SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
London, 10-31 May 1972
Item 9 of the provisional agenda

WORK IN PROGRESS IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN POLAND
SINCE THE FIRST UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE (GENEVA, 1967)

Prepared by the Government of Poland

This report has been compiled in accordance with the problems listed in
point 9, paragraph 17, concerning the provisional agenda for the Second United
Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (document
ESA/RT/C/CN/2, 11 March 1971).

The only omission is that of subpoint (c): "Treatment of names in
multilingual areas", as Poland is a one-language nation and only the Latin
alphabet is used. Thus the graphic forms of geographical names occurring on the
territory of Poland follow the principles of spelling established in 1936 and
supplemented after the Second World War in 1955 by an appropriate commission of
the Polish Academy of Sciences (Komisja Polskiej Akademii Nauk).

In Poland, standardization refers to two fields of toponymy:

(a) national toponymy, i.e. names occurring within the State boundaries,

(b) world toponymy, i.e. the adaptation of names from throughout the world
to the specific features of the Polish language.

In each of these fields different methods are employed.

(a) Geographical names on the territory of Poland are at present established
by the Commission for Establishing Names of Localities and Physiographical Objects
(Komisja Ustalania Nazw Miejscowości i Obiektów Fizjograficznych) attached to the
office of the Prime Minister. This Commission continues the work of a corresponding
body from the period between the two world wars and of the Commission for
Establishing Local Names (Komisja Ustalania Nazw Miejscowych) called to the
existence by the Ministry of Public Administration in 1946. The present Commission
is composed mainly of linguists working in co-operation with historians and geographers. Within the Commission there are two local Subcommissions (Podkomisje terenowe) from Cracow and Poznań and teams from Chairs of Polish Language (Katedry Języka Polskiego) of all Polish universities.

The names of localities and physiographical objects collected on the spot and preliminarily prepared by working teams are submitted to linguistic corrections at the sessions of the Commission with a view to establishing their proper forms and spelling so as to make them fit for publishing.

Below a survey of the still valid publications is given.

Official names of localities, that is cities and towns, settlements and villages, city quarters, integral parts of villages etc., as well as physiographical names, that is mountains, rivers, artificial water reservoirs, lakes, channels, forests etc. for western and northern Poland established by a Commission of the Ministry of Public Administration till 1950 were published in Monitor Polski (Dziennik Urzędowy Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej) (the Official Gazette of the Polish Republic).

All the materials published in the Monitor Polski were collected and arranged in alphabetical order by Stanisław Rospond in the two-volume "Słownik nazw geograficznych Polski Zachodniej i Północnej" (Dictionary of geographic names of Western and Northern Poland) published by the Polish Geographical Society (Polski Towarzystwo Geograficzne) in 1951. The dictionary, which includes more than 30,000 entries, consists of two parts: Polish-German and German-Polish. The Polish names are followed by their respective genitives and by indications of the character of each object.

The geographical names for central and southern Poland established by the present Commission attached to the Prime Minister are periodically published by the Council of Ministers Office Bureau for the Presidia of the People's Councils (Urząd Rady Ministrów Biuro do Spraw Prezydiów Rad Narodowych) in the form of fascicles devoted to the individual poviat of each voivodship. The publication bears the title "Urzędnowe nazwy miejscowości i obiektów fizjograficznych" and is destined for use in office work. Thus far complete materials have been published for six voivodships: Kielce, Cracow, Lublin, Poznań, Rzeszów and Warsaw. The preparation and printing of the materials for the remaining voivodships of central and southern Poland is well advanced: the publication is expected to be complete by 1972.

To illustrate the arrangement of material in the publication here are examples of data for the gromada (the smallest administrative unit in Poland) Głinojeck in the poviat Ciechanów in the voivodships of Warsaw:

