

(d) The Commission on Terminology has set down principles for the compilation of geographical and historical names in cartographic works. A list of names of geographical features in Arab countries is under preparation. The list of names of the world's States and countries, as well as the list of towns with a population of over 100,000, has already been issued.

The list of names of the world's States and countries is divided by continents, and gives the abbreviated (cartographic) names in Czech, Slovak, the form used on the 1:2,500,000 Map of the World, Russian, English, French, German and Spanish, together with the official name in the national language and the Czech official name. The list of towns with a population of over 100,000 also includes some smaller settlements of particular importance: in all, it presents 3,000 towns, with their position determined by geographical co-ordinates. The terminology observes the accepted principles of compilation of geographical names. Czech alternative forms are not shown. In the near future the Commission on Terminology plans to review and re-publish "The principles of the compilation of geographical and historical names on maps", "The principles of the activities of district terminology boards", "List of customary Czech and Slovak geographical names", "List of geographical abbreviations used on maps", "List of geographical names in Arab countries", "List of names of orographical Features in Czechoslovakia", "List of major peaks in Czechoslovakia" and "List of major streams and water surfaces in Czechoslovakia";

(e) The Commission on Terminology (NK) of the Czech Board of Geodesy and Cartography (ČÚGK) has been established to collect geographical names for maps published in the Czech Socialist Republic, and the Slovak Commission on Terminology (SNK) of the Slovak Board of Geodesy and Cartography (SSGK) acts as an advisory board to the latter in problems concerning the names used on Slovak maps.

#### ITEM 10

The Commission has approved the project of the International Dictionary of Map Geographical Names, which is to unify geographical terms used on general geographical maps. The present programme is concerned with the 1,000 or so terms of greatest importance (the project is submitted to the Second United Nations Conference).

#### ITEM 11

As regards the principles set down by the Commission on Terminology, foreign geographical names are presented in their international version in accordance with the documents in force establishing the political and administrative position of the country concerned. The names from languages using the Roman alphabet are transcribed with all diacritical marks, with the exception of Viet-Nameese. The transcription of names from other languages uses the Czech alphabet and meets the principles approved by the Commission on Terminology.

Certain changes are being considered for the compilation of the 1:2,500,000 Map of the World. The Commission on Terminology also plans to issue lists of geographical names by individual states and countries, containing about 40,000 terms.

#### ITEM 14

(a) Where the feature is shared by two or more countries, the name taken is that used in the country in which the largest part of the feature is situated; or, exceptionally, the customary Czech name may be used;

(b) In descriptions of maritime features, sovereignty over territorial waters is taken into account, and the customary Czech name may be shown where appropriate;

(c) A list of names of undersea features has been published. The names have Czech forms. The list gives about 400 names;

(d) Celestial bodies are designated by international astronomical data, or by their Czech names.

#### ITEM 15

(a) An agreement on the exchange of publications, information and experience has been made with socialist countries;

(b) In October 1971, a regional meeting of the Seventh and Eighth Regional Groups was held in Prague with the participation of representatives of the German Democratic Republic. The purpose of this meeting was to exchange information on the present state and organization of terminological activities in the countries concerned, and to make preparations for the Second International United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names;

(c) The Commission on Terminology is preparing a bibliography of terminological works.

## CONDITION AND PROBLEMS OF THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN BULGARIA

### Report presented by Bulgaria\*

The People's Republic of Bulgaria took part in the First United Nations Conference on Geographical Names

\* The original text of this report, prepared by B. Koen, I. Duridanov, M. Glovnia, A. Kyurkchiev, and M. Daneva of the Council of Orthography and Transcription of Geographical Names at the Central Administration of Geodesy and Cartography, was contained in document E/CONF.61/L.93.

in Geneva in 1967. Our country supports and actively helps international co-operation in the standardization of geographical names, fully aware of the fact that this is one of the ways in which peoples can come closer together culturally and establish better contacts and understanding as a factor making for world peace.

