



**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.  
LIMITED

E/CONF.79/INF/26  
18 August 1987

ENGLISH ONLY

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Fifth United Nations Conference  
on the Standardization of  
Geographical Names  
Montreal, 18-31 August 1987  
Item 7 of the provisional agenda\*

TERMINOLOGY IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Definitions of the various kinds of gazetteers

Paper submitted by the Federal Republic of Germany

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\* E/CONF.79/1.

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STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES  
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Terminology in the standardization of geographical names

DEFINITIONS OF THE VARIOUS KINDS OF GAZETTEERS

Paper presented by the Federal Republic of Germany

Alphabetical lists of geographical names have been compiled in many different forms. The "Glossary of Mapping, Charting and Geodetic Terms", (3rd Edition, Dept. of Defense, Defense Mapping Agency, Topographic Center, Washington 1973) provides the following definitions:

"Gazetteer: An alphabetical list of place names giving feature identification and geographic and/or grid coordinates."

"Index to Names: An alphabetical list of geographic names keyed to a map series ... giving ... geographic and grid coordinates, and sheet numbers for each name appearing on the series. Essentially the same as gazetteer,..."

The "Multilingual Dictionary of Technical Terms in Cartography" (International Cartographic Association, Franz Steiner Verlag, Wiesbaden 1973) defines: "Gazetter" as

"A list of Geographic Names, together with references to their positions and, sometimes, descriptive information."

These definitions need more clear-cut formulation. Based on a study of various gazetteers we propose the following wording:

- 1) Index to Names: An alphabetical list of geographical names for finding purposes in atlases, statistical publications, etc., without further information related to the name.

- 2) Gazetteer: Alphabetical and systematic listing of the geographical names of a specific area (e.g. a country) giving exact location data (geographic coordinates, grid coordinates, description of location), quantitative data relating to the entry (e.g. population), administrative affiliation, as well as any feature codes (e.g. traffic relevance), postal codes, and the like. Gazetteers contain all toponyms, not only place names.
- 3) Lexical Index, Encyclopedia: Listing of geographical names in alphabetical order but with some, chiefly larger, features being also included under other entries. Additional information about the designated feature, independent of the name, is also given, such as about the historical development (of the place, not its name), industry, trade, infrastructure, etc. Location data can be very general.

According to these definitions, category 1 (Index to Names) is exemplified by the Ordnance Survey Gazetteer of Great Britain; category 2 (Gazetteers) by 'Duden' and the Gazetteer of the Federal Republic of Germany, while the 'Webster' and the Statesman's Yearbook fall under the third category. The 'Lippincott' could be called an encyclopedia.