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REPORT ON WORK CONDUCTED IN CYPRUS CONCERNING
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Paper submitted by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus

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GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Work on the geographical names of Cyprus is being conducted officially in Cyprus in two Departments: at the Cyprus Research Centre and at the Department of Lands and Surveys. The work being done at the Cyprus Research Centre consists of collecting and cataloguing, checking, classifying and studying the geographical names; and the work done at the Department of Lands and Surveys consists of collecting and registering, checking, classifying and mapping of the geographical names. These works coincide in many cases, because the two organizations are co-ordinating their activities.

Collecting of geographical names is carried on by the Cyprus Research Centre on the one hand, through field-work by its research fellows: and by the Department of Lands and Surveys, through land-surveying employees. The geographical names are registered in conformity with prevailing pronunciation and subsequently, a check-up is made in order to test their preciseness. For purposes of mapping, a new check-up is being made by the Department of Lands and Surveys by sending lists of geographical names as well as its land-surveying employees to the various parts of the Island. Besides this work, historical research is being done at the Cyprus Research Centre by means of cataloguing and classifying all the geographical names of Cyprus in chronological periods, from the most ancient times to the present day. Thus, ancient and later inscriptions and records are being catalogued, as well as ancient and later writers, lexicographers, codices, manuscripts, documents, old maps and relevant source material. The geographical names thus assembled are classified and studied phonetically, etymologically and historically. The work of the Cyprus Research Centre on the geographical names has not yet been completed, but the Department of Lands and Surveys has always without exception collected the geographical names of the Island on the actual locale. In some cases, this collection requires a further check-up; because names were written in Latin letters, so that the true pronunciation is confused.

These preliminary investigations aspire to more comprehensive studies concerning geographical names, the compilation of a dictionary of geographical names, and the compilation of maps. A recent edition of studies on geographical names was made by the Cyprus Research Centre by re-publishing and bringing up-to-date relevant studies of Professor Simos Menardos under the title: Toponymic and Folkloric Studies (Publications of the Cyprus Research Centre, IV, Nicosia, 1970, pp. xvi and 375), wherein a list of nationally standardized Cypriot geographical names is included. A copious list of geographical names from old registers is to be found in another publication of the Cyprus Research Centre under the title: Theodore Papadopoulos, Social and Historical Data on Population (1570-1881), (Cyprus Research Centre, Texts and Studies of the History of Cyprus, I, Nicosia, 1965 pp. xiii and 255 and 1 chart,

see pp.215-234). Also in the Annual of the Cyprus Research Centre, studies on geographical names are published and relevant works are yearly listed in a Bibliography under the rubric: 4.32 Material Concerning Geographical Names and 4.86 Research and Studies Concerning Geographical and (Other) Names.

Mapping is the task of the Department of Lands and Surveys. This applies modern technical methods and has compiled maps of Cyprus in various scales, in Greek and English, and a map is being prepared according to the Turkish pronunciation. Thus various maps of Cyprus have been compiled with scales, as for example, one inch to 4 miles, half an inch to 1 mile; maps of towns 1:25.000 and surveying maps of Cyprus as a whole 1:5.000, 1:2.500, 1:1.250, 1:1000 and 1:500; and already a map is being compiled according to the requisite scale 1:50.000. These maps are of a variegated form, as for example, administrative, road, topographical, hydrological, geological, soil or surveying maps.

The national standardization and transliteration of the geographical names is being made by the Cyprus Research Centre. The standardization takes place according to historical principles, in some cases avoiding the divergent contemporary dialect pronunciation, which varies according to regions of the Island, as well as the pronunciation of persons who speak another language than the language to which the geographical names pertain. According to us, the rendering of geographical names strictly according to the varying dialect pronunciation of today is a work requiring specialized research and necessitating a dictionary of geographical names. The same applies to other geographical terms too, which are divided into official terms according to tradition and into popular terms.

In the transliteration of Cypriot geographical names and other geographical terms into the Roman system of writing, the system which is given in the Addendum to this document almost coincides with the manner of transliteration of the Romanization Guide, 1967, Based on the Systems as used by the United States Board on Geographic Names; of Duden, Wörterbuch geographischer Namen; of André Mirambel, for use by the United Nations and the official geographical organizations of England and France.

In conclusion, it is mentioned that in order to co-ordinate the whole work, a Committee for standardizing the geographical names of Cyprus has been formed, constituted of scientists and senior officers of the Cyprus Research Centre, the Department of Lands and Surveys and the Ministry of Education.