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TOPONYMIC EDUCATION AND PRACTICE AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION
CO-OPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Report of the Working Group on Gazetteers and Geographic Names of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History*

Paper submitted by the Pan American Institute of Geography and History

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ABSTRACT

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON GAZETTEERS AND GEOGRAPHIC NAMES OF THE PAN AMERICAN
INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

Since the Fourth United Nations Conference on Geographical Names in 1982, the
Working Group on Gazetteers and Geographical Names (WGGGN) of the Pan American
Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) made considerable progress in developing
its programmes. Reports on those programmes submitted to the eleventh and twelfth
sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNEGN)
described several important events. Further advances have been made since the
report submitted to the last UNEG (27 September-6 October 1986).

The WGGGN received substantial support from PAIGH during the XVth Consultation
on Cartography (the Working Group is an element of the PAIGH Cartography Commission)
and the XIIIth General Assembly of PAIGH which met in Brazil during May of 1986. Two
meetings of the Working Group during the Consultation on Cartography generated
agreement to continue the programmes, with the following changes. First, the roles
of Principal Project Co-ordinator and of three Regional Project Co-ordinators were
modified; Dr. Richard R. Randall was named Chairman and a single post of Vice-Chairman
was created to replace the three co-ordinators. The author of this report agreed
to serve as Vice-Chairman.

Another important action was approval of a four-year budget of about $16,000
to support various functions of the Working Group. An important addition to the
programme was a plan to offer a PAIGH Geographic Names Training Course in 1987.
The first plan called for a course of six weeks, but subsequent events brought a
reduction to two weeks. The content, dates and place of the course are described
fully in the original paper.