and PAIGH was attempting to arrange a similar award.

93. Mr. Raper informed the experts that an advanced course was being arranged in South Africa and would possibly be held in August 1995. Minimum requirements for students and the Working Group mission were then discussed. Mr. Payne stated that there seemed to be a need for an advanced PAIGH course, but that the particulars had not yet been determined.

94. In a discussion about materials, Mr. Helleland underlined the fact that some topics and materials could be applied universally, but that certain aspects required that materials be local and specific.

95. Mr. Kadmon discussed (working paper No. 4) the tables of contents for several training texts that had been published in South Africa in relation to the courses taught there.

96. Mr. Lewis emphasized the importance of training in multilingual areas. Specifically, he stressed accuracy of data and the fact that the national names authority alone had the responsibility and knowledge to make decisions and to direct the programme. All agreed on and reaffirmed resolution 4 of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 1967, in which the Conference recognized that international standardization would be based on national standardization.

97. Mr. Ormeling confirmed the fact that the invitation to hold a course at the International Institute for Aerospace Survey and Earth Sciences (ITC) in the Netherlands was still valid. The Government of the Netherlands would pay part of the cost. The Secretary noted that countries might be provided with seed money, but must rely on additional funding and support to accomplish their goals.

98. Mr. Robertson indicated that the Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division would very much like to utilize some of the training course materials already developed.

99. The experts discussed university courses, but realized that few existing courses stressed standardization: they were more directed towards onomastics. It was agreed that an inventory of course syllabuses should be made, with Mr. Helleland collecting such material through ICOS.

100. In respect to future French-language training courses, Mr. Dorion indicated that no recent requests had been received.

MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TOPONYMIC DATA FILES AND GAZETTEERS

101. The Convenor, Mr. Lewis, opened the session by informing the experts that part of the problem facing everyone was the highly changeable nature of the technology in both hardware and software. It was evident from the content of the toponymy training courses that personal computers utilizing stand-alone database management systems (DBMS) were ubiquitous.

102. He indicated that networks and the information highway (Internet) were rapidly changing the entire process of collection and exchange of information.

He further indicated that while Geographic Information Systems (GIS) had been discussed before, it was only now that they were widely used and were having an impact in a multifaceted manner. Paramount for the success of the thematic capability of GIS was availability of a complete set of standardized names. While toponymic application in a GIS environment might not be necessary in an introductory course on toponymy, it was essential to an advanced course. Technical advancement in software (desktop publishing) had made gazetteer publication more efficient and less costly. Mr. Lewis charged each expert personally to do everything possible to encourage implementation of the resolutions on geographical names of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

103. Mr. Pokoly described (working paper No. 7), on behalf of Hungary, its automated names system for which software had been obtained from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The standard locative data elements were present along with other feature attributes and there was a field for remarks. The database currently contained over 80,000 records and was being expanded to include all the names of the 1:10,000-scale map series. The database was readily available and eventually it was hoped that it would be fully compatible for GIS applications. The coordinates were feature- (or entity-), rather than name-, related; a data transfer standard had been developed, but it was not yet complete.

104. Bolivia's report (working paper No. 5) encouraged electronic mail (email) and data transfer. This led to discussion regarding electronic mail (email), networking and Internet. Most experts agreed that the availability of geographical names on Internet was a valuable tool, but that development was so rapid that potential problems might not yet be evident. Mr. Payne indicated that 2 million domestic names in the United States might be available on Internet by early 1995 and that the populated places file was already available. Mr. Flynn indicated that the 4 million foreign names maintained in the United States might be available on Internet by September. Ms. Kerfoot indicated that to respond to reference-user needs, Canada was currently working on establishing Internet distribution, and official Canadian names would be accessible by late summer 1994. Compact disk read-only memory (CD-ROM) production was not being followed up at this time in Canada. Mr. Kadmon indicated that such rapid, mass availability underlined the need for national bodies to establish standardized names.

105. Mr. Flynn outlined (working paper No. 19) the newly implemented Geographic Names Processing System (GNPS) used by the United States Defense Mapping Agency for processing foreign names. It was designed for gazetteer production and for direct support of cartographic operations. As with the domestic system in the United States, the geographical coordinates for foreign names were entity-related. There followed a discussion, initiated by Mr. Kadmon, about coordinates for linear features. In Israel, all linear features came from both mouth and source coordinates. In the United States, foreign names of linear water features had only mouth coordinates, whereas in the domestic names form they had both mouth and source coordinates, as well as coordinates that related the feature to each map sheet on which the feature was located.

106. Mr. Payne presented an update (working paper No. 21) on the status of geographical names compilation in the United States. He indicated that the 25-year project was on schedule and that about 8 or 10 more years would be necessary to complete it. Thus far, about 2 million names had been compiled, and about 1 or 2 million additional names were expected to be collected.

107. Mr. Bohac described the status of data files and gazetteers in the Czech Republic (working paper No. 28). It was indicated that a Central Bulletin was published in support of standardization. Furthermore, there was a study in progress to develop an automated names system. In 1995, a gazetteer of "Major Geomorphological Units" was scheduled for publication. Mr. Kadmon pointed out that names were usually given a measure of status, and in Israel a legal one when published in official documents.

108. Ms. Kerfoot reported on a survey conducted to ascertain the need and format for a concise gazetteer of Canada (working paper No. 30). The objectives and the questionnaire were discussed, together with the analysis of the results. Strong support was received for the dissemination of data, but potential users questioned the concept of a "concise"-version gazetteer. Useful data were gathered regarding type size, format, additional content and overall appearance. Mr. Raper indicated that this was a most useful exercise, and other countries could use a similar approach where the need existed.

109. Ms. Kerfoot presented the Canadian example of an agreement for the dissemination of geographical names data (working paper No. 31). In Canada, each province/territory had authority over names standardization, whereas the national body, the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, coordinated national names activities. It was important for all parties to agree on core data fields, exchange, access, and so on. The agreement was between the national mapping agency (a member of the national names committee) which housed the national names database, and each province and territory. Although not applicable to all countries in their standardization process, such a document could serve as a model for inter-agency agreement where a similar structure was encountered in the development of national names databases.

110. Mr. Cruz presented information on publication of a concise gazetteer in Spain. Specifically, he noted that the names of capitals of first- and second-order administrative divisions were to be considered official. Other names required research before being adopted by the Names Council. Mr. Toniolo asked why certain names (in Galicia) were not in Galician, which was the official language, but were given in Castilian instead. It was explained that province names were given in Castilian, an official language, but that the names of inhabited places were in Galician. Mr. Woodman asked why "Lleida" had been applied instead of "Lerida". It was explained that the name had been adopted by Congress, and that others had not been so changed.

111. Mr. Sievers presented working paper No. 39 describing the German approach to approved names of "landscapes" or regions. There was considerable discussion on how such regions were defined, specifically how their limits were determined, and the difference between the treatments of historical names, particularly where such regions overlapped each other.

