

Sixth Session  
New York, 5-26 March 1975

Report on the East Central and South East

Europe - Soviet Union Divisional meeting

Submitted by Hungary

The East Central and South East Europe Division together with the Division of the Soviet Union, held their second meeting in Budapest, 13-16 January, 1975. The main task of the meeting was to discuss and form a common view in the items of the provisional agenda of the Sixth session of the Group of Experts.

The meeting was attended by experts from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, and the Soviet Union. The representative of the German Democratic Republic took also part as an observer.

The representatives of Hungary and the Soviet Union reported on the fifth session of the Group of Experts. Each participant country had given a report on the activities concerning the standardization of geographical names in their countries. It has been stated that in all but two countries /Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia/ of the two divisions, some kind of legal formulation is existing related to the standardization of geographical names. The meeting found desirable that the respective organs of the above mentioned countries could ensure a general approval of the decisions made by the respective authorities of geographical names.

The meeting followed generally the provisional agenda of the sixth session, thus the material of the individual items are given under separate reports. A brief report on questions not appearing in the provisional agenda of the sixth session is given as follows:

(a) The meeting observed that gazetteers published in the countries of the two divisions, are differing in form and content. The participants agreed to elaborate a detailed suggestion on the basis of the recommendation E of the Geneva Conference on National Standardization with the additional recommendation of the 1972 London Conference, also taking into consideration the special requirements of the two divisions. The suggestion should be discussed again in 1976.

(b) The meeting was informed by the Soviet delegate on the automation project covering the Index Gazetteer of the World Map, Scale 1:2,500,000. The Soviet delegate was ready to send further details, thus giving the divisional countries a possibility to make use of the experiences in this field.

(c) A proposal by Bulgaria, the Gazetteer of the Danube Valley, was also discussed. It was agreed that a toponymic research in this linguistically complicated area would be of great scientific importance. It was suggested to determine both the area of research more precisely, as well as the scale of base maps used in the selection of geographical names. It was also agreed that a contact with all Danubian countries was desirable.

(d) A project of the two divisions, "Dictionary of terms appearing on geographical maps", was discussed on the basis of a German and Russian language glossary. It was agreed that the project /the aim of which is to provide terms and definitions in all languages of the two divisions/ should be continued and worked out on the basis of thematic categories, and the content reduced to maps of topographic /not thematic/type.