

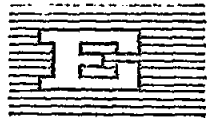
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THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE  
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Athens, Greece

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REPORT BY THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA

I. National participation

1. Significant changes in the political, economic and social fields have continued to take place in the Republic of Cuba which have had a beneficial impact on toponymy and have contributed to the standardization of our geographical names.

At the present stage in the institutionalization of the Cuban revolutionary process, the most important factors which have given rise to these changes are: the holding of the First Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba; the establishment of the Institutions of Government of the People, with their municipal, provincial and national assemblies; the establishment of the new political and administrative divisions and the introduction of the new system for planning and controlling the economy.

The Socialist Constitution of Cuba of 1976 and the Law on the organization of the central administration of the State complete the political, economic and social context for the standardization of geographical names in Cuba.

For the preparation of the report on the new political divisions, which was discussed and approved at the First Congress of the Communist Party, all social, physical and geographical factors which would affect the new division were investigated.

An extensive study of economic regionalization was carried out and this resulted in the establishment of 14 provinces and 169 municipalities.

The political division is based on the following premises:

In the new society, the State, under the guidance of the Party, exercises the direction, control and planning of all social activities.

The territorial organization of State management of the economic, social and political processes must offer the best possible conditions for managing and administering society, and, accordingly, it must be adapted to the territorial structure of economic activities, the prospects for their development and the distribution of the population throughout the national territory.

The new division is based on criteria of economic regionalization, taking into account present and prospective geographical and demographic factors, as well as on the entire network of villages and towns used as administrative centres for the various authorities; it takes account of the most important towns and the progress achieved by all sectors of the economy.

The Institutions of Government of the People, established in the municipalities and provinces, in the full exercise of the democracy which the people have won and which the Socialist Constitution of 1976 confers upon them, will form an undeniably effective basis for the toponymic research now being conducted in the territory and, consequently, a useful point of reference for the standardization of geographical names. The Committee on Geographical Names carried out an extensive study and a thorough linguistic, historical and geographical investigation in connexion with the official names to be given to the new provinces and municipalities, and its conclusions, relating to the toponyms, will be reflected in the Law on the political and administrative division of the territory.

The names employed in the aforementioned legislation have been standardized and use of their forms is obligatory in the official documents of Cuba. The technical instructions prepared for the naming of provinces and their capitals and of municipalities and their administrative centres have aimed at maintaining the historical, geographical and linguistic sequence of the toponyms, from aboriginal patronymics such as Guamá, Moa and Guantánamo to contemporary names such as Bartolomé Masó, Jesús Menéndez and Frank País.

2. During the period covered by this report, the list of geographical names of the basic map of the national territory, consisting of 29,000 toponyms, was completed. This list, which we mentioned at the London Conference in 1972, is now being made ready for publication.

3. An Atlas of Cuba will be published in 1978-1979, in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the victory of the Cuban Revolution. An index of the geographical names which will be contained in the Atlas is also being prepared.

## II. International participation

1. In response to an invitation by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Government of Cuba appointed a specialist who participated in the meetings of the Group of Experts held in 1973 and 1975 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

2. The Government of Cuba sent a delegation to the first United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, held in Panama, and the Cuban expert participated in the preparation of the recommendations on standardization of geographical names adopted by that Conference.