

A special current information bulletin issued annually publishes any changes in names.

Nearing completion is a series of gazetteers providing both the Russian and the original spelling of the feature names of some Soviet Republics and foreign countries.

#### D. ORGANIZATION OF WORK ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

In the USSR the general organization of naming, renaming and establishing names of geographical entities of various kinds and categories, as well as the responsibility of different State bodies for such work, is regulated by special legislative enactments and governmental decrees (decrees of the Presidium of Supreme Soviet of the USSR and those of the USSR Council of Ministers). According to these decrees, the naming and renaming of populated places of Union and Autonomous Republics is the jurisdiction of the Republic concerned and is performed by special decisions of the Presidiums of Supreme Soviets of the Republics. The problems connected with the naming of other man-made or natural features are resolved on the same basis.

The Permanent Joint Commission on Geographical Names is the central body which co-ordinates the work on the standardization of geographical names carried out by the different institutions and agencies of the USSR. In accordance with a decision of the Soviet Government, the Commission has been set up under the auspices of the Chief Administration of Geodesy and Cartography (GUGK). It is composed of responsible representatives of all the ministries, agencies and scientific institutions interested in the work.

The department of geographical names of the Central Research Institute of Geodesy, Aerial Surveying and Cartography is the executive body which prepares materials to be submitted to the Commission for consideration. The department is also responsible for the elaboration of the instructions and the compilation of the dictionaries of place names mentioned above.

Republic commissions on geographical names, similar to the central Joint Commission, have been set up and are functioning in most Union Republics.

This organization of work on the standardization of geographical names enables both the State and the national interests of the peoples of the USSR to be taken into consideration.

### REPORT PRESENTED BY AUSTRALIA\*

In Australia there is no national authority for the co-ordination of geographical place naming, except for mapping purposes, when co-ordination is effected, as necessary, by the National Mapping Council.

*Place-name authorities.* Each of the states (Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia) and each of the territories (Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory) has its own authority for geographical place names. In addition, Papua New Guinea has an authority, and there is also an Australian Antarctic Place Names Committee. Details of these various authorities and their activities during the period 1967-1972 are given in annex I.

*Research into place-names.* The Australian Academy of the Humanities has set up a Place Names Committee to establish guidelines for research into the origins of Australian place-names and to help to co-ordinate work in this field. A number of researchers in the Australian National University (Canberra) have been active in the translation of place names in New Guinea. There has been activity at the University of Adelaide on aboriginal names in Central Australia. Details of these university-based research activities are given in annex II.

*Gazetteer action.* The Division of National Mapping has produced a gazetteer of all geographical names appearing on its 1:2,500,000 map of Australia and

has in course of preparation a gazetteer of all names appearing on the 1:250,000 maps that at present cover the country.

The Federal Bureau of Census and Statistics is producing a list of inhabited places with populations greater than 150 at the time of the 1971 Census.

The State of Victoria has compiled a gazetteer of 15,000 place names in that State.

A gazetteer of geographical place names for Papua New Guinea is being prepared by a Federal department and should be completed toward the end of 1972. At this time, it will be possible to make computer print-out copies of the gazetteer as an official document, but no decision has yet been made.

*General summary of the present situation.* There is increasing official activity on place names, primarily as a service to map-makers. There is also developing an increasing awareness of the need to record the listing of place names back to early European settlement and to ascertain and preserve aboriginal place names for posterity. However, the research workers in these fields are few, and much greater effort is necessary before the fragmentary knowledge that could be derived from existing records and from the personal recollections of older people now living is lost.

The circulation of technical papers and recommendations emanating from the United Nations work for the standardization of geographical place names may well help to bring about uniformity between Australian place-name authorities and to bring their work into closer uniformity with international practice.

\* The original text of this report, prepared by B. P. Lambert, Director, National Mapping, Canberra, was contained in document E/CONF.61/L.42.

## Annex I

### ACTIVITIES OF AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES AUTHORITIES

#### STATE OF QUEENSLAND

*Authority:*

The Queensland Place Names Board,  
Survey Office,  
Department of Lands,  
Brisbane, Queensland.  
Australia 4000.

*Activities.* During the period 1967–1972 there has been increased activity compared with previous years and some 700 proposals have been considered. The Board has been active in making decisions over urban names around the city of Brisbane; in country areas it has given preference to names of aboriginal origin. It has done a good deal of work on place names for topographic maps and hydrographic charts.

