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STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

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17 August - 7 September 1977

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

AN INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY OF EXPRESSIONS  
USED ON STANDARD GEOGRAPHICAL MAPS

Paper presented by the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic

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AN INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY OF EXPRESSIONS  
USED ON STANDARD GEOGRAPHICAL MAPS

The increasing social importance of the cartographical form of interpretation of natural and social conditions of life has brought about the idea of compiling an "International Dictionary of Geographical Expressions Occurring on Standard Geographical Maps". This increasing social importance has brought about the need for a comprehensive map image of reality, executed as a series of standard geographical maps with standardized expressions.

This is why the First Conference of the Countries in the United Nations 7th and 8th Regional Linguistic and Geographical Groups on the Standardization of Geographical Names, which took place in Prague in September 1971, also dealt with this question. In Item 6 of the Resolution the participants in the Conference adopted a Recommendation, in which they support the idea of compiling such a Dictionary and ask that the completed project and compiled list of expressions be sent to them for review. This has been done. Further, it asked the Czechoslovak delegation to inform the participants of the Second United Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in London in May 1972 about the projected Dictionary.

The project has been submitted to the Second Conference for discussion (E/CONF. 61/L 86) within the framework of Item IC on the agenda, devoted to the question of compiling multilingual dictionaries of generic names and general names.

The Conference then adopted the appropriate recommendation in Resolution No. 16, basically summed up in the request that each dictionary of this kind should contain

a/ a complete alphabetical list of the used generic names with a concise definition of their meanings,

b/ a complete alphabetical list of the used generic names with a concise definition of their meaning and their regional distribution, as well as cross-references to general names to which they are related,

c/ a complete list of abbreviations of general names and symbols, designating them,

d/ a complete list of abbreviations used in the maps on which the list was based.

In addition, the Second Conference of Socialist Countries in the United Nations 7th and 8th Linguistic and Geographical Groups, which took place in Budapest in January 1975, recommended under Item 5 that the contents of the Dictionary be limited only to expressions occurring in standard geographical maps. It also recommended the division of the contents of the Dictionary according to groups of elements occurring in the maps.

The draft was modified in the following aspects:

a/ the range of its possible use within the newly outlined contents of the standard geographical map

b/ its use in the standardization of explanatory notes in small-scale standard geographical maps and in keys to symbols in medium large-scale maps.

Further stimuli emerged in relation to the Dictionary from the conclusions of the Third Conference of the Socialist Countries in the United Nations 7th and 8th Regional Groups on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Budapest in June 1977.

In order to realize such an exacting task it was necessary to clarify the definition of the standard geographical map. Having examined the problem from various points of view the Terminology Commission of the Czech office of geodesy and cartography reached the conclusion that a standard

geographical map is "a map containing all the important elements of the depicted reality to approximately the same degree of detailedness". This definition deals with the subject of the map and cannot be further modified by other criteria, for example scale; it follows from this (in accordance with the concept of the Russian geographers /cartographers/ Salishcheff and Garayevskaya) that medium and large-scale maps are also standard geographical maps.

The basis of alphabetical lists was formed on the material collected from the conventional signs of 1:10 000 maps of several countries.

While the individual entries were being worked out, it became evident that

- the concept and contents of standard geographical maps published up till now is based upon social reality and the state of science, technology, and economy from the first three decades of the 20th century,

- the roots of this concept reach back to the level of knowledge and rôle of the map at the end of the 19th century,

- specialized needs as to the subject of the maps are often reflected in them.

The change of social system in the socialist countries, the development of science, including geography, and the resultant development of the economy, social and cultural progress as well as the results of a considerable increase in the standard of living gave rise to a number of new geographical phenomena which do not occur in the standard geographical maps published up to date. These new phenomena have been the cause of a considerable decrease in the need to depict other phenomena, the occurrence of which on the standard geographical maps was expedient in the economy, technology and culture of the past, as remains the case to the present day in the capitalist countries.

These changes have caused the compilers of the proposed contents of the individual thematic sections in the Dictionary to consider which new elements, corresponding to the

contemporary conditions, should be included in the standard geographical map. Similarly, the editing had to be all the more exacting under such circumstances, since it was essential to attain "approximately the same degree of detailedness" required by the definition of the standard geographical map, adopted as the starting point.

Unambiguously defined entries will make it possible to compile new keys to symbols on standard geographical maps on other (smaller) scales as well; the Dictionary will therefore be appended with a list of abbreviations.

The section of the Dictionary devoted to relief is based upon the advanced state of the individual geographical sciences. It also includes the social and scientific explanation as to why a dictionary of the given range is needed. The section on hydrography includes both geographical aspects and those of water preservation, defined in accordance with accepted standards in this field.

The section on biogeography is considerably enlarged, since the present campaign for the preservation of the environment on the one hand, and the accelerated building construction of new factories and residential areas on the other have caused areas under vegetation, characteristic of the importance and value of soil for the life of man, to become more conspicuous.

The section on borders and enclosures has remained practically the same as the traditional concept, having been only partially modified.

The section on transport, similarly as all the other sections - as long as it was necessary - is structured hierarchically, so that also class names are listed, which can occur on maps only exceptionally.

The concept of the section on inhabited areas corresponds to contemporary social circumstances in the socialist countries.

