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STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
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Item 7 of the provisional agenda

THE CONTEMPORARY STATE OF WORK IN THE FIELD OF GEOGRAPHICAL
TERMINOLOGY IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

Paper submitted by the Government of the
Czechoslovak Socialist Republic

Czechoslovak Socialist Republic

**The Contemporary State of Work
in the Field of Geographical Terminology
in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic
(The viewpoint of the Czechoslovak delegation)**

Praha - London 1972

The Contemporary State of Work
in the Field of Geographical Terminology
in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic

Terminological activities concerning geographical names as used in map works published in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic are exercised by the Commission on Terminology of the Czech Board of Geodesy and Cartography as well as by the Slovak Commission on Terminology of the Slovak Board of Geodesy and Cartography.

Comments on individual items of the proposed programme for the Second United Nations Conference:

Ad Item 9

- a) In compiling the Czechoslovak geographical terminology the Commission on Terminology (NK) cooperates with district terminological boards established at survey centres as advisory authorities.
- b) The Czechoslovak geographical names are compiled within the scope of the Czechoslovak Basic Map at the scale of 1:50,000. The total makes about 50,000 names that will be issued as regional lists of major geographical names.
- c) In multilingual areas the version as used on official maps shall be preferred, and doublets may be added respectively.
- d) The Commission on Terminology has set down

principles of the compilation of geographical and historical names in map works. A list of names of geographical features in Arabian countries is under preparation. The list of names of world's states and countries as well as the list of towns of over 100,000 population was already issued.

The list of names of world's states and countries is divided by continents, and presents abbreviated (cartographic) name in Czech, in Slovak, in the form used on the Map of the World 1:2,500,000, in Russian, English, French, German, Spanish, official name in the national language, and the Czech official name as well. The list of towns of over 100,000 population gives also some minor settlements of greater importance. On the whole, it presents 3,000 towns whose position is determined by geographical coordinates. The terminology observes the accepted principles of the compilation of geographical names. Czech doublets are not shown. For the next future the Commission on Terminology plans to review and re-publish: "The Principles of the Compilation of Geographical and Historical Names on Maps", "The Principles of the Activities of District Terminological Boards", "List of Customary Czech and Slovak Geographical Names", "List of Geographical Abbreviations Used on Maps", "List of Geographical Names in Arabian Countries", "List of Names of Orographical Units in Cze-

choslovakia", "List of Major Peaks in Czechoslovakia", "List of Major Water Streams and Surfaces in Czechoslovakia".

- e) The Commission on Terminology (NK) of the Czech Board of Geodesy and Cartography (ČÚGK) has been established to collect geographical names for maps published in the Czech Socialist Republic, and the Slovak Commission on Terminology (SNK) of the Slovak Board of Geodesy and Cartography (SSGK) acts as advisory board of the SSGK in problems concerning the names used on Slovak maps.

Ad Item 10

- a) The Commission has approved the Project of the International Dictionary of Map Geographical Names, which is to unify geographical terms used on general geographical maps. The present programme reckons with about 1,000 terms of greatest importance (The Project is submitted to the Second United Nations Conference).

Ad Item 11

With respect to the principles set down by the Commission on Terminology, foreign geographical names are presented in their international version in accordance with the effective documents establishing political and administrative position of the country concerned. The names from languages using Roman characters are transcribed with all diacritic marks, with the excep-

tion of Vietnamese. The transcription of the names from other languages uses the Czech alphabet and meets the principles approved by the Commission on Terminology.

Certain changes are being considered for the compilation of the Map of the World 1:2,500,000. The Commission on Terminology also plans to issue lists of geographical names by individual states and countries, containing about 40,000 terms.

Ad Item 14

- a) In case the structure is shared by two or several countries, the name is taken as used in the country, in which the largest part of the structure is situated, or, exceptionally, the customary Czech name may be used.
- b) In descriptions of sea structures the sovereignty of territorial waters is considered, and the customary Czech name may be shown respectively.
- c) A list of names of submarine features was published. The names have Czech forms. The list gives about 400 names.
- d) Celestial bodies are designed by international astronomical data, resp. by their Czech names.

Ad Item 15

- a) An agreement on the exchange of publications, information and experience has been made with

socialist countries.

- b) In October 1971, a regional meeting of the 7th and 8th Regional Groups was held in Prague with the participation of the representatives of the German Democratic Republic. The purpose of this meeting was to exchange information on the present state and organization of terminological activities in the countries concerned, and to make preparations for the Second International United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (The materials are submitted to the Second U.N.O. Conference).
- c) The Commission on Terminology is preparing a bibliography of terminological works.