

These coastal gazetteers will naturally serve more purposes than that of rescuing lives, although that end alone might well justify them. A survey made among small-craft owners showed that these definitely desired them, particularly for the purpose of finding the small places they often wish to visit. Even shippers and shipping associations want them, for billing purposes;

and many others will find them useful for a variety of other reasons. Since the limits of the Coast Guard districts are in general coincident with state boundaries, these lists, according to the response to an inquiry, are acceptable to the various coastal states. Some districts cover only one, two, or three states; and such lists could reasonably serve individual state needs.

## PROGRESS REPORT

Presented by Lebanon\*

### REGIONAL SITUATION

The General Secretariat of the League of Arab States (Cultural Section) held a regional conference of Arab states on the standardization of geographical names in the UNESCO Building at Beirut from 23 to 31 August 1971. This Conference was attended by delegations from the following countries: Jordan, Tunisia, Sudan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Libyan Arab Republic, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine and Abu Dhabi.

Recommendations were adopted in favour of the following:

The revision of the lists of geographical names in the International Map on the Millionth Scale of the Arab countries;

The transcription in accordance with a single romanization system established by the Commission for the Transliteration of Arabic Geographical Names into Roman characters;

The preparation of the Map on the Millionth Scale of each Arab country in Arabic characters (classical) and in Roman characters (according to the recommended system);

The adoption of European figures and of the decimal system for angles, altitudes and distances;

The preparation by the League of Arab States of a thematic atlas of the Arab countries in accordance with the official lists of the member countries, with internationally known geographical names included in brackets after the toponym in Arabic pronunciation, e.g. "Sour (Tyre)", "Jbatl (Byblos)" — to be regarded as an international document on the Arab countries.

### NATIONAL SITUATION

Lebanon has just completed its basic map on the scale 1:20,000 (121 sections) in Arabic and Roman

characters in accordance with the system established in 1962.

In 1970, the Office of Geographical Affairs published an alphabetical list of geographical names in French and in Arabic (preliminary edition). This list contains the toponyms of the inhabited localities marked on the basic maps, and the names of the "uninhabited" places such as forests and woods, mountain ranges, important peaks, watercourses, basins and canals, main springs, plains, valleys, islands, rocks, capes and bays, in several addenda. The last addendum lists the main historical sites.

At the request of the League of Arab States, Lebanon has:

Revised the list of geographical names included in the International Map on the Millionth Scale, in accordance with the 1972 principles adopted in Lebanon; Established transliteration principles that take account of the previous systems (these new principles will be applied whenever any geographical document is revised);

Compiled a gazetteer, in accordance with the recommendations of the Regional Conference, listing administrative districts (with population of the chief town, and number of villages); names of towns, villages and tribes in Arabic and Roman characters, local pronunciation, geographical co-ordinates, altitude, population and distance from the capital; orography (names of mountains, hills, plains, large valleys and flat lands, bays); hydrography (names of rivers, springs, lakes, basins, forests, canals, reservoirs and dams); and names of important historical, archaeological and tourist sites;

Prepared an official map on the scale 1:1,000,000 containing names transcribed into Arabic and Roman characters in accordance with the 1972 principles.

When an international romanization system has been adopted, Lebanon will review these principles. In the meantime, it will revise its basic map and its lists in accordance with the 1972 principles.

\* The original text of this report, submitted in French, was contained in document E/CONF.61/L.63.