UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Geneva, 4-22 September 1967

Vol. 1 Report of the Conference

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NOTE

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The designations employed in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country or territory or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers.

E/CONF.53/3

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ANNEXES

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names was held at Geneva, Switzerland, from 4 to 22 September 1967. The results of the Conference are issued in two volumes: the present publication, volume 1, *Report of the Conference;* and volume 2, *Proceedings of the Conference and Technical Papers,* which will be published at a later date.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. The United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names was held from 4 to 22 September 1967 at Geneva, Switzerland, in pursuance of the decision taken by the Economic and Social Council at its 1385th meeting on 16 July 1965. [1]

ATTENDANCE

2. The Conference was attended by representatives and observers from fifty-five countries, three specialized agencies, two intergovernmental organizations and five international scientific organizations. A list of the participants is given in annex I.

3. Mr. Roberto Arce, former Director of the Resources and Transport Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, represented the Secretary-General. Mr. Horacio Ureta, former Chief of the Cartography Section, acted as Executive Secretary, and Mr. C. N. Christopher, officer in the Cartography Section, was the Deputy Executive Secretary.

OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

4. Mr. Vladimir Velebit, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe, opened the Conference on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

5. At its 1st plenary meeting the Conference adopted its rules of procedure, which were the same as those of the United Nations Technical Conference on the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale, [2] with amendments to rules 3, 32, 34 and 35. The following is the amended text of these rules:

Rule 3

A Credentials Committee shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. It shall consist of five members who shall be appointed by the Conference on the proposal of the President. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report without delay.

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 1,* p. 45.
[2] See *United Nations Technical Conference on the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale,* vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 64.I.4), pp. 11-14.

Rule 32

If, when one person or one delegation is to be elected, no candidate obtains the required majority in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken, which shall be restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If, in the second ballot, the votes are equally divided, the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

In the case of a tie in the first ballot among the candidates obtaining the second largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held for the purpose of reducing the number of candidates to two. In the case of a tie among three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a second ballot shall be held; if a tie results among more than two candidates, the number shall be reduced to two by lot.

Rule 34

English, French and Spanish shall be the working languages of the Conference.

Rule 35

Speeches made in any one of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other two working languages. Speeches made in one of the official languages of the United Nations shall be interpreted into the three working languages.

At its 7th plenary meeting the Conference made a further amendment to rule 3 and an amendment to rule 6. The following is the amended text of these two articles:

Rule 3

A Credentials Committee shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. It shall consist of four members who shall be appointed by the Conference on the proposal of the President. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report without delay.

Rule 6

The Conference shall elect a President, a Vice-President and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of the States participating in the Conference.

OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE

6. The Conference elected the following officers:
President: Mr. Meredith F. Burrill (*United States of America*);
Vice-President: Mr. A. N. Baranov (*Union of Soviet Socialist Republics*);
Rapporteur: Mr. Guido Gómez de Silva (*Mexico*).

CREDENTIALS

7. The Credentials Committee, composed of the President, the Vice-President, the Rapporteur and the

representative of Australia, met and reported that the credentials of all the delegates had been found in order.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

8. The Conference adopted as its agenda the provisional agenda prepared by the Secretariat. The agenda as adopted is given in annex II.

ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

9. The Conference established four technical committees and referred several items of the agenda to them. Below is a list of the committees :

Committee I. National standardization. (item 9)
Chairman: Mr. B. P. Lambert (Australia);
Vice-Chairman: Mr. L. Ratajski (Poland);
Rapporteurs: Mr. E. F. Halvorsen (Norway) and Mr. E. J. Holmgren (Canada).[3]

Committee II. Geographical terms. (item 10)
Chairman: Mr. F. Gall (Guatemala);
Vice-Chairman: Mr. Y. M. Nawabi (Iran);
Rapporteur: Mr. A. Roşu (Romania).

[3] Mr. E. S. Holmgren was appointed by the Chairman of Committee I to replace Mr. E. F. Halvorsen upon his departure.

Committee III. Writing systems. (item 11)
Chairman: Mr. H. A. G. Lewis (United Kingdom);
Vice-Chairman: Mr. B. Khamasundara (Thailand);
Rapporteur: Mr. A. Pégorier (France).

Committee IV. International co-operation. (item 12)
Chairman: Mr. J. K. Fraser (Canada);
Vice-Chairman: Mr. A. Matta (Lebanon);
Rapporteur: Mr. J. Loxton (Kenya).

WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

10. In addition to the many committee meetings which took place, the Conference also held nine plenary meetings. The work of the Conference is summarized in chapter II. The resolutions and recommendations adopted by the Conference are given in chapter III. A list of the documents submitted to the Conference may be found in annex IV.

CLOSING SESSION

11. The President of the Conference congratulated the delegates on their excellent work and co-operation and expressed satisfaction at the useful exchange of ideas that had taken place. Many participants assured the President that the success of the Conference would be long remembered.

II. SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

The Conference considered items 7 and 8 of the agenda in plenary session. Under item 7 each representative was given the opportunity to summarize briefly the work done in his country on the standardization of geographical names. Under item 8 the participants briefly discussed their experiences on problems of domestic standardization of geographical names which were listed in section II of the first report of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names. [4] The information introduced under items 7 and 8 proved most useful in the work of the four principal committees which were formed to cover the substantive work of the Conference. Each of these committees was responsible for an item of the agenda: Committee I, item 9 (National standardization); Committee II, item 10 (Geographical terms); Committee III, item 11 (Writing systems); and Committee IV, item 12 (International co-operation). At its 8th and 9th plenary meetings, the Conference considered and adopted the reports of the committees and the draft resolutions submitted. A brief summary of the discussions in these committees follows.

Committee I

Committee I accepted the definition of national standardization as "the fixing by each country of the writing of the geographical names of that country in the official administrative language or languages of that country" proposed by the Group of Experts in paragraph 12 of its report on the preparatory meeting

[4] The report of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its meeting in June-July 1960 on the question of domestic standardization appears in *World Cartography,* vol. VII (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 62.I.25), pages 7-18; throughout this chapter it is referred to as the first report of the Group of Experts.

for the Conference. [5] The Committee also unanimously agreed that the relevant recommendations in the first report of the Group of Experts would be used as a basis for its discussions. As a result of its deliberations, the Committee adopted a draft resolution containing several recommendations. The draft resolution was adopted by the Conference as resolution 4.

Questions discussed or touched upon in the discussion of national names authorities included: the size and composition of national committees; the necessity for having both linguists and cartographers and various authorities represented on committees; centralization as opposed to decentralization; local committees on nomenclature; permanent or *ad hoc* membership of administrative bodies dealing with geographical names; and the diversity of conditions and experience in the standardization of geographical names. The proposals and amendments submitted were referred to a working group. The Committee approved the draft recommendation prepared by the working group, which was adopted by the Conference as recommendation A of resolution 4.

During the consideration of sub-item 9 (a), "Field collection of names", several representatives reported on the work done and the progress made in this field in their countries. A general discussion followed during which various points were considered, such as the use of tape recorders in the field, the problems of air photography, and the importance of finding good informants. The use of linguistic experts in the field found support. It was also pointed out that aerial photographs were often better than maps for field work, since many informants could not read maps but could find things on photographs. A working group on this

[5] See annex III.

question prepared a draft recommendation, which was approved by the Committee and adopted by the Conference as recommendation B of resolution 4.

In the discussion of sub-item 9 (b), "Office treatment of names", the representative of Norway called attention to the fact that names were part of a country's national heritage. The Committee unanimously agreed that both linguists and cartographers were needed in the office treatment of names; linguists decided on the spelling of names and topographers decided which names to include and their exact location on maps. The representative of Monaco referred to the interest of the International Federation of Tourist Centres in the standardization of geographical names. The representative of the United States of America drew attention to a document containing instructions to United States personnel on preparing geographic names reports (E/CONF.53/L.53) and said that a further document would be circulated by his delegation on instructions to field personnel on the collection and office treatment of names issued by the United States Geological Survey. The representative of the Netherlands wished to include a recommendation for the adaptation of spellings of place names to the orthographic system used in that country. The representatives of Austria and the Federal Republic of Germany pointed out difficulties in such a procedure. The representative of the Netherlands then proposed that a recommendation should be included providing for the adaptation of spellings of place names as far as possible to the existing spelling system of the language.

A working group on sub-item 9 (b) prepared a draft recommendation on the subject, which was adopted as recommendation C of resolution 4.

During the discussion of sub-item 9 (c), "Decisions relating to multilingual areas", the representative of Austria proposed the inclusion of a recommendation to all countries with minority languages that due regard should be paid on maps to names in the language of a minority population. The representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of America pointed out that it was difficult to define the term "minority language" and warned against too specific a recommendation. It was argued that recommendation VII in the first report of the Group of Experts covered the point raised by the representative of Austria. The Committee agreed to set up a special working group to formulate a recommendation on this point. A draft recommendation prepared by the working group was approved by the Committee and adopted by the Conference as recommendation D of resolution 4.

The Committee then considered sub-item 9 (d), "National gazetteers". The Chairman proposed the reformulation of the relevant recommendations in the first report of the Group of Experts. The Committee agreed and referred the matter to a working group. The working group's draft recommendation on the subject was approved by the Committee and adopted by the Conference as recommendation E of resolution 4.

Under sub-item 9 (f), "Automatic data processing", the representative of the United States of America summarized the work done in his country. The Committee then discussed various points, including the relative advantages of using punch cards as opposed to tape, difficulties in handling diacritical marks, and problems presented by long names. The representative of the United Kingdom stated that tape seemed to offer the greatest advantages. The representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany, France and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics also commented on their countries' experiences in automatic data processing. A working group composed of representatives of these five countries submitted a draft resolution, which was approved by the Committee. The draft resolution was adopted by the Conference as resolution 3.

The Committee agreed to the Chairman's suggestion that there be inserted in the definition of a national names authority appearing in the first report of the Group of Experts the words "or co-ordinated group of bodies", so that the definition would read: "A body or co-ordinated group of bodies having authority and instructions to standardize names within a country".

Committee II

Committee II undertook the review of the list of selected technical terms prepared by the Group of Experts on Geographical Names and annexed to its first report.

After a brief discussion, the Committee generally agreed with the definitions, in both English and French, of most of the terms listed. The definitions of "generic term" and "glossary" were not considered adequate and, in addition, several participants wanted a definition of "category". A working group was selected to review these matters and reported that "category" was considered to entail too many complications and that a suitable definition could not at that time be formulated. The working group presented new definitions for "generic term" and "glossary" for the Committee's consideration.

