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Geographical Names
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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

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 the United Kingdom Division

Paper submitted by the United Kingdom

Agenda Item 4

Report on the UK Division

This dispersed division has held no meetings in the period since the Fourth Conference. There have been many meetings of the Directors of mapping agencies at which geographical names have been put on the agenda but because of pressure from other items have not always been discussed.

On occasion there have been opportunities to meet representatives of Australian mapping agencies to discuss geographical names. In April this year, an update of information was given on Australia's Master Names File (MNF). This is a digital listing of names found on the 1/100 000 and 1/250 000 scale National Mapping Series. The file contains the name of the place or feature; a descriptive designation; latitude and longitude (to one-minute of arc); map sheet numbers; and state.

Although conceived as a means of generating type for cartography the MNF is used by other organizations as a digital gazetteer. In 1987 work begins on the production of an official Australian National Gazetteer (ANG) to be prepared in digital form. It will contain nomenclature data from various state and Commonwealth authorities with responsibilities for place names.

It will be observed that the route followed by Australia is very like that followed by the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain. As an aid to cartography, computer listing of names resulted.