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SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
London, 10-31 May 1972
Item 9 (a)(b) of the provisional agenda

NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION - STANDARDIZATION
OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES OF SMALLER FEATURES

Paper submitted by the Government of Hungary

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NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

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SMALLER FEATURES

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1. As field collection of geographical names necessarily needs linguistic knowledge, methods were studied to ensure the linguistic background of geographical name standardization. As the Institute for Linguistics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, is sponsoring a country-wide movement aimed at the collection of existing geographical names, it seemed obvious to make use of the results of this collection for the standardization as well.
2. The linguistic collection is carried out by teachers and pupils of high schools familiar with the dialect of the given region, according to instructions prepared by qualified linguistic experts. The names are listed by towns, and simultaneously shown on a map sketch of 1 : 10,000 scale. The spelling is always that of the exact pronunciation, including the dialect characteristics. Therefore, the geographical names in this collection contain necessary deviations from the standard language, as well as additional diacritical marks. The collected names are checked by linguists right on the spot as well as in later phases.
3. As a result of this work, the first linguistic collection of an entire county of Hungary has been published in 1964.[†] On the basis of this work, a standardization of geographical names for map use has been started.
4. For standardization purposes the above mentioned dialect forms of the linguistic collection are not suitable. Besides, the amount of names appearing in the collection is much more than the need of large scale topographic mapping. Therefore,
 - a/ the necessary quantity of geographical names have been selected that can be shown on a map of

[†]Zala megye földrajzi nevei /Geographical names of the county Zala/, Edited by L. Papp and J. Végh, Zalaegerszeg, 1964 /with German and Russian explanatory text/.

1 : 25,000 scale;

b/ the names have been converted into standard language, leaving the additional diacritical marks and dialect peculiarities.

While the first task was carried out by cartographers using various detailed maps, the second one was done according to instructions and under the supervision of linguists.

5. As a next step of standardization, map sketches of 1 : 25,000 scale, as well as lists were prepared, both by towns, and sent to the respective town councils for approval or comments. Remarks on the names themselves as well as on their placement were generally approved, unless they were not compatible with the standard language. Disputed cases, as well as all geographical names are being considered by the Committee on Geographical Names. Suggestion has been made to forward the approval of such lists to regional committees.

6. Publication of the standardized geographical names will be by counties, within counties by towns. Each volume will have a list and map sketch for each town, as well as an alphabetic list containing all geographical names of the county.