#### STATE OF NEW SOUTH WALES

*Authority:*

Geographical Names Board of New South Wales,  
Department of Lands,  
Box 39, G.P.O.,  
Sydney, New South Wales.  
Australia 2001.

*Activities.* The inaugural meeting of the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales was held on 5 October 1966. It and subsequent meetings held in 1966 established the framework for economically and efficiently undertaking a systematic review of place names within the entire State. A policy for determining the suitability of names to be assigned was adopted and an outline of the functions and policy of the Board was circulated to all bodies and organizations, both Commonwealth and State, having an interest in mapping. A copy of the policy adopted by the Board is appended.

The review of place names in the State was started in 1967 and has continued up to the present time. The review is closely associated with modern mapping programmes undertaken in the Department of Lands and by Federal Departments. For this reason, it is the usual practice of the Board to examine, as a matter of first priority, place names extracted from provisional topographic maps awaiting publication. Following investigations and approval of the names as geographical names, the map is published bearing the endorsement that all printed place names thereon are geographical names assigned by the Geographical Names Board.

As at 29 February 1972, approximately 70,000 square miles have been reviewed, resulting in the assignment of almost 25,000 geographical place names. It is estimated that about 160,000 geographical names will eventually be assigned.

At the present time all geographical names are alphabetically indexed on cards which record a description of each feature named, the geographical co-ordinates, height above sea level (where applicable), map series, parish, county, and other information which will be required for the compilation of the dictionary of geographical names and the publication of the gazetteer which were provided for by the Geographical Names Act, 1966.

Selective information is extracted from cards already prepared when such information is sought by mapping agencies and defence authorities for the publication of maps or gazetteers. Such a process is uneconomical when performed manually, and a feasibility study has recently been completed into the adoption of a computer-based system to provide pertinent information on all geo-

graphical names. The format of this system has been devised so as to conform with the recommendations of the National Mapping Council, which would eventually require data from the Board for the compilation of a national gazetteer.

*“Geographical Names Board of New South Wales: policy adopted on 2 November 1966, on the determination of place names*

“(1) A name suggested for any place, which name owes its origin to the peculiarity of the topographic feature designated, such as shape, vegetation, animal life, etc., may be accepted but, in doing so, care should be exercised in avoiding duplication of names.

“Names such as Sugar Loaf, Sandy, Back, Bald, Deep, Long, Kangaroo, Reedy, Rocky, Spring and Stony are commonly used and should not be further repeated.

“(2) Euphonious names should, as far as possible, be retained.

“(3) Names of aboriginal origin or with a historical background are preferred.

“(4) The changing of long-established place names is generally not preferred, except where necessary to avoid ambiguity or duplication.

“(5) Very rarely should names of living persons be assigned to places and such an honour should be reserved only for persons of great eminence.

“(6) If considered appropriate, the names of eminent persons now deceased may be perpetuated, particularly those of early explorers, settlers, naturalists etc.

“(7) Long and clumsily constructed names and names composed of two or more words should be avoided.

“(8) The multiplication of names for different parts of the same topographical feature such as a stream or mountain range will be avoided and the one name applied to a stream or mountain range throughout its entire length.

“(9) The naming of forks, arms and branches of a river as “North Branch” and “South Branch” is not favoured and generally it is preferable to assign independent names to river branches.

“(10) The use of the cardinal points of the compass as a prefix or suffix to an existing name is not favoured.

“(11) Where names have been changed or corrupted by long-established local usage it is not usually advisable to attempt to restore the original form; that spelling which is sanctioned by general usage should be adopted.

“(12) When a choice is offered between two or more names for the same place, locality or feature, all sanctioned by local usage, the Board may adopt one of such names as is considered appropriate in accordance with the rules outlined above.

“(13) The possessive form should be avoided whenever possible without destroying the sound of the name or changing its descriptive application, e.g. Howes Valley should be written without the apostrophe.

“(14) The use of hyphens in connecting parts of names should, as far as possible, be avoided.

“(15) Names considered offensive or likely to give offence shall not be used.”

#### STATE OF VICTORIA

*Authority:*

Office of the Place Names Committee,  
Department of Crown Lands and Survey,  
State Public Offices,  
Melbourne, Victoria.  
Australia 3002.

