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THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Athens, 17 August - 7 September 1977

Item 7 of the agenda

REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR REGIONS
AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Report of the Africa East Division*/

Africa East Division came into being after the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names when Africa South of the Sahara Division was subdivided into two divisions, the other one being Africa West. I was then nominated to represent the Africa East Division until such time that the divisional members will be able to elect their representative.

Attempts were made before March 1975 to hold some divisional meetings but these were unsuccessful due to lack of funds to organize the meetings. I was, however, able, through my Government, to attend both meetings of the Group of Experts in March 1973 and 1975 in New York. While in New York, in March 1975, Mr. Coker, representing Africa West Division, and myself were introduced to the officials of the Ford Foundation by the Chairman of the Group of Experts, Dr. Burrill, where we made enquiries about funds to support divisional activities. We were referred to the Foundation's regional offices, with whom contacts have not yielded much fruit.

I attempted to push in an item of the agenda on the geographical names during the inaugural meeting of the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying and Mapping held in Nairobi in December 1975, but due to shortage of time it was not included in the agenda. The Regional Centre has been set up to serve the Eastern, Central and Southern Africa region with their surveying and mapping requirements. So far, only five members of the region have joined the Centre and it will be a good platform to raise the divisional activities from when majority of the regional members have joined.

Whilst the divisional activities have been rather dormant, individual countries have been actively continuing with their activities in the field of standardization of geographical names as will be reflected in their individual reports.

*/ Prepared by W.J. Absaloms, Secretary, Standing Committee on Geographical Names, Kenya.