112. Mr. Payne indicated that areas and especially regional references were application-driven, and therefore very difficult to define with regard to standardization. He further elaborated on the position taken by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) when it had been asked to establish a standard code for regions of the world. Mr. O'Maolfabhail pointed out that names were of an "organic" nature and boundaries might fluctuate. Mr. Abdo explained that feature extent was often very difficult to define.

113. Ms. Hausner presented working paper No. 66 explaining the GEOTABLE project, an automated names file covering Central, Eastern, and South-eastern Europe. The content, methodology, accessibility and present status were described. Additionally, she described the GEONAM project (working paper No. 66/Add.1) which contained about 120,000 geographical names based on the 1:50,000-scale map series. It was of interest to note that coordinates were available, and they were both entity- and name-related. This data file was also available in various media (for example, CD-ROM).

114. Ms. Hausner described (working paper No. 68) the 1991 gazetteer of Austria. The format included both a systematic section by administrative division and an alphabetical section by name. Significantly, the bilingual (German and Slovenian) names in Carinthia were included. The gazetteer was also available in electronic form.

115. Mr. Woodman considered it important that the Group of Experts should take note of the gazetteer Nazwy Geograficzne Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej (Geographical names of the Republic of Poland). This gazetteer, published in 1991, contained 28,000 entries accompanied by designation, latitude, longitude, and two levels of administrative division. The introduction clearly explained the policies and procedures adopted, and a pocket of appropriately useful maps was contained at the back. The publication was an exemplary model of a national gazetteer intended for international use.

MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TOPONYMIC TERMINOLOGY

116. Mr. Kadmon, the Convenor, opened the session with a discussion of two administrative matters. The text of resolution 11 of the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names had been altered by replacing the term "dictionary" in several places by the term "glossary", and by inserting the phrase "within existing resources" in paragraph 1 (b). Mr. Kadmon indicated that there was a distinct difference between a glossary and a multilingual dictionary and that the term "dictionary" must be restored in the wording of resolution 11 of the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

117. The Secretary indicated that translation services were provided mainly for the work of United Nations organs, whose documents must appear in the six official languages of the United Nations. This represented the priority use of scarce funds. The addition of the phrase "within existing resources" had been part of the editorial process. The observer from the Office of Conference Services of the United Nations Secretariat supported the Secretary's statement regarding resources. He further indicated that changing "dictionary" to

"glossary" had merely constituted the correction of a misunderstanding, since "glossary" was the term used in the original document published some years before. He continued to explain that the translation of the document could only be accomplished as a courtesy and as time became available, but that it would be attempted, given the importance of the document.

118. Mr. Kadmon reminded the experts that a Chinese version had already been made and he thanked the China Division for its efforts. Mr. Du indicated that the Chinese translation was a first version, and that many non-roman characters in the example had not been entered into the computer file. Mr. Kadmon promised to have hard-copy printouts of those characters sent out for photographic reproduction. Mr. Kadmon similarly commended the Dutch and German-speaking Division for taking on a translation into German.

119. Given the lack of resources for translation, Mr. Kadmon asked the divisions for suggestions on the process. Ms. Lejeune indicated that she and Mr. Dorion of the Romano-Hellenic Division would direct and complete the translation into French, hopefully by December 1994. Mr. Cruz of the Romano-Hellenic Division agreed to provide the translation into Spanish, most likely by May 1995. Mr. Tazi and Mr. Abdo of the Arabic Division agreed to review and edit the Arabic version after translation. Mr. Boginskiy of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division agreed to investigate the possibility of doing the same for the Russian version. Mr. Kadmon asked that all translated text be sent to the secretariat in digital form.

120. The observer from the Office of Conference Services of the United Nations Secretariat indicated that the task currently seemed manageable for the United Nations, with translation into only two languages (Russian and Arabic) being required. Although it would have to be on a time-available basis, his Office could undertake the task.

121. There was a lengthy discussion about printing and distributing the document. In general, the Group of Experts agreed that a commercial venture was not warranted at this time.

122. Mr. Sievers asked if there might be a mechanism to print versions in other languages in the same format as that of the six official languages of the United Nations.

123. Mr. O'Maolfabhail indicated that smaller language groups might like versions in their own language, but cautioned that other academic or governmental agencies might require that they be consulted in the translation of the text. Ms. Mattisson announced that the Norden Division would, as soon as possible, provide translation of the document into the five major languages of that Division.

124. The question of different fonts was raised and the consensus seemed to be that software packages readily available commercially would easily handle this problem.

125. A detailed paper (working paper No. 8) written by Mr. Földi of Hungary, on modifications to the dictionary terms, was introduced. It was observed that the

suggestions by various experts were noteworthy and merited examination, but that they should not delay printing.

126. Mr. Abdo suggested that the terminological dictionary should be based on English terms only. In translating these terms into other languages, equivalent terms in the other languages should be formulated. If there was no equivalent term in the other languages, then the English term might be transliterated.

127. It was restated that the maintenance procedure included submitting proposed changes to the Convenor of the Working Group on Terminology. The core members of this Working Group would thoroughly research each submission and notify the proposer of its disposition. Mr. Abdo suggested that a statement be included in the dictionary informing the user that the list was based on the English language.

MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ROMANIZATION SYSTEMS

128. Mr. Quinting, Convenor of the Working Group, opened the meeting by referring to the practical problems posed by the dissolution of the Soviet Union. In particular, the introduction of a roman-script alphabet in Azerbaijan had been complicated by national policy changes concerning one letter. Rapid changes of this sort were clearly a hindrance to the work of the Working Group.

129. Mr. Quinting announced the publication in March 1994 of Romanization Systems and Roman-script Spelling Conventions (working paper No. 18). This document, issued by the United States Board on Geographic Names (USBGN), contained all 29 romanization systems jointly agreed by USBGN and its British counterpart, the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (PCGN). It had superseded and greatly enhanced the previous 1972 edition, principally by adding eight new systems and improving the tabulated format of many others. Mr. Lewis considered the manual to be outstandingly useful and very well presented. Experts were at liberty to request copies from USBGN. In response to a query from Mr. Dorion, the Convenor replied that the new manual did not specifically indicate those systems that had been the subject of resolutions at the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

130. Mr. Pokoly introduced information presented by the East Central and South-East Europe Division (working paper No. 9), following a divisional meeting held in Budapest in September 1993. That Albania had reported for the first time and was clearly not yet familiar with United Nations recommendations was reflected in the fact that its policy was to transcribe phonetically all foreign names, even those already written in roman script, into Albanian.

131. Mr. Dorion reported that recent Croatian atlases for secondary schools had adopted a policy similar to that found in Albania. He hoped that countries could be discouraged from following such a course. Mr. Páll pointed out that some languages, such as Latvian and Lithuanian, might be obliged to adapt foreign spellings for grammatical reasons.

132. Cyprus was effectively applying the ELOT 743 romanization system in all its cartographic products. The Czech Republic and Slovakia were using United Nations-approved systems consistently.