The Committee laid special emphasis on the study of the nature of geographical entities, and gave careful consideration to the list of technical terms. It submitted to the Conference a draft resolution containing several recommendations. This was adopted by the Conference as resolution 19.

The Committee also submitted a revised version of recommendation VII in the first report of the Group of Experts. The revised text was adopted by the Conference (see resolution 20).

Committee III

Committee III, upon reviewing the list of documents presented by the participants, agreed that the subject of the transference of names should be divided into four categories: transference from (i) ideograms, (ii) syllabic scripts, (iii) the Roman alphabet, (iv) non-Roman scripts.

The Chairman drew attention to the two reports of the Group of Experts, and specifically to recommendation VII in the first report. All the participants agreed that the Committee should co-ordinate its activities with Committees I and II on this recommendation, and a working group was organized.

The Committee agreed that the principles governing transference from one given writing system to another were not necessarily the same as those for transference in the reverse direction. The representative of Norway drew attention to the difficulties that existed in many countries because of the varying phonetic values attributed to the letters of the Roman alphabet, and proposed the creation of a Roman alphabet with as few special signs as possible for international use. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany proposed that nations whose writing system was other than the Roman alphabet should establish an official system of transliteration and that for a given language there should be one single system. The representatives of Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany, Mexico and Spain questioned the definitions of the words "transcription" and "transliteration" given by the Group of Experts. A working group was formed to draft new definitions, and the definitions already given by the Group of Experts were accepted as working definitions for Committee III.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics drew attention to the special problems of transcription from the Roman alphabet into the Cyrillic. The Chairman proposed the acceptance of a further guiding principle: in determining the method of transference of names from a given writing system ("donor" system) into another ("receiver" system), the decisive factor should be the preference of the users of the "receiver" system. The representative of Ghana said that the numerous languages of his country could be recorded in the Roman alphabet with the help of a few special letters. The representative of Norway said that in his country Lappish names were treated similarly. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics explained that the practice in his country was to record non-Russian in the Cyrillic alphabet without special letters or signs, even though this might mean a loss of phonetic accuracy, since he felt that geographical names should not be written in a different form from ordinary words. The representatives of Kenya and the United States of America agreed in deprecating the use of unfamiliar signs. The representative of the United Kingdom pointed out that it was possible to distinguish a "reference form" of a name used for practical purposes from an "information form" affording greater precision. The representative of the United States of America preferred the use of a single transcription. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics said that in view of the diverse values assigned to Roman alphabet letters in the various countries using that alphabet, his country had adopted for the English-language version of its world atlas a system for transcribing names from Cyrillic characters similar to that of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) but with a number of modifications.

The representative of ISO, speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, explained that the systems his organization adopted for transliteration from various scripts were arrived at by agreement among the national standardization organizations and that some of the systems were currently undergoing modification. The representatives of France and the United Kingdom reminded the Committee that the standardization organizations of their respective countries were private and not official bodies.

Several participants spoke on their experience in the question of the recording of names in multilingual areas or in unwritten languages. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics said that the practice in his country for the transcription of names from less known or unwritten languages was to use diacritical marks or the alphabet of the International Phonetic Association (IPA). The representatives of Ghana and Liberia also favoured the IPA system, but the representative of Kenya said there was sometimes difficulty in finding name-recorders who were familiar with it. The representative of Cameroon thought it desirable, from a practical point of view, to use English or French transcriptions which might be approximate rather than wait for skilled linguists to achieve more perfect ones. The representative of the United States of America preferred direct transference from the unwritten language to that used on the map. The representative of Norway said that the main requirements were that the name as transcribed should be recognizable by the local people, and that those to whom it was not previously known should be able to pronounce it correctly. Tape recording had been useful in the case of Lapp names. The Committee agreed that the IPA system might be useful but that it was not the only suitable method, since the alphabet of a kindred written language might also be used. The representative of the United States of America said that tape recorders of a size suitable for use in the field might not be sufficiently accurate. The Committee also noted that difficulty was caused by names whose pronunciation changed in declension.

The Committee discussed the treatment of languages already possessing a script and considered the question of whether transcription or transliteration was preferable. The representative of the United States of America said that it depended on whether the script from which names were being rendered was phonetic or not, since in the former case transliteration was suitable. The representative of Austria suggested that it would be appropriate for the Conference to accept the systems of transliteration devised by ISO, subject to minor amendments, if necessary. It was suggested that the Committee should consider all existing systems carefully and make appropriate recommendations within the United Nations framework. The representative of the United Kingdom said that the ISO systems were not devised primarily for geographers but for documentation, bibliography etc., and that to adopt them would simply mean adding one more to the number of systems already proposed for each language or writing system. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics drew attention to the danger of multiplying systems and pointed out that the ISO systems provided only for transliteration, which distorted the pronunciation in the case of languages not written phonetically. The representative of the United States of America said that the objective should be to distort names as little as possible in either spelling or pronunciation. The representative of the United Kingdom suggested that the problem of reducing the number of systems could be tackled on a regional basis; for example, the ISO system for Cyrillic was apparently acceptable to German-speaking countries, while the United Kingdom and the United States of America had reached agreement on a system of their own which

was widely applied. The representative of Kenya said that the ISO system for Arabic appeared designed to reconcile English and French forms. It was noted by the Committee that ISO was a non-governmental body and that its recommendations did not command universal acceptance for cartographic purposes. Alternative proposals had been advanced for the creation of a single system for international use differing from that of ISO, or for systems based on national requirements, or again on agreement between the users respectively of English, French and Spanish — the three official United Nations languages which used the Roman alphabet. The representative of France pointed out that the Group of Experts had suggested that failing universal agreement among Roman alphabet users, partial uniformity might be achieved on the basis of systems conforming respectively to English, French and Spanish writing conventions. In the case of Arabic names transliterated into French, the sounds which could not be represented in the French form of the Roman alphabet were denoted by widely known conventional signs. This was, in practice, a matter for the country using the Arabic alphabet which wished to publish its names in romanized form.

The representative of the United Kingdom said that the practical aspect had to be considered, especially since tens of thousands of names had been transliterated and used in maps and gazetteers according to the English or French Roman alphabet systems, and none as yet according to the ISO recommendations. The representative of Libya said that there should be a uniform system for all Arab countries based on classical Arabic; he did not regard the ISO system as satisfactory for geographical purposes. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics suggested that the use of the English or French Roman alphabet systems for Arabic and other scripts might be a useful intermediate stage on the way to complete standardization. He thought it useful that each country should indicate fully the basis on which its maps and gazetteers were compiled.

Upon the suggestion of the representative of Mexico, a study group, consisting of the representatives of Lebanon, Libya, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, was formed to draft a proposal to be placed before the Arab countries with the object of arriving at a single system of romanization from Arabic.

The Committee considered the possible adoption of a standard system for the writing of geographical names in Iran. A discussion ensued on whether the principle behind the adoption of the system in use by Iran conflicted with the "donor-receiver concept". The representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States of America drew attention to the existence of a large amount of mapping carried out using the present system. The representatives of Lebanon and Libya supported the adoption of the Iranian system, provided it did not commit the countries having the Arabic alphabet as a whole. The Chairman proposed that questions on such matters should be referred to the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names.

Ethiopia and Thailand also proposed the acceptance of their romanization systems for international use.

Considerable discussion took place on the "donor-receiver concept".

A discussion took place on the draft resolution entitled "Consideration of a single system for transference into the Roman alphabet" submitted by several countries. The representative of Norway — one of the sponsors — said that he did not understand the draft resolution as calling for the immediate adoption of a single Roman alphabet system, but merely for efforts in that direction. The representative of Spain said that the Spanish form of the Roman alphabet could represent adequately most of the sounds expressed by the Cyrillic alphabet. The representative of Austria said that for the past hundred years or so scholars in central and eastern Europe had used a system for Cyrillic based on the Czech or Croat forms of the Roman alphabet; this was close to the ISO system and to that used by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and other eastern European countries in their sheets of the international map on the scale 1:2,500,000. Moreover, at the beginning of 1967 ISO had issued a revised version which was even closer to the Russian one. The revised system included a set of permitted variants to satisfy English users. The representative of the United States of America said that there was no time to discuss the details of all existing systems in the present Committee. They should be compared thoroughly and without prejudice. He pointed out that the ISO system for Cyrillic had been applied on a minute scale by comparison with the BGN/PCGN system, which during the past twenty-four years had been applied to hundreds of thousands of geographical names. The representative of Norway said that the Committee should not concentrate exclusively on work already done, but should look to the future. The representative of Spain said that his country would find it hard to give up conventional names, but he agreed that the ultimate aim was to reduce the United Nations linguistic "pentagon" to a triangle and then to a circle. The representative of Austria expressed the view that the same system should be used for purposes of documentation as for map-making. He considered that each country was entitled to preserve its own system for national use alongside the international one which it hoped to create and did not regard the BGN/PCGN system as suitable for international use because it was based exclusively on English usage.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics said that a single Roman alphabet system was a remote ideal and that in the meantime adaptations should be proposed for each Roman alphabet country. The representative of the International Hydrographic Bureau, speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that his authorities had for some years advocated the establishment of uniform romanization systems. The representative of the United States of America pointed out that geographical names were not the exclusive property of experts but belonged to the world public, and that the Conference must keep in touch with the latter if its work was not to be divorced from reality. The representative of the Netherlands undertook to amend the draft resolution further in the light of the discussion. The draft resolution, as amended, was submitted to the Conference, which adopted it as resolution 9.

The Committee considered a draft resolution on the

retention, in maps, of accents and similar marks which were necessary for the exact reading of names in French, Spanish, Portuguese and other languages. The applicability of the resolution to Greek was accepted in principle by the representative of Cyprus since there was no representative present from Greece. The Committee then agreed that the question should be referred to the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names. The draft resolution was submitted to the Conference, which adopted it as resolution 10.

Draft resolutions on transcription from Arabic were considered and submitted to the Conference, which adopted them as resolutions 11 and 12.

The Committee considered a proposal by Iran that the system used officially for the romanization of geographical names in Iran, set forth in the publication entitled *Transliteration of Farsi Geographic Names to Latin Alphabet,*[6] be adopted as the standard system of transliteration for Iranian names. The proposal was accepted by the Committee and a draft resolution on the subject was submitted to the Conference, which adopted it as resolution 13.

The Committee accepted unanimously a draft resolution on a standard system for the writing of Thai geographical names proposed by Thailand, and submitted it to the Conference, which adopted it as resolution 14.

