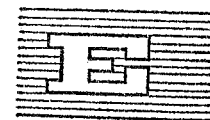


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THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Athens, Greece

17 August - 7 September 1977

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN CYPRUS ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
SINCE THE SECOND CONFERENCE

Paper presented by Cyprus

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THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDISATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Athens 17th August - 7th September 1977

Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda.

Report on the progress made in Cyprus
on the standardisation of geographical
names since the 2nd Conference

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. CYPRUS has been too much on the international news since the last conference to warrant an introduction or description of its geographical position, climatic conditions, population etc.

1.2. The tragedy of Cyprus, started with the coup in July 1974, followed by the Turkish invasion which uprooted some 200,000 people from their homes and properties and rendered them refugees in their own country, living in appalling conditions.

1.3. The most recent tragedy of the Cypriot people, was the loss of their Spiritual and Political Leader, Archbishop Makarios, on the 3rd August 1977. He was the inspirer and the life giving spring of all activity and progress in the country. He will be missed by his people and all the peace loving peoples of the world.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON NAMES

2.1. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus, has appointed a Committee, and named it "Cyprus Permanent Committee on the Standardisation of Geographical Names" and has entrusted it with the task of all matters connected with geographical names.

2.2. The five member Committee is composed of linguists, historians, philologists and cartographers whose main aim is the collection, domestic standardisation and transcription of all names in the Island. The two Departments concerned mainly with the collection and standardisation of geographical names in Cyprus, are the Cyprus Research Center, and the Department of Lands and Surveys. A detailed description of

the procedure used by both organisations is given in another paper under item 8 of the agenda.

3. PROGRESS MADE

3.1. During the last five years, the Cyprus Research Center has continued its scientific collection of place names for the compilation of a national Gazetteer and for an etymological study. The Center is planning to compile and publish the national Gazetteer of current place names, as well as a special Gazetteer of historic place names. The latter will be compiled from ancient inscriptions, codes, manuscripts, old maps, books and various other sources. As it is well known, Cyprus has continuous written records of place names, dating 600 years B.C.

3.2. The Department of Lands and Surveys has continued its work for the compilation and production of maps. The collection and standardisation of geographical names and their transcription into English is part and parcel of the mapping process. The mapping programme on the scale of 1/5,000 which has commenced in 1973 jointly between the Department of Lands and Surveys of Cyprus and the Directorate of Overseas Surveys of the United Kingdom has proceeded satisfactorily. Up to now, about 48% of the area of Cyprus, covering some 1714 square miles has been completed.

3.3. Other editions of maps, prepared by the Department of Lands and Surveys and produced in Cyprus, include the :-

- (a) General Use Map of Cyprus at scale 1/500,000.
- (b) Administration and Road Map of Cyprus, at scale 1/250,000 in English, Greek and Turkish.
- (c) Topographical Map in four sheets at scale 1/100,000.
- (d) Topographical series in 24 sheets at scale 1/50,000.

All the above maps are in the metric system.

...../.....

3.4. It is an unfortunate fact that the progress of work by both Departments in the collection, standardisation and transcription of names has been curtailed, as a result of the Turkish invasion of the Island in 1974. A large part of the area of the Republic of Cyprus, approximately 40%, is still under Turkish army occupation, and therefore inaccessible to the lawful Government agencies for any operation. In addition to the resultant retarding effect, the force of occupation has carried out a complete change of geographical names in the occupied area, Town and village names, place names, street names, etc., which form part of the cultural property and heritage of the people of Cyprus as a whole, have arbitrarily been changed. The new names given have been taken from the history and geography of Turkey. This action, is considered by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, as a deliberate attempt by Turkey to destroy the cultural past of the Island.

4. LINGUISTIC DIVISION

4.1. The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names has placed Cyprus in the Romano-Hellenic linguistic group. The Hellenic and Cyprus Committees on geographical names have submitted a joint system of transcription of the Greek alphabet to the Roman alphabet.

5. FUTURE PROGRAMME

5.1. At the exhibition, delegates may see samples of the maps of Cyprus in English, Greek and Turkish. They may also obtain from the Cyprus delegation a copy of the gazetteer containing the names changed in the north. It is hoped that by the next Conference, Cyprus will be in a happier position and exhibit its National Gazetteer.

Paper presented by Cyprus.