

## 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.

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The document<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> 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

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, Aerial Surveying 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

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eastern Siberia, the far east (several issues), the Byelorussian SSR, Daghestan, the Gorno-Altai Autonomous Region, the north European USSR, and other regions. Among the glossaries of terms covering foreign countries a large work on terms of Iran should be mentioned (1971). Of special interest are three bilingual dictionaries of languages of Daghestan — Lak-Russian, Lezghin-Russian and Avar-Russian — which include toponymic glossaries and lists of local geographical terms as appendices.

The systematization and the determination of the local meanings of popular geographical terms proved to be such a fascinating task that many organizations and individuals not immediately connected with cartography and map production joined forces in it. Thus the USSR Geographical Society issued "The vocabulary of geographical terms of western Siberia" (1970), the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences published a big glossary of Byelorussian topographic and hydrological terms (1971), and Ukrainian geomorphological terms are included in the list of geographical appellations given in the collection "Poles'je" (1968). The Mongol Commission of the USSR Academy of Sciences published as early as 1934 a list of Mongolian geographical terms.

It is natural that such a brief account does not permit even mentioning a great number of articles contained in various toponymic works, transactions, reviews and other publications which in some way include information about the geographical terminology of the Soviet nationalities. It should only be noted here that the gathering and systematization of local terms produced in some instances bulky regional card indexes containing a large amount of valuable information for scientific studies and generalization. Such indexes are already in use in Moscow, Sverdlovsk, Tomsk, Minsk, Baku and some other cities, while compilation is in progress in Tbilisi.

This whole complex of records of terms enabled Soviet scholars to approach the second aspect of the study of local terms. It concerns the difficulties which arise in comparative analysis — the variation in the form and meaning of terms between different regions of the USSR and foreign countries — and the determination of the areas where they occur.

The development of this aspect is closely related to the toponymic studies which have continually increased in scope in this country for the last 20 years. No one can doubt this relationship since no toponymic system has been discovered which does not employ popular (local) terms.

In some cases a frequently used geographical name with a long history has become elliptical, i.e. had its generic term cut off, but this is the result of a change which the original name has undergone. The only difference between linguistic communities and regions is in the proportion of toponyms using generic terms. Any toponymic study would under these circumstances be useful provided that it began with the gathering and systematization of common geographical terms.

Research in local terms has advanced considerably in the last decade. In 1966 Moscow was the venue of the toponymic conference dealing with the problem "Local Geographical Terms in Toponymy". The proceedings were

published in 1970 (*Voprosy geografii*, No. 81). The semasiology of Slavic geographical terminology was thoroughly analysed in Moscow in 1969. A particular study of Slavic holo-terminology was made in Leningrad. A monograph on Azerbaijani generics was issued in Baku in 1966. A similar work on Turkmen terminology has been completed but has not been published yet. A large work on Ukrainian popular generics is awaiting publication. Undoubtedly, these manuscripts will soon be available to the public as printed works.

Numerous articles and notes dealing with the subject that interests us, have appeared in various periodicals and collections. A bibliographical list would require hundreds of entries. Among the best-known serial publications which carry research works on popular geographical generics one should note: the collection "Voprosy toponomastiki" (five issues, Sverdlovsk, 1962-1971); "Jazyki i Toponimija Sibiri" (three issues, Tomsk, 1966-1970), and other publications of the Tomsk Pedagogical Institute and University; "Toponimika Vostoka" (three issues, Moscow, 1962-1969, with the fourth issue now in the press); "Onomastika Povolzja" (two issues, Ul'janovsk, Gorkij, 1969-1971, with the third one is in the press in Ufa); proceedings of the Ukrainian conferences on onomastics, "Pytann'a toponimiki ta onomastiki", "Pytann'a onomastiki" and "Pytann'a gidronimiki" (Kiev, 1962-1971); and the scientific periodical of the Moscow branch of the Geographical Society, *Voprosy geografii*, Nos. 58, 70 and 81 (Moscow, 1962-1970).

The following conclusions may be drawn from Soviet studies in local geographical terminology.

1. Generics used in geographical names presuppose the existence of the features these generics signify. Very frequently, though not necessarily, both the toponym and the term it employs completely agree with the corresponding geographical feature. Such correspondence can be labelled toponymic affirmation.

2. In any toponymic study it proves to be more accurate and effective to proceed from an ordinary word to a proper name than vice versa. In other words, a term is a general key in revealing the etymology of a great many toponyms.

3. Popular geographical generics are the main source of scientific terminology. Many of them have come into scientific and literary usage. The extensive borrowing from the languages of Soviet nationalities has enriched the Russian vocabulary. Some generics have in turn been borrowed from Russian by international scientific terminology: such words as "taiga", "tundra", "steppe", "podzol" and "chernozom" have become part of many European languages. But in fact the rich terminology of the Soviet nationalities is seldom used in other countries. The international *Glossary of Geographical Terms* by L. D. Stamp (three editions: New York, 1961, 1962) contains only 29 Russian terms, including those borrowed by the Russian from the languages of the Soviet nationalities. Meanwhile it gives 77 Arabic, 105 French and 41 Scottish terms, and 127 from India and Sri Lanka.

