



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
LIMITED

E/CONF.61/L.19
8 February 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
London, 10-31 May 1972
Item 17 of the provisional agenda

AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING

COMPUTER PROCESSING OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Presented by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

1. In the Federal Republic of Germany studies on the possibility of processing geographic names by computer were initiated in 1969. In the first period of these studies special attention was given to the requirements of cartographers in the subject. Categories of various geographic names were formed, problems of data capture were considered and the amount of peripheral information required was subjected to research work. A first approach was reached at the end of 1970. Early in 1971 a circular dealing with the problems and containing recommendations was distributed to all official agencies in the Federal Republic of Germany for further comments. The answers were discussed in meetings during March and April 1971.
2. At this stage, the requirements of cartographers have been defined. The work so far has been executed by the Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie, Frankfurt am Main, in co-operation with the Institut für Landeskunde, Bonn-Bad Godesberg.
3. A second period started in June 1971 when the problem was discussed with mathematicians from the Gesellschaft für Mathematik und Datenverarbeitung, Bonn-Birlinghoven. This organization is concerned with computer problems related to federal agencies. It completed an elaborated analysis of the system. Based on this analysis, a third period will begin early in 1972 - the programming of the various phases of processing the data for further retrieval. In a fourth period the programmes will be tested. For this purpose a special area around Frankfurt am Main has been selected and the data capture has already been completed.
4. A report on the subject and the results reached so far will be given at a session of Commission III during the International Cartographic Association meeting on "An Integrated System of Processing Geographic Names" at Ottawa

in August 1972. The word "integrated" means that not only names are stored for the preparation of gazetteers or alphabetical listings, but that the system will permit the retrieval of information such as listings based on the number of inhabitants, or locations either in geographical or UTM co-ordinates or in the numbering system of the national map series. Listings based on attributes such as the length of rivers, capitals, heights above sea level, etc. will also be possible.
