

REPORT PRESENTED BY ROMANIA*

The delegation of the Socialist Republic of Romania welcomes the furthering of the United Nations initiative to standardize geographical nomenclature, and considers that the broadening of the community of the United Nations in between the two sessions will favour the elaboration of recommendations acceptable to all nations; the Romanian delegation also takes for granted that an international effort of this scope requires the participation and contribution of all countries involved.

The Romanian delegation reaffirms its point of view expressed at the first session of the United Nations Conference in Geneva, namely that standardization of geographical nomenclature is exclusively within the competence of the State in whose territory the features named lie; consequently international standardization of geographical names should be based solely on formal national standardization. We hope that the proceedings of this conference will develop in this spirit.

In Romania this point of view has been championed by the Romanian Geographical Society ever since the beginning of this century. The development of geographical and cartographic activities in this country within the last hundred years, while widening the range of geographical information, has required rigorous standardization of the graphic representation of geographical names. Yet, despite this constant attention, some inconsistencies did slip into the Romanian cartographic and geographical documents. The preparation of some vast geographical and cartographic works in the past fifteen years, for example *A Geographical Monograph of the Romanian People's Republic* (1960), the *Concise Geographical Atlas* (1962, 1967), the *National Atlas of the Socialist Republic of Romania* (in preparation since 1969), the *World Atlas* (1972), and the *Historical Atlas* (1972), called for the application of some clear principles to eliminate these inconsistencies. The activity manifested in Romania in this field has therefore been in keeping with the recommendations and resolutions of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

In 1970 a Commission on Geographical Nomenclature was set up within the organization of the Geographical Institute of the Academy of the Socialist Republic of Romania for the preparation of the National Geographic Atlas of the Socialist Republic of Romania. The Commission made some recommendations for both the spelling of geographical names (oronyms, hydronyms, oikonyms) occurring in the territory of Romania and the transliteration of foreign names, in order to do away with the inconsistency that had been present in the spelling of certain geographical names. These recommendations became normative rules as soon as they were accepted by the Commission for Promoting the Romanian Language set up in 1970 within the organization of the Academy of the Socialist Republic of Romania. This Commission included many linguists, geographers, cartographers, historians, and

representatives of the State administration and of other central bodies. The composition of this permanent body is such that it can be assimilated with a national decision-making forum for standardizing geographical nomenclature for Romanian territory.

Similar initiatives have been taken recently by the Romanian Geographical Society and the Commission on Geographical Terms of the Romanian National Committee of the International Geographical Union. It was suggested that an Index of geographical names for the territory of the Mehedinți county be compiled for the occasion of the centenary of the Romanian Geographical Society (1975). This index would be a preliminary experiment for the preparation of a full geographical dictionary of Romania.

When standardizing the geographical terminology of the base-map on the scale 1:1,000,000 for the National Geographical Atlas of the Socialist Republic of Romania, distinct glossaries were produced for oronyms, hydronyms and oikonyms and a definitive written form was arrived at for many names (300, 400 and 1,500 in the respective categories). It is intended that besides the 300 maps included into the 76 plates of the Atlas, a further 1,000–1,500 names will be listed in a supplement, so that all in all this will be the most comprehensive index of geographical names for Romania's physical features and localities.

As a matter of fact, when in 1968 a new division of the country into administrative districts was made, a complete and graphically unified index of all of Romania's localities (some 15,000 names) was appended to the law that put it into effect. After a few corrections to obvious errors, this formal index was taken over as it was for the preparation of the National Geographic Atlas. Although the Romanian language has no regional or social dialects with differences in spelling or pronunciation, it being a unitary language, yet variations and inconsistencies do exist in the written form of some names (of hydronyms and oronyms in particular), most of which have been recorded.

The standard adopted at present does away with the arbitrary element, setting forth a unitary written form in the spirit of the cultivated language.

In conclusion, it may be assumed that, once geographical nomenclature has been unified and spelling standards established that can be applied to all the cartographic and geographical work required for producing the National Geographic Atlas of the Socialist Republic of Romania, the task of standardizing these names on the territory of this country will have been fulfilled.