133. Hungary and Poland used United Nations-approved systems in publications intended for international use, but in some domestic publications such as school atlases, traditional receiver-language romanization systems were still used. In reply to a question from Mr. Du, Mr. Pokoly reported that this distinction between products, in terms of use of Pinyin and use of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences System, as applied to all geographical names of China, was based on whether a product was destined for domestic use (Hungarian system) or international use (Pinyin). A similar distinction by product was made in Hungary for the geographical names of Russia, Japan and other countries.

134. Mr. Pokoly noted the general difficulty in acquiring source materials from countries of the former Soviet Union and considered that a valuable source of such information remained the USBGN Foreign Names Information Bulletin contained in the UNGEEN Newsletter.

135. Mr. Kim of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea introduced the guidelines (working paper No. 57) used in his country for the romanization of Korean, which had been presented to the sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1992. He stated that those guidelines, based on standard Korean pronunciation, had been applied extensively in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for geographical and personal names. He hoped they would find wider acceptability within the Working Group. Mr. Quinting reminded experts that at the fourteenth session of UNGEEN in 1989, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea had agreed to cooperate to devise a single system for Korean in line with resolution 9 of the first United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, in which the Conference had recommended a striving to reach an agreement on one single system for each non-roman writing system. There had been some optimism among experts that by the time of the current session such a single system might have been devised.

136. Mr. Lee (Republic of Korea) reported that the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) had in May 1994 agreed to adopt for the time being two versions of a romanization system for Korean with a view to their consolidation into one system by 1997. Both Mr. Lee and Mr. Kim expressed their regret that there was as yet no single system, but reported that efforts towards the achievement of that goal were continuing.

137. Mr. Kim believed that the versions agreed within ISO differed from the guidelines submitted at UNGEEN since the terms of reference of these two bodies were different from each other. Mr. Kadmon regretted this discrepancy.

138. Experts sought clarification on certain technical difficulties encountered in interpreting working paper No. 57 such as the precise nature of the diacritical mark, the distinction between single vowels and diphthongs and the system of exemption of well-known names from strict romanization. An important point would be to know the list of the place-names to be used in geography and in cartography.

139. Mr. Quinting thanked Mr. Kim and Mr. Lee for their continuing efforts and wished them success in arriving at a joint system in time for the eighteenth session of UNGEGN in 1996. This would allow experts time to consider the system in advance of the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1997.

140. Ms. Lejeune introduced working paper No. 61 and its addendum. She recalled that the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1972 had approved the Modified Beirut System for the romanization of Arabic geographical names. At the same time, it had been recognized that certain countries with a francophone tradition, particularly in the Maghreb, would experience difficulties in adapting to this United Nations-approved system.

141. With this in mind, UNGEGN, at its fifth session, held in 1973, had considered a variant romanization option for certain Arabic letters that would be more in keeping with francophone traditions. Despite periodic discussions since then, nothing of a formal nature had been achieved, and Ms. Lejeune felt that the time had come to consider this variant (known as variant B) once again, with a view to its incorporation within the Amended Beirut System by means of a resolution at the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1997. Nevertheless, Mr. Abdo believed that incorporation of variant B would conflict with the basic United Nations principle of having only one romanization system for each non-roman writing system. He also felt that proposals in this matter would arise more appropriately from within the Arabic Division, a feeling shared by Mr. Kadmon.

142. Mr. Toniolo considered that although in principle he was not in favour of two United Nations-approved systems for one non-roman writing system, it might nevertheless be more realistic to adopt this variant rather than rely solely on a system that was not favoured in the Maghreb.

143. Ms. Lejeune stressed that, in her view, this proposal did not amount to the introduction of a second United Nations-approved system, but was rather a variant option designed for a particular part of the Arabic world.

144. Mr. Tazi reminded experts that variant B resembled a proposal put forward by the Encyclopaedia of Islam several years before; it would be premature to discuss it currently, in isolation, while talks continued within the Arabic Division. He reported that an Arabic conference was to be held in Morocco in November 1994, and felt that this would provide an appropriate forum for the exchange of views designed to resolve certain technical points relating to the Modified Beirut System. Mr. Tazi emphasized the unity of the Arabic world; the language used in North Africa was the same as that used farther east, and there could be no justification for establishing a form of geographical differentiation.

145. Mr. Al-Robaishy felt that the proposal to introduce variant B would exacerbate, rather than resolve, the problems already encountered. The Modified Beirut System adopted by the United Nations had caused no great problems within the Arabic Division. Such problems as did exist were of a technical nature concerning the romanization of certain letters, rather than of a geographical

nature relating to a particular portion of the Arabic world. The countries of the Arabic Division constituted one linguistic entity which could not be divided geographically.

146. Noting that the examples given in the addendum to working paper No. 61 ranged widely across the Arabic Division, Mr. Woodman requested clarification as to whether variant B was intended for application solely with respect to the geographical names of the Maghreb countries, or whether it was intended for use by francophone countries for all geographical names throughout the Arabic Division. Ms. Lejeune replied that the scope of variant B was limited specifically to the Maghreb countries, plus a few others with a francophone tradition.

147. Mr. Lewis commented that the consensus of the Working Group appeared to favour a resolution of technical problems posed by the Modified Beirut System adopted by the United Nations. Mr. Kadmon felt likewise. The fact that pronunciation inevitably varied widely throughout a division as large as the one in question was not a reason to introduce variant B.

148. Mr. Abdo stressed that although the Amended Beirut System might contain certain technical imperfections, it was nevertheless the system recommended by the United Nations.

149. Mr. Quinting expressed his wholehearted support for Mr. Abdo's statement, and agreed with Mr. Tazi that the November 1994 Arabic conference might afford a suitable opportunity for arriving at a solution to any technical problems. At the same time, he hoped that the Arabic conference would use the occasion to discuss variant B also. He requested that the Arabic Division report on this conference to UNGEEN at its eighteenth session in 1996, and Mr. Abdo agreed to do so if progress had been achieved.

150. Mr. Pokoly presented a provisional romanization system for Ukrainian Cyrillic (working paper No. 73) presented by Ukraine to the divisional meeting in 1993. This provisional system, which bore considerable resemblance to the USBGN/PCGN system, was intended for the romanization of geographical names in international cartography. Ukraine was reminded at that meeting that its donor system needed to be based on sound national standardization, and that it should not be complicated or subject to future modifications. It was also stressed that strong evidence of domestic cartographic implementation of the system would be a precondition of international acceptance.

151. Certain problems regarding interpretation of the system's tabulation in working paper No. 73 were noted by Mr. Pokoly and elaborated on by the Convenor, Mr. O'Maolfabhail, Mr. Kadmon and Mr. Lewis.

152. Mr. Quinting reminded experts that his Convenor's report to UNGEEN at its sixteenth session had extended a hearty invitation to the successor States of the former Soviet Union to inform the Group of Experts of their current activities. He was delighted that Ukraine had done so. He would only remind experts that an additional prerequisite of adoption by the United Nations of romanization systems entailed the obligation on the part of donor countries to afford receiver countries the opportunity to discuss technical matters.

