

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
LIMITED

E/CONF.61/L.88
10 May 1972

Original: ENGLISH

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

REQUIREMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS OF THE DELEGATION OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC CONCERNING THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL TERMINOLOGY

Paper submitted by the Government of the
Czechoslovak Socialist Republic

Czechoslovak Socialist Republic

**Requirements and Suggestions
of the Delegation of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic
Concerning the Standardization of Geographical Terminology
(The viewpoint of the Czechoslovak delegation)**

Praha - London 1972

Requirements and Suggestions
of the Delegation of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic
Concerning the Standardization of Geographical Terminology

It was as early as in the latter half of 1951 that Czechoslovakia started to develop efforts for solving the problems connected with the conception of geographical terminology according to the principles fully respecting the political and constitutional organization of the country concerned.

The main reason why Czechoslovak experts were so much concerned about this problem was the fact that both world atlases and foreign maps had used German names in describing the territory of Czechoslovakia. This gave rise to an urgent need to solve the problem of geographical terminology in a new way which would fully respect not only the national sovereignty, but would also give equal rights to each country in her administrative boundaries.

Considering the question of geographical terminology only a part of the informative function of a map work, we can see that even from this very narrow viewpoint it is necessary to respect the sovereignty of every country and the official names of all individual geographical units within her frontiers.

In the maps, press, literature, and elsewhere the geographical terminology can and must fulfil its informative function only in case it fully respects the existing political and constitutional set-up of every country in the world.

Considering this, Czechoslovakia will support all positive efforts aimed at standardizing geographical terminology as well as the idea of international collaboration, the participating countries and regional groups being fully respected.

The same was also the aim and purpose of the proceedings of the Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Terminology. Participating at this Conference were the representatives of geographical national organizations and cartographic services concerned with geographical terminology as well as scientific institutions of the socialist countries, members of the 7th and 8th Regional Groups. The representatives of the German Democratic Republic also took part in the Conference which was held on October 4th to 6th, 1971, in Prague.