The representative of China made a statement on the method of romanization applied in his country on the basis of the modified Wade-Giles system. The representative of Hungary suggested that consideration be also given to the system devised in mainland China. The representative of China replied that the mainland authorities were making increasing use of the modified Wade-Giles system. A draft resolution on the question was submitted to the Conference, which adopted it as resolution 15. At the suggestion of the representative of Romania, supported by those of Austria, Hungary and Poland, it was agreed to refer the matter also to the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names.

The Chairman referred to the two alternative definitions of the words "transliteration" and "transcription" which had been circulated. The Committee agreed to his suggestion that they be referred to the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names for final decision. The representative of Mexico reminded the Conference that in Spanish the meanings of the two words were exactly transposed as compared to English. The Chairman undertook to bring this point and the views of other representatives to the attention of the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names. The definitions were as follows:

Definition A

Transliteration is a method of transferring names from one language to another in which a particular letter or other graphic sign in the original language is regularly represented by one and the same letter or combination of letters in the second language. Unlike transcription, it is usually reversible.

[6] This document can be obtained by writing to the National Cartographic Centre, Avenue Ghabin, Teheran, Iran.

Transcription is a method of transferring names from one language to another in which the sound of each individual name is represented as accurately as possible in the script of the second language.

Definition B

Transliteration and *transcription* are means of transferring names from one language into another.

Transliteration uses the letters of a conventional phonetic system and is reversible; *transcription* uses those of the second language according to their customary phonetic value.

Following a discussion, a draft resolution on the recording of geographical names from unwritten languages was accepted by the Committee unanimously, subject to possible editorial improvement by the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names. The draft resolution was adopted by the Conference as resolution 16.

A draft resolution was submitted by the representative of Ethiopia on the romanization of names in his country, which the Committee approved and submitted to the Conference, which adopted it as resolution 17.

A draft resolution on the problem of rendering in the Roman alphabet geographical names in unwritten languages of Africa was submitted to the Committee for approval by the representative of Liberia. The Committee approved the draft resolution and submitted it to the Conference, which adopted it as resolution 18.

The Committee decided that the recommendation of the representative of Cambodia on the romanization of Cambodian geographical names should be referred to the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names for its consideration.

Committee IV

Committee IV, on international co-operation, agreed that the good work done and the momentum attained before and during the Conference would best be continued and strengthened by the formation of a permanent committee within the structure of the United Nations. The membership and functions of such a committee were discussed. The experiences of some national names authorities were considered to be relevant. A working group was formed to draft a resolution and a supporting explanatory background paper. The members of the working group were the representatives of Canada, China, the Federal Republic of Germany, Iran, the Netherlands, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America and the representative of the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB). The working group was assisted by the representative of the Secretary-General, the Executive Secretary, the Deputy-Executive Secretary, and the President of the Conference. The background paper prepared by the working group, as approved by the Committee and the plenary Conference, read as follows:

"*Background paper in support of the resolution on the establishment of a United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names*

"The writing of geographical names on maps and other documents has long been a source of difficulty and confusion and an obstacle to smooth progress and

understanding in many economic, social and scientific activities, both national and international.

"1. Some examples of the problems are:

"(a) Places having different names in different languages — for example, Jerusalem/El Quds;

"(b) Places having different spellings in different languages — for example, Geneva/Genève/Genf/Ginebra/Ginevra;

"(c) Different methods of transliterating from one alphabet to another — for example, from Arabic: Wadi el Jabal/Ouadi el Djebel/Ouadi el Gabal;

"(d) Different methods of transcribing ideographic languages (for example, Chinese) to alphabetic languages;

"(e) Differing methods of rendering names from unwritten languages;

"(f) The exact extent of named geographical features;

"(g) Variations in the meanings of common geographic terms: for example, 'creek' may refer to an inlet from the sea or to a small stream far from the sea.

"2. The lack of standardized names has caused difficulty in the work of map makers, statisticians, census takers and others, leading to undue and harmful delay and mistakes. Confusion is caused in the interpretation of legal and administrative documents dealing with such matters as boundaries or areas of jurisdiction.

"3. Nearly a century ago (in 1873) the first meeting of the International Geographical Union noted the problem and passed a resolution that international usage should be based on national standardization. Other resolutions have followed at later meetings of this and other international organizations.

"4. The need for seeking solutions to the problems and moving towards some international standardization was considered by the United Nations as long ago as 1953; later, Economic and Social Council resolutions 715 A (XXVII) and 929 (XXXV) marked two important steps in recognition which led the United Nations to convene the first international conference devoted exclusively to the subject at Geneva in 1967.

"5. The Conference has carefully and fully considered what the next goals should be and how to achieve them and has embodied its views in a series of resolutions. In order to ensure the implementation of these resolutions and the maintenance of the momentum in international co-operation achieved in this Conference it is necessary to create a United Nations Permanent Committee on Geographical Names.

"6. The Committee should consist of:

"(a) Experts on the standardization of geographical names;

"(b) A secretariat.

"7. The principal functions of the proposed Committee would be:

"(a) The collection of information on their work from national and international bodies dealing with the standardization of geographical names;

"(b) The collection and review of gazetteers, topographical glossaries, technical instructions on toponymic work etc.;

"(c) The dissemination of information compiled from (a) and (b) to Member States and agencies, perhaps by way of periodical bulletins;

"(d) Consultation with Member States having practical experience of specific problems (for example, the application of automatic data processing to work on geographical names); working groups to include representatives of such States might be formed to deal with such matters;

"(e) The working out of principles and methods for solving the various problems of international standardization (for example, definitions of geographic terms, transfers between writing systems, treatment of names of international geographical features);

"(f) Scientific and technical aid and advice to developing countries in organizing and operating national names authorities. The Commission might act as a clearing-house for bilateral aid agreements covering such things as the provision of experts, literature or fellowships;

"(g) Certain tasks connected with United Nations or other regional and international conferences.

"8. Suitable experts are already available in the national names authorities of several nations and it is proposed that initially an *ad hoc* group of experts be named by nations willing to provide the services of their representatives.

"9. The Permanent Committee should include representatives of each of the major world linguistic/geographic groups. The final composition of such groups requires some study, which should be the first priority task of the *ad hoc* group of experts. The following fourteen groups are suggested:

"Anglo-American
Latin American
United Kingdom-Australia-New Zealand
German and Dutch speaking countries
Norden
Romance-language Europe
East Central and South-East Europe

"Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Arabic group
South-West Asia other than Arabic
Indian group
South-East Asia
East Asia
Africa south of the Sahara

"10. Countries which consider that they belong to a given region should agree among themselves as to which country will provide an expert to represent the region.

"11. It is thought that initially the Committee might meet once a year. It would be necessary for the travelling expenses of each expert to be financed by his own organization or Government.

"12. The existing Cartography Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations has already provided the secretariat for this first United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and all the necessary work preceding this Conference. It is recommended that this arrangement should continue

until, in the light of working experience, the *ad hoc* group of experts shall advise the United Nations on the number and prerequisites of the secretarial staff which might be needed for the efficient servicing of the United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names. At the present stage it is foreseen that the professional staff would require a background of geographical training, preferably combined with specializations in cartography and/or linguistics. A suitable director would need to possess organizational ability and a personality suitable for technical discussions."

The draft resolution on the creation of a United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts submitted by the Committee was adopted by the Conference as resolution 1.

Possible methods of collection and distribution of relevant written material such as gazetteers, glossaries, maps, technical instructions, professional papers and reports were considered. The Committee agreed that the Cartography Section of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs could continue to perform this function until the creation of a permanent commission which might determine the future disposition of material related to the standardization of geographical names. Continued liaison between the Cartography Section of the United Nations and other international organizations having an interest in geographical names was considered important. The representative of the Holy See mentioned that the Study Centre of Religious Toponymy of Vatican City proposed to publish a bulletin containing articles and bibliographical information and placed its available resources at the disposal of Member States. A draft resolution on the subject of exchange of information and preparation of bibliographies was approved by the Committee and adopted by the Conference as resolution 5.

Regarding technical assistance, the Committee agreed that the process of national standardization of geographical names in many developing countries would benefit from technical aid given by other countries with longer experience or more resources. The aid might be arranged through bilateral agreements or through the United Nations technical assistance programmes. Aid might take the form of supplying expert personnel or technical documents, or arranging fellowships for training or study of the work of national names authorities. A working group was organized to prepare for the Committee a draft resolution on technical assistance. The draft resolution was adopted by the Conference as resolution 6.

The Committee agreed that regional meetings were, in principle, desirable, but there was a lengthy discussion on how to define a region.

It was noted that the German-language countries had a permanent committee on geographical names, and that the Scandinavian countries had had several meetings. It was announced that a joint meeting of those two groups together with the Dutch language group had been arranged for March 1968 in Copenhagen.

Division into regions based on writing systems was not thought to be a suitable proposal. The view was expressed that suitable regions could be defined by the geographical extent of particular problems. However,

the consensus of opinion was in favour of division by geographic-linguistic units; it was felt that the proposed Permanent Committee could study this problem and make proposals.

A draft resolution on regional meetings was submitted to the Conference which adopted it as resolution 7.

On sub-item 12 (*f*), entitled "Treatment of names of features beyond a single sovereignty", the Committee first considered the particular case of names in international waters where maps or charts produced by several agencies might each show a different name for the same feature. The extent of a feature might also be understood differently by different authorities, and the generic terms used to describe undersea features were also variable.

The representative of IHB, speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, reported that the names on the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) series of twenty-four charts on the scale 1:10,000,000 had been examined by the Matsuzaki Committee, which had recommended standard names (spelt according to the French system) for all major features. The recommendations were based on replies from thirty-two of the sixty-four member nations of IHB or the International Association on Physical Oceanography (IAPO) to which the questionnaires had been sent. The representative of the United States of America said that his country did not convert English or conventional English names into French, as the GEBCO Committee did; in names taken from other languages, the specific part was accepted but an English generic was substituted — for example, Gora Baranov would become Baranov Seamount.

According to the Convention on the Continental Shelf,[7] adopted in 1958 at the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, the waters covering the continental shelf from the outer limit of territorial waters (usually 3, 6 or 12 miles from shore) to the 200-metre isobath remained international waters. However, it was not unlikely that any nation exercising its right to engage in commercial exploitation of the natural resources of the continental shelf seaward of its territorial waters would become *de facto* the creator and custodian of names within the area.

