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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.

A REPORT ON THE PROGRESS IN THE AREA OF THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA
BETWEEN AUGUST 1972 AND APRIL 1977

Praha - Bratislava 1977

Paper presented by the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic

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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

Czechoslovak Socialist Republic

A REPORT ON THE PROGRESS IN THE AREA
OF THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL
NAMES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA
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Both the Czech terminological commission of the Czech Office of Geodesy and Cartography and the Slovak terminological commission of the Slovak Office of Geodesy and Cartography have been very active since the Second UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in London in May 1972. Fundamental problems and reports based on the conclusions of the London conference, as well as issues concerning the demands of both national departments of geodesy and cartography and various institutions were discussed at the meetings of the commissions.

The representatives of the terminological commissions took part in the Second Conference of the Socialist Countries in the 7th and 8th UN Regional Groups on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Budapest in January 1975 and in the Third Conference of the Socialist Countries in the 7th and 8th UN Regional Groups on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Budapest in June 1977.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Second Conference of the Socialist Countries in the 7th and the 8th UN Regional Groups for the Standardization of Geographical Names in Budapest in January 1975 (further on referred to

as "the Second Conference") both national terminological commissions are tackling the standardization of geographical names in such a way that it correspond to the recommendations of the UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names as well as to Czechoslovakia's own needs.

In accordance with these recommendations, a draft of Czech and Slovak equivalents for the Dictionary of Technical Terms Used by the United Nations for the Standardization of Geographical Names has been completed. The worked-out draft is being submitted by the Czechoslovak delegation to the Conference as an independent document.

The Czech and Slovak Offices of Geodesy and Cartography is working out in accordance with these recommendations the List of Oceans, Undersea Forms and Sea Currents.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Second Conference, a draft list of the names of outstanding Czechoslovak scientific and cultural personalities has been worked out. It is now being approved by the appropriate official bodies. It will be submitted, as soon as it has been approved. A draft of a general system of organization of the names of extra-terrestrial topographical phenomena has not as yet been worked out.

The official names of Czechoslovakia as well as of its two national republics, together with the versions in the UN official languages have been sent to the Hungarian Geodetical Service. For Chinese the pinyin transcription has been used.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Second Conference, the original index and the whole concept of the International Dictionary of Technical Terms Used in General Geographical Maps has been changed. A separate report on this has been submitted for discussion under Item 10(e) on the agenda.

In accordance with these recommendations both national commissions have been working out lists of traditional geographical names. Names have been drawn from first and foremost cartographical publications and the results of the work of the Slovak terminological commission to date have been

published in the series "Cartographical Information" under the headings:

Zoznam vžitých názvov riek a vodných plôch sveta

(A List of Traditional Names of the Rivers and the Water Areas of the World) (2)

Zoznam štátov a krajín sveta

(A List of States and Countries of the World, Traditional Slovak and official names) (3)

Zoznam vžitých slovenských názvov miest sveta

(A List of Traditional Slovak Names of Towns and Cities of the World) (4)

Zoznam vžitých slovenských názvov útvarov horizontálneho členenia zemského povrchu

(A List of Traditional Slovak Names of Forms of Horizontal Profile of the Earth's Surface) (5)

Zoznam vžitých slovenských názvov útvarov vertikálneho členenia zemského povrchu

(A List of Traditional Slovak Names of Forms of Vertical Profile of the Earth's Surface) (6)

Zoznam vžitých slovenských názvov mimozemských objektov

(A List of Traditional Slovak Names of Extraterrestrial Bodies) (7)

The lists of geographical names, published by the Slovak Office for Geodesy and Cartography are being sent to all offices of geodesy and cartography whose representatives took part in the meetings of the 7th and the 8th regional groups according to a list of addresses mutually approved at the Budapest conference.

Both terminological commissions are now carrying out very extensive work on the territory of Bohemia and Slovakia respectively. They are revising and standardizing geographical names of the 1:50 000 official map of Czechoslovakia. So far some 30 000 names from the territory of the Czech Socialist Republic and some 17 000 names of non-inhabitable geographical objects from the territory of the Slovak Socialist Republic have been revised. The Slovak terminological commission has published a part of this work (the territory of the Region of East Slovakia) in the 8th volume of Cartographical Information.

At present another volume containing names from the Region of Central Slovakia is being printed and by 1978 a list of names from the Region of Western Slovakia will also have been published.

The revision of geographical names for a new 1:10 000 official map of Czechoslovakia is also progressing well. It is being carried out as an integral part of mapping and cartographing.

Both nation commissions are also preparing identifiers of regional evidence units, designed to help set up information system within Czechoslovak territory. Some 10 000 names of villages, catastral territories and localities have been checked.

A List of Names of Countries and Their Territorial Sections is being worked out as a joint document of both commissions, in connection with the CMEA norm (Standardt SEV 252-76, gruppa T 62, Kody nazvanij stran i drugich geografičeskich jedinic). Apart from abbreviated (exonym) forms of the names of countries and their sections in Czech and Slovak, the list will also contain exonym forms in English, Russian, French, German and Spanish, the official name in the official language of the country, the official name in Czech and Slovak, the names of official tongues, political systems and names of the capitals together with the Czech and Slovak exonym forms and coordinates for their localization.

Czech and Slovak linguists, cartographers and geographers are paying more and more attention to geographical names. The Second Czech Onomastic Conference (Prague, 1975), The Thirteenth Congress of the Czechoslovak Geographical Society (Plzeň 1975), The Fourth Cartographical Conference (Brno 1975) and The Seventh Slovak Onomastic Conference (Zemplínska Šírava 1976) all dealt with geographical names. These conferences showed that one of the most important problems is the relation between official names and exonyms. It is necessary to tackle this problem simultaneously with the standardizing of geographical names. This is why Czechoslovakia is submitting to the Third Conference its report "On Relationship of Official Names and Exonyms as One of the Problems of the Standardization of Geographical Names" under Item 13(b) on

the provisional agenda.

According to the adopted transcription of the Bulgarian Cyrillic alphabet, recommended for international usage and according to Resolution No.5 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, work was started in both the Czech and Slovak terminological commissions. In the first half of 1976 a list of names from the territory of Bulgaria, compiled by the Slovak terminological commission, was sent to the Bulgarian Geodetical Service for review.

Both commissions cooperate with each other and work out material for the compilation of all important cartographical publications. They cooperate with the ministries and various institutions which issue various standards and norms. Thus the impact of the work of the commission is considerably enhanced.

The commissions have reached the conclusion that it is necessary to review new cartographical publications in scientific journals also from the point of view of using geographical names: the first reviews focussing on this have already been submitted for publication.

The conclusions and recommendations of the Third Conference of the Socialist Countries in the 7th and the 8th UN Regional Groups for the Standardization of Geographical Names in Budapest in June 1977 confirmed the validity of the conclusions of the Second UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in London in May 1972 and the working out of these conclusions by the Second Conference of the Socialist Countries in the 7th and the 8th UN Regional Groups for the Standardization of Geographical Names in Budapest in January 1975.