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FIFTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
Montreal, 18-31 August 1987
Item 4 of the 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

National report of Israel

Paper submitted by Israel

Fifth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names

Agenda Item 4

NATIONAL REPORT OF ISRAEL

The following developments have taken place since the Fourth Conference.

1. Training and Education in Toponymy

Conference paper E/CONF.79/L.66 supplies particulars about toponymy courses at academic level offered at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Training in toponymy is also carried out by some professional and commercial establishments, and in the form of on-the-job training at the "Survey of Israel".

2. Romanization

No change has been introduced in the official system which has been published in the Proceedings of the 3rd Conference. However, since Israel is a country of tourism, with visitors from many different countries, there still is a tendency in many daily non-official applications to use phonetic transcription of toponyms for different languages. Efforts are being made to have the official Romanization method - which is, of course, used in all official maps and other documents - employed more widely also in everyday use.

3. Automation

(a) The bi-scriptual computer gazetteer mentioned also in Conference Paper E/CONF.79/L.65 is about to be published in book form, since there is a relatively wide popular demand for this. An updating service will supply, on demand, update sheets after every session of the Government Names Commission.

- (b) As described in a separate paper, the system for the automated transliteration, transcription and translation of toponyms developed by the "Carta" Publishing Firm of Jerusalem is now well advanced, with sample maps available. Examples of computer printout editing sheets appear in a separate paper.

4. International Cooperation

The 12th Meeting of UNGEGN in 1986 proposed the development of typographic guidelines for map toponymy. Since UNGEGN is the world authority on geographical names, and the International Cartographic Association (ICA) is the recognized authority on maps and cartography, Israel will be presenting to the ICA, at its forthcoming General Assembly in Morelia, Mexico, a proposal for cooperation on the topic of typographic guidelines.