It was agreed that the proposed Permanent Committee should consider the work already done by various international bodies such as IHB, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and IAPO on the standardization of names in international waters and the preparation of a standard glossary of marine physiography, and take various further steps in this matter.

A working group was formed to draft a resolution on the subject. The draft resolution was adopted by the Conference as resolution 8 B.

The Committee also considered non-oceanic features. The Antarctic was mentioned as an area of occasional multiple naming and of uncertain limits of features, usually due to delays in publication of maps of newly explored areas. The members of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) of the International Council of Scientific Unions were trying to eliminate duplication. The River Danube was a well-

[7] See United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 499, No. 7302.

known case of multiple naming; it had at least seven names in different languages: for example, in German usage it was always Donau, in English usage Danube. It had to be decided, for example, what form should be used by the United Nations, which had no existing conventional usage.

Attention was drawn to article 11 of the Specifications of the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale[8] which recommended that names of international features should be in accordance with the usage of the producing country. This solved the problem for a national agency which already had a usage, but not for an international or other agency which had not. The use of an international language, such as Esperanto, was not favoured by the Committee, nor was a proposal to number features on a map, referenced to a marginal

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[8] See *United Nations Technical Conference on the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale*, vol. 2 (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 63.I.20), pp. 16-17.

list of alternative names. Bilingual maps, in the Committee's view, had not been very successful.

It was thought that regional and subregional conferences or commissions might be able to produce single standard names for international use for features extending beyond a single sovereignty; an international body might then be able to follow the example of IHB and produce a standard list of all names on a small-scale world map (1:10,000,000 or 1:5,000,000 or 1:2,500,000). The Chairman suggested that this problem might be considered by the proposed Permanent Committee and it was so agreed.

A general draft resolution on the treatment of names of features beyond a single sovereignty was submitted to the Conference, which adopted it as resolution 8 A.

Sub-item 12 (*b*) of the agenda, "Steps towards international standardization", was not discussed in the Committee; it was considered by the Conference at its 8th plenary meeting.

III. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE

1. United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names

The Conference,

Recognizing the importance of a continuing effort by States Members of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies and other interested international organizations for advancing the standardization of geographical names,

Considering the United Nations to have the most appropriate means for providing the facilities for such an effort,

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that a United Nations permanent committee on geographical names be created, consisting of experts, to provide for continuous co-ordination and liaison among nations to further the standardization of geographical names and to encourage the formation and work of regional groups;

Further recommends to the Council that the composition of the United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names should reflect geographical/linguistic distribution, that it should be assisted by the services of a secretariat within the United Nations, and that the members of the Committee should meet annually, beginning in 1968, at their Governments' expense;

Requests that the Secretariat of the United Nations continue to act as the central agency to follow up the clearing-house functions for geographical names by:

(*a*) Collecting information concerning technical procedures and gazetteers;

(*b*) Collecting data on techniques and systems used by countries in the transliteration and transcription of geographical names;

(*c*) Disseminating to all States Members of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies all information on the work of the Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names as well

as on the work of Member States as reported to the United Nations, utilizing where feasible existing United Nations periodicals and other means of communication available.

2. Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

The Conference,

Noting the importance of the standardization of geographical names and the great interest shown in this subject by the numerous participants in the Conference from the States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, as well as interested international organizations,

Appreciating the work that has been accomplished by the participants in this Conference,

Recognizing the necessity of standardizing geographical names for both national and international usage,

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be held not later than the last quarter of 1970.

3. Automatic data processing

The Conference,

Recognizing the rapid advances being made in automatic data processing and the rapid developments taking place in the field of computer technology,

Considering the value of the application of these technical aids in geographical names for various purposes, for listing of geographical names to get a continuously up-to-date file of approved names, for special kinds of names, or for retrieving names according to special categories or other demands,

Noting that it is desirable for the problem of geographical names to be properly taken into account in the design of electronic equipment and in systems for its use,

1. *Recommends* that all Member States already engaged in programmes of automatic data processing or which have been involved in discussions on automatic name data processing be requested to exchange information, for which purpose it would be useful to submit the reports in the official languages of the United Nations;

2. *Further recommends* that names specialists establish and maintain working channels of communication with the equipment designers, and that the results be circulated promptly to the names authorities in the Member States;

3. *Requests* that the Cartography Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat serve as a documentation centre where information and documents with regard to automatic data processing could be collected and distributed;

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to help to develop international standards in relation to geographical coding structures and procedural guidelines.

4. National standardization

The Conference,

Recognizing that the national standardization of geographical names provides economic and practical benefits to individual nations,

Further recognizing that national standardization of geographical names by all nations is an essential preliminary to international standardization,

1. *Requests* that the following recommendations on the national standardization of geographical names be reviewed by the proper United Nations authorities;

2. *Urges* that these recommendations be conveyed to all Member States and interested international organizations for favourable consideration.

RECOMMENDATION A. NATIONAL NAMES AUTHORITIES

It is recommended that, as a first step in international standardization of geographical names, each country should have a national geographical names authority:

(*a*) Consisting of a continuing body, or co-ordinated group of bodies, having clearly stated authority and instructions for the standardization of geographical names and the determination of names standardization policy within the country;

(*b*) Having such status, composition, function and procedures as will:
  (i) Be consistent with the governmental structure of the country;
  (ii) Give the greatest chance of success in the national names standardization programme;
  (iii) As appropriate, provide within its framework for the establishment of regional or local committees according to area or language;
  (iv) Provide for consideration of the effects of its actions on government agencies, private organizations and other groups and for the reconciliation of these interests, as

far as possible, with the long-rang interests of the country as a whole;

(v) Make full use of the services of surveyors, cartographers, geographers, linguists and any other experts who may help the authority to carry out its operations efficiently;

(vi) Permit record keeping and publication procedures that will facilitate the prompt and wide distribution of information on its standardized names, both nationally and internationally.

It is recommended that those countries which have not yet begun to exercise their prerogative of standardizing their geographical names on a national basis should now proceed to do so.

It is further recommended that the appropriate United Nations office be kept informed by each national names authority of its composition and functions, and of the address of its secretary.

RECOMMENDATION B. COLLECTION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

For each geographical name which is to be standardized, it is recommended that:

(*a*) The field and office research be as complete as possible in order to provide information on the following points:
  (i) Written and spoken form of the name and its meaning according to local inhabitants;
  (ii) Spelling in cadastral documents and land registers;
  (iii) Spelling on modern and old maps and in other historical sources;
  (iv) Spelling in census reports, gazetteers and other relevant documents of value;
  (v) Spelling used by other local administrative and technical services;

(*b*) The local spoken form of the name be recorded on tape and written in the phonetic notation approved by the national names authority;

(*c*) The character, extent and position of the feature named be determined — in this regard it should be noted that aerial photographs can provide useful supplementary information — and recorded as accurately as possible, and that the meaning of the generic terms used locally be clearly defined;

(*d*) If possible, at least two local independent sources be consulted for each inquiry.

It is further recommended that personnel responsible for the collection of names should have training adequate to recognize and deal with the linguistic problems (phonetic system, grammatical structure and orthography), geographic phenomena and terminology that they are likely to encounter.

RECOMMENDATION C. PRINCIPLES OF OFFICE TREATMENT OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

It is recommended that each names authority formulate, adopt and define the guiding principles and

practices that it will normally apply in the course of operation.

These principles and practices should cover:

(a) Formal procedures to be followed in the submission to the authority of proposals for new names or changes in names;

(b) Factors that the authority will take into account when considering name proposals, such as:

    (i) Current usage;

    (ii) Historical background;

    (iii) Treatment in multilingual areas and in unwritten languages;

    (iv) The extent to which hybrid names should be avoided;

    (v) Avoidance of repetition of names;

    (vi) Avoidance of more than one name for one feature;

    (vii) Clarification of the precise extent of application of each individual geographical name, including the naming of the whole and the parts of major features;

    (viii) Elimination of objectionable names;

(c) Rules of writing names applied by the authority;

(d) Procedures whereby all interested parties may express their views on a name proposal prior to decision by the authority;

(e) Formal procedures for promulgation of the authority's decisions and for ensuring that standardized names shall appear on the national maps.

In the elaboration of these principles it is recommended that:

(1) Unnecessary changing of names be avoided;

(2) The spelling of geographical names be as much as possible in accordance with the current orthographic practice of the country concerned, with due regard to dialect forms;

(3) Systematic treatment of names should not operate to suppress significant elements;

(4) Where some names occur in varying or grammatical forms, the national names authority should consider making one of these forms the standard name (for nouns that can be declined, it will normally be the nominative case);

(5) In all countries in whose languages the definite article can enter into geographical names, the national names authority should determine which names contain the definite article and standardize them accordingly. For languages in which both definite and indefinite forms exist for all or most names, it is recommended that standardization be based on one or the other form;

(6) All countries set up standards for the use of abbreviations of elements in their geographical names;

(7) A system be devised in each country for the treatment of compound names.

It is further recommended that the names authority give adequate publicity to these principles and practices.

RECOMMENDATION D. MULTILINGUAL AREAS

It is recommended that, in countries in which there exist more than one language, the national authority as appropriate:

(a) Determine the geographical names in each of the official languages, and other languages as appropriate;

(b) Give a clear indication of equality or precedence of officially acknowledged names;

(c) Publish these officially acknowledged names in maps and gazetteers.

RECOMMENDATION E. NATIONAL GAZETTEERS

It is recommended that each names authority produce, and continually revise, appropriate gazetteers of all its standardized geographical names.

It is further recommended that, in addition to the standardized names, each gazetteer include, as a minimum, such information as is necessary for the proper location and identification of the named features.

In particular, it is recommended that the following be included:

(a) The kind of feature to which the name applies;

(b) Precise description of the location and the extent, including a point position reference if possible, of each named feature;

(c) Provision for the parts of natural features to be additionally defined by reference to the whole and for the names of extended features to be defined as necessary by reference to their constituent parts;

(d) Such information on administrative or regional areas as is considered necessary and, if possible, reference to a map or chart within which the features lie;

(e) All officially standardized names for a feature, if there are more than one; and provision for cross-references to be made to names previously used for the same feature.

When national authorities determine it possible, both technically and economically, they may include such information on geographical names as gender, number, definite and indefinite forms, position of stress, tone and pronunciation in the system of the International Phonetic Association and such other linguistic information as may lead to the better understanding and use of names both nationally and internationally.