153. Messrs. Sievers and Dorion questioned why this provisional system differed substantially from the GOST 1983 system approved by the United Nations for the romanization of Russian, given that the two languages shared common linguistic features. In addition, Mr. Sievers queried the presence of the word "English" in the title of the provisional system. Mr. Pokoly replied that the system was to some extent English language-based, and might have been chosen, as differing widely from GOST 1983, for political and economic reasons. Mr. Quinting reported that at a conference on the rendering of Ukrainian names in foreign languages, which he had attended in Kiev in December 1993, those present had been informed that national legislation required all geographical names to be rendered in Ukrainian, and furthermore that Ukrainian contained five additional characters not found in Russian Cyrillic.

154. In response to a further question from Mr. Sievers, Mr. Pokoly informed experts that the provisional system afforded a considerable degree of reversibility. Mr. Lewis regarded Ukraine's presentation of this provisional system as a fitting example of the donor principle properly applied by a new country. Mr. Páll and Mr. Abdo stressed that this system remained provisional and perhaps experts should not consider it too closely unless and until it became formally approved within Ukraine as its system for international use. Mr. Quinting agreed, noting that the 1993 Kiev conference had suggested that there might still prove to be additional work needed before the system could be finalized.

155. Mr. Raper requested clarification as to the correspondences and differences between the systems published in the USBGN's 1994 romanization systems manual and those that were United Nations-approved. Mr. Quinting replied that the USBGN manual contained 29 systems, some of which corresponded with the dozen or so recommended by the United Nations.

156. Finally, experts considered the technical difficulties encountered in the preparation of documents relating to romanization systems, given the complications posed by various scripts and diacritical signs. So far, no United Nations booklet conveniently showing the systems recommended by the various United Nations conferences had been published.

MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON COUNTRY NAMES

157. Ms. Lejeune, the Convenor, opened the meeting and announced that working paper No. 72 had been withdrawn after a remark of Mr. Abdo.

158. Ms. Lejeune discussed some of the problems encountered in compiling a list of the official form of country names (working paper No. 27), for example, What determined an official language? How was it recognized and from what document? Not all countries listed an official language in their constitution, and often different spellings of a country name appeared in official documents. There were long and short forms to be considered. Mr. Lewis congratulated the Working Group for its work on a most complex topic. He underlined the important distinction between the concept of an "official language" and that of a "language used officially".

159. Mr. Toniolo inquired as to the status of the alphabet in the Republic of Moldova. Roman script was now in use, but for about 25 per cent of the population (that is to say, in the region called Transnistria), Cyrillic was always used in the administration.
160. Mr. Pokoly noted that the new provisional transliteration system used in Ukraine differed from GOST 83.
161. Mr. Toniolo asked if Nippon might be used as well as Nihon, and Mr. Kaneko replied that both were used.
162. Mr. Abdo indicated that there was a difference between the official name in the writing system used in a country and the transliterated version into the roman alphabet. In some cases, the only official name was that rendered in the writing system of the country.
163. There followed a short discussion of Terminology Bulletin, No. 345: Country Names. 1/ It was noted that if the name was not in an official language of the United Nations, and used a non-roman script, the name was transliterated directly.
164. It was then noted that the former USSR had been responsible for publishing atlases of Georgia and Armenia in the language of each country; however, the transliteration had been through Russian. It was then re-emphasized that it was most important to transliterate from a language directly into roman script.
165. Mr. Bohac presented a list of names of States and Territories (working paper No. 28) published in 1993. Besides recording the Czech standardized forms, the list also contained the names in the languages of the United Nations, except for Arabic and Chinese, as well as in German.
166. Mr. Pokoly asked about the United Nations policy for listing country names in the official languages of the United Nations. It was clarified that this depended completely on the individual country's wish.
167. Mr. Goumas of the East Central and South-East Europe Division officially recorded his objection to any reference using "Macedonia" as the name of a country in any working paper, since the country concerned was officially recognized in the United Nation as "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". It was noted that currently, negotiations were being carried out under the auspices of the Secretary-General on precisely this subject - the name of the country - and that it would therefore be inappropriate at this stage to anticipate the outcome of those negotiations.

MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PUBLICITY AND FUNDING

168. In the absence of the Convenor, Mr. Randall, Mr. Robertson of the Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division undertook the task of serving as interim convenor.

169. Mr. Payne presented working paper No. 16, the newly published Catalogue of Publications of the United States Board on Geographic Names (USBGN). It consolidated the products of both the Domestic and Foreign Names Committees of USBGN. The catalogue was available free of charge from the USBGN Executive Secretary. Ms. Kerfoot informed the group that various names publications and information documents were available from the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (CPCGN), as well as from various provincial/territorial names authorities. Mr. Lewis indicated that the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain publicized its services through monthly notices to a wide public concerning other publications, training courses and the availability of its spatial data and toponymy.

170. Mr. Dorion agreed that most national and other names authorities had many publications available, and suggested that each send a bibliography to the secretariat for inclusion in the UNGEGN Newsletter.

171. Mr. Tazi suggested that the United Nations declare a geographical names day. The proposal was discussed and most agreed that the Secretariat should investigate the possibility. Mr. Kadmon suggested that the United Nations send out invitations to tender proposals for a United Nations postage stamp commemorating the standardization of geographical names.

172. The group reviewed a Canadian video created to promote toponymy and standardization among the general public. It was agreed that the video provided good publicity, and was a useful model.

173. Mr. Lewis presented a list of suggested questions and answers designed to inform and educate on UNGEGN activities. The material could be incorporated into the draft brochure designed to inform the general public of the work of the United Nations on the standardization of geographical names. Mr. Lewis further indicated that these suggestions were not intended to replace the draft brochure. He continued by saying that the brochure must be informative and address a general audience.

174. The Secretary indicated that the United Nations needed the brochure as much as the public, because a brochure was a simple way to convey a sense of the work of UNGEGN. The brochure as it existed was well suited for this function and should be finalized at the current session of UNGEGN. He then proposed that a small committee of the Working Group be formed to complete this task. A general discussion followed, with some experts indicating that a few more months were necessary to complete the task. However, many agreed that most of the work regarding content had been completed and that only minor adjustments were needed. Discussion turned to merging Mr. Lewis's paper with the existing text of the brochure.

175. Mr. Robertson stated that quick action would be good for credibility. He also indicated that details of the finalization of the brochure would be a matter for the permanent Convenor and the Working Group. The secretariat would assist with layout, translation and distribution. The secretariat directed the Working Group to complete the brochure during the current session. Ms. Kerfoot was appointed to work on the task, with assistance as required. After UNGEGN accepted the brochure, appropriate editing for style and format could be done.

176. Ms. Kerfoot then enumerated some other possible topics and tasks relating to publicity, as gathered from reports of previous sessions. These included a compendium of resolutions and recommendations, a handbook for members, reference material for establishing progress on standardization, a United Nations postage stamp honouring standardization of geographical names, and press releases.