In the spirit of this basic idea, we hope that the partici-

pants in the Second Conference will do all they can still further to widen co-operation in the field of standardization of geographical names among all nations wishing to achieve this goal.

In the national report presented by our country in 1967, a brief historical review was made of the development of the problem of geographical names from Bulgaria's liberation in 1878 down to our own days. We think it expedient now to discuss only the developments which have taken place and the problems which have arisen in Bulgaria in this field since 1967.

#### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE FOR THE WORK ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN BULGARIA

Before the 1967 Geneva Conference a long and fruitful road had already been traversed in our country in the study and standardization of geographical names. The substantial work done at the University of Sofia, at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and by the cartographic services in Bulgaria led in a natural way to the setting up of the Council on the Orthography and Transcription of Geographical Names as a unifying, super-departmental body to achieve unity in this field. We should emphasize that the calling of the Geneva Conference and the recommendations adopted by it substantially helped our work. This help came mainly in the following ways.

An international significance was given to the activity which we were performing on a national scale. An important international evaluation was made of the work in this field, which naturally helped to give it a still higher standing within our national frontiers. Nor should the increased self-confidence and assurance be underestimated with which, it seems to us, specialists in other countries, too, began to look upon their work.

The Geneva Conference was held several years after our Government had independently become aware of the significance of unification in the field of geographical names and had established an organ for this purpose — the Council on the Orthography and Transcription of Geographical Names. The recommendations of the Geneva Conference helped us in checking and determining the main trend of our activity in this field. The resolutions of the Geneva Conference helped us to fulfil still more consistently the originally adopted programme for standardizing geographical names in Bulgaria.

The First Conference not only reaffirmed the line adopted by us but also set new problems. It is necessary to mention in this connexion the problems of national standardization, including the question of standardization in rendering the geographical names in Roman characters, as well as the resolution of terminological differences, standardization of the names of features extending into the territories of several countries, standardization of names in the world's oceans etc. All this enriched and widened the scope of our activity.

International co-operation and intensified contacts after 1967 were among the very important results of the Geneva Conference. It is clear to every worker in this field that a large proportion of the work on the

standardization of geographical names is directly related to efficient international co-operation. The improvement which took place in our work after 1967 is an eloquent proof of this.

The evaluation made so far by our country of the results of the 1967 Geneva Conference on Geographical Names has revealed that they formed a substantial contribution which greatly helped our work during the period 1967-1972.

#### BASIC RESULTS AND PROBLEMS ACCOMPANYING THE UNIFICATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN BULGARIA IN THE PERIOD 1967-1972

In the period 1967-1972 in Bulgaria the work on the problem of geographical names was continued mainly by three centres: the Council on the Orthography and Transcription of Geographical Names at the Central Administration of Geodesy and Cartography, as a unifying centre charged with the function of regulating the unification of orthography and transcription; the University of Sofia, in its special departments of linguistics, Bulgarian language, Slav and Western philology and geography; and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences — mainly the Bulgarian Language Institute and the Geography Institute, as well as the editorial board of the Bulgarian Encyclopaedia.

#### 1

The first centre in which work on geographical names is carried on is the Council on the Orthography and Transcription of Geographical Names at the Central Administration of Geodesy and Cartography (CAGC). The organizations guided by the Central Administration of Geodesy and Cartography, which do both large-scale and small-scale cartographic work, perform a practical job, substantial in volume, on geographical names for cartographic purposes. In many instances the work of the Council on the Orthography and Transcription of Geographical Names is usefully supplemented and helped by these organizations.

Thus, a considerable amount of work on the establishing of correct local geographical names in the country for large-scale map-making is performed by the design organization *Geoplanproject*. In the instructions for topographic projecting on the scales 1:2,000, 1:5,000 and 1:10,000, issued by the Central Administration of Geodesy and Cartography,<sup>1</sup> there are special sections on the rendering of local geographical names.