5. Exchange of information and preparation of bibliographies

The Conference,

Recognizing the enormous volume of geographical names to cover the world and the great diversity of geographic nomenclature programmes from country to country,

Considering the advantages to the States Members of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies of exchanging information relative both to strengthening their own names programmes and to

furthering international standardization of geographical names,

Recommends that the United Nations Secretariat continue to serve as a documentation centre where information can be collected and disseminated, bibliographies can be prepared and distributed, and arrangements can be made for direct exchanges among Members States.

6. Technical assistance

The Conference,

Noting the important role which United Nations technical assistance has had and continues to have in cartography,

Recognizing the contribution which the United Nations has made and is making in this field,

1. *Recommends* that in all cases where technical assistance experts in surveying and mapping are at work, due attention should be given to the standardization of geographical names;

2. *Further recommends* that individual countries or groups of countries within the same region or having common interests be encouraged to request, when necessary, technical assistance in the form of training for their personnel, consultants and/or technical material and information, which they consider important in fulfilling their work programmes on the standardization of geographical names.

7. Regional meetings

The Conference,

Recognizing the success of the regional cartographic conferences held at the initiative of the United Nations and the bearing which these conferences have had on the convening of the present United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Recommends that:

(a) Regional and subregional conferences should be held at appropriate intervals to discuss common problems connected with, and to further the standardization of, geographical names;

(b) Groups of nations having certain common interests and problems should be encouraged to meet at their own initiative and to report on progress made to the appropriate subregional or regional conferences and to the United Nations.

8. Treatment of names of features beyond a single sovereignty

A. GENERAL

The Conference,

Recognizing that some features common to, or extending across the frontiers of, two or more nations have more than one name applied to them,

Further recognizing that the names of some features of this kind have different applications or extent,

1. *Considers* that it is preferable that a common name or a common application be established, wherever practicable, in the interest of international standardization;

2. *Recommends* that the geographical names authorities of the nations concerned attempt to reach agreement on these conflicting names or applications.

B. MARITIME AND UNDERSEA FEATURES

The Conference,

Having discussed some of the problems arising from a lack of international standardization of names of maritime and undersea features,

Recognizing the necessity for international standardization of names in and under ocean areas to promote the safety of navigation and to facilitate the exchange of scientific oceanographic data,

Noting that valuable initial steps have been taken towards standardization of both the nomenclature of hydrographic and undersea features and the geographical names of some of these features by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB), the International Association of Physical Oceanography (IAPO), and member nations,

1. *Recommends* that the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names should:

(a) Obtain from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) and the International Association of Physical Oceanography (IAPO), full particulars of the work already accomplished by those organizations;

(b) Establish means for the collection, approval and distribution by the United Nations of both a list of agreed terms and definitions for nomenclature of maritime and undersea features and an initial list of recommended geographical names for features requiring names;

(c) Develop procedures for international standardization of naming new undersea features as they are discovered, defined and identified in the future;

(d) Continue to consult with and, as appropriate, to use the facilities of IOC, IHB, IAPO and other relevant bodies to further United Nations objectives in international standardization of names of maritime and undersea features;

2. *Further recommends* that copies of this resolution be forwarded immediately to IOC, IHB and IAPO.

9. A single romanization system

The Conference,

Considering the duplication and confusion arising from the existence of different romanization systems based on the phonetic structure of the receiver languages,

1. *Recommends* that efforts should be made to arrive at an agreement on a single romanization system, based on scientific principles, from each non-Roman alphabet or script, for international application;

2. *Further recommends* that a special working group under the responsibility of the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names should concentrate on this subject with

a view to making a comparative study of the various romanization systems and to analysing their advantages and disadvantages as media for standardization of geographical names;

3. *Further recommends* that this special working group should consider the views expressed by various international and national bodies, and seek ways to accomplish the adoption of a single romanization system from each non-Roman alphabet or script for international application as soon as may be possible.

10. Diacritical signs which accompany letters of the Roman alphabet

The Conference,

Recognizing that the accents and diacritical signs which accompany the Roman alphabet letters of many languages are an integral part of the spelling of these languages, in which they express such essential features as the tonic accent, the length and degree of openness of vowels, and other significant aspects of pronunciation and meaning,

Recommends that in international use all geographical names officially written in these alphabets by the countries concerned should remain unmodified and keep their distinguishing marks, even, and indeed particularly, when they are written in capital letters.

11. Diacritical signs which accompany letters of the Arabic alphabet

The Conference,

Recognizing that modern practice has come to require the rendition of Arabic alphabet geographical names in terms of standard, that is, classical forms,

Recommends that Arabic-speaking countries provide as soon as possible complete documentation for all geographical names, including the provision of all vowels and the notation of unvowelled and double consonants by means of the Arabic diacritical marks such as vowel points, shaddahs, hamzehs and sukūns.

12. Romanization of Arabic geographical names

The Conference,

Noting the romanization system currently being employed in the transliteration of names for official romanized maps of some Arabic-speaking countries, such as Libya and Saudi Arabia,

Noting further the different romanization system being used in the current mapping of other Arabic-speaking countries, such as Lebanon and Syria,

Recognizing the variety of systems being used in other Arabic-speaking countries,

Recommends that those Arabic-speaking countries which intend to produce romanized maps or gazetteers for official use investigate the possibility of agreeing on a single system for the romanization of Arabic geographical names for official use in all Arabic-speaking countries, or alternatively, if a single romanization system proves to be impracticable, that the use of two systems only be considered, one based on the French system of transliteration and the second on the English.

13. Romanization of Iranian geographical names

The Conference,

Noting that Iran has officially adopted and used for many years a system for romanizing Iranian geographical names from Persian script,

Noting further that this system is in consonance with scientific linguistic principles relating to transference between writing systems,

Recommends that the system set forth by the Government of Iran in the publication entitled, in its English version, *Transliteration of Farsi Geographic Names to Latin Alphabet* (September 1966) be adopted as the international system for the romanization from Persian script of Iranian geographical names.

14. Romanization of Thai geographical names

The Conference,

Recognizing the modified general system currently being officially employed in the transcription of geographical names from Thai characters into Roman,

Noting the application of that system for the official bilingual map of Thailand,

Noting further that there is no competing system for the romanization of Thai,

Recommends the adoption of the modified general system of the Royal Institute of Thailand [9] as the international system for the romanization of Thai geographical names.

15. Romanization of Chinese geographical names

The Conference,

Recognizing the extremely complex nature of the problems connected with the romanization of Chinese characters,

Recognizing further the need to adopt a single system for the romanization of Chinese geographical names,

1. *Recommends* that the attention of the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names be drawn to the romanization system at present used by the Government of China for the romanization of its official maps, books and other documents dealing with geographical names in relation to other romanization systems;

2. *Further recommends* the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names to consider the suitability of this system for acceptance as the standard system for the romanization of Chinese geographical names.

16. Recording geographical names from unwritten languages

The Conference,

Recognizing the many problems resulting from the lack of a writing system for many languages of the world,

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[9] See "Writing systems: transfer of names from the Thai writing system to Roman letters" (E/CONF.53/L.20).

Recognizing further the need to record such languages as scientifically as possible in a suitable writing system,

Recommends that for the purpose of recording geographical names of unwritten languages, the methods to be employed, in order of preference, will be:

(*a*) Recording in a phonetic writing system;

(*b*) Recording in the alphabet of the International Phonetic Association (IPA):

(i) Where necessary, a narrow transcription of the pronunciation of the geographical name will be carried out in order to record as precisely as possible the full phonetic character of each name;

(ii) In normal circumstances, the broad transcription of a name in the IPA alphabet will be carried out;

(iii) The final writing of the geographical name will be in an appropriate conventional alphabet or script, to approximate as nearly as possible the sound represented by the IPA broad transcription;

(*c*) Recording in the alphabet of a kindred language for which an alphabet exists;

(*d*) Recording directly into a conventional alphabet or other writing system, if possible by a person familiar with the language from which the recording is made; if the person making the recording is unfamiliar with the language, as much information as possible will be recorded in order to assess the reliability of the name as finally written.

17. Transliteration of Amharic into the Roman alphabet

The Conference,

Recognizing the need to adopt a single system for the transliteration of Amharic into the Roman alphabet,

Recommends that the Amharic-to-English transliteration system to be adopted by the Ethiopian national geographical names authority be considered by the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names for acceptance as the standard international system for the writing of Ethiopian geographical names in the Roman alphabet.

18. Writing of African geographical names

The Conference,

Recognizing the existence of a large number of unwritten languages in Africa whose rendition in the Roman alphabet presents very complex problems in the transcription of geographical names,

Noting that the French and English alphabets are mostly employed in the rendering of geographical names in these languages,

1. *Draws the attention* of the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names to the peculiar nature of these problems;

2. *Requests* the proposed Commission to give special attention to these problems with a view to achieving an accurate rendering of the sounds, by using

either the French or the English orthography, depending on the language area.

19. Geographical terms

The Conference,

Recognizing the importance of geographical terms as used in a given region,

Urges that the recommendations that follow should be given complete and due consideration by national names authorities.

RECOMMENDATION A. STUDY OF THE NATURE OF GEOGRAPHICAL ENTITIES

It is recommended that a study be made of the nature of geographical entities which in a given region have names, as well as the various meanings of the words used to designate those features.

The studies may bring to light noteworthy facts which would allow a better understanding of the geographical entities named. They may also serve to bring out the deficiencies of ordinary dictionaries in this respect.

RECOMMENDATION B. GLOSSARIES

It is recommended that national gazetteers should include a glossary, not necessarily published in the same volume.

RECOMMENDATION C. DEFINITION OF "GENERIC TERM"

The approval of the following definition of "generic term" is recommended:

Generic term: Term included in a geographical name, indicating the type of the named entity and having the same meaning in current local use.

RECOMMEDATION D. DEFINITION OF "GLOSSARY"

The approval of the following definition of "glossary" is recommended:

Glossary: Collection of generic terms with their meanings in geographical names.

20. Revision of recommendation VII of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names

The Conference,

Having considered recommendation VII of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names, [10]

1. *Suggests* that the following paragraphs replace those previously contained in that recommendation:

"It is recommended that, if they have not already done so, countries of complicated ethnic and linguistic constitution consider and attempt to solve the problems brought about by the existence within their boundaries of geographical names from unwritten languages, or from minority languages (written or unwritten) or from dialects of the principal languages. Since the solutions of the problems brought about by the existence of names from unwritten languages or from dialects of the principal language may be exceedingly difficult, it is suggested that the

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[10] See *World Cartography*, vol. VII (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 62.I.25), p. 13.

countries concerned work together with, and profit from the experience of, other nations with similar problems, to bring about solutions satisfactory for their own needs.

