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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
Geneva, 4-22 September 1967
Item 7 of the agenda

Dual distribution

REPORTS BY GOVERNMENTS ON THE PROGRESS MADE
IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Letter dated 14 September 1967 addressed to the Executive
Secretary of the Conference on Standardization of
Geographical Names
by the Permanent Mission of the Hungarian People's Republic

The attached letter and enclosures from the Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Hungarian People's Republic, addressed to the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, is circulated to the representatives attending the Conference in accordance with the request to that effect contained in the letter.

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MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE HONGROISE
AUPRÈS DE L'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES
GENÈVE

14th September 1967

Mr. H.M. Ureta
Executive Secretary
Conference on Standardization
of Geographical Names
Palais des Nations
G e n e v a

Sir,

The representative of the Hungarian People's Republic to the Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names has the honour to transmit to you the following documents :

- a/ Administration for Surveying and Cartography, The Director, German Democratic Republic : to The President of the United Nation's Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Palais des Nations, Geneva.
- b/ Council of Ministres of the German Democratic Republic, Ministry of the Interior, Administration for Surveying and Cartography : Report on Progress in the Spelling of Geographical Names in the German Democratic Republic.

The representative of the Hungarian People's Republic kindly asks you to circulate these documents among the distinguished representatives as an official document of the Conference.

Földi Ervin
'Representative

Unofficial translation
(by the Hungarian Delegation)

Administration for Surveying and Cartography
The Director

The President
of the United Nations Conference
on the Standardization of
Geographical Names
Palais des Nations
Geneva
Switzerland

August 28th 1967

Excellency,

Permit me to express that the holding of the Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names is welcomed in the German Democratic Republic since it will contribute to the peaceful understanding among the peoples.

The standardization of geographical names is receiving great attention in our state, too. Progress has also been made in the standardization of geographical names used for objects outside our territory.

As a contribution to the forthcoming conference, I take the liberty to hand over the regulations valid in our state with regard to the spelling of geographical names. They are contained in the attached report on the "Progress in the Spelling of Geographical Names in the German Democratic Republic" and in the "General Directions for the Spelling of Geographical Names in the German Democratic Republic", 1st edition, Berlin 1966. The principles laid down and valid in the German Democratic Republic for a regulation of the spelling of foreign geographical names are based on the respect of the sovereignty of the existing states and are in conformity with the United Nations Charter. In the same way as the German Democratic Republic respects the sovereignty of other states also in this case, we expect that the spelling of geographical names as fixed in the German Democratic Republic for its own territory will be used by the other countries, too.

We believe that our interest in further international cooperation in the field of standardization of geographical names is justified. Therefore, I request you to use your influence to ensure in the future an active participation of experts of the German Democratic Republic in the standardization of geographical names.

I should like to ask Your Excellency to bring this letter with the report on "Progress in the Spelling of Geographical Names in the German Democratic Republic" and the "General Directions for the Spelling of Geographical Names in the German Democratic Republic", as a contribution to item No. 7 of the preliminary agenda "Reports of the Governments on Progress in the Standardization of Geographical Names", to the notice of all participants in the conference.

Accept the assurances of my high consideration.

S./ Pateisat
Senior Engineer

Unofficial translation
(by the Hungarian Delegation)

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
of the
German Democratic Republic

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Administration for Surveying and Cartography

Report on Progress in the Spelling of Geographical
Names in the German Democratic Republic

On the occasion of the UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from September 4th to 22nd 1967, the following report on progress in the spelling of geographical names in the German Democratic Republic is submitted.

1. In the German Democratic Republic a commission for the spelling of geographical names on maps in the German language has been in existence since 1959 within the Ministry of the Interior, Administration for Surveying and Cartography. It is the task of this commission to lay down the principles for a standardized spelling of geographical names. The scope of this task corresponds to the recommendations given by the UNO in this respect. Thus, the German Democratic Republic follows the example of other states which have set up such commissions for a concerted regulation of the spelling of geographical names.
2. In its work the commission is guided by the following principles:

- a) In fixing the spelling of geographical names, not only the own national interests have to be considered but to the same extent those of other peoples as well.
- b) On principle, the names have to be written in the national spelling of the respective state.
- c) If geographical names have been fixed by the competent authorities by virtue of laws, decrees, orders etc., this spelling shall be binding.
- d) If a state has changed names on its territory, the new name and/or the new spelling shall be binding. Temporarily, the old name may be added (in brackets) as long as it is deemed necessary for an accurate identification of the object.
- e) If there exists no official national spelling, the spelling shall be valid which is commonly used in international trade and transport, based on the colloquial language customary in the respective country.
- f) Historical names shall, on principle, be used only on history-maps.
- g) No difference shall be made in the transcription of names consisting of an adjective and a common noun (for instance Rocky Mountains, Beloye ozero). All combined names of this kind shall be regarded as a unit to be transcribed only upon one principle.
- h) The orthographic rules valid under the official spelling of the respective state (writing in one word and separate writing, use of the hyphen, capitalization and writing with small letters etc.) have to be observed.

- i) Names of localities with preceding articles and supplements to the name have always to be written in full. The supplements may be omitted if the object, the supplement refers to, is marked on the respective map. Relevant rules for the other geographical names are contained in the general directions.
- j) In bilingual or multilingual areas, the leading official language of the area concerned shall, on principle, be binding for the spelling of geographical names. The second customary name shall appear in a subordinate way after or under the first name.
If in multilingual areas no spelling has officially been given binding priority, both names shall be treated as equivocal.

3. The following principles have been laid down for the transcription of names written in foreign languages:

a) Rule for states with Roman characters

In the case of states with Roman characters, the foreign names shall be written unchanged, with the use of all letters and diacritical marks valid in the respective language.

b) Rules for states with non-Roman characters

Concerning states with non-Roman characters, distinction shall be made between states writing in letters (for instance the Soviet Union, Greece, India, Korea) and states writing in hieroglyphs (for instance the People's Republic of China).

Names to be rendered from non-Roman letters shall be transliterated. Characters consisting of hieroglyphs shall be transliterated in accordance with the systems agreed upon. The transliteration systems are laid down in the general directions. The names resulting from these systems shall be written in Roman characters with an alphabet which may - beyond the 26 letters customary here - comprise additional letters and diacritical marks as are contained in alphabets of other languages with Roman characters.

If states with non-Roman characters have their own official systems for the transliteration into Roman characters, these systems shall be binding for the spelling of names on maps in the German language. In cases where such systems legalized by the government do not exist, one of the hitherto customary provisional systems shall be fixed in the general directions.

4. For the solution of special problems the following exceptional rules have been laid down:

- a) Names of towns which may - beside their national spelling - get added in brackets a German spelling or a spelling in general use in international trade and transport are listed in the instruction for the spelling of geographical names on maps in the German language, Berlin 1964, under paragraph 6 "Application of the German Spelling to Names of Towns".
- b) Geographical objects which extend over the territory of several states and for which a German spelling may be used are listed in the instruction for the spelling of geographical names on maps in the German language, Berlin 1964, under paragraph 7 "Application of the German Spelling to Names of Geographical Objects".
- c) In case of major inland waters (lakes, rivers) extending over several states, those German names shall be binding which were given in the instruction for the spelling of geographical names on maps in the German language, Berlin 1964, under paragraph 7 "Application of the German Spelling to Names of Geographical Objects", providing that the map scale does not permit the use of several national names.

- d) Names of seas being international waters or touching several national areas shall be written in the German spelling. The basis for this is the "Application of the German Spelling to Names of International Waters, Parts Thereof and Submarine Relief Forms", paragraph 7 of the instruction for the spelling of geographical names on maps in the German language, Berlin 1964.
- e) On geographical and thematic maps names of states may be written in the full German form or in the German abbreviated form.

5. The commission for the spelling of geographical names on maps in the German language has revised the

"Instruction for the Spelling of Geographical Names on Maps in the German Language", Berlin 1964

and the

"General Directions for the Spelling of Geographical Names in the German Democratic Republic", Berlin 1966.

The above-mentioned principles and rules have been specified in these documents. They are subject to continuous supplements for new editions.

Beyond this, general directions for the spelling of geographical names of the European states are in preparation. For the Kingdom of Belgium and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, for instance, the directions for the spelling of their geographical names could be completed.