A large volume of practical work on geographical names is done by the Institute of Cartography, which publishes most of the small-scale maps and atlases in Bulgaria. It is a practical necessity that the systematization and study of geographical names, both on the territory of Bulgaria and in other countries — which is closely connected with the making of maps — should take place at this particular Institute. This work is guided by a special Reference Cartographic Service, where all

<sup>1</sup> *Instruktsiya za topografsko snimanye v mashchbi 1:10 000, 1:5 000 i 1:2 000*, second edition (Sofia, GUGK, 1967).

materials on geographical names are collected. It is interesting to note the themes of the card indexes kept by, and used in the practical work of the Institute of Cartography: there is, for instance, a general card index of the tourist objectives in Bulgaria, in which the names are arranged by kind and in alphabetical order, each name being transcribed in 10 languages — Bulgarian, Russian, French, German, English, Spanish, Czech, Polish, Hungarian and Esperanto; a card index of the highest and the well-known mountain peaks, sections and ranges, and the foothills, plateaux, hills and mounds in Bulgaria; and a card index of the archaeological, historical and cultural monuments in Bulgaria. From these and other card indexes a number of reference files and handy maps have been made, by means of which the unification of geographical names is being implemented in Bulgarian cartographic publications.

The work on the standardization of geographical names in Bulgaria is mainly concentrated in the Council on the Orthography and Transcription of Geographical Names. Working with a minimum number of staff members, the Council avails itself of the co-operation of all the above-mentioned institutes and organizations in Bulgaria.

The main trends in the activity of the Council on the Orthography and Transcription of Geographical Names are these:

(a) The scientific transcription of foreign geographical names and their complete standardization in all national publications, radio, television, the press etc. For this purpose the Council publishes obligatory general lists of transcribed geographical names. In the period after 1967, the Council made such transcriptions for most of the European countries and published a great part of them.<sup>2</sup> Considerable work has been done, and not only have tens of thousands of Bulgarian names been transcribed, but also a rational system for their composition, reviewing, discussion and printing has been established;

(b) The elaboration of general rules and the issuance of instructions on the orthography and transcription of geographical names. A basic task which the Council succeeded in carrying out was to issue a general instruction on the orthography and transcription of geographical names,<sup>3</sup> as a foundation for the practical work of transcribing geographical names in Bulgaria.

A brief set of instructions, containing the rules for transcribing geographical names from the language of the country concerned into Bulgarian, is attached to every list. With this the reader is enabled to transcribe on his own names which are not included in the list. We have already published instructions on the transcription of geographical names in Albania, Austria, Italy, Hungary, Greece, Yugoslavia, the German Demo-

cratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany and Mexico, among others, which contain indications for transcribing from all the official languages of the country (e.g. French, German, Italian and Rhaeto-Romanic for Switzerland);

(c) The examination of the problems connected with the national standardization of geographical names. There are two main problems: the exact rendering of local geographical names in Bulgarian, and their appropriate rendering in Roman characters.

The Council on the Orthography and Transcription of Geographical Names treats of a number of problems in rendering local geographical names, above all in connexion with the large-scale (1:5,000 and 1:10,000) maps. A number of toponymic and cartographic questions had arisen in practice connected with the rendering of local geographical names. It was necessary to emphasize the need to provide a real and not an artificial toponymy on the maps. To this end, the Council recommended first of all that the exact phonetic and morphological form of local geographical names, and their word-order, should be preserved.<sup>4</sup>

The problem of the exact rendering in Roman characters of geographical names written in the Bulgarian alphabet was also — in fulfilment of the recommendations of the Geneva Conference — taken up by the Council on the Orthography and Transcription of Geographical Names, and a satisfactory solution to it was found. The existing systems of rendering Bulgarian names in Roman characters were examined and an appropriate system drawn up. The system approved by the Council was attached to a list containing the most important geographical names from Bulgaria in their standardized form, which the Council also published;<sup>5</sup>