"For the treatment of names from unwritten languages two stages are necessary. First, for recording names from oral evidence, one can develop an unambiguous phonemic notation for each language. Alternatively, where there is in use a phonetic alphabet adaptable to a number of unwritten languages, for example the International African Alphabet, it may be advantageous to apply it. Secondly, one can write the names in final form by means of regular correspondence established between that phonemic notation or phonetic alphabet and the writing system adopted by the country concerned for the language in question.

"It is recommended that names from languages with different writing systems be rendered systematically by transliteration or transcription as appropriate";

2. *Recommends* that the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names consider this question further.

ANNEXES

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. *Governments*

ARGENTINA

Representative

Sr. Osvaldo G. Garcia Piñeiro, Consejero de Embajada, Geneva, Switzerland

AUSTRALIA

Representative

Mr. B. P. Lambert, Director of National Mapping, Department of National Development

AUSTRIA

Representative

Mr. Josef Breu, Head of Geographical Department, Austrian Institute for Eastern and Southeastern Europe

BELGIUM

Representative

M. H. J. van de Wijer, Membre de la Commission royale de toponymie et dialectologie

Alternate

M. J. H. Herbillon, Membre de la Commission royale de toponymie et dialectologie

BULGARIA

Representative

M. Benjamin Cohen, Président du Conseil pour l'orthographe et la transcription de noms géographiques de la République Populaire de Bulgarie

CAMBODIA

Representative

M. Teao Sunthan, Directeur du Service géographique national

Alternate

M. Ek Siphen, Chef du Bureau d'astronomie et geodésie

CAMEROON

Representative

M. B. P. M. Marty, Directeur du Centre cartographique de l'Institut Géographique National à Yaoundé

CANADA

Representative

M. Jean-Paul Drolet, Président, Comité Permanent Canadien des Noms Géographiques, Ottawa

Alternates

Mr. J. K. Fraser, Executive Secretary, Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names

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Mr. Sven Bäckström, Assistant Counsellor, Head of the Information and Documentation Department

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

Mr. Théodore Wettstein, International Frequency Registration Board

Mr. Alf S. Winter-Jensen, General Secretariat

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Eero Kalkkinen, ECE/FAO Timber Division

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INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC BUREAU

Captain Victor Antoine Moitoret, Director

PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

Mr. Meredith F. Burrill

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Mr. F. J. Ormeling

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF ONOMASTIC SCIENCES

Mr. H. J. Van de Wijer, Secretary-General

INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION

Mr. Hans H. Boesch, Secretary General

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION

Mrs. Johanna Eggert

Mr. N. N. Chopra

Mr. W. H. Raby

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Mr. E. Andersen

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Mr. B. P. Lambert

E. *United Nations Secretariat*

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Mr. Roberto Arce (*Representative of the Secretary-General*)

Mr. Horacio Ureta (*Executive Secretary*)

Mr. Chris N. Christopher, Cartography Section, Resources and Transport Division (*Deputy Executive Secretary*)

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Annex II

AGENDA OF THE CONFERENCE

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
3. Election of officers.
4. Report on credentials.
5. Adoption of the agenda.
6. Organization of work.
7. Reports by Governments on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names.

8. Exchange of experience on problems identified in the report of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names.[a]

9. National standardization:
   (a) Field collection of names;
   (b) Office treatment of names;
   (c) Decisions relatings to multilingual areas;
   (d) National gazetteers;
   (e) Administrative structure of national names authorities;
   (f) Automatic data processing (ADP).

10. Geographical terms:
    (a) Generic terms;
    (b) Categories;
    (c) Glossaries;
    (d) Symbolization.

[a] See *World Cartography*, vol. VII (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 62.I.2), pp. 7-18.

11. Writing systems:
    (a) Transfer of names from one writing system to another:
        (i) Into Roman;
        (ii) Into other writing systems;
    (b) Writing of names from unwritten languages.

12. International co-operation:
    (a) Formation of a United Nations permanent commission of experts on geographical names;
    (b) Steps towards international standardization;
    (c) Exchange of information;
    (d) Post-Conference regional meetings;
    (e) Technical assistance;
    (f) Treatment of names of features beyond a single sovereignty;
    (g) Bibliography.

13. Report of the Conference.

Annex III

PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES: REPORT OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. The Group of Experts on Geographical Names set up by the Secretary-General in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 715 A (XXVII) had previously convened at United Nations Headquarters in June-July 1960 to consider the technical problems of domestic standardization of geographical names and the desirability of holding an international conference on this subject. Its conclusions and recommendations were embodied in its report to the Council.[a] On the basis of the decision taken by the Council on 16 July 1965, at the 1385th meeting of its thirty-ninth session, that a United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be convened in Geneva in September 1967, the Group of Experts was invited to attend a preparatory meeting designed to assist in the necessary preparations for the Conference. The meeting was held at Headquarters from 21 March to 1 April 1966.

ATTENDANCE

2. The preparatory meeting was attended by the following experts: Mr. Meredith F. Burrill (United States of America), Mr. P. J. M. Geelan (United Kingdom), Mr. John G. Mutziger (United States of America), Mr. Mo Tsao (China), who were among the original members of the Group when it first met in 1960, Mr. H. A. G. Lewis (United Kingdom), Mr. François Nédélec (France), and Mr. G. Etzel Pearcy (United States of America). Mr. André Pégorier (France), Mr. Said Nafisi (Iran) and Mr. Alfredo Obiols (Guatemala), also from the original Group of Experts, were unable to attend. Mr. H. Ureta, Chief of the Cartography Section of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, served as Executive Secretary of the meeting and Mr. C. N. Christopher, officer in the Cartography Section, as Secretary for the Group.

OFFICERS OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING

3. The preparatory meeting was opened on behalf of the Secretary-General by the Executive Secretary of the meeting. It was agreed unanimously by the Group of Experts that Mr. M. F. Burrill would continue to be the Chairman, and that Mr. P. J. M. Geelan would serve as Vice-Chairman and Mr. F. Nédélec as Rapporteur.

[a] See *World Cartography*, vol. VII (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 62.I.25), pp. 7-18.

PRELIMINARY REVIEW AND CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS

4. The Group of Experts considered the agenda of the preparatory meeting and undertook a review of all comments received by the Secretary-General from Governments since 1956. Copies of various United Nations publications containing items of interest on geographical names were also made available to the experts for their information.

5. It was agreed that the rules of procedure for the Conference should be those of the United Nations Technical Conference on the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale, held at Bonn in August 1962,[b] with two minor amendments. The first one concerns rule 3 where it will now be stated that the Credentials Committee "shall consist of five members" instead of "seven members". The second one, of a purely stylistic nature, affects the first sentence of rule 32, which should now read: "If, when one person or one delegation is to be elected, no candidate obtains in the first ballot, the majority required, ... ".

6. With reference to the organization of the Conference, it was agreed to recommend the establishment of four principal committees to deal, respectively, with national standardization, geographical terms, writing systems and international co-operation. A series of topics under each main heading was then agreed upon. Under the proposed rules each country would be represented on each committee, and the committees would not meet concurrently.

AGENDA

7. The tentative agenda circulated to the Economic and Social Council by the Secretary-General as annex I to document E/3907 of 3 June 1964 was amended to provide for consideration of items suggested by the Federal Republic of Germany, "The establishment at United Nations Headquarters of a permanent committee of experts which, after the Conference, could evaluate the results and press on with systematic work on this very extensive and complicated subject", and by Israel, "The desirability of including simple rules of pronunciation in map magazines and the standardization of treatment of generic terms and of generic contents". It was also noted

[b] For the text of the rules of procedure, see *United Nations Technical Conference on the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale*, vol. I, *Report and Proceedings of the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 64.I.4), pp. 11-14.

that other countries might suggest additional items later. Although no objections to the tentative agenda had been raised in the replies to the Secretary-General, it was the consensus that the agenda should facilitate orderly consideration of items for which the four committees would have responsibility and should reflect any additional details. Item 8 of the provisional agenda will allow for reports on those problems identified in the previous report of the Group of Experts[c] which are not specifically covered under items 9 to 12 of the provisional agenda. Items 8 and 10 to 15, inclusive, on the tentative agenda are now covered by topics appropriate for committee consideration.

8. The provisional agenda as agreed upon by the Group of Experts is as follows:

[*The provisional agenda was adopted without change by the Conference. See annex II.*]

REGIONAL CONFERENCES

9. On the question of the most fruitful relationship between the forthcoming Geneva Conference and other United Nations conferences, regional working groups or meetings, it was the consensus of the Group of Experts that the second United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa, to be held in Tunis, Tunisia, from 12 to 24 September 1966, and the fifth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East, to be held in Canberra, Australia, from 8 to 22 March 1967, might usefully include seminars on geographical names. It was noted that while some toponymic problems were universal or nearly so, there was not necessarily universal awareness of them. It was also noted that in accepting names standardized by another country it was helpful to understand as fully as possible the nature of the entities named. This might involve concepts unfamiliar in the accepting country. Map symbolization may not fully reflect local distinctions. These were suggested as appropriate subjects for the seminars referred to above. It was the consensus of the Group of Experts that:

(a) Detailed plans for later regional meetings would best be made at Geneva;

(b) Regional meetings would serve to increase mutual understanding begun at Geneva;

(c) Regional meetings would also provide opportunity for discussion of regional aspects of international co-operation.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

10. It was the consensus that it would be helpful to circulate before the Conference a statement of its specific objectives, elaborating on the more general statements in Mr. Burrill's paper entitled "The nature and scope of the proposed international conference on geographic name standardization", which was circulated by the Secretary-General on 29 July 1963 to all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies.

11. The objectives proposed by the Group are as follows:

(a) Removal of any remaining doubt that nationally standardized names are the proper basis for international standardization and that an international alphabet is not feasible;

(b) Development of a greater willingness on the part of each country to take account, in its standardization programme, of the problems that other countries might encounter in receiving and assimilating those geographical names for their own use. This process would involve, on the part of the donor country, all the elements of the original scripts and other linguistic details necessary for proper conversion into other scripts;

(c) Comparison of problems and programmes of various countries;

(d) Identification of topics, areas and categories of names which currently merit further study, and formulation of principles relating to international standardization;

(e) Formulation of principles applying to the transfer from one writing system to another;

(f) Romanization from other writing systems for international standardization to be sought from the United Nations Roman-alphabet languages: English, French and Spanish;

(g) Consideration to be given to the establishment of systems for international standardization based on the Cyrillic alphabet and the Arabic alphabet;

(h) Identification and discussion of categories of names of features extending beyond the sovereignty of a single country, e.g. oceans, rivers, mountains, undersea features etc., and examination of possibilities of standardization;

(i) Development of machinery for international exchange of information;

(j) Proposals for the establishment of a programme of regional conferences or working groups to operate after the Geneva Conference;

(k) Promotion of the establishment of names standardization bodies in all countries.

