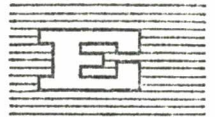


UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
LIMITED
E/CONF.61/L.109
22 May 1972
ENGLISH ONLY

SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
London, 10-31 May 1972
Item 7 of the agenda

Reports by division and governments on the situation in their
regions and countries and on the progress made in the standardi-
zation of geographical names since the first United Nations
Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

Paper presented by the Government of Sweden

Reports by division and governments on the situation in their regions and countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the first United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

Paper submitted by the Swedish Government.

At the first conference in Geneva the Swedish delegate gave a report on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names in Sweden. To this report we now wish to add the following points.

1. Since 1967 the authorities on toponymy have been re-organized to such an extent that a new body named Styrelsen för dialekt- och ortnamnsarkiven m.m. (The Board of Dialect and Toponymy Archives) was constituted in 1970. This Board has the responsibility for the development of the research of Swedish place-names. It functions through one of its archives, Ortnamnsarkivet i Uppsala (The Place-Name Archives of Uppsala, formerly the Swedish Place-Names Archives) as an advisory authority for standardization of the place-names in property registers and on official maps of the Swedish territory. Place-names of railways and post offices are usually also checked by this authority, while names of roads and charts are not usually referred to it.
2. As a result of the advisory work of the authority named under point 1., the place-names which are confirmed for the property registers by Kunagl Lantmäteristyrelsen (The National Land Survey Board) and for maps by Rikets allmänna kartverk (The Geographical Survey Office) may be considered as officially adopted and standardized.
3. With regard to the standardization of geographical names beyond a single sovereignty a cooperation between the countries

involved, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, on the spelling of the name Skagerrak was initiated by the Swedish delegate in Geneva and has now resulted in a common agreement on the spelling as given above.

4. In Swedish place-name standardization a new problem has arisen in connection with the data processing of names in property registers. It has been proposed that for economical data-processing reasons only, place-names which do not exceed a certain number of letters ought to be permitted. For the same reason the number of names would also be limited. This proposal would result in the disappearing of certain traditional and well-known place-names as official property register names.

5. With regard to the place-names which are original in any one of the two minority languages in Sweden, Finnish and Lappish, different solutions have been proved. On official maps Finnish place-names are as a rule spelled in official Finnish orthography. In earlier times some Finnish names on larger villages, post offices and railway stations, however, have been Swedized, i.e. translated or adopted to Swedish orthography. Lappish names on official maps are usually standardized with a special Swedish orthography, which has been drawn up by professor Björn Collinder and revised by professor Bo Wickman. Older Lappish names, however, have been Swedized in the same manner as the Finnish names. As a special problem in this context we wish to mention the Lappish place-names, which have been Finnicized in the dialects of Finnish speaking colonists. In this case in particular and also in the cases where Swedish names are involved it has been proposed that two (bilingual) names should be used on maps and on road signs.