(d) The theoretical problems connected with the uniform rendering of geographical names — the basic problems of transcription and orthography, as well as the great number of problems of cartographic toponymy and toponymic cartography, the questions of traditionalism in rendering geographical names etc. — have naturally become some of the central problems in the work of the Council on the Orthography and Transcription of Geographical Names. Many of these problems had to be solved in closest connexion with the practical work of the Council. In order to make this experience generally available and to provide theoretical solutions to many of the practical questions of rendering geographical names, the Council decided that it would be useful to publish a special Collection of Materials on the Orthography and Transcription of Geographical Names. The first issue of the Collection contained the more important materials from the Geneva Conference,<sup>6</sup> such as resolutions and reports; the second was devoted mainly to the problems of transcribing foreign geo-

<sup>2</sup> For example: *Spisk na transkribirani geografski imena ot Republika Avstriya* (Sofia, 1969); *Spisk na transkribirani geografski imena ot Narodna Republika Albaniya* (Sofia, 1969); *Spisk na transkribirani geografski imena ot Ungarskata Narodna Republika* (Sofia, 1969); *Spisk na transkribirani geografski imena ot SFR Yugoslaviya* (Sofia, 1971).

<sup>3</sup> *Obshcha instruksiya za pravopis i transkriptsiya na geografskite imena* (Sofia, 1969).

<sup>4</sup> B. Koen and M. Mladenov, "Geografskite imena v yedromashchabnata karta na Bulgariya (1:5 000-1:10 000)", *Izvestiya na GUGK*, No. 4 (1970), pp. 24-29.

<sup>5</sup> *Spisk na geografskite imena ot NR Bulgariya (predadeni s bulgarska i latinska azbuka)* (Sofia, 1971).

<sup>6</sup> *Sbornik ot materialy po pravopis i transkriptsiya na geografskite imena* (Sofia, 1971).

graphical names into Bulgarian.<sup>7</sup> We have tried to make the content of these collections accessible to a certain extent even to the foreign reader. For this purpose, the articles are accompanied by summaries in Russian and in one Western language. The editorial office of the Collection would be glad also to publish material on the subjects treated in it by foreign authors, as it wishes to help in this way the establishment of closer contacts between workers in this field. We readily place this publication at the disposal of the bodies concerned with the orthography and transcription of geographical names in other countries;

(e) International co-operation in the field of geographical names is one of the constant and important tasks which the Council has successfully undertaken in the last few years. After the Geneva Conference, the Council on the Orthography and Transcription of Geographical Names in Bulgaria established useful contacts with many of the participants in the Conference, to whom it sent some of the materials published in our country, receiving in exchange material from other nations on geographical names. Closer and more successful ties were established with the participants in the East European Group, with the Republic of Austria and with the German Democratic Republic. Our country became the initiator of or a joint participant in the implementation of certain international undertakings in this field, such as the making of internationally unified lists of geographical names in the Danube river basin and the Black Sea coastal zone, the compilation of an international dictionary of geographical terms used in general geographical maps, and the convening of the regional meeting of the East European region and the USSR on geographical names in 1971 in Prague.

## 2

The second centre is the University of Sofia, which has definite traditions in this field. In the philological departments of the Clement of Ohrid University of Sofia there is a lively interest in the question of the transcription and orthography of foreign geographical names into the Bulgarian language. In the past, similar questions were discussed in articles and brief notes by linguists at the University—Stefan Mladenov, Stoyan Romanski, D. Dechev, B. Gerov and others. In more recent times there have been systematic treatments of questions of the pronunciation and transcription of names from a wide range of the world's languages (in articles by L. Andreychin, V. Georgiev, M. Vuglenov, A. Milev, G. Batakliiev *et al.*).

Questions of transcription and pronunciation of foreign names in the Bulgarian language are treated in the magazines *Bulgarski Ezik* and *Ezik i Literatura*. Changes of geographical names resulting from the migration of populations and ethnic changes are examined in the pages of the magazine *Balkansko Ezikoznanie (Linguistique Balkanique)*, published by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

<sup>7</sup> *Sbornik ot materiali po pravopis i transkriptsiya na geografskite imena* (Sofia, 1972).

