

THE FRENCH-ENGLISH GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN THE CARTOGRAPHIC PUBLICATIONS OF THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL INSTITUTE*

Report presented by France

For the needs of its own services and to satisfy cartographic requirements, the National Geographical Institute is at present preparing a French-English glossary of designations used in its publications. This glossary is to be produced in two parts, the first consisting of an alphabetical list of terms, together with the corresponding abbreviations, and the second classifying the terms according to the nature of the objects and cartographic usage.

* The original text of this paper, submitted in French, was contained in document E/CONF.61/L.68.

The document¹ submitted to the Conference is a partial and provisional edition of the first part of the glossary. It includes designations, generic terms and abbreviations. For each French term, it gives, on separate lines, one or more English (or American) terms which are regarded as the principal equivalents; in some cases, secondary English equivalents are given below the principal equivalents.

¹ Copies of this provisional edition of the glossary were distributed to the participants as document E/CONF.61/L.68/Add.1, and are available for reference in the Map Collection of the United Nations.

EXPERIENCE IN THE STUDY OF POPULAR (LOCAL) GEOGRAPHICAL TERMS AND THE COMPILATION OF TERMINOLOGICAL GLOSSARIES*

Report presented by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

The First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (Geneva, 1967) noted, in resolution 19, that geographical terms were of great importance for standardization, and urgently requested national bodies on geographical names to consider thoroughly recommendations on the study of the different meanings of words employed in those names.

Furthermore, the Conference recommended the publication of glossaries which would be collections of geographical (generic) terms with the meanings they acquire in proper names.

A popular, or local, term is a term included in a geographical name and indicating the type of a particular geographical feature. Such a term may be used alone in the same sense (see recommendation A).

Lists of geographical terms have been published in this country for a long time; but, in accordance with the above-mentioned recommendations, the gathering and systematization of generics have been notably expanded and many glossaries have therefore been issued as a result (see annex). The compilation of these glossaries was an arduous job, as the USSR is a multinational and multilingual country, all the nationalities being politically equal and each having a state organization of its own.

The study of popular (local) geographical terms in this country has a history covering almost two hundred years. Russian scholars long ago noticed that terms provide much valuable information of various kinds. It is therefore not surprising that they interest linguists, cartographers and geographers. N. I. Nadezhdin of Moscow University (1804-1856) was probably one of the first persons to notice the great store of scientific information contained in the geographical nomenclature of maps. Since geographical names which include generics

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as an element frequently occur on maps, it is especially important for cartographers to be acquainted with these terms and to interpret them consciously. Otherwise errors, with dire consequences, are inevitable.

There are two related aspects to the study of popular geographical terms. The first one is the gathering and systematization of terms. The very problem is enormous in the case of the USSR, which counts approximately 130 languages. In working at this task cartographers take the lead. It was they who used to compile lists of local generics employed in geographical names, to meet the requirements of cartography and map production. A brief list of terms is compulsory in guides on the transcription of geographical names. Such lists are also included in name indexes of the fundamental cartographic works, such as the World Atlas and the Naval Atlas. But such lists, in spite of their unquestionable usefulness, could not entirely satisfy topographers and cartographers.

The Department of Geographical Names of the Central Research Institute of Geodesy, Aerosurveying and Cartography launched the publishing of a series of glossaries of local generics and other words employed in geographical names occurring on the territories of Soviet republics and regions as well as in some foreign countries. Since 1959 the Cartographic Service has been developing a new service — the compilation of toponymic glossaries. It is important that these publications indicate not only the spelling of a term and its different meanings but also the change of its meaning between different places and its dialectal forms. Moreover, occurrences of geographical names using generics are always given in glossaries, thus enabling information to be established on toponymic patterns, including those concerned with the structure and position of terms in the name. The work on glossaries continues, while many have already been published. They cover the greater part of the Soviet Union: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Western and