177. Mr. Dorion's presentation (working paper No. 76) emphasized the importance of considering the cultural aspects of the standardization of geographical names. There were many sources, including working papers at the current session of UNGEGN, that made reference to the importance of cultural heritage in association with geographical names. Numerous political changes and the importance of native/aboriginal geographical names put further stress on this factor. Furthermore, publicizing this would interest a wider audience in the work of UNGEGN. Recognition of cultural aspects could lead to the increased interest of the media, thereby increasing awareness. Mr. Dorion proposed that at the next session of UNGEGN this topic become an agenda item dealing not only with cultural factors in the standardization of geographical names, but with promotion of standardization as well.

178. Mr. Helleland indicated that Sweden was in the process of drafting a law that would prevent the alteration of original geographical names.

179. Mr. O'Maolfabhail described a recent publication (1992) of the Ordnance Survey in Ireland dealing with geographical names in that country, and indicated that all government agencies there had received a copy. This type of publication should be encouraged in each country.

180. Mr. Robertson indicated that in some instances standardization worked against the preservation of culture. This must be considered carefully in the standardization process.

181. It was suggested that the Convenor of the Working Group should correspond periodically with the chair of each division, to promote communication. Furthermore, there should be coordination with the Working Group on Toponymic Training, as training was important to publicity.

182. UNGEGN needed to articulate in more user-friendly terms its mission and the means to achieve its goals. The Secretary reaffirmed that there was a great interest in the brochure because many people at the United Nations regarded UNGEGN as obscure and exotic. The brochure would address this issue of lack of information. She further commented that the Canadian video made it clear that standardizing names related to the general public. It was noted that funding for publicity was obviously important, but could not be adequately addressed until projects and tasks were specifically identified and goals set.

TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES FOR MAP AND OTHER EDITORS

183. The Chairman, as coordinator, indicated that toponymic guidelines were one of the most useful items produced by UNGEGN. About 30 guidelines had been prepared by experts. The Chairman reminded experts of the resolution

encouraging each country to prepare toponymic guidelines and keep them up to date.

184. Working paper No. 10 provided updated toponymic guidelines for Hungary, following those first produced in 1982. Of particular interest was the requirement by law to address and use the geographical names of minority-language groups. In addition, the 1989 law regarding standardization of geographical names had been modified in 1992. The working paper document addressed the various aspects of toponymic guidelines.

185. Mr. Bohac reported that the guidelines issued by the former Czechoslovakia had not been altered for use by the Czech Republic. Mr. Pokoly added that separate guidelines had been published for Slovakia in 1993. Poland's guidelines contained eight chapters dealing with all aspects of toponymic applications.

186. The composition of the Hungarian names authority was discussed. It was indicated that the Ministry of Agriculture was responsible for geographical names, and that the names committee comprised members of most government agencies and other institutions involved with the use of geographical names.

187. Mr. Kaneko presented the guidelines in use in Japan (working paper No. 43), and stressed the importance of names standardization in Japan.

188. Ms. Narhi presented the updated guidelines for Finland (working paper No. 63), and explained the different spellings of the name "Sami" in the paper.

189. Mr. Kim presented guidelines used in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (working paper No. 58). He indicated that there was an active programme to examine the country's toponyms and hoped the guidelines would be widely used by other countries. Mr. Lee, from the Republic of Korea, indicated that some of the names used on maps were not correct, especially in coastal areas, and therefore not acceptable.

190. There was a discussion regarding the use of "Sea of Japan", "East Sea", "Sea of Korea" and other names as applied to the same body of water. Most of the feature in question was in international waters and therefore outside the purview of UNEGN. Experts from the Republic of Korea, Japan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea submitted notes in connection with the wording of the present paragraph. The contents of the notes were not directly related to the technical issue of the standardization of geographical names (and are therefore not reproduced here). The secretariat of UNEGN took note of said notes and indicated that it would keep them on file.

191. Mr. O'Maolfabhaill indicated that in working paper No. 65 there were only minor revisions to the 1992 guidelines for Ireland.

192. Ms. Hausner described the various updates to the guidelines for Austria (working paper No. 67). Specifically, she noted minor corrections in the Slovenian and Croatian minority areas. It was further noted that the Board on Geographical Names authority was studying the implementation of automated names system, utilizing also historical and linguistic data.

193. Ms. Lejeune presented the guidelines of Romania (working paper No. 79), highlighting the chapter on sources and the glossary. Some discussion followed on the use of diacritical marks.

194. The publication of toponymic guidelines was discussed, as recommended in resolution 7 of the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

195. The question of format for the guidelines was raised. There might be a need for minimum standards to be established for toponymic guidelines.

196. Mr. Toniolo reminded the Group that guidelines should not only be academic works - that they had to be very useful professional instruments for toponymists, geographers and cartographers.

197. Mr. Raper indicated that this issue should be addressed at the divisional level. All agreed that the guidelines should be published as soon as possible. A committee was established to review the guidelines document submitted. Messrs. Raper and Toniolo would serve on this committee with others to put in evidence the parts of the guidelines that had not been dealt with sufficiently or were ambiguous, so that the States concerned could amend and/or complete their work for another issue.

EXONYMS

198. Mr. Pokoly presented working paper No. 11 in which he discussed, inter alia, the use of exonyms. There was considerable discussion as to what constituted an exonym, particularly in bilingual or multilingual countries. It was suggested that the definition of "exonym" in the Dictionary of Toponymic Terminology be reviewed.

199. Mr. Bohac presented part of working paper No. 28 in which the use of exonyms by the Czech Republic was discussed, and the concept of historical names was included. Mr. Lewis indicated that a distinction must be made between historical and modern names. Specifically, names used historically and in an historical context could not be altered.

200. It was observed that historical names were important and should be retained by each country. Whether or not they were to be considered exonyms was discussed. There was also discussion as to whether an exonym existed within a country when the name was in the majority language, and that language was not the official language of the country.

201. It was reiterated by some experts that names within a country were endonyms regardless of language of origin or any other variables. Names supplied from outside the country were exonyms.

202. Mr. Lewis presented working paper No. 54 which addressed the nuances of interpretation of the definitions of endonyms and exonyms. Numerous examples were given to illustrate the concept that an endonym might, in fact, be in a secondary language of a country as long as the names in that secondary language

were in widespread use within that country. Discussion centred around "Khartoum" and "El Khartoum", as an example. It was noted that the definite article must be present unless the appropriate authorities allowed its deletion; otherwise an exonym was created. Diacritical marks and case endings must be retained; otherwise exonyms were created. Similarly, the deletion of generic terms would create exonyms. Country names were a special topic and should not be discussed within the context of exonyms and endonyms.

203. In theory, there might be as many exonyms for a feature as there were external language references to it. It was noted that cartographic practice was often to use the endonym for a feature, with the relevant exonym in parentheses. Mr. Kadmon stressed the obvious need for the Dictionary of Toponymic Terminology.

204. The Chairman indicated that perhaps there should be a small committee or focus group to research the various nuances associated with the topic of exonym/endonym.

205. Ms. Lejeune presented working papers Nos. 80 and 62 which were lists in French of countries, adjectival references to inhabitants, capitals with adjectival references to inhabitants, and variant references. The lists were designed to be used in France and in French-speaking countries. Working paper No. 80 established a comparison between the French list and the equivalent names published by the United Nations in Terminology Bulletin No. 345.

