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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL
NAMES IN THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

Presented by the Government of the Union of
Soviet Socialist Republics

INTRODUCTION

1. The standardization of geographical names in a multinational State such as the Soviet Union is a complicated task. A successful solution of the problem of nationalities is one of the achievements of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. As a result, one can see the all-round development of the languages of all the nations and nationalities of the Soviet Union. Scientific works, fiction, geographical maps and atlases, newspapers and magazines are published in these languages in millions of copies. This leads to the necessity of establishing standard and compulsory forms of geographical names in each officially adopted language of the Soviet Union, all of them being equal in rights. Therefore on carrying out the domestic standardization we face the problems of both national and international standardization.
2. In the USSR, the period after the 1967 Geneva Conference was characterized by further intensive development of toponymic investigations providing scientific and methodical foundation for the practical work on the standardization of geographical names. Such toponymic research concerning both the development of theoretical problems and regional study of selected areas are being carried out in scientific institutions and universities of Moscow, the Urals, Siberia, the Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia etc.
3. As a result of such investigations, a number of monographs and scientific collections have been published recently. All-Union and regional scientific conferences on toponymic problems are held frequently (for example, the Conference