

Draft Report of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its fourth session

(Held in London on 9 May and 1 June 1972)

Terms of reference

Attendance

Opening of the session

The President opens at 2.30 the session and in accordance with art. 26 of the Rules of Procedure as adopted during the second session, draws the lots for the sequence of the roll-call voting. Divisions shall vote in the following order: 6, 4, 7, 2, 13, 3, 14, 1, 10, 11, 8, 5, 12, 9.

The President announces that the fourth session will be continued on 1 June.

Reports of the Working Groups

The Working Group on definitions submitted its conclusions in Working Paper L.1. Its Chairman, Mr. Page, points out that this paper was drafted in November 1971, that since important comments came in from Mr. Nédélec and Mr. Gall and that on the basis of these an addition to L.1 may be worked out and distributed before discussion during the main conference to that end. The Working Group will meet as soon as possible.

The Working Group on a single romanization system submitted Part 1 of its report. Part 2, that will be distributed soon, was read. Next week the individual tables for romanization will be available for discussion. Also 14 tables worked out by Mr. Sharma will be added to the report. The Working Group will meet before the Committee on writing systems will set to work.

The Working Group on extraterrestrial names submitted paper L.42. Its Chairman, Mr. Komkov, asks to comment on it soon, so that the Working Group may work out an addition on basis of these comments. Comments by members of the I.A.U. are already asked for.

Mr. Delaney, reporting for the Working Group on the names of undersea features, says that he sent round a draft report on the subject but received comments only from the experts of the United States of America and the Federal German Republic. The International Hydrographic Bureau gave no answer. The Working Group will in a few days work out a final report to the Conference.

Organization of the Second Conference

The Executive Secretary gives an apercu of the order of the day for the first meeting. Mr. Komkov thinks it necessary that the Chairman of the Group reports to the Conference on the activities of the Group. The Chairman says that he was planning to do so at the end of item 7 of the agenda. It was agreed that during the drafting period of the Conference the Group could meet to discuss the agenda of its meeting on 1 June. The President announces that the secretariat proposes to

appoint an editorial committee working throughout the Conference to prepare the documents. The President of the Conference must announce this intention early during the first meeting and ask for suggestions as to the composition of this committee. Its members will be appointed by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee, a President, two Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur will be elected at the first meeting.

The officers of the five Committees will be elected on Friday; all delegations will be asked to put forward suggestions and present candidates for these. The Executive Secretary points out that each of the 14 divisions should be represented in the offices. He further urges the necessity of having a Committee using the French and one using the Spanish language. He finally announces that only staff members will have access to the secretariat offices.