



Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CONF.79/L.70
16 July 1987

ENGLISH ONLY

FIFTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
Montreal, 18-31 August 1987
Item 9 of the provisional agenda*

EXONYMS

Exonyms in Finnish**

Paper submitted by Finland

* E/CONF.79/1.

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Recommendations II/28, II/29, II/35, III/18, III/19, IV/20 of the United Nations conferences on exonyms have, in principle, been generally approved to be followed in their basic outlines. Exonyms which are used only by Finns (e.g. Ruotsi pro Sverige Sweden, Moskova pro Moskva Moscow) are not used in publications intended for international use. In Finland those exonyms which are used or which have been used also in other languages have been taken out of international use in accordance with recommendations or, alternatively, a form of the name officially used in the country has been proposed to be used parallel to the exonym insofar as such a name is known (e.g. Si(i)don > Saydā, Ty(y)ro(s) > Sūr, Formosa > Taiwan, Siebenbürgen, Transsylvania > Transilvania). Unnecessary exonyms have also been taken out of everyday use (e.g. Jemtlanti > Jämtland, Nordkap > Nordkapp, Pindus > Pindos, Pandžab > Punjab, Kilimandžaro > Kilimanjaro, and an effort is being to prevent new exonyms from establishing themselves. Exonyms which are not generally known in Finland, or which have not established themselves through use, or have no special cultural or historical value, or the officially standardized form of which in the country concerned is not the source of undue difficulty for Finns have been taken out of use.

Exonyms which cannot easily be taken out of national use are the names of many countries and capitals (e.g. Kanada 'Canada', Tanska 'Danmark', Kööpenhamina 'København', Tokio 'Tōkyō'), as well as the names of places in neighboring countries which, besides being closely linked to the Finns and their history, were also in wide oral and written use from time immemorial (e.g. Uumaja Swedish 'Umeå'; Ruija Norwegian 'Finnmarken'; Laatokka Russian 'Ladožskoje Ozero'). There are some geographical features, mountain ranges, rivers, seas, etc., these often being beyond a single sovereignty, which also have their own specific names in Finnish (e.g. Pyreneet Spanish Pirineos, French Pyrenées; Kalliovuoret English Rocky Mountains, Isó Karhujärvi English Great Bear Lake). Exonyms of this type can hardly be eradicated from Finnish.

The exonyms in everyday use in Finland are not normally a source of confusion; they may even facilitate the average person's mastery of information since they are easier to remember and process in the native language than are names with a foreign form. The use of such old exonyms which conform to the norms of own language in everyday communication cannot be regarded as something to be rooted out. Exonyms of this type should, in stead, be regarded as valuable documents of linguistic and cultural history which serve as proof of ancient contacts between peoples. The creation of new exonyms for national use, however, should be regarded unfavorably.

The published lists of exonyms are intended for national use. All of these include names which diverge from the name officially used in the country in that a

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generic term has been translated, a diacritical mark has been omitted, etc., and they should, in accordance with conference recommendation III/19 be omitted from international lists of exonyms. The most important lists of exonyms in Finnish are: "Luettelo sovinnaisista ulkomaiden paikannimistä" /The List of Conventional Foreign Place Names/. Terra 81:2. Published by the Geographical Society of Finland (Helsinki) 1969, pages 60-93.

Jouko Vesikansa, Ulkomaiden paikannimet /Foreign Place Names/. Porvoo 1980. 187 pages. ISBN 951-0-07429-2.

Neuvostoliiton paikannimet. Valikoima Sosialististen Neuvostotasavaltain Liiton paikannimistöä. Oikeinkirjoitus- ja painotusopas. /The Place Names of the Soviet Union. A Selection of Place Names in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. A Guide to Orthography and Stress/. Edited by Martti Kahla. Helsinki 1982. ISBN 951-9475-26-5. Pages 161-193.

Kerkko Hakulinen, Maailman paikannimet: oikeinkirjoitusopas /The World's Place Names: an Orthographical Guide/. Keuruu 1983. ISBN 951-1-07207-2.