Standardization of foreign geographical names has been a permanent concern of Romanian geographers, and the official forms established by each State have been consistently adopted. This standard approach was formally sanctioned by the Concise Orthographic and Orthoepic Guide published in 1960 by the Academy of the Socialist Republic of Romania, and subsequently applied in the Concise Geographical Atlas (1962, 1967). The Romanian cartographic works already published, as well as forthcoming ones, establish this as standard

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procedure. The geographical nomenclature of the map of the world on the scale 1:2,500,000, established by the cartographic institutes of several European socialist countries, was based on these same fundamentals. For the purpose of transliterating Cyrillic letters into Romanian, the pattern adopted was that of the ISO system following the Croatian alphabet, whence the State standard No. 5309/1970.

Standardization of geographical names on a national scale was required not only of small-scale cartographic material but also of topographic surveys. Topographers now no longer look upon topical names as mere terminological appendices; they carry on small field surveys, and the results obtained are checked out and testified to by local administrative bodies. Names are being collected by means of questionnaires providing for: geographical names, spelt according to pronunciation; category (locality, isolated settlement, type of ground, watercourse, planimetric detail etc.); meaning and significance of the name; name and place of respondent; name finally established; observations. In some instances the scope of the questionnaire was enlarged. For checking, some earlier surveys are also consulted. The use of rapid procedures, such as aerial photography, to update maps does not mean that field verification and investigation of geographical names is no longer resorted to.

To preserve the standard form for most names and to contribute to the final standardization of all names, topographers and cartographers work in collaboration with geographers, linguists, ethnologists, historians and other specialists from central administrative State bodies. Together they intend to provide the most comprehensive toponymy for the country's basic maps, this being required by ever broadening social, economic and scientific activity of Romania.

To this end, the Geographical Institute of the Academy of the Socialist Republic of Romania has prepared a complete series of county maps (in the press) on the scale 1:200,000 with a standardized nomenclature; these

maps are to be appended to the monographs on the new administrative units of Romania in the "Romania's Counties" series.

We consider that the Commission for International Geographical Terminology of the International Geographical Union should also be granted fuller support by the organizations responsible for standardizing geographical terms for its task of working out a polyglot dictionary of geographical terms. The publication of such a work is awaited with great interest.

In keeping with its policy of promoting collaboration with all states, based on the observance of the principles of national sovereignty and independence, non-interference in domestic affairs, and equality of rights and mutual benefits, Romania supports the broadening of international co-operation in standardizing geographical names and exchanging experience and information gathered the world over. International recognition of the graphic forms standardized by each country can be obtained only through permanent co-operation among the States.

In this spirit of co-operation Romania is ready to place formally at the disposal of all countries participating in this Conference a map of the country on the scale 1:850,000, which gives, in standardized form, the basic toponymic nomenclature — that of the orographic and hydrographic features and of the network of major localities. We considered that such a map should be useful for those departments of geography and cartography which plan to produce material (atlases, and geographical, touristic and other maps) covering Romania's territory.

We consider it useful for any country to provide or recommend a map of its national territory that includes geographical names standardized by that country's responsible national body in conformity with the recommendations made at the two Conferences. When that is done, such a map would be the standard cartographic document for the country's geographical nomenclature.

THE CONTEMPORARY STATE OF WORK IN THE FIELD OF GEOGRAPHICAL TERMINOLOGY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Report presented by Czechoslovakia*

Work on the geographical names used in cartographic publications in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is performed by the Commission on Terminology of the Czech Board of Geodesy and Cartography and the Slovak Commission on Terminology of the Slovak Board of Geodesy and Cartography.

The following comments are offered in relation to individual items of the proposed programme for the Second United Nations Conference.

ITEM 9

(a) In compiling Czechoslovak geographical terminology the Commission on Terminology (NK) co-operates with district terminology boards that have been established at survey centres as advisory authorities;

(b) The Czechoslovak geographical names are compiled within the scope of the Czechoslovak Basic Map on the scale 1:50,000. The total number of names is about 50,000; these will be issued as regional lists of major geographical names;

(c) In multilingual areas the version used on official maps shall be preferred; alternative forms may be added where appropriate;

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