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Fourth United Nations Conference on the  
Standardization of Geographical Names  
Geneva, 24 August to 14 September 1982  
Items 4 and 5 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 THIRD UNITED NATIONS  
CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

Report of Activities\*\*

Paper presented by Yugoslavia

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\* E/CONF.74/1.

\*\* Prepared by B. Zašov.

This is the third time that Yugoslavia is taking part in the UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. Yugoslavia considers that each of these conferences has helped the better understanding of the subject matter on the standardization of geographical names and that the principles established in the resolutions help States to perfect the technique of using geographical names within their boundaries. The Fourth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names will be, and Yugoslavia is sure of it, yet another impetus for the further work of the official bodies and scientists in this area.

Principles on which Yugoslavia works and which it **advocates** in the **standardization** of geographical names

Yugoslavia supports the principle that national standardization should be the basis for international standardization. However, the problems of geographical names should be viewed as an integral part of the general principles on the right of nations and nationalities to use their own language, script and spelling. The right to use geographical names in their own language, script and spelling is an integral, inseparable and inalienable part of the overall rights of every nation and every national minority. We continue to support the attitude expressed in the Information Paper presented by Yugoslavia at the Third Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (E/CONF 69/L 87. part 1),

that geographical names should reflect an objective picture of national belonging of the population to whose territory they refer. This is why the principle of bilingual spelling of geographical names is implemented in official Yugoslav documents, maps and atlases for ethnically mixed territories of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as well as the territories of neighboring countries on which parts of Yugoslav nations live as national minorities.

The equity of the language, script and spelling of the nations and nationalities of Yugoslavia is established by the Constitution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of 1974, in the Constitutions of the Socialist Republics and Socialist Autonomous Provinces; furthermore, in legal and sublegal acts, in the statutes of communities as well as the regulations of particular organizations of associated labor.

Report on the progress made since the Third  
UN Conference on the Standardization of  
Geographical Names

During the period 1977 - 1982, Yugoslavia has continued work at establishing the principles of standardization of geographical names and in relation to organizational issues in the Republics and at the Federal level. In addition, guidelines have been set for the standardization of geographical names on the territory of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, several scholarly works have been published, etc. Similarly, the Central Editorial Board

of the Yugoslav Encyclopedia has made a Decision on geographical names on the maps of the second edition of the Yugoslav Encyclopedia.

In accordance with resolution No. 18 of the Third UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, work is under way on provisional lists of exonims, singling out those exonims that could be taken into consideration to be chosen. Yugoslavia will, in keeping with resolution No. 31 of the Second UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, propose cooperation and agreement to particular neighboring countries aimed at reducing the number of exonims and finding mutually acceptable solutions for writing exonims.

In Yugoslavia, work on a better organization of the standardization of geographical names in the administrative and technical fields is also under way.