206. Mr. Sievers presented working paper No. 81, which related selected exonyms in the German language. There were numerous comments. Mr. Sievers invited experts to supply him with corrections and additions. Mr. Woodman remarked that working paper No. 81 contained a substantial number of German exonyms for places and features in Poland. He understood that the German postal service was currently discussing whether German or Polish forms should be used on correspondence sent from Germany to Poland.

207. Mr. Toniolo suggested that delegates and experts at the next sessions and conferences of UNGEGN had to read accurately and if possible to study what had already been written about exonyms and endonyms till then in the previous official documents of UNGEGN, in order not to encounter the same problems every time.

STANDARDIZATION IN MULTILINGUAL AREAS

208. Mr. Pokoly presented working paper No. 12 which described the efforts of Hungary regarding collection and standardization of names in multilingual areas. Specifically, there was a law dealing with the names of 13 minorities that made up only about 4-8 per cent of Hungary's population. The local Government, when asked, must ensure that all names references could also be in, besides Hungarian, the "mother tongue" of the minority. The use of dialects by some minority groups was being addressed.

209. The representative of the East Central and South-East Europe Division reflected on the dilemma of considering names in specific languages situated

outside areas where those names had official status, but were used extensively by the local population. According to a number of experts at the session, those names were to be regarded primarily as minority names as well as non-standardized endonyms.

210. Mr. Bohac presented a portion of working paper No. 28 in which it was indicated that about 94 per cent of the population of the Czech Republic was of Czech ethnicity. The remaining 6 per cent were of Slovakian, Polish, German, Hungarian, Ukrainian and Russian origin. Determining minority names was extremely difficult, especially in the case of Slovakian ones, because there had been almost total assimilation into the Czech nationality. This was somewhat more relevant in some areas, especially eastern Silesia, where the Polish minority lived in higher concentrations.

211. Ms. Kerfoot presented working paper No. 32 in which she described the data-collection form for use in recording bibliographic reference names of Native Canadian origin. The paper also included sample pages from an annotated bibliography of sources useful in the study and collection of Native Canadian names.

212. Mr. Dorion commented on the growing importance of aboriginal toponymy in Canada. While procedures had been established for processing aboriginal names, the issue was complex and there seemed to be increasing difficulty in adhering to the United Nations recommendations of having one name for one feature. Specifically, there might already be an existing official name for a feature for which there was also an aboriginal name. Diacritical marks were used in writing several aboriginal languages of Canada. There followed a discussion on the use of diacritical marks and of syllabics. The following questions were raised: Should names contain diacritics unrecognizable to most map users or should equivalent characters be substituted? Should syllabic forms be standardized for Inuit names? In Canada, the issue was not just one of names but involved a wider one of language and culture. Syllabics had been introduced in the 1830s for the Cree language and later for Inuktitut.

213. Mr. Lapierre explained a project that had been coordinated under the aegis of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (CPCGN) in the Yellowknife area of Canada's Northwest Territories. Roman letters with diacritical marks and the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) had both been found to be problematic for recording aboriginal names on maps. Names had been recorded in syllabics and a pronunciation guide for non-native speakers included.

214. There was a discussion regarding the technical and the financial aspects of applying complicated writing systems. As maps must be understandable, the method of displaying names must readily convey the information to the user. Ms. Kerfoot indicated that as syllabics were in use, standard forms of names must be established in syllabics as well as in roman script.

215. Mr. Kadmon indicated that on the one hand experts strove to attain a system that reflected as accurately as possible a language's sounds, while on the other they aimed for reversibility between writing systems.

216. Mr. Payne presented working paper No. 44 which stressed the importance of the use of native American names for features in the United States. The pamphlet discussed had been published by the United States Board on Geographic Names and designed to assist in the collection of native names. In the United States, certain native groups did not want their names on maps, while others did. The English generic was usually added, but as with the Maori names of New Zealand, the issue of redundant generics did not seem to be much of a problem. The names were more meaningful to all users with the added generic.

217. Ms. Kerfoot presented working paper No. 33 and indicated that the various Canadian provinces had developed different approaches to standardizing names in bilingual areas. This paper described the system in Manitoba for equivalent names in the French language.

218. Mr. Lapierre described the system of bilingual names in the Canadian province of Ontario. Official names, alternate names (officially designated), and French equivalent names were differentiated. Names in the second category, scale permitting, were displayed on provincial maps in parentheses, following the official name. This system of recording names in a bilingual environment had attracted the attention of the German-speaking minority of the Alto Adige region of northern Italy, who were seeking a similar system for use there. Ms. Kerfoot pointed out that federal maps in Canada portrayed only official names and that alternate names were not included.

219. Mr. Payne presented working paper No. 45 which explained the revised policy of the United States Board on Geographic Names regarding commemorative names for unnamed features in the United States. Mr. Poirier added that in 1990 in commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of the Board, an unnamed lake in Quebec that resembled the shape of the 48 conterminous States of the United States had been named Lac USA.

220. Mr. Lewis presented working paper No. 55 which emphasized the use of official names as sanctioned and promulgated by the "supreme national authority".

221. The Chairman emphasized that the primary function of the Group of Experts was international standardization which was based upon national standardization. Names promulgated on maps and in lists and gazetteers must come from individual countries - all others were exonyms. It was observed that the Group of Experts must also provide guidelines and accepted methods of transliteration.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND THE AIMS AND FUNCTIONS OF UNGEGN

222. The Chairman introduced working paper No. 83, a list of objectives and benefits of the work of UNGEGN. Mr. Abdo pointed out that the matter of objectives and benefits of the work of UNGEGN should be stated in a more detailed way and he suggested a compilation of previous papers and materials relating to the objectives and benefits of UNGEGN.

223. Ms. Kerfoot presented working paper No. 34, an evaluation of the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. The paper reflected responses from 25 individuals from 23 countries. Mr. Poirier stressed the importance of funding to encourage members from developing countries to attend. The Chairman reminded the group that he had proposed that a trust fund be established for just such a purpose. All documents should be made available to non-attending members.

224. It was also suggested that each division distribute documents to its member States. Mr. Lewis offered to contact various African and other countries through the United Kingdom Commonwealth Survey Officers' Conference.

225. It was observed that working papers for the session of UNEGN should be submitted to its secretariat well in advance in order to optimize effective distribution. Most experts believed that distribution of papers on a daily basis was of advantage. It was emphasized that there were no country reports but only divisional reports at UNEGN sessions. Individual countries could make their work known through the divisional report or through the various topical papers submitted in accordance with agenda items.

226. Reports of divisions and working groups might be as detailed as necessary, but only a summary might be presented at the session.

227. Several factors regarding the UNEGN Newsletter were discussed. Deadlines were flexible. The secretariat must often wait until enough material was available to compile the Newsletter.

228. If the material received could be properly reproduced, it was not retyped or edited. The secretariat would prefer to receive the material on disk in WordPerfect format. The material must not have been previously published because the United Nations did not republish articles.

