NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION: FIELD COLLECTION OF NAMES
Report presented by France*

In 1971, the National Geographical Institute revised the model form for
the surveyor's list of names which is used in France for the collection of all
place-name data. The earlier forms had already been revised in 1961 and
1965 to provide for the preparation of punched cards and for some automatic
processing of the data so recorded. The new model form, illustrated here, is mainly
intended to facilitate the task of field staff, while retaining the advantages of the
earlier forms.

* The original text of this report, submitted in French, was contained in document E/CONF.61/
L.65.

A BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE POSITION IN IRELAND
Report presented by Ireland*

There are two official languages in Ireland, Irish and
English, so that, generally speaking, each place will have
an Irish-form and an English-form name. The Irish
language was, from its introduction in prehistoric times
until very recently, the language of the majority, if not
the entirety, of the population; so the great majority of
the place names have an Irish-language origin, and the
difference between the Irish-form and the English-form
names is basically one of orthography in most cases.
Although the orthography of the English-form names
is based on that of the English language, some addi-
tional guidance to the pronunciation would be needed
by the English speaker. The two forms of name will
be discussed separately here: it may be more convenient
to consider the English-form names first.

ENGLISH-FORM NAMES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS.

The smallest, and the basic, administrative area is
the townland (there are some 60,000 of these covering the
whole of Ireland, varying considerably in area but
averaging approximately 140 hectares); other adminis-
trative areas include counties, baronies, parishes (now
largely obsolete for administrative purposes), electoral
divisions and urban districts. The English-form names
of all these units have a definite official form, generally
that decided on in connexion with the first large-scale
(1:10560) survey of the country, made about 1830.
Apart from a very small number of exceptions, where the
most widely used form differs from the official one, the
official forms are accepted as being the correct ones.

The boundaries of these administrative areas are
clearly defined and unambiguous. In many cases, how-
ever, the same name may have a number of different
applications: it may happen, for instance, that a village
(which does not have a defined boundary), a townland, a
parish and an electoral division all bear the same
name. In practice this is rarely a cause of confusion,
as the context normally indicates which is being referred to; if necessary, however, the particular unit or territorial
division referred to must be specified.

* The original text of this report was contained in document E/CONF.61/L.70.

ENGLISH-FORM NAMES FOR NON-ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS
(EXCLUDING STREETS)

There is no designated authority for settling the
English-form names of features such as villages, un-
defined districts, valleys, mountains, rivers or lakes. The
forms given on the large-scale Ordnance Survey maps
are generally, but not always, taken to be correct.
It would seem that less care was taken with names of
this type in the first large-scale surveys in the last
century than with names of administrative areas, and
some revision of the names appearing on the maps
would be desirable; this would, of course, involve
research.
From the nature of the features listed in the previous
paragraph, it will be clear that their boundaries are,
generally speaking, undefined. It does not seem practical,
or necessary in most cases, to attempt definition. There
may possibly be an exception in the case of small rivers
which may have different names at different points in
their course, but it is doubtful whether there would really
be much benefit in specifying, probably arbitrarily, a
point where the river changed its name from one to
another. If rationalization were to be attempted in
these cases, it would probably be better to aim at using
only one name throughout the course of the river.

ENGLISH-FORM NAMES FOR STREETS

The authority in the case of street names is the local
authority (generally the county or city council), but the
staffs of these authorities have no training in place-
name work and moreover deal with the naming of new
streets only on an ad hoc basis and generally in a rather
superficial way. There is room for improvement here.
Some tidying of already existing street names might also
be desirable, although changes in existing street names
are rather difficult under present legislation (see below
"Change of names").

THE IRISH-FORM NAMES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND
NON-ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS

Both classes of name may be taken together. The
Placenames Branch of the Ordnance Survey, with the