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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

Report by Poland

Submitted by Poland

Fifth United Nations Conference  
on the Standardization of Geographical  
Names

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REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION  
IN THEIR REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS  
MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES  
SINCE THE FOURTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE  
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Paper presented by Poland

Two state commissions were engaged in standardization of geographical names in Poland in the period 1982-1987:

- the Commission of the Standardization of Geographical Names outside Poland, active by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education;
- the Commission of Determination of Names of Places and Physiographical Objects active by the Polish Government.

Works concerning the standardization of geographical names were also carried out within the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography, where works on publishing the national gazetteer were continued.

The new version of the list of the names of countries and capitals has been elaborated by the Commission of the Standardization of Geographical Names outside Poland. This list including 207 /or 208/ independent political units and their 30 autonomous parts /in Europe/ has been confirmed by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education and published in the official

gazette of this Ministry /no 8, August 25, 1986/, as obligatory for the mass media and cartography. The first version was published in the official gazette of the Ministry of Science, Higher Education and Technology in 1975 and 1977.

The list of names has been prepared with respect to the parts of the world in the following order: Europe, Africa, North America, South America, Australia and Oceania, Asia. It includes the following data for each item:

1. name of the country, used in its abbreviated form in the Polish version and its inflexion forms;
2. name of the country in its abbreviated form in the national version /in the case of non-Latin alphabet, in the official or simplified transcription/;
3. full official name of the country in the Polish version and in brackets its abbreviation if it is used;
4. full official name of the country in the national version /in the case of non-Latin alphabet in transcription/;
5. adjective of the abbreviated form of the name of the country in the Polish version;
6. the Polish name of citizens of the country in masculine gender, feminine gender and in the plural;
7. the Polish name of the capital of the country and its inflexion forms;
8. the national name of the capital of the country /in the case of non-Latin alphabet in transcription/;
9. the Polish adjective of the name of the capital of the country;

10. the Polish name of the inhabitants of the capital of the country in masculine gender, feminine gender and in the plural.

The Commission of Standardization of Geographical Names outside Poland is presently engaged in determination of the Polish exonyms for the world. The first list of names for Europe /without the Soviet Union/ was presented during the 4th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1982 in Geneva. It included about 400 items. The elaboration is to be completed by the end of 1988. The vocabulary of terms used for the needs of the standardization of geographical names for the 10th Regional Division in Polish, Czech, Slovak and Bulgarian, is prepared; the Hungarian version will be elaborated separately.

The representatives of the Commission of the Standardization of Geographical Names participated in the works of the 10th Regional Division as well as in the 11th Session of the Group of Experts in Geneva in 1984.

The Commission of Determination of Names of Places and Physiographical Objects active by the Polish Government was engaged in the following problems:

- determination of list of names for the needs of the national gazetteer, concerning rivers, lakes and other hydrological objects, mountains, caves, islands, peninsulae, capes, natural regions, swamps, forests, national parks, sanctuaries, landscape parks;
- passing opinions concerning changes of names of settlements according to proposals of administrative authorities;
- passing the opinions concerning the names of new geographical objects.

The Polish equivalents for the international vocabulary of terms used on general geographical maps have been elaborated within the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography. At the State Cartographic Publishing House, subordinated to the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography, the works concerning the publishing of the national gazetteer have been continued and the lists of names have been passed to the Commission of Determination of Names of Places and Physiographic Objects in order to collect its opinion.

The national gazetteer for national and international use will include such amount of data, which satisfies the needs of geographers, cartographers, historians, journalists and publicists, publishers of encyclopaedias, tourist guides, maps and atlases of Poland. Names of all cities, towns and places, important for the administrative division of the country, economy, transportation and tourism will be considered; the examples may be the names of health resorts, frontier crossings, harbours, airports, historical objects.

The names of natural regions /mountains, uplands, lowlands, valleys, etc./, summits of mountains, passes, islands peninsulae, capes, rivers, lakes, channels, seas, forested areas, swamps, historical objects and areas will be included in the range of physiographic objects.

The gazetteer will include about 20 000 geographical names, including 17 000 names of places and 3 000 names of physiographic objects, what corresponds to the content of the general geographical map at the scale of 1:500 000. Explanatory texts will be given in Polish, English, French, Spanish, Russian and German. The publication will include the following parts:

1. Administrative map of Poland

2. Physical map of Poland
3. Administrative division of the country
4. List of settlements in alphabetical order
5. List of physiographic objects in alphabetical order
6. List of abbreviations of names, used in Poland
7. List of abbreviations used in the gazetteer
8. Vocabulary of terms for six languages.

Summarizing the activities in the field of standardization of geographical names in Poland the following state of implementation of the UN decrees can be specified:

- the publishing of the national gazetteer is being carried out, however it has been delayed;
- the resolution concerning the establishing of state institutions for the needs of standardization of geographical names has been fulfilled; two Commissions have been established: for the needs of standardization of names outside Poland and for determination of names of places and geographic objects in Poland;
- elaboration of limited set of exonyms for Europe was performed in the previously reported period; for the remaining areas it is to be completed in two years;
- resolution concerning the vocabulary of toponyms has not been fulfilled;
- new edition of the list of countries was published in 1986.