229. The Chairman informed the experts that because of Mr. Randall's recent retirement, he had resigned as Convenor of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding. Mr. Robertson from New Zealand, a member of the Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division, was elected. UNEGN thanked Mr. Randall for his contribution to the Working Group on Publicity and Funding, and to the work of UNEGN in general.

230. It was agreed that each working group should submit to the secretariat:

(a) The name of the Convenor and a list of the names of the members of the working group;

(b) The terms of reference for the working group;

(c) The work planned and intended to be accomplished before the next session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

When this material was received, a summary of it would be included in the Newsletter.

231. The liaison activity with the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) was discussed. Mr. Randall had previously been liaison officer with IHO, and Mr. Flynn of the United States of America/Canada Division agreed to contact IHO.

232. Mr. Payne was a member of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Committee on Data Representation and its Advisory Group to ISO. He would determine which ISO committee was the appropriate contact and would report to the secretariat and to the Chairman. Mr. Cruz suggested that contact be made with appropriate names authorities in various countries if their Governments had not already appointed an expert to serve as a member of UNEGN.

233. The Secretary addressed the request of the Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division to drop the word "South-West" from the name. This would be decided at the next session of UNEGN.

234. Mr. Abdo suggested that the travel of one or two experts to developing countries to assist them in the toponymic programme might be funded directly by the United Nations.

235. Mr. Al-Robaishy reminded the Group of Experts that the International Institute for Aerospace Survey and Earth Sciences (ITC) in the Netherlands was an excellent training facility and that the Group of Experts should explore the offer that ITC had made in the past to partially fund UNEGN training.

236. Ms. Terron pointed out that the Latin American Division had 24 members, and there were many active programmes, but communication among the members was poor and there was often a high degree of turnover of personnel. She suggested that PAIGH might serve as a forum for contact and distribution, and that the PAIGH toponymic course might offer an occasion to hold a divisional meeting. Mr. Payne reminded the group that Venezuela had agreed in 1991 to be the contact point for the Latin America Division, but had been unable to fulfil the role. He agreed that more could be done to assure contact and document distribution. As PAIGH liaison, he agreed to serve in this capacity, and indicated that a divisional meeting would be scheduled during the next toponymic training courses scheduled for October 1994 in Peru.

SEVENTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION
OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES (1997)

237. The provisional agenda of the Conference would be determined at the next (eighteenth) session of UNEGN. Briefing sessions on Conference procedures would be provided to elected officers.

238. It was suggested that there be a special commemoration session at the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names to honour the work of toponymists. Mr. Malmirian suggested that a film of the work of individuals over the past 30 years be prepared. The secretariat suggested that a paper be prepared for this special commemoration session at the Seventh United Nations Conference to trace developments and accomplishments since the First United Nations Conference.

239. An ad hoc working group was established to organize the special session at the Seventh United Nations Conference. Messrs. Lewis (Convenor), Tazi, Kadmon, Kotsonis, Malmirian and Abdo were members.

240. There was a discussion regarding the issue of a postage stamp for the thirtieth anniversary of the Conferences. The secretariat would check into the matter.

EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

241. The next session of UNEGN was scheduled for 1996. It should not be in conflict with the ICOS meeting scheduled for 4-10 August 1996. The time and venue of the eighteenth session of UNEGN was discussed. Experts would be informed as soon as this information was available.

242. Most experts and the secretariat indicated that two weeks or 10 working days was an appropriate length for UNEGN sessions, to include working group meetings being held in plenary session. The secretariat would attempt to provide an advance tentative timetable of the topics to be considered.

243. The provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of UNEGN would be the same as that for the seventeenth session, with the exception of item 7, to be entitled "Reports of the Working Groups (summaries only)".

OTHER MATTERS

244. A lively discussion followed on the issue of who should attend the sessions of UNEGN. The secretariat indicated that Experts were invited through the permanent missions to the United Nations of Member States and the process must remain the same. It was noted that in the past certain individuals who had attended previously had been mentioned by name, but it was reaffirmed that it was up to each Government to identify the experts. Mr. Lewis noted that some experts made their Government aware of their specific qualifications to be considered an expert and to attend the sessions of UNEGN.

Notes

1/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.18.

Annex I

SUMMARY BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. At this conclusion of the seventeenth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, I would like to present a perception of the achievements of the session, a survey of the deliberations we had during the past two weeks, challenges faced by this Group, and a correlation of the trend of our work with the goals of the United Nations.
2. The Group promotes the international and national standardization of geographical names. This is accomplished by encouraging the establishment of national names authorities; providing toponymic education and training; encouraging publication of maps, gazetteers and other documents for the dissemination of standardized names; preparing and publishing toponymic guidelines for map and other editors; devising and implementing transliteration systems for non-roman scripts; providing dictionaries and glossaries of toponymic terminology; and assisting developing countries in their standardization efforts.
3. Without standardization there would be chaos and confusion, because names in the world are written in different scripts; there are different places with the same name, and places with more than one name; and there may be different spellings for the same name. The problems are compounded by the proliferation and complexity of exonyms.
4. The standardization of geographical names is essential in all forms of communication, and in questions of reaffirming traditional culture as an effective expression of national identity, conservation, education and training, tourism, trade and commerce, transportation, regional and environmental planning, science and technology, search and rescue operations, and normal day-to-day orientation and communication between people.
5. In the session that has now come to an end, reports by Divisions detailed progress made in pursuance of United Nations resolutions: maps and atlases have been produced and gazetteers published; national geographical names authorities have been established or enhanced; toponymic training courses have been given in Africa and Latin America; transliteration keys for non-roman scripts have been produced; and a dictionary of toponymic terminology and toponymic guidelines have been prepared that enable names problems to be addressed.
6. The Group, being conscious of the purpose of the restructuring of various United Nations bodies, has aimed during its session at dealing with substantive and vital issues. Its structure and functions were analysed and reviewed with a view to ensuring optimal functioning. Future actions were planned to support the goals of the Group and make them more proactive and cost-effective. Preparation and planning of the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, to be held in 1997, was also the task of UNGEGN at its current session.

7. Cognizance was taken of changes in geographical names as the result of political changes. Those changes have brought about a new series of issues requiring the attention of the Group. The continuing lack of participation of experts from developing countries remains a matter of grave concern to the Group. A lack of resources and the expenses involved in participating at a distant venue were identified as reasons for this non-participation. Several ways of addressing the problem were addressed, including establishing a trust fund, soliciting sponsors and donors, and arranging sessions of the Group at a venue closer to developing countries.

8. The importance of making the activities of the Group known more widely, both to the United Nations and to the public at large, was recognized, and steps were taken to address the issue. Furthermore, it was acknowledged that the standardization of geographical names concurs with identified goals and fields of interest of the United Nations, including cultural heritage, national identity, indigenous peoples, environment protection, peace-keeping and security, progress and development, education and training, habitat and agriculture, natural disasters, including their prediction, preparation and mitigation, and the like. Indeed, there seems to be no field of human activity where standardized geographical names do not play a crucial role.

