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

2 to 12 February 1971

Information Paper No. 6
Addendum 2

The Undersea Feature Nomenclature

CONCERNING THE UNDERSEA FEATURE NOMENCLATURE

Mr. G.F.Delaney, Co-ordinator of the Working Group on undersea feature nomenclature has done a great amount of interesting and extremely useful work resulted in four papers and a number of valuable attachments. This work should be highly estimated and all of us should express our gratitude to Mr.Delaney.

Unfortunately, the papers mailed by the Canadian Embassy in Moscow reached me only on January, 12, 1971 and therefore I could not forward my comments by the time Mr.Delaney had requested (January, 25, 1971). But our present meeting at the third session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on geographical names gives me an opportunity to say some words on the matter.

x x

x

1. To begin with, I should like to emphasize once more the thoroughness and great value of Mr. Delaney's preliminary work. Due to this work we are furnished with the material depicting the state of the problem we are interested in and also the activities of the organizations involved rather clearly and completely. The lack of information on the I.O.C. and I.A.P.O. activities may be supplied in future.

2. The principles suggested for the selection of undersea feature names (Paper 1, p.3) do not provoke any substantial comments. It might be helpful, in my view, to amend item 1 (a) noting that when establishing names for undersea features outside national sovereignties the country whose representatives first discover and show them on the chart enjoy the priority of nominating them. It should be also mentioned under item 3 that commemorative names honouring personages prominent in science may be assigned not only to minor but to major features as well.

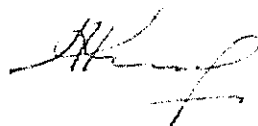
3. As relating to the definitions of descriptive terminology (Paper 2) (it should be more correct to refer it as "generic" terms), I think it quite reasonable to take as a basis the list of terms suggested by F.M.Edvalson since it has been coordinated with the Gebco. (Attachments 12 and 13).

4. Paper 3 appears to be of great importance as it contains a survey of the existing system of recording and stabilizing underseas nomenclature as well of methods of centralizing and disseminating the information. I completely agree to the summary (p.8) and at present I actually do not see any other way to avoid discordances in underseas feature names on charts published in different countries but to stimulate in every possible way the Gebco activities.

5. I also agree to Mr. Delaney's general conclusions (Paper 4). But I doubt whether it is possible at the pre-

sent time to set up a central body under UN auspices responsible for (a) the examination of the undersea names on existing bathymetric and navigational charts; (b) the concentration and examination of proposals relating to new names; (c) the adoption and dissemination of appropriate decisions. This is an extremely labour-consuming work.

6. The problem of normalization of names of undersea features situated outside a single state jurisdiction at the international level is so complicated that it can hardly be solved in a short time. Nevertheless the activities of Mr. Delaney's working group, as well as of our Ad Hoc Group of Experts as a whole contribute to the task. I believe it would be useful to submit the problem and all the materials involved prepared by the working group for the consideration of the second UN Conference on the standardization of geographic names.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. K. F.', written in a cursive style.