RELATION OF NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

12. To assist in differentiating between national standardization and international standardization, the Group of Experts agreed on the following definitions:

National standardization is the fixing by each country of the writing of the geographical names of that country in the official administrative language or languages of that country;

International standardization is the process by which nationally standardized names of any country are accepted by all other countries. Where for this purpose it is necessary to transliterate or transcribe from the nationally standardized forms, this conversion should be in accordance with the minimum possible number of alphabetic conventions. Although a single convention for each writing system (Roman, Cyrillic, Arabic etc.) may not be immediately attainable, agreement might be reached on the limiting of conversion into the Roman alphabet to systems based on the official United Nations languages — English, French, Spanish.

EXPLANATION OF TOPICS ASSIGNED TO COMMITTEES

13. The intended content of the topics in agenda items 9 to 12 suggested for reference to committees is stated here with such explanatory comment as is thought desirable for clarification.[d]

National standardization [e]

(a) *Field collection of names* [f] (recommendation I)

This involves discussion of:

(i) The number and qualifications of informants;

(ii) Provision of phonetic notation;

(iii) Recording of local languages;

(iv) Indication of type, characteristics and extent of feature;

(v) Verification of names on existing maps or in the documentation.

(b) *Office treatment of names* [g] (recommendations I, II, III, IV, V, VI, XIV and XV)

(i) Processing of data returned from the field — the removal of inconsistencies in the recordings achieved by different field parties or discrepancies resulting from different qualities of informant;

(ii) Collation of existing map or other documentary material;

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[c] See *World Cartography*, vol. VII, pp. 8-11.

[d] Against each subject heading to be discussed under agenda items 9, 10, 11 and 12, the appropriate recommendations of the Group of Experts as published in *World Cartography*, vol. VII, pp. 11-14, are given in parentheses.
[e] Item 9 of the provisional agenda.
[f] Sub-item 9 (a) of the provisional agenda.
[g] Sub-item 9 (b) of the provisional agenda.

(iii) Treatment of phonetic notation in the case of languages which have no written form;

(iv) Elimination of variation in the syntactical form of the name;

(v) Systems for maintaining geographical names records.

(c) *Decisions relating to multilingual areas* [h] (recommendation VII)

(d) *National gazetteers* [i]

    (i) Alphabetizing;

    (ii) Cross referencing;

    (iii) Indication of type of feature;

    (iv) Location by co-ordinates and administrative division;

    (v) Supplementary linguistic information;

    (vi) Historical, former and other variant names;

    (vii) Administrative status.

(e) *Administrative structure of national names authorities* [j] (recommendation I)

(f) *Automatic data processing (ADP)* [k]

Automatic data processing provides effective ways of storing, retrieving, maintaining and extracting for publication large numbers of associated data.

Geographical terms [l]

(a) *Generic terms* [m] (recommendation XI)

(b) *Categories* [n] (recommendations XI and XII)

(c) *Glossaries* [o] (recommendation XIII)

(d) *Symbolization* [p]

The problems associated with geographical terms indicate the need for a closer collaboration between cartographers and toponymists to provide at one and the same time an improved symbolization and a more exact toponymy.

Writing systems [q]

(a) *Transfer of names from one system to another* [r] (recommendation VII)

Ideally, conversion from one writing system to another is accomplished by means of transliteration, i.e., a one-to-one substitution of graphic symbols. In practice this is not feasible with a language like Chinese for which conversion can only be on the basis of transcription of an arbitrarily fixed sound system.

(i) *Into Roman*

One, and one only, Roman letter symbol or combination of symbols should be used for a given sound or letter in a transcription or transliteration system and not more than one sound or letter should be represented by a given Roman letter symbol or combination of symbols. For transcription systems this requires an accurate linguistic analysis of the sounds and ranges of distinctive sounds (phonemes), tones, accent patterns and other significant phenomena of a language.

(ii) *Into other writing systems*

Similar considerations would apply also in the case of other writing systems.

(b) *Writing of names from unwritten languages* [s] (recommendation VII)

International co-operation [t]

(a) *Formation of a United Nations permanent commission of experts on geographical names* [u]

The formation of a permanent commission of experts on geographical names would provide for continuous co-ordination and liaison among nations and thereby ensure the implementation of international standardization along uniform lines.

(b) *Steps towards international standardization* [v]

Determination of the sequence of measures likely to lead to international standardization.

(c) *Practical measures for the exchange of information* [w]

(d) *Post-Conference regional meetings* [x]

(e) *Technical assistance* [y]

(f) *Treatment of geographical names of features beyond a single sovereignty* [z]

It frequently happens that a geographical feature which extends over several countries is differently named in each language. It also happens that a geographical name which appears to be common to several languages is, in fact, variously interpreted as to its extent.

An objective in international standardization would be the adoption of a single name and agreement internationally on the feature to which it applies. If agreement on a single standard geographical name cannot be achieved, some reduction in the number of such alternative names and more uniform acceptance of what the name implies is most desirable.

(g) *Bibliography* [aa]

Plans for the preparation and maintenance of an international bibliography of works relating to geographical names and their standardization.

SERIES MAPS OF THE WORLD

14. The various existing international mapping projects were considered in relation to the standardization of geographical names. While the Group was unanimously of the opinion that international maps at small scales (on the scale 1 : 1,000,000 and smaller) are an excellent vehicle for the propagation of names once they have been standardized, they are not a suitable medium on which to base standardization. These series are at too small a scale to provide names information adequate for the purposes of all areas. At the present time, the various series are not consistent in respect of the names they contain. Many names are in need of revision and there must necessarily be a considerable lapse of time between changes in name and subsequent issue of a revised map containing those changes. In addition, these world map series do not necessarily provide what is required in the treatment of the names of international features or of conventional names and, in many instances, are deficient in respect of transliteration.

CLOSING OF THE MEETING

15. The preparatory meeting concluded its work on 1 April 1966 with the unanimous adoption of its report.

[h] Sub-item 9 (*c*) of the provisional agenda.
[i] Sub-item 9 (*d*) of the provisional agenda.
[j] Sub-item 9 (*e*) of the provisional agenda.
[k] Sub-item 9 (*f*) of the provisional agenda.
[l] Item 10 of the provisional agenda.
[m] Sub-item 10 (*a*) of the provisional agenda.
[n] Sub-item 10 (*b*) of the provisional agenda.
[o] Sub-item 10 (*c*) of the provisional agenda.
[p] Sub-item 10 (*d*) of the provisional agenda.
[q] Item 11 of the provisional agenda.
[r] Sub-item 11 (*a*) of the provisional agenda.

[s] Sub-item 11 (*b*) of the provisional agenda.
[t] *World Cartography*, vol. VII, p. 5.
[u] Sub-item 12 (*a*) of the provisional agenda.
[v] Sub-item 12 (*b*) of the provisional agenda.
[w] Sub-item 12 (*c*) of the provisional agenda.
[x] Sub-item 12 (*d*) of the provisional agenda.
[y] Sub-item 12 (*e*) of the provisional agenda.
[z] Sub-item 12 (*f*) of the provisional agenda.
[aa] Sub-item 12 (*g*) of the provisional agenda.

List of selected technical terms

[*The list of selected technical terms is the same as that given in annex I to the first report of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names (see* World Cartography, *vol. VII, pages 15-16).*]

Appendix II

List of national authorities dealing with geographical names

This revised list supersedes the list given in annex II of the first report of the Group of Experts. It includes authorities established or modified in accordance with the recommendations made in that report, and takes into account changes in address or identification of place in the government structure.

AUSTRALIA

Division of National Mapping, Department of National Development, Acton, Canberra, A.C.T.

Antartic Names Committee of Australia, The Director of the Antarctic Division, Department of External Affairs, 187 Collins Street, Melbourne

BELGIUM

Commission sur la toponymie, Ministère de l'instruction publique, Brussels

BRAZIL

Conselho Nacional de Geografia Gabinete do Secretário-Geral, Rio de Janeiro

CAMBODIA

Service géographique national, Phnom Penh

CANADA

Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, c/o Geographical Branch, Department of Energy and Resources, Ottawa, Ontario

CHILE

Instituto Geográfico Militar, Ministerio de Defensa Nacional, Santiago

CHINA

Geographic Section, Department of Land Administration, Ministry of the Interior, Taipei, Taiwan

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Terminology Commission, Central Administration for Geodesy and Cartography, Buckova Ul-Bubenec, Praha XIX 620

DENMARK AND FAEROE ISLANDS

Stednavneudvalget, Fiolstraede 1, København E.

GREENLAND

Det Grønlandske Stednavneudvalg, Ministeriat for Grønland, Hausergade 3, København E.

