

geographers individually and as a group can fit into the agency's programme. If the geographer will also make his interest known to the Group of Experts, information can be brought to his attention from several sources. He can be advised, for example, of plans or proposals for regional conferences or discussions and how he may have a part in them. Suggested research activities for geographers include inquiry into the nature of named geographical entities and the various meanings of words used to designate those features, the investigation of

human behaviour in name-giving and name-using in their own countries, and exchange and critical examination of the information resulting from such studies.

One cannot study named entities very long without encountering new concepts and having one's mental set jolted. The investigation of human behaviour will have to be one of the significant developments of the immediate future in geography, and techniques developed or tested in name research may have broad application. At the very least it will be interesting in itself.

THE 1:2,500,000 WORLD MAP AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES*

Report presented by Bulgaria

In many instances maps are the basic source for establishing geographical names, both with regard to their linguistic structure, exact graphical presentation and phonetic value, and with regard to the geographical location of the objects to which they refer.

There is a strong link and interdependence between toponymy and cartography. In many cases they help and supplement each other, which has of late led to the setting up of such distinct intermediary disciplines as cartographic toponymy and Toponymic Cartography.

It should be noted that every major cartographic work on the territory of a given country has marked a certain stage in the study of the toponymy of that territory. This important link between toponymy and cartography is the object of ever more frequent and more profound investigations on the part of linguists, cartographers and geographers.¹ Many of the problems of this reciprocal link are the object of articles in the periodical press on linguistics, cartography and geography. All this is an eloquent justification of the belief that a deeper interpenetration between the disciplines studying geographical names and cartography, as well as a wider application of the methods and achievements of the two groups of sciences, could be very useful.

THE WORLD MAP ON THE SCALE 1:2,500,000— A UNIQUE CARTOGRAPHICAL WORK

In examining the standardization of geographical names on a planetary scale, it is expedient to turn our attention to cartographic works which embrace the whole planet. In this respect the World Map² is unique for our times. The major reasons for its exceptionally great significance are these.

* The original text of this paper, prepared by B. R. Koen, President of the Council of Orthography and Transcription of Geographical Names, was contained in document E/CONF.61/L.94.

¹ Among studies published in the last few years we should like to mention E. I. Pospelov, *Toponymy and Cartography* (Moscow, 1971); Josef Breu, "Cartography and toponymy", paper read at the Fourth International Conference on Cartography, Stresa, 1970; and Josef Breu, *Die Transkription in der Kartographie* (Vienna, 1970).

² Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic, Romania, Poland, Hungary, the USSR and Czechoslovakia took part in the work on the preparation of the map.

1. The map covers the whole territory of our planet both the dry land and the oceans.

2. The World Map is a comparatively detailed map, endeavouring to depict the whole planet with equal accuracy and completeness on a comparatively large scale (the map consists of 234 sheets).

3. In its content and its illustrative style, the World Map is a homogeneous cartographic work.

4. The World Map is nearing completion. More than 188 map sheets—80.5 per cent of the map—have already been printed. It is planned to be completed in 1974. This means that even now the map constitutes a sound basis for a number of studies of a general planetary character. Apart from this, the comparatively rapid composition and publication of the map guarantee its contemporary accuracy and chronological unity.

5. Of significance for the problem under examination here is the fact that the map contains a large number of geographical names, which have been written in accordance with scientifically based and strictly observed principles. In countries which do not use the Roman alphabet, the names are in most cases romanized according to a system officially adopted or in wide-spread use for the purpose.

These qualities demonstrate eloquently that the map could be used to advantage for a number of purposes connected with the study of our planet and, naturally, with the study of geographical names over extensive territories.

THE ROLE OF THE WORLD MAP IN THE STUDY AND STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

The geographical names³ included so far in the map, as well as the fact that they were being represented according to not merely nationally but universally valid principles, long ago prompted the makers of the map to plan for their rational utilization. The international editorial board of the World Map took a decision and

³ The Map is planned to contain more than 400,000 names. The gazetteers accompanying the *Atlas Mira* ("World Atlas") and *The Times Atlas* — two of the world's most complete geographical reference books — contain respectively 205,000 and 345,000 geographical names.

proceeded to compose an Index of the Geographical Names on the Map. Special instructions were elaborated for this purpose and the composition of the index was started. The implementation of this project, which takes on an independent significance, will undoubtedly be an important initiative in this field. We think that for a certain period of time this index will be the most complete index of geographical names in existence.

At the same time, the World Map and the index elaborated on the basis of it provide an exact reference manual not only for the written form but also for the geographical location of a tremendous number of geographical names.

Of significance, too, is the fact that the World Map is an international work. The whole process of making the map—from the selection of the initial materials to its printing—took place under the strict, thorough and consistent international control of the participating countries. This constitutes a very strong guarantee that, with respect both to the general geographical content of the map and to the geographical names contained in it, all the national bias which to a lesser or greater degree is present in national publications containing geographical names will be overcome. This is one of the main assets of the World Map, which makes it a sound basis for the study of geographical names.

MAIN USES OF THE WORLD MAP FOR THE PURPOSE OF STANDARDIZING GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES ON AN INTERNATIONAL SCALE

What has been said so far reveals clearly the significance of the World Map for the international standardization and study of geographical names over extensive areas and indeed over the whole planet. It would be useful to point out certain possibilities more specifically.

The main significance of the World Map is that it can be used as a basic reference manual for the geographical names of the world and their distribution. This feature of the map has been fully enough pointed out earlier. Its significance should, however, be emphasized for comparative linguistic analysis and for the investigation of a number of linguistic phenomena from the point of view of their geographical distribution and in close connexion with the socio-economic and physico-geographical information contained in the Map.

It is also very important to realize that the Map can be used as a basis for the preparation of a number of reference aids connected with geographical names and geographical terms. As well as the General Index of Geographical Names, it is planned to compile a

number of specialized indexes of geographical names for territories grouped on the basis of their physico-geographical or social and political features. Thus, for instance, it is envisaged that indexes will be prepared of the geographical names of individual continents, such as Australia (being made by the Cartographic Service of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic), Europe and Africa. There are also projects for the preparation of indexes of geographical names related by the character of the physico-geographical or economic entities such as an index of geographical names from the world's oceans (to be elaborated by the People's Republic of Bulgaria), an index of the names of major mountain peaks (to be elaborated by the People's Republic of Bulgaria), an index of major rivers and lakes, and indexes of names of inhabited localities of particular categories. There can be no doubt that the wide popularization of geographical names on the basis of the World Map will have a very favourable effect on the further standardization of geographical names on a world scale. It is of great importance that the scale of the map allows not only of the names of the most important geographical entities to be made available to a wide public, but also those of entities of a lower order.

The World Map reveals possibilities for standardization in other fields—in the terms comprising geographical and cartographic nomenclature, and in the abbreviations which are most closely connected with geographical names and are very often used as an inseparable part of them. All this is of very great importance for cartographic toponymy and for the standardization of geographical and cartographic terminology.

There are many questions connected with the use of the World Map for providing the geographical names on derivative maps (mostly thematic maps) or on maps of a smaller scale. This represents another very valuable way in which the World Map could be used—as a standard source of geographical names for the process of map-making.

Both through the production of derivative maps and directly, the World Map can be rationally used for the standardization of geographical names for the purposes of international communications (posts, telegraphs, telephones, air transport, railways etc.).

We feel that the possible uses of the World Map on the scale 1:2,500,000 enumerated above offer sufficient reason for the Second United Nations Conference on Geographical Names to take note of its significance and possibilities in the field of the international standardization of geographical names.