9. In conclusion, I extend my personal thanks to the Vice-Chair, Rapporteur and secretariat. These colleagues have, as you know, put in many days and nights of hard work to bring us to this point in our progress. Their dedication and enthusiasm serve as an example to us all. I also thank the Convenors of the Working Groups, liaison officers, and all the experts, for their valuable contributions. Your support and cooperation have made the session not only profitable, but very pleasant and memorable. We leave here with a sense of achievement and satisfaction, with optimism about and enthusiasm for continuing our work in the future.

10. Finally I thank the interpreters and the United Nations staff, who made the session the success that it was. I trust that our work will become increasingly visible and enjoy the support of Governments of countries, private enterprise, the United Nations, and the world at large.

11. Recommendations of the Group were as follows:

(a) Resolutions that are intended for implementation by the experts and by the United Nations should be implemented as expeditiously as possible, particularly where no expense is involved;

(b) A trust fund or foundation should be established to which experts from developing countries may apply for funding to participate in UNGEGN activities;

(c) In view of the difficulty experts from developing countries experience in participating in sessions at distant venues, sessions of UNGEGN should be held preferably in Europe or other venues closer to the countries of the Africa Central, Africa East, Africa West, and India Divisions;

(d) Funds should be sought or made available to send one or two UNGEGN Experts to developing countries to take the necessary steps in establishing national names authorities where relevant;

(e) Experts should take advantage of the opportunities presented by the UNGEGN Newsletter to disseminate information and communicate with each other;

(f) The UNGEGN Newsletter should be made more attractive and distributed to a wider audience, particularly with a view to implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names;

(g) The publication of toponymic guidelines for map and other editors in World Cartography should be undertaken as soon as feasible;

(h) The translation where relevant and publication of the Dictionary of Toponymic Terminology should be expedited;

(i) A collection of documents should be published for experts and interested others, on the activities, structure and functions of UNGEGN. This could include aims and functions, rules of procedure, resolutions by subject, and so on;

(j) A small group of experts should collate working papers and other publications on exonyms and prepare the ground for discussion and clarification of the issue at the eighteenth session of UNGEGN;

(k) The processing and publication of the UNGEGN brochure should be given priority;

(l) Working papers and other documents pertaining to UNGEGN sessions should be distributed to experts who were unable to participate in UNGEGN sessions and United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names;

(m) Mindful of the offer by the Government of the Netherlands to assume 50 per cent of the costs of a United Nations toponymic training course, provided the course was held at the International Training Course in the Netherlands, the United Nations should budget for the participation of participants from developing countries in such a course.

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Africa Central Division

(Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Zaire)

Absent

Africa East Division

(Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Swaziland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe)

Absent

Africa South Division

(Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa; Chairman of the Division: Mr. P. E. RAPER)

Mr. Peter E. RAPER
(South Africa)

Head, Onomastic Research Centre,
Human Sciences Research Council

Africa West Division

(Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo)

Absent

Arabic Division

(Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen; Chairman of the Division: Mr. A. TAZI)

Mr. Abdelhadi TAZI
(Morocco)

Directeur de l'institut
universitaire de la recherche
scientifique

Mr. Hamid OUZZINE
(Morocco)

Chef de service à la direction
de la conservation foncière du
cadastre et de la cartographie (DCFCC)

Mr. Mohamed ALAHIAN
(Morocco)

Chef de service à la DCFCC

Mr. Sayyid Taimur Bin
Kalifa Bin Said AL SAID
(Oman)

Director of the National
Survey Authority, Ministry of
Defence

Mr. Soleman AL-ROBAISHY
(Saudi Arabia)

Deputy Minister of Petroleum
and Mineral Resources for
Aerial Survey

Mr. Ass'ad S. ABDO
(Saudi Arabia)

Professor of Geography
Department of Geography
College of Arts
King Saud University

Asia East Division (other than China)

(Japan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea; Chairman of
the Division: not yet determined)

Mr. Junichi KANEKO
(Japan)

Head of Map Sources Material
Division, Map Management Department
Geographical Survey Institute

Mr. Kinji SHINODA
(Japan)

Second Secretary, Permanent Mission
of Japan to the United Nations

Mr. Kyr Hyung LEE
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Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division

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Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam; Chairman of the Division: Mr. W. A. ROBERTSON)

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Mr. Kat CHANDEE
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Chief, Academic and Training
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Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic)

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Mr. Hamid MALMIRAN
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Mr. Art O'MAOLFABHAIL
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Mr. SONG Jiucheng
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Mr. BAI Bin
(China)

Official, Department of Treaty and
Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dutch and German-speaking Division

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For South Africa, see Africa South Division

East Central and South-East Europe Division

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For Cyprus, see Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic)

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Latin America Division

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Permanent Mission of Guatemala
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Mr. Pablo FARNER
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Permanent Mission of Guatemala
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For Spain, see also Romano-Hellenic Division

Norden Division

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Mr. Botolv HELLELAND (Norway)	Senior Scientific Officer University of Oslo
Ms. Ann-Christin MATTISSON (Sweden)	Head of Toponymic Section National Land Survey

Romano-Hellenic Division

(Belgium, h/ Canada, m/ Cyprus, c/ France, g/ Greece, k/ Holy See, Italy,
Luxembourg, Monaco, Portugal, Romania, Spain, l/ Switzerland, h/ Turkey; c/
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Mrs. Sylvie LEJEUNE (France)	Secrétaire de la commission de toponymie, Institut géographique national
Mr. Henri DORION (Canada)	Président, Commission de toponymie du Québec
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Mr. Andreas KOTSONIS (Cyprus)	Director of the Department of Lands and Surveys, Ministry of the Interior
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Mr. George KASOULIDES (Cyprus)	First Secretary Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations
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Mr. Alessandro TONIOLO (Italy)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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United Kingdom Division

(Guyana, South Africa, i/ United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, New Zealand; a/ Chairman of the Division: Mr. H. A. G. LEWIS OBE)

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For New Zealand, see Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division

For South Africa, see Africa South Division

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(Canada, m/ United States of America; Chairs of the Division: Ms. Helen KERFOOT and Mr. Roger L. PAYNE)

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Executive Secretary, Foreign Names
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For Canada, see also Romano-Hellenic Division

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a/ Member of the Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division and the United Kingdom Division.

b/ Member of the Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic) and the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division.

c/ Member of the Asia South-West (other than Arabic) Division, East Central and South-East Europe Division and the Romano-Hellenic Division.

d/ Member of the Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division and the India Division.

e/ Member of the Asia South-West Division and the East Central and South-East Europe Division.

f/ Member of the East Central and South-East Europe Division and the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division.

g/ Member of the Celtic Division and the Romano-Hellenic Division.

h/ Member of the Dutch and German-speaking Division and the Romano-Hellenic Division.

i/ Member of the Dutch and German-speaking Division, the Africa South Division, and the United Kingdom Division.

j/ Member of the Dutch and German-speaking Division and the Latin America Division.

k/ Member of the East Central and South-East Europe Division and the Romano-Hellenic Division.

l/ Member of the Latin America Division and the Romano-Hellenic Division.

m/ Member of the Romano-Hellenic Division and the United States of America/Canada Division.

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