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on the Standardization of
Geographical Names
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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

REPORT 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 Dutch- and German-speaking Division**

Paper submitted by the Dutch- and German-speaking Division,
United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

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- I. The following countries are represented in the Dutch- and German-Speaking Division (DGSD) of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN):

Austria
Belgium
Federal Republic of Germany
German Democratic Republic
Netherlands
South Africa
Suriname
Switzerland

The working languages are German and English.

- II. The activities of the Division since the 4th U.N. Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

1. The following meetings were held:

14 September 1982, Genève, Switzerland
29 November 1983, Frankfurt am Main, Federal
Republic of Germany
22 May 1984, Frankfurt am Main, Federal Republic
of Germany
8-10 October 1985, Wien, Austria
3 October 1986, Genève, Switzerland
18-20 May 1987, Wien, Austria

2. Main results of the meetings:

One of the aims of the meetings was to give an evaluation of the results of the 4th U.N. Conference and of the Sessions of UNGEGN, and to prepare the steps to be taken by the DGSD at the sessions of UNGEGN and at the 5th U.N. Conference.

Furthermore, an exchange of ideas took place on all subjects of common interest to the DGSD.

The following items may be mentioned:

- a. It was decided that the "Toponymic Guidelines" of the member countries of the DGSD should be kept up to date in relatively short intervals. The Conference will be asked to safeguard a current publication.
- b. The U.N. is asked to take regard of the geographical names of the Antarctic region. The Federal Republic of Germany has concluded its contribution to this subject.
- c. Discussions were held on "Rules of Procedure", "Modus Operandi" and "Aims and Functions" of UNGEGN.

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- d. After the successful "Training Courses in Toponymy" that have taken place in Indonesia and Morocco thanks to the efforts made by Mr. Ormeling sen., Netherlands, "Training Courses" in countries of the Division are envisaged. The participants should come from the Developing Countries.
- e. Efforts have been made to intensify the national name standardization within the countries of the division.
- f. As regards romanization the donor principle was accepted provided that the romanization system is widely used in the country concerned in maps and gazetteers.
It was suggested that the German-speaking countries endeavour to come to a uniformity in the popular romanization system used for special fields of application.
- g. The UNGEGN have been asked to provide for an institut realizing of the Divisions within the framework of UNGEGN.
- h. The UNGEGN will be asked to take further steps towards the implementation of Conference resolutions by the Governments.
- i. It was decided to produce a German translation of the U.N. Glossary No.330/Rev.1, "Technical Terminology".
- j. The DGSD has worked out and accepted "Rules of Procedure" to be followed within the Division.

III. The activities of the "Ständiger Ausschluß für geographische Namen" (StAGN, Permanent Committee on Geographical Names) in Frankfurt am Main functioning as a co-ordinating body between Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany, and Switzerland:

Since the 4th U.N. Conference the StAGN has held 7 sessions.

A selection of the items covered at these sessions is given below:

- a. Working out of a synoptical list of country names and the names of capitals as used by the German Translation Service of the U.N. and the German-speaking countries.
- b. Deliberations on the documentation and presentation of the German geographical names in the Antarctic region.

- c. Preparation of a Gazetteer of America ("Geographisches Namenbuch Amerika").
- d. Discussions on the production of a map 1:1,000,000 of the Federal Republic of Germany showing the regions together with their names and their delimitations and of the publication "Namen und Abgrenzung von Landschaften in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland gemäß der amtlichen Übersichtskarte 1:500 000" (Names and delimitations of the regions of the Federal Republic of Germany according to the official General Map 1:500,000) = vol. 22 of the "Forschungen zur deutschen Landeskunde".
- e. Efforts to intensify the national name standardization within the Federal Republic of Germany by the setting up name authorities of the Länder.

Summary

The following countries are represented in the Dutch and German-Speaking Division (DGSD) of the UNGEGN: Austria, Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, German Democratic Republic, the Netherlands, South Africa, Suriname and Switzerland.

Since the 4th U.N. Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 6 meetings have taken place.

The DGSD has evaluated the results of the 4th U.N. Conference and pursued the following subjects, among others:

- (a) Keeping up to date the "toponymic guidelines" of the countries of the DGSD;
- (b) Editing the rules of procedure of the Division;
- (c) Trying to intensify the national standardization of geographical names of the member countries;
- (d) Implementing the resolutions of the U.N. Conferences.
