

DRAFT REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP
ON GAZETTEERS

The Working Group on Gazetteers ^{1/} was established by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at its Fifth Session held in New York, 5 - 16 March 1973.

Tasks

- a) To establish the requirements for United Nations gazetteers and to define the categories;
- b) To consider the possibilities of adapting the USBGN Gazetteers as UN Gazetteers of the World as set out in the Fourth Session of the UN GEGN in London on 1 June 1972;
- c) To work out through correspondence the specifications for the different types of gazetteers reflecting applicability of United Nations recommendations in this field.

The Working Group met on 13, 14 and 15 March 1973.

Discussions

It was agreed that there should be three categories of gazetteers, namely:

- a) National Gazetteers, as specified in the Geneva Conference 1967;
- b) A series of United Nations Gazetteers of the World;
- c) A concise United Nations Gazetteer of the World in one or two volumes.

It was unanimously accepted that the concise United Nations Gazetteer of the World would be a desirable project and might be based on the national interim lists as recommended during the London Conference of 1972. Further consideration of this matter was deferred and it was agreed to concentrate on the second category of gazetteers. Detailed discussions took place on type (b) above, during which the subject of map scales was introduced. It was decided that no single map scale or series would suit the requirements of all individual countries. But prevailing opinion was that maps at a scale larger than 1:1,000,000 would alone serve as a basis for the compilation of the series. For many countries maps at much larger scales would be required.

^{1/} This is a Working Group of the whole.

Dr. Breu (Austria) presented for consideration Working Paper No. 34, defining the three types of gazetteers, which was discussed together with Working Paper No. 6 previously presented by Mr. Komkov (U.S.S.R.). The categories and titles set in Working Paper No. 34 were accepted by the Working Group.

The Working Group agreed on the following basic principles; that primary responsibility for gazetteers rests with the nation whose territory is covered; that gazetteers based on the BGN gazetteers will be produced with the consent of the country covered and maintenance will be carried out jointly by the country covered and the USBGN; that in special circumstances the preparation of certain volumes of the United Nations Gazetteer of the World may have to be deferred until a solution acceptable to the parties concerned can be found.

A small study group was then instructed to work out specific recommendations on how to adapt the USBGN gazetteers to comply with the specifications of one of the categories of United Nations Gazetteers of the World as laid down in Working Paper No. 34. Basic documents for this study group were to be Working Papers No. 6, 20 and 34.

The Working Group accepted the following detailed recommendations worked out by the study group:

1. Title Page should be along the following lines:

Emblem of the United Nations
United Nations Gazetteer of the World
Provisional Series
Volume: KENYA
Official Standard Names

approved by the Standing Committee on Geographical Names of Kenya
published by ^{the BGN and distributed by the} Defense Mapping Agency, Topographic Command
Washington D.C. 20305

May 1973

adopted by BGN for official use in the United States (the exact wording and location of this phrase to be resolved by USBGN and the country covered).

(A statement should be added that "this volume supersedes USBGN Gazetteer of Kenya 1964).

2. An outline map of the country covered will be included if feasible.

3. In addition to the main body of information the foreword should contain: information on the genesis of the publication and its status as a United Nations Gazetteer; reference to the UNEGN; composition of the USBGN; statement on the

official language(s) of the country covered.

4. A suitable disclaimer note will be worked out by the publishers and the United Nations.

provided for Secretary
The Working Group agreed that the first three USBGN Gazetteers to be ~~adapted~~ should be those for Kenya, Undersea Features and one Latin-American country.

The United States would welcome the temporary attachment of names experts to the US BGN to work on problems connected with the production of gazetteers.