4. A comparative analysis of the local generics of the USSR enables one to visualize the areas of occurrence of terms with stable or changing semantics over the surprisingly vast territories of Eurasia. In the process one

can see many specific (non-generic) terms which remain extremely localized and are rarely used in geographical names and the literary language. To name a few: "polonina" in the Carpathians, "golec" among Siberian mountain terms and "kamen'" in the Urals.

5. Apart from the requirements of cartography and toponymy, the study of popular geographical terms is of great interest and importance to a number of sciences, including geography, historical geography, linguistics and ethnology. As early as 1915 a prominent Russian geographer, L. S. Berg, wrote: "The distribution of popular terms and the variation in their meaning which they undergo in different localities indicate the course of colonization, the migration of population and the mutual influence of neighbouring peoples. The result of the settlers' observations of their environment over the centuries and the creative work of such brilliant collective bodies, i.e. the people — popular terms — deserve close attention from, in particular, both the philologists and the geographers." (*Zemlevedeniye*, Vol. IV, Moscow, 1915)

#### Annex

The following regional glossaries of geographical terms have been published in the USSR:

- Sovremennaya mongol'skaya toponimika* (Leningrad, 1934)  
*Slovar' russkoy transkriptsii i slov, chasto vstrechayushchikhsya v geograficheskikh nazvaniyakh Kazakhskoy SSR* (Moscow, 1960)  
*Slovar' geograficheskikh terminov i drugikh slov, obrazuyushchikh komi toponimiyu* (Moscow, 1968)  
*Slovar' geograficheskikh terminov i drugikh slov, vstrechayushchikhsya v nanayskoy toponimii* (Moscow, 1968)  
*Slovar' geograficheskikh terminov i drugikh slov, vstrechayushchikhsya v toponimii Khakasskoy Avtonomnoy oblasti* (Moscow, 1968)  
"Materialy k slovaryu ukrainskikh geograficheskikh apellyativov", in *Polesye* (Moscow, 1968)  
*Slovar' geograficheskikh terminov i drugikh slov, vstrechayushchikhsya v toponimii Gorno-Altayskoy Avtonomnoy oblasti* (Moscow, 1969)  
*Slovar' russkoy transkriptsii geograficheskikh terminov i drugikh slov, vstrechayushchikhsya v toponimii Azerbaydzhanskoy SSR* (Moscow, 1971)  
*Slovar' terminov i drugikh slov, vstrechayushchikhsya v nenetskikh geograficheskikh nazvaniyakh* (Moscow, 1971)  
*Slovar' geograficheskikh terminov i drugikh slov, vstrechayushchikhsya v toponimii Tuvinckoy ASSR* (Moscow, 1971)  
*Slovar' geograficheskikh terminov Zapadnoy Sibiri* (Leningrad, 1970).  
*Slovar' chukotskikh, koryakskikh i eskimoskikh terminov i drugikh slov, vstrechayushchikhsya v geograficheskikh nazvaniyakh SSSR* (Moscow, 1971)  
*Belaruskaya geograficheskaya nazvy* (Minsk, 1971)  
*Slovar' geograficheskikh terminov i drugikh slov, formiruyushchikh toponimiyu Irana* (Moscow, 1971)

## REQUIREMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL TERMINOLOGY\*

### Report presented by Czechoslovakia

It was as early as the latter half of 1951 when Czechoslovakia started to make efforts to solve the problems connected with an approach to geographical terminology according to principles fully respecting the political and constitutional organization of the country concerned.

The main reason why Czechoslovak experts were so much concerned about this problem was the fact that both world atlases and foreign maps had been using German names in referring to the territory of Czechoslovakia. This meant that there was an urgent need to solve the problem of geographical terminology in a new way which would not only fully respect national sovereignty but also give equal rights to all countries within their administrative boundaries.

Geographical terminology is only a part of the information provided by a map or atlas, but even within this very limited field it is necessary to respect the sovereignty

of every country and the official names of all individual geographical units within its frontiers.

In maps, the press, literature and elsewhere, geographical terminology must fulfil its informative function, and this it can only do when it fully respects the existing political and constitutional structure of every country in the world.

If this is borne in mind, Czechoslovakia will support all positive efforts aimed at standardizing geographical terminology, as well as the idea of international collaboration with full respect for the participating countries and regional groups.

This was also the aim and purpose of the Prague Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Terminology. Participating in this Conference were the representatives of national geographical organizations and cartographic services concerned with geographical terminology, as well as of scientific institutions, of the socialist countries, members of the Seventh and Eighth Regional Groups. The representatives of the German Democratic Republic also took part in the Conference, which was held from 4 to 6 October 1971.

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