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Third Session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts
on Geographical Names

2 to 12 February 1971

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Information
(Hungary)

Ervin Földi, Secretary of
Hungarian Committee on Geo-
graphical Names
Josef Breu, Austrian Delegate
to the Ad Hoc Group of Experts
on the Standardization of Geo-
graphical Names

Vienna, 29.1.1971

The Chairman of the
Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the
Standardization of Geographical
Names

3rd Session, New York, 2-12 February 1971

I n f o r m a t i o n

As Hungary is unable to send a delegate to the 3rd session of the above mentioned Ad Hoc Group of Experts the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names (HCGN) resolved to send its secretary, Ervin Földi, to Vienna in order to contact the Austrian delegate, Josef Breu, on all matters concerning the agenda of the 3rd session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts.

In the following passages the views of the HCGN as discussed at this meeting in Vienna on 28. and 29.1.1971 are described. Beside specific Hungarian interests the views of the HCGN and of the Austrian delegate are in full concordance. The HCGN authorises the Austrian delegate to present this information officially to the chairman of the 3rd session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Standardization of Geographical Names. A telegraphic communication will be sent by the Hungarian National Office of Lands and Mapping to the chair confirming the contents of the following memorandum.

I

Comments to the provisional agenda:

To 1-3: No comment.

To 4 a iii: The Hungarian experts were informed by circulars from the Austrian member of the activities of the working group and of the progress of their work. The HCGN agrees with the principles laid down in the circular no. 1 of the Austrian member, especially with item no. 8-11. The HCGN agrees also with item 12 of the same circular.

The non-Roman alphabets as they are named in circular no. 2 of the chairman of the working group, enlarged by the proposals of the Indian Member (circular no. 1), should be regarded as the minimum for the beginning. Further on it will be necessary to deal with all non-Roman alphabets which will occur in maps or gazetteers in consequence to Recommendation D of the Geneva Conference.

Multilingual countries should be invited to express their views on the question which non-Roman alphabets of their territory should be dealt with within the frame of the working group. The HCGN would like to give some informations to the following individual non-Roman alphabets:

- a) Japanese alphabet. The Bulletin of the Geographical Survey Institute, vol. X, part 1, Nov. 1964, contains the official statement that "the Kureiski is the only system acknowledged by the Japanese government".
- b) The Imperial Ethiopian Mapping and Geography Institute has issued an official translation table of the Amharic alphabet.
- c) In Israel the following publication is to be regarded as official in this matter: Transliteration of Geographical Names in Topographical Maps of Israel. Tel-Aviv, 1969. Cartographic Papers no. 4, State of Israel, Ministry of Labour, Department of Surveys.
- d) The regional group of East Central and South East Europe will submit to the 4th meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts a paper on the Romanization of the Chinese script.

The HCGN appreciates very much the plan of the chairman of the working group on Romanization to elaborate "United Nations Tables for the Romanization of Geographical Names". But this tables should be clearly marked as preliminary until approved by a conference.

To 4 b iii: The 1st regional conference of the East Central and South East European group will be held in Prague in September 1971. One of the aims of this conference will be the preparation of a common platform of the regional group for the 1972 conference. The instructions for the treatment of geographical names in the Map of the World 1:2 500 000 will be revised in the near future.

To 5: HCGN wishes that even after the 3rd session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts regional groups may be allowed to make suggestions concerning the agenda and organization of the 1972 conference.

II

General remarks:

- 1) It seems to the HCGN necessary to prepare for the 2nd conference clear statements and recommendations to the following items:
 - a) What is meant by international standardization of geographical names?
 - b) In what kinds of publications ought to be used international standardized names.
 - c) The question of exonyms should be broadly discussed, and specific recommendations should be considered in this field.
- 2) The HCGN asks the chair to send the invitations to the 4th and 5th sessions of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts and to the 2nd conference as early as possible.

Ervin Földi

(Ervin Földi)

Josef Breu

(Josef Breu)