Most recently there have been articles by philologist lecturers at the University of Sofia who have made contributions in the field under discussion. Questions about the pronunciation and transcription of Ukrainian and Byelorussian names were examined thoroughly in two articles by L. Andreychin, published in *Bulgarski Ezik*.<sup>8</sup> The author proceeds from the desideratum of a correct rendering of the pronunciation of foreign names in Bulgarian, taking into consideration the phonetic structure of our language. The rendering of ancient Greek names in Bulgarian constitutes the subject of an article by G. Batakliiev, also published in *Bulgarski Ezik* magazine.<sup>9</sup> M. Vuglenov and I. Kunchev have written about the pronunciation and transcription of Korean names.<sup>10</sup> The authors proceed from their personal observations and knowledge of the Korean language and offer an acceptable solution to the questions these produce, in spite of the great difficulties arising from differences between the phonemic systems of Korean and Bulgarian.

On the transcription of foreign names articles have also been published by the lecturer in Serbo-Croatian, Angel Igov. And a number of materials have been published by I. Duridanov,<sup>11</sup> A. Nichev<sup>12</sup> and others on theoretical and practical problems of the exact rendering of geographical names.

For the rendering of geographical names on large-scale maps, the investigations of the toponymy of particular parts of the country are important. In the *University of Sofia Annual (Annuaire de l'Université de Sofia)* three toponymic monographs have been published so far, by I. Duridanov, K. Popov and B. Simeonov.<sup>13</sup>

The work of the professors in the philological departments at the University of Sofia in recent years has in general been oriented towards the solution of both theoretical and practical problems in the transcription and orthography of geographical names.

Considerable work on geographical names is also done in the Geology and Geography Department of the University of Sofia, where the lecturers and specialists in geography are trained for different branches of our scientific, cultural, political and economic life. In the university courses in cartography — and especially

<sup>8</sup> L. Andreychin, "Izgovor i transkriptsiya na ukrainski imena", *Bulgarski Ezik*, No. 19 (1969), pp. 171-175; ———, "Izgovor i transkriptsiya na beloruski imena", *Bulgarski Ezik*, No. 20 (1970), pp. 38-40.

<sup>9</sup> G. Batakliiev, "Izgovor i transkriptsiya na starogrutskite imena v bulgarski ezik", *Bulgarski Ezik*, No. 17 (1967), pp. 543-550.

<sup>10</sup> M. Buglenov and I. Kunchev, "Izgovor i transkriptsiya na koreyski imena v bulgarski ezik", *Bulgarski Ezik*, No. 19 (1969), pp. 280-287.

<sup>11</sup> Iv. Duridanov, "Za imeto Magurata", *Turist*, No. 15 (1970), pp. 10-11.

<sup>12</sup> Al. Nichev, "Za bulgarskite sobstveni imena na tr. — lat.", *Bulgarski Ezik*, No. 19 (1969), pp. 554-556.

<sup>13</sup> Iv. Duridanov, "Toponimiyata na purvomayska okoliya", *Godishnik na Sofiyskiya universitet, Filol. fakultet*, vol. 2 (1958); K. Popov, "Mestnite imena v Belolatinsko", *Ibid.*, vol. 4 (1960); B. Simeonov, "Toponimiyata na godechko", *ibid.*, vol. 9 (1965), and vol. 10 (1966).

in those in the regional physical and economic geography of Bulgaria and of other countries and continents — special hours are provided for the study of the principles of transcription and orthography of Bulgarian and foreign geographical names. The main and essential part, which is particularly effective, is above all the systematic practical application of these principles by the professors during the whole course of lectures, in the exercises and the pedagogical practice of students, and in the preparation and defence of dissertations and diploma works in cartography and geography.

