

## REPORT PRESENTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA\*

*Domestic names.* Since September 1967, more than 4,000 domestic names have been the subject of formal decisions and published in quarterly lists. Another 50,000 that have been processed enough to show that they present no problem have been used on maps. No additional gazetteers of domestic names have been issued. The quarterly decision-lists are now prepared by automated composition and the automated part of the domestic-name files is growing.

A separate Conference document will describe special lists of coastal names that are now in preparation.

*Foreign names.* Since 1967, the Board on Geographic Names (BGN) has published 26 new or revised gazetteers, containing in all more than a million entries, on the following countries (with number of entries in thousands and year of publication):

Afghanistan	(10; 1971)	Mongolia	(13; 1970)
Antarctica	(13; 1969)	Morocco	(55; 1970)
Argentina	(48; 1968)	Mozambique	(33; 1969)
China	(108; 1968)	Nigeria	(42; 1971)
Gambia	(2.4; 1968)	Panama	(19; 1969)
Indonesia	(61; 1968)	Portuguese Guinea	(8.9; 1968)
Israel	(7.4; 1970)	Republic of Viet-Nam	(24; 1971)
Jordan	(22; 1971)	Spanish Sahara	(3; 1969)
Khmer Republic	(22; 1971)	Syrian Arab Republic	(29; 1968)
Lebanon	(37; 1970)	Undersea features	
Liberia	(4.3; 1968)	(1st ed.: 3.6; 1969)	
Malawi	(10; 1970)	(2nd ed.: 5.6; 1971)	
Malaysia,		USSR	(400; 1970)
Singapore, Brunei		Zambia	(1972)
Malta	(2.3; 1971)		

In addition, there were issued a gazetteer of conventionals (0.9; 1972) and three supplements containing accumulated corrections to the existing most recent editions of BGN gazetteers of countries in Europe (1.7; 1971), the Americas (0.9; 1971) and Asia (2; 1972). All BGN foreign-name gazetteers and domestic-name decision-lists are distributed free, and any rational request is honoured as long as the supply lasts. Sample lists of some of the recipients, to illustrate the distribution, will be placed on exhibition.

Names and name information were also supplied in response to inquiries by mail and telephone covering more than 70,000 names. While the bulk of the inquiries came from agencies of the Government in Washington, significant numbers came from publishers, institutions and private citizens in the United States and other countries as well.

*Foreign co-operation.* Bilateral co-operation with other countries has continued. Negatives of the gazetteers of Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania, which were compiled in co-operation with those countries, were furnished for their use. The material for the gazetteer of Malaysia was reviewed by that country before publication. The United States Board on Geographic Names and the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geogra-

phical Names continued to exchange information and to co-ordinate action on names of features along the boundary between Canada and the United States. The exchanges related to undersea terminology were initiated only recently and have not been completed, as will be noted from differences in papers in the L. series submitted by the two countries.

*Antarctic names.* With the aid of its Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (ACAN), a special group of experts that was started in 1943, and with active co-operation and informal exchange of information with other interested countries, the Board on Geographic Names continued to keep up with and assimilate new naming resulting from Antarctic exploration and research. There continues to be, among all interested countries, a high degree of agreement on names and a willingness to pursue in concert solutions for the few remaining unsolved problems and for new ones as they arise.

The current (third) edition of the *Antarctica Gazetteer* was issued in the regular gazetteer format of the Board on Geographic Names. A new edition with textual descriptions of the features and the circumstances of naming, like the 1956 edition, is in preparation.

A significant by-product of decades of intensive work on this area is *Americans in Antarctica 1775-1948*, by Kenneth J. Bertrand, published late in 1971 by the American Geographical Society in New York. Mr. Bertrand is the current chairman of the Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names.

*Undersea names.* Another special expert advisory committee has worked since 1960 on both the names of undersea features and undersea terminology. A second edition of the *Undersea Features Gazetteer* has recently been published.

*Conferences of the Board on Geographic Names and the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names.* The biennial talks with the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (PCGN) of the United Kingdom were continued in London in 1970, and at Washington in 1968 and 1972. Information was exchanged on a wide range of practical problems; differing approaches were explored; and new joint BGN/PCGN romanization systems and refinements or options in existing ones were worked out and adopted, as will be noted from the new edition of the *Romanization Guide*.

*Administrative support of foreign names standardization.* In March 1968, the administrative support of the foreign-name standardization activity of the Board on Geographic Names was transferred from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Defense. The Department of the Interior's Office of Geography, the foreign-name staff for the BGN, became the Geographic Names Division in the then Army Map Service, which subsequently became the United States Army Topographic Command (USATOPOCOM) — which will in turn become a constituent part of the newly created Defense Mapping Agency (DMA). The Board's Executive Secretary will be in the headquarters staff of the Defense Mapping Agency.

\* The original text of this report was contained in document E/CONF.61/L.49.