*Activities.* The Committee has compiled a gazetteer of place names in the State, containing approximately 15,000 names.

The Department of Crown Lands and Survey map of Victoria on the scale 1:500,000 and the complete series of maps of the State published at 1:250,000 have been reviewed by the Committee, as well as many of those at 1:100,000 at present in course of production.

Decisions have been given on many other place names of local interest.

#### STATE OF TASMANIA

*Authority:*

The Nomenclature Board of Tasmania,  
Lands Department,  
36 Davey Street,  
GPO Box 44A,  
Hobart, Tasmania.  
Australia 7001.

*Activities.* The State authorities are currently engaged on a project to map the State on the scale 1:100,000 as part of a national programme, and the Board has been primarily concerned with the consideration of names for the national 1:100,000 maps.

Names in a map sheet are in the first instance collected from all maps and plans available, other historical documents and local informants; all names received for consideration are then recorded, and those approved by the Board are published in the State Government Gazette.

The Board does not approve an alternative name, nor does it support the use of one, even when shown within brackets, on maps, plans etc. The Board has prepared a draft booklet on its principles of nomenclature, with a view to publication.

#### STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

*Authority:*

Geographical Names Board of South Australia,  
Department of Lands,  
Box 293A, GPO,  
Adelaide, South Australia.  
Australia 5001.

*Activities.* The Board may investigate and determine the form, spelling, meaning, origin or history of any name assigned to any place and the application and usage thereof.

The Board inquires into and makes recommendations on any matters referred to it by the Minister relating to the names assigned or to be assigned to any place.

The Board, from time to time, compiles and causes to be published a gazetteer of geographical names containing such information in relation thereto as the Board may determine.

Generally, the policy of the Board is: to avoid the application of names of living persons to places, except in exceptional circumstances; to accept local nomenclature for post-offices and establishments; to discard the apostrophe and possessive "s" in place names; to oppose the introduction of trade names in South Australian nomenclature; and to recommend the adoption of names with due regard to avoidance of duplication (both within and outside the State) and to historical and geographical significance.

The Board has dealt mainly with names submitted for approval in connexion with urban development schemes and topographic mapping activities.

#### STATE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

*Authority:*

Nomenclature Advisory Committee,  
c/o Department of Lands and Surveys,  
Perth, Western Australia.  
Australia 6000.

*Activities.* Primarily the approval of names in connexion with topographic mapping projects.

#### AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

*Authority:*

Canberra National Memorials Committee,  
P.O. Box 158,  
Canberra City.  
Australia 2601.

*Activities.* The responsible minister submits proposals to the Committee for approval and then makes recommendations for the nomenclature of public places. These recommendations are subject to parliamentary review.

In determining names the minister must have regard to:

(a) The names of persons famous in Australian exploration, navigation, pioneering, colonization, administration, politics, education, science or letters;

(b) The names of persons who have made notable contributions to the existence of Australia as a nation;

(c) The names of Australian flora;

(d) The names of things characteristic of Australia or Australians;

(e) The words of the aboriginal natives of Australia.

Every determination of the nomenclature of public places is published in the Commonwealth Government Gazette.

#### NORTHERN TERRITORY

*Authority:*

Place Names Committee,  
Lands & Survey Branch,  
N.T. Administration,  
Darwin, Northern Territory.  
Australia 5790.

*Activities.* During the period 1967-1972 the Committee has investigated a large number of place names in support of topographic mapping and hydrographic charting operations, including in some instances arranging for the field investigation of proposals for previously unnamed features.

#### PAPUA NEW GUINEA

*Authority:*

Place Names Committee,  
Department of Lands, Surveys & Mines,  
Konedobu, Papua New Guinea.

*Activities.* The principal activity has been the formalizing of names submitted for approval by local government councils and by mapping authorities.

#### ANTARCTICA

*Authority:*

Antarctic Place Names Committee of Australia,  
c/o Antarctic Division,  
Department of Supply,  
568 St. Kilda Road,  
Melbourne, Victoria.  
Australia 3004.

*Activities.* During the period under review, the Antarctic Names Committee of Australia met three times and also carried out a considerable amount of work by correspondence between the Secretary and members.