Great importance for the exact mastery of geographical names during the educational process in our schools and establishments of higher learning is attached to questions of the correct pronunciation (orthoepy) of geographical names and of their origin, history and meaning. In geographical textbooks for schools of general education and the University, an accent is often placed over foreign names of orographic or hydrographic features and regional designations, in order that they should be correctly pronounced, as they are officially pronounced in the country concerned; and the meaning of the names is also explained. The same approach has been applied in the Geographical Dictionary of Foreign Countries, published in 1970, and in the five volumes of the Short Bulgarian Encyclopaedia, published in 1969.

In introducing principle of phonetic transcription and orthography of geographical names, a contribution has been made by the Scientific Council of Professors in Geography, who took part as consultants and as reviewers in the preparation of the geographical maps, atlases, slides and films on geographical subjects which have been issued by the Committee on Methodological and Study Aids at the Ministry of Education.

With a view to improving and making more effective the educational work connected with questions of the orthography and transcription of geographical names in the special Department of Geography at the University of Sofia, it is envisaged that a special elective course in toponymy will be introduced in the near future. This course would be useful to students in geology, history, botany, zoology and philology.

3

The third centre is the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, in which it is mainly the Bulgarian Language Institute and the Geography Institute which are concerned with geographical names. But very often, too the Institute of History and the Institute of Balkan Studies have comments to offer in connexion with geographical names.

At the Bulgarian Language Institute great and profound work has been done for many years on Bulgarian geographical names and toponymy. As a result of this activity, a number of works and mono-

graphs have been published by V. Georgiev, I. Duridanov, Y. Zaymov, G. Kristov, N. Kovachev, S. Ilchev<sup>14</sup> and others. One of the major works of the Bulgarian Language Institute in recent years has been the publication of Volumes 1 and 2 of the Bulgarian Dialects Atlas,<sup>15</sup> which contains more than 600 maps. We mention this work in dialectology, because the link between dialectology and toponymy is obvious and the former practical use in topography and cartography.

For its publications the Bulgarian Encyclopaedia Service established its own system of transcription of personal and geographical names for all States, making use of the common characteristics of the two kinds of names and of the different languages. The historical development of local names and their transcription is reflected in the Atlas of Bulgarian History,<sup>16</sup> produced by a group of associates at the Institute of History at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Central Administration of Geodesy and Cartography. Card indexes are kept at the History Institute for all changes in the name and status of inhabited localities in Bulgaria during the last 100 years.

The Geography Institute at the Academy of Sciences also works on the study and systematization of geographical names in Bulgaria. At the Institute several important card indexes are kept of geographical names in Bulgaria. Studies are conducted at the Institute, and a card index is kept, on the orographic objectives in the country, and the historical development of the most substantial changes in their names is followed. This work is intended to be of practical use in the naming and renaming of the more important geographical objectives.

An important aspect of mutual co-operation is the exchange of information and material. This must be based on full bibliographical information, which could be achieved with the help of the United Nations Council of Experts and with the active co-operation of all interested parties.

The Bulgarian delegation thinks that the Second United Nations Conference will have a favourable effect on future work on geographical names, and that it will help to increase useful contacts among the national standardization bodies, leading to a better understanding among nations.

<sup>14</sup> Bl. Georgiev, *Bulgarska etimologiya i onomastika* (Sofia, 1960); Iv. Duridanov, *Mestnite nazvaniya ot Lomsko* (Sofia, 1952); Y. Zaymov, *Mestnite imena v Pirdopsko* (Sofia, 1959); G. Kristov, *Mestnite imena v Madansko* (Sofia, 1964); P. Kovachev, *Mestnite nazvaniya ot Sevlievsko* (Sofia, 1961); *Mestnite nazvaniya v Gabrovsko* (Sofia, 1965) and *Toponimiyata na Troyansko* (Sofia, 1969); St. Ilchev, *Mestnite imena v Botegradsko* (Sofia, n.d.).

<sup>15</sup> *Bulgarski dialekten atlas* (Sofia, vol. 1, 1964; vol. 2, 1966).

<sup>16</sup> *Atlas po bulgarska istoriya* (Sofia, GUGK, BAN, 1963).