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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 on progress made in the standardization of geographical
names in the German Democratic Republic since the Fourth United
Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names**

Paper submitted by the German Democratic Republic

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Since the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (Geneva, 1982), the following activities on the further standardization of the spelling of geographical names have been carried out in the German Democratic Republic.

1. The document "Instruction on the Spelling of Geographical Names in Cartographical Products of the German Democratic Republic" (hereinafter referred to as "Instruction") is the main basis for the standardized spelling of geographical names in the German Democratic Republic.

According to its importance, this Instruction is permanently being updated and revised. It is not only valid for the production of cartographical products but it is also applied in other fields, that use geographical names such as state bodies and institutions, publishing houses, the Press, broadcast and television.

In the period under report, the eighth revised edition (1983) and the ninth revised edition (1986) have been published by the Administration for Surveying and Cartography in the Ministry of the Interior.

The fundamental resolutions of the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and the results of the sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names constitute an essential source for the revision of this instruction.

2. The standardized reproduction of geographical names of the national territory of the German Democratic Republic is laid down in the "General Guideline for the Spelling of Geographical Names of the German Democratic Republic". The third revised edition of this guideline was published in 1979. At present, an extensive review and revision of the guideline is under progress. This includes both the introductory general section, which is being elaborated in the form of the "Toponymic guidelines", and the register of geographical names, which is being extended and perfected. Thus, e.g., in reviewing the names of mountains and hills, the corresponding altitude marks are updated at the same time.

Special documents are existing as far as the standardized spelling of geographical names of the coastal waters of the German Democratic Republic is concerned, including the names of areas of the sea such as bays, lagoons or forms of the submarine relief such as banks, reefs, hooks, shallows as well as of islands, peninsulas, built-up areas, capes and spits. The general map published in 1982 at the scale of 1:700,000 with the title "Regional Geographical Names of the German Democratic Republic", which contains the names of the landscapes, mountains, ranges of hills and lowlands and which also shows the dimensions of these objects, has stood the test of time. In this sense, we refer to resolution 7 of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, which was initiated by the German Democratic Republic due to the experiences gained and which we have been able to implement.

The spelling of the names of the German Democratic Republic built-up areas is contained in a publication which came out under the title "Ortslexikon der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik" (Register of the built-up areas of the German

Democratic Republic), publishing house "Staatsverlag der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik", Berlin, 1986, in the period under report. The register contains the names of the rural communities and towns and parts of built-up areas of the German Democratic Republic in alphabetic order according to the territorial status of 30 June 1985.

3. For the purpose of the further standardization of the spelling of the names of geographical objects outside the national territory of the German Democratic Republic, the work on the publication of the "General Guidelines for the Spelling of Geographical Names of Individual States" (hereinafter referred to as "General Guidelines"), started in 1967, is being continued according to plan.

In the period under report, such General Guidelines have been completed for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, volume III; the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Hungary; Cuba; Mongolia and Cyprus (the enumeration of the States results from the chronological order of the publication of the General Guidelines).

The systematic updating of General Guidelines, which have already come out, has been continued. The General Guidelines for Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Portugal and Poland have been published in a second revised edition. The "Toponymic guidelines", published by the individual States, have been of great value for the revision of these General Guidelines.

The General Guidelines for Turkey, China and the second revised editions of the General Guidelines for Italy and Sweden are in preparation.

4. A good job has been done for the review of the exonyms (two different designations). In 1986, we were able to complete and publish a register under the title "Register of Exonyms and Other Geographical Names in German Language for Cartographical Products of the German Democratic Republic", 1/ thus implementing resolution 20 of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

5. According to resolution 24 of the Geneva Conference (1982), representatives of the German Democratic Republic participated in the eleventh and twelfth sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Geneva, 1984 and 1986) in the period under report and submitted progress reports and working papers concerning individual items of the agendas. Furthermore, they took part in workshops of the regional language groups, which exist in the framework of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names e.g., as a member in the deliberations of the Dutch/German Department in Vienna, Austria (1985

1/ This register as well as all the other documents and materials mentioned in the report can be obtained from the company Buchexport, Volkseigener Außenhandelsbetrieb der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik, Leninstraße 16, Leipzig, German Democratic Republic - 7010.

and 1987), and as an observer in the deliberations of the regional language group for East-Middle Europe and South-East Europe in Sofia, Bulgaria (1983 and 1987).

6. In the period under report, the Fifteenth International Congress on Onomatology was held in the German Democratic Republic at Kar'-Marx-University Leipzig from 13 to 17 August 1984. In section 7 of the Congress named "Proper Names in Cartographical Products and in International Communication", questions of the reproduction of proper names in cartographical products were discussed as well as the role of exonyms and ways of reducing them and tasks of national and international standardization of geographical names. Representatives of the German Democratic Republic informed about several results and problems related to the standardization of geographical names in the German Democratic Republic. These contributions have been published in the congress materials.

7. In the domestic field, the Fourth Congress of Geographers of the German Democratic Republic, which was organized as a main event of the German Democratic Republic Academy of Sciences and which was held in August 1985 in Gotha under the heading "Geography-Map-Society", was used to explain the concern of the United Nations regarding the standardization of geographical names to a wide range of users. Another activity in this direction took place in Gotha in September 1985 on the occasion of a colloquium in honour of the bicentenary of today's publishing house VEB Hermann Haack Geographisch-Kartographische Anstalt Gotha.

8. Altogether it can be stated that in the period under review, important resolutions of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (Geneva, 1982) have been implemented in the German Democratic Republic. This refers especially to resolutions 2, 4, 5, 7, 20 and 24.

The documents published in accordance with the above-mentioned resolutions of the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in the German Democratic Republic and under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior's Administration for Surveying and Cartography have contributed to further standardize the spelling of geographical names. These activities will be carried on continuously and according to plan also in the future.