ECUADOR

Instituto Geográfico Militar, Calle Ambato 321, Quito

ETHIOPIA

Imperial Ethiopian Mapping and Geography Institute, Ministry of Interior, Addis Ababa

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Ständiger Ausschuss für die Rechtschreibung geographischer

Namen, c/o Bundesanstalt für Landeskunde und Raumforschung, Ministerium des Innern, Michaels Hof, Bad Godesberg

FINLAND

General Survey Office, Helsinki

FRANCE

Commission de toponymie, Institut géographique national, 2 Avenue Pasteur, Saint-Mandé (Seine)

GREECE

Council on the Names of Greek Places, Ministry of the Interior, Athens

GUATEMALA

Instituto Geográfico Nacional, Dirección General de Cartografía, Avenida Las Américas 5-76, Guatemala

HUNGARY

Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names, State Office of Geodesy and Cartography, Department of Cartography, Guszev u. 19. sz., Budapest, V

INDIA

Advisory Board for National Atlas and Geographical Names of India, Dr. S. P. Chatterjee, Secretary, Department of Geography, Calcutta University, Senate House, Calcutta 12

INDONESIA

Komisi Istilah, Lembaga Bahasa dan Kususasterann, Departemen P. D. dan K., Djalan Diponegoro 82, Djakarta

IRAN

National Cartographic Center, Avenue Ghabin, Teheran

IRELAND

The Place Names Commission, c/o Ordnance Survey Office, Phoenix Park, Dublin

ISRAEL

Geographical Names Commission, Office of the Prime Minister, Karen Kayemit Street, Jerusalem

ITALY

Istituto Geografico Militare, Firenze

JAPAN

Joint Committee on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Tokyo

KENYA

Standing Committee on Geographical Names, c/o Survey of Kenya, P.O. Box 30046, Nairobi

LAOS

Service géographique du Laos, Vientiane

LEBANON

Direction des affaires géographiques et géodésiques, Beirut

LIBERIA

National Commission for the Regulation and Standardization of the Spelling of Indigenous Names, Monrovia

MADAGASCAR

Service géographique malgache, Tananarive

MOZAMBIQUE

Comissao Consultativa de Toponímia, Arquiro Nacional, Praça 7 de Marco esq. Major Araujo, Lourenço Marques

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand Geographic Board, Department of Lands and Surveys, Wellington, C.1

NORWAY

Norsk Stadnamnarkiv, Universitetet, Blindern, Oslo
Norsk Polarinstitutt, Observatoriegt 1, Oslo

PHILIPPINES

Philippine Committee on Geographical Names, Manila

POLAND

Instytut Geografii, Polska Akademia Nauk, Krakowskie Przedmieście 30, Warszawa

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

National Construction Research Institute, Ministry of Construction, Seoul

SOUTH AFRICA

Place Names Committee of the Republic of South Africa,

Department of Education, Arts and Science, Room 538, van der Stel Building, Pretoria

THAILAND

Royal Thai Survey Department, Bangkok

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

United Arab Republic Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, c/o Survey Department, Giza

UNITED KINGDOM

Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for British Official Use, Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London S.W. 7 (Mr. P. J. M. Geelan, Secretary)

For the Antarctic

Antarctic Place Names Committee, Research Department, Foreign Office, London (Mr. B. B. Roberts, Secretary)

English Place-Name Society, University College, Gower Street, London, W.C. 1

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Board on Geographic Names, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240 (Dr. Meredith F. Burrill, Executive Secretary)

USSR

Glavnoye Upravleniye Geodezii i Kartografii, Postoyannaya Komissiya po Voprossu Transkriptsii, Gorokhovskiy per., 4, Moskva 66

VENEZUELA

Instituto Geográfico Nacional, Caracas

ZAMBIA

Geographical Place Names Committee, Ministry of Land and Natural Resources, P.O. Box 69, Lusaka

Annex IV

LIST OF DOCUMENTS ISSUED FOR THE CONFERENCE [a]

E/CONF.53/1	Provisional agenda
E/CONF.53/2 and Add.1-5	Draft report of the Conference
E/CONF.53/C.1/1	Draft report of Committee I
E/CONF.53/C.2/1	Draft report of Committee II
E/CONF.53/C.3/1	Draft report of Committee III
E/CONF.53/C.4/1	Draft report of Committee IV
E/CONF.53/INF/1 and Add.1	Information regarding general arrangements of interest to the participants
E/CONF.53/INF/2	List of documents issued for the Conference
E/CONF.53/INF/2/Add.1	Revised list of documents issued for the Conference
E/CONF.53/L.1	Preparatory meeting for the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: report of the Group of Experts (6)
E/CONF.53/L.1/Add.1	Some problems in cartographic toponymy: background paper submitted by the United Nations Secretariat (6)
E/CONF.53/L.1/Add.2	Preparations for the forthcoming Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: background paper submitted by the United Nations Secretariat (6)

[a] A number in parentheses following a title of a document indicates the agenda item under which the document was submitted.

E/CONF.53/L.2	Extracts from *World Cartography*, volume VII, submitted by the United Nations Secretariat (8)
E/CONF.53/L.3	Reports by Governments on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names: Kenya (7)
E/CONF.53/L.4	Exchange of experience on problems identified in the Group of Experts' report: paper submitted by Kenya (8)
E/CONF.53/L.5	National standardization — Administrative structure of national names authorities: paper submitted by Kenya (9)
E/CONF.53/L.6	Reports by Governments on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names: Netherlands (7)
E/CONF.53/L.7	National standardization — National gazetteers: paper submitted by New Zealand (9)
E/CONF.53/L.8	Exchange of experience on problems identified in the Group of Experts' report: paper submitted by Canada (8)
E/CONF.53/L.9	Reports by Governments on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names: Federal Republic of Germany (7)
E/CONF.53/L.10	Writing systems: proposal on the transliteration and transcription of geographical names, submitted by the Federal Republic of Germany (11)
E/CONF.53/L.11	Exchange of experience on problems identified in the report of the Group of Experts: paper submitted by the Federal Republic of Germany (8)
E/CONF.53/L.12	Reports by Governments on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names: Austria (7)
E/CONF.53/L.13	Reports by Governments on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names: Hungary (7)
E/CONF.53/L.14	Writing systems: paper submitted by Hungary (11)
E/CONF.53/L.15	International co-operation: note submitted by Hungary (12)
E/CONF.53/L.16	National standardization: paper on the codification of geographic names for United States Government needs, submitted by the United States of America (9)
E/CONF.53/L.17	Reports by Governments on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names: Thailand (7)
E/CONF.53/L.18	National standardization: paper on identification code numbers for administrative division in Thailand, submitted by Thailand (9)
E/CONF.53/L.19	National standardization — National gazetteers: paper submitted by Thailand (9)
E/CONF.53/L.20	Writing systems: transfer of names from the Thai writing system to Roman letters: paper submitted by Thailand (11)
E/CONF.53/L.21	Reports by Governments on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names: Nigeria (7)
E/CONF.53/L.22	Reports by Governments on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names: Cameroon (7)
E/CONF.53/L.23	Reports by Governments on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names: Australia (7)
E/CONF.53/L.24	National standardization and writing systems: paper submitted by Cyprus (9 and 11)
E/CONF.53/L.25	Reports by Governments on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names: Israel (7)
E/CONF.53/L.26 and Add.1	International co-operation — Steps towards international standardization: paper submitted by the United States of America (12)
E/CONF.53/L.27	Writing systems — Transfer of names from one writing system to another — Into Roman: paper submitted by the United States of America (11)
E/CONF.53/L.28	Geographical terms — Glossaries: paper submitted by the United States of America (10)

E/CONF.53/L.29	Writing systems — Transfer of names from one writing system to another — Into Roman: paper submitted by the United States of America (11)
E/CONF.53/L.30	Reports by Governments on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names: United States of America (7)
E/CONF.53/L.31	Writing systems: some general principles of transliteration and transcription, submitted by the United States of America (11)
E/CONF.53/L.32	Writing systems: Collection and treatment of geographic names in Libya: paper submitted by the United States of America (11)
E/CONF.53/L.33	National standardization: guidelines for preparing and submitting proposals regarding domestic geographical names, submitted by the United States of America (9)
E/CONF.53/L.34	Writing systems — Transfer of names from one writing system to another: *Romanization Guide, 1967*, submitted by the United States of America (11)
E/CONF.53/L.35 and Add.1	Reports by Governments on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names: Spain (7)
E/CONF.53/L.36 (French only)	Principes de translittération de l'arabe en caractères latins: renseignements présentés par le Gouvernement français (11)
E/CONF.53/L.37	Writing systems: some problems in transferring geographic names from one writing system to another: paper submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (11)
E/CONF.53/L.38	Problems of correlation of national and international standardization of geographical names: paper submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (8) [originally issued in error as document E/CONF.53/L.51]
E/CONF.53/L.39	International dictionary for local geographic terms, submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (10)
E/CONF.53/L.40	Reports by Governments on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names: Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (7)
E/CONF.53/L.41	Problems of standardization of geographical names under the conditions of a multinational state: paper submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (8 and 9) [originally issued in error as document E/CONF.53/L.49]
E/CONF.53/L.42	Reports by Governments on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names: Democratic Republic of the Congo (7)
E/CONF.53/L.43	Geographical terms: paper submitted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (10)
E/CONF.53/L.44	Guatemala — Some of its toponymic problems: paper submitted by Guatemala (7)
E/CONF.53/L.45	Reports by Governments on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names: Venezuela (7)
E/CONF.53/L.46	Reports by Governments on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names: China (7)
E/CONF.53/L.47	Exchange of experience on problems identified in the report of the Group of Experts: paper submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (8)
E/CONF.53/L.48	Some problems of the rendering of geographical names from one system of writing into another: paper submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (11)
E/CONF.53/L.49 and Corr.1	(See E/CONF.53./L.41 above)
E/CONF.53/L.50	An international glossary of local geographic terms: paper submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (10)
E/CONF.53/L.51 and Corr.1	(See E/CONF.53./L.38 above)
E/CONF.53/L.52	Principes de transcription des toponymes africains: document présenté par le Gouvernement français (11)

E/CONF.53/L.80	Notes on the preparation of a Guatemalan geographical dictionary, submitted by Guatemala (9)
E/CONF.53/L.81	Reports by Governments on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names: Hungary (7)
E/CONF.53/L.82	Cyrillic geographical names: note submitted by the International Committee on Onomastic Sciences (11)
E/CONF.53/L.83	The International Committee on Onomastic Sciences and international standardization of geographical names: paper submitted by the International Committee on Onomastic Sciences (12)
E/CONF.53/L.84	Reports by Governments on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names: Norway (7)
E/CONF.53/L.85	Letter dated 21 September 1967 from the delegations of France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States of America to the President of the Conference
E/CONF.53/L.86	Reports by Governments on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names: Cambodia (7)
E/CONF.53/L.87	Letter dated 22 September 1967 from the delegations of Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the President of the Conference
E/CONF.53/SR.1	Provisional summary record of the first plenary meeting, held on 4 September 1967 (afternoon)
E/CONF.53/SR.2	Provisional summary record of the second plenary meeting, held on 5 September 1967 (morning)
E/CONF.53/SR.3	Provisional summary record of the third plenary meeting, held on 5 September 1967 (afternoon)
E/CONF.53/SR.4	Provisional summary record of the fourth plenary meeting, held on 6 September 1967 (morning)
E/CONF.53/SR.5	Provisional summary record of the fifth plenary meeting, held on 6 September 1967 (afternoon)
E/CONF.53/SR.6	Provisional summary record of the sixth plenary meeting, held on 11 September 1967 (morning)
E/CONF.53/SR.7	Provisional summary record of the seventh plenary meeting, held on 18 September 1967 (morning)
E/CONF.53/SR.8	Provisional summary record of the eight plenary meeting, held on 21 September 1967 (afternoon)
E/CONF.53/SR.9	Provisional summary record of the ninth plenary meeting, held on 22 September 1967 (morning)