

Sixth Session  
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Report of the Dutch-speaking and German-speaking Division

The Dutch-speaking and German-speaking Division has been originally formed by:

Austria	Prof. Dr. J. Breu, Wien
Belgium (Dutch-speaking part)	Prof. D.H. Draye, Herent
Fed. Rep. of Germany	Prof. E. Maynen, Bonn-Bad Godesberg
Netherlands	Dr. D.P. Blok, Amsterdam
Switzerland (F- German-speaking part)	Prof. E. Spiess, Zurich

At this meeting we welcome Dr. E. Haack, Berlin German Democratic Republic as a member of the Division too.

Meetings

The division has held two meetings in Frankfurt a.M. since the fifth session of the group of experts, namely on November 13, 1974 and on January 30, 1975. They were mainly concerned with the items on the provisional agenda for this conference. It was felt that more experts were eventually able to participate at the sessions of the group of experts, if it were concentrated on two weeks and prevented from too many questions of simple procedure. The chairman of the division was asked to express this opinion in a letter to the organizing body of the UN.

Definitions

The division has set up a German translation of the "Glossary of Terminology for the Standardization of Geographical Names". Suggestions will be made directly to the chairman of this working group.

Training Course

The division fully supports the invitation of the Dutch government to organize a training course at the ITC in Enschede in Spring 1976. Several experts of the division have accepted to give their personal assistance to such a course.

National Gazetteers

Austria has nearly completed the preparation of a Geographical Gazetteer of Austria. About 5300 names have been selected on the base of the General Map of Austria 1:500,000. The second draft has been approved by the Austrian Academy of Science. It will be published as a concise gazetteer according to resolution 35 of the Second Conference of the UN for the Standardization of Geographical Names in London.

The Federal Republic of Germany has undertaken a preproject in order to study the preparation of such a gazetteer by data processing. About 10,000 names shall be incorporated in a first version. A special working paper has been submitted.

In Switzerland research organizations consider to start a similar project for data collection of the names contained in the National Map 1:200,000 hoping that this initial step might finally lead to a gazetteer according to the proposals of London.

### Bibliography of Gazetteers and Glossaries

The division takes great interest in this activity directed by one of its experts; it hopes that such a bibliography can be published soon after the Sixth Session of the Group of Experts and expresses the wish that the bibliography be kept up-to-date by a periodical supplement published by the UN.

### Reduction of Exonyms

The division considers the definition of "Exonym" as given in London as a good base to understand the problems of exonyms. The position of the division is still the same as the one expressed in its paper L.24 in London. We feel that the efficiency of a division cannot be measured by the number of exonyms eliminated in each period. There are a few means to influence the reduction rate of these exonyms. But we mainly depend on the current development of the vocabulary of a language.

For the German language the "DUDEN, Wörterbuch geographischer Namen", 1st volume "Europe without USSR", edited by Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen<sup>60</sup> and published 1966 by Bibliographisches Institut Mannheim, can be considered as the actual list of exonyms for the German language area. It must, however, be mentioned that the German Democratic Republic was not yet a member of this group at the time of compilation of this volume. In the meantime the "Ausschuss" has continued its work concerning the rest of the world. It can be taken as certain that in revisions of these volumes the exonyms having become obsolete in the meantime will be eliminated. A special list of exonyms for the German language is therefore not considered.

The Netherlands will submit a paper by its own (Working Paper No. 9).

### Final Remarks

The Division is not aware of major problems in its area for which it might be necessary to find a common solution. Most problems are to be solved on the national level. However, the members of the division appreciate very much the exchange of mutual information and experience that has become possible through the existence of the division. It has been observed that this exchange of experience sponsors the development in this field in those areas where a common standard has not yet been reached.