/...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names of village - town, the genitive case, the adjectival form</th>
<th>Names of parts of village - town, the genitive case</th>
<th>Names of physiographical objects, character of the object, the genitive case</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Glinojeck, -ka glinojecki</td>
<td>Baraki, -ków</td>
<td>Góry, Gór - field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poświętne, -nego</td>
<td>Przydatki, -ków - field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stegna, -ny</td>
<td>Słupie, -pia - meadows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zawoda, -dy</td>
<td>Wkra, Wkry - river</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juliszewo, -wa juliszewski</td>
<td>DUży Bór, -zego Boru - forest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nowiny, -win - field</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wjoki, Wjók - field</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zgody, -wego - forest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luszewo, -wa luszewski</td>
<td>Dąbrowski, -wek - field</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Działkowizna, -ny - field</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kowalowa, -wej - mountain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wkra, Wkry wkrowski</td>
<td>Kolonia, -nii</td>
<td>Koło, -ła - meadow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nadzajzy, -ków - field</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mchy, Mart - pasture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Półka, -lek - field</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tobożki, -ków - pasture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It must be observed that within poviatas the names are given in alphabetical order of the gromadas.

(b) The standardization of non-Polish geographical names is in Poland a responsibility of the Commission for Geographical Names (Komisja Nazw Geograficznych) called to life by the Polish Geographical Society (Polskie Towarzystwo Geograficzne) in 1951, which since 1953 has been working within the Institute of Geography of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Instytut Geografii Polskiej Akademii Nauk) under the name of the Commission for Establishing Geographical Names of the Institute of Geography of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Komisja Ustalania Nazw Geograficznych IG PAN). Headed by Assistant Professor L. Ratajski, the Commission has as its members predominantly geographers, with Professor P. Zwoliński as a permanent member from among linguists. The geographical names established by this Commission are submitted for evaluation to specialists in different world languages, primarily to university professors, and only afterwards approved for publication at the sessions of the Commission.

The material for world toponymy is collected exclusively from cartographic sources and running publications of appropriate contents. It is in virtue of these sources that individual names are identified as having become Polonized: the earliest sources come from the 16th century, exceptionally even from the Middle Ages. Names that have no tradition in the Polish language retain their...
pronunciation and their original spelling if they come from countries using the
Latin alphabet. Names from countries using other alphabets are given in
transliteration or transcription, of which, unfortunately, there are several
competitive systems.

The first attempt at the provision of standardized geographical names
outside of Poland was the publication "Polskie nazewnictwo geograficzne świata"
(Polish Forms of World Geographical Names) prepared by the members of the
Commission for Establishing Geographical Names of the Institute of Geography of
the Polish Academy of Sciences L. Ratajki, J. Szewczyk and P. Zwoliński and
published by the Institute of Geography in 1959. It includes about 20,000 names
of localities, administrative units, physiographical objects and names of nations
and tribal groups of the world. The fundamental unit of division in the book is
the continent. Within continents, the names are given in the alphabetical order
country after country. Within each country in turn all names are given
alphabetically in 22 groups corresponding to the fundamental concepts of
geographical terminology.

The book "Polskie nazewnictwo geograficzne świata" was taken as the
foundation for preparing the geographical names in the entries of Wielka
Currently the second amended and much extended edition of the book is being
prepared for publication: it is planned to appear in 1974.

As to a national gazeteer, no such work has thus far been prepared. The
function of a gazeteer is partly fulfilled by the "Spis miejscowości Polskiej
Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej" (List of localities of the Polish People's Republic)
published by the Publishing House for Transports and Communications (Wydawnictwa
Komunikacji i Żyzności) in April 1967 and destined for a wide public. This
1383-page folio index of all localities in Poland lists 105,000 items. It also
provides information concerning the character of the respective locality, its
administrative appurtenance, post office, registrar's office as well as indications
of the nearest railway station or railway stop. Irrespective of the kind of the
named locality, the index is arranged in alphabetical order. It is only by the
type face that towns and urban settlements can be distinguished from localities
situated in rural areas, that is from villages, hamlets, colonies etc. This
publication has been prepared by working teams of the Commission for Establishing
Names of Localities and Physiographical Objects, of the Ministry of Communications,
the Ministry of Transports, and the Registrar's Offices.

As to the administrative structure of national names authorities in Poland,
the lack of some definite legal act prevented the final solution of this problem.
Since the results of work of the Commission for Establishing Names of Localities
and Physiographical Objects are published by the Prime Minister's Office, at the
moment of publication they acquire the status of official authority. The official
character of standardization of names from beyond the Polish territory is at
present a subject of discussion between the institutions interested in the problem.
It is to be expected that the Second United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names will accelerate the final decisions on this
problem.