The sections of the Dictionary on agriculture and industry, including the mining of natural resources, document gradual overcoming of differences between town and village, especially in the socialist countries (in the section on agriculture) and the impact of who owns the means of produc-

AN EXAMPLE OF THE PROCESSING OF ENTRIES  
IN THE INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES  
AS USED IN STANDARD GEOGRAPHICAL MAPS

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atol	a coral island made up of a circular coral barrier of cliff limestone, rising several metres above the sea-level and enclosing an inner lagoon /=/
canyon	a deep river valley with very steep slopes and a relatively narrow bottom, usually completely filled with a river-bed
drained land	a piece of land /=/ with artificial drainage of underground water with the help of pipes, channels, etc.
lake	a natural indentation in the earth's surface filled with water, which is not directly connected with an ocean. We distinguish impermanent lakes, salt lakes, evaporating lakes
nuclear power plant	solid fuel fired power plant /=/ using energy for the production of electricity obtained by fission of appropriate radioactive elements
permanent snow	constant snow cover of the earth's surface above the snow line /=/
tunnel	a man-made construction to facilitate the transfer of communications /=/ under the ground for example through a mountain range, under a river, under sea straits. According to the means of the transferred communication we distinguish road tunnel ( surface communication ) rail tunnel (rail communication ) etc.

R e s u m é

L'idée d'élaborer un "Dictionnaire international des termes géographiques figurant sur des cartes géographiques chorographiques (à caractère commun)" est née du besoin de satisfaire l'importance sociale toujours croissante du mode de représentation cartographique dont la cartographie interprète des conditions naturelles et sociales de vie sous forme d'une représentation cartographique relativement complète, au moyen des cartes chorographiques et du souhait de normaliser les moyens d'expression de cette représentation.

A son tour, la 2<sup>e</sup> Conférence des Etats socialistes des 7<sup>e</sup> et 8<sup>e</sup> groupes linguistico-géographiques régionaux de l'ONU, tenue à Budapest en janvier 1975, a recommandé au sujet du point 5 que le Dictionnaire se limite aux termes trouvables sur des cartes géographiques chorographiques et que la matière soit répartie selon les groupes d'éléments contenus dans les cartes.

La proposition a été remaniée en considérant les points de vue suivants:

- a) l'extension possible de l'utilisation dans le contenu nouvellement conçu de la carte géographique chorographique,
- b) l'utilisation, lors de la normalisation, des commentaires ajoutés aux cartes aux cartes géographiques chorographiques à petite échelle et des clefs de symbolisation à des cartes aux échelles moyennes et grandes.

Les articles définis de façon univoque rendront possible de mettre au point de nouvelles clefs de symbolisation pour les cartes géographiques chorographiques ainsi que pour les cartes aux échelles différentes (plus petites); pour cette raison, le Dictionnaire sera complété par une liste des abréviations.

L'ensemble de la matière contenue dans les huit parties thématiques du Dictionnaire est conçu de façon à répondre grosso modo par extension à la conception nouvelle de la carte chorographique à l'échelle 1:10 000.

Le nombre des articles a été stipulé à presque 900. Le spécimen annexé rend possible de se faire une idée sur la conception et de la façon dont les articles du Dictionnaire sont organisés. Le Dictionnaire paraîtra en 1979 en version tchèque, slovaque, anglaise et russe. L'élaboration des versions française, espagnole et allemande est envisagée pour la prochaine édition.

## R e s u m e n

La idea de redactar un "Diccionario Internacional de términos geográficos que aparecen en los mapas geográficos generales" surgió a causa de la necesidad de poner en relieve el creciente significado social de la forma cartográfica de la interpretación de condiciones naturales y sociales de la vida pro medio de una imagen de mapa relativamente completa, a través de mapas de dicho tipo, así como a causa de la necesidad de estandarizar sus medios expresivos.

La segunda conferencia de los países socialistas de los grupos regionales lingüístico-geográficos num.7 y 8, de la ONU, que tuvo lugar en Budapest en enero 1975, recomendó, en el punto 5, que el contenido del diccionario se limitase a abarcar términos que aparecen en mapas geográficos generales y que su contenido se dividiera conforme a grupos de elementos utilizados en los mapas. La propuesta ha sido revalorizada desde los puntos de vista siguientes:

a) volumen de la posible utilización en los marcos de un contenido del mapa geográfico general, concebido a base de nuevos criterios,

b) aprovechamiento para la estandarización de notas explicativas en mapas geográficos generales en escalas menores y de claves de símbolos en mapas de escalas medias y grandes.

Voces definidas unívocamente harán posible que se establezcan nuevas claves de símbolos para mapas geográficos generales, así como para los de otras (menores) escalas; es por ello que diccionario está complementado con una lista (registro) de abreviaturas.

El contenido total de ocho partes temáticas del diccionario queda concebido aproximadamente dentro de los marcos de un mapa geográfico general, según la nueva concepción, en escala 1:10 000.

El número de voces ha sufrido cambios representando casi 900 unidades. Del espécimen que va adjunto es posible hacerse una idea de la concepción y la manera de la elaboración de las voces del diccionario. Este se publicará en 1979 en checo, eslovaco, inglés y ruso. Para una edición posterior se supone que será complementado con textos en francés, español y alemán.