

AGENDA ITEM 14

Names of features beyond a single sovereignty

- (a) Features common to two or more nations
- (b) Maritime features
- (c) Undersea features
- (d) Extraterrestrial features

FEATURES COMMON TO TWO OR MORE NATIONS

Report presented by Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland*

For the purposes of the definitive establishment of names for such geographical-topographical features as are under the sovereignty of more than one country, or are divided among two or more countries, the following principles should apply in the field of international standardization.

If the countries that share a particular geographical-topographical feature use the same official language but identify that feature by different forms of names, they

should endeavour to reach an agreement on a uniform name for that feature.

If countries that share a particular geographical-topographical feature do not use the same official language, it should be a general rule for international cartography to admit the name-forms of each of the languages in question. A policy of admitting only one or only some of such name-forms, while excluding the rest on principle, would be inconsistent in theory as well as inexpedient in practice. Technical reasons alone may make it sometimes necessary, especially on small-scale maps, to dispense with the recording of certain name-forms belonging to one language or another.

* The original text of this report was contained in document E/CONF.61/L.22.

FEATURES COMMON TO TWO OR MORE NATIONS

Report presented by Norway*

Some geographical features are under the sovereignty of more than one country or are divided between a number of countries. In such cases the following rules should apply.

If the countries in question have the same official language, or languages which are closely related, they should make every effort to reach agreement on the use of one name and one spelling. As an example of such a procedure it may be mentioned that Denmark,

Norway and Sweden have previously used three different spellings of the name of the arm of the North Sea which is situated just north of Denmark, namely "Skagerak" (Danish), "Skagerak" (Norwegian) and "Skagerrack" (Swedish). The three countries have now agreed on one spelling, "Skagerrak", which is to be used in all three countries.

If the countries in question do not have the same official language, or closely related ones, the official forms of the name used in each of the languages concerned should have the same status internationally. It would not be correct to prefer one national form to another for international use.

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

NAMES OF FEATURES SITUATED OUTSIDE A SINGLE SOVEREIGNTY

Report presented by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics*

The modern age is characterized by intensive develop-

ment of research into the world's oceans and into the other bodies of the solar system. The mapping of territories and water areas outside national jurisdictions is a constituent part of such research, and many coun-

* The original text of this report was contained in document E/CONF.61/L.76.

tries are engaged in it. The names of the features discovered during such research are a necessary element of maps, charts and other publications reflecting the results of the research.

At present such features are named and renamed by national or international scientific organizations, whose recommendations are not binding on the Governments that produce maps and charts. The compilation and utilization of maps, charts and other documents intended for international use is hampered by the absence of an international agreement or other form of international legal statement determining the rules and procedures for the assignment of names or other designations to features discovered and mapped in the course of investigations carried out by different countries in extra-territorial waters or in space.

In view of the ever-increasing rate and volume of exploration of the ocean, the Antarctic and the other bodies of the solar system, it is advisable, as an extension of the existing international treaties and agreements covering the high seas, the Antarctic, space and other areas, to elaborate, under the auspices of the United Nations, a special international legal statement that will serve as a general juridical basis for the adoption of

technical rules and procedures for naming and renaming different kinds of geographical and extraterrestrial topographic features outside national sovereignties.

Such a statement should, in our opinion, cover two groups of problems. The first part should specify the kinds and categories of features to be named, or designated in any other way; possible means of naming or otherwise designating features; and conditions determining which means of designation should be applied to particular kinds of features and in what cases. The second part should determine what national or international organizations can recommend names or other designations for the features discovered; what data substantiating the proposal and facilitating the identification of the named feature should be supplied; and which of the United Nations bodies should register the feature names, co-ordinate them with national organizations and approve them as recommended for international use.

It is practical to charge the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names with the elaboration of a draft of the proposed statement, after necessary consultations with appropriate United Nations bodies and other international organizations competent in the matter.

THE COMPILATION OF A LIST OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES FROM THE ZONE ALONG THE DANUBE

Report presented by Czechoslovakia*

At the conference of the Seventh and Eighth Regional Groups held from 4th to 6th October 1971 in Prague, which representatives of the German Democratic Republic also attended, the People's Republic of Bulgaria suggested the collection of geographical names from the zone along the Danube.

All countries from this area will participate in the work. From Czechoslovakia it will be the Slovak Commission on Terminology of the Slovak Board of Geodesy and Cartography that will co-operate.

The list will be made from the places shown on

the map on the scale 1:50,000, and will cover a fairly wide zone on either side of the river.

Having collected all the basic materials, Bulgaria will make a multilingual list of geographical names for navigational charts as well as for other maps.

VIEWPOINT

The Czechoslovak delegation gives full support to the suggestion submitted by the Bulgarian delegation, considering this another demonstration of the efforts for extensive international co-operation in the standardization of geographical terminology; and is fully in favour of recommending the suggestion for implementation.

* The original text of this report was contained in document E/CONF.61/L.81.

THE INDEX OF THE 1:2,500,000 WORLD MAP AS A BASIS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL LIST OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Report presented by Czechoslovakia*

The socialist countries (Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, the German Democratic Republic, Poland, Romania and the USSR) have compiled an International World Map on the scale 1:2,500,000, the last sections of which are to be published in 1973. By the end of 1971, 80.5 per cent of the total work had been published,

i.e. 211 sheets out of the total 262.

This World Map will be supplemented by an index of the individual map sheets, which is to be published after the whole map has been completed.

The lists of names of geographical units that have appeared up to now (the so-called "Gazetteers") are based on different premises, and serve other purposes than those of the index to the 1:2,500,000 World Map that is being prepared.

For the names of geographical entities the 1:2,500,000

* The original text of this report was contained in document E/CONF.61/L.87.