The Committee accepted many names in the Soviet *Atlas Antarktiki* published in 1966, and in the second and third editions of

*Gazetteer No. 14: Antarctica* published in 1966 and 1969 respectively by the United States Board on Geographic Names. The Committee also approved a number of new names for features explored by the Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions, especially those in the Prince Charles Mountains, MacRobertson Land, which have been the focus of intensive topographic and geological surveys since 1969.

Decisions of the Committee have been published in ANCA Papers 68/1, 70/1 and 70/2.

## Annex II

### RESEARCH INTO GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE NAMES

#### NEW SOUTH WALES

The Place Names Committee set up by the Australian Academy of the Humanities initiated a pilot project for research into the origins of place names in the Walcha district of New South Wales, which is now being expanded into a wider project to cover the north-east portion of that State. This project is being undertaken by the University of New England, Armidale, N.S.W. A great deal of relevant data has been gathered together from various sources and a map archive established. These collections will be expanded, and a history of the evolution of names built up.

#### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

T. G. H. Strehlow, Professor of Australian Linguistics at the University of Adelaide (Adelaide, South Australia), has published a map of central Australia at approximately 1:1,000,000 showing aboriginal place names, and has provided a gazetteer on the back of the map. He will continue with the publication of further maps showing some thousands of such names.

#### PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Research School of Pacific Studies of the Australian National University (Box 4, P.O., Canberra, A.C.T., Australia 2600) is very active in the study of the languages of Papua New Guinea and in

the course of these studies records a considerable number of geographical place names.

D. C. Laycock of the Department of Linguistics has supplied the following information:

"The linguists working on languages of New Guinea have published, or are in the process of publishing, a number of area surveys giving detailed information on language names and distribution, and further information can be found in the various journals dealing with languages of New Guinea, including our own publication *Pacific Linguistics*. (For extensive bibliography, see my article (with C. L. Voorhoeve) 'History of Research in Papuan Languages' in T. Sebeok (ed.), *Current Trends in Linguistics*, vol. 8 (Mouton, The Hague, 1971).)"

Mr. Laycock also supplied a list of published surveys of languages in Papua New Guinea, of which copies can be made available on request.

He concludes by giving the following criteria which he has tried to follow in establishing names for languages:

"(1) The name should be as meaningful as possible to the people who speak the language — preferably, their own group designation for themselves;

"(2) It should not duplicate the name given to any other language in PNG;

"(3) It should not contain English words ("Rocky Peak language", "Sepik Plains etc.);

"(4) It should be spellable in the Roman alphabet without diacritics;

"(5) It should not be that of a village, clan, or locality, that is significantly smaller than that of the language area, or that is not accepted by the whole group without feelings of rivalry;

"(6) It should be the name by which the group is most commonly known, in both published and unpublished sources;

"(7) The name chosen may be arbitrary, or it may be a phrase in the language that translates some word or phrase, but where that is the case, the origin should be specified;

"(8) The name should not be a hyphenated form (e.g. Ulau-Suain).

"As you will see, some of these criteria will often conflict, and I cannot claim to have always achieved the perfect answer."

### REPORT PRESENTED BY FINLAND\*

#### FIELD COLLECTION AND STANDARDIZATION

##### *Finnish names*

The field collection and standardization of Finnish-language geographical names in Finland is undertaken by the Finnish Name Archives (Suomen nimiarkisto), which has a staff of 15 persons (12 linguists and 3 historians).

The main functions of the Archives are to collect, store, study and standardize Finnish geographical names. At the end of 1971, there were about 1.7 million cards in the files of the Archives. Each card contains the name (or names) and name forms of one geographical feature. The estimated total number of named geographical features in Finland is 2.2 million.

\* The original text of this report was contained in document E/CONF.61/L.47.

During 1967-1972, about 400,000 new cards were added to the collection. More than 80 per cent of the field work has been done by trained people, mainly students of the Finnish language, who have received scholarships for this purpose. The task is made urgent by rural depopulation.

The Archives also collect Finnish and Carelian names of places situated outside the territory of Finland. The main sources are historical Russian documents.

The principal users of the standardized names are the various central bureaux of the State, such as the National Survey Board (Maanmittaushallitus). Other users are book publishers, planning authorities of communes and others.

##### *Swedish names*

Geographical names in the Swedish-speaking parts of Finland (representing 6.5 per cent of the country's popu-