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ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
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REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION
IN THEIR REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON PROGRESS IN THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE
FOURTH CONFERENCE

Report of the Norden Division**

Paper submitted by the Norden Division, United Nations
Group of Experts on Geographical Names

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Activities of the Division

Since the Geneva Conference in 1982 no formal Divisional meeting has been held. Informal contacts are often taken between the Division members.

Orthography

The North Lappish orthography, agreed upon in 1978, is now used in revised sheets of official maps in Norway and Sweden.

Gazetteers

The Danish Place Name Commission (Stednavneudvalget) has published a gazetteer for Jylland (Jutland) in 1985. It also contains amendments to the gazetteer for the counties east of Lillebælt (The Little Belt), published in 1978. The Jutland gazetteer is produced by means of computer, and the 1978 gazetteer has been computerized afterwards. Thus the combined data file makes a complete alphabetical list of all standardized Danish place-names.

In Sweden a pronunciation guide of place-names is in preparation. It will give Standard Swedish and, when appropriate, regional and/or local pronunciation of about 4000 names. The guide will be published in 1988.

A new map of Finland (1:250 000) with a name register of about 9 500 names and explanations for international use, first published in 1983, has appeared in a second edition in 1987.

In all Norden countries toponymic data files are being built up, mostly by place-name research institutes and producers of official maps in cooperation. In Sweden a name data file for the Topographical Map (1:50 000), containing approximately 500 000 names, will be completed at the turn of the year 1987. There are also plans for working up the name data base for the General Map 1:250 000, containing about 40 000 names.

A third edition of the internordic list of country names and words of nationality (nouns and adjectives) was published in spring 1987 (Norwegian title: Statsnavn og nasjonalitetsord. ISBN 82-7433-000-5).

Names authorities

In Sweden a place-name authority was established in 1985, called Ortnamnsrådet (The Place-Name Board). The members represent the Post Office Administration, the Central office of National Antiquities, the National Land Survey (chairman), the Institutes of Place-Name Research, the Swedish Language Committee, the National Association for the Preservation of Local Culture, the Swedish Association of Local Authorities, the universities, and the Samis. Proposals have also been made to enlarge the authority with a representative of the Finnish minority. The Board is located to the National Land Survey, Gävle.

In Norway the map production has been reorganized in a new authority, Statens kartverk, with special divisions responsible for topographical maps, land use maps, and charts.
