

Ad-Hoc Group of Experts on
the Standardization of
Geographical Names

Working Paper N° 23

New York, 10-20 March 1970

concerning

the Standardization of the Geographical Names and
the Related Descriptive Terminology of Underseas Nomenclature

Aspects suggested for further investigation by a working
group of the Ad-Hoc Committee of Experts

Report by the sub-group designated by the Ad-Hoc Committee on Thursday March 12, composed of :

- Dr. M.F. Burrill (U.S.A.)
- Mr.G.F. Delaney (Canada)
- Dr. Per Hovda (Norway)
- Prof. A.N. Konkov (U.S./S.R.)
- Dr. E. Meynen (Federal Republic of Germany)
- Lt. Gen. M. Sadeghian (Iran)

This sub-group convened on Friday, March 13.

It was rapidly apparent that a consensus of opinion existed in the group with respect to a need for standardization.

There was a general agreement that while some useful approaches to the resolution of the problems of undersea feature designation have been made by such organizations as the IOC, the IHB and the IAPO, and that valuable contributions to this end are embodied in the work of Wiseman and Ovey; in the report of the sub-committee under GEBCO of the IAPO and in the works on geographical names issued by national agencies;

Nonetheless,

the proposition succinctly stated in Working Paper 14 (1) :

"under such circumstances the United Nations, as the most representative organization, can and should take the initiative in working out the international rules regulating the treatment of the names and terms for maritime and undersea features, namely : collection, concordance among and approval by all the countries concerned, final acceptance and distribution of the forms established".

represented the view of this sub-group respecting the need for further study of this subject on the following specific points :

1. to suggest guide lines governing the appropriateness of names proposed for application to undersea features and to explain the rationale of the proposed guide lines,
2. a continuing consideration of descriptive terminology respecting such features,
3. the establishment of an internationally accessible collection, recording and control system,
4. the designation of the agency or agencies best suited to the attainment of these objectives,
5. the method by which these desiderata could best be implemented.

CONCLUSIONS

It was considered that the points above-noted should be referred to a working group of the Ad-Hoc Group of Experts on the Standardization of Geographical Names for investigation and report and further, that this working group should avail itself of the expertise of specialists available to the United Nations.